

BNews Monthly

DECEMBER 2025

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



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Biloxi's Christmas Time Machine

Looking back 50 years ago

– Back in the Day,
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A Thousand Words



Tis the
season



Visit Santa!

Visit Santa daily through Christmas Eve during mall hours, located at Santaland in front of Dillard's.

Visits are free, and 'Santa & Me' photo pricing applies.

Abominable Snowman is back this year!
He'll be at Santaland with Santa on December 19, 20, and 21, noon-5 p.m.

**MEET THE
GREEN HOLIDAY VILLAIN!**

Saturday, Dec. 6 & 13
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

He will be joining Santa in front
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Edgewater Mall

Biloxi wants residents to B connected

The City of Biloxi is making it easier than ever for citizens and visitors to connect with city services. Formerly known as Citizens Services, the program has been rebranded as B-Connect, reflecting the city's commitment to streamlined communication and more efficient service.

For years, citizens have called the Citizens Services Representative to report various issues from potholes and litter to traffic signal outages and water service issues. Now, B-Connect centralizes these requests through a modern call center, allowing the city to track concerns more efficiently and respond faster.

Citizens can continue using the same phone number, 228-435-6271, to report an issue, but now, they have more options for reporting issues and even an opportunity for follow-up updates on their requests. For added convenience, the city has added an online form available accessible at biloxi.ms.us/bconnect, and an email, bconnect@biloxi.ms.us, allowing citizens to submit requests quickly and easily from any device. Through both routes, citizens can also request updates about their requests.

Whether it's a routine maintenance request or an urgent issue, B-Connect ensures that connecting with city services is simple, reliable, and effective — helping Biloxi continue to serve its community.


228-435-6271 • bconnect@biloxi.ms.us • biloxi.ms.us/bconnect


Information tools you can use


B-Alert Info-on-the-go to your cell phone. Text BILOXI to 99411.

Bmail News directly from the city. Sign up at biloxi.ms.us/register.

Btv Watch on Sparklight 56, Uverse 99 or online at biloxi.ms.us/btv.

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Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation launches Community Façade Grant Program



New initiative supports business investment and corridor beautification

The Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation (GBEDF), in partnership with the City of Biloxi and Mississippi Power, has launched a new Community Façade Grant Program to help local businesses and property owners enhance the appearance of their buildings and strengthen Biloxi's key commercial corridors.

The program offers reimbursement grants covering up to 50% of eligible façade improvements, up to \$5,000 per project. Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to, painting, signage, lighting, awnings, and other exterior upgrades that improve curb appeal and contribute to a more vibrant streetscape.

For example, an applicant with a \$10,000 façade renovation plan could receive up to \$5,000 in reimbursement for eligible, approved expenses, after the project is completed and approved.

"This program is about

partnership and pride," said Bobby Gillon, President of the Greater Biloxi Economic Development Foundation. "When our businesses look good, our community looks good — and that draws more people to shop, dine, and invest in Biloxi."

Gillon added, "This is a great example of how public-private partnerships can deliver visible impact. By helping property owners reinvest in their buildings, we're supporting local businesses, encouraging new development, and enhancing the look and feel of our commercial districts."

Eligible properties must be located in the Pass Road or Division Street corridors and be Mississippi Power customers. Both property owners and tenants may apply, with tenants required to provide written permission from the property owner.

Funding is limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to obtain an application, please visit biloxi.ms.us/formspermits or email greaterbiloxiedf@gmail.com.

- Up to 50% of eligible expenses, up to \$5,000 reimbursement
- Pass Road or Division Street corridors
- Must be a Mississippi Power customer
- Owners or tenants (with approval) eligible biloxi.ms.us/formspermits; or email greaterbiloxiedf@gmail.com



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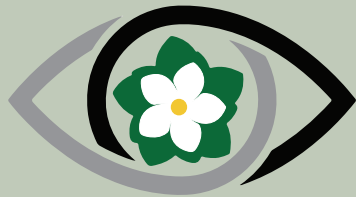
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Greetings!

As the holiday season surrounds us with warmth and joy, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt wishes to every member of our beloved community. This is a special time to celebrate with family and friends, reflect on the year gone by, and look forward with hope to the year ahead.



As I reflect on the year, it's amazing to think of how quickly it has flown by. We are truly blessed to have navigated the year without a major storm. I also take pride in all that we have accomplished together this year.

As I look ahead to 2026, I am filled with optimism and great expectations for what's to come. Together, we will continue the progress to build a vibrant, safe, and thriving Biloxi, full of opportunities for our families, businesses, and neighborhoods.

From my family to yours, I wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a very happy, healthy New Year!

FoFo

Biloxi Visitors Center unveils 2025 Christmas shirt and ornament

The 2025 Biloxi Visitors Center T-shirt and ornament have been selected, giving residents and visitors alike a festive way to celebrate the holiday season!

Both items feature holiday-themed designs capturing the joy of the season and the Biloxi Lighthouse. The T-shirt design was created by Brandy Geyer, who was chosen as this year's winner of the center's Christmas T-shirt contest. The ornament image was taken by Biloxi Public Affairs Specialist John Majure during the significant snow day that occurred in January of this year.

The holiday keepsakes will be made available for purchase beginning Dec. 4 at the annual Lighting of Lighthouse event (see event details in the calendar) and remain available throughout the season in the gift shop at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., while supplies last. Prices begin at \$25.

Don't miss the chance to grab yours and be among the first to show off this year's festive design! They also make great holiday gifts!

Available at the gift shop, 228-374-3105.



Holiday Reminders

Trash/recycling:

Christmas schedule: Waste Management and Pelican will not run on Christmas Day. All routes will run one day behind. (Thursday routes will run on Friday, and Friday routes will run on Saturday.)

New Year's Day schedule:

Waste Management and Pelican will not run on New Year's Day. Routes will be one day behind. (Thursday routes will run on Friday, and Friday routes will run on Saturday.)

Christmas Cardboard

Recycle Event: The annual event will take place in Biloxi on Saturday, Dec. 27, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Edgewater Mall, 2600 Beach Blvd., south side parking lot by Starbucks.

Christmas Tree Recycling:

Dec. 26, 2025-Jan. 10, 2026, at the Rodenburg Avenue parking bay on Beach Boulevard. Remember to remove all decorations, lights, and stands before depositing. For more information, contact the Harrison County Beautification Commission for details by calling 228-896-0206.

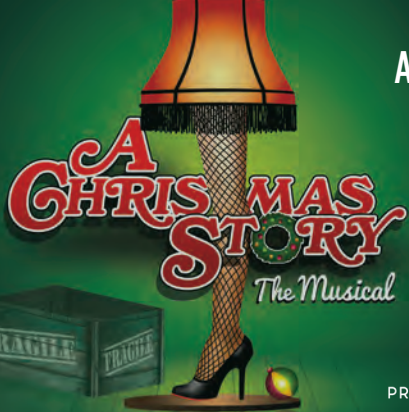


Municipal holiday closings:

All non-emergency city offices will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 24, Thursday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas. Offices will also be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, and Friday, Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day.

Biloxi Visitors Center:

The center will close early on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and remain closed on Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. The center will also close on Thursday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's.



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GROUP**

**THE
MOLLY
RINGWALDS**

DECEMBER 31

MUST BE 21



**RODNEY
CARRINGTON**
LIVE 2026

JANUARY 23 & 24

MUST BE 21



KANSAS

JANUARY 31



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'Tis the Season of Safety: Police offer holiday tips

As the holiday season gets underway, the Biloxi Police Department is reminding residents to stay alert and take precautions to help prevent crime. From shopping safety to protecting your home and vehicle, officers say a few simple steps can help ensure everyone enjoys a safe and happy holiday season.



Safety in your vehicle

- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your vehicle unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your vehicle. This creates temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the vehicle, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys before going to your vehicle. Do not activate remote access until you are close enough to enter.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag, and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the vehicle to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your vehicle alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- If necessary, ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a well-lighted, occupied area like a mall, convenience store, or police station. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.

While at home

- Lock doors and windows when you leave home, even if you plan on being gone for a short time.
- Have a neighbor or family member watch your home and collect your newspapers and mail if you're going to be away overnight.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- Do not place boxes or shipping containers from recent purchases by the roadway for trash collection. Place evidence of new purchases in trash cans or plastic bags, thus making it difficult for would-be thieves to shop from your neighborhood street.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so children, elderly persons, or family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.
- If you use lights on your Christmas tree, ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire.
- Place your live Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green.
- Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.

The following recommendations may deter property-related crime and assist the Biloxi Police Department in its efforts to find and return stolen or lost property to its rightful owner.

- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- When using a drive-through ATM, leave your vehicle in drive with your foot on the brake while completing your transaction.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

While shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card and avoid carrying large amounts of cash when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused.
- Membership in a credit card monitoring service is strongly recommended, especially during the holiday season.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion.
- Do not make multiple trips to load your vehicle with multiple packages. This could draw the attention of criminals.
- During the holiday season, "con artists" are working overtime and may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason.

► See more holiday safety tips on the city's YouTube channel under Police and Fire

Shine bright, stay safe this holiday season

Christmas trees and festive decorations are a cherished part of the holiday season, but they can also pose fire risks if not handled properly. The Biloxi Fire Department is reminding residents to take a few simple precautions when selecting, setting up, and decorating their trees, as well as their home, to help reduce the risk of fire while keeping things bright!

- Choose a tree that is fresh with limbs that are still flexible so that it still has moisture.
- Set up the tree at least three feet from the fireplace or any other heat source.
- Make sure to use indoor tree lights, preferably LED lights, which produce no heat.
- When decorating your tree with holiday lights, make sure there are no cuts or tears in the strands of lights.
- Replace strings of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections
- Make sure you use only the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer when connecting the lights.



- Turn the tree lights off before going to bed or before leaving the house.
- Be sure to water the tree daily.
- Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

Dried-out trees are a fire danger.

“Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious,” said Biloxi Fire Chief Nick Geiser. “This can become more of an issue as time goes by and trees are not properly watered.”

According to research, a watered Christmas tree is less of a fire hazard than a dry one. One study showed that when a dry tree was placed in a room and exposed to a flame, the tree became fully engulfed within 25 seconds, and the entire room filled with smoke and flames within 63 seconds.

Added Geiser: “As always, make sure that you have a working smoke detector and fire extinguishers to help stay ‘fire smart’ during the holidays.”

- ▶ See more safety tips online at Biloxi.ms.us/fire
- ▶ Watch fire safety videos on the city's YouTube channel under the Police and Fire playlist



Mississippi State, Southern Miss, Banana Ball Headed to the Coast



USM Golden Eagle fans at Keesler Federal Park



Keesler Federal Park to host pair of college games in March

By Javik Blake
Biloxi Shuckers

With the Holiday Season in full swing, the Biloxi Shuckers are ramping up preparations for the 2026 season, including 69 home games, a pair of college matchups, and Banana Ball at the ballpark. The Shuckers' season is set to begin on Friday, April 3, against the Rocket City Trash Pandas, followed by the team's home opener on Tuesday, April 7, against the Pensacola Blue Wahoos. Tickets are available now for both games of the Hancock Whitney Classic, including Mississippi State on March 10 and Southern Miss on March 17. The tickets and merchandise from the Shuckers Shop (with deals running throughout the month) are the perfect holiday gift!

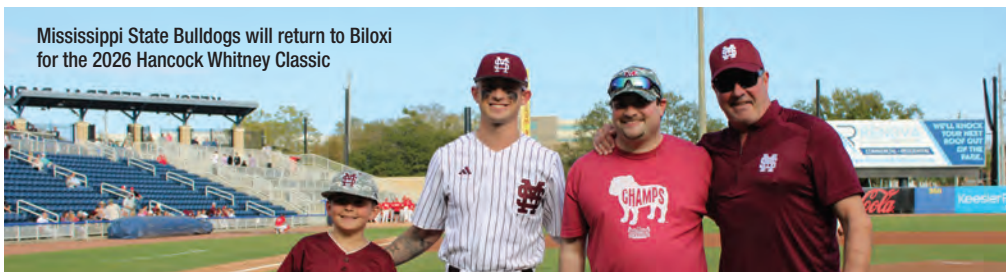
MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS SET TO RETURN TO BILOXI

The Biloxi Shuckers have announced that the Mississippi State Bulldogs will return to Biloxi for the 2026 Hancock Whitney Classic on Tuesday, March 10, against the Tulane Green Wave. It marks the fifth consecutive season and eighth season total that the Bulldogs have visited Keesler Federal Park. Tulane previously visited Keesler Federal Park during the 2016 season with a game against Southern Miss.

"Mississippi State fans are some of the most passionate in college baseball, and partnering with Hancock Whitney to continue these games is an honor," Shuckers General Manager Hunter Reed said. "We're excited to welcome the Bulldogs and their fans back for another year and showcase our ballpark to Green Wave fans. It will truly be a special night at our ballpark."

The matchup marks the 114th all-time meeting between the two programs, and the first since 2022. Mississippi State holds the advantage in the series, with a record of 79-32-2. The programs have not met in a

Mississippi State Bulldogs will return to Biloxi for the 2026 Hancock Whitney Classic



neutral-site game since the 1998 Winn-Dixie Showdown at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans.

GOLDEN EAGLES SOAR TO KEESLER FEDERAL PARK

The Southern Miss Golden Eagles will face the Nicholls Colonels at Keesler Federal Park on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:00 p.m. as part of the Hancock Whitney Classic. Gates will open at 5:00 p.m. The teams previously met at Keesler Federal Park in 2017, 2024, and 2025.

"The Golden Eagles are one of the top programs with great history and some of the best fans in the area," Shuckers General Manager Hunter Reed said. "We're thrilled to partner with Hancock Whitney for a game featuring two terrific teams, including a talented Nicholls team. We're excited to welcome both teams back for another year and continue our great partnership with Coach Ostrander and the Southern Miss program."

Southern Miss holds an 8-3-1 record against Nicholls, including a 5-3 record in the state of Mississippi. Six of the last seven matchups between the two teams, dating back to 2015, have been played at a neutral site.

BANANA BALL IS HEADED TO BILOXI!

As the Shuckers continue preparations for the 2026 season, set to begin in April, the team has announced that additional events

are slated to come to the stadium next season, including Banana Ball in September! Keesler Federal Park will host The Firefighters and the Loco Beach Coconuts for two games on Friday, September 25, and Saturday, September 26, 2026, as part of the 2026 Banana Ball Championship League. All ticket sales for the seating bowl will be conducted through the Savannah Bananas and Fan First Entertainment. Suite and hospitality options are available by contacting the Shuckers Front Office and Sales Team at 228-233-3465 or sales@biloxishuckers.com.

"We're excited to partner with Coastal Mississippi and Visit Mississippi to bring Banana Ball to the Coast," Shuckers General Manager Hunter Reed said. "We've seen throughout Minor League Baseball how popular Banana Ball is in growing the game of baseball, and we're excited to showcase our ballpark to new and returning fans across the Coast."

Banana Ball has become the fastest and most entertaining game in sports. With its fast-paced rules and emphasis on continuous play, Banana Ball strips away the often-criticized lulls and lengthy pauses typical of traditional baseball, delivering a high-octane, entertainment-packed game that keeps both players and fans on their toes. Banana Ball has 11 unique rules. The most notorious rule is that if a fan catches a foul ball, it counts as an out.

► For more info: biloxishuckers.com

► Javik Blake is the Media Relations Manager and voice of the Biloxi Shuckers. See "Shuckers Insider" daily on BTV at 6:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.

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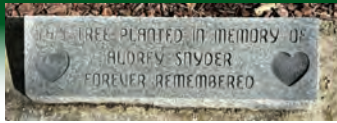
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DEDICATING A TREE



By Susan Peterson
City of Biloxi, Tree Committee Chairperson

As I survey the Biloxi tree canopy, I continually find trees of all shapes and sizes that have been dedicated to one of our citizens. It's a reminder of what a meaningful gift a tree can be - a loving remembrance, a lasting tribute, or a heartfelt way to honor the service of a Biloxi hero, friend, or relative. In Biloxi, you can arrange to have a tree planted on city property or a private lot, and have it dedicated to a special individual in your life.

There is a large number of trees across the city that are identified by a small plaque at the base honoring beloved family members or cherished residents and associated organizations whose long-standing service has earned our deepest respect.

Some of my favorites include the Hurricane Camille Magnolia at the Dr. Frank Gruich Community Center, dedicated to Ben Evans, the former Assistant Director of our local Red Cross. His tireless work played a vital role in helping the Coast and our City recover from the storm. The tree was planted in 1969, making it approximately 60 years old - just in the right spot, overlooking the Gruich parking lot.

The live oak standing at the entrance of the Donal Snyder Community Center was planted in honor of Audrey Mercedes Lund Snyder, Donal's wife. She had as much to do with making the center an important part of our community as Donal did.

On the northwest corner of Our Lady of Fatima Church stands a healthy young live oak, planted in 2002. Claude and Diane Sicuro purchased and planted the tree, which was later dedicated to Bobby Ray Weldon - a longtime parishioner, a decorated Vietnam Marine veteran, and a man deeply devoted to his family and church.

Even the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art has a mature live oak dedicated to Mark and Ane Hornibrook. Although he and his family called many locations home, he is honored at the museum due to his expertise in funeral services - his work resulted in a nationwide standard for preneed insurance and funeral planning.

Of course, there are more. At Sunkist Country Golf Course, a live oak more than a century old stands in tribute to Lt. Col. Robert Weinard - a longtime member, fighter pilot, golfer, and loyal supporter of the course. His

ashes rest beneath the plaque that bears his name. Even the Airmen's Oak at Keesler AFB is part of this tradition (as noted in last month's article).

I mentioned in an earlier article that I even arranged for two trees to be planted at Todd Miguez Park in East Biloxi. They are dedicated to my father, Noel Obert, and to a close family friend Jackie Wilson. It was easy. And with planting season just around the corner, late February through March is the ideal time to put a young 2-caliber tree in the ground and set it on its path to adulthood. "My Trees" are approaching 15 years of age, and the growth has been amazing. (A two-caliber tree is two inches in diameter and is between three and five years of age).

My short notes describing each of the above honored individuals do not do justice to the roles they played in developing and growing our Gulf Coast community. Many of you have memories and experiences that better tell their stories. Please take a minute, write them down, and share on social media so that we all know their stories and achievements. I know there are many more to be recognized. Keep looking, and please take a minute to share their stories. They all deserve that recognition.

Dedicated trees may be planted on both public and private properties. Planting them on private property is very easy. Adding them to a public site requires a bit more work, but it is very doable.

Here is the process.

The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain is a great place to start for honoring an individual by planting a tree in their memory. The Land Trust, in partnership with Hancock Whitney Bank, will take on the task for a donation beginning at \$100. Look them up online. Of course, you can arrange to plant one or more on your own property with help from a local nursery. You can arrange to plant a tree on city property by contacting the City of Biloxi Planning Office and working with the City of Biloxi Tree Committee. The city also uses its tree mitigation fund to plant protected trees in city parks and along rights-of-way. Please feel free to contact your Ward Tree Committee Representative or me for more information. I'd love to hear from our citizens about your dedicated, protected tree stories. You may also attend a tree committee meeting to share. The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. at the Planning Office. See page 19 for meeting details.

Biloxi Pulse

Christmas in the City

By Laurie Rosetti
Biloxi Main Street, City of Biloxi Downtown Services

Biloxi Main Street's Christmas In The City enters its third decade on Saturday, December 6.

"It's hard to believe that this is our 21st Christmas In The City," said Kay Miller, Biloxi Main Street's Executive Director. "The event has grown tremendously over the years, and I think it proves that practice really does make perfect. I'm so pleased this festival honors and preserves so many precious Biloxi Christmas traditions while bringing shoppers to our downtown retailers," said Miller.

In its picturesque, Rue Magnolia-Water Street setting, Christmas In The City celebrates Biloxi's cultural Christmas traditions. Throughout the event, Christmas music is provided by local adult and children's choirs and the Biloxi High School Jazz Band. Food trucks add to the already bountiful downtown food choices. The Slavonian Ladies Auxiliary is a wonderful partner for this event and has been from the very beginning. It would not be Christmas In The City without their delicious, handmade pusharates. In fact, it isn't Christmas time in Biloxi without the much-loved Croatian treat.

With nearly 100 arts and crafts vendors filling the downtown walkways, shoppers will be sure to find something for everyone. The merchants of Howard

Avenue, GE Ohr Street, Jackson Street, and Rue Magnolia are busily preparing for the big day, too. Downtown business owners agree that it is one of the biggest days in sales during the year.

"Having the Christmas in the City event downtown brings so much energy to our area. It encourages families to explore local shops, meet business owners, and experience the charm of our community," said Rachel Kelley, owner of The Cornerstone Boutique.

"For many of us, it can be our biggest day of the year for retail sales, but more importantly, the increased foot traffic exposes us to shoppers who may not have known about us," said Leonie Johnston, owner of Dime Store Diva Petite Boutique. "We encourage everyone to shop small first. When you support local businesses, your dollars stay right here at home."

Christmas In The City Shoppers will delight in the hourly \$100 CASH GIVEAWAYS. Yes, that's right! Every hour of the festival, Biloxi Main Street will give away a \$100 bill to a lucky event-goer. The hours of the festival are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; you have five chances to win!

As with each year's event, a new Biloxi Main Street ornament is introduced. This year's ornament is "The Fire Bell of 1907." The charming 29th edition to the much-loved ornament series includes the historic bell and a fiery red engine. The ornament will be available at Christmas in the City and is now available at the Biloxi Visitors Center Gift Shop.





Your Journey Doesn't Have to be Perfect

It just has to **begin**. We offer compassionate behavioral health services for children and adults to help you heal and thrive. Don't face life's challenges alone. Wherever you are on your journey - we're here to help.

Providing comprehensive primary care to Coastal Mississippi for nearly 50 years!

Behavioral Health & Additional Services Include:

- Counseling for children & adults
- Trauma & Crisis Management
- Anxiety & Depression
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Family Practice & more

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$41,324,849 with 75% financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.

Call (228) 220-1782 to Schedule

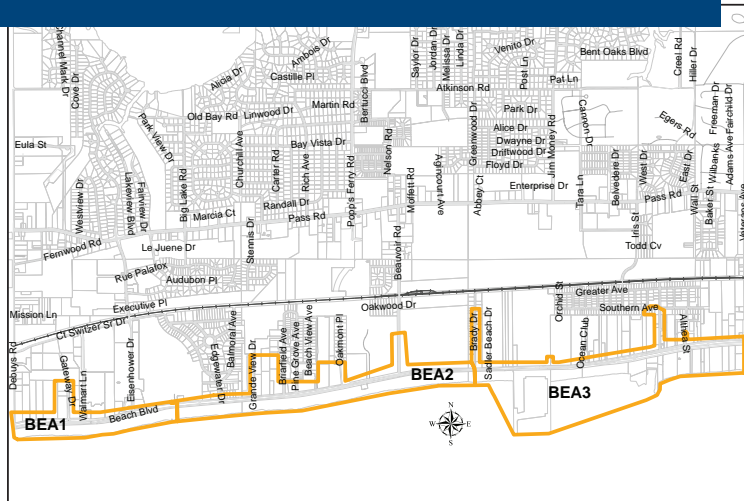
www.coastalfamilyhealth.org

Infrastructure work in Biloxi

Project: BEA1, 2, & 3

Adjacent to Beach Blvd. from Debuys Road to Veterans Avenue
(Contractors: Necaise Brothers Construction)

- Installation of new water, sewer, drainage
- Work began June 2022
- Watch video updates for project details, including estimated completion date.



Areawide map of infrastructure work



► See monthly update maps and videos online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

Biloxi History Receives Federal Recognition



Biloxi Daily Herald (Biloxi, MS)
December 7, 1949. Page 5

By Jeff Rosenberg, MGCNHA Historic Preservation Coordinator,
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

The words “new” and “historic” might sound contradictory, but that’s just how Biloxi’s most recent National Register Historic District can be described. The federally recognized Greater Biloxi Subdivision Historic District, located in West Biloxi, represents the city’s post-World War II westward growth. Situated just northeast of the Treasure Bay Casino, the district contains nearly two hundred properties and is roughly bounded by Greater Avenue to the north, Althea Street to the east, Southern Avenue to the south, and Orchid Street to the west.

What is the National Register?

The National Register of Historic Places was created by the federal government in 1966 to recognize sites that represent noteworthy moments in American History. These may be associated with important individuals or events, but more commonly places listed to the National Register represent a particular architectural style or a broad movement in American History.

The National Register differs from a Local Historic District, which requires proposed work to landmarked properties to receive a permit from Biloxi’s Architectural & Historical Review Commission. There are currently no plans by the city to designate the area as a Local Historic District.

A Brief History of the Greater Biloxi Subdivision’s Construction

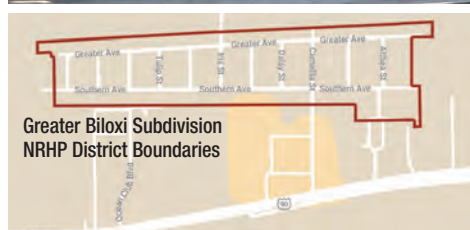
Construction on the subdivision’s first homes began in 1949. Following the lean years of the Great Depression and World War II rationing, the nation, and Biloxi in particular, faced a pent-up demand for new housing. The goal of the subdivision was to provide modest, affordable homes for veterans and their families, as well as to replace houses destroyed by the Hurricane of 1947.

For the homes built in the neighborhood to qualify for Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured loans, the subdivision had to meet basic requirements, such as paved roads, enclosed storm sewers, and uniform lot sizes.

In the car-centric culture of the mid-century, owning a vehicle was essential for suburban living, especially in neighborhoods located far from schools and businesses. As the subdivision was about a mile beyond Biloxi’s then city limits, access to public utilities was limited. To address this, residents formed a cooperative to operate a water and sewer system.

Church and Temple Beth Israel were both placed prominently at the subdivision’s entrance.

One veteran involved with the development was Carroll Benton Ishee (1921-1982). Best known for his later work in the 1960s and 1970s, Ishee would begin his career as a developer selling homes in the Greater Biloxi Subdivision. While housing demand was high and sales brisk, Ishee became disenchanted with the finished homes. This dissatisfaction ultimately inspired him to strike out on his own, creating his nature-inspired residences that remain highly sought after



along the Mississippi Gulf Coast today.

Servings of Style: Minimal Traditional, Maximum Results

Generally, Minimal Traditional Style homes are small, one-story dwellings with low-pitched roofs and little to no eave overhang. Windows are often paired and strategically placed to make the homes feel larger. When architectural ornamentation does appear, it is simplified, reduced to the barest essence of the architectural styles that inspired it.

With more than two hundred homes planned, an assembly line method of construction was employed to complete the task in less than two years. To streamline this process, uniform plans were developed, resulting in seven different configurations among the original homes. The variations included the orientation of the house on the lot, the placement of porches, and the type of roof shape of the home.

What similarities or differences do you see in the neighborhood’s homes?

The Minimal Traditional Style dominates the subdivision’s architecture. This style emerged during the mid-1930s, born out of the need

for small, efficient, and affordable homes for the average American following the Great Depression. It continued to be built into the early 1950s due to high demand for housing and post-war material rationing. Its popularity would soon be overtaken by the Ranch Style house.

The establishment of FHA-insured loans in the 1930s encouraged the construction of modest homes that would meet basic housing needs for middle-class families, without the decorative flourishes of earlier architectural styles. By providing low-cost, long-term, government-backed mortgages to borrowers, homeownership increased across the nation.

Adapting for the Future

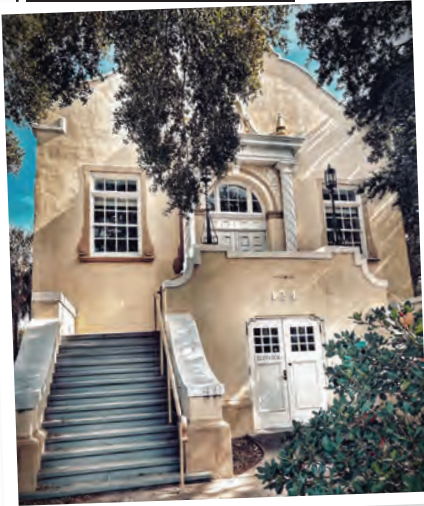
Historic places are not frozen in time, and the Greater Biloxi Subdivision Historic District celebrates the evolution of these homes for more than two decades, from 1949 through 1970. Shortly after the first owners moved in, they began personalizing their homes by enclosing porches, adding carports, and building additions.

Because the National Register designation is honorific, it does not restrict use or provide protection of a property in the same way that a Biloxi Landmark designation does. However, National Register listing offers incentives, such as the Federal and State Historic Tax Credits, which can be applied to pre-approved rehabilitation work. (More information on these credits can be found at <https://www.mdah.ms.gov/historic-preservation/preservation-planning-development>).

While this designation will not alter daily life in the neighborhood, it does bring well-deserved recognition to the history the district represents. The nomination was created in partnership between the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area program of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Community Planning and Development Department of the City of Biloxi.

Random Notes

TIME CAPSULE:



Old Biloxi Library building standing strong for 100 years

Old Biloxi Library turns 100

Standing gracefully on Lameuse Street since 1925, the Old Biloxi Library remains one of the city's most treasured architectural gems. Widely regarded as the finest example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in Biloxi, this building features intricate details that highlight the craftsmanship and stylistic richness that define the style.

From the moment you approach the building, its artistry is unmistakable. The grand twin-flight stairway leads to a striking main entrance, where twisted columns and a sculpted cartouche create a dramatic and dignified focal point.

For decades, this building served as the heart of learning and community connection, operating as Biloxi's public library until 1978. After it retired from library service, its historical and architectural significance was formally recognized when it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Now a century later, the Old Biloxi Library stands not only as a beautiful work of architecture but also as a lasting symbol of Biloxi's cultural heritage and an enduring reminder of the city's commitment to preserving its unique and storied past.

Harbor horizons

Members of the Biloxi Mayor's Youth Council recently enjoyed an evening combining education, exploration, and the beauty of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The group began their experience at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, where the Ports and Harbors Administration delivered an engaging overview of the extensive work involved in managing the city's four harbors. Students learned about the nearly 500 boat slips, seven ramps, seven piers, and the Biloxi Drive-on Fishing Pier – critical components of Biloxi's bustling waterfront.



Bailey Le holding a crab while learning about the shrimping industry on the Sailfish.

After the presentation, the adventure continued as the Youth Council boarded the Biloxi Shrimping Trip Tour Boat for an educational sunset cruise. The tour guided students along the Biloxi Channel, sharing fascinating insight into the area's vibrant marine life and the city's proud shrimping heritage. From spotting dolphins to watching the sun set along the shoreline, the tour offered the perfect blend of fun, learning, and the appreciation of Biloxi.

For the Mayor's Youth Council, it was an evening that deepened their understanding of Biloxi's maritime operations while highlighting the natural charm and cultural traditions that shape life along our shores.



New citywide grass cutting schedule coming in March

The Biloxi Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments are working together on implementing a new citywide grass cutting plan. The plan will provide residents with a map and a proposed cutting schedule.

Stay tuned for future updates.

DECEMBER TRIVIA Christmas Celebrations

By Jane Shambra

When will Biloxi experience the shortest day of this year? The Winter Solstice is on Sunday, December 21. Sunrise is 6:48 a.m., and sunset is 4:59 pm. That's only a little over 10 hours of daylight.

Has December traditionally been a good month for tasty oysters? Yes. For decades, the culinary world has told us that oysters are best in months ending in the letter "R."

When did the Saenger Theatre first hold Christmas celebrations? Opened in January 1929, the theatre celebrated the holidays that December.

What was the 1929 Christmas gift collection for children called? The Daily Herald Toy and Doll Fund

How were gifts collected for distribution that year? On Saturday, November 30, children were treated to a special matinee at the Saenger Theatre, with admission being the donation of a used doll or toy.

How were the Doll and Toy Fund donations distributed in 1929? On Christmas Eve morning, about 1,100 children lined up for gifts at the Saenger Theatre.

Where could gifts be purchased downtown in 1929? Combel Hardware Co. and W. F. Gorenflo Hardware Company, both on Howard Avenue, sold croquet sets, scooters, bicycles, footballs, wagons, kiddie planes, and toy automobiles.

What traditional tree contest was held in 1929? Promoted by local garden clubs, the Living Tree contest encouraged residents to decorate and light live trees, both the potted type and those in residential yards. In 1929, Biloxi Mayor John Kennedy was one of the coastwide judges.

Who supplied prizes for the finalists in this unique tree contest? Garden clubs and the Mississippi Power Company.

Are Christmas trees grown in this state? Yes, there are about 30 Christmas tree farms across Mississippi.

What types of Christmas trees can we buy from Mississippi tree farms? The Leyland Cypress, Eastern Redcedar, and Virginia Pine are among the tree species grown in our State.

Christmas Lighting of the Biloxi Lighthouse

DEC. 4, 2025

5:30-7 p.m.

South of the Biloxi Visitors Center
1050 Beach Blvd.



The Biloxi
Visitors Center
Christmas shirt and ornament will be
available to purchase for \$25 each.



Free
to attend

Visit with Santa
and enjoy
hot chocolate,
cookies, and
caroling
by Nativity
Children's
Choir!



Holiday Open House

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Biloxi Visitors Center
1050 Beach Boulevard**

- Local artists and craftsmen will be showing and selling their creations at the Biloxi Visitors Center
- Admission is free
- Door prizes
- Live music
- Christmas storytime
- Kids can create a list for Santa

**Don't miss this excellent
opportunity for special,
last-minute
Christmas gifts!**

**Plus, pictures
with Santa!
10 a.m.-2 p.m.**


Biloxi
established 1699
biloxi.ms.us •  



East Biloxi Senior Center Open House, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., East Biloxi Senior Center, 461 Parker St. Christmas Open House and craft sale. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Details: 228-435-4192

Lighting of the Biloxi Lighthouse, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m., south of the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and Santa will flip the switch, lighting the Lighthouse in Christmas lights. Nativity Elementary School choir will perform, and refreshments served. Free admission. Details: 228-374-3105

Annual Children's Christmas Parade and Lighting of the Town Green, Dec. 5, 6-8 p.m. Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department hosts its annual parade featuring kindergarten to 4th graders riding in hay wagons. The parade begins at the Saenger Theatre, 170 Reynoir St., travels east on Howard, south on Lameuse St., and ends at the Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd., where the annual lighting of the Town Green will take place. Santa will be present, and hot chocolate and cookies will be available. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 6, 8-10 a.m., Half Shell Oyster House, 125 Lameuse St. \$5 pancake plates. For tickets: www.nativitybvm.org/breakfast-with-santa

Laying the Wreaths at the Biloxi National Cemetery, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteers take part in the formal ceremony and in the placement of wreaths throughout the cemetery. Details: jennifer.pyron@biloxischools.net

21st Annual Christmas In the City, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Downtown Biloxi, G.E. Ohr St., Jackson St., & Rue Magnolia areas. Catch the spirit of the season with local choir performances, entertainers, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus (10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.) on the Redding House Porch, and Pusharates. Arts and crafts vendors will be offering unique merchandise along with food vendors and local merchants. Hourly drawings for \$100 cash throughout the festival! Free admission. Details: Biloxi Main Street, 228-435-6339

Christmas On The Water, Dec. 6, 6 p.m., Mississippi Sound. Boats parade in full holiday décor, with a fireworks show following the parade. Best viewing locations along Beach Boulevard are between the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor and Casino Row. Details: 228-617-3112 or 228-432-2563

Special Needs Christmas Dance, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m., 2520 Pass Road, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center. Open to all ages with physical and mental disabilities. Christmas Coca-Cola Truck from 5-6 p.m. Santa, DJ, food, and door Prizes. Bring an unwrapped toy up to \$10. Details: 228-388-7170 or programs@bilxoi.ms.us

The Singing Christmas Tree, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Dec. 13, 6 p.m., & Dec. 14, p.m., First Baptist Church Biloxi, 1560 Popp's Ferry Road. Details: 228-396-8500, www.fbcbiloxi.org/singingchristmastree

Biloxi Visitors Center Holiday Open House, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Dozens of artists and craftsmen show and sell their wares for Christmas shoppers! Free admission. Details: 228-374-3105

Annual Woolmarket Christmas Parade, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. Parade begins on Shortcut Road at Woolmarket Road, ending at Woolmarket Elementary School. Visit with Santa Claus! Hot Chocolate and cookies provided. Details: 228-861-5422 or Parks & Rec Dept. 228-388-7170

Senior's Christmas Bingo Social, Dec. 19, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Biloxi Visitor Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Open to all ages 50 and older. Social begins at 11:30 a.m. Bingo begins at 1 p.m. Door prizes. Free admission. Must RSVP (due to limited seating) to Biloxi Parks & Recreation Dept. Details and to RSVP: 228-388-7170



Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 91st issue of BNews Monthly. It's a compendium of things you should know about your city: status reports on current and pending public works, and a calendar of community events covering the next 30 days.

Calendar: Biloxi Downtown Services is responsible for the Community Calendar, a compendium of events open to the public in Biloxi. Deadline for publication citywide and online is the 10th of each month. Listing must include name of event, date, time, location, one- or two-sentence description, admission fee, phone number or web address. Email to Kay Miller, downtown services manager, kmiller@biloxi.ms.us.

Bmail: The city provides information about projects and events via email. Sign up at biloxi.ms.us/register.

Advertising: BNews and Bmail represent an advertising opportunity for civic-minded businesses and organizations. In your hands you are holding the only advertising medium that is delivered to every single home, business, apartment and PO Box in the city. For rates and info, email online@biloxi.ms.us or call 228-435-6336.

B-Alert: For text advisories on traffic and severe weather, text BILOXI to 99411.

Website: The city's website, at biloxi.ms.us, is the comprehensive digest of city information. The website also has links to the city's Facebook and YouTube platforms.

BTv: Biloxi Television, city's municipal TV channel, is a mix of current events, local history and local flavor, and monthly updates. Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/btv, and on Sparklight Channel 56.

Contact:

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Manager
cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us

John Majure, Public Affairs Specialist
jmajure@biloxi.ms.us

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

• Animal Control	392-0641
• Auto Tag/Property Tax Information	435-8242
• Birth Certificates	601-576-7960
• Building Permits	435-6270
• Business Licenses	435-6280
• Citizen services (streets, lights)	435-6271
• City Council	435-6257
• City Court	435-6125
• Code Enforcement	435-0841
• Drivers Licenses	396-7400
• Emergency Police and Fire	911
• Garbage Collection	701-9086
• Housing Authority	374-7771
• Human Resources	435-6259
• Mayor's Office	435-6254
• Museums Information	435-6244
• Parks & Recreation	388-7170
• Planning Commission	435-6266
• Public Schools	374-1810
• Streets and Drainage	435-6271
• Visitor Info	374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
• Water Service	435-6236

Christmas on the Avenue

Dec. 18-20, 5 p.m. Howard Avenue from Lameuse to Reynoir.

- Dec. 18 – **Musical Blues at Ground Zero while decorating Christmas Trees**, 5-9 p.m.
- Dec. 19 – **Grand Lighting of Howard Avenue** at 5 p.m., Santa-Gras Parade at 7 pm. – walk, bike, golf cart – with Santa leading the parade.
- Dec. 20 – **Santa-Crawl in Ugliest Christmas Sweater** visit your favorite Biloxi Bar. Details: thecommongroundinitiative@gmail.com

Christmas Fun Day, Dec. 16, 10 a.m., Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave. Event for children from birth to five years of age. Details: 228-297-6808 or susanhunt@biloxischools.net

Bacon Alley Art Show, Dec. 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 152 G.E. Ohr St, Greenhouse Biloxi. Join us for a unique and very Greenhouse-y holiday shopping experience. Details: 228-327-0579

East Biloxi Christmas parade, Dec. 20, 2 p.m. Parade begins at John Joseph O'Reilly Park, 431 Division St, and ends at John Henry Beck Park, 671 Division St. Details: 228-327-5011

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum Holiday Open House, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 792A Howard Ave. Event features holiday crafts and light refreshments. Details: 228-314-4747



Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon, Dec. 13-14, 7 a.m.- 1 p.m., Beach Blvd. from Pass Christian to Biloxi. This Coastal Running Fest showcases the local culture with a beautiful beachside run. Registration prices vary from \$170 to \$40. Details: www.mississippigulfcoastmarathon.com



Biloxi Little Theatre

220 Lee St., 228-432-8543
www.4blt.org

- **What the Elf?**
Dec. 12-13

Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258
centerstagebiloxi.com

- **Little Women Children Show**
Auditions, Dec. 1; Show Dec. 16, 17, 18, & 19

Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library

2244 Beach Blvd., 228-388-4400, www.visitbeauvoir.org

Biloxi Excel By 5

Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave., 228-297-6808

- Community-based certification program to improve child's overall well-being by age 5

Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, biloxi.ms.us. Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

- **Lighthouse tours daily**, 9-10 a.m., weather permitting. Admission: \$5 for ages 12 and older; \$2 for ages 6-11; free for ages 5 and younger

Biloxi Schooners

367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooner@maritimemuseum.org. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Group charters available, up to 44 people
- Walk on Sails, minimum of 6 passengers, \$30/adult & \$15/child ages 3-12, check website for dates

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

693 Beach Blvd., 228-392-8645, www.biloxishrimpingtrip.com

Biloxi Tour Train

Biloxi Lighthouse Park parking lot, south of Biloxi Visitors Center, traffic light #40, 228-374-8687, biloxitourtrain.com • Call in advance for tour availability

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum

792 Howard Ave., 228-314-4747, museum@coastalmardigras.com

- Open weekdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., open Saturdays by appointment



Edgewater Mall

2600 Beach Blvd., 228-388-3424

- **Holiday Photos with Santa & the Green Holiday Villain**, Dec. 6 & 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Nathan Best Live! A Christmas Music Celebration**, Dec. 13, 19, 20, 22, & 23, 12- 4 p.m.
- **Red Cross Blood Drive**, Dec. 15, 1-6 p.m.
- **Meet the Abominable Snowman at Santaland**, Dec. 19-21, 12- 4 p.m.
- **WLOX Red Cross Blood Drive**, Dec. 30, 12-6 p.m., Dec. 31- 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Harrison County East Biloxi Senior Center461 Parker St., 228-435-4192, co.harrison.ms.us/departments/senior/services

- Open 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

KAFB Farmer's Market625 Marina Dr., 228-376-2821, BOS.81FSS.Vandenburg@us.af.mil

- First Friday of each month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Marina Park (open to those with base access)

Kroc Center, MS Gulf Coast, The Salvation Army575 Division St., 228-207-1218, krocmscoast.com

- **Free fencing classes**, Dec. 4, 11, & 18
- **Breakfast with Santa/Child Safety Fair, Vendor Fair**, Dec. 6, 8-10 a.m.
- **Jingle Bell Bash Christmas Swim Party**, Dec. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum115 1st Street, 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org

Hours of operation: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

- **Art Exhibit by Jason Pittman**, through Dec. 19. "Coastal Convergence" An Exploration of Style and Color. (Included with admission to the Museum.)

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org**West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum**1046 Howard Ave., 228-435-6119, 228-435-6200, www.biloxi.ms.us

- Historic 1937 firehouse open Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment

Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606

- **Friday Bingo**, Dec. 5, 12, 19, & 26. Doors open at 4 p.m.; Card sales at 5:30 p.m., Early Bird games at 6:30 p.m.; regular games at 7 p.m. Cash payouts. Concessions available. Kitchen open until 8 p.m.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Dinners**, Fridays at 6 p.m. **Karaoke with Kenny**, Fridays at 7 p.m.

Joppa Shrine

13280 Shriners Blvd., 601-917-1027

- **Steak Night**, Dec. 12, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold 7:15 p.m. \$20, dine-in or carry-out. 228-392-9345
- **Dance**, Dec. 20, 6-10 p.m., \$10 admission

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

Dr. Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. (2nd floor), 228-438-4636

- **Christmas Potluck Party**, Dec. 21, 2-4 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Monday Bingo

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Monday Bingo**, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29; doors open at 5 p.m., Early birds at 6:30 p.m., regular games at 7 p.m.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Bingo

870 Howard Ave., 228-374-1717

- **Advent Reflections Concert**, Dec. 7, 4 p.m.
- **Caroling in the Cathedral Square**, Dec. 20, 5:30-7 p.m.
- **Annual Holiday Christmas Concert**, Dec. 21, 4 p.m.
- **Biloxi Bingo Mania**, Tuesday nights behind Nativity Cathedral; 871 Esters Blvd. Doors open 5:30 p.m.; Early bird games at 6:30 p.m.; regular games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Nativity BVM Catholic Elementary School. (Holidays may be closed) Details: 228-374-6472

**Lagniappe****Charles R. Hegwood****Biloxi Community Market**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-2 p.m. under the I-110 overpass on the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard. Details: Biloxi Parks & Rec., 228-388-7170

City of Biloxi Senior Program

Activities for ages 55 and older weekdays at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center and the East Biloxi Senior Citizen Center. Details: Gwen Johnson, 228-388-2494, seniors@biloxi.ms.us

Biloxi Libraries

- Biloxi Library, 580 Howard Ave., 228-436-3095
- Margaret Sherry Library, 2141 Popp's Ferry Road, 228-388-1633
- West Biloxi Library, 2047 Pass Road, 228-388-5696
- Woolmarket Library, 13034 Kayleigh Cove, 228-354-9464

For more information, call the Harrison County Library System at 228-436-3095.

Biloxi Main Street

Promoting, preserving, revitalizing and enhancing the economic growth of the downtown Main Street district. Details and membership: 228-435-6339, mainstreetbiloxi.com

**City of Biloxi Public Meetings**

- **Architectural Review Commission:**

biloxi.ms.us/publicmeetings Regularly scheduled meetings: second

and fourth Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266

- **Biloxi City Council:** Regularly scheduled meetings: first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. and the third and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6257

- **Biloxi Civil Service Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6259

- **Biloxi Planning Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: first and third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266

- **Development Review Committee:** Regularly scheduled meetings: Wednesdays at 9 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266

- **Tree Committee:** Regularly scheduled meetings: **first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m.**; Biloxi Community Development conference room, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Little Women Children's Show Auditions Center Stage Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	2 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewery Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	3 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	4 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing East Biloxi Senior Center Open House East Biloxi Senior Center Lighting of the Biloxi Lighthouse Biloxi Visitors Center Fencing Lessons Kroc Center	5 Dinner/Karaoke with Kenny – Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Children's Parade & Lighting of the Town Green Downtown Biloxi Farmers Market Marina Park	6 Breakfast with Santa Half Shell Oyster Shell Christmas in the City Downtown Biloxi Christmas on the Water Mississippi Sound Laying The Wreaths Biloxi National Cemetery Breakfast with Santa/ Safety Fair – Kroc Center Buck City Blues – Coliseum Don McLean/Starry Night Beau Rivage Brandon Bennett/Elvis IP Casino
	7 Advent Reflections Concert Nativity BVM	8 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	9 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewery Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	10 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	11 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Fencing Lessons Kroc Center	12 Dinner/Karaoke with Kenny – Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Steak Night – Joppa Shrine Special Needs Christmas Dance – Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center The Singing Christmas Tree First Baptist Church Biloxi What The Elf? – BLT Swim Party – Kroc Center A Xmas Story – Beau Rivage
14 A Christmas Story Beau Rivage The Singing Christmas Tree First Baptist Church Biloxi MGC Marathon Pass Christian to Biloxi	15 American Red Cross Blood Drive Edgewater Mall Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	16 Community Market Christmas Fun Day Lopez School Little Women Children's Show Center Stage A Christmas Story Beau Rivage Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewery Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	17 Little Women Children's Show A Christmas Story Beau Rivage Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	18 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Little Women Children's Show Center Stage Christmas on the Avenue – Howard Ave. Fencing Lessons Kroc Center A Christmas Story Beau Rivage	19 Dinner/Karaoke with Kenny – Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Little Women Children's Show – Center Stage Nathan Best Live! – Mall Christmas on the Avenue Howard Avenue Ice Skating – Coliseum Senior's Christmas Bingo Social – Biloxi Visitors Center Biloxi Breakers Hockey MS Coast Coliseum A Xmas Story – Beau Rivage	20 Caroling in the Cathedral Square Nativity BVM Nathan Best Live! – Mall Holiday Open House Mardi Gras Museum Christmas on the Avenue Howard Avenue Bacon Alley Art Show Dance – Joppa Shrine Ice Skating – Coliseum East Biloxi Christmas Parade – Division St./JHB Park A Xmas Story – Beau Rivage
21 Ice Skating Coliseum A Christmas Story Beau Rivage Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society Christmas Party Potluck Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center Holiday Christmas Concert Nativity BVM	22 Nathan Best Live! Edgewater Mall Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	23 Community Market Nathan Best Live! Edgewater Mall Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewery A Christmas Story Beau Rivage Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	24 Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum A Christmas Story Beau Rivage	25 Community Market  A Christmas Story Beau Rivage	26 Dinner/Karaoke with Kenny – Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Dance – Joppa Shrine Biloxi Breakers Ice Hockey MS Coast Coliseum Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum A Christmas Story Beau Rivage	27 Biloxi Breakers Ice Hockey MS Coast Coliseum Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Warrant: Let the Good Times Rock Tour Hard Rock A Christmas Story Beau Rivage
28 Disney On Ice MS Coast Coliseum Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum	29 Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	30 Community Market WLOX/Red Cross Blood Drive Edgewater Mall Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewery Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	31  Ice Skating MS Coast Coliseum WLOX/Red Cross Blood Drive Edgewater Mall Molly Ringwalds Beau Rivage NYE Party Hard Rock	Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing	Dinner/Karaoke with Kenny – Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge	



December Schedule

Sparklight 56 or at biloxi.ms.us/btv

Morning	
6 a.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 a.m.	Inside BTV
6:10 a.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 a.m.	Shuckers Insider
6:30 a.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
7 a.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" New York Pizza, Edgewater Mall
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Christmas parades
9 a.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Afternoon	
Noon	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," B&W, 1950s travelogue (9 min)
12:10 p.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," 1960s travelogue (14 min)
12:25 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
1 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" New York Pizza, Edgewater Mall
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Christmas parades
3 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Evening	
6 p.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 p.m.	Inside BTV
6:10 p.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 p.m.	Shuckers Insider
6:30 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
7 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" New York Pizza, Edgewater Mall
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
8 p.m.	Christmas parades
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Midnight	National Anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)



You can view individual programs on the city's YouTube channel.

"Biloxi Cooks!" New York-style pizza

This month, "Biloxi Cooks!" visits the Edgewater Mall Food Court for some traditional New York Pizza at a family-owned and operated pizzeria that has been serving the Mississippi Gulf Coast since 1997.

Bring big-city flavor to your shopping break with a New York-style pizza. Here's a recipe for the classic chewy crust and melty goodness your taste buds will thank you for.

Watch the December episode of "Biloxi Cooks!" daily on BTV at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m. throughout the month. The episode is also available on demand on the City of Biloxi YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/@CityofBiloxi.



This month's recipe:

New York-style pizza

Recipe by New York Pizza

Overnight Pizza Dough

Ingredients:

- Mix 1 cup warm water with ½ tsp yeast; let sit 5 minutes.
- In a mixer, combine 1 cup + 1 tbsp bread flour, 1 tbsp sugar, ½ tsp salt, and 2 tsp olive oil. Add yeast mixture and knead for about 10 minutes until smooth.
- Rest 15 minutes, shape into a tight ball, and place in an oiled bowl. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Instructions:

- Bring the dough to room temperature for 2 hours.
- Preheat oven to 500°F for at least 20 minutes before baking.
- Stretch the dough by hand to 14" and place it on a pizza pan.
- Add toppings in this order: grated mozzarella, several dollops of pizza sauce, pepperoni or your favorite toppings.
- Bake for about 6 minutes, until the crust is golden and the cheese melts. Slice and enjoy.

Notes::

- Hand-stretch for proper NY-style texture.
- Cheese first, then sauce to prevent sogginess.
- A fully preheated oven gives the best browning.



Biloxi's Christmas Time Machine

Looking back 50 years ago

By Jane Shambra

Somehow, it's hard to comprehend how much has changed in the past 50 years. Still, Christmas holidays continue to embody the "Spirit of Biloxi," and reflecting on our past can help us to appreciate Biloxi's progress through the years. Let's take a look back at 1975.

Shopping

Throughout the years, both Downtown Biloxi as well as Edgewater Plaza (our mall) offered countless options for year-round shopping. Austin's Style Center, which opened in 1949 on Howard Avenue, was a popular choice for women's clothing. It was operated by Austin Moritz and John Moritz. In fact, Mr. Austin Moritz was honored as the Biloxi Lions Club Outstanding Citizen of the Year in December 1975. Today, both the mall and downtown offer a variety of great places to shop.

Trees

In 1975, Biloxi families could purchase both real and artificial Christmas trees for their homes. Gibson's Department Store, once located on Pass Road near Keesler Gate 7, sold 6-foot, flame-proof, "realistic Christmas trees" (with a stand) for \$8.88. Shoppers could also purchase holiday trimmings like silver icicles for 9 cents and tinsel garland for 22 cents.

News

In 1975, the Sunday newspaper published on December 21 sold for just 35 cents and contained six sections and 82 pages. Biloxi readers had their pick of local papers, including The Biloxi Press, The Daily Herald, and the South Mississippi Sun (morning paper). For quick stops, newsstands like Biloxi News Stand, Marion's Newsstand, and the Searight News and Record shop on Main Street were popular, while local radio broadcasting stations like WLOX radio, WVMI, and WQID kept residents tuned in throughout the day.

Much of the news still traveled by word-of-mouth, via the landline telephone. South Central Bell was the sole proprietor of home phone communications, offering both dial and push-button features. Back in the day, Biloxi still used the 601-area code – 228 wouldn't arrive until 1997. Each year, huge telephone books with white and yellow pages were delivered to each door. There was no internet then to search for phone numbers. Individuals had hand-written address books near their home phones, and businesses relied on the twirling Rolodexes to keep track of friends, family, and business contacts.

Libraries

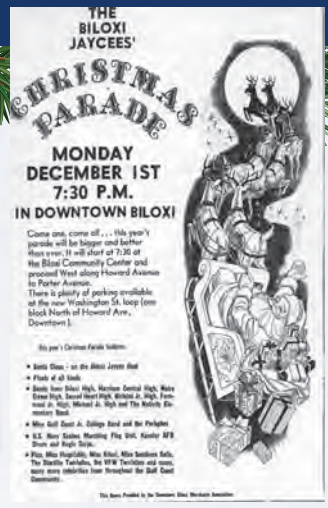
In 1975, Biloxi was home to several public libraries. The historic downtown library, at the corner of Lameuse and Water Streets, served as a hub of knowledge, alongside the Division Street branch and the West Biloxi Branch. Decades later, the city would mourn the loss of the Division Street library, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, leaving behind memories of the many stories and programs it once hosted.

Affordable date night opportunities

Going out on a date in 1975 offered several affordable and popular dining options. McDonald's and Burger King each had two



Austin's Apparel Store on Howard Avenue offered holiday shopping options in 1975.



► Christmas stamp for 1975
◄ Biloxi Parade, Dec. 1975
▼ Downtown Biloxi 1975



locations, and Jiffy Jac on Howard Avenue near Bellman was another favorite. For a sweet treat, KarmelKorn in the Edgewater Plaza mall sold a wonderful assortment of popcorn flavors as well as candy.

There were also seven movie theaters in Biloxi, including three drive-ins: the Do Drive In, the Don Drive In, and the Beach Drive In. These were unique outdoor venues where moviegoers would watch movies on a huge screen from the comfort of their cars, with audio piped in through the radio or little speakers mounted next to their parking spot. Unfortunately, cold weather closed them down for a few months each year.

Other Biloxi movie theaters included Surfside (on Hwy. 90), Edgewater Plaza, and Avenue Theater (downtown). Son of Blob, One of Our Dinosaurs is Missing, Love Story, and Paper Moon are just a few of the films shown in December 1975.

Christmas cards

Back in the day, the custom of writing Christmas cards was very popular, often including special handwritten notes, in cursive, that updated friends and relatives of the past year's happenings. In 1975, folks did not have digital technology yet, so mailing cards was the norm. Residents would travel to the post office located on Main Street. The facility officially opened in 1959 and continues to serve the community today. Before that time, the Biloxi Post Office was located at the current City Hall building on Lameuse Street.

Fifty years ago, mailing a one-ounce Christmas card in the U.S. cost only 10 cents – much less than today's 78-cent stamp. Back then, a box of Christmas cards could be purchased at Newberry's at Edgewater Plaza for only \$1.44. Newberry's was a nationwide popular five-and-dime store.

Entertainment

The traditional radio was very popular in 1975. Music was also accessible at eateries on the Coast via the jukebox. This interesting electronic, mechanical machine held stacks of popular records. By inserting a few coins, the room came to life with the choice of a favorite

song. Pushing buttons to begin the process was always fun. A record would appear from the pile and be placed mechanically onto a turntable, treating the crowd to the best audio qualities ever. Some restaurants even had tabletop jukeboxes in individual booths.

Popular songs in those days included Jive Talkin' (Bee Gees), One of These Nights (Eagles), Lady Marmalade (Labelle), Listen to What the Man Said (Wings), and Some Kind of Wonderful (Grand Funk Railroad). Today, these and all other songs from 1975 can be revisited by stopping at Marley's Music Store on G.E. Ohr Street in Downtown Biloxi.

Food for the holidays

Biloxi's traditional culinary holiday treats have certainly remained the same over the years. We still look forward to all the seasonal specialties.

The Slavonian ladies have been continuing to prepare their pusharatas, which they have done each holiday season since they arrived in the late 1800s. Upon leaving their homeland of Yugoslavia, they were unable to take much with them. But the treasure of their special Christmas treat will remain in the Biloxi Christmas culture forever. Multiple ingredients mixed with happy chefs make this recipe for one of the most sought-after Christmas treats on the Coast.

In 1975, cooking the traditional Christmas dinner had taken a new turn. By that year, the sale of microwave ovens had nearly surpassed that of traditional ovens. In the fall of that year, Sears in the Edgewater Plaza was advertising Kenmore microwave ovens for \$218. This new modern kitchen appliance was guaranteed to dramatically reduce holiday meal cooking time.

Christmas parades

Parading has long been a cherished Biloxi tradition, and it carries on each Christmas season. In 1975, the Christmas parade was held on Monday, December 2, took place in Downtown Biloxi, and was sponsored by the



Microwaves sales surpassed that of traditional ovens in 1975.

Biloxi Jaycees and the Chamber of Commerce. It began at 7:30 a.m. at the Biloxi Community Center and traveled west along Howard Avenue to Porter Avenue. Santa served as the guest of honor on the Jaycee float, accompanied by 11 bands, including Biloxi High School Indian Band, along with floats, cars, trucks, and marching groups. Promotion for the parade was provided by the Biloxi Downtown Merchants Association.

Continuing the spirit of Biloxi's Christmas

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Biloxi's beloved Christmas on the Water series of events. On the first weekend in December, spectators eagerly anticipate the annual children's walking parade, lighting of the Biloxi Town Green, a fabulous boat parade just yards off the shoreline near Deer Island, and the grand finale – an amazing fireworks display. Trophies are awarded each year for the best-decorated boats.

Celebrations continue this year with the annual Lighting of the Biloxi Lighthouse on Thursday, December 4. The event includes hot chocolate, cookies, and Santa!

This year's holiday bonus comes on Dec. 18-20 with Christmas on the Avenue, a brand-new hometown celebration in the heart of downtown on Howard Avenue. Local art, food, music, and small businesses will come together to bring the Avenue to life for three days of festive fun, laughter, and community spirit.



Edgewater Mall in the 1970s



Artificial trees

BNews Monthly

DECEMBER 2025

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
and the Biloxi City Council
Wayne Gray • Anthony Marshall
Mike Nail • Jamie Creel
Paul A. Tisdale • Kenny Glavan
David Shoemaker

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