

BNews Monthly

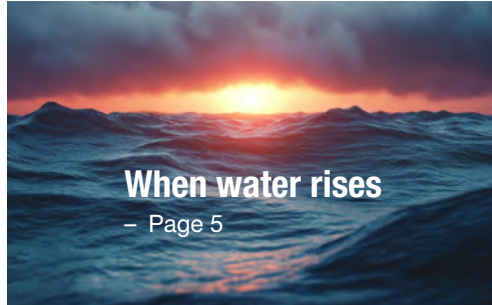
APRIL 2026

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



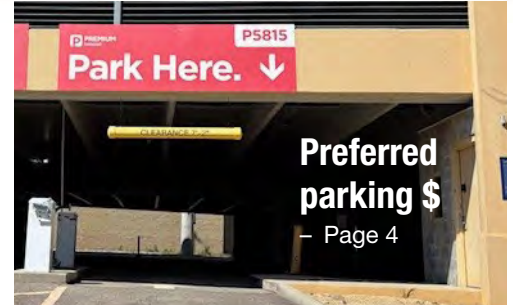
Healthy and efficient

– Page 4



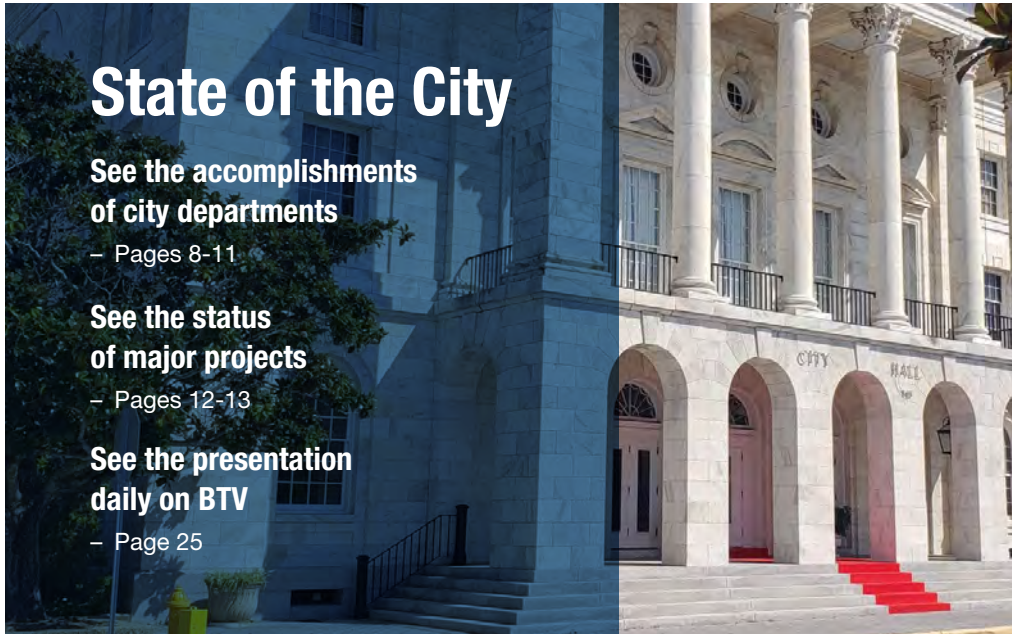
When water rises

– Page 5



Preferred parking \$

– Page 4



State of the City

See the accomplishments of city departments

– Pages 8-11

See the status of major projects

– Pages 12-13

See the presentation daily on BTV

– Page 25



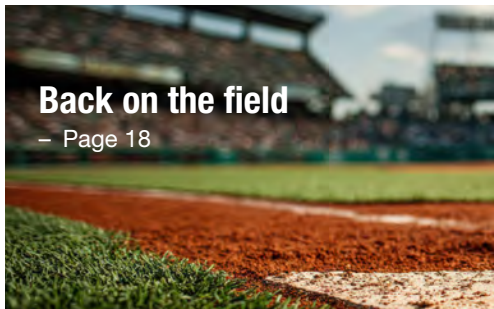
Keeping it clean

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Century of sailing

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Back on the field

– Page 18



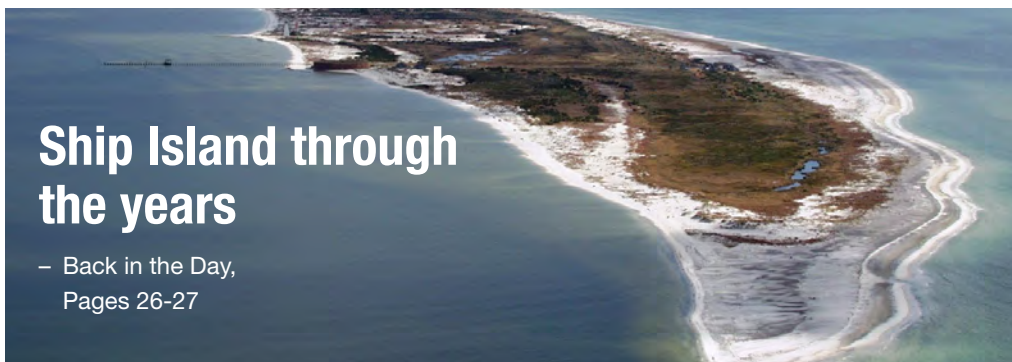
Mowing forward

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Digital history

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Ship Island through the years

– Back in the Day, Pages 26-27

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MARINA & HARBOR POLLUTION PREVENTION



City of Biloxi Stormwater Management:
228-435-6280
stormwater@biloxi.ms.us

Biloxi Port Division:
228-374-6600

What is stormwater or non-point source pollution?

It occurs when runoff from a rain event picks up pollutants and deposits them in our waterways. Some examples of these pollutants are eroded soil, used oil, pesticides, fertilizers, pet wastes, and litter.

Maintain Your Boat

- Regularly wash your deck with fresh water to reduce the need for heavy cleaners.
- Do major cleaning of your boat and maintenance while the boat is out of the water.
- Recycle used zincs.
- Use hard anti-fouling paint if you plan on scrubbing the bottom of your boat while in the water.

The Scoop on Poop

- Use onshore restrooms before leaving.
- Obey the law — keep all untreated raw sewage out of coastal and near shore waters.
- If your boat has a head, use a USCG approved marine sanitation device.
- To find a pump out or discharge station or report a broken pump out call your local harbor master's office.

Stash Your Trash

- Reduce the amount of plastic and packaging you take aboard.
- Put a sturdy trash container on your boat.
- Obey the law — keep trash on-board while boating and dispose of properly onshore.
- Establish a boat rule that no trash gets disposed of overboard.
- Leave water and marina cleaner than you left it. Pick up any trash left over by others.

Stop the Drops

- Don't top off your fuel tanks.
- Use absorbent pads to catch any spills while fueling.
- Fill your boat while on the trailer, out of the water if possible.

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

Automotive fluids like motor oil, fuel, oil filters, anti-freeze, transmission fluids and degreasers are all toxic and hazardous materials. Naturally we don't want them entering our local waterways... and you certainly wouldn't want to go swimming, fishing or boating in them. Taking good care of your customer's car and the environment goes hand in hand, and can be downright easy! Here are some small, simple actions you can take.

Contact the City of Biloxi Stormwater Management at 228-435-6280 or stormwater@biloxi.ms.us

Train Your Employees

- Employees should be trained in pollution prevention techniques.
- Provide the resources to get the job done.
- Encourage participation through incentive programs such as awards, bonuses, or other forms of recognition.
- Explain the environmental health and safety consequences of spills, as well as the benefits of good housekeeping practices.

Good Housekeeping

- Tank/Fluid Storage areas should be covered, secured and locked.
- Dumpster lids should be kept closed.
- Tanks, pumps, fitting, pipes, and containers should be inspected routinely for integrity and leaks.

- Never hose down your garage floor or driveway into the storm drain system. Contain wash water and properly dispose of it.
- Keep spill containment supplies readily available. Include safety equipment and clean up materials appropriate to the type of materials that could spill. Properly dispose of all used absorbent materials. NEVER HOSE DOWN A SPILL INTO THE STREETS OR STORM DRAIN SYSTEM.
- Recycle and reuse cleaning fluids where practical.
- Remind customers to check their vehicles regularly for leaks.
- Properly dispose of all used motor oil and cleaning fluids.



Gulf Coast Artists Unlimited Supply Destash & Handmade Art Show

April 17-19, 2026

Friday & Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. • Sunday, 12 noon-4 p.m.

MALL-WIDE

Edgewater Mall has a million-square feet of retail, restaurants and entertainment in a safe and climate-controlled environment.



Mall Hours: Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. | Sunday, 12-6 p.m.

EDGEWATERMALL.COM

DILLARD'S | JCPENNEY | BELK | FOOD COURT
HWY 90 | ON THE BEACH | 228-388-3424



Edgewater Mall

Solar-powered medical development planned for Woolmarket

A new multi-phase medical development is moving forward off North Oaklawn Lane near Shriners Boulevard, bringing healthcare services and innovative energy use to the growing corridor.

Phase one of the project will include the construction of two one-story medical buildings, each approximately 9,000 square feet. The front building, facing North Oaklawn Lane, is planned as a pain management clinic. A second building will house Pine Belt Dermatology, offering expanded specialty care in the area.

Foundation plans for both structures have been completed and are currently being finalized by architect Marty Hardy. Developers anticipate submitting plans to Community Development for review by late March. If approved, the city is expected to issue permits for the foundations while the remaining construction plans are finalized. Once approved, construction on the pain management clinic is projected to be completed by December of this year.

Phase two will focus on infrastructure, including the construction of the first segment of a new boulevard to provide

access to additional parcels on the property. Once complete, the overall development is expected to include six to seven structures.

One of the most distinctive aspects of the project is its emphasis on renewable energy. Both initial buildings will be powered primarily by solar energy. Solar panels will be installed on rooftops and over covered parking areas, with traditional electrical service serving as a backup. Plans also include the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

“This is the first of its kind in Biloxi, primarily solar with secondary electrical backup,” said Community Development Director Jerry Creel.

Creel also noted the project’s strategic location and its role in the

area’s growth.

“I think it is a great location, Creel said. “It’s in an area that will be very accessible to residents and expand the services in that area.”

The development marks another step forward in expanding healthcare access while incorporating sustainable design in Biloxi’s evolving landscape.

“This is the first of its kind in Biloxi, primarily solar with secondary electrical backup.”

New park to pay system at Keesler Federal Park garage

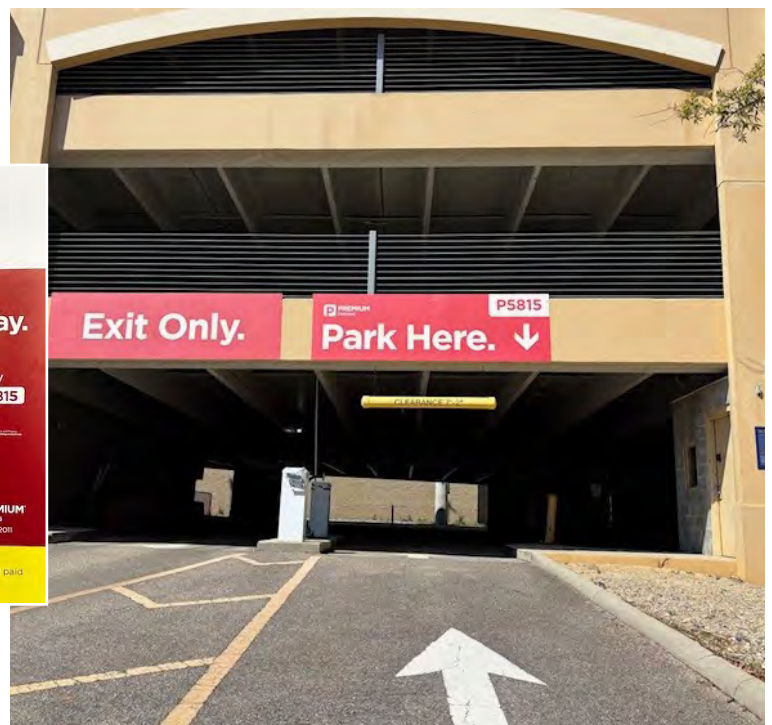
Visitors to the Keesler Federal Park parking garage will notice a new parking system now in place.

Guests are encouraged to download the Premium Parking app to pay for parking. The new park-and-pay system debuted March 10 in conjunction with the Mississippi State game, when the Bulldogs faced the Tulane Green Wave.

Parking rates begin at \$10. Signage posted throughout the garage provides visitors with step-by-step instructions, including how to download the app, scan a QR code, or pay via text message.

The app-based system is designed to provide a convenient, streamlined parking experience, especially during high-traffic events. Visitors attending baseball games or downtown events are encouraged to download the app in advance for a smoother entry process.

The system will remain in place for both event parking and regular public use of the Keesler Federal Park garage.





Maximize Your Tax Refund

Life's a journey they say, and there's no better place to make your way than with The Peoples Bank. Make your refund count by funding an IRA, HSA or savings account with advice from a local team that cares. The Peoples Bank. With you on the road of life.

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ThePeoples.com/resources/locations



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thepeoples.com | 228.435.5511

With you on the road of life.

Do You Have Flood Insurance?

It's that time of year again. Hurricane season is just around the corner, and the City of Biloxi is recommending that you purchase flood insurance. Here are a few facts that should move you to action:

- Everyone is vulnerable to flooding. More than 20 percent of the claims in the National Flood Insurance Program are from outside identified flood zones, and claims outside the flood risk area account for a third of disaster assistance for flooding.
- It takes 30 days for a flood insurance policy to take effect, and policies will not be sold when a storm is in the Gulf.
- In a high-risk area, your home is more than twice as likely to be damaged by flood than by fire.

The City of Biloxi encourages you to call your insurance agent and buy flood insurance.

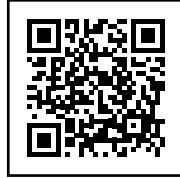
Questions? Contact Rick Stickler (rstickler@biloxi.ms.us) or Kristin Greger (kgreger@biloxi.ms.us) with the City of Biloxi, 228-435-6280.



B Smart: Scan to visit the city's online Storm & Flood Preparedness section.

This FEMA-mandated notice helps keep Biloxi flood insurance rates low.

BNews Delivery Survey!



The City of Biloxi wants to hear from you! How do you prefer to view the BNews Monthly publication? It's easy to respond:

- **Mail:** Fill out this section and send to: City of Biloxi, Public Affairs, P.O. Box 429, Biloxi, MS 39533.
- **Online:** Scan the QR code to complete a quick online form.
- **By phone:** Call 228-435-6337 or 228-435-6368 to share your preference. (For voicemail, leave your name, number, address, and delivery preference.)

Your info:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Newsletter preference:

- By mail
- View digitally online

Thank you for your thoughts. Your feedback will help guide the City's decision about BNews Monthly delivery.

Sailing through a Century

In 1926, an ambitious dream took shape off the coast of Biloxi. Hotel owner A. P. Apperson needed boats to transport guests from his Buena Vista Hotel to a new beach resort he was developing on a small barrier island in the Dog Keys, between Horn Island and Ship Island. His partner, promoter Walter "Skeet" Hunt, wisely renamed the sandy



outpost from "Dog Island" to the far more glamorous "Isle of Caprice," fitting for a destination built around dancing, dining, and gambling.

Captain Pete Skrmetta answered the call. A Croatian immigrant who arrived in America in 1903, Skrmetta commissioned master boatbuilder "Jackie Jack" Covacevich to build a 56-foot, 150-passenger excursion boat he proudly named the Pan American 1. Skrmetta began ferrying passengers to the islands on May 26, 1926, charging \$1 round trip and making stops at Biloxi hotel piers before heading into the clear, green Gulf waters.

The Isle of Caprice quickly became a sensation. Visitors could "surf bathe" along its white sand beaches by day and enjoy a lively casino at night, with craps tables, roulette, a restaurant, and a dance hall filled with big band music. Boardwalks connected the buildings, and a diesel generator powered the island after dark. But storms and strong currents relentlessly eroded the fragile island — a problem made worse when visitors pulled up protective sea oats as souvenirs. A devastating fire in September 1931 destroyed most of the resort, and by 1932 the island had slipped beneath the Gulf, leaving only a lone

artesian well pipe visible for years afterward.

Refusing to give up on island tourism, Captain Pete Skrmetta, along with his brother Paul, purchased property on the eastern end of Ship Island in 1932. Using salvaged lumber from the Isle of Caprice, he built a 200-foot dock and beach pavilion and formed the Pan American Association. The following year, the Gulfport American Legion

purchased Fort Massachusetts and West Ship Island. The Legion offered Captain Pete an exclusive contract to transport passengers to the fort and a new Legion Beach Resort. Over the next decades, the Skrmetta family built and rebuilt docks, bathhouses, utilities, and visitor facilities, often at their own expense after storms, in partnership with the Legion. In 1959, Pete's eldest son personally funded repairs to prevent the collapse of historic Fort Massachusetts. Even after the destruction caused by Hurricane Camille, the family mortgaged everything to restore operations.

When Ship Island became part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore in 1971, improvements by the National Park Service enhanced its infrastructure and preserved its history.

What began as a bold boat ride to a fleeting island paradise became a hundred-year tradition — proof that while islands may shift and storms may come, the spirit of coastal adventure endures. To date, the Skrmetta family has carried more than 1.5 million passengers to the Mississippi Barrier Islands. And now, 100 years later, the legacy continues, born from one bold venture in 1926.

Splash pads reopen: The Margaret Sherry and John Henry Beck Park splash pads reopen on Good Friday,



April 3. For hours of operation, visit online at biloxi.ms.us/pr. Questions? Contact Parks & Recreation weekdays at 228-388-7170.

City closings: All non-emergency municipal offices will be closed on Friday, April 3, in observance of Good Friday.



Visitors Center holiday hours:

The Biloxi Visitors Center will be open on Good Friday, April 3, and Saturday, April 4, but will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 5.

Stay social:

Connect with the City of Biloxi through its various social media sites on Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), and YouTube.



B-Alert: A new B-Alert text messaging system is

B-Alert

coming later this month. Stay tuned and visit online at biloxi.ms.us/balert.

Don't remove yard signs:

The City places signs throughout the community for code enforcement and public hearings. Please leave all city signs in place. City staff will collect and reuse the boards after the meeting.



SHREK

The Musical

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the Book by William Steig
Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions
Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford

THE GREATEST FAIRY TALE NEVER TOLD IS COMING THIS SUMMER

JUNE 11 - JULY 2

DARK MONDAYS

Book & Lyrics by
David Lindsay-Abaire

Music by
Jeanine Tesori

TICKETS START AT **\$25***
FOUR-PACKS START AT **\$60***

VIP Experience Available

DIRECTED BY
JEB K. RAND



Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).



LEANN RIMES

ONE ICONIC VOICE. ONE UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT.

APRIL 17



KATHLEEN MADIGAN

THE DAY DRINKING TOUR

MAY 2



Chicago

Live in Concert

MAY 8-10



EMO ORCHESTRA

EMO SONGS X LIVE BAND X FULL ORCHESTRA

PERFORMING WITH THE SPILLCANVAS

PRESENTED BY EMO'S NIGHT DEAD

MAY 15



Riverdance

30 BREATHTAKING YEARS
ONE WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON

JUNE 5-7

Composer: BILL WHELAN
Producer: MOYA DOHERTY
Director: JOHN MCCOLGAN



BRUCE BRUCE

AUGUST 15



LIVE MUSIC EXPERIENCE

NIGHTLY

TRIGGERPROOF
WED - SAT | BEGINS APRIL 9



BETMGM
BOOK BAR & GRILL



MUST BE 21

ESCAPE THE EVERYDAY, RIGHT HERE AT HOME
GULF COAST LOCALS DISCOUNTS



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The State of the City 2026

Key updates from city departments, an overview map of major projects, and more!



See the inside story on the accomplishments of city departments in 2025 and plans for 2026.

Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich shared an update on major projects and progress during the annual Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Thursday, March 19 at 11:30 a.m. at the Beau Rivage. A replay of the presentation airs on BTV and YouTube throughout April. See replay details on page 25.

Departmental Annual Reports

Administration Department

- Bond rating remained at an excellent AA-
- Received \$76.6 million in revenue; had \$78.2 million in expenses
- Ad valorem taxes totaled \$14.1 million compared to \$13.7 million in 2024
- Gaming taxes totaled \$24,142,634 compared to \$24,013,381 in 2024
- Collected sales taxes, \$15,662,832
- Employees 614; saw 39 retirements; hired 127 permanent

Community Development

- Issued \$148,050,600 in construction permits in 2025, including \$96,005,500 commercial and \$52,045,100 million residential
- Issued 4,334 building permits, including 183 for commercial and 1,120 for residential
- Renovations and construction projects: New MS Cyber and Technology Center, 236 White Avenue; New Homes 2 Suites, 612 Beach Blvd.; New Retreat Apartments, 1731 Tribe Drive; New Brodie Wells, 1731 Tribe Drive Building A; New Brodie Wells (72 Apartments), 1731 Tribe Drive; New Brodie Wells (72 Apartments), 1697 Brodie Road; Biloxi Housing Office Relocation, 2130 Pass Road, The Current Apartments, 2068 Beach Blvd.; New Express Oil Change, 1673 Pass Road; Beau Rivage (Bar remodel), 875 Beach Blvd.; IP Casino Resort Spa (paved parking lot), 883 Bayview Ave.; Starks Office Building, 1633 Popp’s Ferry Road; Urgent Care, 1886 Popp’s Ferry Road; 7 Brew Coffee, 2366 Pass Road; Wedding Venue, 1785 Beach Blvd.; The Belvedere, 792 Water St.; Old Lucy’s (Renovations), 1775 Beach Blvd.; and Scooter’s North Bay Place Shopping Center, 1831 Popp’s Ferry Road
- Certificates of Occupancy issued for: Bayside Luxury Garage Condo, 458 Back Bay Blvd.; Coastal ENT, 970 Tommy Munro Drive; Picklr, 2649 Pass Road; Dollar Tree, 1687 Popp’s Ferry Road; Dollar Tree, 2414 Pass Road; Pavilion Health, 211 Beauvoir Road, Suite A; Smalls Sliders, 2656 Beach Blvd.; Five Below, 2394 Pass Road; Goodwill, 2647 Pass Road; Rip’n Hot Chicken, 169 Rue Magnolia; and Jett’s Pizza, 15160 Hwy 67

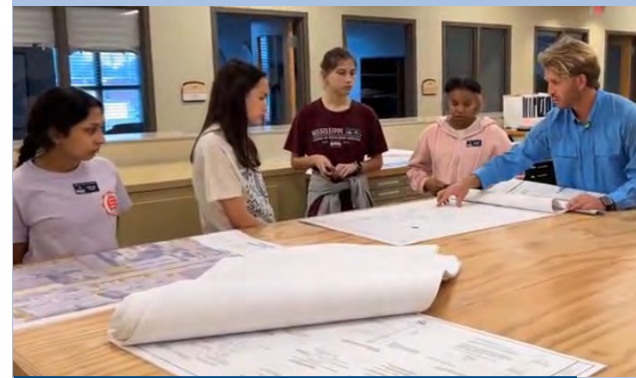
- 271 building permits issued for new single-family houses
- Issued 594 new business licenses, for a total of 2,912 active business licenses
- Planning Commission oversaw 49 cases, conducted public hearings
- Development Review Committee (DRC) reviewed site plans for 92 projects
- Issued 156 residential and 25 commercial tree permits and assisted in hosting annual Arbor Day Run
- Received designation of “Tree City USA” for the 41st year
- Maintained rating of 4 in building division by the Mississippi State Building Department Rating Bureau
- Received a 6 in the Community Rating System (CRS)
- Code Enforcement received 4,674 requests
- Architectural and Historical Review Commission (AHRC) issued 117 Certificates of Appropriateness in historical districts, landmarks, or within historic landmarks
- Biloxi Lighthouse was visited by 1,084 guests
- Biloxi Visitors Center welcomed 214,788 guests from the U.S., China, the UK, Australia, Canada, British Columbia, Germany, England, Thailand, Ghana, France, Georgia, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Poland, Puerto Rico, Peru, South Africa, Israel, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico, and Turkey.
- Biloxi Visitors Center and Pavilion hosted 154 public and private events
- Old Brick House restoration in phase one



Popp's Ferry Extension roadway taking shape

Engineering Department

- Managed 70 construction projects in concept, design, construction, or completion with a construction value of nearly \$136 million
- Work generated 530 service requests, 300 work orders, 1700 right-of-way/city property inspections, and nearly 180 private utility permit requests
- Maintained a digital map of every asset owned by the city
- Completed projects: Bay Vista Water Well; Belle La Vie Lift station; Brashier Bayou dredging; Cedar Lake Bridge BRIC Grant; Parkers Creek dredging; MGCCC Pass Road entrance intersection upgrades; Point Cadet Living Shoreline; A.J. Holloway Sports Complex field improvements; Tanglewood infrastructure repairs phase II; and Woolmarket Road sidewalks
- Construction underway: Bay Vista Subdivision water & sewer replacement, East Biloxi Connector Road phase III; Frank Gruich Community Center HVAC; Keegan Bayou Restoration; North Biloxi Well casing; and Popp's Ferry extension
- Repairs/replacements completed throughout city, totaling \$1.7M
- Projects in design and concept phase: See pages 12-13



Robert Smith shows Mayor's Youth Council students engineering plans

Legal Department

- Establishment of city-county insurance group to lower overall premiums
- Continued oversight of Special Events ordinances to help Biloxi Police manage and monitor future events
- Secured miscellaneous recoveries of over \$250,000
- Shared management and maintenance of city's development grants with SMPDD, GBEDF, and Biloxi Main Street
- Participated in ongoing economic development initiatives
- Work with County and joint law enforcement on homeless initiatives
- Continued defense of the Secretary of State's lawsuits to limit Biloxi's waterfront development



The Preserve development in Woolmarket off Shriners



Amtrak's Mardi Gras Service inaugural ride



Fire kids academy

Fire Department

- Responded to 8,361 calls for service, including 5,397 for rescue and medical (64.5 percent of overall calls), and 270 fire-related. Other calls include good intent, hazardous condition, and false alarm calls
- Promoted one Deputy Chief, four Captain's, 12 FFIII's (Driver/Operator), 16 FFII's, four FTO's, and one Fire Inspector
- Hired 20 new recruits and 3 laterals
- Pafford EMS Services housed in stations responded to 8,693 medical calls with an average response time of 8:03 during the past year.
- Provided fire, rescue, and medical protection for major events including Mardi Gras, Spring Break, air show, Scrapin the Coast, and Cruisin' The Coast
- The majority of our training is done in-house. In 2024, there were 62,782 hours of in-house training
- Completed EMT certification for 17 recruits, Advanced EMT for two firefighters, and two Paramedics
- Installed 111 smoke alarms in 22 residences
- Conducted 3,255 fire inspections, 329 certificates of occupancy, 69 short-term rentals, and 1,034 misc. inspections
- Reviewed 75 blueprints for approval
- Reviewed 45 commercial plans
- Issued 53 burn permits
- Approved seven fire outdoor fireworks displays and managed permit process for pyrotechnic shows
- Worked with Public Affairs to complete R U Ready community outreach digital event
- Department employed 174 firefighters and 7 civilians
- Received Class 2 rating
- Continued annual fire safety summer camp, "Fire Academy for Kids," with 89 children in attendance



Police employees

Police Department

- Responded to 112,877 calls for service and made 6,162 arrests
- Officers' responses resulted in 8,932 reports generated
- Animal Control Officers handled 2258 calls for service
- Investigations Division were assigned 1,599 incidents and resolved approximately 48% of those K9s and handlers conducted 291 narcotic searches and 48 explosive searches
- Bomb Squad answered 34 calls for service
- Honor Guard called to provide representation at 15 details
- Dive team provided water safety assistance for July 4th fireworks display, Blessing of the Fleet, and Christmas on the Water Boat Parade, assisted with marine apprehension of wanted subjects
- Public information division generated over 100 press releases
- Department employed 124 sworn officers and 58 civilians
- Five sworn officers retired, 28 resigned and 29 were hired
- Nine dispatchers were hired, six resigned and two retired
- Completed/conducted 14,402 hours of training
- Sponsored/cosponsored 18 training courses
- Continues to hold state accreditation – National Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA); recognized by Mississippi State Accreditation Commission
- Hosted the Citizen's Police Academy
- Assisted with several major events, including Mardi Gras, Spring Break, Scrapin the Coast, Cruisin' The Coast, Biking the Coast, Mississippi Gulf Coast Marathon, Christmas Parades, and nearly 100 minor events such as Juneteenth and July 4th



Police officer

Parks & Recreation

- Miramar Park received new playground modules
- Pennzoil Park had new outdoor exercise equipment installed
- Popp's Ferry Dog Park had new outdoor pet obstacle course equipment installed
- Community events held: Special Needs Mardi Gras Dance, Senior Mardi Gras Bash, Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade, Black History Program, Bingo, Woolmarket Easter Egg Hunt, Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt, Senior Luau, Ice Cream Social & Bingo, Sports Hall of Fame Banquet, Senior Rock N' Roll Bash, Halloween on Howard, Eagle Point Trunk or Treat, Special Needs Halloween Dance, Senior Thanksgiving Breakfast, Special Needs Thanksgiving Dinner,



A.J. Holloway Sports Complex

Children's Christmas Parade and Lighting of the Town Green, Woolmarket Christmas Parade, Special Needs Christmas Party, and Christmas Bingo Social

- Recreation facilities had 40,898 users
- Mississippi Senior Games held with 839 participants
- Sports leagues held: Softball with 200 participants; baseball with 410 participants; football/cheerleading with 360 participants; basketball with 135 players; and soccer with 650 participants
- Natatorium welcomed 37,465 visitors to swim, train, and compete
- Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center pool welcomed 16,024 swimmers
- Maintained more than two dozen parks, playgrounds, and ballfields
- Renovations completed at the A.J. Holloways; \$5.16 million contract
- After reopening, sports complex generated more than \$70,000 in rental fees and booked 15 tournaments in a short time

Port Division

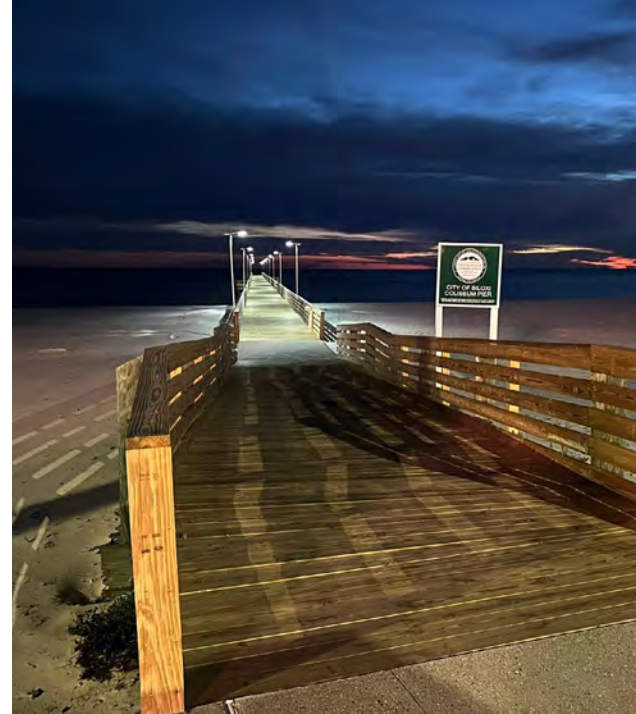
- Maintains four harbors with a total of 431 slips
- Renovated Point Cadet Marina Living Shoreline area, including light poles, new trash receptacles, transformed trash receptacles, and changed existing poles to flag poles
- Repaired and upgraded electrical service and piers at Point Cadet Marina
- Completed routine maintenance dredging of Point Cadet Marina
- Installed piling caps at Point Cadet Marina, Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, and Commercial Dock
- Damaged pilings removed and replaced, no wake zone signs painted on exterior breaks walls, and timber decking on walkways replaced with fiberglass decking at Biloxi Small Craft Harbor and Commercial Dock
- Boat trailer parking lot extended and public fish cleaning stations added at Biloxi Small Craft Harbor
- Coliseum Pier was upgraded with new decking and handrails; sixteen light poles installed
- Parker's Creek Boat Ramp finger piers replaced with fiberglass decking
- Installed new decking on Forrest Avenue Boat Ramp finger piers; repaired electrical
- Removed and replaced rotten structure, added new fiberglass decking, and new handrails at the Causeway

Public Affairs Division

- City's website had 556,075 sessions with 386,097 unique visitors in 2025
- Sent nearly 60 Bmails to audience of more than 7,200 subscribers
- Continued on-the-go traffic and weather advisories through B-Alert
- Completed 12 BNews Monthly newsletters, averaging 24 to 28 pages, delivered to every address in Biloxi; generated more than \$100,000 in advertising revenue to offset printing and delivery costs
- BTV: Biloxi Television, municipal TV channel, offered local programming including Shuckers Insider, Infrastructure updates, and Biloxi Cooks
- Partnered with Biloxi Public Schools for Tribe TV monthly videos for BTV
- Continued Biloxi A to Z weekly reports
- Continued work with all departments on marketing materials and social media
- Continued media request email for all media inquiries
- Worked with media regarding city projects, programs, and events
- Oversaw use of trademarked City of Biloxi logo
- Captured photos and aerial drone footage for various city projects and events

Public Works Department

- Maintained city buildings, stadium, Biloxi Cemetery, and Popp's Ferry Bridge
- Completed 8,896 work orders totaling more than \$3.6M
- Repaired 1102 asphalt/potholes
- Mowed 2,456 miles of rights-of-way
- Maintained and repaired 195,833 feet of drainage ditches
- Installed and removed 7,363 barricades and 16,321 four-foot delineator cones for special events
- Conducted 2,555 pick-ups of daily trash
- Picked up 1,623 bags of litter and 491 tires
- Completed 186 water main/sewer line repairs
- Striped 144,324 linear feet of roadway
- Maintained 25 water wells and 106 lift stations
- Employed seven certified well operators and two certified wastewater operators



Coliseum Pier lights



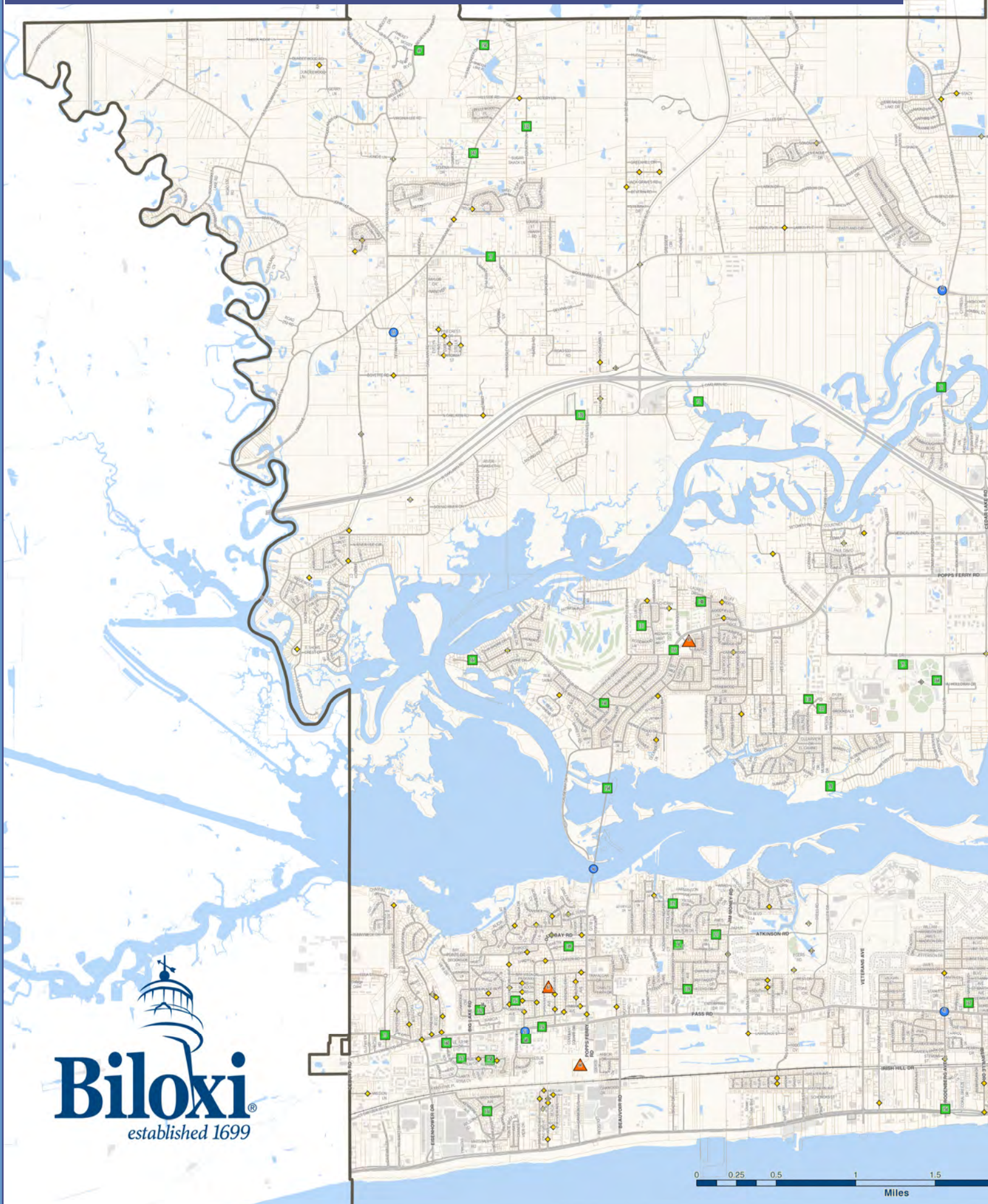
BNews Monthly awarded Mississippi Municipal League's Spirit Award

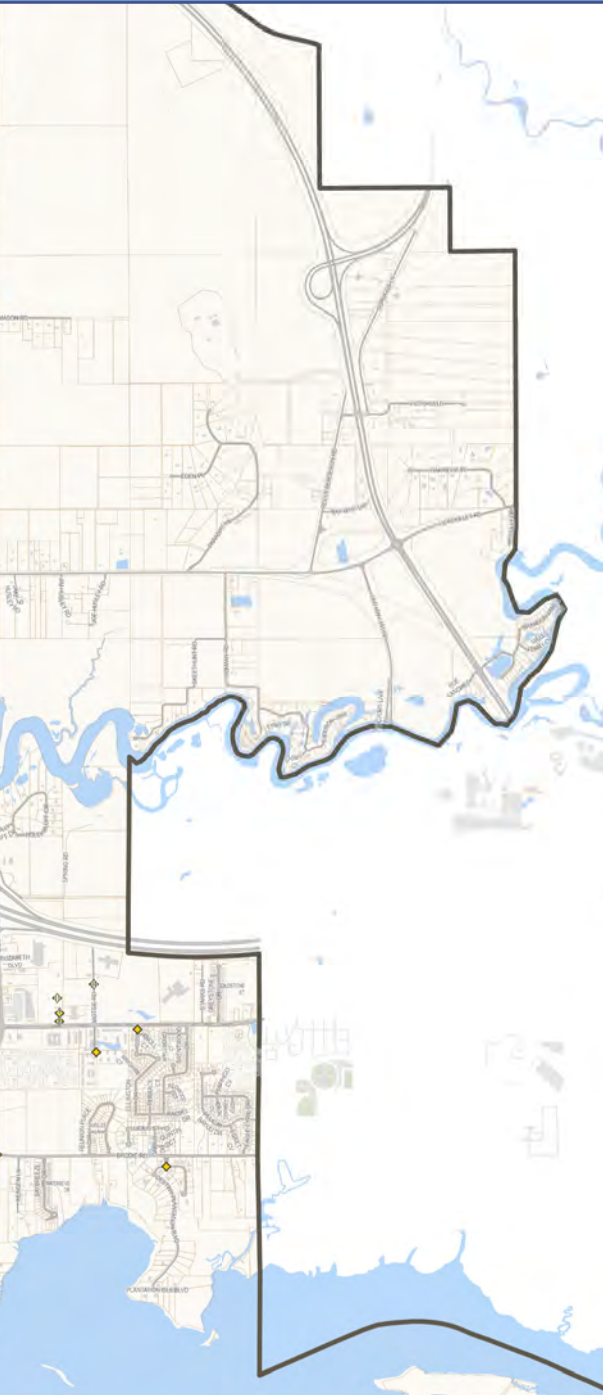


Public Works employee working on Parks signage

► See more about the State of the City online at biloxi.ms.us

January 2026 status of major projects





COMPLETED

PROJECTS

Key	Project	Actual Cost
	Completed (Total)	\$13.74M
068	Bay Vista Water Well	\$1.50M
069	Belle La Vie Liftstation	\$400K
070	Brasher Bayou Dredging	\$400K
071	Cedar Lake Bridge BRIC Grant	\$700K
072	Parkers Creek Dredging	\$315K
073	Pass Road at MGCCC Entrance Intersection Upgrades	\$600K
074	Point Cadet Living Shoreline	\$525K
075	Sports Complex Field Improvements	\$5M
076	Tanglewood Infrastructure Repairs Phase II	\$3.20M
077	Woolmarket Road Sidewalks	\$1.10M

REPAIR REPLACE

Label	Project	Actual Cost
	2025 Completed Repair/Replace (Total)	\$1.77M
126	Acacia Drainage	\$36K
127	Atkinson Rd. / Gulf Shores Care Center Drainage	\$431K
128	Benachi Drainage Repairs	\$6K
129	Benachi Sewer	\$27K
130	Calllevet Water Break	\$8K
131	Club Moss Circle	\$3K
132	Country Lane Sewer	\$10K
134	Davis St.	\$4K
135	Division St. Overhang	\$150K
136	Edgewater Park Sidewalk	\$22K
137	Fearn Court Drainage	\$53K
138	Fearn Court Drainage Ph II	\$3K
139	Floyd Dr.	\$4K
140	Gill & Judge Sekul Sewer	\$62K
141	Graham Ave. Drainage	\$14K
142	Graham Ave. Drainage Survey	\$5K
143	Hwy 90 @ Hard Rock Water	\$141K
144	Hwy 90 @ Hard Rock Water #2	\$48K
145	Irish Hill & Gill Ave Sewer Repair	\$12K
146	Lamouse St.	\$4K
147	Lorraine Rd. Sewer	\$17K
148	McKenzie Court	\$16K
149	Martin Rd. Water Repair	\$5K
150	Mill Creek Sidewalk	\$15K
151	Orleans Dr.	\$12K
153	Pass Rd. Water Tap	\$61K
154	Popp's Ferry Bridge Inspection	\$3K
155	Popp's Ferry	\$25K
156	Rodenberg @ 90 Lift Station	\$11K
157	Rue Palafox Drainage	\$7K
158	Rue Palafox Drainage Ph II	\$140K
160	Rue Pettit Bois	\$12K
161	S. Shore Drive	\$26K
162	Sheridan Court Drainage	\$71K
163	Shucker Stadium Water	\$6K
164	Sports Plex Water Repair	\$22K
165	St. Peter Water	\$3K
166	St. John Sewer	\$30K
167	St. Mary Sewer	\$4K
168	Sunkist Ponds	\$60K
170	West Oaklawn Water	\$43K
171	Woodland Park Drive	\$6K

Project Areas

- COMPLETED
- ▲ CONSTRUCTION
- DESIGN
- ◆ PLANNED
- City Limits

DESIGNED

Key	Project	Actual Cost
	Design (Total)	\$26.54M
044	Howard Creek Bridge Replacement	\$1.60M
045	Point Cadet Marina Ph III (design will begin in 2026)	\$8M
046	Popp's Ferry Bridge Bascule Rehabilitation	\$15M
047	Rodenberg & Pass Road Signal Upgrades	\$660K
048	White Avenue Outfalls (design will begin in 2026)	\$1.28M
	Design Complete Construction Pending Funding (Total)	\$23M
050	East Biloxi Recreational Complex	\$3M
051	Fire Station #5 Improvements	\$2.50M
052	Kuhn Street Boat Ramp Expansion	\$1.50M
053	Lighthouse Pier Zeta Repairs	\$4M
054	Oak Street Pier South Reconstruction	\$2M
055	Woolmarket Acres Infrastructure	\$10M

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Key	Project	Cost to Date
	Construction (Total)	\$32.02M
061	Boy Visto Subdivision Water & Sewer Replacement	\$3.30M
063	Grüch Center HVAC	\$625K
064	Keegan Bayou Restoration	\$4M
065	North Biloxi Wall Casing	\$400K
066	Popp's Ferry Extension	\$23M

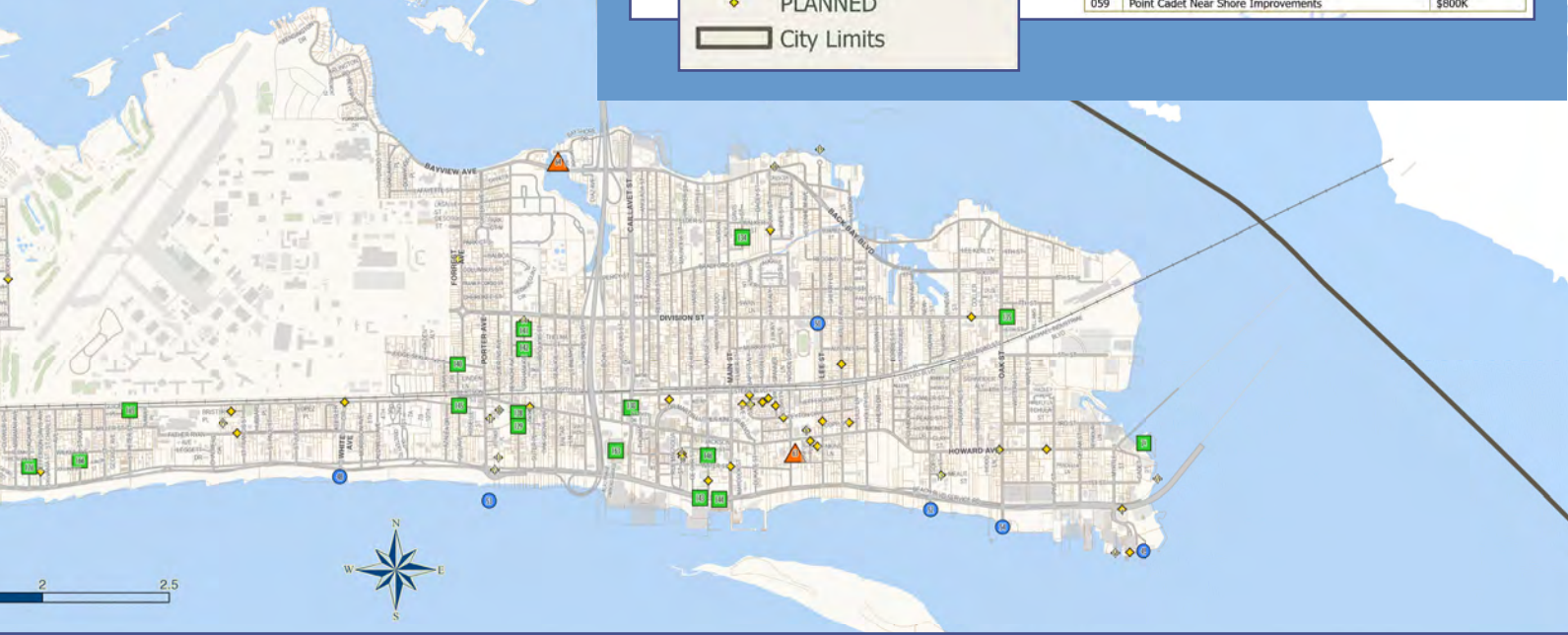
PLANNED

CONCEPTUAL

Label	Project	Estimated Cost
	Conceptual (Total)	\$34.4M
003	Armory Roof Replacement	\$120K
004	Biloxi-OS Bridge Pedestrian Ramp	\$120K
005	Brodie/Tribe Dr. Sidewalks	\$300K
006	Civic Center Chiller Replacement	\$475K
007	Creole Cottage Roof Replacement	\$100K
008	Dispatch Building Generator	\$150K
009	Dispatch Building Roof Replacement	\$230K
011	Edgewater Estates Misc. Drainage & Sewer Repairs	\$250K
012	Edgewater Estates Water Line Replacement	\$2M
013	Fire Station #7 Metal Training Building & Emergency Quarters	\$500K
014	Graham Avenue Drainage	\$300K
015	Hiller Park Misc. Improvements	\$605K
016	Hiller Park Pond Sediment Removal	\$750K
017	Hwy 90 Oak to Kuhn New Parking Lots	\$1M
020	Jim Money Rd. Sidewalk	\$40K
021	Lauren Falls Drainage	\$500K
022	Lighthouse Repairs	\$200K
023	Mason Rd. Utilities & Roadway Widening	\$1.48M
024	Motse Rd. Drainage	\$1M
025	Nabatorium Sand Filter Replacement	\$120K
026	Old Brick House Renovations	\$250K
028	Pine Grove Drainage	\$500K
030	Public Safety Bldg. Generators	\$575K
031	Public Safety Roof Replacement	\$1.65M
032	Public Works Winkit Office & Well Generator	\$60K
033	Rodenberg Utility Rehab North of RR Tracks	\$500K
034	Sheridan Court Drainage	\$335K
035	Sherman Canaan Fishing Dock Reconstruction	\$5.58M
036	Shorecrest Road Widening	\$2.36M
037	Shriners Blvd. - Woolmarket Road Intersection Improvements	\$2.15M
038	Shriners Blvd. Oaklawn to I-10 Widening	\$5M
039	Slay House Repairs	\$30K
040	Sports Fields Lights	\$500K
041	Visitors Center Chiller Replacement	\$175K
042	Wash Fayard Rd. Widening	\$2.30M
002	Ancient Oaks Sediment Removal	\$1M

WILL BID IN 2026

Key	Project	Estimated Cost
	Will be Bid in 2026 (Total)	\$6.10M
057	Howard Creek Bridge Replacement	\$300K
058	Point Cadet Marina Improvements Phase II	\$5M
059	Point Cadet Near Shore Improvements	\$800K



THE THREATENED LONG-LEAF PINE

By Susan Peterson
Chairperson, City of Biloxi Tree Committee

At one time, the southeastern United States was covered in 90 million acres of long-leaf pine tree forests – that’s nearly 150 thousand square miles. The entire state of Mississippi is less than one-third that size. Today, a history of logging and land clearing for farms and cities has reduced forests to a small fraction of their original size.

Of course, we have multiple pine species in Mississippi. State-wide, there are eight recognized species. The ones we most commonly see along the coast are the long-leaf, loblolly, and slash pines. For me, the long-leaf pines are the easiest to pick out. Those are the ones with long needles up to 18 inches in length, large cones, and grow straight and tall to over 100 feet in height. They are disease and fire-resistant. Prior to the extensive logging, many of those trees grew to more than 150 feet in height. It takes about 100 years to reach that majestic size. And some trees live as long as 450 years.

So, where have all the pines gone? Logging for poles and lumber took many of our virgin forests from the mid-1800s into the early part of the twentieth century. Pines are perfect for construction. They produce straight, strong lengths of wood, and they are relatively easy to fell and mill using modern tools. They are also a critical source of turpentine and pitch. Our boat builders used these products extensively to seal hulls and treat the wood.

Then, in the early 1900s, new methods of producing paper were developed. The long fibers of Mississippi pines were a perfect source for that material. In 1913, a paper plant was constructed in what is now Moss Point. That plant fueled the Gulf Coast economy for the next 75 years, until the cost of labor drove production offshore.

At first, the industry relied on pulpwood recovered from our logging operations. As paper production grew, even more virgin pines were harvested to meet the need. The industry quickly realized that to continue,



they would have to replant forests. They chose more quickly growing species for that purpose, which is why so many slash pines are now present across southern Mississippi. As you drive through Woolmarket and even undeveloped lots along Popp’s Ferry Road, you will see groves of pines, all uniform in size. Those plots were harvested at one time for paper or cleared for pasture and small farms, then later replanted with slash pine for the paper industry.

Just a few years after our paper industry took off, research was already underway to find even more uses for the plentiful pulpwood produced by Mississippi’s logging industry. In 1923, Masonite was invented in Laurel, Mississippi. We don’t see as much of it today, but in the last century, Masonite was an important material used in housing construction and furniture. It was produced in large sheets which were hard but flexible with a smooth surface perfect for paint and stain. It was everywhere back then, but today it has been replaced with more modern products, less susceptible to moisture,

and cheaper to produce. Masonite was shipped worldwide from plants in Mississippi.

Today, efforts across the southeast are ongoing to recreate those earlier long-leaf pine habitats. One of my favorites is the work done by the Mississippi Sandhill Crane Refuge near Gautier and Vancleave. Years ago, much of the coast was covered in a grass savanna populated primarily by grasses and small shrubs. One of the few trees that thrived in this waterlogged prairie was the longleaf pine, spread out across the savanna as lone sentries. This was due to the wet clay soil that made up the environment. Today, almost all of those grasslands are gone. The Sandhill Crane Refuge has worked to recreate this sanctuary as the perfect place to protect and grow our endangered Sandhill Crane population.

Look around. Our long-leaf pines are easy to spot. Although they are not among Biloxi’s “protected” species, they are certainly an important element of our history and the beauty of our gulf coast.

Biloxi Pulse – Spotlight on Downtown Business

Celebrating Legacy at Tyrone’s Barber and Beauty Shop

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

In the heart of East Biloxi, nestled within the city’s historically African-American neighborhood, stands a business that is far more than a place for haircuts and styling – it is a living testament to dedication, family, and community. Tyrone’s Barber and Beauty Shop holds the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating Black-owned business in the East Biloxi corridor, a legacy built over more than six decades.

Since opening the shop in 1962, Tyrone Burton has been a steady and trusted presence behind the barber’s chair. Alongside him is his wife, Vera Burton, who operates the beauty side of the business. Together, they have created not just a shop, but a welcoming space where five generations of families have walked through the doors.

When asked what it’s like working side by side with her husband for over 60 years, Vera offered a response as timeless as their business: “Just fine – absolutely no drama.” That simple statement reflects the quiet strength and partnership that have sustained both their marriage and their livelihood.

For Mr. Burton, barbering has always been more than a profession – it’s been a calling. He knew as early as the 10th grade that he wanted to cut hair. Originally from Franklinton, Louisiana, he made his way to Biloxi after a relative connected him with a barber who was hiring. That opportunity turned into a



lifelong career and an enduring impact on the community.

Over the years, Mr. Burton has learned that a barber’s role goes far beyond grooming. “After cutting someone’s hair for years, there’s a real trust,” he shared. “People tell you things they haven’t told anyone else.” That level of connection has made the shop a place not just for conversation, but for confidence, counsel, and care.

The Burton legacy continues through their children. Their daughter, Rosherna, works alongside her parents in the shop today, while their son, Demetrius, has carried the tradition west to Gulfport, where he works as a barber. Together, they represent a second generation committed to the same values of service and community.

Over the decades, Tyrone’s Barber and Beauty Shop has welcomed a wide range of clients – including a few notable names. Mr. Burton recalls cutting the hair of Oprah Winfrey’s father, as well as entertainer Sinbad, adding a touch of celebrity history to an already remarkable story.

But perhaps the shop’s greatest achievement isn’t measured in years or famous clients – it’s found in the relationships built, the trust earned, and the role it continues to play in the fabric of East Biloxi.

In a world that is constantly changing, Tyrone’s Barber and Beauty Shop stands as a reminder of the power of consistency, family, and community roots. It’s not just a business – it’s a legacy still being written, one haircut at a time.

EASTER AT THE PALACE

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

11 AM - 9 PM

Traditional holiday menu, including Prime Rib, Champagne, and all your favorites from our Grill, Comfort, Wok and Coastal stations.

\$45 per person or
\$43 with Players Club card



NOON - 6 PM

Featuring Easter specials, including Seafood Newberg, Prime Rib, Domestic Lamb Porterhouse Chops, and Fresh Strawberry Cobbler in addition to the holiday à la carte menu.

Call Today (228) 432-8888 or
reserve at [OpenTable.com](https://www.opentable.com)

Seating is limited.



BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI
BILOXI'S ONLY SMOKE FREE CASINO
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32nd ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY

APRIL 1-30

GET YOUR LIMITED EDITION SOFTSTYLE T-SHIRT WITH 300 BASE SLOT POINTS OR 36 TABLE CREDITS IN A CALENDAR DAY.

Limit one per person per day while supplies last.



RESERVE & SELECT members receive one free shirt.



BASEBALL IS BACK!



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



Powering **STEM** for a **BRIGHTER TOMORROW**



Congratulations to this year's Mississippi Power Environmental Education Grant recipients. Your dedication inspires the next generation of STEM leaders.

Join us in congratulating these teachers! Scan the QR code for more information.



City releases new grass cutting schedule

With grass cutting season around the corner, residents now have a clearer picture of when grass cutting will take place in areas across the city.

The Biloxi Parks & Recreation and Public Works departments are rolling out a new citywide grass-cutting program with a color-coded map outlining weekly, biweekly, and monthly service areas to help residents stay informed about when maintenance will occur in their areas.

Crews will be cutting grass in the city's most heavily used parks weekly, while all other parks will be cut on a two-week rotation. Major thoroughfares, such as Division Street, Popp's Ferry Road, Cedar Lake Road, Howard Avenue, and Woolmarket Road will be cut biweekly. Grass along minor thoroughfares such as Beauvoir Road, Porter Avenue, Caillavet Street, and Oak Street, along with ditches, will be cut on



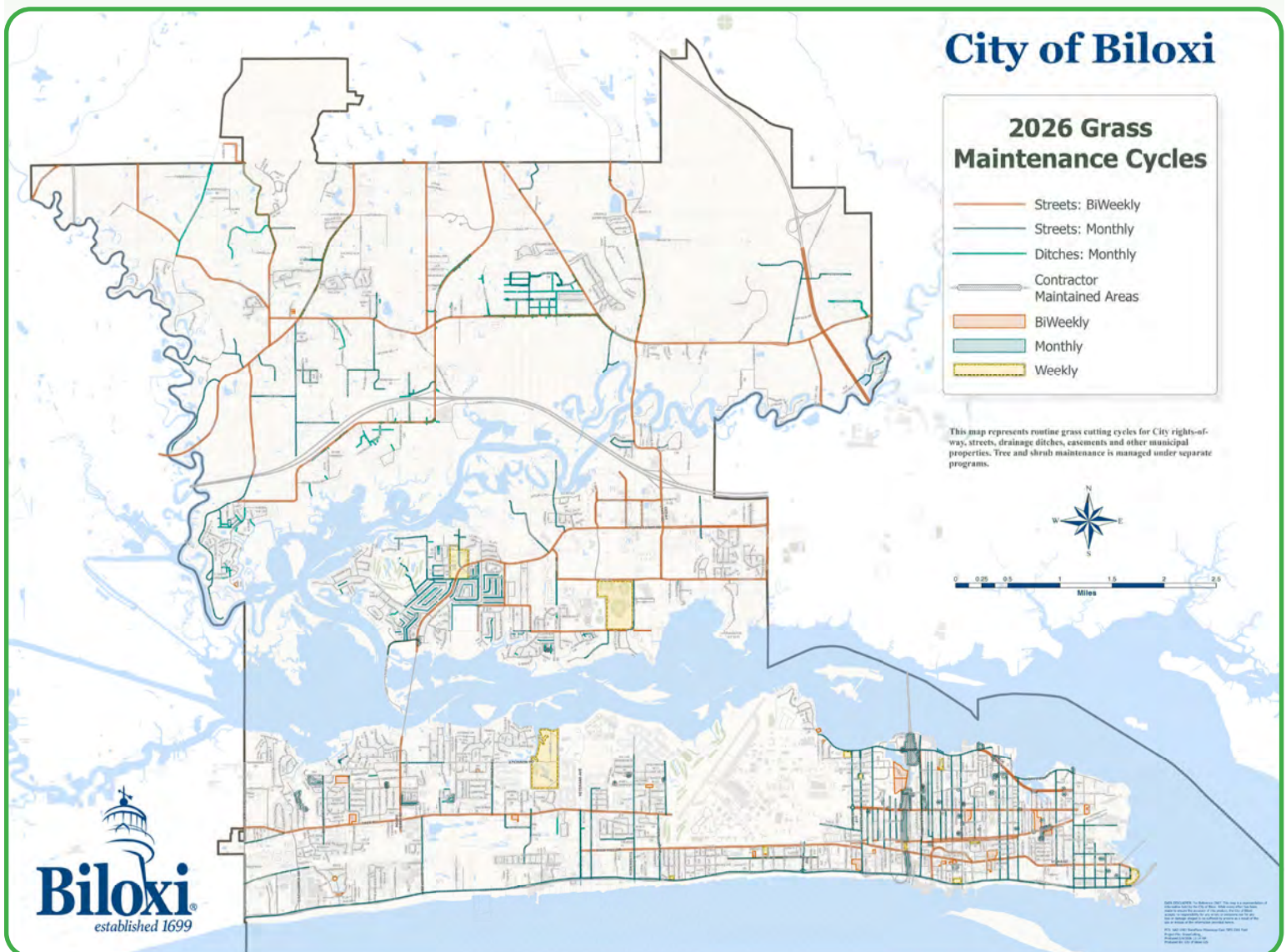
a monthly schedule.

The new system is designed to give residents a clearer understanding of when mowing operations will take place while helping city crews maintain parks, rights-of-way, and other public spaces more efficiently throughout Biloxi. It will begin citywide on March 30.

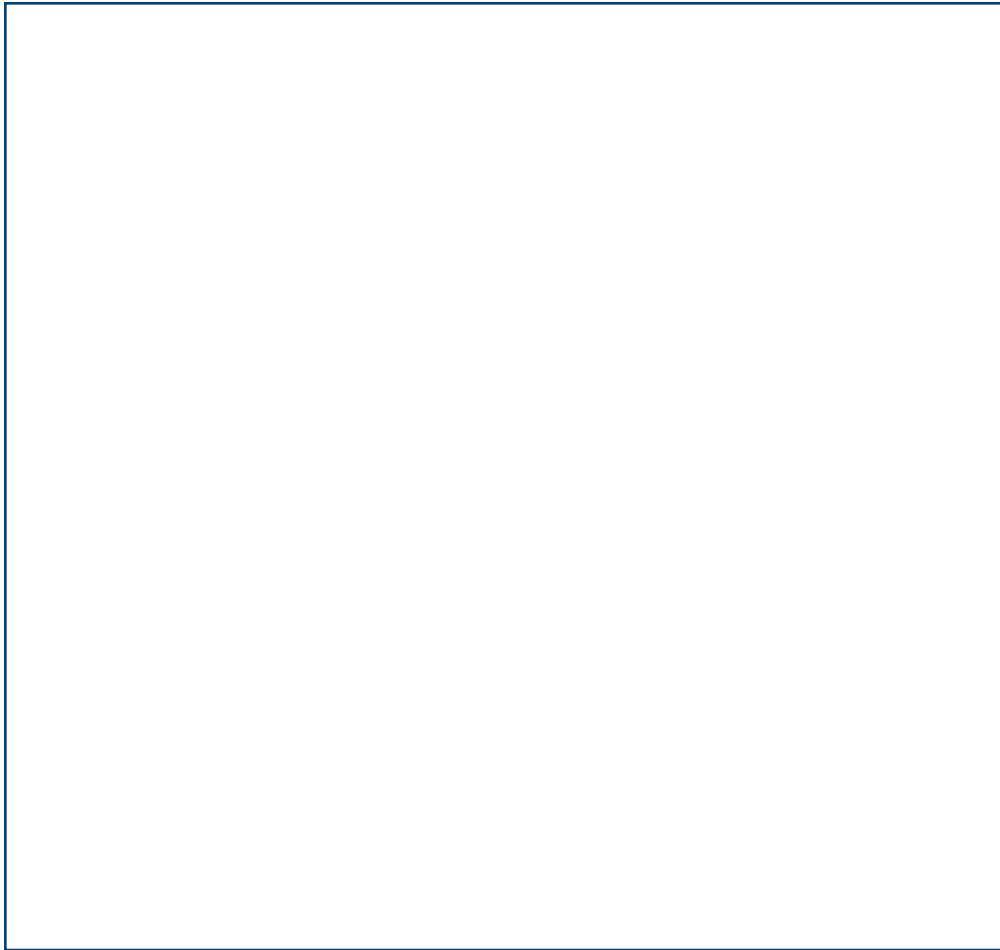
"This program is part of a continued effort to keep residents informed while keeping Biloxi's public spaces clean and well-maintained," said Christy LeBatard, Public

Works and Engineering director.

Residents are also reminded that city crews do not mow the grass along neighborhood streets unless a major thoroughfare runs through the area. Areas that may require mowing outside of the scheduled cycle, such as a vacant lot, can be reported through B-Connect, the city's citizens services division.



THIS IS WHAT YOUR TRASH CAN IS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE ALL WEEK.



The Biloxi Beautification Commission, at the direction of the City Council, has been drafting a Comprehensive Beautification Plan for the city. You can see the initial draft and learn more about the five-month-old commission and its duties by clicking on the QR code above or visit biloxi.ms.us/beautification.

It's true, your trash can is supposed to be invisible to everyone except on trash day. Same with your recycling can.

Bring them to the street the night before trash day and pick them up at the end of trash day. It's the responsible thing to do.

We've been talking about trash cans and

trash in this space. That's because if you follow this advice you will be doing your part to help make your neighborhood and your city better looking and more inviting. It's that simple. All of us working together. It can be a beautiful thing.



Keep Biloxi Beautiful

A continuing project of the Biloxi Beautification Commission, and, well, all of us.

biloxi.ms.us/beautification

New Shuckers Season Starts with Packed April Promo Schedule



Shuckers ring in 11th season with nonstop promotions, themes, and giveaways

By Max Gifford
Biloxi Shuckers

Baseball is finally back, and so are the Biloxi Shuckers, as the squad starts its eleventh season on the coast. To kickstart the 2026 campaign at Keesler Federal Park, the Shuckers open the gates against the Pensacola Blue Wahoos (Miami Marlins) from April 7-12 and will also host the Rocket City Trash Pandas (Los Angeles Angels) from April 21-26.

After every game, kids can run the bases presented by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. Fans can also cool off in the Corona Premier Tiki Bar in right field, complete with fans, misters and anything you could want to drink. Additionally, the beach area and Schooner's Splash Zone are free for fans during the game.

The fun begins on Friday, April 10, when the Shuckers transform into the Biloxi King Cakes for one game only on Mardi Gras Night. On Saturday, April 11, get in the golfing mood during Masters weekend for a special Shuckers green-and-gold Masters-themed hat giveaway presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union for the first 1000 fans.

The Shuckers will celebrate the first Family Sunday of the season on Sunday, April 12, with a Shuckers-themed croc charm pack for the first 500 fans under 14 years old, presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union.

On Friday, April 24, the Shuckers will recognize

the city's former Southern Negro League team on Biloxi Dodgers Night. The players will wear specialty Dodgers jerseys to commemorate the team's half-century of history on the coast.

A new Shuckers alternate identity also makes its debut on Saturday, April 25, for the first of three themed nights, complete with specialty jerseys and hats. The first 1,000 fans will receive a themed-night Hawaiian Shirt giveaway presented by Conecuh Sausage.

On Sunday, April 26, the first 500 kids 14 and under will receive a kids-themed Shuckers ice cream cone and a Shuckers jersey with a postgame catch on the field.

Daily specials are also highlighted in the monthly calendar. Fans can enjoy specialty deals on Twofer Tuesdays, including 2-for-1 offers on merchandise, food, and drinks. The first 250 fans for every Tuesday home game will also receive a themed Shuckers t-shirt. It's also Brew Crew Tuesday presented by Coors Light, where fans can purchase a 20-oz souvenir tumbler for \$13 with \$7 refills at the first and third-base Beer Gardens.

Wednesdays are Military Wednesdays, presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union. All military personnel can receive a \$3 discount on Dugout Box and Reserved Level tickets. Wednesdays are also Wild Card Wednesday with rotating food, drink and retail deals throughout the season.

Thursdays are headlined by Tiki Thursdays

presented by Coca-Cola, Kicker108 and PBR. Enjoy live music at the Corona Premier Tiki Bar, a pregame happy hour, and \$2 beers, hot dogs and Coca-Cola products throughout the ballpark. Plus, fans can also cash in on almost 60% savings with the 'Tiki Thursday Deal', which includes a Reserved Level ticket and two drink vouchers for \$17 in advance.

On Fridays, the Shuckers light up the skies over the ballpark with the best fireworks show in Minor League Baseball, which features different music, themes and colors throughout the season.

Every Saturday is now Giveaway Saturday, with different bobbleheads, t-shirts, hats, jerseys etc., promotions for the first 1000 fans every Saturday home game.

The Shuckers will also recognize and donate to local family-based organizations as part of their Heart of a Shucker Community Fund during every Saturday home game as part of Shuck Yeah Saturday.

The weekend continues with Fun Day Sunday at the ballpark. Kid-friendly events will be available, including pregame autographs, character appearances and kids can run the bases and have a catch on the field after the game. Fans can purchase a Sunday Fun Day Package, which includes four tickets, hot dogs, chips, and drinks for just \$76, with each additional ticket only \$19.

▶ For more info: biloxishuckers.com

Library awarded America250 grant for digital archive



The Harrison County Library System is pleased to announce that the Local History Department, housed at the Biloxi Public Library on Howard Avenue, received an America250 Legacy grant for "The Power of Place: Preserving and Sharing Gilded Age History of the Gulf Coast." America250 Legacy Grant funds are designed for "large-scale projects that enhance a community's capacity to explore and promote local history, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations" (from america250.ms/grants). Mississippi awards focus on one of four themes: We the People, The Power of Place, Mississippi in the American Story, and Mississippi Traditions. The library's award will facilitate preserving local history resources that illustrate our unique place, coastal Mississippi, for future generations.

The grant project consists of a three-part digitization project, along with special programs featuring local scholars, all centered on the Gilded Age. This historical moment, spanning the late 19th to the early 20th century, saw the establishment of civic and commercial institutions that provide the foundation of today's Biloxi and Harrison County.

Researchers who wish to locate information on the microfilm reels of the early Daily Herald from 1888 to 1900 must currently search manually on-site. After scanning, patrons and staff will have keyword-searchable access to the content via a dedicated website.

Local History and Genealogy Librarian, E.W. Suarez stated, "The Local History and Genealogy Department is pleased to continue making our holdings available in new ways and helping our community discover lesser-known

aspects of their history."

In addition, the project will allow library staff to digitize and share rare items, such as the diary of John Walker, steamboat captain and Biloxi mayor, to Montage, an online database. This will give users the ability to explore documents and items that are currently only available on-site, some of which are fragile. The digitization process also preserves items that are vulnerable to damage from natural disasters.

The final digitization project funds the library's participation in Urban Archive, an online tool that displays artifacts and images in a geographical format. Library staff will scan and upload images of local buildings and landmarks from collections and create walking tours through history, bringing the past to life.

All three digitization projects will launch before the end of 2026.

Library System Director, Sarah Crisler-Ruskey shared, "This funding is such an opportunity for us to make progress in providing long-term preservation of and accessibility to the many irreplaceable materials we house. We will continue to seek out grants and donations to build on this project. We are also looking forward to sharing local history through several conversations with local experts."

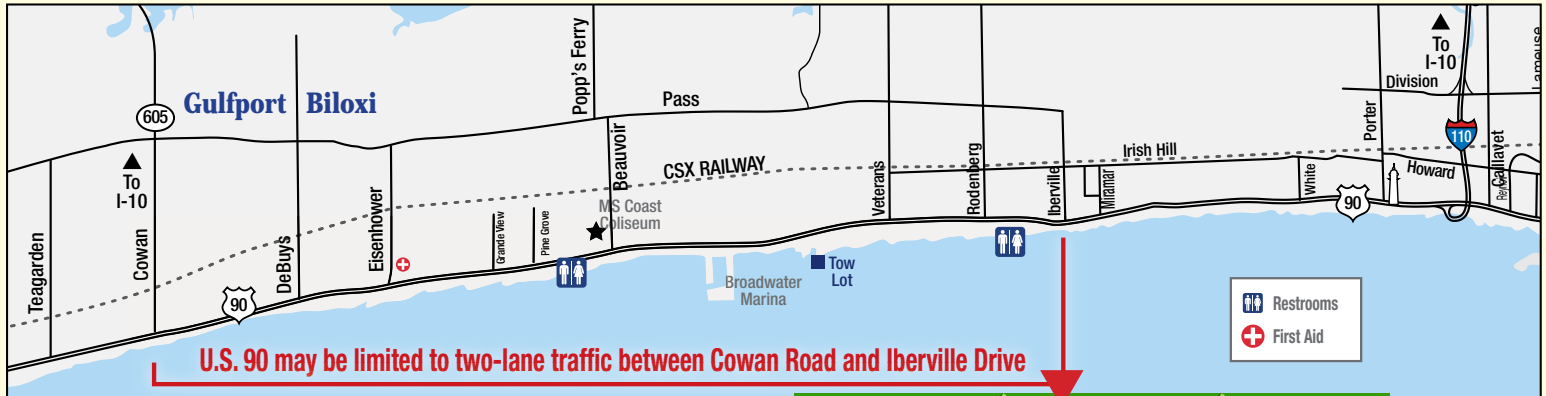
The library plans multiple programs highlighting local Gilded Age history. The first presentation on health during the time period will take place in May, and a program on the pecan industry during this epoch is scheduled for November. Details will be posted in the library's newsletter, website, and social media.

Spring breakers to return to Biloxi

Spring break weekend returns April 9-12, 2026, and thousands of visitors are expected to travel along Beach Boulevard. Motorists along Beach Boulevard (U.S. 90) can expect to see heavy traffic and the usual special-event traffic plan. In addition, pedestrian traffic may also

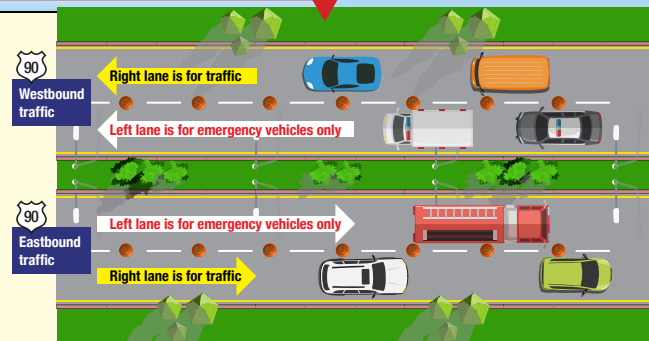
be heavy during the weekend. For visitors, Spring Break is a chance to walk along the boardwalk, enjoy the beach, and generally have a good time. The weekend, often promoted at Mississippi Black Spring Break, has no approved events through the special events ordinance.

Here is a reminder of the special events traffic plan.



A word about “venting.”

When U.S. 90 traffic approaches gridlock, motorists will be directed to 605/Cowan Road or I-110 and ultimately I-10. No turns or stopping will be permitted; you must follow the directions of officers directing traffic. The process may last for 30 minutes or more.

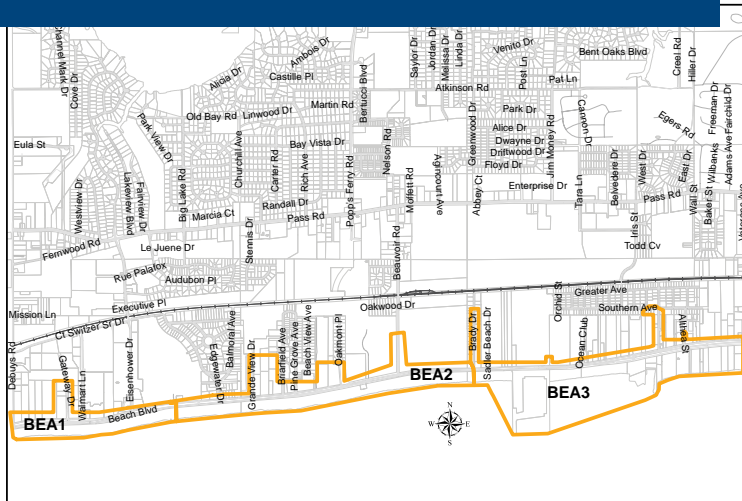


Infrastructure work in Biloxi

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

Visitors Center



Experience the city's architectural heritage with state-of-the-art technology and multi-media exhibits that give you a feel for the Biloxi of yesterday and today.

- Open seven days a week (Call for holiday hours.)
- Free admission
- Available for private parties and corporate functions
- Bike rentals on-site

1050 Beach Boulevard • Biloxi, MS 39530 • 228-374-3105
1-800-BILOXI-3 • visitor@biloxi.ms.us • biloxi.ms.us



APRIL TRIVIA

Ship Island Facts

By Jane Shambra

In which county is Ship Island located?
Harrison County. It is a part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

When D'Iberville and his crew arrived at Ship Island, what type birds did he describe as being in abundance? Wild geese, which, at that time, were also known as bustards.

What types of birds can you find today on ship island? You might spot Brown Pelicans, ospreys, and great blue herons.

Can you name some of the popular types of plants there? Sea oats, cordgrass, shrubs, and tiny trees.

Name some of the varieties of fish that can be found near its shoreline.
The National Park Service identifies the following fish varieties: Florida Pompano, Red Drum, Southern Founder, and Whiting.

Do snakes inhabit Ship Island? Yes, the cottonmouth is a prominent resident of the island.

Are there many shade trees on Ship Island? There are no shade trees on the island, so visitors should plan accordingly.

What familiar land and sea animals might be spotted on the Island? Turtles, shrimp, crabs, oysters, and raccoons.

Which famous hurricane split Ship Island in half? Hurricane Camille in 1969.

What is that partition of Ship Island commonly called? The Camille Cut.

How big did the gap grow? Camille carved a 2.4-mile gap; but, in 2005, Katrina blasted that opening to a 3.5-mile cut in the Island.

Is the gap in Ship Island still in place?
At a cost of \$400,000, the National Park Service is in the process of restoring that huge chunk of land.

Is Ship Island a good place to plant vegetables? No, its sandy soil does not contribute to healthy gardening.

How can individuals visit Ship Island?
It can only be accessed by boat, and the Skrmetta family of Biloxi has been ferrying passengers to the barrier islands for 100 years.

Who takes care of Ship Island today?
The National Park Service, through the U.S. Department of the Interior, is the official caretaker of the Island.

First Friday Downtown Block Party

April 3, 6-9 p.m.

932 Howard Ave., HowHop Creative District. Entertainment by Ty Taylor & The Kinfolk at 6 p.m. The Biloxi Main Street event features food trucks, vendors and FUN! Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339



Biloxi Shuckers Baseball RETURNS



Keesler Federal Park, 105 Caillavet St. Gates open 65 minutes prior to the start of game. Ticket prices vary. Details: 228-233-3465, biloxishuckers.com


April home games:

- April 7-11, VS Pensacola Blue Wahoos
- April 21-26, VS Rocket City Trash Pandas

Mythic Skateboards Public Launch Event, April 3, 5 p.m., 205 Hopkins Blvd., Biloxi DIY Skatepark. Event is in partnership with Biloxi Main Street's First Friday. Free admission. Details: @MYTHICKSKATEBOARDSLLC

Easter Egg-Stravaganza, April 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., John Henry Beck Park, 671 Division St. Easter event hosted by The Second Liners Mardi Gras Club. Food, games, and prizes for ages 1-11. Details: biloxisecondliners.com

Still Searching: A night of Light and Hope, April 9, 6:30-8 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Visit event for an evening of remembrance, hope, and unity to honor the lives of Mississippi's missing persons and stand in support of their families. Details: reunitemississippi.org or contact@reunitemississippi.org

 **Bike Biloxi**, April 21, downtown ride. Begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. and ends with refreshments and food at a downtown restaurant at cyclists' expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339

Tradition Triathlon, present by Gulf Coast Running Club, April 18, 8-10 a.m., The Village at Tradition, 12661 Village Ave. W. Race course consists of a 600-yard flat lake swim, 16.2-mile bike, and a 5K run will be through the Village at Tradition. Details and registration: <https://trisignup.com/Race/MS/Biloxi/TraditionTriathlon>

Earth Day Celebration Cleanup, April 22, All Day. Everyone is encouraged to take 15 minutes out of their day and clean up at their business, school, home, or wherever they may be on this day. For bags and gloves. Details: 228-435-6339

Main Street Book Club, April 23, 5 p.m., This month's location: Jacked Up Coffee Bar 999 Howard Ave. This month's selection: "Funny Story," by Emile Henry. Participation is free. Details: 228-435-6339

MSCANFEST, April 25, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Daytime educational sessions, exhibitors, vendors, food trucks, and local bands. Admission charged. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/mscanfest>

Gulf Coast Dragon Boat Festival, April 25, begins at 8 a.m. Harrah's Great Lawn, 280 Beach Blvd. Dragon Boat racing, food trucks & vendors! Proceeds benefit the United Way of South MS. Details: unitedwaysm.org/dragon-boat, 228-896-2213

MS Senior Games: (Events held throughout the year)

Open to registered participants age 50 and older at various locations throughout the coast. Spectators welcome.

Biloxi events in April:

- **April 18, Triathlon**, 8 a.m. start, Traditions, 12500 Village Ave. E.
- **April 28, Shuffle Board**, 8 a.m. Frank G. Gruich Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. msseniorgames.com



Events coming in May:

- **Summer Swim Lessons and Biloxi Red Tide Registration**, May 2 (Biloxi residents)
- **Fallen Officer Ceremony**, May 13
- **Preservation in May**, May 14



Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 95th 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, follow on Facebook @cobiloxi/.

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



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

- **Ragtime**
April 17-19 &
April 24-26

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

- **Arsenic and Old Lace**
By Joseph Kesselring
April 23-May 3

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. Call for monthly calendar of events.

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
- **Gift shop**, featuring products from local artists



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
- Reserve your space today to watch July 4th fireworks show aboard the schooner. Admission: \$45 adults; Children (ages 3-12) \$25

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

Harrison County East Biloxi Senior Center

461 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 Market

625 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 Army

575 Division St., 228-207-1218, Krocmscoast.com

- **Good Friday Service**, April 3, noon
- **Kroc Yard Sale**, April 11, 8-11 a.m., \$25, spaces
- **American Red Cross Community Blood Drive**, April 14, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
- **Baby Goat Yoga, 9-10 a.m.**, April 18. Members \$25, Guest \$35

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

115 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.

- **Linda K. Fayard**, April 4- June 30, Joe Moran Gallery on the 3rd Floor. View the elegant and vibrant works of local artist Linda K. Fayard. Opening reception is April 9, 5:30-7 p.m., meet the artist, tour the museum, and enjoy light refreshments.
- **Sea-n-Sail Adventure Camp 2026 Registration Now Open** – Camp for students ages 6-12 years, 7 weeks to choose from in June and July, \$275 per week.
- **Billy Creel Memorial Wooden & Classic Boat Show**, Coming May 16-17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art

386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org

- **Open Gallery & Artist Talk: Sarah House**, April 4, 3-6 p.m.
- **Crafts & Drafts April Showers**, April 10. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Admission: \$20
- **OOMA After Hours, Museum Welcome Center**, April 16. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free admission
- **Earth Day at the Ohr**, April 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission
- **Family Craft Night, Museum Welcome Center**, April 14, 19 & 23. Admission: \$15

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**, April 3, 10, 17, & 24. 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**, April 10, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold 7:15 p.m. \$25, dine-in or carry-out. 228-392-9345
- **Coca-Cola Fundraiser**, April 17-19. Details: 228-392-9345
- **Jeepin’ for the Kids**, April 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. A day of family fun & fundraising. Registration: \$30. Details: 228-392-9345
- **Dance**, April 18, 6-7 p.m. Dance lessons, 7-10 p.m. Dancing \$10

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

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

- For organization, event, and meeting details: 228-438-4636

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Monday Bingo

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Monday Bingo**, April 6, 13, 20, & 27. 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

- **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. Details: 228-374-6472

Lagniappe

Charles R. Hegwood

Biloxi Community Market

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-2 p.m. 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: Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center and East Biloxi Senior Citizen Center. Details: Biloxi Parks & Rec., 228-388-7170

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 economic growth of downtown. Details and membership: 228-435-6339, mainstreetbiloxi.com



City of Biloxi Public Meetings

biloxi.ms.us/publicmeetings

- **Architectural Review Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second and fourth Thursday of the month, 8:30 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266
- **Biloxi Beautification Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings on first and third Wednesday of month, 11 a.m., City Council room, Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: biloxi.ms.us/beautification
- **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
29	30	31 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	1 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	2 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing	3 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Farmers Market – Marina Park First Friday – HowHop Mythic Skateboards Launch Hopkins Blvd./DIY Skatepark Good Friday Services Kroc Center Breakers Hockey MS Coast Coliseum Dancing with the Stars Beau Rivage	4 Easter Egg-Stravaganza John Henry Beck Park Sarah House: Open Gallery & Artist Talk Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art Breakers Hockey MS Coast Coliseum Dancing with the Stars Beau Rivage
5	6 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	7 Community Market Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	8 Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	9 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Still Searching: A Night of Light and Hope Biloxi Visitors Center Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Linda K. Fayard Opening Reception Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum	10 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Crafts & Drafts April Showers Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Steak Night – Joppa Shrine Styx – IP Casino Anjelah Johnson-Reyes Beau Rivage Foghat – Hard Rock	11 Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Kroc Yard Sale Kroc Center
12	13 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	14 Community Market Red Cross Blood Drive Kroc Center Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing Family Craft Night Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	15 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	16 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing OOMA After Hours Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art	17 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Ragtime The Musical BLT Coca-Cola Fundraiser Joppa Shrine Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum Sons of Legion: Soul to SOL Tour – IP Casino LeAnn Rimes –Beau Rivage	18 Jeepin’ for Kids Joppa Shrine MS Senior Games Tradition Triathlon The Village at Tradition Ragtime The Musical BLT Baby Goat Yoga – Kroc Center Coca-Cola Fundraiser Joppa Shrine Dance – Joppa Shrine Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum
19 Coca-Cola Fundraiser Joppa Shrine Ragtime The Musical BLT Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum	20 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	21 Community Market Bike Biloxi Downtown Shuckers vs Trash Pandas Keesler Federal Park Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	22 Earth Day Celebration Clean-Up Shuckers vs Trash Pandas Keesler Federal Park Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing Earth Day at Ohr Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art	23 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Main Street Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar Shuckers vs Trash Pandas Keesler Federal Park Arsenic & Old Lace Center Stage	24 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Shuckers vs Trash Pandas Keesler Federal Park Ragtime The Musical BLT Arsenic & Old Lace Center Stage	25 MSCANFEST Biloxi Town Green Dragon Boat Festival Harrah’s Great Lawn Shuckers vs Trash Pandas Keesler Federal Park Ragtime The Musical BLT Arsenic & Old Lace Center Stage Babyface – Beau Rivage
26 Shuckers vs Trash Pandas Keesler Federal Park Ragtime The Musical BLT Arsenic & Old Lace Center Stage	27 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	28 Community Market MS Senior Games Shuffle Board Frank G. Gruich Community Center Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	29 Arsenic & Old Lace Center Stage	30 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Arsenic & Old Lace Center Stage	1 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Arsenic & Old Lace Center Stage	2 Arsenic & Old Lace Center Stage

BTV April 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!" Acropolis Greek Restaurant
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
8 a.m.	State of the City 2026
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!" Acropolis Greek Restaurant
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
2 p.m.	State of the City 2026
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!" Acropolis Greek Restaurant
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
8 p.m.	State of the City 2026
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.

Special presentation on BTV: State of the City

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich presented his annual State of the City address to an attentive Biloxi Bay Area Chamber audience on March 19. The event was hosted at the Beau Rivage. Speaking with both pride and vision, Mayor Gilich highlighted the city's continued investments in public safety and infrastructure, emphasizing projects designed to make the community safer and more connected.



See a replay of the presentation throughout the month on BTV at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. You can also watch the presentation on the City of Biloxi YouTube channel.

Biloxi Cooks!

This month on "Biloxi Cooks!" we visit Acropolis Greek Restaurant downtown on Howard Avenue, where Chef John Douvris prepares Chicken Breast Acropolis. Nestled in the heart of downtown Biloxi,

Acropolis Greek Restaurant offers a true taste of Greece with its authentic Mediterranean cuisine and warm, inviting atmosphere.

Known for its traditional recipes and high-quality ingredients, this highly-rated eatery brings the rich flavors and timeless hospitality of Greek dining to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



This month's recipe:

Chicken Breast Acropolis recipe

Ingredients:

- **Chicken:** 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (approx. 6–8 oz).
- **Marinade:** 1 tbsp olive oil, juice of ½ lemon, 1 minced garlic clove, 1 tsp dried oregano, salt, and black pepper.
- **Base:** 3 oz prepared white or basmati rice.
- **Topping:** 2 oz crumbled feta cheese

Instructions:

- **Marinate:** In a small bowl or zip-top bag, whisk the olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, oregano, salt, and pepper. Add the chicken and coat thoroughly. Let it marinate in the fridge for at least 30 minutes, or up to 4 hours, to keep the meat juicy during high-heat cooking.
- **Preheat:** Heat to medium-high (375–450°F).
- **Char-Broil:** Discard excess marinade. Place the chicken on the hot grill. Cook for 5–7 minutes per side. To get a "perfect char," ensure the grill is fully preheated before placing the meat and avoid moving it for the first few minutes to develop deep sear marks.
- The chicken is done when its internal temperature reaches 165°F.
- Remove the chicken from the grill and let it rest for 5 minutes..
- Place the 3oz of prepared rice on a plate and top with the chicken breasts.
- Generously sprinkle the 2oz of feta cheese crumbles over the hot chicken. The heat from the chicken will slightly soften the feta, enhancing its creamy texture. Add Greek dressing and sprinkle with oregano.

Ship Island through the years

Cruising Back to Ship Island

By Jane Shambra

The Discovery in 1699

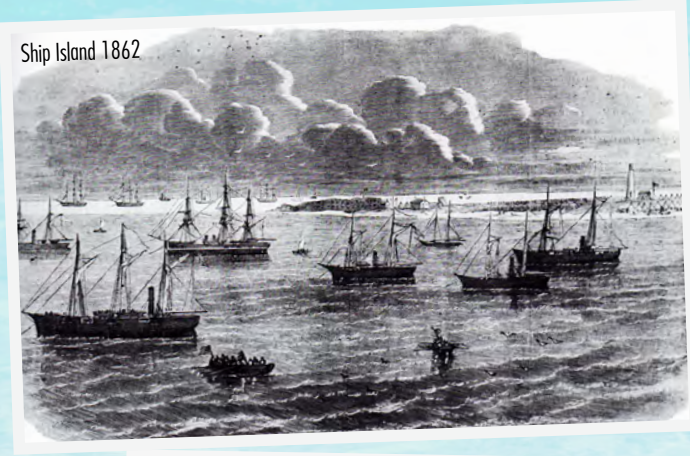
The discovery of Ship Island goes back further in time than our beloved City of Biloxi. It was originally called Isle Surgere after Count de Surgere, who originally spotted the island. Later, D'Iberville renamed it Isle aux Vaisseaux (French for Ship Island) because of its protected deep-water anchorage feature.

In several historical publications, we learn, specifically, about the founding of Ship Island, which indeed has been described as the "Plymouth Rock" of our area. In 1699, specific details of travels and discoveries by the early French and Canadian explorers were documented in their personal journals. In those days, the descriptions of their voyages were scribbled simply in their daily log entries, utilizing the rare commodities of paper at hand. Penned mostly in French and later translated, the handwritten personal accounts are how we learn about the early days of Ship Island.

Monsieur D'Iberville and Bienville were brothers born in Montreal, Canada. Both were accomplished sailors and employed by the King of France. Their charge was to locate the mouth of the Mississippi River and establish colonization in our area. Through their seafaring journals, we learned that upon arriving at the shore of Ship Island, there was no proof of human habitation. The Monsieurs envisioned the ideal use for this isolated land mass. It was the perfect place to establish a "port" for the huge, wooden, sailing ships arriving in our area. Thus, Ship Island was established as a safe haven for large ships, serving as a base where ships could safely land and take refuge from bad weather.

These Canadian brothers asked their crew members to record depth soundings, which confirmed that it would be unsafe for these huge seafaring boats to travel close to the shoreline. So, how did they get to our present-day Biloxi? They traveled in smaller boats to reach the shore. The depth of the Mississippi Sound was too shallow to provide a safe traveling route to the mainland. With their skills and craftsmanship abilities, wood from the forest on the mainland provided ideal lumber to build more smaller boats.

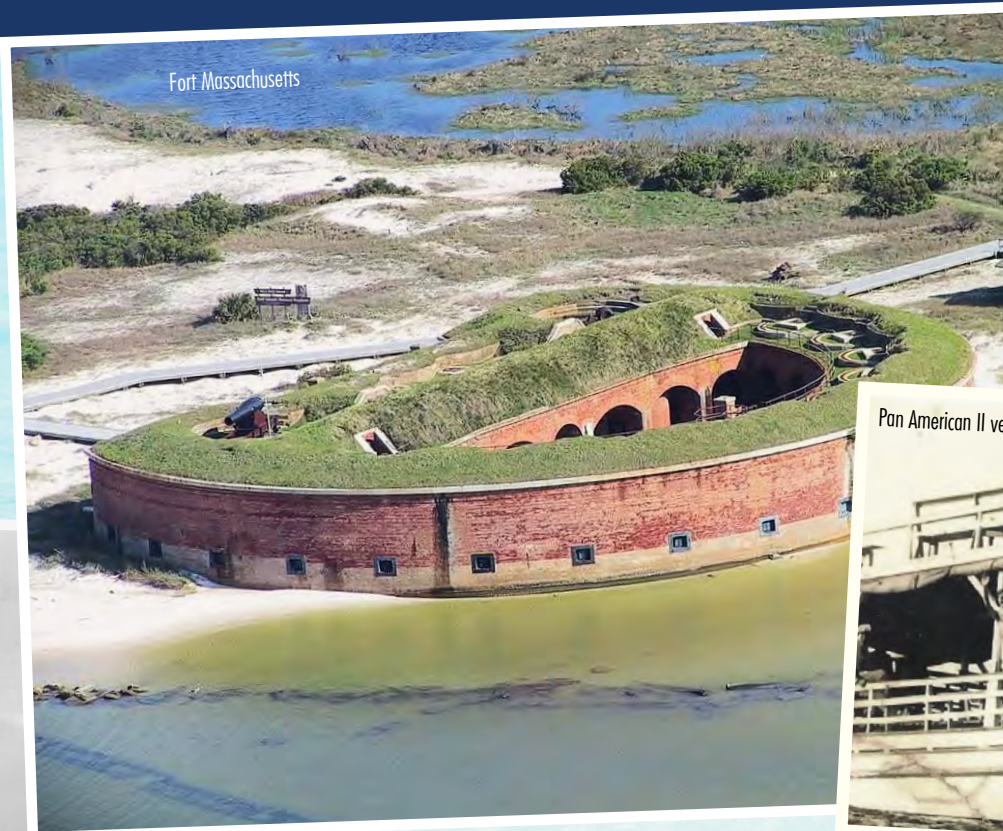
Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville and Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville



Ship Island 1862



Ship Island lighthouse ca. 1908



Fort Massachusetts



The Capt. Pete is named for Captain Pete Skrmetta, who shuttled visitors to Ship Island for decades.



Pan American II vessel taking beauty contestants to Ship Island.

Stepping stone to colonization

In the early 1700s, as news of the new French colony spread, large ships from France and Canada traveled to Ship Island, carrying supplies, workers, and settlers. Many of the famous cassette girls disembarked there for a better life in the New World. They were sent to become brides of the new settlers in our area. A historic marker detailing the story of the Cassette Girls from the ship Le Baleine is displayed near the Biloxi Visitors Center, not far from the statue of Monsieur D'Iberville.

Ship Island in 1812

During the War of 1812, a British force of 10,000 men and 60 ships gathered near Ship Island before launching their unsuccessful attempt to capture New Orleans. Pirate Jean Lafitte is known to have helped with this threat, aiding in helping to win the Battle of New Orleans. Since then, stories have lingered that Lafitte may have buried some of his treasure loot deep in the island's sand.

Fort Massachusetts: Still standing after all those years

The 1857 Fortifications Bill was signed into law, providing an allocation of \$100,000 to build defenses for Ship Island. The fortifications were to protect the Coast, safeguard commerce, and serve as a refuge and supply station for small coal-fueled gunboats and ocean-going vessels.

From this point forward, Fort Massachusetts began to take shape. Its bricks were supplied from Jules Blanc's brickyard in New Orleans, and an estimated 1 million bricks were used in its construction. Progress was slowed by powerful storms and the workforce included paid laborers from New York as well as prisoners of war already held on the island.

Construction was finally completed in 1866 at an estimated

cost of \$187,000, with only about 17 out of the promised 37 cannons.

Its original name was Fort Twiggs, but later became known as Fort Massachusetts, named after the Union Ship Massachusetts, which briefly took over the island in 1861.

Today, Ship Island is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and Fort Massachusetts serves as the tourist destination point for Ship Island Excursions.

Lighthouses light the way

The island had many lighthouses throughout time, but none remain today. The first, situated on the west end, was completed in 1853 and served through the Civil War. In 1885, it was abandoned.

A second lighthouse, erected in 1886, was constructed of wood and was accompanied by a light keeper's house, a cistern, an oil house, and a wharf for docking boats. It was lit on September 1 of that year, utilizing the lens from the first structure, and was in service until 1957. Sadly, in 1972, this wooden lighthouse was set on fire by campers.

Decades later, in 1998, construction began on a new exhibit lighthouse, which was completed in 2000. However, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina's winds destroyed that structure.

In 1958, the Ship Island Lighthouse fourth-order Fresnel lens was presented to the City of Biloxi and was eventually placed on display at the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum, where you can see it today. Back in the day, several lighthouse keepers cared for the lighting of the structures. They were allowed to reside there during their tenures.

Ship Island Cemetery

Ship Island was once known for a unique cemetery. The deceased, which included hundreds of Confederate prisoners of war and Union soldiers, were interred on high ground in the middle of the Island. Over time, multiple disastrous weather scenarios caused most of the burials to be washed out to sea. In 1867, the remaining burials were reinterred in the Chalmette

National Cemetery in Louisiana. A searchable database for the Chalmette cemetery can be accessed at: <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/67200/chalmette-national-cemetery>

Quarantine station

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Ship Island served as a quarantine station for travelers. The purpose of quarantine stations was to prevent catastrophic illnesses from spreading. Upon arriving, crew members were examined and checked for evidence of infection. A marine hospital on the island treated travelers in need of medical care. Dr. Hyman Folkes, a Biloxi resident and physician, once served at the quarantine station. He was famous for establishing Biloxi's first charity hospital in 1922. He and his family resided at "Gunston Hall," now identified as the White Pillars Restaurant on Hwy. 90.



Dr. Hyman Folkes, who worked at the quarantine station on Ship Island

Lagniappe: A Ship Island Legend

Years ago, local newspapers carried a curious story about buzzards on Ship Island. According to the reports, for the previous 200 years, vultures had been mysteriously absent from Ship Island. Oddly, these birds of prey did frequent neighboring islands. Ship pilots and lightkeepers confirmed this account.

The legend goes back to the 1700s, when a French missionary priest died on the island. His dying wish, the story goes, was that his remains would never be disturbed by vultures.

Resilience

In spite of the constant pounding from tidal waves and the horrific wind and erosion from Hurricane Katrina and all other catastrophic storms, Ship Island continues to be the ideal destination for both tourists and Coastians. It serves as a reminder that our Gulf Coast is strong and can weather any type of disaster.

BNews Monthly

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