

BNews Monthly

AUGUST 2026

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



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Still standing after all these years

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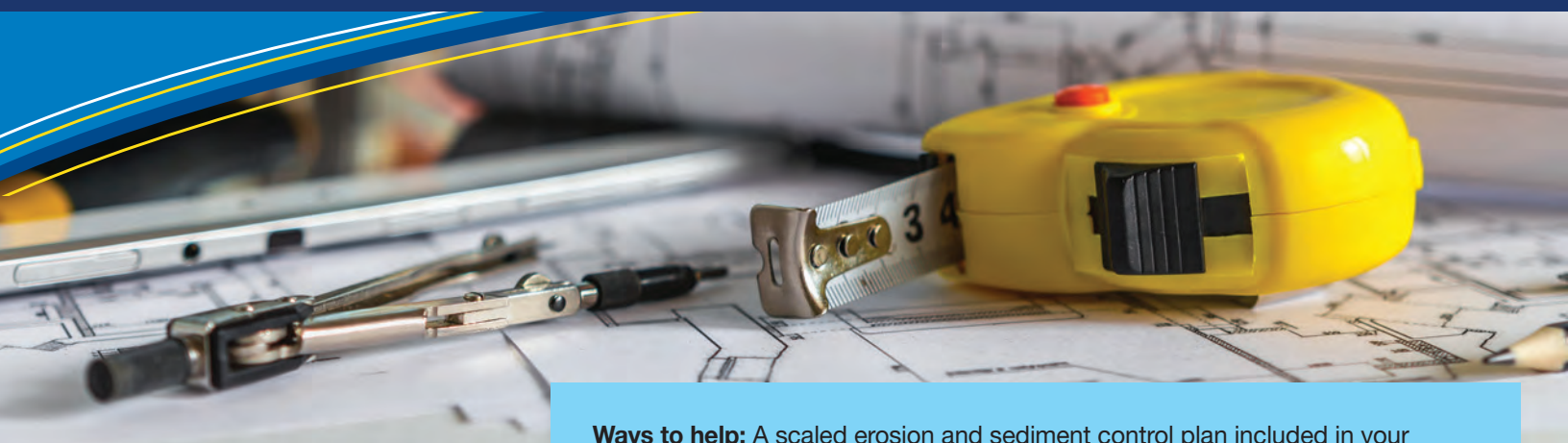


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City of Biloxi Stormwater Facts

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES



When land is disturbed for a new construction project our local environment feels the effects. One major concern is the potential for sediment and contaminants in the runoff from the construction sites. As the vegetation is cleared, soil is exposed, and susceptible to the forces of erosion. Wind, water, humans, and machines carry sediments, contaminants, soil, litter, and debris away from the site and into our local waterways, degrading water quality. Everything carried, pushed, and picked up by water flowing over the site finds its way into the storm drains and eventually into our local creeks, rivers, Biloxi Back Bay, and the Mississippi Sound. This untreated runoff affects water quality and environmental health; and can cause flooding when storm drains are clogged or blocked by sediment and debris.

Maintain Your Site

- Follow your approved Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Install your controls even if they are in the way of subsequent work. It is not an acceptable excuse that controls were not installed because work would require their replacement or cause their destruction.
- Train employees in proper erosion and sediment control installation and maintenance.
- Perform your weekly inspections and document on MDEQ inspection forms.
- Correct any deficiencies and cleanup any resulting sediment or other debris within 24 hours of discovery.

Important Numbers:

- Building Division - 228-435-6280
- Code Enforcement - 228-435-6270
- Stormwater Management
228-435-6280 or
stormwater@biloxi.ms.us

Ways to help: A scaled erosion and sediment control plan included in your construction plans including detailed notes addressing the erosion and sediment controls installation and maintenance on the drawings; a written SWPPP; a Large Construction Notice of Intent; and an MDEQ Certificate of Compliance. Monthly Inspection Forms shall be performed with records kept on-site.

Erosion Control

- **Preserve existing vegetation** – Keeping existing vegetation minimized prevents potential soil erosion by stabilizing the soil.
- **Geotextiles/Mats** – Used for temporary or permanent soil stabilization, and are especially effective on steep slopes and channels. Geotextiles and mats are used to reduce erosion from rainfall impact and hold soil in place.
- **Hydroseeding** – Consists of applying a mixture of wood fiber, seed, fertilizer, and stabilizing emulsion with hydromulching equipment. It is typically applied to disturbed areas that required temporary protection from erosion.
- **Re-Vegetate ASAP** – Planting ground cover, sod, shrubs, and trees provides long term benefits such as slope stabilization, water infiltration, and sediment filtration.
- **Earthen Dikes** – These are structures that intercept, divert, and convey surface runoff to sediment trapping device or stabilized outlet.
- **Drainage Swales** – These are used to divert runoff around the construction sites, from stabilized areas around disturbed areas, and direct into sediment basins or traps.
- **Outlet Protection** – Physical devices composed of rock, grouted riprap, or concrete rubble placed at pipe outlets to prevent scour and reduce the velocity of runoff.
- **Slope Roughening or Terracing** – Creating uneven depressions or steps in the slope traps sediment and impedes erosion.

Sediment Control

- **Storm Drain Inlet Protection** – Devices such as gravel bags or tubes, or silt fence are used at storm drain inlets to detain and/or filter sediment-laden runoff to allow sediment to settle.
- **Silt Fence** – A silt fence is a temporary barrier of permeable fabric designed to intercept and slow the flow of sediment laden sheet flow runoff from exposed erosion prone areas. They must be properly installed to be effective.
- **Sandbag or Gravel Bag Barriers** – This is a temporary sediment barrier consisting of stacked bags designed to intercept and slow the flow of sediment laden runoff and allow sediment to settle.
- **Sediment Basin** – Sediment laden runoff is directed to a designed temporary or permanent basin that allows sediment to settle out before leaving the construction site.
- **Stabilized Construction Entrance/Exit** – Stabilized entrances/exits to construction sites reduce the tracking of mud and dirt onto public roads where it will be washed into the storm drain system.

Waste Management

- Properly contain all hazardous materials onsite by storing them either indoors or protected from the weather.
- Immediately and properly clean up any spills and dispose of all used materials properly. NEVER WASH DOWN A SPILL INTO THE STREETS TO DRAINAGE SYSTEM.
- Properly dispose of all construction wastes.
- Wash out concrete trucks in a designated washout area.
- Perform all vehicle and equipment maintenance and repairs offsite.

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With you on the road of life.

Building permit checklist helps simplify the process



Building a checklist

Builders in Biloxi can stop at one convenient location for their building needs and get expert guidance from friendly, knowledgeable staff. That place is the Biloxi Community Development Department, located at 676 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Stop by the department weekdays or call 228-435-6280 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to make sure all requirements are followed and nothing is missed.

To make sure you are on track with your future development, here is a step-by-step checklist. Note: Each project may have small differences depending on the circumstances, before making a huge purchase always call the Planning office at 228-435-6286.

Residential Building

- 1) Review the city maps to check for the zoning, including flood zones, historic districts, and easements, biloxi.ms.us/maps.
- 2) Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/resources/code-of-ordinances/, click Land Development Ordinance, and review Article 23-4 to determine if the proposed use is allowed within the current zoning district.
- 3) If the property does not fall under a zoning standard, a zoning change may need to be requested through the Planning Commission and City Council, or if a variance is needed, it will need to be requested through the Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA), and both must be approved before submitting construction plans. (Per the Land Development Ordinance Article 23-3, biloxi.ms.us/resources/code-of-ordinances/). Once approved, continue with steps three through seven.
- 4) If the property is historic, in a historic district, or in the context area of a landmark property, it needs to be first approved by the Architectural & Historical Review Committee (AHRC). Contact Biloxi Community Development at 228-435-6280 for AHRC procedures.
- 5) If the property falls under the correct zoning, submit two full sets of 24"x36" construction drawings to the Planning Division in the Community Development, with a separate site plan showing all proposed structures, setbacks, and driveway on the lot, and a survey if available.
 - a. Check with the building department at 228-435-6270, for all current building codes. Details at iccsafe.org.
 - b. Construction drawings need to include the following: floor plan with dimensions, foundation plan and details, elevation drawings, wall section, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC plans.
- 6) The Planning Division reviews and signs off on the permit.
- 7) The Building Division reviews and signs off on the permit.
- 8) Notification will be given of approval. Pick up the permit from the Biloxi Community Development Department and begin construction.

Notes:

- Site control documentation is required for all permits.
- A homeowner can pull their own permit to build or repair their own home, but all subcontractors need to be licensed by the state.
- Depending on the flood zone, more documentation may be needed.
- Short-Term Rentals are not allowed in Single-Family zoned properties.

Commercial Building (Including New Subdivisions)

- 1) Look at the city maps to check for the zoning, including flood zones, historic districts, and easements, biloxi.ms.us/maps.
- 2) Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/resources/code-of-ordinances/, click Land Development Ordinance, and review Article 23-4 to determine if the proposed use is allowed within the current zoning district.
- 3) The project goes to the Development Review Committee (DRC). This process may include multiple sessions. (Agenda posted online, biloxi.ms.us/departments/community-development/).
- 4) If Planning Commission, City Council, or AHRC approvals are needed, the project will get their approvals next.
- 5) After DRC has released the project, it goes to the Planning Division for review (Two full sets of 24"x36" construction drawings and a site plan are required).
- 6) Next, the request goes to the Building Division and Biloxi Fire Department for building plan review.
- 7) After review and approval, the permit can be picked up from Biloxi Community Development by a licensed contractor, and construction can begin.

Notes:

- Every project is different! You will have more direction after each DRC meeting.
- If projects are within the context area of a Historic Landmark or in a Historic District, AHRC approval is required.
- If projects do not meet all of the development standards within the LDO, Planning Commission approval is required.
- Development Standards may be found online at biloxi.ms.us/resources/code-of-ordinances/, click Land Development Ordinance, Article 23-6.

Planning a construction or renovation project? The City of Biloxi Community Development Department offers a Building Permit Checklist to help homeowners, contractors, and developers prepare for the permitting process. The checklist outlines the documents and information typically needed before submitting a building permit application, helping applicants submit complete applications and avoid unnecessary delays.

A copy of the Building Permit Checklist is available online at biloxi.ms.us. Once there, click on Community Development to access the checklist. Printed copies are available at the Community Development Department located at 676 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.



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Beach Chickens, Mudbugs Return for Fun-Filled August

Shuckers set to host 14 games with giveaway nights, character appearances and fireworks

By Javik Blake
Biloxi Shuckers



August is set to be the busiest month of the season for the Biloxi Shuckers as they run towards the 2026 Southern League Playoffs! The Shuckers are set to play 14 games at Keesler Federal Park during the month, including two games against the Montgomery Biscuits (Tampa Bay Rays) and six each against the Pensacola Blue Wahoos (Miami Marlins) and Knoxville Smokies (Chicago Cubs).

On Saturday, August 1, the Shuckers open the month with a bang! The fan-favorite Biloxi Beach Chickens return for one night only, featuring specialty jerseys. The first 1,000 fans will also receive a Beach Chickens cooler bag presented by Farm Families of Mississippi.

To finish out the series against the Biscuits, the first 500 fans 14 and under will also receive a Shuckers-themed lunchbox for the Kids Lunchbox Giveaway on Sunday, August 2. Fans can also join the Shuckers for the team's annual Faith and Family Night, including multiple religious groups from across the Coast.

On Thursday, August 13, Students and faculty from Moss Point High School will be in attendance for Moss Point Night, celebrating student and athletic accomplishments from the 2025/2026 school year.

The Shuckers will host their annual Fight Like A Shucker Night in partnership with the Heart of a Shucker Cancer Initiative at the ballpark on Friday, August 14, with specialty jerseys designed by local artist Julia Reyes. The jerseys will be available for auction after the game, with proceeds benefiting cancer research. A special fireworks show will follow, presented by Island View Casino Resort.

The Biloxi Mudbugs return for the final time in 2026 on Saturday, August 15, with a themed water bottle giveaway for the first 1,500 fans presented by the Beau Rivage.

Rocky and Zuma from Paw Patrol will make

an appearance at the ballpark on Sunday, August 16. Don't miss the chance to meet the heroic pups who believe that no job is too big and no pup is too small!

Students and faculty from Biloxi High School will be in attendance on Thursday, August 27 for Biloxi Night, celebrating student and athletic accomplishments from the 2025/2026 school year.

The Shuckers will celebrate and honor our first responders with First Responders Night on Friday, August 28.

On Saturday, August 29, it's a superhero-sized night with Marvel Night! Join the Shuckers for a night filled with superheroes, comic-book villains, and more! The first 1,000 fans will also receive a Spider-Man Funko Pop.

Daily specials also highlight 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, with special patriotic designs for each giveaway. 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 and \$20 day of game.

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. The Shuckers will also recognize and donate to local family-based organizations as part of their Heart of a Shucker Community Fund prior to the game.

Every Saturday is now Giveaway Saturday, with different bobbleheads, T-shirts, hats, jerseys, and promotions during every Saturday home game.

The weekend continues with Family Sunday presented by Chicken Salad Chick. 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.

Fans enjoying the game.



Fans enjoying the tiki bar.

► 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.

Moving Biloxi forward: Investing in our future

Planning for the future while meeting the needs of today is one of the most important responsibilities of city government. Every day, the City of Biloxi works to provide quality services to nearly 50,000 residents while also supporting the thousands of visitors who enjoy our community each year. On many days, the number of people in Biloxi nearly doubles as visitors come to experience our beaches, casinos, restaurants, attractions, and special events.



Meeting those expectations takes more than careful planning; it takes dedicated city employees. From our first responders and public works crews to parks, utilities, engineering, community development, and every department in between, our employees work every day to deliver the essential services that keep Biloxi running. They also play a vital role in identifying community needs, planning for future improvements, and helping move important capital projects from concept

to completion. As you may be aware, the Biloxi City Council recently approved a \$16.5 million General Obligation Bond, an important investment in Biloxi's future. With the council's authorization in place, the city is now entering the next phase of the process by preparing to issue the bonds and review the projects that will be funded. Once the bonds are sold, work can begin on a variety of infrastructure and capital improvement projects that will strengthen our community for years to come.

The bond will provide funding for projects that improve the quality of life for our residents and enhance the city's public infrastructure. These may include roadway and drainage improvements, public safety facilities and equipment, parks and recreational amenities, municipal buildings, and other capital improvements that help maintain and modernize the services our citizens rely on every day.

At the same time, we are also preparing the city's budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The City Council and administration continue to participate in a series of public budget workshops at Biloxi City Hall, where each department's proposed budget is being presented, discussed, and carefully reviewed. Through these workshops, operational needs are being evaluated, spending priorities are being established, and what resources are available to best support city services and ongoing projects before adopting the final budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

The bond and the annual budget process work hand in hand. The budget ensures we can continue providing the high level of services our residents expect today, while the bond allows us to invest in the infrastructure and facilities that will serve Biloxi well into the future. Together, they reflect our commitment to responsible financial stewardship and thoughtful planning.

▶ See the Biloxi City Council agendas online at biloxi.ms.us.

Community Market:

The Charles R. Hegwood Community Market is operating under new management with longtime vendor Bonny Pesch assuming the role of market manager and promoter. The market is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting, at the corner of Hopkins Boulevard and Howard Avenue. Visit Biloxi Community Market on Facebook.



School is back: Watch for school buses and children at bus stops; obey school zone speed limits; and allow extra travel time during morning and afternoon commutes.

Heat safety: As the summer weather continues, Biloxi first responders are asking residents to stay hydrated; limit outdoor work during the hottest part of the day; never leave children or pets in parked vehicles; and check on elderly family members and neighbors.

Prepare now, not later: Hurricane season is underway. Make sure your emergency kit is stocked, your family has a plan, and you're signed up for B-Alert by texting BILOXI to 77295.

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

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Keeping it simple: How Biloxi's gaming revenue benefits the community

Retired Air Force Gen. Clark Griffith, a former Keesler commander and Biloxi City Council member, had a favorite expression whenever discussions turned to complicated public policy.

"Put that in 'farmer' for me," he would say with a smile. "Keep it simple."

It's still good advice today.

For more than three decades, casino gaming has been one of Biloxi's strongest economic engines. Beyond attracting millions of visitors each year and supporting thousands of jobs, the city's eight casinos generate millions of dollars in tax revenue that helps fund public services throughout Biloxi and Harrison County.

Last year alone, Biloxi's eight casinos generated gross gaming revenue of more than \$1 billion. The Biloxi casinos paid about \$131 million in taxes to the State of Mississippi, and about \$23 million was returned to Biloxi's general fund, about \$7 million to Biloxi Public Schools, another \$3.5 million to other school districts in Harrison County, and \$10 million to Harrison County.

Those are impressive numbers, but what do they really mean?

The answer is the same today as it has been since casino gaming came to Biloxi in 1992: just look around. Gaming tax revenue helps fund city services, public safety, infrastructure improvements, public education, and many of the services residents rely on every day.

To put it in "farmer," let's look at a simple example.

Suppose you lose \$100 at a slot machine in a Biloxi casino. Where does that money go? It's a question residents have been asking since casino gaming first arrived on the Coast.

In general terms, about \$88 remains with the casino to cover operating expenses, employee wages, capital improvements, and other business costs. The

remaining \$12 is collected in gaming taxes and distributed among state and local governments.

Here's how that \$12 is generally divided:

State of Mississippi – \$8.00

City of Biloxi

- General Fund – \$1.28
- Public Safety – \$0.64

Biloxi Public Schools

- Public Schools – \$0.64

Harrison County

- Public Safety – \$0.32
- Public Schools – \$0.32

Tax Split

- Harrison County – \$0.61
- City of Biloxi – \$0.19

While most people think of casinos as entertainment destinations, their impact reaches far beyond the gaming floor. Gaming taxes help support police and fire protection, road and infrastructure improvements, public schools, parks, and many of the everyday services that residents depend on.

As Gen. Griffith liked to say, sometimes the simplest explanation is the best one. When visitors choose Biloxi for entertainment, they aren't just supporting the local economy—they're helping invest in the community we all share.



Biloxi welcomes newest inductees



Biloxi's rich athletic tradition will grow this summer as the City of Biloxi inducts 12 individuals into the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 30, at 3 p.m. at the Biloxi Civic Center.

The Class of 2026 features standout football, track, baseball, and basketball athletes, along with a distinguished gymnast and a longtime sports reporter.

Inductees are selected based on criteria that include statistical performance, individual achievement, leadership, citizenship, and

community service. The number of inductees each year is determined by the selection committee.

To nominate someone for future consideration, visit biloxi.ms.us/sportshalloffame.

Here are this year's inductees.

Class of 2026

Jesse Ratliff

Basketball standout Jesse Ratliff led Biloxi High School to back-to-back Mississippi state championships in 1989 and 1990. He was selected to the Mississippi All-Star game in 1990 before earning a basketball scholarship to North Texas University. There, Ratliff was a four-year letterman from 1990-94 and a starter from his freshman season through the end of his career.

Ratliff finished his career at the University of North Texas as the school's second-leading scorer with more than 2,100 career points. He went on to enjoy a lengthy professional career overseas, earning multiple MVP honors, scoring titles and rebounding titles. Legendary Biloxi High School basketball coach Jackie Laird once said, "Jesse Ratliff is the best player I have ever coached."

Felicia Burton

A Biloxi High School graduate, Felicia Burton began her broadcasting career with a part-time job at WLOX that grew into a lifelong profession. After a stint in Tampa, Florida, she joined Boston Globe Studios, where she produced broadcasts and conducted interviews for the Boston Red Sox and Boston Bruins. Burton later moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where she serves as senior studio manager at PGA TOUR Media Headquarters.

From Biloxi to the national sports stage, Burton built a successful broadcasting career while staying connected to her hometown..

Tommy Hebert

Tommy Hebert's athletic journey began as a track athlete at Biloxi High School, but his greatest legacy has been as a coach, volunteer and mentor. A two-time Purple Heart recipient, Hebert founded the Biloxi Little League Challenger League in 1991, providing children younger than 12 with disabilities the opportunity to play baseball.

Throughout his coaching career, Hebert led teams to five state baseball championships and two Biloxi Bowl football championships. His dedication to youth sports has also earned him recognition as the City of Biloxi's Sports Volunteer of the Year and Mississippi Little League Baseball's Volunteer of the Year.

Sean Miller

A member of Biloxi High School's 1988 state championship baseball team, Sean Miller was the only freshman in the starting lineup, playing second base. He went on to establish himself as one of the school's top pitchers, posting a 12-0 record as a junior and an 11-2 mark as a senior. Miller remains among Biloxi High's career leaders in strikeouts and several other pitching categories.

Miller also excelled on the football field, earning three varsity letters and second-team all-district honors. He continued his baseball career at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, where he pitched for two seasons before transferring to Southeastern University and throwing a no-hitter for the Lions.

After his playing career, Miller dedicated more than 25 years to coaching baseball as both a head coach and assistant coach. He

currently serves on the Biloxi High School baseball coaching staff.

Ronald Dupree

For Ronald Dupree, the journey from Biloxi High School to the NBA became a reality through hard work and determination. After an outstanding career at Biloxi High, the All-State standout continued his basketball career at LSU, where he led the Southeastern Conference in scoring as a sophomore with 17.3 points per game and earned All-SEC honors.

Following his collegiate career, Dupree spent 11 seasons playing professionally, including time in the NBA with the Chicago Bulls, Detroit Pistons, Minnesota Timberwolves, Seattle SuperSonics and Toronto Raptors.

Dupree has served in front-office roles with several NBA organizations and now serves as general manager of the LSU men's basketball program.

Kaylee Elder Johnson

As a young athlete, Kaylee Elder Johnson made her mark in gymnastics both locally and nationally. In 1998, she was named to the USA Gymnastics National Top Team, showcasing the natural talent, dedication and work ethic that defined her career. A six-time Mississippi state champion in gymnastics, Johnson continued to excel after joining the Biloxi High School track team, quickly becoming a standout in multiple events.

A district champion in six events, she was named the 2007 Biloxi High School Track Team MVP. She later traded her track shoes for cheer shoes, continuing her athletic career at LSU, where she cheered and earned four varsity letters with the Tigers.

Jeffrey Breal

The 1986 Biloxi High School graduate was the definition of a multi-sport athlete, excelling in track, baseball and football while wearing the Red and White for the Indians. Although he competed in several sports, football was where Jeffery truly distinguished himself, becoming a three-year starter on the offensive line.

During his time anchoring the trenches, Breal earned Shrimp Bowl Most Valuable Lineman honors, was selected to the Burger King All-Star Team and received all-district recognition. Breal continued his football career at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Perkinston, where he was a two-year starter and a member of the 1986 state championship Bulldog football team.

Beyond athletics, Breal serves his community as a volunteer and is a devoted husband, father and son of 2012 Hall of Fame inductee Harold Breal.

Gerald Pickich

Gerald Pickich's legacy extends far beyond the football field. An ordained deacon with the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi, a more than 25-year veteran of the City of Biloxi Fire Department, and a lead minister serving inmates at the Harrison County Jail, Pickich has dedicated much of his life to serving others.

But for many, Pickich is remembered as the legendary football player. A member of the 1968 Big Eight Championship team, Pickich became a starter as a sophomore, and continued in that role for the Indians for the next two seasons on both sides of the football. He was selected as the Pat Patterson Award winner, voted team captain, and named to the All-Big Eight Team. Pickich continued his football career at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Perkinston, where he was a starting linebacker on the 1971 National Champion Bulldogs football team under legendary coach George Sekul. He later continued his career at Nicholls State University.

One longtime Biloxian summed up Pickich's legacy: "If you looked up football player in the dictionary in the late 1960s and early 1970s, you would find one picture and that was Gerald Pickich."

Richard Dick Sr.

Richard Dick's athletic journey was defined by three major stops: Biloxi High School, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Perkinston, and Delta State University. Dick achieved success across three, excelling in football, basketball, and track throughout his career.

Wearing the Red and White for Biloxi High School, Dick was a two-time district champion and shot-put record holder, the leading scorer for the Indians basketball team in 1966, and a three-year letterman in football.

His success continued at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Perkinston, where he was a member of the 1967 state championship football team and the 1968 state championship track team, while also setting the shot-put record in 1968. Dick continued his athletic career at Delta State University, where he earned letters in both football and track.

Reginald Kemp

If speeding tickets could be issued for running, Reginald Kemp would have collected more than his share. His unmatched speed and athletic ability made him one of the most accomplished multi-sport athletes to ever walk the halls of Biloxi High School. During the 1970s, Kemp starred in football, basketball and track, setting a standard for future generations of Biloxi athletes.

On the football field, Kemp earned All-Coast honors as a running back and flanker for the Indians. When football season ended, he traded his cleats for track shoes, and that's when his dominance truly took center stage. Opposing schools knew that if Kemp was competing in their track meet, a first-place finish was going to be difficult to come by.

Whether competing in the 220-yard dash, 880-yard run, relay events, long jump or 100-yard dash, Kemp entered every event as the athlete to beat. The question was what records he would break along the way.

After a brief stint at Kentucky State, Kemp returned to the Coast to continue his football career at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Perkinston, where he played for legendary coach George Sekul.

Tommy Thompson

To say Tommy Thompson loved baseball would be an understatement. The 1968 Notre Dame High School graduate was a member of the two-time district championship baseball team and built a passion for the

game that would span more than four decades.

Following an outstanding high school career, Thompson continued playing baseball at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Perkinston, where he was a member of the 1970 state championship Bulldogs baseball team. After his playing career ended, Thompson transitioned into coaching and led the 1980 Notre Dame state championship team as head coach.

Thompson's commitment to the sport continued when he joined the City of Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department in the late 1980s and served as president of the Dixie Youth Baseball League until 1988.

For more than 40 years, Thompson remained dedicated to the game he loved as a player, coach, mentor and volunteer.

Joshua Bozeman

The Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee is proud to announce the creation of a new award honoring the life, courage and determination of Joshua Bozeman.

A 2003 Mercy Cross High School graduate, Bozeman was a two-time varsity letterman in baseball whose journey in sports was unlike most. His path was defined not only by his accomplishments on the field, but by the strength and perseverance he displayed through unimaginable challenges.

At age 11, Bozeman was diagnosed with cancer and faced the possibility of never running, playing sports, or surviving treatment. After a year of intense treatment and three months in a body cast, he fought his way back to baseball, serving as an assistant coach until he was cleared to return to the field.

Once cleared to return, Bozeman did more than play, he excelled. Just one year after treatment, he was selected to the 13-14-year-old All-Star Team that won the Mississippi State Championship, represented Biloxi at the regional tournament in Kentucky and named a starting pitcher for the championship squad.

Bozeman continued his baseball career at Mercy Cross High School, joining the varsity team as an eighth grader and becoming a standout pitcher. His journey back to the mound reflected his passion, dedication, and determination.

Bozeman's strength, courage, and faith never allowed cancer to define him. He graduated from Mercy Cross with honors and attended the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College-Perkinston and Mississippi State University while remaining cancer-free.

On Jan. 12, 2006, Bozeman lost his life in a vehicle accident along with several lifelong friends. His legacy, however, continues through the lives he touched and the example he set.

The City of Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department and the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee have created the Joshua Bozeman Award to honor individuals who demonstrate the determination to overcome adversity, the courage to stand strong and the commitment to pursue what others say is impossible.

1989 Biloxi High School Basketball State Champions

Reggie Johnson, Ben Delaney, Joseph Lindsey, Stevie Madden, Julius Hobbs, James McCarty, Seber Windham, Tony Bell, Cedric Cole, Kevin Oatis, Eddie Thomas, Jerald Nunley, Eric Mosley, Derrick Reynolds, Jessie Ratliff Jr., Garland Andrews, Johnny Jefferson, and Patrick Simon. Head Coach, Jackie Laird; Assistant Coaches John Pugh and Jesse Ratliff Sr.

1972 Biloxi Southern Little League MS State Champions

Scott Moore, Mitchell Bradley, Craig Sablich, David Blaine, Jack Vuyovich, Steve Elliot, Tim Gill, Bobby Miguez, Barry Lyons, Jake Gill, Mike Porter Al Pickich, Joey Gruich, Larry Sablich, and John Pat Skrmetti. Coach Ronnie Kostmayer, Manager Bobby Miguez, and League President Mitchell Gruich.

1969 Biloxi American Little League MS State Champions

Joey Nobles, Curtis Lopez, Jerry Miguez, Rodney Saucier, Chris Richards, Mark Battiste, Sammy King, Brian Malagarie, Gary Landress, Rocky Ransonet, Randy Staehling, John Ohems, Fred Steinwinder, and Gerald Chathams. Manager CB Saucier, President Jimmy Wallace, and Vice President Dan Danella

We're here to help you make a difference



The Biloxi Beautification Commission, July 1, 2026. From left: Ward 7, Rocquel Ransonet Hays; Ward 6, Rhett Taylor; Ward 5, Vincent Creel; Ward 4 and Chair Lara Bernich Alley; Ward 3, Stacey Eleuterius Barber; Ward 2, James McClendon; and Ward 1, Susan Cain.

We've said it over and over, and we'll say it again: For this beautification thing to work, we all have to work together.

Right now, we're looking for people – businesses, work groups, civic groups, church groups, youth groups, individuals – who are willing to help clean up and beautify our city.

We've seen some progress, and now we're working on even more, with a full Beautification Commission, focused

on making this city a better place to live, work and play.

How can you help? Contact one of the Beautification Commissioners. We're looking for people who want to take part in litter pickups. We're looking for people to adopt medians. This is what it's going to take.

Be a part of the solution. Volunteer. Get your business to adopt a median. Working together. It's a beautiful thing.



Keep Biloxi Beautiful

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

biloxi.ms.us/beautification

REMEMBERING OUR PAST AND PLANTING FOR OUR FUTURE

By Susan Peterson,
Chairperson City of Biloxi Tree Committee

As you drive around Biloxi and stroll through our beautiful neighborhoods, please look up – of course, you will then see our incredible Biloxi tree canopy. The canopy is the upper layer of a forest, a wooded area, or a park formed by branches and leaves. Where the treetops mingle is known as the tree canopy. Tree canopies are important and vital. They contribute to the water cycle, keeping the ground moist and plants protected. The canopy prevents soil erosion, protects against flooding, and provides many other important benefits! It is a great treasure we enjoy, and the envy of so many other more modern communities.

Remember, look upwards to the sky to see our protective tree canopies.

Why do I mention tree canopies? We had some forward-thinking adults in our city's rich history who provided us with some beautiful tree growth in areas all around our community. Just look at the beautiful postcard picture of Benachi Avenue from our city's past.

One of many examples is the Benachi Family, who immigrated to the United States just before the turn of the last century. By 1900, Nicholas Marino Benachi resided with his family in the Benachi House on Biloxi's beachfront and made

his livelihood as a cotton broker. The family embraced Biloxi as their home and appeared to have purchased property (Benachi Avenue and much more), making his family an active member of the community. As they built their home, they concentrated on saving the beautiful trees surrounding them.

By August 1900, Mr. Benachi had become the first Commodore of the West End Yacht Club. Of course, in 1900, our neighborhoods weren't built out as we see them today. Present-day Benachi Avenue was originally the path for ingress-egress from the N.M. Benachi beachfront home to Pass Christian Road (now Howard Avenue).

Based on the age of the current trees, it is believed the beautiful live oaks that lined this thoroughfare were planted after their home was built, clearly the result of Mr. Benachi's foresight.

Later, Benachi Avenue, running all the way from Howard Avenue to the beach, was ordered, graded, and shelled for a new road. This was known as the Avenue of Oaks! It formed one of the most beautiful thoroughfares



in the South. The postcard is proof of that fact.

It is extremely interesting to read the history of this family and their involvement with our city. Drive down to that area and see why the current residents are so protective of their street and the "Live Oak" trees!

Sadly, as you visit Benachi Avenue today, the trees are still in place, but they have been repeatedly trimmed to protect property, people, and power lines along the route. Some of the original beauty has been lost, but the canopy as a whole remains, and that's the important part.

We are so lucky to have forefathers with a thought of the future and planted and cared for our beautiful protected live oak trees!

Biloxi Pulse

Fabric of the Community

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

Fifteen years ago, when Belle Kessler decided to morph from a weekend arts & crafts festival vendor into a full-fledged brick-and-mortar business owner, Downtown Biloxi became the very fortunate recipient of Peace By Piece Quilt Shop. Situated at 1030 Howard Avenue, Peace By Piece has become a destination business filling a quilting niche in the Gulf South region—a truly unique place that offers finished quilts, quilting materials, quilting services, and lessons all in one spot on West Howard Avenue.

Belle recalls her beginnings: machine quilting creations to sell at festivals while her sister, Bernadette, pieced the quilt tops into beautiful compositions. These beauties were gobbled up by shoppers at the Peter Anderson Festival in Ocean Springs as well as many Biloxi events.



After a few years into the festival circuit, Belle's husband commented that the quilting supplies and machines were taking over their residence on Benachi Avenue and something had to give! That's when they began looking for a location in downtown. At first it was a place to do the work, then it became a place to create the special orders that started to pour in. Now, it is a complete quilting destination, with everything you need to make your own.

Quilting is more than a skill or even a beloved hobby; it is where necessity met artistic creativity. It dates back to about 3400 B.C. in ancient Egypt, where stitched fabric served both practical and artistic purposes. The craft traveled to America with early settlers and lives on in Biloxi at Peace By Piece, a destination for quilters from across the region. It isn't unusual to spot out-of-state tags in

the parking lot.

Belle and son, Michael, also help introduce novices to the craft. Peace By Piece is more than just a place to buy supplies; it is also the place to take lessons. New classes begin in August!

Another unique feature of Peace By Piece is the extraordinary "Biloxi" cultural items in stock, including one-of-a-kind material with a Blessing of the Fleet motif designed by Belle's daughter, Cathy. There is also material with all of the original seafood cannery labels, and material with the original menu art from the Friendship House Restaurant. You can find these Biloxi treasures nowhere else but at Peace By Piece.

Quilts are more than blankets or décor; they tell stories. Whether an heirloom passed through generations or a T-shirt quilt honoring a loved one, each preserves memories, history, and personal legacy. Ms. Belle and her staff understand the significance of every quilt they help create or restore, preserving the past while creating keepsakes for future generations.

Look for their "Shop Hop" celebration coming in October, a favorite of quilters and crafters. And, follow them on Facebook or visit their website www.peacebypiecequilts.com.

Random Notes

AUGUST TRIVIA: Biloxi by the Numbers

TIME CAPSULE:



This vintage postcard image from the early 1900s shows the lighthouse along what was then called the Beach Road. Ballast stones were piled at the bottom as the only protection from the waves on the shore just a few yards away.

The light was civilian-operated from 1848 to 1939, and is notable for its several female lightkeepers, including Maria Youngmans, who tended the light for 53 years. In 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard assumed responsibility for the light's operation.

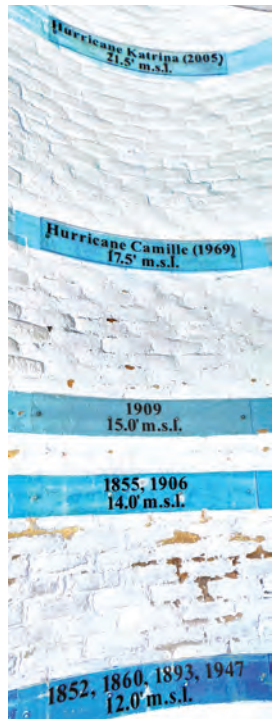
After being declared surplus in 1968, the lighthouse was deeded to the city and later opened for public tours.

Lessons from the Lighthouse

Constructed in 1848 of brick and clad in cast iron, the Historic Biloxi Lighthouse stands 64 feet tall in the center of Beach Boulevard. It is one of the few surviving cast-iron lighthouses in the United States. Throughout its history, the lighthouse has withstood some of the Gulf Coast's most powerful storms, including the hurricanes of 1852, 1855, 1860, 1893, 1906, 1915, 1947, Betsy in 1965, Camille in 1969, Elena in 1985, Georges in 1998, Katrina in 2005, and Zeta in 2020.

While hurricanes have damaged surrounding structures and reshaped the coastline, the lighthouse has remained standing through them all. Following Hurricane Katrina, which brought record storm surge and devastated much of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the lighthouse once again proved its remarkable strength. After extensive restoration, it reopened in 2010 as a symbol of Biloxi's determination to rebuild while preserving its rich history.

The harsh Gulf Coast environment, particularly the constant salt air, requires ongoing preservation and maintenance to protect the 178-year-old landmark for future generations. Most recently, the lighthouse's cupola was restored with fresh paint and its gutter drain lines were cleared to help safeguard the historic lantern room.



High-water marks painted in the lighthouse's interior

Visitors who climb the cast-iron spiral staircase can see one of the lighthouse's most unique features: painted high-water marks that record storm-surge levels from nine of the Coast's most significant hurricanes. These markings are more than historical records; they are reminders of nature's power and the importance of hurricane preparedness. The storms of the past have left their mark on the lighthouse, but they also leave us with an enduring lesson: preparation today can make all the difference tomorrow. Create a hurricane plan, including evacuation routes, and share it with your family.

Today, the Biloxi Lighthouse welcomes visitors from around the world and remains one of Mississippi's most photographed landmarks. Standing proudly in the center of Beach Boulevard, it is more than a historic beacon—it is a lasting symbol of Biloxi's resilience. Through generations of hurricanes, growth, and change, the lighthouse has stood as a testament to a community that has rebuilt time and again, reminding residents and visitors alike that while storms may come and go, the history and spirit of Biloxi endure.



Biloxi Lighthouse cupola before (left) and after (right) restoration

By Jane Shambra

What is the population of Biloxi according to the 2020 Census? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it is 49,449.

When is the next U.S. Census? The next official census will take place in 2030.

How many years ago was Hurricane Katrina? 21 years ago. Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005.

How many years ago was Hurricane Camille? 57 years ago. Camille made landfall on August 17, 1969.

How many 1700s burials have been discovered at the French Colonial Moran Site (west of the Biloxi Visitors Center)? Hurricane Camille uncovered 12 burials in 1969. Following Hurricane Katrina, archaeologists discovered 20 additional burials, bringing the total to 32.

What is Biloxi's current sales tax rate? The current sales tax rate in Biloxi is seven percent.

What is the tallest building in Biloxi? The Beau Rivage is the tallest building at 32 stories. It is also the tallest building in Mississippi.

How many steps are in the Biloxi seawall? Because the land elevation changes along the coastline, the number of seawall steps varies. On average, there are nine steps.

How many fire stations serve Biloxi? The Biloxi Fire Department operates 10 fire stations throughout the city.

How many mayors has Biloxi had? A total of 14 mayors have served the City of Biloxi. Portraits are displayed on the second floor of Biloxi City Hall. Names are listed online at biloxi.ms.us then click Mayor under departments.

What is an arpent? Many historic Biloxi land deeds use the French unit of measurement known as an arpent. One arpent is approximately 192 feet.

How fast is one knot? While weather reports typically measure wind speed in miles per hour, mariners and aviators often use knots. One knot equals approximately 1.15 miles per hour.

How many seafood factories operated in Biloxi during the 1920s? At the height of Biloxi's seafood industry in the 1920s, approximately 40 seafood factories were in operation.

Biloxi Shuckers Baseball



Keesler Federal Park
105 Caillavet St.

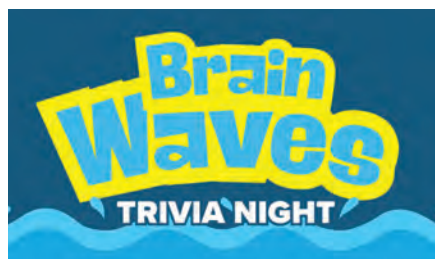
Shuckers Home Games:

- Montgomery Biscuits
August 1 & 2
- Pensacola Blue Wahoos,
August 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16
- Knoxville Smokies
August 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30
- Visit online at biloxishuckers.com for the full schedule and ticket information.

Coastal Live Oak Project, Aug. 16, 2-4 p.m. Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. Listen to Larry Tucei "Urban Forest Specialist," speak on the "Coastal Live Oak Project". Free admission. Details: mscoasthistory1699@gmail.com



Bike Biloxi, Aug. 18, 6 p.m., downtown bike 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 are recommended. Details: 228-435-6339



Brain Waves Trivia Night Pool Party, Aug. 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Salvation Army Kroc Center, 575 Division St. Kick off the new school year with a TRIVIA Contest. This event is FREE for all members and \$10 for nonmembers. Nonmembers must purchase a two-hour swim pass in advance. Details: krocmscoast.org/KrocMSCoast/allevnts/

Coastal MS Mardi Gras Museum Afterhours Music, Aug. 22, 5-8 p.m., 792 Howard Ave. Live entertainment from Cooper Cross & Lennon Gainey. Details: 228-314-4747



City of Biloxi Football & Cheer Registration

Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-Noon

Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center
Meeting Room, 2520 Pass Road

Flag Football open to ages 5-8;
Tackle Football open to ages 9-12;
and Cheerleading open to ages 6-12.
Looking for football and cheer coaches.

Fees range from \$50 to \$120.
Details: 228-388-7170

American Red Cross 21st Annual Katrina Blood Drive, Aug 25, Noon-6 p.m., Edgewater Mall, 2900 Beach Blvd. Details and to schedule an appointment: 1-800-733-2767

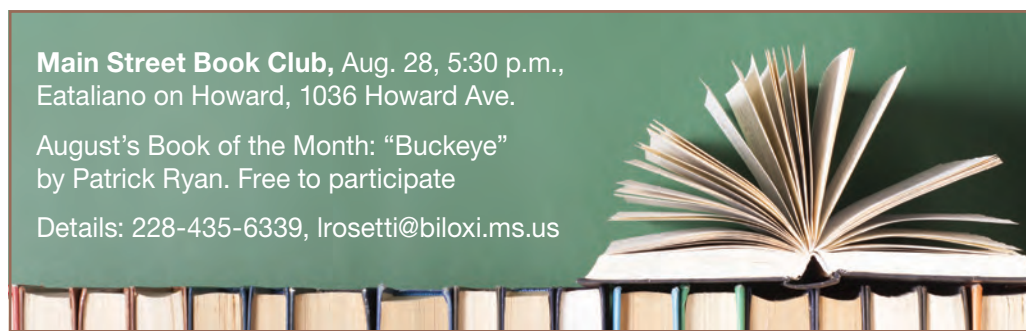


American Red Cross

Main Street Book Club, Aug. 28, 5:30 p.m., Eataliano on Howard, 1036 Howard Ave.

August's Book of the Month: "Buckeye" by Patrick Ryan. Free to participate

Details: 228-435-6339, Irosetti@biloxi.ms.us



Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony, Aug. 30, 3 p.m., Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. Inductee event
Attendees must RSVP. Details: 228-388-7170

First Friday Downtown Block Party, On Hiatus in August see you on September 4
Details: 228-435-6339

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 99th 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: City of Biloxi Downtown Services is responsible for collecting info 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 77295.

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, Instagram, Twitter (X), 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



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



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 children's overall well-being by age 5

Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, www.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 & \$20/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, www.biloxitourtrain.com

- Limited tours at this time. 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

- **Hurricane Katrina Red Cross Blood Drive,** August 25, Noon-6 p.m.

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 & Craft Market

625 Marina Dr., 228-377-2821, Giselle.alexander.ctr@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.org

- **Brain Waves Trivia Night Pool Party,** Aug. 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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.
- **Chip and Dip Bowls-Pottery Workshop,** Aug. 1, Noon-2 p.m. Make your own. All materials are included. Fee: \$75. Tickets: tinyurl.com/chipanddipatmaritime
- **"Treasurers in Clay-Coastal Pottery"** by Debra Justice. Exhibit open through Sept. 30.

MS Senior Games: (Events held throughout the year)

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

- No Biloxi events in August. Visit online at msseniorgames.com for more event info.

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

- Check the website for events and studio classes at OOMA!
- Many workshops and classes available <https://www.facebook.com/OhrOKeefeMuseum/events>
- **OOMA After Hours**, August 20, 5-7 p.m. Free

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

**Charles R. Hegwood Biloxi Community Market**

Corner of Howard Ave and Hopkins Blvd., 228-596-1360, biloxicmarket@yahoo.com

- Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., weather permitting.
- Visit Biloxi Community Market on Facebook

Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606

- **Friday Bingo**, Aug. 7, 14, 21, & 28 Doors open at 4 p.m.; Card sales at 5:30 p.m. Early bird games at 6:30 p.m.; and regular games at 7 p.m. Cash payouts. Concessions available. Kitchen open until 8 p.m.

Biloxi Saenger Theatre

170 Reynoir St., hello@biloxisaenger.com

- **Off the Hook Boxing Series 3**, Aug. 15, 7-10 p.m. Fees apply.

Biloxi Yacht Club

124 Lameuse St, 228-374-6344, sailing@biloxiyachtclub.org

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**, Aug. 14, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold at 7:15 p.m. \$25, dine-in or carry out. 228-392-9345

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

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

- **Coastal Live Oak Project**, Aug. 16, 2-4 p.m. Come hear Larry Tucei "Urban Forest Specialist," speaking on the "Coastal Live Oak Project". Free admission.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Monday Bingo**, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31. Doors open at 5 p.m., Early birds at 6:30 p.m., and regular games at 7 p.m.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

870 Howard Ave., 228-374-1717

- **Biloxi Bingo Mania**, Tuesday nights behind Nativity Cathedral; 871 Esters Blvd. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Early bird games at 6:30 p.m.; and regular games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Nativity BVM Catholic Elementary School. (Holidays may be closed.) Details: 228-374-6472

Lagniappe

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
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Shuckers vs Biscuits Keesler Federal Park City of Biloxi Football & Cheer Registration Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center Chip & Dip Bowls Pottery Workshop Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum Island Fights MMA Beau Rivage Brandon Bennett IP Casino Bag of Donuts Hard Rock Live
2 Shuckers vs Biscuits Keesler Federal Park	3 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	4 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	5 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	6 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing	7 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Bone Thugs-N-Harmony Beau Rivage Keesler Air Force Base Farmer's Market Marina Park	8
9	10 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	11 Community Market Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	12 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park	13 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park	14 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Steak Night – Joppa Shrine Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Little Wayne MS Coast Coliseum Gun & Knife Show MS Coast Coliseum	15 Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Off the Hook Boxing Series 3 Biloxi Saenger Bruce Bruce Beau Rivage Gun & Knife Show MS Coast Coliseum
16 Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Coastal Live Oak Project Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center	17 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	18 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	19 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	20 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing OOMA After Hours Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art	21 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Brain Waves Trivia Night Pool Party Salvation Army Kroc Center Lance Burton Master Magician & Friends Beau Rivage	22 Afterhours Music Coastal MS Mardi Gras Museum Becky Robinson IP Casino
23	24 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	25 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing American Red Cross 21st Annual Katrina Blood Drive Edgewater Mall Shuckers vs Smokies Keesler Federal Park Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	26 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing Shuckers vs Smokies Keesler Federal Park	27 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Shuckers vs Smokies Keesler Federal Park	28 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Shuckers vs Smokies Keesler Federal Park Main Street Book Club Eataliano Zebra 50 Hard Rock Live AnimeTown MS Coast Coliseum	29 Shuckers vs Smokies Keesler Federal Park Lauren Alaina Beau Rivage AnimeTown MS Coast Coliseum
30 Shuckers vs Smokies Keesler Federal Park Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony Biloxi Civic Center AnimeTown MS Coast Coliseum	31 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima					

Btv August 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!" Biloxi Bacon Brigade
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
8 a.m.	"R U Ready?"
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!" Biloxi Bacon Brigade
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
2 p.m.	"R U Ready?"
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!" Biloxi Bacon Brigade
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
8 p.m.	"R U Ready?"
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 Bacon Brigade Protects and Serves

This month on "Biloxi Cooks!", we visit the Biloxi Police Department's cooking team, the Biloxi Bacon Brigade, on location as they share the ins and outs of frying up one of their favorite Biloxi meals: fried shrimp, fish, and all the fixins.

Made up of officers and department personnel who share a passion for great Gulf Coast cooking, the team has become a familiar sight at community events throughout Biloxi. While protecting and serving is their daily mission, the Biloxi Bacon Brigade also enjoys bringing people together through good food.

Often preparing meals for hundreds at a time, the team exemplifies the teamwork, dedication, and community spirit that define the Biloxi Police Department. It's a reminder that some of Biloxi's best cooks can also be found wearing a badge!

"Biloxi Cooks!" airs at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m. daily throughout August. The presentation can also be viewed on the city's YouTube channel.

Here's the recipe featured in this month's episode of "Biloxi Cooks!"



This month's recipe:

Biloxi Cooks!: Gulf coast fried catfish & shrimp



A Mississippi Gulf Coast fish fry is hard to beat. Crispy fried catfish and golden shrimp make the perfect meal for family, friends, and any gathering around the table. Here's the recipe scaled down for a typical small family gathering.

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. catfish fillets
- 1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 2 tbsp. Cajun seasoning
- 1 tsp. each garlic powder, onion powder, and black pepper
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- Peanut or vegetable oil for frying

Preparation:

Heat oil to 350 degrees. Whisk together eggs and buttermilk. In a separate bowl, combine cornmeal, flour, and seasonings. Dip catfish and shrimp in the buttermilk mixture, then coat well with the cornmeal mixture. Fry catfish 5–7 minutes and shrimp 2–3 minutes, or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels and serve hot.

Serve with: Hush puppies, French fries, coleslaw, lemon wedges, tartar sauce, and cocktail sauce.

STILL STANDING

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

By Jane Shambra

While thinking about all the destruction and changes through the decades along Biloxi's shoreline, credit should certainly be given to those Biloxi structures that survived through the annals of time, through the pages of Biloxi history. Interestingly, all of these properties were located near the water's edge rather than farther inland, offering little protection from the shoreline.

Biloxi Lighthouse

The most iconic symbol of Biloxi is certainly the Biloxi Lighthouse. Located at the southeast corner of Porter and Hwy. 90, this 64-foot-high structure was built of cast iron in 1848 with federal funds. Metal sections were imported by boat from Maryland, and the bricks for its interior walls were manufactured locally. This massive project occurred before the passenger trains arrived in Biloxi.

Upon construction, it sat at the water's edge until the 1950s. This is when the present four-lane highway was constructed, allowing traffic to flow on both the north and south sides of the structure. Funding for this project included the design for the present 13-foot median (aka, neutral ground). In 1968, the City of Biloxi officially adopted this historic landmark.

Originally, the "Biloxi Light" was constructed to aid mariners in days before electricity, technology, and GPS systems. This landmark continues to aid in a different type of navigation: the status of vehicular traffic along Hwy. 90 can be viewed via the City's lighthouse camera. Visit online at biloxi.ms.us and click on the lighthouse at the top left.

Just north of the lighthouse stands the statue of Monsieur Pierre LeMoyné D'Iberville. In 1999, this work of art was sculpted by local artist Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson to commemorate Biloxi's 300th anniversary and has weathered all major storms since its

dedication. Monsieur is poised south, seemingly, to keep an eye on our iconic lighthouse.

Magnolia Hotel

Located in Biloxi's Rue Magnolia is the Magnolia Hotel. The original wooden structure was built around 1847 and set on the beachfront. It was constructed by John Hahn, a German immigrant, at an estimated cost of \$2,500. It was the perfect location for travelers whose steamboats docked just a block south of its location. It has been considered one of the oldest hotels on the Gulf Coast.

The entrance doorway originally faced the Mississippi Sound, but Hurricane Camille in 1969 was not kind to this historic lady. After that storm, a group of local citizens raised funds to restore and move the structure to higher ground.

Eventually, the City of Biloxi acquired the property. After Hurricane Katrina, the old Magnolia Hotel hosted the local Mardi Gras Museum. Later, it was repurposed as a restaurant and is currently under private ownership.

Gulf Towers

In 1962, the Gulf Towers apartment building opened in Biloxi on Hwy. 90 between Couevas Street and Hopkins Boulevard, just west of the Buena Vista Hotel (now the Beau Rivage parking garage) and overlooking the Mississippi Sound. This ten-story residential complex opened at a cost of about \$2,000,000.

It was built to withstand 200 miles per hour winds! Monthly rents ranged from \$115 to \$245 and included all utilities except telephones. Wall-to-wall carpets, fireproofing, window drapes, a grocery store, a garbage disposal plant, a swimming pool, and private parking were advertised as just a few of the amenities. Efficiency apartments, along with 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units,



Biloxi Lighthouse (top) and White House Hotel and Houses (center)



Magnolia Hotel Today

were available for occupancy. The Gulf Towers also housed a restaurant and beauty salon.

Hurricane Katrina rolled through its first and second floors, but the structure withstood massive damage. Today, we recognize the building as the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton.

Santa Maria

Just a few blocks away and located on Hwy. 90 between Elmer and Nixon streets was the Santa Maria Del Mar Apartment building. Completed at a cost of \$3.5 million, this 13-story complex opened in the summer of 1971 and was designed for seniors with moderate incomes. The rent included utilities, water, heat, and air-conditioning.

It was well-built and survived Hurricane Katrina. Today, we recognize this structure as Hotel Legends, a modern, musical venue just across the street from the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor.

White House Hotel

The history of this property emerges in about 1890 when Walter and Cora White began accepting travelers into their home. Business was booming then, and the Whites bought adjacent homes on Beach Boulevard to accommodate the onslaught of guests. It was the perfect location: nearby sandy beaches, beautiful sunsets, a pool on the south of the hotel, and a wonderful pier jutting into the Mississippi Sound.

In the 1920s, the famous White House Hotel fountain was built to the south of the hotel. The original design of this fountain was inspired by Walter White's trip up north to the General Electric plant in Massachusetts. It was electrically lit. Its 40-foot upward spray was first turned on in July 1920, utilizing 18 lights.

Today, the hotel, the outdoor pool, and the fountain are still proudly standing on Hwy. 90. Its 76 guest rooms and added amenities have provided a perfect home away from home for one of Biloxi's finest wedding event venues.

White Pillars



Gunston Hall, now White Pillars



Redding House Today

Today's White Pillars Restaurant has a history that goes back to 1905, when Dr. Hyman McMacken Folkes and his family occupied the structure as their family home. He named it "Gunston Hall." Dr. Folkes built this historic building at a cost of approximately \$14,000. It was constructed of solid masonry and handmade bricks. Its special features included a cellar and a stone fireplace in the living room made from ballast stones left on the nearby shores back in the 1800s by European ships passing through the nearby Mississippi Sound. Dr. Folkes is renowned as the founder of the nearby Biloxi Sanatorium with a corresponding pier over the Mississippi Sound, providing a facility for medical training personnel as well as a place to heal.

In later years, the White Pillars Restaurant opened, giving birth to the famous Eggplant Josephine specialty culinary dish.

After surviving Hurricane Katrina, a restoration project was initiated. In August 2014, the City of Biloxi awarded Mladinich Holding, LP corporation with an Excellence in Restoration Award.

Thus, Gunston Hall/White Pillars entered a new chapter in hurricane survival with its award-winning restaurant and chef. Still, today, the building maintains the atmosphere of years gone by.

Redding House

The Redding House is a residential gem located on Jackson Street within view of Biloxi City Hall. It was built in 1908 and occupied by the family of Charles Walter Redding, a prominent Biloxi businessman. It is said to be the last surviving mansion in Biloxi's downtown area. Its curved porches, crystal chandeliers, stained-glass windows, fireplaces, hurricane shutters, and fenced-in front yard are just a few of the home's historic features. The Redding family moved out of the house in 1998.

The 2.5-story home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This gem is still standing after all these years and is featured in the Discover Biloxi tour through Biloxi's website: <https://discover.biloxi.ms.us/redding-house/>.

Still Standing... the Biloxi Saenger Theatre (c. 1929)

Years ago, songwriter Art Garfunkel composed a song patterned upon the theme of this story: Still Crazy After All These Years. Released in 1975, the lyrics of this tune focus on nostalgia, change, and reflection on what once was. Amazingly, Garfunkel visited the Biloxi Saenger Theatre, solo, in June, 2006, bringing along his iconic music. He was aware that our Saenger was once a thriving movie theater, and he was looking forward to its absorbent acoustic materials like carpet, ceiling height, drapes, and types of walls that our historic structure provided for his concert, for the best quality sound.

Just another chapter in our Saenger's historic events.

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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