

BNews Monthly

JULY 2026

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



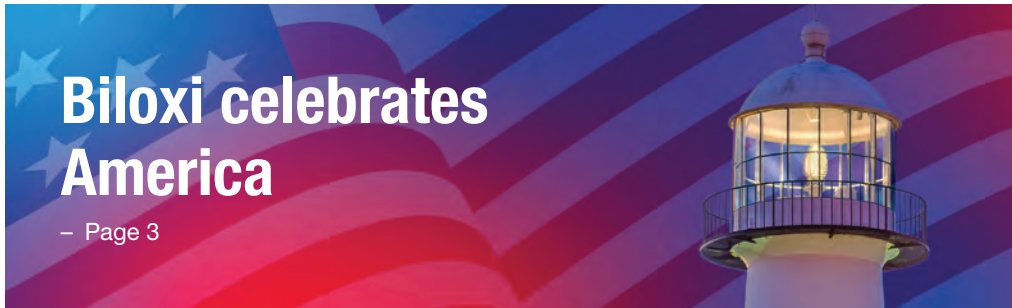
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ONCE UPON A TIME:
Gone but never forgotten
– Back in the Day, Pages 18-19



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Biloxi lights the night on Independence Day

Whether you're cheering at the ballpark or relaxing along the waterfront, Biloxi offers two opportunities to celebrate Independence Day with fireworks on Friday, July 4.

Fireworks at the ballpark

Start the holiday at Keesler Federal Park, where the Biloxi Shuckers will host their annual Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza following their game against the Chattanooga Lookouts. First pitch is scheduled for 6:35 p.m., with the team's largest fireworks display of the season taking place after the final out.

Fireworks over the Mississippi Sound

As the evening continues, one of the Gulf Coast's longest-running Independence Day traditions will once again illuminate the Mississippi Sound.

Beginning at 9 p.m., fireworks will launch from a barge near Deer Island, creating a spectacular display visible from much of the city's waterfront.

The best viewing areas are between the Biloxi Lighthouse and the Biloxi Bay Bridge, and at the Biloxi Town Green during the Biloxi Main Street's America250 event.

For five decades, the Boom Boom Committee has helped bring the community together to celebrate Independence Day. Founded by the late Tommy Munro and a group of civic-minded friends, the committee was created with a simple goal: ensuring Biloxi had a fireworks display to mark the Fourth of July.

Today, the tradition continues through a partnership between the Boom Boom Committee, the City of Biloxi, and the Harrison County Board of Supervisors.

Fireworks, usually a no-no

Did you know that it is unlawful to shoot fireworks within the city limits? It is... with a few exceptions. According to city ordinance, fireworks can only be shot on July 4 as well as December 31 after 6 p.m. through 1 p.m. on January 1, and the first, second, and third day of Tet only in conjunction with the Dragon Dance, which requires a special permit from the Biloxi Fire Department.

Biloxi's fireworks-free zone

No fireworks are allowed in this area



CELEBRATE AMERICA 250
IN BILOXI

STARS, STRIPES & SEAFOOD

Honoring Biloxi's Seafood Founding Fathers

LOPEZ ★ ELMER ★ MAYCOCK
GORENFLO ★ DUKATE

FRIDAY, JULY 3

5:30-7:30 P.M.

MARITIME & SEAFOOD INDUSTRY MUSEUM
115 E 1ST ST.



FREE ADMISSION ★ FOOD



FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE
SEAFOOD INDUSTRY REENACTMENTS
AT 6, 6:30 & 7 P.M.

RED, WHITE & Biloxi

An America 250 Celebration!

Saturday,
July 4th, 2026
5-9:30 p.m.

Free
Admission!

Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd.

★ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ★
Unfazed Show & Band

★ Biloxi Fireworks Spectacular ★



PLUS!

★ Arts & Crafts Vendors ★ Food Trucks & Beverages

★ Patriotic Music

★ DRAMATIC PRESENTATION:

"The Five Fathers of Biloxi's Seafood Industry"

228-435-6339 • mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us



Biloxi sees strong development growth

The City of Biloxi continues to see strong development activity, with Biloxi Community Development reporting millions of dollars in construction valuation permits issued last month alone.

The permits represent a mix of major commercial projects and significant renovation work across the city, reflecting continued investment and confidence in Biloxi's long-term growth.

Total construction valuation for 2026 currently stands at \$20 million, ahead of where the city was at this point last year.

Among the key projects is the new retail development for Sharkheads at 716 Beach Blvd., which will bring a newly constructed commercial space to one of the city's most visible corridors. Biloxi Public Schools is also moving forward with a new upper elementary school at 1610 Popp's Ferry Road,

expanding educational facilities for local students.

Healthcare development continues as well, with the new multi-phase medical development planned off of North Oaklawn Lane that will emphasize renewable energy, with buildings being powered primarily by solar energy.

In addition to new construction, existing properties are being improved, including renovations at Seashore Manor on Beach Boulevard. The Biloxi Housing Authority is undertaking a major improvement project by replacing nearly 300 windows to enhance energy efficiency and improve living conditions for residents.

Together, these projects highlight continued reinvestment across Biloxi's public and private sectors and reinforce the city's ongoing appeal as a place to live, work, and invest.



Biloxi Police welcomes six officers

The Biloxi Police Department recently held a swearing-in ceremony at the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center, where five new officers and one returning officer officially took the oath to protect and serve our community. These men and women have answered the call to public service with the Biloxi Police Department!



Photo caption: Left to right, Chief Chris De Back, Do Huynh, Christopher Peterson, Jacob Yamazato, Aden Burney, Christopher Ruiz, Kylene Lowe, and Assistant Chief Grandver Everett



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6TH ANNUAL

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY



Aug. 20–Oct. 15, 2026



6:30–8:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursdays

- Two-hour classes; Some extra days built in for make-up days (no classes week of Oct. 5-9)



Biloxi Police Training Center, 321 Division St.



Application deadline: July 30, 2026

- Applications available July 1-30 at Public Safety Center front desk and online at www.biloxi.ms.us/cpa
- Participants will be notified before class begins



Eligibility: Harrison County residents, age 21+



Space is Limited to 25! Apply TODAY!

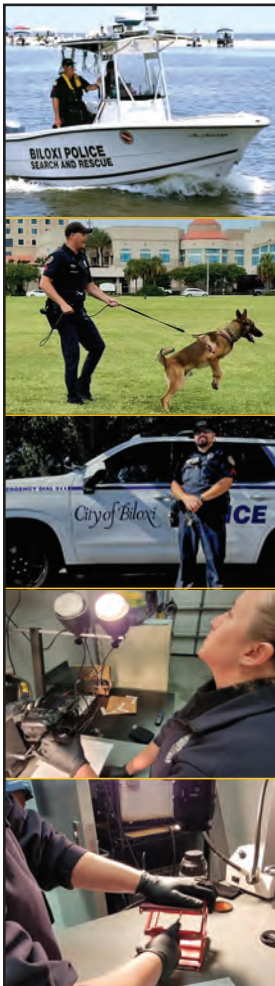


Contact Captain Sgt.
LeRoi Bloom weekdays:
☎ 228-435-6204
✉ lbloom@biloxi.ms.us

Visit online at biloxi.ms.us



Sign up for BMail at biloxi.ms.us
For B-Alerts, text BILOXI to 77295



Budget planning underway for next fiscal year

As we approach the start of a new fiscal year, the City of Biloxi is once again engaged in one of its most important annual responsibilities: developing a budget that balances the needs of today with the goals of tomorrow.



City departments are currently reviewing their budgets, evaluating operational needs, and identifying areas where adjustments can be made. This annual process allows us to carefully examine how taxpayer dollars are being spent while ensuring that essential services continue to meet the expectations of our residents.

In the coming weeks, the City Council and administration will participate in a series of public budget workshops. During these meetings, department budgets will be presented, discussed, and reviewed. The council may make adjustments before adopting the city's final budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins October 1.

I encourage residents to follow the process and stay informed. Budget workshop schedules and meeting agendas will be posted on the city's website under the City Council agenda section.

The budget process is one of the best examples of how Biloxi's executive and legislative branches work together. While city departments identify operational needs and future priorities, the council provides oversight and helps ensure that available resources are allocated responsibly.

Biloxi has many exciting projects planned for the future, along with ongoing infrastructure improvements and capital investments. However, every project requires funding, and we must balance those goals with the resources needed to maintain the day-to-day services residents depend on, including public safety, infrastructure maintenance, parks and recreation, and other essential city operations.

Through thoughtful planning and collaboration, we will continue working to provide quality services while investing in Biloxi's future.

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

Least Terns: Least Terns, the smallest of the tern species, migrate from Central and South America to lay eggs and raise their young on the Biloxi beachfront. Rope and signage mark the current nesting areas, signaling beachgoers to keep out. Help them thrive and leave them alone.

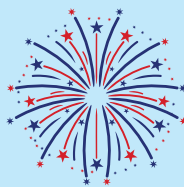
July is Parks and Recreation Month. The city has nearly two dozen parks throughout the city. So, get out and enjoy a park!



Trash reminder: Residents, remember to remove your trash carts from the street after collection days. According to city ordinance, the carts or "containers" should be removed by the owner, occupant, or lessee within 12 hours after they are emptied.

Trash/recycling: Keep up with holiday trash and recycling schedules through the Harrison County Utility Authority website and Facebook page. Visit online at hcu-a.ms.us.

Closings: All non-emergency City of Biloxi offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. The Biloxi Visitors Center will be open normal hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.





B-Alert

B-Alert is back with a new number



Text

BILOXI

to 77295

 Traffic Advisories
 Weather Advisories

City of Biloxi text messages will be coming from 77295 as well as 226787, 67283, and 78015.



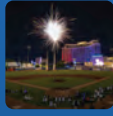
established 1699

See more at
biloxi.ms.us/b-alert

Sign up for BMail at biloxi.ms.us

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PROMOS & EVENTS



JULY 3RD & 4TH
FIREWORK SHOWS



JULY 29TH
BARK IN THE PARK



JULY 4TH
COMMEMORATIVE COIN GIVEAWAY



AUGUST 1ST
BEACH CHICKENS COOLER GIVEAWAY



JULY 5TH
PRINCESS NIGHT MEET & GREET



AUGUST 2ND
LUNCHBOX GIVEAWAY



JULY 18TH
CHRISTMAS JERSEY GIVEAWAY



JULY 19TH
BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

EARN MORE. WIN MORE. **UP TO \$1,000!**

JULY 1-31, 2026

EARN UP TO WIN MORE

THE MORE YOU PLAY THE MORE WE PAY

\$1,000!



Come play all you can in July – the more base points or table credits you earn the higher the FREE SLOT or TABLE PLAY reward up to **\$1,000!**

BIGGER PRIZES! BIGGER WINS!

REDEEM YOUR PRIZE
STARTING AUGUST 1 THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR.

Swipe at the kiosk for all the details.

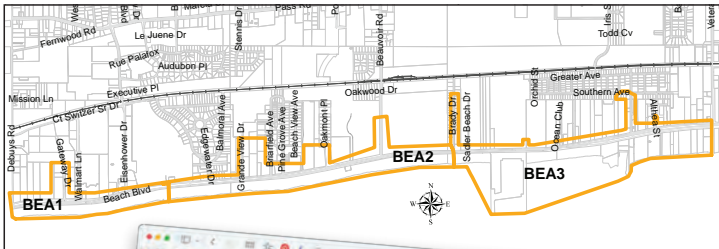


Infrastructure work in Biloxi

Project: BEA1, 2, & 3

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

Project to be completed by June 30, 2026.



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

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Record rainfall triggers flooding and rescues across Biloxi

A tropical weather system brought unexpected record rainfall to Biloxi last month, causing widespread flooding, dozens of water rescues, and hazardous conditions throughout the city.

Beginning in mid-June, heavy rain quickly overwhelmed drainage systems, flooding streets, neighborhoods, and low-lying areas across Biloxi. The storm created some of the most challenging flooding conditions the city has experienced in recent years. Biloxi Fire Department crews responded to approximately 38 water-rescue incidents in the city. They also assisted Harrison County with two additional rescue operations. Reports indicate firefighters rescued approximately 50 people and 12 animals from rising floodwaters.

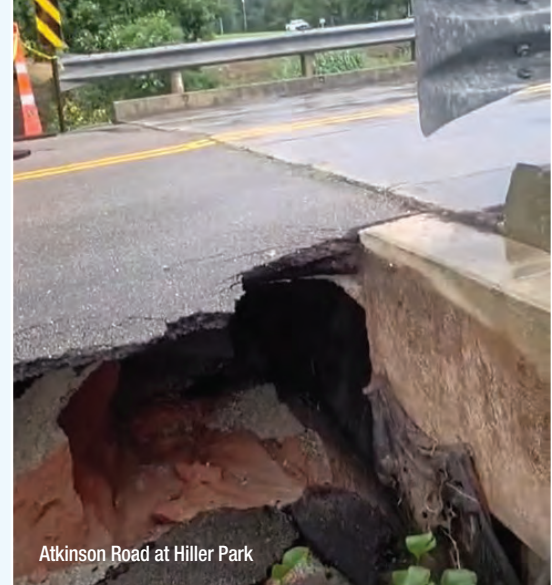
The most significant flooding in the Woolmarket area occurred along Woolmarket Lake Road, Shirene Lane, Snug Harbor Drive, and John Lee Road. In southern Biloxi, flooding impacted numerous neighborhoods and streets, including the Tanglewood subdivision, Jim Money Road, Floyd Drive, Dewayne Drive,

Driftwood Drive, Tanglewood Drive, Benachi Avenue, Division Street, and portions of Beach Boulevard. Damage to culvert infrastructure at Jim Byrd Road in Woolmarket and Atkinson Road in Hiller Park required these roads to be closed until repairs are made.

First responders said one of the greatest challenges was keeping motorists off flooded roadways during periods of intense rainfall.

Throughout the storm, Biloxi firefighters, police officers, public works employees, emergency dispatchers, and other city personnel worked tirelessly to protect lives and property. Multiple B-Alert notifications were issued to warn residents about dangerous travel conditions and encouraged drivers to avoid flooded streets. These efforts helped ensure rapid response to emergencies while maintaining public safety during rapidly changing conditions.

As floodwaters receded, city crews assessed damage, cleared debris, and restored normal operations. Barricades were placed where road conditions were unsafe for travel.



Atkinson Road at Hiller Park



Garden Park Drive underwater
Photo credit: Tricia Jacobs



Jim Byrd Road



Jim Byrd Road

Severe Weather Safety Plan:

- Gather supplies and make a disaster/storm kit.
- Trim back dead or weak branches from trees that could threaten your home or business.
- Confirm your flood insurance policy is current and adequate.
- Develop an emergency communications plan in case family members are separated.
- Know your evacuation zone and route. Plan for alternate routes and travel time.
- Make arrangements for pets. Contact your local humane society for more info on shelters that accept pets.
- For storm tips, visit online at biloxi.ms.us/stormandflood.

B-Alert: For on-the-go traffic and weather advisories, text BILOXI to 77295.

New manager to oversee Charles R. Hegwood Community Market

The Charles R. Hegwood Community Market will begin operating under new management July 1, with longtime vendor Bonny Pesch assuming the role of market manager and promoter through a professional services agreement with the City of Biloxi.

Pesch was selected following a request for proposals issued in May and will officially assume management duties on July 1. The market will continue to operate Tuesdays and Thursdays with the hours of 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., weather permitting, beneath the Interstate 110 overpass at the corner of Hopkins Boulevard and Howard Avenue.

A familiar face to market patrons, Pesch has been a vendor at the market for many years and stepped forward to oversee the program as the city sought a new approach to managing the longtime community gathering place.

The transition follows an evaluation by the Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department, which has overseen the market for years by assigning a staff member to leave the office twice each week to manage operations on-site. City officials determined the arrangement cost the department approximately \$14,000 annually and placed additional



Bonny Pesch

demands on office staff.

Because the city does not have a dedicated market manager position, officials determined that contracting with a private manager would provide a more efficient way to operate the market while allowing Parks & Recreation staff to focus on departmental responsibilities.

The Charles R. Hegwood Community Market has been a city program since the late 1970s and remains a popular destination for residents and visitors. In December 1995, the City Council renamed the Biloxi Farmers Market in honor of Charles R. Hegwood, the market's first manager and a longtime teacher and coach at Notre Dame High School.

More recently, Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich updated the name to the Charles R. Hegwood Community Market to better reflect the variety of products offered by vendors, which extend beyond locally grown fruits and vegetables.

While management is changing, the market will continue serving the community much as it has for decades, providing a place for local vendors and customers to gather, shop, and support small businesses.

We cannot sweep our problems down the drain!



Wade Guice, the legendary Civil Defense director, used to say that we live in paradise 350 days a year and we put up with some bad weather a few of those other days.

We've certainly been enduring a lot of "those other days" over the past few weeks, with torrential downpours, ad nauseam. But there is a message in this water-logged mess.

The very things that make our community the alluring place that it is – our proximity to the water and living in a city that has 243 miles of waterfront (yes, you read that right) – means that we must take steps to protect ourselves and our neighbors from flooding.

Do not pile loose leaves on the curb or sidewalk. Bag

leaves! Do not blow grass clippings into the street. They will end up in the storm drain where they will compromise the city's drainage systems.

Allowing this to happen means we don't care. We must care. It's up to property owners, residents, business owners, lawn care companies and grass cutters in general to work together to make our community a better place. A beautiful place.

Please do your part, and if you see a violation – illegal dumping or grass being blown into the street – contact B-Connect at 228-435-6271 or biloxi.ms.us/bconnect.



Keep Biloxi Beautiful

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

biloxi.ms.us/beautification

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with the Shuckers!

South Division Champions set for 12 games at Keesler Federal Park

By Javik Blake
Biloxi Shuckers



After winning the First Half in the South Division, the Biloxi Shuckers continue their season with 12 games at Keesler Federal Park in June, including matchups against the Chattanooga Lookouts (Cincinnati Reds), Pensacola Blue Wahoos (Miami Marlins), and Montgomery Biscuits (Tampa Bay Rays). The schedule includes games on July 3 and 4 at Keesler Federal Park, as the Shuckers celebrate America's 250th birthday. Fans should also be on the lookout for Southern League Divisional Series tickets, as the Shuckers will host games two and three (if necessary) on Thursday, September 17, and Friday, September 18. Make sure to visit the Corona Premier Tiki Bar, right field beach area, and Schooner's Splash Zone presented by Gulf Breeze Landscaping, with access included with your ticket!

On Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4, the Shuckers will host their annual Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza, the largest show of the season! On July 4, it's a night of patriotic fun as the first 1,000 fans will receive an America 250 Commemorative Coin.

Sunday, July 5, is the return of Princess Night with an enchanted Sunday at Keesler Federal Park. Arrive early for meet-and-greet opportunities with your favorite princess throughout the game. A fearless island wayfinder is also sailing in for a special appearance.

The Shuckers return from the All-Star Break with Christmas in July on Saturday, July 18. Fans can celebrate Christmas with the Shuckers with a Shuckers-themed ugly sweater replica jersey for the first 1,000 fans by Colonial Trailways.



The first 500 fans 14 and under will receive a Shuckers Backpack for Back to School Night on Sunday, July 19.

On Tuesday, July 28, be one of the first 250 fans and receive a Shuckers patriotic-themed T-shirt presented by The Peoples Bank.

Fans can also bring their favorite four-legged friends to the game on Wednesday, July 29. Pups and their owners can hang out in designated dog-friendly sections 117 and 119 throughout the ballpark.

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 designs on June 16, presented by Coca-Cola, and June 30, presented by Daigle A/C and Heating. 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.

► 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.

BILOXI CELEBRATED 42 YEARS AS A TREE CITY

By Susan Peterson, Chairperson, City of Biloxi Tree Committee

The City of Biloxi has once again earned the distinction of being recognized as a Tree City USA, marking an impressive 42 consecutive years of participation in the Arbor Day Foundation program. This achievement was presented at the Biloxi City Council meeting on June 16. This reflects the city's longstanding commitment to preserving and enhancing its urban environment and is a milestone that all Biloxians can celebrate.

Biloxi is among the oldest continuous recipient of this award.

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich commemorated the occasion by reading a proclamation about this great achievement following the presentation of the Tree City USA Flag by MS Forestry Commission Urban and Community Partnership Coordinator Loren Erickson. We are hopeful it will be prominently displayed in our beautiful City.

Qualifications are required and must be submitted to the MS Forestry Management each year. We are lucky to have Erickson as our Coastal representative. He travels along the Coast assisting local cities and helping identify available grants and resources.

These are the requirements for this award, and are carried out by the City of Biloxi.

1. We have to have a Tree Board or Committee that is responsible and has meetings about our trees.
2. We have to have Tree Care Ordinances that grant legal authority for planting, maintaining, and removing trees on City and private property.
3. We have to spend \$2 per person annually.
4. We have an Arbor Day function, giving away trees.



Director Jerry Creel, Loren Erikson, Susan Peterson, and Mayor Gilich during the proclamation presentation

All of these qualifications are forwarded through the MS Forestry Commission Urban and Community Partnership Coordinator. We should all be proud that our City of Biloxi does an outstanding job for our TREES.

The meetings of the City of Biloxi Tree Committee are open to the public and are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Community Development, 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in the large conference room. Go to our City of Biloxi website and check out the Tree Committee information listed under the Community Development tab.

Biloxi Pulse

Celebrating America and Biloxi

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

From sea to shining sea, the USA will be celebrating on July 4. Yes, it's our nation's Semi-quintennial, as America turns 250! Here in Biloxi, we are readying the red, white, and blue decorations and preparing an extra special Fourth of July holiday. Here is the schedule of events:

On July 3, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the **Stars, Stripes & Seafood Honoring Biloxi's Seafood Founding**

Fathers event takes place at the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, 115 East First St. This event includes free admission to the museum, great Biloxi seafood, and a dramatic portrayal featuring the five founding fathers of Biloxi's seafood industry. There will be three performances, one on each level of the museum at 6:00, 6:30, and 7:00 p.m.

On July 4, from 5-9:30 p.m., the **Red, White & Biloxi – An America250 Celebration!** event takes place on the Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. The admission is free to this spectacular celebration. There will be food trucks, ice-cold beverages, arts and crafts vendors, and the dramatic presentation of the founding fathers of Biloxi's Seafood Industry. The headliner will be Unfazed Show & Band, so get ready to dance the evening away. The annual Fourth of July Fireworks will take place at 9 p.m. over the Mississippi Sound. The Biloxi Town Green is the ultimate place to watch, as there will be two fireworks shows visible. The Biloxi Shuckers will have an exhibition to the west of the Town Green, and the City's annual show will be to the southeast. Both events are made possible through grants from



America250 Mississippi and Mississippi Humanities.

Biloxians have had some very memorable Fourth of July celebrations through the decades. In 1838, Creole cottages dotted the Biloxi shoreline. They were fairly new, and the only way a visitor could lodge in Biloxi; there were no hotels on the entire coast of Mississippi. Both Rene Lameuse and Jean Chavalier Delauney placed advertisements in the Times-Picayune newspaper to entice wealthy New Orleanians to visit Biloxi for July 4. Those first ads touted the "sea, sun, seafood, and sunsets." Those

ads worked like a charm, and the visitors began what would become annual beach trips to Biloxi. They are still coming to this very day! This was the birth of Biloxi's hospitality industry.

By 1925, the Biloxi Elks took the lead on Fourth of July celebrations with the ELK-PAT, a regionally attended event that included the Miss Biloxi bathing beauty contest, regattas, dances held on twinkle-lit pavilions and the Marathon Swim, which was an unbelievable show of human strength in the form of a 14-mile swim from the Biloxi pier located at the foot of Cuevas Street all the way to the Isle of Caprice (Dog Key Island). The ELK-PAT was so popular, L&N added a special line just to bring visitors from places like Memphis, Mobile, and New Orleans.

For the last five decades, the Boom-Boom Committee has coordinated the Independence Day fireworks in the City of Biloxi. The event has grown into one of the largest displays between Baton Rouge and Jacksonville. Come and celebrate the birth of our great nation and the origins of Biloxi, a true American city!

Random Notes



TIME CAPSULE:

Remembering the Hurricane of 1947

The Hurricane of 1947 left a lasting impact on Biloxi long before modern disaster-response agencies existed. At the time, hurricanes were identified only by the year they struck, and residents faced recovery efforts without assistance from FEMA or the organized emergency resources available today.

This historic photograph highlights several challenges that continue to accompany hurricanes: flooding, transportation hazards, and widespread debris. Floodwaters can damage homes and businesses while carrying contaminants and other health risks. Debris from trees, buildings, and personal belongings can create dangerous conditions for travelers, especially when roads have been weakened by storm damage.

The image serves as a reminder that while hurricane forecasting and emergency response have improved dramatically over the decades, the dangers posed by flooding, damaged infrastructure, and storm debris remain significant concerns for coastal communities.



Remembering Karen Sock

The Mississippi Gulf Coast continues to honor the life and legacy of Karen Sock, an accomplished business leader, mentor, and community advocate who passed away on April 15, 2026.

Throughout her remarkable career, Karen dedicated herself to creating opportunities for others, strengthening organizations, and improving communities across Mississippi and beyond.

As President and CEO of Sock Enterprises, Inc., Karen worked with businesses, nonprofits, and government organizations to promote strategic planning, leadership development, board governance, fundraising, and Cultural History & Humanity/Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training. Her expertise and passion for helping others grow made her a trusted advisor and respected leader throughout the region.

Karen was also a pioneer in the gaming industry. In 1996, she made history when she became General Manager of the Original Harrah's Casino in Tunica, Mississippi, becoming the nation's first African American woman to lead a full-service casino for a major gaming company. Her achievement opened doors for future generations of women and minority leaders in the industry.

Believing strongly in the power of education and workforce development, Karen co-founded Pathways2Possibilities (P2P). This innovative career exploration initiative has connected more than 135,000 students across Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Tennessee with future career opportunities. Through P2P, thousands of young people gained exposure to professions and industries that helped shape their educational and career paths.

Her commitment to service extended into numerous leadership roles. Karen served as Board Chair of The National Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute at Tradition, a board member of the East Central Harrison County Public Utility District and Renaissance Community Loan Fund, and Chair of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Coastal Coalition MP3C. Through these organizations, she championed initiatives focused on health, economic development, education, and community well-being.

Those who knew Karen remember not only her professional accomplishments but also her kindness, generosity, and unwavering belief in others' potential. She inspired countless individuals through her mentorship, encouragement, and dedication to making a difference wherever she served.

Karen Sock leaves behind a legacy of leadership, courage, kindness, love, and purpose. Her impact will continue to be felt through the organizations she strengthened, the students she inspired, and the communities she helped build. Her personal motto, "Keep Going, Keep Growing, Keep Living, Keep Giving," remains a lasting reflection of the life she lived and the example she set for generations to come.



JULY TRIVIA: Movie Mania



By Jane Shambra

What is a drive-in? It's generally described as an establishment, such as a movie theater or restaurant, where patrons can visit without ever leaving their cars.

What is a drive-in movie theater? It's an outdoor theater where people watch movies from their parked cars, all facing a giant screen. Sound was originally delivered through a speaker mounted beside each parking space and later broadcast through the car's FM radio.

Did the Biloxi peninsula ever have drive-in movie theaters? Yes. There were several: The Do, The Don, and The Beach.

Where was the Do Drive-in? Biloxi's Do Drive-in was located on Pass Road in West Biloxi, where the Neighborhood Walmart is today. It was opened in 1948 and closed in 1978.

Where was the Don Drive in? Biloxi's Don Drive-In was described as being located between Gulfport and Biloxi. It opened in 1956, closed in 1976, and was accessible by Hwy 90. The site later became the United Artists Theater, which was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Today, Biloxi's Super Walmart store occupies the north side of that property.

Where was the Beach Drive-In? The Beach Drive-In was located on Hwy 90 just west of Veterans Avenue. It was incorporated in 1949. Fog and constant hurricane damage finally closed this establishment. The screens were destroyed by Hurricane Elena in 1985. A Cajun RV and travel trailer camp now occupies this drive-in site.

What movies were played at Mary's Drive, and where was it located? Mary's Drive-In was not a movie theater. It is fondly remembered as one of the best diners in East Biloxi and was located near the northwest intersection of Division and Lee streets.

Where was the Avenue Theater? It was located on Howard Avenue between Magnolia and Delauney streets, next to the current Neel-Schaffer Engineering office. It operated from 1949 to 1977. The Avenue Theater was constructed of steel and brick, seated approximately 1,000 people, and was owned and managed by Henry Meyer. An empty lot is all that remains of this once-popular movie theater.

What store was demolished to make way for the Biloxi Premiere Lux Cinema? The cinema, which opened in 2018, stands on the former site of the Sears department store.

What movie did Elvis Presley see at the Saenger Theatre in the summer of 1956? Elvis and June Juanico went to the Biloxi Saenger to see "The King and I."

Which casinos had a movie theater? IP Casino once had a six-screen theater, and Boomtown Casino featured the Dynamic Motion Theater.

What was the Airdome? It was an outdoor venue, which opened in 1909, and sat over 1200 people. The theater hosted vaudeville acts, political speeches, and silent films on a movie screen. It was east of Nativity Catholic Church at the corner of Howard Avenue and Fayard Street, on a lot measuring 122 by 140 feet. Harry Haise (Fred Haise's dad) was the carpenter for the wooden seating!

What is the name of the 1998 military comedy-drama movie that was based on the adventures of a United States Army trainee at Keesler Field in Biloxi? "Biloxi Blues," starring Matthew Broderick. The plot of this successful movie was inspired by the 1994 play by Neil Simon.

Biloxi Shuckers Baseball



Keesler Federal Park
105 Caillavet St.

Shuckers Home Games:

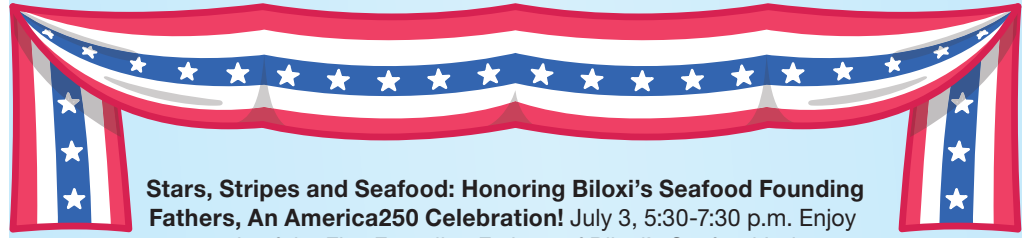
- Chattanooga Lookouts
July 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5
- Pensacola Blue Wahoos,
July 17, 18, & 19
- Montgomery Biscuits
July 28, 29, 30, & 31
- Visit online at biloxishuckers.com for the full schedule and ticket information.



Biloxi Public Schools Registration Details

- **Online Pre-Registration, through July 10.**
- **On-Site Residency Verification for All Students, July 7-10, various times, Biloxi High School, 1845 Tribe Drive.**
- **Last Day to Register, July 10, at 3 p.m., Biloxi High School, 1845 Tribe Drive.**
- **Late Registration Begins, July 30, Biloxi High School, 1845 Tribe Drive.**

Details: <https://biloxischools.net/>



Stars, Stripes and Seafood: Honoring Biloxi's Seafood Founding Fathers, An America250 Celebration! July 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Enjoy portrayals of the Five Founding Fathers of Biloxi's Seafood Industry.

Refreshments served. Free Admission. Details: 228-435-6254.

Red, White & Biloxi, An America250 Celebration, July 4, 5-9:30 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Patriotic music, dramatic presentation (Five Founding Fathers of the Biloxi Seafood Industry), great food vendors, Fly Llama beverages, and headline: Unfazed Show & Band! Stay for the best view of the fireworks! Free admission.

Details: 228-435-6339

Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza, July 4, 9 p.m.

Visible from beachfront areas between Biloxi Lighthouse and Biloxi Bay Bridge. The annual spectacle is hosted by the Boom Boom Committee and sponsored by the City of Biloxi and Harrison County Board of Supervisors.



Take a Fireworks Cruise Aboard a Biloxi Schooner,

July 4, 7-9:30 p.m. Schooner Pier, 367 Beach Blvd. Admission: \$45 per adult; \$25 for children (ages 3-12). Details: 228-435-6320



11th Annual Immunization Fair for School-Aged Children, July 7 & 8, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Biloxi High Sports Arena, 1845 Tribe Dr. Open to returning students and school-aged children from out-of-state schools registering for the first time in Mississippi. Must have insurance card, photo ID, and shot record (for immunization form 121). Details: Susan Hunt, 228-297-6808; Coastal Family Health, 228-374-4991; or Biloxi Public Schools, 228-374-1810

Walking Trail Cleanup Day, July 11, 8 a.m., Point Cadet Plaza at the George Lawrence Pavilion. Garage bags and work gloves will be provided. Details: Biloxi City Councilman Wayne Gray, 228-327-8383

George Ohr's Birthday Celebration, July 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Ohr O'Keefe Museum of Art, 386 Beach Blvd. Join OOMA for George Ohr's 169th birthday celebration with art, music, food, and hands-on fun for all ages. Details: 228-374-5547



Salvation Army Sunset Run, July 18, 6:30 p.m., Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, 151 Beach Blvd. 5K and 10K runs will start and end at the Golden Nugget. Awards will be given to the overall male and female winners, as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age group. Prizes awarded for the best 80s looks! Registration fee: adults (18+) \$25, youth \$20. Details: <https://krocmscoast.org/KrocMSCoasat/events/>



Bike Biloxi, July 21, 6 p.m.; 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

Main Street Book Club, July 23, 5 p.m., Acropolis Greek Restaurant, 871 Howard Ave. This month's selection is "The Silent Corner" by Dean Koontz. Details: 228-435-6339

22nd Annual Martini Shakedown benefiting Make-A-Wish Mississippi, July 25, 6-11 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort, Magnolia Ballroom, 875 Beach Blvd., featuring martinis, gourmet treats, live music by Voodoo Gumbo, silent and live auctions, and a raffle. Admission: \$100 per person. Must be 21 or older to attend. Details: onecau.se/shakedown or 228-575-8691 or smoses@ms.wish.org

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 98th 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
• **The Crucible**
July 23-26



Center Stage
2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258
centerstagebiloxi.com
• **Come From Away**
July 16-19 and 22-26

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.
- 11th Annual Immunization Fair for School-Aged Children, July 7 & 8
- 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

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 \$25 (ages 3-12)

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

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

Biloxi Tour Train

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

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum

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

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

Edgewater Mall

2600 Beach Blvd., 288-388-3424

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

- **Salvation Army Sunset Run**, July 18, 6:30 p.m., Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino

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

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

- **Sea-N-Sail Adventure Camp 2026 registration is now open.** Forms can be found at www.maritimemuseum.org. Camp Session (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) June 1-July 24 for ages 6-12. Various dates for specific ages
- **“Coastal Grace: Light and Life on the Gulf Coast”** by Linda Kimble Fayard, April 4-June 30. View the elegant and vibrant works on display in the Joe Moran Gallery on the 3rd floor of the museum. Pieces available for purchase.

MS Senior Games: (Events held throughout the year)Open to registered participants age 50 and older at various locations throughout the coast. Spectators welcome. www.mseniorgames.com**Biloxi events in July:**

- **Pickleball**, July 24-26, various times, The Picklr, 2649 Pass Road

Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org

- **Yoga & Sound, July 1, 10-11 a.m.**, Yoga mats provided; \$11 for members, \$22 for non-members
- **Date Night Wheel**, July 3 & 17, 6-8 p.m.
- **Mud Daubers Summer Art Camp**, July 6-10. Ages 10-14, \$100-\$250
- **Celebrate George Ohr’s Birthday**, July 11, 228-374-5547
- Many workshops available. See event page at georgeohr.org to sign up

West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum1046 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**, July 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31. 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.

Biloxi Yacht Club124 Lameuse St, 228-374-6344, sailing@biloxiyachtclub.org

- **BYC Sunday Morning Beach Yoga**, July 12, 8-9 a.m., \$15 per person
- **BYC Paint & Sip**, July 16, 6-9 p.m., \$35 per person, drink included

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**, July 10, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold 7:15 p.m. \$25, dine-in or carry-out. 228-392-9345

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

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

Details: 228-438-4636

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Monday Bingo

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Monday Bingo**, July 6, 13, 20, and 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

Saenger Theatre170 Reynoir St., hello@biloxisaenger.com**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 StreetPromoting, 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
28	29	30 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing	1 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing Yoga & Sound Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Shuckers vs Lookouts Keesler Federal Park Shrek The Musical Beau Rivage	2 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Shuckers vs Lookouts Keesler Federal Park Shrek The Musical Beau Rivage	3 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Farmers Market – Marina Park Date Night Wheel – OOMA Shuckers vs Lookouts Keesler Federal Park Stars, Stripes & Seafood: An America250 Celebration Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum Jay Dupuis – Hard Rock	4  Red, White & Biloxi: An America250 Celebration Biloxi Town Green Shuckers vs Lookouts Keesler Federal Park Independence Day Fireworks Extravaganza Fireworks Cruise Biloxi Schooner
5 Shuckers vs Lookouts Keesler Federal Park	6 Mud Daubers Summer Art Camp Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	7 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing Immunization Fair Biloxi High Sports Arena Mud Daubers Art Camp Biloxi Schools Residency Verification Biloxi High Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	8 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing Immunization Fair Biloxi High Sports Arena Biloxi Schools Residency Verification Biloxi High Mud Daubers Summer Art Camp Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art	9 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Biloxi Schools Residency Verification Biloxi High Mud Daubers Summer Art Camp Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art	10 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Steak Night – Joppa Shrine Biloxi Schools Online Registration, Regular Registration and Residency Verification Last Day Mud Daubers Summer Art Camp Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art	11 Walking Trail Clean-UP Point Cadet Plaza George Lawrence Pavilion George Ohr's Birthday Celebration Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art
12 Sunday Morning Beach Yoga Biloxi Yacht Club	13 Derrick Stroup IP Casino Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	14 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	15 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing	16 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Come From Away Center Stage Paint & Sip Biloxi Yacht Club	17 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Come From Away Center Stage Date Night Wheel Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Femmes of Rock Hard Rock	18 Salvation Army Sunset Run Golden Nugget Casino Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Come From Away Center Stage Great White & Vixen IP Casino Gulf Coast Big Rig Truck Show MS Coast Coliseum
19 Shuckers vs Blue Wahoos Keesler Federal Park Come From Away Center Stage	20 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	21 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	22 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing Come From Away Center Stage	23 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Come From Away Center Stage Main Street Book Club Acropolis Greek Restaurant The Crucible Biloxi Little Theatre	24 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge Come From Away Center Stage The Crucible Biloxi Little Theatre	25 Martini Shakedown benefiting Make-A-Wish Beau Rivage Magnolia Ballroom Come From Away Center Stage The Crucible Biloxi Little Theatre
26 The Crucible Biloxi Little Theatre Come From Away Center Stage	27 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	28 Community Market Trivia Night Fly Llama Brewing Shuckers vs Biscuits Keesler Federal Park Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	29 Trivia Night Altered Reality Brewing Shuckers vs Biscuits Keesler Federal Park	30 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Shuckers vs Biscuits Keesler Federal Park Biloxi Schools Late Registration Begins	31 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Shuckers vs Biscuits Keesler Federal Park	1

BTV July 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!" Cooking with the Crew Encore Presentation
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
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!" Cooking with the Crew Encore Presentation
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
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!" Cooking with the Crew Encore Presentation
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
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.

Encore: Fourth of July recipes from "Biloxi Cooks!"

Summer is here, and that's the perfect time for gathering friends and family for some good homestyle eats. This month on "Biloxi Cooks!", we have an encore presentation of the City of Biloxi employee favorites, just in time for your patriotic celebration.

"Biloxi Cooks!" airs at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m. daily throughout July. The presentation can also be viewed on the city's YouTube channel. Here's one of the recipes featured in this month's episode of "Biloxi Cooks!"



This month's recipe:

Homemade Southern Banana Pudding

Ingredients:

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (5 oz) box instant vanilla pudding mix
- 3 cups milk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 (8 oz) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (11 oz) box Nilla Wafers
- 5-7 bananas, sliced

Preparation:

1. Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sweetened condensed milk, pudding mix, milk, and vanilla; mix until well combined.
2. Fold in half of the whipped topping.
3. In a trifle dish or 9x13-inch pan, layer Nilla Wafers, bananas, and pudding mixture. Repeat for three total layers.
4. Spread remaining whipped topping over the top.
5. Cover and refrigerate for 1–2 hours before serving to allow the pudding to set and the wafers to soften.

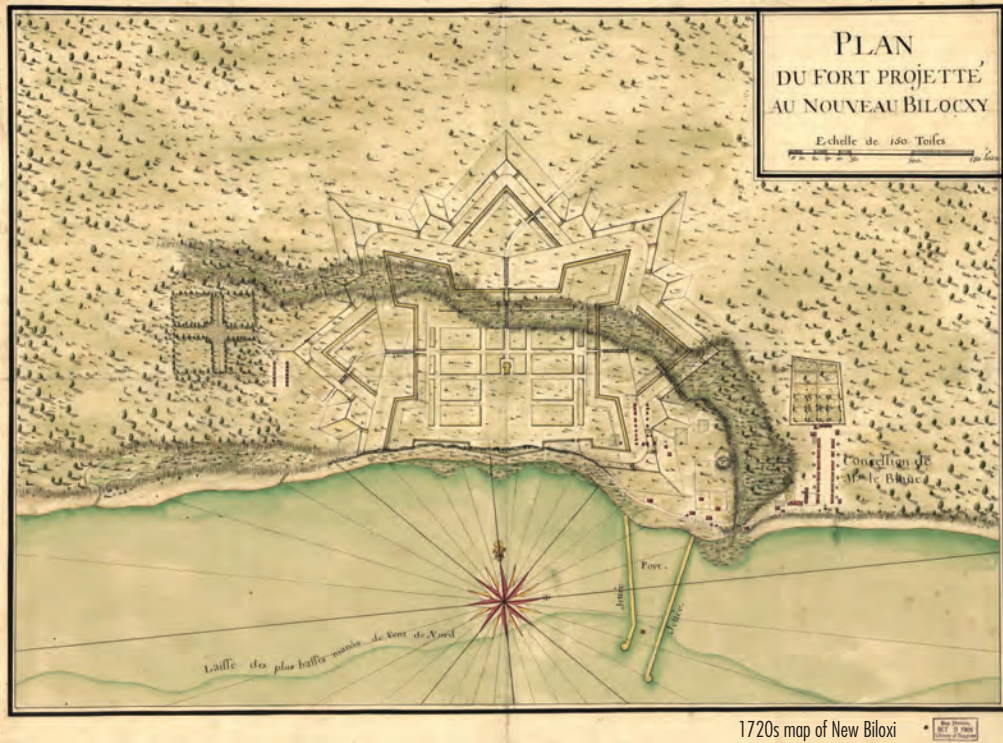
A classic, creamy banana pudding that's perfect for family gatherings, potlucks, and holidays.

once upon a time

Gone but never forgotten

The chapters in Biloxi's amazing history have many factual stories of places, buildings, and events that are no longer here. Their disappearances have been caused by many factors, not just hurricanes.

By Jane Shambra



1720s map of New Biloxi

New Biloxi

In the early 1700s, New Biloxi (sometimes called Fort St. Louis) was planned to be the capital of the Louisiana territory. That first Biloxi settlement was scheduled to be built at the intersection of Hwy. 90 and Porter Avenue. Unfortunately, many factors led officials in France to decide that an inland location (i.e., New Orleans) would be best. Hurricanes, disease, and poor soil were some of the many factors that contributed to this decision.



Back in the early days, several major storms devastated this new and delicate community. There were no warnings of the impending danger of hurricanes. Once the hurricanes arrived, the devastation was unbearable. Several historical journals describe the wrath of the Hurricane of 1722. Not only was the existing simple housing destroyed, but the stored food, crops, boats, seeds,

tools, animals, and people also perished. Even though Biloxi was situated on a major waterway, the chore of transporting people, food, and supplies from Ship Island was time-consuming and risky. Thus, the inland location of New Orleans was established as the seat of government.

We know little about the first residents of New Biloxi. A 1720 drawing by John-Baptiste Michel LeBouteux, penned the planned village of New Biloxi. One of

the listed officials was the business manager, Elias Stultheus. Some historians suggest that Monsieur Elias was of Jewish descent. There is even mention of him bringing along the first wheelchair to the New World. Recent research suggests that Monsieur Elias was actually buried under the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans in 1721. Church records there simply list him as the Royal Director of the Law Concessions, and it is the oldest burial recorded there. Could this be New Biloxi's Elias?

Old Fayard House

As time went on, Biloxi's housing construction improved. By the 1800s, the simple huts made of local bamboo and palmetto leaves gave way to sturdier structures built with bousillage, a mixture of moss and mud. The Old Fayard House, once located north of today's Biloxi Visitors Center, featured this construction. Unfortunately, time and hurricanes caused the old house to become unstable, and it was demolished in the 1930s.



Chalet Boulo

In the early 1800s, Charles DeJean arrived in Biloxi in the vicinity of the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor via a small packet boat. These small vessels were utilized to transport mail, people, and goods to coastal towns. Mr. DeJean was so enamored by the charm of Biloxi that he built a quaint hotel on the west side of Magnolia Street (between Water and Jackson Streets) and called it Chalet Boulo. It took up the entire block and complemented the nearby Magnolia Hotel, the Spanish House, and the French House (now Mary Mahoney's). It even had a shoo-fly for its guests to lounge in and enjoy the breezes of the Gulf. Unfortunately, the "big fire" of 1900 destroyed this quaint and magical hotel.

Today, the Rue Magnolia Bed and Breakfast proudly stands near the footprint of Chalet Boulo, still offering guests the same opportunity to enjoy cool, Gulf breezes from its porch.

The Gillis Vance House

Once located in the path of the I-110 overpass by Hwy. 90, Biloxi's Gillis Vance house was built in the mid-1800s and later



Vance Gillis House before the move 1900



moved to the northeast corner of Hwy. 90 and Bellman Avenue. After much renovation, it later served as the parsonage for the neighboring Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. In 1973, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hurricane Katrina, however, demolished both this historic structure and the church, leaving only empty lots. This is a unique example of Preservation, restoration, and eventual devastation by Nature's wrath.

Biloxi Elk Pat bathing beauty contests

In the 1920s, Biloxi became known for its ELK PAT bathing beauty contests. Elk Pat was an acronym for "Elks Pull All Together for the Cardinal Principles of Our Order." The contest was held each year around July 4. Certainly, fashion was quite different then, as seen in photos of the era. What happened to all the frivolity? The Great Depression caused this wonderful yearly event to fade away.

The Elks Lodge in Biloxi during that era was located on Lameuse Street across the street from today's City Hall.

Charles Redding Building

A little-known chapter in downtown's history is set at the corner of Rue Magnolia and G. E. Ohr St. Once upon a time, a prominent businessman, Charles Redding, constructed an office building at that location within steps of his home on Jackson Street. (Mr. Redding's home is still standing!)

The Redding Building was built with fashionable red bricks and occupied by many renowned attorneys and architectural firms, as well as serving as a home for the Biloxi Council Knights of Columbus No. 1244. As time passed, it became the well-known, frequented Eddie's Drug Store, which opened at that location in 1930.

In 1995, Spanish Trail Books inhabited the first floor of that old building. This unique downtown store was the perfect place to purchase vintage books and postcards. Its

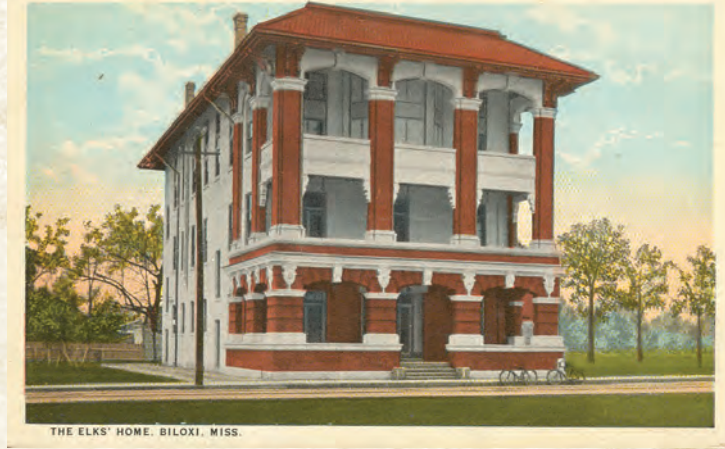
interior still exhibited the winding iron staircase, open mezzanine, and the old tile floors. On a winter night in 2011, that structure suffered an irreparable fire, destroying not only the vintage bookstore but also the adjoining Adventures Bar & Grill and the Upstairs-Downstairs nightclub. The entire structure subsequently had to be demolished. About a year ago, plans were announced to construct a new building at that corner, providing a new eating, gathering, and retail venue for downtown.

Nativity Cathedral

Standing at the corner of Howard Avenue and Fayard Street, Nativity BVM Cathedral has endured many catastrophic chapters throughout its history and remains one of the city's most recognizable landmarks.

The first parish church opened in 1843, but succumbed to a major hurricane in 1869. The second church was rebuilt and later obliterated in the great Biloxi fire of 1900, when nearly half of the Biloxi downtown buildings were destroyed. The third and present church was built of brick in 1902 at a cost of \$16,000 and has withstood more than a century of hurricanes while continuing to serve the community.

Many renovations have been undertaken over recent years, yet its 24 stained-glass

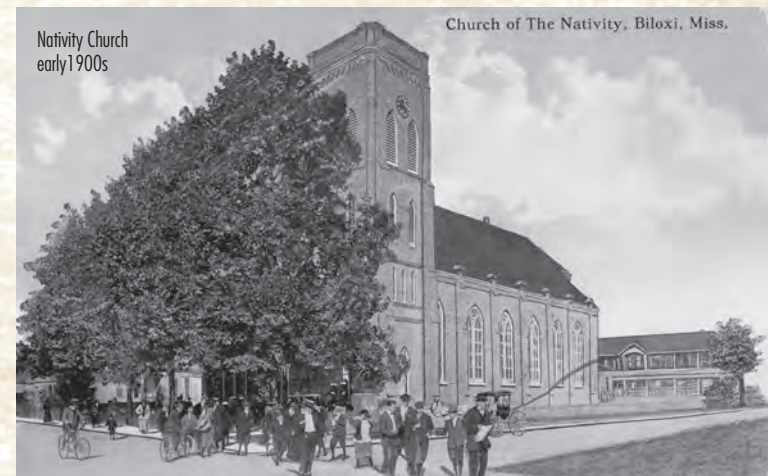
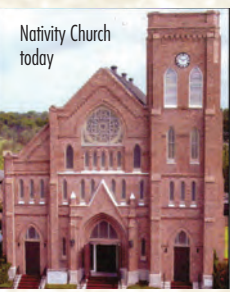


windows and many smaller pieces of stained glass, which originated from Germany, remain in place. The inclusion of these windows within the church's iconic architecture was made possible through the generous donations of prominent businesses and parishioners.

In 1981, the Diocese of Biloxi acquired a collection of nearly 1,200 religious relics from around the world, many of which date back to approximately 5 B.C. Preservation and conservation efforts continue today, and many of these artifacts remain on display in the Marian Chapel located behind the large cathedral.

For additional information on this cathedral, as well as other notable downtown Biloxi historic locations, visit the "Historic Downtown Biloxi Walking Tour" online at <https://discover.biloxi.ms.us/>.

Even though many of Biloxi's places and events are no longer with us for many reasons, their amazing history can never be erased. We always continue to yearn more for chapters that altered our historic city throughout the centuries.



BNews Monthly

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