

BNews Monthly

OCTOBER 2026

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi

Biloxi
established 1699



Halloween happenings

– Pages 9-11



Evolution of the BNews journey

– Page 8



The legacy of the ring

– Page 3



Cruisin' the block

– Page 2



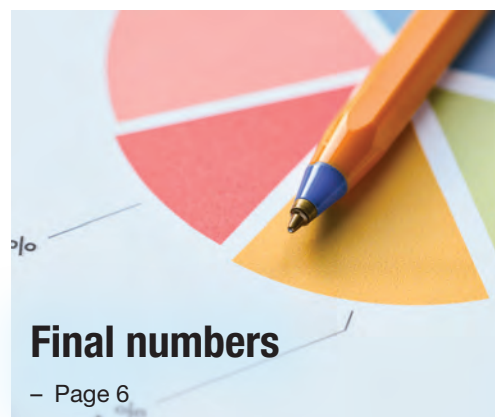
Balancing business and trees

– Page 4



Where royalty rest

– Page 3



Final numbers

– Page 6



Biloxi's hidden history

– Back in the Day, Pages 14-15

Even more inside

Back in the Day	14
Biloxi Pulse	3
BTV in October	13
Calendar	9
News & Notes	6
Public Meetings	11



Wednesday, October 7

Biloxi Block Party
Downtown Biloxi, 8 a.m.



- **Live entertainment:**
 - Ty Taylor & Gram Rea – 8:30 a.m.
 - Garry Wesley, “Elvis Artist” – 11 a.m.
 - Special Awards & Trophies – 12:45 p.m.
 - The Project Band – 1 p.m.
- **Specials from downtown restaurants and shops**
- **Trophies for block party car owners:**
 - Lowest vehicle, largest fuzzy dice, fattest rear tires, most chopped top, most chrome, longest distance driven, longest painted flames (unbroken), The Peoples Bank Cup, Mayor & City Council Cup, and “The car I’d most like to chase” Cup as chosen by the Biloxi Police Chief.

Parking Plan:

- Parking areas will be filled in numerical order as vehicles arrive at direction of law enforcement.
- Curbside parking (yellow) on Lameuse St. will be backed in at 45 degrees (noses facing south).
- Curbside parking (yellow) on Howard Ave. will be parked nose to tail facing east on both sides of the street.
- Curbside parking on MLK Blvd. & Main St. allowed in legally marked spaces only.
- Overflow parking (green) will be on Esters Blvd. from CTA bus station parking entrance to Main St. (backed in at 45 degrees, noses facing east).

- Lameuse St. and Howard Ave. will be one-way streets on October 7, 2026. Lameuse St. will be southbound traffic only from MLK Blvd. to Beach Blvd., and Howard Ave. will be eastbound traffic only from Reynoir St. to Main St.
- Any parking outside of designated event zones will not be managed by police or event personnel and must strictly follow all parking laws.
- The entry point for ALL event-related parking will be Reynoir St. at MLK Blvd.
- **Once all initial event parking is complete, cruisers may leave the event area at any time they are safely able to do so (Be cautious of pedestrians).**
- **Cruisers that arrive later in the day, or return after leaving, will be subject to available parking.**



Biloxi Chamber of Commerce

**Biloxi Bay Area
Chamber of Commerce**

The Peoples Bank

THE LEGACY OF THE RING

By Susan Peterson,
Chairperson, City of Biloxi Tree Committee

With only two primary east-west routes through Harrison County, it's easy to understand why traffic seems to fly along each of those highways. This leaves so little time for sightseeing, especially if you are the driver. We often miss so many of the historical and beautiful sites along the way.

I wanted to remind you of just a few that are well worth a stop and visit, ones we so often don't see. I'll begin with the "Ring-in-the-Oak" tree found on the north side of Biloxi's Beach Boulevard, tucked between Lee Street and Nichols Boulevard. Just look for the Waffle House on stilts and find the tree. This live oak, estimated to be at least 200 years of age, has been written about and photographed for much of our modern history.

In 1896, Laura Hinsdale was one of the first to capture the myth and beauty of this live oak tree in her book, "Legends and Lyrics of the Gulf Coast." As her story unfolds, a young Indian maiden of the Biloxi tribe was in love with an enemy warrior from a northern tribe, the Natchez. The maiden's father, the Chief, forbade the marriage and told her he would only allow the union if a ring appeared in the oak. Following a storm which twisted two branches together, a ring was created. The two lovers

were soon wed.

Other stories identify the ring as a key to a map leading to buried pirate treasure, perhaps so, given the long history of pirates along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

This tree, and its unique feature, is well worth a close-up visit, and of course a photograph. With no parking at the immediate site of the tree, it's still an easy walk from nearby avenues, or from across the highway.

Just behind the tree once stood the Church of the Redeemer, seriously damaged by Hurricane Camille in 1969, but rebuilt, and then later destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It was a pastor of the church who envisioned and campaigned for a Camille Memorial in 1999. Dedicated on the 32nd anniversary of Hurricane Camille, August 17, 2002, it was created to honor the known victims of the storm. 172 were named on the memorial. Later, with the church gone (rebuilt on a hill along Popp's Ferry Road), the memorial stood alone alongside a bent flagpole. City leaders understood that the memorial was no longer at a site befitting such a monument, so it was later moved to the



Historic postcard shows the famous Ring in the Oak along the waterfront

grounds of the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum. The memorial, by itself, is well worth a quick stop.

Time and space for these articles are always at a premium, so I picked these two nuggets to remind us of the beauty and rich history present along our coast. Yes, stop at both of these, but remember, there is so much more to see.

The Edgewater Oak is a "must-stop, must-see, and must-photograph" reminder of our trees. My favorite time to visit is in the evening when the newly installed lighting illuminates it from the ground up. There is also the Friendship Oak on the USM Gulf Park Campus, the enormous live oak behind the Old Brick House, or the canopy covering the grounds of Beauvoir. My advice to all is to slow down and enjoy!

Where royalty rest

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

Preserve Biloxi celebrates a milestone 20th Old Biloxi Cemetery Tour this month with a royal theme. This year's tour will look at Biloxi Royalty in many aspects of Biloxi culture with "Where Royalty Rests" on Sunday, October 18, from 2-4 p.m. and again on Tuesday, October 20, from 5-7 p.m. at the Old Biloxi Cemetery, 1166 Irish Hill Drive. Parking is available in and around the cemetery, along Irish Hill, and in the adjacent parking lot of the Biloxi Elks Lodge.

As always, the event is free to the public, but donations are gratefully accepted and are used to preserve the oldest sections of this important, historic place.

But royalty? In Biloxi? Well, maybe not the kind you're imagining!

"We will take an in-depth look at the Kings and Queens of Mardi Gras, the Kings and Queens

of Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet, the Miss Biloxi pageant winners of the early 1900s, Camelia Queens, the elementary schools, king and queen balls, and one very special story-telling of the King of Rock N Roll who made Biloxi home during the summer of 1957," said Kay Miller, committee member and Executive Director of Biloxi Main Street.

The cast, lovingly known as the "Not Ready for the Afterlife Players," is made up of little theater actors from the area and actual descendants of those being portrayed.

Event-goers will enter the cemetery and find volunteers handing out programs with maps. Attendees will be able to self-navigate this year's eleven portrayals. Each actor will repeat performances for the entire length of the event. Event-goers are encouraged to wear light clothing and comfortable walking shoes. Refreshments will be served on both days.

Characters for portrayal include:

- Edmond Boudreaux and Molly Pisarich Cox, portrayed by Cree Cantrell and Beth Cox Stephens.
- George Higginbotham, portrayed by Brennan Prince
- Victor Mavar, as told by his son, Mark Mavar
- Gloria Meaut Lestrade, portrayed by Andrea Deaton
- Luka Kuljis and daughter Madeline Kuljis Richards portrayed by Bill Collins and Mollie McCarroll.
- Billy Murray of Possum Neck portrayed by Christopher Griffin
- Clare Sekul Hornsby portrayed by Susie Hornsby Bass and Michelle Bass Mitchell
- Ellen Joulilian Lyons portrayed by Brandy Mills
- GW Rhodes and Leavelle Ward Fallo portrayed by Boyce Deaton and Kathe Newcomb.
- Kenny Fournier portrayed by David Delk
- Eddie Bellman portrayed by Zach Fellman

Preserve Biloxi is a collaborative organization dedicated to preserving Biloxi's rich cultural history. It consists of these entities: The City of Biloxi, Biloxi Main Street, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area.

Biloxi grows with care

Biloxi's continued growth is bringing new businesses, new investment, and new development to the city, including a new Chick-fil-A on Pass Road, and the proposed Black Marlin development on Beach Boulevard.

While the two projects are at different stages of the development process, both demonstrate the City's ongoing effort to incorporate trees and landscaping into new development.

The new Chick-fil-A has completed the City's development process and is preparing to welcome customers Oct. 1. The property will feature palm trees as part of its landscaping, a choice that is particularly suited to the site because of the available space and clearance and the palms' compact root systems.

The landscaping provides greenery while allowing the property to accommodate the restaurant, parking, driveways, and other necessary infrastructure.

The company also agreed to tree mitigation as part of the project. Twenty-one trees, including seven live oaks, four bald cypress, four red maples, and six dahoon hollies, were planted to address the removal of eight protected live oaks, exceeding the City's minimum mitigation requirements.

The palm trees, and the large oaks at the north end of the site, are not being counted as mitigation trees. The development plans were also adjusted to preserve some existing live oaks.

Meanwhile, the proposed Black Marlin development is moving through the City's review process.

The proposed project at Beach Boulevard and Veterans Avenue would include a gaming floor, hotel, food and retail space, and other amenities. As part of the proposal, 28 trees have been requested for removal from the property.

As part of the City's review, the trees were evaluated for condition. Of those identified for removal, 17 were classified as being in poor condition, seven in fair condition, and four in good condition. The Tree Committee unanimously approved the request, and the Biloxi Planning Commission voted 11-1 to approve the development plans and



associated requests.

The developer has committed to mitigate the tree removal by providing 209 protected trees either through planting, paying into the tree bank, or a combination of both. The proposal is scheduled to come before the Biloxi City Council in late September and early October for further discussion and a vote.

Tree mitigation is part of Biloxi's development regulations and is intended to ensure that trees remain an important consideration as properties are developed and redeveloped.

For Biloxi, that means development does not have to come at the expense of the city's tree canopy. Existing trees can be preserved when possible, new landscaping can be selected based on the space and needs of a property, and when protected trees must be removed, mitigation provides for new trees to be added.

For more information about Biloxi's tree mitigation requirements, view the City's Code of Ordinances and Land Development Ordinance online at biloxi.ms.us. Questions may also be directed to the Biloxi Community Development Department weekdays at 228-435-6280.

Stay connected to your city

City of Biloxi is the official source of news about city government, city happenings, and city amenities.

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or visit online at biloxi.ms.us.

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per calendar day.

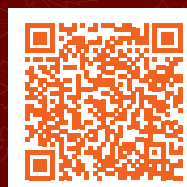


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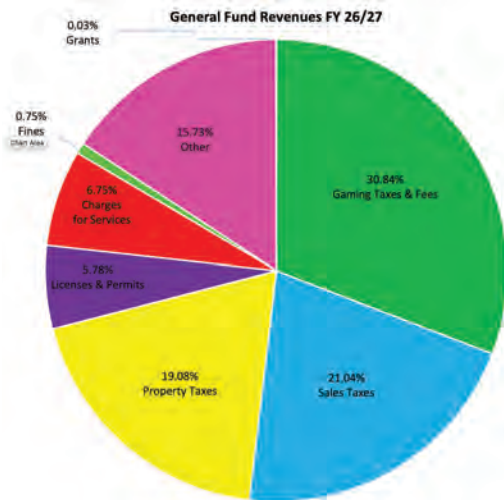
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helps you track your daily energy usage and
discover ways to save throughout the year.

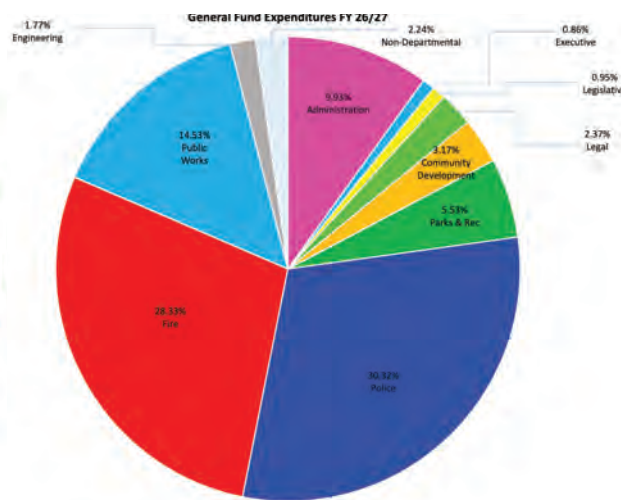


The budget by the numbers

Revenue sources



Expenditure sources



The new city budget for Fiscal Year 2027 begins on Oct. 1.

City operations are funded by three primary revenue streams, gaming taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes. The chart above shows how the budget is broken down through percentages.

One thing to keep in mind: the city budget is it is a living document. It's a piece of paper that is amended dozens of times throughout the year, based on unanticipated changes in revenue and unanticipated changes in expenditures.

► To see a more detailed breakdown of the budget, visit online at biloxi.ms.us and click on Financial Report.

News & notes

Pool updates: The Biloxi Natatorium now opens at 5:30 a.m. on weekdays and closes at 7:30 p.m. Adults may swim from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., while swimmers ages 17 and younger may swim from 3 to 7:30 p.m. Lifeguards are on duty during all hours of operation. The Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center pool remains open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to noon for adults 18 and older and operates as a swim-at-your-own-risk facility.

Lifeguards: Interested in becoming a City of Biloxi lifeguard? Call 228-435-6205 for details.

Cruisin' The Coast traffic plan: During the Biloxi Block Party on Wednesday, Oct. 7, Lameuse Street and Howard Avenue will become one-way streets for cruisers. Lameuse Street will carry southbound traffic from MLK Boulevard toward Beach Boulevard, while Howard Avenue will carry eastbound traffic toward Main Street. Motorists should expect increased traffic and temporary traffic changes throughout downtown Biloxi. See page 2 for details.

Splash Pads: The splash pads at the Margaret Sherry Library and the John Beck Park will be closing by the end of the month and will reopen in the spring. The splash pads are maintained by the Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department. Details: biloxi.ms.us/pr

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

B Alert: Stay in the know about weather advisories, road closures, and other traffic advisories by signing up for B-Alert. Biloxi's real-time, on-the-go messaging system. Text "Biloxi" to 77295.



SEE IT. REPORT IT.

Report various issues from potholes and litter to traffic signal outages and water service issues, and more.



3 WAYS TO CONNECT

CALL
228-435-6271

EMAIL
bconnect@biloxi.ms.us

ONLINE
biloxi.ms.us/bconnect



Report it with B-Connect.

Working together for a better Biloxi.

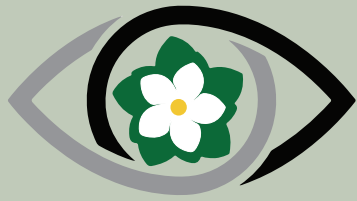
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Be a part of something Beautiful

We all love our city, and we all want it to be the best it can be, to look the best it can. **We all want to Keep Biloxi Beautiful.** In some cases, it's a matter of knowing how you can best help. We have a few suggestions. They're part of the proposed Comprehensive Beautification Plan, which provides a framework for teamwork. Give it a look to see where you fit in. We'd love to hear from you. biloxi.ms.us/beautification

Thank you!

To the artists, partners (Pelican Paint Group, Harrison County Sand Beach Department), restaurants and so many others for making the Paint-a-Can contest a "21-can salute."

See you next year!



Keep Biloxi Beautiful

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

biloxi.ms.us/beautification

BNews Monthly celebrates 101 issues as mailed edition comes to an end

The October 2026 issue of BNews Monthly marks an important milestone; it is the newsletter's 101st issue and the final issue that will be mailed to homes, businesses, and other addresses throughout Biloxi.

But this is not the end of BNews Monthly.

Beginning with the November 2026 issue, the newsletter will continue to be produced each month and made available digitally at biloxi.ms.us, on the City of Biloxi's Facebook page at facebook.com/cityofbiloxi, and through a monthly Bmail at biloxi.ms.us/bmail. Readers will also continue to find BNews Monthly at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., and Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St., where printed copies will be available for pickup.

The newsletter may have a new look as it moves forward, but its purpose will remain the same: providing timely and relevant information about the City of Biloxi, along with the community calendar and the popular "Back in the Day" column.

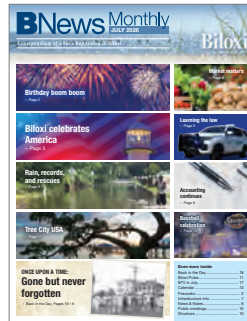
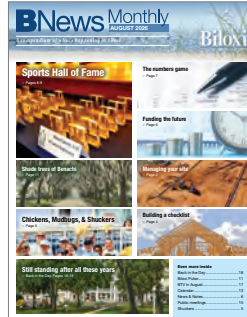
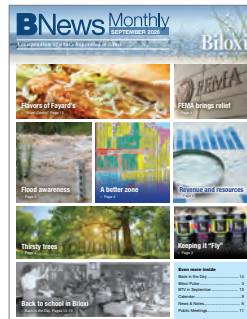
The City appreciates everyone who participated in the community

survey earlier this year and supported continuing the mailed newsletter. That response helped keep BNews Monthly in mailboxes through the remainder of the current fiscal year.

The City also extends its appreciation to the many advertisers who have supported BNews Monthly over the years. Their participation helped make it possible to produce and mail the newsletter to Biloxi addresses each month.

With the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1, the budget for mailing the newsletter to every Biloxi address will no longer be available. The October issue, therefore, will be the final mailed edition.

For more than 100 issues, BNews Monthly has been a way for the City to share Biloxi news, information, events, and a little bit of Biloxi history with residents and businesses directly by mail. While its delivery will change, the newsletter itself will continue. We hope you will continue to read BNews Monthly each month, wherever you find it, and thank you for making it a part of your mailbox for so many years.



OCTOBER TRIVIA: A timeline in Biloxi history

How long did it take to sail from France to Biloxi in 1720? The voyage took about three months.

What years was Biloxi the capital of Louisiana? 1721- 1723

When did Mississippi become a State? December 10, 1817, Mississippi became the 20th state.

Which county first showed Biloxi on its older maps? Biloxi was originally part of Hancock County, formed in 1820.

When did Biloxi become part of Harrison County? 1841. During that year, Harrison County was formed from Hancock, Jackson, and Perry Counties.

When did Biloxi acquire the Old Biloxi Cemetery? In 1844, Louis Fayard deeded the Old Biloxi Cemetery to the Town of Biloxi.

What is the oldest tombstone in the Old Biloxi Cemetery? Originally, it was the stone of Michel Batet. A few years ago, it was revealed that the inscription on his tombstone had eroded, changing his date of death from 1811 to 1841. There are many old tombstones in the Biloxi Cemetery dating back to the 1800s.

When was the Biloxi National Cemetery established? March 1934 and the first burial was held on March 24, 1934, for Private Edgar Ross, 1st Regiment of the Tennessee Infantry.

When was the Biloxi lighthouse built? It was built in 1848 and was one of the first cast-iron lighthouses in the South.

When did passenger train rail service first arrive in Biloxi? In 1871, with the L&N (Louisville and Nashville) railroad company.

When did the first seafood cannery open up in Biloxi? The Lopez, Elmer, and Company became the first seafood cannery in Biloxi, opening in 1881.

Where did Biloxi hold its meetings in the late 1880s? In the Fireman's Hall on Howard Avenue and Lameuse Street.

When did Biloxi get its first city hall? In April 1896 on the north side of the middle of Howard and Main and included a vegetable market and a meat market.

When was our current City Hall built? Between 1904 and 1908 and served as a post office, federal courthouse, and customs house.

When was the first Mardi Gras Parade in Biloxi? On March 3, 1908, with Blanche Picard and John Carraway reigning as Queen and King.

When was Biloxi's Coast Guard station in operation? In 1933 on the Point and placed in commission on Dec. 5, 1934. It served the Coast Guard efforts until 1947. In 2005, the barracks housed the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum. Hurricane Katrina demolished this structure.

What years were iconic Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum Schooners built? In 1989, the 50-foot Glenn L. Swetman schooner was built by Bill Holland. In 1992, a replica of a Biloxi schooner was built in Biloxi by "Neil" C. Covacevich and named the Mike Sekul.

When did the first automobile arrive in Biloxi? In 1900, Frank Schaeffer rolled his new automobile into Biloxi.

When was Biloxi declared the seafood capital of the world? By 1903, Biloxi was crowned the seafood capital of the world. At that time, the population of Biloxi was about 8,000.



THREE NIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS MAGIC

DECEMBER 4 • Glo All the Way
5:30- 10 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd.
Christmas tree lighting, Christmas concert, kids area, dance by Kelli's Steps School of Dance (Glow sunglasses & glow sticks encouraged)

DECEMBER 11
3-7 p.m. Howard Avenue from Lameuse to Reynoir.
Sponsors, families, and business owners gather to decorate sponsored trees.

7-10 p.m. Jingle Bell Rock
Enjoy live music, vendors, and more!

DECEMBER 12
CHRISTMAS ON THE AVENUE
5 p.m., Howard Avenue from Lameuse to Reynoir & Rue Magnolia
Grand lighting, snow, parade, and entertainment

**GIVE A LITTLE.
LIGHT UP A LOT.**

Help us donate decorated Christmas trees to families in need.

SCAN ME



SCAN ME

SCAN TO DONATE

Your gift helps provide Christmas trees, lights, and a little more magic for families in our community. Thank you for helping Christmas on the Avenue grow into something even more magical.

Keesler Federal Park 105 Caillavet St.

Oct. 1 & 2, 11 a.m. Juco Fall Ball
Oct. 9, 6 p.m. Mississippi State vs. Auburn
Oct. 10, 6 p.m. Mississippi State vs. USM
Oct. 24, 12 p.m. SELA vs. Memphis
Oct. 31, 3 p.m. LSU vs. Samford
Details: biloxishuckers.com

Skatin' The Coast Oct. 3, 1 p.m.-8 p.m.

205 Hopkins Blvd.

Skateboarders can enjoy music, contests, lessons, raffles, and food!

Details:
gulfcoastskateparksassociation.org



Ground Zero "Bluesin' the Coast", Oct. 3, Vince Vance & The Valiants, 7 p.m.; Oct. 7, Dueling Pianos, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Oct. 8, Nik Parr & The Selfless Lovers, 7 p.m.; Oct. 9, Gretsch Lyles & The Modern Eldorado's, 7 p.m.; Oct. 10, Otis Redding Tributes: Soul, Blues & Beyond featuring D. Saunders, 7 p.m. Details: groundzerobiloxi.com

Biloxi Block Party, Cruisin' The Coast, Oct. 7, 8 a.m., Lameuse and nearby streets. Downtown car show and block party with thousands of cars and car aficionados, live entertainment, and awards. Performances begin at 8:30 a.m. in front of Biloxi City Hall with Ty Taylor and Gram Rea; Garry Wesley - Elvis Tribute Artist - at 11 a.m.; and The Project Band at 1 p.m. Explore local downtown businesses and restaurants, as well as arts and crafts vendors throughout the Rue Magnolia area. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339; Cruisin' The Coast events, www.cruisinthecoast.com

Old Biloxi Cemetery Cleanup, Oct. 9, 9 a.m.-noon, 1066 Irish Hill Dr. Individuals and groups are invited to clean their family members' and ancestors' gravesites and help make the cemetery look its best. Details: 228-435-6339

Special Needs Halloween Costume Ball, Friday, Oct. 16, 6-9 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Costume contest, snacks, and security will be provided. Free admission. RSVP and details: 228-388-7170

Halloween on Howard, Oct. 17, 5-6:30 p.m. Trick-or-treating drive-thru event. Vehicles line up at 4 p.m. at the intersection of Howard and Lameuse streets. Vehicles travel west to Hopkins while trick-or-treating with local businesses and vendors along the way. Must be in line by 5 p.m. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170

20th Annual Old Biloxi Cemetery Tour, Oct. 18, 2-4 p.m., and Oct. 20, 5-7 p.m., 1066 Irish Hill Dr. Self-guided, continuously performed portrayals with 14 characters and 11 stops. This year's theme: "Where Royalty Rests." Free admission, but donations are welcome. Details: 228-435-6339

Bike Biloxi, Oct. 20, 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. Wear your favorite superhero shirt! Helmets and lights are recommended. Details: 228-435-6339

Main Street Book Club, Oct. 22, 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Acropolis Greek Restaurant, 871 Howard Ave. The Book Club selection for October is "The Book of Doors" by Gareth Brown. The public is welcome, and we encourage you to purchase refreshments at the restaurant. Details: 228-435-6339

Llamapalooza, Oct. 24, 1 p.m. until sundown, 186 Bohn St., Fly Llama Brewing. The 6th annual event features art vendors, food trucks, special beer, and more! Entertainment provided by Leo Lovechild, Karate Kids, Crescent City Heat featuring Robert Mercurio (Galactic), Joe Ashlar (Dr. John), Simon Lott, and Danny Abel (Tank & The Bangas)! Free, family-friendly event! Details: kara@flyllamabrewing.com

Halloween Scare at Haunted House #13, Oct. 24-25 and Oct. 30-31, 6-9 p.m., Biloxi Fire Museum, 1604 Howard Ave. \$10 per person; \$5 for children 8 and under. Details:

Trunk or Treat & Movie Night, Oct. 24, Eagle Point Park, 10519 Pin Oak Drive. Trunk or Treat begins at 5 p.m. "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" begins at dusk. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170

Nativity BVM 68th Annual Halloween Carnival, Oct. 24. a.m. Carnival games, cake walk, food, and costume contest. Details: www.nativityBVM.org

Halloween at the Market, Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Biloxi Community Market, 932 Howard Ave., under the I-110 overpass at Hopkins and Howard. Details: biloxicmarket@yahoo.com

Boo on the Rue, Oct. 29, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Downtown Biloxi, Rue Magnolia. Family-friendly event featuring a costume contest, music, chili cook-off, and more! Details: 228-435-6149

Halloween Scare at Haunted House #13, Oct. 30-31, 6-9 p.m., Biloxi Fire Museum, 1604 Howard Ave. \$10 per person; \$5 for children 8 and under. Details: 228-435-6119

40th Annual Fall Muster



Oct. 17-18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Beauvoir, 2244 Beach Blvd.

Grounds open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Battles at 2 p.m. Experience life in the 1860s. Fun for the whole family.

Details: www.visitbeauvoir.org

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 101st 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 Rocky Horror Picture Show Live!**, Oct. 24, 9 p.m.

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
Tours 7 days a week, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- **Beauvoir, 40th Annual Fall Muster**, Oct. 17-18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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 for up to 44 people.
- Walk-on sails, minimum of 6 passengers, \$30/adult and \$20/child ages 3-12. Check the 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 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

East Biloxi Seniors

Dr. Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center, 591 Howard Ave., angela@eastbiloxiseniors.com, 228-861-6087

- Monthly luncheons held on the third Thursday of each month at Noon. Open to ages 55 and older

Edgewater Mall

2600 Beach Blvd., 228-388-3424

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 Farmers & 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.com

- **Ceramic Pumpkin Glazing Workshop**, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-noon. Ages 13+, \$45 for non-members, \$35 for members
- **Floating Sound Bath**, Oct. 16, 5:30-8 p.m. Two 45-minute sessions, \$35 per person
- **Family Sunday**, Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., after church service
- **Kroctober Fest 2026**, Oct. 23, 6-8 p.m. Costume contest, games, food trucks, trunk-or-treat, and more. Free admission.
- **Pumpkin Poolooza Floating Pumpkin Patch**, Oct. 24, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$5 for members; \$10 for guests. All participants must pre-register.
- **Storytime Creations – Pete the Cat: Five Little Pumpkins**, Oct. 24, 9-9:45 a.m. Read the book, then create a themed art project. Children ages 2-5; \$15 per child.

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.
- **Heritage Hall of Fame:** Deadline for nominations has been extended to Dec. 1, 2026. Nomination forms are available at www.maritimemuseum.org.
- **Opening reception for From Longleaf to Low Tide - Mixed Media Views of the Mississippi Gulf Coast** on Oct. 8, 5:30-7 p.m., Free to the public. View the exhibit, meet

the artist, tour the museum, and enjoy light refreshments. Pieces from this exhibit will be available for purchase.

- **Art Exhibit Opening: From Longleaf to Low Tide - Mixed Media Views of the Mississippi Gulf Coast** by Suzanne Findeisen, Oct. 8-Dec. 31

MS Senior Games: Events Held Throughout the Year

Open to registered participants age 50 and older at various locations throughout the Coast. Spectators are welcome. www.msseniorgames.com/

- **Golf**, Oct. 16. Check-in at 7:30 a.m.; 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Green fee: \$50. Sunkist Country Club, 2381 Sunkist Country Club Road. Details: Jamie Lee, 228-435-6205
- **Bocce**, Oct. 16. Check-in at 9 a.m. Woolmarket Prime Life Center, 16320 Old Woolmarket Road. Details: Chris Day, 228-760-8072

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

- **Date Night Wheel**, Oct. 2, 9, 6-8 p.m.; Ceramics Studio. \$48 per person
- **Mudslingers Wheel Class**, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Ceramics Studio. \$48 per person
- **Family Wheel Day**, Oct. 4, 1-3 p.m.; Ceramics Studio. \$48 per person
- **Art Club: Nature Gone Wild**, 1-3 p.m.; Art Classes. \$160 per person
- **Printmaking Studio Intro to Etching**, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Art Classes. \$90 per person
- See the website for dates and times of all classes and events.

Saenger Theatre Biloxi

170 Reynoir St., hello@biloxisaenger.com, <https://biloxisaenger.com/>

- **Zach Rushing: "Redneck Logic" Comedy Tour**, Oct. 23-24. Doors open at 6 p.m.; the show begins at 7 p.m.
- **Biloxi Civic Orchestra: "The Composer Is Dead"** by Nathaniel Stookey, with text by Lemony Snicket, Oct. 25, 6 p.m.

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**, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. 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 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**, Oct. 2, 6-8 p.m., 13280 Shriners Blvd. Last ticket sold at 7:15 p.m. \$25, eat-in or takeout. Call 228-392-9345 to order or for details.
- **Jeepin for the Kids**, Oct. 17, 9 a.m., \$30 registration fee. Food vendors, trail ride, suspension stretcher, and more. Details: 228-392-9345

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

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

Details: Jane Shambra, miscoasthistory1699@gmail.com, 228-324-3418

- Oct. 25, 2-4 p.m. Guest Speaker: Jeff O'Keefe (Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes) talking about old funeral customs and writing obituaries. Free to attend

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- Monday Bingo, Oct. 5, 12, 19, and 26. 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

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.; regular games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Nativity BVM Catholic Elementary School. 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
27	28	29 Community Market	30	1 Community Market Juco Fall Ball Keesler Federal Park Michael Vincent Band Ground Zero	2 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Farmers Market - Marina Park Joppa Shrine - Steak Night Juco Fall Ball Keesler Federal Park Everything Embroidery MS Coast Coliseum DJ Doc Roc - Hard Rock Sam Forshey Blues Band Ground Zero Date Night Wheel Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Friday Bingo - Biloxi Elks Lodge	3 Mudslingers Wheel Class Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art John Pardi MS Coast Coliseum Everything Embroidery MS Coast Coliseum DJ Doc Roc, Karaoke with MC Angie, Supercharger Hard Rock Vince Vance & The Valiants Ground Zero
4 Family Wheel Day Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art First Sunday's Appreciation Awards Ground Zero	5 Five Finger Death Punch MS Coast Coliseum Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	6 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	7 Biloxi Block Party Downtown Biloxi Back 2 Mac: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac Beau Rivage Dueling Pianos Ground Zero	8 Community Market Opening Reception for "From Longleaf to Low Tide" Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum Vicari Car Auction MS Coast Coliseum Nik Parr & The Selfless Lovers Ground Zero	9 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Old Biloxi Cemetery Cleanup Vicari Car Auction MS Coast Coliseum Miss. State vs. Auburn Keesler Federal Park 38 Special - Beau Rivage Travis Tritt - IP Casino Gretsch Lyles & The Modern Eldorados Ground Zero Friday Bingo - Biloxi Elks Lodge	10 Ceramic Pumpkin Glazing Workshop Kroc Center Miss. State vs. USM Keesler Federal Park Vicari Car Auction MS Coast Coliseum Jay Leno - Beau Rivage Printmaking Studio: Intro to Etching Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Otis Redding Tribute Ground Zero
11	12 Journey Final Frontier Tour MS Coast Coliseum Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	13 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	14 Rick Berthod (solo) Ground Zero	15 Community Market	16 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Floating Sound Bath - Kroc Center Special Needs Halloween Costume Ball Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center The Doobie Brothers - MS Coast Coliseum Better Than Ezra - Hard Rock Flo Rida - Beau Rivage Mathis Lattin - Ground Zero MS Senior Games: Golf Sunkist Country Club MS Senior Games: Bocce Woolmarket Prime Life Center Friday Bingo - Biloxi Elks Lodge	17 40th Annual Fall Muster Beauvoir Halloween on Howard Howard Ave. Jeepin' for the Kids Joppa Shrine Grand Funk Railroad IP Casino Lyla Musselwhite Band Ground Zero
18 40th Annual Fall Muster Beauvoir 20th Annual Old Biloxi Cemetery Tour 1066 Irish Hill Drive Family Sunday Kroc Center	19 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	20 Community Market Bike Biloxi 20th Annual Old Biloxi Cemetery Tour 1066 Irish Hill Drive Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	21	22 Community Market Thursday Morning Yoga Ohr-O'Keefe Museum MS Student Nurses Association MS Coast Coliseum Main Street Book Club Acropolis Greek Restaurant	23 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Kroctober Fest 2026 Kroc Center Three Days Grace MS Coast Coliseum Bare Knuckle Boxing Hard Rock Golden Girls - IP Casino Carpool #1 CARS Tribute Band Ground Zero Zach Rushing - Saenger Theatre Friday Bingo - Biloxi Elks Lodge	24 SELA vs. Memphis Keesler Federal Park Vettes by the Shore MS Coast Coliseum Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers Ground Zero Llamapalooza - Fly Llama Brewing Pumpkin Poolooza Floating Pumpkin Patch - Kroc Center Halloween Scare at Haunted House #13 Biloxi Fire Museum Zach Rushing - Saenger Theatre Trunk or Treat & Movie Night Eagle Point Park Halloween Carnival - Nativity BVM
25 Halloween Scare at Haunted House #13 Biloxi Fire Museum Biloxi Civic Orchestra: "The Composer is Dead" Saenger Theatre	26 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	27 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	28	29 Community Market Boo on the Rue Downtown Biloxi Here Come the Mummies IP Casino Halloween at the Market Corner of Howard and Hopkins	30 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Halloween Scare at Haunted House #13 Biloxi Fire Museum Friday Bingo - Biloxi Elks Lodge	31 LSU vs. Samford Keesler Federal Park Halloween Scare at Haunted House #13 Biloxi Fire Museum Emo Orchestra with The Spill Canvas Beau Rivage



October 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!" Flatheads and Bottom Feeders
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!" Flatheads and Bottom Feeders
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!" Flatheads and Bottom Feeders
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.

It's a wrap!



BNews Monthly wraps up the final episode of "Biloxi Cooks!" by cruising up to Flatheads and Bottom Feeders in Woolmarket, where the grill is hot, the fryer is busy, and flavorful Coast favorites are always on the menu.

From char-grilled steaks and smash burgers to fried seafood and fresh salad wraps, this local family-owned restaurant has something to satisfy every appetite.

Step into the kitchen and see how an easy-to-make Chicken Caesar Salad Wrap comes together. Featuring tender chicken, crisp romaine lettuce, Parmesan cheese, and classic Caesar dressing, all wrapped in a soft tortilla, it's a fresh and flavorful favorite you can easily recreate at home.

See the latest episode of "Biloxi Cooks!" on BTV daily at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m. The October episode can also be viewed on the city's YouTube channel.



This month's recipe:

Chicken Caesar Salad Wraps

Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked chicken, chopped or shredded
- 4 large flour tortillas
- 4 cups chopped romaine lettuce
- ½ cup Caesar dressing
- ½ cup shredded or grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ cup croutons, lightly crushed
- ½ teaspoon black pepper

Preparation:

- **Make the filling:** In a large bowl, combine the chicken, romaine, Caesar dressing, Parmesan, crushed croutons, and black pepper. Toss until everything is evenly coated.
- **Warm up the tortillas** to make them easier to roll.
- **Fill:** Divide the Caesar salad mixture among the tortillas, placing it slightly below the center.
- **Wrap:** Fold in the sides, then roll tightly from the bottom, burrito-style.
- **Serve:** Slice in half and serve.
- For a crispier wrap, toast the assembled wraps in a skillet for 1–2 minutes per side.

BILOXI'S HIDDEN HISTORY

By Jane Shambra

Not all of Biloxi's history can easily be found in classroom textbooks or even online. Many unique stories about the old days are hidden, and some have even disappeared through time.

What lies beneath

The Biloxi peninsula is likely the best-kept archeological repository in the state. Its location at the water's edge has always provided the best opportunities for settlers to land and stay awhile, thus leaving behind remnants of the past.

Although many archeological studies have been conducted in Biloxi, perhaps the most popular is the Moran Site (also known academically as 22HR511). After several studies of the property, an extensive 222-page publication by the University of Southern Mississippi explained not only the history of Biloxi, but also recent findings below its surface. The detailed report includes identification of the burials found just after Hurricane Camille in 1969 as well as the more extensive excavations done just before and after Hurricane Katrina. The manuscript explains that the burials dated back to the early 1700s and confirms that about 32 individuals were interred in that small portion of the lot. Nearly 14,000 artifacts were also recovered, including ceramics, beads, glass, arrowheads, a small metal crucifix, and coffin nails.

The garden, with its historical informational plates, has a large marble angel within its gates. In 2017, the weeping angel statue, carved from Carrara marble, was added to the memorial park and keeps watch over this historical location.

The case of the disappearing angels

About the time that the Moran Cemetery's Weeping Angel was dedicated, a series of tiny decorative angel statues were discovered across the street in the Visitors Park. The small statuettes appeared one by one and could be spotted while strolling through the park. No one knew who put them there.

The tiny angels were all different. Some were made of ceramic and others of concrete masonry. It is interesting to note that most had imperfections, like a broken wing, a discoloration, or a missing or

chipped part. There were about nine angels, and all were nested near the shrubbery in the park. They were all facing eastward, seeming to have a watchful presence of the large weeping angel across the street by the Moran site.

Time passed, and they were forgotten. Today, the little inspirational ornaments are all gone. No one will ever know their unique story.

THE BELLS OF BILOXI

The Bell in the Belfry

Down the street, on Howard Avenue, another interesting piece of Biloxi history saw its first light of day in 124 years. During the recent renovation and preservation process of the Nativity BVM Cathedral, its 1902 church bell was lowered from its belfry onto ground level. No one has seen this bell up close in our lifetimes. The tarnished, heavy bell bears an inscription noting its donation by Mr. Laz Lopez. Made of cast iron, the bell was crafted at a foundry in Baltimore, Maryland, where our very own lighthouse came and where many of the Biloxi seafood workers originated.

Mr. Lopez was a wealthy seafood industry businessman and a generous donor. The name of the bell is inscribed as the "Clara Josephine Bell," named after two of Mr. Lopez's young children who died when they were in their teens. His other small children, Rowena and Julius, were honored as sponsors of the bell.

In September 1902, Biloxi celebrated the dedication of its new church bell with a grand ceremony. Priests and dignitaries from along the coast gathered to bless the bell, which had been elaborately decorated with ribbons and white flowers. The program concluded with the bishop's tapping of the bell and with decorations shared as souvenirs to all who attended. With few cars and background noise, the toll of the bell could be heard throughout the City of Biloxi.

During its early years, the bell was rung by hand with a rope. Later, in 1959, it was electrified.

During this year's restoration, careful consideration was given to the bell's weight and the delicate condition of its former home in the old belfry. After light cleaning, it was decided that this piece of cherished,



French Colonial Memorial Garden Weeping Angel



"Clara Josephine Bell" at BVM Cathedral

hidden history will likely remain land-bound for all to see.

More bells in Biloxi

Back in the day, bells also served as communication devices for many purposes. Firehouses (aka fire stations) each had a large metal bell. In those days, volunteer firemen were summoned to a fire by way of the ringing bell. Each bell had its own "voice," much like the factory whistles summoning workers.

Firemen's parades in Biloxi were once larger than Mardi Gras parades. October was the month that Biloxians of all ages would gather on Howard Avenue to see the firemen and their most recent firefighting engines and equipment. Engines were proudly decorated, and bands accompanied the procession through Biloxi's downtown area. Today, that custom is no longer celebrated; however, a visit to Biloxi's Firemen's Museum on Howard Avenue (near Porter) will take you back in time to see an original older fire station. Within its walls are amazing firefighting tools and log books from years gone by.

The museum also displays three of its original bells from old Biloxi firehouses. Like the church steeples, each firehouse had its own chimney-like belfry where the sound of the bell could clearly resonate throughout Biloxi's old streets. Visit the Biloxi Fire Museum for an even greater appreciation for Biloxi's past.

History below us

Not all aspects of Biloxi's history can be found at high eye level. There are many interesting chapters that can be written about what we can find below our buildings.

One of the most intriguing discoveries of Biloxi's well-known history is that of the mysterious tunnel. A few years ago, while renovating the popular Ground Zero blues musical venue, a tunnel from the past was found. The building dates to 1927, when it housed a Kress Department Store, adding another fascinating layer to its history.

Once word got out, Mayor Gilich was summoned to inspect the possibilities of this unusual feature. Could the old tunnel have served as a hidden pathway to move illegal gambling money and liquor in years gone by? After all, the popular 1920s Hotel Avalez was just across the street! Who knows! No paperwork, maps, or design plans were ever found to figure this out.

The entrance to the tunnel can still be seen inside Ground Zero. Oh, what stories it could tell!

A Katrina surprise

After Hurricane Katrina, Biloxians had the task of cleaning and weeding through what Katrina didn't take away. One day a worker at Gorenflo Elementary School came across

an unexpected old school scrapbook dating back to 1908-1909.

Sometime in the past, a wise school worker had carefully placed the original, delicate pages in plastic, preserving them for years to come. In 2008, the scrapbook was delivered to the Local History and Genealogy Department (then housed in the Main Street post office). Staff there researched the students' names listed within its pages and carefully re-housed the students' assignments. It was later delivered back to the Biloxi Public Schools Museum, where it remains today.

Each student from Mrs. Walker's 6th grade class contributed a page on subjects ranging from geography, mathematics, and language arts. One notable page shows a handwritten poem penned by student Laura Ott. In those days, students wrote in precise cursive. Laura's page is just one example of Back in the Day in Biloxi schools.

What happened to Mr. Gargoyle

A gargoyle is not something you would expect to find in Biloxi. They are common in Europe and serve the purpose of redirecting rainwater from roofs.

In the late 1800s, when The Peoples Bank was constructed on Howard and Lameuse, two interesting features were added to its design. The twirling weather witch weather vane was one interesting add-on and is still mounted high above Ellzey's Hardware store. Another almost-forgotten work of art was that of the gargoyle.

The gargoyle was positioned just below the witch weather vane for many years. During Hurricane Katrina, he took a tumble and needed some delicate restoration. Mary and Kenneth Davidson, local sculptors, were called upon to repair this unique object. In August 2013, after an intense restorative process, Mr. Gargoyle entered the lobby of the current Peoples Bank to his permanent new home inside the lobby. There he is perched, safe and sound from any future tumbles and bad weather.

Biloxi's hidden history doesn't end here. There are many more chapters yet to be discovered.



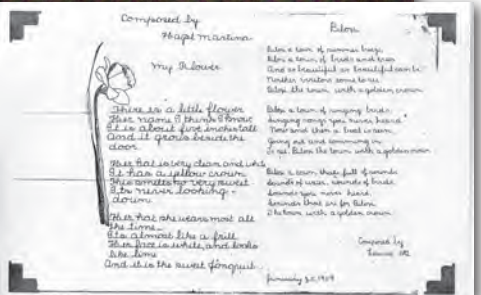
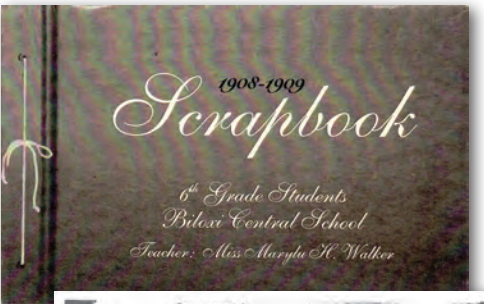
Above: 1940 Biloxi Firemen's Parade in front of Central High School



Left: Firemen's Museum Bell

Below: The Peoples Bank Gargoyle

Bottom: 1908-1909 Biloxi Central School Scrapbook



BNews Monthly

OCTOBER 2026

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
and the Biloxi City Council
Wayne Gray • Anthony Marshall
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