

BNews Monthly

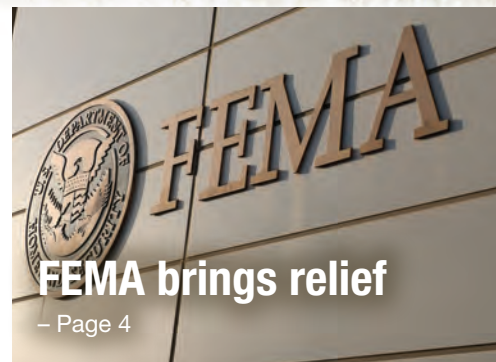
SEPTEMBER 2026

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



Flavors of Fayard's

– "Biloxi Cooks!" Page 13



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Flood awareness

– Page 2



A better zone

– Page 4



Revenue and resources

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Thirsty trees

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Keeping it "Fly"

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Back to school in Biloxi

– Back in the Day, Pages 14-15

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Building Division

Dear Resident:

You have received this letter because your property is in an area that has flooded several times. The City of **Biloxi** is concerned about repetitive flooding and has an active program to help you protect yourself and your structure from future flooding. Here are some things you can do:

1. **Check with the Building Division on the extent of past flooding in your area.** Our Floodplain Administrator can tell you about the causes of repetitive flooding, what the City is doing about it, and what would be an appropriate flood protection level. Our Building Inspectors can visit your property to discuss flood protection alternatives.
2. **Prepare for flooding by doing the following:**
 - Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes.
 - Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go.
 - Make a household inventory, especially of contents.
 - Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc. in a safe place.
 - Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc. in a handy place.
 - Develop a disaster response plan – See the Red Cross' website: www.redcross.org/services/disaster/ for a copy of the brochure "Your Family Disaster Plan."
 - Get a copy of "Repairing Your Flooded Home" available within the Building Division.
3. **Consider some permanent flood protection measures.**
 - Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off the power can reduce property damage and save lives.
 - Consider elevating your house above flood levels.
 - Check your house for water entry points.
 - Install a floor drain plug, standpipe, overhead sewer, or sewer backup valve to prevent sewer backup flooding.
 - More information can be found in the "Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding" available in the Building Division or visit www.fema.gov.
 - Be aware that some flood protection measures may need a building permit and other flood protection measures may not be safe for your type of structure, so be sure to check with the Building Division.
4. **Visit the Building Division for information on financial assistance in terms of a flood insurance policy.**
 - Get a flood insurance policy – it will help pay for repairs after a flood and, in some cases, it will help pay the costs of elevating a substantially damaged building.
5. **Flood Insurance.**
 - Homeowner's insurance policies DO NOT cover damage from floods. However, because the City of **Biloxi** participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (**NFIP**), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This flood insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded.
 - The City of **Biloxi** participates in the NFIPs Community Rating System (CRS) and is at a Class 6. Therefore, a 20% insurance premium reduction is applied to all NFIP flood policies in the City of Biloxi.
 - Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank for a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies only cover the building's structure and not the contents. Due to the flooding that happens in your area, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. Be sure you have contents coverage.
 - Do not wait for the next flood to buy flood insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before the NFIP coverage takes effect.
 - Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

Please contact our office for more information.

Richard Stickler, CFM Floodplain Administrator
Community Development Department • 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. • P.O. Box 508 • Biloxi, MS 39533-0508
Phone: 228-435-6280 • Fax: 228-435-6188

DROUGHT! DROUGHT! DROUGHT!

It's been a long, hot summer...

By Susan Peterson,
Chairperson, City of Biloxi Tree Committee

Our trees are an essential part of our landscape, providing important shade, oxygen, and beauty. But during times of drought, trees may become stressed and even die through times of drought if not properly cared for. Some of you are saying, "What drought? It rained all through May and early June." If you recall, prior to that, we had a very unusually dry winter. Now it's hot, and the only rain is small, spotty showers along the coast.

Researching how to care for and save your "protected trees" should be a priority if you want to them to thrive.

Explore some of these tips I've researched:

1. Water deeply instead of giving them water in small amounts during the week. This helps encourage the roots of the tree to grow deeper in the soil where they can access moisture better. Make sure you water slowly and evenly.
2. Use mulch around the base of your trees.

This conserves water by reducing the moisture evaporation in the soil and helps regulate the soil temperature. It also keeps weeds from competing for the trees' water. A good 2-4 inch layer of organic mulch, like wood chips or shredded leaves around the base, should be sufficient. Make sure not to pile the mulch up against the tree trunk, or that could lead to it rotting. This is especially important for new or smaller trees!

3. Properly prune your trees. If you didn't arrange for your trees to be trimmed before hurricane season, put off major tree work now. Remember to only prune dead or damaged branches. Try not to do this during the hottest part of the day. Also, don't prune healthy branches unless they are a safety hazard or blocking a pathway. Remember, pruning should be done when necessary, so as not to cause any more stress to your trees.

4. Try to avoid fertilizing during a drought. You don't want to stimulate new growth that would require more watering.

5. Pay close attention to your trees and watch for pests and possible diseases.

Applying these easy tips early and monitoring your trees all year long will help you keep your trees healthy. I've been working hard this past year trying to help my White Oak Tree become older than its "75 years."

Remember, you can always hire a reputable tree service. Make sure you check to see if they are licensed and insured. Get a contract that gives you all the details. They should haul away all their debris.

Check the City of Biloxi website, <https://biloxi.ms.us/tree-committee/>, and many are listed. Make sure the contractor pulls a permit if required if they are working on a "protected tree."

If you have more questions than answers, you should contact the Mississippi State County Extension Office or the Mississippi Forestry Commission. Many of your inquiries can be handled over the phone with photos. Sometimes they will even visit you!

Biloxi Pulse

Fly Llama Brewing soars to national recognition

By Biloxi Main Street

Downtown Biloxi is fortunate to be the home to an Award-winning Brewery. Located on Bohn Street and in its sixth year of operation, Fly Llama Brewing just keeps batting it right out of the craft-brewery ballpark!

Most recently, their success and expertise were rewarded at the 2026 U.S. Open Hard Seltzer Championship held in Oxford, Ohio. It is the largest and most respected hard seltzer competition in the United States. Dave Reese and krewe won four spots in the competition's fruit category: Gold medal for Pawpaw Seltzer, Silver medals for Honeydew and for Blackberry seltzers, and a Bronze medal for muscadine seltzer.

This success, while hard-earned and appreciated, comes as no surprise to Fly Llama's loyal customers who crowd the premises every time the doors fling open. The patrons have become accustomed to the quality and precision that goes into each and every serving of all Fly Llama beverages. Why is that you ask? Well, Dave Reese, owner/operator, has the chops, the cred, and the papers to prove his expertise. He is a Master Cicerone. Never heard that term before? You probably know what a sommelier is to wine; this is the equivalent terminology for beer. He's



a certified expert. And get this, the cicerone standards are so arduous there are only 29 in the WORLD! And one of those has set up shop in heart of downtown Biloxi!

The 2026 competition win earned Fly Llama recognition as a top 10 hard seltzer producer in the United States.

"We are honored to be included in this

esteemed group of producers. Being recognized among the top 10 in a field of incredible talent from across the country is a testament to our commitment to quality, creativity, and innovation," said Reese.

Congratulations to Fly Llama Brewing. You've got all of Biloxi "keeping it FLY!"

Proposed zoning changes aim to support redevelopment in East Biloxi

The City of Biloxi is considering proposed zoning changes designed to encourage redevelopment and make it easier to undertake new construction and other projects in portions of East Biloxi that have faced significant challenges since Hurricane Katrina.

In August, the Biloxi Planning Commission held two public hearings on a proposed Comprehensive Zoning Map Amendment involving 594 parcels located throughout Ward 1. The amendment would change the zoning classifications for these properties, which currently include Residential Single-Family (RS-5, RS-7.5); Multiple-Family Residential (RM-10, RM-20, RM-30); Limited Business (LB); Neighborhood Business (NB); Community Business (CB); and Light Industrial (I).

Under the proposal, the affected parcels would be placed into one of four zoning classifications: RM-20 and RM-30, both residential multifamily districts; CB, Community Business; or WF, Waterfront.

During the second meeting in August, the Planning Commission approved all zoning changes except for: lots on Beach Boulevard between Hopkins and Porter were approved to stay as they are currently zoned; four lots on Morrison Avenue are to remain as NB; three lots on Beach Boulevard between Azalea and Gill are to remain as RM-30; and the zoning

change for neighborhood between Strangi Avenue and Laurel Court was continued until the next commission meeting.

The proposed changes are intended, in part, to address redevelopment challenges that have remained in East Biloxi for more than two decades. Following Hurricane Katrina, a significant number of properties in the area have remained vacant or underdeveloped. Flood-zone requirements and insurance costs, as well as the need to construct buildings at elevated levels, have also created additional challenges for property owners seeking to rebuild or develop their properties.

The proposed zoning classifications are intended to provide greater flexibility for development while continuing zoning patterns that already exist in many of the affected areas. Rather than introducing entirely new types of development to these neighborhoods, the amendment would expand or continue zoning classifications that are already being used nearby.

The goal is to help make properties more workable for redevelopment while recognizing the unique conditions created by flood-zone requirements. The changes could provide property owners and developers with additional opportunities to pursue residential, commercial, and waterfront projects that are

better suited to the area's current development conditions.

The proposed amendment would not increase property taxes. Zoning classifications do not determine a property's tax rate, and a change in zoning would not, by itself, result in higher taxes.

Residential structures would also continue to be permitted. The proposed changes do not eliminate the ability to have single-family homes in the affected areas.

Maps identifying the 594 properties included in the proposed amendment were made available for public review at Biloxi City Hall and the Biloxi Community Development Department.

The approved changes will now move to the Biloxi City Council for consideration, and the required public process before any zoning changes can take effect. The proposed zoning change for the neighborhood between Strangi Avenue and Laurel Court will be discussed at the first Planning Commission meeting in September.

The proposed changes are part of the city's ongoing effort to encourage responsible redevelopment in East Biloxi, address long-standing vacant properties, and create zoning opportunities that better reflect the realities of building in a coastal, flood-prone community.

FEMA assistance available for Arthur recovery

Biloxi residents affected by Tropical Storm Arthur can receive in-person assistance through mid-September at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road.

The FEMA Disaster Recovery Center is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be closed on Sundays.

Residents and businesses affected by Tropical Storm Arthur now have access to federal disaster assistance following President Donald Trump's approval of a disaster declaration Aug. 3. The declaration covers storm damage that occurred June 18 through June 20, 2026, in Harrison County and its municipalities, including Biloxi, D'Iberville, Gulfport, Long Beach, and Pass Christian.

Both individual assistance for eligible homeowners and residents and public assistance for eligible government entities are available under the disaster declaration. Those affected by Tropical Storm Arthur have until Oct. 2 to apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

Applications may be submitted online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling FEMA at 1-800-621-3362. Applicants should have personal information available, including

their Social Security number, address, and telephone number. Applicants are encouraged to watch FEMA's "What to Expect" video before selecting "Apply Now" to begin the application process.

A second FEMA Disaster Recovery Center is open at the Saucier Lizana Shelter, 23771 Saucier Lizana Road in Saucier, with the same

hours of operation.

Businesses affected by Tropical Storm Arthur may also seek assistance through the U.S. Small Business Administration at the SBA Business Recovery Center at the Handsboro Community Center, 1890 Switzer Road in Gulfport. The center is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

THREE WAYS

to apply for disaster assistance



VISIT
DisasterAssistance.gov



DOWNLOAD
the FEMA app



CALL
1-800-621-3362

► Visit the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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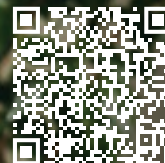
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With you on the road of life.

Keeping Biloxi running takes resources

As budget workshops continue, the administration and city council are taking a close look at the cost of providing the services residents and visitors have come to expect while preparing for the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

One thing is clear: it costs more to keep Biloxi running, just like it costs more to run your household. The same increases in the cost of goods and services that affect families and businesses also affect the City of Biloxi. Everything from supplies and equipment to fuel, insurance, utilities, maintenance, and other operating expenses has become more costly.



The city is not immune to rising costs. We have to look carefully at our budget, just as our residents do with their household budgets, and make responsible decisions about how we use the money available to us.

Personnel remains one of the largest components of the city budget, accounting for more than 60 percent of overall expenditures. Since 2021, we have increased wages and salaries to be competitive with cities like Oxford and Southaven.

People are the ones who provide the services. Our employees are out every day maintaining streets and drainage, responding to emergencies, protecting our community, collecting garbage, maintaining parks and public facilities, answering questions, processing permits, and providing the many other services that make Biloxi work.

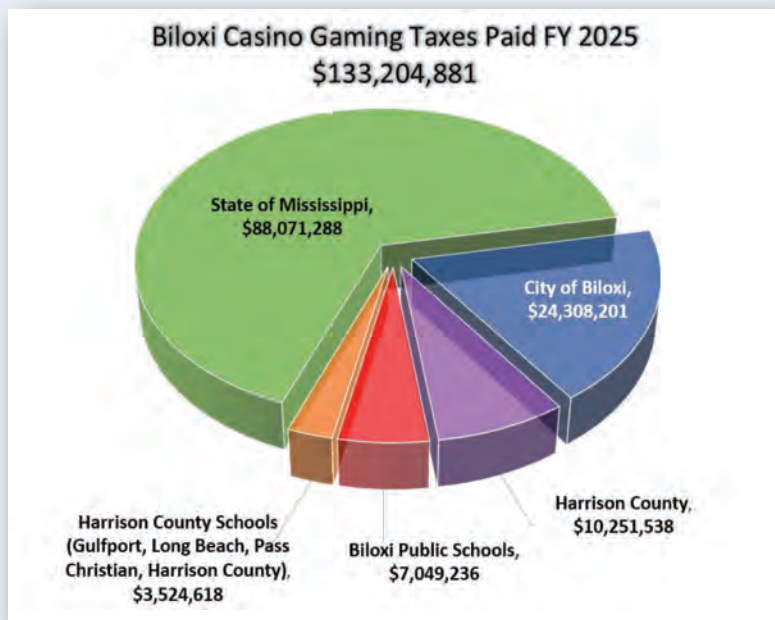
The budget workshops also examine the city's revenue sources, including gaming. In fiscal year 2025, Biloxi's casinos paid a combined \$133.2 million in gaming taxes with approximately \$24.3 million going to the City of Biloxi, \$88 million to the State of Mississippi, \$10 million to Harrison County, \$7 million to Biloxi Public Schools, and \$3.5 million distributed among Harrison County's other school districts.

Those gaming-tax revenues help support city operations and services, but they are only one part of the overall financial picture. The city must balance revenues from a variety of sources with the cost of maintaining services and meeting its responsibilities as a growing coastal community.

We have a responsibility to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money. Biloxi's AA-Credit Rating will attest to that. That means recognizing that costs are going up, understanding where our money is going, and making thoughtful decisions that allow us to continue providing the level of service our residents and visitors expect from Biloxi.

The next fiscal year's budget must be approved by the Biloxi City Council by Sept. 15, with the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

The budget process is about more than numbers on a spreadsheet. It is about ensuring Biloxi has the resources, employees and equipment necessary to keep the city operating today while planning responsibly for the future.



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

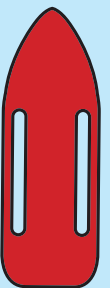
Swim at your own risk:

The Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center pool is now operating under a swim-at-your-own-risk policy during adult lap swim hours weekdays from 6 a.m. to noon. The change is implemented amid an ongoing shortage of lifeguards and requests from patrons using the facility to keep the pool open while maintaining established safety rules. Visitors will have to sign a waiver before using the pool and are encouraged to swim with another person.

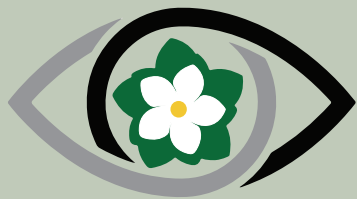
Biloxi Natatorium: The

Natatorium continues to operate with certified lifeguards on duty. Patrons are encouraged to check posted operating hours before visiting. Call the pool at 228-435-6205. Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/aquatics for hours and fees.

Lifeguards needed: The City of Biloxi is looking for individuals interested in working as a certificated lifeguard. Those interested should complete an application online at biloxi.ms.us/jobs and may call the Biloxi Natatorium weekdays at 228-435-6205 for certification details.



B.E.S.T.: Want to join a swim team? Biloxi Elite Swim Team, or BEST for short, is a city-sponsored swim team that provides swimming all year round at the Biloxi Natatorium. The team is open to ages five and older and offers learning through practices and competitions. For details, including fees, visit online at biloxi.ms.us/aquatics.



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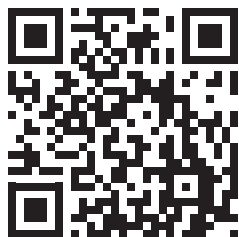
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Biloxi Beautification Commission,
and, well, all of us.

biloxi.ms.us/beautification

Amtrak Mardi Gras Celebrates First Year on the Gulf Coast

The Amtrak Mardi Gras Service is celebrating its first anniversary with a milestone that has exceeded expectations. The twice-daily passenger rail service between New Orleans and Mobile has welcomed approximately 150,000 passengers during its first year, more than twice the ridership originally projected.

To celebrate, Amtrak hosted a special anniversary run on Aug. 18 along the Gulf Coast, inviting mayors and community leaders to board the train in their respective cities and ride together. Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich joined the anniversary ride, celebrating a service that has quickly become an important transportation and tourism asset for the Coast. The celebration highlighted the connections the service has created among New Orleans,



Amtrak arriving in Biloxi

Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, Biloxi, Pascagoula, and Mobile.

The success represents more than just passengers on a train. The Mardi Gras Service has made it easier for residents to visit neighboring communities, provided tourists another way to explore the Gulf Coast, and created new connections between the region's cities. What began as the return of passenger rail to the Mississippi Gulf Coast has become a success story, bringing visitors, residents, and communities together while exceeding expectations in its very first year.



Mayors along the Mardi Gras route celebrating the success of Amtrak along the Gulf Coast.

A Piece of Yacht Club History Finds a New Home

A familiar piece of Biloxi Yacht Club history has a new place to stand. The club's 40-foot flagpole, which once stood at the Yacht Club's former Beach Boulevard clubhouse, has been relocated and installed in front of the club's new home at 124 Lameuse St. This flagpole was donated after Katrina by Ethel Radzewicz in honor of her husband and longtime sailor Paul Radzewicz. The move brings a visible reminder of the club's long waterfront heritage to its new downtown location.

The new clubhouse is the historic former Old Biloxi Public Library, a Spanish-style building constructed in 1925. Its connection to the Yacht Club runs even deeper: the building was designed by architect Carl Matthes, a former Biloxi Yacht Club commodore. Founded in 1849, the Biloxi Yacht Club is one of the oldest yacht clubs in the United States and has played an important role in Biloxi's sailing and coastal traditions for more than 175 years. The club moved into the Lameuse Street building in February 2026 as it begins a new chapter focused on restoring the historic structure while continuing to promote sailing and water-related activities.

The newly relocated flagpole, shown with all the dress flags in place, carries its own nautical significance. A yacht club flagpole, or mast, represents the mast of a vessel, with the peak of the gaff serving as the place of honor for flying the U.S. ensign, much as it would be aboard a

traditional gaff-rigged boat, while the club burgee flies at the masthead peak.

Now, with the familiar flagpole rising in front of the historic building, a symbol from the club's waterfront past stands proudly at its downtown future.



The Biloxi Yacht Club flagpole, dressed in the club's flags, brightens Lameuse Street with nautical history.

By Jane Shambra

What was the original name for Pass Road in Biloxi? Pass Christian Road

What major improvement was made to Popp's Ferry Road in 1914? Popp's Ferry Road was upgraded from a sandy, muddy path to a sturdier oyster shell road, improving access from Pass Road to John Popp's Ferry landing.

In 1974, what did city crews uncover while preparing to improve West Biloxi's sewer system? City crews uncovered an earlier version of Popp's Ferry Road, a "corduroy road," made of pine logs laid side by side to support wagons.

Was Reynoir Street named after the famous French painter? No. It was named after the Reynoir family who came to live in Biloxi around the mid 1800s.

When did Biloxi get its first traffic light? The City of Biloxi obtained its first traffic light at Howard Avenue and Lameuse Street on November 12, 1926. The second traffic light went into operation in late December 1926, at Caillavet and Division Streets.

What was the prior name for Judge Sekul Avenue? West Howard Avenue

What is the dividing line between Gulfport and Biloxi on the Biloxi peninsula, and who is it named after? DeBuys Road is the border between Biloxi and Gulfport, named for Pierre Debuys, a wealthy businessman whose family spent time in Louisiana and in Biloxi.

In the late 1980s, Biloxi's Howard Avenue addresses were divided by East Howard Avenue and West Howard Avenue. What street divided the east and west sections? Lameuse Street was the dividing line.

When did the City of Biloxi extend Caillavet Street south of Howard Avenue? In May 1973, Biloxi celebrated the opening of the Caillavet Street extension from Howard Avenue to Highway 90. Anita Caillavet Wetzel, the oldest living Caillavet family relative, attended the ceremony.

What was the prior name of Tribe Drive in Biloxi's North Bay neighborhood? In December 2018, Richards Drive was officially renamed Tribe Drive.

What was the old name for Beauvoir Road? Dahlgren Avenue

When was the groundbreaking for the new Popp's Ferry Extension roadway? Wednesday, October 16, 2024

In the 1950s, there was a racetrack for stock car races in what is now the Biloxi City limits. Where was that located? The popular Pass Road Speedway was located just east of Beauvoir Road.

Biloxi Shuckers Baseball



Keesler Federal Park
105 Caillavet St.

Shuckers Home Games:

- Birmingham Barons
September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6
- TBA (Division Series)
September 17, 18, & 20
- Visit online at biloxishuckers.com for the full schedule and ticket information.

THE ANNUAL BILOXI Community Festival Against Crime



Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St.

Learn about the many programs offered by the City of Biloxi, the Biloxi Police Department, and the Biloxi Fire Department. Music, games, activities, displays, demonstrations, free food, drinks, and free parking.

Free admission. Details: 228-435-6107

American Red Cross Blood Drives

- Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd, Sept. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dr. Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center, 591 Howard Ave, Sept. 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Edgewater Mall, 2600 Beach Blvd., Sept. 28, 1-6 p.m.

First Friday Downtown Biloxi, Sept. 4, 6-9 p.m. HowHop Creative District, corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Blvd. Join Biloxi Main Street for the last First Friday of 2026 with live music from Hip Pocket, food trucks, arts and crafts vendors, and Fly Llama beverages. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

Friends of the Biloxi Libraries Membership Meeting, Sept. 8, 11 a.m.-Noon, Margaret Sherry Memorial Library, 2141 Popp's Ferry Road. Open to the public. Details: www.lib.ms.us

Biloxi Fire Museum Fish Fry, Sept. 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 1046 Howard Ave. Cost: \$12.00 per plate (fish, potato salad, baked beans, bread). Pre-orders will be taken on Friday, Sept. 11 from 8-10 a.m. To order or for details: 228-435-6119

45th Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival, Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Harrah's Great Lawn, 280 Beach Blvd. Day-long event with live entertainment, arts and crafts vendors, kids' village, and fresh Gulf Coast seafood. Admission: \$5 per person; children 10 and under are free. Details: Biloxi.org/Biloxi-seafood-festival/ or 228-604-0014

Princess Ball 2026 & Fairytale Marketplace, Sept. 12, 11 a.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Enjoy enchanting stage performances, character meet-and-greets, royal dances, crafts, games, and a marketplace. Admission: \$33 and up. Details: 228-761-6644

Tunnel to Towers Biloxi 5K Run/Walk/Climb, Sept. 12, 3-9 p.m., Margaritaville Resort, 195 Beach Blvd. Run, walk, climb to support fallen and catastrophically injured first responders, military members, and their families. Details: 228-257-9367

Bike Biloxi, Sept. 15, 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

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art After Hours, Sept. 17, 5-7 p.m. Happy hour featuring art, live music, cocktails, food, and fun in a relaxed setting. Includes free museum admission, hands-on activities, and networking. Details: 228-374-5547

Barrier Island Cleanup Initiative/Horn Island Cleanup, Sept. 19, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Point Cadet Marina, 119 Beach Blvd. Mississippi State University is teaming up with the National Park Service for monthly cleanups of the barrier islands. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Must be 18 years old or older to participate. Details: aer331@msstate.edu

Maritime & Seafood Museum 41st Annual \$10,000 Drawdown, Sept. 19, 6-9 p.m., 115 1st Street. Admission includes seafood buffet, open bar, and a chance to win \$10,000. There will also be a split-the-pot and silent auction. Tickets: \$100 admits two. Details: 228-435-6320

Main Street Book Club, Sept. 24, 5 p.m. Location TBD. View Biloxi MainStreet BookClub on Facebook page for details. This month's selection is "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. Details: 228-435-6339

Autumn Artisan Festival, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, and lots of fall fun! Free admission. Details: 228-374-3105

POP UP downtown - West Howard Block Party, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., shops along West Howard Avenue. Enjoy shopping, sipping, and strolling along the west end of Howard Avenue. Live music, food, and great giveaways. Free admission: Details: 228-435-6339

Resilient East Biloxi Community Festival, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., John Henry Beck Park, 671 Division St. Celebrate the rich history of East Biloxi! Storytelling, food, live entertainment, local art, vendors, community resources, and family-friendly activities. Details: info@placesir.org

7th Annual Faery Court Ball, Sept. 26, 7 p.m. Joppa Shrine, 13280 Shriners Blvd., Must be age 18 and up. Admission fee charged. Details: faery-ball.com

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the **100th** 🇺🇸 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
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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

- **Alice by Heart**
Sept. 4-6 & 11-13

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

- **Prelude to a Kiss**
Sept. 17-20, 23-27

Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library
2244 Beach Blvd., 228-388-4400, www.visitbeauvoir.org

Biloxi Excel by 5
Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave., 228-297-6808
• Community-based certification program to improve children's overall well-being by age 5

Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center
1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, www.biloxi.ms.us. Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
• Lighthouse tours daily, 9-10 a.m., weather permitting. Admission: \$5 for ages 12 and older; \$2 for ages 6-11; free for ages 5 and younger

Biloxi Schooners
367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooner@maritimemuseum.org. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
• Group charters available, up to 44 people
• Walk on Sails, minimum of 6 passengers, \$30/adult & \$20/child ages 3-12, check website for dates

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

Biloxi Tour Train
Biloxi Lighthouse Park parking lot, south of Biloxi Visitors Center, traffic light #40, 228-374-8687, www.biloxitourtrain.com
• Limited tours at this time. Call in advance for tour availability

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum
792 Howard Ave., 228-314-4747, museum@coastalmardigras.com

Edgewater Mall
2600 Beach Blvd., 288-388-3424
• **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – Give the Gift of Life!, Sept. 28, 1-6 p.m.

Harrison County East Biloxi Senior Center
461 Parker St, 228-435-4192, co.harrison.ms.us/departments/senior/services
• Open 8 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

KAFB Farmer's & Craft Market
625 Marina Dr., 228-377-2821, Giselle.alexander.ctr@us.af.mil
First Friday of each month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Marina Park. Open to those with base access.

Kroc Center, MS Gulf Coast, The Salvation Army
575 Division St., 228-207-1218. Krocmscoast.com
• **Storytime Creations: The Rainbow Fish**, Sept. 12, 9-9:45 a.m. Read the book, then create a themed art project. Children ages 2-5; \$15 per child
• **15th Anniversary Celebration**, Sept. 14-19; free facility tours, free fitness classes, \$0 registration fees (a \$50 savings opportunity), and much more
• **Sensory Friendly Swim Night**, Sept. 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m. A quieter, more comfortable pool experience designed for individuals with sensory sensitivities. Members free, guests \$10

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.
• **\$10,000 Drawdown!**, Sept. 19, 6 p.m. 41st annual \$10,000 Drawdown includes seafood buffet, open bar, entertainment, and silent auction. Tickets are \$100 and admit two. Tickets are available at the museum front desk or at www.maritimemuseum.org. Silent Auction items can be viewed at https://event.gives/msimdrawdown26
• **Treasures In Clay Pottery Exhibit** open through Sept. 30. View the beautiful craftsmanship of local pottery artist Debra Justice. Each piece is handmade and available for purchase.
• **Heritage Hall of Fame** deadline for nominations has been extended to Dec. 1, 2026. Nomination forms are available at www.maritimemuseum.org.

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.msseniorgames.com/

- **Disc Golf**, Sept. 19, check-in at 9 a.m.; Hiller Park, Atkinson Road, Details: Robby Williams 228-860-4587

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

- **Family Pumpkin Night**, Sept 1, 6-8 p.m. Ceramics Studio. Fees apply.
- **Thursday Morning Yoga**, Sept. 3, 10, 17, & 24; 9-10 a.m.; \$10 OOMA Members/\$15 general admission
- **Date Night Wheel**, Sept. 11, 18; 6-8 p.m.; Ceramics Studio. \$48 per person
- **Phat Cat with Witches Hat Family Class**, Sept. 13, 1-3 p.m. Ceramics Studio. Fees apply.
- **Hand Building Day Calls**, Sept. 14, 1-4 p.m. Ceramics Studio. Fees apply.
- **Family Ghost Night**, Sept. 14, 6-8 p.m. Ceramics Studio. Fees apply.
- See website for dates and times of all classes and events

Saenger Theatre Biloxi

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

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
- **Fish Fry**, Sept. 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., \$12 plates

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**, Sept. 4, 11, 18, & 25. 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**, Sept. 11; 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold at 7:15 p.m. \$25, dine-in or carry out. 228-392-9345
- **17th Annual Sportsman's BBQ & Giveaway**, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch served 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drawings begin at noon. Tickets \$20

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

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

Details: Jane Shambra, mscoasthistory1699@gmail.com, 228-324-3418

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Monday Bingo**, Sept. 7, 14, 21, & 28. 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 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
30	31	1 Community Market Shuckers vs Barons Keesler Federal Park Fairy Pumpkin Night Ohr-O'Keefe Museum Treasures in Clay Pottery Exhibit Maritime & Seafood Museum (through Sept. 30) Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	2 Shuckers vs Barons Keesler Federal Park American Red Cross Blood Drive Biloxi Visitors Center	3 Community Market Shuckers vs Barons Keesler Federal Park Thursday Morning Yoga Ohr-O'Keefe Museum	4 Shuckers vs Barons Keesler Federal Park Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Alice By Heart Biloxi Little Theatre First Friday HowHop Creative District Keesler Air Force Base Farmer's Market Marina Park Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	5 Shuckers vs Barons Keesler Federal Park Alice By Heart Biloxi Little Theatre
6 Shuckers vs Barons Keesler Federal Park The Chee Weez Hard Rock Casino Alice By Heart Biloxi Little Theatre	7 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	8 Community Market Friends of the Biloxi Libraries Membership Meeting Margaret Sherry Memorial Library Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	9	10 Community Market Thursday Morning Yoga Ohr-O'Keefe Museum	11 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Fish Fry Biloxi Fire Museum Alice By Heart Biloxi Little Theatre Date Night Wheel Ohr-O'Keefe Museum Steak Night – Joppa Shrine Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	12 45th Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival Harrah's Great Lawn Princess Ball 2026 & Fairytale Marketplace Biloxi Visitors Center T2T 5K Run/Walk Climb Margaritaville & Beach Blvd. Community Festival Against Crime Point Cadet Plaza Alice By Heart Biloxi Little Theatre Storytime Creations Kroc Center
13 Phat Cat with Witches Hat Family Class Ohr-O'Keefe Museum Alice By Heart Biloxi Little Theatre	14 Family Ghost Night Ohr-O'Keefe Museum Hand Building Day Calls Ohr-O'Keefe Museum 15th Anniversary Week Celebration Kroc Center Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	15 Community Market Bike Biloxi American Red Cross Blood Drive Dr. Frank Gruich Sr. Community Center 15th Anniversary Week Celebration Kroc Center Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	16 15th Anniversary Week Celebration Kroc Center	17 Community Market Shuckers vs TBA Keesler Federal Park Art After Hours Ohr-O'Keefe Museum 15th Anniversary Week Celebration Kroc Center Thursday Morning Yoga Ohr-O'Keefe Museum Prelude to a Kiss Center Stage	18 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Shuckers vs TBA Keesler Federal Park 15th Anniversary Week Celebration - Kroc Center Jeff Foxworthy - Hard Rock Casino Jurassic Quest - MS Coast Coliseum Prelude to a Kiss - Center Stage Date Night Wheel Ohr-O'Keefe Museum Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	19 Jurassic Quest MS Coast Coliseum Barrier/Horn Island Cleanup Point Cadet Marina 41st \$10,000 Drawdown Maritime & Seafood Museum Senior Games Disc Golf - Hiller Park BBQ & Giveaway Joppa Shrine Prelude to a Kiss - Center Stage King George - MS Coast Coliseum GENX Comedy - IP Casino Melissa Etheridge Hard Rock Casino
20 Shuckers vs TBA Keesler Federal Park Jurassic Quest MS Coast Coliseum Prelude to a Kiss Center Stage	21 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	22 Community Market Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	23 Prelude to a Kiss Center Stage	24 Community Market Main Street Book Club TBA Thursday Morning Yoga Ohr-O'Keefe Museum Prelude to a Kiss Center Stage	25 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Prelude to a Kiss Center Stage Sensory Friendly Swim Night Kroc Center Jeffrey Osborn IP Casino Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	26 Resilient East Biloxi Community Festival John Henry Beck Park Autumn Artisan Festival Biloxi Visitors Center POP UP Downtown West Howard Block Party West Howard Ave. Prelude to a Kiss Center Stage 7th Annual Faery Court Ball Joppa Shrine
27 Prelude to a Kiss Center Stage	28 American Red Cross Blood Drive Edgewater Mall Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	29 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Nativity Cathedral	30	1	2	3



September 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!" Flavor of Fayard's
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!" Flavor of Fayard's
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!" Flavor of Fayard's
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.

The flavor of Fayard's

This month on "Biloxi Cooks!," we visit a local favorite, Fayard's Café on Popp's Ferry Road. This small family-owned business serves dressed and pressed po'boys, hearty breakfasts, daily lunch specials, beignets, and more, with the motto, "Come hungry, leave happy!"

"Biloxi Cooks!" airs at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m. daily throughout September. 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:

Crabmeat and cheese po'boy



Ingredients:

- 6 tbsp. unsalted butter, divided
- ½ cup each minced onion, green bell pepper, and celery
- ¼ cup green onion
- 2 tbsp. garlic
- ¼ tsp. salt and black pepper
- ¼ tsp. Creole or Cajun seasoning, optional
- 2 tsp. fresh parsley
- Worcestershire and hot sauce, to taste
- 6 slices white bread, toasted, and cubed
- 1 lb. claw crabmeat
- 1 tsp. lemon juice, optional
- 1 egg, beaten
- ¼ cup flour
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- Po'boy bread and additional butter for serving

Preparation:

Sauté onion, bell pepper, celery, green onion, and garlic in butter. Season with salt, pepper, Creole seasoning, Old Bay, parsley, Worcestershire, and hot sauce. Stir in crabmeat, lemon juice, toasted bread, and egg. Form into patties, lightly coat with flour, and fry in vegetable oil until golden brown. Serve on buttered, toasted po'boy bread. Dress with lettuce and tomatoes as preferred.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN BILOXI

By Jane Shambra

In the beginning

Back in 1699, when Messieurs D'Iberville and Bienville first visited the Biloxi shoreline, they found no schoolhouses, textbooks, or formal classrooms. The Biloxi Indians had their own way of teaching and passing knowledge from one generation to the next. The original 1720 drawing of New Biloxi by Jean Baptiste Michel shows that only essential buildings were planned for the newcomers.

For the Biloxi Native Americans, education began at home. Parents and family members taught children the skills needed to survive, including hunting, construction, boat building, storytelling, and music. Knowledge was passed down through observation, practice, and generations of experience.

Language was another challenge. The Biloxi spoke a form of the Siouan language, vastly different from the French spoken by the colonizers. Without textbooks or formal language instruction, learning to communicate must have been quite a task for both groups.

The wise ones

We know that Monsieur D'Iberville was well-educated in Canada, as evidenced by the detailed observations he recorded during his voyages. In his famous journal books, he penned in cursive writing and in the native French language important details of his voyages. Since the 1700s, these invaluable details have been translated into English and

republished in book format.

His seafaring mapmakers were also skilled in their creative ability to draw the shapes of islands and record depths of water in the Mississippi Sound, all without the digital tools that we utilize today.

Nineteenth Century schools (Howard Schools)

It took a while to establish the first formal schools in Biloxi. In the late 1800s, the Town of Biloxi's council minutes clearly documented the community's growing need for schools. In March 1888, Henry and Frank Howard pledged \$5,000 toward the construction of a well-made schoolhouse.

The Howards were rather wealthy and chose to make their summer homes on Beach Boulevard in Biloxi, just east of the Ring in the Oak tree. In appreciation for all that the Howards bestowed to the City of Biloxi (including artesian wells for fresh drinking water), the city named Howard Avenue in their honor.

The council minutes also identify the town's first school principal, Professor Charles Dunbar Lancaster, who earned \$65 per month. Teachers earned between \$25 and \$35 per month.

These historic council minutes, handwritten in cursive, can still be viewed online through the City of Biloxi's website, beginning with records from January 1886. In those days, Biloxi was merely a "Town," and its meetings were held in the Firemen's Hall.

Learning through faith

Many of Biloxi's older schools



Howard Primary School



Holy Angels Nursery



Dantzler House — Notre Dame High

were founded by faith-based groups. Here is a sampling of just a few:

Childhood memories at Point Cadet

The Bailey House, a two-story wood-framed home, was built around 1850 and once stood near St. Michael's Catholic Church at Point Cadet. It served as a nursery and day care center. It was affectionately remembered as Holy Angels Nursery. In 1984, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Hurricane Katrina destroyed the structure on August 29, 2005, but wonderful childhood memories from years gone by live on.

The Dantzler House

Once upon a time, there was a famous two-story wooden home situated just north of the Biloxi Lighthouse. Known as the Robinson-Maloney-Dantzler House, it was named for the families who lived there years ago. The building also served as Notre Dame High School for boys as well as a convent.

Following Hurricane Camille in 1969, the City of Biloxi acquired the property. Plans were underway to open Biloxi's new Mardi Gras museum there in 2006; Hurricane Katrina had other plans, demolishing the historic structure and ending those plans.

Today, the Biloxi Visitors Center stands very close to the home's original footprint and bears a strong resemblance to the old Dantzler House. The Mardi Gras Museum has since found a new home and today can be found on Howard Avenue in Downtown Biloxi.

Sacred Heart

Years ago, Catholic schools for boys and girls were sometimes separate. Just as Notre Dame served boys, Sacred Heart Academy provided educational options for girls. The red-brick school once stood on what is now Nativity Drive, right behind the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Downtown Biloxi. This structure has served many purposes through time, including a boys' and girls' school.

After Hurricane Katrina clobbered the former Mercy Cross School on Crusaders Drive, students were temporarily relocated to the former Sacred Heart School behind Nativity Cathedral.

The historic building still stands today as the Nativity BVM Sacred Heart Center. A watchful eye can still spot Sacred Heart Academy etched into the building. Each March, the historic site hosts the community's annual St. Joseph's Altar.

In 2007, a brand-new St. Patrick High School opened on Highway 67 in the Tradition neighborhood, bringing together students from the former Mercy Cross Students and St. John High School in Gulfport.

Van Hook Hall

In the 1870s, the Seashore Methodist



First Baptist Sunday School

Campground was established along Beach Road in what is now the City of Biloxi. In 1910, a two-story private school was built there, with H. W. Van Hook serving as its president. The tuition was cited as \$3 to \$6 dollars per month.

Despite all the many hurricanes throughout the decades, this building still exists on the southwest corner of Chalmers and Leggett Drive and has recently been transformed into a coffee shop.

Sunday schools

School days weren't always limited to weekdays. Many churches provided religious education for the Biloxians of all ages. In 1931, for example, the African-American First Baptist Church offered Sunday school classes. It was located on Railroad Avenue and was guided by pastor Rev. H. P. Williams. W. H. Hannibal was the church clerk during that time. Sunday schools and vacation bible schools continue to provide instruction throughout Biloxi year-round.

Keesler Training: Then, now, and into the future

In January 1941, the U.S. Army Corps began plans to transform Biloxi's former Naval Reserve Park and municipal airport into a military training center. The existing airfield and surrounding property provided an ideal location for the rapidly expanding Army Air Corps as the nation prepared for World War II. Plans called for a training installation capable of supporting a population of approximately 5,200 people. By March 1941, the War Department had activated an Aviation Mechanics School and beginning a new chapter in Biloxi's history of education and training.

Since then, training and education have provided a key mission for U.S. military personnel. Today, Keesler Air Force Base has progressed through the decades to evolve into one of the largest technical training wings in the United States Air Force and has trained countless airmen and Air Force officers as well as military members from the Navy, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, and allied nations. Radar, radio, electronics, and air traffic control training specialties, as well as medical professionals, continue to train at Keesler. The Hurricane Hunters, stationed at Keesler, expertly provide a vital role in weather forecasting.

Looking toward the future, the Mississippi Cyber and Technology Center is being constructed at Keesler to expand cybersecurity training, workforce development, and technological innovation. The 100,000-square-foot, \$50 million facility will bring together Keesler, Mississippi State University, government agencies, and private industry to address the growing need for cybersecurity expertise and prepare students and professionals for emerging technologies. The center is expected to open in 2027.

A new road to learning

In August 2025, the newly constructed W. C. Fore Parkway opened off Pass Road in West Biloxi. This roadway now provides a new passageway to arrive at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College campus.

From Biloxi's earliest days of learning to today's advanced military and college training, education has continued to evolve. Students now have access to modern, space-age digital technology - opportunities that generations before them could hardly have imagined.

BNews Monthly

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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at biloxi.ms.us



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