Katrina + 5.1
Where we are today

Rebuilding efforts show the progress and the challenges

My fellow Biloxians:
I am pleased to present you another update on the progress being made in our city.

In the days and weeks after Hurricane Katrina, the question was raised over and over by those surveying the damage. “How long do you think it will take to recover?” Initially, in those long and sweltering days immediately after Katrina, “five to seven years” seemed like a safe and sufficient time frame.

In time, as the issues of rebuilding came to light, a more analytical response surfaced: “Some areas of our city will rebuild quickly. Some will take longer than others and some, for better and worse, will never return to the way they were, given the challenges of the cost and availability of insurance and the expense of new construction requirements.”

Katrina claimed 5,000 homes and businesses in Biloxi, about a quarter of the housing stock in the city, primarily in east Biloxi and in areas along the waterfront. Although the city has issued tens of thousands of residential repair permits – plumbing or electrical permits and so forth – since the storm, the fact is that less than 800 permits have been issued for the construction of new homes.

The story is somewhat better on the public side. Virtually every public facility in Biloxi sustained some level of damage or was destroyed. No building, no person was untouched by this storm. However, the city, buoyed by federal funding, has made significant progress on restoring or rebuilding its municipal facilities. Of the three dozen major projects – ranging from restoration of the city’s surviving historic properties, City Hall, marinas and harbor, public facilities, and ballfields and parks – a third have been completed, a third are under construction and a third are nearing construction.

Today, at the five-year point, the Biloxi recovery remains a study in contrasts. Some areas of the city – the casino-resort sector and those residential and commercial areas away from the water – have indeed rebuilt, providing thousands of jobs and an engine to drive Biloxi’s storied hospitality industry, and homes for families. Other areas – Point Cadet and other waterfront and low-lying areas vulnerable to storm waters – are still defining their future.

We are aware that Biloxi will never look the same as it did before the storm, but we are also aware that we can make it better than it was before.

We are aware that the very characteristics that have made Biloxi such an inviting locale over the years – a city on a peninsula with two rivers running through it, countless bayou and streams, and bounded by a bay and a gulf – are making the recovery such a daunting challenge. The national recession, which tied up access to venture capital and retarded economic growth, only exacerbated the situation, as did the BP Deepwater Horizon, which for us created a devastating perception for sectors of our tourism industry.

Despite it all, I remain confident about the progress we’re seeing. The new Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center, and the new Biloxi Public Library and Civic Center will be unparalleled in the history of the city. I look at the tremendous work that local business owners and residents have done in restoring their properties. The Four Points by Sheraton stands as a great example where a devastated apartment complex, the Gulf Towers, was turned into a stylish hotel.

The size and sparkle of the new convention center on West Beach stands as testament to what can be done – and is being done.

In all, we have about $200 million in construction in the pipeline in Biloxi. That’s despite the struggles of the bureaucracy, the recession, the BP oil spill and the daily struggles of life.

A separate phase of the city’s rebuilding effort – a $355 million project that will see the repair or replacement of virtually every street, sidewalk, curb and gutter that went underwater – appears to have navigated the changing currents of the federal bureaucracy and is ready to begin construction. The project will see as much as 25 years worth of major infrastructure work compressed into a five to seven year time frame. Never has Biloxi witnessed such a massive public enterprise.

Our new infrastructure will be a strong platform, ready to support the growth and development that will be sparked by a rejuvenated economy. And it will be rejuvenated.

Longtime residents in Biloxi realize that rebuilding from unprecedented storms – whether Camille or Katrina – does not occur overnight, particularly when done in a responsible manner, one that will reduce the threat from future storms. And while Biloxi’s rebuilding remains a study in contrasts, Biloxi’s will remains a constant. The city will be rebuilt, it will recover. It is rebuilding, and it is recovering. We will emerge as a better city and as a better people.

God bless all of you, and God bless Biloxi.

A.J. Holloway
November 2010

About the State of the City
Since 1999, the City of Biloxi’s Public Affairs Office has produced an annual State of the City newsletter, normally as a follow-up to the mayor’s annual State of the City address.

The brochure fulfills the state statute that requires the mayor to provide an annual report “to the council and the public on the work of the previous year.” Since Hurricane Katrina, the city has produced an expanded version of the report each year, providing residents and a national audience a status report on the city’s ongoing recovery from the Aug. 29, 2005 storm.

You can find an online version of this report – along with State of the City reports from previous years and other detailed information, videos and photos – at biloxi.ms.us.
A snapshot of progress

- Katrina claimed 5,000 homes and businesses in Biloxi, primarily in the eastern portion of the peninsula, and despite tens of thousands of permits issued for repairs to damaged homes, less than 800 permits have been issued for the construction of new homes. The issue of insurance—its cost and availability—continues to be the primary challenge, exacerbated by the cost of construction and the effects of the national recession.
- Sales and gaming taxes remained off in Biloxi, after enjoying a streak of record-breaking months a year after the storm. Of the city’s three primary revenue streams, only property taxes have improved over the past three years, primarily due to countywide reappraisal.
- Biloxi has made significant progress on the construction of new city facilities and restoration of those that were damaged in the storm. The Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center, and the Biloxi Public Library and Civic Center top a list of three dozen projects to restore city facilities.
- The city is nearing the point of re-starting design work on the $35 million infrastructure project, which will see more than 100 miles of city streets rebuilt, including new storm drain lines, water and sewer, sidewalks and curbs and gutters. In essence, if it went underwater it will be repaired. The city’s design team—nearly two dozen engineering firms in all—were six months into their work when FEMA brought work to a standstill with questions about salvaging PVC pipe in parts of the city’s existing infrastructure. The city, with the assistance of MEMA, has been working through the issue with FEMA and stands ready to resume design work with a goal of beginning construction in the first quarter of 2011.
- No authoritative population counts have been taken since the Census 2000, but enrollment at Biloxi Public Schools, one possible indicator, shows that enrollment remains about 20 percent off since Katrina, necessitating the closing of four schools in the Biloxi school system. New population figures are expected in the first quarter of 2011.
- Keesler Air Force Base, one of the Air Force’s largest technical training centers, has completed the largest military housing project in the history of the Air Force, representing a total of 1,028 housing units, primarily in west Biloxi. The base has dedicated a 65,000-square foot Bay Breeze Event Center, and Keesler Medical Center remains one of the leading research and development facilities in the Air Force. The base is also the site of the Air Force’s new cyber schoolhouse.
- The Veterans Administration Medical Center in Biloxi is seeing $150 million in improvements. Among the improvements expected to be completed in a year, new facilities to care for the blind; a 100,000-square-foot mental-health center; a 105,000-square-foot, 96-bed extended-care facility addition; a 1,000-car parking garage; primary and specialty clinics; outpatients surgery facilities and others. Another $150 million in improvements— including a large laundry, kitchen and other facilities—are in the offing.
- Biloxi’s northern boundary is expected to grow by 2.5-square miles, primarily in west Biloxi. The base has dedicated a 65,000-square foot Bay Breeze Event Center, and Keesler Medical Center remains one of the leading research and development facilities in the Air Force. The base is also the site of the Air Force’s new cyber schoolhouse.
- Another $150 million in improvements— including a large laundry, kitchen and other facilities—are in the offing.
- Biloxi faces another annexation case on its northwestern boundary, involving earlier this year. Although the ruling is being challenged by D’Iberville leaders, Mayor A.J. Holloway said he expects the ruling to stand. Meanwhile, Biloxi faces another annexation case on its northwestern boundary, involving the city of Gulfport. Said Holloway: “We didn’t go looking for these cases, but we cannot sit by idly and let Biloxi be boxed in.”

The list

So what’s happening in Biloxi development-wise? Biloxi has well over $200 million in development in the pipeline. Here are the Top 20 major projects either permitted, under construction or recently completed, along with the dollar valuation, all according to the city’s Community Development Department:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Value (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palace Casino addition (Point Cadet)</td>
<td>$45 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Creek estates (Miss. 67 at Howard Creek)</td>
<td>$30 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Beach condo-hotel (West Beach)</td>
<td>$20 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biloxi Public Library and Civic Center (Howard Avenue)</td>
<td>$20 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harrison County Utility Auth. treatment plant (Woodmarker)</td>
<td>$18 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kroc Center at Yankee Stadium (Lee at Division)</td>
<td>$16 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bay Cove condominiums (Brasher Road)</td>
<td>$14 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center (U.S. 90 at Porter)</td>
<td>$13 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilton Garden Inn (142 rooms, west of Rodenberg)</td>
<td>$12 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presidential Library at Beavours (West Beach)</td>
<td>$10 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase of Ohl-O’Keefe Museum of Art (East Beach)</td>
<td>$10 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Point Cadet Marina (Point Cadet)</td>
<td>$7.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Missionary Baptist Church (Esters Boulevard)</td>
<td>$2.1 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Townhome development (Crawford Street)</td>
<td>$2 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Episcopal Church of the Redeemer (Popp’s Ferry Road)</td>
<td>$1.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Lake Methodist addition (Cedar Lake Road)</td>
<td>$1.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renovations at IP Casino Resort Spa (Caillavet at Bayview)</td>
<td>$1.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First United Methodist Church (Miss. 67)</td>
<td>$1.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovations at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino (Central Beach)</td>
<td>$1.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Division Administration Building (Central Beach)</td>
<td>$1.1 million</td>
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</tbody>
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Blue marlin on Town Green

“Marlin’s marlin,” a huge sculpture on the Biloxi Town Green, is one of two dozen sculptures that stand in Biloxi, fashioned from standing dead trees. The Town Green sculpture, which was created by Fort Walton Beach wood career Marlin Miller and painted by his wife Rene, was unveiled on Aug. 29, 2009, the fourth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Biloxi’s Katrina sculptures trail continues to be one of the most popular post-Katrina attractions in the city. To see photos and video of the sculptures and interviews with Miller and fellow sculptor Dayton Scoggins, visit biloxi.ms.us.
The Biloxi City Council has passed a municipal budget that includes $3.8 million deficit – the smallest deficit in at least five years – and although the spending plan calls for no new taxes, residents can expect to see increases on their monthly water bill.

“This is the lowest deficit that I have seen in the five years I’ve been here at City Hall,” said Director of Administration David Staehling, “but I still wish we could cut it more.”

Staehling, Mayor A.J. Holloway and council members have wrestled with an operating budget that forecasts $14 million in revenue – through gaming, sales and property taxes – and proposes to spend $15.8 million to fund most city operations. The new budget year began Oct. 1.

“We’re able to absorb this $3.8 million deficit by dipping into our general fund balance,” Staehling said. “That general fund balance was $27 million a couple of years ago. It was $18 million this past year, and when we began the budget year it was about $9 million. At the end of the budget year, a year from now, we expect it to be somewhere around $3.2 million.

“As you can see from that downward trend, we cannot continue to dip into that fund. It will be gone, and to be honest it should be somewhere between 10 percent of our operating revenue, which is about $5.4 million, or two months worth of expenses, which is about $10.6 million. We should have a healthy fund balance because of economic uncertainty or an interruption in our revenue stream, such as a hurricane.”

The fund has dwindled because annual expenses have outweighed annual revenue. To close the gap between expenses and revenue, councilmembers have said employees will be required to take six furlough days – days off without pay – this budget year, and also will begin paying a portion of family health insurance. Additionally, fees have been increased in the Community Development Department for the first time in 20 years, the monthly garbage fee has been increased from $7.50 to $10, and fees have been increased in the insurance. Additionally, fees have been increased in the Community Development Department for the first time in 20 years, the monthly garbage fee has been increased from $7.50 to $10, and fees have been re-introduced for the city’s youth sports leagues.

In a separate issue, although the city is not raising its water or sewer rates, residents can expect to see monthly water bills that will include significant increases in debt service payments to the Harrison County Utility Authority. That’s the largest of any city in south Mississippi. Increases in debt service payments to the Harrison County Utility Authority. The debt service payments will increase from the current sewage rate of $1.76 per thousand gallons to $4.40 per thousand gallons. The average residential customer in Biloxi uses 8,000 gallons, which will translate to a $21 increase per month.

“These are significant increases, and we realize that,” Staehling said, “but the fact is, even with the increases, Biloxi offers among the lowest water, sewer and garbage rates of any city in south Mississippi.

“The issue is the debt-service payments to the Harrison County Utility Authority. That’s the largest chunk of our monthly water bills, and, as the City Council has pointed out, there’s not a lot we can do about it on our end. It needs to be re-structured at the source.”
The city hopes to open the Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center in time for Memorial Day, the traditional kickoff of summer.

The announcement was made in October, when Mayor A.J. Holloway and architect Leigh Jaunsen of the firm Dale & Associates gave local media a tour of the $13 million facility, which has reached the midway point of construction.

“This new facility will be state-of-the-art, all the way around,” said Mayor A.J. Holloway. “The building is actually in three sections – a 24,000-square-foot library on the western side with an open-air courtyard separating it from the massive civic center, where patrons will find high-tech sound and lighting available for their carnival balls and other gatherings.”

The facility, which is being funded primarily by Community Development Block Grant funds, borrows its design from some of Biloxi’s past structures, such as the Tivoli, Buena Vista and White House hotels.

Said Holloway: “This facility, with its arched windows, stucco exterior, chandeliers and wood ceilings, will remind you more of the ballrooms that you’ll find at our finer casino resorts. We’re raising the bar in the quality of municipal facilities here in Biloxi.”

Visitors Center aims for Memorial Day opening

“The goal we’re shooting for is to have it open in time for Memorial Day 2011,” Historical Administrator Bill Raymond said of the 24,000-square-foot, two-story center immediately north of the Biloxi Lighthouse. “The center will feature multi-media exhibits, a theater able to accommodate about 60 people, and space for private parties and other gatherings.

“This will be a real showplace,” Holloway said. “It’s a facility that will pay homage to our past, and tell visitors about the many opportunities that Biloxi offers today. This center will tell the world who we are, and it’s a place that will make us all proud.”

To see hundreds of photos of progress at the Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center site, and at other city construction projects, click on “Pictures of progress” on the city web site, biloxi.ms.us.
Construction is scheduled to begin by the end of the year on a new Point Cadet fishing bridge and be completed in early 2012. The new fishing pier will be nearly 4,700 feet long, about 200 feet shorter than the Katrina-destroyed bridge, but it will be wider and offer overhead lights that will illuminate the bridge itself and adjoining waters. The vehicle-accessible pier features two 11-foot vehicle lanes bordered by two five-foot, ADA-accessible sidewalks and vehicle turnarounds at the halfway point and at the end of the bridge. The remnants of a similarly storm-destroyed bridge at Back Bay will be removed, but the bridge itself will not be rebuilt.

The new bait shop, fuel dock

When Michael Lebatard and Brad Jones of LDJ Architects sat down to design the new bait and tackle shop at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, there was no shortage of challenges. “The first thing we had to have something that was 19 feet above sea level,” Lebatard said. “Then it had to be readily accessible for handicapped individuals. And we had to provide an elevator, and do it in a building that was designed to withstand 140 mph winds. And, of course, it had to be built for less than a million dollars.” The result is an 1,800-square foot design that includes an efficient traction elevator, and elevated mechanical and electrical systems aimed at minimizing the damage and clean-up from future storms. The facility will feature ground level fuel pumps and bait tanks, but otherwise everything else will be elevated. There was also a nod to history. Said Lebatard: “For inspiration, we looked at some 1,200 photographs of buildings from the past of the Gulf Coast, things like the old Edgewater Hotel, the old Biloxi Hotel gazebo, and other historically pertinent designs that were quaint, unique, and relevant to the history of Biloxi.” Construction, pending FEMA approval, is expected to begin January 2011.
Fifty years ago, when I attended Lopez Elementary School, where the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Building is now located, there were two teachers for each grade and another teacher, Mrs. Curtis, whose students varied in age and grade, in a separate classroom. Today we would know someone like Mrs. Curtis as a special education teacher.

When the Individual with Disabilities Education Act was approved by Congress many years ago it was estimated that children with disabilities cost approximately twice as much to educate as other children. Congress took that estimated figure into account when setting the maximum federal contribution at 40 percent of the state average per pupil expenditure. Congress has never, however, provided more than half that amount to school districts.

Of our 4,800 students last school year, we served 593 students with disabilities, about 12%: 30 with Autism Spectrum Disorder; 62 with Developmental Delays; 13 students with Emotional Disabilities and another 3 in private day treatment programs outside our school district; 5 Hearing Impaired; 239 with Language or Speech Impairment; 16 with Mental Retardation; 13 with Multiple Disabilities; 2 with Orthopedic Impairment; 46 with Specific Learning Disability; and 5 with Visual Impairments. We served no students last school year with Traumatic Brain Injury or who were Deaf-Blind, although we have served such students in past years.

I write this to remind the public that as educational mandates are rolled out at the federal and state level they are not always fully funded, leaving the difference to be borne by the local taxpayer. Additionally, we are required to test many of these students to comply with accountability requirements at the federal and state level. Finally, we appreciate the parents of these students who work with our teachers, the special education teachers and staff, and those regular education teachers who teach many of these disabled students in their classrooms.

We could not be a high performing school district in Mississippi without you!

Keep up with your school system: I remind you to go to biloxischools.net and click on The Windtalker to sign up for e-news from Biloxi Public Schools. It only takes a second.
Q&A involving schools closures and re-alignment

Why were two new elementary schools, Nichols and Gorenflo, built so close together? In 1998, the school district’s construction program called for building two new elementary schools (Gorenflo and North Bay) and a new Biloxi High School. Elementary enrollment at that time did not warrant a second school in east Biloxi. A referendum to approve the program failed by 24 votes, primarily because of opposition from those who wanted a new Nichols Elementary included in the program. School leaders revised the building program and in 1999 voters approved a program that included three new elementary schools (Gorenflo, North Bay, and Nichols) and improvements at all schools in the district.

Why are schools being closed and why close Nichols, one of the newest schools, instead of some of the older elementary schools? Biloxi school leaders have closed four schools in the past two years because post-Katrina enrollment is down 22 percent district-wide and 45 percent in east Biloxi, and state education funding has been slashed by $4.8 million or 10.5 percent of the Biloxi schools budget. As a result, schools in west Biloxi, central Biloxi and east Biloxi have been closed. Why Nichols? Biloxi has two schools – Gorenflo and Nichols – within a third mile of each other in east Biloxi. Initially, the school superintendent proposed closing Gorenflo, but the school board delayed the decision; some of the same people who are opposing the closing of Nichols objected to the proposed closing of Gorenflo at that time. A year later, after re-purposing Lopez school, continued state budget cuts, and no increase in enrollment, Nichols, Beauvoir, and Michaud were closed. Gorenflo is 35 percent larger than Nichols and could accommodate the existing Gorenflo and Nichols students.

Why is there $3.1 million in a school construction fund for future construction? A construction fund was established with the sale of the DuKate school property a number of years ago. The money has been used to build a new auditorium on the Biloxi High School campus. There are no plans at this time to build a new school, nor is there a need to. The planned use for the $3.1 million is to repay the portion of the school district’s Community Disaster Loan, $3.8 million, that has not been forgiven by FEMA.

Has there been any opportunity for input on school closures? The public has been provided time at each school board meeting for the past 2 ½ years. The possibility of school closures was first raised in late 2008. The school board heard comments in January and February 2009 regarding the possible closing of Lopez, Gorenflo and Nichols. In March 2009, the superintendent recommended that Lopez be re-purposed as the district’s alternative school. A year later, it was proposed that three more schools be closed: Beauvoir and Nichols and Michel.

Are any of the four elementary schools overcrowded? A major consideration of school closings was whether the consolidation would result in overcrowded schools or classrooms. Information was presented publicly this past spring noting the number of classrooms and the student capacity at each elementary school. The superintendent noted the intent to maintain a pupil-teacher ratio of 20 to 1. Current pupil-teacher ratios are: Gorenflo 18:1, Jeff Davis 21:1, North Bay 20:1 and Popp’s Ferry 19:1. It was unknown how many military dependents might move into recently opened base housing and attend Jeff Davis or Popp’s Ferry.

The school district has said it saved $450,000 by closing Nichols, and the Kellogg Foundation has offered $1.5 million – or about $470,000 a year over three years – to keep Nichols open. Why hasn’t this money been accepted and Nichols re-opened? The school district’s business manager, responding to a question at a board meeting early in the discussion over school closings, estimated that the district would save about $450,000 by closing Nichols. He hastened to add that this was a conservative figure, and a number of variables, primarily personnel, was still to be determined. Not all teachers would be dismissed when the school closed; many would follow students to Gorenflo. However, savings would be realized in elimination of administrative positions, and such staff as cafeteria, library, janitorial, nurses, etc. Fact is, the real question should have been ‘How much does it cost to operate Nichols each year?’ That answer: at least $1.2 million a year. Should the district accept the $470,000 a year, which could only be used to operate Nichols and would only cover three years, it would then have to find the additional $800,000 to make up the $1.2 million each of the first three years, which could require an increase in property taxes. The school board has offered to discuss the offer with the Kellogg Foundation.

Coast Transit rolling along at a record-shattering pace

By Kevin Coggin
Director, Coast Transit Authority

CTA set a new ridership record last year by serving 655,002 passengers. The previous record of 602,000 was set in 2000.

The new record ridership occurred as a result of the increased quality and variety of services that are offered and the current state of the economy. Gulf Coast residents are increasingly taking advantage of the high quality low cost services CTA offers to significantly reduce the cost of their transportation needs.

For the price of a $45 monthly pass, less than one tank of gas, residents have unlimited access to the entire fixed route system, which serves five cities and two counties.

The Casino Hopper and RT34 Pass Road continue to be our most highly used routes in Biloxi. During peak usage times of the year RT34 serves 20,000 riders a month and the Casino Hopper serves 20,200.

The Biloxi Transit Center continues to bring significant numbers of people into the downtown area as they make transfers on the bus system. This facility has been identified as the AMTRAK terminal for Biloxi when the passenger rail service has been re-established. CTA is also enjoying success with its new services. The highly successful Bike & Bus program was implemented, and we are happy to report that the Beachcomber is back. The Bike & Bus service allows passengers to place bikes on the front of every fixed route bus and trolley free of charge. This service is averaging 650 bikes per month. The Beachcomber service started in May with three new replica trolleys operating between Biloxi, Gulfport and Long Beach. The Casino Hopper buses were replaced with trolleys, which greatly improved the quality of that service. New style environmentally friendly passenger shelters were built and installed throughout the community. These solar powered units improve passenger comfort and safety.

We have continued to improve services in 2010. We have implemented improvements to the existing fixed route system and expanded services for people with disabilities. The new $1.2 million beach bus Station is nearing completion across from the Coast Coliseum, and we plan to begin construction of another one in the Rodenburg Street area. We will be ordering six new hybrid electric, heavy-duty, low floor buses for use on Pass Road, Keeler and the NCBC. We will accelerate the pace of installing passenger shelters. We are working with the city to build special design bus stop shelters in the historic areas. We will be conducting a major marketing study and updating our long range plan. We will be providing bike storage facilities at our major facilities to enhance the Bike & Bus program.

Our dedicated staff of public servants was recognized for their achievements in 2009 with national and statewide awards. CTA received the Federal Transit Administration national 2009 Award for Success in Enhancing Ridership for the success we achieved on the Casino Hopper route. The Executive Director received the Mississippi Public Transit Association statewide Transportation Manager of the Year Award for 2009. Our goal is to continue to recognize and meet the transportation needs of the communities we serve in a highly effective manner. Call us if we can assist you at 896-8080 or visit our website at www.coasttransit.com.
Infrastructure improvements in Storm surge areas $355 million design underway;
Sanitary Sewer Pump station repairs $2.8 million under FEMA review;
Street overlay $7.36 million on-going;
Lift stations monitoring system $300,000 on-going;
Cured in-place piping, Phase III $643,500 on-going;
Permanent repairs to water wells (Bradford, Porter, St. Michael, Kuhn, Tullis) $1.87 million under FEMA review.

Citywide streets and drainage projects

Citywide streets and drainage projects

Status of major projects

November 2010
1. Point Cadet Fishing Bridge $3.1 million obligated for demo, removal $5.2 million obligated for rebuilding Under FEMA review
2. Point Cadet marina repairs $7.3 million completed
3. U.S. 90 lighting repairs (Oak to Myrtle) $872,000 under construction
4. Pine Street extension $300,000 budgeted
5. East End Fire Station repairs $399,000 completed
6. Ohr-O'Keefe welcome center $7.9 million (public/private) nearing completion
7. Howard Avenue rebuilding (Alaqua to Holly) $3.9 million completed
8. Biloxi Community Center rehabilitation $3.1 million completed
9. Biloxi Public Library and Civic Center $20.5 million under construction
10. Lighthouse Fishing Dock and bulkhead $1.4 million completed
11. Old Brick House repairs $617,680 under construction
12. Bayside Avenue lighting (Casalave to Main) $90,000 underway
13. Old Ice Wharf repairs $37,100 completed
14. Buck Pass Fire Station repairs $495,603 completed
15. MLA Municipal Building repairs $190,000 completed
16. Port District admin. building repairs $1.1 million completed
17. Small Craft Harbor repairs $4 million completed
18. Commercial Harbor repairs $1.9 million estimate under FEMA review
19. City Hall repairs $805,456 completed
20. Coral Cottage/Bernich-Slay house...
21. Magnolia Hotel restoration $592,000 completed
22. Mobile Grisan Museum (at Magnolia)...
23. Saenger Theater repairs $170,000 construction pending
24. Downtown Pacific program $300,000 under design
25. Public Works complex $10.8 million under design
26. Division St/110 int. improvements $709,000 under construction
27. Back Pass Fishing Bridge demolition $8.1 million estimate
28. Lighting repairs under I-110 $289,000 completed
29. Forest Avenue pier/launch repairs $25,900 completed
30. Fire museum repairs $207,000 completed
31. Public Safety Center exterior hardening $2.1 million
32. Public Safety training room improvements $125,000
33. Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center $73,000 under construction
34. Lighthouse repairs $494,107 completed
35. Lighthouse pier reconstruction $332,000 under construction
36. U.S. 90 street lighting (Holy Land) $500,000 completed
37. Desert Island fountain $123,000 completed
38. U.S. 90 sidewalk lighting (Porter to Rodenburg) $229,000 nearing completion
39. Natatorium repairs $1.4 million completed
40. Steamboat House repairs $261,000 underway
41. Pass Road intersection improvements $676,000 for fed match under design
42. Bent Oak street repairs
43. Striker Doree reconstruction design $60,000 underway
44. Beauregard Road re-paving $275,000 completed
45. Colliseum pier repairs $253,000 completed
46. DeBuys Road engineering $37,000 ongoing
47. Causeway park improvements $2.1 million
48. Popp's Ferry Bridge submerged power cable $600,000 budgeted under design
49. Popp's Ferry bridge and approaches $2 million budgeted under design
50. Breaths Road improvements $2.7 million completed
51. Biloxi Sports Complex
52. Storm repairs $717,000 completed
53. Popp's Ferry Road, Phase IV $17.4 million estimate unfunded
54. Cedar Lake/13 traffic improvements $162,000
55. Improvements to Holly Bluff sewer $112,000 under design
56. Highway 67 lighting $429,000 underway
57. Install water service along Woodmarket Road $357,000 completed
58. Woolmarket water and sewer, Phase I completed
59. Woolmarket sewer Phase II $759,500 completed
60. Woolmarket Plantation subdivision sewer $89,000 under design

Sources: City engineers, city historical administrator, 2010 annual reports, FY 2009 municipal budget, Departments of Administration and Parks & Recreation, FEMA documents
Chairman, Biloxi Housing Authority
By Delmar Robinson
Housing Authority enjoys another successful year

In addition, an Early Head Start Center opened this year on the grounds of our Bayview Place development through a partnership with Moore Community House.

The Biloxi Housing Authority plans to offer adult day care services at our Atkinson Road facility, Gulf Shore Villas. The Biloxi Housing Authority is also focused on providing assisted living housing to residents in the community who may need low income assisted living services.

Our work in the East Biloxi area also continued this year through our partnerships with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio. We continue our work in revitalizing the parts of East Biloxi devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and are working on plans to develop homeownership and rental opportunities in that area. We have applied for grant funding for several projects in the East Biloxi area, and are currently awaiting the announcement of funding.

We continue to partner daily with numerous groups in our development efforts as well, including Habitat for Humanity of the Gulf Coast, Mercy Housing, Back Bay Mission, the United Way, Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation, LISC, Enterprise Corporation of the Delta (ECD), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and numerous financial and business partners. We also partner with many social service providers to offer our residents information regarding educational, counseling, and employment opportunities.

We continue housing improvements with funding through an award of $1.46 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus package for capital improvement projects in public housing developments, including renovation and “green” improvements to our existing properties.

If you are interested in applying for Public Housing, you may apply on Wednesdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Beatrice Brown Community Center, which is located on George Quint Circle just behind our main office on Benachi Avenue. If you are interested in the Housing Choice Voucher program, call 228.374.7771 and press “0” for the operator to determine if applications are currently being taken. If you are interested in renting a unit at Bayview Place or the Cadet Point Senior Village, please contact Sharon Ray or Wendy Hering at 228.436.7767.

The eight properties currently operated by the Biloxi Housing Authority are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Name</th>
<th>Development Address</th>
<th>Number of Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bayview Place</td>
<td>601 Bayview Avenue</td>
<td>196 Family Rental Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadet Point Senior Village</td>
<td>200 Maple Street</td>
<td>76 Senior Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant Square Apartments</td>
<td>270 Covenant Square Drive</td>
<td>40 Family Rental Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernwood Place Apartments</td>
<td>2755 Fernwood Place</td>
<td>58 Family Rental Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Shore Villas</td>
<td>2301 Atkinson Road</td>
<td>100 Senior Rental Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonnell Avenue Apartments</td>
<td>242 McDonnell Avenue</td>
<td>162 Family Rental Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakwood Village</td>
<td>330 Benachi Avenue</td>
<td>80 Family Rental Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suncoast Villas</td>
<td>1650 Carroll Drive</td>
<td>108 Family Rental Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Shore Villas</td>
<td>2301 Atkinson Road</td>
<td>100 Senior Rental Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>820 Units of Housing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We continue in the spirit of our mission of providing safe, decent, sanitary and affordable housing to the citizens of Biloxi Mississippi, serving the mission of providing safe, decent, sanitary and affordable housing to the residents of the City of Biloxi. The Agency is funded in part by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Biloxi Housing Authority has enjoyed another successful year, achieving one of our major goals by surpassing the number of public housing units in operation prior to Hurricane Katrina.

We currently operate eight properties within the City of Biloxi. We operate properties which are family developments and currently have two properties which are “senior only” developments. The two senior properties, Cadet Point Senior Village and Gulf Shore Villas are designated for residents who prefer to live in a “seniors only” development and are 62 years of age or older. In the event that there are not enough qualified individuals who request to live at a “seniors only” development, the Biloxi Housing Authority may open the availability of units up to those considered “near elderly” which includes those 50 to 61 years of age.

The Biloxi Housing Authority currently provides housing to 863 families, and assists another 550 families with housing provided through the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

We are also currently in a partnership with a private developer which has resulted in the construction of 133 family Low Income Housing Tax Credit units. The development is known as Crown Hill Commons.

The Biloxi Housing Authority has sold 17 of its HOPE VI Bayview Oaks homeownership units. Bayview Oaks homeownership units are available to those earning 80% or less of the Area Median Income. Homeownership education is being offered through referrals to Visions of Hope and Mercy Housing. If you are interested in finding out if you qualify to purchase housing provided through the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

We have also been busy expanding the services offered to our residents through our many partnerships with local non-profit organizations. We have partnered with Bethel Clinic to open a free health clinic at our Suncoast Villas site.
Seventy Years of Excellence

By Brig Gen Andrew Mueller
Commander
81st Training Wing

Since 1941, Keesler Field has been a vibrant military installation maintaining an operational airfield as well as top tier graduate, undergraduate and technical training facilities. Seventy years later, Keesler Air Force Base remains a fully operational military installation providing all four military services with undergraduate and graduate level technical training, operating an active airfield which supports a variety of operational and flying training missions, and sustaining a fully functional Air Force medical facility.

Keesler maintains the capability to deploy Airmen throughout the world to support the requirements of combatant commanders. In addition, Keesler AFB provides the facilities and programs which enable our community to care for the families of our deployed service members during periods of extended deployments.

After five years of rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina, Keesler is in top shape. The opening of the Bay Breeze Event Center, a new 65,000-square-foot multiplex facility overlooking Biloxi’s Back Bay, completed a multi-million dollar six-facility construction project which included a new base fire station, post office, and trainer development facility. All military families in the surrounding community are enjoying our new base exchange and commissary facilities throughout the state.

This spring, Keesler received the final keys of the largest military housing project in Air Force history. Additionally, our ongoing dormitory housing construction project was recently cited by Vice President Joseph Biden as one of the top 100 Recovery Act Projects changing America.

The training conducted at Keesler remains a key contributor to the overall defense mission. The 81st Training Group provides essential training in highly technical skill sets to include cyber operations, electronics, air traffic control, weather, personnel, and finance and force support. All of this training provides key core competencies that enable our highly technical Air Force today and provide the technical foundation for our future Air Force as well.

Keesler is also home to the Air Force’s new cyber schoolhouse in which officers and enlisted students are trained in the new cyber operations specialties. As one of the Air Force’s largest technical training centers, Keesler is implementing 19 new cyber courses replacing 13 previous communications courses. As the sole source of training for thousands of new Air Force cyber warriors, Keesler plays a major role in protecting our nation against cyber threats.

We are proud of the progress in sustaining Keesler’s medical facilities as some of the leading research and training centers in the Air Force. The 81st Medical Group continues to support a strong partnership with Memorial Hospital at Gulfport as well as partnerships with more than 25 civilian and university medical facilities throughout the state.

Not only are we sending our Airmen to support ongoing combat operations, but we are sending Airmen around the world to support other national objectives as well. To provide medical support in the wake of two devastating hurricanes, almost 50 members of our 81st Medical Group were tapped to provide medical support in Haiti in January and another 46 medics deployed to Chile in March.

Additionally, the 403rd Wing continues to fly important Hurricane Hunter missions, providing vital early warnings about potentially devastating tropical storms.

Keesler’s economic impact to the Mississippi Gulf Coast remains robust. Jobs created, contracts awarded, off-base financial contributions to the community and other factors equaled an economic impact of $1.18 billion.

Finally, our base is rooted in a strong community partnership. In 1941, the land where Keesler has flourished was donated to the War Department by the citizens of Biloxi to support our nation’s military mission. Since then, that community partnership has grown into one of the strongest I’ve experienced in more than 25 years in the Air Force. The men and women of Keesler have always valued this community partnership and our relationship with the residents of the Gulf Coast. We look forward to our Biloxi neighbors joining us as we celebrate Keesler’s 70th anniversary next year!

Keesler Air Force Base Fiscal Year 2009 Economic Impact Analysis

MANPOWER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Payroll</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4,115 In On-Base Housing</td>
<td>$42,490,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,167 In Off-Base Housing</td>
<td>$119,918,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,282 Keesler Employees Total Payroll</td>
<td>$162,403,338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Purchasing - Local Vendors/Contractors (Construction, Services, Healthcare, etc.) $162,761,993

Secondary Jobs Created (Keesler Dollars Spent In Local Economy) $131,142,268

TOTAL KEESLER DOLLARS $650,596,012

ECONOMIC IMPACT FY 2009 (Using Standard Economic Multiplier*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Payroll</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Retiree Payroll (12,508 members within 50 mile radius)</td>
<td>$280,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appraised Value of Volunteer Hours (41,550 Total Volunteer Hours Recorded) $841,387**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keesler’s Total Economic Impact FY 2008: $1,102,801,359 ($1.1 Billion)

*Standard Economic Multiplier: An accepted principal where initial dollars expended are re-spent again and again, creating jobs and income for businesses and other workers. A multiplier is used to determine the greater economic impact of Keesler’s expenditures. **Standard average rate for non-agricultural wages, Source: U.S. Dept of Labor.
MEMA, FEMA continue partnership with city

Rebuilding in Biloxi as it recovers from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina has been driven by the partnership of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Biloxi’s leaders. Together at a steady pace, the agencies and city have rebuilt Biloxi’s critical infrastructure, upgraded its emergency response facilities and restored several of its historical landmarks.

“The effective partnership is giving Biloxi a new face and a stronger future,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “Thanks to federal and state funding, a lot of rolling-up-the-sleeves and cooperation among the three partners, we’ve made great strides.”

And, there’s more to come. New fishing piers are opening, and harbor facilities and the city hall are being improved.

“There’s a dynamic rapport between Mayor Holloway and FEMA,” said Dennis Kiziah, director of FEMA Mississippi Recovery Office in Biloxi. “It’s partnerships like the one we have with Biloxi and its mayor that facilitate progress all along the Coast.”

The City of Biloxi now has more than a million dollars worth of vehicles, equipment

The City of Biloxi purchases million dollars worth of vehicles, equipment – more than a dozen vehicles and heavy equipment, boats, four-wheelers, barricades, boats and go-pops – to help equip city workers who may support oil clean-up and prevention efforts.

Among the equipment obtained for city employees: nine pickup trucks; two flatbed trucks; three four-wheel-drive SUVs; a vacuum truck; 18-foot and 24-foot boats; a tractor, backhoe and mini-excavator; 400 steel barricades; 300 traffic cones; two road-side message boards; and $18,000 worth of fuel.

“If this seems like a lot of equipment, that’s because it is,” Mayor A.J. Holloway said. “We have to look at this in a broad context. This is not just about being ready to respond to an oil spill, this is about being ready to respond to an oil spill during hurricane season. If a hurricane or even tropical storm were to strike our community with oil in the water, I suspect we’d need every bit of this equipment.”

MEMA disburses Public Assistance funds.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

FEMA has obligated more than $3 million for various Hazard Mitigation Grants Program (HMGP) projects in Biloxi. HMGP projects include:
- HMGP planning grant – $135,000 with a federal share of $128,500.
- Protective measures for back-up power to the Public Safety building – $14,700 with a federal share of $11,025.
- Wind retrofit to the West Library – $13,718 with a federal share of $10,288.
- Early warning sirens – $226,139 with a federal share of $11,025.
- Upgrades to fire stations – $998,528 with a federal share of $448,896.
- Upgrades for Emergency Operations Center – $2,137,898 with a federal share of $1,603,424.

FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.
Holloway pleased with court’s annexation ruling

Mayor A.J. Holloway, who years ago said Biloxi must protect it natural path of growth, said he was pleased with a court ruling that found the area north of Biloxi, particularly the Highway 67 corridor, was indeed in Biloxi’s critical path of growth.

Specially appointed Chancery Court Judge Thomas L. Zebert, in a May 21 ruling, awarded about 2.5 square miles each to Biloxi and D’Iberville and left another 6.2 square miles unincorporated. D’Iberville is appealing the ruling, and the area will not officially become part of Biloxi until the appeal is heard.

While awarding the critical area along Highway 67 to Biloxi, the court also allowed D’Iberville to annex D’Iberville High School, which is actually a part of the Harrison County public school system.

Among the court’s findings:
- The area south of Lamey Bridge Road and the Highway 67 corridor "are within the path of growth of the City of Biloxi, not the City of D’Iberville,"
- The critical area is adjacent to the City of Biloxi and is accessible only from Biloxi, and D’Iberville has no municipal streets extending into the area nor has it extended water or sewer services to the area;
- Although Biloxi has made progress in delivering city water and sewer services to the Woolmarket area, the city "did not do a very good job" in delivering those services in a timely manner. Yet, the issue by itself "does not sound the death knell to the total annexation issue."
- The complete lack of interconnection between the Biloxi Critical Area and the City of D’Iberville is a significant indicator that the Biloxi Critical Area is not within a path of growth of the City of D’Iberville.
- The proposed Pinehaven Development, a 1,200-acre subdivision, and other development extend directly from Biloxi and into the critical area, and, as a D’Iberville expert witness testified, there was "absolutely no spillover development" from D’Iberville into the critical area.
- D’Iberville’s expert witness also demonstrated that awarding Biloxi the critical area would leave D’Iberville with ample growth opportunities along Lamey Bridge Road and Highway 15.
- Considering the post-Katrina insurance and construction costs in east Biloxi, as well as the significant amount of land added to the flood zones, Biloxi’s addition of the critical area will provide the city with "much needed vacant, unconstrained land north of its existing city limits."

To see the court’s 113-page ruling, visit biloxi.ms.us/pdf/annexruling2010.pdf
By the numbers
Yearly trends
(calendar years, unless otherwise noted)

Gross gaming revenue

Sales tax collections

Revenues

Expenditures

Financial health

Debt and value

Hotel and airport traffic

Building permits issued
Monthly trends

### Community Development

- **Permits Issued**
- **Code Enforcement Violations Cleared**
- **Code Enforcement Notices**

### Youth Leagues

- Participation in Soccer, Baseball, Basketball, Football Youth Leagues and Summer Playground Programs

### Biloxi Fire Department

- **Emergency Medical Calls by Year**

### Biloxi Police Department

- **Traffic Fatalities by Year**

### Gross Gaming Revenue

- In Millions

### Sales Tax Collections

- In Millions

### New Home Construction

- 184

### Public School Enrollment

- Source: Dudley Reports, 1995-2005, compiled by Biloxi Community Development; State Tax Commission; City of Biloxi Finance Division; Source: City of Biloxi Mayor’s Office; City of Biloxi monthly report - Community Development Department, Building Division
Katrina + 5.1

Where we are today

STATE OF THE CITY 2010

biloxi.ms.us.

Biloxi, MS 39533

P.O. Box 429

Biloxi, MS 39530

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Biloxi Residen

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