



# Storm Recovery News

December 2005

FOR UPDATES, CALL THE RECOVERY INFO LINE AT 435-6300

## We're meeting challenges on a daily basis

My fellow Biloxians:

It's been less than a hundred days since Aug. 29, the day we saw our lives, our way of life and our beloved city changed forever.

We're continuing to make progress on a wide range of short-term and long-term issues. Residents are making repairs or rebuilding their homes; businesses are beginning to rebuild or have re-opened in some cases.



Reconstruction is well underway on our major roadways and bridges, and hundreds of debris workers are continuing to haul tons of debris from streets and neighborhoods throughout our city.

A steady stream of volunteers and building supplies are regularly making their way to Biloxi from businesses, churches, civic groups and individuals in towns and cities across the country.

These caring individuals have been inspired by the spirit they've seen here in Biloxi. They're seeing firsthand what we have known for years – that we're a resilient people and we're up to the challenge.

Make no mistake: Biloxi is coming back – bigger and better.

The biggest challenge we face at the moment is balancing the day-to-day issues with the planning for long-term recovery.

We're painfully aware of the short-term issues – establishing temporary housing, moving daily traffic on our limited roadways, and rebuilding our vital facilities. We also face the task of implementing elevation codes that are fair to property owners in low-lying areas yet minimize the threat from future storms and flooding.

Of course the most vital issue we face is reaching consensus on an overall vision or blueprint for the future. It should be a plan that embraces and enhances those qualities that have made Biloxi such a special place through the years – and will continue to do so for generations to come.

This vision should include safe and well-designed streets and neighborhoods, thoughtful land-use and zoning that will protect and promote our small-town charm and the excellent quality of life that we had come to appreciate.

Developing this plan and bringing this vision into focus promises to be a huge task, but consider this: We've survived an unprecedented event, and we're a stronger community as a result. We're now in an unprecedented position, where we can realize unprecedented potential.

The prosperity and opportunity we enjoyed over the past 10 to 12 years was only a glimpse of the success we will have in our future.

The hard work and undying spirit the people of Biloxi have shown over the past couple of months make me extremely proud to serve as your mayor.

God bless you and God bless Biloxi.

A.J. Holloway  
Mayor

## City making progress on debris removal



A sign marks a Point Cadet property where city contractors began removing storm debris.

More than 1 million cubic yards of Hurricane Katrina debris have now been removed from the streets and neighborhoods of Biloxi, and residents whose property remains littered with debris are being encouraged to sign a right of entry agreement that would allow the city to remove the debris as part of the city's overall clean-up efforts.

The city has completed two of its four citywide debris sweeps, and the process of removing debris from private residential properties on Point Cadet, Eagle Point and Holly Hills has begun, with plans in the works to enter private property throughout the city as the process continues.

Even though debris-removal teams have hauled more than 1 million cubic yards of debris – enough debris to cover a football field and stand 47-stories high – Mayor A.J. Holloway estimates that as many as 3 million more cubic yards of debris remain throughout the city.

"Our teams have been working 12-hours days, seven days a week since they began this huge task," Holloway said, "and I'm proud of the work they've done, but we have a ways to go. We're not going to stop until we get it all done."

Under the city's debris-removal plan, anywhere from 30 to 50 debris removal teams have worked initially to haul debris from city rights of way. At the same time, public notices were published and signs were erected on private residential properties in the hardest hit areas of the city – east Biloxi, Eagle Point and Holly Hills – to notify those property owners of the city's intent to remove debris from their private property.

"We're asking people with huge volumes of debris on their property to consider signing rights of entry forms so that we can move this debris now," Holloway said. "We'd like to get as much of it as we can before the FEMA reimbursement runs out."

FEMA plans to reimburse the city the tens of millions of dollars it will cost to remove debris from private residential property and public rights of way. The city has also secured tentative approval for removing debris from commercial property, but only on a case-by-case basis, according to FEMA.

"This entire process is going to take months before all is said and done, and it will probably end up costing more than \$50 million," Holloway said. "But rest assured, we're going to get it done."

Debris removal Q&A, Page 6.

## Casino resorts plan to begin re-opening in December

Mayor A.J. Holloway has announced that the city's casino resort industry, which attracted millions of visitors and employed thousands of workers in Biloxi, will begin re-opening to the public in a matter of weeks.

Holloway said he has been encouraged by discussions with representatives of the nine casino resorts in Biloxi.

"It's been less than 100 days – 100 long days – since we were struck by the worst natural disaster to ever strike this country," Holloway said, "but in another indication of the resiliency of this city, it looks like we may see the first of the casino resorts, the Imperial Palace, open its doors as soon as Dec. 20, and a steady process of re-openings in the weeks after that.

"This," Holloway declared, "is what we mean when we tell people we're going to meet this unprecedented natural disaster with an unprecedented response. It has been and

will continue to be a challenging task, but we've shown we're up to it."

IP hopes to open its casino and more than 1,000 refurbished hotel rooms Dec. 20.

The Isle of Capri Casino Resort and the nearby Palace Casino Resort both hope to open temporary casinos in their hotels and re-open their hotel rooms to guests by New Year's Eve. The Isle plans to locate its temporary casino in a hotel ballroom, while the Palace plans to establish its temporary casino on the first and second floors of its hotel.

"There is certainly a good bit of work to be done before these resorts will be ready to open their doors in some cases," Holloway said, "but these target dates should be encouraging news to the thousands of employees and millions of visitors who are anxiously watching our progress here in Biloxi."

See full schedule, Page 2.

## Traffic update as of Nov. 17

- U.S. 90 in Biloxi: all lanes scheduled to re-open to traffic Dec. 15
- Popp's Ferry bridge: scheduled to re-open to traffic in about 50 days
- U.S. 90 bridge: wider, improved bridge set to partially open Thanksgiving '06

Construction workers use cranes to repair or replace sections of the Popp's Ferry bridge.

# Roadways set to open in matter of days, weeks

Relief is in sight in some cases for motorists who have been navigating Biloxi's limited number of roadways.

MDOT contractors report that all lanes of U.S. 90 in Biloxi are scheduled to re-open to traffic Dec. 15, and, until then, Biloxi police plan to continue limited access on the roadway, allowing weekday afternoon traffic to access the highway at Veterans Avenue and proceed to the I-110 loop.

Since the storm, the city has refrained from opening U.S. 90 to traffic because neither traffic signals nor street lighting have been installed, and the roadway is at times crowded with repair crews, relief workers, debris-removal teams and emergency vehicles.

Elsewhere, contractors on Oct. 24 began a 100-day project to repair the Popp's Ferry bridge in west Biloxi. The two-lane bridge is expected to re-open to two-lane traffic by February.

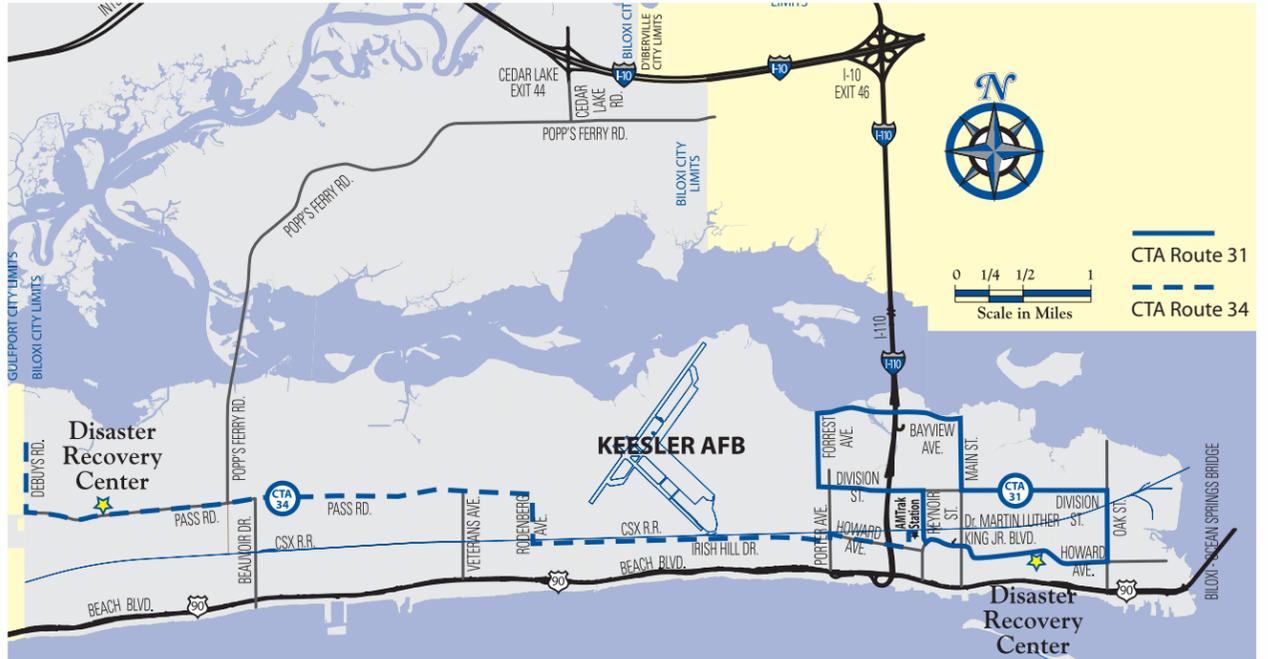
Many of the concrete sections of the bridge shifted and were misaligned during the storm, and the motors that lift its span were destroyed.

In east Biloxi, a new U.S. 90 bridge linking Biloxi and Ocean Springs is expected to be partially open to traffic for Thanksgiving '06, according to MDOT.

Once fully completed, the new bridge will have six lanes of traffic and will stand more than 90 feet at its highest point, eliminating the need for a draw for marine traffic.

Until these major roadways are re-opened for traffic, Biloxi Police are asking motorists to remain patient on roadways.

"We're constantly trying to devise ways to move traffic efficiently," Police Chief Bruce Dunagan said, "and we appreciate the cooperation we're seeing from residents. The fact is, there's only so much you can do when you're putting a huge number of vehicles on a limited number of roadways. We'll get through this, but it's going to take patience on the part of the motoring public."



## Coast Transit continuing free shuttle service

Coast Transit, which launched free bus service in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, is now offering service where Biloxi residents can connect to routes covering from Pass Christian to the west, D'Iberville to the north and Ocean Springs to the east.

More than 1,300 riders a day are taking advantage of the service, according to CTA director Kevin Coggin. Buses in Biloxi run seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Those interested in using CTA's free service can board a bus every 45 minutes on routes serving east and west Biloxi. The east Biloxi route, which covers from Oak Street to Forest Avenue, connects with the west Biloxi, D'Iberville and Ocean Springs routes at the covered platform on Esters Boulevard, between Caillavet and Reynoir Streets.

For more on CTA's routes, call 896-8080, or click on Transportation on the city's web site at biloxi.ms.us.

## Natatorium, Snyder and Farmers Market re-open to public

The city's Parks and Recreation Department has re-opened three of its popular attractions – the Biloxi Natatorium, the Donal Snyder Center and the Biloxi Farmers Market.

At the Natatorium, adult swimming is offered Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and persons 17 and under will be allowed to swim Monday through Friday from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Father Ryan Avenue facility, which is closed on weekends, carries a \$2 fee for adults and \$1 for children. Details: 435-6205 or cdobbs@biloxi.ms.us.

The Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center in west Biloxi has re-opened several of its programs. The fitness center, racquetball courts and walking track are open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center's pool will be open for adults Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m. Persons ages 17 and under will be able to swim Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission for the pool is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Discount passes also are available, and the expiration date on any pre-storm passes will be extended. The pool is closed Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the Snyder center call 436-5191.

The Biloxi Farmers Market is operating each Tuesday and Thursday at a new location, under the I-110 overpass at Howard Avenue. The market, which will be open each Tuesday and Thursday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., had previously operated at Point Cadet Plaza, which was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Vendors will offer fresh vegetables, fruits and plants at the I-110 location, with free, covered parking for visitors. For more information on the Farmers Market, call 435-6281.

## Tentative re-opening plans for Biloxi casino resorts

(as of Nov. 17, 2005)

Property	Casino	Hotel	Etc.
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino	Aug. 29, on one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina	Aug. 29, on one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina	Fallen Oaks Golf Course expected to open in Autumn '06
Boomtown Casino	Could open new barge within six months		
Casino Magic	No info available		
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino	Originally planned re-opening in summer '06 but plans are on hold	Originally planned re-opening in summer '06 but plans are on hold	
Harrar's Entertainment (Grand Casino)	Timetable forthcoming, will include land-based gaming		
Imperial Palace	Dec. 20 on existing barge	1,088 refurbished rooms available for occupancy by Dec. 20	Buffet and movie theaters open now
Isle of Capri Casino Resort	By Dec. 26 in existing ballroom	500-600 rooms available by Dec. 31	Has future plans for additional meeting space
Palace Casino Resort	Dec. 30, in first and second floor of hotel.	All 234 rooms, expected to re-open Dec. 30	Golf Course opening set for spring '06
Treasure Bay Casino Resort	Late June, in hotel	Plans are to re-design hotel and rooms	

- Of the nearly 20,000 hotel rooms on the Gulf Coast before Hurricane Katrina, only 4,600 are operational as of Oct. 31, but none are available to the public.
- Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, which sustained four to five feet of water, will re-open its arena May 1, in time for high school graduation ceremonies, with total facility re-opening in January 2007.

# Major repairs to flood-zone homes may trigger code issues

Homeowners with significantly damaged property in a flood zone will be required to make sure their homes fully comply with flood regulations before the city can issue a building permit for repairs, according to FEMA regulations.

Community Development Director Jerry Creel said some property owners may find that their homes had been constructed before standards were in place to govern construction in flood zones.

"Those who are looking to repair heavily damaged homes in a flood zone need to be aware of a few things," Creel said. "If the damage amounts to more than 50 percent of the fair market value of the home, it's considered 'substantially damaged' by FEMA. This means that in order for a building permit to be issued, the home must be brought into full compliance with the flood ordinance and FEMA regulations."

A number of homes, particularly older ones in east Biloxi, were built decades ago, before flood-zone regulations existed.

"They had been grandfathered in, but those grandfather clauses will not carry over into major new construction," Creel said. "One of the biggest issues that property owners will face is that regulations call for structures in flood zones to be elevated one foot above the base flood elevation, which is from 12 to 17 feet above the mean sea level, depending on the location of the property."

The city cannot allow property owners to re-build in a manner that violates flood plain management regulations, Creel said, noting that the city has waived permit fees for property owners making repairs or rebuilding their homes.

"Failure to comply with the codes will result in significantly higher flood insurance rates for everyone,"

Creel said, "and, frankly, insurance rates will end up increasing for all property owners."

Biloxi residents have seen flood insurance rates drop by 15 percent in the past several years, thanks to the city's enforcement of flood-zone regulations and its continuing efforts to educate the public about how to minimize the threat of storms and flooding.

In fact, all Biloxi property owners in August were mailed a copy of the city's flood zone, known as the "100-year Floodplain" in a "Storm and Flood Preparedness" newsletter.

You can see an online map showing flood zones in Biloxi at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).

The flood zone map is also available at the Community Development Department on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard or at the Woolmarket Fire Station on Woolmarket Road.

## Preliminary info on new FEMA flood elevation

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is expected to announce new guidelines that may increase the height of new construction in flood zones by about 4 feet.

This means that homeowners rebuilding or making significant repairs to homes in low-lying areas – or in the so-called 100-year floodplain – will be required to have those structures elevated as much as 16-foot above sea level on Back Bay and as much as 18 feet on the front beach. FEMA may also expand the existing floodplain as a result of data collected in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and previous storms.

The flood elevation – which is the height at which there is a one percent chance of flooding annually – is designed to help reduce the risk of flooding in homes and businesses, and to help local leaders draft and implement local building codes.

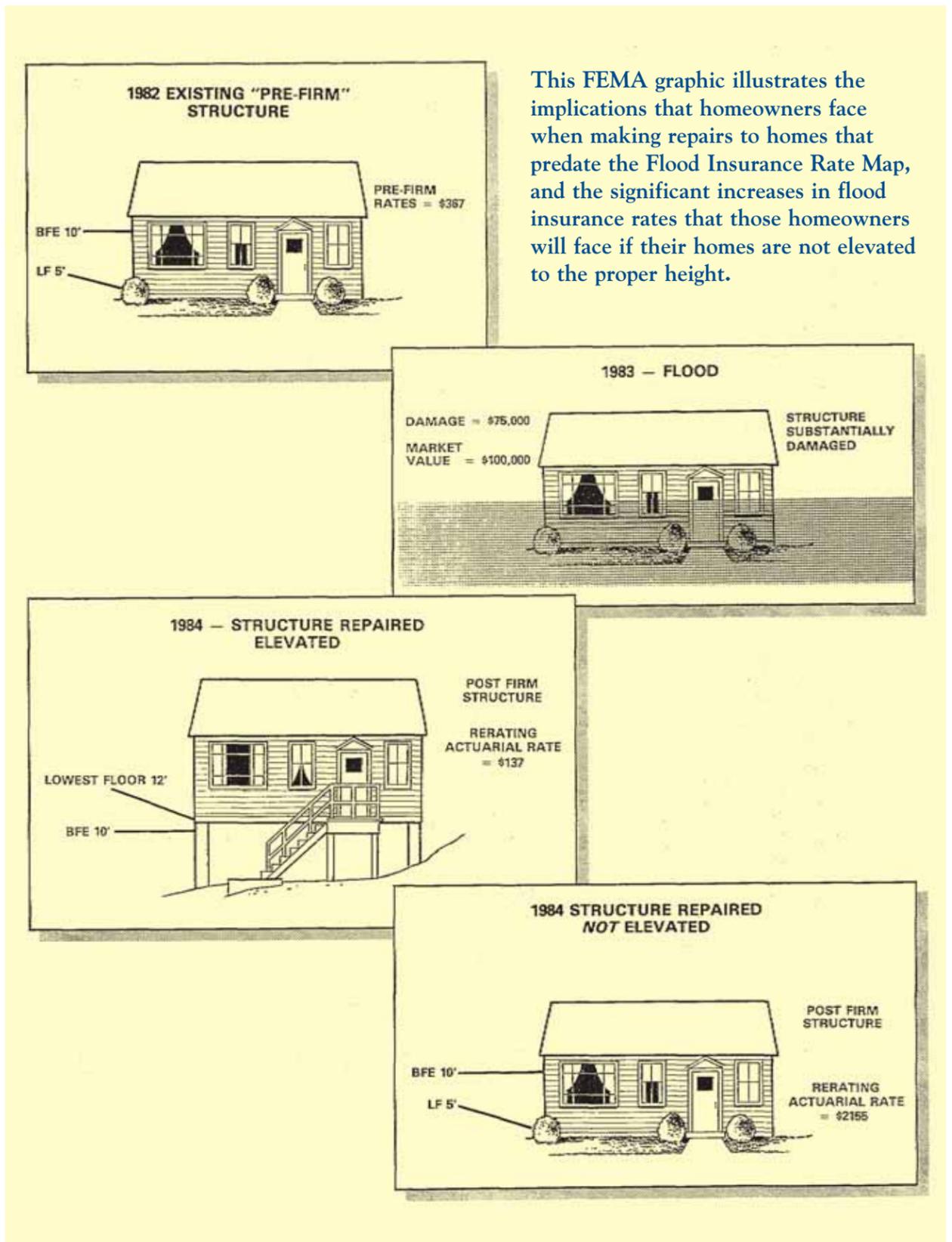
Implementing FEMA's new guidelines will be a decision of local leaders, but failing to enact the guidelines would likely jeopardize future federal funding and home financing, and lead to an increase in the cost of flood insurance or make it unavailable for homeowners.

Local leaders, meantime, realize that enacting the higher elevations will increase the cost of construction and may deter some homeowners from rebuilding.

A map showing the existing floodplain in Biloxi, as well as the path of destruction from Hurricane Katrina, is included in this newsletter. A map showing FEMA's suggested floodplain revisions can be viewed at the Community Development Department, at City Hall, or on the city website at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).

### Need More Info?

- To read FEMA's answers to frequently asked questions about repairing significantly damaged properties in flood zones, visit [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).
- To read FEMA's "Homebuilder's Guide to Coastal Construction," which provides technical guidance and recommendations concerning the construction of coastal residential, visit [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).
- Those with other questions can call the Community Development Department at 435-6280 or e-mail [building@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:building@biloxi.ms.us).



## Despite storm, value of land will increase throughout city

Property owners who fear that Hurricane Katrina's wrath may have decimated the value of land just as badly as the storm devastated homes and businesses are in for a surprise.

Mayor A.J. Holloway and Community Development Director Jerry Creel say that interest in Biloxi among developers was unfazed by the storm, and members of the Biloxi City Council have taken steps to quash unfounded concerns that some property owners, particularly those in east Biloxi, have about future plans for Point Cadet area.

In fact, council members last month passed a resolution declaring that the city has no plans to eminent domain any property in east Biloxi for commercial use, such as condominium development.

"Some of the national media wondered if we were concerned about land speculators coming into hard-hit

areas of Biloxi and trying to buy up property," Holloway said. "The fact is, we had people looking to buy property – and people looking to see property – well before the storm. That's free enterprise.

"The advice that the City Council and I have for property owners is this: Don't make any hasty decisions about whether to sell your property. This storm didn't diminish the value of property in Biloxi, particularly in east Biloxi. If anything, land values stand to increase as a result of this storm.

"There's a great deal of opportunity and excitement about our future, and longtime property owners should determine their best options on how they can share in that opportunity and excitement."

Although on-shore gaming has been legalized, any

proposals to establish on-shore gaming sites would require public hearings before a decision would be made on whether a particular parcel might be re-zoned. As part of the process, nearby property owners would be notified of any proposals and interested residents would be given opportunities to voice their position.

Although the mayor and City Council supported the measure to allow casinos to be located within 800-feet of the shoreline, the prospect of re-zoning property would originate with property owners, not the city.

To learn more about the development and land-use process, you can read the city's Land Development Ordinance, either online or at the Community Development Department.

# The existing 100-year floodplain and Katrina's path of destruction

## What you're seeing on this map

This map shows the existing 100-year floodplain in Biloxi and the initial assessment of property damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. The 100-year floodplain, which is determined by FEMA and is currently under review, is an area where structures have a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year. The damage assessment shown on this map was conducted Sept. 7, nine days after the storm, by teams of inspectors from the city's Community Development Department. The inspectors used pre-Katrina satellite-generated photographs of the city to help determine the extent of storm damage. The figures in the initial damage assessment – 5,014 structures destroyed, amounting to a fifth of all structures in the city – will certainly increase as inspectors perform detailed reviews of structures throughout the city.

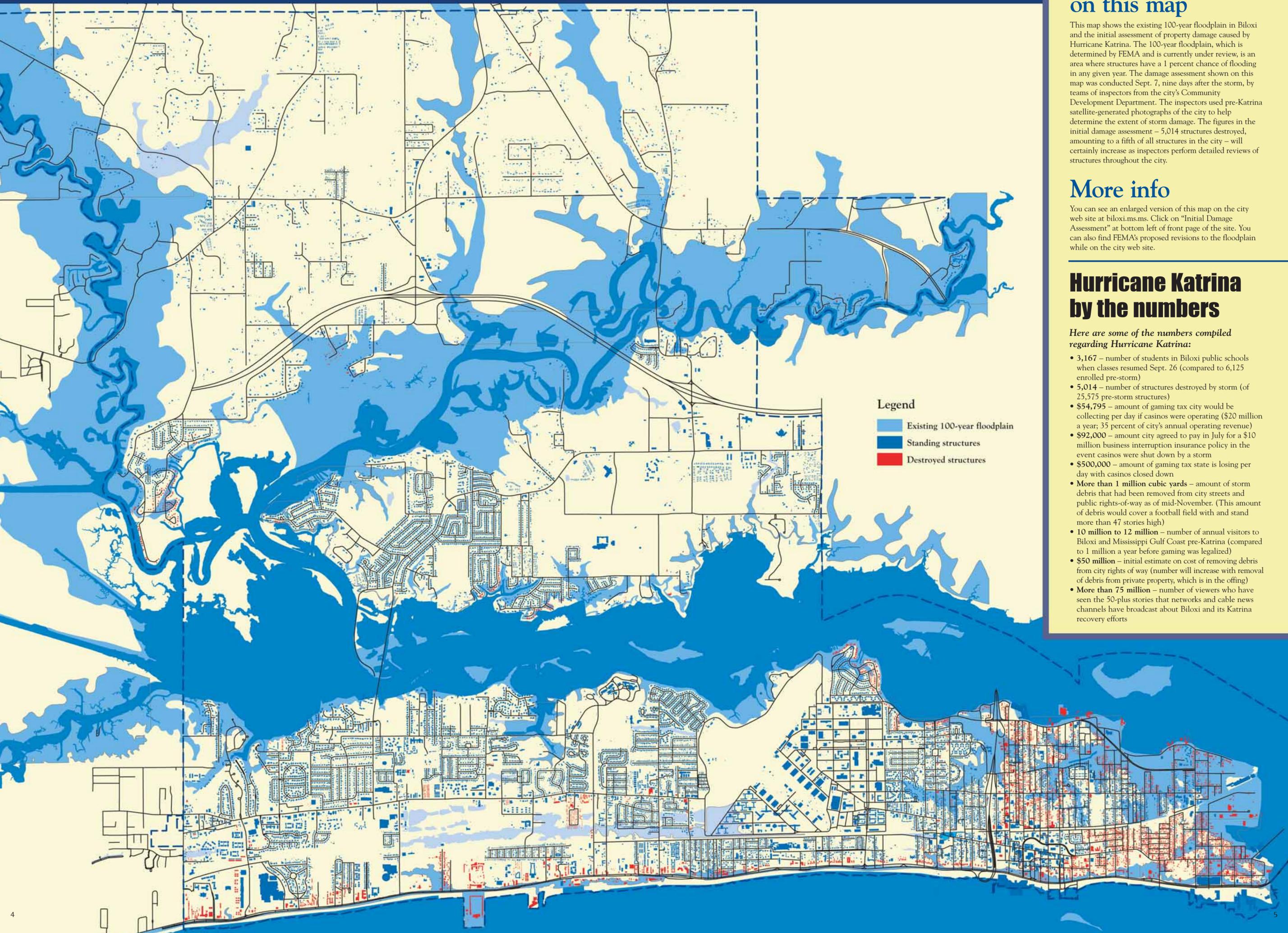
## More info

You can see an enlarged version of this map on the city web site at [biloxi.ms.ms](http://biloxi.ms.ms). Click on "Initial Damage Assessment" at bottom left of front page of the site. You can also find FEMA's proposed revisions to the floodplain while on the city web site.

## Hurricane Katrina by the numbers

Here are some of the numbers compiled regarding Hurricane Katrina:

- 3,167 – number of students in Biloxi public schools when classes resumed Sept. 26 (compared to 6,125 enrolled pre-storm)
- 5,014 – number of structures destroyed by storm (of 25,575 pre-storm structures)
- \$54,795 – amount of gaming tax city would be collecting per day if casinos were operating (\$20 million a year; 35 percent of city's annual operating revenue)
- \$92,000 – amount city agreed to pay in July for a \$10 million business interruption insurance policy in the event casinos were shut down by a storm
- \$500,000 – amount of gaming tax state is losing per day with casinos closed down
- More than 1 million cubic yards – amount of storm debris that had been removed from city streets and public rights-of-way as of mid-November. (This amount of debris would cover a football field with and stand more than 47 stories high)
- 10 million to 12 million – number of annual visitors to Biloxi and Mississippi Gulf Coast pre-Katrina (compared to 1 million a year before gaming was legalized)
- \$50 million – initial estimate on cost of removing debris from city rights of way (number will increase with removal of debris from private property, which is in the offing)
- More than 75 million – number of viewers who have seen the 50-plus stories that networks and cable news channels have broadcast about Biloxi and its Katrina recovery efforts



**Legend**  
Existing 100-year floodplain  
Standing structures  
Destroyed structures

# Q&A about Biloxi's debris removal plan

**Q: I've read where the city intends to remove debris from private residential property in the areas of Point Cadet, Eagle Point and Holly Hills. How is the process going to work?**

**A:** Initially, the city identified Point Cadet, Eagle Point and Holly Hills as areas where it intended to enter private residential property to remove debris. These three areas were made a priority because of their huge amounts of debris.

If you own property in any of those three areas, you should contact the Community Development Department (either in person at 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, by telephone at 435-6280 or via e-mail at dking@biloxi.ms.us) to either sign a Right of Entry Agreement that allows the city to remove debris from your property, or you can notify the city that you plan to remove the debris yourself.

The city has published public notices listing the names of property owners, parcel numbers and addresses of properties on Point Cadet, Eagle Point and Holly Hills where it intends to remove debris. Signs were posted on individual properties to help notify owners of the city's intent, and public hearings are planned where property owners can appeal the city's intent to clear their property.

Regardless of the position of individual property owners, the decision on whether the city will remove debris from private property will be based on whether the debris constitutes a threat to public safety or public health, and, if you propose to remove the debris yourself, the city will determine whether your plan is acceptable. The fact is, public safety and health concerns are going to drive this effort.

**Q: Are there any plans for the city to remove debris from private property located in areas other than Point Cadet, Eagle Point or Holly Hills?**

**A:** Private residential properties outside of the condemnation areas are indeed eligible to have the city remove debris; in fact, the city has already announced plans to remove debris from private property in a large section of east Biloxi.

Biloxi property owners with debris on their property should visit the Community Development Department on MLK Boulevard to sign a Right of Entry Agreement. Once that form is signed, the city will have the ability to clear the property.

However, property owners should understand that the city is focusing on clearing private residential properties only where a threat to public health or safety exists. Otherwise, the property owner will be responsible for moving debris to the curb or roadside, where the city will then pick it up.

At this time, FEMA has granted the city authority to remove property from commercial parcels on a case-by-case basis. Meantime, if the debris is moved to the curb or roadside, off the commercial property, the city can remove it from that point.

**Q: What if I do not want the city to remove debris from my property?**

**A:** You can post a sign on your property that reads "Private property – do not remove debris." Property owners are not obligated to sign a Right of Entry Agreement. However, if the debris on your property – whether it's residential or commercial – is deemed to be a threat to public safety or health, the city may take measures to resolve the issue.

Once the city's debris removal contract has expired, the city will eventually begin code-enforcement proceedings in cases where debris constitutes a threat to public safety or health, and property owners will either have to remove the debris or the city may be forced to remove it and place a lien against the property to cover the costs of removal.

**Q: What is the timetable for the city to clear debris from private property?**

**A:** Under its debris removal plan, the city is working to expeditiously remove all hurricane debris.

Any property owner who has the means and the opportunity to move debris to the curb or roadside in front of their property should do so now.

Regarding the timeframe of the overall storm debris removal efforts, the city plans to continue its efforts as long as necessary. The timeframe will be influenced by FEMA's reimbursement schedule. Currently, FEMA is reimbursing the city 100 percent of the cost of debris removal through Nov. 28, but the city has asked the state's congressional delegation in Washington to seek extension of that deadline.

**Q: Debris-removal contractors damaged my fence when removing debris. Will they replace the fence or reimburse me?**

**A:** All claims for damage are the responsibility of the debris-removal contractors. Those contractors and their areas of responsibility are:

- Point Cadet to central Biloxi: Yates Construction
- West Biloxi and area north of Bay but south of I-10: Crowder-Gulf joint venture
- Woolmarket and areas north of I-10: Ceres Environmental

Debris monitors working in each area of the city can provide a damage report for property owners and help resolve complaints and damage. Contact Neel-Schaffer at (228) 374-1211 if you need assistance in dealing with the contractor or have damage to your property resulting from debris removal.

**Q: Will the city also remove storm debris from commercial property?**

**A:** In mid-November, after requests from the City of Biloxi, FEMA agreed to reimburse the city for expenses involving the removal of debris from commercial

properties – on a case-by-case basis.

Commercial property owners, as a result of this announcement, should complete a right of entry form, just as the city is advising residential property owners to do.

Meantime, property owners, if able, are encouraged to move debris from their property to the curb or roadside, where city are better able to remove it.

**Q: What is the city's plan to remove abandoned cars and trucks that were damaged by the storm?**

**A:** Vehicles found during the debris-removal process, either on public rights of way or on private property, are considered storm-related debris.

These vehicles may pose a threat to public safety and public health because they contain gasoline, oil, and since they may have been inundated by storm water, they may contain mold and mildew.

Under the city's storm-debris removal plan, these vehicles will be tagged with a brightly colored "Towing Notice" that alerts owners that the vehicles may be towed within 48 hours. As of mid-November, more than 1,800 vehicles have been marked for towing, and towing was scheduled to begin by the third week in November.

The city's ultimate goal is to move the vehicles to a central location and take steps to reunite them with their owners. Owners will not have to pay a fee for vehicles towed by the city's storm-debris removal teams, nor will there be any storage fee since the vehicles will be stored on public property.

If your vehicle has been tagged for towing and you have other plans for the vehicle, simply remove the "Notice of Towing" sticker, and crews will attempt to work around the vehicle.



## RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT

Property owner must fill this form out at the Community Development Department, 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Biloxi, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m..

I/We \_\_\_\_\_, the owner(s) of the property commonly identified as

\_\_\_\_\_, City of Biloxi, Harrison County, State of Mississippi, do hereby request aid in removing debris to prevent further damage to my property and therefore grant and give freely and without coercion, the right of access and entry to said property to the City of Biloxi, Mississippi, its employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors, thereof, or the United States Government, its employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors thereof, pursuant to Section 33-15-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, annotated, and other applicable laws for the purpose of removing and clearing any or all storm-generated debris of whatever nature from the above described property.

It is fully understood that this permit is not an obligation to perform debris clearance. The undersigned agrees and warrants to hold harmless, the City of Biloxi, State of Mississippi and the United States Government, their agencies, contractors, and subcontractors, for damage of any type, whatsoever, either to the above described property or persons situated thereon and hereby release, discharge and waive any action, either legal or equitable that might arise out of any activities on the above described property. To the extent it is safe and feasible to do so, the property owner(s) will mark or designate any storm damaged sewer lines, water lines and other utility lines located on the described property.

I/We (have \_\_\_\_, have not \_\_\_\_), (will \_\_\_\_, will not \_\_\_\_) receive(d) any compensation for debris removal from any other source including SBA, NRCS, private insurance, individual and family grant program or any other public assistance program. I/We will report any insurance settlements made to me/us or my/our family for debris removal on this property that has been performed at government expense. I am fully aware that an individual who fraudulently or willfully misstates any fact in connection with this agreement shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year or both. For the considerations and purposes set forth herein, I hereby set my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

Owner

Owner

Address

Telephone Number

Notary

Do you want your house on your property demolished? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there another structure that you want removed? \_\_\_\_\_

**Property owner must fill out this form at the Community Development Department, 676 MLK Blvd., Biloxi.**

Revised November 2005

# Fire Department issues wintertime advisory

The Biloxi Fire Department, which sees an increase in fire calls at the outset of winter each year, is reminding residents to take steps to minimize the risk of inadvertently igniting household fires.

The fire department's advice coincides with an announcement by the National Weather Service that freeze warnings are being issued as nighttime temperatures are beginning to dip below the 30s in Biloxi.

The fire department encourages residents to be prepared for the cooler weather.

"Misuse of electric space heaters is the No. 1 cause of residential fires in winter months," said Mark Dronet, a deputy fire chief who heads Biloxi's Fire Prevention Division.

"Space heaters need to be kept three feet away from all combustibles, and you should buy only those space heaters that are UL-approved and equipped with a safety switch that will automatically turn off the unit if it turns over.

"And, by all means, never leave a space heater unattended. Always turn them off, and, to be safe, unplug them when they're not in use."

Dronet said residents should avoid burning candles for warmth, but those who insist on using candles should also use a candle holder.

#### Among the other tips:

- All filters on heating units should be thoroughly cleaned before use.
- Gas-powered heating units should be serviced once a year by a certified technician, and homes using a gas-powered heater should be equipped with a carbon-monoxide detector.
- Fireplaces should be thoroughly cleaned by a chimney sweep before use, and residents should never burn pine in their fireplaces to avoid a build up of creosote in their chimney.

*Read the rest of the fire department's wintertime fire safety advice on the city web site at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).*

## Are you in the loop?

The City of Biloxi has transmitted tens of thousands of e-mails with news about Hurricane Katrina or the ensuing relief and recovery efforts. In fact, the streams of news began flowing even before the storm made landfall Aug. 29. You can also receive Storm Recovery News e-mails directly from the city by clicking on "Are you in the loop?" on the front page of the city web site at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us). Thousands of people – either local residents or interested citizens across the country – are keeping up with Biloxi's recovery efforts, either by visiting the city web site or the city e-mail campaign. Sign up today for this free service.

# City of Biloxi Storm Recovery Information at a glance

As of Nov. 17, 2005

**BILOXI STORM RECOVERY LINE: 228-435-6300, DAILY.**

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Curfew: None.

#### FEMA TEMPORARY DISASTER HOUSING

FEMA has developed several temporary housing options for individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina:

- Travel Trailers (TT) and Mobile Homes (MH) are being brought in to provide temporary housing.
- To apply for a travel trailer or mobile home, register with FEMA by visiting the Donal Snyder Community Center, 2520 Pass Road or by calling FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).
- For problems with FEMA trailers, call 1-866-877-6075.

#### FEMA

FEMA has set up two Disaster Recovery Centers in Biloxi:

- Donal Snyder Community Center, 2520 Pass Road in west Biloxi.
- Biloxi Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. in east Biloxi.
- The centers are open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents may apply for financial assistance and temporary housing.
- The deadline for Mississippians to apply for financial assistance from FEMA is Jan. 11, 2006.
- Residents may check on the status of their FEMA request by calling 1-800-521-FEMA (3362).

#### SBA DISASTER LOANS

- Information and assistance about U.S. Small Business administration loan applications are available at the Donal Snyder Community Center.
- Information may also be found by calling SBA customer service at 1-800-659-2955 or 1-800-877-8339 for those who are hearing impaired. Residents may also visit the SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

- The Social Security office in Biloxi, which is at 946 Tommy Munro Drive, is now open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Residents may call the office at 228-388-1432 or through SBA's toll-free line at (800) 772-1213 or online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

#### PERMITS

- A permit is required when you or a licensed contractor make repairs or alterations to your property. The permit helps ensure that the work is in compliance with established building codes. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the city has waived the fee for permits for repairs to residential property.
- To obtain a permit, visit the Building Division of the Community Development Department, 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. You may call the Building Division at (228) 435-6270 or view a building permit application by clicking on Forms & Permits on the city web site at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).

#### U.S. SEN. TRENT LOTT

- Residents may visit Sen. Lott's representatives at the Dan M. Russell Federal Building, 2012 15th Street Suite 451, in Gulfport on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Residents may also contact the office by calling 228-863-1988.

#### U.S. REP. GENE TAYLOR

- U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor has established two additional offices on the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The locations:
- 2900 Government St., Unit B in Ocean Springs Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., 228-872-7950.
  - Northwest corner parking lot of the Gulfport Courthouse at 24th Avenue and 19th Street on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 228-864-7670.



#### HEALTH

- Mississippi Department of Health's general information line is 1-866-458-4948.
- Mississippi Department of Health's Harrison County district office telephone number is 228-831-5151.

#### EDUCATION

- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College has reopened all locations and all centers.
- The University of Southern Mississippi resumed fall classes Oct. 10. For more information call the university's toll free number, 1-866-320-3359 or 228-865-4500.
- Biloxi Public Schools resumed classes on Sept. 26. For more information, visit the schools website at [www.biloxischools.net](http://www.biloxischools.net), or call the Biloxi public schools administration at 228-374-1810.

#### Animal Shelters

##### BILOXI/GULFPORT

- The Humane Society of South Mississippi, 13656 Washington Ave., Gulfport has reopened its adoption center. Residents may visit the Humane Society on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call the office at 228-863-4394 or the shelter at 228-863-3354.
- For information regarding the placement of the animals that were taken to the animal shelter in Hattiesburg, call the National Humane Society at 1-800-HUMANE1.
- Financial donations are accepted through:
  - Mollie Hillburn at 228-596-9890
  - Hancock Bank, any branch by making a donation in the name of the HSSM Katrina Relief fund
  - Website, [www.hssm.org](http://www.hssm.org).
  - Mail: HSSM, HSSM, 13756 Washington Ave., Gulfport, MS 39503

##### JACKSON COUNTY

- Jackson County Animal Shelter, 4400 Audubon Road in Ocean Springs has reopened its adoption center. Residents may visit the shelter Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 228-497-6350.

##### AMERICAN RED CROSS

- Residents may call the Red Cross at 1-800-975-7585.

##### FOOD STAMPS

- For information about the food stamp program, call 1-800-948-3050 or (601) 359-4429.
- Office locations:
  - 5343 Jefferson Street, Moss Point
  - 38 London Street, Lucedale
  - 417 Mississippi 11 North, Poplarville
  - 648 Fairgrounds Street, Wiggins

##### SALVATION ARMY

- Yankee Stadium, 281 Lee St.
- The site is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday for financial assistance. This site runs on a ticket system so be patient and follow the rules. Tickets are handed out on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 8 a.m.
- Meals are served seven days a week with the assistance of a local Baptist organization. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner is served from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Thanksgiving dinner will be served on Thursday, November 24 at Yankee Stadium from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dinner is free for the public. Volunteers needed for that day should report to the dome to provide help.
- Residents may call the Salvation Army at 1-800-SALARMY (725-2769).

##### HARRISON COUNTY VOLUNTEERS

- People interesting in volunteering or people who are need of volunteers may call 228-897-1358 or 228-897-1493.

# Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- **American Red Cross** ..... 1-800-975-7585  
Provides emergency disaster assistance
- **American Red Cross Missing Persons**  
..... 1-877-568-3317  
Provides information on missing persons
- **Animal control** ..... 435-6103  
To report stray or dead animals
- **Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division**  
..... 601-359-4230  
Assistance on legal questions or complaints
- **Auto tag info** ..... 435-8242  
County Courthouse at Lameuse/MLK Boulevard
- **Birth certificates** ..... 601-576-7960  
State Department of Vital Statistics in Jackson
- **Building permits** ..... 435-6270  
For permits for construction and improvements
- **Business licenses** ..... 435-6247  
To obtain a license to do business in the city
- **City Council** ..... 435-6257  
To reach council members or clerks of council
- **City Court** ..... 435-6125  
Information on traffic tickets and court docket
- **Debris removal** ..... 374-1211  
Jonathan Kiser is supervisor of debris removal  
(For info about the city removing debris on private  
property, call 435-6280)
- **DMORT** ..... 1-866-326-9393  
Disaster Mortuary Operation Response Team for  
missing family members

- **Drivers licenses** ..... 432-7803  
Bolton State Office Building, Bayview Avenue
- **Emergency police and fire** ..... 911  
Non-emergency: 435-6107 (BPD)  
or 435-6200 (fire)
- **FEMA** ..... 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)  
Federal Emergency Management Agency
- **Garbage collection** ..... 392-5108  
BFI is city's residential garbage contractor
- **Harrison County Coroner's Office**  
..... 1-800-958-9519  
For information on missing persons
- **Housing Authority** ..... 374-7771  
To get information on public housing
- **Human Resources** ..... 435-6259  
For info on city employment; third floor, City Hall
- **Mayor's office** ..... 435-6254  
Citizen services, public records requests
- **Museums information** ..... 435-6244  
Info on city museums or to rent historic properties
- **Parks & Recreation** ..... 435-6281  
Info on programs, or to rent most city facilities
- **Planning Commission** ..... 435-6266  
To apply for a change in your zoning or land use
- **Public Housing Assistance** 1-866-864-8260  
Assistance on locating public housing
- **Public schools** ..... 374-1810  
Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools

- **Salvation Army** ... 1-800-SALARMY (725-2769)
- **Streets and drainage** ..... 435-6271  
To report pot holes, damaged street signs
- **Voter registration** ..... 435-6279  
To register to vote or change in address

## Utilities

- Cable TV
- Cable One ..... 374-5900
- Electricity
- Mississippi Power ..... 800-532-1502
- Coast Electric Power Assoc ..... 388-3109
- Gas
- CenterPoint Energy Entex ..... 896-7500
- Water/sewer
- City of Biloxi ..... 374-7953 or 435-6236

*More information is available online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us), (to receive e-news, click on "Are you in the loop?")*

*Information also is updated daily on the City of Biloxi Storm Recovery Info line at 435-6300.*

## Own a piece of history

The City of Biloxi is producing a DVD and companion photo album to commemorate Hurricane Katrina.

The hour-long DVD and photo album with hundreds of photos, will be available in early January, but those seeking to purchase the collectibles as Christmas gifts will be provided a gift card to present at Christmastime.

Fill out the order form at right or purchase online.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

	Quantity & Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo album and DVD combination – \$40	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo album only – \$25	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> DVD only – \$25	_____
Shipping and handling	\$5.00
<b>Total</b>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I'd like a gift card since this is a holiday present.	

Mail check or money order to:  
Katrina Photo Album and DVD  
City of Biloxi, P.O. Box 429, Biloxi, MS 39533-0429



**Important Storm Recovery  
Information Enclosed**

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 57  
BILOXI, MS 39530

P.O. Box 429  
Biloxi, MS 39533

Mayor A.J. Holloway  
and the  
Biloxi City Council

George Lawrence • William "Bill" Stallworth  
Charles T. Harrison Jr. • Mike Fitzpatrick  
Tom Wall • Edward "Ed" Gemmill • David Fayard

Postal Customer  
ECRWSS

Visit online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)