

SEPT. 3, 2005

A New Day

HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY NEWS FROM THE CITY OF BILOXI

My fellow Biloxian:

I'm writing to provide information to help you deal with the issues that we are all facing in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The most important thing for you to know is your city workforce – police, fire, public works, and ALL departments – are on the job and working tirelessly to help bring life-sustaining supplies and assistance to you and your neighbors.

Additionally, President Bush toured our city Friday and has promised the full resources of the federal government are being marshaled to bring aid to our community.

Meantime, we must remain patient, understanding, and, most importantly, compassionate to our neighbors. You can already see improvements – streets being cleared, supply lines being established – since Katrina made landfall 100-plus hours ago.

And keep this one final thought in mind: The city and its citizens have endured countless obstacles over the years, and this storm is providing an opportunity for us to again show the unparalleled resilience of this community. Keep the faith, and God bless you.



Points of distribution for food, water and ice

Points of distribution have been established in Biloxi as these locations:

- Cedar-Popp's Shopping Center, Cedar Lake and Popp's Ferry roads, south of I-10 Cedar Lake exit.
- Wal-Mart at Pass Road in west Biloxi.
- Food Tiger supermarket, Division Street at I-110 overpass.
- Chevron station, Highway 67 at Hudson-Krohn Road, Woolmarket community.
- Biloxi Community Center, Howard Avenue, east Biloxi.

Times of distribution for food, water and ice

Food, water and ice are being distributed at the locations as soon as it arrives in the city. Once supply lines are constant enough, a schedule will be announced.

Water system still crippled; don't drink the water from tap

The Public Works Department reports that nearly all of the city's 23 water wells are operating, and areas where the wells are functioning, primarily in west and north Biloxi, water pressure is very low.

Residents should not drink the water, and use it sparingly to conserve water pressure should it be needed for firefighting purposes.

Sewer system damaged; don't flush the toilets

Although water service is being restored to parts of the city, residents must refrain from flushing commodes because of heavy damage to the city's wastewater system.

Tip for using the restroom: Place a plastic Wal-Mart bag in the bowl of your commode, with the handles of the bag overhanging the rim of the bowl. After use, tie

the handles of the bag and drop it into your blue BFI trash receptacle.

Don't pay for work in advance; check license

Property owners are warned to beware of transient contractors who typically set up shop in the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

Ask to see the person's City of Biloxi license card, which is required to do business in this city. Do not pay any money in advance. Do not sign any contracts. And do not pay any money until the work has been inspected and approved by a city inspector.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Community Development Department at 435-6280.

News and notes

Volunteers needed: Anyone interested in volunteering in the Katrina relief effort should call 435-6122.

City employees: Any city employee who has not yet reported for duty should immediately report to the Community Development Department on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Fire Department: On Thursday, firefighters were cleaning remnants of water damage from the Back Bay fire station before planning to begin cleaning at East End Fire Station, which serves Point Cadet. FEMA has agreed to replace two of three fire department pumper trucks whose engines were submerged by stormwater. Incidentally, the East End station, which was opened only months ago, has eight feet of water inside the station, which was built three feet higher than Camille's highwater mark.

Garbage pickup: BFI expects to begin residential garbage pickup service beginning Tuesday. Mayor A.J. Holloway hopes the firm can begin before then, and asks for residents to be patient.

This newsletter will be printed and distributed every day by 1 p.m. at key locations throughout the city, such as supply distribution points; city facilities, churches, businesses, etc.