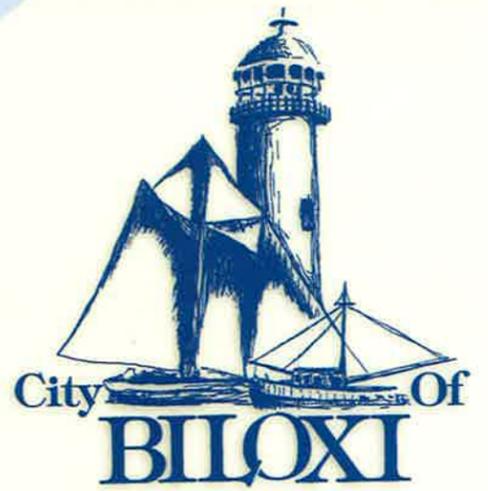


THE State of the City 2004



We need to keep doing the things we're doing

My fellow citizens and friends, as your Mayor I am proud to report that the state of our city remains robust.

Our local economy remains vibrant.

Our quality of life remains excellent and our future continues to hold much promise.

We are doing the things that we're supposed to be doing here in Biloxi, and we're continuing to see the exciting results of our efforts.

We in Biloxi today have the rare privilege of being a part of what will be viewed as one of the most historic periods of our time.

In decades to come, our children and grandchildren will view this era as when our renaissance began – when Biloxi embarked on the most prosperous and most progressive period of sustained growth ever seen in the city's long history.

The bottom line, I think, is that we need to keep doing the things that we're doing.

The rest of the nation and the rest of the world have watched how we've handled this growth over the past 12 years.

And during that time, hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested toward improving our community and our way of life.

We've built new schools, new roads, new fire and police stations, and new parks. And we've financed them in a responsible way. We've seen more than 18,000 jobs created here in Biloxi. We've worked hard to deal with the issues that come when you see \$4 billion worth of development and you see the number of visitors to your city increase from 1 million a year to between 10 and 12 million a year.

Through it all, we can say we still live in – and we still love – this city we're proud to call home.

In the past year, we've continued to attract national and international recognition for the things we're doing here in Biloxi.

In March, the White House named Biloxi as one of 20 Preserve America communities for our efforts in preservation and having land-use ordinances that encourage the preservation of historic neighborhoods.

In September, as Hurricane Ivan threatened, "USA Today," the nation's leading newspaper, featured about a three-quarter page story on the growth that Biloxi has seen since Hurricane Camille in 1969.

In November, three dozen Japanese educators spent a week in our city, learning more about the Biloxi public school system and its important role in our community.

And at the outset of this year, a member of the British Parliament toured our city and was very impressed with the growth and, frankly, everything he saw.

Of course, we continue to face uncertain times – in terms of the world and even here at home.

In the past year, more than 470 men and women from Keesler Air Force Base deployed anywhere from 90 to 120 days around the globe.

Our Biloxi folks are serving this country with honor, and our thanks and prayers are with them and their families.

Keesler got a new commander, Brigadier General Bill Lord. We're proud that General Lord is following in the footsteps of his predecessors, helping us make sound decisions that promote and guide safe and responsible growth in our city.

The excellent relationship we enjoy with Keesler proves that we've worked hard to make day-to-day decisions – sound decisions – that would fuel our economic vitality and also protect the things that we all love about Biloxi – our small town charm, our historic districts and our heritage, our low cost of living and our excellent quality of life, our safe neighborhoods, and residents who are known for their friendliness.

For the past several years, I've reported to you that the biggest of all of our challenges in Biloxi was moving traffic.

And the new roads we've built do so much more than move traffic – they're moving this city into a promising future.

I've always said that tourism is our niche in Biloxi.

For our economy to continue to thrive, and for our quality of life to continue to improve, and for our success to continue, we must strike a balance in our growth.

And that's what we've tried to do – to see growth in the commercial sector, growth in medical services and recreation sectors, which are two key quality of life issues, and growth in the residential construction sector.

The work that we are doing – the work that we need to keep doing – is making those things happen.

These road projects, with their new sidewalks, new curbing and improved drainage, are one of the tools helping us grow existing businesses and helping us create new businesses.

This means new and better paying jobs for our residents, which means an expanded and more diverse tax base.

In the past year, we've invested more money than ever in delivering the services that you depend on. With these increased responsibilities, and the overall cost of delivering services to you, we need to make sure we're getting the best return on public money.

I hope you take advantage of all of this information – online and in this report – and that you understand that it's all there to serve you, to help you get involved in your community.

In closing, let me say this:

We are truly blessed here in Biloxi, and we just need to keep doing the things that we're doing, the things that keep our city on the right track, the things that keep our city the place that we call home, and millions of visitors call paradise.

God bless you, God bless Biloxi, and God bless America.



A. J. Holloway

February 2005

Updated information about your city at your fingertips

The purpose of this brochure is twofold: to summarize progress made by the city in 2004 toward enhancing Biloxi as a great place in which to live, work and play, and to provide residents with updated information about municipal issues of interest. State law requires that the mayor provide an annual report "to the council and the public on the work of the previous year."

We invite you to read this report as well as the other information at the Biloxi website, biloxi.ms.us. There's certainly a great deal of work still to be accomplished throughout our city, but this information will help you to understand what is being done.



George Lawrence
Ward 1



Eric Dickey
Ward 2



Arlene Canaan
Ward 3



Charles T. Harrison Jr.
Ward 4

City Council



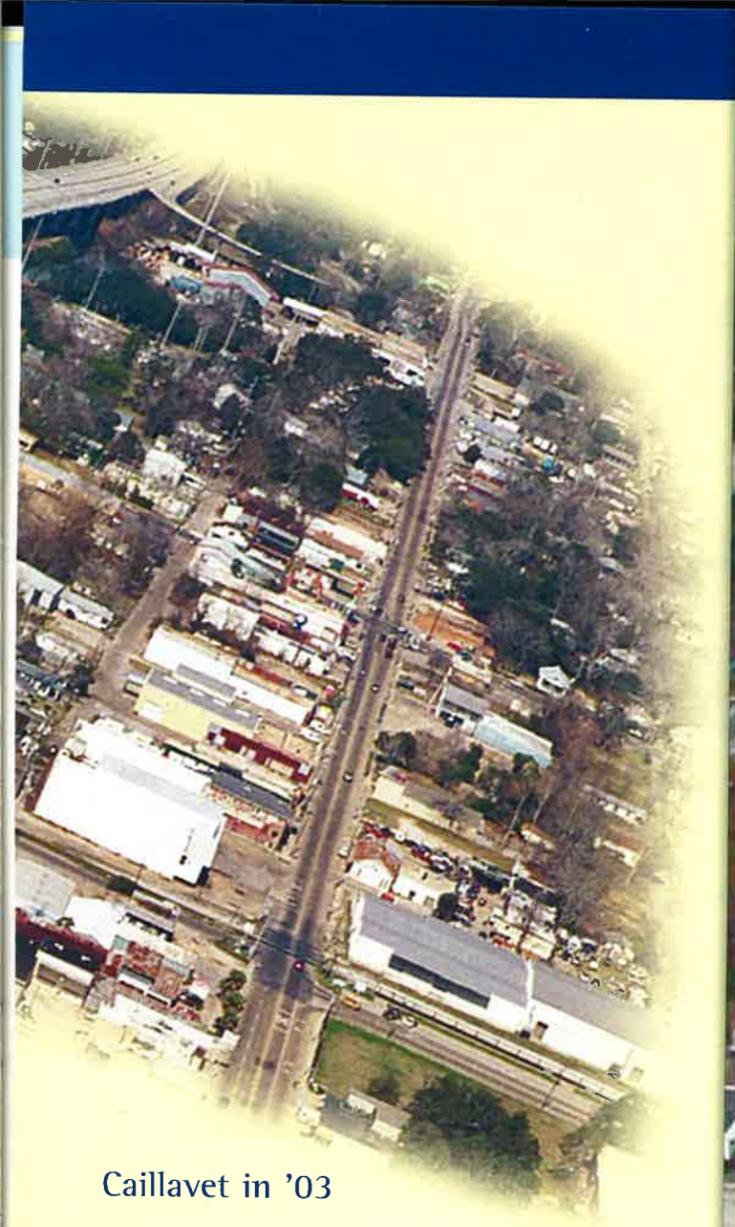
Mike Fitzpatrick
Ward 5



Tom Wall
Ward 6



David Fayard
Ward 7



Caillavet in '03

Caillavet, other projects to take shape in 2005

2004 was a year of landmark progress on efforts to move traffic more effectively and improve drainage on streets throughout Biloxi.

Construction on Popp's Ferry Road wrapped up in September, a year ahead of its original 24-month schedule. Motorists began to realize the quick access the 15-month-old Back Bay Boulevard offers between Point Cadet and I-110. And in November, construction began on a new four-lane boulevard to replace Caillavet Street.

"Moving traffic from one end of Biloxi to the other has been our No. 1 challenge for the past several years," Mayor A.J. Holloway said. "We've invested millions on these major roadway projects, and it can be a time-consuming process when you have to acquire large amounts of rights of way. But the results are paying off in more ways than one."

And if residents were impressed with the efficiency of the construction on Popp's Ferry Road, Holloway expects motorists to be driving on parts of the new Caillavet by the end of this year, with overall construction expected to be completed well ahead of its June '06 schedule.

The Caillavet Street project, to be sure, is only one of among more than three dozen streets and drainage projects that the city has in the works at the moment.

The idea of widening Caillavet Street from the CSX Railway to Back Bay was first discussed by city leaders in the '70s, but it wasn't until the '90s that the project was formally pursued, when Mayor Holloway proposed not only creating a four-lane boulevard to replace Caillavet but also simultaneously undertaking a revitalization effort that would enhance existing businesses and create a retail corridor on Caillavet.



Caillavet in late '04

Construction of the new boulevard to replace Caillavet Street was running ahead of schedule as of February 2005. All drainage had been installed on the east side of the new roadway, from Bayview to Percy Street, and storm drains were being installed from Percy to Division. Although the roadway isn't scheduled to be completed until July '06, Mayor Holloway has vowed that motorists will indeed be driving on parts of the new boulevard by the end of 2005.



Caillavet today



Caillavet future
Rendering by Neel-Schaffer

The \$6.8 million, four-lane roadway – with turning lanes, a tree-lined center median, enhanced street lighting and enhanced traffic signals, and eight-foot sidewalks lining the east and west sides of the street – also will be an important segment of an east Biloxi traffic plan that is designed to use Oak Street, the new Back Bay Boulevard, the new Caillavet and U.S. 90 to help circulate traffic in east Biloxi.

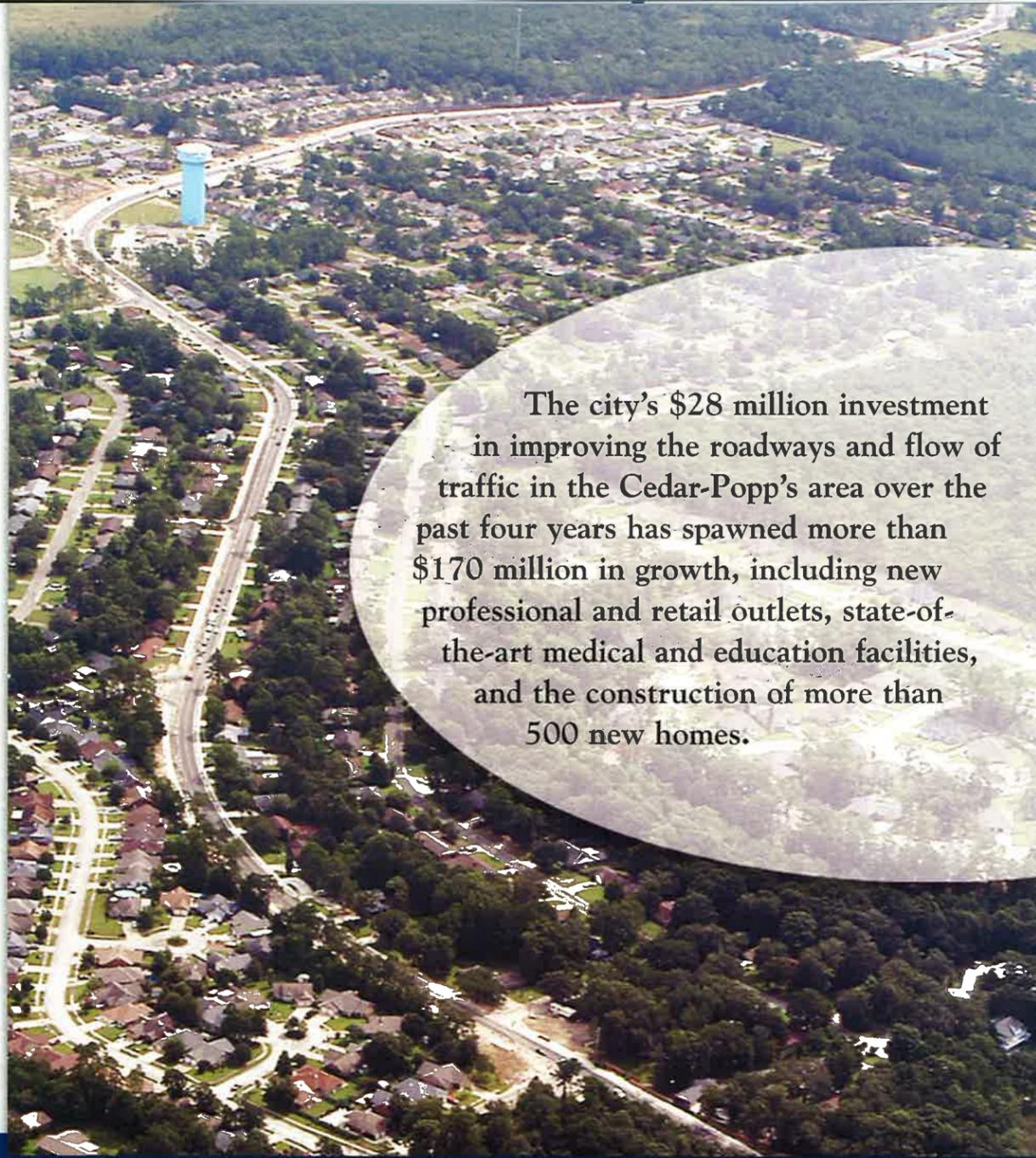
In mid-2003, the city completed a new Anglada Street, a block east of Caillavet, to provide better access for delivery trucks to serve businesses that will be re-locating in the 4.8-acre revitalization area along the east side of Caillavet. Several businesses have already built new locations on the east side, and the city is continuing to market remaining parcels for specialized retail and multi-family growth.

In the first months of '05, workers will be constructing the east side of the new boulevard, installing new curbing, gutters, and drainage systems. Once that section is complete, traffic will be shifted to those lanes while the west side of Caillavet is constructed.

Among the other projects in the works:

- More than \$1.5 million has been budgeted to upgrade the Cedar Lake Road bridge north of I-10.
- Design work is underway right now on the widening of Popp's Ferry Road from Cedar Lake all the way to the D'Iberville line. Construction could begin by the end of '05.
- Design work is underway to upgrade several key intersections on Pass Road – including Eisenhower, Popp's Ferry and others, where turning lanes and better synchronized traffic signals are planned.
- The city has been successful in having \$4 million in federal funds budgeted toward a new Popp's Ferry bridge that, Holloway said, "will not be subject to repeated openings for marine traffic, and one that will be a dependable evacuation route in times of need."

To see a complete list of major streets and drainage projects, see the Projects Map in the center.



The city's \$28 million investment in improving the roadways and flow of traffic in the Cedar-Popp's area over the past four years has spawned more than \$170 million in growth, including new professional and retail outlets, state-of-the-art medical and education facilities, and the construction of more than 500 new homes.

Road projects drive economic development

Biloxi has invested millions of dollars in constructing new and wider streets and improving drainage throughout the city, and the work is not only helping move traffic on city streets. It's having an impact on the local economy.

"These road projects are one of the tools helping us grow existing businesses and helping us create new businesses," Mayor A.J. Holloway said. "This means new and better paying jobs for our residents, which means an expanded and more diverse tax base."

An excellent example of this process at work is in the Cedar Lake-Popp's Ferry area, where the city has invested \$28 million in new streets and drainage. The work began in March 2000, when the city began widening Cedar Lake Road to five lanes between the interstate and Popp's Ferry Road.

"In the 57 months since we began that \$28 million investment, we've also overseen more than \$170 million in development in the Popp's Ferry-Cedar Lake area," Holloway said.

"That's \$33 million in commercial growth. A Home Depot, new medical office facilities offering state-of-the-art outpatient treatment, new bank branches and other professional retail. Those firms represent the creation of hundreds of new jobs in the Cedar-Popp's area.

"The new high school, new elementary school, new sports complex, expansion of the Margaret Sherry library and the new Mississippi State Coastal Research Center easily represent another \$70 million in growth.

"We've also seen \$2.3 million in multi-family construction and the really significant figure is that also in that 57-month period, we've seen 522 new homes built in the Popp's Ferry-Cedar Lake area, representing \$64.6 million in new homes. That's almost 60 percent of all the new homes constructed in Biloxi since 2000.

Said Holloway: "More than \$170 million. That's growth – diverse growth in all sectors – and make no mistake about it. Our road work sets the table for economic development."

Building permits issued in last 10 years

By type with improvement valuation

	New Homes		Apartments			Condominiums			Commercial		
	#	Value	Complexes	Units	Value	Complexes	Units	Value	#	Value	Additional Improvements
2004	186	\$ 24,150,641	54	105	\$ 8,218,788	1	101	\$ 21,865,000	34	\$ 155,122,058	\$ 5,683,300
2003	218	31,645,447	2	14	430,000	5	122	22,703,024	44	55,181,219	13,636,241
2002	203	27,207,826	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	12,083,255	18,052,749
2001	149	18,102,743	7	48	2,300,000	7	14	805,000	111	55,678,678	12,804,023
2000	139	15,906,558	8	58	2,300,000	13	26	1,495,000	133	25,515,057	15,817,108
1999	151	15,522,764	1	2	125,000	4	16	1,200,000	103	33,556,215	15,491,361
1998	112	10,928,792	36	543	20,807,015	0	0	0	72	37,899,146	13,948,665
1997	126	11,028,196	5	97	4,139,500	0	0	0	72	228,498,788	20,969,667
1996	93	8,635,678	9	146	5,510,370	2	72	4,000,000	84	73,986,304	9,654,949
1995	76	7,672,862	11	168	8,729,000	0	0	0	80	41,639,917	7,087,366
Totals	1,453	\$ 170,801,507	133	1,181	\$ 52,559,673	32	351	\$ 52,068,024	809	\$ 719,160,637	\$ 133,145,429

Source: Dodge Reports from 1995 through 2004

City sees spending at record levels, promise in local economy

The city's multi-million-dollar improvements in roads, city facilities and public parks come with a price tag – and is beginning to show in the city's finances.

In fact, the city's so-called "surplus" – which also included money earmarked for major projects – is expected to be less than \$10 million by the end of FY '05, or about a 10 percent cushion. The fund had grown to as high as \$40 million over the years.

And at the same time as record levels of spending in capital projects, the city is seeing significant increases in the cost of providing the essential day-to-day services like public safety, quality parks and recreation programs to residents and visitors

"Over the years, some have said that Biloxi was a wealthy city," Mayor A.J. Holloway said. "I've always maintained that Biloxi is healthy, not wealthy, and, with the work we've been doing, it's more important now that we continue to manage our finances conservatively."

On the operations side of the budget, the city has seen an operating budget grow from \$25.5 million in 1995 to \$51.8 million a year ago.

Police and Fire Department spending has gone from \$10 million 10 years ago to \$25 million last year.



City Revenue Sources

Biloxi must do two things, Holloway said, to sustain its current economy and quality of life: protect current revenue sources, and continue to diversify the local economy, striking a balance of growth in such sectors as new home construction, new medical facilities and retail outlets.

Right now, 58.6 percent of our annual revenue comes from gaming and sales taxes.

Several economic indicators hold promise for the city.

Monthly reports show gaming tax revenue has increased 10 of the last 12 months, and monthly sales taxes have seen increases in 12 of the last 15 months.

And in the property tax sector, Holloway said, "we're seeing tremendous growth in a related area – the condominium market."

Biloxi has 561 existing condominiums, and 215 condo units are currently under construction in west Biloxi, representing \$43.9 million in new condo construction, and another 1,000 units are on the drawing board – representing a potential of more than \$120 million dollars in new construction.

Said Holloway: "This is not to say that we'll see all of those 1,020 proposed condos move forward, but I do know that the units under construction represent a significant boost to our property tax base.

"And, most importantly, they signal a diversification in the appeal of our city. They're something else we have to offer.

"Gaming was designed to revitalize our economy, create jobs and help improve the quality of life for all of our residents. You're seeing that work in Biloxi."

Biloxi Public Schools... We are a learning community!

By Dr. Paul A. Tisdale
Superintendent, Biloxi School District

For more than a hundred years, the Biloxi School District has traditionally been one of the most progressive school districts in Mississippi. Serving a student population that is perhaps the most diverse and transient in the state, the district continues to offer, and its citizens take advantage of, quality educational programs and opportunities.

Five hundred licensed staff members and 350 support personnel are knowledgeable, friendly, and committed to providing a climate of high expectations, academic excellence, learning experiences, and challenges to prepare students for success in the 21st century. Our staff makes a difference in the lives of young people every day.

The district recently completed an extensive capital improvements program that began in 1997 and resulted in the construction of three new elementary schools (North Bay, Gorenflo, and Nichols), a new Biloxi High School, new stadium, the renovation of, and additions to, Popp's Ferry, Beauvoir, Jeff Davis, and Lopez elementary schools, as well as renovation and improvements to Biloxi Junior High School and Michel Seventh Grade School. All facilities are Internet accessible.

Lack of full funding for the Mississippi Adequate Education Act in the 2004 legislative session resulted in an \$800,000 shortfall of state funding to our school district for the current school year. It appears unlikely that the legislature will fully fund MAEP during this session and that is expected to result in a shortfall of \$1.5 to \$2.5 million for school year 2005-2006. Should this anticipated shortfall occur, citizens of Biloxi are likely to see a higher pupil-teacher ratio in classrooms across the district, a reduction in class offerings, an increase in local taxes, or, more likely, a combination of all three.

A bright spot in our financial picture for the past decade has been the tax dollars generated by the gaming industry. Gaming revenues over the years have permitted the school district to provide additional supportive services, such as school nurses at each school; a lower pupil-teacher ratio at the elementary and secondary levels, compared to other districts our size across the state; a new state-of-the-art high school; and a comprehensive curriculum that is envied by many high schools in the state.

The educational achievements of our students, in many instances, are among the highest in the state. Indicators associated with the No Child Left Behind Act tell us that our students are performing "above" or "well above" the national average at each elementary school. Scores on the state's required Subject Area Tests (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and U. S. History) in grades 8-11 validate that not only are students passing these tests at a very high rate but also, in some instances, with some of the highest test scores in the state. Extensive extracurricular opportunities and notable achievements by students have resulted in several championships and honors, notably in basketball and swimming but also in band and Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, to name just a few.

Despite the financial concerns noted previously, let me assure you that our school children will continue to receive excellent instruction and instructional opportunities from one of the state's most progressive school districts. We will continue to look for more ways to provide effective instruction.

The citizens of Biloxi have been faithful supporters of public education, and we gratefully acknowledge your continued support.

For more information, click on Public Education at biloxi.ms.us. To e-mail Dr. Tisdale, paul.tisdale@biloxischools.net.

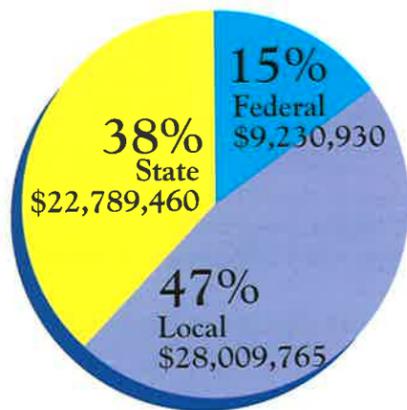


The completion of the new stadium in September '04 marked the completion of Biloxi public schools' seven-year, \$70 million-plus construction program.

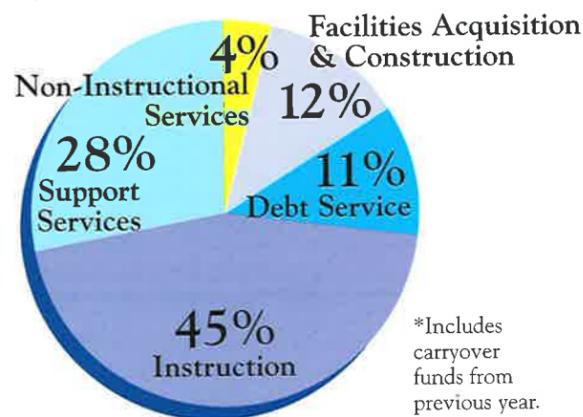
By the numbers

Budget

Total revenues of
\$60 million

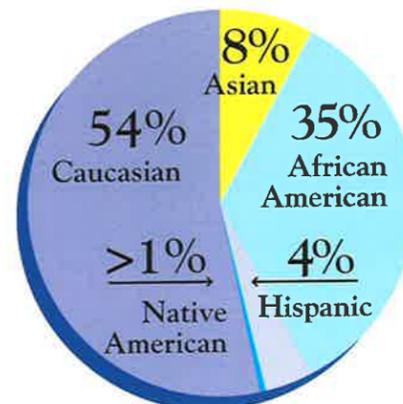


Total expenditures of
\$67 million*



*Includes carryover funds from previous year.

Demographics



2004-2005 Millage Information

School District	Operating Mills	Other Mills	Total Mills
Biloxi	29.010	9.020	38.030
Gulfport	50.250	7.600	57.850
Harrison County	37.750	6.400	44.150
Jackson County	48.900	6.107	55.007
Long Beach	55.000	8.700	63.700
Ocean Springs	54.340	7.760	62.100
Pass Christian	42.770	11.920	54.690

School Name	School Address	Phone Number	Principal	Students
Beauvoir Elementary	2003 Lawrence Ave.	436-5131	Susan Brand	478
Biloxi High	1845 Richard Drive	435-6105	Pamela Manners	1126
Biloxi Junior High	1424 Father Ryan Ave.	435-1421	Tina Thompson	998
Gorenflo Elementary	771 Elder St.	436-5145	Susan Patterson	391
Jeff Davis Elementary	340 St. Mary Blvd.	436-5110	Bernell Kelly	563
Lopez Elementary	140 St. John Ave.	432-7783	Murray Killebrew	330
Michel 7th Grade	1400 Father Ryan Ave.	435-4540	Shannon Vincent	535
Nichols Elementary	590 Division St.	436-4648	Melissa Nance	294
North Bay Elementary	1825 Popp's Ferry Road	435-6166	Laurie Pitre	821
Popp's Ferry Elementary	364 Nelson Road	436-5135	Andrea Petro	681

2003 view



Components of the sports complex: Four softball fields and a baseball field at left, soccer fields at right and Little League fields at bottom right. At top of photo is Biloxi High School and its year-old stadium.



Current view

Sports complex to host Little League play in April



Workers install sod on one of the five Little League fields.

Biloxi's \$11 million sports complex – which has been hosting high school softball games and soccer matches for nearly two years now – will reach a milestone in April, when play will begin on the five brand-new Little League baseball fields.

In fact, the majority of the work on the 67-acre complex near Biloxi High School should be wrapping up this year. And it's a good thing, too: Participation in the city's recreation programs increased by 16.8 percent last year, growing from 4,900 in '03 to 5,700 in '04.

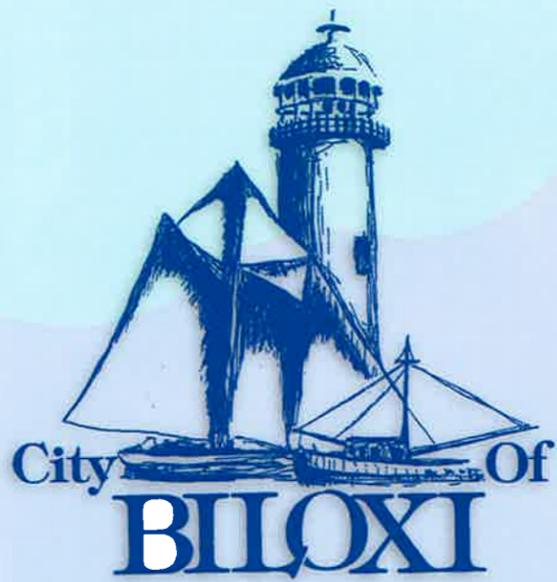
More than 700 Little Leaguers are expected to be using the new Little League fields at the sports complex when the season begins in April. The new \$2.6 million fields, which Harrison County helped construct, also will feature batting and pitching cages, concession stands, restrooms and covered bleachers for spectators.

Besides the Little League component, the sports complex will feature four softball fields, an adult baseball field, and enough soccer fields to accommodate at least eight simultaneous games.

Next phases of construction at the sports complex will include a maintenance facility and tennis courts.

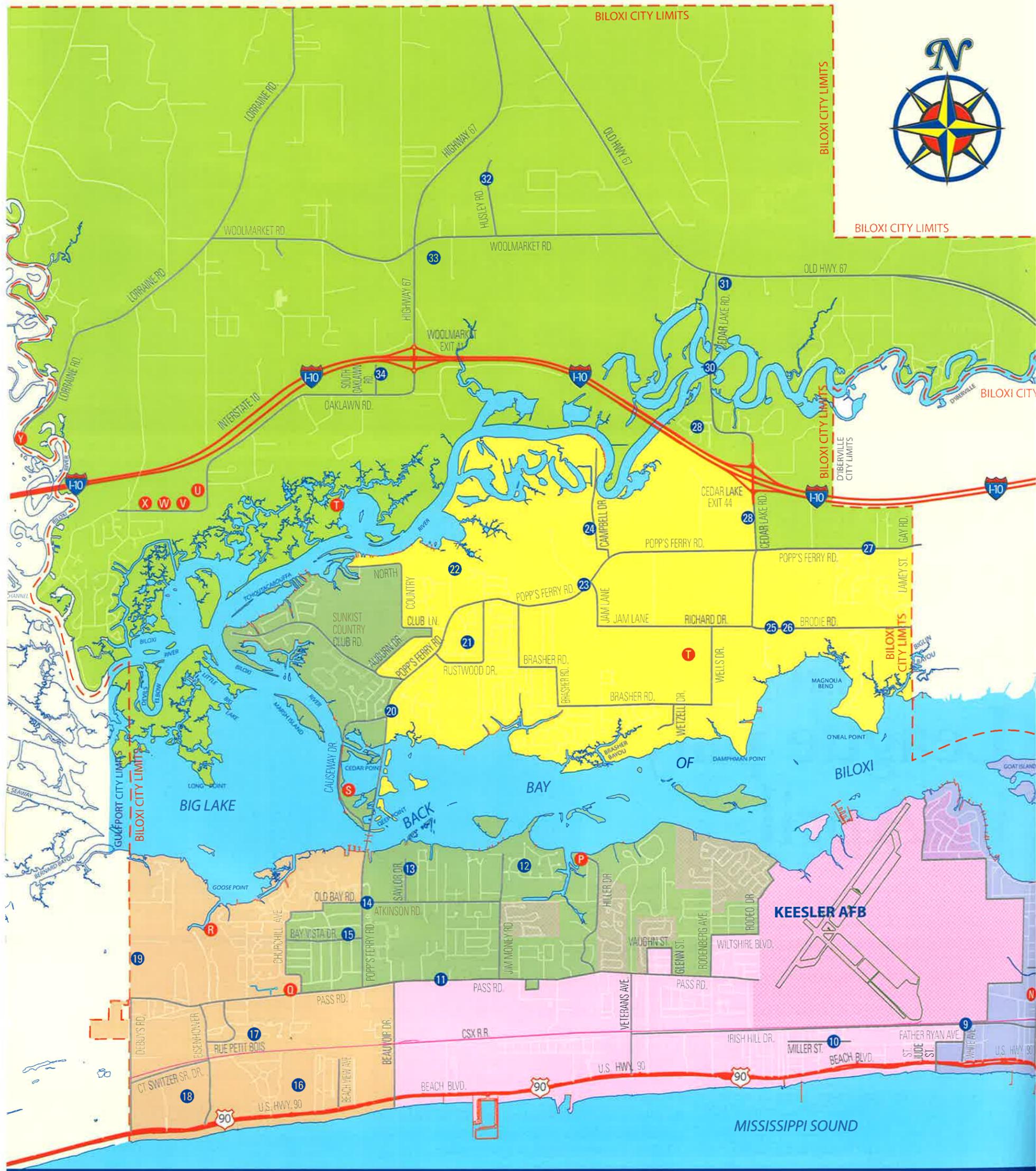
Work is also expected to continue on other Parks and Recreation projects:

- The first phases of construction of a pond and multi-purpose athletic fields near the new fire station on Oaklawn Drive should begin taking shape in the future.
- Design work should begin in mid-'05 on a new community center on Howard Avenue in east Biloxi. The city continues to seek public input on the proposed facility.



Status of major projects

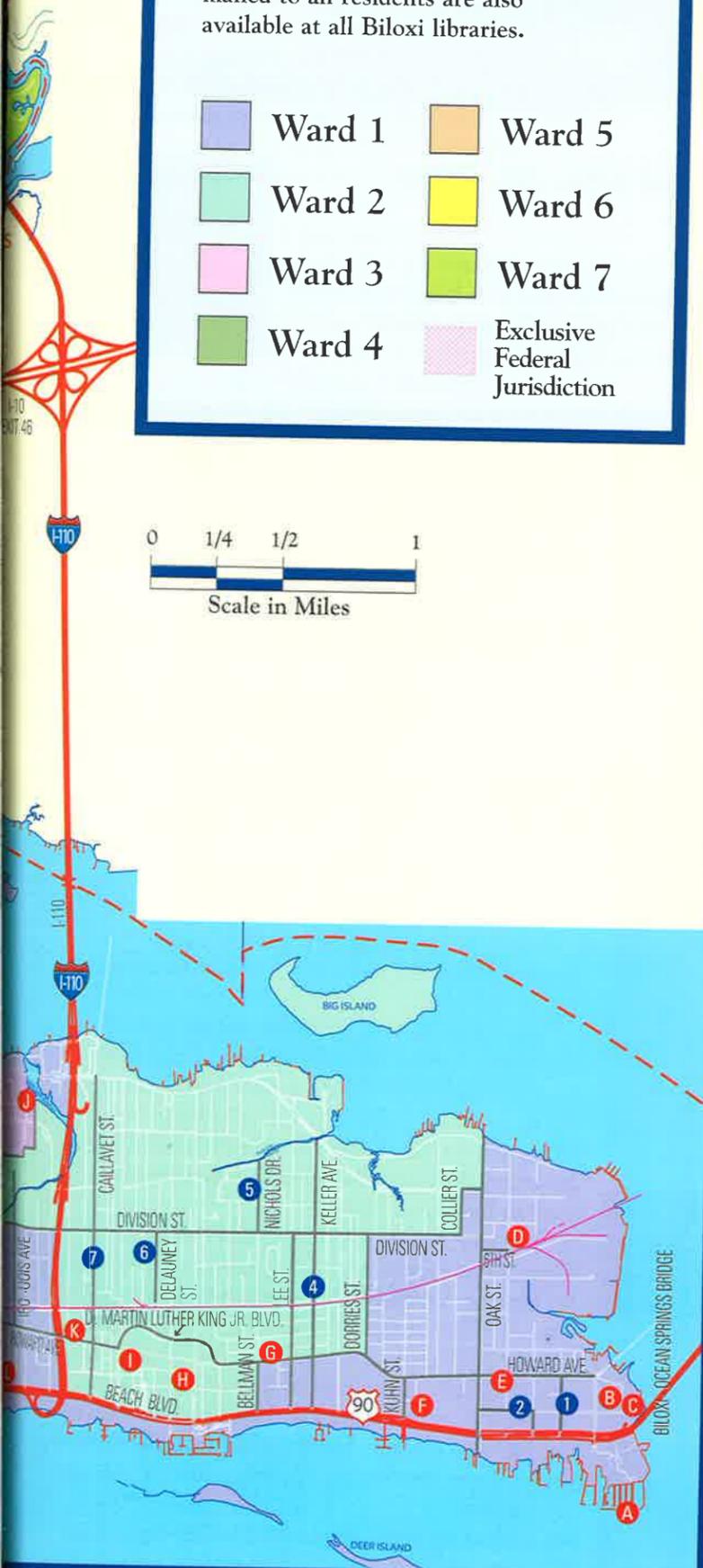
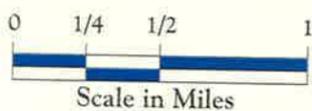
February 2005



About these wards

The ward lines shown on this map will take effect with the pending municipal elections. Party primaries will be May 3, and the general election will be June 7. The city is in the process of mailing all registered city voters their new voter cards, which will display your name and polling place. You can find more information about the upcoming elections by visiting the city's web site at biloxi.ms.us. Additional copies of the recent Voter Information guide mailed to all residents are also available at all Biloxi libraries.

	Ward 1		Ward 5
	Ward 2		Ward 6
	Ward 3		Ward 7
	Ward 4		Exclusive Federal Jurisdiction



Major streets and drainage projects

(includes projects completed, under construction or under design)

1. Cedar Street drainage improvements (design)	\$25,000	budgeted
2. Final phase of First Street drainage improvements	\$1.27 million	completed
3. Improvements to Kuhn-U.S. 90 intersection	\$500,000	budgeted
4. Reconstruction of Keller Avenue	\$950,000	completed
5. Nichols Drive reconstruction	\$1 million	completed
6. Delauney Street improvements	\$20,000	under design
7. Caillavet Street revitalization project	\$9 million+	ongoing
Ph. I, widening of Anglada	\$582,000	completed
Ph. II, install drainage outfalls	\$501,000	completed
Ph. III, ROW demolition	\$90,000	completed
Ph. IV, construction of new Caillavet boulevard	\$6.8 million	under construction
8. Benachi Street reconstruction (Division to Bayview)	\$300,000	budgeted
9. Irish Hill at White Avenue intersection upgrade	\$348,000	budgeted
10. Miller Street drainage improvements (design)	\$25,000	budgeted
11. Pass Road intersection and signal upgrades	\$550,000	under design
12. Bent Oaks drainage improvements (design)	\$25,000	budgeted
13. Saylor Drive drainage improvements (design)	\$25,000	budgeted
14. Popp's Ferry-Atkinson Road intersection improvements	\$400,000	completed
15. Bay Vista drainage improvements, Ph. IV	\$136,000	completed
16. The Landing drainage improvements	\$541,687	completed
17. Rue Petit Bois drainage improvements	\$835,000	out for bid
18. C.T. Switzer Sr. Road drainage, Ph. II	\$750,000	under design
19. DeBuys Road sidewalks	\$25,000	budgeted
20. Popp's Ferry, Ph. 2A (Sherry library to causeway)	\$3.8 million+	completed
21. Sunkist drainage improvements		
Ph. I (drainage easements off Sunkist streets)	\$777,550	completed
Ph. II (Rustwood and Baywood areas)	\$800,000	under construction
Ph. III (Baywood and neighboring streets)	\$1.2 million	budgeted
22. Wildwood Trace drainage improvements		
Design	\$25,000	completed
Construction	\$286,504	completed
23. Popp's Ferry, Ph. 2B (Country Club to Jam Lane)	\$3.3 million+	completed
24. Campbell Drive sewer installation	\$200,000	awaiting DEQ approval
25. Brodie Road A&E widening	\$25,000	budgeted
26. Installation of Brodie Road water line	\$100,000	completed
27. Popp's Ferry, Ph. 4 (Cedar Lake-Gay Road)	\$150,000+	under design
28. Cedar Lake traffic signal, south of I-10	\$100,000	completed
29. Cedar Lake subdivision road reconstruction	\$800,000	under construction
30. Cedar Lake Bridge repairs	\$1.8 million	design underway
31. Install waterline from Cedar Lake Bridge to Miss. 67	\$250,000	design pending
32. Husley Road improvements	\$250,000	budgeted
33. Woolmarket sewer collection system design	\$100,000	underway
34. Install water line in Woolmarket (south on Oaklawn)	\$400,000	budgeted

Major public works projects

(includes projects completed, under construction or under design)

A. Marina repairs	\$257,000	budgeted
B. Point Cadet Plaza hangar improvements	\$130,000	underway
C. Golden Fisherman site upgrade	\$90,000	pending
D. East Biloxi elevated water tank (off Sixth Street)	\$1.65 million	under construction
E. Construction of new fire station for east Biloxi	\$948,500	near completion
F. Crawford House interior restoration	\$300,000	pending
G. New Biloxi Community Center design	\$75,000	
H. Biloxi Library chiller replacement	\$105,000	completed
I. Downtown plaza refurbishment	\$50,000	under design
J. Keegan's Bayou restoration and conservation	\$192,000	budgeted
K. Relocation of Bond House on Howard Avenue	\$50,000	budgeted
L. Mardi Gras Museum relocation to Dantzer House, Ph. I	\$125,000	under construction
M. Biloxi Lighthouse interpretive display design		
N. Public Safety training room	\$125,000	under design
O. Lopez Park project	\$20,000	budgeted
P. Hiller Park, installation of pier and boardwalk along Bay	\$300,000	under design
Q. Donal M. Snyder Community Center, interior masonry wall	\$29,500	completed
R. Parkview lift station upgrade	\$650,000	under construction
S. Popp's Ferry causeway park		
master plan	\$22,000	completed
clearing and grubbing	(county labor)	completed
removal of derelict pilings	\$345,000	underway
Ph. I construction (pilings for boardwalk)	\$383,000	under construction
Ph. II, upgrade ramps, parking and lighting		
T. Sports complex		
Ph. I (clearing land, install utilities)	\$934,000	completed
Ph. II (concession and restroom building for five-plex, covered bleachers, scorers booths)	\$698,000	completed
Ph. III (3 softball and 4 soccer fields, concession and restroom buildings, lights, roads, parking)	\$2.27 million	completed
Ph. IV (one softball field, one adult baseball field, five Little League fields with concession and restroom building, lighting, roads, parking)	\$2.4 million	early '05 completion
Ph. V (tennis complex and multi-use meeting room, maintenance building, water well, roads, parking)	\$1.7 million	under design
U. Construction of new Woolmarket fire station	\$950,382	near completion
V. Construction of Woolmarket Park	\$502,200	under design
W. Construction of Woolmarket elevated water tank	\$1.59 million	under construction
X. Water well to serve Woolmarket	\$486,000	under construction
Y. Lorraine Road bridge	\$500,000	budgeted

Citywide streets and drainage projects

(includes projects completed, under construction or under design)

• In-house construction and cured-in-place piping	\$1.5 million	ongoing
• Traffic signalization analysis and upgrades, Ph. I	\$250,000	completed
• Upgrades to computer hardware and software	\$600,000	ongoing
• Maintenance of elevated water tanks	\$590,000	ongoing
• ADA improvements	\$254,000	ongoing
• Lift stations upgrades and maintenance	\$843,827	ongoing
• Street overlay	\$500,000	ongoing
• Construction materials for in-house construction teams	\$300,000	ongoing
• Stormwater Ph. II	\$26,000	under design
• GIS mapping	\$134,000	ongoing
• FEMA buyout program	\$890,000	(\$764,000 expended)

CTA unveils plans for downtown transit center

By Kevin Coggin
Executive Director, Coast Transit Authority

Coast Transit, which has enjoyed an 8 percent increase in ridership during the past two years, is planning major upgrades in Biloxi in an effort to make public transportation more attractive to a wider audience.

In 2004, CTA introduced two new hybrid electric trolleys on the Beachcomber line in Biloxi, and near the end of the year, construction was underway on a downtown Biloxi transit center that is expected to be completed in November '05 and will host 92 daily bus arrivals and departures, including a downtown park-and-ride program.

Using local and federal funds, CTA in '03 purchased property at Reynoir Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to construct the \$2.5 million transit center, which will house the transit hub now located at the Biloxi Lighthouse. When the new downtown center opens in November, passengers will find a facility with spacious indoor and outdoor waiting areas, large restrooms, vending machines, covered bus loading areas, surface-level parking, and, most importantly, connections to 5 routes that operate throughout the city.

The center, which is at the former Biloxi Transfer Moving and Storage site, hopes to shuttle downtown workers to such locations as the main Biloxi Public Library, Harrison County Courthouse, Justice Court, Harrison County Health Department, Biloxi Regional Medical Center and all the businesses located in the Vieux Marché.

As CTA's hub of operations in Biloxi, the center will host RT#7 Ocean Springs, RT#31 Biloxi, The Beachcomber East and West routes and RT#34 Pass Road. These routes carry a combined total of 354,000 passengers a year.

CTA operates Fixed Route bus service in Biloxi on most of its routes from 5:30 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Beachcomber Route also operates Sunday from 7:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

In the past year, CTA began operating two new ultra-low emission propane fueled hybrid electric trolleys on the Beachcomber route.



Construction has begun at property on Reynoir Street, just south of Esters Boulevard, for CTA's new Biloxi transit center. Above is the view from Reynoir, facing east.



Rendering by Guild Hardy Architects



The south side of the transit center will front Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, as shown here.



Rendering by Guild Hardy Architects

In fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, 2004, CTA's most popular routes:

- Route #31 Biloxi – 27,880 passengers (U.S. 90 to Bayview Avenue)
- Route #34 Pass Road – 65,910 passengers (Lighthouse Station to Edgewater Mall)
- Beachcomber Line – 161,330 passengers (Isle of Capri to Edgewater Mall)
- Route #24 Keesler – 71,910 passengers (Keesler to Edgewater Mall)

Route info:
896-8080
or at
biloxi.ms.us

New plaza, stage in the works for Vieux Marché site



Rendering by Guild Hardy Architects



Rendering by Guild Hardy Architects

Photos and renderings offer before-and-after views of planned plaza in Vieux Marché.

The heart of the Vieux Marché will become home to a new plaza and small outdoor performance area this year, now that the city has moved the Golden Fisherman to his new pedestal on the waterfront near Point Cadet Plaza.

City crews have already begun removing the dilapidated underground machinery that had once powered a water feature at the former site of the Fisherman, and Main Street Biloxi is working with local architects to incorporate an overhang, stage, benches and landscaping at the site, which is at the intersection of Rue Magnolia and Rue Howard Avenue, in the center of the Vieux Marché.

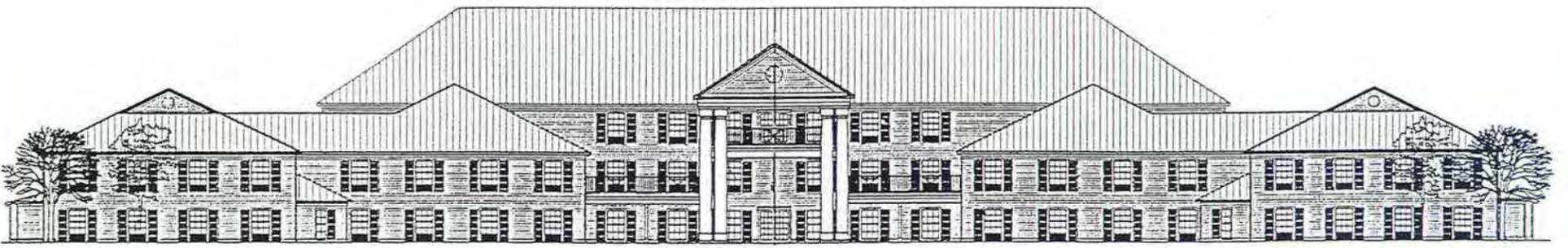
Biloxi Regional Medical Center is also providing funds to help with construction of the new plaza, which is being designed by Guild Hardy Architects.

Construction of the new plaza is expected to begin this summer and should be complete by the end of the year.

The location, which is expected to host downtown brown bag lunches, will be the third neighborhood park to be constructed in downtown Biloxi in recent years. The city and Main Street, along with private firms, previously dedicated Mary Mahoney Park and Margaret Tremmel Peresich Park in the Vieux Marché.

The city, county and Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce, meantime, are hoping to wrap up work on the new Golden Fisherman site at Point Cadet Plaza in time for the Blessing of the Fleet in May. The \$90,000 project will include the installation of granite tablets at the base of the fisherman, where almost a thousand names of Biloxi seafood industry families and Blessing royalty will be displayed. New landscaping, benches and lighting also are planned for the site.

To find out more about the Golden Fisherman project, search for "Golden Fisherman" on the city's web site at biloxi.ms.us.



The 76-unit Cadet Point Senior Village for elderly residents is now under construction in east Biloxi and is expected to be completed by the end of 2005.

Rendering by Design studio of Frank Genzer

Hope VI taking shape in east Biloxi

Hundreds of new mixed-income homes and townhomes are sprouting up in east Biloxi, and hundreds of families will be moving into those homes over the next several months, thanks to the City of Biloxi Housing Authority's \$35 million Hope VI project.

In December, Mayor A.J. Holloway joined Sen. Trent Lott, HUD representatives and local housing leaders in identifying the first of 233 families that will be moving into the Bayou Auguste section of the Hope VI project.

The 233 units are part of an overall 387-unit HOPE VI master plan for east Biloxi. It will include 65 single-family units: 31 homes to be built in the neighborhood surrounding the Bayview/Bayou Auguste site, which will be known as Bayview Place, and 34 on the former East End homes site, where a 76-unit elderly complex will also be constructed.

These new homeowners will help attract new retailers to east Biloxi, revitalizing the economy in one of the oldest sections of our city, Mayor A.J. Holloway told those attending the December dedication of a home that will be occupied by the Issac family. Also attending the ceremony were Sen. Trent Lott, Pat Hoban-Moore of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Authority Chairman Delmar Robinson, architect Frank Genzer, and representatives of local banks, contractors and other partner agencies.

The Bayview Place site also will offer a 20,000-square-foot multipurpose Neighborhood Resource Center, a one-stop supportive services and recreation center which is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

"Hope VI," Holloway said, "provides just that — hope — for people like Lorenzo Issac, who has worked for 20 years as a cook at Keesler, and his wife, Nicole, who is a teacher at Gorenflo Elementary, and their four children. Hope VI



Above: Construction is wrapping up on the homes and townhomes in the Bayou Auguste section of the Hope VI project. Right: U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, left, and Mayor A.J. Holloway, right, present the Issacs the ribbon, a Bible and a wreath after dedication of their new home in the Hope VI project.

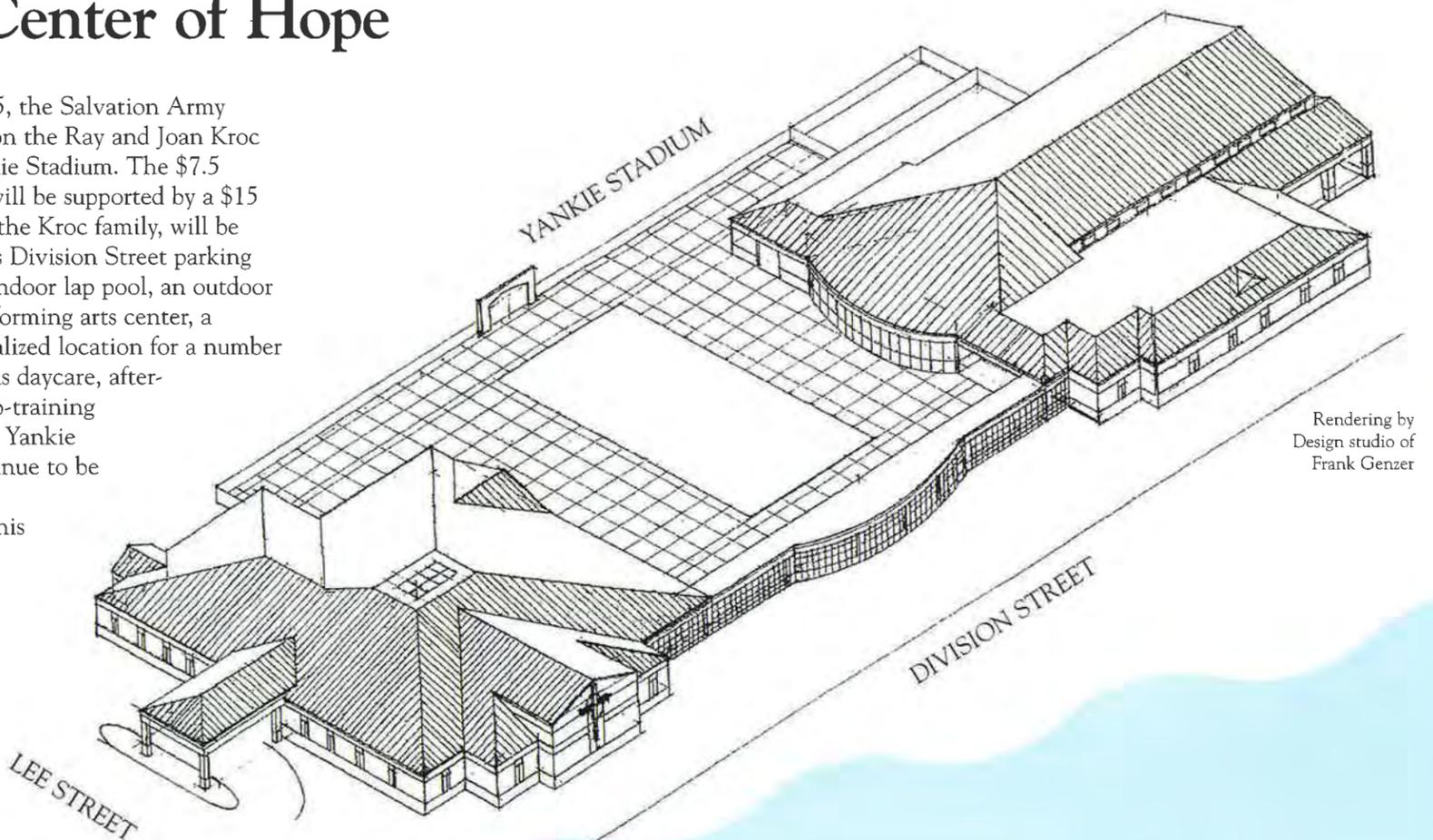


provides affordable housing for the Issacs and hundreds of others like them. But, more importantly, Hope VI is one of the major tools in our effort to revitalize east Biloxi.

"I've said it before and I'll say it here again: In order for us to see new grocery stores and other retailers attracted to east Biloxi, we must have the economic vitality that comes with home ownership and new residents."

Salvation Army unveils initial rendering of Kroc Center of Hope

Near the end of 2005, the Salvation Army hopes to break ground on the Ray and Joan Kroc Center of Hope at Yankee Stadium. The \$7.5 million facility, which will be supported by a \$15 million trust fund from the Kroc family, will be situated in the stadium's Division Street parking lot and will feature an indoor lap pool, an outdoor recreational pool, a performing arts center, a gymnasium and a centralized location for a number of social services, such as daycare, after-school activities and job-training classes. Under the plan, Yankee Stadium itself will continue to be used for a number of community events. In this rendering, the familiar Yankee Stadium arch is moved from its current position near Division Street to a spot closer to the north end of the stadium.



Rendering by Design studio of Frank Genzer

Boardwalk construction ahead of schedule at causeway site

Motorists traveling the Popp's Ferry bridge are noticing the progress being made on one of the first phases of construction of Popp's Ferry causeway park – a boardwalk and covered pavilion that will wind through the saltwater marsh west of the bridge.

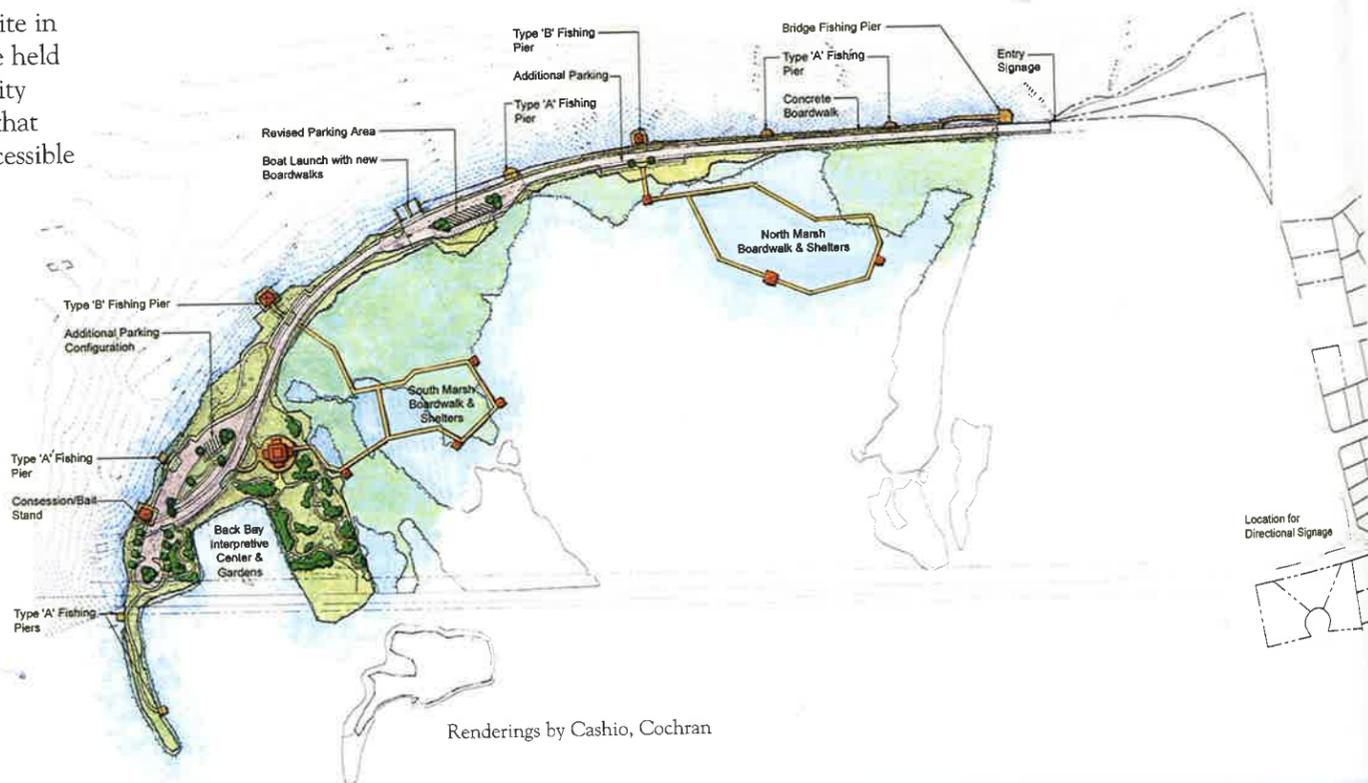
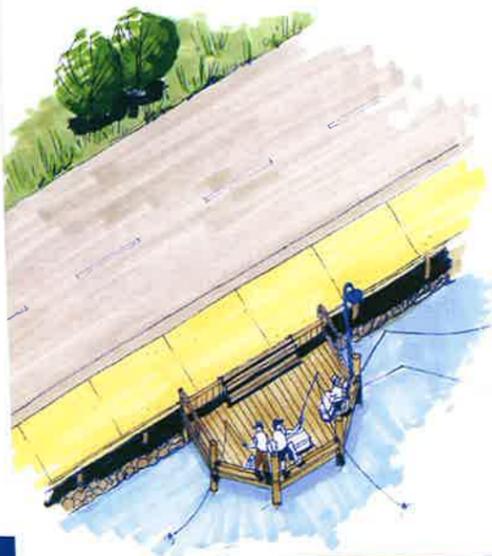
The \$383,000 boardwalk, which Harrison County helped fund, is expected to be completed a month before its June deadline.

Next phase of the causeway park project is construction of a waterfront boardwalk, upgraded boat ramps, along with new lighting and improved parking.

The city purchased the 10-acre causeway site in 2000 for \$650,000. After public hearings were held for citizens to suggest ideas for the park, the city developed a master plan outlining amenities that would help make the waterfront site more accessible to the public.



Construction workers work on the boardwalk.



Renderings by Cashio, Cochran

Code efforts, Community Court showing positive results

One of the most time-consuming and difficult challenges facing city government is successfully requiring property owners to clean up weeded or debris-strewn properties, or to secure unsafe and abandoned structures.

The legally required process the city must follow can take months before the property owner cleans the property or, as the last resort, the city itself brings the property into compliance.

But in 2004, the city's Community Development and Legal departments teamed up to oversee a 113 percent increase in the number of properties cleared of debris, abandoned vehicles or weeds and overgrown grass. In all, 1,518 problem properties were cleared in 2004, more than doubling the 650 that were cleared in 2003.

And Fire Department inspectors, who in the past could only notify business owners or apartment managers of expired fire extinguishers or other infractions, are seeing faster action in addressing life-safety issues.

Mayor A.J. Holloway and department directors credit increased enforcement and the city's three-year-old Community Court, where property owners found guilty can face fines of up to \$1,000 per violation, a jail sentence of up to 90 days for each violation, and may be forced to pay court costs. And if the property owner still refuses to bring his property into compliance, the city could step in and clean up the property, and add the cost and an administrative fee to property taxes.

A record 477 cases came before Community Court Judge Dean Wilson in 2004.

"Personally, I'm a property-rights person," Holloway said, "but there comes a point where people must be held accountable for the appearance of their property. Neglected and overgrown yards diminish the property values of the entire neighborhood, and they invite crime and other problems. But I think our efforts are significantly improving the appearance of our neighborhoods, particularly in the older sections of our city, and more particularly in east Biloxi."

Jerry Creel, acting director of the Community Development Department, credits Code Enforcement officers Tim Cipolla and Patty Rose for the increased enforcement. The duo typically responds to complaints from those who live near problem properties. In fact, 1,878 complaints were made in 2004, and only 48 of those were found not to be in violation of city codes. Some complaints were resolved when issues were pointed out to property owners, but almost 1,500 required written notices of violation, the first step of a process that could lead to a ticket to appear in City Court.

Inspectors in the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Biloxi Fire Department were able to resolve 287 of the 303 cases in 2004 without property owners appearing in Community Court.

"I appreciate the job that our Code Enforcement, Fire Prevention and Community Court people are doing," Holloway said. "It's not an easy job, but their work and the cooperation of property owners is vital for our city to maintain an excellent quality of life."

City eyes upgrades at marinas

Now that the city has assumed the day-to-day management of Biloxi's public marinas, harbors and piers, Mayor A.J. Holloway says a reconfiguring of existing slips could make the facilities more accommodating to a growing market of vessels.

"Right now, we have about 512 boat slips," Holloway said, noting that the slips can accommodate vessels ranging from 25 to 100-feet long. "Of the 512 existing slips, 425 are for recreational craft, with a waiting list of 33 recreational boat owners, and we have 87 commercial slips, with a waiting list of 56 commercial boat owners."

"When the city assumed operation and maintenance of port operations several months ago, our first priority was to review finances, and make electrical repairs and other needed repairs," Holloway said. "Long term, I think we ought to look at re-configuring some of our existing slips to meet the growing demand for vessels in the 40- to 60-foot range."

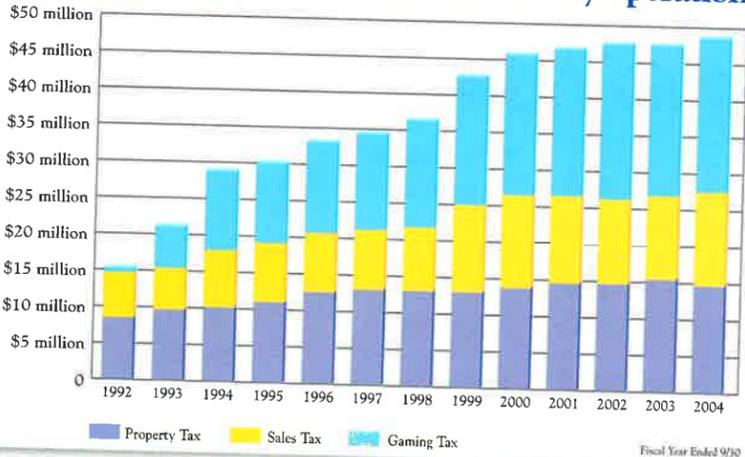
The city's Port Division includes more than two dozen employees and a \$1.3 million budget, Holloway said.

"We realize that there are a number of improvements that need to be made, and we're working on them," the mayor said. "Our goal is to work to make our marinas and harbors excellent facilities."

By the numbers

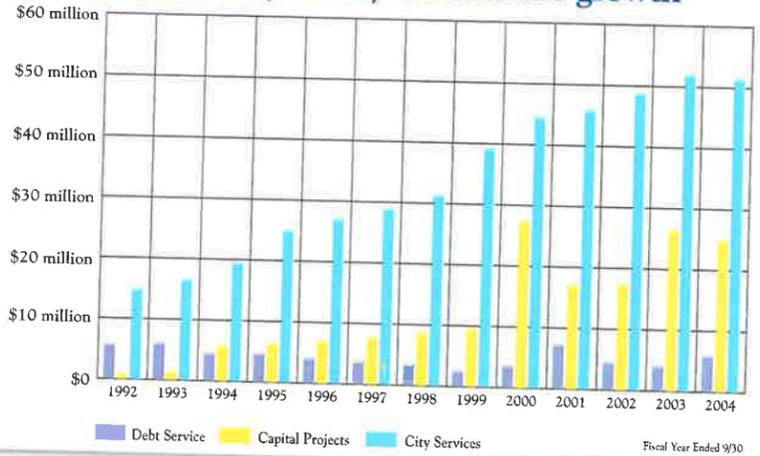
Revenues

Property, gaming and sales taxes fund city operations



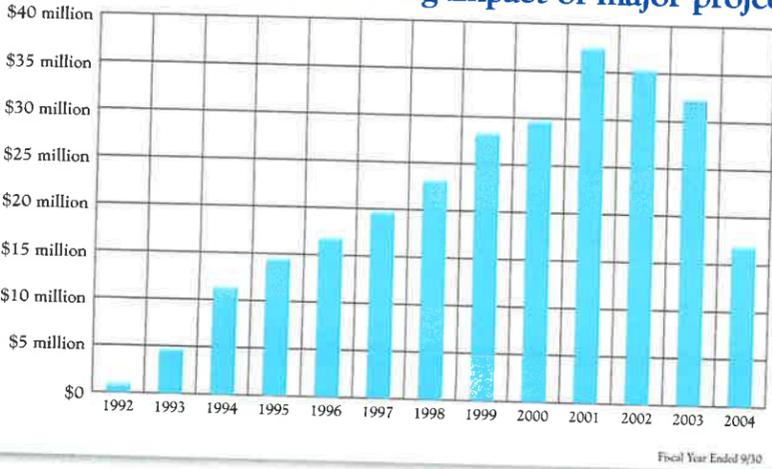
Expenditures

Capital projects, day-to-day services see growth



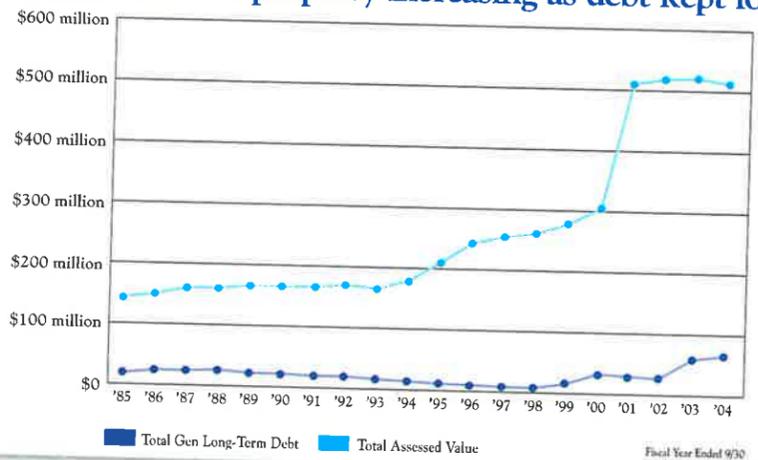
Financial health

General fund balance showing impact of major projects



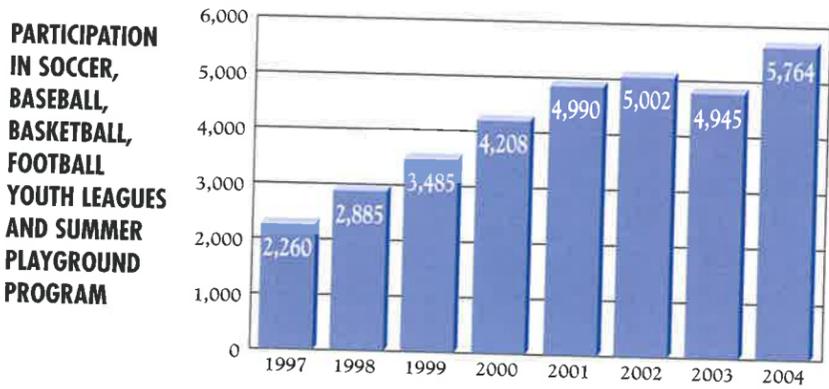
Debt and value

Assessed value of property increasing as debt kept low



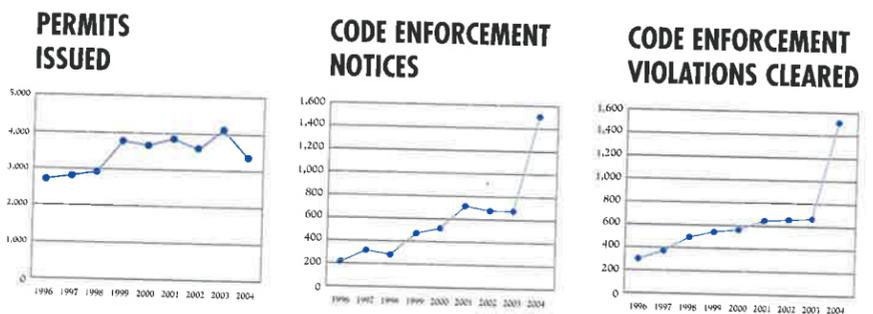
Youth leagues

More of our children are having a ball



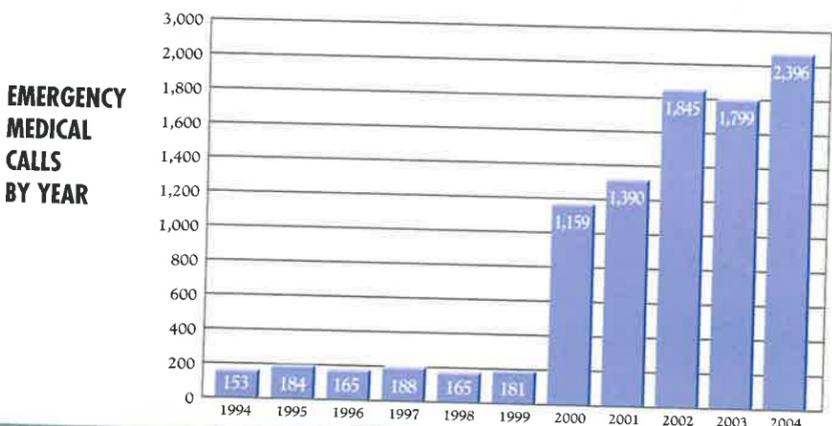
Community Development

Overseeing orderly growth and cleaning up our city



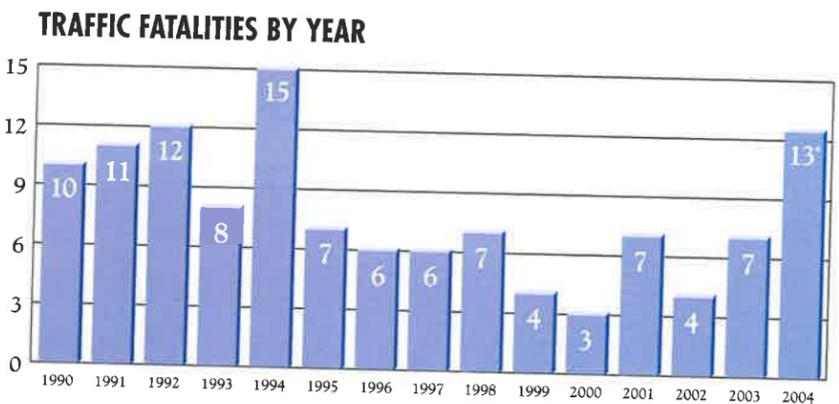
Biloxi Fire Department

We make house calls – by the thousands



Biloxi Police Department

Making the streets safe for motorists



*Two traffic accidents accounted for 5 of the 2004 fatalities.



Frequently called numbers

You can also find detailed information about city projects, programs and initiatives by visiting the city's web site at <http://biloxi.ms.us>.

(Area code is 228 for all numbers, unless noted otherwise)

- **Animal control** 435-6103
To report stray or dead animals, leash-law violations
- **Auto tag info** 435-8242
County Courthouse at Lameuse Street and MLK Boulevard
- **Birth certificates** . . . 601-576-7960
State Department of Vital Statistics in Jackson
- **Building permits** 435-6270
To obtain 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
- **Code enforcement** 435-6270
To report weeded lots, unsafe buildings, abandoned vehicles
- **Drivers licenses** 432-7803
Dr. Eldon Bolton State Office Building, Bayview Avenue
- **Emergency police and fire** 911
Non-emergency: 435-6100 (police) or 435-6200 (fire)
- **Garbage collection** 392-5108
BFI manages the city's residential garbage collection.
- **Housing Authority** 374-7771
To get information on public housing
- **Human Resources** 435-6259
For info on city employment; on third floor, City Hall
- **Mayor's office** 435-6254
Citizen services, proclamations, 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 schools** 374-1810
Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools
- **Streets and drainage** 435-6271
To report pot holes, damaged street signs or traffic signals
- **Visitor info** 374-3105
or 1-800-BILOXI-3
Visitors Center is on the Biloxi Town Green
- **Voter registration** 435-6279
To register to vote or change in address
- **Water service** 435-6240
Meter Reading Specialists manages city water department

Are you in the loop?

Sign up at <http://biloxi.ms.us>
for the most current
news about your city.

THE State of the City 2004



P.O. Box 429
Biloxi, MS 39533