

# VISION WEST

West Baton Rouge Parish - Community, Growth, Possibilities

A quarterly publication for West Baton Rouge residents by your public agencies • July, 2014

## Calendar of Events

- Aug. 2 – Oct. 26 – WWII Centennial exhibit, WBR Museum**
- Aug. 4 – Port Allen Back to School Extravaganza, see page 6**
- Aug. 11 – First day of school for WBR public schools**
- Aug. 20 – Senior Spirit day trip – see page 3**
- Aug. 27 – Chamber membership meet – Speaker: Parish President Riley Berthelot**
- Sept. 6-Nov. 9 – Sugar Mill exhibit, WBR Museum**
- Sept. 13-14 – Oldies But Goodies Fest & BBQ Cook-Off – see page 4**
- Sept. 24 – Chamber membership meet – Speaker: La. Agriculture Commissioner Strain**
- Oct. 5 – SugarFest, WBR Museum**
- Oct. 29 – Chamber membership meet on workforce**
- Nov. 9 – Veterans on Parade, downtown Port Allen**

## Short term solutions to traffic woes pursued

West Baton Rouge Parish President Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot said he is meeting in August with La. Department of Transportation and Development (La. DOTD) Secretary Sherri LaBas and local legislators on possible short-term solutions to the traffic problems on La. Hwy. 1 at the Mississippi River Bridge.

Berthelot said Senator Rick Ward, and State Representatives Karen St. Germain and Major Thibaut managed to get some additional funding for local transportation projects to alleviate the traffic problems, but any of those projects are at least three to five years off. “We need some short term solutions to give people some relief from the traffic nightmares,” he said.

“It is a benefit that State Rep. Germain is chair of the Transportation Committee,” Berthelot said. “But it’s a problem that we don’t have buy-in from all of the officials involved on any of these projects.”

### INTERSTATE/LA. HWY. 1 CONNECTOR PROJECT AT LA. HWY. 415:

The state allocated \$150,000 to the extension of Sid Richardson Road to connect to Hwy. 1148. Berthelot said the parish first has to acquire the property for that extension.

Another \$570,000 was put in Priority 1 funding for the Hwy. 415 bridge that would be necessary for

this new roadway, and \$6 million was put in state Priority 5 funding.

Berthelot said the connector project was also changed from a “C” rating to a “B” rating for mega-project funding by the La. DOTD. This is good news because mega fund dollars will likely be necessary to fund the \$125 million connector project.

### BUMP PROJECT:

This project would feed traffic to the old Mississippi River Bridge by creating an expressway from the interstate in West Baton Rouge over the old bridge to Airline Highway, where numerous red lights would be eliminated. Berthelot said \$2 million has been allocated in state Priority 2 funding, and \$1.5 million in Priority 5 funding for this project.

### WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY PROJECT:

Another project being considered would build an expressway from the interstate at an interchange about two miles west of La. Hwy. 415 through WBR and Iberville to meet the interstate

in Ascension around Donaldsonville. Berthelot said \$1.65 million was put

in state Priority 5 funding for this project.



### WBR HELPS PROMOTE TOURISM NATIONALLY...

County officials from throughout the United States were in New Orleans in July for the National Association of Counties Conference. West Baton Rouge played a role in showing the 2,500 officials and guests all that the Capital area region has to offer by staging a part of a reception for them at the Superdome. Bernadette Settoon, executive assistant to Parish President Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot, led the seven-parish group in producing elaborate displays for the center of the Superdome. They worked with inmates at Angola Prison, who built an intricate 18-foot replica of the state capital, as the centerpiece. The replica took 2,500 work hours to complete. Other aspects of the display included creation of huge cypress trunks decorated in moss; an appearance by cast members of The Swamp People, and more. The reception was designed to promote tourism. Shown is the capitol replica in the Superdome.

## GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

**WBR PARISH COUNCIL** - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, [www.wbrCouncil.org](http://www.wbrCouncil.org)

**WBR PARISH SCHOOL BOARD** - Committee meetings on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. School Board meetings on 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. at the School Board office, 225-343-8309, [www.wbrschools.net](http://www.wbrschools.net)

**WBR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION** - Meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Council meeting room in the Parish Council Building.

**TOWN OF ADDIS** - Meets on 1st Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Addis Town Hall. Phone: 225-687-4844, [www.addisla.org](http://www.addisla.org)

**CITY OF PORT ALLEN** - Committee meetings on 1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Town council meetings on 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., 225-346-5670, [www.portallen.org](http://www.portallen.org)

**TOWN OF BRUSLY** - Committee meetings on 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Council meetings on 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., 225-749-2909, [www.bruslyla.com](http://www.bruslyla.com)

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# WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



## Museum Calendar

### Exhibition: August 2 - October 26:

**Centennial Anniversary of WWI.** In the summer of 2014 the world marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. This was the first modern war to affect the world, not simply by the astounding number of deaths, but by the resulting spread of democracy and nationalism. The exhibit will feature an international collection of nearly 100 WWI posters, as well as WWI era artifacts.

### Exhibition: September 6 – November 9:

**Sugar Mill Sessions:** This exhibit of photographs by New Orleans photographer David Armentor focuses on sugar production in south Louisiana. It gives a localized, contemporary view of the industry by documenting the sugar harvest season through sometimes haunting images.

### Program: September 24, noon:

**Lunchtime Lecture: Women and World War I.** Historian and scholar Dr. Catherine Jacquet of the LSU History Department will present a commemorative lecture about the roles women played on the home front and in the field during WWI. This lecture is in affiliation with Women's Week of the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge. Free.



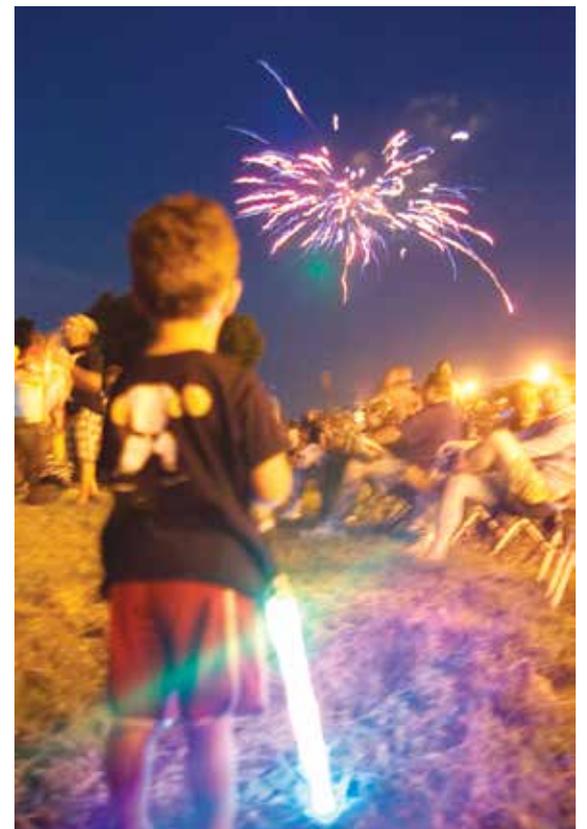
Some 80 campers participated in the Museum's Blast from the Past Summer Camp. The theme was "Barn Yard Bash." Shown is a scene from the camp.



### October 5

11am-4pm.

19th annual celebration of the sugar cane harvest. Free.



### 4TH FEST SETS RECORD

A crowd of some 10,000 people converged on the Old Ferry Landing park in downtown Port Allen for the 4<sup>th</sup> Fest, the largest crowd in the history of the event. The event is co-sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Recreation Department, City of Port Allen and West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau. The crowd enjoyed music, food and drinks, and of course, the fireworks show over the Mississippi River. Shown is a scene from the event. Photo by Aaron Williams.



## Moving Forward. Moving East.

Strategically located and ranked 9th in the nation in total tonnage, the deepwater Port of Greater Baton Rouge is an economic driver, creating jobs and investment for the Baton Rouge Region. Recent growth and new projects will result in an increase of over 200 additional ship calls annually and increase the volume of barge traffic at the port docks.

Here's what's trending at the capital city's port on the Mississippi River.

- Genesis Energy, L.P. to construct a new \$150 million crude oil, intermediates and refined products import/export terminal at the port
- \$30 million wood pellet storage and transfer operation by Baton Rouge Transit, LLC nearing completion
- New grain dock and landside export grain elevator by Louis Dreyfus Commodities are operational, benefiting Louisiana's agriculture, timber and maritime industries
- \$3.5 million expansion by Westway Terminals, LLC expands the port's liquid bulk terminal
- Over \$10 million in improvements to the port's rail lines and infrastructure
- 300 acres of land available for development with access to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

Get on board and move ahead with us.

Contact Greg Johnson, Director of Business Development, at 225.342.1660.



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## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:



is published quarterly as a cooperative endeavor of West Baton Rouge Parish government agencies to educate residents about projects, activities and services in the parish. It is produced by Peacock Communications, LLC. Comments can be sent to: [ellie@peacockcommunications.com](mailto:ellie@peacockcommunications.com), or call 225-929-9661.



## WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH GOVERNMENT

### RECREATION

#### Summer camps, splash pads enjoyed



The WBR Recreation Department's three week-long summer camps were a huge success, with the Port Allen camp including 130 kids, the Addis camp with 121 children, and the Erwinville camp having 70 kids. The kids were treated to a wide variety of activities, including arts, outdoor activities, presentations and field trips. Shown at left are scenes of activities kids enjoyed. The splash pads at locations across the parish have also been filled with kids throughout the summer. In the photo above, kids enjoy the splash pad at Erwinville Park.



## WBR Senior Spirit plans day trip along River Road and Bayou Lafourche

A day trip with stops in Donaldsonville, Napoleonville, Thibodaux, and Vacherie is planned for WBR Senior Spirit members on Wednesday, August 20, announced Lucy Landry, co-director of WBR Senior Spirit.

The trip includes tours of St. Emma Plantation; the U.S. Supreme Court Justice E.D. White Home and Museum; Donner-Peltier Distillers tour and tasting; and Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, and lunch at Politz's Family Style Restaurant.

Babs Babin and Lucy Landry are co-directors of West Baton Rouge Senior Spirit, a program of West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation Department for residents age 50 and over. The group will celebrate its 6th anniversary on September 8, 2014. For additional information about WBR Senior Spirit programs and events, call Babs Babin at 225-749-2518 or Lucy Landry at 225-749-2981.



**VISITING AUSTIN...**  
West Baton Rouge Senior Spirit members visited the LBJ Library during a recent trip to Austin, Texas. Shown from left are Jean Crites, Denise Brown, Beryl Fourroux, Lou Brown, Lou Didier, Deanie Dejean, and tour guide Maggie Olmstead.

## Clean-up draws 85 volunteers

Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful had 85 volunteers help clean and beautify areas of the parish on April 12 as part of the Great American Clean-Up, said Executive Director Mary Delapasse.

Projects included painting the exterior of William and Lee pool house and maintenance shed; cleaning, pressure-washing and painting abandoned tombs at the Port Allen Cemetery; picking up litter along LA. Hwy. 1 south of Brusly and Calumet Road; and cleaning and mulching flowerbeds at Chamberlin Elementary School and Myhand Park.

Thanks to all the volunteers for all their efforts! Big thanks to Brenda Morgan, Chris Hebert, Wayne Delapasse and Brusly Council Member Joanne Bourgeois for help in staging of the event.

## Mosquito Control working to control populations

The West Nile Virus has been detected in mosquitos in West Baton Rouge, so residents are urged to take precautions to protect themselves. The WBR Mosquito Abatement Program has been conducting targeted spraying throughout the parish this summer to fight mosquitos.

No human cases of West Nile have been reported in West Baton Rouge, but Mosquito Abatement Program Director George Bragg said at mid-June 19 of 50 mosquito samples tested positive for West Nile Virus. He said this is not an unusually high number, but residents are urged to use mosquito repellent, cover their skin, and dump standing water around their homes.

The WBR Mosquito Abatement Program has a robust surveillance program for both disease and mosquito population monitoring, Bragg said. It also employs different tactics to control mosquitos, such as truck spraying, off-road spraying and the use of larvicide spraying in ditches with standing water.

Extensive information is available on the parish website: [www.wbrcouncil.org](http://www.wbrcouncil.org), or on the facebook site: [www.facebook.com/West Baton Rouge Mosquito Control](https://www.facebook.com/WestBatonRougeMosquitoControl).



### DRAINAGE WORK CONTINUES...

The parish has completed a project to clean out Rougon Road Canal at Section Road, and has completed cleaning out a number of ditches in the Rougon Road/Erwinville area. The work shown above is at Criterian Road off La. Hwy. 1. Another drainage project in the design stage is a new 3/4 mile canal to drain the northern part of the parish and old Mississippi River bridge area, along with Lobdell and Hwy. 415 in the Rosedale Road/Rebelle Lane area. The canal will extend to the Intracoastal Waterway.

### Notice on turning on gas, water meters

If you pay to have your gas and/or water turned on during working hours and no one is home, or does not answer the door, the meters will be unlocked. Should you need the meters turned on after hours, there is an additional \$70 charge for the parish worker to provide this service. Any questions, call the WBR Utility Department at 225-336-2406.



### 2014 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY...

WBR Parish's \$1.5 million road overlay program for 2014 is underway. The photo above shows road patching done on Trueil Road. Other road work includes linking William & Lee Park to 14th Street, and street overlay/repairs on Antonio Road, Commercial Drive, South Westport and Charles Drive. The projects are expected to be completed by October.



## WEST BATON ROUGE TOURISM

### Oldies But Goodies Fest brings back favorites

If you enjoy creative, crafty fun or just want to hear some good music, plan on attending the 9th Annual Oldies but Goodies Fest & BBQ Cook-Off in September.

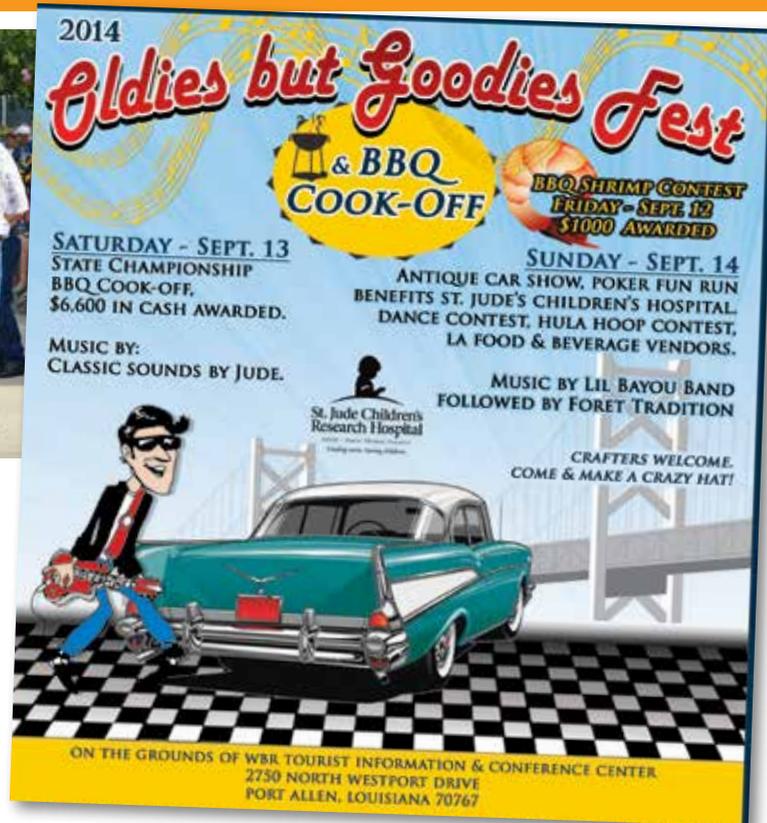
Scheduled for Sept. 13-14 on the grounds of the West Baton Rouge Tourist Information & Conference Center, the event includes the state championship BBQ cook-off, which will award \$6,600 in cash prizes. An antique car show, poker fun run and hula hoop contest are among the highlights.

West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau (WBRCVB) Director Sharon Stam said dance lessons, crafters and crazy hats were added



last year, and were such a hit that they will be offered again. "People really seemed to enjoy making hats out of paper bags and decorating them with crazy items," Stam explains. "It's something different and fun."

Music will be provided by Lil Bayou Band and Foret Tradition, and proceeds from this year's event will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



## Have your event at the Conference Center

Stam also reminds the public that the West Baton Rouge Conference Center is available for all sorts of events, including business meetings, conferences, weddings, showers and more. The center can accommodate groups of five to 500, and local motels work with organizations to offer special rates.

"We're real excited about the success of the Conference Center," she says. "We continue to increase

bookings each year, resulting in increased hotel tax revenues." Anyone who would like more information about the meeting facility should contact Lois Webre at the WBRCVB.

Stam adds that she continues to work with the 13-parish Southeast Louisiana Gumbo Partnership to publicize regional tourism and seafood. In October, thanks to BP grant funding, she will be organizing a sales mission, partnering with AMTRACK to Houston

and San Antonio.

Recently married, the director says she will continue to use "Stam" professionally, but will also answer to her new name, Moran.

Anyone who wants to register for the car show or the BBQ contest should call the Tourist Center at (800) 654-9701 or (225) 344-2920. For more information about the event and other upcoming activities, visit the website at [www.westbatonrouge.net](http://www.westbatonrouge.net).

## WEST BATON ROUGE ASSESSOR

### Assessor's Office works toward capturing visuals of properties

If you've sighted someone parked in front of your house, pointing a camera at your property, it's not necessarily cause for alarm.

For the past two years, a photographer with the Assessor's Office has been shooting thousands of photos of the parish's residential and commercial properties to streamline efficiency and enhance evaluation procedures.

Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan introduced the modernization project in February 2012 with the goal of adding digital photos of all the parish's nearly 8,000 residential and commercial properties. To date, photographer Barry Brewer has snapped about 9,000 photos. Many properties require several different views because of their size or layout, he explains.

Altazan doesn't want property owners to be concerned if they spot Brewer, easily identified in a vest labeled "Assessor," parked in front of their homes or businesses. Brewer's white truck is clearly marked with the Assessor's designation.

"We want to alleviate any concerns,"

Altazan says. "This is strictly for in-house use only. These digital photos are imaged into each account, and they are only able to be viewed on public terminals in our office."

Altazan's office was one of the first in the state to begin using the modernization technique that is catching on around the country. "This is a very helpful tool, especially when we're discussing value with taxpayers," he says. "We have a bird's eye view of how we arrive at the quality and condition of the parcels."

Altazan plans on making the photographing an ongoing project in a continuous effort to maintain efficiency and stay on the "cutting edge" of technology. "We're always working to provide citizens with the most current means available," he shares. "We want to offer quality service to homeowners and businesspeople alike."

Altazan maintains an open door policy and encourages anyone with questions or comments to visit the website at [www.wbrassessor.org](http://www.wbrassessor.org) or call his office at (225) 344-6777.



Assessor's Office employee Barry Brewer has taken more than 9,000 photos of properties during the past two years to use in assessing property.



# WEST BATON ROUGE SCHOOL SYSTEM

## Grant provides high-tech learning tools

With just the click of a mouse, West Baton Rouge Parish middle school students will have more computing opportunities to learn and expand their knowledge.

The district recently received 875 new Chromebooks as a result of a \$200,385 grant from La. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Dubbed "iACHIEVE," the Chromebooks project will "improve student achievement in grades 6-8 and put all students on a trajectory to graduate from high school ready for college, careers and citizenship," according to the grant application.

A Chromebook is a sort of laptop or notebook that requires Internet access to operate, and can be accessed from the student's home.

"These are a great way for teachers to utilize technology and to motivate students," says Crystal Leon, Supervisor of Pre-K and Head Start Director. "The students are really very excited about them."

Starting in the fall, every 6-8 grade student will be provided a Chromebook with cloud computing. The iACHIEVE project is based on a three-year plan. Administrators hope to add the Chromebooks to 9th and 10th grades next year, and 11th and 12th grades the following year.

During the past few weeks, a team of the school district's Information technologists have been unpacking the Chromebooks, tagging them with identification numbers and wiring buildings.

Teachers are being trained on how to use the Chromebooks with their lesson plans, and it will likely change the way teachers teach -- for the better, notes Dawn Henry, Secondary Supervisor of Instruction. "This is transforming. It is changing the classroom instructional strategy, and is important for problem solving and critical thinking," Henry says. "The possibilities are endless."

Tammy Seneca, Supervisor for Educational Technology and Information Services, agrees. "This is a huge endeavor, the teachers are excited, and the students are excited," she says. "The school district has made a commitment that this is the wave of the future." Seneca believes the Chromebooks will encourage students to be self-motivated learners, using critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Leon notes that although the Chromebooks will be a fun, creative way of learning, they will also provide computing environments similar to that of the workplace, so students will be better prepared for future employment.

"These tools will improve student success," Henry adds. "And, the bottom line is their success."



From left, Network Administrator Garrett Couvillon and Desktop Support employee James Jones show Supervisor for Educational Technology and Information Services Tammy Seneca some of the recently unpacked Chromebooks. At right are more Chromebooks.



Retiring Superintendent David Corona (left) updates incoming Superintendent Wesley Watts on administrative matters during a recent meeting.

## Corona prepares for retirement, Watts set to take over

As one chapter of West Baton Rouge Schools leadership ends, another is about to be written.

After 43 years as a professional educator – 10 of those as West Baton Rouge Parish Superintendent – David Corona is retiring at the end of July. His position is being filled by Zachary High Principal Wesley Watts. The two have been working together for the past few weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

"Wes is going to do a great job," Corona says. "He is energetic and passionate, and I'm excited about what

he brings to West Baton Rouge Parish."

Watts is equally impressed with Corona's accomplishments and the professionals he has assembled during his tenure. "He has been responsible for bringing in quality people, and building a good staff and strong leadership team," Watt notes. "I see a lot of things the same way he does, but I will also see some things differently."

Below the two share their thoughts about the district's past and the future in open letters to the community.

### *A message from Superintendent Corona:*

It has been my honor to serve as your School Superintendent for the last 10 years. As I retire, I can honestly say that the last 10 years of my 43-year career in education have been the most rewarding of my professional life. I thank the School Board members, our employees and all of you for the opportunity and cooperation you have offered. It is rare for one to get the opportunity to serve as School Superintendent in the district in which one was raised. I was blessed to have that opportunity. Enough about that.

Wesley Watts has been selected as your new Superintendent and I can tell you that the Board made a good choice in the selection of Mr. Watts. In my meetings with him I can sense his excitement, knowledge and good heart for our kids and community in moving our district forward. While we have grown in academic student performance over the last 10 years, there is room for more growth – lots of it. I simply ask the Board, staff and community to work with him as you did with me, and I am certain that 10 years down the road from today we will have made more strides in making a better way of life for the children, parents and residents of West Baton Rouge Parish.

Thank you,  
David Corona

### *A message from in-coming Superintendent Watts:*

I want all of you to know how honored and excited I am to be a part of the West Baton Rouge Parish team. Under the leadership of Mr. David Corona and his staff, the WBRP School System has experienced consistent academic growth the last 10 years. We have more to do, but the foundation and the key pieces are in place to be one of the top 10 school districts in Louisiana. Those pieces are a supportive community, talented and caring educators at every building, and a genuine desire by all to do whatever is necessary to provide a great education for their children. The tradition, pride, unity and desire for excellence in West Baton Rouge Parish are unique and I am thrilled to be a part of it. Thanks in advance for your support. I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together during the next 10 years.

Sincerely,  
Wes Watts



CITY OF PORT ALLEN

Come help us plan Port Allen's future!

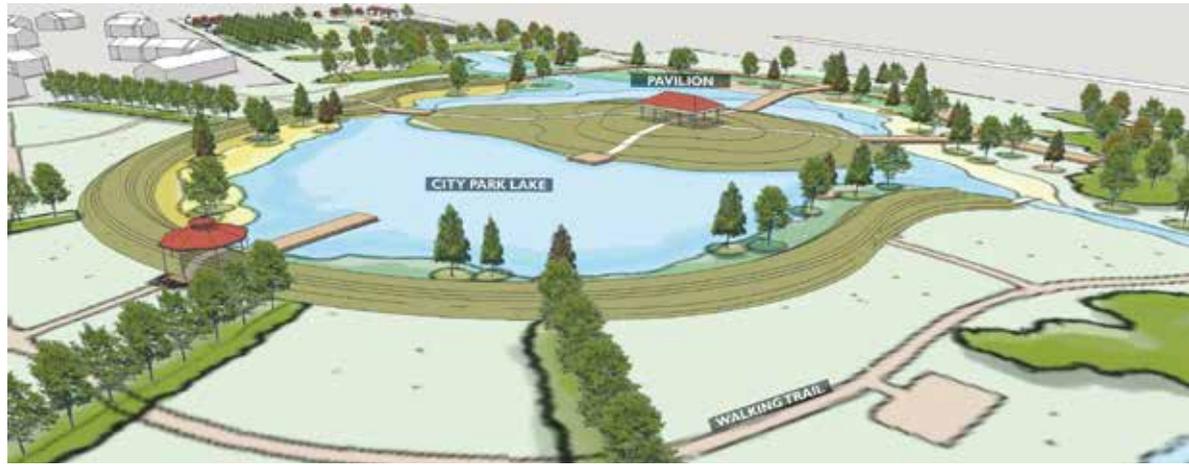
Thursday, August 21  
6 – 9 p.m.

West Baton Rouge Museum  
Dinner provided

Your input and ideas are needed!  
RSVP to Alma Cook – 225.346.5670  
or [acook@portallen.org](mailto:acook@portallen.org)

This community meeting is planned by the Port Allen Master Plan Steering Committee to get input from residents on various aspects of the city's master plan, and to help the committee prioritize various projects of the plan. The meeting will include an overview of the plan, which was completed in June of 2013, and structured, facilitated group break-

out sessions in which residents will be guided to provide their ideas, comments and suggestions on various projects. Residents are urged to get familiar with the plan prior to this meeting. The master plan is available on the City of Port Allen website – [www.portallen.org](http://www.portallen.org); and a copy of the plan is available at the West Baton Rouge Library.



Rendering of one of the long-term projects proposed in the Port Allen master plan.

The master plan has five major goals - emphasizing the city's small town atmosphere; increasing and diversifying housing; growing the population; effectively using the infrastructure of the city; and developing a community identity and visual cohesiveness.

The master planning process spanned several years and included

several meetings to get input from the community, along with an extensive study of the city's infrastructure, housing and business assets and needs. It was funded by the parish with Hurricane Gustav recovery funds, and has been led by Environmental Resource Management.



Open to all students who live in Port Allen – age Pre-K to 8th grade  
Games, food, door prizes, fun activities for the kids

Back To School Extravaganza

Monday, August 4, 4-8 p.m.

West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen

Sponsored by the City of Port Allen and Port Allen Development Committee

All students will be provided a gift pack of school supplies

Must register by July 28 – go by City Hall Utility office for form

Chair of this event is Quenisha Guss, and chair of the Development Committee is Rose Roche.

The Committee is also planning a Clean Up Day on October 11, and is bringing back BonFest on December 23.

WEST BATON ROUGE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff's Office ramps up technology in all operations

Some think advanced crime fighting technologies are only used in big cities; however, significant improvements made by the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office in technology, tools and training in recent years gives this sheriff's office a high-tech arsenal of crime fighting tools to combat the criminal of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"We have made a commitment to and dedicated funds for upgrading the tools of the profession and the technology available to us, and implemented a vigorous training program in the systems' use and implementation for all deputies. This is on-going and we are dedicated to its continuation in order to stay one step ahead of the criminals," said Sheriff Mike Cazes.

Some of the technology improvements made by the department in the last two years are:

**Creation of a full-time IT Department** with dedicated personnel and an outside consultant who consults with the department on law enforcement technology tools.

**Upgrading to the ARMMS system software**, a program that encompasses all aspects of the department's operations, which improves efficiency and intra-departmental communication, as well as providing information to other law enforcement agencies. Prior to this, deputies and jailers had separate systems



Sgt. Carl Jerrett is shown with the one of the new high-speed laptops with wireless internet in his patrol unit.

to process individuals and information on those who were arrested. The ARMMS system allows for easy one-time entry of information and file retrieval of all case documents, including reports, photos, evidence, fingerprints, and court action; providing instant file sharing among all departments and other law enforcement agencies. "The processing of information used to take hours, now it takes minutes," noted Major Dale Simoneaux, Chief of Operations.

**Upgraded hardware and software**, including wireless internet capabilities for all computers. Prior to this upgrade,

deputies could write their reports out in the field, but had to return to the Sheriff's Office to upload the reports. Now deputies can get on-line and file reports from anywhere in the parish. This allows deputies to stay in their zones, providing more coverage.

Recently a fiber optic network was installed and connected to the main server, providing a much faster exchange rate and broader band width. This upgrade has made it easier and faster for deputies to get information in the field, improving their overall efficiency. Deputies can generate instant inquiries on a vehicle or an individual, as well as receive Amber alerts and other alerts in real-time.

**Electronic search and arrest warrant requests are sent to judges electronically** via the internet 24 hours a day. Prior to this, deputies had to complete the warrant document and then physically locate a judge to get approval. Through the encrypted electronic system, the request goes directly to the judge where ever he or she is, and the judge can review it and respond immediately, saving precious time in getting to a suspect in some cases.

**Personal portable radios for deputies** – Deputies used to have radios that had to stay in cases in their vehicles when not in use. Now all units have a base station, and all deputies wear a portable radio on their uniform, so they have communication at all times. This provides for increased

communication and awareness of situations and circumstances, and provides an additional margin of safety on the road. Patrol units are also now equipped with better emergency / pursuit lighting.

**DNA swab kits for all deputies** – One of the newest crime fighting tools is DNA analysis. Each deputy has a DNA kit, which allows them to collect DNA at the scene of a crime where formerly fingerprints were sought. DNA can be collected on surfaces that fingerprints could not be lifted. "We are getting DNA samples off things that we can't get fingerprints off of," said Sgt. Carl Jarrett.

In addition, the WBR Sheriff's Office, in association with the Iberville and Pointe Coupee Sheriff's Offices, now has an employee who is on loan and works at the State Police Crime Laboratory and handles all WBR, Iberville and Pointe Coupee cases. This person is dedicated to working cases for these Sheriff's Offices, making processing faster and more efficient.

**Use of GPS tracking**, surveillance and other sophisticated tools are now incorporated into criminal investigations. Numerous other investigative tools are presently being used in West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office investigations, but these methods and tools are being kept confidential.



# TOWN OF BRUSLY Want to honor a veteran? Do it with a flag!

Are you looking for a way to honor a veteran? Brusly's flags for veterans program is the perfect answer because it not only honors veterans but also promotes patriotic pride and pride in Brusly and West Baton Rouge.

Mayor Joey Normand said the dozens of American flags that fly along La. Hwy. 1 through Brusly on holidays have proved to draw more positive comments to the town than any other activities. In fact, comments have led to the addition of the POW/MIA flag, which is now displayed, and the plan to purchase Purple Heart flags.

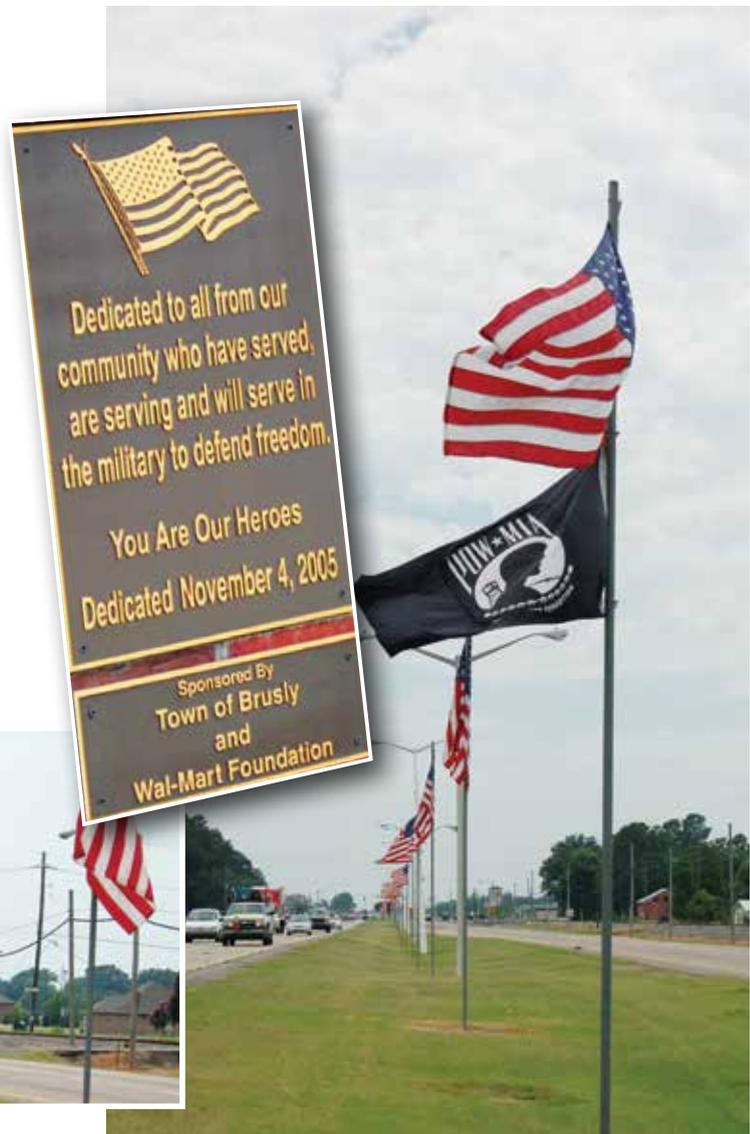
"Freddie Wroten asked me a few months ago why we didn't have a Purple Heart flag," said Normand. "I didn't know a Purple Heart flag existed. Since that time, we have been calling veterans listed on the display, and so far have found about a dozen who have received the Purple Heart." The Purple Heart honor is given to military personnel who are wounded or killed while serving. Normand said the town is now going to purchase Purple Heart flags to honor those receiving that award also.

The idea for the flag display came from area residents and veterans Don Neisler and Dwayne Persinger back in 1999 as a way to honor veterans. Town officials were receptive, and planning began for building the concrete bases and obtaining the poles and flags. They got local residents and businesses to contribute to the project by donating \$100 for the purchase of flags in commemoration of specific veterans, with the veterans' names being installed in a display outside Brusly Town Hall.

That display was filled and the town has built a second display to accommodate another 100 or so veterans' names. The veteran can be living or deceased, can be from any branch of the military, and does not have to be a resident of Brusly. The veteran's name, branch and the person who made the donation will be put on an aluminum plate in the display, which is located on the brick wall behind the flag poles in front of town hall. The display case is enclosed in glass to protect it from the weather.

Anyone interested in honoring a veteran by having him or her included in the program should go to Brusly Town Hall and complete the brief application which asks the veteran's name, the branch of service and whether he/she was a prisoner of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA). For more information, call Town Hall at 225-749-2909.

The flags extend from one town limit sign to the other, and fly on all designated flag flying days, along with special occasions.



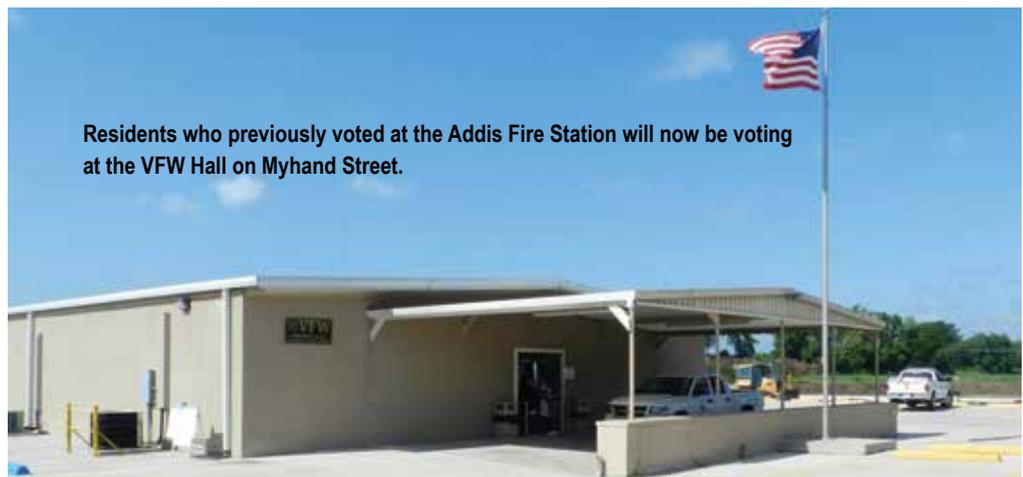
## TOWN OF ADDIS

### Addis polling place moves

Addis residents who have cast their votes at the Addis Fire Station in the past will now be voting at the VFW Hall in November and all future elections.

Mayor David Toups notes that the voting location for precinct 01A is being moved to the larger location at 4454 Myhand St., which offers more parking and convenience for voters. "Voters who are affected should have received notification by mid-July," Toups adds. "If they haven't, they might want to check with the Registrar's Office to be sure they are registered."

Addis citizens vote at two locations, with the second being at the Dow YMCA. Those with questions can call (225) 336-2421 for more information.



### Have some centennial fun!

Mayor Toups urges citizens to get involved in the town's centennial celebration. The town will be 100 years old in September and he wants to commemorate the milestone with special events. Anyone who would like to assist with the festivities or serve on a planning committee should call Town Hall at 687-4844 or visit the website at [www.addis.la.org](http://www.addis.la.org) for more information.

### Get rid of door-to-door solicitors

Toups encourages residents who "don't want people knocking on their doors" to visit Town Hall and register for the "no solicitation" list. In May, an ordinance restricting home solicitation was implemented, but Toups says only a handful of citizens are taking advantage of it.

"It is written to help those who do not want door-to-door sales people visiting their homes," he explains. "But, in order for it to be effective, they have to sign a list prohibiting sales calls."

According to the ordinance, solicitors (both commercial and noncommercial) must get a permit from Town Hall. Likewise, anyone who doesn't want the sales calls can register with Town Hall, which will maintain a list of all residential addresses with such requests. Solicitors are also prohibited from entering or remaining on any private residence that has a "No Trespassing" or "No Solicitation" sign.

In addition to prohibiting sales calls, the ordinance limits the hours of door-to-door solicitation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The ordinance applies to all activities that are religious, charitable or political in nature and all solicitation of newspaper or magazine subscriptions.

## Meetings:

Addis Mayor & Town Council - 1st Wednesday of each month - Town Hall  
 Addis Planning & Zoning - 3rd Tuesday of each month - Town Hall  
 Addis Historical Society - 2nd Tuesday of each month - Addis Museum

Civic League of Addis - 2nd Monday of each month - Town Hall  
 Fire Sub-district #1 - Last Tuesday of each month - Fire Station #3



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WELCOME TO THE PARISH



The LunchHouse
2265 Court Street, Port Allen



The B Hive
4169 Hwy 1, South, Port Allen



Louisiana Chiropractic
415 Court Street, Port Allen

WBR Chamber Membership
Appreciation Crawfish Boil

The Chamber had a great turnout in May for the Annual Member Appreciation Event - a crawfish boil!

Many thanks to Turner Industries for sponsoring the crawfish boil! A large attendance of Chamber members enjoyed crawfish from LA



Lobsters and Berthelot's Crawfish, prepared to perfection by Bayou Bistro! The Jambalaya Shoppe also prepared jambalaya and Kona Ice provided yummy flavors of tropical shaved ice snow balls!

(Photos by Chamber member Sandie Hazelwood)



...and a good time was passed by all!



SAVE THE DATE!
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
THE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB



FRUSTRATED WITH LA. HWY. 1 TRAFFIC?
Let LA DODT continue to hear from you!
225/379-1273 or email: dotdcs@la.gov



They have heard us - we need to keep letting them hear from us daily! Don't stop calling because the legislative session is over!
There is strength in numbers!

UPCOMING CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!
255/383-3140 or bonnie@wbrchamber.org
ALL MEETINGS: ADDIS COMMUNITY CENTER; 7520 Hwy 1 South, Addis
Networking 11:30 a.m.-noon, meal and program begins at noon.
\$20 Chamber Members/\$25 Non-Chamber Members



August 27 Meeting
Riley Berthelot
WBR Parish President

Topic: State of the Parish Address



September 24 Meeting
Mike Strain
Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry

Topic: How are we really doing?



October 29 Meeting
Curt Eysink
Louisiana Workforce Commission

Topic: Preparing for the state workforce boom