

# VISION WEST

West Baton Rouge Parish - Community, Growth, Possibilities

A quarterly publication for West Baton Rouge residents by your public agencies • October, 2013

## Calendar of Events

**October 27** – Feast on the Levee, St. John Church, Brusly (pg. 2)

**October 28** – Port Allen Neighborhood Watch (pg. 6)

**October 30** – WBR Chamber Membership Meeting

**Nov. 1 & 2** - WBR Fair and Rodeo, 7 p.m., Louis Mouch Multipurpose Center

**Nov. 1 – Dec. 22** – Faulkner’s World photo exhibit, WBR Museum

**November 4** – WBR Chamber Golf Classic

**November 6** – Preview screening of JFK Documentary, WBR Museum

**November 10** – Veterans on Parade, 1:30 p.m.

**November 20** – WBR Chamber Membership Meeting

**December 1** – WBR Museum Holiday Open House

**December 5-24** – Reflections of the Season (pg. 4)

## Residential building permits may set record

West Baton Rouge is on target to break its record of residential construction permits issued by the end of 2013, said Parish President Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot.

The year after Hurricane Katrina, in 2006, the parish issued 220 single family residential building permits. That reflects the most permits issued since the parish has been compiling records of numbers of permits. Since 2006, the number of permits has fluctuated annually from about 133 to 166.

But the parish is outpacing those numbers in 2013. As of September, the parish has issued 179 permits for the year 2013, or about 20 permits per month. If the parish issues 20 permits per month for October through December, then the total issued for 2013 would be 239, significantly above the record of 220 permits in 2006.

Most of the permits issued this year are for the southern end of the parish – in Brusly and Addis, according to Kevin Durbin, director of the WBR Office of Community Planning and Development. In fact, a total of 73 of the permits issued by August were in Addis. Most of the other permits issued are from the unincorporated areas of the parish, especially the Erwinville area or so-called “north end.”

“We know that like the economy, building construction has cycles and the Baton Rouge region has done well economically in the past year or so, and I believe that is reflecting in our permit numbers,” Durbin said. The parish is also benefiting from a good school system and growth in the Westbank industrial corridor.

Berthelot said the growth will help the parish attract more retail businesses. “Retail is all about having enough roof tops, and this growth helps us sell West Baton Rouge to retail companies,” he said.



The frame of a home goes up at the popular Sugar Mill subdivision in Addis.



## 9TH ANNUAL VETERANS ON PARADE

**NOVEMBER 10, 2013**  
**DOWNTOWN PORT ALLEN 1:30 P.M.**

GET INVOLVED IN THIS FUN, EDUCATIONAL AND PATRIOTIC EVENT!  
FLOAT CONTEST: TROPHIES WILL BE GIVEN FOR 1ST, 2ND, & 3RD PLACE!

WWW.WESTBATONROUGE.NET

CALL KATHY AT THE WBR CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU 225-344-2920



## 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.wbr council.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

**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

**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

**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

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## Feast on the Levee set Oct. 27

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Feast on the Levee, sponsored by St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brusly, is set for Sunday, October 27 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. on the church grounds, 402 S. Kirkland Drive.

This family event featuring food, fun and entertainment includes a Cajun food fest, cake baking contest, sweet shop, silent auctions, raffles and Games2U for the kids! Live music is provided by Penalty Box from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and The Issue from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information contact the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church Office at 225-749-2189.



## PARISH FAIR & RODEO

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 1 AND 2 • 7 p.m.**

**Louis Mouch Multi-purpose Center**  
Rodeo with bull riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling, bronc riding... and MORE!  
Livestock show on Saturday morning  
*Tickets available at the gate*

## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

### Capturing Camelot: The Kennedy Years exhibit

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the John F. Kennedy administration, West Baton Rouge Museum announces the opening of the exhibition "Capturing Camelot: The Kennedy Years" on September 28 through December 29, 2013.



When John F. Kennedy was elected to the Presidency in November 1960, the American people embarked on a 1,000 day journey to a "mythical land," now fondly remembered by many as Camelot, a metaphoric equivalent of King Arthur's Court. Kennedy's presidency placed him, his wife Jacqueline, and his young family at the center of the world's stage. There they helped inspire a cultural reassessment of the American way of life.

Photojournalist Stanley Tretick was first sent by United Press International to follow the Kennedy campaign of 1960. The photographer soon befriended the candidate and took many of JFK's best pictures during this time. This exhibition of Tretick's photographs includes some of the most memorable images of America's Camelot. Tretick is best known today for the photographs he took of President Kennedy relaxing with his children.

While Jackie Kennedy fought to maintain an umbrella of privacy for young Caroline and John, Jr., John Kennedy was well aware of the public relations value of images that depicted him as a family man with a moral agenda. This exhibit includes over 50 of these photos in addition to magazines featuring other Tretick images.

## Coming Events at the WBR Museum

**Through December 29: Capturing Camelot: The Kennedy Years.** See above

**November 1 through December 22: Faulkner's World: Photographs of Martin J. Dain.** Photographer Martin J. Dain was one of the few who photographed author William Faulkner at the writer's home in Oxford, Mississippi. The collection is a national traveling exhibit.

**November 8 to January 12, 2014: Filmed in Louisiana: Civil War Era Movie Memorabilia.** As part of the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Civil War, the museum is hosting a display of photos, video clips, and original artifacts from films featuring Civil War scenes shot in Louisiana.

**November 7: 6:30-8:30pm: Preview Screening of JFK** The preview will feature 90-minutes

of highlighted clips from the full documentary. Screening event is free and open to the public.

**November 10:** noon, Museum will open at noon on Sunday before the Veterans Day Parade rolls at 1:30 p.m., and admission will be free that day.

**November 13: noon Lunchtime Lecture, "How to Weed Your Attic: Getting Rid of the Stuff without Destroying History."** LSU Library Science professor, Elizabeth Dow, free.

**November 14: 6:30-8:30pm: The film, The Loving Story** documentary tells the inspiring story of Mildred and Richard Loving, an interracial couple, who married in 1958, despite Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws.

**December 1, 2-4pm: Holiday Open House** Enjoy the warm scents of the season coming from

the Allendale Cabin and watch open hearth cooking demonstrations. Visit the historic Aillet House to see a traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century holiday tableaux museum theater performance. Our galleries will be filled with live entertainment including performances by a local choir, a barbershop quartet, and Cangelosi Dance Project. Santa's Workshop will be open with hands-on craft activities and storytelling. Help Papa Noel find his mischievous elves hiding all around the grounds at the Museum. Free

**December 12, at 6:30 pm: Faulkner on Film.** As part of the photography exhibit on view this month, "Faulkner's World: Photographs by Martin J. Dain," the museum will present the 1958 film "The Long, Hot Summer" that will be moderated by Dr. Joanna Davis-McElligatt. Free.

## WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

### WBR Library offers popular new books!

West Baton Rouge Parish Library offers many types of services, from computer classes to children's programs to e-books to Internet access. But what about books – regular old paper-and-ink, touchy-feely books? We absolutely have them – books are the library's mainstay, and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. Here are just a few new ones that are waiting for you!

**The Mayan Secrets** by Clive

Cussler will keep you reading all night! When Sam and Remi find a skeleton clutching a clay pot, they uncover secrets so powerful that nothing is more important and everything is at risk.

Are you a "Duck Dynasty" fan? Followers will enjoy **Happy, Happy, Happy** by Phil Robertson, the patriarch of the family of television fame. From humble beginnings in north Louisiana to the building of the family business into an

impressive empire, this autobiography will amaze you!

Sheryl Sandberg offers **Lean In**. This book urges women to take risks, seek new challenges, find work that they love, and remain passionately engaged with it. Sandberg knows what she's talking about – she is the Chief Operating Officer for Face Book, and ranked 8<sup>th</sup> on Fortune's list of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Business.

Beloved writer Maeve Binchy has penned **A Week in Winter** set on the coast of Ireland. When Chicky decides to renovate a decaying mansion into a holiday retreat, the whole town thinks she's crazy.

Stop at the library and check out these titles and more. Curl up with a good old-fashioned *book* and enjoy!



## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:



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## WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH GOVERNMENT

# Parish 2014 budget includes biking, road projects

Projects to improve Rosedale Road in Port Allen and add a levee top walking/biking trail in Brusly are included in the parish's 2014 budget, and will get underway by next summer.

The parish has received a grant from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to make Rosedale Road safer by closing in ditches on the side of the road and adding culverts and sidewalks.

The \$850,000 project calls for about 1.5 miles of culverts and sidewalks to be added from La. Hwy. 1 to Three Canal Bridge. "A lot of people walk on that road and it is a dangerous situation because of the deep ditches next to the road and rate of speed of vehicles on the road," noted Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot. He said eventually the

sidewalks will be tied into the city's levee top trail system.

The parish has also received grants totaling \$707,000, and the parish will fund an additional \$240,000 for a trail head and walking/biking trail on the levee around Main Street in Brusly. The exact location of the trail head is still being established. The trail will extend to both the north and south of the trail head, with the eventual goal of having the trail extend to the Intracoastal Bridge. Construction on the project is expected to be next summer.

The parish has also set aside \$50,000 for the continuation of the Port Allen levee trail, with the eventual goal of extending that trail to the old Mississippi River Bridge.



Scene of a wreck that stopped traffic on south-bound lanes of the Intracoastal Bridge.

# Berthelot pushes for action, La. 1 traffic back-ups

Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot said the parish is working on both short and long term solutions to the La. Hwy. 1 traffic backups at the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge.

The short-term solution is the La. Hwy. 1/La. 415 connector, and the long-term solution is another bridge across the Mississippi River, he said. "We recognize that the La. Hwy. 1/La. 415 connector road will not solve all the problems, that we still need another bridge," Berthelot said. "But another bridge will take years to get off the ground and more than \$600 million to build. We have been working for some time to educate our state and federal officials about the severe traffic back-ups and the need to get both short and long term solutions moving forward."

In July, the parish presented its case to the Louisiana Department of Transportation for funding from its special Mega-Project fund. Berthelot said the parish received much praise for its presentation, and the state has since asked for additional information, but the parish has not received further word on it yet.

The parish video used in its presentation for the La. 1/La. 415 connector route can be viewed on the parish website: [www.wbrcouncil.org](http://www.wbrcouncil.org).

Berthelot said he also had the opportunity to meet with Gov. Bobby Jindal after The Dow Chemical Co. press conference to announce its \$1 billion expansion of the local facility on August 27. In that meeting, attended by area and Dow officials, Berthelot focused on the traffic issue and the need for both short and long term solutions.

In September, Berthelot and Iberville Parish officials met with chemical industry leaders and the area's state legislative delegation to develop ideas to push both state and federal officials for funding and action. "The governor is aware of the problem, and that it is a major issue for the chemical industry as well as this area," Berthelot said.

He noted that funds for improving other parish roads adjacent to La. Hwy. 1 have been put into the 2014 parish budget.

# High schools get trash, recycle bins



Jeff Kershaw, WBR Parish School Board Maintenance Supervisor, is shown with the one of the new trash/recycle receptacles purchased by KWBRB for the local high schools. For the 5th consecutive year, Keep WBR Beautiful has received the Healthy Community Grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB). The 2013-14 grant in the amount of \$9,810.00 will provide for the purchase and placement of trash/recycling receptacles outside seating areas on the Brusly and Port Allen High campuses. The receptacles will encourage students, visitors, and facility to take responsibility for a clean and beautiful campus and West Baton Rouge Parish.

# Clean Business Award...

Pictured at right is attorney Tony Clayton with Keep WBR Beautiful Board Member and Brusly Councilwoman Joanne Bourgeois near the entrance to the Clayton/Frugé/Ward Law Firm on LA highway 1 South. The firm received the Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful Clean Business Award for the 3rd quarter of 2013. Congratulations to the Clayton/ Frugé/Ward Law Firm for taking pride in their business site! Thank you to all WBR residents who continue to demonstrate their commitment to litter abatement, recycling and beautification.



# RECREATION UPDATE

## Biddy Ball registration opens

Registration for Biddy Basketball will be held throughout November by the WBR Recreation Department. Biddy Basketball is open to all girls and boys, age 5 to 12. The fee to participate is \$30. For more information or to register a child for the program, go to the Recreation Department office, located in the WBR Community Center in Port Allen, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., or Friday from 8 a.m. until noon. For more information call 225-336-2423.

## Addis boot camp fitness class

The WBR Recreation Department is now offering a boot camp fitness class at the Addis Community Center on Mondays and Wednesdays. The department already was offering fitness classes at the community centers in Erwinville and Port Allen, and wanted to offer a class in the south part of the parish. For more information about the fitness classes, call the Recreation Department at 225-336-2423.

### NOTICE REGARDING NATURAL GAS AND WATER BILL PAYMENTS

West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas & Water now offers bill pay on the parish website. However, customers should be aware that online payments through the website are NOT automatically posted to your account.

It can take up to 3 business days for the payments to be settled and posted, therefore if you are due for disconnection, and it is past the disconnection date, it is not wise to pay online through the website, as you are still subject to disconnection.

Also, if you have been disconnected, you must pay in either of the parish Natural Gas & Water Offices, or call and make your payment, along with a service charge, before services will be restored.

Same day reconnections are not guaranteed. After hour reconnections are available at an additional charge. If your meters are locked, and you chose to break the lock on the meter to restore your services, an additional fee will be charged and criminal charges will be pressed against you.

The one time extension and connection charges paid for water and gas services, is for the tapping of the mains, and the installation of the meters and lines only. All equipment, including the actual meter, is still owned by the Parish. It is illegal to tamper with governmental property.



## WEST BATON ROUGE TOURISM

### Year-end activities include veterans parade, Christmas festivities

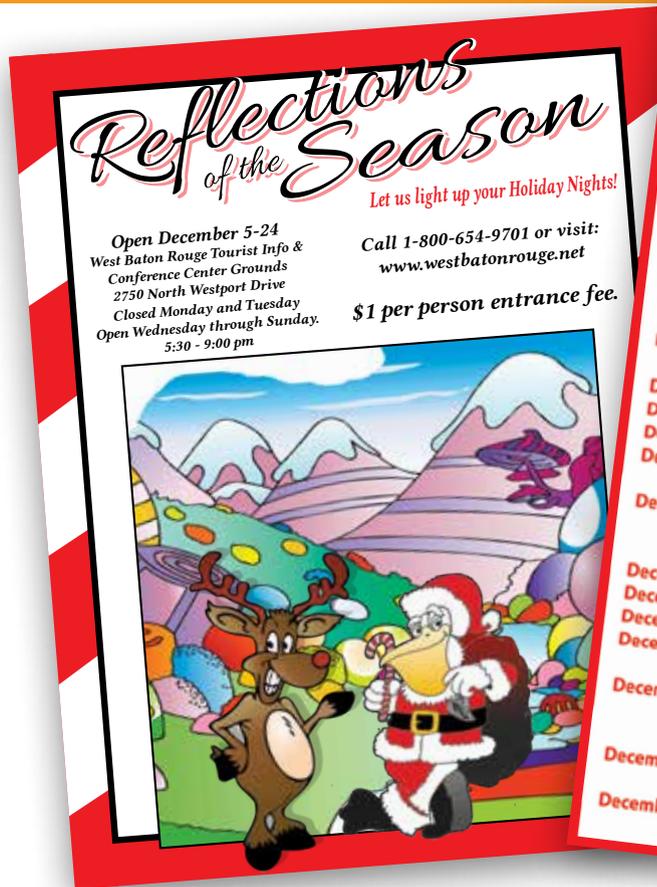
As the end of the year approaches and the holidays draw near, tourism officials remain busy planning activities for West Baton Rouge Parish.

The Annual Veterans on Parade will roll in downtown Port Allen on Nov. 10, according to West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau (WBRCVB) Director Sharon Stam.

Organized by volunteers nine years ago, the parade honors all veterans past and present for their service. The parade will line-up at Rivault Park and kick off at 1:30 p.m. It will travel down Jefferson Avenue to Louisiana Avenue and conclude at the West Baton Rouge Courthouse on 8th Street for a special veterans ceremony. Trophies will be awarded for the top three honors in the float contest. Anyone interested in entering a parade should contact Kathy Gautreaux at the WBRCVB.

On Dec. 5, this year's Reflections of the Season holiday light display opens and continues through Dec. 24 at the West Baton Rouge Tourist Information and Conference Center.

The public is invited to attend a Reflections Premier Lighting Event on Dec. 4, which features a reception, dinner, entertainment and a celebrity Santa who will delight guests as his identity is revealed, Stam explains. Previous Santas have included Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden, Swamp Man Troy Landry, Vince Vance and Louisiana State University Baseball Coach Paul Mainieri.



Tickets are \$35 and reservations can be made by calling the WBRCVB.

Louisiana's only singing and talking reindeer, Trevor, will be a new feature of the holiday event this year, Stam says. She adds that he'll "delight young and old" by performing Friday and Saturday nights and on Dec. 22 and Dec. 23.

Other attractions include ice fishing on Dec. 6 and Dec. 7, snow nights on Dec. 14 and Dec. 21, and expanded holiday and gift booths offered by vendors.

Tourism officials are encouraging participants to compete in a second contest with Pireaux de Pelican. Prizes include \$100, \$50 and \$25 gift cards.

Contestants should take a picture with Pireaux and email them to the WBRCVB for posting on its Facebook page. Pireaux will be featured in Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas scenes.

Stam also notes that, as a member of the Southeast Louisiana Gumbo Partnership, the WBRCVB will benefit from a \$377,000 grant from BP to spread the news about regional tourism and seafood. The funds will be used to produce a new cookbook and other marketing and promotional opportunities.

For more information about all upcoming events, visit the website at [www.westbatonrouge.net](http://www.westbatonrouge.net), follow us on facebook or call the WBRCVB at 225-344-2920.

## WEST BATON ROUGE ASSESSOR

### Additions to tax rolls, increased values for 2013

Parish property owners will be pleased to know "there are no surprises" in their 2013 property tax bills.

Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan says property tax notices should be mailed out by the end of October allowing approximately a two month window of time to meet the payment deadline. "The good news is property tax amounts should be the same as last year since 2013 was not a re-valuation year and there were no millage (rate) increases by any of the taxing jurisdictions," Assessor Altazan said.

There were approximately 385 residential and commercial improvements and additions added to the assessment roll in 2013. These additions to the roll increased real estate assessed values by \$5.3 million or an increase of 3.6% for the year. There were 6,130 residential properties with homestead exemptions, an increase of 127 homestead exemptions or an increase of 2.1% for the year.

"The long established trend of businesses being the top taxpayers in the parish continued in 2013 with the top ten taxpayers in the parish accounting for roughly 50% of all property taxes to be paid," Assessor Altazan noted.

#### QUICK STATS:

385 residential & commercial improvements/additions added to rolls

3.6 percent increase in real estate assessed values for 2013

127 new homestead exemptions for 2013

Business personal property assessed values increased by 5.7 percent

Businesses pay 83.5 percent of all property taxes in WBR

The top ten taxpayers for 2013 listed in order of taxes to be paid are: The Dow Chemical Company, ExxonMobil Corporation, Placid Refining Company, Shintech Louisiana, BP Lubricants USA, M/G Transport Services LLC, Enterprise Products Partners LP, Entergy Gulf States Inc., Union Pacific Railroad and Criterion Catalysts and Technologies.

Business personal property (movable property) assessed values increased by \$12.4 million in 2013, an increase of 5.7% when compared to the previous year. Altazan says for the 2013 year, businesses will pay 83.5% of all property taxes to be collected in West Baton Rouge Parish.

Additionally Altazan notes, "the parish is extremely

fortunate to have over \$1 billion dollars in Louisiana Economic Development industrial exemption contracts on the books that, as they expire over the next ten years, will be a significant boost to the tax base in West Baton Rouge."

The only area of assessment that was down in 2013 was Public Service (utility) assessments that are determined by the Louisiana Tax Commission and provided directly to the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office. Public Service assessments were down \$21.1 million or 35.5% when compared to 2012, the decrease

due entirely to a large barge fleet being relocated out of West Baton Rouge Parish.

"Even with losing the \$21 million barge fleet assessment, which we were expecting, we were only down about 1% for 2013. I like to focus on the \$17.7 million of growth we had in other areas, still a great year for West Baton Rouge Parish," he said. For more information about assessments, Altazan encourages property owners to contact his office at 225-344-6777 or visit the Assessor's Office website at [www.wbrassessor.org](http://www.wbrassessor.org).



## WEST BATON ROUGE SCHOOL SYSTEM

# New principals bring expertise to schools

Three West Baton Rouge Parish schools have new leadership, offering fresh ideas and direction to students.

"We are fortunate to have these highly qualified individuals guiding our young people," says Superintendent David Corona. "Each has demonstrated outstanding abilities over the course of their careers."



**James Jackson**

A New Orleans native, Jackson taught for three years in East Baton Rouge Parish at North Highland Elementary School and for three years at Southern University Laboratory School. He also served as assistant principal at Brusly Middle School for two years.

Port Allen Middle School's new acting principal, **John Arrasmith**, is in his eleventh year at the school. He began as a



**John Arrasmith**

6th/7th grade English teacher before becoming a reading coach/literary facilitator in 2006. In 2010, he became assistant principal and held that position until his recent appointment.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in English Literature from LSU, he earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University in 2010.



**Laree Taylor**

**Laree Taylor** is new to West Baton Rouge schools, having worked with the Department of Education as a Scope and Sequence writer and as a trainer for the Teacher Leader's Network. She is now principal of Duvall Middle School, serves on the advisory board for the LSU Writing Project and is a Common Core Workshop presenter.

She is a graduate of LSU with a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, with emphasis on literacy.



Robotics Team members (from left) Gabrielle LeJeune, Charles Hall and Monica Gordon display a project they are working on.



Robotics Team members include (bottom, from left) Caitlin Miller, Gabrielle LeJeune, Mary Courville, Monica Gordon, (top, from left) Michael Starr, Tyler Lee, Jacoby Antoine and Charles Hall.

## Grant helps students get robotic training

ExxonMobil has awarded a \$2,500 grant to aid Port Allen High School students with hands-on learning opportunities in technology.

"This will help meet the needs of building and adding robotics modules for our students," said Associate Superintendent for Instruction Sharon Lair. "We're very pleased with the support from ExxonMobil each year. It has helped tremendously in furthering STEM (or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education in our schools."

Last year, ExxonMobil provided funds for Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program, a job-to-work transition program.

The grant awarded earlier this spring will be used on Project ROBOTEK by

the high school's 12-member Robotics Team. The objective of Project ROBOTEK is to "increase students' knowledge of STEM related careers and applications by providing meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities using robotics programming as a medium," according to the proposal submitted for the grant.

Students are chosen to participate on the Robotics Team based on their interest, and have opportunities to plan, design, build and program robots. They also participate in local robotics workshops and local and regional robotics competitions.

Lair says she hopes the funding will allow the team to grow and provide for replacement parts kits, as well as pay for training workshops and competition fees.

## 2 teachers, counselor recognized for achievements

Two West Baton Rouge Parish teachers and a counselor are getting high marks for excelling in their fields.

Science teachers Mandy Ford of Brusly High School and Rhonda Matthew of Port Allen High School have been selected to participate in the New Science Teacher Academy (NSTA), co-sponsored by Dow. In addition, Counselor Candace Lair, a six-year counselor at Brusly Middle School, recently became a National Certified School Counselor.

"The professional development on behalf of these individuals not only speaks well of them, but benefits our schools and students as well," says Associate Superintendent for Instruction Sharon Lair.

Ford and Mathew are among middle and high school teachers who have been elected to the NSTA for a year-long professional development and mentoring program. Lair noted that NSTA participants rarely come from Louisiana, so the fact that West Baton Rouge Parish Schools has two recipients is impressive.

"Our teachers are excited about this wonderful opportunity," she says. During the NSTA Academy, Ford and Matthew will attend an all-expense-paid trip to the NSTA National Conference on Science Education in Boston next spring. Among other benefits, they will have access to web-based curriculum, professional development web seminars and mentoring services.

Candace Lair is one of the school system's 10 counselors. She is the first to earn the NCSC designation, a specialty credential which recognizes counselors who possess a minimum of a master's degree in counseling with coursework in school counseling and who have passed a challenging national application and examination process. Currently, about 2,500 counselors hold the credential.

Candace Lair is also a National Certified Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor. Sharon Lair, who is Candace's mother, notes that the additional certification and professional development equates to performance and is particularly beneficial in unexpected crisis situations.



Counselor Candace Lair, and teachers Rhonda Matthew and Mandy Ford



# Mayor lists priorities for city

Mayor Deedy Slaughter said she is focusing her efforts on four areas for the City of Port Allen – enhancing public safety, community development, implementation of the city’s master plan, and infrastructure projects.

Slaughter said a new rescue vehicle was purchased by the West Baton Rouge Fire Sub-district #3 for the Port Allen Fire Department at a cost of \$305,000. City officials make up the board for the sub-district. The rescue truck carries service equipment, technical rescue equipment and mobile air/cascade capability.

Slaughter said she has included \$200,000 in the 2013-2014 budget proposal to lease/purchase a new fleet of police cars and related equipment to replace outdated vehicles.

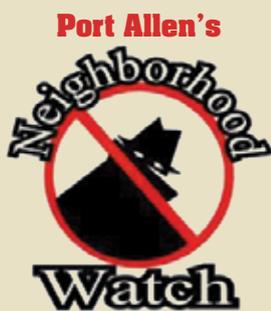
The mayor said the city is working on grants and other funding to further develop the downtown and river front areas of the city in hopes that this development will bring new businesses to the city such as new restaurants.

Infrastructure projects include continuing to improve roads, drainage, the addition of sidewalks and paving more of the levee top for walking and biking.

The city has also received a \$25,000 grant to purchase new natural gas meters in an area west of La. Hwy. 1 and east of Melissa Avenue. The grant was provided through the Gas Meter Replacement Safety Program.



## Neighborhood Watch meets monthly



Concerned Citizens of Port Allen are holding monthly Neighborhood Watch meetings monthly. The next meeting is October 28 at 6 p.m. on the third floor of Port Allen City Hall. The meetings focus on tips for residents to keep their homes and property safe, how to be more observant about their neighborhood and surroundings, and other neighborhood safety topics. The public is invited to these meetings.

# BRCC Westside campus opening celebrated

A crowd of more than 100 people welcomed the opening of the new Baton Rouge Community College Westside campus in Plaquemine during its ribbon-cutting on September 19. The festive atmosphere was due to the new opportunities that the facility brings for area residents to get the training needed to land high-paying jobs.

The 15,547 square foot facility at 25250 Tenant Road behind Plaquemine High School (PHS) now offers a new industrial maintenance program, which provides certifications in crafts sought after by the chemical industry – electrical, instrumentation, millwright, pipefitting and welding. Students completing the certifications will be able to start at jobs making \$25 per hour plus benefits. LPN, medical assistant and certified nursing assistant courses are also offered at the campus.

The facility has a value of some \$5 million, with the state providing \$3 million and The Dow Chemical Co. donating \$1 million to construction. Former Senator Robert Marionneaux and State Rep. Karen St. Germain were instrumental in obtaining state funding for the new facility.

The Iberville School Board donated the land for the facility, Iberville Parish government provided the sewer and water infrastructure and a bridge between Plaquemine High School and the new campus to encourage dual-enrollment classes for PHS students. In addition, Dow has donated some \$500,000 in equipment for the industrial maintenance program.

Dow Louisiana Operations Site Director Eduardo Do Val noted that Dow just announced a \$1 billion expansion of its Plaquemine site, and it is exciting that Dow also has played a role in making sure local people would have a tremendous opportunity to get the education to work for Dow or with any of the chemical companies along the river.

“When we (Dow) announced our 1.06 billion expansion, we also made a commitment to growing our workforce in Plaquemine,” Do Val said. “Our investment in BRCC is a great way to offer local people the training required to assume manufacturing and engineering jobs right here at Louisiana Operations.”

Steven Toups, representing Dr. Joe May, president of the Community College system, noted, “Now there shouldn’t be a kid in the community that wants a job that can’t get one.”



CELEBRATING OPENING... Shown at the BRCC Westside campus ribbon cutting are, from left, Iberville Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., Parish Council Member Henry “Bucket” Scott, School Board Member Yolanda Laws, School Superintendent P. Edward Cancienne, Jr., Steve Smith of LCTCS Facilities Corp and Board of Supervisors; Steven Toups, BRCC Chancellor Dr. Andrea Miller, Dean Dr. Kay McDaniel, Dow Louisiana Operations Leader Eduardo do Val, La. Workforce Commission Executive Director Curt Eysink, White Castle Alderwoman Barbara O’Bear, and Parish Council Member Edwin Reeves.





**TOWN OF BRUSLY**

**Kitchen safety**

What to do when a cooking fire occurs:

- When in doubt, get outside! Close the door behind you and call 9-1-1.
- If you try to fight the fire with an extinguisher, be sure others leave the home and you have a clear exit path.
- If a small grease fire has not spread beyond the pan, smother it by carefully sliding a lid or cookie sheet over the pan to completely cover it. Turn off the burner and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool. Never move the pan or throw water on a grease fire.
- For an over fire, turn the heat off and keep the door closed.

**Unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires.**

When you fry, grill or broil food, stay in the kitchen.

Stay in your home when you simmer, bake, roast or boil food and check it regularly.

Don't use the oven or stovetop if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol or are using drugs.

Wear short, tight-fitting and tightly-rolled sleeves when cooking.

**Assistant Fire Chief Hunts elected president of state firefighters association**

Assistant Fire Chief Kenny Hunts was elected and installed as president of the Louisiana State Firefighters Association (LSFA), a 13,000-member fire service organization.

He was installed in August and will service until August of 2014.

"I am really passionate about LSFA because about 75 percent of firefighters in Louisiana are still volunteers," Hunts said. "Our organization speaks for those volunteers."

The LSFA provides a variety of benefits for firefighters, such as a death benefit if a firefighter is killed in the line of duty, a variety of insurances, discounts on services and at retail stores, assistance grants for volunteers who are in college, and classes and conferences.

Hunts was first elected to the LSFA board as District 6 representative in 2005. District 6 includes the Baton Rouge region. He was elected second vice president in 2011, and served as first vice president in 2012. He also received the prestigious Roy A Robichaux Sr. Legislative Memorial Award in 2012 for his work with legislators on behalf



Shown are Chief Salka, an LSFA conference educational instructor, and LSFA President Kenny Hunts at right.

of firefighters.

Hunts said he has visited about 40 percent of fire departments statewide since he has been on the Executive Board, and is also Commander of the LSFA Honor Guard, which attends the funerals of firefighters killed in the line of duty. "We have not had a firefighter killed in duty in two years, but it is an honor for me to assist the families with resources provided by LSFA when that is necessary," he said.

Hunts has been a firefighter with the Brusly Fire Department since 1991. He started as a

volunteer, became a part-time paid firefighter in 1999, and became a full-time paid firefighter in 2002, and was quickly appointed assistant chief under Chief Mike Alleman.

"This is a rewarding career," he said. "I have saved people's lives three times, and gotten families and children out of burning houses. That is the greatest feeling in the world."

Hunts praised the Brusly Fire Department and its staff, noting, "We have a great team, an excellent fire prevention program, and we do it on a very tight budget."

**TOWN OF ADDIS**

**Mayor's update on projects, issues**

**To the Citizens of Addis:**

It is truly an honor to serve you as Mayor of Addis. The first eight months have come and gone and the staff, Council and I have been busy.

Allow me to share some of the accomplishments:

• **Completion of widening and paving of Peter Messina Road**, as well as repair of pot holes throughout town.

• **Addressing drainage projects** along First Street and continuing other drainage projects using grant money previously awarded. Other drainage maintenance projects have been identified and completed.

• **Meetings with railroad representatives** concerning rail traffic and the conditions of the crossings.

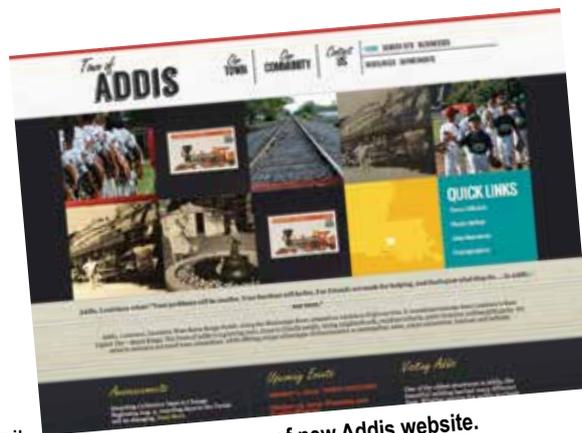
• **Meetings with the Louisiana Department of Transportation concerning all traffic signals** in the Town of Addis. We will continue to work on the signals to provide a better flow of traffic entering or crossing LA 1.

• **The connector road** between Sugar Mill Plantation and Lukeville Lane has been completed.

• **We have new businesses**, including Dollar General Store and Fit Blendz (located in Benedetto's Shopping Center), and it appears we will have a new day care built in Addis.

• We are happy to announce the **launch of the new Town of Addis website**, [www.addisla.org](http://www.addisla.org), replacing the site that was launched in 1997. Our goal for the website is to help promote the Town of Addis and to provide information about the Town of Addis and its history. Also, we want to provide important phone numbers and links to other sites of interest of our local area. We hope you visit our website soon and share it with your friends and relatives.

I would like to share some common citizen complaints, including numerous



Home page of new Addis website.

complaints about pets running through the neighborhoods and dangerous animals. The Town of Addis has ordinances concerning these two matters:

Sec. 4-3. - Running at large. No owner shall allow his animal, whether domesticated or undomesticated, or fowl to roam, run or be at large upon any public property or the private property of another.

Sec. 4-6. - Keeping dangerous animals prohibited; exception. No dangerous animal as defined by this article in section 4-1 above shall be allowed within the Town of Addis unless a special permit pursuant to section 4-7 is first obtained from the Town of Addis.

Please follow all Town ordinances. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Hall.

There have been some recent updates to our recycling collection. **Recycling collection for the east side of LA 1 is now on Tuesday and for the west side of LA 1 on Wednesday. Regular garbage pickup is on Monday and Thursday and big garbage pickup is on the FIRST FULL WEEK of each month beginning on Monday.**

In closing, please visit the website, [www.addisla.org](http://www.addisla.org), to get contact information for your Town of Addis officials:

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Mayor Pro-tempore | Rusty Parrish           |
| Councilperson     | Wilson "Hook" Cazes     |
| Councilperson     | Lance "Yogi" Gauthreaux |
| Councilperson     | Tate Acosta             |
| Councilperson     | Rhonda Leblanc Kelley   |
| Chief of Police   | Ricky Anderson          |

**kindest Regards,  
David H. Toups, Mayor**

**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



State and area elected officials and leaders along with Margarita Louis-Dreyfus (center), Chairman of the Board, cut the ribbon at the Port to celebrate grain facility.

\$150 million in upgrades to grain facility at Port celebrated

A \$150 million upgrade to the Louis Dreyfus Commodities grain facility at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge provides 37 new direct jobs and will allow the elevator to handle up to 5 million metric tons of grains and oilseeds annually.

"The Dreyfus Commodities flagship export elevator at the Port will be the most modern grain elevator on the Mississippi River," said Jay Hardman, Executive Director of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. "This facility will provide Louisiana farmers with more access to international markets for their agricultural products, and it signals a new stage in the growth and development of the port."

The 37 new jobs will have an

average annual salary of \$65,000, plus benefits. The expansion is projected to create another 32 indirect jobs. Louis-Dreyfus already had 23 employees at the port and the project generated 100 construction jobs.

Ciro Echesortu, the CEO of Louis-Dreyfus Commodities, said, "This facility is essential to our global operations utilizing capacity to handle continuing growth of demand for exports outside the U.S. That growth in demand will help local farmers." Echesortu said half of the soybeans and cargo that will be loaded onto ships will come from farmers within a 60-mile radius.

Chamber Ambassadors spotlighted



Tima Midyette  
YMCA Dow  
Westside



Paula Bernard  
Mary Kay  
Consultant



Trevor Gautreaux  
Neighbors Federal  
Credit Union

The WBR Chamber salutes three of our Charter Chamber Ambassadors this quarter! These three have volunteered their time to visit with Chamber members and their businesses to update them on Chamber events and see what their businesses need! Thanks Tima, Paula and Trevor!

Welcome to the Parish

Recently the WBR Chamber held ribbon cuttings to welcome these new businesses:



6341 La Hwy 1  
Brusly, 225-448-3010



3095 Hwy 1, North, Port Allen  
225-355-3388



Shown at the recent Dow Chemical \$1.06 billion economic development announcement are: from left WBR Parish President Riley Berthelot, Dr. Kim Ann Mink, President Dow Elastomers, Electrical and Telecommunications, Gov. Bobby Jindal, Dow Plaquemine Site Director Eduardo Do Val, WBR Chamber Executive Director Kathy Stuart and Dow Site Services Director Juan Carrillo.

Dow announces \$1 billion investment in local site

Dow Louisiana Operations Site Leader Eduardo Do Val announced The Dow Chemical Company will invest \$1.06 billion in a pair of new polyolefins plants – one for producing next-generation synthetic rubber and another for high-performance polyethylene – and capital upgrades to its ethylene capacity at the company's 3,300-acre site in Plaquemine.

The project will retain 1,380 existing workers employed directly by Dow and create 71 new direct jobs with an average annual salary of more than \$49,000 per year, plus benefits. This project should result in an additional 470 new indirect jobs.

The Dow project will create 1,200

construction jobs as well as 150 contractor jobs to support the new facilities. Dow will begin construction on the ethylene efficiency project almost immediately with the building of the new polyolefins plants – one in Iberville Parish and one in West Baton Rouge Parish – to begin by the end of 2013. Dow projects a completion date for the projects near the end of 2016, with the bulk of the 71 new direct jobs being filled in 2015.

"The great people of Dow Louisiana Operations deserve this win," said Eduardo Do Val, Dow Louisiana Operations site director. "They have run this site safely and reliably for many years."

Chamber recognizes outstanding high school seniors



From Left: WBR Chamber Board Chair Joy Hopkins, Gary LaBauve of School Sponsor Neighbors Federal Credit Union, Trevor Gautreaux, Darlene Shingleur, Port Allen High School Senior Nicholas Parker, new Port Allen High School Principal James Jackson, and WBR School Superintendent David Corona.

From left: School Sponsor, DLFCU's Tammy Copeland and Latasha Johnson with Brusly High School Seniors Beatriz Garcia and Emily Palermo and DLFCU's Blaine Rabalais.



UPCOMING CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

October Meeting



Jay Hardman  
Executive Director  
Port of Greater Baton Rouge

Wednesday, October 30th  
Louisiana Bayou Bistro  
441 S Vaughan St., Brusly

11:30AM: Registration/Networking  
12 Noon: Program begins

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!  
225/383-3140 or bonnie@wbrchamber.org

\$20 Chamber Members/  
\$25 Non-Chamber Members

November Meeting



David Corona  
WBR School Superintendent

Wednesday, November 20th  
Addis Community Center

State of the Parish on Education

11:30AM: Registration/Networking  
12 Noon: Program begins



Phyllis Coleman-Mouton  
BRCC, Vice Chancellor

Community College and  
Technical School Merger

\$20 Chamber Members/  
\$25 Non-Chamber Members

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!  
225/383-3140 or bonnie@wbrchamber.org