

VISION WEST

West Baton Rouge Parish - Community, Growth, Possibilities

A quarterly publication for West Baton Rouge residents by your public agencies • July, 2016

Calendar of Events

- Now-Aug. 15** – Football registration for 5-12 yr. olds
- Aug. 1-Sept. 2** – Flag football registration
- Aug. 5** - Bus trip to Abita Brewery with WBR Museum
- Aug. 11** - First day of 2016-17 school year
- Aug. 24** – State of Parish address at WBR Chamber luncheon
- Aug. 27-Oct. 30** – Dorothea Lange exhibit, WBR Museum
- Sept. 10 & 11** – Oldies But Goodies Fest & BBQ Cook-Off, WBR Visitors Center
- Sept. 17-Oct. 23** – City of Port Allen Centennial exhibit - WBR Museum
- Oct. 2** – Sugar Fest, WBR Museum
- Oct. 2** – Bridal Show, WBR Visitors Center
- Oct. 7-9** – City of Port Allen Centennial Celebration
- Oct. 21** – Halloween party for kids, WBR Museum & Library
- Oct. 29-Jan. 29** – Art by Walter Anderson exhibit, WBR Museum

Road overlay project, extensions underway

A road overlay program including 17 roads came in under bid projections and has begun. Barber Brothers Contracting will be doing the work at a cost of \$779,348, about \$135,652 less than the expected cost of \$915,000. The roads to be included in the project are: Higdon Road, Lone Oak Drive, Missouri Drive, Lafitte Court, Auguste Street, Willow Glenn Avenue, Shelter Court, Golden Ridge Drive, Hollywood Court, Levert Avenue, Hilda Court, Evergreen Drive, Beauregard Boulevard, Maxine Street, South Mulatto Bend, Northwest Drive and Investment Drive.



Work is underway to extend North Westport Drive for two new hotels that will be located next to the old racetrack building and close to the WBR Convention and Visitors Bureau.

also be constructed on North Westport Drive.

In addition, the parish is planning an extension of Court Street from La. Hwy. 415. "There is a 125-acre tract of land with interstate frontage that is available for commercial and retail development, and we want to extend Court Street 1,200 feet to make that property more accessible," Berthelot explained. The parish will also extend Webster Lane to provide an additional access to the property. "We believe this is prime property for development and these road extensions will make the property more appealing to businesses," he said. Those projects are in the beginning phases and will be completed by next year.

LA. HWY. 415 IMPROVEMENTS:

Berthelot said the La. Department of Transportation and Development is also planning road changes and improvements to La. Hwy. 415. Roundabout circular intersections called J-turns are proposed to replace the red lights, along with re-stripping of the middle turn lane on La. 415 to accommodate faster traffic flow. Berthelot said the \$5 million project is an effort to quicken access to La. Hwy. 190 and the old Mississippi River Bridge; and is in conjunction with the proposed La. Hwy. 1 and La. Hwy. 415 connector route. Studies on the connector route are still underway by LDOTD. A public hearing on the proposed La. Hwy. 415 changes is expected to be set by the fall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

The parish also has several other projects underway to accommodate economic development. Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot said two new hotels will soon be under construction in WBR. North Westport Drive past the West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau is being extended for the new LaQuinta Inn, which will have 76 rooms. A new Towne Place Suites hotel with 98 rooms will

HOW TO GET EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Register your cell phone number to receive emergency alerts from the WBR public alert system. Go to: www.wbrlepc.net and click on the cell phone registration link, or call 225-346-1577.

Residents are also urged to like the facebook page: West Baton Rouge Office of Homeland Security and 911.

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

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 5:30 p.m. at the Council meeting room in the Parish Council Building.

WBR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS - Meets

on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5 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

Postal Patron Local

Permit No. 142
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
PAID
U.S. Postage
Presorted Standard

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 5, Bus Trip. Take a day trip filled with tours and tastings at Abita Brewery and Donner Peltier Rum Distillery and lunch. Prepaid registration \$80

August 10, noon, Lunchtime Lecture, The Georgetown Memory Project: Tracing the Jesuit slaves and their descendants with researcher Judy Riffel. Find out about Georgetown University's historical slavery connections to Louisiana. Free.

August 24 noon: Lunchtime Lecture and book signing, Bayou Pigeon: Spirit of the Atchafalaya presented by author and local historian Cliff LeGrange. Free.

August 27 – October 30 An exhibition: “Dorothea Lange’s America” features Dorothea Lange, the FSA and Louisiana.

August 31, noon: Lunchtime Lecture “Dorothea Lange and the Remarkable Legacy of the Farm Security Administration.” Claudia Kheel explores the aesthetic and activism found in Lange's photographs.

September 7 noon: Lunchtime Lecture “Lives in the South” LSU history professor, Aaron Sheehan-Dean discusses FSA photographs taken during the Great Depression in Rural America.

September 17 – October 23 An exhibition, City of Port Allen Centennial

October 2: 11am- 4pm Sugar Fest

October 21, 6-8pm Halloween Event in partnership with the WBRP Library

WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

West Baton Rouge Parish Library has a new look! With the assistance of a grant from Horizon Milling Cargill, the Teens' and Childrens Areas have been updated and refreshed.

For teens, shelving has been moved to create a larger space. Teens from Brusly and Port Allen High Schools gave their input on colors and furniture. Bistro tables with high stools are new, along with sectional seating which can be used individually or linked. Soft shades of apple green and teal are brightened with orange and purple accents. Art created by area teens is displayed. The book collection reflects current titles of high interest to teens. Multiple copies of books on summer reading lists from

Book by WBR Museum director now out

Julia Rose, Director of the West Baton Rouge Museum, has released her new book, which tackles the extraordinary challenges of interpreting histories of slavery, war, genocide and mass oppression. Published by Rowman and Littlefield this May, the book “Interpreting Difficult History at Museums and Historic Sites” is available at Amazon.com and at the WBR Museum.

Geared to public historians, museums, and educators, the book provides a sensitive strategy, is framed by education psychoanalytic theory, and positions museum workers, public historians and museum visitors as learners. Through this lens, they can develop compelling and ethical representations of communities and populations who have suffered.

PROHIBITION EXHIBIT NOW OPEN

During the era of Prohibition (1920-

1933), Americans could not manufacture, sell, or transport intoxicating beverages. The national traveling exhibit Spirited: Prohibition in America at the West Baton Rouge Museum explores this tumultuous time in American history. It explores the amendment process, the changing role of liquor in American culture, Prohibition's impact on the roaring '20s, the role of women, and how current liquor laws vary from state to state.

LECTURE ON GEORGETOWN SLAVES

The West Baton Rouge Museum will host a noon lecture on August 10 by Judy Riffel on “The Georgetown Memory Project: Tracing the Jesuit Slaves and their Descendants,” which made national news this summer when her research concluded that many Louisiana residents today have ties to enslaved laborers once owned by the prestigious private college, Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C. Riffel is a professional genealogist based in Baton Rouge.

Fall football registration begins for parish leagues

Registration for the fall Brusly Panthers and Westside Bulldogs Leagues is underway now, and will close in mid-August. These leagues are open to ages 5-12. For registration information,

contact the WBR Parks & Recreation Department at 225.336.2423.

Registration for the fall flag football league opens on August 1 and will end September 2. For registration information, contact the WBR Parks & Recreation Department at 225.336.2423.



The July 4th Fest was another great success, as is shown in the photo above. It is co-sponsored by the WBR Parks & Recreation Department and City of Port Allen.

GOLF PROGRAM IS A HIT!

The parish's partnership with the Westside Golf Club to offer free rounds of golf to WBR residents has significantly increased the use of the golf course, said Recreation Director Anatole Vincent. “Approximately 500 to 600 rounds of golf have been played on the course since we started this program in February, which is a substantial increase. We are happy that citizens are using our local course.” Free golf is offered on Tuesdays and Sundays for WBR residents.

Teens, kids areas get facelift

area schools have been added, along with almost all summer reading titles available in e-book format through our website, www.wbrpl.com.

The Childrens' Area has been re-done with an “Undersea Adventure” theme. Bright turquoise, sea green, and purple bring a coral reef to life in the library. Port Allen High art teacher Janece Font created a mural of sea creatures, artwork on the shelving end-caps, and oversized play pillows for youngsters to enjoy. King Neptune's chair awaits young readers, and all mermaids will enjoy curling up with a good book in the mermaid's house.

Everyone is invited to visit the library and enjoy the updated space!



Aaron and Brayton Franklin ride a sea turtle in the Childrens' Area.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:

VISION WEST 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, or call 225-929-9661.

WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH GOVERNMENT



The site of the new fire station in Addis, called Addis Fire Station #1, is ready for the concrete foundation.

Addis gets new fire station

A new fire station that will provide quicker response to fires behind the railroad tracks in Addis is now underway.

Fire Chief Kenny Hunts said the 60 feet X 60 feet station will house a fire truck, a reserve service unit and an antique fire truck. The building will initially be just a storage facility, but the parish will have the capability to add bathrooms and a kitchen, and the site has enough property to add a training facility and more storage later. "It will not initially be manned, but we are making provisions for that in the future," he said.

Hunts said Harry Laws & Associates and Cinclare Plantation donated the property, located behind Myhand Park, to the parish. Because parish crews are constructing the building, it will only cost the parish \$80,000.

"We have firefighters who live in the Myhand Park area who can get to this station and respond to a fire quickly," he said. "It will provide better fire response for our residents in back Addis."



SOUTH END LEVEE TRAIL IS COMPLETE!

Residents living in the south part of the parish now have a new walking trail for exercise and recreation. The levee top trail, named the South End Levee Trail, was completed in July. It extends for a total of 1 mile, and includes a concrete trailhead that is handicapped accessible and includes benches. The parish received a \$700,000 grant for the project, and added another \$240,000 for the trail. In the photos above, crews lay blacktop on the trail in July.

Residents urged to prepare now for severe weather of hurricane season

Parish residents are urged to trim trees and cut down weak trees now instead of waiting until a hurricane is heading toward Louisiana. "Some people get nervous about weak trees and limbs right before a storm gets here, and they go cut them down at the last minute and put the debris by the road," explained Emergency Preparedness Director Deano Moran. "The parish doesn't have time to get the debris picked up, and strong winds can make those limbs become airborne dangerous objects that can cause serious damage."

He also urged residents to prepare for a hurricane now by getting a list of supplies needed and actions to take at www.getagameplan.org. "The number one cause of death in severe weather events is cardiac arrest because of stress," Moran said. "If you are prepared, you are less stressed."



Weather forecaster Jay Grimes addresses emergency responders, parish officials and staff during a hurricane preparedness meeting.

Utility line relocation begins

Work to relocate utility lines along Rosedale Road has begun in order to make way for filling in culverts and adding sidewalks along the south side of Rosedale Road, which will begin in August. The La. Department of Transportation and Development is funding 80 percent of the cost of the approximately \$1 million project to add culverts and sidewalks on the road from La. Hwy. 1 to Three Canal Bridge. Once complete by the end of 2016, the sidewalk will greatly enhance pedestrian, motorist and cyclist safety.

UTILITY OFFICE NOTICES

Brusly utility office now drive-thru only

The West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas & Water Office, formally known as the West Baton Rouge Water District #2 Office, located at 158 E. St. Francis Street in Brusly, became a drive-thru only branch on July 19. The interior office is no longer open to the public. All payments will be received through the drive thru window only. There are two night depositories, one is located next to the glass door and one is located next to the drive-thru drawer.

The new hours are Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon. There will be no changes to the main office, located at 880 N. Alexander Avenue in Port Allen.

Paying on-line? Make sure it is paid 3-5 days before due

Parish utility bills can be paid on-line by credit card or checking account debit, but customers are urged to make sure the payment is made at least 3-5 days before the bills are due. With on-line payment the bank or credit card company needs time to process its paperwork and get the payment to the WBR Natural Gas & Water Office. Processing does not happen in one day, so payments made on-line the day the bills are due will be late, and will be subject to late fees and possible disconnection. This issue can be avoided by making on-line payments 3 to 5 days before bills are due.

WBR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Going above and beyond with training



Recent events involving law enforcement officers subduing subjects offer more examples of the split-second decisions that officers must make daily. For this reason Sheriff Mike Cazes has placed an emphasis on officer survival and Pressure Point Control Tactics (PPCT) training.

PPCT training enables officers to subdue subjects in the least harmful manner. All WBR commissioned deputies must participate in a 40-hour survival & PPCT training course, and then get 8 hours of additional training annually.

"This training teaches our deputies the proper way to subdue a subject with the least force necessary to effect the arrest," said Sheriff Cazes. "The public needs to keep in mind that law enforcement officers are often required to make split second decisions. It is a very difficult job."

The 40-hour course includes PPCT, tactical handcuffing, joint locks, defensive counterstrikes, handgun retention, disarming, and more. The most common types of resistance that officers encounter are reviewed, and hands-on training is provided with PPCT tactics.

"This is a core training program for all our deputies, including the reserve deputies, flotilla, posse, jail, and work release," said Tommy Schiro, Training Coordinator.

"In training they practice these techniques on each other, so it is physical and deputies can and do get hurt in the training," he added. The PPCT training employs the use of nerve motor points in the head and neck with finger pressure to temporarily stun and help subdue a subject. Schiro said the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office has three instructors who have been certified to provide this training, providing cost savings.

West Baton Rouge deputies receive 40 to 60 hours of training a year on various aspects of law enforcement – more than double the 20 hours of training that is required by the state.



In the top photo, instructor Donald Dawsey practices control in handcuffing instructor Randy Austin, while instructor Carl Jarrett looks on to provide a review. The other photos show the instructors practicing other techniques to subdue subjects.

TOWN OF ADDIS

Former mayor visits from Australia



Addis Mayor David Toups with former Mayors W.J. Goodwin and Carroll Bourgeois.

The Town of Addis has had only 10 mayors in its 100-year history, and three of those mayors were at town hall when former Mayor W.J. Goodwin paid a visit from Australia. He served as mayor from 1968 until 1971, when he left for Australia in the last month of his four-year term.

Also present was former Mayor Carroll Bourgeois, who retired after serving as mayor for 32 years; and current Mayor David Toups, who replaced Bourgeois. Goodwin recalled that the town's population was 900 when he served, making it a village. It's now very close to becoming a city of over 5,000.

Goodwin said beer and sales taxes funded much of the village's small budget, and he was paid \$25 per month with a \$25 allowance. He recalled the railroad selling a water tower and softener to the town for \$1. "That's how our water system got started," he said. And the state provided the first blacktop roads in the village. The town's extensive sewer and other improvements followed under the leadership of Bourgeois. Goodwin and his wife, Melba, raised 5 children in Australia, and he brought a son and grandson on his visit in July.

Railroad Museum & Park gets upgrades, addition

The Town of Addis is presently making \$25,000 worth of improvements to the Addis Railroad Museum and Park.

Mayor David Toups said lights are being upgraded, fans installed under the pavilion, and security cameras and sun shades are being added. The project was expected to be completed by the end of July.

NEW PARK ADDITION: The park also has a new addition - an antique railroad baggage car that was restored and given its own covered and fenced exhibit space. It was donated from the collection of the late Walter Babin, and before him, it had been owned by Sidney Babin. The car was restored from a very rusted condition by Harvey and Elaine Hill of Port Allen. The baggage car is shown at right.



Meetings:

Addis Mayor & Town Council - 1st Wednesday of each month - Town Hall - 6:00 P.M.
 Addis Planning & Zoning - 3rd Tuesday of each month - Town Hall - 6:00 P.M.
 Addis Historical Society - 2nd Tuesday of each month - Addis Museum - 5:30 P.M.

TOWN OF BRUSLY New Brusly sign, marker

The Town of Brusly is recognizing its history and adding to its beauty with a new sign and a marker that were both recently installed. The first town hall building, which also served for years after as its police station, was memorialized with bronze plaques that were erected on a brick pedestal.

The building was demolished last year to make way for a new town maintenance facility. The bronze plaque in the building commemorating its construction in 1969 was saved, and is now on display, along with another plaque, outside the present town hall.

The original plaque states: "New Brusly Town Hall, Erected 1969, Miller, Smith & Champagne, Inc. - Architects; Brusly Builders Supply - Contractor; Howard J. LaBauve, Sr. - Mayor; and Board of Aldermen: J. Allie Babin, Sr., Joseph C. Caillouet, Jr., Wiley J. Hebert, C. Rod Prejean, Sr. and John L. Sarradet."

The plaque below it states, "This plaque (above) was displayed at entrance to the Brusly Town Hall built in 1969. Located at 150 East St. Francis Street, it was approximately 100 feet behind the present police station. It was the first structure erected specifically for town administration and served that purpose through 1999. From 2000 to 2015, it served as the Brusly Police Station. The pedestal is made from bricks salvaged from 'The New Town Hall'

when it was demolished in 2015."

The town also installed a new brick and stucco town sign at its entrance on La. Hwy. 1 South.

The sign was designed by local resident Danny Rabalais. Brusly is in red and writing is in black to reflect the Brusly school colors, and the tree represents the town's famous Brusly oak. "We had to jump through a lot of state hoops to get the state permit required to build it next to the highway," said Mayor Joey Normand. It is located in the same place as the old, smaller Brusly sign.

New town sign on La. Hwy. 1.



At top is the marker to commemorate the first town hall, which was demolished in 2015. Above is a photo of the building before demolition.



CITY OF PORT ALLEN City gets new garbage service August 1

City of Port Allen residents are expected to get improved garbage service with a new vendor that is taking over the service on August 1, said Mayor Richard Lee.

Republic Services will replace Progressive Waste Services as the city's garbage collector due to continued problems and complaints about Progressive Waste missing pick-ups. Republic presently provides garbage and recycling services for West Baton Rouge Parish, Brusly and Addis.

Residents are asked to put the present waste cart and recycle bin out for collection by Progressive on July 30. The new company, Republic, will provide two carts to residents by August 1 - one for garbage and one for recycling. "The new carts for recycling are an improvement that will allow residents to recycle more and make it easier for them to get recycled materials to the curb for pick-up," noted Mayor Lee.

The present garbage pick-up days - Wednesday and Saturday - will remain the same. The city will continue to have once weekly boom truck service for limbs and yard waste on Wednesdays. White goods and bulky trash will be collected by the rear loader truck on Saturdays.

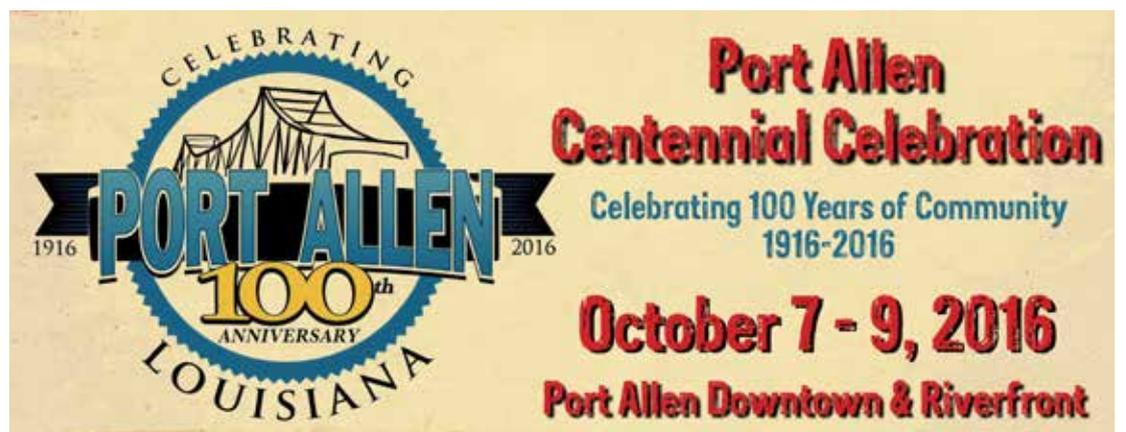
Residents will also see a slight reduction in their monthly garbage collection fee. The cost will drop by 72 cents from Progressive's fee of \$20.31 per month to Republic's fee of \$21.03 per month.



CHECKING SEWER LINES... The city has begun a major sewer improvement program by first having the city sewer lines videoed to pinpoint problem areas. The targeted areas of the videoing, done in the first week of July, included the Depot area and Louisiana Avenue between the railroad line and the levee. CES Co. provided the video services. A prioritized list of repairs and improvements, based on the results of the problems detected with the video, will be scheduled for work later this year and into 2017.

Dow donates \$100,000 for park

The Dow Chemical Co. has committed to a \$100,000 donation for the Centennial Square Park in honor of Port Allen's 100th anniversary. The new park will be located on the south side of the Scott United Methodist Cemetery. Planners with the Center for Planning Excellence are working with the city to develop a design for the park, which will be reflective in nature, due to the cemetery being next to it. A fountain, trees, benches and walkways are being considered. The park is not expected to be complete in time for the city's Centennial Celebration October 7-9.



WEST BATON ROUGE TOURISM Gearing up for big events this fall

The staff of the West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau has recently completed important training and a major travel show, and is now preparing for a very busy fall season.

The staff completed its refresher course for tourism marketing certification, along with a course on staging festivals through the Southeastern Tourism Society Marketing College. "It is important that we stay updated on the latest trends and marketing techniques, and this course is

very beneficial for our entire staff," said Tourism Director Sharon Stam.

In addition, staff members represented West Baton Rouge at the IPW international travel show in New Orleans in mid-June. Local Chef "Mooney" Bergeron prepared boudin balls, boudin and

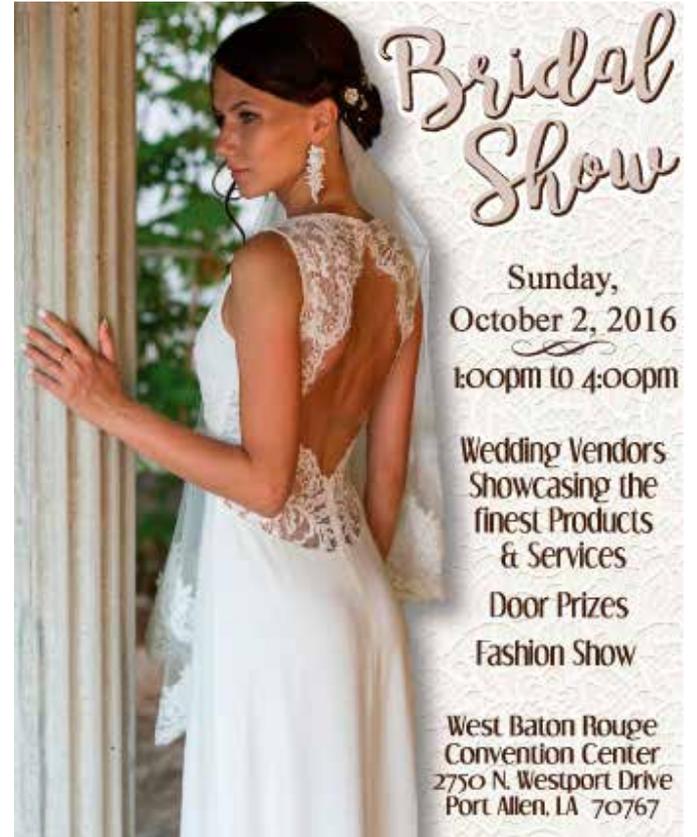
cracklins for thousands that attended the "Tastes & Tunes of Louisiana" event. The prestigious event included tour operators, cruise lines and more from many countries.

A sales mission to Los Angeles resulted in six representatives of companies spending six days in this region to review hotels and attractions. And another sales mission to California is set for October.

FALL EVENTS

The Visitors Bureau is also in the midst of planning its annual Oldies But Goodies Fest and BBQ Cook-Off on September 10 and 11, along with a new event, a bridal show, on October 2.

"We have a lot to offer here at our facility. The bridal show is a new event to get brides to see all we offer for receptions and parties."



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Hanks completes first year of Institute



Institute for Organization Management (IOM), the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, is pleased to announce that Jamie Hanks, Executive Director of the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce, has recently completed her first year at IOM, a four-year nonprofit leadership training program at The University of Georgia in Athens.

Hanks said, "This wonderful opportunity equipped me with more knowledge in a week than possible to attain in a year due to the caliber of instructors and highly-relevant course material specifically geared toward chambers. Words cannot express how extremely grateful I am to both the to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the LACCE Board of Directors/Scholarship Committee for granting me scholarships to attend this program, so that I can enhance my abilities to help the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce and the incredible parish we serve."

Through a combination of required courses and electives in areas such as leadership, advocacy, marketing, finance, and membership, IOM participants increase their organizational management skills and add new fuel to their organizations, making them run more efficiently and effectively. It is the premier nonprofit professional development program for association and chamber professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities.

New Chamber members for 2016

- Geau Logo Promotions
- Dennis Quinn
- Recon, Inc.
- First Baptist Church Addis
- Olin Blue Cube
- David's Catering
- Two Bayou's Seafood, LLC
- Nicholas Guidroz - Foresters Financial
- Performance Contractors, Inc.
- Shoppers Choice.com, LLC
- Lauren Buckholtz - NAI Latter & Blum
- State Farm Agent Brittany Weaver
- Connect Real Estate Group
- West Side Women's Club
- Duplantis Design Group, PC
- Fusion Architecture, APL
- LeJeanne's Body Works, Inc.
- Salus Facilities, LLC
- Louisiana Scrap Metal Recycling
- Clay Elliott - Edward Jones Investments

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for our Annual State of the Parish Address
by WBR Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot, Jr.

Wednesday, August 24 11:30 am - 1 pm
Addis Community Center

Thank you to our event sponsor: Tipton Associates!



WEST BATON ROUGE ASSESSOR

Why is the Assessor's Office on my property?

If you've recently started or completed an addition to your home or business in the last year or so, it is likely that you have received or will receive a visit from an inspector of the West Baton Rouge Assessor's Office.

Why? "We are required by law to assess the value of all properties in the parish, and we must check these projects and adjust assessments once they are completed," explained Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan.

Property owners are required to get a permit from the parish or municipality where the property is located before starting a new construction or addition project. The Assessor's Office is notified of the permits filed by those agencies. "We usually go out to check the projects in October and November, and then again in the early part of the year," Altazan explained.

Melvin Wyble, a retired West Baton Rouge principal; and Barry Brewer, retired from the City of Port Allen, hold the part-time positions of inspectors, checking the dimensions of any additions to residences or buildings. "They go on site to every project with a tape measure and tablet in hand and measure the area of the construction project and report that information back to our office," Altazan

said. "It has been our standard policy for many years for the inspector to knock on the door upon arriving at the property, but because these checks are done during working hours, many times no one is at home."

If no one answers, they simply take the necessary measurements on the property and leave. "We have had property owners call and want to know why we are on their property," Altazan said. "We are simply doing our job

in making an inspection to properly assess property." Altazan said the inspectors carry an ID card identifying that they are on staff with the Assessor's Office, and wear lime green vests with Assessor written on them so that property owners can be assured that they are properly authorized and on official business.

In addition, Altazan said his office notifies the law enforcement agency in the area that an inspector will be working in that area so that if someone calls about a man being on someone's property, they can assure the caller that the inspector is authorized to take measurements on the property.

"Because of our schedule of work and the timing of the construction project, it may be some time after a project is completed that we go to the property to make an inspection," Altazan said. "This sometimes surprises people, but if anyone has questions about an inspector's presence on their property, please call my office at 344-6777."



Inspectors Melvin Wyble and Barry Brewer are shown with an Assessor's Office truck used to check properties in West Baton Rouge.

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



THE PORT anticipates another record year in terms of shipping activity and jobs created in the maritime industry. Drax Biomass International Inc. has launched its new storage and export facility for wood pellets, which significantly increased dock activity. The port and Louis Dreyfus Commodities, LLC continue to make improvements to the export grain elevator, and we foresee another solid year for grain exports.

OVER \$9.5 MILLION in improvements to the port's rail system have been completed and a new \$7.1 million dock fendering system is underway. Also this year, Genesis Energy, L.P. will complete its \$150 million crude oil, intermediates and refined products import/export terminal at the port.

THESE IMPROVEMENTS in port infrastructure are an investment designed to efficiently handle additional cargo and shipping capacity and to increase the value of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge as an economic asset to the entire region.

www.portgbr.com

2425 Ernest Wilson Drive / P.O. Box 380 • Port Allen, LA 70767-0380 • Phone: 225.342.1660 • Fax: 225.342.1666



WEST BATON ROUGE SCHOOL SYSTEM

PA Middle, Brusly Elem. have new principals

West Baton Rouge schools have two new principals this year. Jessica Major was named principal of Port Allen Middle School and Taya Loupe will take the reins of Brusly Elementary School.



Jessica Major



Taya Loupe

Major served as Assistant Principal of Port Allen Middle for a year, and as the TAP Master Teacher at Port Allen Middle for four years. She also taught at Devall Middle for four years, and was the technology facilitator for WBR for a year.

She is a 2015 National Milken Educator winner. This prestigious award targets early-to-mid career education professionals for their already impressive achievements and the promise of what they will accomplish in the future.

Loupe has served as Assistant Principal at Port Allen High for three years and at Brusly Elementary for four years. She began her teaching career in 1996, when she moved to Louisiana from Indiana, and has spent her 18

years in education in WBR schools. She has a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and a master's in Educational Leadership from LSU.

Educators get latest in tools, techniques at conference

West Baton Rouge principals, supervisors and administrators were among the 5,000 educators at the Models Schools Conference in Orlando in June. Widely recognized as a premiere conference for educators, it included hundreds of sessions with the latest educational techniques and tools.

"This conference provided many benefits," said Superintendent Wes Watts. "We got valuable information in the sessions to bring back to local schools, it got our leadership team excited about the possibilities for the 2016-17 school year, and it provided a setting for us to grow closer as a leadership team."

Brusly High Principal Walt Lemoine said, "It was almost overwhelming with great information. I realized that we are all in search for the same thing: something that we can bring back to our schools and communities that will benefit our students."

Sharon Lair, Associate Superintendent for Instruction, said, "All who attended were able to understand and place in perspective why the theme "Taking Bold Measures" is necessary in creating cultures of innovation, engagement of all students, and the embracing of technology to transform learning for all. It was a life changing experience."



WBR School System staff and administrators attending the Model Schools Conference in Orlando are shown above.



Stuff the Bus rakes in school supplies

The annual Stuff the Bus collection of school supplies for students raked in \$22,000 worth of supplies from generous West Baton Rouge residents and companies. Numerous volunteers braved the heat and rain throughout the day standing in front of Wal Mart on July 13 to ask shoppers to make donations. Shown in the top photo are, from left, Carolyn Lee, Port Allen Mayor Richard Lee, WBR Parish Council Member Charlene Gordon, School Board Members Rose Roche and Teri Bergeron, who coordinated Stuff the Bus in WBR; Port Allen Council Members Ray Helen Lawrence and Gary Hubble, Heidi Grissom, Sharon Landry, and Crystal Leon. Among the teacher volunteers were, in photo at bottom left, Debony Hilliard, Emily Webre, and Jenny McIntyre. And, in the photo at bottom right are Tricia Manola, Corneilous Craig and Tommy Hilliard.

Superintendent sets agenda for 2016-17 school year

BY SUPERINTENDENT WES WATTS

We are continuing our theme of "Making Awesome Happen" in West Baton Rouge schools for the 2016-17 school year, and are on a mission to reach our ambitious goal of becoming a top 10 school system in Louisiana by the year 2020.

Our teachers and leadership group had a great summer learning and getting better, and I am excited to see the new things they will bring to our classrooms this year to provide a higher caliber education for our kids.

We will continue our focus of expecting more from the kids because this expectation has provided results over the last two years. And we will continue to work on building student character, along with offering more to students in music and the arts. We ask all WBR parents to join us in helping our students excel in school, extracurricular activities and life.

2016-17 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- | | |
|--|---|
| Aug. 11 - 1st day of school for students | Jan. 16 - Martin Luther King Holiday |
| Sept. 5 - Labor Day holiday | Feb. 27 & 28 - Mardi Gras holiday |
| Oct. 10-11 - Fall Break - no school | April 14-21 - Spring break |
| Nov. 8 - Election - no school | May 18 - Brusly High graduation |
| Nov. 21-15 - Thanksgiving holiday | May 19 - Port Allen High graduation |
| Dec. 19 - Early dismissal - high schools | May 22-24 - Early dismissal all schools |
| Dec. 20 - Early dismissal - all schools | May 24 - Last day of school |
| Dec. 21-Jan. 4 - Winter break | |