

VISION WEST

West Baton Rouge Parish - Community, Growth, Possibilities

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

Lobdell homes being put on parish sewer system

Work is underway to add 155 homes in the Kahn Road area into the parish sewer system.

This \$3.9 million project will eliminate septic tanks for residents in that area, along with other related sewer issues. The project includes 3 miles of gravity sewer lines, 67 manholes, and 2.7 miles of 8-inch force main to the Westport wastewater treatment plant. Residents of the area are asked to be cautious of the workers, careful on the roads, and patient as these improvements are being made.

The project will take about 18 months to complete. "This project will greatly improve wastewater treatment in the Lobdell area," said Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot. Funding for the project is being provided by Hurricane Gustav/Ike recovery funds.



Installation of sewer system pipelines in the Kahn Road area.

Road work projects underway

The parish has completed an extension of Court Street from La. Hwy. 415 at Nino's Casino to accommodate future economic development and eliminate traffic issues on La. Hwy. 415. A 125-acre tract of land with interstate frontage is available for commercial and retail development off the new road. By extending Court Street 1,200 feet the property is more accessible and appealing for development.

The extension of North Westport Drive to accommodate economic development is also expected to be completed by mid-November. The extension past the West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau will provide the roadway needed for access to the new LaQuinta Inn, which is being constructed now. The



New extension of Court St.

parish did much of the sub-surface drainage and other work necessary, and has contracted out only the laying of the concrete roadway. The LaQuinta will have 76 rooms. A new Towne Place Suites hotel with 98 rooms will also be constructed on North Westport Drive.

Calendar of Events

Oct. 30 – Feast on the Levee, Brusly

Nov. 3 – Wine with Walter, WBR Museum

Nov. 4 – Live At 5 on Westside, Addis

Nov. 5-Jan. 6 - Artwork by Walter Anderson

Nov. 7 – WBR Chamber Golf Classic, The Island

Nov. 8 – Election day

Nov. 10 – Jan. 16 – Civil Rights through Media, Museum

Nov. 11 - WBR Veterans Day Program - WBR Courthouse

Nov. 16 – Chamber luncheon, speaker Wes Watts

Nov. 17 – Author Martha Manuel at WBR Library

Nov. 17 – Interpreting difficult history, WBR Museum

Nov. 18 – Live At 5 on Westbank, Addis

Dec. 8-11, 15-23 - Reflections of the Season

Dec. 4 – WBR Museum Holiday Open House

Dec. 7 – Lecture on Jim Crow era, WBR Museum

Jan. 14 – All World to See lecture, WBR Museum



Help us honor our veterans VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Friday, Nov. 11 10 a.m.

WBR Veterans Memorial in front of WBR Courthouse

850 Eighth St., Port Allen

Public encouraged to attend

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 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

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Thank you for your generosity

I want to extend a warm thank you to all the West Baton Rouge residents and first responders who assisted our neighbors in the recent historic flooding. Numerous first responders (firefighters and officers) braved dangerously high waters to help save those fighting historic flooding, and then assisted with security. And hundreds of local residents generously donated their time, energy and resources to those who lost everything in the floods. Your out-pouring of generosity and willingness to help others was truly inspirational.

Our local residents mobilized a variety of activities, including helping at shelters, organizing drives for needed items, providing food, and helping clean-out flooded homes and tear out soaking sheetrock. I know that the residents of East Baton Rouge, Livingston and Ascension are thankful to everyone who assisted.

I have always believed that the people of West Baton Rouge Parish are caring people, and you certainly showed that in August and September. Thank you! It is an honor to represent you and our parish.

*Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot
WBR Parish President*

Home fire prevention tips

October is Fire Prevention Month. Here are some safety tips: Check your home smoke alarms and change them every 10 years. You can determine the age of the alarm by checking the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm. Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Unplug appliances not in use. Make sure you have space around heating units. Clean dryer vents at least twice a year. Create an emergency escape route for your family. Remember fire safety can save a life.

36TH ANNUAL FEAST ON THE LEVEE

Sunday, October 30, 2016 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brusly

Favorite South Louisiana cuisine, a cake baking contest, sweet shop, silent auctions, raffles, kids games by Cajun Laser Tag, Fun Run/5K race with registration at 7:30 am (race fee \$20)

Music by Penalty Box - 11:30 am - 3 pm

Music by Foret Tradition - 3:30 - 7 pm

For more information:

225-749-2189 or sjb-Brusly.com

WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH NATURAL GAS & WATER SYSTEMS PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas & Water Systems has buried gas pipelines throughout the area providing safe reliable energy to its customers. West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas & Water Systems maintains these pipelines to the highest standard. A Damage Control Program and an Emergency Plan has been established for responding to all non-emergency and emergency situations.

Prior to any excavation in and around any gas facilities/pipelines please contact:
Louisiana One-Call at 1-800-272-3020 or 811

Help Us Keep You Safe

Calling before you dig can prevent a costly or even deadly mistake!!

How to Recognize a Natural Gas Leak

Natural gas leaks may be detected by one of the following indications:

1. A gaseous or hydrocarbon odor.
2. A blowing or hissing sound.
3. Dust blowing from a hole in the ground.
4. Continuous bubbling in one spot in wet or flooded area.
5. Dead vegetation (grass, shrubs or trees).
6. Abnormally dry or hardened soil.
7. Fire apparently coming from the ground or burning above the ground.

Natural Gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. If you smell gas, or just think you might be smelling gas, leave the area immediately and call West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas & Water Systems at (225) 336-2406 or after normal business call (225) 490-8599 or 911 from a neighboring home or business. Never turn on or off switches or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of the gas smell, because an electric spark could ignite the gas causing an **EXPLOSION**.

NOTE: The West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas & Water Systems does **NOT** maintain buried piping between the gas meter and the house or business. The customer is responsible for maintaining and repairing this section of gas piping from leakage. These buried gas lines should be checked periodically for leakage. If you need additional information, suspect a natural gas leak or in case of an emergency concerning a West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas & Water Systems gas main or service line, immediately call:

WBRP Natural Gas & Water Systems, Monday thru Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at **(225) 336-2406**. OR

After regular business hours or on holidays, please call the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office: **(225) 490-8599 OR 911**

WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

Local author featured at library for Celebrating Louisiana Writers event

"Celebrating Louisiana Writers" will be held at the West Baton Rouge Parish Library on Thursday morning, November 17. This annual event is offered in partnership with the West Side Women's Club. It is free and the public is invited to attend.

The featured author is Martha Gabour Manuel of Ventress, Louisiana. Manuel is the author of three mysteries, all set in Louisiana – Murder on False River, Political Treason, and Underwriting is Murder. She weaves together enduring characters, questionable politics, and the rich culture of the state to create page-turners that keep you guessing until the end!

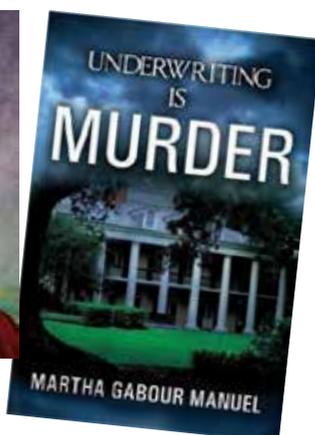
The program will begin at 10 a.m. with an informal question-and-answer

period for local high school students and other interested guests. At 10:30, Manuel will begin the formal program and speak about writing and the publication of her books.

For more information, contact Luis Interiano at West Baton Rouge Parish Library, 225-342-7920 or linteriano@wbrplibrary.us.



Martha Gabour Manuel



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

Traffic control measures help ensure safety and efficiency on La. Hwy. 1

West Baton Rouge Parish, the City of Port Allen, the Town of Brusly and the Town of Addis, in conjunction with local law enforcement, have implemented traffic control measures at peak traffic times.

These measures were undertaken to help ensure the safety of motorists, and to help the traffic flow as efficiently as possible. They include:

- Barriers on the La. Hwy. 1 service road that allow only south-bound traffic between Beaulieu Lane and Wal-Mart
- An officer manually controlling the red light at the intersection of La. Hwy. 1 and Wal-Mart
- Other measures to prohibit motorists south of the IntraCoastal Canal from crossing the IntraCoastal and then trying to get ahead of other motorists getting on the Mississippi River Bridge

“We recognize that these measures will not fix the traffic back-ups the area is experiencing,” said Parish President Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot. “However, they are proving effective in helping traffic flow more smoothly and eliminating some potential accidents, which cause further back-ups.”

The traffic control measures went into effect September 26, and will be in effect indefinitely.

Keep WBR Beautiful wins state recognition



Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful recently received a 2016 Circle of Excellence Award from Keep Louisiana Beautiful for its anti-littering and beautification efforts. It was one of only 20 programs in the state to receive the honor. The award was given at the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference held in Baton Rouge in September. Shown representing Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful are Kim Callegan, board member; Tammy Allen, executive director; Brenda Morgan and Joanne Bourgeois, board members.

Flood level elevations being studied for updates

West Baton Rouge Parish is being pro-active in assessing water level elevations after the recent historic rainfalls. “The rain experienced was at least a 500-year event, so we recognize that our 100-year elevation maps don’t line up with the water levels of those rains. We want to assess where we are in comparison,” said Kevin Durbin, WBR Planning and Zoning Director. “We are targeting the northern part of the parish, Port Allen and Addis, areas where water levels got high. This will help us assess where we can make drainage system improvements in the future.” The parish is partnering with Patin Engineers & Surveyors to perform the work of going out into the field and measuring the levels, and then providing a report.

RECREATION UPDATES

Biddy Basketball registration underway

Registration is underway through November 18 for Biddy Basketball for girls and boys age 4-12. The registration fee is \$30. Parents or guardians can register children at the WBR Parks and Recreation Office in the West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen. More than 200 children participate in the Biddy Ball program. For more information call 225.336.2423.

New agility course completed



A new \$75,000 agility course has been completed at the WBR Soccer Complex located on Rosedale Road in Port Allen. The course promotes active play, and even has a zipline. The play elements foster strength, balance and agility moves. Go have some active fun with the kids!

Senior Spirit facility gets new look



The newly renovated Senior Spirit facility in Brusly is now complete, and local seniors are enjoying the additional space and fresh, new look! An additional 200 square feet was added to the main room of the facility, a storage room was added, and the facility got a new floor and paint. The facility is home to the more than 300 members of Senior Spirit, and is the site of numerous programs and activities. Senior Spirit is open to everyone 50 years old and older. For more information call 225.749.2981.

Get local emergency alerts

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.

WBR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Saving hundreds in recent flooding



When historic flooding left residents of West Baton Rouge's neighboring communities in peril, the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office answered the call. Deputies saved hundreds of people who were stranded in flooded homes with no way to get out; and then provided needed patrol assistance to prevent looting in the damaged communities.

Sheriff Mike Cazes received a call from the Louisiana Sheriff's Association for assistance on Friday, August 12, and immediately took action. Sheriff Cazes assigned Sgt. Christian Conaway to coordinate the flotilla and deputy deployment.

Conaway said some 35 to 40 WBR deputies worked the first 36 hours rescuing residents using both Sheriff's Office boats and private boats. Sheriff's Office personnel worked mainly in Livingston Parish, and provided assistance to Ascension and East Baton Rouge Parishes.

After the immediate need for rescues, deputies continued to assist with patrols in Livingston until September 16. "During the peak of the flooding we lost a Humvee. Some of our deputies were shot at by residents who didn't realize they were trying to rescue people," said Conaway. "We rescued hundreds of people, pets, and animals, even a chicken." He noted that one deputy involved in the rescues went home to sleep, only to wake up to water in his house, and he had to be rescued.

WBR Sheriff's Office Auxiliary deputies were

called in to assist with patrols. "The Auxiliary deputies are trained and deputized. We needed help to maintain safety in WBR while assisting the other parishes," said Tommy Schiro, Sheriff's Office Director of Training.

"Law enforcement officers have a code of helping one another," said Sheriff Cazes. "I know these other sheriff's offices will be there for us if we ever need them. It was the right thing to do."



TOWN OF ADDIS

Town kicks off music fun, plans Christmas decorations!

Music will fill the air at the Addis Railroad Museum & Park this fall, as the town kicks off its Live At 5 on the Westside concert series. Mayor David Toups said the goals of the series are to bring the community together for fun and to use the town's beautiful park facility.

The Gillis Silo will perform on Friday, November 4, and Penalty Box will perform on November 18. Both concerts are from 5 until 8 p.m. The November 4 event will feature a pastalaya cook-off. The November 18 event will feature the lighting of the town's Christmas tree at the park. In addition, a variety of foods will be available, along with soft drinks and beer. The schools and Addis Volunteer Fire Department will benefit from these sales, so ice chests are not permitted. Those attending are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

"We are very excited to be adding Christmas decorations at the park this year," Toups said. A 22-foot tree will be the featured decoration, but the town is also adding garland on the light poles and lights to the pavilion. "These are the town's first Christmas lights, but we have a goal of expanding Christmas lights throughout the town in the years to come."

TOWN OF ADDIS

LIVE AT 5 ON THE WESTSIDE

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

TOWN OF ADDIS RAILROAD MUSEUM & PARK
4343 HARRIS AVENUE

2ND ANNUAL

BATTLE FOR THE PADDLE

2016 ADDIS JAMBALAYA/PASTALAYA COOKOFF

<p>October 21st Jambalaya Cook-Off Limited Entries</p>	<p>November 4th Pastalaya Cook-Off Limited Entries</p>
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FALL LINE UP

October 21st
The Chris LeBlanc Band

November 4th
The Gillis Silo

November 18th
Penalty Box
Lighting of the Christmas Lights

Balloon Artists

Face Painting

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 **Sarradet named new public works director**

Brusly native and long-time resident Shane Sarradet has been named Brusly's new Public Works Director. He replaces Wayne Delapasse, who accepted a position in a family-owned business. Sarradet was selected by Brusly Councilman Scot Rhodes, who was unopposed for mayor and will be sworn in as Brusly's new mayor on January 1, 2017. Current Mayor Joey Normand is retiring and did not run for re-election.

Sarradet served as a volunteer member of the Brusly Planning and Zoning Board for seven years, and has worked for the past three years with Central Oil & Supply. Prior to that he worked in manufacturing with Frankel Wholesale Furniture for 29 years. "In both jobs, I traveled a lot, and I was ready to work near home," said Sarradet. He was selected from more than a dozen applicants.

"I care about the people of Brusly and I am excited to have the opportunity to serve them in this position. The residents can be assured I have the town's best interest at heart in this position," said Sarradet. "I knew a lot about the town ordinances on permits and zoning, but my biggest challenge right now is learning the wastewater treatment system. Wayne left the town in great shape, and was very organized, which will help me."

Mayor Normand said he wanted the incoming mayor to make the decision on selecting a new public works director since he will be leaving office in just three months. "Scot and I are working together on a smooth transition," Normand said. "The town is in excellent condition, and the next mayor is an excellent choice," he said. "We have a good team here and I know the town will continue to flourish."

Normand has served as Brusly mayor for the past 16 years. Scot has been a resident of Brusly for over 45 years. He is married to Pamela Bourgeois Rhodes and they have 2 daughters, Ashton and Peyton. Scot graduated from Brusly High School and from LSU with a bachelor's degree in agricultural business. He currently works in financial services.



New Brusly Public Works Director Shane Sarradet

CITY OF PORT ALLEN **City Centennial Celebration is a huge success**



The City of Port Allen celebrated its Centennial in grand style October 7-9 with a three-day celebration that drew thousands to the city's loved Old Ferry Landing Park and downtown area.

The event included a prayer breakfast, volunteer service, and a two-day festival featuring top name bands, a night parade, fireworks, a car show, 5K walk/run, jambalaya cook-off and more.

"The city has many people to thank for this great event," said Mayor Richard Lee. "The Centennial Committee worked very hard to stage this event, and we could not have done it without our generous sponsors," he said. "We want to also extend our thanks to them and to everyone who came out to support the city for its 100th anniversary. We have received rave reviews and consider it a huge success."

Shown are scenes from the Centennial Celebration.



WEST BATON ROUGE TOURISM

Changes to foster more growth of popular Reflections of Season

Reflections of the Season, the popular Christmas lighting display event, has grown so much in the past two years that changes are being made to improve traffic flow.

"The crowds have been tremendous the past few years," said Sharon Stam, Director of the West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau. "This year all parking will be at the Louis Mouch Multipurpose Arena, and two shuttle buses will be running constantly to get visitors from the parking area to the display at the Conference Center."

Stam said if necessary, a third shuttle bus will be added to keep up with the crowds. The fee will change to \$5 per car, and wrist bands will be given to all passengers in the vehicle. In addition, a new inside display will be added this year, and the popular wagon and carnival rides, and visits by Santa will be back. Ice fishing is set for December 10 and 17, and snow night and kids craft night are both December 17.

A video to promote the annual event is now live on the Bureau's website: www.westbatonrouge.net.

Reflections of the Season
DECEMBER 8 - 11 & 15 - 23
5:30 - 9:00PM ADMISSION: \$5 PER CAR
EXIT #151 OFF I-10

NIGHTLY ACTIVITIES:
 WALK/DRIVE THRU LIGHT DISPLAY
 MACK'S CARNIVAL RIDES
 HORSE DRAWN WAGON
 CRAFTERS & VENDORS

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:
 SANTA CLAUS
 ICE FISHING
 SNOW PATCH
 KIDS CRAFT NIGHT

Visit WestBatonRouge.net for complete schedule of events | 800.654-9701

NO PARKING ALLOWED AT THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS.

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE TO/FROM FESTIVAL FROM LOUIS MOUCH ARENA, 152 TURNER ROAD

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Tourism efforts paying dividends

The South Louisiana Gumbo group, a partnership of the tourism departments in 12 parishes, recently provided a presentation to the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce. The partnership has touched 2.5 million people in its nine years of operation, and given away 205,000 cookbooks that promote south Louisiana, said Sharon Stam, WBR Convention and Visitors Bureau Director.

In addition the group recently promoted the area at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

Stam said the Conference Center has been very busy with rentals, especially since the flooding in Baton Rouge this August. "We were called after many reception halls and facilities were flooded, and we are getting booked up for 2017," she said.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber gets State of Parish report



In the aftermath of the floods, West Baton Rouge Parish President Riley "Pee Wee" Berthelot, Jr.'s "State of the Parish" address to the Chamber of Commerce membership at its October luncheon could not have come at a better time. In addition to an inside look at our parish, members in the audience saw some of the ways local residents - from students, churches and local government - were helping flood victims in their time of need. It was truly awe-inspiring. Shown in the photo above is the WBR Chamber Board of Directors, with Parish President Berthelot. They are from left: Gary LaBauve, Scott Gaudin, Joanie Bishop, Mary Arrasmith, David Ogwyn, Hampton Obier and in front of him Chamber Director Jamie Hanks, Scott D'Agostino with Tipton Associates, Parish President Berthelot, Julia Rose, Sandra Hughes, and Rawlston Phillips, III.



Some members of the leadership team of Parish President Riley Berthelot are shown at the Chamber luncheon. They are, from left, Deano Moran, Emergency Preparedness Director; Clara Olinde, Community Centers Manager; Anatole Vincent, Parks and Recreation Director; Parish President Berthelot and his wife, Susie; Bernadette Settoon, Berthelot's administrative assistant; Phillip Bourgoyne, Finance Director; and Jason Manola, Chief of Administration.

Chamber GOLF classic
WEST BATON ROUGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Monday, Nov. 7
9 am registration; 10:30 am shotgun start
The Island Country Club
23550 Myrtle Grove Rd., Plaquemine
To register call the Chamber 225.383.3140

WEST BATON ROUGE ASSESSOR Total assessed property value down for year

West Baton Rouge has had an increase in the assessed value of real estate and public service properties for 2016, but there was a decrease in the assessed value of business personal property, which includes inventory, business furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment. The net result is a \$12 million loss in the assessed value of property for 2016, said Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan.

"2016 was a re-evaluation year for us," he said. "The La. Tax Commission requires Assessor's Offices to re-value property every four years, and monitors this to make sure the re-valuations are fair." This year property values went up with the exception of the business personal property.

Some of the business personal property value loss was made up with the assessed value of real estate being up by \$13.2 million. In addition, the assessed value of public services, such as railroads, electrical and phone line property in WBR went up by \$5.4 million for 2016.

The net result was the \$12 million assessed value loss. This translates into approximately a \$1 million loss in property tax revenue for the year. This is spread out among all of the property taxing agencies in West Baton Rouge.

Altazan said 80.7 percent of all property taxes paid in West Baton Rouge are paid by businesses. However, the parish had a total of \$1.15 billion in industrial property exemptions that will be staggered onto the property tax rolls by 2025. "These are exemptions that the La. Department of Economic Development granted for new businesses and business expansions, but the parish had no control over whether those

exemptions were granted," Altazan said. "The high amounts of exemptions given by the state in which local governments have no say is one debate that is going on at the State Capital now." In 2016 only \$11.6 million came off the exempt rolls.

The parish had only 124 new residences in 2016, which is down from 2015. Property is re-valued every four years because property values increase or decrease based on changes or additions to the property or changes in market value of area.

Property taxes are approved by parish voters. Agencies presently receiving property tax revenues include the parish, school board, sheriff's office, Council on Aging, health unit, library, museum, recreation department, Atchafalaya Levee District, and City of Port Allen.

If you would like to review the property assessment for your property, go to the Assessor's Office website: www.wbrassessor.org



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 3, 6:30-8:30 pm - Wine with Walter Art Workshop including wine, light refreshments, painting and print-making inspired by the works of Walter Anderson led by Baton Rouge artist, Jennifer Carwile, Free, register

Nov. 10- Jan. 16 - For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights exhibit, examines role of visual culture in shaping the struggle for racial equality in America from the late 1940's to the mid-1970's

Nov. 17, noon - Lecture, Interpreting Difficult History featuring Julie Rose, Director of West Baton Rouge Museum and author of *Interpreting Difficult History at Museums and Historic Sites*

Dec. 4 - Holiday Open House - concert featuring Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, holiday music, warm cider and gingerbread refreshments, holiday craft making, exhibit tours, storytelling, a visit from Papa Noel, and everyone's favorite "Find the Elves" scavenger hunt, Free

Dec. 3 - 10 - 17 - weekend movies

Dec. 7 Noon - Lecture presented by Dr. Aaron Sheehan-Dean exploring origins of Jim Crow era

Jan. 8, 2 p.m. - Family Movie Matinee - 42, story of Jackie Robinson, Free

Jan. 14, Noon - For All the World to See Lecture and Moderated Discussion - why restorative justice is the tool we must use locally and nationally to fulfill Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy.

Anderson's Fairy Tales comes to WBR

The exhibition Walter Anderson's Fairy Tales, which features original drawings, block prints, and ceramic works by the famed southern artist, will be on display at the West Baton Rouge Museum from October 29 through January 29.

Walter Inglis Anderson's art has become

iconic representations of the Gulf Coast and an integral part of the arts and crafts and American contemporary art movements. Although misunderstood and shunned for the majority of his life, Walter Anderson is today celebrated as a visionary, and the Gulf Coast's favorite son.

Scenes from Sugar Fest held in October



WEST BATON ROUGE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Proposed millages to help school system stay competitive, updated

West Baton Rouge Parish schools have consistently improved in recent years, but leaders of the school system have a big vision - to become a Top 10 system in the state of Louisiana by the year 2020.

“Our local kids deserve to have the highest quality education possible,” said Superintendent Wes Watts. “But the entire parish also benefits from a strong school system. It provides a quality local workforce and is an economic development driver.”

The WBR School Board is asking parish voters to approve two new property tax millages in the December 10 election in order to help the system remain competitive and reach this attainable vision.

THE FIRST MILLAGE is an 8 to 15 mill property tax to make long-term improvements and provide over-crowding relief at facilities of every school in West Baton Rouge. This millage will pay for a \$90 million bond issue, and will vary from 8 to 15 mills as funds are used. The bonds and millage will be paid off within 20 years.

A look at school system facilities

- Average building age is 53 years old
- Over-crowding is a major issue at some schools, with 30 temporary buildings in use
- Facility assessment shows 6 buildings rated D and 3 buildings rated F as compared to new school facilities. The proposed improvements will bring facilities to B or C ratings.

What the \$90 million bond issue for school improvements will do:

- **NEW PRE-K THRU 8TH SCHOOL IN ERWINVILLE** - Combine Chamberlin Elementary and Devall Middle Schools
- **COHN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** - New activity building with new classrooms, technology upgrades, building renovations, roof repairs
- **PORT ALLEN ELEMENTARY** - Renovate classrooms, air condition auditorium, expand cafeteria, technology upgrades, build new classrooms to replace T-buildings
- **PORT ALLEN MIDDLE SCHOOL** - Air condition gym, renovate classrooms, improve parking, tech upgrades
- **PORT ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL** - Classroom and tech upgrades, new theater, improve bus entrance and traffic flow, front entrance, roof repairs, HVAC improvements
- **BRUSLY ELEMENTARY** - New activity/auditorium building with new classrooms, replace T-buildings with permanent classrooms, cafeteria upgrade, tech upgrades
- **LUKEVILLE ELEMENTARY** - two grade school only, renovate classrooms, replace T-buildings with permanent classrooms, improve drainage and lighting, move front entrance, expand cafeteria
- **BRUSLY MIDDLE SCHOOL** - becomes two grade school only, air condition gym, replace T-buildings with permanent classrooms, renovate classrooms
- **EXISTING BRUSLY HIGH SCHOOL** - becomes Middle School 6th-8th grade only, renovate classrooms, replace T-buildings with permanent classrooms
- **NEW BRUSLY HIGH SCHOOL** - capacity of 1,000 students to accommodate future growth.

THE SECOND MILLAGE is a 12 mill property tax to provide pay increases for teachers and personnel. WBR is not competitive with surrounding parishes in teacher pay. The pay increases will help the district recruit and retain skilled, experienced, and talented teachers.

Teacher pay comparison

- Competing school districts pay an average of \$2,000 more in base pay
- WBR pay is ranked 41st in the state in teacher pay
- The millage will generate \$4 million annually
- Pay for certified teachers will increase by \$5,000 per year if the proposed millage is approved by WBR voters

Teachers in most other school districts earn more than WBR teachers over 25 Years

	Base Pay	10 years	20 years	25 years
Zachary	+3,989	+3,723	+5,027	+5,967
Iberville	+4,606	+3,010	+2,314	+2,254
W. Feliciana	+2,239	+1,803	+2,267	+2,787
Ascension	+ 950	+2,019	+3,370	+3,252
Livingston	- 416	- 1,468	- 268	- 196
Central	- 1,147	- 143	+ 1,761	+3,001

A record of improvements and sound fiscal management

The West Baton Rouge School System has shown the ability and determination to make significant improvements in students' academic scores, while also operating efficiently and with sound fiscal management. These focuses have paid dividends for students and the parish:

GRADUATION RATES

- 2015 graduation rate was up by 5% to 79.4% of students
- Minority graduation rate has increased by 20.8% since 2014
- Graduation rate of students with disabilities has increased by 22.7%
- Graduation rate of low income students has increased by 9.7%

STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Average ACT score of the class of 2016 is 19.6 (20th in state)

WBR students are performing at higher levels -

they are in the top 10% for growth in mastery and advanced scores; scores have improved by 12%

3-8 LEAP scores are showing significant improvement:

*5th grade - Students scoring mastery and advanced is up by 11%
8th grade - Students scoring mastery and advanced is up by 17%*

Math scores showing significant improvement:

*3rd grade - Students scoring mastery and advanced is up by 13%
7th grade - Students scoring mastery and advanced is up by 15%*

School system millage rate comparison

Zachary	79.20	Baker	43.2
Ascension	61.59	W. Feliciana	35.95
Central	60.4	Livingston	36.4
Iberville	57.83	WBR	31.39
EBR	43.45	Pointe Coupee	16.5