

VISION WEST

West Baton Rouge Parish - Community, Growth, Possibilities

A quarterly publication for West Baton Rouge residents by your public agencies • OCTOBER, 2010

Calendar of Events

Oct. 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Official hours of WBR
Halloween Trick or Treating

Nov. 1, 10:30 a.m.

WBR Chamber Golf Tourney,
Island Country Club

Nov. 4-7

WBR Fair, Louis Mouch
Multipurpose Facility

Nov. 6- Jan. 3

Patriot Artistry: Art & Music
from WII, WBR Museum

Nov. 7, Noon

Exhibit opening Patriot Artistry,
WBR Museum

Nov. 7, 1:30 p.m.

Veterans on Parade, downtown
Port Allen

Nov. 18, Noon

Lecture Dr. Michael Pasquier,
WBR Museum

Dec. 1- Dec. 25

Reflections of the Season
lighting display, WBR Tourist
Info & Convention Center

Dec. 5, 1 p.m.

Let It Snow! Holiday Open
House, WBR Museum

New WBR Fair features new rides, entertainment

Thursday, Nov. 4- Sunday, Nov. 7
At Louis Mouch Multi-Purpose Facility
152 Turner Road



New carnival company and rides! Carnival ride wristbands \$20 for six-hour session, food, free entertainment, 4-H exhibits!

- **Thursday: 5 p.m. Carnival rides open**
6:30 p.m. pep rallies for Brusly and Port Allen High Schools
- **Friday: 5 p.m. - midnight**
Music by Blind Ambition – 9 – 9:45 p.m.
Music by Penalty Box - 10 – 10:45 p.m.
Music by Burning Cane – 11 – Midnight
- **Saturday: Noon – midnight**
Music by Rougon - 6:30 -9 p.m.
Music by Chee Weez – 9:15 p.m. – Midnight
- **Sunday: Noon – 6 p.m.**
Music by Mojeaux – 2 – 6 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Fair Board, WBR Parks & Recreation District, and WBR Convention and Visitors Bureau. Proceeds go to the WBR 4-H Program.

Veterans On Parade honors local heros

Come out and show your support for our brave veterans who have kept our country free!

- Enter a patriotic float or vehicle in the parade! Awards for the best decorated floats/vehicles!
- Have your scouting group or organization march with flags!
- All veterans can ride on floats free of charge.
- Special program at the conclusion of the parade
- Fly over with vintage WWII aircraft during parade
- Special parade viewing area at the WBR Museum for handicapped and elderly veterans.
- Static displays at Rivault Park prior to parade

To enter a float, vehicle or group call Kathy at 344-2920.

Sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau and City of Port Allen.

Sunday, November 7, 1:30 pm

Route: North on Jefferson Ave., left on La. Ave., left on 8th St. to the WBR Courthouse.



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.wbrparish.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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TOWN OF BRUSLY



Local mother urges smoke alarms after deaths in home fire

The two beautiful children of local residents Blake and Kristen Fontenot Saucier and the children's grandparents died in a house fire on August 6. Ava, 3, Jacob, 2, and their grandparents, Michael and Monica Saucier, died in the fire. Here is Kristen's message to YOU:

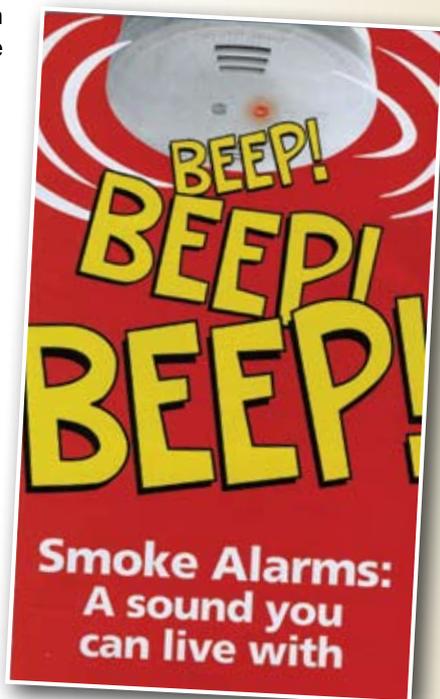
"The children were so excited to have a sleep over with their grandparents and they had a wonderful day riding on the party barge and playing by the water. Early the next morning with a knock on our door everything changed forever for our family. I talk about this so soon after the tragedy in hopes I can spare someone else the daily suffering my family and I will go through for the rest of our lives. I strongly urge you to test your smoke alarms monthly and have an escape plan including escape ladders. Please do it now before it is too late."

That tragedy confirms the Brusly Fire Department's annual smoke alarm campaign message: **"BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with!"**

"We tell people that when the time changes (which it will on November 7) to change the batteries in their smoke detectors," said Assistant Fire Chief Kenny Hunts. "People can buy smoke detectors for less than \$15 at many stores, or alarms with 10-year lithium batteries that, once installed, don't have to be touched for 10 years."

Hunts said smoke alarms are critical because they provide an early warning, giving you and your family time to get out of your home safely and quickly before a fire engulfs a home. In fact, they cut the risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half.

The National Fire Protection Association notes that of the approximately 2,800 home fire deaths each year, roughly two-thirds result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or with smoke alarms that don't work.



TYPES OF SMOKE ALARMS:

An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires that spread rapidly, but typically have little smoke. A photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires that produce a lot of smoke. The NFPA recommends either both types of alarms or a combination smoke alarm, which includes both technologies in a single smoke alarm. When purchasing a smoke alarm, be sure it has a label from a recognized testing laboratory.

WHERE TO INSTALL IT:

Smoke alarms should be installed four inches from the corner of a room, either on the ceiling or on the wall about four inches from the ceiling. Do not install them near windows, doors or ducts where drafts might cause interference.

They should be installed in every bedroom, and outside every separate sleeping area of the home. Hard-wired smoke alarms that run on household current should have a battery backup in case of a power outage and should be installed by an electrician.

TESTING AND MAINTENANCE:

Smoke alarms should be tested once a month by pushing the test button. Batteries should be replaced once a year (when the time changes in the Fall). If an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away. Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years or sooner if they do not respond properly. Never paint or put stickers or decorations on smoke alarms.

Remember, the BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! Is a sound you can live with!

TOWN OF ADDIS



Upgrades to Addis Sewer Treatment System to start in November

Rapid population growth is prompting town officials in Addis to invest in its infrastructure in the form of sewage treatment facility upgrades to begin in November, said Mayor Carroll Bourgeois. The anticipated expansion of several subdivisions and other developments in the town has created the need for more capacity.

"We're just planning for the future," Mayor Bourgeois says. "There was an opportunity to receive a \$1.5 million federal loan from the Environmental Protection Agency at a very low rate of .95% percent and we felt this was good time to get this work done." The money was available through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality as part of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund received from the federal stimulus package.

More than 250 parish and city governments across the state applied for funding. The Town of Addis was among 55 applicants to receive a distribution. According to DEQ Secretary Harold Leggett, there is a dire need for wastewater infrastructure upgrades statewide.

The Addis project includes a new, larger lift station to be built south of town near the end of First Street at the old car wash. A second new lift station will be constructed several hundred yards behind Benedetto's Grocery Store. This lift station will transfer the wastewater from the northern part of town. Mayor Bourgeois says an existing lift station at Foret and First Street is not large enough to do the job and will be shut down and filled with sand. "We will not demolish the old lift station. It will still be in tact in case there is a need to use it again," he said.

The Messina lift station, located halfway between the Benedetto site and the sewer plant on the River Road, will also get a makeover. The work there includes adding a 10-inch main line for increased wastewater flow. The changes at the sewer plant include changing from clay-based drying beds to synthetic "crystal" beds to speed up the sludge removal process.

The construction work on the two new lift stations is being done by Eunice-based EB Feugh company. Baton Rouge-based Guy Hopkins Construction won the bid to upgrade the sewer plant.



Work is progressing on the new pavilion at the Town of Addis Railroad Museum Park.

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
WBR Water District #1 - 1st Thursday of each month - Town Hall
Fire Sub-district #1 - Last Tuesday of each month - Fire Station #3



WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH GOVERNMENT



Shown are scenes from the WBR 4-H program. In the photo above, 4-H'ers learn about guns. At left, is sewing; and at right is a computer art session.



Take a look at West Baton Rouge 4-H

Opportunities for adventures, learning and meeting new friends abound with the West Baton Rouge 4-H program. Besides three project clubs - Robotics, Sewing and Shooting Sports - the 4-H Junior Leader Club offers leadership development and service learning. 4-H is open to kids age 9 to 18, and also maintains its traditional projects such as livestock.

The Robotics Project Club allows members to work with LEGO Mindstorms Robots and computers to learn how to program the robots. Members utilize their critical thinking skills to problem solve programming errors and make the robots complete tasks. For the first time, members also have the opportunity to compete in the First LEGO League contest.

Participants in the Sewing Project Club meet monthly and learn basic sewing skills. Once they have completed their projects they can enter in the Parish Fair sewing competition. Sewing machines are available to participants.

The 4-H Shooting Sports Project Club offers archery, air rifle and shotgun lessons. Members can compete at regional and state shoots.

There are plenty of opportunities for the older 4-H members as well. The WBR Junior Leader Club is open to 4-H members in grades 7-12 and is focused on leadership development and service learning.

Junior Leaders provide leadership to younger members, while working with other members their age and meeting new people. Members select a service learning project each year and learn the importance of giving back to their community. In the summer, 4-H members who are at least 13 years old have the chance to attend 4-H University at LSU. This statewide event draws members from across Louisiana to LSU to compete in a wide variety of contests, attend Clover College, meet new people, and win awards, including trips or money.

These members can also apply for a State Board position, which would enable them to serve with peers and provide leadership to state project areas such as Fashion, Food and Fitness and Science, Engineering and Technology. Members who serve on state boards get valuable leadership experience to help strengthen their college applications and put them at the head of the line for scholarships.

To enroll in 4-H, youth must be nine (9) years of age by January 1st, 2011 and fill out an enrollment card that is available through the WBR Extension Office. For more information on the 4-H Program in West Baton Rouge Parish, contact Kirsten Johnson at the WBR Extension Office, 225-336-2416 or kdjohnson@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Public invited to Oct. 26 workshop on WBR Comprehensive LandPlan 2020

Five years of planning and deliberation on LandPlan 2020 is complete, and officials say it's once again time to hear from West Baton Rouge Parish residents. Parish officials and the Development Advisory Committee will host a series of public workshops to give interested residents an opportunity to provide input.

The plan is the new vision and framework for the physical development of the parish. The consultant team hired to help the parish pull the plan together, Tipton Associates, is working in a collaborative effort with local engineering firm, Patin Engineering & Surveying, international planning firm Sasaki Associates, and economic development expert W-ZHA.

The planning team will hold its first of five public workshops in the parish on Tuesday, October 26, at 6 p.m. at the Port Allen Community Center (749 N. Jefferson St.,

Port Allen). "We really want the public to come out on October 26th and share their vision for the future growth of our parish," said Kevin Durbin, Director of the West Baton Rouge Office of Community Planning and Development.

Planners ask that residents come to the workshops prepared to give their ideas regarding land use, transportation, open space, natural resources and economic development in the parish.

The consulting team will present the current standing of the plan, their findings, and record ideas to include in the project. "This is not our plan. This is your plan. We want it to be a reflection of your values and aspirations for the future," says lead planner Ken Tipton of Tipton Associates.

The work of the planning team is being funded in full by a grant award from the state.

WBR emergency officials urge residents to register cell phones

With more residents opting out of home phone service and moving to cell phones only, the West Baton Rouge Parish Office of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and 9-1-1 is taking steps to make certain all residents receive emergency information.

Director Anthony "Deano" Moran is asking residents to register their cell phone numbers with his office to receive messages from the parish "all call" system. The automated calls are sent to parish resident's phones in cases of evacuations, shelter in place, or any safety announcements. "This gives everyone an opportunity to receive emergency information if they choose not to keep a home phone," Moran says.

The information provided will not be

shared with any third parties. The cell numbers are kept confidential and are only used to relay emergency information. Call the Office of Homeland, Security, Emergency Preparedness and 9-1-1 at (225) 346-1577 for more information or log on at www.wbr-lepc.net.

Another reminder from emergency officials is for residents to be aware of their specific location when calling 9-1-1 from a cell phone. Moran says the close proximity of cell towers in Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parish often causes calls to be routed to the wrong 9-1-1 centers. He urges residents to be very detailed about their location to the dispatcher so first responders can deliver timely emergency assistance.

Voters keep community center affordable for residents

The West Baton Rouge Parish Community Centers will continue to be maintained at their present high level after residents voted to support a 3 mill tax for 10 years. The tax proposal was approved by 60 percent of voters in the October 2 election. The tax supports the upkeep, operations and upgrades for all four community centers in the parish.

"I would like to thank the voters of the parish for their support of the community centers. They have a long history in our community and serve an important purpose to residents in all parts of the parish," said Parish President Riley "Pee Wee" Berthelot.

The funds generated by the tax keeps the use of the facility affordable for most residents. The current rental fee averages about \$250 or less, depending on which fa-

cility is used and how long it is rented. The cost to use the centers would have jumped significantly without the funding from the tax, Berthelot said. The community centers will continue to be available for residents to use for family reunions, birthday parties, wedding receptions and many other functions.

A second measure to provide funds for juvenile detention services did not pass. The 1.1 mill tax would have paid to detain, house and provide rehabilitative services for juveniles in the parish. Berthelot says his administration will work with law enforcement to help minimize any potential impact. "We understand the voters have spoken and we respect their decision," he said. The measure failed narrowly with 49% of voters agreeing to the 20-year tax and 51% voting it down.



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



What's goin' on around the museum

Calendar of Events

November 6-January 3, 2011: **Patriot Artistry: Trench Art and Music from WWII:** The exhibition features 150 pieces of WWII era metal sculpture known as "trench art" and a collection of colorful vintage sheet music covers from the era. Trench art consists of found objects, typically artillery shells, shrapnel, and other scrap collected by soldiers and locals during the war that was then fashioned into pieces of art. The exhibit also takes a look at how music publishers, song writers, and cover artists rallied support for troops overseas.

November 7, 12-1:30 p.m.: **Patriot Artistry: Trench Art and Music from WWII Exhibit Opening Event:** Come early to the museum before the Veterans on Parade in Port Allen begins to tour the exhibit, and enjoy entertainment from the World War II era and light refreshments while waiting for the parade to roll by.

November 18, 12:00 p.m. **Annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series:**

Dr. Michael Pasquier, historian and author of *Fathers on the Frontier: French Missionaries and the Roman Catholic Priesthood in the United States, 1789-1870*, has been named guest speaker for the 2010 Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. Guests are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided by the WBR Historical Association. This event is free and open to the public.

December 5: **Holiday Open House** – Come celebrate the season at the West Baton Rouge Museum with a cup of mulled cider and some gingerbread and enjoy holiday crafts, parlor games, entertainment, living history demonstrations, and a chance to take a picture with Père Noël. (Bring your own camera.) *This event is FREE and sure to delight visitors of all ages!*

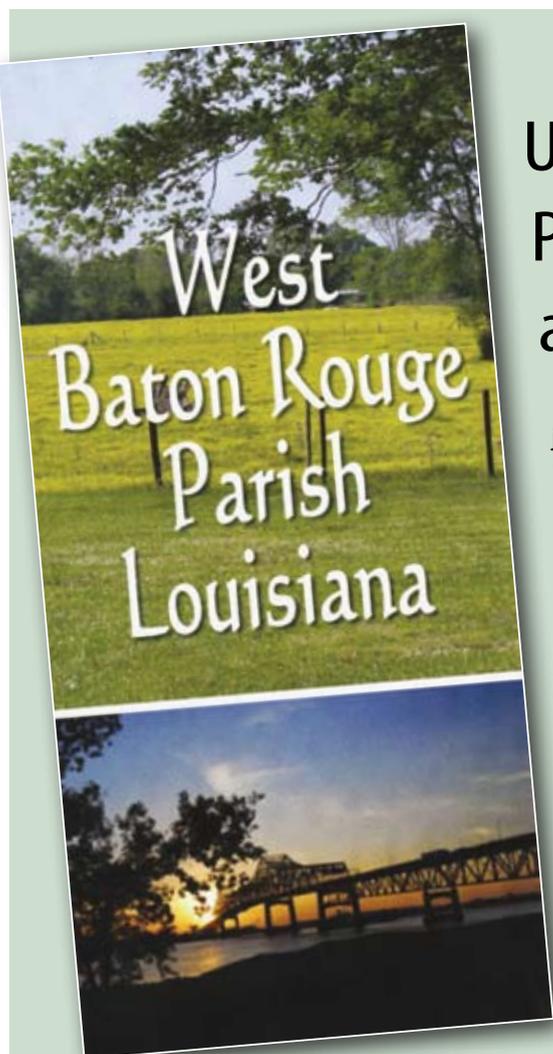
www.westbatonrougemuseum.com



HANDICAPPED GET A BOOST...

For years a one-person elevator on the back of Aillet House at the West Baton Rouge Museum was used to help mobility impaired visitors enter the historic house. The elevator ceased working, so The Dow Chemical Company donated materials and labor for construction of an ADA-approved ramp, which was painted and completed this summer. Shown with the finished ramp are, from left, Brandi Miller, Miss Iberville Sweet; Abby Cook, Dow; Ellis Gauthier and Garry Hubble, WBR Museum Board members; Brooke Hotard, Miss Louisiana's Outstanding Teen 2010; Ruth Stanley, WBR Historical Association and Museum Board member; Genny Bernard, WBR Museum Board member; Tom Bernard, WBR Historical Association member; Daryl Altazan, carpenter, Dow; and Julie Rose, WBR Museum Director.

WEST BATON ROUGE ASSESSOR



Updated WBR Parish maps available

The Assessor's Office has just released a new parish map with updated neighborhoods and streets. Assessor Altazan said he contracted with the Louisiana State University Department of Geology and Geophysics, which used special geographic software, to make sure the new maps are accurate. The 2010 West Baton Rouge Parish maps are now available at no charge from the Assessor's Office, or you can call (225) 344-6777 to find out other locations to pick up the maps.

Parish assessor credits new home building and business for revenue gains

Steady growth with area businesses, new homes and home additions are among the reasons West Baton Rouge Parish property tax revenues will increase in the 2010 tax year. Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan says parish property assessments increased by 5.4 percent in 2010 over 2009.

Real estate assessments were up 5.7 percent, which is the result of new homes and additions. Assessments for personal property, which is business inventory and equipment, were up 8.6 percent. "The increase is strongly related to our businesses. They appear to be moving their inventory well, better than some other areas," Altazan says. However, public service assessments were 7.1 percent less than 2009. These assessments, for telecommunications, railroads, and public utilities businesses, are determined by the Louisiana Tax Commission and provided to the WBR Assessor's Office. That decrease equaled a \$3.28 mil-

lion assessed value loss for the parish.

However, the overall increase in assessment value means parish agencies that collect property taxes will take in more tax revenue per mill. In 2009, one mill was valued at \$311,000. That amount this year rose 5.4% to \$328,000 in 2010. Altazan says the numbers are evidence of growth in the parish and a sign that the West Baton Rouge Parish economy is performing slightly ahead of regional trends.

Altazan explains that the increases are not additional taxes paid by existing property owners. The rise is directly related to new property owners in the parish and some existing owners making investments in their property. The parish agencies benefiting from the increased assessments include a variety of government agencies - the school system, the community center, law enforcement, the Council on Aging, the parish, the library and others.



WEST BATON ROUGE SCHOOL SYSTEM

School System enforcing student residency requirements

The West Baton Rouge Parish School System is taking a closer look at where its students spend the night before classes. Local law enforcement is lending a hand in that task. School Superintendent David Corona says the board has gotten tough on its residency requirements after numerous complaints about many students not being permanent residents of the parish.

"Our board and we, as an administration, take it very seriously that students attending school in West Baton Rouge Parish have to actually live here. We are checking, and if a child does not live here, they have to leave," Corona said. The residency issue is an important one for Corona and his staff. Extra students in the system can put a strain on budgets. The purpose is to make sure that students who are residents get the full benefit of the school system's resources.

The board is funding a portion of the salary of a Brusly police officer to assist the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance in making visits to homes where students are suspected of having multiple addresses. Corona has participated in these visits. He says they look for clues that identify a child as a long-term inhabitant of the home. "It's a mixed bag on visits. Sometimes the kids are there, sometimes they are not," he says.

Five documents that prove the guardian is a resident are required at the beginning of each school year. Some examples include vehicle registration, mortgage, electric bill, home phone bill, cable bill, homeowner's insurance bill, home or apartment lease agreement, and other documents that indicate present occupancy at the address.

Some guardians may remember the time when a child could attend school in West Baton Rouge Parish if they primarily live with a guardian in the parish who has full custody. In April 2008, the board changed the requirement. The child now has to live full time with the guardian in the parish, no exceptions. The process appears to be achieving the desired results. Records reveal the enrollment at Brusly High School has consistently dropped over the last two years since the home checks began. School enrollment has dropped from 522 students in 2008 to 489 students in 2010.

The enforcement of the residency requirement is not limited to students who live outside West Baton Rouge Parish. Corona says his staff is checking on students who are residents of the parish, but are attending school outside of their school district. Guardians do not have to wait for a knock on the door to get information about residency requirements for the school system. If you have questions on what documents are needed, or district boundaries, go to www.wbrschools.net or call 225-343-8309.



In the photo above, middle school boys practice drumline during the New Beginnings summer camp. In the photo at left, a camper is shown with her art, mother and mentor.

New Beginnings After-school program seeks community support

After-school programs across the nation are receiving their fair share of attention this month. The impact of enrichment programs during out of school time is being recognized during National After School Programs Awareness month. In West Baton Rouge Parish, the effort to increase academic achievement through activities outside the classroom is being pushed by the New Beginnings Community Development Corporation.

Executive Director Isonel Brown is convinced the structured environment children receive at New Beginnings is worth supporting. "Our students need after school programs, and those programs need funding, advocacy and community support. We know that what they do here makes a major difference toward their performance in the classroom," she says. During the last year, New Beginnings has served 394 students, providing them homework help, healthy meals, summer activities, mentoring and academic support. While these numbers are admirable, Brown is encouraged that with additional community support, this program could be the primary provider of quality after-school support in West Baton Rouge Parish.

time given by community members. Volunteers serve as mentors, tutors, and counselors. Brown says responsible and reliable volunteers are key to the secure and safe environment that students experience while participating in activities at New Beginnings. Volunteers support the New Beginnings staff with student activities like arts, knitting, painting, football, basketball, music, computers, sewing and much more.

In addition, Project SOAR matches a community mentor with students weekly. A one-year commitment to a child is required to participate. West Baton Rouge Parish high school students are also a large part of the volunteer network. Students serve as "peer" mentors to elementary students throughout the school year.

All of the efforts of New Beginnings' volunteers and staff are focused on molding well-rounded students and to provide them extra resources to pursue a variety of academic options. Respected research backs up their efforts. The National Summer Learning Association estimates that most students lose about two months of grade level equivalency in math and reading skills over the summer months. They credit after-school and summer programs with reducing the learning gap. This can often mean the difference between moving on to middle school or high school for some students.

More information on the New Beginnings program is available at www.newbeginnings.org, or if you want to volunteer or make a donation call Isonel Brown at (225) 571-1324.



Elementary boys preform a step line routine during the New Beginnings summer camp.

While monetary donations are important, a valuable contribution is the



CITY OF PORT ALLEN

City drainage work reaping good results

A 5-year drainage improvement program totaling several million dollars is providing good drainage results for Port Allen. The city has changed out thousands of feet of culverts, closed in ditches with culverts, replaced catch basins, and improved drainage throughout the city under the program.

"We've been able to do a lot more because city workers have done the labor," explained Mayor Derek Lewis. "Had we contracted this work out, we would have paid a lot more."

The city hired PEC Engineers about five years ago to do a hydraulic study and provide recommendations on how to improve the city's drainage. The company has assisted with the project since, but the city has purchased the materials and done the work.

"When the culverts were installed many years ago, they didn't have the instrumentation to make sure the pipes were on the proper grade," explained Terry Vincent, director of roads and drainage. "And you have movement over the years, especially in areas with trees. The roots of our oak trees move pipes."

The city has put money in its budget for three to four drainage projects a year for the last four years,

said Mayor Lewis. Vincent's crew just started a project to replace culverts along Avenue B from Whitehead Canal to River Road. About 300 feet of 24-inch pipe will replace 15-inch pipe, another 640 feet of 18-inch pipe will be laid, and 460 feet of 15-inch pipe. "It's going to cost us about \$80,000, but if the city had paid a contractor, the cost would be about \$300,000," said Vincent.

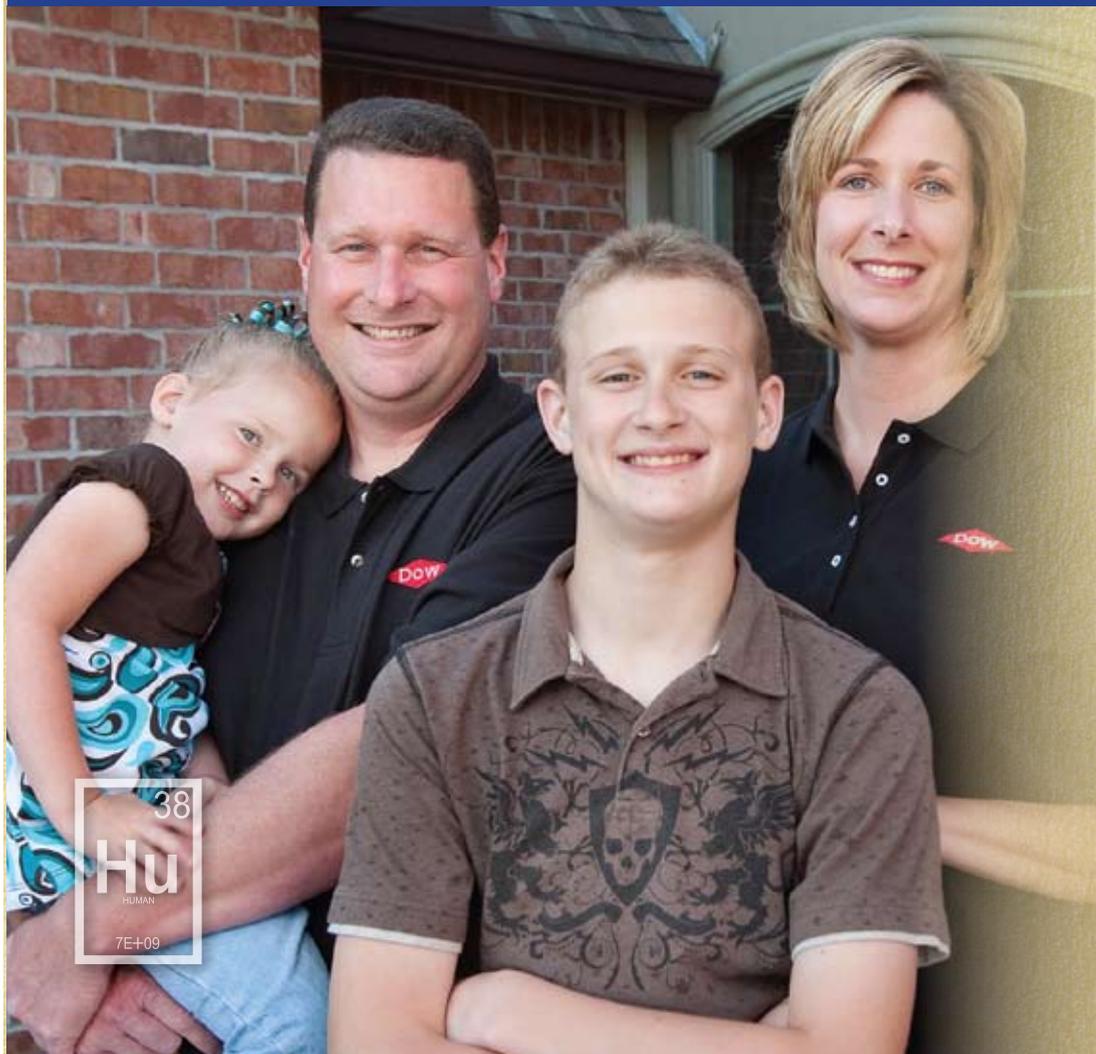
The city crew just completed a drainage project on North 10th Street between Georgia and Oregon Streets, installing 42-inch and 32-inch pipe. In addition, with the help of a state grant, the city also closed in ditches on a number of streets in the Ferry area, along with portions of Rosedale Road and Louisiana Avenue. "Closing in those ditches reduces road maintenance and also eliminates a safety issue of vehicles going into ditches," Vincent said. "We have about three or four projects left, and will get to them in the next few years."

"We've seen a big improvement in drainage during downpours, but residents should remember that no drainage system is designed to handle a 6 to 7-inch rain in an hour," said Vincent. "It will back up with that kind of rain, but it will drain off quickly."



Shown at the drainage project on Avenue B are, from left, Terry Vincent, director of roads and drainage; Mayor Derick Lewis, and city workers Kevin Godfrey, Willie Jones, and Mike Cannatella.

THE STRENGTH OF THE HUMAN ELEMENT



At The Dow Chemical Company we recognize that the Human Element plays a critical role in harnessing the power of chemistry to benefit humanity. That's why we invest in our workforce through flex time, training and professional development, career opportunities, and wellness programs.

Chemistry is nothing without humanity. We get that at Dow.



Amerchol • ANGUS • Grand Bayou Operations • Louisiana Operations • St. Charles Operations • Weeks Island



WEST BATON ROUGE TOURISM

“Reflections of the Season”

...back for its second season



The West Baton Rouge CVB said visitors will see more lights and added light displays at the 2011 “Reflections of the Season.” This year’s event opens to the public December 1 through December 25. Open nightly, except Mondays at 5:30 with a \$1.00 per person entrance fee.

Pre-Lighting Premier party will be held on November 30. Tickets are \$35.00

Friday and Saturday nights enjoy entertainment, crafters, Santa and his elves, food provided by area organizations, and wagon rides at the West Baton Rouge Conference Center.

This year a special Children’s Pajama Party is planned for December 11, 6:30 -8:00. Children will be able to spend time with Santa, make a craft, and enjoy a special story time, music, a wagon ride, special holiday treat and a surprise for each child.

\$5.00 for children 3-10 years of age. Tickets are available at the Tourist Center or call to make a reservation at 344-2920.

Check out the West Baton Rouge web site for detailed information on all the entertainment and events during the month of December. www.westbatonrouge.net



Check out our new website

Check out the West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau’s new website, which went live in September. The web address is: www.westbatonrouge.net.

Features of the new website include the ability of local residents to submit events online for consideration on the website’s calendar of events; and the ability of residents and business owners to register with the WBR Film Commission to have property considered for shooting films, videos, commercials or TV series.

In addition, the new website has a language translation feature, provides information on WBR events, tourist attractions, lodging, and more; and allows those wanting more tourism information to request a brochure on line.

WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

Kids Search

Great information for school reports and research papers

Finding good information from reliable sources for school reports and research papers is no longer a hassle for elementary and middle school students and their families.

With Kids Search by EBSCO, students select topics, sub-topics or keywords of interest and initiate an EBSCO search engine to locate relevant information from EBSCO’s dependable and secure reference databases. The fields of knowledge covered by the databases include animals, arts and music, geography, health, news, language arts, math, science, social studies, and sports.

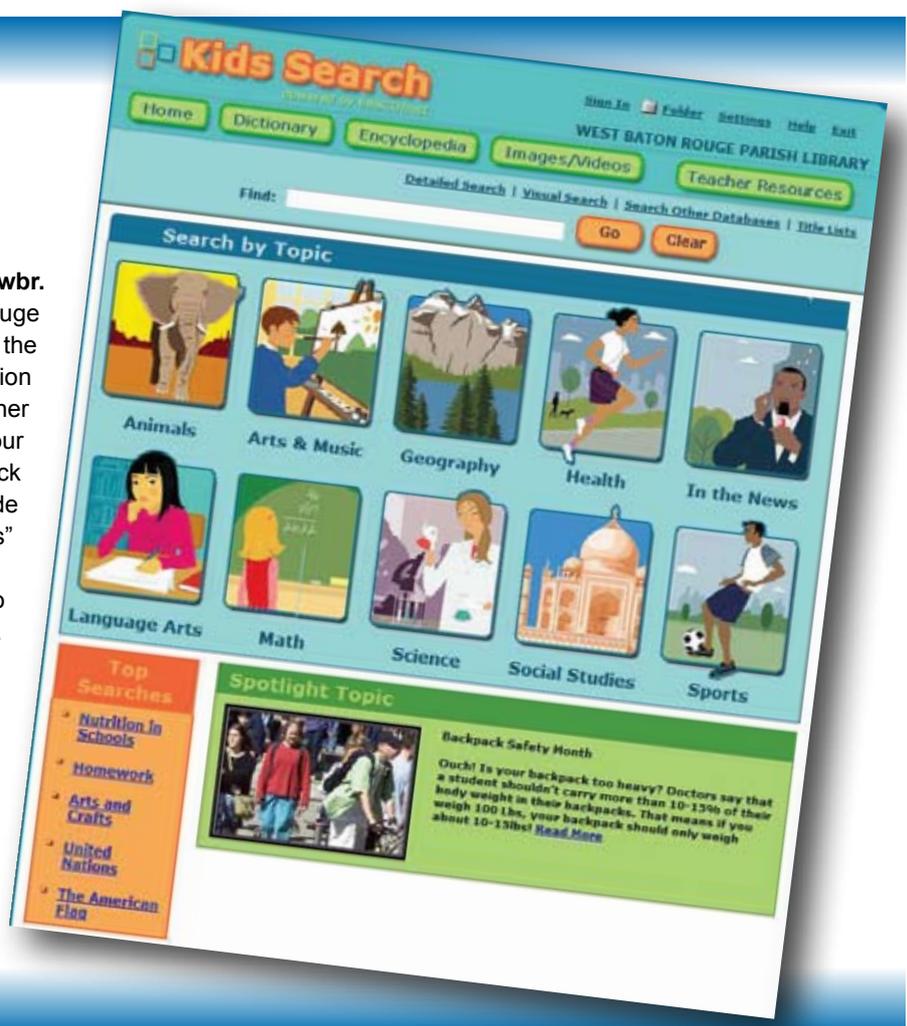
Information retrieved about a topic may be from magazine and newspaper articles, almanacs and government documents, dictionaries and encyclopedias, books and biographies, and radio and television news transcripts. Photographs and maps, films and videos may also be retrieved if relevant to a topic.

Kids Search can be accessed through any Internet connected computer by going to the West Baton Rouge Parish Library’s web-

site at www.wbr.lib.la.us <<http://www.wbr.lib.la.us>> (You need a West Baton Rouge Parish Library card to log in.) Click on the icon for the Louisiana Library Connection Databases located in the upper right corner of the page. On the next page enter your library card number as requested and click the “Log In” tab. Scroll down the right side of the “Louisiana Library Connections” page to Kids Search and click.

You’re in and Kids Search is ready to find information on the topic you request. Adults and high school students are welcome to use this resource, too.

EBSCO Customer Support Representatives are also available to assist by phone and e-mail 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday, as well as Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (US EST) at 800-653-2726.



ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:

is published quarterly as a cooperative endeavor of West Baton Rouge Parish government agencies to educate residents about projects, **VISION WEST** 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 Chamber of Commerce
11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Monday, November 1
THE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB**

10:30 Registration • Shotgun start at noon
\$120 per person, \$480 per team

Includes: Light lunch, beer, cold drinks and snacks and dinner
Longest Drive Contest, Cash Prizes, 2 Mulligans

Great networking opportunity! The Chamber's only fundraiser for 2010!

**Variety of sponsorships available from \$1,000 to \$100!
Come be part of the fun.**

For Registration and sponsorship information: call 225-383-3140 or email: Sharon@wbrchamber.org

West Baton Rouge is on pace with construction projects

West Baton Rouge Parish is on pace to meet or exceed the number of construction projects for 2010 as compared to 2009, according to a report provided by the West Baton Rouge Office of Community Planning and Development.

At August 31, a total of 315 building permits were issued for both new construction and renovations of residential, commercial and industrial buildings, with four months left to go in the year. The parish recorded a total of 415 building permits issued in 2009. So, by August 31, the parish reached 86 percent of the new permits achieved in 2009.

In addition, more of the projects are new construction projects. Of the total 415 permits in 2009, the permits for new construction included 171 residential and 17 commercial. In January through August in 2010, the new construction projects include 152 residential and seven commercial permits.

Considered over a 20-month period (January 2009 through August 2010), the parish has added 323 new residences and 24 new businesses.

"I would describe this growth as steady and manageable," said Kevin Durbin, director of the WBR Office of Community Planning and Development. "As a planner and engineer, that is the best kind of growth you can hope for. It shows growth and economic development, but at a manageable level that does not put a strain on your infrastructure and services."



Shown is some of the residential and commercial growth in West Baton Rouge.

PERMITS:	Residential (New)	Residential (Renovation)	Commercial (New)	Commercial (Renovation)	Industrial (New or Renovation)	Total
Jan.-Dec. 2009	171	139	17	77	11	415
Jan.-Aug. 2010	152	110	7	43	3	315

Chamber holds school board candidate forum

West Baton Rouge residents and Chamber members heard from local school board candidates during the Chamber's Meet The Candidate event on October 27th at the Addis Community center. Attending the event were Jason Manola, incumbent District I; Teri Bergeron, incumbent Member at Large; Charlie "Coach" Granger, candidate District VI; Craig Sarradet, candidate District I; Toby Sarradet, candidate District II; Lisa Vincent Cazes, candidate District I; and Dina Beard, candidate District II.



CHAMBER HONORS TEACHERS OF YEAR... The West Baton Rouge Chamber honored the WBR Teachers of the Year at a reception at Brian's Furniture in Port Allen on October 13. Chamber members also provided gifts for the teachers. Shown at the reception are, from left: Owen Cope, WBR Chamber Education Committee chairman, Jannean Dixon from Devall Middle School, Kizzy Crockett from Lukeville Upper Elementary, Danielle Lamotte from Port Allen High School, Debbie Barbier from Holy Family school, and Blaine Rabalais, Interim Executive Director of the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber members get newsletter

The West Baton Rouge Chamber has initiated a bi-monthly printed membership newsletter that highlights Chamber activities, events and projects, and also provides a profile of two businesses in each issue. The newsletter mailed to members, and the first issue went out in September. Chamber members should watch for future issues.