

# VISION WEST

West Baton Rouge Parish - Community, Growth, Possibilities

A quarterly publication for West Baton Rouge residents by your public agencies • JULY, 2011

## Calendar of Events

- Aug. 12** - First day of school
- Aug. 1-Sept. 18** - Cathartic Art – Remembering 9-11, WBR Museum
- Aug. 1-Oct. 16** - Morley, the Vanished Lumber Town, WBR Museum
- Sept. 11** – WBR Emergency Responders: Objects of Memory, WBR Museum, 2 p.m.
- Sept. 17 & 18** – Smokin Oldies BBQ Cook-Off and Oldies But Goodies Fest, WBR Conference Center, Noon-6 p.m.
- Oct. 1-Dec. 31** - Civic War Homefront Perspectives, WBR Museum
- Oct. 2** - SugarFest, WBR Museum, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oct. 20-29** - Book Fair, Holy Family School
- Oct. 22** - Celebrating La. Writers, WBR Museum
- Oct. 23** - Brusly High School Centennial Anniversary, WBR Museum
- Oct. 30** - Feast on the Levee at St. John Church in Brusly, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

## Which district are you in now? Many Parish Council districts change with reapportionment

Voters in several areas of the parish will have different Parish Council representatives in the October election due to this year's required reapportionment. Every 10 years all electing government bodies are required to reapportion themselves based on the new census data into districts that are equally populated and represent the racial balance of their area.

The census data for West Baton Rouge required numerous changes to the nine Parish Council districts. The parish grew by 10 percent over the last decade, with population increasing from 21,601 in 2000 to 23,788 in 2010. Much of the growth was in the southern part of the parish (Addis and Brusly).

The new district lines were approved by the West Baton Rouge Parish Council and have been submitted for approval to the US Department of Justice. The parish is awaiting word from the Justice Department on whether it will approve the districts as submitted.

### The current changes in districts are:

**Council District 1:** Addis used to be completely in Parish Council District 1. With the expansion of the town and specifically Sugar Mill Subdivision, the town has been split, and Sugar Mill is now in Council District 2.

**Council District 2:** District changes include the addition of the Sugar Mill area into District 2, and the removal of Antonio Subdivision, which goes into District 4.

**Council District 3:** This district also has changed significantly. It now takes in all of Brusly east of La. Hwy. 1, along with the middle of the Fairview area north to the Intracoastal Canal. This district maintained the Choctaw Road area.

**Council District 4:** The large Antonio Subdivision is now in Council District 4. That subdivision has previously been in Council District 2. In addition, the district now includes the middle of Terrell Street north to Fairview and it no longer includes the area in Port Allen north of Court St. Also, the area east of La. Hwy 1 in Port Allen has been transferred to District 5.

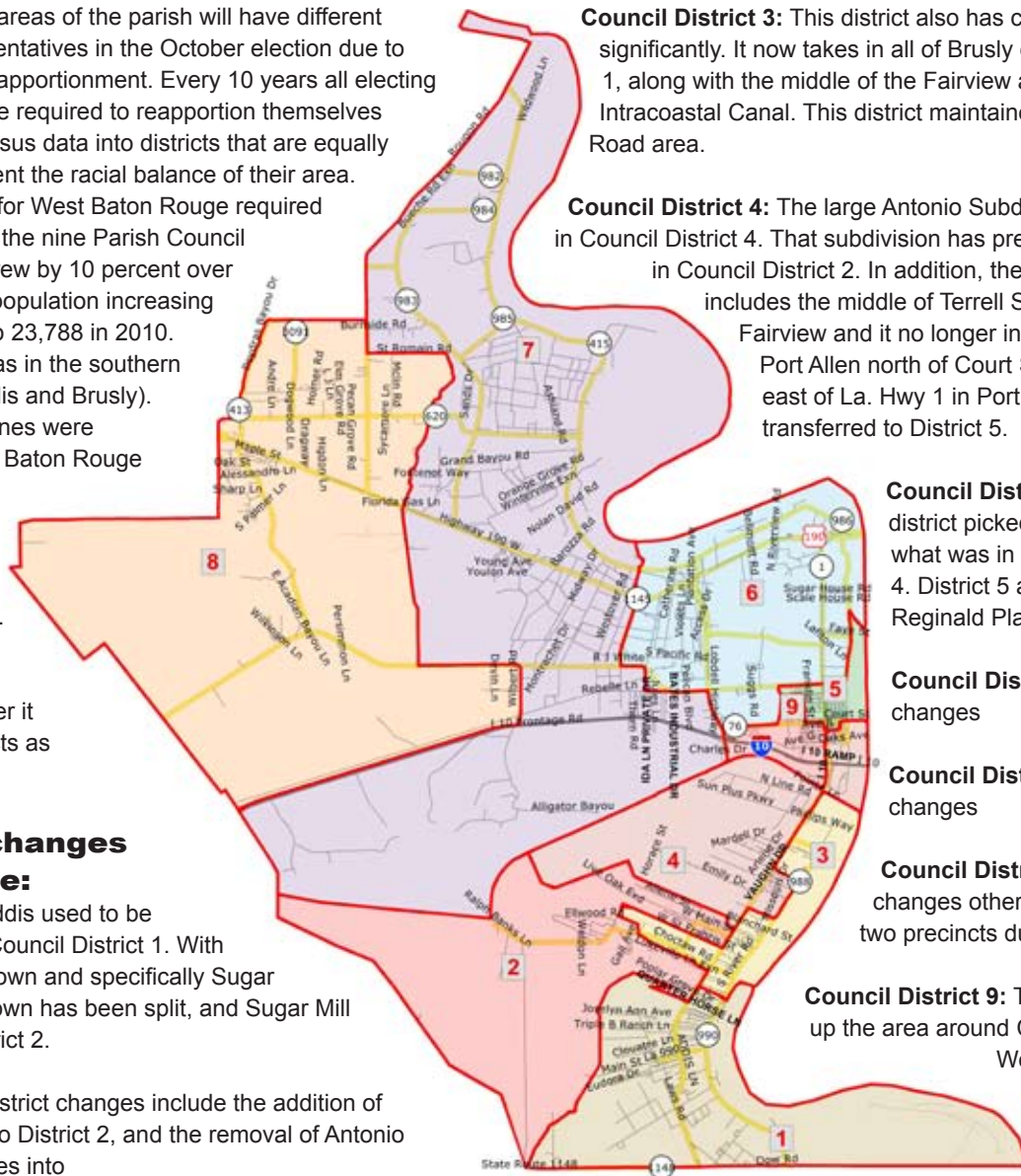
**Council District 5:** This district picked up most of what was in Council District 4. District 5 also now includes Reginald Place Subdivision.

**Council District 6:** No changes

**Council District 7:** No changes

**Council District 8:** No changes other than splitting into two precincts due to population.

**Council District 9:** This district picked up the area around Cohn School and Westside Village Subdivision.



"Fortunately, we were able to keep

all voters voting at their current locations, which was quite a feat," said Registrar of Voters Stacy Ryan. She noted that the parish hired a consultant to help in drafting districts that would fairly represent the parish's current population and be acceptable to the Justice Department.

"Voters will receive new voting cards specifying their Council district as soon as the plan is approved by the Justice Department.

Continued on Page 2

## 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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# Which district are you in now?

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The Department must approve it or send back for questions by August 2.”

Voters will cast ballots in the October 22 election on Parish Council members provided the plan is approved by the deadline date of August 29th, so it is important for voters to learn their new Council district. “If the Justice Department doesn’t approve the plan, then the Parish Council elections will be off that ballot. In that case, the current Council would continue to serve until a plan has been ruled acceptable by the Justice Department, and then an election would be held for the new Council based on the new district lines,” said Registrar Ryan.

The other elections scheduled for October 22 include statewide offices, Louisiana Legislature, parish president, sheriff, Port Allen mayor, Port Allen council at large, several propositions including the closure of bars at 10:00 p.m. on Sundays, and other items.

Ryan also noted that when voters receive their new voter cards, they will notice that the parish has eliminated the old Ward and Precinct system and gone to a numerical precinct system at the request of the Louisiana Elections Division. She said many parishes are making the switch with this plan to simplify things for voters. “An example is that a voter’s previous precinct was 02-01. Now that voters precinct will be Precinct 03,” she explained.

Ryan said any voter wanting to know their new Council district under the new plan can view the plans on the council website by going to [www.wbr council.org/Departments/Registrar](http://www.wbr council.org/Departments/Registrar).

# POW camp marker erected

Did you know that Port Allen was the site of a Prisoner of War camp during World War II? The satellite POW camp was located at the corner of Louisiana Ave. and Sixth Street, called Prisoner of War Sub-camp No. 7. German prisoners were brought here on November 19, 1943.

A historical marker, provided by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, was erected at the site of the camp and unveiled on July 21. The camp was built to meet U.S. War Department standards for approximately 350 prisoners. It consisted of tarpapered buildings within a barbed wire enclosure of two separate 10-12 foot high fences. Guard towers were placed at strategic points within the enclosure. The men slept on beds with mattresses in tents with wooden floors.

The prisoners of war at the Port Allen camp were German soldiers captured in North Africa in the summer of 1943, the remnants of Gen. Erwin Rommel’s “Afrika Korps.” Due to the labor shortage on the homefront, the prisoners were used for various jobs including work in the surrounding sugarcane fields. By 1944,

eight planters in West Baton Rouge were using the men at their plantations, including Cinclare, Poplar Grove, Westover, Smithfield, Devall, and Alma (in Pointe Coupee). The planters paid wages to the government which went toward the care of the prisoners, was saved to be repatriated to the Germans when they were released, and was provided to the prisoners in the form of canteen coupons to be used for toiletries or tobacco at the dispensary.

*Information for this article was provided by the West Baton Rouge Museum and is part of its exhibition “In the Interest of Our Parish: 300 Years of West Baton Rouge history.”*



Old photo of the POW Camp provided by the WBR Museum.

## Feast on the Levee

The 31st annual Feast on the Levee will be held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brusly on Sunday, October 30th, from 11 am to 7 pm. Features Cajun food, cake baking contest, sweet shop, silent auctions, raffles, games. Live music by Kenny Fife and the Bac Trac Band from 11:30-3 pm, and MoJeaux from 3:30 to 7 pm.

## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

### Museum to honor first responders, Brusly High

**September 11, 2:30 p.m.: Honoring WBR Emergency Responders:** Commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of the events of 9/11/01. A reception will be held to recognize the men and women of West Baton Rouge emergency response agencies on the tenth anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001. Following the reception will be a screening of the film *World Trade Center* (2006). This event is free and open to the public.

**October 1 – December 31: A World Turned Upside Down: Civil War Homefront Perspectives:** This exhibit looks at the Louisiana homefront experience focusing on the lives of women, children and the enslaved people who were left behind when the soldiers went to war.

**October 2, Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Sugar Fest** turns Sweet 16 this year! Visitors enjoy tours of the museum campus filled with historical sugar plantation buildings, gardens and demonstrations. SugarFest is about taking in the sweet rural setting and getting into the rhythms of the live musical performances, food and activities.

**October 8 through December: Brusly High School Centennial Anniversary:** Guest curator, Joanne Bourgeois, will assemble historical images and objects related to the school’s history. Once a wooden frame building, Brusly High School served thousands of the area’s children.

**October 15: Halloween Storytelling:** The Museum will again partner with the West Baton Rouge

Library for an evening filled with Halloween fun. There will be trick-or-treating starting at 6:30 p.m. on the museum’s grounds and music in the courtyard by the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society. Everyone is welcome to join the parade to march from the museum to the library for storytelling. Costumes are welcome. Free

**October 16, Sunday 2:30 p.m.:** The West Baton Rouge Historical Association presents the Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series featuring **Dr. William J. Cooper, Boyd Professor, LSU.** Dr. Cooper’s lecture called “The Concept of Honor in the Antebellum South.” Free.



Campers from the WBR Museum’s Blast from the Past summer camp. The campers experienced what life was like during the Civil War through hands-on activities, crafts, cooking, music, games, projects and historical re-enactments.

### 2011 Teachers Institute at the WBR Museum

West Baton Rouge teachers went to school on the Civic War during the WBR Museum’s fifth annual Teachers Institute, held on July 12, 13, and 14. The theme was Teaching the U.S. Civil War. Guest speakers included Ray Berthelot, Chief of Interpretation for the Louisiana State Parks; Kenyota Combs, who spoke about Frederick Douglass’s connection to Louisiana politics; LSU professor Dr. Gaines Foster, who spoke on “The South since the Civil War”; and Alecia P. Long, who spoke on General Order No. 28, Benjamin Butler, the Woman order and historical memory.

The group of 20 in-service teachers went on field trips to local Civil War historic sites and learned about 19th century customs. Information presented in the institute can be applied across the curriculum.

The program was designed through a partnership with the West Baton Rouge Parish Schools and the West Baton Rouge Museum. Support also came from the West Baton Rouge Historical Association; American Gateway Bank; Deloach Marine Services; LLC, Placid Refining Company, LLC; School Aids, School Time, and private donations.

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:

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



## WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH GOVERNMENT

# Voters to decide if bars to close at 10 p.m. on Sundays

Parish voters will be asked on the October 22 election ballot to vote on an amendment to parish ordinances that will require all bars and nightclubs to close at 10 p.m. on Sundays. Presently the bars can stay open until 2 a.m. on Mondays.

The proposition on the ballot states that the 10 p.m. Sunday closing time will not apply to Super Bowl Sundays, a Sunday followed by Memorial Day, Labor Day, July 4, or New Year's Day. Additionally, if the Sunday is July 4, then restaurants, grocery stores, drugstores, off-track betting parlors and truck stop casinos may remain open and sell alcoholic beverages after 10 p.m.

The West Baton Rouge Council unanimously adopted the call for the election at its July 12 meeting. If approved by the voters, the closing would only apply to bars in unincorporated areas outside of towns and cities in the parish. The City of Port Allen Council approved the same proposition at its meeting on July 14 so that the 10 p.m. Sunday closing would be enacted within its city limits if approved

by voters. Presently, bars and nightclubs are not allowed in the Town of Brusly.

The Parish Council had voted at its May 12 meeting to enact the Sunday night 10 p.m. closure because of several recent incidents of late Sunday night and early Monday morning violence, including shootings, at bars by people living outside the parish. Surrounding parishes have laws requiring bars to either close on Sundays or, if opened, to close by 10 p.m., so West Baton Rouge Parish bars are filled on late Sunday nights with patrons from surrounding parishes and West Baton Rouge.

However, The Parish Council was forced to recind the action at its June 23 meeting because it didn't comply with state law. The Council decided to take the matter to parish voters and let them decide if they want bars to close at 10 p.m. on Sundays.

The October 22 ballot will also include numerous elections, including governor, legislature, parish president, sheriff, and Parish Council.



**DRAINAGE PROJECT CONTINUES...**A drainage improvement project that includes installing two huge drain pipes under La. Hwy. 1 near Wal-Mart is well underway. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is handling the project, which is part of the comprehensive plan to improve drainage in the area from Brusly to the Intracoastal Waterway. Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot said this drainage project and one already completed in the Lynndale area off La. Hwy. 1 should significantly improve drainage in that area.



**WORK UNDERWAY ON PORT ALLEN COMMUNITY CENTER...**The Port Allen Community Center is now closed for public use during the renovation of the facility, which began in July. The \$450,000 facelift includes a new side entrance, addition of a lift door at the back, removing bleachers (shown above) and dressing out the walls with wood wainscoting, replacing flooring and lighting and repainting. The project is expected to be completed by November 1.

### GET A PLAN...

As hurricane season ramps up, residents are reminded that they are responsible for the care and needs of themselves and their families for the first 72 hours after a hurricane. West Baton Rouge Emergency Preparedness Director Deano Moran said residents can get information about hurricane preparedness and developing a family game plan for hurricanes at [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org), which was developed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.



### Compost bins for sale

Stop throwing out those banana peels and onion rinds! Residents can now purchase discounted compost bins through Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful for \$30. KWBRB has partnered with the East Baton Rouge recycling program to get more organic waste into productive use and out of landfills by offering compost bins at discount prices. Instructions on how to compost are included with the bin. Call 490-8549 if interested in purchasing a bin. Checks only. In the photo, Debbie Gremillion is shown purchasing a compost bin from KWBRB.



### Football field being revived...

The partially demolished football field bleachers at Port Allen Middle School are shown above. Once the stadium bleachers and lighting demolition have been completed, work will begin on re-sodding the field to make way for a new football field. The \$80,000 project is a cooperative endeavor of the West Baton Rouge Parks & Recreation District and the WBR School Board. Other work includes removing the existing grass and weeds, putting in an irrigation system and re-sodding the football field, and adding aluminum bleachers. The new field will be used by the Parks & Recreation Department's football league, and by Holy Family School for its Sunday games.

## Register now for fall sports leagues

### West Baton Rouge Soccer Association

Fall Season registration is now through August 21  
Ages 4-15 (born August 1, 1996 through July 31, 2008)  
Register online at [www.wbrsoccer.com](http://www.wbrsoccer.com)

### Westside Bulldog full contact football

Ages 7-12  
Fall season registration is now through August 25  
At the Port Allen Community Center  
For more information, call 336-2423

### WBR Youth Flag Football

Fall season registration is now through August 29  
Ages 5 to 10  
At the Port Allen Community Center  
For more information, call 336-2423



# TOWN OF BRUSLY

## It's smooth sailing on Brusly roads

Have you ever noticed that the Town of Brusly has very good roads? That is because of an annual road maintenance program of consistently resurfacing roads that has been going on for many years, said Mayor Joey Normand.

"We believe in preventative maintenance, and every year we allocate up to \$250,000 in our budget for road work," he explained. The town has all the roads plugged into a chart system that helps them decide which roads are to be overlaid each year. Officials use three factors to make the final determinations of which roads will be overlaid. They are how long it has been since the road has been overlaid, the condition of the road, and the amount of traffic on the road.

"We have a systematic way of maintaining roads. Every year we take off 2 inches of certain roadways, and apply new asphalt," he said. "The town has good roads because the decision was made many years ago to do this preventative maintenance and it has been continued year after year. We believe in preventative maintenance rather than reconstruction of roads. If you wait until a road is in bad shape to resurface it, then you have the expense

of work to the road base. In the long run, we save money because we haven't had to do base work to our roads in many years."

Normand also noted that the town's culvert program has also stabilized roads and helps to maintain their sub-grade foundation. Under the culvert program, the town will install culverts in road-side ditches for a resident if the resident pays half the cost of the culverts. "Most people do it because it beautifies their yard, and they don't have to deal with a ditch any more, but it also helps to maintain the roads better," he said.

"It's not an accident that people don't hit potholes in our streets," Normand said. "This is something we've done for 20 years and it's very effective and is a prudent use of taxpayer money in a systematic manner." He noted that because the town's road project is often considered a small job for contractors, the town will work with contractors to allow them extra time on the job so that they can use it as "fill work" around other bigger projects. This also saves the town money.

Brusly will start its 2011 road improvement program this fall.

Street List															
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Allene													OL		
Allene Ext.											SS,OL				
Anita														OL	
Blanchard					OL, F										
Bourg					OL, F										
Bourgeois								OL							
Courtney				CP, OL, F											OL
Elaine															
First					OL, F										
Floyd															OL
Gleason															OL
Gwin					OL										
Hebert					CP,										
Irma					CP, OL, F										OL
Julien								OL							
Labauve N.													OL		
Labauve S.						NEW									
Landry						OL, F									CP,OL
Lee					CP, OL, F										
Lejeune								OL							
Live Oak East													OL		
Live Oak West								CP, OL, F							OL
Margaret															OL
Marionneaux															OL
Marsley								OL, F							
Ory					OL, F										
Pecan					OL, F										
Richard															CP,OL
River Oaks						OL, F									CP,OL
Short								OL, F							
St. Francis E.									CP, OL, F						OL
St. John						OL, F									
St. Luke									OL						
St. Mark										OL					CP,OL
St. Mary						OL, F									
St. Matthew									CP, OL, F						
Tullier															OL
Venzule															CP,OL

Chart showing the last overlay and condition of streets in Brusly. This chart helps Brusly officials make decisions about each year's street overlay program.

# TOWN OF ADDIS

## Addis Historical Park nearing completion

The Town of Addis now has a beautiful and functional town square with the addition of the Addis Historical Park. Mayor Carroll Bourgeois said the park is near completion, with only the addition of landscaping, picnic tables and clean-up left.

"The park is open to the public and we want residents to use it for picnics, recreation and special events like family reunions," said Mayor Bourgeois. The park includes a large covered pavilion with seating, a walkway called Historical Lane around the site, "pods" that will include picnic tables, a beautiful historic period clock, green space, fencing, parking and restrooms. Bourgeois said signage will be put up along Historical Lane with historical information about the town. It also includes an old train car, a salute to the town's past as an important railroad station.

"The town funded this project in phases," Bourgeois explained. "It totaled about \$485,000, but its value to the town is much higher. We want people to gather, we want to continue to have a sense of community, and for new residents to feel welcome here, and this facility provides a place for that."



## 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 SCHOOL SYSTEM

# Individual student data to help teachers understand students' strengths and weaknesses

West Baton Rouge teachers will have a powerful new tool to know the strengths and weaknesses of every student in the coming school year, thanks to brainstorming by the school system educational leaders and the expertise of a school system graduate.

Every school from 3rd through 12th grades now has a Testing Data Analysis Worksheet (TDAW) for the school, every class, and every student in the school. The student worksheet provides, in a single page, a breakdown of students' performance on a variety of standardized state tests, including a breakdown of sub-test scores in each core teaching area.

For example, the breakdown provides not only the students' scores in math, but also how that student performed in every sub-category of math testing, such as algebra, measurement, data analysis, etc... The worksheet provides the year-to-year data from 3rd to the student's present grade.

This is the first time teachers have been provided such in-depth analysis of students in one comprehensive sheet. In the past, teachers or administrators had to pour through numerous files to get this data on each student, and then had to develop the comparisons themselves, which was a very time consuming process. The TDAW has literally done hundreds of hours of work for teachers and school administrators on student scores.

"We began brainstorming because Superintendent (David) Corona recognized that the our school system's state testing scores were flat, and he challenged all of us to think of ways that

we can raise the bar for our students," said Tammy Seneca, Supervisor of Information Systems and Educational Technology.

"I knew there had to be a better way to pull together the data to help teachers," said Seneca. "Cody (Sarradet), our boy wonder, developed the program." Sarradet is the data specialist and provides desktop support for schools.

Sarradet noted, "Many people don't realize that the Excel program has capabilities for programming. I took the state data on students and programmed it into Excel to pull specific testing

information on students." The TDAW was then put on a secure internet site so that teachers and school administrators have this data available on-line.

Seneca, Sarradet and other school system administrators are meeting with the leadership team of each school, and will also meet with the faculties of each school in August to explain this new tool.

Principal Callie Kershaw of Brusly Middle School was the first to see the data for her school and students. "It is wonderful because the data is so well organized and provides breakdowns of classes and students that will really help

teachers see where they need to focus their instruction," she noted.

"In the past we had general summaries. This gives us a lot more insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each class and student, so it gives teachers a lot more information to work with," she said.

Seneca said the charts on the TDAW include the core competencies – science, English language arts, social studies and math, and because it provides test scores on so many sub-categories, it is easy to see where students are making gains or are behind in each area.

"We've done a good job of getting our students to the basic and satisfactory levels in testing. Now it is time to challenge our students to get them into the higher levels of mastery and excellence," said Superintendent David Corona. "The TDAW will help teachers drill down with laser focus in students' areas of weakness."

The TDAW shows school system leaders which classes overall are excelling in specific subject areas, so that they can have teachers in those classes share the strategies used with other teachers.

Sarradet is presently developing a different TDAW to compare kids' grades in Headstart through grade 3 because they don't take standardized state tests.

Seneca noted that other school systems have paid \$20,000 to \$30,000 for systems to provide the data that the TDAW provided for West Baton Rouge. "The program has really revitalized everyone who's been exposed to it," she said. "We're very excited about the possibilities that it provides."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: Discarding records where n < 15

Grade	n=47	n=65	n=73	n=85	n=107
Scaled	06-07 LEAP	07-08 ILEAP	08-09 ILEAP	09-10 ILEAP	10-11 LEAP
ELA SS	325	295	290	298	321
Math SS	321	294	281	288	312
Sci SS	307	294	294	305	311
Social SS	312	301	302	314	312

Grade	n=47	n=65	n=73	n=85	n=107
FIA	06-07 LEAP	07-08 ILEAP	08-09 ILEAP	09-10 ILEAP	10-11 LEAP
Standard 1	57	55	55	59	71
Standard 2	65	56	66	60	70
Standard 3	68	64	58	56	71
Standard 5	68	76	69	72	69
Standard 6	60	68	0	67	49
Standard 7	64	57	56	57	60

Grade	n=47	n=65	n=73	n=85	n=107
Math	06-07 LEAP	07-08 ILEAP	08-09 ILEAP	09-10 ILEAP	10-11 LEAP
Category 1	62	53	47	50	45
Category 2	69	68	45	42	61
Category 3	73	45	66	35	48
Category 4	67	76	64	53	57
Category 5	61	67	60	60	59
Category 6	60	55	48	56	56

**Example of part of a TDAW for a West Baton Rouge student. It not only gives overall test scores, but drills down into scores on sub-categories to pinpoint students strengths and weaknesses.**

### Scaled Score Comparison

Year	ELA SS	Math SS	Sci SS	Social SS
06-07 LEAP	325	321	307	312
07-08 ILEAP	295	294	294	301
08-09 ILEAP	290	281	294	302
09-10 ILEAP	298	288	305	314
10-11 LEAP	321	312	311	312

### English Language Arts

Year	Standard 1	Standard 2	Standard 3	Standard 5	Standard 6	Standard 7
06-07 LEAP	57	65	68	68	60	64
07-08 ILEAP	55	56	64	76	68	57
08-09 ILEAP	55	66	58	69	0	56
09-10 ILEAP	59	60	56	72	67	57
10-11 LEAP	71	70	71	69	49	60

### Mathematics

Year	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	Category 6
06-07 LEAP	62	69	73	67	61	60
07-08 ILEAP	53	68	45	76	67	55
08-09 ILEAP	47	45	66	64	60	48
09-10 ILEAP	50	42	35	53	60	56
10-11 LEAP	45	61	48	57	59	56

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

<b>August 10 &amp; 11</b>	<b>Teacher inservice</b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b>First day of school for students</b>
<b>September 5</b>	<b>Labor Day holiday</b>
<b>September 12</b>	<b>Progress reports issued</b>
<b>September 14</b>	<b>Teacher inservice, Early dismissal at all schools</b>
<b>October 18</b>	<b>1st Nine Weeks report cards issued</b>
<b>October 20</b>	<b>Early dismissal for elementary &amp; middle schools</b>
<b>November 15</b>	<b>Progress reports issued</b>
<b>November 21-25</b>	<b>Thanksgiving holiday</b>
<b>December 19</b>	<b>Early dismissal for high schools</b>
<b>December 20</b>	<b>Early dismissal for all schools</b>
<b>December 21 - January 4</b>	<b>Winter break</b>

## 4th graders now back at Chamberlin

When the third grade students left Chamberlin Elementary for the summer they thought they would be heading to Devall Middle Elementary this fall as 4th graders. However, the West Baton Rouge School Board has decided to make a grade change at Chamberlin and Devall.

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, Chamberlin Elementary School will include grades Kindergarten through 4th grade; and Devall will include grades 5 through 8. "The 4th grade is a very significant year for students in terms of state testing," explained Sharon Lair, Associate Superintendent for Instruction. "They take the LEAP test, which they must pass to move on to the 5th grade. Having them move to another school is a big change and we felt that the students would benefit more by having the consistency of a school and teachers they know, along with the additional literacy focus,

at Chamberlin." The approximately 45 students going back to Chamberlin have been notified, and the addition will bring the school's enrollment total to approximately 280 students. Chamberlin Principal Joni Nabors noted that she and the entire Chamberlin staff are excited about the change, and the parents and students are also pleased with the change.

"We felt that our teachers know the students' strengths and weaknesses so they can better address them in this critical year," Nabors said. In addition, the students get another year of intensive reading instruction. "The only way this move has been possible is because of the dedication, commitment and passion of our teachers on campus," said Nabors. "Our teachers have embraced the change."



## WEST BATON ROUGE ASSESSOR



# Understanding your property taxes

One of the most important words in figuring tax bills is "millages," and it is a word that is unfamiliar and confusing to many people, said Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan.

"A mill is one-tenth of one percent and is the means in which property taxes are generated for services provided by government agencies," Altazan said. "West Baton Rouge now has 89.89 mills of property taxes."

Still confused? You aren't alone, but perhaps an example will help. "If a property is valued at \$10,000, then the 89.89 mills will mean a tax bill on that property of \$89.89," Altazan said. Here's another example: if a home is valued at \$85,000, then it has an assessed value of \$8,500 (10% of value) for tax purposes. However, Louisiana provides a homestead exemption on the first \$75,000 in value of a home, so the assessed value drops to \$1,000 (\$8,500-\$7,500 = \$1,000). The millage of 89.89 mills is then applied to that \$1,000 for a property tax bill of \$89.89.



Millages are levied against the assessed value of homes, businesses, land, and business property, such as inventory, furniture and equipment. "State law requires that our office reassess property every four years to adjust value to the market and 2012 is a re-evaluation year," explained Altazan.

Noting some good news for property owners, Altazan said that based on current property values and economic conditions, he expects little change in property values when re-evaluation takes place next year.

The break-down of millages in West Baton Rouge includes: law enforcement, 16.10 mills; parish-wide services (Council on Aging, Health Unit, Library, Museum,

Community Center, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Recreation, and Assessment District), 27.16 mills; school board, 35.39 mills; Atchafalaya Basin Levee District, 4.04 mills; Drainage Districts, 7.20 mills; Water Works District 1 in Addis, 3.23 mills; City of Port Allen maintenance, 7.37; and City of Port Allen police, 5.27 mills.

## CITY OF PORT ALLEN



# Abundance of grants helps city's infrastructure

The City of Port Allen has received more than \$1.5 million in grants for a variety of infrastructure projects in recent months. The projects include water system work, sewer rehabilitation and drainage improvements.

### \$698,500 FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

The biggest news is the town's recent notification that it received a \$698,500 grant to overhaul the water tower on Avenue D. Mayor R.J. Loupe said the tower is currently operating at half capacity because of its condition, so the project is sorely needed. He said the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant will fund a variety of improvements in the tower that will result in both much better water pressure and water quality for residents in that area.

### \$500,000 FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

The city has also received \$500,000 for drainage improvements at the corner of Burbridge Street and La. Hwy. 1 through the Louisiana Recovery Authority. "The culverts in that area are off from the state drainage of La. Hwy. 1, so drainage is partially blocked in the area," explained Loupe. "This project will line up and coordinate the state and city drainage and will greatly improve drainage in that area." The project is expected to begin soon.

### SEWER REHABILITATION SYSTEM

The city has a long term plan to upgrade its 55 to 60 year old sewer system and one project just completed is the installation of a sewer line inside the old sewer

line on Jefferson Avenue and part of A & B Streets. The project is part of phase one of a \$2 million sewer and drainage improvement program that is on-going.

Another sewer project includes improvements being made to accommodate a new business in the city's Industrial Park. Loupe said Kent's Trucking is moving into the facility and the improvements were necessary to get the new business. "New businesses are great for the city – they bring jobs and revenue here," Loupe said.

He also noted that an O'Riley's Auto Parts is expected to locate off La. Hwy. 1 soon.

### WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

Finally, the city has received a Water Enhancement Fund grant to replace the water line at Calendula, Bluebell and Avenue C Streets. This project is in the design stage and construction is expected to begin later this year.

**HUGE CROWD FOR 4TH FEST...** Between 8,000 to 10,000 people converged on the Old Ferry Landing Park to enjoy 4th Fest and see fireworks on the Mississippi River on July 4. The annual festival is co-sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Parks and Recreation Department, the WBR Convention and Tourism Bureau and the City of Port Allen.





## PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

# Port's public export grain elevator plans expansion with Louis Dreyfus Commodities

Louis Dreyfus Commodities became the new operator of the Port's grain elevator and associated facilities on June 15, 2011. In February 2011, the board of commissioners of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge voted unanimously to award the contract to the Wilton, Connecticut-based company.

As a vital player in the global food chain, LDCommodities is a world leader in the processing of agricultural products and the merchandising of a diverse range of commodities.

LDCommodities intends to make substantial capital improvements to the Port Allen grain export facility. Dreyfus has plans to invest between \$75 to \$100 million to upgrade the existing public grain elevator and storage facilities at the Port's grain dock, elevator and storage facilities to improve the elevator's efficiencies. The expansion, rehabilitation and upgrade to the facility will take place over a 12-month period and is expected to be completed in November of 2012.

"With the expected increase in exports, and the global demand for grain in the future, LDCommodities intends to make the Port Allen Export grain elevator our flagship facility and it will become the base of the company's Mississippi River Operations", said Mike Mandl, Director of Export Operations with LDCommodities. According to Dreyfus officials, there is potential to bring in more than 5 million metric tons of grain a year at the upgraded facilities, which is the equivalent of 100 Panamax vessels or 36,000 barges. Today, Louis Dreyfus Commodities has \$5.7 billion in fixed assets and about 34,000 employees in more than 55 countries.

Jay Hardman, port Executive Director said "the board of commissioners and staff extends their appreciation to Cargill, Inc. for their service to the Port of Greater Baton



Louisiana Dreyfus Commodities became the new operator for the Port of Greater Baton Rouge Export Grain Elevator in June 2011. The grain elevator and dock will undergo a 12 month expansion estimated to be between \$ 75-100 million. The project will create over 100 construction jobs, 45 permanent jobs, and many indirect jobs for the marine industry and will provide increased port activity and ship calls.

Rouge over the past 55 years." The port's board of commissioners was faced with difficult business decisions that affected Louisiana's agriculture community, the global supply chain of grain commodities, the port and many other indirect jobs connected with the operation of the grain elevator and agriculture. Mike Strain, Louisiana's Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry, the Louisiana Farm Bureau, Senator Rob Marionneaux, Representative Major Thibaut and the area's regional farmers all played an important role as the port moved through this public process of selecting the operator for the area's public export grain elevator." noted Hardman.

Larry Johnson, president of the Port Commission, said, "This upgrade to the public export grain elevator is a win-win situation for everyone; Louisiana farmers, maritime industry, and the port will benefit. The project is expected to add an additional 100 construction jobs, over 45 permanent jobs and more ships and port activity."

## WEST BATON ROUGE TOURISM

# Video completed to promote WBR tourism, festivals



A video highlighting West Baton Rouge's strategic location for tourists and businesses, along with its many festivals, has been developed by the West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The five-minute video shows scenes from the following festivals: Kite Fest Louisiana, 4th Fest, Oldies But Goodies Fest and Smokin' Oldies BBQ Cook Off, Sugar Fest, Veterans Parade, and Reflections of the Season.

The video also promotes the proximity of the parish to downtown Baton Rouge, swamp tours in the Atchafalaya Basin and Plantation Country. In addition it boasts the parish's spacious conference center accommodations for small and large business functions, along with the economical lodging options within walking

distance of the Conference Center, and its easy accessibility to I-10.

The video also promotes in-parish attractions and facilities, including the multi-purpose center, Addis Museum, State Capitol Dragway and Old Ferry Landing park with views of the Mississippi River and downtown Baton Rouge.

Tourism Director Sharon Stam said the video was produced with grant money obtained from the BP oil spill fund controlled by the state Office of Tourism. She said the video will be used to promote the parish with tour operators, travel writers and sponsors for parish festivals. The video will also be uploaded to the parish's tourism website: [www.westbatonrouge.net](http://www.westbatonrouge.net).

She noted that additional videos to promote each festival are also in the works.

# Oldies But Goodies Fest

**September 17 & 18, 2011**  
 West Baton Rouge  
 Tourist Information & Conference Center  
 2750 North Westport Drive  
 Port Allen, Louisiana 70767  
 Interstate 10 to Exit #151  
 No ice chest or pets allowed

**State Championship BBQ Cook-Off**

**Live Entertainment All Day!**

**Saturday**  
12-6p.m.

BBQ Plates sold by Dream Day Foundation



**Rougon**  
playing 12-4p.m.



**To register for car show or for more information call 1-800-654-9701**

**Sunday**  
12-6p.m.

Costume, Twist, Jitterbug, & Hula Hoop Contest



**Na Na Sha**  
Sunday - 12 noon



**Vince Vance and the Valiants**  
Sunday - 3:00p.m.



**Poker Run benefiting Dream Day Foundation**

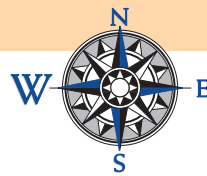


**Antique Car Show on Sunday**  
Awards for Top 10 & People's Choice









# WEST BATON ROUGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## What's YOUR BUSINESS' game plan?

While the summer months find many businesses re-grouping their inventory and thinking about business plan projections for 2012, some don't take enough time to REALLY evaluate their hurricane/disaster plans.

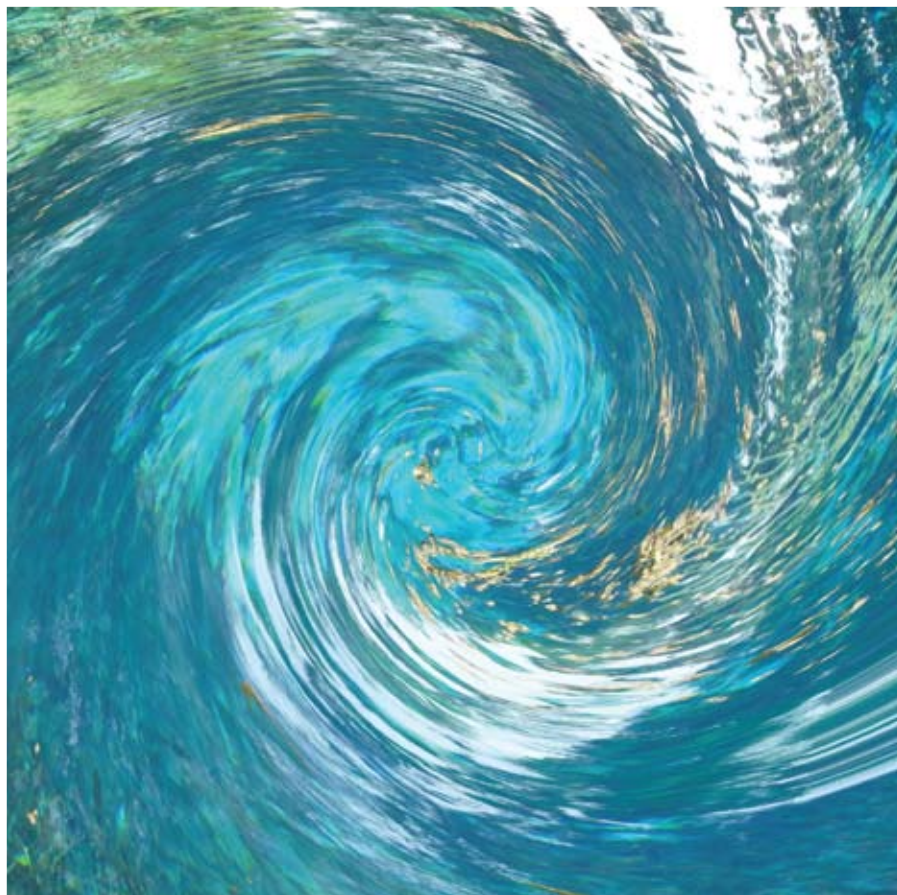
So, the West Baton Rouge Chamber asks you: What's YOUR BUSINESS' GAME PLAN as it applies to hurricane season and do you know about these programs that are available to assist your business?

The Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (LA BEOC) is a joint partnership between Louisiana Economic Development (LED), the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), the National Incident Management Systems & Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) Institute at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at Louisiana State University.



The LA BEOC supports the coordination of activities and resources of businesses and volunteer organizations in Louisiana and across the nation to improve response and self-sufficiency, reduce reliance on FEMA and other federal assistance in order to maximize business, industry and economic stabilization, returning the business environment to normal operations as quickly as possible.

The LA BEOC will work with businesses to improve their disaster preparedness; improve communication with business and industry before, during and after disaster events; rapidly develop sound economic-impact estimates to support decision making and requests for business assistance; coordinate response efforts to assist businesses in their efforts to return to normal operations as quickly as possible; and help coordinate post disaster economic recovery.



### WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS?

**Receive immediate notification of state and parish decisions that may affect your business.** These notifications (evacuation, road closure, etc.) are pertinent to your business disaster plan and employee safety. Rather than searching for information online or other forms of media, the most up to date information will be sent to your business immediately.

**Receive notification of emerging state needs.** As needs arise during the response and recovery from an emergency, you will be notified via email, text message, or voice call (depending on which you choose) of these needs and asked to respond via the LA BEOC web portal. These notifications are designed to engage businesses throughout the state to stimulate our economy.

**Situational Awareness:** Through the LA BEOC portal, businesses can report post storm status, recovery needs, readiness to participate, economic impact, and supply chain demands. By gauging the situational awareness of local businesses, officials can make informed decisions and avoid duplication or conflict of efforts from different sectors.

**How do I register? Is my information safe?** To become an LA BEOC business member, go to [www.labeoc.org](http://www.labeoc.org) and click on the Register button and provide contact information, as well as details about the products and services your business might be able to provide to support the state's disaster response. Once you are registered, you may utilize all features of the web portal and be notified by your preferred method of communication of a new posting to the site. Your information will be kept private, and will not be shared publicly except as required by law.

### GET A GAMEPLAN:

**Get A Gameplan** is a program for businesses and families under the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. This website: [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org) features business and family evacuation plans. Also listed are emergency hotline numbers that all businesses should share with their employees and their families to stay in tune for the latest information during critical weather/disaster times. This website also features an I-Tune and I-Phone application for evacuation information.

### WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH'S PLAN:

The West Baton Rouge Office of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security is a department within the West Baton Rouge Parish Council. Anthony "Deano" Moran is the Director of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security. The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security have developed a parish-wide Emergency Operations Plan

in accordance with state and federal guidelines. This plan provides guidance for the various agencies, municipalities and departments within West Baton Rouge Parish, and agencies outside of the Parish of West Baton Rouge. The plan details emergency assignments before, during and following any declared emergency. This plan sets forth a detailed Parish program for preparation against, operation during, and relief and recovery following disasters as provided by Parish, State and Federal statutes, as well as other related or applicable emergency authorities or directives.

**Register your business NOW!**  
**Business EXPO...**  
**Thursday, September 8, 3-7 p.m.**  
*A joint business networking event with the West Baton Rouge and Iberville Chambers of Commerce*  
**Call WBR Chamber for registration forms and information – 225-383-3140**

### AUGUST MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

State of the Parish address

By WBR Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot

and

Address by U.S. Sen. David Vitter

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

11:30 p.m. - registration

12 Noon – Lunch & program

RESERVATION REQUIRED: 225-383-3140 or [bonnie@wbrchamber.org](mailto:bonnie@wbrchamber.org)

