

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 27 – Feast on the Levee,
St. John Catholic Church, Brusly

Nov. 6 – Severe Weather/Storm
Spotter Training, 7 pm, call 346-
1577 for info

Nov. 8 – Live at 5 on the
Westside, Addis

Nov. 9 – Advancing Equality for
Women exhibit opens, Museum

Nov. 10 – Veterans on Parade

Nov. 14 – GIS Day, WBR Library

Nov. 16 – Safety Saturday,
Brusly

Nov. 21 – Celebrating La.
Authors, Library

Nov. 22 – Live at 5 on the
Westside, Addis

Nov. 23 – WBR Art Show
reception, Library

Nov. 25 – Port Allen Community
Prayer Breakfast

Dec. 6 – Live at 5 on the
Westside, Addis

Dec. 13-14 – Christmas on
Court Street, Port Allen

Dec. 19 – Port Allen Senior
Citizens Holiday Dinner

Dec. 20-21 – Reflections of
the Season, WBR Visitors Center

Parish says thanks to 7 of 9 Council members leaving office in January

West Baton Rouge Parish will have seven new members of its 9-member Parish Council in January. Most of the seven members leaving the Council were term-limited out of their Council positions.

West Baton Rouge Parish President Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot won re-election in the October 12 election, and will begin his fifth consecutive term in January. He took office in 2004. “I want to extend my thanks and the thanks of the citizens of West Baton Rouge to these out-going Council members for all their hard work and effort on behalf of their constituents,” Berthelot said. “This is a significant turn-over of Council seats, and the Council members served with honor in a difficult job.”

The only two Council members who are staying on the board are Kirk Allain in District 1, and Chris “Fish” Kershaw in District 2. Shown at right are the Council members who will be leaving office.



Naomi Fair
District III



Ricky Loupe
District IV



Charlene Gordon
District V



Phil Porto, Jr.
District VI



Gary Spillman
District VII



Barry Huggins
District VIII



Edward Robertson
District IX



Berthelot says thanks, prepares for new term

Dear WBR residents,

Thank you very much for re-electing me as your Parish President. I am humbled by your trust in me, and I promise to continue working hard to moving our great parish forward. I also want to thank my administrative team and all of our parish employees, who do a great job serving you every day, and have made my job easier.

I am excited about our future in West Baton Rouge Parish. The long-awaited Hwy. 415 connector route will become a reality, we continue to see residential and commercial growth, and we are addressing infrastructure needs with several projects underway and in the planning stages. I will also persist in lobbying and working toward a solution to our bridge transportation issues. Again, thank you for allowing me to continue serving you.



Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot
WBR Parish President

Parish President Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

WBR PARISH COUNCIL - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, www.wbrcouncil.org

WBR PARISH SCHOOL BOARD - Committee meetings - 2nd Tuesday of month, 5 p.m. School Board meetings - 3rd Wednesday of month, 5 p.m., School Board office 225-343-8309, www.wbrschools.net

WBR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION - Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of month, 5:30 p.m., Council meeting room, Parish Council Building.

WBR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS - Meets 3rd Tuesday of month. 5 p.m., Council meeting room in Parish Council Building.

TOWN OF ADDIS - Meets 1st Wednesday of month, 6 p.m., Addis Town Hall. Phone: 225-687-4844, www.addisla.org

CITY OF PORT ALLEN - Committee meetings - 1st Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Council meetings - 2nd Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Port Allen City Hall 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., Brusly Town Hall - 225-749-2909, www.bruslyla.com

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Upcoming activities at Museum

November 2 – January 5 – EXHIBIT - One Half of the People - A photographic exhibit from the National Archives.

November 10 – WBR “Veterans on Parade” - 1:30 pm - The parade will conclude with a ceremony, reception, and live musical entertainment at the WBR Museum. FREE.

November 10, 4 – 5 pm – Ole Time Music Acoustic Jam following Veterans on Parade Ceremony– second Sunday open jam sessions. Musicians are welcome to bring acoustic instruments. FREE

November 16, 11 – 12:30 – Book Club – Sign up to participate, hosted jointly with WBR Library and moderated by Dr. Olivia Pass to discuss the book, *Votes for Women: Women Suffragettes and the Battle for the Ballot*. To sign up and obtain a copy of the book to read in advance, call the library at 225-342-7920. FREE

November 17, 3 – 5 pm – Le Jam – Join the

CFMA for third Sunday jam sessions to play Cajun music, listen, or dance. FREE

November 21, 4 – 7 pm - Historical Happy Hour – Every third Thursday, the drinks are on you and the history is on us! Come to the museum after hours to explore exhibits and enjoy changing monthly entertainment. FREE

December 8 – Holiday Open House, 2 – 5PM – Enjoy an afternoon celebrating the season at the museum. FREE.

December 8, 3 – 5 pm – Ole Time Music Acoustic Jam – FREE

December 15, 3 – 5 pm – Le Jam – Join the CFMA for third Sunday jam sessions to play Cajun music, listen, or dance. FREE

December 19, 4 – 7 pm - Historical Happy Hour – Come to the museum after hours to explore exhibits and enjoy changing monthly entertainment such as trivia, live music, or lectures. FREE

One half of people exhibit opens in November

The West Baton Rouge Museum will open a new exhibition from the National Archives, **One Half of the People: Advancing Equality for Women** on November 9.

At the founding of our country, women’s roles were rigidly defined and women were generally excluded from political and, in many ways, public life. Enslaved women were excluded entirely. Considered under the protection and authority of their

husbands long into the 19th century, most women could not vote, own property, make contracts, go to court, or control money they earned.

From the decades-long campaign for voting rights to expanding social and economic equality through



legislation, and being recognized as citizens, this exhibit explores how those before us obtained the rights and privileges of citizenship.

Visitors will explore: 1) how a diverse group of suffragists who supported women’s right to vote fought for more than 70 years using many different strategies; 2) how women continued to seek equality after the 19th Amendment; and 3) profiles on 11 women and how they pushed boundaries of what was accepted and expected of women. This exhibit runs through January 5.

Variety of programs set for fall season

Friday, November 1 - Memory Screening from Alzheimer’s Services

Alzheimer’s Services of the Capital Area will offer free, confidential Memory Screenings to individuals from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. A memory screening is not used to diagnose any particular illness but can alleviate the fear of the unknown. For more information, contact Luis Interiano at (225) 342-7920, ext. 230.



Wednesday, November 6 - iPad and iPhone Tips and Tricks

Join us every first Wednesday of month at 10 a.m. for iPad and iPhone Tips and Tricks. Bring your device and come prepared with questions. For more information, please call Adult Services Librarian Luis Interiano at 225-342-7920, ext. 230 or email linteriano@wbrplibrary.us.

Thursday, November 7 - SNAP Assistance

Do you need assistance filling out a SNAP (Food Stamp) application? One-on-one help is available by a representative from the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month.

Wednesday, November 13 - Ask-A-Lawyer

A representative from the Baton Rouge Bar Association will be available to answer your legal questions on the second Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the West Baton Rouge Library. Walk-ins welcome. Criminal cases will not be addressed. For more information, please call Adult Services Librarian Luis Interiano at 225-342-7920, ext. 230 or email linteriano@wbrplibrary.us.

Saturday, November 16 - Library Book Club at the WBR Museum

Join the WBR Library Book Club at the Museum for a special scholar-led discussion. The event will coincide with the museum’s exhibit from the National Archives: “One Half of the People: Advancing Equality for Women.”

Saturday, November 16 - Writing Workshop

Do you want to be a writer? Are you a writer looking for inspiration and support? Join the brand-new WBR Library Writing Workshop on the third Saturday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, please call Adult Services Librarian Luis Interiano at 225-342-7920, ext. 230 or email linteriano@wbrplibrary.us.

Thursday, November 21 - Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group

Every third Thursday of the month from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Library meeting room.

Thursday, November 21 - Celebrating Louisiana Authors: Leo Honeycutt

Join the West Side Women’s Club for its annual Celebrating Louisiana Authors program featuring Leo Honeycutt at 10 a.m. Honeycutt is the author of several acclaimed nonfiction books, including *Gerry Lane: An American Success Story*, *The Clarke Williams Story*, and *Edwin Edwards: Governor of Louisiana*, for which he won the Louisiana Literary Award. For more information, call 225-342-7920, ext. 230 or email linteriano@wbrplibrary.us.

Saturday, November 23 - West Baton Rouge Art Show Reception

The annual art show reception is from 2 to 4 p.m. in the meeting room. Artwork will remain on display until Saturday, December 14. For more information, please call Lauren Jung at 225-342-7920, ext. 223.

Library Book Club

The West Baton Rouge Library Book Club meets the third Saturday of every month in the Library’s Meeting Room from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles.



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.



Williams & Lee Community Center complete!

Officials gather at the ribbon-cutting of the new Williams and Lee Park Community Center on October 15. The new community center is now available for booking by calling the WBR Recreation Department at 225.336.2423. The \$149,000 community center is more conducive for family events, reunions, parties and receptions than the pool house. The center was built by parish crews, with the exception of pouring the concrete slab, which provided significant saving for local taxpayers.

Biddy basketball registration underway

Registration for WBR Parks and Recreation Biddy Basketball is underway, and will continue through November 25. Biddy Basketball is open to boys and girls age 4 to 12. Registration is \$30, and games will begin in January 2020. For more information, call Parks & Recreation at 225.336.2423.

Erwinville fitness group has new trainer

The Erwinville Fitness Group has a new trainer and some new times and days. The new trainer is Selena Strong. The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 pm, and on Saturday mornings. It meets at the Erwinville Community Center. For more information, contact Selena Strong at 225.938.4615.

Drainage project planning underway

Design work on the Stumpy Bayou area drainage project will be completed by February, and the parish has been awarded another \$600,000 for the drainage improvement work, which will begin next Spring. The parish had received a \$238,900 grant for the design work, and put up \$59,275 in parish funds. General areas in which drainage will be improved include Rougon Road, Section Road between Rougon and Bayou Poydras, the Elm Grove / Pecan Grove area, U.S. 190 area around Maxine Street and Higdon Lane, Bayou Poydras between Hwy. 190 and Rosedale Road, and Rosedale Road.

New water well almost complete

The parish's new water well, located near the Louis Mouch Multipurpose Arena, is about 75 percent complete, and work is continuing on construction of a pipeline to the parish's water plant near the Intracoastal Waterway.

Meanwhile, the \$2.5 million project to extend a new water line from the water plant to West St. Francis Street in Brusly is underway. A 20-inch water line will be extended to Emily Drive by the end of January. In addition, a natural gas main has been added from Northline to Riverside Drive in the same water line right-of-way to provide better natural gas pressure at the ends of the parish. Future phases of that project will extend the line to Addis. The parish has already obtained the rights-of-way for the installation of the larger water line. These projects will increase water volume and pressure in the southern part of the parish, and will take at least two years.

Residents invited to open house on GIS technology

West Baton Rouge Parish will celebrate **GIS Day on Thursday, November 14, with an open house at the West Baton Rouge Parish Library from 4 to 8 pm.**

The open house will allow the public to see how parish governmental entities utilize geographic information system (GIS) mapping technology. This technology has been integrated into the day to day operations of the parish to analyze and visualize issues that need to be addressed, such as drainage problems, mosquito control, and also in planning by showing where utility and other lines are located. The technology is also utilized by the 9-1-1 Center to help first responders get to the scene of an emergency more quickly.

In addition to the open house, staff from WBR Parish will also be giving presentations to students at Brusly High School and Port Allen High School on what GIS is and how it can be a career for them.



HHMD collections up over 2018

A total of 318 vehicles with household hazardous materials disposed of them at the Household Hazardous Materials Day event on September 28. The event is co-sponsored by Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful, Iberville Parish, and the Dow Chemical Co., with Dow properly disposing of the materials collected. The 82 volunteers for the event collected 94 pails of paint, 61 old tires, 279 fluorescent bulbs, 42 fire extinguishers, and 3,236 pounds of batteries, and shredded 1,310 pounds of paper!

PUBLIC NOTICE: NATURAL GAS

The purpose of this message is to inform the public that West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas System has buried gas pipelines throughout the gas service area that provide safe reliable energy to its customers. West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas System maintains these pipelines to a high standard and they are considered reliable. A Damage Control Program (line markers) and an Emergency Plan for responding to an emergency situation has been established and WBR Natural Gas System works closely with Fire and Emergency Response Personnel. Prior to any excavation in and around any gas facilities contact either of the numbers below.

One-Call System 1 (800) 272-3020 or 811

Help Us Keep You Safe

How to Recognize a Natural Gas Leak

Natural gas leaks may be detected by one of the following indications on or near our pipelines right-of-way:

1. A gaseous or hydrocarbon odor. (smell of rotten eggs)
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 or trees.)
6. Abnormally dry or hardened soil.
7. Fire apparently coming from the ground or burning above the ground.

CAUTION: Gas that has accumulated in a confined space is subject to **explosion**. Please stay away from immediate area of any suspected gas leak! Never turn on or off switches or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of a gas smell.

NOTE: West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas 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 suspect a natural gas leak or in case of an emergency concerning a West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas main or service line, immediately call: **1-225-336-2406 or 1-225-490-8599.**

Playing it safe with holiday on-line shopping

Don't let fake companies and identity thieves dampen your holiday spirit. Before you click the 'Buy' button this holiday season, check out these tips to help you enjoy safer online shopping.

1. Shop at websites you trust

On the web, some businesses are fabricated by people who just want your credit card information and other personal details. To play it safe, consider doing online business only with retailers you trust and have shopped with before.

2. Check out the business

Did you find the perfect gift on an unfamiliar website? Ask these questions: Does the company interact with a social media following? What do its customer reviews say? Does it have a history of scam reports or complaints at the Better Business Bureau? Contact the business. If there's no email address, phone number, or address for a brick-and-mortar location, it could be a fake company.

3. Beware rock-bottom prices

If a website offers something that looks too good to be true, then it probably is. Compare prices and pictures of the merchandise at similar websites. Rock-bottom prices could be a red flag that the website may exist only to get your personal information.

4. Avoid public Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi networks use public airwaves. With a little tech know-how and the freely available Wi-Fi password at a cafe or business, someone can intercept the data you send and receive while on free



public Wi-Fi. Bottom line: It's never a good idea to shop online or log in to any website while you're connected to public Wi-Fi.

5. Use a VPN

If you must shop online on public Wi-Fi, consider installing and using a VPN — short for "virtual private network" — on all mobile devices and computers before connecting to any Wi-Fi network. A VPN creates an encrypted connection between your smartphones and computers and the VPN server.

6. Create strong passwords

Help keep your account safe by locking it with a strong password. Here are some tips on how:

- Use a complex set of at least 10 lowercase and uppercase numbers, letters, and symbols.
- Don't use personal information that others can

find or guess, such as birthdates, your kids' names, or your favorite color.

- Don't use the same password — however strong — on multiple accounts.

7. Check out website security

If you don't see a small lock icon or the "s" after "http," then the webpage isn't secure. There is no privacy protection attached to these pages, so we suggest you exercise caution before providing your credit card information over these sites.

8. Watch out for email scams

Clicking on emails from unknown senders and unrecognizable sellers could infect your computer with viruses and malware. Delete them, don't click on any links, and don't open any attachments from individuals or businesses you are unfamiliar with.

9. Don't give out too much information

No shopping website will ever need your Social Security number. If you're asked for very personal details, call the customer service line and ask whether you can supply some other identifying information. Or find a better-known, accommodating website for your holiday buys.

10. Pay with a credit card

You'll usually get the best liability protection — online and offline — when you use a credit card. If someone racks up unauthorized charges on your credit card, federal regulations say you won't have to pay while the card company investigates. Most major credit cards offer \$0 liability for fraudulent purchases.

TOWN OF ADDIS

Police Dept. adds drug dog, first motorcycle officer

The Addis Police Department is continuing to make improvements, now adding a new drug dog to assist with drug investigations, and its first motorcycle officer for traffic and event safety, said Police Chief Ricky Anderson.

"Our new K-9, Century, has already been instrumental in helping us make a number of drug busts, including an assist with La. State Police in which \$1 million in drugs were confiscated," said Anderson. Sentury, a 3-year-old mixed pit bull, was rescued days before



Officer Chris Graves Officer Allen Connelly & K-9 Century

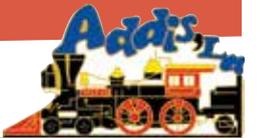
being euthanized and trained through the Animal Farm Foundation. After training it was donated to Officer Allen Connelly, who was also trained in caring for the dog.

Sentury has been used for a number of cases, including sniffing for suspected drugs at the residences of those on probation. He also works with the WBR Narcotics Task Force. "We are getting more and bigger drug busts since getting Sentury," Anderson said.

Motorcycle Officer Chris Graves was moved from patrol to motorcycle officer in

September, and an additional patrol officer was hired. He is the town's first motorcycle officer and now strictly handles traffic safety. "He can get to areas our police units can't, and this enables our other officers to focus on patrolling and handling calls and complaints," said Chief Anderson. Graves went through rigorous motorcycle training for the position.

"We have been very progressive in law enforcement," said Anderson. "We were one of the first police departments to have dash cameras, body cameras and GPS monitoring of police vehicles. We get the tools that help our officers serve our citizens, and our technology and advancements have proved very effective."





LIVE AT FIVE

on the westside

RAILROAD PARK • 4343 HARRIS ST.

FRIDAYS • 5-8 PM

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
11	8	22	6
DON RICH	ROCKING DOOPSIE	THE CHRIS LEBLANC BAND	PARISH COUNTY LINE

BRING YOUR CHAIRS OR BLANKET

face painting & balloon artist

FOOD TRUCKS

MUSIC IN THE PARK

ADDISLA.ORG



Brusly plans fun event to get bike program in gear

The Town of Brusly was one of the first in this region to begin its bike share program, and it is encouraging bike riding with its Safety Saturday event on November 16. (see flyer at right)

“Early on we had mainly younger people riding the bike share bikes, but now we are starting to see older adults riding the bikes, which is great,” said Mayor Scot Rhodes. “We are partnering with The Safety Place and Dow Chemical Co. for this event to make sure residents ride safely and to encourage more use of the program.”

One fun feature of the Safety Saturday event is a community bike ride. Residents are encouraged to bring their bikes and join the ride. Another fun program - the bike obstacle course - also helps children and young adults learn how to maneuver bikes and stay safe.

Mayor Rhodes also reminded residents that they must have a mobile phone for each bike being used in the ride share program. The Koloni Share app must be downloaded on their mobile phone, along with their credit card information, and that is how they get access to the bikes in the bike share program and also how they pay for their use.

 [Facebook.com/BruslyTownHall](https://www.facebook.com/BruslyTownHall)

JOIN US FOR SAFETY SATURDAY!



Community Bike Ride HELMETS Bike Lights BIKE OBSTACLE COURSE
FOOD entertainment FACE PAINT & BALLOON ART Vendors

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
10 AM - 12 PM

ALEXANDER PARK
250 ELAINE ST., BRUSLY, LA



City annexes 200 acres for new residential development

The City of Port Allen has officially annexed approximately 200 acres of property adjacent to Court Street into the city limits. The developers of the proposed Westview Crossing residential development asked to be annexed into the city.

The first phase of the new development is presently in the rezoning process. It will include 50 home sites, but the development will provide substantial growth for a number of years, with more than 100 home sites planned by developer Nolan McKay, LLC.

Sewer upgrades complete in Nov.

A major sewer repair project to fix cracks and breaks in the aging pipelines going from the Avenue D lift station to the city's wastewater treatment plant will be complete in November. The project also includes work at the lift station, located at Avenue D & Harry Brown Street, including replacing two pumps, installing larger pipelines and re-routing the line directly to the city sewer plant, site drainage work and building improvements. Mayor Lee expects the lift station repairs to eliminate the city having to use a by-pass pump at that critical lift station.

Road project coming

The city has budgeted another \$375,000 for road improvements, and is presently assessing what roads will be overlaid in the program. The city budgets funds annually for road improvements, and expects to begin work on the project by early 2020.



Whitehead trail almost complete

The construction of the Whitehead Boulevard Walking Trail will be complete in November. The walkway extends from the entrance of Rivalt Park at Oaks Avenue to Avenue A, and is the first phase of a 3/4 mile recreation greenway that will join Rivalt Park with the Old Ferry Landing Park and Centennial Park. The second phase of the project will extend the walkway from Avenue A to South River Road. The city received a \$100,000 grant from the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program for the project, and will add another \$35,000 to complete Phase 1.

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

Monday, Nov. 25 - 7:30 am - Community Prayer Breakfast

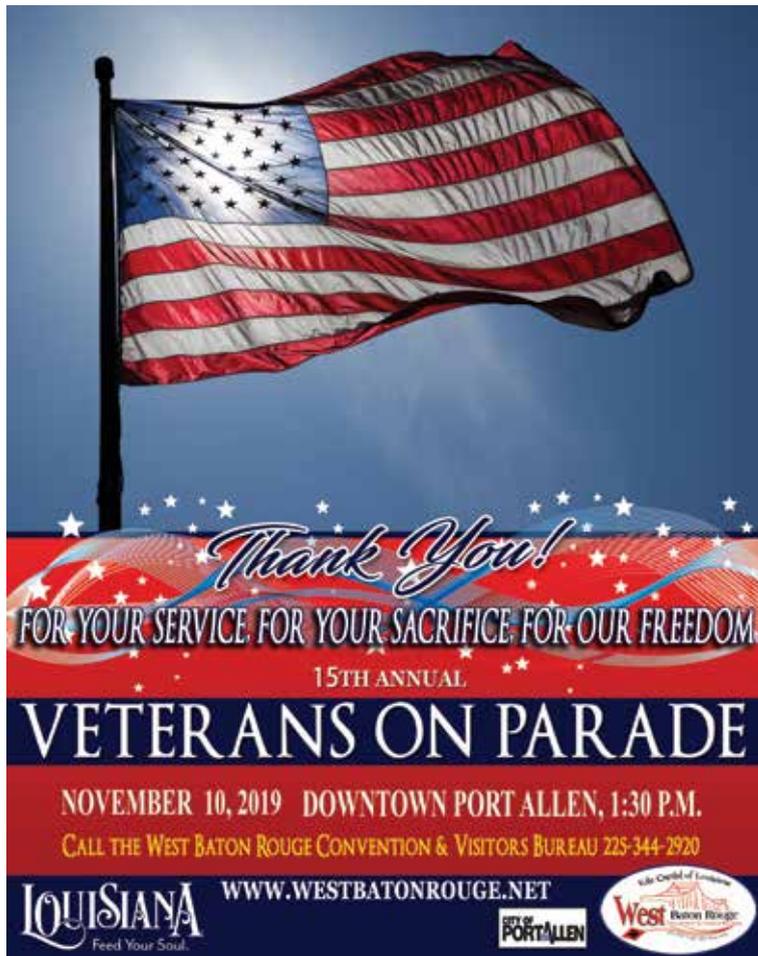
December 13-14 - Christmas on Court Street

Thursday, Dec. 19 - 6-8 pm - Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner

For more information, call City Hall - 346-5670

Festivals, events keep crew busy

West Baton Rouge continues to be represented at tourism shows through the Southeast La. Gumbo group, a partnership of tourism bureaus in 12 parishes which promotes regional tourism. "This partnership has helped West Baton Rouge tourism efforts in many ways," noted WBR Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Kathy Gautreau.



OLDIES FEST: The Oldies But Goodies Fest was another success in September, with a great turnout and some 90 vehicles in the car show. Now the tourism staff is gearing up for Veterans on Parade and Westside Christmas Fest, which replaces Reflections of the Season (see flyers at right and left). Bands have been added for the Christmas event, craft booths will return, and the popular holiday train will offer rides through the light display. The center will be beautifully decorated and available for corporate and private parties throughout December.



Keep up with coming events in WBR:
[Facebook.com/WBRCVB](https://www.facebook.com/WBRCVB)

WBR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



WBR Chamber wins State Chamber of the Year honor!

The LACCE Chamber of the Year Award program recognizes chambers that have distinguished themselves and their community through excellence in chamber management. The West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce was proud to win Louisiana's State Chamber of the Year in the mid-sized category.

Entries were judged by an out-of-state panel of judges comprised of current chamber executives. Recognition is based on the past 12 months of accomplishments. To be considered, a chamber must submit examples of growth and progress in three areas vital to an organization's success: community development, organizational development, and professional development.

"The West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce's mission states it will be the voice of business, while promoting growth and a high quality of life in West Baton Rouge Parish," said Executive Director Jamie Hanks. "The entire community, coming together in partnership, is making this a reality each day. While we are a member-services organization, we have



Shown with the La. Chamber of the Year Award are, from left, WBR Chamber Events & Operations Coordinator Anais Brand Anzaldua, Chamber Director Jamie Hanks, & Chamber Membership Director Sharon Oubre-Williams.

made it a priority to serve our entire parish by putting words into tangible actions. Speaking on behalf of the Chamber, connecting commerce and community is the best part of what we get to do every day."

"As Chairman of the Board for the WBR Chamber, my goal this year was to focus on connecting Chamber members to the citizens of our wonderful parish," said Glen Daigle. "The initiatives that we have put into place to make that happen have been extremely successful. This award only confirms the value that the Chamber and its membership bring to West Baton

Rouge Parish!"

West Baton Rouge Parish President Riley L. Berthelot, Jr. remarked, "As the recipient of the 2019 Chamber of the year Award, the West Baton Rouge Chamber has done it again! Another win for the smallest parish in the state, where our Chamber is committed to helping business and industry thrive, promoting community involvement and improving the quality of life for everyone in West Baton Rouge Parish. Congratulations to Jamie Hanks and her team!"

Last year, the West Baton Rouge Chamber received its accreditation through LACCE. This prestigious award was designed to distinguish the high quality, expertise, and strong leadership displayed by accredited chambers. Today, the WBR Chamber is among 14 chambers of commerce in the state that have been recognized with this distinction.

"The dedication put forth in every initiative the Chamber takes on by Membership Director Sharon Oubre-Williams and Events and Operations Coordinator Anais Brand Anzaldua leaves me speechless," said Hanks. "I am incredibly grateful to our team and a dedicated village of volunteers who enable our organization to progress each year. This type of performance reflects the solid organizational infrastructure built through hard work and diligence. This truly represents that our entire community works together to make 'The West Side The Best Side.'"

Total parish values increase, bills decrease for 2019

Assessed property values are up for 2019 by \$42 million, thanks largely to inventory held by industrial taxpayers and the residential growth West Baton Rouge has been experiencing, Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan noted in his annual end of year property assessment report.

The total assessed value of real estate increased from \$193 million in 2018 to \$201 million in 2019. In addition, the value of business personal property (inventory, business furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment) increased from \$240 million in 2018 to \$271 million in 2019. And, public service values increased from \$42 million in 2018 to \$44 million in 2019. "The number of new residential units in the parish decreased from 202 in 2018 to 195 in 2019," said Altazan.

Property owners can expect their property tax bills for 2019 to decrease approximately 2 percent this year, due to the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board rolling back their millage rate by 2.05 mills. "We have not revalued any properties this year unless it was new construction," Altazan explained. "Next year is the revaluation year in our four year cycle so property values will change in 2020."

The parish had 6,988 property owners who qualified for the homestead exemption in 2019, and 784 property owners who qualified for special assessments in 2019, such as being age 65 or older or being disabled. "Property owners who are age 65 and

older, disabled or are disabled veterans can apply for the special assessment subject to an income limitation of \$77,030 for 2020."

However, while a special assessment freezes property values, it does not exempt the property owner from paying additional property taxes resulting from new millages approved by voters," Altazan explained

Altazan said that 82.6 percent of all property taxes paid in West Baton Rouge are paid by business and industry. Additionally, the parish had a total of \$2.54 billion in industrial property exemptions that will be staggered onto the property tax rolls by 2028. "These are exemptions that the Louisiana Department of Economic Development granted for new manufacturing businesses and existing manufacturing business expansions," Altazan said.

Agencies presently receiving property tax revenues include the Assessor's Office, Atchafalaya Levee District, WBR Parish (includes Community Centers and Recreation, Council on Aging, Drainage, E911 Office-Central Communications, Health Unit, Library and Museum), School Board, Sheriff's Office and the City of Port Allen.

2019 Property Tax Breakdown

Taxing District:	Millage	Total Taxes:
Assessor's Office	2.47	\$ 1,155,351.00
Atchafalaya Levee Dist.	4.04	\$ 1,882,163.00
WBR Parish	32.07	\$15,000,835.00
WBR School Board	58.14	\$27,195,154.00
WBR Sheriff's Office	16.10	\$ 7,530,826.00

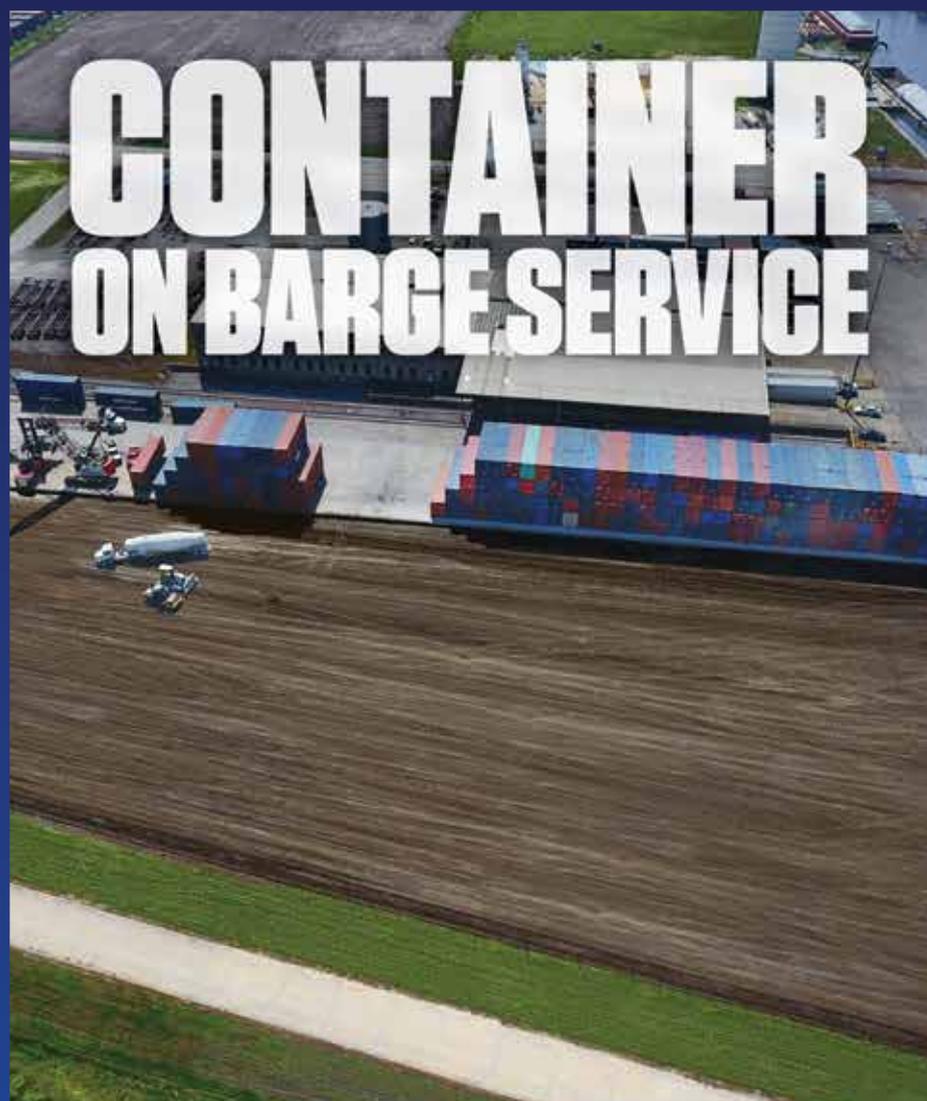
NOTE: WBR Parish includes Community Centers and Recreation, Council on Aging, Drainage, E911 Office-Central Communications, Health Unit, Library and Museum.

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



VIEW YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT
See your property on digital aerial maps!
Learn about tax exemptions, get forms & more!
www.wbrassessor.org

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



Success of SEACOR's container-on-barge services at the Port leads to major expansion of container storage capacity.

The public/private partnership between the Port of Greater Baton Rouge and SEACOR Marine continues to produce increases in the number of containers handled at the Inland Rivers Marine Terminal at the Port's North Line Road facility. In 2017, SEACOR handled 8,018 containers there, and in 2018 a total of 13,685 containers were handled at the IRMT.



Due to this increase in container movement, the Port has undertaken an expansion of the Inland Rivers Marine Terminal's container storage yard. The expansion is estimated to cost approximately \$4.5 million and will include 3.5 acres of concrete poured to expand the Port's container storage capacity.

Port Executive Director Jay Hardman said, "We are excited about the success of the COB service and the opportunity to expand our capacity. Every container that goes down the Mississippi River to New Orleans for export is one less 18-wheel truck on our roads and bridges."

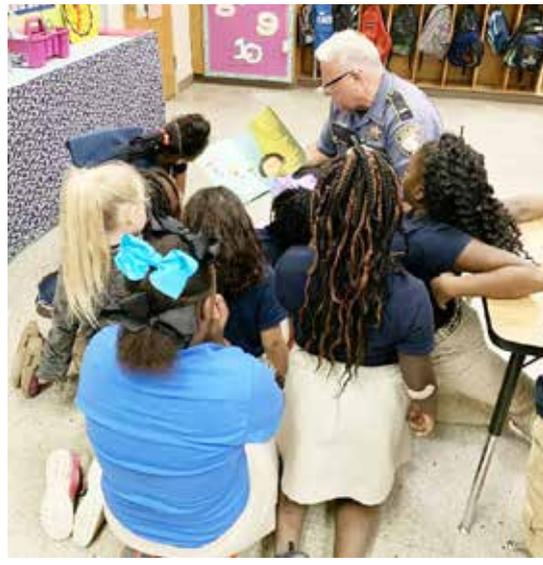
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TV Meteorologist Jay Grimes with students.



Motorcycle Deputy Ken Alvarez with students.

Real Men Read

One of the programs that Principal Cassy Brou initiated at Cohn Elementary School 11 years ago is Real Men Read, a program to bring community members into the school to read to students. It has proved to have many benefits. "We started the program with the message that reading is important, and now that our students are doing better in reading, we've asked the readers to talk to the students about why they love reading," she said.

Once every nine-weeks, readers (now opened up to others in the community besides men) talk and read to students between 8 and 9 am. "We have firefighters, officials, coaches, pastors, business owners, police, educators and others - just a wide variety of professions," she said. "Some readers have made a real connection with the classes and come back at other times to check on the students."

"The kids really love the visits, and they see that reading is important in the every day lives of people in many different professions," she said. "The kids are making the connection that reading is a life skill that they need, and it also shows them that the community supports them. It's really uplifting for school staff to see community members involved in the school, so its been a real positive for us."

Innovative new programs help teachers, encourage teaching careers

How do you motivate and help an experienced good teacher who wants to stay in the classroom? And how do you encourage students to consider a teaching career? Those two questions have led to two new and innovative programs in West Baton Rouge Schools - Learn West and Education Rising. Louisiana Teacher of the Year Kim Eckert, who is now the Innovative Programs Coordinator for WBR Schools, is leading both programs.

LEARN WEST: The Learn West program is an initiative to help the district keep its good, experienced teachers and provide them with new growth opportunities and motivation.

The year-long Learn West program is a competitive fellowship program in which 11 teachers were selected this year. "We are taking good teachers and giving them tools and training to move them to great teachers, leaders and advocates for students," said Eckert. "We want them to look outside their classroom to larger education issues, to identify their talents and how they can share them, and to promote collaboration."

EDUCATION RISING: The Education Rising program was introduced last year, and went from one student being interested in teaching as a career and attending college to 15 students by the end of last school year. That program recently brought 18 students to Angola Penitentiary to learn how teachers and inmates in the La. Department of Corrections literacy/employment readiness program are making a difference in the lives of inmates, even those who have life sentences.

UPDATE:



Caneview School construction

Caneview almost complete, other school construction continues

The new Caneview School is expected to be completed by December, and Superintendent Wes Watts said students from Devall and Chamberlin Schools will be starting classes at the new school after the Christmas holidays.

Meanwhile, construction underway at other schools includes:

BRUSLY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Brusly Middle will become Brusly Elementary when the new Brusly High School opens. This project will bid out in early 2020 and will be complete in August 2020.

BRUSLY HIGH SCHOOL: Construction of the new high school is on track to open for the 2020-2021 school year. All building slabs have been poured, and structural steel installation is complete on the main building. Steel installation is nearing completion on gym buildings and is in progress on the field house building. It is scheduled to open August 2020.

LUKEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Construction is complete, but punch list items remain to be completed.

PORT ALLEN ELEMENTARY: Construction is complete, but punch list items remain to be completed.

PORT ALLEN MIDDLE SCHOOL: Improvements are in the design phase, and the project will bid out either late this year or in early 2020. The project consists of a new roof on main building, interior renovations of existing main building with new windows, painting, new ceilings and flooring where applicable, exterior painting of main building and gym, CAT 6A computer wiring throughout, and a new intercom system.

PORT ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL: Construction is complete, but punch list items remain to be completed.



Lukeville Elementary School lobby



Port Allen Elementary School Headstart and Pre-K building.