

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 8 - School begins

Sept. 10 & 11 - Oldies
But Goodies Fest & BBQ
Cook-Off (pg. 2)

Oct. 2 - SugarFest (pg 5)

Voters can expect changes in Parish Council, School Board districts after re-districting

Most West Baton Rouge voters have received or will receive new voter cards in the mail by the end of July. As required by the federal constitution, reapportionment of many elective offices based on the 2020 census necessitated changes in district boundaries and/or voter precincts.

Because of the growth in the southern part of West Baton Rouge, many district changes in everything from Congressional seats to the La. Public Service Commission to the local Parish Council and School Board required adjustments.

Registrar of Voters Corey Passantino said many voters already received a new voter card with the initial Congressional and Public Service Commission changes, and may get another one with the School Board and precinct changes.

"It affected a lot of voters," she said. "Before redistricting, we had 29 precincts. Of that 15 precincts changed and we now have 35 precincts. Also, some voters' polling locations changed."

She advised voters to use the latest voter card received in the mail from the Registrar's office and to call the office if they have any questions or concerns at 225-336-2421. Voters can also download the La. Secretary of State's office

GeauxVote app, which will provide them with their voting information.

The good news for WBR Parish voters is that the WBR Parish Council and WBR School Board worked together to use the same voter district boundaries, which will make it a bit easier for voters to know their districts.

Parish Council Chairman Carey Denstel and School Board Chairman Alden Chustz said that while boundaries of numerous districts changed, both parish bodies will maintain three minority districts.

"The growth on the south end of the parish (Addis area) affected every district," said Denstel. "Every district had to shift south, and districts from Erwinville to Port Allen also shifted a little east. To stay in compliance with federal voting laws, we had to maintain about 3,000 population in each district."

Voters are advised that all of the changes will be in effect for the November election, which includes Congressional races, the District 17 La. Senate race, and the local school board races. They will be in effect for the Parish Council election next year.

While the parish has added precincts, it will have only two new voting locations - Brusly High School and Port Allen High. Voters are reminded that the old Brusly gas and water office on St. Francis Street will continue to serve as an early voting location so that voters in the Brusly and Addis area do not have to drive to Port Allen to vote early in elections.

For more information, call the Registrar of Voters office at 225-336-2421.



BECOME THE BRAVEST

West Baton Rouge
FIRE DISTRICT

RECRUITING NEW SQUAD OF FIREFIGHTERS

Applicants must be 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and a Civil Service test score. Email test scores and completed applications to: deanna.fourroux@wbr council.org

BENEFITS:
Member of Fire & Police Civil Service system
Health, dental and vision insurance provided
Starting salary \$40,000 plus overtime
Member of La. Firefighters Retirement
Paid vacation, sick and holiday time off

APPLY ONLINE AT:
WWW.WBRPARISH.ORG

Information: 225-346-5676 OR EMail: Deanna.Fourroux@wbr council.org



GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

WBR PARISH COUNCIL - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, www.wbr council.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.wbr schools.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 1st 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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School opens Aug. 8 Remember to watch for school zones

Kids in West Baton Rouge go back to school beginning Monday, August 8. Drivers are reminded to watch for children and reduce their speeds in school zones. Here are some other safety tips:

- Know the speed limit. Not all school zones have the same speed limit.
- Watch for pedestrians - not all crosswalks near schools have crossing guards.
- Go slowly around parked cars. Children can easily dart from behind a parked car.
- Maintain a safe distance from school buses, and be prepared for buses to stop. Never pass a stopped school bus.



Shown above is the Town of Brusly administrative staff, from left: Jamie Loupe, Traffic Clerk; Blaine Rabalais, Town Clerk, Patricia Gaudet Thibodaux, Accounting/Planning & Zoning Secretary; and Brandi Davis, Traffic Clerk.

Get the latest
Town of Brusly updates!
[Facebook.com/BruslyTownHall](https://www.facebook.com/BruslyTownHall)



Meet your town administrative staff

With a combined 40 years' worth of experience at Brusly Town Hall, these folks are ready to assist town residents. "This group provides excellent service to our community, no matter whether they are dealing with matters in person or by phone," said Mayor Scot Rhodes.

Among the duties of the administrative staff are planning and holding Traffic Court, and planning and assisting with town meetings, including the Landmark and Heritage Committee, Planning and Zoning Board, and Town Council. They are also responsible for the Town of Brusly's financial record keeping and accounting, drafting meeting minutes for approval, human resources, maintaining public records and much more.

"We invite you to stop by the Town Hall to say hello to them any time," said Mayor Rhodes. "The town is very fortunate to have such a quality staff."

WBR CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Kite Fest lives up to billing, draws huge crowds to parish

Kite Fest, now one of the premiere events of the WBR Convention & Visitors Bureau, once again broke records for attendance, with huge crowds both days of the annual festival.

"We are drawing people from other parts of the state and even outside the state for this event now, which is very exciting," said Kathy Gautreau, WBR Convention and Visitors Bureau Director. "This year we had huge crowds each day, even on Sunday when the weather was not as good. The fireworks show on Saturday evening is also a big draw, and didn't disappoint."

The next event up for the Bureau is the annual Oldies But Goodies Fest and BBQ Cook-Off, which is set for Sept. 10 and 11 (see flyer at right). "We are excited about the bands we have lined up, and we'll also have the Cajun Navy with us selling their merchandise as a fundraiser on Sunday," Gautreau said.

Meanwhile, bookings of the Conference Center continue to increase, including weddings, social events, and corporate events. "We are slowly getting back to our pre-COVID numbers, which is great news," she noted.

While the Bureau staff has not worked as many tourism promotion events in the last few years, they will be participating in a trade show with tour and travel operators in Louisiana this summer, and will attend the Louisiana Tourism Summit in August.

"As people become more willing to travel and plan trips, we want to keep West Baton Rouge on their radars. We have a lot to offer here," she said.

2022 OLDIES BUT GOODIES FEST & BBQ COOK-OFF

SATURDAY - SEPT. 10
BCA CHAMPIONSHIP BBQ COOK-OFF,
LA FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS.
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
FOR THE CAR SHOW OR BBQ CONTEST CALL

SUNDAY - SEPT. 11
LIVE MUSIC,
ANTIQUE CAR SHOW, CRAFTERS,
LA FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS.
THAT 70'S BAND 11:00AM-2:00PM

ON THE GROUNDS OF
**WBR TOURIST INFORMATION
& CONFERENCE CENTER**
2750 NORTH WESTPORT DRIVE
PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA 70767

1-800-654-9701
WWW.WESTBATONROUGE.NET

CHASE TYLER BAND 2:30PM-5:30PM

LOUISIANA Feed Your Soul. LouisianaTravel.com
heartradio
EMCO
PLACID
WBRZ 2 abc
COUNTRY ROADS
West Baton Rouge



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West Nile cases increasing, take steps to curb mosquito population

Mosquito samples have begun testing positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) within WBR Parish in recent weeks. In Louisiana, July and August are typically the peak months for WNV activity in mosquitoes, consequently, the risk for disease transmission to humans is also highest during these months.

WBR Mosquito Control urges all citizens to take precautions, as follows:

- When possible wear long, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing.
- Use mosquito repellent with DEET or Picaridin in a 15% - 20% concentration when outdoors from dusk to dawn. That's when mosquitoes are most active.
- Do not allow boat covers or tarps to collect and hold rainwater.
- Remove standing water and empty all containers outside at least once a week.
- Flush out birdbaths once per week.
- Drill a large hole in or properly dispose of old tires.
- Stock ornamental ponds with fish or install a fountain.
- Properly maintain swimming pools and regularly empty kiddie pools.
- Check to make sure window and door screens are in good condition.
- Seal any cracks around window AC units.
- Clean out clogged rain gutters so they do not hold rainwater.



For more information go to www.wbr council.org or facebook.com/WestBatonRougeMosquitoControl for constant updates on areas of the parish with positive samples and spray truck schedules. Free mosquito larvicide tablets are also available for pickup at 3147 Ted Denstel Rd. Port Allen.

RECREATION UPDATE: Time for fall sports registration

Registration is open for **Brusly Little Panther football** and **Westside Bulldog football**. Ages for full contact football are 5-12.

WBR

Fall Soccer registration is now underway. WBR Soccer is offered for boys and girls age 4-15.

WBR Flag Football is now open for registration. Flag football is for boys and girls ages 4-12.

Please go to wbrparish.org to register your child, or call 225-336-2423 for more information.



The parish had a great turnout for its annual 4th of July Festival at the Port Allen Ferry Landing Park. Attendees enjoyed bands, food and drinks and, of course, a great fireworks show on the Mississippi River.

WBR traffic incidents being sent to app

West Baton Rouge OHSEP/ 9-1-1 is joining with other agencies in publishing real-time traffic-related incidents on the Waze app through the Waze for Cities program. Traffic incidents, such as accidents, stalled vehicles and road hazards, will be automated from the parish 911 Center to Waze as they are reported.

The data will allow Waze and other GPS apps dependent upon Waze to route motorists appropriately and make them aware of incidents on the roadways of WBR Parish. It will also advise the public of bridges open during freezes.

In addition to sending information to Waze, the system will allow parish first responder agencies to see trends in other reported incidents, such as fire alarms and areas with high traffic accidents, thus helping them know where to dedicate resources to help keep the public safe.

Road improvements underway

The parish's annual road improvement project is now underway, with \$864,600 in being spent this year on repairs and asphalt overlay to six roads. They include Silvery Lane, Singleton St., Young Street, Pecan Grove, East Subdivision, and Ellwood Street.

Did you know?

West Baton Rouge Parish has responsibility under the Clean Water Act to ensure clean waters within its jurisdiction.

Please help keep storm water runoff clean by:

- having your septic system inspected regularly,
- making sure you don't discharge anything illicit into the storm water system,
- monitoring neighbors and businesses in your area for sediment and pollutant control, and
- reporting any litter you might find in local ditches, canals and bayous.

Thank you for helping keep storm water clean now and into the future!



ACCEPTED

ACIDS	CORROSIVE CLEANERS	MOTH BALLS
AEROSOL CANS	DEGREASERS	OVEN CLEANERS
ARSENIC	DISINFECTANTS	DRAIN CLEANERS
AUTO PRODUCTS INCLUDING: used oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, diesel, oil & fuel filters	ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT	TURPENTINE
COOKING OIL	PAINT THINNER	POLISHES
BATTERIES INCLUDING: NiCD, lead acid, alkaline, rechargeable	PAINT INCLUDING: latex and oil, stain, varnish, shellac	POOL CHEMICALS
BLEACH, BOWL CLEANERS	FLUORESCENT TUBES AND COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS	TVS, STEREOS
BUG SPRAYS	LAWN AND GARDEN PRODUCTS INCLUDING: pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizer	AUTOMOBILE TIRES (5 without rims)
WOOD PRESERVATIVES	GLUE	CONTAMINATED GASOLINE (quantities less than 5 gallons)
CLEANING SOLVENTS	FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	PROPANE TANKS AND BOTTLES
PAPER SHREDDING	LIGHTER FLUID	
METALLIC MERCURY		

NOT ACCEPTED

AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES	LARGE GAS CYLINDERS INCLUDING: helium, freon or acetylene	APPLIANCES/FURNITURE
FIREWORKS	STYROFOAM INCLUDING: peanuts	POWER TOOLS
NON-RESIDENTIAL WASTE	CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION DEBRIS	ALL LIQUIDS IN CONTAINERS LARGER THAN 5 GALLONS
RADIOACTIVE DEVICES (smoke/fire detectors)		MEDICAL WASTE/ ALL MEDICINES
SCHOOL LAB WASTE		



FOR MORE INFORMATION: 225.490.8549 or www.wbr council.org NO COMMERCIAL WASTE ACCEPTED.

New equipment, simulated training to help deputy, citizen safety

The West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office has purchased new tasers and state-of-the-art virtual reality training technology, which will help deputies make better split-second decisions to de-escalate intense situations. In addition, several new patrol units have been purchased.

The new virtual reality simulation technology immerses deputies in realistic scenarios they may face out in the field. The training helps them be more prepared and knowledgeable, and also allows them to use their taser weapons and training firearms in the sessions, thus making the sessions more natural and effective.

The technology includes a library of training materials and scenarios, and helps trainers track the progress of deputies in training. The community engagement component helps deputies develop skills, empathy and communication in engaging citizens in a wide variety of scenarios.

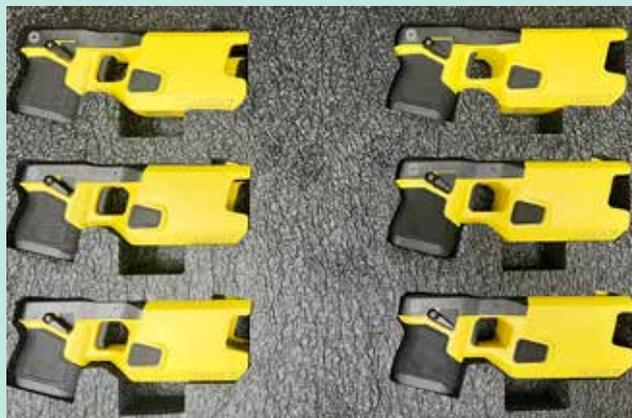
"We encourage the use of tasers before guns to stop volatile situations, but training is the key to helping both our deputies and the public," said Sheriff Mike Cazes.

The Sheriff's Office is also testing various drones with the plan to purchase drone technology soon. The drones will be used for search and rescue, crime and crash scene evidence collection, and other activities.

"Drones have proven to be very beneficial to law enforcement, and we hope to take advantage of that technology in the near future," said Sheriff Cazes.



Shown above is virtual reality training with a taser, and at left is a training suit to be worn with other virtual reality training. Below are some of the new tasers recently purchased.



Get prepared now for hurricane season



TOWN OF ADDIS



Veterans board revived with donation

The now dissolved Addis Civic League recently donated funds to the Addis Historical Society for the creation of a new Veterans Recognition Wall at the Addis Museum. The wall is comprised of the names of local veterans registered with the Historical Society, including all veterans, those killed in action, POW's, those who received the Purple Heart and career military. The Addis Museum is open to the public by appointment. For more information call Town Hall - 687-4844. Shown in the photo above at left are, from left, Phil Smith, who designed and constructed the recognition wall; Frank Foret, past president of the Addis Historical Society; Jocelyn Gauthreaux, vice president; Ella Dean Thibodeaux, treasurer; Patrice Brewer, president; David Toups, Mayor; and front, Faye Watts, past president of the Addis Civic League.



Mrs. Vera retires after 44 years of service

A staple at Addis Town Hall for 44 years, Mrs. Vera Lucas retired at the end of May. She rose from the ranks to become Town Clerk, a position she held for over 30 years. In recent years, she worked part-time handling a variety of office duties.

"I enjoyed working with her," said Mayor David Toups. "She took me under her wing and helped me grow in this position. She was very knowledgeable," he said.

Drainage work to begin

A \$614,000 drainage improvement project is set to begin in August. The project will significantly improve drainage during heavy rains in the West Nic and First Street areas. Mayor David Toups said the existing culverts will be removed and replaced with larger culverts that drain directly into a major canal. The work will require boring under First Street. "We have good drainage in Addis, but this was a problem area that needed to be addressed," Toups said. "This should provide residents in that area with relief from their drainage concerns."

Road work underway

The town's \$680,000 road improvement program is now underway. This is the largest road program in many years. The biggest project is the milling and overlaying of Sugar Plantation Parkway, at a cost of \$264,000. Other roads on the list include Sugar Mill Parkway, Belle Vale Drive, Aubrey Ann Drive, Boulevard Acadian, Rue Saint Patrick and Rue Dauphine. The road work should wrap up in August.

City of Port Allen job openings

Chief Financial Officer

Candidates must possess, at a minimum, a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, or Finance with emphasis in Accounting and have progressively responsible administrative and supervisory experience in finance, preferably municipal finance. Responsibilities include treasury management, investing, accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, grant accounting, debt management, and supervising office staff.

State of Louisiana Class 3 and Higher or Equivalent Operators in Water & Gas and/or Wastewater Collection & Treatment.

All Inquiries may be directed to Lance C. Joseph, Esq., CAO, City of Port Allen at City Hall, 375 Court Street, Port Allen, LA 70767 or via email at ljoseph@portallen.org. The City of Port Allen is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Beautiful Port Allen City Hall

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

Upcoming exhibits and events

August 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9: 3-5 PM Old Time Jam, a monthly acoustic open jam, sit in to listen or play and enjoy Old Country, Bluegrass, Cajun and folk music. Free

August 19: 6 – 8 PM Historical Happy Hour. Three Roll Estate, Louisiana's single estate distillery, will give a rum talk/tasting, followed by the film, Carol Fran: Tous Les Jours C'est Pas La Mème, Director/filmmaker and cultural anthropologist, Becky Schexnayder will introduce the film and conduct Q&A. Free

August 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16: 3–5 PM Le Jam with the Cajun French Music Association. Bring your instruments and join us for this open jam. Spectators are welcome too! FREE

August 26: 12 – 1 PM Lunchtime Lecture and Book Signing. Perspectives on Indigeneity, Identity. Editor E. Barrett Ristroph, Ph.D., J.D. will lead a book conversation featuring a reading by Louisiana author and photographer Rachael Billiot-Bruleigh on what it means to be indigenous. Free

August 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 25: 6 – 7 PM Yoga class with Elena Keegan, Free

September 10 - January 8 - Billie Holiday at Sugar Hill: Photographs by Jerry Dantzcis – Exhibition. An intimate and compelling photographic portrait of Billie Holiday, the consummate jazz and blues singer and one of 20th century music's most iconic figures.

September 16: 6 – 8 PM Historical Happy Hour. One Night with Billie and Ella, a performance straight from the National WWII Museum's BB's Stage Door Canteen. Free

October 2: 11 AM – 4 PM SugarFest. WBR Museum's annual sweet celebration of the sugar cane harvest complete with traditional folk-art demonstrations, live music, a sweets contest, and sugary treats. Free

October 21: 6 PM Merry not Scary Halloween: In partnership with the West Baton Rouge Parish Library. Get ready for tricks, treats, and a whole lot of fun! Vintage party games, craft activities, and a magic show performed by Chris Miller Magic. Wear your Halloween costume. Free

BILLIE HOLIDAY



AT SUGAR HILL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JERRY DANTZIC



A vivid and intimate photographic portrait of one of the 20th century's most iconic artists: the consummate jazz and blues singer Billie Holiday (1915 – 1959).

September 10, 2022 – January 7, 2023

BILLIE HOLIDAY AT SUGAR HILL: PHOTOGRAPHS BY JERRY DANTZIC is an exhibition organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the Jerry Dantzcis Archives. All photographs © 2018 Jerry Dantzcis / Jerry Dantzcis Archives, All rights reserved.

WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

Activities at your Library

Back-to-School Storytime with a real school bus - Saturday, August 6, 11 am. For children entering pre-k, kindergarten, or first grade who will be riding the school bus for the first time. This storytime will help ease their first day nerves.

Bad Art Night - Thursday, August 18, 5:30-7:30 pm. Leave your talent at the door, create something terrible with us. Ages 17 and up.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting - Saturday, August 27, 11 am. Share your ideas for teen programs, volunteer. Snacks always served.

Line Dance Classes - September 1 & 22, October 6 and 27, 6-7:45 pm. More details are forthcoming.

Family Color Run - Saturday, September 24. healthy outdoor fun time with food trucks, airbrush tattoos, and more.

Family Movie Night on Friday, October 7, 7 pm. Bring your chairs, blankets, and visit the food trucks.

Scary Teen Halloween Storytelling program with Grayhawk Perkins - Thursday, October 13, 6:30 pm, for grades 5 and up. Grayhawk is a master

storyteller and considered a living treasure of Louisiana. Teens will not want to miss this experience.

Annual Family Halloween Event on Friday, October 2, 6-7:30 pm at the WBR Museum, sponsored by the WBR Library and WBR Museum. Candy, fun activities, live music, and a performance with magician, Chris Miller.

Storytime
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.
All ages Children's Storytime returns in August. 2022

Upcoming Dates:
August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th
September 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

LIBRARY
WEST BATON ROUGE

DA's Office investigators play key role in successful prosecutions

Converting criminal charges into successful convictions is not an easy process. It takes experienced assistant district attorneys working with the DA's office investigators to make sure a multitude of case details are collected and available, that witnesses and victims are collaborating information and prepared for the trial, and all aspects of the case have been vetted.

The DA's Office investigators are an integral part of trial preparation, and handle an extensive list of duties in case management. They go to crime scenes to assist detectives, meet with the prosecuting Assistant District Attorneys to review all cases, act as a liaison between the DA's Office and all the law enforcement agencies in 18th District (Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee), and are often called upon to work with law enforcement to get additional evidence or, at times, get additional search warrants or evidence needed for prosecution of a case. Working closely with all the law enforcement agencies, they also advise District Attorney Tony Clayton of crime situations.

Aubrey St. Angelo and Zack Simmers are the Investigators for the District Attorney's Office, while Jessel Ourso, III serves in both investigator and other office roles. "A big part of our job is to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the DA's Office to make sure the strongest case possible is presented and results in successful prosecutions," said Investigator St. Angelo.

St. Angelo and Simmers were both selected for the position by District Attorney Clayton because of their extensive detective experience and knowledge. Since these positions are jointly funded by the DA's office and the Iberville and West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Offices, both Iberville Sheriff Brett Stassi and West Baton Rouge Sheriff Mike Cazes concurred with their dual position.

In this role, they also work frequently with state and federal law enforcement agencies, and also agencies from other parishes. "Often time, crimes cross parishes," noted Investigator Simmers. "A gun or a vehicle used in a crime in one parish often ends up in another parish," he said. "Or gang and drug activity in one parish spills over into another and those cases can involve multiple law enforcement agencies."



From left, Investigator Aubrey St. Angelo, Chief Investigator Jessel Ourso, III, and Investigator Zack Simmers review the evidence in a case.

"We often go to crime scenes to make sure as much evidence as possible is collected," Simmers said. "We track down witnesses and interview them to make sure they corroborate their testimony and will be ready for a trial."

Simmers noted that because they are law enforcement officers who know what it takes to get successful prosecutions in court, they are the liaison between Assistant District Attorneys and detectives.

District Attorney Tony Clayton noted that the investigators role in prosecuting cases is "critical in the courtroom. They are a vital part of this office and have been the difference in a number of successful prosecutions. We rely on them, and their dedication and hard work has paid off in many cases."

WBR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Chamber holds first Small Business Summit

The West Baton Rouge Parish Chamber held its first annual Small Business Summit on July 20 to help small businesses address challenges as well as opportunities for growth, and it was a huge success!

It included two speaker panels and lunch with keynote speaker Edward "Ted" James, regional administrator for the Small Business Administration's South Central region, which includes five states.

Among the topics covered were how to start and fund your business, marketing, procurement, the State Small Business Credit Initiative Program, and a panel discussion by business operators.

"All businesses have faced very difficult challenges with the pandemic, the resulting production shortages and delays, and workforce issues that have resulted as the pandemic has waned," said Chamber Director Anna Johnson. "These challenges have hit small businesses hard. It is imperative that we help our local small businesses thrive and grow," said Johnson. "This summit was designed with that in mind, and we will continue to offer programs and resources to grow local businesses."



Tiger Bayou RV Park opens

Shown is the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Tiger Bayou RV Park, located on Hwy. 190 in the Erwinville area. A crowd of officials, Chamber representatives and supporters turned out for the opening.

August Chamber Membership Meeting to feature Adam Knapp, CEO of BRAC Chamber

Tuesday, August 16 - Noon - 1 pm
Addis Community Center, 7520 Highway 1 South, Addis
\$25 - Members, \$35 - Non-members



How is your property value determined?

Many property owners are very familiar with paying property taxes annually but are not aware of how their property's value is determined. The West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office is tasked with determining fair and equitable values for all residential and commercial properties in the parish.

"Arriving at a property's fair market value is a process that goes on all year long," said Assessor Chris Guerin. "The primary steps in the process of valuing properties in the parish are discovery, listing and valuation."

In discovery, properties are identified or located primarily by a review of construction permits from the WBR Community Development Office. These include new construction, additions, renovations and swimming pools. Other means of discovery include an ongoing review of parish-wide aerial photography and general observations by Assessor's Office staff.

Once properties are identified, Assessor's Office staff make on-site inspections where residential and commercial buildings are measured, sketches are drawn and pictures are taken.

Once discovery has been completed, listing begins. In this phase, the Assessor's Office creates an inventory of the quantity, quality and important characteristics of all properties in the parish. This leads to the Assessor's Office annually preparing and certifying the assessment roll for the entire parish.

Information needed to have comprehensive property listings includes: current owner name, acquisition date, purchase price, parcel id#, parcel type, street address, subdivision name, lot-block-tract #'s, property class, legal description, deed information, prior ownership history, and any physical attributes of the property contributing to its value. All of the above listed information is continually updated and maintained in the Assessor's Office database.



Finally, valuation is completed, in which the Assessor's Office determines the fair market value of properties. For all land and residential properties, fair market value is largely determined by mass appraising groups of similar properties using the sales comparison approach to value.

Over the past 20 years, the Assessor's Office has built a massive database of land and residential sales. Because the sales comparison approach to value most closely tracks current market value, it is the preferred method of valuation. The sales comparison approach is an analysis of comparable qualified sales in order to determine a base value of similar properties.

A qualified sale is a sale between two unrelated parties, each being reasonably knowledgeable of market conditions and under no undue influence or pressure to buy or sell. Sales between family members, forced sales such as sheriff's sales, and sales from duress would not be considered qualified sales.

For commercial properties, fair market value is largely determined by individually appraising properties using the cost approach to value. In the cost approach, the land value is determined from sales data and is added to the current depreciated replacement cost new of the commercial building.

Questions? Call the Assessor's Office at 225-344-6777.



VIEW YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

See your property on digital aerial maps!
Learn about tax exemptions, Download forms and more!

www.wbrassessor.org

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

- **Storage capacity has nearly doubled to accommodate up to 2,000 containers.**

The successful public/private partnership between the Port of Greater Baton Rouge and SEACOR AMH has produced steady increases in the number of containers handled at the Port's barge terminal. As a result, a project to create nearly 4 acres of additional paved container storage capacity has been successfully completed. The yard is now capable of handling approximately 2,000 containers including containers measuring 40 feet, versus 20 feet.

Meet the Big Red Beast.

A 20% efficiency gain in container operations at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge is just one positive outcome of the Port's new, deep-reach container stacker known as *The Big Red Beast*. With a telescopic boom for stacking four containers high, shorter loading and unloading times have helped meet the increasing demand for container shipping services between Baton Rouge and New Orleans for area customers. The addition of the custom-made stacker is another component of the Port's recent expansion of its successful container operations.



For more information, contact Greg Johnson at (225) 342-1660.

- 2425 Ernest Wilson Drive ■ P.O. Box 380 ■ Port Allen, LA 70767-0380
PH: (225) 342.1660 ■ FAX: (225) 342.1666 ■ www.portgbr.com

Superintendent Watts retires, Corona to serve in interim role as board election nears

Superintendent Wes Watts is marking his final days as leader of West Baton Rouge Parish schools. He retires on July 31. The West Baton Rouge School Board has named David Corona as interim superintendent while it conducts a search for Watts' replacement. Residents may recall that Corona served as Superintendent before Watts.

A new school board will be elected by voters in November, and the selection of a new superintendent is not expected until after that election so that the new board will have input on the new leader of WBR schools.



Superintendent Watts

Watts served for eight years. "I could not have asked to work with a better group of people or to work for a better community," he said. "The genuine desire of everyone in WBR is to help kids. The community members, business and industry, government leaders, school board members, and parents are what makes West Baton Rouge such a special place. That is how and why our schools Make Awesome Happen every day. I can only hope that I have been able to give to WBR as much as you all have given me."

Watts, who was considered a cheerleader for teachers and the schools, infused positivity in the system, and pushed the school system rebuilding effort. He is most proud of fostering high quality instruction and character building for students.

Among the accomplishments of the last eight years, the school system has

- seen seven of 10 schools improve by a letter grade or more,
- Passed a voter-approved bond issue for teacher raises and completed a massive new construction and renovation program,
- Grown programs such as Lead West and Learn West, which helps teachers succeed and become leaders in a variety of ways;
- Made massive technology improvements, including each student having a computer; and
- Been fiscally responsible with tax dollars by maintaining a solid financial position while managing improvements.

"If your kids are in school in WBR, they are in a good place," said Watts. "They are growing academically and as human beings with the knowledge, skills and character to pursue their passions and make the world a better place."

Lead West helping educators grow

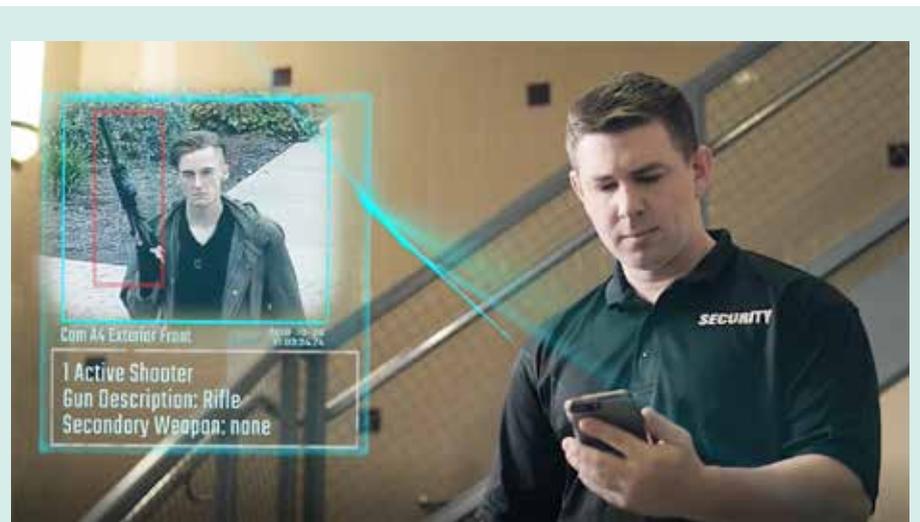
A program originally intended to groom teachers for administrative positions has morphed into a program that helps them grow in a number of professional capacities, from being better teachers, to becoming coaches and mentors of other teachers, and to becoming school and central office leaders.

Started four years ago, Lead West now has three pathways - administrative, coaching/mentoring, and personal growth. The popularity of the program has grown among teachers who see how it has helped their colleagues, and the school system and students are benefiting by having more effective teachers and leaders, said Julie Mayeux, Supervisor of Secondary Education/CTE. She runs the program with Barbara Burke, Director of Human Resources and Staff Development.

Teachers must apply for the one-year Lead West program, and 29 teachers are currently in the program. One of the major benefits is WBR schools partnership with the LSU Leadership Development Institute, which provides individual coaches for each teacher for a year. In addition, they participate in monthly programs, which vary depending on their pathway, and each teacher must complete projects outside of their regular job.

"We are providing this opportunity as another way to make our teachers feel valued, appreciated and supported," said Mayeux. "And they are the pipeline for our future school leaders and administrators."

Jared Robinson, who participated in the program last year, and is now an assistant principal at Brusly Upper Elementary School, said, "The coaching really raised my self awareness and helped me become a better communicator. I was also exposed to a lot of the aspects of an administrative position, so when I finished the program I really felt I had the tools and skills to be a good administrator. I think it would be a great program for any teacher."



The Zero Eyes monitoring software detects guns on campuses within seconds, and alerts specified school and emergency officials.

All WBR schools now have cameras to detect guns

The West Baton Rouge Parish School System invested in specialized technology last year that detects a weapon on campus within seconds. The ZeroEyes technology provides invaluable intelligence that helps first responders rapidly locate the person with the weapon and minimize casualties.

ZeroEyes' A.I. gun detection platform integrates with existing security cameras and utilizes hundreds of thousands of proprietary images to detect the brandishing of a gun and alert a potential gun threat. The gun detection is then sent to the ZeroEyes Operation Center (ZOC) for human verification, and a time stamp, keyframe image, and location are dispatched over desktop and mobile applications to faculty, staff and first responders within 3-5 seconds.

"It was installed during the last school year, so it has been operational," said Warren LeJeune, Safety and Security Liaison for the WBR school system. "When the system picks up something that may be a gun, the ZeroEyes trained personnel are immediately alerted and determine if it is, in fact, a gun. If so, they alert school and 911 personnel within seconds. Once notified, we can follow the movements of the person with the gun so it provides the information needed to respond very quickly."

"Hopefully we will never get an alert, and this is not a completely full-proof system, but it is another layer of security for our schools, which have multiple layers of security," he said. "It is another example of the school system's commitment to keeping our kids safe."



SCHOOL SCHEDULE August-December

- Aug. 8 - First day of school
- Sept. 5 - Labor Day Holiday
- Oct. 12 - Report Cards
- Oct. 17 & 18 - Fall Break
- Nov. 21-25 - Thanksgiving holiday
- Dec. 19- Jan. 2 - Christmas Break

