

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Aug. 2 - WBR Chamber  
Business Summit**  
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**Aug. 10 - First day of  
2023-24 school year**  
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**Sept. 9 & 10 - Oldies But  
Goodies Fest & BBQ Cook  
Off - Page 5**

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Railroad - Page 4**

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Experience at Library**  
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See more on these events on  
pages inside this newsletter

## New fire trucks part of fire system upgrade

The West Baton Rouge Fire District has embarked on a multi-pronged plan to upgrade its entire operation. The major facets of that plan include recruiting new firefighters, purchasing new equipment, and building a state-of-the-art fire training facility.

"The parish's fire districts were consolidated into one system about seven years ago," said Fire District Chief Butch Browning. "That consolidation now gives us one fire rating for the whole parish, and allowed us to eliminate five engines from the fleet."

However, the fire district has many vehicle and equipment upgrade needs. "We did a complete fleet assessment, and have developed standard fire engine specifications, which we will use going forward for all fire engines purchased so that they can be used anywhere in the parish." In addition, two new engines, costing \$620,000 each, have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in about three months.

Meanwhile, a major recruiting effort is underway for firefighters (see flyer at right). "We are trying to get young people interested and are working with the schools to provide them some training while in school," Browning said. "We are also actively seeking volunteers firefighters!"

"Our emphasis is on providing the equipment and the people we need to be effective. We pay firefighters while they are in training," he said.

The parish was also successful in getting a \$1.5 million appropriation in the last Legislative session, and will use those funds, in part for the new

**BECOME THE BRAVEST**

West Baton Rouge  
FIRE DISTRICT

**RECRUITING  
NEW SQUAD OF  
FIREFIGHTERS**

**BENEFITS:**

- Member of the Fire & Police Civil Service system
- Health, Dental & Vision insurance provided
- Starting annual salary \$40,000 plus overtime
- Member of Louisiana Firefighter Retirement
- Paid vacation, sick and holiday time off
- Professional development training & certifications

APPLY ONLINE AT:  
**WWW.WBRPARISH.ORG**

MORE INFORMATION CALL: 225-346-5676 OR EMAIL: [deanna.fouroux@wbrcouncil.org](mailto:deanna.fouroux@wbrcouncil.org)

fire engines, but also to develop a new firefighter training center next to the Court Street fire station in Port Allen. "We are working with local industry to help us fund and equip this facility, which will also provide a training facility for their firefighters."

"Our motto is One Parish, One Department, One Team," Browning said. "The consolidation is complete, and we are operating as one unit. Our firefighters do a good job. We need to give them the resources to respond quickly and appropriately."

## GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

**WBR PARISH COUNCIL** - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, [www.wbrcouncil.org](http://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](http://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 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.bruslyla.com)

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BATON ROUGE, LA  
PERMIT NO. 88

# Business Summit to feature Mainieri, governor candidates

The West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its second annual Small Business Summit on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at the Addis Community Center.

This premier event will feature a panel of small business owners, updates from Louisiana Economic Development, smart tax strategies, and will conclude with a small business update from the candidates running for Governor. The Chamber is also pleased to welcome former LSU Baseball Coach Paul Mainieri to serve as the keynote speaker for lunch.

"We've put together an all-star lineup of experts to share their knowledge with local small businesses who are the backbone of our economy," says Anna Johnson, Executive Director for the Chamber. "The Summit will continue its tradition of speakers and sessions on relevant topics that local small business owners can put to immediate use to grow their businesses and increase their profile. Plus we want to hear what our next Governor says about helping our small business community."

Tickets for the summit are on sale now. Participants will hear from a range of dynamic speakers on topics like marketing, managing cash flow, advertising, lending programs, taxes, social media and more.

This event is open to the public, but you must register in advance. To learn more about the event or to register, visit [wbrchamber.org](http://wbrchamber.org) and click on the Events tab.

**WEST BATON ROUGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Presents  
**SECOND ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT**  
**"PICK ME"**

The West Baton Rouge Parish Chamber is proud to announce its second annual Small Business Summit! This premier event is for Baton Rouge's small business community and has been created to help small businesses address the challenges they are facing, as well as opportunities for growth. The event will present several speaker panels followed by lunch with a surprise keynote speaker.

**This event is open to the public, but tickets must be purchased in advance!**

**Members: \$50 | Non-Members: \$75 | Just Lunch: \$35**

**Wednesday August 2, 2023** | **Addis Community Center**

- 7 am** Registration, Coffee and conversation
- 8 am** Welcome: Anna Johnson, Executive Director, introduction of this year's theme "Pick Me"
- 8:15 am** Playing to Win: If you Build It, They Will Come - small business panel
- 9 am** Ballin' on a Budget: New Economic Efficiencies - La. Economic Development
- 10 am** Moneyball 101: Playing to get on First Base - avoiding missteps in business taxes
- 11 am** Getting Drafted in the First Round - gubernatorial candidates panel
- 12 pm** Lunch and keynote Paul Mainieri, former Head Coach, LSU Baseball

## WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

# Jump into fall with the Library!

### Holiday Closures:

Labor Day – Monday, September 4th

Columbus Day – Monday, October 9th

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting & Candy Sushi - Saturday, September 16th at 11:00 am.** TAB is open to teens in grades 6-12. Join us at our first meeting for the 2022-2023 school year. Share your ideas for teen programs, volunteer, and have a voice in fun programs for teens created by teens. Our snack will be DIY candy sushi. Registration is required.

**The Dinosaur Experience program - Saturday, October 14th at 11:00 am**



Meet dinosaur Nash, his trainer Mr. Martin, and their specially trained T-Rex. They will bring the Jurassic period to life and share their love of all things dinosaurs. Dinosaur trainer Martin's dinos are specially trained to reduce any fears little ones may have about dinos. Families welcome. No registration is required.

**Home school Hangout - Wednesday, Oct. 18th**

**at 10:00 am** Home school students in K-12th grade are welcome to make S'mores with DEQ. Participants will make a solar oven to learn about radiant and thermal energy with special teachers from the Louisiana State Energy Office. Registration is required.

**Family Halloween Event - Friday, October 20th at 6 pm at the WBR Museum,** sponsored by the WBR Library and WBR Museum. Join us at this free event for candy, fun activities, live music, and two back-to-back performances with magician, Tim Spinosa. More details are forthcoming.

**NEED HOMEWORK HELP?**

**FREE online tutoring available**  
[www.homeworkla.org](http://www.homeworkla.org)

HOMEWORK LOUISIANA  
www.homeworkla.org

LIBRARY  
WEST BATON ROUGE

For more information about these programs and a full listing of all offerings, be sure to swing by the library, check out our website, or follow us on Facebook.



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830 N. Alexander Ave.  
Port Allen, LA 70767  
[www.wbrpl.com](http://www.wbrpl.com)

## Weather stations to help parish respond better to weather events

The West Baton Rouge Office of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness, and 9-1-1 recently completed a project to install weather stations in five areas of the parish.

The project was funded partially by a US Department of Homeland Security grant in conjunction with the Governor's Office Of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The contractor chosen for the project, Weatherstem, has installed weather stations throughout the country, including several parishes in Louisiana.

The locations of the weather stations are:

- The Addis VFW Hall
- The Brusly Police Department
- The West Baton Rouge Office of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness
- The Erwinville Community Center
- The West Baton Rouge Parish Communications Tower near Hunters Run.

These sites were selected to provide hyper-local meteorological data, such as rainfall rates, to help the parish better respond to potential weather-related events. The weather stations are now a part of the Weatherstem network of weather stations that started in Florida, expanding nationwide.

The general public can access the weather data via the Weatherstem app or their website at [weatherstem.com](http://weatherstem.com). The data shortly will also be accessible from the parish website and the Weatherunderground app.



One of the weather stations installed in WBR.



View of part of the crowd attending the 4th Fest on the Port Allen riverfront.

## 4th Fest, summer camps a hit

West Baton Rouge had two big hits this summer. A huge crowd turned out for the annual 4th Fest, which is sponsored by WBR Parks and Recreation. And, the always popular WBR Parks & Recreation Summer Day Camp and special needs camp drew large numbers of kids for every camp session.

Combining forces with Every Day Counts, the parish also hosted a special needs summer camp at the Erwinville Community Center, which drew record numbers throughout the summer.

## Sign up now for fall youth sports

Registration is underway now or quickly approaching for the fall youth sports leagues. They include:

- Contact Football- registration open now thru August 30; ages 5-12
- Cheerleading- registration open now thru August 30; ages 6-12
- Soccer- registration opens July 31 thru August 31; ages Pre-K- 7th grade
- Flag Football- registration opens July 31 thru August 31; ages 5-12

Registration is available online at [wbrrecreation.org](http://wbrrecreation.org).

## PROJECT UPDATES

**BAYOU STUMPY CLEAN-OUT** - The \$1.9 million Bayou Stumpy Channel improvements was scheduled to be bid in July. Bids are anticipated to be received in late August by the parish. The federal government will pay 100% of the construction cost. The project will clean out, widen and deepen Bayou Stumpy, which drains a large portion of the northern part of the parish.

**JOLIET TRAIL** - The Joliet Trail sidewalk project that links St. James Park in Brusly to Alexander Park is substantially complete, and final punch list items are being completed now. The sidewalk extends along the River Road and St. Francis Street.

**ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** - The parish's annual road improvement project is now underway. The \$1.05 million project includes the following roads: West Lane, South Lake, Benedetto Lane, Grand Bayou Road (total rebuild), Sands, Hunter's Point, Wilcox Dr., Tascaloose Rd., and Noland David Rd.

**PARISH MASTER PLAN** - Over 100 people attended the two public meetings on updating the parish master plan in early 2023, and the parish now compiling input received and revising the plan. It will hold one or more final public meetings on the revised plan in the fall. Traffic was the biggest concern expressed by residents in the public meetings.

**WATER TESTING** - WBR Utilities will soon be collecting water samples from selected houses constructed between 1983 and 1988. Federal EPA regulations require this collection for lead and copper testing. Homeowners affected by this regulation may be asked to assist with this collection. Anyone with questions about the testing can call 225-336-2406.



WBR mosquito spray trucks.

## West Nile ramps up in WBR

Mosquito samples have recently begun testing positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) within WBR Parish. 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.

Check out our web page at [www.wbrcouncil.org](http://www.wbrcouncil.org) for more information on mosquitoes and like our Facebook page for constant updates on areas of the parish with positive samples and spray truck schedules. Mosquito larvicide tablets are available at our office at 3147 Ted Denstel Rd. Port Allen. They are free and one pack per residential address within the parish is issued.

WBR Mosquito Control urges all citizens to take precautions:

- When possible wear long, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing.
- Use mosquito repellent with the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin in a 15% - 20% concentration.
- Avoid outside activity during the hours of dusk and dawn.
- Do not allow tarps to collect and hold rainwater, remove standing water on your property, and empty all outdoor containers/bird baths weekly.

## Sheriff's Office gets grant for rifles, drone

The West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office has purchased a drone and 40 patrol rifles, thanks to grant funds.

The DJI Matrice 30T (thermal) drone will assist in search & rescue, surveillance, traffic crash reconstruction, crime scene documentation and more. WBRSO currently has one FAA licensed drone pilot and is currently seeking additional pilots within our agency.



The Sheriff's Office has also received and issued out 40 WISE Arms rifles to Enforcement Divisions, including school resource officers. Gun locks were put in all vehicles carrying these rifles. WISE Arms LLC. is a Louisiana owned company.



## Sheriff Cazes creates Burglary, Targeted Patrol Divisions

Sheriff Mike Cazes is excited to announce that a Burglary and Targeted Area Patrol Division has been created within the Sheriff's Office. The Burglary Division will provide thorough follow-up investigations into open and pending cases, and making arrests based on the investigations. These investigators will identify problem areas, assigning a targeted patrol for surveillance.

The Targeted Patrol Division will assist the Burglary Division, as well as use data from call volume, highlighting areas with criminal activity. This will allow deputies assigned to the division to saturate areas of concern. These two divisions are composed of highly trained investigators and are overseen by one Division Commander.

Sheriff Cazes encourages anyone with information that can assist the Burglary and Targeted Area Patrol Divisions to contact WBRSO at 225-343-9234 or [burglary@wbrsheriff.org](mailto:burglary@wbrsheriff.org)

If you are a victim of an intrusion or burglary, please help our investigators so that they can fully help you by following the tips below:

- If you arrive and notice that a burglary has taken place, do not enter! Call 911 and find a safe location until the arrival of a deputy.

If you enter your home or business prior to the arrival of law enforcement, the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office Burglary Detectives recommends the following:

- Do not touch anything that was disturbed, broken, or relocated. Allow for deputies to process and possibly preserve the crime scene.
- If you are safe and there is no need to call 911, call the non-emergency line at 225-490-8599.

West Baton Rouge Parish burglary detectives also recommend taking time to record the make, model, and serial numbers on all of your items. For items that do not have serial numbers, paint, or etch your initials or some symbol on your property that readily identifies it as your property. An "orange weed eater" without any other owner specific information will never get seized/recovered/returned from any of our investigations.

Also, installing a surveillance system for your home and or business, as well as having the area well lit, will deter burglaries.

## TOWN OF ADDIS

### Addis Police add new K-9 - Tito

The Addis Police Department has a new member of its patrol division - Tito. A two-year-old Belgian Malinois, the dog is handled by Corporal Dan Cipriano, who attended a month-long K-9 school. In that school, he and Tito trained strenuously together in different aspects of law enforcement. Tito is specifically trained to assist with suspect apprehension, as well as narcotic-related enforcement.

Tito has been working patrol shifts with Cpl. Cipriano for several months and continues to be a valued addition to the department!



Tito in front of his K-9 Unit.

### Police Dept. notes promotions

The Addis Police Department recognizes the following officers for their promotions in 2023: Lieutenant Detective Ray Lejeune Jr., Corporal Detective Keegan Allen, Motor's Corporal Chris Graves, Corporal Keith Lee, and Corporal Dan Cipriano. Congratulations to these law enforcement officers.



### TOWN MEETINGS:

Town Council - 2nd Tuesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm  
Planning & Zoning - 1st Tuesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm



4343 HARRIS STREET RAILROAD PARK

KICKS OFF AT 5:30 PM / FRIDAYS

# ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD

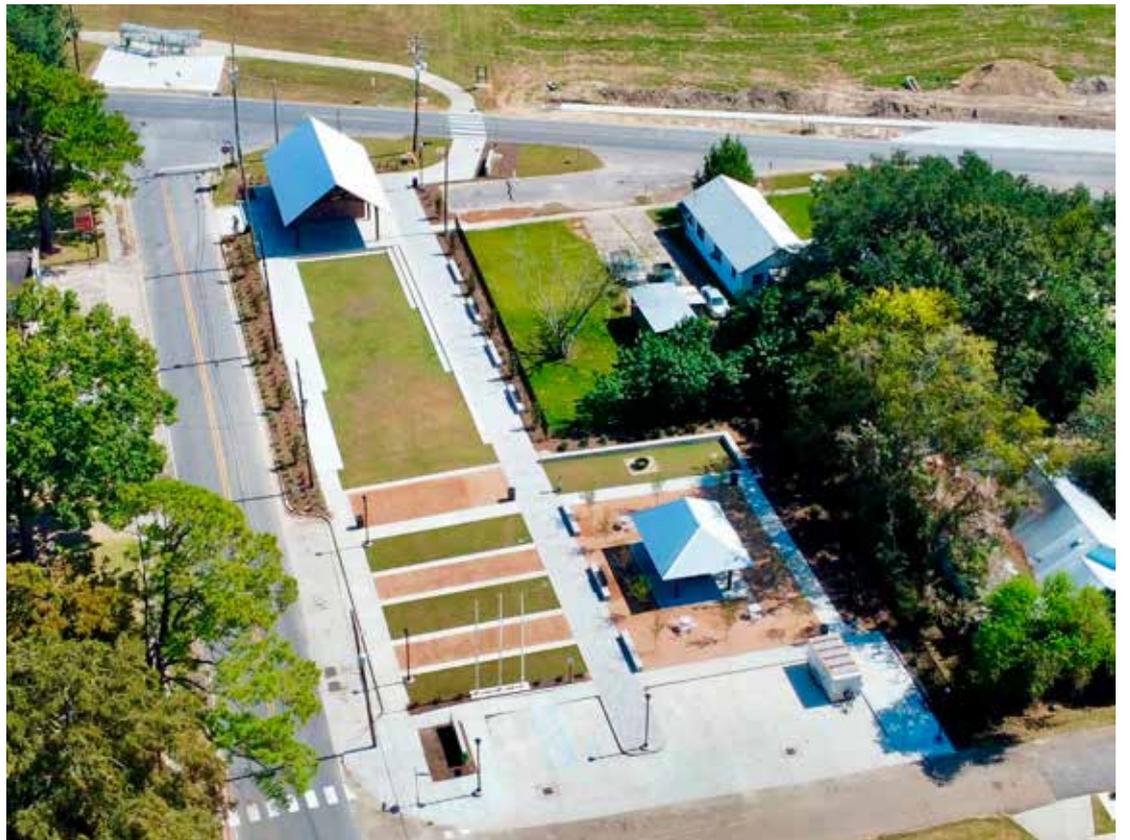
# St. James Park getting much use, to be site of Christmas event

The new St. James Park has been getting a lot of use by town residents since it was opened last fall. The park is well-situated next to the entrance of the levee-top walking and biking trail, and includes amenities such as a bike rental location, pavilion, restrooms, water features, green-space and lighting.

"We have been extremely pleased with the number of residents who use the park daily," said Mayor Scot Rhodes. "We've had a lot of walkers, cyclists and people just go out to enjoy the park."

## CHRISTMAS EVENT BEING PLANNED!

Since residents are embracing the park, town officials have decided to hold a new Christmas event at the park on December 1. It will include a tree lighting, carolers, Santa Claus and other activities. "We want to bring the community together to celebrate this festive season, and this is the perfect place to do that," said Mayor Rhodes. Watch for more on this exciting event in the coming months.



Aerial view of beautiful St. James Park.

## Watch for kids in school zones!

Kids in West Baton Rouge go back to school beginning Thursday, August 10. 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 to stop. Never pass a stopped bus.

Get the latest Town of Brusly updates!



Facebook.com/BruslyTownHall



## WBR CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

# Great lineup set for Oldies Fest, Kite Fest hits record attendance

Do you sell arts, crafts and other items at events? The West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau staff is looking for booth vendors for the Oldies But Goodies Fest on Sunday, September 10. If you are interested, call Victoria at the Conference Center at 225-344-2920.

The Oldies But Goodies Fest and BBQ Cook Off is the Bureau's premiere event for the fall, and this year big crowds are expected at the WBR Tourist Information & Conference Center in Port Allen for this event. (See flyer at right)

The Oldies Fest is being planned on the heels of the Bureau's Kite Fest, which had its best attendance day ever on Sunday, April 30. The event attendance builds annually, and this year it drew both regional and out-of-state participants and attendees to the soccer complex in Port Allen for kiting fun and fireworks.

Meanwhile, the Bureau staff is busy with numerous events booked at the Conference Center. "We are back up to our pre-COVID rentals numbers, and the tourist information section of the center is getting more activity monthly," said Tourism Director Kathy Gautreau.

Members of the staff will be attending the Lt. Governor's Annual Summit in Baton Rouge August 29-31. "This is a great conference with many educational seminars on tourism operations," Gautreau said.

### EVENTS SET FOR FALL/WINTER:

- Oldies But Goodies Fest & BBQ Cook Off - Sept. 9 & 10
- Veterans on Parade - November 5 in downtown Port Allen
- Jingle Jeepin' Parade & Festival - December 2
- Christmas decorations at the Conference Center - throughout December

**Oldies But Goodies Fest & BBQ Cook-Off 2023**

**SATURDAY - SEPT. 9<sup>th</sup>**  
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. 10<sup>th</sup>**  
ANTIQUE CAR SHOW, CRAFTERS, LA FOOD & BEVERAGE VENDORS.

**Live Music on Sunday**

**THAT 70'S BAND 11:00AM - 2:00PM**

**JUSTIN CORNETT BAND 2:30PM - 4:30PM**

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

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

Country Roads  
LOUISIANA  
WEST BATON ROUGE  
- Convention & Visitors Bureau -



Keep up with coming events in WBR: Facebook.com/WBRCVB



Some of the law enforcement officers from Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee at the training.

## DA, Sheriffs sponsor trainings for law enforcement officers

District Attorney Tony Clayton combined forces with Iberville Sheriff Brett Stassi, West Baton Rouge Sheriff Mike Cazes and Pointe Coupee Sheriff Rene Thibodeaux in May to provide a half-day training class on recently enacted laws that impact law enforcement.



The class was offered to all police officers and deputies in the three parishes. Upon completion of the class, the 250 officers attending received an updated reference book on legalities of a variety of law enforcement situations.

"Having officers who are educated in the law and court rulings on law enforcement cases

is important to getting convictions," said DA Clayton.

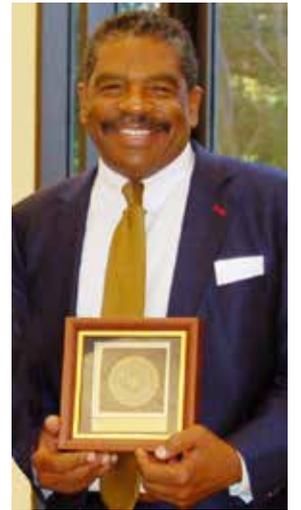
## DA inducted into Louisiana Judicial Hall of Fame

18th Judicial District Attorney Tony Clayton was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame in ceremonies on June 2 at the Lod Cook Conference Center in Baton Rouge. He was among eight inductees from across the state.

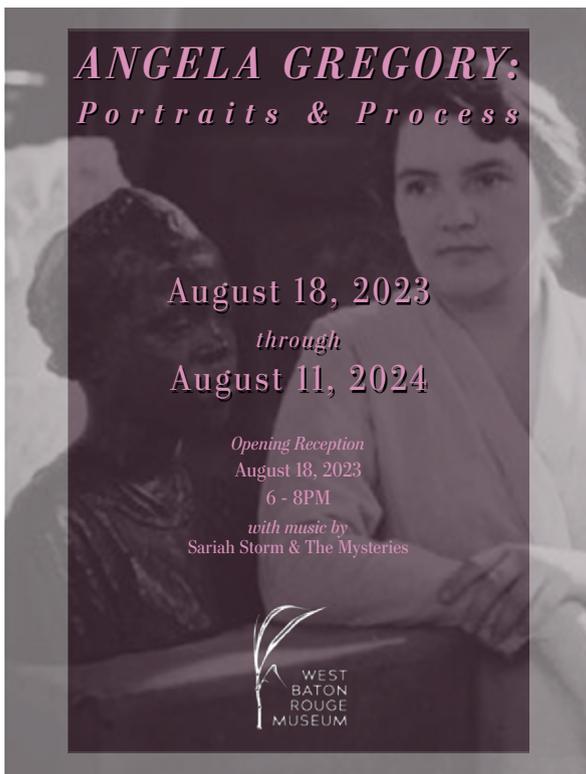
Clayton is District Attorney for a three-parish district, including Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parishes. He is a graduate of Southern University and a 1991 cum laude graduate of Southern University Law Center.

He began his career as a prosecutor in 1992, serving in East Baton Rouge Parish. In 2003, he was appointed as special prosecutor for the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office. In that role, he secured convictions of numerous felons, most notably serial killer Derrick Todd Lee and Monique Kitts, who was convicted of the second degree murder of her husband in West Baton Rouge.

He was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court as a District Court Judge at the 19th Judicial District Court in 1997. He has been a long-time partner in the law firm of Clayton, Fruge, Ward and Hendry, practicing in the areas of plaintiff civil litigation and defense civil litigation. Clayton serves on numerous boards and commissions, and previously served on the Southern University Board of Trustees, holding the position of Chairman.



## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



## Zydeco performer Ledet coming Sept. 15

Put your dancing shoes on for an evening of authentic Zydeco on Friday, September 15 from 6-8 pm at the Juke Joint stage on the grounds of the Museum for the monthly Historical Happy Hour. Twice Grammy nominated Best Regional Roots Music performer Corey Ledet will perform at the Juke Joint stage, accompanied by Brandon Broussard of Louisiana Dance Roots.

Studying under Zydeco originators, Ledet's music evolved to include all types of Zydeco.

To compliment an evening of Zydeco, Brandon Broussard of Louisiana Dance Roots will teach traditional Zydeco to the audience. Bring snacks, folding chairs, and liquid refreshments. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved indoors.



## Free monthly events

- 1st Fridays / 1 – 3 PM – Le Café Français
- 1st Sundays / 2 – 5 PM – Behind the Barn Doors
- 2nd Sundays / 3 – 5 PM – Old Time Jam
- 3rd Fridays / 6 – 8 PM – Historical Happy Hour
- 3rd Sundays / 3 – 5 PM – Le Jam with the Cajun French Music Association
- Last Tuesdays / 6 – 7 PM – Yoga



## Wife of famed artist Rodrigue to speak on Oct. 29

Wendy Rodrigue, widow of the late artist George Rodrigue, will be at the West Baton Rouge Museum for school group tours the weeks of October 23rd and October 30. To schedule your tour, call 225-336-2422. Wendy will also be the keynote speaker for the annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series at 2 pm on October 29, the closing day of The River is the Road: Paintings by George Rodrigue.

## 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.



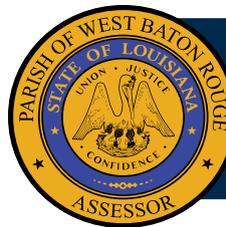
**Finally, valuation is completed**, in which the Assessor's Office determines the fair market value of properties. For all land and residential properties, fair market value is largely determined by mass appraising groups of similar properties using the sales comparison approach to value.

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](http://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](http://www.portgbr.com)

# New website, app offers easy navigation for parents

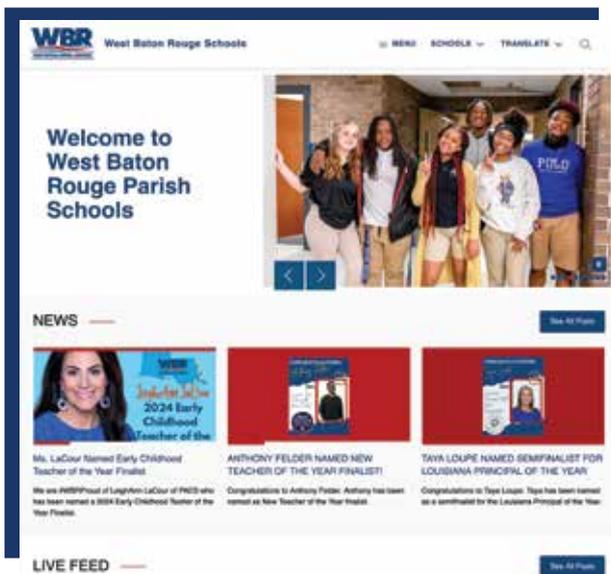
Parents will notice that the West Baton Rouge school system, and all schools, have a new website and app when their kids begin the school year. A major feature of the new website is an integrated app that provides a one-stop-shop for parents to get the latest information about their student's school.

For example, the app will provide parents with alerts, notifications, social media posts, and other school information. It will send notices to parents about report cards, field trips, special events or activities at the school, PTO meetings, and much more. Information including school lunch menus, homework and events, will be at their fingertips. Social media posts by the schools, no matter if they are on facebook, Instagram, Twitter or other social media apps, will also be integrated for them on the app.

"The new website and app should make things easier for parents," said Superintendent Chandler Smith.

"It is easy to use and navigate, and is considered a state-of-the-art communications tool for schools."

More information about the app will be provided to parents when the new school year begins.



The home page of the new School Board website: [wbrschools.net](http://wbrschools.net).



QR code to download the app on Apple devices



QR code to download the app on Google Play

# WIN Time being incorporated in every WBR school this year

Every student in West Baton Rouge schools will have a new 20-30 minute period daily of individualized instruction or enrichment beginning this school year. WIN Time stands for "What I Need," and will be based on assessments of each student by a team of educators at the schools.

"The program was piloted at Lukeville Elementary School last year, and it proved very successful in elevating the students' academic performance," said Megan Southall, Supervisor of Assessment and Accountability.

"It is a team-driven mentality including not just the core subject teachers," she explained. "Everyone is on board and has input on what each student needs. It is data-driven, personnel informed, and individual student need informed. The time could be allocated to intervention in a particular subject with small group teaching, which feels like one-on-one teaching; it could be club or activity oriented, or it could be enrichment oriented for students that are excelling. It is a very pro-active approach to doing everything we can to help advance our students."

Also, once a week students get grade appropriate social/emotional learning. With WIN Time, students get extra support without extra time outside of school hours because it is embedded into their school day schedules.

"We expect this program to help all our students both in test scores, and also in their overall school experience," Southall said.



Rendering of the Career & Technical Education building which is now under construction next to the WBR School Board office.

# Career Academy to offer new pathways for students, facility under construction

The new Career Academy will provide more opportunities for students to get training and education in careers that will propel them to jobs or further education after they graduate.

While the Academy will be underway for the school year that begins August 10, even more programs will be offered once the Career & Technical Education Building is completed for the 2024-25 school year.

The school board is partnering with Baton Rouge Community College to offer electrical, millwright, welding and certified clinical medical assistant classes for this school year. The program is open to juniors and seniors. Students will spend part of their school day at their high school, and part at the BRCC Westside campus for this school year. They will be bused to and from the BRCC campus.

"We developed an Advisory Committee in 2021 that includes our local business and industry stakeholders, and we asked them what jobs will be needed so that we can help put our local young people in good-paying jobs right here at home," said Julie Mayeux, Secondary Supervisor. "They are working with us to develop internship and mentor programs and experiences for the students; and will be helping us equip our new facility when it is complete."

"The big advantage for students is that they can get all or a solid foundation of their classes and training for high-paying jobs before they even get out of high school, saving them time and money," she noted.

When the new building opens, the Academy will also offer engineering, cosmetology, construction, food service programs and more. The program will then be offered to seniors, juniors and sophomores. Some of the business and industry partners in the program include Shell, Exxon, Coca-Cola, Turner Industries, hotels, and the Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance. The school board received a \$1.3 million Reimagine grant from the La. Department of Education for equipment and training.

"This program will put our students ahead of the game in getting their careers underway, equipping them with the training they need to get these jobs or to move into higher levels of training or education," said Candice Breaux, the Career Academy and CTE Supervisor. Jill Edwards will serve as the CTE coordinator.

Students interested can enroll in one of the career pathways at their high school.

## Holiday calendar for 2023-24 School Year



Aug. 10	1st day of school
Sept. 4	Labor Day holiday
Oct. 16-18	Fall break/parent conferences
Nov. 20-24	Thanksgiving holidays
Dec. 22	1/2 day for students
Dec. 25-Jan.8	Christmas holidays
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King holiday
Feb. 12-14	Mardi Gras holidays
Mar. 29-April 5	Spring Break
May 22	1/2 day for students
May 23	Last 1/2 day for students