

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26-27 - Kite Fest Louisiana, See page 5

April 27- Childrens drawing/paint workshop, WBR Museum

April 27 - Election Day

May 8 - Senior Spirit Dance, Addis Community Center

May 8 - Chamber Member Appreciation Crawfish Boil

May 10 - Rockin' on the Railroad - Addis

June 7 - Crescent Circus, WBR Library

June 10 - Actors Lunch Break Show, WBR Library

June 17 - Blast from the Past Summer Camp, WBR Museum

June 17 - Harvey Rabbit & Friends Show, WBR Library

June 24 - Animal Adventure, WBR Library

June 28 - Downing Concert, WBR Library



2024  
**JULY 4TH FEST**  
Downtown Port Allen  
Live Music - 5-10 pm  
Foret Tradition - 7-10 pm  
Fireworks - 9 pm

## Emergency notification to residents now more important than ever!

Increasingly violent weather events, along with the potential for other emergencies, make it important for residents to receive emergency alerts from the WBR Office of Emergency Preparedness.

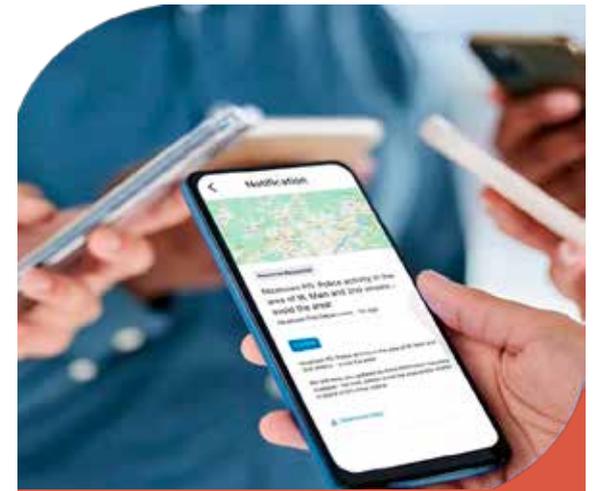
The most effective tool for getting emergency information out to residents is its WBR Emergency Alert System. Residents must sign up to receive these alerts! You can do this two ways - see the box at right.

This emergency alert system provides you with critical information on severe weather events, unexpected road closures, missing persons, natural gas leaks, water boil advisories, evacuations, shelter in place notices and more.

The information provided when you register is safely guarded by WBR OEP - it is not shared with any other agency or other individuals. It is used only for notification purposes.

Because of issues with the two sirens in the Addis area, which belong to Iberville Parish agencies, those sirens are being re-located to Iberville. "More and more communities are getting away from the sirens and going to the emergency notification system we have," said Parish President Jason Manola. "It is much more effective and provides information to residents about exactly what is happening. I urge residents to sign up today."

**PARISH AND IPAWS NATIONAL ALERT SYSTEM:** West Baton Rouge Parish is a certified IPAWS NATIONAL ALERT SYSTEM USER. The national IPAWS Alert System is separate from the WBR Emergency Alert System. It includes emergency warning messages over TV, radio and mobile texts. It can be used in conjunction with the local system in case of a national emergency if it meets the federal criteria of a major emergency. However, it is not controlled by West Baton Rouge officials, and is not specific to West Baton Rouge emergencies, incidents, road closures, etc.



## HOW TO REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS:

- Call 225-343-0044 and leave a message on the recording. An OEP employee will call you back; or

- Go to [www.wbrparish.org](http://www.wbrparish.org). Click on "How Do I" at the top of the page, and then on Emergency Alerts. Once on the sign up page, you can register either your mobile phone or a landline, along with the types of alerts you want to receive.

TTD & language options are available.



2024 **Kite Fest Louisiana**  
APRIL 27 & 28  
WBR Soccer Complex, Port Allen



**KITE FEST ADOPT-A-DOG**  
Saturday, April 27, 11am-2pm  
At Kite Fest - WBR Soccer Complex

## GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
PERMIT NO. 88

# Leadership West is back! Applications due June 30

The Leadership West program is designed to cultivate community and business leaders in West Baton Rouge Parish. It identifies and encourages current and potential leaders by acquainting them with local needs and building an understanding of how individual talents can work together to build a more successful community.

The curriculum informs participants about West Baton Rouge's history, government, economy, social issues, needs and opportunities, along with the existing processes for dealing with them.

It facilitates opportunities for dialogue among participants and community, business, and non-profit leaders. It also encourages participants to engage in activities that

contribute to the growth and betterment of the community. Participants are given unique insights into parish, city, and state level organizations, which allows them to build a more in-depth perspective of our community's opportunities and challenges. Participants also receive training in the art of leadership itself, strengthening their ability to make a positive impact at home, work, and in the public forum.

The deadline for applications for the fall program, which includes nine sessions, is June 30. Visit [www.wbrchamber.org/leadership-west](http://www.wbrchamber.org/leadership-west) to get more information and apply!



WEST BATON ROUGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**2024 MEMBER APPRECIATION**  
*Crawfish*  
**Boil**  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8TH  
5 - 7 PM  
*Tickets are complimentary*  
749 N JEFFERSON AVE.  
PORT ALLEN, LA 70767  
RSVP REQUIRED: [WBRCHAMBER.ORG/EVENTS](http://WBRCHAMBER.ORG/EVENTS)

## WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

### South Branch Library set to open in May

The WBR Library is excited to announce that the new South Branch Library is scheduled to open on May 17th. Be sure to follow our Facebook page for updates.

**We have a new parenting resource, Parent TV.** This is a virtual library of parenting videos and resources at your fingertips. They have videos and activities for all life stages. This resource is free with your WBR Library card.

**Weekly Storytimes:** All ages children's storytime continues on Tuesday mornings at 10 am.

**Muffins with Mom** – May 11, 2024. Space is limited. Registration is required.

**Bubble Meditation** – May 18, 2024. Space is limited. Registration is required.

**Upcoming Holiday Closures:**  
Memorial Day – Monday, May 27th  
Juneteenth – Wednesday, June 19th  
Independence Day – Thursday, July 4th



### Summer Reading Program

This summer Adventure Begins at Your Library. Our 2024 summer reading theme celebrates adventure! We will have library activities and reading programs for all ages.

This summer's in-person program offerings for youth include arts, crafts, STEAM, and storytimes. We also have a great lineup of engaging presenters including a Louisiana singer and author, magic and circus arts, exotic animals, comedy, street music and dance, puppets, an acting workshop, princess storytime with Merida and Rapunzel, a teen film camp, and more. The adult in-person program offerings include arts, crafts, dance, and more! For our full lineup of performers and programs, visit our website's calendar of events page.

For more information about these programs, be sure to call (225) 342-7920, swing by the library, check out our website [www.wbrpl.com](http://www.wbrpl.com), or follow us on Facebook.

**MUFFINS**  
with  
**MOM**  
Saturday, May 11, 2024  
10:30 AM- 12:00 PM  
Join us for a morning of muffins, music, storytime, crafts, and more with your little ones while supplies last. Space is limited. Register online. Registration is required and open to children born to 11 years of age.

**BUBBLE MEDITATION**  
SATURDAY, MAY 18 11 AM-NOON  
Info: [wbrpl.com](http://wbrpl.com), or follow us on Facebook

## Parish President Manola names administrative team

West Baton Rouge Parish President Jason Manola has listed his administrative team for his first term. They are shown below. Many have been serving the parish for years. We wish them all the best in these important positions.



*Phillip Bourgoyne  
Chief of  
Administration*



*Kevin Durbin  
Director of  
Public Works*



*Adrian Genre  
Director of  
Utilities*



*Anatole Vincent  
Director of Parks  
& Recreation*



*Melanie David  
Director of Revenue  
& Taxation*



*Deano Moran  
Director of Homeland  
Security/911*



*Chance Stephens  
Director of Finance*



*Butch Browning  
WBR Fire Dept.*

## \$1.4 million road overlay project to bid soon

The parish's annual road overlay program is expected to start this summer. Overlays are set for these roads: Colonial Drive, Dixie Drive, Confederate Drive, Kingstone Avenue, Gremillion Road, Brantford Drive, Welland Avenue, Edmonton Avenue, Vancouver Drive and Sid Richardson Road (east side of highway). The estimated cost of the project is \$1.4 million. The parish will also take bids to asphalt the parking lots at Rivault Park and Williams and Lee Park.

## Water quality report

In conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health, the parish publishes an annual water quality report with detailed data concerning your drinking water. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and services we deliver to you every day. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process while protecting our water resources.

The 2023 Water Quality Report (CCR) can be found on our parish website: [wbr council.org/Departments/Utilities/Consumer Confidence Reports](http://wbr council.org/Departments/Utilities/Consumer Confidence Reports). Additionally, CCR's are available at our WBR Utilities Office, 880 North Alexander, Port Allen, LA 70767.

Each of our four parish-wide water systems have been given a letter grade by the Louisiana Department of Health known as the Community Drinking Water Accountability Rule. The corresponding letter grade will also be posted on the parish website, where the Consumer Confidence Reports are found.

## INTRACOASTAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT UPDATE

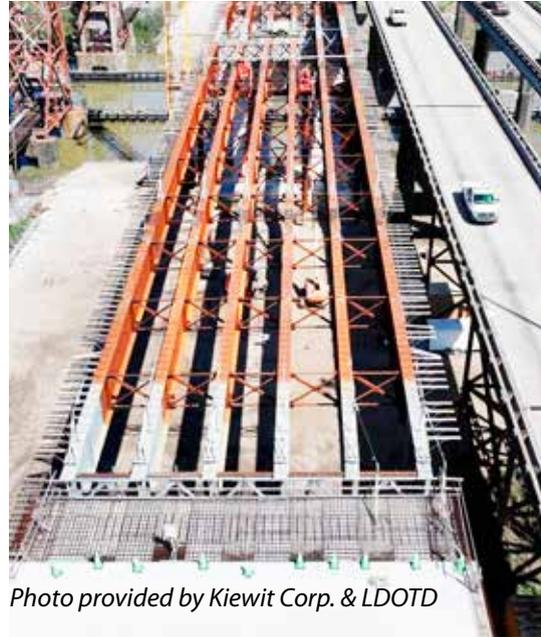


Photo provided by Kiewit Corp. & LDOTD

### Dec. completion planned for Phase 1

Construction of the new south-bound (Phase 1) Intracoastal Bridge is proceeding, with bridge deck pours beginning in May and continuing through September. A tentative December completion has been set. Partial diversion of traffic may begin by November. Once completed, all north and southbound La. 1 traffic will be diverted to the new bridge, and demolition of the old bridge will begin, followed by construction of the new northbound bridge.



### Bayou Stumpy clean-out

The \$1.5 million Bayou Stumpy Watershed Project is nearing completion. Contractor Shallow Water Equipment, Inc. is de-snagging and improving drainage in this critical canal. The project is fully funded by a federal grant.

## SUMMER CAMPS, PROGRAMS SET

**SUMMER CAMPS:** Registration for the WBR Parks & Recreation Department's popular summer day camp begins in May. The camp provides an excellent program for young children filled with guest performances, fun activities, and a weekly splash day. Open to boys and girls age 5-10, it is held Tuesdays - Thursdays (3 days per week) from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, and lunch is included. A session is one week, and cost is \$10 per session/per child (non-refundable). Camp t-shirts are available for an additional \$10.

**SESSIONS:** June 4-6 & June 11-13 in Port Allen (2 sessions)  
June 18-20 & 25-27 in Addis (2 sessions)  
July 9-11 & July 16-18 in Erwinville (2 sessions)

**NOW HIRING CAMP STAFF:** Applications are available at WBR Parks & Recreation office at the Port Allen Community Center, 749 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen, Monday-Thursday 8 am - 5 pm, and Friday 8 am - noon. For more information call 225-336-2423 or at [wbrrecreation.org](http://wbrrecreation.org).

**AG EXPLORER DAY CAMP:** West Baton Rouge Parks & Recreation is partnering with West Baton Rouge 4-H to host the 2nd Annual Ag Explorer Day Camp July 15-19 for kids age 9 to 12. Participants will engage in three days of fun learning about livestock, gardening, and cooking fresh! We will also have water slides, games, and arts & crafts for them to enjoy. Cost is \$40 per child. Registration begins in June.

**SPEED & CONDITIONING CAMP:** Get your kids off the couch for our 6-week Speed & Conditioning Summer Program! The speed, agility, and conditioning program is designed to be an overall wellness program. Participants engage in a variety of strength and conditioning activities during the hour-long sessions such as speed training, agility, calisthenics, and resistance training. Open to boys and girls age 5-14. Cost is \$10 per child. Program T-shirt is available for an additional \$10. Camp is June 4 through July 18 in Brusly & Port Allen - Tuesday & Thursday evenings (2 days per week). Registration begins in May.

**SENIOR SPIRIT DANCES:** Senior Spirit Dances are for our "50 and older crowd," and are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Addis Community Center from 11 am until 2 pm. Admission is \$5, and lunch is provided from 11 am until noon. Live music from 11:30 am until 2 pm. No alcohol is served. Upcoming bands are: May 8 - Justin Cornett & Denver Mayeux; June 12 - Tet Dur; July 10 - Don Rich.

**For info on these programs: [WBRECREATION.ORG](http://WBRECREATION.ORG) or [FACEBOOK.COM/WBR ParksandRec](https://FACEBOOK.COM/WBR ParksandRec)**

## Keeping graduation celebrations safe for everyone

As graduation parties near, now is a great time to have conversations with teens about safety. Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers. Following are tips to keep our youth safe on the roadways.

### PARENTS:

- Speak directly with any parents supervising after-parties your teen will attend since some parents may allow underage drinking.
- Talk to your teen about dealing with peer pressure, the dangers/repercussions of underage drinking and driving, using illegal substances, and contacting you for a ride in situations involving impairment.
- If a group insists on traveling together to graduation parties, talk to other parents about hiring a limo. If it's not in the budget, offer to drive them yourself.
- Plan your own, adult-supervised, drug/alcohol free after-party at your house or local community center.
- You can't always be in the car, but you can keep safety top-of-mind by

demonstrating and enforcing habits like wearing a seat belt, not using a cell phone while driving, following the speed limit, and driving with your eyes on the road.

### TEENS:

- Passenger distractions are dangerous. Be sure to respect the driver by not talking loudly, chatting on a cell phone, playing loud music, or acting disruptively. Distracted driving is a major cause of crashes.
- Groom before you zoom, not in the vehicle mirror.
- Since many parties last until early morning, get plenty of sleep leading up to the party, or ask your parents to pick you up so you and your friends don't have to drive tired. Crashes involving teens happen significantly more at night.
- Put a limit on the number of friends you ride with. Over half of teen passenger deaths are in incidents with teen drivers.
- Don't Drink/Do Drugs and Drive.
- Buckling your seatbelt can save your life and keep you from serious injury!



## Deputies complete POST certification course

Congratulations to Deputy Juan Palmer, Deputy Yolanda Amest, and Deputy Kyle Pitre, three of our newest POST Graduates of the Capital Area Regional Training Academy (CARTA), who all graduated in January. Sheriff Mike Cazes and the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office are happy to have these deputies protecting our community.

**The West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office website provides information on reporting a crime, paying taxes and tickets online, road closures, accident reports, inmate jail rosters and more. Go to: [wbrsheriff.org](http://wbrsheriff.org)**

**Check out the Sheriff's Office facebook page for the latest news at: [facebook.com/West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office](https://facebook.com/WestBatonRougeParishSheriffsOffice)**

## TOWN OF ADDIS

### Major sewer improvement project to begin this fall

New, and larger, pumping stations will be installed this year after the Addis Council voted in April to accept the low bid on the \$1.59 million project.

The First Street pumping station and the Addis Lane pumping station will both be replaced with larger capacity stations and wet wells. They will pump effluent to the town's wastewater treatment plant. Tullier Services was the low bidder, and is ordering the equipment. It is expected to take several months to get the equipment in, and work is projected to begin in the fall.

The two pumping stations are the oldest in Addis, and require service and repairs often. They also have been plagued with drainage water intrusion. The new pumping stations will improve the sewer system in those areas of town, and also have fewer maintenance issues.

The town is using its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from the federal government for this project.

**SUGAR HOLLOW DRAINAGE PROJECT:** Arbour Construction is about 75% complete on the \$714,000 project in Sugar Hollow Subdivision to relieve flooding in severe rain events. It includes the new culverts along existing ditches to increase capacity of the drainage system; along with expanding the retention ponds to handle additional storm water. Completion is expected in May.

### TOWN MEETINGS:

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



**ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD**  
**LEE SERIO**  
 APRIL 12 | **BAND**  
**LOUISIANA** | APRIL 26  
 MAY 17 | **AFTER 8**

4543 HARRIS STREET  
**RAILROAD PARK**

KICKS OFF AT  
**5:30 PM / FRIDAYS**

**FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY outdoor event featuring live music, food trucks, and entertainment for the kids**

# Market Days draws big crowd, rave reviews

After a wildly successful farmers market at the Town of Brusly's St. James Park in March, more Market Days are on the way this year!

"We find our community really likes these Saturday morning markets here at St. James Park," said Mayor Scot Rhodes. "We will continue to provide these great community building events, and St. James Park is proving to be a great venue for these events!"

Upcoming Market days are May 18, October 12 and November 9, all beginning at 10 am. St. James Park is located at 1000 E. Main Street in Brusly, adjacent to River Road.

Interested in being a vendor? The Saturday, May 18, Market Host is Crystal Stewart - 225-315-8264. The Saturday, October 12 and November 9 Market Hosts are Madison Callahan - 225-773-6791 and Amber Gatlin - 225-776-3966.



Get the latest news from the  
Town of Brusly



Facebook.com/  
BruslyTownHall



## WBR CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

### Happenings at West Baton Rouge CVB

Plans for Kite Fest Louisiane are being finalized. Now considered a premiere kiting event, hundreds of visitors from other areas of Louisiana and the country are expected.

**UPGRADES COMING:**

Attendees and vendors will have an additional 14,000 square feet of concrete parking area to park and unload for events behind the WBR Convention Center later this year.

"When we would have rain before events, it would cause problems for our vendors, who were having to maneuver and off load on limestone in muddy conditions," explained Tourism Director Kathy Gautreau. "This will provide a much better surface for vendors, and provide additional parking for big events at our facility."

That project, along with the installation of a new larger digital sign, will be completed this year. The digital sign will be more visible from the interstate and will allow for more detailed visual images.

Meanwhile, beautification plans are underway for the La. 415 exit off Interstate 10 in front of the WBR Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We have to work through the La. Department of Transportation and Development, but the plan is to add a welcome sign with flowers in the median," she said.

Plans for 2025 also call for a major renovation of the tourist information portion of the Conference Center. "The tourist experience has changed through the years. We want to provide a more interactive experience in that space," Gautreau said.



For event information:  
800-654-9701  
westbatonrouge.net

Saturday 11am till  
fireworks at dark  
Sunday 11am - 4pm

West Baton Rouge  
Soccer Complex  
3383 Rosedale Road  
in Port Allen



## DA April 27 ballot item to fight crime, prosecute violent offenders

Violence and violent juvenile crime are soaring. Criminals are trying to expand their operations to our parishes. So far, District Attorney Tony Clayton and Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee law enforcement have held the line. But it is getting harder.

**DA MAJOR TRIAL STATS: April, 2021-March, 2024**  
 Due to Covid, trials could be held for only 35 months of this period

<b>Number of trials</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Homicide convictions</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Number who got life sentences</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Rape/sexual assault/child porn convictions</b>	<b>9</b>

That is why the DA has proposed a Law Enforcement District Initiative, which is on the April 27 election ballot in Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and Pointe Coupee

Parishes. "We take violent offenders to trial and we seek the toughest sentences possible," said Clayton. "We just tried and convicted 5 gang members of murder."

Clayton noted that juries are requiring more evidence to convict – DNA, crime scene analysis, expert witnesses, experienced investigators/prosecutors, etc. In addition, the costs of providing and assisting programs to help juvenile offenders and domestic abuse victims have increased.

Presently, the District Attorney's Office is partially funded by Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parish governments. This has left the DA's Office dependent on parish governments for critical operations and expenses. "It is difficult to operate and be an effective prosecutor when you have to spend time and resources asking for critical funding every year," said Clayton. The Law Enforcement District Initiative will fund the programs shown in the box at right.

**ELECTION INFORMATION:**

**EARLY VOTING:** April 13-20 (excluding Sunday) 8:30 am - 6 pm  
**ELECTION DAY:** Saturday, April 27, 7 am- 8 pm

### Proceeds would be used for:

- Technology upgrades;
- Prosecution & trial costs: Expert witnesses, DNA analysis, Victim testimony expenses, etc...;
- Salaries, insurance, training, and benefits of prosecutors, investigators, & staff;
- A designated mobile phone data expert to monitor cell phones of criminals;
- Sex and Narcotics Divisions to prosecute spiraling sexual assault cases, often against children, and deadly Fentanyl and opioid distribution cases;
- Tracking division that monitors gang activity in the district's 3-parish area;
- Tri-Parish Intelligence Center to share & coordinate investigation activities;
- Tri-parish task force and a prosecutor in each parish to intervene with youths who get in trouble in order to re-direct and educate these juveniles;
- Assistance to programs that help our juveniles and families, such as: CASA, FINS and truancy programs to keep kids in school; and
- Conflict resolution programs to teach kids how to resolve conflicts without violence.

### Proposal is 1/4 of 1 cent sales tax

The proposal is for a one-fourth (.25 percent) of one cent sales tax for 10 years.

Residents who spend \$1,000 a month on taxable items will pay only \$2.50 for this tax. Industry pays most of this one-fourth of 1 cent sales tax.



1/4 of 1 penny

## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AT THE WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

*Historical Happy Hour*

FRIDAY, MAY 17 • 6 - 8PM  
*Blues 4 Sale*

FRIDAY, JUNE 21 • 6 - 8PM  
*Kenny Acosta*

FRIDAY, JULY 19 • 6 - 8PM  
*Blue Crab Redemption*

*T*atting workshop  
with Christy Castille

**Beginner Shuttle Tatting**  
Wednesday, May 8  
10AM - Noon

**Simple Edging Workshop**  
Wednesday, May 22  
10AM - Noon

The fee for each class is \$30.  
Space is limited.  
Register by calling the WBRM at  
225.336.2422

Participants should not have dexterity problems (arthritis or joint issues) with their fingers.

EXPLORATIONS  
*IN GENEALOGY*

May 11, 10:30 - Noon  
**CANARY ISLANDERS, ISLEÑOS OF LOUISIANA**  
with speaker Stella Carline Tanoos

June 8, 10:30 - Noon  
**ANCESTORS SPEAK**  
with speaker Gaynell Brady

July 13, 10:30 - Noon  
**ACADIAN GENEALOGY AND HISTORY**  
with speaker R. Martin Guidry

TEACHER'S INSTITUTE  
July 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>

**BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION:  
EVOLUTION OF THE REVOLUTION**

The Teachers' Institute is limited to 20 participants. Participants are accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Applicants should be actively engaged in the teaching profession. For more information, please call André St. Romain at (225) 336-2422.

**Evolution of the Revolution**



**May 18<sup>th</sup> - August 25<sup>th</sup>**



# Understanding your property taxes

One of the more important words in understanding property taxes is "millages," and it is a word unfamiliar and confusing to many people, said Assessor Chris Guerin. "A mill is one-tenth of one percent and is the means by which property taxes are generated by our various parish government agencies to fund services," Guerin said. "West Baton Rouge Parish's current property tax rate is 103.84 mills."

If you are still confused, you are not alone. Perhaps a few examples might help.

**EXAMPLE #1:**

Lot Fair Market Value (FMV)	\$100,000.00
Assessed value (FMV x 10%)	\$ 10,000.00
103.84 millage rate is applied to the \$10,000 assessed value	
Results in tax bill of	\$ 1,038.40

"If a vacant tract of land has a Fair Market Value (FMV) of \$100,000, it has a \$10,000 assessed value (FMV x 10%). The 103.84 millage rate is applied to the \$10,000 assessed value and generates a tax bill on the vacant land in the amount of \$1,038.40," Guerin said.

**EXAMPLE #2:**

Home Fair Market Value (FMV)	\$275,000.00
Homestead exemption	\$ 75,000.00
Assessed value (FMV less homestead exemption x 10%)	\$ 20,000.00
103.84 millage rate is applied to the \$20,000 assessed value	
Results in tax bill of	\$ 2,076.80

"Here's another example: if a residence has a FMV of \$275,000 and qualifies for the \$75,000 Homestead Exemption, it has a taxable assessed value of \$20,000 (FMV less Homestead Exemption x 10%). The 103.84 millage rate is applied to the \$20,000 taxable assessed value and generates a tax bill on the residence in the amount of \$2,076.80."

Millages are levied against the assessed values of land, residences, commercial buildings and business personal property, such as inventory, furniture and machinery and equipment. "State statutes mandate our office re-value properties every four years to adjust assessed values to reflect current market conditions, so 2024 will be a re-valuation year," explained Guerin.

Assessor Guerin recommends anyone with questions regarding how their property taxes or assessed values are determined to contact the Assessor's Office at 225-344-6777.

## Current break-down of millages in WBR

<b>Assessment Districts</b>	1.24 mills
<b>Atchafalaya Basin Levee District</b>	4.04 mills
<b>WBR Sheriff's Department</b>	16.10 mills
<b>WBR Parish Council:</b> (Community Centers, Council on Aging, Drainage, General Fund, Health Unit, Library, Museum, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Recreation)	29.07 mills
<b>WBR School Board:</b> (Bonds & Interest, General Fund and Salary Fund)	53.39 mills
<b>City of Port Allen Maintenance Fund</b>	7.18 mills
<b>City of Port Allen Police Department</b>	5.02 mills

Check us out online:  
[www.wbrassessor.org](http://www.wbrassessor.org)

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

## PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

LOUISIANA  
PORTS  
WORKING  
TOGETHER

# IMPORTANT

## WE KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF

the maritime industry to the economic well-being of our state, particularly through the five deep-draft ports along the Mississippi River:

- Port of Greater Baton Rouge
- Port of South Louisiana
- Port of New Orleans
- St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District
- Plaquemines Port, Harbor and Terminal District

When the total tonnage of cargo shipped from these five ports is combined (500 million tons annually), it qualifies as one of the largest port complexes in the world.

To stay competitive nationally and globally, and attract federal infrastructure funding, all ports must work together. United by this cooperative spirit, the Port of Greater Baton Rouge anticipates statewide economic growth through enhanced development across all deep-draft ports.



[WWW.PORTGBR.COM](http://WWW.PORTGBR.COM)

# Summer educator training gets re-vamp with PD Palooza

Those who think educators have the summer off may not be aware that they are required to attend professional development sessions each summer because the busy school schedule and curriculum demands usually do not allow time for these sessions during the school year.

The West Baton Rouge School Board has developed a new way to help educators enjoy their summer breaks by offering the PD Palooza this summer, a condensed time period in which teachers can complete the needed professional development sessions over a two week period from July 15 through 25.

"It is much like a conference, where teachers will be able to pick and choose the sessions they want to attend. Some will be required for certain teachers because of curriculum changes being initiated in the new school year, but they will also have choices of other sessions they want to attend," said Megan Southall, Supervisor of Assessment and Accountability.

"We will have both outside specialists and in-house personnel leading the sessions, and we will also offer some on-line self-paced training for educators," she added. "We will also offer some work sessions in which teachers can network and collaborate on projects, along with sessions for instructional coaches and school leaders."

"The goal is to provide our educators with quality professional development on subjects that they need and want to grow as professionals, and to do that in the shortest amount of time possible to respect their summers off," Southall said.

Educators will be paid to attend the sessions. One focus will be on implementing high quality instruction materials at all campuses, so that the school system is consistent in teaching the same curriculum for grade levels at all schools. "Ultimately we want all of our educators to become curriculum masters," she said. "The PD Palooza sets the foundation for the future."



Teachers enjoy some fun at last summer's professional development program.



## Early learning critical to child's success in school

Did you know that 90 percent of brain development happens between birth to age 4? That's why making sure our children enroll in a high quality early learning program prior to kindergarten is important to their success in school.

WBR Early Learning is designed to provide learning experiences and support for families of children from birth until kindergarten. The educators in this program provide educational support and materials to child care centers in the parish through the Ready Start Network, as well as the WBR Head Start and Pre-kindergarten Programs, which are open to 3 to 5-year-olds.

Head Start and Pre-kindergarten programs are held five days a week at Brusly Elementary School, Caneview K-8 School, and Port Allen Elementary School. Transportation is provided for the Head Start and Pre-kindergarten programs.

Applications for the Early Learning program are now being accepted online. Once the online application is completed, parents will be scheduled for a site appointment, where they will provide documentation, such as the child's birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residence, income and other documentation. More information on the program options and the application is available on the program's website: [wbrearlylearning.com](http://wbrearlylearning.com) or by calling (225)343-8309.

### WBR Early Learning Now Accepting Online Applications for the 2024-2025 School Year

Child Care Programs and Ratings		
Serves children ages 6 weeks to 5.		
ABC	744-6652	★★★★★
Academy of Early Learning	897-8111	★★★★★
Kidsville	421-1575	★★★★★
Kidz Karousel-Addis	744-5291	Not Yet Rated
La Petite	256-1614	★★★★★
Poplar Grove	848-8887	★★★★★
Rocking Horse	744-4004	★★★★★
The Growing Tree	421-5228	Not Yet Rated

School-Based Programs and Ratings		
Serves children ages 3 to 5.		
Brusly Elementary Head Start & PreK	744-2125	★★★★★
Caneview K-8 Head Start & PreK	627-6691	★★★★★
Port Allen Elementary Head Start & PreK	848-7596	★★★★★



\*Currently enrolled Head Start children do not need to complete the online application.

**Part 1: Online Application**  
 Complete and submit an online application at [www.wbrearlylearning.com](http://www.wbrearlylearning.com)

**Part 2: Site-Base Face-to-Face**  
 Bring the **required** documents below to the site's Face-to-Face in order to complete registration.

Child Care Requirements	WBR Head Start Requirements	WBR Pre K Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child's Immunization Records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child's Birth Certificate</li> <li>Child's Updated Immunization Records on the Louisiana State Form</li> <li>Government Issued Driver's License, Id or Passport</li> <li>Income Verification:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SNAP Statement with child's name and effective date</li> <li>Last 2 Consecutive Paycheck Stubs for each adult in household</li> <li>Letter from Employer</li> <li>W-2 or 1041</li> <li>SSI for any household member</li> <li>Foster Care Current DCF's placement agreement</li> </ul> </li> <li>Residence Verification (5 Proofs):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill's ONE must tie you to the house: Mortgage/Lease, Gas, Home Insurance, Utility, Water</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child's Birth Certificate</li> <li>Child's Updated Immunization Records on the Louisiana State Form</li> <li>Government Issued Driver's License or Id or Passport</li> <li>Income Verification:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SNAP Statement with child's name and effective date</li> <li>Last 2 Consecutive Paycheck Stubs for each adult in household</li> <li>Letter from Employer</li> <li>SSI benefits for household member must be accompanied by other income</li> </ul> </li> <li>Residence Verification (5 Proofs):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill's ONE must tie you to the house: Mortgage/Lease, Gas, Home Insurance, Utility, Water</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>*PreK Families with incomes above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level will be charged tuition on a sliding scale of \$250-\$300 per month for 10 months.</p>

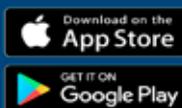
## GRADUATIONS & SCHOOL ENDING



- May 9 Port Allen High Graduation 6 pm, PA High gym
- May 10 Brusly High Graduation 7 pm, Brusly High gym

- May 22 1/2 day for students
- May 23 Last 1/2 day for students
- May 24 Report cards mailed

It's everything WBR Schools, in your pocket.



Download the **West Baton Rouge Schools** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.