

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 31 - Halloween trick-or-treat - 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Nov. 2 - Heroes Day at the Library

Nov. 5 - Election Day

Nov. 8 - Rockin on the Railroad, Addis

Nov. 10 - Veterans on Parade & Veterans Ceremony - downtown Port Allen

Nov. 14 - Community Resource Expo, Port Allen Community Center

Dec. 6 - Brusly Christmas Tree Lighting, St. James Park

Dec. 11 - Senior Spirit Dance - Addis Community Center

Dec. 7 - Election Day

Dec. 7 - Jingle Jeepin' Parade & Market, WBR Convention & Visitors Bureau

Dec. 11 - Senior Spirit Dance, Addis Community Center

Dec. 13 - Holiday Open House, WBR Museum

Dec. 21 - Cookies with Santa - South Branch WBR Library

Recreation improvements continue

Rivault Park and William and Lee Park now have asphalt parking areas. Both parking areas were shell previously. That \$200,000 project, completed in October, is the latest of continuous improvements at West Baton Rouge parks and facilities in recent years.

The 5 mill recreation tax will be up for renewal for voters on the December 7 election ballot. The tax funds improvements and maintenance of all the the parish's parks, numerous programs and camps, and events for residents.

Note-worthy capital improvement projects:

- Extensive improvements at all parish parks, including ball field & turf upgrades, concessions and restrooms, playgrounds, parking areas, security, fans, and more
- Dog park
- Williams & Lee Community Center
- Soccer facility and agility course
- Water splash parks
- Tennis complex
- Football field at Port Allen Middle School
- Louis Mouch Multi-purpose Facility
- Levee top walking trail from Brusly to Addis
- Skate park at Alexander Park



A portion of a new artificial turf baseball field.

Programs and Events:

More than 3,000 youths and adults are involved in WBR Recreation's many fun activities for every age group.

The department partners with other organizations on some of these programs:

- Adult and youth baseball & softball leagues
- Youth football & flag football league
- Youth soccer league
- Bidly ball basketball league
- Fitness classes
- Pickle ball league
- Swimming lessons
- Senior Spirit program
- Summer day camps across the parish
- Assistance with July 4th Festival, Kite Fest, and the WBR Parish Fair



Parish changes garbage collector

Waste collection companies changed for West Baton Rouge Parish residents on October 1, and the conversion is now smoothing out. Republic Waste will complete collection of its trash bins by the end of October; and the parish's new provider, Waste Pro, has delivered its trash bins and is collecting garbage twice weekly, and bulk/yard waste monthly on the same schedule that residents have had in the past. Recycle collection day will be on Wednesday. To participate in the recycling program, please email wp4wbrp@wasteprousa.com to request a recycle cart.

"Republic wanted a 40% hike in fees, so we went out for proposals and Waste Pro was the lowest of three proposals we received," said Parish President Jason Manola. "We switched to get more competitive pricing. I want to thank our residents for their patience with this conversion to a new company," Manola said. "This change will benefit the parish and our residents, and provides residents with the services they have come to expect."

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

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

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

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

WBR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS - Meets 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

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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ANNOUNCES

WEST BATON ROUGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

as

2023 MEDIUM CHAMBER OF THE YEAR



WEST BATON ROUGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OCTOBER LUNCHEON

FEATURING: U.S. SENATOR BILL CASSIDY

Mark Your Calendars! Please join us as we welcome U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy to West Baton Rouge. We will be discussing infrastructure, energy, small business, PLUS what's going on in Washington. You don't wanna miss it!

When: Wednesday October 30, 2024
Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm; Doors 11:30am
Where: Addis Community Center

Members: \$25 Non-Members: \$35

For sponsorship information, please email anna@wbrchamber.org
Register Online at wbrchamber.org.

WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY



South Branch Library opens

Heroes Day: Saturday, November 2 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come hang out with your local first responders at our Main Branch Library. Free food, inflatables, face painting, and more!

Home school Hangout: Friday, November 8 at 1 p.m. at the Main Branch. We will learn about bees and beekeeping. Meet a local beekeeper, see live bees in a demonstration hive, and enjoy a honey tasting.

Beginner Hip-Hop Step Aerobics Class for 5th-12th Grade Students & their parents: Thursday, November 14 at 6 p.m. at the Main Branch. Registration is required. Call (225) 342-7920 Ext. 231.

Princess Storytime Meet & Greet with Belle and Cinderella: Saturday, November 23 at 11 a.m. at the South Branch. Participants are welcome to attend dressed as their favorite fairy tale character or princess.

The TMM Project Presents - SAY W.H.A.T. NOW!: Monday, November 25 at 1 p.m. at the South Branch. All ages are welcome for this interactive program featuring a saxophonist, drums, step-dancing & street dance.

Cookies with Santa: Saturday, December 21 at 11 a.m. at the South Branch. Families are invited to take their own photo with Santa, make a craft, and decorate cookies while supplies last.

A Library Ville's Christmas: Saturday, December 21 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Main Branch. Save the date for this exciting family holiday event. Check our website for forthcoming details.

Weekly Children's Storytimes continue at the Main Branch on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and the South Branch on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes, and fun activities in a relaxed setting.

For the most up-to-date information and a full list of all library programs, visit our website at www.wbrpl.com, follow us on Facebook, or give us a call.



is published quarterly as a cooperative endeavor of West Baton Rouge Parish government agencies. It is produced by Peacock Communications, LLC. Comments: ellie@peacockcommunications.com, or call 225-929-9661.



830 N. Alexander Ave.
Port Allen, LA 70767
www.wbrpl.com

Ambulance service begins by mid-Nov.

West Baton Rouge residents will have local ambulance service provided through the parish by mid-November, thanks to a program developed through the WBR Parish Council administration and the WBR Fire Department.

The fire department received the ambulances in October, and is awaiting needed equipment, which should arrive by the end of October. Firefighters will be cross-trained as EMTs/paramedics.



The parish received multiple grants totalling \$950,000 to purchase four ambulances and the needed equipment and supplies for the ambulances. Dr. Phillip Padgett will serve as Medical Director, and Mike Chustz will serve as EMS Chief.

An additional 21 firefighters/EMTs are being hired for the 24-hour, seven day a week operation. "There is no out-of-pocket cost to residents," said Parish President Jason Manola.

The service has the following benefits for residents:

- Response time to medical emergencies will be cut to 10 minutes or less.
- At least one Advanced Life Support Medic will be on every ambulance 24 hours a day for advanced life support care and better continuation of care to a hospital.
- Ambulances will be located in three areas of the parish:

Erwinville, Port Allen, and Brusly/Addis. Acadian Ambulance will serve as a back-up, and continue to provide non-emergency transport for medical care.

• There is NO out-of-pocket cost or tax increase for this service to WBR residents. Insurances will be billed for services provided.

• Having more firefighters will help the parish reduce its fire rating. Lower fire ratings mean lower property insurance costs for homeowners and businesses.

670 kids in fall leagues, Biddy Ball up next

A very successful flag football season ends by October 30. This year 163 kids from age 4 to 12 are participating on teams in play at the WBR Soccer Complex.

Another 128 kids participated in the Brusly Panthers contact football league, with games played at the Brusly High School football field. The Westside Bulldogs league had 96 participants.

SOCCER - Meanwhile, a whopping 378 kids, age 4 through 8th grade, are participating in the parish's soccer league at the West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex.

BIDDY BALL BASKETBALL - As those leagues end, registration for Biddy Ball basketball is underway. Registration fee is \$40, which includes a uniform and the opportunity to attend a new two-day basketball camp during the Thanksgiving week holiday.

Biddy Ball is open to boys and girls, ages 4- 12 (must be age 4 by Nov. 1). Games will begin in January and are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays at the Port Allen Community Center or Brusly Upper Elementary gym.

LSU BLOCK & BRIDLE RODEO IN WBR! Mosey on over, cowgirls and cowboys, for the LSU Block & Bridle Rodeo, being held at the Louis Mouch Multi-Purpose Facility due to construction on the John M. Parker Coliseum. It is set for November 22 and 23, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for college students & kids ages 6-10, and free for 5 & under. The rodeo benefits the Cancer Services of Greater Baton Rouge.

WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH 4-H
Sweet Potato & Pecan Fundraiser

GARBER FARMS SWEET POTATOES	POINT COUPEE' CANDY PECANS (1 LB BAGS)	POINT COUPEE' SHELLED PECANS
10 LB. BOX: \$12 40 LB. BOX: \$25	SUGAR: \$12 ROASTED: \$12 CHOCOLATE: \$12 PRALINE TOPPING: \$10	1 LB BAG: \$10 3 LB BOX: \$25

ORDERS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2024

SCHOOL ORDERS: TURN INTO 4-H OFFICE
INDIVIDUAL ORDERS: CALL (225)336-2416

ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP ON:
NOVEMBER 21 & 22 FROM 8AM-5PM
210 TURNER DRIVE, PORT ALLEN

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COLLECTION
OCT 26 | 8AM-12PM
ALEXANDER PARK
250 Elaine Street | Brusly, LA

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

Acids	Degreasers	Moth balls
Arsenic	Electronics	Oven cleaner
Auto products	Paint thinner	Turpentine
Cooking oil	Paint	Polishes
Batteries	Flourescent tubes	Pool chemicals
Bleach	Garden products	TVs, Stereos
Bug spray	Lawn products	Tires
Cleaning solvents	Fire extinguishers	Gasoline
Paper shredding	Lighter fluid	Propane tanks

Senior Spirit Dance

Live Music
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Wednesday, November 13, 2024
Keepin' Time Band

Wednesday, December 11, 2024
Tet Dur

2nd Wednesday of Every Month
Addis Community Center
7520 Hwy I South, Addis, LA 70710
\$5.00 Admission
Lunch Provided from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
No Alcohol Served

Tips for proper placement of garbage, waste for pickup

- Place your containers curbside the night before your collection date.
- Position cart with front facing street & handle toward house.
- Place carts three (3) feet away from cars, trees and mailboxes.
- Place carts so they don't block driveways or sidewalks.
- Branches should be at most 6 feet.
- Bulky waste should be up to 4 cubic yards.
- Place carts away from power or utility lines.



Continuing litter clean-up

The West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with Keep Louisiana Beautiful and the Parish of West Baton Rouge, continues its litter cleanup efforts throughout the parish. In the photo at right, inmates from the West Baton Rouge Detention Center are working alongside deputies to help maintain a cleaner environment. WBRSO remains committed to preserving the beauty of West Baton Rouge Parish for all residents and visitors.



Deputies get night firearms training

The West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office has been conducting night-time firearms training throughout October to enhance officers' skills in low-light conditions. This training emphasizes critical skills such as target identification, accuracy, and decision-making in low-visibility environments to ensure deputies are well-prepared for night time operations.

Sheriff Jeff Bergeron stated, "Our deputies often face unpredictable and dangerous situations after dark, and improving their ability to respond effectively in low-light environments is a priority for us. This training not only sharpens their skills, but also enhances their safety and the safety of our community."



STAY SAFE ON HALLOWEEN



Halloween Trick-or-Treat Oct. 31 - 5:30-7:30 pm

BE ALERT

Watch for trick-or-treaters when driving on Halloween. Slow down and scan the road as you drive.

BE VISIBLE

Wear bright, reflective costumes or reflective strips to increase your visibility.

PAY ATTENTION

Put electronic devices down, keep your head up, and look both ways before crossing the street.

CHECK CANDY

Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home.



TOWN OF ADDIS

Road rehab program to begin

The town's annual road rehabilitation program will begin in early November and is expected to be completed right before Thanksgiving, weather permitting. The contract was awarded to Epic Paving at a cost of \$583,500. Streets included in this year's overlay program are Ed LeJeune, Foret, Hubert Dupuy, Myhand, Stonewall, Myrtle, Eudora, Mary, Amelia, Sybil, Una and Georgette.

Electronic speed signs installed



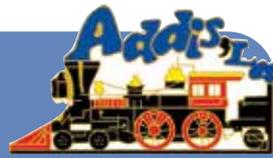
You may have noticed the new electronic speed signs installed on Sugar Plantation Parkway, First Street and Bird Heights. The Addis Town Council approved the purchase of the signs at its July meeting for a cost of \$29,350.

The speed signs display how fast drivers are actually going, and remind them of the speed limit. Officials say studies have shown that the displays are a great awareness tool for drivers. Alerting them of their speed has been shown to reduce speeding by 25 percent on average. The signs also provide data to the Police Department on the speeds of vehicles in specific areas so they can monitor problem areas. The signs are part of an on-going effort to get drivers to slow down to speed limits.

TOWN MEETINGS:

Town Council - 2nd Tuesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm

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



JUSTIN CORNETT BLIND
 OCT 17 / NOV 01 / AFTER 8 / NOV 22
 ADDIS

4345 HARRIS STREET RAILROAD PARK
 KICKS OFF AT 5:30 PM / FRIDAYS

ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD

Police units to have pursuit warning system

Police pursuits of suspects often put the public at risk because officers have to decide how hard and fast to chase a suspect in traffic. The Town of Brusly Council just voted to approve the installation of a digital app for all police units to alert the public in the area of a police chase.

The Caroline Gill Foundation will pay for installation and first year costs of the Digital Siren app and equipment. The town will pay for continued operation of the app after the first year.

Once the equipment is installed in police units, the officers simply push one button to alert anyone with the app of a chase and advise them to watch out for their safety. The app will also tell motorists when they are out of range of the chase.

The benefit for motorists is that they can get out of the way of suspects who are likely driving at high rates of speed to get away from police. The country has an average of one death a day from high speed pursuits, and pursuits are up across the country.

"We think this technology will save lives and make a difference," said Mayor Scot Rhodes. The Brusly Police Department will not just rely on this technology. The department has a vehicle pursuit policy, and officers are also trained in what suspects/crimes they should pursue and how to respond in pursuit situations. The Digital Siren is another tool to keep the public safe.

Watch for more from the Town of Brusly on when the equipment is installed and how motorists can get the free app.



Get the latest news from the Town of Brusly:



Facebook.com/BruslyTownHall



WBR CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

New paved parking provides big benefits

The project to add 14,000 square feet of concrete parking area to park and unload for events behind the WBR Convention Center proved very helpful for the Oldies But Goodies Fest, said Tourism Director Kathy Gautreau.

"We added it because of problems in the past with vendors maneuvering in limestone, especially in muddy conditions after a rain," explained Gautreau. "Also having this area allowed us to re-position the band and dance areas of the Oldies But Goodies Fest, and really improved the flow of the event."

In other CVB news, the agency has seen great attendance at events this year, along with increased rentals of the Convention Center space. "We've had a great year, and the Oldies Fest was no exception, with a big crowd and almost 100 antique cars," Gautreau said. "Now we are focused on closing out the year with our two big events - Veterans on Parade and the Jingle Jeepin Parade and Market." Info on those events is at right.



Jingle Jeepin'

Parade & Market

Saturday December 7, 2024 Noon - 8:00PM
Parade rolls out at 5:30PM • Craft Market Opens at Noon
Santa Photo's & Food Vendors
Live Music



Thank You!

FOR YOUR SERVICE, FOR YOUR SACRIFICE, FOR OUR FREEDOM

VETERANS ON PARADE

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 DOWNTOWN PORT ALLEN, 1:30 P.M.
CALL THE WEST BATON ROUGE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU 225-344-2920



WWW.WESTBATONROUGE.NET



Veterans Ceremony to follow parade
Congressman Garrett Graves - Keynote Speaker
In front of the WBR Museum



The three P's of the District Attorney's Office

The DA's number one responsibility is keeping our communities safe. "We do that in three basic ways that we call the three P's," said District Attorney Tony Clayton. "They are: Prosecute criminals who break the law, work to Prevent crimes from happening in the first place, and Protect and support the victims of crime and make sure their voices are heard."

PROSECUTE: Prosecution is a big part of the DA's job, with the power to hold criminals accountable under carefully defined laws and ethical responsibilities. "When someone is arrested, we carefully review the facts and the evidence. We can only file the criminal charges we believe we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt," DA Clayton said. "Our job includes protecting the rights of the innocent, as well as those we charge with a crime."

Then, the case moves to the justice system, which provides checks and balances – and accountability. Public defenders, criminal defense attorneys and judges all play a role in how each case will resolve. Prosecutors alone don't determine a person's punishment if they're convicted. That's up to a judge and jury once the DA's Office has proved its case.

PREVENT: As prosecutors, DAs also have the ability to give people second chances. That's why DA Clayton works with special courts that steer people away from jail, still holding them accountable, but getting them the help they need to break the cycle and stay out of jail. This help includes mental health treatment or kicking a drug or alcohol addiction. That's one way DAs prevent crime, but there are lots of others. "We work with youth to help them make good choices and stay in school," Clayton said. "We support programs that help people who are coming out of prison to find jobs."

PROTECT: The third part of the DA's job is protecting and supporting victims of crime. In a typical year, the DA's office comes into contact with thousands of victims, and the DA's Office helps them in lots of ways. "We get them emotional support, and we help them even when we can't file charges against the person who hurt them," DA Clayton said. "We sometimes even use therapy dogs to help them testify in court. We do all of this on behalf of you, the people. After all, we are here to keep our communities safe, and we are accountable to you."



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

**HAITIAN ART:
THE JACQUES
BARTOLI COLLECTION**

NOVEMBER 2, 2024
THROUGH
JANUARY 26, 2025



**MY FRENCH
BOOK FEST**

November 14-16
9AM - 4PM

A book fair featuring children's literature in French for purchase and activities for school tour groups and the general public during open hours Thursday, Friday, and Saturday along with special evening hours on Friday from 6-8 PM featuring live music from Creole musician, Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes.

FREE EVENT

HISTORICAL HAPPY HOUR
AND

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DEC
13



AT
6PM

Nighttime tableaux, music,
hot cider, gingerbread, craft
making, shopping, and a visit
from Père Noël

FREE EVENT

**BEHIND THE
BARN DOORS**
FIRST SUNDAYS AT 2PM

Join us on the first Sunday of the month in the big red barn for featured demonstrations and inquire about instructional workshops in Blacksmithing, Spinning and Weaving, and Woodworking.

For more information call 225.336.2422 or check our website www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org.



Recapping 2024 - Values, rates and revaluation

West Baton Rouge Parish will see its 2nd largest year to year increase in assessed property values in 2024, \$83.1 million. "The increase is due in large part to a \$46.5 million increase in real estate values coming from new residential and commercial construction and 2024 being a revaluation year", said Assessor Chris Guerin in the WBR Parish Assessor's Office annual property assessment report.

The total assessed value of real estate increased from \$258.2 million in 2023 to \$304.7 million in 2024. The total value of business personal property (inventories, business furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment) increased from \$492 million in 2023 to \$524.3 million in 2024. Also, the value of public service property (pipelines, rail, telecommunications, utilities and watercraft) valued by the Louisiana Tax Commission increased from \$46 million in 2023 to \$50.3 million in 2024.

Guerin noted 82.7% of all property taxes paid in West Baton Rouge Parish are paid by business and industry. Additionally, the parish has approximately \$1.82 billion in industrial property exemptions that will be phased onto the assessment rolls by 2030. "These are exemptions the Louisiana Economic Development Office granted to new manufacturing businesses and existing manufacturing business expansions," Guerin said.

Property owners can expect to see the parish wide property tax rate for 2024 decrease from 103.84 mills to 96.86 mills. The rate reduction is a result of the Assessor's Office reducing its rate from an already reduced 1.24 to 0 mills, the Atchafalaya Levee Board reducing its rate from 4.04 to 3.89 mills, the School Board reducing its rates from 53.39 to 50.13 mills, and the Parish Council reducing its rates from 29.07 to 26.74 mills.

Assessor Guerin also wants to remind residents of West Baton Rouge Parish it is not too late to apply for a homestead exemption, special assessment level value freeze (age 65 and older or 100% disabled) or additional homestead exemption for veterans with at least a 50% service-connected disability. Applications may be submitted online, mailed or faxed in and of course completed in person in the Assessor's Office.

As always, the Assessor's Office website is available 24/7 for access to valuable parcel information including ownership data, assessed values and legal descriptions as well as aerial photography and digital maps of West Baton Rouge Parish. You can visit the site at www.wbrassessor.org.

2024 Property Tax Breakdown

TAXING DISTRICT	MILLAGE	TAXES
Assessor's Office	-	\$ -
Atchafalaya Levee Dist.	3.89	\$ 3,190,935.00
WBR Parish Council		
Communications/E-911	2.00	\$ 1,645,758.00
Community Center	3.00	\$ 2,468,636.00
Council on Aging	1.50	\$ 1,234,318.00
Drainage	6.20	\$ 5,101,848.00
General Fund	3.19	\$ 2,624,983.00
Health Unit	0.75	\$ 617,159.00
Library	3.60	\$ 2,962,363.00
Museum	2.00	\$ 1,645,758.00
Recreation	4.50	\$ 3,702,954.00
	26.74	\$22,003,777.00
WBR School Board		
Constitutional	4.39	\$ 3,612,438.00
General fund	15.00	\$12,343,183.00
Bonds & interest	9.00	\$ 7,405,910.00
Salaries I	10.87	\$ 8,944,693.00
Salaries II	10.87	\$ 8,944,693.00
	50.13	\$41,250,917.00
WBR Sheriff's Office	16.10	\$13,248,356.00
Total	96.86	\$79,693,985.00

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

LOUISIANA'S
DEEP DRAFT
PORTS
WORKING
TOGETHER

IMPORTANT

LOUISIANA'S FIVE DEEP DRAFT

ports on the Lower Mississippi River represent "one of the busiest port complexes in the world."

In a coordinated effort, these five ports have commissioned an independent firm to develop a market analysis and strategic plan to identify new cargo opportunities and expand international trade.

This historic cooperative undertaking will be led by Martin Associates Economic & Transportation Consultants under the direction of the World Trade Center New Orleans.

Cargos in the analysis include containerized cargo, break bulk and project cargo, as well as bulk cargo. Interviews with key maritime stakeholders, the market analysis, and logistics cost analysis will help create a cargo development strategy to help the five ports along the Lower Mississippi River to successfully compete regionally and internationally.



PORT OF GREATER
BATON ROUGE

WWW.PORTGBR.COM

Mentor program provides teacher pipeline, unexpected benefits

A Louisiana Department of Education requirement for all student teachers and practitioner licensed teachers to have training under a mentor teacher is being used as a teacher recruitment tool for West Baton Rouge Schools, but its proving beneficial in other ways. The school district's LEAD West initiative to foster mentor teacher certification has proven to help mentor teachers in the program and their students.

Future teachers are required to complete a year-long classroom residency at a school during their final year of college. Practitioner teachers working on their certification also work with mentor teachers. This year, mentors are working with 35 student and practitioner teachers in West Baton Rouge schools.

"We have an educator shortage, so ensuring we have trained mentor teachers helps us recruit these college student teachers, but we have found it is helping the mentor teachers become better teachers," said Barbara Burke, Director of Human Resources and Staff Support. "The mentors go through a rigorous certification program, and that has provided benefits not only in how to mentor, but also in how they can be more intentional in their teaching strategies and techniques."

"The mentor program has not only empowered me to support others, but has also invigorated my passion for teaching, benefiting my students and school community," said Mentor Teacher, Melissa Blank. It helped her evaluate her teaching methods, communicate better with colleagues, and expanded her professional network. "The program helped me be more focused in my approach and intentional in my support for teachers. It was a growing experience," said Mentor Teacher Wendy Johnson.

Mentor teachers are paid a \$1,000 stipend per semester, and WBR Schools pays a one-time \$2,000 stipend for completing the certification program, plus all program fees. Teachers must successfully complete two assessments to become certified mentors.

Burke said the school system is working to increase the number of teachers in the LEAD West mentor program, which is offered in conjunction with APEL (Associated Professional Educators of La.). "If we can get these student teachers in our schools, we can help train them and also show them why they should want to work in the WBR School System upon graduation."

Resource Fair brings programs to residents

Need help getting a job, getting education or food resources, or getting health services? Wonder what local programs you can get involved with? Are you a senior or a veteran in need? For all of this and more, the WBR Resource Fair is the place for you!

WBR Schools has joined forces with the WBR Chamber of Commerce and parish government to stage a unique new event designed to show residents all the programs available to help them.

Developed by the Chamber's Education Workforce Committee, the event is designed to address questions adults have about how to get help in WBR. "We have had an incredible response from agencies and others wanting to participate, so we'll have more than 30 booths with agencies providing information on their services," said committee co-chair Julie Mayeux. "This event is for everyone, even if they don't need help they can find out about programs they didn't know existed and programs they can get involved with."

Health screenings, flu shots and a blood drive are offered, along with take-home jambalaya bowls. WBR Schools is providing transportation to the event from both the north and south ends of the parish, along with providing other support for the event.

See the flyer at right for more information.



Photo above are WBR mentor teachers, front row from left: Emily Webre, Avery Phillips, Jenny Moore, Lindsey Polansky and Melissa Blank. Back row from left: Natasha Briscoe, Tammie Hebert, Pershauna Butler, Wendy Johnson, Morgan Benson and Keeley Martin. Not pictured: Becky Landry, Katy Nelson, and Michelle Ourso.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE EXPO

Looking for ways to GET or GIVE in your community?
Learn about services you can receive or ways you can get involved!

Health Screenings! Jambalaya to go! Blood Drive!
Flu Shots! 15-minute informational sessions!

Thursday, Nov. 14 | Port Allen Community Center
6 - 8 pm | 749 N. Jefferson, Port Allen

FREE EVENT!

GET INFO ON:
Employment, Health, Social Services,
Education, Re-entry, and many other resources

Agencies with booths to provide info and resources include:

AmeriHealth Caritas	Port Allen Food Pantry	WBR Parks and Recreation
Baton Rouge Community College	Port City Disabilities	WBR Library
Capital Area Human Services	Ready Start Network	WBR Parish Government
Capri	RKM Primary Care	WBR Schools
CASA of the 18th JDC	Social Security Administration	WBR Sheriff
City of Port Allen	Town of Addis	West Towne Assisted Living
DOW Westside YMCA	Town of Brusly	
Employ BR	United Way 211/CAUW	
Everyday Counts ABA	VFW-Addis	
Foundation for Suicide Prevention	WBR Chamber	
La. Department of Health	WBR Council on Aging	
LOL Blood Bank	WBR Health Unit	
Personal Finance- Edward Jones		

NEED A RIDE?

Pick up locations:
Southside- WBR Library South
4:45 pm, Walmart 5:15 pm
Northside- Erwinville Community Center 5:15 pm, Cohn 5:45pm
Both buses depart event @ 7:45 pm

Event information: Julie Mayeux
jlmayeux2@gmail.com

Sponsorships: Anna Johnson
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