

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 12 - Senior Spirit Dance at Addis Comm. Center, see page 3

Feb. 28 - Addis Mardi Gras Parade, Market & Mambo - see page 4

Feb. 28 - Civil rights lecture with Edward Searcy at WBR Museum, Noon

March 2 - Krewe of Good Friends of the Oaks Parade in Port Allen, 1 pm

March 12 - Senior Spirit Dance, see page 3

March 24 - WBR Schools Job Fair, 2-5 pm, see page 8

March 29 - WBR tax renewal election

April 5-13 - Parish clean up week in conjunction with Love the Boot Week

April 9 - Senior Spirit Dance, see page 3

April 13 - Easter Extravaganza at WBR Museum, 2 pm

April 19-May 11 - WBR student, teacher art exhibit at WBR Museum

April 26 & 27 - Kite Fest Louisiane at Soccer Complex

Drainage projects provide big impact

In recent years, the parish has completed major drainage projects that de-snagged and widened major canals in all areas of the parish. Some of these **projects completed include cleaning out:**

- Rougon Road Canal, Coulee Canal, Sugar Mill Canal, River Mill Canal, and Parish Canal.
- construction of 36 inch culverts under La. Hwy. 190 and La. Hwy. 415,
- \$1.5 million project to enlarge Stumpy Bayou, and
- construction of the Lobdell Diversion Canal.

Projects planned for the coming months include:

- presently cleaning out Cane Bayou Canal from Bueche Rd. north,
- presently cleaning out Cline Ditch to Section Rd.,
- finish cleaning Ellwood Canal to the Intracoastal,
- clear and culvert 180 ft of Kearney Canal,
- culvert 300 ft of the canal south of Winterville Rd. and Young Ave.,
- clean out TonTon Canal,
- clean out the north side of Emily Drive ditch,
- presently cleaning out Cane Bayou Canal from Bueche Rd. north,
- clean out Marley Canal,
- clean out Little Stumpy canal to the Cane Bayou diversion canal, and
- Clean out Galick Rd. ditch south of Section Road.

"Residents often don't see this work, but maintaining our drainage system is critical to stopping flooding of our parish," said Parish President Jason Manola.



Photos show various drainage projects throughout the parish.



Drainage, library tax renewals on March 29 ballot

An election is set for March 29 on renewal of two important taxes, the parish drainage tax, and the library system tax. Early voting for this election is March 15 through 22.

The 7.2 mill drainage tax produces about \$5.5 million annually, and funds maintenance of over 700 miles of ditches and canal, the large equipment and employees necessary for these jobs. The parish also assists West Baton Rouge municipalities in maintaining their large drainage canals because they can't afford the expensive equipment necessary.

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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City officials take oaths for 2025-2029 term

City of Port Allen elected officials were sworn in and got down to business at their January meeting. Shown after their swearing in are, from left, Chief of Police Donovan Mitchell, Mayor Terecita Pollard-Pattan, and Councilpersons April King, Dist. 4; Adrain Joseph, At-Large; Charlene Gordon, Dist. 1; Gregory Payne, Dist. 2; and Garry Hubble, Dist. 3.

A message from new Mayor Pattan

As we embark on this new journey as mayor, chief and city council members, we are thankful to you, the citizens of Port Allen, for your vote and support. It is greatly appreciated. We will continue working together to help bridge the gap, bring new ideas and infrastructure, and continue some of the projects that the former administration left. We will hold the first of many activities for Black History Month. You can nominate a past, present, or future trailblazer whom you feel has contributed to making great strides in the city of Port Allen. Send any nominations to tpattan@portallen.org or rroche@portallen.org. Again I would like to say thank you on behalf of all of us. Alone we can do so little, but together we can accomplish so much!

Recognizing civil rights advocates, and Easter fun

The City of Port Allen will celebrate Black History Month in February in a new way - by asking citizens to nominate residents who have made strides in civil rights. They should write a paragraph on the nominee and send to tpattan@portallen.org. Those chosen will be displayed on the city facebook page and website.

The Easter Bunny Hop with the City of Port Allen is also being planned for April 12 at City Hall. An Easter egg hunt for ages 1 to 13 will be included in this event.

WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

LIBRARY TAX RENEWAL

MARCH 29, 2025

8,272 COMPUTER SESSIONS

9,745 WIFI SESSIONS

15,522 REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

67,791 WEBSITE VISITS

2024

AT THE

LIBRARY

WEST BATON ROUGE

572 PROGRAMS

37,162 ATTENDEES

SOUTH BRANCH OPENED

MAY 2024

65,030 CHECKOUTS



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



Sign up for a clean up project!

Each year Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful promotes and participates in the Love the Boot Week annual clean-up. This year, that event is April 5-13. WBR organizations, school groups and individuals are wanted to plan their own clean up projects, or participate in a project of Keep WBR Beautiful. For more information on how you can participate, call 225-336-2406.

Senior Spirit Dance

Live Music
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Natalie from Southern Accent
with Sid & Joey from The Mojos

Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Tet Dur

Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Keepin' Time Band

Wednesday, May 7, 2025
Please note the dance has been moved to the first week of the month

7520 Hwy 1 South, Addis, LA 70710
\$5.00 Admission
Lunch Provided from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
No Alcohol Served

PARKS & RECREATION
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH

North end water project now complete, adds to fire safety



The north end water improvement project has been completed and is now in service.

This \$2 million project was funded by American Rescue Act funds and began in 2023.

The upgrades included installation of 28,400 feet of water lines, valves, fittings and new fire hydrants. These improvements enhance water capacity, and improve fire protection for the north end of West Baton Rouge.



2nd new Intracoastal Bridge construction

The La. Department of Transportation announced that it has issued a notice to proceed on construction of the second new Intracoastal Canal Bridge.

This includes the demolition of the old existing bridge and transfer of all north bound and south bound traffic on La. Hwy. 1 to the new bridge. DOTD will announce this switch before it happens.

Photos show work on the new water lines and hydrants in the Erwinville/Rougou area.

Stormwater: Where It Flows, Everything Goes

When it rains, snows, or slets, water hits hard surfaces and takes anything on that surface with it, through drains, pipes, and ditches to local rivers, lakes, and streams.

Cigarette butts in the gutter become a real problem when they reach wildlife.

Trash left on sidewalks gets swept into sewers and contaminates stormwater.

Pet waste washes into pipes and pollutes parks and recreation areas downstream.

Oil and grease leaked from cars washes down drains and into waterways.

Lawn fertilizer and pesticides can wash across pavement and down drains, taking toxics with them.

Car washing chemicals can harm fish and animals.

Where Stormwater Flows, Everything Goes

West Baton Rouge Parish Government
Est. 1807

Get local emergency alerts

Register your mobile phone number to get WBR emergency alerts.
Go to: wbrlepc.net, click on the cell phone registration link, or call 225-346-1577

Brightening Christmas for 68 families

Sheriff Jeff Bergeron and the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office proudly announce the success of the 2024 Christmas Crusade, marking over 30 years of spreading holiday cheer to families in need.

This year, the program served 68 families and 196 children, ensuring the joy of Christmas reached those who needed it most. Through the combined efforts of the WBRSO Beard Drive and the annual Toy Drive at Walmart, the Christmas Crusade garnered significant support, making this holiday season extra special.

The Beard Drive, an internal fundraiser for WBRSO deputies, raised \$3,400. Deputies paid a monthly fee to grow beards, with all proceeds benefiting the Christmas Crusade. Additionally, the Toy Drive at Walmart (Port Allen) showcased the community's generosity, raising over \$2,000 and receiving 52 bicycles donated by Walmart and community members.

"I would like to thank everyone who made this year's program a success. Together, we've proven the power of compassion, generosity, and community spirit," said Sheriff Bergeron.

The WBRSO extends heartfelt thanks to the following partners for their invaluable contributions: Walmart (Port Allen), Olin Corp., ValSource Inc., Brittany Weaver – State Farm Insurance Agent, Placid Retirement Group, Toys for Tots, Tri Mech Industrial, and KTN Louisiana LLC.

Your continued support ensures the Christmas Crusade remains a beacon of hope for families in our parish.



Shown are WBR deputies collecting donations at the toy drive.



WBR Criminal Interdiction Unit marks big seizures, arrests in 2024

Sheriff Jeff Bergeron's Criminal Interdiction Unit had a busy 2024, as Interstate 10 and U.S. Highway 190 continue to be common pathways for transporting illegal drugs, weapons, and human trafficking victims.

The primary mission of the West Baton Rouge Criminal Interdiction Unit is to enhance public safety by deterring and identifying criminal activity. The unit is committed to rescuing victims of human trafficking, apprehending fugitives, and disrupting the flow of illegal narcotics, weapons, and funds of criminal enterprises.

Sheriff Bergeron reports that in 2024, the Criminal Interdiction Unit achieved significant results, including:

- the seizure of 10 pounds of cocaine and marijuana;
- more than \$1 million in illegal proceeds; and
- the identification of more than 20 individuals involved in human smuggling.

This unit underscores the Sheriff's Office's commitment to safeguarding our community and combating crime on local and national levels.

TOWN OF ADDIS

Hebert begins first term as councilman

Dustin Hebert is the new member of the Addis Town Council, after being sworn in with the other officials on January 14.

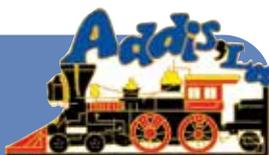
Hebert is a native of Addis, and is a shift supervisor/ Corporal for the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office. Prior to that he was a police officer with the Plaquemine Police Department. He also has been a noncommissioned officer in the La. National Guard since 2004, and during that time he served in the Iraq combat. A father of six children, Hebert said he will work for the progress and growth of Addis, improving infrastructure and the safety of citizens.



Addis town officials, from left, Council members Dustin Hebert, Rhonda Kelley, Rusty Parrish, Mayor David Toups, and Council members Ray LeJeune, Kevin LeBlanc and Bliss Bernard. Also sworn in was Police Chief Jason Langlois.

TOWN MEETINGS:

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



Addis adds to Mardi Gras festivities with market, music on Feb. 22

Addis will bring in Mardi Gras in a new way this year! In addition to the 62nd Annual Addis Firemen's Mardi Gras Parade, the Addis Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary is partnering with Amber Gatlin, owner of Oak & Clay Co., to stage the first Mardi Gras Mambo & Market event, and the Town of Addis is sponsoring live music! Everything kicks off at 10 am on Saturday, Feb. 22, and runs through 5:30 pm.

It is a day full of food, friends, family and fun that includes local vendor booths, and live music by John Foster at the Addis Railroad Park on 4343 Harris Ave. The market will be open from 10 am until 3 pm. The parade starts at 1 pm on First Avenue, and live music is from 2:30 until 5:30 pm.

If you are interested in participating in the parade, contact Mary Tullier at 225-362-4028 or email marymagruder113@yahoo.com. If you are interested in being a vendor for the market, text Amber Gatlin at 225-776-3966 or email argatlin@yahoo.com.

MAMBO MARKET - 10 AM - 3 PM

PARADE ROLLS AT 1 PM

LIVE MUSIC WITH JOHN FOSTER - 2:30-5:30 PM

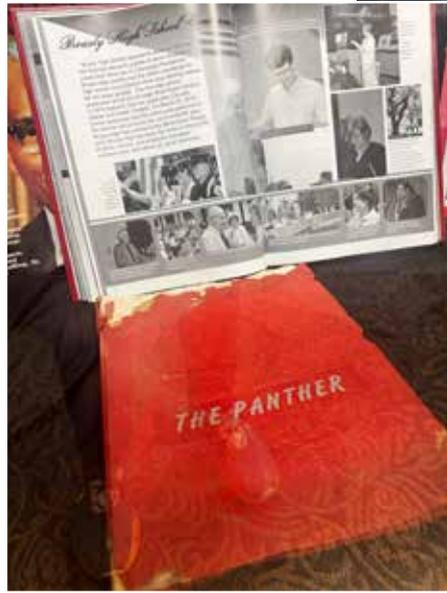
DID YOU KNOW? Centennial Room of town history open for viewing, contributions

Many residents don't realize the wealth of Brusly history available at in the Town Hall Centennial Room. Cabinets and cases are chock full of memorabilia, photos, yearbooks, maps dating from the 1930s, audio recordings of elderly town citizens recalling their remembrances from the 1940s on, and more!

The Centennial Room is maintained by Council Member Joanne Bourgeois, and is open to the public during town business hours. In addition, some historical items are accepted. For more information, go to town hall or call 225-749-2909.



A portion of the Centennial Room.



Some historical files, shown at left; and at right an old Brusly High year book.

Property watch is a free service offered by Brusly Police Dept.

The Brusly Police Department's first priority is protecting residents, and one way it does that is by watching out for the homes of residents when they are away on trips. This includes a police officer checking their property four times a day!

"We've done this for over 15 years," said Assistant Chief Tom Southon. "Residents just need to come by our office and complete a quick form telling us the time period they want the checks, and what people, vehicles and activities are authorized at the property while they are gone." Police will go walk the property and check to make sure homes are secure four times a day every day residents are away. "Some residents leave for several months and they have us watching their property. It's very reassuring for them, and we are happy to provide this service."

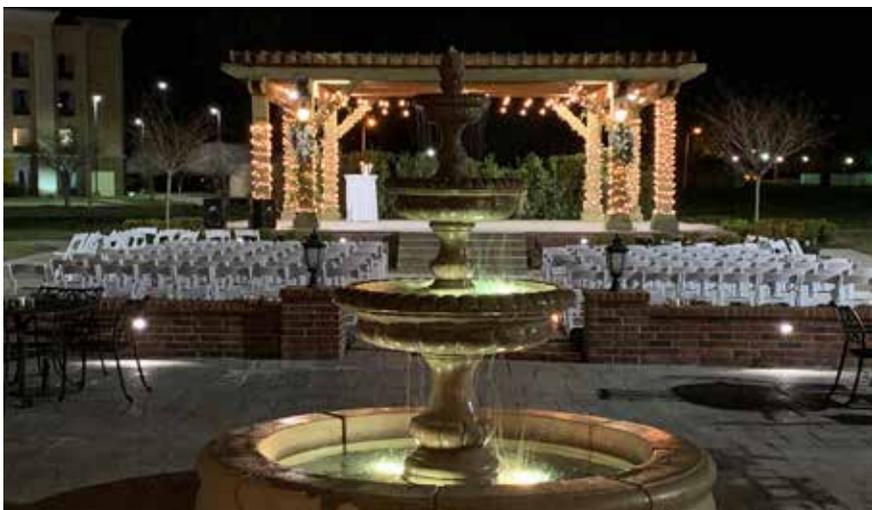
WBR CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

ELEGANT TIMELESS UNIQUE Conference Center's beautiful pavilion the perfect venue for your wedding!

Did you know that the WBR Convention Center offers a beautiful outdoor pavilion and patio, complete with brick and slate flooring and a cascading waterfall? It's the perfect setting for your wedding, and also offers the advantages of an indoor ballroom for inclement weather.

Complete with on-site professional catering, chairs, tables and more, the facility also has plenty of free parking and hotels within walking distance, making it easy for out of town guests!

The large pavilion can accommodate any size wedding party and is especially beautiful lit up at night. The Conference center staff is well versed and experienced in accommodating brides and wedding events. Call 225-344-2920 or email telson@wbrcvb.com for more information!



The beautiful outdoor pavilion and patio area at the WBR Conference Center lit up.

Free Admission
 Kite Flying "just for fun"
 Kite Design Competitions
 Children's Kite Making Workshop
 Indoor Kite Flying
 Louisiana Food Booths
 Professional Kite Flying Teams
 Inflatables
 Waters Edge playing 4-8pm
 Nite Flight followed by Fireworks!

20TH ANNIVERSARY
2025 Kite Fest
Louisiane

Saturday & Sunday
April 26-27, 2025

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 keeps promise to assist programs for families, children with funding



Keeping a promise made during the sales tax election in the Spring of 2024, District Attorney Tony Clayton has announced that his office will provide funding to three programs that help local children and families. "Our goal is to reach out to families and kids before they get into trouble and become part of the criminal system," said District Attorney Clayton. "My office works hand-in-hand with these programs to get families and kids the help they need before they turn to violence and crime. I said if the sales tax passed, we would do more to help our youth, and the funding I am announcing will do just that." The funding to be provided includes:

\$50,000 TO FINS (Families In Need of Services) - This program brings together resources to help troubled youth and their families remedy self destructive family behavior or pre-delinquent juvenile behaviors. FINS goals are to reduce formal juvenile court involvement whenever possible while generating appropriate community services to benefit the child and improve family relations. FINS intervenes in cases of truancy, habitual violation of school rules, ungovernable behavior by juveniles, runaway behavior, possession and use of drugs and alcohol, caretakers contributing to a child's problems, and children under 10 who commit adult crimes.

"Being able to re-establish these programs in our district is more important now than ever before," said District Judge Tonya Lurry. "FINS, CASA and CAC provide valuable resources to families in our community that are struggling and often begging for help. These programs identify and provide the help needed and often stop our youth from entering the criminal justice system. They help build trust and relationships that continue on even after the issues are resolved. By helping to fund these programs each year, District Attorney Clayton is helping parents and

youth, reducing crime rates, and ensuring that we all live in a better community."

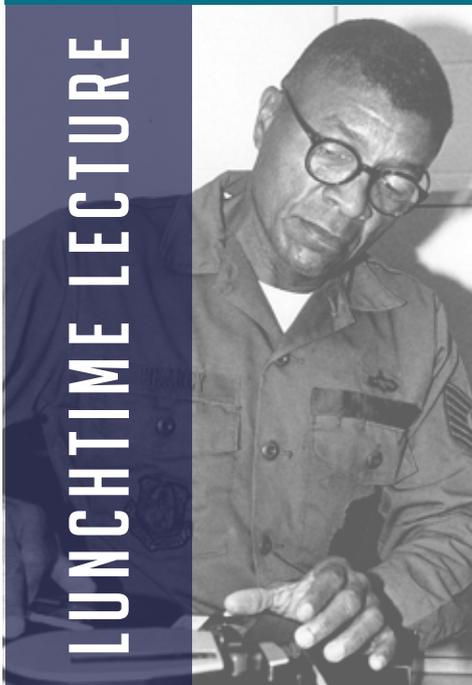
\$25,000 to 18th Judicial District CASA Program (Court Appointed Special Advocates) - CASA recruits, trains and supervises CASA volunteers to advocate for children involved in the foster care system and improve their well-being. "We are grateful for the support of the District Attorney's office along with the support of our community of CASA of the 18th JDC," said Executive Director Kendall Hebert. "While these children do not pick their situation, these local volunteers who have elected to be their advocate are making a lasting, life-long impact on our children's lives. With this financial support, we can essentially change the trajectory of their lives for the better and ultimately provide a safe, nurturing, permanent home with the opportunity to thrive."

\$25,000 to the Child Advocacy Center - The Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center serves child victims by providing direct services to these most vulnerable members of our community through forensic interviews, family advocacy and critical mental health services at no cost to the family.

"We are very appreciative of the support and funding that we receive from DA Tony Clayton and the communities that we serve," said Executive Director Tanya Haase. "The increase in funding is very much needed to fill gaps from the continued decrease in federal VOCA dollars. This assistance will allow the Center to continue providing vital services to child victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and those who are a victim or witness to a violent crime or human trafficking."

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



LUNCHTIME LECTURE

Join us for a LUNCHTIME LECTURE with Rev. Warren LeJeune, Sr. on **Mr. Edward Searcy** beloved educator/civil rights activist Friday, February 28 • 12pm

Historical Happy Hour

FEBRUARY 21 • 6-8PM
KASEY BALL

MARCH 21 • 6-8PM
ZIA TAMMAMI

APRIL 25 • 6-8PM
TALENTED STUDENT ART RECEPTION WITH LIVE MUSIC

MASTER STROKES
THE ART OF EDUCATORS

April 19th - May 25th

An inspiring showcase of artwork from the art teachers of the West Baton Rouge Talented Student Art program.



Talented Student Art Exhibition
April 19th - May 11th

Featuring the artwork of K-12 students in the West Baton Rouge Parish Talented Art program.

Blast from the Past ages 6-12
SUMMER HISTORY CAMP

Two one-week sessions to choose from

- June 16-20
- June 23-27

Registration opens March 1, 2025
www.WestBatonRougeMuseum.org

Easter Eggstravaganza
Sunday, April 13
2 - 3:30pm
hosted by WBRM & WBRPL





Do you meet these special assessments & exemptions?

In addition to the standard \$75,000 homestead exemption, Louisiana residential property owners have several special assessments and property tax exemptions for those who qualify, said West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor Chris Guerin. The special assessments and exemptions are listed below.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR BEING AGE 65 or OLDER or DISABLED:

The Louisiana Special Assessment Level program allows for residents who meet any of these qualifications below to have the assessed value of their residence frozen for property tax purposes:

- 65 years of age or older, or
- a veteran with a service connected disability rating of 50% or more by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or
- a person permanently totally disabled as determined by a court or a state or federal agency, or a member of the armed forces of the U.S. or Louisiana National Guard who was KIA, MIA or a POW.

This means their homes would not be subject to re-valuation every four years and the assessed value of their homes would remain the same no matter if property values increase.

To be eligible for any of the Special Assessments, property owners must:

- own and occupy a residence qualifying for the homestead exemption, and
- have a combined adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less in 2024 or later, and
- present proof of income and personal identification.

EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES:

Effective January 1, 2023, in addition to the standard \$75,000 homestead exemption, Louisiana Constitution Article VII Section 21 provides veterans with service-connected disabilities the following exemptions:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability rating between 50-69% shall receive an additional \$25,000 exemption from residential property value;
- Veterans with a service-connected disability rating between 70-99% shall receive

an additional \$45,000 exemption from residential property value

- Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 100% unemployability or totally disabled shall be fully exempt from property taxes.

The additional exemptions above require Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Revised Form A25.

The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with any of the service-connected disability ratings referenced above shall be eligible for the additional exemption if the surviving spouse occupies and remains the owner of the property, whether or not the exemption was in effect on the property prior to the death of the veteran.

EXEMPTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS:

Effective January 1, 2025, in addition to the standard \$75,000 homestead exemption, Act 179 approved by state voters on November 18, 2023 establishes an additional \$25,000 exemption from residential property value for first responders.

First responders must be full-time public employees and live in the parish they serve to qualify for the exemption. First responders who may qualify for the tax break include: sheriff's deputies, police officers and other law enforcement officers; firefighters, including some who work on a volunteer basis; emergency medical services workers, dispatchers and operators; and other full-time employees involved with emergency rapid response services.

Assessor Guerin urges any property owners who qualify to come in and complete their applications for these programs at the Assessor's Office in the West Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse in Port Allen.

Need more information? Contact the Assessor's Office at 225-344-6777.

Check us out online:
www.wbrassessor.org

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

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

WBR gets state recognition for reduction of student absenteeism with initiative

A coordinated initiative to reduce absenteeism in West Baton Rouge Schools has resulted in a significant drop in students missing school. In fact, WBR had the biggest reduction in absenteeism among six parishes participating in the initiative.

WBR chronic absenteeism (kids missing 10 percent or more of the school year, no matter if they were excused or not) stood at 18 percent of students in December of 2023. That percentage was down to 10 percent in December 2024 after the program was initiated.

"We can't teach our kids if they are not in school, and school attendance is linked to academic success," said Superintendent Chandler Smith. "Although our absenteeism numbers were not excessive, we went after and received a grant to initiate more communication with parents when kids missed school and adopted more ways for kids to make up the absences. We are also coordinating with District Attorney Tony Clayton, Judge Tonya Lurry and the FINS program under this initiative and it's working."

"The biggest thing is awareness and accountability," said JaKouri Williams, WBR Schools Safety and Security Coordinator. "We are texting and mailing information to parents after kids reach 5 percent of missed days of school. Often times, we are finding that parents are underestimating how much their kids are missing and how it compares with other students.

The letters sent to parents show how many days the student has missed, how that compares with the other students, and offers resources and contact info to help parents within the school system and with other programs. These letter contacts are handled by Everyday Labs Co. for the school system. In addition, WBR initiated after school, Saturday, and summer programs with certified teachers to help the students make up the school time missed.

"Judge Lurry works closely with us and wants to make sure we are giving students every opportunity to avoid being absent," Williams explained. "This initiative certainly does that. We make every effort to make parents aware and hold them accountable for getting their kids to school."

Six school districts received the grant for the Everyday Labs Co. contact program with parents, and of the six districts, West Baton Rouge had the largest drop in absenteeism. "We will continue to work to get absenteeism as low as possible, knowing that if our students are in school we can set them up for success," said Superintendent Smith.

WBR Schools District Performance Score



School Performance Scores 2024	
School	Grade
Brusly Elem.	B
Bruly Upper Elem.	B
Brusly Middle	B
Brusly High	A
Caneview Elem.	B
Cohn Elem.	C
Lukeville Elem.	B
Port Allen Elem.	C
Port Allen Middle	C
Port Allen High	B

WBR jumps to 22nd in state in school district performance scoring

West Baton Rouge's school district performance score jumped from 29th in the state to 22nd in the state for 2024, the Department of Education announced in November. Highlights of the scores included:

- **West Baton Rouge tied for 8th among the top 10 school systems for growth**, showing significant growth in student test score results.
- **Two WBR schools went up a letter grade in their performance scores:** Brusly High went from a B to an A grade; and Caneview Elementary School went from a C to a B grade.

Superintendent Chandler Smith attributed the jump in performance scores to:

- Consistency across the parish in curriculum and assessment;
- Improved and meaningful practices for teacher Professional Learning Communities;
- Development of teachers and coaches to ensure that they are content masters of the subjects they are teaching; and
- Quarterly site visits by school system administrators to ensure that each school is supported in their plan to meet improvement targets.

"We are thrilled with the result of the scores for 2024 because they mean our students are being prepared for success," said Superintendent Chandler Smith. "Thanks for these scores goes to our teachers and our families for ensuring our students meet ever higher performance standards. We will continue working hard to improve our schools and assure that our students get a quality education."



JOB FAIR

TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS

MARCH 24 | 2-5PM

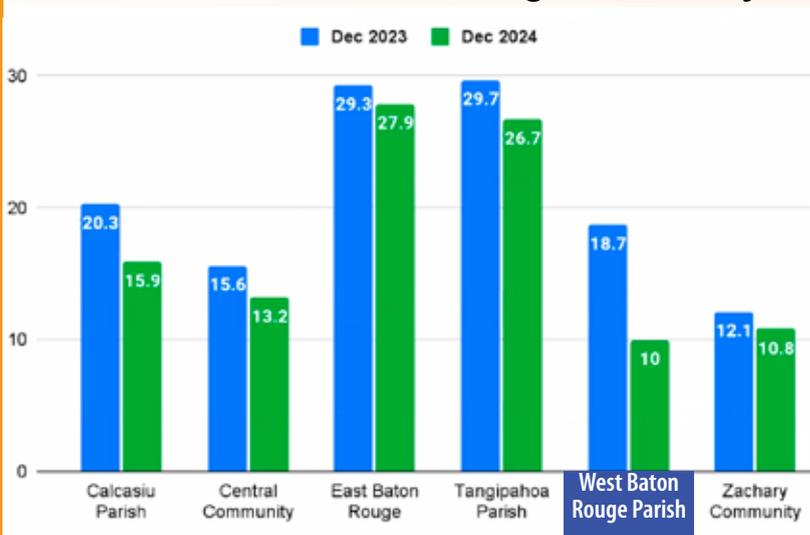
West Baton Rouge Convention Center
2750 N. Westport Drive
Port Allen, LA 70767

Join us Monday, March 24, for the WBR Schools Teacher and Paraprofessional Job Fair. We will have principals from the 10 WBR Schools in attendance to meet with teachers and answer questions regarding employment opportunities in WBR Schools.

REGISTER AT WBR SCHOOLS.NET

Chronic Absence Rates for School Systems participating in program

% of enrolled students missing 10%+ of days



APPLY TODAY AT:
www.wbrschools.net