

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 5** – Chamber’s Annual Membership Banquet, Addis Community Center
- Feb. 7** – Collage workshop, WBR Museum
- Feb. 9** – Creative writing workshop, WBR Museum
- Feb. 19** – Essential Oils class, WBR Library
- Feb. 23** – Special election for State Representative
- Feb. 24** – Addis Mardi Gras Parade, Addis
- Feb. 28**– Mardi Gras bead class, WBR Library
- March 3** – Krewe of Good Friends Parade, Port Allen
- March 5** – Mardi Gras day
- March 7-9** – Dulcimer Fete, WBR Museum
- March 14** – How to weed your attic, WBR Museum
- April 6-May 26** – Exhibit: Photos along the Underground Railroad, WBR Museum
- April 14** – Eggstravaganza, 2-4 pm, WBR Museum
- April 26** – Live at 5 on the Westside, Addis

Parish steps up animal shelter adoptions with improvements, and new building

The West Baton Rouge Parish Council has made a commitment to stepping up its animal shelter facility and stray animal adoptions with several significant improvements. They include a new building, partnership with the LSU Shelter Medicine Program, new staff, and the purchase of a trailer and additional fenced acreage for livestock, horses and large animals that have been abused or abandoned.

NEW BUILDING: The parish is presently constructing a new \$148,500 animal shelter facility that is being built by parish crews. The slab for the building (layout shown below) has been poured and it is expected to be operational by the end of this year.

The new facility allows animal control workers to separate adoptable dogs and cats from those that are

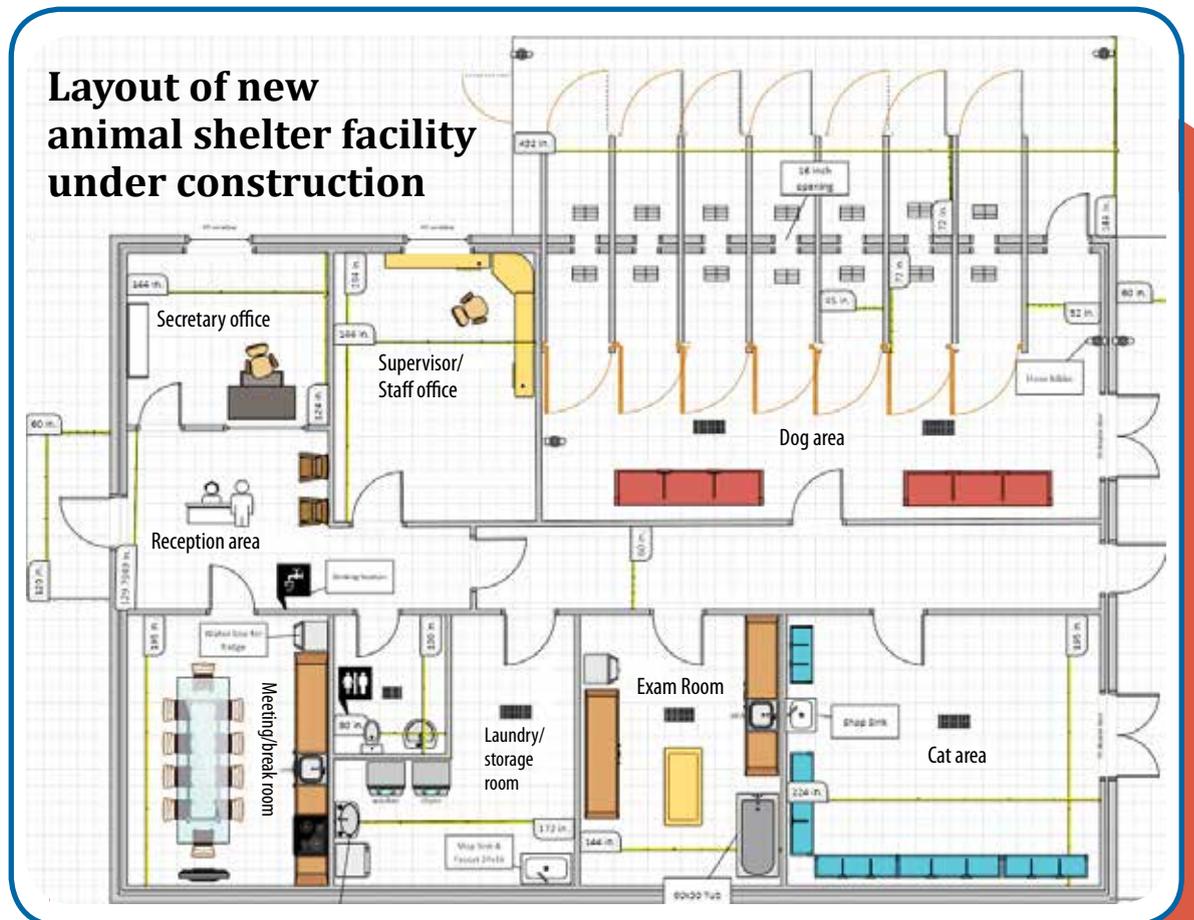
diseased or vicious. In addition, it provides a clinical animal exam room for use by veterinarians and LSU’s Shelter Medicine Program, a reception area, staff office space and storage space, along with better dog and cat holding areas.

The 40 feet X 60 feet facility will be air conditioned. The existing animal holding areas, built many years ago, will continue to be used, but this facility will become the facility where the public interacts with Animal Control staff and can view adoptable animals.

LSU PARTNERSHIP: In addition, West Baton Rouge has been partnering with the LSU Shelter Medicine Program for its second year now. Under this program LSU veterinarians and vet students perform wellness

Continued on page 2

Layout of new animal shelter facility under construction



GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

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

WBR PARISH SCHOOL BOARD - Committee meetings - 2nd Tuesday of month, 5 p.m. School Board meetings - 3rd Wednesday of month, 5 p.m., School Board office 225-343-8309, www.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 3rd Tuesday of month. 5 p.m., Council meeting room in Parish Council Building.

TOWN OF ADDIS - Meets 1st Wednesday of month, 6 p.m., Addis Town Hall. Phone: 225-687-4844, www.addisla.org

CITY OF PORT ALLEN - Committee meetings - 1st Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Council meetings - 2nd Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m., Port Allen City Hall 225-346-5670, www.portallen.org

TOWN OF BRUSLY - Committee meetings on 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Council meetings on 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Brusly Town Hall - 225-749-2909, www.bruslyla.com

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Upcoming activities at Museum

Upon Request – Blacksmith Apprenticeship Program – a master class series taught by artist in residence and professional blacksmith, Gary Hart. Advanced reservations required for this 12 hour course covering blacksmithing basics and blacksmithing ornamental skills. The cost of this program is \$200 and includes all supplies.

February 6, Noon - Lecture – **Poetry reading with renowned poet John K. Lawson**, Free.

February 7, 6:30–8:30pm - **Collage Workshop** with John K. Lawson, free. Advanced registration is required by calling (225) 336-2422 Ext. 200.

February 9, 10 am–Noon - Meet Me under the Poet Tree **creative writing workshop** with John K. Lawson – Space is limit. To register, call 225-336-2422 Ext. 200.

February 18 – April 1 – A series of six **classes on movement, art and music** on consecutive Mondays (excluding March 4). Open to OLLI members. For information, visit www.outreach.lsu.edu/Enrichment?OLLI-at-LSU or call 225.578.2500.

February 14 – Noon - **Lecture and book signing** with Nancy Penrose, on *A Dream and a Chisel: Louisiana Sculptor Angela Gregory in Paris, 1925-1928*.

March 7-9 – **Dulcimer Fête**

March 14 – Noon - **Lecture, How to Weed Your Attic**, with Dr. Elizabeth Dow - Free.

March 20 – Noon - **Lecture with Mary Ann Sternberg** on *River Road Rambler Revisited*. Free.

April 6 – May 26 - EXHIBIT - Through Darkness to Light: **Photographs Along the Underground Railroad**

April 6 – Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad **Exhibit Opening Event** – featuring music, museum theater, hands-on activities, local family stories and genealogy. Free

April 14 – 2 – 4 pm - **Eggstravaganza** – Join the West Baton Rouge Museum and the West Baton Rouge Parish Library for an old-fashioned Easter Egg Hunt, games, crafts, a visit from the Easter Bunny and more on the museum grounds. Free

Parish steps up animal shelter operations

Continued from page 1

checks and treat animals four days a month, provide spay and neuter services, and have the capacity to bring a trailer fully equipped for surgery procedures.

This program was first brought to the parish through funding by the Bubba Phillips Foundation in coordination with the Second Chance Animal Alliance in West Baton Rouge. “This has been a great improvement for us because the LSU program provides these services at a sizable discount,” said George Bragg, Shelter and Mosquito Control Director.

NEW ACREAGE: When Bragg took over operation of the animal shelter he began assessing the deficiencies, and realized the facility was ill equipped for livestock and horses. The property next to the animal shelter is owned by the WBR School Board and in a partnership with the School Board, the Parish Council was able to get 4 to 5 acres granted over to the parish for a livestock/horse holding area. The parish purchased a trailer to transport these animals and also secured the fencing on the property.

NEW STAFF: Finally, along with George Bragg as the new Superintendent of Animal and Mosquito Control, the parish has added a new Animal Control Supervisor, Jackie Fellows, who previously worked as office manager of the Iberville Parish Animal Shelter. She has extensive experience and connections in the animal rescue world and has written grants. “She has really brought a new vision and direction to the program and is spearheading very positive changes,” said Bragg. Fellows said among her goals for this year are recommending changes to parish ordinances to reflect the parish’s commitment to animal welfare, and holding one adoption event monthly, including other areas of the parish and even at pet stores in Baton Rouge.

Variety of on-going programs and special events set

Tax Preparation Help!

The WBR Library, WBR Parish Council and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance through the Internal Revenue Service will offer free tax help to individuals with simple returns. Appointments are available at the Library every Saturday from February 2 through April 13 at 9:30 a.m., 10:45 am, and 12 pm. Registration is required with Sarah Colombo at 342-7920 ext. 221 or scolombo@wbrplibrary.us.

Bookmobile stops

The Library’s Bookmobile stops at Brusly Town Hall every Tuesday from 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm, at neighborhoods every other Tuesday, and at the Council on Aging Center every other Tuesday from 11:20 am until 12:20 pm. For information about stop locations, or to be added to the route, call (225)342-7920 ext. 218.

COINS Computer Classes

The Library’s weekly computer, Internet, and software

classes provide basic lessons to adults with little or no computer experience. They are every Tuesday from 6 until 7:30 pm and every Wednesday from 11 am to 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Adult Services Librarian Luis Interiano at (225) 342-7920 ext. 230.

Library Book Club

The Library Book Club meets the first Saturday of every month in the Library’s Meeting Room from 11 am – 12:30 pm. For more information, please call Adult Services Librarian Luis Interiano at 225-342-7920, ext. 230 or email linteriano@wbrplibrary.us.

SNAP Assistance

Do you need assistance filling out a SNAP (Food Stamp) application? Drop in any time on the first Thursday of the month between 10 am to 12 pm for one-on-one help provided by a representative from the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

Legal Assistance

A representative from Southeast Louisiana Legal

Services will be available to answer your legal questions on February 13, March 13, or April 10 from 10 am to 12 pm. Criminal cases will not be addressed.

Essential Oils

Do you want a greener home? Learn how to safely make your own cleaning products using essential oils from a certified essential oil therapist on Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library. For more information, contact Sarah Colombo at (225) 342-7920, ext. 221 or email scolombo@wbrplibrary.us

Mardi Gras Bead Art

Make unique mosaics using Mardi Gras beads at the Library on Thursday, February 28 at 6 pm. All supplies will be provided, but you are welcome to bring beads and medallions. Registration is required with Sarah Colombo at (225) 342-7920, ext. 221 or email scolombo@wbrplibrary.us.

Eggstravaganza - Sunday, April 14

The WBR Museum and Library have teamed up to host an old-fashioned Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 14, from 2 to 4 pm with games, crafts, face painting, and a visit from the Easter Bunny on the beautiful grounds of the West Baton Rouge Museum.



is published quarterly as a cooperative endeavor of West Baton Rouge Parish government agencies to educate residents about projects, activities and services in the parish. It is produced by Peacock Communications, LLC. Comments can be sent to: ellie@peacockcommunications.com, or call 225-929-9661.

\$1.1 million road project set for 2019

The parish's road improvement project for 2019 includes overlay of 18 roads, along with the extension of Commercial Drive service road for new hotels being constructed in Port Allen, and the completion of Sid Richardson Road extension in Addis.

Roads to be overlaid include Emily Drive, Ella Street, Eva Street, Beula Street, Julia Street, Melvin Street, Marcy Street, Ryan Street, Ewing Street, Sharon Street, Willow Ridge, Aleander Park Road and in the Lobdell area: Main Street, Nicholas Street, Ross Street, Rosario Street. The projects total \$1,170,000.

The new Sid Richardson Road extension is expected to be completed this Spring. The road provides an alternate emergency route to La. Hwy. 1148 for better mobility along the west side of the railroad tracks when passing train traffic blocks La. Hwy. 1 or highway congestion keeps motorists from accessing the highway.



Community center coming to William & Lee Park

A new \$149,000 community center will soon be built at William and Lee Park. The facility will be more conducive for family events, reunions, parties and receptions than the pool house, which is presently booked regularly for events. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring.

The center will be built by parish crews with the exception of pouring the concrete slab, which will be contracted out by the parish. "The use of parish crews will provide significant saving for our local taxpayers," said Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot. "The pool house at the park is booked almost weekly, even though it is inadequate for functions. This facility will be larger than the pool house and will be a great addition to the park."

FIELD RE-DO... The upgrading of Field 2 at Rivalt Park is now complete, with upgraded fencing and other field improvements. Other improvements at parks include added lighting to the walking track at Erwinville Park and mounted fans for those seated in the stands at all playing fields.



Test drilling for new well begins; part of major water improvement project

Test drilling for the parish's new water well, located near the Louis Mouch Multipurpose Arena, is underway, and the parish will know before the summer if the well will provide the quantity and quality of water the parish needs.

Officials are optimistic, but if it does not, the parish will have to find a new well location and do another test well. Meanwhile, work on obtaining rights-of-way for the installation of a larger water line from the well site to Addis is continuing. These projects are major aspects of a parish plan to increase water volume and pressure in the southern part of the parish. The project is expected to take at least two years.

Did you know?

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

Please help keep storm water runoff clean by:

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

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

Corey Caillouet appointed new WBR Registrar of Voters

Corey Caillouet, who had served as Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters since 2012, was selected by the WBR Parish Council as the new Registrar when Stacy Ryan retired in October of 2018.



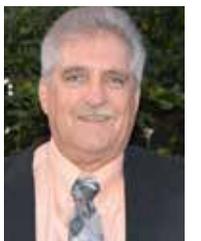
Caillouet has been with the Registrar's office since 2010, and was appointed Chief Deputy in 2012. She earned her CERA (Certified Elections and Registration Administrator) certification in 2015. She is the District Chairman of the 8-parish Registrars of Voters User Group Committee, which leads technology and computer-related issues. She is also on the steering committee for the parish GIS system, which focuses on the development of maps and geographical data throughout the parish.

Caillouet was raised in Erwinville, and is a graduate of Port Allen High. She will be marrying her fiance, Gage Passantino, on February 2.

"There is so much negativity in the news about elections," she said. "I want our voters to know and trust that we are operating efficiently, honestly and as fairly as possible. We follow the laws, rules and regulations of the Louisiana Election Code. Our mission is to promote voter awareness and increase voter participation throughout the parish."

Race to fill state representative seat set for February 23

A special election has been called for February 23 to fill the seat of former State Representative Major Thibaut, who won election as Pointe Coupee's first parish president in November. WBR Parish Council Chairman Gary "Sprout" Spillman has announced he is a candidate for the District 18 seat. The district includes West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee and parts of Iberville and West Feliciana Parishes. Early voting is February 9-16. Spillman retired from the Baton Rouge Fire Department with 30 years of service, and has served as Chairman of the Council since 2010. He also serves on the WBR Convention and Visitors Board, the WBR Toll Authority Board, and Capital Area Human Services Board. He is married to Rayenell D. Spillman, and they are long-time members of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.



How to properly dispose of tires

WBR residents wanting to dispose of old tires can drop them off free of charge at Environmental Industries Recycling, 7122 Nolan David Road in Port Allen Monday thru Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Maximum 5 tires accepted. No rims allowed. Must have a valid La. driver's license and a La. license plate.



Some of the toys distributed in the Sheriff's Christmas Crusade are shown above. A total of 44 West Baton Rouge families had brighter holidays thanks to the donations and the annual Sheriff's Office program. This annual program has been helping families at the holidays for many years.

Got a home camera system for Christmas? Be sure to register to help!

Many people got Ring or other home camera video surveillance equipment for Christmas. If you did, the Sheriff's Office reminds you that you can be a vital part of helping to keep West Baton Rouge safe by being part of the Citizens Active Against Crime program. All you have to do is call Mindy with the Sheriff's Office at 225.382.5200 to be added to the program's confidential database of residents with security surveillance cameras.

If a crime occurs in your area, the Sheriff's Office will then notify you to check your video and see if you have any evidence that will help them solve the crime, such as seeing a specific vehicle or person. "Once you are on the database, we can notify you of crimes and the time period to check for us. This can help us break cases, and keep our community safe," said Major Dale Simoneaux.

Pro-active patrols, narcotics work results in reduced crime rates for 2018, Sheriff Cazes reports

Crime was down in West Baton Rouge in all crime statistics, said Sheriff Mike Cazes. "This is the result of being pro-active in our patrols and with our Narcotics and Detective Divisions."

In 2017, Sheriff Cazes had said the River West Narcotics Task Force was making progress and he promised to make sure his department was aggressive in keeping drug dealers out of West Baton Rouge. The statistics show that the Task Force met that goal through 2018 by increasing its investigations.

The Reentry Program at the WBR Detention Center, run in conjunction with the La. Department of Corrections, also had a successful year, with 634 inmates successfully completing and graduating from the extensive program that includes educational and behavior requirements. A total of 146 inmates successfully transitioned in the work release program and held jobs in the program with no incidents, and

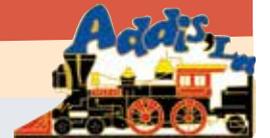
225 are still currently active in the program without incident.

"These figures show that the program is effective and is working," said Sheriff Cazes.

WBR crime statistics

Activity/crimes	2017	2018	% Down
Homicide	1	0	100% ↓
Rape/sexual assault cases	4	4	0% ↓
Robberies	6	3	50% ↓
Burglaries	49	45	9% ↓
Batteries/assaults	154	115	26% ↓
Thefts (includes shoplifting, Vehicle break-ins, property, etc)	434	380	12% ↓
Calls for assistance	11,040	9,939	
Narcotics investigations	200+	254	
Inmates processed	3,200	2,818	

TOWN OF ADDIS



PRESIDENTIAL LOCOMOTIVES MAKE STOP IN ADDIS

Area residents were thrilled to get a close up look at the locomotives that delivered the body of former President George W. Bush when they were parked in

Addis for several days in January. The locomotives brought President Bush to his final resting place in College Station, Texas. It was the first time in 49 years that a train has transported a president's body.

Simpson helps town stay "on track"

Hired in October of 2014 as the Town's Court Clerk, Jade Simpson processed traffic citations and prepared documents for Mayor's Court. Shortly after being hired, she was asked to serve on the Planning Committee for the Town's Centennial Celebration in 2015. "Being a part of this special community event and seeing the end result of everyone's hard work was an amazing experience," she said.

Fast forward to January, 2017 when Simpson was appointed to the position of Town Clerk. "I felt grateful for the opportunity, but also very nervous. I knew my responsibilities were going to increase and I had some big shoes to fill," she said. The implementation of a new accounting software and a new payroll/human resource management program became a priority. "The town is growing and things are moving at a fast pace. These changes are necessary in order



to work more efficiently," she noted. In addition to managing day-to-day office operations and tracking the town's finances, she enjoys assisting Mayor Toups with planning the town's Live at Five on the Westside events.

Jade is a member of the Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association and hopes to receive her certification by 2020. A native of Plaquemine, she has an Associate Degree in General Science. She moved to Addis in 2010 with her husband, Josh, and their two girls, Alli Grace and Lilly.

Sugar Mill turn lane work begins

The road widening project on Sugar Mill Boulevard at La. Hwy. 1 was scheduled to begin by the end of January. A dedicated right turn lane is being added at the red light. It will extend 150 feet long, and should significantly reduce the traffic backup at the red light.

Dates set for Live at 5 events

The dates for the Spring session of Live at 5 on the Westside are April 26, May 10 and May 24. Bands are being booked for the popular Friday night music series sponsored by the Town of Addis. Sponsorships are still available by calling 225.687.4844.

TOWN MEETINGS:

- Town Council - 1st Wednesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm
- Planning & Zoning - 3rd Tuesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm
- Historical Society - 2nd Tuesday of month, Addis Museum - 5:30 pm

Town limit moved to include new school

Did you know the Brusly town limits increased in size last month? The city annexed a piece of property at its northern border so that the entire new Brusly High School complex will be within the town limits. As construction begins on a new high school, we take a look at how Brusly's schools evolved through the years.

From the late 1800s until the early 1900s, Brusly schools were mainly one-room school buildings. In 1911 a two-story wooden Brusly High School opened its doors, and in 1937 the iconic rounded roof gym was built. In 1950, the wooden building was demolished and a new Brusly High was built next to the gym. That is the current Brusly Middle School.

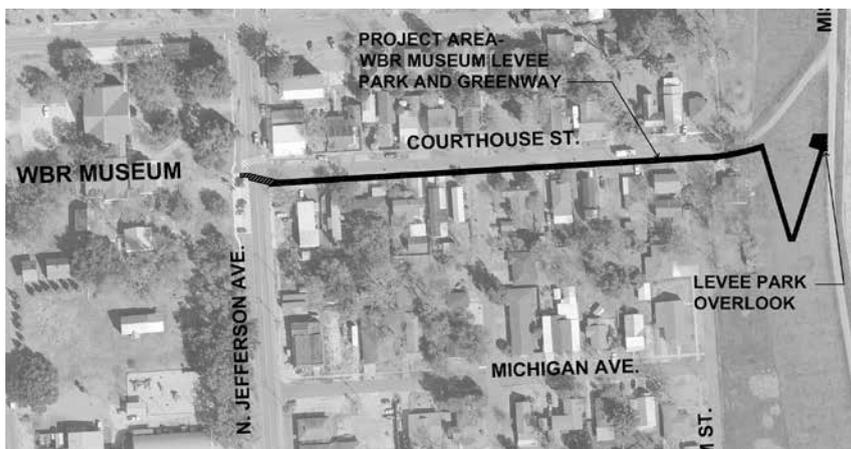
That building served as Brusly High until the current high school building on the service road of La. Hwy. 1 was opened in 1978. A new high school facility is now under construction adjacent to the existing high school and is expected to be completed in time for the 2020-2021 school year.

Street overly work coming

The town will begin its annual street overlay program for 2019 soon. Some streets that are currently proposed are Gwin St, Lee Dr., Hebert St and the rear portion of Orleans Quarters.



Shown are Brusly schools through the years. At left is Eureka Central High School, the one-room school that served grades 1-10 from 1884-1919. The first school named Brusly High School - the two story building in the top photo, was opened in 1911. The rounded-roof gym was added in 1937. The flat-roofed one-story Brusly High replaced the two-story building in 1950, and it was the high school until 1978, when the current Brusly High was built.



Progress on sidewalk project

The sidewalk project that will extend from the West Baton Rouge Museum to the city's levee-top trail should be underway within 60 to 90 days, now that the servitude agreement has been approved by the City Council.

This cooperative endeavor between the city, WBR Parish Council and WBR Museum calls for the city to build and maintain the sidewalk to the levee and the parish to build the ramp up to the levee top. The sidewalk will extend down Courthouse Street to a levee park overlook that will connect to the existing levee trail. The project is part of the city's plan to increase the connectivity and walk-ability of the city.

Road improvements for 2019

The city is continuing its long-term commitment to road improvements, with another \$350,000 in the 2019 budget for another road overlay project. This year's project, which is being bid out now, includes North 14th Street, California Street, Johnson Street, North 12th Street and North 13th Street. The city expects work to begin on these roads within two months.

Starbucks among businesses going up in front of Wal-Mart in Port Allen

New retail buildings going up in front of Wal-Mart off La. Hwy. 1 near the Intracoastal Bridge are bringing some excitement to the area. Both developments will include space for four retail businesses. The building under construction on the south side of the old Hardee's location will include the popular Starbucks coffee shop, along with an AT&T store. Businesses going in the other space in that building have not been announced. Another retail building is going up on the north side of the Hardee's location. One business announced for that building is Your Father's Haircut.

Some people are not aware that this property is within in the City of Port Allen city limits. "We are very happy to see new retail development in the city and know both developments will be an asset to our city and residents," said Mayor Richard Lee.

Major sewer repair project expected to be underway in March

A major sewer repair project, costing approximately \$350,000, is expected to begin some time in March, now that the city has completed camera testing to determine the repairs needed to fix cracks and breaks in the aging pipelines going from the Avenue D lift station to the city's wastewater treatment plant.

The project at the lift station, located at Avenue D & Harry Brown Street. This is the rear (or western most) section of Westside Village. The work includes replacing two pumps, piping work, site drainage work and building improvements. That project is out for bid now, but the city has allocated \$350,000 for the lift station and pipeline work. Mayor Lee expects the lift station repairs to eliminate the city having to use a by-pass pump at that critical lift station.



Staff ramps up for travel season, Kite Fest

West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau (WBRCVB) staff spent the early part of January packing up its extensive Reflections of the Season decorations, and has now switched gears to prepare for this year's coming tourism shows and Kite Fest.

REFLECTIONS OF THE SEASON FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Reflections of the Season again was successful, despite smaller crowds than in years past. Tourism Director Kathy Gautreau said the addition of hosting company parties at the site helped tremendously. "All the new light shows in the Baton Rouge area have impacted us, so we are developing some new ideas and formats to unveil for the 2019 Reflections of the Season," she said.

TRAVEL SHOWS

West Baton Rouge continues to be represented at travel and motorcoach shows through its participation in the Southeast Louisiana Gumbo group. The group includes 12 area parish tourism organizations, which send member representatives to sell the region and distribute each parish's tourism information at select shows throughout the year. In addition, Gautreau said she will send representatives on sales missions in Dallas and Austin in the coming months.

STUDENT DAY AT KITE FEST

Kite Fest has become one of the biggest events the WBRCVB puts on each year, and the annual Student Day draws hundreds of students. It is set for April 5 this year, and Gautreau urged area schools and day care centers to register their student groups early by calling 225.344.2920. Student day is free, but the groups must be registered so that preparations can be made for them, Gautreau said.

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
 Extreme Inflatables
 Classic Sounds by Jude
Fireworks on Saturday night!

2019 Kite Fest Louisiana

**Saturday & Sunday
 April 6-7, 2019**

West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex
 3383 Rosedale Road
 in Port Allen

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

LOUISIANA Feed Your Soul.
 West Baton Rouge
 LAMAR
 BBQGUYS.com
 THE ADVOCATE
 PLACID
 Entergy
 Coca-Cola
 EMCO
 BEAR-M
 WYTRK
 WBRZ

WBR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2019 Chamber Board of Directors

The West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce proudly announces our 2019 Board Officers and Directors:

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

- Glen Daigle:** Chairman of the Board, Business First Bank
- Sandra Hughes:** Chair-Elect, Lofton Staffing & Security Services
- Mary Arrasmith:** Chair Ex-Officio, Project Lead the Way
- Patrick Hobbins:** Treasurer, Placid Refining Company, LLC
- Arron Pierre:** Member-At-Large, A. Wilberts Sons, LLC

BOARD MEMBERS

- Abby Cook Barden,** The Dow Chemical Company
- Branden Barker,** Barker Real Estate & Management Services, LLC
- Paula Bernard,** Western & Southern Life Insurance Company
- Nick Cicero,** Peak Performance Physical Therapy
- Scott D'Agostino,** Tipton Associates
- Ben Graham,** Graham, Langlois & Legendre
- Jason Hammock,** Court Street Café
- B.J. Militello,** Better Business Bureau of South Central La, Inc.
- Heath Morris,** Sugar West, Inc.
- Katreena S. Moses,** Baton Rouge Community College
- Ash Patel,** Tower Investments Group, LLC
- Rawlston Phillips, III,** Sun*Plus, Inc. / Beau-lieu Plantation
- Chris Reeves,** Edward Jones
- LeAnn Stelly,** Cox Business
- Brittany Weaver,** State Farm Agent
- Devin Zito,** General Informatics and Zito Law, LLC
- Kevin Durbin,** West Baton Rouge Parish Gov. Representative

The West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce

Cordially invites you to the

2019 Annual Membership Banquet Installation of Officers and Board of Directors Presentation of 2018 Business of the Year Awards

Presenting Sponsor: Cox Business

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Addis Community Center ~ 7520 Highway 1 South, Addis
 6:00 P.M. Social and Silent Auction ~ 7:00 P.M. Dinner

Tickets \$50 ~ R.S.V.P. Required by January 25, 2019
 225-383-3140 or email anais@wbrchamber.org

Complimentary Beer and Wine

Sponsorships Available
 Business/Cocktail Attire

Interested in starting a new business in WBR?

The West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce and the West Baton Rouge Parish Council offer a variety of services to help those wanting to start a new business in the parish. Go to the Chamber website: www.wbrchamber.org or call 225.383.3140 for assistance; and go to www.wbrcouncil.org/Departments/Revenue-and-Taxation for a link to information on the licenses and permits needed and contact information on those agencies.



Apply for exemptions now to avoid property value increases in 2020 from revaluation

West Baton Rouge property owners should make sure they apply for eligible exemptions in 2019 to avoid property valuation increases in 2020, noted Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan.

Property values will be revalued in 2020, and property owners may face increased property values, resulting in higher property taxes. The following property tax exemptions are available for property owners who qualify, noted Assessor Altazan. The popular exemption that helps more than 650 West Baton Rouge elderly property owners is the property value freeze, listed below.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED:

The Louisiana Special Assessment Level program allows for residents who are:

- those 65 years old or older
- disabled, or
- disabled veterans with 50% disability

to have the assessed value of their homes frozen for tax purposes. This means their homes would not be subject to revaluation and the assessed value of their homes would remain the same no matter if property values increase.

To be eligible property owners must:

- live in the home,
- be disabled,

- be a disabled veteran,
- be 65 years or older,
- have a combined adjusted gross income of \$75,594 or less in 2019.

EXEMPTION FOR UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MILITARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE PROTECTION OFFICERS:

Act 678, which was approved by state voters, became effective December 1, 2016. It establishes a total ad valorem property tax exemption for the unmarried surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Services, the Louisiana National Guard, the Louisiana State Police, or a law enforcement or fire protection officer killed in the line of duty.

EXEMPTION FOR UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSE OF FIRST RESPONDER:

Act 427 became effective January 1, 2018. It provides for a property tax exemption for the total assessed value of the homestead of an unmarried surviving spouse of a person who died while performing their duties as an emergency medical responder, technician, paramedic, volunteer fire fighter or law enforcement or fire protection officer.

EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS DISABLED IN SERVICE:

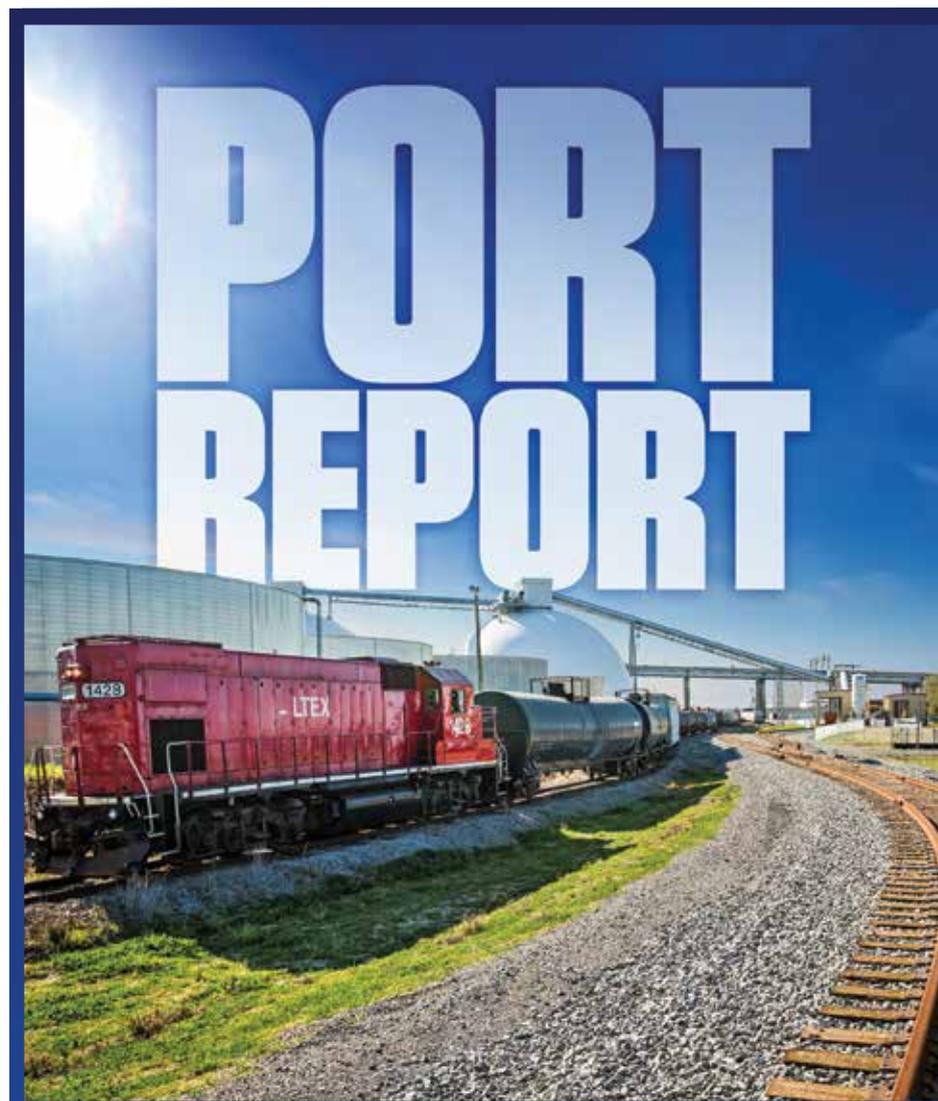
Veterans with a service-connected 100 percent disability are exempt from additional property taxes, an exemption approved by West Baton Rouge voters in 2011. This exemption provides an additional \$75,000 exemption to property owned and occupied by veterans with a service-connected, 100 percent disability. It also extends to their surviving spouse. This is in addition to the \$75,000 homestead exemption, increasing the total exemption for these veterans to \$150,000.

Assessor Altazan urges any property owners who qualify to complete the application at the WBR Assessor's Office in the West Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse in Port Allen. Bring proof of income and personal identification.

Need more info? Call the Assessor's Office at 225.244.6777.

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

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



Rail expansion. Dock improvements. More ship calls.

A dramatic increase in ship calls per year for the Port prompted long-needed improvements to cargo docks on the Mississippi River in addition to an expansion of rail infrastructure.

Union Pacific Railroad is expanding its interchange tracks along Louisiana Hwy. 1 to be accessed from either the north or south in an \$11 million upgrade, and the Port has plans for a \$20-25 million chambering yard south of the Intracoastal Waterway. The state's Capital Outlay Program will help fund the construction of the chambering yard's three, 110-car tracks to handle Drax Biomass wood pellet trains. In addition, Louis Dreyfus Commodities is continuing its efforts in designing and constructing their \$20 million facility rail tracks to handle 110-car grain trains.



To accommodate **Drax, Louis Dreyfus and Houston-based Genesis Energy**, ongoing dock improvements have upgraded 3,500 feet of deepwater cargo docks with a new fendering system and bigger, stronger mooring hooks.

Port Executive Director **Jay Hardman** reports, "We're busy, so as soon as we finish one improvement, we continue to make plans and try to expand for future needs."



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Teachers, Students of the Year

The Principal, Teachers and Students of the Year were announced and honored at the West Baton Rouge School Board meeting on January 17. They are: Principal of the Year Jessica Major of Port Allen Middle School, Elementary Teacher of the Year Lacy Behl of Chamberlin Elementary; Middle School Teacher of the Year Amber Brown of Devall Middle School, and High School Year of the Year Karen Gill of Brusly High. Students of the Year are Kylen Wright of Lukeville Elementary School, Rachel Daigle of Devall Middle School, and Emily Nichols of Port Allen High School. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for your hard work and dedication!



Principal of the Year
Jessica Major



Elementary Teacher of the Year
Lacy Behl



Middle School Teacher of the Year
Amber Brown



High School Teacher of the Year
Karin Gill



Elementary Student of the Year
Kyhlen Wright



Middle School Student of the Year
Rachel Daigle



High School Student of the Year
Emily Nichols

WBR chosen to pilot new extensive safety program

West Baton Rouge middle and high schools are in the midst of a comprehensive safety assessment and training program designed to make the schools safer. The Firestorm Solutions pilot program is being bought to the schools as a service of Louisiana Workers Compensation Corp. (LWCC), the school system's workers' comp provider.

The year-long program includes extensive safety evaluations and recommendations for the schools, training for all personnel on crisis scenarios and behavioral assessments to help staff recognize at-risk students who may be a threat to themselves and others so that they can be helped before they act. All of this is performed by the highly experienced Firestorm team of former Secret Service agents and Navy Seals.

"Kristin Wall, our CEO, was very impressed with Firestorm and wanted to bring that level of expertise into schools both as a service to our local community and as an added value to policy holders," said Gary Sanders, LWCC Chief Security Officer. "We hope to roll this out in other schools in the future. The goal is to identify risks and mitigate them as much as possible."

WBR again recognized for AP gains

WBR was once again honored by the national College Board for its continuing increases in the number of students participating in advanced placement (AP) courses, and improvement in AP exam scores of those students.

The school district had 85 students enrolled in AP courses in 2014 and they took 113 AP exams. Just four years later, in 2018, the district had 239 students enrolled in AP courses, and they took 401 AP exams. The rigorous courses both help students prepare for the challenges of college and also can provide students with college credit while in high school.

As one of the 373 school districts in the US to be named to the AP Honor Roll, the district had to increase access and participation in AP courses by at least 11 percent, show diversity in the program, and maintain or improve student performance levels on the AP tests.

UPDATE:

School improvement/construction report

BRUSLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Construction is complete on the Head Start facility with a multi-purpose area.

BRUSLY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Brusly Middle will become Brusly Elementary when the new Brusly High School opens. At this facility, the administration offices are being moved to the 6th grade building, new CAT 6A wiring and intercom system, lighting, playground and fencing are being added. This project will bid out in early 2020 and will be complete in August 2020.

BRUSLY HIGH SCHOOL: The existing Brusly High will become Brusly Middle School when the new high school is complete for the 2020-2021 school year. Work at this school will include removing T-buildings, changing classroom spaces and other upgrades. Meanwhile, site work is underway for the new high school, and design and construction drawings are being completed, with the construction starting. This school will open in August 2020.

COHN ELEMENTARY: The new 8,975 square feet multipurpose building and new administrative space is complete. Other completed improvements include CAT 6A wiring in all buildings, renovated student restrooms, a new freezer, cooler, and upgraded vent hood in the cafeteria, new bus drive and renovated carpool area. The current administration office has been converted to a space for counselors and nurses.

CANEVIEW SCHOOL: The slab for both buildings at the new school, which replaces Chamberlin and Devall Schools, have been poured and block walls are

going up. The school, for grades Headstart to 8th grade, opens for the 2019-2020 school year.

LUKEVILLE ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL: Construction kicked off mid-January on the new administration building and media center. Other improvements include new intercom system, CAT 6A wiring and conversion of the old media center into two classrooms.

PORT ALLEN ELEMENTARY: Construction is underway, including a new Headstart and Pre-K building, CAT 6A wiring, and new intercom system. The existing modular buildings have been relocated to the Port Allen Middle School campus until the new building is complete in August, 2019.

PORT ALLEN MIDDLE SCHOOL: The interior renovations of the main building, new roof, and installation of CAT 6A wiring and intercom system will be bid in early 2019 and will open in 2020.

PORT ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL: Only punchlist items remain on the improvements, including technology upgrades, roof repairs, HVAC improvements, an improved bus entrance and better traffic flow. The new front canopy is still underway. Renovation of the school lab has been added, and a new theater building and gym should be complete by August 2019.



Construction on the entrance to the theater building at Port Allen High.