

RABIES CLINIC

Saturday, August 8

9 am - noon

**WBR Parish Shelter &
Animal Control facility
3183 Ted Denstel Rd.,
Port Allen**

West Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control is offering a low cost vaccination clinic for the pets of WBR residents.

Services offered:

- Rabies vaccinations - \$12,
 - Microchips - \$15,
 - Heartworm tests - \$10,
 - Booster vaccinations - \$8 each
- Rabies vaccinations are required in West Baton Rouge Parish for all dogs and cats over the age of 4 months old.

The following is required to attend:

- Everyone must wear a face mask
- All dogs must be on leash
- All cats must be in a carrier
- All services for as long as they last.

Aug. 15 Election

Absentee voting - July 25 -

August 8, except Sunday

Registrar of Voters Office

883 7th St., Ste. A

Port Allen

Wear face mask

Parish voters asked to renew community center tax in August 15 election

West Baton Rouge Parish voters will be asked to renew the 3 mill property tax to fund maintenance and operation of the parish's six community centers in the August 15 election. Early voting for that election is July 25 through August 8, excluding Sunday. The parish's Recreation Department presently operates the centers across the parish, which include the WBR Community Center, Post 167 American Legion Hall and William & Lee Community Center, all in Port Allen; the Erwinville Community Center, and the Addis Community Center and VFW Hall, both in Addis.

The 3 mill tax renewal will provide approximately \$1.33 million annually for operation of the facilities for 10 years. The 3 mill tax was initially approved by voters in 2001.

"The community centers are vital to our communities as an affordable place to hold gatherings, meetings, church functions, and numerous other events and sports activities, but they are expensive to maintain and operate," noted Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot. "They really are the lifeblood of our communities and are used daily."

The community centers are used as evacuation shelters and the Addis Community Center houses the WBR Chamber of Commerce. The community centers are also home to a variety of functions including the Safety Town program that teaches kindergartners about safety, kid camps, exercise programs, commodity distributions, graduation parties, the YMCA fund-raiser, school and sports banquets, youth sports and leagues, worker safety training programs, weddings, Mardi Gras balls, high school proms and other activities.

All of the centers have received improvements in recent years, but capital improvements is an on-going cost due to the extensive use of the buildings throughout the year. The parish 2020 budget for the community centers is shown at right.

Approximately 85% of the tax is funded by business and industry, with homeowners funding about \$246,000 of the total collected. A homeowner with a home valued at \$200,000 will pay \$37.50 on the tax, while a home valued at \$300,000 will pay \$67.50 on the tax.



Shown above are two of the parish community centers - the WBR Community Center in Port Allen and the Erwinville Community Center.

COMMUNITY CENTERS BUDGET

Revenue from 3 mil tax	\$1.33 million
Revenue from rentals	\$.34 million
Total revenue	\$1.67 million

Operating expenses	\$1.29 million
Capital improvements	\$.38 million
Total expenses	\$1.67 million

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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PERMIT NO. 88

Museum offers lagniappe tours, new exhibits

The West Baton Rouge Museum is open, and has provisions in place for public health protection. Face masks are required to enter, and social distancing is being enforced, both inside and on the Museum grounds.

The Museum 6-acre campus includes walkways winding through gardens, historic buildings sharing regional history, gallery spaces filled with art and artifacts, a juke joint jumping with music and memorabilia, and a demonstration barn displaying a vintage tractor, Model A and antique tools used in many trades and handicrafts.

Walk-in visitors are welcome six days a week, Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 4:30 pm, and Sundays, 2 – 5 pm. Admission is \$4 per adult, \$2 per child and senior citizens, and free to residents of West Baton Rouge Parish and members of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association.

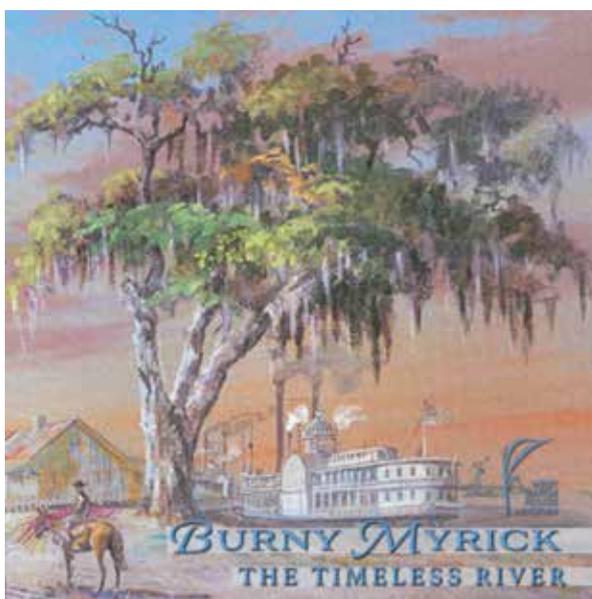
Special lagniappe tours can be arranged by making reservations at least a week in advance. Advanced, paid reservations can include one of the following demonstrations to a weekday tour for an additional fee: Spinning and weaving, wash day, woodworking and blacksmithing, or the Early Louisiana Experience showcasing native people and early explorers. The cost for the additional tailored tour experience is an extra \$20 per group.

MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

• **Cafe Francais** will resume on Aug. 7 at 1 pm with a celebration of Acadian heritage. The monthly program is free. Each meeting features a topic to spur discussion. And, of course, there's always a bit of coffee and a little something sweet to eat.

• **Old Time Music Jam**- The Jam is held on the second Sunday of each month from 3 - 5 pm outdoors, with musicians on the covered porch of the museum's Juke Joint and guests under the shade of sprawling oak trees. Musicians informally play acoustic instruments featuring Old Country, Bluegrass, and folk music. To insure the health and safety of all, musicians and visitors alike should bring their own lawn chairs, masks, and refreshments.

• **Burny Myrick's The Timeless River**- A reception in celebration of the exhibit Burny Myrick's The Timeless River is set for Sunday, August 30 from 2 – 4 pm. It features drawings and paintings depicting life and work along the Mississippi River from 1850 to 1900 during the great steamboat age. Born in Mississippi, Myrick first sketched the Mississippi River



in the late 1930s. He developed a love of the river and focused his art on the people and places that thrived on the waterway.

• **The Collectable Life of Mignon Faget** –This exhibit opens on Saturday, August 1, with a FREE reception from 6 – 8 pm, complete with a gallery talk with guest curator Nolde Alexius. It will be on display through January 3, 2021. Faget's close observation of the natural world, particularly the Gulf Coast, as well as her native New Orleans, forged her iconic style.

• **COVID Essay Contest**- Middle and high school students are invited to put their research and writing skills to practice by writing a 300-word essay on what they are doing during COVID 19 social distancing. One student from each level will win. Entries are due by September 7, and the winners will be announced the last week of September. A virtual exhibit will be developed to share participants' artwork, photographs, videos, poems, songs, journal entries, or other creative activities.

• **Blues After School**- The program will continue in the coming school year. A few spaces are available for West Baton Rouge middle school students interested in learning music. Participants will meet four times a month after school from September – April for this free 2-hour music program with music educators from Rockin' Mozart Academy, museum staff, and special guests, who will share the rich culture and tradition of Blues music that has deep roots in West Baton Rouge Parish.

WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

YOUR ON-LINE LIBRARY IS OPEN 24/7!
WWW.WBRPL.COM/RESOURCE-WIZARD

With your library card you have all of this at home!

Get access to e-books, audio books, movies, comics, music.

You also have access to homework help, professional software training, craft and hobby ideas and much, MUCH more!

The Library is now open. Masks are required.
8:30-5:30 Monday-Friday, 9 am - 1 pm Saturday



CHECK OUT ALL THAT IS AVAILABLE
TO YOU ON-LINE THROUGH YOUR
LIBRARY!

WWW.WBRPL.COM/RESOURCE-WIZARD

BE COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS



What makes a small town great is its community, and that's why your response to the 2020 Census is so important. It can impact funding for things that keep us connected, like roads, bridges, programs and more.

COMPLETE THE CENSUS ONLINE:
www.2020Census.gov



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.

Mosquito spraying ramped up, testing positive for West Nile

Mosquito control is in full force in West Baton Rouge, with spraying on a daily basis. However, some mosquitos caught in trapping for samples have tested positive for West Nile virus.

"This is typical around this time," said George Bragg, Mosquito Control Director. "We see West Nile activity increase in July and August, and then begin to taper off in late September or October."

Residents can see a map of the parish with the locations where mosquitoes with West Nile have been trapped on the parish website: www.wbr council.org/241/Mosquito-Control. Information is also available on the facebook page: [facebook.com/West Baton Rouge Mosquito Control](https://facebook.com/WestBatonRougeMosquitoControl).

Mosquito larvicide tablets are available for pickup at the Mosquito Control office, 3147 Ted Denstel Rd., Port Allen. They are free to the public and one pack per residence is issued.

Residents are urged to do their part to stay safe from mosquitos by following these precautions:

- When possible wear long, light colored, and loose-fitting clothes
- Use mosquito repellent with the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin in a 15% to 20% concentration.
- Avoid being outside or use repellent during the hours of dusk and dawn, when mosquitos are most active.
- Flush out bird baths once a week; drill a large hole in or dispose of old tires so they don't collect water; stock ponds with fish or install a fountain, regularly empty kiddie pools and maintain swimming pools.
- Make sure window and door screens don't have holes.
- Seal cracks around window air conditioning units.

If anyone has questions or concerns about mosquito control, call 225-214-5900, leave a message, and the phone call will be returned.

New water line complete to Brusly, next phase is extention to Addis

The parish's major water project to increase water flow and pressure in the southern part of the parish is partially complete. A new 20-inch water main from Northline Road to W. St. Francis Street, and the 8-inch gas main from Northline Road to Riverside Drive are both now in service. While the mains are in service, the contractors are still on sight finishing up the project.

The water main from the new water well located at the Louis Mouch Multuse Arena to the water line that currently crosses the Intracoastal Waterway, is being installed and is expected to be complete by the end of September.

The parish opened bids in mid-July for the extension of the water main from W. St. Francis Street in Brusly to Addis. Once the contract is awarded, this project is expected to take approximately 240 days.

In addition, the parish is currently upgrading a 2-inch water main to an 8-inch water main from just south of Parker Lane to the Addis water tower. That project is almost complete.

Once all of these phases are completed, water will then travel from north of the Intracoastal on Court Street to the water tower on First Street in Addis.

A future project being planned by the parish is upgrading the water main on Andre Lane, Maxine Street and Nolan David Road.

Get A Game Plan for hurricanes

The height of hurricane season is well underway, so residents are urged to get their property and family prepared for a hurricane. Tips and information is available at: getagameplan.org.

Residents can also sign up for emergency alerts to be notified through any method you prefer: call to your home or business, or call or text to your mobile phone. Sign up by going to the parish website: www.wbrparish.org, click How Do I, and Emergency Alerts.



Road improvements underway

The parish's \$1.6 million road improvement program for 2020 is now underway. Roads being overlaid include: Riverside, Mardell, Marlene, Toni, and Cassandra Drive, Joey, Gail, Andrea, Michelle, Deanna, and Tara Avenue, McLin Road, Maple Street, the Lukeville Lane extension, Rue Riviere and Iris Drive, Country Club Road, and Loupe Lane.

In addition, repairs continue to be made to Commercial Drive and South Westport Drive. Finally, the parish is in design on the La. Hwy. 415 Connector, and Rosedale Road is being reconstructed.

WBR Fire Department makes push for volunteers in community outreach



Volunteer firefighters training.

The West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Department is making a big push in communities to educate residents on fire safety, and to ask for volunteers. The department has about 62 volunteers, said Fire Chief Tim Crockett. It relies greatly on volunteers, with only 18 full-time firefighters.

"We need volunteers to help with many activities," said Crockett. "They don't need to suit up as a firefighter. We need people to maintain safety and provide water at an emergency scene, and to handle projects at fire stations. We will train the volunteers in CPR, first aid skills, and firefighting." For more information, call Chief Crockett at 225.346.5676.

WBR HEALTH CENTER WIC PROGRAM



Now taking WIC applications
Curb-side service • Call for appointment
New phone: 225.215.5201

Available services

- WIC
- Immunizations

Services coming

- Reproductive health
- Blood sugar checks
- Blood pressure checks

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 am - 5 pm, Fri. 8 am - 12 pm
685 Louisiana Ave., Port Allen
P:225.215.5201 F: 225.383.3552 www.wbrparish.org

Sheriff's Office works to maintain positive relationships

Sheriff Mike Cazes recognized long ago that strong relationships and mutual trust between law enforcement and the community is critical to maintaining public safety and effective law enforcement. In the wake of the protests nationwide regarding police use of force and other issues, Sheriff Cazes has stepped up Sheriff's Office communication with residents and reinforced proper arrest procedures among deputies.

"We already had diversity training for our deputies, and will continue listening to community concerns," said Sheriff Cazes. "In West Baton Rouge, people work together for the betterment of everyone, and we want that to continue. I welcome any resident with concerns and will make sure the Sheriff's Office is visible and active in the community."

Uptick in vehicle thefts seen

Residents are advised to remove all valuable items from their vehicles and lock them, as vehicle theft has been on the rise. The Sheriff's Office has increased patrols to deter these activities, but residents should be pro-active in protecting their property by not leaving items inside unlocked vehicles, where they are easily accessible.

Plan now for a hurricane

Hurricane season is well underway, and residents are advised to plan early for the potential of having to evacuate, or the possibility of flooding and/or severe weather that would result in power outages.

"Especially with COVID 19, families need to think ahead about what they need to have prepared and what steps they need to take to make sure their loved ones and property are as safe and protected as possible," said Sheriff Cazes. Go to getgameplan.org for preparation lists and information.



Sheriff Cazes begins 5th term

West Baton Rouge Sheriff Mike Cazes was sworn in to his fifth term in office on June 30. His fifth term officially began on July 1, 2020. He was sworn into office by Judge William T. Kleinpeter at the Port Allen City Courthouse. The Sheriff was assisted during the swearing in by his first daughter, Chrissy. He has served his community as a law enforcement officer in West Baton Rouge Parish for more than 45 years, starting his journey as Sheriff in 2004.

CONTACT THE WEST BATON ROUGE SHERIFF'S OFFICE
225-343-9234 or www.wbrsheriff.org



Fall concerts on hold, projects continue for town

The Town of Addis cancelled two of its Live At Five on the Westside concerts in the Spring, and Mayor David Toups said the fall concert series is also on hold for now. "Our first concert was set for October 23, but we are waiting to see if the state moves past Phase 2 of the COVID 19 re-opening plan. If that doesn't happen by early fall, then it is unlikely we will hold the events," said Toups. "The recent increase in cases doesn't help."

MAJOR SEWER PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED BY FALL

A major sewer improvement program that includes running a pipeline from the pumping station serving the Sugar Mill development and the YMCA directly to the town's wastewater treatment plant should be complete by this fall. The project will provide several benefits by moving the wastewater directly from that pumping station to the plant. Pressure will be taken off the sewer system in that area, it will lessen maintenance on the pumping station and system, and the wastewater system will operate more efficiently.

ROAD OVERLAY PROJECT TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

The town's 2020 road improvement project is expected to begin in September. Mayor Toups said roads throughout town will be milled and overlaid in the \$450,000 project. The town sets aside funds annually for road improvements.

Meanwhile, work on new residential developments continue. The 19th filing of Sugar Mill, including both apartments and homes, is underway; and the infrastructure work on Cane Ridge Subdivision between La. Hwy. 1 and the Mississippi River is also underway. That development will include 55 home sites.

TOP 10 REASONS FOR THE CENSUS

#1 - Why do it? It's the law, and it's how legislative districts are drawn.



#2 - Who counts? Every living person, even if you are not a citizen. The Supreme Court says so.



#3 - It means government funds. Data helps get grant funding done. It means money!



#4 - It's often used in planning - schools, healthcare, housing, etc. New schools! More doctors!



#5 - It is used for transportation. It brings roads to the general population. Better roads!



#6 - It's used in business planning, siting factories, delivering goods, business expansions. It means jobs!



#7 - It's used in online mapping of services, routes, and more.



#8 - It's used in emergency planning, and it determines aid after hurricanes, fires, tornados and other crisis situations.

Complete the Census on-line: www.2020Census.gov

New police body cameras provide state-of-art features

Brusly police officers will have new state-of-the-art body and vehicle cameras by August that will provide not only increased protection for officers, but also greater transparency in officer interactions with the public.

The Brusly Town Council approved the funds for the cameras to be paid over a three-year period. The old cameras had to be activated. The new cameras begin recording automatically in numerous situations, and have many other features the old cameras did not, including:

- Officer down emergency alerts - If an officer goes down and does not respond, the camera automatically starts recording, and sends an emergency alert to the dispatch center, supervisors and nearby officers.
- Gunshot protection - The camera automatically starts recording when a gunshot sound is detected. In addition, the camera also detects when the officer removes his firearm from the holster and immediately starts recording. It also notifies dispatch and nearby officers.
- Video live streaming and immediate review - Central dispatch can start live video streaming from any camera or the in-car camera system. All video is uploaded to secure storage, and is available immediately.
- Secure camera mounting - The camera has a secure mounting system, but if it is jarred, central dispatch is notified.
- Better car video views - The in-car monitor documents interactions at traffic stops and other street-related incidents using combined front and rear facing cameras with audio.

"This system provides increased safety and protection for our officers, and also provides protection to the public when there is a question about how a matter was handled," noted Mayor Scot Rhodes.



One of the features of the new body cameras is that they automatically record and alert dispatch and other officers when an officer pulls a gun from the holster.

 [Facebook.com/BruslyTownHall](https://www.facebook.com/BruslyTownHall)

BE COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS

COMPLETE THE CENSUS ONLINE AT WWW.2020CENSUS.GOV



Sewer, road projects complete, park improvements coming

A sewer improvement project and the road overlay program for 2020 have both recently been completed.

A \$375,000 project to move, deepen and enlarge the sewer lift station, deepen it and re-route a larger sewer line to the treatment plant has all been completed in the Westside Village subdivision. The project will alleviate back-ups in the subdivision during heavy rains, and is part of a comprehensive sewer improvement program that has been underway for several years.

The city's annual road overlay program is also complete, and included Melissa, Maryland and Georgia Avenues. The city budgets \$300,000 or more annually for road repairs and overlays.

The city has received a \$50,000 grant for repairs to deteriorating water pipelines on Maryland Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets and to 8th Street between California Avenue and Maryland Avenue. That project will be underway next year.

Restrooms coming for parks

The city has just issued a contract for the construction of a restroom facility at both Cohn and Centennial Parks. The buildings will include a men's restroom and a women's restroom, and each building will cost approximately \$75,000. "We have a lot of residents who use our parks, and having a restroom facility there makes our parks more convenient and appealing," said Mayor Richard Lee.

Benches, lighting for trail

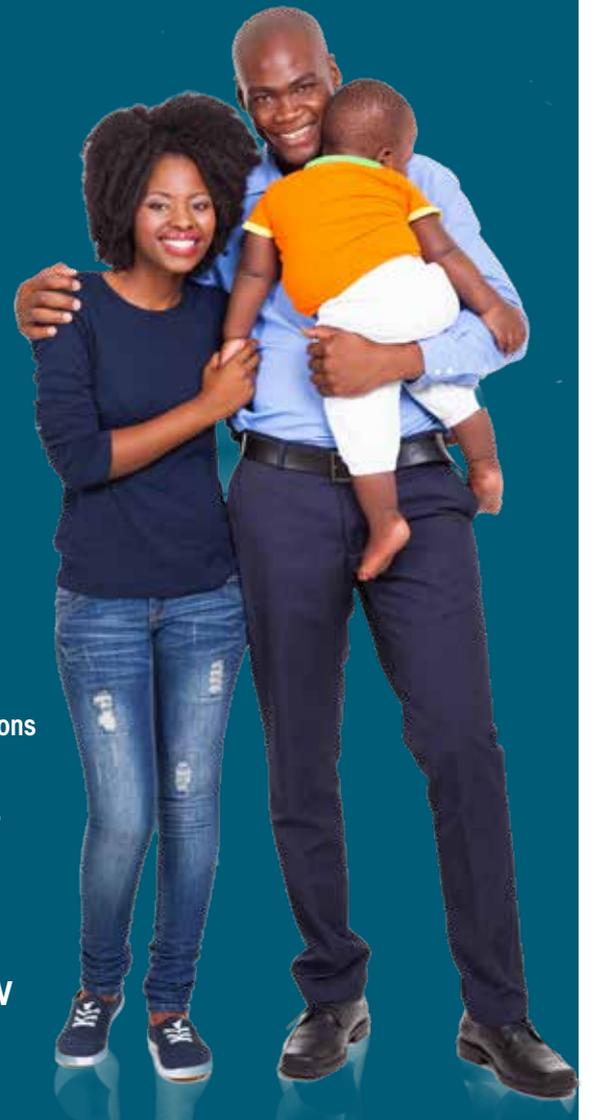
The West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau has donated benches and lighting for the Whitehead Boulevard trail to the city, thanks to the efforts of Council Member and WBR Convention & Visitor's Bureau Board Member Gary Hubble. The new amenities to the trail are on order now, and should be installed before the end of the year.

YOUR CHALLENGE:

COMPLETE THE CENSUS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF PORT ALLEN

Responses to the 2020 Census will shape how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are distributed to local communities annually.

WWW.2020CENSUS.GOV



WBR tourism re-focuses on 'staycation' advertising

The West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau is now open for small events and to visitors. "We are operating at 25 percent capacity at this time," said Director Kathy Gautreau.

"Before opening the tourist information center, we had the building cleaned and sanitized by a professional company. We allow no more than 10 visitors at one time. Since reopening to visitors on June 16th, we have seen a little over 150 visitors (through July 17). We are doing temperature checks, requiring masks and hand sanitizer upon entry for all visitors."

Some small meetings have also been held at the Conference Center and numerous safety precautions are in place for those events. Most large conferences that were scheduled have postponed and plan on rescheduling at a later date.

WBR CVB staff members normally work several travel shows and attend travel conferences held in various parts of the country throughout the year. However, due to COVID-19 most shows and conference were cancelled until 2021.

OLDIES FEST & SMOKIN' OLDIES COOK OFF

Gautreau is not sure if the Oldies Fest, which was planned for September 13th this year will happen. There is a chance it may have to be cancelled. "We are hoping we will still be able to host the Smokin' Oldies State Championship BBQ Contest on September 12th. Please visit our website & Facebook page for updates on the Festival and BBQ Cook Off," she said.

"We have transitioned our advertising to staycation ads, promoting spending time in West Baton Rouge, enjoying all the things to do and see here and in our nearby region while staying in one of our many hotels," she said. One of the ads is shown at the right.

"Louisiana has been tested time and time again, but a resilient tourism industry has been able to bounce back stronger than ever each time," Gautreau concluded.

Kite Capital of Louisiana
West Baton Rouge
Convention & Visitors Bureau
On the river. On the way.

When the time is right...
Your Adventure Awaits!
Visit www.westbatonrouge.net to plan your next adventure.

2750 N. Westport Drive Port Allen, LA 70767 - 800.654.9701 - westbatonrouge.net



Info released on state small business recovery program

State Treasurer John Schroder's office has released new information about Louisiana's Main Street Recovery program, the \$300 million small business relief fund created by the Legislature during the regular session.

To be eligible for the program, businesses must meet the following requirements:

- Were domiciled in Louisiana as of March 1, 2020
- Suffered an interruption of business
- At least 50 percent owned by one or more Louisiana residents
- Filed Louisiana taxes in 2018 or 2019 or will file taxes in 2020.
- Had no more than 50 full-time employees as of March 1, 2020
- Have customers or employees visit a physical location
- Are not part of a bigger business with more than 50 full-time workers
- Does not exist for the purpose of advancing partisan political activity and does not directly lobby federal or state officials

Does not derive income from passive investments without active participation in business operations

For more information about the program, including answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.wbrchamber.org.

The Treasurer's Office also has a website to provide information and the application for the Main Street grant program at www.louisianamainstreet.com

For additional guidance and specific information for how to re-open safely from the State Fire Marshal's Office, please visit opensafely.la.gov

Lyons answers call for PPE

A West Baton Rouge business and Chamber member, Lyons Specialty Co., is one of the businesses that has been very busy providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to other businesses and agencies during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Lyons, the nearly 100-year-old wholesale grocery distributor that sells products primarily to convenience stores, has set up a website where businesses can order and get PPE equipment quickly. The Baton Rouge Area Chamber then partnered with Lyons, and the business has been busy handling orders.

Stepping up with needed products - another way Chamber members are working to help small businesses in the pandemic.



LOOK FORWARD AND SEE HOPE

#InThisTogether



RE-VALUATION 2020: What should property owners expect?

The West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office is currently wrapping up work on its 2020 quadrennial re-valuation, as mandated by Louisiana Constitution Article VII, Sect. 18(f) and Louisiana R.S. 47:2331.

With property values remaining strong across the entire parish, many property owners should expect to see increases in value with some property owners seeing substantial increases in value.

In light of the expected property value increases, for 2020 the Assessor's Office will forgo its entire 2.47 millage normally collected annually to fund office operations.

Additionally the Assessor's Office is giving consideration to one-time value reductions in 2020 for all residential and commercial real estate owners, as well as business personal property accounts, due to economic hardships brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic.

Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan stated, "Our office is in control of a very small fraction of the property tax rate in West Baton Rouge Parish. In six of the last twelve years, 2008 – 2019, our office has opted to take a reduced millage to fund our office operations. **In doing so, we have saved property owners approximately \$2.7 million dollars. By forgoing our entire millage for 2020 and using surplus funds to operate the office, we will be saving**

residential and commercial property owners approximately \$1.3 million dollars."

Savings To Property Owners From Assessor's Actions

Assessor's Office taking reduced millage 2008-2019 \$2.7 million

Assessor's Office forgoing entire millage in 2020 \$1.3 million

Total Savings to WBR property owners \$4.0 million

Assessor Altazan further stated the Assessor's Office has no control or influence over the millage rates ultimately levied by other taxing jurisdictions in the parish.

In regards to the possible one-time value reductions, Assessor Altazan stated, "Louisiana R.S. 47:1978.1 pertains to a Governor declared emergency and the affect it may have on property values. We feel this statute affords our office some degree of discretion to consider one-time value

reductions brought on by COVID 19 economic hardships."

The Assessor's Office, in accordance with Louisiana R.S.47:1987, will be mailing out Notifications of Value (NOV's) to all property owners who will see an increase in value due to the 2020 quadrennial re-valuation. NOV's should be in the mail to all affected property owners by the end of August. Also of note, the Assessor's Office open book review period will run from September 1st through September 15th.

Assessor Altazan also wants to remind property owners there is still time, before new values are locked in, to apply for homestead exemptions and special assessments, such as the over age 65 freeze and the veterans preference for a service-connected disability.

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. For more information, call the WBR Assessor's Office at 225.344.6777.

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

EXPANDING RAIL SERVICES



A \$22 million railcar chambering yard is under construction on Port property located on the Intracoastal Waterway. The project will expedite rail delivery of wood pellets to Drax Biomass, with the potential of expanding rail service to the Louis Dreyfus grain elevator.

Helping substantially to revitalize Louisiana's timber industry, Drax Biomass has pledged proceeds from additional pellet shipments as a match for state and Port funding. Anticipated demand for the chambering yard has grown significantly since the project's inception as Drax Biomass has expanded from one operating pellet mill to three mills.

"This rail service expansion will also make the Port a more attractive site to prospective new tenants," said Port Executive Director Jay Hardman. "It's a great public/private project made possible through the combined efforts of the state, Port Commission and Port stakeholders."

For more information, contact Greg Johnson: 225-342-1660.



**PORT OF GREATER
BATON ROUGE**

2425 Ernest Wilson Drive
P.O. Box 380
Port Allen, LA 70767-0380
www.portgbr.com



WBR public schools re-opening information

WBR school re-opening under COVID Re-opening PHASE II:

- Grades Headstart-6
 - Students in these grades will attend school In-person.
 - Static groups will be maintained to the extent possible.
 - Students in grade 3-6 will wear a face covering to the extent possible.
- Grades 7-12
 - Students enrolled to attend school in-person will follow an alternate schedule on campus.
 - We will have two groups separated by last name.
 - Approximately 50% of the students in grades 7-12 will be in a group that attends school on campus each day.
 - Example - Group A attends Monday, Wednesday and every other Friday. Group B attends Tuesday, Thursday, and every other Friday.

WBR VIRTUAL ACADEMY - Students will not be on campus and will receive teacher led virtual instruction daily. Students must enroll in the Virtual Academy and classes will be made up of students district-wide. Deadline is July 24. Students must be enrolled in a WBR school.

DISTANCE LEARNING - Teacher led virtual instruction with students off campus when there is a school closure and for our alternating schedule.

PHASE III:

- All students will attend school in-person.
- Students enrolled in the WBR Virtual Academy will remain in that platform.
- Safety protocols below will be followed.

New principals at two schools

Kelley Stein has been named the new principal of Lukeville Elementary School. She is a Brusly native, and graduated from Brusly High. She started her 15-year career teaching at Port Allen Elementary as a first grade teacher, has been a literacy interventionist, and for the last four years she has served as Assistant Principal at Port Allen Elementary. She and her husband, Trent, have two children, Drew and Addison, who are in school in Brusly.



Kelley Stein

Paige Phillips has been named the new principal at Brusly Upper Middle School. She grew up in Brusly, but has lived in Denham Springs and Ocean Springs, Mississippi. She has been in education 9 years, and was Assistant Principal at Starkville School District for the past two years. She has three children, Avery, an Ole Miss graduate; Riley, who is attending Mississippi State; and Colby, who will be a senior at Brusly High this year.



Paige Phillips

How we are re-opening safely:

1. Temperatures will be checked for adults and students upon arrival or entering building.

- Adults and students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be evaluated by the school nurse to confirm the temperature reading is accurate and check for other symptoms.
- Students with a confirmed temperature of 100.4 or higher will be isolated until a parent picks them up.
- If the school nurse confirms an inaccurate temperature reading and there are no other symptoms of an infectious disease, the student will be allowed to return to class, and adults will return to their duties.

2. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entrance to every class.

- Students will be allowed to wash their hands regularly and/or have access to hand sanitizer to the extent possible.
- Hand washing / sanitizers will occur a minimum of three times a day.

3. Social distancing guidelines will be followed to the maximum extent possible.

- Gatherings of students at entry and exit points will be monitored and minimized.
- Desks will be spaced apart to the maximum extent possible in classrooms.
- Students will remain six feet apart during transitions to extent possible.
- Elementary students will stay in static groups to the extent possible.
- Meals will be provided with social distancing, students will be six feet apart in the cafeteria to the extent possible.

4. Wearing a Face Covering

- All students will be given the option to wear a face covering.
- Students in grades Headstart - 2 will not be required to wear face covering.
- Students in grades 3-12 will be required to wear a face covering to the extent possible.

- All employees will be required to wear a face covering to the extent possible.

5. Stay home if you are sick.

- Parents will be encouraged to keep their children home if they are sick.
- Schools will monitor students for symptoms of illness and will contact parents to come pick them up.
- All employees will be sent home if they show signs of illness.

6. Facilities will be sanitized to the maximum extent possible

- Students will be given a disinfectant wipe to wipe down their desks when they enter class and when they leave.
- High-touch surface areas will be wiped down by school employees regularly.

What do we do if a student or employee is exposed or tests positive?

We have guidelines in place that are based on guidance from our Regional Medical Director. Medical professionals will determine who needs to be quarantined and/or who needs to be tested.

- Schools will not be required to close if someone tests positive. We will follow the guidance of medical professionals.
- Parents will be notified if there is a confirmed positive test for any student or staff member at a school.
- Students and employees exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms can be required to get a medical release and/or to be tested before being allowed back on campus.

Transportation

Transportation will be provided for as many students as possible in accordance with the DOH Guidelines for Phase II and Phase III.

UPDATE: School construction projects winding down

Brusly High School (new school) – The main building was turned over to the staff to move in on July 22. The contractor is working on finishing touches and landscaping. The gym building and the field house are nearing completion.

Brusly Middle School (old high school) – The building is getting new ceilings, lighting, paint, restrooms and CAT 6A computer wiring. Completion scheduled July 31. Renovation of the wrestling building will be complete in October.

Brusly Upper Elementary School (old middle school) – New ceilings, lighting, paint, CAT 6A computer wiring, restrooms, playground equipment decorative fencing, and exterior paint. The project to be complete by July 31.

Port Allen Middle School – Exterior paint and new windows, ceilings, lighting, flooring, paint, CAT 6A computer wiring and roof. Substantial completion scheduled by July 27.