

REMINDERS

COVID vaccine at Health Unit

The West Baton Rouge Parish Health Unit is giving the COVID-19 vaccine weekly.

Residents must call the Health Unit and make an appointment to get their vaccine. The vaccines are available to any Louisiana resident age 18 and older.

The vaccines are given only on Wednesdays of every week, and the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Walk-in vaccinations will not be provided - you must call and schedule your vaccination time by calling 215-5201.

Presently the Health Unit has the Moderna vaccine, which is a two-shot vaccine.

Walgreens in Port Allen and Wal-Mart are also approved by LDH as sites for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine in WBR.



Parish's new hydro-vacuum truck already proving to be a big asset

West Baton Rouge Parish Government has a powerful new tool for digging in precise conditions, vacuuming sludge and soil removal, trenching and more - a Vac-Con hydro-vac truck. The \$475,000 piece of equipment was recently added to the parish fleet, and specific training was provided for Operator Chris Murphy.

"Previously we had to hire companies to come in with this equipment. It was very expensive and we were on their time line," noted Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot. "We have so many uses for this equipment, it was more cost effective and also more efficient for us to purchase our own. We recommended it and the Parish Council approved the purchase."

Hydro excavation trucks use a combination of

precise high-pressure water and a powerful vacuum to break up the soil and debris on site and immediately remove it by placing it into the debris tank of the unit. This minimizes the risks of damaging underground utilities, and this excavation requires less labor, backfill and restoration. It is ideal for soil trenching, and exposing underground utilities. The extremely powerful vacuum on the truck provides much more effective options for removal of sludge at sewer lift stations and treatment plants; along with numerous other applications to serve West Baton Rouge.

"Parish employee Chris Murphy has been trained on it, and we are already seeing additional uses for it that show it will be a big asset to our Public Works and Utilities operations," said Berthelot.



Operator Chris Murphy with the parish's new hydro-vac truck.

Canal clearing projects underway across parish

WBR public works crews will be busy through the summer digging out canals across the parish. This is part of the parish's on-going canal maintenance program. The parish is also working on a grant to clean out Big Stumpy Canal from Bayou Choctaw to La. Hwy 190 to Section Road. The projects underway this summer include:

- King's Ditch from La. Hwy. 190 to Flynn Road
- Marley Canal from Coolie Canal to Choctaw Road
- Tuscaloosa Subdivision Canal from Tiger Bayou to Bueche Road, and
- Patterson Canal from Big Stumpy Canal to Rougon Road

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 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 programs at the Museum

Through May 30: Exhibit, Centered Around Culture: Quilts by Cely Pedescleaux

May 2, 2 pm: Outdoor Concert featuring Blues After School Finalé followed by Pop/Rock/Blues band, Taylor Rae.

May 8 & 15 - Basic Woodworking Workshop with artisan Terry Landry. Call for info.

May 16 & June 13, 3 pm: Old Time Country Music Jam. Bring an acoustic instrument and join in or bring a lawn chair and listen!

May 21, 6:30 pm: Historical Happy Hour outdoor performance featuring the music from the Nick Blanchard Quartet.

June 5 – September 4: Exhibit, Art by Douglas Bourgeois

All public events are free, unless otherwise stated. For more info: WestBatonRougeMuseum.org, Facebook(@TheWBRM), Twitter(@WBRM), Instagram(@wbr_museum), or YouTube.



Iconic Evangeline exhibit opens May 15

The West Baton Rouge Museum will open the exhibition, *Evangelina: Evolution of an Icon*, on May 15.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow never stepped foot in the lands of the Acadians. Yet, the heroine of his epic poem titled *Evangeline, A Tale of Acadie*, became embedded in the history and culture of Louisiana and Nova Scotia.

Longfellow's poem received international acclaim when published in 1847. The public was fascinated with the story of a young Acadian maiden separated from her fiancée on her wedding day during the brutal deportation of the French-speaking people from Acadia, and her epic journey to find him.

The success of Longfellow's poem launched *Evangeline* into literary stardom and into the hearts of the Acadian people. Uniting the Acadian people of Nova Scotia and Louisiana, *Evangeline's* name and image became a symbol of Acadian and Cajun cultural identity.

This exhibition provides a glimpse into *Evangeline's* evolving status from her inception through today, as a legend and heroine to a brand image and celebrity, and ultimately into a cultural icon. This exhibition includes artworks by Canadian and Louisiana artists, including François Gaudet, Rémi Belliveau, Melissa Bonin, and George Rodrigue, as well as artifacts and paraphernalia to demonstrate *Evangeline's* transformation and her timeless appeal.

Blast from Past camp registration open

Registration is open for West Baton Rouge Museum's 26th annual "Blast from the Past" summer history camp series for ages 6–12. This year's theme, "A Tale of Acadie," is inspired by the museum's summer exhibition, *Evangelina: The Evolution of an Icon*. Museum staff, visiting artists, and other special guests will lead participants through Louisiana's Acadian customs, traditions, food ways, music and works of art. Two one-week sessions are available: June 14–18 and June 21–25.

The admission fee for camp is \$125 for WBR Parish residents and/or members of the WBR Historical Association and \$150 others. For more information or for an application form, please visit www.westbatonrougemuseum.com or call 225-336-2422 Ext. 200.

Summer programs ramping up at WBR Library

We are OPEN Monday–Friday 8:30 am–5:30 pm, Saturday 9 am–1 pm

Upcoming Holiday Closures:

Memorial Day – Monday, May 31

Independence Day – Monday, July 5

Weekly Grab and Go Craft Bags - We continue to offer weekly Grab and Go Craft Bags for a variety of ages and interests while supplies last. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for a full list of the weekly offerings.

Weekly Storytimes - All ages storytime at 10 am every Tuesday Morning. Call for more information.



2021 Summer Reading Program

Join us this summer as we explore exciting animals from around the world with our theme, *Tails & Tales*. Our summer lineup includes offerings for all ages, including teens and adults. Be sure to swing by the library or follow us on Facebook for our full list of summer programs.

For youth we will have engaging new virtual content daily, as well as in-person program offerings and grab and go crafts. Stay tuned for more information on the summer schedule including art, crafts, Lego Club, STEM programs, eGaming, and more. The summer fun starts June 1.

Summer Reading Kickoff Event

Saturday June 5, from 2–4 pm

Pick up your summer reading log and program schedule, while also meeting exciting exotic creatures from *Animal Tales*, and exploring different activity stations.

Feel Good Fridays

The WBRP Library will kick off our summer of self care with Feel Good Fridays. Join us each Friday at 1 pm for an hour of fitness and fun! This will be a hybrid program. There will be limited spacing available for in person participants. The program will also be streamed on Facebook Live and Zoom.

Nationally recognized JiggAerobics will kick off the fun with a fitness party on June 4 at 1pm. This program is ideal for patrons 18 years of age and up. Check out our Facebook page for more information.

Cajun Critter Paint & Sip

Join us on June 16 and July 14 for a relaxing evening of painting fun. For amateur and professional artists alike, the Cajun Critter Paint & Sip program will walk patrons through creating their own piece of art inspired by south Louisiana. In addition to creating a masterpiece, patrons will enjoy some Cajun styled refreshments. Space is limited. Registration will open May 1.

Follow us Online!



Mosquito program ramps up, residents can be Skeeter Beaters



WBR Mosquito Control Supervisor Michael Joseph checks a trap.

It's that time of year again! Mosquito control personnel have begun placing mosquito surveillance traps at locations throughout West Baton Rouge Parish. These traps provide weekly data on mosquito population numbers and mosquito-borne disease (such as West Nile Virus) presence. The information received from these traps is used to determine when and where control efforts are utilized.

West Nile Virus activity typically begins around the state, and in our parish, around May to early June, ramps up to its peak in late July to early August, and then begins to taper off going into late October. WBR

Mosquito Control would like to remind all citizens of WBR Parish to take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitos. Follow these simple steps to be a Skeeter Beater:

- When possible wear long, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing.
- Use mosquito repellent with the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin in a 15% to 20% concentration.
- Avoid activity or use mosquito repellent during the hours of dusk and dawn, when mosquitos are most active.
- Do not allow boat covers or tarps to collect and hold rain water.
- Remove any standing water on your property and empty all containers weekly.
- Flush out bird baths once per week.
- Drill a large hole in or dispose of old tires.
- Stock ornamental ponds with fish or install a fountain.
- Properly maintain full-sized swimming pools and regularly empty kiddie pools.
- Check to make sure window and door screens are in good condition.
- Seal any cracks around window AC units.
- Clean out clogged gutters so they don't hold rain water.

Check out www.wbrcouncil.org or [facebook.com/West Baton Rouge Mosquito Control](https://facebook.com/WestBatonRougeMosquitoControl) for updates on positive samples and spraying schedules. Free mosquito larvicide tablets are available at 3147 Ted Denstel Rd., Port Allen.

RECREATION UPDATE

New dog park open!

Bring your pups out to the new West Baton Rouge Dog Park, located behind Port Allen Middle School. The one-acre park is for all dogs and their owners. The park includes two separated play areas, one for small dogs and one for larger dogs. The areas are both filled with numerous play features for your animals. They also include dog water stations and benches for owners and guests. The parish supplies dog poop bags and cans, so please remember to clean up after your little friends.



Hiring for these positions:

- Summer Camp Counselor
- Community Center Custodian
- Weekend Concession Stand Worker

New water line to Addis complete

The \$5 million project to construct a new water well and extend larger water lines from Port Allen to Addis is now complete. The project will increase water capacity to the Addis area. In addition, a natural gas main was installed while the project was underway to provide better gas pressure in the Addis area. The phased projects took 2 years to complete, and includes connecting in the new water well in Port Allen to the water main at the Intracoastal Waterway, extending a new, larger water main from the Intracoastal to Brusly, and a larger water line from Brusly to Addis.

Get local emergency alerts



Register your mobile phone number to get emergency alerts from the WBR public alert system.

Go to: www.wbrlepc.net and click on the cell phone registration link, or call 225-346-1577

SUMMER CAMP 2021

OUR SUMMER CAMP IS FILLED WITH PERFORMANCES, FUN ACTIVITIES, AND A SPLASH DAY. REGISTER NOW!

REGISTRATION	STARTS APRIL 26TH	TO REGISTER VISIT WBRECREATION.ORG OR SCAN THE QR CODE
FEES	\$10 PER SESSION/PER CHILD \$10 CAMP T-SHIRT (OPTIONAL) LUNCH IS INCLUDED	
AGES	5 - 10, BOYS AND GIRLS	
SESSIONS	TUESDAY - THURSDAY 8:30AM - 3:30PM	

SESSION 1 - 6/8-6/10 PORT ALLEN COMMUNITY CENTER
SESSION 2 - 6/15-6/17 PORT ALLEN COMMUNITY CENTER
SESSION 3 - 6/22-6/24 ADDIS VFW HALL
SESSION 4 - 6/29-7/1 ADDIS VFW HALL
SESSION 5 - 7/13-7/15 ERWINVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
SESSION 6 - 7/20-7/22 ERWINVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

GENERAL NOTES: IF YOU ALREADY REGISTERED FOR ANOTHER ACTIVITY OR RENTAL THROUGH OUR ONLINE PORTAL ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOGIN AND REGISTER

CONTACT US: PARKS AND RECREATION

749 N JEFFERSON AVE, PORT ALLEN (225) 336-2423 WBRECREATION.ORG	OFFICE HOURS MON-THU 8AM-5PM FRI 8AM-12 NOON SAT-SUN CLOSED
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SPEED AND AGILITY SUMMER 2021

GET YOUR KIDS OFF THE COUCH THIS SUMMER WITH THE SPEED AND AGILITY CAMP! REGISTER NOW!

REGISTRATION	STARTS APRIL 26TH	TO REGISTER VISIT WBRECREATION.ORG OR SCAN THE QR CODE
FEES	\$10 PER CHILD \$10 T-SHIRT (OPTIONAL)	
AGES	5 - 14, BOYS AND GIRLS	
LOCATION	BRUSLY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK	

SESSION TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND THURSDAYS
TIME 6:00PM - 7:00PM
DATES 6/1 - 7/8
ACTIVITIES SPEED TRAINING, CALISTHENICS, RESISTANCE TRAINING, CONDITIONING TRAINING, AND MORE

GENERAL NOTES: IF YOU ALREADY REGISTERED FOR ANOTHER ACTIVITY OR RENTAL THROUGH OUR ONLINE PORTAL ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOGIN AND REGISTER

CONTACT US: PARKS AND RECREATION

749 N JEFFERSON AVE, PORT ALLEN (225) 336-2423 WBRECREATION.ORG	OFFICE HOURS MON-THU 8AM-5PM FRI 8AM-12 NOON SAT-SUN CLOSED
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Scenes from the school safety exercise shown above and below.

Agencies conduct school safety exercise

The WBR Sheriff's Office, West Baton Rouge Parish School Board, and West Baton Rouge Parish conducted a school planning exercise at Port Allen High School in April in an ongoing effort to plan for any event that may affect a school during the school day and to help ensure students' safety while they are at school.

"Keeping our community safe is our number one goal," said Sheriff Mike Cazes. "We are incredibly proud of everyone who participated in planning the exercise and reviewing the best ways to keep our children safe during any unplanned school event."



Scams reported here, protect yourself and family

Residents should beware that phone scams are rampant in this region. Recently, scammers used an app to make phone calls appear to come from the WBR Sheriff Office's and federal offices. In addition, the Sheriff's Office has received reports of scams in which residents' are told their Social Security numbers were being suspended by the US Social Security Office. Remember these tips to avoid being a victim of a telephone scam:

DO:

- Register your phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry. You may register online or by calling 1-888-382-1222. If you still receive telemarketing calls after registering, there's a good chance that the calls are scams.
- Be wary of callers claiming that you've won a prize or vacation package.
- Hang up on suspicious phone calls.
- Be cautious of caller ID. Scammers can change the phone number that shows up on your caller ID screen. This is called "spoofing."
- Independently research business opportunities, charities, or travel packages that the caller offers.

DON'T:

- Don't give in to pressure to take immediate action.
- Don't say anything if a caller starts the call asking, "Can you hear me?" This is a common tactic for scammers to record you saying "yes." Scammers record your "yes" response and use it as proof that you agreed to a purchase or credit card charge.
- Don't provide your credit card number, bank account information, or other personal information to a caller.
- Don't send money if a caller tells you to wire money or pay with a prepaid debit card.

TOWN OF ADDIS

Cameras now provide live train views thru Addis

Addis residents deal with numerous trains running through town daily, and now the town has provided a new tool to help them navigate around the trains. Cameras have been installed at the railroad crossings of five streets, and they stream live views 24 hours a day via the town website.

The locations of the cameras are Peter Messina Road, Main St., Foret St., Myhand St. and Sid Richardson Road. "The cameras have several uses," said Mayor David Toups. "They help 911 operators in dispatching for emergencies, are a surveillance tool for our police, and will help our residents see where trains are in real time without speeding across town to beat them."

To see the live views simply log into the town website: addisla.org and click on the "Live Railroad Cameras" link.

Road project coming this summer

Town consultants are wrapping up work to make recommendations on the town's \$625,000 road improvement program and \$250,000 drainage program for this summer. "We have a company that comes in to evaluate the condition of the roads and drainage, and that information is provided to our engineering company, which makes recommendations to the Town Council based on the work needed, priorities, and funds available," said Mayor Toups. Those recommendations will be presented by May, and the town will move on bidding the projects out.



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

The Music is Back This Fall!

Oct. 1 DON RICH

Oct. 15 RYAN FORET & FORET TRADITION

Oct. 29 PHAT HAT

LIVE AFTER 5 on the WESTSIDE

5:30-8:30 pm

Sponsored by Town of Addis

Fireworks to be allowed in town for holidays

Get your sparklers and firecrackers ready! The Town of Brusly will now allow fireworks to be popped during certain holidays. In the past, fireworks were prohibited in Brusly.

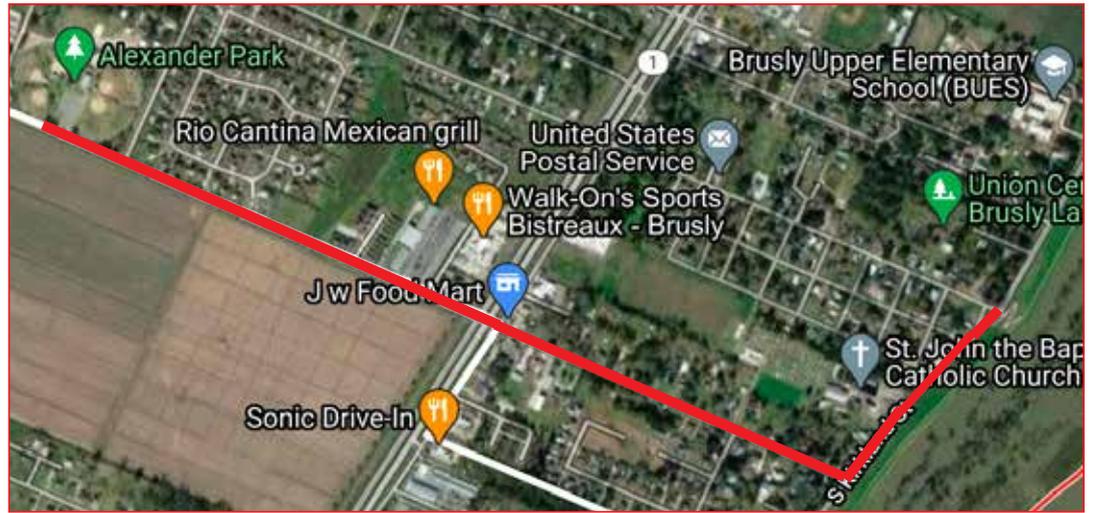
Under the ordinance adopted by the Town Council in February, residents can enjoy fireworks for the Christmas, New Year's and Independence Day holidays. Specifically, they can be popped between December 24 and January 2, and July 2 and July 6.

Restrictions call for any use of fireworks to end by 1 am daily during those periods. Fireworks are still prohibited in town at any other time of the year. In addition, the prohibition on the sale of fireworks continues.

All town ordinances now posted on website

The Town of Brusly ordinances are now available on a 24-hour basis through the town's website: www.bruslyla.com. Those interested in reading or printing out ordinances can find them under the Resources button on the home page. It is part of Municode, a nationwide database of municipal codes.

"We want our town government to operate as efficiently and as transparently as possible, so this was a great addition to our website," said Mayor Scot Rhodes. "It also makes this information available to the public at any time instead of having to get it during our office hours."



Aerial view of the new walking and biking trail that will be constructed in Brusly.

New trail coming from Main to park

A new walking and biking trail planned for Brusly will link the area of the bike racks at Main Street and River Road to East St. Francis Street and Alexander Park. The multi-use trail is expected to be under construction by this fall. It will connect the east side of the town to the west with a path to walk and bike ride.

"This is another step in making our community more walkable, and to link recreational areas for residents," said Mayor Scot Rhodes. "Plans are underway, and we are excited to get this project going."

Get all the latest Town of Brusly news and updates!
Like us on facebook! [Facebook.com/BruslyTownHall](https://www.facebook.com/BruslyTownHall)



City plans Market Day at Depot

VENDORS NEEDED

The City of Port Allen will host three "Market Day" events at the Port Allen Depot this summer. The Saturday Market will take place June 26, July 31, and August 28. Application forms for the limited booth spaces can be picked up beginning May 3 at Port Allen City Hall, second floor, between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, Monday -Thursday.

Juneteenth celebration set June 18

The City of Port Allen will host its annual Juneteenth celebration on Friday, June 18 at Williams and Lee Park beginning at 3 pm and ending at 8 pm. Contact Rose Roche' for further information at 225-346-5670.

Heart of Champions parade

The City of Port Allen hosted a Heart of Champions Celebration honoring the Port Allen High boys basketball team, the 2021 Louisiana Class 2-A Boys Basketball Champions; and the Port Allen High girls powerlifting team, the 2021 State Girls Powerlifting Champions, on April 11. The event kicked off with a Championship Parade, followed by a special meal for the players, an awards program, and a crawfish boil. Each team was presented with resolutions from the State of Louisiana and special gift bags presented by the City Council and Mayor. The City thanks the following sponsors who made this event possible:

Platinum Level Sponsors: City of Port Allen, Heavenly Gates Mausoleum (Hall Davis family, owner), and Bergeron Fine Meats (Craig "Moonie" Bergeron, owner).

Gold Level Sponsors: Placid Refining Company, LLC, Lucky Louies Truck Stop, LLC, Devine by Design, Fleur Dee Lease, and In Season Décor.

Silver Level Sponsors: WBR Councilman Carey Denstel, LA1 South, LLC, Reliant Technologies, Inc, Coozan's Entertainment, Coca Cola Bottlers of Baton Rouge, Rick's Westside Crawfish, Quick "N Handy, and Brandon "Peecho" Williams.



Scenes from Heart of Champions Parade

After long wait, events coming in WBR!

The West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau is thrilled to announce that events are being planned for May and this fall in West Baton Rouge, after all of the events for 2020 being cancelled due to COVID.

The fun kicks off with Kite Fest May 22 and 23 at the West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex. The always popular Oldies But Goodies Fest is set for September 11 and 12, and the Westside Christmas Festival will be back in December.

"Since Kite Fest is an outdoor event held on a very large field, and the state is now in Phase 3 of the re-opening plan, we felt comfortable having this family-fun event," said Director Kathy Gautreau. "That will be the kick-off of getting back to our normal schedule of events."

Conference Center upgrades

Meanwhile, Conference Center rentals are slowly increasing. Under the Phase 3 plan, a maximum of 100 people can now be allowed for events.

After completing renovations to the banquet room of the facility in 2020, Gautreau said they are now turning to improvements in the visitor lobby, including a kiosk, charging station and seating. In addition, beautification of the grounds behind the center is on tap for 2021.

Gautreau said WBR promotion traveling was eliminated in 2020 due to COVID, but the parish is still active in the GUMBO regional tourism group, and she will be attending the state tourism summit in New Orleans in August.

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
 Classic Sounds by Jude

Fireworks on Saturday night!

2021 Kite Fest Louisiana

**Saturday & Sunday
 May 22-23, 2021**

**SATURDAY 11 AM TILL
 FIREWORKS AT DARK
 SUNDAY 11 AM - 6PM**

West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex
 3383 Rosedale Road
 In Port Allen

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

LOUISIANA Feed Your Soul. LouisianaTravel.com

Sponsors: Coca-Cola, GSA, Medical Spine Sales & Sports, 50/50, EMCO, BEARC-M, WYRIK 101.9, WBRZ, THE ADVOCATE, PLACID, Entergy, JUSEU, West Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce, West Baton Rouge, LAMAR, The Capital of Louisiana.

Save the Dates!

July 23rd Taste of Tailgate Location TBD	August 22nd Westside Shopping Extravaganza Hosted by the WBR Small Business Council
April 21st Member Appreciation Crawfish Boil Port Allen Community Center Port Allen, LA	Nov. 1st Annual Golf Tournament Copper Mill Golf Club Zachary, LA
May 7th Annual Sporting Clay Tournament Bridgeview Gun Club Port Allen, LA	Nov. 27th Small Business Saturday Hosted by the WBR Small Business Council
June 21st-27th WBR Restaurant Week Hosted by the WBR Small Business Council	

Back in the swing of things at the WBR Chamber of Commerce

The WBR Chamber of Commerce is back in the swing of things, and has numerous exciting events planned for the remainder of this year. Our remaining Signature Events include the following: Annual Sporting Clay Tournament on May 7, Taste of Tailgate on July 23, and the Annual Golf Tournament on November 1.

In addition to this year's Signature Events, the WBR Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the WBR Small Business Council in hosting the Westside's first ever WBR Restaurant Week on June 21- June 27, as well as the annual Westside Shopping Extravaganza on August 22, and Small Business Saturday on November 27th. Stay tuned for more details to follow on all upcoming events on both the Chamber's Facebook page (@wbrchamber) and website (www.wbrchamber.org).



LET'S PULL TOGETHER for our local businesses!

WEST BATON ROUGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ANNUAL SPORTING CLAY Tournament

Friday, May 7th, 2021
 at Bridgeview Gun Club | 1365 Northwest Dr. | Port Allen, LA 70767
 Registration Opens: 9am | Shooting Starts: 10am

BRIDGEVIEW GUN CLUB

Why is an Assessor's Office employee on my property?

If you've recently started or completed a new home or commercial building, or done an addition to your home or commercial building, it is likely you have received or will receive a visit from a Deputy Assessor employed by the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office.

Why? "The Assessor's Office is required by Louisiana Statute RS 47:1958 to make site visits to every taxable property or tract of land in the parish. These site visits afford our office the opportunity to collect the information necessary to fairly and equitably assess all properties in the parish," explained Assessor Chris Guerin.

Property owners are typically required to obtain a permit from the parish or municipality where the property is located before starting a new construction or addition project. The Assessor's Office is notified by the parish and municipalities of the permits issued by those agencies. "In the past our Deputy Assessors made site visits to new construction and addition projects only in the spring and fall, but with the increased level of construction activity in the parish they are now visiting project sites on a year round basis," Guerin explained.

Barry Brewer, retired from the City of Port Allen, and Jimmy Altazan, retired from the State of Louisiana, hold the part-time positions of Deputy Assessors responsible for collecting the necessary data in the field that enables the Assessor's Office to fairly and equitably assess all properties in the parish. "They go on site to every project with laptops and tape measures in hand, collect the exterior dimensions of the homes and/or commercial buildings as well as many other attributes of the project (#stories, #baths, building height, etc.) and report the information back to our office," Guerin said.

It is standard procedure for the Deputy Assessors to knock on the door of the property upon arrival and identify themselves, but because these site visits are done during working hours many times no one is home. If no one answers, they will collect as much data on the property as possible and leave. Additionally, if no one is home or if the Deputy Assessors are unable to access a property due to



Deputy Assessors Barry Brewer and Jimmy Altazan of the WBR Assessor's Office.

locked gates, protective dogs, etc., they may leave a door hanger on site requesting the owner of the property contact the Assessor's Office.

Assessor Guerin says the Deputy Assessors travel in a well-marked white Ford Ranger truck, carry picture ID cards identifying them as staff of the Assessor's Office, and wear reflective vests with "WBR Assessor" prominently displayed on them so property owners can be assured they are properly authorized and on official business.

"Because of our work schedule and the timing of construction projects, it may be some time after a project is completed before our Deputy Assessors can make their site visit," Guerin said. "This sometimes surprises property owners, but if anyone has questions about our presence on their property, please contact our office at 225-344-6777."



VIEW YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

See your property on digital aerial maps!

Learn about tax exemptions, Download forms and more!

www.wbrassessor.org

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE

CONTAINERS READY TO GEAX!



The successful public/private partnership between the Port of Greater Baton Rouge and SEACOR AMH has produced steady increases in the number of containers handled at the Port's barge terminal.

As a result, a project to create nearly 4 acres of additional paved container storage capacity has been successfully completed. The yard is now capable of handling approximately 2,000 containers including containers measuring 40 feet, versus 20 feet.

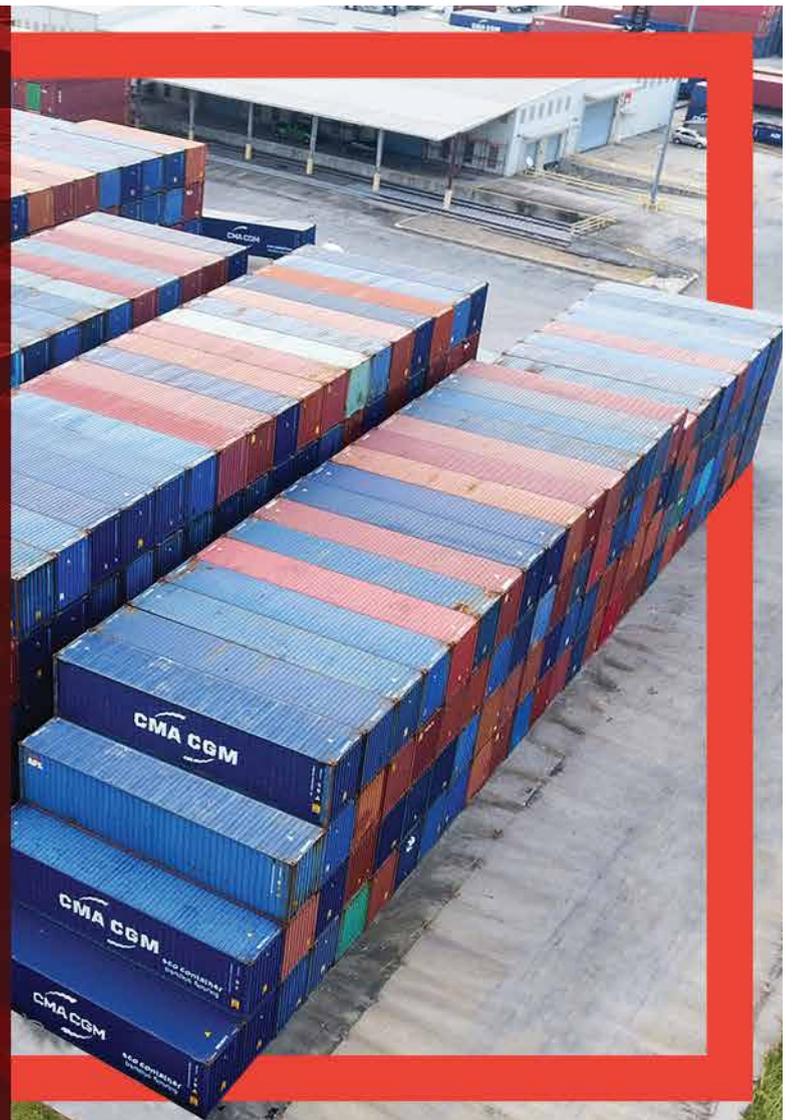
Port Executive Director Jay Hardman said that the response from local industry has been very positive. "We have been able to build in more efficiency in our COB service, which translates to a smoother, more fluid operation, lowers costs, and keeps the service competitive," says Hardman. "As the service continues to grow, it's catching the attention of more and more potential customers."

For more information, contact Greg Johnson at 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 school employees get stipend as thanks for challenging work during pandemic

The WBR School Board has voted to give all employees an extra stipend for going above and beyond to help students and families during the COVID pandemic over the past year. All full-time employees will receive a \$1,200 stipend, and part-time employees will receive \$600.

During the state-mandated school shutdown, teachers and school staffs provided instructional packets for all students, made personal calls weekly to check on students, provided and passed out meals to families, and learned to provide instruction virtually on the fly.

They also had to contend with how to safely return to their campuses to receive students beginning in August; and develop and provide a Virtual Academy for families concerned about the health safety of being on campus for classes.

Teachers have been providing instruction in person and virtually, and school employees have worked very hard to keep classrooms and school buildings clean, many doing extra cleaning beyond the additional requirements caused by COVID. And all employees have stepped up to follow safety protocols and to help students adapt to those protocols so schools could return to in-class operations.

"It has been an extremely challenging year, but the West Baton Rouge school system staff has persevered, and continued to figure out how to deal with challenge after challenge - all with our students' best interests in mind at all times," said Superintendent Wes Watts. "This stipend was the Board's way to say thank you to them for exceptional dedication and delivering in very stressful times."



"The WBR school system staff has continued to figure out how to deal with challenge after challenge - all with our students' best interests in mind at all times."

Supt. Wes Watts



Port Allen High School State Class AA Championship team of 2021

PA boys basketball team repeats as state champions

The Port Allen High boys' basketball team once again beat powerhouse Rayville to win the state LHSAA Class AA championship in March. They also beat Rayville in 2020 for the state title.

Coached by Derrick Jones, the team ended the year with a 21-7 record. They won four play-off games to get to the state championship game in Lake Charles, finally beating Rayville 59-45. "Rayville scored an average of 110 points per game and we held them to 45," said Jones. "It was a great defensive effort." Senior Tawasky Johnson was named the Most Outstanding Player and 1st Team All State. Senior Kentae Williams was the District 2-A Defensive Most Valuable Player.

Jones noted the big part his outstanding assistant coaches, Antoine Washington and Raven Fernandez, played in the team championship.

Port Allen girl powerlifters dominate state for third year

The Port Allen girls powerlifting team took its third state championship in three years during the meet in March, and is recognized as a top 5 powerlifting program in all classes of Louisiana schools. Coach Brian Bizette noted his 11-member team included six freshmen, which made the feat even more impressive. Alexis Alford set a divisional record in the bench press and was named the Outstanding Lifter. Bizette credited his assistant coaches and team support group for efforts that paid off.

Bizette was also named to the La. Powerlifting Hall of Fame and will receive his plaque in June. He has coached powerlifting since 2007, and started the program at Port Allen High. He was also named Coach of the Year this year for the 8th time! "I am honored by being named to the Hall," he said. "It's been a lot of hard work and sacrifices, but I love this sport."



Port Allen High School girls powerlifting team after winning the state championship.



Brusly athletic facility gets national nod

Case Systems, the leading national casework manufacturer of commercial casework and classroom furniture, has featured the Brusly High School athletic facilities in its recent on-line marketing pieces, noting the football locker rooms high-end contoured design (shown at left). To see the photos and info, go to: <https://www.casesystems.com/markets/featured-projects/brusly-high-school-locker-room/>

