

# The West Bank Beacon



Volume 7, Issue 1

Proudly Highlighting the News of West Jefferson, Algiers and Plaquemines

JUNE 2015

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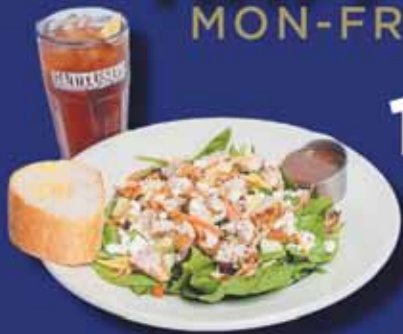
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# Renovation and Addition to the Marrero-Harvey Senior Center



**O**n May 20, 2015, Jefferson Parish Officials broke ground for the renovations of the Marrero-Harvey Senior Center located at 4420 Seventh Street in Marrero.

The existing 5,800 square foot Marrero-Harvey Senior Center is being renovated and will include a 400 square foot addition and renovations to create a multi-purpose room totaling over 500 square feet. This room will be used for meetings and will facilitate the assembly of meals prepared at the center for distribution to seniors in the community. The renovations will also include upgrades to the toilet rooms and kitchen to better serve constituents.

Designed by architects Burgdahl and Graves, the renovations will be completed by Galaforo Construction, LLC at an estimated cost of \$172,350. Funding is provided by Councilman Paul Johnston, Council District 2. Completion of this project is estimated to take 7 months. The facility will remain open and operational during construction. ✨



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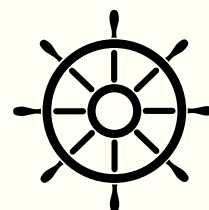
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# NOLAN VICKNAIR: Fell Short of His Dream, Yet Still an Accomplished Athlete

By Richard Cuicchi



In my ongoing quest to add to my database of New Orleans area baseball players who went on to play at the collegiate or professional levels, I recently came across West Banker Nolan Vicknair whose aspiration, starting at a very young age, was to be a career professional baseball player.

Vicknair indeed reached baseball's minor league level, but his stint in pro baseball consisted of only 56 games during 1946 and 1947. In a recent interview with him, Vicknair claimed, "I was born to be a professional baseball player, but I was the victim

of circumstances that worked against me in realizing my dream of making a career of baseball." However, this statement does not come from a man who suffers from a case of "sour grapes." His bulging scrapbook attests to his still managing to have an outstanding career in sports in the New Orleans area.

Vicknair was born in Marrero, Louisiana, where he attended elementary and high school. One of the athletic skills that he would use throughout his sports career began to blossom as an early teenager, when he set a school record for the 75-yard dash as a 13-year-old. According to Vicknair, minimum age requirements for high school sports were often overlooked at that time, so he was enlisted for the high school football team in the sixth grade because they could use his speed as a scatback, an old term for a speedy, all-purpose halfback.

He played baseball, basketball, and football in his first two years at Marrero High School. It was there that he first gained attention as a baseball player. He recalls an American Legion game against the Jesuit-based team in his sophomore year in which he struck out the first nine batters of the game. It happened that Branch Rickey, the St. Louis Cardinals' general manager, was in attendance that day. Rickey had occasion to be in town for a prospect tryout camp, since the New Orleans Pelicans were a minor league affiliate of the Cardinals. Vicknair crossed paths with Rickey after the game. According to Vicknair, Rickey told him, "Kid, you have talent. After you finish high school, you should consider a baseball career." That assessment further fueled Vicknair's dream of playing pro baseball.

Vicknair relocated to Port Arthur, Texas, for his junior year of high school to live with relatives. He attended St. Mary's High School there, contributing as a starter at halfback on the 1941 football team, which ultimately won the south-east state championship that year.

World War II was well underway by this time, and Vicknair enlisted in the Navy in April 1943, immediately upon turning 17 years of age. He served almost three years which included a six-month stint in Australia and a tour of duty on the destroyer USS Bearss that saw action against the Japanese in the South Pacific.

Still interested in pursuing a baseball career after his military service ended in December 1945, Vicknair attended a tryout camp with the New Orleans Pelicans in the spring of 1946, after which business manager Vincent Rizzo wanted to sign Vicknair as a pitcher. Near the same time, one of Vicknair's acquaintances from school got him an appointment with Gretna native Mel Ott, then the New York Giants manager. Ott passed on the information about a Giants spring training camp at Fort Smith, Arkansas, where 150 prospects showed up, vying for forty spots that would make up two minor league rosters in the Giants' system.

Vicknair opted to go to Fort Smith, fortunately making the cut, and was assigned to the Class D roster of the Oshkosh Giants of the Wisconsin State League. He figured he was on his way to the big leagues. He started the season as a regular outfielder where, once again, speed was at the core of his game. Vicknair recalls that he could change a game with his base-running skills. As a leadoff batter, he would give pitchers fits once he got on base. One of his favorite situations was the double steal.

Vicknair missed games due to a leg infection from being spiked, as well as chronic pulled muscles, which kept him off the field numerous times. Toward the end of the season, he was involved in an unfortunate accident, as he was struck in the jaw by a ball thrown by the opposing second baseman as he approached second base on a double play. His jawbone was broken in six places, which required it to be wired shut. To make matters worse, he contracted blood poisoning during the recovery process, and at one point he was not expected to live.

As a testament to his being a fan favorite in Oshkosh, Vicknair's scrapbook contained numerous get-well cards from devoted fans while he was in the hospital. He recalls that a local Oshkosh businessman befriended him, several times writing him checks to supplement his meager baseball income, as well as allowing him to take his boat out on a nearby lake. Altogether, Vicknair appeared in 45 games and hit for a .193 batting average for the 1946 season.

In the spring of 1947, the Giants organization conducted a minor league camp in Lakewood, New Jersey, on the site of John D. Rockefeller's mansion and estate. Vicknair recalls getting his weekly pay from legendary pitcher Carl Hubbell, who was the head of the Giants minor league organization at the time. Most of the players on the 1946 Oshkosh club advanced to the next level, but Vicknair started the regular season again in Oshkosh.

When he didn't get any playing time at the beginning of the season, Vicknair asked for and received his release from the Giants. He vividly remembers the feedback he received from Oshkosh manager Ray Lucas, "You are a valuable player with your speed, good in the clubhouse. But we expect our outfielders to hit home runs, and you are more of a contact hitter." At 5' 6" and 150 pounds, Vicknair was at a disadvantage in meeting these expectations.

He returned to New Orleans where he received a call from Harry Strohm, who was the manager of New Iberia of the Evangeline League. He signed on with New Iberia, where one of his teammates was fellow New Orleansian Lenny Yochim. Vicknair recalls about Yochim, "Besides being a good pitcher at that time, Lenny could really hit the ball too. He would play first base when not pitching." Yochim would go on to play briefly in the majors, but actually made his biggest mark in professional baseball as a scouting supervisor in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization.



Shortly after the start of the season, Strohm was fired as manager and replaced by Vernon Thoele, who came from the New Orleans Pelicans. After appearing in only eleven games, Vicknair was released by Thoele. Vicknair believes the new manager acted on advice from the Pelicans' Vincent Rizzo, who likely held a grudge because Vicknair had rejected Rizzo's offer in 1946.

So, Vicknair's dream took a big step backwards.

With baseball still in his blood, Vicknair began playing in semi-professional leagues in the New Orleans area. It was a usual practice for the semi-pro teams to include former-minor league players, as well as active players during the minor league off-season. For example, Vicknair played against New Orleans professionals like Fats Dantonio and Pete Modica. Vicknair's scrapbook shows a 1950 newspaper clipping of a prominent independent baseball team, the Mohawks, he managed on the West Bank. Over the years, he also played for various teams in the Audubon League and the Mel Ott League. Vicknair says his performances were frequently featured in the States-Item newspaper by sportswriter Hap Glaudi, who later became a legendary sports radio personality in New Orleans.

Eight years after he had last played in the minors, Vicknair got one more opportunity for a professional tryout with the Milwaukee Braves minor league organization in Waycross, Georgia. Vicknair recalls the tryouts were being conducted by former major leaguer Skeeter Webb. However, Vicknair says he was not fully in shape when he reported. After striking out three times in a scrimmage game, he decided to finally give up on his dream as a professional player.

Vicknair began working as a machinist for Avondale Shipyards in 1951. This began another phase of his sports career, when he pitched for company-sponsored teams in over-hand-pitch softball leagues for fifteen years. A knuckleball pitcher, he once hurled a no-hit, no-run game in 1963 for Avondale in the local CAA Softball League. A newspaper article in his scrapbook reported that it was the first no-hitter hurled in that league. Vicknair was a significant contributor to Avondale Shipyard's perennial reputation for fielding superior teams, including several league championships. He kept himself in shape and continued to play softball in various leagues until he was 65 years old.

In addition to playing all sports, Vicknair also took an active interest in coaching. He firmly believed he had a knack for picking talent, as well as learning and applying game strategies in each of the sports. He was often the player-coach for many of his teams.

He was among the first members of the New Orleans Diamond Club, a fraternity of former professional baseball players who met regularly and played occasional "old-timer" games.

Vicknair will turn 90 years old in April. A self-described "people person," he comes across as someone who is willing to talk to anyone about sports or practically anything else. For example, just ask him about the champion show dogs he once had or the Cajun-style dancing he has done. He might also give you a photo of himself in a New York Giants uniform from his minor league days.

Vicknair's baseball dream was not unlike that of thousands of youngsters before and after him. In another time or in a different set of circumstances, Vicknair's dream might have been more fully realized. He missed three prime years of development as a player due to his time in the service. Injuries in his first minor league season further hampered his development and adjustment to professional baseball. It turned out he didn't exactly fit into the Giants' mold for outfielders in those days. Yet all these deterrents didn't discourage his love of sports, especially baseball, since he still became an accomplished player and coach during his era of local sports.

Vicknair's career is a meaningful part of the sports history and lore of the New Orleans area. Indeed, he has much to be proud of. ✨



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**Marielle Songy**  
Contributing Writer

# BIG JAKE'S SANDWICH SHOP

Summer means fun snacks and fast lunch, and I am about to let you in on one of the best kept secrets on the Westbank. Big Jake's Sandwich shop, located at 203 Avenue G in Belle Chasse might be one of my favorite spots for a po boy and other yummy snacks.

A little backstory: a foodie friend of mine was the first to tell me about Big Jake's. He raved about how amazing it is, and being a fan of poboy, I knew I had to try it. First of all, trying to find any information about this place online was pretty tough. I knew I had to get over to Jake's and see what they had to offer, because curiosity was killing me.

When you pull up to Big Jake's, you will notice that it is just a stand on the side of the road. It is located right across the street from the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's office and right next to the ferry launch, so it isn't too hard to miss. It's a "walk up and order" type of place and then you can sit outside on some well-placed benches and enjoy your meal or take it to go. You can get a half or a

large po boy and you can get it on a bun or French bread. I got a large shrimp on French, which was just under \$10. I had half for lunch and saved the other half, so it all evened out. The shrimp po boy was AMAZING! I loved it and I liked that it was packed with shrimp and perfectly dressed. The bread was just crispy and flaky enough to make the whole sandwich really come together.

Aside from shrimp, Big Jake's offers an assortment of other types of po boys such as roast beef, hot sausage, ham and cheese, grilled chicken breast, turkey, catfish and many other delicious combinations. Big Jake's is also a great place to stop for a fun snack, because they offer goodies like French fries, corn dogs, onion rings, chicken nuggets, cheese sticks and stuffed jalapeños.

Big Jake's is cash only, so leave those cards at home. Their hours are Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and please note that they are closed between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. ✨



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The Jefferson Performing Arts Center (JPAC) is the new state-of-the-art performance venue of Jefferson Parish and the Greater New Orleans region, featuring: a plush, modern, acoustically- designed interior; an impressive 51-ft proscenium arch stage with mechanized orchestra lift; and a theatrical fly rigging system by the world renowned designer J.R. Clancy. The facility's expansive lobby includes a building-wide six-story window-wall overlooking LaSalle Park, artwork by internationally acclaimed Louisiana artist Hunt Slonem, a full service bar, and a VIP-guest lounge. The backstage area is able to accommodate touring and management companies of all sizes and boasts an artist's "green" room, four star dressing rooms, and six ensemble dressing rooms.

On June 20th, 2015, Grand Opening Gala will be held to celebrate JPAC's opening. The red-carpet event and gala reception will be headlined by The Branford Marsalis and Joey Calderazzo Duo, each celebrated Grammy Award winners. The opening act will showcase JPAC artist-in-residence Jefferson Performing Arts Society, led by Maestro Dennis Assaf, along with additional performances by Delta Festival Ballet, Jefferson Ballet, and local celebrity kingfish Spud McConnell.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the gala reception with show time immediately following at 7:30 p.m. Champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and other refreshments will be served alongside the famous Rodrique Steinway "Blue Dog" Piano, with reception entertainment provided by members of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Tickets, inclusive of performance and gala reception, are now on sale: \$75 (balcony) and \$100 (orchestra). Business or cocktail attire is requested. Patrons are encouraged to purchase in advance at [www.jeffersonpac.com](http://www.jeffersonpac.com), by phone at (877) 840-0457, or in person, subject to availability, at the JPAC box office during select hours on June 18th, 19th, and 20th. ✨




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# SunPatiens Produce Great Flowers for Louisiana Summers

By Allen Owings, LSU AgCenter horticulturist

If you like the flowering habit of shade-loving impatiens, you'll be excited to know more about the impatiens that boldly go when no impatiens have gone before - into full sun. That's what you get with the SunPatiens - bedding plants that thrive in our Louisiana summer heat and humidity.

You get the best of both shade-loving impatiens and the larger-flowered and variegated foliage of New Guinea impatiens with SunPatiens, a hybrid bred by Sakata Seed.

SunPatiens not only survived and performed well at the LSU AgCenter since they debuted, they have moved onto the list of highly desired and widely recommended flowers for summer color. We don't have many bedding plants that will provide so much color from mid-spring through fall in Louisiana.

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The smallest-growing compact group reaches 2-3 feet tall with an equal spread. Colors in this size range are blush pink, deep rose, coral, white, orange, magenta and lilac.

The spreading group has two main colors with variegated foliage - white and salmon. The spreading

types grow 3 feet tall by 4 feet wide.

The tallest and widest growth on SunPatiens is found in the vigorous-growth varieties. These come in colors of coral (with variegated foliage), lavender, magenta, red, white and orange. These plants can reach 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide by fall.

Breeders are concentrating now on the more compact growers. The vigorous group gets too large in the landscape in the South.

In our growing conditions, the spreading and vigorous types grow up to 24 inches tall and a bit wider. The compacts are a bit smaller all around. One plant will fill an entire container, but you can add a trailing flowering plant to cascade over the side.

Overall plant size is influenced by soil fertility, irrigation and light exposure. Choose the appropriate plant height for bedding, containers and hanging baskets.

Regardless of the variety or size, flowers of all the SunPatiens are large and showy and are easily seen above the dark green, glossy foliage.

SunPatiens will bloom from May through the first hard frost.

Plants perform best when they receive full sun. If they're grown in semi-shady conditions, they



should be pruned in midsummer to maintain a bushy growth habit. Otherwise, they will become lanky and produce fewer flowers. In fact, consider growing regular impatiens instead.

Allow SunPatiens to wilt slightly between watering, and mulch them to conserve soil moisture. SunPatiens and New Guinea impatiens are both resistant to impatiens downy mildew, a disease that has been a problem on our typical impatiens during the past three years.

You can see more about work being done in landscape horticulture by visiting the LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station website at [www.lsuagcenter.com/hammond](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/hammond). Also, like us on Facebook. You can find an abundance of landscape information for both home gardeners and industry professionals at both sites. ✨

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- July 15 | THE WRITE BROTHERS  
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# Tips for Hurricane Preparation

From [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

## Before a Hurricane

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Know your surroundings.
- Learn the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you know how your property will be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding are forecasted.
- Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.
- Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate.
- Make plans to secure your property:
  - Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
  - Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
  - Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
  - Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
  - Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.



- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Install a generator for emergencies.
- If in a high-rise building, be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor.
- Consider building a safe room.

Hurricanes cause heavy rains that can cause extensive flood damage in coastal and inland areas. Everyone is at risk and should consider flood insurance protection. Flood insurance is the only way to financially protect your property or business from flood damage. To learn more about your flooding risk and how to protect yourself and your business, visit the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (NFIP) Web site, [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 1-800-427-2419. For more detailed information on how you can protect your property, view NFIP's printer-friendly handout *Avoiding Hurricane Damage*. \*


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# Please Include Pets in Your Family Emergency Plan

**D**isaster recovery officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency urge you to have a disaster plan for your pets in preparation for the new hurricane season.

## Before the Disaster: Have a Safe Place to Take Your Pets

Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! If you plan to shelter your pet - work it into your evacuation route planning.

- Service animals that assist people with disabilities are allowed in Red Cross shelters. It may be difficult to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research. Many communities are developing pet-friendly shelter plans, check to see if your local emergency shelter plan includes pets.
- Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations. Go to [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com) to search online for pet friendly hotels and motels.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers.
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for the animals they already have as well as those displaced by a disaster, so this should be your last resort.

## Prepare a Portable Disaster Supply Kit for Your Pet

Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be carried easily.

- Proper identification, including immunization records, and current photos
- Ample supply of food and water
- A carrier or cage, pet beds and toys
- Medications, medical records and a first aid kit
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.

## Know What to Do as a Disaster Approaches

- Often, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.
- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Check to be sure your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and securely fastened up-to-date identification. Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if you know it, or of a friend or relative outside the disaster area. You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, adding information with an indelible pen.

You may not be home when the evacuation order comes. Find out if a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet you at a prearranged location. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where your animals are likely to be, know where your pet disaster supplies kit is kept, and have a key to your home. If you use a pet-sitting service, they may be available to help, but discuss the possibility well in advance.

Planning and preparation will enable you to evacuate with your pets quickly and safely. But bear in mind that animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch. And, when you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

For further information on disaster preparations for your pet:

- Humane Society of the U.S.: [www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/); \*



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**Men's Health**

Father's Day is a way to celebrate the men in our lives and it's also a good time to remind them to keep their health in mind so they can celebrate many more Father's Days. The CDC recommends the following health tips:

**Get Good Sleep:** 7-9 hours of sleep is recommended for adults. If you cut down on your beauty rest, you increase your risk for chronic health problems and accidents.

**Toss out the Tobacco:** You know why it's bad, and we know it's hard to quit. West Jefferson offers FREE classes and FREE medication to help you quit. Don't make excuses; call 504.349.2340 today.

**Move More:** Take a bike ride, toss a ball. Adults need at least 2½ hours of moderate-intensity aerobic activity (such as brisk walking) every week,

and muscle strengthening activities that work all major muscle groups (legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders and arms) on two or more days a week. You don't have to do it all at once. Spread your activity out during the week

**Eat Healthy:** Eat less salt, try more veggies. Mom had the right idea. A variety of fruits and vegetables can protect you from chronic disease, not to mention help you look fit.

**Tame Stress:** This one is a real killer... literally. Sometimes stress can be good. However, it can be harmful when it is severe enough to make you feel overwhelmed and out of control. Take care of yourself. Avoid drugs and alcohol. Find support. Connect socially. Stay active.

**Stay on Top of Your Game:** No we don't mean your basketball game! See your doctor or nurse

for regular checkups. Certain diseases and conditions may not have symptoms, so checkups help diagnose issues early or before they can become a problem. Ask your doctor what preventative tests you need.

**Find Affordable Healthcare:** The Affordable Care Act is here. Insurance may be more affordable than you realize. Visit [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) to learn about plans and see if you qualify for subsidies based on your income.

**For more information about getting healthy, make an appointment with a Family Doctors physician today by calling 504.349.6824.**

Joshua Mizell, MD  
The Family Doctors

**Foundation Announces Mo-Billiot as New Executive Director**

"We are pleased to announce on behalf of the Foundation Board that Melissa Mo-Billiot has been tapped as the new Executive Director of the West Jefferson Hospital Foundation effective May 11," Charles Frederick, president of the West Jefferson Hospital Foundation, says. "Mrs. Mo-Billiot accepted joining us to help our Hospital Foundation further support the Mission of West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC)."



Melissa Mo-Billiot

eight years of targeted fundraising and related philanthropy experience (including grant research and writing), first with the Louisiana Association of United Ways, then more recently with United Way of Southeast Louisiana," President Frederick adds. "Mrs. Mo-Billiot brings a wealth of knowledge in donor and constituent relations and has served at the state level coordinating special projects and assisting in the administration of major donor advised funds.

"Her responsibilities will include sponsorship coordination for

our signature events of the Hospital Foundation including the annual West Jeff Family Festival and the new Moonlight & Martinis Gala."

"As a West Bank native, I am especially pleased to be at West Jefferson working with the Foundation and hospital family," Mo-Billiot says. "I look forward to speaking soon with donors about opportunities available today to help our hospital and the patients and families we serve."

**To reach Melissa Mo-Billiot, call 504.349.2525 or e-mail [wjmcfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:wjmcfoundation@yahoo.com).**

Jennifer Steel  
WJMC Community Liaison Officer

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## Smoking? You Better Be on Fire



tobacco has reeked on our community daily. Ear disease, sinus disease and head and neck cancers can all be related to cigarette smoking and second hand smoke. Many of these disease are preventable. Adults and children are affected.

If you've ever found yourself next to a smoker, bathed in the pungent fumes of cigarettes, it is time to remind the individual, "It's not too late to quit." Smoking is a difficult habit to break; encouragement and support from those around has been shown to help.

Annually, over \$300 billion dollars are attributed to the ill effects of tobacco use. 480,000 deaths annually are attributed to cigarette smoke. This data is readily available. The untoward effects are well known and advertised yet 17.8% of adults in this country continue to smoke.

For those steadfast on continuing the habit, awareness of some signs of head and neck pathology may be of benefit. Seek help if one has a persistent swollen gland, a mass in the neck that will not go away, swallowing issues that persist, prolonged voice changes and chronic throat discomfort.


Many of the diseases associated with smoking are completely preventable. When around a smoker, do yourself and others a favor, ask the smoker to quit — you'll be helping yourself and them in the long run.

**If you or a loved one are experiencing ear, nose and throat problems due to smoking, visit Dr. Ballay at West Jefferson Ear, Nose & Throat. Call 504.934.8550 to schedule an appointment**


Charles J. Ballay, II, MD  
West Jefferson Ear, Nose & Throat

As an Otolaryngologist (Ear, Nose and Throat physician), I can attest to the numerous problems associated with the habit. One sees the ill effects

For those steadfast on continuing the habit, awareness of some signs of head and neck pathology may be of benefit. Seek help if



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Dr. David Heitmeier  
Contributing Writer

# Children's Eyes More Susceptible to Long-Term Damage from UV Rays

As children head out to enjoy the summer weather, many parents remember to apply sunscreen to protect their children's skin from damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays. However, many parents may not be aware of the damage that UV rays can have on the eyes. According to the World Health Organization, up to 80 percent of a person's lifetime exposure to UV is received before the age of 18.

In fact, children are more susceptible to UV damage than adults because they tend to spend more time outside than adults. And, according to the American Optometric Association, children are at a greater risk of UV damage because the lenses of their eyes are more transparent, which allows more short wavelength light to reach the retina. UV damage to the eyes is cumulative, meaning it builds over time. UV exposure has been linked to cataracts, macular degeneration and other eye problems.

There are several ways to protect a child's eyes for a lifetime of healthy vision. Sunglasses should block out 99-100 percent of both UV-A and UV-B

radiation. Sunglasses without UV protection may shade the eyes but actually cause the pupils to dilate, allowing in even more harmful rays. When going outside, both adults and children should always wear both a wide-brimmed hat or cap and the proper UV-rated sunglasses.

Prevent Blindness America, the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight, is asking parents to remember to protect their children's eyes by doing the following:

- Only purchase sunglasses that offer 99 to 100 percent UV protection.
- Make sure the sunglasses fit the child's face and shield the eyes from all angles.
- Choose lenses that are impact resistant and made of polycarbonate, never glass, unless prescribed by a doctor.
- Make sure lenses are not scratched or damaged.
- Purchase wraparound sunglasses to protect eyes as well as the delicate skin around the eyes.



"We need to remember to protect our eyes from UV every day of the year," said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. "UV Rays reflecting off the water, sand, pavement and even snow are extremely dangerous. We can encourage our children to wear the proper eye protection by leading by example."

*The preceding article, brought to you by Dr. David Heitmeier, was a news release from Prevent Blindness America. For further questions please contact Heitmeier, Armani, Langhete and Cangelosi Medical and Surgical Eyecare at (504) 368-7081. ✨*

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# Delgado Community College Breaks Ground on New Campus in Churchill Technology & Business Park

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) celebrated the groundbreaking of Delgado Community College's new River City Campus and the Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence in the Churchill Technology and Business Park last month. Upon completion of the \$27 million project, the River City Campus will offer educational courses tailored to meet the region's workforce needs. The 10.5 acre facility is designed to accommodate training programs to support commerce along the Mississippi River including transportation/logistics, marine engine, engineering, and automotive technology on the growing West Bank of Jefferson Parish.

The Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence, which will be housed within the River City Campus, will focus on creating a sustainable, skilled workforce to support the industries investing in the region. Courses will focus on skills such as welding, precision machining, electrical/electronics engineering technology, electronics service technology, and industrial maintenance.

The River City Campus is the newest addition to the Churchill Technology and Business Park, a growing asset in the Fairfield area. Born out of the Jefferson EDGE, Jefferson Parish's long-term economic development plan, the tech park offers 500 acres of land for a variety of growth opportunities. Currently anchored by the JEDCO Administrative Complex, the Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy, the JEDCO Conference Center, and the Business Innovation Center, Churchill Park represents the future of Jefferson Parish.

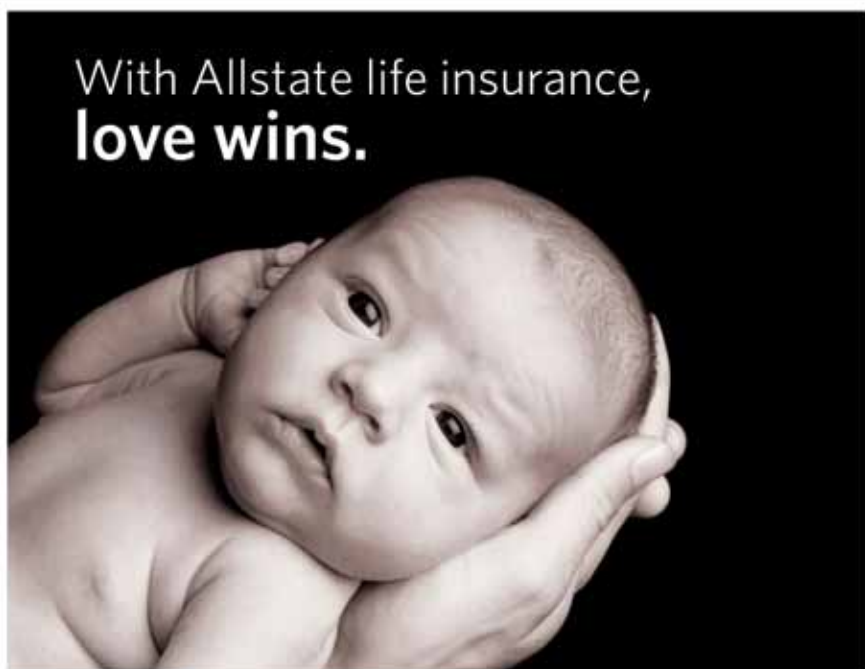
"This is an exciting day for JEDCO and the Churchill Technology and Business Park. The decision by Delgado to locate its River City Campus and Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence in the tech park is a



testament to the potential of this area," says JEDCO Executive Director, Jerry Bologna. "Not only will the new campus increase traffic to Fairfield, but we also anticipate that this project will enhance Churchill Park's attractiveness to businesses because of the collaborative and educational opportunities available through Delgado and the Patrick F. Taylor school. This campus will be a catalyst for future development in the park. We look forward to working with Delgado Community College to ensure this project's success in the future."

"The partnerships that created this opportunity to locate our new facilities in this fast-growing area of Jefferson Parish are immensely valuable to Delgado Community College, and we appreciate the hard work of everyone who is helping to bring these plans to fruition. Through cooperation and teamwork, a brighter future is ahead for all," adds Delgado Chancellor Joan Y. Davis.

The new campus is expected to open in the spring of 2017. ✨



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# Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy Selecting New Name and Becoming Autonomous



The Jefferson Chamber Foundation recently announced that the Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy (JCFA) East Bank and West Bank campuses are now autonomous

from The Jefferson Chamber Foundation. The schools are achieving their mission and are no longer under any oversight of the Jefferson Chamber Foundation. The two academies will have a new name in the coming months.

JCFA, an alternative charter high school organization, was founded in 2010 by the non-profit arm of the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, and offers charter high school options that support students who do not excel in traditional learning environments and gives them an opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Through a computer-based curriculum, students are provided with the opportunity to work at their own pace, while having access to dual enrollment career skills courses.

The organization has experienced rapid growth. The first campus opened in 2010 on Delgado Community College's location in Harvey. By 2013, the organization expanded and opened an East Bank location, currently operating in Metairie. In total, the academy has graduated over 150 students and today enrolls 248 students between the East and West Bank campuses.

In cooperation with its founding organization, the Jefferson Chamber Foundation, JCFA is proud to announce that a process has begun to select a new name to reflect its growing mission. This process includes choosing organization and campus names that reflect the success and experiences of students, while supporting the mission of the organization. JCFA plans to share its new identity with the community in the upcoming months.

Tom Meyer, Chairman of the Jefferson Chamber Foundation, expressed pride in his organization launching and organizing the school. "This school's concept was born out of findings from the Multiple Education Pathways Blueprint grant and has now become a viable choice for our youth in need of an alternative option. The vision of the original organizers remains clear and the Board of Governance will continue to provide great leadership for the academy for years to come." The Foundation Board was responsible for selecting and approving initial members of the organization's Board of Governance and supported the initial charter application in 2010.

Dr. Kristine Strickland, Board of Governance Chair, also expressed her thanks to both the Jefferson Chamber and the Jefferson Chamber Foundation. "We will always have a deep sense of gratitude for the Chamber and the Chamber Foundation for their unwavering support of the mission and students at JCFA. The vision of these organizations in the founding of the school has been instrumental in its success. As the school continues to grow and expand its mission, in service to the community, we will continue to seek ways to expand upon our past and we look forward to a bright future." \*

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## Terrytown Golden Agers' Museum Tour

Terrytown Golden Agers' Club recently toured The Louisiana National Guard Museum in Arabi, and members remarked that the trip through history was amazing. After touring the Museum, the TTGA went to Rocky and Carlos for lunch. ✨



First row: Acklin and Viola Dufrene, Hilda Dufrene, TTGA President- Pammy Worth, Celia Perry, and Photographer-Jerry Casso. Second Row: Larry and Betty Vaught, Claudette Ott, Pearlee Parun, Audrey Casso, Betty Nolan, June Grosch, Gerrie Bertaut, Yolanda Cordes, Martha Arroyava, Antonieta Young, Lynn McCart, Gail Marino, Dolores Hamilton, and Wilma Thompson. Third Row: Don Slezak, Charlene Savoie, Nancy Slezak, Earl Hemenway, Betty Trosclair, Larry Nobel, Danny Trosclair, and Jefferson Parish Special Events Supervisor - Garry Vedros. Not pictured but present were: Event Coordinator - Gail Martinez, Rose Bealer and Shirley Alwert.

## Senior's Toe The Line - Line Dancers

Senior's Toe The Line - Line Dancers provided entertainment for the Annual St. Anthony Fundraiser at the Lions Club on Franklin Avenue. Everyone had a great time and enjoy great food catered by Capdabosse. ✨



Bottom row: Gerrie Palisi, Kathleen Shield, Instructor - Elda Olsen, and Barbara Boudreaux. Top row: Audrey Casso, Lynn McCart, Shirley Schloegel, Carolyn Hass and Frances Ross.

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3:00 P.M.	KREWE OF ALLA	GRETNA COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	GRETNA COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	GRETNA COMMUNITY TRANSPORT	GRETNA ECONOMIC DEVELOP.	GRETNA POLICE	KREWE OF ALLA
8:00 P.M.	GERMAN AMERICAN	KREWE OF CHOCTAW	GRETNA ECONOMIC DEVELOP.	KREWE OF CLEOPATRA	WESTBANK OPTIMIST	KREWE OF GRELA	KREWE OF GRELA
10:30 P.M.	ITALIAN AMERICAN	WESTBANK OPTIMIST	KREWE OF CHOCTAW	WESTBANK ROTARY	BINGO PALACE	GERMAN AMERICAN	GERMAN AMERICAN
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# Gretna Elks and Marching Clubs to Make-A-Wish Come True

**F**amily Bingo Night and two days of craft fairs will draw many people of varying ages to West Bank Elks Lodge in Gretna, all hoping to become winners in the festivities. The biggest winner is not present and not aware of the activities that will grant him or her a chance to do something that would make a dream come true.

The weekend of events is to raise money to sponsor a child in the Make-A-Wish Foundation's program, which grants a child a chance to experience their dream wish. Some kids go to Disney World, some shopping sprees and some opt for meeting celebrities.

"Probably, in the last 20 yrs, we raised tens of thousands of dollars for Make-A-Wish," said Jim LeCompte, a founding member of the West Bank Social and Marching Club which puts together local fundraising events for Make-A-Wish. In close association with the marching club, is an all-female marching club named the Sassy Katz, which works in unison with them, both in fundraising and marching in three annual parades, including Mardi Gras.

"We normally do eight Make-A-Wish events per year," he said, adding, "Most are [fundraisers in] bar rooms." This year, the only site being used is the West Bank Elks Lodge, in Gretna. The Elks donate the space and use of the facilities each year.

On June 20th, the clubs will host a dance in appreciation of fundraising participants and present a check of the proceeds to a

Make-A-Wish representative.

To get more information, or to become involved in this or other Elks Lodge projects, please email JoAnn Loupe at [Loupe5@cox.net](mailto:Loupe5@cox.net) or call 504-421-8985.

With nearly 900,000 members and more than 2,000 Lodges nationwide, Elks are providing charitable services that help build stronger communities across the United States. To learn more, visit [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org). ✨



Jim LeCompte, President and founding member of the West Bank Social and Marching Club awaits a club meeting on Thursday.



Glenn Lopez, Alana Oregon, JoAnn Loupe, and Chris Savoie prepare for a meeting discussing plans for the Make-A-Wish events at the Gretna Elks Lodge.

Photos by David W. Honeman, N.O. West Bank Elks Lodge

# Good Time Jamaica Club Celebrates 30 Years

**T**hirty years Dancing with the Good Time Jamaica Club (GTJC) on the West Bank was celebrated last month by Charter Members Verdie Enloe and Dale and Glenda Giroir. Over 3500 members have gone through dance lessons taught by Glenda and her many volunteer instructors. It is reported that many students have met and married within the GTJC.

Anyone interested in taking lessons can come check it out on Tuesday nights at Four Columns in Harvey. In addition to Jamaica Dance Lessons, Line Dancing is taught from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. You can also check out activities of The Good Time Jamaica Club on Facebook. ✨



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# Eight Tips to Protect Your Pets During Extreme Heat

The Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is asking all pet owners to act responsibly by keeping pets indoors during extreme heat episodes and to never leave an animal unattended in a parked vehicle.

No matter the circumstances, never leave your pet in an unattended vehicle, even if the vehicle is running and the air conditioning is on. As the temperatures rise during the summer, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach 120 degrees within a matter of minutes. Partially opened windows will not protect your pet from heat stroke. As the temperature rapidly rises to a dangerous level, your pet can experience difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, irreversible organ damage, seizures or death. The affects from heat stroke can be long lasting and deadly.

“During the summer our humane officers respond to dozens of calls related to the hot temperatures. It’s important to remember these situations are considered acts of animal cruelty and will be treated as such,” says Louisiana SPCA CEO, Ana Zorrilla.

Pet owners are advised to take the following precautions to protect their pets during extreme heat:

1. Keep your pet inside and out of the direct sunlight.
2. If your pet is outside, provide protection from the sun and plenty of fresh water.
3. Animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along

with the elderly, the overweight and those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

4. Exercise your dog in the morning or evening when the temperatures and pavement are cool.
5. Never leave your pet inside an unattended vehicle, as this can be a deadly mistake.
6. Dogs in truck beds can suffer injury or heat stroke. If you cannot touch the truck bed with your bare hand, your dog should not be on the hot metal.
7. Know the warning signs of heat stroke: excessive panting, difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse, seizures, bloody diarrhea, vomiting and elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees.
8. If your pet is suffering from heat stroke, transport him/her to your veterinarian or an emergency animal clinic immediately.

You can make a difference in the fight against animal cruelty. If you see an animal in an unattended vehicle, immediately dial 911 or call Louisiana SPCA Humane Law Enforcement at 368-5191 ext. 100. For a full list of Orleans Parish animal related laws, visit [www.la-spca.org/ordinances](http://www.la-spca.org/ordinances). ✨



## New Orleans Cat Art & Film Festival

### A Feline Extravaganza



Art for Cat’s Sake, SpayMart and the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are teaming up for the second New Orleans Cat Art & Film Festival at the Kingsley House Saturday, June 27 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

The New Orleans Cat Art & Film Festival is a full-on feline extravaganza! There will be multiple artists featuring various interpretations of the feline form, feline-themed jewelry, event swag, amazing food, music, kid’s activities, raffles, feline workshops and so much more! The event highlight includes a compilation of funny Internet cat videos from the award winning Walker Art Center. Screenings will take place at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. YouTube stars Paul Klausman and TJ Wingard of “An Engineer’s Guide to Cats” will be on-hand for photo ops and autographs.

“Last year’s event was a huge success and we’re hoping for an even larger turnout this year. We spend our time attending to the health and well-being of our feline companions and getting to celebrate all-things cat for a good cause, with laughter and friends, is a highlight,” states festival creator and founder of Art for Cat’s Sake, Karen Miller-Becnel.

Come as you are or wear your best cat costume, ensemble or ears. Don’t have ears? No worries! Cat ear headbands will be available for purchase at the festival. Bring a blanket to catnap under the majestic oaks on the historic grounds of the Kingsley House and support the programs and services of Art for Cat’s Sake, SpayMart and the Louisiana SPCA. Tickets are available for \$12 online or \$15 at the door, children under 12 are free. ✨

## Westbank Animal Shelter Breaks Ground

On Friday, May 15, 2015, the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new West Bank Animal Shelter took place. The 30,000-square-foot state-of-the-art building will be located at the intersection of Lapalco Boulevard and Peters Road in Harvey.

Designed by architects Burgdahl and Graves with the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at the University of California at Davis, the new shelter will be built by Gibbs Construction Company at an estimated cost of \$9.5 million dollars. The new animal shelter is designed to improve the overall welfare of animals, keep the animals healthier, and encourage residents to adopt.

Funding is provided by district funds and construction bond issues. Completion of the project should take just over a year. ✨





# The Parks of Plaquemines

By Marielle Songy

The Parks of Plaquemines is a gorgeous gated community located on Woodland Highway in Belle Chasse. It is the first master planned neighborhood in Plaquemines Parish and big things are happening.

This private neighborhood is carved from a wooded area just off of Woodland Highway (State Route 406) and is just minutes from the Intracoastal Bridge. The Parks of Plaquemines features natural amenities like parks and green spaces and man-made amenities such as a walking trail system surrounding the entire community, a tot lot playground complete with tire swing, and a community pool with a cabana. The well-appointed, gated entrance and streets throughout the community have lovely finishing touches like matching mailboxes and quaint streetlights.

Perhaps the best part of the Parks of Plaquemines is that it is situated just across the Plaquemines Parish line in an area with lower tax rates, levee protection and excellent schools. FEMA has designated The Parks as Flood Zone C with solid savings on rising insurance rates. Unlike lower Plaquemines Parish, The Parks of Plaquemines is located within 2 major levee systems – the Federal Mississippi River Levee and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex, a system of floodgates, pumping and drainage, and an earthen levee. The part of Belle Chasse in which The Parks of Plaquemines is located did not flood at all during Hurricanes Katrina and Isaac – 2 of the most impactful storms to hit the area south of New Orleans. Because of an agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA after Hurricane Katrina, the Belle Chasse area is getting the good news about the reduction or removal of flood insurance. The levee system that has been constructed in the Greater New Orleans area has been built, complete with new closing floodgates, with the parameters for a 100-year storm. All of this means that owning a home in the Parks of Plaquemines not only gives



you a safe quiet place to raise your family, but it gives you a good investment as well.

If you are interested in purchasing a lot, you have a few choices. The Parks offers two types of home sites: Traditional Neighborhood Lots and low-maintenance Garden Home Lots. Traditional lots come in many different sizes and are suitable for family-sized or estate home and the lot may have a view from private nature views to water and lake views. Garden home lots are offered together in The Villas section and all home plans are required to be traditional Southern architecture and must be reviewed by professionals on the Design Review Committee prior to construction. Garden home lots are priced from the low \$70's to the low \$80's and lot sizes are typically about a quarter acre. Low maintenance garden homes range from 2,000 square feet of living area to over 3,000 square feet and range in price from the mid \$350's to over \$500,000. These luxurious homes are appointed with gorgeous interior and exterior amenities. Traditional lot prices range from the \$90's to the \$130's. Homes in The Parks of Plaquemines are tastefully designed, custom homes built by qualified and respected local builders and are priced up to \$1 million+. These preferred builders can design and build homes on a lot purchased by the homeowner or homeowners can use their own plans and builder with approval by the Architectural



Control Committee. Under the direction and guidance of developer David Waltemath, widely known for his work in English Turn, The Estates of Northpark and Bedico Creek subdivisions, The Parks of Plaquemines has a solid growth plan and is an upscale, master-planned community.

This June, The Parks showcased a spectacular \$1 million+ home in this year's Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans Parade of Homes. The Parks of Plaquemines is proud to have the only home in Belle Chasse featured on the Parade of Homes tour. The Parks welcomes you to come explore this community for yourself just to see what they have to offer. Not only will you find gorgeous homes, but you will find a lovely community that is perfect for building your "Happily Ever After" with beauty, convenience and value. Bring your Realtor, if you like—they're always welcome at The Parks and their long term relationship with the real-estate community is valued. ✨

## Second Harvest Food Bank's Summer Feeding Program



For thousands of children and their families, summer vacation brings an end to the nutritious meals they rely on through the free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch program during the school year. In the absence of these meals, Second Harvest Food Bank's annual Summer Feeding program, now in its sixth year, is all the more important. Beginning on Monday, June 1st, Second Harvest Food Bank will be feeding approximately 3,700 children at 60 program sites. Children enrolled in these programs will receive breakfast and lunch daily throughout the

nine week program providing an estimated 200,000 meals in total. All of the meals are prepared in the Community Kitchen located at the Second Harvest Food Bank facility in Harahan and meet all USDA nutrition guidelines.

According to Feeding America's 2015 Map the Meal Gap findings, child food insecurity continues to rise in Louisiana. Twenty-two percent or 135,970 children in south Louisiana are food insecure, which means 1 in 5 children in south Louisiana are not sure where their next meal might come from. It is well-documented that children who go to school hungry have a harder time concentrating on classwork, struggle academically and often complain of stomach aches and headaches.

The summer camps enrolled in the Summer Feeding program are located in areas that have high enrollment in the federal free/reduced meal program. This summer, meals will be served to children in summer camp programs in nine parishes including Orleans and Jefferson.

To implement its far-reaching Summer Feeding Program, Second Harvest hired 24 AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates, four food service workers from area schools and recruited support from its core group of Community Kitchen volunteers to help prepare, plate and deliver breakfast and lunch to the sites, with shifts beginning as early as 5:30 a.m.

"The Summer Feeding program is largely successful because of the dedication and hard work of our entire team, including our amazing volunteers," said Natalie Jayroe, President and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. "It is a wonderful example of people from all walks of life coming together for the children in our community."

Acceptance and participation requirements for Second Harvest's Summer Feeding program and activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. To learn more about Summer Feeding, Kids Cafe and other children's programs, the overall mission of Second Harvest Food Bank or to volunteer, please visit [www.no-hunger.org](http://www.no-hunger.org). ✨



# Looking Ahead to July 4<sup>th</sup>

By Marielle Songy

I would say that it's hard to believe that summer is here already, but with this I heat, that couldn't be further from the truth. The good news is that July 4th is quickly approaching. Not only does the mean we are close to the peak of summer, but there are all kinds of fun ways to celebrate our nation's independence along with the help of family and friends. If you are tired of the same old pool party and barbecue, allow me to provide you with some fun distractions on this well-deserved day off.

If you are looking to get a jump on the festivities and maybe avoid the weekend traffic, The Uncle Sam Jam at Lafreniere Park at 3000 Downs Blvd. in Metairie will be a good way to spend the evening of Friday, July 3rd. From 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., food and beverage vendors will be on hand as you enjoy live music throughout the afternoon and evening. There is a fireworks display at 9:00 p.m. that you are sure to enjoy. Admission to this event is free, so pack up the car and head to Metairie for some summertime fun.

Bucktown Bash and Blessing of the fleet takes place in Bucktown on July 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and children under 12 are admitted for free. Bucktown Bash is a one-day festival of food, family-fun, music, and the history of the lake area neighborhood. Bucktown will celebrate Independence Day by celebrating the second year of Bucktown Bash, a Shrimp and Music Festival on the lake. The festival will feature all-day music from local and national artists, crafts, food, attractions for kids, a Bucktown heritage display and the historical Blessing of the Bucktown Fleet - a time honored tradition to ensure a safe and bountiful fishing season. The event will kick into high gear with live music featuring local and national artists who will rock the crowd into the night. Food vendors will offer a taste of Bucktown offering their own versions of creative and appetizing shrimp dishes and Louisiana favorites. The art market will feature unique crafts and art from local and regional artists. The gate for Bucktown Bash opens at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 4th at the Bucktown Marina, just over the levee along Old Hammond Highway. Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. followed by The Blessing of the Fleet at noon.



The Fourth of July celebration at Westwego Farmers and Fisheries Market will take place on July 4th from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Come out and enjoy live musical performances, great food, drinks and fireworks. Admission is free and no outside food, drinks or pets are allowed.

Finally, celebrate Independence Day New Orleans style at the 25th annual Go Fourth on the River. At the riverside, you will enjoy the Dueling Barges Fireworks Show at 9:00pm. This unique salute to America's independence will feature a fireworks display from two barges over the Mighty Mississippi. Choreographed to stirring patriotic classics and simulcast on Magic 101.9 WWL AM, FM, and .com, fireworks will paint beautiful strokes of radiant light with the sky as a canvas and color as the palette. The fireworks display will be able to be viewed from both sides of the river from the Outlet Collection at the Riverwalk to the Governor Nicholls Street Wharf. ✨

## The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Invites All to Celebrate a Good Time for a Good Cause



The Archdiocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) recently announced its 2015 fundraising gala to benefit two of its special works: The Adult Learning Center and the Community Pharmacy. *Jazzin on the River V*, will be held Saturday, June 20, 2015, aboard the historic steamboat Natchez. Tickets are \$100.00 per person.

The gala will be held from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., and will cruise the Mississippi from 7:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m. The evening will include a silent

auction, music by the Dukes of Dixieland and the popular *Restaurant Raffle drawing*: A lucky winner will receive (10) \$100.00 gift cards to some of the city's most renowned dining establishments- A \$1000.00 value, for just \$25.00 a ticket. Other prizes and give-a-ways will also take place.

Proceeds from the event will help the organization continue its necessary mission; assisting needy residents with free prescription medication via (The St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy, along with preparation for GED (St. Vincent de Paul-Sr. Lory Schaff Adult Learning Center)

"This is a special time for us to celebrate and honor our dedicated volunteers throughout the Society," says Executive Director, Deacon Rudy Rayfield. "Without their dedication and generosity, we would not be able to continue to provide the services that are so needed by so many in our community."

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will once again honor a dedicated individual that has helped carry out the organizations' mission to serve in the community. The distinguished Top Hat award will be

announced and presented at the evening's event. Archbishop Gregory Aymond will join the event to announce the 2015 Top Hat recipient.

Deeply convinced that each man and woman is a beloved child of God, the staff of the *St. Vincent de Paul Adult Learning Center* strives to continue the saving mission of Jesus Christ by offering education to adults. The (ALC) hopes to strengthen self-esteem and confidence, to stimulate wholesome self-discipline and promote a solid work ethic and moral values.

*The St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy's* mission is to positively impact the healthcare needs of the indigent and homeless by providing prescription medication free of charge. We strive to medically improve the quality of life of the indigent and homeless of our community by serving as a free pharmacy of last resort. The goal of the Pharmacy staff is to lessen the burden of their brethren by providing pharmaceutical care responsibly, professionally and with compassion. ✨



## AOL Athletic Banquet



**A**cademy of Our Lady recently held its annual Athletic Banquet to celebrate the achievement and dedication of Academy of Our Lady athletes. Jenna Parker was named Academy of Our Lady's 2014-2015 Athlete of the year. Pictured: Jenna Parker of Marrero stands with Teri Veret, Athletic Director. ✨

## Dinner and a ZOOvie is BACK

**D**inner and a ZOOvie is BACK with four ZOOvie nights starting on June 12, 2015, on the grounds of Audubon Zoo. On June 12 doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and movie goers are welcome to picnic by the Capital One Stage until the movie starts at about 8:15- 8:30pm. There will be a dance party from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Come with your chairs and blankets, bring your own dinner or dine at the Zoo! The following concessions will be available: Snack Shack; Hot Dog Cart; Snack n Splash; Snow Wonder Trike selling ice cream novelties; Cupcake Cart and Frozen Banana Carts.

### ZOOvie Night Schedule:

#### • Friday, June 12th - Frozen (sing-along version)

NEW! This Dinner and a ZOOvie date, will feature an expanded opportunity to visit Cool Zoo/Gator Run! For the low price of \$10 per person (under 2 years of age free), movie goers can splash around in Cool Zoo, including Gator Run from 6pm to 8pm. Then, walk the short distance to catch the movie by the Capital One Stage.

For those just wishing to take in the movie, admission will remain \$5 per person (under 2 years of age free).

Cool Zoo/Gator Run admission cannot be purchased without purchase of a movie ticket. No outside food or beverage can be brought into Cool Zoo or Gator Run.

\$5 per person for ZOOvie movie entry. \$10 per person for ZOOvie/Cool Zoo entry. Under 2 years of age free.

#### • Friday, June 19th - Maleficent (2014)

#### • Friday, July 10th - Annie (2014)

#### • Friday, July 24th - Big Hero 6 (2014)

For all ZOOvies: All shows are \$5 per person, (children under two years of age are free) and you're welcome to bring chairs and blankets. No glass containers, open candles or pets, please. All films will be shown outside at the Capital One Stage and Field inside Audubon Zoo.

Please note: Animal exhibits will not be open. This is a special admission event. Members must purchase tickets and there is no Member discount. Complimentary guest passes are not available for use.

Purchase ZOOvie movie and Cool Zoo combo tickets online or at any Audubon venue. ✨

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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue dress and sandals, is sitting on a metal park bench. She is reading a newspaper titled "The West Bank Beacon". The background shows a large, multi-story brick building with a central entrance featuring columns. There is a green lawn and a paved walkway leading to the building. A lighthouse with an American flag on top is visible in the upper left corner of the image.

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## The Gretna Economic Development Association invites you to **Explore Downtown Gretna**

### June Calendar

- 2 GEDA meeting 6:30pm
  - 10 City Council Meeting 5:30pm
  - 10 JP Council Meeting 10am EB
  - 23 Prayer Dinner
  - 24 JP Council Meeting 10am WB
- June 6, 13, 20 & 27**  
Gretna Farmers Market

### Current Events

Mark your calendar for the  
**Gretna Heritage Festival**  
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### 22nd Annual Gretna Prayer Dinner

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