



Berwick Beacon

Town of Berwick

August 2016

Town Council Members

- Jacki Ackel Mayor Pro tem
- Duval Arthur
- Troy Lombardo
- Damon Robison
- Greg Roussel

Special points of interest:

- <http://graphicsbylea.com/Recollections/?m=201410&paged=1>
- Facebook search: "You Know You Are From Berwick If..."
- [History of Southwest Reef Lighthouse](#)



Online Beacon Newsletter

While we all enjoy receiving a copy of the Berwick Beacon in the mail, many of us have children, relatives and friends who no longer reside in the town. If that is you, please encourage them to go to the Town of Berwick website and register their email address. For each edition, they will receive a notification email directing them to the Town website where they can read the entire issue.



Berwick-Bayou Vista Flag Football Registration:

Registration: Mondays-Fridays, now through August 26th 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Berwick Town Hall. Questions call Town Hall at 985-384-8858.



In May, a 5 foot alligator was removed from Berwick Elementary by Town personnel. Pictured above are: Chris Balance, Officer Billy Chapman, and Bubba Richard

From The Mayor's Desk.....

Greetings:

Rockin' the Riverfront Celebration on July 3rd was a huge success! The fireworks held on Sunday evening were the capping of the day enjoyed by all. Our sincere thanks goes out to all who attended this event. Your participation and support encourages us to plan more public events in our Town.



The Shrimp and Petroleum Festival's Blessing of the Fleet will again be held on our riverfront on Labor Day Weekend.

The summer is fast coming to a closure with Schools starting their new year on August 8th. I hope everyone had a great and safe summer.

We continue to pray that our community and state will be spared from any hurricanes as we approach August and September when the most destructive storms are more active.

I also ask for your prayers for our Police and Fire Departments as they continue to protect our community.

Thanks and God's Blessing to Everyone!

Mayor Louis Ratcliff

Berwick Lighthouse to be "On Air" Saturday, August 20th

Our Southwest Reef Lighthouse will be illuminated on Saturday, August 20th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM via airwaves of the local ham radio operators! This third annual event is sponsored by the Town of Berwick, Coral Marine and the Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Services club, or BEARS as they are commonly referred to. Last year operators were able to share information about our Town with over 50 stations both nationally and internationally. The Saturday event will take place at the Everett S. Berry Lighthouse Park along the River and will feature a broadcast station set up under the riverfront pavillion. BEARS members 'talk' to operators at other lighthouses or lightships around the world. Radio communication is amplified for visitors to hear. This International Event is held annually on this date to promote public awareness of lighthouses and their need for preservation and restoration, to promote the importance of ham radio, and to foster international goodwill. A world map will be on display to show the radio communications. The event will also include the popular Berwick Town Market of local crafters. Approximately 25 vendors will be set up along the seawall selling homemade/handmade original, unique crafts. Additionally, The Big Chill will be selling America's favorite food – hot dogs, chili, frito pies, and nachos; along with the ever-popular Southern favorite – ice cold sno-balls! An informational tent will feature the workings of ham radio. Amateur radio service is critical across the globe in times of disaster. Often times, this is the only means of communication.

The Lighthouse Radio day promises to be educational and entertaining --- fun for all. So, please make plans now to come over to the Lighthouse and see "who's talking now"!



THE BEACON SHINES ON:



In April, the Beacon shone on Katherine Theriot, a senior at Berwick High School. Katherine recently had the esteemed honor of placing in the National Competition sponsored by MIT INSPIRE. She competed against 11th and 12th graders across the United States. Katherine's entry was in the Anthropology category. Her topic was "An analysis of the treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's". Katherine was selected as the number one alternate, and the only Louisiana student to place in the competition. Katherine is the daughter of Troy and Elizabeth Theriot.

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES



The American Legion Riders placed a wreath in honor of fallen veterans at the Berwick Blue Star Memorial on May 29th during the 14th Annual Freedom Ride held Memorial Day weekend. Mayor Louis Ratcliff, joined by Council Members Greg Roussel and Jacki Ackel, were in attendance to show their appreciation to the many riders who participated in this year's event.





Councilman/Director of Homeland Security Duval Arthur

PREPARING FOR A HURRICANE

It's that time of year again-HURRICANE SEASON-ugh!!! Don't you hate it?? I know I do. Hurricanes are kind of special disasters...and you had better prepare or you

could become a casualty. That's the good thing I can say about Hurricanes...they give you time to prepare. However, Tornadoes give no warning and then BAM...they hit your Community and tear everything up in its path. You don't have a chance to put your garbage cans up, find a safe shelter to drive to. You don't get a chance to run to the store to get groceries and extra batteries...or filling the car up with gasoline....and just that quickly it's over. Hopefully you found a bathtub to lay down in...or fortunate enough to have a "Safe Room" in your home. If not you may become one of its many casualties that we read about in the next days' news. Floods on the other hand give notice that the River is rising and will "crest" at a scary depth that makes everyone panic. But if you are fortunate enough to live in St. Mary Parish...you feel a little safer. Our Municipal and Parish Leaders have joined forces to build up levees, install flood gates, and make plans just in case we get that 100 year or 500 year flood. But what about a HURRICANE?? Hurricanes give you days of warnings so that you can execute your "GAME PLAN" and keep your family safe. But Hurricanes don't care if you have a plan or not....they just come rolling in on you and they fear nothing (except the "EI NINO") which usually changes Hurricanes and turns them in different directions. Did you ever think about all the Hurricanes that have hit the United States coastline and has been declared some of the meanest and deadliest in our Country history. Ever notice these are all named after women... Katrina, Audrey, Diane, Betsy, Hazel, Agnes, and Carol to just name a few. I think there is a story here. Maybe we shouldn't come up with anymore ladies names...but name all future storms after men. I guess you knew that Hurricanes are the only natural disasters that have their own names. So let's make ourselves safe this Hurricane Season....here are some helpful tips:

1. If you have time...Board up your windows or at least put some duct tape on them.
2. Secure objects that are normally left in the yard (garbage cans, garden tools, toys, and porch furniture).
3. Keep your car fueled up.
4. Have a safe place for you and your family to travel to.
5. Purchase enough canned food items and bottled water that will get you through three days.



Congratulations!!!

To Eugene Johnson, Jr. for a much-deserved retirement! Having served our Town of Berwick for 31 years in the Public Works Department, Mr. Johnson was recently recognized and given a certificate of appreciation by Mayor Louis Ratcliff and Town CAO Bubba Slaughter. Berwick is proud to have em-

ployees go the 'extra mile' as has been evidenced by Mr. Johnson, or as he is better known, Geno!

2nd Annual Lighthouse Festival - Tour du Teche

Last October we celebrated the inaugural Lighthouse Festival on the Riverbank in Berwick. Now, we are proud to announce the 2nd Annual event slated for Saturday and Sunday, October 8th and 9th.

Once again, the festivities will include music, food, crafts and fun for everyone of all ages. The popular Historic program will be held at Berwick Elementary on Saturday at 10 AM.

Meanwhile, along the Riverfront the Berwick Town Market vendors will be set up with unique crafts and wares. Various local food vendors will tempt everyone with delicious local cuisine and treats. And the always popular music will feature local bands on both Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday's attraction will include the finish line of Tour du Teche VII, the international canoe and kayak race. Racers will be coming in to the finish line all day, and then will anxiously await the award ceremony at 5.

Mark your calendars now to come out and support our town's Lighthouse Festival!



Celebrate Education in Berwick

On Saturday, October 8th at 10 AM, it will be time to Celebrate Berwick once again! This annual program is in accordance with the Town Council's proclamation declaring the month of October as the annual Celebrate Berwick History Month. This year's celebration will be a time of remembrance and recognition of *Education in Berwick*.

For the past two years, the Berwick Historic Committee has presented an outdoor program under the bridge. This year's program will be inside Berwick Elementary. The event will feature history of the Berwick School through 1966 and will include a tour of the original historic building where so many attended school and continued to gain an education. Adding to the rich history of education in Berwick, the program will also feature history of the Sarah T. Patterson School, along with remembrances of many who attended.

In an effort to have a truly memorable and successful event, organizers of the program are seeking memorabilia, artifacts, pictures, etc. of both schools. If you have items loan, please contact Janie Brasher at 384-2504 or Alvin Willis at 385-6768.

The committee hopes that everyone will mark their calendar to attend this historical program.

Committee members are:

Seated: Janie Brashear, Charlie Ann Eues, Mickey Pearson, Alvin Willis, Paula Willis, Glenda Stackhouse



Standing: Liz Griffin, Jacki Ackel, Damon Robison, Patsy Thomas, Daisy Lodrique

Not pictured: Eljean Nesmith, Dale Fangue, Rodney Grow

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Interesting information on former Berwick residents now residing elsewhere and who are competing and contributing on the national and international scenes.

Berwick native, Don Ray Guzzetta, M.D, is a Board Certified General Surgeon, specializing in Breast Cancer and Breast Diseases and resides in Kenner, Louisiana. Dr. Guzzetta is married to Teresa Guzzetta and their family includes, Dr. Nina Ann Guzzetta of Atlanta, Georgia, Ginger Guzzetta Touzet, a counselor and behavioral therapist in New Orleans, Anthony Regan Guzzetta, horticulturist and landscape contractor living in Southampton England, and Courtney Merwin, B.S., CRT living in Kenner, La. They also have five grandchildren.



Dr. Guzzetta's father, Nina Guzzetta, also a native of Berwick, was popularly known as an Historian of Berwick and wrote a weekly column called "Reflections" for the Daily Review. His mother, Ruth, originally from north Louisiana, was a teacher in Berwick for many years. Several of his cousins still live in the Tri-City area.

Dr. Guzzetta or "Bobby" as he was more widely known, attended Berwick Elementary and Junior High School, grades 1-9. Since Berwick did not have a high school at that time, he completed his schooling at Morgan City High School, and graduated as Class Valedictorian in 1956. While in high school, he and his cousin Vincent played in a band called "The Blue Notes." Don soon moved on to LSU and received his B.S. degree and finally LSU Medical School where he received his M.D. His first year of residency was at Denver General Hospital and the remainder at LSU, all in General Surgery. Upon completion of his residency, Dr. Guzzetta served in Viet Nam as a Navy Doctor.

Among the honors bestowed on Dr. Guzzetta, he has served as President of the Jefferson Parish Medical Society, Chief of Surgery at Lakeside Hospital, East Jefferson Hospital and Doctor's Hospital. He also served as King of the Krewe of Caesar in Metairie and was received a Key to the Town of Berwick during that Mardi Gras Season.

"I'll long remember the friendliness of all the people," said Dr. Guzzetta, "and the freedom to grow up in a town where it was safe to go anywhere as a youngster. I also appreciated the opportunity to meet many nationalities of people, for example, Sicilian, Italian, Syrian, Cajun, Jewish, and Irish. Memories of my teachers and coaches stay with me today. The BER Theater, where my Dad was the manager, where I spent countless hours cooking popcorn and sharing it with many of my friends at the movie, 5 cents a bag and 10 cents a box! Carnival time was always a memorable time as my Father created and decorated magnificent Mardi stages at the Berwick Gym. I also remember when Berwick was blessed with paved streets and natural gas. There was a big celebration on Main Street when the gas was ignited using Roman Candles and a large feast was enjoyed by all. I have fond memories of working as an Orderly in the Morgan City Hospital with Dr. Mario Lopez, Dr. Sam Russo and Dr. Brownell."

Outside of work, Dr. Guzzetta's hobbies include oil painting, gardening, cooking, dancing and traveling. They have traveled to most of the countries around the world, most recently returning from a two week trip to Israel and Jordan. A very exciting trip a couple of years ago was to Sicily where he traveled to the small town of Chiusa Sclafani from where his grandparents immigrated to Berwick in 1908.

Public Works Part II



In an earlier edition we shared information and a picture of the men and women who work vigorously to keep our town clean and efficient, the Public Works Department. Now we take a closer look at this vital part of our town. While this department may go un-noticed to many, indeed it is crucial to everyone. Many of us take for granted the myriad of workings and services that Public Works provides, but truthfully, if these weren't provided we would all be aware quickly.

The Department is run by Director Rafael Lopez, who has been employed by our Town since 1990. Mr. Lopez continuously participates in educational seminars on how to best meet the needs of Berwick. His day begins early at the Town workshop on Utah street where he meets with supervisor Rusty Hardaway to discuss the implementation of various

works and needs of the town. Each employee is then given their daily responsibility. Many of these are on-going tasks, while some others might have just developed and will be placed on an emergency or priority list.

Grass crews stay busy keeping our town esthetically pleasing to look at, while also aiding in drainage efforts.

New construction and new projects are also a part of the department's responsibilities.

Additionally, employees are in the process of implementing electronic water and gas meters throughout our town. Also, water, gas and sewer projects are monitored and maintained.

Mr. Lopez monitors the certifications of various employees. There are 3 employees certified in the water department, and 7 in the gas department. These employees undergo continuous education through various seminars annually to ensure that the Town of Berwick complies with DHH for water and the Department of Natural Resources for gas. Our Town is evaluated by each agency - water every year and gas every three years to maintain safe and optimal service to our community.

The maintenance division of Public Works provides mechanic work and repairs on a timely basis to all equipment thus assuring a cost saving measure to our Town.

Our Public Works department saves our tax payers money in that almost every project, service and undertaking is done in-house as compared to resorting to an outside contract. Many Public Works employees are excellent carpenters, craftsmen, mechanics and the list goes on. Employing their skills is a bonus for our town. Evidence of this is the beautiful gazebos along the waterfront and our amazing walking trail.

In truth, our Public Works department is a great part of why we all love Berwick. Hats off to Mr. Lopez and the men and women of Berwick Public Works!

BHS Students To Host Crossing Generations Mixer on August 18th

Berwick High students presented a winning proposal at this year's Morgan City Rotary New Generation program. This proposal has now become reality and will come to life on Thursday, August 18th at 6 PM at the Berwick Civic Center.

This unique idea genuinely benefits everyone. They determined that joining older adults and teens together had great merit. The premise behind their proposal is to host monthly "mixer" gatherings. These events will be a time where teens can share their knowledge with senior citizens for areas such as technology (including use of computers, cell phones, social media, etc), as well as any other information of interest to senior citizens.

The benefit expands and includes a genuine desire from the teens to learn from senior citizens! These young people want to learn from the wisdom of older ones such as life skills, job interview tips, how to balance a checkbook, mechanics, sewing and basic life principles. By far, the best source to learn from is those who have experienced these challenges – our senior adults.

I'm sure you will agree with our Town Council, who quickly embraced the concept, that this proposal is a win-win for all. The August 18th event is open to everyone across the parish. Make plans now to attend and support our teens and senior citizens. Refreshments will be served.

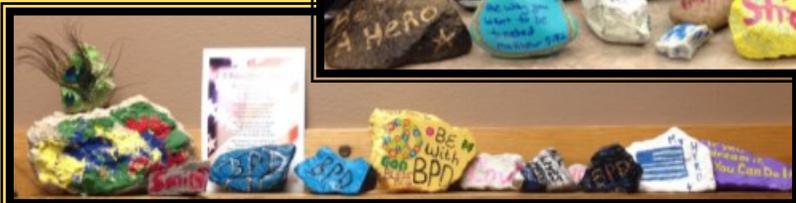
Mrs. Kim Vasquez is the clubs' sponsor.

Pictured are: (L-R)

Arly Salinas, Katherine Theriot, Kristina Theriot, Isabella Lodrique, Kayla Falgout, Joshua Fabre, Jeremy Orgeron, Matteo Landry



Berwick community shows support for their law enforcement!! Simple acts of kindness like these pictured remind our officers that their services are truly appreciated!



Gina DeHart added 4 new photos — 😊 feeling thankful.
July 21 at 12:26 · Berwick · 🌐

Another wonderful surprise from Guidry Orthodontics! A fruit tray, veggie tray, sandwiches and cookies! Got a few goodies also pens and t shirts! Thank you again for the support and the encouragement!
Ricky Dinger
David Guidry

Gina DeHart added 5 new photos.
July 23 at 10:47 · Berwick · 🌐

This morning these wonderful people brought us some fudge and cookies that were in an adorable container that read "Heros don't wear capes, they wear a police uniform" and "We support you"! The small gestures of kindness is what keeps us going! Thank you on behalf of the Berwick Police Department!



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