



Berwick Beacon

Town of Berwick

December 2013

Town Council Members
Duval Arthur-Mayor Pro tem
Troy Lombardo
Edgar Thomas
Damon Robison
Greg Roussel

Special points of interest:

- www.sitesbylea.com/Recollections/
- Facebook search: "You Know You Are From Berwick If..."
- [History of South-west Reef Light-house](#)

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS WILL BE ELECTRONIC ONLY AND WILL BE POSTED ON THE TOWN WEBSITE. SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE/SMART DEVICE TO GO DIRECTLY TO OUR WEBSITE AND REGISTER YOUR EMAIL TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF THE PUBLICATION OF A NEW EDITION OF THE BERWICK BEACON



We are on the web.
www.townofberwick.com

Scenes from the festivities on the riverfront at the conclusion of the Tour de Teche.



From The Mayor's Desk.....

Greetings To All,

2013 is in the final stretches with Thanksgiving and Christmas fast approaching. As I reflect back on this year, I see so much to be thankful for. I hope you agree with me that we are



all truly blessed to be living in our wonderful community of Berwick. To name a few blessings I begin with our outstanding public schools. I give thanks to our school administrators, teachers, support staff and our students. We are also blessed with many churches in our community. Just look around, and you, too, will find many blessings.

Our town crews will soon be preparing for the holidays. This is the time when we celebrate one of the joyous events of the Christian calendar – Christmas. In Berwick, our celebration begins on the evening of Thanksgiving when Santa arrives for our annual lighting ceremony. I and your Councilmen hope that you will join us for this family event.

On behalf of the Town of Berwick, I offer Season's Greetings to all of our citizens and also to their families and friends who will be visiting our town.

May God bless you and your family during this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season.

Mayor Louis Ratcliff

Berwick-Bayou Vista Flag Football Champions

The Tigers won the Berwick-Bayou Vista Flag Football League's Bayou Bowl on November 11th with a 30-7 victory over the Wildcats at the Berwick Civic Center. The Tigers finished the season with a 15-1 mark.

Team members are Hayden Landry, Andrew Bassa, Bryson Booty, Noah Crowe, Rhett Ratcliff, Ross Thomas; 2nd row, Rhett Thomas, Parker Kulka, Brannon Chassion, Luke Thomas, Reise Ratcliff; back row, Coaches: Ronnie Ratcliff, Scott Thomas and Kevin Kulka



Not pictured is Freddie Calloway

A LOOK BACK



Louisiana Oyster & Fish Co., Inc. on the Atchafalaya River in the early 1900's.



Berwick "coal chute" 1918, from the Marvin Hardee Collection.



For August 2013 the Beacon Shines on former CAO/Town Clerk Dave Thomas.



November 2013 the Beacon Shines on former Berwick Mayor Charles Savoie.



Councilman Damon Robison

What a pleasure it has been to serve the citizens of Berwick for the past seven years! Several projects that your government has undertaken in those years include the addition of the new

Hilton Rebarði Fire Substation on River Road, additions to our popular walking trail, technology upgrades in our Police Department, and improvements to playgrounds, baseball fields, and the public wharves along the Atchafalaya River to mention only a few. In the coming year watch for the installation of new playground equipment at the Civic Center, the overlaying of Pattie Drive from Hwy. 182 to BHS, further improvements to the public wharves, and new sidewalks south of the railroad (pending TEP grant funds approved in 2011). The Town is in the process of replacing the Civic Center roof, which is an indication the we take care of what you have entrusted to us. Many such projects go unnoticed such as sewer, water and gas line repairs and replacements performed by town crews. There are so many such projects constantly underway that to attempt to list here would take up too much room.

I am blessed to live in a community of such wonderful people and I wish for each of you peace and joy during the coming Christmas season.

Berwick Christmas Lighting Contest

The Berwick Garden Club proudly announces the 2013 Christmas Lighting contest for the following dates:

December 8th - mobile home

December 9th - house

Garden club members ask that lights be turned on at 6 PM and left on until 8 PM. Areas for judging include: Old Berwick, Golden Farms, Country Club and Renwick.

The following prizes will be awarded in each of the four areas for a total of 16 prizes throughout the town:

First Place - \$50

Second Place - \$35

Third Place - \$25

Honorable mentions will be awarded a sign for their yard.

Berwick Scores High on Anti-Litter Survey

The Keep St. Mary Beautiful committee recently conducted a litter index survey throughout the Town of Berwick. Parish Director Rodney Grogan, along with committee members from across the parish, took a driving tour to conduct the survey. Committee members divided the town into 5 areas for the survey. Berwick representatives on the parish committee are Charlie Ann Eues and Jacki Ackel.

Mayor Louis Ratcliff was host and tour guide for the survey. Mayor Ratcliff narrated the tour and pointed out several historical areas of Berwick. He also shared history on the newer developments of our town. The committee toured residential and business areas of Berwick.

Committee members ranked each area of Berwick on a scale of 1 - 4. A score of "1" indicated no litter; "2" indicated slightly littered; "3" littered; and "4" extremely littered.

Results of the survey showed that of the 4 of the 5 areas had an overall score of 1. Only one area scored a 1.5.

These results are, as of this date, the highest in the parish of communities currently surveyed.

Congratulations Berwick! Thank you all for taking such pride in our Town. Let us all work together to "Keep Berwick Beautiful" forever!

St. Mary Parish MADD Chapter Recognizes Berwick Police Officer Shaun Liner



Every year the MADD Chapter acknowledges the top ten officers in the parish. Shaun Liner was honored as the BPD officer with the most DWI arrests for the past year. Pictured are Councilman Edgar Thomas, Mayor Louis Ratcliff, Officer Liner and Chief James Richard at the event held at the Lamp Post in Franklin.

BERWICK FIRE DEPARTMENT



Our fire department was started back in the late 1800's as nothing more than an old fashioned bucket brigade. In 1908 the department earned the money to purchase its first fire engine which was pulled around by a horse. Since that day, the department has flourished and now boasts of new, modern equipment to handle any emergency.

Under the direction of current Fire Chief Allen Rink, the department has one paid fire fighter and 36 active volunteers, along with several associate members. The department conducts weekly in-house trainings. Each month, an instructor from LSU comes down to conduct classes. So far this year, the Berwick Fire Department has responded to over 160 emergency calls.

Each year, the department hosts a fire prevention education program with a visit to each of the schools in our town, including day care centers. Several classes take field trips to the fire station where students watch videos on fire safety, what to do in case of a fire, and then they get to see first-hand the fire-fighting equipment and the fire truck!

The department is primarily a volunteer organization. The major fund-raiser is the annual shrimp gumbo dinner, a tradition the department has kept for 40 years.

In an interview with Chief Rink, he issued the following request to the people of our town: "It's getting to be that time of year again where space heaters are being used more and more, as well as other types of methods for keeping warm. We ask that all smoke alarms be tested. Also, please test your fire extinguishers and keep them in a safe place in case of fire. We can also come out and check your smoke alarm and fire extinguisher. Our number is 385-1646. Please do not hesitate to call the fire department for any question. On behalf of the Berwick Fire Department, I would like to wish everyone Safe and Happy Holidays.

VETERANS DAY 2013

Mayor Louis Ratcliff offered the following at a Veterans Day Memorial held this past Veterans Day, November 11, 2013 at the Blue Star Memorial Highway marker at the Berwick Civic Center:

Today, we celebrate Veterans Day to honor every man and woman who has taken up arms to defend our country. We honor every soldier, sailor, airman, marine and coastguardsman who served our great country and stood ready to give his/her life on our behalf.

And on this national holiday, our hearts are filled with respect and gratitude for the veterans of the United States of America.

We also recall the men and women who did not live to be called "veterans". Our living veterans remember the faces and voices of fallen comrades. Our nation honors every patriot who placed duty and country before their own lives. They made the ultimate sacrifice so that we could live in freedom.

In closing I would like to thank the Berwick Garden Club for sponsoring today's celebration.



Pictured is Lynn Giroir and Duval Arthur

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.



Jenny Craig, whose real name is Genevieve Guidroz, hails from Louisiana... Berwick, to be exact, where she was born in 1932. She spent much of her earlier life in New Orleans and went on

to marry Sidney Harvey Craig in the late 1970s. Jenny Craig met Sidney after he hired her to be the director of the Body Contour fitness salon in New Orleans. She later became the national director of operations for the company. Their history of diet, weight loss, and fitness includes a program they started in Australia, but they are most famous for their sensational creation, Jenny Craig, Inc., which they began in the United States in 1985.

While most people associate her name with the weight loss business, the Jenny Craig biography includes a number of other interests, including many philanthropic associations. Some of the most well-known causes include the United Way, Easter Seals, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Peace At Home's domestic violence prevention program, and many others, including various universities.

Many people are also unaware that **Jenny Craig** and her husband have made quite a name for themselves in the horse racing world. As the owners of a thoroughbred horse farm in Rancho Santa Fe, California, they've found success with several horses, including Mr. Devious, which finished seventh in the 1992 Kentucky Derby and was the winner of the Epsom Derby in the same year. Also in 1992, their filly, Paseana, won the Breeders' cup Distaff. As recently as 2003, another of their horses, Candy Ride, was the winner of six races in a row.

From their early beginnings in the weight loss business in Melbourne, Australia in 1983, and later their incorporation of Jenny Craig, Inc., their company has become one of the most well-known and largest weight loss oriented companies in the world. Today, their locations span the United States, Canada, Australia, Puerto Rico, and New Zealand. All this from a girl born in little 'ol Berwick!



"Recollections of Berwick, LA"

By Nina Guzzetta

Republished Courtesy of Daily Review

November 20, 1998

I met a lady on the Berwick Walking Trail a while back and I asked her why she hadn't been walking on the trail regularly like she use to. She said that she walks the trail in Morgan City because it has a restroom. I said: "Lady our trail here in Berwick is 1 1/8 miles long, which is next to the woods which is 1 1/8 miles long. Those woods is the longest restroom in St. Mary Parish. The only thing you have to do is bring your own paper."

I was talking to Bolo LaCoste this morning, and he told me about a little incident that Herb Vining had told him years ago. Herb told him that one day he was sitting in a barroom, right next to a stranger. They began to talk and really got acquainted. They talked about many things and finally Herb told the stranger, bragging just a bit, that he had just come back from a hunting trip and he had killed 42 ducks. The stranger looked very interested and asked Herb: "How many ducks did you kill?" He answered very proudly: "42!" The stranger stood up and told Herb that he would like to introduce himself as the federal Game Warden in this parish. At that, Herb stood up, undauntedly, and told the Game Warden: "My name is Herb Vining and I'm the biggest liar in St. Mary Parish!"

Remember the Arcade Theatre on Railroad Avenue in Morgan City, where L&H Printing Co. stands today? Eldridge Naquin use to play the piano-roll music. The last movie that I saw there in the 1920s was the silent movie "Ben Hur" with Ramon Navarro.

I met Bobby Hughes a while back in the post office. I enjoyed reminiscing with him. Bobby and my son, Bobby, were friends growing up as kids. I told Bobby Hughes about how much I use to enjoy talking to his daddy, "Bootsy" Hughes. We came up together in Berwick. "Bootsy used to always fantasize about how much money he had. he would say: "Nina, I just put in two million dollars in the Bank of Ricohoc because I don't like to carry that much pocket change on me." Bobby Hughes told me how much he enjoyed my column "Recollections" in *The Daily Review* and looks forward every Friday for the paper.

Here's what you call a "big tipper." I met Paul Harvey at Shoney's the other day and he proceeded to tell me about the time when he, V.J. Bella and John Siracusa stopped at a small hamburger place in Baton Rouge. They each had a hamburger and a drink. The waitress laid the bill of approximately \$7.85 on the table. V.J. said, "I got it!" So he put a \$20 bill next to the check. When the waitress came back, John Siracusa slid the \$20 over to the waitress and said, "You keep the change, honey!" V.J. choked on his hamburger and wanted to kill John. Thus, John the "Big Tipper."

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