



Berwick Beacon

Town of Berwick

January 2015

Town Council Members
Jacki Ackel-Mayor Pro tem
Troy Lombardo
Duval Arthur
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](#)

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



Berwick Town Market

Join us for the first market date of 2015

--- Saturday, February 7th ---

Berwick Police Department will be there to fingerprint children.

It's a new year, with new vendors and new ideas! Follow us on Facebook for updates and schedules.

<https://www.facebook.com/berwickiamarket?rf=135108546539113>

From The Mayor's Desk.....

Mayor's Message

Thanks to all of those citizens who voted for me to return as Mayor for the next four years. I



am humbled by the support I received. Also, congratulations to our new Council that was elected; Councilwoman Mrs. Jacki Ackel, Councilmen Duval Arthur, Troy Lombardo, Damon Robison and Greg Roussel. I'm looking forward to working with this outstanding group of individuals to make Berwick a better home for all of us.

During the year, we should see several new projects that hopefully will commence: Mr. Privat's 57 lot subdivision west of Renwick; a new sewer lift station in the area of the Cameron facility; and the final section of walking trail along Fairview Drive connecting Patty Drive with Gilmore Street using monies from a State grant.

We hope that 2015 brings prosperity and health to all of you and our staff will be working hard to do our part to make our community a better place to live.

May God continue to bless our Town and residents!

Mayor Louis Ratcliff

Berwick Library News:

The Berwick Branch of the St. Mary Parish Library offers numerous programs for both children and adults. Patrons are encouraged to stop by the Library and get a copy of the newsletter for details and dates. Adults are also encouraged to join the Adult Book Club at their regularly scheduled session on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Beginning in February, members will read and discuss a series of books by author Susan Wiggs.

For more information, stop by or call 985-385-2943. For more information, please visit the website, www.stmary.lib.la.us.



Progress Around Town

Pattie Drive Overlay



Before crew began work



Crew workers from Huey Stockstill



After the overlay is complete

Pharr Park



Crew workers Chris Ballance, Herman Richard, and Dillon Howard work on paving the parking lot at Pharr Park



Pharr Park now has a paved parking lot!!!



Councilman/Mayor Pro Tem Jacki Ackel

I recently took the Oath of Office to serve the Town of Berwick. Following that, I was voted in as Mayor Pro-Tem. It is quite difficult to find words that completely define how I feel at this time. Sure, the old clichés of “my heart is filled with gratitude”, and “I’m just so very grateful” may be fitting, but to me they just sound like the winner of a beauty pageant. In truth, there are no words so; instead, I pledge to show my gratitude with actions. I look forward to the next four years. And, I eagerly anticipate the excitement of continued growth and prosperity for our Berwick. I am proud to serve with a Mayor and Council who seek to provide the greater good for all and who constantly strive to know the pulse of our community. During the recent election campaign, I proudly displayed my heartfelt feeling of “I believe in Berwick”. My desire is for all of us to not only adopt, but more importantly, to embrace this together with a strong belief in our heritage, our culture, our Town departments, our schools, our businesses and..... the prospects of making Berwick even better! As we go through the next four years together, I pray many blessings for all.

Swearing in of Elected Officials



Mayor Louis Ratcliff with wife Janice and Town Attorney Allen McElroy



Councilmen Duval Arthur, Damon Robison, Jacki Ackel, Troy Lombardo, and Greg Roussel with Town Attorney Allen McElroy



Constable of Ward 8 J.P. Henry with wife Tori, daughter Hannah, and Town Attorney Allen McElroy.



Justice of the Peace of Ward 8 Herb Mashburn with wife Sheryl and Town Attorney Allen McElroy.

Berwick Police Department News:

2014 Top Cop Award



Berwick Police Officer Shaun Liner has received Top Cop Honors for the 2nd year. The St. Mary Parish MADD Chapter annually honors officers from across the parish who have been the most diligent in removing drunk/drugged drivers from our roads and highways. Officer Liner received the honor in 2013 and retained that distinction in 2014.

Shown above at Award Ceremony are (L-R)

Councilman Duval Arthur, Officer Quentin Menard, Chief James Richard, Top Cop Officer Shaun Liner, and Mayor Louis Ratcliff.

Fines in Berwick Increased

Beginning on January 1st of this year, all fines in the Town of Berwick have been increased. Police Chief James Richard reported that the increase is primarily due to a mandate by the state which regulates the cost of court and actual cost of fines.

Of particular notice is the increase in two of the major complaints received by the police department. First is the fine for dogs or animals of any kind roaming loose at large on any street, alley or other public property. Strictly forbidden in the Berwick Town Code of Ordinances, this fine now carries a penalty of \$175 per violation. Chief Richard requests owners to constantly supervise their pets. In many cases, especially those of dogs, the police department gets many calls of complaints. Loose dogs can pose a threat of injury to residents as well as other dogs and cats. Additionally, they often tear up other’s property, knock over trash cans, and leave unwanted residue in yards. Berwick’s Small Animal Warden regularly patrols the town, as well as responds to calls of complaints. Chief Richard said his office appreciates and encourages citizen’s calls to report loose dogs.

Another fine of interest to Berwick residents is the increase in the fine of speeding. Previously the minimum fine was \$80, while the maximum was \$130. New fines are now \$125 for the minimum and \$400 for the maximum. Chief Richard reports that speeding violations constitute a large portion of citations in our town. The Chief also commends citizens for calls of complaints of speeding and encourages those calls in the future.

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.

Keith Barbier, a native of Berwick and currently a resident of Katy, Texas, graduated from Berwick High School in 1973 following 12 years in our local schools. Keith's mother Maxine was born in Berwick, and his father "Sneak" was originally from Morgan City. His mother, sister Cathy and husband Clint Crappell still live in Berwick, a sister-in-law and many Aunts, Uncles and Cousins reside in the area as well.



Upon graduation, Mr. Barbier attended Northwestern State University, receiving an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice. Keith began his career in Law Enforcement with the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office, 1976-1978. He would later move on to the Texas Department of Public Safety as a State Trooper and would eventually retire in 2011 as a Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division with 33.5 years of service. He would serve as a supervisor for 23 years serving as a Highway Patrol Sergeant, then a Lieutenant in CID. Lt. Barbier had the opportunity to work with officers from around the world and many Federal agencies. After 09/11/2001, he was involved in Homeland Security working with the US Coast Guard and others for better security of the Port of Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast. He currently works for a major insurance company as a Special Investigations Unit Investigator.

Professionally, Mr. Barbier has been honored with several job related awards and citation unit awards, among the more prominent are several Outstanding Investigation awards and a Unit award for assisting in the creation of www.StopHoustongangs.org a highly successful site for the recognizing of gangs and information on how citizens can report gang activity, and wanted gang members in the Houston, Texas area. Keith has additionally undergone training and education at Stephen F Austin University, the FBI National Academy, and Texas Department of Public Safety Recruit School and is certified as a Texas Police Instructor and Texas Master Peace Officer. Keith said, "I've had the great opportunity to travel across the US, Canada and to Germany training Law Enforcement Officers from local, state, federal and other government agencies. In 1996 I was one of the runners of the Olympic Torch for the 1996 Olympic Games."

"Berwick was really a great place to grow up, everyone knew all the kids and we had the chance to run and play without the worries of kids today" Keith says. Growing up in a small town, going to Panther football games at the old Pharr Park, playing tag all day long during the summers throughout the entire neighborhood, going up to my Grandfathers place on the riverfront after school and after baseball practice to eat boiled crabs, and other seafood he might have, it all tasted like chicken. Other fond memories are playing sports with all my friends, spending many hours swimming, skiing in the Bayou Tech with the crew and lots of trips down the river hunting.... Playing in the woods behind the 1st Baptist Church and thinking it was like a thousand acres; when looking at it today its really small. The football game when we beat Notre Dame of Crowley at Panther Stadium and the crowd was going crazy, we had never seen anything like that. Walking across the "old bridge" to go to the movie at the "show" as we called it back then. Being a Berwick Volunteer Fireman with the other guys when you are 16 years old and how we had to move out of BHS our last few weeks of school due to the flooding of the river and the US Army Troops occupying and living in the school. More recently, the many Class reunions that the BHS Class of 73 has had.

Keith has been married to Martha Brown (also a BHS grad) for 38 years. Martha has been a Registered nurse for those 38 years, also retired recently, and has since assumed duties as a school nurse for the Katy School District. Their two daughters both attended Katy High School and graduated from Texas A&M University and Sam Houston State University. In addition to the girls, they have a son-in-law, and 2 year old Grandson, with whom they enjoy spending time. Blessed with good health, their family enjoys motorcycle riding, jet ski riding, and spending weekends at their place on the Texas coast watching the waves roll in. High School Football and attending NASCAR Races or other activities they enjoy.

Berwick Authors Showcase Literary Talents

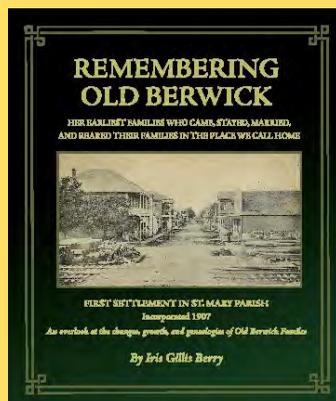


Former Berwick resident, Harlan Guillot now of Bayou Vista, wrote: Raised on a Dead End Street. The novel is largely a collection of memories of his life in and around Berwick. Stories in the novel reflect the culture and lifestyle around which

he was raised and that he treasures and credits for the man he is today.

Harlan is also in the process of writing a fiction piece about a young couple from Berwick. For the content of this future publication, he relied heavily upon his own past experiences of hunting, fishing and trapping in the area he proudly calls 'home'. Harlan is excited to be writing and fulfilling a talent that has always held a special place in his heart. We wouldn't be surprised to see more Harlan Guillot publications in the future!

Another local author, Mrs. Iris Berry, has recently published two of a ten part series of fact and fiction. First is The Dancing Alligators; second is The Legend of The Haunted Lighthouse. Both writings have that wonderful blend of fiction which draws the reader's imagination, and fact which informs and enlightens readers of history. The other eight books in the series are currently in the editing process and should be ready for publication very soon. Mrs. Iris has also written twelve stand-alone books currently awaiting publication including: Remembering Old Berwick. This writing is a rich history of our town's beginnings. Beyond that, she has penned another series titled "True Heart" that includes nine short stories. Through the years she has written many books, but never thought of publishing them until recently when her daughter-in-law encouraged her to share her writings. From that prompting, now we all can be the recipients of the storybook talents of Mrs. Iris Berry! For more information on Iris Berry's books, go to www.irisberrybooks.com.



St. Mary Central Dixie Youth

Registration:

Registrations are now being accepted online now at www.smcbaseball.org

Registrations will be accepted at Berwick Town Hall between 2/9 and 3/6. Registrations will also be taken at the Berwick Civic Center on Feb 23, 24, & 26 and March 2, 3, & 5 between 5:30 and 7:30.

Berwick Softball Registration:



Registrations will be accepted at Berwick Town Hall beginning mid February. Registration dates at the Berwick Civic Center will be listed soon.

For more information, contact Berwick Town Hall at 985-384-8858.

Berwick Basketball Closing

Ceremonies:



Basketball closing ceremonies will be held at the Berwick Civic Center Thursday March 5th at 5:30 p.m.

"Recollections of Berwick, LA"

By Nina Guzzetta

Republished Courtesy of Daily Review

January 21, 2000



Gorilla meets soda jerk:

A gorilla walked up to a soda fountain and ordered a chocolate ice cream soda. The attendant behind the counter was amazed to hear a gorilla speak, but brings the soda anyway.

The gorilla finished the soda and handed the attendant \$10. The attendant doesn't think that the gorilla knows anything about money, so he gives the gorilla \$1 back in change. "Hope you enjoyed the soda; we don't get too many gorillas around here," the attendant said. "At \$9 a soda," said the gorilla, "it's no wonder."

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