



Berwick Beacon

Town of Berwick

July 2014

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.org

Berwick-Bayou Vista Flag Football Registration:

Registration: Mondays-Fridays, July 28th through August 25th 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Berwick Town Hall and August 25th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Berwick Civic Center. Questions call Town Hall at 985-384-8858.

From The Mayor's Desk.....



Summer is indeed in full swing. Children playing, family bar-b-ques and crawfish boils, folks walking on our trails, and neighbors visiting in their yards are just a few summer scenes around our town. It is these sights and more that remind me of why we live in Berwick. We are indeed blessed to live in our town and I hope that you agree. I also hope that our children will always have good memories of summertime fun in their hometown.

While climatologists predict a mild hurricane season, I urge everyone to be vigilant in making plans and preparations. Most of us have experienced a few hurricanes and know what to do, but it is easy to become complacent since we haven't had a major storm lately. Nevertheless, let's all be prepared and ready.

On August 16 and 17, our Lighthouse will be featured in an International event. The BEARS, ham radio operators, will set up operation at the base of our Lighthouse along the river bank and communicate with people at other lighthouses around the world. I, along with the Council, invite you to come out and "hear" what's going on.

As always, I extend my sincere appreciation to the residents of Berwick for taking pride in our community, for helping to make our community safe and for choosing Berwick as your home.

May God Bless You All, Mayor Louis Ratcliff



The 5th Annual Tour du Teche is a 135 mile canoe/kayak/pirogue race through the heart of Louisiana's Cajun Country and takes place on October 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Paddlers for

this race will pass through four parishes, woods, swamps, cane fields, and a dozen of the friendliest communities around. Tour du Teche began in 2010 with the dual purpose of introducing the beautiful Teche Country to paddlers and other eco-tourists from beyond and to illustrate for its residents the recreational, aesthetic, cultural and economic value of Bayou Teche. The race will conclude at the Everette S. Berry Memorial Lighthouse Park on the Berwick river front. The Town of Berwick will host festivities on Sunday October 5th from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

MAKING PROGRESS



The Renwick pavilion is almost complete and trees have been planted



Crews are working hard on installing new drainage in Country Club Estates Subdivision



The extension of the walking trail along the levee on Fairview has been completed.



Extension of the wharf on the river front has been completed.



Mayor Pro-Tem Duval Arthur

I was just looking at my desk planner for the next few weeks and putting together a list of "Honey-do's" for me to take care of before I can take it easy for the 4th of July Weekend. My wife has always proven to be my "Reality Check" that I need

to keep me on the right track. Thank goodness we have our 'auto-mated mates' that remind us that its time to cut the grass, paint the fence, and to clean all of those leaves (from last fall) from the gutter. It's amazing how they notice that stuff! But I wanted to share another list of things my wife does to prepare for Hurricane Season.

First off she always makes a copy of all of our Insurance papers and put them in a large one gallon zip lock bag (she usually puts an extra checkbook and a telephone book in that bag also). Next she takes pictures of our house, car, shed, then goes inside to take pictures of our TV, DVD, Computers, and other gadgets/toys (expensive and the cheap ones as well) that we have laying around the house. Gets a copy of all prescriptions for the medicines we take. A list of telephone numbers for our family physicians, pharmacy, neighbors, and of course the locations where our kids will evacuate to. She doesn't pack her overnight bag just yet... she usually waits until a storm is about to enter the Gulf and then she packs about three days of clothes, hygiene gear, and then her medicines. NOW...she is ready to go if the order to Evacuate is given.

On behalf of the Mayor, Council, and City of Berwick Employees we want you to have a safe and happy 4th of July... enjoy yourself! God Bless America!

Berwick Library News:



The Berwick Library, along with the Town of Berwick, will promote the International Lighthouse Event the week of August 11 -16. We will have a book display and information on Lighthouses and Ham Radio.

August will continue to be busy as we plan for the school year. As always, we are happy to host Berwick Elementary Pre-K and Kindergarten students twice each month where the students enjoy reading and learning centers. For junior and senior high school students we continue to offer a variety of research and reading material.

In October, our library will participate in the Tour du Teche festivities with an activity booth. So, make sure you come by and say hello, play some games and make a few crafts!

We invite adults to be a part of our adult book club which meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6 PM. Teens are invited to join their book club for meetings on the fourth Friday of the month at 4 PM.

For more information, please check us out at www.stmary.lib.la.us, or find us on Facebook or Twitter. You can also come in and sign up for our Library Lagniappe Newsletter to be mailed to you.

Berwick Lighthouse To Be Illuminated Around The World



During the weekend of August 16th and 17th, our Berwick Lighthouse will, figuratively speaking, be illuminated via air-waves of the local ham radio operators!

Recently, representatives from the Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Services club, or BEARS as it is commonly referred to, requested permission from the Berwick Town Council to participate in the International Lighthouse Weekend broadcasting from our Lighthouse. Berwick Mayor and Councilmen unanimously accepted and began working with the organization to plan for the exciting event.

BEARS members have entered our Lighthouse in the event and have notified the Town that our Lighthouse, the Southwest Reef Lighthouse, has been awarded an International Lighthouse Registration number! Built in 1858, The Southwest Reef Lighthouse in Berwick has a rich history which can be found in detail on the Town of Berwick website at www.townofberwick.org.

The weekend event will feature a broadcast station set up under the Lighthouse located at the Everett S. Berry Memorial Lighthouse Park along the riverbank. BEARS members will be 'talking' to operators at Lighthouses in approximately 85 countries such as Argentina, Australia, Denmark, England, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, Scotland, South Africa, as well as numerous places in the United States. Additionally, information on the Lighthouse and amateur radio will be available.

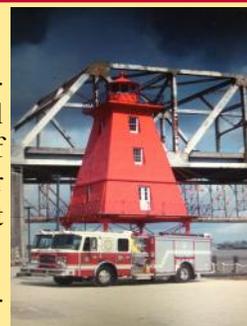
The purpose of the event is three-fold: to promote public awareness of lighthouses and their need for preservation and restoration; to promote the importance of amateur radio; and to foster international goodwill.

Amateur radio operators service is very valuable in times of disaster. At those times, operators assist emergency workers to provide much needed communication. Ham radio played a vital role in the New York 9/11 tragedy. Closer to home, they provided assistance during Hurricane Katrina.

The Lighthouse weekend in Berwick will truly be quite interesting and exciting. So, please make your plans now to stop by and see "who's talking now"!

BERWICK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

The Berwick Volunteer Fire Department recently mailed their annual letter of financial assistance request. With the continued goal of "making our community safe", this volunteer fire department would not be possible without the support of the people of our town.



In a paragraph from the letter, "This is a program in which every dollar you invest comes right back to you in huge dividends and peace of mind."

Fire Chief Allen Rink issues a plea to all residents of Berwick to please make a financial donation to our fire department. If you have not mailed in your contribution, please send whatever amount you can to:

P.O. Box 36
Berwick, LA 70342



Berwick Elementary

Berwick Elementary Principal, Debbie Tompkins, values the high level of parent participation at her school. She further explained that parent participation doesn't just mean volunteering at school, but more importantly how parents partner with the school to help their child succeed academically.

This year, she and her staff will be working extremely hard to move students toward being more technologically prepared. She issues an urgent plea to parents to work with their children at home. She asked parents who have a computer at home to work with their child on computer skills. Skills learned from computer use will greatly enhance academic success. This coming school year, all 5th graders will work on laptops as much as possible.

Tompkins also asks parents to strengthen their child's reading ability by encouraging children to read non-fiction. Afterwards, test their reading comprehension by asking them to recall facts and information they read.

Another way parents can partner in their child's academic growth is to use real-world math as often as possible. This can be a fun family activity to find creative ways around the house or in daily routines to use math.

Berwick Elementary plan to continue and expand their emphasis on student character and behavior. The popular "story and snack" will continue for those students who earn that privilege. Tompkins is extremely proud of her entire staff for their dedication to enhancing student character. Those practices are embedded in every part of the school day.

The 2014-15 school year at Berwick Elementary will no doubt be yet another successful, fun and fulfilling year for all.



Meet the new BJHS Administration:

Principal Tim Hymel and Assistant Principal Lane Larive each bring a lengthy tenure of educational experience ranging from teacher/coach to administration. Equally, they are both excited and looking forward to leading Berwick Jr. High students and staff.

When asked about expectations of the coming school year, they both agree on maintaining the integrity of the successful school status in all areas including test scores, behavior and school climate, safe school, and positive environment.

Leadership styles for the two are also in sync. Almost in unison, they described their style as "fair and consistent, and holding firm to high expectations both academically and behaviorally".

Curriculum areas will continue to see growth as the school embraces the double-block plan for both math and English.

The new leaders agree that they are eager to begin the school year, meet the parents and continue to be a successful part of the Berwick community.



BHS Looks Forward to New School Year

In a recent interview with BHS principal Dr. Buffy Fegenbush, she shared her goal for all students: to fully prepare them for the world when they walk across the stage at graduation! She and her staff strive to accomplish this through a strong academic program and numerous club and athletic opportunities, all delivered in the most positive, safe environment possible.

Dr. Fegenbush said that both she and her staff feel an obligation to the community because the school houses the most important commodity -- our youth. She went on to say that despite the high expectations she places on her students, nothing would be possible without parent and community support. She described the partnership between school, parents and the community as 'interwoven' and wants everyone to know that her door is 'always open'.

BHS is not only proud of their academic A status, but also of the many initiatives happening at BHS. One in particular is the ARC or Acts Of Random Kindness. Members of this organization hold weekly meetings to survey the needs of the student body and see where they can assist. Other highlights at BHS include a band of over 120 members, athletics, and a variety of student organizations.

True to her character, the love she has for BHS students was quite evident as she spoke with anticipation for the new school year.



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Saturday, August 9 11:00a-4:00p

Join us for a fun event to help us help children of all ages prepare themselves for this upcoming school year. School supplies, backpacks, hair care for boys and girls, etc. will be given away!!!

For more information please contact us at ihelpoutreach@gmail.com.

Hosted By: iHELP ~ "INDIVIDUAL HELPERS EXERCISING LOVE FOR PEOPLE!"

Contact Persons: Chantari Johnson 337.281.9261 ~ Tonique James 337.321.0475 ~ Bennetta Johnson 337.224.9930

PROJECT GRADUATION

Project Graduation 2014 was a huge success. This was our 16th year. We had over 100 graduates attend this amazing event. They played on awesome inflatables, rode a mechanical bull, ate everything from boiled crawfish to funnel cakes, danced, sang, snatched money in the money machine, and boy-oh-boy did they win prizes. We are so blessed to live in a community that cares. Berwick Project Graduation is a gift this community gives it's Graduates every year and we are so thankful to you all for your support. We are already planning for the Class of 2015 and covet your support.



"Recollections of Berwick, LA"

By Nina Guzzetta

Republished Courtesy of Daily Review

June 11, 1999



I will never forget the storm, "Debra!" Tarville Davis called me to help him round up two of Vick Guarisco's hogs that got loose at Riverside Packing Co. We found one of the hogs in a muddy, sloppy pen so Tarville tried to lasso him. They wrestled in the mud for about 15 minutes until Tarville finally tied him up. Well, when I looked at them, they had so much mud on them that I didn't know which one was the hog.

We tied the hog to a small tree and "zoom," a big puff of wind uprooted the tree and took the hog with it. Needless to say, we never saw the hog again!

When was the last time you rode on a passenger train? If you haven't, you should try it. If you want a thrill, go by train over the New Orleans bridge and look out of the windows. It appears that you are suspended in air and all you can see is the river and no boundaries whatsoever. You are so afraid, you are almost paralyzed.

For more thrills and beauty, one should travel through the mountains in Alaska, where the beauty of the country is at its height in July, August and September. Also, Switzerland is one country where beauty is in everything you see, from the grape vineyards to the majestic mountains where the train travels from mountain to mountain over deep ravines and vast amounts of water.

The most beautiful train ride I ever had was from Paris through Austria, Switzerland, all through Italy from the Alps to Palermo in Sicily. All the houses had red roofs and through the valleys and rolling hills it was so beautiful and peaceful -- with the sheep and cattle grazing in the sunshine as the train sped along on the tracks.

I enjoyed riding these trains with Tarville Davis and my brother "Baby" Guzzetta. I'll never forget when we were eating dinner on the train. "Baby" ate fish, I had my alma mater - spaghetti - and Tarville had a 16 oz. steak, the largest one they had on the train. He knew that my brother would pay the bill. All of a sudden, while going from Switzerland into Italy, we went through a tunnel. There were many tunnels on this route, approximately 30 in all and very dark. When we came out of the tunnel, Tarville noticed that his steak was missing. He was very upset and kept saying, "All I had was one bite!"

I noticed a couple of tables away that there was a fellow with a steak that had only one bite taken out of it. I told Tarville that I suspected that this man came over and took his steak while we were going through the dark tunnel. I told Tarville there were more tunnels to go through so when we get in another one to go and get your steak.

Well, low and behold, we ran into another tunnel, so Tarville sneaked over to retrieve his steak. But it was so dark he couldn't see so he went to the wrong table where an old lady was eating chicken. When Tarville came back to our table, the old lady let out a scream in Italian that her chicken had been stolen. I told Tarville to hurry up, wrap the chicken in a napkin and threw it under the table, just as through it had fallen there. When things cooled off, we left the Dining Car and went into another coach, two cars away. And we could still hear the old lady, fussing and complaining and arguing with her waiter about her chicken - all in Italian!

Town of Berwick
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