



Berwick Beacon

Town of Berwick

March 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](#)

We are on the web.
www.townofberwick.org



Berwick residents Mckenzie & Mckayla Rebardi met with Santa and Mrs. Claus during our annual Christmas Lighting.



January 2016: Berwick Mayor Louis Ratcliff discusses impending high water with Morgan City Mayor Frank "Boo" Grazzaffi and Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards at the newly constructed Governmental Operations and Emergency Center.

From The Mayor's Desk.....

Greetings:

Our area has enjoyed a mild winter and everyone is looking forward to arrival of Spring. As I write this article we are experiencing cool mornings and warm days.



Looking back to January, we were bracing for early high water in the Atchafalaya River, but the Lord came to our rescue again and the threat was over with in early February 2016. The Town's employees from the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments worked hard to make sure our community was safe from the rising waters. After the threat was over, they began the cleanup. All are to be congratulated for a job well done.

This year we will have an early Easter on March 27th to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our local churches will be celebrating Easter and the Easter Bunny will be delivering candy for all the children. We are truly blessed!

I hope everyone has a great and safe spring! May God continue blessing our community and residents!

Mayor Louis Ratcliff

Berwick Library News:

There are so many fun things to do at the Library, and especially right here at our Berwick Branch Library! Of course there are the expected really great books, publications and other things to read; but there's more action as well.

Toddler Time is every Wednesday morning at 10:30. This activity is filled with fun and excitement for the little ones and the parents, too! And, there are fun, entertaining regularly scheduled after-school activities for school age children that feature some neat crafts.

Adults won't be left out of the crafts either, so be sure to check the Library calendar for those scheduled events.

And of course, there is the ever-popular Adult Book club featuring books of the month complete with a time for discussion and fellowship.

If you aren't a regular visitor to the Library, pass by soon and check out all of the wonderful offerings. While you are there, visit with the helpful, friendly, gracious Ladies who make our Berwick Branch Library a wonderful place to visit.

For more information, please visit the website,
www.stmary.lib.la.us



THE BEACON SHINES ON:



In February The Beacon shined on Kate Hicks (top), St. Mary Parish Middle School Student of the Year and Laura Rentrop (bottom), St. Mary Parish Middle School Teacher of the Year. Mayor Pro-Tem Jacki Ackel presented them with a certificate of appreciation from the Town of Berwick.



In March The Beacon shined on Lily Rebardi, longtime member of the Berwick Housing Authority Board of Directors. Mayor Pro-Tem Jacki Ackel presented her with a certificate of appreciation from the Town of Berwick.

Berwick-Bayou Vista Softball accepting registrations through the end of March!! Pick up a registration form at Berwick Town Hall Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00 or contact Town Hall at 985-384-8858.



**Councilman
Troy Lombardo**



What a wonderful time to be alive in this great country! Especially if you are turning 18 before the presidential election in November. The first major election you are able to vote in is to choose the leader of the free world. And, with an absence on the Supreme Court, this election will decide the future direction of not only this country, but the world. It's that important. As the race for president heats up, I encourage young people to really do their homework on the candidates. Gather as much information as you can from as many sources as you can, television, internet, people you know and people you don't. Then, make your decision and get in the game. This is your country as much as anyone else's!

Additionally, I want to encourage the people of Berwick to start thinking about running for elected office here. In a short 33 months from now, the current Mayor and Council's term will be over. At this time, the mayor and 3 council members will hit their term limit of 3 terms. This means we will need new people to step up. As with the presidential election, this election will determine the future direction of Berwick. This will be your chance to make a difference for the place we all live and love. "It's that important". If I can be of assistance to anyone, please email me at troy@townofberwick.org or call me at 985-635-7368.

Berwick Police Department News:

2015 Top Cop Award



Berwick Officers Shaun Liner and J. P. Henry were named Top Cops for 2015 in December by the St. Mary Parish MADD Chapter. Officers received their award at the annual ceremony held at the Lamp-Post in Franklin. Officers Liner and Henry were selected because of their

diligence to remove impaired drivers from our local roads and highways. Arrest records reviewed by the MADD Chapter showed Liner and Henry as having high numbers of DWI arrests during the year.

Berwick police officers have consistently been named among the Parish Top Cops for the past 15 years according to the MADD Chapter.

These Officers were supported at this event by Berwick Police Chief James Richard and Berwick Mayor Louis Ratcliff.

The Berwick Police Department recognizes Officer Carl Reed (center), who recently graduated from the P.O.S.T. (Peace Officers Standards and Training) Academy held by the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Department. Officer Reed has been with the Berwick Police Department since April of 2015 and serves as a Police Dispatcher. Officer Reed is a 2013 graduate of Berwick High School.



With Reed (L-R) is Officer Billy Chapman, Carl's father William Reed, Carl's mother Gina Reed, and Chief James Richard.

Berwick Town Market



Support your local crafters at the Berwick Town Market. This market is held on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9 AM until 1 PM. The Market will also be participating in some other special events such as the Ham Radio event in August and the Lighthouse Festival in October. All merchandise is local and hand-crafted. The location of the event is on 6th Street under the bridge. These crafters work hard to bring unique, one-of-a-kind items for shoppers. There is a wide variety of items, as well as food and vegetables. Not only is the event worthwhile, but it is fun as well. And of course, one of the best things about attending the Market is that we all get to 'visit' with our friends and neighbors!

Dates for upcoming Markets are:

- March 19th April 16th May 21st
- June 18th (no Market is July) August 20th
- September 17th October 8th and 9th
- October 22nd November 19th December 17th



Mark these dates on your calendar and come see what treasures you will find at the Berwick Town Market.

PROJECT GRADUATION

Berwick Project Graduation will be celebrating its 18th year on May 12th. What a testament to amazing community support. We will be hosting our largest event ever!!! We are planning for over 130 graduates. Our largest class to date was 105. Project Graduation is a community effort. Without the support of Parents, BHS, local businesses, and families we could not hold such an awesome event for our graduates. BPG is so much more than a party. It is a Celebration of Life. It's a moment in time where the past, present, and future meet. Our grads reflect on all their memories of high school, celebrate their graduation, and are kept safe so their dreams can come true. What a blessing this is to our community. This is my last year I will have the privilege to serve as chairman of Berwick Project Graduation. The last 10 years have been such a joy. I am excited to see what the future holds.

With Deep Appreciation, Paige Roussel

“Berwick’s Importance To Area Visible In Activities On Its Shore”

(An excerpt taken from the article printed in the Morgan City Review, August 23, 1957. Courtesy of the Morgan City Archives)

A project which is now claiming much interest in Berwick was given the go-ahead sign by the town officials this month. It is the development of Pharr Memorial Park, a six-acre plot donated to the Town of Berwick by Miss Elizabeth Pharr and now well on its way to becoming a well-planned, well-equipped athletic and recreation center for Berwick’s youth.

In May, the mayor and aldermen set up a park planning board charged with the responsibility of laying out the physical features. By July, the board had approved a plan submitted by its chairman, Elby Fangue, which calls for a separate baseball diamond and football field complete with bleachers, and at a later date to be lighted, a play area for smaller children, a parking area and a park shelter.

A frame building has been purchased and moved to the park where it will be equipped with showers and dressing rooms.

The Berwick Junior Chamber of Commerce has provided swings, slides and merry-go-rounds, and the members plan to plant shade trees around the park at a future date.

The board, while organized to plan the park, will stay in existence as the governing body for the recreation center. The board’s membership includes Mayor Bernie Driskill and Aldermen Sam Carline, Adam Robicheaux, Laurie Touns, Russell DePrima, and Ralph Guidry, and Elby Fangue, chairman (Berwick Boosters), Bud Riley (Berwick PTA), Pete Theriot (Jaycees), and Earl Landry (Lions).

The middle of this year, the people of Berwick saw a dream of many year’s standing realized. It was the opening of a new post office building.

Located at the intersection of Utah and Second streets is the brick building with 1,500 square feet of interior space, 200 square feet of platform space and 600 square feet of parking and maneuvering area for postal vehicles. Built and owned by J. J. Hebert of Morgan City, the building is under lease to the Federal Government through the Post Office Department’s commercial leasing program.

It is expected that this year’s postal revenue at Berwick will be approximately \$15,000 more than double what it was ten years ago.

Berwick’s Historical Committee

Berwick History will come to life once again this year in October. Last year the Mayor and Council passed a Proclamation to celebrate our town’s history every October. For the past two years, this observance has been held under the bridge as an outdoor event.

The first year, our founder Thomas Berwick was portrayed by Parker Felterman who shared our earliest history. Joining Parker, was Ila Hardee who spoke about her family’s history on our town. The program was such a huge success that the committee immediately began working on the next one.

Last year, the program featured history of the fire department with Mr. V. J. Bella. Afterwards, participants took a "Walk With V.J." down First Street and listened as he narrated the history of the area.

This year’s program will take us in a different direction and will feature education in Berwick. The program will be held at Berwick Elementary on October 8th and will include a tour of the old building. More details will be shared in the coming months.



Mickey Pearson, Charlie Ann Eues, Patsy Thomas, Jacki Ackel, Damon Robison, Janie Brashear, Alvin Willis and Eljean Nesmith, not pictured Paula Willis, Dale Fanguy and Rodney Grow

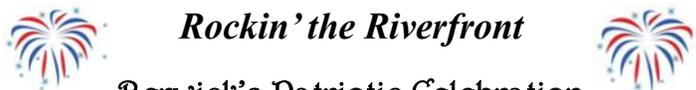
Thank You Berwick Public Works Employees!!!

Spring is in the air and you know what that means, right? Almost everyone in Berwick will be working in their yard, and perhaps checking equipment to see what needs to be repaired or replaced. Why do we do this.....well, because we love our Berwick and want our yard to reflect the pride we have not only in our home, but for our Town as well. We should all be happy to know that we are joined in our efforts for beautification by a group of dedicated individuals, our Public Works Department. These men and women work hard year-round to keep Berwick Beautiful! Their dedication and commitment to providing all that is necessary for the safety and well-being of our town include a multitude of duties and responsibilities far too long to include here. We all are the benefactors of their care and concern. So, the next time you see them working in our town, give them a wave of thanks and appreciation!



Left picture (l-r) Rusty Hardaway, Chris Balance, Dillon Howard, John Hall, Hilton Rebardi, Bubba Richard, Wilson Green, and Joshua May

Right picture (l-r) Charlie Jones, James Besse, James Griffin, Chance Marks, Erika Laine, Ed Johnson, Jesse Griffin, and Chris Fabre (not pictured Eugene Johnson)



Rockin' the Riverfront

Berwick's Patriotic Celebration

SUNDAY, JULY 3RD FROM 2 - 9:30 PM



Festivities:

- Music:** **Gone Pecans 2-5**
Old Soul 5:30-8:30
- Food:** **Berwick Fire Department**
Jambalaya, hamburgers, cold drinks and beer
- The Big Chill**
Hot dogs, nachos, and snow cones
- Fireworks:** On the river



"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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