



Berwick Beacon

Town of Berwick

October 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](#)

NEWSLETTERS ARE MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL WITH A BERWICK MAILING ADDRESS. DIGITAL COPIES 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

NOTICE:

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 4th
- Early Voting is October 21 - 28

-Berwick Town Market held monthly on second Saturday of each month under the bridge at 2nd Street

Berwick Library News:

We have a toddler program every Wednesday at 10:30 AM

An adult book club meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 6 PM.

A young adult book club meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 4 PM.

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



From The Mayor's Desk.....

Greetings:

As I prepare to write this article in late September, it seems like yesterday that we were celebrating the New Year!

Our schools have been in session for nearly two months and we are enjoying weekly high school football and volleyball games. We will be entering the fall season in the next few weeks which hopefully will bring cooler weather. Before we know it, we will be celebrating the Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas holidays.

Locally, October brought the Tour du Teche celebration on Sunday, October 5 and the Celebration of Life and Light on Saturday, October 25, at the Everett Berry Lighthouse Park area. The October 25th event will be the initial event of this type. The celebration is chaired by Mrs. Iris Berry who will recognize our older citizens and the 10th anniversary of the Everett Berry Lighthouse Park.

I would like to remind everyone that Tuesday, November 4 will be Election Day for our community with the Mayor and Town Council contests along with other state and national races. Please exercise your right to vote. We are truly blessed here in America where we have the ability to vote without the threat of retribution.

Also in November on Thanksgiving evening, we will be hosting our Annual Christmas lighting and Santa Clause arrival at the Town Hall. Families are invited to bring the children to meet Santa and Mrs. Clause.

May God continue to bless our community and families!



Mayor Louis Ratcliff

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL BERWICK RESIDENTS:

Occasionally, we have noticed that some residents after cutting their lawns, leave excessive grass cuttings on the Town's streets. These clippings typically end up in the street culverts and over time could have an adverse effect on the drainage system of our Town. We are asking everyone for their help in the future to please remove clippings and other debris from the roadway after mowing lawns.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

The Town of Berwick



Mayor Louis Ratcliff purchasing tickets from the President Ms. Diane T. Martin for the Artist Guild Unlimited show in conjunction with the Shrimp & Petroleum Festival



In August, the Beacon Shines on the Ray Rasberry Family. Mrs. Jackie Price with the BEARS ham radio club presented the family with a plaque due to being an active member of the club and helping establish the present radio room.



In August, the Beacon also Shines on the Everett S. Berry family. Mrs. Jacki Ackel presented the family with a plaque thanking them for their father's efforts in establishing the Everett S. Berry Lighthouse Park.

Tour du Teche V

Festivities at the Lighthouse



Over 1,000 people were in attendance throughout the day. We had over 40 food and crafts booths.



25 vehicles entered the car show which was presented by Cypress Corvette Club.



The inflatable obstacle course helped raise more than \$400 for Berwick Project Graduation



Councilman Edgar Thomas

I would like to give thanks to the LORD for the opportunity for Linda and I to live in a unique community and to have been able to earn a living and raise our sons here.

As a lifelong resident of Berwick I am deeply humbled and grateful to the citizens of Berwick for the responsibility they have entrusted in me, to have been elected to serve as a councilman for the past twelve years.

I would like to recognize Mayor Ratcliff for his leadership over the past eight years as well as former Mayor Hardaway during his prior terms in office. They have done an exemplary job in growing and managing the Town. I would also like to thank my fellow councilmen (those up here on the dais and all of those who previously served), for the work they have done over the past twelve years. We have not always agreed on everything but we were able to put differences aside for the betterment of our community and major progress can be seen almost anywhere you want to look.

I would be remiss to not mention a few others, namely Police Chief James Richard and his staff for keeping all of us safe and secure. Fire Chief Allen Rink for the management of the Volunteer Fire Department which had experienced some difficulties in the past but now seems to be functioning very well. Thanks to all of the volunteers for dedicating their time and efforts to protect our Town. Thanks to CAO Bubba Slaughter and his office staff who sometimes hear it from irate customers concerning their bills. They do a great job without a lot of thanks or acknowledgement. A shout out also to Gary Beadle as head of the Planning and Zoning Commission, which is another one of those thankless jobs, but he manages to keep it going. Also, a huge thanks to Rafael Lopez (Chuco) and his predecessor Allen Benoit for the tireless work they and the Town employees handle and the effort they give day in and day out to keep the Town moving forward and our infrastructure maintained. Also, to the crew that looks after the Civic Center and maintains the recreational facilities throughout the Town.

I would also like to recognize our high school, junior high school and elementary school administrators, teachers and students for attaining the high level of success in their accomplishments within the State and Parish.

We are extremely fortunate to have people who are truly concerned with doing their jobs to the best of their ability and we are also grateful for the mayors and council persons that preceded us, as they long ago set the standard for hard work, honesty and commitment to making Berwick a wonderful place to live.

Thank you,

Edgar Thomas, Jr.

NEW RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION

PLANNED IN BERWICK

At its October meeting, the Berwick Town Council approved an application from Privat General Contractors of Lafayette to subdivide a 16 acre parcel of land adjacent to Renwick Subdivision. This action occurred following a public hearing and recommendation from our Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Fernand Privat, the individual behind this project has plans to develop a new single family residential subdivision, adding approximately 57 new lots/homesites on the parcel. His next step is to finalize his preliminary plan and engineering of the subdivision. He will then submit an additional application to the Planning and Zoning Board for the further subdivision of that larger parcel into the individual lots. This phase of the process will involve gathering and evaluating a number of different things in addition to the land survey and construction requirements. Among those items to be studied are access to public utilities, drainage, traffic impact, elevations and covenants. The as yet unnamed subdivision continues a trend started in 1999 with the development of Renwick Subdivision by the Berwick Development District. This new development will be the largest private residential subdivision in Berwick since the creation of Country Club Estates in the 1970's. Mr. Privat has pledged to keep the development as consistent as possible with the successful Renwick development. Privat General Contractors has constructed over a dozen residential subdivisions in the Lafayette area. In addition, Privat has extensive commercial real estate holdings in Lafayette and the surrounding area.



Fernand Privat of Privat General Contractors shown with the Plan of Land for a proposed single family residential subdivision he wished to build adjacent to Renwick Subdivision.

Berwick Volunteer Department News:



The Shrimp Gumbo luncheon was a huge success! We sincerely thank everyone who supported this fundraiser.

Sincerely,
Your Berwick Volunteer
Fire Department



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.

Julie Christine Hebert, currently a resident of Los Angeles, California and originally from Berwick is involved in writing and directing for television, theater and film.



Her father Earl Hebert was born on River Road in 1932. Mr. Earl served as Berwick town clerk from 1958-1959. His parents, Oscar Hebert and Anita Aucoin, moved to Berwick from Jeanerette as a young couple and for many years operated Our Little Grocery on Fourth Street. Julie's mother, Nelwyn Shepherd Hebert, was born and reared in Morgan City. Her maternal grandparents, Percy Shepherd and Lottie Price lived in Morgan City all of their adult lives. Following the passing of both her Mom and Dad this past year, she is sad to no longer have any family in Berwick.

Julie attended the Berwick public schools and was valedictorian of the BHS class of 1972. Following graduation, Ms. Hebert attended Nicholls State University where she received her Bachelor's degree.

In her own words, Julie recalls the following as some of her fondest memories of Berwick:

- *High school football games. Being outside at night with everybody cheering and having fun.*
- *Junior High dances. We were all so shy, but danced anyway. Everybody always got confused during the long pause in the song "Monday, Monday" by the Mamas & Papas.*
- *Rocket Club! Mr. Self in Junior High.*
- *The talent show where Jan Taylor, Melanie Wallace, Jody Barbier and I lip-synched to Herman's Hermits in the Berwick Elementary School gym. Something went wrong backstage and we were forced to lip-synch another song by the Rolling Stones, that we had not rehearsed and did not know.*
- *Hanging out at my grandma's store next to Berwick Elementary, drinking Dr. Pepper, seeing who could blow the biggest bubble with our gum. Ending up with bubble gum all over our faces.*
- *Mr Thib's grocery. Doucet's. Why'd we need so many stores in a three block area?*
- *Crab boils in my grandparents' backyard with all the neighbors. My grandpa playing a joke on my brother and me and convincing us to stick our fingers into the tub with the live crabs. Ow!*
- *Driving to Grand Isle in the dark of very early morning. Mama Hebert saying the rosary.*
- *Fishing off the old bridge in Grand Isle. Wait, that's not Berwick.*
- *Skiing on Bayou Teche behind Betty Sutton's house. Swinging over the bayou on a rope tied to a big tree – then losing my nerve and not letting go. Still have the scar on my knee from slamming back into the tree!*
- *Playing straight base on the empty lots when Golden Farms was just being built.*
- *Walking along the levee toward Pharr plantation, watching the boats come in and out.*
- *Sliding on flattened cardboard boxes down the side of the levee.*
- *Playing softball on old River Road.*
- *My grandma's gumbo on Sunday. Her Christmas cookies. Still trying to get that recipe right.*
- *After Newman Club one night, Ralph Guidry Jr. was in his parents' station wagon with all the boys and I was in my parents station wagon with all the girls. We chased each other all over town, screaming with laughter... until a policeman stopped us. Ralph and the boys got away. I had to come clean to my dad, who was Justice of the Peace at the time and knew the policeman.*
- *Playing the piano while my friend Myrna Beough sang "My Buddy" at 8th grade graduation.*
- *Lots of church memories at St. Stephen's with Zim and Father Cramers. Like being in the choir when I couldn't really sing and Father Cramers suggesting I just mouth the words.*

So many school memories with all my wonderful teachers. I could go on, but I'll stop here.

Professionally, Julie has been credited with writing and directing on such television shows as ER, Third Watch, West Wing, The Good Wife, Numb3rs, Blue Bloods and Nashville. She is currently the Co-Executive Producer of the new television series "American Crime" created by John Ridley, the Academy Award winning screenwriter of *12 Years a Slave*. The series films in Austin, Texas, and will air on ABC in March of 2015. Julie says, "I've been lucky to receive some writing and directing awards for my plays and scripts. I'm most proud of receiving the PEN Award for Drama for my plays TREE and THE KNEE DESIRES THE DIRT, as well as receiving the George Foster Peabody Award for a documentary film I co-directed after 9/11, titled IN THEIR OWN WORDS. More on Julie's career can be found at <http://juliehebert.com/>."

Ms. Hebert has one daughter, Alexis, who was married last year and is expecting their first grandchild. Julie has been married to Kenneth Norman of Baton Rouge since 1992. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, which was inspired by both her grandmothers, word games, board games and cards, inspired by her Mom, and walking, hiking, and going to rock concerts with my husband, who owns a record store. Julie says, "I imagine I'm about to develop a whole new set of activities when this grandchild appears."

Julie remarks, "I often write plays and stories set in Louisiana. My childhood there, the places, the people, are so vivid in my mind, and so different from other places I've visited and lived, that it feels like a gift to be from an area as rich as ours. It is an endless source of inspiration for me as a writer."

International Lighthouse Weekend



The first annual International Lighthouse Weekend was indeed a huge success, so much so that the second one to be held in August of 2015 is now in the planning stages. The Town of Berwick extends sincere appreciation to the local BEARS ham radio operators for their sponsorship of this event. More than 50 lighthouses across the world were contacted and have received information on not only our Berwick Southwest Reef Lighthouse, but also about our Town. Radio operators had hoped to make many more radio communications; however, atmospheric conditions prevented some calls.

The weekend event offered locals a chance to see first-hand how ham radio communication is vital in times of emergency. Additionally, visitors also had the opportunity to shop from vendors in the Berwick Town Market. And finally, the event was a welcome spot for visiting, eating and just enjoying our Lighthouse.Park.



Winners of the International Lighthouse coloring contest were:

Kindergarten - Annabelle Yoder; First Grade - Jayden Aucoin; Second Grade - Jamie Voisin; Third Grade - Amber Olivares; Fourth Grade - Natalie Voisin; Fifth Grade - Madison Lancon.

Celebrate Life, History, & Lights

On Saturday morning, October 25th, citizens from our area will gather together under the bridge in Berwick to celebrate 217 years of life, history, and lights! Berwick has a rich, colorful history; and joining us will be some of those early characters! Please arrive by 10:00 a.m. to meet Thomas Berwick, our founder, as he guides us on a delightful journey through time and introduces us to some nice folks along the way.

Following the Historical Narrative Program celebrating Berwick "Life" will be a Celebration of "Light" at the Southwest Reef Lighthouse to commemorate the 10th anniversary. Everyone will be asked to walk over to the Lighthouse for this special presentation.

Immediately following the program, the festivities begin!! You will be invited to take part in all the fun – Food booths if you are hungry and live music for listening and dancing. Our Brown House Museum will be open, showcasing our oldest homes, churches, and buildings along with other pictures from the past. If you would like to take a tour of the featured buildings, a self-guided brochure will be available for you...

Another room will house an exhibit honoring the 10th anniversary of the lighthouse park... You may want to visit the park and enjoy a walk along the river...

A collection of interesting artifacts from early life and times will be on display, including our own "Betty G" fire engine from our fire department.

Citizens from the past will be in period costume to guide you, tell you fun stories, and try to answer your questions...

COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US!!!!



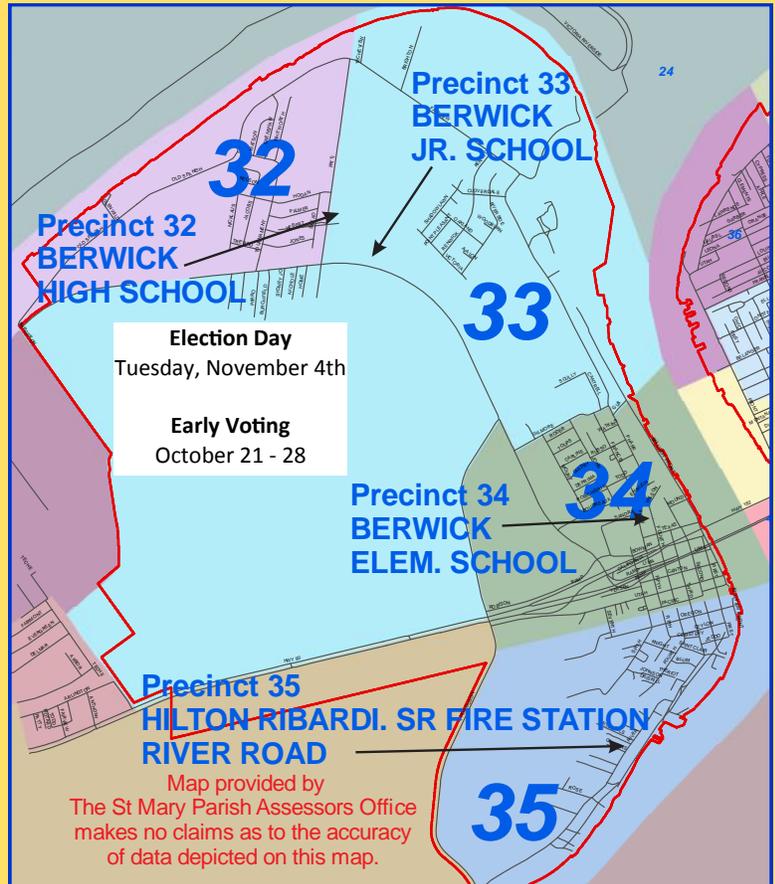
Left to right: Mark Isaac Bordelon, Alex Adams, Sonny Deshotel, Mark Bordelon, Austin Deshotel and Garret Deshotel. (not pictured - William Quibedeaux and Ethan Blanco)

Mark Isaac Bordelon, a senior at Berwick High School and a Life Scout with Troop 49 of Morgan City, completed his Eagle Service Project on Saturday, October 11, 2014.

The Eagle Scout Service Project, or simply the Eagle Scout Project, is the opportunity for a Boy Scout to demonstrate leadership of others while providing a project for the benefit of his community.

Mark chose the Berwick Branch Library for his project. The project consisted of pressure washing all the cement around the building as well as the parking area. Then the lines and the handicap emblem were repainted in the parking area.

The Berwick Library is very important to Mark and his family. It was a natural choice when it came to giving back to his community.



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