

ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson Monthly Newsletter

August 2019

City of Patterson Showcased in State-wide Media Campaign



Mayor Grogan's Media Interview for Patterson's Community Development

As a result of Mayor Grogan's vision in 2011 of a flourishing city, the City of Patterson will be showcased in a state-wide media campaign for accomplishing all targeted growth objectives and goals within the Louisiana's Development Ready Communities Program (LDRC). It began with the partnering of the City with Louisiana Economic Development Department who developed a program to help struggling communities develop strategic five-year initiatives to posture themselves for future growth potential.

The community development process was a strategic method of enlisting the buy-in of citizens into their community's future to gain consensus on its strengths, weaknesses and needs for the purpose of attaining measurable outcomes in socioeconomic growth, increased tourism and an improved academic climate.

In 2012, the Mayor contracted the services of yours truly (Marilyn LaSalle) as the City's Economic Development Director to spearhead the project, develop a strategic plan, implement and bring it to fruition. **PEDSCo** (Patterson Economic Development Sustainability Committee), the workhorse of the project was established, along with sub-committees as needed. The next five years consisted of committee and community meetings and outreach programs needed to meet specific timelines that were firmly embedded within the strategic plan. Members of **PEDSCo** included LaSalle (chairman), Susan Mendoza, Sandra Marshall, Dr. Rand Dooley, Larry Mendoza, Holden Murray, Ryan Aucoin, and Ann Brown. ***"As chairman of PEDSCo, I (LaSalle) want to publicly give a heartfelt thank you to each committee member for the endless hours and their selfless devotion to the program, without which the objectives would not have been achieved."*** PEDSCo initiated Patterson's Annual Christmas Boat Parade.

The Mayor's economic development plan also included the formation of The Main Street Committee, who initiated Patterson's Annual Main Street Historic Walking Tour (held in October), and sponsored the restoration and beautification of Morey Park project. The City of Patterson won LMA 2019 1st Place Community Achievement Award in Community Development category for Restoration of Morey Park...Population of 3001-10,000.



Congratulations to City of Patterson on 1st Place Award at LMA

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Patterson Mayor and Council Assist with Hurricane Barry Clean-up



Left to right are Mayor Grogan, Mayor Pro Temp Darnell (ctr) & Councilman Condolle (right) clearing debris after "Barry"

On July 15, 2019, the City of Patterson was not spared the wrath of Category 1 Hurricane Barry, whose winds in excess of 75 mph caused power outages, structural damages, fallen trees, tree limbs and debris across the city. Barry came to land in Intercoastal City, just west of Patterson; which was on the more dangerous side of the hurricane/tropical storm. Unfortunately, high winds caused some trees to fall through roofs of homes and buildings leaving residents not only homeless, but with the daunting task of cutting down fallen tree barks, hanging limbs and massive clean-up of fallen debris.

Patterson's mayor and a couple of the councilmen gave new meaning to the words "sweat equity" as they "hit the grounds running," working side-by-side with City temporary workers and began hauling away fallen limbs and debris on the streets of Patterson. In the words of Mayor Grogan, "***I, along with Councilmen Condolle and Mayor Pro Temp Darnell, joined in with the clean-up effort as a morale booster for our dedicated street crew.***" He stated that at first glance, the clean-up project seemed too daunting to accomplish. Although the July weather was scorching and humid, the work had to be done. "***The two councilmen and I joined in to lend a helping hand and a shoulder to lean on to our workers,***" Grogan said.

Citizens were instructed to stack debris from personal properties curbside to be hauled away by the team of City officials and temporary workers. To ensure that all streets were accessible and safe, the extensive clean-up process continued through Friday, August 2, 2019.

Citizens as well as community leaders were pleasantly surprised by the initiative and dedication of their public officials and acknowledged the gravity of their selfless efforts. Some citizens and businesses such as Patterson State Bank, responded in kind by donating much needed water and Gatorade to keep them hydrated. Some showed their appreciation by preparing snacks and full meals for the selfless efforts of the team of workers.

When asked what motivated them to play a part in the solution, Councilman Condolle (aka Pastor C) stated, "***It was an awesome experience serving the community. It felt good giving back and experiencing what city workers actually go through; and, service is what I do.***"

City officials are currently surveying actual Hurricane Barry storm damages and gathering data for FEMA for determining if Patterson qualifies for federal assistance.



Leslie Smith and Patricia Jennings donate meal to crew



Generous Citizen Donates Food to City Workers



Patterson's Retired Chief to be Inducted in 2019 Justice Hall of Fame



Patterson's Retired Chief of Police, Patrick M LaSalle

Patrick M LaSalle, Patterson's former Chief of Police, whose illustrious career spanned in excess of four decades, has been selected as a 2019 Justice Hall of Fame nominee and is slated to be formally inducted on September 27, 2019 at 5:00 PM in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

According to Michael Wynne, a member of the initial vetting process, public citizens submit an impressive list of possible nominees yearly. Each name goes through a thorough evaluation process which **"Is very difficult"** given the caliber of people whose names are submitted. For the 2019 selection, more than 50 names were nominated, narrowed down and selected to move on to the nominating committee (three of which are Angola Museum board members). The nominating committee then made the selection of ten nominees to be inducted into this year's Justice Hall of Fame. **"This is the State's top recognition."** Wynne commented. He went on to say that It not only recognizes the accomplishments of the inductee, it is also representative of the great people of Patterson as a community.

Along with LaSalle, familiar names such as Donna Britt, retired WAFB news anchor and Jay Dardenne, Louisiana Commissioner of Administration are being inducted into the Justice Hall of Fame, as well as seven other nominees who are pillars of various communities.

"My career was always service-driven to my fellow man. My parents, Dorothy Vilo LaSalle and Collins LaSalle instilled respect, integrity and loyalty in me at an early age. Those values followed me through 45 years of service. With my Savior, Jesus Christ, at my side, I survived many challenges. I served by His will and grace; no greater blessing is there than service. I witnessed many changes in law enforcement. My mentors, (Chiefs) Jessie W Paul, James "Peanut" Sennette and (Mayor) Gus Lipari encouraged me to strive for excellence in all fields of law enforcement. As an inductee to the Justice Hall of Fame, I recognize those men with honor," LaSalle said in a prepared statement.

The day long event will consist of a morning public reception and a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Angola Museum (both free and open to the public), followed by an inductee banquet and formal reception held at the LSU Lod Cook Alumni Center in Baton Rouge. The event was originally scheduled for July, but was rescheduled by Governor Edwards due to Hurricane Barry. Tickets to the formal reception and banquet are \$75.00 per person and must be purchased prior to the event.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Labor Day - Mon, Sept 2, 2019

Sept City Hall Meeting - Tue, Sept 3, 2019

Justice Hall of Fame Event(s) - Fri, Sept 27, 2019

Main St. Historic Walking Tour— Sat, Oct 26, 2019

Early Voting Begins (Gubernatorial) - Sat, Sept, 28, 2019

Early Voting Ends (Gubernatorial) - Sat, Oct, 5, 2019

Contact Us

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