



# ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson, LA

December 2016

## Patterson Hosts Christmas on the Lower Atchafalaya Festivities

The City of Patterson enjoyed a full slate of festivities for the 2016 holiday season. The season officially began with the annual lighting of the city's Christmas tree on November 27 in Morey Park on Main Street. Attendees were entertained by the joyful sounds of Charles McKinley and the Tri-City Gospel Choir. The Annual Senior Citizen's Thanksgiving luncheon was also held in the month of November 2016.

Holiday events such as the 2nd Annual Carl's Gifts for Tots & the Elderly, the 3rd Annual Boat Parade, Main Street Christmas Lighting Contest, 4-Legged Friends Parade, Annual Christmas parade, Patterson City-wide Christmas Lighting Contest, and the Senior Citizen's Christmas Luncheon lined December's calendar of city events and festivities.

Winners of the 3rd Annual Boat Parade were: 1st place, Myron Mire; 2nd place, Scott Blanco; 3rd place, Jesse Jones. The "Make a Difference Club" of Hattie Watts Elementary School participated in the 3rd Annual Boat Parade activities.

Winners of the Main Street Christmas Lighting Contest were: 1st place, Mary & Bubba Richoux of 1519 Main Street; 2nd place, Adam & Associates, 1113 Main Street; and 3rd place, Bill and Karen Marin of 1124 Main Street.

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Newly constructed Jon Felterman Sr. Memorial Wharf at Morey Park on Main Street



Decorated boat in 3rd Annual Boat Parade 2016

## 3rd Annual Christmas Boat Parade

On December 10, the City of Patterson continued with its list of holiday festivities by conducting its 3rd annual Christmas on the Lower Atchafalaya boat parade sponsored by the Patterson Economic Development Sustainability Committee (PEDSCO).

This year's event was held in Patterson's newly renovated Morey Park (development is ongoing). The evening began with the placing of ornaments on the city's previously lighted Christmas tree, by the children of the "Make a Difference Club" of Hattie Watts Elementary School. Each ornament was beautifully unique as they were individually constructed by the children of the organization.

Four beautifully decorated boats channeled down the Lower Atchafalaya while spectators gazed in delight. Santa Claus was aboard one of the vessels for the enjoyment of the young. The winners of the boat parade were: 1st place, Myron Mire; 2nd place, Jesse Jones; 3rd place, Scott Blanco. Onlookers took in the ambience of the Cold December night, viewing the Lower Atchafalaya while standing on the newly constructed Jon Felterman, Sr. Memorial Wharf.

Gumbo and homemade sweets were sold while attendees sat under tents and/or park benches, socialized and ate while listening to Christmas tunes.

## Patterson Residents Can Pay Taxes Online

Anyone who owns property in the City of Patterson can now pay property taxes online. nCourt, the company that is contracted by the city to help handle tax collections, has added the tax payment feature through Patterson's website.

Simply go to the website at [www.cityofpattersonla.gov](http://www.cityofpattersonla.gov) and click on the section at the top left side of the web page to "Pay Your Utilities and Taxes," then click on "Property Tax." You will need to provide your tax assessment number and the amount of the taxes. You will also pay a small fee for the use of the online payment feature. The online tax payment feature will only be available through Dec 31, 2016. However, the service is available every year from December 1 through December 31. After the 31st, you can pay your property taxes through City Hall.

## Friends of PCC Honor Senior Citizens

Seniors were treated to holiday meals by the Friends of the Patterson Community Center and supporters. A full Thanksgiving meal (pictured below) with desert was provided in honor of senior citizens on November 10, 2016 at Patterson Civic Center.

A Christmas luncheon was also held on Thursday, December 15 at 11:30 AM at the Patterson Civic Center. Mayor Grogan thanks all who gave unselfishly of themselves and their time.



Healthy Thanksgiving Meal for Seniors



Seniors' Christmas Gumbo Luncheon 2016

## J-Turn Work To Begin in Patterson

As a result of the construction of I-49, the city of Patterson will be the first to receive the construction of J-turns along Hwy 90.

According to DOTD, "The J-turn concept is a method that safely and efficiently manages high traffic volumes at intersections with multiple approaches along a divided highway." They are beneficial because of improved safety, reduced travel time, and cost efficiency.

J-turns are needed on Highway 90 due to the excessive number of deaths as a result of multiple approaches to the highway.

The project begins Jan 3, 2017. Construction work will continue 368 days through completion. It is funded with \$15 million in Federal funds.



Winner of 2016 4-Legged Friends Christmas Parade, Rekeisha Smith Triggs

## Patterson Awarded \$500,000 Grant

The City of Patterson was the recent recipient of a \$500,000 matching grant through LWCF for the restoration and renovation of Morey Park, the city's 80 year old park located in downtown Main Street. It is called a matching grant because the grant will provide \$250,000 in fund money for the restoration project and the City of Patterson is responsible to fund/match the remaining \$250,000.

According to Suzette Simms, Grant Administrator & Outdoor Recreation Planner, "The Land and Water Conservation Fund provided funding assistance for development of this facility. This federal program, administered by the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of State Parks, Division of Outdoor Recreation, provides monies to support the acquisition of property and development of facilities for outdoor recreation."

The grant originated through The Patterson Lower Atchafalaya Historic & Cultural District Commission and written by Commission Chairwoman, Dawn Rentrop. Grant monies will be used to construct a deck pier, kayak launch, pavilion with restrooms, concrete walkways and park furniture. According to Rentrop, the renovation project is divided into five phases of construction, and they are currently in phase two of the project. The project is expected to be completed in 2020.



Tri-City Gospel Choir at 2016 Christmas Tree Lighting

# Patterson's Mayor & Council Wish You Happy Holidays



## Contact Us

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**ALL ISSUES OF THE  
ATCHAFALAYA CHATS ARE  
POSTED ON THE WEB**

## And a Prosperous New Year!

## Good News From PHS

Patterson High School (PHS) received good news from the Louisiana Department of Education when greatly anticipated district school performance scores (SPS) were announced in November of 2016. PHS learned that they had earned an SPS of 109.6, which equates to an "A" school and a 24.1 score gain from their 2014-2015 score of 85.5, "B" grade.

"We did it!" Rachael Sanders, school principal, excitedly made that comment when sharing the news to school board members, Ginger Griffin and Marilyn LaSalle, both of Patterson. "We totally kicked butt, y'all," she went on to say. "These kids are on top of the world." She meant that her students didn't get to that point by accident; they purposefully set a goal of earning an SPS grade that would equate to an "A," and they hit their mark.

The students of PHS have been on an upward trend for several years. They have moved from a school performance score of 79.2 in 2013--2014, which equated to a grade of C; a B grade with a score of 85.5 in 2014-2015; which ultimately progressed to an A grade with a score of 109.6 in 2015-2016.

PHS students made gains in other areas of academic achievement. Improvements were noted in the following areas: End of Course Exams, ACT Average Scores, Students graduating in 4 years with a diploma, Graduates scoring 3+ on Advanced Placement Test and Students Enrolling in College After Graduating.

## More Christmas Photos



**Felterman Village Christmas Spirit**



**Carl's Gifts for Tots & the Elderly 2016 Campaign**