



ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson Monthly Newsletter

February 2017

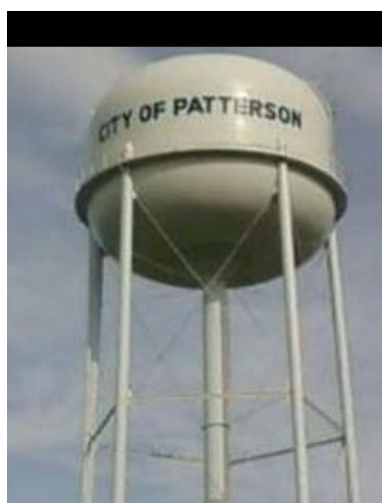
City of Patterson Named Safest City

According to a data research and analysis site, ValuePenguin, the City of Patterson, LA was the safest city of its size range in Louisiana for the year of 2016. Because Louisiana has been touted as a tourist state having over 29 million tourists in 2015, an analysis team from ValuePenguin examined 2016 FBI crime reports to gather information pertinent to living in and visiting safe environments in Louisiana cities.

Forty-six cities in Louisiana with populations of over 5000 were analyzed to determine the top five safest cities in Louisiana of 2016. The five, in ranking order, were Patterson #1; Harahan #2; St. Gabriel #3; Mandeville #4; and Minden #5.

According to ValuePenguin, these cities have an average crime score of 927, which is 70% lower than other cities in the State. Patterson had the lowest rate of violent crime and property crime, achieving a score below 500.

It should be noted that Patterson made the safest city list in two other data analysis websites. Patterson was also voted #1 safest city of 2016 in HomeSnacks website, and #3 in Niche.



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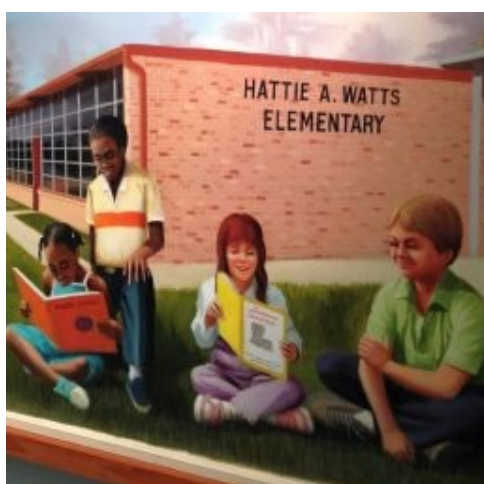
A Moment in Patterson's Black History

In honor of Black History month, our spotlight is on one of Patterson's own trailblazers, Mrs. Hattie A. Watts, from whom Hattie Watts Elementary was named. She was educated by her father and became a teacher in the first "colored" school in Pattersonville (now known as Patterson).

Hattie Ann Tibbs, born in 1882, was the daughter of Anderson Tibbs, a freed slave following the Civil War, and Antionette Vijoe, a Cherokee descendant. She later married Carter Watts and had six children. Her husband died in 1916 in a logging accident in the swamp, leaving her alone to raise her six children.

In a wooden two-story building constructed by the citizens of Pattersonville, Mrs. Watts, now widowed, earned \$30 per month teaching Patterson's youth. Later she was promoted to Assistant Principal and earned \$45 per month. In the late 1920's, she was one of the first women to start teaching adult education classes where she taught adults to read and write. Mrs. Watts' work was so appreciated by her community that they chose to honor her memory by giving the "colored" school her name.

Hattie A. Watts was a trailblazer in education and has left a legacy of public school teachers and educators in her lineage to follow in her footsteps. Descendants of Mrs. Hattie Ann Watts still reside in the city of Patterson today.



Contact Us

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ALL ISSUES OF THE ATCHAFALAYA CHATS ARE POSTED ON THE WEB

Pictured Top Right is Aucoin's Vintage Cash Register Still in Use

Pictured Bottom Right is his Dry Cleaning Machine Made in 1943



Aucoin Cleaners From a Dream to Reality

Owning a business was Tim Aucoin's dream since high school. His thoughts of being self-employed were fueled as he listened to his father talk of self-employment for most of his life. And as most young, ambitious men, his other dream was to go to work for a large company. After college he obtained work with a couple of fabrication companies, and eventually obtained employment with a large iron works company. But his first dream of owning a business never died.

Mr. Anthony Morella, owner of Morella's Cleaners, would always joke with Tim as a young man about buying him out one day; and the seed of hope was planted in the hearts of both men. They joked and wrestled with the idea for about three years. "He was afraid to sell, and I was afraid to buy," Aucoin recalled. But they agreed on a price. Mr. Morella's health declined and Tim Aucoin purchased the dry cleaning business from him. Sales were down at this time.

Tim started Aucoin Cleaner's on Saturday, May 13, 1995. With Mr. Morella as his mentor, he worked around the business and didn't change the name for a few months after purchasing to learn "the ropes" of the dry cleaning business, and to give the customers a chance to get used to seeing him there. Shortly after the purchase, business picked up. As he advertised, more business came and the economy was on the rise. Soon he needed more employees and more equipment to keep up with the demands of the business, and to preserve the quality of service that Mr. Morella had strived to provide. He borrowed money from the bank to buy new equipment. However, he still uses some of Mr. Morella's original equipment because of their exceptional quality.

In 22 years in the business, Aucoin has established a work routine similar to an assembly line approach. He examines each garment and handles it as if it were his own. If a button is broken or loose, he replaces it with his own heat-proof button that he personally sews on the garment with a special button machine for no extra charge. Personal service is his brand. He says he strives to give his customers, "More bang for the buck."

There have been good years and some not so good years; and they always coincide with the economy. When the economy is robust, so is his business. When the economy is depressed, his business slows down and he just rides it out. He works long and hard; and sees himself as "married to the business."

The key to the success and longevity of Aucoin Cleaners is Tim's perseverance and exceptional customer service. He is very thankful for his loyal customers.

Upcoming Events / Important Dates

Krewe of Amani Mardi Gras Parade	Monday, 2/27	2:00 pm
PHS to Place Norman		
Movies in the Park	Saturday, 3/4 & 3/18	6:30 pm
Morey Park		
Annual Policeman's Ball	Saturday, 3/25	7:00 pm
Patterson Civic Center		