



ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson Monthly Newsletter

March 2017

Dory Finds its Way to Morey Park

Morey Park in Patterson was privileged to be visited by a special little blue Disney character on March 4, 2017. To the delight of the young and the young at heart, Dory found its way to the big screen for movie night at Morey Park.

Movie Night in the Park was sponsored by The Lower Atchafalaya Cultural & Historic Main Street Commission of Patterson and Hattie Watts Elementary School. Viewing of the movie was free for all as patrons experienced a relaxed movie outing reminiscent of drive-in movies from days gone by. The difference was that movie-goers sat on park benches or brought lawn chairs or blankets to sit upon instead of viewing from a vehicle. Concessions were sold by the Main Street Commission and Hattie Watts Elementary. No outside food or beverage was permitted in the park for this event.

According to Ryan Aucoin, Director of Community Affairs, "**The process was a simple thing to do to get people out to the park.**" They acquired the copywrite license from Swank Productions at a cost of \$400 for each movie shown. All that was needed was a screen and a projector. Representatives from the City of Patterson constructed the movie screen and The Main Street Commission purchased the projector. Cox Communications donated \$1000 to the Main Street Commission towards the event.

Additional movie nights in the park are slated for 2017. Upcoming scheduled movie nights are Saturday, March 18, 2017 where the movie **Moana** will be shown and April 1, 2017 where the movie **Deepwater Horizon** will be presented.

All proceeds are directed towards funding the ongoing Morey Park renovations project.



In this issue:

- Dory Finds its Way to Morey Park
- B L Como - a Louisiana Tennis Champion
- Announcements & Important Dates
- Bonnie's Bouquets & Bakery, A Beautiful Combination

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Movie goers enjoy watching a movie under the stars in Morey Park



B.L. Como - a Louisiana Tennis Champion

Bernard Lawrence Como was born on November 7, 1919 at St. Mary Hospital in Patterson, Louisiana to Alice Brady Como, a music teacher and vocalist and Bernie Lawrence Como, a sawmill worker. He discovered his love for tennis at the age of 12 and taught himself to play. Como attended Patterson High School and enjoyed teaching other high school friends how to play the game of tennis on his on time. He graduated from Patterson High School in 1938.

BL married Jackie Breaux, a music teacher. He lovingly describes her as, "**poor as a church mouse.**" From that union came four children: Adrian (Randy Smith) Como, Brady (Patricia Mire) Como, Barry, and Byron Como. The Como's have been married for 63 years. He playfully teased his wife to say, "**It was the worse decision I ever made.**" She replied, "**Oh daddy, well it's too late now,**" and they both chuckled.

After high school Como entered the workforce and the military. He worked for Atlantic Refining Company as an operator where he says his job "**was to look for oil.**" From there he was drafted into the United States Air Force where he served for four years, earning his highest rank as Technical Sergeant. After earning an honorable discharge from the USAF, BL attended SLI (Southwest Louisiana Institute, now known as UL) of Lafayette, Louisiana and was recognized as an outstanding tennis player. He did not graduate because he said, "**I didn't like to study.**"

From SLI he reentered the workforce and secured employment at Shell Oil Company in Berwick, Tech Federal Savings and Loans in Morgan City where he stayed for 20 years as their first manager, then later at Patterson State Bank where he eventually retired from the workforce; but not from tennis. He has played with younger opponents as well as those within his age bracket. Some local contenders were: Bob Watson, Tommy Mahfouz, Leon Kahn and Charlie Arnie.

During Como's tennis career he has won hundreds of medals and senior awards, and earned the prestigious title of Senior Olympic Champion in Baton Rouge, LA, where he won the gold medal in 1995. Judge McNulty was his partner. He also played doubles with Neamyer Atkinson, a famous Louisiana African American tennis player. He has earned so many awards that there was no room in their home to display them, so they gave many away.

At the current age of 97, BL Como recalls that he played tennis until the age of 89. He attributes his good health and longevity to lots of exercise, healthy eating (including peanut butter), common sense; all things in moderation and social drinking. "**I didn't like whiskey or beer,**" he added.

Announcements & Important Dates



19th Annual Easter Egg Hunt - March 25, 2017

Wedell Williams Aviation & Cypress Sawmill Museum

Policeman's Ball, March 25, 2017

7 PM @ Patterson Civic Center

Patterson Drive-thru Pizza Hut

Opened Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Movie Night in the Park, April 1, 2017

7:30 PM @ Morey Park, Patterson, LA



Bonnie's Bouquets & Bakery A Beautiful Combination

Bonnie Sue Riggerbach has had a love for flowers since her high school days when her Home Economics teacher incorporated floral design in her classroom syllabus. She satisfied that love of floral design through employment opportunities and worked for many years as a florist in several large chain stores. Riggerbach is originally from Ohio, but has lived in Patterson for 36 years.

In October of 2014 she pursued the dream of owning her own florist and opened Bonnie's Bouquets & Bakery on 516 Church Street in Patterson, Louisiana. Much to her surprise and delight, the structure was much larger than expected and came equipped with a fully functional kitchen. Having the kitchen gave her the inspiration to create the novel idea of incorporating a bakery along with the florist to create the beautiful combination of a flower shop and bakery.

Bonnie's floral and bakery shop is opened Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM; and 9 AM to 2 AM on Saturdays. She provides floral arrangements and sweet treats for weddings, birthdays, parties, Valentines and Mother's Day and all occasions. There are also many unique gift items available for sale.

Another unique special treat that is offered in the shop is a quaint and cozy tea room (pictured below) that can accommodate up to nine people. Patrons can come and have tea, coffee or another beverage and a desert, complete with full china setting at anytime that the store is opened for business. No reservation is required to access the tea room for a "spot of tea" or to sit and have a beverage. They can also schedule full lunch breaks in the tea room where they can have a beverage, a sandwich and a desert. However, reservations are required for lunch dates to allow proper time for food preparation.

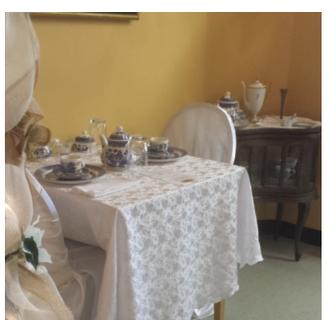
Bakery items are prepared by Taylor Roe. Floral arrangements are created by Bonnie, herself.



Gift Shop Items



Bakery Treats



Tea Room