



# ATCHAFALAYA CHATS

City of Patterson, LA

August 2016

## PJHS Project Progressing Well

On June 13, the excitement became real when very large trucks loaded with enormous beams and scaffolds started rolling onto Catherine Street; blocking it, as one truck after the other unloaded their goods onto the school grounds. And on June 16, the first beam was erected! Principal, Suzanne Bergeron exclaimed, *“How exciting! Look at what is being delivered to (the) new school site! Progress!”*

Since then, the public has anxiously watched as one erected beam became a framework of beams and then a structure. According to Jim Firmin, Architect of record; during the month of July, production has rapidly improved because of better weather and a pad to work on. Heavy structural steel is approximately 60% complete. Lightweight and truss steel is at 40% complete. Columns are being erected in classrooms. Exterior stud walls are starting to be erected along with headers and footers. Conduit for electrical overhead lights is up. The water pipes to and from the cooling towers are in the ground. Mr. Firmin states that the project area is safe, secure, well organized, clean and well supervised.

The new junior high school will have 24 regular classes from 5th to 8th grades. It will also have six special education and gifted classes, five computer labs, four flex collaboration rooms, science lab and gym. 6th grade classes will reside in the downstairs area of the new school, while 7th and 8th grade classrooms will be located in the upstairs area. The 5th graders will reside in the 2-story renovated part of the previous structure.

### In This Issue

- PJHS Project Progressing Well
- Boy Scout Hut Gets New Site
- Updated Water Report Available on Web
- Save The Date, October 29, 2016
- Patterson CC Program a Success
- Patterson CC Gives School Uniforms
- Good Samaritans Clean Graveyard
- Business & Entrepreneur Seminar Offered at City Hall



New On-going Patterson Jr. High School Structure—Work In Progress



Boy Scout hut being moved to new location on Main Street

## Boy Scout Hut Gets New Site

After a public controversy over legal ownership of the land in Morey Park where the boy scout hut had resided for over 50 years, Boy Scout Troop 41 of Patterson decided to purchase property for the purpose of relocating the hut. The property was purchased from a local landowner in Patterson. In early July 2016, a new chapter in the troop's legacy began as the historic boy scout hut was moved; lock, stock and barrel to its new location on Main Street.

Assisting with the history-making move were former boy scouts, scout officials, community leaders and concerned citizens. Mayor Rodney Grogan stated, "I would like to thank the leaders, scouts, parents and all who contributed to the expenses to defray the removal, transitional and re-installation costs."

On its former location, the hut sat in the far rear area of Morey Park, close to The Lower Atchafalaya River; but it was not easily visible to onlookers. It now proudly sits in plain view on Main Street in Patterson's Historic District. Mayor Grogan encourages the scouts to utilize Morey park in years to come for both scouting and community events.

The removal of the hut was a result of extensive park renovations being developed by Patterson's Cultural/Historic Main Street Committee that did not incorporate the presence of the hut in the landscape plans.

## Updated Water Report Available on Web

**PATTERSON WATER SYSTEM PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ID: LA1101006**

The 2015 Consumer Confidence Report has been posted on the City's website as required and is available for downloading and public viewing.

**Save The Date**

**Saturday, October 29, 2016**

Lower Atchafalaya Main Street & Cultural District Historic **Tours & Music Food Fest** 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Check the City website for more details.

## Patterson 2016 CC Summer Program a Success

Patterson's 2016 Community Center Summer Program went over with a bang once again when it opened its doors on June 6. Students ages 6 to 17 had the opportunity to participate in a fun, yet learning experience for a fee of \$50 per child. The 2016 session hosted 26 students from the ages of 6 to 12.

Tutoring began in the mornings where they received instruction in Language Arts, Math, handwriting techniques, and arts and crafts. The day also included special activities in which they could participate. They were bused to Patterson Jr. High School gym every afternoon for chaperoned fun and recreation activities.

According to Carrie Johnson, Assistant Director and tutor, "*This year was especially enjoyable for everyone. Students did not want to leave at the end of the day.*" They were taken on field trips to the Patterson Museum and Ponochio's in Houma; toured City Hall and was treated to pizza at the Fire Department.

The session concluded on July 15.



Book Bags and School items to Give Away

## Patterson CC Gives School Uniforms

Patterson Community Center is a perpetual source of community resources, whether in deeds or goods. School uniforms, book bags, undergarments, socks, etc are available for the asking in various children's sizes.

The majority of the uniforms are for girls, but there are items for boys also. School provisions are available until gone; first come, first served.

Nothing is required to receive these school necessities except to show up and retrieve them. Materials were donated by Wal-Mart Supercenter of Bayou Vista and Sandra Grogan & Family.



Display of some of the clothing available for the start of school

## Good Samaritans Clean Graveyard

For several Saturdays during this summer, devoted citizens of Patterson volunteered their services to clean and beautify the Patterson Memorial Cemetery on Williams Street. Young and old, both male and female came ready to work with their own lawnmowers, weed-eaters, garbage bags, and tractors to lend a helping hand. Other citizens who could not work, sent staples such as water and other beverages to keep the workers hydrated.

This project was personally spear-headed by Mayor Rodney Grogan. Willing workers volunteered out of love and pride for their community and city. Loyal citizens of all ages devote time and effort on a yearly basis in maintaining the integrity of the community cemetery. Despite the heat, outdoor hazards and minor injuries, the cleaning project was a complete success.

Mayor Grogan wishes to thank everyone who gave of themselves and/or their resources to help in this endeavor. It not only takes a village to raise a child, but it takes loyal people to come together to maintain the village. And indeed they did.



Devoted Citizen Weed-eating Around Graves

# Business & Entrepreneur Seminar Offered at City Hall

Patterson Economic and Development Committee (PEDSCO) is sponsoring a business seminar at Patterson City Hall on Friday, September 2, 2016. The seminar will be geared towards current and future entrepreneurs who may have a good idea for a business but don't know where or how to start; or those who may be seeking state and local resources about starting a new business or growing an existing one, and don't know where to obtain information.

The public is invited to a free four-hour informative presentation and discussion from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM designed to help you launch your concept and grow your business in the 21st century. Questions will be welcomed during a question and answer period.

Hear from two Patterson graduates turned entrepreneurs about their paths to success, and the obstacles they overcame along the way. Learn of virtual marketing, using social media to propel your business, marketing and sales strategies, business plans, motivation techniques and more.

Contact Ryan Aucoin at Patterson City Hall for more information, or to submit a registration form to attend. Seating is limited and registrations will be taken on a first come basis. Registration forms are available to download from the web at [www.cityofpattersonla.gov](http://www.cityofpattersonla.gov). Return completed forms to Patterson City Hall at 1314 Main Street.

Presenters are Betty Washington-Parker of Sharper Development Solutions, Incorporated and Thomas Brown of E-Claims, LLC

## Contact Us

We are interested in your good news! Contact us at:

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Visit us on the web at  
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**ALL ISSUES OF THE  
ATCHAFALAYA CHATS ARE  
POSTED ON THE WEB**

## SAVE THE DATE

**September 2, 2016 - 8AM to 12PM**  
**Business & Entrepreneur Seminar**



**Betty Washing-Parker, Sharper Development Solutions, Inc.**

BS in Broadcast Journalism, LSU



**Thomas Brown, E-Claims, LLC**

BS in Economics, LSU