



Our Pride

POINTE COUPEE

A quarterly publication for
Pointe Coupee Parish residents
by your public agencies

APRIL, 2021

CONTACT INFO

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225.638.9556
www.pccparish.org

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225.638.3870
www.pccparish.org

**Pointe Coupee Parish
Public Utilities** –
225.638.8507
www.pccparish.org

**Pointe Coupee Parish
Animal Control**–
225.718.0688
www.pccparish.org

**Sign up for Parish
Emergency Alert System**
Text ALERT to 225.240.1101 or
go to the parish website:
www.pccparish.org

**Pointe Coupee Sheriff's
Office dispatch** –
225.694.3737

**Pointe Coupee Parish
Assessor's Office** –
225.638.7077

**Pointe Coupee Parish
School Board** –
225.638.8674

**Pointe Coupee Parish
Clerk of Court**
225.638.9596

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Registrar of Voters**
225.638.5537

Solar farm proposed for Pointe Coupee

Lightsource bp, a well-respected renewable energy company, is looking to become the first solar farm in Pointe Coupee Parish. The company is proposing to build, own and operate a privately-funded \$300 million, 300 megawatt solar farm on 1,800 acres of land, of which 790 acres is farmland, in Ventress.

"This is exciting news for our parish," said Parish President Major Thibaut. "This is the first major economic project in our parish in well over 20 years."

"We have been in discussions with the company for some time, and our goal is for Pointe Coupee to get the best deal possible, while also protecting the integrity and

beauty of our parish," said Parish President Major Thibaut.

"To that end, we have passed a new ordinance that gives the parish oversight over solar farms (see below); and we are proposing the use of a PILOT program (see below) instead of the Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP)," Thibaut said. "These two steps make the project much more appealing for Pointe Coupee."

Landowners in the parish have been approached by a number of solar farm companies, but Thibaut said the transmission infrastructure here will support only one to two solar farms. Lightsource bp has been working on its project in Pointe Coupee for well over a year, and is well

Benefits of the PILOT program for PC from solar farm

The construction of the \$300 million Ventress solar farm by Lightsource bp would provide 400-500 construction jobs for a 15 to 18 month period. It will also provide a more than \$30 million dollar boost to government agencies in revenue over the next 30 years, and have an indirect economic impact of over \$200 million, according to a study by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

In exchange for the economic benefits, companies request industrial tax incentives. The most common requested by companies is an Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) exemption. However, Thibaut said Pointe Coupee is proposing the company get a PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) exemption instead of an ITEP.

"The state, not the parish, approves ITEP requests, and the Lightsourcebp project meets all the qualifications for the ITEP program," Thibaut said. "But our School Board could lose significantly if they go this route."

Parish President Thibaut said the parish is proposing the PILOT program because:

- 1) **The parish, rather than the state, negotiates the terms of the exemption,**
- 2) **Under the present state MFP formula, the Pointe Coupee School Board is penalized for additional tax revenues with ITEP, but not with PILOT.** The state MFP

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35 YEAR REVENUE TOTALS FROM SOLAR FARM

\$21,440,258	Equipment ad valorem tax
\$ 1,590,329	Land ad valorem tax
\$ 7,320,000	Sales tax
\$200 million	Indirect labor benefits*
	(*Based on BR Area Chamber study)

REVENUE TO PARISH AGENCIES

3 years	\$ 9,652,454
5 years	\$11,176,006
10 years	\$14,148,039
15 years	\$15,951,433
20 years	\$17,377,934
35 years	\$30,350,587

PARISH ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR REGULATION OF SOLAR FARMS

Solar farms have become popular across the country. Major electrical suppliers in this region, including Entergy, CLECO and others have announced that they are looking to buy solar power, a renewable energy source, in coming years.

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council adopted, in March, an ordinance to provide regulatory control over solar farms. Parish President Thibaut said, "By adopting this ordinance we require these companies to go through our permitting process, and in that process we can:

- **require them to add buffers of greenspace** with trees and shrubs between the solar panels and public view,
- **address maintenance and upkeep of the facility,**
- **make sure appropriate drainage and traffic mitigation are provided,**
- **stipulate how they would decommission the site,** should they shut down."



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PC Chamber member JM Eagle wins prestigious growth award

The Greater Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that JM Eagle, located in Batchelor, LA has won the BRAC's Business Growth Award. The company has had an approximately 33% increase in employment and has experienced great growth over the last 3 years.

JM Eagle is an American Corporation and a manufacturer of plastic pipe. With 22 plants in North America, the company manufactures polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and high-density polyethylene pipe for a variety of industries including utility, plumbing, electrical, natural gas, irrigation, potable water, drainage, and sewage.

Chamber joins with parish, Arbor to offer on-site business vaccinations

The Pointe Coupee Chamber is working with Parish Government and Arbor Family Health to get employees of businesses in Pointe Coupee Parish vaccinated in a timely and efficient manner. Arbor Family Health will go to businesses and administer COVID vaccinations on site.

The following information is needed to get a business started on scheduling on-site vaccinations:

- Number of interested participants
- Time frame (such as lunch hours, morning, etc.)
- Business name, address, phone, email and contact person

Please send this information to Chamber President Amanda Stanley at stanleya@mybrcc.edu.

"We are pleased to join forces in offering this service to our businesses," said Stanley. "This is a great way for local businesses to help their employees get the COVID vaccinations quickly and easily! And that helps our entire community."

GREATER POINTE COUPEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Shop local

REMEMBER: When you shop local, you are helping the local economy, creating jobs, and making Pointe Coupee a destination.



Benefits of the PILOT program for Pointe Coupee

Continued from page 1

program provides much-needed funding for school systems across the state, but a provision of the program penalizes certain parishes if local tax proceeds increase under the ITEP. The Pointe Coupee Parish school system does not have this penalty under the PILOT program.

3) The PILOT program gives a larger payment to governing agencies in the first 10 years of the solar farm's operation.

4) The use of the PILOT program, which is new to Louisiana, sends industry and companies the message that Pointe Coupee is open to economic development opportunities and is willing to think outside the box.

5) The PILOT program provides a much-needed increase in the tax base of Pointe Coupee government agencies without a tax increase on citizens.



Who is Lightsource bp and what do they offer Pointe Coupee?

Lightsource bp is a global leader in the development and management of solar energy projects. Since 2017, it has developed numerous large scale solar projects across 21 states in the U.S.

Lightsource bp will build, own and operate the solar farm in Pointe Coupee for its entire lifetime, with a pledge to be good neighbors and long-term partners of the community, with open channels of communication so that any concerns can be addressed.



keep their land for future generations," he added.

Solar energy is a passive form of emissions-free electricity generation that adds security to the country's energy mix. This project will abate 458,919 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, which is the equivalent of 99,147 fuel-burning cars! Solar farms are quiet, clean neighbors. They don't emit any noise beyond the site boundaries. The Ventress Solar Farm will have a long-term land management plan, which has been shown to increase wildlife populations and biodiversity.

Solar farms have also been shown to strengthen rural economies by creating local jobs, contributing significant annual revenue for local governing agencies, and bringing multi-million dollar annual operations budgets that are primarily spent in the region.

A long-term land maintenance plan for the site will be shared with the community to demonstrate a commitment to the long-term upkeep of the farm, and to ensure it blends with the aesthetic character of the Pointe Coupee area. "We pay attention to every detail, from the fencing we choose to the vegetation we plant. As the project owner and operator, we want our Ventress Solar Farm to be a great project for the local community," said Jack Steele, Development Manager for Lightsource bp.

"A solar farm is so much more than you think. It's a jobs farm. It's a biodiversity farm. It's an educational farm for local schools. It's a new year-round type of harvest for your neighbor farmers that helps them



Shown above is the dredging machine which sucks silt from the bottom of Johnson Bayou and disposes of it in the Atchafalaya Basin. At left is the swamp excavator being used to clear trees and stumps from a portion of Johnson Bayou.

Johnson Bayou dredging begins

The \$1.5 million project to dredge around a pumping station that drains most of north Pointe Coupee, and a portion of Johnson Bayou has begun.

Storm water from Johnson Bayou is pumped, via that pumping station, into the Atchafalaya Basin, and silt build-up has curtailed the capacity of the pumping station. Dredging is critical to improving drainage in the northern part of the parish. Some 100,000 yards of silt will be dredged by Magnolia Dredging.

In addition, the parish has rented a swamp excavator for 30 days to excavate a portion of Johnson Bayou. The excavator will clean out trees and stumps clogging the bayou, which has not been cleaned out for more than 50 years.



Record number of kids sign up for summer ball

Registration for the Pointe Coupee Recreation Department's summer baseball/softball program totaled 450 kids this year! Because of the high registration, the parish will have 12 tee-ball teams, 12 boys and girls Coaches Pitch teams, six softball teams, and eight baseball teams for a total of 28 teams playing ball this summer!

Parish, Arbor Health provide COVID vaccine drive-thru

When Pointe Coupee had the opportunity to get COVID vaccinations for residents quickly, the parish and Arbor Family Health sprung into action, organizing and holding a drive-through COVID vaccination program within a week.

The Louisiana Department of Health had called the parish in early March, requesting help in getting COVID vaccinations out in the parish quickly. "We jumped at the opportunity, and held the drive-through vaccinations on March 13 at the Scott Civic Center," said Parish Director of Administration Mark Ward. A total of 263 residents got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, which requires only one injection as opposed to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Staff of Arbor Health administered the shots.

Watch the parish facebook page: facebook.com/PCParishGov for notice of more drive through vaccinations.



Sign up to get parish emergency alerts

Pointe Coupee Parish has an emergency alert system to provide rapid notification of hazardous and emergency situations to Pointe Coupee residents via telephone calls, texts or email messages. A TTY/TDD service is also provided for the hearing impaired.

RESIDENTS MUST SIGN UP TO BE NOTIFIED BY:

- calling 225-240-1101
- texting "ALERT" to 225-240-1101 or
- going to the parish website: www.pccparish.org. Residents can select how they would like to receive the notifications.



Jimmie Gaspard
District A
jgaspard@pcparish.org
(225) 718-5653



Sidney LaCoste, II
District B
slacoste@pcparish.org
(225) 718-1644



Edward Bazile
District C
ebazile@pcparish.org
(337) 254-4656



Charles Watkins
District D
cwatkins@pcparish.org
(225) 718-8564



Edwin Soulier
District E
esoulier@pcparish.org
(225) 718-0813



Dustin Boudreaux
District F
dboudreaux@pcparish.org
(225) 276-7301



Paul Bergeron
District G
pbergeron@pcparish.org
(225) 718-1172



Kurt Jarreau
District H
kjarreau@pcparish.org
(225) 240-2337

Sheriff focuses on community policing to prevent and solve crime in neighborhoods

The Pointe Coupee Sheriff's Office has been working hard to implement strategies and solutions to better serve and protect residents and to continue building trust between deputies and the public.

Our deputies spend time getting to know the businesses, schools, houses of worship and neighborhoods in the area," said Sheriff Rene' Thibodeaux. "One area we are focusing on is having the deputies build relationships with the neighbors that make up our community."

The goal, Sheriff Thibodeaux said, is to create bonds with residents in order to get the community involved before a crime takes place or a crisis erupts. "This way, residents feel more empowered to share what's on their minds," he added. "And to advise us of their safety concerns and the issues on their block that keep them up at night. It makes us all safer!"

We want the residents we serve to be our partners, so that we're all working together to tackle problems.

The Sheriff's Office is using this community policing strategy, along with crime data, to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life of residents.

"We want the residents we serve to be our partners; so that we're all working together to tackle problems," Sheriff Thibodeaux said.

As an agency, the Sheriff's Office is exploring innovative approaches that align with our core values, promote transparency and accountability, and focus on engaging residents in a deeper way.

"Our neighbors should bring their concerns to the deputies in their community. Our deputies should actively include their voices -even those critical of law enforcement- into conversations around strategies for resolving problems in their neighborhood," he said.

Deputies' actions must be driven by our training and love for our community. Their work must be an extension of the core values espoused in the Sheriff's Department.

"We want to help build a foundation so we can trust each other and rely on each other. That's what community is all about - the idea that we're all in this together. That's the ultimate goal," Thibodeaux said.

"We ask our residents to join with us in making Pointe Coupee safe for everyone. We recognize that input from the community is invaluable in impacting public safety and Pointe Coupee Parish's future," said Sheriff Thibodeaux. "We are reaching out to be a great community for all of us."



New vehicle signage, uniforms

It's the beginning of a new era for the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office! You may have already noticed a change in the daily uniforms worn by the Pointe Coupee Sheriff's Office deputies. The old black uniforms have been ditched for an eye-catching army green. Along with the new uniforms, the deputies will be driving in patrol vehicles that will have a brand new graphic for all residents to see. The unit above shows the new graphics, and in the photo above, Sergeant Mike Battiste, Deputy Adam LaCour, Sergeant Derick Breaud, and Corporal Danny Farris sport the new uniforms. "This is an important and exciting change for the men and women of our agency and our public," said Sheriff Rene' Thibodeaux. "It is my desire to build a Sheriff's Office that people are proud to work for, and residents are proud to be served by."

Tips for Keeping Prescriptions Safe at Home

Parents can keep a close eye on the medicines they have at home and store them safely to help protect their teens

- ▶ **Create a list** of all prescriptions and keep track of when they are refilled. This will help you notice if medicine goes missing.
- ▶ **Count the number of pills** in a bottle if you suspect some are missing. Compare the total with the number you were given at the pharmacy.
- ▶ For medications that are frequently misused, such as painkillers, it may even be a good idea to **buy a lockable cabinet**. This also makes it more difficult for small children to accidentally use your medications.
- ▶ Know the **symptoms of prescription misuse** and watch for behavior and signs that fit these descriptions.
- ▶ **Stay in close conversation** with your child's doctor, teachers, and other adults in your child's life.

PCP Sheriff's Office

225.638.5400

pcpsso.org facebook.com/PCPSO

Livonia branch library nears completion, move begins

The Livonia branch library construction is nearing completion, and the process of moving the Library collections and furniture into the new building has begun. "Our Livonia clientele have been so patient with this construction project and it's almost done. We hope the community will be proud of their new structure, its contents and our efforts," said Parish Library Director Melissa Hymel.

As soon as everything is moved and operational, we will announce the ribbon cutting ceremony and Grand Tour. This new facility is designed to serve the needs of not only Livonia, but all of the southern end of Pointe Coupee Parish.

Library facebook page features plenty of local history photos

Several special projects are underway with the Library's Historic Materials Collection. Our local historian, Brian Costello, is publishing numerous articles on the Library's Facebook page in reference to parish history. These copyrighted articles are also being included in the library system's databases for future research.

If you or a member of your family have photographs or items prior to 1940 to share, please contact Brian or Melissa at 225-638-9847 Monday – Friday 9 am-5 pm.

A few of Brian's newest topics include "Pointe Coupee Parish yields pre-colonial and colonial era relics", "Italian origins of Pointe Coupee Parish families," and a photographic collection of "Early Poydras, Morganza, Livonia schools" from a Pointe Coupee Banner article in 1930.

The library's Facebook page is [facebook.com/Pointe Coupee Parish Library II](https://www.facebook.com/Pointe-Coupee-Parish-Library-II). Check it out for other great articles.



Shown are just two of the many historical photos on the Library facebook page. Above, one of the most familiar and beloved Pointe Coupeeans of Italian birth was Mr. Salvatore "Sam" Rinaudo. He was a grocer, and was involved in drayage (a form of shipping). He is shown with his truck for that work. And at left, is Morganza railroad depot from 1946. (Pointe Coupee Parish Resources and Facilities)



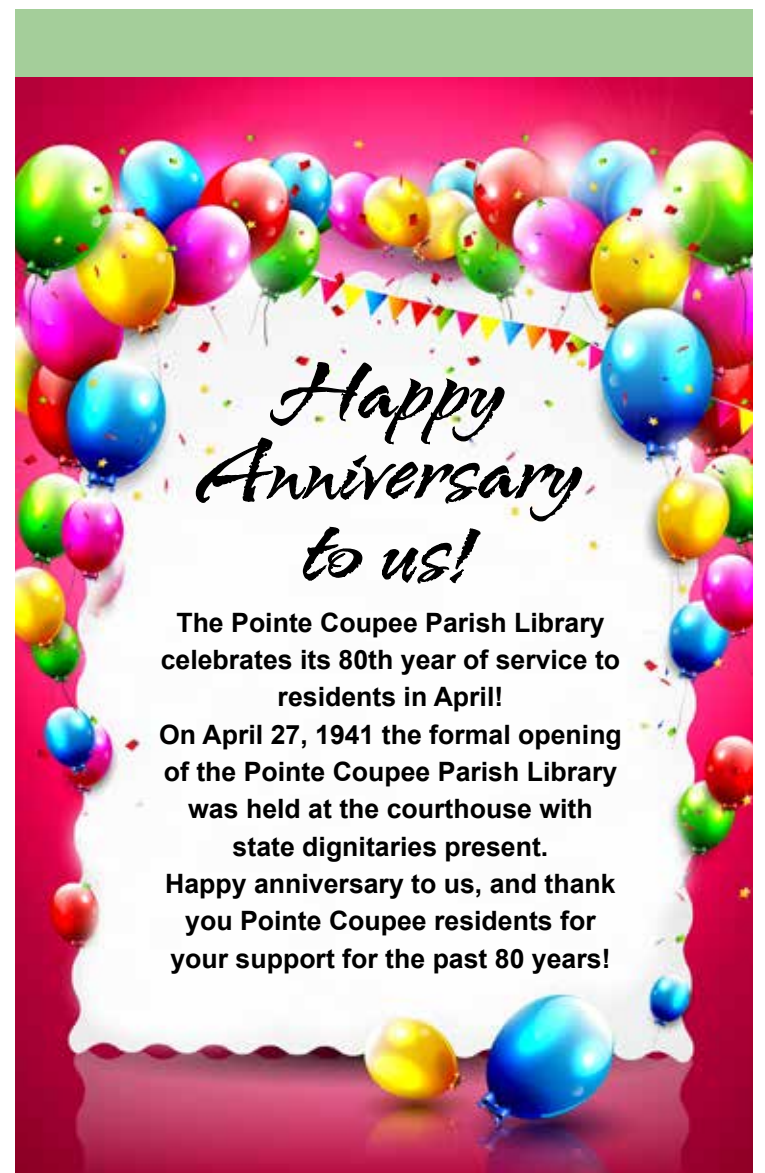
Parish libraries are open, but limited by COVID

We are OPEN for business! Although COVID-19 is still an issue, Pointe Coupee libraries have opened their doors to the general public – at limited capacity, of course!

The libraries are again offering books, copiers, free use of computers, free faxing and free WiFi. "It's been a year already and we are so excited to see our customers once again," said Library Director Melissa Hymel. "Unfortunately COVID-19 still has our meeting rooms closed for general public."

Library hours throughout the parish are still under COVID-19 Open Safely guidelines. This means hours are reduced and the libraries cannot open at full capacity. But, the staffs are able to serve the needs of our customers. The Libraries COVID-19 hours are:

New Roads	Monday-Friday	9:00am-5:00pm
Innis	Monday-Friday	9:00am-5:00pm
Morganza	Monday-Friday	
Rougon	Monday-Friday	9:30am-2:30pm
Livonia	Closed For Construction	



Pointe Coupee Parish Library
201 Claiborne Street, New Roads
Phone: 225-638-9847
Open: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-7:30pm
Friday & Saturday 8:30am-5:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm-5:00pm
www.pointe-coupee.lib.la.us

Innis Branch Library
6444 La Hwy 1,
Innis
Phone: 225-492-2632
Open: M-F 10:00am-6:00pm

Morganza Branch Library
221 So. LA Hwy. 1,
Morganza
Phone: 225-694-2428
Open: M-F 12:00pm-5:00pm

Julian Poydras Branch Library
4985 Julian Poydras Lane,
Rougon
Phone: 225-627-5846
Open: M-F 9:30am-2:30pm

Livonia Branch Library
3100 Hwy. 78,
Livonia
Phone: 225-637-2987
Open: M-F 1:00-6:00pm



In the photo above Dr. Walter Cain gets his COVID-19 vaccination.

Pointe Coupee Parish among highest in state in vaccinations

Currently PCGH has administered more than 2,000 first and second doses of the Covid-19 Vaccines this year. "Pointe Coupee Parish is one of the highest parishes in the state in full vaccination percentages," noted Chad Olinde, PCGH CEO. "This is a testament to the group effort between PCGH, The Arbor Clinic, Walmart, Super One, PC Home Health and the PC Health Unit. Everyone has been committed to providing the vaccine for our local residents," added Olinde.

PCGH will continue to administer the vaccine and will continue to coordinate the administration of the vaccine with the other local providers, including the Arbor Clinic and the PC Parish health unit to ensure that our community is vaccinated and to minimize any wasted doses. Visit www.pcgh.org for more information.

COVID-19 VACCINES

WHO GETS IT NOW?

Local doctor explains safety of COVID vaccine

A message from Dr. Paul Rachal of the LPG about the COVID-19 Vaccine



Are you considering getting the COVID 19 vaccine, but are hesitant, what you need to know is that all COVID 19 vaccines are safe and effective. Millions of people in the United States have already received the COVID 19 vaccine under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.

All COVID-19 vaccines are authorized by the FDA and 100% effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths and they are free to the public. Many Louisianans now qualify to get the vaccine, do you? Find out more at pcgh.org. The shot is now available in all 64 parishes, including Pointe Coupee. Getting the shot helps us end the pandemic, get our economy back on track, and bring back the Louisiana we know and love. So lets all roll up our sleeves and get the vaccine. I did!



Everyone in Louisiana ages 16 and older is eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

How mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19.

Coronaviruses like the one that causes COVID-19 are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called **spike proteins**. These **spike proteins** are ideal targets for vaccines.

What is mRNA?

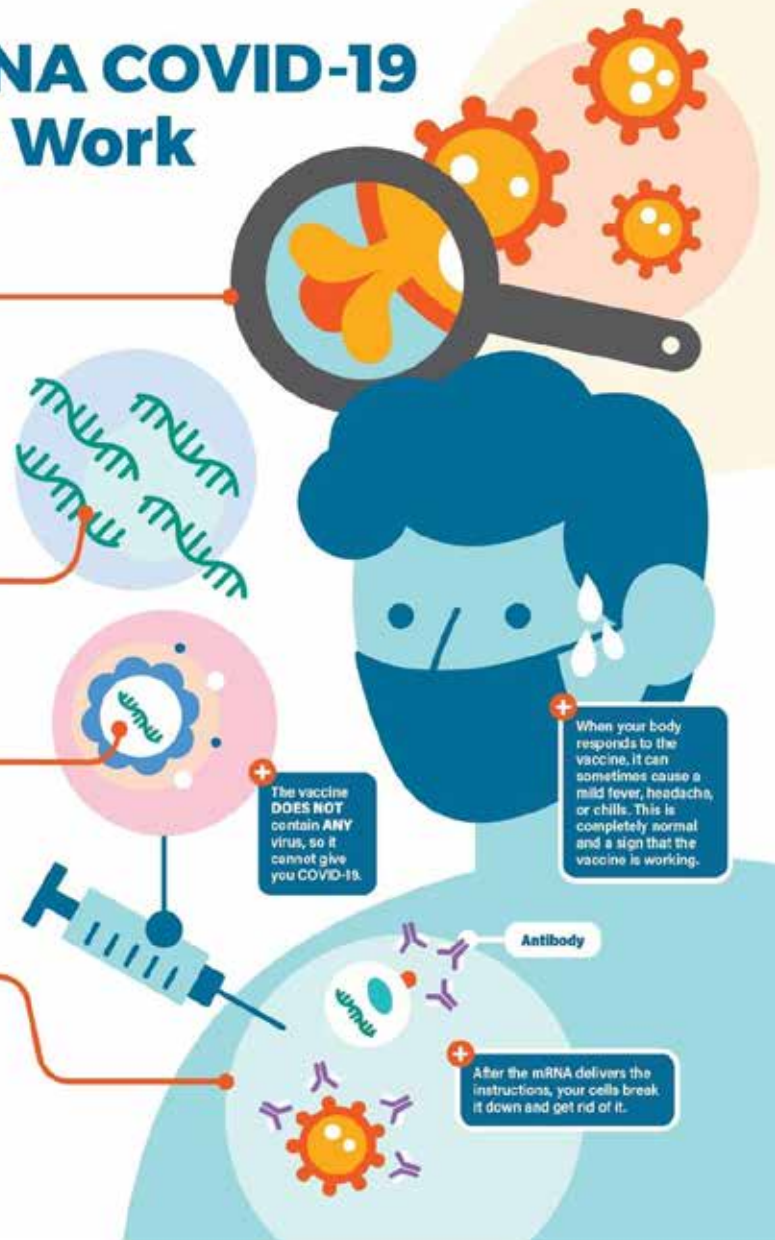
Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins.

What is in the vaccine?

The vaccine is made of mRNA wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it.

How does the vaccine work?

The mRNA in the vaccine teaches your cells how to make copies of the **spike protein**. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.



Getting vaccinated?

For information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit: cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines



Get your COVID vaccination visit www.pcgh.org or call 225.638.5700 to register today!



Shown in the photos at left, staff of Pointe Coupee General Hospital get their COVID vaccinations.

New Roads recognized as a Top 10 emerging destination

The City of New Roads was recognized by the 'Business Insider' as one of the top 10 emerging destinations in the U.S. for 2021.

"I am humbled we're selected to be on the list," stated Mayor Dukes. "We are the prettiest city on the water - a unique city laced with atmospheric character. We boast a unique setting along False River. We will continue on the path of working hard to become the number one tourist attraction on the list."

The City of New Roads extends a warm welcome to visitors and locals to visit by way of the majestic James Audubon Bridge or fly in to the local airport by way of a private plane.

New Roads is always ready to serve visitors and locals alike at signature restaurants and unique shops. Enjoy a walk along the beautiful False River. We're here to serve you in New Roads - The Prettiest City on the Water.

Read the article: <https://www.businessinsider.com/rbo-trending-destinations>

City of New Roads Presents
STIMULUS
POP-UP
Shop
ON MAIN STREET
 Saturday, May 8th
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The City of New Roads will launch a pop-up shop to assist small businesses during the pandemic. It's a great place to enjoy a day of shopping and practice social distancing while allowing small businesses a chance to make sales.

CITY OF NEW ROADS
 LAKE CHARLES
 LOUISIANA
 The Prettiest City on the Water



APRIL 9-11TH Market AT THE Mill

ANTIQUES | HANDMADE JEWELRY | ART
 OUTDOOR PLANTS | CLOTHING
 WOODWORKING | FOOD | POTTERY



The Prettiest City on the Water
 311 MILL ST., NEW ROADS, LA
WWW.MARKETATTHEMILLNEWROADS.COM

Purchase tickets online!!



New windows coming for historic school

The main building of the historic Rougon Elementary School will be getting long-awaited new windows this summer! The original single-pane wood windows in the beautiful 81-year-old building are inefficient and difficult to operate. The new windows will be much more energy efficient, providing electrical savings, and will also be more functional. It is funded by the new tax proceeds approved by voters in 2020. "We are very excited about this project,"

said Principal Marcie Cazayoux. "It will be a great upgrade for our school." Rougon Elementary has 350 students from Headstart to 8th grade. The school is named for P.V. Rougon, who funded a school in the late 1800s and donated the land and building for a school at the site to the parish in the early 1900s. The existing school was built in 1941.



Scenes from the Livonia High School Ring Ceremony... Shown in the top photo are, from left, Malayjah Fisher, Holden Larimore and Mckinna Sproles. In the bottom photo, the 2022 seniors are standing for the opening of the Ring Ceremony.

Juniors mark their senior status at Ring Ceremony

The Livonia High School Class of 2022 received their senior rings in a ceremony at the STEM Magnet Academy Stadium on March 27. Approximately 90 members of the 130-member senior class attended the ceremony. The ceremony was conducted by the class members, with various students leading the invocation, pledge of allegiance, national anthem, welcome, address, the meaning of the ring, and dedication of the rings. Congratulations Class of 2022!



Livonia graduation set at LSU Thursday, May 20 6pm PMAC on LSU campus

The Pointe Coupee Parish School Board, for the first time, has decided to move the Livonia High School graduation to the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on the LSU campus. "We are excited to be able to accommodate families and insure the weather does not interfere with graduation, by holding this important ceremony at the PMAC," said Superintendent Kim Canezaro. Specifics regarding the number of guests and parking will be provided to seniors in the coming weeks, but Superintendent Canezaro noted that LSU follows the state COVID protocols, so those protocols will be in place for the graduation.



Welders win second in state

The Livonia High School FFA welding team of Wesley Baggett and Hunter Amond (shown above from left) placed first in regionals and second in state competition in March! And the team of Roderick Williams and Gage Burns (third and fourth from left) placed sixth in state! They are all seniors, and have been taking welding classes as part of their high school curriculum for several years. They will receive dual-enrollment credit for the classes, and Baggett and Amond will be furthering their welding training after high school. The state judging was difficult because it was all done remotely, with the school providing Zoom access for judges to watch the students' work. They competed in cutting, tacking and welding. Congratulations seniors!