



Our Pride

POINTE COUPEE

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

APRIL 2023

DID YOU KNOW?

You can request
mosquito treatment,
pay your parish utility bill,
submit a work order, and
get garbage info on the
parish website!

www.pccparish.org

EVENT INFO

April 21 – Wine Down on False
River - Downtown Main Street

April 22 – Wine Waddle 5K and 1
Mile runs

April 29 – Peli Con comics/
gaming - Scott Civic Center

April 30 – Cancer Survivors
Spring Fling Brunch - Vintage
Magnolia House

May 5 – La. Quarter Horse Assn.
Crawfish Classic - PC Multi-Use
Center

May 8 – Diabetes class begins at
Library (see page 5)

May 10 – Calling All Artists
Workshop by Arts Council

May 13 – Master Gardener
Mother's Day Plant Sale

May 13 – Graduation for Catholic
High of Pointe Coupee

May 23 – Last day of school for
students

May 23 – Graduation for high
schools at PMAC

June 10 – Nancy Roppolo & Day
Trip Concert - Poydras Center

June-July – Summer programs at
Libraries (see page 5)

GET MORE INFORMATION ON
EVENTS AT: PCTOURISM.ORG
LIBRARY EVENTS SEE PAGE 5



*The new
concession/
restroom facility
at False River Park,
shown above, is
now complete. It
was funded by a
\$480,000 grant
from Lightsource
BP.*



Parish makes big improvements to False River Park, constructing new Batchelor park

Great improvements have been made to Pointe Coupee parks in the last few years, with significant improvements to False River Park, including ball field upgrades and sidewalks. Now the new concession stand/restroom facility is now complete. That beautiful new building, with air conditioning, was funded with a \$480,000 grant from Lightsource BP. It also includes a 20 foot covered pavilion around the entire building to provide shade for those using the park.

Residents going to the park for the summer baseball/softball/T-Ball programs will enjoy all these improvements. Participation in the summer programs has increased to more than 500 kids this year! In addition, a new playground, pickleball courts, resurfacing tennis courts, and exercise stations will be completed at False River Park later this year.

Meanwhile, construction of a new park in Batchelor is underway. This park will include a walking trail, playground, workout equipment and a pavilion. The new park, along with some of the upgrades at False River Park, were funded by a \$750,000 Love Louisiana grant.

Finally, parking lot improvements have been made at the Pointe Coupee Multi-Purpose Arena, which has a very extensive line-up of cutting horse, barrel racing, quarter horse and cow show events through the summer.

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PERMIT NO. 88



The Chamber's first annual "Boiling on the River" Crawfish Cook-Off will be held May 7. Professional and amateur backyard crawfish boilers are welcome to enter.

This event is part of the Chamber's effort to support and promote local crawfish farmers, vendors and restaurants who work tirelessly during crawfish season to deliver beautiful, home grown and, most importantly, delicious crawfish.

Sponsors also wanted for this event! Email the Chamber for more information - pointechamber@gmail.com or call 225-938-1089.

Business of the Month: The Crawfish Hole

Jared Murphy and Trent Bergeron are owners, brothers-in-law, fishing buddies and business partners of The Crawfish Hole.

"We started this concept with a love for family and food as our foundation," said the owners. "Our building blocks for success include bold flavors, creativity, community involvement, willingness to try anything, and a work hard, play hard mentality."

Located at 8899 Airline Hwy, Livonia, the restaurant features an extensive southern and Cajun menu that includes boiled crawfish in season.



Shop local

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

Steps for veterans to take in qualifying for new exemption

As discussed in the last newsletter, Amendment #2 on the November 8th, 2022 election was passed by the voters of Louisiana. This amendment added additional homestead exemptions for veterans with different levels of disability as verified by the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans who feel they may qualify for this exemption should contact the local Veterans' Affairs Office at 180 East Main Street (the old 4-H office down the parkway behind the Courthouse Annex Bldg.) or call 225-638-5535 on Wednesdays or Thursdays between 9 am and 3:00 pm to acquire the appropriate documentation to present to our office.

A normal homestead exemption covers the first \$75,000 of value of your primary residence. You have to own and occupy the property to keep the exemption in place.

The new law grants additional levels of exemptions based on the veteran's percentage of disability. If a residence is owned and occupied by a veteran with a disability rating of 50% to 69% the first \$100,000 of value is exempted.

A veteran with a 70% to 99% disability rating gets the first \$120,000 of value exempted.

Veterans with a 100% unemployability or disability rating get their residence fully

exempt from property taxes.

Some municipal taxes may still apply if you live within an incorporated area. Surviving spouses of veterans are also eligible for these exemptions even if they were not in place at time of the veteran's death.

HERE A FEW REMINDERS ABOUT OTHER EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE TO PROPERTY OWNERS:

If you're 65 years of age or older and have an adjusted gross income of less than \$100,000, you may be eligible to "freeze" the value of your homestead property. Please contact the Assessor's Office for more details.

If you are permanently totally disabled as determined by a state or federal agency, you may also qualify for the "freeze".

If you've recently purchased or built a new home, be sure to apply for your homestead exemption.



Pointe Coupee Assessor's Office

Jimmy Laurent, Jr., Pointe Coupee Parish Assessor

Office: 225-638-7077, Cell: 225-240-9974

Email: pcassessor@bellsouth.net

www.ptcoupeeassessor.com

211 E. Main St., Suite 4, New Roads, LA 70760



Assessor Jimmy Laurent, Jr.

Assessor's Office accepts electronic documents

Forms are available on the Assessor's website to file for your homestead exemption, agricultural use application and annual business filings. They can be found at www.ptcoupeeassessor.com under the FORMS section. We will accept forms via email at pcassessor@bellsouth.net, text message at 225-240-9974, Facebook Messenger or through our message service located on our website.



Johnson Bayou clean-out, Richey Street work to improve drainage

A project to de-slag and clean out the 15 mile Johnson Bayou has been completed. It took parish crews approximately three weeks to do the work with the parish's swamp excavator. The bayou, which had not been cleaned out in 30 to 40 years, is the primary outfall for draining the northern part of the parish. Clearing it of trees, brush and trash will help the flow of drainage in northern Pointe Coupee. The photos above show before, during and after clearing a portion of the bayou. A construction crew is presently working on the Richey Street drainage project, a \$240,000 project to create a secondary outfall and replace culverts to improve drainage in that area. That project is expected to be complete by the end of April. Both of these projects are part of the parish's drainage improvement plan.

Complete work requests online

Parish residents can go to the parish website to submit work requests, such as garbage issues, potholes, or anything you feel should be reported to your parish government. Simply go to the parish website - pcparish.org and scroll down to Submit Work Request. Click and complete the form. All gas-related work orders/issues should be directed to Linette Pascalín (Utilities Department) at (225) 638-8507 or lpascalin@pcparish.org.

To report an emergency or hazardous situation, such as a gas leak, please call us at (225) 638-8507 or 911.



New Pecan Island Bridge complete

The construction of the new Pecan Island Bridge is now complete and the replacement of the Beamon Road Bridge will be underway in July. The \$2.5 million bridge replacement project was funded with federal/state dollars through the Off System Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program, which is 80 percent federally funded and 20 percent state funded. Beamon Road Bridge is being replaced with federal funds through the Rural Bridge Replacement Program.

Parish takes over bouy replacement project

Pointe Coupee Parish has assumed the False River bouy program, and will be updating some 30 bouys in April and May. The New Roads Kiwanis Club had handled maintenance and installation of new bouys for some 30 years, but no longer has the manpower to handle the program.

"We are very grateful to the Kiwanis Club for its hard work for so many years," said Parish President Major Thibaut. "That is a very long time for the club to handle this big project."

There are more than 200 bouys in the river to outline no wake zones. They are positioned according to GPS coordinates and numbered so that they can be used to help locate stranded or distressed boaters. A parish ordinance requires a no-wake zone 300 feet from shoreline, which helps control bank erosion and also is a safety measure. The bouys help mark the no-wake zones.

The parish has conducted an inspection of all the bouys to see if they are damaged or missing, and expects to replace approximately 30 bouys this year.



Bouys ready to be replaced in False River.

Lightsource BP tax payments to date

AGENCY	TOTAL PAYMENTS
PC Parish School Board	\$1,800,223
PC Parish Government	36,584
Roads	380,582
Fire Districts	254,067
PC Hospital	456,698
Recreation	106,563
Detention	45,670
Solid Waste	152,233
Drainage	190,291
Economic Dev.	114,478
Atchafalaya Levee Dist.	42,824
Sheriff	164,531
Library	43,087
Assessor	28,111
TOTAL	3,815,941



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(225) 240-2337

Registration open for First Responder Junior Academy

Planning for the popular First Responder Junior Academy is underway. Set for June 5 through 29 from 8 am until noon, it is held at the Pointe Coupee District 5 Training Center in New Roads.

A summer program for kids age 7 to 14, the program is a collaboration between the Pointe Coupee Sheriff Office, City of New Roads Police Department, and Pointe Coupee Fire District No. 5.

"Our objective for the program is to develop good citizenship and leadership skills, build character and to allow the kids to gain an appreciation for community service," said Sheriff Rene' Thibodeaux.

Throughout the program, the kids will experience hands-on methods and techniques used in the professions of first responders. In addition, they will get lessons on the importance of life skills such as respect, self-discipline,

responsibility, communication, integrity, education, problem solving and physical fitness.

The program is FREE of charge and opened to all children throughout the parish ages 7 – 14. Registration forms can be picked up at the City of New Roads or Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office in the Parish Courthouse in New Roads.



Deputies are shown with some of the kids who participated in the 2022 First Responder Junior Academy.

Boating season is underway - Be sure you are prepared and safe

The weather is warming up and in Pointe Coupee boating and recreational water activities are underway. With two rivers in our area, you can find residents and vacationers casting a line in Old River or water skiing on False River.

It's all a fun time, but the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office will continue to help ensure the safety of individuals by making sure deputies patrol the waterways as much as possible. Below are a few tips to keep you and your families safe:

- **Wear your life jackets.** Always. Every passenger. Make sure that all safety gear is up to date.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** You should always be on the lookout for debris, swimmers, and other boaters.
- **Don't Drink and Boat.** Operating any watercraft under the influence is illegal.
- **Know the laws and regulations** for your state and area.
- **Fuel up!** Don't get caught in a bind without gas. This poses major risks, especially if it can leave you on in the water, unprepared after dark.
- **Check the weather forecast and be prepared for it to change.** Being on the water in lightning and severe weather puts you at unnecessary risk.
- **Have a form of communication with you** on the boat so that you can get help should you are stranded or have an emergency.



**WE'RE
HIRING**
JOIN OUR TEAM

Looking to start a career in law enforcement?

We're looking for qualified individuals to be part of our law enforcement team.

Go to: pcpsso.org

PCP Sheriff's Office
225.638.5400

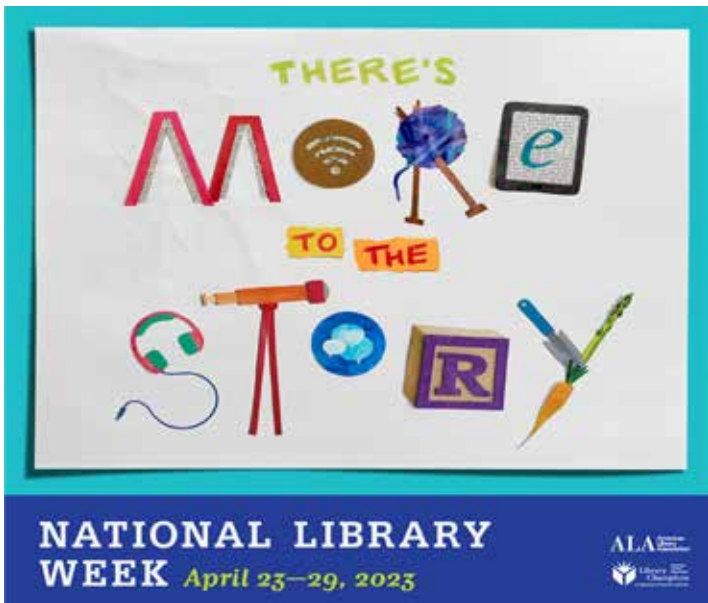
pcpsso.org facebook.com/PCPSO

Celebrate National Library Week

National Library Week (April 23 - 29, 2023) is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support. The theme for National Library Week 2023 is "There's More to the Story," illustrating that in addition to books in library collections, libraries offer so much more.

Library programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, story times, movie nights, crafting classes, and lectures. And library infrastructure advances communities, providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.

As one of the top 5 per capita libraries in the state, Pointe Coupee Parish Library is proud and honored to continue providing valuable services to our communities. Come by one of our local library facilities and check out our programs and collections!



Free notary service offered on Saturdays in New Roads

Free notary services are available on Saturdays at the New Roads Library for the following: wills, deeds, affidavits, trusts, contracts and notarized copies. All persons whose signatures are to be notarized must be present with a valid ID. No exceptions. Sign up at the library or call 225-638-7593 to reserve your time slot.

Join the Chess Club!

Join to practice, learn and sharpen your chess skills in a cozy, friendly environment. All skill levels welcome. Sign up at the New Roads Library. Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until noon.

Diabetes informational classes

Pointe Coupee General Hospital will host free informational and interactive diabetes classes at the Innis Library. Sessions will be presented by Jeanene Thibaut, RN and Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist at Pointe Coupee General Hospital.

Classes are each Monday in May, beginning May 8, at 10 am. You can attend any or all of the sessions. For more information, contact Jeanene Thibaut at jthibaut@pcgh.org or 225-638-5850.



SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Summer Reading program is held every Tuesday and Wednesday during June and July, except for July 4 and 5. Below is the list of activities.

DATE	PROGRAM	TIME/LOCATIONS
June 6	Magic with David Leboeuf	9:30 am at New Roads, 11:30 at Morganza, 2 pm at Innis
June 7	Magic with David Leboeuf	10 am at Rougon, 2 pm at Livonia
June 13	Story Time with Ms. Happy	9:30 am at New Roads, 11:30 at Morganza, 2 pm at Innis
June 14	Story Time with Ms. Happy	10 am at Rougon, 2 pm at Livonia
June 20	Petting Zoo	9:30 am at New Roads
June 20	Fun with Mrs. Dana/Ms. Bennie	11:30 am at Morganza, 2 pm at Innis
June 21	Fun with Mrs. Debbie	10 am at Rougon
June 21	Petting Zoo	2 pm at Livonia
June 27	Cooking with Herbie T	9:30 am at New Roads, 11:30 am at Morganza, 2 pm at Innis
June 28	Cooking with Herbie T	10 am at Rougon, 2 pm at Livonia
July 11	Story Time with Ms. Happy	9:30 am at New Roads, 11:30 at Morganza, 2 pm at Innis
July 12	Story Time with Ms. Happy	10 am at Rougon, 2 pm at Livonia
July 18	Water Safety	9:30 am at New Roads, 11:30 at Morganza, 2 pm at Innis
July 19	Water Safety	10 am at Rougon, 2 pm at Livonia
July 25	Fire Dept./Splash Day	9:30 am at New Roads, 11:30 at Morganza, 2 pm at Innis
July 26	Fire Dept./Splash Day	10 am at Rougon, 2 pm at Livonia



Branch location, contact information

Pointe Coupee Parish Library
201 Claiborne Street, New Roads
Phone: 225-638-9847
Open: Monday-Thursday 9 am - 6 pm
Friday & Saturday 9 am - 1 pm
Sunday Closed
www.pointe-coupee.lib.la.us

Innis Branch Library
6444 La Hwy 1, Innis
Phone: 225-618-1070
Open: Monday-Thursday 9 am - 6 pm
Friday 9 am - 1 pm

Morganza Branch Library
221 So. LA Hwy. 1, Morganza
Phone: 225-694-2428
Open: Monday-Thursday
10 am - 5 pm
Friday 10 am - 2 pm

Julian Poydras Branch Library
4985 Julian Poydras Lane,
Rougon
Phone: 225-627-5846
Open: M-F 8 am - 4 pm

Livonia Branch Library
8247 Norwood, Livonia
Phone: 225-637-2987
Open: Monday-Thursday 9 am - 6 pm
Friday 9 am - 1 pm

Expert home health and hospice care from a home-town agency



Navigating health care can be challenging, but rest assured, Pointe Coupee Homebound Health & Hospice is here for you! This community-based home health and hospice agency offers care in Pointe Coupee and surrounding parishes. The team of compassionate professionals are here to help you establish health goals and give you the tools and support to reach those goals.

Pointe Coupee Homebound Health and Hospice offers the following services: skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and healthcare aide services, as covered by insurance. While goals of home health and hospice care differ, they both offer intermittent care in the comfort of your home or assisted living. Hospice care is also offered in nursing homes and occasionally at Pointe Coupee General Hospital when inpatient hospice care is needed for enhanced symptom control.

Additional services provided under the hospice benefit include medical social worker, volunteers and chaplain support. Medicare and Medicaid, as well as private insurance, follow the same guidelines regarding qualifying for hospice care.

The most important take away regarding hospice care is that it's a benefit built into most insurances to offer support and guidance to not only the patient, but to the entire family. To be eligible for hospice care, the physician has to certify that the patient has a life limiting illness. The hospice team does not do anything to hasten death. Rather, they are a specialized team to provide symptom management to patients, educate the caregivers, and offer support as illnesses progress along their natural course.



Pointe Coupee Homebound Health and Hospice has a proven record of success, having received multiple HHCAHPS Honors, a prestigious award recognizing home health & hospice agencies that continuously provide quality care as measured from the patient's point of view. The home health agency was established in 1984 and the hospice agency was established since 2001.

If you or someone you know has difficulty leaving home for medical appointments, needs in-home therapy, has a new onset illness, chronic illness requiring management, has increased weakness, recurrent falls or new ordered medications, ask your physician about ordering home health.

Remember, it's your choice which agency you use and it's never too late to request Pointe Coupee Homebound Health & Hospice! If your doctor is setting you up with home health or hospice, or if you are being discharged from the hospital, skilled care, or rehab, ask for Pointe Coupee Homebound Health & Hospice by name.

"Being locally operated, our nurses live locally, which allows us to respond quicker in times of need and to manage our patients' care without long delays," said Jeanine Thibodeaux, Administrator. "We know our community and surrounding area's culture because we are from here. We pride ourselves in excellent patient care and are proud to say at Pointe Coupee Homebound Health and Hospice, we are not just your healthcare team...we're your neighbors!"

For a free consultation for home health or hospice care services, call 225-638-5717, visit the office at 350 Hospital Road in New Roads, or check out the website at PCHHH.org.



**Local, Dependable, Professional
Home Health & Hospice Care**

Choose Pointe Coupee Homebound Health

It's Your Choice Which Agency Cares for You! Ask for US by name!



Jeanine Thibodeaux, RN
Administrator



Dr. Ashely Bordelon
Hospice Medical Director



Dr. Paul Rachal
Home Health Medical Director

We are more than your healthcare team...We're your neighbors!

How to know when you need home health, hospice

- ▶ If you are home-bound and have recurrent falls, newly diagnosed illnesses, chronic disease requiring management, recurrent hospitalizations, and/or started new medications.
- ▶ If you just had surgery and need physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy. We have therapists who can come to your home and help you get up and moving quickly.
- ▶ If you were recently hospitalized and are in need of home health. Ask for us by name and case managers/discharge planners will send your referral straight to us.
- ▶ If you or someone you know has an advanced and incurable illness. Call for a free hospice consult. Medicare covers hospice at 100% and most private insurances have hospice coverage, as well. We can provide you with a question list to discuss with your physician.



City awarded \$6.395 million in grants; plans \$8.15 million in water, sewer improvement projects

The City of New Roads received great news recently that it has been awarded a total of \$6,395,184 for much needed water and sewer system improvements. Engineering on the projects for both systems is underway now, and the projects will begin in early 2024.

The City was awarded \$4,526,984 for sewer system improvements, and \$1,868,200 for water system improvements. A total of 78.4 percent of funding for the projects will come from federal funds, with the city having a \$1.759 million total match for the grants. It will use its federal covid relief funding, local funds, and some parish federal covid relief funds for the city match.

The City's engineering firm, Owen and White, assisted City Treasurer Lynette Nelson in completing the grant applications.

"We are thrilled to receive these grant funds, which will go a long way in alleviating significant issues with our sewer system," said Mayor Theron Smith. "We will apply to the La. Bond Commission for the matching city funds needed, but we have been renting pumps to run our lift stations. These projects include new permanent pumps, so the savings

from eliminating the rentals will pay the bond note," he explained.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for New Roads to use federal funds to bring these systems up to a good level," said Engineer Steven Linderman of Owen and White. "This allows the city to perform critical repairs and upgrades that will keep its sewer and water systems in good working order for the next 20 years or longer, with proper maintenance. We are excited the city was chosen for the grants, and how this plan will improve the infrastructure for the citizens of New Roads."

The sewer project includes upgrading 10 lift stations by replacing the pumps and making other repairs. These stations are presently run on rented back-up pumps. The new state-of-the-art permanent pumps will be more efficient, and will also save on energy costs. In addition, the upgrade will eliminate the pump rental costs. In addition, three new permanent pumps will be installed at the lagoon lift station, which is also presently running on a back-up pump. Aerators and other improvements will also be made at the lagoon.

The water system improvements include investigating the cause of capacity issues with one of the city's water wells and repairing those issues if possible; repainting the Waterloo water tank; and running a water line to the parish prison so the city can take the prison into the New Roads water system. The parish presently has its own water system for the prison, but extensive improvements were being required by the La. Dept. of Health to meet regulations. By consolidating the prison into the city system, the city received extra points for the water grant award, which proved critical to getting the grant award. The parish is providing the local match to run the line.

Both grants were awarded through the Water Sector Program, the state program which is distributing the American Rescue Plan Act federal funding approved by Congress.

New Roads Main Street Program, Arts Council hold mural competition

The Arts Council of Pointe Coupee and New Roads Main Street are collaborating on a project to bring public art to the parish by selecting an artist to paint a mural on the side of MaMama's Kitchen on West Main Street in New Roads.

#PointeCoupeeProud will be a mural that depicts images of what Pointe Coupee Parish embodies with its rich cultural, agricultural, and recreational attributes. This mural project grant has a \$10,000 budget for the artist selected for the project.

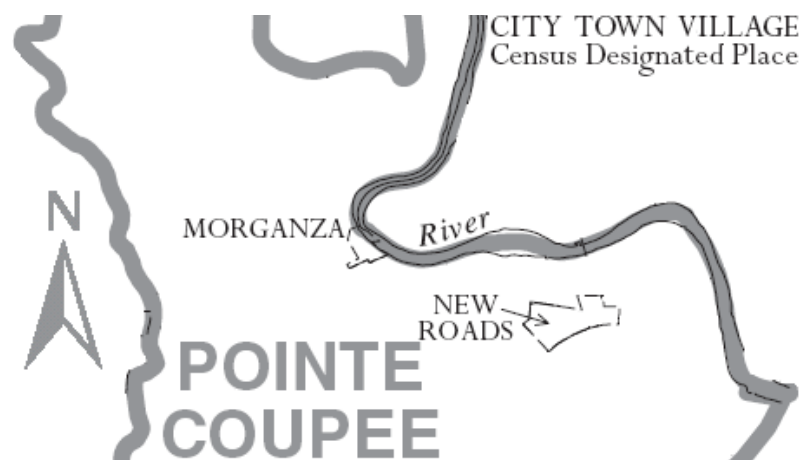
Submissions must be received by April 28 to Main Street Director Paula Lambert at pcproud@gmail.com. The application must include a letter of interest, artist resume, references and five images of original, completed commissions of artwork to demonstrate qualifications for the project. Lambert can be contacted for more information.

This initiative is supported through a grant from the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development and the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The call is open to professional artists 18 and over from throughout Louisiana.

Community input has revealed that HISTORY, CULTURE, FAITH, AGRICULTURE, AND RECREATION are aspects of Pointe Coupee that are most valued. The side of the building will be cleared of all shrubs for the mural, and it is expected to be completed by December.

#PointeCoupeeProud

Arts Council of Pointe Coupee & New Roads Friends of Main Street



#PointeCoupeeProud is a collaborative public art project sponsored by the Arts Council of Pointe Coupee and the New Roads Friends of Main Street. Through a grant awarded by the LA Division of the Arts, a Louisiana artist will be selected to create and install a mural on the side of MaMama's Kitchen in New Roads. Proposals are due April 28. Call for Artists: www.artscouncilofpointecoupee.org www.newroads.net





Welders take state title!

Congratulations to the 2023 FFA STATE CHAMPION welding team - Jared Kline and Joseph Major. Pictured with the champions are Ms. Johnson, welding teacher, and Mr. Chenevert. These young men are continuing Livonia High's tradition of welding training excellence.



Students get lessons in nutrition

Food Nutrition Month was celebrated throughout the District in March. All students were able to learn about eating healthy and were able to test new recipes! Rosenwald students are shown above as they enjoy the fruit of the month - Louisiana strawberries!

School system leaders learn latest in education practices



Pointe Coupee school system leaders received training in national best practices in education while attending the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching Conference in Indiana. Shown at the conference are, from left, Tara Glaser, STEM; Sara Taylor, Valverda; Kristy LaCoste, Chief Academic Officer; Brandi Forbes, Supervisor of Teaching and Learning; and Aiman Bayoumi, Rougon.

All students get new computers

Students at all schools are enjoying the use of the new computers that have been purchased with money collected from the parish-wide school tax. Replacing outdated computers is an important part of using technology as a learning tool. Thanks to all who support our school system!



Mike the Tiger visits Rougon

LSU's Mike the Tiger recently visited Rougon Elementary students. During the visit, the LSU Junior program spoke to second graders about the importance of teamwork, integrity, growth, excellence, respect and service.



Valverda Elem. named Comeback Campus

Valverda Elementary has been named a Comeback Campus and Tops Gains school by the Louisiana Department of Education. The school was honored for making strides in reading that resulted in higher reading scores than previous years before Covid. Shown receiving the honors are, from left, Superintendent Kim Canezaro and Principal Sara Taylor.

School calendar through May

May 22-23 Half days for students

May 23 Last day of school for students
Graduation at PMAC

