



Our Pride

# POINTE COUPEE

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

APRIL 2026



Cleaning out Portage Canal #2 in Morganza.



Cleaning out Portage Canal #1 in New Roads.

## Parish multi-pronged plan provides big drainage benefits in severe rains

Pointe Coupee Parish Government is attacking drainage issues at all levels - clearing out major drainage waterways while also cleaning out small canals and ditches. This multi-pronged approach provides the best drainage Pointe Coupee has experienced in decades. Here's what's underway:

- **Multi-Waterway Drainage Project** completely funded with \$5.6 million in La. Capital Outlay funds. This project will help drain the parish much quicker in heavy rain events.

Phase 1 - de-snagging Bayou Grosse Tete & Bayou Cholpe - 1/2 complete  
Phase 2 - de-snagging Johnson Bayou - begins in May

- **Portage Canal outside of New Roads and Clay Bayou** are both being muck excavated and de-snagged by parish crews. Debris is also being removed that has built up on bridge crossings.

- **Two crews are working daily on cleaning out and grading ditches** throughout the parish based on observations and work requests from residents. A crew also cleans culverts regularly parishwide.

- **Two different crews are actively cutting canals and ditches** parishwide.

- **Roadside cutting** is performed by a contractor 4 times per year.

- **All three pumps operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the northern Pointe Coupee Upper Loop area will be operational** for the first time in over 15 years by this summer. Parish officials are working with the Corps to have the antiquated pumps repaired. They are essential in providing drainage relief for the Batchelor, Innis and Lettsworth areas during heavy rainfalls. The pumps were installed in the late 1970s as part of the Morganza Floodway System. The Corps has committed to replacing the 1970s engines that run the pumps because some parts are no longer available, which then requires fabrication of repair parts, a difficult and lengthy process for old engine parts. At the request of the parish, the Corps is also conducting a hydraulic study on the Upper Loop area to determine drainage issues and provide recommendations. That study is expected to be completed in May.



Projects shown clockwise are, re-grading Callegan East road side ditch, adding culverts for drainage improvement project in Simmonds Subdivision, and, at right, cleaning out Portage Canal Number 5.



## COMING EVENTS

- April 26** Wine Down on False River
- May 2** Louisiana Triathlon
- May 2** Crawfish Cook-Off
- May 15** Livonia, STEM Magnet graduation
- May 31** Chamber Boiling on the River Cook-Off
- June 19** New Roads Juneteenth Festival

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
PERMIT NO. 88

## Spring activities and reminders!

Spring has sprung here in Pointe Coupee Parish. We have settled in our newly renovated Courthouse office and are actively working to prepare for the 2026 Tax Roll. As always, our field staff is moving about the entire parish gathering data on new homes and businesses as well as updating information on existing properties.

### MAIL NOT TO BE IGNORED:

The office staff makes property transfers, mails USE VALUE Applications, LAT business self-reporting forms and HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION reminders. If you receive one of these in the mail, don't ignore it. Properly filling out the forms may save you some money.

LAT Business self-reporting forms are needed for us to accurately value business inventory, furniture and fixtures and anything used to operate the business. The APPLICATION FOR USE VALUE is sent to those who own 3 acres or more and is used for agricultural, horticultural or timber purposes. Use Value is not automatic so the form must be accurately filled out for our team to determine if it qualifies.

### HAVE YOU FILED FOR EXEMPTIONS?

State law also provides for other exemptions to help taxpayers. The permanent Homestead Exemption is for those who own and occupy their homes and do not claim homestead anywhere else. There are additional exemptions for homeowners who are Disabled Veterans or First Responders.

Homeowners who are over 65 and meet certain income requirements can FREEZE the current taxable value of the home. These benefits are also not automatic so call or come by our office to check if you qualify.



Beautiful False River

## May 16 ballot includes millage proposals

The Saturday, May 16, election ballot, includes millage proposals for voters in Fire District 1 and Fire District 2 to fund the operations of fire departments in those areas. Fire District 1 is seeking approval of a 15 mill tax and Fire District 2 is seeking approval of 6.80 mill tax. Any election can affect you and the community. Residents in these areas need to be informed about the propositions before voting on election day.

### Pointe Coupee Parish Assessor's Office

Jimmy Laurent, Jr., Pointe Coupee Parish Assessor

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

Email: [pcassessor@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcassessor@bellsouth.net)

[www.ptcoupeeassessor.com](http://www.ptcoupeeassessor.com)

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



Assessor Jimmy Laurent, Jr.

# 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## New DA's Office website a comprehensive information resource

District Attorney Tony Clayton has announced that the new District Attorney's Office website, [18thjda.org](http://18thjda.org), is now live. It features easy access to a variety of programs offered by the DA's Office.

"We are excited to provide the residents of Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee with a website that offers comprehensive information on our services, along with information on various crime prosecution programs."

The new website also includes a staff directory with email information so that the public can contact relevant staff members directly. A news section provides the latest news releases from the DA's office.

Information available on the website includes:

- Victim/Witness Assistance Program
- Juvenile Division
- Child Support Enforcement
- Elder Abuse Program
- Domestic Violence Program
- Pre-Trial Diversion Program
- Issuing Worthless Checks Program
- Bond & Asset Forfeitures
- How to have a criminal record expunged
- How to get a Letter of Distinguishment.



New DA's website: [18thjda.org](http://18thjda.org)

# Road improvements underway

Pointe Coupee Parish is investing \$3.8 million in road improvements for 2025–2026 to help improve transportation across the parish.

The parish's \$1.8 million road improvement project is already underway, including work on Jack Torres Road, where a 1.25-mile overlay has been completed and an additional 1.6-mile stretch has been milled and fully resurfaced. Crews are also working on several roads in the Livonia and Morganza areas.

Another \$2 million in road improvements will go out for bid this spring, with work expected to begin this summer. Projects are prioritized using an independent road assessment to ensure roads in the worst condition are repaired first.



# McCloskey named Economic Development Director



Adam McCloskey joined Pointe Coupee Parish Government in March as Director of Economic Development. In this role, he will work with stakeholders, community partners, business and industry to increase business recruitment, grow and

expand existing businesses, and foster entrepreneurship.

He came to Louisiana in 2022 as director of the Louisiana SBDC at LSU, and was recognized as the LSBDC state Sales Champion in 2025.

He began a career in the Florida SBDC in 2016, and advanced to associate director for the Fort Walton Beach/Panama City offices in 2017. In 2019, he was the winner of the Florida SBDC Network State Star, the highest accolade for an SBDC consultant. McCloskey has a BA in economics & telecommunications and film from the University of West Florida, and a master's in applied economics from Georgia Southern University. He is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional and Business Certified Appraiser.



# False River Park improvements

The master plan for False River Park shows the new soccer field configuration that is coming this year. Improvements at the park in 2026 include complete renovation of the soccer complex, re-positioning and re-grading fields, adding irrigation and sod, installation of more than 500 linear feet of sidewalk to connect the Scott Civic Center and soccer complex, and the construction of another restroom building in the south side of the soccer complex.

# Spring ball, and Bucking for a Cure

Spring ball leagues are now underway, with approximately 600 kids age 3 to 15 participating on 46 teams. Leagues include baseball, T-Ball, WeeBall and softball. The leagues are underway through May.

Bucking for a Cure, a charity event raising over \$30,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, brought together a rodeo, concert, and chili cook-off at the Pointe Coupee Multi Use Center in March. The event, staged by FUNraisers for St. Jude, is scheduled to return on February 20, 2027, in New Roads, with more exciting activities planned.

# Parish ramps up trash dumping enforcement

Pointe Coupee Parish Government has ramped up its enforcement of litter laws and is working with the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office to have those who dump trash and litter in the parish arrested and prosecuted. "Intentional dumping of trash and litter along back roads and more rural area has become a big problem," noted Parish President Major Thibaut. "We are going through that trash to identify the culprits and working with the Sheriff's Department to have them arrested." Violators face penalties of fines up to \$2,500, revocation of drivers' license, and up to 80 hours of community service.



Trash and litter dumped off rural roadways in Pointe Coupee.



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# Cyber crimes and fraud on the rise in area

The Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office is committed to keeping our community informed and safe as cyber crimes and fraud continue to rise. Criminals are becoming more sophisticated, using phone calls, text messages, emails, and social media to target victims of all ages. These scams are designed to create panic, urgency, or trust—ultimately leading victims to send money or share personal information.

**Common Types of Cyber Crimes & Fraud**

- Impersonation scams (posing as law enforcement, government agencies, or banks)
- Online marketplace and social media scams
- Romance and "grandparent" scams
- Cryptocurrency and investment fraud
- Email phishing and text message scams ("smishing")
- Identity theft and account takeovers

**Be cautious if you encounter:**

- Requests for immediate payment or threats of arrest
- Demands for payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.
- Personal Identifying Information (Social Security Number, Date of Birth, Bank Info)
- Calls claiming to be law enforcement asking for money.
- Messages urging you to "act fast" or keep the situation secret

**Safety**

**Tips:**

- Never share personal or financial information with unknown callers or messages
- Do not send money to anyone you have not met or verified
- Slow down and verify before acting—scammers rely on panic
- Avoid clicking suspicious links or responding to unknown texts/emails
- Use strong passwords and keep software/security systems updated
- Monitor your bank and credit accounts regularly
- Talk to someone you trust before making financial decisions



**If you suspect you have been targeted or victimized:**

- Contact your financial institution immediately
- Report the incident to your local law enforcement agency
- Preserve any messages, emails, or transaction records

Cyber crime is constantly evolving, but so is law enforcement. The Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office remains dedicated to educating the public, preventing crime, and protecting our citizens.

Stay alert. Stay informed. Stay safe.



# New integrated software to increase efficiency, response

The Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office is proud to take a major step forward with the transition to the Motorola FLEX Operating System, a comprehensive, browser-based public safety software suite designed for CAD, RMS, jail management, and mobile data.

This upgrade represents countless hours of hard work behind the scenes—planning, training, and dedication—all with one goal in mind: providing faster, more efficient service to the citizens we serve.

The new software has many benefits: fast, accurate dispatching with integrated GIS mapping and live unit tracking; secure records management system, integrated database, and more features for deputies on calls.

Deputy Everson officially handled the first call in dispatch using the new system in March. Moments like this reflect progress, teamwork, and a continued commitment to public safety. This enhanced technology will better serve Pointe Coupee Parish and our residents.



# New DARE unit hits streets

The Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office is excited to roll out its newest D.A.R.E. unit, bringing education, encouragement, and positive choices straight to Pointe Coupee youth! The DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program helps law enforcement build relationships with youth and also teaches youths ways make smart decisions, and avoid the use of drugs, gang involvement and violence. D.A.R.E.'s mascot, Darren the Lion, is ready to roar into schools and community events, spreading the D.A.R.E. message with pride and a big smile.

WE'RE  
HIRING

## Start a career in law enforcement

225.638.5400 [pcpsso.org](http://pcpsso.org)

## BLAST INTO READING ADVENTURE SUMMER PROGRAM

DATE	MAGIC WITH MR. DAVID	TIME	DATE	STORY TIME W/ MS. HAPPY	TIME
June 2	New Roads branch	9:30 am	July 7	New Roads branch	9:30 am
	Morganza branch	11 am		Morganza branch	11 am
	Innis branch	2 pm		Innis branch	2 pm
June 3	Rougon branch	10 am	July 8	Rougon branch	10 am
	Livonia branch	2 pm		Livonia branch	2 pm
WATER SAFETY WITH RENEE			DATE	YOGURT PARFAITS	TIME
June 2	New Roads branch	9:30 am	July 7	New Roads branch	9:30 am
	Morganza branch	11 am		Morganza branch	11 am
	Innis branch	2 pm		Innis branch	2 pm
June 10	Rougon branch	10 am	July 8	Rougon branch	10 am
	Livonia branch	2 pm		Livonia branch	2 pm
PRINCESS WEEK			LA. SNAKE INFO & ID		
June 16	New Roads branch	9:30 am	July 14	New Roads branch	9:30 am
	Morganza branch	11 am		Morganza branch	11 am
	Innis branch	2 pm		Innis branch	2 pm
June 17	Rougon branch	10 am	July 15	Rougon branch	10 am
	Livonia branch	2 pm		Livonia branch	2 pm
SUPER HERO WEEK			FIRE TRUCK/SPLASH DAY		
June 23	New Roads branch	9:30 am	July 21	New Roads branch	9:30 am
	Morganza branch	11 am		Morganza branch	11 am
	Innis branch	2 pm		Innis branch	2 pm
June 24	Rougon branch	10 am	July 22	Rougon branch	10 am
	Livonia branch	2 pm		Livonia branch	2 pm

## Boater education classes set here by state agents

Boater's education classes will be held at the New Roads Library in May and August. These classes are taught by officers with the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Department. Classes are:

**Saturday, May 16 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Saturday, August 22 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

Lunch is provided by the library. Call the library at 225-638-9847 to reserve a spot in a class.



*Congratulations BENNIE RICE on your retirement!*

## Innis Branch

## Livonia Branch



Shown above at left, art classes with the Art Council of Pointe Coupee; and at right, a scene from a Sewing with Shirley class.

### MAY ACTIVITIES

May 7	4-6 pm	Book Club
May 5 & 19	10:30 am	Sewing with Shirley
May 6 & 20	10:30 am	Unshakeable Hope
May 14	10 am	Medicare Class
May 4, 11 & 18	9:30 am	LSU Ollie Chair Pilates
May 19	10 am-2 pm	Cancer Screening

### JUNE ACTIVITIES

June 3, 10, 17 & 24	3 pm	Summer Reading Show
June 4	4-6 pm	Book Club
June 4 & 18	10:30 am	Sewing with Shirley
June 3 & 17	10:30 am	Unshakeable Hope
June 11	10 am	Medicare Class

**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 9 am - 6 pm  
Closed Fri., Sat. & Sunday

**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

## Livonia High students get medical career highlights

Pointe Coupee General Hospital employees from various departments took time out of their busy work day to speak to medical classes at Livonia High School this spring. The six employees explained the education requirements of their jobs and their daily job duties.

Students in the Firefighter, Intro to Medical Terminology 1 & 2, EMR, EKG, Medical Assistant, Phlebotomy, and Health Care Occupations classes attended. Employees who spoke included Megan Kimble-Jones, RN, Director of Operating Room; Darla Franklin, RN, Education Department Manager; Courtney Gremillion, RT, Respiratory Department Manager; Alana Smith, Radiology Department; Taylor Chustz, Phlebotomist; and Skylar White, Lab Technician.



*In the photo above, Taylor Chustz explains the different vials of blood they may collect for testing.*



*In the photo above, Skylar White shows students how he looks at specimens under the microscope.*

## Why we do what we do...

At Pointe Coupee General Hospital, stories like this remind us why we do what we do every day. Our team is honored to care for our community when it matters most. Thank you for trusting us with your family.



## Elam named director of Outpatient Rehab.

Adam Elam has been named the new Director of Outpatient Rehabilitation at Pointe Coupee General Hospital. He brings 12 years of experience in physical therapy to the position, and has been a valued member of the PCGH team for the last three years.



A proud native of Jackson, Louisiana, Elam graduated from Silliman Institute in Clinton before earning his Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

"It is an honor to take on the role of Director of Outpatient Rehabilitation," he said. "Having the opportunity to lead a department that plays such an important role in helping people regain function, independence, and quality of life is very meaningful to me. I am grateful for the trust the hospital has placed in me, and I look forward to continuing to serve our community by working alongside a great team to provide high-quality, patient-centered care."

"We are thrilled to have Adam leading our Outpatient Rehab team, and look forward to the continued growth and excellence he will bring to our patients and community," said PCGH CEO Chad Olinde.

## Dermatology partnership opens full-time office

The dermatology practices of Renaissance and Coscart Dermatology joined forces in March, opening a full-time New Roads location on the campus of Pointe Coupee General Hospital at 230 Roberts Drive, Suite D.

Doctors in the practice include Dr. Haley Claire, MD; Dr. Justin Creel, MD; and Dr. Aimee Coscart, MD. Hours will be Monday thru Thursday with rotating staff and physicians.

A full array of dermatologic services are offered, including medical, surgical and cosmetic expertise. Other Renaissance locations remain unchanged.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 225-654-1124.



*Dr. Aimee Coscart, MD*



*Dr. Haley Claire, MD*



*Dr. Justin Creel, MD*





## Speakers are great addition downtown

The City of New Roads has partnered with the New Roads Main Street program to add outdoor speakers on 12 lamp posts all along downtown Main Street.

The speakers proved very helpful in both providing musical ambiance and also in making announcements for the city's recent car show and Wine Down on False River events. They will also be used for future events.

"With the speakers, everyone could hear announcements the entire length of Main Street, which is great for event activities," said Mayor Theron Smith. "The city hosts events throughout the year, so the speakers will get plenty of use."



## City Hall gets fresh look, new windows

*The exterior of New Roads City Hall now has a fresh new look with a new paint job. The building is also more energy efficient, with all the old single-pane windows being changed out to new energy efficient models. The project was funded with a \$35,000 grant from the La. Government Assistant Program.*

## New banners going up

The City is continuing its successful downtown banners program, with new banners featuring both scenes of New Roads and business sponsor logos on the banners.

A new set of banners, which will be up for one year, are being installed on 14 light poles by the end of April. The banners welcome visitors to New Roads with a beautiful scene of False River and also promote local businesses and agencies.

"The businesses pay the cost of the banners, so there was no cost to the city, and they are a great way to boost our businesses," noted Mayor Smith.

## Boutan takes over as police chief



Zathan Boutan was appointed as the new New Roads Police Chief in March, aiming to rebuild public trust and increase officer training. Formerly with the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, Boutan

has local connections. He is the great nephew of the renowned late author Ernest Gaines, and has other family in Pointe Coupee.

He has over 20 years of law enforcement experience, primarily with the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office.

## Juneteenth Fest set for June 19

The City's annual Juneteenth Festival is set for Saturday, June 19 at Douglas Park. Mayor Theron Smith said a variety of activities will be held throughout the day. Watch for info on the city's facebook page.

**Vibes on False River**

**6:00-9:00PM EVERY FRIDAY IN MAY!**

**MORRISON PKWY NEW ROADS, LA**

**no ice chests**

**FREE ADMISSION & FREE BULL RIDES!**

- May 1 - Mellow Band
- May 8 - Genevieve
- May 15 - Terry & The Zydeco Bad Boys
- May 22 - Raccoon Band
- May 29 - August Heat

## Pointe Coupee Parish schools gear up for spring testing season

*Tanya Burgess, District Testing Supervisor, and Tomika Henderson, District Guidance Counselor, have spent the year preparing our schools for state testing so that every student has a smooth, well-organized experience. In the photo at right, they review the district testing schedule, carefully checking dates, rooms, accommodations, and make-up sessions for each campus. Their collaboration ensures that testing is secure, instructional time is protected, and students receive the academic and emotional support they need to succeed.*



*Livonia High School celebrated a milestone for its revived FFA chapter (Future Farmers of America) as the first students in the restarted club earned their blue jackets. Club president Katherine Wildey and secretary Markese Durham, pictured with club sponsor Macy Mills, received the honor in recognition of their commitment to strengthening the school's agriculture program and their active participation in FFA activities. Their new jackets symbolize leadership, hard work, and a renewed Wildcat presence in agricultural education.*

## STEM Magnet Senior Beta wins at state, earns trip to nationals



*STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee is celebrating a major success at the Louisiana Senior Beta State Convention. Students earned top awards in agriscience, marketing and communications, performing arts, robotics, and vocal performance, qualifying several competitors for nationals in Nashville, Tennessee. Posing on campus with their trophies, Senior Beta members proudly represented the school's commitment to scholarship, leadership, and service.*

## Elementary students hopped into Easter break with fun



Elementary students across Pointe Coupee Parish wrapped up the week before Easter with plenty of colorful eggs as they headed into spring break. Students held bright buckets and bags filled with Easter eggs, showing off their finds after fun-filled egg hunts with classmates and teachers. The Easter Bunny posed for pictures with students and staff.

*Rosenwald Elementary students and their families spread out across the playground, laughing and working together to scoop up eggs during the school's Easter Egg Hunt.*



*Valverda Elementary Principal Sarah Taylor and Assistant Principal Yolanda Jones share a fun moment with the Easter Bunny as they help spread springtime cheer on campus.*



*Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary students line up with buckets and smiles, excited and ready to begin their Easter Egg Hunt on the playground.*



*Students at Rougon Elementary School race across the playground with baskets and buckets in hand, searching for colorful eggs during the school's Easter Egg Hunt.*