



# Community Newsletter

OCTOBER 2017

## City Hosts 7th Annual Alma Plantation Harvest Festival, Oct. 20-22

The City of New Roads will roll out the welcome mat to thousands of guests for the three-day weekend of Oct. 20-22 to enjoy live music, delicious local foods, unique shopping, and carnival rides and games for the entire family at the 7th Annual Alma Plantation Harvest Festival.

"The Harvest Festival is one of the Greater Baton Rouge area's most popular festivals," Mayor Robert Myer said. "Our beautiful city is on full display for people to enjoy."

The festival will feature three live band stages, more than 100 arts and crafts vendors, an amusement area, a wide selection of delicious foods from all around the region, and a beer garden. The festival will take place in downtown New Roads, along Main Street and Morrison Parkway.



### 2017 Harvest Festival Times:

- Friday, Oct. 20 – 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 21 – 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 22 – Noon to 6 p.m.

Adult admission is \$5 per person, per day.

Free admission for students high school age and younger.

## Festival Music Schedule on Page 2

## Robert Myer Presented Lifetime Achievement Award

The Voice Speaks Volume "Man-Up" Awards recently presented New Roads Mayor Robert A. Myer with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of positively impacting the lives of others around him.

The awards ceremony, which was held at the Capitol Hilton in Baton Rouge on Aug. 31, recognized the contributions of several "ordinary men who are doing extraordinary things to enhance the quality of life for their families, communities and society as a whole."

Myer was recognized for his visionary leadership as a small town mayor, and the many improvements he has brought to his hometown community. He also was recognized for his long time support of many charitable causes and programs.



Mayor Robert Myer

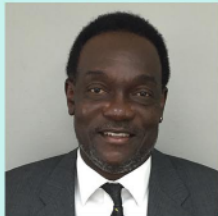


## NEW ROADS CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



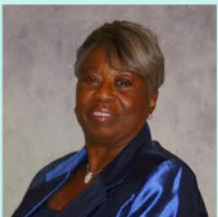
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## 2017 Alma Plantation Harvest Festival Music Line-Up

### River East Stage

Friday - October 20

5 p.m. Southern Lady of Soul  
7 p.m. Mystics  
9 p.m. LTD

Saturday - October 21

Noon Blueprint  
1:30 p.m. Level Six  
3 p.m. Total Control  
5 p.m. Mellow  
7 p.m. Slave  
9 p.m. Barkays

Sunday - October 22

Noon Boogie All Stars  
2:30 p.m. About Last Night  
4 p.m. Bag of Donuts

### River West Stage

Friday - October 20

5 p.m. Dale Sellars  
7 p.m. Dustin Sonnier  
9 p.m. Cowboy Troy

Saturday - October 21

Noon Burnhouse  
1:30 p.m. Na Na Sha  
3 p.m. Kylie Frey  
5 p.m. Sara Collins Band  
7 p.m. Leroux  
9 p.m. Trick Pony

Sunday - October 22

Noon Last Ripp  
2:30 p.m. Tyree Neal  
4 p.m. Rockin' Dopsie

### Courthouse Stage

Saturday - October 21

1 p.m. Rising Star Gospel Band  
2 p.m. Iberville Male Chorus  
3 p.m. St. Jude Spirit and Truth  
Worship Team  
4 p.m. Community Spiritual  
Male Chorus  
5 p.m. Majestic Ensemble

Sunday - October 22

1 p.m. Church of God and  
Christ Worship Team  
2 p.m. Pastor Kevin Morris and  
the United Voices of Praise  
3 p.m. St. Paul Catholic Church  
Male Chorus  
4 p.m. Greater St. Peter and Union  
Antioch Baptist Church Choirs  
5 p.m. Cliff & Company



## SAVE THE DATE

**October 20-22**  
Alma Plantation  
Harvest Festival

**October 28**  
River Roux Half-Iron  
Distance Triathlon

**November 17-19**  
Holiday Market at the Mill

**December 2**  
A New Roads Christmas

**December 2**  
Poydras Christmas Bonfire



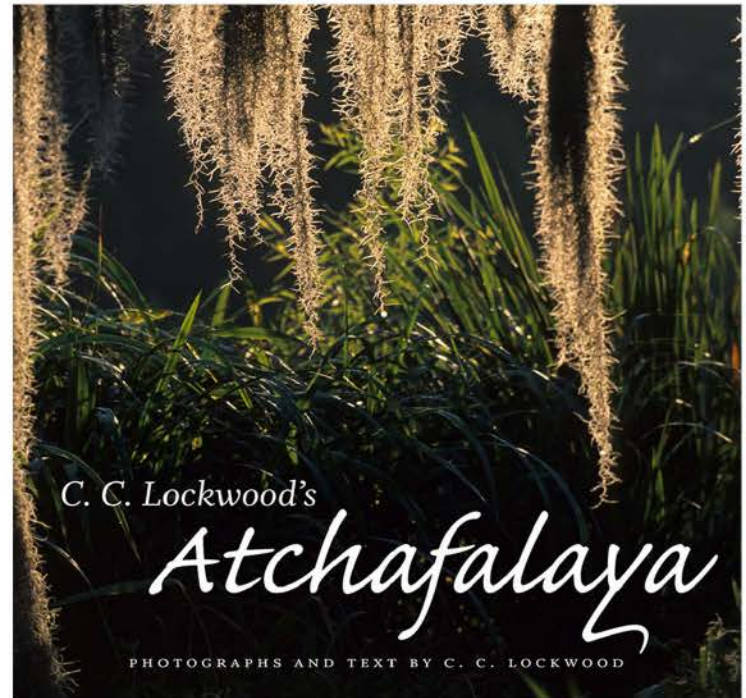
## C.C. Lockwood's Latest Work Spotlighted in New Roads

The New Roads Information Center is currently featuring a special art exhibit of local artists and renowned Louisiana photographer C.C. Lockwood. Some of the original works are for sale.

To kick off the gallery display, Lockwood recently gave a presentation of his latest work, "C.C. Lockwood's Atchafalaya." The photographer is well known for his exploration of the Atchafalaya River, having captured its haunting beauty on film for 30 years.

"No place in the world gives me such a feeling of peace as America's largest river basin swamp," writes Lockwood.

The Information Center is located in downtown New Roads, at 116 W. Main Street, across from City Hall. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday; closed Sunday.



## Riverdale Subdivision Provides Quality Homes for Residents

City officials and developers of the \$7.8 million Riverdale Subdivision officially opened the new residential housing community in August with nearly 100 percent occupancy.

The community features 48 units that include one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom designs. All units are built in tandem with another unit, in a duplex design. All units come with a two-car garage and equipped with a washer and dryer, refrigerator and stove.

"We are very pleased with the quality housing that is available in this development," Mayor Robert Myer said. "Our residents deserve clean, safe, affordable housing, and we are glad to partner with the developers of Riverdale Subdivision to provide these new homes."

Paula Rush Battley, executive director of Housing Authority New Roads, said the new development includes a common playground area and community center equipped with computers, WiFi and Internet access.





# Your Mayor and City Council At Work, Keeping



## 1 Harvest Festival

In six short years, it has become one of the state's largest festivals, generating an annual \$750,000 local economic impact and bringing the city and Greater Baton Rouge region together

## 3 Memorial Boulevard

Designed and built a new highway that has become an economic corridor for the city, spurring business growth and investment



## 5 Community Park

Cleaned and improved a 12-acre site, converting it into a multi-generational park for families that includes playgrounds, walking trails, a state-of-the-art stadium, splash pad and green space



## 7 Safe City

Through improved training and community policing, New Roads residents have seen crime decrease by more than 20 percent over the past six years, making the city a better place to live for our families



## 9 Douglas Park

Invested in and refurbished an under-utilized park, transforming it into a functional neighborhood space with beautiful trees, a playground, walking track, and improved basketball courts and baseball field

## 11 Master Plan for the City

Developed a comprehensive plan to strengthen the city's focus and vision on becoming a safe, vibrant and economically strong community by modernizing city ordinances and zoning.



## 13 Evacuation Route

Built a much-needed connector road in the northern part of the city, creating a safer and more accessible route for residents



# the Momentum to Live, Play and Prosper



## 2 *Balanced Budgets*

Provided seven straight years of responsible fiscal management, including the restructuring of bonds to lower interest rates and provide investment dollars for the city's growth

## 4 *New Jobs*

Created nearly 500 new local jobs in the city thanks to an improved atmosphere for business development



## 6 *Hotel and Conference Center*

Recruited a major name-brand hotel to invest in the city, enhancing the city's tourism potential and providing much-needed meeting space for local businesses and community organizations

## 8 *Expanded Tourism*

Created new city events and enhanced existing activities, including Market at the Mill, Holiday Market at the Mill, Crawfish Jams, 4th of July Music Festival and Boat Parade, Downtown Christmas Parade, the Spring Car Show and local triathlons.



## 10 *Improved Civic Center*

Took over ownership and management of the William Scott Civic Center, updating and refurbishing the facility to create a cleaner, safer and more productive venue for the community

## 12 *NRG Partnership*

Reached an historic agreement to purchase fuel for the city's utility department from a respected, national energy provider, helping to sustain local jobs and investment while stabilizing rates for city customers



## 14 *Downtown Information Center*

created a much asked for venue to provide general information on the city and region, as well as showcase local artists



## New Hotel Opens in New Roads

The new \$4.6 million Best Western hotel located at 2125 Memorial Boulevard has opened for business.

The hotel features 65 rooms, a conference center that can hold 50 attendees, a fitness room, a pool and a dining area where free breakfast is served. Approximately 20 employees have been hired to help manage the day-to-day operations.

“We are excited about welcoming a major franchise hotel to our city,” Mayor Robert Myer said. “Our guests needed more options to stay overnight in our city, and this investment allows that. At the same time, many local business professionals and community organizations wanted access to a local conference room they could use for meetings. The Best Western created that space for our community.”

To inquire about availability at the hotel, call direct at 225-618-5726 or visit <https://www.bestwestern.com> and type New Roads, LA in the destination option.



Hotel Conference Room



Hotel Dining Area

## City Officials and Pointe Coupee Electric Working to Extend Agreement

In an effort to better stabilize the city's ability to provide affordable energy to local residents, the mayor and city council are working with officials at Pointe Coupee Electric to extend an existing franchise agreement.

“The City of New Roads has had a long-standing agreement with Pointe Coupee Electric to provide electricity to a section of the city that includes most of our commercial business,” Utility Manager Paul Seawell said.

“We value a continued partnership with our colleagues at Pointe Coupee Electric,” Mayor Robert Myer said. “We understand the importance of the jobs they provide to our citizens as well as the support they offer to the city.”







## City Storm Team

Employees for the City of New Roads Maintenance Department are known as the city's "Storm Team." They quickly respond to clean up needs across the city following a major wind or rain storm. Their quick response ensures the safety of our residents and the reliability of city services. Pictured from left to right are: *Kenneth Smullen, Charles Watkins, Jerry Zeno, Bruce Van Buren, Melvin Brumfield, George Leonard, Sterling Snead, Claude Terrance and Glynn Jarreau. Ray Harris is not pictured.*

## Senior Employment Program is Model for the Nation

The mayor's Summer Senior Citizen Employment Program is proving to be a national pilot program to give meaningful employment to senior citizens who are capably lending their talents to the city. The program is the only one of its kind in the nation and it's a win-win opportunity for the city and its residents.

"Our senior citizens have much to offer our community," Mayor Robert Myer said. "This program allows them an opportunity to gain employment to pay their expenses, while giving back to the City of New Roads. They are bringing a tremendous amount of wisdom to the workforce."

Myer started the city's Senior Citizen Employment Program three years ago to help elderly citizens who often have a hard time finding job opportunities.

Myer said this year's program employed senior citizens at the parish school board office, city public works and police departments, the William Scott Civic Center, Council on Aging Office and the Fire District 5 Training Station.

Myer said the program is open to residents of the City of New Roads who are 62 years or older. They must have proof of their age and permanent residence within the city's limits. Elected officials and relatives of city employees are not eligible to participate.

Each year, the employees work a maximum of 20 hours per week for six weeks during the summer months.

## False River Regional Airport Serving Locals

False River Regional Airport is jointly owned by the City of New Roads and Pointe Coupee Parish, and it is operated by the False River Air Park Commission and Airport Manager Yvonne Chenevert.

The general aviation airport generates most of its funding through fuel sales.

Agriculture continues to drive most of the airport's business. In addition to crop dusting, local farmers and business owners often have parts flown in when their equipment breaks down. At the same time, activity from pipeline patrols, training flights and travel associated with the film industry, health care and the state's penitentiary system keep the runway active.

The FAA identifier for the airport is HZR. It offers a single 5,000-foot runway, with headings at 180 and 360 degrees. It is open to the public.





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## New Roads Awarded Beautification Grants

The City of New Roads recently received two grants from Keep Louisiana Beautiful to enhance the city's beauty and quality of life for residents.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful is the state's anti-litter and community improvement organization focused on education, enforcement, awareness and cleanups.

The organization installed five new trash receptacle on Morrison Parkway as part of its Trash Receptacle Mini-Grant Program. The purpose of the in-kind donation is to reduce litter and enhance community beauty and safety.

The organization also awarded the City of New Roads \$4,000 as part of its Healthy Communities Grant Program, which promotes personal, corporate and community responsibility for a clean and beautiful Louisiana. The funding will be used to purchase information cards and place signage in the city.

"We are very grateful to Keep Louisiana Beautiful for its continued investment in the beauty and well-being of the City of New Roads," Mayor Robert Myer said.

