



The St. Bernard News

Remembering Our Past, Building a Better Future



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2015 Property Tax Notices have been mailed out; deadline: end of day on Dec. 30

From the St. Bernard Sheriff's Office

The St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office, in accordance with Louisiana law, has mailed the 2015 property tax notices via U.S. mail to parish property owners and the taxes must

be paid by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015.

These notices were mailed to the address on file as provided to the St. Bernard Parish Tax Assessor's Office.

Property owners should have received these notices by now.

If anyone receives a tax notice for property they no longer own, please notify the sheriff's Civil Tax Office at 504-271-2504 during regular business hours - Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday.

St. Bernard Transit to Hold Public Meeting on Route Change

From the St. Bernard Parish Government

St. Bernard Parish Transit will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30 PM in the St. Bernard Parish Council Chamber to receive public input regarding a potential change in the parish's bus route, schedule and the addition of new bus stops.

"Our goal is to provide our riders the most convenient service feasible. Our bus drivers believe a slight adjustment in the route would potentially expand our ridership. After internally evaluating the pros and cons, we decided to take the next step by going to the public to gather opinions on the matter," said St. Bernard Transit Director Michael Bayham.

The current western bus route starts at Bayou Road and Torres Drive, heading west on Bayou Road and St. Bernard Highway until turning north (right) on to Archbishop Hannan Boulevard before turning west

Proposed Bus Route Changes

First Shift: Colonial Boulevard, turns north (right) from St. Bernard Highway and then west (left) onto East Judge Perez Drive.

Second Shift: Archbishop Hannan Boulevard, loops at the mid-point of the boulevard before returning to Judge Perez Drive and heading west.

The Meeting on **December 9** will also solicit opinions from the public regarding the placement of new bus stops along the proposed routes and slight changes to the schedule if the new route is adopted.

(left) on to Judge Perez Drive in the direction of Chalmette and Arabi.

There would be two shifts in the route. The first would take place at Colonial Boulevard, where the bus would turn north (right) from St. Bernard Highway and then turn west (left) onto East Judge Perez Drive.

The second change would be at Archbishop Hannan Boulevard, where the bus would loop at the mid-point of the boulevard before returning to Judge

Perez Drive and then heading west.

St. Bernard Transit will also solicit opinions from the public regarding the placement of new bus stops along the proposed new route and slight changes to the schedule in the event the new route is adopted.

Members of the public who cannot attend the meeting but would like to express their opinion on the route change can call the parish transit department at 504-277-1907 or email mbayham@sbgp.net.

Los Isleños Christmas Extravaganza to be held this Saturday

From the St. Bernard Parish Government

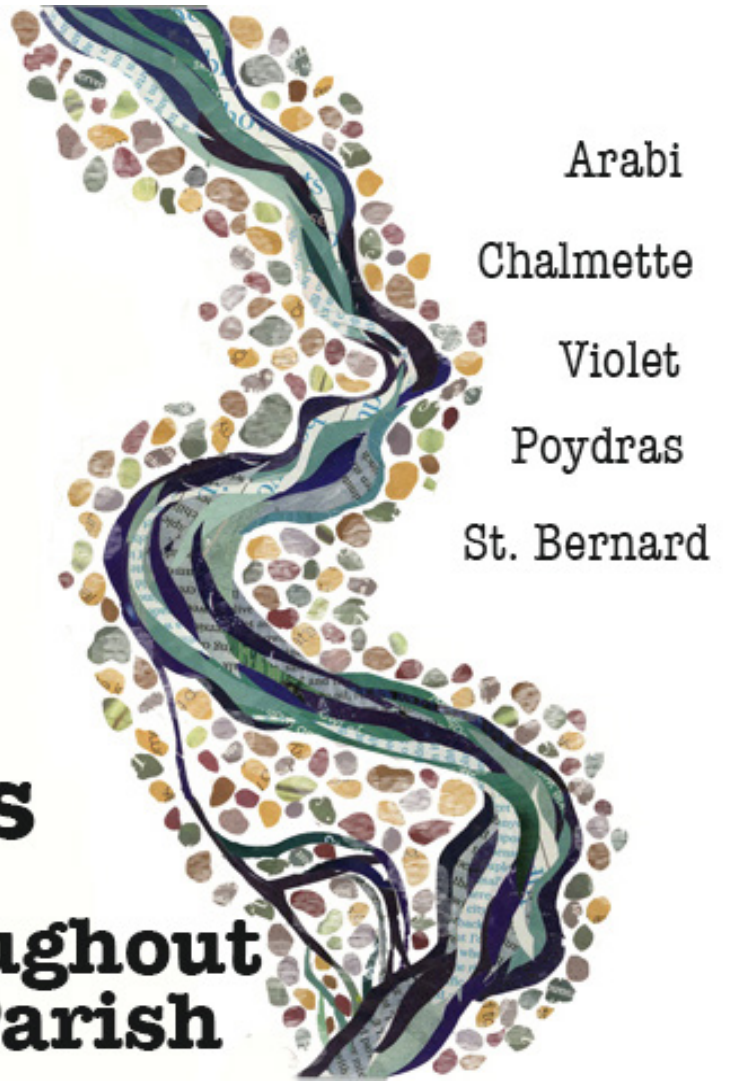
Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society will celebrate its annual Los Isleños Christmas Extravaganza Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of Los Isleños Museum Complex, 1345 - 1357 Bayou Road, St. Bernard. The Christmas program began in 1992 and has grown every year except during the rebuilding period following Hurricane Katrina, 2005 -2008. The houses comprising the Museum Complex are all decorated for Christmas as are the grounds with garlands, Christmas lights and other decorations.

"Los Isleños Museum Complex looks utterly beautiful, with houses, trees and the grounds illuminated with Christmas lights" said Rhonda Hannan, Society president. "We want to give something special to St. Bernard Parish to celebrate Christmas" said Kathy Serpas Ziegler, Christmas Committee chairperson. Kathy Ziegler.

The extended Serpas/Ybarzabal family has spent countless hours decorating the Museum Complex. The historic houses forming the Museum Complex will be decorated for Christmas and opened to the public during the program. Society charter member Anthony A. "Tony" Fer-

nandez will host the ever popular hayride during the Christmas program. Jerry Estopinal will build and ignite a traditional bonfire near sunset December 5th.

Charles R. Cassar, St. Bernard Parish School Board, has coordinated the participation of local schools performing Christmas music and carols during the event. **The schedule of schools performing is as follows:** St. Bernard Middle 4:00 P.M., Gauthier Elementary 4:20 P.M., W. Smith Elementary 4:40 P.M., Arabi Elementary 5:00 P.M. Refreshments including cider, hot chocolate and cookies will be served during the event. Hot dogs and chili will be available for sale.



Arts flow throughout the Parish

From musical performances, artworks and a cultural holiday extravaganza, the arts are taking over St. Bernard Parish this weekend.

by Amber Prattini
Editor

There's plenty of arts and culture to experience this weekend in St. Bernard Parish.

Residents can start their weekends off early with a festive wreath-making course and finish with seeing the bonfire at the Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society Museum Complex. Or, one can spend a leisurely Saturday going downriver, following the Creative Alliance of New Orleans's Downriver Art Home Tour and Sale. Whatever your passion and interests, there's an abundance to choose from. Here are the events:

December 3 & 4 - Fresh Wreath Workshop
Nectar & Blossom Floral and Design Studio, a new startup business, provides locally grown and sourced flowers in Greater New Orleans.

Held at Larkin Gaudet Studio at 218 Mehle Street in Arabi, this fun and festive course will be three hours long and we will provide you with all materials including: Fresh greens, cones, fruits, assorted decorations, and ribbon on a 12" or 16" wreath frame. Participants are encouraged to bring their preferred wine or cocktails and favorite ornament to add the finishing touch to their masterpiece. Seats are limited, so reserve your spot by visiting their website at <http://www.nectarandblossom.com> or Eventbrite.

December 3 & 4 - "Christmas in New Orleans" Performance
The Chalmette High School Performing Arts Center will be presenting

their festive show entitled "Christmas in New Orleans." Both performances begin at 7pm. Tickets are \$12 adults and \$7 for students. Contact Robin Calcas at 504-272-0300 for more information.

December 4, 5 & 6 - "It's a Wonderful Life" Performance

The Company will begin with their theatrical performances of "It's A Wonderful Life." From 7pm to 9:30pm at Nunez Community College's Auditorium. The shows will also be collection events for the Official Marines Toys for Tots.

December 5 - Arc's Holiday Arts and Crafts Market

Wrap up your holiday shopping at the marketplace, and tour Vintage Garden Farms and the newly-refurbished Sterling Hall from 10am-5pm.

Located at the former location of Prince of Peace Catholic Church on Jean Lafitte Parkway, there will be raffles, music and more.

December 5 - Downriver Art Home Tour

This annual event spans two parishes from the Holy Cross neighborhood of the Lower Ninth Ward through St. Bernard and down to Poydras.

Just before Christmas, the tour provides visitors

with ten sites which include artists' studios, homes with art collections, galleries and the River House at Crevasse 22.

Begin at the Art House on the Levee in Holy Cross at 4725 Dauphine St. Stop at the studios of Diego Largaia and Bruce Davenport before heading to Arabi.

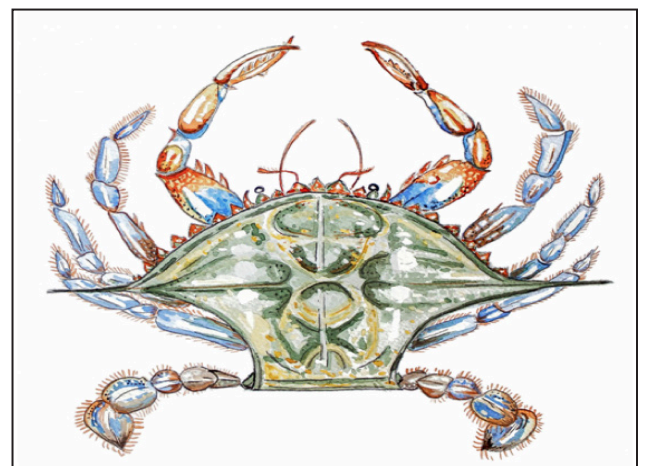
While in Arabi, visit Studio Inferno and the Larkin Gaudet Studio. Other artists in Arabi include Mary Jane Parker, Gary Oaks and Hayden Reilly.

Continue down St. Bernard Highway to see Luis Colmenares's studio in Chalmette and Docville Farm in Violet. From there, head on down to the River House to see the photography exhibits "Spirit of the People of St. Bernard" and "Land-Scapes." While at the River House, check out the Country Market with artworks, antiques and fresh harvest foods.

The Downriver Art Home Tour and Sale begins at 10am and concludes at 5pm. Tickets and admission to the events are free, though donations are gratefully accepted.

December 5 - Los Isleños Christmas Extravaganza

Along Bayou Road, come see the musical celebration and a traditional bonfire at 4pm.



By Wendy Haines as part of the Downriver Art Tour.