Following Santa’s arrival by helicopter, the annual parade rolled from the River Road through the Norco neighborhood. Area residents and visitors from all areas were entertained by more than 70 entries including floats, jeeps, trucks, antique cars, area pageant queens, marching bands, and dancing troupes. Shell has been a major sponsor of the parade since it was reestablished in 2001.

“Shell is delighted to participate in this event which officially kicks off the holiday season in our community. This year’s parade theme: ‘Norco Noel: Norco Through the Years’ is especially meaningful to our company and employees as we end our 90th anniversary celebrations.”

BRETT WOIJEN | Shell Norco General Manager
Heavy rainfall made Wetland Watchers Park, located on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain in Norco inaccessible, but that didn’t discourage the Harry Hurst Middle School eighth graders who planned to spend the day learning about the animals and vegetation that make the wetlands home while learning about testing land and water quality. Though the skies were overcast, a change of venue to the East Bank Bridge Park in Destrehan assured that the day went off as planned. Volunteers from Shell Norco and other area partners joined the students and shared their expertise.

Now in its 22nd year, Wetland Watchers is a nationally recognized school-based service-learning project for middle schoolers who participate in a variety of service activities to improve their local habitat and community. Students use the knowledge they gain to lead fifth through seventh graders on wetland trips and to speak to both adults and students about wetland conservation.

Harry Hurst Elementary eighth grade science teacher and Wetland Watchers Project founder Barry Guillot likes that the students learn by doing. “Science is all about doing,” he said. “When the students are speaking to the 80,000 people they present to each year, they have a little bit of background. They can tell them about the snakes they held, the insects they found at the park and the tests they have run. They become a little bit of an authority instead of just reading off of a fact sheet. When they are out here in nature, they are immersed in the knowledge they need to educate others.”

Stations were sprinkled throughout the park, each with a different topic. In addition to learning about land and water quality tests, the students were presented with information about wetland animals and many took the opportunity to touch and handle alligators, snakes, turtles and other wildlife that make the wetlands home.

Gabrielle, an eighth grader at Harry Hurst Middle School, found that handling the animals made her more comfortable around them. “I like learning about all the animals,” she said. “Now that I know more about them, I’m not afraid of them anymore.”

Her classmate Tiera agrees and likes knowing about the big picture. “If people don’t protect the environment where these animals live, populations will decrease. That will ruin the food chain and cause the area to decline,” she stated.

De’Jena, also a Harry Hurst Middle School eighth grader, has a new appreciation for the wetlands. “It’s cool how all these different animals fit into our environment,” she explained. “These are animals we don’t get to see on a daily basis, so it’s important we learn about them and what they do for our area.”

Shell Norco employees enjoy volunteering at the event. “Shell likes doing days like this so we can educate the kids and get them interested in science and wetland conservation,” Pressure Equipment Engineer and Norco MC DEPs Site Coordinator Jolene Page said. “Today I’m helping with the snakes, teaching the kids not to be scared of them and how snakes help us and can be useful. It’s part of making sure the students become comfortable and knowledgeable about the world around them.”
Shell Oil Company recently presented a check for more than $775,800 to the Louisiana State University Foundation in a recent recognition ceremony at LSU. The donation, which represents a five-year commitment to the university, reflects Shell's commitment to support LSU’s “Fierce for the Future” focus on excellence in education today and for generations to come.

Shell Vice President of Gulf Coast Manufacturing Rhoman Hardy explained that the donation funds a variety of LSU programs ranging from engineering and business studies to diversity programs as well as scholarships and the on-campus Shell Tutorial Center.

“Shell’s commitment to LSU is more than just financial support,” he said. “Shell employees volunteer to help as mentors for students, for example. Our company is one that helps people move in many different ways to make their lives better. As a refining company we provide energy, and as a chemical company we make the building blocks to make everyday products. Louisiana matters to Shell with our 4,000 state-based employees. In turn, LSU matters because we recognize the outstanding reputation and the excellent graduates entering the workforce. We need the big thinkers, the innovative individuals, who hold an LSU degree.”

“I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize Shell for investing in LSU,” said LSU President F. King Alexander. “But even more so for Shell’s active engagement in being part of achieving LSU’s vision for the future. Your generosity touches every corner of campus: career preparation, research and development, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and support for our Science, Engineering and Honors students.

Alexander emphasized LSU’s efforts in making Louisiana better as well as improving the quality of life for Americans and people around the world stronger. “This donation reflects a commitment on our part to prepare our graduates to be the best, the brightest and to be wanted as employees,” he said.

President and CEO of the LSU Foundation/Vice President of Institutional Advancement Bryan Benchoff added his appreciation to Shell on behalf of LSU. “I want to thank you for your confidence in us as an institution, your partnership, and your willingness to help us lead the way for the future. We believe that Shell has an important role in working with us to shape the future. We are committed to being the partner that you need us to be as together we work on solutions.”

LSU Mechanical Engineering Junior Esther Yoo, who participates in the Shell internship program, and is also a tutor in the LSU Shell Tutorial Center, expressed her gratitude to Shell for “helping me to grow professionally and, most importantly, as a person.” She explained that she has had the opportunity to not only gain experience in the engineering field but also to ask questions about equipment and operations while gaining insight to the importance of communication in the career world. “Not all college students are fortunate enough to have what Shell has provided for us through its funding and support to the on-campus tutorial center, for example. The center has helped a lot of LSU students become academically successful by fostering an environment where students are comfortable to learn without the fear of being judged. Being a tutor also allows me growth by developing my leadership skills. On behalf of the students at LSU, we want to sincerely thank you, Shell, for all your commitment and willing to help build up a new generation of leaders and innovators.”
“This is an ambitious event, but I am not surprised,” Lousteau said. “Over the years, Shell has always recognized the community. None of my family worked for Shell, but I remember going on the property many times for plant days or other activities.”

“The gas gift card brought me out today,” smiled Shell retiree Dale Hymel, who returned to his hometown and a Shell job after a 20-year military career. “Working close to home was a great benefit for me.”

“It was a pleasure and privilege to celebrate our site’s 90th anniversary with so many of our neighbors,” said General Manager Brett Woltjen, who welcomed individuals and families as their cars entered Bethune Park. “We are reaching nearly a century of operating in Norco and wanted to say, ‘thank you’ in a special way. For me, the day was an opportunity to acknowledge the strong connection and history Shell has with the one-of-a-kind town of Norco.”

“Shell has a responsibility to be a partner in our community although it is more than that. Our company really cares about its neighbors.”

CALVIN WRIGHT
Shell Norco Pressure Equipment Integrity Assurance

Norco volunteer employees, representing all areas of the site, were also on hand to greet the community, distribute gifts and wash cars. “Shell has a responsibility to be a partner in our community although it is more than that,” said Pressure Equipment Integrity Assurance Supervisor Calvin Wright who volunteered to wash cars. “Our company really cares about its neighbors.”

As they lined up along Washington Street and drove past 90th anniversary fence banners, Norco residents shared thoughts about Shell and their town.

“Bomb diggity!” said community member Blythe Barrios. “That describes it for me. To see Brett, the plant manager, out here thanking neighbors says a lot. Getting my car washed by Shell employees makes it even better.”

“Shell does a lot for the community and is always giving back,” noted 60-year Norco resident Darlene Brown.

“Shell is a great partner in the community,” agreed Michael Haydel whose family furniture business is also celebrating nine decades of operation in Norco.
I remember the bowling alley quite well,” says 95-year-old Dorothy “Dot” Ayme who was born on the Norco grounds when the site was owned by the New Orleans Refining Company Shell’s predecessor and the town of Norco namesake. “My dad, two brothers and husband worked for Shell and I did, too, before I became pregnant. We had a good life thanks to Shell. My children had everything. There was a pathway on Apple Street heading to the kids’ school. The Shell security guard would walk them down the path to make sure they got to school safely.”

Norco employees were impressed with the community spirit and participation in the anniversary celebration.

“My grandfather, father and sister worked at Norco,” said Walt Johnson, a 29-year employee and St. Charles Parish resident. “It’s a great company with great people working in a unique community. Our site is truly engaged with the community and we see that with the celebration turnout. I volunteered because this is all about the Norco community. Times have changed, but one thing stays the same – people don’t leave this area.”

“What a great opportunity to thank the folks in the community,” emphasized Jennifer Lopez, a second generation Shell employee. “I always knew the company was a good employer. It’s also a good community partner. I’ve volunteered at Norco Elementary and have seen our company’s support for the kids who live here.”

“Shell is a good neighbor in a neighborhood of great people,” said Maurice Kinder. “Norco employees know that we have to work hard inside the plant to keep things safe and reliable. We also have to carry that mindset outside the plant to make sure that we are taking care of our community. A happy community makes a happy plant and that is good for all of us.”

Norco Fresh Market owner Brandon Rivers wanted to do something special to celebrate the opening of his new grocery on Apple Street, the former Greaud’s site. “I walked outside the store and saw the Shell 90th anniversary banners along the street,” he said. That’s when he decided to join in the celebration. On November 12, Shell Norco employees were invited to purchase a $0.90 lunch. More than 800 took advantage of the lunch special with choices ranging from jambalaya to hot dogs and hamburgers.

“I’m so proud and excited to be a part of Norco,” added Rivers, who opened the grocery this October. “This is such a great community and we wanted to acknowledge Shell’s contributions over the years. I am looking forward to more special events and continuing to visit with all those who work and live in Norco.”
Thank You
FOR YOUR SERVICE

James D. Acosta
Son of James Acosta
Army National Guard
2001–2009

Marcus Adams
Son of Timmy Adams
Army • 2015–Present

Carl Aguirca
Marine Corps • 2001–2005

Angel L. Alvarez Sr. 
Father of Angel L. Alvarez
Marine Corps • 1965–1967

Art Armenta
Army • 1986–1993

Nick Avocado
Marines Corps • 1996–2004

Russell Avocado
Brother of Nick Avocado
Navy • 1990–Present

Vincent Avocato
Brother of Nick Avocado
Navy • 2000–2006

Karl Barrett
Marine Corps • 1982–1988

Donald J. Bartholomew Sr.
Father of Donald J. Bartholomew Jr.
Army • 1982–2003

Joan M. Bartholomew
Mother of Donald J. Bartholomew Jr.
Army • 1993–1996

Gregory Bates
Spouse of Matthew Arceneaux
Air Force • 2001–2015

Mark Batiste
Navy • 1987–1995

John Baum
Air National Guard
2001–Present

Paul Benoit Sr.
Father of Todd Benoit
Navy • 1962–1965

Douglas Bergeron
Army • 1989–1992

Eric Billingsley
Army • 1991–1997

David Blackwell
Grandfather of
Tonya Blackwell Penalber
Army • WWII

Wilbert Blanchard Jr.
Brother of Clifford J. Blanchard
Army • 1971–1974

Wilbert Blanchard Jr. Sr.
Father of Clifford J. Blanchard
Army • Served during WWII

Johnnie Bonds
Army National Guard
1985–1995

Micheal Boyd
Army Reserve National Guard
1989–1995

Tyrell Braud
Marine Corps
1993–1998

Carl Breaux
Brother of Lynn Breaux
Marine Corps • 1982–1987

Ken Breaux
Army/Army National Guard
1983–1988

Ellery Bridges
Navy/Army/Army Reserves
1988–2005

Damone Brignac
Army • 2001–2004

Ben Canales
Navy • 1984–2008

Ronald Chassion
Father of Karl Chassion
Air Force • 1966–1970

Mike Cisneros
Air Force • 1988–2002

David Clouate
Air National Guard • 1991–2007

Gregory Cooper
Marine Corps • 1978–1983

Gerald Cosentino
Father of Jason Cosentino
Navy • 1969–1974

Christopher David
Coast Guard • 1986–1990

Keenan DeFrisco
Son of Ray DeFrisco
Air Force • Currently Serving

Wayne Dobard
Air National Guard
1975–1981

Barry Domio
Marine Corps • 1984–2000

Elizabeth Dow
Sister of Landen Melton
Army • 20+ years of service

Jesse Dunn
Navy • 1977–1983

Vince Edwards
Army • 1982–1992

Lorenzo Ennis
Army • 1993–1997

Darren Esteve
Air National Guard
2015–Present

Bill Faulkner Sr.
Father of David Faulkner
Navy • 1950–1972

Francis J. Flood
Father of Gerald Flood
Army WWII • 1941–1945

Anthony Fuentes
Navy/Navy Reserves
1993–2001

Harold “Johnny” Fussell
Grandfather of Joshua Hinton
Army • 1944–1946

Norman (Trey) Gaubert III
Son of Leslie and
Pee Wee Gaubert
Army National Guard
2002–Present

Cliff Gendron Jr.
Father of Cliff Gendron
Marine Corps • 1954-1956

Charles Georger
Navy • 1993–1997

 Wes Grippshover
Navy • 2001–2008

Mark Guarino
Army/Army Reserve
1984–1990

Kita Harry
Army Reserve • 2002–2006

Philip Hebert Jr.
Nephew of Todd Benoit
Army • 2006–Present

Edward Hernandez
Army National Guard
2004–2005,

Jordan Hill
Army • 2006–2011

Robert Hill
Navy • 1983–1987

Kim M. Jackson
Army Reserve • 1991–1995

Stanley Johnson
Army National Guard
1980–1986

Kyler Keenan
Son of Michael Keegan
Air National Guard
2009–Present

Michael Keegan
Army • 1968–1969

Ty Keeth
Army • 1990–1998

Albert Kelly
Marine Corps • 1982–1988

Dale Koontz
Air Force (Air National Guard)
2004–2013

Lisa Krupa
Army • 1993–1997

Wayne Lassere
Father of Lionel Lassere
Army • 1952–1956

Jamie Latinai
Air Force • 1995–2001

Cameron Laurent
Son of Marcel J. Laurent
Army • 2014–Present

Stacey Leathers
Wife of Aaa Leathers
Navy • Desert Storm, DAV

Blaise LeBlanc
Navy • 2000–2005

Anthony Lech
Brother of David Lech
Army • 2003–2012

Donnie Lemoine
Army • 1997–2001

Cory Lemonier
Army • 1996–2004

Stephen Lewis
Army • 1990–1998

Curtis Lloyd III
Son of Curtis Lloyd
Air Force • 2007–Present

Holden Loper
Son of Carl Aguirca
Marine Corps • 2017–Present

Christopher Louque
Son of Dale Louque
Air Force • 2008–Present

Earl Noel Louviere Sr.
Grandfather of Noel Louviere
World War II

Hunt Louviere
Brother of Noel Louviere
Army National Guard
2003 – 2004

Noel Louviere
Army National Guard
1998–2006

SHELL HAS SUPPORTED THE UNITED STATES MILITARY FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS including Shell Norco’s role as the first refinery to produce commercial quantities of cumene, a valuable ingredient that contributed greatly to increased production of aviation gasoline during WWII. Additionally, the refinery supplied diesel fuel for Navy landing ships and gasoline for ground troops.

In this issue of Newsline, Norco honors the patriotic employees and their family members who have served or are currently serving in diverse branches of the military.

Thank You
FOR YOUR SERVICE

Fifty years ago, the Norco Refinery played a key role in the war effort. It supplied diesel fuel for Navy landing ships and gasoline for ground troops in WWII. Additionally, it supplied aviation gasoline during the war, which was crucial to the success of the military. The refinery continued to support the military throughout its history, serving in diverse branches of the military.

In this issue of Newsline, Norco honors the patriotic employees and their family members who have served or are currently serving in diverse branches of the military. Thank you for your service.
Mark Batiste displays the Shell MilNet banner during the 2019 Veterans Day recognition event at Norco. MilNet is an employee networking group for current and former military personnel, their family members and those interested in supporting the military. One of the group’s goals is to support employees as they transition from the military to a civilian career.

Norco veterans and active-duty military personnel were honored for their years of service to their country during the site’s annual Veterans Day celebration.
Plastic Waste is New Resource for Shell Norco

Rumpelstiltskin spun straw into gold. That was a fairy tale.

Centuries ago, alchemists believed they could turn lead into gold. That didn’t work.

It’s a different story today. Chemists are turning plastics waste into liquid feedstock. That’s a golden growth opportunity for Shell Norco and the Norco community.

The site was selected as the first Shell global location to use the feedstock derived from the Plastics to Chemicals (PtC) pyrolysis technique. Norco’s OL-5 Olefins chemical unit is processing recovered liquid from plastic waste – otherwise not traditionally recycled – into base chemicals, including ethylene and propylene.

PtC represents the start of a new value-chain for Shell – with Norco positioned as a global leader and operations center for North America. Shell’s ambition is to use one million tons of plastic waste a year in its global chemicals plants by 2025.

“Shell recognizes the needs of our customers and society at large to more effectively manage and re-use plastic waste,” says Norco General Manager Brett Woltjen. “Our Norco team is proud to be leading Shell’s application of this new technology. Enabling a circular loop by recycling plastic waste to chemicals is an important part of solving the global plastic waste challenge.”

“It’s exciting to be a part of an innovative business concept which has a positive impact on the environment, our business and re-energizes our site,” says Norco Process Engineer for Olefins Special Projects Juan Ibieta.

“Today, sixty percent of global plastic waste is not recovered or repossessed,” adds Olefins Production Unit Manager Brad Halphen. “Norco has the opportunity to demonstrate that Shell is serious about the environment with commercial scale PIC technology as a viable business opportunity and value stream. Norco is at the forefront of this emerging opportunity to help shape the industry and capture economic benefits.”

“Norco is uniquely capable of processing large quantities of recovered liquids to become a solid foundation for Shell chemicals future growth,” Halphen continues. “Our olefins unit was selected for the project based on our expertise and experience with processing a wide range of feed stocks.”

More than eight months of intense planning, preparation and testing by Norco employees, Shell’s Chemicals Business and Shell’s Projects and Technology departments led the way for the new process which is currently in the pilot phase. Norco also worked closely to develop a partnership with Nexus Fuels, which supplies the recovered liquids.

“We followed an aggressive timeline to develop, design and implement the facilities needed to steam-crack plastics-derived pyrolysis liquids from Nexus to our OL-5 Unit,” says Process Engineering Manager John Olson.

“Cooperation, communication and the ability to make informed decisions following testing moved the project along,” explains Ibieta. “That’s how we work at Norco and it was a contributing factor to our selection for initiating an important environmentally-beneficial business.”

“Production is beginning on a small scale with continuing monitoring,” he adds. “So far we have imported a tanker truck load of the liquid feedstock to inject into our furnaces for steam cracking. It’s important to make sure that the unit can support the feed in a clean and reliable process.”

As the project expands, the new feedstock will bring additional requirements for infrastructure and processing upstream of Norco steam cracking facilities,” Olson says. “In terms of margin, we are looking at a value chain which will include waste collectors, technology companies, chemical manufacturers, and consumer product companies.”

According to the PtC team, Norco has the potential to become a leading center for recycling and processing plastics derived from chemical feedstocks for Shell Chemicals in North America. The business is expected to create new purpose and growth for the Norco site as it plays a significant role in helping to address the issues of plastic waste and plastic recovery.

Check out the global Plastics to Chemicals story on the HUB including the creative video featuring Norco and an animation video on the circular process of recycling plastic waste.