

February 2015



NORCO

Newsline

Norco Manufacturing Complex



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Town of Norco Approaches Centennial

According to NMC Communications Manager **Rochelle Touchard**, tank artwork marks the approaching 100th anniversary of the town of Norco. **“Although Shell did not officially enter the area until 1928, NMC takes great pride in its long history in Norco and looks forward to commemorating the development and growth of the community.”**

The small community of Sellers preceded Norco on the site of the former Sellers Plantation, also known as Diamond Plantation. The New Orleans Refining Company bought 366 acres of land located between Sellers and the old Good Hope sugar plantation, beginning the history of one of the largest oil products refineries in America. Shortly after, the town took the company’s acronym and became known as the town of Norco.



There’s something to see along Airline Highway these days. Look riverside as you pass by the Norco Manufacturing Complex and watch for one of the site’s tanks saluting the Town of Norco.

Tell a Friend, Tell a Neighbor, Ask the CAP

**Heard any neighborhood news lately?
Curious about industry in the area?**

There are more opportunities than ever for uncovering the news these days. Newspapers, newsletters (like the Norco Newsline), Facebook, Twitter, texts, telephone, email, and a letter in the mailbox offer a wide range of choices for gathering information. Don’t forget about face-to-face exchanges with your neighbors, friends and co-workers. That old-fashioned method of communications may be the most effective method available to keeping up with news, especially if it concerns the Norco Manufacturing Complex.

If you are a Norco resident, just ask a member of the Norco Community Advisory Panel (CAP).



(continued on page 3)

Norco Community Advisory Panel (CAP)

continued from page 1

Members, comprised of diverse area representatives, serve as a liaison between the community and NMC. As advisors, CAP members bring community feedback, suggestions and questions directly to NMC representatives who not only listen but also follow up with answers or necessary action.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the CAP, contact a current member who can nominate you. Panelists meet every other month, attending meetings focus on industry and community activities.

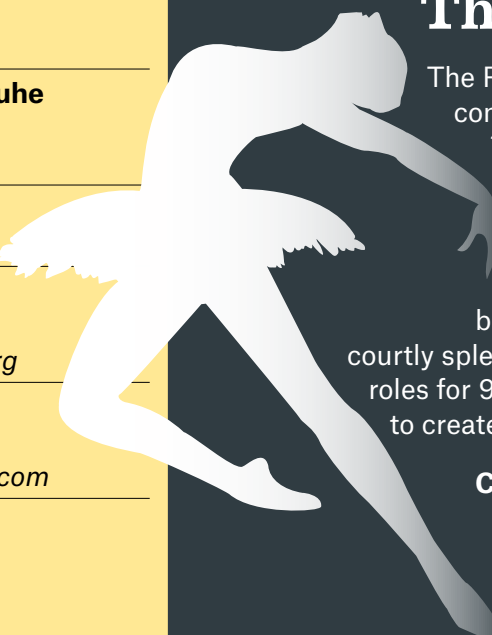
CAP members include:

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19th ANNUAL
UNITED WAY OF ST. CHARLES
BRIDGE RUN
5K Run/Walk • 10K Run
SATURDAY
March 28, 2015
DESTREHAN TO LULING
All finishers will receive a commemorative race medallion
10K route with historical views of plantation homes
"WORKOUT WEAR CONTEST"
COMPETE IN THE LOUISIANA BRIDGE RUN SERIES
PRESENTED BY Norco Manufacturing Complex
CO-PRESENTED BY VALERO
United Way
United Way of St. Charles
MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.UWAYS.C.ORG
OR CALL 985-331-9063

The Sleeping Beauty



The River Region Ballet Spring Concert is devoted to the community's children, both young and old. The classical ballet *The Sleeping Beauty* will be performed **March 21 at 7:30 p.m. and March 22 at 2 p.m.** in the **Hahnville High School Auditorium**. First performed over 100 years ago, this fairy tale with music by P.I. Tchaikovsky has it all. A king and queen, fairies both good and evil, a beautiful princess and a dream prince all come together with courtly splendor to create a magical event. *The Sleeping Beauty* has roles for 93 dancers and actors and utilizes lavish costumes and sets to create a memorable adventure.

Call (504) 322-5363 for additional information or visit www.brownpapertickets.com for tickets.

The River Region Ballet is a recipient of a Norco Community Fund grant. See details on page four.

Reading for Fun, Reading to Learn

Tablets, television, video game systems and other forms of recreational technology are captivating children of all ages – two year olds are often as proficient as their grandparents in finding an App for a smartphone. Nevertheless, “let’s read a story” is still an offer that few youngsters can turn down.



Stacey Zeringue, NMC Reader and program coordinator, captures the attention of Norco Elementary School as she reads a story about little Otis and his tractor.

According to numerous research studies, reading aloud helps children acquire and improve early language skills, grow their vocabulary and cognitive skills while helping to form a positive association with books and reading.

Check with **NMC Partners In Education (PIE)** volunteer readers for verification. **“The kids we read to at Norco Elementary range from ages four to eight or nine,”** said Pressure Equipment Engineer **Jolene Page**, a veteran PIE volunteer. **“Seeing them grow over the years, and experiencing how they react, is so fulfilling. The two things that stay constant through the age ranges are that they are excited to see the readers come through the door and they are always curious.”**

For Process Chemist **Troy Oncale**, the younger students are especially fun to work with. **“They are always receptive and love when I read to them,”** he commented.

In addition to listening to a story and viewing illustrations, the youngsters particularly enjoy question and answer time that occasionally strays beyond the selected book’s theme. “The first reading of the year always includes about a quarter of the class asking, ‘do you know (Insert Name Here)?’ They all want to tell me about their parents, grandparents, neighbors, or other family members who work at the Norco Manufacturing Complex,” Page smiled.

“I got a good chuckle in Mrs. Izahola’s class last year when she allowed them to discuss a topic and ask their classmates for comments and questions,” Oncale said. “One little girl was going to Disney World for Thanksgiving, and her classmate asked her if she was going to Walt Disney World. She promptly answered ‘no the regular Disney World.’”

Page has seen the benefits of reading aloud first hand. “One of my favorite interactions with the kids came when I was assigned to read to the four-year-olds,” she explained. “The teacher would let them go around and answer a certain question. It was amazing to see how much they improved over the year with their sentence structure and the use of bigger words.”

Volunteering as readers is an activity that Page and Oncale plan to continue in the years ahead. “It’s a good way to learn about the community we work in, help the upcoming generation and provide a way for young people to learn more about NMC and its employees,” Page emphasized. “When I first got out of college and entered the workforce, I was amazed to learn what our company does for the surrounding community. I wanted to help in any way I could. Reading was the first volunteer opportunity I took, but I have added on several other activities since that time.”

While today’s choices in books vary from those of Oncale’s and Page’s childhood, some titles remain constant. Oncale enjoys the early Dr. Seuss books.

Oncale’s favorite book as a child is anything written by Dr. Seuss. Page has been able to share ‘I Like Myself!’ “It is a great book for the little ones, with a moral of liking yourself even if you are different. The kids burst out in laughter every time I turn the page and show them the pictures.”



AWARD
\$260,000+
 IN GRANTS



Grants Enhance Life in Norco



Norco Community Fund and Norco Economic Development Fund grant recipients honored at a recent dinner in Norco are left to right: **Stefanie Ward**, Destrehan High School; **Wendi Kessling**, Norco Elementary School; **Kim Candies**, Norco Elementary School; **Nancy Robert**, River Road Historical Association; **Henry Sorbet**, River Region Drama Guild; **Corey Faucheux**, St. Charles Parish Department of Economic Development & Tourism; **George Becnel**, Knights of Columbus – Red Church Council; **DeAnn Sullivan**, River Region Ballet; **Rosemary Sanders**, River Region Ballet; **Robert Landry**, American Legion; **Kristin and Ken Tew**, First Baptist Church of Norco, and **Sal Digirolamo**, Norco Civic Association.

Sleeping Beauty awakens with the Prince's kiss and they all live happily ever after.

Area residents will have the opportunity to see this fairy-tale brought to life in **River Region Ballet's** production of the classical *Sleeping Beauty* Ballet this spring. Backdrop, sets, and props for the lavish community production will be funded by a grant from the **Norco Community Fund (NCF)**.

The River Region Ballet is one of seven community groups awarded a grant from the NCF at a recent awards dinner in Norco. Three additional organizations received grants from the **Norco Economic Development Fund (NEDF)**. More than \$260,000 in grants benefitting schools, community organizations and businesses located in the Norco area. NCF and NEDF Director Lily Galland welcomed the guests, acknowledging the grants impact in making Norco a better place to live and work. **"Well over two million dollars have been awarded since the NCF and NEDF were established over a decade ago."**

The Greater New Orleans Foundation Vice President of Programs Carmen James presented the grants.

THE NORCO COMMUNITY FUND,

a Donor Advised Fund of The Greater New Orleans Foundation, was established to improve the quality of life for Norco residents. An advisory committee of business and civic leaders meet annually to review grant requests that directly support programs that serve the Norco community and its residents. This year's grant were presented to:

- **DESTREHAN HIGH SCHOOL** for the Senior Citizens Community Christmas Celebration, connecting youth with senior citizens and engaging youth in community service.
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORCO** for replacement of an air conditioning unit in the church's preschool and nursery. The church served more than 200 children in Vacation Bible School last summer.
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** for a new air-conditioning in the KC Hall.
- **NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** for a Literacy Support Program to serve kindergarten through fourth grade students in need of intervention and remediation.
- **RIVER REGION BALLET** for backdrop, sets, and props for a community ballet production of *The Sleeping Beauty*.
- **RIVER REGION DRAMA GUILD** for repairs and renovations to the River Region Performing Arts/Cultural Center.
- **AMERICAN LEGION** for a floor cleaning and polishing machine for the American Legion Hall.

A Donor Advised Fund of The Greater New Orleans Foundation, THE NORCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

addresses social and economic issues designed to support Norco's future and economic development. Established as a quality of life community commitment, the foundation awards significant grants to business retention and improvement, career development programs, and has also assisted in the creation of a food incubator. Recipients of grants this year were:

- **RIVER ROAD HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION** for assistance in Phase I of a Master Plan for Destrehan Plantation to add improved lighting and walkways. Additional plans call for the preservation of two historic buildings and the development of other facilities on site, including a St. Charles Parish welcome center for tourists and a bed and breakfast complex. The project is expected to bring 16 new jobs to the parish.
- **NORCO CIVIC ASSOCIATION** for a Norco River Road Revitalization Project focusing on upgrades to facades, sidewalks, signs, lighting and a resurface of the parking area on River Road to create an inviting business district corridor to promote a sense of pride in the community.
- **St. Charles Parish Department of Economic Development & Tourism** for expansion of the Edible Enterprises Food incubator operations and production area.

All organizations awarded NEDF funding are required to submit fiscal accounting narrative reports on the use of the grant as well as to report on the grant's community impact.

The NCF and NEDF were established with respective one million and five million dollar endowments by the Norco Manufacturing Complex to sustain and enrich the quality of life in the Norco Community. The Norco Manufacturing Complex sponsors the award dinner held in Norco each year.

River Parishes Teachers Awarded Grants

Teachers representing **St. Charles, St. James and St. John Parishes** received grants for special projects at the Annual **River Parishes Education Foundation (RPEF)** Teacher Grants Dinner in LaPlace.

River Parishes Education Foundation Board Members are Mary Lynn Allmont, Betty Clement, Farol Clement, Dale Doty, Corey Faucheux, Felecia Gomez-Walker, Kevin Hardy, Cindy Poskey, Julia Remondet, Mary Lou Sumrall, Audrey Templet, Rochelle Touchard, Heidi Trosclair, and Tracy Zeringue.



According to Norco Manufacturing Complex Communications Manager and RPEF President **Rochelle Touchard**, the Foundation presented \$4,500 in grants to teachers developing programs encouraging parental involvement in their child's education. RPEF Treasurer **Farol Clement** and Grants Chair **Mary Lou Sumrall** presented the awards, acknowledging the teachers' creativity and commitment in enhancing the quality of education in the River Parishes.

"PARENTAL SUPPORT MAKES SUCH A DIFFERENCE WITH THE KIDS DEVELOPMENT," Sumrall emphasized. "Research shows that if you have parental support, kids perform better. Parents however, don't often know how they are supposed to help their children because education today is more complicated than in the past. Teacher grants recognized tonight introduce methods of involving parents in the whole process of education."

St. Charles Parish teachers recognized were **Marie Smith** of Eual J. Landry Alternative Center and **Gaylynn St. Pierre** and **Lydia Evans** of Mimosa Park Elementary School.

St. John the Baptist Parish recipients were **Dr. Kimberly Handy** and **Kirk Numa** of West St. John High School, **Rachel Chaney** and **Dr. Shelly Chauvin** of Emily Watkins Elementary School.

St. James Parish teachers honored were **Lee Granier** and **Michelle Hills** of the Science and Math Academy.

Grants include such projects as teaching English to parents of Hispanic children, providing resource centers for parents, and one grant will facilitate in-home Math tutoring "parties."

Established in 1993 through a NMC initiative as collaboration among River Parishes industries, educators, and government officials to improve the quality of education, the River Parishes Education Initiative focused on parental involvement, career choices, and the funding of teacher grants for enhanced classroom learning. In 2010, the organization was re-structured as a foundation.

"Teacher grants recognized tonight introduce methods of involving parents in the whole process of education."

MARY LOU SUMRALL

RPEF Board Member **Mary Lou Sumrall** congratulates Eual J. Landry Alternative Center teacher **Marie Smith** and Principal **Vevlyn Adams** for receiving a grant to enrich the classroom experience for students.



Mary Lou Sumrall presents a teacher grant award to Mimosa Park Elementary School teachers **Lydia Evans** and **Gaylynn St. Pierre** and Principal **Michele de Bruler**.





Gabby Weber waits for a volunteer assignment as **Jabreel Walker** makes a "to do" list of responsibilities for a Martin Luther King Day of Service.



Tranetta Weber and her son **Jadon** refresh a bulletin board at St. Francis Xavier School in Baton Rouge during a National Day of Service in celebration of Martin Luther King Day.

Celebrating King's Dream with Service

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is:
'What are you doing for others?'"

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s profound statement continues to make a thought-provoking impact today, more than 40 years after his death. Thousands of volunteers throughout the country demonstrated that impact and answered the question through participation in the MLK Day of Service. The day, celebrated on the MLK memorial holiday, is part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.

NMC volunteers representing **Shell's Black Networking Group** (SBNG-LA) took an active part in the Day of Service on Martin Luther King Day. Assigned to Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School with members of the St. Francis Adult Ministry spent a day completing such chores as cleaning walls and windows, dusting, sanitizing desks, and organizing the library.

An opening ceremony commemorating the life and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and encouraging an ongoing commitment to service preceded the work assignments. Principal **Paula Fabre** welcomed the volunteers, expressing the school's thanks for the assistance and support. "It is an honor and blessing to have you select our school for your day of service," she said.

NMC volunteers included: Jabreel Walker, Quienna Jackson, Tracy Alexander, Tranetta Weber and her children Jadon and Gabby Weber.

It's service with a smile for **Quienna Jackson** as she cleans tiled walls in the St. Francis Xavier hallway.



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is:
'What are you doing for others?'"

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Lots of little fingers leave lots of little fingerprints! **Tracy Alexander** cleans student desks during her Day of Service volunteer hours.



Military Salute

Like Father, Like Son

Michael Keegan is a veteran of the United States Army. His son Kyler is a currently in his seventh year as a member of the Louisiana Air National Guard – 159th Fighter Wing. Both men take great pride in their contributions to protect and defend the country's liberties. Both can intrigue you and entertain you with stories of military training, life in boot camp, and what it means to pack up for deployment.



Army veteran Michael Keegan, right, congratulates his son Kyler, a member of the Air National Guard, following his graduation from basic training.

Entering the military however, was quite a different experience for father and son. NMC Mechanical Design Specialist **Michael Keegan** was not too long out of high school when a draft notice arrived in the mail. In 1969, the draft usually meant one thing - "you're in the Army now" and you're heading to Vietnam. That's exactly what happened. At 19, Michael reported to Fort Polk, Louisiana, and shortly after shipped out for the Asian battlefield as a member of the Army's First Cavalry.

Kyler Keegan was one of hundreds of New Orleans students side-tracked when Hurricane Katrina forced the closing of the University of New Orleans. Attending classes at LSU in Baton Rouge was not an alternative he enjoyed. He entered the workforce, working hurricane-related demolitions jobs and eventually hired on with Dickie Brennan's Restaurant - earning a good living. Sometimes, though, it's not all about the money. Encouraged by a good friend to join the Air National Guard, Kyler willingly accepted the challenge and signed on.

HOW DOES A PARENT, WITH MILITARY EXPERIENCE, FEEL ABOUT HIS SON JOINING THE ARMED FORCES? "There are mixed feelings in a situation like that," Michael answered. "There is no question that I am proud of Kyler's sacrifice. Having been in a combat zone myself, I was worried about what could happen if Kyler experienced a similar situation. Although he was deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Force Base in Kuwait, he served in an area that was not active. But you still worry about what could happen, no matter where your child is assigned.

"Things are so different in military life these days," he reflected. "There is the threat of a terrorist attack as compared to fighting a defined enemy. Communication from overseas military bases to the States has definitely improved. Technology makes it easier to talk to and even see each other. Back in the Vietnam era ham radio operators connected you to a 'collect call' home. I believe I tried to reach home about eight or nine times, but only got through twice in about a year's time. "But let's talk about Kyler," he commented, turning the conversation away from his own action.

While Kyler was doing well in the workforce, Michael knew his son had not yet reached his potential. "You always want your son to mature as the best he can be," he said. "I knew my intelligent son would figure life out.

Joining the Guard was a big step in that direction. When I saw him marching across the field at graduation, as the 'guide-on', I was proud."

The Guard trained Kyler as a Power Production Journeyman, paving the way to receive his Electrical Engineering degree from UNO this spring. Re-signing bonuses helped to pay for an engagement ring. A newlywed, Kyler is working full time and completing his degree requirements as he continues to serve as a National Guard Staff Sergeant, drilling once a month at the Belle Chasse Air Force Base. And, he already has an engineering position waiting for him. Right after graduation he reports for his new job with General Electric.

"Joining the National Guard was probably the best decision I could have ever made," Kyler said. "Besides the obvious education and VA benefits, the military gives me a personal sense of pride and humbles me that I can be a part of something that is such a driving force in the world. Less than 1% of the American population alive today can say that they have served in the United States Armed Services. I am proud to say that I have the great fortune to be in that number."

"Kyler is a delightful person and a great fishing partner," said his dad, who also is the proud parent of two daughters and two step-daughters. "He is my son, but he has become a man."



Norco Newsline is published regularly to inform the community about activities at the Norco Manufacturing Complex. Please address inquiries to:

Rochelle Touchard, Communications Manager
Norco Manufacturing Complex
 15536 River Road | P.O. Box 10 | Norco, LA 70079
504-465-6667

Numbers and Addresses to Know:

St. Charles Emergency Operations Center:
985-783-5050

Norco Site Supervisor:
504-465-7342

NMC Community Information Line

504-465-7483

www.shell.us/norco

www.motivaenterprises.com

www.norco-air.info

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POSTAL PATRON

THE NORCO MANUFACTURING COMPLEX

will hold its seventh Annual *Date with Destiny* on

Thursday, April 30 at the **New Orleans Airport Hilton**
from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

According to **Theron Williams**, program coordinator, *Date with Destiny* is a career awareness event for women, emphasizing opportunities, educational requirements and responsibilities in the petrochemical industry. Panel discussions highlighting experienced NMC, Motiva Convent and Shell Geismar employees, lectures, interactive activities and question and answer sessions comprise the day's agenda.

Date with Destiny is free and open to the community.

For additional information, contact Williams at:

theron.williams@motivaent.com

Register Online at:

<https://starcite.smarteventscloud.com/DatewithDestinyLouisiana>

MORNING SESSION

8 a.m.-12 p.m.

- Resume Reviews
- Mock Interviews
- Transferable Skills

AFTERNOON SESSION

1 p.m.-4 p.m.

- Equipment Demos
- Scholarship Information
- Community Colleges

EVENING SESSION

5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

- Keynote Speaker
- Q & A Networking

DATE WITH DESTINY

A TECHNICAL CAREER AND
 EDUCATION FORUM FOR

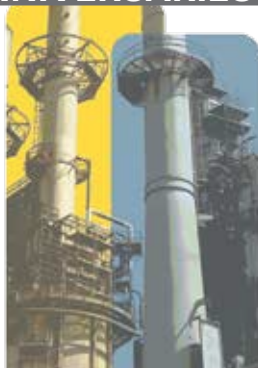
WOMEN



- ✓ Thursday, April 30
- ✓ New Orleans Airport Hilton
- ✓ 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Service ANNIVERSARIES

Someone
 You Know
 Works for
 Norco



40 Years

Susan Bivona
 Michael Richard

35 Years

Elise Chauvin
 Donald Cox
 Thomas Van Vrancken
 Thomas Waller

30 Years

Dwight Moore

25 Years

Darryl Baudouin
 Patrick Blackwell
 Russell Bland
 Steven Bowman
 Lester Braud
 Elliot Brown

Dean Digirolamo
 Roy Gaudet
 Bob Hatfield
 Richard Hymel
 Juan Labostrie
 Kenneth Nicholas
 Alan Ryan
 Patric Stevens

15 Years

Mario Gallito