

River Living



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THE RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION

Winter 2007



MANY ATTEND 2007 RIVER AWARENESS TOURS

The Red River Waterway Commission, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District, the U. S. Coast Guard, and the Red River Valley Association hosted a series of awareness tours along the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway in early October.

The tours were well attended and departed from area ports in Alexandria, Natchitoches, and Shreveport-Bossier. This annual event is part of an effort to educate community leaders, legislators, media, federal agencies and other industry about the economic benefits of the Red River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District provided the inspection barge which was propelled by the vessel, Fred Lee. Each trip included presentations from experts on the importance

of the river, navigation maintenance, economic benefits, and the commercial, recreational, and environmental enhancements made in each area.

“This is an education for the community because there is so much that isn’t seen along the waterway,” said Rich Brontoli, executive director of the Red River Valley Association. “We want to make people aware of what’s being done.”

Frank Worley, public affairs officer for the Corps of Engineers, agreed stating that “this is a good opportunity to educate the public about our navigation, recreation and environmental flood control efforts.”



▲ Tour attendees from Alexandria (above left) and Shreveport (above) enjoy the view from the deck of the Fred Lee

NEW FACILITY BENEFICIAL TO WATER RESCUE EFFORTS

The Bossier City Fire Department celebrated the opening of a new water rescue facility with a dedication ceremony on September 24, 2007. The facility, which is partially funded by the Red River Waterway Commission, houses diving gear and search and rescue equipment at the Teague Parkway Recreation Area on the Red River in Bossier City.

The central location of the facility is extremely beneficial to water rescue on the Red River. "We are very pleased with this new facility. It makes a big difference in launch time which is the difference between life and drowning," said Commissioner Wayne Davis. Commissioner Mickey Prestridge also agreed stating "this is a wonderful endeavor that promotes safety on the water and there is definitely a need for it."

Rescue teams will now be able to respond more quickly to emergency calls. "It will allow for very rapid response time for first responders to emergencies on the Red River occurring in the Bossier City - Shreveport area where we have over

two million users and visitors of Red River Waterway facilities. We are proud to be partners with Bossier City in this endeavor which further provides for improved quality of life in this area," said Commissioner Bruce Easterly.



▲ Officials gather for the ribbon cutting at the new Teague Parkway facility. (L to R) Wayne Davis, Mickey Prestridge, RRWC Commissioners; Mayor Lorenzo Walker, City of Bossier City; Chief Sammy Halpen, Bossier City Fire Department, Chief Criminal Deputy Julian Whittington, Bossier Parish Sheriff Department; Mike Boydston, Red River Waterway Commission.

RED RIVER SOUTH MARINA & RESORT OPENS IN BOSSIER CITY

Outdoor enthusiasts now have a new hot spot to visit along the banks of the Red River - the Red River South Marina and Resort in Bossier City. Located 5 miles south of the Jimmie Davis bridge, this marina offers several state-of-the-art amenities including floating docks, on-water fuel island, covered boat slips, pavilion, paved parking, cabins and dry storage for boats, RV's and campers. It also sports 2 double boat ramps (BASS approved) capable of launching 4 boats at once making it a popular place for fishermen.

Area officials are pleased with the number of visitors the marina has attracted and expect even greater numbers in next year. It was host to several fishing tournaments in 2007 including the men and women's division BASS tournament and the American Bass Anglers Regional Competition. Events are currently being scheduled for 2008. Plans are also underway for additional cabins and boat slips, a steak and seafood restaurant and indoor storage for boats and trailers.



PORT OF SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER SET TO WELCOME PRATT INDUSTRIES

Pratt Industries U.S.A. recently announced that the Port of Shreveport-Bossier will be the new site for its third Waste Paper Recycling Mill. When asked why he chose Shreveport, CEO and President Anthony Pratt stated several reasons, one of which is the unified effort and positive attitude of all partners involved in the project.

Pratt has two other mills of this kind located in New York City and Conyers, Georgia where the announcement was declared official.

These environmentally conscious mills produce containerboard from fully recycled materials that would otherwise be put in landfills. This initiative will now place Shreveport amongst the major recycling programs in the southern United States. "This would not have been possible without the joint efforts and assistance from The Red River Waterway Commission, the City of Shreveport, DOTD, LA. Economic Development and the State.

Our community is very pro-business and puts forth a tremendous team effort in working to attract new industry to our area," said Frank Pernici, President of the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission.

"We are extremely pleased that Pratt Industries has chosen the Port of Shreveport for its latest paper mill. It is going to have a tremendous impact on not only the economy but also on the environment," stated Red River Waterway Commissioner Mickey Prestridge. "The recycling plan that Pratt and the City of Shreveport have developed will do much to make the public more aware of the need to recycle our waste."

In addition to reducing waste materials, Pratt's investment will positively impact Shreveport's economy with the creation of over 1,500 new jobs and income streams in excess of \$35 million annually when the mill is completed.

ALEXANDRIA REGIONAL PORT AUTHORITY GROWING FOR THE FUTURE



The Alexandria Regional Port Authority is making room for new tenants. This will be made possible through a \$2 million expansion expected to increase storage capacity by up to 4 times the current amount. Commissioner Harmon Belgard feels that "this expansion will assist in the port's growth and strengthen its' ability in managing all current tonnage."

By increasing its capacity, the Port hopes to attract large businesses like fuel giants and energy companies thus increasing traffic along the river. "The Red River Waterway Commission is pleased to join with the Port of Alexandria and to assist in commerce efforts along the Red River. This warehouse expansion is vital to the port's growth and to the continued success of the river," stated Commissioner Alvin Owens.

The project should be complete and ready for occupancy by January 2008.

- ▶ (L to R) Marion Chaney, President; Rev. Huey P. Lawson, Past President; Commissioner Johnnie Varnado, Vice President; Ned Randolph, Mayor Jacques Roy, City of Alexandria; Norman Welch, Secretary/Treasurer; and Kenneth Bonnette, Commissioner participate in groundbreaking ceremonies for the warehouse expansion at the Port of Alexandria.



ONGOING PROJECTS *with funding assistance from Red River Waterway Commission*

Avoyelles Parish

Avoyelles Parish Port Commission -
Initial infrastructure

Natchitoches Parish

Port of Natchitoches - Road improvements

Rapides Parish

Ft. Randolph - Civil War park development
Port of Alexandria - Transit shed expansion
Port of Alexandria - Operations Center

Red River Parish

Red River Parish Port - Initial phase

Caddo/Bossier Parish

Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Concrete storage area
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Paper mill project
City of Bossier City - Riverwalk
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Steelscape project
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Material handling equipment

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*These projects represent over \$12 million in
funding assistance from the RRWC.*

Johnny B. Bradberry, Chairman; Ed Preau, Acting Chairman; Marc Dupuy, Jr., Vice Chairman;
James F. Maxey, Secretary/Treasurer; Kenneth P. Guidry, Executive Director.
Commissioners: Harmon Belgard, Rapides Parish; Charles E. Britton, At-Large; Wayne Davis, Bossier Parish;
Marc Dupuy, Jr., Avoyelles Parish; Bruce Easterly, At-Large; Paul Fleming, Natchitoches Parish; Randell Fletcher,
Grant Parish; James F. Maxey, At-Large; W. Alvin Owens, At-Large; Rogers "Mickey" Prestridge, Caddo Parish;
Michael Simpson, Red River Parish.

For more information, call the Red River Waterway Commission at 1-800-874-9431.

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