



# JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME NO. 1, ISSUE No. 1

December 2002

### Board and Officers Elected

At the September 16, 2002 meeting of members,



nine people were selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Jeanerette Landmark Society. Officers elected were: President - Ray Allain; Vice President - Paula Louviere; Secretary - Peggy Parker; and Treasurer - Jacques Larroque.

(See Page 3 for a personal profile of board members)

Members of the Board met again on October 24, 2002 and chose to create committees to do the work of the Society. One member of the board volunteered to serve as the Chairman of each of the committees. The committees created and the names of the Chair person of each are: **Membership:** Peggy Parker; **Fundraising:** Tommy Granger; **Grants & Education:** Paula Louviere; **Publicity:** Ray Allain; **Museum Planning & Acquisitions:** Dana Bourgeois; **Home Restoration & Construction:** George McJunkins; **State & Local Government Assistance:** Arthur Verret; **History & Documentation:** Peter Patout; **Finance:** Jacques Larroque.

Anyone wishing to support the work of the Society is encouraged to join the work of one of the committees.

Mayor Arthur Verret and Society President Ray Allain met with Sandra Thompson Decoteau in Baton Rouge on October 28, 2002 to discuss funding from the Atchafalaya Basin Program for the Hewes House project of the Jeanerette Landmark Society. The two presented preliminary plans for the restoration of the home and construction of complimentary facilities which could cost as much as \$700,000.00 to \$800,000.00.

Mrs. Decoteau gave the duo assurances that funding was available in the form of fifty (50%) percent matching funds for the project. She indicated that grant funds could be available to match the



private funds already raised by and committed to the Society, between \$75,000.00 and \$150,000.00, in a relatively short period of time. However, a substantial grant which would allow construction of the Society's entire plan may not be available until the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004. Since the Society believes that it may be able to raise between \$150,000.00 and \$200,000.00 in private memberships and grants prior to March of 2003, Mrs. Decoteau was asked to consider funding a 50% match of these funds prior to the 2004 fiscal year. Prior to making a commitment to that level of funding, the Program Director indicated that all grant application work (Continued on Page 2)

### Atchafalaya Basin Program Funding Meet

(Continued from Page 1)

would have to be completed and submitted before a decision could be made. Then funding would depend on the priority assigned to pending projects, the status of those projects, and the program funds available during the fiscal year.

One of the requirements for the project to qualify for funding, is the sponsorship of a local public body, such as the City of Jeanerette. According to Mrs. Decoteau, in addition to private funds raised for the project, any funds expended by the local public sponsor on the project could be used to match Atchafalaya Basin Program funding. The Mayor inquired as to whether the funds expended on the City Park Pavilion project could be used for this purpose, and was advised that if the funds were expended on any part of the project they would qualify for the match. Therefore, if the project was expanded to include improvements to the City Park based on its tie to the Hewes House restoration project, the available funding for the overall project could be increased.

Forms and other information necessary for the application process were obtained and are being reviewed.

### **Board Considers Expanding Development Plan to Include City Park Improvements**

Based on the information learned from the meeting in October with Sandra Thompson Decoteau, the board at its November 6th meeting agreed to consider including in its project a historical display in the Park tied to the Hewes house. This would appear to be an idea with merit, considering the fact that the park is the historic site of the original Jeanerette Lumber and Shingle Company lumber mill. Moreover, the fact that cypress lumber was harvested from the Atchafalaya Basin gives the Society project a natural and important connection to the Eagle Point Park Project. Since the Hewes home is less than two blocks from the park, further improvements in the park would not only benefit park users but the two could be combined in a walking tour covering the history of the lumber industry. For example, a panel display incorporating the history of the cypress swamps, paddlewheel steamboats, and the saw mill could be erected at or in the vicinity of the city park pavilion. Visitors to the Jeanerette facilities could then be encouraged to tour Eagle Point Park allowing them to see cypress trees in their natural environment and completing the

historical experience.

### **Mayor and Board of Aldermen Vote Unanimous in Support of Hewes House Restoration Project**

At the regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Jeanerette held on November 11, 2002, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the adoption of a resolution of support for the first Jeanerette Landmark Society project including the restoration of the Hewes House and possible other improvements to city facilities, and requesting funding from the Atchafalaya Basin Program for the project.

The Mayor expressed his full support for the project and requested that the City Attorney prepare an agreement between the Society and the City which would formally establish the nature and terms of a Cooperative Endeavor between the two entities for the project.

The resolution was forwarded to Mrs. Decoteau at the Atchafalaya Basin Program office in Baton Rouge on November 12th to initiate the grant process.

### **Finance Committee Report**

- **Beuerman challenges Governor Foster**
- **Tax Exempt Certification Received**

The Society broke the \$60,000.00 fund raising mark on November 12, 2002 with post-charter memberships submitted by Governor Mike Foster and Winifred Beuerman. Ms. Beuerman is a fund raiser for Tulane University who was so impressed with the project that she sent in a \$100 membership check, and combined it with a \$1 check so that she could say she outdid Governor Foster.

The Tax Exempt certification was received from the IRS at the beginning of December, paving the way for receipt of several large pledges which were contingent on this certificate.

Fund raising totaled **\$130,821.00** by December 20th, with receipt of the matching pledge made by Mr. Flowerree through the Flowerree Foundation. Substantial additional in kind contributions have been made which will add to the amount to be matched by the state grants.

Expenses to date total slightly over \$2,000, including State and IRS filing fees of about \$750, equipment costs of \$675.00, and promotional costs of slightly over \$500.00.

## Profile of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

**Arthur Lee Verret** - A retired electric company CEO, currently serving as Mayor of the City of Jeanerette, Arthur Verret serves the Society as chairman of the **State and Local Government Committee**. Being liaison between the Society and all state and local government agencies is a natural fit for this Jeanerette native. Not content to rest in his retirement, Verret has re-invigorated the City, as Mayor, with tireless devotion to the cause of improving our community. His self sacrifice is an inspiration to us all.

**George McJunkins** - George is an engineer who retired from his service in the Louisiana DOTD a few years ago and moved to Jeanerette with his wife, Rae Ann Minvielle, a local native. George has been a diligent worker in the recent Clean Jeanerette campaign, and brings both interest and special knowledge and skills to his position as chairman of the **Home Restoration and Construction Committee**.

**Peggy Parker** - This Jeanerette native serves as the Executive Secretary of the Jeanerette Chamber of Commerce and works in the joint offices of the Chamber and the Jeanerette Bicentennial Museum, doubling as a tour guide and museum curator. Peggy's hands on contact with business and cultural activity in the City will serve her well as chairman of the **Membership Committee**. Peggy and her family currently live in the Hewes house as tenant=s and caretakers.

**Tommy Granger** - A businessman and part-time musician with a local band, Tommy knows how to throw a party. As Chairman of the **Fund-raising Committee** Tommy plans to combine fund raising with a lot of fun. It doesn't hurt that Tommy grew up in the house directly across the street from the Hewes house, which he still owns, and he has a strong interest in preserving the history of the site.

**Dana Hoover Bourgeois** - Born in Jeanerette, Dana lives, with her husband John Bourgeois, on the historic and beautiful Henkle Street, across the street from the Hewes house. Its easy to understand why Dana has such a keen interest in the restoration of this home. But she also brings to the board knowledge and experience in interior decorating, as owner of Habersham Plantation, which will serve her well as chairman of the **Museum Planning and Acquisitions Committee**.

**Paula Cyr Louviere** - A descendent of one of Jeanerette=s prominent citizens, Dr. Paul N. Cyr, Lieutenant Governor under Huey Long, Paula is an elementary school teacher nearing retirement who wants to contribute to a worthwhile community project. Her background, knowledge, and experience will be helpful to the board in her tenure as chairman of the **Grants and Education Committee**.

**Jacques Larroque** - An independent local businessman, owner of Larroque Pharmacy, Jacques has a special interest in history and has been a volunteer and supporter of numerous community activities. His wife Mary Ellen, also a tireless community worker, serves as a member of the Historic District Advisory Commission in the City of Jeanerette. Jacques has volunteered to devote his small business expertise and interest in history to the Board as Chairman of the **Finance Committee**.

**Peter Patout** - Also a member of an old Jeanerette family, Peter has dedicated himself to community service as a member of the Historic District Advisory Commission and now as chairman of the **History and Documentation Committee** of the Landmark Society Board. A long time owner and operator of an antique business in New Orleans, Peter=s knowledge and experience in the antique world will be valuable to the work of the Society.

**Raymond E. Allain** - Jeanerette City Attorney for over 25 years and senior partner in the firm of Allain and Allain, Ray thanks his partner, John Bellefontaine, and the entire office staff for their support and for allowing him to devote time to the work of the Society. As a professional mouthpiece, Ray seems well suited to serve as the chairman of the **Publicity Committee**.

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President=s Note:

*A common theme shared by all the board members is a desire to do something positive in the community, create a source of pride for the City, and return something of themselves to their City. Every one of the members of the Board are devoting their time, skill, knowledge, experience, and energy to the efforts of the Society. Not the least precious of these being their time, particularly considering the increasingly complex and busy world in which we live.*

*We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their public spirited sacrifice!*

## UPDATES:

Since this newsletter was first drafted there have been several developments of note. The latest information on the Landmark Society progress is listed here in the following notes:

- ! Apparently impressed with the progress made by the Landmark Society, confident that we would reach our goal of matching funds, and in order to help the Society acquire the home property without further delay, **Mr. Robert W. Flowerree** mailed a **Flowerree Foundation** check to the Society for the \$72,000.00 he promised to donate. The check was received and deposited on December 19, 2002. His support and generosity continues to inspire us.
- ! **First National Bank of Jeanerette** has offered to donate its interest in the lot on Main Street where the Hewes house was originally located to the Society. The bank holds a mortgage on the property whose owner has filed bankruptcy. The bank's offer will result in the Society becoming owner of this very important property, the value of which has been estimated at \$25,000.00. This very generous offer has resulted in the listing of the bank in the Honor Roll on the next page. We thank FNB and hope the other banks serving our community will be as generous in their support of our efforts.
- ! **Jeanerette Lumber and Shingle Company** - A major part of the industrial life of Jeanerette before the turn of the century, but away from the City of Jeanerette for many years, this company is alive and well. Although it still owns a large amount of land in the Atchafalaya Basin, its corporate offices are now in New Orleans, and it has no local business operations in the City of Jeanerette. However, the board of directors of the Company may not have forgotten about their namesake City. A proposal presently pending before the Board would result in a significant financial commitment to the project by helping to fund complimentary facilities in connection with the project. It is fitting that the company consider returning something to the community where it got its start, and we feel sure that such a gesture will return both tangible and intangible dividends to its stockholders.



## Pictures and History Sought

Since this project began, we have been fortunate to receive information from many people who have knowledge of the Hewes family, the Jeanerette Lumber and Shingle Company, or other related historic facts. But we need more. We would particularly like to have pictures of the Hewes house as it looked at the turn of the century. As well as other pictures of the area of Main Street where the house used to be located.

If you have any information that you think would be of use to our project, please contact one of the board members at the Society P. O. Address. We will make copies of documents and pictures and return the original to you immediately.

## New Members Needed!

The Society currently has 134 paid members. We hope to increase that number significantly as time passes, but we need the help of all members to achieve these goals. Remember this is a volunteer effort and we don't have a paid staff to do this work.

The only way that we can increase memberships is if each one of us contacts friends and family who may be willing to help us. Please use your powers of persuasion and influence to urge your friends and family members to join and support the work of the Society. Ask the people you do business with if they support the work of the Society. And call us if we can be of any help to you in your solicitation efforts.



## HONOR ROLL of SUPPORTERS

### LIFETIME CHARTER MEMBERS: \$1,000

AKERS, J. CLARK & ELEANOR M.  
AKERS, WILLIAM B. & JOANN D  
ALLAIN, RAY & REBECCA  
ALLAIN, WILBUR L. SR. MRS.  
BOURGEOIS DR. BARROW & MARY  
CYR, MRS. CHARLES  
DERISE, NELLIE L.  
FITZPATRICK, CLAIRE  
FLOWERREE, DAVID  
FLOWERREE, ELAINE D.

FLOWERREE, JOHN HEWES  
FLOWERREE, ROBERT E.  
FLOWERREE, SOAMES STEWART  
FORTIER, G. A., JR. & KAY D.  
FRESHLEY, ROBERT L. & MARY FAY L.  
FUHRER, BILL & BARBARA ALLAIN  
GARCIA, DONOVAN AND GAIL  
GUILLOTTE, ROBERT  
HEBERT, MRS. RONALD R., SR.  
ISAAC, DESIREE HASTEN & CARL

LABICHE, WAYNE M.  
LARROQUE, GERALDINE  
LEMAIRE, FABIAN & PATRICIA A.  
LORIO, DR. AND MRS. MIKE  
LOUVIERE, ELDRIDGE & PAULA CYR  
MCJUNKINS, GEORGE & RAE  
SIMMONS, JUDGE CAMERON & TIA  
SIMMONS, NANINE  
SMITH, EDWARD & VIRGINIA  
WOODS, ELLEN F.

### FIRST YEAR CHARTER MEMBERS: \$100

ALLAIN, BRET  
ALLAIN, CHRISTOPHER J.  
ALLAIN, GREGORY M. DR.  
ALLAIN, JENNIFER  
ALLAIN, LARRY K.  
ALLAIN, MARY K.  
ALLAIN, PAUL J.  
ALLAIN, RAYMOND E. JR.  
ALLAIN, RICHARD S.  
ALLAIN, MRS. ROBERT L.  
ALLAIN, STEVEN M.  
ALLAIN, WILBUR L. JR.  
APRILL, DONNIE  
BEAULLIEU, ELTON, JR.  
BELLEFONTAINE, JOHN F.  
BELLEFONTAINE, WILLIAM  
BISHOP, MRS. DON  
BISHOP, LUCINDA Y.  
BODIN, ALICE  
BODIN, CALVIN  
BOURGEOIS, BETSY BARROW  
BOURGEOIS, BUTCH  
BOURGEOIS, DANA  
BOURGEOIS, JOHN  
BOURGEOIS, ST. PAUL, III  
BOURGEOIS, SARAH ELIZABETH M.  
BRYANT, WALTER  
CHAMPAGNE, SIMON  
CYR, SANDRA LEE  
DE LA CONCHA, VIRGINIA ALLAIN.

DOOLEY, MRS. VIRGIS P.  
ELDRIDGE, GERARD  
FALTERMAN, DR. JAMES SR.  
FITCH, DEANO  
FITCH, JEROME  
FLOWERREE, ANN  
GRANGER, THOMAS  
GUIBERTEAU, FRANK  
HAMMONDS, PATRICIA  
HARGRODER, ROSEMARY H.  
HEBERT, MRS. GERALD "MARY"  
HEBERT, RONALD R., JR.  
HEBERT, SHERIFF SID  
HEBERT, TROY  
HOFFPAUIR, ANGELA L.  
HOOVER, MRS. LOUIS  
LAMPO, MRS. LARRY C.  
LANCON, TODD  
LANCON, JOHN ARTHUR  
LANDRY, DARRYL  
LANDRY, LORI ANN  
LAPEYROUSE, J. P.  
LARROQUE, ELIZABETH B.  
LARROQUE, JACQUES  
LARROQUE, MARY ELLEN  
LEGNON, MRS. TED  
LORIO, ANNA CAROLINE  
LORIO, JUSTIN MICHAEL  
MALAHMEH, DR. ADEL  
MCGOWEN, LEIGH

MEKASH, JANICE  
MIGUES, ALFRED "FREDDY"  
MIGUES, MRS. JEROME "PAT"  
MINVIELLE, FRANK  
MINVIELLE, JOYCE  
O'BRIEN, PAT  
PALMER, MONIQUE A.  
PARKER, PEGGY  
PARSONS, BETH MIGUES  
PATOUT, BARBARA ROANE  
PATOUT, JUDITH  
PATOUT, MARK  
PATOUT, PETER  
PATOUT, ROBERT  
PERELLO, KELLY LORIO  
ROANE, CAROLYN  
ROBIN, WILLIAM M. JR.  
ROSAMOND, ANDRE "RED"  
ROSAMOND, KATHLEEN  
ROSAMOND, TANYA  
ROSAMOND, J. B.  
SCHEXNAYDER, DR. RAYMOND  
SCHEXNAYDER, VIRGINIA  
SIMMONS, CAMERON, JR.  
SIMMONS, JENNIFER  
VERRET, ARTHUR L.  
VERRET, LEONARD J.  
VERRET, MARY M.  
WATTIGNY, JUDGE GERARD  
WILSON, WILLIE  
WORMSER, NANNIE BELLE

### LIFETIME POST-CHARTER MEMBERS:

FITCH, COY

### FIRST YEAR POST-CHARTER MEMBERS:

FOSTER, MIKE  
BEUERMAN, WINIFRED WILLIAMSON

### OTHER DONATIONS & PLEDGES BY INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS & CORPORATIONS

#### \$75,000 and over

ROBERT E. FLOWERREE  
(Flowerree Foundation)

#### \$25,000 and over

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF JEANERETTE

#### \$10,000 to 24,999

J. CLARK AKERS & WILLIAM B. AKERS

#### \$5,000 to \$9,999

COX CABLE

#### \$1,000 to \$4,999

LIONEL DELCAMBRE VFW POST 8150  
RELIANT ENERGY

#### \$100 to \$999

BOURGEOIS, ST. PAUL, III  
CLECO  
FLOWERREE, ANN  
HAMMONDS, PATRICIA  
JEANERETTE KIWANIS CLUB  
JEAN. HISTORIC COMMISSION  
ROBIES FOOD CENTER

WE APPRAID THE GENEROSITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO ALL  
THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY.

## THE JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY SUPPORTS EAGLE POINT PARK PROJECT

Nestled on the southern bank of Lake Fausse Point, about 2 miles North of the City of Jeanerette, in an area virtually untouched by modern development, is the proposed Eagle Point Park. Immediately adjacent to a cypress swamp, the Park will offer cabins on the shore and extending into the lake, an elevated nature trail through the swamp, a boat ramp, cultural center, and other amenities catering to tourists and locals who want to experience life in a rustic setting reminiscent of a time long past. The park

will provide a direct link to the natural history of the Atchafalaya Basin which will be an important part of the tourist experience visitors to the area can enjoy. The project has received major funding and support from the State of Louisiana Department of Natural Resources through the Atchafalaya Basin Program and the Army Corps of Engineers, and is currently in the engineering phase and construction is expected to begin in 2005. The Park will be owned and operated by the non-profit South Lake Fausse Point Development Foundation currently raising funds for initial operating costs. Feasibility studies show that the Park will be self sustaining after development is complete.

We at the Landmark Society hope that a part of that tourist experience will be stops at the Cypress Museum, soon to be housed at the Harry Hewes Home in the City depicting the history of the cypress lumber industry in the Basin, and the historical displays planned at the pavilion in City Park, just two blocks from the Home, at the site of the Jeanerette Lumber and Shingle Company saw mill on the banks of Bayou Teche. That is why the Jeanerette Landmark Society so strongly supports the efforts of the Eagle Point Park Foundation to develop startup funding for operation of the Park, and we urge Landmark members to support its efforts as well. For more information about how you can be a part of the Eagle Point Park development, contact: SIMONE CHAMPAGNE at 1-337-365-8246.



### JEANERETTE LANDMARK SOCIETY

P. O. Box 467  
Jeanerette, LA 70544

Stamp

Mailing label

The Jeanerette Landmark Society is dedicated to the Preservation of Historic Landmarks - Promoting Education and Appreciation of History - and Improving the Quality of Life in the community of Jeanerette.