

COMMUNIQUE

Message from WBIA President

Our work in the community and our efforts to enhance the quality of life on the Westbank continue to be a driving force for WBIA. It is critical that we work together to find solutions and effect change to attract employers and residents, and to maintain a thriving local economy. Change can take time. WBIA Committees work with the Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance (CSFI)/RISK rating 2.0, Mechatronics cohort graduation, Women in Skilled Trades, Litter abatement, Jefferson Ready Start Network, and the JP Industrial Zoning study—that's just a few areas of interest that come to mind. Our members participate in discussions to advocate on your behalf as decisions are made about our community.

WBIA Luncheons promote communication of local and regional issues. Hopefully, you were able to attend our lunch meetings with Dr. James Gray on education, Jerry Bologna with an economic outlook or the informative look at Risk Rating 2.0 from our Gulf Coast Coalition field experts.

We've had some fun too. I was asked to speak on behalf of our Association at the re-opening of Avondale, along with the Governor, Congressman Carter and Parish President Sheng. This waterfront industrial park, "Avondale Global Gateway" is the leader for the Westbank's economic future and will certainly be a leader for the entire state. I was honored to represent the WBIA as a part of the celebration and gain some high-profile attention for the group. 2022 moved us back outside where we noticed the overwhelming amount of litter and homelessness. We have heard your concerns, and we are meeting with local and state officials about possible solutions.

Workforce issues are being tackled from a number of sides. We are working with a Think Tank at Delgado for Industry; regionally working with Women in Skilled Trades, and locally with Career Technical Education programs and early childhood education; we will find some solutions.

Infrastructure takes more patience than any other committee. Peters Road is back on agendas; JP Permits procedures are being reviewed; and the JP Industrial Zoning Study has created a couple of focus groups and conducted various discussions with zoning and council members.

The more we hear from you, our WBIA members, the more we can include your voice at the table. Use your membership by communicating your concerns and your successes.

Best regards,

Tom

Tom Cortazzo, WBIA President

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Get more from
Membership;
get active.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Infrastructure

Government & Environment

Special Events

Workforce

Membership

Legacy

Tornados hit the Westbank.

Was your business damaged? Residents with storm damage to their home or business should report it to damage.la.gov. These reports provide information for government to understand the impacts on specific locations.

JEDCO is offering free transitional office space with power, phones and internet for displaced Jefferson Parish businesses at their office. Space is limited and available by Reservation on a first come-first serve basis. Space is available by reservation only from 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday. To reserve space contact JEDCO Director of Facilities Scott Rojas: (504) 875-3916 or srojas@jedco.org

WBIA Board meets the second Wednesday of each month. Agenda items can be submitted to Lisa at the office.

Lisa@WBIAAnola.com
Office: 504-367-1721

Government & Environment Committee

Co-Chairs, Teri Tucker & Jesse Hoppes

G & E Committee meet monthly and attend events during the year as needed. The planning meeting for 2023 will be scheduled in February. Please contact Teri Tucker for more information. Ttucker@citizensnb.com

May 2022, we hosted WBIA Day at the Legislature in Baton Rouge. Met with delegation to voice WBIA member priorities and concerns.

June 2022 was the Annual WestBank Governor's Luncheon. WBIA co-host this event with State Representative Marino and other westbank organizations.

The Legislative Wrap Up was also in June. State officials give their report of session, both wins and losses.

October, we held multiple meetings with Jefferson Parish Permits and Zoning Departments and stakeholders.

November held various meetings on Industrial Zoning Changes.

The committee also met with Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng to discuss - Rail Relocation, Industrial Zoning, permits, Homeless Problem, and litter abatement program.

January 2023 - Permit meeting is scheduled with Jefferson Parish permit department.

All WBIA members are welcomed to join the G&E Committee. Please contact Teri Tucker, ttucker@citizensnb.com or Jesse Hoppes, jhoppes@leaaf.com for upcoming topics and dates.

JEFFERSON PARISH - INDUSTRIAL ZONING STUDY

The consultants left the I-LF (Landfill) and AIM (Avondale) relatively untouched. There were no issues or concerns submitted to the consultants related to the landfill.

Property buffers and landscaping has been modified for most districts.

All districts, except HM-O, are allowed variances. HM-O has additional regulations imposed.

Continued from page 2

JEFFERSON PARISH - INDUSTRIAL ZONING STUDY

The parish held two public meetings that same week the draft was released: one on the Eastbank and one on the Westbank. You can view the full draft [online here](#). The webpage is open to public comments. Feel free to submit any concerns or suggestions directly to WBIA Infrastructure Committee or to a WBIA Board member.

WBIA is working with industry partners and landowners as we monitor the study and meeting with councilmembers about member concerns. Contact admin@wbianola.com or 504-367-1721.

The first draft was released in November. The New proposed districts are:

I-MU, Industrial Mixed Use, Incorporates former OW-1

I-L, Light Industrial (formerly M-1)

I-H, Heavy Industrial (formerly M-3)

I-LF, Landfill Industrial (formerly M-4)

Overlay Industrial Zoning Districts include: HM-O, Hazardous Materials Overlay and AIM, Avondale Industrial Marine Overlay

The parish hired Camiros, a planning and zoning consulting firm, to study the current industrial zoning throughout Jefferson. According to the framework report (you can view online at: <https://jpindustrialzoning.com/>), a primary goal of this effort is to create a set of industrial districts that build more predictability into the zoning process.

Jefferson Parish **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE Plan** is part of Jefferson Parish's continuing efforts to manage rainwater as a more resilient community. The Parish objective is to create a plan that will provide guidance to the Council and Administration on best practices for integrated stormwater management and green infrastructure on public and private property.

Please submit any concerns, questions, and suggestions regarding this project to JPPPlanning@JeffParish.net by **Friday, January 13, 2023**.

Jefferson Parish Christmas tree REcycling January 12-14, 2023

Trees are recycled to fight coastal erosion to help protect Jefferson Parish's ecosystem. Residents of unincorporated Jefferson Parish can put Christmas trees on the curb Thursday, Friday, and Saturday January 12-14, 2023.

Please remove all decorations leaving just the green tree to be picked up.

-No flocked trees

-No artificial trees

TRAINS ARE MAKING A COME BACK INFRASTRUCTURE in Louisiana and Gulf Coast

With trains being a part of the infrastructure projects; have you thought of ways to get on board as the projects move through the city? WBIA stays connected with regional partners at GNO, Inc.

In preparation for the return of **New Orleans-Mobile Passenger Rail**, the Southern Rail Commission and Amtrak jointly filed a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application, with support of CSX, Norfolk Southern, and the Alabama Port Authority, for the [Gulf Coast Corridor Improvement Project](#). The project would leverage \$44.6M in non-federal match to make \$223M in improvements, adding sidings and crossings to reduce trip time. Meanwhile, DOT's Federal Railroad Administration has opened applications for [Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program](#), exclusively for projects outside of the Northeast Corridor, with applications due on March 7, 2023.

DOT has announced the opening of FY23 [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\)](#) Grant Program, with applications due on February 28, 2023. A DOT [webinar series](#), with guidance on the RAISE application process and benefit-cost analysis, will begin on January 5. The FY22 RAISE cycle awarded Baton Rouge and Gonzales \$20M to design and construct their passenger rail terminals, **to accommodate New Orleans-Baton Rouge service.**

Giving back

There are nonprofits doing good throughout the WESTBANK. If you would like to give thanks by giving back, please consider donating to:

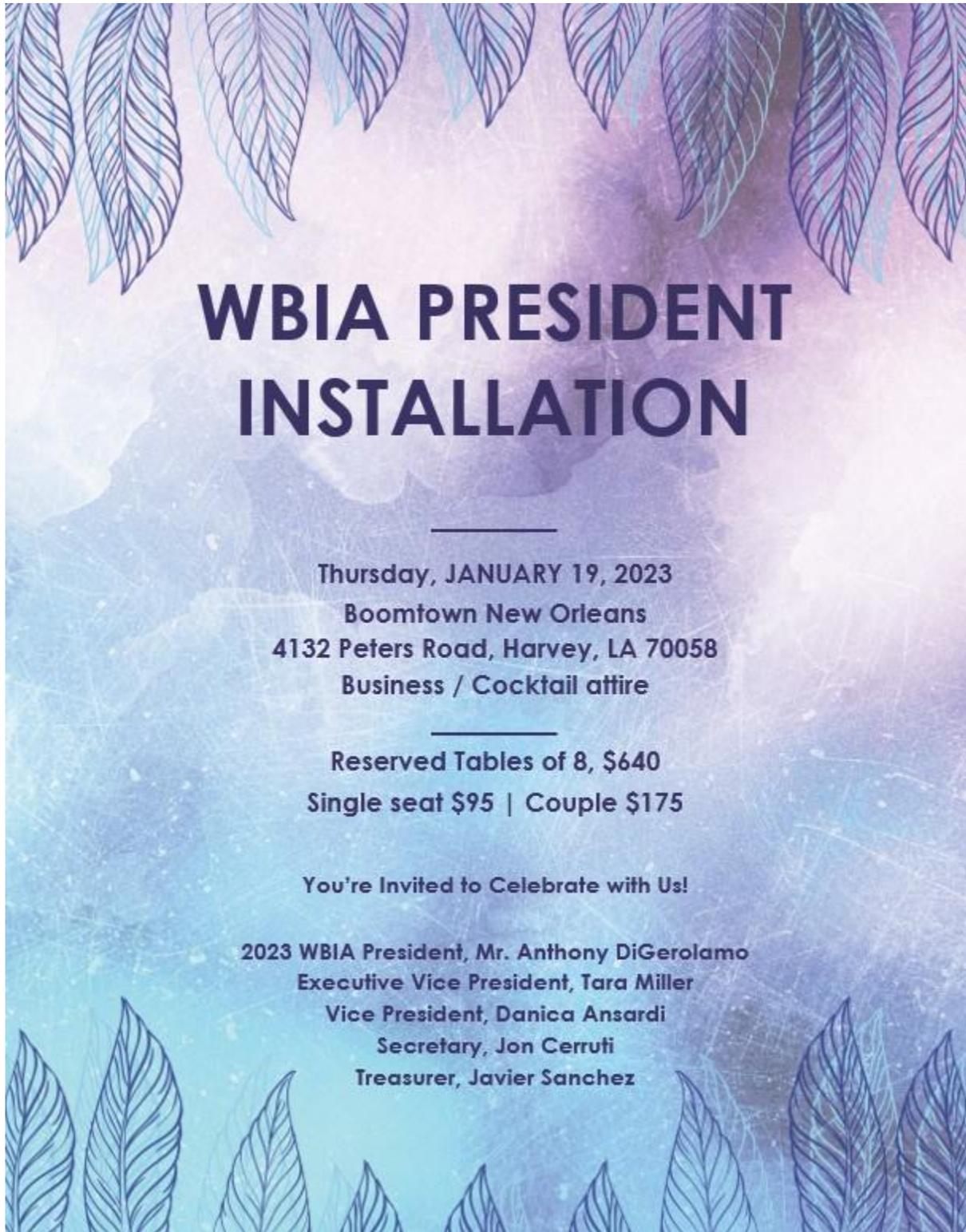
Orleans Parish: Greater New Orleans Foundation. <https://www.gnof.org/donors/ways-to-give/donate/>

Plaquemines Parish: Plaquemines Community Care Center. <http://pcccf.org/>

Jefferson Parish: Jefferson Community Foundation (JCF). <https://jeffersoncommunity.org/>

Café Hope. <https://cafehope.org/>





WBIA 2023 PRESIDENT INSTALLATION

WBIA 2023 DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- Ray Fuenzalida, Harvey Canal Ltd Properties
- Arlanda Williams, Delgado Community College
- Kelsey Foster, Algiers Economic Development
- Vincent Vastola, Marreo Land & Improvement

WBIA Calendar events

- WBIA Board meets the second Wednesday of each month.
- WBIA host monthly Member Luncheons with guest speakers from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. These luncheons are typically scheduled on the first Thursday of each month. Every meeting has 30 minutes of networking prior to lunch (11:30 AM to Noon). Business cards are encouraged.
- January 19, 2023 - WBIA Installation event. This will be an evening event. Advance tickets only.
- April 14 - WBIA Crawfish Boil
- May 4 - WBIA Celebration Event for Invest West Champions and Legacy Recipient

Dates can be adjusted.

WORKFORCE / EDUCATION

WBIA works with high schools, community colleges, and LA Workforce Commission to find you your future employees.

JPPS: Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, begin in high school and continue into postsecondary institutions. Serving the needs of students as they transition from school to career will boost the state postsecondary enrollment and meet the needs of employers in the current and future economy. WestBank students can enroll in Manufacturing, Welding, Computer Science/coding, Automotive Technology, Medical Assistant, Graphic Arts, Dental Assistant, and more. **Visit [Jefferson Parish Schools](#).**

Community colleges offer dual enrollment, Industry Based Certifications, and Associate Degrees. Financial assistance through MJ Foster Promise, LA Go Grant and more.

Region 1 for Louisiana Workforce Commission includes Orleans, Jefferson, and Plaquemines parishes. The JP Workforce Development Board provides training opportunities for youth and adults. Visit the One Stop office in Delgado RiverCity Campus. To become a training provider, contact Lisa@wbianola.com for more information.

Committee Chair, Arlanda Williams



Thank you for a successful golf tournament!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR



Above: 2022 Golf Masters DP1 Design team.
Below left: LA Seafood prepared by Big Al's Catering.
Special events work krewe: Teri, Barbara, Lisa, Anthony, Tara. Not in picture
Laura and Javier.



SPONSORS MAKE THE EVENT

- OnPath FCU
- Modern Metals Recycling
- Fifth District Savings Bank
- DP1 Design
- Citizens National Bank
- Patrick Connick
- Scott Walker
- Gulf Coast Bank & Trust
- Madere & Sons Marine Rental LLC
- Leaaf Environmental LLC
- Chef Scott Creole BBQ
- Harvey Honda
- EMR Southern Recycling
- ENTERGY
- Delgado Community College
- Boomtown New Orleans
- First Horizon
- Tiger Equipment & Supply
- Ochsner Health
- The Ansardi Group
- Lewis Brisbois
- Edward Jones

NEW WBIA MEMBERS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Arden Cahill Academy, Nick Mithun
Vezina & Gattuso LLC, Scott Dusang**



Top Left: Tour of Hope Haven. Top Right: Avondale reopening as "Avondale Global Gateway"

Bottom Left: Avondale Global Gateway stage with Tom Cortzso, Jack Jensen, Troy Carter, Cythia Lee Sheng, Governor John Bel Edwards, Adam Anderson and Jerry Bologna. Bottom Right: WJMC Foundation Gala.

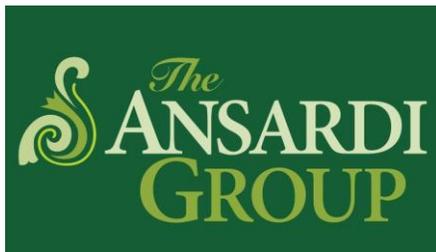
Future sight plans for Hope Haven campus.

Supported by Senator Connick and Councilman Bonano.

You can also contact Jefferson Community Foundation to help support these efforts.



WBIA PLATINUM MEMBERS





PROUD MEMBER.

ARE YOU?

www.WBIAAnola.com
504-367-1721

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are due January 1, 2023 for the Jan-Dec 2023 year.

If you have not received your dues invoice please contact the office with your updated information.

Lisa@WBIAAnola.com / 504-367-1721

Government & Environment (G&E)

Co-Chairs

Jesse Hoppes, Leaf Environmental LLC

jhoppes@leaaf.com

Teri Tucker, Citizens National Bank

ttucker@citizensnb.com

WORKFORCE Committee

Chair

Arlanda Williams, Delgado Community College

Awilli4@dcc.edu

MEMBERSHIP Committee

Chair

Tara Miller, Ochsner Health

tamiller@ochsner.org

Victoria Stipelcovich, Edward Jones

WBIA has a Commissioner serving on JEDCO's Board. WBIA is one of seven nominating agencies for the two Jefferson Parish Board of Commissioners positions for the Port of New Orleans.

WBIA has a commissioner serving on SLFPA-West.

WBIA has a commissioner serving on CPRA.

WBIA hosts forums, roundtables, lunch & learns, and outings with local, neighboring parishes, state officials and rules and regulatory offices.

WBIA hosts an annual WBIA Legislative Day with the Jefferson Delegation.

WBIA works with Jefferson Parish Schools (Advisory Board), Jefferson Parish Workforce Development (Board), and Louisiana Calling.

WBIA offers two scholarships annually available to members' immediate family.

Special events include the annual Crawfish boil, President Installation & Celebration, Golf Tournament and Christmas Jingle & Mingle.

WBIA organizes The Governor's West Bank luncheon with AEDF, Jefferson Chamber, and PABI which provides a donation to a local 501-c3 annually.

Member of Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance (CSFI) Westbank Port Task Force (special task) member.

Get the most from membership

INFRASTRUCTURE Committee

Co-Chairs

Scott Burke, Loop Linen Services

Scott.burke@looplinen.com

Michelle Herbert, Trigon

mherbert@trigonassociates.com

SPECIAL EVENTS Committee

Chair

Barbara Rutledge, Banner Chevrolet

Brutledge@bannerauto.com

Legacy, Past Presidents

Co-Chairs

Jennifer Steel Bourgeois

jennifer.steel@lcmhealth.org

Brian Heiden, Gulf Coast Bank

BrianHeiden@gulfbank.com

For additional information on committees and special task force, please contact a WBIA Board Member or the Executive Director, Lisa Barback. Lisa@WBIAAnola.com / 504-367-1721

WBIA 2022 Officers

President, Tom Cortazzo, Lewis Brisbois
Executive VP, Anthony DiGerolamo, *Southern Surgical Specialist*
Vice President, Tara Miller, *Ochsner Health*
Treasurer, Javier Sanchez, *On Path Credit Union*
Secretary, Danica Ansardi, *The Ansardi Group*

Standing Committees

Government & Environment, Jesse Hoppes, *Leaaf Environmental LLC* and Teri Tucker, *Citizens National Bank*
Infrastructure, Scott Burke, *Loop Linen Services* and Michelle Herbert, *Trigon Associates*
Membership, Tara Miller, *Ochsner Health*
Special Events, Barbara Rutledge, *Banner Chevrolet*
Workforce, Arlanda Williams, *Delgado Community College*
Legacy, Jennifer Steel, *WJMC/LCMC*
Immediate Past President, Robert Hopkins, *Hancock Whitney*
President Advisor, Jesse Hoppes, *Leaaf Environmental LLC*
Directors-At-Large
Jon Cerutti, Jack Stumpf & Associates
Laura Ferrera, Delta Title Corp
Stanton McNeely, University of Holy Cross
Ray Fuenzalida, Harvey Canal Limited Partnership
Executive Director, Lisa Barback



The voice of the business community since 1946.

Westbank Business & Industry Association
COMMUNIQUE'

W B I A
P.O. Box 215
Harvey, LA 70059

Mail To:
