



Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission

# MEMBER

NEWS



## What's New



### [Fête Brewing, A Colorado-Inspired Microbrewery Coming Soon to Youngsville, LA](#)

Fête Brewing, a new locally-owned microbrewery is coming soon to 1001 Savoy Road in Youngsville, Louisiana, next door to Marco's [...]



### [Inside The New Home2 Suites by Hilton in Lafayette, LA & I-10](#)

We recently had a little staycation at the newly opened Home2 Suites by Hilton in Lafayette, LA & I-10, located [...]



### [Rachael's Café To Open Second Location In Former Classic Cup Building In Maurice, LA](#)

Rachael's Café, a well-known locally-owned restaurant at 104 Republic Avenue in Lafayette, LA, is expanding with a second location at [...]



### [Tsubaki By Koi Relocating To Former Shane's Space On Pinhook Road In Lafayette, LA](#)

Tsubaki By Koi, a locally owned Japanese restaurant known for its sushi, hibachi, and celebratory atmosphere, is relocating from its [...]



### 'Wine triggers memories:' A Lafayette wine cellar talks old world wines and 'terroir'

Hidden gem bottles, European butter, personal recommendations — this shop offers endless scope for exploration.



### Back Nine, A New Indoor Golf Venue Coming Soon To Lafayette, LA

Back Nine, a national indoor golf simulator concept, is coming soon to 3809 Ambassador Caffery Parkway, Suite 133-C in Lafayette, [...]



## Member Mentions



### State boys basketball tournament to return to Cajundome in 2027

For the first time since 2011, the Cajundome will host semifinals and finals games for select and non-select brackets.



### These plants once healed Acadiana. Now volunteers are racing to preserve them.

"Science came along and tried to reject traditional knowledge. People became less willing to share it because they were criticized for believing in it."



### Forget Lafayette, Louisiana's Nearby City Is A Rapidly-Growing Gem With Shops, Tasty Local Eats, And Music - Islands

The Louisiana town of Scott, near Lafayette, gets less attention but is a rapidly-growing gem with varied shops, renowned local eats, music, and a big festival.



### What city has the best downtown in Louisiana? These are the top 6

From architecture and scenery to food and shopping, these six Louisiana cities have the best downtown areas. Find out why here



### Eunice music label on 20 years of promoting Louisiana artists — and bringing home Grammys

This year, the label secured its second Grammy win with "A Tribute to the King of Zydeco," a compilation album that honored the 100th anniversary of Clifton Chenie.



### [Lafayette Has 12 Locations Where a Closed Business Is Being Replaced by Something New — See the Full List](#)

Lafayette's commercial real estate has been churning. From the former Chili's on Ambassador Caffery to the long-closed Lafayette Health Club on Kaliste Saloom, vacant spaces across the parish are finding new tenants.



### [Lafayette chef wins Louisiana Seafood Cook-Off, named 2026 King of Louisiana Seafood](#)

Chef Kris Allen of Pamplona Tapas Bar and Restaurant in Lafayette is the 2026 King of Louisiana Seafood, beating 12 other chefs to win the 19th Annual Louisiana Seafood Cook-Off.



### [Three parks in Louisiana were voted the best 'green getaways' in the U.S. See which ones.](#)

The mental health organization A Mission for Michael surveyed 3,006 adults to find the best public locations that allowed visitors to “feel calm, grounded, and able to switch off.”



### [Feed your soul: The insider's seven-day journey through three of Louisiana's finest cities](#)

Think about what a perfect holiday actually looks like. Not the one you post, but the one you feel.



## LCVC & Industry News

### ***DTN + Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission | sponsored content on LafayetteTravel.com***

LafayetteTravel members, you may receive a phone call or email from a company called "DTN". DTN is a partner of Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission and has worked with us to develop a unique sponsored content program that will deliver your message on [LafayetteTravel.com](https://LafayetteTravel.com) in front of a highly qualified, ready-to-spend visitor audience! The [DTN Paid Content](#) program offers a variety of placements, and programs can be tailored to meet your specific marketing and budget needs. And the DTN team offers *free creative services* to help get your program running quickly, *easy access to performance reporting*, and a friendly support team.

If you're interested, please let me know! I'd be happy to help connect you with the DTN team. Otherwise, the DTN team will be reaching out to partners about the program in the coming weeks!

*Thank You in Advance!*

# America250: Help Us Reach 250 Stories

As part of the national **America250** celebration, Lafayette Consolidated Government is collecting **250 stories of pride and service** from across Lafayette Parish. As a partner in this effort, **Parish Proud** is helping highlight acts of **environmental stewardship** that keep our community vibrant and resilient from plantings to litter pickups to beautification efforts.

So far, we have captured nearly 100 stories, including efforts by **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**, **UL Lafayette's The Office of Residential Life**, and **Girl Scout Troop 832** - but we need your help to reach 250!

**Have a story to share?** Submit your story [here](#) and help celebrate the people behind the work!

**Want to get involved?** Fill out our interest form [here](#) to join future projects.

Together, let's show what Parish Proud looks like.





## Showcase Your Business at the Louisiana Travel Summit Silent Auction

During the 2026 Louisiana Travel Summit, the Louisiana Tourism Leadership Academy (LTLA) Class will host a **silent auction** to raise support for programs that provide students with mentorship opportunities, professional resources, industry exposure, internships, and hands-on experiences that prepare them for careers in tourism and hospitality.

In previous years, the Louisiana Tourism Summit featured a silent auction for all attendees and a separate live auction during an optional event. This year, we are excited to combine the two auctions, giving all Summit attendees access to the full range of auction packages. We hope this change will increase participation and maximize support for the Louisiana Tourism Fund.

We're looking for unique experiences and packages that showcase the best of Louisiana and help create an exciting auction for Summit attendees. The deadline to submit auction donations is **July 1, 2026**.

Click the button below to learn more about donation opportunities and submit your auction package. Thank you for helping us invest in the future of Louisiana tourism.

[Donation Form](#)

## Board Member Spotlight

- **Name:** Simone Ancelet
- **Title:** Director of Marketing and Sales
- **Business:** Parish Rice
- **Time in current role:** Since November 2022
- **Time involved with LCVC:** Since January
- **In one or two sentences, describe what your business/organization does:** We grow and harvest a higher protein, low glycemic white rice that was created at the LSU AgCenter by two rice scientists.



- We eat a lot of rice in South Louisiana, might as well make it healthy!
- **What makes your business unique in Lafayette?** Parish Rice is 100% traceable, 100% Louisiana owned, 100% Family owned, and 100% dedicated to high-quality rice.
  - **Is there anything new, exciting, or upcoming you'd like to highlight?** We're celebrating 5 years in October!
  - **What do you love most about Lafayette Parish?** Our people.
  - **Your can't miss festival or event.** Festival Acadiens and Festival International.
  - **Favorite hidden gem or must-do experience?** Creole Lunch House for stuffed bread.
  - **One Lafayette Parish memory that always makes you happy?** Krewe de Canailles Parade in 2018. It was their debut year and the theme was Lafayette Legends. Our krewe dressed up as the Ice Gators. We strolled in roller blades on the route, did the chomp and even had a t-shirt cannon. It was everything we love about this city. The history, the characters, the culture. Year 1 of KDC was magic.
  - **If you were giving a one-time visitor a 24hr itinerary, what would you include?** Breakfast at Hub City Diner, a stroll in Moncus Park, shopping Downtown Lafayette, Laura's II Plate Lunch, Wild Child Wine Shop, Boudin from Karchtners, live music at Blue Moon or Hideaway on Lee. They need to be ready to eat and dance.

### QUICK HITS:

- **Coffee or Cocktail?** Cocktail
- **Early Bird or Night Owl?** Night Owl
- **Go-To Local Hangout?** Moore Park (soccer mom life)
- **Best advice you ever received?** "Write your own story"
- **One word that describes Lafayette Parish?** Passion

## **DOTD, LPTFA, and Lafayette Consolidated Government Announce Remediation Plan Following Coburn's Building Collapse**

LAFAYETTE, La. — Approximately one month after the partial collapse of the historic Coburn's building in downtown Lafayette, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), the Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority (LPTFA), and Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) are announcing a coordinated remediation plan designed to eliminate ongoing safety concerns and facilitate the reopening of Second Street.

The Coburn's building experienced a structural failure that resulted in the collapse of a portion of the building and the subsequent closure of Second Street, a key corridor leading into downtown Lafayette. Since the incident, DOTD, LPTFA, LCG, engineers, and contractors have worked together to assess the site and determine the safest and most effective path forward.

LPTFA Board of Trustees has directed staff to proceed with the demolition of the remaining three walls of the two-story section of the structure, subject to necessary state review and approvals. This approach will expediently eliminate any remaining public safety risks associated with the damaged portion of the building and allow for the reopening of Second Street as quickly as possible.

"LPTFA carefully evaluated available options and determined that removing the remaining unstable walls is the most responsible and efficient course of action," said Alex Lazard, Executive Director of LPTFA. "While we recognize the historic significance of the structure and carefully evaluated preservation options, our foremost obligation is to protect the public and address the life-safety concerns created by the collapse. This decision allows us to move forward quickly and safely."

"DOTD appreciates the collaboration among all partners as we work to address the immediate hazards, support the remediation process, and restore normal access to this important downtown corridor," said Brent Domingue, DOTD District Engineer Administrator.

"Our top priority from day one has been the safety of our community, and this coordinated plan delivers a clear, decisive path forward," said Lafayette Mayor-President Monique B. Boulet. "LCG supports a solution that prioritizes public safety while opening Second Street, a critical transportation link for residents, businesses, and visitors."

Demolition activities are expected to begin following final coordination with contractors and regulatory agencies. The project team will continue to provide updates regarding construction schedules, traffic impacts, and the anticipated timeline for reopening Second Street.

The project partners would also like to thank the public, nearby businesses, and area stakeholders for their patience and cooperation during the road closure and ongoing response efforts.

DOTD, LPTFA, and LCG remain committed to working together throughout the remediation process and appreciate the patience and understanding of the public as these efforts move forward.



# Convention and Sports

## **Notable Closed Sales in June:**

- 2026 LA Solid Waste Association Environmental Conference
- 2026 True Talent Football
- 2027 Louisiana Clerk of Court
- 2027 LA Gas Association Operations Conference
- 2028 Louisiana State Police Annual Conference

## **Notable Leads Generated in June:**

- 2026 Tru Talent Football
- 2026 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority – Louisiana State Workshop
- 2026 Louisiana Supreme Court – TBRI Conference
- 2027 VFW State Conference
- 2028 Women's Beach Volleyball Championship
- 2029 Women's Beach Volleyball Championship

## **Notable Sales Activities in June:**

- Danielle attended Meeting Planners International World Education Conference in San Antonio where she was able to network and meet meeting planners as well as gain industry education.
- Danielle conducted a site visit with Dr. Magdy Bayoumi with UL about the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Conference for August 2027 estimated 430 room nights and EIC of \$271,267.
- Danielle also conducted a site visit for Danielle Credeur for Child Care Association of Louisiana for their October Conference 2026. Estimated 120 rooms and EIC of \$63,752. This small conference is typically held in Baton Rouge. This will be the second year it has moved throughout the state.
- Carl hosted the United State Trampoline and Tumbling Association for a two-day site tour of Lafayette. Lafayette is competing for the June 12-17, 2028, National Championships, bring in 1,500 athletes, along with 2,000 plus spectators. The economic impact is estimated to be over \$1,800,000.
- Carl, Hollis, and Ben met with LHSAA committee for a post report on the 2026 State Golf Championships, and to discuss the future direction of the tournament. Given the continued support of the LCVC and local golf community, LHSAA plans to keep the tournament in Lafayette for the foreseeable future but would like to recruit more volunteers in order to grow the local organizing committee.



## **Louisiana Attractions Symposium:**

Irene Breaux participated in a specialized panel for LTA- Louisiana Attractions Symposium. This event brought together attractions, museums, tour operators, and tourism professionals from across Louisiana for a day of collaboration, idea sharing, and education. Irene was on the panel discussing how to build stronger partnerships with DMOs and CVBs.

## **Jetset Voyages FAM Tour:**

Eugenie Mitchell hosted Jetset Voyages who is a French Tour Operator specialized in tailor-made, a la cart holidays for individual travelers all over the United States. They brought in their privately-owned agency network (Havas / Selectour), which is the leading distribution network in France and product team.

## **Toundra Voyages FAM Tour:**

Eugenie Mitchell hosted Toundra Voyages a receptive tour operator based in Canada selling to Canada and European Markets. 2 of their top contracting agents visited to learn more about Lafayette product and experiences they currently sell.

## **IPW:**

Eugenie Mitchell attended IPW – International Pow Wow, largest international trade & media show in the United States for international markets. Eugenie Mitchell had 40 appointments She had 18 prospect accounts and 14 established business account meetings. In attention, she attended 4 client events and hosted 2 lunches for top customers.

## **Travel Trade Bookings:**

- |                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • ATI – American Tours International | 141 room nights   |
| • HBX                                | 4,894 room nights |
| • Beyond Horizons Tours              | 40 room nights    |
| • Zachary Travel                     | 40 room nights    |
| • Scenic Roads                       | 20 room nights    |



# Communications

## Staff News

### Swamp in the City – May 7-10

Lafayette Travel was proud to support Swamp in the City as a community sponsor, connecting with local families and visitors throughout Mother's Day weekend. Our team hosted an interactive booth featuring Lafayette-themed coloring sheets, temporary tattoos, stickers, visitor information, and family-friendly activities designed to inspire them to visit Lafayette Parish. The event provided a great opportunity to engage directly with attendees, share information about upcoming attractions and events, and celebrate the culture, creativity, and community spirit that make Lafayette a special place to live and visit.

### IPW Fort Lauderdale – May 18-20

Lafayette Travel participated in IPW 2026 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the travel industry's premier international marketplace connecting U.S. destinations with travel buyers, media, and content creators from around the world. During the event, Vice President of Communications Jesse Guidry conducted more than 20 one-on-one appointments with international journalists, travel writers, and digital content creators, sharing story ideas and destination updates focused on Lafayette's food, music, culture, festivals, and outdoor experiences. These meetings helped strengthen relationships with key media partners and generated opportunities for future coverage that will introduce Lafayette to new audiences in international markets.

## Hosted Media

### May 5-6: Chris Singh - The AU Review (Travel South Global Media Marketplace)

Lafayette Travel recently hosted Australian travel journalist Chris Singh of *The AU Review* for a media visit highlighting some of the experiences that make Acadiana unique. During his stay, Singh explored Vermilionville, enjoyed authentic Cajun cuisine at Prejean's and The Crawfish Spot, and experienced the beauty of the Atchafalaya Basin on an airboat tour. The visit showcased Lafayette's rich culture, music, food, and outdoor adventures to an international audience, helping expand awareness of our destination in key travel markets.

### May 6-9: Marilyn Jones

Lafayette Travel recently partnered with Iberia Parish and St. Martin Parish to host travel writer and photographer Marilyn Jones for a multi-day media visit showcasing the heart of South Louisiana. During her stay, Jones experienced Lafayette's rich culture and music scene, explored Vermilionville and Downtown Lafayette, toured Avery Island and the TABASCO® Factory, visited historic sites and museums throughout Iberia Parish, and enjoyed swamp tours, Cajun cuisine, and zydeco traditions in St. Martin Parish. The visit highlighted the region's unique blend of food, history, outdoor adventure, and cultural experiences for stories being developed for several travel publications and websites.

### May 14-15: UK Pre-IPW Press Trip

Lafayette Travel partnered with the Louisiana Office of Tourism to host a group of influential UK travel writers as part of a pre-IPW familiarization tour showcasing Louisiana's diverse experiences. During their time in Lafayette, the journalists explored Downtown Lafayette, dined at local favorites including Vestal and La Cuisine de Maman, experienced the city by bicycle through a guided Rouler Bike Tour,

and discovered the culture, cuisine, and creativity that make Acadiana unique. The visit introduced Lafayette to international travel media with a combined audience reaching hundreds of thousands of travelers across the United Kingdom and beyond, helping position our destination for future international visitation.

## **Hosted Media Mentions**

[Lafayette hosts LHSAA golf championships](#)

[Lafayette in France for Festival Interceltique de Lorient](#)

[Acadiana Music Showcase: Corey Ledet](#)

[Cajun vs. Creole Louisiana: A Guide to the Food, Music, and Craft](#)

## **Blog Round-Up**

[Lafayette's Summertime Guide](#)

[Dwayne Dopsie](#)

[Lafayette Weekly](#)

[A Guide to Cajun Seasonings in Acadiana](#)