

What's New



[Inside Cocodrie Collective's New Artist-Owned Creative Shop]
Cocodrie Collective, an artist-owned creative shop with an existing location in Downtown Lafayette, has officially expanded with a second location […]



[Tito's La Casa Opens a Third Location in Youngsville]
Tito's La Casa Italian Restaurant opens its third location on Tuesday, September 22 at 1901 Chemin metairie, Suite 5 in Youngsville



[Sen Viet Kitchen & Bar Coming Soon To Now-Former Blu Basil Space On Johnston St. In Lafayette, LA.]
A new locally owned Vietnamese restaurant, called Sen Viet Kitchen & Bar, is coming soon to the now-former Blu Basil […]



[Marco's Pizza Coming Soon To The Forum On Johnston Street in La…]
Marco's Pizza, a national pizza franchise known for its fresh-made dough and Italian-style pizza, is coming soon to 4533 Johnston […]



[This Lafayette artist turns mud into the places people never want to forget.]
Over the years, Kai Drobish has created items representing a lighthouse in Australia, a castle in Cuba, churches in Spain and Italy, hospitals in the […]

Member Mentions



[Lafayette Regional Airport is bringing live music to travelers. See when.]
“When we envisioned the new terminal, we imagined more than just a place for travelers to catch a flight,” the airport director said.



[A Small Museum that Shows the ‘Big Picture’]
In New Iberia, Louisiana, the Bayou Teche Museum says a lot about its community.



[Vermilionville: A Look at Life on the Bayou]
"I've got my haul!!" a lady says as she is exiting Old Tyme Grocery in Lafayette, New Orleans. She's happy and smiling and holding a brown paper bag of goodies-no doubt a shrimp po'boy or two and a packet of chips […]

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 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!

Call for Nominations: Allons Awards 2026
Recognizing the Best in Lafayette's Hospitality Industry



LAFAYETTE, LA – Lafayette Travel invites the community to submit nominations for the third annual Allons Awards, which honor the outstanding achievements within Lafayette Parish's hospitality industry.

Nominations should highlight contributions made from October 2025 through October 2026 and are open until Saturday, October 31, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. The categories for nomination include Attraction of the Year, Restaurateur of the Year, Event of the Year, Hospitality Worker of the Year, Social Media Collaborator of the Year, and the Patrick Hardy Inspiration Award.

For category descriptions and to submit nominations, please visit https://www.lafayettetravel.com/allons-awards/. Supporting materials such as articles, photos, or letters of support may be sent to awards@lafayettetravel.com to strengthen nominations.

"The Allons Awards are a way to recognize and credit individuals and organizations that make Lafayette Parish such a vibrant destination," said Ben Berthelot, President & CEO of Lafayette Travel.
Winners will be announced at the Allons Awards Banquet during Lafayette Travel's Membership Luncheon on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at Warehouse 535.

Lafayette Places Fifth in USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for Best Place to Visit for Fall



Lafayette, LA – Lafayette earns recognition for the third consecutive year, placing fifth in USA TODAY's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for *Best Place to Visit for Fall*. Lafayette was one of 20 destinations nominated by a panel of travel experts for this year's competition. After four weeks of public voting, Lafayette secured a spot among the top 10 destinations, finishing fifth overall.



"Fall is a great time to visit the area, with many of our wonderful festivals taking place," said Ben Berthelot, President and CEO of Lafayette Travel. "We appreciate USA TODAY's 10Best for recognizing what makes our area special, and we are proud to once again be included among some of the country's top fall destinations. Thank you to everyone who voted!"

This year's recognition marks the third consecutive year Lafayette has been nominated and named among USA TODAY's 10Best destinations for fall. The honor highlights the Acadiana region's fall festivals, culinary traditions, outdoor experiences, and distinctive culture to a national audience.

For more information about experiencing fall in Lafayette and throughout Acadiana, visit LafayetteTravel.com/seasoned/fall.

Become a Community Partner of St. Joseph Diner

We have a responsibility to one another.

Restaurants

St. Joseph Diner is committed to feeding our neighbors with dignity, compassion, and consistency—365 days a year. We invite you to join us as Community Partners by donating food, paper products, or other essential supplies that help keep our doors open and meals on the table.





		Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Protein	Chicken Quarters or Cuts (pieces)	250	1,000	13,000
	Pork Sausage (lbs)	210	840	10,920
	Breakfast Sausage (lbs)	150	600	7,800
	Meatballs (lbs)	150	600	7,800
	Shredded Chicken (lbs)	40	160	2,080
	Red Beans (lbs)	60	240	3,120
	White Beans (lbs)	60	240	3,120
	Scrambled Eggs-bagged (lbs)	225	900	11,700
Fruit/Veg.	Green Beans (lbs)	60	240	3120
	Carrots (lbs)	60	240	3120
	Canned Fruit (#10 cans)	65	260	3380
	Tomato Sauce cans (#10 cans)	12	48	624
Carbs	Penne Pasta (lbs)	60	240	3,120
	Grits (lbs)	45	180	2,340
	Biscuits (each)	450	1,800	23,400
	Oatmeal (lbs)	24	96	1,248
Miscellaneous	Sugar Packets (boxes)	8	32	416
	Creamer Packets (boxes)	4	16	208
	Coffee (6oz bags)	45	180	2,340
	Salt/Pepper Shakers (sets)	6	24	312
	Tony's Seasoning (small cans)	12	48	624
	Foam Container 3 Comp (per plate)	2,250	9,000	117,000
	Plastic Cutlery (boxes)	6	24	312
	Disposable Vinyl Gloves (cases)	2	8	104
	Napkins	4,000	16,000	208,000
	Coffee Cups 12 oz	4,200	16,800	218,400
	Toilet Paper (commercial cases)	2	8	104
	Trash Bags 60 Gallon (cases)	2	8	104

We look forward to partnering with you!

Hotels

Catholic Charities of Acadiana invites you to become Community Partners by donating new, unused hygiene products to support our Emergency Shelter Programs and Stella Maris Hygiene Center.

Your hotel's generosity can turn unused or surplus amenities into meaningful support for our neighbors experiencing hardship. Together, we can ensure that everyone who comes through our doors has access to the basic necessities they deserve.



We look forward to partnering with you!

Kayla Stansbury
Director of Community of Engagement
Catholic Charities of Acadiana

PO Box 3177
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Cell: 337-298-6444
Office: 337-235-4972 ext 1228
https://catholiccharitiesacadiana.org/

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.

Board Member Spotlight

- **Name:** Jim Doré
- **Title:** Commissioner, Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission, and Owner, Beyond Consulting
- **How long have you been in your current role?** After retiring from the Oil & Gas industry, I recognized a need to share the knowledge and lessons learned throughout my career to help companies understand "what not to do" and how to avoid the pitfalls that limit growth and performance.
- **How long have you been involved with LCVC?** 6 years
- **In one or two sentences, describe what your business/organization does.** Beyond Consulting specializes in diagnosing organizational underperformance, redefining roles and responsibilities,

restructuring, strategy and operational design, and implementing systems that stabilize the business, strengthen leadership, and accelerate revenue growth.

• **What makes your business unique in Lafayette?** As a sole provider, I'm able to fully engage in deep dive, personal conversations with business owners. Clients aren't handed off to a team of academic or theoretical consultants — they work directly with me. This personal approach gives owners access to decades of experience in strategic leadership, executive coaching, and hands on industry knowledge across hospitality, engineering, manufacturing, safety and security, civil construction, energy services, and more.

• **Is there anything new, exciting, or upcoming you'd like to highlight?**
Connect with me on LinkedIn to learn more about my executive advisory work and independent consulting practice.

• **Why do you love Lafayette Parish?** Lafayette is a place where hospitality is a way of life. The culture, the people, and the welcoming spirit set it apart from other cities in the region. The food is unmatched, but the culture is what makes Lafayette truly unforgettable.

• **What do you love most about Lafayette?** The food — especially the local restaurants that really understand who we are.

• **Your can't miss festival or annual event?** Festival Acadiens is my go to. The music, the food, and the fun capture everything great about Lafayette. Honestly, anything with food is a win.

• **Favorite hidden gem or must-do experience?** Touchet's Bar in Maurice — the jam sessions are incredible. Spoonbill Watering Hole — unique, friendly, and always a good time.

• **If you were giving a first-time visitor a 24-hour itinerary, what would you include?**
Breakfast at Ema's Café or T-Coon's, a visit to Vermilionville, lunch at Olde Tyme Grocery, dessert at Borden's, a stroll through Acadian Village, cocktails at La Fonda's, dinner at Prejean's, and a guaranteed smile by the end of the day.

Quick Hits (Fun Section)

• **Coffee or cocktail?** Cocktail

• **Early bird or night owl?** Early bird

• **Go-to local hangout?** Any neighborhood bar

• **Best advice you've ever received?** Find the small hidden gems

• **One word that describes Lafayette?** Inviting

Say hello to Jim Doré, Commissioner at LCVC and Owner of Beyond Consulting. A champion of Lafayette's culture, cuisine, and community, Jim brings decades of leadership experience to local businesses. Connect with him on LinkedIn to learn more.https://www.linkedin.com/in/jim-dore

Downtown Alive! Presents the Fall 2026 Lineup



LAFAYETTE, LA – Downtown Lafayette is thrilled to announce its Downtown Alive! lineup for the Fall 2026 season presented by long-standing downtown supporter, Evangeline Maid.

“We welcomed thousands of people to Parc Sans Souci in the spring for this long-standing, family-friendly tradition,” says Jessica Hauerwas, Executive Director of Downtown Lafayette. “Downtown Alive! this season celebrates local talent, community partner engagement, and safe, free music programming for everyone to enjoy.”

The Fall season kicks off with the Fourth Annual Ragin’ Cajuns DTA! which celebrates the connection between Downtown and its neighboring university, UL. There will be special activations with UL athletics, UL alumni, the on-campus Career Closet, and other community vendors and partners. As Lafayette’s urban core continues its efforts to build connection, this event gives students a glimpse into life off-campus in our city. Downtown restaurants are also celebrating all week with Ragin’ Cajuns®-inspired specials – more info to come soon.

2026 DTA! Fall lineup
Friday, August 28: Ragin’ Cajuns DTA!

The Vermillionaires
Opening set by The Pride of Acadiana Marching Band

Friday, October 2
LeTrainiump
Opening set by Whiskey Bay

Friday, November 6
Pine Leaf Boys
Opening set by Josh Mendoza Experience

Downtown Alive! is considered Acadiana's longest-standing free concert series. What began as an initiative to drive foot traffic to Downtown has grown into a celebration of the music and culture for which Lafayette is best known.

Downtown Alive!, Downtown Lafayette, and Evangeline Maid merchandise is available for purchase online and during all DTA! events. Proceeds from this merchandise go back to Downtown Lafayette to help continue the DTA! tradition.

All shows take place in Parc Sans Souci, and the music starts at 6 p.m. and concludes at 8:30 p.m. Please leave ice chests at home to help keep DTA! free to the public – grab a drink from the beverage tent and a bite to eat from food vendors and downtown restaurants.

This season of Downtown Alive! is presented by Evangeline Maid with support from Cox and Lafayette Consolidated Government.

For more information about Downtown Alive! and Downtown Lafayette, visit downtownlafayette.org and follow Downtown Lafayette on Facebook and Instagram.

OIL CENTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS,

We have an exciting announcement! We have partnered with One Acadiana to welcome U.S. Senator John Kennedy for our next Lunch & Learn!

We are so excited about this event and look forward to seeing everyone there. Tickets are on sale today, and we expect this event to sell out!



🗓️ Tuesday, October 20, 2026
📍 LePavilion
⏰ 11:00 AM

🎟 Member Discount: Use code MEMBER for $10 off General Admission
🎟 Sponsor Table (includes 10 tickets) Discount: Use code OCATABLE for $40 off

Get your tickets here:
https://www.theoilcenter.com/event-details/2026-oil-center-association-one-acadiana-lunch-learn-with-senator-kennedy

We hope to see you there!

Melanie
Oil Center Association

Convention and Sports

Notable Closed Sales in September:

- FBLA 2027 State Convention
- LMEA- Louisiana State Marching Championship
- 2026 Barousse Works Invitational
- Acadiana for the National Academies' Gulf Research Program

Notable Leads Generated in September:

- AREA - Aquatic Resources Education Association Biennial Meeting
- Louisiana Airport Managers Associates
- Louisiana Speech and Hearing Association Annual Convention

Notable Sales Activities in September:

- Danielle attended the Louisiana Society of Association Executives Annual Conference in Shreveport, September 20-22, 2026. She was able to connect with 40 association planners and received an Request for Proposal for the Louisiana Airport Managers Associates for November 2027.
- There were 2 leads recently sent out for repeat groups: American All-Star Dance for January 15-17, 2027 and Louisiana Solid Waste for March 15-19,2027. Both events are taking place at the Cajundome Convention Center.
- Carl joined the Louisiana Office of Tourism on a Familiarization Trip (FAM) September 8 – 10, 2026 where he successfully showcased the rich offerings of Lafayette Parish to USA Olympics rights holders at the USA Olympic Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

- Carl attended the Sports Relationship Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia, September 21-25, 2026, where he secured 25 individual appointments and generated 6 highly promising Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for Lafayette Parish.

Travel Trade

Eugenie Mitchell hosted Familiarization Tours for 2 companies who currently have Lafayette product and wanted to learn more, Jetset Voyages (France) and Groupe Voyages (Canada).

Eugenie Mitchell attended Joker Reisbeurs USA & Canada to connect with high-quality Belgian travelers who are actively planning a trip to the USA or Canada. Each year, an average of 1,300 visitors attend the Joker Reisbeurs USA & Canada, giving a unique opportunity to inspire travelers and boost sales. In addition to the trade show, Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and Lake Charles also hosted an hour presentation for additional client information. Eugenie also attended a Joker Reisen Travel Agent training and dinner.

Eugenie Mitchell met with buyers from the United Kingdom and Europe during Brand USA Travel Week for a week of Business meetings, networking, and enrichment. She had 41 scheduled appointments resulting in 19 prospective accounts with new interest in Lafayette, and 13 itinerary features and bookings.

Lafayette hosted a client event with Spirit of Louisiana (Lafayette, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles) for 20 top tour operators who are based in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Travel Trade Bookings:

- World2Meet 1284 rooms
- Perform America 25 rooms
- Travel AM 25 rooms

Prospect Accounts:

- Travel Island
- Going
- Aeroglobe – AmerikaPlus
- ITG Experience Travel – TravelWorld
- Let's Travel
- MVP Travel
- Fox Reizen
- Your Endless Travel
- Globy
- Travelpack
- CATAI
- Presstour Viajes
- Go World
- Indelible Travel
- Simi Reizen
- G2 Travel

Communications

Earned Media Mentions

A Small Museum that Shows the ‘Big Picture’

A Serene and Peaceful Garden in Louisiana

Acadiana Music Showcase: A.J. Haynes

Cajun Experience: Embracing the Vibrant Culture and Cuisine

Blog Round-Up

Bakeries in Lafayette

Weekday & Off-Season Travel in Lafayette