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NOVEMBER 2011 • VOLUME 21, No. 4  
THE HARVEY CANAL INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### Lapalco Bridge Rehab Work

The Lapalco Boulevard Bridge will soon undergo rehabilitation and painting beginning December 5, 2011. Jefferson Parish recently let the project to C.E.C., Inc. of Lafayette, Louisiana as the Prime Contractor. The Main Span and machinery of the bridge will be repainted and will have a slight impact to maritime traffic on the Harvey Canal at the Lapalco Bridge. This portion of the work is expected to take 12 – 16 weeks, weather permitting.

According to C.E.C., Inc.'s Project Manager every effort is being made to limit the impact to maritime traffic during this project. Officials with C.E.C., Inc. met and are working with Jefferson Parish Officials, the U. S. Coast Guard and the Harvey Canal Industrial Association to notify the industry of the restrictions.

Due to the containment canvass and rigging needed for sandblasting and painting, the vertical clearance under the bridge will be reduced to 35' from the bottom steel of the bridge to the water level. The existing vertical clearance for the Lapalco Bridge is 45'. C.E.C. Inc. will be working directly with the U. S. Coast Guard and the HCIA throughout the duration of the project to be able to

*Lapalco Bridge Rehab Work continued on page 4*

### H. P. Long Motorists Will Get New Lanes

Yes, we've been waiting and watching since 2006 for the \$1.2 billion widening of the scary, narrow Huey P. Long Mississippi River Bridge to be completed, but there's good news ahead. Motorists early next summer will be using two new 10-foot wide lanes in each direction, according to Shane Peck, spokesman for

*H. P. Long Motorists Will Get New Lanes continued on pages 6 & 7*

### Letter to Corps

Tropical Storm Lee came through the West Bank on Labor Day weekend and resulted in the flooding of some businesses and the closing of the flood gates for three days – virtually closing these businesses down. The flooding occurred for several reasons – but mainly because those businesses behind the newly con-

*Letter to Corps continued on page 5*



*An aerial view of the West Bank approaches and downslopes as the Huey P. Long bridge widening project moves into the homestretch. Photo courtesy of Louisiana TIMED program*

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### NEXT MEETING

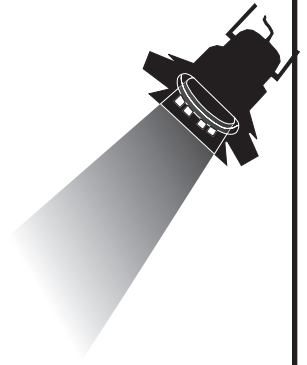
**Thursday, November 3, 2011 @ the Four Columns  
11:30 a.m. Networking – 12:00 Business and Lunch**

**COUNCILMAN-ELECT PAUL JOHNSTON  
JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCIL DISTRICT 2**



The HCIA welcomes Jefferson Parish Councilman-Elect Paul Johnston. Mr. Johnston has previously served on the Council and as Mayor for the City of Harahan, however this will be the first time Mr. Johnston will serve part of the West Bank. Come and hear from him.

## Spotlight On:



# Best Western Plus Westbank

Now 30 years young, the 139-room Best Western Plus Westbank in Harvey is still running a solid occupancy, a strong record in these tough economic times.

Best Western Plus owner Dawn Boteler says that performance is partly because he never lets the hotel get old. The rooms are consistently renovated based on the needs of his guests. "Our guests have become accustomed to the unique atmosphere we have created," he said. "They enjoy relaxing in a well appointed, nicely decorated room while looking out into our beautifully-landscaped French Quarter style courtyard."

On a recent October morning, Mr. Boteler, his wife Linda and daughter/Manager Stephanie Flood let some HCIA visitors in on their success story and the history of the hotel that is perfectly parked near the intersection of busy Lapalco and Manhattan Boulevards.

They believe the success may begin as early as 5:30 a.m. each morning as the first wave of guests arrive to have a free hot breakfast of coffee, juice, eggs, bacon, sausage, waffles, and biscuits catered by next door neighbor Copeland's Restaurant. Or maybe it is the fresh baked cookies each guest receives at check-in. In the evening, guests have the choice of going next door to Copeland's and enjoying an authentic Cajun American dish or relaxing at Best Western's Sportsman's Bar with samples of home cooked meals prepared by the owner, Mr. Boteler.

Other amenities guests may enjoy while staying

here include a cardio work-out room, gift shop with the perfect souvenir to take home, Olympic size swimming pool and heated Jacuzzi. They also offer same day laundry service or a laundry facility on premises for self use.

Best Western Plus Westbank also provides meeting room facilities perfect for any business function. Catering is available. A business center is also available with free high speed internet access. It is these extra personal details that have earned the



*Best Western Plus Westbank's Dawn and Linda Boteler and Stephanie Flood pause in hotel's spacious courtyard*

hotel the new sign out front, Best Western Plus Westbank. What does the Plus mean? It is Best Western's new descriptor program designed to help travelers decide which type of Best Western would best suit their needs. The Best Western Plus is geared more towards the business traveler with more amenities than a Best Western.

The success of the hotel is largely in part to the family

members and employees who work at the hotel on a daily basis. For over 30 years, the hotel has been run by the same local family as well as some employees who have been there for 5, 10, and 20 years.

"It is through their dedication and hard work that Best Western Plus has been successful," Ms. Flood said. "Whether it is a room attendant cleaning your room, maintenance engineer fixing a leaky faucet or front desk agent checking you in, we make it a team effort to live out the mission of Best Western International: 'To Lead the Industry in Superior Customer Care.'"

## The HCIA Communiqué

is published monthly for members of  
The Harvey Canal Industrial Association  
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## From your HCIA President

The month of October is best known for fall, football and festivals. It brings cooler weather and is a great time to be outdoors. But October is also Primary elections in Louisiana. For many like me, I would rather be outdoors.

This year's election saw many new faces running for office due to term limits. And as expected come election time, the political mud was flying fast and furious in some of the races.

For our October luncheon, the Governmental Affairs Committee recommended hosting an open forum for the two candidates vying for State House of Representative Seat 85. The seat was vacated by Representative Ricky Templet. The two candidates for the seat were both newcomers to the political area. Neither Bryan Adams nor Stephen Leonard, both of Terrytown, ever held public office and both were newcomers to the political scene.

The Harvey Canal Industrial Association does not endorse candidates in an election but we know we must work with our public officials once they are sworn into office. As recommended by the Committee, we decided to invite the candidates for House District 85. We wanted to bring to our membership the opportunity to hear from the two candidates and to have the opportunity to ask questions. The luncheon was informative. Not only did we get to learn about each candidate; each candidate got to learn about the Harvey Canal Industrial Association.

There are many other elections coming up and the HCIA wishes we had time to hear from each of the candidates, but time is always a factor. We encourage you to take the time to learn about each candidate seeking public office. And remember to VOTE. Every vote is important and your vote for your candidate may make the difference.

--Lionel Boudreaux



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## Lapalco Bridge Rehab Work, from page 1

respond to any major emergency responses. The Coast Guard will publish a bulletin giving proper notification of the marine restrictions. All vessels unable to clear the 35' clearance will be required to use the Algiers Canal for access to the Mississippi River or the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

The canvass and rigging will be removed daily allowing the canal to be unobstructed from 6:00 p.m. in the evenings until 6:30 a.m. the next morning, Monday through Saturdays and no restrictions for 24 hours on Sundays.

Traffic control for vehicular traffic lane closures will be planned with the Jefferson Parish authorities in November, giving the traveling public proper notice well in advance of the work. The traffic control one-lane closures will be required to allow for accessing painting equipment. The actual work time affecting traffic on the bridge will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 6:00am to 6:00pm on Saturdays starting in December, 2011 until March 2012. There will be no restrictions on Sundays.

Hames Contracting has been subcontracted for the painting, in addition to the prime contractor, C.E.C., Inc. completing other work items consisting of electrical improvements, rehabilitation of the operator control house, installing structural steel walkways around the operator house, structural grout repairs, roadway deck improvements and drainage pipe repairs to name a few.

The Lapalco Bridge Project is funded by Jefferson Parish at a cost of approximately \$3.6 million.

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## Acme Gets New Headquarters

**C**ongratulations to Acme Truck Line on its recent move to a new, larger facility in Gretna.

After 50 years of residing in Harvey, Acme Truck Line has moved its corporate office to 200 West Bank Expressway in Gretna. Acme was previously based in the Rathborne Business Park with 25,000 square feet. The new facility, with almost 100,000 square feet of office and warehouse space, will allow Acme continued growth in resources and employees. Acme has already transferred its Logistics department from Lafayette to the new location, representing an additional 25 employees for its Gretna location. The company has plans to sublet the previous location at Rathborne Park.

During a recent open house, President Mike Coatney proudly talked of the success of the company. "We attribute our ongoing success to our employees devotion to safety and customer service," he said.

Also attending the ceremony was City of Gretna's Councilwoman Raylyn

Beever who represents the new location in her District. "Acme's expansion to this location speaks volumes of their commitment to the future not only here in Gretna, but in the State of Louisiana. I am delighted to welcome Mike and the Acme team to Gretna," said Beever.

Acme is an oil field and general commodity carrier established in 1960 in Harvey. It specializes in expedited service with a fleet of 2,550 trucks serving over 6,000 customers throughout the United States and Canada. The company has 125 offices nationwide and had billed revenue of over \$247 million in 2010.



Acme Truck Line President Mike Coatney hosts Gretna's Councilwoman Raylyn Beever and Mayor Ronnie Harris on tour of Acme's new headquarters



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structed floodwall on Peters Road have little or no levee protection for events with heavy rain.

Following the event, the Harvey Canal Industrial Association met with the businesses impacted by the storm to assess the economic loss during the closing. The HCIA has reached out to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, our Congressional Delegation and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West to again help address the issues that have occurred.

Over the past six years, the HCIA has participated in meetings, public hearings and briefings regarding the GIWW-West Closure Complex (WCC) since Hurricane Katrina. As the final design and operational guidelines were being released, we were told by the Corps that the Algiers/Harvey Canals would be used as retention in order to maintain the enormous pumps at the WCC. (Note: The Algiers Canal is well leved and does not apply to the current issue of flooding.)

The HCIA expressed concerns early in the process regarding the Corps plan to use the Harvey Canal for retention in fear of flooding those businesses behind the floodwall on Peters Road. The Rainwater Retention Levee (supplemental levee) is an earthen levee that runs from the Lapalco floodgate to the Hero pumping station and is a non-federal levee with no authorization in place for maintenance.

The HCIA was assured that the operational protocol to operate the WCC would require the closing of the WCC floodgates as tide levels exceeded +3.0 NAVD 88 – even for a tropical weather event – to prevent erosion of the Rainwater Retention Levee.

The HCIA has expressed our concern to the Corps of Engineers that proper protocol described in our meetings regarding the closing of the WCC sector floodgate was not followed during T/S Lee. It appears the floodgate was left open even after the tide levels exceeded +3.0-foot NAVD 88.

The Rainwater Retention Levee is the sole protection from rising water for those businesses

along the Harvey Canal and it is imperative that these businesses be taken into consideration for future gate closings. The canal is an important economic corridor for the west bank and we must keep it competitive with other waterways.

We will continue to work with the Corps and others to find a workable plan.

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West Jefferson is also proud to announce the addition of Ashish Udhrain, MD and Vijay Patel, MD. Dr. Udhrain received his training at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona and Dr. Patel at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Robert Kessler, MD  
Ashish Udhrain, MD  
N. Sekar, MD  
Vijay Patel, MD

The Hematology/Oncology Clinic at West Jefferson is temporarily located in the Physicians Center, Suite North 804. The permanent location for the clinic will be opening in 2012. Robert Kessler, MD and Nagarajan Chandrasekaran (Sekar), MD appreciate the confidence and trust you have placed in their practice and are working to make this a seamless transition for you. Chemotherapy infusions will be administered at the temporary clinic.

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*Workers finish steel work on Huey P. Long Bridge widening with the American flag signifying topping off  
Photo courtesy of Louisiana TIMED program.*

the Louisiana TIMED program.

The whole bridge widening project is heading into the home stretch. When we start using the new lanes, Peck said, the old 9-foot lanes will be torn out and the new ones will be widened to the ultimate three-lane, 11-foot wide configuration. Additionally, the final lanes will have eight-foot outside and two-foot inside shoulders. The project also includes signalized intersections at Bridge City Avenue on the West Bank and Jefferson Highway on the East Bank.

Earlier in April, the construction hit a high point when the third 528-foot bridge segment was lifted into place. The segment was the heaviest of three lifted in the past year and weighed over 5 million pounds with its stability frames and measured 528 feet. The segment was lifted using multiple barges and strand jacks. Workers in late July installed the final piece of steel at the top of the bridge and hoisted the American flag to signify the topping off event.

“This marks a significant milestone toward the completion of a wider, safer bridge by 2013,” said Resident Engineer Tim Todd.

The contractor for the steel truss work is MTI, a joint venture of Massman Construction Co., Traylor Brothers Inc. and IHI Inc. MTI used innovative span-by-span construction on the structure. This process allowed them to build three of the spans on barges in the river and then lift them into place limiting disruptions to river navigation, speeding up the work and making it safer for workers.

The final phase of the project involves building the roadways on and up to the bridge. In late August, contractor KMTC began installing beams know as stringers that will support the new lanes on the bridge. The stringers and other materials are being put in place at night to limit

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*H. P. Long Motorists Will Get New Lanes  
continued on page 7*

## H. P. Long Motorists Will Get New Lanes, from page 6

disruptions to traffic due to necessary lane closures on the bridge. Workers are then installing the beams during the day on both sides of the bridge, using a gantry crane that runs the length of the bridge on rails. Once the stringers are in place, the driving surface will be built on top of them. The contractor expects to be pouring concrete for the new lanes before the end of the year.

By the end of the project, an estimated 17,500 tons of structural steel and 750,000 new bolts will be used during the truss phase of the project.

The bridge widening is funded by a 4 cents per gallon gasoline and motor fuels tax. It is one of 16 projects in the \$4.6 billion Louisiana Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED) program, managed by Louisiana TIMED Managers (LTM), a joint venture of GEC Inc., PB Americas Inc. and the LPA GROUP INCORPORATED.

Construction of the original 75-year-old structure began in 1932 and was completed in December 1935 at a cost of \$13 million.

### TEE TIME!

Don't miss the  
HCIA's 19th Annual  
Golf Tournament



Friday, November 4, 2011  
Stonebridge Country Club  
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Registration: 11:00 a.m.  
Tee Time: 11:30 a.m.

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## HCIA Welcomes New Member

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## HCIA Welcomes New Member

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## What's Coming Up CALENDAR OF EVENTS - November 2011

November 3	Noon	General Membership Meeting	The Four Columns
November 4	11:30 a.m.	HCIA's 19 <sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament	Stonebridge Country Club
November 8	7:30 a.m.	Membership Committee Meeting	HCIA Office
November 9	8:30 a.m.	Governmental & Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting	HCIA Office
November 16	Noon	Special Events Committee Meeting	HCIA Office
November 17	8:00 a.m.	Infrastructure Committee Meeting	HCIA Office
<b>**November 24 &amp; November 25 – Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving**</b>			
November 30	7:45 a.m.	HCIA Board of Directors	HCIA Office



*HOUSE CANDIDATES GET INSTRUCTIONS: The Harvey Canal Industrial Association hosted a forum for candidates for House District 85 at its October 6<sup>th</sup> luncheon. HCIA President Lionel Boudreaux (left) explains the rules to candidates Bryan Adams and Stephen Leonard (right) as HCIA Governmental & Environmental Affairs Committee Chairman Robert J. Logreco listens.*



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