

CONGRATS, PASS HIGH & OLA GRADUATES! SEE PAGES 14 & 20

PASS CHRISTIAN

GAZEBO



GAZETTE

A Weekly Newspaper for Residents and Friends of Pass Christian, Mississippi
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It's Seafood Festival Time!



A Ferris wheel on Scenic Drive can mean only one thing: the St. Paul Seafood Festival is this weekend! See page 2 for a full schedule, as well as details on more fun events taking place this weekend.

Inside This Issue:

Celebrate Pass Christian Friday & The Pass Library Sunday ... see page 2
Summer Reading Program Kicks Off Next Week ... full schedule on page 15
Get Your Hurricane Emergency Supply Kit Ready Now ... see page 16
Good News From Our Neighbors! And see where the GG's traveled ... pages 26, 27
Don't Forget To Recycle Your Used Fishing Line ... see where & why on page 18

City Elections Are Tuesday

Only two seats are contested in next week's municipal elections, the city's first regular elections for mayor and aldermen since Hurricane Katrina.

Both contested offices in the Tuesday, June 2, election are city-wide: two candidates will vie for mayor and two for Alderman-at-Large. The Alderman-at-Large is the only seat on the Board of Aldermen that represents the entire city, so all registered voters in the city may cast a ballot in that race.

All four ward aldermen are running unopposed. In Ward 1, newcomer Rory Robin Rafferty, Jr., faces no challengers after all other candidates dropped out before the election, citing various personal and professional reasons.

In Wards 2 and 3, incumbents Joseph Piernas, Sr., and Anthony Hall were not opposed. In Ward 4, incumbent Huey Bang defeated a Republican rival in the primary

and faces no opposition in the general election.

POLLING PLACES

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Registered voters should vote in their ward. If you are unsure of your ward, please call City Hall at 228-452-3310.

- **Ward 1:** Kittiwake Baptist Church, East Second St.
- **Ward 2:** First United Methodist Church, East Second St.
- **Ward 3:** Senior Citizens Center's on Clark Ave.;
- **Ward 4:** New Fire Station across from the high school on North Street.

Meet The Candidates: Mayor

In the upcoming Mayoral race, incumbent mayor Chipper McDermott faces challenger Chris Boutet. Mayor McDermott, a lifelong resident of the Pass who served as Alderman-at-Large for 9 years and Mayor Pro Tem for

(ELECTION, Continued on page 3)

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Upcoming Deadlines****Weeks of May 29, June 5-12-19:** Normal deadlines
(Monday at 5 p.m. for ads, Tuesday at 5 p.m. for news)**Weeks of June 26 & July 3:** No Gazebo Gazette.
We're going on our honeymoon!**Want to publicize an event that takes place before
July 10? Please have the information to us by June 16:**
Call 228-363-1973 or email editor@gazebogazette.com

Thank you!

IT'S ANOTHER GREAT WEEKEND IN THE PASS!**St. Paul
Seafood
Festival Is
All Weekend**

The St. Paul Seafood Festival is all weekend in downtown Pass Christian. Stop by for food, arts and crafts and carnival rides and games.

Friday, May 29
5 p.m.-11:30 p.m.

Easy Street performs from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 30
12 p.m.-11:30 p.m.

Pass Christian favorite Dr. Rock & The Interns performs from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 31
Rides Only
12 p.m.-6 p.m.

All proceeds support St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School.

**Christian Summer
Concert Series
Starts This Evening In DeLisle**

A free concert will be held tonight, May 29, at 7 p.m. at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in DeLisle. Jones Unleashed from Poplarville and Center Tree will perform. The concert is free, but space is limited, so arrive early for a good seat. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For information, call Fr. Blauvelt at Trinity Church (228-452-4563).

**Celebrate
Downtown
Pass Tonight**

Several downtown businesses will stay open late this evening (Friday, May 29) for a special "Celebrate Pass Christian" open house from 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

Blue Skies Gallery and Pass Wine & Spirits, 125 Davis Avenue, Martin Plaza: Open house. Ribbon Cutting at Blue Skies Gallery (4 p.m.). Refreshments provided by Pass Wine & Spirits, and music by Bo & Dee.**Lucio's Mexican Restaurant**, 234 Davis Avenue: Mention this ad for a free regular or frozen margarita!**Charbonnet Collection**, 255 Davis Avenue: Open House. "We've got that summer fling, from coastal swings to finer things! Breeze on by for sippin' and dippin'!"**Pass Christian Books**, 212 East Second Street, Suite B, Colonnade Building. Open house. Refreshments will be served. In-store specials, including discounts throughout our wide selection of books!**In Style School & Career Apparel**, 212 East Second St, Suite C, Colonnade Building. Open house. "Come in to check out our great selection of CAREER apparel and register for a drawing for a Nike golf shirt & cap (value: \$68)."**Words &
Music Is
Sunday**

The Friends of the Pass Christian Public Library will host the second annual Words & Music this Sunday, May 31, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Oak Crest Mansion, 5267 Menge Avenue.

This year's event features classical guitarist Giovanni (John) De Chiaro. Local Authors Berthe Amoss and Allain C. Andry III will be available to sign books. It will be an afternoon of classical music, wine, good food and a silent auction.

Words & Music is the annual fundraiser for the Pass Christian Public Library. Tickets are \$30 in advance, available at the library, or \$40 at the door.

**CORRECTION:
DeLisle YMCA
Pool Now Open**The YMCA Starfish Aquatic Center, part of the Marsha Barbour Community Center in DeLisle, is now open. (*In last week's issue, we listed an incorrect opening date.*)

The pool is open seven days a week from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors can pay per visit, or buy a 15 visit pass.

The pool will hold a grand opening for its new pool on Sunday, June 7.

ELECTION: The Mayoral Candidates Speak

(ELECTION, Continued from page 1)
 five years, was elected mayor in a special election in 2006 after then-Mayor Billy McDonald resigned. Challenger Chris Boutet, a resident of the Pass for almost 20 years, is president of Chris Boutet Properties, LLC, and has a business and management background, including owning a car dealership, managing a national chain of hair salons and working at Casino Magic.

In a recent interview, both Mayor McDermott and Mr. Boutet said they are against casinos in the Pass and are in favor of Smart Code, but differed on ideas for developing the city's tax base. Mayor McDermott, who helped bring back the Pass Christian Wal-Mart — the city's largest source of sales tax revenue pre-Katrina —

said he believes that Wal-Mart can be "a hook" to bring shoppers and sales tax back to the city and that the expected tax revenue will be a needed financial jolt for the city.

Mr. Boutet said he thinks the City should be doing more to develop a broader tax base. He would like to develop a business plan for the Pass, including an office development on North Street where larger corporations could put small offices, incentivized by tax breaks. He believes that would be a start and ultimately bring enough business to support other businesses, such as restaurants.

"You have to plant a seed," he said, "build something small and help it grow."

Mayor McDermott said that

the number one issue facing the city right now, and the biggest deterrent to bringing people and businesses back, is the cost of insurance. The new federally mandated building elevations and restrictions have made both construction and insurance more expensive. "You simply cannot build like we used to," he said. "You can't stay the same. You either get better or you get worse."

But even with expensive insurance and a national economic slump, and even though he thinks it may take up to 12 years for the Pass to completely recover from Katrina, Mayor McDermott is optimistic in light of all that has been accomplished during his 2 1/2 years. The Mayor says he is addressing the issues facing the city by

(ELECTION, Continued on page 4)




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 <p>107 Donlin Avenue, Pass Christian 3BR/3BA with large lot and gunite pool! \$349,400</p>	 <p>104 Belle Terre, Long Beach Immaculate 4/5 Bedroom home in Belle Terre Estates. \$409,000</p>	
 <p>1007 Leigh Street, Long Beach 4BR/2BA HUGE family home with fenced yard. \$124,000</p>	 <p>7279 Live Oak Way, Pass Christian Amazing golf course views from this 4BR/3.5BA home in The Oaks of Pass Christian. \$449,900.</p>	

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(ELECTION, Continued from page 3)

being proactive and aggressive in obtaining grant monies to help rebuild. During Mayor McDermott's term, Pass Christian has been the recipient of millions of dollars in grants for repairs, rebuilding, downtown revitalization, water and sewer projects and a \$25 million grant to expand the Harbor. Mayor McDermott said that he's had the opportunity "to meet and work with everyone from our Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of State to our representatives and senators, as well as many other government officials, including those from MEMA and FEMA. I know them and they know me."

For his part, Mr. Boutet said that the City needs someone with his business background and experience. He believes the biggest issues facing the Pass are road repair and the need for a retail business plan. He said he would pursue commercial developers with whom he's worked in the past and seek their recommendations.

"I am a business person; I will approach the job from a business point of view," he said. Ultimately, Mr. Boutet thinks the direction to go is to promote the Pass as a tourist attraction, including creating a Welcome Center at the Harbor.

Mayor McDermott said the key is to attract more people to the Pass because of its natural beauty and water-based recreational and commercial assets. "Water is what has drawn folks to this town for 300 years," and will do so again, he said.

— Sue Whitcomb McCoy

**Meet The Candidate:
Alderman-At-Large**

RENEE BROOKS

Ms. Brooks has a BA in history with a minor in education. She worked in the hotel and cruise line industry in New Orleans for 10 years, working her way up the management ladder operating multiple departments and managing budgets totaling millions of dollars. She is married to John Brooks, a licensed maritime chief engineer; they have two children and have lived in Pass Christian since 1995.

Ms. Brooks is president of the Friends of the Library, the main fundraising source for the Pass Christian library. She teaches environmental classes to children at local schools and the Boys & Girls Club and works with the Garden Club on beautification and educational projects. She serves on the City Park Commission and the City Tree Board. Many of her activities include beautification and the restoration of community green spaces. As Park Commissioner, she arranged to have all the damaged live oaks in the Park mulched and restored, a cost savings to the city of more than \$50,000.

The Pass Christian Rotary named her Citizen of the Year in 2008. She was also named 2008 Mississippi Volunteer of the Year by the MS Urban Forest Council. As a Master Gardener, Naturalist and Urban Forester, she visits hundreds of Pass homes yearly to provide advice, plants and trees. As a Tree Board member, she works with the Code Office, City Planner and property owners to resolve tree-related issues.

**Meet The Candidate:
Alderman-At-Large**

PHILIP WITTMANN

Mr. Wittmann, Alderman-at-Large since 2006, is the fourth of Frank and Alice Wittmann's five children with roots in Pass Christian spanning six generations. He has been married twelve years to his wife Dr. Dena Castanedo Wittmann; they have two children. He is a 1986 graduate of Saint Stanislaus College. He earned his bachelors in business administration from the University of Mississippi and a law degree from Western New England School of Law.

Mr. Wittmann spent several years after college in San Francisco as an investment representative for Lehman Brothers then returned home after law school to raise his family in Pass Christian. He is an attorney in Gulfport who practices in the areas of criminal and family law. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to community building in various contexts and has been commended for his public service work by such organizations as the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence and USM's Southern Regional Public Safety Institute.

What do you feel are the top three issues facing the City of Pass Christian? How do you hope to address them?

Renee Brooks: Inadequate drainage is an issue that affects every area in the Pass. For example, many neighborhoods regularly suffer flooding from tidal flows; this flooding increases dramati-

(ELECTION, Continued on page 6)

Pass Christian Chamber Of Commerce

May Newsletter



EIGHT STUDENTS AWARDED MUSIC IN THE AIR SCHOLARSHIPS

Music in the Air Scholarships were awarded to Pass Christian High School graduating seniors on Friday, May 8th. Seven \$1000 scholarships were presented. One additional scholarship will be presented this week to a graduating senior living in Pass Christian, but attending school outside the city.

Also this week, the Chamber hosted a Teacher Appreciation Lunch on May 27th at Pass High and Pass Middle/Elementary Schools to help honor our hard-working educators!



FRIDAY LUNCH BREAK IS TODAY

The Pass Christian Chamber's Friday Lunch Break is today, May 29th, and features Cajun Gourmet Catering at Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty office on Scenic Drive, 11:00- 1:00. An RSVP is required with your choice of a pot roast po-boy or chicken Caesar wrap; both come with a side of potato salad and bread pudding with rum sauce for desert. Tea and water to drink. \$10.00 per guest (tax included). To-go orders are available. RSVP to PassChristian@MSCoastChamber.com.

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CELEBRATE PASS CHRISTIAN TONIGHT AT DOWNTOWN OPEN HOUSE 4PM-7PM

Several Pass Christian Chamber businesses will hold 'Open Houses' this evening, Friday, May 29th, from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. The festivities begin with a Ribbon Cutting for a new member, Blue Skies Gallery. Snacks and drinks will be on offer from Pass Wine & Spirits and Subway and Martin Plaza will also feature music from Bo & Dee. Downtown merchants will stay open late and offer special discounts for shoppers. Additional participating businesses include: Charbonnet Collection, Lucio's Mexican Restaurant, Pass Christian Books and In Style School and Career Apparel.

DOWNTOWN SIGN UPDATE

Downtown signs are almost fully constructed and should be ready for installation on Highway 90 by next week! We are hoping to have them in place by June 1st.



COMING SOON: "PASS A GOOD TIME" SHOPPER DISCOUNT CARDS

The "Pass A Good Time" Card is a shopper discount card that can be purchased from any of 18 participating Chamber businesses for \$20 and will have an estimated savings value of more

than \$300. Half of the purchase price will stay with the business and the other half will come back to the Chamber for more business development. We are currently accepting final applications from businesses (interested in participating? Email the Chamber at PassChristian@MSCoastChamber.com). We expect them to be on sale by June.

SPEND A WEEKEND IN THE PASS BROCHURE IN THE WORKS

A new 'Spend a Weekend in the Pass' brochure is currently "under construction." It will feature a map and a listing of our available businesses to be placed in tourist stops along the coast.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! MID-YEAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS JULY 15TH

A Mid-Year Membership Meeting is planned for July 15th at the Pass Christian Yacht Club at 6 p.m. Board executives and committee chairs will offer updates on programs of work and offer options for new volunteers and participation, and a guest speaker will provide ideas about marketing on a budget of any size. More details to follow!

— Gwenn Voigts, President
(228) 324-8275, gvoigts@aol.com

**WELCOME TO
OUR NEW MEMBERS!**
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