



# FOURCHON



## THE PORT MESSENGER

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## LSU OFFSHORE WIND CONSORTIUM, INCLUDING THE GLPC (PORT FOURCHON) SECURES EDA TECH HUB DESIGNATION TO ELEVATE LOUISIANA ENERGY LEADERSHIP

In October, President Biden and the Economic Development Administration, or EDA, announced an LSU-led consortium, Gulf Louisiana Offshore Wind, or GLOW, Propeller, as one of only 31 newly designated Tech Hubs positioned to revitalize American manufacturing, create jobs and strengthen U.S. economic and national security within a decade.

The Tech Hubs program received nearly 400 total applications by 197 consortium applicants, and EDA's selection of LSU's GLOW Propeller recognizes LSU and Louisiana's potential to drive energy innovation and be an impactful global leader in offshore wind technology development by building on and reimagining established assets and resources.

What made the GLOW Propeller consortium unique was how it brought together a host of public and private partners; including five universities (LSU, Southern, Tulane, UNO and Xavier), two community colleges (Delgado and Nunez), industry (Gulf Wind Technologies, RWE and SevITech), as well as Greater New Orleans, Inc., the Water Institute of the Gulf, Louisiana

Department of Economic Development, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, City of New Orleans and **Port Fourchon, the nation's leading offshore energy port located in Lafourche Parish.**

"This designation marks a significant milestone as it demonstrates unequivocally a desire by the EDA to support the Gulf of Mexico region in its pursuit of developing offshore wind projects moving forward,"

said **Chett Chiasson**, executive director of Port Fourchon. "Among the major players in offshore wind will be Port Fourchon as our servicing capabilities and location to the Gulf are second to none. Our agency, tenants and users stand ready to assist in any and every way

possible to see this potential become a reality in the not-so-distant future."

GLOW Propeller will support talent and technology development for offshore wind energy production in Louisiana, bolstering the state's leadership role in traditional and emerging renewable energy production.

"For nearly a century, Louisiana has been at the forefront of our nation's domestic offshore energy production," Governor John Bel Edwards said. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.**



# STATE OF THE PORT



## CLOSING OUT A ROBUST 2023, WHILE FOCUSED ON A SOLID 2024 BY CHETT CHIASSON, GLPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It certainly feels strange to say we are nearing the end of 2023.

Before I give you an update on what has been happening here at the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and Port Fourchon, I would like to first wish everyone a joyous holiday season on behalf of our Board of Commissioners, staff, and myself.

Summing up 2023 is far from easy, but what I will tell you is our agency and port are headed in the right direction.

Not only did we return to 100-percent of our operational and physical capabilities as an agency in 2023, but we also had some huge announcements that bode well for the future of both the GLPC and Port Fourchon.

Among them was Crowley Offshore Wind Services signing a Right of First Refusal on a large tract of bulkheaded property on Slip C to a historic purchase agreement paving the way for the GLPC to acquire more than 850 acres in Port Fourchon.

I fully expect the property under Right of First Refusal will eventually be leased as Crowley works with prospective businesses interested in teaming up with their leadership group to begin the process of developing the Gulf region's first purpose-driven offshore wind facility.

Meanwhile, the agreement to purchase the Caillouet Land acreage is a deal that not only brought about additional leases and revenue for the GLPC, but also is serving as a key catalyst for us in building a bridge and connector road to our Fourchon Island project.

As a reminder, Fourchon Island is a

project that will provide more expansive industrial access to the Gulf of Mexico through its unique configuration and development plan.

Along with this purchase came the news that the Caillouet family would donate 165 acres of property to the State of Louisiana with the intention the state will ultimately create its 22nd state park on the southernmost tip of Lafourche Parish in Port Fourchon.

Outside of all these announcements, you will see work continue on the Airport Bridge and Connector as well as the LA 1 elevated highway projects.

This year will also see the beginning of a major dredging project that will add depth to our existing channels.

Another big-ticket item is the anticipated start of meaningful development on Fourchon Island in the form of a new bridge and connector road.

This project is the one where we are working with several tenants and users of the port to develop and expand our footprint. While this project is a few years from being completed, it will most certainly bring about boat loads of opportunities for Port Fourchon in the future.

The first step is reconnecting our existing highway (A.O. Rappelet Road) with the land across from it. If you remember, we used to have an old bridge there that connected the road to this land area. Unfortunately, due to the age of the bridge we were forced to remove it several years ago.

However, as we wrap up the permitting work, it is our intention to go out to bid to

build a new bridge and connector road at this location sometime in 2024.

If this weren't enough, we had a company called Argent LNG sign a Right of First Refusal on a piece of property immediately across from our future Fourchon Island project.

This development seems promising as we keep telling our message of being a port and agency that believes in an "all of the above" energy approach for our region and country.

As a service provider port we will support any and everything that takes place offshore of Port Fourchon.

Things don't just stop here, but also extend even further to our Coastal Wetlands Park and Recreation Area that we are continuing to develop at the entrance of Port Fourchon. Thanks to a grant award we will add more elements to this one-of-kind park in the coming year.

Please understand that none of this would be possible without having a supportive and productive Board of Commissioners.

On a closing note, as we wrap up 2023 and march forward in to 2024 I feel as confident as ever that additional announcements will not only demonstrate how Port Fourchon is far from done, but rather prove the point we are forging ahead toward a new and prosperous future with our current tenants serving as the backbone upon which all these amazing opportunities will surely flourish in the years to come.

# COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT: THOMAS "TOM" PITRE, III

Even though Tom Pitre is a relative newcomer to the Board of Commissioners, the Golden Meadow native is far from a novice when it comes to community service.

After running unopposed in advance of a special election in March of 2023, Pitre took his place at Seat B having previously been appointed to the seat that had been held by Johnny Ordonne.

According to Pitre, it is an honor to represent the 10th Ward of South Lafourche on the Board of Commissioners at the Greater Lafourche Port Commission.

"I can't begin to tell you what it means to me," Pitre said. "When I was appointed to the board it got me emotional because I hold the GLPC and Port Fourchon is such high regard. For me it is important to continue building on a strong legacy of success that our current and former Commissioners have been an integral part of."

Pitre is a well-known business leader in the community thanks to Tom's Service Station in Golden Meadow.

The "Team Tom" moniker is something that was developed by his father years ago and has come to define the Pitre family.

He and his wife Hope, who have three children and seven grandchildren, are known in Lafourche Parish for their history of giving back to those

around them.

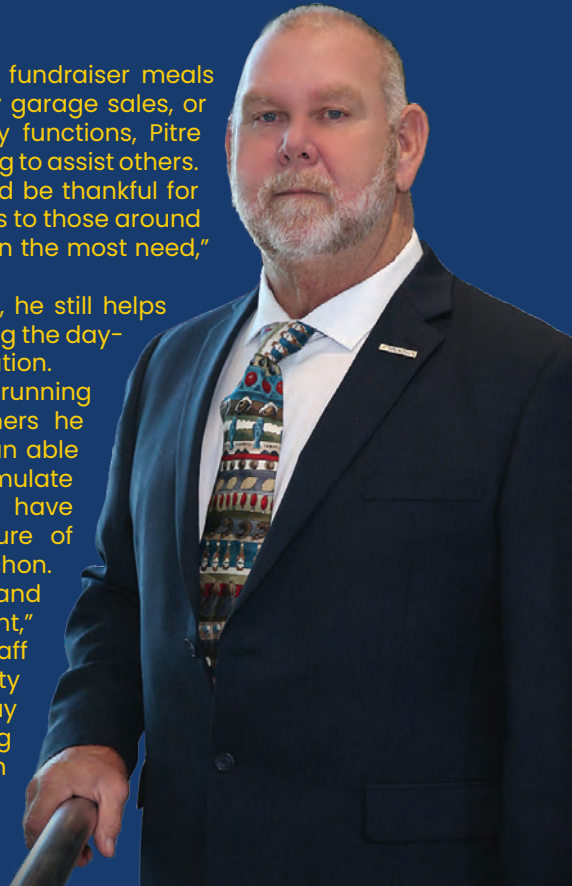
Whether through organizing fundraiser meals for special causes, community garage sales, or lending a hand at community functions, Pitre and his family are always looking to assist others.

"I was taught that you should be thankful for your blessings and be generous to those around you, especially those who are in the most need," Pitre said.

Although Pitre is retired now, he still helps his son and daughters in running the day-to-day affairs of the service station.

When Pitre turned his eyes to running for the Board of Commissioners he did so with the goal of being an able body participant in helping formulate important decisions that will have a direct bearing on the future of Lafourche Parish and Port Fourchon.

"We have so much going on, and our future is extremely bright," Pitre said. "Our board and staff truly care about our community and work hard every day to play whatever role we can in seeing us continue to strive as an organization and port."



## IMPORTANT VISITORS:



The GLPC was honored to host members of the Cut Off Fishing Club recently.

This club, which was founded in 1977 by Rodney Pierce and Euris Dubois, has a rich history in our community thanks to its participation in many events and hosting its annual June fishing rodeo.

Much of the proceeds from the rodeo goes toward funding several scholarships for South Lafourche High School graduates

as well as local charities and other organizations.

Among those in attendance for a presentation and tour of Port Fourchon were Sidney Triche and former GLPC Commissioners Jimmy Guidry and Ted Savoie. Current Commissioner T-Jim Lafont joined the group too.

Led by President Lon Griffin, the COFC is a great example of an organization that cares deeply about its community through its deeds and actions during the course of every calendar year.

# COMMISSIONERS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY THEY SERVE THROUGH GOOD DEEDS AND ACTIONS



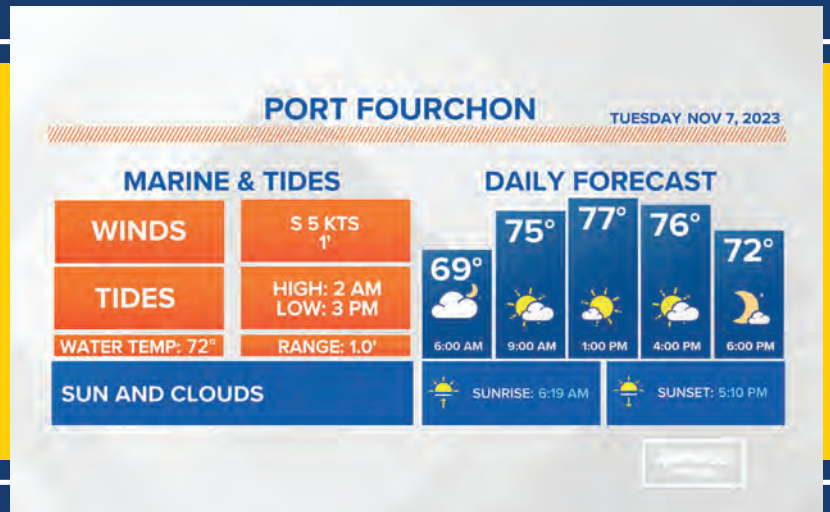
Board Treasurer John "T-John" Melancon, Jr. and his wife, Rosalind, were fished through South Louisiana Bank's participation in South Lafourche High School's Project Graduation. The program is designed to promote the message that all seniors should celebrate important milestones such as graduation free of temptation through alcohol and drugs. By having his house fished, the Melancon family made a donation to the group, while selecting another person to be fished.

This is but one example of many where the GLPC Commissioners that include Harris "Chuckie" Cheramie, Jr. (President), Rodney J. Gisclair, Jr. (Vice-President), Mike

Callais (Secretary), Jimmy "T-Jim" Lafont, Larry Griffin, Kris Callais, Tom Pitre, and Reggie Ledet stepped up to support the local community. Thanks to these gentlemen, a sponsorship agreement was established with the Town of Golden Meadow, Cut Off Youth Center, and the Bayou Civic Club in 2022 to provide them with valuable dollars.

Following 2021s Ida, the Board also took an active role in helping with the recovery effort of the 10th Ward through volunteering and raising thousands of dollars to give to the Bless Your Heart non-profit organization. This money helped provide necessary supplies and other items to the local community in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

## WEATHER FORECAST PARTNERSHIP PROVES USEFUL



The Greater Lafourche Port Commission's Director of Communications reached out to the WWL-TV Weather Team several years ago to discuss the possibility of having its weather department produce Port Fourchon specific forecasts daily.

As of today, the weather team has provided the GLPC with more than 1000 graphics that are posted daily to our Facebook page.

This community service is for the benefit of our tenants and users as well as others who frequent Port Fourchon.

The relationship has also been a Godsend during

hurricane season when the weather team has produced specialized forecasts leading up to and during various storm events like 2021s Ida.

"We can't thank WWL-TV's Weather Team enough for contributing these graphics to us the last few years," GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson said. "Having a partnership like this has been fruitful in the sense that it gives people who are interested in Port Fourchon trusted forecasts in order to better plan what they should expect during their visit."



# COASTAL WETLANDS PARK CONTINUES TO EVOLVE

The Port Fourchon Coastal Wetlands Park will undergo further changes in 2024 thanks to the construction of an orientation hub and addition of a kiosk where visitors can rent kayaks to traverse the park's one-plus mile tidal creek.

In total, the park consists of more than 100 acres of purpose-built wetlands highlighting the GLPCs balanced

approach to resilient, responsible development that benefits the environment in which it resides.

The park is designed as an immersive recreational and educational area. It is open for public use from sunrise to sunset, providing a much-needed opportunity for outdoor activity for visitors and for those working in the port as well.



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“By helping universities, companies and technical colleges in Louisiana develop critical offshore wind technology and know-how, this program will help Louisiana stay a leader for the next century. I would like to thank the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration, as well as Rep. Troy Carter, Sen. Bill Cassidy and President Biden for their support of the CHIPS and Science Act that makes this important work possible.”

LSU’s lead on the project is its National Center for Advanced Manufacturing, or NCAM, as offshore wind development relies directly on capabilities to engineer, design and transport advanced materials. One of the first tasks will be to hire a dedicated Regional Innovation Officer, or RIO, to coordinate the work of the consortium and build a comprehensive regional technology strategy for Phase 2 implementation.

In August, GLOW Propeller consortium member RWE, an international renewable energy company, became the sole offshore wind lease holder in the Gulf of Mexico, in federal waters due south of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Offshore wind development in the Gulf of Mexico poses unique challenges, which the LSU consortium aims to address. With lower average wind speeds, softer soils and major storm events, the Gulf region is considered a second-tier site where successful development could forge the future of similar sites around the globe. GLOW Propeller is an opportunity for Louisiana to export knowledge and technology to the world, just as Louisiana workers helped build the Block Island Wind Farm off Rhode Island, the nation’s first commercial wind farm.

The 2022 CHIPS and Science Act authorized the Tech Hubs program at \$10 billion. Designation as a Tech Hub unlocks the opportunity for the LSU-led team to apply for tens of millions

of dollars in funding to accelerate offshore wind research and development in Louisiana. The EDA is announcing Phase 2 implementation grants of \$50-75 million each to five or more of the 31 newly designated Tech Hubs.

The GLOW Propeller consortium’s efforts build on Louisiana’s generational expertise, resources and assets in energy production, leveraging some of the largest legacy energy infrastructure in the nation with thousands of miles of pipeline and one of the world’s largest maritime systems with 32 ports. Traditional skills used in offshore fossil fuel production, such as welding, electrical and coating work, translate directly to offshore wind and the manufacture of components like nacelles, jackets, towers and blades.

GLOW Propeller will receive the full support of the newly launched LSU Institute for Energy Innovation, which coordinates energy partnerships and projects across the state and beyond. The goal of GLOW is to transform Louisiana’s energy workforce while ensuring the economic benefits of energy development reach people and communities across the region.

Through GLOW Propeller, LSU further strengthens its position as a talent and technology development leader in the energy transition. LSU recently secured \$5 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for a Direct Air Capture Hub and shares in the \$50 million Build Back Better award for H2theFuture to accelerate hydrogen development, including the advancement of green hydrogen, which relies on renewable energy from wind and solar. An LSU-led team is also one of 16 current finalists for the largest award in National Science Foundation history—\$160 million—for its Engine for Louisiana Innovation and Transition of Energy, or ELITE.

## LA 1 ELEVATED HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSING NICELY



When completed in the summer of 2027, Phase 2 of the LA 1 Elevated Highway will be the longest bridges in the entire world with length of 19.3 miles stretching from Golden Meadow all the way to Port Fourchon.

The \$460-plus million infrastructure project, which is one of the largest of its kind currently being constructed, is a little more than a year in.

Contractor James Construction is making significant progress with its activity being focused on the northernmost section of the elevated highway beginning with the on-ramp at the intersection of LA 3235 in Golden Meadow to just south of the levee system. Work continues on doing concrete pilings, pouring concrete caps, setting concrete grids and pouring concrete decks.

According to a recent update from the LA 1 Coalition, the elevated highway is being built using an “end-on” construction method supported by a trestle system. The trestle sits on temporary steel piles allowing the contractor to build the highway underneath with cranes.

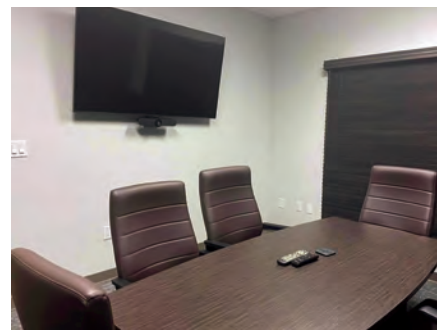
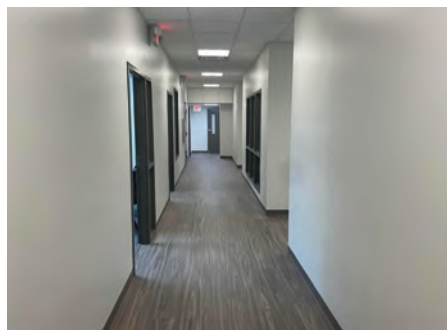
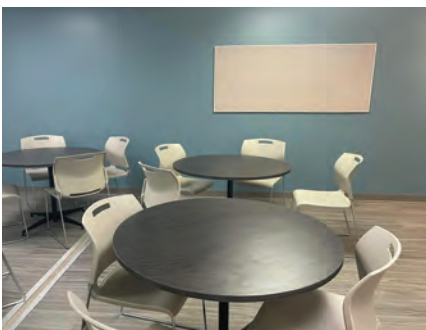
# RIBBON CUTTING

At the end of September, the Lafourche Chamber of Commerce helped facilitate a ribbon cutting and rededication event for the Greater Lafourche Port Commission's

Administration Building in Cut Off.

The administration building incurred water damage during Hurricane Ida and had to be completely restored on the inside.

GLPC staff moved back in the building in August of this year. The state-of-the-art building includes a number of technological upgrades as well as new furnishings.





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# GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION BOARD:

**Harris "Chuckie" Cheramie, Jr. – President, Seat A**

**Rodney J. Gisclair, Jr. – Vice President, Seat D**

**Mike Callais – Secretary, Seat H**

**John "T-John" Melancon, Jr. – Treasurer, Seat G**

**Thomas "Tom" Pitre III – Board Member, Seat B**

**Jimmy "T-Jim" Lafont – Board Member, Seat C**

**Reggie Ledet – Board Member, Seat E**

**Larry Griffin – Board Member, Seat F**

**Kris Callais – Board Member, Seat I**

