



# FOURCHON



# THE PORT MESSENGER

VOLUME 09 • APRIL - MAY 2023

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

### PAGE 1

Crowley Takes Key Step Toward Becoming One of Port Fourchon's Newest Tenants

### PAGE 2

State of the Port

### PAGE 3

Commissioner Spotlight  
Tenant Highlight  
ImPORTant Visitor

### PAGE 4

Historic Purchase Agreement to Benefit Port Fourchon and Community At Large

### PAGE 5

Fourchon Pavilion Project to Offer Opportunities for Fishing Events and Much More

Newest Commissioner Officially Sworn In

### PAGE 6

Facility Repairs Nearing Completion

### PAGE 7

Port Images

### PAGE 8

Greater Lafourche Port Commission Board

# CROWLEY TAKES KEY STEP TOWARD BECOMING ONE OF PORT FOURCHON'S NEWEST TENANTS

Crowley reached a **Right of First Refusal** agreement to potentially lease and **develop an offshore wind terminal** at a recent Greater Lafourche Port Commission Board Meeting.

**The more than 40-acre site, encompassing over 2,200 linear feet of prime waterfront property, is expected to become the home of a purpose-driven offshore wind facility in the coming years.**

Located on Slip C adjacent to Flotation Canal, the site is primed to help service the burgeoning offshore wind marketplace in the Gulf of Mexico.

Crowley, a leading maritime, logistics and energy solutions company based in Jacksonville, Fla., has more than 130 years of experience providing ports, maritime and engineering

solutions, including in the Gulf of Mexico markets. Through **Crowley Wind Services**, the company has begun development and planning for wind services terminals in Massachusetts and California, leveraging its land and sea assets, offshore



operations expertise, third-party logistics capability, digital platforms and workforce development and training initiatives.

"We are thrilled to take the next step to welcome Crowley to Port Fourchon and our amazing slate of tenants and users," **GLPC Executive Director Chett**

**Chiasson** said. "Crowley's forward-thinking vision aligns perfectly with our goals at the GLPC to further our role as a leading service supply Port for all forms of energy, including wind."

"We look forward to working with the Port Commission to consider the next steps in serving the wind energy needs and goals of Port Fourchon and its communities," said **Bob Karl, senior vice president and general manager,**

**Crowley Wind Services.** "The port is strategically located to serve as a hub for the supply chain and transportation required to create clean, renewable wind energy. We are committed to a process that is collaborative to create a sustainable energy solution."

# STATE OF THE PORT



## UPDATE ON WHERE WE ARE IN 2023

BY CHETT CHIASSON, GLPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last time I wrote a State of the Port feature we were wrapping up 2022 and closing the book on an uneventful storm season that allowed us to embark on our many repair projects without interruption. I am happy to report that as of today we are putting the finishing touches on most of our repair projects with one of the critical pieces being the return to our administration building in Cut Off. With all the exterior work completed, we are only left with a few remaining items on the interior in advance of us relocating our day-to-day operations back into our repaired and more resilient building by mid-May at the latest.

While returning to 100-percent of our operational and physical capabilities is great news, this only scratches the proverbial surface of all the exciting things we get to report on right now.

February saw a pair of huge announcements that bode well for not only the future of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, but Port Fourchon and the entirety of Lafourche Parish.

Between Crowley 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, these announcements truly mark a distinct turning point for the port and region.

It is my anticipation that the property under Right of First Refusal will be leased within the next several months 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.

The agreement to purchase the Caillouet Land acreage is a deal that will not only immediately bring about additional leases and revenue to the GLPC but will also serve as a major catalyst for us to build 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 comes the news that the Caillouet family is donating 165 acres of property to the State of Louisiana with the intention the state will eventually create its 22nd state park on the southernmost tip of Lafourche Parish.

Beside this, we continue to see daily progress being made at our South Lafourche Leonard J. Miller, Jr. Airport thanks to a new seal coat, obstruction removal project, the beginning of a new terminal building with surcharging of the land, and an Airport Bridge & Connector Road project, which is roughly a year away from being completed. This bridge and connector road will provide safe and reliable access from the airport to Highway 3235 for daily commuters and large-size trucks alike, and more importantly, a new and more reliable access point for the community as a whole.

Further work includes construction of the final leg of the elevated portion of LA 1 from Golden Meadow all the way down to Port Fourchon.

At the same time, we continue to press

forward with planned projects to enhance our existing Coastal Wetlands Park and Recreation Area in the Port that will ultimately connect to our new Fourchon Pavilion on Flotation Canal, which is now complete and ready to start welcoming visitors this summer.

Engagement with and interest in Port Fourchon has never been more robust than now as we reconfirm our claim on being a leader for all offshore energy activity in the Gulf of Mexico whether it be offshore wind or otherwise. Yes, you heard me right, we plan to be a hub for ALL offshore energy activity in the Gulf of Mexico because our tenant businesses have the know-how and people to accomplish any and every goal put in front of them today and into the future.

Our staff's weekly and monthly calendars have had to have fields added to accommodate the appointments, conferences, visits, and other activities that have consumed our daily lives. Let me make it clear that this is what we consider a "good busy." This ambitious schedule is certainly a credit and direct result of our Board of Commissioners and staff doing an amazing job making us shine brightly as an organization.

As we continue marching forward through 2023, 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 additional opportunities will surely flourish in the years to come.

# COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT: JOHN (T-JOHN) MELANCON, JR.

To say John (T-John) Melancon, Jr., is a well-rounded individual would be an understatement.

Melancon, who has loyally served the 10th-Ward as Seat G Commissioner since 2010, is a lifelong resident and businessman of the Bayou Lafourche Region.

You could almost surmise that being a member of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission was destined for Melancon, as he followed in the footsteps of his well-respected father, John "Johnny" Melancon, Sr., who himself was a Commissioner too.

Currently, Melancon serves as the Board Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairman. These positions play an important role in the everyday workings and growth of Port Fourchon and South Lafourche's Leonard J. Miller, Jr. Airport in Galliano.

In conjunction with other board members and the staff at the GLPC, Melancon helps oversee a \$113 million annual budget that has grown steadily through the years as the

port continues to become a larger and larger economic engine for the area.

"I enjoy being able to play a small part in helping to grow the port as we attempt to provide more jobs and prosperity for our community," Melancon said. "With the recent acquisitions the port has made and the projects we have planned for Fourchon Island, our future is very bright."

Melancon is a proud Nicholls graduate with a keen interest in supporting his local community through championing its parks and recreational centers. Additionally, Melancon is an active member of the Krewe of Versailles Mardi Gras organization based in Larose. Melancon is married to the former Rosalind Griffin and resides in Cut Off.



## TENANT HIGHLIGHT:



**Hornbeck Offshore** is celebrating its 25th anniversary and nearly 20 years at **HOS Port in Port Fourchon**. HOS Port serves as the company's U.S. Gulf of Mexico home port and base of operation for its fleet of supply vessels and multi-purpose support vessels. The facility, strategically located on Flotation Canal and Bayou Lafourche/Slip A, comprises 66 acres and nearly 3,000 linear feet of dock space. HOS Port has a long history of safe and reliable operations.

HOS Port also offers logistics support for drilling, production, and construction projects. A broad suite of services are provided including: crane, forklift, and labor services for cargo staging and transfer; indoor and outdoor storage; office space / trailer housing; dispatching services; vessel dockage; and vehicle parking. In addition, HOS Port tenants have offered fuel and lube distribution, liquid mud production and distribution, waste removal and tank cleaning.

For more information on HOS Port and Hornbeck Offshore, visit [www.hornbeckoffshore.com](http://www.hornbeckoffshore.com).

## IMPORTANT VISITORS:



The GLPC is constantly welcoming and hosting different groups from Congressmen to students interested in Port Fourchon.

Recently, the GLPC had the opportunity to talk with members of the Berwick High School FFA Club about the port and its operations.

During the visit, these attentive students learned about current and future job opportunities that exist in Port Fourchon as they prepare to graduate in the next few years.

The club members seemed awe-struck by the overall size and scope of Port Fourchon as they toured the area via a bus.



# HISTORIC PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO BENEFIT PORT FOURCHON AND COMMUNITY AT LARGE

The **Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Caillouet Land, LLC**, and the **Caillouet family** announced in early February they had entered into a purchase agreement which will result in the Port Commission purchasing over 850 acres of land south of Leeville, most notably including all Caillouet-owned industrial property in Port Fourchon.

According to GLPC Executive Director **Chett Chiasson**, the \$36.7 million purchase will bring an immediate **\$1.4 million annual net benefit** when considering yearly rent savings and new rent collections.

"More than anything else, on behalf of the Commissioners and myself, I want to thank the Caillouet family for being so supportive of Port Fourchon through the years," Chiasson said. "Both parties gave this agreement great thought, and we mutually felt this was the best way forward for Port Fourchon as we embark on an ambitious future of growth and tremendous promise."

**GLPC Board President Chuckie Cheramie** added, "This is a great day for the Port and this area in general. This will truly be a beneficial deal that will have a positive impact on our area starting today and for many years to come."

The purchase will include unrestricted access to Fourchon Island, paving the way for construction of a new Fourchon Bridge, and will leave the Port Commission as the exclusive manager of all industrial property situated within Port Fourchon.

The new Fourchon Bridge will connect Port Fourchon with the nearly 1000-acre Fourchon Island project, which will provide more expansive industrial access to the Gulf of Mexico, increasing harbor depths to accommodate larger vessels, rigs, platforms, and a burgeoning offshore wind energy marketplace.

"Due to the financial discipline and keen insight of our Board of Commissioners, the stage was set for this moment in time," Chiasson said. "We have continued to budget conservatively each year, putting us in the financial position to make this investment in our community. This practice has allowed us to weather difficult times. In addition to

accommodating requests for short-term rental adjustments in order to maintain the services offered by our tenants, we have been able to strategically leverage our funds into better grant-matching opportunities and, ultimately, this significant land acquisition which benefits Port Fourchon and our entire region."

The land being purchased has been owned by the Caillouet Family since 1895. In 1962, the family donated about seven acres of land to improve navigation in Bayou Lafourche. A year later, an additional 160 acres was donated by the family to enable the creation of Port Fourchon.

The sale, which is expected to close within the next several months, will leave the Caillouet family with about 165 acres in the vicinity of Fourchon Beach that are intended to be donated to the State of Louisiana for the creation of a state park. With the construction of the new Fourchon Bridge, the park will provide open space and recreational areas for public enjoyment. The funding mechanism and land acceptance for the proposed Caillouet-Fourchon State Park will be put before the Louisiana Legislature for consideration in its upcoming session, and the parties

anticipate finalizing the donation later this year.

"The generosity of the Caillouet family's planned donation of this land to potentially create **Louisiana's 22nd state park** will provide people with additional options for exploring our Louisiana coastline. While the planning process is still underway, this area could prove beneficial to families looking for a fishing excursion or just simply a beautiful place to camp along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico," said **Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser**.

**Tom Durel, President of Caillouet Land** added, "Through these actions the Caillouet Family expresses appreciation to the men and women of lower Lafourche who over the years have helped preserve and make Fourchon into the major economic enterprise it is. The Caillouet-Fourchon State Park will celebrate their side-by-side achievements of conservation and industry."



# FOURCHON PAVILION TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES GALORE



The GLPC Board of Commissioners are constantly looking out for its community and its best interests.

The recently constructed Fourchon Pavilion is a perfect example of this, as the multi-purpose pavilion will offer much in the way of opportunities for locals through fishing tournaments and other recreational activities.

The pavilion is located on Flotation Canal Road across from the Coastal Wetlands Park in Port Fourchon.

"This idea was initiated by our Board of Commissioners who had a desire to

see a building that could comfortably hold community events in a scenic setting," GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson said. "We all feel like this will be an amazing addition to the port and works well in conjunction with the Coastal Wetlands Park that is adjacent to the pavilion. It is our full intention to build a walkway along the outer perimeter of the wetlands park to connect both these features in the coming months."

The pavilion, which was self-funded and paid for by the GLPC, will have the

ability to hold a variety of events with power hookups. While the pavilion has an open-air concept around the lower half of its wall, the ability exists to put skirting and close it in to run air-conditioning if needed.

Several upcoming fishing rodeos, including a Fourchon based one where the money raised goes to local nonprofits in the form of grants for schools is one such example of how this pavilion will benefit the public in the near and long-term.

# THOMAS PITRE III SWORN IN AS SEAT B COMMISSIONER

Newly elected Port Commissioner Thomas "Tom" Pitre III was formally sworn into office by Lafourche Parish District Attorney Kristine Russell on February 8, 2023, officially taking his place at Seat B during the Greater Lafourche Port Commission's monthly board meeting.

Commissioner Pitre was the only candidate to qualify for Seat B, winning unopposed in advance of the March 25, 2023, special election. Pitre was previously appointed to Seat B to fill the spot that had been held by Johnny Ordonne.

Board President Chuckie Cheramie welcomed the board's newest elected member, saying, "We are more than happy to have you on board."

Executive Director Chett Chiasson added, "We congratulate Tom and look forward to working with him into the future as he moves from being an appointee to an elected port commissioner."

Tom Pitre is a well-known business leader in the community, running family business Tom's Service Station in Golden Meadow. He and his wife Hope have three children and seven grandchildren.



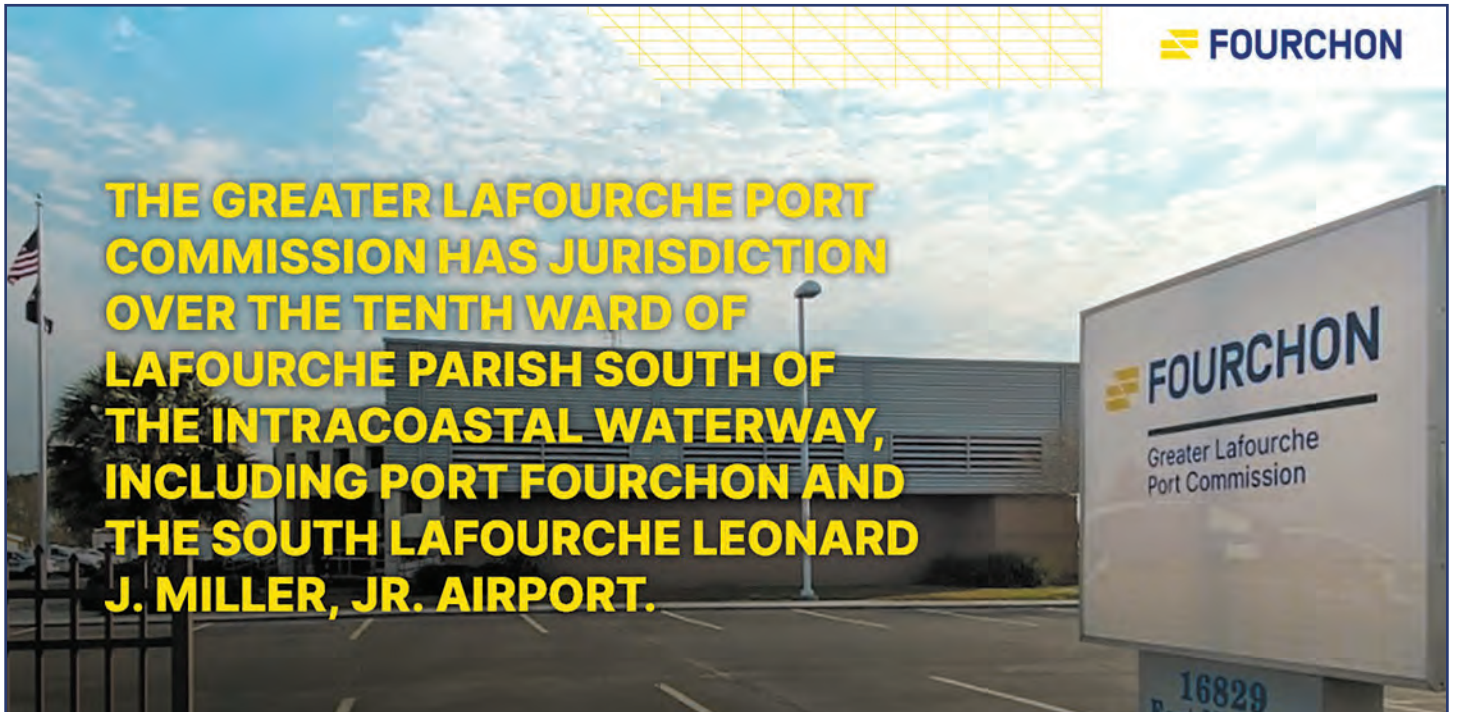
# FACILITY REPAIRS NEARING COMPLETION





**PORT FOURCHON IS AT THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT OF LOUISIANA, ACCESSIBLE BY ROADWAY.**

**FOURCHON**



**FOURCHON**

**THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE TENTH WARD OF LAFOURCHE PARISH SOUTH OF THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, INCLUDING PORT FOURCHON AND THE SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEONARD J. MILLER, JR. AIRPORT.**



**SOUTH LAFOURCHE STORM HARBOR MARINA IS ACTIVATED FOR EMERGENCY USE BY THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION DURING STORM**

**FOURCHON**



16829 EAST MAIN STREET  
CUT OFF, LOUISIANA 70345



VOLUME 09 • APRIL - MAY 2023

# 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**

**Ted Savoie - Board Member, Seat E**

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

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

