



# Making Connections

The Official Publication of the Louisiana Ground Water Association

Volume 9 Issue 2 Winter 2024

## From the Executive Director's Desk - Winter 2024 Newsletter



It is truly hard to imagine we are coming to the end of yet another year. This past January was once again a very successful convention as was the make-up session held in April. This past spring, when our Executive Director Joel Walton decided to retire, I was asked to step up and fill his position. It was such an overwhelming honor to even be considered for this position given the years Joel has successfully managed LGWA. Joel and his wonderful wife Linda did such a great job keeping our organization together and running smoothly with successful conventions we all enjoyed year after year. Even in the dreaded COVID-19 era, Joel kept LGWA together. What a great leader! My wife Kelly and I wish Joel and Linda a fantastic and relaxing retirement. To ensure a smooth transition, I have been working closely with Joel and other board members, to ensure this move is seamless.

I have been asked several times over the years, how I was introduced to the water well business. That is a really interesting question I have answered many, many times. After graduation, I spent six years in the Louisiana Army National Guard. During those years, I also worked for Tenneco Oil Company until it was purchased by Chevron USA in 1988. This is where things get really interesting. The story begins in the mid-1980s when I met Kelly. Her parents, Glenn and Carrie Billeaud, owned a long-standing, second-generation water well company - Glenn Billeaud Pump and Water Well Service. Glenn and Carrie opened an office in New Iberia, back in 1966, when they were ready to branch out from the family company, owned by Glenn's dad Rene Billeaud. The original company resided in Lafayette on Johnston Street across from the old horse farm which opened before the World War II era.

We unexpectedly lost Kelly's Dad at the age of 48 in September of 1988. Kelly and I were preparing to marry in January the following year. Carrie ran the business with great success for 15 years following Glenn's death. During the 1990s, I began helping out part time in the business. When Carrie tragically passed away in December 2004, in the very building she and Glenn built together, Kelly and I took over the business and slowly rebuilt it to what it is today. A tremendous amount of hard work and dedication went into carrying on the legacy of the now third-generation business. In a matter of a few years, I was able to secure my driller's license and soon thereafter, volunteered to be on the LGWA Board. In addition, during the Bobby Jindal administration, I was nominated to serve on the Louisiana Drillers' Board which I still serve on today.

My goal is to continue growing the association, ensuring we have great conventions people want to come to and participate in. I look forward to seeing all of you on January 7-8, 2025 for our convention and trade show at the Paragon Casino and Resort in Marksville. Thank you once again for this opportunity to serve the LGWA.

For comments or suggestions, please call (337) 654-4666 or e-mail [suireterry@gmail.com](mailto:suireterry@gmail.com)

*Terry*

Terry L. Suire - LGWA Executive Director

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## City of Carencro Makes Progress on New Wastewater Facility

*Adapted from Information by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality*

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) established a specialized Tiger Team to address wastewater challenges facing the City of Carencro. Launched by Secretary Giacometto in March 2024, LDEQ's Tiger Teams are dedicated task forces providing concentrated attention and resources to legacy environmental issues requiring urgent and innovative solutions. The Carencro project is one of the first Tiger Team success stories, demonstrating the potential for meaningful progress on the state's environmental concerns.

"The success of the Carencro Tiger Team is a testament to what can be achieved when we focus our resources and expertise, and work collaboratively with communities to solve problems proactively," said LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto. "This initiative



LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto, Carencro Mayor Charlotte Clavier, and other officials toured the city's wastewater facilities.

was about more than just resolving an immediate issue; it was about demonstrating a new way of tackling complex environmental challenges across Louisiana. The Carencro project is a prime example of how our Tiger Teams can make a significant difference in Louisiana's communities by providing tailored solutions and timely support."

The Carencro Tiger Team was formed following a meeting between Secretary Giacometto, LDEQ staff, Mayor Charlotte Clavier, and other officials from the City of Carencro. Mayor Clavier expressed concerns over ongoing noncompliance and escalating project costs associated with its proposed new wastewater treatment plant, which the city had chosen to consolidate from its two existing plants to better manage ammonia effluent violations. Despite securing U.S. Department of Agriculture funding and selecting a consolidation strategy vetted by consulting engineers, the city encountered escalating costs and enforcement challenges.

To address these issues, the Carencro Tiger Team was tasked with developing potential solutions and timelines for the city. The team conducted an in-depth analysis of similar communities with comparable population sizes and wastewater treatment needs. This research provided a clearer picture of the costs associated with such projects. Additionally, the team identified opportunities for technical assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, which offers below-market interest loans for municipalities in need of additional funding.

The Tiger Team's efforts resulted in a recommendation for Carencro to seek a second opinion on the cost estimates for its new wastewater treatment plant. By May 2024, the city had acted on this advice, selecting a new design engineering firm.

While Carencro is in the process of fulfilling its requirements, the updated project completion timeline for the new wastewater treatment plant is now set for April 2027 - one month earlier than initially planned.

## Now Accepting Classified Ads

**Making Connections** is now accepting classified ad listings.

Text Line Ads - \$8.00 line, 4-line minimum

Classified Display Ads - \$60 per column inch

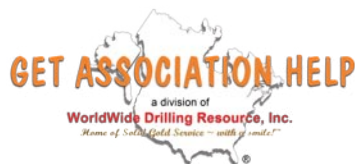
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Secretary Giacometto surveys the city's wastewater facilities with Carencro Water Supervisor Buster Broussard.

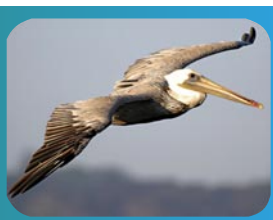
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The Louisiana Ground Water Association:  
Helping to preserve a priceless resource - the Louisiana groundwater aquifers and recharge areas.



PO Box 81605  
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Membership in the Louisiana Ground Water Association (LGWA) is open to water well and geotechnical drilling professionals. LGWA and its members are active throughout the State of Louisiana.



## Irrigation Well Essentials

Drilled wells can provide clean water with few impurities for a variety of applications. As more and more restrictions are placed on municipal water supplies, many customers are opting for irrigation wells to supply their agricultural needs.

The drilled well is the heart of irrigation systems with groundwater supplies, so it must be properly designed and compatible with the pump and distribution system to ensure long life, efficiency, and economic operation. The process of installing irrigation wells is a lot like creating wells for drinking water, only the water is connected to a sprinkler system instead of being pumped into the home. An irrigation well could be a shallow well - which uses groundwater; or an artisan well - which is a deep well drilled into bedrock. Once the well is drilled, a pump, sprinkler clock, and energy source are installed.



*Louisiana has an abundant supply of water, but the demand for water still occasionally exceeds the amount readily available.*

Irrigation wells depend on the following principles of design and construction:

**Preliminary Investigation** - This is the foundation of well design. It includes the examination of records, geological data, and the drilling of test holes.

**Design Procedure** - Once the preliminary investigation and site selection are complete, a well design can be selected to best utilize the hydrogeological conditions present at the site.

**Gravel Pack** - Gravel-pack construction is recommended in aquifers consisting of fine sand; loosely cemented sandstone formations; and extensively stratified formations consisting of alternating layers of fine and coarse sediments of thin silt and clay. This makes the area immediately surrounding the well screen more permeable by removing formation materials and packing artificially-graded materials in their place.

**Well Screen** - It is important to choose the right size well screen. A screen too short affects the efficiency of the well and a screen too long causes problems such as cascading water, entrained air, and accelerated corrosion and/or incrustation. The most favorable length of well screen is chosen with regards to thickness of the aquifer, available drawdown, and stratification of the aquifer.

**Slot Openings** - Gravel packing retains the water-bearing formation, while the well screen retains the gravel-packed particles. The size of the screen slot in this type of well is selected to retain 90% or more of packed material.

**Screen Diameter** - Screen diameter is selected to provide enough total area of screen openings so the average entrance velocity of water through slot openings does not exceed the design standard of 0.1 feet per second.

**Screen Material** - Based on results of preliminary investigations, the well screen should be made of materials as corrosion-resistant as necessary.

Irrigation wells can be a valuable resource for farmers and growers. Untimely breakdown of these wells can be avoided by selecting the proper gravel pack and screen slot-opening size in the design phase. A properly constructed irrigation well should have a useful life of at least 25 years.

## ATTENTION STUDENTS - SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE!**

Thanks to Louisiana Ground Water Association (LGWA) supporters, the association will be awarding up to two scholarships for LGWA family members and employees.

Applicants must be a high school senior intending to enroll in, or currently enrolled in, a two- or four-year college program, or attending an independent water well drilling school. Fields of study should include groundwater science, drilling, ground source heating / cooling, dewatering, or related courses.

Completed applications must be accompanied by an official copy of the student's high school or college transcript, class rank, and SAT / ACT scores. All items required by the application must be completed for an application to be considered.

Recipients will be required to maintain a 2.0 grade point average. The funds will be awarded for the fall semester once the association receives a copy of the recipient's fall semester transcripts. Additional funds will be sent for spring semester once a copy of the spring transcripts are submitted.

**Look for the Scholarship Application on Page 7.**  
For more information, contact Terry Suire at 337-654-4666,  
or e-mail [suireterry@gmail.com](mailto:suireterry@gmail.com).  
**The deadline to apply is February 28, 2025.**



## Judge Orders Settlement in Contamination Case

*Adapted from Information by Classaction.org*

A Louisiana man filed a class action suit over the alleged contamination of his property by “an enormous toxic waste plume” he claims, stretches more than five miles from two creosoting plant sites once operated by International Paper Company (IP). According to the lawsuit, IP knew the two sites were leaking sludge and waste materials into the soil and groundwater near DeRidder, Louisiana, yet failed to notify property owners.

The lawsuit explains that in approximately 1918, a subsidiary of American Creosoting Company purchased land from Longbell Lumber Company, who owned land adjacent to the site, to build a plant, to use creosote, a dark-brown wood preservative distilled from coal tar, to treat pine utility poles. The two companies allegedly operated the plant until International Paper acquired Longbell in 1957, and took over the other site’s operations in 1963.

Creosoting is known to produce toxic by-products harmful to humans and the environment. When International Paper stopped operating the plant in 1989, the company allegedly claimed in an affidavit the “hazardous waste” produced from creosote treatments had been removed from the sites. In the same filing with The Beauregard Parish Clerk of Court’s Office, however, IP apparently admitted toxins remained in the sediment at the plant. According to the lawsuit, IP, despite being fully aware contamination was likely, had failed to line the ponds and treatment facilities at the plant to prevent toxic chemicals from leaching into the surface soil and groundwater.

The plaintiff, who owns property about five miles southeast of the plant, alleges he discovered “foul smelling” toxic chemical waste “percolating” in his yard, after removing a tree stump.

According to the lawsuit, IP made no effort to warn property owners, despite the relative ease with which they could be identified, and the surrounding communities of the toxic waste contamination, and has instead “done all in its power” to cover up the problem for more than 30 years.

The lawsuit requires the defendants to investigate and remove the contamination from proposed class members’ properties or, alternatively, pay for the relocation of proposed class members to uncontaminated properties. Additionally, the case demands damages for the loss of the properties’ value, the “annoyance and inconvenience” of dealing with the contamination, and physical and emotional harm caused by the chemicals, as well as the cost of medical monitoring.

The 30-page suit also names as defendants Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation, Kerr-McGee Operating Corporation, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, and Occidental Petroleum Corporation, who are successors of the companies formerly responsible for the sites, as well as BNSF Railway Company, who the plaintiff claims owned “certain right of ways and land” near the two sites and transported creosoting products for commercial sale.

Occidental Petroleum Corporation and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, both alleged to be successors to an entity formerly responsible for the American Creosote DeRidder Superfund site in DeRidder, Louisiana, agreed to settle the claims for \$3.5 million.

U.S. District Court Judge James Cain Jr. of the Western District of Louisiana, recently approved the settlement. The deal covers all residents, homeowners, and landowners within certain geographical boundaries and/or other individuals (such as former residents) who may have suffered personal injury or property damage from contamination alleged to emanate from the American Creosote DeRidder Superfund site.



### LGWA Newsletter Ad Sizes and Rates per Insertion

		1 Time	2 Times
Full Page	7.75 x 9.75	\$750	\$640
Back Cover (Full Page)	8.50 x 11.0	\$900	\$765
1/2-Page Horizontal	7.75 x 4.75	\$550	\$470
1/2-Page Vertical	3.75 x 9.75	\$550	\$470
1/4-Page	3.75 x 4.75	\$375	\$310
Business Card	3.5 x 2.0	\$100	\$100



### Opportunity Awaits!

Show your support of the Louisiana Ground Water Association by advertising in **Making Connections**, the association’s biannual newsletter. This newsletter is distributed by mail and available online.

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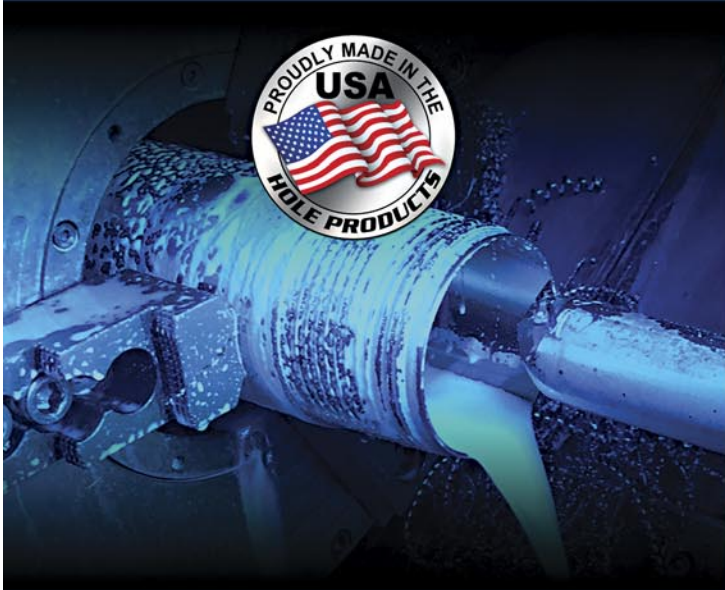
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## Louisiana Ground Water Association Convention & Trade Show

### Membership and Convention Registration

January 7-8, 2025

Paragon Casino

Marksville, LA

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ WW Contractor License Number : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Personal E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Phone : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payments:

Annual Dues (includes convention registration): <b>\$160</b>	
Nonmember Convention Registration: <b>\$160</b>	
Student and Government Employee Registration: <b>\$75</b>	
Banquet Fee Per Person: <b>\$20</b>	
<b>Late Registration Fee if Paid after December 1, 2024: \$20</b>	
<b>Total Due</b>	

Attendees, please return this form with your check made payable to LGWA, P.O. Box 81605 Lafayette, LA 70598 Phone: 337-654-4666

### Tabletop Exhibitor Application

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Personal E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Company Phone : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payments:

Exhibit Fee (includes membership for current year): <b>\$350</b> Includes draped table and 2 chairs	
Night before convention dinner (per person): <b>\$20</b>	
<b>Total Due</b>	

Name Badges Should Appear as Follows:

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Exhibitors, please return this form with your check made payable to LGWA, P.O. Box 81605 Lafayette, LA 70598 Phone: 337-654-4666



## Louisiana Ground Water Association Scholarship Application

**February 28<sup>th</sup> of each year is the final day scholarship applications will be accepted.**

**All items required by this application must be completed as stipulated; incomplete applications may be eliminated from consideration.**

The Louisiana Ground Water Association (LGWA) will award up to two scholarships to qualified applicants.

To be considered, you must be an immediate family member of an LGWA member, or an LGWA member's employee. Applicants must be high school seniors intending to start, or be currently enrolled in a two- or four-year college program, or attending an independent water well drilling school. Studies should include groundwater science, drilling, ground source heating / cooling, dewatering, or related courses.

Completed applications must be accompanied by an official copy of the student's high school or college transcript, class rank, and SAT / ACT scores.

Recipients will be required to maintain a 2.0 grade point average. The fall semester scholarship will be awarded \$750 once the association receives a copy of the recipient's fall semester transcripts. An additional \$750 will be awarded for the spring semester once a copy of the spring semester transcripts are received.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

LGWA Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Relationship to LGWA Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Graduation Date (High School) \_\_\_\_\_ (College) \_\_\_\_\_

College Major (if Declared) \_\_\_\_\_

LGWA Member Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School / College \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**In addition to this application, please include (attached on a separate sheet):**

- List all high school honors and awards.
- List all extracurricular activities.
- Describe an event in your life that has made you the person you are today and how it has affected your goals.

**ALL ITEMS ABOVE MUST BE SUBMITTED.**

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the application and all additional items to: Terry Suire, P.O. Box 81605 Lafayette, LA 70598 337-654-4666



## The Upper Barataria Marsh Creation Project is Complete

*Adapted from Information by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries*

Wetlands are a pivotal part of the natural system providing tremendous benefits for coastal ecosystems and communities. They provide clean water, habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries, and countless opportunities for recreation, from hunting and fishing, to hiking,



*This timeline describes different phases of the Upper Barataria Marsh Creation project.*

as well as observing wildlife. Additionally, wetlands provide Louisiana with its first line of defense during storms by reducing the detrimental effects of wind, waves, and flooding.

The Upper Barataria Marsh Creation Project is one of NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's) and its partners' largest restoration projects to date. The 1200-acre project restores land lost from the Deepwater Horizon

Oil Spill, supports healthier fisheries in Louisiana, and takes a step toward making the public whole. The project was approved by the Deepwater Horizon Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group to restore habitats impacted by the oil spill.

After the spill, state and federal agencies undertook an intense scientific study of the impact. They used this assessment to develop a science-based, comprehensive restoration plan for the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA led development of the comprehensive restoration plan, along with the five Gulf States and three additional federal partners comprising the Deepwater Horizon Trustee Council.

The project contractor, Weeks Marine, Inc., began construction in late 2021. The project provided more than 140 construction-related jobs, further enhancing habitat restoration's economic benefits in the region. The construction process filled target areas with approximately eight million cubic yards of sediment dredged from the Mississippi River and pumped through a pipeline over 13 miles. That's almost enough sediment to fill two Superdome stadiums!

Monitoring of the creation site will take place to ensure anticipated outcomes are achieved. The Upper Barataria Marsh Creation Project is a key component of NOAA's larger efforts to build more resilient coasts and communities in Louisiana. The project will help lessen the impact of future storms and supports a diverse species of fish and wildlife. For example, by monitoring shrimp, crab, and fish species and examining "fish-friendly" project design features, the collaborating partners will be able to determine if the newly created marsh features are working as intended. Soil, plant communities, and water quality will also be assessed to understand how the marsh changes over time. Should data indicate the project is not performing as expected, corrective actions will be implemented, which could include establishing desirable marsh plant species, removing invasive species, and/or constructing additional tidal connections.

The lessons NOAA and its partners learn from the Upper Barataria will help build even better, more successful large-scale restoration projects. This massive \$181 million, two-phased restoration project benefits wildlife, fisheries, and people by providing habitat, storm protection, recreational opportunities, and a strong economic base for many Gulf-related industries.



*Photo by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.*



**Don't Forget to Purchase Your Raffle Tickets ~  
included in this newsletter!**

Winner will win a two-night stay at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside for the 2025 Groundwater Week being held December 9-11, 2025.

For more information, contact Terry Suire at 337-654-4666 or visit [LGWA.org](http://LGWA.org)

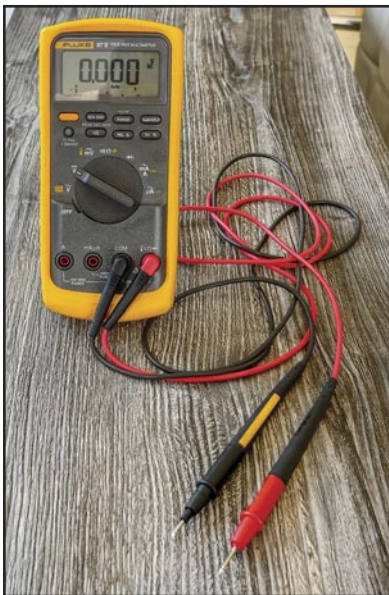


## Rig Electrical Safety

Let's take a quick look at rig electrical safety. The drive (or motor) is one of the primary systems of a drill rig. Most electrical problems with a drill rig will normally be solved and fixed by a professional in a garage environment. However, situations when the drill crew may discover and have to fix a problem to continue operations in the field do come up. In this article, we'll examine electrical safety guidelines and the best tool to use to discover rig electrical problems.

The following are some guidelines involving electrical safety based on the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 70E and OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) guidelines:

- ▶ Above all, **NEVER** assume the equipment or system is deenergized. Remember to always **Test Before You Touch**.
- ▶ Understand the construction and operation of the electrical equipment and the hazards involved.
- ▶ Identify all possible energy sources which could pose a hazard.
- ▶ Know electrical safety requirements and follow them.
- ▶ Have a clear working area and remove any covers to electrical components.
- ▶ Select the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Remember, PPE must be worn until the electrical system is in a safe condition.
- ▶ Before working on or around electrical systems or equipment, identify the power and disconnect.
- ▶ Make sure testing equipment is working, both before and after using it.
- ▶ If the testing becomes more hazardous than anticipated, stop and contact a professional.



*A multimeter is a useful tool on the jobsite.*

When a motor fails, it is often difficult to see why it failed just by looking at it. First, check for any damaged wiring or connections visually, and then with a multimeter. A multimeter is commonly referred to as a voltmeter, and is a very handy tool to determine voltage and resistance. Multimeters can be incredibly expensive and also incredibly cheap, depending on if it's a digital or analog display. Most multimeters will include extensive manuals on how to use them.

Electrical hazards on the job can be avoided by following approved NFPA 70E and OSHA guidelines. Additionally, consult your rig manufacturer on the rig's power and motor system. Be sure to provide in-house training on this subject to all drill operators and crews to maintain personnel and equipment safety.



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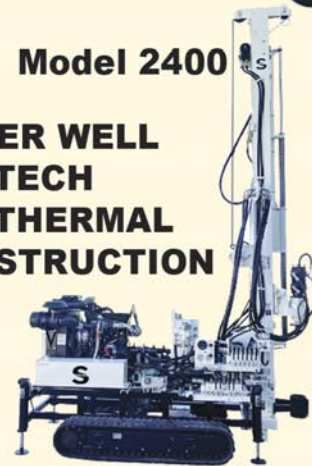
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## How Do I Create Online Content for My Business?

*Adapted from Information by Webtrol*

Creating online content for your business can be an ongoing challenge. Fresh content - articles, photos, case studies, testimonials, etc. - is necessary to stay in front of potential customers. But where do you get content?

If you feel the pain of trying to continually generate content for your website or social media, and not sure where to find it, you're not alone. You need to be resourceful. Here are a few tips to help:

- Use testimonials from satisfied customers.
- Show interesting photos or videos from work sites illustrating your expertise.
- Post case studies from recently completed projects, including photos and project details.
- Highlight an unusual problem you had to overcome to successfully complete a job.
- Share employee certifications, achievements, anniversaries, or milestones.
- Post colorful sunrise/sunset photos of your rig on a jobsite, because water service doesn't just happen from 9 to 5.
- Share an occasional old throwback photo depicting your company's history.
- Thank a coworker or employee who went the extra mile to get a job done.

For this new content to be seen, it needs to appear on the web. You can create a blog or a What's New section on your website, and post to it regularly. In addition, post to Facebook or other social media platforms regularly.

Besides potential customers seeing your posts, internet browsers love new content. They continually search the internet looking for new material. The more new material they find on your website, the higher your site will rank, giving you more visibility. Linking from your social media will help considerably.

Remember, what worked for your company five years ago, may not work very well today. Visit your competitors' websites to see what you are competing with. It might be time to revisit your marketing and pump some life into your brand.



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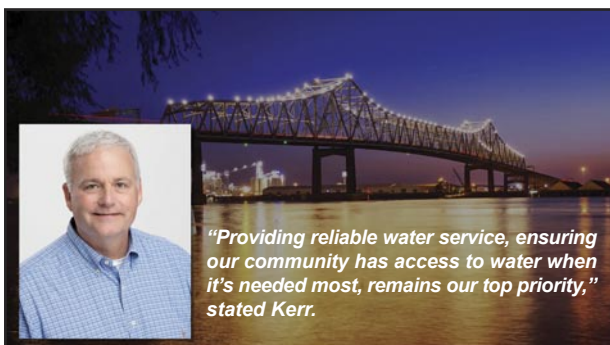


## Department of Health Gives Baton Rouge Water an "A"

*Adapted from Information by  
the Baton Rouge Water Company*

Baton Rouge Water Company (BRWC), and its subsidiaries Parish Water Company and Ascension Water Company, received an A for its water system grade from the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). This grade reflects the company's unwavering commitment to delivering safe, high-quality drinking water to its customers throughout South Louisiana.

LDH assigns water system grades based on seven standards evaluating the long-term sustainability of providing the service of safe drinking water to residents. BRWC ranks among the 41% of water systems throughout the state awarded the highest letter grade.



of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, and parts of Ascension Parish.



"This achievement is rooted in our continuous investment in our water system infrastructure," said BRWC President and CEO Patrick Kerr. "By prioritizing sustained improvement and efficiency, even amidst challenges like hurricanes, freezes, and pandemics, we uphold our commitment to delivering high-quality water service at the best possible value to our customers."

The water distributed through the company's system originates from 100 groundwater wells in the Southern Hills Aquifer, a network of confined aquifers that safeguard against contaminants commonly found in surface water sources. This ensures superior quality water, comparable or better than bottled water standards, at a cost among the lowest in the state and nation.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of experienced professionals work tirelessly to ensure seamless water delivery to customers throughout the City

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