

# Norco NEWSLINE



The Norco Community Fund (NCF) and the Norco Economic Development Fund (NEDF) recognized 19 non-profit organizations with more than \$218,000 for projects enhancing the quality of life and economic development in the Norco area at a recent celebration dinner at Ormond Plantation. According to NCF and NEDF Representative Lily Galland, the grants represent a significant investment in the community while reflecting the vision of community organizations to grow now and in the future.

## Grants Enrich Quality of Life in Norco and St. Charles Parish

HOW DO YOU MAKE A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK EVEN BETTER?  
WHAT COULD YOU DO TO ENSURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION?  
HOW DO YOU ENRICH THE RIVER PARISHES WITH EXPANDED OR NEW PROGRAMS?

▶ **ST. CHARLES PARISH COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE MORE THAN A FEW ANSWERS.** Non-profit organizations submitted innovative and practical ideas for enhancing the area in an annual grants competition.

The **NCF** and **NEDF** were established with respective one million and five million dollar endowments by Shell and Motiva in 2001 to sustain and enrich the quality of life in the Norco community.

**THE NCF** was initiated to improve the quality of life for Norco residents.  
**THE NEDF** addresses social and economic issues designed to support economic development.

Both funds are community driven. The Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) manages the Donor Advised Funds.

**T**he funds have distributed more than **\$2,555,000** since they were established. This year, the GNOF received 26 grant requests seeking more than \$500,000. "It is always a difficult decision to award a grant," said GNOF Program Director **Roy Williams**. "The community-based selection committee takes the responsibility seriously so that the funds can make the best impact in Norco and St. Charles Parish."



Roy Williams

"Thank you for awarding Norco Elementary one of the Norco Community Fund grants this year," said educator **Stefanie West**. "Our Kindness Project will benefit from the support to develop a rock garden where students can post positive sayings and pictures. Additionally, we will be setting up outdoor tables with chess, checkers and other games to encourage more students to engage with others during recess."



Rosemary Sanders

"This year the River Region Ballet celebrates its 25th anniversary," noted **Rosemary Sanders** of the Ballet Association. "Our Nutcracker Ballet costumes are also 25 years old. Thanks to the NCF grant we will have new costumes for many of the cast members as well as a new head for our Mouse King."



Norco Elementary School Kindness Project

**C**arolyn Schexnaydre, who accepted a grant for the St. Charles Senior Citizens Club added that the award will make a significant difference in providing social opportunities for area residents through outings and celebrations. "We know that social interaction not only helps a lonely senior citizen but it also increases longevity. Thanks to Shell and the grants program for supporting our efforts."

"**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRANT RECIPIENTS** who are working diligently to make Norco a better place to live and work today while establishing a legacy for the future and thank you to GNOF for being a great steward for the NCF and NEDF," said Norco External Relations Manager **Rochelle Touchard**. "Both funds were founded to reflect Shell values and our emphasis on continually improving the quality of life in an area where we live and work. Shell applauds our area non-profit organizations and the ongoing efforts to give back to the community. We recognize that Norco is truly a Main Street community; a really special place especially because of its concern for the community today and for the future."



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ROCHELLE TOUCHARD  
Shell Norco External Relations Manager

**NEDF grants** were presented to the following groups:

- **NORCO CIVIC ASSOCIATION** for Phase V of the Norco Revitalization Project.
- **RIVER ROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** for protecting St. Charles Parish history and the local economy.
- **RIVER PARISHES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** for technical training and education.
- **MATTHEW 25:35 MINISTRIES** for conducting a Kids Cooking Matters Camp
- **ST. CHARLES PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION** for a youth transition and leadership program.
- **ST. CHARLES SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB** for diverse activities.



**NCF Grants** were presented to the following organizations:

- **AMERICAN LEGION POST 195** for flooring in the group's building.
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORCO** for renovations to improve access for the disabled.
- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – 3634 Red Church Council** for roofing.
- **NORCO CIVIC ASSOCIATION** for air conditioning improvements.
- **NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** for programs addressing special needs students including playground equipment and alternative seating.
- **NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** for the Project Kindness program.



- **RIVER ROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** for a Norco Elementary School third-grade heritage education program.
- **RIVER REGION BALLET** to replace Nutcracker Ballet costumes for its annual performance.
- **RIVER REGION DRAMA GUILD** for the group's summer musical theatre rental.
- **SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH** for the Ministry of Care program.
- **ST. CHARLES PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION** for Pop-up performances.
- **SPECIAL OLYMPICS** for the Unified Champion School.



**NCF and NEDF grants recipients are left to right: front row;** Deborah Sampson, Michelle Wagner, Stanley Robert, Robert Landry, Rosemary Sanders, Carolyn Schexnaydre, Sandra Jacob, Rachel Allemand, Sal Digirolamo, and Herman Louque. Middle row: Martin Ayton, DeAnn Sullivan, Darlene Viola, Pam Waguespack, Stefanie West, Debbie Suffrin, Dianne Rochelle, Eddie Duhe, and Paula Mire. Back row: Corey Faucheux, Tracy Smith, Henry Sorbet, Julie Ortega, Theresa Theriot and Ronnie Theriot.

## The Art Of

# LEADERSHIP

Leadership

At Summer Camp



Students from St. Charles Parish Public Schools and St. John Parish Public Schools joined more than 300 campers representing 125 Louisiana high schools in attending the 49th Annual Louisiana Youth Seminar (LYS) this summer. Sponsored by Shell Norco, the teens participated in the week-long program on the Louisiana State University campus. Shell's Convent Refinery, Deepark Manufacturing, Geismar Chemicals, Mobile Chemicals, and New Orleans E&P also sponsored students from their respective communities.

LYS participants from St. Charles Parish "snap" to show show agreement and approval. Back row: **Otis Kenner, Marigny Clay, Brett Woltjen, Erin Hicks and Ken Oertling.** Front row: **Luz Escobar, Julia Haslauer, Karina Daigle, Lillian Cordon and Serenity Boyle.**

Shell Oil Company has been the major corporate sponsor of the event for more than 40 years. Former Shell employee **Jo Pease** founded the leadership program with two of her college friends to assist junior and senior high school students in learning more about effective communication skills, setting and achieving goals, team building, understanding and accepting others, developing self-confidence, and conducting effective meetings.

"The Louisiana Youth Seminar is grateful for the continuous support from corporations like Shell," said Pease. "The seminar would not be possible without the company's longtime generosity and commitment to the program. Such support grants students the opportunity to become effective, strong leaders who will create a bright future for our state."

The Norco-sponsored students shared their learnings and comments about the program with Norco General Manager **Brett Woltjen**, St. Charles Parish Schools Superintendent **Ken Oertling** and St. John Parish Public Schools Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction **Patricia Triche** during a closing ceremony on the LSU campus.

"You have to be a follower before you can become a leader," said **Jesslyn James** of East St. John High School. "If you learn how to work with others, respect differences and listen, you have the qualities for leadership."

"I came to LYS expecting to know at least a few people," added **Madison Noel** of East St. John High School. "But I knew no one in my group and had to learn how to make friends very quickly. That was a good learning experience for me."

Destrehan student **Otis Kenner** agreed. "At first, I was a little upset that I wasn't given the opportunity to connect with my friends," he said. "But when I look back on the experiences at camp, I see how we were all being exposed to an environment of leadership."

"One of the things I learned is that there can be more than one leader in a group," said **Julia Haslauer** of Destrehan. "You don't have to stand out to be a leader but once you understand your own abilities, you can contribute and others will listen."

"Working with others as a team member makes it easier to have your voice heard," said **Kaitlyn Smith** of East St. John. "And you don't have to do everything yourself to be a leader," emphasized Otis. "Sometimes, all it takes is just planting a seed within a group."

The St. Charles and St. John Parishes students all acknowledged the strong sense of family they developed by recognizing that each one of them and each LYS participant were unique individuals.

"Respecting differences may be the most important thing I learned," explained **Lillian Cordon** of Destrehan High School.

The teens' newly learned leadership skills are following them back to the start of a new school year. One will develop team-building exercises for her dance team, another for her volleyball team and another has made a commitment to welcome and mentor younger students.

"Leadership is about empowering others and having others trust your opinions," noted Oertling, who thanked the students for sharing their camp experiences. "There is a difference between listening and hearing and I see that you have learned how to effectively listen and share what you hear."

"Thank you for your enthusiastic

**"Our company values the leadership potential in St. Charles and St. John Parishes and I am reassured that you will be among our next generation of leaders. You understand how important it is to make a difference in your school, your home and in the world. The future begins today and you are the leaders."**

BRETT WOLTJEN  
Shell Norco General Manager

participation in LYS," said Woltjen. "Shell is pleased to sponsor you and make an investment in you at this unique summer camp. Our company values the leadership potential in St. Charles and St. John Parishes and I am reassured

that you will be among our next generation of leaders. You understand how important it is to make a difference in your school, your home and in the world. The future begins today and you are the leaders."

"Why not?" asked Triche, advising the LYS participants to take advantage of the leadership training. "Look at people you admire and ask yourself, 'Why can't I be a leader, too. Why not me?'"

This year Shell Norco sponsored LYS campers **Serenity Boyle, Marigny Clay and Erin Hicks** of Hahnville High School; **Lillian Cordon, Karina Dangla, Otis Kenner, Julia Haslauer, Luz Escobar, Emma Rome, and Emma Bourdeaux** of Destrehan High School; **Jaion Cain, Jesslyn James, Lennix D'Yoni, Madison Noel, Anna Ortiz, Kaitlyn Smith, and Christopher Taylor** of East St. John High School; **Tierny Sterling and Tyrin Anderson** of West St. John High School and **Alexander Trosclair** of St. John STEM.



To learn more about LYS, visit [LouisianaYouthSeminar.org](http://LouisianaYouthSeminar.org) or visit LYS social media pages @LouisianaYouthSeminar.



# Shell STEM Camp ENCOURAGES SCIENCE FUN

In a world where knowledge of STEM, or science, technology, engineering and math, is becoming more and more necessary in the modern workforce, Shell Norco is leading the way to show local students just how important those subjects are and how fun they can be. The site sponsored the second annual week-long STEM summer camp

at Destrehan High School in July. The hands-on experience introduced students from Norco's Partner in Education schools, Norco Elementary, Harry Hurst Middle School and Destrehan High School to robotics, coding, engineering, computer science, and more.



Norco volunteers and Destrehan Robotics team members assist area kids work on scientific crafts at STEM camp.



Destrehan student counselors were on hand this summer to demonstrate procedures to STEM campers.



Science is Fun!

External Relations Advisor **Ken Jones** likes how the camp has turned into a community event. "It's logical that we would bring our elementary, middle and high school Partners in Education program schools together at this camp. The kids learn skills that are transferable to industries in our area and we hope that what we are doing today will keep them here working and living in our community in the future."

Led by local teachers, Shell volunteers, and members of the Destrehan High School Wildcat Robotics team, students explored Ozobot basics and coding, Vex Robotics, Arduino, Electronic Circuitry, Little Bits, Simple Machines, 3-D modeling and printing, fabrication and machinery, Makey basics, Fishertechnic Advanced Mechanisms and a variety of other technologies. Each activity helped students develop critical skills in reasoning, analytical thinking, problem solving, leadership and team building.

Pressure Equipment Engineer **Jolene Page**, takes a special interest in volunteering for educational projects. "I love to see the kids' faces when they learn something new," she says. "At the STEM Camp, we have more time and resources than in a regular classroom so we can go deeper into the subjects and do more hands-on activities. I have started to think about it in terms of our new campaign, 'Creative Energy – The Rhythm of Louisiana.' We must instill creativity into our students and continue to fuel our youth by providing them with knowledge and skills. We also want to assure they can make a difference in our world's future by teaching them how to take care of and improve the resources we have in our community."



It's all smiles for STEM campers and staff as they gather for the camp photo.

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JOLENE PAGE  
Shell Norco Pressure Equipment Engineer  
and MC DEPs Site Coordinator



Jolene Page helps a STEM camper start to build a race car that runs on salt water.



Easy, fun and educational – area youngsters learn basic principles from the Destrehan Robotics team members who served as counselors during the summer camp.



In keeping with the Creative Energy campaign, Shell sponsored a special activity: building and racing a car that runs on salt water. "Shell is not just a gas company," states Page. "We are investing in alternative fuels a well. At camp the kids learned the science behind how a salt water battery works, how to maintain and service their cars, and when their cars stopped working, how the chemical reaction created corrosion on the battery leads. It was really successful. The kids learned and had fun at the same time."

Campers agreed. "This camp is pretty fun," said fifth-grader **James**. "The saltwater car activity was really cool. I won one of the races and learned that you can get energy from just about anything like mayonnaise and even cake!"

Fifth-grader **Suie** pointed out the advantages of alternative energy. "When cars are run on other things besides gas, it's good for the environment."

**Rhiley**, also fifth-grader concurred. "Technology like that can make the world a better place. I came to this camp to learn about all those things."

Destrehan High School Career Development Facilitator **Stefanie Ward** appreciates the camp's growth. "Our STEM Camp this year is giving the kids the opportunity to not only experience beginning and intermediate robotic technology, but also physical science, ecology and chemistry," she says. "A big bonus this year is the inclusion of the saltwater kits that were donated by Shell and instructed by Shell personnel. It gives the kids an opportunity to learn about chemicals and was topped off with a competition to see whose car could go the furthest. They had a great time learning about that."

Although the uncertainty of Hurricane Barry cut the camp short this year, Ward declared the camp a success. "I'm very happy with what the students have accomplished," she said. "It always amazes me how quickly they catch on to concepts and how much they can do with two or three days of instruction. We love to get the parents in to give the students an opportunity to show off. I think they will be impressed."

## St. Charles Parish President Addresses Advisory Group

**St. Charles Parish President LARRY COCHRAN presented an overview of parish activities, with an emphasis on drainage and emergency preparedness, during a recent meeting of the Norco Community Advisory Panel (CAP).**

Cochran announced a Norco drainage study to analyze water flow and develop solutions to improve drainage throughout the community. The study will focus on Engineer's Canal and the Good Hope Canal and will also look at areas near railroad tracks to ensure adequate coverage for outflow.

The parish president thanked the community for its cooperation and commended parish employees for their work in responding to the early summer threat from Hurricane Barry.

St. Charles Parish Emergency Preparedness Coordinator **Steve Sirmon** presented a hurricane overview discussing storm surge, leading causes of storms, storm deaths, 2019 predictions, evacuation and preparation. "The number one killer in hurricanes is not rainfall, not tornadoes, not flying debris, not high winds, but storm surge," he said. "Historically, nine out of every 10 deaths in a hurricane are caused by storm surge."

"Storm surge is normally not something that people think about on a day-to-day basis," Sirmon continued. "But here in St. Charles Parish, we are susceptible, especially on the westbank. You guys on the eastbank luckily have hurricane protection levees, so a storm surge coming from Lake Ponchartrain has to be really intense to get to you. But the westbank is still very vulnerable. We have 330 miles of shoreline and really low elevations here in St. Charles Parish. With storm surge, the water just kind of slowly creeps up, slowly comes in making it our biggest concern in St. Charles Parish."

Emphasizing the need for preparation, Sirmon noted that St. Charles Parish and The Department of Homeland Security are focusing on getting kids ready for hurricane season, by kicking off a new campaign called #BePrepared. Shell Norco is joining in the campaign as the sponsor of "The Adventures of Charlie and his Preparedness Pals," an activity and coloring book for children (featured in the June issue of NEWSLINE.) **For additional information about St. Charles Parish and emergency preparedness visit [www.stcharlesparish-la.gov](http://www.stcharlesparish-la.gov).**



Parish President **Larry Cochran** addresses members of the Norco Community Advisory Panel during a recent meeting of the group



St. Charles Parish Emergency Preparedness Coordinator **Steve Sirmon** reminds the community that storm surge is a major threat during a hurricane.



**"Nine out of every 10 deaths in a hurricane are caused by storm surge. In St. Charles Parish, we are susceptible, especially on the westbank. We have 330 miles of shoreline and really low elevations here in St. Charles Parish. With storm surge, the water just kind of slowly creeps up, slowly comes in making it our biggest concern in St. Charles Parish."**

**STEVE SIRMON,**  
ST. CHARLES PARISH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

# Electric Girls

## CONDUCT STEM INSPIRATION



These girls are electric! St. Charles Parish Public School students are learning that Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is not just fun but also open to women. Norco's LAWAVE network joined the non-profit Electric Girls organization to sponsor a learning session for the young girls.

*It's* 3:30 on a week-day afternoon and the hallways at Norco Elementary School are quiet. The buses have left and most of the teachers have gone home. Wait a minute – there's one classroom buzzing with excitement. Fifty girls from kindergarten through fifth grade are gathered to take a group photo. With them are volunteers from Shell Norco's LAWAVE (Louisiana Women Adding Value Everywhere) network and Electric Girls, a non-profit program designed to educate and empower girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.) Today, Electric Girls Program Director MARCIA BLACKSTOCK, along with several other women volunteers, will teach the girls how to use raw circuit components to design and build a fan with a switch. More importantly, their guidance will give the girls confidence in STEM subjects, allowing the young girls to learn with and from each other. The goal - opening future pathways into traditionally male-dominated fields.

Electric Girls was founded in 2015 by Loyola University student and audio engineering specialist **Flor Serna**. Working as the only female recording engineer at New Orleans-based Vital Sounds Recording she recognized that there was a serious lack of women in all STEM programs. Serna started Electric Girls with six young women. Since then, the organization has served hundreds of girls in the Greater New Orleans area with Shell as a major sponsor of the program's summer camps. Last year, Norco's LAWAVE group brought an after-school Electric Girls program to Norco Elementary, one of the site's Partner in Education schools.

Norco Pressure Equipment Engineer **Jolene Page**, an LAWAVE member and 15-year Partners in Education volunteer enjoys working with the young girls. "It's important that we bring STEM to girls," she says. "Most girls are afraid to get into STEM fields. Through this program they can see how fun STEM is and hopefully that will inspire them to get involved in the future."



**Jolene Page** and a Norco Elementary School student work together to learn how to build a fan.

"I think it's really important for women to feel that they are equals in math and science," Health and Safety Manager **Muna Esmail** states. "We don't have too many women engineers at Norco, but that's changing. We just celebrated Woman's Day and I thought about women's influence in the workforce. There have been studies that women in higher positions have a big impact on companies, not just profits, but with diversity and new ideas."

**Mona Wexler**, a third through fifth grade teacher at Ethel Schoeffner Elementary in St. Charles Parish volunteers with Electric Girls because she believes in what they are doing. "It's great to see these girls who can be budding scientists, mathematicians or engineers owning these projects and supporting each other. I was expecting the girls to be creative and smart, but you don't always find that goes hand-in-hand with being empathetic and kind and generous. I am really excited to see that."

"By being here today, I hope I can teach the girls something that will stay with them," Esmail adds. "I hope that

they see us in our red suits today and that will inspire them to want to become engineers, too."

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MUNA ESMAIL | Shell Norco Health and Safety Manager

An Electric Girls instructor explains the steps needed to design and build a switch that turns on a fan.



# 25 Crabs Die

Per Derelict Trap Each Year

# Saving the Lake

A \$10,000 donation to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) from Shell is helping to remediate the ecological, environmental and economic costs of derelict crab traps. Shell Norco and Convent recently teamed up to support an on-going retrieval program along the shores of the Lake with a current focus in the River Parishes region. According to LPBF Coastal and Community Programs Manager JOHN LOPEZ, more than 3,200 traps were removed from the western part of Lake Pontchartrain this year.



## 19 Species Entangled

By Derelict Traps

Using a crabbing net or trap is frustrating. It's also an environmental concern. Derelict crab traps, traps that have been discarded, lost or abandoned in a marine environment are a widespread form of marine debris. They are a hazard to navigation, a source of habitat degradation and a nuisance. The derelict traps are a navigational hazard that continue to "ghost fish," trapping animals needlessly and reducing the annual blue crab harvest as they degrade in Louisiana's coastal waters.

**"It is estimated that 10 to 20 percent of all commercial and sport crab traps placed into the lake from commercial and individuals are lost."**

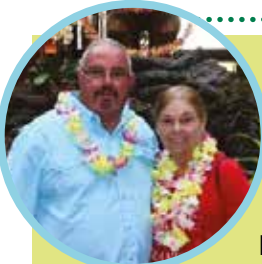
JOHN LOPEZ  
LPBF Coastal and  
Community Programs Manager

"While we are making progress with the support of companies like Shell, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the volunteers who help collect the traps, we are just scratching the surface," Lopez says. "It is estimated that 10 to 20 percent of all commercial and sport crab traps placed into the lake from commercial and individuals are lost each year. It's an ongoing project."

Shell's recent donation to the LPBF Derelict Crab Trap Program, in partnership with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, supports the volunteer-based retrieval project.

## Someone You Know Lives and Works in Norco

### MARK VEGA INVESTS IN NORCO



Mark and Julie Vega's blended family includes eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. So, it's not a big surprise to learn that he decided to renovate his backyard and deck with a large, in-ground swimming pool and cabana. "At first, I was going to put in a fish pond or waterfall, but my wife wanted a pool for exercise and the kids. Our grandkids and the great grandkids love coming over here to swim. It's an investment in family and in investment in Norco."

The Shell Norco Maintenance Specialist, who grew up in Kenner, has been a Norco resident for 20 plus years and couldn't be happier. "I love Norco," he says. "It's a quiet little community that was built up by Shell employees. You don't have a lot of crime. And as people pass on, their children or grandchildren sometimes come back. Houses don't hit the market too much here and when

they do, they're sold right away. My neighbor posted her house on Facebook and it was sold within a day at the asking price. That doesn't happen in other areas."

If you're a member of the Norco community, you probably know just where the Vegas live. It's the home where Julie grew up in – the home where the Loupe Supermarket owners raised their family. "I came to Norco with Julie when we married," Vega says. "It was an easy decision for me. We helped to take care of her mother, re-did the house after the 2004 flood and continue to enjoy living in this community."

A machinist by trade, Vega signed on with Shell 26 years ago bringing 17 years of gear manufacturing and repair experiences with him. I have always been in the maintenance field," he explains. "It's a family tradition. My dad was a dye maker for the American Can Company, My brother is a Norco Maintenance retiree and when the company I was working for was sold I was fortunate to hire on in the maintenance area at Shell."

"Shell is a great company to work for," he emphasizes. "Shell takes care of its employees, hands down. From the concern about safety to understanding when you have personal situations to deal with. I've had some health issues over the years – open heart surgery and a tumor, all good now - and the company has gone out of the way to keep me whole through everything, I mean they truly cared."

Now that health issues are only a minor concern, Vega is making a concentrated effort to maintain a schedule that includes time for eating right and exercising as well as sitting by his new pool to relax with an occasional lap or two.

When he is not swimming or advising the grandkids to "stop running around the pool," Vega and Julie find time for camping or traveling in their three-year old motor home. "We just returned from a road trip to Disney with a couple of the grandkids. I was the 'Uber' driver and the bank," he laughs. "But that's what you do for your family."

**Fun Fact:** Mark and Julie met by "arrangement" through a Shell Norco employee and Norco native, Mike Bergeron.



# Norco NEWSLINE

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Norco Newsline is published regularly to inform the community about activities at the Shell Norco Manufacturing Complex. Please address inquiries to:

**Rochelle Touchard**, External Relations Manager  
**Shell Norco Manufacturing Complex**  
15536 River Road | P.O. Box 10 | Norco, LA 70079  
**504-465-6667**

Numbers and Addresses to Know:

**St. Charles Emergency Operations Center**..... **985-783-5050**  
**Shell Norco Site Team Lead** ..... **504-465-7342**  
**Shell Norco Community Information Line**..... **504-465-7483**

## POSTAL PATRON

## Back-to-School Rally and Backpacks, Too

What's the best way to start a new school year? With pencils, paper and a new backpack, of course. Shell Norco volunteers helped area families prepare for that first day of school at the 2019 Youth Rally in early August. Held on the R.K. Smith Middle School grounds in Luling, the rally was sponsored by the United Way of St. Charles with support from St. Charles Parish Department of Community Services, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, Blessed to be a Blessing, and A Safe Space of St. Charles.

Norco volunteers handed out school supplies, hygiene packets and backpacks to 650 children in the Parish's largest back-to-school event.

New Orleans Saints running back and current sports analyst **Deuce McAllister** was the keynote speaker of the day which also included performances by a local drumline, musical performances by area students and a presentation by Judge **Timothy Marcel**.

Attending families enjoyed a day of fun-filled activities including a game truck; petting zoo; free snowballs, ice cream and cupcakes, and face painting. St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office provided free hot dogs.

In addition to fun, motivational keynote speeches, giveaways, and schools supplies, families were given the opportunity to learn about available community services. Representatives from the St. Charles Women's Club, Child Advocacy Services, St. Charles Department of Community Services and various other organizations were on site to share their program and resources. The Bloodmobile and the St. Charles Parish Fire Department were also on site.



Norco volunteers help St. Charles Parish students get ready for the first day of school with a new backpack.



Retired Saints running back **Deuce McAllister** joins United Way of St. Charles staff at the 2018 Youth Rally.



A petting zoo was one of several activities for area kids at a Youth Rally to kick off the start of a new academic year.



Norco volunteers and United Way staff joined area organizations to fill backpacks with school supplies at the parish's largest back-to-school event.

### SIGN UP NOW

#### FOR FREE NEWSLETTER

No, it's not "too good to be true." Sign up for the United Way of St. Charles newsletter and join the community effort to make St. Charles Parish the best place to live for everyone.

Visit [uwaysc.org](http://uwaysc.org) and enter your e-mail address at the bottom of the page. And while you're visiting the organization's website, why not register to volunteer for one or more of several United Way and partner agency opportunities.

And don't forget to "like" United Way of St. Charles on Facebook.