



NORCO

Newsline

Norco Manufacturing Complex



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IT FEELS LIKE HOME.

Brett Woltjen doesn't hesitate when asked about his recent appointment as Norco Manufacturing Complex (NMC) General Manager and relocation to St. Charles Parish. Settling in just in time for King Cake, Carnival, and the opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway in early January, Woltjen was quickly introduced to a few facets of life in Louisiana.

JOINING THE TEAM

Brett Woltjen

LEADS

**NORCO
MANUFACTURING
COMPLEX**

AS NEW
GENERAL MANAGER

It's not all that new to him, however. Growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, Woltjen is familiar with the ups and downs of the Mississippi River and is no stranger to Louisiana State University. "Our oldest daughter graduated from LSU in 2012," he says. "Given all the time we have spent in Louisiana visiting Kelly at school, attending games in Death Valley and visiting our many friends here, Louisiana feels like home to us already."

A 30-year Shell/Motiva employee, Woltjen is enthusiastic about his NMC assignment. "The Norco Manufacturing Complex is very well respected within the company and industry," he emphasizes. "I have visited here many times and have always valued and respected what the site has accomplished. NMC is known for a family atmosphere where everyone works hard, does the right thing, does it well and knows how to celebrate success the way only southern Louisiana people can."

Prior to his current position, Woltjen served as Production Manager for Motiva Enterprises Port Arthur Refinery, leading the newly expanded site to its full integrated capacity, with strong positive cash flow and outstanding health, safety and environmental performance. His previous experience in such areas as operations, maintenance and project engineering throughout Shell, including Health, Safety, Security and Environmental General Manager on a global basis provide unique experiences for guiding NMC in a period of growth and change. He points to the Louisiana Integration Project as an exciting investment opportunity for the site and Louisiana. The multi-phased project will connect NMC and the Motiva Convent refinery through a series of pipelines. Additionally, modifications to the sites' hardware will enhance the strengths of each refinery. **“Our executive business leaders are demonstrating their confidence in NMC by continuing to make such strategic investments in the site,”** Woltjen notes.

Generating margin and continuing to grow the site is a significant responsibility for the new General Manager, but for Woltjen safety is first and unquestionably most important. “My first priority is continuing and building on the health, safety, and environmental excellence NMC has recently demonstrated,” he says. “I take tremendous pride in working for a company that has the clear priority of placing safety absolutely first in everything we do while producing products essential for our society. My father and grandfather worked in manufacturing and my mother was a nurse. They reinforced for me the importance of protecting life, respecting the environment and taking pride in manufacturing excellence. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of my career has been the opportunity to be a part of the leadership of a company making a positive difference in the lives of employees and their families.”



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BRETT WOLTJEN
NMC General Manager

A SPORTS ENTHUSIAST, WITH A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR SEC COLLEGE FOOTBALL, Woltjen often tells people that working within oil refineries/chemical plants is the best team sport ever invented – with the exception of football, of course. “You work with a team of people on something vital to our society, utilizing your unique knowledge and skills with endless opportunities to learn and grow. It’s challenging, complex and satisfying,” he comments. “I am looking forward to continuing that team effort within the site.”

St. Charles Parish residents, especially those in the Norco community, can expect to see Woltjen in the neighborhood, participating in area festivals and activities and encouraging feedback about site operations. “It is important to be a welcome member of the local community, to have a strong positive impact on the parish while maintaining an open and interactive relationship with our neighbors, community leaders, contractors and employees,” he says. “And what a great opportunity to enjoy southern hospitality and the great food that comes along with it.”

The Wonders of Science and Technology

How many drops of a liquid can you place on a penny before the liquid spills over? Does it make a difference if you hold a dropper straight up and down or sideways? Kids learned the answers to those questions in an experiment demonstrating surface tension at a recent Norco Elementary School’s Science and Technology Night.

Demonstrations, experiments and discussions were on the agenda for parents and students attending the fun learning event. NMC Science is Fun volunteers **Scott Thompson, Tony Perez, and Kathleen Prilutski** (pictured below) represented the site with a demonstration of the freezing capabilities of liquid nitrogen in a vacuum.



Pennies, liquid and a dropper help kids understand the surface tension concept.

Grants Generate Progress and Improvements in Norco

Norco Community Fund and Norco Economic Development Fund grant recipients were honored at the Annual Grants Award Banquet in Norco. Pictured left to right are: **Ken Tew, Kristin Tew, Sanjay Kharod, Becky Weber, Nancy Robert, Shannon Diodene, Julie Brauning, Cheryl Orillion, Sal Digirolamo, Bill Macloud, Tony Perret, and Matt Perret.**



More than **\$260,000** in grants benefitting nonprofit organizations were awarded at a recent Norco Community Fund (NCF) and Norco Economic Development Fund (NEDF) celebration banquet in Norco. Over **two million dollars** have been awarded to area organizations since the NCF and NEDF were established over a decade ago supporting programs and projects that are making a difference in the community.

The NCF and NEDF were established with respective one million and five million dollar endowments by Shell and Motiva to sustain and enrich the quality of life in the Norco Community and St. Charles Parish.

THE NORCO COMMUNITY FUND, a Donor Advised Fund of The Greater New Orleans Foundation, was established to improve the quality of life for Norco residents. An advisory committee of business and civic leaders meet annually to review grant requests that directly support programs that serve the Norco community and its residents.

THIS YEAR'S GRANTS WERE PRESENTED TO:

- **American Legion Post 195** for facility improvements including updated fans, lighting, bar counter top and cabinets
- **First Baptist Church of Norco** for preschool and playground safety doors
- **Knights of Columbus 3634 Red Church** for restroom renovations
- **Norco Civic Association** for new entrance doors to meet OSHA standards
- **Norco Elementary School** for a literacy support program
- **Sacred Heart School** for computer equipment

THE NORCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, a Donor Advised Fund of The Greater New Orleans Foundation, addresses social and economic issues designed to support and improve economic development. Established as a quality of life community commitment, the foundation awards significant grants to nonprofit organizations supporting small business retention and job creation, career development and training, and quality of life programs.

RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS THIS YEAR WERE:

- **River Parishes Community Development Corporation for the Norco Civic Association Revitalization Project Phase 2**, focusing on creating an inviting business district corridor and promoting a sense of pride in the community
- **River Road Historical Society** for assistance in preservation and improvements as part of the Destrehan Plantation Master Plan
- **New Orleans Farm & Food Network** for the Edible Enterprises Food Incubator co-packing project



Who doesn't like to make slime?



Rubbing a balloon on your head can be a hair-raising demonstration of static electricity.





Not Over, But Under, the Bridge United Way Annual Run Announced

United Way of St. Charles is hosting its 20th Annual 5K Bridge Run on Saturday, April 9. Due to ongoing construction on the Hale Boggs Bridge, this year's race will be under the bridge on the levee jogging path near the West Bank Bridge Park in Luling.

Norco Manufacturing Complex is the presenting sponsor of the event. NMC General Manager **Brett Woltjen**, expressed his excitement about partnering with the United Way. "As a newcomer to the area, I am pleased to see our commitment to the community, as well as to the wellness program here at our Site. It's a perfect fit for our employees to participate in an opportunity that brings our neighbors together in a fun, health-related event."

"The 20th Annual Under the Bridge Run is being held on Saturday, April 9th at 8:30 a.m. and will be a non-competitive 5K run/walk where participants can enjoy a day of healthy, family-friendly fun alongside their friends and neighbors. We'll still have the same great post-race party with free food, drinks and live music. And the best part, it's 100% free," stated Executive Director of United Way of St. Charles **John Dias**.

"In celebration of our commitment to the health of our community as well as the 20th anniversary of our Bridge Run, this year's race is completely free! We're even giving away a limited number of free 20th Anniversary Under the Bridge Run t-shirts the day of the race on a first arrival basis. T-shirts can also be pre-ordered through online registration with a donation of \$5 or more to the United Way of St. Charles now through March 19th. We're excited to offer a limited number of free race medallions to finishers as well."

After the Under the Bridge Run, United Way of St. Charles is hosting post race activities at the West Bank Bridge Park in Luling until 12 p.m. Admission to the post race festivities is also free.

▶ To register for the race, visit www.uwaysc.org or register in person at the United Way office, 13207 River Road in Luling. **ON-SITE REGISTRATION** is also available at the West Bank Bridge Park in Luling on race day, **SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH, STARTING AT 7:00 A.M.**

"In celebration of our commitment to the health of our community as well as the 20th anniversary of our Bridge Run, **this year's race is completely free!"**

JOHN DIAS | United Way of St. Charles

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS



NMC RECENTLY DONATED \$50,000 to the River Region Chamber of Commerce's capital campaign fund, enhancing the Chamber's presence as an information resource hub for area businesses while encouraging visitors to patronize local vendors and companies. The Chamber projects a positive image to residents and visitors by reflecting its mission to **"GROW, STRENGTHEN AND UNIFY"** businesses in St. James, St. Charles and St. John Parishes. Participating in the check presentation were left to right: **Henry Friloux**, Echo Ventures; **Conley Dutreix**, First American Bank; **Rochelle Touchard**, NMC; **Don Weaver**, former NMC General Manager; **Chassity McComack**, executive director, River Region Chamber of Commerce; **Annette Wray**, River Region Chamber of Commerce 2016 Chair of Cox Communications, and **Aaron Cancienne**, River Region Chamber Treasurer of Postlethwaite & Netterville.



PARTICIPANTS IN A CHECK PRESENTATION TO CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) are left to right, **Ginger Cangelosi** of CASA, **Rochelle Touchard**, NMC External Relations Manager, **Robert Carlisle** of CASA, and former NMC General Manager **Don Weaver**.

River Parishes Teachers Receive Grants



St. Charles Parish Public Schools representatives honored at the River Parishes Education Foundation (RPEF) teacher grants banquet are left to right: Norco Elementary School teacher **Stefanie West**, Norco Elementary School Principal **Becky Weber**, **Katie Gabriel** of St. Rose Elementary School, **Denise Pelnado** of St. Rose Elementary School, Superintendent of St. Charles Parish Public Schools **Felecia Gomez-Walker**; St. Rose Elementary School teacher **Judy Rongey**; School-to-Career Specialist **Susan Boudreaux**, and St. Rose Elementary Principal **Lisa Perrin**.

Teachers from St. Charles, St. James, and St. John Parishes were honored with grants for projects focusing on parental involvement at the Annual River Parishes Education Foundation (RPEF) Teacher Grants Dinner in LaPlace.

NMC is a premier sponsor of *Cottages for CASA*, which raises public awareness, and funding to support services to children and families through the CASA and Children's Advocacy Center programs. CASA recruits, trains, and supervises volunteers who serve as powerful voices for abused and neglected children as they navigate through the court system. Volunteers stand beside the children with the primary goal of helping them reach a safe and permanent home.



Established in 1993 through a NMC initiative as collaboration among River Parishes industries, educators, and government officials to improve the quality of education, the River Parishes Education Initiative focused on parental involvement, career choices, and the funding of teacher grants for enhanced classroom learning. In 2010, the organization was re-structured as a foundation.

“RPEF grants recognize the excellent work of our teachers as they pursue the extra activities to give our kids additional advantages.”

MARY LOU SUMRALL

RPEF Grants Chair

According to Norco Manufacturing Complex External Relations Manager and RPEF President **Rochelle Touchard**, the foundation presented **\$4,500 in grants to educators** developing programs encouraging parental and community involvement in education. RPEF Grants Chair **Mary Lou Sumrall** and Touchard presented the awards, acknowledging the teachers' commitment and imagination in the development of innovative methods to enhance the classroom and home learning environment.

“Parental support, and community involvement, makes such a difference in developing the whole child,” Sumrall emphasized. “Research demonstrates that such support is reflected in academic performance. We all know however, that education is much more complicated and in many ways different than a generation or two ago. RPEF grants acknowledge programs that help parents not only understand contemporary education methods and terms to assist their kids, but also learn a few things themselves.”

“There are so many wonderful things going on within our schools today,” she continued. “RPEF grants recognize the excellent work of our teachers as they pursue the extra activities to give our kids additional advantages.”

ST. JAMES PARISH TEACHERS HONORED were **Melissa Aubert** of Vacherie Elementary and **Kelly Magenti Borne** of the Career & Technology Center. Aubert's grant was awarded for a healthy living fair for parents and the community to demonstrate how diet and exercise affects a child's overall academic and behavioral performance. Borne will use the RPEF grant for a Jumpstart program emphasizing industrial careers.

ST. JOHN PARISH RECIPIENTS were **Lorenzo Edwards** of West St. John High School and **Alecia Johnson** of the St. John Child Development Center. With the RPEF grant, West St. John's culinary arts students will “show what they know” and gain experience at events for parents and community members. Johnson's grant focuses on “Loving Louisiana,” which highlights state festivals with decorations and activities in each classroom. Parents and business leaders will participate in the events.

ST. CHARLES PARISH TEACHERS **Judy Rongey**, **Denise Pelnado** and **Katie Gabriel** of St. Rose Elementary School were recognized with a grant to fund a bullying prevention program incorporating community education programs. **Stephanie West** of Norco Elementary School was also honored with a grant for a bullying prevention program for youngsters and their parents.

LIFE

IS A CONTINUING ADVENTURE FOR KIM M. JACKSON

Kim M. Jackson, Product Analyst for Norco Manufacturing Complex, may have grown up in a small town, but her natural curiosity and optimistic nature opened her eyes to the world beyond Mount Airy, Louisiana. Her journey began at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond where early on the Business Management major joined the Reserved Officers' Training Corp (ROTC).



“I went from a small town so small that if you blinked you passed it, to the whole world opening up to me. I always wanted to be part of something bigger than myself,” Jackson remembered. “I just made a decision to do something. My dad was in the military; he was in the Navy. It provided a great path for him so I thought maybe this would help me in some way, and it did. I joined the Army Reserves mainly because of ROTC. It was a good fit.”

Jackson hit the ground running, literally, from the very first day. “When I left for boot camp we got on what I call the cattle truck and went to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri,” she said. “When we got there this drill sergeant came and she looked like she was a Megatron! She looked at us and starting yelling at us and we just took off running with the backpack of stuff we brought with us. That’s how it all started, but I survived. I realized other people had done this and there was no reason I couldn’t.”

Not only did she survive, but she had some memorable experiences along the way. “Believe it or not, the funniest thing that happened was the gas chamber,” she laughingly recounts. “About seven of us at a time had to go in the chamber with our masks on. We stood there facing the sergeant who was in a room sealed off from the gas. He counted off numbers and when he called yours you had to take your mask off and stand there. When my number was called I couldn’t do it. So he came down with his mask on and said he would help me with it, we would do it together.”

When the time came we took them off but then I grabbed his arm and we both hit the floor. He must have thought I was crazy and I thought I was in trouble. Thankfully, he laughed about it afterwards.”

Her time in the Army Reserves taught her valuable life lessons. “I learned patience and how to listen to people. When we would go out into the field we had to share these really small tents and you didn’t get to pick who you shared with,” she stated. “One girl, all she did was complain because she didn’t want to be there but we made it through and we had fun.”

“Other important lessons I learned include respecting the chain of command because there is a hierarchy for everything in life, that

proper planning is invaluable because being prepared for all scenarios and making sure I have the proper people in those situations is very important and the importance of teamwork. We don’t always get along, we don’t always agree but when it comes to fulfilling a mission or something, we are as one, no matter what.”

Jackson ended her military career as an E3 Cargo Specialist, a job that was not unlike what she does for NMC. “To me it was like shipping and receiving, what I’m doing now but with different products,” she explained. “If there was something that needed to be done, I didn’t let that job intimidate me because if it’s humanly possible, why can’t I do it? The military matured me. It made me realize that I can’t always run back home and expect my mom and dad to fix everything for me. I realized I was able to do things on my own and trust in my experience.”

“If there was something that needed to be done, I didn’t let that job intimidate me because if it’s humanly possible, why can’t I do it?”

KIM M. JACKSON
NMC PRODUCT ANALYST



The direction her life led her doesn't surprise her. "I kind of wanted to follow in my dad, Earl Johnson's, footsteps. He went into the military and he retired from Norco. I wanted to try to do something to make him proud."

After a thirteen year stint with Shell in New Orleans, she transferred to Norco. "My dad retired from NMC 15 years ago so, who knows? Maybe I'll retire from the site like he did. I'm definitely a daddy's girl!"

"I would do everything all over again," Jackson emphasized. "I might have stayed in the military knowing what I know today but at the same time, I really like where I am now so I don't have any regrets. Being in the military taught me great lessons and put me in contact with great people I'm still in contact with. I loved the camaraderie and being with people who like to help and do positive things. One thing the military taught me is that you may not always see what you see. Every action is a reaction so there's something that needs to happen to cause what you think you see. In the end you have to trust."

Jackson married a man who was in the Special Forces. Together they love watching military movies just to catch all the mistakes. In her free time she also loves hanging out with friends. "I like to have fun, it doesn't even matter what we're doing. I was talking to a friend and I told her I wanted to jump out of a plane. I have the place picked out and everything." There is no doubt she will be crossing that goal off her "to do" list.

Reading Aloud Builds Literary Foundation

Harold
and the
Purple
Crayon

Fancy
Nancy

Good
Night,
Moon

Today Is
Monday in
Louisiana



Such books are just a few that make it to the list of kids' favorites. Whether it's the antics of characters from classics or the adventures depicted in a new book, books can entertain and engage a child, especially when adults read aloud to them.

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children," a recent Commission on Reading report noted.

Norco Manufacturing Complex Partners in Education volunteers are bringing the reading aloud experience to Norco Elementary School students. "We read to Pre-K through second grade students once a month," said Reading Program Volunteer Coordinator **Stacey Zeringue**. "I enjoy giving back to the kids, especially reading to my sons who attend Norco Elementary. It helps them to grasp and expand their vocabulary while learn the different elements of a story."

Reading volunteers include: **Lynn Bonnette, Chris Coyle, David Haug, Michael Heath, Ken Jones, Troy Oncale, Jolene Page, Kate Parenteau, Aaron Pourciau, Linda Scharwath, Court Sheppard, Dianne Swiber, James White, and Stacey Zeringue.**



Linda Scharwath



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

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504-465-6667

Numbers and Addresses to Know:

St. Charles Emergency Operations Center:
985-783-5050

Norco Site Supervisor:
504-465-7342

NMC Community Information Line
504-465-7483

www.shell.us/norco
www.motivaenterprises.com
www.norco-air.info

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POSTAL PATRON

Make It a Date – A Date with Destiny

PARTICIPATE IN:

- Resume Reviews
- Mock Interviews
- Transferable Skills
- Equipment Demos
- Scholarship Information
- Community Colleges
- Keynote Speaker
- Networking
- Q & A

Norco Manufacturing Complex's Eighth Annual *Date with Destiny* will be held **Thursday, May 5 at the Hilton New Orleans Airport**. The free program is open to area women who are interested in pursuing a career in the petrochemical industry as well as those looking for a career change.

"*Date with Destiny* encourages, educates and empowers women in St. Charles and surrounding parishes to consider careers in the oil and gas industry as an operation technician or maintenance craft professional," explained Theron Williams, who coordinates the event for NMC.

Morning, afternoon and evening sessions are offered, each providing different information ranging from resume preparation to panel discussions featuring women currently working in the field."

For additional information, contact Williams:
Theron.Williams@motivaent.com.

**A TECHNICAL CAREER AND
 EDUCATION FORUM FOR**

WOMEN



THURSDAY, MAY 5

**NEW ORLEANS
 AIRPORT HILTON**

Service ANNIVERSARIES

35 Years

Marc Denham
 Donna Keller
 Ricky Mahon
 Ronn Miller
 Troy Mury

25 Years

Don Aucoin
 Christopher Badaeux
 Gerald Barbier

Russell Braud
 Kurt Brignac
 Kenneth Champagne
 Don Detillier
 Mark Duhe
 Charles Hebert
 Ivy Hymel
 Kent Hymel
 Byron La Fontaine

William Leboeuf
 Gerard Louque
 Scot Lowry
 Melvin Lusk
 Charles Mc Lin
 Robert Mc Nair
 Brian Naquin
 David Olivier
 Chad Picou

Dennis Sanchez
 Steven Shally
 Ezell Shelton
 Darren Templet
 Klaas Vander Meulen

20 Years

Cyril Francois
 Jeffrey Reech
 Charles Wells

15 Years

Anthony Fuentes

10 Years

Juan Ibieta
 Casey Weber

5 Years

Anthony Blankenship
 Muna Esmail
 Tonya Penalber

Someone You Know Works for Norco