

EYES ON THE FUTURE

New Orleans, Louisiana

DISTRICT 2

Fall 2006



Dear Friend and Neighbor:

It has been my distinct pleasure to represent the residents of District 2. As we continue to rebuild our lives, my faith and spirit have been renewed.

I have watched the residents of my district stand strong in the face of adversity, and this has only intensified my determination to work on your behalf.

Post-Katrina, we have a unique opportunity. It is time that we work together to ensure that the resources we are entitled to are used efficiently and equitably. We must continue to demand accountability and look forward to the rewards of virtu-

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CHARTER SCHOOLS

Duplessis lends support



Senator Ann Duplessis takes a moment for students at Einstein Charter School in New Orleans East.

Ron Midkiff of Einstein Charter School calls Senator Ann Duplessis his hero for her tireless efforts to get the institution open.

Students began attending classes at the New Orleans East school on September 7.

The senator "has been one of the most influential and stalwart supporters of the Einstein Charter School," said Midkiff, who serves as co-principal with his wife, Alice Midkiff.

"We really didn't start to get rolling until she got behind us.

"Her influence with the community, the powers that be, was extremely influential in us becoming a very good, solid 450-population school with open enrollment in the New Orleans East community," said the former gifted resource teacher.



Senator Ann Duplessis addresses students October 11 at the Fourth Annual Lights on Afterschool program at Einstein Charter School.

Duplessis recently spoke at the Fourth Annual Lights on Afterschool program at Einstein Charter School. The program was held October 11.

In addition to helping Einstein open its doors and supporting after-school programs, Duplessis has assisted students at both Einstein and Martin Luther King Charter Schools with vouchers to purchase uniforms. "We basically adopted the schools to help with necessities," she said.

Duplessis also welcomed students at other schools in District 2 with apple pies on opening day.

"We have been engaged in contacting all schools, both public and private, to embrace them and find out what we can do to help them," Duplessis said.

"I have a strong commitment to building our schools back and ensuring that our students receive a quality education."

Continued from Page 1

ous and responsible leadership.

It is important that we recognize that changes these devastating storms brought give us an opportunity to look at things differently.

Many of our public agencies and institutions have operated inefficiently. During the 2005-06 legislative sessions, I spearheaded efforts to address some of those inefficiencies.

As we continue to rebuild our lives, we must recognize that legislation like Assessor Consolidation and the Recovery School District are not fix-alls.

The problems will not go away tomorrow. These pieces of legislation represent milestones of change that will help ensure that we have every opportunity to rebuild to excellence.

There is a lot of work to be done. I understand the challenges ahead of us and am committed to working so that we can rebuild District 2 to the diamond that it can be.

Sincerely Yours,

Ann Duplessis,
Senator

DUPLESSIS IN ACTION



Senator Ann Duplessis (right) looks on as U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton (left) talks about Hurricane Katrina. Also pictured are U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu (front center), Representative Austin Badon and his wife, Therese Badon.



Senator Ann Duplessis talks to a constituent.



Senator Ann Duplessis talks to colleague Senator Edwin Murray about the *Road Home* program.

NATIONAL DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

To prevent telemarketers from calling your telephone, call the National Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 from the number you want to register. Doing so will block your number for five years. If your phone number changes, you must register your new number. In 31 days, most telemarketers will be prohibited from calling you. If you receive a call from a telemarketer after that time period, you may file a complaint. Log on to www.donotcall.gov for more information.

DUPLESSIS IN ACTION



Senator Ann Duplessis (third from left) participates with the Rev. Jesse Jackson in the Right to Vote March.



Senator Ann Duplessis (center) participates in the Hands Around the Dome ceremony on the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

WORKING FOR DISTRICT 2

Senator Ann Duplessis has been:

- Serving as the watchdog of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and pushing for more involvement in formulating policy
- Working with the federal government to help the underserved
- Advocating for the creation of a federal mortgage assistance program to provide mortgage relief for 1-1 1/2 years, particularly for working-class people who, for more than a year, have survived off insurance money that should have been used to rebuild their homes
- Helping to control insurance costs
- Helping to make the Recovery School District what it is supposed to be
- Engaging people who never have been engaged before in conversations about effectively educating our children. "We're all in this together," Duplessis said. "We can at least start moving toward progress. We don't have to lose another 60,000 kids."

FEMA FLOOD ELEVATIONS

The Flood Insurance Rate Map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides the Base Flood Elevations (BFE). This elevation is the minimum height that new or substantial damage construction must meet. An elevation certificate that is completed by a licensed land surveyor will determine the structure's elevations that can be used to tell how high, or low, the floor is to the BFE.

For more information, log on to www.FloodSmart.gov.

DISTRICT 2 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 2006

11th, Saturday

Veterans Day

23rd, Thursday

Thanksgiving

Deliver baskets
to senior homes

December 2006

25th, Monday

Christmas Day

January 2007

1st, Monday

New Year's Day

15th, Monday

MLK Day

February 2007

14th, Wednesday

Valentine's Day

Deliver sugar-free

chocolates to

senior homes

19th, Monday

Presidents' Day

20th, Tuesday

Mardi Gras

ASSESSOR CONSOLIDATION

Louisiana residents OK change

On November 7, residents in New Orleans and throughout the state of Louisiana voted to reduce the number of property tax assessors from seven to one.

Senator Ann Duplessis has been working to eliminate multiple assessors.

Orleans is the only parish in the state with seven assessors, and New Orleans is one of only a handful of cities nationwide where taxes are handled by multiple assessors, The Associated Press reported.

"I authored and lobbied for the assessors merger because I believe our citizens want professional standards and responsive government," Duplessis said. "A single assessor system is the first step toward that goal."

Here are just a few of the ways reforming

the assessor system will help District 2 residents:

- **Save money.** The Bureau of Governmental Research estimates that cutting the number of assessors can save taxpayers more than \$560,000 a year.

- **Get equitable assessments.** Residents who own homes and businesses no longer will have to pick up the tab for others who are not paying their fair share. Property owners aren't the only ones affected. Renters pay property taxes indirectly through their rent.

Because the assessor system has been consolidated, city funds can be redirected to essential services such as police and fire protection, as well as garbage pickup, Duplessis noted.

The seven incumbent assessors will serve out their terms until 2010, according to The AP.



"I authored and lobbied for the assessors merger because I believe our citizens want professional standards and responsive government." — Senator Ann Duplessis

CHEF MENTEUR LANDFILL

Senator works to keep dump site closed

Senator Ann Duplessis has been fighting for New Orleans East residents who want a controversial landfill to remain closed.

It is located at 16600 Chef Menteur Highway next to Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge and near the Village de L'est community.

The landfill opened under an emergency permit in April 2006 to accept debris related to Hurricane Katrina.

Citizens for a Strong New Orleans East and the Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) are among the groups opposed to the dump site.

Some concerns include the health and safety of the residents and the wildlife, as well



as the adverse economic impact the landfill can cause.

Duplessis has requested an immediate cease-and-desist order from the Department of Environmental

Quality (DEQ), which granted the emergency permit to open the site. She also co-authored a concurrent resolution to "strongly urge and request" DEQ to use scientists the community identifies to test the landfill.

"She spoke directly and firmly to identify things of concern to the community and demanded the DEQ respond and produce results," said Joel Waltzer, an attorney for LEAN and the Citizens group, which is an umbrella of 40 New Orleans East homeowners associations and business and faith-based organizations.

"She definitely was the champion of the New Orleans East citizenry in the Senate."

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Kendall P. Parker owns Parker Dental Center in the Lower Ninth Ward. His wife, Lisa, is the office manager.

Parker Dental Center

- **Owner:** Dr. Kendall P. Parker, D.D.S.
- **Phone:** (504) 848-4547
- **Location:** 5121 N. Claiborne Ave., Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans
- **Opened:** February 8, 1995
- **Reopened:** August 21, 2006
- **No. of employees:** 4
- **No. of patients daily:** 12

Parker reopens dental office

After Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Kendall P. Parker spent about five months practicing dentistry in Lafayette, La., before returning to the Lower Ninth Ward to resume his work.

Parker Dental Center reopened its doors to patients on August 21, about a week before the first anniversary of the storm.

"I had a desire to open up because I figured if people saw businesses in the community opening, they'd be more inclined to come back, and that's in addition to coming back to do business," Parker said. "I had no intention to come back and sit around twiddling my thumbs. I knew if I opened, people would come."

Reopening the business in the Lower Ninth Ward, where he practiced for more than 10 years pre-Katrina, carries on the Parker family legacy.

Parker's grandfather, father and brother owned businesses there before they died. "My family always had a business in the Lower Ninth Ward, and I knew that's where I wanted to come back to practice," said Parker, who worked with his sister, Dr. Aukena M. Parker, pre-Katrina.

His grandfather, Lancaster Parker Sr., "The Pie Man," was known for his sweet potato,

pumpkin and apple pies.

August J. Parker Sr., Parker's father, owned four businesses at the corner of Caffin Avenue and Galvez Street: Parker's Restaurant, Parker's Liquor Store, Parker's Barber Shop and Globe-trotters Cab Company.

Parker's brother, Jeffery M. Parker Sr., operated Jeff's Barber Shop at Charbonnet and Dourgenois streets.



Parker

In addition to continuing a legacy, Parker also is fulfilling a pledge of his alma mater, Meharry Medical College.

"The dental school had ... an unwritten pledge that the duty of a Meharry graduate is to serve the underserved," said Parker, who also graduated from St. Augustine High School and Howard University.

The federal government has designated the Lower Ninth Ward as a Health Professional Shortage Area, he noted.

Despite the designation, the area, pre- and post-Katrina, definitely is economically viable, Parker said. "People assume that because people may not have as much money as they have in other areas that the people are poor," he noted.

"But people have great jobs with good insurance, and they want to come and patronize their own communities like everyone else does," he said. "As soon as people realize that, a lot of businesses will be back in the area."

"I had a desire to open up because I figured if people saw businesses in the community opening, they'd be more inclined to come back, and that's in addition to coming back to do business." — Dr. Kendall P. Parker

DISTRICT 2 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 2007

7th, Saturday

Easter Egg Hunt

May 2007

13th, Sunday

Mother's Day

Deliver flowers

to senior homes

28th, Monday

Memorial Day

June 2007

9th, Saturday

Youth Retreat,

Bayou Seignet

17th, Sunday

Father's Day

July 2007

4th, Wednesday

Independence

Day

Check the next issue of *Eyes on the Future* for updates to the District 2 Community Calendar.

**DISTRICT 2
SENATOR
ANN DUPLESSIS**

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CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS

Senator Ann Duplessis has secured funding for the following projects in District 2:

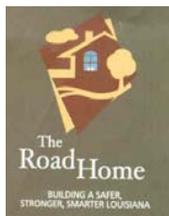
PROJECT	COST
New Orleans East Walking and Bike Trail	\$600,000
I-10 Service Road Extension and Access Road	\$5 million
Lighting Improvements	\$1.25 million
St. Claude Community Development	\$3.6 million
New Orleans East Community Development	\$5.825 million

THE ROAD HOME

Senator pushes to enhance program

Senator Ann Duplessis has been working with the Louisiana Recovery Authority and others to develop a more efficient *Road Home* program that will further assist residents who want to return to their homes.

The program was designed to compensate Louisiana homeowners affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita with up to \$150,000 for their losses.



Duplessis knows that the application process has been confusing, particularly the portion requesting financial data.

As a result, the senator wants to change the intake process to create express lanes for people with cases that are not as difficult. "I have been working with Louisiana Recov-

ery Authority officials to identify many inefficiencies, and they have been receptive to changing the process," Duplessis said. "I am concerned about the pace and the fact that the dollar amount is not what we wanted," she said. "I also am concerned about the working class not getting their needs addressed."



Senator Ann Duplessis talks to constituents about the *Road Home* program during a Louisiana Recovery Authority question-and-answer session.

While Duplessis is working to ensure that those concerns are addressed, she encourages residents to begin the *Road Home* application process.

Log on to www.road2LA.org or call 1-888-ROAD-2-LA (1-888-762-3252) to request an application in the mail. There is no cost to apply.

Because of her commitment to bring District 2 and other New Orleans residents home, Senator Ann Duplessis was instrumental in advocating for a bill to create the Louisiana Housing and Land Trust. The bill was designed to establish a conduit for federal monies to aid the residents of the 167,000-plus homes in Louisiana destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the collapse of the levees. (Source: *NewOrleansBlack.com*)

IN THE NEWS

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