



The

News

June 2025

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Hello Summer!

casawestcenla.org

Words from the Director

Home for the summer

As summer approaches my grandchildren have counted down the days for the final school bells to ring. It's a season they associate with vacations, fun, and a break from routine. For the children in our foster care system, however, this time of year can bring a mix of emotions: excitement for long days in the sun, but also a deep yearning for something more—a sense of home.

For some of our youth, "summer" doesn't just mean camps and cookouts. It means longing. It means wondering if this might be the summer they return to familiar faces, or if they'll finally feel safe and settled somewhere they can call their own.

At CASA of West CenLA, we know that permanency—whether through reunification with family, adoption, or a stable, loving foster home—is the cornerstone of healing and hope. Summer gives us an opportunity to renew our commitment to these children, not just to keep them safe, but to help them thrive.

This is also a time to acknowledge the foster families, social workers, therapists, mentors, and advocates who make a difference daily. You are helping create moments of joy and stability—whether that's a trip to the park, a shared meal, or a conversation that says, "I see you."

To every child waiting and hoping this summer: you are not forgotten. Your dreams matter, and your voice is heard. We see your resilience, your strength, and you're longing to belong.

Let's continue working together as a community to ensure that summer is more than a season—it's a step toward the future every child deserves.

~Tommy

Supervisor Tips

CASA Supervisor Tips for Volunteers

Communicate with the Child:

Establish a strong rapport with the child and explain the CASA role clearly.

Discuss the child's feelings and preferences regarding the case.

Ensure the child understands what is happening and the role the CASA plays.

Gather Information:

Review all relevant documents and records, including case files, reports, and court orders.

Interview the child, family members, foster parents, and other professionals involved in the case.

Monitor the child's progress in school, therapy, and other services.

Keep the CASA's Optima database updated with the child's information, especially school details.

Communicate with Others:

Share information with the child's family and caregivers, ensuring they are aware of the child's situation.

Maintain regular communication with the DCFS caseworker and other professionals.

Supervisor Tips

Ask to see the child's educational portfolio to gain a comprehensive understanding of their history and needs.

Advocate for the Child's Best Interests:

Attend court hearings and provide testimony as needed, advocating for the child's needs.

Advocate for appropriate services, including education, therapy, and support.

Ensure that the child's needs are being met and that the case plan is being followed.

Maintain Confidentiality:

Protect the confidentiality of all information related to the case, including the child's private details and the court proceedings.

Embrace Continued Learning:

Attend training sessions and workshops to stay up-to-date on child welfare issues and advocacy techniques.

Beauregard
420 McMahon Street
DeRidder, LA 70634
337-462-4667 Phone
337-462-1554 Fax



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF WEST CENLA

Vernon
113 S. 3rd Street
Leesville, LA 71446
337-239-1970 Phone
337-239-1960 Fax

Training

In-Service Training for Current Advocates

Our current advocate trainings are on the
3rd Thursday of the month.
Our next in-service will be on:

June 26, 2025

Pre-Service Training for New Incoming Advocates

We begin trainings in the following months:

January
March
May
September

Our Next class begins in September 2025



If you are interested in volunteering,
please scan the QR code or
visit our website at
www.casawestcenla.org

Did You Know?

CASA is unique. It is the only program where everyday citizens are appointed by judges to speak up for a child's safety and well-being.

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life. You do not have to be a lawyer or social worker to volunteer. We welcome volunteers from all cultures, professions, ethnic and educational backgrounds. A large number of our volunteers work full time.

Judges, attorneys, child welfare workers and parents overwhelmingly report that volunteers make a difference with the children they serve.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF WEST CENLA

casawestcenla.org

<https://www.facebook.com/CASAWestCenla>

What's Happening 'Round Town Beauregard Parish



★★★
**Inaugural
VETERAN RESOURCE
ROUND-UP**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025
10:00AM - 2:00PM**

Service Members, Veterans, and Families are invited to access information and resources designed to assist in navigating the often complicated world of benefits and services.

Proudly brought to you by the
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DERIDDER, LA 70634

War Memorial Civic Center
Pre-4th of July Celebration
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**SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 27
11 A.M.**

Would you like to help sponsor this event?
For sponsorship information,
email fscott@warmemorialcc.com.
More details to be released in May.



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**250 WEST 7TH STREET
DERIDDER, LOUISIANA**
www.warmemorialcc.com

Click the pictures for
more information

**BEAUREGARD
WATERMELON FESTIVAL**
PRESENTS

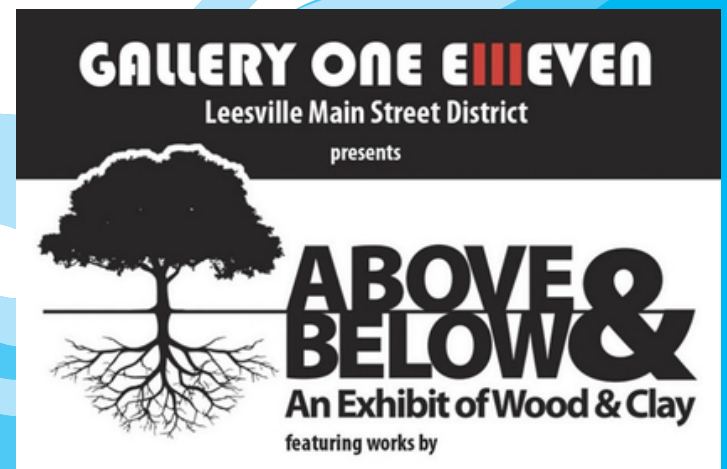
Old Time
★★★
**SUGARTOWN
WATERMELON DAYS**
Growers Event

**SATURDAY
JUNE 28, 2025**
SELLING OF THE MELONS!
VENDORS • FOOD • GAMES • SEED SPITTING
WATERMELON EATING CONTEST
LARGEST MELON CONTEST

**THE SWEETEST MELONS YOU'LL FIND
COME FROM THE SUGARTOWN
WATERMELON VINE.**

WWW.BEAUREGARDWATERMELONFESTIVAL.COM

What's Happening 'Round Town Vernon Parish



Click the pictures for
more information

Fun Summer Activities

Outdoor Adventures:

- **Camping:** Setting up a tent in the backyard or visiting a nearby campsite can be a memorable experience.
- **Hiking:** Enjoy nature trails and explore the beauty of the surrounding area.
- **Biking:** Take a bike ride to a local park or ice cream shop for a fun family outing.
- **Beaches/Lakes:** Spend a day swimming, building sandcastles, or picnicking by the water.
- **Farmers Markets:** Visit a local farmers market for fresh produce and a fun family outing.
- **Fishing:** Try your hand at fishing for a relaxing and enjoyable outdoor activity.
- **Nature Scavenger Hunt:** Strengthen your child's observational skills by going on an outdoor scavenger hunt.

Fun Summer Activities

Indoor Activities:

- **Children's Museum:** Visit a local children's museum for interactive exhibits and educational fun.
- **Summer Camps:** Consider sending your children to a summer camp for a variety of activities and learning opportunities.
- **Family Movie Night:** Create a cozy and fun movie marathon at home.
- **Library:** Visit the library for a day of reading and learning.
- **DIY Art Projects:** Engage in creative activities like making chalk art, learning to crochet, or creating your own scavenger hunt.
- **Learn a new dance or skill:** Encourage your children to explore their interests and learn a new dance or skill.

Fun Summer Activities

Other Ideas:

- **Splash Pads:** Visit a local splash pad for a fun and refreshing way to cool off.
- **Backyard Water Slide:** Create a DIY water slide with a tarp, dish soap, and a hose.
- **Ice Cream Social:** Host an ice cream social with various toppings and flavors.
- **Water Balloon Fight:** Organize a water balloon fight for a fun and refreshing way to beat the heat.
- **Host a Backyard Olympics:** Set up a backyard Olympics with various games and activities.
- **Set up a Lemonade Stand:** Teach kids about business and entrepreneurship with a lemonade stand.

Spotlights New Advocates May 2025

Chanel



Charles



Kellie



Justine



Stephanne



Tiffany