



THE LIGHT

SHINING BRIGHTLY ON CENLA

Celebrate Mothers, May 11, 2008



Mother's Day began 100 years ago at the suggestion of Anna M. Jarvis, who thought that mothers deserved an annual day.

At a memorial service for her mother Jarvis gave a carnation to each person who attended.

Within the next few years, the observance gained popularity.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

By then it had become customary to wear a white carnation to honor deceased mothers and a red flower to honor the living. That custom continues today.

Mother's Day Tributes

Pages 3, 4

Stupid, stupidier, stupidest and more stupid

As a novice police reporter in Hammond, I quickly discovered that many criminals were not smart at all.

In fact, they were plain stupid.

Often times criminals spend a good portion of their crime preparation time making sure that the big details are in order. They forget the devil is more often than not in the small details.

For example, those transporting drugs along the major interstates are many times busted because they were speeding. State troopers would not catch many drug traffickers had the dealers just kept to the speed limit. No, they fly down the interstate trying to make the quick buck that they never get because they end up in jail.

We have our own stupid criminals right here in Central Louisiana. Right here in the Pineville Police Department. Right here in the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office.

Pineville Police Patrolman First Class Raymond Eli Smith, 37, of 110 Wildwood Drive, Pineville, and Sheriff's Deputy Marcus Mandrell Taylor, 35, of



Sherri L. Jackson, Publisher
1425 Jeannie St., Pineville, were each charged with conspiracy to distribute powder cocaine, according to published reports.

Smith was also charged with malfeasance in office.

To be honest with you, I didn't know if to laugh or cry when I heard

the news that two of our law enforcers were allegedly caught up in a drug deal involving an undercover operation.

Smith, who out of all things was the DARE officer at Lessie Moore Elementary School in Pineville and Julius Patrick Elementary School. For goodness sake. That in itself is enough to make your head explode.

Taylor has worked at the Sheriff's Office for about seven years and is a corrections officer at Detention Center III

Smith apparently orchestrated a drug transaction with an undercover officer that would have had Smith make a quick run to Detroit, Mich., to get rid of a kilo of cocaine.

It took me a long time to listen to the audio from the police scanner that The Town Talk was able to record. That's a story in itself. Why did this transaction make the radio waves in the first place?

Are these officers the best we have to offer? Are they the role models

our children have to look up to? God forbid.

These actions are without any plausible excuses. If the accusations proved to be true, I pray that they are rightfully dealt with on all levels.

Our children have enough trauma in their lives just dealing with their own family members who are involved in the drug world as dealers or users. Our children deserve better. Central Louisiana deserve better.

Mother's Day is near

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, grandmas, aunts, cousins, godmothers and mother-friends.

As always we honor you for who you are in our lives and the sacrifices that you make to make our lives complete.

We only hope that when the day comes for us to fulfill the role of a mother, we will measure up to the great example that you've left for us.

Thank you for all you do.

Men of Substance

Nominee's name _____

Nominee's address _____

Nominee's telephone _____

Qualifications _____

Your name and telephone number _____

The Light is looking for 10 noteworthy men to profile as a "Man of Substance" to be published June 15.

We're seeking nominations for 10 honorable men. We're asking that you think long and hard about the men you think are deserving of this special honor.

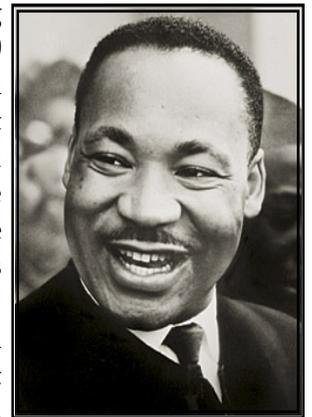
If you know of a man who is honest in his dealings, exemplifies integrity and has impeccable character, please complete the form by providing the nominee's name, address, telephone number and description of their qualifications to The Light.

If you need additional space, please attach a separate sheet of paper to this form.

Forms may be mailed to The Light, 1429 Third St., Alexandria, LA 71301, or e-mail to cenlight@gmail.com. The submission deadline is May 15.

If you need more space to explain your nomination, you may use the back of the form.

For more information call Sherri L. Jackson at (318) 308-2334.



Turning into your mother is a good thing

I have been in discussion with my friend Sherri L. Jackson, The Light's publisher and editor, about having my opportunity to write something in this paper. Well, it appears my time has finally come. Now that I have the chance, what am I going to say?

Before we get started let's make sure that we are all on the same page. Webster's Dictionary states that a Mother is a female parent or a woman in authority. As you read this, the word Mother can stand for grandmother, godmother, aunt, great aunt or older sister. Each of these all have touched a life as a Mother.

To have a Mother near or far is something special. Without a Mother who would give us that guidance and encouragement needed to face another day? How would we learn how to be a lady? Where would

we learn how to raise our children? Where would we learn how to treat our husbands? Where would we learn that when we fall down we can get back up?

As a child I did not realize all the things that my Mother was teaching and telling me would be useful as I deal with life's situations. Back then, I just thought she was talking just to talk or what we called it at my house "fussing." Don't get me wrong, I listened to every bit of it. However, at that time in my life I could not connect the dots and figure out how that was going to help me for the future. It's funny that 32 years later I catch myself sounding just like my Mother or repeating something to another young lady that my Mother told me when I was a teenager.

What am I trying to say? If you have



Taura L. Denmon

a mother, grandmother, godmother, aunt, great Aunt, older sister or Mother figure, make sure you let her know how much you appreciate her, and

how she has made a positive impact on your life. Let's not just do this on Mother's Day. Every day let them know how special they are!

In appreciation of my Mother, Thee Opal Gantt-Denmon and two grandmothers, Era Mosley Gantt (deceased) and Lenora Jones Denmon, I would like to say thank you. I am appreciative of everything that you have shared with me to help and develop me to the woman that I am today. When it is time, I will know how to be a great mother, wife, grandmother or mother figure because of what I have seen in you!

Is your mother a special woman? Do you want to tell the world why? Log on to The Light's blog at www.cenlalight.wordpress.com and salute your mother.

My greatest gift: Mary Ann Ford

Loving, honorable, and kind.

These words best describes my mother, Mary Ann Ford. They hold true to the person she is and what she means to me.

From my earliest childhood days, I can remember all the things that my mother did for my brothers, my sisters, and me. We didn't have much in those days in the way of money and material things, but what we did have was the love and support of our mother. She taught us that the love of family and taking care of one another should be the most important to us.

My mother, affectionately known as Madear, showed us discipline and gave us guidance. That same discipline and guidance have molded each of us into the individuals that we are today. Without those things,

Leonard's Thoughts



Leonard Ford Jr.

we would not have the goodness of character and the correctness of behavior that we all display today. Thanks to Madear, my brothers,

sisters, and I are responsible and mature adults living meaningful lives.

My mother has always been a presence in my life. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be the man that I am today. Madear was my cornerstone. When I needed to lean on her, she was there for me no matter what the problem. She planted the seed in me to succeed in whatever I did. I acquired from her the strengths that have taken me from the few failures that I had in my life to the great depths of happiness that I now enjoy. Madear has given me much but has asked little from me.

Madear is more than a mother to me. She is my friend, and she is the person who I can confide in when I am having problems. Our relationship goes beyond mother and son. It is one that I cherish, and I will continue to

cherish as long as she is on this earth. She is compassionate, nurturing, and the epitome of love and kindness. She is larger than life, makes my life brighter, and is my fairytale princess.

On this Mother's Day, I want Madear to know that she is the greatest mother in the world. I thank her for being my mother, and I thank God for giving her to me. She has been the greatest gift that I could have ever received. All my hopes and dreams have come true because of her.

On this Mother's Day, give your mother a big hug. Tell her that you love her. Your gift of love will be more precious to her than any gift you could buy.

Happy Mother's Day to the mothers of Central Louisiana.

Cleco collecting fans for elderly

PINEVILLE — Staying comfortable this summer can be a challenge for those people without air conditioning. For older people, the heat can even be deadly. To help them stay cool this summer, Cleco is conducting its annual fan drive for the elderly.

From now until mid-May, Cleco employees throughout the state will be holding fund-raisers and soliciting local businesses to help with the fan drive. Donated fans will be sent to councils on aging in Cleco's service territory for distribution before the hot summer months.

Donors may drop off fans at any Cleco customer service office.

Senior citizens in need of fans should contact their local council on aging. The participating Council on Aging agencies in Central Louisiana are: Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Evangeline, Grant, Rapides Sabine and Vernon.

Acadian students enjoy storytellers

Fourth-grade members of The Acadian Elementary Book Club won an opportunity to attend a National Library Week activity sponsored by the Rapides Parish Library.

"Angela the Yarnspinner," an

storyteller from New Orleans, entertained the children with a variety of action-packed multicultural stories and songs.

One of Acadian's chaperones, the Rev. Gregory Mills, helped to act out one of the tales, along with some other members from the audience.

The activity was held the Pineville Community Center on Wednesday, April 16. Charlene Mills and Carolyn Clarkston are the book club's sponsors.

Law Day luncheon to be held

The Alexandria Bar Association's annual Law Day Luncheon and CLE Seminar is set for noon Monday, May

5, at the Christus St. Frances Cabrini Sleep Center, 1804 MacArthur Drive.

The theme will be "The Rule of Law, Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity."

The keynote speaker is Alexandria Mayor Jacques Roy.

The annual Liberty Bell Award will be presented.

For more information, call Madeline J. Lee at (318) 445-8236.

Got an opinion about everything, anything,
Leave it at

www.cenlalight.wordpress.com

Shirley Jones of Colfax: One in a Million



Shirley Ann Jones of Colfax

The Grant Parish community recently honored Shirley Ann Jones in a special celebration held March 21.

Jones, a musician for more than 50 years, has played for churches throughout Grant Parish and surrounding communities, including Boyce and Alexandria.

More than 200 people attended the "spirit-filled" gala. Attendees serenaded Jones with her favorite songs and gave words of praise and gratitude for the work she has done, said Mary Smith of Pineville, one of the program coordinators.

Jones currently is a musician for three Colfax churches: Hopewell, St. Matthew and First Baptist churches.

Jones has three children, two daughters and a son.

Photos by James Smith

Mayor Gerald Hamilton of Colfax presents Shirley Ann Jones with flowers, the keys to the city and a plaque during a celebration in Jones' honor. Hamilton also proclaimed the weekend of April 21 "Shirley Ann Jones Weekend." The celebration was held April 21 at the Main Street Community Center in Pineville. Jones has been a musician in Colfax for more than 50 years. The community came together to honor her with tributes, gifts and a video that captured Jones' life and work through the years.

Mothers rule the world

The U.S. Census reports the following:

- 82.8 million Estimated number of mothers in the United States in 2004.
- 55 percent of 15- to 44-year-olds who are mothers.
- 81 percent of women 40 to 44 who are mothers. In 1976, 90 percent of women in that age group were mothers.
- 94.1 is number of births in 2006 per 1,000 women of childbearing age in Utah, which led the nation. At the other end of the spectrum was Vermont, with a rate of 52.2 births.
- Among 94 percent of the 37.8 million mothers living with children younger than 18, the percentage who lived with their biological children only. In addition, 3 percent lived with stepchildren, 2 percent with adopted children and less than 1 percent with foster children.
- 25.2 is the average age of women in

2005 when they gave birth for the first time. This is up 3.8 years since 1970. Source: National Center for Health Statistics

- 40 percent of births that were the mother's first in 2006. Another 32 percent were the second-born; 17 percent, third; and 11 percent, fourth or more.
- 37,402 is the number of births in 2005 that did not occur in hospitals.
- 1 in 31 is the likelihood of a woman delivering twins in 2005. Her chances of delivering triplets and higher order multiple births was approximately 1 in 618.
- August is the month with the highest number of births, with 369,316 taking place that month in 2005.
- Tuesday is the day of the week with the highest number of births, with an average of 13,169 taking place on Tuesdays during 2005.
- Jacob and Emily are the most popular baby names for boys and girls, respectively, in 2006.

▸ 5.6 million is the number of stay-at-home moms in 2006.

▸ Among mothers with infants in 2004, 55 percent were in the labor force, down from a record high of 59 percent in 1998.

▸ 751,322 is number of child care centers across the country in 2005. These include more than 73,000 workers and another 678,000 self-employed people or other businesses without paid employees. Many mothers turn to these centers to help juggle motherhood and careers.

▸ 67 percent of women who gave birth for the first time between 2001 and 2003 and worked during their pregnancy. This compares with 44 percent who gave birth for the first time between 1961 and 1965.

▸ 80 percent of first-time mothers who worked one month or less before giving birth in the early part of this decade. This compares with percent who did so between 1961 and 1965.

▸ 55 percent of first-time mothers in the early part of this decade who were working by the sixth month after they gave birth. In the early 1960s, the corresponding percentage was 14 percent.

▸ 83 percent of mothers who went back to work within a year of their child's birth who returned to the same employer. Seven in 10 of these women returned to jobs at the same pay, skill level and hours worked per week.

▸ 10.4 million is the number of single mothers living with children younger than 18, up from 3.4 million in 1970.

▸ 6.1 million is the number of custodial mothers entitled to child support in 2005.

▸ 54 percent and 79 percent are the percentages of children younger than 6 who eat breakfast and dinner, respectively, with their mother every day. The corresponding percentages who eat with their father were 41 percent and 66 percent.

Is “Lil” Chuck the next Tiger Woods?



Submitted Photo

By The Light Staff

Charles “Lil Chuck” Spears, a 13-year-old golfer from Pineville, has a bright future in the sport.

He was first introduced to the game when he was 8 years old. His grandfather, Willie Spears, built their home on the East Over golf course when he and his wife, Margaret lived in New Orleans.

Sometimes, Grandfather Spears would allow Lil Chuck to ride in the golf cart with him while he was playing a round of golf. He later cut down a few of his old golf clubs so Lil Chuck could play along with him. When his grandfather moved back home to Pineville, it temporarily ended Lil Chuck’s interest in golf.

Then along came Hurricane Katrina. Lil Chuck and his family relocated to Pineville and moved in with his grandfather. His enthusiasm for golf was reborn. He practiced with his grandfather on a vacant lot next to their Pineville home. His grandfather liked what he saw in Lil Chuck’s golf swing and his enthusiasm for the game.

Grandfather Spears arranged for his grandson to take a few lessons from Craig Campo, the golf professional at Oak Wing Golf Course. Campo also thought that Lil Chuck had all of the basic tools to become a good golfer. After his lessons with Campo, he went to the golf course every chance he got. He still practices three to four times a week.

Lil Chuck met Travis Wilmore, a top ranked junior golfer and a member of the Holy Savior Menard High

School Golf Team. He and Travis became close friends. They practice and play together whenever possible. Travis encouraged Chuck to play in a few local tournaments and join the Arrow Head Jr. Golf Tour, a regional tour that includes five states. The competition is tough, and it gives participants the opportunity to play against some of the best junior golfers in the region. More 50 percent of the golfers that play on the Arrow Head Tour receive college scholarships.

Lil Chuck played in his first Arrow Head tournament in 2007 at Copper Mill Golf Course in Zachary. Grandfather Spears said “the goal was not to finish last.”

Lil Chuck didn’t disappoint his grandfather. The grandson surprised everyone, including himself, by finishing fifth, one place from getting his first trophy. Lil Chuck has played in a number of tournaments since his start in Zachary, and he has an impressive record of victories. They include:

- First place: Southern Tradition, Alexandria Golf Course; Arrow Head, Oak Harbor Golf Course; and Arrow Head, Lakes at Pelican Point, Gonzales
- Second place: Carter Plantation Golf Course, Springfield; Kositi Pines Golf Course, Hinder; and Santa Maria Golf Course, Baton Rouge
- Third place: Southern Trace Golf & Country Club, Shreveport
- Fourth place: LSU University Club, Baton Rouge; and Links on the Bayou Golf Club, Alexandria

Summer camp accepting applications

The Alexandria Housing Authority is offering a free summer day camp with registration ongoing, officials said.

Camps are open to children registered in the first through 12th grade and are at five locations in Alexandria. Children take part in activities, such as dance, art, computer skills and field trips. Campers also partici-

pate in language arts and math enrichment.

Camps are slated for:

- June 2 through July 18 at the Sycamore Resource Center and Green Meadows Resource Center. Camp is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- June 2 through June 30 at Carver Village Resource

Center, Charles Hayward Activity Center and Phoenix Point Resource Center.

Camp runs from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Transportation is provided on a limited basis.

The camp is made possible through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Family (TANF)

After School for All and the 21st Century Learning Center grants.

Applications are available at the Charles Hayward Activity Center, located at 2586 Loblolly Lane and at your child’s school beginning May 5.

For more information, call (318) 487-8003.

If You’re Not Reading The Light, You’re in the Dark!

Spotlight on the Town

► **BICYCLE RODEO AND FUN DAY**, 8 a.m. Saturday, May 3, Walking Trail located between Prince and Way streets in Pineville. There will be food, music, games, activities, a bike parade, and safety information. For more information, call (318) 561-0238 or (318) 447-4223. The event is hosted by the Pineville Concerned Citizens Inc./VFW Post 1736/Ladies Auxiliary and St. Christus St. Francis Cabrini Hospital.

► **COMMUNITY FEST MUSIC EXTRAVANGANZA**, Noon Sunday, May 4, Smyrna 7th-day Adventist Church. Special guests will include gospel choirs, praise worshippers, and local artists and various organizational booths from the community. There will be a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. The entry fee for the basketball tournament and car show is \$20. Gates open for show set up at 10:30 a.m. with an awards presentation at 4 p.m. Call (318) 623-6201 for more information.

► **R&B JAM SESSION** with Dynamic Jake, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May

6 and 13 Tipitina's, 321 DeSoto St., Alexandria. Teens and adults bring your voice or an instrument to plug in to be part of the fun. Audience members welcome. Alcohol and drug free event. Admission is free. Call (318) 442-6463 for questions/directions.

► **MAKE YOUR OWN BUSINESS CARD**, 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10, Tipitina's, 321 DeSoto St., Alexandria. Learn how to make your own business card using the software program Adobe Illustrator. Space is limited. Call ahead if you have not used a computer before. Cost is free. Please call (318)442-6463 for questions/directions.

► **MAKE YOUR OWN CD COVER**, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15, Tipitina's, 321 DeSoto St., Alexandria. Learn how to make your own CD cover using the software program Adobe Illustrator. For teens and adults. Space is limited. Cost is free. Please call (318) 442-6463 for questions/directions.

BOARD BUILDERS

Recruiting Business & Nonprofit Partners for 2008

What Is Board Builders?

- A training and matching program aimed at developing emerging leaders through service on the Board of Directors of local nonprofit organizations.
- This training program is offered free of charge by Community Development Works to people, employers and nonprofit organizations located in Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Natchitoches, Vernon and Winn parishes.

How Do I Get Involved?

- Contact Patricia Starling at 318.443.7880, 800.803.8075 or pstarling@cdworks.org. Visit us online at communitydevelopmentworks.org to receive more information.



Community Development Works



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Through mid-July, St. Matthew Baptist Church will hold Sunday worship services at the Alexander Fulton Hotel & Convention Centre (formerly downtown Holiday Inn), 701 Fourth Street.

Services begin each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. with Sunday School and at 11 a.m. for Worship.

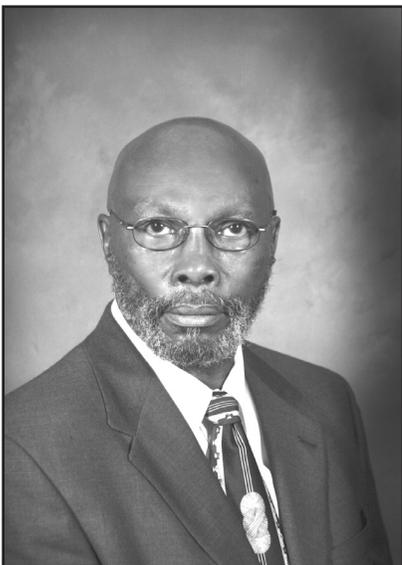
Bible study will be at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the church, located at 5605 Old Boyce Road.

Bessie Turner Scholarship Banquet

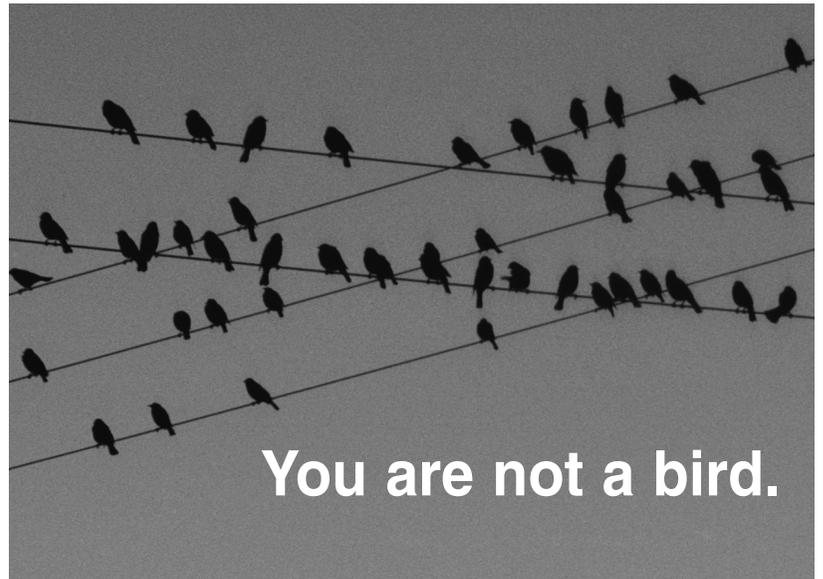
6 p.m. Saturday, May 10

Alexander Fulton Hotel & Convention Centre

**Bro. Willie Spears, Vice President
Red River Bank**



Dr. Joe S. Green and Bro. Willie Spears



Electricity is an amazing thing. It can heat your home, cook your food, and light your way. It can also kill you if you don't respect its awesome power. That's why Cleco works so hard to warn everyone of its danger and to stay clear of all power lines. To find out why birds can touch a line and you can't, go to www.cleco.com for more information.



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- Assist nonprofit organizations in the process of hiring a consultant
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With Great Pride Congratulates an
Outstanding Member of the Class of 2008**

Roslyn Latrice Wilmer



Roslyn Latrice Wilmer, a senior at Marksville High School, is the daughter of Carl and Amanda Wilmer. She attends St. Richards Catholic Church, where she serves as a lecturer, altar server and youth group president.

Roslyn recently signed as basketball scholarship with Louisiana College and will be under the guidance of Coach Janice Joseph Richard. Roslyn is considering pursuing a degree in either sports management, physical therapy or physical education. Throughout high school, Roslyn has maintained a 3.9 GPA with an ACT score of 26. Roslyn has been a part of the Marksville High School honors program during the past four years, and has participated as a senior in the dual college courses offered through LSUA. As a result of her honors and other school activities, Roslyn was chosen as Marksville 2008 Student of the Year, and the Avoyelles Parish Student of the Month for February 2008. Roslyn is also a member of the Marksville Beta Club, Louisiana Gear Up, and Homecoming Court.

Roslyn's sports related accomplishments include being a member of the Marksville High School "Lady Tigers" Basketball team, captain in her junior and senior years. She was -selected to be a member of the 3A All-Parish, All-District, All-CENLA, and All-State teams during all four years of high school. Additionally over the last two years she has been a member of the Lady Stars AAU Basketball Team. Roslyn is also a member of the Marksville High School Track Team. Over the past four years, she has maintained the title of 3A District and Parish Champ in the discus competition.

Roslyn Wilmer is to be commended. We believe in you, and wish you well in all your endeavors.



RAPIDIES STATION COMMUNITY MINISTRIES will assist low to moderate-income homebuyers purchase a NEW home constructed through the partnership of Louisiana Housing and Finance HOME: Housing Development Program and RSCM. Homes have 3 bedrooms, 2 baths located within the Alsace-Lorraine Subdivision, Alexandria, Louisiana

All applicants must complete the Homebuyer Training Program provided through Rapides Station Community Ministries, Inc. to be eligible. Each participant completing the 12- hour training receives a certificate of attendance that is valid for two years. Persons interested can apply at the Rapides Station Community Ministries office located at 1429 Third Street, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:30 and 4:30 p.m.

