



## New community -- Fairfield -- envisioned for West Bank after bridge expansion

Andrea Shaw, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune  
on May 22, 2013 at 6:25 PM



Creating a catalyst for development at the western end of the West Bank, where the Huey P. Long Bridge expansion is almost complete, Jefferson Parish leaders could soon unveil a marketing strategy for a new community. Called Fairfield, the community would have its own zip code designation and encompass the area south of the West Bank Expressway from U.S. 90 to Bayou Segnette.

Parish officials have long touted the \$1.2 billion Huey P. Long Bridge project as the key to opening up one of the last pieces of fallow land in the region for commerce. They are focusing on the area wedged between Avondale and Westwego and home to the TPC Louisiana golf course, the Churchill Farms Technology Park and the NOLA Motorsports Park. Nearby are the John A. Alario Sr. Event Center and Bayou Segnette State Park.

"I think when you look at the rebranding of this area and couple it with the assets of this area ... there are so many offerings already there," said Jerry Bologna, executive director of the Jefferson Economic Development Commission, which is headquartered in the technology park. "We can come in with a clean slate and make it into something special."

Property owners and parish officials have enlisted the help of the University of New Orleans and Digital Engineering to map the rebranding and marketing of the community. The strategy will include a master plan.

"This effort was borne out of the thought process of ... 'let's plan this out and do it the right way. How do we position this for not just residential but commercial development?'" Bologna said.

"We're starting to see more and more property owners position their properties for commerce, which we haven't seen in the past," Bologna said.

Parish Council member Mark Spears Jr., whose district includes Fairfield, said that it's an area not well known and thus the timing is right to establish its identity. He credited Parish Council Chairman Chris Roberts with suggesting the name change.

"This area is very fertile for growth," Spears said.



# Bloomberg: N.O. area is one of the nation's biggest boomtowns

Updated: May 06, 2013 10:24 PM CDT <em class="wnDate">Monday, May 6, 2013 11:24 PM EST</em>  
Written by: Natasha Robin - [email](#)

New Orleans, La. - From great food to the culture, the New Orleans area isn't hard to sell.

Researchers, though, with Bloomberg rankings looked even deeper by sorting through census and gross domestic product data.

They found the New Orleans, Metairie and Kenner area make up the second biggest boomtown in the United States.

"These are numbers about population and growth and we know that we are the fastest improving city in the country," says Michael Hecht of GNO Inc.

Researchers found that the New Orleans area gained more residents than any other in the U.S. from 2007 till 2011.

"We're back to 94 percent of our Pre-Katrina population with about 1.2 million and they're coming back here because simply as a family, an individual or as a company, you can do more for less here," says Hecht.

The unemployment rate is 5.9 percent, which is below the national average.

Researchers also pointed to plenty of job growth with heavy construction throughout the city.

"Of course, you have the medical corridor. That's thousands of jobs for people that are going to be building 3 billion dollars of new healthcare facilities. All along the corridor literally tens of billions of industrial projects are being driven by low national gas and oil prices," says Hecht.

Tourism numbers were certainly a factor in helping to rank the New Orleans region so high on the booming list.

"In 2012, we welcomed 9 million travelers which was more than any other year since 2004 and it's by far our highlight year since Katrina," says Kelly Schulz of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Schulz says those travelers spent 6 billion dollars in New Orleans in 2012.

Schulz says when large companies are shopping around for their next convention destination, they look for some of the same things as the Bloomberg researchers.

"Imagine if you're planning a meeting for 30 thousand medical professionals or school teachers, you need to know that New Orleans has the infrastructure, population and staffing to handle that," says Schulz.

"It's really important that our message is targeted broadly and that's what we are trying to do," says Hecht.

The only area in the U.S. booming more than New Orleans is the Austin, Texas area.

The Raleigh-Cary, North Carolina area rounds out Bloomberg's top three boomtowns.



## The Top 12 American Boomtowns

By Bloomberg Rankings and Nikhil Hutheesing - Apr 24, 2013 9:48 AM CT



Photograph by Gerald Herbert/AP Photo

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### New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, Louisiana

**2007 Population:** 1,030,363

**2011 Population:** 1,191,089

**Percent Change:** 15.60

**GDP Compound Annual Growth:** 2%

Reporter Geraldo Rivera sparked controversy recently by referring to everything outside New Orleans's French Quarter as a "vast urban wasteland." The area is growing as it rebuilds from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Tourism is booming, and the New Orleans area gained more residents than any other in the U.S. from 2007 to 2011. The population rose to 1.2 million in 2012, and there's plenty of job growth in heavy construction and even the television and motion picture industry, according to New Orleans demographer Allison Plyer. The unemployment rate, at 5.9 percent, is below the national average. One worry: Governor Bobby Jindal's tax plan could change the state's motion picture investor tax credit, reducing a key incentive to film in Louisiana.

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## RELOCATIONS AND EXPANSIONS



Beam Inc. plans to increase bottling activity in Kentucky and enhance the efficiency of its U.S. bottling operations.

Calico Jack Rum — acquired last May — from Maine to the company's recently expanded center in Frankfort, Ky.

### LOUISIANA

#### Baton Rouge lands IBM center

IBM announced in the winter it will put a software development center in downtown Baton Rouge, La. The project will create 800 new jobs.

#### Now that's a laundromat!

Starr Textile Services, a provider of commercial laundry services to the hospital industry, is investing \$10 million in a commercial laundry facility in Jefferson Parish, La. The deal will create 65 jobs.

#### Lockheed Martin to build gas tanks at New Orleans' Michoud

Lockheed Martin announced in March it will build two massive LNG tanks at the Michoud Assembly Facility where fuel tanks for the NASA Shuttle used to be made. The tanks will be used for propulsion engines built by the Finnish company Wartsila. The project will create 400 new jobs.

#### G2X Energy announces \$1.3 billion facility in Southwest Louisiana

G2X Energy Inc. announced plans for a \$1.3 billion natural gas-to-gasoline facility at The Port of Lake Charles in Southwest Louisiana. The Calcasieu Parish project would create 243 new direct jobs averaging \$66,500 per year. LED estimates the project also would result in 748 new indirect jobs, for a total of nearly 1,000 new permanent jobs in Southwest Louisiana.

#### \$2.2 billion gas facility in Lake Charles, La.

Magnolia LNG said in January it might

develop a \$2.2 billion natural gas liquefaction production and export facility at The Port of Lake Charles in Southwest Louisiana.

#### South Louisiana Methanol invests \$1.3 billion in St. James Parish

South Louisiana Methanol LP will invest \$1.3 billion to develop a new production facility on the banks of the Mississippi River in St. James Parish. Located across the river from Nucor Corp's project in Convent, La., South Louisiana Methanol will create 63 jobs.

#### Second methanol plant headed to Geismar, La.

Vancouver-based Methanex Corp., the world's largest supplier of methanol, says it intends to move a second methanol plant from Chile to Geismar, according to the company's third-quarter report. The cost to move each plant has been estimated at around \$500 million.

### MISSISSIPPI

#### New General Dynamics Mississippi facility could employ up to 250

General Dynamics Information Technology is opening new operations in Hattiesburg, creating an expected 225 new jobs by this summer and 250 by spring 2014.

#### Paper company to create 100 jobs in Natchez, Miss.

Von Drehle, which manufactures paper products for commercial and industrial consumers and also has locations in North Carolina, Nevada and Tennessee, will occupy the former Mississippi River Pulp facility in Natchez. The move will create 100 jobs.

#### Comfort Revolution opens new plant in Tishomingo County, Miss.

Comfort Revolution, a developer of high-end sleep products, has opened its new manufacturing center in Tishomingo County, Mississippi. The new plant will create 200 new jobs over the next three years.

#### Ashley will add 60 jobs with new plant in Mississippi

Ashley Furniture Industries, already employing about 3,000 workers at two manufacturing plants in Northeast Mississippi, will add a third plant. The

company announced plant operations center in a 210,000-foot facility in Verona, Miss. jobs.

### MISSOURI

#### CertainTeed to build \$100 million plant in Missouri

CertainTeed, a manufacturer of roofing materials, announced it will build a \$100 million asphalt roofing plant in Jonesburg, Mo. The project will create 100 jobs.

#### Brewer Science to manufacture materials in Vichy, Mo.

Brewer Science plans to build a volume manufacturing facility to produce materials for next-generation smart phones, computers, and other electronic devices, with plans to hire 65 additional employees over the next five years.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### MetLife makes major move with North Carolina

In early April, insurer MetLife announced it would invest \$85 million in 1,200 jobs at a new campus located in the Raleigh area by the deadline, MetLife is already hiring hundreds more employees in Charlotte, this announcement in March it would relocate to Charlotte from multiple offices in the Northeast.

#### Ralph Lauren expands distribution in North Carolina

Ralph Lauren, which has a distribution facility in Hillsborough, N.C., is expanding again with a 350,000-square-foot facility in N.C. The retailer will add 100 jobs.

#### French-owned Energy moving headquarters to 130 jobs

Areva, a French-owned nuclear energy company with a presence in Charlotte, plans to add 130 jobs at its North American headquarters in Bethesda, Md., to Charlotte.

#### Furniture industry making comeback

Indiana's OFS Brands announced it will add 100 jobs at its new plant in

# New Orleans CITY BUSINESS

## Kenner food processor spends \$12M to expand

POSTED: 03:27 PM Monday, May 6, 2013

BY: [Maria Clark, Staff Writer](#)

TAGS: [catering](#), [food](#), [food distribution](#), [JEDCO](#), [MMI Culinary Services](#)

[2](#)

MMI Culinary Services, a Kenner-based food processor, has acquired a new facility to consolidate its distribution.

MMI has spent \$12 million to buy and convert a former warehouse at 753 Airline Highway and will hire 10 new employees. Chief executive Mike Maenza said last week MMI plans to equip the building with refrigeration and manufacturing capabilities. The company has hired a food and beverage consultant to help develop those plans.

MMI has been working with the Jefferson Economic Development Commission to expand its distribution capabilities. JEDCO assistance has included access to tax incentives through the Industrial Tax Exemption program for companies involved in manufacturing. MMI is also participating in the Quality Jobs program, which provides companies with a 5 to 6 percent cash rebate of annual payroll for creating new full time jobs.

MMI started out as a small crawfish catering business in 1986 and has since expanded into a catering business servicing more than 4,000 restaurants internationally and more than 200 schools in Jefferson and Orleans parishes.

Reporter Maria Clark can be reached at [maria.clark@nopg.com](mailto:maria.clark@nopg.com).

## Jefferson stands at key economic juncture

POSTED: 10:16 AM Wednesday, April 24, 2013

BY: [Greg LaRose, Editor](#)

TAGS: [Dyno Nobel](#), [economic development](#), [employment](#), [Fat City](#), [Jefferson Parish](#), [jobs](#), [real estate](#)

Recent economic development news from Jefferson Parish reveals a diversifying regional economy, with the manufacturing, retail, real estate and service sectors among those investing and creating jobs in the area.

But possible and persistent obstacles must be avoided for the parish to reach its potential.

The \$850 million ammonia plant planned for Waggaman indicates the parish offers amenities suitable to the industrial industry: strategic vacant land and proximity to the Mississippi River and complementary businesses.

On what could be considered the opposite end of the spectrum, Smoothie King is moving its corporate headquarters from Covington to Metairie following a transition in ownership. Wan Kim, the sole franchisee for South Korea, has taken over the company from founders Steve and Cindy Kuhnau, who founded the business 40 years ago in Jefferson Parish.

Michael Hecht, CEO of the regional economic development group Greater New Orleans Inc., says Kim selected Jefferson, specifically the Lakeway property at the foot of the Pontchartrain Causeway, because of its central location.

“I think what you’ll find is that businesses see Jefferson as physically being the heart of the region,” Hecht said.

If that’s the case, then retail is the lifeblood pumping through its main arteries. Commercial real estate activity along Veterans Boulevard, Clearview Parkway and Manhattan Boulevard is fueling growth, with the Huey P. Long expansion expected to lead to further variety in the business makeup of Jefferson. For example, the complexion of Elmwood is expected to change now that the footprint of the Elmwood Shopping Center property has been filled with a host of new retail options. As such, real estate experts believe the area could see a move away from its traditional warehouse/industrial legacy.

But the decision of Starr Textile Services to build a \$10 million industrial laundry facility in Elmwood shows that it won’t be a dramatic change.

Fat City could be where the overhaul is most noticeable, with new laws having already forced old-line, adult-oriented businesses out of the neighborhood. In their place, Hecht sees opportunity for startup companies and young families to take root, much in the same way the Warehouse District in New Orleans has been reimaged albeit on a much large scale.

“One thing that Jefferson Parish lacks is a true town center, and it could be that Fat City becomes this,” as it undergoes its transition, he said.

There are obstacles that Jefferson Parish must overcome to reach its economic potential, namely a subpar school system that is at the nascent stages of a charter movement. Plus, the Huey P. Long expansion is expected to exacerbate existing traffic issues on surface streets not designed for the anticipated increase in vehicle volume.

Another potential setback could take place at its publicly managed hospitals, which face looming competition from the facilities under construction in Mid-City, in addition to Ochsner's intent to grow its market share.

Hecht notes that a dated housing stock could also present issues for Jefferson Parish, although families seeking newer accommodations have options in nearby St. Tammany Parish as well as the River Parishes.

On the upside, he notes the education reform movement is under way, and cosmetic efforts such as the art installations along the Veterans Boulevard median provide a tactile glimpse of the "next Jefferson." Plus, a \$650 million expansion of Armstrong Airport is on the table.

Jefferson finds itself at an enviable juncture of time and location. It's next door to a city that's experiencing its own high-profile rejuvenation, thanks in large part to serving as its springboard for recovery after Hurricane Katrina.

With its unfortunate political history hopefully behind it, Jefferson stands poised to continue its economic growth and diversity.

**Editor Greg LaRose can be reached at [greg.larose@nopg.com](mailto:greg.larose@nopg.com) or 293-9299.**

**BUSINESS**

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PRESS RELEASE  
May 1, 2013

## MMI Culinary Services Recognized by White House and USDA

(Metairie, La) -- A Jefferson Parish food manufacturer received recognition Wednesday for its positive impact on the local economy and its exemplary role in providing healthy meals to school children. The White House and the U.S. Department of Agriculture commended MMI Culinary Services on its ability to meet the guidelines of the Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program, a system that provides food manufacturers the option to include a USDA approved, standardized food crediting statement on their product label.



Based out of the City of Kenner, MMI is a customized food manufacturer specializing in proprietary soups, sauces, gravies, marinades, dressings, sides, entrees and desserts. The company, which is Louisiana's only USDA national commodity processor, produces products for multi-unit operators, national restaurant chain accounts, retail outlets and large foodservice venues. Their core clientele consists of medium to large restaurant chains poised for rapid growth.

MMI Culinary Services got its start in 1986 as a crawfish catering business. More than 25 years later, the small startup has grown into a successful venture that services 4,000 restaurants around the world and more than 200 schools in Jefferson and Orleans parishes. The company continues to grow and reach new economic milestones with no signs of slowing down.

On Wednesday, company CEO Mike Maenza unveiled the completed expansion of MMI's headquarters, a project that has been in the works since 2011. The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) assisted MMI throughout the project, providing the company with access to the Industrial Tax Exemption and Quality Jobs Programs.

"We are so proud of the accomplishments that MMI Culinary Services has achieved in its many years of business in Jefferson Parish," says JEDCO Executive Director Jerry Bologna. "Through business retention, tax incentives and financing services, JEDCO has remained invested in the progress of this exceptional company. MMI is vital to the continued success of the thriving Jefferson Parish economy."

"We have partnered with JEDCO to expand our facilities in order to meet the demand for healthy and delicious meals," says Maenza. "This expansion will allow us to feed over 100 million school meals to students over the course of the year. The facility expansion and upgrades and our cutting edge engineering and state of the art equipment enable MMI to advance both production and research and development in order to continue our mission of delivering nutrition to America's students."

Maenza also announced a new property acquisition that will allow MMI to consolidate distribution. The recently purchased facility is located on Airline Highway in Kenner. The company plans to retrofit the facility with refrigeration capabilities and has hired a food and beverage consultant to help design those plans. In the future, MMI may utilize the space for R&D and additional manufacturing.

## **Kenner food processor spends \$12M to expand**

*POSTED: 03:27 PM Monday, May 6, 2013*

*BY: [Maria Clark, Reporter](#)*

*TAGS: [catering](#), [food](#), [food distribution](#), [JEDCO](#), [MMI Culinary Services](#)*

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## Elmwood anticipates growing pains from bridge expansion

POSTED: 12:50 PM Thursday, April 25, 2013

BY: [Maria Clark, Staff Writer](#)

TAGS: [development](#), [Elmwood](#), [Elmwood Business Park](#), [Elmwood Shopping Center](#), [Huey P. Long Bridge](#), [Jefferson Parish](#), [Lauricella Land Company](#), [real estate](#)

[1](#)

The face of Elmwood is rapidly changing.

The area on the east side of the Huey P. Long Bridge has traditionally housed warehouse and industrial service business. But over the past two years, development at the Elmwood Shopping Center has attracted several national retailers, such as Ann Taylor Loft, Chipotle Grill and Ulta Beauty, creating an eclectic mix of retail, restaurant and warehouse space in the area.



The completion of the Huey P. Long Bridge expansion in mid-June, which is expected to significantly boost traffic in the area, could test how industrial business and those targeting consumers coexist in an area undergoing rapid development.

Space at the Elmwood Shopping Center is almost 100 percent leased, said Robert Israel, leasing director for Lauricella Land Co., which has overseen the majority of the projects at the retail site. Additions in just the past year include restaurants — such as Zoey’s Kitchen, Five Guys Burgers and Fries, and Theo’s Neighborhood Pizza — in addition to the national retailers.

The lone vacant property is the former site of Sports Authority, which closed in 2012.

“The market out here is definitely tightening up,” Isreal said.

Meanwhile, tenants in Elmwood Business Park have also experienced growth. In the past year, three movie productions have signed leases to use the studio space at Robert E. Nims Center. Earlier this month Starr Textile Services, a commercial laundry service, announced it had closed financing on a new \$10 million facility it plans for the park.

However, real estate professionals are concerned that the lack of available space could soon be a problem.

“As it has become more congested, the park has lost a little of its allure,” said Bert Duvic with Max J. Derbes Realtors. “We attract service companies and parts supply houses. These companies like to be able to get large spaces quickly.”

The park area remains mainly industrial, with warehouse-based businesses. Duvic estimates about 80 percent of the area is made up of warehouses.

Available industrial space at Elmwood Business Park has dropped from 1.76 million square feet to 1.65 million square feet over the past year. Rental rates for warehouse space are in the \$3 to \$6 range per square foot and \$6.50 to \$9 for service center space, according to the most recent annual report from Max J. Derbes Realtors.

Traffic tops the list of concerns among members of the Elmwood Business Association.

The Huey P. Long Bridge expansion is expected to finish by June 16. Sean Peck, a project spokesman, said around 50,000 vehicles currently cross the bridge each day, and the expansion will more than double its capacity.

“Industry brings a lot of trucks into the area, and there only so many ways in and out,” said Lisa George, president of the Elmwood Business Association. “The expansion helped get additional cars in our park and no additional lanes to sustain it.”

Traffic in the area has yet to be a problem in the industrial area, Duvic said, in part because the business park and nearby shopping center cater to two different types of customers.

“We have delivery trucks leaving early in the morning and coming back later in the day. They serve mainly a daytime crowd,” he said.

The growth of retail and restaurants will bring more foot traffic and jobs to the area, and ultimately it will be important to keep old and new businesses in check, George said. The business association plans to keep an eye on issues like traffic and drainage.

“We definitely want to maintain a good balance between the two types of businesses going forward,” she said.



PRESS RELEASE  
May 9, 2013

## Jefferson Parish Schools Rank in U.S. News List

(Metairie, La) -- When it comes to school rankings, several Jefferson Parish high schools get top marks. U.S. News and World Report recently released the 2013 Best High Schools Rankings. Four local schools made the list. The Haynes Academy School for Advanced Students came in at #138 on the list, earning a gold medal along with the prestigious ranking. It was followed by the Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy (#826) and the Thomas Jefferson School for Advanced Students (#1028). Both schools received silver medals. Fisher Middle/High School in Lafitte was granted a bronze medal and national recognition.

The Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy is set to undergo a major transition at the start of the next school year. The magnet school for students interested in pursuing careers in science and technology will open a brand new facility at the Churchill Technology and Business Park in the fall of 2013. Located directly across the street from the JEDCO Administrative offices, the 102,000-square foot facility will house three major classroom buildings, robotics and biotech laboratories and a large cafeteria. The school is currently located on Jefferson Highway.

"I am thrilled to see that several of our Jefferson Parish schools have received such excellent recognition," says JEDCO Executive Director Jerry Bologna. "Education is the backbone of a community and these schools showcase the excellence found within thriving Jefferson Parish."

U.S. News and World Report collected data on more than 21,000 public high schools throughout the entire country. Those schools were evaluated on overall student performance, performance on Advanced Placement exams and the effectiveness of the education provided to black, Hispanic and economically disadvantaged students.

Click [here](#) to read the full story.



PRESS RELEASE  
April 30, 2013

## LED to Host Business Incentives Clinic and Seminar at JEDCO

(Avondale, La) -- The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) is pleased to invite you to a day of informational classes on state incentive programs. Louisiana Economic Development (LED) will host the Business Incentives Seminar and Clinic on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the JEDCO administrative office in Avondale.

In this class, you will learn about a number of programs that can aid your business in Jefferson Parish, including:

- Angel Investor Tax
- Small Business Loan and Guaranty Program (SSBCI)
- Industrial Tax Exemption Program
- Restoration Tax Abatement Program
- Quality Jobs Program
- Enterprise Zone Program

Not only will you gain valuable insight into incentive programs, but you will also have access to information about the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Louisiana Department of Revenue. In this class, Program Administrators will instruct participants in the completion of the Enterprise Zone Program Employee Certification Report (ECR) and/or the Quality Jobs Program Annual Certification Report (ACR). Please bring the following items needed to complete your ECR or ACR.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING FOR THE ENTERPRISE ZONE ECR

- Enterprise Zone Contract or executed Project Completion Report (for Contract Effective Date)
- ECR Average Calculation Worksheet, one for each reporting period
- List of Employees the date prior to the Contract Effective Date
- ES4/SUTA Reports for each quarter of each reporting period showing the number of monthly jobs

### WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING FOR THE QUALITY JOBS ACR

- Certification of Primary Qualification
- Annual Rebate Spreadsheet
- Baseline Report
- Complete ES4/SUTA's for filing period
- If requesting sales tax rebates, bring materials included under the Enterprise Zone ECR

Please join JEDCO and LED on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the JEDCO offices (700 Churchill Parkway Avondale, La 70094) from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Marylyn Friedkin with Louisiana Economic Development at (225) 342-9228 or email her at [Marylyn.Friedkin@LA.GOV](mailto:Marylyn.Friedkin@LA.GOV).



PRESS RELEASE  
May 9, 2013

## Collaboration is Key: March/April Newsletter

(Avondale, La) -- What makes Jefferson Parish so special? We could list a hundred different reasons why businesses love our region, but there's one thing we always hear from the companies we work with. We do business right. It's not just JEDCO that gets involved in a project. When a business wants to expand in or relocate to Jefferson, we pull out all the stops. We connect businesses with our community leaders, our parish department heads, our local business organizations and all of the men and women who can make doing business in Jefferson Parish just a little bit easier for a company.

Over the last two months, Jefferson Parish has experienced unprecedented successes in entrepreneurship and business attraction. We launched our first-ever Cordina Challenge, a Jefferson Parish pitch event for local entrepreneurs. Hosted during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, four startup companies pitched their business plans in front of a panel of judges at Drago's Empire Room. All of our finalists were fantastic, but in the end, Billy Bosch of [Be Well Nutrition](#) won over the judges with his healthy beverage, ICONIC, and took home over \$50,000 in direct capital and in-kind services. Billy's team also recently won the Tulane Business Plan Competition.

We had an excellent turnout; more than 115 people showed up to support our local entrepreneurs and 20 local companies helped sponsor the event and prize package. We couldn't have pulled off the competition without the help of our partners and those companies that gave time and money to champion the entrepreneurial movement in the region.

We stayed busy all the way through April with two major economic development announcements. We welcomed Starr Textile Services, a commercial laundry facility that has clients all over the Greater New Orleans region, to the parish. They purchased a warehouse in the Elmwood Business Park and partnered with Kenner companies, Pellerin Milnor Corporation and Pellerin Laundry Machinery Sales Company, to retrofit the new space. Of the \$10 million investment, JEDCO financed \$4.3 million of it, making it the largest SBA 504 loan in the organization's history.

Governor Bobby Jindal spent some time at the JEDCO facility in April to make a \$1 billion announcement. Dyno Nobel America, and parent company Incitec Pivot Limited, announced plans to build an \$850 million anhydrous ammonia production facility in Waggaman. The global leader in chemical manufacturing will partner with Cornerstone Chemical Company. Cornerstone will make \$175 million in improvements to their facility, a major investment to Jefferson Parish. The partnership will create 65 new direct jobs and will employ 470 people indirectly. It is a major economic win for the region.

Not only has JEDCO experienced a number of victories in the last two months, but our community has



been widely recognized for a number of exciting achievements. Geocent and the McDonnell Group were both listed in the Top Five Fastest Growing Companies in the region by CityBusiness and four Jefferson Chamber members were winners of Louisiana's [SBA Small Business Champion Awards](#). MMI Culinary Services was recognized by the USDA and the White House for its healthy and delicious meals for local school children. Four of our local schools were listed in U.S. News and World Report's Best High Schools in the country. You can find more information about that story, and JEDCO's recent accomplishments, below.

These success stories are truly indicative of the thriving community in which we live. We achieve great accomplishments by working together. Today, we have to commend the hard work and encouragement we've received from numerous organizations, community leaders and businesses. JEDCO is so grateful for the strong working relationship we have with this community and we intend to continue to work closely with our partners, regional and local organizations like Greater New Orleans, Inc. and the Jefferson Chamber, to ensure that Jefferson Parish remains the ideal place to do business.

### **Featured Story:**

#### [Jefferson Parish Schools Rank in U.S. News List](#)

When it comes to school rankings, several Jefferson Parish high schools get top marks. U.S. News and World Report recently released the 2013 Best High Schools Rankings. Four local schools made the list.

### **Recent JEDCO News**

#### [MMI Culinary Services Recognized by White House and USDA](#)

The USDA and the White House recognized Jefferson Parish company, MMI Culinary Services, for its role in providing healthy and delicious meals to students.

#### [JEDCO Welcomes Incitec Pivot and Dyno Nobel America to Jefferson Parish](#)

Dyno Nobel America, and parent company Incitec Pivot Limited, will begin building an \$850 million ammonia production facility at Cornerstone Chemical Company's Fortier Manufacturing Complex in Waggaman.

#### [JEDCO Welcomes Starr Textile Services to Jefferson Parish](#)

JEDCO and Jefferson Parish are pleased to welcome Starr Textile Services to the Elmwood Business Park.

#### [Billy Bosch of ICONIC Wins JEDCO's Cordina Challenge](#)

Billy Bosch with Be Well Nutrition, Inc. was awarded the top prize for his winning pitch at the first-ever Cordina Challenge.

###

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eventually cleared. Judges with Orleans Civil District Court, which adjoins City Hall, want to build a new courthouse on the site.

cerning all building finances is underway and will be available in two weeks. He declined to say how much the building fund has accumulated.

Bagneris' article, "Justice From a Hovel!" says the need for a new courthouse should be obvious to anyone except "an alien from a distant planet or an escapee from Ken Kesey's 'cuckoo's nest.'"

Rain infiltrates the current courthouse, which is adjacent to City Hall, and bathroom graffiti "is a welcome distraction from the cracks, creeping mold, peeling paint, and broken commodes," Bagneris wrote. The air and heating system, furthermore, is a "joke."

"In the summer, well, let's just say it's a good thing one can't see under the robe," Bagneris wrote.

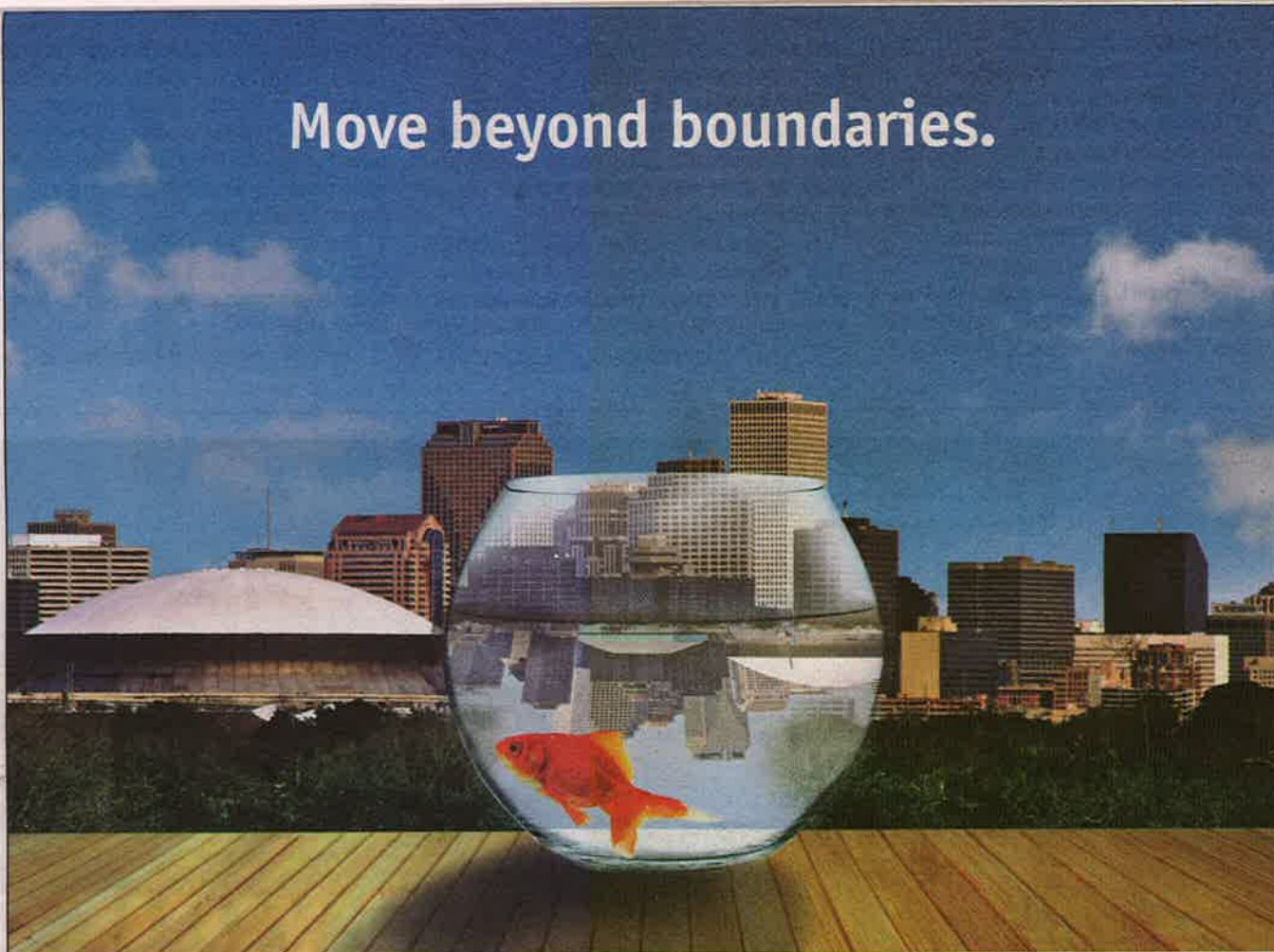
The BioDistrict, meanwhile, is looking for revenue sources.

The legislature established the district in 2005 to spur bioscience-related economic development downtown and in Mid-City, where the University Medical Center and Veterans Administration hospitals are in development.

The BioDistrict approved a 2013 operating budget that includes \$1.3 million in proceeds from a "construction impact fee" on commercial development within parts of the district. No such fee is in place, however, and it requires the City Council's blessing to take effect.

"We are operating on a minimalist basis, whatever funds we can get from various activities, including potential development activities," McNamara said. •

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## Historic district draws lines between Mandeville neighbors

By Robin Shannon, Reporter

Residents and business owners in Old Mandeville say the city's new historic district designation will go a long way toward preserving the unique characteristics of the 179-year-old community. Critics say the move adds another unnecessary layer of government infringement.

