

2nd Walgreens coming to Pineville



The City of Pineville is pleased to welcome its second [Walgreens](#), with the announcement of the new store to be located at the intersection of La. Highway 28 East and Edgewood Drive Extension in Pineville. The newest Walgreens will be located between [Advance Auto Parts](#) and [Red River Bank](#). Construction is expected to begin in September and the projected opening is spring 2005.

This location will be the fourth new Walgreens Drug Store in the Alexandria-Pineville area. The store, owned by Pineville Edgewood South LLC, will have 14,820 square feet with 77 parking spaces and a 24-hour drive-through window. It is expected to employ 20 to 25 people.

Construction is nearing completion on the other Pineville store, which is on the corner of Pinecrest Drive and the Monroe Highway (U.S. 165) near Kings Country. Construction is also nearing completion in Alexandria on Jackson Street Extension, while another Walgreens is being built on Masonic Drive, across from Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital.

Walgreens is the nation's largest drugstore chain and 11th largest retailer. It operates more than 4,000 drugstores in 44 states and Puerto Rico, including approximately 90 stores in Louisiana. Walgreens is returning to Central Louisiana after leaving the market several years ago.

Kings Country Update



The face-lift and new additions to [Kings Country Shopping Center](#) in Pineville continue to take shape. Two new stores are now open. [Dollar General](#) is located in one-third of the old Delchamps building, while [Stage Department Store](#) will occupy the other two-thirds and should be open by early October. Delchamps closed just over 6-years ago, so the “filling of this empty box” is a welcome site. With Dollar General and Stage taking over



the former Delchamp's space, [Stirling Properties](#) renovated the old Delchamp's façade, installed a new pylon sign, repainted the shopping center and upgraded the parking lot in front of the new stores. Similar improvements are planned when new clients are found for the old Wal-Mart space. One new vendor is signed; with two more needed before those renovations begin.

Another new addition is [Rent-A-Center](#), which is now open between [Rite-Aid](#) and [Subway](#). Rent-A-Center is occupying 4,000-square feet that has also been vacant for several years and lasted housed Shoe Town. The addition of Rent-A-Center now provides two new bookends for Rite-Aid, which has toiled without another anchor tenant for quite some time.



Across the Pineville Expressway, more additions to the local economy can be seen in front of [Super 1 Grocery Store](#). [Brookshire's](#), Super 1's parent company, is building a discount fuel outlet that should be open by late November. The new fuel center will be convenient for shoppers of [The Pines](#) shopping complex, and provide another option for the rapidly growing Highway 165 industrial/commercial corridor.

Pineville Wins ... Again!



The City of Pineville was one of 12-cities recognized by the [Louisiana Municipal Association's](#) with its most prestigious award for

outstanding municipal improvements and accomplishments. Announcement of LMA's **2003 Community Achievement Awards** was made Saturday night, August 14, at the annual banquet of LMA's 67th annual convention at the Cajundome in Lafayette. The convention drew some 1,400 delegates, spouses, dignitaries, exhibitors, and guests. The LMA's annual awards program recognizes municipalities for outstanding achievement in basic services, community development, and economic development. Within these categories, awards were presented in four population subcategories.

Pineville was recognized for with the 2003 Award for Economic Development for cities with population between 10,001 – 25,000. (Pictured from left to right: Councilmen **Tom Bouchie** & **Kevin Dorn**, Councilwoman **Carol Van Mol**, Mayor **Clarence Fields**, Outgoing LMA President **Ronnie Harris** - Mayor of Gretna, Mayoral Assistant **Rich Dupree**, Councilmen **Joe Bishop** & **Nathan Martin**). The award recognized the City of Pineville's efforts in successfully financing the expansion of wastewater facilities to accommodate unprecedented growth of the city's industrial and manufacturing base, especially Proctor & Gamble, and others locating on the Highway 165 industrial corridor.



The competition is co-sponsored by the [Louisiana Department of Labor](#), [Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association](#), and LMA. Representatives from [Louisiana State University](#), Louisiana Department of Labor, the state's Regional Planning Commissions, and Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association judged entries submitted.

This was Pineville's second LMA Community Achievement Award in the last three years. Two years ago, Pineville won its first ever "first place" LMA honor for the creation of our first ever city-wide newsletter "[Pine Notes](#)". The LMA's annual convention also marked the beginning of Mayor Clarence Fields' third term as District "E" Vice-President. Mayor Fields represents the parishes of Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides and Winn on the LMA's Executive Board.

The Lights are ON!!!

After much waiting the lights are finally on at the [*PURE BMX track](#)! Thanks to a special grant from the Governor's Office of Rural Development at the request of our local legislative delegation and a generous donation of labor from [Cleco](#) the



city of Pineville's BMX track is now set up for night-time racing!

Pineville's BMX track was originally located at Kees Park on top of the old swimming pool. The program was incredibly successful and actually outgrew the original facility. The program was then moved to the Red River site, which was originally a landfill. (Buried underneath the BMX track are tons of concrete from the old Fulton Street Bridge which was destroyed to accommodate the new Purple Heart Bridge.) However, a series of setbacks, including excessive rain, caused a delay in building the track and fully implementing the program. Another impediment was the lack of lighting, which the program had at Kees Park. This made scheduling the races and practice times difficult because all events had to take place during the day. That's not a problem any longer!!!

PURE BMX is set to restart their program in the next couple of weeks. For more information call the track info line at 449-5675 or call Andre Martin, the track director, at 448-7065. (*PURE stands for Pineville's Ultimate Racing Experience!)

Hwy. 28 East gets “Fifth Lane”

Work is complete on adding a fifth lane to Highway 28 East between Edgewood Drive and the Pineville Expressway. The Department of Transportation and Development accomplished the project through a re-striping process that gives this highly traveled thoroughfare a much needed turn lane for businesses and employers on Hwy. 28 East.

The re-striping process did not mean any change to the current right-of-way structure. The modification narrowed the existing lane widths, giving motorists the opportunity to make left turns and not impede thru traffic. Some parts of this stretch already have turn lanes, so the adjustment should not be that difficult according to Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields. “We are happy to work with DOTD to insure the smoothest transition possible of one of our busiest roadways. Since becoming Mayor, we have worked with our local DOTD office to see how to better move traffic through congested areas like Highway 28 East. I appreciate their efforts to work with our Police Department to make transportation safer through Pineville and ask that motorists use even more caution as they adjust to this change in traffic flow.”

Pineville Police Chief Jay Barber is also happy to see the change. “We believe adding a fifth lane should have a two-fold benefit. The first should be a reduction in rear-end collisions on 28 East, and secondly, the turn lane should also help the flow of traffic coming off the Expressway onto 28 East during the afternoon rush after work each day.”

“Extreme Makeover” for Old Delchamp's

[Stirling Properties](#) is pleased to announce the successful completion of two new leases at [King's Country Village](#) in Pineville, Louisiana. [Stage Stores](#) will occupy 18,000 square feet and [Dollar General](#) will occupy 10,400 square feet of available retail space. These two retail outlets will take the place of the former Delchamp's Foodstore and act as the anchors for the initial phase of the retail center's redevelopment and renovation.



Stirling Properties made the announcement via a [press release](#). "Stirling Properties worked closely with the Mayor's Office in Pineville to help secure these two tenants. Mayor **Clarence Fields** was influential in providing us with excellent economic data for the City of Pineville and the surrounding demographic areas," said **Grady Brame**, Vice President of Asset Management with Stirling Properties. "Mayor Fields and his Administration was a real asset in helping us attract Stage and Dollar General. We are continuing to work with the Administration to attract new tenants for the next phase of our redevelopment – the renovation and re-tenanting of the former Wal-Mart building."

Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields is equally excited about the new additions to Pineville's economy. "Several months ago, we invited representatives from Stirling Properties to our office to see what we could do to help get some empty boxes filled. We are really excited about their response and what plans they have for the overall redevelopment of one of the most visible retail complexes in town. This is a great example of what happens when you work together toward a common goal."

Construction on the Stage and Dollar General has begun and both stores are expected to open by the end of the third quarter of 2004. In connection with these leases, Stirling Properties will renovate the former Delchamp's facade, install a new pylon sign and re-painting the shopping center. As anchors, the two new tenants should significantly increase shopping center traffic and benefit Kings Country Village's existing retailers, which include [Rite Aid](#), [Subway](#), [Blockbuster](#) and [Firestone](#).

Grant Money from Washington

Just a few weeks ago, Governor Kathleen Blanco made the announcement of grants from the Delta Regional Authority for Louisiana cities. The City of Pineville was on the list to receive \$70,000 for Pineville's new sewer treatment plant set to begin construction next year. Recently, **Pete Johnson**, Federal Co-Chairman (pictured right of **Mayor Fields**) flew to Pineville to make the check presentation in person. He joined U.S. Congressman **Rodney Alexander** (pictured left



to right) and **Sam Jones**, the Governor's Mayoral Liaison, in making to presentation to Mayor Clarence Fields.

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA), which includes eight states in the Mississippi-Delta area, is a federally funded authority, of which Governor Blanco is a member. The 7-million dollar sewer treatment plant will be adjacent to Pineville's current plant and will give Pineville the needed capacity to handle the industrial growth along Highway 165, including the expansion of the new liquids plant at Procter and Gamble, and the cluster of new businesses that has followed. The DRA grant will be coupled with other federal and state grants Pineville has obtained to help cover most of the cost of the new plant.

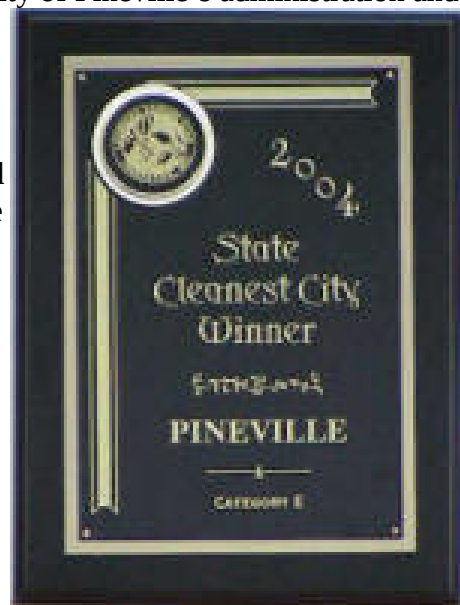
Twice As Nice!



The presentation of the plaque was icing on the cake for the City of Pineville's administration and for all citizens, recognizing an unprecedented accomplishment. **Margo Racca**, president of the Louisiana Federation of

Garden Clubs (pictured immediately to the right of **Mayor Fields**) delivered the plaque to an excited group of Pineville officials and members of the local sponsoring garden club.

For the second consecutive year, Pineville is the state's cleanest city! The City of Pineville was awarded the "**2004 State's Cleanest City**" award, repeating a feat accomplished for the first time ever in 2003. Pineville won their district in April, and was competing against the cities of Hammond and Morgan City in the state finals. Pineville won category "E", for cities with populations between ten and twenty thousand.



Pineville Mayor **Clarence Fields** called the award a victory for all city employees and our citizens. "For the last couple of years, we have won district and fallen short of the top prize. In 2003, our employees took it to another level in preparing our city to be judged. Now we can celebrate reaching an even higher level of repeating that great accomplishment. Hats off to our **Public Works Department**, the **Pineville Beautification Committee** and the **Alexandria**

Garden Club. It was a total team effort! (Pineville's entry was sponsored by the Alexandria Garden Club, which is comprised of members from both Alexandria and Pineville.)



What a Show!

The 4th Annual “**Fireworks Over Buhlow**” was a huge success. Thousands of friends and families filled the Buhlow Lake compound...plus gathered by the famous dairy



barn at Central Hospital, on “Rebel Hill” by Pineville High School, along airport road and all along Highway 165 for what many said was the best display to date at Buhlow Lake. With Michael Hataway and the La. Swamp Fire Band (first picture) opening up and the B.B. Major Blues Band (second picture) leading up to the fireworks show, it was a fun-filled family event.

Huge kudos to the Pineville Police Department, who had the incredible chore of handling traffic and parking on the 2-lane highway. Also thanks to the Pineville Public Works Department and Fire Department for making the evening more enjoyable. Thanks also to our corporate sponsor [CLECO](#) and our media partners [LA 103.5](#) and [K-Fox 105](#). It all means we will have to work harder on Sunday, July 3rd, 2005 to top this year’s Independence Day celebration!

Alexander Delivers Again



U.S. Congressman **Rodney Alexander** knows how to find Pineville City Hall. For the second time in two months, the 5th District Congressman was in Pineville to deliver a grant for Pineville’s new wastewater treatment plant. With Pineville’s current plant at capacity, the new plant was necessary in order to accommodate the expansion of **Procter & Gamble** into the liquid detergent market. It also meant that the P & G plant in

Pineville would be around for many years to come by becoming the company's only American plant to produce both dry and liquid detergents.

Alexander (pictured with **Mayor Fields**) brought with him a check for \$1.25-million from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. The money will go towards Pineville's local match of \$2 million, which is required to receive \$5.5 million in state capital outlay funds for this project. Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields, who often mentions teamwork, praised Alexander's efforts toward creating that picture. "This \$1.25 million means a lot, and we appreciate the fact that our Congressman has worked so hard to help us in every way he possibly can," said Fields.



Many other people played a very important part including the **Kisatchie-Delta Planning District** and our state's **Department of Economic Development**. "This money will allow us to complete the good work that will allow us to continue to grow," said **Todd Hoffman**, Procter & Gamble plant manager. "It meets needs, not just our own, but the community's."

The company's expansion has attracted suppliers **PlastiPak Packaging**, **Calvary Industries** and **Integrated Packaging Corp.** and will result in adding 300 permanent, good-paying jobs plus about 1,000 temporary construction jobs. Mayor Fields also noted that the new sewer treatment plant better positions Pineville to handle the increased activity in commercial, residential and industrial growth and position Pineville for future economic development.