



**New Orleans Public Television  
2022 Annual Report**

**WLAE-TV** is a trusted multi-media resource offering quality, values-based content and outreach increasing awareness of inspirational, cultural and educational services that positively impact the lives of the people of Southeast Louisiana.

**The word that comes to my mind to describe 2022 is GRATEFUL.**

With recovery from Hurricane Ida and the Covid-19 pandemic still on-going, WLAE-TV continued to serve communities in Southeast Louisiana with high quality content.

Our station has remained steadfast, mission driven and focused on the programs and projects that educate, inform and inspire viewers across our broadcast and social media platforms.



Featured was the premiere of our ground-breaking documentary film ***Battlegrounds: The Lost Community of Fazendeville***, a program several years in the making that tells the story of one of the oldest Black neighborhoods in the city that was razed during the Civil Rights struggles 60 years ago.



### Other WLAE highlights include:

- ***NOLA Crime Crisis*** – new monthly series spotlighting the #1 issue concerning citizens in the New Orleans metro area
- Live stream of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra ***“Concert Spiritual: Saint-Dominique and New Orleans”***
- 2 - Suncoast Emmy Awards – ***Irma Thomas: The Soul Queen of New Orleans***
- ***Fats Domino – Live*** album from 2007 concert documentary film recorded at Tipitina's

I would like to take this opportunity to say how grateful I am to you, our loyal stakeholders, for your support of WLAE during the past year. Whether it was through financial means, words of encouragement, volunteerism or prayer, your generosity is always much needed and appreciated.

Ron Yager  
President, WLAE-TV



PRESENTS

# BATTLEGROUND

## The Lost Community of Fazendeville

In October of 2022, WLAE broadcast its new groundbreaking documentary ***Battlegrounds: The Lost Community of Fazendeville*** – an emotionally harrowing story of one of the oldest Black neighborhoods in New Orleans that was razed during the Civil Rights struggles 60 years ago.

Presented by the Meraux Foundation, the hour-long, powerful documentary featured never-before-seen photos of Fazendeville, an idyllic, closely-knit St. Bernard Parish neighborhood of Black families who were forced to leave their homes in the 1960s. Families in the neighborhood were paid pennies on the dollar by the federal government to leave their homes so the land could be used for an expansion of the Chalmette National Battlefield site.

*"It was our social life, it was our educational life, it was our spiritual life. It was everything to us. Thanks to WLAE for telling our story."*

**Elois Cager Brooks**  
Fazendeville Resident



This moving and emotionally charged documentary tells the story of a self-sustaining community called “The Village” built by a free man of color named Jean Pierre Fazende in 1867. “The Village” was originally established for recently emancipated slaves before being abruptly dismantled and bulldozed 100 years later, leaving scores of displaced Black residents with no choice and no voice as they scattered to other areas of New Orleans.



A public screening of the film was held near the site of the Fazendeville village in St. Bernard Parish.



# We're Local And Educational



## NOLA Crime Crisis

Halfway through 2022, an informal survey of nationwide per-capita murder rates shows New Orleans is on pace to reclaim its ranking as the most murderous city in the U.S. — and is leading by a considerable margin.

New Orleans had notched 145 homicides as of June 30, according to data compiled by Jeff Asher, public safety analyst for the City Council. That sets the murder rate at 36.8 per 100,000 residents. In second place is Baltimore, with a murder rate of 29.1 per 100,000 residents. Birmingham takes the third-place spot, with a rate of 28 per 100,000 residents.

Something needs to be done to address this problem and propose solutions to take back the streets and make New Orleans a safe place to work and visit once again.

In August, WLAE brought this issue to the forefront with “Nola Crime Crisis”, a monthly TV series hosted by veteran journalist Norman Robinson. This program brings together political, business and civic leaders to open a dialog and discussion to aid in combating crime. Also, the show has reactions from locals and tourists voicing their questions and concerns about this important issue.

*“WLAE-TV has a platform on-air and on-line that attracts a wide variety of viewers. We intend to use this platform to bring the crime issue to the forefront and hear from the leaders in our city as to proposals and remedies that will make the city a safe place to live, work and prosper.”*

**William Hill**

*Producer - WLAE*



## *Coping Today Welcomes Guest Stars*

***Coping Today***, the WLAE weekly series focusing on mental health, in partnership with the University of Holy Cross Counseling Department, offers viewers weekly tips on how to cope in this ever-changing world and features interviews with various trained counseling experts across a wide scope of mental health issues. In 2022, the series had a few special guests join the program.

In April, former U.S. Public Health Service, Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Gioir, M.D. appeared on the program and discussed his role and the United States Government response to the Covid pandemic. In November, the program welcomed public TV personality, psychiatrist and author Dr. Daniel Amen to talk about brain health and the importance of healthy brains for positive moods and attitudes.





## Public Service Commission Run-Off Debate

WLAE hosted the two candidates in the Runoff Race for Louisiana Public Service Commission District 3, incumbent Lambert Boissiere III, and challenger Davante Lewis. The live-streamed and televised debate, aired on the station on Wednesday, November 30th at 8pm. The debate was hosted by the Alliance for Affordable Energy, HousingLOUISIANA and Power Coalition for Equity and Justice. The Louisiana Public Service Commission regulates public utilities in the state of Louisiana. It is a powerful government body that makes real decisions about your energy bills, significantly impacting the lives of residents in our state every single day. The election was held on Saturday, December 10th.

*"Thank you to the sponsors and WLAE for streaming and airing this important event."*

**Jodie Manale**

*New Orleans*

## Fr. Tom Chambers Scholastic Awards

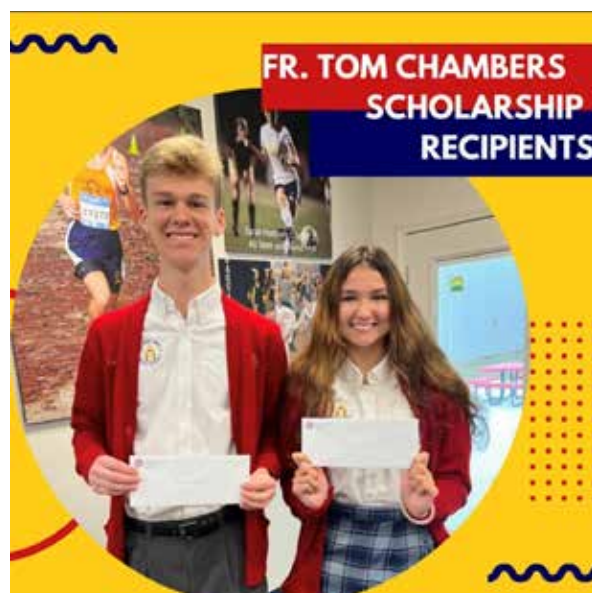
Two students from Pope John Paul II High School in Slidell were recognized for outstanding achievement receiving the Fr. Tom Chambers Scholastic Award. The award was created by the management team of WLAE to honor the memory and spirit of our friend and past president.

Students were nominated by their school and interviewed by our awards committee. The criteria for the award focused on students who possessed leadership, self-confidence, positive thinking and strong Catholic values. Each of the recipients received a commemorative plaque and a \$1,000 cash award.

The female winner was Brenna Sebring. She is a graduating senior and honor student who earned a 32 on the ACT. She played on the varsity soccer team, was on the homecoming court and active in her Catholic faith. Brenna will be attending LSU pursuing a career in law.

Aidan Combs was the male winner. He was captain of the swim team and a member of the tennis team. Academically, he earned National Honor Society recognition and is a PJP Ambassador. Aidan is interested in business and will be attending Ole Miss majoring in accounting.

Congratulations Brenna and Aidan!



# We're Local And Entertaining



## Concert Spiritual: Saint-Domingue and New Orleans

In October, WLAE live streamed The 15th edition of Musical Louisiana: America's Cultural Heritage, co-presented by The Historic New Orleans Collection and Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, resurrects two forgotten sets of music from the 18th-century Caribbean. A selection of arias will highlight the short, brilliant career of Minette Ferrand, the first title-role soloist of color in the history of French opera. The concert will also feature a 1763 Mass setting designed to be sung for and by enslaved people. Guest conductor Pedro Memelsdorff spent over a decade researching this music, which has rarely been performed.

The concert is being edited for television broadcast in 2023.





## Fats Domino Record

WLAE was fortunate to tape the last Fats Domino concert at Tipitina's music club on May 19, 2007 for the documentary film, ***Fats Domino – Walkin' Back to New Orleans***. Tipitina's Record Club made that live recording into a vinyl record in 2022. (Yes...vinyl records are making a comeback) The album features such hits as Blueberry Hill, Ain't That A Shame and Shake, Rattle & Roll. WLAE was honored to be a part of this historical concert and recording with the great Fats Domino. Thanks to Tip's for including us in the project!

*"Fats beamed as he leaned into the microphone at his side, rolling his shoulders as he worked the keys. Warmed up, he played hard, showing off, finishing with a flourish. Fifteen years later, the album exists, courtesy of WLAE and the Tipitina's Record Club".*

**Keith Spera**

Music Writer

*The Times Picayune/NOLA.com*



## Christmas Caroling in Jackson Square

Once again in 2022, WLAE partnered with Patio Planters of the Vieux Carre is to present the beloved **Caroling in Jackson Square** tradition to visitors and locals alike on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 7-8 p.m. The free community sing-along gathers thousands of people for a festive hour of holiday merriment, with carols led by local dignitaries and clergy. Volunteers were stationed throughout the square to distribute complimentary song books and candles to participants in the non-denominational community celebration.

*"There's nothing more rewarding than looking out across Jackson Square and seeing the joy and camaraderie that this event brings to visitors and locals alike. Caroling in Jackson Square truly represents the spirit of the season. Thanks to WLAE for live-streaming and televising this event to those who can't make it out in person."*

**Joey Difatta**

*President, Patio Planters*

# WLAE Wins Awards

The WLAE concert documentary film,  
***Irma Thomas – The Soul Queen of New Orleans***  
was honored with several national  
and local awards in 2022.

The program received two **Suncoast Emmy Awards**  
for Best Arts & Entertainment program  
and for Best Director.

The show also won a **Telly Award**  
for Best Entertainment Program  
and Best Documentary  
from the **Press Club of New Orleans**.

**Congratulations to all on team WLAE  
for winning these awards!**



## WLAE partners with organizations and area businesses to produce quality local programming

**Affordable Housing Matters** — A monthly, half-hour educational series that invites experts in the fields of real estate, banking, insurance, finance and community organizations to discuss home ownership and renting opportunities. *Partner: NOLA Lending Group, Louisiana Affordable Housing Management Association, Whitney Bank and Willwoods Community Management*

**Conversations with Ed Marshall** — A monthly, half-hour program that features interviews and discussion with community leaders and organizations. *Partner: EM Productions*

**The Daily Mass** — A daily 30-minute Mass on TV and the Internet for shut-ins, the sick and those in prison. *Partner: The Archdiocese of New Orleans*

**Inside New Orleans Sports** — A live weekly call-in program with local sports reporters discussing the hot topics from the Saints, Pelicans, LSU Tigers, Tulane Green Wave and high school athletic events. *Partner: Local Business Underwriters*

**Viva NOLA** — A weekly program that highlights the positive contributions of Latino individuals, organizations and businesses to our society. *Partner: Local Business Underwriters*

**Celebrating Culture** — This weekly program showcases what makes Louisiana unique and explores the history, culture and traditions of the state. *Partner: AWE News*

**Go Coast: Louisiana** — One of the top-rated programs produced by WLAE. The multiple Emmy award-winning series continues with new episodes featuring the culinary trail in St. Tammany Parish. *Partner: Louisiana Tourism Coastal Coalition*

**Talk of Glory** — Hosted by TV sports anchor Ken Berthelot, this weekly program spotlights the New Orleans Catholic League and its rich history of prep football over the past 50 years. *Partner: Local Businesses*

**Faith and Marriage Today** — Jason Angelette and Dr. Mario Sacasa discuss with guests the struggles of marriage, raising children and family life in today's society. *Partner: The Willwoods Community*

**Coping Today** — Offers viewers weekly coping tips for a variety of mental health issues confronting people during the ongoing pandemic and features interviews with various experts across a wide scope of mental health issues. *Partner: University of Holy Cross*

**NOLA Crime Crisis** — Monthly program that spotlights the #1 issue for citizens in the New Orleans Metro area. The program brings in leaders from the political, business and civic community to offer solutions to combat this major area of concern. *Partner: Local Businesses*

**Primetime Sports** — Each week local media personality Scott Alexander brings on a variety of guests from the sports scene in Louisiana to discuss professional, college and high school athletics. *Partner: Local Businesses*

## Thanks To Our Partners

The Willwoods Community	Entergy
Louisiana Public Broadcasting	The Archdiocese of New Orleans
Arlene & Joseph Meraux Foundation	The Smile Design Center
University of Holy Cross	Catholic Journeys
The Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation	Mitch Crusto Foundation
Ray Brandt Auto Group	John Redmann, Attorney at Law
Red River Bank	Fr. Cedric Pisegna
Joe and Sue Ellen Canizaro	The Catholic Foundation
First Bank and Trust	Catholic Community Radio
NOLA Lending Group	Phyllis M. Taylor Foundation
Fidelity Bank	Iberia/First Horizon Bank
Historic New Orleans Collection	Eric Asher
Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra	Ed Marshall
Whitney bank	St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission
The Clarion Herald	Viva NOLA
AT&T	AWE News
	New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation

“This past year was one filled with challenges and triumphs, but our educational and informational programs continue to inspire the community across a variety of digital platforms.”

**Ron Yager**

*President*

*WLAE-TV*