

**SWEET
SOCIAL**
Nursing center
celebrates
Valentine's
Day
Page 2A



DAILY World



**GIRLS
CHAMPS**
Washington
Elementary
goes 12-0
on the season
Page 1B

OPELOUSAS, LA.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009

50 CENTS ★

Town begins cleanup effort

Arnaudville working to attract tourists

By William Johnson

wjohnson@dailyworld.com

With Arnaudville making a serious effort to attract visitors, the local Chamber of Commerce is being an effort to tackle the problem of litter and clean up the city.

To promote that effort, gain volunteers and come up with effective strategies, the Chamber has called a meeting of interested individuals for Friday at noon at Cypress City Antiques, 1510 Courtableau Highway, Arnaudville.

"We have invited the sheriffs (of St. Landry and St. Martin parishes), the mayor, business leaders, people who have expressed an interest," said Betty Roy with the Chamber. "We want to open a dialogue on the issue."

Roy said St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby Guidroz and Arnaudville Mayor Kathy Richard has already agreed to attend the "Talk About Litter" meeting and hopes many more will join the effort.

Thanks to a growing arts community, Arnaudville is experiencing a rebirth,

See Cleanup Page 3A

DAILYWORLD.COM

Cleanup

Continued from Page 1A

with new shops opening and new festivals such as the Fire and Water Festival and the Bayou Blues Revival attracting a growing numbers of visitors.

"Our mayor has received grant funds to build a new civic center that will benefit all citizens of the area," Roy said. "Plans are also in place to build a canoe launch in an effort to develop recreational activities along Bayou Teche and Bayou Fuselier."

She said these and other developments create the potential for the creation of jobs in bad economic times. But for these efforts to succeed, the community needs to put its best foot forward. That

means problems such as litter, abandoned vehicles and such need to be addressed.

"This meeting will help us see where we are and how we can proceed," Roy said.

Roy would especially like to see efforts made to clean up the picturesque bayous that wind through the center of the city.

State efforts to promote the Atchafalaya Basin region means these bayous are increasingly becoming a Mecca for nature tourists, with regular canoe trips and other events along the bayous.

"The junction of the bayous at the center of town is a focal point that can be used for additional recreation and economic development. It just makes sense to work on developing what is there,"