



Timothy P. Roussel
St. James Parish President



Vision

We envision a thriving St. James Parish community in which economic and social gains prevail and all people grow, prosper, and live productive, healthy lives while preserving our culture and heritage.

Mission Statement

St. James Parish Government works together with community, business, industry, and agriculture to provide resources and services to improve our quality of life.

On behalf of the Parish Council, administration, and employees of St. James Parish, it is my privilege and honor to present the 2017 State of the Parish report. This report is filled with highlights, accomplishments, and updates from the previous year, which enable us to celebrate our achievements together.

I'm pleased with the advancements made by my administration to make our parish stronger through improvements to our infrastructure and delivering government services. My administration remains focused on implementing new projects and searching for new ways to better serve our residents.

The backwater flooding in August as well as the two recent tornadoes are examples of some of the unexpected challenges faced by our residents. I'm proud of the response delivered by the first responders, firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and employees during these events. Thank you to everyone who took part in our parish's recovery and relief efforts.

Through it all, I believe St. James Parish continues to prosper as our community expands to welcome new residents, businesses, and industries. By working together, we can build a stronger St. James Parish for all of our residents. I remain optimistic and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Highlights from 2016 include, but are not limited to:

- Completed Water Line Connector under the Mississippi River Project for continual water flow on the east and the west banks during emergencies.
- Completed construction of the Cypress Park Fire Station in Lutcher and renovated the existing Lutcher Fire Station.
- Completed construction of the District 4 Senior and Community Center, which was completely funded by federal disaster recovery grants.
- Completed renovation of the Vacherie Senior Center.
- Completed construction of the bridge at the St. James Boat Club, which was damaged during the August backwater flooding.
- Completed the ball field lighting project at Paulina Park.
- Started construction at Gramercy Park for a new concession stand and restroom building.
- Recertified through the National Flood Insurance Program with a class 7 rating, which resulted in a 15% reduction in flood insurance premiums for residents living in flood zones.
- Welcomed the start of operations at the Millennium Galvanizing facility in Convent.
- Opened a Small Business Satellite Office at the Vacherie Annex, in partnership with the Small Business Development Center and Louisiana Economic Development, to offer business consulting and capacity building for existing and potential small business owners.
- Installed a messaging board at the Welcome and Tourist Information Center for community awareness of local events and activities that promote tourism and business.

I am honored to serve the residents of St. James Parish and proud of our employees and their accomplishments. I will continue to work long hours with a spirit of enthusiasm for all our residents, because St. James Parish is a great place to grow, work, live, and prosper together.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Roussel
St. James Parish President



ST. JAMES PARISH IS VIBRANT AND A WONDERFUL PLACE TO:



LIVE WORK PLAY GROW

33 new residential construction permits
20 new commercial construction project permits
47 mobile home permits



843 million gallons of water treated and sold

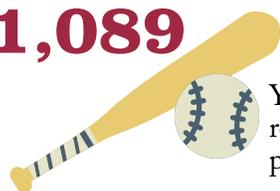
404 million cubic feet of natural gas sold



HOME TO **21,650** RESIDENTS

470 BUSINESSES & **30** INDUSTRIES IN SJP

1,089



Youth recreation participants



Flag football teams



Tourism

In-State Visitors – **3,265**
Out-of-State Visitors – **865**
International Visitors – **178**
Total Visitors – **4,308**

Serviced more than **69,361** patrons at the libraries

31,437 books checked out

126,428 items available for public use



Maintained class **7** rating with **NFIP** which means reduced flood insurance premiums for residents



Telephone Calls

44,456 Administrative
20,576 Emergency 9-1-1
20,554 Outgoing
85,586 Total Calls



Future Projects:
Bayou Chevreuil Bridge
East Bank Raw Water Intake Structure
District 2 Splash Park



Senior and Community Center Opens in Convent

St. James Parish Government held a ribbon cutting ceremony in December 2016 at the new District 4 Community Center. The 14,000 sq. ft. facility is able to accommodate more than 400 people. The center is designed to house the area's senior citizen program and community events.

The new center is located near the Parish Courthouse in Convent. Construction of the \$4 million facility was funded completely through grants from federal and state agencies. FEMA provided \$1.1 million through a Hazard Mitigation Grant and the parish received another \$2.9 million through a Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery.

Volunteer Fire Departments Seek Firefighters

The volunteer fire departments of St. James Parish are accepting applications for volunteer firefighters. In addition to saving lives and property during a fire, volunteer firefighters provide rescue and emergency medical services.

The parish fire departments are accepting applications for volunteer firefighters. For more information or to sign up call (225) 562-2266.

Master Plan Developed for Recreation

A master plan for parish recreation was developed with input from the community. The goal of the plan is to provide parks with diverse recreation offerings that promote the individual and communities health and well-being while enhancing the quality of life for all St. James Parish residents. The master plan will address ways to:

- Promote individual and community health and wellness
- Increase access to recreation facilities for all residents
- Develop sustainability within the existing park system
- Explore new park and recreation development opportunities
- Achieve financial sustainability with innovative partnerships.



Perique Tobacco Capital of the World

During the 2016 legislative session, the Louisiana Legislature approved resolutions recognizing St. James Parish as the "Perique Tobacco Capital of the World." Perique is a unique and rare type of tobacco that is grown exclusively within St. James Parish using a special pressure-fermentation process. Perique tobacco is known for its strong, powerful, sweet and fruity aroma. It is used as a "condiment tobacco" to make nearly a hundred different brand name pipe tobacco blends from around the world. The wonderful properties of Perique tobacco allow for a variety of uses, including in cigarettes, cigars and as a French liquor.



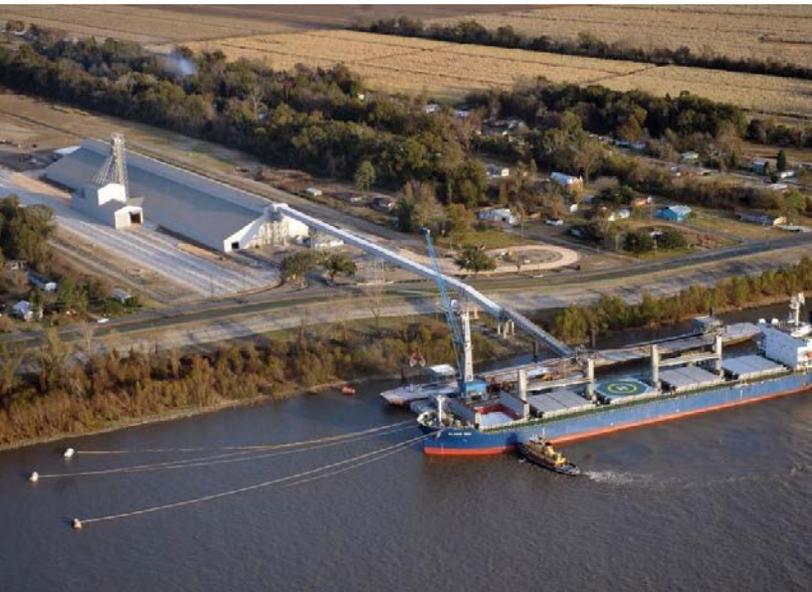
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES



Millennium Galvanizing Starts Operations



Millennium Galvanizing created 68 new direct jobs when the company launched commercial operations at its Convent facility in March 2016. Millennium Galvanizing furnishes galvanized protective coatings for utility poles and equipment in the electric utility and petrochemical industries.



International Exports Support Local Economy

In a June 2016 issue of County News, St. James Parish was highlighted as the parish or county with the largest share of economy supported by international exports in 2014. International exports make up 71 percent of the parish's economy. County News is published by the National Association of Counties.



Renovations Made to Courthouse Annex

Several parish government offices were recently moved to the Courthouse Annex in Vacherie to improve the service provided to residents on the west bank. Residents are now able to take care of most of their parish government interactions at the Vacherie annex. Residents can pay their utility bill and apply for a building permit at the Courthouse Annex.

Resources Available for Small Business Development

Through a partnership with Louisiana Economic Development and the Louisiana Small Business Development Center, a small business satellite office was established at the Courthouse Annex in Vacherie to connect small businesses with resources through business workshops and one-on-one consultations.

Small business owners should visit this office to receive assistance with writing a business plan, learning about funding opportunities and accessing resources to build a small business. The center is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Messaging Board Installed at Welcome and Tourist Information Center

An electronic messaging board was installed at the Welcome and Tourist Information Center in Gramercy. The messaging board provides community awareness of local events and activities that promote tourism and business.

February 2017 Tornado

When disaster strikes, St. James Parish Government takes action to protect lives and property. After the February tornado made landfall in the Lemannville area, Utilities employees, as a precaution, immediately shut off gas service in the area. While the Department of Emergency Preparedness coordinated efforts between local, state and federal officials, representatives from the Department of Human Resources conducted damage assessments of the affected area. The Department of Operations quickly cleared 5,626 yards of debris from the area and guided residents through the process for making repairs to their homes.



**August 2016
Backwater Flooding**

During the 2016 backwater flood event, the parish organized a sandbagging operation. With support from the community, the parish provided more than 126,000 filled sandbags to residents. The sandbagging effort significantly reduced the damaged caused by the backwater flooding in St. James Parish.



**Bayou Chevreuil Bridge –
Highway 20 Task Force**

The Bayou Chevreuil Bridge – Highway 20 Task Force was established to create safer driving conditions along LA Hwy. 20 from LA Hwy. 307 to LA Hwy. 3127. This section of highway has become increasingly dangerous as more people use the highway to travel for work, education and other needs.

Parish President Timmy Roussel, the Parish Council and task force members met with Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Shawn Wilson, Ph.D. and state legislators to discuss funding for improvements to the highway, which include widening LA Hwy. 20 and replacing the Bayou Chevreuil Bridge.





Be Prepared.
Hurricane Season is
June 1 – November 30.

Before this hurricane season, please take a moment to review the disaster supply kit check list. St. James Parish remains vulnerable to all levels of storm events. Be sure to get a game plan and be prepared. Visit www.getagameplan.org and download the free app – have the checklist readily available on your smartphone!



Now GET A GAME PLAN app now available for iPhone and iPad in the Apple iTunes Store!

Hurricane Check List – Disaster Supply Kit

Store all items in a waterproof container.

WATER:
One gallon per person per day for two weeks.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD:
2-week supply of ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables, canned juices, energy bars, vitamins, peanut butter, nuts, crackers and canned soups.

CLOTHING:
Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person. Include rain gear and sturdy shoes or work boots, as well as sunglasses, hats and gloves.

FIRST AID SUPPLIES:
Bandages, antiseptic, tape, compresses, non-aspirin pain relief, anti-diarrhea medication.

TOOLS AND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES:
Emergency manual
Flashlight/batteries
Non-electric can opener
Utility knife
Duct tape
Matches in waterproof box
Plastic storage containers.
Battery-operated radio
Mosquito repellent/citronella
Candles
Camera
Batteries
Coolers for food and ice

Toilet paper, paper towels, towelettes
Cash and/or traveler's checks
Fire extinguisher – small canister ABC type
Paper cups, plates and utensils
DOTD Louisiana highway map
Plastic sheeting
Needles and thread
Pliers
Signal flare
Paper and pencil
Medicine dropper
Water purification – chlorine tablets, iodine

SPECIAL ITEMS:
Infant and medical supplies
Supplies for elderly or disabled
2-week supply of prescriptions

ENTERTAINMENT:
Games and books
IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS:
Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
Passports, social security cards and immunization records
Bank account numbers
Credit card numbers and company addresses
Inventory of valuable household goods and important phone numbers
Birth, marriage and death certificates

Emergency Preparedness Guide

The St. James Parish Emergency Preparedness Guide earned a Superior rating in the publication category of the 2016 Awards of Excellence program sponsored by the National Association of County Information Officers. In 2015, the guide was mailed to every household in the parish.

It is an all-hazards guide with instructions, tips and useful information. Please keep this guide handy for easy consultation when preparing for or during an emergency. If you need a copy of the guide, please contact the Office of Emergency Preparedness at (225) 562-2265. (While they last.)



Shelter-In-Place

See pages 3 – 4 of your *Emergency Preparedness Guide* for additional details.

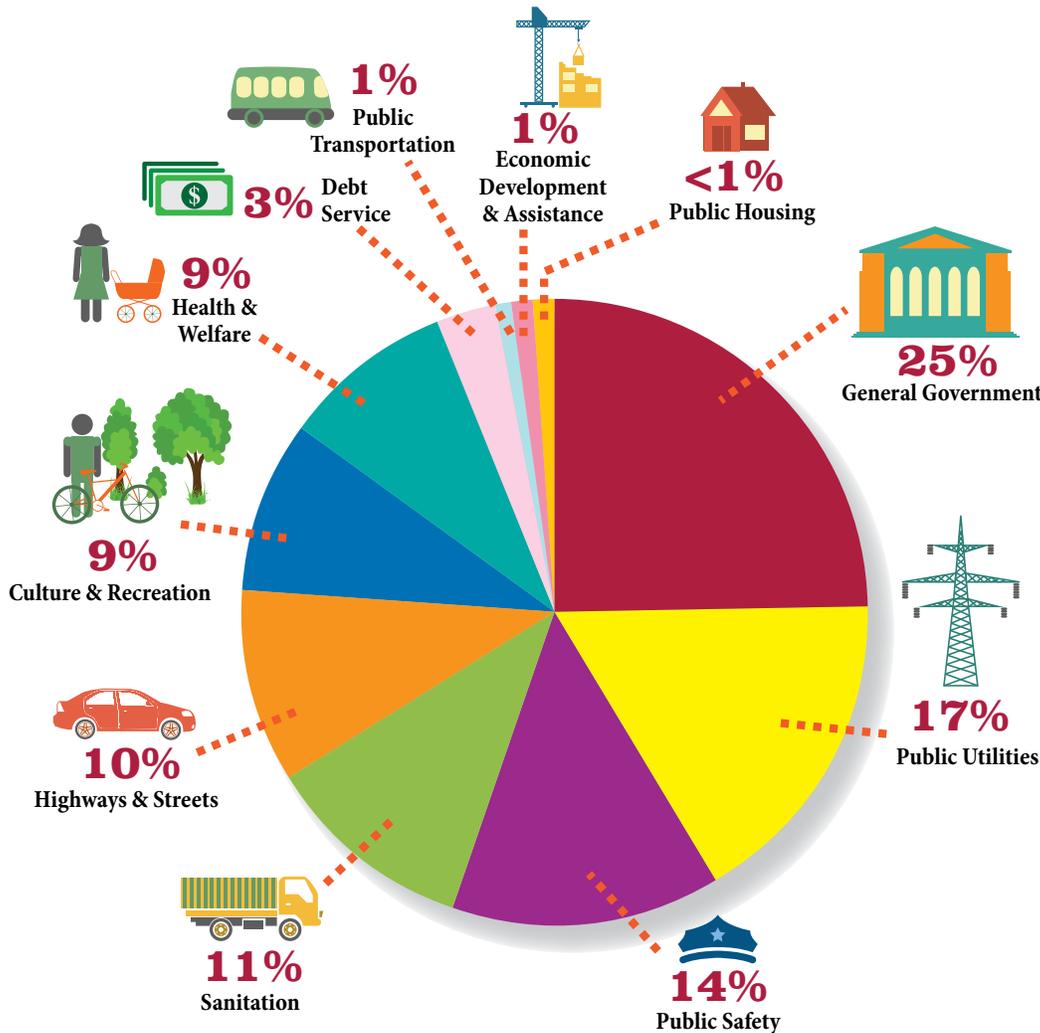
In the event of a weather or chemical incident, you may be instructed to Shelter-In-Place. Immediately seek shelter in a building, house or vehicle.

If you are told to Shelter-In-Place and you are at home:

1. Get indoors immediately.
2. Close all windows and doors.
3. Turn off heaters and air conditioners. (Other precautions to consider: cover nose and mouth with wet cloth and seal windows.)
4. Turn on your radio or cable television to emergency channels and listen for instructions.
5. Wait for additional instructions. Following an “all clear” message, air out your home.



PROVIDING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PUBLIC FUNDS



Parish Budget Synopsis

- 2017 Expenditures = **\$46.4 million**
- 2017 Revenues = **\$41.6 million**, a decrease of **\$2.2 million** from 2016 revised revenues.
- Taxes are St. James Parish's largest revenue source, with property taxes comprising **35%**.
- 2017 budgeted sales tax revenues = **\$6.1 million**.
- Sales and use tax collections finance the Elderly and Emergency Medical Services, Solid Waste Disposal and the Parks & Recreation funds.

Parish Represented on State Ad Valorem Tax Task Force (SCR6)

During the 2016 legislative session, the state senate passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 by state Sen. Bret Allain, which established the Ad Valorem Tax Task Force. The task force studied state and local taxation laws with respect to local government funding from ad valorem taxes on inventory, ad valorem taxes on vessels in Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Waters and the state associated tax credits.

Parish President Timmy Roussel served as one of the 22 members of the task force, representing the 64 parishes across the state, while Gramercy Mayor Steve Nosacka represented the local municipalities. The task force recommended comprehensive solutions that will fully fund local government, while reducing the growing impact of ad valorem tax credits on the state general fund.



Parish Earns National Achievement Award

St. James Parish Government received a 2016 Achievement Award in the category of Risk Management from the National Association of Counties for its safety and accident prevention program. Through the program, St. James Parish Government has realized a cost savings in workers' compensation premiums of \$25,000 in 2014, \$75,000 in 2015, and \$21,000 in 2016.



ST. JAMES PARISH DEPARTMENT PHONE DIRECTORY

Assessor's Office	(225) 562-2252
Clerk of Court's Office	(225) 562-2270
Emergency Preparedness	(225) 562-2265
Finance	(225) 562-2293
Human Resources (Social Services)	(225) 562-2305
Libraries:	
Lutcher	(225) 869-3618
Vacherie	(225) 265-9066
Operations (Public Works)	(225) 562-2286
Parish Council	(225) 562-2400
Planning & Permitting	(225) 562-2264
President's Office	(225) 562-2260
Recreation	(225) 562-2337
Registrar of Voters	(225) 562-2330
St. James Parish Hospital	(225) 869-5512
St. James Parish Health Unit	(225) 265-2181
School Board	(225) 258-4500
Senior Centers:	
Lutcher	(225) 562-2878
Romeville	(225) 562-2299
Vacherie	(225) 562-2568
Welcome	(225) 265-3030
Sheriff's Office	(225) 562-2200
Tourist Information Welcome Center	(225) 562-2525
Toll-free	(800) 367-7852
Transportation	(225) 562-2352
Utilities	(225) 562-2412



Francis Hymel Appointed Director of Emergency Preparedness

Parish President Timmy Roussel appointed Francis Hymel, Jr. to the position of director of emergency preparedness in November 2016. He previously served in emergency preparedness for more than 10 years as the assistant director.

The State of the Parish 2016 received a Superior Award of Excellence in the category of Annual Reports from the National Association of County Information Officers. A Superior award recognizes exceptional work among peers across the nation.

Stay Connected!

MAIL: P.O. Box 106, Convent, LA 70723

WEB: www.stjamesla.com



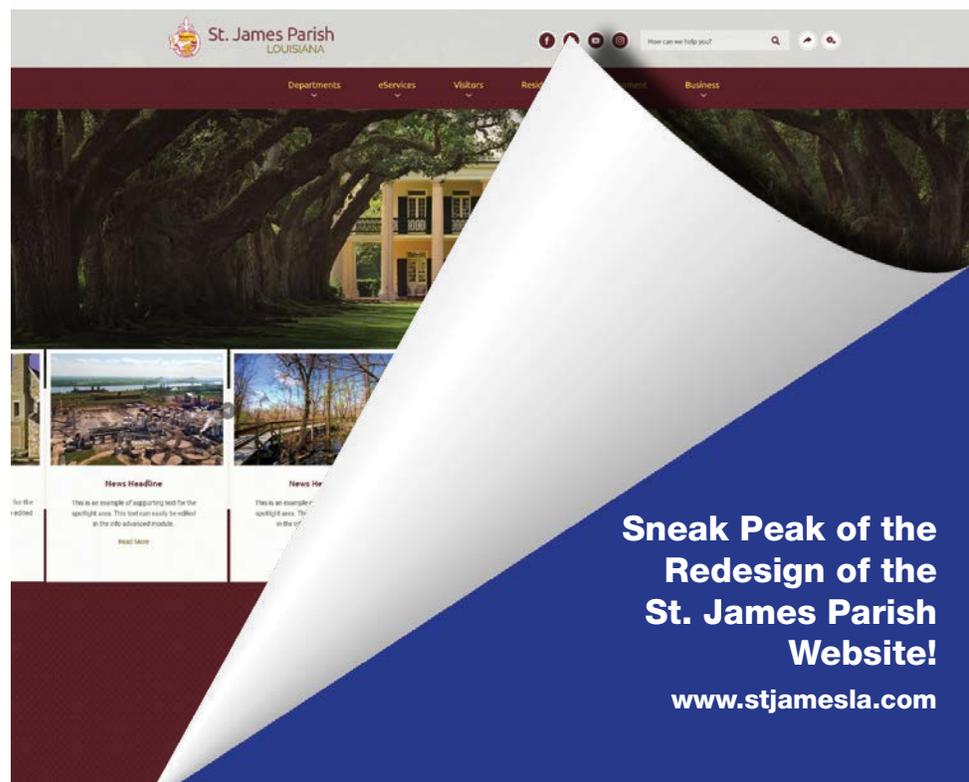
Tweet to @stjamesparishla



www.facebook.com/pages/St-James-Parish/



www.youtube.com/user/StJamesParishGov



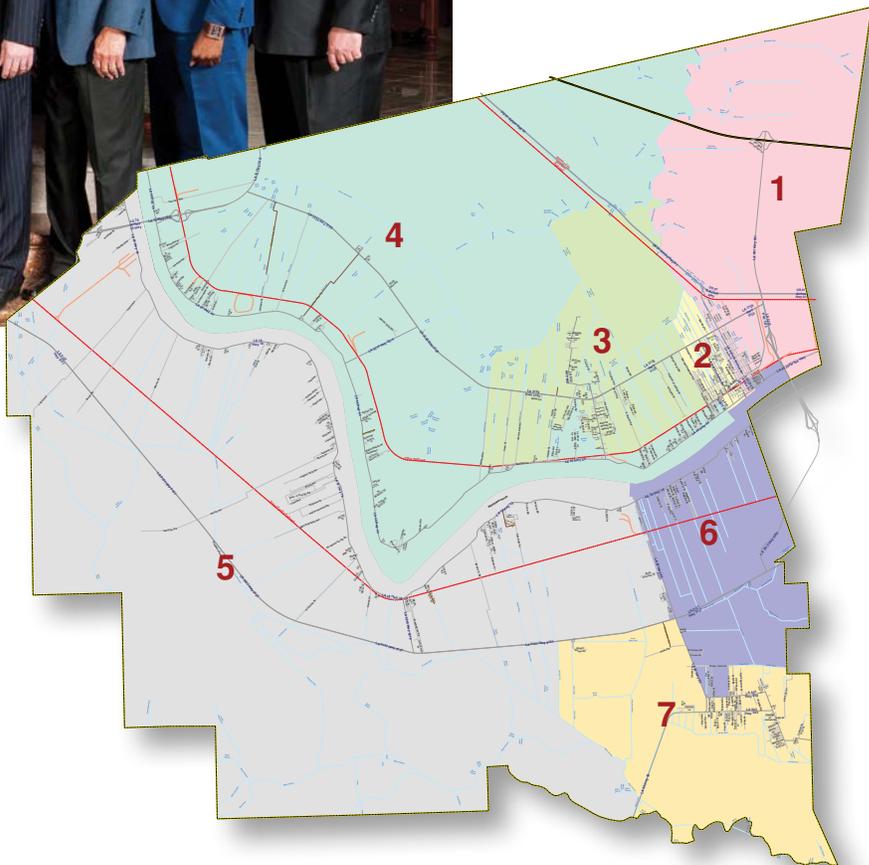
Sneak Peak of the Redesign of the St. James Parish Website!

www.stjamesla.com



The elected officials representing St. James Parish Government include, from left to right Clyde Cooper, Ryan Louque, Alvin "Shark" St. Pierre, Timmy Roussel, Jason Amato, Ralph Patin, Jr., Ken Brass, and Eddie Kraemer.

The State of the Parish 2017 is published by the St. James Parish Government Public Information Office, P.O. Box 106, Convent, LA 70723. Brandon P. Keller, Public Information Officer. Production and design services by Positive Results, Inc.



Parish Council

- Alvin St. Pierre, Jr.
District 1
- Jason Amato
District 2
- Ryan Louque
District 3
- Ralph Patin, Jr.
District 4
- Clyde Cooper
District 5
- Kendricks Brass
District 6
- Eddie Kraemer
District 7

St. James Parish Government Administration

- Timothy P. Roussel
Parish President
- Michelle N. Octave
Chief Administrative Officer
- Blaise J. Gravois
Director of Operations
- Chantal T. Waguespack
Director of Finance
- Bedar W. Warren
Director of Human Resources
- Francis Hymel, Jr.
Director of Emergency Preparedness



The St. James Parish Government Administration includes from top to bottom, left to right Michelle Octave, Blaise Gravois, Chantal Waguespack, Bedar Warren, and Francis Hymel, Jr.



BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Area Agency On Aging Advisory Board

Anthony Boudreaux
Ken Brass
Eva Coleman
Ruth Gaudin
Albert Geason
Romona Jones
Eddie Kraemer
Melba LeBlanc
SueWon Narcisse
Anna Lee Oubre
Audrey Reulet
Gloria Roberts
Bedar Warren

Coastal Zone Advisory Board

Ed Arceneaux Jr.
Wayne Becnel
C. J. Brock
Craig Calcagno
Elton Chenier
Ronald Geauthreaux
Brandon Gravois
LeVar Joseph

Council On Aging Board

Agnes Batiste
Denesia Batiste
Donald Batiste
Rose Best
Dianne Brathwaite
Betty Brignac
Milton Cayette
Augustine Fields
Vivian Folse
David Gauthe
Carlton Jones
Gufielle Keller
Cathy Kirklin
Eddie Kraemer
Marie Lewis
Sandra Lewis
Willy Martin
Brenda Mitchell
Emil Mitchell
Timothy Roussel
Auga Roy
Patrick St. Pierre
Darlene Schexnayder
Glenn Waguespack
Mary Walker

Keri Walker
Barbara Woods
Rose Young

Economic Development Board

Paul Aucoin
Mac Bordelon
Amanda Delatte
Bruce Delatte
Charles Farlough
Dolores Florent
Janet Johnson
Carlton Jones
Louis Kliebert
A. J. Laiche
Camella Landry
Zeb Mayhew
Brenda Melancon
R. J. St. Pierre
Brad Poche
Betty Williams
Charlene Williams
Doloris T. Wise

Keep St. James Parish Beautiful Board

Marvis Brown
Ken Guidry
Jude Gravois
Kathryn Hotard
Mary Kliebert
Willy Martin
Lorraine Oubre
Danice Pittman
Rachel Schexnayder
Amber Shepard
Darlene Riley
Tara Roussel
Timothy Roussel
Barbara Wood

Library Board

Veda Bailey
Joellyn Hebert
Rhoda Johnson
Terrence Jones
Geneva Landry
Melvina Matherne
Sharon Poche

Hospital Board

Floyd Marshall, Sr.
Cullen Omond, M.D.

Whitney Poirrier
Wilbur Reynaud
Roland Waguespack, M.D.
Wayne Waguespack

Housing Authority Board

Adam Koenig
Leo McQueen
Florian Oubre
Lameka T. Williams
Yolanda J. Williams

Planning Commission

Ralph Becnel
Sue Beier
Anthony Boudreaux
Mike Krumholt, Jr.
Wilson Malbourgh
Arthur Matherne
Larry Melancon
Dean Millet
Glen Millet
Grady Poche

Gramercy Recreation Board

Craig Calcagno
Edward Johnson
Melissa Laurent
Ryan Rojas
Chad Weidert

District 2 Recreation Board

Michael Barker
Lloyd Bartley
Steven Riley
Dennis Roussel
Clifton Williamson

District 3 Recreation Board

Michael Chabaud
Cynthia Crawford
Regina Fauchaux
Billie Keller
Lynn M. Roussel

District 4 Recreation Board

Alfred Adams
Philip Creel
James Kirklin
Dale Melancon
Rev. Joseph White

District 5 Recreation Board

Nathaniel Braud
Troy Bright
Kaleah Harris
Albert Smith
Brian Winchester

District 7 Recreation Board

Alvin Bartholomew
Lamond Harry
Lamont Harry
Joseph Ockmond
Brett Steib

Youth Commission

Timothy Allen
Breanna Bailey
Jenna Fauchaux
Zoe Forsyth
Daija Gibson
Seantrell Lemar
Lane Lundy
Victoria Rocquin
Alexis Washington



**Volunteer
on a Board or
Commission!**

If one of the above Boards or
Commissions interests you, call the
Council Office at (225) 562-2400 for
more information.



P.O. Box 106
 Convent, LA 70723

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Mobile Phone	
E-mail		
What did you enjoy most about this report?		

**Complete this form and mail it to
 P.O. Box 106, Convent, LA 70723-0106.**

All winners give St. James Parish permission to print their name in a list of winners in the next report and/or online at www.stjamesla.com.

All forms received by August 31, 2017 will be entered into a drawing and several winners will be selected at random.

Entrants must be 18 years or older to win. St. James Parish Office of the President, employees, Parish Councilmen and their immediate families are not eligible to win.

To encourage everyone to read the report, we have joined with area businesses to provide these fun prizes!

12 LUCKY WINNERS! REGISTER TO WIN THESE PRIZES!

B&C SEAFOOD

2155 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
 265-8356

\$25 Gift Certificate

CREOLE HOUSE RESTAURANT

3409 Hwy. 3125, Paulina
 869-3333

www.creolehousecafe.com

\$20 Gift Card

GEM DRUGS

1635 LA 3125, Gramercy
 869-3651

www.gemdrugs.com

\$75 Gift Certificate

S. J. KELLER

22131 Highway 20, Vacherie
 624-0110

\$30 Gift Certificate to Highsteppers Boutique

JIMMY'S PLACE

6822 LA 44, Convent
 562-7244

\$25 Gift Certificate

LIZ'S FLOWERS & GIFTS

1940 Main Street, Lutcher
 869-0043

\$25 Gift Certificate

MATHERNE'S GROCERY

3251 Hwy. 3125, Paulina
 869-4683

www.mathernes.com

\$25 Gift Card

NEWS EXAMINER/ ENTERPRISE

Lutcher/Vacherie
 869-5785

www.stjamesparishtoday.com

One Year Subscription to Newspaper

NOBILE'S RESTAURANT

2082 W. Main Street, Lutcher
 869-8900

www.nobilesrestaurant.com

\$25 Gift Certificate

OAK ALLEY PLANTATION

3645 Hwy. 18 (Great River Road)
 Vacherie

265-2151

www.oakalleyplantation.org

Tour for Two

ROUSSEL'S FINE JEWELRY

330 E. Main Street, Gramercy
 869-9097

www.roussels.com

\$25 Gift Certificate

VACHERIE MART

2665 LA 20, Vacherie
 265-4086

www.facebook.com/VacherieMart

Lamp

Prizes donated by area businesses