

My administration hit the ground running with a great sense of optimism and enthusiasm within the first year of my term. That starts by looking at ourselves and objectively evaluating what we can do to improve procedures, improve communication, and improve conditions for our constituents. That's our job and although we've progressed we know it is only a start. Now, a year later, our enthusiasm remains as strong as ever.

We strive to attract major corporations and welcome new businesses to St. James Parish as new developments provide more jobs and career opportunities for residents. We look forward to the direct and indirect results of such developments as Mosaic's \$700 million ammonia plant expansion and \$1.3 billion South Louisiana Methanol as well as other prospects. Assisting our unemployed and under employed members of the community is a priority. Together, we need to make sure we have a strong and indispensable workforce when those opportunities are available. In an effort to build relationships and encourage economic development, we recreated the Business and Industry Development Group, formally known as the Family Super. This group includes officials, members of boards and commissions and industry leaders.

To become better, we continue to take advantage of every opportunity. We negotiated a 5 year contract with Waste Management to save \$1.25 million and \$95,000 in insurance premiums for the Workman's Compensation Program. Without any additional fees for residents, the Parish teamed up with Rameli Waste to implement a new recycling program that provided five portable units throughout the Parish. With weekly training sessions we will create a Safety Awareness Program to make sure our employees are protected every day during every shift.

It's been a challenging year for our parish. Hurricane Isaac caused tremendous damage for our residents, but it was how we faced that and other challenges that reaffirmed my belief in the character of our government and our community. As government officials, we enter the world of politics with the conviction that we can make a difference – for the better – in people's lives. Through our powerful working relationship, the Parish Council and my administration are loyal and devoted to St. James Parish. That is why our motto is, *good enough just isn't good enough.*