

Opening:

Good morning, everyone. It's an exciting time for St. James Parish. I stood here a year ago with a great sense of optimism and enthusiasm for what we could do as government officials. Now, a year later, that enthusiasm remains as strong as ever.

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.

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. We've done a lot but we're just getting started.

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- Saving **\$95,000** in insurance premiums for Workman's Comp.
- Negotiated a new contract w/ Waste Management; saving **\$1.25** million over **5** years.
- Saved \$25,000 in 6 months through the Inmate Prescription Program Script Care with the Police Jury Association. Average yearly spending in the past has been **\$78,000**.

-New Parish website and SharePoint to better communicate with the employees and public.

-5 awards with NACIo in 2012, currently applying for 2013.

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-Youth Detention Center:

Passed two bills; one created the commission composed of **15** members between 8 parishes & granted **6** month extension to meet new regulations. Facility will not be operated under SJPG as of July 1, 2013. **\$2.8 million** to operate annually.

-Hurricane Isaac:

Marathon donated **\$30,000** to purchase emergency machine or equipment.

-Economic Development:

Gavilon Agriculture- invests **\$10.4** million; purchased approximately **753** acres on the west bank also known as Winchester Whitney Plantation.

Gavilon is a leading commodity management firm connecting producers and consumers of feed, food, and fuel in the U.S. and abroad. Gavilon owns approximately 150 facilities in North America.

Mosaic Faustina Plant- Plans for a **\$700 million** ammonia production plant; creates 53 direct jobs and 366 indirect.

Beacon Behavioral Hospital expanded to meet the needs of elderly patients by opening a new wing with seven private rooms.

New Star

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Donated two surplus vehicles to the Towns of Lutchter and Gramercy.

To provide recycling to the community **5** recycle containers provided by Ramelli Waste are available throughout the Parish.

DHR Toy and Coat Program provided gifts for **53** children.

We will spend an estimated amount of **\$56.6** million in operation costs in 2013. The Parish is expecting to receive approximately **\$56.1** million in funding.

Budget Highlights:

- **\$8.4** million will cover major construction costs of 9 projects through the CDBG Disaster Recovery Fund, which include projects in the Town of Lutchter and Town of Gramercy. **\$3** million will fund an underground waterline under the Mississippi River, connecting the water treatment plants.
- **\$3.8** million is budgeted for the Head Start Program
- **\$3.3** million will be spent for improvements on recreation parks throughout the Parish.
- **\$1.4** million will fund several road and bridge maintenance projects including the Recreation trail along the Mississippi River.
- **\$1.4** million will be spent to construct sewer lines and build a wetlands assimilation sewage treatment facility through the

Coastal Impact Assistance Program Fund. These projects will be funded through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- **\$1.3** million is dedicated to improve several dredging and flood control projects through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

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Survey Results:

Parish President Message and Ending remarks.

Motto: Enough just isn't good enough.

Thank: Congressional Delegates, Council Members, and State Representatives, members of the Port and river parish officials.