

State of the Parish 2015



**St. James
Parish**

Where community, business,
industry, and agriculture
grow, work, live, and
prosper together.





Timothy "Timmy" P. Roussel
St. James Parish President

St. James Parish Earned Four Awards in 2014

- National Association of Housing and Redevelopment's **"Meritorious Accomplishment By a Public Agency Award"**
- Nominated for **Federal Transit Award**
- The National Association of County Information Officers, (NACIO) awarded a **Superior Award** for the St. James Parish Government Facebook fan page, a **Meritorious Award** for the St. James Parish Government Annual Report and a **Meritorious Award** for the St. James Parish Government News Releases.

Perique is a type of tobacco unique to and grown only in Saint James Parish. It is known for its strong, powerful, and fruity aroma.



Three years of adversity, challenges and catastrophic events have been overcome by a united St. James Parish working together to better our community.

Major challenges included a 100-year flood caused by Hurricane Isaac. Frozen highway bridges affected I-10 during the 2014 winter storm freezes which created major problems for all parish residents and businesses throughout South Louisiana. May 28, 2014 brought a 200-year flood that impacted some of the highest elevations of St. James. Individually, we all experienced our own difficulties and losses. In a close-knit community such as ours, these occurrences affect us all, resulting in our greater appreciation of each day and those we encounter.

Despite these challenges, the citizens and employees of St. James Parish have risen above these events and achieved great success.

Highlights include, but not limited to:

- Closure of St. James Parish Youth Detention Center which saves \$2 million annually.
- Completion of Plantation Trace Multi-Use West Bank Trail.
- Inmate prescription drug discount program to cut costs by \$100,000 annually.
- Single-source recycling has returned!
- Saved \$350,000 annually through analysis of our solid waste contract.
- Implemented a safety plan, incident triage call-in with MedCor24/7 coverage, and reviewed our Worker's Compensation insurance, saving \$95,000 in annual premiums with an additional \$75,000 savings as 2014 renewed.
- Hired a Risk Management Consultant and reduced fleet insurance costs by \$55,000 through a risk management study.
- Saved \$15,000 annually by working closely with our banking institutions.
- Received \$12,820 from local industries to clean and remove blighted properties within Districts 4 and 6.
- Received approval to harden and wind retrofit the Lutcher Neighborhood Center, St. James Reception Center, and Welcome Senior Center through a \$250,500 grant.
- \$2,136,000 awards of grant funding including Home Rehabilitation, Youth Build DOL, GOEA/Black Caucus Supplemental funding, Housing Preservation, Emergency Solutions, and Housing Counseling Grants.
- Completed the repaving of seven streets within District 5 under the LA CDBG Improvements Programs at a cost of \$517,000.
- Purchased 665 acres for wetland mitigation and a future sewerage assimilation treatment plant through a \$2,800,000 LA Capital Outlay grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We began construction of the east bank plant and signed an engineering contract for the design and construction of the west bank plant.

I am honored to serve the residents of St. James Parish and proud of our employees and their accomplishments as we look forward to a brighter 2015. All adversity and challenges can and will be overcome as we stand together for a better St. James Parish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Roussel

St. James Parish is vibrant and a wonderful place to:

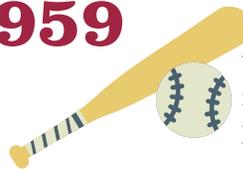


LIVE WORK PLAY GROW

36 new residential construction permits
16 new commercial construction project permits



959



Youth recreation participants



Adult softball & flag football teams

HOME TO **21,974** RESIDENTS

548 BUSINESSES & INDUSTRIES IN SJP

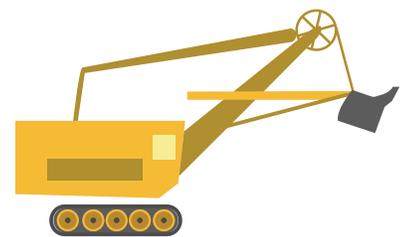
District **7** Park

New pavilion & walking track



District **3** Park

New playground equipment, pavilion and splash park



Serviced over **68,000** patrons at the libraries

127,000 items available for public use



-15%- reduction in flood insurance premiums to Parish residents through a class **7** rating with **NFIP**

Removed **15** unsafe structures under the Districts **4 & 6** Beautification Project



Future Projects:

- Replacement of undersized waterlines and hydrants, District 4 community center, evacuation streets, drainage improvements in Gramercy, Lutcher, and surrounding areas.
- Improvements to the Lutcher Town Hall, Lutcher Neighborhood Center, St. James Recreation Center, and the Welcome Senior Center.



In June 2014, Michelle Nailor-Octave was appointed by the Parish Council to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer to the Parish President. Michelle's background also includes serving as DHR Director and experience on State and Federal levels. She is a graduate from the University of New Orleans in Business Administration.

Nailor-Octave Appointed CAO

In her role of Chief Administrative Officer, Michelle Nailor-Octave works with and assists the Parish President, Council, and other Administration employees or officials to operate an efficient and effective parish government by staying abreast of and engaged with federal, state, and local legislation and policies that directly impact St. James Parish. A keen understanding of public policy, economic development and areas of potential parish growth is essential in this position.

Nailor-Octave seeks new opportunities and implements innovative strategies to improve public services while maintaining her commitment to excellence and efficiency. She promotes employee growth and the St. James Parish culture of integrity and ethical conduct.

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”

Benjamin Franklin

Jody Chenier – Leader, Hunter, Family Man: A Tribute to Service



JODY CHENIER

After a 30-year career with St. James Parish Government, Jody Chenier is retiring as the Director of Operations. He is a lifelong resident of Vacherie and a graduate of Nicholls State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. Jody also furthered his education by learning AutoCAD drafting, welding, and fabrication. His first job as a graduate was with South Central Planning and Development as a Draftsman/Jr. Planner.

Jody first started his career with St. James Parish government as an Engineering Supervisor for the Operations department in 1985. Seven years later Jody was appointed as the Director of Emergency Preparedness and shortly after named to his current position as Director of Operations. Recognized for his grant writing acumen, his skills have helped deliver \$32 million in grant monies to St. James Parish. He served three Parish Presidents and helped St. James Parish recover from such disasters as Hurricanes Isaac, Gustav, Katrina, Rita, Andrew, Ike and other catastrophic weather events.

“Jody is a director but that doesn’t stop him from working alongside his crews to complete any task whether it is dredging canals or installing culverts. He is not afraid to work long hours or get dirty as long as the job or project is completed. The parish has big shoes to fill.”

Jude Roper - Building Maintenance Supervisor

“I think Jody Chenier is one of the most prolific employees of St. James Parish Government. Throughout his years of service, he proved he was a very focused, dedicated and loyal employee. Jody has quite a reputation for his versatility not only here, but among the southern parishes and our resource affiliate organizations.”

Parish President Timothy Roussel

Thank you for your years of service, dedication in serving the residents of St. James Parish, and your loyal commitment.

St. James Parish Installs a New 24-Inch Waterline Under the Mississippi River



Construction for a 24-inch waterline 80 feet under the Mississippi River began in early November to connect the east bank water system in Convent to the west bank water system in Vacherie. The pipeline can provide up to 2 million gallons of drinking water per day between the East and West banks of the parish. The project was awarded a grant of **\$3,045,550** and is funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The new waterline is expected to be in full operation by May 2015.

“This is a very important project for our Parish. The east bank of the Parish was severely impacted during Hurricane Gustav and experienced low water pressure and a reduced water supply. Now, we will have the ability to maintain the water supply between the east and west banks of the parish,” says President Roussel.

DID YOU KNOW?

Beginning in May of 2014 the Office of Planning and Permitting took over processing utility payments in addition to the existing duties of issuing residential and business building permits.

The Parish focused on safety by implementing several drainage projects and repaving and repairing of streets and sidewalks throughout the Parish in 2014. While our efforts continue to improve drainage and public works, Operations crews worked diligently to accomplish the improvements below.

- Repaved **7** streets in District 5
- Dredged and cleaned major drainage canals including the Ferrara Canal in Gramercy
- Drainage improvements in Bourbon County Subdivision and along LA Hwy. 642
- **247'** waterline replacement along LA 642 in front of the Paulina and Grand Point Fire Station
- Installed over **11,126'** of culvert throughout the Parish
- Replaced or repaired sidewalks in North and South Vacherie and the Magnolia area



Operations crew from Utilities work to repair a waterline on S. Angele and Hwy. 642 in Paulina.



What we believe helps determine how we behave...

2014 Accomplishments:

- **9** youths earned a High School Certificate
- Preserved **11** homes through the Housing Preservation Grant
- Completed over **300** earned income tax returns
- Transported approximately **9** residents to local post-secondary institutions
- Provided health and vision screenings to **216** Head Start children
- Served **168** children during the Annual Toy & Coat Drive

DID YOU KNOW?

The Department of Human Resources serves as the Community Action Agency for the parish.

New Department of Human Resources Programs

- **Good Neighbor Program** (affords young adults an opportunity to obtain gainful employment in industry.)
- **Career Ready Services** prepares an individual with career services such as mock interviews, resume' building, case managements, educational services for post-secondary institutions
- **Diabetes Self-Management Program** (preventive measures for persons with diabetes)
- **Youth Commission** (provides leadership and shadowing experiences for youth)
- **We Care Project** (provides minor home weatherization to veterans)
- Implementation of **Rapid Rehousing Program** provides housing relocation and stabilization services and short-term rental assistance for homeless families who must meet the criteria of 'literally homeless' as defined by HUD.



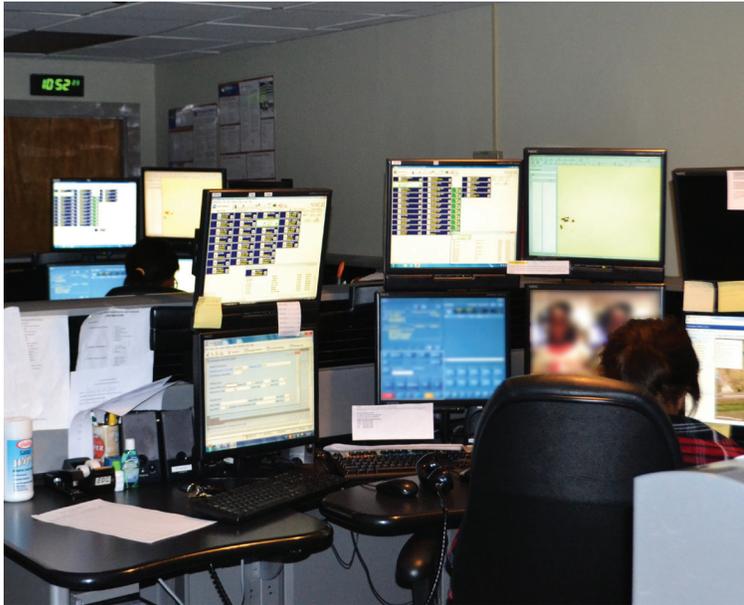
If you need transportation to your job, a medical appointment school, or shopping, St. James Transit can take you there. Buses with schedules routes operate regularly within the parish. Some out of parish transportation can also be requested. Last year we provided 67,514 rides for parish residents.



Our Head Start Program provides a high quality, developmentally appropriate education program to children three to four years old. Children receive needed medical services, including age-appropriate screening and immunizations, dental check-ups and needed dental care, nutrition and social services. 210 children and families were served in program year 2013-2014.



About 100 participants took part in the 2014 River Bayou District Senior Olympic Games. Seniors competed for gold, silver, and bronze medals in the areas of football accuracy, softball accuracy, softball distance, and 1-mile walk.



The St. James Parish 911 Call Center is located in the Office of Emergency Preparedness in Convent. With additional dispatchers from the Sheriff's office, the Call Center assisted the public by answering 88,243 administrative calls and emergency calls.

EOC Builds New Warehouse to House Emergency Supplies and Equipment

Emergency supplies and equipment will be housed in a newly constructed warehouse in Convent. This metal warehouse will provide quick emergency access to assist the public during hurricanes, tornadoes, flood events, and more. The enclosed portion of the warehouse is approximately 12,000 square feet with outdoor storage under roof protection of approximately 14,000 square feet.

DID YOU KNOW?

Areas covered – emergency preparedness, information technology, geographic information systems, emergency dispatch and recreation



Be Prepared.

Hurricane Season is June 1 – November 30.

During 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

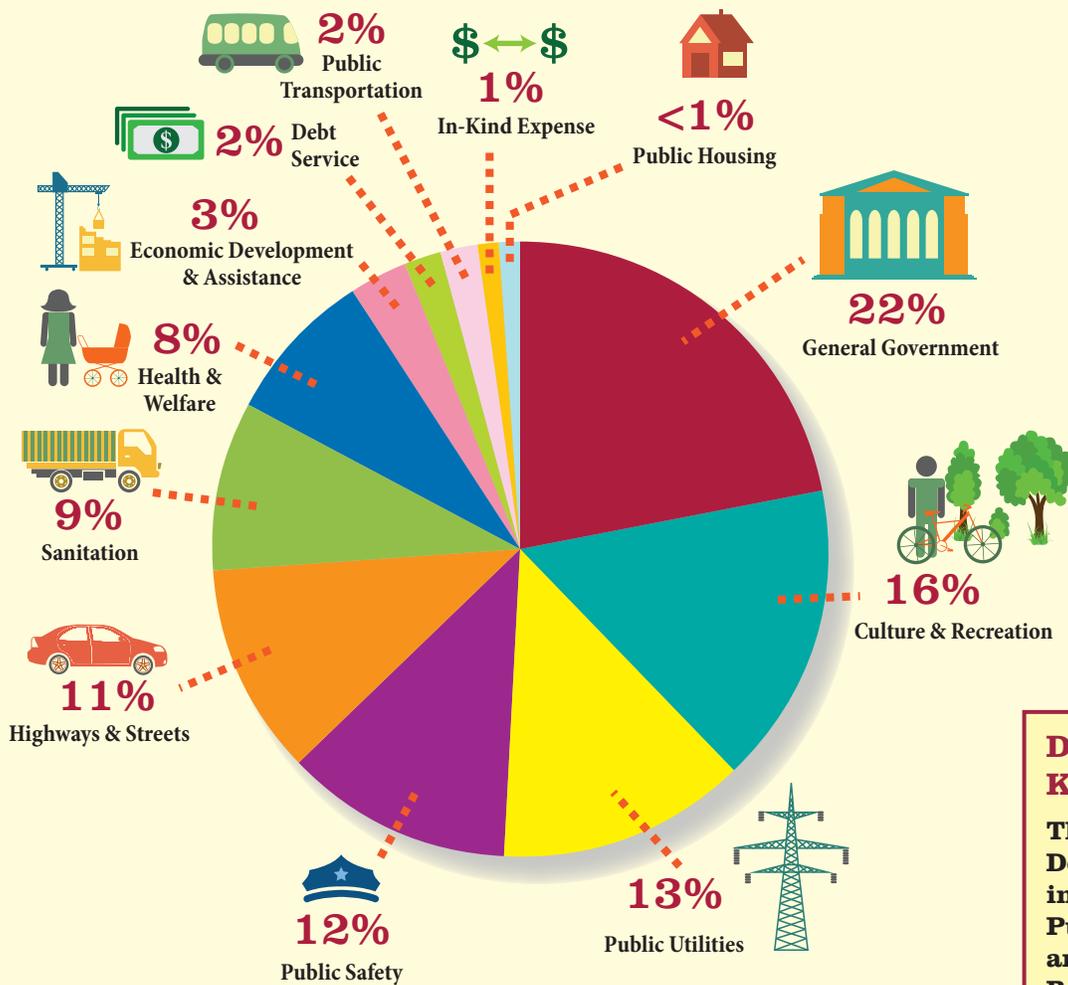
IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS:
Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
Passports, social security cards and immunization records
Bank account numbers
Credit card numbers and company addresses
Inventory of valuable household goods and important phone numbers
Birth, marriage and death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



Front row: left to right: Lovenia Williams – Administrative Assistant, Wanda H. Winchester – Utility Billing Clerk I, Rachel R. Perque – Utility Business Manager, Ashley R. Poché – Assistant Finance Director, Erin M. Lacey – Grants Administrator, and Trenecia S. Aguillard – Accounting Clerk II Finance.

Back row: left to right: Darlene P. Keller – Purchasing Agent, Alicia J. Treaudo – Utility Billing Clerk I, Julie R. Gilbert – Senior Accountant, Albert T. Laiche, Jr. – Purchasing Warehouse Clerk, LaKia M. FeGaux – Purchasing Clerk, Melanie D. St. Pierre – Accounting Clerk II Finance, Chantal T. Waguespack – Finance Director and Ashley E. Cortez – Utility Warehouse Clerk.

Not pictured: LaShoan Burham – Accounting Clerk I Finance.



DID YOU KNOW?
The Finance Department includes the Purchasing and Utilities Business office staff

Finance Department Parish Budget Synopsis
2015 Expenditures:
\$56.7 million

- 2015 Revenues = \$54.2 million, an increase of \$6.7 million over 2014 revised revenues.
- Taxes are St. James Parish's largest revenue source, with property taxes comprising 70.2%.
- 2015 budgeted sales tax revenues = \$6.84 million, a 1.6% increase over 2014.
- Sales and use taxes collections finance the Elderly and Emergency Medical Services, Solid Waste Disposal and the Parks & Recreation funds.

For more information and to view past years' budgets and similar reports, visit www.stjamesla.com/finance/budgets.



Pictured from left to right is the Port of South Louisiana Director, Paul Aucoin, St. James Parish President Timothy P. Roussel, Colonel Richard Hansen, and Pastor Vincent Dufrene.

St. James Parish Honored Local Veterans

The 13th annual Veteran's Day celebration held at Gramercy Park proved to be very successful and well-attended as public officials and visitors paid tribute to our local heroes and veterans.

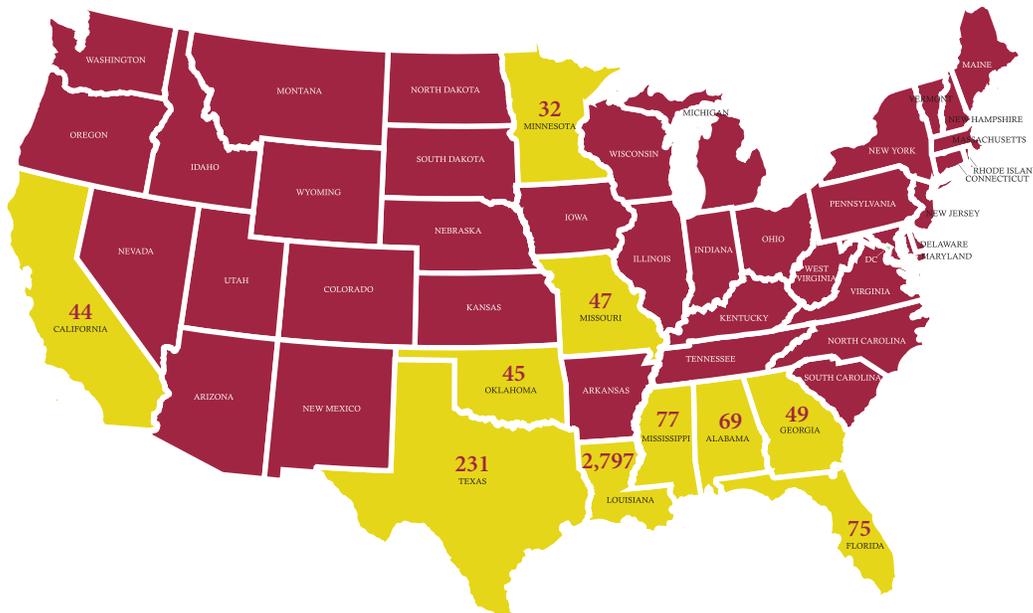
St. James Parish President Timothy P. Roussel delivered the welcome speech and introduction of the guest speaker, Colonel Richard Hansen, Commander and District Engineer of the New Orleans District for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The celebration included donated food from local businesses and industries, entertainment from local dance teams and choir performances, public safety provided by the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office, and finished with a spectacular fireworks display.

2014 Business Highlights

- Yuhuang Chemical announced a major project of **\$1.85 billion** as the first major Chinese foreign direct investment project in Louisiana. The project is set to create **400** new direct jobs in St. James Parish and **2,700** total new jobs in the Southeast Region.
- Legacy Suites Hotel broke ground in St. James on the west bank with President Timothy P. Roussel, representatives with Midas Hospitality Investments, and area officials. The hotel is targeting an open date in May of 2015, featuring approximately **113** rooms.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. James Parish has **3** commissions consisting of **16** boards and about **140** people to help with the many policies and procedures in the Parish.



Number of Visitors by State and Country:

The St. James Parish Tourism Welcome Center had **3,859** visitors from the United States and Washington, D.C. register with visitors from 9 countries including: Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, India, Spain and Switzerland! The top 10 states with the greatest number of visitors are: Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, Oklahoma, California and Minnesota!



The St. James Parish Council and Council Secretary Angele Rodrigue review district drainage maps of the Parish. Left to right: Angele Rodrigue, Charles Ketchens, Ralph Patin, Jason Amato, Ken Brass, James Brazan, Alvin St. Pierre, and Terry McCreary.

ALVIN ST. PIERRE - District 1

I am proud of the work that has been accomplished in District 1 in 2014. Working with the Town and Parish administration, these are a few of the many items that were completed:

- \$75,000 for road improvements.
- \$850,000 drainage improvement through Gramercy Park.
- Permit to dredge Beaver Canal.
- Culvert cleaning for Hwys. 61, 3125 and railroad.
- Improved drainage on S. David Road.
- Planning projects to continue serving the residents of District 1.

JASON AMATO - District 2

With a successful 2014 year behind us, my attention is focused on 2015. Our number one threat to our residents is flooding. Our Eastbank Task Force for the Drainage and Flood Protection Committee is working to develop a drainage plan and identify options and funding for flood protection. We are currently working on the consolidation of the Lucher Volunteer Fire Department with the Paulina-

Grand Point-Belmont Volunteer Fire Department. The new Consolidated Volunteer Fire Department will be in the best interest of the public safety to provide the most effective and efficient fire protection services for residents in our communities.

I am grateful to continue to serve all residents in St. James Parish as the District 2 Councilman. It is an honor that I value greatly. God Bless!

TERRY MCCREARY - District 3

The budget for District 3 is set at approximately \$72,000. We continue to work on a variety of drainage projects similar to the improvements surrounding LA 642. We are developing the most efficient means for sewer line expansion from Grand Point to Paulina along Hwy. 3125.

RALPH PATIN - District 4

With a budget of approximately \$65,000, several projects are planned for District 4, including a new multi-purpose building. I am proud of the District Beautification Project.

CHARLES KETCHENS - District 5

Everyday, I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of my constituents. That is why I believe being elected was my biggest accomplishment and being elected as Council Chairman. Some of my proudest accomplishment; drainage, addressing a variety of issues, including work on abandoned houses and junk cars, street and street lights, tall grasses and any other work completed for parish residents. These are some of the most important issues in District 5. I am extremely proud that we began construction of the multi-purpose building in the 5th district which should be completed in 2015.

KEN BRASS - District 6

Some of the 6th District's 2014 highlights were construction of the Magnolia Heights Waterline Upgrade Project, the start of Hwy. 18/Hwy. 20 Beautification/ Demo Project, and the Engineering Drainage Study for North/South Vacherie areas. In addition, drainage improvements were made throughout the 6th District. Residents united to coordinate and host a fund raiser for the Talaija Dorsey Memorial Fund. Several planned projects for 2015 will include constructing a Splash Pad at the 6th District Park, the 2015 Parish-wide Road Improvement Project, and continued drainage improvements as per our Drainage Study recommendations.

JAMES BRAZAN - District 7

I am eager to begin 2015 as this year brings several community improvements and exciting opportunities for residents of District 7. Working with our Operations Department we have plans to finish sidewalk projects, repave some of the worst streets in the district and proceed with levee project work to protect the north side of District 7. We plan to build a tennis court in the park and replace defective/damaged culverts.

SJP on Facebook

Search St. James Parish Louisiana and “like”  us on Facebook! Facebook is an excellent way to reach residents and visitors alike. From job postings to up-to-date emergency information, St. James Parish’s Facebook page continues to be an integral communications tool to the community.



St James Parish
Posted by Melissa Wilkins
July 12, 2014 · Edited ·

SJPG IN ACTION: Parish President Timothy P. Roussel and St. Charles Parish President V.J. St. Pierre showing support for the cooperative extension service at the LSU Ag exhibit at the **National Association of Counties (NACo)** conference. — with Timmy Roussel Sr in New Orleans, Louisiana.





Me

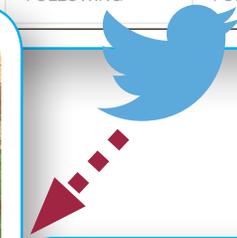
Home Connect Discover Me


St. James Parish
@stjamesparishla

2,231 TWEETS 67 FOLLOWING 520 FOLLOWERS



 **St. James Parish** @stjamespari... 14 Apr
Congratulations to the zappers little league team for taken second place in the USSSA Audubon Classic Tournament... fb.me/6wBdlkFhg


 **St. James Parish** @stjamespar... 25 Nov
Happy birthday Celine Musgrove who recently celebrated 103 years! President Roussel awarded her with a letter... fb.me/41d9Ebi3f



SJP on Twitter

We are also on Twitter: **@stjamesparishla!** Follow us for the latest news, employment opportunities and updates that affect our community.



**You posted. We replied.
We tweeted. You retweeted.
Social Media in SJP.**

SJP on YouTube

Football Legend Experiences the Rich Culture of SJP

SJP was featured on the show *Communities of Distinction* hosted by Terry Bradshaw, who got the opportunity to see why St. James Parish is the perfect place to live, work, play, and grow. President Roussel describes to Mr. Bradshaw how the legacy of the past will drive progress for the future of our great parish. The piece also features interviews with Parish officials and leaders in the community.

The video received nearly **6,000** views...Check out our videos on our YouTube channel: YouTube: youtube.com/user/StJamesParishGov



Timothy P. Roussel
President, St. James Parish, Louisiana

YouTube
Broadcast Yourself™



St. James Parish Department Phone Directory

President's Office	(225) 562-2260
Emergency Preparedness	(225) 562-2265
Finance.....	(225) 562-2293
Human Resources	(225) 562-2305
Operations (Public Works)	(225) 562-2262
Planning & Permitting Office	(225) 562-2264
Recreation	(225) 562-2337
Tourist Information Welcome Center	(225) 562-2525
Welcome Center Toll-free	(800) 367-7852

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

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and www.lutchernews.com

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Newspaper of Your Choice**

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265-4013
\$20 Gift Certificate

PERIQUE CAFÉ
234 East Main Street, Gramercy
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\$10 Gift Card

CREOLE HOUSE RESTAURANT
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869-3333
www.creolehousecafe.com

\$25 Gift Card

B&C SEAFOOD
2155 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
265-8356
Gift Basket

NOBILE'S RESTAURANT
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869-8900

www.nobilesrestaurant.com

\$25 Gift Certificate

ROUSSEL'S FINE JEWELRY
330 E. Main Street, Gramercy
869-9097

www.roussels.com

\$25 Gift Certificate

MATHERNE'S GROCERY
3251 Hwy. 3125, Paulina
869-4683
www.mathernes.com
\$25 Gift Card

In an effort to encourage everyone to read the entire report, we have joined with area businesses to provide incentives! 12 LUCKY WINNERS!

Complete this form and enter to win prizes. Mail to P.O. Box 106, Convent, LA 70723-0106

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mobile Phone _____

E-mail _____

What did you enjoy most about this report?

All winners hereby 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 website.

Please complete the registration form and mail it to our office.

All forms received by February 27th 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.

Design, copywriting, photography, and layout by
Melissa Wilkins, Public Information Officer,
and Positive Results, Inc.