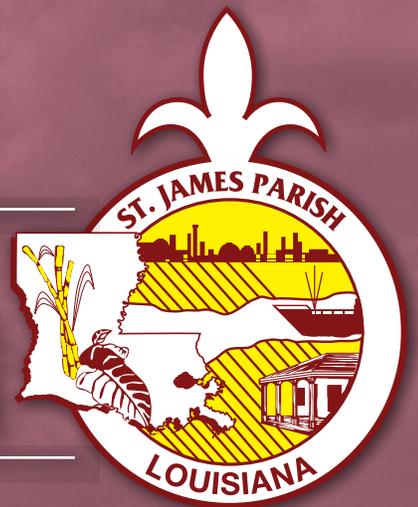


# State of the Parish 2014



**St. James Parish** ▶

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



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

## Message from the Parish President

My administration focuses on finding and implementing new methods of improving conditions for St. James Parish. We strive for the betterment of all residents in a proactive and safe manner. After two years of serving as Parish President, I am proud to announce that our balance sheet is healthy and we utilize "best practice" accounting methods. The greatest accomplishments include progress achieved with the National Flood Insurance Program and hurricane risk reduction. I congratulate everyone involved and believe we have proven the significance of these issues to the River Region and South Louisiana. We created national and regional awareness, which ultimately contributed to the success of our objectives to protect our residents and business owners. It is a privilege to serve St. James Parish and I sincerely appreciate that you chose to place your trust in me. Our progress thus far is evident throughout our 2014 State of the Parish Report. 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.

## 2013 Accomplishments:

- Instituted a safety plan calling for mandatory weekly safety meetings
- Improved 16 blighted areas through contributions from local industries
- District 7 Park walking track, splash park and restroom facility
- District 6 Park pavilion and cooking station
- Increased public safety radio communication, joining a regional radio system with Ascension and St. James Parishes
- Completed parking areas at the Parish Courthouse and Judicial building in Convent and the Vacherie Health Unit
- Started construction for a multi-purpose recreation building in District 5
- Cleaned the Ferrara Canal and other major drainage canals
- Installed 8,940 feet of new waterlines and 1,500 feet of new gas lines
- Provided nuisance mosquito spraying in residential areas
- Earned a class rating of 7 with the National Flood Insurance Protection resulting in a 15% reduction in premiums for residents
- Began construction of the Mississippi River Trail in Paulina
- The St. James Parish Government Relay for Life team raised \$10,739.50 to help fight cancer

““ *The Town of Gramercy and St. James Parish have built a good working relationship which makes us more engaged and committed to each other. Working together we have built Effective Communications, Trust and Respect. St. James Parish recognizes how their actions affect our citizens and town. The Town of Gramercy, its elected officials, employees and citizens say Thank you! Gramercy Proud/St. James Proud.*””

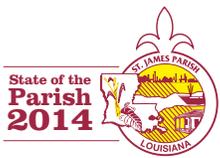
– Terry Borne, Mayor, Town of Gramercy

““ *I am blessed to know and work with Timmy Roussel, who strives to improve St. James Parish for all.*””

– Reverend Samuel Jones,  
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

## St. James Parish Earned 10 Awards in 2013

- The National Association of County Information Officers, (NACIO) awarded St. James Parish Government three awards at its 2013 Awards of Excellence Competition: **Outstanding Social Media, Print Communication, and Photography**, in which the photo entitled *Commemorate* earned the Best of Class award.
- St. James Parish Facebook fan page received the **Superior Award** and the Year in Review Annual Newsletter received the **Meritorious Award**.
- DHR hosted the annual Community Resources Awareness Meeting with the theme "Raising Awareness in St. James Parish" in October 2013 and received The National Association of Counties (NACo) **2013 Achievement Award** in the category of Human Services.
- 2013 Capital Area Asset Building Coalition **"VITA" Site of the Year** for income tax preparation.
- The Federal Transit Administration **Region 6 Award of Achievement** for highest percentage of growth in Transit Rural Passenger Ridership in 2013.
- National Association of Housing Counselors and Agencies, Inc. – **Good Standing 2013**
- St. James Parish Government Head Start maintained **100% Compliance** in all applicable laws and regulations according to the Triennial Monitoring Reviews.



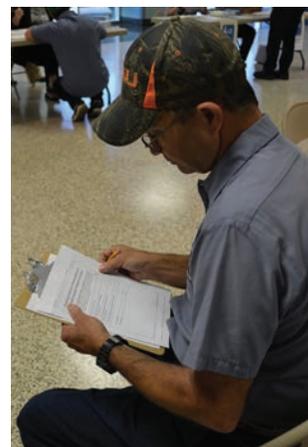
# Department of Parish Operations and Department of Emergency Preparedness



With a workforce of over 100 employees, Operations crews handle day-to-day operations and maintenance of the parish's infrastructure. Crews also maintain parish roads and ditches, recreation areas, libraries, adult detention center, public health facilities, and other buildings owned and/or operated by the St. James Parish Government. The Operations Department manages utility facilities, including water and gas systems; drainage facilities; and solid waste collection sites. The Department of Operations also oversees the Parish Planning and Permitting Office, the Coastal Zone Program, the Flood Insurance (CRS) Program, and the Public Library System.

In Operations six different crews are available to keep St. James Parish beautiful.

*"Together we can do it better than anyone else."*



Department of Emergency Preparedness along with the Sheriff's Office, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, DHH, and surrounding parish representatives from St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. Mary, Assumption, Terrebonne, and Lafourche team up for a closed point-of-distribution exercise as an opportunity to ensure our government operations can continue in the event of a pandemic emergency.

St. James Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness practiced the Antibiotic Dispensing Plan, in coordination with DHH. Both entities conducted a full scale exercise to administer the Parish's 48-hour mass antibiotic dispensing plan. The plan would include distribution of antibiotics in the event of an actual pandemic emergency.

**✓ IT OUT! 17,000 answered 9-1-1 emergency calls**

Several youth programs are offered through the St. James Parish Recreation Department for boys and girls ages 4 to 13. Last year was very successful as approximately 800 boys and girls registered for our programs. Three baseball teams won the state championship titles and two basketball teams won the national championship titles.

Please visit [www.stjamesla.com/sports](http://www.stjamesla.com/sports) for more information about recreational sports, offered programs, and registration dates.

Youth participants huddle with their volunteer coaching staff after a pitching session for the baseball program.





# Department of Human Resources and Department of Finance



Parish President Roussel wishes safe travels to the senior citizens participating in the Elderly Program trip to Ottawa, Canada! About 28 participants and two staff members.



DHR teamed up with Prestige Collision Center for Operation Fill the Truck to support the victims of the Oklahoma Tornadoes. Five trucks traveled to Oklahoma to deliver donations packed with bottled water, non-perishable food, toiletries and much more. Pictured, left to right: Parish President Timmy Roussel; Owner, Jaime San Andres; and from the Department of Human Resources, Director Michelle Nailor-Octave and Funds Account Clerk Tammie Bodin.

## DHR 2013 Program Highlights:

- DHR and Operations Departments assisted 15 homeowners with roof repairs through the Blue Roof Program
- A grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development enabled 16 homeowners to receive home repairs and rehabilitations
- Hosted the annual Community Resources Awareness Meeting
- Five YouthBuild participants received GED certificates through the St. James Parish YouthBuild Program. 25 students completed the program
- 210 students participated in the Head Start Program, which achieved 100% Federal Compliance Review
- Through donations of \$3,519 and “The Angel Tree” supported by business and industry and community sponsors, 143 children in need had a brighter Christmas morning



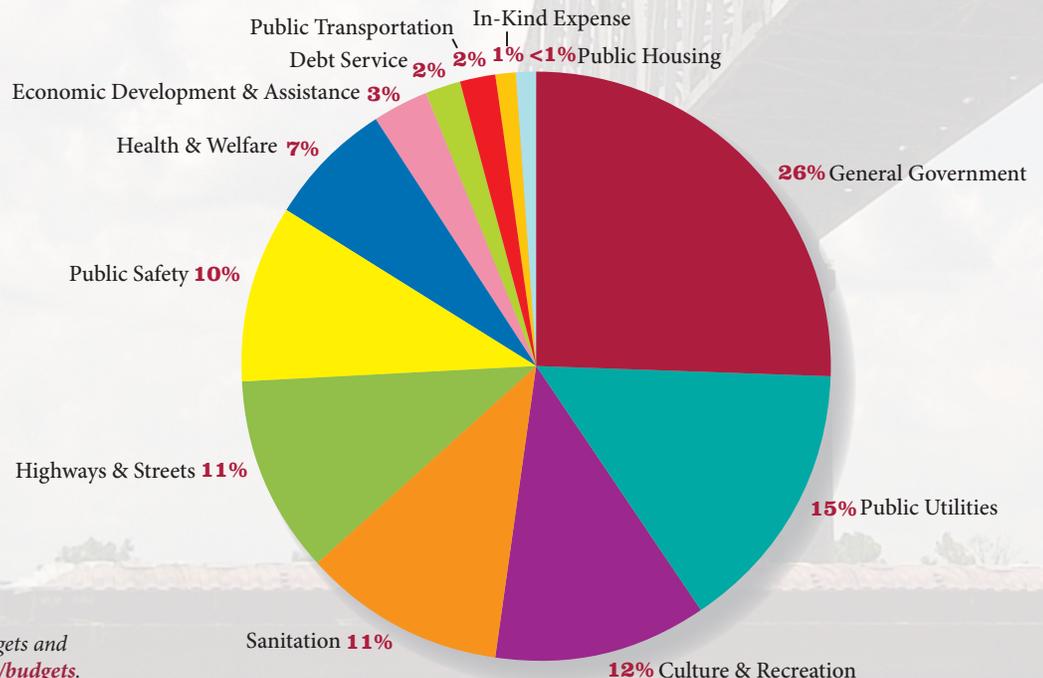
### One Department... Many Services

DHR has approximately **20** programs available. To find out more, call **225-562-2305**, or visit [www.stjames/community-programs](http://www.stjames/community-programs).

## Finance Department Parish Budget Synopsis

**2014 Expenditures:**  
**\$57.9 million**

- 2014 Revenues = \$56.67 million, an increase of \$10.25 million over 2013 revenues.
- Taxes are St. James Parish’s largest revenue source, with property taxes comprising 65.7%.
- 2014 budgeted sales tax revenues = \$7.65 million, a 4.5% increase over 2013.
- 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](http://www.stjamesla.com/finance/budgets).



# Master Plan for the Parish

## Comprehensive Master Plan Details and Information



The Assistant Director for Operations, Blaise Gravois, talks with local residents about the St. James Parish Comprehensive Master Plan.

Parish staff members from the Operations Department and the Planning Commission spent several months revising the St. James Parish Comprehensive Master Plan to promote smart growth and meet the needs of future residents. In planning for the future, the land use plan focuses on seven areas: public infrastructure/facilities/transportation/housing/human services/community assets/ land use and economic development. With community participation, eight informational sessions were held to answer questions from residents and offer a further explanation of how St. James Parish Government can implement the plan. On March 5, 2014, the Parish Council introduced the land use plan and set two public hearings.



Parish President Roussel participated in several research events and projects with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to gather data to promote a hurricane risk reduction plan in the river region. Parish President Roussel tours the river parishes with William Klein, (pictured in the middle,) and Jeffery Varisco, (pictured on the right) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Col. Richard Hansen also participated in the helicopter tour along with Steve Wilson, President of the Pontchartrain Levee Board, and Garret Graves, formerly of the Louisiana Governor's Office.



St. James Parish Government Planning and Permitting review elevations of low-lying areas of the parish. Left to right: Geographical Information System Coordinator Bobby Lear; Technicians Holly Poché, Sherone Smith, and Candace Keller; and Supervisor Ryan Donadieu.

### Flood Elevation Plan

St James Parish Government unveiled a newly created Flood Modeling and Sandbagging Program to assist residents in the event of flooding due to hurricane activity. The systematic process from the development stages using different types of data and software programs contributed to the Flood Elevation Plan. These models will be used to create flood maps at various forecasted water levels to identify areas of concern and determine the amount of sandbags needed and heights required to protect homes and businesses. The new program will enhance the parish's response time to assist residents who are in need of sandbags during storm flooding as well as detect the impact of flooding concerning the proposed protection levee projects. The new technology was also shared with neighboring parishes to help create a regional map for Flood Models.

To find out more check out the website at [www.stjamesla.com/gis-map](http://www.stjamesla.com/gis-map).



### DID YOU KNOW?

St. James Parish population is **21,984...** find out how we plan for smart growth. To download your own copy of the St. James Parish Government Comprehensive Plan, visit [www.stjamesla.com/planning](http://www.stjamesla.com/planning) and click on the provided link.

## Boards and Commissions Projects and Events



Parish President Timothy P. Roussel (back center) with (left to right) Representative Ed Price, Representative Randal Gaines, Senator Troy Brown, Sheriff Willy Martin, and State Representative Clay Schexnayder (front) at the 15th annual Small Business Appreciation Banquet held at the St. James Boat Club.



Parish President Roussel gathers with local officials, library staff, library board members, and residents at the dedication ceremony held on Thursday, March 28, 2013. In 2013, library staff assisted approximately 74,000 visitors at both libraries in Lutcher and Vacherie. The collection at both libraries totals over 126,000 items.

The Lutcher library location completed its transformation with a \$2.2 million project to expand the existing facility and meet the needs of a growing parish. A computer lab and activity and meeting rooms are just a few of the new areas.



### DID YOU KNOW?

St. James Parish has **683** businesses in the Parish.



Parish President Roussel along with Gov. Bobby Jindal, South Louisiana Methanol CEO Barry Williamson, and Todd Corp. Group CEO Jon Young announce a new investment of \$1.3 billion in a new methanol production facility in St. James.

Newest Commission!



St. James Parish partnered with Progressive Waste Solutions to promote a healthier, greener, and cleaner parish by way of a new parish-wide recycling program. Residents are encouraged to visit any of eight drop-off locations available throughout the parish. Keep St. James Beautiful is our newest board of the Parish Government consisting of volunteers appointed by the Parish Council and Parish President. For a list of the different boards and commissions, please visit [www.stjamesla.com/Boards-Commissions](http://www.stjamesla.com/Boards-Commissions).

### 2013 Industry Highlights

- South Louisiana Methanol announced a \$1.3 billion project in St. James. The new methanol facility will result in an estimated 374 new indirect jobs, for a total of more than 430 new jobs for the area.
- Nucor Steel Louisiana, LLC began start-up of DRI plant in Convent. The local team has grown to include 140 new employees.



# St. James Parish Council

A new chapter began for St. James Parish as seven members took the oath of office on January 9, 2012 to become the St. James Parish Council.

From January 2012 to December 2013, James Brazan served as the Council Chairman of the Parish Council while Charles Ketchens accepted the role of Vice-Chairman. The St. James Parish Council serves under four-year terms.

*(Left to right, seated): James Brazan, District 7; St. James Parish President Timothy P. Roussel; Council Secretary Angele Rodrigue; and Ralph Patin, District 4.*

*(Left to right, standing): Ken Brass, District 6; Charles Ketchens, District 5; Terry McCreary, District 3; Jason Amato, District 2; and Alvin St. Pierre, District 1.*



## President Roussel's Administration Team

*(Left to right, seated): Mona Gravois, Executive Assistant to the Parish President; Michelle Nailor-Octave, Director of Department of Human Resources; Eric Deroche, Director of Emergency Preparedness; Parish President Timothy P. Roussel; Jody Chemier, Director of Operations; Chantal Waguespack, Director of Finance; and Deirdra Bradford, Administrative Assistant to the Parish President's Office.*

*(Left to right, standing): Audrey Temple, Tourism Office Manager; Libby Hotard, Personnel Manager; Bedar Warren, Assistant Director of DHR; Francis Hymel, Assistant Director OEP; Ridgely Mitchell, Confidential Assistant to the Parish President; Blaise Gravois, Assistant Director of Operations; Ashley Poché, Assistant Director of Finance; and Melissa Wilkins, Public Information Officer.*

## Major Projects for 2014

- Fund \$3 million construction of a 24" waterline under the Mississippi River to connect the two parish-owned and operated water systems
- Complete construction for the District 5 multi-purpose recreation building with a tornado-safe room
- Complete Phases 1 and 2 of the Mississippi River Trail Bike/Walking Path
- Begin construction for the District 4 Community Center
- Implement the St. James Parish Business and Industry Development Group's new program to offer eight \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors
- Construction of evacuation streets in Districts 5 and 6 within isolated communities
- Sewage pond improvements in Lutcher, including a wetlands assimilation treatment plant
- Repairs for the Town Hall in Lutcher will include a new roof and other hurricane safeguards
- Drainage improvements in Gramercy Central Canal and along Highway 643 in Vacherie
- East bank water intake
- Build an emergency equipment warehouse



## 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

Recreation  
(225) 562-2337

Tourist Information Welcome Center  
(225) 562-2525  
Toll-free: (800) 367-7852

### Stay Connected!

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

**WEB:** [www.stjamesla.com](http://www.stjamesla.com)

 Tweet to @stjamesparishla

 [www.facebook.com/pages/St-James-Parish/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-James-Parish/)

 [www.youtube.com/user/StJamesParishGov](http://www.youtube.com/user/StJamesParishGov)



### DID YOU KNOW?

The growing trend of social media is popular in St. James Parish as the Facebook page has **4,510** followers. Also, a recent photo taken at Oak Alley Plantation of a proposal was viewed over **300,000** times by Facebook users.

**“ Oak Alley continues to enjoy a supported and helpful relationship with the leadership of St. James Parish, as we've grown and developed together, for which we are very appreciative. ”**

– Zeb Mayhew, Jr.,  
Executive Director of Oak Alley Foundation



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

Visit [www.getagameplan.com](http://www.getagameplan.com)  
for detailed information.

Copywriting, photography, and layout by  
Melissa Wilkins, Public Information Officer.  
Designed by Positive Results, Inc.