

LETTER FROM THE PARISH PRESIDENT



RESIDENTS OF OUR GREAT PARISH,

PETER A. DUFRESNE

The State of the Parish Report is an opportunity to reflect on our trials and our successes amidst continued challenges. While we rejoiced in a return to normalcy following the Covid-19 pandemic, Hurricane Ida reminded us of the importance of preparing for storms. Hurricane Ida was unequivocally the most devastating storm in our parish's recent history. As we continue to recover from the damages sustained, now more than ever we must focus on resiliency and how we can prepare for the future knowing that Hurricane Ida will not be the last storm we will experience. Despite the uncertainty in the immediate aftermath of this storm, our community banded together in a time of crisis to support each other and help your neighbors. For that, I thank you St. James Parish.

Despite the significant impacts our Parish felt by Hurricane Ida, progress made on drainage infrastructure throughout 2021, especially the improvements and repairs at the Vacherie Levee and weir, significantly protected residents from storm surge and flooding. Looking forward to the future, we are committed to further saving taxpayer dollars while continuing to make critical improvements to infrastructure parish-wide, ensuring we will remain resilient in the face of future challenges.

I am honored to continue serving as your Parish President and it is my hope that this year's State of the Parish report helps to illustrate progress made throughout 2021 and the bright future ahead.

ADMINISTRATION



PETER A. DUFRESNE
Parish President



RICK WEBRE
Director of Operations



FELIX BOUGHTON
Director of Finance



PARISH COUNCIL

ALVIN ST. PIERRE District 1

JASON AMATO Vice Chairman | District 2

RYAN LOUQUE District 3

MASON BLAND District 4

CLYDE COOPER District 5

VONDRA ETIENNE-STEIB Chairwoman, District 6

DONALD NASH District 7



INGRID LEBLANC
Director of Human Resources



ERIC DEROCHE
Director of Emergency Preparedness



JAJUAN HICKERSON
Personnel Manager

PANEL 1

ST. JAMES BY THE NUMBERS

2,518

TOURISM VISITORS

21

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS

6

COMMERCIAL PERMITS

33

MOBILE HOME PERMITS

89

NEW GAS SERVICES

747

HURRICANE IDA PERMITS

47

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINTS CLOSED

7,214

WORK ORDERS CLOSED

35,181

LIBRARY VISITS

12,373

PUBLIC COMPUTERS USED

1,247

CHILDREN & ADULTS ATTENDING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

14,257

LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS

1,032

PEOPLE USING PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOMS



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

BY THE NUMBERS

HURRICANE IDA RESPONSE

383 HOUSEHOLDS
722 INDIVIDUALS
SERVED BY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

96 HOUSEHOLDS
120 INDIVIDUALS
ASSISTED THROUGH COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION

87 HOUSEHOLDS
195 INDIVIDUALS
SERVED BY ANNUAL TOY AND COAT DRIVE

Acquired approximately \$250,000 in emergency assistance funding to operate social services programs.

Assisted 27 INDIVIDUALS with career coaching, education, and job placement opportunities, including drivers' education, TWIC, and OSHA certifications.

Provided 16 SENIOR HOMES with major and minor repairs through Housing Preservation grant.

There are more than 1000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the nation. All share an anti-poverty mission that helps empower families. The Department of Human Resources (DHR) is the designated local Community Action Agency of St. James Parish. DHR, in collaboration with the Parish Council, declared May 2021 to be National Community Action Month. During this month DHR highlighted and celebrated the life-changing, impactful work CAAs are committed to doing each day.

Every May, the Department of Human Resources, and the Administration for Community Living, observe Older American Month. The 2022 theme was Age My Way – an opportunity for all of us to explore the many ways older adults can remain in and be involved in their communities. In partnership with St James Parish Hospital, the St. James Parish annual Senior Health Fair was held in honor of Older American Month.

PANEL 2

OPERATIONS

EXPANDED CITIZEN SERVICE CENTER AND WORK ORDER SYSTEM

7,600 Work Orders Completed. The Citizen Service Center has been expanded to a fulltime team of three who take hundreds of calls per day, place work orders, route calls, provide critical information, and will soon be capable of taking online utility and permit payments.

CREATION OF HERBICIDE DIVISION

The establishment of an Herbicide division saves taxpayer dollars annually by maintaining vegetative growth in drainage canals and waterways. Previously, costly efforts were made to mechanically remove vegetation.

EXPANSION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES AND LITTER ABATEMENT CREWS

By expanding solid waste teams and adding new litter abatement crews, St. James Parish Government can ensure parish roadways are maintained and free of litter. In addition, St. James Parish Government will begin transferring waste directly to the main landfill which will prevent any closures at the current transfer sites.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND BUDGETING

Operations staff coordinated with the Finance department to align capital improvement project line items are utilizing one system of project identification for streamlined tracking of the budget and corresponding projects.

PERMITTING ADVANCEMENTS

SJP Permitting staff successfully completed certified permit technician training in 2021 developed by the International Code Council. An online permitting process has been developed through coordination with the South-Central Planning Commission and will be available to residents in 2022.



MAJOR PROJECTS COMPLETED

COMPLETION OF GAS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WHICH HAS IMPROVED GAS SERVICE PARISH WIDE – Longview & Bourbon Country Subdivision are in Phase 1 & 2, obtained a new east bank pay point metering station and a new west bank pay point.

IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE – Obtained funding and began the process to construct a new clarifier at the East Bank Water Plant and to add a second storage tank at the West Bank Water Plant.

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS – Water debris generated by Hurricane Ida was cleared.

DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENTS – A new water clarifier and a 750-thousand-gallon storage tank have been designed and are ready to bid for construction.

2022 PROJECTS

DAVID PLANTATION DRAINAGE – Soon to begin providing drainage relief to the Gramercy Area.

NEW DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES BUILDING – Construction will be complete in 2022.

TRANSPORTATION – 22 roads will be prepared during the 2022 road rehab program.

HWY 3127 WIDENING – State Capital Outlay Funding has been secured for the construction of this project.

PANEL 3

HURRICANE IDA IMPACTS, COSTS, & RECOVERY

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

Debris picked up Parish-wide: **237,213 cu yds**

Haul out of Construction & Demolition debris from the Vacherie Transfer Site: **15,870 cu yds**

Preliminary cost of debris removal: \$3.3 million

Two aerial mosquito sprays following Hurricane Ida to control mosquitos: **\$122,662**

To date, **\$9,747,119.06** has been submitted to FEMA for estimated costs of damages and expenses related to the storm. This figure does not include the Towns of Gramercy and Lutcher, only unincorporated areas of the parish.

DISTRIBUTED SUPPLIES TO:

Set up 3 POD sites that serviced **20,457** vehicles

326,003 liters of water distributed

179,646 MRE's distributed

38,973 bags of ice distributed

9,314 tarps distributed

41 compressed oxygen cylinders delivered to homebound residents with severe respiratory needs

4,944 calls into the 911 Center for the month of August

1,160 calls into the 911 Center for the first three days of the Storm (8-29 to 8-31)

Brought in **SATELLITE INTERNET** to continue to operate the 911 Dispatch Center, Emergency Operations Center and Hospital

OPERATIONS RESPONSE

Operated a number of pumps at weir which recently was repaired and brought back to the proper height prior to Hurricane Ida. Had the Levee not been repaired and pumps installed, South Vacherie would have experienced significant storm surge flooding during Hurricane Ida.

Crews cut and pushed downed trees and vegetation on parish roadways to allow emergency vehicle transit immediately following the storm's passing. Utility crews repaired major water and gas leaks around the clock immediately following the winds subsiding.

DHR operated a shelter of last resort for approximately 15 days pre and post storm, accommodating up to **70 INDIVIDUALS** during operation.

Cooling sites for seniors, mothers with infants, and medically at-risk individuals were opened at the local senior centers to provide relief during power outages.

After shelter closing, DHR assisted displaced residents with direct housing and hotel assistance, accounting for **37 HOUSEHOLDS** and **199 INDIVIDUALS**.

Solicited and received over **\$615,000** in disaster and long-term recovery donations and grants to assist families post Hurricane Ida.

**ST. JAMES PARISH
CITIZEN SERVICE CENTER
225-562-2500**



PANEL 4

CONTACT US

LIBRARIES	
Lutcher	225-869-3618
Vacherie	225-265-9066
Operations	225-562-2444
Call Center	225-562-2500
Parish Council	225-562-2400
Planning & Permitting	225-562-2264
Recreation	225-562-2337
Registrar of Voters	225-562-2445
SENIOR CENTERS	
Tourist Information & Welcome Center	225-562-2525
St. James Parish Hospital	225-869-5512
St. James Parish Health Unit	225-265-2181
School Board	225-258-4500
Welcome	225-562-2463
Lutcher	225-562-2872
Convent	225-562-2474
Vacherie	225-562-2568
Sheriff's Office	225-562-2200
Toll Free	800-367-7852
Transit Services	225-562-2332
Utilities	225-562-2500
Park Rental Information	225-562-2337

WWW.STJAMESLA.COM

TAXPAYER SAVING HIGHLIGHTS

\$600,000

CHANGE IN HEALTH INSURANCE PROVIDER

\$313,000

**DID NOT ROLL MILLAGES
FORWARD FOR 2ND YEAR**

\$150,000

RENEGOTIATED CONTRACTS

\$50,000

STREAMLINED LIABILITY CLAIMS

\$43,000

INVESTMENTS

\$26,000

PROPERTY & LIABILITY RENEWALS

TOTAL SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS SINCE 2020

\$4,539,528

PANEL 5

BUDGET EXPENSES & DATA



2021 EXPENDITURES - \$54.5 MILLION

2021 REVENUES - \$55.5 MILLION

2021 REVENUE FROM TAXES - 50%

TOP 10 INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

INDUSTRY	TAXABLE VALUE	TAXES DUE
Equilon Enterprises, LLC	161,093,907	17,290,385
Americas Styrenics, LLC	39,919,742	4,366,421
Mosaic Fertilizer LLC – Uncle Sam	38,197,464	4,099,734
Zen-Noh Grain Corporation	34,939,430	3,750,323
Mosaic Fertilizer LLC – Faustina	30,581,940	3,345,052
Louisiana Sugar Refining, LLC	16,293,249	1,795,678
Noranda Alumina, LLC	15,107,839	1,665,034
Locap, Inc.	14,419,400	1,582,961
Plains Marketing, L.P.	13,843,872	1,514,243
Occidental Chemical Corp	13,488,503	1,448,059
TOTAL	\$377,885,346	\$40,857,890

FINANCE

- ❖ Streamlined **PARISH OPERATING BUDGET** creating a more user-friendly document to read and understand.
- ❖ Coordinated closely with the Operations Department to ensure budget line items coincide with and identify all ongoing **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**.
- ❖ Prepared a **COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT** for the first time in Council history; this document gives more information than standard financial statements, fosters bond ratings and is used by companies looking to invest in St. James Parish.
- ❖ Coordinated financing **HURRICANE IDA EXPENSES** without cutting back on other services provided by the parish.

PANEL 6



PANEL 7



PANEL 8