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JUNE 2024

A PUBLICATION FOR IBERVILLE RESIDENTS BY YOUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Ferry operational in just 8 days after accident closes GT Bridge



The pedestrian ferry boat loading area and boat are shown in the photo above.

The Grosse Tete Bridge pedestrian ferry opened for operations on June 14, just 8 days after the bridge was damaged by a boat and was closed to traffic for repairs on June 6.

The operating hours for the pedestrian ferry are 5 - 9 am and 3 - 8 pm, seven days a week. The hours may adjust over time, particularly when school starts in August. The ferry will allow for residents to park on one side of the ferry site and be picked up on the other. The only alternative route from Plaquemine to north Iberville is taking La. Hwy 1 to Interstate 10, which takes 45 minutes or longer.

Parish President Chris Daigle thanked parish workers who worked long days and over the weekend to get the pedestrian ferry operational as quickly as possible. That work included getting barges positioned and secured on both sides of the Intracoastal Waterway, and getting walkways and parking lots installed. Sheriff Brett Stassi and the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office added surveillance cameras for on-site security, and the La. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries provided the boat that will be used for the pedestrian ferry service.

The La. Department of Transportation and Development is estimating repairs to the bridge will take 3 to 6 months.

Parish officials get big turnout for community meetings

SCAN ME

Parish President Chris Daigle, his new administration team and Parish Council members had big crowds at all of the Community Meetings held in all areas of the parish in May.

"Our community meetings across Iberville Parish were a great success," said Daigle. "We listened to each community's needs and concerns, and we have already started working on the priority items addressed in the meetings."

If you were unable to make a meeting, you can voice your comments through an on-line survey offered by the parish. Just scan the QR code shown at right to go to the survey.



Community Center is shown above. A total of 8 community meetings were held across the parish. If you would like to voice your comments, scan the QR code at left to be taken to the Iberville Parish survey.

COMING EVENTS

June 29 St. Gabriel State of the City - Page 4

July 3 White Castle Experience - Page 10

July 4 Plaquemine July 4th Hometown Celebration - Page 7

July 4 St. Gabriel July 4 Celebration - Page 4

July Library events for kids - Page 8

Aug. 3 White Castle Back to school give-away - Page 10

Aug. 8 First day of school for Iberville Parish Schools

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID BATON ROUGE, LA PERMIT NO. 88

18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THANK YOU

FOR HELPING ME PROTECT **OUR COMMUNITY!**

Thank you to the citizens of the 18th Judicial District for the vote of confidence and support of the District Attorney's Office in the April 28th election. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me and my staff. I can assure you, we take this trust very seriously and will continue to be guardians of our citizens.

We have much to do to establish the Law Enforcement District Initiative that you approved, but I promise you that we will be good stewards of this funding, and will operate this office efficiently and with the highest ethical and accounting standards.

In the coming months I will be working hard to implement this initiative. I am energized and committed to providing you with the best District Attorney's Office possible, always remembering that our residents deserve nothing less. Thank you again!

Tony

Proceeds will be used for:

- Technology upgrades
- Prosecution & trial costs: Expert witnesses, DNA analysis, Victim testimony expenses, etc...
- · Salaries, insurance, training, and benefits of prosecutors, investigators, and staff
- A designated mobile phone data expert to monitor cell phones of criminals.
- Sex and Narcotics Divisions to prosecute sexual assault cases, often against children, and Fentanyl/opioid distribution cases.
- Tracking division that monitors gang activity in the district's 3-parish area.
- Tri-Parish Intelligence Center to share & coordinate investigation activities.
- Tri-parish task force and a prosecutor in each parish to intervene with youths who get in trouble to re-direct and educate these juveniles.
- Assistance to programs that help our juveniles and families, such as CASA, FINS and truancy programs to keep kids in school.
- Conflict resolution programs to teach kids how to resolve conflicts without violence

IPRD - IBERVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

Summer leagues wind down, football registration, adult softball kicks off

IPRD's summer baseball and softball leagues included 600 kids on teams this summer. "This is the highest number of kids we've had playing since 2017," said IPRD Director Erik Willis.

The summer leagues are over, but the parish had ten Post Rec teams, with 118 kids, playing in tourneys in this region - three softball teams and seven baseball teams. Three teams were in second as the regional tourney play continued, and they play in the state tourney at the end of June, with the winner going to the USSSA World Series in July.

IPRD has begun registration for its fall football leagues, and has also started a co-ed adult softball league that will continue play in July. The Belleview Park has also been busy as the site of seven tournaments hosted by a Baton Rouge company. "They rent out the park, and we hope to have more rentals next year, bringing visitors to our parish," said Willis.

Some new additions are being planned for the park, including a restroom facility at the back of the ballfield area and a small pavilion by the tennis courts. Pavilions are also being added at the Bayou Pigeon and Bayou Blue Parks.



The boys 12 & under team placed second in a post-season tourney.



The girls 10 & under team placed second in recent play.



The boys 13 & under Post Rec team also placed second.

IBERVILLE PARISH GOVERNMENT





Residents join clean up effort

Iberville residents took to the streets on April 27 to clean up the parish, and collected an amazing 12.2 tons of trash, including 215 tires. The parish initiated and coordinated the clean-up. Pelican and Waste Debris provided lunches for the volunteers and Kona Ice provided snoballs. "We were excited about the turnout across our parish and having municipalities participating in the Clean Up Day," said Parish President Chris Daigle. "It shows our unity across the parish to Keep Iberville Beautiful. We are using this event as a starting point for our administration to grow this event annually."

The parish effort was part of Love the Boot Week, which is sponsored by the La. Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

May 13 storm leaves significant damage, debris in areas of parish

Iberville Parish Public Works crews, the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office and volunteers all sprung into action after a strong storm left significant damage on May 13.

The parish boom truck and crews picked up 336 loads of debris in the parish since the storm! Two tornados went through the parish during the storm - one in northern Iberville and the other in central Iberville. In addition, it caused extensive power outages, with some outages lasting days. No injuries were reported, but damage to homes and property was reported.

Thank you to the parish workers and first responders who stepped in as soon as it was safe to take action, and began clearing roadways and checking on residents.

With that in mind, the parish reminds residents that hurricane season is just beginning and they can sign up to get emergency text alerts from the parish.

Simply call the Iberville Office of Emergency Preparedness at 225-687-5140 or go to the parish website: IbervilleParish.com to register.





Parish crews worked into the night and for weeks following the storm picking up debris.

Overton tapped to lead Public Works/Utilities

Long-time parish employee John Overton has been tapped by Parish President Chris Daigle to lead the parish Public Works and Utilities

Department.



Overton has been with the parish for 26 years, working in several areas of Public Works with increasing responsibility through the years.

The Public Works Department maintains the infrastructure of the parish, including roads, drainage

and facilities. The Utility Department operates the natural gas, sewer and water systems.



Parish gets hurricane ready

Parish supervisors and key personnel gathered recently to prepare for hurricane season with a review of how various departments are expected to respond, hurricane preparation measures that should be taken and how hurricane damage is recorded so that the parish is eligible for federal assistance. Shown above, Emergency Preparedness Director Clint Moore leads the discussion.

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY TEXT ALERTS

Register your mobile number to receive critial messages from Iberville Parish! Sign up on the parish website: IbervilleParish.com or call the Office of Emergency Preparedness -225-687-5140

CITY OF ST. GABRIEL

Bayou Breaux Bridge officially opens

City officials joined members of the La. Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) in late Spring to perform a final inspection of the Bayou Breaux Bridge, which connects the communities of St. Gabriel and Carville.

"It has been a long process to get to this point, but we are grateful to finally be here," said Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr. The original concrete bridge at Martin Luther King, also known as La. 75, was closed in December of 2022. It had become unsafe, and the closure required a nearly 11-mile detour for months.

During the construction, a bridge piling cracked when it was being driven into the bed of the bayou, requiring the permanent bridge to be redesigned to support the weight of the span. A temporary diversion crossing was then constructed.

Then, the company chosen to construct the new bridge defaulted on the contract, forcing an extended delay. After the delay caused by the original contractor

leaving the project, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) had to choose another contractor to finish the project. LADOTD chose Baton Rouge-based JB James Construction to complete the remaining work on the permanent bridge, and crews mobilized at the end of January.

The \$2.5 million project includes clearing and grubbing, removal of the original concrete bridge, grading, drainage structures, milling asphalt concrete, pavement patching, class II base course, lime treatment, asphalt concrete pavement, precast concrete piles, concrete slab span bridge, and any related work.

"The new contractor and DOTD worked feverishly the last few months to bring this project to completion and we are thankful. It has been a long, frustrating journey, and I recognize this is not just a St. Gabriel problem, but we are happy to have our bridge back," emphasized Mayor Johnson.



St. Gabriel and LADOTD officials gather for the official opening of the Bayou Breaux Bridge.







IBERVILLE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Congratulations to our 2024 graduates



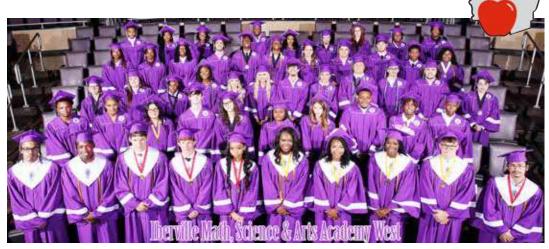
North Iberville High School



Math, Science & Arts Academy East



Iberville Alternative Program



Math, Science & Arts Academy West



Iberville Virtual Learning Academy



East Iberville High School







VILLAGE OF GROSSE TETE

Water system improvements on Magnolia, Oak Streets

The \$75,000 project to change out old 2-inch water lines along Magnolia and Oak Streets, and replace them with 6-inch PVC lines is almost complete, said Mayor Chauffe. "These water lines were very old and also inadequate. The new 6-inch lines should provide better water pressure and quality for the residents of those streets," the mayor said.

In addition, Grosse Tete is also making water line improvements on Gum Street.

Garner Lane re-construction set to begin soon

The reconstruction and overlay of Garner Lane from Hwy. 77 to the intersection of Locust Street is expected to begin soon. Barber Brothers Construction has been awarded the contract by the state, said Mayor Mike Chauffe. The project, costing approximately \$1 million, will take about 60 work days.

During that time, one lane of the busy road will be kept open for traffic by the contractor. Chauffe said the parish did a road swap with the La. Department of Transportation and Development that included the parish taking over another road and the state taking over Garner Lane.

Barber Brothers contracted with Tullier Services lower the water and gas lines for this project. The road work will include grinding down to the dirt, and reconstructing the base of the road, then overlaying it with eight inches of asphalt. "Hundreds of vehicles travel this road every day, so the reconstruction was sorely needed," said Mayor Chauffe.

VILLAGE PARTICIPATES IN CLEAN UP - Grosse Tete hosted a team of volunteers on April 27 as they picked up litter as part of the parish clean-up day. The volunteers met at the Grosse Tete Fire Station and picked up enough trash to fill a 30 cubic yard dumpter! They were treated to lunch for their efforts. Supplies were provided by the parish.



VILLAGE OF ROSEDALE

First Rosedale clean-up day a big success

The Village of Rosedale held its first clean-up day in conjunction with the Iberville Parish clean-up day on April 27.

A team of about 20 village officials, workers and volunteers spent the morning picking up litter along La. Hwy. 77. The parish provided the clean-up tools and supplies.

'Thanks to everyone who came out and showed their pride in Rosedale by picking up litter," said Mayor Riley Blanchet. "Everyone can help keep our beautiful village clean. Please don't litter!"



















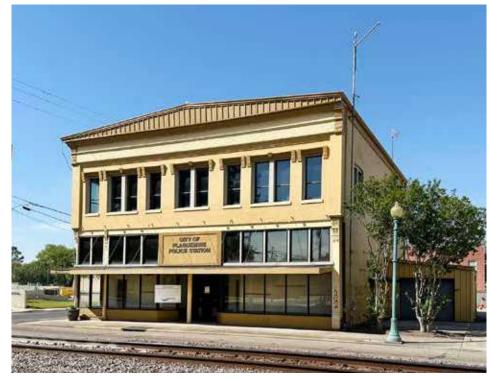
CITY OF PLAQUEMINE

Police Station work to begin in July, City Hall work underway

Repairs and renovations to the Plaquemine Police Station will begin in July, now that the low bid of \$775,000 by Sage Construction has been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Sage is now mobilizing to start the work, which will include new flooring, ceilings and lighting, painting, exterior refinishing/waterproofing, new windows on the second floor, and a new canopy.

Meanwhile, repairs to Plaquemine City Hall are well underway and are expected to be completed by September. Charles Carter Construction is the contractor on the interior work, which totals \$1.13 million. The work includes water damage and restroom repairs, painting the entire interior, new flooring in all rooms, and LED lighting throughout the building.

The exterior work performed by Cribbs Roofing, Inc., totaled \$910,000, and is now almost complete. It included painting and waterproofing the exterior of the building, removing the clay tile roofing and replacing the under layer, then reinstall the clay tiles; as well as replacing the flat roof and the standing seam roofing around the perimeter of the building.



Sewer projects underway

The sewer project to convert the north Plaquemine sewer plant into a pumping station is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Tullier Services is the contractor.

The north Plaquemine plant, which is some 60 years old, was failing and sinking. The \$2.38 million project will convert it into a pumping station. Another project to run pipelines from the north pumping station to the pumping station at W.W. Harleaux, and then to the city's sewer plant off La. Hwy. 1 will be bid out by August.

A project to rehabilitate the Charles Street pumping station has been completed, and work on the West and Evangeline Street pumping stations is underway.

The City will use \$2 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds and a \$1.3 million low interest (.95%) loan from the La. Department of Health for the sewer projects.

\$800,000 road project to begin in July

An \$800,000 road improvement project being funded by a La. Community Development Block grant will begin by July. It includes Allen St. from Marshall to Fleniken, Capt. TT Harris from Fleniken to Marshall, Gum Street from Fleinken to Meriam, Fleniken from WW Harleaux to Bayou Road, Mulberry from Bayou Road to Allen St., Tupelo from Meriam to WW Harleaux, and WW Harleaux from Fleniken to Marshall Streets.

This project was initiated by Mayor "Ed" Reeves, Jr., who worked to find a section of town that would meet the grant requirements. He also approved the required supporting work needed for the grant.



www.plaquemine.org/events

225-687-3116

IBERVILLE LIBRARY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Whooping Crane Wonders

Tuesday, July 2nd East Iberville Branch - 2:30PM Tuesday, July 16th Plaquemine Branch - 2:30PM

Kids in the Kitchen w/ LSU AgCenter

Tuesday, July 9th to Friday, July 12th Plaquemine Branch - 10:00AM

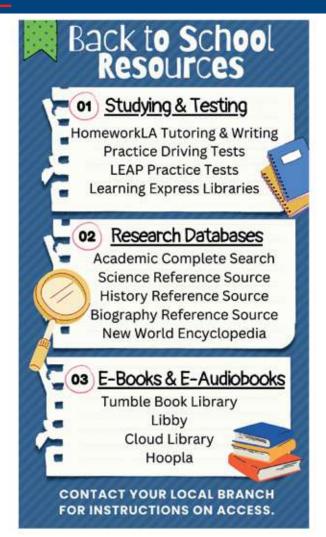
The History of Marguerite House

Saturday, July 27th East Iberville Branch - 10:30AM

The Dinosaur Experience

Monday, July 15th Plaquemine Branch - 10:00AM White Castle Branch - 2:00PM

East Iberville Branch Coding Club Kids (5 to 11) - Wednesdays at 3:30PM Teens (12 to 17) - Thursdays at 3:30PM





It's free, it's fun, it's #MyIPL!



(225) 687-2520



www.myipl.org



The **Teen Advisory Board (TAB)** for East Iberville and Bayou Sorrel Branches will return this fall, but signups start now! Inquire at either branch.

BERVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Property info/aerial views available on Assessor's website

The Iberville Parish Assessor's Office website offers valuable information to you on a 24-hour basis. Assessor Randy Sexton partnered with other Iberville governing agencies to have detailed aerial photography taken of the entire parish.

This is a valuable tool in determining a property's assessed value. It has also been valuable to other agencies in determining bus routes, public works projects, viewing suspected crime areas, in emergency response and other uses.

The Assessor's Office enhanced website includes:

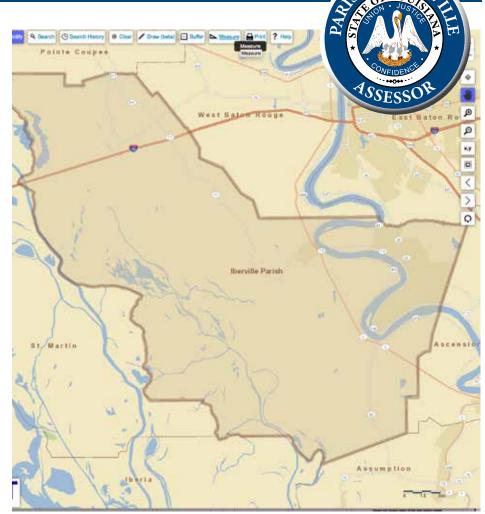
- Detailed aerial photography of all properties throughout the parish
- A search tool to obtain property information based on name, address or legal description
- A frequently Asked questions section
- · Forms and reports that may be downloaded
- · Information about the assessment process

For more information go to www.ibervilleassessor.org, or call the Assessor's Office.

> **Iberville Parish Assessor's Office Assessor Randy Sexton**

Hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday 225.687.3568 www.ibervilleassessor.org





Detailed aerial photography of all properties in the parish is available on the Iberville Assessor's Office website. An image from the geoportal on the website is shown above.

FRIENDS OF THE PLAQUEMINE LOCK HISTORIC SITE

Please join us in helping restore Plaquemine's crown jewel!

Friends of the Lock, the non-profit organization that works to preserve the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site, has received bids for the Lock restoration project. The low bid came in at \$717,000, about \$200,000 higher than projected.

The Friends group has begun its Lock Legacy Campaign to raise the funds needed for its \$1 million goal for the transformation of the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site. Presently, the group has \$675,000 of that total.

Phase I of the restoration project includes repairs and upgrades to the 118-year-old Lockhouse, along with new exhibits. The restoration work includes waterproofing the building, repairing tile, adding an ADA restroom and ramp, upgrading the electrical, lighting and air conditioning systems, and installing new flooring. The bid on that work is \$717,000. Phase 1 also includes \$150,000 for the all-new visitor exhibits.

The most exciting part of Phase 1 is the transformation with the new visitor experience. Washington-based Howard+Revis Design, which has designed exhibits for the Smithsonian and the National Park Service, was hired to develop the new exhibits. Besides new graphics, the new exhibit will include interactive elements and animation to engage and wow visitors!

Phase II includes upgrades to the boathouse and grounds, and additional interactive exhibits.

DONATE NOW TO THE LOCK LEGACY CAMPAIGN!

The Friends of the Lock has initiated the Lock Legacy Campaign to reach its fund-raising goal of \$1 million for the revitalization of the Lock Historic Site.

Without your support, this unrivaled historical and architectural masterpiece risks falling into neglect and

Please join us by supporting the LOCK LEGACY **CAMPAIGN**, which provides for the restoration, maintenance and promotion of our crown jewel. All donations are tax deductible. The Friends of the Lock is a 501-(c) 3 non-profit organization in good standing with transparency and audits.

Donations are accepted on the FOL website, FriendsoftheLock.org, or scan the QR code below. You can contact us.

Scan for **FOL**

website







The Lock Restoration Project preserves not just a building, but Plaquemine's heritage.

The Lock is our story of growth, of engineering and architectural ingenuity, and of enduring determination. Its preservation is vital for the continued enrichment of our community and future generations.

Why the lock should matter to YOU!

Economic Catalyst: The Lock was the catalyst of Plaguemine's growth and development from the early 1900s to the 1960s. It transformed Plaguemine from a rural village to a bustling hub of economic activity.

Engineering Feat: At the time of its construction, the Lock boasted the highest lock lift in the United States, an astounding 52 feet, a marvel of early 20th-century engineering.

Architectural Gem: The Lockhouse's design is unparalleled in the US. Its Dutch style and striking features, gleaming white tiles and huge, round cypress windows, make it an architectural treasure worth preserving.

Tourism Importance: The original 1980s exhibits in the Lockhouse are being replaced with a new modern exhibit with interactive elements, providing new opportunities for tourism.

Soul of the Community: The Lockhouse is the CROWN JEWEL of Plaquemine's beautiful historic district and an integral part of the city's most unique recreational area. The grounds are regularly used during community events and by residents for recreational activities.

CONTACT US:

Ellie Hebert, chair of the Lock Restoration

ellie@peacockcommunications.com or call 225-892-3216, or

Mike Carringone, FOL President, call 225-235-9022 Email: contact@FriendsoftheLock.org or Website: FriendsoftheLock.org



TOWN OF MARINGOUIN

Drainage upgrades, major sewer project underway

The two has started changing out culverts near the Maringouin Community Center as part of a drainage system upgrade. All of the 6 to 8 inch culverts will be replaced with 15 inch culverts, which will allow for a lot more storm water to flow through the system in that area. The \$250,000 project is expected to be completed in August.

In addition, the town has received bids for an \$800,000 project to make required improvements to the sewer system. They include re-working the clarifier, installing new aerators and chlorination units and other upgrades at the sewer pond.





HEALTH FAIR... A Health Fair was held for residents in April, thanks to a partnership between the Town of Maringouin and Arbour Health. Booths provided information on many health-related topics, and health screenings were also offered. The photo above at right shows just a portion of the large crowd that turned out for the event. The town also hosted a Spring Fest in early June, featuring gospel music and activities for residents.

COMING UP:

Alumni Round-Up/family day in the park on Labor Day weekend **Fall Festival in October**

Before and after...





Community Center gets new look

The Town of Maringouin recently completed upgrades to the Maringouin Community Center. The work included a new roof, exterior painting and columns and new glass doors. Mayor Maurice Harris said a new flooring will be installed in the building by the end of 2024. The top photo shows the center before the improvements, and the bottom photo shows the completed improvements.

TOWN OF WHITE CASTLE

Residents asked to take pride in WC by cleaning up their property

The perceptions that visitors and those driving through White Castle have of the town are often determined by what they see. A clean and well-kept town shows pride in the community.

Mayor John Morris is asking residents to help them keep White Castle beautiful by cleaning up their properties and keeping them well-

"We need the residents to help our town by getting rid of old, dilapidated vehicles in their yards, removing junk, keeping their grass mowed and trimmed and shrubs properly cut," said Mayor Morris. "We have ordinances in place to keep our community clean, and we will take action against property owners who do not comply, but it is much better if property owners take the initiative and clean up without the town having to take action."

He noted that many dilapidated vehicles can be seen in yards throughout town, along with high grass and junk in yards. These are considered nuisances, and will be cited if necessary. "Let's take pride in our town and clean up," he said.

BACK TO SCHOOL GIVE AWAYS

Saturday, August 3 **White Castle Community Center** School supplies, snacks and door prizes **Hosted by Town of White Castle**





IBERVILLE PARISH CLERK OF COURT

Website provides easy searches for Clerk of Court office filings

The Iberville Clerk of Court's Office files a wide variety of documents - from mortgages, to marriages, to property transfers and criminal charges. Now many records filed in the Clerk's office are available 24 hours a day through a new statewide clerks website: eclerksla.com.



Clerk of Court Amy Patin

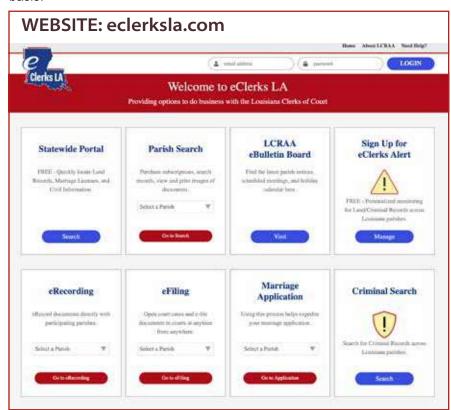
"This website allows the public to search for any name and see the civil, marriage, mortgage and land filings for that person in our office and in other clerks' offices across the state," said Clerk of Court Amy Patin. "In addition, criminal filings will be available soon."

She said Louisiana clerks started building the website in 2016, and it has the capability to search back 30 years for records. The website includes documents from clerk's offices in every parish of Louisiana.

Besides making name searches easy, it also provides for e-recording and e-filing documents. While residents can't file marriage applications on the website, they can get information and the paperwork needed to sign and bring to the clerk's office for marriage licenses.

It also provides a portal for residents to sign up for e-clerks so that they are notified any time a document is filed in their name.

"Abstractors and others use the site regularly, but it is also a great tool for residents," said Patin."We enjoy serving the public in our office, but this website can save them trips and also provide information on a 24-hour basis."



Provides on-line viewing by name of:

Civil filings
Mortgage records
e-recording

Marriages Property transactions e-filing

Coming: Criminal filings

Qualifying for November election set for July 17-19 in Clerk's office

Municipal elections for several local governments are on the ballot with the presidential and congressional elections on November 5. The local mayor, council and police chief races include Plaquemine, Grosse Tete, and Rosedale.

Candidates must qualify at the Iberville Clerk of Court's office between July 17 and July 19 to run for office in the November 5 election.

Did YOU KNOW?

Your Clerk of Court provides the following:

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

The Iberville Clerk's Office can provide you with a certified copy of your Louisiana birth certificate. All you need is \$34 cash or credit card and a state issued ID. You may obtain a birth certificate for yourself and certain members of your family,

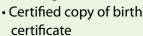


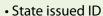
such as children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and siblings.

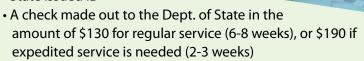
MORE INFO: IbervilleClerk.com

PASSPORTS

The Iberville Clerk's Office can process your passport for you with ease. No appointment is necessary. You will need the following documents:







- \$35 to the Clerk of Court (cash or credit card) for processing fee
- \$10 (cash or credit card) for your passport picture

SIGN UP FOR E-ALERT

The Clerks of Court throughout Louisiana have worked diligently to build the eclerksla.com website. (see article on this page). Now you can sign up through this website for the eClerks Alert, which is an on-line monitoring system that can notify you of any land or mortgage records placed in your name across the state. Visit the Iberville Clerk of Court website at IbervilleClerk.com and click on the eclerks link on the home

Sign Up for eClerks Alert

FREE - Personalized monitoring for Land/Criminal Records across Louisiana parishes.

Manage

page to learn more about this feature and sign up.

Iberville Clerk of Court

Website: IbervilleClerk.com Iberville Parish Courthouse 58050 Meriam St., 1st Floor Plaquemine, LA 70765-0423

Main phone: 225-687-5160

Jury Commission Office: 1-800-273-2666

Recording Department Fax: 225-687-3463

Criminal Department Fax: 225-687-5263

IBERVILLE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Stassi takes oath of office for fourth term

Sheriff Brett Stassi officially began his fourth in office with his swearing in and an employee appreciation event on June 13.

He told deputies that they were all being sworn in with him, and he appreciated all they do in service to Iberville residents. "Thank you for the job you do for the people," he said. "I know that a lot of what you do goes without thanks."

"I am excited to begin this term," said Sheriff Stassi. "I still have a lot of gas in tank. While we have accomplished a lot, I know there is still work to be done and I am already working toward more improvements in our office."

Stassi first took office in 2012. During his tenure, Stassi has made many improvements in Sheriff's Office operations. Among them are significant raises for deputies; purchasing state-of-the-art equipment needed, including most recently body cameras; increased training for deputies; beefing up the uniform patrol, detective and narcotic divisions; providing school resource officers in schools; establishing the Acadian Ambulance station in east Iberville; and upgrading the software programs that provide critical information to deputies on the streets.

One of the foundations of Sheriff Stassi's administration has been his and deputies involvement in community organizations and events. This involvement has resulted in many partnerships that have helped our youth and elderly.



Chief Deputy Ronnie Hebert takes the oath of office as his wife, Kathleen, holds the Bible. District Judge Elizabeth Engolio administered the oath.



Sheriff Stassi takes the oath of office as his wife, Caroline, holds the Bible. Administering the oath is 18th Judicial District Court Judge Elizabeth Engolio.



Sheriff Stassi addresses the crowd of deputies and residents attending his swearing in.



Shown from left are Sheriff Brett Stassi, Deputy Steven Johnson and Rotary Club President Jacob Wilbert.

Johnson named Deputy of the Year by Rotary Club

Deputy Steven Johnson of the Iberville Sheriff's Office has been named the Deputy of the Year by the Plaguemine Rotary Club. Johnson is a 22-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office. He worked as a uniform patrol deputy until 2017, when he was assigned as a School Resource Officer at Iberville Elementary School. "Steve's easy-going demeanor, yet watchful eye, make him a perfect fit as an SRO," said Sheriff Stassi. "The students, faculty and staff love him." Congratulations on this honor Deputy Johnson!

Deputies now outfitted with body cameras

Iberville Sheriff's Office deputies are now outfitted with body cameras. The cameras, which cost \$350,000, will provide independent and reliable visual and audio evidence to verify events, statements, and behaviors, and increase transparency with our community.

Studies also show body cameras reduce violence rates, complaints against officers, and the need for force to get volitale situations under control. In the photo at right, Lt. Derrick Mcphate displays a camera (center of his chest).

