



IMAGINE *Iberville* NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

A PUBLICATION FOR IBERVILLE RESIDENTS BY YOUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS



Historic day for Iberville at State Capitol

Iberville Parish held its first-ever Iberville Day at the Capitol on May 6th. It was a powerful celebration of our parish's impact on Louisiana's economy, culture, and community. From showcasing our thriving industries to connecting with lawmakers and local leaders, it was a day of unity, pride, and progress. The Parish was honored to have resolutions passed in the House and Senate officially declaring May 6th as "Iberville Day!"

This event was proudly hosted in partnership with the Iberville Chamber of Commerce, whose leadership and support were key in bringing this day to life. "We're grateful for the Chamber's commitment to our parish and its continued growth," said Parish President Chris Daigle. "And a special thank you to all our industry partners, elected officials, and community members who made this inaugural event a success."



The photos at left show Iberville Parish officials with state legislators during the Iberville Day at the Capitol.



Keeping Iberville Beautiful!

What a beautiful day it was on April 12, as volunteers from across the parish cleaned up litter to Keep Iberville Beautiful! The volunteers showed up BIG for #LoveTheBoot Week! From picking up litter to spreading smiles, the community came together to make Iberville shine.

Iberville Parish Government, sponsor of this event, extends a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers and partners who made the day a success! Special shout out to Pelican and Waste Debris for providing a delicious lunch in Plaquemine and to Bobbin's for supplying lunch for North Iberville's clean-up efforts! Together, we're making a difference — one cleanup at a time.

Shown above are scenes of the litter collection.

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COA packs in crowd, fun at Spring Fish Fry

The Iberville Council on Aging's Annual Fish Fry was one for the books! Held on April 16th at the North Iberville Community Center, this event was made possible by the generous sponsorship of REV!

COA members enjoyed a day packed with fun, featuring live music, great company, and exciting door prizes. The highlight was our first Easter Hat Contest, complete with a red carpet runway and local judges who had the tough job of picking their favorites from a fabulous lineup!

Huge thanks to our amazing COA staff and board, and a very special shout-out to REV for making this joyful event possible. It was a day full of laughter, love, and unforgettable moments for our COA family.



IPRD - IBERVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

Summer ball winds down, but other sports programs are underway

IPRD's summer diamond sports leagues have completed play for this year, with six All-Star baseball and softball teams playing in tournaments during June. Meanwhile, IPRD is busy with a cornhole league for kids, a tennis camp, a golf clinic, swim lessons and a track program. In addition, an adult co-ed softball league began play and will continue through August.

The track program has seen a big increase in participation, with an estimated 90 kids participating across the parish. They compete in meets in the Baton Rouge region.

Swim lessons were offered to 30 kids this summer, but more spots will likely be offered next year. "The swim lessons filled up quickly, so we are going to try to offer more sessions of that next summer," said IPRD Director Erik Willis.

IPRD is also conducting its popular Camp 360 for kids Mondays thru Thursdays from noon until 4 pm at the Carl Grant Civic Center. Willis said about 100 kids in grades 3-6 attend the program daily.

Families are reminded that the parish has splash pads at the Bayou Goula and Bayou Sorrel Parks, and other parks around the parish offer splash pads to keep kids cool.

Football, volleyball registration

Registration for IPRD's fall football and volleyball leagues is underway. Boys' tackle football is offered for ages 3-15. Co-ed flag football is offered for ages 5-12. Girls volleyball is open for ages 5 to 14.

Registration is \$40 for participation in these leagues. To register call IPRD at 225-687-0641 or go to playiberville.com. Registration for the winter soccer leagues will begin in September.



Scenes from summer sports and recreation programs
In the photo at top, kids get tennis lessons. Above at left, kids participate in art activities during Camp 360; and at right, kids begin swim lessons.



Shown above are parish officials and employees cutting the ribbon for the new incinerator.

Parish's new environmentally-friendly incinerator is a game-changer!

Iberville Parish marked Earth Day with a ribbon-cutting for its new environmentally-friendly Air Curtain Incinerator, a game-changer for how the parish handles storm and vegetative debris!

This eco-friendly powerhouse burns waste cleaner, faster, and with fewer emissions, all while reducing the total amount

of debris that has to be hauled away. Former Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto joined the parish for the celebration. This incinerator keeps Iberville green, clean, and ready for anything!

Early voting now offered in St. Gabriel and North Iberville for elections

For the first time in the parish's history, residents of St. Gabriel and North Iberville didn't have to drive to Plaquemine to vote early in the May 3rd election - it came to their communities! St. Gabriel voters turned out at the St. Gabriel Community Center on April 19th and 21st. North Iberville voters cast their ballots at the North Iberville Community Center on April 25th and 26th.

Early voting in these communities will continue in future elections, and this marks a major milestone in expanding local access to the democratic process in Iberville Parish. Thanks to the Registrar of Voters office for its support of this expanded voting option.



Scenes from Swamp Life Expo.

Swamp Life Expo draws a crowd

The parish's Swamp Life Expo at the North Iberville Visitors Center on April 5th drew a fantastic crowd! From live music and dancing to local food and crafts, it was a full-on celebration of everything beloved about Cajun culture. Thanks to our vendors, staff, and everyone who came out to enjoy the activities, food and music.

Hurricane Preparedness

ASSEMBLE DISASTER SUPPLIES

Make a list of supplies and assemble them before hurricane season begins!

Stock Up on Food & Water

Fill Medicine & Prescriptions

Have Batteries, Radio, & Charge Your Phone

Keep the Gas Tank Full

Have Cash On Hand

Keep Flashlights Ready & Easily Accessible

- ✓ Have enough food and water for each person for at least three days
- ✓ Fill your prescriptions and have medicine on hand
- ✓ Radios, batteries and phone chargers are also must-haves
- ✓ Gas up your vehicle and have cash on hand
- ✓ Ensure your flashlight is equipped with fresh batteries and keep extras on hand. Store your flashlight in a designated location known to all household members, making it easily accessible when needed.

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY TEXT ALERTS

It's easy and quick to register your mobile number and receive critical messages from Iberville Parish.

Register online at IbervilleParish.com, or call the Office of Emergency Preparedness at (225) 687-5140, or scan the QR code here for the link.



DOES YOUR HOUSE HAVE A REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGN?

Help Emergency Crews find your home faster when responding to calls. Install reflective address signs at your mailbox or on your home.





City honors the legacy of three dedicated servants of St. Gabriel

The City of St. Gabriel continues to mourn the loss of three exceptional individuals, Officer Darius Faveroth, Administrator Tracy York, and Former Parish Councilman Leonard Jackson whose unwavering dedication and service profoundly shaped the community. Through their leadership, commitment, and compassion, they left an enduring legacy that will forever be remembered by the citizens they served.

Officer Darius Faveroth: A Guardian of St. Gabriel



Officer Darius Faveroth served the St. Gabriel Police Department with distinction, upholding the values of honor, integrity, and selflessness. His dedication to protecting and serving extended far beyond his official duties—he was a steadfast guardian of the community, ensuring not only safety but also a sense of security and unity among residents.

Through his genuine engagement, Officer Faveroth fostered relationships that built lasting trust between law enforcement and the people he

served. His bravery, professionalism, and deep commitment to justice left a lasting impact, and his absence will be deeply felt by his colleagues, friends, and the community.

Administrator Tracy York: A Pillar of St. Gabriel's Foundation



Mrs. Tracy York was more than a dedicated public servant—she was a pioneer, a foundational figure in the city's history, and a pillar of stability for nearly three decades. As one of the original employees from St. Gabriel's early formation, Tracy played a vital role in shaping the city's footprint, helping to create an

efficient and well-organized police department.

Her remarkable 29-year career, spanning from 1995 to 2024, saw her excel in various roles, including dispatcher, chief's secretary, and traffic clerk. With unwavering professionalism, compassion, and diligence, Tracy set an inspiring example for colleagues and city leaders alike, earning admiration and respect from all who had the privilege of working alongside her.

She developed a legacy through the relationships she built, the mentorship she provided, and the lasting impact she made on the city.

Councilman Leonard Jackson: A Champion for Seniors & St. Gabriel



Former Parish Councilman Leonard Jackson devoted his life to advocating for community needs, most recently serving as a leader in the St. Gabriel Senior Food Bank Program. His commitment to service extended beyond his tenure as an elected official—he worked tirelessly to ensure that residents had access

to essential resources, and that local programs reflected the values of compassion and care.

His leadership in both local and parish government left an undeniable mark, shaping policies and initiatives that benefited countless residents. His years of service on the Parish Council were characterized by his deep understanding of civic issues, his unwavering integrity, and his determination to uplift the community.

Councilman Jackson's legacy is one of advocacy, leadership, and devotion to the people of St. Gabriel.

A Lasting Tribute

St. Gabriel is forever grateful for the dedication and contributions of Officer Faveroth, Administrator York, and Councilman Jackson. Their commitment to service, leadership, and community well-being shaped the city in ways that will be felt for generations to come.

The City of St. Gabriel extends its deepest condolences to their families, friends, and colleagues. As we reflect on their exceptional contributions, let us honor their legacy by continuing the work they dedicated their lives to—protecting, leading, and serving the people of St. Gabriel.

City of St. Gabriel Independence Day Celebration



Friday, July 4th

State of the City &
Leadership Brunch ~ 10:30am

Tailgating ~ 2pm

Live Concert ~ 6pm
Keith Frank

Tyler Kinchen & the Right Pieces

Fireworks Display ~ 9pm

St. Gabriel Community Center

Congratulations to our 2025 graduates



White Castle High School



East Iberville High School



Math, Science & Arts Academy East



Math, Science & Arts Academy West



Iberville Virtual Learning Academy



North Iberville High School



IAPPS

Plaquemine High School



VILLAGE OF GROSSE TETE

New water line on La. Hwy. 77 to improve water pressure, provide better fire protection

Construction is now underway on a new water line for residents and businesses along La. Hwy. 77. The new line will be installed from Garner Lane (Hwy. 1270) to Willow Street, and will improve water for about 40 families and businesses.

Mayor Mike Chauffe said 3,000 linear feet of 6 inch line will be installed in the project, which should be completed by early August at a cost of \$230,000.

"We have been planning this project because the existing 4 inch line is more than 60 years old and is obsolete," said Mayor Chauffe. "We began having issues with the line and it has become too expensive to repair."

The new 6 inch line will improve water quality and water pressure, and will also help the Village fire protection rating.

VILLAGE GETS "A" RATING ON WATER SYSTEM The Village water system has received an A rating from the La. Department of Health's (LDH) Water System Accountability Rating Program. LDH determines letter grades based on seven standards evaluating the infrastructure, accountability, and overall health risk of drinking water to consumers. Among the standards are water quality, operations & maintenance, financial sustainability, infrastructure, customer satisfaction and secondary contaminants. The Village received a 99 out of 100 score.



2nd Saturday of each month - 8 am-Noon
Iberville Welcome Center

For information contact Jeanne David - 225-241-8319



Crews begin the installation of a new 6-inch water line along La. Hwy. 77.

VILLAGE OF ROSEDALE

Construction on Rosedale Veterans Memorial Park to begin in August

The Village of Rosedale is honoring local veterans by building the new Rosedale Veterans Memorial Park.

The memorial will feature a new pavilion, veterans monument, concrete walkway, site lighting, monumental signage, decorative metal fencing and approximately 2,900 square feet of parking.

It will be located at the corner of La. Hwy. 76 and La. Hwy. 411 in front of the Iberville Library.

Planning for the memorial began in late 2023. The project is presently out for bid on construction, and it is expected to begin in August. Expected to cost approximately \$365,000, the project is being funded with Village of Rosedale revenues.



Rendering of Rosedale Veterans Memorial Park



Rendering of Rosedale Veterans Memorial Park entrance



Pay your utility bill online!

Go to rosedalela.com.
At the bottom of home page,
click on pay utility bill.

Rosedale

City's AI initiative is first of its kind in Louisiana

Mayor JB Barker has initiated new contracts with South Central Planning and Development Commission and Obney.ai to provide more efficient operation of city services, new grant opportunities, and AI training for city employees. This innovative partnership is new to Louisiana and will serve as a model for other cities.

South Central Planning will provide a variety of services to the City that will greatly enhance and modernize city services, along with providing a more user friendly experience for customers. Through South Central's proprietary software, customers will be able to initiate code enforcement, permitting, and inspections on-line or in person. In addition, South Central Planning will also provide community and economic development planning assistance, grant assistance, and best practices consulting.

Obney, an artificial intelligence (AI) company, will use AI technology to provide the city with grant funding opportunities, AI training for employees that includes real-world application, and work flow alignment improvements.

The two agencies will be working together to use AI technology to modernize city operations, find a multitude of grant opportunities that match city needs much faster than in the past, and creating more efficient work flows.

"This provides us with services we need to operate more efficiently, and uses the latest technology to improve our city," said Mayor JB Barker. "We are excited about the many benefits that the city will reap from this pro-active and progressive approach."

Barker proposed the strategic partnership to the City Board of Selectmen, which approved the contracts. "Mayor Barker's approach is unique in combining current operational excellence with future focused innovation. His vision unprecedented in Louisiana," said Justin Obney, founder of Obney.ai.

"By bringing these separate, but complementary partners together, Plaquemine is demonstrating how municipal government can evolve strategically without disruption."



City hosts 10,000 for John Foster

A crowd of 10,000 people jammed into the Tony Gulotta Bayou Waterfront Park and the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site on May 13 to see hometown resident John Foster perform during his run for American Idol. It was all hands on deck for city personnel, who had only three days to prepare for his visit and the huge crowd. Congratulations to John for his amazing run on Idol, and also to the City workers, police and emergency responders who staged the event beautifully. The City also thanks Iberville Parish government and the West Baton Rouge government agencies that assisted in the event. Shown above is a small portion of the crowd.

BEING HELD RAIN OR SHINE - WE'RE UNDER COVER!

24th ANNUAL

July 4th

HOMETOWN CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025
PLAQ. COMMUNITY CENTER & PAVILION
57845 FOUNDRY ST., PLAQUEMINE

great FIREWORKS DISPLAY

MUSIC BY JUSTIN CORNETT BAND

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 - 5 pm | Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site open for tours |
| 5 - 9 pm | MUSIC & DANCING, FREE KIDS' RIDES & GAMES, FOOD & OVER 40 CRAFTS BOOTHS! Booths available for food and crafts vendors - Call 225.687.6891 |
| 5:30 pm | BOAT PARADE HONORING VETERANS departs from boat landing on Bayou Plaquemine across from Iberville Parish Jail. To enter boat parade have boat in water at 5 pm. No fee to enter boat parade, patriotic boat decorations encouraged. |
| 6 pm | VETERANS CEREMONY |
| 9 pm | INCREDIBLE FIREWORKS DISPLAY with patriotic music by Plaquemine Council 970 Corp. |

KIDS RIDES DANCING FOOD CRAFTS BOAT PARADE

Thanks to our Sponsors:

A. Wilbert's Sons
Essential Federal Credit Union
State Rep. Chad Brown
Westlake
Wilbert Funeral Home

**NO Ice Chests, Pets, Fireworks, Golf carts
Bring Your Lawn Chairs
Boats can dock at Waterfront Park**

225-687-3116 www.plaquemine.org/events

FRIENDS OF THE PLAQUEMINE LOCK HISTORIC SITE

Lock site re-opens with celebration

Despite stormy weather, it was a packed house for the unveiling of the \$1.2 million renovation and new exhibit of the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site on June 13.

State and local officials, along with plenty of supporters, joined the celebration. The project included an \$850,000 repair and renovation of the Gary J. Hebert Lockhouse, along with a new exhibit featuring unique interactive elements and modern graphics to tell the engaging story of the Lock that was critical to the growth of Plaquemine from the late 1800s until 1961.

The exhibit drew rave reviews. Designed by nationally recognized exhibit company Howard+Revis, it includes several interactive elements: a huge operational boat wheel from a 1940s steamwheeler, a model of the Bayou Plaquemine truss bridge with an operational lift, and a 1925 steamwheeler boat light that has been brought back to life. In addition, animation shows how the lock operated and the model of downtown Plaquemine has been restored.

The short ceremony focused on thanking the officials responsible for securing the funding and in-kind contributions for the project. Ellie Hebert, Lock Restoration Committee Chair for Friends of the Lock, noted that Senator Caleb Kleinpeter and State Rep. Chad Brown made the project possible by securing the first \$540,000 in state funding, along with securing a commitment from the La. Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism for another \$110,000.

The lockhouse transformation included waterproofing the building, upgrading electrical, lighting, plumbing and flooring, making the building ADA accessible, and repairing exterior tiles and the bollard lights lining the walkway to the lockhouse.

Additional improvements planned in the future include boathouse upgrades; grounds signage, and landscaping, including native plant garden.

COME VISIT!

Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9 am - 4:30 pm
57730 Main St., Plaquemine, LA

CONTACT US:

Friends of the Plaquemine Lock Site

FriendsoftheLock.org
contact@FriendsoftheLock.org
Facebook.com/PlaquemineFriendsoftheLock



Thanks to these officials for their support of the Lock project, from left, Senator Caleb Kleinpeter, State Rep. Chad Brown, Plaquemine Mayor JB Barker, and Iberville Parish President Chris Daigle.



Member of the Friends of the Lock Board and the Restoration Committee are, from left, Michael Eby, Jr., Charlene Bishop, Christina Cedotal, Ellie Hebert, Courtney Zito-Elliott, Heather Blanchard, Dan Mooney, Jack Franklin, John "Jory" Dupont and Elgene Guillot. Not shown are Michael Carrington and Allan Kirkland.

Thanks to these officials for securing funding for the project:

Senator Caleb Kleinpeter
State Rep. Chad Brown
Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser
Former Parish President Mitchell Ourso, Jr.
Current Parish President Chris Daigle
2023, 2024 & 2025 Iberville Parish Councils
Former Plaquemine Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr.
Current Plaquemine Mayor JB Barker
2023, 2024 & 2025 Plaquemine Board of Selectmen

Thanks to these community members for significant contributions:

Citizens Bank & Trust Foundation
Grace, Hebert, Curtis Architects
The Hebert family in honor of Gary & Joyce Hebert
Chris & Kari Reeves
Dow Chemical Co.
Shintech
John & Margaret Bushinelle
Businelle Towing & Pelican Shipyard

IBERVILLE LIBRARY

Summer Reading Wrap-up



The summer reading program ends on July 26.

Don't forget to stop by the library,

submit books read, and collect your summer reading rewards.

For full details, visit myipl.beanstack.org or talk to a library staff member.

Are you Back-to-School Ready?

Your library card provides access to online resources to help parish students get back to school ready.



Homework Louisiana

HomeworkLa.org

Through Homework Louisiana, every Louisianian gains no-cost access to personalized tutoring and drop-off review services, test prep and self-paced resources, and job search assistance. Tutors are available every day from 10 a.m. to 12 midnight so that learners of all ages and stages can get help anytime, anywhere, from any internet-connected device.



(225) 637-2520

www.myipl.org

[/IbervilleParishLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/IbervilleParishLibrary)

[/IbervilleParishLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/IbervilleParishLibrary)

Mometrix eLibrary offers study materials for over 1,500 standardized exams including college entrance, graduate school, finance, nursing and medical, civil service, K-12, teacher certification exams, and many more.

Mometrix eLibrary

Access these resources and more online at www.myipl.org

Communities are standing up to crime

A Pointe Coupee Parish drug dealer was sentenced to 230 years in prison in June - and the entire case was the result of law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's Office working together, and juries being willing to render tough verdicts.

"This hard-core drug dealer will no longer prey on our communities for two reasons - our law enforcement agencies are working together, and our citizens serving on juries are standing up against crime," said District Attorney Tony Clayton.

Elie T. Edwards, 46, of 12191 Boudreaux St., New Roads, was found guilty by a jury on February 27 of running a large drug operation in Pointe Coupee, including distributing heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamines, and marijuana, among other charges. Drugs confiscated in the 2022 bust had a street value of over \$600,000.

District Judge Kevin Kimball sentenced him to 40 years for distribution of heroin, 40 years for fentanyl, and 20 years each for the following convictions: possession of a firearm by a felon, distribution of marijuana, distribution of methamphetamines, and distribution of cocaine. He was sentenced to a total of 70 years on the following: conspiracy to distribute marijuana; conspiracy to distribute fentanyl; conspiracy to distribute heroin; conspiracy to distribute methamphetamines; and conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

The Edwards arrest was the result of a seven month multi-agency undercover investigation led by Louisiana State Police and the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office Narcotics division. A total of 13 arrests

"Our citizen jurors are very attentive and analytical. If we present solid evidence, they are more than willing to reach the guilty verdicts that keep our communities safe."

DA Tony Clayton



were made in the raids by law enforcement, and large quantities of drugs and guns were seized.

The District Attorney's Office was kept informed during the undercover operation, and also during the busts. The agencies also collaborated on evidence. "We are seeing that our citizen jurors are very attentive and analytical. If we present solid evidence to our citizens on juries, they are more than willing to reach guilty verdicts to keep our communities safe."

"Together we are making a difference, and I can assure our residents that we will keep working with our agencies to get these violent criminals off our streets."

IBERVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Assessor's Office launches new user-friendly website

The Iberville Parish Assessor's Office new website is now much easier for the public to use, especially calling up the popular aerial maps of properties throughout the parish and the tax assessment information.

"The old site was outdated and needed to be modernized," said Chief Deputy Assessor Clint Seneca. "In addition, we previously had to outsource changes to the



old site, and it was taking too long for updates to be made. Now, we control the website and can make updates in house very quickly."

The website includes a property search, in which the public can easily look up parcels of property by owner name, address or assessment number.

It also include updated aerial maps of the entire parish. Properties, the owners and the assessment numbers are available via this portal. These maps have many uses for property owners and others.

In addition, a variety of forms are available for download from the site along with contact information.

Check it out at IbervilleAssessor.org.

Home Property Search Maps About Taxes Forms FAQ News Links Contact



"Welcome To The Iberville Parish Assessor's Website. As Your Iberville Parish Assessor, I Am Committed To Assessing All Property In Iberville Parish In A Fair And Equitable Manner. Our Office Has An Open Door Policy For Anyone To Discuss Their Assessment As To Its Accuracy And Fairness."

Home page of the new Iberville Parish Assessor's Office website.

TOWN OF MARINGOUIIN

HAPPY **4TH JULY**
INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 4th Celebration

Friday, July 4 • 6:30 - 9 pm
Maringouin Park

Fireworks - Music - Hometown fun

Keeping Maringouin Clean



Town of Maringouin officials, workers and volunteers participated in the Iberville Parish Clean Up Day. They picked up 40 bags of litter! Shown are the crew before and during the clean up.



Saying thanks to North Iberville teachers...

Teachers at North Iberville School got a special treat for Teacher Appreciation Week. Town officials provided them with a wonderful lunch to thank them for all their hard work. Shown are left are some officials delivering food trays to the school.

TOWN OF WHITE CASTLE

COMING EVENTS

Senior Citizen Game Night

Thursday, July 24, 6:30 pm
White Castle Community Center
Senior citizens and disabled residents are treated to bingo and other fun activities.

Back to School Supplies Give Away

Monday, August 5, 6 pm
White Castle Community Center
Activities and a variety of school supplies being given away to help prepare students for the new school year, which starts August 11.

Watch for more information on these and other events:
facebook.com/MayorJohnMorrisIII

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Thursday, July 3rd
5-10 pm
White Castle
Community Center

FIREWORKS!

FEATURING:
Lil Nate & Zydeco
Big Timers
Tyree Neal

IBERVILLE PARISH CLERK OF COURT



JURY DUTY

What you need to know if you are summoned

Why it is important that you serve

"Jury service is something that everyone should experience to understand how our judicial system works," said Clerk of Court Amy Patin. "Jury voir dire, or preliminary examination of jurors, is one of the most interesting parts within our judicial system."

Judge Elizabeth Engolio noted, "Most jurors tell us at the conclusion of the trial that they are glad they had the opportunity to serve and they value the experience." And Judge Alvin Batiste, Jr. added, "Jury service pales in comparison to the sacrifices made by our men and women who serve in the armed forces whether here in the US or overseas."

Jurors are an essential part of our country's justice system. They ensure fair trials, promote democracy, and foster public confidence in the legal process.

"If you ever found yourself or a loved one involved in a civil or criminal trial, you would want a jury of fellow citizens who will be fair and impartial," said Clerk Patin. "Those jurors hear the evidence, determine the facts, and render a verdict. Having a fair cross-section of citizens present for jury duty further ensures that the jury process is fair and impartial."

In addition, jury service gives you a voice and vital role in the judicial system, as well as in your community. By serving, you are preserving our 6th and 7th amendments in the US Constitution, thereby guaranteeing our right to a trial by an impartial jury.



What to expect in court

Once you check through security, you will be given a juror tag for identification purposes. Roll will be called in the courtroom. The judge of the case will read juror qualifications, and if you do not meet those qualifications, you will be asked to give further explanation. Generally the qualifications are being a citizen of the United States and the State of Louisiana who has lived in Iberville Parish at least one year prior to this jury service. You must also be at least 18 years old, able to read and write the English language, and must not be under indictment or a convicted felon.

Next, a deputy will randomly pull juror cards with numbers and those jurors will be questioned by the District Attorney's Office as well as the Defense in a criminal case. In a civil case, attorneys for the involved parties can also question prospective jurors. Jurors can be released for cause by the Court, or by the attorneys using their challenges to eliminate jurors they consider to be less favorable to their side of the case. Each party has a limited number of challenges.

What to do if you get a subpoena

All registered voters are part of the jury pool, and the quantity of jurors needed for each jury pool are pulled at random by a computer system.

If your name is pulled for a petit or criminal trial, a jury subpoena will be hand delivered by the Iberville Sheriff's Office to you at your home. If you cannot be located, it will be mailed to you. Civil jury subpoenas are delivered by mail only at this time. The subpoena will provide all the details of jury service - when and where you are required to appear in court to serve; whether it is a petit, grand or civil trial service; dress code and compensation. Petit and grand jurors receive \$25 per day, plus 16 cents per mile for travel from home to the courthouse (this will soon change to 70 cents per mile); civil jurors receive \$50 per day plus 70 cents per mile for travel.

Those age 70 and older can claim a personal exemption. Others can claim a hardship in serving for a medical condition, travel or other reasons. In these cases, a letter requesting to be excused must be submitted in writing, with proper documentation, to the presiding judge at least 10 days before service. The judge decides if you will be excused. If you are excused, you will be notified. Otherwise, you are required to appear in court on the day and time specified.

The subpoena letter advises jurors to call a phone number provided on the subpoena the night before appearing for service to make sure the service is still required. Sometimes, cases are settled just before the court date. Updates are also posted on our website and facebook page.

In the details

Hundreds of citizens are pulled monthly in Iberville Parish for jury duty. There can be penalties for failure to appear.

- 500-700 names are pulled monthly for petit jury (criminal jury trials).
In general, 300 names are pulled for a criminal trial.
- 200 names are pulled for civil trials; generally 6-8 trials are held annually.
- 125 names are pulled for grand jury twice a year. These selected grand jurors appear once a month on average and serve for 6 months. Grand jurors evaluate evidence in potential cases and decide if formal charges should be filed.
- On average, 54% of those subpoenaed to serve show up for jury duty.
- When the trial is over, a check will be mailed to jurors for their service.
- Once you serve on a jury, you can receive a two year exemption from service.

Jury Duty Hotline: 1-800-273-2666

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
Fax: 225-687-5260
[Facebook.com/IbervilleClerkofCourt](https://www.facebook.com/IbervilleClerkofCourt)



Drones enhance law enforcement capabilities in Iberville

Drones have become a valuable tool used by law enforcement to assist with both crime prevention and crime investigations. The Iberville Sheriff's Office operates has four drones, along with four deputies certified to use them.

Three of the drones are large, high-tech units equipped with thermal imaging and up to 200x zoom capabilities. These drones are deployed during emergency responses and provide officers with real-time intelligence before entering potentially dangerous situations. Their capabilities include:

Scene Assessment: Offering aerial views of active scenes to help deputies plan safe and effective responses in volatile environments.

Search and Rescue: Detecting body heat, even in total darkness, to locate missing persons. These drones are equipped with cameras, thermal sensors, and GPS, providing high-resolution imagery and precise coordinates to aid ground searchers.

Crime Scene Support: Scanning areas for clues during disappearances or active investigations, giving deputies valuable information to direct their next steps.

Event Monitoring: Providing security surveillance at large-scale public gatherings managed in real-time from an on-site command center.

The fourth drone is a compact unit designed for indoor use. It can navigate through tight spaces like windows and doorways, giving officers critical insight into the layout of homes and the presence or location of suspects—especially in armed or high-risk situations. This adds another

layer of protection for both deputies and civilians.

"Our deputies go into very volatile and dangerous situations, and I want to use every tool possible to keep them safe," said Sheriff Brett Stassi. "They also are providing us with valuable information in investigations, helping us get criminals off the streets."



The Sheriff's Office Drone Team... Shown are, from left, Cpl. Chad Blanchard, Sgt. Travis Landry and Deputy Brandon Miller. Not pictured is Lt. Chris Couty.

Sheriff's Office Water Patrol ensures safety on local waterways

The Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office Water Patrol operates year-round, but activity increases significantly during the summer months as more boaters take to the waterways.

The Water Patrol utilizes a diverse fleet of boats; use is based on the situation and specific waterway. The largest vessels—a 30-foot and a 27-foot boat—are deployed primarily in expansive and fast-moving areas like the Atchafalaya Basin and the Mississippi River. The fleet also includes an enclosed boat for use in varying weather conditions, a low-water Pro-Drive boat capable of operating in as little as six inches of water, and a lightweight skiff designed to access wooded or hard-to-reach areas.

The Water Patrol Detail performs a wide range of critical duties:

Search and Rescue: Responding to emergencies involving stranded, lost, or injured boaters

Patrol and Safety Monitoring: Ensuring safe boating practices and providing a law enforcement presence as needed

Event Security: Supporting large community events such as the July 4th Hometown Celebration and the Acadian Festival to name a few.

Additionally, the Water Patrol is equipped with underwater sonar technology capable of locating submerged objects, including vehicles and metal debris—tools that are invaluable during investigations or recovery efforts.

The Sheriff's Office remains committed to keeping Iberville's waterways safe and navigable for everyone throughout the year.



Deputies on patrol in the photo above, and at right Major Monty Migliacio in the Atchafalaya Basin.



In the photo above, Sheriff's Office deputies clean litter from a bayou during the Iberville Parish Clean Up Day held this Spring.

In the photo at right, Sheriff Stassi escorts veterans being honored at Plaquemine's July 4th Hometown Celebration into the Tony Gulotta Bayou Waterfront Park.

