



IMAGINE

Iberville NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

A PUBLICATION FOR IBERVILLE RESIDENTS BY YOUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Chris Daigle takes over reins of Iberville Parish government



Iberville Parish President Chris Daigle takes the oath of office as his wife, Ashley, holds the Bible, and his children, Analyse, Landen, Kaine and Trey look on.

Chris Daigle officially took office as Iberville Parish President on January 8, and the Iberville Parish Swearing In Ceremony for him and the Iberville Parish Council was held on January 9 at the Carl F. Grant Civic Center.

An estimated 750 residents attended the ceremony with many parish and state officials in attendance. During his inaugural address, President Daigle spoke about developing a strong working relationship with Iberville Parish Council members and the constituents they serve.

"It will take mutual trust and opening the lines of communication as we work toward the same goals," Daigle said. He committed to working together for the benefit of the citizens of Iberville to move the parish forward.

Among his priorities highlighted in his inaugural speech are:

- smart future growth with a well thought out comprehensive plan
- traffic studies
- drainage
- flood protection
- working with mayors, elected officials, legislators, senators, congressmen, and new Governor Jeff Landry to support prosperity and growth while moving Iberville forward; and
- continuing to push for a new Mississippi River Bridge in Iberville.



Shown during the opening prayer of the Iberville Parish Swearing In Ceremony are, from left, Parish President Chris Daigle, Parish Council Chairman Matt Jewell, and Council Members Shalanda Allen, Chasity Easley, Thomas Dominique, Freddie Frazier, Steve Smith, Raheem Pierce, Nadia Jenkins, Hunter Markins, Terry Bradford, Chasity Martinez, Charles "Stormy" Dardenne, and Bart Morgan. Swearing In Ceremony photos by Trenton Gordon.

COMING EVENTS

April 5 - Movie Night - St. Gabriel Community Center - Page 4

April 12 Gray Monkey Parade - Page 8

April 13 - Master Gardeners Plant Sale - LSU Ag Center - Page 9

April 17 - School Board Job Fair - Carl Grant Civic Center - Page 9

April 20 - St. Jude Car Show - Page 7

April 27 - Parishwide Clean Up - Page 3

May 3 Boogie on the Bayou - see Page 7

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PERMIT NO. 88

DA initiative on April 27 ballot to fight crime, prosecute violent offenders

Violence and violent juvenile crime are soaring. Criminals are trying to expand their operations to our parishes. So far, District Attorney Tony Clayton and Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee law enforcement have held the line. But it is getting harder.

DA MAJOR TRIAL STATS: April, 2021-March, 2024

Due to Covid, trials could be held for only 35 months of this period

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of trials | 35 |
| Homicide convictions | 35 |
| Number who got life sentences | 24 |
| Rape/sexual assault/child porn convictions | 9 |

That is why the DA has proposed a Law Enforcement District Initiative, which is on the April 27 election ballot in Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and

Pointe Coupee Parishes. "We take violent offenders to trial and we seek the toughest sentences possible," said Clayton. "We just tried and convicted 5 gang members of murder."

Clayton noted that juries are requiring more evidence to convict – DNA, crime scene analysis, expert witnesses, experienced investigators/prosecutors, etc. In addition, the costs of providing and assisting programs to help juvenile offenders and domestic abuse victims have increased.

Presently, the District Attorney's Office is partially funded by Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parish governments. This has left the DA's Office dependent on parish governments for critical operations and expenses. "It is difficult to operate and be an effective prosecutor when you have to spend time and resources asking for critical funding every year," said Clayton. The Law Enforcement District Initiative will fund the programs shown in the box at right.

EARLY VOTING: April 13-20 (excluding Sunday) 8:30 am - 6 pm

ELECTION DAY: Saturday, April 27, 7 am-8 pm

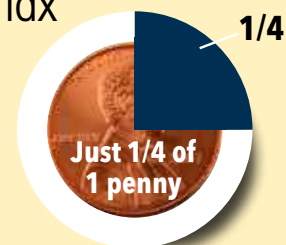
Proceeds would be used for:

- 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 spiraling sexual assault cases, often against children, and deadly Fentanyl and 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 in order 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

Proposal is 1/4 of 1 cent sales tax

The proposal is for a one-fourth (.25 percent) of one cent sales tax for 10 years.

Residents who spend \$1,000 a month on taxable items will pay only \$2.50 for this tax. Industry pays most of this one-fourth of 1 cent sales tax.



1/4 of 1 penny

IPRD - IBERVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

Diamond leagues kick off with big numbers, fields get rave reviews

Spring and summer ball leagues are ramping up, and the diamond sports have 550 kids participating this year, the highest number in several years, said IPRD Director Erik Willis.

"The Belleview Park is packed daily with families for kids' practices and games," said Willis. "We've had a lot of positive input on the park, and we've also had a lot of interest in park rentals for tournaments."

Willis said the final regulations for park rentals are almost complete, and they expect to start renting the facility for tournaments in the coming months. In addition, St. John, Plaquemine High and East Iberville schools have used the park for third grade to junior high baseball games. In the past, those teams have had to use Rivalt Park in West Baton Rouge for games, so they are excited about staying in Iberville to play.

Among the IPRD leagues, T-Ball and Coaches Pitch leagues are underway now, and baseball and softball leagues will begin play in April and May.

Meanwhile, the new pickleball courts at Belleview Park are also getting a lot of use, with play almost daily.



Scenes from T-ball and Coaches Pitch play.



"Not only do I live in Iberville, but Iberville lives in Me!"

A message from Parish President Chris Daigle



I want to thank Iberville Parish for putting your trust in me to lead our great parish as your second Parish President in 26 years. Our administration will not let you down.

Our vision is to create greater trust between the government and the communities that we serve - a vision where citizens can easily reach all our elected officials in the courthouse, and where those concerns can be heard as we move Iberville forward together.

The key to achieving our goals is by having a strong working relationship with the Iberville Parish Council members who represent you respectively. This will happen by creating mutual trust and opening the lines of communication as we work toward the same common goal. You have my commitment to work with you for the benefit of our citizens and our parish as we move forward.

There are promises that I made along the campaign trail, and I will work tirelessly to ensure that those commitments are fulfilled. Just this month, the parish council approved sending "Term Limits" back to the voters. We will do our best to send it back to the voters for the fall election, and I will be supporting this proposition.

We pledge to spend your public money wisely and efficiently, and to be proactive as we address our current and future priorities, while ensuring that we instill lasting respect for our environment. We have started the process of creating Iberville's first salary schedule for employees in 20 years so that there is equality and fairness in our parish government. Our administration remains steadfast in its commitment to preparing for future smart growth through a meticulously crafted and comprehensive plan. This strategy prioritizes key elements such as drainage, flood protection, traffic, and utilities, among others, that will ensure sustainability for years to come.

We will work with all our local elected officials representing each area of Iberville to support prosperity and growth as we move toward a brighter Iberville. We will continue the push for the Iberville Bridge, which we so desperately need to connect our parish and eliminate the ferry. We are closer than we have ever been before to seeing this become a reality.

It is crucial that we support our local small businesses, fostering an environment where they can prosper and thrive, as we work with our economic development team to shape a business-friendly and welcoming climate.

I want our citizens to reach out to me, your parish president, and your local council members with your questions, concerns, and ideas so that we may all work together to help shape Iberville's future. Our citizens have high expectations regarding our new leadership and vision, which will guide us in creating a new culture in parish government. This culture that will be led by earning your respect, listening to our employees, hearing the voices of our residents, and always putting Iberville ahead of anything else.

We are a community that has a strong sense of support, comprised of many generations of families that have moved to Iberville and want to stay here, calling our communities home. We are all in this together, and together, we will move Iberville forward for generations to come.

Chris Daigle

Mosquito trucks spraying throughout Spring, Summer

The Iberville Parish Mosquito Abatement program has two trucks that spray throughout Iberville five days a week, weather permitting.

These trucks began spraying weekly the first week of March and will continue spraying weekly until the end of October. If you have any questions about the mosquito abatement program please call 225.687.5152.

Form a team and join the parish clean up on April 27

Iberville Parish Government is proud to partner with local businesses and residents to do our part for Love the Boot Week.



Please join the parish on Saturday, April 27, from 8 am-noon, to clean up Iberville. If you are interested in forming a team or would like additional details, contact jslandry@ibervillechamber.com and follow the Iberville Parish Government social media page for updates.

Love the Boot Week is Louisiana's annual Earth Week initiative, bringing awareness to our litter problem while empowering organizations and individual citizens to clean up litter and beautify spaces in their communities.

Litter is not a new problem for Louisiana's 64 parishes. For decades, litter has become increasingly detrimental. Despite spending over \$91.4 million in litter abatement each year, Louisiana is still experiencing shocking levels of litter statewide.



Rifle range closed through April for pipeline work

The Iberville Parish Council Firing Range is currently closed due to pipeline work in and around the range. The pipeline work is expected to last up to six weeks and should wrap up in late April. For more information about our Iberville Parish Council Firing Range, please visit our website at www.ibervilleparish.com.



Bayou Breaux Bridge open, work continues

The Bayou Breaux Bridge is now open for motorists! Crews are still on site, and all work should be completed in early spring.

"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 related work.



Bayou Breaux Bridge now open!

"With this new contractor on the ground, we have seen phenomenal movement in the construction progress and feel confident that timelines will be met," said Mayor Johnson. "It has been a long, frustrating journey, and I recognize this is not just a St. Gabriel problem, but we are happy to have this bridge at a crossable point."

Phase 1 of Morris Street drainage project completed

Phase 1 of the Morris Street Drainage Improvement Project has been completed. The project is designed to reduce flooding while promoting public safety in this residential neighborhood.

Ditches along Morris Street were regraded after shooting elevations. Old driveways and culverts were removed and replaced with new culverts under each driveway. Where necessary, utilities were relocated or conflict boxes installed. The phase was completed with general grading.

Phase 1 is part of the total Maryland/Ointment/Morris Street Drainage Improvement Project. Phase 1 totalled \$675,974.90, and the contractor was Spinks Construction. Phase 2 of the project will continue the installation of subsurface drainage and 5 ft sidewalks on the south side of Morris Street to enhance walkability in the neighborhood.



The photo above shows one of the old culverts and the new drainage culvert. The photo at right shows regraded ditches to improve drainage.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27 – Mayor's Prayer Breakfast @ Community Center 10 am

March 29 – Good Friday Fellowship @ First Mt. Carmel BC 10 am

April 5 – Movie Night @ Community Center 6 pm



City of St. Gabriel

5035 Iberville Street, St. Gabriel
Louisiana 70776

Phone: (225) 642-9600

cityofstgabriel.us

facebook.com/cityofstgabriel



PHS new baseball/softball complex completed

The new baseball/softball complex at Plaquemine High School is drawing rave reviews, and is already proving beneficial in poor weather conditions, said PHS Athletic Director Tait Dupont.

The complex includes new turf baseball and softball fields, along with a large brick building that includes a concession stand, public restrooms, locker rooms for both boys and girls, an indoor hitting facility, training room, office and washrooms.

"The fields being turfed really helps with drainage and makes them very low maintenance," said Dupont. "They save time and work, and also enable us to play on these fields immediately after heavy rains, which was not possible with the grass fields." The facility is located adjacent to the River Parish Community College behind Plaquemine High School.



The softball field at the new PHS baseball/softball complex.

Health clinic at N. Iberville School

Arbor Family Health now provides primary care services, comprehensive physicals, and preventive services for students of the North Iberville School. This medical office is staffed with a nurse and a physician assistant. The goal is to provide medical care at school so children can stay in school and parents can stay at work.

The Health Center offers patient education, preventative care, immunizations, and treatment for physical and behavioral health needs. In addition, the center offers sports and regular periodic physicals.

There are no out-of-pocket costs (co-payments) for a child who receives services at the Health Center. Arbor Family Health will bill Medicaid and private insurance companies for any services provided. Students with and without insurance receive the same level of care.

Parents can take advantage of this health care by completing the Consent for Treatment packet. The school health clinic has treated 118 children in the first two months of 2024. To fill out the consent form, scan the code at right.



Plaquemine Fire Department firefighters in training.

Firefighter program is new career path for students

The Iberville Parish School Board has joined forces with the Plaquemine Fire Department to offer a new career training path for high school seniors as a firefighter starting next school year.

The Jump Start program offers high school training for students in a variety of career paths. This addition will make Iberville among the first firefighter training programs in high schools in Louisiana. Students in the program will earn all of the certifications needed to start work as a firefighter immediately upon graduation.

Fire Chief Darren Ramirez led the effort to get the program running with Robert Primus, Supervisor of Instructional Technology and CTE. "Chief Ramirez and Anthony 'Tony' Seymour of the Plaquemine Fire Department have been at the forefront of partnering with our schools to educate future firefighters," said Primus.

"This program will have students excited to attend school each day because they are being taught by firefighters at the Plaquemine Fire Department," he noted. "They are learning the same essentials that are taught at the firefighter academy, receiving hands-on training, and are working towards a career they can start immediately after high school."

Under the agreement, the School Board will pay for materials and equipment for training, and the Fire Department will provide the instructor and training following a state-certified curriculum.

"The students will come to the Plaquemine Fire Department two hours a day and will have both classroom and hands-on training with the same training provided at the state fire training facility," said Fire Chief Ramirez.

"About five fire districts in the state have the program now, and it is very successful," Ramirez said. "We have a firefighter shortage statewide now, so this program will help fill that need and also provide good, important jobs for our young people right here at home as soon as they graduate from high school."

The program will be offered to students at Plaquemine High, MSA West and White Castle High this year, with hopes of expanding it to other schools in the coming years.



Scenes from Black History celebrations at Iberville schools



VILLAGE OF GROSSE TETE

Portion of Garner Lane to be re-constructed

A state contract has been awarded to Barber Brothers Construction for the reconstruction and overlay of Garner Lane (approximately 2,600 linear feet), said Mayor Mike Chauffe. The project, costing approximately \$1 million, is expected to begin in April and 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.

The work will include grinding down to the dirt, and reconstructing the base of the road, then overlaying it with eight inches of asphalt. The road is now a state road. "Hundreds of vehicles travel this road every day, so the reconstruction was sorely needed," said Mayor Chauffe. "We ask that residents have patience with the road crews as they work to make this needed improvement."

New water line coming for Magnolia, Oak Streets

The Village of Grosse Tete has just issued a contract to Tullier Services to dig out old 2-inch water lines along Magnolia and Oak Streets, and replace them with 6-inch PVC lines. "Tullier was the low bidder on the \$70,000 project," said Mayor Chauffe. "We expect work to begin in April, and it will take approximately 30 days."

"These water lines were very old and also inadequate. The new 6-inch lines should provide better water pressure for the residents of those streets," the mayor said.



VILLAGE OF ROSEDALE

Maintenance building nears completion

The Village of Rosedale has almost completed construction of a new maintenance building, which will house an office, a break room for maintenance workers, and all of the village's maintenance equipment.

Only the interior finishings are left to be completed on the 40 X 80 metal building. "This will provide us much needed space to properly care for our equipment, tractors, backhoe and more," said Mayor Riley Blanchet. "Our old smaller maintenance shed will still be used, but it was no longer adequate for our needs."



Culverts installed on Centerville Road

The Village of Rosedale has completed a project to add culverts along Centerville Road. This project was needed to improve drainage on the heavily-used road. The village used two LGAP grants, totalling \$50,000 to pay for the culvert project. Shown are scenes of the work in progress.





DID YOU KNOW?
You can pay your utility bill online!

Rosedale

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

City Hall repair project begins, completion set for July

Bids on the structural repairs to Plaquemine City Hall came in lower than expected, allowing the City to make other needed improvements to the building while it is unoccupied.

The Board of Selectmen voted at its February meeting to approve the low bid of Charles Carter Construction of \$902,300 on the project with alternates totalling \$237,300. The work includes water damage and restroom repairs, plus alternates that include painting the entire interior, new flooring in all rooms except the lobby and courtroom (which was recently changed), and LED lighting throughout the building. This work is expected to be completed by the end of July, about the same time that exterior repairs are completed.

The exterior work, being performed by Cribbs Roofing, Inc. of Baton Rouge, totals \$910,000, and includes painting and waterproofing the exterior of the building, along with 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.

Bids on repairs to the Plaquemine Police Station went out in March, and work is expected to start on that building by some time in May.

Sewer project underway

A major sewer project to convert the north Plaquemine sewer plant into a pumping station is now underway. Tullier Services was the low bidder and has the contract for the job.

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. Tullier Services is awaiting parts on another project, which will 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.

The City will use \$2 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds and has obtained a \$1.3 million low interest (.95%) loan from the La. Department of Health for the two much needed sewer projects. Approximately \$300,000 of the loan from the state will be forgiven.



Solar lighting along the Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail.

River levee trail now has solar lighting, getting daily use

Residents are enjoying walking and bike riding along the entire 1.3 mile Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail, now that construction is almost complete.

Phases 3 and 4 of the trail project included the extension of the trail on the Mississippi River levee from the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site south to the Plaquemine Ferry Landing, along with the installation of benches and trash cans along the trail, a ramp to provide access to Fort Area Park, and solar lighting for the entire trail. All that remains on the project is a change order and

some finishing touches. Phases 1 and 2 included the trail head from the Lock site north to the North Plaquemine Park.

Phases 3 and 4 were bid out and awarded by the La. Department of Transportation and Development, which provided the City with a \$1 million grant for the work. Arbour Construction was awarded the contract, with a bid of \$1,148,828. The City will fund the remainder. The City has obtained a total of \$1.275 million in grants for the project. It was one of the first projects initiated by Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr. after he took office in 2016.

BOOGIE ON THE Bayou

AND Kid-Struction Zone!

FRIDAY MAY 3 **FREE EVENTS**

KID-Struction Zone!

Kids will love seeing, touching and jumping on board our park full of very big machinery and equipment: fire truck, bulldozer, dump truck, much more.

Quiet Zone for Children with Special Needs: 1 - 2:30 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - 5:30 - 8:30 PM All children must be accompanied by an adult!

Dance to great Swamp Pop tunes with Junior and his band!

JUNIOR LACROSSE

5:30-8:30 pm Food & drinks available! Bring lawn chairs!

Face painting • Balloon artist

Henry Nadler Pavilion, 23245 Short St., Plaquemine

City of Plaquemine
plaquemine.org

NO ICE CHESTS OR PETS ALLOWED

26th Annual

ST. JUDE OPEN CAR SHOW

Saturday, April 20, 9 am-4 pm

Onsite registration 8 -11:30 am
Awards 3 pm

Tony Gulotta Bayou Waterfront Park - 57845 Foundry St.

Hundreds of vehicles on display, Food, Vendors, Auctions

All proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Sponsored by *Baton Rouge Corvette Club*

City of Plaquemine


IBERVILLE PARISH LIBRARY'S 39TH ANNUAL

GRAY MONKEY PARADE

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 12, 2024 - 10:00 AM

There is still time to register your preschooler to be in the parade!

E-mail: graymonkey@myipl.org
Phone: (225) 687-2520



PARADE LOCATION:
Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park
57845 Foundry ST,
Plaquemine, LA 70764

Parade, Music, Petting Zoo and more!

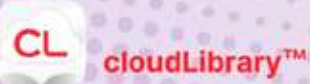


SUMMER READING

Block Party!

May 31, 2024

We're doing it again! The **Plaquemine Branch of the Iberville Parish Library, with community partners**, are planning an exciting evening of music, food and fun. And you can sign up for the summer reading program, too!

Got EBooks? IPL does! Our library offers 3 different ebook and audiobook services. Whether you're into classics, mysteries, or true crime, our apps have you covered. Dive into a world of literary convenience – explore, click, and read away!

WWW.MYIPL.ORG

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Unlock Possibility.



IBERVILLE PARISH LIBRARY

IBERVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

Special exemptions available to property owners

In addition to a \$75,000 homestead exemption, Louisiana residential property owners have several special assessments and property tax exemptions for those who qualify. These are two of these exemptions:

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR AGE 65 or OLDER OR DISABLED:

The Louisiana Special Assessment Level program allows for residents who are either:

- 65 years of age or older, or
- a veteran with a service connected disability rating of 50% or more by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or
- a person permanently totally disabled as determined by a court or a state or federal agency, or
- a member of the armed forces of the U.S. or Louisiana National Guard who was KIA, MIA or a POW to have the assessed value of their residence frozen for property tax purposes. This means their homes would not be subject to re-valuation every four years and the assessed value of their homes would remain the same no matter if property values increase.

To be eligible property owners must own and occupy a residence qualifying for the homestead exemption, have a combined adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less in 2023 or later, and present proof of income and personal identification.

EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES:

Effective January 1, 2023, in addition to the homestead exemption authorized above, Louisiana Constitution Article VII Section 21 provides veterans with service-connected disabilities the following additional

exemptions:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability rating between 50-69% shall receive exemption from property taxes on the next \$25,000 of residential property value.
 - Veterans with a service-connected disability rating between 70-99% shall receive exemption on the next \$45,000 of residential property value
 - Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 100% unemployability or totally disabled shall be fully exempt from property taxes.
- The additional exemptions above require Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs Revised Form A25.

The surviving spouse shall be eligible for the additional exemption if the surviving spouse occupies and remains the owner of the property, whether or not the exemption was in effect prior to the death of the veteran.

Any property owners who qualify can complete their applications for these programs at the Assessor's Office in the Iberville Parish Courthouse on Meriam Street in Plaquemine.

Need more information? Contact the Assessor's Office at 225-687-3568.



Iberville Parish Assessor's Office
Assessor Randy Sexton

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



Lockhouse repairs, upgrades go out for bid; new exhibit planned

The Gary J. Hebert Memorial Lockhouse, which houses a museum that celebrates the history of the Plaquemine Lock, is now empty in preparation for a massive transformation. The project goes out for bid in late March and is expected to begin by May.

Friends of the Lock, the non-profit organization that works to preserve the history of the facility, presently has a \$675,000 budget and is fund-raising to reach its \$1 million goal for the transformation of the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site.

Phase I includes repairs and upgrades to the 118-year-old Lockhouse. These include water-proofing the building, repairing tile, adding an ADA restroom and ramp, upgrading the electrical, lighting and air conditioning systems, and installing new flooring. This part of the work will go out for bid at the end of March.

The most exciting part of the transformation will be 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 visitor experience and exhibits. The new museum-quality exhibit will include interactive elements to engage and wow visitors!

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



Located in the heart of Plaquemine's Downtown Historic District, the Plaquemine Lock is at the center of the Tony Gulotta Bayou Waterfront Park, the Mississippi River levee top walking trail, the Iberville Museum and the magnificent Cathedral on the River, St. John Church. The Lock site serves as the crown jewel of the city, a source of pride and exceptional historical distinction.

Join us in revitalizing our Lock! Donate or join Friends of the Lock

Lock Legacy Campaign & Membership

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. Because this historic site is essential to the city and the parish, stakeholders will be asked to help support this project and its future. Businesses, industry, residents, preservationists and grant programs are all being asked to donate and join Friends of the Lock.



FriendsOfTheLock.com
facebook.com/Friends of the Lock

Please get involved!

Join this grass-roots effort to renew our crown jewel!

email: contact@FriendsOfTheLock.org

Call: Mike Carrington, President, 225-235-9022




Westside Master Gardeners

Locally grown plants, hanging baskets and container gardens!

Most 4 inch pots will be \$2.00

Plant Sale

Saturday, April 13, 2024
8:00 am - 2:00 pm


LSU AgCenter
25250 CM Mike Zito Lane




Westside Master Gardeners are volunteers affiliated with the LSU AgCenter. The Westside area includes Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes.

DISTRICT WIDE JOB FAIR

Jumpstart Your Career with Iberville Parish School District



Date:
April 17, 2024



Title:
From: 1:00 p.m.
To: 3:00 p.m.



Location:
Carl F. Grant Civic Center
24700 J. Gerald Berret Blvd.
Plaquemine, LA 70764

Iberville Parish School District is looking for talented professionals like you who want to make a difference in the lives of our students.


| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Bus Drivers/Attendants | Paraprofessionals |
| Custodial | School Food Service |
| Maintenance | Teachers |

Competitive Pay
Benefits include: Health, Dental & Vision Insurance and Retirement Plan Options
Earn up to an additional \$3000 for 7th-12th Grade Math

A representative will be available to discuss teacher, paraprofessional, school food service, and custodial substitute opportunities.



Visit us at: www.ipsb.net



TOWN OF MARINGOUIN

Town purchases \$300,000 emergency response vehicle

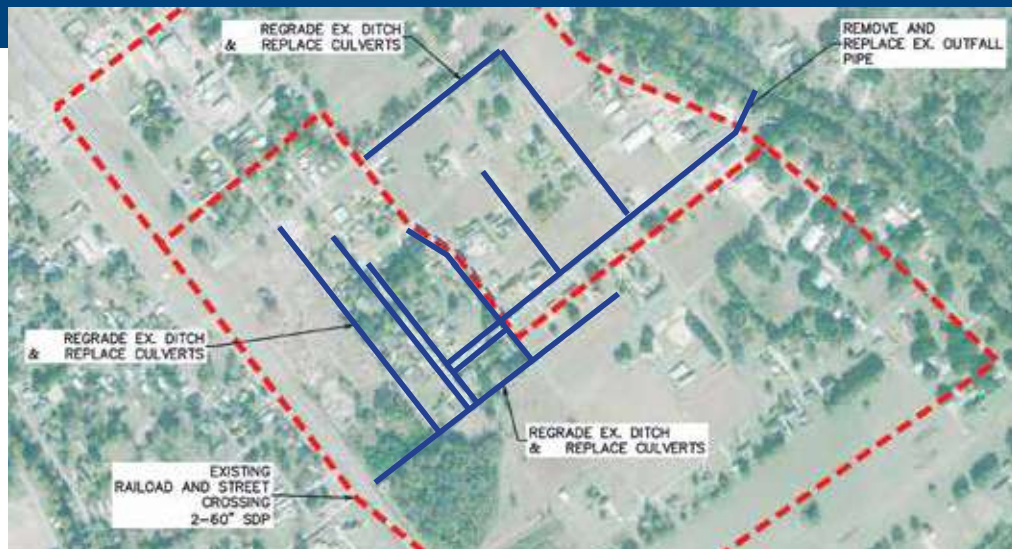
Town officials held a special meeting in mid-March to vote on purchasing a new emergency response vehicle for the Maringouin Fire Department. The special meeting was needed because the town had the opportunity to buy a new vehicle instead of waiting up to 18 months for the construction of the vehicle.

Fire Chief Stanley Washington let us know about this opportunity, and we had to jump on it because several other fire departments were also wanting to purchase the vehicle," said Mayor Maurice Harris. "Our emergency response vehicle was very outdated and old, and needed to be replaced. We didn't want to wait 18 months and we are fortunate that it worked out."

The \$300,000 vehicle will be used for emergency response, and will also be available for town events.



Fire Chief Stanley Washington checks out the town's new emergency response vehicle.



Drainage improvements set for Ridgewood Subdivision area.

Contract awarded on drainage project

Construction is finally set to begin on the \$720,000 Ridgewood Subdivision drainage project. The Town voted to accept the low bid of Tullier Services of Plaquemine, and the company will begin mobilizing for the project in April.

The project was estimated to cost \$660,000 about three years ago, but delays to get necessary permits and approvals took longer than expected. That delay impacted the cost. When bid out early this year, the cost was \$720,000, so the town asked the state to provide more funding before approving Tullier's bid.

Funding is being provided by the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, a program to reduce flood risk through a coordinated, regional, watershed-based approach. The state agreed to provide 20% more, and the town will fund the rest of the difference, said Mayor Maurice Harris.

The project includes removing sediment, regrading ditches, and changing out undersized culverts to restore drainage flow to Bayou Grosse Tete.

"This is the first time the town has had such a large drainage project for just one part of the town, but we expect it to greatly improve drainage, and we are going after grants for drainage work in other areas of town also," Harris said.

TOWN OF WHITE CASTLE

Senior Citizen Night

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 pm
WC Community Center

- Games
- Food
- Friendship



Town offers options for water service payments

The Town of White Castle offers a variety of convenient payment options for our residents. Simply choose the option that best suits your needs.

Online Bill Payment - Just click the green "Pay Your Bill Now" button on the town website: WhiteCastle.us, and follow the prompts. Have your account number handy.

Payment By Mail - Please send all payments with your payment coupon. To avoid late fees, please mail your payment at least 5-7 business days before the due date.

Payment Drop-off - You may pay your bill in person at Town Hall, 32525 Bowie St. We accept cash, check, or money orders.

Payment through online bank debit- Many financial institutions offer to debit your checking or savings account for bill payment (check with your bank). Some charge a fee for the service. Payments may take up to 7 business days to post to the customer's account. Please consult with your bank for more information.

HELP PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS

Keep your septic system running smoothly and your environment clean by placing trash where it belongs.

The Unflushables

- Paper towels, disposable/flushable wipes, washcloths, and rags
- Synthetic materials such as plastic, which do not decompose or dissolve
- Feminine products
- Cotton balls or Q-tips
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Unused medications
- Syringes
- Fats, Oils, and Grease



Let's Bag It & Trash It

Iberville Clerk of Court's Office known for quality work, trusted service

Most residents are unaware that the Iberville Clerk of Court's Office is responsible for a wide variety of duties - from maintaining records, to serving as chief election officer for elections, to recording civil and criminal court proceedings.

In addition, the office provides critical services to parish residents, such as marriage licenses, passports, birth certificates and some notary services.

People who have business with the Clerk's Office are often impressed with the quality of service and the attention to detail provided. That



*Clerk of Court
Amy Patin*



*A few of the many
documents maintained by
the Clerk of Court.*

starts with Clerk of Court Amy Patin, who has a long history with the office. The variety of the responsibilities and the opportunity to help parish residents is what Patin loves about her job.

She is in her second term as Clerk of Court, and will start a third term July 1. She was unopposed in the fall 2023 election. She served in the Clerk's office for 22 years before running for the Clerk of Court position in 2015, moving up in the office from deputy clerk to office administrator to Chief Deputy Clerk.

"I just fell in love with serving people," said Clerk Patin. "I feel very fortunate for the opportunity and I am grateful to serve the people of Iberville. We really have the best people here."

Shown at right are the departments and duties of the Clerk's office, and below are additional services provided by Patin's office.

More detailed information is also available on the Clerk's Office website: IbervilleClerk.com and facebook.com/IbervilleClerkofCourt, or by calling 225.687.5160. The office is located in the Iberville Parish Courthouse on Meriam Stretet in Plaquemine.

Additional services provided

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Offered on a walk-in basis. Applications are available on the Clerk's website: IbervilleClerk.com. Information on documentation required with applications is included on the website.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Offered on a walk-in basis. Information on documentation that must be provided is included on the website.

PASSPORTS

The Clerk of Court's Office accepts passport applications and sends them to the U.S. Department of the State for processing, which takes 6 to 8 weeks. Expedited services (2-3 weeks) are available for additional fees. Passport applications, documentation required, and information on renewing a passport are available on the Clerk's website.

NOTARY

Deputy Clerks of Court are considered ex-officio notaries and can notarize SOME documents as a service to Iberville residents. You must appear in person and be prepared to show proper identification when asking for notarization of a document. You must also sign the document in notary's presence.

CLERK'S OFFICE DEPARTMENTS

CIVIL/SUITS

- Maintains records of all court proceedings
- Family Division handles adoptions, custody cases, restraining orders, divorce proceedings
- Jury Commission Division - Maintains juror rolls, pulls potential juror lists for trials, issues juror summons, records juror exclusions by judges, checks in summoned jurors for trials, and pays jurors
- Maintains civil suit filings
- Maintains all parish succession and probate records

RECORDING

The Iberville Clerk's Office has some of the oldest records in the state, dating back to 1750. The recording section handles

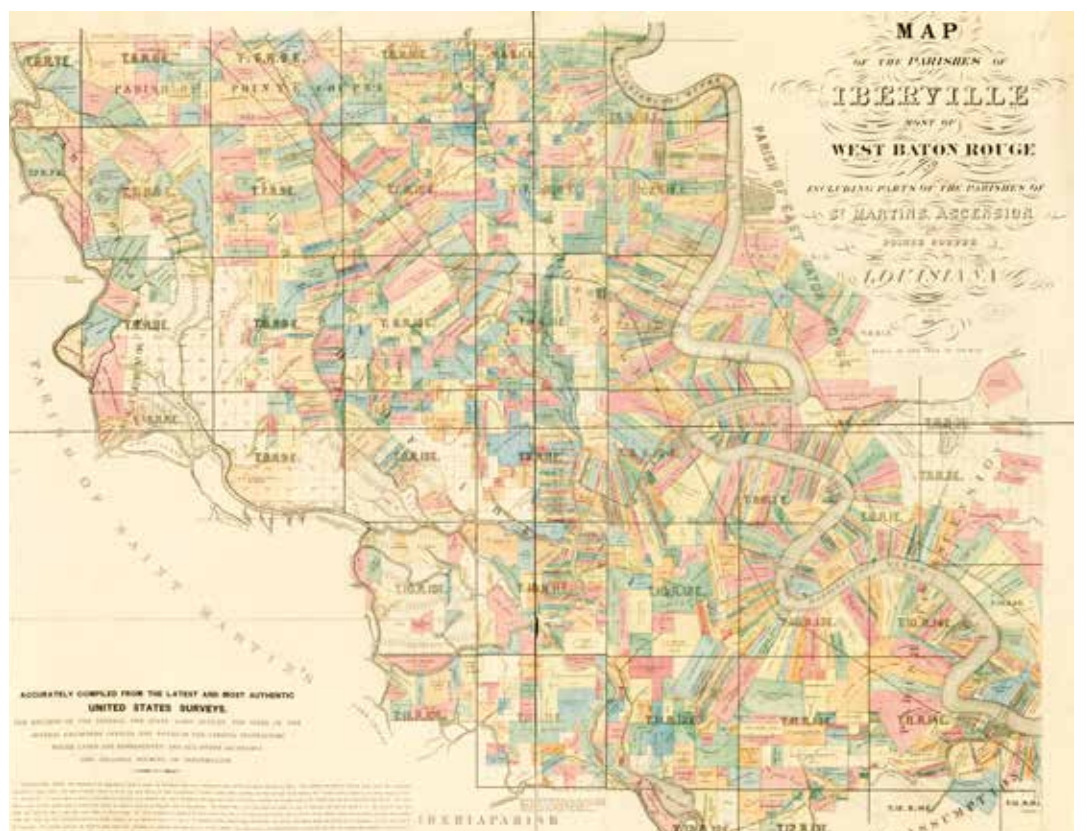
- Property transactions
- Mortgages and liens
- Marriage licenses
- Issuance of birth certificates
- Oaths of office
- Miscellaneous records and parish maps

CRIMINAL RECORDS

- Felony and misdemeanor court filings and proceedings
- Drug Court filings and proceedings
- Juvenile crime proceedings
- Traffic Court proceedings

ELECTIONS

- Qualifying candidates for office
- Appointing election custodians
- Selection and training of election commissioners
- Housing voting machines
- All election day operations, including submission of vote totals to La. Secretary of State's Office



Antique map of Iberville Parish at the Clerk of Court's office.



Truck fleet proving effective in north Iberville area

The Iberville Sheriff's Office now has a fleet of trucks being used by deputies to patrol north Iberville. Sheriff Brett Stassi said the trucks are more helpful with interstate patrol needs in north Iberville, such as picking up debris on the interstate, carrying cones to block lanes, and get to rough terrain better than standard patrol cars.



Shown is the new fleet of trucks used for patrol in north Iberville.

School Resource Officers complete active shooter drill

School resource officers (SROs) are the first line of defense for our schools. That is why Iberville Sheriff Brett Stassi conducted another active shooter drill for the SROs in February. Unlike other drills that include school staff and other emergency responders and deputies, this drill focused on training the SROs in responding quickly and effectively in an active shooter situation. Shown are scenes from the drill, which was held when school was out of session.



Got your annual report?

The Iberville Sheriff's Office Annual Report was mailed to residents in mid-March. If you have not received yours and would like to get one, please go by the Sheriff's Office in the Iberville Parish Courthouse. This year's report focuses on the fentanyl epidemic and the dangers of the drug, along with Sheriff's Office activities, community service, crime statistics, and technology upgrades in 2023.

Sheriff's Office app is popular

The Iberville Sheriff's Office app has proven popular with residents. In January 2024 alone, it had more than 6,000 views. The app provides extensive information, including how to pay tickets and taxes, submit a crime tip, get a list of sex offenders, jail inmates and sales/seizures of property, a staff directory, how to contact the Sheriff's transportation service, an SRO tip line, and more. You can download the app by scanning the QR code provided below.

Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office Mobile App

Built by: THESHERIFFAPP.COM



INTRODUCING
OUR **NEW** APP

Navigating critical information
has never been easier.



SCAN
TO DOWNLOAD!

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google play