



# IMAGINE *Iberville* NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

A PUBLICATION FOR IBERVILLE RESIDENTS BY YOUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS

## Parish breaks ground on \$2 million in boat launch improvements

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and Iberville Parish officials broke ground on the Bayou Pigeon Boat Launch Improvement Project on January 29. This \$2 million dollar project is being fully funded by CPRA!

The launch will be expanded from two to seven lanes, floating piers and walkways will be added, and parking and accessibility will be improved, making it easier than ever for residents and visitors to explore the Atchafalaya Basin.

CPRA Executive Director Glenn Ledet Jr., Parish President Chris Daigle, State Representative Chad Brown, and Director of Environment & Economic Development John Clark spoke on the significance of this project for Iberville Parish, highlighting its impact on recreation, local businesses, and access to one of our treasured waterways. A special moment from the event was WWII veteran Irvin Settoon, an Iberville Parish resident, leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Completion is expected by Spring 2026!



*Shown at the ground breaking are, from left, State Representative Chad Brown, Council Chairman Steve Smith, Council Member Chasity Martinez, Council Member Chasity Easley, CPRA Director Glenn Ledet Jr., Parish President Chris Daigle, Director of Environment and Economic Development John Clark, CPRA Chief of Planning Brian Lezina, and Council Member Shalanda Allen.*

## Damaged garbage can?

Report your damaged garbage can to the Parish Sanitation Department at 225-692-3844. You will be required to provide your name, address, and phone number.

IBERVILLE PARISH  
**SWAMP LIFE EXPO 2025**

**APRIL 5, 2025**  
10 AM - 2 PM

NORTH IBERVILLE VISITORS CENTER  
17525 HIGHWAY 77  
GROSSE TETE, LA 70740



Experience the heart and soul of Cajun culture. From authentic Cajun cuisine and local artwork to hands-on demonstrations and cultural exhibits, the Swamp Life Expo brings Iberville Parish's heritage and traditions to life. Stroll along Bayou Grosse Tete, immerse yourself in the region's unique craftsmanship, and enjoy a day filled with free family fun, food, music, demonstrations and exhibits.

## Early voting sites in east, north Iberville

The Iberville Registrar of Voters Office announces that, by working with the parish, it will now have Early Voting locations open in east Iberville and north Iberville for elections.

### Early voting locations and dates for the May 3 election are:

St. Gabriel Community Center, April 19 & 21  
Rosedale Community Center, April 25 & April 26  
Registrar of Voters Office in Iberville Parish Courthouse -  
April 19 - April 26, except Sunday.

The hours for early voting are 8:30 am - 6 pm at all sites. Check [GeauxVote.com](http://GeauxVote.com) or the GeauxVote app to see your sample ballot and voting information; or call the Registrar's Office at 225-687-5201.

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## IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL ON AGING



### Valentine's Day celebrations

Love was in the air during the Valentine's Day celebration at each of the Iberville Council on Aging centers! Our senior centers were filled with laughter, friendship, and joy for the festivities. We love our Iberville COA family and the incredible sense of togetherness they bring each day. From sharing cherished stories to creating new memories, our seniors remind us that love and friendship only grow stronger with time. Thank you to everyone who made this day so special!



### Mardi Gras mambo prevails

The Iberville Council on Aging let the good times roll with a festive Mardi Gras celebration filled with music, dancing, beads, and, of course, delicious king cake!

A huge shout out to Plaquemine Police Department Administrator and Krewe of Comogo 2025 Grand Marshal Robbie Johnson for spreading the Mardi Gras spirit by handing out beads and candy to our seniors! Thank you to everyone who joined in on the fun — until next year, laissez les bons temps rouler!



### Fish fry set in North Iberville

Mark your calendars for a day of great food and fellowship at the COA Spring Fish Fry on April 16th at the North Iberville Community Center, starting at 10:30 am. This much-anticipated event, made possible by the generous sponsorship of REV, is a opportunity for our COA community to come together, enjoy a delicious meal, and share in friendship.

## IPRD - IBERVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

### Diamond sports kick off for summer

Diamond sport leagues are already underway, and others will be gearing up in April for the summer ball season.

IPRD Director Erik Willis said T-Ball and Coaches Pitch leagues are now underway, with about 225 kids participating. Other age groups will start their baseball and softball leagues in April, and he expects a total of about 500 participants in all the leagues.

IPRD runs its baseball league for boys in conjunction with the West Baton Rouge Recreation Department, and games are played at the Belleview Park and in Brusly.



### Other summer sports gear up

IPRD will hold several other summer programs for kids, including track, tennis, golf and cornhole.

Track teams are being formed in Plaquemine, north Iberville and east Iberville, and competitions will be held in May and June. IPRD is searching for a coach in the White Castle area. If interested call IPRD at 225-687-0641.

IPRD will also provide lessons and competitions in tennis, golf and cornhole in June. Registration for these programs opens April 1.



### Restroom added at Belleview Park

A new restroom building is now operational at Belleview Park, and Parish President Chris Daigle has announced that the parish will begin the process of constructing restroom buildings at all 14 parish parks.

This year the parish will add restrooms at four parks, and will continue adding restrooms at the parks each year until all parks have them.

The new restroom building at Belleview Park was necessary because of the long distance from the farthest fields at the park to the main restroom building at the front of the park. The new building will service the back end of the park. The site hosts many tournaments annually, so it was an important addition.

"Parish President Daigle thinks that all parks should have restrooms," said IPRD Director Erik Willis. "It is a great amenity, so I am glad we will be adding them. We have not selected which parks will get restrooms this year, but this will be an on-going focus."

## Parish crews handle snow event with long hours, coordination

Iberville Parish was well prepared for a historic snowfall in January. The parish Public Works crew sanded bridges across the parish before the snowfall. The Communications Department used social media to post winter weather preparation checklists and ways to protect your home during winter weather. And the parish Office of Emergency Preparedness worked with emergency response personnel throughout and after the snow event.

"Our dedicated parish employees worked tirelessly to get us through this unprecedented snow event," said Clint Moore, Director of 911 and Emergency Preparedness. "Iberville Parish saw anywhere between 5-10 inches of snow and our crews didn't miss a beat! Employees from 911, Fire Departments, Department of Public Works and our Utility crews did an outstanding job of showing up and pushing through!"



Parish workers dumped sand on bridges before and during the big snow event in January. After the snowfall ended, dump trucks were used to move inches of snow from roadways.



## Let's clean up Iberville on April 12

Come out to do your part to Keep Iberville Beautiful! We are proud to partner with local businesses and residents for #LoveTheBoot Week. Join in the Iberville Parish Clean Up on Saturday, April 12. Contact [jslandry@ibervillechamber.com](mailto:jslandry@ibervillechamber.com) to form a team, volunteer, or need additional information. The photo above is from last year's event.

DOES YOUR HOUSE HAVE A REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGN?

2  
1  
3  
8

HELP EMERGENCY CREWS FIND HOMES FASTER WHEN RESPONDING TO CALLS!

ADD SIGNAGE ON BOTH SIDES - THIS HELPS FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE, AND AMBULANCES FIND YOU WHEN YOU CALL FOR HELP! ESPECIALLY:

- IN RURAL AREAS
- ON DARK STREETS
- HOMES WITH HIDDEN DRIVEWAYS

## First Annual Black History Month celebration draws big crowd

Iberville Parish Government proudly hosted its First Annual Black History Month Program on February 5, bringing together over 300 attendees for an evening of reflection, celebration, and unity. The program featured a compelling keynote address by Major Reginald Brown, who emphasized the importance of local black history.

Aldrich "Tudy" Dupree, Kenneth Brown, Dr. Peter Dawson, and Leonard "Buck" Jackson were honored for their significant contributions to the Iberville community. The event was further enriched by captivating performances from Chozun and the St. John Baptist Church Liturgical Dancers.

Youth played a special role in the program, with Kynli Landry, Iberville Parish School District's 5th Grade Student of the Year, leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The Black History essay and poetry contest winners, Anthony Russo, a 12th grader at North Iberville High School; and Nahla Clouatre, a 6th grader at Iberville Elementary, delivered inspiring messages.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a tremendous success.



In photos above, at left, Parish President Chris Daigle awards plaques to Sadie Dupree and Cherise Gougisha in honor of the late Aldrich Dupree; and at right to Kenneth Brown, shown with his wife, Cotina Brown.



In photos above, at left, Parish President Chris Daigle awards plaques to Dr. Peter Dawson, shown with his son, Olorun Ti Funmi; and Leonard "Buck" Jackson, shown with his wife, Marion Jackson.



Shown in photo at left is Guest Speaker, Major Reginald Brown; and Kynli Landry, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Autism Awareness Day April 3

Iberville Parish is teaming up with the Iberville Parish School District, The Arc Iberville, and community partners for Wear Blue Day on Thursday, April 3rd, in honor of Autism Awareness Month, and to promote acceptance, understanding and love of those with autism.

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY TEXT ALERTS

Register your mobile number to receive critical messages from Iberville Parish! Scan this code, or sign up on the parish website: [IbervilleParish.com](http://IbervilleParish.com), or call the Office of Emergency Preparedness -225-687-5140

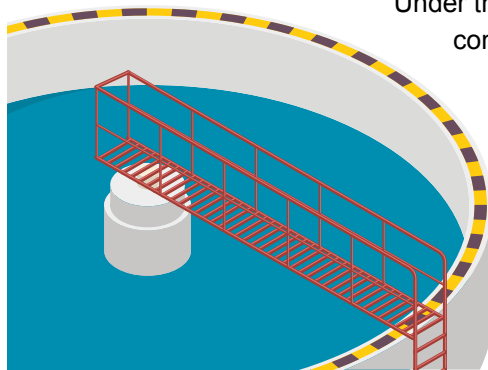


# City officials take action to address wastewater collection fees, blighted properties

The St. Gabriel Mayor's Office and City Council have been addressing two vital issues that impact the community: wastewater collection fees and the management of blighted properties. These initiatives are designed to improve the quality of life for residents and ensure sustainable growth within the city.

## Wastewater Collection Fees:

At its December 2024 meeting, the City Council held a public hearing and voted to amend an ordinance regarding wastewater fees for commercial users.



Under the new ordinance, small commercial sewer fees will be set at \$150 per month, while large commercial sewer fees will be set at \$300 per month. To streamline enforcement and fee collection, the Mayor's Office has partnered with

the Iberville Parish Council Utility Department, which oversees St. Gabriel's potable water supply. This collaboration will ensure the proper collection of sewage service charges and compliance with connection requirements to the city's sewer system.

According to Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr., the implementation of these changes is forthcoming. "On the new commercial sewer fees and the disconnection process, we want to conduct a strong public campaign to ensure all wastewater users are aware of any changes that will affect them directly. The new commercial fees are set to take

effect on April 1, with the disconnection process slated for May 1," the Mayor stated.

## Blighted Properties:

In parallel with addressing wastewater concerns, the city continues its efforts to tackle blighted properties. These measures include enforcing zoning and land-use regulations to ensure the community's health, safety, and overall well-being.



By addressing issues such as abandoned or neglected buildings, the City is working to enhance its appearance, safety, and economic potential. "In the past we were sporadic with such enforcements," said Mayor Johnson. This new approach is more coordinated and impactful as now we are concentrating on specific areas of the City, one community at a time."

These coordinated efforts reflect the Mayor's Office and City Council's dedication to creating a cleaner, safer, and more prosperous environment for all residents.

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT:

Be on the lookout for more information concerning wastewater collection, blighted properties, retail development, redistricting and capital outlay projects in the next City newsletter and at Monday with the Mayor.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Monday with the Mayor

Monday, April 14  
Community Center

## Purple Heart City Ceremony

Wednesday, April 23, 10 am  
Community Center

## COSG Community

**Good Friday Fellowship**  
Friday, April 18  
Iberville Christian Center

## Annual Easter

**Extravaganza**  
Saturday, April 19  
Community Center

## Memorial Day

Monday, May 26  
City Office Closed

## Friday Nights Live

Month of June



# Helping students attain higher ACT scores

The Iberville Parish School Board is diligently working to improve student performance on the ACT test, and has implemented a comprehensive approach that focuses on high-quality instruction, targeted resources, and actively monitoring progress to improve scores.

This multi-pronged approach is designed to ensure that students are prepared for the test, and are equipped with the skills needed to be successful in their academic and professional future.

Mastery Prep boot camps were held for all students on February 22nd and March 8th. These voluntary Saturday sessions provided intensive preparation for the ACT.

ACT WorkKeys boot camps were held on March 7th and March 17th for all students. These boot camps help students develop specific skills to improve their WorkKeys scores, an essential aspect of career readiness.



Finally, counselors and graduation coaches have been holding individual goal-setting meetings with students to discuss

their progress, set actionable targets, and help students stay motivated.

All schools have implemented student incentive and recognition programs to celebrate student achievements and encourage a positive learning environment.

The district has also invested in additional instructional resources, such as Edmentum and the ACT WorkKeys Curriculum, which offer students practice and support tailored to the ACT format. And, various teachers have been certified in ACT AIM training, which provides strategies that can be integrated into daily classroom instruction.

"We have placed a heavy emphasis on optimizing instructional time, along with implementing Response to Intervention (RTI) for 25 minutes a day, at all secondary schools to provide additional support to students who may be struggling and to further push those that are excelling," noted Robert Primus, Supervisor of Secondary Education and Academy Programs. "This focused, multi-pronged approach helps our students be successful."

The ACT test is given to high school juniors and seniors to access their readiness for college, and is necessary if a student plans to attend college. A high score on the ACT test can significantly boost a student's college application, potentially leading to merit-based scholarships and better course placement.



Some of the cadets in the Plaquemine High Marine Corps Jr. ROTC program are shown in the photos above.

## JR ROTC program provides leadership, character building

Plaquemine High School offers many career paths for students, and its Marine Corps Jr. ROTC program is one of the most unique. While students in the class are not required to go into the military, the program focuses on equipping students with leadership skills, character development, a strong sense of patriotism and citizenship, and an understanding of national security.

In addition, it aims to prepare them for responsible roles in society by instilling values like self-discipline, respect for authority, and community service.

"We value honor, courage and commitment," said Sgt. Burnell Thompson, who leads the PHS program. "If students should decide on a path in any branch of military service, we also lay the groundwork for it if they so choose."

The 64 cadets in the program this year include grades 9-12. Students in each grade level spend one hour a day in ROTC training and study. In addition, they participate in JROTC competitions, such as shooting, armed exhibition drill, color guard, and physical fitness competitions etc.

They also perform community service activities. They recently marched in the Krewe of Comogo Parade. They also placed over 700 miniature U.S. flags on/near veteran's graves at four grave sites in the Plaquemine area for Veteran's Day remembrance. And, with the assistance of Parish President Chris Daigle and Sheriff Brett Stassi, the JROTC officially adopted a one-mile stretch of Enterprise Boulevard to pick up litter once a month as part of the "Adopt-A-Road" program. The section of road that has been "adopted" by the JROTC is marked by road signs made by the Parish.

1st Sgt. Christine Ramos, USMC Retired, is regional director over the JROTC program, and will be conducting a formal evaluation of the program next year.



END OF YEAR SCHOOL SCHEDULE	
Easter Break	April 18-25
May 15 & 16	Half days for students
May 15	Graduation: MSA East, MSA West & Virtual Learning Academy
May 16	Graduation: East Iberville, North Iberville, PHS & WCHS
May 22	Students last day (half day)
May 23	Report cards issued

## VILLAGE OF GROSSE TETE

### Funding obtained for Hwy. 77 by-pass, construction to begin later this year

Construction will begin on the long-awaited mile long La. Hwy. 77 by-pass by the end of summer. The almost one mile road will extend from Hwy. 77 on the west side of the Union Pacific railroad track to Cedar Street.

The two-lane highway is presently a gravel road. The \$1.6 million project, funded by state capital outlay and appropriation funds, will not only move heavy traffic off of Grosse Tete's residential area, but also provide another evacuation route in case of emergencies or the train blocking Hwy. 77.

The village obtained the state funding through the efforts of Senator Caleb Kleinpeter and State Rep. Jeremy LaCombe.

The property was purchased by the village for the road years ago from P.W. Holliday and Sons, Ltd. Now that the village has obtained the state funding, Mayor Mike Chauffe said the project must go through the La. Facility Planning review process. He is hoping to put it out for bid by June and start construction in late summer.

Prior to construction, the village will be clearing trees and vegetation for the project. "We thank Senator Kleinpeter and Rep. LaCombe for their hard work in obtaining this funding," said Mayor Chauffe. "This has been a priority project for us and for our residents for a long time."



*A portion of the gravel road that will become Hwy. 77 by-pass. Shown at back is a pile of trees and vegetation that has been removed to make way for the 2-lane highway.*



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

For information contact Jeanne David - 225-241-8319

## VILLAGE OF ROSEDALE

### Angelloz Subdivision water line upgrade completed

The Village of Rosedale has completed a \$167,500 project to change out water lines in Angelloz Subdivision.

The village received two La. Community Water Enrichment Funds grants totalling \$50,000 for the project.

The work included replacement of old, smaller water lines with a new 6-inch water main on the north side of Perry Lane and on the south side of Arthur Road, along with a 6 inch diameter loop at the rear of Angelloz Subdivision, which includes fire hydrants on all three Angelloz Subdivision roads.

The construction was performed by Jngii Construction, LLC, and engineer for the project was Thomas Olinde.

"This project will not only increase water pressure in that area, but will also provide the subdivision with fire hydrants to help fight fires and also help the village's fire rating," said Mayor Dana Alexander.



*Shown are photos of the water line upgrade project when it was underway.*



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

Go to [rosedalela.com](http://rosedalela.com).  
At the bottom of home page,  
click on pay utility bill.

## Police Station renovation to be completed in March

The \$1 million project to waterproof and make upgrades to the Plaquemine Police Station is expected to be completed by the end of March.

The project began when water issues were discovered at City Hall, and the Police Station in the Spring of 2023. All departments were re-located from both buildings, and departments moved back into City Hall in November, 2024.

The Police Station project began shortly after the City Hall work began and includes waterproofing the building, roof repair/replacement, exterior painting, new flooring, interior painting, LED lighting, new ceilings, and renovation of restrooms. Police Chief Stephen Engolio said the department will move back into the building in early April, and a ribbon cutting will be planned at a later date.



Police Station repainting underway.

## Mayor Barker lists top priorities for next four years



Plaquemine Mayor JB Barker, who began his first term in office in January, has set four priorities for his administration in the coming months and years. They are:

**1) Work to reduce sewer costs.** He says automated meter systems will help, and he is researching options to reduce sewer rates. "Our electrical rates are very competitive, and have been for some time (see chart at right), but people do not realize that because they get all four utilities (electric, water, sewer, and gas) on one bill," he said. "Everything is on the table as we study ideas to help our residents."

**2) Home ownership revitalization** by working with organizations and agencies to renovate blighted properties and provide loans to those wanting to own local homes. This, he says, not only raises property values for surrounding property owners, but also provides residents who are vested in the city and its future success.

**3) Reinvigorate the under-used downtown historic district area**, including the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site and Tony Gulotta Waterfront Park area. This includes having more events, such as Sundays at the Lock with food trucks and ice cream vendors; along with a big music festival, Lock Fest starting in 2026.

4) Hand-in-hand with #3 above, Barker wants to **establish the downtown Railroad Avenue area as an arts and entertainment district** in which small businesses would cater to both a local and out-of-town clientele. He went to Washington in mid-March to seek funding for this initiative and other needed city projects.

## Construction of Depot Marketplace to begin in April



Construction of the new Depot Marketplace pavilion at the depot will begin in April. The \$1.7 million project is being funded by \$1.5 million in capital outlay funds obtained for the city by State Rep. Chad Brown and Senator Caleb Kleinpeter during the 2024 legislative session. The city will fund the other approximately \$200,000 for the project. The large covered pavilion and restroom addition will be used for farmers markets, crafts markets and other activities. Since the area is next to busy La. Hwy. 1, a reinforced brick wall will be built along the property line to prevent any vehicles from going onto the marketplace grounds, which will be landscaped to provide a safe play area for children.

## City enjoys snow days with no service interruptions, quick road recovery

City residents enjoyed four days of record snows and freezing temperatures in early January, and unlike other areas in the region, the city did not have any issues with its utility services. "We had no disruptions of water pressure despite residents dripping water for days in the freezing temperatures," said Mayor Barker. "We also had no issue with electrical power or loss of services. This is totally thanks to our outstanding utility crews. They worked around the clock to monitor these services, and make adjustments as needed."

The City also had its Public Works crews working as needed to sand streets and provide other services.

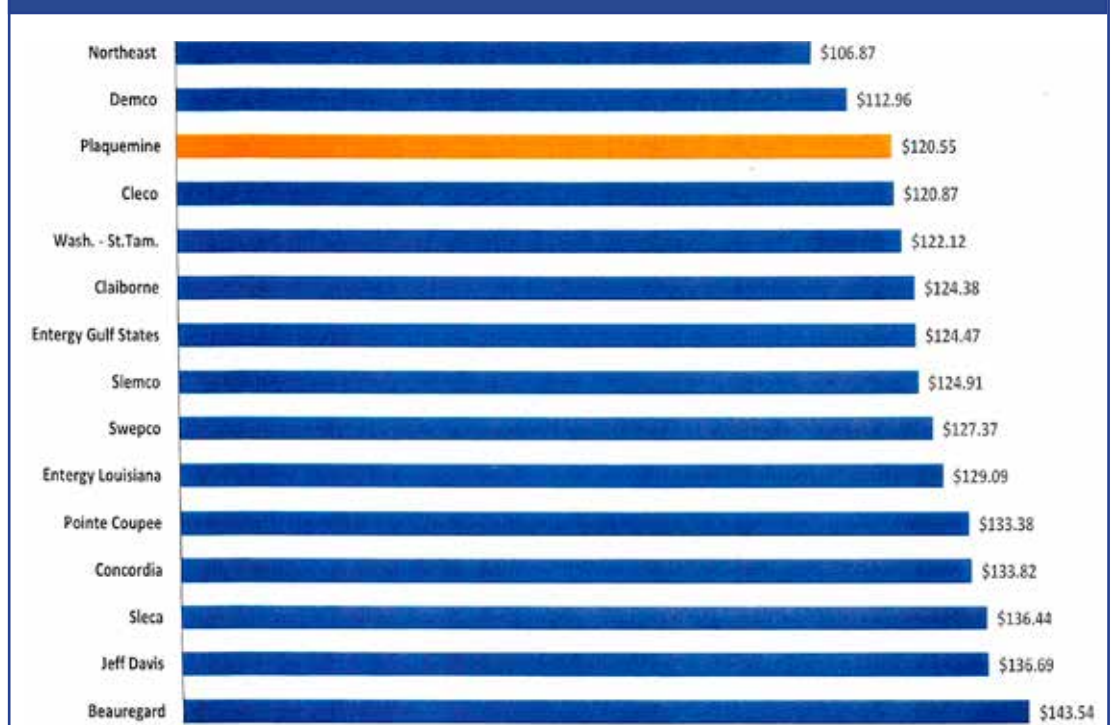
"It was a joy to watch our families play in the snow and enjoy the historic snowfall, and I was able to do that because our crews worked hard to take care of residents. My thanks to them for a job well done."



Snowfall at the Tony Gulotta Bayou Waterfront Park.

## Electric Retail Cost Comparison - 2024

Source: La. Energy & Power Authority (LEPA)



# Did you know...

Your library card offers access to some of the best digital services for eBooks, eAudiobooks, & eMagazines. Download an app to enjoy on-demand content instantly with your Iberville Parish Library card.



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## TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY

To better serve our patrons, Iberville Parish Library is developing a master building and services plan. The survey takes 3-5 minutes and gives parish residents the opportunity to let us know what services they value the most or want to see next.

## First responders now get additional property tax exemption



Iberville's first responders will have the benefit of an additional property tax exemption starting in 2025, thanks to voters and the Iberville Parish Council, said Deputy Assessor Clint Seneca.

Louisiana voters, in November of 2023, approved an amendment for parish governing bodies to allow another \$2,500 exemption for first responders on top of the \$7,500 homestead exemption that all residential property owners already receive. Both exemptions are on the assessed valuation of property that is owned and occupied by a qualifying first responder.

Each parish governing body has to vote to approve the additional exemption. The Iberville Parish Council approved this exemption for Iberville first responders at its September meeting.

"We fully endorsed this exemption with the Parish Council," said Seneca. "Both Assessor Randy Sexton and I recognize that our first responders often put their lives on the line in helping our residents, and provide life-saving services in their daily work. We owe them our gratitude, and this extra exemption is one way we can thank them for all that they do for our community."

An annual application and documentation is required to claim the exemption. To qualify for the exemption, first responders have to reside in the same parish their employer is located in.

The exemption is open to firefighters (both paid and volunteer), police officers and deputies, peace officers, and emergency medical responders and dispatchers.

First responders must be full-time public employees. Volunteer firefighters must complete more than 24 hours of firefighter continuing



education and be a member of the La. State Firemen's Association or on the roster of the Volunteer Firefighter Insurance Program.

For more information on this exemption, call the Iberville Parish 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





## Educators to get new tools for kids in trouble at schools

District Attorney Tony Clayton is continuing a multi-pronged approach to helping young people before they get into serious trouble by committing crimes.

His most recent effort is offering free on-line courses for students who are being put in detention, are causing disruptions in class, or have been truant. The courses are being developed now and will be offered to all Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee schools for next school year in August.

They will include courses on conflict resolution, effective decision making, anti-bullying and hazing, vaping/drugs, and financial responsibility. The DA's Office is working with Justice Learning Systems (JLS) to develop the courses.

The DA's Office hosted a luncheon with the education leaders of all three school districts and private schools in January to explain the program and get their feedback.

"We have made all of our juvenile-focused courses, such as anti-bullying, vaping and truancy education, available to the DA's office to offer to schools, but we are also working on constructing a new course that will be specifically for the schools in the 18th JDC," said David Burton of JLS. "This course will have elements of conflict resolution and effective decision making, but will also feature more regional materials such as videos of local mentors talking directly to the students."

"Any resources that help students with decision-making and conflict resolution are important, so I commend DA Clayton on this effort," said

**" Giving our educators tools that will help our youth before they get into trouble with the criminal justice system is a pro-active approach to reducing youth crime and violence."**

**DA Tony Clayton**



*District Attorney Tony Clayton*

Brandie Blanchard, Supervisor for Child Welfare and Attendance for Iberville Parish Schools. "We can incorporate these courses into Saturday detention learning, and we will also have other uses for them in our schools."

Funding for this program was made possible by the DA's Office sales tax that voters approved last year. He promised before the tax election to use a portion of the proceeds on programs to reduce youth crime. He has already provided \$50,000 to Families in Need of Services (FINS), \$25,000 to the 18th Judicial District Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program, and \$25,000 to the Child Advocacy Center.

"We will continue working to help our youths and direct them to positive lives and futures. It helps them and our communities!" said DA Clayton.

## FRIENDS OF THE PLAQUEMINE LOCK HISTORIC SITE

### Lock restoration project completion nears, grand re-opening set

Phase I of the Plaquemine Lock restoration project is almost complete and Phase 2 improvements to the boathouse and the restroom building are well underway. The grand re-opening is set for Friday, June 13 at 10 am. The public is invited to attend!

Phase I included numerous repairs and upgrades to the Lockhouse, including water-proofing the building, repairing exterior tile, adding an ADA restroom and ramp, upgrading the electrical, lighting and air conditioning systems, new flooring and painting.

Installation of the new visitor experience in the Lockhouse is underway now. It features numerous interactive elements and animation to engage and wow visitors!

Phase II includes upgrades to the boathouse, site drainage improvements and new exhibits to show off the 13 historic boats in the boathouse. The Friends of the Plaquemine Lock organization is directing the \$1.1 million dollar project.



*A portion of the new Lockhouse welcome room.*



*At left, operational boat wheel from a 1920s steamboat. Above, portion of the 1940s diving suit used by divers to go to the bottom of the lock. Both are parts of the new exhibit.*

**Save the date**

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Friends of THE LOCK  
Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site

JOIN US FOR THE  
**GRAND RE-OPENING**  
OF THE  
**PLAQUEMINE LOCK STATE HISTORIC SITE**

Friday, June 13, 10 am  
57730 Main Street, Plaquemine, LA



Scan for FOL website

**CONTACT US:**  
Ellie Hebert, Lock Restoration Committee chair, 225-892-3216  
FriendsOfTheLock.org.



## TOWN OF MARINGOUIN

### Mardi Gras Parade rolls with big crowd, fun and festivities

The Town of Maringouin hosted a very successful Mardi Gras Parade on March 1. "The weather was great, everyone had a good time and we had no issues," said Mayor Maurice Harris. He credited advance planning and coordination between agencies for the fun day for Maringouin residents.



Town of Maringouin  
Town Hall: 225.625.2630  
[www.townofmaringouin.net](http://www.townofmaringouin.net)

## TOWN OF WHITE CASTLE

### Town gets \$4.1 million grant for training, multi-purpose center

Mayor John Morris has announced that the Town of White Castle has been awarded a \$4.136 million grant for construction of a new training and multi-purpose center. He expects construction to begin before the end of 2025, and the new facility will be completed by the end of 2026.

"We will be offering technical and technology training at the facility, including HVAC, mechanic, electrical, technology and other training," he said. "In addition, it will also be used for tutoring and for tele-health counseling."

"The town thanks Senator Ed Price, State Rep. Ken Brass and State Rep. Chad Brown for their hard work in obtaining this funding," said Mayor Morris. "It has been a two-year journey to get this federal funding."

"We are very excited about the opportunities this facility will provide for our residents," Morris said. "This training will provide high-paying jobs and career advancement possibilities for our residents." Watch for more on this in the coming months.



## COMING EVENTS

### Senior Citizen Game Night

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

Watch for more information on these events:  
[facebook.com/MayorJohnMorrisIII](https://facebook.com/MayorJohnMorrisIII)

### Town plans Juneteenth Celebration

Save the date for the Town of White Castle Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 21, from 11 am - 6 pm at the White Castle Community Center.

The event will include a Pop Up Shop. If you are interested in being a vendor for this event, you must call White Castle Town Hall at 225-545-3012 by June 13.

## Need a passport? The Iberville Clerk's Office can help!

Many residents have obtained passports with the help of the Iberville Clerk of Court's Office, and more come in weekly for the service, said Clerk of Court Amy Patin.

In fact, she said her office processes 60 to 70 passport applications monthly, and because of that volume, she has six deputy clerks trained and certified to handle passport applications.

"We are in the height of our busy season with passports now because families are planning summer trips and high school seniors are planning their senior trips," said Patin.

"We are happy to provide this service to the public," Patin said. "We cannot issue passports directly, but serve as an acceptance facility. We assist residents with the application and ensure all necessary documents are attached and assembled correctly. We also now take passport photos for only \$10 as another service to ensure the photo is accepted with the application."

Patin said it is a good idea even for those taking cruises where passports are not required, to have a passport. "If someone is on a cruise and has to fly home immediately, they can't leave the country they are in without a passport," she said. "A passport is a great form of identification due to the process it takes to receive one."

The Iberville Clerk of Court's Office is certified to accept passport applications and sends them to a federal processing center in Texas for completion. This certification requires Patin and her staff to undergo training and testing annually, and the office to undergo a difficult inspection by the Department of State every other year.

Clerk Patin also noted that her office can assist residents in obtaining certified birth certificates, which are required with passport applications. Information on this is available on the website, [IbervilleClerk.com](http://IbervilleClerk.com).

"We have a separate department with four deputy clerks who handle birth certificate applications," Patin said. "We get about a hundred requests for those monthly as birth certificates are needed for many things - school, sports, passports, etc. We work hard to provide these services to help our residents."



## What you need to know and bring to file a passport application

### PASSPORTS FOR THOSE 16 YEARS OF AGE & OLDER

- The Iberville Clerk of Court's Office provides the passport application in person as well as a link to it on-line ([IbervilleClerk.com](http://IbervilleClerk.com)) that is fillable. Complete all sections which do not require a signature. The remainder must be filled out and signed in the presence of a deputy clerk.
- Bring a certified copy of your birth certificate and your driver's license or a state-issued ID, along with the completed application.
- Bring a 2" X 2" passport photo, or it can be taken at the Clerk's Office for a fee of \$10.
- For ages 16 or 17, the child and a parent must be able to sign in person.
- For ages 18 and older, only the applicant has to sign in person. If you are 18 or older you may use an old or expired passport as proof of your citizenship. (Check expiration time requirements)
- Passports for ages 16 and over are good for 10 years.

**FEES:** Cost of \$130.00 (adult) and \$100.00 (15 and under) to be paid by check or money order, payable to The Department of State for a passport book, or \$30.00 (adult) and \$15.00 (15 and under) for a passport card.

You can choose to expedite your passport for an additional fee of \$60 per application.

Additionally, there is a cost of \$35.00 cash or credit card only paid to the Clerk of Court for processing paperwork.

### PASSPORTS FOR THOSE AGES 15 & YOUNGER

- The Iberville Clerk of Court's Office provides the passport application on-line ([IbervilleClerk.com](http://IbervilleClerk.com)) that is fillable. Applications are also provided in person. Complete all sections which do not require signature. The remainder must be filled out and signed in the presence of a deputy clerk.
- Bring a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. Both parents must also have a state issued ID when signing for a minor child, along with the completed application.
- Bring a 2" X 2" passport photo, or it can be taken at the Clerk's Office for a fee of \$10.
- If the applicant is age 15 or younger, both parents must sign the application in person. If both parents are not available, an affidavit is offered to be signed and notarized by the absent parent.
- Passport good for 5 years and cannot be renewed.

**FEES:** Cost of \$100 to be paid by check or money order, made payable to The Department of State, AND cash or credit card only paid to the Clerk of Court for processing paperwork in the amount of \$35.

**PROCESSING:** Once submitted, passport processing normally takes 4 to 6 weeks. Expedited services are also available for additional fees. All documents sent to the Department of State will be returned to you. Emergency passports can only be obtained by going to the Department of State office in New Orleans, and an advance appointment is required.

### PASSPORT RENEWALS

The Clerk's office also offers a link on its website on how to renew a passport.

## Iberville Clerk of Court

PHONE: 225-687-5160

ADDRESS: Iberville Parish Courthouse  
58050 Meriam St., 1st Floor, Plaquemine

WEBSITE: [IbervilleClerk.com](http://IbervilleClerk.com)



## Sheriff reaches out to Iberville ministers to help fight crime



Iberville Sheriff Brett Stassi hosted a dinner with the ministers and pastors involved in the Iberville Ministers' Conference in February to urge their support in fighting crime, particularly youth crime.

"We need everyone to help us maintain a safe community - parents, schools, ministers, and others," said Sheriff Stassi. "Law enforcement cannot do it alone. If we can reach wayward youths before they get into serious trouble, then we have done them a service and our community a service. We need open communication between our agency and our ministers, and I think this meeting contributed to that. I thank the ministers and pastors for attending."



## 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.



### HELPING OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES...

Sheriff Brett Stassi and the Sheriff's Office have donated used patrol units and equipment to other law enforcement agencies for years, as the office has upgraded its vehicles and equipment. The Plaquemine Police Department, White Castle Police Department, City Marshall's Office and other agencies have all benefited from these donations. Recently two Dodge Durango patrol units were donated to the Southern University Police Department with the assistance of District Attorney Tony Clayton. In the photo above, Sheriff's Office and Southern officials gather for the donation of the vehicles.



### 39 YEARS OF SERVICE....

Sheriff Brett Stassi and the Sheriff's Office staff congratulate Maria Small on her retirement after 39 years of service with the Sheriff's Office! She is shown with Sheriff Stassi at left, during her retirement party in February.

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMMAND STAFF



Shown are, from left, Chief Jackson, Sheriff Stassi, and Chief Hebert. At back are Captain Stassi, Captain Zettlemoyer, Warden Edwards, Major Snelson, Major Migliacio, Captain Ventress, Captain Anderson, Captain Graves, and Captain Danielfield.