



IMAGINE

Iberville

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

A PUBLICATION FOR IBERVILLE RESIDENTS BY YOUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS



Parish's swift response to Hurricane Francine

Hurricane Francine developed in the Gulf quickly, but Iberville Parish government's response in preparing for and responding to the hurricane has drawn praise from residents and municipal officials. The parish Office of Emergency Preparedness held pre-storm briefings with all local officials; worked with agencies such as the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office in making

and distributing sandbags across the parish; and pre-staged machinery and equipment in various areas of the parish to quickly remove downed tree limbs from roads. It also communicated with Entergy and Pointe Coupee Electric on power outages to help get power restored as quickly as possible; and kept residents updated via the Iberville Parish facebook page.

Parish plans Waterway Cleanup on October 5

You've asked, and the parish listened! The Iberville Waterway Cleanup Day has been set for Saturday, October 5th, and residents are asked to help.

Those with access to boats are asked to participate in this clean-up event. This event can also be used for any community service hour needs! The parish will provide cleanup supplies, including garbage bags and trash pickers, at the Public Works Office at 59705 Bayou Rd. on Friday, October 4th, from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. After your cleanup, drop off any full trash bags at the following boat landings:

- Bayou Plaquemine
- Choctaw
- Bayou Pigeon
- Bayou Sorrel (Grand River)
- Jack Miller's
- Bayou Grosse Tete
- Bayou Sorrel
- Muddy Bayou Boat Landing

For additional information, call Sanitation Director Brandon Mellieon at 225-692-3844.

Thank you for helping keep our waterways clean and beautiful!

KEEP IBERVILLE Beautiful
WE ARE IBERVILLE PROUD!

SAVE THE DATE
WATERWAYS CLEAN UP DAY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

PICK UP GARBAGE BAGS AND TRASH PICKERS AT OUR PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE (59705 BAYOU RD.) ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, FROM 7:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

LEAVE TRASH BAGS AT THESE IBERVILLE BOAT RAMPS:

- BAYOU PLAQUEMINE BOAT LANDINGS
- JACK MILLER'S BOAT LANDING
- CHOCTAW BAYOU BOAT LANDING
- BAYOU GROSSE TETE BOAT LANDING
- BAYOU PIGEON BOAT LANDING
- BAYOU SORREL BOAT LANDING
- BAYOU SORREL BOAT LANDING (GRAND RIVER)
- MUDDY BAYOU BOAT LANDING

HAVE QUESTIONS?
CONTACT OUR SANITATION DIRECTOR, BRANDON MELLIEON, AT 225-692-3844.

COMING EVENTS

- Oct. 3 Boogie on Bayou & Pumpkin Palooza - Page 7
- Oct. 5 Parish Waterway Cleanup - Page 1
- Oct. 15-26 Acadian Art Show - Page 8
- Oct. 25-27 Acadian Festival - Page 9
- Oct. 26-27 Maringouin Fall Festival - Page 10
- Nov. 5 Election Day
- Nov. 10 Grosse Tete Veterans Day Ceremony - Page 6
- Nov. 11 Iberville Salute to Veterans - Page 3

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



The three P's of the District Attorney's Office

The DA's number one responsibility is keeping our communities safe. "We do that in three basic ways that we call the three P's," said District Attorney Tony Clayton. "They are: Prosecute criminals who break the law, work to Prevent crimes from happening in the first place, and Protect and support the victims of crime and make sure their voices are heard."

PROSECUTE: Prosecution is a big part of the DA's job, with the power to hold criminals accountable under carefully defined laws and ethical responsibilities. "When someone is arrested, we carefully review the facts and the evidence. We can only file the criminal charges we believe we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt," DA Clayton said. "Our job includes protecting the rights of the innocent, as well as those we charge with a crime."

Then, the case moves to the justice system, which provides checks and balances – and accountability. Public defenders, criminal defense attorneys and judges all play a role in how each case will resolve. Prosecutors alone don't determine a person's punishment if they're convicted. That's up to a judge and jury once the DA's Office has proved its case.

PREVENT: As prosecutors, DAs also have the ability to give people second chances. That's why DA Clayton works with special courts that steer people away from jail, still holding them accountable, but getting them the help they need to break the cycle and stay out of jail. This help includes mental health treatment or kicking a drug or alcohol addiction. That's one way DAs prevent crime, but there are lots of others. "We work with youth to help them make good choices and stay in school," Clayton said. "We support programs that help people who are coming out of prison to find jobs."

PROTECT: The third part of the DA's job is protecting and supporting victims of crime. In a typical year, the DA's office comes into contact with thousands of victims, and the DA's Office helps them in lots of ways. "We get them emotional support, and we help them even when we can't file charges against the person who hurt them," DA Clayton said. "We sometimes even use therapy dogs to help them testify in court. We do all of this on behalf of you, the people. After all, we here to keep our communities safe, and we are accountable to you."



IPRD - IBERVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

Tackle football kicks off with new equipment, uniforms for 200 kids

IPRD kicked off football season in style with the First Annual IPRD Jamboree at Belleview Park on September 4. The Plaquemine Renegades, North Iberville Bears, East Iberville Cubs, and White Castle Bullpups teams competed, and all of the teams are now competing in a variety of leagues in the area.

IPRD provided \$75,000 in football equipment for these teams, including helmets, pads, uniforms, and a variety of other equipment for the over 200 kids on the teams, along with paying league fees for participation.

Flag football begins in October and more than 100 kids, age 5-12, will be playing in those leagues at Belleview Park



Iberville tackle football team action during the Parish Jamboree.



White Castle vs. Iberville team action during the Parish Jamboree.

Registration for fall leagues underway

Registration ends October 18 for the fall soccer leagues. Play is open to kids age 5-12, with play in November and December.

IPRD will also begin registration for Biddy Ball basketball in October. The basketball leagues are also open to boys and girls age 5-12.

For more information on the leagues and registration call IPRD at 225-687-0641 or go to PlayIberville.com.

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER CO-ED SOFTBALL Eight teams enjoyed the summer co-ed softball league, which ended in July. The success of the league will result in another league next year.

BELLEVIEW PARK RENTALS... Traction has scheduled 10 tournaments at Belleview Park in the Spring. The rentals bring revenue for IPRD, visitors to Plaquemine, and business to local stores and restaurants.



Parish voters to decide on term limits in Nov. 5 election

Voters will decide in the November 5 election on a proposal to impose term limits on the executive and legislative branch of the Iberville Parish Government.

A 9-3 vote by the Iberville Parish Council set the wheels in motion to bring the proposition before voters on Nov. 5, which coincides with the Presidential election and some local municipal elections.

Iberville Parish President Chris Daigle expressed his support for term limits, which was part of his campaign platform, during a Parish Council meeting in May.

As part of the proposed ordinance, both the parish president and any council member shall serve no more than 3 consecutive terms in office - a total of 12 years. Term limits would take effect with the terms that begin in 2028.

Current officeholders would be able to finish their current term and would be able to serve three more.



Grosse Tete Bridge back in operation to temporary vehicle traffic

President Daigle announced exciting news at the Grosse Tete Bridge Community Meeting in September. Final testing on the Grosse Tete Bridge is complete, and re-opened for temporary vehicle traffic on September 24th. It is open 7 days a week from 5 am - 10 am and 1 pm - 10 pm. It will close from 10 am - 1 pm and 10 pm - 5 am for barge traffic. The parish requested a 4 AM opening, but the Coast Guard needs this window for barge travel. DOTD expects the final parts for bridge repairs to arrive in November, with 24/7 operations resuming possibly in December.

Rifle range open with new hours

The Iberville Rifle Range has re-opened after being closed for construction behind the shooting berm. The new operating hours through November are Tuesday through Saturday (weather permitting) 10 am until 6 pm. The hours from December through March are 9 am until 5 pm. The last shooters must begin at least one hour before closing time. For more info, call the Firing Range at 225-687-5153 or visit ibervilleparish.com.



Iberville Rifle Range

Swamp Life rescheduled to April 5 due to Visitor Center renovation

Renovations are presently underway at the Iberville Parish Visitors Center in Grosse Tete, forcing the rescheduling of the popular Swamp Life Expo to April 5, 2025.

For the safety of parish staff and guests, half of the Visitors Center is inaccessible during construction and parking is limited. All guest services and restroom facilities are fully operational and should experience minimal interruption. The Iberville Visitors Center renovation is expected to be complete in December of 2024.

Since March of 2010, the Iberville Parish Visitors Center has welcomed over 300,000 visitors. During the last 15 years, the Tourism Department has adapted its operations to accommodate the needs of its guests, implementing digital travel services through online mapping and an enhanced online inventory of parish resources via its website: visitiberville.com.

In order to maintain this stellar facility and the services guests have come to expect in Iberville, the Center's interior space needed some renovations. The renovations include addressing safety concerns, and redesign of the space to accommodate digital resources and small group meetings. The project is funded by tourism ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

★ IBERVILLE SALUTE TO ★

VETERANS



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024
VETERANS MEMORIAL - 23640 RAILROAD AVE. PLAQUEMINE, LA
IF INCLEMENT WEATHER, EVENT WILL MOVE TO CARL F. GRANT CIVIC CENTER.

PRE-CEREMONY ENTERTAINMENT AT 9:30 AM
CEREMONY WILL BE 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

★ US Navy Retired Veteran Angela Gomon, Commander of the Louisiana American Legion, as our Honored Speaker

★ 2,000+ Veterans honored on the Iberville Wall of Veterans ★ Performance by National Champion JROTC Close Order Drill Team from Walker High

★ Collection of Supplies for Troops ★ Military Color Guard Units

★ Patriotic Music Entertainment by the Victory Belles, Baton Rouge Pipes & Drums, Simms Sons, and MSA Orchestra

SPONSORED BY: PARISH PRESIDENT CHRIS DAIGLE AND THE IBERVILLE PARISH COUNCIL
Iberville Parish Council Members: Shalanda Allen, Chasity Easley, Thomas Dominique, Freddie Frazier, Steve Smith, Raheem Pierce, Nadia Jenkins, Hunter Markins, Terry Bradford, Chasity Martinez, Charles Dardenne, Matthew Jewell, Bart Morgan

ADD A PHOTO TO THE IBERVILLE WALL OF VETERANS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE - MONDAY, OCTOBER 7
HOW TO SUBMIT A PHOTO:
Online at ibervilleparish.com (Link on Home Page)

Bring Photo & Have it Scanned at:

1. Iberville Library in Plaquemine, St. Gabriel, and White Castle
2. Iberville Council on Aging Centers
3. Iberville Visitor's Center in Grosse Tete



St. Gabriel acts to help community in hurricane

Hurricane Francine brought heavy winds and rain after making landfall as a Category 2 hurricane on the Louisiana coast. Rainfall from the storm caused flooding across southern Louisiana and left thousands without power.

Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr. is thankful that Francine had a minimal impact on the City of St. Gabriel and the east bank of Iberville Parish. “We were blessed with only about three inches of rainfall between Carville and Bayou Manchac, eliminating severe flooding concerns. I am thankful to the Parish for continually monitoring the gates at Alligator Bayou and Manchac, and ensuring we have enough capacity to store storm water in the Spanish Lake Basin,” said Johnson.

Preliminary data showed no more than 3.5 inches of rainfall in the Baton Rouge regions from 3 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11 to 3 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 12.

CITY PREPARATION FOR HURRICANE...

The City took several steps in preparation of the storm including declaring a state of emergency for the City, staging sandbags throughout the City, delivering sandbags to the elderly, cleaning ditches and storm drains to ensure maximum stormwater flow during the storm, and establishing a curfew during the storm.

“One of the things I’m most happy about is the decision to provide a last resort shelter for residents during the storm. The decision was made with residents living in mobile homes, specifically, that they would have a safe environment to ride the



City of St. Gabriel staff gather for post hurricane assessment.

storm out. Even though it is not an approved Red Cross shelter [East Iberville Gym, and we need to work with the school board to get a generator at East Iberville], we staged this last resort shelter at the St. Gabriel Community

Center,” said Mayor Johnson.

DURING THE STORM...

During the storm, City maintenance employees along with the St. Gabriel Police Department, worked to keep highways open from debris and downed trees. The Police Department responded to 36 calls and alarms, and performed one rescue.

POST-STORM CLEAN UP...

A week after the storm, the City was still in a post-storm posture, including assessment of facilities and collection of storm debris. “We are so thankful for our community partners,” said Mayor Johnson. “I want to recognize Nutrien for donation of supplies to the Last Resort Shelter and Anchor Chapel for feeding city employees and first responders. Additionally, our local agencies, Iberville Parish, the East Iberville Fire Department, and the Iberville Parish Sheriff’s Office are always excellent partners. Times like these bring out the best in our people. Neighbors help neighbors and the exhibition of the resiliency of our residents shines bright,” noted Mayor Johnson.

City donates critical firefighting equipment to East Iberville Fire Dept.

In a meaningful boost to local fire and rescue services, the City of St. Gabriel has donated a range of essential equipment to the East Iberville Fire Department. This donation of new fire fighting gear and specifically advanced rescue tools is aimed at enhancing the department’s operational efficiency and safety.

The donated equipment includes:

Hurst E3 Cutter: the cutter tackles anything in its path. Its new smart dashboard displays live visual tool feedback, providing more control over rescues, and it even operates underwater.

Hurst E3 Spreader: this powerful spreader makes huge gaps with just one move and is perfect for dire situations when speed is of the essence.

Hurst E3 Connect Ram: creates large openings almost anywhere, whether in water or on land. It is designed to create additional space in situations where push points are more distant (such as heavy vehicles and machinery, buses, large SUVs, etc.).

Fire Chief William Massey expressed his gratitude, stating, “This donation significantly enhances our capabilities. The new gear will not only improve our response times, but also ensure the safety of our firefighters.”

Mayor Lionel Johnson, during the check presentation, emphasized the importance of equipping first responders with the best tools available. “Our

firefighters put their lives on the line every day to protect our community. It’s our duty to ensure they have the necessary equipment to perform their duties safely and effectively. Additionally, I remain grateful to this fire department for firefighters tireless service in February 2024 when they worked 12+ hours to preserve the construction of the new city municipal complex,” Johnson said.



The donation was made possible through a budget approval of the City Council in June. The East Iberville Fire Department plans to integrate the new equipment into its operations immediately, ensuring they are better prepared for any emergencies that may arise.



Jumpstart Summer provides learning, credit, pay for 65 high school students

The Iberville Parish School Board Summer Institute provided the opportunity for 65 students in grades 9-11 from across the district to advance their skills and benefit from "earning while learning." Each student was paid \$50 per day for attending the Jumpstart Summer and the Industry Institute programs.

Students attending the Jumpstart Summer program could also earn a Carnegie credit and certification in Adobe or welding if they participated in those programs. Industry-based students got the opportunity to receive or advance an industry credential.

During the month of June, 15 students participated in welding and 12 students participated in the Adobe program.

Welding students sharpened their skills at Plaquemine High School, while Adobe students attended White Castle High to learn the Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign programs. Those who successfully completed the Adobe coursework also earned a high school credit in Graphic Design I.

On the industry side, 38 students attended either the Westside Industry Institute or the Koura Institute over the course of three weeks. The Westside students visited 17 industry partners; meanwhile the Koura program in St. Gabriel had the most growth, with 22 East Iberville and MSA-East students participating in an week-long hands-on training at Koura. The district's commitment to supporting women in STEM resulted in the largest number of female student participants ever participating in the Summer Institute.

Mrs. Carrie Bookish, who served as an institute facilitator, stated, "This institute showed our students viable options within our community to work in industry." Students learned safety processes, manufacturing options, STEM exploration, and industry standards.

The program was extensively advertised to students, and interested students completed a registration form. The 65 students in the program were pulled at random from the registrations received.



Pre-Educator Pathway offers education career, dual enrollment credits

Addressing the need for future educators, the Iberville Parish School Board has partnered with ULM to offer dual enrollment courses for students interested in a career in the field of education.

The Pre-Educator Pathway program for high school students is being offered on all campuses. Students in this pathway will visit classrooms, collaborate with other EdRising students at conferences, and earn college credit through a dual enrollment partnership with ULM.

The IPSB is also implementing the Educators Rising Curriculum, provided by the Louisiana Department of Education, to inspire and prepare the next generation of teachers.

"This program continues our focus of providing opportunities for our students and also addresses the ever-growing need for high-quality teachers," said Robert Primus, Supervisor of Secondary Education and Academy Programs. "Offering the Pre-Educator Pathway will allow us to grow our future educators and will benefit overall teacher retention and quality."

Dow Leadership Program fosters student development

The Dow Leadership Program offered at White Caste High School has proven to be an excellent model in mentoring. This year 19 students are in the workforce exposure and leadership development program.

Students enter the program by making a three-year commitment to be mentored. It deepens their exposure to STEM careers not only through career exploration, but also by communications with Dow Chemical Co. employees.

The program provides students with exposure to an industry career and direct knowledge on how they can become successful and a leader in their chosen STEM field. Workforce readiness, communication and teamwork, financial literacy skills, social skills, public speaking, and interpersonal development are highlights of this program.



Students in the Dow Leadership Program work on a project.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

October 7-8	Fall Break	November 23-31	Thanksgiving Break
November 5	Election Day	December 23-31	Winter Break
November 11	Veterans Day	January 20	Martin Luther King Day

VILLAGE OF GROSSE TETE

Garner Lane now a state highway



The reconstruction and overlay of Garner Lane from Hwy. 77 to the intersection of Locust Street is now complete and the road has been turned over to the state. It is now referred to as La. Hwy. 1270 by the state. The project cost approximately \$1 million. Mayor Mike Chauffe said the parish did a road swap with the La. Department of Transportation and Development in 2020 that included the parish taking over another road and the state taking over Garner Lane. "Hundreds of vehicles travel this road every day, so the reconstruction was sorely needed," said Mayor Chauffe.

COMING EVENTS:

Sunday, November 10 @ 4 pm - Veterans Day Ceremony
Veterans Memorial Park

Saturday, December 14 @ 1 pm - Christmas Festival - Iberville Visitor Center
Includes Christmas parade, Santa, vendors, and fun for kids!

2nd Saturday of each month
8 am-Noon
Veterans Memorial Park
For information contact Jeanne David
225-241-8319

VILLAGE OF ROSEDALE

Rosedale purchases new public works equipment

The Village of Rosedale recently purchased two new pieces of equipment for its Public Works Department. They include a \$20,725 Kubota 2-seat utility vehicle (shown below) and a \$19,400 Workmaster backhoe/loader (shown at right). They were purchased under the state contract to get the state discount price.

"Both of these pieces of equipment were needed for the maintenance of town property, and for drainage and other infrastructure needs," said Mayor Riley Blanchet.

Village officials on Nov. 5 ballot

Rosedale voters will elect officials for the 2025-2028 term in the November 5 election.

The Village will have a new mayor, since present Mayor Riley Blanchet is not seeking re-election.

Candidates running for mayor include Dana Alexander, Randel "Panco" Badeaux, Harvey Best and Ronald Gantt. Candidates for the three positions on the Board of Aldermen include Calvin Andre, Angelle Bayham, Carroll Devilier, John "Tim" Doiron, Rita Lynn Major and Catrinia Hawkins Northern.

Early voting for this election is October 18- Oct. 29, except Sunday.



DID YOU KNOW?
You can pay your utility bill online!
Go to rosedalela.com. At the bottom of home page, click on pay utility bill.



Officials and residents attend the ribbon cutting marking completion of the Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail.

City receives Community Achievement Award for lighted 1.3 mile levee trail project

The City of Plaquemine was awarded first place in the Louisiana Municipal Association's Community Achievement Awards Competition for its Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail, the 1.3 mile walking and biking trail on the Mississippi River levee that was completed this year. The ribbon cutting celebrating completion of the project was held August 8.

The award was given during the awards banquet on August 3 at the LMA's annual conference in Shreveport. The city received the award in the Community Development category. Mayor Ed Reeves, Jr. initiated this project as one of his first projects upon taking office in 2017, and the Board of Selectmen supported the project.

The trailhead, located at the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site, features benches to watch boats pass at a beautiful turn in the Mississippi River. The trail also includes trash receptacles and solar lighting extending the entire route of the trail. It has ADA accessible ramps from the Lock Site parking lot, the Fort Area Park and North Plaquemine Park, along with a trail into the Lock site and to the city's award-winning Tony Gulotta Bayou Waterfront Park.

New fire truck being delivered



The Plaquemine Fire Department has completed final inspection of its new Pierce Saber pumper truck. Engine 5 should be delivered to Plaquemine by September. The new truck will replace a 1984 pumper, and is the first pumper truck to be added to its fleet in 10 years. The state-of-the-art unit will also house more equipment due to improved unit design. In the photo above, District Chiefs Derek Bujol and Shaun Bordelon, Training Chief Tony Seymour and Chief Darren Ramirez inspect the new unit at the Piece Saber facility.

City Hall almost complete

The extensive project to waterproof and upgrade City Hall is expected to be complete by November. The project includes roof repair and partial roof replacement, exterior refinishing, new flooring, painting, lighting, ceilings, and renovation of restrooms. An open house will be planned once the project is complete. Similar work on the Plaquemine Police Station is expected to be complete by December.

The City of Plaquemine presents

The 1st Annual

and

FRIDAY OCT. 4

Henry Nadler Pavilion, 23245 Short St.
Plaquemine, LA. 5:30-8:30 pm

FALL PHOTO BOOTH
PETTING ZOO

HAY RIDES!
Children must be accompanied by an adult!

BALLOON ARTIST
FACE PAINTING

FREE EVENT

PUMPKIN PATCH - Kids pick their own pumpkin, decorate it and take it home!

MUSIC: FORET TRADITION

FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY RIVERSIDE

5:30-8:30 pm Bring lawn chairs! No ice chests or pets allowed

SAVE THE DATE!

ALL IS BRIGHT

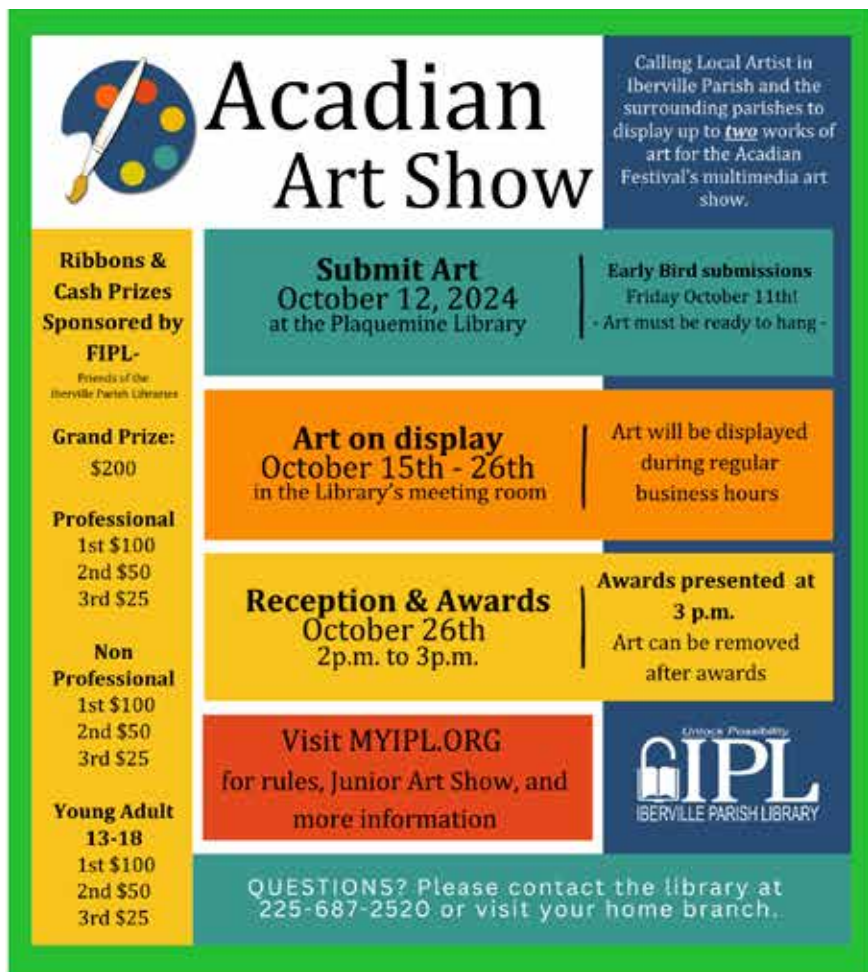
A Hometown Christmas

SATURDAY, DEC. 14
4-8 pm

Downtown Plaquemine lights up the holidays!

- Kids train & ferris wheel
- Santa & Mrs. Claus
- Petting zoo
- Live music
- Plenty of vendors
- Food/Sweets
- Decorated fire truck
- Lighted train
- Vendor booths:
arts, crafts, jewelry,
gifts, decor, kids
items & more!

Vendor booths \$25 - Call Mary Walls 225-776-7476
 Melissa - 225-776-1683 or email allisbrightplaquemine@gmail.com



Acadian Art Show

Calling Local Artist in Iberville Parish and the surrounding parishes to display up to **two** works of art for the Acadian Festival's multimedia art show.

Ribbons & Cash Prizes Sponsored by FIPL - Friends of the Iberville Parish Libraries

Grand Prize: \$200

Professional
1st \$100
2nd \$50
3rd \$25

Non Professional
1st \$100
2nd \$50
3rd \$25

Young Adult 13-18
1st \$100
2nd \$50
3rd \$25

Submit Art
October 12, 2024
at the Plaquemine Library

Early Bird submissions
Friday October 11th!
- Art must be ready to hang -

Art on display
October 15th - 26th
in the Library's meeting room

Art will be displayed during regular business hours

Reception & Awards
October 26th
2p.m. to 3p.m.

Awards presented at 3 p.m.
Art can be removed after awards

Visit **MYIPL.ORG** for rules, Junior Art Show, and more information

FIPL
IBERVILLE PARISH LIBRARY

QUESTIONS? Please contact the library at 225-687-2520 or visit your home branch.



1st TINY ART SHOW

PARISH-WIDE EVENT

A NON-JUDGED SHOW FOR AGES 12 & UNDER

Display your TINY ART at your local libraries!

Pick Up an ART KIT* supplied by the library starting early September -while supplies last-

Art Drop off by October 4th
at any Iberville Parish Library location

Art on Display: October 8th - November 4th

ART KIT
Includes:
a 5x5 inch canvas board,
paint brush & paint.
*Kit not required to enter

Rules:

- 1 entry per child
- must be 12 years old or under
- 5x7 inch canvas or smaller
- No Frames



Unlock Possibility.
IPL
IBERVILLE PARISH LIBRARY

Check Our Full Calendar >>

We bring the library to you. From schools to senior centers, daycares to nonprofits, we offer tailored services for all ages and interests. To schedule a visit, call the **Outreach Department** at (225) 687-2520 ext 114.

(225) 687-2520
www.myipl.org

/IbervilleParishLibrary
/IbervilleParishLibrary

IBERVILLE PARISH ASSESSOR

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





Officials and supporters turn out for the kick-off of the Plaquemine Lock Restoration Project.



Lock restoration project kick-off draws a crowd

Friends of the Lock has begun Phase I of the Plaquemine Lock restoration project with a kick off event at the Lockhouse on August 13. An overflow crowd of officials and supporters attended the event.

"We are very grateful for the support of State Rep. Chad Brown, Senator Caleb Kleinpeter, the Iberville Parish Council and the City of Plaquemine for providing funds to get this needed project started," said Ellie Hebert, chair of the Lock Restoration Committee. "We are still short of our funding needs, but we are moving forward."

Phase I includes repairs and upgrades to the 118-year-old Lockhouse, along with a new and interactive exhibit.

The restoration work includes water-proofing the building, repairing tile, adding an ADA restroom and ramp, upgrading the electrical, lighting and air conditioning systems, and installing new flooring.

The most exciting part of Phase 1 is the transformation to a new visitor experience. Besides new graphics, the new exhibit will include interactive elements and animation to engage and wow visitors!

H+R Exhibit Designs is developing the new exhibit, and is nationally recognized, having done exhibits for the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service.

Phase I is expected to be completed around May of 2025.

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

While the Friends group has \$825,000 for Phase I, the Lock Legacy Campaign has been initiated to reach its fund-raising goal of \$1 million.

Donations are being accepted for the restoration, maintenance and promotion of the crown jewel of Plaquemine. **All donations are tax deductible.**

The Friends of the Lock is a 501-(c) 3 non-profit organization in good standing with transparency and audits. Contact info is at right.

Scan for FOL website



CONTACT US:

For more information, contact Ellie Hebert, chair of Lock Restoration Committee at 225-892-3216; or Mike Carrigone, FOL President, at 225-235-9022. Website: FriendsOfTheLock.org.

56TH ANNUAL October 25th-27th

INTERNATIONAL ACADIAN FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, 10/25: 5-11PM
SATURDAY, 10/26: 11AM-11PM
SUNDAY, 10/27: 12-9PM

2024

ENTRANCE

\$5

UNDER 10 YEARS OLD FREE

HIGH BALL
OPEN DURING ALL FESTIVAL HOURS

CAJUN GUMBO
PREPARED BY FESTIVAL CHEFS
SATURDAY, 10/26: 4PM

ALL YOU CAN RIDE BRACELETS: \$25 FOR 4 HOURS
FRIDAY, 10/25: 6-10PM
SATURDAY, 10/26: 11AM-3PM, 3-7PM, 7-11PM
SUNDAY, 10/27: 12-4PM, 4-8PM

PARADE
SUNDAY, 10/27: 10:30AM
Route can be found on Festival website & Facebook page.
Contact: Guy Ruggiero (225)268-2533

CRAFT & FOOD BOOTHS
Application can be found on Festival website & Facebook page.
Contact: Jimmy Hebert (225)776-2895

WATER CEREMONY
SATURDAY, 10/26: 6PM
ARRIVAL OF THE 2024 EVANGELINE AND INDIAN PRINCESSES & INTRODUCTION OF 2024 PARADE MARSHALL

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY, 10/25: 8-11PM - FAIR PLAY
SATURDAY, 10/26:
12:00-3PM - CLAY LEBLANC BAND
3:30-6:30PM - JOHN FOSTER BAND
7-11PM - LA SOUTHBOUND
SUNDAY, 10/27:
2-6PM - ROCKIN MOZART MUSIC SCHOOL
6-9PM - BLIND AMBITION 2.0

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY, 10/26: 10:30AM
REGISTRATION 9-10AM
3 Divisions for teams Singles and Blind Draw
Contact: Westside Cajun Cornhole, Kynan White (225)937-0018

BEAUTY PAGEANT
SATURDAY, 10/26: 1PM
Bayou Plaquemine Community Center

TEXAS HOLD 'EM
FRIDAY, 10/25:
REGISTRATION 5-6PM
\$60 Entry, One Rebuy
Contact: Jason Leonard (225)776-2565

A COMMUNITY TRADITION RICH IN CAJUN HISTORY

WWW.ACADIANFESTIVAL.ORG INTERNATIONAL ACADIAN FESTIVAL

Mark A. "Tony" Gulotta Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park • 57845 Foundry Street, Plaquemine

TOWN OF MARINGOUIN



Pipes and equipment for the Ridgewood area drainage project.

Work underway on \$860,000 Ridgewood Subdivision drainage project

The long-awaited drainage project to divert rainwater to Bayou Grosse Tete is underway. Financed with \$791,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds, the project in the Ridgewood Subdivision area will provide major drainage improvements.

It is considered a flood mitigation project through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. The project includes removing sediment, re-grading ditches and changing out undersized culverts to restore drainage flow to Bayou Grosse Tete.

Drainage upgrades completed

The Town has completed installation of new, larger culverts in the Maringouin Community Center area as part of a drainage system upgrade. All of the 6 to 8 inch culverts in the Lions Avenue, Oak Street, Parish Street area were replaced with 15 inch culverts, to allow for a lot more storm water to flow through the system in that area. The \$250,000 project was completed at the end of August.

"We are already seeing the positive effects of this project," said Mayor Maurice Harris. "The area drained significantly better in recent rains, including the major lengthy downpours we saw in August and September."



Completed larger drainage culverts on Lions Street.

TOWN OF WHITE CASTLE

FALL LINEUP OF EVENTS

WCHS Homecoming Week

Week of October 21-27 - A variety of festivities are planned.

Boo on Bowie

Thursday, October 31, 6 pm @ White Castle Community Center

Senior Citizen/Disabled Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 26 - 11:30 am

White Castle Community Center

Senior citizens and disabled residents are treated to a delicious holiday meal and Thanksgiving festivities in preparation for the holiday season.

Christmas Festivities

Week of December 9-13

Christmas festivities include a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus, kids activities, and holiday cheer, and the lighting of the town Christmas tree.

Watch for more information on these events: go to: facebook.com/MayorJohnMorrisIII

BOO ON BOWIE

Thursday, October 31 - 6 pm
White Castle Community Center

Kids can enjoy a fun and safe Halloween with trick-or-treat stations, games and activities.



Have a town question or repair?



Noticed a pothole in the street, or a drainage problem? Residents can ask questions and report problems to the town via the Town website: WhiteCastle.us.

Just click on the Contact Us button at the top right of the website, and it will take you to a page to report the issue.

Clerk of Court plays important role in elections

Clerks of Court across Louisiana play an important role in all elections as Chief Elections Officers. Iberville Clerk Amy Patin takes this responsibility very seriously, and has made improvements to her office's operations during elections with the help of the Louisiana Secretary of State Office.

Patin added transmitting locations in St. Gabriel and north Iberville on election days for quick transmitting of election results.

In addition, Patin has Deputy Clerks go to each precinct on election day to ensure the commissioners are not having any issues. She also has at least two voting machines located at all precincts to ensure that all voters can cast their ballots even if a technical problem develops.

Among the duties of the Clerk of Court are:

- Qualifying candidates for election
- Training and providing election day commissioners (generally 230-250 people)
- Housing voting machines
- Having the voting machines, with their keys and voter rolls, transported from the storage facility to precincts by the drayman. This person is contracted by the state.
- Providing custodians for elections
- Assuring that the custodians open precincts, and provide voting machine keys to the commissioner in charge
- Assuring the commissioner in charge of each precinct brings the vote cartridge from each voting machine, along with the tabulation print out and poll record book, to the Clerk's Office at the end of the election day.
- Having a Clerk's Office staff member load the cartridges into a specialized computer, where the vote totals are automatically uploaded to the La. Secretary of State's Office via a dedicated and secure internet line. Clerk Patin has three transmitting locations on election days to speed the uploading of election results.

During this process numerous checks and balances are in place to assure that the voting machines have been tested and are secure. As Clerk, Patin also serves on the Iberville Board of Election Supervisors, along with the Registrar of Voters, a member of the Democratic Parish Executive Committee, a member of the Republican Parish Executive Committee and a governor's appointee. This Board assures all mail in ballots are sufficient, oversees selection of commissioners, and sealing and unsealing of voting machines.



Clerk of Court
Amy Patin

IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Register to vote by Oct. 7 at the Iberville Registrar of Voters office on 2nd floor of Courthouse, or on-line by October 15 at sos.la.gov, under Elections & Voting. Need your La. driver's license or state ID. If you will be 18 years old before Nov. 5, you can register and vote in the Nov. 5 election. If a voter registration card is mailed to your address and that person no longer lives there, write "Return to Sender" and place in the mail.

EARLY VOTING

In-person early voting at Iberville Registrar of Voters office is Oct. 18-Oct. 29 (except Sunday). You can request an absentee ballot by Nov. 1 at voterportal.sos.la.gov or call Registrar of Voters Office at 225-687-5201. Absentee ballots must be received by Registrar by Nov. 4.

MAIL IN BALLOTS

Requests for absentee ballot can be made online at sos.la.gov, under Elections & Voting or at the Registrar of Voters Office. The deadline for the registrar of voters to receive a voted absentee ballot is November 1 by 4:30 p.m. (other than military and overseas voters).

ELECTION DAY

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 6 am until 8 pm. This includes presidential, congressional, and local municipal elections. The General election is Saturday, Dec. 7. Any run-offs will be on this date.

VOTER APP

Great source of election information:
Secretary of State's [GeauxVote](#) app



CLERK OF COURT DUTIES as the CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER



Qualify Local
and Municipal
Candidates



Provide and Train
Election Day
Commissioners
for Polling
Precincts



Maintain Voting
Machines and Provide
Deputy Parish Key
Custodians for
each Precinct



Transmit
Election Results
to the Louisiana
Secretary of State



Interactive summer camps and after school tutoring programs



With the help of the Sheriff's Office, 17 local organizations received grants to fund summer enrichment and after school tutoring programs. Our deputies attend these camps and have interactive sessions with the students. Over the years, we have worked hard to develop positive relationships with citizens, especially our youth. We will continue to strengthen those relationships and work to form bonds that last a lifetime.



Integral part of parish protection during Hurricane Francine

Although Hurricane Francine brought minimal damage to our parish, the Sheriff's Office prepared for a worst case scenario. Shifts were doubled during the height of the storm.

"Our deputies are still responsible for maintaining law and order amid a storm, in addition to barricading roadways due to downed trees or powerlines. They even clear roadways from fallen trees," said Sheriff Stassi. "I cannot thank our deputies enough for their continued dedication and their selfless efforts during the storm," he continued.

Sheriff Stassi called on parish inmates to prepare sandbags for distribution throughout the parish in the event of flooding. He stressed the importance of having a gameplan and urged residents to get prepared early and stay off the roadways during these storms.

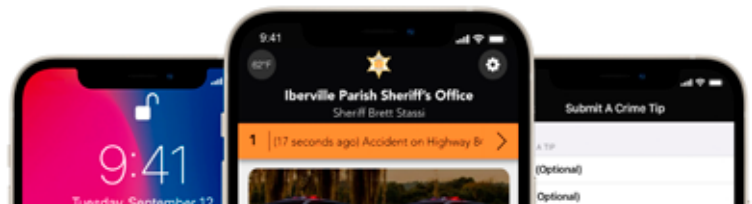


NEW DRONES...

Two new drones, one with a heat sensor and night vision, have been added to the equipment inventory of the Sheriff's Office. These drones are a useful tool in not only crime fighting, but also search and rescue efforts. Several deputies have been certified as drone pilots. Pictured with Sheriff Stassi is Deputy Andrew Lewis.

Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office Mobile App

Built by: THE SHERIFF APP



INTRODUCING OUR NEW APP

Navigating critical information has never been easier.



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD!

