



St. Bernard Parish Government

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Guy McInnis
Parish President

President's Report Council Meeting of Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Good Evening Councilmembers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The 2016 year has come and gone and the first year serving as Parish President has been a lot of hard work and very rewarding. I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017.

2016 was a great year with plenty of challenges and many successes. We've expanded our Recreation Department by putting in community zones; we brought in a new waste collection company that is cost effective and more efficient; we've privatized some grass cutting and mosquito control services to save taxpayer dollars; and we've put in better financial controls to more effectively manage the budget. St. Bernard Parish Government also proudly hosted events such as the First Lady Easter Egg Hunt, Regional Parish President's Meeting, Veteran's Day Parade, and our inaugural Christmas at the Complex, Christmas tree and park lighting ceremony. In this first year, we have set the foundation for a prosperous and successful 2017.

Our coastal department and advisory committee are dedicated to our community and aggressively seeks project funding which is essential to our industry and coast. Recently, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration (CWPPRA) Technical Committee recommended approval for Phase 1, design and engineering of the *Bayou La Loutre Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation Project* (\$29.4 million). The project will restore approximately 5.5 miles of historic forested ridge along Bayou La Loutre and will create or nourish over 380 acres of marsh.

The 202nd Battle of New Orleans anniversary events will be held this week from Wednesday, January 4th through Sunday, January 8th. A booklet has been prepared by the National Park Service which outlines all of the event's activities. The booklet is available in the lobby of the parish government complex. Parking is also available at the government complex on Friday and Saturday where there will be free handicapped accessible shuttle bus service to the Chalmette Battlefield.

For the first time, there will be a Battle of New Orleans Market on Friday, January 6th and Saturday, January 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. ending at 4:00 p.m. The market will take place on the grounds of the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex located at 8201 West Judge Perez Drive. There will be a variety of vendors selling Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Prints and merchandise, local food, arts and crafts, sweets, bath & body products and much more. To become a vendor in the Battle of New Orleans market, please contact the St. Bernard Parish Office of Tourism at 504-278-4242. Vendor fees are \$25.00 per day or \$35.00 for two days. Last day to sign up is January 5th.

On Wednesday, May 10th, St. Bernard Parish will be hosting the St. Bernard Day at the Capitol. About 200 local and state leaders attend this annual event which showcases the unique culture and assets of our community while building relationships and promoting legislative and policy issues that impact St. Bernard Parish.

In 2017, the Administration looks forward to continuing to work closely with our Parish Council to better serve the people of St. Bernard Parish. My sincerest thanks to everyone, especially the employees, volunteers and sponsors who have helped make 2016 an amazing year. It is truly an honor to serve the citizens of this Parish. Together we will continue to make St. Bernard Parish an even better place to live, work, and play.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy McInnis".

Guy McInnis
Parish President