



St. Bernard Parish Government

8201 West Judge Perez Drive Chalmette, Louisiana 70043
(504) 278-4227 Fax (504) 278-4330
www.sbpge.net

Louis Pomes
Parish President

April 2, 2024

To the St. Bernard Parish Council and Residents:

Here is your bi-weekly update from my office detailing some of the projects, improvements, events, and general announcements in St. Bernard Parish.

Canal clean-up continues throughout the Parish with crews tackling a mile of overgrown brush near Linda Lou Drive at Bayou Road. They also skimmed 150' of ditch on Farmsite Rd., cleaned and cut 7 lots on Highland Dr. and cleaned front culverts on Riverbend Dr., all in Violet. They also cleaned front culverts in Chalmette on; Chalmette Ave., Creely, and Congressman Herbert.

Public Works crews repaired several water and sewer lines around the Parish including one on Torres Drive that was damaged by an electrical pole, and another 8-inch line on Matthew Court.

The current status of some of our on-going work/projects, as I've mentioned in previous reports, is as follows; repairs to the Delambert Pump station are near completion. This project will increase the output capacity pumped to our wastewater plant. This will significantly improve the street drainage in that area, and is on target for completion by April 15, 2024. The new public library in Meraux is progressing well and on schedule. The Reunion Playground in Violet is progressing. The slab is finished, playground equipment and fence were installed. The playground is now awaiting basketball goals, a swing set, and picnic benches and will be completed soon. The Gueringer Canal project is still progressing on schedule with concrete being poured for the starting approach to the bridge, and on the bridge structure itself. Currently at the Paris Rd. Pedestrian Crossing, electricians are completing the wiring for the crossing signals.

The Department of Public Works recently began a new "Paint a Drain Campaign," and is looking for volunteers to help solve the problem of litter and chemicals ending up in our storm sewer system. This pollution is not only clogging our underground drainage infrastructure, but also contributing to the degradation of the marsh that we rely on for hurricane protection. If you would like to help "Paint our Drain", please call Dennis Bradley at (504) 278-4312. The Parish will provide everything needed to complete the project.

I would like to congratulate and extend my utmost appreciation to the dedicated staff at our St. Bernard Parish Animal Shelter. Last week they held a successful fundraising event, with the help of Kris Rotonda from Jordan's Way, a non-profit that travels the United States hosting live online fundraising drives in support of community Animal Shelters. Over the course of a three-hour Facebook live



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broadcast, the shelter was able to raise close to \$7,000 which will provide much needed help for the animals. The following day the shelter held a Saturday adoption event with 7 pets finding new homes.

In other news, please be advised that our yearly fire hydrant inspections began April 1, 2024 at 9:00am, in all areas and neighborhoods throughout St. Bernard Parish. Inspections will occur Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 11:00am, and last approximately six weeks during which time our firefighters will open each hydrant for approximately two minutes to record pressure and flow readings. Residents may experience “rusty” colored water when turning on their home faucets and appliances. Simply running the water for a few minutes should resolve the issue. We apologize for any inconveniences our residents and business community may experience.

Ahead of the St. Bernard Parish Irish Italian Islenos Parade this Saturday April 6 at 11am, my office has prepared and will mobilize necessary support personnel and equipment to ensure a safe and sanitary community celebration for our residents and visitors. We have 80 portable restrooms and hundreds of trash receptacles set up on the parade route. Although we are well prepared to undertake this effort, it is annually one of our largest and most challenging clean-ups. As this takes place on one of our main throughfares, I’d like to remind drivers and pedestrians to be extra safe, careful, and attentive on our roads at that time. Our Sheriff’s office will also have a large presence for the duration of the event, and will assist us with traffic control when it ends. The street cleaning will begin immediately to follow the parade, and is critical to the health and safety of all who will be traveling our roadway.

On that topic, please also be advised that the partitioning of neutral grounds will be prohibited ahead of Saturday’s event (the St. Bernard Irish Italian Islenos Community Parade & Marching Club on Saturday, April 6, 2024). There’s a major concern for public safety when ropes, tape, stakes, or any other materials are placed on our neutral grounds leading up to parade day. Inspectors will be out monitoring the neutral grounds and emergency lanes, and any obstructions will be promptly removed. Obstructions on the neutral grounds including, but not limited to; ropes, tents, scaffolds, barricades, ladders, tarps, tape, etc. are in violation of Section 11-20 of the Code of Ordinances. Also, vehicles parking along the rights-of way or too close to corners cause a safety hazard on our roads. The St. Bernard Parish Sheriff’s Office will be monitoring parking along the parade route for the safety of all residents, and illegal parking will not be tolerated.

Lastly, a very positive bit of news that I’m really proud to share...

just today, I signed the letter of acceptance for a fully funded federal grant through the NOAA via the LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. In accordance with the 2019 Federal Fishery Disaster Recovery Spending Plan, SBPG was granted *\$1.7 million in Habitat and Hydrologic Improvement Grant funding* to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether modifying the MRGO rock dam closure would mitigate



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the impacts of future Bonnet Carre' Spillway openings and provide other related benefits. I will provide updates on this project in the future and more detailed information as it becomes available.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louis Pomes".

Louis Pomes
Parish President
St. Bernard Parish Government

President's Report

APRIL 2, 2024

LOUIS POMES, PARISH PRESIDENT

ST. BERNARD PARISH

Canals and Drainage:

- Skimmed 150' of ditch on Farmsite Rd., in Violet.
- Cleaned and cut 7 lots on Highland Dr., in Violet.
- Cleaned front culverts in Chalmette on; Chalmette Ave., Creely, Congressman Herbert.
- Cleaned front culverts in Violet on Riverbend Dr.

Capital Projects:

- Delambert pump station repairs will be completed by April 15, 2024.
- New public Library in Meraux is progressing well and on schedule.
- Reunion Playground in Violet; slab is finished, playground and fence installed. Awaiting basketball goals and picnic benches.
- Gueringer Canal project; on schedule with concrete being poured for the starting approach, and on the bridge structure itself.
- Paris Rd. Pedestrian Crossing; electricians completing the wiring for crossing signals.

General Announcements:

- Yearly fire hydrant inspections April 1, 2024 at 9:00am Parish-wide, Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 11:00am. Will last approximately six weeks. Residents may experience “rusty” colored water. Running the water should resolve the issue.
- Partitioning of neutral grounds will be prohibited for the *St. Bernard Irish Italian Isleños Community Parade & Marching Club* on Saturday, April 6, 2024. Inspectors will be out monitoring neutral grounds and emergency lanes. Obstructions will be removed.