



St. Bernard Parish Government

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Louis Pomes
Parish President

May 21, 2024

Members of the St. Bernard Parish Council and residents,

From the office of Parish President Louis Pomes, this is your **President's Report** for the two-week period proceeding today's council meeting on May 21, 2024.

St. Bernard Parish Government recently completed the **Paris Road Streetscape Enhancement** project along a portion of the highway extending from the parish line to Virtue Street. The project included the installation of banner poles, a largescale tree planting, and the replacement of many dirt/gravel driveway aprons with paved aprons and drainage features. The purpose of the project was to improve the appearance of this section of Paris Road and encourage tourism, promote economic development, and improve quality of life for residents and businesses. The survey can also be found on the Official Government website at www.sbpbg.net.

St. Bernard Parish Government held a ribbon cutting on Friday May 17, 2024 at **Reunion Park Playground**. The playground, located at 2405 Reunion Dr. in Violet, was recently opened to the delight of neighborhood kids and families. Amenities include a full-sized basketball court, covered playground, swing set and picnic tables. Park hours are 6am - 8pm.

Since my last report, **nine new businesses** have received a zoning compliance letter to obtain their occupational license. Congratulations to; Creole'ish Catering, Tsaocca, Society Sneakers, Alpha Rigging & Supply, The UPS Store, Angels Demo and Hauling, Arabi Coin Laundry, Angelicare Therapeutic Group Home, and Fleur De Lis Janitorial. Thank you for your commitment to serving the residents and enhancing the economy of St. Bernard Parish.

Additionally, since my last report, there have been **significant updates and progress** on many projects throughout the parish. The following few paragraphs of this report will highlight some of the notable updates, but as always please know this is not a fully exhaustive list. These on-going projects, upgrades, repairs, and replacements of our infrastructure, roadways, and facilities is a high priority, for myself and all of St. Bernard Parish Government, just as it significantly impacts the daily lives of our residents, business owners, and visitors. This work is performed in conjunction with the daily tasks, responsibilities, and maintenance carried out across all departments of SBPG... in addition to emergency issues or items as they arise. Updated information for the two-week period since my last report is as follows...

Our **Public Works Department** is currently approaching substantial completion on the **Geuringer Canal bridge** within the next two weeks, and is near completion on the **Delambert Pump Station**. The **new library building** in Meraux has completed exterior framing, with the interior walls being constructed now. Installation of HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems, and all other work on this site is on-schedule. The **40 Arpent Trail** is awaiting sign placement and painting of trail striping began this week. Over at **Patricia and Vista Parks**, demolition and tree removal has begun, with pile-driving expected by week's end at the Patricia Park site. The **Old Arabi Drainage** project has diagnostic camera work wrapping on Angela St. now, and point repairs have been completed on the first half of the street.

The St. Bernard Parish **Road Yard** has also been diligently working on improvements and repairs throughout the parish. **Grade-work and concrete repair** totals for the two-week reporting period are as follows; 6 yards of concrete poured to fix a driveway apron on Florissant Hwy. 1.5 yards of concrete poured on the 2600 block of Jacob Dr. to repair a manhole cover. 5.5 yards of concrete poured at the intersection of Despaux and Missouri streets for street repair. 13.5 yards of concrete poured on 3000 block of Despaux Dr. to repair a street panel and a catch basin.

Recently, The **Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)** published their evaluation of the various water systems throughout the state of Louisiana for 2023. The St. Bernard Parish water system earned a "B" grade, reflecting its performance in various categories such as federal water quality, state violations, financial sustainability, operation and maintenance, infrastructure, customer satisfaction, and secondary contaminants. The LDH considers these factors to ensure safe drinking water for Louisiana residents. The detailed assessment of standards (which can be found along with the entire 2023 Water Grade Report, on our website at www.sbpj.net under the Public Information>Water Quality Reports tab) provides a breakdown of each categorical consideration in the grading system. Notably the parish water system saw no deductions or violations for contaminants, outages or boil-notice events. There were no violations in our treatment techniques, and no unresolved significant deficiencies from prior years. The areas where we did struggle somewhat in grading, were related to LDH verified customer complaints, and for failure to submit or implement an adequate water rate study. I have spoken at length with the Supervisor of SBPG-SWB to discuss these results, proposed remedies to future issues should they arise, and commended him and his staff on a job well done. Thank you again to Chad Kelly, along with every employee in our Water & Sewer department, for the critical work you all do. Your commitment to public safety and quality of life does not go unnoticed.

I'm also very pleased to report that just yesterday, on May 20, 2024, St. Bernard Parish was notified that our recently submitted grant proposal to the **Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program** has been **recommended for funding at 100% of the requested amount of \$262,500**, with a local match commitment of \$87,500. This grant will be used for vegetation removal in the 40 Arpent Canal.

Additionally, and of great significance, St. Bernard Parish was announced last week as one of the 6 recipients of funding from the **Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)**, "**Fiscal Year 2024 Parish Matching Awards Program**". This program is a funding opportunity based in partnership between the CPRA and Parish governments, to support Parish-led projects which address the goals and objectives of the Coastal Master Plan. **St. Bernard Parish was awarded \$1,311,217** in funding, which provides the necessary match for the creation of more than 400 acres of marsh, and the restoration of 2.5 miles of the rim along Lake Lery (part of the Lake Lery Phase III project).

On another note, please visit the scenic **Delacroix Fishing Pier on Saturday June 8, 2024 from 9am-1pm for the St. Bernard Parish Seafood Market**. This is a fantastic opportunity to purchase our world-famous St. Bernard Parish Seafood, straight from the boats of local fisherman.

Finally, I'd like to take this time to extend my deepest pride and best wishes to the **graduates of St. Bernard Parish schools**, and all Class of 2024 resident-graduates throughout St. Bernard Parish. I've had the opportunity to meet with, and congratulate many of our graduates personally over the last few weeks, and I am always beyond impressed and so immensely proud of the intelligent, hardworking, driven, exceptional nature of the young people here in St. Bernard Parish. It's immensely hopeful and rewarding to see the future leaders of tomorrow, excelling and being recognized for all they've accomplished. Gathering to recognize, and celebrate our graduates is a testament to the tight-knit, supportive community here in St. Bernard Parish... and on behalf of that community, I applaud your accomplishments, dedication, and hard work. I'm hopeful and inspired by the future paths you all will blaze, and the impact you'll have on St. Bernard Parish and the world. Congratulations again, and best of luck to each and every 2024 graduate, and everyone who helped get you there, now and always.

Sincerely,



Louis Pomes
Parish President
St. Bernard Parish