



St. Bernard Parish Government

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Louis Pomes
Parish President

From the Desk of the Parish President
St. Bernard Parish Government
Biweekly Report

February 4, 2025

To the St. Bernard Parish Council and Residents,

Winter Storm Response & Recovery

Over the past two weeks, we have faced and overcome an unprecedented challenge—a historic winter storm brought over 11 inches of snow and freezing temperatures, conditions never before seen in our region. This extreme weather event placed significant strain on our infrastructure, but through the dedication and hard work of our employees, first responders, and community members, we managed to ensure public safety and keep critical services running.

Despite proactive planning and full reserves, our water system experienced high demand due to necessary precautions like dripping faucets and unforeseen leaks in main and residential lines. This led to a temporary drop in water pressure, requiring a boil water advisory that lasted from January 22 at 7 p.m. until January 26 at 3 p.m. With around-the-clock adjustments and tireless efforts from parish staff, the system was restored, and normal operations resumed across the community.

A heartfelt thank you to all who played a role in this response—our public works employees, the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, Parish Council, state and federal partners, business owners, educators, and most importantly, our residents. Your resilience, cooperation, and community spirit turned a challenging situation into an example of St. Bernard Parish's strength.

Public Works & Infrastructure Updates

Following the storm, our Public Works teams have been hard at work addressing necessary repairs and continuing progress on major capital projects. Below are some key updates from the Department of Public Works:

- **Water & Sewer Repairs (1/20/25 – 1/26/25):**
 - 25 main line breaks repaired.
 - 30 residential meters shut off due to leaks.
 - 4 commercial backflow issues addressed.
 - 10 sewer calls (odor and backup complaints) resolved.
- **Pre-Event Water System Preparations:**
 - All water towers and reserve tanks were filled to maximum capacity.
 - Daily water production maintained at 9 million gallons per day.

- **Public Communications:**

- 35 press releases issued covering road conditions, water and sewer updates, transit, sanitation, office closures, and curfew notices.
- 40 Facebook updates, with active 24/7 engagement responding to public questions and concerns.

Despite the challenges faced, we are proud to report that our infrastructure remains strong, and our teams continue to work diligently on ongoing and future capital projects.

Ongoing Infrastructure Projects

This report provides a summary of ongoing infrastructure projects as of February 4, 2025. Below is a structured breakdown of the key points:

1. Vista Park

- **Completed:**

- New drive area for the parking lot along King's Dr.
- Grading for positive drainage.
- Restrooms and concession stand.
- Lighting for ball fields (passed manufacturer checks).

- **Pending:**

- Installation of grid and gravel parking spaces.
- Installation of three new light poles and fixtures.
- Pouring of remaining sidewalk and parallel parking areas.

2. Library

- **Progress:**

- 90% complete: Sod, trees, bushes.
- 85% complete: Irrigation piping, interior painting, light fixtures, glass storefronts.
- Nearly complete: Exterior stucco.
- Started: Soffit installation.
- Wrapping up: HVAC system (daily testing).
- Near completion: Electrical trim-out, special systems wiring (daily testing).

- **Next Steps:**

- Punch list for subcontractors is being developed.
- Projected substantial completion: Late February to early March, depending on material delivery.

3. Miscellaneous Drainage Projects

- **Legend & Fable:**

- New drainage and concrete completed.
- Sodding work wrapping up.

- **Campagna Easement:**

- CIPP (Cured-in-Place Pipe) lining ongoing.
- Open-cut drain installation starts today.
- CIPP crew to continue working through scheduled streets.

- **Next Steps:**

- Open-cut crew moves to Riverland after Campagna completion.

4. Florida Walk

- **Completed:**

- 96" jack and bore process.

- 42" pipe installed inside 48" oval pipe.

- **Next Steps:**

- Grouting the void between pipes (scheduled for 10 AM today).
- Excavation to install rip rap around pipes.
- Bank reshaping on the Alexander side.

5. Old Arabi Drainage

- **Current Work:**

- Street and driveway excavation on Mehle for concrete pouring (scheduled for Wednesday).
- Exploratory digs completed on Mehle and Friscoville.
- Pipe lining ongoing on Friscoville (six segments remaining).

- **Next Steps:**

- Contractor repairs pending based on review of exploratory dig data.

Overall Summary

Several projects are nearing final stages, with anticipated substantial completion for the library in late February or early March. Drainage projects are progressing, with CIPP lining, excavation, and open-cut drain installations continuing in multiple areas. Florida Walk's pipe installation is successfully completed, with final steps including grouting and rip rap installation.

Moving Forward

This winter storm has reinforced the importance of preparedness, adaptability, and community resilience. As we transition back to normal operations, we remain committed to addressing lingering concerns and ensuring that our parish continues to grow and improve.

Thank you all for your patience, cooperation, and dedication to our community. It is an honor to serve the residents of St. Bernard Parish, and together, we will continue to build a stronger and more resilient future.

Sincerely,


Louis Pomes

Parish President

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