



IMAGINE

# Iberville

## NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2021

A PUBLICATION FOR IBERVILLE RESIDENTS BY YOUR GOVERNMENT LEADERS

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

### Parish fights flooding in east and west Iberville

Extremely high rainfall downpours and totals in May and June combined to give Iberville Parish double trouble - flooding in both east Iberville and in the Bayou Sorrel/Pigeon areas. This is the first time in well over 30 years that the parish has experienced flooding on both sides of the river.

Between April 12 and May 17, the parish received several storms that each dropped high rainfall totals (4-8 inches), with a total of 29 inches falling in that 3 week period.

**RAINFALL BETWEEN APRIL 12 AND MAY 17: 29 inches**  
**MAY 17 RAINFALL: 5 inches**  
**TOTAL RAINFALL IN 36 DAYS : 34 inches**

The ground was still saturated and drainage waterways were already full when another storm punched the parish on

June 6, adding another 5 inches of rain. The May 17 rain led to flooding in both areas of the parish, with the parish and municipalities scrambling to help flood weary residents. The June rainfalls just added to the problems.

#### EAST IBERVILLE:

In east Iberville, the aqua dams installed at the order of Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. did divert water coming from East Baton Rouge via Bayou Manchac from overflowing Manchac Road and adding to an already swollen Alligator Bayou and Spanish Lake. But the swollen Spanish Lake began to back up, and resulted in flooding of homes in the St. Gabriel area. As Bayou Manchac receded, three large cuts in Manchac Road had to be made to drain water out of Alligator Bayou and Spanish Lake with constant monitoring. That was still continuing into the fourth week of June.

Meanwhile, the parish was fighting East Baton Rouge Parish all the way to the La. Supreme Court for the parish's right to use aqua dams to stop East Baton Rouge drainage from flooding east Iberville. Parish President Ourso defied one district judge and vowed to "lay down in the road" to stop any effort to remove the dams. (See more on this on page 3).

#### WEST IBERVILLE:

In west Iberville, aqua dams were deployed along low areas of Hwy. 75 to keep the swollen Intracoastal Waterway from overtopping the road and flooding areas of Bayou Sorrel and Bayou Pigeon,

| Continued on page 3 |



Parish workers and dozens of volunteers work to stop flood waters over Hwy. 75 after aqua dams failed in Bayou Sorrel.

### COMING EVENTS

- July 2 - White Castle Live After 5 July 4th fireworks (pg. 8)
- July 4 - Plaquemine July 4th Hometown Celebration (pg. 4)
- July 4 - St. Gabriel Independence Day Celebration
- Aug. 7 - Red Velvet Cake War theater (wearethedifference.org)
- Sept. 6 - Labor Day holiday

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## Before, during & after photos at aqua dam break in Bayou Sorrel



*The scenes above show the huge job of stopping the breach in aqua dams, which sent a 400 yard long current of water from Grand River overflowing Hwy. 75 in Bayou Sorrel at JR Road on May 21. At far left, the water overflows the road. Middle: volunteers and parish workers install Jersey barriers and sandbags along the breach. And at top right, the barriers and sandbags do their job in stopping the flooding. In the photo at left, sandbags and the barriers are shown; and at right, volunteers work to organize sandbagging efforts.*



## Fast massive effort saves many from flooding

What does it take to close a 400-yard long flood of river water from causing catastrophic damage? Quick thinking, cooperation, and very difficult work by determined Iberville residents!

When the aqua dams broke off in Bayou Sorrel on May 21, the breach extended for some 400 yards, and water some 2 feet deep from Grand River rushed over Hwy. 75 heading south. Only extraordinary and quick action by the parish, state, businesses, and local volunteers averted sure flooding of many homes in Bayou Sorrel and Bayou Pigeon.

Iberville Public Works Director Mark Migliacio was in Sorrel, and he got the call about the breach within minutes of it occurring. He immediately consulted Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., who was in east Iberville trying to avert flooding there. They decided Jersey Barriers (large concrete walls used mostly for highway construction projects) were the best option to stop the flooding, and Ourso declared an emergency so that they could take barriers being housed at Coastal Construction near Plaquemine.

Ourso called Sheriff Brett Stassi for a deputy to get to Coastal Construction immediately, and Migliacio made calls to local business owners with trailers, asking for trailers to transport the 9,000 lb., 14-foot-long barriers to the breach site. Meanwhile, the parish track hoe and sandbags were ordered to the breach site, and emergency calls were made to State Rep. Chad Brown to access state resources and get more Jersey Barriers to the site.

While this was going on, word quickly got out among residents, and more help with trailers appeared at Coastal Construction, as residents began to show up in droves at the breach site to volunteer. A total of 20 trailers - more than needed - showed up at Coastal Construction. Residents began putting down sandbags, and within 2 hours of the breach, the Jersey Barriers began arriving. In a massive cooperative effort, some 200 parish workers and volunteers - made of mostly Bayou Sorrel and Bayou Pigeon residents - began laying Jersey barriers in 2-3 feet of water. Soon the state brought 42 more barriers. A total of 87 barriers were used to stop the flooding, and sandbags were laid between the barriers to stop as much seepage as possible.

"The word went out and the people got together and decided they would stop that water, and they did," said President Ourso. "It shows what can happen when Iberville people come together!"

### Register your cell phone to get local emergency messages

- ▶ Call the Iberville Office of Emergency Preparedness at 225.687.5140 and provide the cell number,

OR

- ▶ Go to [www.IbervilleParish.com](http://www.IbervilleParish.com) and click on the emergency cell phone registration icon, and complete the simple form.



*Shown above is one of the three cuts made into Manchac Road to drain water from the swollen Spanish Lake and Alligator Bayou into Bayou Manchac.*

## Parish fights flooding in east and west Iberville

| Continued from page 1 |

but a portion of the aqua dams failed on May 21, causing some flooding and an evacuation order to protect residents in the Sorrel/Pigeon area.

The parish acted immediately to stop the flooding. Quick action and the quick response of numerous companies and some 150 volunteers - mostly residents of the Bayou Sorrel and Pigeon area - stopped the 400 yard breach. Their herculean effort resulted in stopping the almost 2 feet of water rushing across the roadway to the south within about 5 to 6 hours. That effort eliminated the need for the emergency evacuation center at the Carl Grant Civic Center in Plaquemine and also stopped sure flooding of hundreds of homes in Bayou Sorrel and Pigeon.

Still, many homes in the Sorrel and Pigeon, and in east Iberville did flood because of the extreme rain events. The parish has also had to work through numerous other related issues, such as sewer systems backing up, no way to get garbage trucks through flooded streets in east Iberville, unsanitary conditions in some areas, and no way for emergency vehicles to get into some subdivisions in St. Gabriel.

The parish also set up resource centers and lined up meetings in both east and west Iberville for property owners with flood damage to get information from FEMA representatives on filing claims for federal assistance.

### LOOKING FOR FIXES:

The continued flooding prompted President Ourso and the Iberville Parish Council to approve a one-year moratorium on all new developments in east Iberville as the parish tries to come up with solutions to the drainage issues there. Regarding the east Iberville flooding President Ourso said, "We got the aqua dams up in time to stop East Baton Rouge drainage from flooding Manchac Road during the May rain event. If we had not, the flooding would have been worse. But something has changed in recent years, and we have to develop a better plan to get water out of Manchac and Spanish Lake. We are working with Ascension on solutions, but long-term fixes will take 8 to 10 years."

President Ourso has also met with Congressional staff to express the urgent need for dredging Grand River to Belle River. He said silt build up in the river is the cause of flooding problems in Bayou Sorrel and Bayou Pigeon. "I am also awaiting a meeting with Corps on this, and am trying to get officials of the other parishes together to push for funding this project," President Ourso said.

## Parish winning court battle with EBR over aqua dams

The court battles over Iberville Parish's use of aqua dams in east Iberville are nothing new, but recent court rulings, including a Louisiana Supreme Court ruling, have Iberville Parish on top of the contentious battle with East Baton Rouge.

Iberville Parish, in 2020, had filed suit in district court in Iberville Parish against East Baton Rouge for the right to use its aqua dams and also for reimbursement of the cost of the aqua dams. East Baton Rouge wanted the case moved to EBR, but Judge Tonya Lurry ruled that it belongs in Iberville's district court. East Baton Rouge appealed to the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals, and its appeal was granted on April 21, 2021. Iberville began an appeal of the 1st Circuit's ruling to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

In the meantime, the parish began deploying the aqua dams on May 17 as the threat of severe rainfall loomed. East Baton Rouge Parish again filed an injunction to stop the deployment of the dams in district court in Baton Rouge.

Judge William Morvant approved a temporary restraining order prohibiting the parish from deploying the aqua dams on May 19, however, Iberville Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. defied the judge's order, saying that the Baton Rouge judge did not have jurisdiction to make that ruling for Iberville Parish. By that time, the parish had filed its appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court ruled, on June 6, that District Judge Lurry's ruling was correct, and that the proper venue of the suit is district court in Iberville. Iberville is continuing this suit to establish that the parish has the legal authority to deploy the aqua dams and that it be reimbursed for the cost of the aqua dams.

"The Supreme Court ruling means we will try this case in Iberville Parish, and we are very optimistic that the Parish will prevail in this case," said Parish Attorney Edward "Lucky" Songy. "We have the right to protect our residents from flooding."



*The top photo shows one Iberville home that flooded. In the photo above, sandbags are made at the parish barn. They are among the thousands of sandbags made at sites across the parish to help residents prepare for the flooding threat from 34 inches of rain, including deluges, within 36 days.*

## Construction of levee-top walking and biking trail begins

The City of Plaquemine held the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail on June 22, and the project is now underway.

The 10-foot wide trail on the top of the Mississippi River levee is being constructed in three phases. Phase 1 and 2 will be completed by late fall and include the trail head adjacent to the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site, with the trail extending to the North Plaquemine Park.

The project includes handicapped accessible ramps to the levee top at both the Lock Site and the North Plaquemine Park, and benches along the trail. Comeaux Brothers Construction of Plaquemine is the contractor for Phases 1 and 2, with a low bid of \$545,000.

Phase 3 extends the trail from the Lock Site south to near the Plaquemine ferry, with a ramp to the Fort Area Park, installation of solar lighting along the entire trail, and other amenities. The City has received grants totaling \$174,876 from the La. Office of State Parks and \$100,000 from Dow Chemical Co. for the Phase 1 and 2 construction.

The City has received a \$1 million grant from the La. Dept. of Transportation and Development for Phase 3, and has a 20 percent match to that grant. Phase 3 is expected to go out for bid by January of 2022.

The entire trail will be approximately 1.3 miles long when completed, and will be a walking and biking trail. ATV vehicles, golf carts, and motorcycles will not be allowed on the trail.

The City has been working on this project for over four years in order to get the approval of some 10 federal, state and local agencies necessary to proceed; along with obtaining funding for the approximately \$1.45 million trail.

"This project will benefit the city greatly," said Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr., who proposed the project after taking office in 2017. "Residents will enjoy the recreational benefits for years to come, and it also provides tourism benefits for our beautiful downtown area."

## City gets clean audit 3rd year in row

The City of Plaquemine was given an unqualified (clean) audit with no findings for the third year in a row! Independent auditors found no problems or issues with the city's 2020 finances and accounting practices.

The City's clean audit by external, independent auditors is very difficult for any agency to achieve. Mayor Reeves credited Finance Director Laurie Berthelot with the accomplishment and city supervisors for following her direction in adhering to financial regulations and policies.

## City wins 2nd in state Cleanest City Contest

The City of Plaquemine won second place in its division in the Cleanest City Contest in May, competing against three other finalist cities in District F (cities with populations of 4,500 to 9,500). The City was advised that it was a minuscule .02 of a point behind the winner, Winnsboro, in scoring. Plaquemine had already won the district competition.

City crews worked very hard to pick up litter and beautify public spaces for the Cleanest City judging. While numerous organizations volunteered to help in the clean up, two events were cancelled due to rainy weather. Despite that, some organization volunteers turned out to help the weekend before judging.

"We thank all the organizations that volunteered to help, including the Plaquemine Garden Club, St. John School, Knights of Columbus Council 970, Plaquemine Service League, Westside Master Gardeners, Dow Chemical Co., Plaquemine Lions Club, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Plaquemine Main Street Program, Iberville MSA FAA & 4-H Clubs, and St. John Church," said Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr.

"We competed in the Cleanest City Contest as a way to make residents aware of the importance of keeping our city and their property clean and beautiful, not just for judging day, but year round," said Mayor Reeves. "The City crews have a lot of work, and can't constantly pick up litter. Residents have to do their part. We hope that by seeing the City in pristine shape for the judging, residents will take pride in their home town and their property."



**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**HOMETOWN CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> • 5-9 pm**  
 Mark A. "Tony" Gulotta Bayou  
 Plaquemine Waterfront Park  
 57845 Foundry St., Plaquemine

**great FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

**MUSIC BY Phat Hat**

- 3 – 6 pm **IBERVILLE MUSEUM OPEN** with free admission, see the Atchafalaya exhibit!
- 5 – 9 pm **MUSIC & DANCING, FREE KIDS' RIDES & GAMES, FOOD & CRAFTS**  
Booths available for food and crafts vendors - Call City Hall - 225.687.3116
- 5:30 pm **BOAT PARADE HONORING VETERANS DEPARTS** from landing on Bayou Plaquemine across from Iberville Parish Jail on Bayou Road. To enter boat parade have boat in water at 5 pm – no fee to enter boat parade, patriotic boat decorations encouraged
- 6 pm **VETERANS CEREMONY**
- 7 pm **JITTER BUG DANCE CONTEST** on the boardwalk.
- 9 pm **INCREDIBLE FIREWORKS DISPLAY** with patriotic music by Plaquemine Council 970 Corp.

**KIDS RIDES! DANCING! GREAT FOOD & CRAFTS!**



A. Wilbert's Sons  
 Axiall-Westlake  
 Citizens Bank & Trust  
 Clerk of Court Amy Patin  
 Essential Fed. Credit Union  
 Iberville Bank  
 Wilbert's Funeral Home



**NO Ice Chests, Pets, Fireworks, Tents • Bring Your Lawn Chairs • Boats can dock at Waterfront Park**



# Drone certification, cosmetology classes to be offered this fall

We are excited to announce for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, White Castle High and East Iberville High Schools will be offering new classes in remote controlled vehicle technology (drones). Students completing the drone classes will earn their FAA107 Unmanned Aircraft Certification, which will allow them to take drone footage for businesses.

Cosmetology classes will be offered as an elective to juniors and seniors attending White Castle High School. Renovations are underway to convert the former home economics room into the new Cosmetology laboratory and training for teachers will begin in preparation for the classes.

These classes will not lead to certification yet, but are excellent preparatory classes for those interested in a Cosmetology career.

"We hope that these classes will spark some interest for students and get them excited about their education," said Candice Breaux, Supervisor of Instructional Technology and CTE. "Drones are the new technology and offer a new career path for our youth, so we expect some interest there." The classes are part of the state's Jumpstart pathways for graduation.



Iberville Virtual Learning Academy graduates

## 2021 IPSB Graduates



Iberville S.T.E.M. graduates



East Iberville High graduates

# Additional Industrial classes to be offered

In addition to our continued partnerships to provide industrial classes on the westside, the Iberville Parish School Board has partnered with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Pelican Chapter, to provide industrial classes on the eastside.

East Iberville High and MSA East seniors and juniors will have the opportunity to take classes in pipe fitting, millwright, rigging and insulating on the ABC campus in South Baton Rouge as transportation will be provided. Seniors are able to receive certifications in electrical, pipe fitting level 1, millwright, and scaffolding, rigging and insulating.

With these certifications for high demand jobs, this will provide the opportunity to our seniors to acquire jobs immediately after graduation. ABC has agreed that Iberville and Ascension Parish students will be combined in classes, making it more affordable, as well as allowing them to provide numerous opportunities.

For more information, contact the Iberville Parish School Board Office.



Iberville Math Science and Arts Academy West graduates



Plaquemine High School graduates



Iberville Math Science and Arts Academy East graduates



White Castle High School graduates

# \$7 million project bringing new Tiger Truck Stop to Grosse Tete

The old Tiger Truck Stop in Grosse Tete had become quite controversial among residents because of exotic animals being housed on the property. That owner and facility is now gone - and is being replaced with a \$7 million facility now under construction by the new owners.

Once complete, the new Tiger Truck Stop Travel Center will encompass a 15,000 square feet area with a trucker's lounge, deli, restaurant, a video poker casino, showers, gift shop, and a full service tire shop.

The Center will employ at least 50 people, and will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Fuel storage capacity is being increased to 80,000 gallons, with 14 diesel aisles for truckers and 10 fuel aisles for gas. It will also have 26 showers and bathroom facilities.

This business will provide a place for truckers to shower, fuel up their trucks, have a hot meal, relax and play video poker before getting back on the highway.

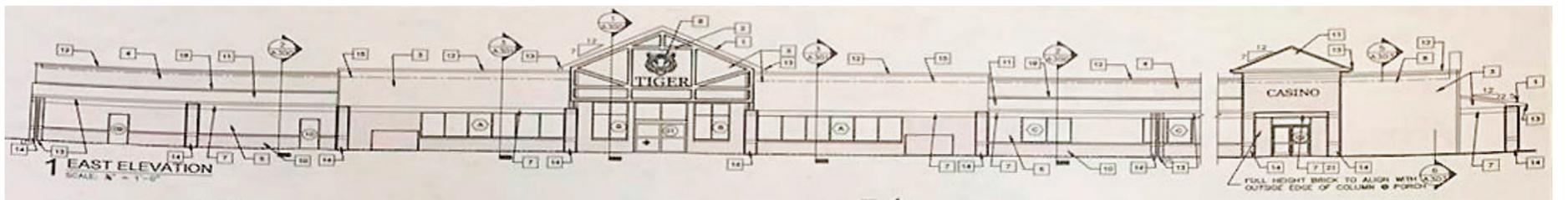
The locals will have a place to have a meal, buy fuel and convenience store items at any time they are needed, as well as play video poker.

The increase in business, the sales tax, video poker tax, and water and sewer revenue should be a big boost to Village of Grosse Tete revenues.

"We are excited to have a new and modern facility coming," said Mayor Mike Chauffe. "Now other similar businesses are making improvements to match, and all of this can only help Grosse Tete."



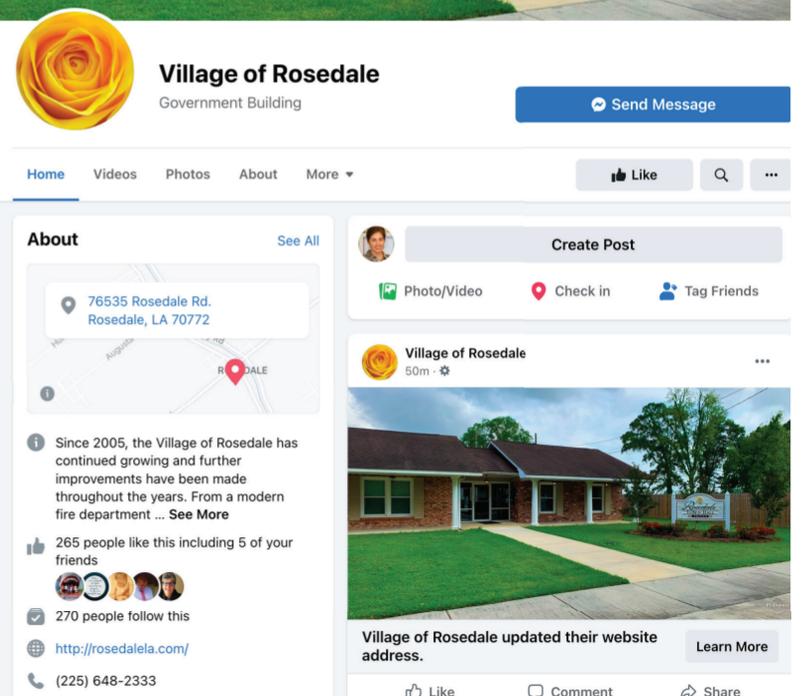
The photos above show the new Tiger Truck Stop Travel Center under construction, and the rendering below shows a front view of the 15,000 square feet facility.



# Rosedale gets website, facebook page to keep residents informed

The Village of Rosedale now has ramped up its technology and communications, launching a website and a facebook page in the last month. The website includes monthly meeting minutes, announcements, a secure portal to pay utility bills and traffic citations, village history and contact information. The photo below shows the website. Check it out at: [www.rosedalela.com](http://www.rosedalela.com).

The facebook page provides updates on local and parish activities, programs and emergencies. It is maintained by Village personnel to keep residents informed. The photo at right is the facebook page. Check it out at: [www.facebook.com/Village of Rosedale](http://www.facebook.com/Village of Rosedale).



# St. Gabriel challenged by recent rain events

With more than 12 inches of rain on May 17th followed by several days of more rainfall, the City of St. Gabriel, like many of the surrounding areas, experienced more than its fair share of rain fall, flooding, and resting water.

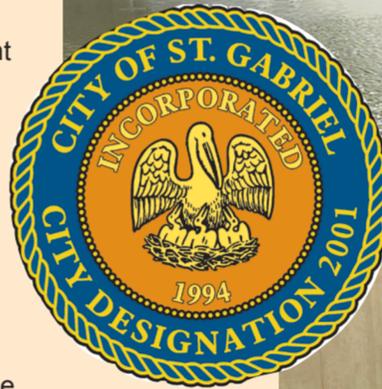
Several homes in the Sunshine, Legion Road/Hwy74, St. Gabriel and Carville communities took on water. The Spanish Lakes and Meadow Oaks residential developments experienced streets inundated with as much as 2 feet of water, making it impossible for many residents to leave their homes.

To exacerbate the problem, three weeks later, the June 6th rain event of 5 inches caused repeated home flooding and inundated roads in the same places. "We were assisting residents with damage assessments and debris pickup and just about to initiate a clean-up plan in the residential developments from the first event and we were hit again," said Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr.

"We have two issues. One is localized flash flooding and the other is Spanish Lake Reservoir overflow flooding. We will commission a city-wide drainage study and plan to work on our localized flash flooding, and we will join the fight with Parish President Ourso on the Spanish Lake Reservoir overflow flooding. Iberville Parish is not able to drain Spanish Lake Reservoir on a normal rain event, let alone these 25-, 50- or 100-year events we have," Johnson said. "This has been too similar to 2016, and nobody wants a repeat of that."

In an effort to offer support to those impacted, the City and its police department has offered shuttle rides to and from subdivisions, worked with the Parish on debris removal and trash pick-up, connected residents with Red Cross relief, and received support from community partners to offer other forms of assistance.

"We are so thankful for our community partners," said Mayor Johnson. "I want to recognize East Iberville INC, Bayou Community Federal Credit Union, St. Gabriel Hardware, and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, along with several of local businesses. This has been and continues to be a monumental task. But I am encouraged by the resiliency of our residents. I have seen neighbors helping neighbors and making the best of a difficult situation. I look forward to meeting with each area and getting their input on our future plans once we can get this water out of here and return to a sense of normalcy," noted Mayor Johnson.



*in the photo above, Public Works Director Lloyd Snowten (shown at far right) distributes cleaning supplies.*



*Shown in the photos at right are, from top, one of the homes that flooded; Mayor Lionel Johnson distributing cleaning supplies to a resident; Councilman Ralph Johnson, Sr., city staff and East Iberville, Inc., who distributed meals and supplies; and boxes being brought in for the distribution.*



## Town ramps up revitalization efforts, clean up parks

Fitness and outdoor activities for White Castle residents are ramping up as the town opened its new fitness center in the old Council on Aging building on Latino Street; and plans to re-open Scortino Park and Murrell Park on July 5.

Both parks have been cleaned up with pressure-washing and painting where needed. The nets on the tennis courts at Scortino Park have been changed, and the restrooms revitalized. In addition, childrens' play sets have been ordered for both parks, and will be installed as soon as they arrive. Delays in manufacturing and shipping have stalled the delivery of the play sets.

Burton Park is open, and the splash pad is now open at the park for kids to enjoy cool summer fun.

Meanwhile, the fitness center has been outfitted with weights, treadmills and other exercise equipment. Mayor John Morris, III said the town is also planning on adding an aerobics room to the center later this year.

The town also co-sponsored the Camp 360 summer afternoon program for about 45 kids in grades 2-6 in June. The program was held at the Community Center with the Iberville Parish School Board.

### PREPARE NOW FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Mayor Morris reminds residents to prepare now for hurricane season, which is upon us. Make sure all trees and shrubs are properly trimmed and do not extend into power lines. Have dead and damaged trees removed. Make sure all drainage ditches are kept open and free of debris and trash. Keep yards free of items that can easily become projectiles in severe weather.

"Having your property prepared early allows you to focus on getting your family prepared when we have a hurricane in the Gulf," said Mayor Morris.

For more information go to [www.getagameplan.org](http://www.getagameplan.org).

## Town gets grants totalling over \$2 million for drainage projects

The Town of Maringouin's efforts to improve drainage got a big boost with the recent award of two grants. The town will receive \$659,500 for a project to improve drainage in the Ridgeway Subdivision by removing sediment,

**Ridgeway Subdivision improvements - \$659,500**  
**Bayou Maringouin clean out - \$1,374 million**

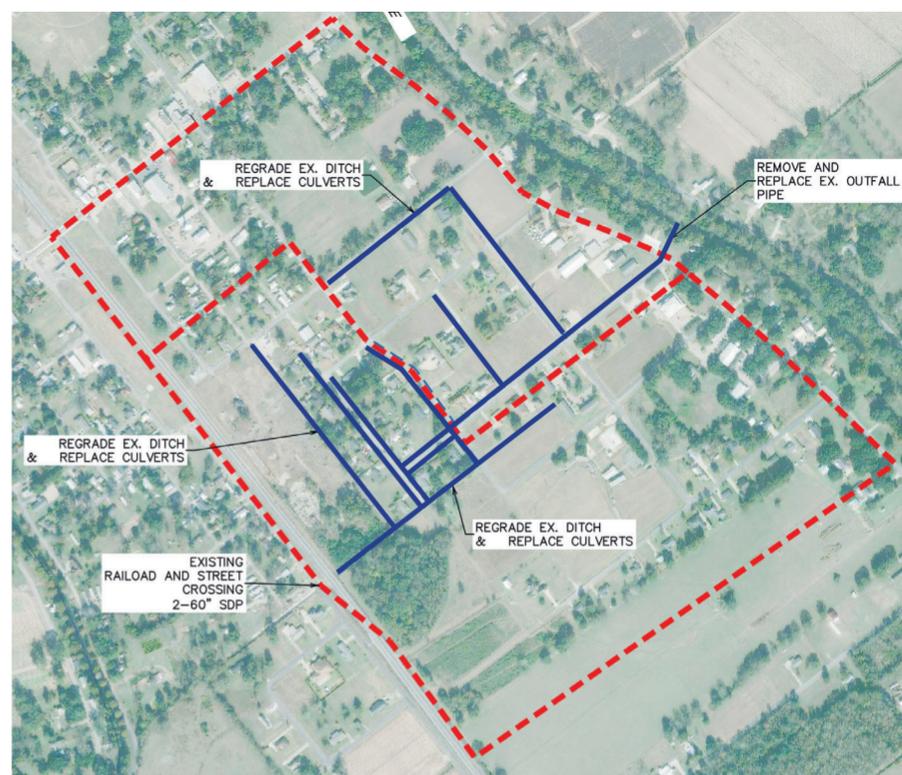
re-grading ditches and changing out undersized culverts to restore drainage flow

to Bayou Grosse Tete. This grant was awarded by the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, a program to reduce flood risk through a coordinated, regional, watershed-based approach.

The other drainage project is the \$1.52 million clean-out and dredging of Bayou Maringouin from the Iberville Parish line to the weir at Sparks Lane (approximately 2 miles), including the rehabilitation of the weir. This project is being funded in phases by the La. Department of Transportation and Development through its Public Works & Water Resources Division. A total of \$452,705 was funded for fiscal year 2021, with the state providing funds annually until its total grant of \$1,374,687 is reached.

The Town of Maringouin is subject to flooding of backwater from Bayou Maringouin due to siltation and overgrowth in the bayou. Cleaning out the bayou will improve drainage and the capacity of the bayou, thereby alleviating backwater flooding. The parish assisted in obtaining this grant and will assist in managing the project.

"We hope to get started on the project in Ridgeway Subdivision by the end of the year," said Mayor Maurice Harris. "We are very excited to get these grants, which makes these drainage improvements feasible for the town. In the meanwhile, we will continue to be diligent about keeping the drainage system clean and open as we enter hurricane season."



The rendering above shows the streets in Ridgeway Subdivision where drainage improvements will be made under the \$659,500 grant funded through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.



Town of Maringouin  
 Town Hall: 225.625.2630  
[www.townofmaringouin.net](http://www.townofmaringouin.net)



## Registration opens for football, soccer, volleyball leagues

Tackle football registration is underway and will continue until August 1. Registration for fall flag football, soccer and volleyball begins in August. Co-ed flag football and soccer are open to ages 5 to 12, and both leagues will play games from September through November. Fee is \$40. Volleyball is open to girls age 5 to 12, and league play will be September through November. Fee is \$40.

Registration forms can be obtained at [www.playiberville.com](http://www.playiberville.com) when registration for the sport opens, or call the IPRD office at 225-687-0641. The summer baseball and softball leagues, and summer tennis program are all now complete.

## Bellevue Park re-do bids in July

The parish has started work on a 6,000 square foot maintenance building, which is being constructed next to the Elks Lodge and Bellevue Park. The new facility will allow IPRD to house all athletic and park maintenance equipment in one facility, and will provide space for the IPRD maintenance crews. It is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the parish is going out for bid on the renovation of Bellevue Park in July. The \$7 million project has two phases. Phase 1 includes reconfiguring some of the present ball fields and adding sub-surface drainage into two multi-sport turf fields, which will accommodate four baseball or four softball fields, numerous soccer fields and two football fields, a new bathroom/umpire breakroom, concession stand building, new walking trail, lighting, picnic tables and pads, a main park entrance with pedestrian drop-off, signage, an inclusive playground area, relocated pavilion, covered bleachers, and landscaping. Phase 2 includes a multi-training facility.



## Summer ball league action

Shown are scenes from the summer T-ball, softball and baseball leagues. A total of 6 All-Star teams went on to state play in June.



## Camp 360

IPRD partnered with the Iberville Parish School Board to hold Camp 360 in June. Some 100 kids who took summer classes participated in four days a week camp. They were bused to the Civic Center by the School Board. IPRD plans to expand the program next year.



## New DA's Office website goes live

The 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office has a new website with extensive information available on the programs and services provided by the office. It includes new videos that explain aspects of the office, along with a listing of contact information for the staff and the criminal prosecution process. Shown below is the website home page. Check it out at [www.18thjda.org](http://www.18thjda.org)



The staff of the 18th Judicial District Attorney's Office in Iberville Parish is shown above with District Attorney Tony Clayton seated at center.



## DA's Office programs

- Prosecution of criminal cases in Iberville, West Baton Rouge & Pointe Coupee Parishes
- Victim Services
- Juvenile Services
- Child Support Enforcement
- Elder Abuse
- Worthless Checks Division
- Domestic Abuse
- Pre-trial Diversion
- Investigative Unit
- Legal representation for public agencies

**18th Judicial District Attorney's Office**  
 Iberville Parish Courthouse - 3rd Floor, 58050 Meriam St., Plaquemine  
 225-687-5210 [www.18thjda.org](http://www.18thjda.org)



## Are you eligible for these exemptions?

The following property tax exemptions are available for property owners who qualify, said Assessor Randy Sexton. The most popular exemption is the Special Assessment for Elderly & Disabled.

### SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED:

The Louisiana Special Assessment Level program allows for residents who are 65 years old or older, disabled, or disabled veterans with 50% disability to have the assessed value of their homes frozen for tax purposes. This means their homes would not be subject to revaluation and the assessed value of their homes would remain the same no matter if property values increase. To be eligible property owners must: live in the home, be disabled, be a disabled veteran, be 65 years or older, and have an adjusted gross income of \$75,594 or less in 2020.

### EXEMPTION FOR UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MILITARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE PROTECTION OFFICERS:

This is a total ad valorem (property) tax exemption for the unmarried surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Services, the Louisiana National Guard, the Louisiana State Police, or a law enforcement or fire protection officer killed in the line of duty.

### EXEMPTION FOR UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSE OF FIRST RESPONDER:

Property tax exemption for the total assessed value of the homestead of an unmarried surviving spouse of a person who died while performing their

duties as an emergency medical responder, technician, paramedic, volunteer fire fighter or law enforcement or fire protection officer.

### EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS DISABLED IN SERVICE:

Veterans with a service-connected 100 percent disability are eligible for an additional \$75,000 exemption to property owned and occupied by veterans with the disability. It also extends to their surviving spouse. This is in addition to the \$75,000 homestead exemption, increasing the total exemption for these veterans to \$150,000.

### HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION:

Residential property in which the owner also resides at the property is eligible for the \$75,000 homestead exemption.

Any property owners who qualify for any of these exemptions should go to the Iberville Parish Assessor's Office and complete the application. Bring proof of income and personal identification.



Iberville Parish Assessor's Office  
Assessor Randy Sexton

Hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday  
225.687.3568 [www.ibervilleassessor.org](http://www.ibervilleassessor.org)

## Plaq. firefighters install new flag display at Iberville Museum



The Plaquemine Fire Department volunteered to install the Iberville Museum's Historic Flags of Louisiana Display in May. Each flag represents the nine different governments that ruled over the Parish of Iberville.

The display includes the Flag of the Spanish Explorers, the Flag of the French Explorers, the British Union Jack, the Nation of Spain, and the Nation of France. It also features the Fifteen States of America Flag, the Federal Republic of Louisiana, the Seven States of the Confederacy, the State Flag of Louisiana, and the American Flag.

A huge thank you to the Plaquemine firefighters for their hard work in installing this display!



Shown in top photo are some of the historic flags now on display at the Iberville Museum. In photo above are the firefighters who hung the nine historic flags. From left: Alex Bickham, Josh Boudreaux, Shaun Bordelon, Derek Bujol, and Katie Cressionne.

**Iberville**  
**MUSEUM**

TUESDAY - FRIDAY  
(SATURDAYS BY APPOINTMENT)  
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
\$5 ADULTS, \$3 CHILD

LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN PLAQUEMINE  
57735 MAIN STREET

225.687.7197 | [CONTACT@IBERVILLEMUSEUM.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@IBERVILLEMUSEUM.ORG)

# Tips to prepare for hurricane season

**Make a plan:** If evacuation is necessary, turn off all utilities and follow community disaster preparedness plans. Select a common meeting place or single point-of-contact for all family members. If you have pets, have a plan for their evacuation as well.



Get ready for hurricanes and other severe weather situations!  
Go to: [getagameplan.org](http://getagameplan.org) for extensive information

**Secure the exterior:** Trim large trees and shrubs and bring all outside patio furniture, potted plants, bikes and toys indoors. If necessary, secure outdoor sculptures.

**Install storm shutters:** Protect windows, doors and skylights with appropriate shutters or impact-resistant glass. You can nail pieces of plywood to window frames as last-minute protection.

**Move your cars:** Move cars to higher ground or park them in your garage against the garage doors. Do not park under trees, power lines or in low-lying areas.

**Power up:** Fill your car's gas tank, charge your cell phone, test your generator, and have plenty of fuel ready in case of power outages.

**Unplug appliances:** Move appliances and household fixtures away from exterior doors and window openings. Store them in cabinets or interior closets.

**Store important documents:** Keep important documents, such as legal papers, birth certificates, marriage license, financial papers and insurance policy information, as well as valuables such as jewelry, in a safety deposit box or in a bolted safe in an interior closet in your home.

**Prep an emergency kit:** Gather flashlights, a portable radio, extra batteries, non-perishable food, bottled water, cash, blankets, clothing and toiletries.

**Identify a shelter room:** This enclosed area should be on the first floor, in the central part of the house with no windows.

## IBERVILLE PARISH LIBRARY

# The libraries are



The Iberville Parish libraries are open to the public and ready to help! Keep up to date with library news on our Facebook page and our website, [myipl.org](http://myipl.org).

In person programs resume in the fall! Until then, we'll see you at the movies...

### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



@ the Carl F. Grant Civic Center in Plaquemine  
July 16 @ 7pm



Iberville Parish Library  
24605 J Gerald Berret Blvd  
Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764 | (225) 687-2520  
[myipl.org/](http://myipl.org/)



# Providing critical help through tough times



**A deputy wades through water to assist with evacuation of homes.**

The Iberville Sheriff's Office played an important role when recent rain events threatened several parts of the parish. Deputies provided traffic control, security, assistance with providing sandbags and even assisting in evacuation efforts as residents were forced to leave their homes by high water.

"Our role is to provide any type of support that we can during an emergency, and we were very busy throughout the parish trying to help our residents," Sheriff Brett Stassi said.

He noted that deputies provided round-the-clock traffic control for the aqua dams in east Iberville the entire time they were in use. In Bayou Pigeon and Sorrel, he and other deputies monitored sandbags being put down by inmates, and deputies were involved with evacuation of residents and traffic control. In the Plaquemine area, traffic control was initiated.

"We take pride in the fact that we work closely with the parish and municipalities, but what happened when the high water came and when the aqua dams failed in Bayou Sorrel was inspiring," Sheriff Stassi said.

"The people of Bayou Sorrel and Bayou Pigeon sprang into action, going house to house to help residents with sandbagging," he said. "It didn't matter if they knew the residents or not, they just went to help. And the way they came in droves and worked together to stop the water after the aqua dam failure was truly amazing. We may never see anything like that again in our lifetime, but it will never be forgotten."



**In top photo, Sheriff Stassi monitors inmates laying sandbags in Bayou Sorrel. In the photo above, administrative workers make sandwiches for deputies and volunteers evacuating residents in the Bayou Sorrel/Pigeon area.**

## Deputies build relationships with kids



**Iberville deputies constantly work to build relationships with youth. In these photos, deputies provided snowballs to children; and a deputy even bought a bike for a girl who had been through a rough time.**



**These kids thanked the Iberville Sheriff's Office for their hard work and dedication in keeping the community safe by providing goodie bags to deputies. Sheriff Stassi is shown at back.**