

## Volunteers honored at Main Street celebration

The Plaquemine Main Street Program celebrated its 20-year anniversary, along with the Promotion and Preservation of Iberville and the Louisiana Main Street Program, which celebrated their 30-year anniversaries, during a ceremony on May 25.

Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne and Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta both spoke at the ceremony and Selectman Mickey Rivet was emcee. Numerous individuals who have been instrumental in the programs were also honored.

In his remarks, Gulotta noted that he championed the Main Street Program because "I saw historic preservation as an economic development tool,"

Gulotta said. "Historic preservation was a part of my platform when I ran for mayor." The Main Street Program has resulted in 43 net new businesses, 188 net new jobs, private investment of \$9 million and public investment of \$20 million, said Main Street Manager Kristine Hebert. She also noted that over the last 10 years, more than 7,000 volunteers have contributed more than 40,000 volunteer hours for community projects and events. Gulotta also thanked the Board of Selectmen for supporting the Main Street program.

### Recognized for their volunteer efforts were:

Former Main Street Promotions Committee members Brenda Blanchard, Bobby Blanchard, and Judy Gonzales; July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee chair Lorraine Hidalgo, and members Michelle Sharon, Bobby Blanchard, Paula Adams, Nina Cardinal, Bunny LeVerne LeMay, Tyla LoBue, Scott Marcantel, and Jeff Sharon; Christmas Festival Coordinators Lauren Stein and Donna Purpera; Scout Master Doug Rogerson representing Boy Scouts Packs 21 and 23; Main Street Organization Committee members James "Fry" Hymel representing the Iberville Museum; Sissy Irwin of the Iberville Tourism Department; Lock Ranger Stan Richardson of the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site; Charlene Bishop and Yvonne Smith. A special award was given to Sandra Devillier in recognition for her many years of service to the Main Street Program, the City of Plaquemine and for coordinating the summer camp program at COPAC. Special thanks to event sponsors American Tree Stump Removal, Canova & Delahaye Attorneys, LLC, Professional Engineering Consultants Corp. (PEC) and Fusion Architecture.



*Grand Dame of Main Street... Sue G. Hebert was honored for her 26 years of service in the promotion and preservation of Iberville Parish history, culture and natural and built environment. She served on the City's Historic District Advisory Commission at its inception in 1990 and continued to formulate events and programs with Main Street. She was also recently recognized as Preservationist of the Year by the National Daughters of the American Revolution. Shown from left are Main Street Manager Kristine Hebert, Mayor Gulotta, Sue G. Hebert and Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne.*



City of Plaquemine  
23640 Railroad Ave.  
Plaquemine, LA 70764

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### City of Plaquemine

Plaquemine City Hall • 23640 Railroad Ave.

Plaquemine, Louisiana • 225-687-3116

HOURS: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

Emergency After-Hours Phone 225-687-4796

www.plaquemine.org

Mark A. "Tony" Gulotta, Mayor

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Lindon A. "Lin" Rivet, Jr. - Selectman, District 1  
Oscar Mellion - Mayor Pro Temp, Selectman, District 2  
Ralph J. Stassi, Jr. - Selectman, District 3  
Michael W. "Mickey" Rivet - Selectman, District 4  
Timothy L. "Timmy" Martinez - Selectman, District 5  
Jimmie Randle, Jr. - Selectman, District 6

**CITY LIGHT AND WATER will soon offer new options to pay utility bills!**

**Pay on-line or by credit card!**

*Watch for more information about these services in the coming months!*

**BANK DRAFT OPTION AVAILABLE NOW!**

**Join AMP - even out your monthly electric bills with this averaging plan that eliminates spikes during certain months of the year!**

# CITY NEWS

City of  
**Plaquemine**  
City of Hospitality  
Settlement 1775 - Incorporated 1838

JUNE 2014



14th Annual

**JULY 4th**

**HOMETOWN CELEBRATION**

**Friday, July 4 • 3-9 pm**

**Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park**

**Schedule of Events**

- 9:00 am – 9:00 pm** Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site – tours, free admission
- 3:00 – 7:00 pm** Iberville Museum – free admission – Featuring demonstrations of Louisiana net making by Ray Guillot, and free arts and crafts for kids while supplies last.
- 3:00 – 9:00 pm** Great food, crafts, rides, and game booths
- 4:30 pm** Boat Parade on Bayou Plaquemine honoring military veterans (*Patriotic-themed boats are welcome – free of charge*)
- 5:00 pm** Boat parade arrives at Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park Ceremonies and introduction of Grand Marshals
- 6:00 – 9:00 pm** Dancing in the park to the music of Unfinished Business
- 7:00 pm** Jitterbug dancing contest
- 9:00 pm** FIREWORKS on Bayou Plaquemine

*Bring your lawn chairs  
Boats welcome to dock at Waterfront Park*

*NO ICE CHESTS, PERSONAL TENTS,  
PETS OR FIREWORKS*

**Sponsored by Plaquemine Main Street Program**

# Construction of new power plant to ensure stable electric rates

Plaquemine Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta participated in the ground-breaking of Louisiana Energy and Power Authority's (LEPA's) new \$120,770,000 natural gas fired electrical power plant to be built in Morgan City on April 17. The City has committed to get a portion of its electrical power from the plant.

Gulotta, who has been on the LEPA Board of Directors for 22 years, said, "This plant will provide us with options to keep electrical costs stable well into the future. Without it we have no control." He also thanked the Plaquemine Board of Selectmen for their support of the project. "Without their backing and vote, we couldn't do this. I appreciate their efforts and the trust they have put in me and LEPA to help keep electrical costs stable."

The plant will be a 64 megawatt nominal rated natural gas generating plant (CCGT). The new plant is the first power plant to be built in the southern region of Louisiana in some 40 years.

"The CCGT technology is superior to conventional fossil fueled generating plants because of its higher efficiency, lower environmental impact, lower capital cost, and shorter construction time," said Cordell Grand, General Manager of LEPA. "Because the plant is fuel efficient, it will help stabilize the cost of electrical power for these municipalities by minimizing the impact of fluctuations in natural gas rates," Grand noted.

Six LEPA member municipalities: Morgan City, Houma, Jonesville, Plaquemine, Rayne and Vidalia, have entered into long term power sales agreements for the plant's power output. "The plant is expected to supply these municipalities with competitively priced electrical power that will reduce their reliance on older, more costly electric supply options," said Grand. To view progress on construction of the plant go to: <http://video-monitoring.com/construction/lepa/slideshow.htm>.



## City Of Plaquemine Employees PROJECT CARE RAFFLE

**THREE GREAT PRIZES!**

- iPad
- iPad Mini
- \$250 Gift Certificate



*Project Care provides utility assistance to elderly citizens that are customers of the City Light and Water System.*

WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN AT THE JULY 4 HOMETOWN CELEBRATION

Tickets \$2 each

**Purchase at City Utility Office in City Hall, or from any city employee.**



## New signs coming for city

Plaquemine residents will notice beautiful new signs being installed at the entrance of the city on La. Hwy. 1 South beginning in June. The rendering above is the new welcome sign that will replace the city's existing entrance sign. It is a beautiful combination of stucco and glass panels that is a huge improvement over the city's present sign. Landscaping will be added around the sign after it is completed. The city is also installing a digital sign that will provide a way for the city and organizations to post information quickly and on an on-going basis. The digital sign will be located where the city's present metal structure is for banners on La. Hwy. 1. "A digital sign has many uses – to post emergency information, events, city announcements, and special announcements such as the return of local troops," said Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta. "This is our first digital sign. I also hope to put one on Belleview Road near Plaquemine City Park in the future." Installation of the signs should take about two months.

## Utility projects UPDATE

The city's new \$4 million electrical transformer is expected to be operational in June, making the city's electric system more reliable and increasing the capacity of the system to 115 KV (kilovolts), up from its present 65 KV. "The transformer is now live," said Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta. "They are doing the circuit work to control the various circuits, then testing will begin. We expect to switch over to the new transformer some time in June and we don't expect any disruption in service for customers. If all goes well, they won't know it took place." The city's existing 55-year old transformer will then become a back-up.

**POWER LINE UPGRADE....** Work on the \$1.6 million upgrade of electrical power lines over a 5-mile area of Plaquemine is about 50 percent complete. The upgrade will make the lines more sturdy to hold up better against strong winds and hurricanes. It includes changing out 180 wood poles with metal poles. The project is expected to be completed by the fall.

### PARKING PLAZA CONTRACT AWARDED...

Work on the parking plaza for the Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park will begin in June and should be completed by the beginning of September. The city awarded the contract for the project to Tullier Services of Plaquemine. It will transform the old Nadler Foundry property to a 130-car parking area with some landscaping. Above is a rendering of the parking plaza. It will be complete in time for the KC's annual Acadian Festival, which is moving to the Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park this year.



## Water spray park open for summer!



**PLAQUEMINE WATER SPRAY PARK AT CITY PARK**  
24505 Ferdinand St.

**Hours: 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Sunday. Closed on Monday.**  
Admission is free.

Iberville Parks and Recreation District (IPRD) will have supervision at the park, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For inclement weather, contact IPRD at 225-687-0641 on week days from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., or call 225-776-5408 after hours and on weekends. Buses are welcome, but are asked to call IPRD in advance.