

## Sewer plant construction begins

Construction of the city's new \$11.4 million sewer plant has begun south of Plaquemine. The plant will replace the city's 60+ year-old plant on W.W. Harleaux Avenue that is operating at capacity and is struggling to meet more stringent federal and state environmental regulations.

The road, including a railroad crossing, to the new plant, located in a sugarcane field, have been completed, and dirtwork on the site has been done.

"The contractor will have to drive 1,200 pilings in the ground to support the structure, which will include a 2-million gallon cement tank with 12-inch thick concrete walls," noted Mayor Tony Gulotta.

The sewer improvement project totals \$16.46 million, and includes \$500,000 to obtain rights-of-way for the sewer trunk line to go from the existing plant to the site of the new plant, and then out to the Mississippi River; \$3.3 million to build the trunk line; the construction of the new plant; and \$1.2 million to convert the

W.W. Harleaux plant into a lift station.

The new sewer plant will have plenty of excess capacity to handle growth in the future, and will also have state-of-the-art sewerage treatment equipment, and will be more environmentally friendly than the 60-year-old plant.

Construction is estimated to take about a year and the contractor is Tullier Services of Plaquemine.



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](http://www.plaquemine.org)

Mark A. "Tony" Gulotta, Mayor

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### Prescription discount card users get big savings

Plaquemine residents who have used the free prescription discount card program have saved an average of 24.6 percent on their prescriptions according to the most recent report on the program by the National League of Cities (NLC).

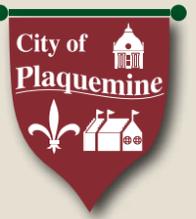
The city is participating in the program through the NLC and sent the free discount cards to every household in June 2010. Since that time the discount card has been used by local residents for 5,996 prescriptions, for a total savings of \$77,042. The average savings per prescription is \$12.85.

Residents who do not have a prescription discount card can get one at the Mayor's Office in City Hall on Railroad Avenue. For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at 225-687-3116.

# CITY NEWS

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

JANUARY 2014



## City utility customers to have more payment options

Plaquemine City Light & Water customers will soon be able to access their accounts and make bill payments on-line or by credit card later this year, announced Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta.

"We will be installing the software, testing and training the staff to help customers with this new service over the coming months, and I expect to roll out the new payment options this summer," he said.

Gulotta said more and more people are paying their bills on-line, and more commerce is predicted to be handled via computers or mobile devices in the future. "We are offering these options to make it easy for customers to pay their utility bills," he said. "For people who handle a lot of their bill paying on-line it will be a welcome

advancement," he said.

The city already offers customers the options of automatic bank draft for their payments, and payment by mail and at the City Light & Water Office or its drop boxes.

Watch for more information about these new services.



*Krewe of Comogo Parade*

*Rolls Monday, March 3 6:30 PM*



*City Mardi Gras Parade - March 1 2 p.m.*

# City moving into final phase of new transformer project

The super structure to connect the city's new electrical transformer to the electrical grid has been completed, and work is now underway to install grounding grids underground, and then install wiring for the connections. The complex project is expected to be completed in about three months – on schedule and on budget.

Mayor Tony Gulotta said the wet weather conditions have slowed the project some, but it will still be completed on time. The \$3.5 million project includes the new 115 volt transformer, electrical equipment, wiring, building, and connections to the electrical grid.

“This new transformer will make the city's electrical system more reliable because we will not be dependent on a 55-year-old transformer, and we will go from 69 volts coming into the city to 115 volts coming in,” noted Mayor Gulotta. The existing transformer will become the city's back up transformer once the conversion is complete.

“In the past our steam plant was our back-up but it would take about 8 hours to get it going and it can no longer handle the city electrical load during the summer, so if we relied on it we would be forced to having rolling blackouts. This new transformer eliminates those issues,” noted Mayor Gulotta.



Shown is the electrical structure

# Local Economic Development projects get State notice

Three companies in Plaquemine were listed in the Louisiana Department of Economic Development's Economic Highlights Report for 2013!

Axiall Corp. announced a potential \$3 billion investment in new ethylene and related derivatives facilities, with the project representing more than 2,400 new direct and indirect jobs.

Shintech, Inc. announced plans for a \$500 million project to boost its chlor-alkali, vinyl

chloride monomer (VSM), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) capabilities. The project will result in 54 new direct and indirect jobs, while retaining 270 existing employees.

The Dow Chemical Co. announced a \$1 billion project to build a pair of polyolefins plants at its Plaquemine site. These projects will retain 1,380 existing workers at the site, and result in more than 540 new jobs.

## Comparison of Plaquemine residential electric bills to other companies

1000 KWH - Information from the La. Public Service Commission

Electrical Co.	July	August	September	October
<b>Plaquemine</b>	<b>97.08</b>	<b>94.31</b>	<b>94.31</b>	<b>92.13</b>
Entergy Gulf States (south of Plaq.)	98.23	97.83	93.91	93.75
Entergy Louisiana (North of Plaq.)	105.66	107.06	104.27	103.54
Pointe Coupee Electric	104.13	98.55	97.79	97.83
DEMCO	95.20	95.65	95.57	95.26
CLECO	120.31	118.67	119.97	119.87

# Mayor for Day focuses on litter's effects

When Elizabeth Bueche spent the day as Plaquemine's honorary Mayor for the Day with Mayor Tony Gulotta, her focus was on how litter and pollution affect the local environment and Bayou Plaquemine.

Mayor Gulotta explained the city's effort to pick up litter and the many educational programs it has tried to educate residents. When Plaquemine's streets and public property is littered, the debris will end up polluting Bayou Plaquemine which kills the aquatic habitat and other wildlife supported by the bayou.

Bueche won the St. John School Mayor for the Day auction, and spent all morning on November 21 with Mayor Gulotta. She used the information she gathered from her time at City Hall as part of her school science fair project, which focused on the effect of litter and pollution on Bayou Plaquemine.

Gulotta noted that the city collects 80 to 100 huge 65-gallon bags of litter each week on public rights of way, public property and roadways. The city also operates a street sweeper every week of the year. The costs to taxpayers for these efforts total \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year. Litter that isn't picked up or collected by the street sweeper is washed into the city's drain system and not only clogs up the drainage system, but also ends up in Bayou Plaquemine.



## Rendering of Nadler property parking/RV facility released...

Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta and the Plaquemine Board of Selectmen are finalizing plans to convert the Nadler Foundry property across from the Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park into parking and possibly an RV site for special functions at the park.

The rendering at left shows what the area, including a huge metal building that will be converted into use for parking and possibly RV usage during special park events. The plans call for some 200 parking spaces, the building with bathrooms, along with

the addition of greenery and trees in keeping with the beauty of the award-winning Waterfront Park. The city has allocated \$150,000 in its 2014 budget for the project, and expects to begin that work in the Spring.