

City of Plaquemine receives state Environmental Leadership Program honor

The City of Plaquemine has received the Municipality Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for its litter abatement program.

The city received the award from LDEQ's Environmental Leadership Program, which is a voluntary program started in 1995 for participating companies, organizations and government agencies committed to improving the quality of the state's environment. The program recognizes efforts to improve the environment annually with its Leadership Awards, which were given on February 26 at a ceremony at the LDEQ headquarters in Baton Rouge.

Plaquemine received the award for its litter abatement program, which includes its public awareness and education measures, litter control and pick-up. Specifically the city was noted for its Youth Litter Commercial Challenge conducted in 2013. In the contest, students made anti-littering commercials aimed at their age group, and the winning entry received a gift certificate for Best Buy. A total of 12 entries were submitted and a group of five juniors at Plaquemine High School won.

Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta noted, "Studies show that young people are the primary litterers, so we wanted to get the message across to them that littering hurts our community, and also that litter ends up in Bayou Plaquemine, harming the fish and bayou habitat."

Besides the Litter Commercial Challenge, the city has also educated residents about the damaging effects and cost of littering via the city's newsletter on a consistent basis, and has worked with other agencies and the local newspaper to promote anti-littering messages. The city spends approximately \$25,000 per year on litter clean-up and has held numerous clean-up events in the past.



La. State Rep. Gordon Dove, chair of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee, is shown giving the Municipality Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention to Kristine Hebert, representing the City of Plaquemine; as LDEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch looks on.



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

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

Pay on-line or by credit card!

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

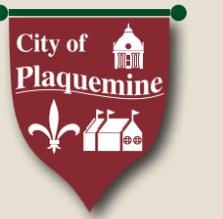
BANK DRAFT OPTION AVAILABLE NOW!

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

MARCH 2014



\$1.6 million electrical line upgrade underway

A \$1.6 million project to upgrade electrical power lines over a five-mile area in Plaquemine is underway.

"The power line will be larger and will be more sturdy so it will hold up better against strong winds and hurricanes," noted Utility Director Frank Mott. "That will make it more reliable for customers."

The project is expected to take six to seven months and includes changing out some 180 wood electrical poles with new metal poles, which can hold the heavier power line. "People are beginning to see small flags in their yards and lines being changed," Mott said. "These flags are just to mark water, gas, sewer and phone lines. They are nothing for residents to be alarmed about."



Electrical poles are installed to supply electricity to the city's new sewer plant in a sugarcane field in south Plaquemine.

provide power to the new sewer plant.

The new line will also supply the electrical demand for the city's new sewer plant and the parish's new medical facility, which are both under construction now.



An electrical pole is changed at the corner of Lillian Street and Charles Street as part of the electrical upgrade underway.



Rains slow transformer work

The city's new \$4 million electrical transformer is expected to be operational this summer, as heavy rains since January have slowed the construction down. Presently work is continuing on the towers that will hold the main feed lines to the transformer circuits, and underground cable trays that will hold wires extending from the transformer to the control building.

Work has been completed on the grounding grid installed below the ground, which is necessary to ground lightning strikes on power lines. The next steps to complete the project include installing the computer system that will operate and monitor the transformer, testing all equipment and then transferring power from the existing transformer to the new one.

The city's existing 55-year old transformer will then become a back-up. The new transformer will have the capacity for 115KV (kilovolts) coming into the city, providing more capacity and reliability for the system.

April calendar full of local events

April 4 – 17th Annual Relay for Life of Iberville

City of Plaquemine Activity Center (COPAC), 24130 Fedrinand St. 5 p.m. until 5 a.m. on Saturday.

Opening and other ceremonies, survivor recognition and walk, luminaria ceremony, entertainment, activities, food vendors, kid and family activities

All proceeds benefit The American Cancer Society.

For more information go to www.relayforlife.org/iberville



April 4-6 67th Annual Cub Scout Soap Box Derby Races

In front of Iberville Museum, 57735 Main Street

Sponsored by Cub Scouts Packs 21 and 23.

Parade of Soap Box Derby Cars - Friday at 5 p.m.

Races are throughout the day Saturday and Sunday.

Free admission. Bring lawn chairs.

For more information contact:

www.cubscout21.com/home or Plaquemine Main Street

Program office - 225-687-3116

Sunday, April 6 Spring Festival (see flyer at right)

Friday, April 11 Annual Gray Monkey Parade

Railroad Avenue in downtown Plaquemine, 12:30 p.m.

Children's walking parade - no motorized vehicles or pedal-power riding toys allowed.

Sponsored by the Iberville Library.

For more information call 225-287-2520 or go to

www.iberville.lib.la.us.

April 26 St. Jude Antique Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show

Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park, 57845 Foundry St.

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Baton Rouge Corvette Club and Plaquemine Main Street Program.

Proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Dozens of vintage vehicles on display, food, sweets and silent auction.

For more information go to www.brcorvetteclub.com or www.plaquemine.org/events



Eagle Scout project focuses on litter awareness

Local Boy Scout Walter Barker, Jr. used his Eagle Scout project to help raise community awareness about the impact of litter on Bayou Plaquemine. Barker installed some 40 plates with the message "Don't Litter – Trash Flows Into The Bayou," and "Stop – Trash Flows To Bayou" on sewer drains around the city. Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta suggested the project to Barker because of the continuing litter problem here. The brightly colored plates were designed and made by the city, and Barker installed them with a high-grade glue. Shown during one installation session are, from left, Scout Leader Doug Roberson, Walter Barker, Jr., helper Ryan Guerin and Walter Barker, Sr.

Spring Festival
SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2014
8:00 am • 2:00 pm
Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park
 57845 Foundry St, Plaquemine, LA
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FREE ADMISSION

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
 8AM-10:30AM

Children's Walking Easter Parade
 Stroll with the Easter Bunny through the Waterfront Park
 10:30AM

Arts and Crafts
 9AM-1PM

Easter Bonnet Contest
 Adult and Children
 11AM

Photos with the Easter Bunny
 \$5 fee

Chili Cook-Off
 11AM-2PM
 Judging at 1PM

Children's Games and Activities

Easter Egg hunt
 Sponsored by Elks Lodge 1398

Plant sale and demonstration
 by Tri-Parish Master Gardeners

SPONSORS:
 We Are the Difference, Inc. Plaquemine Main Street Program

Contact Event Chairman Rhonda Harrell at 225-687-2029 or go to www.wearethedifference.org or www.plaquemine.org

Plaza parking plans continue

Plans for the plaza parking area across from the Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park are proceeding, but estimates for the project are coming in much higher than expected, said Mayor Mark "Tony" Gulotta.

The city had put aside \$150,000 for the project in its 2014 budget, but estimates are more than \$400,000 to complete the project. Gulotta said with some changes to the plan and the use of city crews for some work, he thinks the city can complete it for about \$300,000.

The plaza, located at the old Nadler Foundry property, will include 150 parking spaces, some landscaping and the conversion of a huge foundry building into use for parking, possibly recreational vehicle facilities for special events, and bathrooms.

Mayor Gulotta said the Knights of Columbus Council 970 has voted to move its annual Acadian Festival to the Waterfront Park this year. He said the plaza will be completed before that festival, and the plaza area will be used for rides during the festival. "We are excited to be hosting the festival and think the visibility of the festival along La. Hwy. 1 will be a big boost to attendance," the mayor said. "We are working with the KC's to accommodate the event."

Unusually cold winter means higher electric bills

Your natural gas, and possibly your electric bill, may seem high for this time of year. Several factors have combined to increase your bill over the last few months. They are:

TEMPERATURES unusually low

Temps	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2014	Feb. 2014
Days in 50s	6	9	6
Days in 40s	3	2	1
Days in 30s	1	3	2
Nights in 40s	9	3	7
Nights in 30s	14	13	12
Nights in 20s	1	13	4

NATURAL GAS USED significantly up due to low temperatures

UP 58%

MCFs purchased for Plaq. natural gas customers in Jan. 2013 - 237,403
 MCFs purchased for Plaq. natural gas customers in Jan. 2014 - 376,364

NATURAL GAS COST up compared to last year

UP 9%

Amount paid by City of Plaquemine per MCF in 2013 - \$3.97
 Amount paid by City of Plaquemine per MCF in 2014 - \$4.33