

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR REEVES



Numerous projects on the table, summer heat is here

As we all have experienced, summer heat is here. I urge residents to please conserve electrical energy during these hot months because natural gas prices are higher and these prices will impact customers electric bills. We have included some tips to conserve energy in this newsletter. Please review that information. Any steps you take will help keep your electric bill down in the coming months.

The City presently has several projects in various stages. The bids on the Depot Square project came in much higher than expected, due in part to the big price increases we have seen in building costs this year. Comeaux Brothers Construction was the low bidder with a \$1.4 million bid. We have met with the architect, Fusion Architecture, and Comeaux Brothers to review what we could change on the project to lower costs, and also how we could phase the project over several years to make it more manageable. We are presently awaiting information from them on these changes.

We are proceeding with the Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail because we have secured grant funds (up to \$1 million) for Phase 3 of the project. If you have not walked any of the trail yet, please do so! The view of the Mississippi River at the trail-head, which is the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site on Main Street, is spectacular. Go take a walk or enjoy watching the ships pass on the park benches we have installed on the trail!

We are also working with the Capital Region Planning Commission and the La. Department of Transportation & Development on a project to make Belleview Road safer for walkers and bike riders. Not only is this a very busy highway, but vehicles also travel very fast down the highway. We have been working with transportation experts and hope to have some options to make it safer by the end of this year.

I hope you have a great summer,

Ed

Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr.

Videos to promote the City in the works

The City of Plaquemine is working in cooperation with CGI Digital, on four videos to promote the City. They include a welcome, quality of life, tourism and economic development, and will feature all of the beautiful sights and highlights of our City.

The videos will be used on the City website, facebook page, and used for economic development and tourism purposes. They will also be provided to the Iberville Chamber of Commerce and parish economic development and tourism departments to promote the City. The videos will be produced at no cost to the City, with the cost being funded by local businesses sponsors that have their logos adjacent to the videos on the City website. The logos link to their business websites. The City hopes to have the videos completed by this fall.

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Edwin M. "Ed" Reeves, Jr., Mayor

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

- Lin Rivet - Selectman, District 1,
Mayor Pro Tem
- Geraldine Mellion - Selectwoman, District 2
- Wanda B. Jones - Selectwoman, District 3
- Tommy LeBlanc - Selectman, District 4
- Shannon Courtade - Selectman, District 5
- Margaret Randle - Selectwoman, District 6

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

may 2022



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Mayor's Office	687-3116
City Light & Water	687-3725
City Clerk	687-3661
City Inspector	687-2208
Warehouse	687-2036
City Finance	687-3725
Human Resources	687-3725
Utilites	687-2461
Fire Department	687-7335
Police Department	687-9273

For city department info go to www.plaquemine.org

City, Parish joint project helps clear Bayou Plaquemine for boating safety

The City of Plaquemine joined with the Iberville Parish Council on a project to clear downed trees in Bayou Plaquemine in May. The project included clearing some 45 large trees that had fallen into the bayou from the Plaquemine Lock to the Intracoastal Canal.

During this time the Milly boat landing located on Bayou Rd (Hwy. 3066) near the Multi-Purpose Center was closed to public use because it was used as the "lay-down yard" for the tree debris collected from the bayou. This cooperative endeavor between the City and Parish was necessary to restore the navigational safety of historic Bayou Plaquemine prior to the busy summer boating season. The fallen trees had blocked portions of the bayou and also made some areas navigational hazards.



Shown above is the bayou clean-out and some of the tree debris removed.



Shown in the photo above, at the swearing in of Mrs. Randle, are from left, Selectman Lin Rivet, Selectwoman Mellion, Selectwoman Randle, Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr. and Selectmen Tommy LeBlanc and Shannon Courtade. Not shown is Selectwoman Jones.

City now has three Selectwomen for first time in recent history

Margaret Randle, the wife of the late Selectman Jimmie Randle, was sworn in to represent District 6 from April until the election to fill the seat in November. Selectman Jimmie Randle, who died in March, had served on the Board for 21 years. At the December Board of Selectmen meeting, Geraldine Mellion, wife of the late Selectman Oscar Mellion, was sworn in to serve in Oscar's District 2 seat until the November election. The Board of Selectmen, for the first time in recent history, now includes three women. Margaret Randle and Geraldine Mellion are joined on the Board by Wanda Jones, who was elected in 2020 to represent District 3.

Actions to prepare for summer heat and electric bills

Just as prices have increased for food, gasoline and most other goods, so have electrical costs. The City of Plaquemine and all of the other cities that are LEPA (La. Energy and Power Authority) members have been advised that electrical rates it charges to provide electric power will be higher through the summer.

Last summer the average electrical cost that LEPA paid was \$40 megawatts per hour (MWh). In May that cost had doubled to \$80 MWh. Energy experts are predicting the rate will rise even more during the summer to as much as \$130 MWh. LEPA has some hedges on this these high costs, but it has advised all its member cities that rate hikes are inevitable.

What can utility customers do? Prepare now to make your residence as energy efficient as possible, and reduce your electrical usage as much as possible.

- **Make sure your air conditioning system has been serviced** by a professional, and filters have been changed.
- **Caulk and seal all air leaks from windows and doors**, and be sure all AC ducts are properly sealed.
- **Lower your water heater to 120 degrees**, and do laundry in cold water.
- **Turn the A/C unit to 76 degrees and use fans** to help cool occupied rooms. Ceiling fans should turn counter clockwise in the summer to maximize cooling.
- **Do laundry and wash dishes after 6 pm.** Limit use of the oven by grilling outdoors.
- **Put down blinds or close curtains on windows** to keep heat out.
- **Unplug all devices not being used.**

Portion of levee trail complete, south portion to bid out this summer

The ribbon cutting ceremony for Phases 1 and 2 of the Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail was held in April, and the final phase is on track to go out for bid in July. The photo above shows city officials and others gathered for the event.

Phases 1 and 2 included the trail head to the North Plaquemine Park. Phase 3 includes the trail from the trailhead south to near the Plaquemine ferry landing, solar lighting of the entire trail and other amenities. Once complete, the trail will be approximately 1.3 miles. The City has obtained an up to \$1 million grant from the La. Dept. of Transportation and Development for Phase 3, and is presently awaiting approval of the final plans by LDOTD. This phase is expected to go out for bid by LDOTD in August or September.

Be sure to take a walk on the new trail or sit on one of the benches on the trailhead at the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site and watch boats pass on the Mississippi River!

VEHICLES OF ANY KIND ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE LEVEE TOP TRAIL... Residents are reminded that it is illegal to drive any vehicles - including off-road vehicles, 4-wheelers and trucks, on the levee. The Plaquemine Police Department has stepped up patrols of the levee and is issuing tickets and confiscating off-road vehicles.



Ribbon cutting for Phases 1 and 2 of the Plaq. Riverfront Recreational Trail.

Two new subdivisions to add housing options in Plaquemine

The City will have two new housing developments underway by the end of this year, providing more housing options for residents.

A new subdivision adjacent to Evangeline Subdivision and Sherwood Street is in the planning stages. The partnership B.T. Mudbugs, LLC is developing the subdivision, which has not been named yet. It will include 45 lots, with the lots being approximately 65 X 120 in size. The company expects to begin infrastructure work on the 11.9 acre tract in September.

Another filing of The Island, to be named The Park at the Island, is being planned on 19 acres. It will connect to Island Drive and will include 53 lots. It is being developed by Bultra Properties. The infrastructure work on that development will begin this fall, and the lots will be approximately 65 feet wide.



Thanks to the Clean Up volunteers!

The City of Plaquemine extends special thanks to the organizations and volunteers who assisted with the city clean-up on May 7. Volunteers spent several hours picking up litter and trash in numerous locations throughout the City.

Thanks to volunteers of the following organizations:

- Dow Chemical Co. - covered north Plaquemine along La. Hwy. 1
- Knights of Columbus Council 970 - covered Price Street/Canal St. area
- Lions Club - covered the Main St./Plaquemine St. area
- Plaquemine Garden Club - covered the Homestead/Orange Drive area
- Plaquemine Main Street Program - covered Railroad Ave. area
- St. John School high school students - covered the block around the school
- Parish Councilman Ty Arnold group - covered Dupont Annex area

"We thank all of the volunteers who came out and spent their Saturday morning cleaning our City of litter," said Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr. "We appreciate their hard work for our community, and the pride they take in our community." The City also had trash dumpsters out in three areas for a week so that residents could properly dispose of trash if they cleaned up their properties.

Two Boogie events draw folks to park

The City sponsored two Boogie on the Bayou Friday night concerts for the Spring - one in April and one on May 20. They both featured top regional bands, along with activities for the kids, to bring residents out for some fun. Watch for the surprise planned for the September 9 Boogie!

