

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR REEVES



City eyes numerous needs as budgeting time nears

The City is beginning its budgeting process for 2022-23 and we are reviewing and prioritizing many City needs. Unfortunately, rising costs, especially the City's health insurance costs, are a continuing major concern. We are working on ways to address the health insurance costs, significant increases in parts, equipment, supplies, and long-existing continued deficits in sewer system operations.

The City is also looking at costly infrastructure needs to its drainage system (see front page), sewer system, with many lift stations now more than 60 years old and requiring extensive improvements; and water system. In addition, we would love to get the Depot Square project at the heart of downtown underway.

We are searching for grant funds for these projects, along with ways to operate more efficiently and effectively. It is always a balancing act among many needs, but residents can rest assured that I will continue to responsibly manage taxpayer funds in the coming years.

Ed

Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr.

Drainage study complete, proposed upgrades

(continued from front)

those two critical projects," said Mayor Reeves. "We have already seen great improvement in drainage in the city during heavy rains from those projects."

Following are the eight projects in the study that are being proposed in various areas of the city to address drainage problem areas:

North Plaquemine adjacent to La. Hwy. 1 - \$488,520

Desobry Street - \$121,388

Canal Street - \$254,207

Hebert Street & High School Street - \$189,836

Jean Street - \$357,477

Charles Street - \$27,600

Darby Avenue and Postell Avenue - \$147,056

Holly Drive and Sherwood Drive - \$760,437

Marshall Street interceptor - \$7,549,750

The total for all projects (with engineering, survey, geotechnical and other fees is \$11,250,000.

Mayor Reeves said he would recommend the City address the areas where potential home flooding is a possibility first, and then do other projects as funding becomes available. "Unfortunately, the City doesn't have the funds to make these improvements now, but the study is a working document that gives us the information we needed to make good decisions on improvements as we can in future years," he said. "It is a balancing act to address the City's needs for its drainage, sewer system, water system and other needs. Hopefully we will find some grant funds to help us address these needs."



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

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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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

Drainage study complete, proposed upgrades to cost \$11 million

The drainage study ordered by the City after torrential rains in 2021 is complete, and call for a variety of drainage improvements to eight areas of the City, with a total price tag of \$11.2 million.

Only the project to improve storm water flow in the Charles Street area is relatively inexpensive, at \$27,600. All of the other improvement projects range from a low of \$121,000 to a high of \$7.5 million for the Marshall Street interceptor project. Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr. said the City presently does not have funds budgeted for these projects. He and the City Board of Selectmen will be considering projects it can add to the 2022-23 budget year (which begins in November). He has also requested help from state and federal officials in finding grants that may be available to fund drainage projects.

This study was well underway before Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr. and the Iberville Parish Council completed two projects outside the city limits that are expected to greatly improve drainage in the southern portion of the city, which drains mostly to Price Street Canal. These projects included the widening of the canal that drains from Price Street Canal to the bayou, and installing an additional culvert to double the drainage behind Pecan Pointe Subdivision. The state also increased the size of the drainage culvert from the canal under Bayou Road to Bayou Plaquemine.

"The City thanks Parish President Ourso and the Parish Council for completing
(continued inside)



The city had a vacuum truck contractor checking out problem culverts in July to make sure those culverts are clear as part of its pro-active hurricane season preparations.



Veterans honored at July 4th Celebration

Veterans honored at the Plaquemine July 4th Hometown Celebration are, from left, Ray Toups, Justin Alleman, David Boudreaux, Ronald Gourgues, Stephenke Robertson, Drake Cazes and Garrett Joffrion. "We thank all of these local veterans for their tremendous service and sacrifices for our country and our freedoms," said Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr., who led the ceremony honoring the veterans. The city had a huge crowd for the celebration, with a fantastic fireworks show to cap off the evening festivities.



Weatherization programs offered for home owners, renters

The City of Plaquemine has been advised of two weatherization programs that are available to low income home owners and renters. Information on the programs and contact information is below:

La. Housing Corp. Quad Community Action Agency Weatherization Program – Home energy audits and weatherization services, including insulation, air sealing, ductwork repair, tuning and repairing A/C units. Available to renters (with landlord permission), mobile home and home owners.

How to apply: Provide proof of income, Social Security cards for all family members, copy of state ID or drivers license for head of household, copy of current utility bills, application.

For application call 225-209-0780, or email wth.quad@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.quadarea.org/quadweatherization.html>

US Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development Section 504 Home Repair Program:

Provides up to \$10,000 grants to elderly (age 62 +) and very low income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards and make homes more energy efficient. Also provides up to \$40,000 low interest loans (1% interest) to very low income homeowners to repair or modernize their homes and make them more energy efficient.

Available to very low income homeowners who own and occupy the home, are unable to get credit elsewhere, and meet income criteria.

For information call the State Office: 517-324-5190 or go to website:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/la>

Hot air balloon, Cajun Ninja added to Sept. 9 Boogie

The City of Plaquemine pulled out all the stops for its September 9th Boogie on the Bayou event, adding free tethered hot air balloon rides and a special appearance by The Cajun Ninja, along with the great country rock music of Clay Cormier and the Highway Boys! (see flyer at right.)

The Cajun Ninja, Jason Dereoun, combines his love of food, martial arts, humor and entertainment in his cooking videos online, which have garnered a huge following. He sports a Ragin Cajun hat, black belt and signature martial arts moves while cooking.

The free tethered hot air balloon rides will be offered on a first come, first served basis, weather permitting. Clay Cormier and the Highway Boys draw big crowds with their upbeat country rock tunes. The city will also have a variety of kids activities, along with food and drinks available.

Special thanks to the Dow Chemical Co, for its support of this event, which enabled the City to bring in the hot air balloon rides.

Levee trail extension delayed

The extension of the Plaquemine Riverfront Recreational Trail (Mississippi River levee trail) from the trailhead at the Plaquemine Lock Historic Site southward to near the ferry landing is expected to bid out some time this fall.

The project has been delayed by the review process of the La. Department of Transportation and Development, and also obtaining the permission of two landowner families to allow the trail on their levee properties. The City hopes to have the delays resolved by the end of August.

Mayor Reeves elected to state LMA board

Plaquemine Mayor Edwin "Ed" Reeves, Jr. was elected as District H Vice President of the Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA) by his fellow mayors of the 26 municipalities in District H in June.

"By being on the LMA Board, I will be interacting and building relationships with other municipal officials and we can bounce ideas and help each other with various matters," Reeves said.

"The LMA is the voice of towns and cities across the state with the Legislature and state and federal officials. Serving in this position also provides me with information on actions being taken at the state and federal level that impact our City."

BOOGIE ON THE Bayou

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