



St. Bernard Parish Government

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Guy McInnis
Parish President

President's Report Council Meeting of Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Good Evening Councilmembers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

St. Bernard Parish Government, in conjunction with the Tourism Department, is proud to roll out a new tourism commercial in a bid to boost and broaden tourism. The commercial titled, "Visit St. Bernard" is 30 seconds and targets the entire metro area including St. Tammany Parish, Washington Parish, Lafourche Parish and Terrebonne Parish. It takes viewers throughout the Parish and displays markets including fishing, camping, festivals, and outdoor recreation. The commercial displays the geographic beauty of our Parish. Enjoy St. Bernard!

Tourism Office – St. Bernard Parish Office of Tourism announces the Supplemental Promotional Fund Grant award of \$100,000 funded by the Settlement Trust by B.P. The grant money will be used to increase tourism by promoting St. Bernard Parish as a visitor destination. The marketing campaign will utilize media broadcast, print, internet media and attendance at the LTPA Travel and Tourism Summit. The first phase of the marketing campaign will launch with St. Bernard Parish commercials airing on WGNO through December 1st.

Los Islenos Heritage and Cultural Society, in conjunction with St. Bernard Parish Government, St. Bernard Parish Department of Tourism and the St. Bernard Parish School Board will sponsor Museum Days on November 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2016 on the grounds of Los Islenos Museum Complex. Museum Days, which began in 1981, will host students from local schools on November 3rd – 4th. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Los Islenos Society, Museum Days will continue and is open to the public on Saturday, November 5th, 2016. More than twenty-two living history, folk art, folk life will be viewed by students and the public. Others supporting Museum Days are the LSU AgCenter, the St. Bernard Parish Recreation Department and Road Division, St. Bernard Parish Tourist Commission and the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

The next St. Bernard Seafood and Farmers' Market will be on Saturday, November 12th 10:00 am-2:00 pm at the Aycok Barn. To be a vendor in the market, please call the St. Bernard Parish Office of Tourism at 504-278-4242.

Housing & Redevelopment Department - The Housing & Redevelopment Department will be issuing "Thanksgiving Baskets" to approximately 30 low-income elderly and/or disabled St. Bernard Parish families. Funding is limited for this program. Recipients will receive one turkey or one ham with each basket. To help stretch limited funds, and assist more than 30 families, the Housing Department will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items to include in the family baskets. Anyone wishing to donate canned goods, boxed goods, pasta, rice, coffee, etc., can bring those items to the Parish Government Complex where there will be a box on the first floor in the lobby. Donations are being accepted between November 2nd – 16th, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The St. Bernard Fire Department will assist in delivering "Thanksgiving Baskets" the week of Thanksgiving.

The Housing & Redevelopment Department and the Workforce Development Office (WIA) have been working together to better service residents. The additional manpower helps free-up Parish employees and allows them to focus on other matters. There is a public computer provided by WIA that can be used by residents in order to retrieve personal information and documents needed to apply for food stamps, unemployment, social security, etc. This service helps residents who may not have all of their paperwork with them at the time of application. Parish Government wants to make it as easy as possible for residents to apply for the assistance they need.

Water Division - There is a legitimate, online bill pay service called "DOXO" that allows payment of St. Bernard Parish water bills through their site but charges a \$3.00 service fee. We wish to make the public aware that the service fee is not being levied or collected by Parish Government. The St. Bernard Parish Water Division does not consider a water bill paid until "DOXO" sends the money to Parish Government, which can take a couple of days to process.

Registrar of Voters – Early voting ended yesterday, November 1st. Total in-person and mail ballots for the November 8th election totaled 5,132. As a reminder, the primary election is Tuesday, November 8th at the various polling places from 6:00 am – 8:00 pm.

Coastal Dept. - As part of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, in partnership with numerous

community partners throughout coastal Louisiana, will host a series of community conversations during the fall to update residents on the master plan and receive valuable input and feedback that will be used in developing the draft plan. The first event will take place on Tuesday, November 15th from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Docville Farm, located at 5124 East St. Bernard Highway, Violet, LA 70092. The event is free and open to the public.

Grants Dept. – St. Bernard Parish Grants Department has applied for 12 competitive grants for 2017 Capital Outlay Projects totaling \$20,622,455. In comparison, there were six (6) Capital Outlay Project submissions between the years of 2012 - 2016. The 2017 projects include the St. Bernard Master Drainage Plan, Parish Jail, LED Lighting Conversion, 40 Arpent Nature Trail and Trail Bridge over La 47, Lake Leary Marsh Creation Phase II, Village Square Revitalization Plan, Shell Beach Fishing Pier, Special Needs Center; Parish Complex Campus Improvement Plan and Air Conditioning System; Civic Center New Roof and Drainage Canal Maintenance Equipment. In addition, we have also applied for the GOMESA Infrastructure Funding Program, which is a competitive grant through CPRA to be used for the La. Hwy. 300 Coastal Infrastructure Resilience Project. The project represents \$34,575,491 in grant dollars and it will be awarded in the fall of 2017.

Parish Government is starting a recycling program for the Parish Complex. Containers will be placed by the building's dumpsters. Paper and plastic from the Complex will be collected and picked up by Pelican Waste. We are starting this recycling program with the vision of working towards a parish wide program in the near future.

St. Bernard Parish Government will hold a Veterans' Day Parade, Recognition Ceremony and Concert on Sunday, November 6, 2016. The parade and recognition ceremony will honor the many veterans who have sacrificed and those who continue to sacrifice to protect our country. Veterans from all branches of the military are invited to be recognized in this year's ceremony and to ride in the parade.

The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Palm Drive and Judge Perez Drive. The route will travel west on Judge Perez Drive and end at the Frederick Sigur Civic Center, located at 8245 W. Judge Perez Drive.

There will be a Recognition Ceremony for all veterans immediately following the parade at the Veterans Monument in front of the Fred Sigur Civic Center. Colonel Thomas C. Friloux of the Louisiana Army National Guard will be the guest speaker. There will be a special performance by the New Orleans

Concert Band inside of the Civic Auditorium immediately following the ceremony. The American music concert is free and open to the public. Gulf Coast Bank and Trust will provide a light lunch for veterans. We hope to see everyone at the event on Sunday.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy McInnis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Guy" being more prominent and the last name "McInnis" following in a similar style.

Guy McInnis
Parish President