



St. Bernard Parish Government

8201 West Judge Perez Drive Chalmette, Louisiana, 70043
(504) 278-4227 Fax (504) 278-4330
www.sbp.gov

Guy McInnis
Parish President

President's Report Council Meeting of Tuesday, April 5, 2015

Good Evening Council Members, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Early voting concluded this past Saturday and the Municipal General Election is on Saturday, April 9th. I am asking all residents to please exercise their right to vote and support these millage renewals. I would further like to stress that these are *renewals*; they provide funding for vital public services to the community for Garbage Collection, Road Lighting, Recreation, Fire Protection, Road Maintenance and Repair, Libraries and St. Bernard Community Health Center. The money that the millages provide is crucial to supporting an active, clean, safe and healthier community and environment.

St. Bernard Parish Government is very aware of the problems associated with garbage pick-up throughout the parish. The Administration is exploring all of its options with Progressive Waste to resolve this matter. The current contract was inherited from the previous administration; it was renegotiated and signed in 2013 and runs through December 31, 2020. You will be hearing more on this issue in the near future. The Administration's goal is to negotiate the best possible contract for the Citizens of St. Bernard and ensure them that companies will be held to a high standard when providing services to the Citizens of our Parish.

There were plenty of activities going on in St. Bernard Parish last week. The Administration held its First Annual Employee Appreciation and Crustacean Event on Friday, the Community Kick-Ball Tournament at Carolyn Park on Sunday and the Louisiana Crawfish Festival over the week-end. I would personally like to thank all of the sponsors of these events, Councilman McCloskey who organized the Kick-Ball Tournament, the Crawfish Festival organizers who donated crawfish for the employees

and the Councilmembers and all of the employees who participated in the weekend's activities. Not only do these events stimulate the growth of tourism and our economy, anytime St. Bernard Parish seizes the opportunity to bring residents together it instills a sense of community pride.

Other upcoming activities are Sippin in the Sunset on Thursday, April 7th 6:00-8:00 p.m. located at the Aycock Barn. There will be wine, food, live music and unique arts and crafts. Also, the next St. Bernard Seafood and Farmers' Market will be held on Saturday, April 9th 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Aycock Barn. The market will feature "Pooches in the Parish" and pet adoptions will be available so bring your furry friends with you as the market "goes to the dogs". There will also be candy carving for kids and a crawfish boil demonstration.

On March 30th, I participated in a Regional Meeting of Parish Presidents where topics included protecting the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act "GOMESA" funding, the National Flood Insurance Program, Diversions and other issues that affect the entire region. Johnny Bradberry, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities, was the guest speaker. Parish Presidents meet quarterly in various locations to share ideas and discuss ways to improve the region. I look forward to hosting a quarterly meeting in St. Bernard Parish in the near future.

A meeting regarding the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) and coastal erosion was hosted on April 1st by the National Wildlife Federation. The meeting included presentations from Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Coastal Protection Restoration Authority, St. Bernard Parish Government and the Meraux Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to deliver the latest coastal restoration developments in the MRGO ecosystem area, hear from experts on monitoring work, and discuss the National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and RESTORE processes.

The St. Bernard Parish Fire Department began Fire Hydrants Inspections yesterday, Monday, April 4, 2016. Fire hydrants throughout the Parish will be opened for approximately two minutes to record water pressure and flow readings. The inspections times will be between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday. This is a necessary procedure performed twice a

year to ensure that all fire hydrants in the parish work properly. Residents may experience rusty water during this testing; running your water for five minutes should flush and clear the water color.

Roadway construction began on Rowley Boulevard yesterday and will continue for approximately six weeks. Work should be completed in May. The work will include complete street rehabilitation, intersection replacement, handicap ramp replacement, selective sidewalk and driveway apron replacements and storm drainage repairs.

April is Fair Housing Month. St. Bernard proudly embraces diversity in our community. Diversity boosts innovation and economic growth and promotes values that transcends nationality and binds our community. We are always working towards becoming a better and more progressive Parish that supports an environment of tolerance and respect and one that views diversity as an asset.

Respectfully,



Guy Mcinnis

St. Bernard Parish President