

Annual Report 2016



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Lafayette Consolidated Government | The consolidated government of the City of Lafayette and the Parish of Lafayette, Louisiana



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LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH GOVERNMENT BY PHONE

Animal Control	291-5644
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)	291-8311
City Court	291-8720
City Marshal	291-8725
Mayor-President	291-8300
Civil Service	291-8334
Clerk of Council	291-8810
Community Development	291-8400
Fire Administration	291-8701
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Legal Department	210-8171
Parks & Recreation	291-8361
Planning, Zoning & Development	291-8000
Police Administration	291-8653
Public Works	291-8517

LAFAYETTE PARISH GOVERNMENT OFFICES BY PHONE

Clerk of Court	291-6400
Coroner	291-7100
Lafayette Parish Communications District....	291-5060
North Water Treatment Plant	291-5919
Office of Emergency Preparedness	291-5075
Registrar of Voters	291-7140
South Water Treatment Plant	291-5910
Tax Assessor	291-7080

OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Bayou Vermilion District	237-8360
City of Broussard	837-6681
CAJUNDOME	265-2100
City of Carencro.....	896-8481
Correctional Center	236-5400
Council on Aging	262-5990
Department of Health & Hospitals	262-1635
District Attorney	232-5170
District Judges.....	232-8211
Downtown Development	291-5566
City of Duson	873-6754
Federal Courthouse	593-5000
Forensic Lab	291-7106
Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission..	232-3737
Lafayette Economic Development Authority...	593-1400
Lafayette Parish Health Unit	262-5616
Lafayette Parish School Board	521-7000
Lafayette Regional Airport	266-4400
LSU Ag Center	291-7090
Office of Motor Vehicles	896-8121
One Acadiana	233-2705
Republic Services	806-2000
Sales Tax Office	232-3912
City of Scott	233-1130
Sheriff's Office	232-9211
Unemployment Office	262-5601
City of Youngsville	856-4181



Message from the Mayor-President



It is my pleasure to present the first Annual Report since taking office on January 4, 2016. I am proud of the early accomplishments we've achieved, some of which are highlighted in this report. This year's report is organized to facilitate Finances, Living, Working and Playing in Lafayette, Doing Business in Lafayette, Innovation, Public Safety, Getting Around, Flood Recovery and Lagniappe. Each department's successes are listed within these topics to demonstrate how your local government is working together to help make Lafayette the best place it can be. Strong first steps have us moving in the right direction and building momentum. I believe we can make our great community even better by honestly addressing our challenges.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Just weeks after taking office, my administration began a comprehensive review of the budget to address the gap created by the decline in sales tax revenue. While I am confident Lafayette will return to the thriving economy we enjoyed in recent years, it will take time. Our increasingly diverse economy minimized the impact of an ailing oil and gas industry, but the prolonged nature of the downturn means our full economic recovery will be delayed. It is my commitment to always provide a fiscally responsible budget that contemplates the needs of our constituents.

BOND SAVINGS

Under the guidance of CFO Lorrie Toups, LCG was successful in refunding four City Sales Tax Bond issues, producing savings of more than \$14.4 million to be realized over the next ten years. I take seriously the responsibility to run government efficiently and to build trust. My administration will continue this type of due diligence in pursuit of reducing cost to local government.

UNIVERSITY AVENUE

As a major gateway to the city, parish and university, my administration has identified the redevelopment and revitalization of University Avenue as a priority project. In its current condition, the University corridor does not reflect the quality of place our citizens deserve and it does not appropriately welcome our visitors to Lafayette. While we certainly have a lot of work ahead of us, I believe we can create a corridor of economic prosperity and quality of life that represents what makes Lafayette so special.

ANIMAL SHELTER

In keeping the commitment to move Lafayette forward, my

administration has partnered with Target Zero, a national nonprofit organization which works with community animal shelters. Along with Target Zero, we have outlined a plan to implement best practices to decrease animal euthanasia and increase the rescue and adoption rates, with the goal of achieving a "no kill" status for the Lafayette Parish Animal Control Center by 2020.

FLOOD RECOVERY

In the wake of August's historic flood that struck Lafayette, Fire, Police and Public Works employees worked diligently to assist citizens in recovery, even while many of their own family homes were flooded. People from both the public and private sectors worked hand-in-hand in rescue efforts, establishing a temporary shelter and disaster recovery center, debris cleanout, removal and inspections, and remediation services. The debris collection contractor operated from sunup to sundown with as many as 13 trucks equipped with double trailers. More than 66,000 cubic yards of flood debris and more than 14 tons of electronic waste were collected.

WORKING TOGETHER

There are many people working diligently behind the scenes to bring Lafayette Parish closer together. I am fortunate to have a team of experienced, subject matter experts as Department Directors and administrative staff. Together we are working to understand the opportunities and challenges of a complex consolidated government. My staff and I have also made it a priority to reach out beyond the walls of City Hall to improve constituent services. We regularly meet with elected officials and their staffs across the parish and state, as well as local business and civic leaders, to ensure continued understanding of parish-wide needs.



Lafayette City-Parish Council

The legislative power of Lafayette Consolidated Government is vested in a Council consisting of nine members elected from single-member districts for four-year terms. Council members serve as the voice of their constituents and, along with Mayor-President Joel Robideaux, provide leadership and direction to the various departments of consolidated government. The Lafayette City-Parish Council meets regularly, every first and third Tuesday of the month in City Hall at 705 W. University Ave. at 5:30 p.m.

The Lafayette Public Utilities Authority (LPUA) is the governing authority of the utilities department and consists of five City-Parish Council members whose districts include 60 percent or more of the persons residing within the boundaries of the City of Lafayette. The LPUA meets regularly on the first and third Tuesday of the month in City Hall at 4:30 p.m.

Special or emergency meetings may be held on the call of the presiding Council officer or by a majority vote of members to meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or public safety.

All meetings of the Council and its committees are open to the public. Those wishing to address the Council are asked to complete a form located at the entrance to the meeting room prior to the start of the meeting. Speakers are allotted five minutes to speak. Citizens can view the live proceedings of the Council on Acadiana Open Channel (AOC2) the evening of the meetings.

AOC2 airs on Cox Channel 16 and on LUS Fiber Channel 4. Those same meetings will be replayed on the following Friday at 7 p.m.



Veronica L. Williams

Clerk of the Council Veronica L. Williams and an administrative staff perform the day-to-day tasks necessary for efficient operation of the Council office, as well as assist Council members in better serving residents of the City and Parish of Lafayette.

The Council makes several appointments to boards and commissions. All citizens are encouraged to contact the Council staff to find out which boards may interest them at 291-8800 or BCLafayette@LafayetteLA.gov



2016 CITY-PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT 1 - Kevin Naquin – 291-8801
KevinNaquin@LafayetteLA.gov

DISTRICT 2 - Jay Castille – 291-8802
JayCastille@LafayetteLA.gov

DISTRICT 3 - *Patrick Lewis – 291-8803
PatrickLewis@LafayetteLA.gov

DISTRICT 4 - *Kenneth P. Boudreaux – 291-8804
KennethBoudreaux@LafayetteLA.gov

DISTRICT 5 - Jared Bellard – 291-8805
JaredBellard@LafayetteLA.gov

DISTRICT 6 - *Bruce M Conque – 291-8806
BruceConque@LafayetteLA.gov

DISTRICT 7 - *Nanette Cook – 291-8807
NanetteCook@LafayetteLA.gov

DISTRICT 8 - *Liz W. Hebert – 291-8808
LizHebert@LafayetteLA.gov

DISTRICT 9 - William G. Theriot – 291-8809
WilliamTheriot@LafayetteLA.gov

**Lafayette Public Utilities Authority (LPUA) member*

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Attend a meeting on the first or third Tuesday of the month at 705 W. University Ave (see meeting schedule online as dates could vary when the meeting date conflicts with a holiday).
- View the meeting agendas online at www.lafayettela.gov
- Watch the meeting on AOC or stream live (see link below)
- Volunteer for a board or commission by calling 291-8800 or emailing BCLafayette@LafayetteLA.gov
- Email (see above) or call the Council office at 291-8800

ONLINE RESOURCES

Website (view agendas, minutes, charter, etc.): www.LafayetteLA.gov/ Council

Live stream of Council meetings: [www.ustream.tv/channel/ lafayette-consolidatedgovernment- councilmeeting](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/lafayette-consolidatedgovernment-councilmeeting)



Budgeting & Finance

Detailed and transparent financial reporting is the bedrock of trust in government. It is essential for the confidence of Lafayette's residents in government that they are able to see and believe that their government is actively working to both use funds in the best way possible, and save money at every turn. Lafayette Consolidated Government did both in 2016.

The Office of Finance & Management exists to oversee and manage, according to all applicable laws and standards, the Accounting, Budgeting, Group Insurance, Purchasing, Property and Risk

Management functions within LCG. The department's role is to produce accurate and timely financial information for citizens, the Council, employees, and management in order to facilitate sound decisions and to do so in a manner that remains within the bounds of strict fiduciary duty with regards to taxpayer assets.

The office also provides support functions for the Comprehensive Plan by working with the Plan's administrators to find funding and provide financial guidance to meet its goals. As the Comprehensive Plan moves forward, the Office of Finance & Management continues to review budgeting methodologies that offer additional support to the Plan such as performance based budgeting and budgeting for quantifiable goals.

LCG's annual budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device for the consolidated government. It is the foundation for LCG's allocation of resources toward service delivery plans. The fund structure for LCG is complex. There are two general funds, one for the city and one for the parish. Combined, there are more than 50 general governmental funds, four internal service funds and five business type funds.



The Office of Finance & Management was awarded the highest recognition in governmental accounting.

The Parish General Fund budget for FY 2017 has a projected ratio of fund balance to annual expenditures of less than one percent. The adopted FY 2017 budget was reduced by approximately \$4 million from

the prior year's adopted budget due to decreasing revenues and fund balance. New revenue sources and additional decreases in expenditures for this fund will be required in the future to support the state mandates funded through the Parish General Fund.

The City General Fund budget for FY 2017 has a projected ratio of fund balance to annual expenditures of 32.6 percent. This ratio exceeds the administrative policy to maintain City General Fund balance at 20 percent of expenditures and shows a continued upward trend when compared to prior years. The budgeted ratio of fund balance to annual expenditures for the City General Fund was 31.5 percent, 23.6 percent, 20 percent, and 9.8 percent in FY 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Additionally, the City General Fund budget for FY 2017 contemplates a \$1.9 million use of prior year fund balance predominately due to funding needs for public safety such as fire and police.

In the year ahead, the Office of Finance & Management's most important challenges are to continue to accomplish LCG's goals and meet the immediate needs of the taxpayers while maintaining a fiscally sound financial position that will meet the needs of future Lafayette.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- LCG garners the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest recognition in governmental accounting by the Government Finance Officers Association, after applying for the first time.
- For the third consecutive year, LCG is awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
- LCG refunded four bond issues, resulting in \$14.4 million in savings. The Lafayette Public Power Authority also participated in a bond refunding which resulted in a savings of \$2.4 million.
- LCG realized a cost savings of \$356,000 from the Group Health Plan due to the change to a third party administrator and the continued promotion of LCG's Telemedicine Clinic. Discounts through the administrator have exceeded \$45 million through the coordination of benefits.



Live, Work & Play in Lafayette

No one lives, works and plays like the residents of Lafayette. From quality of life issues, connecting citizens with disabilities to the resources they need and bringing vitality to seniors, our city does life a little different.

HUD COMES HOME

The Housing Authority of the City of Lafayette (HACL) was returned to local control in 2016 by HUD after five years of hard work and collaboration. Since 2011, HACL had been under the operational control of HUD, during which time HACL worked to correct deficiencies. Additional important steps required by HUD prior to establishing local control were the naming and training of a local board and hiring a fulltime executive director, Yvonda Bean. In May, a five person board of commissioners was confirmed.



Lafayette Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- HUD returns to local control after five years.
- Lafayette honors seniors and disability advocates.
- Parks and Recreation offers wholesome and leisurely activities while upgrading and maintaining facilities.
- Planning for Lafayette's future with commercial and residential developments on the rise.

CELEBRATING CITIZENS

The Greenhouse Senior Center, an LCG facility, celebrated 40 years of service to Lafayette's senior citizens in December. The Greenhouse opened its doors to the public in 1976 with the mission of enhancing the lives of Lafayette's senior population through diverse educational and enrichment opportunities. Activities include exercise classes, bingo, line dancing, computer classes, horticulture classes, potlucks, intergenerational activities, safety driver classes and informational luncheons. In 2016, the Senior Center's Art Studio also received renovations which included new roofing, new siding, drainage repair and new paint, among other repairs.

The Mayor-President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities recognized nine community members who have improved the lives of those living with disabilities. All award recipients were nominated through a community-wide, open submission process and were ultimately chosen for their outstanding work by a selection committee. Lafayette Parish was recognized for a record-breaking three GOLD (Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities) Award winners at the state level: Louisiana Praline Factory, Jamie Duplechine and Deborah Aymond. The committee was established in 2007 to give a greater voice to citizens living with disabilities in Lafayette Parish and serves in an advisory capacity to LCG.



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The pond at Girard Park.



COME PLAY WITH US

The Parks and Recreation Department provides citizens the opportunity to participate in wholesome and leisurely activities. In 2016, the department did just that, conducting Summer Enrichment and Therapeutic Camps at seven recreation centers during the months of May, June and July, plus special events that include a Fall Fun Festival at Girard Park and an Easter Egg Hunt at Thomas Park. The department also implemented the PGA Junior Tour League at The Wetlands Golf Course and hosted the 2016 LHSAA High School Girl's State Championship at Les Vieux Chenes Golf Course.

Parks and Recreation Department facilities also received upgrades and maintenance with the installation of wireless internet at Acadiana Park Campground, a \$190,000 Beaver Park tennis court resurfacing project, \$240,000 in renovations to Clark Field and the completion of construction of the new Maintenance Building at Hebert Golf Course.

YOU CAN PLAN ON IT

2016 saw a rise of retail development, benefiting all residents within the parish. The Ambassador Town Center project required hands-on assistance from multiple departments including Public Works and Planning, Zoning and Development (PZD). LCG's

Legal Department also worked closely with the team fostering progress towards completion of the center. The legal team also created and implemented a structure to accommodate the initiation of a comprehensive commercial/retail development in Upper Lafayette. This center will more fully service the needs of residents in the area, while also encouraging commercial growth in the area.

In 2016, new residential construction permits in Lafayette totaled more than \$133 million and new commercial construction permits totaled more than \$80 million.

To meet the needs of customers and the everchanging requirements of regulatory bodies, Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) made infrastructure improvements to the electric and wastewater systems, with more planned in the future. LUS also made water system improvements and opened the Moss Street Customer Service Center to provide better customer service and prepare for continued growth.

PZD rezoned over 400 properties in the LaPlace neighborhood implementing new zoning districts in response to an overall neighborhood vision. The department planned for more pedestrians, developing a more robust sidewalk database that includes a sidewalk inventory, priority sidewalks and a feedback loop for development applications.

As Lafayette embraces a more pedestrian and bicycling lifestyle, bicycle awareness is becoming more essential. That's why LCG partnered with Bike Lafayette and Broussard and David LLC to host the first Bicycle Safety Festival in June at Parc Sans Souci. The free event featured instruction in bicycle safety, bike helmet fitting and bicycle inspections. The aim of the event was to help cyclists and motorists become more knowledgeable about bicycle safety and the rules of the road.



Doing Business in Lafayette

In 2016, LCG worked in both the public and private sectors, locally, across South Louisiana, and even internationally, to make doing business in Lafayette easier to navigate, to get residents back to work and to open doors to new industry.

ZONING FOCUSED ON SERVICE

Throughout 2016, PZD oversaw the smooth transition to the Unified Development Code (UDC), hosting free trainings to assist contractors, designers and developers in understanding changes in the code and compliance of the new construction standards. The department also implemented a multidisciplinary certification for inspectors, streamlining the inspections for individuals and developers. Under these organizational changes, inspectors can now be certified in multiple areas of building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing, creating more of a one stop shop for individuals navigating LCG's development requirements and making it possible to deal with only one person for multiple inspections.

GETTING TO WORK

LCG's Small Business Support Services Division collaborated to host a series of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Educational Workshops at which six minority businesses received DBE certifications to participate in federally funded transportation projects. One certified DBE was awarded a \$43,041 annual contract in 2016.

Across the state, Workforce Development Boards (WDB) began working on "outside of the box" solutions to address the 8,000 displaced workers resulting from the decline in the Oil and Gas industry. Although, a vast majority of those laid off were high-level craftsmen, their skills went unrecognized in other industries. In all, the WDB cosponsored and assisted in six job fair events in 2016. Combined, these events had an attendance of 8,776 job seekers with just under 300 job offers reported. The WDB helped produce the Industrial Trades Career

LUS opened the Moss Street Customer Service Center to provide better and more convenient service to customers.



Fair, attracting 35 employers and more than 1,800 jobseekers. 72 job offers were made during the event and 266 interviews were scheduled post-event.

The WDB also partnered to launch a Super-Regional Customized Training Contract with two other workforce boards, the South Louisiana Community College and six industrial trade employers. As a result, more than 27 individuals from Region IV participated in a training program to be certified scaffold builders and were employed, earning \$17-\$31 hourly.

Addressing workforce needs following job reductions by energy, construction and manufacturing companies, the WDB worked with other community partners to create AcadianaOpportunity.com, connecting people with training and jobs. This site provides information on funding for laid off workers for training and certification classes, as well as job opportunities.



LEDA works with businesses that run the gamut from single-employee startups to headquarter operations with hundreds of employees. We recognize that each of our clients, no matter how big or small, has contributed to Lafayette's economic success.

Resources for Business:

Business Visitation Program ■ Market Research & Demographics
Workforce Services & Job Fair ■ Entrepreneur Accelerator/Incubator ■ and more!

Lafayette Economic Development Authority ■ lafayette.org ■ 337-593-1400



In 2016, the Lafayette Business and Career Solutions Center earned the Veterans Incentive for Top Large Office in Louisiana. This was a team effort of the WDB, Louisiana Workforce

member of the network, Lafayette is dedicated to the preservation of French history and culture in North America.

The Louisiana-Cuba Conference, which included 19 speakers and panelists, was also organized by the International Center in Lafayette in 2016. With an attendance of over 100 guests, the conference offered presentations, panel discussions and one-on-one meetings on international business exchange opportunities. The event informed private businesses of the governing federal agencies of export controls, explained federal programs and positioned Lafayette to be exceptionally well prepared for future developments.

Over two and a half years, the International Center has worked with Mexican government officials and university presidents to establish a cooperative exchange agreement for students. A visit in November added eight more universities, bringing the total to 19 Mexican universities pledging to work with the University of Louisiana. The program focuses on petroleum engineering, allowing Mexican students to finish their studies at UL, with the costs being borne by their home institutions. The immediate benefits to Lafayette and Louisiana will be the inbound international impact, however further economic benefits to both regions are sure to follow.



42 mayors from the U.S. and Canada convened in Lafayette for the North American Network of French-Speaking Cities.

Commission and Veterans' Affairs for providing the services to veterans to transition from the military, enter training or gain employment.

GOING INTERNATIONAL AT HOME

Through the efforts of the International Center, Lafayette hosted the North American Network of French-Speaking Cities conference Oct. 13-15. This was the first event of the network since its establishment in 2015, attracting 42 mayors, officials and visitors from the U.S. and Canada, providing international tourism and trade exposure, as well as heightened visibility within the region. The initiative promotes tourism, economies and the shared culture of Francophone cities." As a founding

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- PZD sees the successful code transition and works to create a one stop shop for developers.
- Small Business Division collaborates to offer help to local businesses.
- Workforce Development Board connects jobseekers and employers.
- The International Center brings Lafayette to the global market.



Innovation

Innovation is the core of Lafayette's forward-moving vision. Whether it's collaboration with national pioneers in technology or partnering with the University of Louisiana, from local businesses specializing in innovative practices to consolidated government's efforts to bring cutting edge methods to better the community, innovation is at the heart of our people and our methods to ensure Lafayette continues to move into a new landscape in industry, business and government.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- IS&T makes upgrades and offers easier services for citizens.
- LUS Fiber shows financial strength and supports LCG Telemedicine Clinic.
- The EPA awarded Lafayette one of only two Smart City Air Challenge awards.

SMARTER CITY

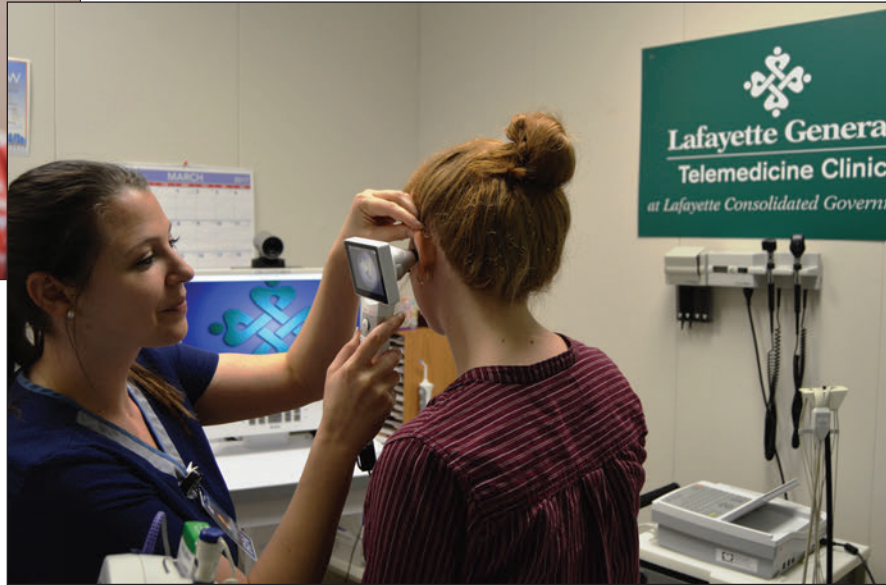
LCG's Information Services & Technology Department (IS&T) handles network and infrastructure design, systems integration, and operations management of all network systems, business application development, GIS services and web design. The department facilitates the needs of LCG through current technologies and products utilizing the most sophisticated and cost-effective web and computer-managed services.

2016 was a busy year for IS&T with the major undertaking of decommissioning LCG's mainframe infrastructure and migration to a web-based and distributed system environment. The department also upgraded LCG's enterprise mail environment to Exchange 2013 in a virtual environment and expanded credit card options by providing citizens with the ability to pay parking tickets online.



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2016 also marked the one year anniversary of LCG's first Telemedicine Clinic in partnership with Lafayette General Health (LGH) and LUS Fiber. The onsite clinic offers a productive and healthy way for LCG employees to receive diagnosis and treatment for minor medical issues, without ever leaving work. A LUS Fiber high-speed connection virtually links patients to an offsite physician, while the onsite LCG City Nurse aids the patient and serves as a communication liaison for the physician. Patients receive quick and quality care provided via streaming live-feed during the patient visit. Tools, such as a digital stethoscope or otoscope, transmit accurate and real-time readings to the physician's office. In many cases, the clinic's patients are able to return to work right after their visit.

In addition to the support of the Telemedicine Clinic, LUS Fiber showed increased profitability and strong financial viability of the telecommunications business, marked by continued customer growth and innovative product offerings. As Lafayette's only 100 percent optical fiber network, LUS Fiber provides competitively priced, state-of-the-art video, internet and phone services, while also supporting the cost of police and fire protection, Parks and Recreation, and other public costs.

In December, Lafayette was announced as one of two cities to win the highly competitive Smart City Competition, hosted by the EPA Smart City Air Challenge, earning a \$40,000 grant. The challenge encourages communities to install air quality sensors and share the data with the public. With the grant, the Lafayette Engagement and Research Network (LEaRN) Collaborative will deploy 300 air quality sensors and develop best practices for data management and public sharing of the data captured by the sensors.

Beyond the specific challenge award, Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux views the Smart City Initiatives as a momentum builder for leveraging assets such as LUS Fiber, the emerging information technology sector in Lafayette, the educational resources of the University of Louisiana and South Louisiana Community College, Plan Lafayette and an increasingly engaged public in order to grow Lafayette's economy, increase the effectiveness of LCG's services and continue to improve overall quality of life in the community.





Public Safety

The safety of residents is a multifaceted effort across multiple agencies of LCG. It includes the efforts of both law enforcement as well as citizen groups, council members, fire safety and others.

NEW POLICE CHIEF

In November, Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux announced his appointment of veteran law enforcement officer and former prosecutor, Toby Aguillard, as Chief of Police of the Lafayette Police Department. With 18 years of law enforcement experience and a decade of combined experience as an Assistant District Attorney and as an Assistant Attorney General, Chief Aguillard brings a strong and diverse set of law enforcement and legal expertise to the position, as well as impressive educational credentials. Reginald Thomas, who served as Interim-Police Chief from January 2016 through October, was named Deputy Chief.



A SAFER PLACE

Chief Aguillard's commitment to community policing is the cornerstone of a successful relationship between law enforcement and neighborhoods to create solutions to crime, eliminate fear and enhance the quality of life for all. Based on this principle, the LPD Community Relations Committee was created. The committee brings the community and the Police Department closer together, hosting several events in the community with LPD officers in 2016.

A Special Investigative Unit was created to address homicide cold cases. The Unit solved four homicides from 2016 and all of the arrested subjects have been indicted for murder.



The COPS (Community Oriented Policing Squad) Unit was launched to reduce shoplifting, which has shown an increase in recent years. A Loss Prevention Committee was formed with local retail employees who receive monthly updates on all shoplifting arrests.

Lafayette's Juvenile Detention Center provides at-risk youth with life skills in a positive environment. While youth are at the facility, emphasis is placed on hygiene, health and emotional issues. In 2016, the center achieved zero deficiencies on DCFS licensing audits, adjusted staffing and scheduling to maximize staff productivity and morale. The center also renovated various areas of the physical plant.

In July, LCG celebrated the parish's first official safe exchange location, offering a secure meeting place for citizens to exchange items that were purchased via the Internet. The "safe swap spot" is in a clearly marked parking space located next to LPD's headquarters with security cameras fixed to capture the images of individuals making exchanges at the location, along with their vehicle make and license plate numbers. The effort was spearheaded by District 8 Council Member Liz W. Hebert who partnered with the Lafayette Police Department to make the safe space a reality.

FIRE COVERAGE

The Lafayette Fire Department's (LFD) mission is to safeguard and reduce the dangers to life, property and the environment through innovative training, code enforcement and the prompt dispatch of a qualified fire suppression force.

2016 marked the opening of Fire Station #14 at 201 Curran Lane. With a total construction cost of \$2.2 million, the geographical location was recommended by the Fire Insurance Rating Bureau and Fire Training Academy. Throughout the year, the LFD saw a nine percent reduction in structure fires and graduated 18 recruits from our fire training academy.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Early successes with changes at the Lafayette Police Department; New Police Chief, Deputy Chief, new police units, community committee, mobile command unit and a safe swap space.
- Residents are better covered with Lafayette's newest fire station.



Getting Around in Lafayette

Getting around in Lafayette will always require a collaborative effort between government and the people who drive the roadways.

One example in 2016 was a portion of Congress Street which was restriped to change its entire function from one of moving people quickly through the city to one that better serves the needs of Downtown residents and future growth. Our University Avenue Gateway Corridor and the I-49 Connector continue to move beyond the planning stages as local officials and residents discuss the opportunities and challenges of these projects.



\$6 MILLION AWARDED FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

In 2016, the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) awarded LCG more than \$6 million to fund transportation improvement and planning efforts. Programmed funds allocated for 2017 make up \$1.5 million of the \$6 million. Two of the seven LCG projects focus on the University Avenue corridor; one project will fund the design and construction of a roundabout on University Avenue and Renaud Drive just north of Interstate 10, and the second project will be the development of a corridor plan for University Avenue to unify the planning efforts along the state highway.

Early on in the new administration, Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux identified the revitalization of the gateway at University Avenue and I-10 as a priority project. University Avenue from I-10 is a 4.2 mile stretch of roadway that also connects to the historic Four Corners area, City Hall, the Police Headquarters, and connects to the airport at the southern end.

In addition to the University Avenue related projects, other approved MPO funding includes: sidewalks along South College Road from Johnston Street to Pinhook; sidewalks on Carmel Drive from Louisiana Avenue to Lake Martin Road; and corridor studies along the West Simcoe, West Congress and Moss Street corridors. The funding is an 80/20 split between federal and local government.



CONGRESS UPGRADES

LCG completed a Congress Street restriping initiative that encompassed a nearly 1-mile stretch of roadway. The project, beginning at Grant and Second Streets to Evangeline Drive, capitalized on the existing Congress Street infrastructure to: increase motorists' safety by appropriately adjusting the speed limit and adding a continuous center turning lane, create 100 new on-street parking spaces and cycling paths, and enhance pedestrian safety with the addition of 22 crosswalks.

The Congress Street changes were made to meet the new needs of the roadway, which was originally envisioned in 1981 as a suburban arterial for moving vehicles as quickly as possible through Downtown. Over the years, however, the street became a barrier to those trying to walk or bike between Downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods and it increased vehicle speeds so much that it resulted in an unsafe environment for all users. Reconfiguring the street not only removes the barrier between neighborhoods, but also spurs development along the corridor.

THE COMMUNITY AND I-49

This past spring, the Planning Office facilitated the planning work for the Evangeline Corridor Initiative (ECI) and, with the help of the consultant team, hosted a successful series of workshops and a charrette. The process collected input from over 850 people to better understand the strengths and challenges of the neighborhoods along the future I-49 corridor. Attendees shared their opinions, concerns and desires about neighborhood improvements along the I-49 pathway.

The ECI is about neighborhood revitalization planning alongside the future I-49 Connector - what we currently know as the Evangeline Thruway. The mission encourages community input to make the plans - and ultimately the corridor - the best it can be. The work of the ECI is funded by a highly competitive U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Federal Planning Grant awarded to LCG in 2014.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A \$6 million award will help fund (among other efforts) transportation improvements along University Avenue from I-10 to the airport.
- The Public Works Department completed several street, bridge and drainage Capital Improvements projects and implemented Standard Specifications and Details for use on all Public Works projects.
- Public Works implemented real-time Transit tracking system, on-line payment of parking tickets, and installed a new traffic signal on Ambassador Caffery at the new Veterans Administration Clinic.



A Historic Flood

In the early morning hours on Friday, Aug. 12, 2016, a historic flood swept through Lafayette Parish. By 11 a.m. that morning, Lafayette Parish Mayor-President Joel Robideaux had declared a state of emergency for the parish. The Vermilion River Surrey Street gauge measured the crest around 18.5 gauge height on Saturday, Aug. 13 — second to the 1940 flood, the highest recorded in the parish's history, which crested at 24.87.

According to NOAA the flooding could be attributed to the high tides in Vermilion Bay, combined with heavy rainfall in parishes south of Lafayette, preventing the water from draining in the normal manner.

Immediately following the flood, LCG worked to meet the immediate and emergency needs of citizens. Fire, Police and Public Works employees assisted in evacuating stranded residents and emergency shelters were opened. LCG officials and employees worked day and night to help residents stay safe and eventually return to their homes.

NOAA predicted parts of Lafayette Parish would receive an additional five to ten inches of rain starting after midnight on Friday night after the first flood. Residents who saw localized flooding near their homes were encouraged to move to safer, higher ground before the rain began to fall at evening.

The American Red Cross-Acadiana Chapter established a temporary, emergency shelter at the Heymann Convention Center, which was open to flood survivors who had no other means for housing or could not return to their homes due to closed roads. The shelter would stay open until Sept. 2. As the shelter planned to close, the next steps were identified for the survivors. Mayor-President Robideaux said although Red Cross worked to make the shelter as comfortable and private as possible, families and individuals deserved more privacy than what could be offered in a community shelter. His goal: to upgrade displaced citizens from cots to beds. Red Cross joined FEMA and other nonprofits and service groups to identify and remove barriers preventing citizens from returning home or transferring to transitional housing. At one point the temporary shelter housed 300 displaced residents.

“We are a diverse community of entrepreneurs, thinkers, and doers, and it comes especially natural to us to apply ingenuity to living in this unique place we call home. As we recover from the August floods, the time is right for us to take a look at rebuilding in innovative ways that will make us less vulnerable to future events.”

— Mayor-President Joel Robideaux

LAFAYETTE RESPONDS

As flood waters rose, LCG's Department of Public Works opened two additional sandbag stations at the South Regional Library and Blackham Coliseum, in addition to the normal permanent sandbag sites at the LCG Compost Facility and the South District in Youngsville. Citizens were asked to stay off of roadways after many became stranded in the initial rains on Friday morning.

FEMA

On Tuesday, Aug. 16, the Lafayette office of Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security received official notice from FEMA that Lafayette Parish had been included in the federal disaster declaration. A local FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) was established.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Lafayette Parish was included in a national disaster declaration. An early infusion of nearly \$2 million in recovery assistance was allocated to help meet residents' immediate needs.
- LCG issued 1,775 flood damage permits. All permit fees were waived for flood survivors.
- Mayor-President Joel Robideaux was named to the Governor's Restore Louisiana Task Force.



In late August, the Department of Child and Family Services announced flood survivors could receive benefits to purchase groceries via Disaster Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (DSNAP), providing assistance to eligible households who, due to lost income or damages following a disaster, needed help buying groceries. Registration began Aug. 29 at Blackham Coliseum and continued for several days.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded an early infusion of \$1.9 million for disaster recovery following the Aug. 12 flood, shortly after Mayor-President Robideaux met with officials in Washington D.C. to advocate for flood recovery funding. The award was targeted to meet emergency community development needs, while additional federal appropriations were vetted, and could be used to fill immediate shortfalls by flood survivors. HUD identified the flooding in Louisiana in 2016 as the most significant of the 26 major presidentially declared disasters of

the year. Lafayette Mayor-President Robideaux was appointed by the Governor to the Restore Louisiana Task Force, which was charged with overseeing the state's recovery efforts from the historic flooding across South Louisiana, estimated at \$8.7 billion in damage statewide.

LOOKING FORWARD

After the flood of 2016, Mayor-President Robideaux began to look for new ways to help the parish become more resilient – better prepared and quicker to recover from future challenges – and began working to build public and private partnerships to achieve that goal. In late 2016, Robideaux was one of only six mayors from across the country invited to join the Resilient Cities Summit, hosted by the National League of Cities, the Urban Land Institute and the U.S. Green Building Council, which offered a chance for community leaders and planners to discuss and learn more about the nationwide effort for communities to become more resilient.



Lagniappe

Lafayette has been recognized as the country's "happiest city." Efforts like Project Front Yard engage the entire community in putting Lafayette's best face forward. We have a love for animals and are committed to achieving a 'no kill' animal shelter status. LCG is working to make Lafayette a better place for all residents.

LOOKING CLEAN

In May, Lafayette was named the Cleanest City in the State by the Louisiana Garden Club Federation. The recognition can be credited to Public Works employees along with the many community organizations, local businesses and members of the community with a vested interest in beautifying Lafayette. 2016 was the second year in a row for Lafayette to take the honors.

Lafayette also attracted statewide attention when the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recognized the efforts of LCG and the Bayou Vermilion District (BVD), honoring the Bandalong Litter Trap project with the Environmental Leadership Program Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention. By capturing litter before it reaches the Vermilion, the litter trap allows BVD to refocus efforts from trash and debris removal to more frequent water quality testing, bank stabilization projects and community outreach.

“All of these efforts are not going unnoticed. Together, we are making positive advances on the appearance of our shared spaces.”
— *Mayor-President Joel Robideaux*

GEAUXING GREEN

Lafayette's initiative to get the city clean and keep it that way - Project Front Yard - was part of a broader plan in 2016 that included targeted and project-based cleanup efforts as well as partnerships with Festival International, LUS Fiber and CGI among others.



LEE CELANO/THE ADVERTISER

Mayor-President Joel Robideaux addresses the crowd during a meeting on the progress of Project Front Yard at Lafayette City Hall May 12, 2016

In April, Public Works hosted its semi-annual Household Chemical Day when 355 residents disposed of 36,500 pounds of chemicals. Only four percent of items collected were landfilled, which is a considerable decrease from past events. Latex paint re-blending is credited as a major contributor to the reduction. 540 gallons of latex paint were salvaged, remixed onsite and donated to Habitat for Humanity's ReStore. The effort saved LCG \$8,000 on disposal costs while preserving the landfill. An additional component to the collection event featured an e-waste disposal option, sponsored by CGI. Residents brought their old computers, printers and other digital electronics to be repurposed for low income individuals or recycled. In all, 235 residents brought more than 10,137 pounds of electronic waste for recycling, further reducing the waste in the landfill.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Lafayette garners statewide attention for cleanliness and litter prevention efforts.
- Increased services and new partnerships help Lafayette to clean up and reduce waste.
- Lafayette Animal Control Center looks to the future with a 'no kill' goal.
- Community Development provided intensive technical assistance in the successful application for the 2016 National Park Service African American Civil Rights Grant, resulting in a \$450,000 award for the historic Holy Rosary Institute.

Also in April, thousands of local students from 29 schools participated in the second annual Plastic Bag Roundup, collecting more than 11,000 pounds of plastic bags which will be used for re-manufactured wood alternative decking.

In December, Keep Louisiana Beautiful partnered with Project Front Yard to create and launch a new Environmental Education Program that includes lesson plans and hands-on activities for different age groups.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Efforts to make Lafayette Parish Animal Control Center (LACC) a no kill shelter by 2020 kicked off with a two-pronged approach: first, by ensuring adoptable animals are adopted or fostered and second, by reserving euthanasia only in instances of health and behavioral issues.

The momentum continued when a formal partnership with Target Zero, a national nonprofit organization which works to transform local animal shelters, was announced in late spring and a shelter assessment was completed. Since this time, LACC has made considerable progress towards the no kill goal, although there is still work to be done.

Best practice efforts have been implemented to become a no kill shelter including: the addition of another staff person to assist with adoptions, rescues and grant writing, extended adoption hours,



the use of the LACC webpage to reconnect lost pets with their owners, and increased collaborations with local animal welfare groups, such as Acadiana Animal Aid, to provide new avenues to adoptions and rescues. In working with these groups, 258 dogs, puppies, cats and kittens were rescued between September and January. During that same time period, the shelter staff was successful in completing 185 adoptions.

Looking ahead, no kill efforts at LACC will continue. A new software program is budgeted to assist with the shelter management, including increased reporting and tracking efficiencies, as well as improved access to citizens. Additionally, the City-Parish Legal Department and the LACC staff have been hard at work rewriting animal control ordinances to allow for, among other things, a Trap, Neuter, Return initiative for community cats, which is expected to drastically reduce the euthanasia rates.





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Departmental Online Resources

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov/CAO
- Lafayette Animal Control: lafayettela.gov/acplus
- LAWorks: laworks.net

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Website: lafayettela.gov/communitydevelopment
- LCG Consolidated Planning Process: lafayettela.gov/CommunityDevelopment/FederalPrograms/Pages/Consolidated-Planning.aspx
- First-time Home Buyer Brochure: lafayettela.gov/CommunityDevelopment/FederalPrograms/SiteAssets/Files/homebuyersbrochure.pdf
- Housing Services: lafayettela.gov/CommunityDevelopment/Pages/Housing-Services.aspx
- Senior Centers: lafayettela.gov/CommunityDevelopment/HumanServices/Pages/Senior-Center.aspx
- Online resource for job seekers, employers & staff: www.louisianaworks.net
- Lafayette Science Museum: lafayettesciencemuseum.org
- Nature Station: naturestation.org
- Heymann Center: heymanncenter.com

FINANCE & MANAGEMENT

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov/Finance
- Audited Financial Statements: lafayettela.gov/Finance/Pages/Accounting.aspx
- Budget Documents: lafayettela.gov/budget/Pages/default.aspx
- Surplus Property & Police Evidence Auctions: publicsurplus.com

INFORMATION SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY

- lafayettela.gov/IS/Pages/default.aspx

LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Website: lafayettela.gov/FireDepartment
- Product Recalls: cpsc.gov/en/Recalls
- National Fire Protection Association: nfpa.org
- Fire Safety Information: usfa.fema.gov

LAFAYETTE INTERNATIONAL CENTER

- Website: lecentre.org
- Louisiana Export Guide: louisiana.think.global/leg2015-16/

LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Website: lafayettela.gov/policedepartment/pages/default.aspx
- LPD Facebook page: facebook.com/LafayetteLAPolice?fref=ts
- LPD Twitter: [@LafayettePD_LA](https://twitter.com/LafayettePD_LA)
- Crime Mapping: crimemapping.com

LAFAYETTE UTILITIES SYSTEM

- Website: lus.org, lusfiber.com
- Hurricane Handbook: lus.org/index.php/information-library/hurricane-handbook
- AllonsTV: lusfiber.com/index.php/allonstv
- LUS/LUS Fiber on FB: facebook.com/LUSpage, facebook.com/LUSFiber
- LUS/LUS Fiber on Twitter: [@LafUtilities](https://twitter.com/LafUtilities), [@LUSFiber](https://twitter.com/LUSFiber)
- LUS Fiber on YouTube: youtube.com/user/LUSFiberLafayette

LEGAL

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov/Legal

PARKS & RECREATION

- Website: www.LafayetteLA.gov/ParksAndRecreation
- Park List: lafayettela.gov/ParksAndRecreation/Pages/Parks-Listing.aspx
- Golf Course: wetlandsgc.com
- Guide to all programs and facilities: lafayettela.gov/ParksAndRecreation/SiteAssets/Files/LRPD%20GUIDE.pdf

PLANNING, ZONING & DEVELOPMENT

- Website: lafayettela.gov/PZD
- Planning Commission: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Development/Pages/Planning-Commission.aspx
- Hearing Examiner: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Development/Pages/Hearing-Examiner.aspx
- Codes Division: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Codes/Pages/default.aspx
- Development Division: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Development/Pages/default.aspx
- Zoning Division: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Zoning/Pages/default.aspx
- Comprehensive Plan (PlanLafayette): lafayettela.gov/ComprehensivePlan/Pages/The-Plan.aspx
- Permits (building, mobile home & swimming pool): lafayettela.gov/PZD/Codes/Pages/Residential-Building-Permit.aspx
- Commercial Building Permit: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Codes/Pages/Commercial-Building-Permit.aspx
- Unified Development Code: lafayettela.gov/ComprehensivePlan/Pages/unified-development-code.aspx
- PlanLafayette Annual Report: lafayettela.gov/ComprehensivePlan/SiteAssets/Comprehensive%20Plan%20Pages/The-Plan/PC_2016_Annual_Report_Final.pdf
- Project Front Yard: projectfrontyard.com
- Preservation Alliance: preservinglafayette.org
- Building Officials of Louisiana (BOAL): lma.org/BOAL
- FEMA: fema.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov/PublicWorks
- Traffic Calming: lafayettela.gov/TrafficAndTransportation/Pages/Traffic-Calming.aspx



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Carlee Alm-LaBar, Director of Planning, Zoning, and Development



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Gerald Boudreaux, Director of Parks and Recreation



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Lowell Duhon, Chief Administrative Officer



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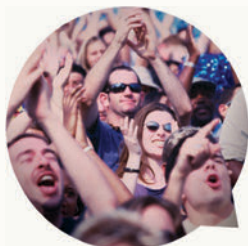
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