


Lafayette
 CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
 ANNUAL REPORT 2018

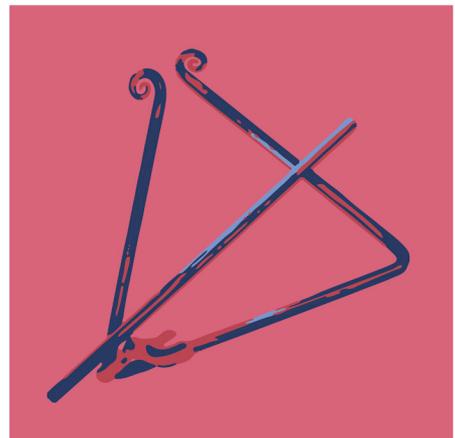
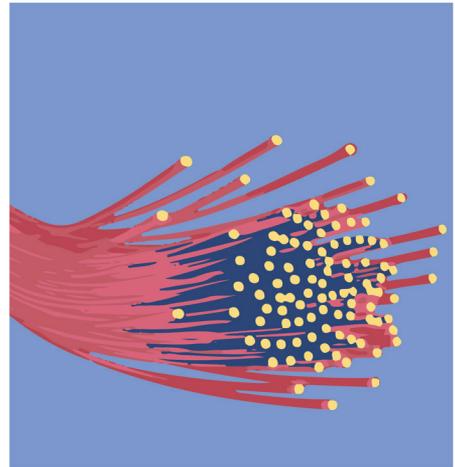
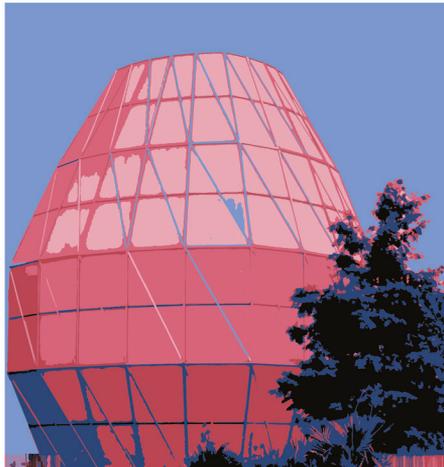
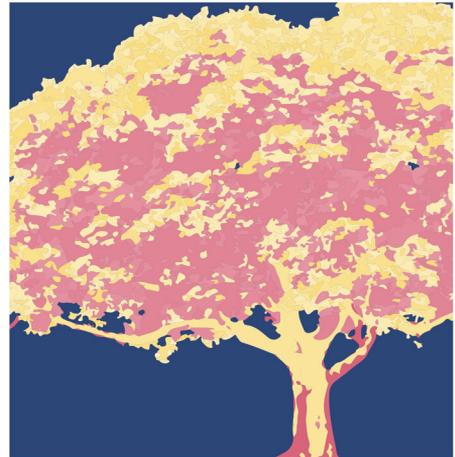


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LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH GOVERNMENT

Animal Control	291-5644
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)	291-8311
City Court	291-8720
City Marshal.	291-8725
Mayor-President	291-8300
Civil Service	291-8330
Clerk of Council	291-8810
Community Development	291-8400
Fire Administration	291-8701
Fire and Police Civil Service.	291-8762
Information Services & Technology	291-5600
International Trade	291-5474
Juvenile Detention Center	291-7130
Lafayette Parish Public Library	261-5787
Lafayette Utilities System (LUS).	291-5804
LUS Customer Service	291-8280
Legal Department.	210-8171
Parks & Recreation	291-8361
Development & Planning	291-8000
Police Administration	291-8653
Public Works	291-8517

OTHER GOVERNMENT AND IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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
Employment Office.	262-5601
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
City of Youngsville	856-4181

LAFAYETTE PARISH GOVERNMENT OFFICES

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

Cover Design by: Kathryn Reaux

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR-PRESIDENT JOEL ROBIDEAUX

I am pleased to present the third Annual Report of my administration, and I am proud to share with you some of the accomplishments we have achieved in the last three years. As you will see from the successes detailed in this report, Lafayette Parish is moving in the right direction and building momentum for an even brighter future.



DRAINAGE INITIATIVE

In 2017, voters approved a one-time \$9 million rededication for the backlog of deferred maintenance drainage projects, plus \$2.5 million per year for ongoing drainage maintenance. In all, 77 critical drainage projects were identified and rated by the number of addresses affected, cost per address, percentage area in a flood zone, number of FEMA and repetitive loss claims, the complexity of each project, and any foreseen permitting issues. Based on this rating, the \$9 million was appropriated to 27 priority deferred maintenance projects. In an effort to keep citizens informed of the progress, or delays of these important projects, we launched a Capital Projects Dashboard at projects.lafayettela.gov.

CREATIVE ECONOMY

Lafayette's creative culture drew positive national attention in 2018, helping to galvanize the parish's second largest sector – our cultural economy. We experienced cultural wins that included hosting global and national music conferences and an international filmmaking lab, features in Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown and Samantha Brown's Places to Love, and the relocation of three new film production companies – resulting in ten locally produced films. With this kind of year, it's no wonder Expedia named us a Top Artistic Community for 2018.

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

After sitting vacant for decades, the site of the Old Federal Courthouse will finally return to commerce as a mixed-use commercial and residential development – creating highly sought-after downtown housing and turning a former economic drain into a future revenue generator. With construction underway in 2019, the OFC will soon produce much-needed revenue for this prime piece of real estate and serve as a catalyst project for future developments.

NO KILL 2020

The Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center had a record-breaking year in 2018 with a whopping 1,059 adoptions. Our adoption data shows

significant success since launching the No Kill 2020 initiative in 2016, with annual adoptions increasing from 517 to 1,059 and rescues jumping from 174 to 768. Adoption events, growing partnerships with rescue organizations, lower adoption fees, and new programs and policies all contribute to the tremendous strides toward reaching No Kill status in 2020.

UNIVERSITY AVENUE

With renewed focus in 2018, we launched a study and a series of public meetings with the vision of returning University Avenue Corridor to its former cultural, social and economic status for all who live, work and travel along the corridor. The result is the University Avenue Corridor Plan representing the community's vision to transform the roadway into a vibrant, multi-modal corridor, with improved connectivity for adjacent neighborhoods.

ECONOMIC OPTIMISM

There is reason for optimism in both the City and Parish of Lafayette. Lafayette Economic Development Authority highlighted 2018 as the second highest sales total on record, with tax collections improving and trending upward. Additionally, our unemployment rate shows marked improvement and is now lower than the state unemployment rate. LCG has built a healthy financial reserve according to Moody's Investors Service, which classifies the city and parish credit profiles as strong, with Aa2 ratings. Moody's analysis also states that despite a recent soft oil and gas economy, the tax base continues to see steady growth. Ongoing efforts to diversify our economy have established Lafayette as a regional trade, retail, and entertainment hub, and our strong local fiber network continues to attract technology firms to the area.

In closing, I thank the citizens of Lafayette Parish for supporting local businesses, our community initiatives and events, and embracing our unique way of life and culture.

Sincerely,



Joel Robideaux
Mayor-President

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. Some dates may be adjusted for holidays.

The Lafayette Public Utilities Authority (LPUA) is the governing authority of the Lafayette Utilities System 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.

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 reading of the agenda item. Speakers are allotted five minutes to speak. 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.

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 Communications/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 prepare for Council Meetings from agenda prep, meeting publication requirements and minutes. The staff also performs the day-to-day tasks necessary for efficient operation of the Council Office, as well as assists Council members to better serve their constituents located in both 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.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Use the LCG website to view agendas, minutes, current charter, departments, new Charters, etc. at - www.LafayetteLA.gov/Council
- Live stream via your computer at the link below: www.ustream.tv/channel/lafayette-consolidated-government-council-meeting



2018 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 meeting dates conflict with a holiday.)
- Watch the meeting via your television on AOC2 (Cox Channel 16) or on the Communications/Fiber Channel 4
- Volunteer for a board or commission by calling 291-8800 or emailing BCLafayette@LafayetteLA.gov
- Call the Council office at 291-8800 or email the Members at the addresses provided above
- New separate CITY Council and PARISH Council become effective January, 2020.

FINANCE & MANAGEMENT

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

As part of the Office's management and oversight of its fiscal responsibilities, LCG received two internationally recognized accolades from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). For the fifth year in a row, LCG received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation award and for the third year in a row, LCG received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. LCG is part of a small group of local and state agencies who receive these awards and are recognized for their continuing commitment to provide detailed transparent information to the public. Only 15 governmental entities in Louisiana received the Distinguished Budget Award and 59 government agencies received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence.

Savings from the government's prescription drug contract totaled \$1.15 million, due predominately to the renegotiation of the contract with the provider. The group insurance program for all LCG employees and its retirees reduced claim payments by approximately \$5 million over the last year by LCG's use of negotiated rates through Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Total subrogation recoveries totaled approximately \$274 thousand. Additionally, software and procedural changes throughout Finance & Management's divisions have resulted in improved efficiencies and more effective information and data flow.

As Lafayette's Comprehensive Plan continues to move forward, the Office of Finance & Management plays an integral part in assisting in the Plan's success by reviewing budgeting methodologies and assisting with analyzing funding sources and expenditures based on the Plan's mission and goals. In the coming year, a new budgeting software system is slated to go on-line, which will provide enhanced budgeting tools and reporting capabilities. LCG's annual budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications guide 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 Parish General Fund budget for FY 2019 has a projected ratio of fund balance to annual expenditures of less than one percent. During the budgeting process, reductions were made to many of the Parish General Fund's appropriations and no expenses reduced in prior years were

reinstated. The ending Fund Balance for FY 2019 is projected to be \$104 thousand. New revenue sources and additional decreases in expenditures for this fund will be required in the future to support the state mandates and basic services funded through the Parish General Fund. The City General Fund budget for FY 2019 has a projected ratio of fund balance to annual expenditures of 36.77 percent. This ratio exceeds the administrative policy to maintain City General Fund balance at a minimum of 20 percent of expenditures and shows a stable trend when compared to prior years. The budgeted ratio of fund balance to annual expenditures for the City General Fund was 38.44 percent, 32.6 percent, 31.5 percent, and 23.6 percent in FY 2018, 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively. The slight decline from FY18 to FY19 is the result of a projected \$4.7 million use of prior year fund balance. This use of fund balance is due to budgeted one-time capital expenditures of \$1.2 million and increases in salaries and benefits.

In the year ahead, the Office of Finance & Management will face several challenges and opportunities including its budgeting software implementation, upgrades to its financial management package, working with the newly created City and Parish Councils, and continuing to assist in the accomplishment of LCG's goals. Finance & Management's most important challenge and continued commitment is meeting the needs of the taxpayers while maintaining a fiscally sound financial position that will meet the immediate and future needs of Lafayette.

SAVINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONTRACT TOTALED \$1.15 MILLION, DUE PREDOMINATELY TO THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE PROVIDER. THE GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR ALL LCG EMPLOYEES AND ITS RETIREES REDUCED CLAIM PAYMENTS BY APPROXIMATELY \$5 MILLION OVER THE LAST YEAR BY LCG'S USE OF NEGOTIATED RATES THROUGH BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD. TOTAL SUBROGATION RECOVERIES TOTALED APPROXIMATELY \$274 THOUSAND. ADDITIONALLY, SOFTWARE AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES THROUGHOUT FINANCE & MANAGEMENT'S DIVISIONS HAVE RESULTED IN IMPROVED EFFICIENCIES AND MORE EFFECTIVE INFORMATION AND DATA FLOW.

INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND LAFAYETTE

ROADS & DRAINAGE

A growing community, and one that wants to grow in all the right ways, requires efficient routes to get from here to there. In addition, managing issues of transportation and drainage is paramount for Lafayette’s citizens and new businesses and residents thinking about calling Lafayette home.

UNIVERSITY AVENUE CORRIDOR

University Avenue, also known as Louisiana Highway 182, continues to be an important roadway, one that stretches from Carencro to the north to the Lafayette Regional Airport at its southern end. The corridor connects I-10, the historic Four Corners area, City Hall, the Police headquarters, Downtown, the University of Louisiana and the Vermilion River.

Early in his administration, Mayor-President Robideaux made the revitalization of University Avenue a top priority. “The University Corridor is a crucial gateway to our community and is worthy of reinvestment,” said Robideaux. “It is my hope that with renewed focus, we can begin the process of returning this area to its former cultural, social and economic status for those who live, work and travel along the corridor.”



In late 2016, the Acadiana Planning Commission awarded Lafayette Consolidated Government just over \$1.5 million to fund transportation and planning projects, including a corridor study to identify opportunities to improve the transportation efficiency and mobility options of the corridor, as well as enhance its potential for economic revitalization. A series of public meetings began in January of 2018 providing residents an opportunity to give feedback on proposed improvements such as possible alternatives to existing infrastructure including sidewalks, shade trees, landmark signs and roundabouts. Approximately 1,000 corridor stakeholders, residents and business owners participated in the process, sharing their vision for recreation, entertainment and dining options, housing and amenities, and areas or landmarks of significance to be preserved and highlighted.

The University Avenue Corridor study was completed in December 2018 and aims to unify planning along the state highway by bringing together

various efforts to identify implementation steps to happen over the next few years. The final plan includes priority projects, budgets and timelines for implementation based on community feedback and corridor analysis.

DRAINAGE

Following the great flood of 2016, 77 critical maintenance drainage projects – long deferred due to the lack of funding – were identified at an estimated \$31+ million cost. Lafayette Parish voters approved the reallocation of an existing tax for drainage maintenance projects in November of 2017, allowing for \$9 million in one-time funding plus an additional \$2.5 million annually to address deferred drainage maintenance. Then in February 2018, Mayor-President Robideaux and Public Works Director Mark Duboc shared the plan to address this issue of parish-wide drainage. The original 77 projects were rated based on the fastest outcomes with the greatest impact and the \$9 million was allocated to 27 priority deferred maintenance projects.

An online Capital Projects Dashboard was launched to allow citizens to stay informed of these important projects, providing up-to-date information in an open and easy-to-understand format. Details including the progress or any delays of each project, as well as the budget can be tracked via the mobile-friendly website, <https://projects.lafayettela.gov/projects>.

While addressing these deferred maintenance drainage projects, Public Works continues to manage day-to-day drainage maintenance, including roadside ditch and coulee excavation projects, cleaning litter traps and storm drains, repairing sinkholes, and flushing out culverts.

LCG’s Drainage Division provides maintenance and improvements to approximately 1,400 miles of roadside open ditches, 300 miles of subsurface drains, 850 miles of unimproved coulees, 19 miles of underground coulees and 20.5 miles of concrete lined coulees. Drainage work includes herbiciding, coulee cleaning and maintenance of four drainage pump stations. The Operations Division receives 3,000-3,500 requests for service annually.

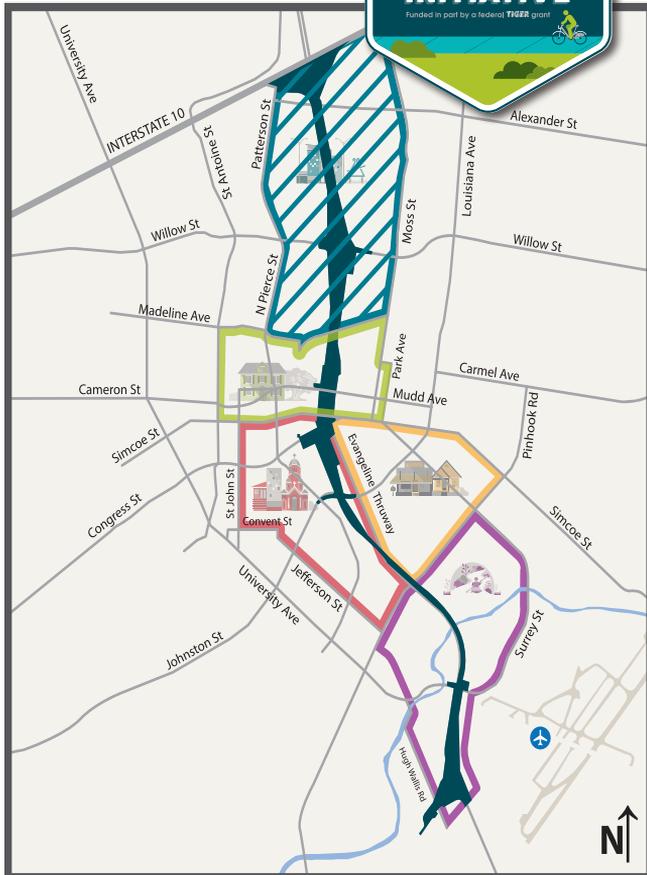
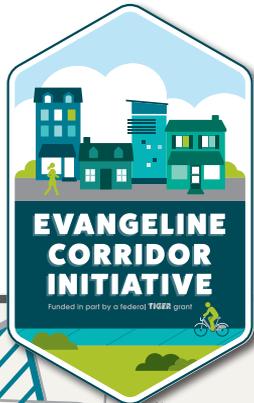


INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND LAFAYETTE

EVANGELINE THRUWAY DEVELOPMENT

After more than two years of community outreach, research and planning, the draft action plan for redeveloping neighborhoods along the Evangeline Thruway Corridor was shared with the public in March of 2018.

The Evangeline Thruway Redevelopment Team (ETRT) Chairperson Skyra Rideaux said the draft report/action plan - which represents an extensive amount of community outreach and engagement - includes design concepts for neighborhood revitalization projects plus steps for funding and implementation. "This plan identifies more than 40 Catalyst Projects, which are designed to drive investment from both the public and private sectors, and build momentum for intentional reinvestment in our urban core and oldest neighborhoods," said Rideaux.



- Gateway District
- Sterling Grove / Simcoe / La Place District
- Downtown / Freetown-Port Rico District
- McComb-Weazey District
- Vermilion River Recreational District
- Interstate 49 Pathway

SURREY STREET BRIDGE REOPENS

An important artery crossing the Vermilion River, the Surrey Street Bridge – carrying about 16,000 vehicles per day – was closed for emergency repairs after an inspection revealed corroded bearings supporting steel beams on the underside of the bridge.

With repairs completed 30 days ahead of schedule, LA DOTD approved the bridge to be reopened. Officials were on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony as the bridge was reopened for traffic.

The total project cost \$700,000 which included engineering and construction, testing and inspections. The work included bearing and joint replacement, cleaning and painting of the steel girders and an epoxyurethane overlay on the deck.

Traffic on both the bridge and the Vermilion River waterway had been stopped since the bridge was deemed unsafe in October 2017.



HIGHLIGHTS & TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The University Corridor study was completed, with plans for implementation of recommended projects revealed.
- Rededicated funds will lead to over \$9-million dollars in drainage projects in the city.
- The Evangeline Thruway Redevelopment Team builds momentum for a reinvestment in some of Lafayette's core neighborhoods.
- Public Works Department unveiled a new website [Capital Projects Dashboard] to provide residents with up-to-date information on parish drainage improvements: <https://projects.lafayettela.gov/projects>

CAPITAL PROJECTS DASHBOARD

Follow the progress of projects that matter to you!
Projects.LafayetteLA.gov/projects

INNOVATION WITH AN ACCENT

BECOMING A SMARTER CITY

Here were students, city and state leaders, plus technology innovators and members of local transportation community groups... and all they wanted was to design, collaborate and create a better transportation system and improve the quality of life for the people of Lafayette. Of course, truth be told, there were also \$10,000 in cash and prizes on the line, as well.

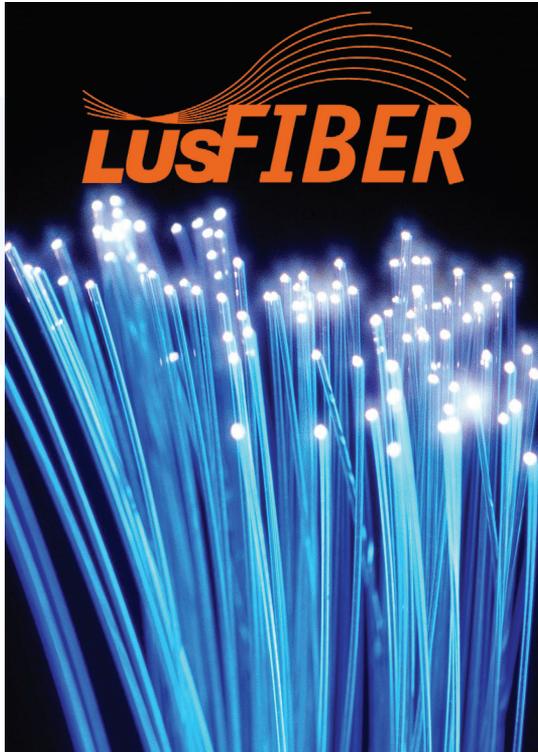
The team known as 360 Fuel ruled the day in mid-April, winning the LUS Fiber Smart City Challenge civic hackathon which officials hope will begin a new era of innovation, economic development and Smart City initiatives in Lafayette.

What's a 'civic hackathon,' you ask? Try this: A civic hackathon is a human-centered design sprint with focused efforts to solve some of the most complex social challenges. "Creating this civic hackathon was an important step towards paving the way for Lafayette as a Smart City," explains Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux. "We wanted to showcase and connect our local talent in order to unleash the potential of our city, and introduce technological innovators to our community."

Throughout the 24-hour event, competing teams came up with solutions to the growing toll traffic and transportation is taking on Lafayette's quality of life. Projects such as these reiterate the importance of creating spaces that allow for multi-disciplinary collaboration in order to come up with the solutions that will create the biggest impact in an inclusive way.

The winning team from 360 Fuel developed Geaux - a sensor, mobile, cloud, and artificial intelligence (AI) driven platform for smart cities.

Geaux incentivizes transportation options like carpooling, bike-sharing, bus-riding and walking, while enabling the quickest directions and fastest parking times. Geaux's application program interface (API) opens enhanced real-time data sets and traffic diversion capabilities to mapping engines and mobile applications like Uber, Waze and Lyft. Geaux's simple solution paired with LUS Fiber's sophisticated infrastructure, paves the way for the implementation of this smart city solution to improving transportation and providing capability of vehicle to infrastructure (V2I) communications in Lafayette.



LUS Fiber, in collaboration with Adoxio Business Solutions & local community partners, reached its goal of highlighting and inclusively connecting regional and local talent into a space where, together, human-centered solutions were found.

SPEEDIER TRAVELS VIA LUS FIBER

As of May 2018, LUS Fiber became the first Internet provider in Louisiana to offer 10 Gbps (Gigabit per second) to residential customers, and this announcement was just the latest in a series of 'firsts':

- 2012 - LUS Fiber is the first to offer 1 Gbps service.
- 2017 - LUS Fiber is the first to offer 2 Gbps service.

By comparison, when LUS Fiber served its first customer, the fastest Internet speed available to residential customers was 50 Mbp, and with May's announcement, LUS Fiber was able to provide 200 times that speed to residences.

Excitement about this upgrade attracted LUS Fiber's first 10 Gbps residential customer, Chad Hollier of N2 Solutions. Already a loyal LUS Fiber customer, Hollier's company was excited to use LUS Fiber's superior 10 Gig residential service. Having the speed to quickly access and respond to work needs at home is an attractive benefit of 10 Gbps Internet.

2018 INNOVATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Expansion of LUS Fiber into Youngsville and Broussard
- LUS Fiber received the All Fiber Certification from the Fiber Broadband Association
- Successful Replacement of City Hall Data Center Core network equipment and end point device protection with next-generation products
- Virtualization software product upgrade for Production, Test and Disaster Recovery environments

To learn more about LUS Fiber, call 99-FIBER (337-993-4237) or visit them online at <http://www.lusfiber.com>.

The safety of Lafayette residents has always been of the highest importance to leaders of our community and is a multifaceted effort conducted by a number of departments including the Lafayette Police and Fire Departments and the Juvenile Detention Center.

Throughout 2018, LCG Public Safety personnel worked diligently to protect and serve the residents and visitors of Lafayette Parish.

SECURITY AT CITY HALL

First, the Security Guard Desk has been relocated toward the front of the City Hall lobby. This was done to accommodate the new x-ray machine that was installed near the guard's desk and walk-thru metal detector. All bags, briefcases and backpacks are now scanned by the x-ray machine.

In addition, individuals are also scanned via the walk-thru metal detector; these visitors to City Hall must place all metal objects (such as keys, cellphones, etc.) in baskets before they clear the metal detector.

With the addition of the x-ray machine, there are now two full-time security guards at the entrance to City Hall between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; these guards oversee both the x-ray machine and the walk-thru metal detector.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

In 2018, the Lafayette Fire Department maintained a Class 2 Fire Protection Rating which, in the process, provided for lower fire insurance for property owners. In addition, 17 recruit firefighters graduated from the department's training academy, the Louis F. Babin Training Institute.

As always, Acadiana residents were thinking about others, too. The Lafayette Fire Department implemented the Louisiana Urban Search and Rescue Regional Response Team 4, and the Team's first deployment was to South Carolina to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

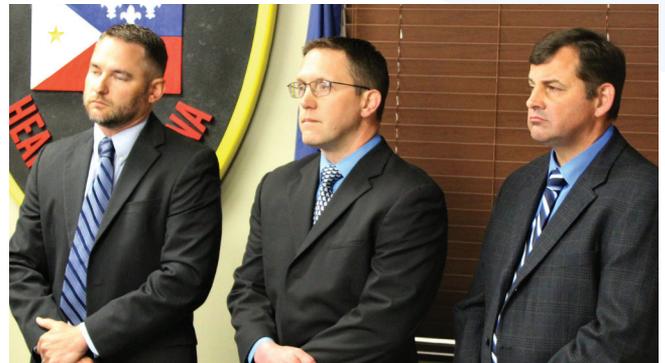


JUVENILE HOME UPGRADES

Significant upgrades to the Lafayette Juvenile Detention Home were implemented during the course of 2018, upgrades that allow detention staff to perform their duties with more efficiency and effectiveness. These upgrades included: the purchase of new two-way radios and youth monitoring equipment; the installation of high-definition security cameras and video monitors; and replacing aging kitchen equipment.

COLD CASE: SOLVED

Lafayette Police Detectives, using DNA evidence solved a 10-year old murder case from December of 2008. DNA evidence collected by the Lafayette Police Department's Crime Scene Unit a decade ago, paid off in 2018 as the LPD identified and charged the suspect in this otherwise cold case.



Left -Sergeant Stephen Bajat - Lead Detective, Ctr: Detective Scott Broussard, Right: Kevin Ardoin, Director of Acadiana Crime Lab

WALL OF HONOR

Lafayette's fallen police officers will be forever remembered on the Wall of Honor unveiled and dedicated at City Hall in early October. The families of Lafayette Police officers Cpl. Michael Middlebrook and Capt. Rocky Langlinais were on hand for the emotional ceremony. "We placed it in a very prominent location, so when people come to meetings or to City Hall for any reason, they can be reminded of the sacrifices that our officers made for us," said Mayor-President Joel Robideaux.



TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- LPD completed the construction of the Range Facility
- School Resource Officer program created to secure all schools in the city
- Security plans were provided for all churches in the city
- New mobile camera stations to aid with crowd safety during public events such as festivals and parades

DISABILITY AWARENESS

'ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR'

"I wanted a tangible and consistent reminder for him to know how much I, and the rest of Lafayette's disabled community, appreciate his support."



That was the impetus for Liam Doyle's nomination of Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux as the 'Elected Official of the Year' at the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards. Such heartfelt words were indeed high praise, especially coming from the LCG's Disability Awards Coordinator. "I hoped that by highlighting his support of my efforts and those of others like me, it would serve as an example for other areas around the state, that we should follow his lead."

Doyle's nomination helped garner Robideaux the top prize at the November event hosted by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, an event which annually recognizes the achievements of individuals who have inspired positive change within the disability community.

Three other Lafayette residents and/or companies were honored as well: Barry Guidry (Veteran of the Year); Hand Up Thrift (Employer of the Year); and Harlon Cowsar II (Ken Vince Memorial Award winner).

LAFAYETTE AWARDED FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS

One month earlier (October 2018), the Mayor-President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD) recognized community members who improve the lives of those living with disabilities. Honorees were celebrated on October 17 at the 11th Annual Awards Ceremony.

During the ACCD Awards Ceremony Mayor-President Robideaux stated, "We are blessed to have so many inspiring people working tirelessly to enhance the lives of our neighbors living with disabilities. With this committee serving in an advisory capacity to consolidated government, Lafayette Parish is much better equipped to address the needs and rights of those living with disabilities."



LOCAL ACCD AWARD WINNERS

- NICOLE POIENCOT - Vickie Nettles Advocacy Award
- LOUISIANA REHAB SERVICES - Distinguished Merit
- HILARY RAGAN - Educator of the Year
- MICHAELS ARTS AND CRAFTS - Employer of the Year
- THE MELARA FAMILY - Family of the Year
- ROBERT MARTIN WHATLEY - Outstanding Individual with a Disability
- TAYLOR TRACHE - Media of the Year
- CLAIRE CARRIERE - Volunteer of the Year

LIVE & PLAY IN LAFAYETTE

No one lives, works and plays like the residents of Lafayette – from its relaxed family-friendly atmosphere at numerous parks and little league fields, to the countless community events and festivals that highlight the many unique sights, sounds, culture, and foods found only in Lafayette. Our community prides itself on connecting and supporting citizens of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

COME PLAY WITH US

The Parks and Recreation Department provides citizens the opportunity to participate in wholesome and leisurely activities.

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- *Les Vieux Chenes and The Wetlands Golf Courses were selected as sites for the 2018 Louisiana High School Athletic Association Girls/Boys State Championships. In 2018, these courses combined to facilitate some 78,000 rounds, which resulted in approximately \$2,500,000 in revenues.*
- *Throughout the year, Parks & Recreation provided athletic programs for more than 49,000 community youths and conducted exercise and enrichment activities for nearly 10,000 adults and seniors.*
- *Public Wi-Fi was installed and is now available at no charge at all of Lafayette's recreation centers.*



be receiving a \$100,000 federal grant to fund a new footbridge to better connect walking trails across the park.

The Nature Station provides Lafayette both an educational center and an eco-tourism designation. The area is comprised of 120 near-pristine bottomland hardwood forests that serve as the habitat for many of this areas native plant and animal life. Annually more than 300 school classes (Pre-K, elementary, secondary and University) visit the facility and participate in environmental education enrichment programs. For more information please visit our website at www.NatureStation.org.



Pictured left to right are: LA State Senator Gerald Boudreaux, US Sec. of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Mayor-President Joel Robideaux

ACADIANA PARK NATURE STATION



This hidden gem, located in Upper Lafayette had a momentous 2018. First, by celebrating its 40th anniversary in April and then again in September, when the park was visited by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke who announced that the Nature Station would

TOP PARK & RECREATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN 2018

<i>Fabacher Field</i>	<i>New Restroom</i>	<i>\$184,000</i>
<i>Beaullieu Park</i>	<i>Dog Park/Pickleball Courts</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>
<i>Brown Park</i>	<i>Parking Lot/Lighting Improvements</i>	<i>\$75,000</i>
<i>Broadmoor Park</i>	<i>New Playground Equipment</i>	<i>\$37,500</i>
<i>Clark Field</i>	<i>Maintenance Building/Stadium Improvements</i>	<i>\$187,000</i>
<i>Debailion Park</i>	<i>New Playground Equipment</i>	<i>\$37,500</i>
<i>Girard Park</i>	<i>Park Improvement/Exercise Equipment</i>	<i>\$134,000</i>
<i>Oaklawn Park</i>	<i>General Improvements/Playground Equipment</i>	<i>\$62,000</i>
<i>Scott Park</i>	<i>General Park Improvements</i>	<i>\$240,000</i>
<i>St. Anthony Park</i>	<i>New Playground Equipment</i>	<i>\$37,500</i>
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	<i>Improvements at Earl J. Chris Pool/OJ Mouton</i>	<i>\$45,000</i>
<i>Tennis Courts</i>	<i>Improvements at Brown, Beaver, Beaullieu, & Thomas Park</i>	<i>\$153,200</i>

DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

LAFAYETTE'S INTERNATIONAL CENTER AIDS ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH INTERNATIONAL EXPORT

The Lafayette International Center was created as a division of the City of Lafayette in October of 1989, at a time when Lafayette was struggling to recover from the collapse of oil prices in the mid-1980s. Conceived as an innovative way to drive economic development and diversification, the Lafayette International Center's mission is to foster international commerce and development of the cultural economy in the Lafayette area. Through its efforts, the City and Parish of Lafayette continue to benefit from a positive reputation for international trade and tourism. Under the leadership of Director Robert Melanson, the Center is even more focused on export-driven, economic growth as a means of enhancing both the international standing and the economic well-being of Lafayette and the surrounding area. The Center's existence makes Lafayette distinct among comparably-sized cities as one of the few local governments in the country with a division that has a mission of its kind.

CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS LAFAYETTE

Mayor-President Joel Robideaux met with Chinese delegates in January as part of their China LNG & Gas Infrastructure Reverse Trade Mission. These senior level decision-makers came to Lafayette to meet with government officials and local suppliers of innovative U.S. technologies, equipment, and service providers across the entire gas value chain.

China has a significant need for gas supplies and transportation infrastructure, as the government is progressively replacing coal-powered plants with natural gas to improve air quality.



ROBIDEAUX APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF LAFAYETTE INTERNATIONAL CENTER

In February, Robert Melanson was appointed by Mayor-President Robideaux as the new director of the Lafayette International Center, replacing the recently retired Philippe Gustin. Melanson, a graduate of Lafayette's Teurlings Catholic High School, will enhance Lafayette's international standing by hosting visiting foreign delegations, leading trade missions abroad, overseeing the facilitation of interpretation and translation services for organizations within the community and the promotion of export-driven economic growth for Lafayette and the surrounding area.



"I'm excited to have Robert take the helm of the International Center," explained Robideaux. "Philippe leaves a legacy of noteworthy accomplishments that have made Lafayette more attractive to international trade and tourism. I am confident that under Robert's leadership, Lafayette will continue that legacy and will expand our efforts in global business outreach."

For his part, Melanson was ready to embrace the challenge. "In returning to my hometown of Lafayette, I am eager to draw on my skills and experience to bring the maximum benefit to my community," he said. "It is my professional and personal mission to ensure that now, more than ever, Lafayette will hold its own among the cultural and economic players in the international arena."

SAVING OUR FURRY FRIENDS

LAFAYETTE ANIMAL SHELTER AND CARE CENTER MAKING GREAT PROGRESS

Since Mayor-President Robideaux launched the No Kill 2020 initiative for the Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center (LASCC), efforts by employees and volunteers to make this ambitious goal a reality have been in full swing.

Through a multi-pronged approach to increase adoption opportunities, strengthening partnerships with private rescue organizations and instituting new policies at the shelter, LASCC is making significant progress towards meeting the No Kill 2020 initiative. This is being accomplished by ensuring adoptable animals are adopted or fostered, and by reserving euthanasia only in instances of health and behavioral issues.



Animal adoption numbers were most definitely reflective of progress: In 2017, 626 animals (448 dogs and 178 cats) were adopted, but those numbers nearly doubled in 2018, with over 1,059 shelter animals finding new homes. At the same time, euthanasia rates decreased by more than 50% (1,672 euthanized animals in 2017; 803 in 2018). Community adoption events such as Feline Friday and Second Chance Saturday were of great help in these areas.

Also, in its first full-year of operation, Lafayette's Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) initiative got off to an impressive start in 2018. The Animal Shelter trapped, neutered, and released 465 cats, and reflected an increase in the save rate of community cats from 28% (2017) to 70% (2018). In addition, a partnership with Acadiana Animal Aid has dramatically increased the number of animals sent to rescue organizations throughout the country from 174 to 726.

2018 was by far the best year in history for pet adoptions through LASCC, with the shelter adopting out more than 1000 animals.

MEET "DUSON"



This is "Duson," a black lab mix. He was the 1000th animal adopted in 2018. The year ended with a total of 1059 adoptions.



TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Pet adoptions increased from 626 to 1,059
- Euthanasia rates decreased from 1,672 to 803
- The number of community cats spayed and neutered increased by 150%

LAFAYETTE ANIMAL SHELTER & CARE CENTER

613 W. Pont Des Mouton Rd
Lafayette, LA 70507
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Shelter Hours: Monday - Friday, 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
337-291-5644

Email: LASCC@LafayetteLA.gov

To learn more about adopting a pet or volunteering, visit <http://www.lafayettela.gov/LASCC/Pages/default.aspx>

CULTURE-RECREATION-ENTERTAINMENT-ARTS-TOURISM-ECONOMY

CREATE



Established in 2017, the CREATE Initiative focuses on meaningful partnerships and opportunities that would have an immediate impact in supporting Lafayette's cultural economy.

RECOGNIZED BY EXPEDIA LAFAYETTE NAMED ONE OF THE MOST ARTISTIC COMMUNITIES IN U.S.

Santa Fe. Honolulu. Chicago. Charlotte. Washington, D.C. LAFAYETTE!! Yes, indeed. Travel booking giant Expedia named Lafayette as one our country's most artistic communities. In the announcement, Lafayette was lauded as a place "... where creative people come together..." and cited cultural locations such as Acadiana Center for the Arts and Cite' des Arts as "champions of the arts." Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux was understandably pleased by the Expedia listing. "This kind of national recognition helps to further spur growth for our cultural and creative economies and solidify Lafayette as a great place to live, work and play."

"You can't buy this sort of publicity," stated Ben Berthelot, President & CEO of Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission (LCVC). "It's great to continue to be recognized by publications across the world, this time as a top artistic town. Since the launch of the CREATE initiative, there has been much positive momentum in our cultural economy, and as the article mentions, Lafayette Parish is definitely a place where creative people come together." Berthelot is optimistic that this latest announcement will translate into an economic return. "This type of recognition from a national brand like Expedia will encourage others to come to the Heart of Cajun and Creole Country and experience the vibe for themselves."

The Expedia article came on the heels of another national spotlight opportunity. The famous travel series Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown filmed local hot spots in and around Lafayette during Mardi Gras festivities. The series features cities from across the globe known for their unique food and authentic cultures and aired on CNN in April.



SUPPORTING OUR ARTISTS

In June, Robideaux – through the CREATE initiative – fully endorsed compensating artists at a fair value for the work they provide. It's important to lead by example, he says. "The work of our artists leads to some of our most valuable community assets, and we believe they should be paid as such," were part of his Artist Compensation Policy Statement.

SOLO SCHOLARSHIPS



Photo Source: Gregory Scruggs

CREATE partnered with The Buddy Holly Educational Foundation and The South Louisiana Songwriters Festival and Workshop to award full scholarships to the SOLO workshop in May of 2018. Winners Caleb Elliott and Emily Ortego were then able to further their crafts by working alongside luminaries such as Beth Nielsen Chapman and E Street Band (Bruce Springsteen) founding member Garry Tallent.

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION

In what can only be called a mix of community beautification with a splash of homegrown artistic style, the McComb-Veazey Neighborhood/Coterie called for artists in June to transform utility boxes into beautiful pieces of public art that represents Lafayette, its people and its culture. "The boxes in our neighborhood are pretty plain. There is nothing spectacular about them," said Tina Shelvin Bingham of the McComb-Veazey Neighborhood/Coterie at the time. "This project will transform those plain boxes into beautiful works of art that celebrate aspects of our community we would like to celebrate."

CULTURE-RECREATION-ENTERTAINMENT-ARTS-TOURISM-ECONOMY

LIGHTS! CAMERA! LAFAYETTE!

The summer of 2018 saw three film production companies (and with that, 10 movies) move into Lafayette. Those movies gave Lafayette's economy a boost via production costs, facilities rentals and jobs for many residents, but on a grander scale, films that featured local businesses and assets helped to promote Lafayette to a global audience. The increase in film activity is partially the result of state tax incentives and collaborative efforts through CREATE. "With Lafayette and Acadiana's home-grown creative identity, it's a natural progression for our community to move toward another creative industry, such as film, to make our mark," explains Gregg Gothreaux, President/CEO of LEDA (Lafayette Economic Development Authority).



Photo Source: Life Time TV - #LifeTime
Scene from *The Christmas Contract* filmed in Lafayette starring Hilarie Burton and Robert Buckley with cameo role by Mayor-President Joel Robideaux.

LAFAYETTE ON A GLOBAL STAGE

October brought a cultural 'gumbo' to Lafayette, a gumbo whose key ingredients were civic leaders, academics and music industry representatives from around the world. "The Music Cities Convention is indeed a global convening on music and culture," agreed Ben Berthelot, President and CEO of the Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission. "It's an honor to be recognized on a global stage as a music city and host the Music Cities Convention for only the third time that it has been in the United States." More than 900 people from six continents attended the Music Cities event held at the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette.

TRUNK OR TREAT

At the end of October - specifically, Halloween - the Lafayette Police Department hosted its second annual Trunk or Treat event. Hundreds of Lafayette residents collected sweet treats from officers and then got up-close and personal with a variety of safety vehicles and four-legged members of the LPD's Mounted Patrol Unit.

SHORT FILM CHALLENGE

Twenty short films filmed and produced in Lafayette were unveiled in a public premiere in early November at the Acadiana Center for the Arts (in partnership with the Southern Screen Festival). The films were part of KINOMADA, a short film learning laboratory that brought together 50 up-and-coming filmmakers from Louisiana, the United States, the Caribbean, Mexico, Quebec and France, and challenged them to make 20 short films in only 10 days.



Participants also took part in an exchange of culture, knowledge and skills for the benefit of the productions on a theme that paid tribute to Louisiana's multicultural identity. "Through CREATE, we continue to diversify the local economy by collaborating with established global organizations," stated Robideaux, who launched the CREATE cultural economy initiative in 2017. "Lafayette benefits by leveraging every opportunity to train and develop our film industry workforce in the parish."



Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux and his CREATE initiative were honored by Louisiana Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser at a recent gathering of tourism professionals and event planners.

OTHER TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- In preparation for the new Louisiana state film incentive package that went into effect in 2018, CREATE helped to host an introductory meeting with film industry workers and the International Alliance for Theatrical and Stage Employees Union.
- Hosted a French-speaking intern from Quebec through the international LOJIQ program to help launch le Programme de la Francophonie, placing French Immersion High School Students with local organizations to incorporate more daily French.
- CREATE partnered with the Opportunity Machine Innovation Convention to connect our culture and innovation with entrepreneurs and exhibit how our culture and recreation impacts our business community.

CLEANER GREENER COMMUNITY

PROJECT FRONT YARD

“Project Front Yard was founded on the principle of community pride, and we are excited to work with (the Krewe of) Rio to create a sustainable approach to Mardi Gras,” beamed Project Front Yard Coordinator Skyra Rideaux in early February. “We love when community members take ownership and pride in showcasing a clean and fun way to *laissez les bons temps rouler*.”

The Mardi Gras recycling effort worked. Prior to the Krewe of Rio parade, Project Front Yard and Rio members recycled more than 4,600 pounds of cardboard and almost 400 pounds of plastic film, thus diverting what officials say was about 85% of typical Mardi Gras-related landfill waste and re-routing that into the recycling stream. Then, at the end of the parade, volunteers collected more than 5,300 pounds of beads to be repurposed and reused by the non-profit organization LARC.

There was an added bonus for LCG. The combined efforts of Krewe members and volunteers reduced the post-parade clean-up workload for LCG’s Public Works Department, saved dozens of man hours, \$650 in dumpster fees and prevented damage to LCG’s street sweepers. “This project is a great example of the good that can be done when public and private entities partner up,” summed up Mayor-President Joel Robideaux. For their part, Krewe members agreed, and Rio President Larry Comeaux said the collaboration surpassed expectations. “Everyone participated with a great deal of enthusiasm and willingness to make this a successful project for the City of Lafayette. We look forward to working together on future projects.”



BEAUTIFICATION FESTIVAL

Improving the environment. Enhancing the social fabric. Environmental education. Encouraging volunteerism. Promoting business engagement.

It happened all over eight days in late March via Project Front Yard’s GR8 Acadiana Cleanup which was essentially an eight-day community Festival of Service. Partners and service organizations taking part included Habitat for Humanity, Leadership Institute of Acadiana, No Waste Lafayette, Scenic Lafayette and The 705; Project Front Yard helped these organizations coordinate daily service projects.

GEAUX GREEN FOR FESTIVAL

Project Front Yard teamed with Festival International, LUS Fiber and CGI to encourage the thousands of Festival-goers to reduce, reuse and recycle. LCG made it easier than ever to reduce waste through its sponsorship of reusable shopping bags at Festival merchandise tents.

CAMP ECOSTEAM



DEBRIS DROP

March comes in like a lamb, and goes out like... a debris drop!! On March 17th, residents of both the city and unincorporated parts of Lafayette Parish who didn’t quite know what to do with items such as old tires, furniture, appliances and carpet took part in ‘Debris Drop.’ “LCG wants to help citizens properly dispose of some items you may not always get picked up curbside or that can’t fit into your cart,” explained LCG Environmental Quality Manager Bess Foret.

The spring fling clean-up collected more than 240 cubic yards of solid waste, 100 cubic yards of scrap metal to be recycled and 225 tires. In addition, EQ expanded the drop off program to include a pilot curbside collection day in the Truman neighborhood in which 35 cubic yards of solid waste and 81 tires were collected.

An environmentally-focused and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) based summer camp called EcoSTEAM was launched in June, courtesy of a partnership between the LCG Parks and Recreation Department and Project Front Yard. Each attendee to the six-week camp took an active, hands-on approach to making Lafayette a better, safer and cleaner place to live. “This is a great opportunity to teach them to think differently about the way our community looks and their role in making it better,” said Skyra Rideaux, Project Front Yard Coordinator.

LEANER GREENER COMMUNITY

FIX-IT CAFÉ

Project Front Yard collaborated yet again - this time in July with No Waste Lafayette - to unveil the Fix-It Café, a pop-up meeting place for community members to bring items in need of repair, have them assessed and potentially repaired by experienced community fixers. Repair stations focused on items such as household goods, small appliances, clothing, textiles and jewelry. “This Fix-It Café,” explained Rideaux, “is a great way to give these items a second life!”

During the 2018 Fix-It Café, 55 of the 76 items were successfully fixed! PFY has partnered to host five Fix-It Cafés since its inception in November of 2017.

ENTER THE PORTAL

Home Nation,” a web-based application that allows Lafayette citizens to stay up-to-date on beautification and cleanliness efforts, launched in late August. Via “Yardley” the garden gnome, clean-up and beautification concepts (or ‘gamification’) in Lafayette are now at the forefront of community engagement.

PROJECT FRONT YARD AWARDS

Commemorating the five-year anniversary of its launch in 2014, the PFY awards highlighted individuals and organizations working to improve the face of the community. On October 4th, IBERIABANK partnered once again to celebrate honorees at the event which recognized individuals and organizations that beautify and clean up Lafayette’s physical landscape or inspire others to do the same through eco-education. “I’m so proud of how far Project Front Yard has come in these first five years, and I’m even more proud of this year’s award recipients. They are the real heroes putting in the work today to make our community a better place tomorrow,” stated Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux.



PFY AWARD WINNERS

- KREWE OF RIO – Best Overall PFY Effort
- ASCENSION EPISCOPAL SCHOOL - Best in Cleanliness
- THE URBAN NATURALIST, MARCUS DESCANT - Best in Beautification
- 2017 & 2018 CGI SUMMER INTERNS - Best in Education
- UL LAFAYETTE THE BIG EVENT COMMITTEE - Mayor’s Citizen Action Award

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN ACTION



In 2018, the Environmental Quality (EQ) Department handled more

than 3,500 calls requesting service and/or inspections for a multitude of environmental issues. This was an increase of nearly 2,000 requests over 2017.

EQ’s staff, in conjunction with environmental contractor services, handled nearly 7,500 requests for bulky curbside debris, 1,850 construction site inspections, 98 inspections for Regulatory Compliance issues and illicit discharge violations.

Held twice each year, LCG’s Household Hazardous Waste Day (HHWD) allows residents a way to properly dispose of household chemicals and electronics. HHWD is a service available at no additional cost to those living within the City of Lafayette or unincorporated areas of the parish. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this event to responsibly dispose of hazardous materials.

In 2018, HHWD events serviced 1,329 vehicles collecting more than 40 tons of chemicals along with 10 tons of electronics.

HHWD patrons were also able to turn in unwanted latex paint, which will be re-blended and repackaged for use by Lafayette Habitat for Humanity. The paint re-blending project not only provides a needed product benefiting a worthy cause, it also significantly reduces waste and saves on disposal costs. In all, 1,180 gallons of paint were repurposed!

To learn more about LCG’s HHWD, visit www.lafayettela.gov/eq/pages/household-chemical-day.aspx

L A G N I A P P E

As a commonly used term in Lafayette Parish and the surrounding region, “lagniappe” means “a little something extra.” And this lagniappe section is just that--other worthwhile mentions and interesting happenings from 2018.

LUS – MORE THAN JUST UTILITIES

For more than 120 years, LUS has been a community partner committed to enhancing quality of life through reliable service. Through a mutual aid request, LUS’s electric operations crews provided support following the major Hurricanes Florence (North Carolina) and Michael (Florida). Annually, LUS revenues also support the cost of police and fire protection, parks and recreation and other public costs.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department’s Housing & Federal Programs Division invested more than \$1 million in CDBG and HOME entitlement funds to the Pinhook Pocket Neighborhood in McComb-Veazey by Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette, which was completed in October 2018. This project included the construction of 13 single-family houses sold to low-income home buyers over several years. A blessing of the neighborhood was held on Nov. 1, 2018. The partnership between Community Development and Habitat for Humanity has positively impacted the McComb-Veazey neighborhood.

LAFAYETTE NAMED AS FINALIST IN BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES’ 2018 MAYORS CHALLENGE

As one of the 35 Champion Cities finalists, Lafayette was among a competitive pool of more than 320 applicants in the nationwide challenge. The Mayors Challenge calls upon cities to identify an urgent challenge in their community and then develop an innovative plan to tackle the issue. Each Champion City received grant funding of up to \$100,000 as well as personalized support from innovation experts in the “Test and Learn” phase. During that six-month period, local subject-matter experts and stakeholders worked to refine the project idea, create and test a prototype and build support for the innovation before ultimately submitting a final application. With many Lafayette residents still recovering from historic flooding in August of 2016, the project application focused on an action-oriented and innovative idea to engage the community and work as partners to address storm water management and drainage. “Our goal is to take what we’ve learned about managing storm water and package it into a tool that can be used to address flooding in any community, not just Lafayette,” said Mayor-President Robideaux.

CREATIVE COUNTIES PLACEMAKING CHALLENGE

Lafayette Parish was selected as one of seven counties from across the country to participate in the Creative Counties Placemaking Challenge, focused on arts-based economic development, sponsored by the National Association of Counties and with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Lafayette District 4 Council Member Kenneth Boudreaux stated, “being involved in this initiative could be the very boost needed to rejuvenate and bring positive attributes to a community long forgotten, yet a community that is still home and loved by so many.” The challenge brought together a team to assess current neighborhood assets to identify gaps in goods, services and public amenities; address crime and blight by developing policies that encourage development and the acquisition of adjudicated properties by the community for “placemaking reuse”; activate public/private spaces for the good of the community; and identify potential intersections between creative placemaking and policy, grassroots organizing and collective impact efforts to build economic prosperity through arts, culture, and food.

LCG RECEIVES HERITAGE AWARD FROM LOUISIANA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

On May 16, LCG was presented with the Heritage Award by the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation in conjunction with the group’s annual conference. The Heritage Award recognizes an organization that has successfully leveraged assets to provide greater cultural value to its region within the state, such as a heritage tourism project, or restoration/preservation effort such as adaptive reuse. “I’m proud that Lafayette has been recognized for our work towards cultural and historic preservation,” stated Mayor-President Joel Robideaux. “Given our unique culture, it’s especially important to put forth efforts to ensure that future generations know and understand who we are as a community and to be proud of that heritage.” Robideaux said he remains committed to other efforts to preserve and revitalize areas of local, cultural significance including the historic Four Corners area.

JANUARY FREEZE

Due to severe winter weather, LCG regular administrative services and Lafayette Transit System bus services were suspended for the day on January 17. Following the hard freeze that covered Lafayette and Acadiana, LUS experienced a temporary decline in water pressure due to the increased demand caused by this weather event.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY PARTNERS ON “ADOPT A STOP” PROGRAM

District 8 City-Parish Councilwoman Liz Webb Hebert worked for more than two years to address the lack of bus stop shelters for Lafayette Transit System riders. Throughout the City of Lafayette, riders can catch a bus at 650 stops. However, of that number, only ten percent of local bus stops offer covered shelters, leaving riders vulnerable to Lafayette’s humid, sub-tropical climate. According to Hebert, “The Adopt A Bus Stop initiative aims to build more covered shelters through generous donations from business partners and community leaders.” Hebert worked with local businesses to cover the cost of construction for sheltered stops through the new program, which was approved by the Lafayette City-Parish Council on Sept. 4. “These adopted stops, in addition to the 11 stops that LCG budgets for annually, make for an essential Public/Private partnership,” Hebert explained. The average cost of a three-sided bus shelter with a roof and concrete pad is \$6,000.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

LCG’s Legal Department is responsible for providing legal representation and support services to all areas of City-Parish Government, including advising all departments, commissions, offices and agencies. The City-Parish Attorney represents City- Parish Government in all legal proceedings and other matters, ensuring the highest levels of efficiency in legal services and generating positive results through effective representation. The department is also responsible for the preparation or approval of contracts or other agreements to which any LCG department, commission, office or agency is a party. The department meets its staffing needs with part-time contract attorneys who serve as assistant city-parish attorneys in order to provide legal services as requested or directed by the City-Parish Attorney. Working through the City Prosecutor’s office, the department prosecutes all matters brought before Lafayette City Court. In 2018, the department completed the sale of the Old Federal Courthouse as well as comprehensive changes to the Home Rule Charter and finalized the Adjudicated Properties process to place properties back into commerce.

Small Business Support - LCG’s Small Business Support Services Division collaborated with Sides and Associates, Small Business Development Center of UL at Lafayette and Lafayette Regional Airport for a series of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Educational Workshops. Through networking at these workshops, LCG’s Small Business Support Services Division directly assisted six minority businesses in receiving its DBE certification to participate on federally funded transportation projects.

ADOPTION OF FEMA FLOOD MAPS

In 2018, the Development and Planning Department conducted outreach efforts to inform Lafayette citizens of the upcoming FEMA flood maps. The Department coordinated with the City of Scott, City of Broussard and City of Carencro to hold three well attended public meetings in September 2018 where FEMA representatives, LADOTD Floodplain Management Division, and National Flood Insurance Representatives attended to answer questions from the public about flood insurance, flood mapping and general flood concerns. The new FEMA Flood Maps were successfully adopted on November 5, 2018 and took effect on December 21, 2018 after over 10 years in process, due to appeals and protests.

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The department made important progress in moving forward with multiple initiatives including:

- *Adjudicated Property Disposition Process* – finalized the disposition process resulting in the first of nine adjudicated properties going through the disposition process.
- *Neighborhood Planning Process* – completed a new process for designating neighborhoods and developing neighborhood plans.
- *Complete Street Policy* – Coordinated effort with Public Works to develop a Complete Street Policy for LCG.
- *Tree Planting Policy* – Developed the process to guide community groups’ planting of trees or shrubs on public land or right-of-ways.
- *Parklet and Outdoor Dining Policy and Permit Application* – Developed and passed an ordinance to enable Parklets and outdoor dining in the downtown area.
- *Conditional Use Permit for Bar/Lounge in Downtown* – Worked with the downtown community and DDA to remove the ‘Bar Moratorium’ to replace with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Two CUP’s were granted in 2018.
- *Preservation* – The Lafayette Preservation Commission reclassified six historic register buildings as cultural resources and designated six new listings on the Lafayette Historic Register.
- *Public Land, Sidewalk, and Bike Facility Inventory* – Completed an inventory of Public Land, Sidewalk, and Bike Facilities.
- *New Alcohol Code Implementation* - Implemented new regulations and permitting with the passage of the Alcohol Code included completing the licensing of all businesses in the unincorporated area of the parish and the licensing (bar cards) of all employees of the businesses in the unincorporated area of the parish.

ONLINE RESOURCES

LAFAYETTE CONSOLIDATED GOVT.

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov
- LCG on Facebook: facebook.com/lafayetteconsolidatedgovernment
- LCG on Twitter: [@LCGTweets](https://twitter.com/LCGTweets)
- LCG on Instagram: [LafayetteConsolidatedGovt](https://www.instagram.com/LafayetteConsolidatedGovt)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov/CAO
- Lafayette Animal Control: LafayetteLA.gov/lascc

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

- Website: lafayettela.gov/PZD
- Planning Commission: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Development/Pages/Planning-Commission
- Hearing Examiner: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Development/Pages/Hearing-Examiner
- Codes Division: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Codes/Pages/default
- Development Division: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Development/Pages/default
- Zoning Division: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Zoning/Pages/default
- Comprehensive Plan (PlanLafayette): lafayettela.gov/ComprehensivePlan/Pages/The-Plan
- Permits (building, mobile home & swimming pool): lafayettela.gov/PZD/Codes/Pages/Residential-Building-Permit
- Commercial Building Permit: lafayettela.gov/PZD/Codes/Pages/Commercial-Building-Permit
- Unified Development Code: lafayettela.gov/ComprehensivePlan/Pages/unified-development-code
- PlanLafayette Annual Report (Amended in 2017): lafayettela.gov/ComprehensivePlan/Documents/PlanLaf_2015_Amendmended_July2017.pdf
- Project Front Yard: projectfrontyard.org
- Preservation Alliance: preservinglafayette.org
- University Avenue Corridor Plan: lafayettela.gov/ComprehensivePlan/Pages/UniversityAvenue
- 2018 FEMA Flood Maps: lafayettela.gov/floodmaps
- FEMA: fema.gov

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
- Bond Rating Page: lafayettebonds.com

MAYOR-PRESIDENT

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov/presidents/pages

INFORMATION SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY

- Website: 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
- Hurricane Handbook: lus.org/index.php/information-library/hurricane-handbook
- LUS on FB: facebook.com/LUSpage
- LUS on Twitter: [@LafUtilities](https://twitter.com/LafUtilities)

LEGAL

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov/Legal

LUS FIBER

- Website: lusfiber.com
- AllonsTV: lusfiber.com/index.php/allonstv
- LUS Fiber on FB: facebook.com/LUSFiber
- LUS on Twitter: [@LUSFiber](https://twitter.com/LUSFiber)
- LUS Fiber on YouTube: youtube.com/user/LUSFiberLafayette

PARKS & RECREATION

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

PUBLIC WORKS

- Website: LafayetteLA.gov/PublicWorks
- Capital Projects Dashboard: projects.lafayettela.gov/projects
- Drainage Maintenance Initiative: <http://lafayettela.gov/Presidents/Pages/2018-Drainage-Plan>
- Traffic Calming: lafayettela.gov/TrafficAndTransportation/Pages/Traffic-Calming.aspx
- Weekly Drainage Reports: lafayettela.gov/Presidents/Pages/Weekly-Drainage-Report.aspx

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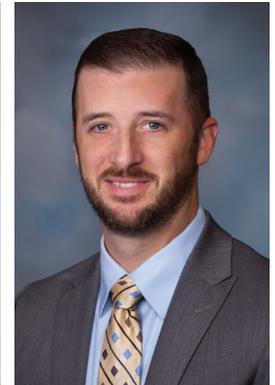
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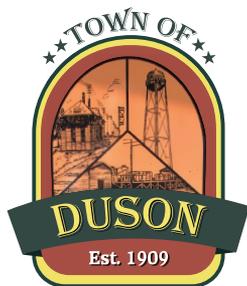
Lafayette Parish is a community of communities, made up of six municipalities that create a unique environment for work and play. Our legendary joie de vivre is known around the globe and Lafayette Parish is home to a world-class workforce and a diversified business base, serves as an economic center of Louisiana and offers a metropolitan appeal. We are a community that embraces technology, boasts a strong university, is known for its love of sports, and celebrates the arts and culture.



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www.cityofbroussard.com



CARENCRO
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www.carencro.org



DUSON
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www.facebook.com/TownofDuson



LAFAYETTE
337-291-8200
www.lafayettela.gov



SCOTT
337-233-1130
www.cityofscott.org



YOUNGVILLE
337-856-4181
www.youngsville.us

Robideaux Report

The Mayor-President's Annual Address



Thursday, March 14, 2019

“As an annual event, the Robideaux Report brings together citizens, business and civic leaders, and elected officials from across the parish. I look forward to a great evening as we review our successes and challenges behind us and still yet to come. Following the presentation, the Showcase will celebrate just a few of the many aspects that make Lafayette Parish so special – including our food, music, art and recreation – and will feature important community stakeholders and emerging community partners. I invite citizens from across the parish to join in this free community event.”

– Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux

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