



Lafayette

CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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# A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR-PRESIDENT

I have had the honor of serving as Mayor-President for the City and Parish that I love for four years. Lafayette is my home. I grew up here. I graduated from high school and college here. I married and raised three sons here. I worked as a CPA for 26 years, serving Lafayette Parish families and businesses. I served Lafayette Parish for three terms in the Louisiana House of Representatives, including as Speaker Pro Tempore, and Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee. I built strong relationships on both sides of the aisle in Baton Rouge that are still paying off for Lafayette Parish today.

As Mayor-President, I guided Lafayette Parish through a serious economic downturn these last four years. Oil was at \$28 a barrel when I took office. My first task was to make cuts to balance the budget. I scrubbed the budget and found dollars, without raising taxes. We maintained our level of core services. We rededicated existing tax dollars for drainage and diversifying our economy. We balanced parish budgets, even with increased spending and pay raises passed by the Council.

We saved millions through bond refinancing. We improved the credit rating of the City and Parish -- in a down economy.

Significantly, we increased the fund balance of the City of Lafayette -- by the latest forecast -- \$50 million.

We've made important progress in diversifying our economy.

Dedicating resources to grow our cultural economy. Expanding our technology sector. Bringing unemployment down from 7% to below the Louisiana average. Generating wage growth. Improving retail sales and tax collections.

We've seen meaningful job growth from firms that are significant employers. CGI adding 400 jobs here, rather than any of the other 70 US cities they are in. Kopter, bringing 120 direct jobs, using the aircraft manufacturing tax structure I authored when I was in the Legislature, choosing Lafayette over 38 cities. The amazing growth of WAITR and locating over 200 jobs downtown. LHC Group adding 500 jobs here, when they could have moved to Louisville. I'm proud of this record of working with business, local stakeholders, Louisiana Economic Development, and the Governor's Office.



*Joel Robideaux*

I'm especially proud that the Old Federal Courthouse is undergoing redevelopment, after almost 20 years.

Significant progress was made on the University Avenue Initiative which includes the revitalization of the University Underpass and plans for the redevelopment of the LessPay Motel at "Four Corners".

Our parish is on the threshold of achieving No Kill status. Live outcomes for cats and kittens have improved from 9% to 89%. Live outcomes for dogs and puppies, from 47% to 86%. As a result, it's finally time to move forward on a new shelter.

I was first elected to public office in 2004. Since then, I have served the people and parish that I love to the best of my ability. I wish my successor the best and look forward to the future of Lafayette Parish. It has been an honor to serve as your Mayor-President.

Sincerely,

Joel Robideaux  
Lafayette Mayor-President  
2016-2020





# LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL



*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 West University Avenue 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.

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 [BCLaLafayette@LafayetteLA.gov](mailto:BCLaLafayette@LafayetteLA.gov).



*Veronica L. Williams*

## **2019 City-Parish Council**

- District 1 – Kevin Naquin
- District 2 – Jay Castille
- District 3 – Patrick Lewis
- District 4 – Kenneth P. Boudreaux
- District 5 – Jared Bellard
- District 6 – Bruce M. Conque
- District 7 – Nanette Cook
- District 8 – Liz W. Hebert
- District 9 – William G. Theriot

## **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 [BCLaLafayette@LafayetteLA.gov](mailto:BCLaLafayette@LafayetteLA.gov)
- Call the Council office at 291-8800
- New separate CITY Council and PARISH Council become effective January, 2020

## **Online Resources**

Citizens can use the LCG website to view agendas, minutes, current charter, departments, new Charters, etc. Live stream is also available via computer at: [www.ustream.tv/channel/lafayette-consolidated-government-council-meeting](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/lafayette-consolidated-government-council-meeting)

## **Council Office**

337.291.8800



# UNIVERSITY AVENUE CORRIDOR



*Aerial View of University Avenue Corridor*

Revitalizing the University Avenue Corridor will be a welcome improvement for those who live, work and travel along the Corridor. The University Avenue Gateway Project will enhance 1.8 miles north of Interstate 10 at Renaud Drive, extending south of Four Corners (intersection at Cameron Street) at Jeanne Street Public Works.

Because the corridor is a major connector and gateway in Lafayette, an important economic asset to the community and a first impression of the city, the project was one of Mayor-President Joel Robideaux's priorities. "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 September, the dingy underpass near Four Corners, in desperate need of a facelift, was given a fresh coat of paint, giving it a much-needed sprucing up.



*LessPay Motel at "Four Corners"*

During its heyday, in the 1950s and 60s, University Avenue was home to bustling businesses, including service stations, a gym that hosted boxing and wrestling matches, night clubs and restaurants. Interestingly, restaurants serving Cajun and Creole cuisine were a favorite for visiting US presidents. Toby's Oak Grove Club, nestled in a grove of live oaks featured performances by many jazz greats. For decades though, the area has been an eyesore, dotted with abandoned businesses and bordering homes in disrepair.

When complete, the near two-mile stretch will be an attractive first impression of Lafayette to visitors, including future University of Louisiana at Lafayette students, prospective new businesses and new residents. For current residents, a survey shows 77% of respondents said improvements to the corridor are very important. Revitalizing University Avenue will improve with the addition of bike lanes, 15-foot sidewalks and canopy trees for shade. More than 25% of the residents of the University Corridor area have no available vehicles, making it necessary for those residents to walk, bike, or use public transit. More than one-fourth of residents depend on walking and biking to access neighborhood churches, schools and stores.



*Public Meeting for input on University Avenue Revitalization*

"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," Robideaux said. Residents and visitors will begin to see improvements with the completion of each phase.



*Plans to Revitalize the University Underpass Revealed*



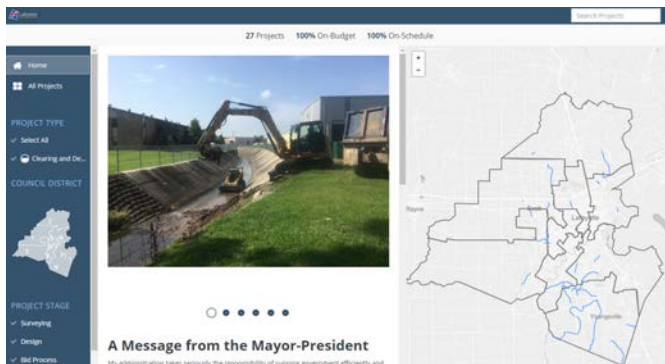


# DRAINAGE

Since the historic flood in 2016, drainage has been a top priority at Lafayette Consolidated Government.

In November 2017, Lafayette Parish voters approved the reallocation of an existing tax for drainage maintenance projects that had long been deferred due to lack of funding. The rededication provided \$9 million in one-time funding for the backlog of deferred maintenance drainage projects, plus approximately \$2.5 million each year for ongoing drainage maintenance.

Then in February 2018, Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux and the Public Works Department shared the plan to tackle drainage maintenance following the successful millage rededication. In total, Public Works identified 77 critical deferred maintenance drainage projects at an estimated \$31+ million cost. Each of the 77 projects were rated by the number of addresses affected, cost per address, percentage area in a flood zone, number of FEMA and repetitive loss claims, complexity of each project, and any foreseen permitting issues. Based on this rating, the \$9 million in one-time funding was appropriated to 27 priority projects.



*Drainage Dashboard available to Lafayette Parish Citizens*

In an effort to keep citizens informed, the administration launched a Capital Projects Dashboard depicting drainage project statuses in an open and easy-to-understand format. The progress or delays of each project, as well as the budget, can be tracked for public viewing via the online tool at [projects.lafayettela.gov](http://projects.lafayettela.gov).

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

Drainage was a concern in the summer of 2019 when a rain event in early June dropped an estimated five to seven inches of rain in less than 12 hours and Tropical Storm Barry swept through Acadiana shortly after in July. In addition to the two year-round sandbag locations, additional locations were set up to prepare for Barry. Luckily, the storm was significantly less destructive than expected.



*Hurricane Barry, July 2019*

Drainage was a top priority in 2019. While working with the City-Parish Council, Mayor-President Joel Robideaux reviewed several budgetary items and reallocated \$50 million to drainage.

## Highlights

- Drainage initiative – maintenance work on 27 channels (over 46 miles) was completed as of December 2019. The construction cost was approximately \$5,000,000
- In a joint effort between Project Control and Design and Development, the Drainage Department is pleased with the accomplishments made in the Drainage Maintenance Initiative Program this year. At the conclusion of 2019, maintenance work on over 60 miles of the targeted channels will have been completed or be underway
- Several drainage projects were either completed or under construction: Ile des Cannes widening, Ile des Cannes Subdivision Improvements, Bayou Carencro Lateral 8C, Lebesque Road bridge replacement, among others
- Awarded a construction contract for the widening of Dulles Road from Westgate Road (LA HWY 93) to just past Ambassador Caffery Parkway which will include a roundabout at N. Domingue Avenue. This project will also greatly improve the drainage in this area and in particular the Ambassador Caffery Parkway/Dulles intersection
- In an effort to minimize the threat of flooding, drainage preparation and relief was provided before and post landfall of Hurricane Barry, which included the removal of debris located within the roadside ditches, subsurface drainage systems, and outfall channels



# OLD FEDERAL COURTHOUSE



*Old Federal Courthouse Exterior*

After sitting dormant for almost 20 years, the start of renovations to the Old Federal Courthouse in October 2019 breathed new life into the blighted building.

The endeavor to increase downtown Lafayette's vibrancy came to fruition in 2018, when Mayor-President Robideaux signed a \$1.4 million contract with OFCH LLC to redevelop the courthouse and neighboring former police department and Acadiana Open Channel building. "More development downtown means more parish property taxes for our schools, Sheriff, LCG and other governmental agencies. All without raising anyone's taxes." Mayor-President Joel Robideaux said.



*Mayor-President Joel Robideaux signs contract with OFCH LLC to redevelop the Old Federal Courthouse*

Residential construction includes 68 apartments spread across the three buildings, along with commercial space, on the corner of Jefferson and Main streets. The development will generate more jobs, property taxes and economic growth according to Robideaux. He said in terms of development, this is ultimately what we want to see downtown.

"It's going to get that residential component. It's going to show banks and other lending institutions that they should lend money for projects similar to this and I think we're going to see an explosion from this." Construction is expected to be completed in December 2020.



*Interior of Old Federal Courthouse*



*Mural at entrance to Old Federal Courthouse*





# 311 LAFAYETTE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



Drug  
Activity



Criminal  
Activity



Traffic  
Violations



Loitering



Illegal  
Parking



Junk/Abandoned  
Vehicle



Prostitution



Noise  
Complaint



File Police  
Report

In October 2019, Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) launched a new all-in-one tool for connecting citizens to government services. 311 Lafayette allows citizens to submit and track service requests online at 311Lafayette.Services or by calling 311 from within the parish.

Similar to a package tracking number, service requests have a unique code, allowing the user and LCG staff to track the status of requests. When an issue is reported, such as a pothole, the system allows citizens to take a photo with their phone, mark the location on a geocoded map, submit the request, and then receive a code to track the status of their submission. A profile can be created to view all submissions in one convenient place.

The portal was launched in phases with non-emergency police services being the first services offered. In Phase I, citizens could report issues to the Lafayette Police Department for issues within the City of Lafayette.

Phase II was launched in December 2019 with several new service requests that extended to the entire parish. The web-based system evolved from the introduction of the 311 Phone Service System launched in 2018 which allows individuals to report non-emergency requests.

## Phase I

- Abandoned Vehicle
- Drug Activity
- Illegal Parking
- Loitering
- Panhandling
- Prostitution
- Traffic Violation
- Underage Alcohol Sale

## Phase II

- Animal Cruelty
- Stray Animal
- Drainage Issues
- Hazardous Dumping
- Pothole
- Tall Grass
- Waste/Recycling Issues

Randy Gray, LCG Chief Information Officer in charge of LCG's Information Services and Technology (IS&T) Department said the site is a big improvement, "It really streamlines everything for us. The old system lacked efficiency. This is a way for our citizens to engage using the technology that they already have."

Not only is 311 convenient for citizens, it is also an important tool for decision making in government. "This digital 311 format will improve our responsiveness, create efficiencies in government and help us give attention where it's needed. Maybe we need more



*KPMG & LCG 311 Development Team at Launch of Phase I*

drainage crews in an area or extra police patrols in another area. This will provide data to inform those decisions," said Interim Chief Administrative Officer Cydra Wingerter.

LCG hired KPMG, a worldwide consulting firm that builds digital 311 systems for local governments; KPMG worked with LCG Communications and the IS&T Department to streamline the system. Directors and employees were interviewed about their various processes for each service request to ensure the system would be automatic and streamlined.

In addition to launching 311, IS&T completed Phase I of new budget software and upgraded the CityWorks Maintenance Management System, a suite of maintenance management products. Both efforts greatly improve government efficiency.



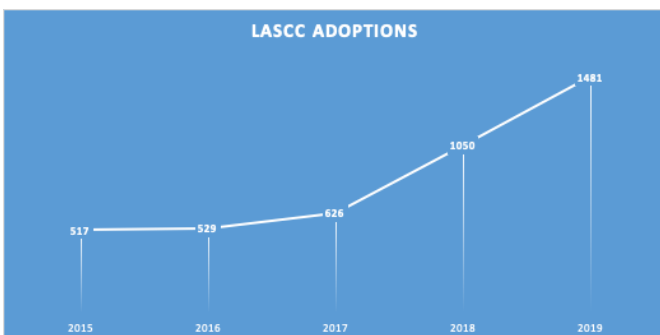
# NO KILL 2020 INITIATIVE

Since the 2016 launch of the No-Kill 2020 Initiative by Mayor-President Joel Robideaux, Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center (LASCC) employees and volunteers have made great strides toward reaching this ambitious goal. LASCC reached the desired “No Kill” live outcome rate of over 90% in March of 2019 and maintained an average live outcome rate of 79.97% for dogs and 82.72% for cats in 2019.



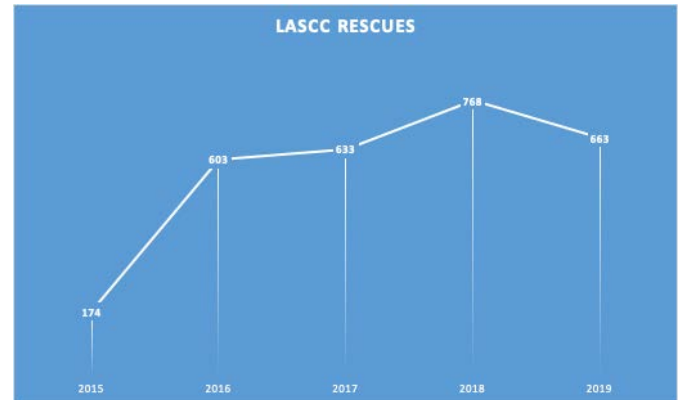
*Trixie, an adoptable dog in LASCC Foster Care*

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 to meet the No-Kill 2020 Initiative’s goal. This is being accomplished by ensuring adoptable animals are adopted or fostered, and by reserving euthanasia only in instances of health and behavioral issues.



*LASCC Annual Adoption Totals 2015-2019*

Animal adoption numbers are reflective of progress. More animals were adopted in 2019 compared to 2018. Adoptions increased from 1,059 (2018) to 1,481 (2019) –



*LASCC Rescue Totals 2015-2019*

422 more animals were placed in loving homes. At the same time, euthanasia rates decreased by more than 10% (846 euthanized animals in 2018; 722 in 2019). Community adoption events such as Feline Friday and Second Chance Saturday were of great help in these areas.

Fostering is another important element in saving the lives of Lafayette Parish’s homeless pet population. In 2019, LASCC expanded its foster program which allows adoptable animals to live with families temporarily while waiting to be adopted out to permanent homes. Fostering is especially essential in saving the lives of kittens that require full-time care and bottle-feeding in their first weeks. Expansion of LASCC’s Foster Program increased the save rate for kittens from 63.48% in 2018 to 72.58% in 2019.

Also, in its second full year of operation, Lafayette’s Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) Initiative continued to make significant progress following its launch in April of 2018. In 2019, the Animal Shelter trapped, neutered, and released 76.81% more cats than in 2018, saving 831 lives, up from 470.



*Demi, an adoptable kitten at LASCC*





# NO KILL 2020 INITIATIVE



Cats Clocking In (CCI), an expansion of LASCC's TNR program, was also created to help cats find new homes or "employment" in Lafayette Parish. LASCC and WildCat Foundation/SpayNation teamed up to create an adoption program that offers an all-natural pest control solution for Lafayette Parish residents and businesses, free of poisons and traps.

CCI matches cats unsuitable for a traditional adoption with homeowners and businesses looking for a more natural rodent deterrence. Unlike a traditional adoption, CCI promotes a business-like relationship between working cats and their new owners. In exchange for food, water, shelter and basic medical care, the cats protect their new home from rodents.

Working cats are employed where pest control is needed such as barns, farms, factories, warehouses, stores and private property. Having a working cat on patrol prevents rodents from taking up residence in these areas. With the assistance of WildCat Foundation/SpayNation, working cats are spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, and ear tipped at no cost to the adopter.



*Acadiana Animal Aid's transport program sends adoptable animals from LASCC to new homes across the country.*

In addition, partnerships with local nonprofit animal shelters has dramatically increased the number of animals sent to rescue organizations throughout the country. Of the 4,421 animals in LASCC in 2019, 15% were pulled for adoption by local rescue groups.



*Design for New Animal Shelter*

Some of the most exciting news for the shelter in 2019 was the progress made toward a new shelter facility. In 2015, the Lafayette City-Parish Council allocated about \$5 million for a new shelter under former Lafayette Parish President Joey Durel.

In 2016, Mayor-President Robideaux wanted to focus first on moving toward a "no-kill" shelter before building the new shelter. After no-kill progress was made, plans for a new shelter were "dusted off" and planning began immediately after the Lafayette City-Parish Council approved funding for the new facility.

Beazley Moliere Architects created a design for the facility that is the most effective for both LASCC workers and potential adopters. The new shelter will be designed so that when people walk through the doors, they are free to go through the facility to see the adoptable animals without waiting for a caretaker for assistance.

Lafayette Consolidated Government broke ground January 3 on the facility for the Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center. Construction by J.B. Mouton Contractors is expected to take 11-13 months.



*Groundbreaking of the New Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center Facility*



# PROJECT FRONT YARD



Project Front Yard (PFY) has worked to make Lafayette as beautiful and vibrant as its culture. Over the past five years, PFY has collected 17,291 bags of litter, engaged 10,709 volunteers and created more than \$565K in impact! One could say PFY has made beautification and revitalization part of the fun of living in Lafayette. Everyone has a part to play, from volunteering to pick up litter to planting trees, Lafayette Parish citizens and visitors can take the first small step to support PFY's BIG MISSION.

## FIX IT CAFE

Three Fix It Cafes hosted with No Waste Lafayette resulted in hundreds of repaired items that normally would have ended up in the landfill.



*Leaf Blower being repaired at Fix It Cafe*

## PLASTIC BAG ROUND-UP

Plastic Bag Round-Up begins on America Recycles Day and concludes on Earth Day. PFY had ten schools with 6,159 students collect almost 2,500 pounds of plastic film which were turned into park benches for the winning schools.

## PLOGGING

Plogging is a mash-up of jogging and the Swedish "plocka upp," meaning to pick up litter while jogging. PFY had 20 volunteers pick up more than 110 pounds of litter.



*Krewe of Rio Parade Pick-up Volunteers*

## KREWE OF RIO PARADE PICK-UP

Since 2017, Krewe of Rio has recycled more than 5,000 pounds in cardboard, 855 pounds in plastic film and more than 10,000 pounds in beads from their Mardi Gras parade. These efforts have reduced litter and saved LCG man hours and dumpster tipping fees.

## FESTIVAL TRASH MOB

Fifth year anniversary of participating in Festival Trashmob with Festival International, where more than 300 volunteers have removed almost 100 bags of litter from festival streets.

## PFY TRASH BASH

Since 2014, PFY in partnership with the LCG Recycling Office has worked with almost 500 volunteers to remove more than 17,000 bags of litter from our parks, streets and the Vermilion River.

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Hosted twice annually by LCG Environmental Quality, this event has served more than 1500 cars, reblended 1,180 gallons of latex paint and repurposed 26,429 pounds of E-waste through CGI and CACRC.



*Paint Reblending Station at Household Hazardous Waste Day*





# PROJECT FRONT YARD

## CAMP ECO-STEAM

Since 2018, Project Front Yard has partnered with Parks and Recreation and 12 local and state partners. The environmental camp has served more than 220 children ages 5-14 for a six-week camp covering everything from environmental stewardship to litter to recycling and eco-art.



## MCCOMB-VEAZEY COMMUNITY HOUSE

Worked with the Coterie to revitalize a blighted house into a neighborhood community center with the help of a \$20K Keep America Beautiful Grant.

## LITTER SURVEY INDEX

In 2019, Project Front Yard partnered with UL Lafayette, Fenstermaker, Geospatial Institute and Lafayette Parish School System to create a litter survey that would highlight hot spots for litter in the community to identify and implement proactive programs to address litter in our Parish.

## PFY AWARDS

During the Sixth Annual Ceremony, awards were given to honor individuals and organizations that exemplify the mission of Project Front Yard:

- **Best in Restoration** was presented to Christie Snow, an individual whose ability to show compassion for the environment led her to organize “Pick It Up Acadiana”
- **Best in Preservation** was presented to Alzina Dural, Founder of Seasons’ the Green Leaf, who began her first project by implementing and developing consistent Neighborhood Watch programs in Quiet Town (QT)
- **Best in Advocacy** was presented to Denise Lanclos who has just about a full-time job working on Azalea Trail’s social media, grant applications, coordinating projects and remapping its trail to promote ecotourism



*6th Annual Project Front Yard Award Winners*

- **Best Overall Project Front Yard Effort** was presented to Moncus Park. Moncus Park was selected as a recipient for this year’s Apache Tree Grant Program and from US Fish & Wildlife Services to reestablish one of the largest stands of Cajun coastal prairie that will exist

- **The Mayor’s Citizen Action Award** was presented to Ross Cottrill for his consistent participation in PFY’s events including Embrace A Space and Household Hazardous Waste Day. Cottrill earned 25,000 points and ranked number one on the leaderboard of the Gnome Nation app

## PARISH PROUD CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

New Pride & Beautification Campaign launch with a \$1M investment from Stuller Foundation. With a vision of creating a thriving, beautiful and sustainable community, Parish Proud’s goal is to work collectively with its partners to eliminate chronic blight and the proliferation of litter; to promote and invest in beautification initiatives like public art, tree plantings and beautifying green spaces and to educate the citizenry on the economic, environmental and social costs of blight and litter.



*Parish Proud Logo*



# DISABILITY AWARENESS

## LCG Disability Awareness Coordinator Receives National Certification

Lafayette Consolidated Government's Disability Awareness Coordinator Liam Doyle completed a training program to become a nationally certified ADA Coordinator.

"I am thrilled to be receiving this distinction not only as the completion of a long-standing goal, but also what it offers Lafayette as a whole," said Doyle of the experience. "This program was designed to give its participants a deep understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the tools to implement its regulations in order to move a community forward."



*ADA Coordinator Liam Doyle & Mayor-President Joel Robideaux with Doyle's ADA Certification*

## LCG Participates in Disability Awareness Forum

Lafayette High School (LHS) and Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS) partnered with Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) and the Leadership Institute of Acadiana (LIA) to host a Disability Awareness Forum that offered insights into what it is like to be a high school student with a disability. This event was spearheaded by an LHS student with a disability who wanted to express how his life is different to his peers.

**Living with a Disability**  
An Awareness Forum

Perspectives of LHS Students & Local Professionals

**Monday, March 25**  
**6 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**LHS Auditorium**



The Mayor-President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities recognized community members improving the lives of those living with disabilities. Honorees were celebrated on November 20 at the 12th Annual Awards Ceremony.

## ACCD Award Winners

This year eight awards were given in various categories with two of those winners receiving awards at the state level.



**2019 ACCD Award Winners**

**Distinguished Merit**  
UL LIFE Program

**Educator of the Year**  
Yvette Landry

**Employer of the Year**  
Sonic Drive-In

**Outstanding Direct Support Professional**  
Dr. Jennifer Tetnowski

**Youth of the Year**  
William Romero\*

**Outstanding Individual with a Disability**  
Ali Hebert\*

**Volunteer of the Year**  
Maggie Johnson

**Vickie Nettles Advocacy Award**  
The DREAMS Foundation

*\*Awarded at state level*





# LAFAYETTE UTILITIES SYSTEM



For almost 125 years, Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) has been committed to enhancing quality of life through reliable electricity, safe, clean water and efficient wastewater services.

LUS is the largest municipal utility in Louisiana and one among the 60 largest public power utilities in the US. With LUS issuing approximately \$70 million in utilities revenue bonds, LUS funded capital projects such as sewer plant expansions, water system upgrades, electric transmission and distribution construction, LED street light upgrades, and other utilities projects.

LUS customers and business customers experienced less power outages and shorter interruption times compared to other local electric utilities, resulting in a savings for Lafayette.

In the summer of 2019, LUS electric operations crews provided mutual aid both to Florida and North Carolina during Hurricane Dorian as it moved along the Atlantic coast.

LUS is an active supporter of local events and non-profits and is working with the community to create an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) as a roadmap for Lafayette's electric future.



*LUS Maintenance Fleet*



## LUS FIBER



In 2019, LUS Fiber developed community partnerships with cornerstone cultural events like Festival International and Festivals Acadiens et Creoles, as well as local economic epicenters such as the Cajundome and University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

LUS Fiber maintained a 90% customer satisfaction rating for the year based primarily on our service reliability, internet quality and competitive rates. Referrals from satisfied LUS Fiber customers was the number one reason people chose to switch in 2019.

Our customers confirmed LUS Fiber's local customer service and technical support were important to the community, our local economy, and overall service standards.

Demand for LUS Fiber remained strong as LUS Fiber continued its Neighborhood Expansion Program, reaching farther into surrounding cities and Lafayette, while investing in its existing infrastructure.

LUS Fiber also launched an app-based streaming video service, connectTV, keeping it ahead of the curve in terms of customer demands and changing market trends, as well as winning a bid to be the exclusive television provider for on-campus housing at UL Lafayette.

To top off the year, LUS Fiber's bond rating was upgraded to a rating of A2 from A3 due to sustained expansion and industry growth.





# FINANCE & MANAGEMENT

In 2019, the Office of Finance and Management was internationally recognized for its commitment to provide detailed transparent information to the public, earning accolades from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

- The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (sixth year in a row and only one of 15 governmental entities in Louisiana to receive)
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (fourth year in a row)



*Distinguished Budget Award presented to Office of Finance & Management by Mayor-President Joel Robideaux*

Responsible for taxpayer assets, the department manages accounting, budgeting, group insurance, purchasing and property, and Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) risk management functions. Finance and 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. It is essential that the department provide accurate financial information to citizens, the Councils, employees and management.



## 2019 Highlights

- Upgrades to the financial management system and new budgeting software have allowed for more efficiencies. In 2020, additional software will allow taxpayers and other stakeholders online access to information on financial transactions, increasing overall government transparency
- Through Risk Management, LCG recovered \$416,000 from at-fault parties
- To provide quality medical care and, in part, reduce medical claims, Group Insurance and Wellness began employee wellness programs and increased employee use of the Telemedicine Clinic

**Lafayette Consolidated Government's annual budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications guide for the consolidated government.**

The budget 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.

Looking to the future, the Office of Finance and Management plays an integral part in PlanLafayette 2035 (Lafayette Comprehensive Plan) by reviewing budgeting methodologies and assisting with analyzing funding sources and expenditures based on the Plan's mission and goals.





# LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT



*LPD Badge, Defensive Tactics Training Center Groundbreaking*

The Lafayette Police Department knows that law enforcement alone will not bring about improved quality of life. Rather, it takes the involvement of our community working with police to help remedy problems that develop and eventually become serious.

Through dedicated police officers and the citizens of Lafayette, LPD is working toward a community where all citizens are afforded the opportunity to enjoy an excellent quality of life.

## 2019 Highlights

- Constructed the Defensive Tactics Training Center



*Signing of the Competitive Police Pay Plan*

- Purchased the VirTra Firearms Simulation System to prepare officers for real-life incidents
- Met high standards of law enforcement and was recertified by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)
- Increased pay with the intention of retaining LPD police officers
- Added the Senior Corporal Rank, Drug Interdiction Unit, K-9 Unit to day shift and four mobile camera trailers



# LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Lafayette Fire Department (LFD) protects citizens from a wide range of emergencies including: fires, medical (CPR, AED and first responder level-for minor first aid), rescue and extrication and hazardous materials emergencies. The department also protects its citizens through code enforcement and arson investigation programs.

In 2019, LFD launched "Fire Safety Solutions for Lafayette", a program designed to distribute and install free smoke alarms, as well as provide fire safety messages, to Lafayette Parish residents with a hearing loss or deafness. Equipment included a bed shaker and very loud, low-frequency bedside alert signal; and in



*LFD Patch, Fire safety classes with Lafayette Parish students*

some homes a strobe light. Through FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, the LFD was able to install 158 specialized smoke alarms to the deaf and hard of hearing at no cost to the recipients.

## 2019 Highlights

- LFD had an 8.5% reduction of structural related fires
- Completed 103rd Recruit Academy: graduating nine recruits
- Purchased two new fire trucks
- Installed 291 smoke alarms in 175 Lafayette residences with the assistance of American Red Cross
- Averaged 4 minutes and 45 seconds response time to structural fire related incidents
- Fire Safety Education program reached 5,400 Lafayette residents



*"Fire Safety Solutions for Lafayette" Ad and Devices*



# PUBLIC WORKS



The Public Works Department is committed to providing essential services to Lafayette City and Parish citizens by maintaining and improving infrastructure. Nearly 300 employees are responsible for a wealth of progress in our community, including improvements to streets, drainage and traffic.

## Design and Development

- In a joint effort between Project Control and Design and Development, maintenance work on more than 60 miles of the targeted channels was completed or is underway
- Completed the West Regional Library
- The final phase of Kaliste Saloom Road went under construction and both phases are progressing
- Several drainage projects were either completed or under construction: Ile des Cannes widening, Ile des Cannes Subdivision improvements, Bayou Carencro Lateral 8C, Lebesque Road bridge replacement, among others
- Reviewed 100 building permits and 170 platted developments



*LCG officials and staff breaking ground on the next phase of the Kaliste Saloom widening project. Extending from Farrel Road to the area near Grand Pointe Apartments, this phase of the project will widen the road to a five-lane and increase the traffic capacity in this developing area.*

## Environmental Quality

- The Compost Facility processed 53,656 cubic yards of yard waste, 16,161 tons. All of the material was diverted from the landfill
- Gave out 6,402 cubic yards of compost, 1,928.3 tons
- Held two Household Hazardous Waste Days: collected from 1,300 vehicles – more than 50 tons of chemicals and more than 12 tons of electronics. Environmental Quality rebled two tons of latex paint (more than 100 five gallon buckets) and gave to Habitat for Humanity. All electronics were recycled and the majority of chemicals were repurposed
- Sold 264 rain barrels to Lafayette residents at a reduced price to promote water conservation
- Area middle schools participated in a rain barrel art contest. Paul Breaux Middle School won the popular vote and Sts. Leo-Seton Catholic School won the Mayor's Choice Award
- Participated in the Parks EcoSTEAM Camp

## Transit, Parking, Engineering

- Converted Vermilion Street Parking Garage to prepay using license plates
- Installed bus shelters as part of the Adopt-A-Stop Program
- Started construction on the roundabout at Girard Park at Hospital Drive

## Capital Improvements

- In a joint effort between Project Control and Design and Development, maintenance work on more than 60 miles of the targeted channels was completed or is underway
- Construction on the Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center No Kill Facility began using the CMAR process. The expected opening of the Shelter is in the Spring of 2021
- Completed the replacement of five aging bridges which would have had to close had they not been replaced
- Assisted in the assessment, design and overseeing of repairs on 43 bridges across the parish
- Concrete and asphalt road rehabilitation and preservation work was performed on 20 roads/streets in the City and Parish, representing about 50 miles of roadway. Some of the more prominent roadways addressed were Kaliste Saloom Road, West Congress Street, Guilbeau Road, Feu Follet Road, Walker Road and Landry Road
- Awarded a construction contract for the widening of Dulles Road from Westgate Road (LA HWY 93) to just past Ambassador Caffery Parkway, which will include a





# PUBLIC WORKS

roundabout at N. Domingue Avenue. This project will also greatly improve the drainage in this area, and in particular, the Ambassador Caffery Parkway/Dulles intersection

## Drainage Division

- Completed 1,756 requests for service
- Completed several in-house coulee excavation projects, including L-1 of Cypress Coulee, L-5 of Bayou Parc Perdue, and L4-1B of Isaac Verot Coulee
- To minimize the threat of flooding, drainage preparation and relief was provided before and after landfall of Hurricane Barry, which included removing debris in roadside ditches, subsurface drainage systems, and outfall channels

## Streets Division

- Completed 2,463 requests for service
- Supported parades and festivals through barricade



*The Drainage Division under Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of hundreds of miles of coulees and ditches throughout Lafayette Parish.*

deployment and clean up

- Coordinated sandbagging efforts in preparation for Hurricane Barry at five satellite stations and distributed more than 100,000 sandbags to citizens
- Cleaned the Jefferson Street and Camellia Boulevard Bridge underpasses
- Rehabilitation of bridges, bulkheads, and road shoulder erosion projects. Streets Bridge Crew reconstructed the top deck driving surface of the Breaux Road Bridge

## Facilities Maintenance Division

- Replaced the roof of the Lafayette Parish Correctional Facility

- Relocated and replaced the two chillers for the Rosa Parks Transportation Center
- Completed the construction of a new classroom at the Juvenile Detention Center

## Engineering Division

- Continued support of the Drainage Division by completing numerous drainage improvement designs. For example, a complicated set of plans was prepared for a storm drain system that was required to cross a large natural gas pipeline
- Continued to provide engineering services to the Streets Division, such as preparing concrete curb designs, ownership determinations (LCG vs. Private), courthouse research, as needed, and continued off-system bridge inspections
- Making significant progress in the completion of the inventory and inspection of all cross-drain culverts in the unincorporated areas of Lafayette Parish (LCG Culvert Inventory and Inspection Program)

## Vehicle Maintenance Division

Vehicle Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining 1900+ pieces of equipment, which includes cars, trucks, generators, pumps, tractors, trailers, mowers, dozers, motor graders, excavators, transit buses, fire trucks, police units, boats, utility service aerial trucks, flushers, tankers, street sweepers, fork lifts and other specialized equipment.

- Completed 16,164 jobs on 5,795 repair work orders – 5,478 jobs were scheduled preventative maintenance; 10,686 jobs were unscheduled repairs
- CNG Station profits were at an all-time high due to an increase of public sales and fewer repairs needed
- Had a record-level low parts inventory variance. The reorganization of the parts room and well-managed use of the computer software produced successful results

## 2019 Highlights

- Maintenance work on 27 channels (more than 46 miles)
- Kaliste Saloom Road widening construction
- Started construction on the new Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center



# DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING



Development and Planning serves as a one-stop-shop for businesses and individuals involved in a variety of activities, including purchasing or developing property, undertaking construction projects, condemning unsafe structures, opening or relocating businesses, zoning variances or reclassification, abandonments of easements or rights-of-way, annexation of land into the City of Lafayette, implementing PlanLafayette, historic property designations, alcohol permitting, as well as compliance with zoning regulations and junked vehicle regulations.

## 2019 Highlights

- After finalizing a neighborhood program in 2018, two new coteries were designated: Quiet Town and Oasis Community neighborhoods
- The Lafayette Preservation Commission designated six new listings on the Lafayette Historic Register, three of which are LCG-owned, historically significant public buildings
- Three new State Cultural Districts were applied for and approved: Oil Center, University Gateway, and Greater Freetown-Port Rico. A "Cultural District," as defined by law, is a district designated by a Local Governing Authority for the purpose of revitalizing a community by creating a hub of cultural activity, by offering communities opportunities to create or rebuild cultural destinations



*PlanLafayette, Lafayette's Comprehensive Plan*

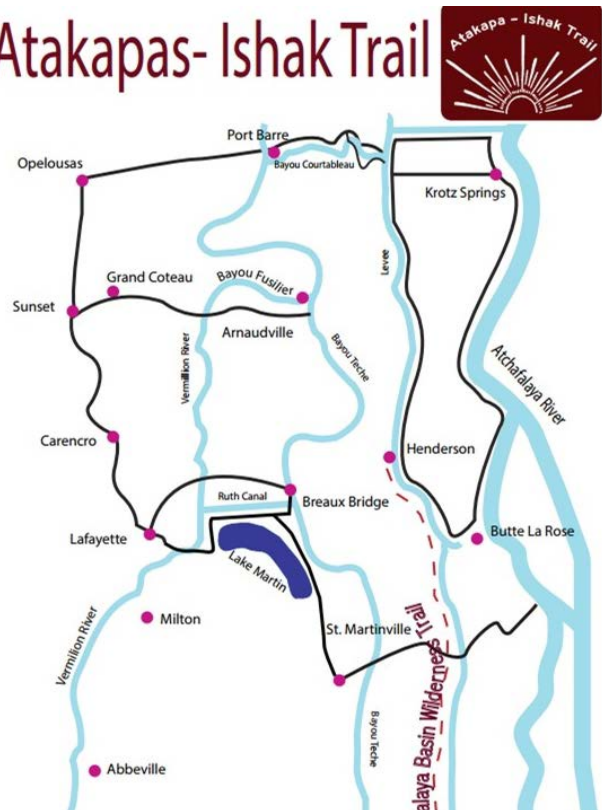
- Through the FHWA Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana, solar lighting was installed along the multi-use trail in Beaver Park as part of the Atakapas-Ishak Trail



*Freetown-Port Rico was one of three new cultural districts approved in 2019.*

- Continuing work with getting adjudicated properties back into commerce with nineteen properties taken to Council
- Completed a comprehensive rezoning and created an overlay district to plan for the University Avenue Corridor
- Amended the Alcohol Code to provide for new delivery and conditional use permits
- Coordinated and conducted over 65 pre-development meetings for people looking to develop in Lafayette

## Atakapas- Ishak Trail



*Solar lighting was installed along the multi-use trail in Beaver Park as part of the Atakapas-Ishak Trail*





# PARKS & RECREATION

Lafayette Parish's parks and recreation centers provide both physical and mental health benefits, leisure, relaxation, and entertainment for the community. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains and oversees approximately 1,500 acres of parkland, including 36 parks, 10 recreation centers, four swimming pools, three golf courses, two tennis centers and a variety of other activities and programs.

## 2019 Highlights

- The Athletic Program division increased youth participation numbers for the first time since 2016. The increase was made possible by working with neighborhood associations: Brown Park Athletics, Cajun Sports Association, Carencro Area Youth Sports, Inc., Scott Area Team Sports, Southwest Athletics, and Southwest Lafayette Youth Sports, Inc.
- Conducted athletic programs for youth (more than 40,000 participants) and adults (more than 8,000 participants)
- The Earl J. Chris Pool at the Robicheaux Recreation Center hosted high school swim leagues in Acadiana
- Beaver Park and Thomas Park hosted spring and summer tennis leagues, and partnered with the Acadiana Community Tennis Association to hold tennis camps and clinics
- In May, June and July, Parks and Recreation provided the annual Summer Enrichment Program and Therapeutic Camps at five recreation centers in May, June and July
- Constructed and opened a Dog Park at Beaulieu Park



*Beaulieu Dog Park Grand Opening Celebration*



*Les Vieux Chenes Golf Course*

## Golf Courses

### Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course

- The golf course partnered with the Azalea Trail Project for a beautification project, including planting 40 azaleas and 12 Japanese magnolias
- Hosted the Sheriff's Youth Golf Tournament
- 18,305 rounds were played, generating approximately \$436,370.00 in revenues

### Les Vieux Chenes Golf Course

- 29,909 rounds were played, generating approximately \$851,410.89 in revenues
- Hosted the Inaugural "Robe" Golf Tournament to honor late Ragin' Cajuns Baseball Coach Tony Robichaux
- Hosted the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Girls Golf State Tournament

### The Wetlands Golf Course

- 30,243 rounds were played, generating approximately \$1,187,465.00 in revenues
- Hosted and co-sponsored the Sheriff's Youth Golf Tournament and the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Boys Golf State Tournament
- 16 other community golf tournaments were held at the course during the year



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Community Development plays a critical role in improving the quality of life of Lafayette Parish residents; it offers a wide range of services and programs that serve citizens within Lafayette Parish.

## Serving the Community

- Enhances the physical, social, economic, educational and cultural aspects of the community
- Provides housing service to low-and moderate-income households, special needs households
- Housing and financial counseling
- Revitalizes neighborhoods
- Development opportunities
- Senior programs
- Homeless services and many other services
- Fosters arts and culture



*Community Development Week is a series of events that highlight all of the services provided by the Department of Community Development*

## 2019 Highlights

- Constructed one new single-family home as well as completed six housing rehabilitation projects and one demolition
- Provided 36 Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant and/or HOME loans to first-time home buyers for down-payments and closing costs and three tandem rehabilitation loans
- Completed administration of the next phase of Maison de la Paix – construction of affordable rental housing – total of 4 new units
- Rehabilitated homes for low and moderate income families through the LCG Housing Rehab Program, Lafayette Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together Acadiana
- Partnered with Acadiana Center for the arts to increase arts and culture access
- Directed Housing and Urban Development Emergency Solutions Grant funds to homeless service providers to enhance community centers for the homeless
- Administered federal grants for drainage improvements to Coulee Ile des Cannes, Derby Heights, L8C Bayou Carencro and Ile des Cannes and in the City of Carencro; working toward the enhancement of flood protection in the parish by administering FEMA and HUD-funded



*The Lafayette Science Museum, Nature Station and Heymann Performing Arts Center are all housed within the Department of Community Development*

drainage improvement projects

- Administered state Community Water Enrichment Fund Local Government Assistance Program grants to extend water capacity to rural areas
- Reduced blight through demolitions for income-eligible owners of vacant, dilapidated houses, sheds, garages and small business structures
- Worked with Lafayette Habitat for Humanity on new home construction for low-income families and worked with the Seventh District Pavilion to construct rental units
- Encouraged grant applications through the External Agency Funding Program to provide financial assistance for arts and culture non-profits
- Applied for and administered Community Development Block Grant, HOME and Emergency Solutions grants received from HUD
- Applied for and administered FEMA grants to the Lafayette Fire Department
- Administered FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants
- Attained recertification as a Tree City



*Tree City USA Flag*