

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 2021



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10

New Animal Shelter

The new, state-of-the-art animal shelter opened in April 2021.



08

LUS Celebrates 125 Years

Household Hazardous Waste Day is a semi-annual event that allows residents to safely dispose of the hazardous chemicals in their homes.



08

The Science Museum Reopens

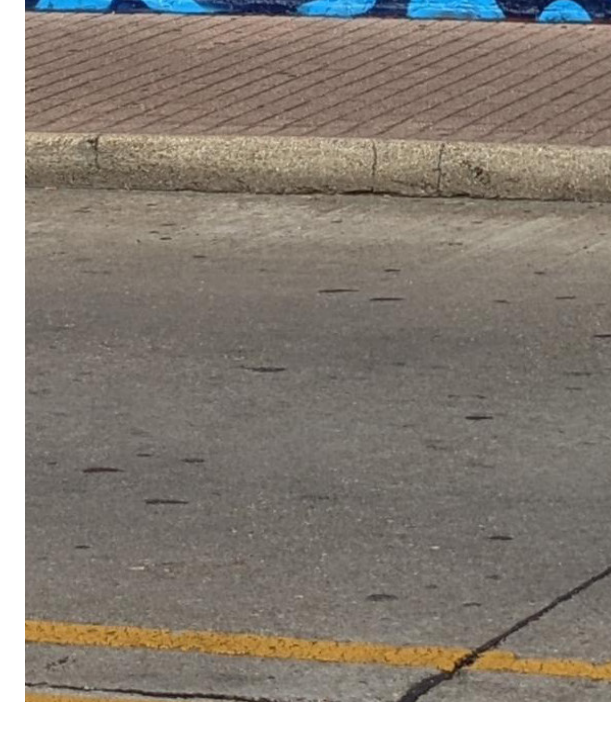
The Lafayette Science Museum reopened with new exhibits in 2021 after being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



08

Return of Household Hazardous Waste Day

Household Hazardous Waste Day is a semi-annual event that allows residents to safely dispose of the hazardous chemicals in their homes.



CITY & PARISH COUNCILS

Lafayette Councils Auditorium



**COUNCIL CLERK,
VERONICA
WILLIAMS**

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL CLERK

It is an honor and privilege to serve my community for 28 years in the Council Office. As Council Clerk since 2013, I serve both the City and Parish Councils and as office director. I, along with the staff, provide public notification and meet publication requirements to ensure Lafayette citizens stay informed and are able to participate in important issues that affect their community. Additionally,

we assist council members as they serve their constituents to preserve, protect and improve the quality of life for residents. Another important aspect of this department is updating the LCG Code of Ordinances, the codified form of the laws adopted in the City and Parish of Lafayette.

Both councils and the staff place a great deal of importance on providing services in a manner that is both open and transparent. As the legislative branch of government, the staff and councils work in conjunction with the Mayor-President and his administration to ensure a balanced government that, at its core, works to make the best decisions for residents and businesses. Our office mission is to do our very best to resolve your concerns. Further, we continue to work to

ensure that services to constituents are uncomplicated.

The staff strives to exceed expectations, establish best practices and improve office policies and procedures. We hope you will join us at council meetings to watch the legislative process in action, or you can view meetings from the comforts of your home via livestream or television broadcast.

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS ARE GOING DIGITAL

The public can soon access historical documents without having to visit City-Parish Hall. Both councils approved funds to digitize records dating back to the 1800s, including resolutions, ordinances, and minutes from public meetings. Electronic documents improve government

transparency and provide easier access for the public to do their own research. In addition, digitizing municipal archives increases employee efficiency and improves workflow when retrieving documents, as well as provides for better data security. Although paper documents will be preserved, as required for the official record, digitization will provide for better retention, especially considering paper deteriorates and ink fades. All records are anticipated to be digitized by fall 2022.

CITY AND PARISH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Boards and commissions have been revamped to accommodate the separate City and Parish Councils. A work in progress, the boards are being reviewed to ensure parish boards preside over

parish-related issues and city boards over city-related issues. Some boards, such as the Planning and Zoning Commission, have been split into two separate boards — one city and one parish — to ensure the laws for each are properly applied and the interests of each entity are represented.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER MESSAGES



City District 1: Pat Lewis

City Council District 1 has been bustling with activity over the past couple of years. I was

honored to be elected by my colleagues as the first Chairman of the new separate City Council under the revised Home Rule Charter. A major success for the entire community was the early voting site at

the Martin Luther King Recreation Center. This has been of great benefit not only to residents of City Council District 1 but also to all voters of Lafayette Parish by providing another option for early voting, not to mention the benefit of easier accessibility.

I have also been able to work on some important capital improvement needs involving street resurfacing on Norton Street, Paul Breaux Avenue, Hilda Street, Carver Street, Thornton Street, Hellen Street, Marie Street, North & South Washington Streets, Patterson Street, and North Pierce Street.

Another on-going improvement in the district is the asphalt overlay of Rose Lane, one of the few remaining gravel roads within City District 1. Additionally,

I have secured funding for drainage projects that will benefit Walker Road, Acorn Drive, Nottingham Circle, Dulles Drive, Hellen Street, and Wilderness Trail. These projects are geographically diverse, so the impact of these improvements will be extensive.

Blighted properties continue to be a problem on the north side of Lafayette, so a major achievement has been the demolition of one of Lafayette's biggest eyesores, the LessPay Motel, and redevelopment of the site there, along with demolition of houses on Paul Breaux Avenue and Delories Street.

Other successes in City Council District 1 include the Economic Development District at the North University Avenue corridor. I was also instrumental in starting the programs for adjudicated properties and junked vehicles which address the issues more aggressively through the new Administrative Adjudication Bureau. Other successes in the district include the development of affordable housing at Four Corners and West Willow Street, the construction of a new pavilion in Debaillion Park, and the new construction of the MLK Drive's Fire Station. During this council term, I initiated the Protect the City (PTC) Committee which resulted in recommendations on how the City's structure of government could be modified for better representation and fairness for city residents.



City District 2: Andy Naquin

Hello to all, and I hope this coming year finds you all well. I want to thank the citizens of Lafayette and in particular the people of City District 2 for your support in our local endeavors. Without your faithful and considerate devotion to our city, no progress would be possible. I am extremely pleased to see the progress being done on Dulles Drive as a major roadway and the important drainage work being accomplished in the process. This ties into the drainage improvements being done on the coulee lateral that runs from Curran

Lane crossing Ambassador Caffery to the Dulles Drive bridge.

Also, the concrete refurbishment done to Congress Street has improved the drive in these areas for those using this important artery for travel. I am also pleased to see the updates made to the Ambassador Caffery sound wall, which is important for our appearance as a concerned community. I look forward in the coming year to addressing other drainage projects throughout our district, especially the cleaning of ditches, culverts, and below-street drainage.

Communication with the administration and the Lafayette Police Department will be a priority on improving the safety of our streets and neighborhoods with a more watchful and proactive approach. I will look to find ways to give our loyal police force the tools needed to accomplish these ends. Our hard working and experienced crews at LUS, Public Works, Drainage and Traffic, Roads, and Bridges all deserve recognition for their dedication to service, especially when we need them most. Also, thank you to our Fire Department for the job they do in saving both life and property every day.



City District 3: Liz Hebert

It is my pleasure to present the 2021 City Council District 3 report which highlights major accomplishments and initiatives for District 3 over the past year. 2021 was a year unlike any other as we started to recover from 2020 and experience a sense of normalcy.

In January, I was selected to serve as Chairman for the City Council where I worked to increase the efficiency of our council meetings by editing our procedures which produced cost savings. I served as Chairman for the annual budget sessions and was honored to serve as the City Council representative for the recent Police Chief search committee and search for a new LUS Director.

City District 3 also had many road and drainage improvements. Most notable are the replacement of the Ambassador Caffery sound wall and the Bayou Vermilion Debris Removal Project, the draining/cleaning of Coulee Mine and other coulees, and numerous road overlays and street repairs across the district. During the annual budget session, I was able to secure funding of \$450,000 for traffic calming measures to help reduce speeding in our neighborhoods. The district has also reported over 3,000 service requests, which most have either been addressed or are currently scheduled to be addressed.

We continue to see growth with the Adopt-a-Stop program with new commitments for covered bus stops from generous donors and a new partnership with the Lafayette Parish School System to cover bus stops near our public schools. This partnership allows students to ride city buses at no cost to them since LPSS covers the cost. This allows students to get to and from school, activities, and their jobs without worrying about transportation.

Finally, my goal has always been to be transparent and communicate with my constituents. With this administration's support, we were finally able to launch the Lafayette Open Checkbook which provides transparency for government spending. I have continued my 48-hour response time for emails responses and returned calls, as well as maintained active social media pages and monthly email newsletters to keep the community informed.



City District 4: Nanette Cook

City Council District 4 remains on a positive trajectory in terms of infrastructure and quality of life improvements. Some factors that have contributed to these developments and outcomes include: our timely response to several requests for roadside ditch and culvert cleanings; gathering neighborhood feedback on specific drainage concerns

being addressed through the new construction of three major retention ponds and modification of existing retention ponds to increase water capacity within the district and throughout the city; monitoring the Kaliste Saloom widening project to address citizen concerns and to ensure that adjacent neighborhoods remain updated on project timelines and traffic safety measures.

Additionally, LCG has established strategic partnerships. Acadiana Tennis Organization's revamping of the city's tennis programs and facilities has saved \$100,000 and resulted in increased activity and programmatic offerings. The partnership with City of Lafayette Aquatics (COLA) to operate swimming pool facilities of the PARC Department has resulted in considerable savings to the city while enhancing existing aquatic offerings and creating additional programming for the public. The Lafayette Parish School System has committed to sharing space and facilities for school children and citizens of Lafayette to utilize the new fitness court on the campus of Lafayette Middle School, constructed with the assistance of The Lemoine Company and Baldwin Redi-Mix Concrete Company, their donation of materials and service, and community donations. This will serve as a catalyst for future partnerships that utilize green space on school campuses for public use.

As your City Council District 4 representative, I have also engaged community dialogue regarding government representation at both the city and parish levels by serving on the Lafayette Parish Council's City-Parish Alignment Commission. I stand committed to having ongoing conversations and in-person meetings with citizens in order to listen to their concerns and try to provide solutions and answers to their questions. All of these efforts are done through collaboration between City Council staff and the LCG administration. I believe that together is the only way to complete a multitude of projects and to deliver the services that our citizens expect. Helping to provide a safe, happy, and

healthy community has always been my top priority.



City District 5: Glenn Lazard

Since serving on the Lafayette City Council, one of my goals has been to contribute toward making City Council District 5 a safe and enjoyable place for citizens to live and work. I think of places such as the Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course, Heymann Park, the Northgate Mall, the Moss Street and Louisiana Avenue corridors, Lafayette Regional Airport, and Downtown Lafayette as valuable treasures within City District 5 that present unique opportunities for the betterment of Lafayette's economy and quality of life into the future.

To complement the many staples of the District 5 community, it's important that we address its critical needs within a public works purview. At the neighborhood level, I am pleased at the progress of identifying needs and the action taken on drainage improvements at the northeast outfall of Canadian Heights Subdivision, sidewalks in the area of Pecan Orchard Road, Buick Street, East Pine Street, and Chester Street, and the River Oaks Subdivision detention projects, to name a few. Finding solutions to problems in these areas will undoubtedly give residents an added measure of comfort, having one less thing to worry about when it comes to protecting their properties.

Planning ahead in the interest of public safety, needed improvements to Fire Stations 1 and 2 have been slated, along with improvements to Lafayette Police Department facilities, all with the goal of empowering our first responders with the requisite tools in order to protect life and property. With its position along Interstate 10 and the future extension of Interstate 49 traversing it, City Council District 5 has amazing potential for soaring to even greater heights than experienced in past years. I am excited about shepherding many of these efforts with a citizen-centric focus.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER
MESSAGES



Parish District 1:
Bryan Tabor

As a Parish Councilman with parts of multiple municipalities within my district, it's important to keep infrastructure needs of the unincorporated areas in pace with those of the developed municipalities to the greatest extent possible. That is not always an easy task as many factors tend to prohibit such efforts, however, I am delighted at the status of many projects within Parish Council District 1 that will remedy numerous long-standing infrastructure deficiencies.

Over the last couple of years, we have seen the completion of overlays to Joli Road and Beau Bassin Road. The overlay of Braquet Road is in progress, and the gravel portion of Prejean Road will soon be completely blacktopped, which will enhance safety and access to low-lying subdivisions during rain events. After years of being closed, Bajat Road has reopened, and the bridge on Braquet Road is scheduled for replacement. Further, the bridge serving low-lying Prejean Road will be replaced with a box culvert bridge, which will provide more stability for moving traffic and increased efficiency for drainage.

With drainage being a serious issue in Lafayette Parish, Parish Council District 1 has two major flood control/detention projects in progress: the Oak Springs area and the Coulee Mine area. These projects, paired with miles of ditch and coulee cleanings and excavations, will offer increased protection to many of the flood-prone areas that have plagued our district for many years. We are also working hard to address fire protection needs with the installation of fire hydrants in the unincorporated areas of the parish.



Parish District 2:
Kevin Naquin

We have seen our share of challenges over the past two years, but the Lafayette Parish Council has worked well together as a team and is getting a lot accomplished. I am proud of all that I have accomplished over the past decade throughout Parish Council District 2, especially with my continued efforts to enact smart and effective roads and drainage projects. This has allowed me to focus on initiatives that reach across the parish while simultaneously benefitting the citizens of my district.

I was recently able to advance the ballot initiative for rededicating a portion of CREATE revenues to fund rural fire protection, which will aid in public safety and strengthen the fire rating in the unincorporated areas of the parish. This is a win-win! On a related note, I helped approve the purchase of seven new tanker trucks for parish volunteer fire departments, along with securing funding to install 19 fire hydrants in unincorporated Lafayette Parish.

By way of fiscal responsibility, I was instrumental in negotiating agreements with Lafayette Parish municipalities to take over parish parks, which allows the parish to save money and helps the parks flourish, especially Scott Park and Duson Park within Parish Council District 2. There is still more collective work to do, and I am confident that we will continue on this path of high achievement for Lafayette Parish!



Parish District 3:
Josh Carlson

While 2021 certainly had its challenges, the Parish Council worked diligently to complete long overdue drainage, road, and public safety projects, all while protecting your tax dollars. In Parish District 3 alone, we have seen numerous reconstruction projects on roads such as Decon Road, Savoy Road, Gallet Road, and Mermantau Road, along with dozens

of others. Many of these road projects were made possible through the strong relationships we have worked to build with the cities of Broussard and Youngsville.

Earlier this year, we initiated the Vermilion Flood Control Project, which consists of numerous flood control and drainage projects, including the largest detention pond (nearly 300 acres) in the state of Louisiana. These projects highlight my commitment to not only maintain our current drainage systems but also to create new drainage and flood control measures to ensure that we improve our parishwide drainage systems.

Lastly, the Parish Council has prioritized public safety by rededicating surplus property tax money to parishwide fire protection. We have also funded upgraded communications systems for our volunteer fire departments as well as new pumper trucks for every municipality in the parish.

All of this has been accomplished without any new taxes but through wise fiscal spending and federal, state, and local partnerships. Over the past two years, we have been able to stabilize the Parish General Fund, which was on the brink of insolvency. As we look towards 2022, we will continue to prioritize roads, drainage, and public safety, all while being good stewards of your tax dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Lafayette Parish District 3.



Parish District 4:
John Guilbeau

As the 2021 Parish Council Chair, and after two years of serving as your Parish Council District 4 representative, I am most invigorated about our accomplishments and all that is on the horizon for the district and for Lafayette Parish. Some of the projects and initiatives that have and will greatly benefit us in our immediate area include the near completion of the Kaliste Saloom Road & E Broussard Road roundabout, the final

stages of the Kaliste Saloom widening project, several miles of street asphalt overlay projects having been completed (with more on the way), drainage improvements at Camellia Boulevard and Settlers Trace Boulevard, and intersection improvements at Robley Drive and E Broussard Road.

I am also proud to report great strides toward roadside ditch cleaning, spot dredging the Vermilion River, and Coulee Mine cleaning throughout our neighborhoods, as well as several other stormwater management projects including retention and detention ponds. Other improvements include: installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Verot School Road and Vincent Road, the completion of the Frem Boustany Drive extension alongside Saint Thomas More Catholic High School, lowering the speed limit in neighborhoods from 35 mph to 25 mph, continuing the fight against blighted properties and litter, and ongoing work with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development on Phases 1 and 2 of traffic safety improvements along Johnston Street.

I have worked closely with the Mayor-President to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding to augment fire safety, infrastructure, and social program needs, all of which garnered unanimous Parish Council approval. Looking forward, I have helped to ensure that all streets within Delmar Estates Subdivision have been budgeted for asphalt overlay

in early 2022, along with East LeBlanc Road and the intersection improvements of E. Broussard Road and Robley Drive, specifically engineering and development for a roundabout at that location.



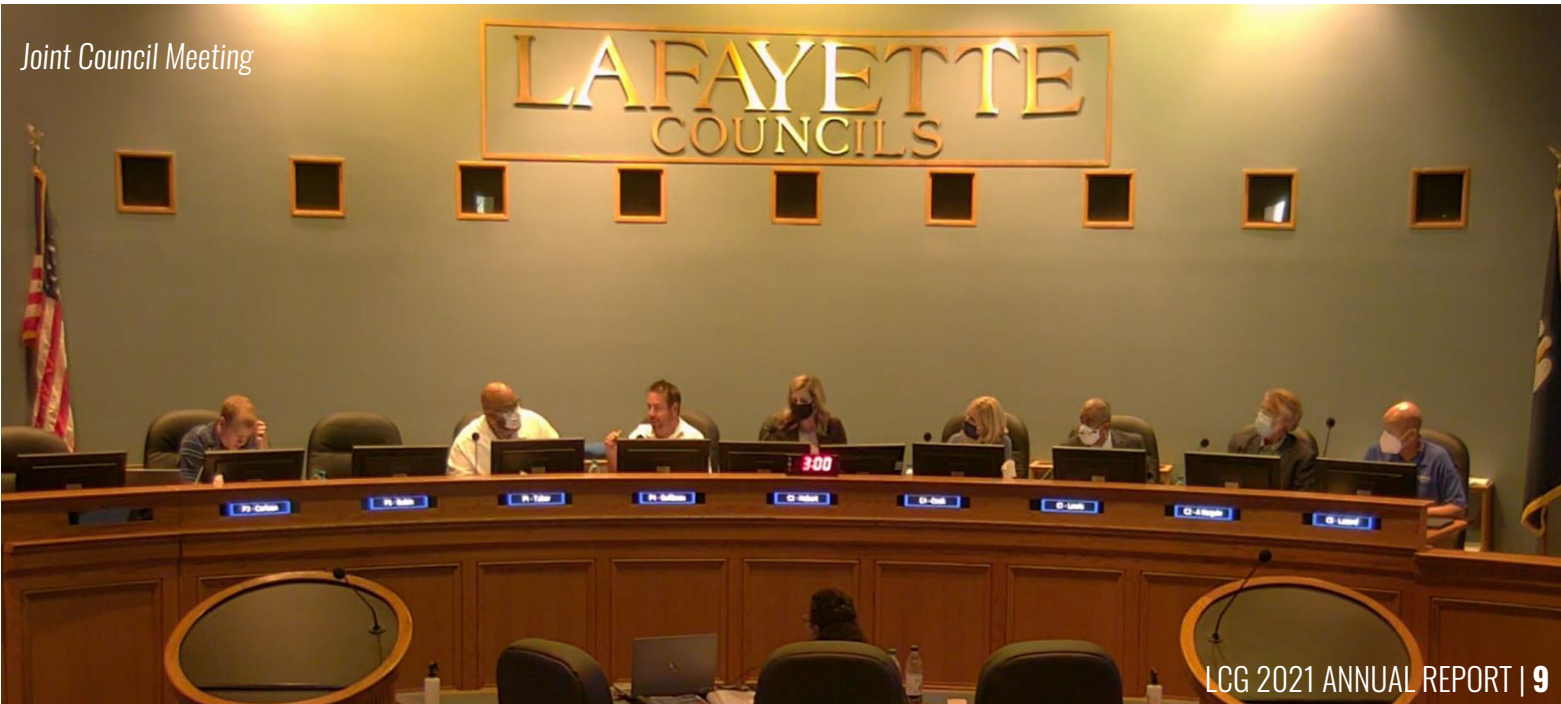
Parish District 5: AB Rubin

As your Lafayette Parish Council District 5 representative, I have taken the approach of building on my existing background of community service and using my council seat as a platform to expand my reach of service. We have experienced unprecedented setbacks globally, nationally, statewide, and on the local level with the emergence of COVID-19, and we are still not out of the woods. Recognizing this, I have generally supported COVID-19 relief efforts, especially in those populations that have experienced the most disenfranchisement within my district and throughout Lafayette Parish. From working with charitable organizations to identify needs to supporting funding for the Share the Light utilities assistance program to rental assistance programs, helping those with the greatest need has been a hallmark of my tenure on the Parish Council thus far.

As a result of COVID-19, governing authorities throughout the country have realized additional revenues in order to tackle losses and a wide range of qualifying

programs and projects to strengthen our communities on the road to recovery. Some projects that I have worked with the Mayor-President include appropriating \$2 million for safety improvements at the Juvenile Detention Home, appropriating \$85,000 to the PARC Department for Heymann Park playground equipment, and appropriating \$1.25 million for public health and safety updates at the War Memorial Building. Following the favorable results of moving these projects forward, I foresee greater abundance for Parish Council District 5 through partnering with the LCG Administration.

I am continuing work to fund and advance the Derby Heights drainage improvement project, including a wall, retention pond, and driveway leveling, collaborating with other council members on an early voting sites, the sale of the former Walmart on the north side of Lafayette, a Northeast Regional Library at Holy Rosary Institute, Carmel Drive sidewalk extension, Lake Martin Road flooding mitigation efforts, redevelopment and beautification of the new residential development on the west end of Madeline Avenue in Lafayette, and continuing to be a proponent for giving back to the community and our children by bringing forth family-friendly activities such as Easter basket giveaways, Christmas toy giveaways, and free outdoor movie nights for children.



LAFAYETTE ANIMAL CONTROL & CARE CENTER



**SUPERVISOR,
SHELLEY
DELAHOUSSEY**

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Our belief at the Lafayette Animal Control and Care Center (LASCC) is every dog and cat that comes through our doors deserves love, care, compassion, and a safe place to call home. We are here to care for injured, stray, abused, and unwanted animals, as well as handle dangerous dog complaints and rectify general complaints and concerns.

Reaching two milestones in 2021 — earning the distinction as a no-kill shelter and opening a state-of-the-art, new shelter — has made LASCC one of the leading municipal shelters in the state. The new shelter not only allows us to better serve the public and animals but also strengthens our ability to maintain no-kill status.

Our staff holds the mission of LASCC

near and dear to our hearts — to provide animals with shelter and medical care, while treating them with the kindness they deserve until they're placed in a safe and loving home. We can't solve pet homelessness, but we can make a difference.

NEW SHETLER REPLACES SMALL, OUTDATED FACILITY

The new, state-of-the-art animal shelter wouldn't have been possible without voters approving a dedicated property tax to fund the new \$8.9 million facility which opened in April 2021.

Doubling the space from 9,000 to 20,000 square feet provides the animals an environment to thrive, more freedom to run and play, and improves the experience for visitors interested in adopting. The shelter is now a reflection of the improved lifesaving work going on within the building.

ACHIEVING THE COVETED NO-KILL BENCHMARK

For two consecutive years, the shelter reached no-kill status meaning at least 90 percent of animals accepted into the shelter were saved. LASCC increased the number of cats and dogs saved from 90

percent in 2020 to 93 percent in 2021 through adoption, transferring animals to rescue partners for adoption, or returning them to their owners after being lost. Maintaining no-kill status two years in a row was no small feat given that more animals were taken in during 2021 than the previous year. Maintaining the save rate is attributed to dedicated staff, rescue partners, volunteer, educating the public, and the support of our community.

Unfortunately, not all animals are healthy or treatable, resulting in euthanasia as the only option for terminally ill and aggressive animals that cannot be rehabilitated.

Strategies Used to Reach No-Kill

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

The animal ordinance was amended from trapping and euthanizing stray and feral cats to trapping, neutering, and returning them to their habitats.

Decreasing Adoption Fees

Dog adoption rates decreased from \$100 to \$35, cats from \$80 to \$25, and fees were waived for military veterans and senior citizens over the age of 65.

Ribbon cutting for the new shelter in June 2021



More Capacity
70 cat kennels
90 dog kennels

An air filtration system
helps to control odor.

Cat kennel portals
separate litterboxes
and food from the
main living area.

More natural light

To avoid isolation,
dog kennels now
have indoor-
outdoor access to
their own private
areas.

**A bark wall between
adjacent dog
kennels provides
privacy and
decreases stress.**

**Four turf-lined play
yards allow dogs
to roam and play.
The space is also
used for them to
meet and play with
potential adopters.**



**Two community cat
rooms furnished
with beds, climbing
and scratching
posts, and other
amenities allow
cats to spend
time in a home
environment.**

**A kitty patio allows
cats to roam, play,
and socialize.**

**Upgraded surgery
center is equipped
with a prep table
and two surgery
tables, allowing for
double the output
in less time.**

SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS



The new, state-of-the-art shelter that opened April 2021

Managing Intake

Dogs and cats are no longer accepted on a walk-in basis. Appointment-only meetings allow for counseling and finding potential solutions before surrendering a pet.

For stray animals, the public is educated and asked to share pictures on social media, post flyers, and ask neighbors if they recognize the pet. Lost pets are usually found within one to three miles of their home.

Increasing Foster Care

The benefits of fostering an animal are two-fold – it increases the chances of adoption for the pet and creates space for another cat or dog in the shelter. Animals living in temporary foster care learn how to socialize with family members and other pets, preparing them for adoption and increasing their chance at finding a forever home.

Strengthening Rescue Partner Relationships

By working with rescue partners in Florida, Colorado, New Jersey, and other states, where the animal population is lower and adoption demand is higher, LASCC is able to

find forever homes for cats and dogs.

NEW TRANSPORT VEHICLE

Design and manufacturing on a custom van began in 2021. This van was funded by an ASPCA \$83,000, and when finished, it will play a pivotal role in helping more animals. Capable of transporting 30-70 animals, LASCC plans to use the van to transport animals to rescue shelters across the country for adoption and in times of disaster and emergencies. For example, after Hurricane Ida, LASCC accepted more than 100 cats and dogs from parishes devastated by the storm. Those organizations had to arrange transportation, but when complete, the van will allow for LASCC to transport the animals so those affected and can focus on attending to their shelters and homes.

When disaster strikes closer to home animals will be driven to the mega shelter in Alexandria or other locations out of harm’s way. During a mandatory evacuation, citizens who rely on public bus transportation can rest assured their pets will be safe and transported separately.

MOTIVATED TO SAVE MORE LIVES

As animal welfare evolves, two LASCC employees have furthered their education to take their animal rescue work to the next level.

LASCC Supervisor Shelley Delahoussaye earned her Executive Leadership Certification (ELC) through Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS), a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending death in shelters countrywide. Partnering with Southern Utah University (SUU), the ELC program is the first university-endorsed executive leadership program for training top-level leaders in animal services, teaching proven strategies to empower leaders and strengthening their skills and abilities.

Lynn Bourque, the Adoption, Foster, and Rescue Supervisor, is pursuing the BFAS Dog Lifesaving Certification through SUU which focuses on redefining what

an adoptable dog is, exploring barriers to adoption, dog enrichment, volunteer engagement, and proven strategies for saving lives.

HELPING NEIGHBORS IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE IDA

LASCC pitched in to assist municipal shelters pre- and post-Hurricane Ida by housing cats and dogs from Terrebonne, St. John, and St. Bernard Parishes during the storm, and then transferring them on flights to Northern states where they were placed in loving homes. Animal Control Officer Marchello Joiner, along with his truck and equipment lent a helping hand in Terrebonne Parish. Animal control officers in Terrebonne Parish needed time to take care of their homes and families and needed time to rebuild, so he spent two weeks there performing animal control duties such as tending to strays, dangerous dogs, and trapped cats.



Rudy enjoying the play yard at new animal shelter. Rudy is one of the 1,701 animals adopted in 2021, a record high for LASCC!



Animal Control Officer Marchello Joiner

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING



**DIRECTOR,
MARY SLIMAN**

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our department’s role is to improve the quality of life in Lafayette Parish by providing social, economic, and physical services to help our community members in need, as well as working with those who want to enhance neighborhoods, develop property, and do business in the parish.

We underwent a departmental shift, consolidating two departments — Community Development and Development and Planning. The reorganization helps us better serve the community by allowing improved collaboration between staff members who work on similar projects like grant funding, project planning and

development, home rehabilitations, and educational classes.

Our work would not be possible without the people of our department who have the tenacity and heart to effectively and efficiently perform the duties at hand. Employees in the Grants Division are a prime example of persevering to face challenges head-on as they manage millions of dollars in unprecedented COVID-19 grant relief funding, despite many division employees retiring. They, and our entire staff, work diligently to make a difference in the community.

GRANTS DIVISION

With a focus on improving the quality of life for Lafayette Parish residents, the Grants Division staff works tirelessly to secure and manage crucial federal and state grants that directly benefit the community by providing affordable housing, one-on-one housing counseling, educational workshops, first-time homebuyer loans, and housing rehabilitation.

Home Rehabilitation, Ownership, and Counseling

Witnessing the joy and relief of homeowners who are not financially able to make essential home repairs is the best part of the Housing Rehabilitation Program. This program uses federal funds to transform dilapidated homes into livable homes for low to moderate-income citizens.

The First-Time Home Buyer Program helps eligible residents achieve their dream of owning their own home by assisting with affordable home mortgages. While there are benefits of both renting and owning a home, ownership helps increase financial stability, establishes a strong credit history, builds equity, and builds wealth as the property’s value increases.

Finally, Neighborhood Counseling Services empower residents through one-on-one counseling for renters and homebuyers before and after purchase. Homeownership, home maintenance, budget, and credit workshops are also offered.

Ms. Jacqueline Landry participated in the Housing Rehabilitation Program. The following was renovated at Ms. Landry’s residence: carpentry, plumbing, electrical, roofing, painting (exterior/interior), HVAC, insulation, flooring, and more!



“
**WITNESSING THE JOY AND RELIEF OF
HOMEOWNERS WHO AREN'T FINANCIALLY
ABLE TO MAKE ESSENTIAL HOME REPAIRS
IS THE BEST PART OF THE HOUSING
REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

In 2021, Neighborhood Counseling Services provided:

31 classes held

316 class participants

343 households participated in counseling and education classes

2,018 calls for housing counseling information

Governor John Bel Edwards appointed WIOA Counselor Lauren Womack to the Model Employer Task Force, advocating for increasing the number of people with disabilities in civil service positions.

The Ticket to Work Program

The Ticket to Work Program aims to give Social Security disability beneficiaries ages 18-64 financial independence through career counseling and developing a work plan that outlines short term and long-term career goals. The program also provides an employment network to help participants find a fulfilling job.

The Diversity Job Fair Committee was established to promote inclusion and equity in the workplace. As someone with a disability, Lauren Womack, a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Counselor, runs the Ticket to Work program and has played a pivotal role in establishing the committee. "Our goal is to help people become more financially independent, work, and participate in society to give them a sense of purpose," she said.

Womack is also a rehabilitation counselor who assesses someone's suitability to ride Acadiana Transit, a para-transit service for

disabled residents in the city of Lafayette who are unable to use the public bus system.

Federal Grants

A number of federal grants make it possible for the Community Development and Planning Department to make Lafayette Parish a better place to live, including funds that provide suitable housing, adequate parish drainage, and hazardous mitigation assistance. These funds help to reduce loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters, along with locally funded grants that support local nonprofit organizations.

COVID-19 Recovery

Federal COVID-19 relief funding provided much-needed assistance to renters who were unemployed or had reduced hours during the pandemic and to small business owners who were forced to temporarily shut down.

Sixty-six small businesses received \$512,788 in forgivable loans. To assist renters, LCG partnered with Catholic

Charities of Acadiana and SMILE Community Action Agency to initiate the Lafayette Emergency Assistance Program (LEAP) to disperse \$21 million in federal funding. By the end of 2021, \$7.7 million was disbursed to 2,445 rental households in the parish for rent and utility assistance. All funds are expected to be distributed within 2 years.

Additional funds through the American Rescue Plan Act, totaling \$85 million, are also being used to help with recovery. The projects funded by the plan should be complete within 5 years.

Non-Profit Funding

LCG dispersed \$621,110 grant funds to a number of nonprofit organizations that help others by serving the homeless, utility and rental assistance for families experiencing financial hardship, after-school services, domestic violence shelters, and arts and culture agencies.

Social Service Agencies: \$72,984

- Emergency shelter for 16 adults and 25 children
- After-school services for 144 at-risk youth
- Crisis intervention and emergency shelter for 210 adults and children
- 50 domestic violence intervention classes
- Support groups and grief workshops for 571 people
- Mentoring and tutoring for 18 elementary and middle school students
- Collaborated with partner organizations to distribute 1.8 million meals
- Support for sober living facilities for 27 people
- 323 hours of literacy instruction

232-HELP received \$20,000 to assist with their operations. The help center serves as a regional referral agency for community resources with 49.2 percent of callers living in Lafayette Parish.

Arts and Culture

- Festival International de Louisiane — \$122,794
- Festivals Acadiens et Créoles — \$49,998
- Acadiana Center for the Arts — \$355,334
- Partnered with Acadiana Center for the Arts to distribute \$15,116 to eight local arts agencies to further enrich Lafayette's culture.

Neighborhood Counseling workshop





Administrative Adjudication Bureau Judge
Travis Broussard

FEMA Grant for Firefighters

The Lafayette Fire Department received \$130,000 to purchase new breathing apparatuses to better protect firefighters when responding to fires.

Hazard Mitigation

In the upcoming year, the Grants Division expects to apply for \$525,160 in hazard mitigation grants and manage \$2.7 million for resources to improve drainage along Coulee Ile des Cannes to help recover quickly from natural disasters.

DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

44 pre-development meetings were completed to reduce potential obstacles local developers may face.

The Administrative Adjudication Bureau (AAB) was established to handle zoning complaints and development code

compliance issues. Judge Travis Broussard has heard 33 cases since June 2021. Judgements have varied from requiring repairs to broken fences, removal of junked cars and debris on property, maintenance of broken business signs, and removal of illegal signs.

THE ALCOHOL & NOISE CONTROL DIVISION (ANC)

Serving as the only Louisiana Responsible Vendor Class in our area, in-person training resumed in 2021 after being suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The ANC database went live in November 2020, improving the processing time for customers and making information easily accessible for owners, managers, and employees.

PERMIT DIVISION

Contractors and residents seeking permits and requesting inspections can now submit applications and plans, as well as track progress, online through MyGovernmentOnline (MGO). "This is a one-stop-shop for residents and contractors. It saves time from traveling to the office to fill out a paper application," Mary Sliman said. With the launch of the MGO software, credit cards are now accepted to purchase permits, building permits, development and zoning cases.

PLANNING DIVISION

The Planning Division continues to work on implementing PlanLafayette, a "guidebook" to grow, develop, and redevelop the parish, including:

- Property zonings
- Multi-modal transportation
- Designating historic properties and neighborhoods and supporting our coterie neighborhoods

The department consolidation allows the Planning Division to work more closely with

Development Division employees to develop a more robust neighborhood program. The new Neighborhood Coordinator serves as a liaison to coterie neighborhoods, helps with grant opportunities, and assists in the development of neighborhood plans. The Planning Division continues to increase the number of properties to move out of adjudication and into commerce. Thirty-three properties were taken to Council to begin the notice process in 2021.

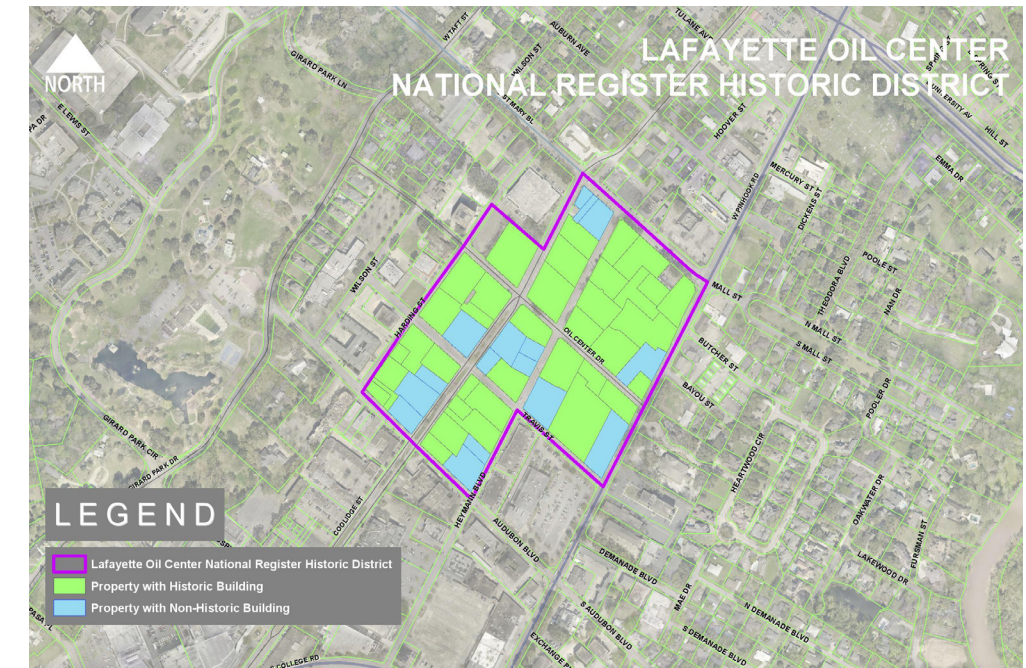
ZONING DIVISION

41 applicant cases and eight administrative rezonings were completed, totaling 144.66 acres of city properties. Notably, staff worked with the Oil Center Associations and One Acadiana to rezone 147 properties in the Oil Center. Previous zoning was not conducive to implementing the Oil Center Redevelopment Plan objectives of a mixed-use, walkable, and vibrant area.

Working with the Evangeline Thruway Redevelopment Team, the Zoning Division secured more than \$2.8 million dollars for the fiscal year 2021-22 to develop 12 of 44 planned catalyst projects. These projects, developed through the Evangeline Corridor Initiative, improve the quality of life of residents who work and live in the Evangeline Corridor area.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OF WORK

Many Community Development and Planning staff members believe in helping the community outside of work like Housing Counselor Kristy Hayes who participated in a food drive in conjunction with her sorority, Iota Tau Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho in partnership with South Louisiana Community College. Also, her volunteer work with the Second Harvest Food Bank hygiene drive helped distribute \$1,500 worth of masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves to schools in the parish.



DISABILITY AWARENESS



DISABILITY AWARENESS COORDINATOR, HARLON COWSAR

In 2021, Harlon Cowsar was appointed Disability Awareness Coordinator. He serves as the liaison between Lafayette Consolidated Government and the community to advocate for the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities. In his new role, Cowsar is passionate about increasing access improving three major obstacles people with disabilities often face: transportation, employment, and housing.

TRANSPORTATION

Difficulty in scheduling rides. Without reliable transportation, access to employment, health-care, education, and community life is limited.

EMPLOYMENT

Barriers include reliable transportation, public attitudes, and employers underestimating capabilities of people with disabilities.

HOUSING

Affordability and education are obstacles. People with disabilities could own a home, but many are unaware of assistance programs.

Cowsar works with many individuals in the community as well as state offices, local groups, and organizations to provide information about resources, increasing awareness, and sharing ideas about programs that would improve circumstances and opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.

Cowsar also works with the Lafayette Mayor-President's Awareness Committee on Citizens with Disabilities. This committee is comprised of seven members who are either individuals with disabilities or individuals who work with disability-related organizations. The committee meets on a bimonthly basis to help address disability concerns and to bring awareness to disability-related issues in the Lafayette community including housing, accessibility, parking, transportation, employment, accommodations, discrimination, and infrastructure such as sidewalks.

DRAINAGE



DIRECTOR, BRIAN SMITH

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our staff of administrators, engineers, operational support, and crews on the front lines are the real heroes of the Drainage Department. They are dedicated and strive to plan and execute with purpose for the betterment of citizens who live and work in Lafayette Parish.

Since Mayor-President Josh Guillory took office with a core priority to drastically improve drainage, we as a maintenance department have been steadfast in improving infrastructure.

We are primarily responsible for the operation, construction, and maintenance of 2,570.5 miles of drainage systems — natural waterways, roadside ditches, and subsurface pipe systems — throughout Lafayette Parish. Additionally, we play a crucial role before, during, and after storm events, like heavy rains and hurricanes, to

keep roadways open and drainage systems functioning properly.

PROTECTING PROPERTY

Roadside ditch excavation and coulee/outfall excavation enhances stormwater drainage.

Repairing and installing subsurface drainage pipes and catch basins provides efficient stormwater flow.

Flushing/vacuuming catch basins, drain inlets, and subsurface removes trash, debris, and obstructions.

Visually inspect subsurface drain lines with the aid of video cameras.

Monitor and maintain four pumping stations for flood control. After hours, operators are on call to respond quickly to heavy rains and rising water levels.

Monitor and maintain retention and detention ponds for stormwater management. These basins play an important role during rainstorm events by storing and diverting stormwater to reduce run-off in neighborhoods and commercial developments.



Coulee Excavation

IN THE WORKS

To enhance structural integrity of deteriorating subsurface pipes, liners are being installed and adhered to the interior walls through a non-invasive curing method primarily used in drainage systems in close proximity to structures or areas with limited access. This method requires minimal to no excavation and not only extends the life of existing infrastructure but also prevents recurring damages caused by developing sinkholes on residents' properties. Eight locations are targeted.

The cross-drain inspection and inventory program is nearing completion. Of the 2,300 cross drain culverts in unincorporated areas of the parish, 50 remain to be inventoried. This program began in 2010 with the objective to locate existing cross drains, create a database, and inspect all cross-drain culverts on public roads.

HELPING NEIGHBORS IN TIME OF NEED

LCG sprang into action to help neighbors in the Southeastern part of the state where Hurricane Ida destroyed homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Crews worked outside normal hours, making five nighttime and weekend trips to deliver water, food and cleaning supplies.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

As the department moves forward, new software will greatly help with roadside drainage inspections to prioritize maintenance. The public will have an inside look once the Coulee Gauge Sensor Program is expanded with additional sensors in the watershed system. Residents will be able to view sensor data and access livestream video. Drone technology will be used to inspect and identify earthen where blockage or other deficiencies are located.

“
Our staff of administrators, engineers, operational support, and crews on the front lines are the real heroes of the Drainage Department



Vegetation Control

Various methods are used throughout the year to control vegetation and clean coulees. Vegetative control is performed three times a calendar year via a licensed herbicide contractor. Clearing coulees of vegetation is performed yearly or as determined from yearly inspections. Maintaining vegetative growth allows for better drainage flow, improving the movement of stormwater away from neighborhoods and businesses.

20 concrete-lined channels cleared of silt & vegetation

15,304 linear feet cleared

787 cubic yards of material moved

Silt and Debris Removal

Funded by emergency ordinance following May 2021 flood

Coulee Mine Branch & a portion of St. John Coulee

6,400 linear feet cleaned

1,735 cubic yards of silt and debris removed

FINANCE & MANAGEMENT



**DIRECTOR,
LORRIE TOUPS**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Office of Finance & Management provides financial expertise and support to City-Parish management and to operating departments of the consolidated government. The department prepares monthly financial reports of major funds, as well as the annual audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Annual

Operating and Capital Budget. The department includes the divisions of Accounting, Budgeting, Purchasing, and Risk Management.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

For eight consecutive years, LCG has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its fiscal year 2020-2021 budget. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and exemplifies the Office of Finance and Management's commitment to provide a budget document that serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communication tool for our community. Out of 367 parish and municipal governments in

Louisiana, only 14 have earned this award.

The Office of Finance and Management satisfied nationally recognized guidelines to receive a "proficient" rating in the four required categories: policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications device. In addition, the office was proficient in the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories.

LCG also received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fifth year in a row. Only 60 government agencies received this recognition.

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2021, the Finance & Management divisions focused on evaluating processes and procedures in an effort to reduce costs, improve efficiencies, and increase transparency for the City and Parish Councils and our citizens. To enhance transparency and increase understanding of LCG's finances, the CFO's office issued the very first Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This report is designed to be readily accessible and easily understandable to the general public without a background in public finance. The second PAFR will be submitted to the GFOA for evaluation in April of 2022.

OPEN BOOK SOFTWARE

Budget Management completed the roll out of Questica Open Book software and are on the second phase of the new budgeting software. The Open Book software allows both internal users and the public to view financial information and specific financial transactions through LCG's website. The second phase is the

implementation of Performance Measures which will allow the public to view more analytical information in future budget books beginning with the Fiscal Year 2023 Adopted Budget Book.

WHAT IS A BOND?

A bond is a loan to a company or government that pays investors, or bondholders, a fixed rate of return over a specific timeframe. The borrower uses the money to fund its operations, and the bondholder receives interest on the investment. Bonds are a key ingredient in a balanced portfolio.

Municipal bonds are borrowed by states, cities, parishes and other nonfederal government entities. Similar to how corporate bonds fund company projects or ventures, municipal bonds fund state or city capital projects. Municipal bonds can have tax benefits. Bondholders may not have to pay federal taxes on the interest, which can mean a lower interest rate for the borrower. Municipal bonds may also be exempt from state and local taxes if they're issued in the state or city where you live.

The Finance & Management Department worked on several bond refundings last year. The Parish General Obligation Bond refunding was finalized in December 2020 and resulted in a savings of \$6 million directly to the taxpayers of Lafayette Parish.

Four other refundings were worked on during the fiscal year that were finalized in November 2021 and saved the Utilities and Fiber Communication Systems over \$20 million. These savings will be used for capital improvements.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

The department has maintained productivity through the COVID pandemic through increased safety precautions with a combination of employees on-site and telecommuting.

The Purchasing & Property Management Division issued over 17,000 purchase orders, tracked the acquisition, disposition, and transfer of more than 20,000 fixed assets and 2,400 vehicles and equipment.

Property and casualty subrogation recoveries totaled approximately \$518,000, while Worker's Compensation subrogation recoveries totaled approximately \$339,000.



**...reduce costs,
improve
efficiencies,
and increase
transparency
for the City and
Parish Councils
and our citizens**

The Lafayette Fire Department commemorated the 20th anniversary of 9/11 with a ceremony in honor of the nearly 3,000 lives lost.



FIRE DEPARTMENT



**FIRE CHIEF,
ROBERT BENOIT**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As fire chief of the Lafayette Fire Department, I am honored to lead the 285 men and women of the department as we serve the citizens of Lafayette. We are dedicated to saving life and property through innovative training, code enforcement, and prompt dispatch of our qualified fire suppression force (firefighters). Our 14 fire stations are strategically located to respond to emergencies quickly and efficiently.

Public safety is our top priority, and preventing fires and other hazards are amongst the valuable services provided to the community. We have achieved a Class II fire rating, resulting in lower insurance premiums for residents.

LIFE-SAVING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Bed Shaker Alarms Installed for Vulnerable Citizens

Firefighters distributed and installed 350 bed shaker alarms — specialized, life-saving alarms for deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens.

By placing a vibrating bed shaker alarm pad under a mattress residents are alerted in time to escape from a fire. Strobe light smoke detectors that work in conjunction with the alarm pads also serve as a visual alert.

This year's grant-funded campaign reached more people than in previous years, expanding beyond the city of Lafayette to areas outside city limits. These life-saving devices provide the peace of mind that all citizens deserve when it comes to having working smoke detectors in their homes.

Free Smoke Detector Installations

To reduce the rise in-home, fire-related injuries and deaths, the Fire Department

Free smoke alarm installation



partnered with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office to install free smoke alarms to households in need. National Fire Prevention Association studies show a working home smoke detector reduces the risk of dying in a fire by 50 percent. Through the ongoing Operation-Save-A-Life Campaign, firefighters install smoke alarms powered by 10-year lithium batteries that can't be removed, ensuring they stay in working order for many years.

The fire department also partnered with the American Red Cross to install more than 250 smoke alarms in neighborhoods across Lafayette.

IN THE WORKS Replacing Dilapidated Fire Station #3

Necessary construction of new fire station #3 is underway to replace the deteriorated, structurally unsound old station that lacked adequate space for today's firefighting needs. Originally built 44 years ago in 1978, the old station was demolished in 2020.



The mobile safety house was brought to the Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana to teach fire prevention tips.

Once up and running, the station at 429 Cooper Drive will improve service for residents in City Council District 1, provide adequate living arrangements for firefighters, and benefit public safety in Lafayette as a whole. The \$2.5 million-dollar building is expected to open in fall 2022.

Virtual Training

Virtually training firefighters is the way of the future. It delivers quality instruction, is efficient, and fiscally responsible. Online training does not replace vital hands-on training at the Fire Training Center but will eliminate travel time, allow firefighters to remain in-house, reduce expenditures, improve time management, and ultimately improve emergency response times.

Replacing the Antiquated Management System

By 2023, the current, outdated records

management system will no longer be supported. The department is working closely with the IS&T Department to replace the system which is used for fire reports, document training, inspections, and other important records. The system is expected to be operational sometime in 2022.

New Digital Signage Application

The importance of communication can't be overstated in fire departments where communication is crucial to operating effectively and efficiently. A web-based digital signage platform will allow the department to communicate across all 14 stations in real time, enhancing internal communications for day-to-day operations, asset management, and training to firefighters at all stations.

FUTURE ENDEAVORS

- Apply for the Staffing for Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants through FEMA to help increase and maintain the number of trained "frontline" firefighters.
- Implement strategies to reduce the number of false alarm responses to commercial and residential properties. In 2021, 958 false alarms made up 11 percent of the department's emergency responses.
- Build a storage building to house the fire department's two mobile safety houses to protect them from the elements. The units are used for public education to prevent and reduce fires.
- Automate workforce management and move away from manual employee scheduling. Digitizing scheduling, exchange time, and overtime would save man hours and is just one more way the department can run more efficiently.

RISKING LIFE TO SAVE A LIFE

Every day, firefighters put their lives on the line for the sake of their community, as was the case in September 2021 when Engine 9 assisted the Carencro Fire Department with battling a home fire where the husband escaped but his wife did not.

As Captain Jim Bourgeois and Firefighter First Class Jake Guidry began extinguishing a fire in a garage, the husband while lying on the driveway informed them his wife was still inside their home. Quickly, both firefighters entered the smoke-filled home and found the woman suffering from smoke inhalation in her bedroom. Risking his own life, Bourgeois gave his oxygen mask to the woman in distress. Both firefighters received a well-deserved Letter of Commendation and award.

FIDO BAGS

The Fire Department teamed up with SpayNation for Dogs and Cats to raise money for 45 FIDO Bags— medical bags to save the lives of family pets in a fire. Each fire truck is equipped with a FIDO Bag that includes various-sized oxygen masks specially designed for animals, burn sheets, bandages, rinsing saline, protective restraints, and other supplies.

“Every day, firefighters put their lives on the line for the sake of their community”

Captain Jim Bourgeois and Firefighter First Class Jake Guidry



Partnership with SpayNation to equip fire trucks with FIDO bags



INFORMATION SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY



**DIRECTOR,
RANDY GRAY**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Information Services & Technology Department (IS&T) handles network and infrastructure design, systems integration, operations management of all network systems, business application development, GIS services, and website design for LCG. IS&T is dedicated to implementing secure and reliable solutions that enhance LCG's effectiveness in serving its citizens.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) launched a new, more modern website designed to meet the needs and expectations of citizens. The old website was difficult to navigate and difficult for users to find the information they were seeking. The improved site is more visually

appealing, easier to find information, and more effective and efficient.

Other features on the homepage include a prominent search bar, quick access to LCG's digital platforms, live public meetings, calendar of LCG events, highlights of LCG programs and initiatives, and active alerts which provide citizens with information on in-progress issues such as COVID-19 information, hurricane safety information and boil advisories.

A web content management system (WCMS) was also installed to allow end users to post public meetings and other information to the website. A training program was started to teach end-users how to post public meetings and other information within the new WCMS. This allows them to update the information in a timely manner keeping content current and accurate to keep citizens informed.

PERMIT AND INSPECTION SOFTWARE

IS&T worked with the Community Development and Planning Department to replace their workflow management software. Their previous

software Trakit had limited capabilities and was replaced with MyGovernmentOnline (MGO) which is more convenient and efficient. With MGO, contractors and residents now have the ability to apply and pay for permits online, track application progress, and request inspections.

MOVING DIGITAL TO SAVE PAPER

Civil service applicants can now receive their test scores by email. This will not only save paper but will also allow applicants to receive their results faster.

Additionally, employees will now be able to view their W2 and earnings statements online. This eliminates printing of paper earning statements and allows employees access if they need a duplicate copy.

10-10-10 Initiative

Coordinated by IS&T, LCG is working with government consulting agency KPMG on the 10-10-10 initiative, a goal to do 10% more with 10% less in 10 years. With KPMG's help, each department will be evaluated and given tasks and objectives to help them implement cost effective changes, leverage new technologies, and streamline business and operating models. In 2021, evaluations were completed for the following departments: Fire, Police, and Parks, Arts, Recreation, & Culture (PARC).

In the next year, Public Works, LUS Fiber, Lafayette Parish Juvenile Detention Home, and the administration office will be evaluated.

GOALS FOR 2022

Replacement of Fire Department and Police Department software. Goal to streamline applications servers.

Implement solution for applicants to submit applications online to Civil Service.

Community Development and Planning will have new software including a project guide for developers and contractors that will provide them step by step instructions for permitting and other requirements.

Select a new ERP vendor through an RFP that will replace our existing system. The ERP software handles all of our accounting and HR needs.



**secure and reliable
solutions that enhance
LCG's effectiveness in
serving its citizens**

LAFAYETTE UTILITIES SYSTEM



**DIRECTOR,
LOWELL DUHON**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As LUS celebrates its 125th anniversary, (there's an 125-years image (graphic) in folder) we are proud of our humble roots and can reflect back on the involvement LUS had in the growth and development of the city of Lafayette. As the first Acadiana community with electricity and water, LUS played a role in growing commerce and population faster than the surrounding areas. LUS' ability to provide utility services was one of the determining reasons that Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette) chose Lafayette as its home.

In 2021, the utility department's in-lieu-of-taxes (ILOT) contributed \$24 million to help support city services, such as fire, police, recreation, and parks. Capital-funded projects included a new water treatment plant on Commission Boulevard, increasing capacity at the South Wastewater Plant, upgrades to the South Gravity Sewer, switchyard and substation expansions, and a city-wide LED street light upgrade.

As the largest municipal utility in Louisiana and one of the 70 largest public power utilities in the U.S., LUS is committed to enhancing the quality of life through reliable electricity, clean water, and efficient wastewater services.

As Lafayette's community-owned utility system, we look forward to the next 125 years!

Construction is underway at the Commission Boulevard Water Treatment Plant.



LUS is looking forward to 2022. We thank our employees who are the unsung heroes working behind the scenes to make life's bare necessities possible. Also, thank you to our community for supporting us for more than a century. As Lafayette's community-owned utility system, we look forward to the next 125 years!

COMMISSION BOULEVARD WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Commission Boulevard Water Treatment Plant is expected to be complete by winter 2022 and will be the fourth LUS water treatment facility in Lafayette, producing more than a million gallons a day with up to a four-million-gallon capacity. It will also be the first water treatment plant in the state that uses a new biological treatment process to remove naturally-occurring ammonia found in the aquifer.

THE FUTURE OF STREET LIGHTING

To improve street light visibility and offer more environmentally friendly lighting, LUS is upgrading the current high-pressure sodium lights to LEDs. Once complete, more than 21,000 LED street lights will improve nighttime traffic visibility and public safety, reduce electricity consumption, decrease maintenance costs, and create possibilities for smart city functions. Cost savings for LUS and the city are expected to be \$500,000-\$800,000 a year.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Electric Operations Manager Greg Labbe’ was awarded the Harold S. Kramer-John Preston Personal Service Award by the American Public Power Association (APPA). He was recognized for demonstrating great leadership in coordinating emergency response and disaster recovery for utilities across the Southern U.S. after Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta in 2020.

LUS line crews also received a national commendation from the APPA for their mutual aid work in restoring power in Terrebonne Parish where Hurricane Ida swept through and damaged the electric grid in Houma and surrounding areas.

Working with mutual aid teams from public utilities representing Florida, Georgia, Nebraska, North Carolina and Oklahoma, LUS was able to restore power to Terrebonne Parish within three weeks of Ida’s landfall.

Electric Operations Manager Greg Labbe’ receiving the Harold S. Kramer-John Preston Personal Service Award



Line crews working in Terrebonne Parish after Hurricane Ida

LUS FIBER



**DIRECTOR,
RYAN MECHE**

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Communications System, also referred to as LUS Fiber, is the telecommunications department of LCG and currently operates one of the nation’s largest municipal Fiber-To-The-Home networks. As the State’s most reliable, 100% fiber network composed of more than 700 miles of glass fiber, the system provides residents and businesses access to video, internet, and phone services over the world’s leading broadband technology. Telecommunications networks have always been critical infrastructure, but the pandemic has proven that broadband is now an essential utility. Currently, LUS Fiber provides the fastest residential internet in the nation.

Recently, LUS Fiber expanded services into apartments which illustrates the organization’s positive growth and momentum. Ensuring that apartment residents have access to the very best in fiber broadband is vital for a thriving community. With an ever-growing customer base and continual high demand from underserved areas, LUS Fiber will continue expansion efforts throughout Lafayette and surrounding cities.

Year after year, LUS Fiber has maintained a customer satisfaction rating of 95%

or higher, a rare achievement in the telecommunications industry. Dedication to providing the best, local customer service is still a top priority for the business. LUS Fiber continues to serve as a beacon of innovation for providing advanced communications network that exceeds the expectations of local communities.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

In 2021, LUS Fiber received national recognition for its leadership and innovation in fiber broadband development by Broadband Communities Magazine. The magazine named LUS Fiber in their Top 100 Fiber-To-The-Home providers list for 2021. In order to be listed among the Fiber-To-The-Home Top 100, organizations must:

- Deploy networks that are large or ambitious, have innovative business plans, or are intended to transform local economies or improve communities’ quality of life
- Supply key hardware, software, or services to deployers
- Introduce innovative technologies with game-changing potential
- Provide key conditions for fiber builds, such as advocacy or demand aggregation

EXPANDING CUSTOMER BASE

LUS Fiber started expansion of services into apartments by partnering with Bottle Art Lofts, a new development housed in the historic Coca-Cola Bottling facility in La Place neighborhood. Accelerating

apartment communities’ access to its services marks a significant shift for LUS Fiber. Expansion to Bottle Art Lofts marks the start of a goal to reach 1,000 apartment units a year with fiber internet services.

In addition, LUS Fiber received a multimillion-dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA). These funds are for the deployment of a major expansion into additional portions of Lafayette Parish, St. Martin Parish, and Iberia Parish. High-speed fiber broadband is a catalyst for economic development, education access, and innovation.

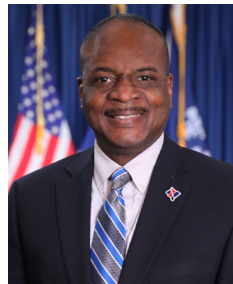
GUMBO INITIATIVE

Louisiana’s broadband initiative called Granting Underserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities Act (GUMBO) was introduced to provide additional funds for cities, parishes, and towns across the state to pay telecom companies to build internet infrastructure. However, the proposed law would have required that local governments contract only with private providers, excluding LUS Fiber as the state’s only municipally-owned telecom provider. LUS Fiber was able to work with other municipalities to push for the inclusion of municipally-owned telecoms as a major factor in inducing competition among internet providers that helps lower internet prices. The law was amended, resulting in LUS Fiber receiving over \$7 Million in contributions and a total cost of \$30 Million to serve Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermillion Parishes. Final award date for this application is expected to be late April 2022.

LUS Fiber partnered with the new housing development, Bottle Art Lofts to begin the expansion into serving apartments.



MINORITY AFFAIRS



**DIRECTOR,
CARLOS HARVIN**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm honored that Mayor-President Josh Guillory appointed me in 2020 to serve as Lafayette's first-ever Chief of Minority Affairs. The goal of this position is to be a "bridge builder." I am responsible for forming relationships, maintaining communication, and helping identify solutions with members of Lafayette's minority community. To that extent, I work to build and maintain positive relationships with pastors, community leaders, business owners and residents who are of the minority and underserved communities within our parish. My job is to listen to the concerns of these

communities and connect them with the various departments and offices within Lafayette Consolidated Government. I also maintain regular contact with our Mayor-President, our Chief Administrative Officer and our Department Directors to help develop priorities and initiatives that will improve the quality of life for Lafayette's diverse community.

LCG COVID-19 HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE

In 2020, a concerned group of stakeholders worked to combat the spread of COVID in Lafayette's minority community. Special emphasis was placed on forming community partnerships, engaging and educating the public, increasing testing locations, and connecting health care providers to personal protective equipment and testing supplies. These efforts continued into 2021 and a new emphasis was placed on overcoming vaccine hesitancy among the African-American community. The task force recruited leaders of the

African-American community, and these influencers led an outreach campaign that included PSAs and other initiatives that provided information and education on COVID vaccines.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

In 2021, Mayor-President Guillory continued to host monthly meetings with northside pastors and community leaders. This initiative created a platform for dialogue between the Mayor-President, LCG Department Directors, pastors and community leaders from north Lafayette. This effort helped create four summer youth programs that were hosted at recreation centers on the north side of Lafayette: a social media and music recording camp and swimming camp held at Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, the Young Leaders of Lafayette Summer Camp held at the George Bowles Activity Center, and a Summer Youth Arts and Recreation Camp held at Robicheaux Recreation Center.

*The Young Leaders of Lafayette
Summer Camp at the George Bowles
Activity Center*



**19TH EDITION OF THE BLACK
PAGES OF GREATER LAFAYETTE**

The Office of Minority Affairs assisted with the printing, promotion, and distribution of the 19th Edition of the Black Pages of Greater Lafayette. This publication has increased the awareness of African-American owned businesses and organizations in Lafayette and in the surrounding area. In the 2018 edition, 350 organizations were listed. In 2021, this number almost doubled to 650 listings. Copies have been distributed throughout the community including the President, board members and Superintendent of the Lafayette Parish School System.

**RECOGNITION OF THE HISPANIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF
LOUISIANA**

In 2021, the Office of Minority Affairs worked closely with the Latino and Hispanic communities within the parish. Janet Brewster, the founder and CEO of Brewster Procurement Company, was recognized by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, and helped to highlight both the successes and opportunities awaiting minority entrepreneurs here in Lafayette Parish.

**OTHER 2021 PROJECTS AND
INITIATIVES**

- The Prayer Parade
- National Day of Prayer
- Recognition of Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Black History Month Proclamation
- Juneteenth Proclamation and Celebration
- Mayor-President’s Youth Advisory Council
- Accelerate Northside

**PLANS AND INITIATIVES FOR
2022**

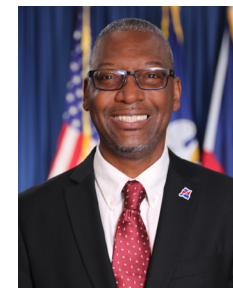
As the Office of Minority Affairs moves towards 2022, an emphasis will be placed on offering more support to underserved and minority communities within the cities, towns, and rural areas of the parish. While concerted efforts have been mostly concentrated on the city of Lafayette, more dedicated resources and staffing will allow for outreach to be extended throughout the parish. The office has also began working to strengthen support for minority contractors and disadvantaged business enterprises and will continue to work with partners in the area and abroad to bring opportunities to the parish. In addition to these initiatives, the office will continue to support and foster the growth and work of the Health Equity Task Force, the Mayor-President’s Youth Advisory Council, efforts to develop the I-49 corridor, and all other projects that affect the underserved and minority communities within the parish.



Juneteenth Celebration Day Proclamation

Basketball Goals were replaced at
Heymann Park

PARKS, ARTS, RECREATION, & CULTURE



**DIRECTOR,
HOLLIS CONWAY**

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since Mayor-President Josh Guillory took office in 2020, his desire to enhance parks has led us on the path to making city parks and all cultural aspects of our community valuable assets something that residents can be proud of. Sharing the Mayor-President's same values, I am honored to lead the way for positive change and growth.

To better parks and recreation with arts and culture, our department transitioned from Parks and Recreation to the Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Department to include the Heymann Performing Arts Center, Science Museum, Acadiana Park Nature Station, and Senior Centers.

This has given us the ability to provide our community with a broader range of opportunities. Arts, culture, parks, and recreation create a sense of community; provide opportunities for social, educational, and cultural activities; and open the door for economic growth.

We want our residents to be proud of and excited about the enhancements we're undertaking as much as we're excited about making Lafayette a better place to live, work, and play.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The operations and maintenance department ensures the city's 27 parks are safe, clean, and accessible for leisure activities. Tweaking operations has allowed for better improvements and efficiencies.

Restrooms are cleaned once a day compared to only twice a week in the past. Detailed work schedules have been implemented to ensure consistency and accountability to get the job done properly and efficiently. Employees' schedules

have been adjusted to increase presence in the parks that are used the most, so maintenance staff at each can handle issues that may arise and provide better upkeep with restrooms, grass, and trash.

Public complaints have significantly decreased after establishing a cleaning checklist for employees to build consistency and accountability to guarantee rental pavilions are clean and properly prepared for events.

Project Park Sweep is making significant strides in improving parks. Staff addressed each park one-by-one to assess needs and identified nearly 350 areas at all 27 parks that require upgrades. As the punch list for each park is completed, the parks will be maintained in their new condition. The punch lists include tasks such as repairs, replacements, cleaning, painting, and sprucing. For example, the pickle ball community is enjoying improved lighting around the courts and walking track at Billeaud Park, and basketball goals in disrepair were replaced at Girard, Heymann, and City Parks.



Volunteers working in Oaklawn Park

As we move forward into the next year, we will have a more consistent, aesthetically pleasing color scheme of park amenities, buildings, and restrooms. Residents can also look forward to a skate park at Thomas Park, as well as upgrades to Brown and Moore Parks.

NEIGHBORS TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Thanks to volunteers who value involvement and making a difference in their neighborhood, residents who live near Oaklawn Park rolled up their sleeves to clean and paint playground equipment, picnic tables, and park benches and mulch the playground area. Participation from the public makes a tremendous impact on the community taking pride in a well-cared for park.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Recreational sports play an important role in the community for both adults and children. While the Athletic Programs Division implemented new activities, establishing the Greater Lafayette League was a huge undertaking that opened the door for more children the opportunity to play baseball and softball.

In its inaugural year, PARC's Greater Lafayette Little League hit the ground running with more than 700 kids signing up to play baseball and softball. The league is the first in Lafayette to expand boundaries beyond the city of Lafayette to areas like Acadia, Saint Landry, and Saint Martin Parishes where Little League isn't offered. PARC having its own Little League allows boys and girls a chance to play in the world's largest youth sports organization, and they ultimately have a shot at playing in the Little League World Series, the pinnacle of Little League Baseball.

PARC also hosted multiple events, some of which are new, that attracted teams from around the state and country, including the MLB Pitch, Hit, and Run competition, the USA Volleyball tournament (115 teams); the Zydeco Hoopfest Basketball tournament (110 teams); the Louisiana/Texas Youth Football Classic; and the NFL Combine (371).

Upcoming Athletic Programs Goals

- Affiliation with national basketball and football organizations as the department has done with baseball
- Mentoring program using professional athletes to mentor kids
- Increase partnerships
- Elevate coach training for best communication with kids.

SWIMMING

The Swimming Division had a successful year reopening the Martin Luther King Recreation Center pool a year after the pandemic forced it to closed and welcoming new partners. Of the four LCG-owned swimming pools, PARC runs three and the fourth is operated through a public-private partnership with City of Lafayette Aquatics (COLA). In all, LCG-owned pools include the King Pool, OJ Mouton Pool at City Park, Girard Park Pool, and Earl J. Chris indoor pool at the Robicheaux Recreation Center (operated by COLA).

The public-private partnership with COLA has enabled PARC to continue providing the pool to the public and swimming community while improving quality and lowering operating costs. Another partnership with Destiny Camp opened the door for summer swimming lessons at the King pool.

Upgrades to the King Pool will continue in the coming year following the improvements made in 2021, including replacing rusted doors in the bathhouse and equipment room. Enhancements will include door replacements, pool painting, pool gutter replacement, installation of a pool cover to be used during the offseason, and exterior fence replacement and upgrades.

The Girard Park Pool is being evaluated to have the pool open by summer of 2022. The facility, pool, and equipment will be upgraded, and a pool cover will be installed. Costly repairs to the OJ Mouton Pool are also scheduled to begin if the proposed funds are appropriated in the next fiscal year budget.

TENNIS

A public-private partnership with Acadiana Community Tennis Association allows the association to operate Beaver and Thomas Park Tennis Centers, enabling PARC to continue providing these facilities to the public and tennis leagues while improving quality and lowering operating costs to PARC. Staff

Youth Basketball Camp



Kordell Stewart Football Camp





Resurfaced courts at Beaver Park Tennis Center

includes part-time PARC employees and pro player Calvin Kemp who is also owner of Acadiana Serves, as well as other pros. This public-private partnership has provided increased opportunities to Lafayette citizens, including youth programs and summer camps, adaptive tennis for athletes with developmental or physical conditions, and wheelchair tennis.

The Beaver Park Tennis Center also received some much needed improvements, including a installing a new deck, remodeling the pro shop, and resurfacing the courts with rubico.

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

The Therapeutic Recreation program caters to special needs children, teenagers and adults as well as senior citizens. These invaluable services give both groups the opportunity to maintain physical and mental health, and socialize with others. For special needs students who have graduated and no longer have resources readily available, these programs bridge that gap to expand access to opportunities to keep them active and social.

In 2021, Therapeutic Recreation participation included:

240 senior citizens in the Park Pacers Walking program

441 seniors and special needs citizens in Fun and Fitness group classes

200 seniors and special needs citizens in monthly bingo

95 seniors and special needs citizens in monthly arts and crafts

24 special needs children in two “We Can Do” summer camps

PARC facilities were also used for Cajun Wheelers (basketball) and Special Olympics partnerships

Park Pacers Walking Program



MUNI GOLF COURSE

The Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course (Muni) is the oldest golf course in Southwest Louisiana and will celebrate 100 years in 2026. Golf Pro Chris Arceneaux and staff believe it’s important to create a sense of community through tournaments, scrambles, skins games, lunch and dinner gatherings, and other events. Tournament and scramble highlights include the Patriot’s Day Scramble, the Southwest Louisiana Ladies Area Play, the Mike Guidry Memorial Golf Tournament, and the Louisiana Women’s Basketball Celebrity Coaches Open with University of Louisiana at Lafayette Women’s Coach Garry Brodhead.

Meetings with the University of Lafayette at Lafayette and Louisiana State University Eunice were held to discuss improving the greens.

Arceneaux, staff, and the community celebrated the grand opening of his new

businesses, Generations Sports Golf Pro Shop, offering more menu options and a better variety of golf equipment. Since hired as head pro in November 2020, Arceneaux hit the ground running to not only improve the course but also his community. Giving back to the community, where he grew up, he and volunteers picked up litter and debris in nearby neighborhoods.

In the Works

By mid-2022, golfers will be able to enjoy an outdoor clubhouse dining patio, and mid-to-late 2022 new carts will make the drive around the course more enjoyable. Plus, students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Louisiana State University, and other colleges and universities will assist with gathering golf course data to create various opportunities for students. This is expected to start in mid-2022.

In the next year, goals have been set to purchase new maintenance equipment to

Fun & Fitness Group Class



Muni Stats
16,032 rounds played

11 Tournaments

Les Vieux Chenes Stats
30,962 rounds played

11 Tournaments

The Wetlands Stats
31,365 rounds played
39 Tournaments

Stelly Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament at Muni



better maintain the course and hire more staff, including golf shop and cart attendants and turf management.

Honoring the Greats

The Hall of Fame Cocktail Night honored and awarded Arceneaux’s good friend and tour buddy, Jim Thorpe, as well as local legends of Muni, such as Albert Damond, Roland Malveaux, Shirley Picard, Roland Delahoussaye, and more. Jim Thorpe was also presented with the Key to the City of Lafayette and looks forward to returning to help mentor youth.

LES VIEUX CHENES GOLF COURSE

Located in a very populated area of the parish, Les Vieux Chenes provides great value to Lafayette and golfers visiting from surrounding areas. The course is equipped with a practice facility and driving range and offer full-scale, professionally-run tournaments, host business outings, charity games.

Last year 11 charity, corporate, fundraiser tournaments were hosted, as well as the

LHSAA High School State Championship for girls despite many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Year in Review

Hosted middle and high school golf leagues and tournaments throughout the year

Besides the 2021 LHSAA High School State Champions for girls, also hosted numerous state events for junior golfers.

The old, dilapidated chain link fence was replaced with a more aesthetically pleasing, six-foot tall wooden privacy fence around the parking lot, maintenance facility and clubhouse area.

In the Works

Opportunities like new annual pass options, such as a Junior Summer Annual Golf Pass, and golf specials like Game Day Saturday Golf Special are being evaluated. These and additional specials will encourage golfers to play at more affordable rates.

THE WETLANDS GOLF COURSE

The Wetlands Golf Course provides recreation for golfers of all levels on a modern and well-maintained golf course. In 2021, nine of 52 sand bunkers to improve drainage. The course is 16-years-old, and after heavy rains most bunkers no longer drain as originally designed. It is recommended to renovate them every eight to 10 years.

In the coming year, renovations will continue on the remaining bunkers. Once completed, staff will be less burdened with pumping water out of bunkers and allow them to work on other maintenance areas. The work is all part of ensuring a great golfing experience for Lafayette citizens as well as out-of-town guests who frequent our course.

ACADIANA PARK NATURE STATION

Acadiana Park is home to 150 acres and five miles of trails, 47 acres on the south side where the Nature Station educational building is located and 103 north of a new pedestrian bridge which was installed in December 2021. A welcome addition and long-term goal for 15 years, the bridge gives visitors access to dozens more hiking trails that were previously only accessible at the trailhead on Shadow Bluff Drive. The bridge an easy connection from the Nature Station (south of the coulee) to the north trails which are an extension of the hardwood forest with unique life in a more isolated natural woodland.

The bridge was funded by a \$167,500 Land and Water Conservation grant through the Louisiana Office of State Parks and matching funds from Lafayette Consolidated Government.

Acadiana Park Nature Station is the ideal spot to connect with nature and learn about conserving native plants, animals, and habitats. In the near future, hiring more part-time employees and a full-time naturalist will be instrumental in upcoming field trips, workshops, outreach, and other educational opportunities.

Community Comes Together

After Hurricane Delta’s strong winds left behind fallen trees in the forest and waterways, the community rallied behind the Nature Station to restore it to its natural beauty. LATRAIL, Acadiana Trail runners, The Acadiana Master Naturalists,

New pedestrian bridge at Acadiana Park Nature Station





Kiosk at Nature Station trail entrance

“
The
museum
plays an
invaluable
role in
enriching
student’s
lives

The Therapy Garden, and other members of the community cleared the trails making them accessible again. Tree damage to the boardwalk after Hurricane Ida was also repaired.

Then, in May, a flash flood pushed more than two feet of water into the first floor of the Nature Station building. Luckily, staff was able to move most of the equipment with the only loss being a pressure washer that has since been replaced.

After machinery used to replace the entrance trail bridge in 2019 destroyed plant life, the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association planted native plants this year to stabilize the bank and make it less susceptible to erosion. Visitors will also find another wonderful update at the entrance — a kiosk to help identify native plants animals.

Park Visits Increase During Pandemic

Outdoor activities across the country and locally increased amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Acadiana Park Nature Station had a dramatic increase in visitors who wanted to embrace the outdoors. During the spring and fall, it is now common to have hundreds of visitors per day on weekends to the trail systems and museums. With the new pedestrian bridge, the number of visitors is projected to increase even more.

LAFAYETTE SCIENCE MUSEUM

The Lafayette Science Museum plays an important role, not only in the community but also regionally, offering visitors science, technology, engineering, and math experiences; a planetarium; revolving exhibits; and hands-on learning. The museum has been heavily involved with bringing the community, educators, and industry together through exhibitions, partnerships, educational programming and outreach. This wide range of relationships has created strong ties between the community and the museum.

After the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the museum for several months, and although reopened on weekends only, the Lafayette Science Museum immediately experienced record-breaking visitation numbers. The overwhelming response to the reopening illustrates the strong bond between the educational/entertaining exhibits, the passion displayed by museum staff, the scientific community, and thousands of visitors from across the Acadiana region.

In the Works

A taxidermy collection provided by master taxidermist David Luke began prior to the closing of the museum. The museum is poised to begin the process of reintroducing the collection. Once complete, the aviary collection will include more than 700 male and female game birds, so large that it will take many years of rotating specimens to be displayed in its entirety.

The Federal Fossil Repository, also put on hold in 2020, has regained steam and will be completed when the high-volume air conditioning has been expanded to support climate control needs. This repository will house federally-owned fossils and was created in conjunction with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s School of Geosciences.

The museum plays an invaluable role in enriching students’ lives outside the classroom. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced field trips to cease, but LSM is hopeful school outings will soon return.

New Exhibits

The skeletal cast of a grand prehistoric pachyderm, the Columbian Mammoth, is the first sight visitors see when walking into the museum.

Louisiana Weather: A State of Uncertainty — this interactive exhibition begins with a video introduction by KATC’s Chief Meteorologist Rob Perillo. Visitors marvel over the Tornado Simulator, Science on a Sphere, and an interactive monitor of weather sensors throughout Acadiana provided by CGI Federal. This dynamic exhibit provides an in-depth look at the unique weather patterns in Louisiana.

Crawl Space Bug Zoo reopening — This live bug zoo features a wide range of animals, including scorpions, poisonous and non-poisonous spiders, beetles, centipedes, millipedes, and more. Visitors enjoy watching keepers interact with the animals, especially at feeding time.

Natural Born Killers: Prehistoric Predators from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods — This captivating exhibit features carnivores throughout prehistory. The extensive cast of apex predators include Tyrannosaurus, Torvosaurus, Albertosaurus, Mosasaurs, and many more top most dangerous dinosaurs. This exhibit was made possible through collaboration with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s School of Geosciences.

THE HEYMANN PERFORMING ARTS AND CONVENTION CENTER

The Heymann Performing Arts and Convention Center (HPACC) encompasses a 2,220-seat theater and adjoining 16,000-square-foot convention center, provides quality locally and nationally produced entertainment, and adds more than \$5.2 million to the yearly local economy. The Heymann Center navigated

the COVID-19 pandemic by holding virtual events, implementing social distancing measures, and by providing scaled, multiple performances to larger audiences while providing a safe environment to artists and patrons.

Additionally, in cooperation with Ochsner Lafayette General, the center facilitated and staffed the largest-to-date vaccination center in the region. In 50 days, more than 33,000 people were vaccinated against COVID-19.

The Year Ahead

As COVID-19 numbers have decreased and restrictions loosened, HPACC is jam-packed with events in the coming year, including Broadway musicals, concerts, dance, theatre, comedy, conventions, Mardi Gras balls, recitals, and civic engagements.

HPACC will host more annual Mardi Gras ball in the upcoming 2022 carnival season, increasing from five to seven. More than 25 schools will use the performing arts center for rehearsals, recitals, graduations, dances and performances.

Several planned capital improvement projects will improve safety, function and aesthetics. A new parking garage, which Ochsner Lafayette General leases from HPACC, will improve parking, and parking gates will be added for reserved and VIP

parking. Air handlers will be upgraded with better filtration and improved efficiency. Finally, dressing rooms will be renovated. These projects are all anticipated to be completed before the fall 2022 season.

Finances

HPACC received a \$1.6 million dollar grant through the federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, resulting in a \$1.5 million surplus which helped to replace lost revenue due to the pandemic.

A nonprofit fundraising arm is in the works to help HPACC continue to stimulate the Lafayette and regional economy and offer quality performances for years to come. Sponsorships, memberships and naming rights are available.

Kudos

The pandemic threw a wrench in the entertainment industry, but staff gave their all to ensure that quality programming would continue to benefit Lafayette and the Acadiana region. “Special thanks to India Roberts, Charles Gratton and Tim Stark, who have gone above and beyond their call, working overtime to cover events during this difficult period. Further thanks is owed to all the former employees who laid the foundation, planted the seeds, and rooted the facility in Lafayette tradition and history,” Venue Administrator Dennis Skerrett said.



Columbian Mammoth skeletal cast at the Lafayette Science Museum



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lafayette Police Department hosts a Junior Police Academy to increase youth awareness and confidence, relationship building, learning different aspects of law enforcement, and to create a better understanding between youth and police through education and a fun learning experience.

Despite the challenges of 2021, including a nation-wide rise in crime, the continuation of the COVID pandemic, and both Ice and tropical storms that affected the area, the Lafayette Police Department continued to serve the needs of community efficiently and effectively. All divisions faced unprecedented challenges and were able to adjust operations and implement new initiatives to meet the demands of 2021.

PATROL DIVISION

During the first half of the year, the department dealt with a variety of unusual events including a spike in the COVID pandemic that created security and safety issues for the community. In January, the department prepared for the threat of protests surrounding the presidential election and was able to serve and protect the

community and organizations involved with no arrests and no property damage. February brought ice storms to the city, and officers patrolled affected areas and provided much needed support to the community.

During the second half of the year, the department prepared for two named storms threatening the area and responded as per departmental protocols for these events. The city, citizens, and officers remained safe with minor electrical issues during these storms, and the after-action reviews from the department were positive. The storm response efforts also helped to identify the need for additional equipment that was ultimately addressed within the new budget.

The patrol division replaced high-mileage vehicles with 15 new marked police vehicles

placed into active service. Eight of these were equipped as Police K-9 vehicles, and the other seven were equipped for regular patrol officer use. The department was also able to equip 120 marked police vehicles with 40mm non-lethal launchers.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administration Division worked to advance the department through additions in both staffing and technology. The civilian position of Accreditation Administrator for the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement (CALEA) was filled in October, and the FLOCK camera system was implemented with several cameras installed at multiple locations throughout the city. The department also began researching and is working towards utilizing electronic citations and summonses.

SERVICES DIVISION

In the services division, the implementation of the PM/AM program saw finalization of details for website service. This will work to handle all aspects of the operation of the False Alarm ordinances, allowing the payment of fees and fines electronically and ultimately making the process easier for the public. The service is provided at no cost to LCG and is funded through a percentage of the fee/fines collected.

A Field Training Unit Officer was federally certified as a Use of Force Instructor in 2021, and the department will be working to get more training personnel certified as instructors. The VirTra Simulator Training was successfully implemented and LPD is offering the training to multiple surrounding outside agencies upon their request. A large quantity

of 40mm non-lethal sponge tipped launchers were purchased, and the section trained officers on the proper use of the launchers. The patrol division received the majority of the launchers for rapid deescalation use when responding to critical incidents.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Following the national trend, in 2021 Lafayette experienced a rise in both homicides/violent crimes and property crimes. LPD responded to the rise diligently by implementing a dedicated section called the Violent Incident Prevention & Early Response Squad (VIPER) and was able to produce extremely high clearance rates in resolving these crimes.

HOMICIDE/VIOLENT CRIMES

352 investigations | 92% clearance rate

PROPERTY CRIMES

741 investigations | 77% clearance rate

YOUTH SERVICES

354 investigations | 93% clearance rate

NARCOTICS/VIPER

This section assigned 1025 cases, 197 cases were investigated by the narcotics agents and 828 cases were investigated by the officers assigned to the VIPER section. A total of 194 firearms were confiscated, 403 arrests were made, 153 summonses were issued, 123 warrants were granted, \$1,777,734.50 in narcotics was seized, and \$124,712.36 in currency was seized.

The Camellia Detention Ponds



Completed Detention Ponds:

- Middlebrook
- Camellia
- Musique Road
- Acorn Coulee Phase 1
- River Oaks Subdivision Phase 1
- Acadiana Park Flood Control Phase 1

Near Complete: Lake Farm Road is 85 percent complete as of March 2022. Seven additional projects are ongoing.

The new animal shelter when it was under construction



PUBLIC WORKS



**DIRECTOR,
CHAD NEPVEAUX**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Public Works Department plays an integral role in your community affecting the roads you drive on, bridges you cross, sidewalks, coulees and detention ponds that ensure proper drainage, public buildings, and household waste and recycling, and mosquito control. Essentially, we improve quality of life for Lafayette Parish residents.

With Mayor-President Josh Guillory’s commitment to improving drainage across the parish, we’ve begun an unprecedented number of drainage projects to upgrade existing infrastructure and constructing a significant number of detention ponds.

Our dedicated staff take pride in the work we do, and it’s an honor to serve the public as we strive to provide quality service, one that our citizens deserve and can be proud of.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DIVISION

Unique Method Expedites Animal Shelter Construction

Using what’s referred to as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) method to build the Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center saved taxpayer dollars and completed the project in the least amount of time.

CMAR shortens the traditional design-bid-build (DBB) method in that during the design phase CMAR construction can begin when 30 percent of the design is complete. DBB construction begins once the design is complete, typically an eight-month timeline.

While not all projects are a fit for CMAR, this one proved to be a good decision. It was built in eight months and the contractor built the shelter under budget. CMAR eliminates traditional competitive bids resulting in a more efficient, effective, and cost-saving project.

Buchanan Street Parking Garage

The first phase of structural repairs to the six-story Buchanan Street parking garage in downtown Lafayette is nearly complete, bringing the 344-car garage one step closer to reopening after shutting

down for safety concerns in 2018. Repairs include replacing steel beams and columns and installing crash-rated guardrails.

Phase one is expected to be complete early- to mid-2022. The final phase includes renovating elevators and stairwells, set to begin in 2022.

Rethinking Bridge Repairs

A new approach to replace aging bridges saves taxpayers millions of dollars. For 25 years, bridges were programmed for replacement with an average cost of \$1 million per bridge. The new preservation/repair program targeted 17 bridges for repairs before replacement was the only option, costing \$124,706 per bridge, on average. The bridges will effectively serve the public for 10-20 more years.

Detention Ponds

LCG invested \$5 million for drainage maintenance and detention pond construction in 2021. Increasing the number of detention ponds to temporarily store stormwater (water slowly drains once water levels recede) has proven to be effective during heavy rain or flood events, especially in flood-susceptible areas. Altogether, ponds in the parish are capable of storing 20 million gallons of water.

2021 Asphalt Projects

Urban Areas

17.5 miles of patch, mill, and overlay

17.5 miles of preservation overlay

Rural Areas

9.5 miles of base reconstruction and overlay

5.7 miles of patch, mill, and overlay

21.7 miles of preservation overlay

An abandoned vehicle that was reported in 2021



Asphalt Projects

Year-round work to keep city and parish roads repaired, safe, and drivable ranges from patching to more detailed projects, including base reconstruction (one of the four layers of road construction, sits under the riding surface), mill and overlay (removing, grinding, and milling the top two inches of the road surface and replacing with new asphalt), and preservation overlay (applied before asphalt overlay to enhance and extend the life of the road.)

Road maintenance does not include state roads in Lafayette Parish maintained by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development or private streets.

Federal Grants

A number of federal grants make it possible for the Community Development and Planning Department to make Lafayette Parish a better place to live, including funds that provide suitable housing, adequate parish drainage, and hazardous mitigation

assistance. These funds help to reduce loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters, along with locally funded grants that support local nonprofit organizations.

DOWNTOWN INVESTMENTS

As downtown Lafayette continues its rise, attracting new businesses and the eyes of developers, LCG is investing in the quality of life for those who live, work, and visit this ever-growing and thriving area of Lafayette.

Drainage

At least two phases of two drainage projects on Lee Avenue are anticipated to be completed in 2022, helping to detain at least two million gallons of water during heavy rainfall. More downtown locations for drainage improvements will detain four million gallons of water.

This investment will improve current and future downtown drainage infrastructure, including areas that continually flood during heavy rains.

ADA-Compliant Sidewalks

Upgrading sidewalks to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements include continuous and accessible sidewalks, essential to improving mobility for pedestrians, particularly pedestrians with disabilities. Improvements include wider and smoother sidewalks and slopes to accommodate wheelchairs. Locations are TBD.

Streetscape Lighting

Enhancing and increasing lighting along pedestrian walkways will support security for nightlife and special events.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION

The Environmental Quality Division is committed to improving the quality of life for citizens and protecting the environment through recycling, composting, hazardous waste disposal, enforcing environmental codes, and protecting the watershed which drains into the 70-mile Vermilion River.

Feet on the Street Raises Recycling Awareness

The Feet on the Street initiative educated residents on the importance of recycling correctly with a two-part goal — educate residents on acceptable and unacceptable items and gather data to assess recycling contamination.

Stickers placed on the inside lids of residents' carts helped them identify recyclable and non-recyclable items, auditors checked carts for contamination, then placed an "Oops" tag on carts that contained unacceptable items as well as educational information.

Addressing Unsightly Junked and Abandoned Vehicles

A change to the Junked or Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance shifted authority to issue citations from law enforcement to the Environmental Quality Division, making it easier to hold people accountable for junked or abandoned vehicles on public or private property.

Cases are heard before a judge who oversees the newly created Administrative Adjudication Bureau (AAB), created to lessen the City Court load and to increase productivity.

Feet on the Street recycle bin stickers





An estimated 45,000 lbs of latex paint and 15,000 lbs of oil-based paint were collected at Household Hazardous Waste Day in 2021.

Stormwater Management Goes Green

Environmental Quality is collaborating with other departments to educate contractors on green infrastructure to help manage stormwater runoff, reduce flooding, and decrease the amount of pollutants flowing into waterways.

Instead of solely relying on traditional networks of ditches, sewer pipes, gutters, and coulees to drain stormwater, using plants, soil, and landscaping capture rainwater where it falls, reduces flooding and polluted runoff that travels to waterways. The goal is to use green infrastructure in-house and implement it in commercial parking lot designs.

Year-Round Hazardous Waste Disposal

LCG is making disposing of hazardous waste more convenient for residents. A

new Convenience Center will eliminate the inconvenience of storing chemicals until the semi-annual waste collection day. Funding has been secured, and the design process has begun.

Household Hazardous Waste Day returned in 2021 after the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the semi-annual event in 2020. Nearly 90,000 pounds of common household hazardous items were collected.

Other Environmental Quality Achievements

Received the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Circle of Excellence Award for educating the public about litter abatement, waste reduction, recycling, and the environment.

Worked with Lafayette Utilities System to continually promote water conservation through the rain barrel program. More than 3,000 barrels have been distributed since the start of the program nine years ago.

Environmental Quality Code Inspectors began using Geaux Mow to hire contractors to address tall grass on private property.

Continual collaboration with the Park, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Department and community organizations to organize litter pickups, general cleaning, painting, mulching, and plantings.

Better tracking of incoming debris at the Compost Facility.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Facilities maintenance is the nuts and bolts crew in charge of maintaining, upgrading, and beautifying LCG buildings inside and out.

Work included replacing six unreliable elevators original to three buildings — one at City-Parish Hall, three at the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center, and two at the Lafayette Parish Government Building downtown.

Twelve aged air handlers, designed to move air around, improve air quality, and decrease the risk of airborne viruses, were replaced in City-Parish Hall. A new energy management system monitors, controls, and adjusts cooling and heating needs to improve energy consumption and efficiency.

Looking ahead, natural gas generators that are eco-friendly, more efficient, and cost effective will be installed at City-Parish Hall, the Lafayette Parish Health Unit, and Dupuis Recreation Center as well as a new HVAC system in the four-story, downtown Lafayette Parish Government Building.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Consulting with KPMG, a global network of professional firms, the Vehicle Maintenance Division is implementing a business strategy to accomplish doing more with less — 10 percent more with 10 percent less over 10 years. The result will transform business models and increase operational efficiencies.

RIGHT-OF-WAY DIVISION

This division is responsible for acquiring rights of way for drainage, road, channel, and sidewalk projects.

2021 Project Highlights

- The Prejean Road box culvert averts additional emergency repairs and allows for replacing a failing bridge.
- Extending bike lanes will create a safer ride for University of Louisiana at Lafayette students who travel to and from school.
- Relocating and building a new Fire Station #3.



Maintenance work on fire trucks



TRAFFIC, ROADS & BRIDGES



**DIRECTOR,
WARREN ABADIE**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Traffic, Roads, and Bridges Department is primarily responsible for the parish's transportation infrastructure. As the parish continues to thrive, the demand for an efficient road system becomes vital to the success of our community. The department is committed to using the most innovative and effective means to constructing and maintaining parish-wide roads, bridges, and traffic signals. The department works closely with residents and other partners to plan and execute the safe, convenient, and efficient movement of persons and goods through transportation modes of walking, biking, and vehicle use throughout the parish.

ROADS DIVISION

In 2021, the roads department received 2894 requests for service and were able

to complete 1903 of those requests. The department also worked with ParkMobile, a leading provider of smart parking and mobility solutions in the U.S., to launch the service of over 1,200 on-street and off-street parking spaces contactless payment options in downtown Lafayette. The department also improved the signaling at Verot School Road and Vincent Road, a highly trafficked area of the parish, to reduce left turn and angle crashes at the intersection.

Moving forward, the roads department has plans to upgrade school warning flashers, continue implementing the Adaptive Traffic Signal System, emergency vehicle preemption communications, and a host of other innovative strategies aimed at improving the parish's roadways.

GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The majority of routine landscaping and edging of sidewalks is performed by LCG crews. This includes grooming activities within city and roadside mowing or bush hogging within the parish. As of October 2021, the combined crews provided 18 field personnel dedicated to grounds maintenance activities.

Traffic, Roads, & Bridges planted new magnolia trees along University Avenue



In 2021, the department implemented the "Neaux Throw" initiative, which allows for better coordination of reporting and pickup of litter throughout the community. The Project Geaux Mow initiative, implemented in 2020, continues to improve the department's efforts and has allowed LCG crews to focus more on detail maintenance such as grooming, cleaning, edging and weed control on sidewalks and rights of way.

LAFAYETTE TRANSIT DIVISION

In September 2021, Lafayette Transit expanded an existing route to begin transporting employees to and from the Amazon Fulfillment Center facility. The expanded route stretched from Gloria Switch Road at I-49 to the Amazon facility. Riders use the Northeast frontage road between Gloria Switch Road and Hector Connolly Road to access bus stops.

The route extension was made possible through coordination and cooperation between Lafayette Transit, the City of Carencro, and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA).

ROADS DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

70 miles of concrete streets

855 miles of asphalt streets

75 miles of gravel roads

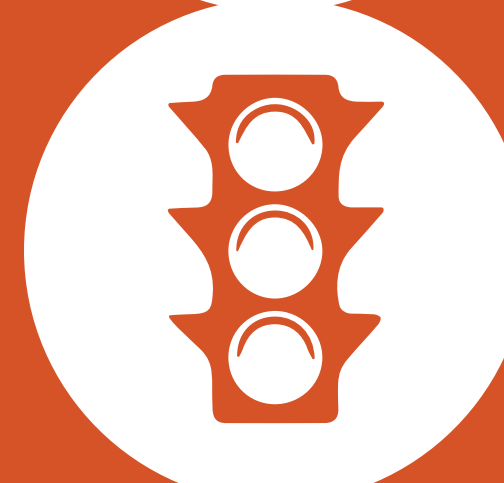
284 off-system bridges

over **200** smaller bridge structures

485 miles of sidewalks

approximately **3,000** service requests annually

over **5,000** man hours to cover Mardi Gras and other parades and festivals



GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION PROVIDES:

Maintenance of medians, boulevards, rights of way, roadsides, and parks

Arbor crew prunes low hanging branches over city streets, and sidewalks

Removes high-risk and or hazard trees in rights of way

Placing in excess of 5,000 barricades for Festival Events such as Mardi Gras

Coordinate service for 120 portable toilets along parade routes

Coordinate emptying of 30-cubic yard roll-off dumpsters during events

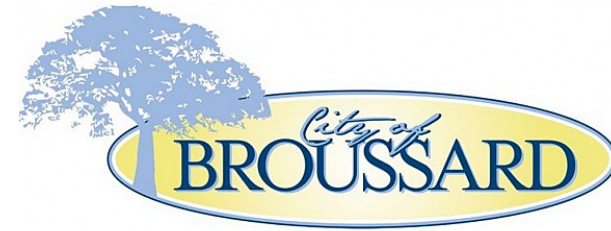
Coordinate contractual services for the mowing of I-10 and I-49

Coordinate contractual services for herbiciding program

Maintain Downtown Streetscape and Downtown Parks

TRAFFIC, ROADS, & BRIDGES FUN FACTS

MUNICIPALITIES



Broussard
337-837-6681
www.cityofbroussard.com



Carencro
337-896-8481
www.carencro.org



Duson
337-873-6754
www.facebook.com/TownofDuson



Lafayette
337-291-8200
www.lafayettela.gov



Scott
337-233-1130
www.cityofscott.org



Youngsville
337-856-4181
www.youngsville.us

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH GOVERNMENT

LCG Main Line.....	291-8200
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 & Planning.....	291-8000
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
Minority Affairs.....	291-8354
Parks, Arts, Recreation, & Culture.....	291-8361
Police Administration.....	291-8653
Public Works.....	291-8517

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

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 Authority.....	291-5566
Town 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



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