



St. John the Baptist
ANNUAL REPORT

— 2021 —

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A MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRESIDENT HOTARD

On Sunday, August 29, 2021, Hurricane Ida made landfall near Port Fourchon as a Category 4 storm. With winds raging up to 150 mph, it didn't take long for the devastating hurricane to make its way to our beloved home of St. John the Baptist Parish.

The night of the storm – as well as the days immediately following – were harrowing. *More than 80% of all Ida-related search and rescue operations took place right here in St. John Parish. When it was all said and done, firefighters and sheriff's deputies rescued more than 800 people in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane.*

Statistics show that more than three of every four homes that were occupied when Ida hit have experienced significant damage.

Hurricane Ida was one of the most powerful storms ever to hit the U.S., and without a doubt, it devastated our community. But from the darkest cloud comes a silver lining.

Most of the debris is cleared, and the rebuilding of St. John homes and businesses remains steady and strong. Families are returning to their homes, businesses are reopening, and the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Levee Project is moving forward.

St. John the Baptist Parish is resilient and strong as we prepare for brighter days ahead.

I am proud of the many parish employees who sacrificed to help neighbors even when their own homes were splintered by the storm, and I am appreciative of the support we have received from state and federal authorities who have raced to our side to lend a helping hand.

But, most of all, I am excited for the possibilities and opportunities ahead of us.

Despite any storm, any pandemic and any setback, we are St. John Strong, and we are moving forward.

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) provides financial assistance and case management services, educational programs, community resources, and emergency assistance to residents.

Despite the challenges of 2021, DHHS aided more than 1,700 families with utilities, food, rental, mortgage, and other assistance.

Each year the Office of Community Services mandates the State Community Services Block Grant lead agencies to report on the performance of community action agencies with the state. DHHS met 100% of the Community Performance standards in 2021, which is the highest rating for the Department to date.

To contact the Department of Health & Human Services, please call (985) 536-4955.

RETIRED & SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a national service program, which works to match volunteers, age 55 and older, with local volunteer opportunities at partner agencies.

In 2021, St. John had 227 volunteers and over 10,000 hours served. Overall, St. John volunteers created \$719,313 in savings for the parish.

Thank you to all of the St. John volunteers who serve our community each year.

For more information on how to get involved with the RSVP program, call (985) 785-1037.



Department of Health and Human Services met 100% of the CSBDG Annual Performance standards in 2021, which is the highest rating for the Department to date.



PARKS & RECREATION

The Mission of the St. John the Baptist Parish Parks & Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life for all parish residents by providing well maintained parks and facilities, outstanding programs, as well as activities for the community.



2021 PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Youth Sports

Youth Volleyball

Tee Ball (5- and 6-year-olds)

Baseball (7-year-olds and up)

Youth Basketball (Coed)

Youth Soccer

Art

Flag Football

Swimming Lessons

Tennis Clinic

ADULT PROGRAMS

Adult Volleyball

Line Dancing

Yoga

Water Aerobics

To register for activities and sports, visit the Parks & Recreation page at sjbparish.gov or opt in to Recreation text alerts by texting SJPREC to 888-777.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

All emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities are coordinated through Public Safety.

At the helm for Hurricane Ida, COVID-19 and other emergencies, the Public Safety Department continues to use real-time emergencies, and state and federal training to ensure that our Parish is prepared for and equipped to respond to any event.

Public Safety recently developed a comprehensive, all-hazard emergency operations plan for St. John Parish and also led a successful Waterford 3 Nuclear Drill that met all the requirements by FEMA.

Public Safety is also among the first to implement StarLink, high-speed, satellite internet, in the Emergency Operation Center, should internet be unreliable or unavailable during a disaster.

WEATHER ALERTS

Get alerted about emergencies, such as severe weather, by texting SJPWEATHER to 888-777.



“We are truly excited about the completion of this project and thank all involved.”

- Parish President Jaelyn Hotard

WEST BANK PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

This \$2 million complex is a shared project between the Sheriff’s Office and Fire Department, and will help increase fire and police presence on the West Bank.

“This facility is another place for our first responders to work from to provide additional, critical services to the West Bank,” said Parish President Hotard. “We are truly excited about the completion of this project and thank all involved.”



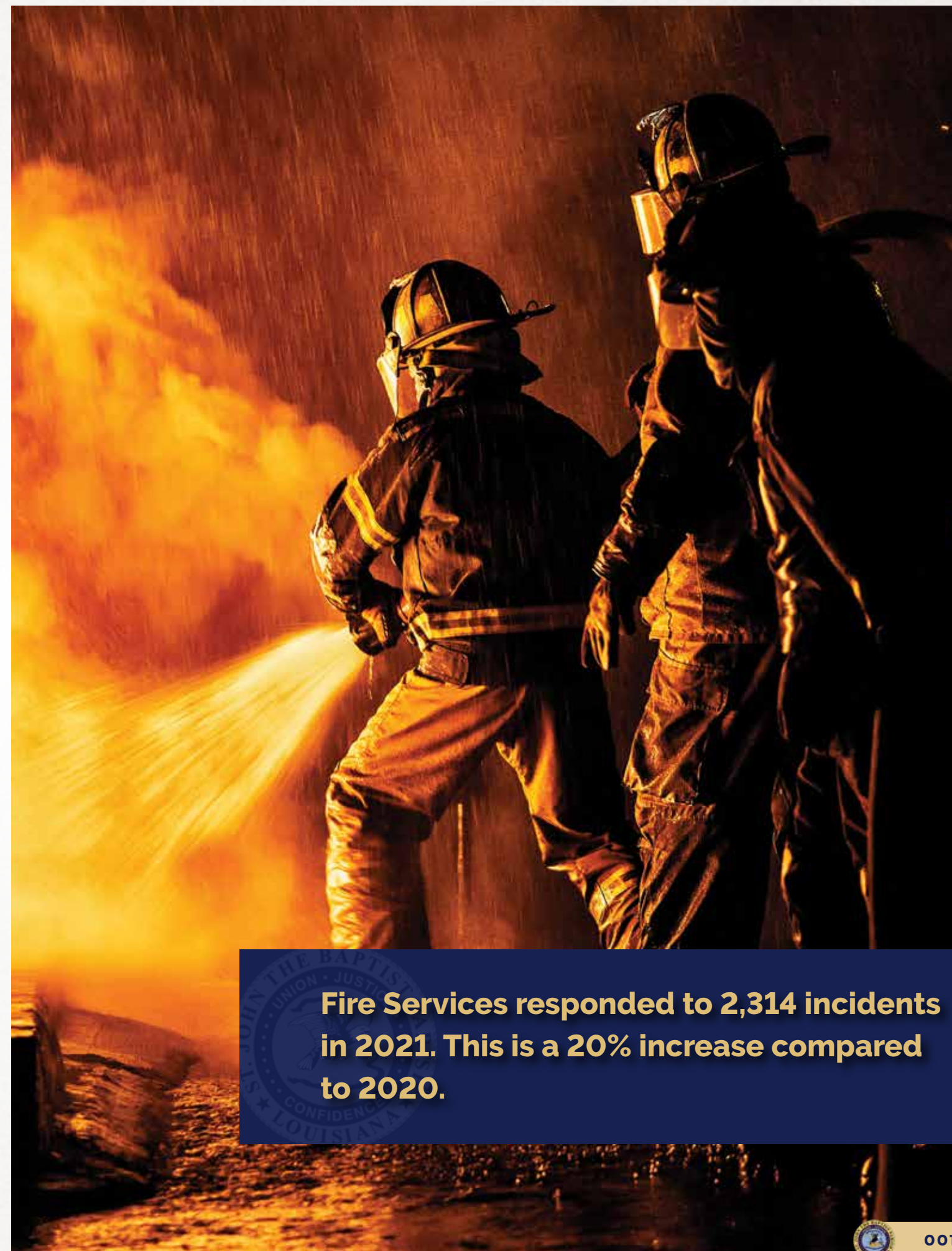


FIRE SERVICES

The St. John Parish Office of Fire Services provides fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials, and technical rescue services to everyone who lives, works or visits St. John the Baptist Parish.

In 2021 Fire Services:

- Responded to 2,314 incidents that represents a 20% increase compared to 2020.
- Helped rescue over 700 residents and assisted with the delivery of ice, water and other provisions immediately following Hurricane Ida.
- Improved the rating classification for Fire District #4 Reserve from a Class 4 to a Class 3. This classification change for the Reserve area may result in decreased future insurance rates.
- Honored Firefighter/Operator Ashton Joseph, who was named Firefighter of the Year in 2021 by the American Legion for the State of Louisiana.
- Placed into service a new Ladder Truck (\$1.4 million investment) to provide additional capabilities for firefighting and rescue operations.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Under Parish President Hotard's leadership, the St. John the Baptist Parish Department of Economic Development completed Louisiana Economic Development's Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program. It is the goal of LED and the Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program to assist communities in successfully pursuing and capturing economic opportunities.

The program allowed the Economic Development Department to:

- Conduct surveys and facilitate a community meeting.
- Create clear direction on expectations related to schedule and deliverables through a roadmap to readiness.
- Conduct best practice strategic planning.
- Develop a reasonable five-year Economic Development Strategies.

Through the Economic Development Department's continued partnership with Capital Area Finance Authority, qualified homebuyers are allocated grant funds that can be used for down payments, closing costs, prepaid items, and even for assistance with Private Mortgage Insurance costs.

CAFA

Under Parish President Hotard's Administration, for the first time St. John has partnered with the Capital Area Finance Authority (CAFA) to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to residents.

FastTrac

Economic Development Director Stanley Bienemy continues to work together with Louisiana Economic Development on this program that helps small business owners grow in St. John. FastTrac is held at the Small Business Training Center at the River Parishes Community College in Reserve.



Under Parish President Hotard's Administration, Louisiana Economic Development recognized St. John Parish as a Louisiana Development Ready Community. This program helps communities prepare and become more competitive for new investments and jobs.

"It is through programs like Louisiana Development Ready Communities that parishes like ours gain the tools needed to grow and ensure we are better equipped to compete in today's business landscape," said Parish President Hotard. "I want to thank LED for their assistance, and we look forward to continuing to make progress as we move through the steps in our community plan."



FINANCE

The Finance Department has been recognized nationally by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, which represents some 19,000 government finance professionals, for both the Budget Presentation and for Excellence in Financial Reporting. 2021 was no exception as the Parish's audit was completed without any identified exceptions or findings, and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

As the Parish's budget grows, the Finance Department continues to expand its capabilities with additional software services and continued training, ensuring that all financial obligations are met in a timely manner.



The Finance Department would like to celebrate the retirement of Mr. Johnny Snyder for more than 24 years of service to St. John Parish.



UTILITIES

The **Utilities Department** supplies wastewater and water services to the citizens, businesses, and industries; monitors our water systems; and makes necessary repairs.

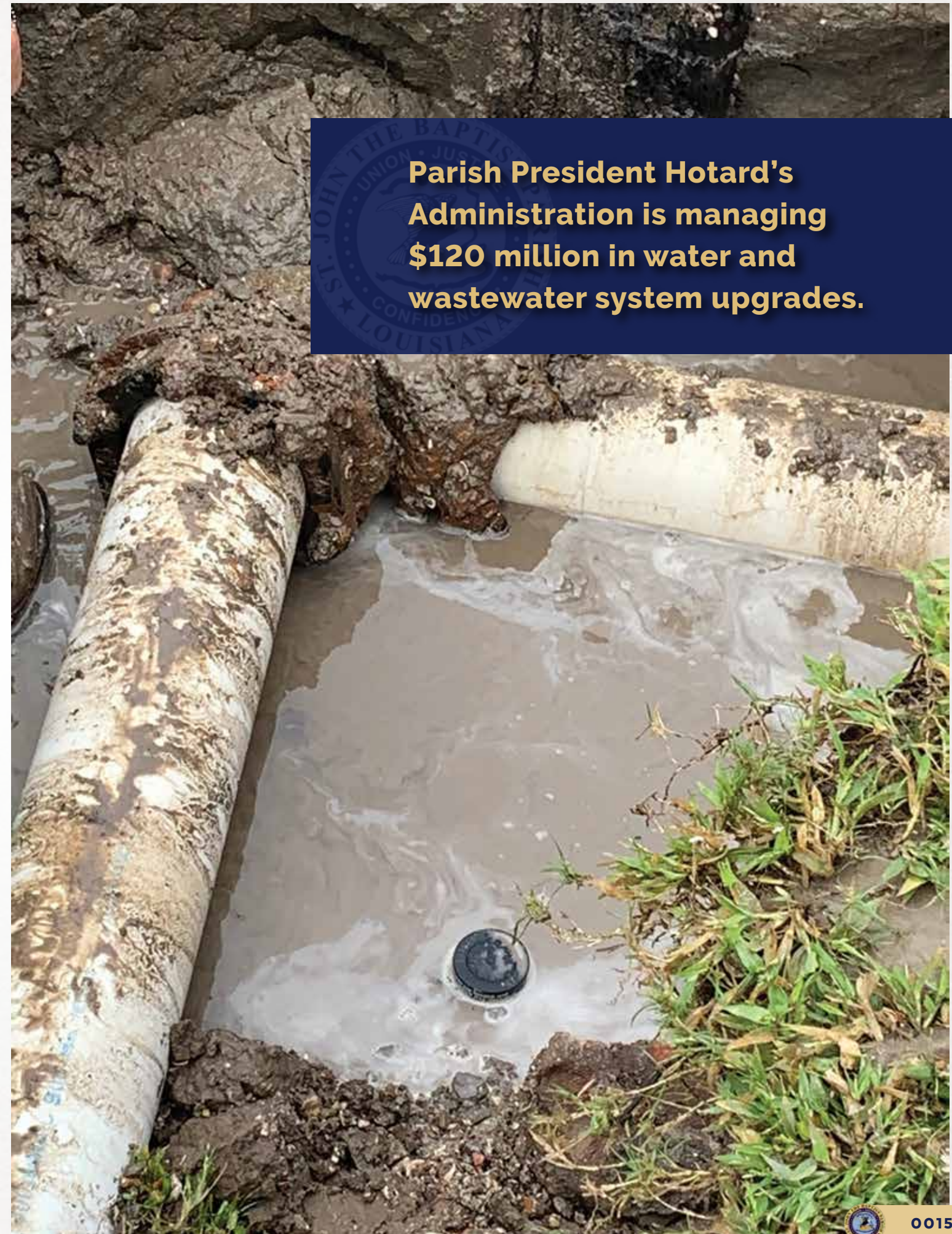
Utilities is also working on a \$42 million project to upgrade the LaPlace Water System and the Reverse Osmosis Treatment for better reliability during storms, and an \$8 million project for improvements to Lions Water Treatment Plant.

In addition, wastewater projects include the expansion of the Reserve Wastewater Treatment Pond, a new Wastewater Treatment Pond on the Westbank and condemnation of all mechanical Wastewater Treatment Plants, which is an estimated \$40 million upgrade.



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Demolition of Belle Pointe Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Cambridge Pump Station Modification and Force Main
- Central Avenue Lift Station Rehabilitation
- Woodland Regional Pump Station
- Cambridge #2 and #3, and Ned Duhe Lift Station Improvements
- Wallace, Central and Tigerville Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Repairs
- Lions Electrical Building
- Lions 1 MGD Filter, Sludge Return and Existing Media Filter Replacement
- Generator Project for Belle Terre, Captain Bourgeois and Ned Duhe Lift Stations
- Water Meter Upgrades



Parish President Hotard's Administration is managing \$120 million in water and wastewater system upgrades.





Public Works is responsible for maintaining 441 miles of roads and 136 miles of major canals and ditches. In 2021, they completed \$2 million of road improvements.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works is responsible for maintaining roadways, roadsides, drainage, and the collection of debris on more than 441 miles of roads and 136 miles of major canals and ditches throughout the parish.

In 2021, Public Works

- Completed 8,196 work orders (not including Hurricane Ida cleanup)
- Repaired over 270 potholes
- Cleaned/sprayed over 260 ditches/canals
- Picked up over 6,000 branches and tree limbs
- Repaired more than 60 sidewalks/driveways

Approximately \$2 million in road improvements were completed in 2021. An important drainage project that involves the dredging and excavation of Vicknair, Haydel and Woodland Canals is ongoing. This project helps to remove sediments and debris, which allows for better flow, flood control and drainage.

In addition, internal canals and ditches are being cleaned in-house parishwide.

For more information or to make a Public Works request, call (985) 652-4815 or visit sjbparish.gov.



PLANNING & ZONING

The Planning & Zoning Department works to shape the future of St. John by implementing the parish's Comprehensive Plan and the development of land proceeds in an orderly manner.

The department works with residents, businesses and Parish administration to review, issue building permits and respond to code violations.

In 2021, Planning & Zoning issued 802 permits for a total investment of \$33,842,428.

The Department of Planning & Zoning issued 265 renovation permits after Hurricane Ida with 589 residential permits issued compared to 353 in the previous year.



Another day, another demolition!
St. John the Baptist Parish demolished eight structures in 2021.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital Projects is responsible for maintaining and improving all Parish buildings along with street lights, event setup and Parish projects.

In 2021, Capital Projects completed more than 1,800 work orders across all departments and assisted in events hosted by the Parish, including the annual Independence Day Celebration.



In 2021, St. John Parish received more than \$8 million in grant funding for projects parishwide.



GRANTS

The Grants Office is responsible for administration and management of grant programs from inception to close-out, including writing correspondence and grants to prospective foundations, organizations, and government-funding agencies, and monitoring to ensure that terms and conditions, and any other requirements associated with funding are met.

In 2021, St. John Parish received more than \$8 million in grant funding for projects parishwide.

St. John Parish has also received more than \$22 million in CDBG funds to undertake a number of projects aimed at improving the community.



HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department provides orientations to new employees as well as training and health and safety sessions for all St. John the Baptist Parish employees.

COVID-19 brought on a new set of challenges for the Department who helped lead the effort in safe practices, mitigation measures and workplace safety.

Human Resources Director Stacey Cadore and Emergency Preparedness Deputy Director Travis Perrilloux lead the charge on National Safety Month each year, providing a variety of safety educational courses and trainings for employees. HR also spearheads year-round training through Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation.



PURCHASING & PROCUREMENT

Purchasing & Procurement handles the acquisition of all materials for parish government and all public record requests, contracts, new vendors, requests for proposals, and requests for qualifications.



St. John the Baptist Parish was happy to host STEM St. John Fest, full of fun, excitement and learning with more than 200 children and parents participating in STEM activities.



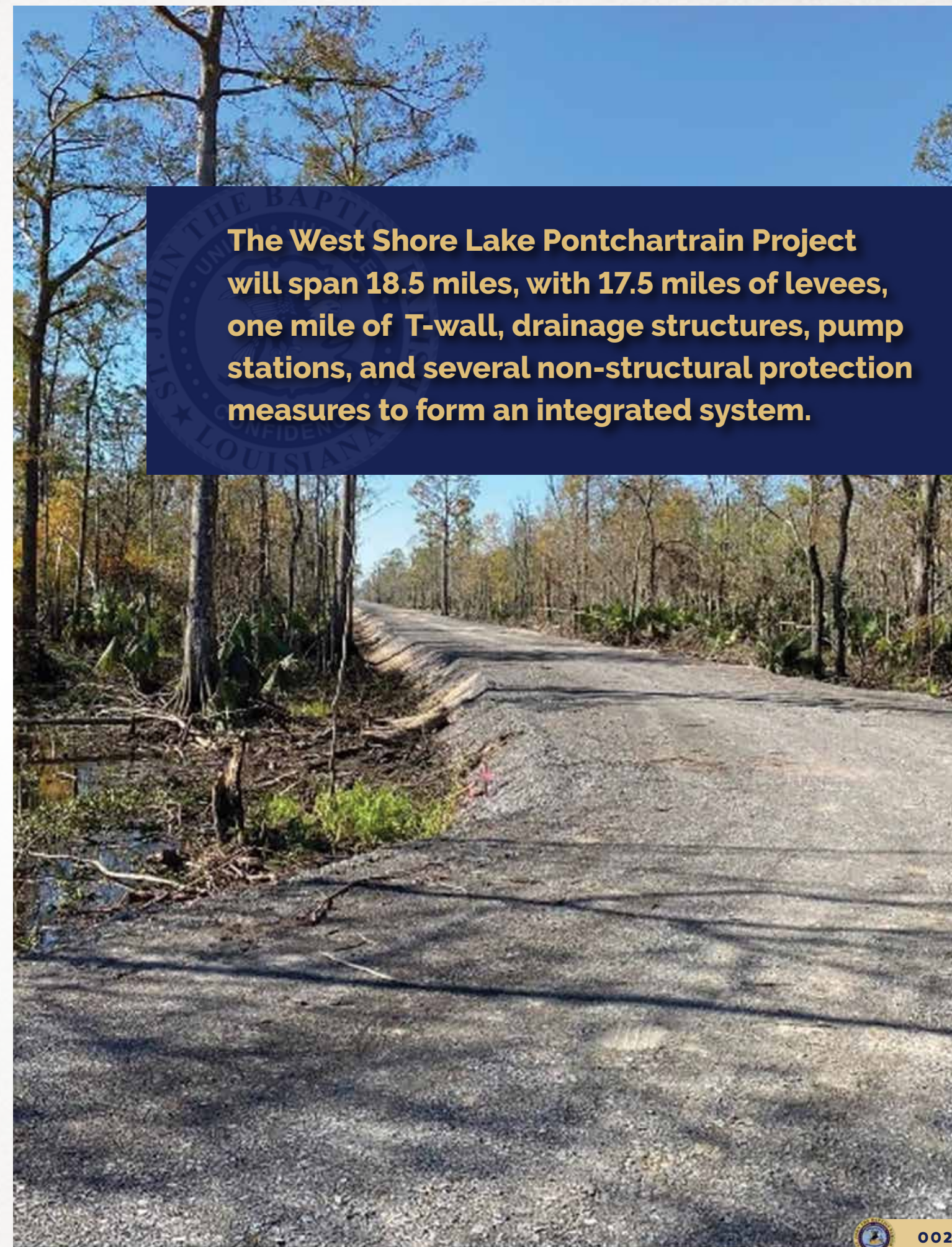


WEST SHORE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN PROTECTION LEVEE MOVES FORWARD

Parish President Jaclyn Hotard and Council joined Governor Edwards along with federal, state and local officials for a groundbreaking ceremony on the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection system in July.

The \$760 million project will span 18.5 miles, including 17.5 miles of levees, one mile of T-wall, drainage structures, pump stations, and several non-structural protection measures to form an integrated protection system.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently awarded a contract for site preparation and access roads, and stockpiling of levee material is ongoing. Construction is slated for 2024. Updates are posted at sjbparish.gov.



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HURRICANE IDA

AUGUST 29, 2021

**“This is one of the strongest storms
to hit Louisiana since at least the 1850s.”**

Governor John Bel Edwards



Hurricane Ida made landfall on August 29, 2021, and will go down in history as the worst storm to hit St. John the Baptist Parish.



A HISTORIC STORM

As alerts came in from the National Weather Service regarding Tropical Depression Nine, Parish President Hotard held briefings for administrative staff and emergency support functions to ensure pre-positioned resources were available across the Parish, including search and rescue equipment, water, generators, and personnel, to assist with impacts.

ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021, President Hotard declared a State of Emergency as Tropical Depression 9 strengthened to Tropical Storm Ida.

After all preparations were made, Parish President Hotard and staff remained in the office until it was safe to assess the damages.



THE AFTERMATH

Hurricane Ida made landfall near Port Fourchon, Louisiana at 11:55 a.m. on August 29, 2021 as a Category 4 with winds of 150 mph. It was one of the strongest hurricanes on record – by both wind speed and pressure – to roar ashore in Louisiana.

St. John Parish experienced the brunt of the intense storm with sustained hurricane force winds for over 12 hours, heavy rains, and surge, causing massive damage, leaving the entire Parish without power, and collapsing trees, power lines and transformers.

During the storm and thereafter, Public Safety, the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, and first responders responded to and rescued over 700 residents safely.

As the winds and rains barreled down, the Fire Department performed a lifesaving rescue of a resident who was trapped under a tree.

When it was safe, Parish President Hotard dispatched Public Works and Capital Projects crews immediately to clear roadways from damaged infrastructure and trees.

Communications were nonexistent for nearly 36 hours in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida as the Parish worked to set up a dedicated phone and internet line after multiple communication system failures.

The Utilities Department worked tirelessly to restore water services to the Parish.

Additional resources coordinated through Parish President Hotard, and FEMA & SBA arrived in the Parish quickly. Pod sites were immediately set up on the East and West Bank.



ENTERGY BY THE NUMBERS

2,600 BROKEN POLES



† = 100 POLES

700 DAMAGED TRANSFORMERS



⚡ = 100 TRANSFORMERS

POWER RESTORED IN LESS THAN 3 WEEKS



TO 90% OF
ST. JOHN PARISH



Parish President Hotard activated debris removal efforts the day after Hurricane Ida made landfall. To date, there has been more than 1.2 million cubic yards of storm debris collected.



DEBRIS

Following Hurricane Ida, parish crews worked to clean and clear streets of debris.

Parish President Hotard activated debris removal efforts the day after Hurricane Ida made landfall.

By September 2021, less than a month after Hurricane Ida's landfall, over 210,000 cubic yards of debris had been collected. By January, the Parish reached 1 million cubic yards collected.

To date, there has been more than 1.2 million cubic yards of storm debris collected.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Throughout Hurricane Ida and for the duration of recovery and rebuilding, federal, state and local officials provided immeasurable support and assistance.

Within days, federal and state officials had boots on the ground in St. John Parish.

President Hotard, joined by the Council, Governor Edwards and FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, held a press conference early on to provide important information regarding federal assistance and to allocate resources.

Congressman Graves and Carter, Coastal Protection Restoration & Authority Chairman Chip Kline and the Louisiana National Guard met with President Hotard, staff and other officials to discuss the immediate needs of the Parish.

The Parish worked with the National Guard to set up Pods on each side of the river stocked with ice, water and MRES. The St. John Fire Department and Parish crews also helped distribute provisions in neighborhoods.



COMMUNITY

We are so thankful for the outpouring of love, generosity and assistance we received after Hurricane Ida. Thank you to everyone who donated and cooked meals, delivered supplies, equipment, water, and more to ensure we were able to recover from this devastating storm. It is no secret that when disaster strikes, we can always count on the kindness of others to feed, clothe, house, and take care of our community.



THANK YOU.



#STJOHNSTRONG

STAY IN THE KNOW

ST. JOHN PARISH GOVERNMENT

(985) 652-9569

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

(985) 652-2222

WEATHER ALERTS

Text SJPWEATHER to 888-777

EMERGENCY ALERTS

Visit sjbparish.gov to register for mass notification system and e-releases, or call the Communications Department at (985) 652-9569

ONLINE

 sjbparish.gov

 facebook.com/sjbparish

 twitter.com/sjbpgov

 instagram.com/stjohnthebaptistparish

TELEVISION

Government Access Channel 15 (RTC), 1098 or 191 (Comcast Xfinity), 99 (AT&T U-Verse)

RADIO

WWL Radio 870 transmits emergency information





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