

ANNUAL REPORT



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
UNION • JUSTICE
CONFIDENCE
LOUISIANA



JACLYN HOTARD

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH PRESIDENT

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A MESSAGE FROM PARISH PRESIDENT HOTARD

Each year, this report is an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made and the direction we're headed as a parish.

> **I made a commitment to strengthen our infrastructure, expand opportunities for our youth, and position St. John for long-term growth. That commitment continues to guide our work every day.**

This past year, we've continued to deliver. From critical investments in drainage, roads, and utilities to expanding recreation, supporting families, and strengthening public safety, we are building a stronger foundation for our community.

Much of this work happens behind the scenes, but it plays a critical role in protecting our community and improving quality of life. It is the work that protects our neighborhoods, supports our residents, and creates opportunity across our parish.

We have remained focused on maximizing every dollar and pursuing every opportunity to move our parish forward. That approach allows us to deliver more for our community while preparing for what's ahead.

St. John is strong, resilient, and open for business. We've built real momentum, and we're not slowing down. It continues to be the honor of my life to serve this community.

Jaclyn Hotard

Jaclyn Hotard
Parish President



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL

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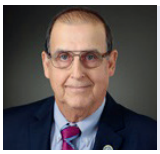
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CARING FOR OUR SENIORS

Senior centers are more than a place to gather. They are a source of connection, support, and community for residents who have helped build this parish.

Through daily meals, activities, and fellowship, we are creating spaces where our seniors can stay active, engaged, and connected.



EAST BANK SENIOR CENTER
Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Friday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
214 REGALA PARK RD., RESERVE, LA 70084

WEST BANK SENIOR CENTER
Monday – Friday: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm
3445 LA 18, EDGARD, LA 70049

GOLDEN CONNECTION PROGRAM

St. John Parish Golden Connection Program invites seniors ages 55+ to stay active, socialize, and have fun with a variety of monthly activities, from chair yoga and candle making to board games and more. All activities take place at REGALA Gym, 200 Regala Park Rd, Reserve, LA 70084.

For more information, contact **Erica Berthelot: 985-536-4933 | e.berthelot@stjohn-la.gov**













SUPPORTING FAMILIES WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

The Department of Community Services works every day to support residents through life's challenges—providing assistance, resources, and a pathway forward for those who need it most.

Our Senior Citizens Food Program was recognized by the National Association of Counties for ensuring our seniors have reliable access to food.

Led by Director Kali Price, and the Community Services team, this program reflects the Parish's continued commitment to supporting seniors with compassion and consistency.

"Programs like this remind us that when we look after our seniors, we strengthen our whole community."
– Parish President Hotard



Helping Families Stay Stable

- **1,282** LIHEAP assistance
- **11** Rental assistance
- **5** Temporary shelter assistance

Meeting Basic Needs

- **475** Biweekly commodities
- **84** Food vouchers
- **83** Blood drive donors
- **65** Atmos gas assistance

Supporting Long-Term Stability

- Tuition assistance
- Employment assistance
- Disaster assistance

*For **five years** in a row, the Department of Community Services, led by Director Kali Price, met 100% of the CSBDG and Louisiana Workforce Commission Annual Performance Standards.*







PARKS & RECREATION

We've made it a priority to expand and improve youth programming and facilities across our parish. Today, that commitment is reflected in strong participation, growing programs, and new opportunities for our kids.

2025 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT HIGHLIGHTS:

TEAM SPORTS

271 Boys Basketball • **109** Boys Flag Football • **19** Girls Flag Football • **81** Girls Softball

79 Girls Volleyball • **8** One-Pitch Softball Teams • **79** Soccer

CLINICS AND CAMPS

442 Summer Clinic

12 Softball

SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

103 Line Dance

38 Dance

For the first time ever, our St. John Parks & Recreation 8U & 10U teams qualified and competed in the NFL Flag Football Championship at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio!



Sports Coordinator, Errol Manuel, was honored with the Jr. NBA/Jr. WNBA League of the Year Award at The Next Play Summit by RCX Sports, a national youth sports conference bringing together leaders from across the country. This recognition highlights strong teamwork in Parks and Recreation and the lasting impact of our dedicated volunteer coaches.

CREATING SPACES WHERE OUR KIDS CAN GROW, COMPETE, AND BELONG













"When we invest in our youth, we are investing in the future of this parish."
– Parish President Jaclyn Hotard



OFFICE OF FIRE SERVICES

In 2025, **the St. John Parish Fire Department** expanded its role in emergency response by sending fire engines with medically trained personnel to critical calls, such as breathing emergencies. When ambulance delays occur, their rapid response helps residents and visitors receive care faster when it matters most.

3,453
INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO IN 2025

2,099
EMERGENCY MEDICAL INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO IN 2025

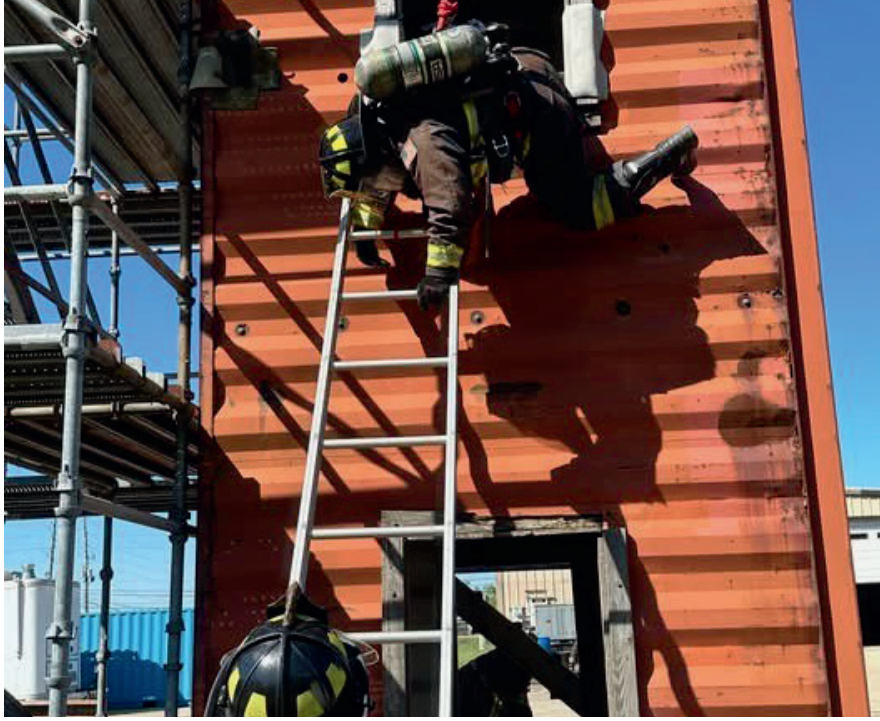
100
FIRE SAFETY OUTREACH EVENTS CONDUCTED

160+
SMOKE ALARMS INSTALLED



In 2025, the department invested over $3.2 million purchasing four brand new fire engines to update the first out fleet parish-wide.





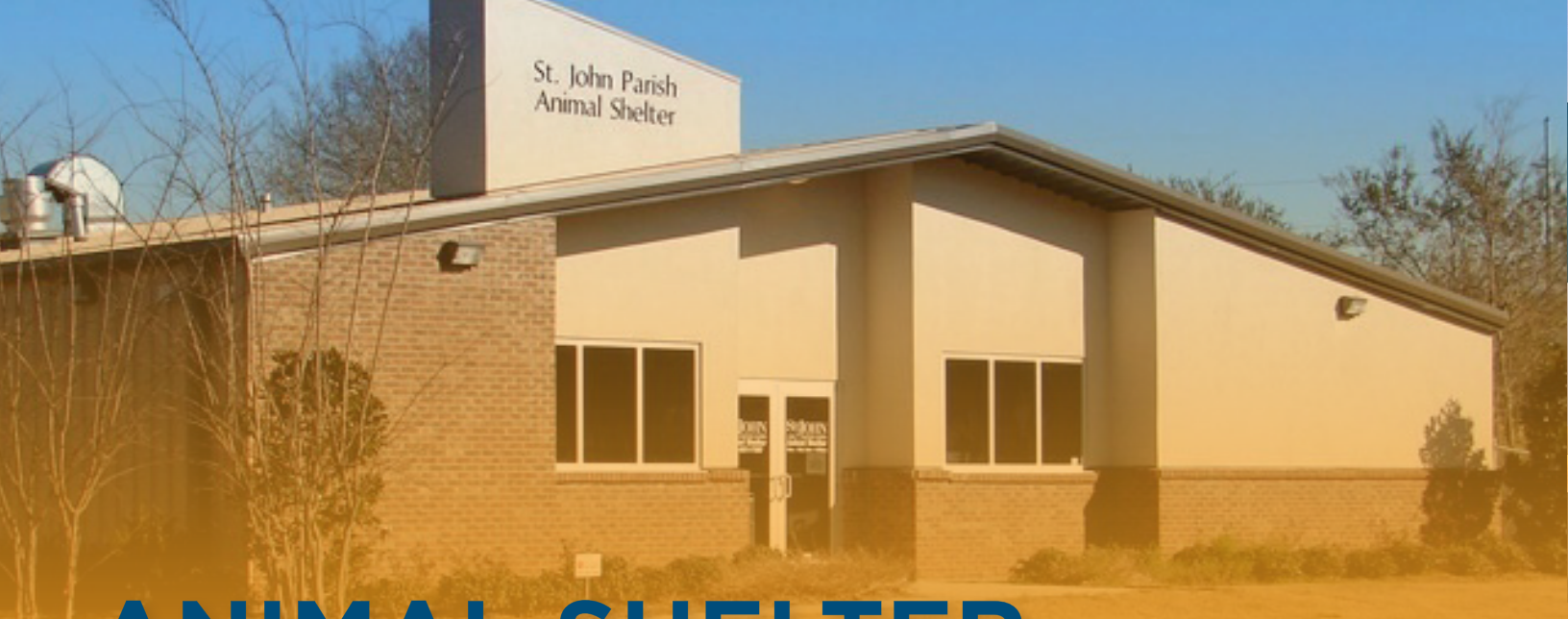








*The Office of Fire Services responded to a total of **38 incidents** in the **January 2025 Snowstorm** & maintained **2 warming centers**.*



ANIMAL SHELTER RENOVATION PROJECT

In 2025, **the St. John Parish Animal Shelter** began a major renovation project that enhanced animal housing, staff facilities, and public adoption areas. These improvements demonstrate the Parish's ongoing commitment to animal welfare and responsible care within the community. The new shelter is expected to open in mid-2026.

480+ ANIMALS SHELTERED











ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

310
TOTAL FASTTRAC GRADUATES

15
RIBBON CUTTINGS

61
CAREER/JOB FAIR VENDORS

27
WORKSHOPS INCLUDING SBDC

94
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES ISSUED

"A strong local economy creates opportunity for our residents, supports our families, and keeps our parish moving forward."

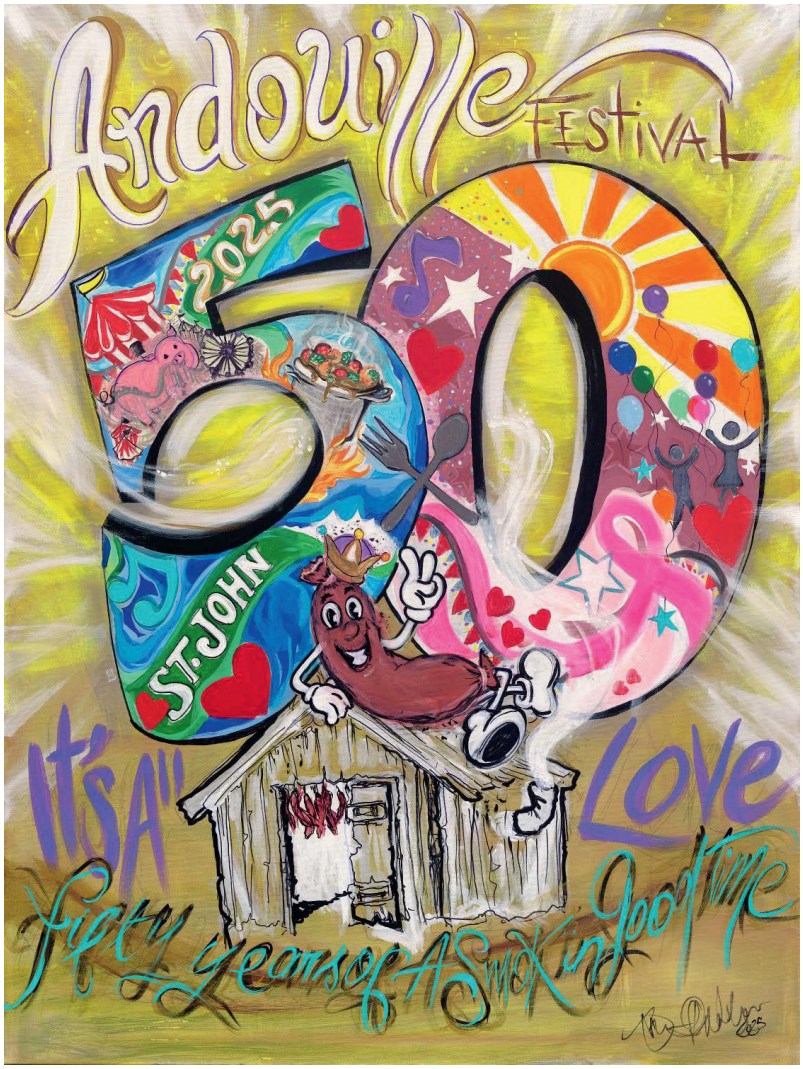
– Parish President Jaclyn Hotard





THE 50TH ANNUAL ANDOUILLE FESTIVAL

The 50th Annual Andouille Festival welcomed more than 24,000 attendees for a weekend celebrating community, culture, music, food, and local tradition.







The Andouille Festival's new Greener Grounds recycling initiative, led by Director Michelle Jenkins Miller and the Economic Development team, was honored with a national award for its efforts to reduce waste and create a cleaner festival experience.



















UTILITIES



St. John Utilities earned national recognition for two major infrastructure programs — the Water Improvement Program and the Wastewater Treatment Consolidation Program.

Led by Assistant Director Reed Alexander, the Water Improvement Program strengthens reliability, service, and infrastructure for a cleaner, more dependable water system. The Wastewater Treatment Consolidation Program streamlines operations, reduces costs, and improves environmental outcomes.

Both projects are part of President Hotard's parish-wide infrastructure improvement initiative, stretching every dollar to build a stronger, smarter St. John.

WASTEWATER

UPGRADES YOU CAN'T SEE, BUT ALWAYS RELY ON



COMPLETED:

- River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehab
- WWTP Maintenance Repairs
- River Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Temporary Belt Press
- Cambridge Pump Station Modifications and Force Main Replacement Woodland Regional Pump Station
- Central Lift Station Rehab
- Belle Pointe WWTP Demolition
- Ezekial Jackson & Esperanza Lift Station

IN PROGRESS:

- Reserve Pond Expansion
- Aeration & Grit System
- Sewer Force Main (River Road to Reserve)
- Garyville Pump Station & Force Main
- Cambridge #2, #3 & Ned Duhe Lift Station Rehabilitation

Strong infrastructure supports growth, reliability, and long-term investment in St. John Parish." - Parish President Jaclyn Hotard.







WATER SYSTEMS

ARE GETTING A BOOST

COMPLETED:

- Lions Electrical Building

IN PROGRESS:

- Lions Filters & Sludge Upgrades – *Partial operation; repairs ongoing*
- Aeration & Grit System
- Sewer Force Main (River Road to Reserve)
- Garyville Pump Station & Force Main
- Cambridge #2, #3 & Ned Duhe Lift Station Rehabilitation
- Transmission Line (River to Woodland) – *Under review / DOTD coordination*
- LaPlace Intake & Pre-Treatment – *60% design; cost review ongoing*
- RO Facility Expansion – *60% design; contractor selected*
- CWEF Valves Project – *Closeout in progress*
- West Shore Levee Line
- Sampling Stations - *Ongoing*
- LGAP Projects – *Lift station upgrades (Main St. #2 & Woodland #3)*





PUBLIC WORKS

Our team is on the ground every day, maintaining roads, drainage, and infrastructure across the parish—ensuring that essential services are delivered consistently and reliably.

The Public Works Department completed a number of cleaning, maintenance, and drainage improvement projects in 2025:

- Cleaned all culverts along Airline Highway and under Highway 61 from LaPlace to Garyville
- Upgraded Foxwood and Red Bud Pump Stations to improve water management during storms
- Improved drainage in several neighborhoods through culvert inspections and cleaning, as well as ongoing ditch maintenance



Public Works employees Derrion Thomas and Denzel Noble demonstrated outstanding skill at the American Public Works Association Equipment Rodeo, respectively earning first and second place overall, reflecting the high level of talent, dedication, and professionalism within the department.









*In 2025, nearly **27,000 ft** of canals and ditches were cleaned and maintained to help reduce flooding.*

7,100+ FT
OF CONCRETE ROADWAY REPAIRED

16,000+ FT
OF ASPHALT ROAD RESURFACED

260+
POTHOLES & SINKHOLES REPAIRED

8.5 MILLION+ LBS
OF DEBRIS REMOVED FROM DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

900+
WORK ORDERS COMPLETED IN 2025

"We will continue to aggressively pursue funding and deliver drainage improvements that protect our residents and strengthen our parish. This work is critical to protecting homes, businesses, and quality of life across our community." – Parish President Jaclyn Hotard

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

PROJECTS & WHAT'S NEXT

SUNSET PARK:

- Shoreline restoration completed along Pass Manchac
- Installed 550 linear feet of shoreline protection
- Planted 50+ native trees
- Funded through CPRA grants

BELLE POINTE PARK:

- Native shade trees installed to improve canopy and comfort
- Native plantings added in low-lying areas to improve drainage
- Bioswales constructed for stormwater management
- French drains installed to improve subsurface drainage

MANCHAC GREENWAY MASTER PLAN:

- Launched to reimagine Old Hwy 51 corridor from I-10 to Manchac Pass
- Project will create new opportunities for biking, birdwatching, kayaking, and outdoor recreation
- Aims to preserve the natural beauty of the area while expanding public access to nature



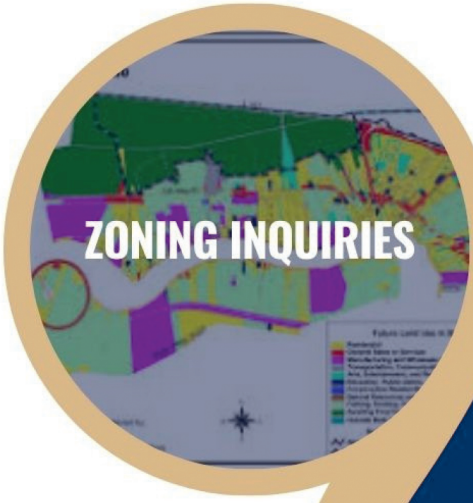


NEW CUSTOMER PORTAL

SCAN HERE











Submit new applications, manage all of your existing projects, or report a concern online.

985-359-1185

www.mgoconnect.org/cp/portal

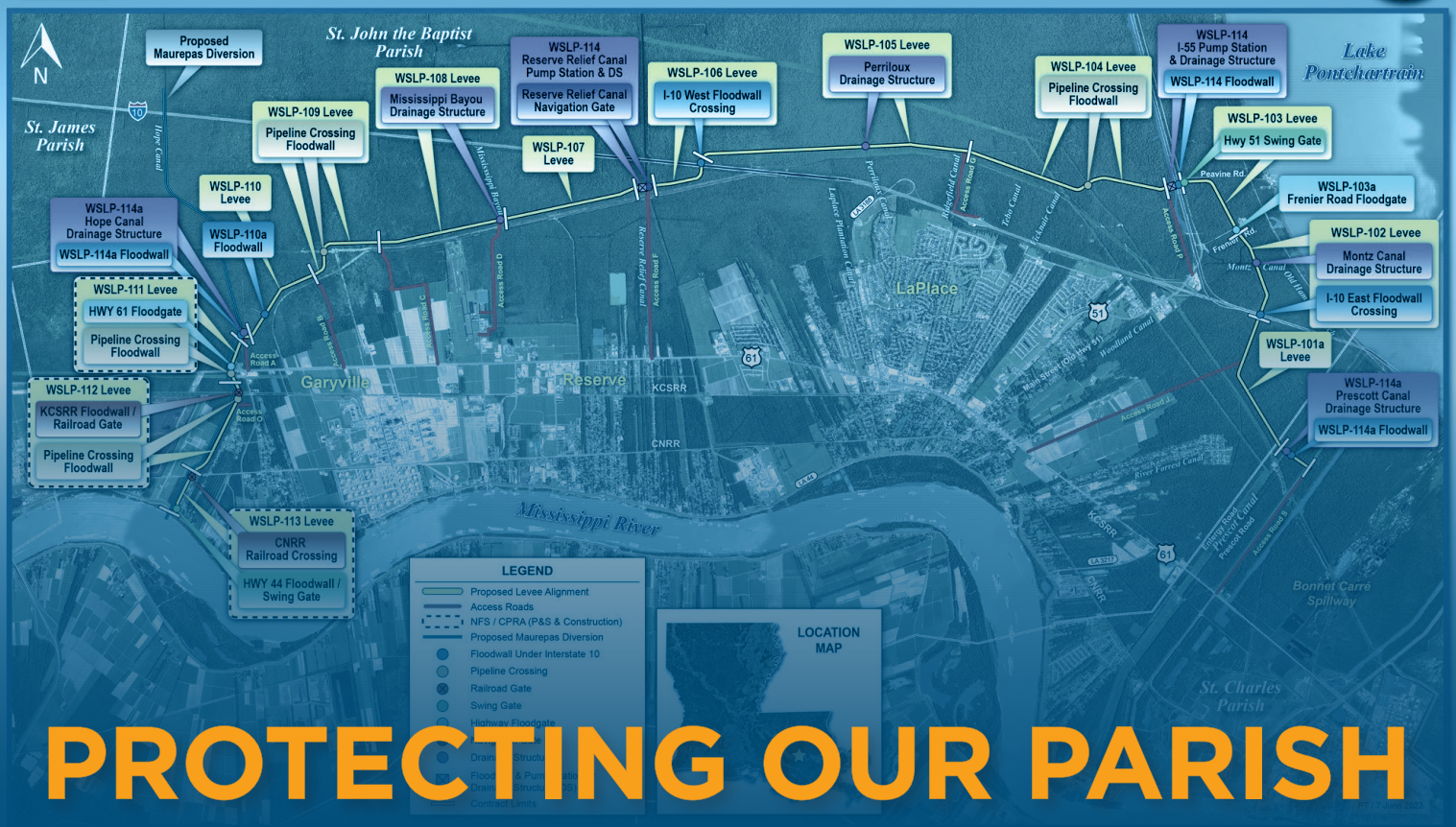
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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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West Shore Lake Pontchartrain



PROTECTING OUR PARISH

"The Levee Project will strengthen our region and reinforce that St. John Parish is positioned for long-term growth and resilience."

– Parish President Jaclyn Hotard







Construction of the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Levee Project


ngaging the Next Generation:
Love the Boot Week in St. John
the Baptist Parish
K-8 Environmental Education & Awareness Initiatives
Presented by:
Michelle Jenkins Miller
Economic Development Director
St. John the Baptist Parish


ONE WAY
ST. JOHN










NOLA
NOW





HEART OF




ST. JOHN
3










ST. JOHN
GREEN TEAM
Fractions

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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FOR UTILITIES EMERGENCIES CALL (985) 652-6338

GET ALERTED ABOUT EMERGENCIES, SUCH AS SEVERE WEATHER, BY TEXTING SJPWEATHER TO 888-777