

As we welcome the New Year, take a minute to give thanks for all we have been blessed with during the past year. With reference to our City, we continue to plan to meet the needs of our citizens and businesses alike. We will partner with other agencies and our business community to gather input and ideas so that our planning is fresh and “on track”.

During the year 2012, the City will embark on many projects that will enhance the quality of life for our citizens and neighbors alike. There are projects that we will aggressively pursue that are no longer a want, but a need. These projects not only include our common infrastructure such as streets, water, sewer, gas and drainage systems but also recreation.

We can no longer discuss how important these improvements are, we must now create revenue streams with the approval of our citizens so that our community can continue to thrive as, “the best kept secret in south Louisiana”. Since the creation of these revenue streams results in an increase of our financial support of our community, it is important that our citizens involve themselves in their local government and stay informed of the approval process for all these projects.

We will soon be reporting to our City Council relative to the enhancement of our sewer system in North Thibodaux. Our north system will soon reach its capacity relative to the pumping of wastewater to our treatment facility off Talbot Avenue. This dilemma requires us to act by either replacing the force main from North Thibodaux or constructing a new treatment facility. It is critical that we continue to move aggressively to address this issue. Over the past 30 years, the majority of commercial and residential growth in our City has occurred in North Thibodaux and continues to this day. In my opinion, to ignore this issue that has been lingering for years is a neglect of our responsibilities as your representative in local government and as steward of your interests as a citizen and taxpayer of the City.

In addition, the election date (March 24TH) continues to draw near for our sales tax proposal to re-invest in our recreational infrastructure in the City. The citizens group led by Mr. Neal Swanner continues to assist in educating our citizens and business owners on the details of the plan. We will make every effort to assure that our citizens make an educated decision relative to this proposition. Of course I certainly believe in the merits of this proposal in that it not only proposes an investment in “brick and mortar”, but more importantly, an investment into our youth and all those who have a passion for all the good that a solid recreational program creates.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Annette Fontana for all she has accomplished as President of the Chamber for the past year and to wish the best of luck to Ben Harang during his tenure as President for the year 2012