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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

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Parish Website Earns a Grade of “A+” from *Sunshine Review*

Lafourche Parish Government’s website has achieved a grade of “A+” from *Sunshine Review*, a non-profit organization dedicated to state and local government transparency. Lafourche Parish is now one of only three (3) parishes statewide with a perfect grade, making the parish eligible for a “Sunshine Award” in 2012. The parish improved from their website’s previous grade of “C-“, which was given because of a lack of specific information such as tax information and details on how to request public documents. Those details and more have since been added to the website.

“Providing this information is a vital service, and every citizen should expect the quality that Lafourche Parish has delivered,” said Kristin McMurray, Senior Editor of *Sunshine Review*.

Lafourche Parish Government’s Public Information Officer Brennan Matherne manages the website. Since taking over webmaster duties in 2009, Matherne has linked the Parish website with social media (Facebook & Twitter) and redesigned the website into what he calls a more “user-friendly” site.

“We have made some sweeping changes to our website in the last two years, and we continue to make changes and additions daily,” said Matherne. “Ultimately, it is now easier for members of the public to find anything on our website, and that was our main goal.”

Redesigned in 2010, the Lafourche Parish Government website (<http://www.lafourchegov.org>) features several new aspects including improved navigation, a *Video TourBook*, and a list of recent updates. Earlier this year, permit application checklists online were also posted online. These checklists, coupled with the posting of permit applications and supplemental forms, allow residents to download, print and fill out entire permit application packets from home before visiting the Permit Office.

"Brennan has responded quickly and remarkably to the challenge of upgrading the website to include additional constituent services," said Parish President Charlotte Randolph. "Users can now more easily access information about their parish government. Our transparency has now been enhanced through technology."

Residents can view *Sunshine Review*’s evaluation of Lafourche Parish and other local and state government websites at <http://www.sunshinereview.org>.