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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

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Permit Office “Open House” to be Held Wednesday, August 31

The Lafourche Parish Government Department of Planning & Permitting will hold a Permit Office “Open House” on Wednesday, August 31, 2011, at 5:00 P.M. at the Mathews Government Complex (4876 Hwy. 1). All residents, contactors and business interests who need assistance with permitting to complete projects and anyone who plans to build in the near future should attend. The Permit Office staff and state legislators will be on hand to help educate the public and answer questions on the permit process and discuss ways to improve it at the local and state level.

“This is our effort to proactively address some of the issues we’ve heard recently concerning building permits,” said Parish President Charlotte Randolph. “Councilmen have reported concerns from constituents, and we are encouraging these individuals to attend this meeting to allow us to work with them to successfully complete their projects.”

During this event, residents will be able to meet with permit technicians on an individual basis for consultation and guidance. State legislators will be on hand to help define specific aspects of Act 12 to be addressed in next year’s legislative session, including the composition of the state code council and the method for constituents to participate in the code study requested under House Bill 53, authored by State Representative Jerry Gisclair. Additionally, residents can participate in group discussions on specific local laws that can be revised, and local officials will also discuss the new option for residents to pay for permits with credit cards, which is coming soon.

“We intend to discuss Act 12 with area legislators to inform them of the issues residents are raising and how they can be addressed in the next legislative session,” added President Randolph. “This event is an opportunity to dispel the misinformation that has spread concerning the permits process in Lafourche.”

This event is the second public meeting held as part of the public awareness campaign entitled, *Before You Build It... Get a Permit!*, which was launched in April 2011. The first meeting was held in April when Lafourche Parish Government hosted several state officials, including the State Fire Marshal and Department of Insurance Commissioner, in an effort to educate the public on building codes. As part of the campaign effort, permit application packets were placed on the parish website, advertisements were placed on area classified cable channels, and signs were posted at area businesses.

For more information on the Permit Office, please visit the Lafourche Parish Government website at <http://www.lafourchegov.org>. There you can find permit applications, application checklists, and all supplemental forms needed to complete your permit application.