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**Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish President**

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Lafourche Parish Government – Department of Public Works May Release**

One of the main focuses of the Charlotte Randolph administration has been to improve parish-wide drainage. The Lafourche Parish Department of Public Works, under the direction of Ray Cheramie, has been making vast strides to reach this goal. "Our employees are doing an excellent job to improve our drainage," said Randolph. Hundreds of miles of outfall canals have been dug, drainage ditches throughout the parish have been swept, and major renovations to pump stations have been completed, with more on the way. Cheramie said, "We have the equipment, we have great employees, we're working with other agencies throughout the Parish, and we're getting the job done."

#### **Levees and Drainage**

Construction was recently completed on the Fantastic Acres Pump Station. Two 36 inch pumps were installed in addition to a 48 inch pump at the site, allowing the station to pump 110,000 gallons per minute to drain an area from Lockport to Matthews. A final inspection was completed in mid-April and contractor L.L.&G. Construction is going through their final punch list for this project. The Bowie Pump Station project in northern Lafourche was completed last week according to Cheramie. Public Works Employees performed much of the in-house work in 2005, while waiting for a contractor to drive pilings for the pump station. Pilings were driven earlier this year, and renovations continued with Public Works employees installing a 36 inch pump and motor and a platform for the pump. These renovations have replaced the Tauzin Pump in that area. The Bowie Pump Station now drains an estimated 125 acres in the Ward 6 area and affects approximately 50 residences.

The department of public works is also working diligently to repair and upgrade levees throughout the parish. Numerous servitudes have been given to the parish by private land owners in order to allow employees and equipment to access the levee systems. Current levee projects include the Serigny/Mobley Levee system, the Charlie Wallace Levee system, Del Mar Levee system and many other projects throughout the Parish. Public Works employees are awaiting servitude agreements and permits for a number of additional levee projects.

#### **Roads and Bridges**

Public Works has compiled reports on a number of mechanical bridges in the central and southern portions of the Parish. Cheramie said he will utilize Public Works employees to begin addressing the recommendations of the State review. Additional improvements beyond the State's recommendations have been identified and will be addressed accordingly. A schedule of regular maintenance reports will begin June 1, 2006; bridge tenders will perform inspections and submit their findings on a regular basis determined by the amount of traffic on the bridge. Public Works will also be conducting an updated traffic count on some of these same bridges to create an updated bridge curfew. The Department of Public Works hopes to accommodate the public better during school time and at peak hours.

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Charlotte A. Randolph	Parish President	Mark Atzenhoffer	District 5
Tyrone Williams	District 1	Lindel Toups	District 6
Michael Delatte	District 2	Phillip Gouaux	District 7
Michael Matherne	District 3	Brent Callais	District 8
Tommy Lasseigne	District 4	Daniel Lorraine	District 9

The Parish continues its comprehensive road project. To date, five projects have been completed, including projects in Raceland, Bayou Blue, Kraemer/Chackbay areas, and the Ward 10 area. Bids for projects in Raceland and Des Allemands will be opened on May 18, with work scheduled to begin in late June. Road projects in the lower Bayou Blue area and the west Thibodaux areas are scheduled to begin advertising for bids in the very near future.

For further information please contact the Department of Public Works at (985) 537-7603



Improvements to the Fantastic Acres Pump Station in Council District 6 have been completed. Public Works employees will construct a protective covering for the pump station.



Public Works employees are construct a protective shed around the completed Bowie Pump.



Mobley Levee improvements in Council District 9.



Public Works employees work in Council District 2 to clear the reservoir adjacent to the South Choctaw Levee. The levee has been keyed and the spoil dredged from the canal is used to fill the key.



In Cooperation with the North Lafourche Levee District, Public Works employees have recapped the levee along Bayou Folse in Council District 5. The levee is graded to make regular maintenance much easier.



Public Works employees have improved the 40 Arpent Canal Levee near the Larose Pump Station in Council District 7. The Levee has been moved a short distance away from the reservoir to allow easier maintenance of the levee.