



10/09/17

---

---

---

# October Director of Economic Development Report

*St. John the Baptist Parish*

---

---

---

---

Jerry W. Jones Jr., Director

October 9, 2017

Greetings,

To the Committee, Stakeholders, and citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish, I would like to thank everyone who is in attendance today for our monthly Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting. As the **St. John the Baptist Parish 44th Andouille Festival** draws near, we continue to work diligently as a Parish staff to add the final touches to this festival. We have held meetings, discussed how to move the festival forward and now we are ready to go forward in anticipation for another record crowd.

The Festival is set to take place from Friday, Oct. 13, through Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017. In true Southeast Louisiana style, this year's festival will include a Second Line Parade, The Andouille Run, Dang Douille Eating Contest, Andouille Gumbo Cook-off and more at the St. John the Baptist Community Center, located at 2900 Highway 51 in LaPlace.

In addition, the festival will be accepting food pantry donations for hurricane victims along the Gulf Coast. For those that bring a canned food item to donate, admission will cost just **one dollar** on Friday night only.

For a complete list of festival events, registration forms and more information, please visit [www.andouillefestival.com](http://www.andouillefestival.com). An overview of the weekend's event can be found below.

**Friday, October 13, 2017:**

*6 p.m. - Midnight*

- \$1 Night – bring a canned good and adults get in for just \$1
- First-Ever RTC/Home Furnishing Football Fan Zone

**Saturday, October 14, 2017:**

*11 a.m. - Midnight*

- First-Ever RTC/Home Furnishing Football Fan Zone
- Gumbo Cook Off
- Cooking Demonstrations
- Dang Douille Eating Contest
- Children's Art Tent

**Sunday, October 15, 2017:**

*11 a.m. - 9 p.m.*

- Annual Andouille Run
- Gospel Tent
- Second Line Parade
- Children's Art Tent

The Andouille Festival will feature music, festivities, great times and food cooked with andouille, the delectable sausage for which the festival was named. Thousands of people gather each year at the parish tradition to participate in the many events the festival has to offer.

This year's music lineup features Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band, Mojeaux, 4 Unplugged, Faith Becnel and the Music Krewe, Catch22, Chee Weez, Phat Hat, Gina Brown & Anutha Level, Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers, DJ Captain Charles, Zulu Walking Warriors and Mardi Gras Indians, Changing Times Band and more. Additionally, official

festival posters and Pay-One-Price Ride Bracelets are currently available for sale at the St. John Parish Economic Development Department, Matherne's Supermarket in LaPlace and Don's Supermarket and Greg's Supermarket in Reserve. Posters are also available at Roussel's Antiques and Jewelry in LaPlace.

Follow the Andouille Festival on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/andouillefestival](http://www.facebook.com/andouillefestival). Our goal for Sponsorships is **\$100,000.00**. Our most recent sponsorship totals received are approximately **\$102,325.00** cash and total with in-kind included is approximately **\$113,890.29**. We are excited to announce that we have exceeded the sponsorship goals and monies are still trickling in!

Attended the **Rotary Club of LaPlace** monthly meeting. Our meeting highlighted areas we believe we can grow the community and chapter. Our District Governor of Rotary International spoke at the last meeting highlighting our chapter and expressing ways we can grow. The Economic Development Department presented her with a gift basket filled with St. John the Baptist Parish engraved items.

**Industry Career Day 2017, will be** hosted by St. John the Baptist Parish Library and the South Central Louisiana Technical College-Reserve campus. The event will be held on October 19, 2017 at both the library and Technical College. The library has now connected with both the Technical College and Chamber of Commerce. We continue to have planning sessions in order to make this day special. This is an awesome opportunity to take students from our school system and assist in opening their minds to options in the **workforce**. The team is working diligently on this event.

We are continuing to work on scheduling meetings with **Retail** Shop owners, and **Commercial** Real Estate Agents. We would like to hear from them on how to best assist them with growing our commercial sector. Also, we will address debris and trash that may be visible on their properties. We look forward to working with them and assisting in addressing their concerns. We would like to build a consensus with them in efforts to get up-to-date information on **available** properties.

Please visit our new website. This site will continue to evolve. Once again please review our website at **[www.OpportunityStJohn.com](http://www.OpportunityStJohn.com)**. Moving forward we will update the site to include available properties in St. John.

We will continue to work on other efforts to grow the **economic viability** of our parish. Thank you all for continuously sharing your ideas. I truly appreciate them. It is important we highlight what contributing **advantages** economic development has on St. John the Baptist Parish. If you have any other ideas that you would like to share please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Kind Regards,

*Jerry W. Jones, Jr.*

**Director of Economic Development**

1801 W. Airline Hwy.  
LaPlace, Louisiana 70068  
O: (985) 652-9569  
C: (504) 228-1164  
[Jerry.jones@stjohn-la.gov](mailto:Jerry.jones@stjohn-la.gov)  
[www.sjbparish.com](http://www.sjbparish.com)

