St. John the Baptist Parish’s location among a superior transportation infrastructure and adjacent to rivers, lakes, and bayous, makes it a hub for new businesses and recreational purposes. With an integrated transportation network that strategically links the United States, Canada, Mexico, and South America, St. John Parish plays an important role in the continued development of the Greater New Orleans region.

**BUSINESS CLIMATE**

A great deal of progress has been made toward recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Isaac and other hurricanes experienced since Hurricane Katrina. This progress is being directed by input from our citizens who helped create our recovery plan that is shaping our community’s future.

Our efforts to provide a secure economic future for our parish through job creation and business retention are meeting with great success. Businesses are expanding and billions of dollars of new investments are on the horizon. Through coordination with our state and local officials, new investments that complement existing business and industry are being targeted. To help foster the entrepreneurial spirit in our community and assist existing enterprises, a Business Training Center was established at South Central Technical College, River Parishes Campus through a partnership between St. John Economic Development Department, Louisiana Economic Development—Small and Emerging Business Development, Louisiana Small Business Development Center, and South Central Louisiana Technical College, River Parishes Campus.

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

St. John the Baptist Parish is located in a major corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans with various means of transportation such as air, rail, ship, and truck. This makes it an ideal location for industrial sites and new businesses. Additionally, the beauty and uniqueness of our communities along River Road draw tourists from around the world to visit historical plantations, swamp tours, churches, and cemeteries that deliver the story of St. John’s rich history and culture. It is a sportsman’s paradise with access to rivers, lakes and bayous, boating, neighborhood parks and pools.

**KEY COMMUNITY FOCUSES**

In coordination with our state and local partners, efforts to restore and improve St. John the Baptist Parish beyond its pre-Isaac status are well on their way to attainment. Community Development Block Grant funds are available to residents to complete repairs to their homes and businesses, while critical infrastructure improvements are in design for construction this year. The needs of small businesses are being addressed through an Ambassador Business Outreach Program and a Business Training System offering access to resources and training.

**Growth in industry**

- **Marathon** – $3.9 billion expansion - Created 200 new fulltime positions and 80 contract employees. $600 million investments in the near future.
- **NalcoEcoLab** – $18.7 million capital investment in 2012 - 22 direct jobs, 167 indirect jobs.
- **AirProducts** – Completed Hydrogen Expansion Project in Garyville ($1 billion project).
- **EuroChem** – $1.5 billion investment, 200 new direct jobs, 1,378 new indirect jobs.
- **Pin Oak Terminals, LLC**
NEW PHYSICAL ASSETS

- Completed feasibility report for West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Levee Project ($718 million) to protect St. John the Baptist Parish, I-10 and I-55 from flooding.
- Homewood Pumping Station
- Riverlands Drainage Project
- Persimmon Drainage Project
- Reserve Drainage Project – Phase I
- Line Under MS River
- Redbud Drainage Pump
- Regala Gymnasium
- St. John Community Center

KEY PEOPLE

Torri Buckles, St. John the Baptist Parish ED
t.buckles@sjbparish.com

FIND OUT MORE

http://sjbparish.com
http://facebook.com/sjbparish
http://twitter.com/SJBPGov

PRODUCED BY