

CITY OF ABBEVILLE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the City of Abbeville Newsletter. This quarterly update is designed to keep our community informed and connected while highlighting the work and people that make Abbeville a special place to live and work.

This first issue takes a look back at 2025, capturing the projects, conversations, and milestones that shaped our city throughout the year. From infrastructure improvements and meaningful discussions to community events and recognitions, these highlights represent the collective efforts of residents, partners, volunteers, and the City of Abbeville team.

Moving forward, this newsletter will be released quarterly to share updates on City projects, community initiatives, upcoming events, and the work being done to support a safe, accessible, and thriving Abbeville. We hope it serves as a helpful resource and a snapshot of the progress being made in our community.

Thank you for staying engaged and being part of Abbeville. We look forward to continuing the conversation and sharing what's ahead.



Conversations That Brought Us Together

In 2025, Coffee Talks created space for open conversation between City leadership and the community, bringing local voices together to share insight, ask questions, and stay connected.



Abbeville General hosted Coffee Talk with State Legislators.



Starbucks was a great location for the principals.

Voices that Matter

March

State Legislators: State Senator Bob Hensgen, State Representatives Troy Hebert and Jacob Landry

April

Mark Poche, Vermilion Parish Police Jury President

May

Abbeville Fire Department, Louisiana State Fire Marshall Thomas Bourque and Nick Witt

June

Jeremiah Bolden & Reggie Hilts, Abbeville City Marshalls

July

Abbeville school Principals, Jennifer Frick & Ryan Abshire

August

Vermilion Reach Group

September

Cattle Festival President, Karen Guilbeau

October

Giant Omelette Celebration Leadership

November

Mayor Roslyn White



Abbeville City Court played host to Coffee Talk with the Marshalls.

Coffee Talks take place on the second Thursday of each month. Grab a cup of coffee and be part of the conversation.

Around Abbeville

Project Highlights

Throughout 2025, the City continued investing in infrastructure, safety, accessibility, and long-term planning to better serve residents and visitors. From major utility improvements to public spaces and planning initiatives, these projects represent ongoing efforts to strengthen the city today while preparing for the future.

 **Water Plant Renovations**
ACTIVELY UNDERWAY

 **ADA-Compliant Parks**
ACTIVELY UNDERWAY

 **MLK St Sidewalk Project**
DELIVERED

 **Graceland Project**
DELIVERED

 **Airport Runway Lighting**
DELIVERED

 **City-wide Strategic Master Plan**
DELIVERED



Water Plant Project: City secured \$10.4 million in outside funding.



\$100k in outside funding to improve sidewalks along MLK Drive.



Funded through the State Capital Outlay funds.

Big Wins!

RECOGNITIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2025, the City hit new milestones and received recognition for various ongoing initiatives, shining a positive light on Abbeville.



Abbeville Downtown Project was this year's Community Development winner, recognizing the impact of ongoing revitalization efforts.

*** LMA Community Achievement Award**

Outstanding Community Improvement

*** Top Water System Grade**

Third Consecutive year

*** Improved fire rating from PIAL**

Class Fire 2 rating, from a Class 3.

*** APALA Excellence Award**

Walkability action plan implementation

*** Abbeville Mayor's Youth Council**

Full year of leadership and service

*** Joined the Metropolitan Planning Organization**

*** Implementation of GIS Mapping and Work Order System**

*** Expanded Camera & Fiber Initiatives**

		100 / 100 = 100%
CITY OF ABBEVILLE WATER SYSTEM Parish: VERMILION PWSID: LA1113001 2024 Water Grade		A
	Points deducted for federal violations, which include Treatment Technique and Maximum Contaminant Level Violations, may pose a public health risk over an extended period of time. Max of 30 points	-0
	Points deducted for state violations, which include no water operator, inadequate water disinfection, and boil notices and water outages, may lead to other issues of concern if not resolved. Max of 10 points	-0
	Points deducted for lack of financial sustainability which can affect operations and maintenance of the water system. An effective water rate can provide for the repair, maintenance, and future replacement of infrastructure. Max of 10 points	-0
	Points deducted for operation and maintenance deficiencies noted during water system inspections, which may affect the water quality being distributed to consumers. Max of 15 points	-0
	Points deducted for infrastructure deficiencies noted during water system inspections, which may lead to unsafe drinking water and/or water service disruption. Max of 20 points	-0
	Points deducted for customer complaints received by the water system and/or the Louisiana Department of Health, which are confirmed to be a water quality or quantity issue in the water system. Max of 10 points	-10
	Points deducted for levels of iron and/or manganese greater than the secondary maximum contaminant levels. These levels do not pose a health risk but may cause undesirable water quality issues. Max of 5 points	-0
	Points granted for having an asset management plan; a storage assessment and maintenance program; well assessment & maintenance program; participation in management training; or participation in a capacity development program. Max of 10 points	+10

City's water report from State



2025-2026

Abbeville Mayor's Youth Council

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Abbeville High School</u> | <u>Vermilion Catholic</u> |
| Makayla Williams | Trinity Gaspard |
| Alayna Henry | Nicholas Cope |
| Hai Khau | Liam Manafi |
| Karleigh Harris | Maverick Griffin |
| CeCe Franques | Carson Touchet |
| Jennifer Prejean | |
| Aaliyah Pillette | <u>North Vermilion High</u> |
| Bryson Cartwright | Baylor Meaux |
| Jaylie Williams | Charlie Morrison |
| Jah'Zyern Green | Ashton Alleman |
| <u>Erath Middle</u> | <u>VCA</u> |
| Karlee Stewart | Ava Hoag |

Moments that have brought us together

Community Events

From long-standing traditions to new moments, events throughout the year brought our community together, offering something for everyone and representing just a snapshot of the many ways Abbeville connects and celebrates.



Deep Sicilian roots celebrated at Abbeville's Sicilian Festival.



Grand Réveil celebrated Abbeville's French heritage and tradition.



First cattle drive down Concord Street marked the 75th Cattle Festival.



Santa cruises by airboat during Abbeville's Cajun Christmas.



Abbeville glowed during the Christmas Stroll and Auntie Belle rides in Downtown.



The Art Expo celebrated local art and culture.



Sounds filled Magdalen Square with free music and community



Uniquely U celebrated self-expression and community connection.



Blooms and community came together at the Daylily Festival.

Never Miss an Event

Stay up to date on what's happening in Abbeville. Scan the QR code to view the City's event calendar, sign up for event emails, and find links to all City pages.



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Community Snapshot

This snapshot highlights the people behind City services and the workforce that supports Abbeville each day.

City workforce:

The City employs 155 individuals across all departments, including City Hall staff, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, the Abbeville Police, Fire Department, and City Court.



Leadership Transition

Interim Fire Chief Appointed

Following the retirement of Fire Chief Jude Mire after 36 years of dedicated service to the Abbeville community, the City appointed Doris Langlinas, Jr. as Interim Fire Chief, effective December 18, 2025. Chief Langlinas brings 28 years of experience with the Abbeville Fire Department and will oversee day-to-day operations while the City proceeds with the Civil Service process to select a permanent Fire Chief. Emergency response services continue without interruption, and public safety remains a top priority.

2025 Anniversaries

1 Year: Phyllis Tomino Theresa Trahan Andre' Marcantel Kathy Sellers Chad E. Chadwick Shawn Sundry Eric Istre John Mayer Randall Toups Orion Skinner	20 Years: Marie Buteaux 21 Years: Brady S. Barras Charlene A. Domingue David E. Landry 22 Years: Jace M. Hebert Timothy Beau Barras	26 Years: Steward Head Lionel Alpough Richard Broussard Patrick D. Ashley 27 Years: Jerry Harrison, Jr. 28 Years: Sarah Alpough Kevin Ardoin Doris J. Langlinas, Jr.	40 Years: Sandra S Faulk 45 Years: Trena Touchet 47 Years: Shirley Bertrand
5 Years: Christopher Landry Travis P. Lange Angela Lemoine Jeremy Deville	23 Years: Adam D. Espeut Michael L. Soirez April D. Bodin Jeremiah Bolden	29 Years: Charlene Beckett 31 Years: Selisa Hebert	
10 Years: Denise Mire Timothy T. Wilson Scott Roberson	24 Years: Kathleen Faulk Christopher J. Graciana Christopher Blair Menard	32 Years: Kelly J Mire	
15 Years: Charles Miller	25 Years: John Joseph Lee Schexnaider Damian R. Landry	37 Years: Mary Rogers	

2025 Retirements

Maxia Hutchinson	7 years
Cory Bourque	25 years
Macy Broussard	27 years
Jude Mire	36 years

Abbeville Main Street

Abbeville Main Street continued to be a driving force behind downtown revitalization in 2025, supporting preservation, small businesses, and community identity. That work was recognized through National Main Street Accreditation via Louisiana Main Street, gaining \$18,000 in Community Brand Development technical assistance funding, and national recognition when Dupuy's Seafood & Steak was selected for the "Backing Historic Small Restaurants" grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, supported by American Express.



Legislative Wins

Bringing State Support Home

The City of Abbeville secured more than \$1.3 million in state funding, reflecting strong advocacy and collaboration at the state level. These investments support critical electrical and utility system improvements that will strengthen infrastructure, improve reliability, and enhance safety citywide.

State-supported investments include:

- ✳ **\$750,000 for electrical distribution improvements, planning, and construction**
- ✳ **\$250,000 for repairs and upgrades to the electrical distribution system**
- ✳ **\$300,000 for broader utility system upgrade**

Together, these funds will help modernize essential systems and support long-term, dependable service across Abbeville.

2025 By the Numbers

- 10**
New businesses opened in 2025
 - \$160,000**
Awarded for Charity Street/LA 14 safety planning
 - \$1.3M**
Outside funding secured/awarded for electrical and utility improvements
 - \$3.4M**
Road fund established with state support for local street improvements
 - \$10.4M**
Outside funding secured/awarded for Water Plant improvements
- In total, several millions in outside funding were brought into Abbeville to support infrastructure, utilities, safety, and capital projects.**

Progress to Watch in 2026

Citywide Street Improvements
Priority streets in each district have been identified, with engineering and scope development underway ahead of bidding and construction.

Electrical System Upgrades
State-funded improvements will move forward to strengthen the electrical grid and upgrade essential utility systems citywide.

Lyman Street Project
Planning and design work will move forward to improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity.

Charity Street (LA 14) Safety
Focus on planning future Safety improvements along this key corridor with funding awarded through the Federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program.

Looking Ahead in 2026

Continuing the Work Together

As Abbeville moves into 2026, the focus remains on building momentum from the progress made throughout 2025. With new projects underway, continued investment across all districts, and additional funding already secured, the year ahead presents important opportunities to strengthen infrastructure, support local growth, and enhance quality of life for residents. At the same time, the City will continue actively pursuing outside funding at the state and federal levels to bring additional resources home. This will allow for improvements to streets, utilities, public spaces, and essential services throughout Abbeville. Together, these efforts reflect a continued commitment to thoughtful planning, responsible investment, and serving the community now and into the future.



Upcoming

Dates to Remember



- February 3rd – City Council Meeting
- February 12th – Coffee Talk
- February 17th – Mardi Gras
- March 3rd – City Council Meeting
- March 12th – Coffee Talk
- March 13th – Time Capsule Burial
- March 12th – Sounds on the Square
- March 17th – City Council Meeting
- March 19th – Sounds on the Square
- March 21st – Sicilian Celebration
- March 21st – Vermilion Art Expo
- March 26th – Sounds on the Square
- March 28th – Spirit Fest

Coming Next Quarter

The City of Abbeville is committed to keeping our community informed, connected, and engaged. This Newsletter is one way we share the work happening across the city while highlighting progress, recognizing the people behind City services, and keeping residents informed about projects and events that impact daily life.

Released quarterly, future editions will take a closer look at City departments, sharing their stories and the important work they do to serve Abbeville each day. You can also expect continued updates on citywide initiatives, infrastructure projects, economic development, and the community events that bring us together.

The next issue will be released on April 1st, and we invite you to stay connected and join us as we continue sharing what’s happening across our city. Thank you for being an engaged part of the Abbeville community. We look forward to continuing the conversation.



Subscribe to Our Newsletter



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