

VOLUME 1
APRIL 2026

CITY OF ABBEVILLE NEWSLETTER



What's Inside This Issue

City updates and highlights from January through March 2026.

- Key decisions, updates, and milestones from the first quarter
- Progress on infrastructure, utilities, and public safety
- Department updates and community initiatives
- Community growth, local progress, and upcoming events



From City Hall

Community Connections

The first quarter of 2026 brought opportunities for residents, students, and community partners to engage with city leadership. Programs like the Abbeville Mayor’s Youth Council and Coffee Talks continue creating meaningful conversations about the future of our community.

Investing in Abbeville’s Future Leaders

Over the past three months, members of the Abbeville Mayor’s Youth Council continued building their understanding of local government and civic responsibility through meetings.



Members heard from the Vermilion Parish Registrar of Voters Office, State Representative Troy Hebert, and the Vermilion Parish Sheriff’s Office Cyber Crime Lab, gaining meaningful insight into the election process, how a bill becomes law, online safety, and the important role parish and state agencies play alongside municipal government in serving residents.



Through these conversations and experiences, students are developing a clearer understanding of how local, parish, and state leaders work together to support daily government operations and strengthen the Abbeville community.



City Leadership Update

Mayor Roslyn White was recently elected Vice-Chair of the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority (LEPA) Board. LEPA represents municipal electric utilities across Louisiana and works to ensure reliable and affordable energy for communities like Abbeville.



Coffee Talks

Conversations with the Community

Over the past three months, Coffee Talks have continued creating space for meaningful conversations across our community.

In January, we stepped into Abbeville High School to visit with the senior class – tomorrow’s leaders – and discuss civic engagement and the importance of being involved in shaping the future of our city.

In February, we gathered at Abbeville General Hospital for a conversation with Jamie Hebert. The discussion focused on the impact of having the University of Louisiana at Lafayette nearby.

As one of the nation’s top research institutions, UL Lafayette brings innovation, workforce development, and economic opportunity to our entire region. The discussion focused on how Abbeville can benefit from that proximity and why encouraging students to pursue higher education close to home strengthens our local workforce and future leadership.

In March, we changed things up by hosting the Cajun Caravan, a group traveling throughout Louisiana to learn more about Cajun culture and heritage. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase Abbeville through conversation, connection, and community pride.

Across Abbeville

Infrastructure & Projects Across Abbeville

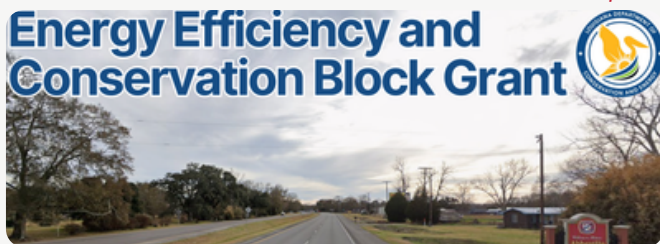
The City of Abbeville continues investing in infrastructure improvements that strengthen utilities, enhance safety, and support long-term growth across our community.



Park Playground Improvements

Playground improvements have been completed at McKinley Scott Park, Herbert Williams Park, and Godchaux Park. New rubber mulch playground surfaces were installed to create a secure, accessible surface that will not shift or wash away over time.

Status: Complete



Ramsie Baumgardner Lighting Upgrade

In January, the City announced the Ramsie Baumgardner Street Lighting Upgrade, a \$497,325 grant-funded project that will replace approximately 650 outdated halogen streetlights with energy-efficient LED fixtures throughout Abbeville.

Status: Announced January 2026



Water Treatment Plant Project

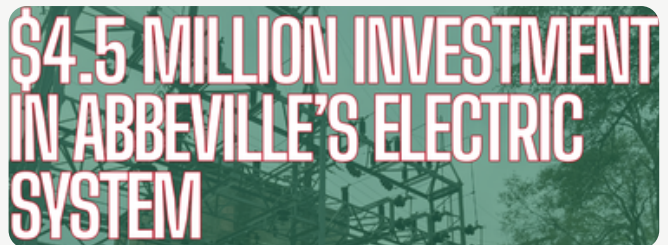
Work continues on upgrades to the City's water treatment plant, a project first announced in 2025 and supported by \$8.7 million in outside funding, including support from the Louisiana Water Sector Program. Improvements include upgrades to mechanical systems, installation of a new clarifier to enhance water quality, and improvements to the facility's emergency generator.

Status: Ongoing

Electrical Infrastructure Improvements

The City secured \$4.5 million in federal funding to relocate and consolidate two existing electrical substations. These upgrades will modernize key components of the municipal electric distribution system and strengthen long-term service reliability for residents and businesses.

Status: Announced March 2026



Citywide Street Improvements

Priority streets across the city have been identified for upcoming improvements, with engineers currently developing project scopes ahead of bidding and construction. Streets identified include Old Kaplan Highway, Wildcat Road, Washington Street, and additional streets to be finalized.

Status: Starting Soon



Transportation Alternative Program Grant

The City was awarded \$1,108,222.76 through the Louisiana Transportation Alternatives Program for the Broadmoor, Rodeo, and Alonzo sidewalk project. The project will construct continuous sidewalk corridors, improve pedestrian safety, and increase connectivity between neighborhoods and community destinations.

Status: Announced March 2026



Public Safety & City Services

The Abbeville Police and Fire Departments continue working daily to protect residents, respond to emergencies, and support the safety across our community.

Abbeville Fire Department

The Abbeville Fire Department remained active in the community this quarter. Firefighters attended Career Day at Vermilion Catholic, Head Start Parade and participated in the Boucherie at Abbeville High School. Firefighters also continued training throughout the quarter to maintain certifications and readiness.



During the quarter, the department conducted routine hydrant testing and flushing across the city and worked with state and parish officials during the temporary burn ban to help promote fire safety across the area.



Abbeville Police Department

During the first quarter of 2026, the Abbeville Police Department continued responding to calls for service, conducting investigations, and maintaining a visible presence throughout the community. Officers worked daily to respond to emergencies, assist residents, investigate cases, and support community safety efforts across the city. Their work reflects the department's ongoing commitment to keeping Abbeville safe while building trust with residents and businesses. In addition to responding to calls, officers remained active in patrol, investigations, and community presence, working to ensure public safety and maintain quality of life throughout the community.



Officers participated in a two-day domestic violence response training during the quarter. The training included real-life case scenarios designed to help officers better respond to and handle domestic violence calls. Trainings like this help ensure officers are prepared to respond to difficult situations with professionalism, care, and the appropriate resources.

Now Hiring JOIN THE TEAM!

The Abbeville Fire Department is currently hiring. Individuals interested in a career in public service and emergency response are encouraged to apply.

- Competitive Salary
- Supplemental Pay
- Retirement
- 100% Paid Health Insurance



**PICK UP AN APPLICATION FROM MAIN STATION
210 WEST VERMILION ST**

First Quarter Activity

January

Calls for Service: **483**

Arrests: **39**

February

Calls for Service: **426**

Arrests: **27**

March

Calls for Service: **448**

Arrests: **28** (Through noon March 27th)



Community Highlights

Over the past three months, Abbeville has stayed busy with events that celebrate our culture, creativity, and community spirit. Each event represents just a glimpse of the many ways our community continues to connect and celebrate together.



MLK Celebration
The community gathered downtown to honor and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Career Day at Vermilion Catholic
Students had the opportunity to learn about careers in public service.



Abbeville General Hospital 60th Anniversary
The City of Abbeville joined Abbeville General Hospital in celebrating 60 years of service to the community.



Head Start Mardi Gras Parade
Head Start families celebrated Mardi Gras with a parade at A.A. Comeaux Park.



Black History Program at the Library
The community gathered to honor and reflect on Black history, culture, and achievements.



James A. Herod Black History Program
Students honored Black history through performances, art, and presentations.



Abbeville High Boucherie
Students helped keep a long-standing cultural tradition alive through hands-on learning.



Cajun Caravan Visit
Visitors stopped in Abbeville to learn more about Cajun culture, history, and local traditions.



Sounds on the Square
Live music returned to Magdalen Square for the spring concert series.



Time Capsule Ceremony
City buried the time capsule as part of the City's 176th anniversary of incorporation.



Read Across America
The Mayor spent time reading with students at James A. Herod Elementary during Read Across America.



Vermilion Arts Council Art Walk
Local artists and vendors filled Concord Street as the community gathered for the Art Walk.



Sicilian Celebration
Heritage and culture were celebrated in downtown Abbeville during this annual event.



Vermilion Student Arts Expo
Downtown was filled with art, music, and local talent during the expo.



Eastridge Expansion Groundbreaking
Leaders and community members gathered to celebrate the start of the Eastridge expansion project.



Spirit Fest
Families gathered at Magdalen Square for food, music, and community fellowship.

Dates to Remember: April – June 2026

- April 1 - Community Meal
- April 3 - St. Theresa Passion of Christ
- April 3 - City Offices Closed - Good Friday
- April 4 - VFW Cake Bingo
- April 7 - City Council Meeting
- April 9 - Coffee Talks
- April 9 - Sounds on the Square
- April 18 - Community Clean Up
- April 18 - Farmers Market
- April 21 - City Council Meeting
- April 25 - Volleyball Jamboree/Spring Carnival
- May 2 - Early Voting Begins
- May 5 - City Council Meeting
- May 7 - National Day of Prayer
- May 9 - Early Voting Ends
- May 14 - Coffee Talks
- May 15 - Abbeville High Graduation
- May 16 - Farmers Market
- May 16 - Election Day
- May 18 - Vermilion Catholic Graduation
- May 19 - City Council Meeting
- May 25 - City Offices Closed - Memorial Day
- May 30 - Daylily Festival
- June 2 - City Council Meeting
- June 11 - Coffee Talks
- June 14 - Lt. David Hardy Memorial Fundraiser
- June 16 - City Council Meeting
- June 19 - City Offices Closed - Juneteenth
- June 20 - Community Wellness Event
- June 20 - Farmers Market

Never Miss an Event

Scan the QR code to view the City's event calendar, sign up for email updates, and access important City links.



Employee Service Anniversaries



January – March 2026

The City of Abbeville is proud to recognize employees celebrating service anniversaries this quarter. Their dedication and commitment help keep Abbeville running every day.

City Hall

Charlene Becket – 30 years
March 18

City Court

Judge Richard Putnam III – 17 years
January 1

Sandra Faulk – 41 years
January 1

Selisa Hebert – 32 years
February 1

Abbeville Police

Kale Dehart – 24 years
January 21

Timothy Bourque – 7 years
January 23

Michael Goodrich – 1 year
January 17

Jeremy Deville – 6 years
February 18

Shawn Sunday – 2 years
February 8

Lester Luquette – 33 years
March 2

Richard Darby – 1 year
March 3

Robert Duncan – 1 year
March 19

Public Works

Virginia Kelly – 19 years
January 25

Guy Poche – 5 years
February 1

Phyllis Tomino – 2 years
February 15

Charles Miller – 16 years
March 3

Larry Briggs – 15 years
March 9

Abbeville Fire

Adam Espeut – 24 years
January 11

April Bodin – 24 years
January 11

Jace Hebert – 23 years
January 8

Charlie Domingue – 22 years
March 22

Chad Chadwick – 2 years
March 6

Corey Broussard – 16 years
March 24

Eric Meaux – 17 years
March 20

Patrick Ashley – 27 years
March 19

Randy David II – 1 year
March 21

Employee Retirements

The City of Abbeville proudly recognizes the following employees on their retirement and thanks them for their years of dedicated service to our community. Their contributions have made a lasting impact on the City of Abbeville and its residents

Christopher Blair Menard
25 years – Abbeville Fire

Christopher J Graciana
25 years – Abbeville Fire

From the Mayor and City Council

As we move into the next quarter, the City of Abbeville remains focused on the projects, services, and programs that keep our community moving forward. From infrastructure and public safety to parks, community events, and economic development, our goal is to continue making investments that improve quality of life for our residents.

NEW BUSINESSES

First Quarter 2026

Amy Nails – Charity Street

Faith Filled Farms – North St. Charles Street

Dine N Go – Charity Street

Vermilion Veterinary – South State Street

Magnolia Family Health – Ardly Drive

Precision Air Conditioning – Stansberry Lane

Vermilion Rental Service – Stansberry Lane

We are grateful for the employees who serve our community each day and for the residents and businesses who stay involved, attend meetings, and support local events throughout the community. Your engagement helps shape the future of Abbeville.

We look forward to sharing more progress, more events, and more community milestones in the months ahead. Thank you for being part of Abbeville.

Mayor Roslyn White
Abbeville City Council



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