

## ST. TAMMANY PARISH STATUS REPORT

Contact Suzanne Parsons Stymiest at 898-5243

**DEBRIS PICKUP:** Parish officials have established a Debris Hotline for citizens to report remaining debris piles that need to be removed. Effective immediately, residents with debris concerns can **call 985-898-2323**, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call takers will record information about the types of debris remaining and the locations of debris piles. That information will be forwarded daily to the Shaw Group, which is coordinating debris pickup in St. Tammany. Parish work crews are not collecting debris, but forward information to Shaw, which then contacts its sub-contractors with the information.

Debris must be placed on the parish right-of-way but must not block a drainage ditch or traffic. Contractors can only collect within 30 feet of the roadway's center line, so it is important that debris be placed at the property line. Debris must also be separated into discrete piles of vegetative debris and construction/demolition debris.

Debris along state highways is collected by state agencies. State Highways are numbered roadways such as Hwy. 11, Hwy. 190, Hwy. 1085, Hwy. 3228, etc; some state highways also have names. Citizens who reside on these streets should contact the state Department of Transportation and Development at 985-375-0100.

Debris inside city limits is collected by contractors in each municipality. Residents inside municipal boundaries who have debris concerns should contact their local city hall.

Refrigerators and other appliances, called "white goods," are collected by the Environmental Protection Agency and should be reported to EPA no later than Jan. 2, 2006, at 1-800-401-1327.

No date has yet been established for final debris pickup on parish roadways, but residents should move it to property lines as soon as possible.

**ANIMAL WELFARE DONATIONS:** A bank account has been set up for those who wish to donate to PAWS. Donations can also be made through their website, [www.stpas.org](http://www.stpas.org). All contributions are tax deductible. **Make checks payable to:** Proponents of Animal Welfare in St. Tammany • Broadway Bank • P.O. Box 17001 • San Antonio, TX 78217-9925

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** The Louisiana Department of Labor is now accepting unemployment claims weekdays 8am-4:30pm at the Slidell City Auditorium, 2056 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and the Mandeville Community Center, 3090 East Causeway. You may also call 1-866-783-5567 to submit your unemployment claim. The Baton Rouge office is also open. If you have evacuated out of state, you can apply for assistance in the state you are in.

**BUSINESS RELOCATION ASSISTANCE:** If you have St. Tammany Parish commercial space available for rent or need assistance finding space, please contact the Economic Development Foundation in St. Tammany at 985-809-7874, 985-960-7034, 985-960-7060 or e-mail [breine@stedf.org](mailto:breine@stedf.org). Information is also available from the St. Tammany Parish Business Development Center at 985-898-2761 or email [lcolclough@stpgov.org](mailto:lcolclough@stpgov.org).

**ST. TAMMANY BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTER:** The St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce is now serving as the St. Tammany Business Recovery Center. Information is available online at [www.sttammanychamber.org](http://www.sttammanychamber.org) or for pickup at the office. The West Chamber office is located at 610 Hollycrest Blvd. in Covington. They are offering the following services:

- Business "Gap Grant" applications through LABI
- SBA loan assistance
- Donated goods and services through the US Chamber Center for Corporate Citizenship
- Employment opportunities
- Available properties
- IRS information
- Government contract information
- Unemployment information

**SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER RELIEF FUND:** This fund has been created through a partnership between the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. Its purpose is to provide gap funding to small businesses by covering some expenses not covered by insurance. All affected small businesses in the affected region of the Central Gulf Coast can apply for assistance through the fund. Businesses must have had less than 100 employees on August 29, 2005; must be a private-sector, for-profit entity; and must be in one of the federally-designated disaster parishes or counties. Donations to the fund may be made by credit card through the LABI website at [www.labi.org](http://www.labi.org). **Checks can be made out to:** Small Business Disaster Relief Fund • 402 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street • Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

**CONSUMER FRAUD AND PRICE GOUGING:** Attorney General Charles Foti is committed to helping those affected by Hurricane Katrina. If you wish to file a Hurricane Katrina related complaint such as price gouging or home repair scams,

please contact: **Office of the Attorney General • Consumer Protection Section** • P.O. Box 94005 • Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9005; or call 1-800-351-4889, fax (225) 326-6499.