

**Information Discussed at the Meeting on
Tuesday, 08/23/2016 at 6:00 pm Merrydale Elementary School**

Councilwoman Erika Green District 5

(225) 389-4831 Website <https://brgov.com/dept/council/mc05.asp>

- If your flooded vehicle was towed and you do not know where it is, then call Councilwoman Erika Green at 225-389-4831. You must have the last digits of the license plate? or SSN?
- Debris removal has started. BRC handles business debris
- Call 311 for missing garbage carts.
- 34 city buildings and properties were damaged, 16 fire departments and Greenwell Springs Library obtained the most damage.
- Sewage has given a 30 day grace period. You will not be penalized in paying your bill.
- Free Sheetrock removal this weekend, must put your name on the list. Call Janea Jamison, MPA (Legislative Aide to Councilwoman Erika Green) at 225-389-4831.
- Charles Kelly Center is a distribution center from 9am – 5pm.
- Received inquiries about having flooded homes condemned. Warning that you should not be too quick to condemn your home. It is a lengthy process. You must call 311 to report it, an agent will inspect the home then the City Council must review and approve it.

Representative Edmond Jordan District 29

(225) 284-5888 Website http://house.louisiana.gov/H_Reps/members.aspx?ID=29

- Free tetanus shot available tonight. A lot of people are going to the hospital with infections from stepping on nails, cutting or scraping themselves on debris.
- You should get a tetanus shot, if you have not had one in 10 years.
- Protect yourself when handling debris.

Senator Regina Barrow District 15

(225) 359-9400 Website <http://senate.la.gov/senators/senpage.asp?SenID=15>

- Acknowledged the Council on Aging for taking care of the senior citizens during this disaster.
- Let them know if you are having problems with assistance or getting help.

FEMA

- FEMA is onsite for questions and changes to your application (ex: address)
- You must file with your insurance and get a **Denial Letter** from your insurance company. Otherwise, you will be denied by FEMA.
- If you are denied by FEMA, then do not destroy the letter. It will state the reason for the denial.
- You can appeal the denial. There is a time period of 60 days and it must be in writing. However have facts to substantiate such as contractor receipts, quotes, repair cost and etc.
- If you are denied by FEMA, then you must go the Small Business Association (SBA).
- If you are denial by FEMA and the SBA then, you must return to FEMA. The State of Louisiana has **grant** money for this purpose under “Other Needs Assistance”.
- FEMA does not look at your income when accessing a payout.
- To be considered for a FEMA trailer, call the helpline and report that you are having a hard time finding a place to stay.
- Ask for a new inspector (insurance), if you are not happy with your current inspector.
- FEMA is hiring, to apply, go to the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Small Business Association (SBA)

- If you are denied by FEMA, you can apply for a SBA loan with a 30 years term and < 2% interest.
- Application is 5-6 pages.
- A homeowner can borrow up to \$200,000.
- A renter can borrow up to \$40,000.
- A business can borrow up to \$2,000,000.
- You must have a minimum income to qualify for a SBA loan.
- SBA looks at your expenses and income when applying for a loan.
- In some cases, the SBA can combine your current mortgage with a SBA loan to fix your house resulting in one mortgage payment.

School Board

- School has been postponed to start on Tuesday, September 06, 2016.
- Displaced families should call the School Board at 225-922-5400.
- Superintendent Drake stated that they need to know where all students are so they can route them for September 6.
- Initially school uniforms will not be enforced and/or a child will not be penalized.
- St. Vincent DePaul will be handling the issuing of school uniforms for impacted students.

Red Cross

- Will have 30 shelters.
- Ramping up feeding of hot meals, cleanup kits, water and snacks. A central location is to be determined.
- 30 million dollars have been allocated to Red Cross for this disaster.
- Per Mr. Chip Taylor, trucks and vans will be riding through streets with meals. Also, they need volunteers. Contact Mr. Taylor at 985-634-4833 to have meals delivered to your neighborhood and to volunteer.
- Did not provide much detail, but stated that if you get denied by FEMA then Red Cross can help call 1-800-redcross.

DSNAP

- Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) – help buy groceries due to lost income or damages following a disaster.
- Baton Rouge will start on Monday August 29 through Saturday, September 3 alphabet schedule (first letter of the last name): Ex: A – D. Monday, August 29th A-D.
- Check website <http://www.dcf.la.gov/DSNAP> , pre-register and there will be 4 sites.
- If you pre-register for a previous disaster, then you do not need to register.
- DSNAP is issued for 1 month but can be used up to 365 days.

Garbage Cans

- If your can was destroyed by the flood, then please call 311 for a new garbage can or recycling bin.
- They prefer to service the entire neighborhood at once in which they can get it out the next day.
- Individual deliveries will take longer.

Attorney General

- Beware of disaster scams (abuse, contractor and disaster fraud).
- Reputable contractors will not knock on your door soliciting work.
- Take pictures of the contractor, his/her car, license plate and work performed.
- Price gauging is illegal during a disaster, therefore please report it.
- Beware of housing discrimination of rental properties. It can be verbal, over the phone, toward the handicap or families with kids. Please report it at 1-800-351-4889.
- Free Legal Assistance is available for Louisiana Flood Victims at the Greenwell Disaster Site Hotline 1-800-310-7029

Debris Removal

- Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for the Debris Removal and it is FREE.
- Some companies are charging residents \$600; again you can get this service for FREE!
- You can also take it to the North Landfill yourself, however you must show your driver's license and it is FREE.

EBR Mosquito Control

- With the Zika Virus concern, help us to help you by dumping all standing water.
- Dump water out of the flooded debris.
- If you call by 2:00pm, then Mosquito Control will spray your house the next day for FREE!
- Mosquito trucks are spraying 7 days a week.