



CANDIDATES FOR ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL



**ST. MARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S GOAL IS TO
INFORM ★ EDUCATE ★ EMPOWER
VOTERS GOING INTO THE ELECTION SEASON**

WITHIN THIS DOCUMENT, YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THAT YOU, THE PUBLIC, ASKED TO THE CANDIDATES CURRENTLY RUNNING FOR ST. MARY PARISH COUNCIL. THESE RESPONSES WERE COPIED EXACTLY AS SUBMITTED AND HAVE NOT BEEN ALTERED IN ANY FORM.

OUR OFFICE STANDS FIRM AS AN APOLITICAL ENTITY, ALLOWING EACH CANDIDATE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY AND PLATFORM TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE PUBLIC



IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 18, 2023

EARLY VOTING

GENERAL: NOVEMBER 3, 2023 - NOVEMBER 11, 2023

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**YOUR VOTE
YOUR VOICE**

St. Mary Parish Council Districts

Legend

- Precincts
- Council Districts

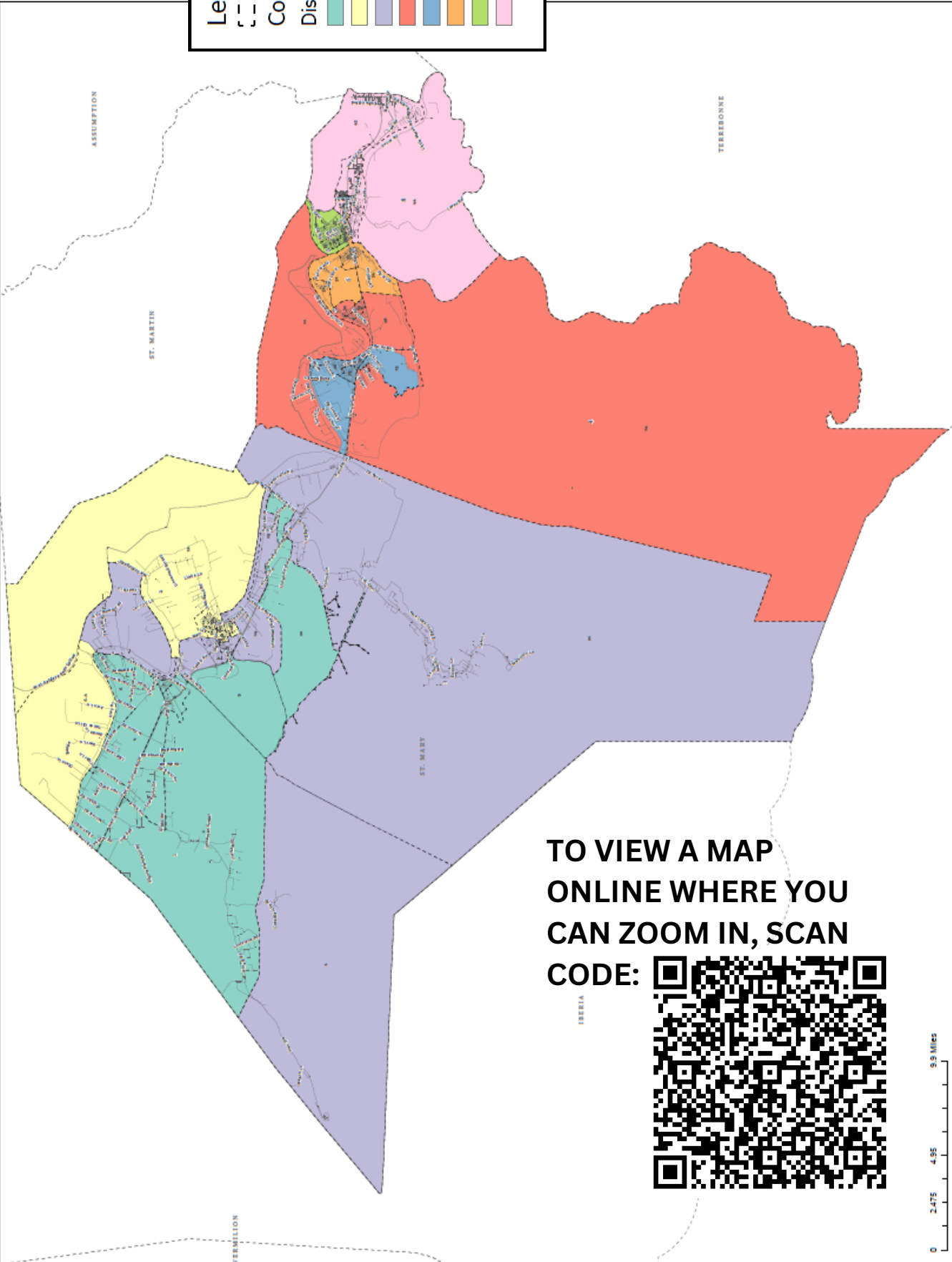
District

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

ASSUMPTION
ST. MARTIN
ST. MARY
FERMILION
IBERIA
TERREBOUNE



LOUISIANA



**TO VIEW A MAP
ONLINE WHERE YOU
CAN ZOOM IN, SCAN
CODE:**



ST. MARY PARISH



RODNEY OLANDER

CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 3

337-578-0124

PARTY: REPUBLICAN

ROLANDER@STMARYPARISHLA.GOV

RACE: WHITE

GENDER: MALE

My name is Rodney Olander and I am running for re-election to the St. Mary Parish Council District 3 seat. I would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for giving me the opportunity to participate in this forum by responding to the questions in this publication. Also, thank you to everyone for taking the time to view the questions and answers submitted by the candidates in this publication. For those of you that don't know, District 3 includes the areas starting from the Calumet Cut going West, a portion of Verdunville, Centerville, Burns Point, Garden City, a portion of Franklin, a portion of Baldwin, a portion of Charenton and Cypremort Point.

I am a lifelong resident of St. Mary Parish, currently residing in Garden City for the past 10 years. I have worked in the commercial fishing industry for the past 44 years; a family tradition that spans over several generations. I am one of ten children and my parents instilled in us honesty, pride, responsibility and most of all importance of family. I am married to my wife of 30 years, Nell Verret Olander of Franklin. She is a retiree of the St. Mary Parish School Board with 35 years of dedicated service. Together we have three children and five grandchildren and our greatest sense of pride and joy are those times spent with our family as we look to God as a source of guidance and strength.

I have served as a member of the St. Mary Parish Board of Adjustments for 7 years, serving as chairman for 4 of those years. I was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force for the past 6 years and served as chairman. I am a member of LSA, Louisiana Shrimp Association, for 20 years and serve on the Board. Prior to being on the Council, I attended the meetings for many years and feel that knowledge is a powerful asset and it gives me the ability to understand, analyze and make the best decisions in my life and the lives of others. My reasons for seeking re-election to the council are many, but what motivates me most is the opportunity to share my thoughts and ideas while taking the time to listen to the concerns of the people of this parish. Because I have served on Parish Council for the past 4 years, I know how important compromise and cooperation are in order to accomplish desired results.

I am asking the voters of this parish, to step up and re-elect a person, such as myself, to be a leader and pave the way for future generations. I am your typical, hard-working, family man who wants a chance to serve the citizens of this parish to make a difference in parish government. Please allow me to be your voice on Parish Council by voting for #91, Rodney Olander, on October 14th. Thank you for your consideration and support. God Bless.



RODNEY OLANDER

CONTINUED

What is your reasoning behind wanting to serve on the St. Mary Parish Council?

I have always been an avid follower of local and state government. I strive to learn as much as possible about any topic that presents itself. I feel that knowledge gives me the ability to understand, analyze and make better decisions in my life and the lives of others. What motivates me most about serving on Parish Council is the opportunity to give of my time and share my thoughts and ideas to improve the lives of the people in this parish. I feel that my strongest attribute is my character and ability to face challenges with logic and reason which would allow me to be able to work well with members of the council in order to get the job done. I have served on the St. Mary Parish Board of Adjustments for 7 years and the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force for the past 6 years. I am currently serving as St. Mary Parish Councilman District 3 for the past 4 years which makes me confident in my ability to serve as your Parish Councilman for a second term.

If elected, what is your plan to work with the Parish Government and the municipality of your district to bring new businesses to our Parish?

I will continue working with our municipalities as I have over the past 4 years. I am pro-business and believe it is vital to our Parish to promote all new businesses whether it is small businesses or large corporations. I have worked with our state elected officials in the past to bring new business to the Parish.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for our Parish and how do you propose to tackle that challenge?

In my opinion, one of the biggest challenges for our Parish is that the residents are leaving to seek better opportunities for jobs, housing and entertainment in other parishes. Also, the citizens of this Parish should not have to be concerned about their safety when going about their lives and frequenting the businesses in our Parish. They should also be able to know that their property will be protected from theft and their neighborhoods are safe from crime. Our Parish has many wonderful attributes and the promotion of tourism is something that could generate interest for future businesses to locate here, especially because of the many waterways in the Parish. Losing the residents of this Parish has been an ongoing problem for years and I welcome any suggestions from our residents as to how we can solve these issues and grow our Parish.



RODNEY OLANDER

CONTINUED

Do you believe lawsuits against the energy industry would harm St. Mary Parish's economy? Why or why not? And would you work to prevent these lawsuits?

Any lawsuits against our energy industry would be detrimental to our economy in this Parish. I would oppose any lawsuits that would harm our industry in St. Mary Parish in the future.

There are still a lot of drainage and roadway issues that exist around St. Mary Parish. How do you propose Parish Government aid in improving those issues?

I have always been a proponent of improving our roadways and drainage. Recently I have worked with our C.A.O. for the purchase of an asphalt zipper and new asphalt truck so that we are able to start doing our own repairs and chip sealing some of our existing roads. I work extremely well with our drainage department whenever residents contact me with complaints about ditches that need cleaning out. Because of my previous experience, I have been able to aid in making the improvements to several of the boat landings.

If re-elected, I intend to continue to push forward on future projects by working with our State Senator and Representative with whom I have a good working relationship. There are still many roads and bridges that are in need of replacement or repair.

How could the Parish Council support more things to do for children in our area?

Over the past 4 years, I have supported the local Rec Districts by funding the new pavilion at the Centerville Park and the new pavilion at Broussard-Harris Park in Franklin. I have worked with the Rec District and the School Board for future projects at the Centerville baseball field. I have helped with the funding for the Caffrey Park improvements. Our children are a fundamental part of our parish community and I will always support those projects that are needed.

What are your plans to support the local businesses already in existence in our Parish?

Established businesses need to know that there will be no more additional tax burdens placed on them. Everyone in the parish needs to support their local businesses and work together to grow those businesses. I am also a major proponent of the commercial shrimping industry which is on the verge of collapse. I have been going to Washington DC for the past 6 years to meet with lawmakers in an attempt to keep this industry profitable and intact because this industry is vital to our Parish's culture and economics. I will continue to fight for this industry and all other industries that need support.



RODNEY OLANDER

CONTINUED

In your opinion, what are the TWO most important qualities that candidates for Parish Council should possess?

I feel the two most important qualities to possess are knowledge and dedication. I have always been an avid follower of local and state government. I strive to learn as much as possible about any topic that presents itself. I feel that knowledge gives me the ability to understand, analyze and make better decisions in my life and the lives of others. Because of my interest in Parish Government, I have attended the parish council meetings for many years prior to serving as Councilman and had the opportunity to meet and speak with many people to gain their perspective on many topics. Also I have shown my dedication, experience and ability to work with others by serving on the St. Mary Parish Board of Adjustments for the 7 years making decisions that have a positive impact for the residents of St. Mary Parish. I pride myself on being able to find solutions and make the tough decisions for positive resolutions. I would like the chance to prove that I would be a knowledgeable, dedicated and assertive voice for the residents of St. Mary Parish Council District #8 for a second term in office.

What would be the most immediate change that you would push for in our Parish?

I would encourage the entire council to cooperate and work together in order to reach solutions that would be for the betterment of the people of St. Mary Parish instead of constantly being in disagreement with each other and accomplishing nothing. We, as elected officials, have a responsibility to the people that we serve to come together as a Council, men and women, and work to the best of our ability to prevail in what needs to be done.

In the event of the return of lockdowns, what is your stance on the lockdowns when it causes local businesses and our children to suffer?

I am definitely not in favor of lockdowns of any sort as it would be detrimental to the education and mental wellbeing of our children. Also, our businesses cannot survive another shut down and neither can our economy.

“I AM YOUR TYPICAL, HARD-WORKING, FAMILY MAN WHO WANTS A CHANCE TO SERVE THE CITIZENS OF THIS PARISH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PARISH GOVERNMENT. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO BE YOUR VOICE.”



PETER SOPRANO

CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 3

PARTY: INDEPENDENT

RACE: WHITE

GENDER: MALE

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My name is Peter Soprano. I was born & raised in Charenton. I have 3 children, a Son & 2 Daughters & 3 Grandchildren 1 Grandson & 2 Granddaughters with Becky Caro Soprano. I was self employed over 35 yrs as a woodworker, cabinet maker, contractor. I spent 2 yrs. building furniture in Madison Wisconsin for the condos above the Bloomingdale Bldg. in Chicago on Michigan Avenue. I came home in 1991 right before Hurricane Andrew. I served as an At Large Dist. 10 Council member from 200-2008 then was termed out. I spent the last 13 yrs prior to retirement at the Franklin Health Care Nursing Home Facility as their Maintenance Director. Working there with an in house Alzheimer unit changed my life & made me realize how precious & short life is. I have bought & renovated over 30 properties in & around District 3 in the Franklin & Centerville area of which I still own & maintain about 15 of.

My children & Grandchildren are here & I want the best we can give them in St Mary Parish. I will work with the Council & Parish President, listen to all sides of an issue & make my decision for a vote that serves the parish in the best way. As a prior council member I worked with the council & Parish President then to get a library in Centerville, build a triplex bldg. to serve our sewer, water, & fire districts, a walking track & playground in Centerville & Verdunville, paved sidewalks, built a nature walk on Alice C Road, & many other projects. I recently retired & purchased a 7300 sq ft bldg. in downtown Franklin where I will open a Gallery & Showroom for my woodwork & the work of other small businesses, & artists in the community in an effort to give them an outlet to sell their & my hand made Louisiana products, & will offer courses to children & adults in woodworking, sculpting, painting etc.

I believe you have to “Stand for Something or You'll Fall for Anything.” I stand for God, Country, my Family, & St Mary Parish!

Please Vote #92 Peter Soprano Oct 14th Thank you!

PETER SOPRANO

CONTINUED

What is your reasoning behind wanting to serve on the St. Mary Parish Council?

I served from 200-2008 as an At Large member. I am now retired & want to serve my Community this way again.

If elected, what is your plan to work with the Parish Government and the municipality of your district to bring new businesses to our Parish?

Have an open ear to our Economic Development Director, Parish President, etc.

Work with the Parish President, council members of the parish & municipalities to clean up derelict properties, remove unsafe bldgs., & attempt to keep our parish clean . When companies come in or send reps. in our area to do their due diligence prior to moving here they want to see clean areas, nice playgrounds for kids, they look at our grocery stores, churches, schools, entertainment, housing, hospital, etc.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for our Parish and how do you propose to tackle that challenge?

One of the biggest challenges will be to attempt to address the debt this parish has accumulated in the past 8 yrs. We will also have to find funding to close a portion of our landfill that has not been addressed by this administration after being warned many times that it will have to be addressed.

Do you believe lawsuits against the energy industry would harm St. Mary Parish's economy? Why or why not? And would you work to prevent these lawsuits?

I know little of this but would be willing to listen to those that have more knowledge of this & of course would do what is in the best interest of the parish.

There are still a lot of drainage and roadway issues that exist around St. Mary Parish. How do you propose Parish Government aid in improving those issues?

A lot of our road issues are drainage problems, ie., Water standing in roads, I have asked the parish many times to grade the shoulders so the water can go in the ditches. Water standing in the road is dangerous to drivers & destroys the road. We need to educate the public in the rural areas not to put their tree limbs etc in the ditch waiting for the parish to pick it up, this is a big problem. Would also make sure our royalty road funds are used properly as those funds are supposed to be used on road improvements.

PETER SOPRANO

CONTINUED

How could the Parish Council support more things to do for children in our area? The parish has built many playgrounds, walking tracks, ball fields etc., they also have recreation districts with the public serving as board members. I would support their endeavors. I recently retired, & purchased a 7300 sq ft bldg. on Mian in Franklin's Historical District by the Courthouse for a showroom for my wood work. I also plan to have woodworking classes for children & adults along with other trades & crafts people.

What are your plans to support the local businesses already in existence in our Parish?

I will work with the other businesses in the parish as I have always done, & now that I have a retail outlet I will work with the other businesses in downtown Franklin in the center of District 3. I was a self employed contractor for over 30 yrs. so I know the struggles of small business.

In your opinion, what are the TWO most important qualities that candidates for Parish Council should possess?

An ear to listen, Common sense, A mouth to speak the Truth & to stand for what is best in St Mary Parish.

What would be the most immediate change that you would push for in our Parish? Revisit the Planning & Zoning ordinances. I was the only Council member to vote against this ordinance as it was presented. It was modeled after an area in Texas that is not conducive to this rural South Louisiana parish need. Take a look at the Golf Course; which I was also the only No vote on. We need to also look at revisiting the grass cutting contract with the State. Our Maintenance Dept. needs to be updated with new equipment in order to do most of our repairs on equipment in-house. In order to accomplish this we have to pay our people better to attract & keep good people

In the event of the return of lockdowns, what is your stance on the lockdowns when it causes local businesses and our children to suffer?

I am against another lockdown!

“I BELIEVE YOU HAVE TO “STAND FOR SOMETHING OR YOU'LL FALL FOR ANYTHING.” I STAND FOR GOD, COUNTRY, MY FAMILY, & ST MARY PARISH!”



LESLIE “LES” RULF

CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 5

PARTY: REPUBLICAN

RACE: WHITE

GENDER: MALE

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Born on February 9, 1961, to Mr. Leslie Rulf, Sr. and Mrs. Lela Rulf of St. Mary Parish, Les grew up in a family setting that instilled in him a desire to help his fellow man, a deep appreciation of law and order, and a respect of nature, issues which have remained a part of his core beliefs to this very day.

Following his graduation from Berwick High School in 1980, Les worked as a welder at J. Ray McDermott Fabrication in Amelia, Louisiana. In 1984, Les began working for the St. Mary Parish Sheriff’s Office as a road deputy under Sheriff Huey Bourgeois. He then began working in 1990 for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, serving first as a field agent in the Enforcement Division, then as a Senior Agent Sergeant. In 2000, Les was promoted to District Supervisor Lieutenant, overseeing a 5-parish area that included St. Mary Parish, and occasionally served as Acting Captain of the 2-district Region. In 2014, Les retired from the LDWF and the public sector, but his commitment to public service continued since, as he has volunteered with the Morgan City Police Department Reserve Officer Program from 2015 to 2022; and then in late-2022, he began volunteering with the Morgan City Marshalls Office Reserve program.

As for private sector experience, Les formed his own business called L.R. Services, LLC, a week after his retirement in 2014 from the LDWF. He serves as a vessel captain for various public agencies and private companies, and his knowledge of the local waterways, along with his retention of a permit to carry a weapon, makes Les a valuable resource for agencies and companies.

Les has been married to the former Wendy Sheehan of Berwick for the last 41 years. They have two daughters, Sarah R. Melancon (Dylan) and Lesley R. Chauvin (Courtney) and are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren: Blake Melancon and Luke Melancon, Ahney Chauvin, Tanner Bissonnette, and Jaleigh Chauvin.

In 2019 the people of District 5 elected Les overwhelmingly as their new councilman, to act as their “voice.” Les followed through on his promises and delivered for his constituents by collaborating with the local state legislative delegation to secure over \$265,000 in state Capital Outlay funding for projects at Kemper Williams Park benefiting locals and tourists. He facilitated various highway projects, such as grass cuttings, road repairs, street cave-ins, and highway markings. Next, Les assisted with scheduling the cleaning of area drainage ditches and the removal of abandoned vessels in Bayou Teche. Also, he served on the parish’s airport advisory committee, ensuring that our community airport receives the necessary resources to remain operable.

With another four years, Les will continue working to improve roads, drainage, infrastructure and hurricane protection projects. He will help develop business and tourism opportunities and increase public and private collaborative efforts. He humbly asks for your support and vote (#97) to continue serving as the councilman for St. Mary Parish District 5.

LESLIE “LES” RULF

CONTINUED

What is your reasoning behind wanting to serve on the St. Mary Parish Council?

Public service is particularly important to me. In fact, my entire life has been one of public service, as evidenced by my years with the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, and as a volunteer with the Morgan City Police Department Reserve Program and currently with the City of Morgan City Marshall's Office Reserve Program. I like helping people and getting things done for them. It is my hope to continue serving the people with another four years as your St. Mary Parish Councilman for District 5. In addition, I want to finish the work that I started during my first term and, consequently, continue delivering for the people of the 5th District and the parish in the next four years.

If elected, what is your plan to work with the Parish Government and the municipality of your district to bring new businesses to our Parish?

As a parish councilman, it is my duty to represent the people of my district which means I must collaborate with others to get things accomplished, including bringing new businesses to the parish and helping existing businesses. Working with our state and federal delegations, state officials and agencies, parish officials, private businesses, and others is key to providing a suitable location for businesses to thrive. It is important that we do all that we can to provide a business climate that allows them to expand. We must ensure that taxes are not overburdensome, infrastructure (e.g., roadways, drainage, electricity, etc.) is adequate and dependable, housing is available for workers, and marketing of this parish is effective, just to name a few things needed. In addition, we need to keep our insurance rates low and affordable. Plus, it is critical that our two parish ports have the proper resources to keep them open for trade, especially in the export/import business.

All of this requires funding, so we should look at not only local funds, but we should make every effort to secure federal grant monies, especially infrastructure funds that have been recently appropriated to communities throughout the United States.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for our Parish and how do you propose to tackle that challenge?

Frankly, I see two big challenges facing the parish. One, insurance rates are climbing and making living in St. Mary Parish a hardship. Flood insurance and housing insurance is causing our fellow citizens to have to make painful decisions in what they can afford to do, buy, eat, etc. It's not fair, and I, as a parish councilman, can encourage our state's Insurance Department to do what needs to be done to lower homeowners' insurance rates and work with the federal delegation to lower the costs for flood insurance. Yes, I know that this is a tough challenge, but it is one that I accept and will work with my parish colleagues to get done. Also, housing is the other large challenge we face in St. Mary. We need places for our families to live in, and we need housing for employees. It will be difficult to attract businesses to St. Mary Parish if there is no place for their employees to live.

LESLIE “LES” RULF

CONTINUED

Do you believe lawsuits against the energy industry would harm St. Mary Parish’s economy? Why or why not? And would you work to prevent these lawsuits?

Simply stated, I am against lawsuits against the energy industry! During this past term in office, it was my honor to join my fellow councilmembers and vote 11-0 against pursuing a lawsuit against various parties in the energy industry. I think suing these businesses is counter to business sense, especially since the state of Louisiana permitted their work. I am definitely against these lawsuits because they crush businesses, and this will make oil companies leave this area, putting good, hard-working people out of work, and leaving no one to eat at our restaurants, buy merchandise/goods at local stores, and so on. The results of energy lawsuits will have a “domino effect” on other businesses, causing them to fail. Plus, we need to remember that with a smaller tax base, less tax revenue will be collected by governmental agencies. This will result in government reducing services to the people, such as street and drainage repairs, new bridges, recreation programs, law enforcement, fire protection, etc. This could cause our fire ratings to increase resulting in higher premiums for fire insurance.

There are still a lot of drainage and roadway issues that exist around St. Mary Parish. How do you propose Parish Government aid in improving those issues?

It is my belief that the parish can’t fix these problems on its own. We will need additional monies from Baton Rouge and from the federal government; and, we can apply for the recent infrastructure grants that have been awarded to communities throughout the United States and even to some entities in St. Mary Parish; however, St. Mary Parish has to be more aggressive in pursuing these funds to help pay the costs for these drainage and roadway issues. As a parish councilman, I believe that we must collaborate with other entities, like the drainage district, for example, to ensure that our drainage canals are clear of debris so waters can flow away from our homes and businesses. In addition, we must look at the state’s “Road Royalty” funds that come to the parish and are intended to maintain our roads. Instead of using them for grass cuttings, perhaps the parish administration should look to using these funds for roadwork so as to keep our vehicles from being damaged

How could the Parish Council support more things to do for children in our area?

The parish currently provides approximately \$2.2 million to parish recreation districts through a 3/10 cent’s property and sales tax. We should look at increasing funding to the recreation districts, not necessarily through an increase in taxes, but, rather, we need to look into grant funds to help fund activities related to children and even adults. Communities throughout the country are securing funds through private foundation grants and funding from state and federal government sources. The parish council needs to encourage the next parish administration to fight for these funds to help with programs directed towards the children of our area. I can tell you that I worked with our state senator Bret Allain II to secure over \$266,000 in funding from the state’s Capital Outlay Program to Kemper Williams Park for enhancements that will provide children with new things to do. Plus, parish councilmembers must work together as a whole and not District vs. District or East vs. West to get things done. For the parish to move forward, the entire parish must work together.

LESLIE “LES” RULF

CONTINUED

What are your plans to support the local businesses already in existence in our Parish?

I am a big believer in marketing and promotions when it comes to businesses; therefore, I would encourage a “Buy Local” program to energize businesses and locals to purchase from local businesses. Plus, as councilman, I would like to encourage our parish tourist commission and Chamber of Commerce to look into an aggressive promotional and marketing campaign to attract people to St. Mary Parish to shop at our stores and visit our local attractions. Plus, I encourage the Tourist Commission and Chamber to continue offering classes that can help businesses with promotions, marketing, business operations, etc. to help them grow and improve. In addition, we must make sure that the infrastructure is conducive to conducting business, such as nice roads and drainage (to prevent flooding).

In your opinion, what are the TWO most important qualities that candidates for Parish Council should possess?

Forget what a candidate should possess, let’s look at two important qualities that a council member should possess. A candidate can tell you what you want to hear to get elected; but, a sitting council member should have two important traits. One, the councilmember must be willing to work with others to get something done. I am confident that I have proven to people that I am able to work with others and that I do, thus getting things delivered for the people of District 5. Second, a parish council member should have a vision of where he or she would like to see his/her district and the parish in 5-to-10 years. Without some sort of idea of where you would like to be in the future, we will get nowhere. Only working together as an entire parish, and not with an East/West mindset, will get us to a future that is prosperous for all, including our children and grandchildren.

What would be the most immediate change that you would push for in our Parish?

I would like to see St. Mary Parish have a full-time parish president with an aggressive job description who could promote the parish throughout Louisiana, the country and world trying to recruit businesses and tourists to St. Mary Parish. In addition, this full-time parish president should be in BR and in Washington, D.C. chasing down dollars for the parish to help fund projects that will benefit the people and businesses of the parish.

In the event of the return of lockdowns, what is your stance on the lockdowns when it causes local businesses and our children to suffer?

I am against lockdowns because they hurt our economy by closing businesses and our children because they are not in school learning and interacting with other children. I will not support lockdowns. They do not work and have a horrible effect on our lives and freedoms.

“PARISH COUNCILMEMBERS MUST WORK TOGETHER AS A WHOLE AND NOT DISTRICT VS. DISTRICT OR EAST VS. WEST TO GET THINGS DONE. FOR THE PARISH TO MOVE FORWARD, THE ENTIRE PARISH MUST WORK TOGETHER.”



DOUGLAS STREETY, JR.

CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 5

PARTY: REPUBLICAN

RACE: WHITE

GENDER: MALE

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I was born and raised in Patterson, married to the love of my life and we had two incredible children. We have always been a Christian family and will continue to instill Christian values in our kids.

I have been in direct sales for 25 years and currently handle major accounts for Lafayette Electric, such as plants and factories. My sales career began during the summer of my freshman year at LSU where I sold books door to door in Virginia. I did very well that summer and was asked to come back the following summer as a student manager which also went very well. This continued every year for eight years in eight different states. Selling, recruiting, training and mentoring other students taught me a great deal about people and business. This experience has helped me tremendously with understanding and dealing with people from all different walks of life and has led to much success in my professional career. Dealing with people and getting along with others is a great strength of mine.

What is your reasoning behind wanting to serve on the St. Mary Parish Council?

Nearly everyone I spoke to about the parish council agrees that we need fresh new minds with new ideas to make this parish a better place to live and raise a family. I believe we can come together and create positive change for the entire parish as long as everyone is in it for the right reasons. I have been very involved and understand the business climate in St. Mary Parish; this is the type of mind I believe needs to be on this council, not career politicians.

If elected, what is your plan to work with the Parish Government and the municipality of your district to bring new businesses to our Parish?

I believe in less taxes, less government and more freedom. My plan is to create an environment that allows businesses to thrive. We can do this by providing tax incentives for businesses committing to move to St Mary Parish. If the tax breaks are enticing enough, people will not be able to resist bringing their business to our Parish.

DOUGLAS STREETY, JR.

CONTINUED

What do you see as the biggest challenge for our Parish and how do you propose to tackle that challenge?

The biggest challenge is lack of jobs. Manufacturers are not building or moving here because of the high taxes and the lack of people to fill the jobs needed to run a plant or factory. If the leaders of our communities worked together to make this parish, as a whole, more opportunistic for business, more people would move or stay here. We can eliminate a lot of wasteful spending that would allow for nicer amenities, which would also play a role in keeping people in the parish. Such results would allow bigger businesses to operate in our parish.

Do you believe lawsuits against the energy industry would harm St. Mary Parish's economy? Why or why not? And would you work to prevent these lawsuits?

Yes, I do believe lawsuits against our energy industry would harm our economy. The energy sector is our way of life and is responsible for most of the economic development in St. Mary Parish. It could set a negative precedent that other companies may recognize as a hostile environment which could push away companies from settling in our parish. Protecting our way of life, our energy based economy and the people that depend on it to provide for their families would be one of my top priorities.

There are still a lot of drainage and roadway issues that exist around St. Mary Parish. How do you propose Parish Government aid in improving those issues?

We would work with the Atchafalaya Basin Levee Board and the US Army Corps of Engineers to seek out the issues starting with the most severe ones. There are also FEMA grants and other State and federal assistance opportunities available that could provide much needed assistance to us to be able resolve such issues.

How could the Parish Council support more things to do for children in our area?

Creating STEM programs for kids would help provide a brighter future for them. Other than academic help, the recreation departments could use much improvement which would benefit our youth. Why can't we pull our resources together and build a really nice sports facility that the whole parish can use instead of all the individual lackluster ball fields?

What are your plans to support the local businesses already in existence in our Parish?

I will work to create tax breaks. All of our local businesses deserve tax breaks. High taxes on businesses causes higher prices which hurt the consumers.

DOUGLAS STREETY, JR.

CONTINUED

In your opinion, what are the TWO most important qualities that candidates for Parish Council should possess?

Integrity and Authenticity

A candidate should want to serve on the council to make the community a better place to live. It is also extremely important to be genuinely interested in the well being of the entire parish.

What would be the most immediate change that you would push for in our Parish?

I would push for more responsible spending of our tax dollars. A forensic audit would identify areas where wasted funds can be redirected appropriately.

In the event of the return of lockdowns, what is your stance on the lockdowns when it causes local businesses and our children to suffer?

I have always and will always be against lockdowns, they are unconstitutional. The previous lockdown caused far more harm than good. So many people and business were devastated by excessive mandates and lockdowns. I will encourage citizens to refuse to comply to any and all draconian lockdown orders enforced by unelected bureaucrats. The areas of the country that went on with their lives as usual, like Florida, thrived while liberal democrat run cities and states abused their citizens by treating them like criminals. The entire lockdown situation was created by the political elites so they could rig the 2020 presidential election and that is exactly what they did. If they try to bring lockdowns back, it will be because there is a critical election coming up in 2024.

“A CANDIDATE SHOULD WANT TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. “



MARK DUHON

CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 8

PARTY: NO PARTY

RACE: WHITE

GENDER: MALE

985-397-2520

MDUHON1@YAHOO.COM

My name is Mark Duhon I Am a Parish Councilman for St. Mary Parish District 8, I am seeking Re-Election on Oct.14th ballot . I come from a line of movers and shakers my father was the late Loylis "T-shoe" Duhon was well -known as a rice farmer and general contractor. He also served 25 Years on the St. Mary Parish Police Jury and Parish Council ,most notably known for his tireless establishing sewers, drainage systems and building roads throughout the Parish. My brother is the Late Gary Duhon, he served eight years as a Parish Councilman at Large.

I am a man of conviction who is honest ,and I speak up for what is right. I will do anything in my community to help . I have personally used my own equipment assisting families in removing dilapidated trailers in my community .I define myself as a resourceful individual ;often using my own resources to give back to the community . I deliver food boxes to the elderly that can't go pick them up been doing this for the past 3 years since it was brought to my attention. I've used my tractor and bush hog cutting the high grass along the foot of the Amelia Bridge to Allison Marine. I've donated two sandbagging machines to assist with sandbagging during high water .I've got better lights installed by the grave yard in Amelia so you can see the area at night. I helped get the new pump station installed In Amelia . I helped get the Duhon -by pass road fixed ,had reflectors and stripes put on the Lake Palourde road ,had railroad crossing repaired and numerous other things fixed to many to list. I've \lead the charge on securing grants of S287,000 for Amelia walking trails to get our children off the road to the recreation center and 5100,000 for the completion of the Morgan City Walking Trail, I've also secured S1,500,000 to overlay Lake Palourde Road in Amelia as well as \$400,00 in state cash and a Parish match of \$133,333 for emergency power for drainage pumps that serves Amelia.

I am a business owner, of Mark Duhon Enterprises for the past 30 years and now I'm semiretired I've built levees, dug canals , built pumping stations, roads and land clearing with my knowledge and skills, I am helping improve our infrastructure issues within our parish . We must revive industry ,attract more manufacturing jobs and provide regular maintenance to beautify our community. And I'm not afraid to stand up for the people .

I have been married to my wife Bonnie Duhon for 24 years we have 4 wonderful grandchildren . I have proven I know how to make St. Mary Parish a more beautiful, economically thriving parish for all. There's still a lot of work to be done in the Parish with my knowledge I will do everything in my power to get it done with your support please vote for me Mark Duhon number 104.

MARK DUHON

CONTINUED

What is your reasoning behind wanting to serve on the St. Mary Parish Council?

I grew up in a house of politics never thought this was something I would do but the people needed a change we were getting left behind in this district and I knew it was time for someone with my knowledge to get involved someone who's not scared to get out there and get the work done if I have to do it on my own I'll do the best I can.

If elected, what is your plan to work with the Parish Government and the municipality of your district to bring new businesses to our Parish?

Get with our business leaders & mayors, Economic development groups for the Parish our ports and see what everyone's opinions are .See what it will take to make this parish more inviting for businesses to come here, talk to other Parishes and see what changes they had to make and see if we can come up with a plan.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for our Parish and how to you propose to tackle that challenge?

Maintaining the quality of life in the parish and making improvements where we can , Work more closely with the school board so we can get quality education for our children .

Do you believe lawsuits against the energy industry would harm St. Mary Parish's economy? Why or why not? And would you work to prevent these lawsuits?

I am against the lawsuits in the energy industry ,it makes us less friendly to work with, if we file lawsuits against the companies they will not want to come here they will take their business elsewhere.

There are still a lot of drainage and roadway issues that exist around St. Mary Parish. How do you propose Parish Government aid in improving those issues?

Apply for grants and work on other government funding as it comes available.

How could the Parish Council support more things for children to do in our area?

Make improvements to our recreation centers make them more kid friendly, open on weekends so the children have a safe place to play when they are not in school.

What are your plans to support the local businesses already in existence in our Parish?

Parish council should have an open door policy and put businesses first.

In your opinion, what are the TWO most important qualities that candidates for Parish Council should possess?

The two most important qualities in a Parish Council I believe is being Honest and Hard working.

MARK DUHON

CONTINUED

What would be the most immediate change that you would push for in our Parish?

To get better drainage improvements and roads.

In the event of the return of lockdowns, what is your stance on the lockdowns when it causes local businesses and our children to suffer?

I am against lockdowns that make our businesses and children suffer. There needs to be a better way.

**“WE MUST REVIVE INDUSTRY ,ATTRACT MORE
MANUFACTURING JOBS AND PROVIDE REGULAR
MAINTENANCE TO BEAUTIFY OUR COMMUNITY.
AND I'M NOT AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR THE PEOPLE .”**



CARLO GAGLIANO, JR.

CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 8

985-714-5656

PARTY: NO PARTY

CGAGLIANOJR@GMAIL.COM

RACE: WHITE

GENDER: MALE

I am Carlo Gagliano Jr., a candidate for St. Mary Parish Council District 8- #105. I am a lifelong resident of Amelia. My parents are Brenda Gagliano and the “late” Carlo Gagliano Sr. I attended J.S. Aucoin, MCJHS, and graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1988, then I attended USL and Nicholl State University. My Children are Nicholas, Carson, Gracie, and one grandson – Baker. I have been employed with Acadian Ambulance for 28 years, for which the last 6 years I have worked as Community Relations Supervisor \ Business Development Coordinator\ Government Relations for the Bayou Region (St. Mary, St. John, St. James, Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption Parish). My job responsibilities are attending St. Mary Council meeting and work with local and parish government as a rep of Acadian Ambulance. As CRS \ BDC, I am a liaison for local fire, police, and high schools for Acadian Ambulance in the Bayou Region. I am the lead Region 3 Designated Regional Coordinator for the State of Louisiana during disasters which covers St. Mary Parish. I am Chairperson of the United Way for South Louisiana Fund Distribution Committee and on the United Way for the South Louisiana Board of Directors and Executive Committee. This organization helps fund many local food banks and organizations in St. Mary Parish. I have been president of the St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer Commission #1 since November 2019. I am graduate of the St. Mary Chamber of Commerce – Leadership St. Mary. During Leadership St. Mary I learned valuable information about St. Mary Parish industry, education, healthcare, and parish government.

I am the best candidate for District 8 Council because of the leadership positions I hold in the organizations I am involved in and my years of employment at Acadian Ambulance. I will be the best person for District 8 Council because of my 29 years as a paramedic which I had to handle very intense and critical situations. I will be the best person due to my current position at Acadian Ambulance which requires me to be able to intensely listen to the citizens, the parish government, and all customers we serve which I know will translate into the duties of councilman District 8. I am a dedicated leader and will be transparent. I value the concerns that the citizens St. Mary Parish may have, and I will diligently work toward solutions.

Thanks for your support and consideration for voting for #105 -Carlo Gagliano Jr. St. Mary Parish Council District # 8.



CARLO GAGLIANO, JR.

CONTINUED

What is your reasoning behind wanting to serve on the St. Mary Parish Council?

-My reasons for wanting to serve on St. Mary Parish Council is due to the past 6 years of attending the council meetings on a regular basis and witnessing division. I want to bring unity to our council and St. Mary Parish. I have served the community as a paramedic for over 29 years, and I want to continue serving the citizens in another capacity on the Parish council. Another reason I want to serve is because I feel I will bring respect, open mind thought process, and will be transparent to the citizens of St. Mary Parish. As president of St. Mary Water and Sewer Commission #1 I experienced control tactics and division created by a local leader in the community. There is no place for old school politics of strong arming and intimidation tactics in the St. Mary Parish Government.

If elected, what is your plan to work with the Parish Government and the municipality of your district to bring new businesses to our Parish?

My plans would be to work very closely with Evan Boudreaux- Director of Economic Development with the Acadiana and Bayou Region Economic development directors.

Plans to work with industrial organizations in St. Mary parish and neighboring parishes to attempt to bring business to the district 8 region. New business in surrounding regions would live, shop, and do business with local companies especially in and near District 8.

I feel being very vocal expressing what St. Mary Parish had to offer. We need to brag on St. Mary and speak positive. I understand it may cost to promote St. Mary Parish but it is worth it.

I feel working with Young Memorial \ SLCC to assist and communicate training opportunities and skills for our citizens. If feel if a business is thinking of moving to St. Mary Parish, they need to know they will have good, trained employees to hire to start their business and to maintain their business.

I would review tax structure to ensure we do not over taxing the businesses.

We must work together as a parish.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for our Parish and how to you propose to tackle that challenge?

I think the biggest challenge is promoting St. Mary Parish as a place to live and raise your family. Through the years I have heard there is nothing in St. Mary Parish for younger generation to stay and raise their family. Many friends and family moved out. We need to work to transition from a negative narrative to a positive narrative.

I think starts with changing the narrative of our local and parish government by becoming united with a message that St. Mary Parish Government works for the citizens of St. Mary Parish. I feel we need to promote, promote, and promote more, by working together as one.



CARLO GAGLIANO, JR.

CONTINUED

Do you believe lawsuits against the energy industry would harm St. Mary Parish's economy? Why or why not? And would you work to prevent these lawsuits?

I feel lawsuits against the energy industry could harm St. Mary Parish's economy but if the lawsuits are warranted then the energy industry needs to be held responsible for any incidents which could negatively affect St. Mary Parish.

If energy companies have the fear of being sued on a regular basis, then I feel they choose to go elsewhere. I would not work to prevent lawsuits if they are warranted.

There are still a lot of drainage and roadway issues that exist around St. Mary Parish. How do you propose Parish Government aid in improving those issues?

I feel we need to continue to have good drainage districts with good board members to ensure the tax dollars are being spent wisely.

I feel drainage studies would show the most efficient locations for pumping stations in some communities that this has not happened in.

I feel we need to visit with our local state representatives – Beryl Amedee and Vinny St. Blanc along with who will represent St. Mary Parish in Senate District 21 on a regular basis to assist getting drainage and roadway funding from the state and federal government. Having a strong rapport and relationship with the state and federal government is vital to help resolve these issues.

How could the Parish Council support more things to do for children in our area?

Being in the medical field for over 29 years and working throughout the Bayou Region, I have witnessed health fairs focusing on children and their needs. I feel organizing children health care events through our local recreation districts and St. Mary Parish Schools. I feel many local businesses and citizens would be happy to sponsor and assist with such events. I feel working with recreation districts to brainstorm and be creative with physical and educational activities. The key is to work together as one.

What are your plans to support the local businesses already in existence in our Parish?

Working closely with St. Mary Parish Chamber is vital. We need to continue to support the chamber so they can continue to support local business. I think assisting and encouraging local business to become a member of the chamber but also assisting in advertising their businesses. I think promoting "shop local" events are very important which can be done on a regular basis.

I feel having a healthy relation with St. Mary Economic Development is vital in supporting local businesses.



CARLO GAGLIANO, JR.

CONTINUED

In your opinion, what are the TWO most important qualities that candidates for Parish Council should possess?

One quality is having the ability to listen. If you don't listen with a purpose to the citizens of St. Mary Parish, then you don't understand their needs. Be able to listen with a purpose to your fellow council members will provide an open mind to concerns which will give a better view on the situation to produce the best resolution.

The second quality is the ability to communicate. If you are not able to explain and speak well on the issues to the citizens, then that can create confusion, anxiety, anger and undo stress. I feel a councilman should be able to speak on facts and truth.

What would be the most immediate change that you would push for in our Parish?

I would like to change our Parish President position to a full-time position. I know it went out for vote and failed but the Parish President position is vital to the success of a parish. Due to my job, I work closely with other Parish Presidents in St. James, St. John, Terrebonne, and Lafourche parishes who all have full-time parish presidents with appropriate compensation who promote and work daily to improve these parishes. I feel we need a full-time parish president who can work closely with Evan Boudreaux- Director of Economic Development to meet with current business to keep them in St. Mary Parish and to attract new businesses to St. Mary Parish. Promoting St. Mary Parish is going to be key to our success as a parish.

In the event of the return of lockdowns, what is your stance on the lockdowns when it causes local businesses and our children to suffer?

Being in the medical field, the most recent lockdown due to COVID I feel was necessary at the beginning of the event, so I think lockdowns are necessary until a certain point. I feel with technology that there are precautions that can be taken to allow more of a normal life.

If for some reason there is another lockdown, we need to ensure local businesses have avenues to sell online and can advertise local and outside of St. Mary Parish.

We would need to assist with families to encourage activities outside at their residence so the children can be physical.

We can promote online educational zoom calls or events so there are some social interactions with other children. I feel there are many brilliant citizens I can work with to be creative in making sure the well-being of our children and businesses are taken care of.

WE CAN BE A SUCCESSFUL PARISH BY WORKING TOGETHER.

