



Federation of GBR Civic Associations *Meeting Notice & Newsletter*



Keeping our members informed—our most valuable Benefit of Membership

Please Share with your association members!

This publication is intended for the private use of Federation member associations and their respective members. Please do not share the contents of this document outside of our membership community without permission from the Federation Board.

Any questions or comments, please submit to: FGBRCA@gmail.com or call 225.315.1206

November 2025

Our annual meeting will feature Former Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne speaking on “Huey, Heismans and History”. The in-person meeting will be held at the **South Branch Library (Perkins at Rouzan)**, on **Thursday, November 13th, from 7pm-8:30pm**. AND, we are collecting non-perishable food items for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. *Let’s fill a box!*



Annual Meeting Agenda

2026 Board of Directors Election

Meeting Dates for 2026

Budget Adjustment Request

Soliciting Federation Recognition Candidates

Link to August Meeting Minutes – [LINK](#)

On the Nov 15th Ballot

NEW: Using the GIS Mapping Tool

Guest Speaker: Former Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne – “Huey, Heismans and History”

NEWSLETTER

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Former Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne to Speak at Annual Meeting, November 13

2025 has certainly been a memorable year, and what better way to wrap it up than an entertaining Annual Meeting! We're delighted to announce that former Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne will join us as our special guest speaker. Get ready for a lively presentation titled “Huey, Heismans and History”—a talk that's sure to be filled with fascinating stories, laughs, and insights.

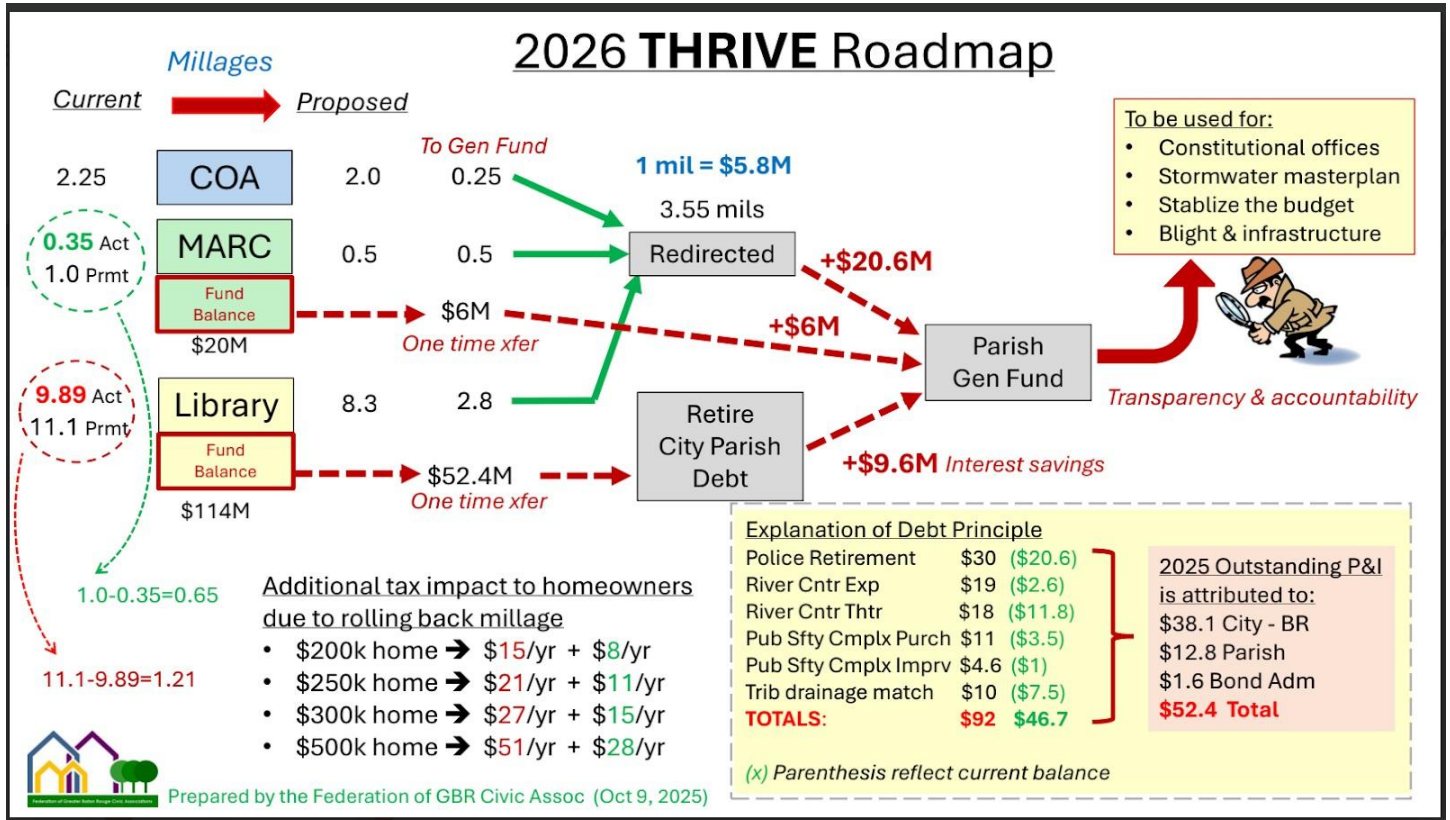
Jay Dardenne’s extensive public service—as Metro Councilman, State Senator, Secretary of State, Lt. Governor, and Commissioner of Administration under Governor John Bel Edwards—means he’s got an incredible trove of experiences to share (and maybe a secret or two!). If you haven’t had the pleasure of hearing him speak before, this is your chance. And if you have, you already know you’re in for a treat!

Mark your calendar and get ready for an evening of fun, learning, and community. We can’t wait to see you at the meeting on Thursday, November 13th, 7pm, South Branch Library (Rouzan at Perkins)!

Time to GO VOTE!

Election Day is Saturday, November 15th, with early voting continuing through November 8th. To review your ballot, go to <https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/Home/VoterLogin>

The Federation's THRIVE Roadmap (below) identifies the proposed funding changes. Both the THRIVE Roadmap and a video of the last meeting, with Mayor Edwards and his team, and Mary Stein, Assistant Director, East Baton Rouge Parish Library, are available on the Federation website. **Your vote matters. Please vote!**



Welcome New Member, Capital Heights!

We welcome Capital Heights Neighborhood Association as our 112th member! CHNA has restarted their association and in a big way. Their website, <https://chnabr.org> has great information. We are delighted to have CHNA as our newest member!

Federation Board Members Meet with East Baton Rouge City-Parish Leadership



Pictured left to right are Margrett Fels, FGBRCA Secretary, Sherry Guarisco, FGBRCA President, Angela White, FGBRCA Board Director/Blight Chairman, Debra Simino, FGBRCA Treasurer.

On Thursday, October 30, 2025, members of the Federation Board (above) met with Mason Batts, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office and CEO of MRB Consulting, and Dr. Christel Slaughter, Mayor-President's Interim Chief Administrative Officer and President; CEO of SSA Consultants, to discuss the Cross-Boundary Collaboration Program, a Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative. As a result of this meeting, the Federation will be invited to future meetings to share the homeowner's perspective and to assist where possible in stopping the cycle of depreciation leading to neighborhood blight.

Issues discussed included Blight Court, condemnation and demolition challenges, and better utilization of Build Baton Rouge. We identified several bottlenecks in the process, including succession problems, occupational permits, squatters, heirship ownership, and the difficulty in knowing when a property will be on the docket for the Blight Court, etc.

The Federation representatives also provided input, information, and concerns about the Mayor's THRIVE initiative, the need to reactivate the Stormwater Advisory Committee and our eagerness to establish ongoing meetings with the Mayor's office to discuss matters important to our homeowner-members.

Remembering Lillie Petit Gallagher, City Park

If you knew Lillie Petit Gallagher, you know she never took “no” for an answer. She was a bundle of energy and determination. The long-time leader of City Park HOA and a fierce supporter of City Park Golf Course, Lillie was an incredible woman. Her obituary captures her beautifully - “A Louisiana educator, adoption advocate, and arts patron, Lillie helped shape Baton Rouge’s cultural and civic life for more than five decades through her quiet yet powerful leadership.” We loved having Ms. Lillie as our Federation member and we will miss her. Link to her obituary -

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/baton-rouge-la/lillie-gallagher-12555211>

Nomination for 2026 Federation’s Board of Directors

At the upcoming Annual Meeting, we will elect directors for a 3-year term, beginning January 2026 and ending December 2028. The slate of nominated directors was included in the October & November newsletters in addition to the October Member Meeting. The slate of directors includes:

Jamie Ainsworth – Lakeside HOA, proposed new director

Adrienne Bowser – Riverbend OA, renewal of an existing director

Debra Simino (Treasurer) – Sherwood Forest Citizens Assn., renewal of existing director

Angela White – Southern Heights Property Owners Assn., renewal of existing director

New GIS map for the Federation

Your Board has been working with the EBRP IT Department to develop a GIS (Geographic Information System) map specifically for the Federation member associations. This map highlights each individual member association’s boundaries and includes other overlay map information such as: Metropolitan Council District, StG City Council Districts, City Limits (for each of the five parish municipalities), as well as Crime Prevention districts and permitted Short Term Rentals. This map is a work in progress to ensure accuracy of the boundary of each of our member’s associations and as new overlay information is required, it can easily be updated. The contents of this map and how it can be used will be demonstrated at the annual meeting on November 13th. To see this map, click the following link:

<https://ebrgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=8dd0edc515744dba9552a92615d8b261>

ST. GEORGE Update:

On Saturday, November 1st, St. George began providing public works services for its citizens as it continues to create its own department of public works. Requests for street potholes or sinkholes, grass cutting along roads or drainage servitude, debris or junk removal, dead trees in Rights of Way or servitudes, etc., should be submitted online. (While 311 is not to be used for residents of St. George, the new process for service requests will be handled in a similar way as requests to 311.) To file a service request in St. George, go to stgeorgela.gov and click on Services, Public Works Services or use this link. The link to file a request online is <https://forms.bluecatreports.com/4tXQQWgL/work-request>

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Want to Host a Food Drive??!

As most are aware, SNAP benefits are currently on shaky ground. A great way to get neighbors involved in helping during this time is to host a food drive in your neighborhood. It's easy to do through the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank (GBRFB). In a nutshell: schedule your event with the GBRFB (link below), pick up one or more boxes, have residents bring food items to a designated drop off point in the neighborhood, and then bring back the boxes to the GBRFB. All the info you need is at:

<https://volunteer.brfoodbank.org/food-drive-registration>



Board member David West shared that Melrose Place recently held a food drive. “We scheduled a one-day food drive at the same place and time as a neighborhood event to create a fun incentive to participate, and lots of folks contributed – so much that we almost could have used another box.” If you have questions, email fgbrca@gmail.com

Remember November AARP ShredFest!

Protect yourself from identity theft! AARP Louisiana is hosting a free shredding event in Baton Rouge. Safely dispose of personal documents and fight back against fraud.

Bring up to three boxes or bags of documents to be shredded onsite by a professional shred company. Suggested items include bank statements, canceled checks, credit card junk mail, and receipts with identifying information.

When: Saturday, Nov 15, 2025 (9:00 A.M. – 11:00A.M.)

Where: EBRPL - Main Library

7711 Goodwood Boulevard Baton Rouge, LA 70806 <https://local.aarp.org/aarp-event/baton-rouge-free-community-shredding-lynjrzs56l5.html>

TOP TIP: reCAPTCHA version upgrade and your HOA website

Please check your HOA website to make certain it is not affected by the reCAPTCHA version 3 upgrade. reCAPTCHA version 2 will be considered obsolete at the end of 2025.

Google's reCAPTCHA is a free security risk service that protects websites from spam and automated bots. HOA websites may use a web design and/or hosting platform like WIX, Squarespace, Wordpress, etc where reCAPTCHA is a widget. It may be managed by the platform or by the website owner, based on your hosting platform, etc. If users have ever been asked to take one of the following actions, your website uses reCAPTCHA version2.

- Check a box to indicate “I am not a robot”
- To identify specific objects within a set of images

Your website may also use invisible risk service evaluations. Typically, reCAPTCHA is used on web pages for user logins, payments, or online forms such as membership, service requests, comments, etc.



Recommendation: If your organization owns the Google account associated with your website's reCAPTCHA, make and test the changes ASAP so there are no surprises.

reCAPTCHA version 3 uses invisible risk evaluations, cloud services and other capabilities. It will remain a free service for websites that have less than 10,000 assessments per month.

Google will automatically migrate websites to reCAPTCHA v3 during Q4 2025. Website owners can wait for the automatic migration and then test to ensure their website functions properly OR make and test the changes ASAP to ensure your website functions properly.

Click for [background on reCAPTCHA](#)

Click to [learn more about reCAPTCHA v3](#)

Budget Adjustment Approval - End of Year Cost Projection

The Federation By-Laws require authorization from members when the annual operating budget may be exceeded. We are requesting approval for an additional \$700 in expense authority. This proposal will be presented for a motion and vote at the Annual Member Meeting.

Background: For FY2025, the approved budget included \$7,700 in revenue and \$6,400 in expenses. We now project year-end revenue of about \$7,200, reflecting lower interest income in our revenue. Expenses are forecasted at \$7,100, which is \$700 above the original estimate. Importantly, projected expenses remain within the projected income.

Explanation: With recent changes in Board leadership, the Federation Board engaged Jan Bernard, an experienced nonprofit consultant, to help us identify essential functions and develop a transition plan for the coming year. Member input was an important part of this process. We again thank you, our members, for your assistance during this process. While we reduced costs in some areas, consultant services and transition planning required additional funds.

Crime Prevention and Improvement Districts

Congratulations to the Southern Heights and Concord Estates Crime Prevention and Improvement Districts! The Southern Heights millage was renewed by a vote of 130 to 41(80% to 20%)and Concord Estates by a vote of 264 to 76 (76% to 24%). Apparently, your constituents are very happy with what you are doing!

It's the time to contact your legislator(s) if you intend to create a crime district at the 2026 Regular Legislative Session which begins on March 9th, 2026. To quote the Louisiana House of Representatives 2026 Legislative Session Information Bulletin:

To be safe, for first-day introduction, local bills to create security districts should be requested by Wednesday, January 7, 2026; thereafter, opportunity to publish local notice is dependent on circumstances with local newspapers (Const. Art. III,13(B))

If you are considering filing on the Senate side the time frame is very similar as they must both comply with the requirements of Louisiana Constitution Article 3 Section 13 (B) which provides:

No local or special law relative to the creation of a special district, the primary purpose of which includes aiding in crime prevention and adding to the security of district residents by providing for an increased presence of law enforcement personnel in the district or otherwise promoting and encouraging security in the district, shall be enacted unless notice of the intent to introduce such bill has been published on three separate days, without cost to the state, in the official journal of the locality where the special district is to be situated. The last day of publication shall be at least thirty days prior to introduction of the bill. The notice shall state the substance of the contemplated law, and shall specifically disclose whether the governing authority of the special district would be authorized by the contemplated law to impose and collect a parcel fee within the district, whether the parcel fee will be imposed or may be increased without an election, and the maximum amount of the parcel fee if a maximum amount is set forth in the contemplated law. Every such bill shall recite that the required notice has been given.

As you can see there is no provision for waiving this. For more info, contact Bob Harper, Home 767-6859, Cell 218-7804, Bharper3@cox.net

Key - Recurring EBR City-Parish Meetings

All agendas located at: <https://www.brla.gov/agendacenter>

Metro Council Dates: Nov 5th (3:00), 12th, Zoning, 19th 4PM

Planning Commission Date: Nov 17th, at 5PM

Board of Adjustment Date: Nov 3th, at 3:30PM (typically 2nd Monday of month)

Key - Recurring St. George Meetings

All agendas located at: <https://stgeorgela.gov/services/planning-zoning/#gsc.tab=0>

St. George Council

Dates: Dec. 2nd 5PM

Planning/Zoning Commission

Date: Dec 1st 6PM, **Zoning to follow**

Board of Adjustment

Date: Dec 1st 5PM