



ST. MARY PARISH DISTRICT 4: DECODED.

an **AI & HER** project

WELCOME TO THE DECODED DISTRICT

Your Taxes. Your Town. Your Right to Clarity.

I'm guessing you didn't start your day excited to dive into a sheaf of parish ordinances and millage rates. Who does? That stuff is designed to be dense, confusing, and honestly, a little intimidating. It's what keeps the average citizen on the sidelines.

That's a problem.

This document, St. Mary Parish District 4: Decoded, is my first big project for AI & Her, and it's a commitment to changing that. I used the power of AI to do the bureaucratic heavy lifting—sifting through the acronyms, consolidating the contacts, and charting the tax money trail. I started with District 4 because this is home.

Consider this your shortcut past the red tape. Inside is the clear, organized, actionable information you need to stop feeling confused and start being an informed, effective part of your community.

What is AI & Her?

AI & Her is the brand built on the belief that technology is the ultimate equalizer for everyone who wants freedom, flexibility, and real impact. It's about leveraging the latest tools—from Google Gemini to Canva Pro—to cut through complexity, automate the mundane, and amplify genuine human creativity. This project is a perfect example: blending South Louisiana common sense with computational power to turn dry public data into actionable knowledge for our neighbors. We use tech to get back to what matters: life.

What's Inside?

- Meet Your Reps: Who works for you and how to get them on the phone.
- The Money Trail: A clear map of where your property tax (millages) and sales tax go.
- Who Do I Call? Your quick guide to fixing common problems, from a pothole to a drainage issue.

Clarity is the ultimate form of leverage. Let's use it.

XO *Andrée T. Hebert*



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MENU

- ▶ MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES: CORE GOVERNMENT
- ▶ THE MONEY TRAIL: WHERE DO MY TAXES GO?
- ▶ PARISH WIDE SERVICE CONTACTS
- ▶ DECODED: RECREATION DISTRICT NO. 3
- ▶ DECODED: FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 7
- ▶ DECODED WATER & SEWER COMMISSION NO. 2
- ▶ DECODED: GSDD NO. 1 OF GDD NO. 2 (DRAINAGE)
- ▶ DECODED: WARDS 5&8 JOINT SEWERAGE COMMISSION
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- ▶ REGIONAL & INFORMATIONAL ENTITIES

Meet Your Representatives

CORE GOVERNMENT

POSITION	ELECTED OFFICIAL	CORE RESPONSIBILITY (WHAT)	DIRECT CONTACT (HOW)
PARISH PRESIDENT	SAM JONES	Chief Executive Officer. Oversees all Parish departments (Public Works, Planning & Zoning, etc.) and implements Parish laws.	Phone: 337-828-4100, Ext. 5555 Office: 500 Main St, 4th Floor, Franklin, LA 70538
PARISH COUNCIL: DISTRICT 4	DAVID HILL	Your legislative representative. Votes on Parish budgets, ordinances, and policies that directly affect Bayou Vista.	Phone: 985-397-3794 Email: dhill@stmaryparishla.gov
PARISH COUNCIL: AT-LARGE	GWENDOLYN L. HIDALGO	Represents the entire Parish. Often serves as a key contact for Parish-wide issues and council leadership.	Phone: 985-518-8173 Email: ghidalgo@stmaryparishla.gov

The Money Trail

MILLAGE DECODER

MILLAGE NAME	RATE (MILLS)	WHAT YOUR TAXES FUND (THE SERVICE)	GOVERNING ENTITY (WHO SPENDS IT)
LOCAL DRAINAGE	12.63	Ditch maintenance, canal dredging, and local flood control infrastructure in Bayou Vista.	Gravity Sub-Drainage District No.1 of Gravity Drainage District No. 2
WATER & SEWER	11.00	Maintenance and operations of the water distribution and sewer collection systems.	Water & Sewer Commission No. 2
RECREATION	9.32	Maintenance and operations of the Bayou Vista Community Center and Recreation Facilities.	Recreation District No. 3
FIRE PROTECTION	6.96	Equipment, personnel, and operations for Fire Protection District No. 7.	Fire Protection District No. 7
LAW ENFORCEMENT	11.33	Funds the operations of the Sheriff's Office (law enforcement for unincorporated areas).	St. Mary Parish Sherriff Gary Driskill

The Money Trail

MILLAGE DECODER (CONTINUED)

MILLAGE NAME	RATE (MILLS)	WHAT YOUR TAXES FUND (THE SERVICE)	GOVERNING ENTITY (WHO SPENDS IT)
PARISH TAX	7.60	General Parish Government (Administration, non-departmental costs, Parish President's Office).	Parish Council/Parish President
HOSPITAL SERVICES	9.00	Supports the maintenance and operations of the local Hospital Service District.	Hospital Service District No. 2
ASSESSMENT DISTRICT	3.02	Funds the operations of the Tax Assessor's Office (determining property value).	Assessor Jarrod K. Longman
LIBRARY DISTRICT	5.72	Maintenance and operations of the St. Mary Parish Library system.	Library Board of Control
LIBRARY DISTRICT (BONDS)	.46	Repayment of debt (bonds) for previous library capital projects.	Library Board of Control
MORGAN CITY HARBOR & TERMINAL	4.45	Supports port operations, economic development, and maintenance of the navigational channel.	Port Commission

The Money Trail

MILLAGE DECODER (CONTINUED)

MILLAGE NAME	RATE (MILLS)	WHAT YOUR TAXES FUND (THE SERVICE)	GOVERNING ENTITY (WHO SPENDS IT)
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT	5.00	Construction, maintenance, and operation of the levee and flood control system.	St. Mary Levee District Board
WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT	6.71	Supports regional drainage and flood mitigation efforts (secondary to local district).	Wax Lake East Drainage Board
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5	11.82	General operating funds for the St. Mary Parish School Board.	SMP School Board
CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOOL TAX	8.83	State-mandated tax dedicated to school operations.	SMP School Board
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 (MAINTENANCE)	12.73	Maintenance and operations funds for specific school facilities	SMP School Board

The Money Trail

SALES & USE TAX DECODER

CATEGORY	RATE (%)	WHAT YOUR TAXES FUND (THE SERVICE/PURPOSE)
STATE OF LOUISIANA	5.00%	State-level services and administration.
---LOCAL PORTION---		
SCHOOL BOARD	1.90%	Dedicated funding for St. Mary Parish School Board operations and facilities.
GENERAL	1.00%	General Parish Government operations (funds the Parish President, Public Works administration, etc.).
SOLID WASTE	0.75%	Funding for garbage collection, recycling, and solid waste disposal services.
LAW ENFORCEMENT	0.50%	Supplemental funding for the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office.
WARDS 5&8	0.30%	Tax designated for the Ward 5 & 8 Sales Tax District (supporting projects/services within the Wards)
TOTAL	9.45%	STATE & LOCAL COMBINED

Parish Wide Service Contacts

SERVICE/AREA	CONTACT	CONTACT DETAILS
PROPERTY ASSESSMENT/VALUE	Assessor Jarrod K. Longman, CLA	Phone: (337) 828-4100 ext. 2500 Office: 500 Main St., 2nd Floor, Franklin, LA 70538
ZONING & BUILDING PERMITS	Planning & Zoning Dept. (Mandi LeBlanc)	Phone: (337) 828-4100, Ext. 5555
ROADS & PUBLIC WORKS	Public Works Dept. (John Davis)	Phone: (337) 828-4100, Ext. 5555
NON-EMERGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT	Sheriff Gary Driskell's Office	Non-Emergency Line: (337) 828-1960

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RECREATION DISTRICT NO. 3

WHAT they do & WHY you pay

Purpose: Maintenance, operation, and programs for the Bayou Vista Community Center and local recreation facilities. Funding: 9.32 Mills on your property tax bill.

WHO is in control?

Board of Commissioners:
Brian Head (Chairman), Lane Boudreaux (Vice Chairman), Dr. Jeffery Fitter, Calvin Johnson, Eddie Gay, Rachel Kidder, Cody Fontenot.

HOW to engage?

4th Monday of the month
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: 1333 Bellview Street (Community Center)
Bayou Vista, LA

CONTACT INFO

Phone (Non-Emergency):
(985) 395-6552

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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 7

WHAT they do & WHY you pay

Purpose: Fire and emergency protection services for District 4. Funding: 6.96 Mills on your property tax bill (approx. 99% of their revenue).

WHO is in control?

Board of Commissioners:
Martin DeHart, Jermy Price, Joseph Adyden, Alvin Metrejean. Secretary: Glen Elliott. (Note: Chairman position is currently vacant as of Sept. 2025)

HOW to engage?

1st Tuesday of the month
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 1519 Hwy. 182 East
(Bayou Vista Volunteer Fire Dept.)

CONTACT INFO

Non-Emergency Phone: (985) 519-4680
For Emergencies: Always Dial 911

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WATER & SEWER NO.2

WHAT they do & WHY you pay

Purpose: Provides and maintains safe, high-quality water service and local sewer collection systems.
Funding: 11.00 Mills + User Fees (monthly bills).

WHO is in control?

Board of Commissioners:
Chris Cooper (President/CEO), Tony Hensgens (Vice President), Thomas Philbrook (Secretary Treasurer), Raymond Beadle, Paul Tholen.

HOW to engage?

2nd Monday of the month
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: 530 Southeast Blvd. Bayou Vista, LA
(Commission Office)

CONTACT INFO

Emergency/Service Issues: (985) 395-2747
Office/Billing: (985) 395-9530
Email: info@smpws2.com

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GSDD NO. 1 OF GDD NO. 2 (DRAINAGE)

WHAT they do & WHY you pay

Purpose: Funds and manages local drainage works, including ditches, canals, and dredging, to mitigate flooding. Funding: 12.63 Mills on your property tax bill.

WHO is in control?

Board of Commissioners:
Chad Ross (Chairman), Wayne Cantrell (Vice Chairperson), Raymond Beadle Jr., Paige Voisin, DJ Mayon

HOW to engage?

2nd Tuesday of the month
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 1300 South Rd. Bayou Vista, LA
(Noah's Adventures Clubhouse)

CONTACT INFO

No Direct Public Phone Line Available. Escalation Path: For urgent issues, contact Parish Public Works (Page 8) or Councilman David Hill (Page 3).
Mailing Address: PO Box 245, Patterson, LA 70392

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WARDS 5 & 8 JOINT SEWERAGE

WHAT they do & WHY you pay

Purpose: Processes regional sewage. This commission sets the wholesale rate charged to your local Water & Sewer Commission No. 2, indirectly impacting resident fees. Funding: User Fees (charged to utilities, then passed to you).

WHO is in control?

Board of Commissioners:
Michael Stewart (Vice President/Likely Leader), Tim Kyle, Brandon Monceaux, Matthew Kidder. Key Staff: Karen Sehon (Secretary/Treasurer).

HOW to engage?

1st Monday of every month
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 763 Cotton Rd.,
Patterson, LA 70392

CONTACT INFO

Phone: (985) 395-4944
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 181, Berwick, La 70342.
(Note: Report service issues to Water & Sewer Comm. No. 2, NOT this number).

I have a problem!

WHO DO I CALL? – QUICK GUIDE

IF YOUR ISSUE IS...	THE BEST ENTITY TO CALL IS...	ACTIONABLE CONTACT (PHONE)
Potholes/Roads, General Public Works, Garbage.	Parish Public Works Dept.	(337) 828-4100, Ext. 5555
Water leak, billing issue, or sewer service loss.	Water & Sewer Commission No. 2	(985) 395-2747
Local Drainage (ditches, canals, dredging).	Board Chairman: Chad Ross	(985)-518-0108
Fire (Non-Emergency) or Station Question.	Fire Protection District No. 7	(985) 519-4680
Recreation facilities, park hours, or community center.	Recreation District No. 3	(985) 395-6552
Criminal activity, non-emergency report, or animal control.	Sheriff Gary Driskell's Office	(337) 828-1960
Question about property tax value/Homestead Exemption.	Assessor Jarrod K. Longman's Office	(337) 828-4100 ext. 2500
Proposed zoning change, Parish Ordinance, or budget concern.	Councilman David Hill	(985) 397-3794

Regional & Informational Entities

ENTITY & MILL RATE	PRIMARY FUNCTION & FOCUS	KEY CONTACT/ENGAGEMENT INFORMATION
ST. MARY PARISH SCHOOL BOARD (3 Millages)	Governance of public schools, setting curriculum, & managing school facilities.	Lindsey T. Anslem (Dist III) Phone: 985-519-9076 2nd Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m. Location: 474 Hwy 317, Centerville. (Central Office)
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT (5.00 Mills)	Construction, operation, & maintenance of the regional levee system for flood protection.	(985) 380-5500 7327 Hwy 182E Morgan City, LA 3rd Thursday of the month 6:00 p.m. Location alternates--EOC Morgan City & Port of West St. Mary
HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 2 (9.00 Mills)	Supports health facilities (Ochsner St. Mary Hospital). Funded by your millage.	HSD #2 Domicile: 7327 Highway 182, Morgan City. Service Contact (Ochsner): (985) 384-2200
MORGAN CITY HARBOR & TERMINAL DIST. (4.45 Mills)	Port management, promoting commerce, & maintaining the navigational channel.	Executive Director: Raymond "Mac" Wade P: (985) 384-0850 Office: 7327 Highway 182 Morgan City, LA
WAX LAKE EAST DRAINAGE DISTRICT (6.71 Mills)	Supports regional/inter-district drainage coordination (secondary flood mitigation).	No direct contact found. Residents should coordinate drainage concerns through their Gravity Sub Drainage Dist No. 1 (Page 12) and/or the Parish Council (Page 3).

Resource Links & Data Sources

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE LINKS / DATA USED
PARISH GOVERNMENT	Official contacts, departments, public works, and Parish Council information.	St. Mary Parish Government (https://www.stmaryparishla.gov/)
TAXATION & FINANCE	Official millage rates, assessment information, and Sales & Use Tax breakdowns.	St. Mary Parish Assessor's Office (https://www.smpassessor.net/) LA Tax Administrators (LATA) (https://lataonline.org/for-taxpayers/city-to-parish-index/st-mary/)
LOCAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS	Direct administrative and public meeting information for local entities.	Water & Sewer Commission No. 2 (https://smpws2.com/) Bayou Vista Community Center / Rec Dist (https://bayouvistacommunitycenter.com/) St. Mary Parish Library (https://stmaryparishlibrary.org/)
LAW & SAFETY	Official information for law enforcement operations.	St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office (https://www.stmaryso.com/)
REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE	Information on major bodies that manage flood protection, commerce, and health services.	St. Mary Levee District (https://smlld.org/) Morgan City Harbor & Terminal District (https://www.portofmc.com/) Hospital Service District #2 (https://www.facebook.com/smphsd/) Economic Development (https://stmaryparishdevelopment.com/)
EDUCATION	Contact information and governance for the school system.	St. Mary Parish School Board (https://www.stmaryk12.net/)
PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY	The primary source for official meeting minutes, ordinances, and agendas that informed the "Decoded" profiles.	Louisiana Public Notice Website (https://louisianapublicnotice.com/)

TOOLS USED TO CREATE THIS RESOURCE

DESIGN & CONTENT CREATION	Tools used for drafting, visual design, and data organization.	Canva Pro Google Workspace ChatGPT
DATA ANALYSIS & AI RESEARCH TOOLS	AI platforms and search engines used for efficient information gathering, analysis, and synthesis.	NotebookLM (Core Document Analysis & Retrieval) Google Gemini (Structure & Knowledge Mentor) Perplexity AI (Research & Summarization) Grok (Ideation & Drafting) Google Search