

GUEST COLUMN
For
The Monroe Dispatch
Submitted by: Mayor James E. “Jamie” Mayo
For the July 12, 2018 Edition

Round 2 of Ouachita Strong Resiliency Plan Community Meetings

Ouachita Parish residents, please help spread the word and come out to attend one of the following Ouachita Strong Resiliency Plan Community Meetings. Both meetings are the same, so it doesn't matter which one that you attend. The meeting schedule is:

Monroe @ the Monroe Civic Center - B.D. Robinson Conference Hall, 401 Lea Joyner, Expressway, from 4 pm – 7 pm Tuesday, July 17, 2018; and,

West Monroe @ the West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Avenue, from 4 pm – 7 pm Thursday, July 19, 2018.

The first round of meetings was held in Monroe (June 19) and West Monroe (June 21). Hundreds of residents, from throughout Ouachita Parish, came and shared valuable information, ideas, and concerns.

For our second round of meetings, on July 17 and 19, officials will share information gathered from the public, overview some actions and projects that have been identified, and update residents about Hazard Mitigation funding for projects that will help make our entire parish Ouachita Strong.

A station, for each of the above key areas, will be set up at both meetings. If time allows, we are asking the public to visit the stations, talk with our experts, and learn more about this strategic approach. Help us create a strategic plan that will make us more resilient...a plan that will make us OUACHITA STRONG!

OUACHITA STRONG includes all the local governments within Ouachita Parish (Monroe, West Monroe, Ouachita Parish Police Jury, Richwood, and Sterlington).

We are working in partnership with FEMA, the Louisiana Office of Community Development, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Tensas Basin Levee District, and North Delta Regional Planning.

With input from the people throughout the community, we are developing a strategic plan to not only reduce our risk from floods and other natural disasters, but help families, businesses, churches and others be able to bounce back faster after a disaster.

Please help spread the word and bring someone with you to the July 17 (Monroe) or July 19 (West Monroe) meeting. By working together, we are stronger. Monroe is one city, with one future!