



# MADDEN'S MINUTE

FROM THE DESK OF MANDEVILLE MAYOR CLAY MADDEN

**June 23, 2022**

Dear Friends,

It is summertime in Mandeville! Our Independence Day Celebration "Light Up The Lake" is on Sunday, July 3 on the Mandeville Lakefront. Picnics are permitted all day starting at 10am. At 5pm multiple food trucks will be on site, along with other treats and dessert options. Groovy 7 will start playing live music at 5pm as well. The fireworks show will begin at 8:30pm. Light Up The Lake is our big summer event. We look forward to seeing you and your family there!

The Mandeville Trailhead Market will continue every Saturday morning from 9am to 1pm at the Trailhead throughout the summer. It is never too early to do your holiday shopping!

There is a lot of news at City Hall this June! First, I would like to take this time to welcome my new Executive Assistant, Melissa O'Donnell Barclay. Melissa started working with my Administration and our team at City Hall in June and we are excited to have her. She comes to City Hall with experience in government affairs after most recently working as the Northshore Director of Governmental Affairs for the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors. Prior to this, Melissa served as the legislative aide to former Mandeville-area State Representative Tim Burns.

I am also excited to announce that our new and enhanced city website has gone live. Providing a user friendly and informative website has been a goal of mine since I was on the City Council. The new website was developed after months of consulting with city employees, vendors, and most importantly, residents. We carefully studied other city's websites, both from Louisiana and out of state, to pull together the best ideas for the new Mandeville City website. I would suggest you visit [www.cityofmandeville.com](http://www.cityofmandeville.com) and check out the new site. Feel free to send me or my team any questions (contact information below). For the next few weeks, I will use this platform to make a couple of "Did You Know that you can now do \_\_\_\_\_ on the new website" posts. There are multiple new functions that I am extremely excited about and would like to zero in on in these separate posts. In any event, I would like to draw your attention to one of the new functions now, and it has to do with the next subject matter I will cover in this Madden Minute. One of the new website functions I personally like the most the is the new "How Do I?" tab. Please go to the "How Do I?" tab when you can and check out all the new options. One of the options is "Report Missed Garbage or Recycling Pickup". You then have the option to report a missed pick up directly to Coastal Environmental Services by phone or email. Again, please feel free to look over the new website and get a feel for the new functionality.

The final subject for this Madden Minute is our garbage contract with Coastal Environmental Services. Recently, I have received some concerns about forgotten garbage and recycling pick-ups, as well as green waste pick-ups. I, just like you, am paying for this service and expect it to be at a high level. Coincidentally, this has occurred during our contract renewal process with our garbage provider, Coastal Environmental Services.

Our garbage contract renewal process began earlier in the spring. Labor challenges, fuel price increases, and supply chain problems for parts are all having significant impacts on the cost and service level of garbage services. The renewal process provides the City of Mandeville with two options-1) put the service out for public bid or 2) renew the contract with Coastal Environmental Services pursuant to its renewal terms. It should be noted that the renewal option with is for one more five-year term. When this next five-year term is up, the garbage contract will have to go out to public bid. I carefully weighed the impact that both options would make on Mandeville residents. Putting the service out for public bid would result in the cost and terms of the garbage contract being adjusted to our current economic environment. Renewing the contract will keep the cost of garbage in line with the contract terms which were negotiated prior to COVID.

After careful consideration and discussions with officials of other cities regarding garbage service

issues, I decided to renew with Coastal with the following stipulations:

A) Rates will remain the same with CPI adjustments capped at 5%. Considering the fact that the inflation rate was 8.6% last month in May and fuel prices have increased 48%, this is a good deal for Mandeville. I was thinking of the Mandeville family and their budget when I made this decision and hope you will respect it.

B) The waste management industry is experiencing an acute labor shortage. This is the main contributing factor to missed pick-ups. Coastal's answer to this challenge, is to move to full automation. Neighboring Hancock County, Mississippi recently transitioned to full automation. The newly renewed contract with Coastal will demand that the City of Mandeville's garbage and recycling move to full automation within 12 months of the start of the contact this month (June 2022).

C) What is automation? An automatic pickup truck requires one human driver. However, there are no "guys on the back of the truck" any longer. Rather, the new truck has an automatic grabber/retrieval mechanism. Everything (that is possible) will need to now be put in carts. This makes for a quicker and more efficient pick up. Though the City of Mandeville will assist in the education for residents on the move to automation through information in the monthly water bill, social media, and website announcements, it will be Coastal's responsibility to educate the public. Green waste pickup will remain once a week.

I feel that this is the best move for Mandeville for the present time and ask that you trust in my decision. This option both keeps rates where they are now (while capping inflation adjustments) and puts in a mechanism that will, over time, greatly decrease the number of forgotten pickups and long waits for debris piles. Everyone's service is important to me, and I will continue to follow up on every call, text, and email. Coastal shares in my commitment. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Have a great summer everyone and stay hydrated! See you at market and do not forget Light Up The Lake on July 3! Thank you.

Best,  
Mayor Clay Madden

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. My cell is 985-630-8578 and email address is [cmadden@cityofmandeville.com](mailto:cmadden@cityofmandeville.com).

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Sincerely,

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