

CENTRAL CITY NEWS

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13567 Hooper Road Post Office Box 1
Central, LA 70818 Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

Phone (225) 261-5055 • FAX 261-5022

Email stories and photos to centralcitynews@hotmail.com

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Editor & Publisher
Business Manager
Graphic Artist
Business Specialists



Woody Jenkins
Candi Lee
Terrie Palmer

Shara Pollard, Jolice Provost

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WON LOT AT VILLAGE AT MAGNOLIA SQUARE — Rodney and Tracy Barnes and their children are ready to begin construction of their home at Village at Magnolia Square. The couple won the lot in a drawing held by Cookin' for Central to raise money for the startup of the new Central Community School System back in 2009. With the Barnes are Jimmy Nunnally (left) and Steele Pollard (right), developers of the property.

Country Living in the City

Elections Have Proven a Time of Change in Central

Woody Jenkins

Editor, Central City News

CENTRAL — Since 2005, elections in Central have proven to be a time of change and often some important surprises:

- In April 2005, Central voted for incorporation, which took the community in an entirely new direction.

- When the appointed Mayor and City Council came up for election, voters replaced two of the appointed Council members, and that changed the tone of the Council.

- In 2007, Central voters played a key role in electing Sid Gautreaux as Sheriff.

- In 2008, voters surprised the pundits by defeating the proposed

school tax election overwhelmingly.

- Sharon Browning became school

board president in 2009 and led the board through the process of re-submitting a new, scaled down version of the tax. Voters approved the new plan, raising sales taxes in Central to the highest level in the parish. It was quite an expression of confidence in the school board's plan by a strongly anti-tax community. As a result, the new Central school complex began construction and will be complete in early 2012.



Woody Jenkins

- In March 2010, Central voters elected two more new City Councilmen, giving a reform group a three-to-two majority on the Council. This led to a strong stand in favor of the public's right to know and a movement to replace CH2MHILL as city contractor. That was accomplished in July of this year.

- In October 2010, voters elected Jim Lloyd and Roxanne Atkinson to the school board. They represent a reform movement on the board.

- Now the fall of 2011. What changes will we experience? Reapportionment has already insured that some changes will occur. You the voter will write the rest of the story.

GOP Forum More Lively Than Expected Monday

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The forum was held at Pit Crew Barbeque on Hooper Road. It was standing-room only for the event, as statewide, parishwide, and legislative candidates and their supporters packed into the main dining room.

Club spokesman Betsy Barnes said she wanted to keep the event totally positive, but Mannino said his main purpose for running for the Senate was to bring honesty and integrity to state government.

He said, "I am an anti-tax, small government Christian conservative, and I'm part of a growing movement to cut back government where it should be cut." He said he disagrees with Rep. Bodi White's vote

to raise his own pay to \$62,000 for what Mannino described as a part-time job. He also said White has used his official capacity to enrich his business partners. He specifically cited the sale of the tract on Hooper to BREC and the creation of the Central Auction House.

Mannino said White's business partners started Central Auction House to serve local governments who want to buy and sell through on-line bidding. Then White, operating from the same office at 444 Wooddale Blvd., passed HB 610 in 2008 to require local governments to use the services of companies like his partners have. "There's a pattern here that has grown more and more evident," he said.

Rep. White said, "I've lived in Central all my life. Now I write the laws. I've helped more than 500 people get their retirement back. Our community was dying. I wanted to do better for my community." He heralded the accomplishments of the City of Central and the Central school system.

White made no response on the payraise issue or the Central Auction House, but on the BREC land See **CANDIDATES** on Page 3

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