

# CENTRAL CITY NEWS

Central City News  
**Central Homes**

Central City News - September 28, 2005 - No. 22 - Published Thursdays - Circulation 12,000 - City of Central - © 2005



CENTRAL HOMES EDITION will be on newstands throughout Central next week.

Thursday, Sept. 22, 2005 • Number 22 • Published Thursdays • © 2005  
Circulation 10,000 • City of Central, Louisiana • \$20 a year by mail

## Showdown on Incorporation

### Judge Clark Rejects Further Delays, Sets Hearing Thursday on Raborn's Suit

By Woody Jenkins, Editor

**BATON ROUGE** — State District Judge Janice Clark gave the City of Central a victory Monday when she agreed to expedite hearings on a suit filed by local attorney Bob Raborn challenging the election to incorporate Central.

On April 23, voters in Central supported incorporating the area into the state's 12th largest city by a vote of 63 to 37 percent.

Clark set Thursday, Sept. 29 to hear all motions on incorporating over Raborn's objections.

Raborn said he had pressing business in Evangeline Parish that justified a delay. Clark replied that perhaps Raborn should secure co-counsel to assist him.

A group of 30 supporters of the City of Central packed Judge Clark's courtroom in the Governmental Building downtown.

After the hearing, most Central supporters said they felt Central's



**SUPPORTING CITY OF CENTRAL** — Leading supporters of the City of Central gathered in front of the Governmental Building in downtown Baton Rouge Monday morning after a hearing before District Judge Janice Clark. Clark rejected delaying tactics by attorney Bob Raborn, who is attempting to block incorporation, and set a hearing for Sept. 29.

### City Hall Opens At 9339 Sullivan

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — The City of Central has opened a new temporary City Hall at 9339 Sullivan Road. For the past two months, City Hall has operated in offices donated by the Central City News at 12023 Sullivan Road.

The new office, which is donated by Ken Montgomery, is larger and will allow the city to function until more permanent facilities become available. City Hall is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number is 225-261-5554.

city co-counsel Sheri Morris and Steven Stockstill carried the day. Clark seemed to grow impatient with Raborn.

At one point, when the local attorney gave her a litany of complaints about the City of Central,

the judge suggested that he stop complaining and file appropriate motions. Pro-incorporation leader Russell Starns said, "We felt good about the hearing. We are eager to move to the next stage. If all the facts are presented in court, I feel

## Central Sales Taxes Could Top \$3.6 Million

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — City-Parish Finance Director David Medlin says sales collections in the new City of Central could top \$3.6 million in its first full year of operation.

For sales tax purposes, the City of Central was incorporated on July 11, 2005. Sales tax collections for

the period July 11 to July 31 were \$168,240. For the month of July, sales tax collections in Central were roughly \$252,000. This did not include automobile sales.

Medlin said that, all things considered, sales tax collections for the City of Central should exceed \$3.6

million a year. However, additional

commerce at Wal-Mart from hurricane evacuees could drive the numbers higher. Temporarily, Central receives 10 percent of net sales tax collections. The balance is retained by the City-Parish in exchange for services provided to the people.

### Raborn Loses Another Plaintiff In Suit Against City of Central

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — Local attorney Bob Raborn, who filed suit to block incorporation of the City of Central, announced in court Monday that he lost another plaintiff in his suit against the city.

Robert Leteff of 12621 Gurney Road withdrew two weeks ago but Raborn failed to file documents letting the court and other parties know until Central city co-counsel Sheri Morris raised the matter before Judge Janice Clark.

Leteff reportedly withdrew because he did not anticipate the matter becoming so controversial.

Leteff's withdrawal leaves Raborn with three plaintiffs on the suit, only two of whom live in the City of Central.

## Adjusting to a New School in Central

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — Since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, over 1,000 storm victims have sought refuge in the City of Central.

One of the results has been more than 300 new students in public and private schools in Central.

So far, the students, who come mostly from the New Orleans area have been integrated into Central schools without much difficulty.

At Central High School, the largest public school in the area, 65 new students have joined the student body.

Making the change has been more difficult for the students than for the school system.

Students have left behind their



Guidance counselor Lea Evans welcomes Ebony Miles

homes, schools, friends, extracurricular activities, and jobs. A youngster can work for years to develop a circle of friends or a reputation in sports or drama or Key Club. All that has been washed away by Katrina. Students must start again in a new place with new people.

In East Baton Rouge, new students started school on Monday, Sept. 12. That day, Central High School held an orientation for new students and their parents. The presentation began with a talk by Mrs. Lea Evans, head guidance counselor. Mrs. Kim Jones, president of the Central PTO, comforted families and informed them about Central's relief fund. The school has collected blankets, mattresses,

uniforms, shoes, and money to assist displaced students. Members of various student organizations at Central High provided breakfast and escorted students to the office to receive their schedules.

Most Central High seniors attend school for only four hours a day and leave by 11 a.m. Two of the new students — Amal Alaoui and Angie Braaten who evacuated from Slidell — took seven hours a day at their old school. The two girls say they are thankful to be welcomed with open arms in Central.

Will the new students stay or return to their homes? No one knows, but at least they are safe, and the faculty, staff and student body at Central High are happy to have them.