

**100 Years Old**  
 Central's Carlton Hudson survived the worst day in U.S. aviation history, only to become a POW. His story on Page 1



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Household Income \$70,618; Poverty Rate Only 6%

# Central: 3rd Richest City

Many Blue Collar Workers Became Millionaires with Jobs in Industry



AN EARLY VIEW of the Standard Oil Refinery in Baton Rouge. Retirees of Exxon and other industries who live in Central boost median income.

**CENTRAL** - The City of Central is now the 3rd richest city in Louisiana, based on a national survey of cities conducted by a media firm. The survey evaluates cities based on three factors found in Census data — household income, unemployment rate, and poverty level.

Central (pop. 28,017) did well in the survey based on its median household income of \$70,618, unemploy-

ment rate of 3.7 percent, and poverty rate of 6.0 percent.

The wealthiest city in Louisiana is Youngsville (pop. 10,878) with household income of \$94,564 unemployment at 3.9 percent and

poverty at 5.5 percent.

No. 2 was Zachary (pop. 16,154) with median income of \$75,472, unemployment at 3.2 percent and poverty at 8.8 percent.

Harahan (pop. 9,321) was

No. 4 with median household income of \$59,397, unemployment at 2.1 percent, and poverty at 8.9 percent.

Baton Rouge was the 30th richest city in Louisiana with median household

income of \$39,969.

Financial advisor Ian James reports 350 clients in Central with net worth of \$1.5 million or more. All are retirees from Exxon.

Source: www.homesnacks.com

## Beloved Businessman Claud Derbes Passes Away

A Man for Whom Dedication, Love Of Fellow Man Were Much More Than Just Words

**CENTRAL** - One of Central's most beloved business owners, Claud Derbes of Central Drug Store, passed away on Friday, Feb. 2. His health had declined over the past year.

Mr. Derbes was one of the most respected and admired

business owners in Central. In 2015, Central Drug Store was named Central's Business of the Decade. Woody Jenkins, editor of the *Central City News*, said, "Despite competition from a host of national chains, Central Drug Store, has been the dominant pharmacy in Central for many years. The success has been based on honesty, unparalleled personal service, competitive prices, and genuine concern for their customers."

Claud Derbes has been hailed by many as an exam-

ple of how small local businesses can not only compete with national chains but win. A visit to Central Drug Store is like a trip to see an old friend. The staff will probably recognize you immediately and know exactly why you're there. You don't have to call in your prescription or talk to a computer. They fill the prescription on the spot with little waiting — all at a competitive price.

Some said Claud Derbes had more patients than any physician in Central. He en-

See CLAUD on Page 3



The late Claud Derbes

### Central Drugs Recently Sold

**CENTRAL** - Shortly before the death of Claud Derbes, the Derbes family sold Central Drug Store to Mike Leggett of Walker Pharmacy in Walker.

Leggett, whose father was a close friend of Derbes, said, "I want everyone to know the customer service and hometown feeling will remain the same."

## Former World War II POW Marks 100 Years

After Facing Horrors Of War, He Became Engineer, Taught Sunday School Here

**Woody Jenkins**

Editor

**CENTRAL** - Scores of family and friends gathered at Zoar Baptist Church to honor the life and accomplishments of Carlton Hudson at his 100th birthday party last Saturday.

On display were mementoes of his service as navigator on a B-24 bomber during World War II. He was shot down during the Kassel Mission and was held as a POW until being liberated in April 1945.

Missing was his wife of 60 years, Vera Rose Paul,

See LT. on Page 4



Lt. Carlton Hudson and his family celebrated his 100th birthday Saturday at Zoar Baptist Church.

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**CENTRAL HIGH SENIOR** Todd Lasseigne signed a football scholarship with Millsaps College Feb. 7 with family and friends present to celebrate. He is shown here during the announcement with his mom Amy, dad Jason Lasseigne, grandmother Janet Russell, sister Ally Lasseigne, cousin Grace Furlow, grandfather Bill Russell, and brother Drew Lasseigne.

# Central's Drug Store Has Blessed Community Central Drug Store Is Integral Part of Central

**Woody Jenkins**  
 Editor

**CENTRAL** — The morning after one of our major hurricanes hit Central, I was moving around, taking pictures for the *Central City News* and seeing if anyone needed help. The power was out and would be for another week or so. People were being urged to stay at home because the weather was still bad and power lines, limbs, and trees were down everywhere. The city was a total mess. The Central Fire Department was doing outstanding work making major roads passable.

I made it to the Central Shopping Center at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads and saw a Sheriff's deputy in front of Central Drug Store. I feared the store had been robbed. As I neared the building, I noticed a light was on inside, even though the building had no power. A dozen or so Central residents were lined up to get in, looking every bit like refugees.

I went in to find Mr. Claud Derbes busily working away — all by himself with a flashlight — to fill prescriptions that were desperately needed by the people who came.

He said, "Some people lost their medicine in the storm. Others ran out

of their medicine yesterday or today. It's life or death for many of these folks. If they don't get their medicine, they will be in big trouble." "It must have been dangerous getting here," I said. He said, "Yes, but I took a special route. Only took me 90 minutes from Broadmoor. I always come when there's an emergency."

I asked if he had sent for the deputy. He said, "No, the Sheriff sends them out to all the pharmacies. There are drug addicts that come and try to get you to give them drugs. The deputy already sent two of them away."

That's the way Claud Derbes was — always ready to serve the people of Central. He showed up without being asked because he knew people would be hurting. For many years, he has been an integral part of the Central community, supporting and encouraging everything good that anyone tries to do for Central.

The *Central City News* has sponsored a Business of the Year competition. Year after year, Central Drug Store has won the top award. In 2015, when we honored the Business of the Decade, Central Drug Store also won that coveted prize.

One day, when I dropped by to visit with Claud, I thanked him for all he does for Central. He said, "No, I want to thank you for all you do for our business! Do you realize that

before you started the *Central City News*, there was no effective means for me to market our business to the people of Central? You have been a great blessing to our business!" I was so happy he felt that way!

Mr. Claud has passed away, but the memories of his many kindnesses for the people of Central still burn brightly in the minds of customers and his dedicated staff.

Mr. Claud's right hand gal Jill Miller said,

"The profound, lasting impact Claud made on so many people's lives in the Central community, as well as his generous contributions to the city, cannot be summed up in a few short sentences. He was first and foremost, the 'people's pharmacist.' The compassion he showed to each customer, regardless of their status or circumstances, was nothing short of amazing. To know Claud was to know a man who would go above and beyond to take care of anyone who needed help. He never let anyone go without their medications, often times opening the store after hours, to fill prescriptions for a desperate mother with a sick child, or a customer released from the hospital late at night. If someone couldn't afford their medications, he would pay for them out of his own pocket or allow them to pay whatever they could. Claud knew every customer by their first name and would come out of the pharmacy area, to shake their hand, or give them a hug.

"To many, Claud was not just a pharmacist but a mentor and a counselor in time of need. To others, he was a teacher and a confidant. But to everyone, he was

a FRIEND, who was always ready with a welcoming smile, a listening ear, and a contagious laugh. He loved and appreciated his customers, and would always say, 'Our customers are the reason we are here. They are the reason our store is such an incredible success, and they are the reason we will continue to be here for many years to come.' The legacy Claud and his brother Ted started back in February 1998 is very much alive and strong 20 years later. There is nobody who can ever take his place, as he was one-of-a-kind. The highest honor we can show him is to continue to serve the Central Community with the same compassion and genuine love he showed to everyone.

*There are some who bring a light so great to the world, that even after they have gone, the light remains."*

The new owner of Central Drug Store, Mike Leggett, has known Claud for many years. Mike's dad Ken and Claud were best of friends. "My dad would drive all the way to Central to get his prescriptions because of Claud."

When Mike himself decided to become a pharmacist, Claud was a role model. "He was such a fun-loving, high-spirited person, so full of life. He reminds me of my dad. From a business standpoint, Central Drug Store has an enormous reputation for customer service. Everyone talks about what a great job they do. That impressed me so much, and I want everyone to know that customer service and the hometown feel will remain unchanged."

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A Man with a Big Heart for Wife, Family, and All of Central

# Claud Derbes of Central Drug Store Known for Kindness, Compassion

Continued from Page One

joyed coming from behind the counter, finding out your problem, and then offering a compassionate and practical solution. If your doctor prescribed a high-priced drug you couldn't afford, he might well suggest a lower priced and more effective substitute. If you couldn't afford your prescription, he might give it to you free or for a token amount. If you wondered if you should go to the doctor, he'd ask your symptoms. More often than not, he would suggest an over-the-counter product that would save a doctor's visit.

Where Claud Derbes particularly shined was in times of emergency, during the hurricane, floods, and other disasters that seem to come along so often. Even if everything else was closed and there was no power, he would be at the drug store often alone, working away with a flashlight, filling a prescription for someone who lost their medicine in the storm or who forgot to come by for a refill before the weather hit. If the credit card machine wasn't working, he'd say, "Just pay me later!" or simply "Don't worry about it!"

His payment came in the form of loyalty, devotion, and admiration from his customers, who were also his friends.

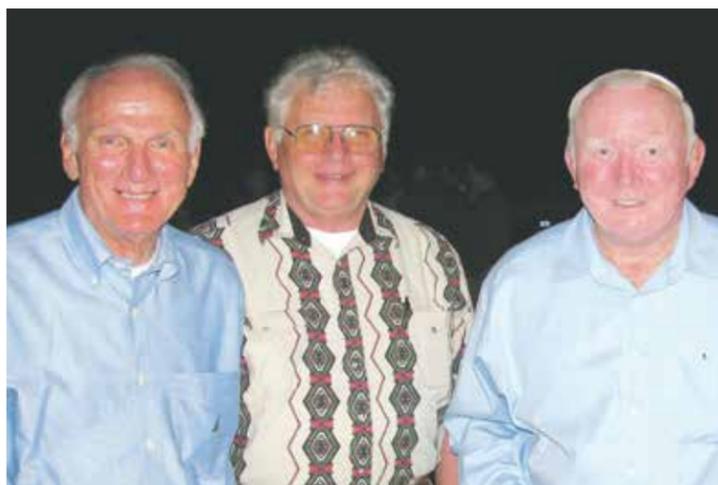
In a sense, Claud Derbes was a man of the past. He represented all the best of what druggists and drug stores meant to a community in days gone by — before the pharmacy business was taken over by the chains and before it became a big money business. He kept the hometown spirit alive in Central, always being a friend and taking care of his people.



Janice and the late Claud Derbes



Claud Derbes at Central Mardi Gras ball



Claud Derbes with Central friends



Claud Derbes and some of his trusted staff



Claud Derbes with Dr. Jim Gardner

## Claud Lawrence Derbes, Jr. - June 30, 1940 to Feb. 2, 2018

**CLAUD LAWRENCE DERBES, JR.**, a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather passed away at his home surrounded by family on the afternoon of Friday, February 2, 2018.

He was born on June 30, 1940 in Eunice and was a longtime resident of Baton Rouge. He served his country in the United States Air Force. He was the retired

owner and pharmacist of Central Drug Store in the City of Central.

He enjoyed his work and loved building relationships with the people of Central.

He will be deeply missed by his beloved wife, Janice Derbes; daughters Debra Bialkowski, Denise Miller, and Jennifer Derbes; granddaughter Monica Derbes; niece Candace Derbes;

grand-niece Sydney Copeland; sister-in-law Linda Londo and husband David; and nephews Ryan Gillard and Eric Londo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Claud and Hilda Fuselier Derbes; his brother, Walter "Pete" Derbes, and grand-nephew Caleb Copeland.

He loved all LSU sports, fishing, and animals, espe-

cially his pets. He will be remembered always for his kindness, compassion, and devotion to his family and his community.

Visitation will be held at Seale Funeral Home, 9995 Hooper Rd., Central, from 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, and again on Thursday, Feb. 8. Final visitation will resume on Friday, Feb. 9, from 12 noon until ser-

vices at 1 p.m., officiated by Father Mike Moroney.

Burial will follow at Resthaven Gardens of Memory. Special thanks to The Hospice of Baton Rouge.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to City of Central Food Bank, 12023 Sullivan Rd, Baton Rouge 70818 or an animal charity of your choice.

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# Lt. Carlton Hudson, Former POW, Is



Photo of Vera Rose Paul with a letter from POW camp



Lt. Carlton Hudson during World War II



Some of Carlton Hudson's medals



Map showing Kassel Mission where many Americans died



Model of B-24 bomber

Continued from Page One  
who passed away in February 2016.

Mr. Hudson, who was born on Jan. 27, 1918, in Jonesville, LA, was surrounded at the birthday party by his four children, 10 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

His father owned a general store during the Depression. He went to school in Buckeye, LA, but times were hard. He dropped out of school

and went to work for the Civilian Conservation Corps. After three years, he returned to Buckeye High School where he met Vera Rose Paul. She was five years younger.

Carlton went to Louisiana Tech to study engineering and was there when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He enlisted but wasn't called up until 1943.

In the Army Air Corps, he was

commissioned as a 2nd Lt. and assigned to the 8th Air Force, 445th Bomb Group. He became a navigator on a B-24 Liberator bomber and flew 29 combat missions over Germany. His last mission was a tragic one and is well known in the history of aviation.

During the Kassel Mission, 35 B-24 bombers were attacked over Germany with devastating results. Twenty-five were shot down in Germany and three others crash landed. A total of 117 airmen were killed, and 121 were captured. Only 98 men returned to action.

Carlton Hudson was one of those captured. By October, he was imprisoned at Stalag Luft 1. Fortunately, it was a prison camp for U.S. Army Air Corps officers and enlisted men, which was run by the Luftwaffe, the German air force. So it was German pilots responsible for American pilots. There was a lot of mutual respect, and the Americans were well treated by the standards of World War II. Food was in short supply, as it was for the Germans, but other than that there was no ill treatment. Carlton's son Jim Hudson, the youngest of his four sons, said, "It wasn't Hogan's Heroes but it wasn't the Bataan Death March either!"

The Russians liberated the POW camp in April 1945. An agreement between the Germans and the Russians allowed the Germans to withdraw from the POW camp without a fight. As a result, neither the Germans or Russians suffered any casualties, and the Americans too were released unharmed.

Carlton Hudson returned to Louisiana and married Vera in August 1946. He finished college the next year. With a degree in engineering,

he went to work for the California Oil Co., which was drilling wells in Louisiana. He became a Licensed Professional Engineer in 1958 and moved the family to Baton Rouge in 1959 to go to work for the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

They moved to Central in 1960, where they raised their four boys — John, Charles, Michael, and Jim. Eventually, all the boys attended and graduated from Central High School. John became a chemical engineer and now lives in Colorado. Charles, also a chemical engineer, lives in Houston. Michael, a forester, lives in Mandeville, and Jim, a mechanical engineer with Honeywell, lives here.

Jim said that while World War II was probably the defining time in his father's life, he never seemed to dwell on it. "He was always very fun loving and adventurous. As a youngster, he and his friends would jump the train and go wherever they wanted to go. They would put soap on the train to slow it down and then jump on!"

In his younger days, Carlton loved tinkering around the house. He was always building something, Jim said. "He never sat around and didn't allow us to. He loved to have his boys working with him, especially on his two-acre garden! That's a mighty big garden to maintain!"

"As for the war, he talked about more in his later years. He didn't glamorize it. To him, it was just something that had to be done."

Today, Carlton Hudson's health is relatively good. He uses a wheel chair and has trouble hearing but otherwise he's doing well, his son Jim said.



Carlton and Vera Hudson met at Buckeye High School. They married in 1946 and moved to Central in 1960. Vera died in 2016. They were married 60 years.

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*Jackson Community Park*
- 17 EVENING SKY VIEWING PLUS  
*Highland Road Park Observatory*
- 19 SWAMP VOLUNTEER DAY  
*Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center*
- 22 BLACK HISTORY EVENT  
*Independence Park Theatre*
- 24 NANODAYS  
*Highland Road Park Observatory*



# Honored at His 100th Birthday Party

Photos by Woody Jenkins



Carlton Hudson with son Jim



Carlton Hudson and his late wife Vera Rose Paul Hudson



Carlton Hudson with his pastor Kevin Hand of Zoar



Needlepoint honoring their wedding



Carlton Hudson with sons Jim, Charles, Michael and John



Carlton Hudson views his portrait taken in World War II

Watch Carlton Hudson Release from POW Camp

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# Lancaster House, Central Businesses Hold

Photos by Woody Jenkins



James Jones, Matt Tucker, and Randy Stephenson of Trade Construction



Stacey Lancaster and Michelle Lewis of Central Food Bank and Lewis Wrecker



Dwayne Digirolamo and David Ratcliff



Dodie McCune, Molly Godinich of IBTS, and Tammy and Matt Tucker



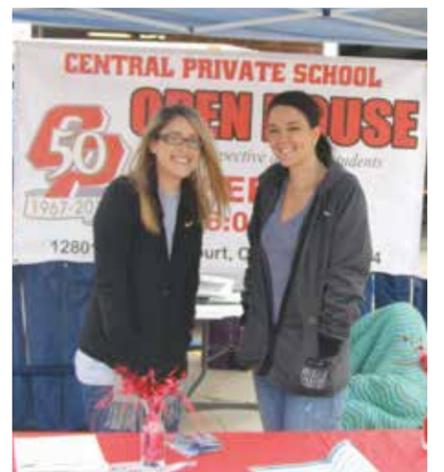
Stephen David and Josh Johnson of Whitney Bank



Volunteers serving food at Lancaster House



Tammy Tucker and Stacey Lancaster



Representing Central Private

**CENTRAL** — The Central Food Bank got a boost Saturday as a result of a cookout sponsored by Lancaster House and other Central businesses. The event sold out 300 plates at \$10 each and had a successful silent auction.

All proceeds will go to the Central Food Bank, which is adminis-

tered by Michelle Lewis.

Ms. Lewis said the food bank is desperately needed by a segment of the population who has been left out — seniors on a small fixed income.

The Central Food Bank has an elaborate screening process that allows it to be sure applicants are

truly in need, Mr. Lewis said.

In order to be considered, a person must be a resident of Central as demonstrated by proof of residency and meet USDA poverty standards.

Ms. Lewis said that when she took over the Food Bank, it was serving about 20 recipients a month. Now that number is up to 100, mostly senior citizens.

One of the successful parts of the fundraising event was auctioning off a painting by acclaimed artist

Tony Bernard. The painting, Eye of the Tiger, was eventually won by David Ratcliff with a bid of \$1,550. Many of Bernard's painting are used on home decor products produced by Lancaster House.

Stacey Lancaster, who hosted the event, thanked everyone who helped, especially the sponsors.

To watch the event and take a quick tour of Lancaster House, use your phone to scan the QR code on Page 7.

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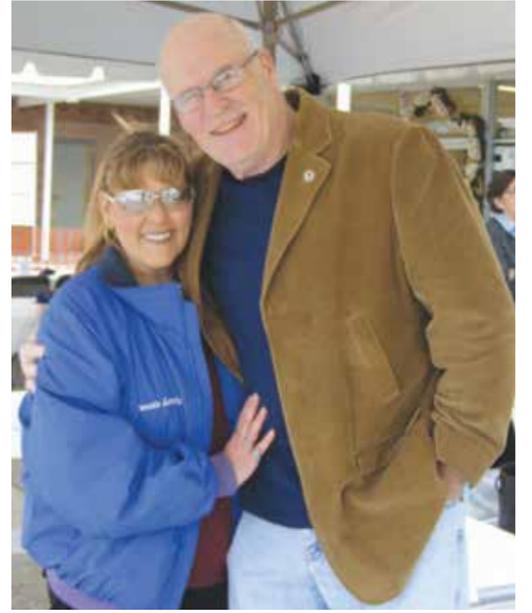


Lancaster House specializes in home decor featuring Louisiana themes.

# Cook Out to Support Central Food Bank



Stacey Lancaster, David Ratcliff, Tony Bernard, Jeff Prisk, Michelle Lewis, and Michael Bingham



Michelle Lewis and Mayor Shelton



Lancaster House has a large selection of pelicans and other symbols of Louisiana.

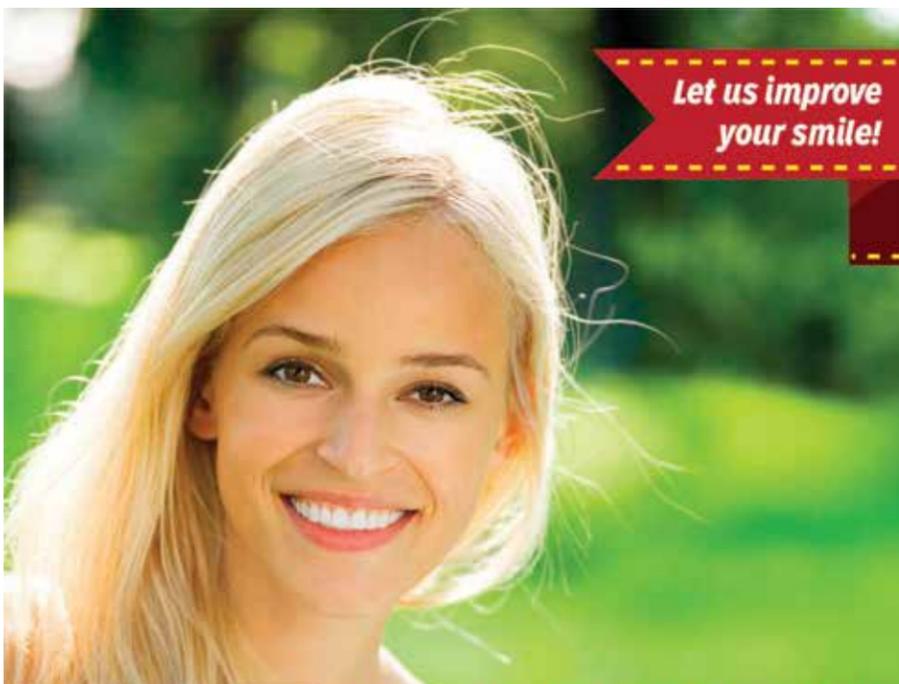


Lancaster House has a large selection of Easter and seasonal decor.

A Visit to Lancaster House

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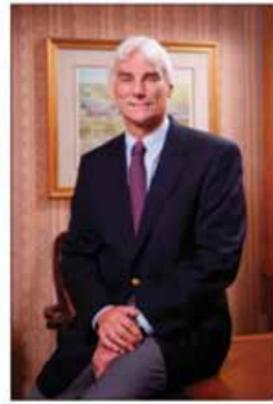
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# Watch Wildcats vs. Zachary on Feb. 9, Walker



#22 Hunter Arnold controls tip for Wildcats



#4 Trey Johnson on defense with #12 Quint Guerin



Coach Brian Hargroder and the Wildcats



Jalyn Murphy and Hunter Arnold



#42 Tyler Sherman fights for two



The Kitten dance team at halftime against Live Oak



#22 Hunter Arnold wins the tip off for Central



Central High School cheerleaders



#40 Jalyn Murphy up with two points for the Wildcats

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#40 Jalyn Murphy with #24 Parker Austin and #21 Landon Thames



#4 Trey Johnson

**Central High School Basketball Team vs. Live Oak, Belaire and Scotlandville**

Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Woody Jenkins of Central City

View Our Archives at [CentralCityNews.net](http://CentralCityNews.net)

# on Feb. 16 on Central City News on Facebook



ore against Live Oak 74-66



#10 Destin Franklin dribbles down the court



#4 Trey Johnson on defense against the Live Oak Eagles



Quint Guerin up for two points



#12 Quint Guerin up for a shot



#21 Landon Thames, # 12 Quint Guerin, and #20 Todd Lasseigne



#4 Trey Johnson reaches for two points against Belaire



Central High School Kitten dance team at halftime against the Belaire Bengals



Johnson



#21 Landon Thames



#40 Jalyn Murphy

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# Business Report Slams COA Ads

**BATON ROUGE** — The *Baton Rouge Business Report* said today the East Baton Rouge Parish Council on Aging is using taxpayer funds to purchase full-page newspaper ads thanking voters for their support of the COA property tax, which was narrowly approved back in 2016.

The Council on Aging is a non-profit organization not subject to the control of the State of Louisiana or the City-Parish government. Yet, it now collects and spends \$8 million a year in taxpayer dollars levied as a result of a 2.2-mill property tax.

Metro Councilman Buddy Amoros was quoted as saying, "This was a gloat ad telling how great

they are." Councilman Matt Watson said, "This doesn't feed one senior or take anyone to the doctor."

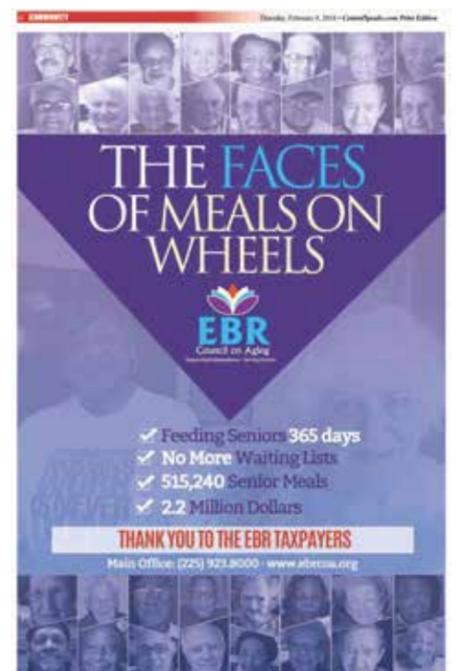
Accepting the ads were the *Baton Rouge Advocate* and *Central Speaks*.

Some elected officials have called the Council on Aging a corrupt organization because it used taxpayer funds to haul more than 2,000 voters to the polls to vote for the 2016 tax during early voting.

At one point, the COA hired school buses with Central Community Schools painted on their sides to haul large numbers of voters to early voting, until then-Supt. Mike Faulk learned what was going on and put a stop to it. First Student

is a private company that provides bus transportation to the Central Community School System on a contract basis. At the time, First Student told Faulk the local office of the company was not aware how the buses were being used.

The *Business Report* also cited criticism by Councilman Dwight Hudson of the Council on Aging using taxpayer funds to place thank you ads for a tax increase. "Hudson was not alone in his criticism today of the agency, which came under fire in the wake of the tax election for violating its nonprofit status to campaign for the tax and was also cited for financial mismanagement, board conflicts, and



**THE BUSINESS REPORT** raised questions about this full page newspaper ad for the East Baton Rouge Parish Council on Aging, which appeared in the *Advocate* and *Central Speaks*. The ad was paid for with proceeds from a property tax passed by the COA last year. The Council on Aging is a private, non-profit organization — not a government agency — but it now levies and collects property taxes of \$8 million a year. The director of the COA was criticized for trying to swindle the heirs of a senior citizen out of a \$120,000 inheritance. The tax has been called into question because the COA used taxpayer funds to haul more than 2,000 voters to the polls to vote for the tax in early voting.

a disputed will that a COA board member was involved in drafting for a COA client."

With regard to the will of 95-year-old Helen Plummer, the executive director of the Council on Aging, Tasha Clark-Amar, had herself named executor and was scheduled to receive virtually all of Ms. Plummer's estate, instead of the heirs.

On January 3, 2018, the *Advocate* reported, "The family of Helen Plummer finally hashed out a settlement agreement Wednesday that leaves Plummer's money to her daughter and great-grandchildren, cutting out administrative fees that Council on Aging Executive Director Tasha Clark-Amar stood to collect under the will as originally written."

"Plummer died at age 95 in March 2017. A will that she signed in July 2016 at the Southern University Elder Law Clinic named Clark-Amar as the executrix and trustee of Plummer's estate, which allowed Clark-Amar to collect around \$120,000 in administrative fees over the course of 20 years. Plummer was a client of the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging.

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**Vaccinations Given Mon-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. No Appointment Needed and on Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!**

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**We Do PT/INR Testing Daily With No Appointment Needed**



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\$6 for first 10 words. \$10 for 11 to 20 words, \$15 for 21 to 30 words. \$20 for 31 to 40 words. \$25 for one column inch classified display ad. Call 261-5055. Must be paid in advance. To pay by credit card, go to [www.centralcitynews.us](http://www.centralcitynews.us) and click "Pay Now" on the left. Then email ad copy to [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:centralcitynews@hotmail.com). Or mail or hand deliver check and ad copy to City News, 910 N. Foster, Baton Rouge 70806

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Meet Physical Therapist Assistant Collen Malone and learn about Central Physical Therapy's therapeutic pool.



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In the first video, meet Physical Therapist Assistant Tara Sturgeon and learn about techniques to speed healing after knee surgery. Watch the second video to hear Gil Matherne speak on his progress after knee surgery.



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Click here to meet Tina Hebert, Physical Therapist Assistant, and hear about her work restoring balance and overall physical wellness.



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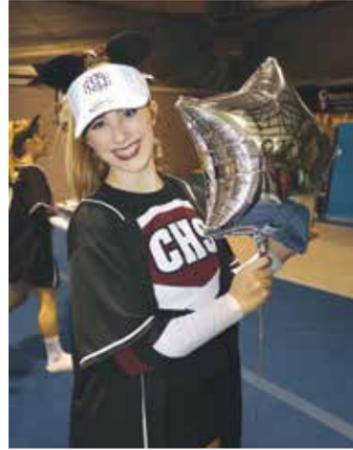
# www.centralptonline.com

# Cheerleaders' Send-Off to Nationals

Photos by Jolice Provost



**CHS VARSITY CHEER TEAM** is off to Disney World in Orlando for the National High School Cheer Competition Feb. 10 and 11. The Wildcat team is coached by Amy Stevens with Sharon Ball as their sponsor. Watch the girls live at #VARSITYTV on varsity.com. For more information, go to uca.varsity.com. Left to right are Kennedy Leger, Balice Bagley, Hannah Wall, Camille Provost, Heather Bourke and Katie Kennedy. At right, Emile Provost hands balloons to Bailey Mitchell.



**THE CHEERLEADERS** who traditionally support other sports were showered with gifts for their send-off party UBSA. The girls have worked hard and are excited to be competing at the national level. They will compete in the non-tumbling Game Day-Large Varsity Division and non tumbling, Routine Medium Division. Left to Right Chloe Graham, Amber Wethey, Julia Gullet and Peyton Dowden

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Your Homesite

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6.3-acres. Magnificent homesite in corral. Includes 3,200sf conference center with new roof; two commercial grade AC/heating systems; 10 foot ceilings with crown molding plus 60x30 covered area for parking or outdoor events. Conference center can be converted to home. Includes romantic 930sf cottage and 2 barns. 6510 Oak Cluster. Call owner at 225-937-7404 or 921-1433. Appt only. Realtors welcome

# Mayor Provides Drainage Update

**Jr. Shelton**  
Mayor, City of Central

**CENTRAL** — Drainage, flooding, rain, thunderstorms, canals, ditches — the list goes on and on. These words have become common vernacular in Central since long before the Flood of August 2016. Central has been known as a community with more than its fair share of flooding.

The Flood of 2016 was a phenomenon that I hope we never experience again in our lifetimes. But the reality is, we can never assure ourselves that it won't flood again. What we can do is attempt to minimize the risk of floods. And that is exactly what we are attempting to do.

Drainage improvements are a slow and costly process. But we must do it. We have been doing it everyday since this administration took office in July 2014. It has been a priority, whether it was cleaning the ditch in front of someone's house or clearing major canals.

The work done in neighborhoods and in roadside ditches is easily seen, but the work on major canals, located deep in the woods, is rarely seen. We embarked on a project to clear the "choke points" (250 originally with an additional 50-75 more identified during the work) created by the Flood of 2016.

Over 1,400 tons, or 2.4 million pounds, of dead vegetation has been removed from our canals. This debris caused back ups in the canals and flooding. Other man-made debris was removed such as tires, satellite dishes, back ends of pickup trucks, fences built in the canals, collapsed creosote bridges that had fallen into the canals, and other large obstructions.

Roadside, neighborhood ditches have been dug. Culverts cleaned out or replaced. Catch basins cleaned and other infrastructure cleaning has taken place. There is no one fix for all of the drainage issues.

There are literally thousands of small projects and much larger projects that need to be worked on. Anytime a resident calls with a problem, we assess the area and work to resolve the issue. Nothing is ignored.

If a citizen thinks his issue is not being addressed properly, call me at City Hall and I can assure you that we will take care of it.

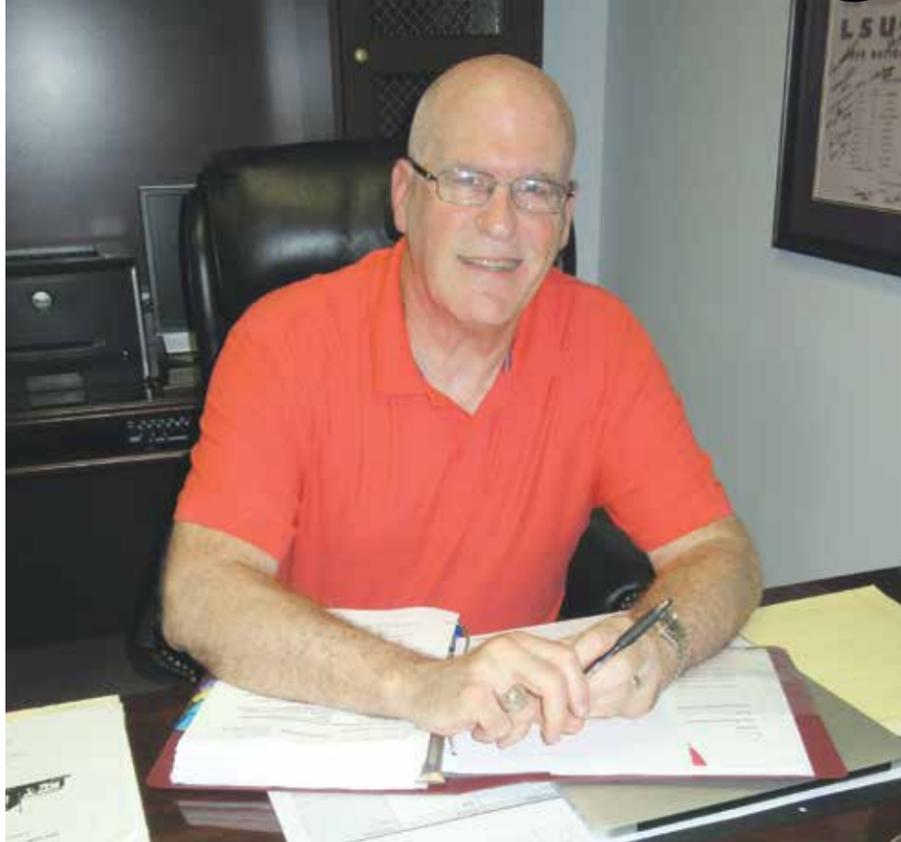
Following the Flood of 2016, I worked with literally hundreds of citizens on a variety of topics, ranging from FEMA money to securing a Manufactured Housing Unit. I sat and cried with citizens. I prayed with them. I listened to how we as a city could help them.

Nothing is more important to me or the council than for our citizens to have a safe and secure environment to live. This administration and council wants to solve every drainage issue out there.

We have engaged a company to complete a Master Drainage Plan that will be comprehensive in scope to address our needs. A major portion of this plan is to develop an ongoing maintenance plan for our canals.

Some have asked why we are studying the drainage? That's easy. You wouldn't attempt to build a house without a plan and I am not going to try to solve our drainage problems without a plan. I have been and will continue to take advice from engineers. They are our best hope for solving our issues.

I invite you to look at the newly developed page on the city web page - <https://www.centralgov.com/drainage>.



Central Mayor Jr. Shelton reports on drainage.



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Phone 225-960-3294 • Fax 960-3321  
Tuesday-Thursday 11-9:30 • Friday-Saturday 11-10  
Sunday 11-9:30 • Close Monday

**Celebrate Valentine's Day**

That gives information on the work done, work planned and pictures to show progress. It also gives tips to help homeowners to reduce their risk of flooding.

I will be happy to sit with citizens and discuss their specific issues or they can call me at City Hall, 261-5988. Also, take a look at the November 9, 2017 edition of the *Central City News*. They had a very good article on our work.

## 'The Free Market Warrior' to Speak At Ronald Reagan Luncheon Tuesday

**BATON ROUGE** — Loren Spivack, *The Free Market Warrior*, will be in Baton Rouge at 12 noon on Tuesday, Feb. 13 to speak at the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon at Café Américain, 7521 Jefferson Hwy.

Spivack is considered one of the nation's leading spokesmen on the free enterprise system.

Lunch is \$25. The event is sponsored by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish. Reservations are not necessary.

Spivack, who was raised in New York City, founded "Free Market Warrior" in 2009 in an effort to make a positive difference in American politics and economics. Since then, Loren has devoted his time to teaching conservative groups about free market economics.

He conducts "Economic Literacy" seminars across the U.S. So far, Spivack has delivered his famous seminar on "Economic Literacy" to over 200 groups in 20 states.

Spivack is also the author of "The New Democrat" a parody history of the Obama administration, based on a famous children's book. With pitch-perfect rhyme and clever illustrations, "The New Democrat" transforms the political personalities of our times into cartoon characters in a conservative morality play.

Spivack's second book, "The Gorax" is an anti-environmentalism/pro-capitalism parody starring Al Gore. It presents his movement as a threat to American freedom and standard of living. Once again, Spivack is both funny and poignant as he makes the case that capitalism (represented by the "Onepercentler") is the real victim of environmental extremists who destroy prosperity without achieving even their own goals.

Along the way, Spivack takes well aimed shots at everything from "The Fed" to the teachers unions. "The Gorax" came out on July 1, 2013. Mr. Spivack lives in Massachusetts with his wife and 3 of their 6 children (the other three having grown up.) [LorenSpivack@Gmail.com](mailto:LorenSpivack@Gmail.com)



Loren Spivack

**Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon**  
Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018  
Hear Candidates for State GOP Chairman  
Sponsored by Republican Party of EBR  
11:30 Reception • 12 Lunch • \$19  
Café Américain • 7521 Jefferson Hwy.  
No Reservation Necessary

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Central City News to Broadcast Games on Facebook

# Central High Baseball, Softball Teams to Defend Louisiana State 5A Championships

Part I - Central High Baseball

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**CENTRAL** — The Central High School Wildcats won the Louisiana State 5A Baseball Championship last May with a big victory over powerhouse West Monroe in the state tournament in Sulphur. It was a season and a game to remember, but the Central Wildcats



Central High School — 2017 Louisiana State 5A Baseball Champions

## 2018 CHS Baseball Schedule

Games in Yellow Broadcast Live on Central City News on Facebook

Feb 10	W Feliciana Scrimmage	H
Feb 17	Live Oak Denham Jamboree	A
Feb 17	Denham Springs	A
Feb 19	Mandeville	A
Feb 22	Denham (Tourney)	A
Feb 23	Byrd (Tourney)	H
Feb 23	Lafayette (Tourney)	H
Feb 24	Zachary (Tourney)	A
Feb 27	Holy Cross	A
Mar 1	W Monroe (Tourney)	A
Mar 2	Byrd (Tourney)	A
Mar 3	Benton (Tourney)	A
Mar 3	Airline (Tourney)	A
Mar 6	Catholic	A
Mar 9	St. Louis Catholic	A
Mar 10	St. Louis Catholic	A
Mar 10	St. Louis Catholic	A
Mar 13	E Ascension	H
Mar 15	Lafayette (Tourney)	A
Mar 16	St. Thomas More	A
Mar 17	Acadiana (Tourney)	A
Mar 20	St. Amant	H
Mar 22	Dutchtown	H
Mar 24	St. Michael	H
Mar 26	Doyle	A
Mar 29	Denham Springs**	H
Mar 31	Scotlandville**	A
Apr 3	Zachary**	A
Apr 5	Walker**	A
Apr 7	Live Oak**	H
Apr 10	Denham Springs**	A
Apr 12	Scotlandville**	H
Apr 14	Zachary**	H
Apr 17	Walker**	H
Apr 19	Live Oak**	A

**PLAYOFFS**

Location and Time TBA  
Apr 24 Bi-District Tourney  
Apr 27-28 Regionals Best of 3  
May 4-5 Quarterfinals Best of 3  
State Tournament  
May 10-12 in Sulphur

\*\* District Game  
Head Coach Mike Forbes

are back again this spring with a lot of experience and enough talent to compete with the best in the state again this year.

Coach Mike Forbes said the Wildcats lost 11 players from the State Championship team due to graduation but still have a core of outstanding athletes returning.

“Our outfield is intact, and our starting shortstop is returning. We lost a four-year starter at catcher but a sophomore stepped up and he will be a junior this year. We have an excellent starting pitcher returning. In fact, we have some great arms on our pitching staff. We just don’t have the depth we would like to have. If our pitchers stay healthy, we will be fine.”

“We are strong on defense. We have good hitting and good base running. We are fast!” he said.

The Wildcats will play a strong schedule, mostly on the road. They have 23 road games and 12 home games currently on their schedule.

“We have to be able to win on the road,” Coach Forbes said.

The Wildcats have road trips planned to Mandeville, Holy Cross in New Orleans, West Monroe, Byrd in Shreveport, St. Louis Catholic in Lake Charles, Lafayette, and Doyle. The trip to Lake Charles will include three games over a two-day period, and Coach Forbes sees it as an opportunity to prepare for tournament and championship play on

the road.

The West Monroe tournament should be especially memorable. It will have 96 teams competing, including some from Arkansas and Mississippi. There are no brackets. Central will play four games.

Coach Forbes is excited about the upgrades to the Central baseball field. Some improvements have been made by the school board and some by the Central Athletic Foundation. He pointed to new dugouts, new brick backstop, new netting and poles, and new metal fencing of the entire outfield. A new entrance will be built soon. “We are so grateful to the Central Athletic Foundation for all they have done,” he said.

The Central City News broadcast all Central High football games Live on Facebook last fall, drawing enormous audiences. Each game had between 15,000 and 36,000 viewers live and on replays.

The Central City News is broadcasting six Central High basketball games live on Facebook with the Zachary High game on Feb. 9 and Walker on Feb. 16 still to be played.

This season the Central City News will also broadcast 12 Central High baseball games, mostly out-of-town games that many fans may not be able to attend. These are

- Feb. 19 - Mandeville - Away
- Feb. 23 - Byrd - Home
- Feb. 27 - Holy Cross - Away
- Mar. 1 - West Monroe - Away

- Mar. 6 - Catholic - Away
- Mar. 15 - Lafayette - Away
- Mar. 20 - St. Amant - Home
- Mar. 26 - Doyle - Away
- Mar. 29 - Denham - Home
- Apr. 3 - Zachary - Away
- Apr. 17 - Walker - Home
- Apr. 19 - Live Oak - Away

To watch these games, go to Central City News on Facebook at game time.

Read next month’s issue, which will feature Central High softball.

## 2018 CHS Softball Schedule

Feb 17	Jamboree	A
Feb 20	TBA	TBA
Feb 21	Vandebilt Catholic	A
Feb 23	Denham Tourney	A
Feb 24	Denham Tourney	A
Feb 27	TBA	H
Feb 28	Maurepas	A
Mar 2	Grant Tourney	A
Mar 3	Grant Tourney	A
Mar 8	Live Oak	H
Mar 9	St. John Tourney	A
Mar 10	St. John Tourney	A
Mar 13	Walker	A
Mar 16	Brusly Tourney	A
Mar 17	Brusly Tourney	A
Mar 20	Walker	A
Mar 22	Denham Springs	A
Mar 27	Live Oak	A
Mar 29	Zachary	H
Mar 31	Dominican	H
Apr 2	Acad of Our Lord	A
Apr 5	Walker	H
Apr 6	W Feliciana	H
Apr 7	Central Tourney	H
Apr 10	Denham Springs	H
Apr 11	TBA	TBA

**PLAYOFFS**

Location and Time TBA  
Apr 17 Bi-District Tourney  
Apr 21 Regionals

\*\* District Game  
Head Coach Michelle Efferson

## Team Reached Out to Someone Who Was Hungry



**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM** was headed to a scrimmage on Feb. 1, when the game was cancelled. The team stopped for lunch at the Chic Fil-A on Miller-ville. While there, one of the girls noticed an elderly gentleman in the lobby looking around. She asked him if she could buy him something to eat. He said that would be great because he was homeless. Noticing this, the other girls collected \$50 to give to this man in his time of need. Coach Michelle Efferson and the team want to make a difference on and off the field. Last year’s Central High softball team won the 2017 Class 5A State Championship, and this year’s team is ready to fill their shoes!



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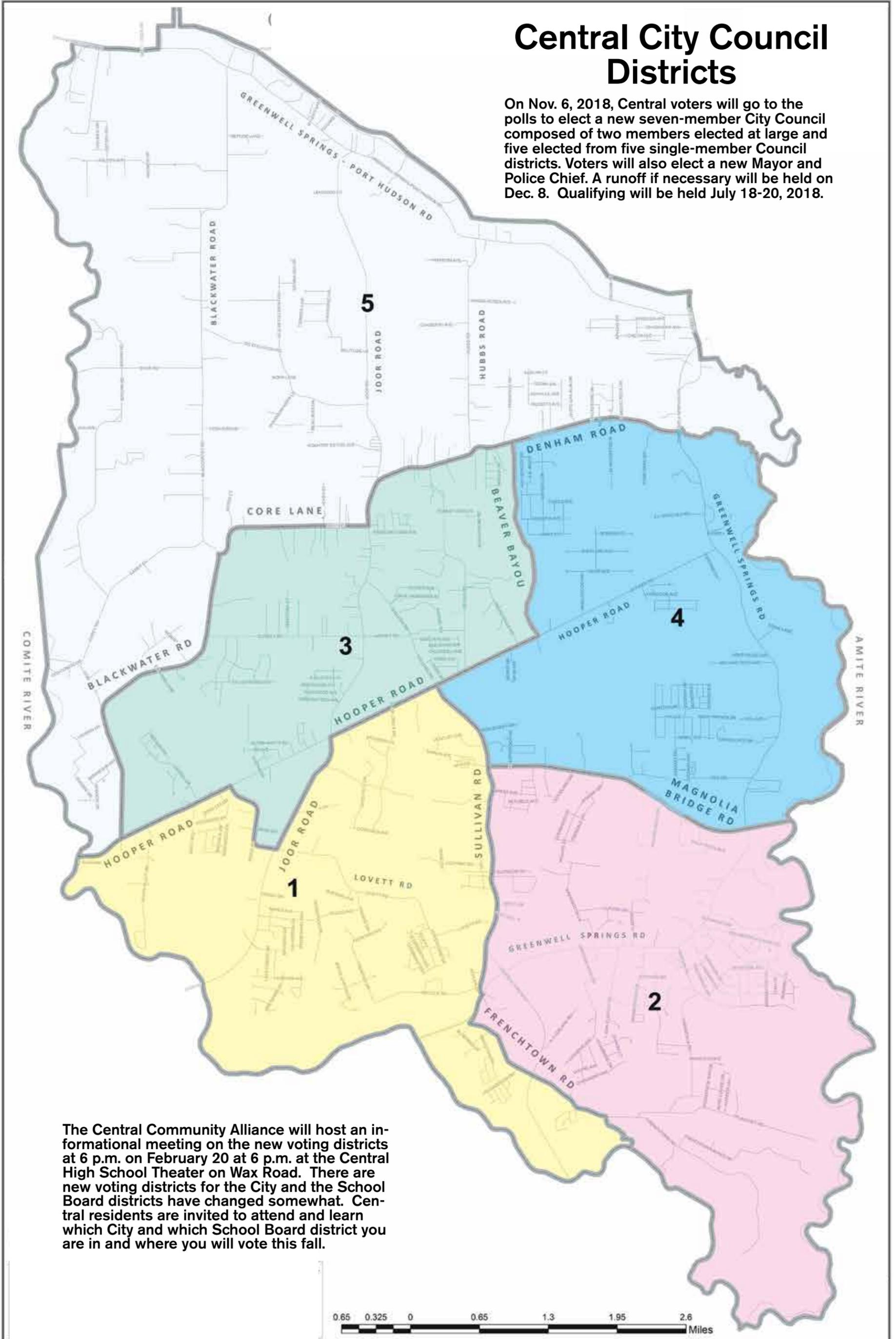
• 8751 Sullivan Road  
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# Central City Council Districts

On Nov. 6, 2018, Central voters will go to the polls to elect a new seven-member City Council composed of two members elected at large and five elected from five single-member Council districts. Voters will also elect a new Mayor and Police Chief. A runoff if necessary will be held on Dec. 8. Qualifying will be held July 18-20, 2018.



The Central Community Alliance will host an informational meeting on the new voting districts at 6 p.m. on February 20 at 6 p.m. at the Central High School Theater on Wax Road. There are new voting districts for the City and the School Board districts have changed somewhat. Central residents are invited to attend and learn which City and which School Board district you are in and where you will vote this fall.

