

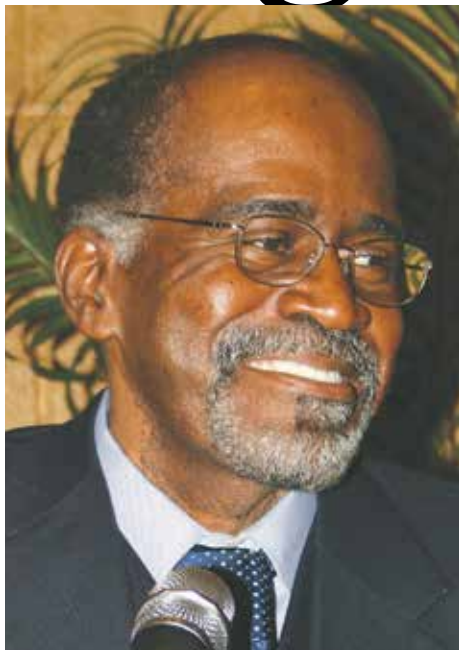
## Runoff Election Saturday for Seat on City Council

# Washington vs. Ellis

## GOP Backs Washington For Council

**CENTRAL** — The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge has reiterated its endorsement of Central Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington for reelection to the City Council. The party issued a statement in support of Washington: “The Republican Party is proud to endorse Ralph Washington for the following reasons:

- He is one of the founders of the City of Central, the only one remaining in city government.
- He has an unblemished record of service and is known as a pillar of honesty and integrity.
- He has worked very hard for the people of Central and has treated each citizen with respect. He is a true gentleman.
- He has a solid conservative record. He has never voted for a tax increase or an unbalanced budget. He supports free enterprise, limited government, and family values. He is a staunch supporter of the 2nd Amendment.
- He is the kind of person we need in public office and deserves to be reelected.”



**RUNOFF CANDIDATES** — Facing off this Saturday, May 3 for a seat on the Central City Council are Central Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington (left) and Jason Ellis.



## Choice: Experience vs. Youth In Race for Fifth Council Seat

**CENTRAL** - Voters in Central went to the polls April 5 and elected a new Mayor, Police Chief, and four members of the Central City Council. However, the fifth Council seat was left unfilled because none of the remaining seven candidates received an outright majority. The fifth-ranked candidate, Central

Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington, received 3,625 votes, about 50 short of a majority. Running sixth was civil engineer and Army veteran Jason Ellis, who received 3,071, or about 650 votes short of a majority. Washington has nine years on the Council while Ellis is a youthful first-time candidate.

## Low Turnout Will Make Every Vote Count Saturday

**CENTRAL** - Central voters will go to the polls this Saturday, May 3 to choose between incumbent Ralph Washington and challenger Jason Ellis for a seat on the City Council.

Or will they? Central officials are worried voters will forget and stay home. In the hotly-contested April 5 primary, only 7,700 of Central’s 20,000 registered voters cast ballots. Central Mayor-elect Jr. Shelton expressed fear that as few as 1,000 to 2,000 votes will be cast Saturday. “This is a very important election. Please vote this Saturday!” Shelton said.

For more, see Pages 10-11

## Sample Ballot

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**  
**On the Ballot in Central**

**City Council**

Jason Ellis R

**Ralph Washington\*** R

**\*Endorsed by Republican Party of East Baton Rouge**

## Three Days of Food and Fun at St. Alphonsus

# Festival of Two Rivers Starts on Friday

**GREENWELL SPRINGS** — The Sixth Annual Festival of Two Rivers will begin Friday, May 2 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church on Greenwell Springs Road.

The event, which attracts thousands of visitors from throughout the Baton Rouge area, includes three days of food, entertainment, and rides. For the first time this year, it also includes a 5K run and a one-mile fun run.

The schedule of events is

- Friday, May 2 — 5 to 11 p.m., Festival

- Saturday, May 3 — 8 a.m., One-Mile Fun Run; 8:30 a.m., 5K Run; 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Festival

- Sunday, May 4 — 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Festival.

The purpose of the event to bring the Central community together for fun and fellowship and to support St. Alphonsus Church and its work. For more information, go to [www.festivaloftworivers.com](http://www.festivaloftworivers.com)



**FINALIST FOR STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR** — Jackie Jenkins of Central Middle School was honored by Supt. Mike Faulk and the Central school board.

## CMS Teacher Is State Finalist for Teacher of Year

**CENTRAL** - On Monday night, Jackie Jenkins was honored as Central’s middle school teacher of the year. Now the Louisiana Department of Education has announced that Mrs. Jenkins is a finalist to be named Louisiana’s Teacher of the Year in ceremonies July 12 in Baton Rouge.

The Central school board commended Mrs. Jenkins, saying she “delivers the highest quality teaching and educational service that maximizes the academic achievements and personal growth of her students.”

Photo by Jolice Provost



# COMMUNITY PRESS, LLC




CAPITAL CITY NEWS

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M. K. AND JEAN WONG, retired owners of Chinese Inn on Airline, with son Paul, grandson Austin and helper Sparkle at Red Stick Farmers Market Saturday. The Wongs reside in Baton Rouge but travel widely, especially to China.

Country Living in the City

# Time to Go Snake Hunting at State Capitol

## It's the Time of Session When Bad Bills Crawl Out from Hiding

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

Rep. Ford Stinson, who served in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1936 to 1972 with a little time out during World War II to go kill Nazis, was one of the legislature's all-time best bill-killers. Some people never pass a bill, but that doesn't mean they don't serve a very important role in the process. Legislative sessions are defined by the media by what passes. That's "news." But very often the real news of a session should be the bad bills that get killed, thereby saving

the taxpayers untold hardship and grief. Ford Stinson was one bill-killing machine! He had an uncanny knack for knowing when a terrible bill was about to be called off the calendar, usually late at night or when members were tired and just wanted to go home. "Please, I'll vote for anything, just let me go home!" I must have heard that a thousand times when I was a member of the House from 1972 to 2000. The body is weak! As soon as the bad bill was called from the calendar, Ford Stinson was ready. He had picket signs especially made for the nefarious bill. He would walk down the aisle, carrying his sign and hollering "Snake, snake!" and everybody knew the game was on! His sign would say something derogatory about the bill or its author, always something humorous and not too cutting. Just enough to get people thinking. Ford Stinson was a conservative who knew just what to say to turn

conservatives against the bill. Often, he was secretly in league with his supposed arch-enemy, ultra liberal New Orleans Rep. Sal Anselmo, who would go to the mike and turn the liberals against the bill. They used facts and law plus plenty of humor and a comfortable amount of ridicule to do the job. As a page in the House in the 1960's, many were the times I saw Stinson and Anselmo kill a bill and then shake hands gleefully in the back of the Chamber. Quite often, conservatives and liberals can agree on which bills are bad, because they stink up the place. This year I see several bills affecting East Baton Rouge that are "snakes" and need to be killed. Here are some of my least favorites:



Woody Jenkins

- HB 1151 by Rep. Ponti — To provide that all five City Court judges in Baton Rouge would be elected citywide. Back in the early 1990's, when Baton Rouge was 60-40 white to black, I thought it was a mistake to have five white city judges. So I helped push through subdistricts to give us two black judges and three white ones. Now that Baton Rouge is 60-40 black to white, I think it's a mistake to have five black judges. The subdistricts should be rearranged but kept in place. HB 1151 is a snake!
- HB 1178 by Rep. Honore — To reduce the EBR school board to seven members with six from districts and one at large. Districts would have 62,000 residents, and the at-large seat would have 376,000 residents! It would take \$50,000 just to run for school board. Another snake!
- HB 1212 by Rep. James — To have St. George voted on parish-wide instead of in St. George. Ever heard of self-rule and democracy? As Ford Stinson would holler, "Kill that snake!"

## Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

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 Capital City News is distributed in Baton Rouge & St. George



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BR Establishment Fights to Kill New City

St. George’s Goal: Get Signatures Now!

Browning Says Every Signature Is Precious Now

**BATON ROUGE** — St. George incorporation spokesman Lionel Rainey III told the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge last Tuesday that July 23, 2014, used to be goal for supporters but now it is a hard deadline.

“For months, we said that we hope to have the signatures to put the incorporation of St. George on the ballot for this November. July 23 is the deadline for turning in the signatures. But now, with all of the attacks we face in the legislature, July 23 is no longer a ‘goal,’ it may be a drop-dead date. If we fail to meet that deadline, the adverse legislation may prevent us from being on the ballot at all.”

St. George incorporation chairman Norman Browning told the group, “Make no mistake, all of the legislation making it more difficult to form a new city is directed at the City of St. George.”

“You have to remember, the legislature started all this. We proposed creating a new school system, and they told us, we had to create a new



**DISCUSS PROPOSED CITY OF ST. GEORGE** — After Norman Browning (2nd from left) addressed the Chamber EBR last Tuesday, Metro Councilmen Ryan Heck and Buddy Amoroso, along with TheHayride.com publisher Scott McKay gathered around.

city first. Then, when we try to create a new city, they want to change the rules in the middle of the game, in order to make it much more difficult or to prohibit it altogether.”

“Our people believe in this country and the right to vote, and they’re not going to take that away from us. We are in the process of collecting the signatures. What’s

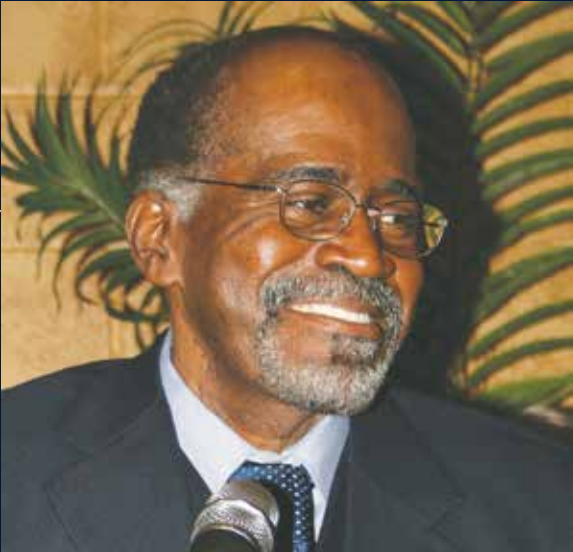
important is how many signatures we have in July,” he said.

“This all started with trying to improve public education but now it’s become more than that. It’s about self-determination. The people of St. George deserve the right to govern themselves,” he said.

Browning said he is very confident they will be able to gather the

signature by the July 23 deadline.

“The more they attack our efforts to create an independent school district and a new city, the more enthusiasm it builds among the people of St. George. We’re working hard, and we encourage everyone who supports this effort to come sign the petition and to volunteer and get involved.”



Ralph Washington

The Man Who **Stands Tall** for Central When **Everything** Is on the Line!

- Grew up poor on a small farm in Iberville Parish; one of 10 children
- At 14, he was in the first busload of black students sent to integrate East Ascension High School (not at his request). White students were beating on the bus and shouting racial slurs. He decided to get out of the bus and ended up as an outstanding graduate of East Ascension High School.
- Worked his way through Southern University and earned a B.S. degree in business
- As a boy, there was a major chemical plant on the Mississippi near his home. One of his friends said, “Someday I want to work in that plant!” But Ralph told him, “Someday I want to run that plant!” While working his way through Southern, he got a job at the plant and started sweeping floors. Over the years, he rose through the ranks and eventually he ran that plant!
- When the company was sold, he took a buy-out and used the money to move to Central and start Red Stick Cleaners.
- One of the original organizers of the City of Central who attended all the meetings and worked hard for incorporation. When the voters approved creation of the City, Gov. Blanco appointed him to serve on the interim City Council. When the first City Council was elected by the voters, he ran first among the 13 candidates. To the surprise of many, 70% of the voters of Central voted for a black man, more than for any other candidate. Then the new City Council elected Ralph to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Central, the City’s second highest position.
- For the past nine years, Ralph Washington has been fighting for Central from the “inside.” Yet, he has always kept his INDEPENDENCE from the powers that be. He has NEVER voted for a TAX INCREASE. He has NEVER voted for an UNBALANCED BUDGET. He has LISTENED to the concerns of citizens and STOOD for them. He has fought FOR public access to PUBLIC RECORDS. He has fought to make PRIVATIZATION work and made sure the good old boys haven’t had their hands in the cookie jar. He’s STOOD UP for Central.

Now is your chance to STAND UP for RALPH WASHINGTON!

**Stand Up** for the Man Who **Stands Up** for Us



# Legislature Hobbles Two Anti-St. George Bills But James Bill on Parishwide Vote Is Still Alive

## Pro-St. George Transition Bill Awaiting Action

**BATON ROUGE** — Efforts to incorporate the proposed City of St. George have come under full-fledged assault in the current session of the Louisiana Legislature with a number of bills to make it more difficult for a new city to incorporate.

Of the three major bills that would hamper St. George, two have been amended to make them less harmful. However, one important bill that could completely derail St. George remains very much alive.

Here is the status of key legislation:

- SB 674 by Sen. Nevers — Would place a two-year moratorium on the creation of new municipalities in order to study the issue. As originally introduced, the bill would have applied to St. George and stopped it in its tracks. However, the bill has been amended to limit its impact. Under the amendments, a petition already underway would be exempt from the two-year moratorium until after this November's election. So, if this bill passed in its present form, sup-



**LIONEL RAINEY III** (left) and Norman Browning addressed the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge last week and described St. George's battles in the legislature.

porters of St. George would have until July 23, the cutoff date for the November election, to turn in signatures. If they miss that deadline and the bill passes, it would be another two years before a new petition drive could be mounted.

In that case, the rules could be changed again during the two-year moratorium. Ironically, Nevers' bill has no funding source. So St. George supporters think the bill is not about studying anything but about stopping St. George.

- HB 768 by Rep. Price — To limit the time for circulating an incorporation petition to 180 days. The movement to incorporate St. George has widespread support, but it has already taken eight months. So supporters believe 180 days is insufficient. The bill was amended in committee to allow 18 months to gather petition signatures.
- HB 1212 by Rep. James — At present, the proposed incorporation of a new municipality is voted on by the residents of the proposed city. However, this bill by Rep. James would allow the vote to be decided parishwide. Supporters of St. George say that the requirement would be undemocratic and would likely kill the incorporation. This bill passed out of the House Municipal and Parochial Affairs Committee, one of the most liberal committees in the legislature. It is now pending on the House floor.

St. George spokesman Lionel Rainey said all these bills attempt to change the rules in the middle of the game. He compared it to one of the coaches in a football game being able to change the rules to favor his side. "It is fundamentally unfair and undemocratic," he said. If any of the bills slips through, Rainey said he is hoping Gov. Jindal will veto them.

St. George chairman Norman Browning said it is important for citizens to call their legislators and express their opposition to these bills.

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Would Be Baton Rouge Island in Sea of St. George

Mall Annexation Threatens St. George FD

Lionel Rainey: Revenue Loss Means New City Might Not Fund Const'l Offices

**BATON ROUGE** — Mayor-President Kip Holden was reportedly planning to hold a news conference last week to announce the annexation of the Mall of Louisiana into the City of Baton Rouge, which some believe would have been a serious blow to the proposed City of St. George.

The same report said that opposition from some members of the Metro Council might have derailed the plan, at least for the time being.

At last week's meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge, *Business Report* editor Stephanie Riegel asked St. George spokesman Lionel Rainey III what impact the loss of the Mall would have on the proposed city.

"The proposed City of St. George is not based on having the Mall. If that happens, some expectations would be shifted," he said.

The proposed budget of St. George provides that the city would pay all of the costs of constitutional offices in the parish, such as the District Attorney and the 19th Judicial District, for a five-year period.

However, the loss of the Mall could force St. George to reconsider that commitment, which was based on a financial model that included revenue from the Mall.

Rainey posed the question, "Who would be hurt? Primarily, the St. George Fire District. The Mall is in the fire district, and the district serves the Mall and receives a significant amount of its revenue from the Mall. The loss of this revenue could conceivably lead to the St. George Fire District having to close a fire station for budgetary



WHAT IMPACT would annexation of the Mall of Louisiana into Baton Rouge have on St. George?

reasons. This in turn would result in less fire protection for neighborhoods near the Mall."

Police protection at the Mall is provided by the Sheriff.

If the Mall were annexed to the City of Baton Rouge, the city would have to provide police and fire protection. It may have to build a new fire station near the Mall and open a police precinct there.

St. George chairman Norman Browning described a scenario with the Mall becoming part of

the City of Baton Rouge, yet surrounded by residential areas in the City of St. George. He asked if it would be fair for the Mall to send its tax revenue to the City of Baton Rouge and provide no support to the city surrounding it.

Actually, the Mall cannot be annexed unless it is contiguous to the City of Baton Rouge, which it is not currently.

In order to be contiguous to Baton Rouge, the Metro Council would also have to annex the Ba-

ton Rouge General.

Normally, annexations are handled by the Metro Council member who represents the area to be annexed.

The Mall of Louisiana falls in the Metro Council district represented by the Ryan Heck.

Heck told this newspaper that his general philosophy is that if a property owner adjacent to the city desires to be annexed, he will support that effort.

However, in this particular case, Heck said he would also consider the impact on neighborhoods surrounding the Mall, in order to be sure that they would not be negatively impacted by such an annexation.

In the past month, Heck has been very supportive of St. George and spoken critically about problems of governance in the City of Baton Rouge and the East Baton Rouge school system.

During his speech to the Chamber EBR, Rainey was asked if Councilman John Delgado is on retainer to lead the opposition to St. George, a question which drew laughter.

Delgado is a harsh critic of incorporation, but many St. George supporters say his opposition has been so extreme that he has fired up the people of St. George to work harder for incorporation. Rainey simply answered, "No!"

Will Taxes Go Up in St. George?

**BATON ROUGE** — Will taxes go up for the people of St. George if they vote to incorporate as a new municipality this November? That is a question that St. George chairman Norman Browning has to address frequently. At last week's Chamber EBR meeting, he reiterated that there would be no reason to raise taxes.

Financial projections for the city show a \$20 million a year surplus. St. George supporters point to the fact that the City of Central has not increased taxes since incorporation in 2005, and Central has a tax base which is only a small fraction of that in St. George.



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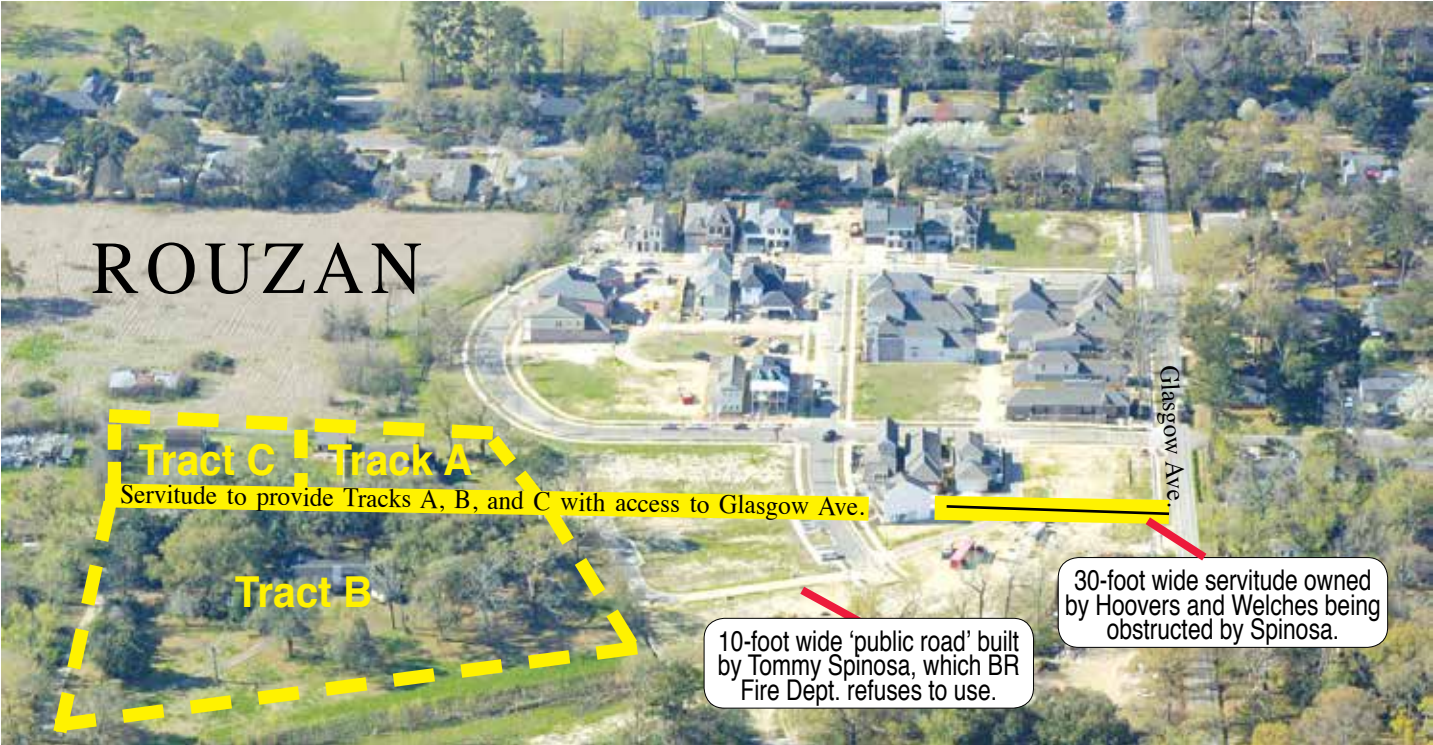
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# Metro Council, Developer Defy Court,



Danny and Janet Hoover



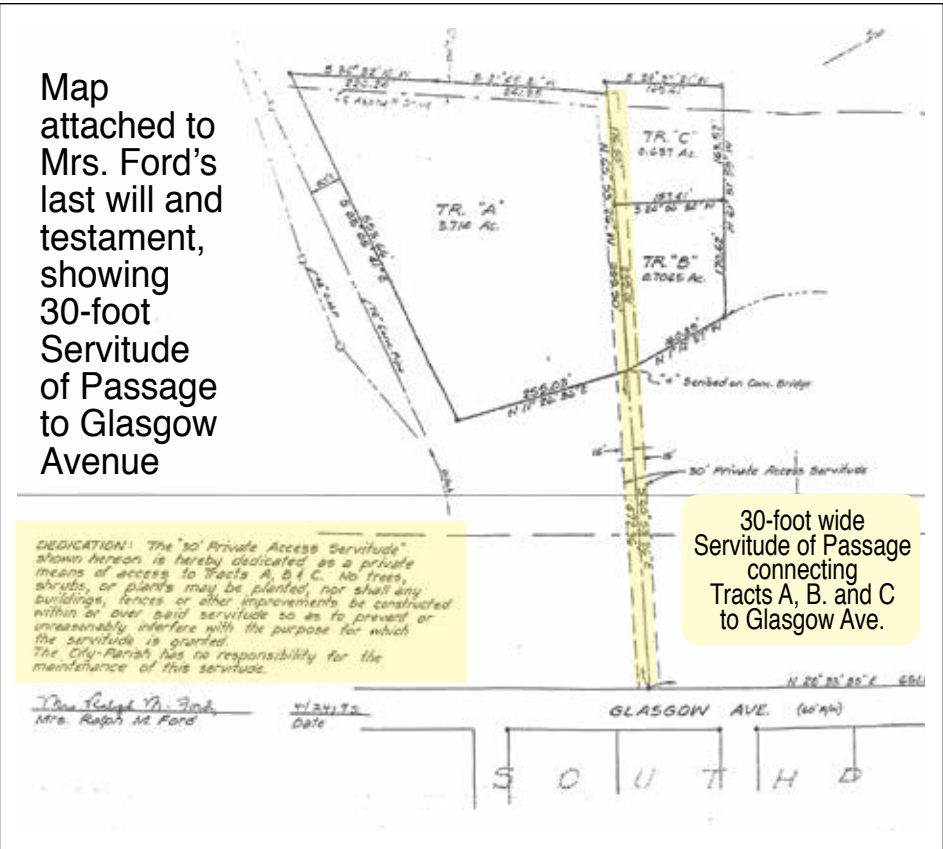
AERIAL PHOTO of Rouzan development, which surrounds Hoover and Welch properties. They own a servitude to Glasgow Avenue.

Rather than requiring developer Spinosa to correct the damage he has done in developing an illegal TND, the Metro Council ratified his action and adopted a concept plan map which removes the Hoover servitude.

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**Editor's Note:** Danny and Janet Hoover live in a beautiful home that's straight out of rural Louisiana. Flowers are blooming. Rows of strawberries are ready for picking. The old barn and the milk shed form part of an idyllic setting. Yet, for the Hoovers and their seven children, the last seven years have been a nightmare. A development, which the courts have ruled illegal, is slowly surrounding them. Their access to the street has been cut off. Their supply of natural gas has been cut off. They've faced a long and expensive legal battle. All along, they've asked only two things: 1) That the developer live within the law, and 2) that their 30-foot wide servitude to Glasgow Avenue be respected. They say the Metro Council and the developer have created the problem, and they expect them to fix it.

**BATON ROUGE** - On April 24, 1992, Mary Bordelon Ford drafted a will providing for the disposal of her estate upon her death. Mrs. Ford's husband Ralph had passed away in 1988, and they had no children. One of the most important things in Mrs. Ford's estate was 124 acres of land at the corner of Perkins



Road and Glasgow Avenue. In the will, she provided that three tracts of land totalling five acres located near the center of the property would be given as a "remunerative donation" to Danny Hoover and Dr. Bob Welch in payment for long years of service to her. Tract A, consisting of her residence and 3.7 acres of land, were left to Dr. Welch. Tract B, consisting of a home and .7 acre were left to Danny Hoover. He and his wife Janet had lived on the property since 1978 and in the house since 1983. Tract C, consisting of a barn and .6 acre, were left jointly to Hoover and Welch. Mrs. Ford left explicit instructions that Tracts A, B, and C would have a 30-foot wide Private Access Servitude along a particular route to allow unimpeded access to and from Glasgow Avenue. She provided the exact location of the servitude and said, "DEDICATION: The 30' Private Access Servitude shown here-

Continued on Page 7

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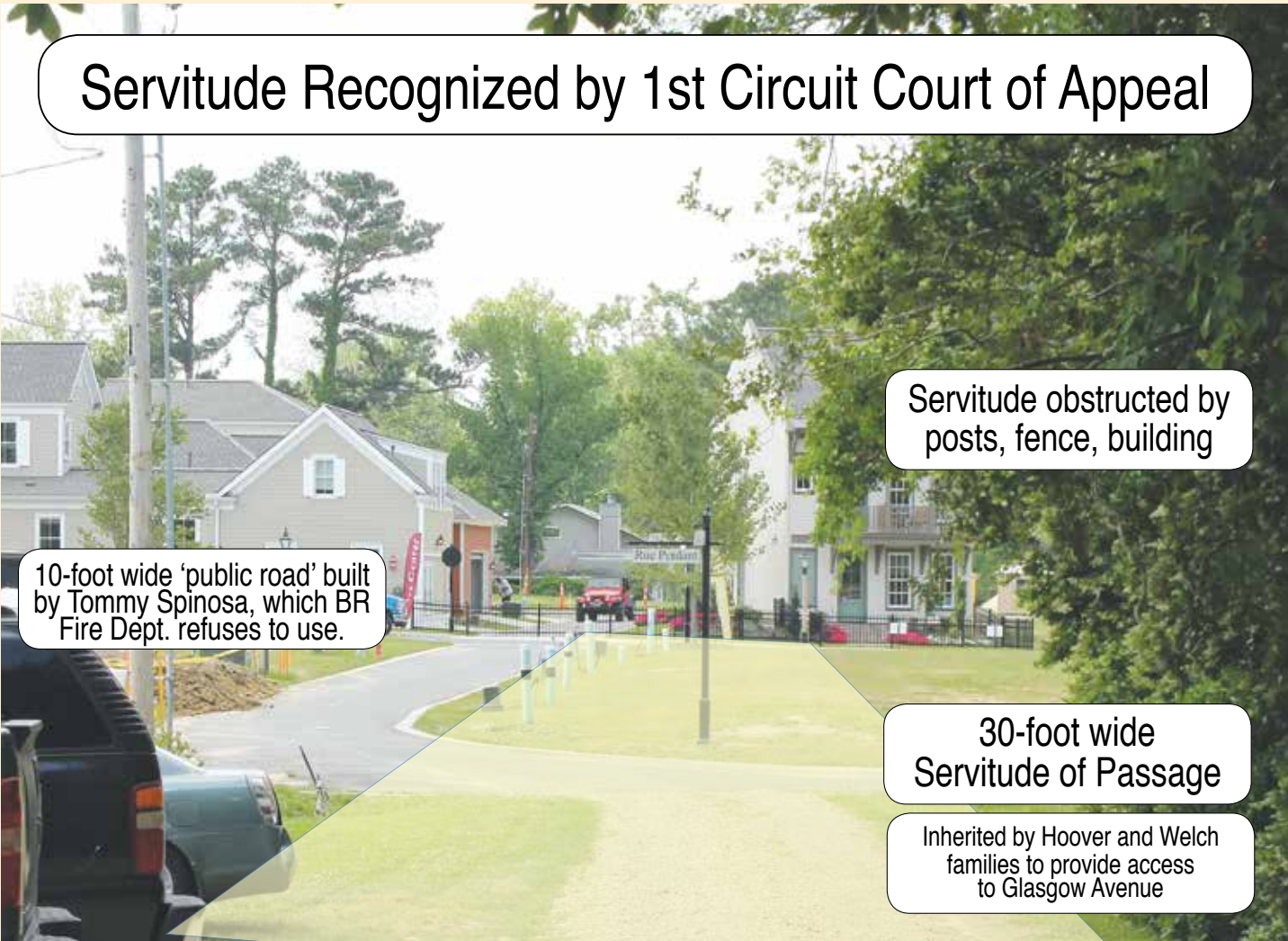
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# Leaving Families Landlocked by Rouzan

## Hoover, Welch Families Own This Servitude, Which Developer Is Blocking with Council Aid

“DEDICATION: The 30’ Private Access Servitude shown here-on is hereby dedicated as a private means of access to Tracts A, B, & C. No trees, shrubs, or plants may be planted on nor shall any buildings, fences or other improvements be constructed within or over said servitude so as to prevent or unreasonably interfere with the purpose for which the servitude is granted. The City-Parish has no responsibility for the maintenance of this servitude.”  
— Mrs. Ralph M. Ford Will dated April 24,1992



**Bob Welch and Daniel Hoover v. EBR Parish Metropolitan Council.** PETTIGREW, J.: “...The right of passage herein is an affirmative servitude, giving the plaintiffs, as owners of the dominant estates, **the right** [emphasis by the court] to do certain things on certain Rouzan property, comprising the servient estate... Given that the servitude of passage in this matter is conventional, the use and extent of such servitudes are regulated by the title by which they were created (i.e., Mrs. Ford’s will and dedication)... Pursuant to Louisiana Civil Code art. 748, the owner of the servient estate may do nothing to diminish or make more inconvenient the use of the servitude.”  
— Louisiana 1st Circuit Court of Appeal, Feb. 26, 2014, before Judges Kuhn, Pettigrew, and McDonald.

on is hereby dedicated as a private means of access to Tracts A, B, & C. **No trees, shrubs, or plants may be planted on nor shall any buildings, fences or other improvements be constructed within or over said servitude so as to prevent or unreasonably interfere with the purpose for which the servitude is granted.** The City-Parish has no responsibility for the maintenance of this servitude.”  
Mrs. Ford provided that the remaining 119 acres would be left to her heirs, most of whom lived out of state. Her attorney was Gregory Pletsch of Baton Rouge. One of Mrs. Ford’s caregivers was the sister of developer

Tommy Spinosa.  
Mrs. Ford died on Oct. 24, 2003. After her death, Spinosa began negotiations for the purchase of the property. In court documents, Pletsch stated that he had tried to convince Mrs. Ford not to divide the property. He said he warned her that it could lessen the value of the property. After her death, he approached Hoover and Welch to see if they would consider accepting cash instead of Tracts A, B, and C. They declined because they want to live on the property and have no interest to sell.  
Spinosa entered into an agreement

with the other heirs to purchase 109 acres for \$13.1 million. He entered into a second agreement to purchase 4.5 acres located between the Hoover-Welch properties and Glasgow Avenue. The heirs and Spinosa agreed that the sale would not go through  
**Continued on Page 8**



Barn on Lot C, which is jointly owned by the Hoover and Welch families.

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# Metro Council Has Set May 15 to Rehear



**STRAWBERRIES** are ready to pick at Hoover's place inside Rouzan. At center, Danny and Janet Hoover's home. At right, Trae Welch's sons picks some strawberries.

**Continued from Page 7**  
until the heirs were able to free the property of the servitude.  
Eventually, Spinosa purchased the two tracts without that condition.  
By 2008, Hoover and Welch filed

suit to have themselves placed in possession of their properties. Ironically, by then, the other heirs not only had been placed in possession of their 119 acres but had already sold it to Spinosa.  
On January 23, 2008, Spinosa ap-

peared before the Metro Council to ask that his property be rezoned from A-1 Single Family Residential to TND, or Traditional Neighborhood Development, a classification that allows a mixture of residential

and commercial uses. It also permits construction of homes on lots that are much smaller than those permitted in A-1 residential.  
One of the key requirements of a TND is that the developer have complete and total ownership or control over all the property within the proposed TND. The Metro Council approved Spinosa's application, despite the fact that he did not own Tracts A, B, and C, which were within the boundaries of the TND, and despite the fact that Spinosa's property was burdened with the servitude of passage granted to Tracts A, B, and C against his property, as provided in Mrs. Ford will. A servitude is a right in real property.  
One week later, on Jan. 30, 2008,



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Janet Hoover is quite a gardener. The old barn on Lot C is in the distance.



The old milk shed behind the Hoover's house was in use until the 1980s.



Janet Hoover has renovated the old milk shed to make it a craft room.



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# UDC Ordinances on Rouzan’s Legality



**ALL-SMILES** — Homeowner Danny Hoover (right) was all-smiles that Councilman Trae Welch (left) came by to learn more. With Welch are his son and attorney Alex St. Amant.

Baton Rouge attorney Alex St. Amant filed suit on behalf of Danny Hoover and Dr. Bob Welch, seeking a declaratory judgment that the ordinance approving Spinoso’s development, which he named Rouzan, violated the United Development Code (UDC) and was an abuse of the Council’s discretion. The suit was **Danny Hoover and Bob Welch v. East Baton Rouge Parish Metropolitan Council**. Spinoso’s company, 2590 Associates, intervened as property owner.

The case was assigned to Judge Janice Clark of the 19th Judicial District Court. Clark repeatedly ruled against the two property owners, and the case dragged on. The Metro Council filed several amendments to the UDC “with the intent of rendering valid the prior alleged invalidities.”

Meanwhile, Spinoso moved full speed ahead with the Rouzan development. For the Hoovers and Welch, one of the most disturbing things was Spinoso’s efforts to deny them the right to use their servitude.

Despite Mrs. Ford’s explicit instructions that “no trees, shrubs, or

plants may be planted on nor shall any buildings, fences or other improvements be constructed within or over said servitude so as to prevent or unreasonably interfere with the purpose for which the servitude is granted,” Spinoso proceeded to violate all of those requirements.

The servitude is 30 feet wide and runs directly through Hoover’s and Spinoso’s property to Glasgow Avenue. Yet, within that servitude, Spinoso has constructed a building, fences, curbs, light poles, and various other obstructions.

Instead of recognizing the servitude, Spinoso has constructed and dedicated to the City-Parish a winding 10-foot wide road. It does not follow the 30-foot wide servitude and it does not connect to Tract C.

Recently, the Baton Rouge Fire Department received a call from the Hoovers but the unit refused to use the 10-foot wide road as inadequate and unsafe for their equipment.

St. Amant asked, “How can the Hoovers and the Welch’s get adequate fire protection? What if the Hoovers

or the Welch’s wanted to develop their property. How would people get access to it? They own a 30-foot servitude but Spinoso is blocking it.”

At one point, the developer cut off natural gas to the Hoovers and Welch, and they were without for almost nine months.

Finally, this February, after all of Judge Clark’s adverse rulings for the past six years, Louisiana’s 1st Circuit Court of Appeal handed the Hoover and Welch families a big victory. A unanimous court overturned all of her adverse decisions and gave the plaintiffs a strong judgment in their favor.

In the decision, the judges said, “We agree with the plaintiffs that their three lots are ‘included within

the TND district,’ and such that the UDC requirements are applicable. Furthermore... we find the existent servitude of passage prevents 2590 Associates from having the complete, unified, and legal control necessary for compliance with the UDC.”

“Plaintiffs also contend that because their property is within the boundaries of the development, the UDC required their consent to the zoning — and that requirement was violated, as the plaintiffs never consented... We agree with the plaintiffs.”

“...The right of passage herein is an affirmative servitude, giving the plaintiffs, as owners of the dominant estates, **the right** [emphasis by the

**Continued on Page 17**



**ATTORNEY ALEX ST. AMANT** at home of his clients Danny and Janet Hoover within the boundaries of Rouzan. St. Amant won a big victory in the Court of Appeal.



**ROUZAN** — Just under 20 homes have been built in Rouzan. Many are still for sale. Attorney Alex St. Amant says developer Tommy Spinoso should have solved the defects in his development plan long ago and certainly before homes were built. His clients sued the Metro Council to stop the development the week after it was approved in 2008.

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# What an Honor It Has Been to Serve

## Central Is Our Adopted Home And We Love It Very, Very Much

**Ralph Washington**  
Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Central

**CENTRAL** — Growing up in the 1950's as one of 10 kids on a small farm in Darrow, Louisiana, a mostly black community on the Mississippi River, I could never have imagined all the things that have happened in my life. I certainly couldn't have imagined living in a place called "Central" that is over 90 percent white and being elected the Mayor Pro-Tem and serving in that role for nine years!

It's funny, but in Central the issue of race never comes up. People don't talk about it, and I don't talk about it. By and large, it's a non-issue in the day-to-day work of our city government. But I think I will talk about it a bit today.

I grew up in a large family and we were poor. My mother and father were hard workers. In Darrow, just about everybody was black, but our next door neighbors were white, and we got along good.

I made money picking pecans and doing odd jobs.

When I was 14, we got a brand-new school for the black youngsters, and I was very happy with it. But that's when integration came along, and instead of going to the new school, I was one of the black kids assigned to attend all-white



Central Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph and Carolyn Washington

East Ascension High School. It wasn't my choice.

There were a lot of threats, and my dad and some of the other black fathers got their shotguns and rode in their pickup trucks behind the bus we black kids were in as we headed to East Ascension High. When we pulled up to the school, there was a large crowd of angry white students hollering and screaming and pounding on the bus, daring us to get out. Deputies stopped our dads from coming onto campus. They had to watch from a distance. Some of the black kids got off the bus and got roughed up pretty good. They scrambled back on the bus.

I sat there a long time and thought

what I should do. I'm pretty big now but was undersized and thin when I was 14.

I had to make a decision — whether to get off the bus and face the music. That's when I decided to get off the bus! I was going to that school, no matter who tried to stop me! Always remember this: In life, you have to decide to get off the bus if you want to improve your life!

Four years later, I graduated from East Ascension High School and won numerous honors for my work there.

After that, I started at Southern University and worked my way through school as a busboy. I learned about politics and partici-

pated in demonstrations. I realized I had a voice and could be heard.

Then I got an entry level job at one of the plants near my home in Darrow. My goal was to run that plant. I worked with whites and blacks and rose rapidly through the ranks. Carolyn and I got married, and we were making good money. Eventually, I managed that plant!

I learned about business and the free enterprise system. A lot of my perspectives were changing.

My mother revealed some things to me that were surprising. My great-grandfather was white! I looked it up in the courthouse and found out that he and my grandmother were married in the 1890's. That was virtually unheard of in those days. Eventually, he got in trouble of some kind and left the state, but he left the land and house to his wife, and it remains in our family today. Boy, my perspective changed even more when I learned my great-grandfather was white!

We bought a house in Central, and when the plant was sold, I took a buy-out. Carolyn and I started Red Stick Cleaners. Over the years, we came to love Central, partly because of the rural atmosphere but mostly because of the wonderful people who welcomed us with open arms.

Yes, I admit it, I am black, but that's only a small part of what defines me. I'm a Christian man, and I love the Lord! I'm a husband and a father, and I love my wife and children! I'm an American, and I love this country, which is the greatest in the world. I'm a businessman, and I believe in the free enterprise system! I'm a conservative Republican and proud of it! And I'm an adopted son of Central who believes this is the very best place in this state to live and who won't stop working to make it even better!

**The Gil Matherne Family urges you to consider re-electing Ralph Washington to the City Council. Ralph has served us with integrity, intelligence, and courage for nine years. Let's keep his wisdom and experience working for Central!**



**Central Municipal Election • Saturday, May 3, 2014**



# Jason Ellis Tells ‘A Reason to Vote’

## Iraq Taught Me First-Hand How Important Our Right to Vote Is

**Jason Ellis**  
Candidate for City Council

**CENTRAL** — Voting is a right that I sometimes believe that we as Americans have taken for granted. Throughout our country’s history our people have fought to ensure every citizen has the right to vote. Sometimes we don’t appreciate the rights we have as Americans until they are gone.

The importance of having voting rights became apparent to me while serving in Baghdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a 24 year old Army staff sergeant in an infantry company I witnessed the first Iraqi national election after 52 years of military dictatorship. The people of Iraq had not been able to vote in elections since 1953.

On January 30, 2005, the day of the election, my platoon was tasked with guarding several polling places around Baghdad to prevent terrorists from disrupting the Iraqi people’s ability to vote. We were all nervous as to what that day would hold because reports had indicated there would likely be strong enemy resistance to the electoral process.

A mandatory ban on vehicle travel



Volunteers campaigning for Jason Ellis in the April 5 municipal primary.

was instituted that day in order to deter the use of Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED). Our unit was ordered to keep a distance away from polling places, patrol between the voting precincts, and enforce the vehicle ban while being prepared to act as a quick reaction force if any attacks happened in our area of operation.

As a young man I knew that day was going to be important and I prayed all of my men would make it through that day. Early in the morning before daylight we staged up ready for bat-

tle with our vehicles on Main Supply Route (MSR) Tampa in Baghdad. As the sun began to rise I had doubted the voters would even show up for fear of their own lives.

However, much to my surprise one by one Iraqi citizens began to walk from their homes to the polling places. First it was a few here and there in the morning and by afternoon thousands lined the streets. Some were barefoot walking to cast their votes sometimes many miles from their homes. The Iraqi voters would pass by our vehicles waving

Iraqi flags and giving us the thumbs up all day long. Voters would smile from time to time and show us the blue ink on their fingers which they received as they cast their votes.

I talked at length to a man from the area that day who thanked me and our country for what we had given to his people. He explained to me that he had been forced to hide underground for over 20 years while Saddam Hussein was in power. He was an enemy of the old regime and if they had found him he would have been killed. I remember this man and his story even though it has been nearly ten years since we met in Iraq. He was very thankful for his freedom to finally live amongst his family without fear of persecution.

My experience in Iraq taught me a first-hand lesson on the importance of voting. We all have lessons to learn in life and we can all try to be better citizens by making the time and effort to vote. Our 32nd President Franklin D. Roosevelt said to us, “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

On May 3rd the people of Central will elect Mr. Washington or myself for the fifth and final council seat of this great city.

I ask you to please consider making an effort to vote in this and all future elections. Bring your kids to the polls show them how to vote. Be a good example for them and teach them how to exercise our precious right to vote. God Bless.

★ WHAT ARE CENTRAL’S CRITICAL NEEDS? ★

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☒ SEWER UPGRADES

☒ ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

If you agree then ask yourself,

“Which candidate can best help Mayor Elect Jr. Shelton be successful?”

Jason Ellis is committed to improving Central’s infrastructure. He will work hard to help our newly elected Mayor and the City Council by providing all of his education and experience as a Civil Engineer.

The Choice is Clear

Jason Ellis Central City Council

VOTE MAY 3RD

VOTE

Jason Ellis

CENTRAL CITY COUNCIL

Jason, Jackson, Kim, and Karson Ellis

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# Milestones

Births • Engagements • Weddings • Deaths  
Anniversaries • Reunions

## ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Bubba Wascom celebrated 50 years on April 4, 2014.

## BIRTHS

Adleigh Johana Ilboudo born February 23, 2014, to Theo and Brandi Ilboudo of Central.

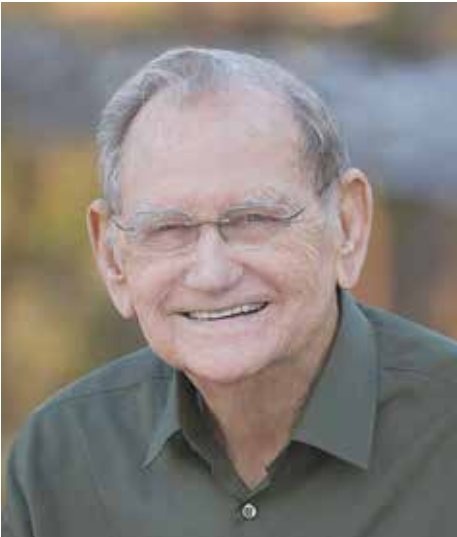
## Bubba and Margaret Wascom Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Bubba and Margaret Wascom

**CENTRAL** — Bubba and Margaret Wascom of Central celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a celebration with family and long time, dear friends on April 5 at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Howard and Melanie. The party was given by the couple's three sons, Woody, Matt, and Howard. The couple were married on April 4, 1964 at Winbourne Baptist Church. She was the former Margaret Bankston.

## DEATHS



Horace D. Sumner

Horace D. Sumner, 85, a native of Smackover, Arkansas, and longtime resident of Central, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, April 7, 2014. He retired in 1985 as a District Manager from South Central Bell after 36 years of service. He enjoyed fishing and playing golf with his buddies, and was an avid sports fan. He especially enjoyed seeing his children and grandchildren

compete. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 63 years, Hazel Sillinger Sumner; son, Ted Sumner and his wife, Paula; daughters, Sherry Winkler and her husband, John Paul, Angela Sumner, and Tamie Buhler; 11 grandchildren, Scott, Michael, and Daniel Sumner, Jennifer Winkler, John Winkler and wife, Erica, Joshua Winkler and wife, Kayla, Margo and James Clark and Isaiah Andries, Vincent "VJ" Aprea and McKenna Buhler; five great grandchildren, Jack, Charlie, and Elizabeth Winkler, Hadleigh Winkler, and Henri Clark; brother, Bobbie Sumner and wife, Denise; and sister, Dorlene Gardner. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Geneva Sumner; and his son, Rickey Sumner. Visitation was held at Greenoaks Funeral Home on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, and resumed on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, with Interment following in Greenoaks Memorial Park. Pallbearers were his eight grandsons. The family would like to thank the staff of the MICA Unit at OLOL and everyone at The Carpenter House for the excellent care he received. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or The Carpenter House would be appreciated.

## Schumaker 50th Anniversary



Jerry and Diane Schumaker

**CENTRAL** — Jerry and Diane Schumaker of Central celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 12, 2014 at Stab's Steakhouse in Central, hosted by their children and spouses. In attendance were David and Janet Schumaker of Denham Springs, Steven Schumaker of Watson, and Darren and Angie Schumaker and son Daniel of Central. The couple were married April 12, 1964 at Istrouma Baptist Church. They will celebrate with a Mediterranean cruise in May.

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# Baseball, Softball, T-Ball Making News



**LADY REBELS TEE BALL** won the CAYL Opening Season Tournament: Coaches: Tracey Reily, Clint Sullivan and Tracy Bueche (not in photo). Front row, (left to right) Miley Carl, Chloe Rogers, Daisy Morris, Isabella Peairs, Sydney Browning; Back row; Anna Santangelo, Briley Sullivan, Madison Bueche, Ava Grace Buxton, Anna Claire Reily, Anna Claire Gremillion, Breanna Cothell and not pictured, Kaylee Sharpe. **CENTRAL SHOCKERS**— The Central Shockers Boys C League team won the CAYL Pre-Season Baseball Tournament . Shown (back row, left to right) Pitching Coach Trent Myrick, Asst. Coaches Jarrod Duhon and Del Godso, Head Coach Jason Shows & Asst. Coach Shane Smith. Middle Row: Joey Duhon, Luke Evans, Kaleb Smith & Brennan Simoneaux. Front Row: Colby Godso, Ethan Easley, Nicolas Easley, Andrew Myrick, Braxton Shows, Samuel Kenerson & Justin Daigle

## BIRTHS



### Adleigh Johana Ilboudo

Theo and Brandi (Levert) Ilboudo proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Adleigh Johana. She was born on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 12:17 p.m. at Ochsner Family Birthing Center in Baton Rouge. Adleigh weighed 7 lbs 14 oz and was 20.5 inches long. The proud grandparents are Bonnie and the late Rickey Levert of Central and Johana and the late Ernest Ilboudo of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.



**TOURNEY CHAMPS** — CAYL Girls 10 Under Pre-Season Tournament Champs. Shown top row from left to right: Head Coach Charlie Wheat, Asst. Coach Tim Lazaroe, Asst. Coach AD Dungan. Middle row: Guiliana Bossier, Sydney Coxe, Emma Dungan, Claire Lazaroe, Lexie Lemoine, Maci Ordoyne. Bottom row: Mallory Wheat, Jaci Ellis, Aleece Andrews, Grace Pizzoloto, Bella Bossier and not pictured Morgan Ratheke.

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# Red Stick Market Brings Country to BR



Buddy Miller of Plantation Pecan is a regular. Phone 318-749-3770



Molly Anthony of Frank Fekete Farm with prize-winning strawberries.



Jimmy Hadden of Feliciana Greenhouses. Phone 225-635-0417.



Charales and Jynell Glaser of Glaser's Produce Farm. Phone 618-9337.



Red Stick Market is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.



Charlene Heaton and Leon Miller, who play at Red Stick Farmers Market on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Leon is an "eclectic guitarist" who "plays well with others"!



Fekete Farm's 2nd Place ribbon from Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival



## SUMMER CAMPS

Registration is now in progress.

All camp sites will be open for walk-in registrants.

Visit the site at which you want to attend camp and register in person.

Spaces are limited; first come-first served.



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# John Chauvin Press Box at Southeastern



Francis Chauvin

## Francis Chauvin Hasn't Always Been 'Pie Lady'

**BATON ROUGE** — Everybody who visits the Red Stick Farmers Market knows Francis Chauvin. She's the friendly lady from Hammond who bakes the best pies. She's also bright-eyed and eager to tell the latest news from Hammond, Ponchatoula, and the Florida Parishes. But not many who visit the farmers' market know that Francis Chauvin is much more than the "pie lady." She's also an experienced broadcaster with decades of experience in radio. She and her husband John owned and operated WFPR and WHMD in Hammond for many years before selling their stations and retiring. May 17 will be a big day for Francis Chauvin and Hammond, because Robin Roberts of *Good Morning America* is coming to Hammond to give the commencement address to SLU's graduating seniors. What's so special about

that? Beautiful, big-time TV personality coming to Hammond. Oh, but it's so much more than that! Roberts, who just signed a contract with ABC for an estimated \$14 million, used to play music for John and Francis Chauvin on their radio stations, while she was working her way through SLU and studying broadcasting. Robin made \$4 an hour working for the Chauvins, but she's grateful that they gave her her big break in broadcasting. Francis Chauvin will be on the stage with Robin. Seems Robin is donating, well, a lot of money to pay for the new "John Chauvin Press Box" at Strawberry Stadium! It'll be a pretty big day for the pie lady! So get your pie this Saturday. — Woody Jenkins

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### Frances Chauvin's Blue Ribbon Pies

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Selections	Pies	Tarts
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Blueberry	\$15	\$6
Peach	\$15	\$6
Blueberry Peach	\$15	\$6
Cherry	\$15	\$6
Coconut	\$15	\$6
Sweet Potato	\$15	\$6
Pumpkin	\$15	\$6
Cushaw	\$15	\$6
Pecan	\$18	\$7
Quiche	\$17	\$6
Shoe Soles	\$2	
Sugar Free Tarts	\$6	
Seasonal Pies	\$	

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## Central Drug Store

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# What's Happening in and Around Central

**CENTRAL** — Events coming up in and around the capital city:

**Month of May  
Operation New Glory**  
In 2012 the La. Senate officially declared the month of May as "Military Appreciation Month". OPERATION NEW GLORY is designed to replace worn/torn or unserviceable American flags to support our military. The Central Geaux Seven Chapter of Blue Star Moms partnering with the Military Advocacy Project of Louisiana, will replace your worn flag! Our goal is to have ALL of the Central community proudly displaying American Flags in May. Please let us know if we can deliver a new 3x5 American flag to you - bsmomla@hotmail.com

**Saturday, May 2, 3 & 4  
Festival of Two Rivers  
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church**  
St. Alphonsus 6th Annual Festival of Two Rivers, Friday, May 2, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday, May 3, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Carnival Foods, Rides, Cash Raffle, Games, and Face Painting. 5K

& Fun Run on Saturday, May 3 at 8 a.m. Live Entertainment, Friday, May 2, Taylor Nauta Band, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 3, Legworks by Terri: Central's Got Talent. Performances by St. Alphonsus students. Beaucoup Boogie, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, May 4 St. Alphonsus Children's Choir 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 261-4650.

**May 3 & 4  
Greenwell Springs Annual Rodeo  
8 p.m.**  
Greenwell Springs Youth Riders will hold its 56th annual rodeo. It will be held at the BREC Shady Park Arena. Admission is \$10/adults, \$5 for children ages 5-18, free under 5.

**May 3 & 4  
Parade of Homes  
Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 1-5 p.m.**  
The Capital Regional Builders Association will hold their annual Parade of Homes Saturday and Sunday in the Addis, Baton Rouge, Central, Gonzales, Greenwell Springs, Prairieville and Zachary areas. For more information and/or a list of homes on

the tour go to capitalregionba.com  
**Saturday, May 3  
Run-Off Election  
6 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
Run-Off Election in the City Council election. Ralph Washington vs. Jason Ellis. Be sure to vote!

**Saturday, May 3  
Liberty Lagoon Opens  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
BREC's Liberty Lagoon Family Aquatics Center, 111 Lobdell Ave., opens for the summer season on Sat., May 3. The park will operate from May 3-18 on weekends only and will open seven days a week from May 21-Aug. 3. Once the summer season is over, Liberty Lagoon will remain open from Aug. 9-23 on weekends only. Liberty Lagoon will operate Mon.-Fri. from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., on Sat. from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sun. from noon-7 p.m. throughout the summer season. Fees include free admission for children ages two and younger, \$8 for individuals under 48" tall and \$10 for individuals 48" and taller. Patrons may also rent Lazy River tubes for \$1 per tube and public lockers for \$2 per locker. Each Lazy River and public locker rental includes all day use. This summer, Liberty Lagoon will also feature several programs including Water Exploration Class for children 2-4 years old, swim lessons, Aqua Zumba and Paddle Up 1: Sea Kayaking class. For more information, call 225-923-3202 or visit libertylagoon.com.

**Saturday, May 10  
12th Annual Zoar Car Show  
8:30 a.m.**  
To enter your car, go to zoarbaptist.org. First-time parts swap meet. Pinewood car races.

**Saturday, May 10  
St. Jude Bike-A-Thon  
8:30 a.m.**  
Annual St. Jude Bike-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, May 10 at Magnolia Square on Lovett Road. Call Chuck Langlois at 603-6100.

**July 16-28  
Zoar Ladies Ministry**

**Mission Trip to Thailand**  
Thirteen ladies will be traveling to Chaing Mai, Thailand, July 16-28, on a mission trip sponsored by Zoar Baptist Church. The group will be assisting missionaries, Quentin and Kim Ratliff. Kim is the former Kim Noble and was born and raised in Central. These ladies are raising funds to help pay for the cost of this trip. They are selling cookbooks for \$15. You may purchase a cookbook from Zoar's office weekdays, 8-4, or from a booth at the Zoar Annual Car Show, May 10. You may also contact any of these women for a cookbook or to help in any other way: Sonya Aydeell, Claire Aydeell, Elizabeth Clark, Clara Clark, Linda Clark, Maudell Hill, Sunny McFearn, Michelle Robertson, Susan Sandifer Debbie Smith, Lisa Wagley, Patti Watkins, and Jean Wilson.

## Classifieds

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**AUCTION** — The following units will be sold at public auction for unpaid rent at Central Storage, 12526 Hooper Rd., Baton Rouge, La. on Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 10 a.m. CASH ONLY. #77 - ThuThu Fontenot - totes, household items, misc. items. #151-A - Traci Landry - wood furniture, refrigerator, boxes. #187-E - Mary Ricks - furniture, misc. items. #222-E - Laura Boles - furniture, totes. #272 Marc Ruiz - washer, dryer, misc. items. #339 - sofa, bakers rack, totes. #356-K - leather sofa, tool boxes, boxes. #411-K - firepit, totes. #458 - tool chest, dolly, wheelbarrow.

**SIDEWALK SALE** — Saturday May 3, (an inside store sale) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **ST. FRANCIS ART & ANTIQUES**, 11914 Ferdinand St., St. Francisville, LA. Jewelry, furniture, antiques & gifts. Great Buys. Join us on Facebook! 5-1-14

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# Metro Council to Reconsider Rouzan May 14

Continued from Page 9

court] to do certain things on certain Rouzan property, comprising the servient estate... Given that the servitude of passage in this matter is conventional, the use and extent of such servitudes are regulated by the title by which they were created (i.e., Mrs. Ford's will and dedication)... Pursuant to Louisiana Civil Code art. 748, the owner of the servient estate may do nothing to diminish or make more inconvenient the use of the servitude."

"Accordingly... we render a declaratory judgment in favor of Bob Welch and Daniel Hoover and against East Baton Rouge Parish Metropolitan Council and intervenor, 2590 Associates, finding that Ordinance 14280 is invalid as the UDC requirement that 2590 Associates have complete control of all the land included in the TND has not been met."

The court assessed all court costs and costs of appeal against the EBR Metropolitan Council and 2590 Associates, LLC.

The effect of the decision is that the zoning for Rouzan is now A-1. Nevertheless, last week, construction was proceeding to lay the foundation on a new home in the development on a lot that would not meet A-1 standards.

In spite of the 1st Circuit decision, the Metro Council moved forward last Wednesday to ratify Spinosa's actions at Rouzan, sparking one of the most contentious Council meetings of 2014. The Council considered two ordinances on the subject. One would ostensibly change the requirement that a developer have complete ownership or control of everything in the proposed TND. A second ordinance would reauthorize Rouzan as a valid TND.

Attorney Alex St. Amant told the Council their action would be illegal because the matter had not been properly advertised. He also said the developer cannot propose to make the same change twice within one year.

St. Amant was particularly concerned that the map of Rouzan attached to Spinosa's concept plan omitted the servitude of passage owned by Hoover and Welch.

He said that the adoption of the map by the Council could be interpreted as an attempt to take away the property right in that servitude that his clients own. When he told the Council they could be subject to personal liability for depriving his client of a property right without just compensation, some became agitated.

Mayor Pro-Tem Chandler Loupe asked St. Amant, "What is your end game? What do you want?" He expressed concern about 40 homeowners in the development who can't get title insurance.

St. Amant, who later said there only appear to be 19 homes in the development and many have never been sold, said it is the Metro Council and developer Spinosa who have done wrong, and they need to correct it. He said, "My clients haven't done anything wrong. They and the homeowners are the victims here, and the people who caused the problem — the developer and the Metro Council — need to make things right."

Danny Hoover told the Metro Council, "You need to clean up the mess you created before you dig your hole deeper. When you're in a hole, stop digging! Compensate those who've been damaged and stop trying to blame other people."

Janet Hoover told the Metro Council, "You've caused this problem. You've done this."

At the end of the hearing, the Council unanimously passed both ordinances, and St. Amant and the Hoovers left. After they left, the Council realized there were problems with what they had done, reconsidered their actions,



**IN DEFIANCE** of the court ruling, which says the property in Rouzan is zoned A-1, new construction is underway on small lots that do not meet A-1 standards.

and set another hearing on May 14.

Then last Friday, Councilman Trae Welch asked to meet with the Hoovers. He spent nearly two hours touring the property and asking questions.

Janet Hoover expressed her frustration at the process. "The Council is unprepared," she said. "Our whole life is at stake and they give us three minutes to explain. Then they don't do their homework. It's very frustrating and wrong."

She and her husband Danny ex-

pressed appreciation for Councilman Welch's visit, saying he is the first Council member to come out and see the situation first-hand.

St. Amant said he can't believe a single Council member read the opinion of the 1st Circuit. "They couldn't have read the opinion, and then taken the action they took," he said.

"Instead of doing everything they could to facilitate the irresponsible actions of the developer, they should be requiring him to fix what's broken.

They're not requiring him to do anything. They're just letting him continue to run roughshod," he said.

St. Amant questioned why the Metro Council would want to change the ordinance requiring that the developer of a TND have total ownership or control of all the property in the development. "Why would you want to change that? What would be the alternative? You can see by this case the extreme injustices that can occur when a developer attempts to control property he does not own."

St. Amant said the ordinance the Council first passed and then reconsidered doesn't do what they think. He said, "The new language says this: 'Ownership and Control. All land proposed to be included in the TND zoning district shall be owned by or be under the control of the applicant for the purpose of seeking the TND zoning designation.' How is that any different from current law? The developer does not meet that standard."

The Metro Council will meet at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 in the Council Chamber, 222 St. Louis St.



Photo by Brei Olivier

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