



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

**MICHAEL S. YENNI**  
MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### *GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW KENNER FOOD BANK SET FOR THURSDAY MORNING*

**Kenner, LA.** – A food bank in an old fire station is better than no food bank at all. But soon, Kenner will have a new, more centrally located facility that will be capable of helping more Kenner residents in need - not to mention the \$25 million in new investment in the city made possible once the current food bank is sold.

On Thursday at 10 a.m., Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni and other city officials will gather for a groundbreaking ceremony at 317 Oxley Street, at the corner of Oxley and Lloyd Price Avenue in south Kenner, to kick off construction of a new food bank.

“A city our size has an obligation to help its residents in need, and I’m excited that – for the first time in Kenner’s history – we will soon have a facility that’s actually designed as a Food Bank,” Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said.

In addition to better serving residents in need, the new food bank will make it possible for Kenner to receive \$25 million in economic development from the East Jefferson Levee District. That’s the estimated cost of a new EJLD complex that includes an administrative headquarters, maintenance division, police department and a safe house large enough to hold 65 critical workers in the event of a storm.

“This is truly a win-win situation for the levee district and Kenner residents,” Yenni said. “We get a new Food Bank and the levee district plans to spend about \$25 million on a new district complex that will consolidate all of its offices in a single location to better serve Kenner and everyone else in East Jefferson.”

J.A. Jack Julius Jr. was the low bidder on the new food bank project at a cost of just over \$700,000. The money for the new Food Bank will come from a variety of sources, including a portion of the sale of the current Worth Street Food Bank, Community Development Block Grant funding and money from individual council members.

There is even more good news once the new food bank is built, Yenni said.

Ronnie Mains, owner of Crossroads Center, has promised to provide the transportation necessary to take additional donations from Wal-Mart on a regular basis. That will include fresh produce for the first time in at least five years because plans for the new food bank include a refrigerated storage area outside the building.

Community Development Director Arleeta Terrell, who oversees the Worth Street Food Bank, said the new facility will allow Kenner to easily exceed the approximately 39,000 people who were fed last year

“We don’t want a single resident in Kenner to go hungry,” Yenni said. “The demand is high, particularly around Thanksgiving and Christmas, and the donation from Ronnie Mains, together with a new food bank, makes it possible to help more people than ever.”

You can contact the Food Bank by calling (504) 468-7220. For more information on the groundbreaking, contact Public Information Officer Bob Ross at (504) 468-4091.

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