



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR

News Release – City of Kenner Moves Closer to Main Street Community Status Kenner, LA – Dec. 18, 2012

The City of Kenner has been awarded Certified Local Government status from the state, part of an ongoing effort to qualify Rivertown as a Main Street community.

“We want to take advantage of any program available to make Rivertown an even more popular destination,” Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said.

The designation as a Certified Local Government came Nov. 30 from the state Department of Historic Preservation and The National Park Service. The Certified Local Government program is a way to benefit historic districts throughout the country. Property owners in Rivertown who improve the façade of their property can be reimbursed up to \$10,000 under the CLG program, according to Mike Ince of the Kenner Planning Department. Investors also can qualify for tax breaks if they decide to develop property in Rivertown, Ince said.

But city officials are even more excited at the prospects of Kenner joining the Main Street program. Currently, there are only 34 historic or downtown areas in the Main Street program, Ince said.

One of the steps required is to achieve Certified Local Government status. A historic commission is also required, which Kenner restarted in Rivertown after Hurricane Katrina.

Two examples of the potential of the Main Street program are Oak Street and Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard in New Orleans, Ince said. Both have Merchants and Business Associations, achieved Main Street status in 2006 and then took advantage of seed money given to all Main Street programs to hold November community events.

On Oak Street, that community event was a Po Boy Festival, which started in 2007. It was a part of the LA Main to Main program that provides event funding each November and has become extremely popular.

Ince said there is currently a delay in accepting new Main Street programs in the state, but predicted the city’s application should be approved sometime next year. As part of the Main Street program, Kenner will have access to some funding as well as the expertise of state officials and the 34 other Main Street areas in Louisiana.

“We believe events will come to Rivertown and these signature events will play off the character of Rivertown,” Ince said.

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