



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL S. YENNI
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 8, 2015

WORTH STREET FOOD BANK CLOSED DEC 14-18; NEW FOOD BANK TO OPEN ON DEC. 21

Kenner, LA. – It's almost time for Kenner's Food Bank to move out of its current location in a former fire station on Worth Street in south Kenner.

The old Food Bank will be closed from Dec. 14 – 18 to accommodate the move of phone lines, furniture, shelving and refrigerated equipment to the new Food Bank location at 317 Oxley Street, said Community Development Director Arleeta Terrell.

The new food bank will open on Monday, Dec. 21, following a 10 a.m. ribbon-cutting to celebrate the new facility.

"I am so excited that Kenner will finally have a food bank that was designed and built to actually serve the public in that capacity," Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said. "I would ask the public to plan ahead so that the week we are closed is not an issue. After that, I think everyone will be impressed by the additional space and amenities in the new facility."

The new Kenner Food Bank cost a little more than \$700,000, with funds for the construction coming from a variety of sources, including the sale of the Worth Street facility to the East Jefferson Levee District for 84,000, Community Development Block Grants totaling more than \$198,000 and contributions from six City Council members totaling \$81,600. The contractor was J.A. Jack Julius Jr.

The Levee District purchased the old food bank on Worth Street as part of plans to eventually consolidate police and operations in a single area.

Terrell said she is convinced the new Food Bank will mean that more people in need can be helped. The new facility has more room, and Ronnie Mains, owner of Crossroads Center, has promised to bring in tractor-trailer loads of food from Wal-Mart on a regular basis. The new facility was designed to handle those types of deliveries as well as the storage of perishable items.

The food bank serves meals to about 900 families a month. The annual Sipping with Santa fundraiser, put on by Kenner First Lady Michelle Yenni and the mayor, along with Councilman at-large Keith Conley and his wife, Barbie, raised an estimated \$60,000 for the Food Bank. Now in its sixth year, Sipping with Santa has taken in about \$270,000 for the Food Bank.

###