



MICHAEL S. YENNI
MAYOR

CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2015

STATE OF KENNER: 'OUR CITY IS SAFE, SOUND AND STRONG'

Kenner, LA. – During his State of the City address on Tuesday, Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said he was proud of what the city has accomplished in the past year and talked about the bright future ahead for Kenner. Yenni also highlighted a number of individuals who represent the spirit of the city. It's a spirit that Yenni described as "inviting" and "inspirational. There is a spirit in Kenner that is undeniable." Those individuals include:

- Police Officer Zachary Dubourg – who seized three firearms, drug paraphernalia and 7 grams of marijuana, and arrested six people, during a routine traffic stop last April. He was named Police Officer of the Year by the Kenner Rotary.
- Capt. Clifton McGovern of the Kenner Fire Department, who in January responded to a medical assist call. McGovern and his team saved the life of a woman, not the first "save" for McGovern.
- Alberta and Albert "Jaybird" Rose, who sponsor the annual "Feed the Multitude event on New Year's Day in Kenner, setting an example of giving back to others in need.

Yenni heaped praise on the City Council, specifically citing the council's cooperation in embracing the 2030 Plan that is beginning pay off with significant new, private investment.

"We are, together, defining Kenner as a community of choice and our momentum is catching the eye of a region, and maybe soon, the nation."

Yenni described the city council members as "a tightly bound collection of leaders who have become the architects of change," adding, "I could not act on such an ambitious agenda without the full support of each of them."

The mayor offered thanks to a number of others, including Police Chief Michael Glaser, Jefferson Parish Councilman Ben Zahn, who represents Kenner on the parish level; members of his staff and the state delegation, and his wife Michelle.

He pointed to her work raising money for the Kenner Food Bank. "My wife has made it a personal mission to ensure that every family is blessed with basic nutritional food."

Yenni also pointed out that with a new Food Bank set to open soon, Kenner no longer is limited by old, inadequate facilities and can help more people in need.

1801 WILLIAMS BOULEVARD • CITY HALL • BUILDING B, SUITE 200 • KENNER, LOUISIANA 70062
OFFICE 504-468-7206 • FACSIMILE 504-468-7205 • MYENNI@KENNER.LA.US

The mayor offered kudos to Kenner Councilman Keith Conley, who as City Attorney filed suit on behalf of the city after the BP oil spill. Earlier this month, the City Council signed off on a \$9.3 million settlement from BP – all because of Conley’s vigilance and foresight.

In a filmed portion of the State of the City address, Yenni highlighted the emergence of Laketown, which hosted the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball tournament in May that aired on national TV. He said one developer recently spent millions on a vacant piece of land at Williams Boulevard and Joe Yenni – a tract that had been vacant since before his grandfather was mayor. Yenni said the city is in discussions with Boyd Gaming about upgrading the Treasure Chest casino and currently has a proposal from a developer interested in building a boardwalk development on 15 acres of the lake coastline.

“Our vision for Laketown is a top-quality development featuring retail, commercial, upscale condominium living, a hotel with ample convention space and an amphitheater for live productions.”

He also highlighted the recent gains in Rivertown, with the growing popularity of the Music in the Park and movies in the Park series, as well as the weekend Farmer’s Market attractions and bragged about the great response times of the Police and Fire departments and the low crime rate in general in the city.

The mayor mentioned the 2030 Plan, a \$41 million redevelopment project that will add bicycle lanes, safety enhancements, improved landscaping and other beautification through corridor enhancement projects. “We are doing this through smart refinancing that will not increase our city’s current debt payments,” he said.

Yenni also lauded the Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, approved in 2012. This year, school officials received more than 900 applications for just 200 available seats and maintained a retention rate of 99 percent.

“When you consider what Kenner has to offer and how Kenner government has done more with less, then you can rest assured that the State of our City is safe ... sound ... and strong.”

###