



# Crystal Place Connections

N O V E M B E R 2 0 0 9

## MAYOR'S UPDATE

### Benefit for Ted Mayeaux

Ted is a 46 year old Chiropractor, who practiced in the Central, Baton Rouge and Gonzales areas for over twenty years. He suffered a hemorrhagic stroke on June 1, 2009, which left him with right-side paralysis and severely impaired speech. He is currently being cared for at Trinity Neuro-Rehab Center in Slidell.

There will be a \$6.00 per-plate pastalaya dinner to benefit Ted 11:00am-2:00pm on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Blackie's Place, 10010 Sullivan Road. For more information and to order party trays, call 445-5758.

By Jeanie Barnett

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, I visited with Mayor Mac Watts to get information to help keep you informed about the progress of certain issues affecting our city and our neighborhood. Mayor Watts was gracious and welcoming as always, and eager to answer any questions and help with any concerns.

There was recently a problem with door to door solicitors selling bogus cleaning products here in Central. It is legal to sell door to door in this parish unless the residence has a "no soliciting" sign posted. We can even exclude solicitors from our entire subdivision by posting such a sign at both entrances. This would not exclude political campaigning religious door to door visits—or Trick-or-Treating Goblins! If you

are opposed to having our subdivision post "no soliciting" signs, contact me at 261-1852 and let me know as soon as possible. I can't think of any reason someone would choose to allow strangers to roam our neighborhood to sell things or services for profit. The practice creates an open field for fraud, intimidation, and burglary. I will work on finding out the appropriate and legal method of displaying such signs.

Another issue that is creating a dilemma for our city is the fact that we have five different zip codes. This makes it very difficult to collect the appropriate portion of sales taxes due to us. Mayor Watts is working with Mary Landrieu, David Vitter and the Baton Rouge Postmaster General Carl Kornish to solve this problem. Headway is being

made, but because the solution involves money, it will probably be some time before we are assigned a zip code to designate our city. According to the last census, we have around 27,000 residents, making Central the 12<sup>th</sup> largest city in Louisiana. In terms of area, Central is larger than Manhattan. Surely Central should have a unique zip code.

Mayor's Court is scheduled to have its first session on the last Thursday of November. Many blighted properties have been identified and the list is continually growing. Some property owners have already received first notices. Unless issues are resolved, second notices will go out and the third notice will result in court appearance.

### BREAK-INS IN CRYSTAL PLACE

There have been reports of daytime break-ins in our subdivision. I contacted Chief of Police Doug Browning and he reported that active investigations are underway and concentrated efforts are being exercised to rectify this and other crime problems. Personally, I have seen patrols as often as twice in an hour.

Be vigilant. Report suspicious activity to 389-5000 as soon as possible. (In an emergency, always call 911.) Be a good neighbor and keep an eye out for each other. Even twice hourly patrols are not as effective as the eyes and ears of our residents. Be alert and use your better judgment, but also rest assured that our law enforcement is here for us.

Neighborhood Watch & Care Team:  
Kristi Mixon 938-7113

Walking Groups:  
David & Diane Thompson 261-4798

Labyrinth:  
Heidi Gill 772-8582

Speeding Solutions:  
Jack Datz-261-4565





Crystal Place Connections:  
Jeanie Barnett 261-1852

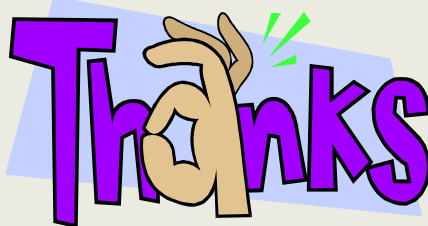
Police:  
389-5176, 389-5000

Mayor Mac Watts 261-5989

## New school progress:

The projected schedule of the construction of two new Central Schools:

-  The design phases should be complete by May 2010 when the bidding process will commence.
-  The bidding phase is scheduled to be completed and construction to begin by July 2010.
-  It is anticipated that the elementary school should be completed by July 2011.
-  The middle school is projected to be completed by January of 2012.



Thank you to David and Diane Thompson for their donation to help produce this newsletter. If you would like to make a donation, please call Jeanie at 261-1852.

## We Are Thankful

*Do you count your blessings or your problems?*

*Here are some things to consider:*

### We are thankful for Free Time

In Victorian England, when life expectancy was only about 50, workers put in 60-hour weeks, from age ten until they died.

If you feel too busy, it's probably only because you're doing so many other things than work.

Over the course of a lifetime, you typically spend no more than 20 percent of your waking hours on the job.

### We are thankful for Peace

6.7 billion people now live in peace.

In some earlier generations, a quarter of the male population died violent deaths. Over the past century, even counting the world wars, a person's chance of dying from war or violent civil strife was less than 2 percent, according to John Mueller, a professor of political science at Ohio State University. That means that the death toll of war is now comparable to the statistical risk of driving a car in the United States.

### We are thankful for Shelter

Despite recent events in the housing market, we are fortunate. In 1950 the typical new American house had 1,000 square feet, two bedrooms, and one bathroom—and even that was beyond many people's means. Nearly half of Americans didn't own their homes, and more than a third of homes lacked complete plumbing facilities.

Today, more than two thirds of Americans own their homes, and the typical new house has more than double the square footage.

### We are thankful for Literacy

In 1970 barely half the people in the world were literate. Today, more than 80 percent of the world's people can read

### We are thankful for our Food

Royalty of yore would gaze enviously at the food in a middle-class home today. We take fresh produce, fish, and meat for granted in every season.

While incomes have risen since 1950, the inflation-adjusted price of food has declined by 75 percent, according to the World Resources Institute. So it represents a smaller and smaller portion of our paychecks. For many, concerns about hunger have been replaced by worries about obesity.

(Some statistics from Reader's Digest Feb. 2009)