

Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish President

PRESS RELEASE

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Lafourche Parish Government begins Construction of Cajun Village and Central Market Project

(Thibodaux, La.) — Lafourche Parish Government began construction Tuesday on a \$1-million market in Raceland that leaders hope will provide an economic boom for residents, President Charlotte Randolph said today.

“This has been a long time coming!” Randolph said. “We are very excited to begin the Central Market Project.”

Last week Randolph signed the “notice to proceed” that will allow Gulf Con, LLC to begin construction of The Cajun Village and Central Market on the site of the Lafourche Parish Welcome Center at the junction of U.S. Highway 90 and La. Highway 1.



A Gulf Con crewman welds together a gate Tuesday morning at the construction site entrance of Cajun Village and Central Market under the U.S. Highway 90 overpass in Raceland.

“We received additional money to allow for some equipment at the market for our farmers and fishermen to sell their goods and ensure their quality at the marketplace,” Randolph said.

The project will feature a covered market with stalls where farmers and fishermen will sell their local produce and fresh catch.

Sixth District Councilman Lindel Toups said the market is a great idea for the people in Lafourche Parish and his district because it will help the economy here.

“I think it is very important,” Toups said. “Right now we have

people back here that have to drive all the way to Houma to sell their crops and catch. This way we can keep our money here in Lafourche Parish.”

Parish officials are hoping that local residents – as well as tourists – will visit the marketplace once it is complete to enjoy the atmosphere and the fresh products that will be available.

The project, designed by Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, is scheduled for completion in late July 2012. The company was paid \$53-thousand for the plan, which includes a site survey, architectural drawings, an environmental study and finalization of the project.

Gulf Con won the contract with a \$934-thousand bid last November. Parish planners, the contractors and the design group met today at the Visitors Center to iron out the project details.

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Construction crews began digging drainage ditches and installing culverts today. Contractors also removed a section of fence to install a gate and temporary driveway under the overpass to allow access to the site without disrupting traffic at the Visitors Center.

The walking track in the adjacent park at the Center is now closed because of the construction. Parish officials are encouraging people who use the park for exercise to go to the track at the Raceland Recreation Center located on Texas Street.

The Cajun Village and Central Market project is part of the Bayou Lafourche Corridor Plan, a joint venture by Lafourche, Assumption and Ascension Parishes.

Parish officials said they believe the location is elemental to the success of the project because it is centrally located at the junction of major highways used by tourists and local motorists who frequent the Visitors Center.

The cost of the \$1-million project is paid for with Housing and Urban Development and Community Block Development grants.

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