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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

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\$2.4 Million Renovation Set to Begin at Mathews Government Complex

On Friday, construction crews from B.E.T. Construction Company will begin a \$2.4 million renovation project at the Mathews Government Complex. The renovations will include the addition of walls to create individual offices, new flooring and lowered ceilings throughout the building. The project also includes the construction of a new Parish Council Chamber and a new Emergency Operations Center as well as new restroom facilities at the building. Renovations are expected to be completed early next year.

“We are all very eager for this project to begin,” said Public Works Director Kerry Babin. “By conducting the renovations in phases, we won’t have any disruption in public services.”

On Wednesday, contractor crews began marking areas of the building where temporary walls will be placed for the first phase of the renovation project. The project will be constructed in four (4) phases, allowing some employees to move into newly constructed office spaces one area at a time.

In November 2010, Lafourche Parish Government was awarded over \$2.7 million in disaster recovery funding from the Louisiana Office of Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit, allowing parish officials to access the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds needed to implement the project. Since that time, that award has increased to nearly \$3.3 million, which will be combined with a parish dedication of \$262,213 to pay for renovations.

History:

When Hurricane Gustav ripped off part of the roof of the Barrios Building in 2008, parish officials were forced to relocate governmental operations to the vacated former Wal-Mart building in Mathews as an immediate emergency measure. The building was eventually purchased for Parish Government with help from FEMA funding. This makeshift facility, while large enough to house all services and offices, lacked the internal infrastructure to properly conduct business operations on a long-term basis.

About the Mathews Government Complex:

The Mathews Government Complex is home to several Lafourche Parish Government departments including Public Works, Permitting & Planning and Community Services (Community Action & Head Start). The complex also houses the offices for Recreation, Solid Waste and Emergency Preparedness as well as the Lafourche Parish Council Chambers and the parish’s Emergency Operations Center. The complex is also home to the Lafourche Parish Council on Aging.

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