

Good News for a Great City Mayor's Committee Selects IBTS

By Dave Freneaux

Over the next few weeks Mayor Mac Watts will be negotiating a new City Services Contract with IBTS, The Institute for Building Technology and Safety. The Mayor's decision to request proposals for a new City Services contract in very competitive economic times will likely result in trimming Central's 2011/2012 budget by \$500,000. Mayor Watts shared that he will be assembling a small negotiating team to finalize the contract with IBTS over the next several weeks.

In late 2010 twenty-one citizens from varying fields of experience came together and spent hundreds of hours drafting a new Contract for Central's City Services. Nine highly qualified citizens then spent untold hours preparing for and reviewing proposals submitted by four quality companies vying to be awarded Central's City Services Contract. Tuesday night all of these efforts came to a focal point when the Selection Committee voted unanimously to recommend to Mayor Watts that IBTS be awarded the contract. Many following this process probably had chosen a favorite, but the committee was charged with impartially identifying which company provided the best value for the City of Central. When the scoring was completed, that company was IBTS.

IBTS is a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of providing services such as these to governmental entities. If the contract negotiations between Mayor Watts and IBTS go as expected, IBTS will be transitioning in to take over Central's City Services effective July 1, 2011. The Mayor states that he will be submitting a budget to the City Council tonight which will include sufficient funding to support this contract. The City Council will be approving the City's 2011/2012 budget by the end of June.



School Construction Photos by Mia Freneaux

Passers-by can now see the structure of the school buildings as the new Central schools steadily become a reality.



Thank You for a Job Well Done

By Dave Freneaux

They did not serve for recognition. They did not serve for personal gain. They served because they saw an opportunity to make a difference in Central. Committee members, look at this the same way you do at a Sunday dinner when the family brings in the birthday cake blazing brightly with more candles than you wish were there, singing out of tune and making you the center of attention. They don't do it because they think you want or expect it. They do it to show you that they appreciate you. So, settle back in your chair and let us point out that you gave up family time, ball games, sleep, hobbies and even work, to spend many hours crafting a comprehensive contract for Central's City Services, then carefully selecting the company who will give the people of Central the best value and provide the best services for our tax dollars. With a nod to Mayor and Committee Chair Mac Watts for assembling this capable and dedicated group, we offer heartfelt thanks on behalf of so many here in Central to the members of the City Services Committee and the Selection Committee: Ti Barnes, Jeanie Barnett, Rodney Bonvillain, Paul Burns, Keith Cranfield, Louis DeJohn, Jay Dykes, Pete Firmin, Michael Hooper, Rusty Jacobs, Tara Landry, Wayne Leader, Mike Mannino, Gil Matherne, David Medlin, Mark Miley, Neal Paul Miller, Buddy Ragland, Fred Raiford, R.J. Saucier, Mike Stephens, and Ralph Washington.

Free Classified Ads!

CentralSpeaks.com, as a service to our readers, is going to experiment with free classified ads. We will start with the paper on June 2nd and see how it goes. Here are the rules: A total of 90 characters, including spaces. Merchandise, Garage Sales, Vehicles, & Free Stuff. No businesses, no real estate, no recurring yard sales (businesses). All free ads received will run for one week but can be resubmitted weekly. All free ads must be submitted to FreeClassifieds@CentralSpeaks.com or mailed to P.O. Box 78137, Central, LA 70837, no phone calls for free ads please. We hope this serves as a welcomed community service. Because space is limited in a community newspaper, we are doing this on a trial basis.

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