Seeking new status

Broussard growth puts town in line to become a city

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BROUSSARD — Broussard is trying to become a city.

Census 2000 figures showed the town's population jumped 62.8 percent in the past decade — from 3,223 in 1990 to 5,284 in 2000. That's nearly 800 more residents than it needed to qualify for city status under state law.

Town attorney Don Lamby is preparing a resolution to be sent to Gov. Mike Foster for the first step in the process to change the municipality's status as outlined in the state's constitution. All that remains is for the governor to verify the census numbers are correct and for him to send a proclamation to Broussard declaring it a city. Lastly, the council must adopt an ordinance officially changing its status.

"We've already changed the letterhead," Mayor Charles Langlimas said. "We should receive the proclamation and adopt an ordinance in the next 60 days."

But the change doesn't end there. The town nearly tripled in size in the past decade — from 5,263 acres in 1990 to 8,942 acres in 2000.

A proposed redistricting plan includes two new town council districts, increasing the number of aldermen to seven. One of the new districts encompasses the U.S. Route 90 corridor through the town. The second includes a 6-mile area west of Morgan Street in southwest portion of the town.

Each council member in the seven proposed districts would represent 1,200 to 1,300 voters, similar to the number of voters the five aldermen currently represent.

"The Board of Aldermen has already given preliminary approval to the six-district format," Langlimas said.

Kelly Malagarie leaves The Gift Manor in Broussard on Sunday after a shopping trip. Census 2000 figures show Broussard's population jumped 62.8 percent in the past decade, paving the way for Broussard to attain city status.

According to Census 2000:

- Youngsville's population increased 234 percent — from 1,195 in 1990 to 3,532 in 2000.
- Broussard's population grew 62.8 percent — from 3,223 in 1990 to 5,284 in 2000.
- Scott's population increased 6 percent — from 4,912 in 1990 to 5,277 in 2000.

The Justice Department should approve the plan in March, which would put the new seats on the ballot next fall, he said.

Census 2000 figures also showed that Scott made the transition from town to city status. It's population increased 6 percent — from 4,912 in 1990 to 5,277 in 2000.

But Mayor Hazel Myers said 1990 census figures weren't complete. Scott's population cleared the 5,000-resident hurdle in 1990, she said.

Census workers included a large segment of Scott's population in the numbers for Lafayette because the residents have a Lafayette address, Myers said.

"It created some problems for us," she said, "but it was all cleared up in the 2000 census."