Carencro kicks off celebration

Centennial festivities continue today

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CARENCO — About 400 Carencro residents laughed throughout most of the night as the All-Star Cajun Comedy Tour kicked off the first night of the city's centennial celebration Thursday at the Carencro Community Center.

The four-day celebration commemorates the 100th anniversary of the signing of the city's charter and looks to build on the recent growth of the city.

"I think it's amazing to see the pictures from what it looked like 100 years ago and the difference now," said Belinda Sonnier, who moved to Carencro only five months ago. "It's great that they can put together something like this and really celebrate something this significant."

For many residents, the centennial puts some of the growth of the city in perspective and brings a nostalgic feeling.

"It's grown so much from when I got here," said Belly Boullion, who's lived in Carencro for 42 years. "Now, we're a city and we're still growing. The only thing I miss is that back then you knew everybody. The growth has really changed that but growth isn't a bad thing."

Boullion said the centennial marks an opportunity for the younger generation to get a grasp on what Carencro is really about by knowing the roots of the town.

"When they come this weekend, it'll give them a whole new idea of what the centennial really represents," she said.

The centennial gives the city a sense of identity and distinguishes itself from other places in Lafayette Parish, said Nelson Quebedeaux, centennial committee chairman.

"We were just north Lafayette for a while, but when things started happening here, it snowballed into something bigger and it's going to keep going," he said. "We've got our own identity now and in about five years from now you're not going to recognize Carencro. I've never seen the enthusiasm we've got now. People just love this place."

Want to go?
The Carencro Centennial Celebration continues all weekend. Here's a schedule of events happening during the remaining three days:

- **Today**: Groundbreaking for the new public library near the community center will be at 3-4 p.m. with a social gathering to follow until 7 p.m. A free concert featuring the Lafayette Concert Band will follow.
- **Saturday**: A parade starts at 1 p.m. at the community center. Choral groups will perform after the parade and centennial services will be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church at 6 p.m. Live music by Charlo and Southern Tradition will be back at the community center starting at 8 p.m.
- **Sunday**: Centennial church services will be at Our Lady of the Assumption at 8 a.m. and at the First Baptist Church of Carencro at 10:30 a.m. Carencro musicians will be playing all day starting at noon. Arts, crafts, food and beverages will be available throughout the weekend.

For more information, visit www.carencro.org.

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