Cecilia Incorporation
Begins New Planning

CECILIA — The incorporation of the Cecilia community passed in the election Tuesday by a 56 vote margin. Residents of the community have worked since January towards incorporation. The final vote in the election was 399 for the proposition and 393 against.

The prospect of incorporating the community has been in the planning stages for quite some time. "We decided that this year was a good time to try for the move," Leo "Popo" Huval, head of the steering committee said.

Federal Funds
"The main reason we feel Cecilia needs to be incorporated is to be eligible for federal funds," Huval explained. Cecilia's neighbor, Henderson, accomplished much progress for the residents of Henderson in their town, Huval continued, and from the progress in Henderson, "it gave us the spark we needed to try it ourselves."

The next step after incorporation is appointment of town officials to be made by the governor. The terms of those officials will be for a six-month period enabling the residents of Cecilia to consider who they will run for mayor and other offices, which has worked closely with the committee.

More Support
The group had expected more support for the measure than they received from residents.

"Now, we have to realize that advantages and changes cannot take place overnight — we have to take the process one step at a time," Huval explained. Many of the residents of Cecilia feel the town is not getting its share of federal funds and incorporation is a positive step in that direction.

Law Enforcement
"Law enforcement can eventually be accomplished on a local level," Huval explained. "Not that the parish isn't doing a good job, but it would be advantageous to have our own force."

Residents have come out both for and against the measure. "We like to have the local town officials to be above anyone," Huval observed.

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