The Laketown Lighthouse on Lake Pontchartrain in Kenner opened in September with restrooms and concessions.

Laketown Lighthouse opens, includes public restrooms

By ANGELA ROZAS
The Times-Picayune

KENNER — No more porta-potties for people fishing at Laketown.

This month Kenner opened its new Laketown Lighthouse, a $235,000 concession stand with storage, shaded bench areas and public restrooms.

The Acadian-style building, complete with a working beacon, was built on a peninsula that Kenner has been developing in Lake Pontchartrain. The concession stand will serve such fare as soft drinks and hot dogs to residents and visitors who frequent the nearby fishing pier, playgrounds and Treasure Chest Casino.

"We've had a lot of people coming down to the lake again, and we hope this will attract more," Mayor Louis Congemi said. "It looks great."

Kenner paid for the project with hotel-motel tax revenue, plus $50,000 in capital projects money. The 676-square-foot building was built between two sets of playground equipment, which will be moved closer to the building so parents can more easily watch their children from the comforts of the concession benches, Congemi said.

The building originally was designed to be only a decorative lighthouse, complete with a beacon and a 31-foot crow's nest inaccessible to the public.

The restrooms and concession stand were added because of the increase in local tourism, city officials said.

The area's only other public restrooms have been portable toilets near the boat launch.

However, boaters won't be able to use the lighthouse beam to set their sights on Kenner because the beacon is not an official Coast Guard navigation device, and it shines only on the land side.

The concession building will be open weekdays from 4 to 8 p.m. and weekends from noon to 8 p.m. during the fall and winter.

Starting in April, the lighthouse will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.