



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TOMMY MARTINEZ
Parish President

Officials Cut Ribbon Signaling Opening of Newly Remodeled Oak Grove Community Center

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CUTLINE – State and local officials cut a red ribbon Tuesday to open the newly remodeled Oak Grove Community Center. The center, located at the intersection of La. 42 and La. 73, next to the parish’s spray park, has been undergoing renovations since its closing in late 2013. “I think this is a community project that everyone is going to be able to utilize, and I think we need to do more of this around the parish and that’s what the plans are,” said Parish President Tommy Martinez. President Martinez complimented state Sen. Jody Amedee for securing funding for the completion of the project, and Parish Councilman Chris Loar for seeing the project through from inception to completion. “It was eight years ago that I drove by and I just had my youngest daughter at the time and had the vision for what this space could be,” Councilman Loar. “But a vision is just an empty pipe dream if it’s not bought into and people don’t believe in it.” Councilman Loar said the plan was embraced by the parish council and President Martinez, along with the state legislative delegation and community. Construction on the existing 1,550-square-foot building included the addition of a 426-square-foot event room and storage closet, increasing the overall size of the center by 580 square feet. Councilman Loar also commended the efforts of Sen. Amedee and the state delegation, along with the efforts of parish grants officer Martha Collins and parish recreation director Garney Gautreau. The ceremony was concluded with local historian Ira Babin giving a brief history of the property. Babin said the property of the park was the site of the former Oak Grove High. Shown from left to right: Delia Phillips, Barbara Luter, Hunter White (foreground), Joey Broussard, Brenda Cook, Eric Poche, Gonzales City Councilman Kenny Matassa, Alan “Boxcar” Braud, state Sen. Jody Amedee, Parish President Tommy Martinez, Billy Aguiard, Nelson Sanchez, Parish Councilman Chris Loar, Sinclair Loar (foreground), Parish Chief Administrative Officer Ken Dawson, Ira Babin, Rev. John Carrigan, Martin McConnell, Garney Gautreau and Richard Gautreaux. Rental information is available by

contacting Michelle Templet, program coordinator with the parish recreation department, at (225) 621-5787.

