

What's New in the City



City of Natchitoches



Annual Jazz/R&B Festival set for April 15-16

April 1, 2011

The Natchitoches Jazz/R&B Festival will be held on Natchitoches' downtown riverbank on April 15-16.

The 2011 Jazz/R&B Festival will be a two-day long event beginning Friday evening with free live entertainment from local favorites and 1980's Glam Rock tribute band, Butt Roxx. Saturday will kick off at noon with entertainment on two stages.

The Festival schedule includes legendary Louisiana group "LeRoux"; one of New Orleans' most successful funk bands "Big Sam's Funky Nation"; and "Bluffett," a Jimmy Buffett tribute act.

Food vendors will be avail-



free on Friday. Advanced ticket sales for Saturday is \$8 per adult, \$4 per student with I.D., and children 12 and under free on Saturday if purchased in advance. Ticket prices the day of the festival will be \$10 per adult, \$5 per student with I.D. and children age 12 and under free.

For information, call the Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 259-1714 or the office of C. Rodney Harrington at (318) 352-5900, or visit Festival website at www.natchjazzfest.com.

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Keep Natchitoches Beautiful to host citywide cleanup

The City of Natchitoches, Keep Natchitoches Beautiful and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office are asking volunteers to assist with a parish-wide cleaning campaign this spring.

April will start a month-long campaign to keep the Natchitoches Parish area beautiful. April is known as Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Month. As part of that celebration, residents and groups are being asked to organize community cleanups throughout Natchitoches. A concentrated citywide



cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 30. This cleanup is part of a national campaign known as the "Great American Cleanup."

Saturday, April 30 will

mark the official Keep Natchitoches Beautiful cleanup day, which will be held alongside the City's Earth Day celebration. That day will also kick off the 2011 Cane River Green Market, Natchitoches' local farmer's market.

Although an official community cleanup takes place on Saturday, April 30, groups and volunteers are welcome to organize their own personal cleanup any time during this spring throughout the community, including parks, play-

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opens April 30

Did you know?

- The Cane River Green Market is looking for vendors for its 2011 season. If you are a produce vendor, craft or value-added vendor and are interested in participating in the market, please call the Green Market office at 352-CRGM. Opening day is Saturday, April 30.
- Natchitoches Regional Airport will host its annual Fifth Saturday Fly-in on Saturday, April 30. For more information, call the Airport at 352-0994.

Recreation to host Play Day April 21 *Event held as part of Turnoff Week*

The City of Natchitoches Recreation and Parks Department will host a Play Day on Thursday, April 21 at City Park from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Play Day will incorporate partnerships with the City of Natchitoches and the Green Market Program to promote physical activity and healthy eating for youth in the community.

The event is being held as part of "Turnoff Week" April 18-24, a week dedicated to reducing screen time (computers, televisions, video games, etc.) and increasing physical activity.



Play Day activities will include a fun jump, games such as potato sack races, bobbing for apples and other activities. There will also be information about upcoming events within the Recreation and Parks Department and Green Market Activities.

Giveaways and game prizes will also be given out. This event is free and open to the public. Anyone interested in learning more about Play Day or participating can contact Tracey Colson at the Recreation and Parks Department at (318) 357-3892.

Recreation Dept. hosts Pitch, Hit & Run

The Recreation and Parks Department will host a free Aquafina Major League Baseball Pitch, Hit & Run Competition for area youth.

The event will be April 16 at 10 a.m. at Dixie Youth Baseball Fields. Pitch, Hit and Run is the Official Skills Competition of Major League Baseball.

This grassroots program is designed to provide youngsters with an opportunity to compete, free of charge, in a competition that recognizes individual excellence in core baseball/softball skills. The individ-

ual Pitching, Hitting and Running Champions, along with the All-Around Champion in each age group at the Local Competition will be awarded and advance to the Sectional Level of Competition.

All participants must bring a copy of their birth certificate and fill out a registration/waiver form prior to the start of the competition. For questions concerning the competition, please contact Tracey Colson at the Recreation and Parks Department at (318) 357-3892.

Entries sought for 2011 Festival Poster

Artists are being sought to design the 2011 Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster.

The theme for the poster is "Christmas in Natchitoches". Artists who would like to enter the contest should submit a drawing or painting to the Natchitoches Arts Council using the chosen theme.

The completed artist's sketch or painting should be 18 inches wide and 24 inches tall in size. If chosen, the painting will become the exclusive property of the Natchitoches Arts Council. The chosen artist will receive a commission of \$600. The deadline for entering the competition is Friday, June 24.

All entries should be submitted to Nancy McDowell, Community Development, 420 Fourth Street. The Natchitoches Arts Council is not responsible for insuring the safe or timely delivery of the art work to the appropriate

party. Those entries not picked up within 90 days of the June 24 deadline will become property of the Natchitoches Arts Council.

Numbered prints in the form of a poster will be available and on sale to the public some time in early October. All posters sell for \$35 each. The 1980-2004 collage poster sells for \$15. Small posters are \$2 or two for \$3. A set of 23 note cards with envelopes of the 1980-2002 posters is \$25 a box. A special print of the 2008 poster is \$20.

The Natchitoches Christmas Festival Poster has been a tradition for 30 years. All the original artwork can be viewed at the Natchitoches Arts Council office located at Community Development, 420 Fourth Street. or more information about the poster contest, call Karen Terrell at (318) 352-6925 or Nancy McDowell at (318) 357-3838.

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grounds, neighborhoods, streets, etc. Be sure to do your part in keeping our community beautiful!

Volunteers will be provided with trash bags and rubber gloves for their cleanup. Those who volunteer on Saturday, April 30 will be treated to light refreshments on the riverbank at what is known as "cleanup headquarters."

Those who wish to volunteer for the community cleanup or need more information can call Keep Natchitoches Beautiful at 357-3822 or the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office Community Services Division at 238-7550.

In celebration of Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Month, KNB is sponsoring a photo contest. Post a picture of your favorite "beautiful" spot in Natchitoches on the KNB Facebook page and be eligible to win prizes! The deadline to submit a photo is April 18 and winners will be announced April 21.

KNB is also sponsoring a poster contest for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students using recycled materials. The deadline for submissions is April 18.

For more information on any of these activities, look us up on Facebook.com/Keep Natchitoches Beautiful.

NPD announces promotions



Several promotions were just announced by Natchitoches Police Chief Micky Dove. Being promoted was Lt. Harmon Winters to Captain. Also promoted was Capt. Chris Payne and Capt. Brad Walker, who both served as a temporary captain – they were both promoted to a permanent Captain position.

Other promotions were Sgt. Nikeo Collins to Lieutenant; Sgt. Travis Johnston to Lieuten-

ant; Sgt. Ross Desadier to Lieutenant; Cpl. Gary Taylor to Sergeant and Officer Randall Ferguson to Corporal. Shown in the picture are: Asst. Police Chief Cary Hargrove, Mayor Wayne McCullen, Lt. Travis Johnston, Lt. Nikeo Collins, Capt. Harmon Winters, Capt. Chris Payne, Sgt. Gary Taylor, Capt. Brad Walker, Lt. Ross Desadier, Chief Micky Dove and Cpl. Randall Ferguson.

Summer Splash set for May 12

Participants are now being sought to take part in Summer Splash, a free informational fair designed to inform families about summer activities and programs.

Summer Splash will be held on Thursday, May 12 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center.

If your group or organization is offering activities or programs this summer for youth, please consider displaying your information at Summer Splash. Booth space is free. For more information on ways to participate, call the City's Office of Programming & Promotions at 357-3822.

Dedication of Ben Johnson Park



The Ben Johnson Memorial Park Dedication was held on Thursday, March 17th at the park and was a huge success. The park was completed in late February and is now open to the public for use. The park features a new concession stand, walking trail and new basketball courts and playground equipment.

Director Kendrick Llorens spoke on the mission of the Recreation and Parks Department and putting the children of our community first and providing opportunities for safe play, healthy activities and sportsmanship. Mr. Ed Ward read a moving statement on behalf of Mrs. Claire Prymus, niece of Ben Johnson, Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow, NSU Vice President of Student Affairs Marcus Jones and

Councilman at Large Don Mims also shared remarks.

This park was created as part of the vision of the late Mr. Ben Johnson in creating a safe and accessible play area for the children for the community as well as a site for community gatherings and sporting events. Recreation & Parks plans to host the first-ever Ben Johnson Basketball Tournament at the park in late spring which will include a community walk on the walking trail, games and activities for children, music and use of the concession stand.

Ben Johnson Memorial Park is now available for special events and tournaments and is located at 610 MLK Drive. Contact Recreation & Parks at 357-3892 for information.

March Employee of the Month



The City of Natchitoches Employee of the Month for March is Tim Crump, a mechanic in the City's Garage. Tim has worked for the City of Natchitoches for 29 years.

Shown in the photo are (from left) City Purchasing Director Edd Lee, Tim Crump,

Mayor Wayne McCullen, Garage Manager Joe Harrell and Luke Spears, a mechanic at the City Garage.

To nominate a City employee for Employee of the Month, please call Human Resources Manager Edd Lee at 357-3824.

Oldest Permanent
Settlement in the
Louisiana Purchase

P.O. Box 37
700 Second Street
Natchitoches, La.
71458

Phone: 318-352-2772
Fax: 318-357-3829
E-mail:
cityhall@natchitochesla.gov

Happy
Easter!



Cane River Green Market season opens April 30

Cane River Green Market, Natchitoches' local farmer's market, will open its 2011 season on Saturday, April 30 on the downtown riverbank.

The Green Market will operate every Saturday on the downtown riverbank through Saturday, July 30. This year's market hours are 8 a.m. to noon.

Local dignitaries, Green Market vendors and patrons will be on site on opening day at 10 a.m. to cut the green ribbon to begin the 2011 season. Live musical entertainment will be provided by The Back Porch Band. Children will also be able to participate in Earth Day and spring craft activities. Members of the Lakeview High School FFA will conduct a free demonstration on how to grow your own gardens.



Besides fresh fruits, vegetables and plants, customers can choose from a selection of "value-added products" including fresh eggs, baked goods, jams, jellies, honey, fresh flowers, herbs and much more.

Crafters will sell their hand-made items at the market such as wood-work, artwork, jewelry, stained glass, soaps, pottery and more.

Each weekend at the market, special events and activities will take place including live music, demonstrations, children's activities, and much more. The market also accepts Senior and WIC vouchers.

To learn about the different activities taking place each Saturday at the market, please call the Green Market office at (318) 352-CRGM or visit www.canerivergreenmarket.com.

Upcoming holidays and important events

April – Keep Natchitoches Beautiful Month

April 4 – Historic District Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

April 5 – Natchitoches Planning and Zoning Commission meets at 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

April 9 – Autism Awareness Walk at 7:30 a.m. on the downtown riverbank

April 11 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

April 16-17– Natchitoches

Jazz/R&B Festival

April 18 – Natchitoches Airport Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport.

April 18-24 –Turnoff Week

April 21 – Kids' Health Fest from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the NSU Campus.

April 21 – Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission meeting at 10 a.m. at the Arts Center.

April 22 – Good Friday; City of Natchitoches closed.

April 24 – Easter



April 25 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

April 29 – Relay for Life on the NSU Campus

April 30 – Opening day of Cane River Green Market from 8 a.m. to noon; Citywide Cleanup/ Natchitoches' Earth Day Celebration

April 30 – Fifth Saturday Fly-in at Natchitoches Regional Airport

