

What's New in the City



City of Natchitoches



Park dedicated to fallen City employee

February 1, 2011

The City of Natchitoches Recreation and Parks Department held a dedication of the Raevon Waldrup Park on Jan. 8. The Park was named in honor of Raevon Waldrup, an employee of the City's Recreation and Parks Department who passed away.

His mother Rosalyn Waldrup and sister Annette Sykes were both in attendance as well as City Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow, Recreation and Parks Department Director Ken-

drick Llorens and other family and friends.



The park is located on University Drive, just off Airport Road. The park includes a playground, walking trail and other amenities. Several of those

amenities were funded through a grant from The Rapides Foundation including the walking trail, picnic tables, garbage cans and benches. For information about the park, call the Recreation & Parks Dept. at 357-3891.

Shown in the picture are former Recreation Director Frank Griffin, NRPD Director Kendrick Llorens, Rosalyn Waldrup, Annette Sykes, Sister Tawanna, Harris, Ricky Berry, Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow, Pastor Steve Harris & nieces & nephews.

Volume XI, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

City celebrates Arbor Month	2
Recreation & Parks programs	3
Library book sale Feb. 19-20	4

Did you know?

- The Main Street Program is seeking vendors for Bloomin' on the Bricks, a spring garden festival on Saturday, March 26. Those interested in serving as vendors should contact the Main Street Office at 357-3822.
- If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the Cane River Green Market, please contact the market office at 352-2746 or visit: www.canerivergreenmarket.com. The market's first day of the 2011 season will be on Saturday, April 30 from 8 a.m. to noon.
- The City of Natchitoches' 2010 Annual Report is now available online at www.natchitochesla.gov

Natchitoches' iPhone APP launched to the public

Industry partners in Natchitoches have announced the release of the "Explore Louisiana Crossroads Visitor Guide" iPhone application.

The application will be presented to the public at a community forum on Thursday, Feb. 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center.

Available for free through iTunes, the Explore Louisiana Crossroads Visitor Guide application will allow users to take advantage of the advanced capabilities of



the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch user interface.

A link to the APP on iTunes can be found online at the City's web site www.natchitochesla.gov.

"The Explore Louisiana Crossroads Visitor Guide APP will be an easy-to-navigate tool for both pre-trip planning and to get information while onsite at a variety of recreational sites in the area," said Brandi Bradford, U.S. Army Corps

See APP, page 2

APP, cont'd. from page 1

of Engineers Lead Ranger on the Red River.

Features of the Explore Louisiana Crossroads Visitor Guide application include: History and significance of the Natchitoches region; Directions, details and Google map locations for area sites; Auto and walking tour ideas; Safety, service and emergency contact information.

A consortium of Natchitoches organizations joined together to provide content for this APP. Project partners include:

Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau City of Natchitoches; Association for Preservation of Historic Natchitoches; Melrose Plantation; Cane River Waterway Commission Cane River Creole National Historical Park; Cane River National Heritage Area; Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce and US Army Corps of Engineers.

The APP is "Powered by Nomad Mobile Guides (TM)". For information contact Brandi Bradford, Lead Park Ranger, at 354-8770 or any project partner.

City moves forward with LED Pilot Program

In April 2010, the City of Natchitoches was chosen as one of eight Louisiana Development Ready Pilot 2 Communities by Louisiana Economic Development (LED). This 12-month program was designed to help prepare each community to effectively compete with out-of-state communities for good jobs, business development projects and capital investment.

A Steering Committee consisting of business leaders, educators and City staff was formed to lead the efforts of this project. The Committee formulated a vision for the City and began a lengthy process to assess the community's strengths and weaknesses.

Several of the steps in this process included a visit from an external site assessment expert and two town hall meetings to gather community feedback. An internal community asset inventory was taken to outline

various aspects of the City. Finally, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis was conducted based on the internal and external data collected. This information was used to help draft a Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan was finalized in January, highlighting goals in the areas of: Infrastructure, Education/Workforce, Leadership Development and Marketing/Communications. The City Council passed a Resolution of Support for the Five-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan and the strategic actions will be implemented over the next five years.

With the completion of this project, the City of Natchitoches will be recognized as a Development Ready Community and be better positioned to compete globally for new businesses and jobs.

Green Market seeks vendors for 2011 season

The Cane River Green Market is seeking vendors for its 2011 season, which is set to begin on Saturday, April 30.

The Green Market, Natchitoches' local farmer's market, is seeking vendors who sell fresh produce and plants as well as value-added items and crafts.

The market is open every Sat-

urday from April 30 - July 30 from 8 a.m. to noon on the downtown riverbank. Vendor applications can be downloaded online at:

www.canerivergreenmarket.com.

Please call the market office at (318) 352-2746 if you need additional information.

City celebrates Arbor Month



The City of Natchitoches and Keep Natchitoches Beautiful planted a Magnolia Tree on Friday, Jan. 21 in honor of Arbor Day. The month of January was declared as Arbor Month by the City of Natchitoches.

In Louisiana, the third Friday of every January is recognized as Arbor Day. The Magnolia Tree was planted on the northern end of Front Street.

The City of Natchitoches once again maintained its status as a Tree City USA and was recognized with a special award for maintaining the Tree City USA status 10 years in a row.

Shown in the picture are (from left) Community Development Director Randy LaCaze; Natchitoches Master Gardeners President Marilyn Laramy; City

Beautification Director John Harris; 5th grade student Derilyn Flanagan II, one of the winners of Natchitoches' Arbor Day Poster Contest; Steve Roberts with the LSU Ag Center; City Councilman Dale Nielsen and Administrative Assistant Will Yeager.

As part of the City's Arbor Month celebration, a "Trees are Terrific" poster contest was held for Natchitoches fifth graders. Four winners were selected by Leslie Gruesbeck, Assistant professor of Art at NSU. This year's winners were Derilyn Flanagan, Makenzie Methvin, David Thibodaux and Dillon Thompson. All winners received prizes which included art packs donated by NSU Art and greenNsu.

January Employee of the Month



The City of Natchitoches named Police Captains Chris Payne and Brad Walker as the employees of the month for the City of Natchitoches for January.

Both Capt. Payne and Capt. Walker have been employed with the City of Natchitoches for 19 years.

Cpt. Walker has served as Captain over Administration. This includes: Investigations, Records, Animal Shelter and School Resource. He has been responsible for processing bills that come into the Police Department. During that time, he has also fulfilled his confirmed role of Chief of Detectives. In that position, he directly oversees all investigations and is responsible for assigning cases to each detective, including juveniles.

Cpt. Payne has served as Captain over Traffic and Patrol. This encompasses all daily patrol activities as well as the motorcycle division, and the warrant division. Cpt. Payne is responsible for ensuring that all extra details are protected by adequate security. During that time, he has also served in his confirmed role as the Department's In-

ternal Affairs Officer. He processes all incoming complaints against police officers and investigates each one in great detail. Cpt. Payne also has the responsibility of processing all incoming applicants to the Police Department.

Until 18 months ago, the NPD did not hold the rank of Captain within its rank structure. Due to a growing need of a more refined rank structure, the Police Department approached the State Examiners' Office to request the position be established. During that time, Captains Walker and Payne were both promoted temporarily to fill those positions until the Captain's Civil Service exam was administered and scores are received.

"These two men have taken on the extra responsibility with pride and dedication and have done an outstanding job," said Police Chief Micky Dove. "Both are to be commended."

Shown in the picture are (from left): Mayor Wayne McCullen, Capt. Walker, Police Chief Dove, Capt. Payne and Asst. Police Chief Cary Hargrove.

Bloomin' on the Bricks seeks vendors

Vendors are now being sought for Bloomin' on the Bricks, Natchitoches' spring garden festival.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 26

from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the downtown riverbank.

Vendors who sell merchandise related to lawn and garden are invited to participate in this year's show. Potential vendors might include landscapers, nursery owners, lawn furniture, iron work, yard art and more.



Bloomin' on the Bricks will include live musical entertainment throughout the day, children's activities and food vendors.

Other activities scheduled that day include Art Along the Bricks on Front Street and the Natchitoches Noisette Garden Symposium at the Natchitoches Events Center.

Call the Natchitoches Main Street office at (318) 357-3822 for more information.

City Recreation & Parks

announces new programming

The City's Recreation and Parks Department is announcing two new programs to begin Jan. 31 at the MLK Recreation Center.

A dance class will begin for girls 3-12 years old, incorporating ballet, jazz and modern dance. Classes will begin Feb. 1 and will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The number of participants will determine times. The dance classes will be \$120 for a 3-month session, \$45 for those with a Medicaid card, concluding with a recital and program on April 30. Fees may be paid monthly or in full at the beginning of the session.

The department will be offering a boot camp style cardio class for adults taught by local MMA fighter Javand Duhon. If you are looking for

a high energy, result based workout program for the new year, this is the class for you. These classes will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays at 3:45 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sessions will begin Feb. 1 through April 30. Fees are \$120 per session or \$40 per month.

NPRD is looking for any instructors interested in teaching a class whether its fitness based, arts or culturally based. Additional programs to begin will be Line Dancing, Cheerleading, Volleyball and Adult Dodgeball.

If anyone is interested in coaching, sponsorship or assisting with these new programs, contact Tracey Colson at 357-3892. Registration forms for all programs and sports can be picked up at the MLK Recreational Center at 660 MLK Drive between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

City of Natchitoches

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
Mardi Gras!



Parish Library Book Sale Feb. 19-20

The Friends of the Natchitoches Parish Library will hold its 8th Annual "Books for Bucks" book sale Saturday, Feb. 19 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 20 from noon to 3 p.m.

The Friends group has collected and sorted thousands of books for the sale. There are a wide variety of books ranging from historical texts and biographies to romance novels and mysteries. The Friends even have a special category for first edition and out-of-print books. The Friends will also have *Smithsonian*, *Gourmet* and *Bon Appetite* magazines available for purchase.

The Friends of the Natchitoches

Parish Library encourage public interest and support of the library. Funds raised by the group are used to meet library needs that are not met through the traditional Natchitoches Parish Library budget. Funding support includes but is not limited to the purchase of special equipment and sponsorship of special thematic library programs.

For more information about the "Books for Bucks" book sale or other library programming, please call Amy Walmsley, community outreach coordinator at the Natchitoches Parish Library at (318) 357-3280.



Upcoming holidays and important events

Feb. 1— Natchitoches Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Feb. 2— Groundhog Day

Feb. 3 — Natchitoches iPhone APP launch to the public from 5-7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center.

Feb. 7— Historic District Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Feb. 14 — Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day.



Feb. 17 — Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission meeting at 10 a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Feb. 19 — Library book sale at the Natchitoches Arts Center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 20 — Library book sale at the Natchitoches Arts Center from noon to 3 p.m.

Feb. 21 — City of Natchitoches closed in observance of President's Day.

Feb. 21 — Natchitoches Airport Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport.

Feb. 22 — APHN Membership Wine and Cheese from 5 -7 p.m. at the Lemee House.

Feb. 26-27 — Mardi Gras Blowout USSSA Baseball Tournament in Natchitoches.

Feb. 28 — Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.