

What's New in the City



City of Natchitoches



Bloomin' on the Bricks set for March 26

March 1, 2011

Experience the beauty of springtime in downtown Natchitoches during the Eleventh Annual Bloomin' on the Bricks on Saturday, March 26.

The Eleventh Annual Bloomin' on the Bricks will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 26 on the downtown riverbank in Natchitoches' National Historic Landmark District.

The event, which is being organized by the Natchitoches Main Street Program, is a celebration of spring in the City's Historic District. Visitors will be able



to see the beauty of springtime in downtown Natchitoches through its hanging

flower baskets and thousands of daffodils and tulips planted along the riverbank and downtown area.

The spring garden festival will feature an exhibit area with lawn and garden vendors who will display and sell an assortment of items needed to transform your garden and yard this spring season. Nursery owners from around the area will sell specialized plants such as ferns, bromeliads, herbs, bedding plants and more. Other vendors will sell iron work, landscape

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Mardi Gras comes to Natchitoches March 5

Mardi Gras will roll through Natchitoches on Saturday, March 5.

Activities include the Krewe of Wag-uns Children's and Pet Parade at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 5. Line up begins at the Bank of Montgomery at 814 Washington Street at 12:30 p.m., and the parade will travel down Front Street turning onto Touline Street.

There will be prizes for

the Best Pet Costume and Best Decorated Entry. Golf



carts, driven by adults, are permitted. Children may ride

scooters, bicycles or wagons as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

For more information about the Krewe of Wag-uns, please call the Chamber of Commerce at 352-6894.

Live musical entertainment will take place Saturday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in front of Exchange Bank. Music will be

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Did you know?

- The Natchitoches Run/Walk Club is kicking off a new season of training programs including 5K/10K - walking, run/walking, running; half-marathon and full-marathon for beginning, intermediate and advanced runners. For more information about the Run/Walk Club, please contact Program Director Sarah Prud'homme at (337) 356-4025.
- The Cane River Green Market will open its 2011 season on Saturday, April 30 at 8 a.m. on the downtown riverbank. To become a vendor, call the market office at (318) 352-CRGM.

Art Along the Bricks March 26

Art Along the Bricks, a free, one-day outdoor art show, will be held on Front Street on Saturday, March 26 in conjunction with Bloomin' on the Bricks.

The event is sponsored by the Natchitoches Art Guild. Fine artists and crafters are invited to set up booths along Front Street where they display and sell



their artwork. Vendors will offer a wide range of items including water color paintings, jewelry, ceramics, stained glass and more.

For information about the event or to become a vendor, call the Natchitoches Art Guild at 352-1626.

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provided by Them Jazz Catz, led by former NSU music student Carlos Ortiz.

The Krewe of Dionysos Mardi Gras Parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. The parade will begin on South Drive (La. Highway 1 South), turn left onto Keyser Avenue and cross the Keyser Avenue Bridge. The parade will then travel down Jefferson Street into

the Natchitoches Historic District, turning left onto Texas Street and left onto Second Street. The parade ends at Church and Second Streets.

For more information about Mardi Gras in Natchitoches, please visit www.natchitoches.net.

City announces change in water rates

A new rate schedule for water use will be implemented for all City of Natchitoches utility customers.

This is the first time there has been a change in the water rate schedule in nearly 10 years. Water rates help to fund increases the City of Natchitoches has experienced in water department costs such as maintenance, operating costs and capital improvements.

Residential rates will increase 50 cents per customer for the first 2,000 gallons from \$5.50 to \$6.00 and an increase of 75 cents per additional thousand gallons.

The average City of Natchitoches residential utility customer consumes approximately 5,000 gallons of water a month. This would result in a

monthly bill to change from \$11.65 to \$14.40 for an increase of \$2.75.

Commercial water rates will increase 50 cents per customer for the first 2,000 gallons and \$1 per additional thousand gallons.

The change in water rates will be reflected in the April utility billing cycle.

A copy of the new water rate schedule will be available to the public at the City of Natchitoches' Utility Service Center, located at 806 Second Street. The Utility Service Center is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, please call the Utility Service Center at (318) 357-3844.

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materials, yard art and other decorative items.

The day-long event will feature musical entertainment by The Lukejazz Trio from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A children's area will include



spring-related crafts, the Natchitoches Parish Library and animals from the Alexandria Zoo. Food booths will be located on the riverbank throughout the day.

A special addition to this year's festival will be a sneak preview of Beau Jardin, a newly-constructed water fea-

ture and garden area on the downtown riverbank. The landscape contractor and vendors responsible for the design and implementation of the new garden will be on hand to answer

questions and provide information about the area.

Admission to Bloomin' on the Bricks is \$3 for adults and free for children under 12. For information about the show or to become a vendor, please call the Natchitoches Main Street Office at (318) 352-2746.

City Wellness Day March 31

The City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Regional Medical Center will host a wellness day for City employees on Thursday, March 31.

Wellness Day will take place from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center.

Both the City and the hospital believe that education, prevention and early detection are the best method towards healthy lifestyles.

The health fair will provide screenings such as cholesterol, PSA-Prostate, blood

sugar and thyroid. Other screenings will include a spinal exam, body mass index, vision and hearing screening and diabetic foot evaluation.

For best results, those who participate should begin to fast at midnight.

The health fair is free to all city employees and those dependents/spouses on the city insurance program. All other dependents/spouses will be required to pay a \$20 fee if they would like to participate.



February Employee of the Month



Sherry Edwards has been named as the City of Natchitoches Employee of the Month for February.

Sherry, who has worked for the City for 10 years, is a Meter Maintenance Mechanic for the City's Utility Department.

Shown in the picture are (from left) Meter Maintenance Supervisor Leslie

Bayonne, HR Manager Edd Lee, Sherry Edwards, Mayor Wayne McCullen, Utility Director Bryan Wimberly and Utility Service Center Manager Connie Guy.

To nominate someone for Employee of the Month, please call HR Manager Edd Lee at 357-3824 or the Office of Programming and Promotions at 357-3822.

Natchitoches named as a top 5 'Most Romantic Main Street'



The Natchitoches Historic District has been named as one of the top five Most Romantic Main Streets in the United States.

The announcement was made just before Valentine's Day by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The other four Most Romantic Main Streets include Middletown, Connecticut; Madison, Indiana; Franklin, Tennessee and Paducah, Kentucky.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation sought the country's most romantic Main Street districts, seeking those places that offer unique experiences as well as atmosphere, history, charming streets for strolls, wedding destinations, quaint B&Bs, special historic spots and much more. After scouring the country, the National Trust for Historic Preservation chose Natchitoches as one of the destinations that meets this criteria.

"The Natchitoches Historic District has long been considered a romantic destination by visitors," said Courtney Hornsby of the

Natchitoches Main Street Program. "With our charming Front Street, scenic Cane River Lake and beautiful historic homes and bed and breakfasts, it is the perfect location for a romantic evening or weekend getaway."

Special emphasis will be placed this year on promoting downtown Natchitoches as a premiere wedding destination, particularly through a new water feature and garden area located in Virginia Baker Park along the downtown riverbank. The project is expected to be completed in May.

For more information on the Natchitoches Historic District, please visit www.downtownnatchitoches.com or contact the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 259-1714 or www.natchitoches.net.

To view the country's Most Romantic Main Streets, please visit: www.preservationnation.org/romantic-main-streets.

City of Natchitoches

Oldest Permanent
Settlement in the
Louisiana Purchase

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The spring season will
officially begin on
Sunday, March 20

Blush & Bashful Bridal Affair March 20

The Natchitoches Events Center will sponsor the annual Blush & Bashful Bridal Affair on Sunday, March 20 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center, located at 750 Second Street in the Natchitoches Historic District.



The event will feature more than 40 booths with everything you need for a wedding including dress shops, photographers, caterers, florists and

wedding planners. Activities at the Bridal Affair include a bridal fashion show, door prizes, contests, food sam-

ples, a photo booth and much more.

For more information about the Bridal Affair or to be a vendor, please

call the Events Center at (318) 238-7500 or visit:
www.NatchitochesEventsCenter.com.

Upcoming holidays and important events

March 1 – Natchitoches Planning and Zoning Commission meets at 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 7 – Historic District Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 13 – Daylight Savings

March 14 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day.

March 17 – Natchitoches Historic District Develop-



ment Commission meeting at 10 a.m. at the Arts Center.

March 17 – Ribbon-cutting ceremony at Ben Johnson Park at 4:30 p.m.

March 20 – Blush & Bashful Bridal Affair at the Natchitoches Events Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

March 21 – Natchitoches Airport Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport.

March 24 – Steak and Burger Dinner to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of El Camino Real at the Events Center from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

March 26 – Bloomin' on the Bricks from 9

a.m. – 2 p.m.; Art

Along the Bricks

on Front Street;

Natchitoches

Noisette Garden

Symposium at the Natchitoches Events Center

March 28 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

March 31 – City Wellness Day at the Natchitoches Events Center, beginning at 7 a.m.

March 31 – Natchitoches Humane Society meeting at 6 p.m. at Natchitoches Arts Center.

