

# What's New in the City



## City of Natchitoches



### Christmas lights to be turned on Nov. 20

#### *Event to be part of 'Louisiana Main to Main'*

Downtown Natchitoches will kick off the holiday season during "Turn on the Holidays" on Saturday, Nov. 20.

"Turn on the Holidays" is an entire day of free family entertainment in downtown Natchitoches that will serve as the official start of the Festival of Lights season for the City of Natchitoches. The highlight of the event will be the official turning on of thousands of Christmas lights that illuminate the Natchitoches Historic District through the first week of January.

"Turn on the Holidays" is part of Louisiana Main to Main: A Cultural Road Show,



which is designed to showcase the Louisiana Main Street Program and foster economic development for Louisiana Main Street communities. Through-

out November, Main Street communities across the state will host various events and activities that promote cultural tourism.

Events in downtown Natchitoches begin at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20 with a variety of children's activities. A children's activity tent with storyteller Dee Scallan, author of the Crawfish Tales book series will be open from 12-4 p.m.

Children will have the opportunity to visit with Ollie the Oyster via a talking drawing board, enjoy performances with Moby

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### Christmas Festival announces grand marshal

The City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce jointly announced that Hollywood Records recording artist and rising Disney star Anna Margaret will serve as the grand marshal of the 2010 Natchitoches Christmas Festival.

Anna Margaret is the youngest person to ever reign over the Natchitoches Christmas Festival Parade.

In less than a year, this Alexandria, Louisiana native has become one of the bright



Anna Margaret

lights among emerging teen stars with hit tracks including "Something About the Sunshine" off the Disney Channel's original movie "Starstruck" and the title track "Girl Thing" from the Disney Channel original movie "Den Brother." This 14-year-old singer's video "Something About the Sunshine" has already had over 1.5 million hits on YouTube.

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#### Did you know?

- The last Cane River Green Market for the 2010 season will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon on the downtown riverbank. Visit [www.canerivergreenmarket.com](http://www.canerivergreenmarket.com) for more information.

- Christmas Festival wristbands are now on sale at several local stores including bank branches, Brookshire's, Campus Corner and more. Wristbands prior to Festival Day are \$6 for adults 12 and older and \$4 for children 6-11. On Festival Day, adult wristbands increase to \$8 a day and children to \$5. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 352-6894 for more information.

## Lights, cont'd. from page 1

Pincher, the crawfish puppet and view shows with the Moby Animatronics Theater. They will make oyster shell ornaments and Ollie the Oyster hats to take home. Children will help decorate a Christmas tree with native Louisiana materials just like the tree in the book "Moby Pincher's Wonderful Christmas Present".

Children can enjoy face painting, inflatable activities, Christmas ornament painting in with the Natchitoches Art Guild & Gallery, Creole doll making with the Cane River Creole National Historical Park & the Natchitoches Parish Library Bookmobile.

Musical entertainment includes Celtic and folk mu-



**Children's performer Dee Scallan will entertain the crowds at "Turn on the Holidays" Nov. 20.**

sic by The Back Porch Band from 12-3 p.m. and a "barbershop style" holiday concert by River Cities Jubilee Chorus at 3 p.m. The headliner Dixie Traditions will perform from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The evening will be capped off with the official lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on

the downtown stage immediately followed by a fireworks show over Cane River Lake.

For information about "Turn on the Holidays", call the Main Street Office at (866) 941-6246 or visit [www.DowntownNatchitoches.com](http://www.DowntownNatchitoches.com).

For more information about the Natchitoches Christmas Festival, visit [www.christmasfestival.com](http://www.christmasfestival.com).

## Festival, cont'd. from page 1

Anna Margaret will not only serve as this year's grand marshal, but she will also perform on the downtown riverbank stage during the Christmas Festival on Saturday, Dec. 4.

The Natchitoches Christmas Festival is celebrating its 84<sup>th</sup> year this year.

It was also announced that Alexandria native Taylor Mathews will appear in the Natchitoches Christmas Festival

Parade as well as perform on the downtown riverbank stage. Mathews was a finalist in the nationally-syndicated television show "America's Got Talent."

For more information about the Natchitoches Christmas Festival, please visit [www.christmasfestival.com](http://www.christmasfestival.com).

## Food Bank of Cenla kicks off Christmas Cheer Canned Food Drive

The Food Bank of Central Louisiana and Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana is expanding the News Channel 5 Christmas Food Drive to include Natchitoches Parish.

All the food collected in Natchitoches Parish is donated to the Food Bank of Central Louisiana and is distributed to low-income families through member agencies in Natchitoches Parish.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the schools in each parish that collect the most food in each of the education levels. A \$500 first place prize will be

given at the elementary, junior high and high school division for the schools with the most food collected per capita. The top collecting school for all three parishes will win an additional \$500 prize.

The Food Drive runs from Nov. 1 through Dec. 8 for all Natchitoches Parish schools.

For more information about the Food Bank of Central Louisiana or the Christmas Cheer Food Drive, please contact Linda Hutson at (318) 445-2773.



## Holiday Trail of Lights Media Day

Several representatives from the Natchitoches area attended the Holiday Trail of Lights media day in Shreveport at the Barnwell Center. The Holiday Trail of Lights consists of six cities in Texas and Louisiana that all have holiday lighting programs. The cities that make up the Holiday Trail of Lights are Natchitoches, Shreveport and Bossier City as well as Jefferson, TX; Kilgore, TX and Marshall, TX. For more information on the Holiday Trail of

Lights, please visit [www.holidaytrailoflights.com](http://www.holidaytrailoflights.com).

Shown are (from left) Mayor Wayne McCullen, Leslie Smith and Courtney Hornsby from the City of Natchitoches, Christmas Belle Danielle Coutee and Miss Merry Christmas Connie Lawson, Latisha McDaniel of the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and Tony Davis, Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO.

## Snow Fest comes to Natchitoches

*Snow Hill to operate Nov. 26 and 27*



Visitors in Natchitoches will be able to tube down a snow hill on November 26 and 27, just like the one in Kilgore, Texas, shown in the picture above.

On November 26 and 27, bring the entire family to enjoy the first-ever “Snow Fest” in downtown Natchitoches.

The public will be able to experience Frosty’s Avalanche Slide featuring tubing down 110 feet of winter fun.

The snow will be operational on two days on the downtown riverbank – Friday, November 26 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Those sliding down the hill must be at least 42 inches tall to participate.

If a child does not meet the height requirement for the

slide, there will be other bouncers and inflatable slides to enjoy.

The price to slide is as follows: one slide is \$3, two slides are \$5 and five slides are \$10.

Snow Fest is being provided by a number of community sponsors including the Natchitoches Historic District Business Association and the Historic District Development Commission.

For more information about the snow hill, please call the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 259-1714.

## Boogie on the Bricks Nov. 13



Boogie on the Bricks will be held in downtown Natchitoches on Saturday, Nov. 13.

The free outdoor concert will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Front Street following the NSU Demon football game against Nicholls State at 2 p.m.

Musical entertainment

at the concert will be provided by the band Louisiana FIYA, a Cajun Country Rockin’ Blues Band.

The band plays a mixture of blues, country, rock ‘n roll, funk, dance & zydeco.

For information about Boogie on the Bricks, please call the Natchitoches Main Street office at (318) 352-2746.

## NSU to host Veteran’s Expo Nov. 8 at Events Center

Northwestern State University and the City of Natchitoches are working together on a one-day program to assist area veterans.

A Veterans’ Expo will be held Monday, Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center. Admission is free and is open to any military veteran and their family. Those attending should bring a copy of their DD-214 or Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE).

Among those planning to set up booths are the V.A. hospitals from Shreveport and Pineville,

the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Representatives from NSU’s Veteran’s Affairs Office, Admissions, University Recruiting, Office of Electronic and Continuing Education and academic departments will be available to answer questions and provide information. Representatives from the offices of Sen. Mary Landrieu, Sen. David Vitter and U.S. Rep. John Fleming have also been invited to attend.

## City of Natchitoches

Oldest Permanent  
Settlement in the  
Louisiana Purchase

P.O. Box 37  
700 Second Street  
Natchitoches, La.  
71458-0037

Phone: 318-352-2772

Fax: 318-357-3829

E-mail:

cityhall@natchitochesla.gov

### Go Demons!



## Repairs made to Dixie Youth ball fields

Two of the ball fields at the Dixie Youth Baseball Complex were recently rehabilitated thanks to a joint effort by the Dixie Youth Board of Directors and the City of Natchitoches Recreation and Parks Department.

Approximately 160 yards of dirt were removed from both the Kiwanis and Gahagan ball fields to improve the safety of the fields. In addition, a new sprinkler system on a timer was added to both fields.

"The Dixie Youth Board of Directors along with the City of Natchitoches felt it was necessary to make a commitment to improving our facilities," said Mark Massia, Dixie Youth President. "Along with the improvements to Kiwanis and Gahagan fields we are



making changes to both the boys' and girls' tee-ball field, we are also converting last year's wee-tee field into a girl's softball field with an all-dirt infield and making improvements to Troy Mayeaux field. Dixie Youth had a great 2010 season with over 800 participants and

we hope that these changes will make for a bigger and better 2011."

Shown in the picture are (from left) Mark Lipa, Dixie Youth Treasurer; Ricky Berry, assistant City of Natchitoches Recreation Director and maintenance supervisor; Mark Massia, Dixie Youth President; Recreation and Parks Director Kendrick Llorens; Mayor Wayne McCullen; Kathy Owsley, Dixie Youth Board member and Whit Maxey, Dixie Youth Board Member.

## Upcoming holidays and important events

Nov. 1 – Historic District Commission at 5 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Nov. 1 – Witch Way to Main Street from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Front Street.

Nov. 2 – Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Nov. 6 – Cane River Green Market from 8 a.m. to noon on the downtown riverbank.

Nov. 8 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Nov. 11 – Veterans' Day; City of Natchitoches closed.

Nov. 13 – NSU Demons vs. Nicholls State at 2 p.m.; Boogie on the Bricks Concert from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Front Street.

Nov. 15 – Airport Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport.

Nov. 18 – Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission at 10 a.m. at Natchitoches Arts Center.

Nov. 20 – "Turn on the Holidays"; official lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on the Fleur de Lis Stage and fireworks at 7 p.m.; downtown holiday open house.

Nov. 22 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at

the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Nov. 25

– Thanksgiving; City of Natchitoches closed.

Nov. 26 – City of Natchitoches closed.

Nov. 27 – Fleur de Lis Christmas Craft Market from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center.

Nov. 27 – Fireworks over Cane River Lake in downtown Natchitoches at 7 p.m.

Nov. 27 – Fireworks over Cane River Lake in downtown Natchitoches at 7 p.m.

Dec. 4 – 84th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival.

