

# What's New in the City



## City of Natchitoches



### 84th Annual Christmas Festival Dec. 4

The 84th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival will be held on Friday, Dec. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 4.

Highlighting this year's event will be a fireworks show at 6 p.m. on Saturday followed by the turning on of thousands of Christmas lights.

Pre-sale admission to the festival is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6 to 11 until Festival Day. On Festival Day, admission



goes up to \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Children under 6 get in free. Admission will be required for access to Front Street and the downtown area on Festival Day.

The festival begins Friday, Dec. 3 with musical entertain-

ment on the downtown stage.

Saturday's events begin with the annual Santa Shuffle. Opening ceremonies are at 10 a.m. followed by the Junior Parade begins at 11 a.m. The fam-

ily-friendly Junior Parade will feature a number of costumed characters, floats, cheerleaders and bands.

The Main Parade begins at 2 p.m. featuring Grand

**See Festival, page 2**

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#### Inside this issue:

Nov. Employee of the Month	2
Santa House open this season	3
City employees recognized	4

#### Did you know?

- There will be fireworks every Saturday in December, including Christmas Day, as well as fireworks on New Year's Eve at midnight. This year, admission will be charged on the second and third Saturdays of December to gain access to the downtown riverbank. Christmas lights remain on through the first week of January.
- The Natchitoches Christmas Festival Parade will be aired throughout the month of December on KNTS Channel 17. Please check local listings for specific air times.

### Grand Marshal & festival entertainers announced

The Natchitoches Christmas Festival has announced that Hollywood Records Recording Artist and rising Disney star Anna Margaret will serve as the Grand Marshal of the 2010 Natchitoches Christmas Festival Parade.

The parade begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4 as part of the 84th Annual Natchitoches Christmas Festival.

The Christmas Festival's Main Parade will leave the Northwestern State University campus at 2 p.m., traveling down Jefferson Street into



**Anna Margaret**

the Natchitoches Historic District. The parade then

enters Front Street, turns left onto Texas Street and then left onto Second Street. The parade travels down Second Street before ending at the main gate of Northwestern State.

In addition to the parade, Anna Margaret will perform live on the downtown stage at 1 p.m. Saturday. She will also hold a "meet and greet" at 4 p.m. in front of Exchange Bank on Front Street.

Other entertainment includes "America's Got Talent" finalist Taylor Mathews who

**See Grand Marshal, page 2**

## Festival, cont'd. from page 1

Marshal Anna Margaret.

Festival goers should be aware of a number of street closures on Festival Day. The Church Street Bridge and Front Street will both be closed to all vehicles, beginning at 5 a.m.

Second Street will close to vehicles from Bossier to Amulet Street at 9 a.m. The remaining portion of Second Street will close at 10 a.m. All vehicles remaining on the street will be towed at the owner's expense.

Those wanting to cross the Church Street Bridge by foot should do so before 4 p.m. The bridge will be shut down completely at 4 p.m. in preparation for the fireworks show. Motorists are asked to exert patience

and caution on Festival Day. Many streets will be either closed or turned into one-way streets.

Other important things to keep in mind on Festival Day: no pets are allowed in the festival area; no ice chests are allowed and no alcohol will be allowed on public property within the festival area; those with emergencies or lost children should report to a command center which will be established in the parking lot of the Natchitoches Events Center at 750 Second St.

For a complete schedule of festival activities, please visit: [www.christmasfestival.com](http://www.christmasfestival.com) or call the Visitor Information Center at (800) 259-1714.

## Food Bank collecting food through Dec. 8

The Food Bank of Central Louisiana will be collecting canned food from participating Natchitoches Parish schools on Wednesday, Dec. 8 as part of their Natchitoches Parish Christmas Cheer Food Drive.

All food collected in Natchitoches Parish through the food drive will be given to Natchitoches Parish organizations for distribution including the Natchitoches Fire Department,

Robeline Food Pantry and Natchitoches Parish Council on Aging.

All food collected on Dec. 8 will be brought to the City's Public Works Complex, located at 110 Mill Street. The public is encouraged to drop off

their own food items throughout the day on Dec. 8 to donate toward the food drive.

Please call the Food Bank at (318) 445-2773 for more information.



## Northwestern presents Christmas Gala

Northwestern State University has announced the performance dates for the Annual Christmas Gala, celebrating Northwestern through its past 125 years.

The annual holiday gala will feature performances by the wooden soldiers, Rockettes, NSU Choir, NSU Orchestra, NSU Jazz Band and a few other sur-

prises. The Gala is appropriate for all ages.

Performances will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. and on Friday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 per person. For information about the Gala, call NSU Ticket Office at 357-4483.



## November Employee of the Month



Davin White, Athletic Director for the City of Natchitoches Recreation and Parks Department, has been named the City's Employee of the Month for November.

White successfully instituted the first youth tackle football league in Natchitoches for the fall 2010 season.

The Natchitoches Natural Talent football team made an impressive showing in their first season with its 7/8 year old and 9/10 year old teams. The organization and

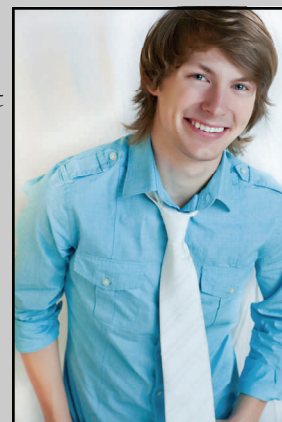
implementation of this program was completed by White including acquiring sponsorships, volunteer coaches and bringing out of town teams to Natchitoches to participate in this new program.

Presenting the award to White were (from left) Councilman Dale Nielsen, Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow, Mayor Wayne McCullen, White and Councilman Jack McCain. To nominate someone for Employee of the Month, call HR Manager Edd Lee at 357-3824.

## Grand Marshal, cont'd. from page 1

will perform on the downtown stage at 10 a.m. followed by a meet and greet at 11 a.m. in front of Exchange Bank.

Renowned Louisiana Chef John Folse will appear in the Natchitoches Christmas Festival Parade and hold a book signing at The Book Mer-



**Taylor Mathews**

chant, located at 512 Front Street, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday.

Governor and Mrs. Bobby Jindal and family will also ride in the parade.

The 1980s cover band Bag of Donuts will perform at 4:30 p.m. on the downtown stage.

## Festival of Lights continues through December

The Natchitoches Festival of Lights will continue with fireworks, entertainment and other events through the month of December.

Those who plan to attend the Festival of Lights should be aware of a change in this year's festivities - admission will be charged on Saturday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 18 for access to the downtown riverbank.

Admission for those two Saturdays is \$5 for those 12 years old and up. Admission will be charged from 10 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Live musical entertainment will take place on Saturday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the downtown stage.

Fireworks displays will take place on the banks of Cane River Lake every Saturday in

December at 7 p.m., including a fireworks show on Christmas night.

Also taking place during the month of December is the annual Christmas by Candlelight Tour of Homes, sponsored by the Natchitoches Historic Foundation. Various historical homes are available for tour on specific Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays in December. Visit:

[www.historicfoundation.org](http://www.historicfoundation.org) for more information.

Christmas lights remain on every night through the first week of January.

For a complete schedule of events, please call the Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 259-1714 or visit [www.christmasfestival.com](http://www.christmasfestival.com).



## Santa House open this month

The Santa Claus House, located on the southern end of the downtown riverbank, has announced its hours of operation for the 2010 holiday season.

The house will be manned every night, beginning on Sunday, Dec. 5, by Miss Merry Christmas and the Christmas Belles and



Santa Claus himself. The Santa House will be open every night from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The house will remain open every night through Thursday, Dec. 23.

Children are invited to visit the house, where they can share their Christmas list and have a picture made with Santa.

## Holiday Recycling Reminder

Ward's Waste Services and the City of Natchitoches remind municipal garbage customers to recycle this holiday season.

As always, residents and businesses can recycle all paper products, telephone books, cardboard, plastic, aluminum and steel cans.

The public is encouraged to recycle waste materials generated this holiday season which include wrapping paper, gift boxes and gift bags.

Live Christmas Trees can also be recycled this holiday season. When you are ready to dispose of your Christmas Tree, place it on the curb and it will be picked up from Ward's Waste Services. Please do not place it in the same pile as limbs or other woody waste.

For information about Natchitoches' recycling program, call Ward's Waste at 354-1001.

## Natchitoches Regional named Louisiana Airport of the Year

Natchitoches Regional Airport was recently recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration as the state's outstanding airport for 2010.

The City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Regional Airport received the Outstanding



Natchitoches Airport officials were presented with the Louisiana Airport of the Year Award.

Louisiana Airport Award for 2010 at the recent Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Southwest Region Conference held in Fort Worth, TX. Natchitoches Regional Airport was one of 62 Louisiana airports competing for this award.

The airport was recognized for its support of aviation in Louisiana and its significant contributions to the future growth and efficiency

of the National Air Transportation System.

The award was received, in part, due to Natchitoches Regional Airport maintaining

port near approaches and departures, providing a safer use of the airport by the aviation industry. Current projects at the airport include a taxiway extension, main apron rehabilitation and the installation of a new rotating beacon.

For more information about Natchitoches Regional Airport, please call the airport at (318) 352-0994 or visit the City of Natchitoches' web site at [www.natchitochesla.gov](http://www.natchitochesla.gov).

## City of Natchitoches

Oldest Permanent  
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Visit us online at:  
www.natchitochesla.gov

*Merry  
Christmas*

## City employees recognized for service

Several City of Natchitoches employees were recently recognized for their years of service at the annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon held in November.

Those retirees who were honored include: Guy Fletcher, Mark Wilkerson, Elbert Vaughn, Tad Prudhomme, Larry Vaughn, Shirley Woodard, Charles Bowman and Bobbie Smith.

Those City employees with 10 years of service are: Andrew Vallien, Sylvia Morrow, Raymond Whittington Jr., Amord Babers, Andy Jordan, Pat Jones, Thomas Solomon, Terry Elter, Juanita Fowler, Sam Bernstine, Antoinette Brossett, Scott Nichols, John Harris and Don Mims.

Reaching 15 years with the City are Allen Solomon, Talmadge Brown, Debbie Holden and Firal McKinney.

Those with 20 years are: Charles La-



Caze, Harmon Winters, James Bayonne, Robert Harris and Richard Robertson.

Those with 25 years are: Rhonda

Roge, Ronald Corkern, Brian Bonnette, Crit Miller and Fred Gahagan.

Employees with 30 years are Mayor Wayne McCullen and Brenda Henderson.

Reaching 40 years with the City is William Crews.

## Upcoming holidays and important events

Dec. 5 – Santa Claus House opens to the public every night from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. through Dec. 23.

Dec. 6 – Natchitoches Historic District Commission meeting at 5 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Dec. 7 – Natchitoches Planning and Zoning Commission meets at 6 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Dec. 8 – Natchitoches Parish Christmas Cheer Food Drive collection day at City Public Works complex.

Dec. 11 – Les Amies Christ-

mas Treasures Arts and Crafts Sale at the Natchitoches Events Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fete d'Hiver at Fort St. Jean Baptiste from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 13 – Natchitoches City Council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center.

Dec. 17 – NSU Graduation.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve; City closed

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day; City closed

Dec. 25 – Fireworks at 7 p.m. on the downtown riverbank.

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve; Fireworks at midnight on the downtown riverbank; City of Natchitoches closed.

Jan. 1 – New Year's Day.



**For a complete schedule  
of events during the  
Festival of Lights season  
in Natchitoches,  
please visit:  
www.christmasfestival.com**