

What's New in the City



City of Natchitoches



Cane River National Heritage Area Earns 2016 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence

Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. (CRNHA) received a 2016

TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence. Now in its sixth year, the achievement celebrates hospitality businesses that have earned great traveler reviews on TripAdvisor over the past year. Certificate of Excellence recipients include accommodations, eateries and attractions located all over the world that have continually delivered a quality customer experience.

“We are thrilled to receive this recognition and honored to share this distinction with our heritage partners and attractions,” said Cynthia Sutton, CEO of CRNHA. “We’d also like to take this opportunity to thank residents of Natchitoches Parish as travelers consistently re-

mark on the friendliness and hospitality of our local citizens.”

The Certificate of Excellence accounts for the quality, quantity and recency of reviews submitted by travelers on TripAdvisor over a 12-month period. To qualify, a business must maintain an overall TripAdvisor bubble rating of at least four out of five, have a minimum number of reviews and must have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months.

Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that manages the congressionally designated Cane River National Heritage Area. Its mission is to preserve and promote the cultural and natural resources of the Cane River region and encourage economic development by strengthening heritage tourism in the region.

June 1, 2016

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Did you know?

- The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame will hold its Annual Induction Weekend Festivities June 23—25. Events will include a welcome reception, golf tournament, tailgating celebration with fireworks, and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. For more information visit lasportshall.com.
- The City of Natchitoches won the District VIII Category H Cleanest City Contest Title and placed third in the state competition.
- The City Park Project is currently underway. Be on the lookout for great park enhancements coming soon!
- Volunteers are needed to help with the Natchitoches-Northwestern State University Folk Festival July 15—16. Anyone interested in volunteering can email the Louisiana Folklife Center at folklife@nsula.edu or call (318) 357-4332.

Natchitoches Nightmares Take First Place in Dragon Boat Races



The City of Natchitoches joined in the fun at the First Annual Natchitoches Dragon Boat Races sponsored by the Northwestern State University Alumni Foundation. The event was held Saturday, May 28, 2016 on the downtown riverbank and featured dragon boat races, live music entertainment, and an assortment of food vendors. The City's team, Natchitoches Nightmares, won first place in the competition. Congratulations to all of the teams that competed in the event.

Natchitoches Summer Day Camp Begins June 6

The City of Natchitoches Recreation and Parks Program's Natchitoches Summer Day Camp for youth ages 6 to 13 begins Monday, June 6, 2016. This year there will be two program locations for Natchitoches Summer Day Camp—Abbie Drive and East Natchitoches (split between Weaver Elementary and East Natchitoches Elementary Middle School). Natchitoches Summer Day Camp will have four 2-week themed sessions in June and July. Spots are still available.

Natchitoches Summer Day Camp will offer various activities including arts and crafts, sports, life skills, academics, swimming and field trips. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Camp will operate Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The sessions are as follows:

- June 6—17: Faces and Places (Abbie Drive and Weaver Elementary)
- June 20—July 1: Cultural Connections (Abbie Drive and Weaver Elementary)
- July 5—15: Go Green (Abbie Drive and East Natchitoches Elementary Middle School)
- July 18—29: Wacky and Wonderful (Abbie Drive and East Natchitoches Elementary Middle School)

Registration for Natchitoches Summer Day Camp is \$30 per session, per child and \$25 for each additional sibling. Fees are due one week prior to the enrolled session in order to hold the space. Registration is first come, first serve. Natchitoches Summer Day Camp is funded by grants from International Paper.

Registration for Natchitoches Summer Day Camp can be completed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Community Center located at 660 MLK Drive in Natchitoches or by emailing Dallas Russell at drussell@natchitochesla.gov. For questions and more information, please call Dallas Russell at (318) 238-7508.

7th Annual Cookin' on the Cane June 3 - 4

The Natchitoches Area Jaycees will hold the Seventh Annual Cookin' on the Cane BBQ Festival June 3 - 4, 2016 on the downtown riverbank. The event will feature an IBCA sanctioned BBQ competition, Kids Que competition, Bloody Mary contest, People's Choice competition, and live musical entertainment by Kopacetic and Beaux Atkins.

On Saturday, June 4, the public can participate in the People's Choice Tasting and Voting from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Judging for the BBQ competition will begin at 12:00 noon.

For more information on the Cookin' on the Cane BBQ Competition and Festival visit www.natchitochesjaycees.com or contact Jason Stelly at (318) 357-5341.



Girls Getaway Weekend June 3 – 5

The Natchitoches Historic District Business Association will host a Girls Getaway Weekend June 3-5, 2016 in downtown Natchitoches. The "Steel Magnolias Style" event will feature three fun-filled days of activities, shopping, dining and entertainment.

Registration for the event is \$50 per person. Registration entitles participants to a custom Steel Magnolia T-shirt, exclusive discount shopping, Friday night "Taste of Natchitoches" reception at the Prud'homme-Rouquier House, movie night featuring *Thelma and Louise* at Bon Ami, and Sunday brunch at the Nakatosh Condo Courtyard.

Additional weekend activities such as "Painting a Memory" and a Martini class are available for additional fees.

For a complete schedule of events and to register, visit www.natchitocheshdba.org.



Block Party at Ben Johnson Park June 11th

The public is invited to attend a day of summer fun at the Block Party at Ben Johnson Park, hosted by the City of Natchitoches Recreation and Parks Department. The Block Party will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend this free event that will feature water fun at Garrett Spray Park, basketball tournaments, children's activities and free concessions.

The Block Party will be held at Ben Johnson Park located at 616 MLK Drive in Natchitoches. Families are invited to come out and have some fun in the sun featuring free play at Garrett Spray Park, basketball tournaments, bounce house, games, and additional children's activities. Concessions such as hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones and pickles will be available free of charge. All events are free and open to the public.

NATCHITOCHEES explore * learn * create
SUMMER DAY CAMP

“Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America” Exhibit Coming to LASHOF & NWLA Museum



The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum will host the Smithsonian exhibit, “Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America” this summer. This traveling exhibit highlights the ways in which America’s love of sports originates in our hometowns. The exhibit will be on display for six weeks beginning in June. The exhibit will open in conjunction with the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremonies.

The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum and Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, in cooperation with Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, invites the public to celebrate the opening of “Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America,” a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street program. On Saturday, June 25, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Museum will hold an opening reception. The reception includes light refreshments provided by funds from the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission. The reception is free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, June 28, 2016, the Museum will hold a

Select/Non-Select Panel Discussion as part of the “Hometown Teams” exhibit programming. Louisiana has a long tradition of excellence in high school sports. In January of 2016, the Louisiana High School Athletic Association made headlines when the LHSAA voted to expand the Select/Non-Select playoff system used in football to other sports, including basketball. Join the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum, in partnership with the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Foundation, for a moderated discussion of the topic with local sportswriters and administrators about the new system. The program is free and open to the public.

Additional exhibit programs include:

- Children’s Craft and Movie Night (July 9)
- 2013 LEH Documentary Film of the Year “T-Galop: A Louisiana Horse Story” screening followed by Q&A with filmmaker Connie Castille (July 12)
- Trivia Night with NYP (July 21)
- Nutrition and Fitness Program (July 30)

For more information, call (318) 357-2492.

NSU Summer Theatre to Present Hollywood Musical Tribute & Murder Mystery

Northwestern Summer Theatre will present a tribute to Hollywood musicals along with a murder mystery beginning in June.

“Hooray for Hollywood” will be performed June 8—11 and June 15—18. “Murder Ahoy” will be presented July 27—30 and Aug 3—6. Performances are on the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium Stage. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and a four-course dinner is served by members of the cast starting at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 and reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations, call (318) 357-4218. Both shows are appropriate for all ages.

“Hooray for Hollywood” is a tribute to movie musicals from early Hollywood up to recent hits. Songs from 28 popular musicals will be performed along with clips from some of the films. The first act will be selections from many of the top musicals of all time while the second act is a countdown of the top 10 movie musicals.

The cast is Alexia Mullally of Pearland, Texas, Marissa McMickens of Pineville, Grace Brumfield of Baton Rouge, Leonard Harris of Baker, Christian Dantes of Shreveport, and Braxton Hogan of Natchitoches. The crew is Sélène Allain-Kovacs of Charentun and Titus McCann of Covington.

In “Murder Ahoy,” Captain Red Beard the pirate has been spotted sailing these waters, and no one is safe while he’s around. He’ll kidnap your women for ransom, and Shanghai your men when he needs a crew. But the scuttlebutt has it that there’s talk of mutiny among the crew. The old Captain might want to have that parrot on his shoulder watch his back, or there’ll be more than 16 men on that deadman’s chest in this boisterous buccaneer mystery!

The audience can take an active role in determining who committed the crime. Audience members can “bribe” the cast for clues to solving the murder. Scott Burrell is the director.

Natchitoches Residents Can Participate in #AskWhatsLocal Food Challenge



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Central Louisiana residents and businesses are encouraged to eat local food throughout the month of June in the region's first #AskWhatsLocal Challenge. Prizes and other incentives will be awarded to people who step up to the challenge, which begins June 1, 2016.

"Eat Local Challenges are happening all over the nation to raise awareness of the economical, educational, and nutritional reasons to source your food locally," said Kinsie Rayburn, the Farm to Table Coordinator for the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance (CLEDA). "The #AskWhatsLocal Challenge will be a fun way for people to eat healthy food while supporting local businesses."

The #AskWhatsLocal Challenge is intended to connect Central Louisiana residents and businesses to spend their dollars on food that comes from local farms and producers. "Locally sourcing your food purchases gives residents more fresh food options while helping local farmers, restaurant owners and businesspeople who make a living providing food. The impact on Central Louisiana's economy as well as healthy eating is tremendous," said CLEDA president Jim Clinton.

Registration for this challenge is free and any resident or business can join the challenge simply by visiting www.freshcentral.org/askwhatslocal.

Participants will then earn points each time they actively seek out local produce. This includes eating at restaurants that use local ingredients, asking "What's local?" at grocery stores, going to farmers markets including the Cane River Green Market, and participating in the various #askwhatslocal events that will be scheduled throughout the month and posted on the Fresh Central website. Businesses will be able to earn points by catering meals that are locally sourced.

In addition, participants will earn bonus points for sharing photos of their locally sourced activities on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. At the end of the challenge, participants will turn in their scorecards to be eligible for prizes and certificates.

For more information, visit Freshcentral.org/askwhatslocal or call (318) 441-3408.

Upcoming Holidays & Important Events



*Cane River Green Market Open Every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the Downtown Riverbank. Credit/Debit/EBT accepted.

June 3—4: Cookin' on the Cane BBQ Festival, Downtown Riverbank

June 3—5: HDBA's Girls Getaway Weekend, Downtown Natchitoches

June 4: Fleur de Lis Spring Craft Show, 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. at Natchitoches Events Center

June 6: Natchitoches Historic District Commission meeting, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches

Arts Center

June 7: Planning & Zoning meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Natchitoches Arts Center

June 11: Block Party at Ben Johnson Park, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at Ben Johnson Park



June 13: Swearing-in Ceremony for Newly Elected Officials, 4:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center

June 13: City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Natchitoches Arts Center

June 16: Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission meeting, 10:00 a.m. at Natchitoches Arts Center

June 20: Airport Commission meeting, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport



June 23—25: Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Weekend

June 25: Hometown Teams Exhibit Opening Reception, 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum

June 27: City Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Natchitoches Arts Center

June 28: Select/Non-Select Panel Discussion, 6:00 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum