



City of Slidell

Dept. of Cultural & Public Affairs • Press Release for Immediate Release

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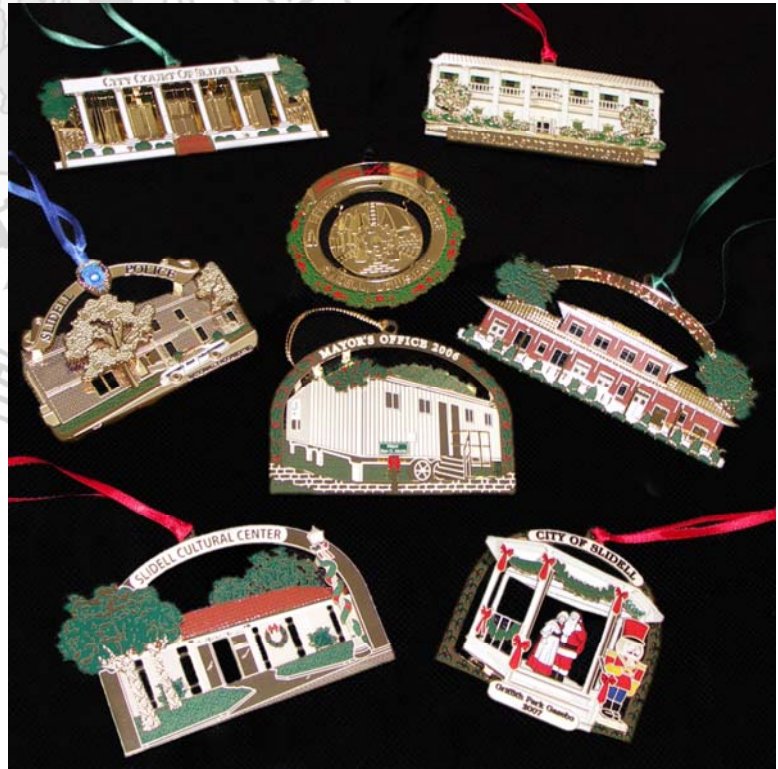
Residents offered rare chance to own Slidell history

Due to popular demand, the City of Slidell is offering a one-time opportunity for citizens to bring home a part of Slidell history—a collection of the city's commemorative holiday ornaments. The lucky winner of the holiday raffle will bring home the ornaments that were issued from 2000 to 2007. Tickets are \$1 or six for \$5, and are available at the City of Slidell's Mayor's office or the Department of Cultural Affairs, both of which are located in the Municipal Trailer Complex, plus at the East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce. Tickets will also be offered during Christmas Under the Stars and at the upcoming East St. Tammany Chamber luncheon on Wednesday, December 10. The drawing will be held on the closing night of Christmas Under the Stars on Sunday, December 14.

In its early years, the commemorative ornaments enjoyed a quiet presence on the trees of city employees—gifts in lieu of a holiday turkeys—and in the homes of the many Christmas Under the Stars volunteers whose assistance helped make the city's annual holiday festival possible.

All of that changed in 2006, the year following Hurricane Katrina.

While the series had previously featured the city seal, City Hall, City Court, the Slidell Police Department, the historic train depot, and the Slidell Cultural Center, in the aftermath of the hurricane it seemed only appropriate that the 2006 ornament feature the Mayor's new office—a FEMA trailer.



When local newspapers learned of this decision, they wrote stories featuring the gold-toned treasure which represented much more than the holidays—the ornaments were the city's testament to the spirit of survival.

What happened next was totally unexpected.

The 2006 commemoration, which was easily the least ornamental of the collection, became an instant hit. The mayor's office was inundated with telephone calls from citizens who wanted to own this piece of Slidell history. Though the ornaments had not previously been offered for purchase by the general public, the overwhelming demand for the miniature FEMA trailer changed that, and the remaining available ornaments sold out within days.

Many of those who purchased the ornaments expressed a desire to own those that had been issued in previous years as well as those to come. Additionally, many who had owned the keepsakes had lost their beloved collection in Katrina's flooding. Unfortunately, only a few of the city's stock of ornaments survived the storm. As such, the decision was made to offer everyone interested an equal opportunity to bring home the entire set, and the holiday raffle was born.

In addition to the raffle, a limited number of ornaments are still available for purchase while supplies last. These include the 2005 Slidell Cultural Center, the 2007 Griffith Park Gazebo, and the 2008 Slidell Museum ornaments. Both of these ornaments are available for purchase while supplies last. The 2005 and 2007 ornaments are \$12 each, and due to the manufacturer's price increases, the 2008 ornament is \$15. Ornaments are available for purchase at the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, 1330 Bayou Lane, #118 in the Slidell Municipal Complex on the corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and Bayou Lane.

For more information about the holiday ornaments, please call the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375.

