



City of Slidell

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

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‘Christmas’ is ‘Alive’ in Olde Towne Slidell

Celebrate the holiday season with the City of Slidell when two popular events, *Christmas Under the Stars* and *Olde Towne Alive*, team up for an unforgettable holiday celebration in Olde Towne Slidell on Friday, Dec. 12, 2008 from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission for all events is free.

Live entertainment, train rides, antique and boutique shopping, fine and casual dining, artists displays, a rock climbing wall, antique car displays and the popular Christmas Train and Village display are only a few of the holiday surprises one will find in Olde Towne.

Christmas Under the Stars

Griffith Park, the site of the city’s annual *Christmas Under the Stars* holiday celebration, will be decorated with Christmas lights and festive decorations. The gazebo will host storytelling with “Miss Mimm” Miriam Boots at 6:15 and Santa and Mrs. Claus will hold court from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Parents will want to be sure to bring their cameras to capture their children’s special moment with Santa.

Christmas music of all kinds can be enjoyed throughout the night in Griffith Park. Performing at 8 p.m. in the park is the Macedonia Baptist Church Dance and Praise Team. In the Slidell Municipal Auditorium, the Little Oak Band, Chorus and Bells will perform at 6:45 followed by the Northshore High School Talented Music Class at 8 p.m.

A Touch of Italy Café will also be in Griffith Park selling food, drinks, hot chocolate and other holiday goodies.

All Aboard the Olde Towne Express!

Griffith Park is also the first boarding location for the Olde Towne Express, a special family-sized train that will take its passengers through Olde Towne to the see the Christmas Train and Village display at the Slidell Cultural Center, hosted by the Olde Towne Arts Center. The Olde Towne Express will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Olde Towne Alive

The festivities continue over on Antique Row, where the streets will be lined with antique cars with the members of the I.R.O.N.S. Car Club proudly displaying their vintage vehicles. The Bayou Liberty

Jazz Band will be performing their jazzy renditions of classic Christmas songs at the corner of Erlanger and First Street.

Folks hoping to get in some last minute holiday shopping are in luck. "All of the antique, boutique and gift shops will also be open for this event," said Marina Stevens, Slidell's Main Street manager. "A number of shops are expected to have last minute shopping sales, and some of the stores will even be serving hot chocolate, coffee and other Christmas goodies."

The Slidell Museum, located at 2020 First Street, will also be open for this event. Take some time to explore Slidell's history. Take a guided tour or peruse the exhibits at your leisure in this historic Slidell building.

Further down the street, Dish on First and the Continental will be selling delectable foods and drinks. Dine in or enjoy selections from their special *Olde Towne Alive* to-go menu.

Olde Towne Arts Center

The last stop on the Olde Towne Express route is at the Olde Towne Arts Center, located at 300 Robert Street. The city's Christmas Train and Village will be on display, as will OTAC's *Under Wraps* exhibit.

There will also be an open house for Southeastern Northshore School of the Arts, NOCCA and OTAC at 6:30 p.m. NSA will be presenting their Southeastern college credit arts classes, NOCCA their high school credit classes and OTAC their private classes for all ages. Optional portfolio reviews will be offered by NSA and NOCCA. Theater interviews will be held by NSA and instructors will be present to answer any questions, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Under the Stars is a City of Slidell event and is made possible through the generous donations by these sponsors: CLECO Power, LLC; Sam's Club; Lockheed-Martin; Dammon Engineering, Inc.; E.C.O. Builders, Inc.; Griner Drilling Service, LLC; Richard C. Lambert Consultants; McDonald Construction, Inc. of Slidell and Midtown Square Shopping Center.

Olde Towne Alive is presented by the City of Slidell and is sponsored by the Slidell Historic Antique & Collectibles Association.

This event is produced by the City of Slidell's Departments of Cultural and Public Affairs, Planning, Recreation, Planning and Public Operations with the assistance of the Slidell Police Department.

For more, please call Marina Stevens at (985) 646-4322 or the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375.