



City of Slidell

Department of Cultural & Public Affairs • For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrate Christmas Under the Stars with the City of Slidell

The City of Slidell is celebrating the holiday season with *Christmas Under the Stars*, the city's 22 annual holiday celebration of twinkling lights, visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, festive decorations, live entertainment, holiday themes, the Parade of Trees and much more. This seven day celebration begins Friday, Dec. 4 through Sunday, Dec. 6, and resumes on Thursday, Dec. 10, through Sunday, Dec. 13, at Griffith Park in Olde Towne Slidell. Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. and admission is free.

Visitors can expect nightly storytelling (Dec. 5, 6 and 10-13) beginning at 6:15 p.m., followed by the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus at 6:45. Santa will be available to take pictures with the kids until 8:30 p.m., so parents will want to be sure bring their cameras to capture the special moment.

***Christmas Under the Stars* Theme Nights**

Each night of *Christmas Under the Stars* will feature a different holiday theme. Come back each night for a different holiday experience.

Opening night, Friday, Dec. 4, is the Night of the Nutcracker. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. with an introduction by Slidell Mayor Ben O. Morris, the Presentation of Colors by the Slidell High School ROTC, an invocation by Slidell Councilman Bill Borchert, a performance by Sara Pagonis singing *Silent Night* and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in Griffith Park. The Southern Youth Ballet and Ballet Espirit will perform selections from *The Nutcracker*, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, celebrate a German Christmas on the Eve of St. Nicholas Day, with

storytelling by Gisela Sorjonon and live entertainment by the Faith Baptist Church Worship Team from 7 to 8 p.m. and the Northshore High School Spanish National Honor Society from 8:15 to 9 p.m.

Children of all ages will be saying “Feliz Navidad” on Sunday, Dec. 6, with storytelling by Marina Stevens and live entertainment by First Christian Church Disciples of Christ from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and the Macedonia Baptist Church Praise Dance Team from 7:45 to 8:15 p.m. The Slidell Youth and Community Orchestra will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Slidell Auditorium.

On Thursday, Dec. 10, celebrate Kwanza with storytelling by Miss Mim and live entertainment by the Whispering Forest Elementary School Chorus from 7 to 7:45 p.m. and the Carolyn Park Middle School Chorus from 8 to 8:30 p.m. In the auditorium, the Little Oak Middle School Band and Chorus will perform from 7 to 8 p.m. and the Northshore High Talented Music Class will play from 8:15 to 9 p.m. And don't miss *An Olde Fashioned, Olde Towne Christmas*, featuring late night shopping and special treats in Olde Towne.

On Friday, Dec. 11, enjoy a Cajun Christmas with storytelling by Kathy McDowell and live entertainment by the St. Luke Church Choir from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and Alton Elementary School Chorus from 7:45 to 8:30 p.m.

Celebrate the second night of Hannukah on Saturday, Dec. 12 with storytelling by Angie Dick and live entertainment by the African Methodist Episcopal Church Mass Choir from 7 to 7:45 p.m.

Christmas Under the Stars wraps up on Sunday, Dec. 13. Children will celebrate the art of Christmas with a special Christmas art project and enjoy storytelling with Taffy Morrison and live entertainment by the Starlight Missionary Baptist Church Mass Choir from 7 to 8 p.m. and the Little Oak Firecrackers from 8:15 to 8:45 p.m.

Christmas Train and Village display in City Hall

In years past, one of the biggest highlights of *Christmas Under the Stars* had been the Christmas Train and Village display. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina washed away most of the trains and villages, but thanks to the efforts of Sam Caruso, Jr., Chris Richier and Joe Sanford, this beloved annual tradition returned in 2007.

This year, the Christmas train and villages will be on display in the Slidell Community Room on the first floor of City Hall, 2055 Second Street. Viewing hours during *Christmas Under the Stars* (Dec. 4-6 and 10-13) are from 6 to 8 p.m. Viewings are also available by appointment Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Also on the first floor of City Hall is the *Reinterpreting the Masters* exhibition in the

Slidell Cultural Center. This unique exhibit features the works of master artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso – to only name a few – as reinterpreted by area artists. Viewing hours during *Christmas Under the Stars* (Dec. 4-6 and 10-13) are from 6 to 8 p.m. The gallery is also open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

And while you're in City Hall, be sure not to miss the elegantly decorated Christmas tree in the lobby, decorated by Louise Mace of the Purple Armadillo and Charlotte Levy.

Marine Corps. Forces Reserve Band Concert

The Northshore Harbor Center, East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce and the City of Slidell are honored to present the third annual Marine Corps. Forces Reserve Band Holiday concert at the Northshore Harbor Center. It's an evening of music, magic and holiday cheer on Wednesday, Dec. 9. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, but a donation of an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots will be appreciated.

City of Slidell Ornament

This year's limited edition holiday ornament, tenth in a series, featuring the amphitheater in Heritage Park, is now available for purchase for \$15 at the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, #104 in the Slidell Municipal Complex located at 1330 Bayou Lane. The 2007 holiday ornament, featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Griffith Park Gazebo, is also available for \$15.

Christmas Under the Stars is brought to you by the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs and the 2009 - 2010 Cultural Season Sponsors, including Living Magazine; Louisiana Life Magazine; Northshore Broadcasting Lake 94.7; Slidell Memorial Hospital; Whitney National Bank; AT&T; CLECO; Northshore Conifer; Ronnie Kole Foundation; Comfort Inn & Suites; Creative Picture Framing Inc. & Art Gallery; East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce; Hampton Inn; Inside Northside Magazine; Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien; Northshore Harbor Center; The Purple Armadillo; Silver Slipper Casino; Slidell Independent; Bargains Plus!/Postal Plus; Baskin Robbins; Councilman Bill & Laura Borchert; David Carollo, Attorney at Law; DuBuisson's Art Corner; HMS Architects, APC; Karen O'Connell Photography; Kathryn & Company's A Touch of Italy Café; Krewe of Bilge; Ed & Chris Massett; Northshore Regional Medical Center; Paint Your Own Studio; Textron Marine and Land Systems; Slidell Symphony Society; Times Grill; Travel Leaders of Slidell; Dr. Russell & Nancy Westfall and WGSO 990 AM.

Christmas Under the Stars is supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council as administered by the St. Tammany Commission on Cultural Affairs.

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

For more information, please call the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375 or visit the city's website at www.slidell.la.us. For the latest city news updates and information about upcoming events, follow the City of Slidell on [Twitter](#) and become a fan on [Facebook](#).

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