



City of Slidell

Department of Cultural & Public Affairs • For Immediate Release

Melissa Newman • Public Information Officer • mnewman@cityofslidell.org
P.O. Box 828, Slidell, LA 70459 • 985.646.6175 • www.slidell.la.us

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PRESS RELEASE

For Release: Immediate

Press Contact: Melissa Newman, 985-646-6175 or 985-290-2222

Free Tree Seedlings to be Given Away in Slidell

The Slidell Tree Board will be holding its annual seedling giveaway on Saturday, January 23, from 8 to 11 a.m. in Heritage Park. People can drive through and pick up a free tree seedling.

“We will be giving away cherry bark oak, river birch and Chinese elm with printed instructions on tree planting and care,” said Doraine Woods, who serves as the president of the tree board. “The seedlings are absolutely free, but donations will be accepted if the person wishes to do so.” For more information about this event, contact Doraine at 985-646-5086.

The Slidell Tree Board was established in February 2005 by Mayor Ben Morris and the Slidell City Council to increase the overall aesthetic appearance of the city and works with the administration to successfully manage the planting, protection, maintenance, and removal of public trees within the city limits. As Mayor Ben Morris explained, “The Slidell Tree Board was also instrumental in successfully applying for and maintaining a “Tree City USA” status with the National Arbor Day Foundation.” The Tree City USA program provides direction, assistance, and national recognition to your community by supporting the framework for a sustainable urban forest.

According to the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, benefits to becoming a Tree City USA community include:

- **Can reduce costs** for energy, storm water management, and erosion control. Trees yield up to three times their cost in overall benefits to the city, averaging \$273 per tree.
- **Can cut energy consumption** by up to 25%. Studies indicate that as few as three additional trees planted around each building in the United States could save our country \$2 billion, annually, in energy costs.
- **Boost property values** across your community. Properly placed trees can increase property values from 7 to 21% and buildings in wooded areas rent more quickly and tenants stay longer.

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