



# City of Slidell

Department of Cultural & Public Affairs

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## The Topcats will ‘Celebrate Slidell’ at Bayou Jam Concert



The City of Slidell’s popular *Bayou Jam* concert series kicks off the spring season with a performance by The Topcats on March 14 and a special hometown award presentation to Slidell from the National League of Cities. The award ceremony begins at 5:00 p.m. and the concert begins at 5:30 p.m. in Heritage Park. Admission is free.

This celebration is a great way to continue to the festivities of the St. Patrick’s Day parade, presented by the Olde Towne Merchants Association, which will begin at 1:00 p.m. in Olde Towne Slidell.

The Topcats are the perfect choice for entertainment at the city’s special celebration. For 26 years, the 2005 Louisiana Music Hall of Fame Inductees the Topcats have served up an unpretentious, good-time mix of music that spans five decades’ worth of popular music trends, from ‘50s rock ‘n’ roll to psychedelic to new wave and alternative rock. Though additional members have come and gone, the band’s core – guitarist/vocalist Buzzy Langford, bassist Pat Campbell, drummer Rob Schulte and keyboardist David Gamble – has remained intact for over two decades, playing crowd favorites such as “Brick House,” “Brown Eyed Girl,” and “Play That Funky Music.” In 2009, they were chosen Best Local Band in *New Orleans Magazine’s* reader’s poll.

The Bayou Jam concerts continue on March 28 with a performance by The Burnside Flashers, April 25 with Soul Vaxxination, May 2 with Redline and special guest Jenny Brooks (rescheduled from a previously rained out event last fall) and May 16 with Sgt. Pepper’s Band.

*Bayou Jam* is now entering its eighth year of free concerts. The concert series has become a great way for family and friends to come together and celebrate their love of music and community spirit. Concerts are held in Heritage Park on Sundays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Concert-goers are invited to bring their chairs, blankets, ice chests and picnic baskets to the park to enjoy the free concerts. Soft drinks, bottled water and on-site catering will be available for a nominal charge. Please note that park regulations prohibit pets in the park as well as the use of skateboards, scooters, barbeque grills and glass items.

In addition to celebrating its eighth year of *Bayou Jam* concerts, the March 14 Topcats concert will include more cause for celebration. This event will feature the hometown presentation of the National League of Cities' Gold Award for Municipal Excellence. The City of Slidell received the first place award at the 86th annual NLC Congress of Cities & Exposition for its cultural programming and cultural economy development. The award ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the presentation and concert will move indoors to the Slidell Municipal Auditorium

"I encourage everyone to come out and 'Celebrate Slidell' at this special event," said Slidell Mayor Ben Morris. "I am proud to say that in the history of this national award, Slidell is the only Louisiana city ever to receive this prestigious honor, and we are the only city that's being recognized for arts programming. The other Gold Award winning cities are Savannah, Ga., Long Beach, Ca., and New York City, so we're in pretty impressive company."

Concert-goers can also register to win a \$100 gift certificate to the Blue Bayou Bar and Grill at the Silver Slipper Casino. Registration is free, with a limit of one entry per person, ages 18 and up.

This Louisiana Cultural District and Main Street event is brought to you by the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, its Commission on the Arts and the city's 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; 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 Gallery; HMS Architects, APC; 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.

This concert 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.

The *Bayou Jam* Concert Series is produced by the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, with the assistance of the departments of Recreation and Public Operations and the Slidell Police Department.

For more information, please call the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375 or visit the city's website at [www.slidell.la.us](http://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](#).

In the event of inclement weather, please check the news alert on the city's website or call for a recorded message with the latest information. The decision to relocate the event to the Slidell Municipal Auditorium will be made by 1 p.m. on the day of the event.