



# City of Slidell

Department of Cultural & Public Affairs

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Olde Towne Alive with food, art, entertainment and more

Live entertainment, great food and drinks, art displays and more await you in Slidell's historic old town district when the *Olde Towne Alive* block party kicks off the spring season on Friday, March 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is free.

"*Olde Towne Alive* is a vibrant block party featuring the best food, art and entertainment Slidell has to offer," said Catherine Olivier, the city's Main Street Manager and the event's coordinator. "We invite everyone to come out to Olde Towne with your friends, family and co-workers and enjoy a fun, family friendly evening."



### Grand Opening

The highlight of the night will be the grand opening of the Slidell City Council and Administrative Center which will open at 6 p.m. with guided tours throughout the building. This new 32,970 square-foot, \$5.4 million municipal office building was fully funded by FEMA money and will be the new home to nearly a quarter of the city's employees who have worked in trailers since Hurricane Katrina.

At 7 p.m. Slidell Mayor Ben Morris, elected officials and distinguished guests will join the East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce for the ribbon cutting that will officially open the building to the public. The newly renovated City Hall will also be open for tours.

### Live Music

*Olde Towne Alive* features some of the best bands in the region, both new bands and seasoned veterans. On the lineup for this month is Redline, who will play on the stage at the corner of Erlanger and First Street. Formed by Andy Breaux in 1993, Redline started out playing blues, southern rock and classic rock. For a brief period, they played country and then moved on to a more alternative sound. The band now combines all of their previous styles and has added a little dance and funk into their repertoire, making for a diverse sound you're unlikely to hear anywhere else. Redline features Andy Breaux, Dennis Liverett on bass, Marty Barras on drums and Stan Hegeman on saxophone.

Playing on the Antique Row stage on the corner of Fremaux and First Street is Overboard. This popular *Olde Towne Alive* band performs all your favorite songs. Darren and Dianna Lasalle, a husband and wife duo, used to perform on cruise ship and have now decided to take their act to the mainland.

And playing on the City Hall stage (at the corner of Bouscaren and Second Street) is the RedFish Blues Band. The band plays an eclectic mix of covers and originals, adding a New Orleans funk and blues vibe to each song they play. Yvette Voelkers leads the band with her powerful vocal stylings. And rounding out the RedFish Blues Band are Lloyd Alombro on bass guitar, A. P. Carpenter on keyboards and vocals, Tom Collins on harmonica, percussion and vocals, Robert Hale on drums and Bobby Stephens on guitar and vocals.

### **Art and Historical displays**

The Slidell Museum on First Street will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. The City of Slidell Reenactors 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Battery will be there dressed in historical costumes. Come and explore a piece of Slidell's history. Admission is free.

On Antique Row, artists will be displaying their works and giving demonstrations.

The City of Slidell's popular *Mixed Media* juried exhibition will be on display in the Slidell Cultural Center (on the first floor of City Hall).

Marie Ricca's 2100 Front Street gallery will host a *Black and Gold* exhibit.

DuBuisson Gallery will host a "Creative Kids Night" for children ages 4 to 12. Parents can enjoy *Olde Towne Alive* and bring their kids to the gallery at 6 p.m., where they will enjoy pizza, snacks and art projects until 8:30 p.m. \$20 per child; price includes dinner and all supplies. For more information, please call DuBuisson Gallery at (985) 649-0555.

### **Food and Drinks**

*Olde Towne Alive* features some of the best food and drinks in Slidell, and many restaurants and vendors will feature special Lenten selections. Our Lady of Lourdes will host their Friday Fish Fry in Olde Towne. Olde Towne restaurants Ali Baba, Sunrise on Second and Tacos and Beer will be open and Times Grill and Counter Culture will also be selling food and frozen yogurt. And Gene Duvic at Abigail's will unveil his new Olde Towne snow ball creations.

### **Motorists beware:**

For the safety and convenience of the block party attendees, performers and other participants, a two-block stretch of First Street – from Bouscaren to Erlanger and Erlanger to Fremaux – will be closed to traffic from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. And Second Street – from Erlanger to Bouscaren – will be closed to traffic as well.

For more information about *Olde Towne Alive*, call Catherine Olivier at (985) 646-4320.