



# The Slidell Independent

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## Happy 4th of July!

The great thing about the annual Slidell Heritage Fest put on by the two Slidell Rotary Clubs is that the annual Fourth of July Celebration had some extra surprises this year to go with an overflow crowd on Saturday night at Heritage Park. Mandeville's own Karen Waldrup, an up-and-coming country singer, was booked as the headline performer, but was surprised when officials from Slidell, Mandeville and the parish presented proclamations calling it "Karen Waldrup Day." In top photo, Slidell Councilman Bill Borchert presents the city certificate to Waldrup as her band and staff gathers around, while in right photo are two of the teens who enjoyed the entire evening as well with Zachary Weisheit and his girlfriend Rylee Maurigi ready for music and fireworks. More photos from the Fest, and the Waldrup presentation, can be found on page 1B (Staff photo by Kevin Chiri.)





## Special day named for local singer going national

### 'Karen Waldrup Day' is proclaimed

Mandeville Mayor Clay Madden presents Karen Waldrup with a proclaiming named June 29, 2024 "Karen Waldrup Day" in his city.

Staff photos by Kevin Chiri



Mandeville resident Karen Waldrup is now making a name for herself on the national country music scene after finishing in the top five of The Voice television show. She is now touring nationally and is about to release her first big single, "Louisiana Hurricane," which is already getting airplay on country stations. She was the headliner at Slidell's Heritage Fest on Saturday night and then surprised and brought to tears as three parish officials presented her with proclamations of support, proclaiming it "Karen Waldrup Day" in Mandeville, Slidell and St. Tammany Parish.

Mandeville's Karen Waldrup was overwhelmed with emotion as Parish Councilman Patrick Burke reads the proclamation naming it "Karen Waldrup Day" in St. Tammany Parish. Burke, along with Parish Councilman Jimmie Strickland stand with her (bottom photo, right) as she shows off the special honor.



Karen Waldrup wipes away tears as Slidell Councilman Bill Borchert reads the proclamation from Mayor Greg Cromer naming it "Karen Waldrup Day" in Slidell, before posing with her showing both proclamations from Slidell and Mandeville.



## Celebrating America!

The Rotary Club hosted Slidell Heritage Fest has been getting big crowds out for the annual Fourth of July celebration in Slidell for over 25 years. But it's hard to believe the crowd was ever bigger than this past Saturday night when former Voice performer Karen Waldrup, who is from Mandeville, was booked to head the music scene at the big party. Great food, drinks and music filled the evening at the park, before fireworks exploded over Bayou Bonfouca at 9 p.m., followed by Waldrup putting on a memorable performance on stage.



Rockin' Dopsie had the crowd dancing with their usual outstanding musical performance.

Staff photos by Kevin Chiri



Slidell City Councilman Bill Borchert and his wife Laura, joined by the real attention-getter of the night, their dog "Dixie Belle," headed to the park like many others are now doing in Olde Towne—in their golf cart.



Ira and Angie Pitfield.



Rotary Club Member Fred Martinez, also a longtime board member at Slidell Little Theater, is seen with new SLT Marketing Director Elizabeth Branch.



Chris Massingill, Larry Strickland, Parish Councilman Jimmy Strickland, and Nikie Strickland.



Dia and Glen Young, Billy Bollinger, Shelley Ducote, and John Babin.