



CITY OF KENNER

News Release

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 31, 2017

DONATION EFFORT FOR HARVEY FLOOD VICTIMS TIED TO SUNDAY'S FREEDOM FEST AT THE LAKE

Kenner, LA. – On Sunday in Laketown, local residents have the chance to enjoy a free, daylong music festival and help the flood victims of Hurricane Harvey at the same time.

The charitable effort is being called "Kenner Gives Back – Hope for Houston."

"Obviously, we are in a unique position to understand what they are all going through because of Katrina," Mayor Ben Zahn said.

Local residents can bring donations to the parking lot of the Laketown Center, at the corner of Williams Boulevard and Joe Yenni Boulevard, where bulk containers will be located near Planet Fitness, 4521 Williams Blvd. Motorists will be able to turn into the center parking lot, drop off donations to volunteers, and then head out to the Freedom Fest at the Lake to enjoy the newest music festival in the New Orleans area. Donations are being accepted from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Festival gates open beginning at 2 p.m. with the musical acts scheduled from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The new marquee event for the city is headlined by the award-winning female duo Maddie & Tae, along with up-and-coming singer and songwriter Chase Bryant and Lauren Duski, runner-up on the most recent season of the hit music competition show, "The Voice." Popular local favorites 90 Degrees West and Jenna Hunts also will perform.

Mayor Zahn said it has been heartbreaking to see the historic flooding play out throughout Texas and southwestern Louisiana in the past week. Zahn said he and Freedom Fest co-sponsor Jefferson Parish Councilman Jack Rizzuto are teaming up with Ronnie Mains, owner of CRC Global Solutions of Kenner, to make a difference.

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Mains, whose logistic, construction, realty and brand solutions companies are all over the globe, has his corporate headquarters in Kenner, where he was born and raised. Mains' company, CRC Global Solutions, has staff affected by the storm and strong connections with Houston. The fact that Houston was one of the many areas in Texas and around the country that took in local evacuees and offered assistance to Kenner and the rest of the New Orleans area after Katrina hit 12 years ago created a strong desire to give back.

"Houston and other cities in Texas were among the many communities who helped us in our time in need," Mains said. "It is time to pay it forward."

In order to make it easier to load an 18-wheeler, Zahn and Rizzuto said donations should be pre-packaged items only. Individual items will not be accepted.

"This effort can make a huge difference in the lives of thousands of people, particularly those who have lost everything," Rizzuto said. "I know the heart of the people in Kenner and throughout this area. I am confident we will have a huge outpouring of support."

Zahn, Rizzuto and Mains said they are encouraging people to enjoy the festival after donating items for storm victims. The Laketown Center is only a couple of blocks from the Freedom Fest entrance. "The bottom line is to make a difference for these people whose lives have been turned upside-down," Zahn said.

In addition to only pre-packaged items, local residents should avoid bringing chemicals, perishable food items, toys, books or clothing. Those items will not be accepted. Flood victims are in need of the following items:

- Cases of bottled water, sports beverages
- Non-perishable grocery items and dry goods
- Baby Items (diapers, wipes, powder, etc.)
- Sanitary wipes, etc.
- Mops, brooms, buckets, etc.
- Contractor bags, gloves, surgical masks, etc.
- Soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, floss, feminine products, deodorant, etc.
- Paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, etc.
- Dog and cat food
- Flashlights and batteries
- New batteries, sheets, towels and air mattresses

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- Tarps
- Duct tape
- Plastic storage bins
- Folding chairs
- Boxes and packing tape

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