



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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ACTING MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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16TH ANNUAL SANTO DOMINGO FESTIVAL RESCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY IN RIVERTOWN

*HALF OF PROCEEDS TO BE DONATED
TO BENEFIT LOUISIANA FLOOD VICTIMS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, Aug. 16 2016. The Asociación Nicaragüense de Louisiana (ANDELA) will present El Tope de Santo Domingo on Saturday, Aug. 20 from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Kenner Heritage Park, 303 Williams Blvd.

The event was originally scheduled for Aug. 13, but was postponed because of the threat of stormy weather. While Kenner was spared from any flooding, heavy storms caused historic flooding in the Baton Rouge area and surrounding parishes.

Festival officials decided to put aside half of all proceeds from this weekend's festival to assist flood victims.

Highlights of this year's festival, the 16th annual, will include a representation of Santo Domingo's arrival preceded by a parade that enters the park to the rhythms of folkloric music and featuring popular characters that are typically Nicaraguan, such as the "Gigantona," a gigantic woman that dances to the sound of drums, the "Cabezón," her short and big-headed dance partner and the life-size bull and cows who all dance around the saint as he parades through the park. Young women dressed in folkloric costumes will also accompany the colorful parade. Later on, there is the crowning of the "India Bonita," (Queen of the Festival). The festival is followed by a dance-party featuring a popular local musician, who will be playing folkloric music, salsa and Latin-dance music. Typical Hispanic dishes and refreshments will be served.

The event is open to the public and proceeds not set aside for flood victims will be used for the annual purchase of Christmas toys for disadvantaged children in Nicaragua

Hispanics have always had a strong influence in Louisiana starting when it was a Spanish colony in 1762 until it was turned over to the French in 1802. Since 1812, when Louisiana became a state, Hispanics have continued to influence and contribute to the growth and well being of Louisiana. This is especially true in Kenner, where the celebration of "Tope De Santo Domingo" now on its 16th anniversary takes on an even greater meaning because of the size of the Hispanic community, its growth, contribution to its economy and the sharing of its rich culture with all communities.

For information on the program call: 504-464-4619 or 504-466-1483

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