

**NOVEMBER 4, 2009**

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Release: Immediate

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**Date Set for First Canine Carnival Krewe to Parade in Olde Towne Slidell**

It's official. Slidell's first and only canine carnival krewe, Krewe De Paws, is set to roll for its first time on Sunday, February 14, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. And as the date might suggest, this year's theme is "Be Mine Canine Valentine."

"The one-mile parade for canines and their owners will circle the heart of Olde Towne, beginning and ending on First Street at Erlanger," said Gene Duvic, owner of Abigail's of Slidell and one of the founders of the organizations. Duvic, along with co-founder Danny Blackburn, have been working on several projects to revitalize the business community in Olde Towne Slidell and both hope the new krewe will provide this historic part of Slidell a much needed boost in their recovery since it was devastated with over four foot of water during Katrina.

"The goal of the Krewe De Paws is threefold," said Blackburn, a self-proclaimed dog lover. "We are going to have a lot of fun, bring attention to Historic Olde Towne Slidell, and raise money for a number of worthwhile animal assistance groups in our local area." The krewe plans to donate some of the proceeds to local animal assistance organizations. "We have been talking about this for a while, we are happy that it is finally happening," added Duvic. "Now we need all the support we can get from the community to pull this off."

Since the City of Slidell prohibits spectator animals during parades, each dog must be registered to participate. Duvic encouraged dog owners to become charter members now for only \$100, which will include registration for one dog and dog owner and "lots of goodies." A simple krewe membership for one dog and human costs \$30. Registration will be available the day of the event but will cost \$50.

In addition, sponsorship opportunities, like the \$100 Litter Mate, \$1000 Leader or the \$3500 Champion, are still available, as well as in-kind donations. Also, volunteers are still needed. Information can be downloaded from the group's website, [www.krewedepaws.com](http://www.krewedepaws.com). "We are beginning to attract a number of talented and experienced volunteers and some sponsors," added Duvic, "but we need a lot more to be able to march in 2010." To find out more information, call 985-639-3340 or email [geneduvic@yahoo.com](mailto:geneduvic@yahoo.com).

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