

## WHAT IS MARDI GRAS

“Mardi Gras” is French, translated to English it means “Fat Tuesday”.

In the Middle Ages, the Catholic church prescribed what was on the daily menu. Each week during the Lenten season, there was at least one day, and more often three or four days during which no meat was to be eaten. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat with the lone exception of fish during Lent.

In those days, people had no refrigeration to hold perishable foods. Lenten season, requiring the observer to refrain from meat, presented problems for keeping and storing foods. Since the Lenten season is about 40 days long, meat on hand, had to be either eaten, before the start of the observance, or discarded.

Since Lent always starts on the seventh Wednesday before Easter, the religious following of Jesus would choose the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday to feast before beginning the season of “fasting”.

Mardi Gras is simply the given name of the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. The day does commemorate the activity of preparation for the observance of lent. This commemoration or observance reminds us of the coming of Lent and the reflection of the past years of life.

## FUN MARDI GRAS FACTS

- **Comus is the Oldest Krewe**— The Krewe of Comus was founded in 1857 and used to be one of the biggest events of Mardi Gras. It was dedicated to its tradition of secrecy concerning its membership. In protest of the 1992 anti-discrimination ordinance, Comus stopped parading rather than provide a public list of its members. The krewe still holds its annual ball.

- **Santa Was the First Mardi Gras Thrower**— The 24th float in the Twelfth Night Revelers parade of 1871 featured Santa Claus, who passed out gifts to the kids in the crowd. The idea grew popular.
- **There is a “Coconut Bill” to Protect Zulu**— Zulu riders used to throw coconuts, and for many generations that was fine. In 1987, the Krewe of Zulu couldn’t get insurance coverage unless it stopped throwing coconuts. The next year the Louisiana Legislature and Governor Edwards passed SB188, the “Coconut Bill”, which excludes the coconut from personal injury as long as the coconuts are handed to people, rather than tossed to them.
- **You Shouldn’t Call Him The King of Rex**— The man they name Rex each season is the King of Mardi Gras, and “rex” means “king.” so it’s redundant to call him the King of Rex. Just call him Rex.
- **Plastic Beads Only Date Back to 1970**— The high demand for throws is the reason for the use of cheaper beads. Before 1970, beads were made from glass, particularly Czechoslovakian glass. Many of the beads now in use come from Hong Kong.



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# PROGRESSIVE JEFFERSON

January/February 2012

WHAT'S INSIDE:

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2012 JEFFERSON PARISH CARNIVAL SEASON

Jefferson Parish Department of Citizens' Affairs is responsible for all aspects pertaining to Carnival/Special Event Parades in unincorporated Jefferson Parish.

For more information about the Carnival Season you can call **504-736-6101** or go to our website, [www.jeffparish.net](http://www.jeffparish.net).



# GUIDELINES FOR A SAFE AND FUN CARNIVAL SEASON

- Leave your animals at home unless they are registered entrants in the parades. It is unlawful to bring animals, reptiles, rodents, marine life, fowl, or other animals dead or alive to parades. Loud noises and crowded streets put undue stress on animals. **Service animals are allowed.**
- No elevating-type vehicles, such as “cherry pickers”.
- No ladders, scaffolding or portable elevating devices on the street between the curb lines of any intersecting street.
- No ladders should be fastened together and must be placed as many feet back from the curb as the ladder is high.
- No vehicle should obstruct the passage of a parade or traffic on any intersecting or adjacent street to the parade route.
- No ropes, tents, scaffolds, barricades or vehicles, which may be an impediment to vehicular or pedestrian traffic on any right-of-way along a parade route.

### Within 15 Feet of Parade Route

No parking along the curb or as posted

### Within 50 Feet of Parade Route

- No glass container of any type
- No open flame heating or cooking devices on public right-of-way
- No silly string or metallic confetti streamers allowed on parade route
- No skates, skateboards, rollerblades, bicycles, unicycles, or any other type of cycles
- No stink bombs or stink sprays
- No laser pointers

# 2012 CARNIVAL KREWES

## EASTBANK

Argus.....	504-885-3717
Atlas.....	504-467-2594
Centurions.....	504-736-0201 ext. 14
Excalibur.....	504-782-3456
Isis.....	504-887-0659
Jefferson.....	504-888-8393
Jeffersonians.....	504-421-0435
Napoleon.....	504-888-5849
Thor.....	504-237-6899
Zeus.....	504-415-1826

## WESTBANK

Adonis.....	504-236-4530
Alla.....	504-367-0100
Choctaw.....	504-256-5077
Cleopatra.....	504-367-0351

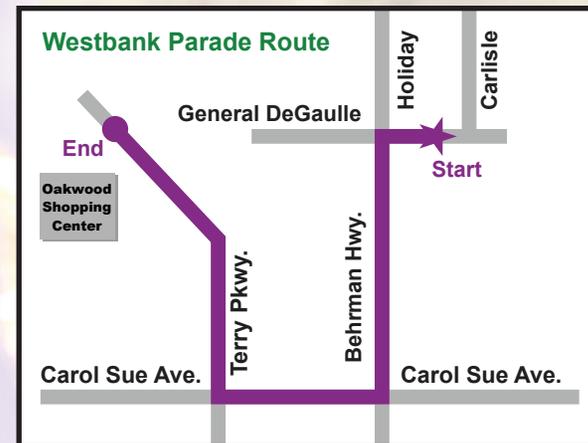
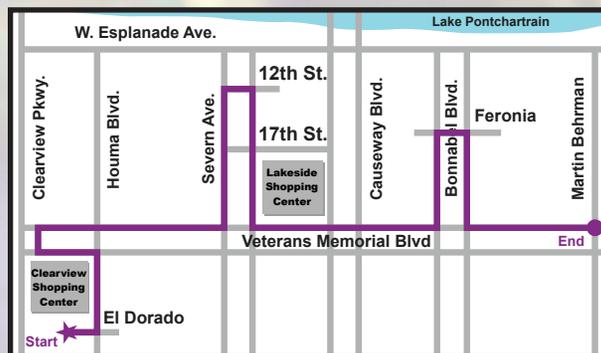
## EASTBANK PARADE ROUTE

*Excalibur, Atlas, Caesar, Thor, Centurions, Isis, Napoleon, Zeus*



## EASTBANK PARADE ROUTE

*Argus, Elks Trucks, Jefferson Trucks*



# 2012 PARADE CALENDAR

## PRE-CARNIVAL SEASON PARADE

Little Rascals	Sunday 02/05/12	11:00 A.M.	Veterans Blvd.
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## CARNIVAL SEASON PARADES

Cleopatra	Friday 02/10/12	6:30 P.M.	Terry Parkway
Excalibur	Friday 02/10/12	7:00 P.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Atlas	Friday 02/10/12	7:30 P.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Choctaw	Saturday 02/11/12	11:00 A.M.	Terry Parkway
Adonis	Saturday 02/11/12	11:45 A.M.	Terry Parkway
Caesar	Saturday 02/11/12	6:00 P.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Alla	Sunday 02/12/12	Noon	Terry Parkway
Thor	Sunday 02/12/12	2:00 P.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Centurions	Friday 02/17/12	7:00 P.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Isis	Saturday 02/18/12	6:30 P.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Napoleon	Sunday 02/19/12	5:30 P.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Zeus	Monday 02/20/12	6:30 P.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Argus	Tuesday 02/21/12	10:00 A.M.	Veterans Blvd.
Elks Trucks	Tuesday 02/21/12	Follows Argus	Veterans Blvd.
Jefferson Trucks	Tuesday 02/21/12	Follows Elks	Veterans Blvd.

## OTHER PARADES

St. Patrick's	Sunday 03/11/12	Noon	Metairie Road
Irish-Italian	Sunday 03/18/12	Noon	Veterans Blvd.

(THIS ENTIRE CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE)