

# **Bastrop TX Mardi Gras 2024**

**Celebrating the "Courir de Mardi Gras" Folklife of Evangeline Parish, Louisiana**

## **Inaugural Bastrop TX Mardi Gras Embraces the Rich Folklife of Evangeline Parish, Louisiana**

[Bastrop, TX 01/05/2024] — "Get ready to experience the vibrant traditions and folklife of 'Courir de Mardi Gras' like never before as *Bastrop TX Mardi Gras* festival makes its grand debut from February 1st through the 3rd, 2024. This inaugural 'Cultural Exchange' event promises to be a celebration of culture, community, and the unique Mardi Gras traditions of Evangeline Parish in Louisiana's 'Cajun Country'."

**Immersive Courir de Mardi Gras Experience:** Step into the heart of Evangeline Parish's cultural heritage with *Bastrop TX Mardi Gras* festival. Welcoming our Cajun neighbors to the east, local delegates and residents of Louisiana will be in attendance to help us honor their cultural traditions, music, dancing, and cuisine.

**Farm Street Opry:** The weekend festivities kick off on February 1st with our Farm Street Opry. Held the first Thursday of each month, February's guest entertainment will feature the lively rhythms of Jean-Pierre & The Zydeco Angels, setting the stage for an extraordinary weekend of authentic musical entertainment. Join us as we give a big Texas welcome to Evangeline Parish & Louisiana delegates. [farmstreetopry.com](http://farmstreetopry.com)

**Mardi Gras Ball:** Step into the spirit of Mardi Gras at our "Taste of Mardi Gras Ball" on Feb 2nd, hosted at the beautiful Bastrop Convention & Exhibit Center! We invite you to delight in vibrant melodies and savor an array of Cajun-flavored hors d'oeuvres. Doors open at 6:30 pm, the event kicks off at 7 pm, and the celebration lasts until 11 pm. Prepare for an unforgettable night of Mardi Gras fun with musical performances by The Johnathans and Jean-Pierre & the Zydeco Angels! Cash Bar available. Tickets for the *Mardi Gras Ball* are available at: [eventbrite.com/e/787781233877/](https://eventbrite.com/e/787781233877/)

**KVPI Live Radio Broadcast:** Join us for 'A Salute to Fred's Lounge,' an homage to the iconic Mamou watering hole! We'll be honoring the spirit of this legendary bar with our own Texas style, as the renowned radio station KVPI broadcasts live from Downtown Bastrop. Get an early morning start on Saturday, February 3rd, enjoying authentic Cajun vibes, lively tunes, and a celebration that brings the heart of Mamou's Fred's Lounge to life! For more information about KVPI's broadcast, please contact Mark Layne at: [kvpionline.com/contact](http://kvpionline.com/contact)

**Gumbo Cook-Off:** Saturday's activities will feature a Gumbo Cook-Off competition organized by and benefiting Bastrop County Cares, a local non-profit community-focused organization dedicated to providing support and resources for the well-being of individuals and families in Bastrop County. Cook-off rules, regulations, and applications can be found through our website [BastropTXMardiGras.com](http://BastropTXMardiGras.com).

**Mardi Gras Parade:** The festival will feature a Mardi Gras Parade, where locals and visitors alike can join in the revelry, don traditional costumes, and embrace the rich traditions of Cajun culture. In a family-friendly atmosphere, the spirit of celebration comes alive with the presence of Evangeline Parish "Courir de Mardi Gras" delegates and residents in attendance. Embrace the joyous atmosphere, colorful floats, horses, and the festive spirit as our community comes together to celebrate this lively tradition. Parade rules and applications can be found on our website: [BastropTXMardiGras.com](http://BastropTXMardiGras.com).

**Live Cajun and Zydeco Music:** Get ready to groove and let the festival spirit take over at the main stage! The infectious rhythms of lively Cajun and Zydeco music will set the scene for spontaneous street dancing that you won't be able to resist. Immerse yourself in the vibrant tunes that promise to create a festive "fais do do" atmosphere. The lineup guarantees an authentically Cajun cultural experience for all! Musical acts will include Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys, Jamie Bergeron & The Kickin' Cajuns, and Jean-Pierre & The Zydeco Angels.

**Culinary Delights of Cajun Cuisine:** Indulge your taste buds in the savory delights of Cajun and Creole cuisine. A diverse selection of culinary treats will be available from the local Downtown restaurants, bars, and food vendors. From gumbo to beignets, themed cocktails to custom craft beers, our local establishments will serve up authentic flavors that pay homage to the region's culinary heritage.

**Family-Friendly Fun:** *Bastrop TX Mardi Gras* The festival is designed to be a family-friendly affair with activities for all ages. Enliven the experience for your little ones with face-painters and bounce houses. Bring the kids to partake in the Children's Chicken Chase, where excitement knows no bounds. Immerse yourselves in the richness of cultural heritage, interactive music, storytelling sessions, and a lively atmosphere that captures the spirit of community and togetherness.

**Musical Instrument Petting Zoo:** Embark on a musical adventure with the "Music Instrument Petting Zoo"! For the first time ever, the MIP Zoo is traveling outside of Louisiana to bring you an immersive experience that will culminate with a concert by the Steve Riley Family Band. Delight in hands-on interactions with percussion, string, and accordion instruments, offering a taste of traditional Louisiana Cajun & Zydeco music. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or a young exploring novice, our collection of authentic instruments and playful toy versions promise a memorable and educational journey. For more information about their organization: [lafolkroots.org](http://lafolkroots.org)

#### **Tickets and Admission:**

- General admission to Thursday night's Farm Street Opry is \$7.50, cash at the door.
- Friday evening's Mardi Gras Ball tickets are \$75 for one-ticket, \$100 for two-tickets, and \$475 for a reserved Table for eight. Tickets are available through our website.
- All of Saturday's festivities are open and free. Gumbo Cookoff wristbands will be available for purchase to taste

**Quotes:** "We are so excited to bring the dynamic spirit and unique cultural heritage of 'Courir de Mardi Gras' to Bastrop, Texas! In this inaugural event of its kind with Evangeline Parish, Louisiana, we will highlight the rich traditions of their Cajun 'Mardi Gras Runs', music, dancing and food, while looking to start new traditions of our own. Let the good times roll!" - Kathy Danielson, Community Engagement Director, City of Bastrop, Texas

**About *Bastrop TX Mardi Gras*:** Prepare to immerse yourself in the vibrant traditions and rich folklife of Evangeline Parish, Louisiana, as *Bastrop TX Mardi Gras* takes center stage from February 1st through the 3rd, 2024. This inaugural "Cultural Exchange" event is a jubilant celebration of Cajun culture and the distinctive "Courir de Mardi Gras" customs. Welcoming our neighbors from Louisiana, local delegates and residents will join us to honor their cultural traditions, featuring music, dancing and cuisine.

Join us for an array of festivities, including a Mardi Gras Ball, a live radio broadcast from KVPI, a sizzling Gumbo Cook-Off, a spirited Mardi Gras Parade, and an infusion of authentic Cajun and Zydeco music. Delight in family-friendly fun with cultural activities for the kids and much more! Don't miss the chance to partake in this unforgettable weekend of revelry, culture, and community spirit unfolding in the heart of downtown Bastrop, Texas!

#### **For media inquiries, please contact:**

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**BASTROPTX**  
Heart of the Lost Pines / Est. 1892  
PRESENTS

**FEBRUARY**  
1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup>

# 2024 Bastrop TX MARDI GRAS

CELEBRATING THE "COURIR DE  
MARDI GRAS" FOLKLORE OF  
EVANGELINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

Mardi Gras Ball  
Gumbo Cook-off

*Live Authentic Music*

Mardi Gras Parade

Children's activities

CULTURAL ARTS

Street Dance



**BASTROPTXMardiGras.com**