

## ***Bastrop TX Mardi Gras 2025: A Cultural Exchange Festival*** ***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 11/30/2024] — "Get ready to experience the vibrant traditions and folklife of 'Courir de Mardi Gras' as the Bastrop TX Mardi Gras festival returns for its second year! Join us from January 31st through February 1st, 2025, for 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 vibrant heart of Cajun culture at the Bastrop, TX Mardi Gras festival! We're thrilled to welcome our neighbors from Evangeline Parish, Louisiana, as local delegates and residents join us to share and celebrate their rich traditions. Experience the essence of Cajun heritage through lively music, spirited dancing, and mouthwatering cuisine that bring their cultural legacy to life.

**Cajun Mardi Gras Ball:** Step into the spirit of Mardi Gras at "Bastrop's Cajun Mardi Gras Ball & Celebration" January 31st, 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 Nash Hernandez Orchestra and Jean-Pierre & the Zydeco Angels! Cash Bar available. Tickets for the *Mardi Gras Ball* are available at: [eventbrite.com/e/1055552057619/](https://eventbrite.com/e/1055552057619/)

**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 as they broadcast from "Gracie's" on Saturday, February 1st, 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)

**Mardi Gras Parade:** The Downtown festival kicks off at 10 AM on Saturday with the vibrant Mardi Gras Parade! Locals and visitors are invited to join the revelry by donning traditional costumes and celebrating the rich traditions of Cajun culture. This family-friendly event brings the spirit of Mardi Gras to life with colorful floats, lively horses, and the joyous energy of Evangeline Parish's "Courir de Mardi Gras" delegates and residents. Celebrate this lively tradition as our community comes together in a festive display of unity and culture. For parade rules and applications, visit our website: [BastropTXMardiGras.com/parade](http://BastropTXMardiGras.com/parade).

**Gumbo Cook-Off:** Saturday's festivities will feature a Gumbo Cook-Off competition, proudly organized by and benefiting the Bastrop Juneteenth Committee. This local non-profit is dedicated to honoring Juneteenth, a day commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, while promoting education, cultural awareness, and social progress. Funds raised will support their annual celebrations, which include parades, festivals, and other events that highlight African American heritage and history. For teams to participate, Cook-off rules, regulations, and applications can be found on our website: [BastropTXMardiGras.com/gumbo-cookoff](http://BastropTXMardiGras.com/gumbo-cookoff).

**Live Cajun and Zydeco Music:** Get ready to move your feet and let the festival spirit sweep you away at the main stage all day! 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. From foot-stomping fiddles to accordion-driven beats, immerse yourself in the vibrant sounds that create an authentic "fais do-do" atmosphere. This year's lineup promises an unforgettable celebration of Cajun culture, featuring Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys, Jean-Pierre & The Zydeco Angels, Leroy Thomas & The Zydeco Roadrunners, and Jamie Bergeron & The Kickin' Cajuns. For the full music schedule, visit: [BastropTXMardiGras.com/music-main-stage](http://BastropTXMardiGras.com/music-main-stage)

**Family-Friendly Fun:** The festival is a family-friendly celebration designed to delight guests of all ages. Little ones will love the excitement of face-painting, bounce houses, and the ever-popular Children's Chicken Chase—a joyful event where fun knows no bounds! Families can immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere, explore the rich cultural heritage of Cajun traditions, and enjoy interactive music and lessons on Cajun music history. It's an unforgettable day of community, connection, and celebration for everyone to enjoy! For children's activities and schedule: [BastropTXMardiGras.com/kids-activities](https://BastropTXMardiGras.com/kids-activities)

**Musical Instrument Petting Zoo:** Embark on a one-of-a-kind musical adventure with the "Musical Instrument Petting Zoo"! Making its way from Louisiana to Bastrop, this traveling attraction offers a hands-on, immersive experience into the world of Cajun and Zydeco music. Explore a delightful array of instruments, from accordions and fiddles to percussion and strings, with opportunities for both seasoned music lovers and curious novices to play and learn. Kids will especially enjoy the playful toy versions of these traditional instruments, making it a fun and educational journey for all ages. For more information about their organization, visit: [lafolkroots.org](https://lafolkroots.org)

**Culinary Delights of Cajun Cuisine & Spirits:** Treat your taste buds to the rich and savory flavors of Cajun and Creole cuisine and spirits! Downtown Bastrop's restaurants, bars, and food vendors will serve up a tempting array of culinary delights, from hearty gumbo and sweet beignets to festive themed cocktails and custom craft beers. Each dish and drink is crafted to honor the authentic tastes of Louisiana's vibrant culinary heritage, making this a feast you won't want to miss! Check out the weekend's full offerings here: [BastropTXMardiGras.com/cuisine-spirits](https://BastropTXMardiGras.com/cuisine-spirits)

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

- Friday evening's Cajun Mardi Gras Ball tickets are \$75 for individual ticket, \$150 for couples' tickets, and \$600 for a reserved Table for eight. Tickets are available for purchase through our website.
- All of Saturday's festivities and music are open and free. Gumbo Cook-Off tickets will be available for purchase, allowing you to taste-test the competitors' stews, with all proceeds benefiting the Bastrop Juneteenth Committee.

**Quotes:** "We are thrilled to once again celebrate the vibrant spirit and cultural heritage of 'Courir de Mardi Gras' right here in Bastrop, Texas! As we continue to build on our partnership with Evangeline Parish, Louisiana, this year's festivities will showcase even more of the rich Cajun traditions—music, dancing, food, and so much more. We look forward to sharing these cherished customs with our community while creating lasting 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 on January 31st and February 1st, 2025. This second annual "Cultural Exchange" event is a joyous celebration of Cajun culture, highlighting the distinctive "Courir de Mardi Gras" customs. Welcoming our neighbors from Louisiana, local delegates, and residents will come together to honor these cherished traditions with music, dancing, and delicious Cajun cuisine.

Join us for an exciting array of festivities, including a Mardi Gras Ball, a live radio broadcast from KVPI, a sizzling Gumbo Cook-Off, a lively Mardi Gras Parade, and a vibrant blend of authentic Cajun and Zydeco music. Families will enjoy kid-friendly cultural activities and much more! Don't miss the chance to experience an unforgettable weekend of revelry, culture, and community spirit, all unfolding in the heart of Downtown Bastrop, Texas!

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

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# 2025 Bastrop TX MARDI GRAS

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

JAN 31st

MARDI GRAS BALL  
TICKETED EVENT

FEB 1st

DOWNTOWN BASTROP  
FREE MUSIC & FAMILY FUN

*Live Authentic Music*

Mardi Gras Ball

Gumbo Cook-Off

Mardi Gras Parade

Cultural Arts

Children's activities

Street Dance



[BASTROPTXMardiGras.com](http://BASTROPTXMardiGras.com)



BASTROPTX

PRESENTS

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