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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mardi Gras! Galveston Releases Parade Schedule for 106th Celebration

Mardi Gras Festivities Feb. 17 – 28 in Galveston to Feature 21 Parades

GALVESTON ISLAND, TX (January 4, 2017) – If you're looking to catch some beads this carnival season, look no further than the 106th celebration of Mardi Gras! Galveston.

Taking place Feb. 17 - 28, 2017, Galveston's Mardi Gras celebration will feature 21 parades as the island's krewes prepare to throw more than 3 million beads and other trinkets to throngs of revelers.

Visitors to the island can gather in Galveston's downtown entertainment district and along the beachfront on Seawall Boulevard to see flashy floats, high-stepping marching bands and dazzling dancers at these 2017 parade events:

Friday, Feb. 17, 2017

George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras Award Ceremony, 5:30 p.m. (Entertainment District)

The 106th celebration of Mardi Gras! Galveston will kick off with an awards ceremony and parade. The ceremony will be held in front of The Tremont House.

George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras Parade, 7 p.m. (Entertainment District)

The George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras Parade honoring the 2017 George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras Award recipients will begin at The Tremont House and travel through downtown Galveston with the Budweiser Clydesdales, bands and festive floats.

Route: The parade begins in front of The Tremont House, located at 2300 Ship's Mechanic Row. It will travel east on Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north on 20th Street to Strand Street and proceed west on Strand Street to 25th Street.

Funky Uptown Umbrella Brigade, 8 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Join the 7th annual Funky Uptown Umbrella Brigade as Mardi Gras revelers twirl their way through the Entertainment District. Sponsored by The Galveston County Daily News, the public is invited to participate in this procession as the umbrella dancers perform the hokey pokey down the streets of Galveston. All participants with decorated umbrellas will receive free admission into Mardi Gras! Galveston on Feb. 17.

Route: The parade begins on Strand Street at 21st Street and travels west on Strand Street to 25th Street.

Krewe of Olympus Parade, 10 p.m. (Entertainment District)

The Krewe of Olympus started in New Orleans in 1970 and has been based in Houston since 1992. Supporting the LGBT community, Olympus is one of the largest predominantly gay krewes in the United States.

Route: The parade begins on Strand Street at 20th Street, proceeds west on Strand Street to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, and north along 20th Street to Strand Street.

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017

Official Mardi Gras! Galveston 5K & 10K (New this year!) Run, 9:00 a.m. (Entertainment District)

Run or walk through Galveston's Downtown Historic District and follow it up with a day of celebrations. Runners will receive access to all the Mardi Gras! Galveston festivities in the Entertainment District, including headline concerts, parades and more.

Route: The run begins at 24th Street and Ship's Mechanic Row, proceeds west through the Mardi Gras Arch, turns south on 25th Street, west at Seawall Blvd. The 5K route will turn around at 28th Street and the 10K route will turn around at 48th Street. Both the 5K and the 10K will finish through the Mardi Gras Arch where the finish line and Runners Village is located.

Mystic Krewe of Aquarius Mardi Gras Kickoff Parade, 12 p.m. (Seawall & Entertainment District)

The Mystic Krewe of Aquarius celebrates 32 years since its founding. Join the party at the annual street pageant featuring spectacular floats and 15 marching bands. Costumed krewe members will throw anniversary beads and cups during the parade, sponsored by Miller Lite and Landry's Hospitality.

Route: The parade begins on Seawall Boulevard at 57th Street. It travels east to 25th Street, then north along 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 19th Street, then north on 19th Street to Strand Street and west along Strand Street to 25th Street.

Zaniest Golf Cart Parade, 1 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Why stop with a record-breaking umbrella parade when you can have the Zaniest Golf Cart Parade? This parade is another great chance for friends and family to get together and participate in the zany spirit of Mardi Gras! Galveston. All participating golf carts will receive free entry into the entertainment district on Feb.18. For information, contact info@yagaspresents.com

Route: The parade begins on Strand Street at 20th Street, proceeds west on Strand Street to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street.

Krewe d'iHeartRadio Art Car Parade, 3 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Tune in to this rockin' parade as the iHeartMedia krewe cruises down the Strand.

Route: *The parade begins on Strand Street at 20th Street, proceeds west on Strand Street to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street.*

Krewe of Gambrinus Parade, 6 p.m. (Seawall & Entertainment District)

King Gambrinus will throw a grand parade with plenty of bead throwing. Searchlights will light up the night as revelers enjoy floats, marching bands and other strolling entertainment.

Route: *The parade begins on Seawall Boulevard at 57th Street. It proceeds east to 25th Street, travels north along 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then east on Ship's Mechanic Row to 19th Street, north on 19th Street to Strand Street. The parade ends on Strand Street at 25th Street.*

Friday, Feb. 24, 2017

Danny Weber Memorial Fire Truck Parade, 7 p.m. (Entertainment District)

This parade is dedicated to Danny Weber Sr., who served 30 years in the Galveston Fire Department. Bring the family out as fire trucks from stations across the state parade down The Strand with lights and sirens.

Route: *The parade begins on Strand Street at 20th Street, proceeds west on Strand Street to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street.*

Krewe Babalu 12th Annual "All Krewe Parade," 8 p.m. (Entertainment District)

This parade will include floats from krewes and business, civic and fraternal organizations throughout the region.

Route: *The parade begins on Ship's Mechanic Row at 25th Street, proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street and west on Strand Street to 25th Street.*

Krewe of Maximilian Parade, 9:30 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Take a walk on the wild side and join Krewe of Maximilian as they roll into Galveston.

Route: *The parade begins on Strand Street at 20th Street, proceeds west on Strand Street to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street.*

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2016

Krewe d'Esprit Rosaire Parade, 11 a.m. (Seawall)

This parade will feature high-stepping marching bands, bead throwing and even some food throwing. Back by popular demand is "the Battle of the Bands" competition, which will take place before the parade.

Route: *The parade begins at Kempner Park, 27th and Avenue N. From there, it travels south on 27th Street to Seawall Boulevard, west on Seawall Boulevard to 31st Street north on 31st Street to Avenue N and east along Avenue N. The parade ends at Jack Johnson Park, 27th Street and Avenue M.*

Z Krewe 23rd Z Processional, 1:00 p.m. (Entertainment District)

This year Z Krewe is celebrating 23 years of Mardi Gras with bands, beads and merriment in its annual procession.

***Route:** The parade begins on Ship's Mechanic Row at 25th Street, proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street and west on Strand Street to 25th Street.*

Houston Chronicle Neauxs Krewe Parade, 2:30 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Hot off the press! This Neauxs Krewe will be rolling down The Strand at 2:30 p.m. tossing more than newspapers. The Houston Chronicle is the 6th largest newspaper in the United States and a proud sponsor of Mardi Gras! Galveston.

***Route:** The parade begins on Strand Street at 20th Street, proceeds west on Strand Street to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street.*

Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler Parade, 3:30 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Let the good times roll with this festive parade as we wrap up the last weekend of Mardi Gras! Galveston.

***Route:** The parade begins on Strand Street at 20th Street, proceeds west on Strand Street to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street.*

Knights of Momus Grand Night Parade, 6:30 p.m. (Seawall & Entertainment District)

Mardi Gras! Galveston's largest parade will feature elaborate floats, marching bands, bead throwing and more.

***Route:** The parade begins on Seawall Boulevard at 23rd Street. It proceeds west to 25th Street travels north on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, east on Ship's Mechanic Row to 21st Street, north on 21st Street to Strand and west on Strand to 25th Street.*

Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017 (Family Gras!)

On Feb. 26, the entertainment district will be free to the public for a FAMILY GRAS celebration sponsored by Moody National Bank. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Sunshine Kids and Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Shriners Hospital for Children & Sunshine Kids Parade, 12 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Bring the entire family to the Shriners Hospital for Children & Sunshine Kids Parade, a tribute to children affected by serious burns and cancer. Patients, families and friends of the non-profits are part of this parade featuring high-school marching bands, Shriners clowns and mini-cars.

***Route:** The parade begins on Strand Street at 20th Street, proceeds west on Strand Street to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row to 20th Street, north along 20th Street to Strand Street.*

Krewe of Barkus & Meoux Parade, 1:30 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Costumed pets of all sizes, shapes and species join in the fun for this parade and costume contest.

Route: *The parade begins at 20th & Harborside Drive, proceeds south on 20th, west on Strand to 25th Street, travels south on 25th Street to Ship's Mechanic Row, then proceeds east along Ship's Mechanic Row ending at 20th Street.*

Mardi Gras Children's Parade, 3 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Firefighters Local 571 hosts a parade dedicated to the families and children of Galveston with decorated floats and costumed kids.

Route: *The parade begins at 25th and Santa Fe Place, travels south on 25th Street, east on Postoffice Street, north on 19th Street, west on Strand Street and ends on 25th & Strand streets.*

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017

Krewe of Aquarius Fat Tuesday Parade, 6:30 p.m. (Entertainment District)

Mystic Krewe of Aquarius presents its Fat Tuesday parade in the downtown entertainment district. This grand parade, featuring marching bands, dance teams and dozens of lighted floats, will mark the final hours of Mardi Gras! Galveston 2017. Don't miss one of Galveston's most popular Mardi Gras parades.

Route: *The parade begins on Post Office Street at 25th Street travels east on Post Office Street to 19th Street, north along 19th Street to Strand Street, west on Strand Street to 25th Street.*

For a full schedule of Mardi Gras! Galveston activities, visit www.mardigrasgalveston.com.

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