

The 11th Annual Eureka Gras Mardi Gras Extravaganza kicked off on January 9 with the Kings Day Kick-Off Gala to officially announce the Royal Court and Monarchs of the Krewe of Krazo. To great applause the Dukes and Duchesses of 2016 King Krazo XI Steve Roberson and Queen Eureka XI Pam Davenport were introduced.

More events follow throughout January and February, with this year's theme being "Hooray for Hollywood". The Eureka Springs "Krewe of Krazo" (Ozarks spelled backwards) is prepared to "laissez les bon temps rouler!"

Taste of N'Awlins will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, January 23 at the Grand Taverne inside the Grand Central Hotel at 37 N Main Street. Hot beignets and chicory coffee will be served, along with a cash bar – and of course the umbrella 2nd line.

Saturday, January 30 is the Light and Sound Night Parade at 6p.m. following the usual parade route from the Carnegie Public Library, down Spring Street to the Court House on Main Street. After the parade downtown there will be Second Line Dancing in the streets.

Grotto Wood Fired Grill and Wine Cave at 10 Center Street will be host to the Black Light Ball at 8pm on January 30. Enjoy a night full of fun in this underground space with black lights, paint, models, music, and more! Tickets are \$25 and are available online at www.reserveeureka.com.

Didn't get enough beads at one parade? The second Mardi Gras parade, led by the Krewe of Krazo, will roll downtown on Saturday, February 6 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, February 6 is the Mayor's Ball at the Basin Park Hotel at 12 Spring Street from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Hosted by Melonlight Dance and the Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce, the ball will feature New Orleans traditions with a Hollywood twist, including a red carpet, runway, and awards. Music will be provided by DJ Testube featuring live vocalist Opal Agafia and performances by the Melonlight Dance Ensemble. Tickets are \$35 in advance at www.reserveeureka.com or \$40 at the door.

The next morning on Sunday, February 7, guests can hit the New Orleans-style Jazz Brunch at the Crescent Hotel at 75 Prospect at 11:30 a.m. Reservations may be made by calling 479-253-9652.

On Fat Tuesday, February 9, the final event is St. Elizabeth Catholic Church's annual King Cake Ball at the Parish Center on Passion Play Road. Cocktail Bar and Fresh Oyster Bar open at 5:30 p.m. Live music by northwest Arkansas' favorite jazz band, Naturally Brass, will entertain during the cocktail hour. The Grand Procession of Eureka Gras Mardi Gras' Royal Court begins at 6:30p.m. with dinner service immediately following the second line dance. Dance music will begin just as dinner ends, and will play till 11pm. Get your tickets by calling Rod at 479-253-4503 or 479-253-8864. Tickets are \$40 per person and are on sale now.

For more details on events, visit eurekaspringsmardigras.org and like their Facebook page, Eureka Springs Mardi Gras.

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