

KING & QUEEN OF MARDI GRAS

This is your chance to honor someone who you feel has contributed to the enjoyment and well being of other members. They will preside over the kingdom for the next year and will lead this year's Mardi Gras Parade and festivities.

The Royal Nomination Box will be in the office starting Feb. 14. Nominations for King & Queen of Mardi Gras close at 4:00 on Friday Feb 28. The runners up will become the new Dukes and Duchesses. The Coronation will be held at 10:00 Fat Tuesday, March 4th at Lakeside during the Royal Breakfast Buffet. The Coronation is open to everyone, you do not need to participate in the Royal Buffet to see who will be crowned King & Queen of Mardi Gras 2025.

MEGA POT DRAWING

One of the most popular events during Mardi Gras is the Mega Pot Drawings. The moneys raised are used to pay for the expenses of putting on Mardi Gras. This is not a charity, as all of the money left is awarded to members during the Mardi Gras Pool Ball, including a Grand Prize of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pot and 2 prizes of $\frac{1}{8}$. The drawing will be at 3:00, 4:00 and the Grand Prizes at 5:00 on Fat Tuesday. The Grand prize is usually over \$1,000 and you don't need to be present to win.

Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 and 14 for \$10 and go on sale Feb.14. You can most often purchase tickets at the West Pool, near Natures Hair. Watch My Cove Friends for the location of the ticket sellers.

LAMP POST CONTEST

The Cove always looks so festive when the lamp posts are decorated with Mardi Gras colors. Cypress Cove management sponsors and conducts the Lamp Post Contest. \$350 in Cove Coins will be awarded to the best Lamp Posts, including a Grand Prize of \$175 and a Runner up of \$75 in Cove Coins. The remaining Coins will be awarded to deserving Lamp Posts at the judge's discretion. The sign-up sheet will be on the Activities Office door.

This year's theme is "The World of Mardi Gras". ". Pick a place in the world, real or imaginary, and show off their traditions. In England they call it "Pancake Day", in Rio its "Carnival" with all the lavish costumes. Just Google someplace, you'll be amazed how many interesting Mardi Gras customs there are. This is a great chance to share your travels and imagination. If you can't find someplace interesting in this world, what would Mardi Gras be like on Mars?

The judges look for use of the theme, creativity and color and eye appeal. Judging will be on Monday March 3rd and prizes will be awarded at 3:00 during the Mardi Gras Pool Ball.

Royal Breakfast Buffet

Enjoy a great breakfast buffet at Lakeside, overlooking Brown Lake, on Fat Tuesday from 8:00 to 11:00. The bar will be open so you can enjoy your favorite morning drink. Tickets for the buffet may be available in advance.

Stay for the Coronation at 10:00 and meet the next King and Queen and Royal Court. You do not have to purchase the buffet to watch the Coronation.

Pancake Day

In honor of the British tradition of having pancakes for Mardi Gras, some of the past royals will be serving free pancakes. Starting at 9:00 on Sunday, March 2ed on Allamanda Ct (due west of the West pool) Come enjoy pancakes and fixings while they last. Plates & Plastic ware will be provided, just bring your own chairs and drinks. Feel free to bring a breakfast side dish to share if you would like but that's not required.

Nude Bike Ride

If it's not a Mardi Gras tradition, it should be. Join us on Pinestraw circle at 1:00 March 2, for a "bare as you dare" easy ride through the resort, lead by the Duchess of Wheels. This will be a great way to work off those pancakes.

Mardi Gras Parade

The always exciting Mardi Gras Parade steps off at 1:00 on Fat Tuesday and makes its way through the campground, ending up at the West Pool, just in time for the Mardi Gras Pool Ball. There will be candy, beads, floats, golf carts, bikes, cars and people walking. The parade is open to everyone who would like to participate and advance registration is not required. Line up by the lake overflow area at 12:30.

Mardi Gras Pool Ball

The big party at the West Pool starts at 2:00, right after the parade. Enjoy the music and dance the day away to the great sounds of A Taste of Love. Awards for the Lamp Post contest, the parade and the first drawing will be at 3:00, followed by more drawings at 4:00 and the Grand Prizes at 5:00. Festivities end at 6:00, just in time to meet at Cheeks for more drinks and great Cajun food.