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News Release

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Mardi Gras is an exciting time in South Louisiana. For many people it is a family event. Sheriff Champagne has listed below the parades and parade routes, which will take place in St. Charles Parish. The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office will have deputies throughout the parish during these parades to ensure the community's safety.

St. Charles Parish Parade Information:

St. Charles Parish School Parades will be held on Thursday, February 12

Krewe of Mimosa School – 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM – from Mimosa down Birch St. and back.

Expect some delays, but no roads will be shut down

Lakewood – 1 PM – 2 PM – Start in front of school; west onto E. Heather towards Lakewood Dr.; turn right onto Lakewood Dr.; turn left onto Birch St. into Mimosa School bus circle; out onto St. John Street turning east onto E. Heather St. back to Lakewood School. . Expect Delays, but no roads will be shut down

RJ Vial School – 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM – Start in front of R. J. Vial in parking lot; turn right on Eula St.; turn left on Peter St.; right on Louisiana St.; left on Market St.; left on South St.; left on Barber Rd. back to school.

Montz Parade – Saturday, February 14th – 10 AM – 11 AM – Start at end of Thoroughbred, out to River Road; east to Evangeline, North on Evangeline to Four "J" Lane, to Leigh Lane to Rhett Lane to North Bend Lane, Back out to Four "J" to Evangeline back to River Road then west to Country Cottage to Betty Drive around Betty Drive then back to starting point on Thoroughbred.

Luling Parade – Saturday, February 14th – 12 PM. Expect Parade route to be blocked off between 11:45 AM – 4 PM. Also expect traffic delays before and after that time. Staging/Line-up at Winnwood Shopping Center, Paul Maillard Road (LA 52) at Winnwood Shopping Center; exit lot and proceed North to River Road (LA 18), then right and continue to Sugarhouse Road at Monsanto Bicentennial Park turning right again and proceed to Angus Drive; turn right with a final left turn at Paul Maillard (LA 52) to disband at Winnwood Shopping Center.

Des Allemands Parade – Sunday, February 15th – 1 PM – Expect parade route to be blocked off between 12:45 PM – 4 PM. Also expect traffic delays before and after that time. Staging on Old Spanish Trail, Whitley Road to Hwy 90; then onto LA 631, turn right onto DeJean St; then right onto Old Spanish Trail; then right onto Lorraine Drive; disbanding when reaching Hwy 90.

For many people Mardi Gras is a family event. Sheriff Champagne would like to offer the following tips to help keep you, your family, and your belongings safe.

Following these tips will allow everyone to have a safe and memorable Mardi Gras:

A Mardi Gras crowd can take on its own personality. Make sure your actions contribute to the fun, safety and mystery of Mardi Gras and not to a disturbance that everyone will regret later.

Do not fasten ladders together in groups. Don't place ladders in intersections or closer to the curb than the height of the ladder. When using a ladder, always stand on the back as an anchor and protect your child from fast-flying throws.

Parade spectators should never throw anything at floats or riders. Float riders are not expecting this and serious injuries could result. It is also against the law.

Do not encourage anyone to run alongside floats for throws - they are ten ton moving vehicles and present a life-threatening danger if the crowd surges forward. Make sure you remind your kids to stay out of the street during parades. Accidents happen when floats are unable to make sudden stops.

Respect the directions of band and marching unit chaperones and the police. Move out of their way and allow them to perform.

Police officers are very tolerant during the Mardi Gras season, but arrests are made for violations including those involving injuries to persons or property, urinating in public, and weapons offenses. The local jail is a very busy place during the Mardi Gras season and is a place to avoid if you want to have a good time and enjoy Mardi Gras. Please act responsibly.

Make sure that you park legally and make note of your exact location. Don't leave valuables in the interior of your vehicle. Secure these in the trunk of the vehicle or otherwise place them out of view. Watch your valuables. Crime happens in every city and during every event that draws a big crowd, so don't assume you're valuables are safe. Men, put your money or wallet in your front pocket. In a huge crowd with bodies smashed together you may not feel your back pocket being picked, you might just assume someone bumped into you. If your valuables are in your front pocket you'll be more likely to notice someone attempting to separate you from them. Ladies, don't carry a purse unless you have to carry one. If you do need to carry one for some reason keep the strap over your shoulder like a sash, with your purse in the front. Do the same with camera bags if you must carry them. You'll be more aware of where they are and less likely to lose them or have them taken if they are right where you can see them at all times.

Establish a meeting place with your family in case someone gets lost. Also, make sure your kids carry a card that includes their name, address, phone number and pre-arranged meeting place. Teach your kids to find a police officer in the event that they would get lost.