



## KREWE OF BOGUE FALAYA

Po Box 942

Covington, LA 70434

[www.CarnivalinCovington.com](http://www.CarnivalinCovington.com)

Contact: St. Tammany Parish Councilman Larry Rolling

(985) 502-8586

[KreweofBogueFalaya@gmail.com](mailto:KreweofBogueFalaya@gmail.com)

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### **A Carnival tradition is revived with Lundi Gras Second Line**

*Covington's Krewe of Bogue Falaya kicks off Mardi Gras the night before*

The Krewe of Bogue Falaya will revive a Covington Mardi Gras tradition on Monday, February 12 with a special event to lead off Fat Tuesday celebrations: a Lundi Gras Second Line from Bogue Falaya Park to Southern Hotel, starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Bogue Falaya Park boat launch. The event is free and open to the public to participate.

When Mardi Gras was first celebrated in Covington on February 25, 1879, the revelry began the day before, on Lundi Gras, when the parade's king arrived by boat to the Columbia Street Landing, where he would lead a procession of figures dressed in medieval garb to the courthouse and be presented with a key to the city.

That tradition is revived on Feb. 12, when Grand Marshal Grayhawk Perkins will arrive by boat at Bogue Falaya Park, 213 Park Dr., greeted by krewe captain Parish Councilman Larry Rolling and co-captain Amy Tucker and the entire Krewe of Bogue Falaya board of directors. Perkins then leads the No Limit Brass Band and second line to the steps of the historic Southern Hotel, 428 E. Boston St. There the Mayor of Covington and dignitaries will present a proclamation naming Perkins the 2024 Grand Marshal, followed by a champagne toast and king cake.

"Bringing back this Covington tradition will only enhance the Northshore Carnival experience that will live on for generations to come," said captain Rolling.

Re-branded last year from "Carnival in Covington" to the Krewe of Bogue Falaya after the town's iconic river, the nonprofit group provides a family-friendly, safe Mardi Gras experience that honors the history and traditions of Covington and promotes the businesses, charities and organizations that support the people of the Northshore.

True to its aim to honor the history and traditions of Covington, the Krewe of Bogue Falaya honors as its Grand Marshal the Native American tradition bearer, cultural historian, educator, musician and recording artist, Grayhawk Perkins. Grayhawk has worked as a cultural coordinator for the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, an Interpretive Ranger for the Louisiana Office of State Parks, cultural naturalist for the Audubon Louisiana Nature & Science Center, storyteller at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and held numerous other roles at institutions across the country to educate the public about Native American culture. His group, The Grayhawk Band, has performed at such marquee events as Jazz Fest, the Voodoo Music + Arts Experience and Bayou Boogaloo, and at venues across the region.

The Krewe of Bogue Falaya rolls the next morning, immediately after the Covington Lions Club, which rolls at 10:00 a.m. The 600-member krewe parades with the theme "School Daze in a Mardi Gras Haze", and will feature 20 traditional floats, the "Louisiana Feed Your Soul" float, marching bands and groups,

horse groups, the Saints Superfans and more. Parade-goers can participate in costume contests with cash prizes. The kids' costume contest takes place at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of 15th and Jefferson Ave. and adults ages 18 and up can strut their stuff at the free, all-ages after-party at Covington Trailhead, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The party features live music by Groovy 7, food trucks, drinks, dancing, and activities in the Kids' Zone.

The Krewe of Bogue Falaya parade is sponsored by American Bank, Acquistapace's Covington Supermarket, Coastal Environmental Services, Gulf Coast Bank, Cleco, Rep. Mark Wright (Dist. 77), St. Tammany Parish President Mike Cooper, State Sen. Patrick McMath (Dist. 11), St. Tammany Parish Hospital, Ochsner, Covington Business Association and the YMCA.

Float sponsors include Abita Roasting Company, Southern Hotel, Abita Brew Pub, Winn-Dixie, Pinecrest/E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, Armbruster Artworks, 30 by Ninety Theatre, Attorney Josh Allison, Paradise on Columbia Med Spa, Collin Sims, T-Mobile, Junior League of Greater Covington, CARE Physical Therapy, K2 Realty, Covington Elementary School, DiCristina's Italian Restaurant, and Vincent Wynne.

For more information and to set up an interview, contact Parish Councilman Larry Rolling, (985) 502-8586, or Amy Tucker, (504) 994-5932. Visit [www.CarnivalinCovington.com](http://www.CarnivalinCovington.com) and the group's Facebook page, [www.Facebook.com/CovingtonMardiGras](http://www.Facebook.com/CovingtonMardiGras), for updates about the event and sponsors.

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