

Parker to hold a Colorado-style Mardi Gras

A fantastic weekend is coming up. Not only are the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl 50, but there's going to be some incredible Mardi Gras fun in downtown Parker!

It's all the result of the Council of Arts, Science and Culture, working with Parker's Downtown Business Alliance and Creative District. The result is the CASC's 3rd Annual Mardi Gras celebration, the Rocky Mountain Mardi Gras.

While it will be fun for everyone, the true benefactors will be area non-profits supported by the CASC, including student scholarships, performances, science programs, cultural events and groups that help keep our area entertained, educated and nourished.



The festivities actually began on Monday, Feb. 1, 2016, with the start of a Business Bead Hunt. During this scavenger-style hunt that runs through Friday, Parker merchants challenge you – the hunters – to find select beads that can be exchanged for prizes at Sunday's concluding event.

As I said, you are invited to search all week long, up until the Friday's Pub Crawl Happy Hour, which will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Feb.5. During the Pub Crawl, you are invited to visit select watering holes and restaurants offering Cajun happy hours and drinks, including Parker Garage, Vines Wine Bar and Bistro, and Halls Brewing Co.

But that's just the beginning. On Saturday, the Rocky Mountain Mardi Gras begins at 4 p.m. with a sidewalk parade with lots of beads and music, followed by happy hour from 5 to 7 p.m. at Deep Space Event Center, 11020 South Pikes Peak Drive,

But the highlight is the Mardi Gras Party at Deep Space, which runs from 7 to 10:30 p.m. You are encouraged to come for the experience! There will be live music, a cash bar, dancing, \$1,500 Black Eyed Bingo, raffles, auctions, appetizers, desserts and more.

If Saturday's experience isn't enough, Sunday brings Cajun Gumbo! In this case, they're calling it "Cajun Gumbowl" – in honor of Super Bowl Sunday!

It all begins at 11 a.m. Feb. 7 at Parker Garage in downtown for one of the best Mardi Gras / Super Bowl tailgating affairs around, featuring brunch and live music by one of the best bluegrass bands in the Rockies. They will also be even more silent auctions, giveaways and the final winner of the week long scavenger hunt!

If you want, you can stay for the Super Bowl and really make a day out of it!

Seriously, who needs New Orleans when this much fun can be had right here in downtown Parker. Plus, we absolutely want to be in Colorado to share in the excitement as the Broncos compete once again in the Super Bowl!

Tickets are only required for Saturday night's party and can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rocky-mountain-mardi-gras-parker-2016-tickets-20258857789>. Only 300 tickets will be sold, so get yours now so don't miss out on the fun.

For more information, visit <http://www.mardigrasparker.com>. We hope to see you there!