



SPAR eNEWS

“Know the Happenings in Shreveport’s Public Assembly and Recreation Department” February Issue

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Mardi Gras!



“Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler”! It’s that time of the year and SPAR is ready to roll! The Mardi Gras Krewe’s Parade season began with Harambee on Monday, January 16 and Sobek on January 21. Centaur is the next to roll on February 11 at 4:30pm. Next up is Barkus & Meoux on February 12 at 1:30pm. Gemini rolls on February 18 at 4:30pm. The last Parade to roll is Krewe of Highland on February 19 at 2pm. For info visit www.mySPAR.org or call SPAR at 318.673.5100.

Athletics



The 24th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball Tournament, scheduled for Feb 24 - 26, is rapidly approaching. The team entry deadline is Feb 17. Registration forms, official tournament hotels & more info are at www.mySPAR.org or at Wildwood. Age divisions for youth include 10 & Under, 12 & Under and Middle School. Players may play up based on skill. Birth certificates required. Age cut off is December 31, 2011.

Youth T-Ball, Machine Pitch, Baseball and Softball organizational meeting is on February 15 at 6pm.. The seasons begin April 18.

Adult Spring Softball organizational meeting is on February 15 at 7:00pm. Team entry deadline is on March 23 and the season begins April 9.

Shotokan Karate at SPAR



The Shreveport Karate Club (Est. 1961) offers Shotokan style karate classes at A. B. Palmer Park, 547 E. 79th Street & Line Avenue. Shotokan karate is one of the most popular martial arts practiced today. It has its roots in the ancient Chinese martial arts, and can even be traced back to the Shoalin temple. The classes are held on Monday & Wednesday 5: 30 PM for beginners and 6:00 PM for advanced students. Men, women and children 8 years of age and older may participate. The instructors are Glenn Taylor, 4th Degree Black Belt, Deb Kutz, 3rd Degree Black Belt, Rick Kutz, 3rd Degree Black Belt and Dee Peterson, 3rd Degree Black Belt. All belt testing done by Mr. Takayuki Mikami, 8th Degree Black Belt, Chief Instructor, All South Karate Federation. For more information call Glenn Taylor at 318. 751.7992.

Youth Programs



SPAR’s Youth Program has a lot of fun and new things in store for February. A new art class for youth 8-12 starts February 3 at Valencia. The class will be each Friday from 4-6pm. The class is taught by Professional Photographer and Artist Jerry Davenport. Space is limited so get your child signed up today!

Also, SPAR’s Youth Program hosts its annual Black History Essay Contest for youth 11-17. Chesapeake Energy donated two laptops as prizes for the contest winners. CUMULUS will announce the winners on stations 99.7 and 102.9. Essay Contest winners get to read their essays “live on the air” and are presented their prizes during half-time of the 3pm game on MLK Championship Sunday on February 26 at SUSLA.

Upcoming Events

February 1 - 24 • SPAR Canned Food Drive for NWLA Food Bank

February 10 • Masquerade Ball AB Palmer 5:30 - 8:00pm

February 7 • Therapeutic Mardi Gras Dance Riverview Hall 5:30 - 8:00pm

February 11 • Centaur Parade

February 12 • Barkus & Meoux Parade

February 18 • Gemini Parade

February 19 • Highland Parade

February 20 • Presidents Day Centers Closed

February 24 - 26 • Dr. MLK, JR. Basketball Tournament



For all Shreveport/Bossier events check out:



Therapeutic



Therapeutic Division "Expressing Ourselves Through Art" Winter Workshop was well received at southern Hills Community Center on January 19. Over 35 individuals with disabilities attended. The workshop was facilitated by Camille Webb, SPAR Senior Coordinator. Participants learned that Art Therapy is a mental activity that uses creative expression to help individuals learn how to resolve conflicts, problem solving, develop interpersonal skills, increase self-esteem and develop insight.

Our 15th Annual Mardi Gras Dance is on February 7 at Riverview Hall from 5:30-8:00pm. The dance will feature Cajun music, refreshments and a special performance by the Cajun Footworks Dance

Senior Happenings



SPAR Seniors are off to a great start in 2012! They recently competed in a Beanbag Baseball Tournament at Lakeside, where Airport Park won 1st place. The Senior Computer Classes are in session. Two new classes, Money Matters/Health Smart/Reading and an Art Class will help our Seniors enhance their reading skills, learn healthier lifestyles and improve their money management. The art class offers lots of fun, creativity and relaxation.

The Seniors will celebrate Presidents Day and Valentine Day, with a dance that will be held at Southern Hills on Friday, February 17, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Join them for a great time!

SPAR’s Senior Programs offer daily fun and exciting activities for our seniors. An active lifestyle helps prolong one’s longevity . For more info, call Camille Webb, Senior Coordinator at 318.673.7845 or visit www.mySPAR.org and click on “Programs”, then click “Senior Programs”.