



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 January 2021

SOULARD MARDI GRAS ORGANIZERS WARN OF ONLINE MISINFORMATION REGARDING 2021 EVENTS

No parades or other mass-gathering events will take place in 2021

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—A Facebook user falsely representing himself as Soulard Mardi Gras has posted an event claiming to be the Mardi Gras Grand Parade on February 13, 2021. This event information is false. There will be no parades in 2021. Because of public health concerns that are obvious to everyone by now, there will be no Soulard Mardi Gras mass-gathering events of any kind in 2021. Since Saturday, February 13, 2021 would have been Grand Parade Day, we are especially mindful of making certain people know that there will be no parade or any other mass event in Soulard on that day, or any other day during the 2021 Mardi Gras season. Our virtual Derby Day, featuring the online Wiener Dog Derby will take place on February 13.

All of our 2021 events are designed to protect public health and adhere to the latest safety recommendations from federal, state and local officials in order to make sure that we can all *laissez les bon temps rouler* safely and responsibly in 2021 and many years to come. All of us have been hard at work planning safe, responsible and fun virtual and COVID-restriction compliant events for 2021 Soulard Mardi Gras, in close consultation with city officials. If there was ever a time when we all need a reason to celebrate, it's now. So, while the show will go on **it will be different.**

We have reported this false event information, and the user who posted it, to Facebook and will continue monitoring social media platforms for false or misleading information about our events. For accurate, trustworthy information on all Soulard Mardi Gras 2021 events visit our website at STLMardiGras.org or follow our official social media channels—Facebook [@STLMardiGras](https://www.facebook.com/STLMardiGras), Twitter [@STLMardiGras](https://twitter.com/STLMardiGras) and Instagram [@stlmardigras](https://www.instagram.com/stlmardigras).

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Combining COVID-related guidelines with our depth of experience and hallmark creativity we've come up with a calendar that will provide the Mardi Gras faithful with fun and safe experiences that offer a respite from these trying times in formats that are:

1. **Safe for participants, organizers and the community**
2. **Promote public health, and**
3. **Mindful of our obligations to the Souldard neighborhood and our wider St. Louis family**

So Mardi Gras friends, please be careful about online misinformation. We will continue to keep an eye on it, but it takes a team effort. Again, visit our website STLMardiGras.org, and our social media channels—Facebook [@STLMardiGras](https://www.facebook.com/STLMardiGras), Twitter [@STLMardiGras](https://twitter.com/STLMardiGras) and Instagram [@stlmardigras](https://www.instagram.com/stlmardigras) for reliable, accurate information on Souldard Mardi Gras 2021.

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