



THE BELTWAY BASH

It's time for Washington Mardi Gras!

This week's festivities surrounding the 73rd Washington Mardi Gras might look and feel slightly different, but that's not stopping King **Richard Lipsey** from enjoying what will be a royal reign to remember.

Following a luncheon at the Kennedy Center, Thursday night will feature a private, invitation-only King's Dinner at the Mellon Auditorium. There's a bit of secrecy surrounding the shindig, but Lipsey let slip on Talk 107.3 FM this week that "one of the best entertainers in the country" is attached to the event.

That kind of buzz, in concert with Washington Mardi Gras being canceled last year, has politicians boarding flights early tonight with growing anticipation. "Everyone is anxious," Lipsey said during his radio interview, "and we're probably going to have one of the biggest crowds this year."

Lipsey, who was selected as king by Congressman **Garret Graves**, the chairman of Mystick Krewe of Louisianians, said he has attended Washington Mardi Gras 10 times. "Almost everybody who's anybody in Louisiana goes to Washington Mardi Gras, particularly the politicians," Lipsey said, adding, "It's a heck of a celebration."

Graves also selected **Madison Smith** of LaPlace, to serve as queen. "It's a very busy schedule," her majesty told her hometown newspaper. "One of my favorite events in DC is going to the Arlington Cemetery to pay our respects. The King and the Queen lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and we walk around to pay our respects to others who are buried there."

While some events have been canceled and a few personalities (elected and otherwise) will not be attending, there are still several high-profile — *and high-dollar* — events to add to your calendar.

For example, there's a Friday afternoon "Private Bourbon Tasting" at the Sazerac House benefitting Senate Commerce Vice Chair **Cameron Henry**, SGA Chair **Sharon Hewitt**, Senate Transportation Chair **Patrick McMath**, SGA Vice Chair **Barry Milligan**, Rev and Fisc Vice Chair **Mike Reese**, Senate Insurance Chair **Kirk Talbot** and Senate Finance Chair **Bodi White**.

There are also new additions to the lineup, like a special kick-off event tomorrow evening hosted by Congresswoman **Julia Letlow**, and some old favorites you're no doubt looking forward to...

2022 HOSPITALITY SUITES

- CASS PAC with special guests U.S. Sen. **Bill Cassidy** and Family; Suite: "Holmead" in the Heights on Lobby Level; Friday, January 28, 4:30 - 6:30 PM; Saturday, January 29, 4:00 - 6:30 PM, and a toast to the princesses at 5:00 PM
- Eye of the Tiger PAC with special guest Republican Whip **Steve Scalise**; Suite: "Van Ness" on the First Floor; Friday, January 28, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM, King Cake Party; Saturday, January 29, 3:00 - 4:30 PM, Royalty Toast in honor of the 2022 Princesses
- Start Rising PAC with special guest Congresswoman **Julia Letlow**; Suite: 2101, on the Second Floor; Saturday, January 29, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Champagne Toast to Princesses, 3:00 PM
- Graves Swampy Speakeasy with special guest Congressman **Garret Graves**; Suite: "Piscataway" in the Heights on Lobby Level; Thursday, January 27, 3:00 - 5:00 PM; Friday, January 28, 3:00 - 5:00 PM; Saturday, January 29, 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Toast to Princesses

and Graves' Gris-Gris, Dress: Come as you are! *Admission Password: "Red Snapper"*

- Bienvenue a Lafayette; Suite: "Morgan" in the Heights on Lobby Level; Friday, January 28, 2:00 – 6:00 PM; Saturday, January 29, 2:00 – 6:00 PM
- Ochsner Health System; Suite: "Kalorama" in the Heights at the Lobby Level; Friday, January 28, 2:00 – 5:00 PM; Saturday, January 29, 2:00 – 5:00 PM
- Krewe de LSU; Suite: "Shaw" on the First Floor; Thursday, January 27, 4:00 – 6:30 PM; Friday, January 28, 3:00 – 6:30 PM; Saturday, January 29, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
- King **Richard Lipsey**; Suite: "Oaklawn Room" in the Heights at the Lobby Level; Thursday, January 27, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM; Friday, January 28, 3:00 – 5:00 PM; Saturday, January 29, 3:00 – 5:00 PM
- Queen **Madison Smith**; Suite: "Northwest Room" in the Heights at the Lobby Level; Thursday, January 27, 4:30 – 6:30 PM; Friday, January 28, 4:00 – 6:30 PM
- Shreveport-Bossier Host Group; Suite: 5101, on the Fifth Floor; Thursday, January 27, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Friday, January 28, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Saturday, January 29, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

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Underwritten by Harris, DeVille & Associates

Stormwater Management is the Solution

Louisiana can solve its litter & flooding problems

The Louisiana Stormwater Coalition is an all-volunteer, grassroots group advocating for permanently funded stormwater management programs to help solve Louisiana's litter and flooding problems.

Louisiana is most often #1 in rainfall. If we don't strive to be #1 in stormwater management, we will continue to have flooding and litter issues.

The first step to funding stormwater management is to declare stormwater a utility like 41 other states. This will give small towns and cities that have litter and flooding problems a local option to permanently fund a stormwater management program. It's not a mandate; it's a local choice.

What begins as litter reduction turns into programs that prevent flooding and improve water quality.

When litter from the streets enters the watersheds and mixes with organic sediments, storm drains and canals get clogged and "litter dams" and impermeable flood-causing layers are created that cost millions to remove.

Cities across the U.S. implement and fund stormwater management programs that provide the equipment, dedicated personnel and public-private partnerships to remediate litter and flooding. These stormwater programs bring in millions for other cities to properly manage and sustain stormwater management programs. Furthermore, these program make cities cleaner and safer – increasing the economies, improving the environments and increasing quality of life.

Louisiana needs a two-pronged stormwater management approach to reduce litter and prevent flooding.

It's time for Louisiana to pivot. It's time for action.

Please visit louisianastormwater.com for more information.

POLITICAL CHATTER

- **TUESDAY'S TOP #LaLEGE STORY:** Lawmakers heard recommendations today from the Edwards Administration on how \$2.8 billion in one-money could be spent. There are as many moving pieces as there are dollars, and the competition during the regular session will be fierce. The short-term fiscal picture is so flush that the state may actually rub up against the spending cap. (If so, the cap can always be suspended.)

- **MAJOR STORYLINES:** Conservatives from rural areas voiced concerns about some of the administration's big ticket items, like a \$500 million jumpstart on a new Mississippi River bridge in Baton Rouge. Speaker **Clay Schexnayder** did not. "Building an additional bridge to reduce I-10 congestion is one of many critical and much-needed investments in infrastructure, and it has my full support," he said. Other proposals, like a \$1,500 pay bump for public school teachers, prompted different worries from the GOP. Most notably, Schexnayder and others publicly questioned whether the state could afford such a pay raise in the longterm. "Without a doubt, our teachers deserve more," said Schexnayder. "However, before we can commit to a pay raise, we need to ensure we have the necessary recurring revenue to ensure this is a permanent raise and that we are not misleading them with a one-time bonus." The \$38.6 billion executive budget presentation also detailed an additional \$104 million next fiscal year for higher ed.
- **THE DOCUMENTS:** [Click here](#) to read the executive budget proposal. [Click here](#) to review Commissioner of Administration **Jay Dardenne's** presentation.
- **THE COVERAGE & REPORTS:** *The Advocate*: "How should Louisiana spend \$2.8 billion in one-time cash? Lawmakers weigh in;" [WVLA-TV](#): "Lawmakers question spending in governor's executive budget;" [LBP](#): "Budget is a good start, but more work is needed;" [PAR](#): "Louisiana is awash in state and federal cash, but will the state spend it smartly or blow it?"
- **HALL OF FAME!** According to the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, **Michael Beychok** has been selected for induction into the NTRA National Horseplayers Championship's Hall of Fame.
- **HIRED:** The Louisiana Restaurant Association has hired **Will J. DuBos** as its director of government and public affairs. He will also serve as staff executive for the LRA's Hospitality PAC.
- **ALSO HIRED:** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute has hired **Preston Beard** as its new director of policy, with a focus on chemicals.
- **APPOINTED:** The new legislative fiscal officer (interim) is **Alan Boxberger**.
- **ALSO APPOINTED:** Former Sen. **David Heitmeier** of New Orleans has been appointed to the Louisiana State Board of Optometry

Examiners... **Bambi Polotzola** of Opelousas has been appointed to the Community Responder Model Task Force... **David K. Brossett** of Lake Charles has been appointed to the State Board of Architectural Examiners... A dozen people have also been named to the Governor's Justice Reinvestment Implementation Oversight Council...

- **SIGN-UP TIME:** Qualifying for the March 26 municipal primary elections will be held from Wednesday through Friday. (This includes the special legislative election in House District 101.)

HEADLINES & BYLINES

- The Advocate: Former President **Donald Trump** is scheduled to visit Louisiana the weekend after Mardi Gras
- Biz New Orleans: Citing Omicron, Louisiana Restaurant Association Asks for More Federal Relief
- WVLA: AARP calls for nursing homes to require COVID-19 booster for residents, staff
- News-Star: State senators push to add accountability for state police, cite **Ronald Greene** case
- Advertiser: Louisiana casinos see \$10 million boost from sports betting
- The Advocate: Attorney **Robert "Bob" Winn**, leader in Louisiana's anti-abortion movement, dead at 83
- Bossier Press: 'The Shreveport–Bossier area is going to lose a state senator'
- AP: BESE accountability review process draws criticism
- Daily World: Louisiana governor proposes teacher raises, new bridges, higher education budget increases
- Illuminator: Louisiana utility regulators rescind contract given to suspended lawyer

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Our History (Circa 1984)

Angels in Baton Rouge

In 1984, a nonprofit international volunteer organization, the Guardian Angels, came to Baton Rouge. They were looking at the possibility of establishing a chapter of the group in the city.

The Guardian Angels had a mission of unarmed crime prevention. Established in New York City in 1979, the group was instantly recognizable in their red berets.

This week's clip of coverage from WBRZ-TV was provided by our friends at the State Archives and features Angels founder **Curtis Sliwa**.

WATCH THE VIDEO

WHAT YOU MISSED IN LW

Here's a summary of stories from the latest issue of *LaPolitics Weekly* (published last week):

- **BEHIND SCHEDULE:** By January 2014, during the last open race for governor in Louisiana, the field of candidates was already hopping and bopping. As we enter the same pre-cycle stretch in January 2022, there's not a candidate to be found. Why is this contest taking so long to take shape? There are obvious reasons, like our recent string of world-is-burning events, from hurricanes and flooding to COVID-19...

- **ABOUT THE DEM SIDE:** "I believe there are people who are interested in it," said Democratic consultant Trey Ourso, "and they're just trying to see if there's a reasonable path."
- **FRIDAY BILL REVIEW:** If you were wondering late last week why there weren't more regular session bills to read, especially since pre-filing opened, legislative staffers had a simple answer: "We don't have any more."
- **1 OF NOTE:** HB 4 by Rep. **Phillip Tarver** is a constitutional amendment that would take away the governor's appointments to BESE and create an all-elected board of eight members...
- **REDISTRICTING COMETH:** There will be no shortage of local, state and national politics on display, beginning with election speculation over the two people leading the process: Senate and Governmental Affairs Chair **Sharon Hewitt** and House and Governmental Affairs Chair **John Stefanski**. Both are being urged to run for statewide office — Stefanski for attorney general and Hewitt for governor — but first they'll have to endure the mapping mayhem to come...
- **PAC FILING CHANGES:** "At their open meeting last week, federal campaign finance watchdogs agreed to a minor — yet long overdue — change that will save PAC registrants some paperwork in the future. The FEC approved a motion from Chair **Allen Dickerson** to amend the agency's Form 1 for statements of organization to allow a committee to file as a super PAC or a hybrid PAC within the form." (More in *Politico*)
- **HISTORY:** When viewed through the long lens of history, it's clear that Louisiana lawmakers have a fondness for making changes to how and when they meet in legislative sessions...
- **THEY SAID IT:** "(Pierre) knows what he did." —Speaker **Clay Schexnayder**, when asked why Rep. Vincent Pierre was removed as transportation chair, *in The Advocate* (Pierre said he does not know)

Wish you could have read these stories last week?

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SOCIALLY YOURS

ANNIVERSARIES & WEDDING BELLS

- Judge **Jonathan Perry** and **Christine Perry** are celebrating 23 years together this week... **MaryBeth Wilkerson Ritchey** and **Talbot Ritchey** tied the knot over the weekend... **Rachael Feigley** and **Matthew Deslatte** are celebrating their anniversary today...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TRACKERS!

- Tuesday, January 25: Former Sen. **Robert Barham**, Judge **Chris Hazel**, **James Hartman**, **Mike Perlstein**, **David Trusty**, **Kevin Gautreaux**, **R. Erich Caulfield** and **Kristie Cross**
- Wednesday, January 26: Sen. **Bob Hensgens**, **Norman Morris** and **David Hammer**
- Thursday, January 27: Judge **Jonathan Perry**, **Morgan Reese**, **Sarah Olcott Allen**, **Bob Ellis**, **Whitney Higginbotham Greene**, **Addie Dean Cross**, **Murphy Chestnut**, and **Lauren Leist**
- Friday, January 28: Former Rep. **Frank Hoffman**, **Kea Sherman**, **Tania Hilburn**, **Tim Sproles**, **Mandi Mitchell Thomas**, **Tim Johnson** and **Scott McKay**
- Saturday, January 29: **Kelli Bottger**, **Les Landon**, **Chad Rogers** and **Meg Sunstrom**
- Sunday, January 30: Congressman **Mike Johnson** and **Sonny Cranch**
- Monday, January 31: Congressman **Garret Graves**, **Jeff Roedel**, **Danny Heitman**, **Dane Strother** and **Jody Montelaro**

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THE END.