

Millbrook Revelers have a history of fun

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Photo: There will be all sorts of attractions for children and families in Village Green Park during the Millbrook Mardi Gras Festival.

File Photo

By BRIAN HODGE

Since 2006 the Millbrook Revelers have led the charge for Mardi Gras celebrations in Millbrook. Each year the Revelers organize the Millbrook Mardi Gras Festival and Parade, which is one of the biggest annual events held in Millbrook. But when the event began it was literally formed under a dark raincloud.

The first Mardi Gras festival and parade in Millbrook was held in 2006. Although rain poured on the parade and festival in Village Green Park, it hardly deterred the enthusiasm of the Revelers or the parade attendees. However some cultures regard rain on a special event, particularly an inaugural event to be good luck. Over the years the Millbrook festival has grown, perhaps through luck, but certainly aided through the efforts of the Revelers who have worked to make each celebration as big or bigger than the last.

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By 2007 the word spread about the Millbrook Mardi Gras parade and the crowd was bigger than anyone, even the Revelers had expected. The term Mardi Gras conjures very different meanings in the minds of different people, especially in terms of celebrations. From the beginning the Revelers have worked to market Millbrook Mardi Gras as a family-friendly event. Ridiculous outfits and an appreciation for comfort food are encouraged as families come out to celebrate each year with a crowd of thousands on Main Street in Millbrook.



Photo: Elmore County Superintendent Jeff Langham was the Grand Marshal of the 2013 Millbrook Mardi Gras Parade.

File Photo

As one might expect the parade has grown significantly over the last eight years leading to a parade that rivals the Millbrook Spirit of Christmas parade in its size. Each float in the parade is encouraged to offer 'throws,' anything from beads and candy to small toys, to throw to the crowd that lines Main Street from Mill Creek Park to City Hall. Of course the festival portion of the event held in Village Green Park on Main street has grown significantly since the first year as

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well. With over 60 vendors from all over the South, there really is something for everyone, How about Gator-on-a-Stick, smoked turkey legs, gumbo, or red beans and rice? A variety of traditional Mardi Gras food will be served along with hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken fingers.

As with previous years, children will enjoy pony rides, inflatables, a zip line, train rides around the park, and lots of other kid-approved activities.

The fun all starts on February 22, 2014 at 9am in the park. Bring the family and enjoy the fun, but get yourself in a good position to watch the parade, which begins at 12noon. More than 50 floats sporting music, merriment and Moon Pies.