

# It's party time

## Six bands will play at four gala balls as Woonsocket celebrates Mardi Gras

**WOONSOCKET** — Six bands in four locations will keep revelers on their feet as Woonsocket celebrates Mardi Gras Saturday night.

Mardi Gras dinner-dances will take place at the Elks Hall, 380 Social St.; the CYO Center, Federal Street; and the Holiday Inn Express, Fortin Drive, all in Woonsocket, and the Coachmen's Lodge, Wrentham Road, Bellingham.

Patrons choose one site for dinner, but starting at 8 p.m. they can travel by free shuttle among all four sites to sample the variety of music. Here's the lineup.

**Elks Hall:** The Steve Lafleur Cajun Band of Louisiana is the headliner here, starting at 8 p.m. Steve Lafleur and Mark deBasile play accordion, guitar, fiddle, triangle, scrub board and sometimes bass and drums to create some high-energy Cajun music.

The Cajun band Magnolia will get things started at 6 p.m. Although they are based in Rhode Island, Magnolia's members have spent a lot of time in Louisiana working on the band's repertoire and style.

**CYO Center:** Roy Carrier Zydeco of Louisiana brings another style of music to this location. The accordionist started playing at age 6 with his father, and by age 14 had his own band. Although he lost most of an index finger in an accident, he learned to play with nine fingers and now finds himself the patriarch of an extended family of musicians.

Slippery Sneakers, a dance band that performs traditional Cajun/Creole music as well as up-tempo zydeco, will go on first, from 6 to 8 p.m.

**Holiday Inn Express:** The Ray

Gonzalez Orquesta, an 11-piece ensemble, makes its second appearance at Mardi Gras this year.

Gonzalez has more than 25 years experience as a musician, arranger,

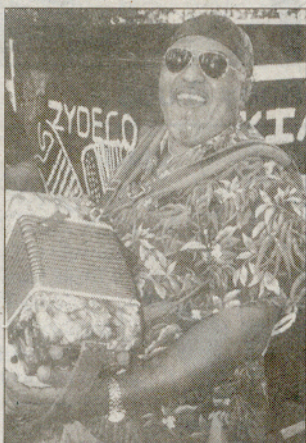
composer and conductor, and has performed throughout the United States and Latin America with artists including Tito Puente and Celia Cruz.

**Coachmen's Lodge:** The Regents of New York are back for their third Mardi Gras performance. Ron Lapinsky and Bob Falcone and with their band add humor into their music making to create a high-energy act.

Roberta Baillargeon was crowned Sunday as the Queen of Mardi Gras, and the identity of King Jace will be revealed as part of Saturday's celebrating.

Youngsters have their own Mardi Gras party on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at St. Ann Arts & Cultural Center, Cumberland Street. A costume contest, games, prizes and refreshments are in store for children, who are encouraged to dress up for the event.

Tickets for the Mardi Gras Balls are \$28 in advance, \$30 at the door, and are available by calling (401) 762-9072.



**Roy Carrier does Zydeco.**



Submitted photo

**CAJUN MUSIC** by Magnolia will kick off the Mardi Gras ball at the Elks Club.