

Your Town **FRACKVILLE**

Mardi Gras in Frackville sold out

By **SAM MATTA**
Standard-Speaker

The popular Mardi Gras event that is sponsored by the Frackville Business and Professional Association will be held Feb. 6.

The announcement was made at the group's monthly luncheon meeting held at the Papparazzi Restaurant and Night Club Tuesday. The affair is sold out.

Karen Kehler and John Malinchock have been the keynote chair people in increasing the popularity of the event. This year's Mardi Gras will again be staged at the Annunciation Hall in the community and 300 tickets have been sold.

"We're sorry to say that the affair is sold out," said Malinchock. "We do have a waiting list. And if anyone can't attend, we are asking that they contact us immediately."

The proceeds from the Mardi Gras Night go toward the Frackville Public Library. Chances are being sold to help generate more revenue for the library.

"This is a very exciting time for us," Kehler said of the big event. "We thought about moving it to other, larger places, but we want to keep the event in our community. Right now we have a

waiting list of 46 people, and it probably would be more if people thought they had a chance at getting a ticket."

This will mark the third year for Mardi Gras. Every year, the event has generated funding for operation of the library and for the new building fund.

Mardi Gras Night generated \$11,000 in 2004 and a new event, selection of the queen and king, is now part of the evening.

That contest is another large moneymaker for Mardi Gras. A year ago, receipts totaled \$4,500 to crown the queen, Lianna Evans, and the king, Vince Roman.

A raffle ticket for home heating oil will be chanced off the night of Mardi Gras. Businessmen Mike Hawarnick and Jack Rich Inc. have each donated 150 gallons of the home heating oil for the raffle.

"We appreciate the support that both of those businesses have given us," said Malinchock of the raffle contest. "Oil has skyrocketed and our friends continue to support us with the donation."

The committee will gather shortly to go over the final plans. More gifts are needed; anyone wishing to donate to Mardi Gras Night can contact the association.