



Shannon Heupel, Montgomery Advertiser Published 12:42 p.m. CT April 4, 2018 | Updated 9:05 p.m. CT April 4, 2018

Rain or shine event raised more than \$40K last year for autism services at Easter Seals

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(Photo: Shannon Heupel/Advertiser)

The 14th annual Autism Crawfish Boil is staying strong for this Saturday - 4,000 pounds strong, that is.

13TH Annual Autism Crawfish Boil

"We have two tons of crawfish," said Stefania Cumuze, crawfish boil committee co-chair. "But that means that we can serve all you can eat, all day long, and not be in any danger of running out."

The annual event benefits the autism works of Easter Seals Central Alabama. Gates open at 11 a.m. for people who are "Early Bug" and VIP ticket holders. General admission begins at noon.

"It takes a lot of crawfish to do that for 1,000 plus people," Cumuze said.

"Last year was our first year downtown," Cumuze said. Turnout was about 1,100. "It was Railyard last year, now it's Dreamland. Same owner, though, and we are invited back. I think having it in the streets of downtown Montgomery was a huge success for us. I think it's only going to increase our attendance. I think it's helped increase our sponsorship as well."



The 13th annual Autism Crawfish Boil took place Saturday, April 1, 2017, in Montgomery, Ala. (Photo: Shannon Heupel/Advertiser)

This is a rain or shine event. "We're right there adjacent to the Montgomery Biscuits, and they've got a game later that night," Cumuze said.

Music guests this year include Charlie C and the Cuzamatics (11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) and the returning group Federal Expression (2:30-5 p.m.).

"This is Charlie C's first time playing for us," Cumuze said. "With Federal Expression coming back every year, I'd gotten to the point where I stopped asking them because I felt guilty. But they reach out to me every year and say 'You're our thing. We want to do this every year.'"

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The 13th annual Autism Crawfish Boil took place Saturday, April 1, 2017, in Montgomery, Ala. (Photo: Shannon Heupel/Advertiser)

For VIP guests, there's an extra bonus area in the Dreamland basement area. "We'll have the Porter Room and the Tap Room that will be open downstairs for the VIP lounge," said Cumuze. With the bar open and other cajun treats to sample, VIP guests are also treated to an acoustic concert there by Sam Marsal and others. The sound is being managed by Bailey Brothers, which reached out help.

The price for VIP admission is \$79.81. "VIPs have reserved seating, table service so they don't have to stand in line to get their crawfish," Cumuze said. "They also have cocktail service at their tables."



Doug Irvin wore his crawfish hat and flaming shirt to the 13th annual Autism Crawfish Boil on Saturday, April 1, 2017, in Montgomery, Ala. (Photo: Shannon Heupel/Advertiser)

General admission prices are \$37.79, and children age 3-10 are \$11.53.

Last year, they were able to donate \$40,762.33 to Easter Seals for autism programs.

"We have consistently increased that donation every year," Cumuze said.

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