

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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August Activities in Fayetteville Heats up Summer Fun with Art, Music, and Celebration of Cultures



“Celebrate Fayetteville!” as August brings exhibits, birthday parties, more celebrations and loads of music. Whether enjoying art at its’ best at Arts For Rural Texas, toasting to the heritage of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and the historic Country Place Hotel, toe tappin’ with Texas Pickin’ Park, paying a tribute to the local volunteer firemen, or simply walking the streets of a National Registry community is your cup of tea, chances are that all ages will definitely have a taste of good times in Fayetteville during the month of August.

Although it’s typically too warm during the day for musical instruments and the “pickers” in the month of August for Texas Pickin’ Park fans, visitors are welcome to jam in the evening hours (after 6 pm) under the trees at the Historic Square the second Saturday of the month, which is August 10. Volunteers Robert Duke and Jonathan Hamborsky will be assisting the venue this month. Information on Texas Pickin’ Park may be found at www.texaspickinpark.com or by calling 512-415-3177. Workshops will “pick” back up once cooler weather comes.

Saturday, August 24 brings a double header to Fayetteville as the Arts For Rural Texas opens with the Richard Atlas Bottfeld exhibit and just a few blocks away at the St John’s Pavilion on 209 East Bell Street, the 4th Annual Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department honors their best with a Shrimp Boil & Dance Fundraiser. Mr. Bottfeld’s opening reception will be held from 5-7 pm at the Ross Gallery (on the

square) and the exhibit will run from August 24 thru August 31. He has requested that proceeds benefit ARTS and the Hospice Brazos Valley. Any questions may be directed to Arts For Rural Texas at info@artsforruraltexas.org or 979-378-2113. The fire department fundraiser will commence at 6 pm with happy hour, meal from 7-8:30 pm, and dance to the GTO's. Tickets are \$25.00 and may be purchased at Joe's Place, Fayetteville Propane, Fayetteville Bank, or by calling 979-966-8985 or 979-249-6868. All proceeds will benefit the Fayetteville VFD making the entire day a true win-win for all.

The following week, August 31 and September 1 brings more celebrating to Fayetteville as the historic Country Place Hotel celebrates a birthday with a party and St. John the Baptist Church celebrates its' annual feast in mix of the cultures of the community. The Country Place Hotel (the former Zapp Building) is located on the corner of Fayette and Washington Streets on the Square. It has been nourished and revitalized since 1975 by Clovis and Maryann Heimsath, who are the 2012 recipients of the Clara Driscoll award by Preservation Texas. The original building was named the Zapp Building after German native Hugo Zapp. He established his mercantile business in 1865 and in 1900 after a fire burned the wooden store on the site, he constructed this present two-story brick building. The Romanesque revival building features decorative brickwork in a checkerboard pattern. In 1915, it was purchased by another merchant that operated it for more than 50 years. On Saturday, August 31, the community will celebrate the 10th birthday of Country Place Hotel beginning at 8 pm with music, dancing, and fun. They may be reached at 979-966-7771 or go to www.countryplacehotel.com.

The weekend is just beginning in this very active community as Sunday, September 1 is the Annual Feast of St. John the Baptist Church at 209 East Bell Street in Fayetteville. Make no mistake--this is a very special celebration as well. The parish honors the Czech and German immigrants that settled the area in the mid-1800's and their celebration kicks off with a 10 am Polka Mass (if you have never heard a Polka Mass, now's your chance). They will be serving up home pit barbeque beef, pork, and sausage dinner at the Recreation Center, and will carry the tradition of celebrating with games for children, country store, auction, kolaches and pastries, and a free dance until 10 pm with Charles and the Fabulous Four. Sandwiches will be served started at 2:30 pm and bingo will kick off at 2 pm. All ages are welcome. Go to www.stjohnfayetteville.com for questions or call 979-378-2277.

“We are extremely proud of our cultures that make up the community of Fayetteville. These active events earmark the traditions that honor those settlers that came before us,” states Mayor Ronnie Pflughaupt. “Our restaurants, lodging, shopping, and businesses extend their hometown hospitality as well to welcome all visitors and locals that come to share these experiences”. Fayetteville is located on Highway 159 a short distance from La Grange and zip code 78940 for GPS users—“Great weekend getaway with dining, shopping, and lodging available for all.”

Cathy Chaloupka--Rural Texas Tourism, LLC