

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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Fabulous Fayetteville Rounds out the Year Celebrating a "Country Christmas" Saturday, December 12



Preparing for that magical holiday time of the year in Fayetteville is no easy chore with music, carriage rides, tours of homes and museum, kids activities, and pet parade to account for. But for the 19th year, this historic community is going to do just that on Saturday, December 12 from 10 am to 9 pm.

With over 400 structures to claim on the National Registry of Historic Towns, this proud community with its spirited locals (and hosts of volunteers) regularly manage to pull off an event that's fun for the entire family and always educational thanks to the tremendous preservation that this great hometown can acclaim through its forefathers.

To start up the fun festivities, merchant and food vendors will be available from 10 am until 8 pm on Saturday to help in those shopping and

"hunger" moments. Rest assured the businesses around the square will be open as well for those special buying opportunities. Don't forget most of them are housed in structures that are on the National Registry--they all have a story! The Fayetteville Heritage Museum will be open from 11 am until 5 pm with self-guided courthouse tours for a glimpse of the past as well. If you have not toured this museum, you are in for a real treat. And to get everyone into the joyous mode during the day, music will set the mood thanks to DJ Jimmy Rohde.

Kiddos will have a blast from 12 pm - 4 pm with a variety of activities as well as a pet parade at 4 pm (all pets welcome!). Loads of smiles and creativity go into this event. The competitive decorating contest winners will be announced around 5 pm (with judging from 6 pm to 9 pm Wednesday, December 9).

History never takes a back seat as four homes--Heimsath (originally Spacek on 108 N. Washington), Higgins (originally Tuttle on 111 W. Market St.), Eaves (originally Cervenka-Templeton on 823 FM 955), and Cody (originally Hrachovy on 1033 Highway 71) will be available for touring. The Christmas Homes Tours run from 1 pm - 5 pm with tickets available at the Fayetteville Bank, Fayette Realty Inc., Jerry's General Store, Orsak's, Joe's Place, the chamber tent on the square, and each home the day of the event for a nominal price of \$15.00. And, for the "diehards" in touring, three homes will conduct open houses; the Rudolph Home (Sladek-Hillman) on 209 N. Rusk, the McCowen Home (209 W. Fayette), and the Kurtz Home (Minar) on 109 N. Scott.

ARTS (on the square at 114 N. Live Oak) Members Show and Holiday party with the opening reception will be held from 4 pm - 6 pm and a celebration in showcasing the work will continue from December 12 through December 31. Contact info@artsforruraltexas.org or 979-378-2113 for questions. This exhibit allows members to showcase their works in a public setting.

Bring the cameras and kiddos as the Christmas Tree on the Square is lit at 5:30 pm with Santa making the grand entrance to the square. That big jolly fellow will be available for pictures from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the Country Place Hotel and that simply kicks off an evening of fun! "A Night at the Museum" will be presented by the FISD NHS at the Fayetteville Area Heritage Museum from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. These young adults are very good at handling the historical side of the persona they

have chosen--a real "don't miss" event. Amish wagon rides will wind down the historical path of this beautiful community from 6 pm - 9 pm and the Sidewinders Band will add that holiday cheer playing from 6 pm - 9 pm.

"The Small Show" will be presented at the Red & White Gallery on 102 West Main Friday, December 11th from 4-8 pm and Saturday, December 12 from 10 am - 8 pm. This is a multiple artist show with affordable gifts, art & food items. Additionally (on December 12) Orsak's Cafe (on the Square) will be serving complimentary hot chocolate, coffee, and baked goods. Jane's Joy Home & Garden Gifts (on 202 North Live Oak), will have a special Open House and Joe's Place (on the square) will feature specialty beers and wine.

"We enjoy showcasing Fayetteville every chance we get!" states Mayor Ronnie Pflughaupt. He continues, "Don't forget that Fayetteville businesses roll out the red carpet on hospitality as hometown cookin', specialty shopping as well as overnight lodging for those visitors that want to continue to enjoy that country Christmas atmosphere at its' best will be available." Fayetteville is located on Highway 159 a short distance from La Grange and zip code 78940 for GPS users. Information or vendor forms may be directed to fayettevilletxchamber.org or by calling 979-378-4021. —"Great weekend getaway with dining, shopping, and lodging available for all."

Cathy Chaloupka

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