

RURAL TEXAS TOURISM LLC

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www.ruraltexastourism.com 979-561-6667 cc@cvctx.com

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20th Annual Country Christmas in Fayetteville Celebrates Cultures & Traditions from

Friday, December 9 through Saturday, December 10



Oakley-Cheney Home



Nini-Simon Home



Birdhouse



Quiros Home



Red & White Gallery

When history and culture mix with tradition and fun in Fayetteville, the visitors will never be disappointed--especially at Christmas time. There is little doubt that one of the busiest communities in Texas is indeed Fayetteville, Texas as plans are once again finalized to make everyone's hometown Christmas experience enjoyable as well as entertaining...from pet blessings for the critters in your life to a historical experience at the Fayetteville Area Heritage Museum.

One venue, ARTS, showcases work beginning Saturday, December 3. The ARTS (Arts for Rural Texas) on the square at 114 N. Live Oak Members Show and Holiday party with the opening reception on Saturday, December 3 will be held from 5 pm - 7 pm. A celebration spotlighting local works will continue from December 3 through January 7. Contact info@artsforruraltexas.org or 979-378-2113 for questions. This exhibit allows members to showcase their works in a public setting and is an annual community exhibition.

The Country Christmas Celebration in Fayetteville, a true "Texas hometown treat" has been going on for 20 years in this 400 structured National Registry of Historic Towns making these magical showcased venues of music, rides, tours of homes and museum, kids activities, and pet parade a memorable experience for all ages. This year it is scheduled from Friday, December 9 through Saturday, December 10--a perfect weekend kickoff and is indeed a tribute to a community that is incredibly preserved thanks to the commitment of generations of Czechs and Germans.

Don't forget special shopping will be held in the businesses around the square--many housed in structures on the National Registry and all with a great story connected. And that unique Christmas shopping is always a perk as the Annual Country Christmas kicks off from Friday, December 9 from 4 pm - 8 pm at the Old Fire Station on the Square with just that--shopping and relaxation for the holidays time. Coinciding with the hometown experience, a horse drawn wagon will be available for rides from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm with drop off and pick up on the square by the Old Fire Station with free will donation for the "fee".

Additionally, the Red & White Gallery on Fayetteville's Historic Square presents "The Small Show" from 4 pm - 8 pm Friday and continuing into Saturday from 10 am - 8 pm with jewelry, gifts, art, and food items presented by over 20 participants. Artists profiled include: Susan Budge,

Amanda Rudack, Corey Credeur, Kathy Durst, Katy Valtasaros, Joan Herring, Jerry Herring, Pat Johnson, Cheryl McEntire, Larry McEntire, Raphaela Malandain, Jim Bob Salazar, Candice Salazar, Jana Star, Hiram Walker, Grace Walker, Lyn Foley, Mark Kohler, Mary Quiros, and Kathy Griffith. For more information contact Joan at 713-818-9766 or go to www.RedandWhiteGallery.com.

Saturday, December 10 kicks off with arts, crafts, food, drinks, and more shopping from 10 am - 8 pm and Jimmy Rhode, DJ gives out some toe-tappin' music starting up at 11 am and going on to 4:30 pm. Loads of kids activities will keep those little people busy from 12 pm until 4 pm (all on the square), and the Pet Blessing will be conducted at the gazebo on the square at 4:30 pm. Winners of the decorating contests will be announced at 4 pm. Photo moments with your pet and Santa (dress up your critter and bring your camera) as he makes his grand entrance will be at the Gazebo from 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm and family photos with Santa will be conducted at the Country Place Hotel from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Sidewinders Band are spotlighted (for more dancing enjoyment) from 5:30 pm - 8 pm on the square and everyone is encouraged to bring their lawn chairs.

During the day from 1 pm until 5 pm is the annual Country Christmas Historic Homes Tour for a nominal price of \$15.00. Clearly these are "true" historic homes and five incredible structures have the honor of being part of this year's tour. They include: The Red and White Gallery and Inn on 102 West Main, The Birdhouse on 410 East Fayette Street, the Oakley Cheney Home on Thompson Street, the Nini-Simon Home on 301 Mechanic, and the Quiros Home on Haw Creek Road. Tickets are available at Fayetteville Bank, Jerry's General Store, Fayette Realty, Inc., Orsak's Cafe, and by request. The Visitor's Center at the Old Bank Building will have them available for purchase the day of the event.

History buffs will have a real treat as the Fayetteville Heritage Museum will be open from 11 am until 5 pm with self-guided courthouse tours for a "step back" into the past. Everyone is encouraged to hang around for the 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Night at the Museum presented by the FISS National Honor Society. This production by the local youth gives the visitor a genuine perspective on settlers and traditions that have woven the fabric of history to this community.

Midst all of the evening fun with Santa, Orsak's Cafe on the square will serve up complimentary hot chocolate, coffee, and baked goods and Joe's Place will feature specialty beers and wine. If you make your way to 203 Thompson Street beginning at 7:30 pm, you will be greeted by Santa, Mrs. Claus, Reindeer and elves thanks to the generosity of the Justin Malota family. Hay wagon rides will be offered Saturday evening hosted by local merchants and citizens.

“Fayetteville's pride is it's hospitality as everyone is a volunteer to this great community!” states Mayor Ronnie Pflughaupt. He continues, "We roll out the red carpet with our hometown cookin', specialty shopping, and overnight lodging for all of our great visitors that want to continue to enjoy that country Christmas atmosphere at its' best."

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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