



April 16, 2015

Dear Citizens:

It is that time of year, with spring in the air, Derrick Days is not far behind. The week begins **Saturday, April 18, 2015**, with the local Corsicana Noon Lions Club sponsoring the 2015 Oil Town Mini-thon at the YMCA. The agenda for this event will be a *5K run/walk* and a *1 mile run/walk*; both of these events will begin at 9 A.M. Not to worry, if someone has forgotten to register in advance, registration will begin as early as 7 A.M.

Following the Mini-thon, the *Oil Baron's Ball* will be held at Navarro County Exposition Center. The event's location inspires, this year's theme of "*Denim and Diamonds*". Gates will open at 6 P.M. for the Ball. This year, ticket prices will be \$175 per person and reserved tables of 8 are \$1,500. Included in the ticket price will be transportation (from Chamber of Commerce to door of Expo Center), dinner by Chef Tom Perini, and entertainment by the Bellamy Brothers. Please contact VOICE for more information or to reserve a place, 903-872-0180.

On **Wednesday, April 22**, located at the Pocket Park in Historic Downtown, will be a free hot dog lunch and dinner. Lunch will be served from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. followed by dinner from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. Come and enjoy free hot dogs, along with snow cones by Sweet M's, while enjoying tunes from Byron Haynie and Taylor Parks from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M., as well as Caleb Grant from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Arranged for **Thursday, April 23**, the *Second Annual Wine and Cheese Stroll* will take place downtown from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M. It will be an amazing and relaxing evening to stroll, sip, and snack while browsing through the local downtown businesses. Corsicana's local vineyard and winery, Angelita, will be sponsoring this event by providing the wine to the downtown businesses. Some of the participating businesses include: Shall We Dance, The Palace Theatre, The Warehouse Living Arts Center, Vintage Farmhouse, Turquoise Pistol, Gypsy Haven, This and That Antiques, Prayers From Heaven, Merle Norman, Simple Elegance, McCain's Furniture, Victorian Sample Florist, Double Trouble Duds, Lelanie Petty Insurance Group, Bittersweet Boutique, and Chickadees. Following the Wine and Cheese Stroll, be sure to swing back by the Corsicana Opry for more music and the opportunity to purchase a favorite wine from Angelita.

A mixture of events and activities kicking off the *Derrick Days Weekend* is planned for **Friday, April 24**. The *Navarro County Derrick Days Pro Rodeo* will be located at the Navarro County Exposition Center. This rodeo will feature the contestants of the Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association and the United Professional Rodeo Association in exciting rodeo action as well as thrilling American Freestyle Bullfights and the McCoy's Mutton Bustin' for the little ones. Enjoy the Rodeo on Friday and Saturday for another

fun-packed evening of rodeo entertainment. In addition, raffle tickets for “Katy”, the AQHA 2007 Sorrel Mare, will be available at the Rodeo. One lucky winner will take home a beautiful horse. Come enjoy the fun and buy a raffle ticket.

The warm-up to the *40th Annual Chili Cook-off* will begin downtown, located at 2nd Avenue and Commerce Street. This year's chili competition will be sanctioned by CASI, (Chili Appreciation Society International), all chili, bean, and brisket entry fees will be donated to the United Way of Navarro County, and the Relay for Life of Navarro County. Following the Chili Cook-off warmup, the *Downtown Street Dance* will get underway at 8:30 P.M. This year's entertainment will be the Randy Brown Band! Randy is not only a Texas singer, but a songwriter, musician and showman for over a decade; do not miss his Corsicana show. So, come out for live music, dancing, and food located on 6th Avenue between Beaton and Main Street.

Finally, scheduled for **Saturday, April 25**, is the celebratory *Derrick Days Festival* which is much anticipated. Saturday is bound to be an action packed day with something for everyone in the family to enjoy. Beginning bright and early at 7 A.M. is the *Pancake Breakfast* located at 6th Avenue and Beaton, benefitting the Corsicana High School Band. The annual *Derrick Days Parade* will begin at 9 A.M. and travel through Historic Downtown to the center of Derrick Days Festival. The Grand Marshal of the Parade will be none other than Terry Fator, season two grand winner of America's Got Talent and a local boy whose career started with the Warehouse Living Arts Center. Not only will he appear in the Parade, he will be performing at the Corsicana High School. For more information regarding Mr. Fator's ingenious evening show, please contact the Warehouse Living Arts Center.

Next up at 10 A.M. is the *Corsicana Cruise-In*, located on 4th Avenue from Beaton Street all the way to 12th Street. The Cruise-In will begin immediately following the Parade with an award presentation at 1:30 P.M. for nine lucky hot-rod owners. For more information, please contact the Cars of Navarro County. Also, opening at 10 A.M. is the *180 Rush Waterslide*. The Parks & Recreation Department has put together a 1,000, yes, a one thousand foot waterslide! This waterslide will commence at the corner of 1st Avenue and Main Street and extend all the way to Brookshire's parking lot.

Beginning at 10:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M., the *Oil History Tours* will depart from the Warehouse Living Arts Center located at 6th Avenue and Main Street. Come and experience the Oil Tour through Navarro County where the reason for the festival began!

Launching at 11 A.M. is the *40th Annual Chili Cook-off*. The cook-off will be located at 2nd Avenue and Commerce, with the bean cook-off beginning at 11 A.M., followed by chili at 1 P.M. and brisket at 3 P.M. After the bean cook-off, be sure and head over to 3rd Avenue and Main Street for the *Horseshoe and Washer Tournament*.

Up next is the *Relay for Life "Pie in the Kisser" Fundraiser*. This “Pie in the Kisser” will be located at the 3rd Avenue stage; don't miss City National Bank's "Pie in the Kisser!" Who will it be....Tammie Perry, Mark Jordan, Larry Miller, or Ken Mixon? Only the crowd will get to decide. Following the fundraiser event, *Jamie Richards* will take the stage located at 3rd Avenue between Beaton and Main for a performance from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Speaking of entertainment, do not forget to swing by the *Gospel Stage* located at 2nd Avenue and Beaton for live music all day long. Some of the performers include, Southern Joy, Gospel Five, Taylor Parks, Crossfire Gospel Band, Branded Cross, Crossway, Greater Haynes Memorial, and Truvine.

The *Corsicana Friends of the Library* will be hosting a book sale until 3 P.M. Memberships are \$20 and \$10 for senior citizens and will be sold at the door. Best sellers will be \$2, hardbacks \$1, and paperbacks 50 cents. All proceeds benefit the public library and the educational outreach programs.

And last but certainly not least, there will be over *100 Market Place Vendors* setup down Beaton Street to stroll, shop, and enjoy as well as *35 food and beverage vendors* along Collin Street. Grab a snow cone, turkey leg, or funnel cake and stroll through the wonderful vendors of Derrick Days Festival 2015!

In addition, come by and visit the Humane Society of Navarro County by Chase Bank on Beaton. Adopt a furry friend for life from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Adoption fees will benefit the Animal Shelter. In addition to the festivities downtown, the *Oak Trail Golf Course* is hosting a Derrick Days Golf Scramble.

Hope for great weather and big crowds for this once a year celebration!

See you there,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor