

Derrick Days 2015

Navarro County's premier event, Derrick Days, did not disappoint this year. An estimated 10,000 festival-goers visited downtown Corsicana on the last Saturday in April to enjoy the sights and sounds of Derrick Days 2015. Rain or shine the Derrick Days Committee crossed their fingers for a sunny Saturday festival after a torrential downpour the night before. Friday night's storms rushed through the downtown area and cook-off area leaving Saturday full of sunshine, warm weather, and lots of fun for all!

This year's festival boasted over 90 individual marketplace vendors set up in 105 vendor spaces from 2nd Avenue south to 6th Avenue on both sides of Beaton Street. Market Place vendors came from all over the state of Texas and points beyond to offer shoppers a large variety of decorative accessories, collectibles, crafts, art, clothing, antiques, and more. Additionally, downtown merchants were offered vendor space in front of their storefronts at no charge this year to display merchandise outdoors and participate in the festival. Downtown businesses that participated in the festival included: Merle Norman, Turquoise Pistol, McCain's Furniture, Bloom Consignment, Emporium 1905, The Children's Shop, This-N-That Antiques, Grave Creek Mercantile, Cotton Kisses Boutique, Across The Street Diner, Roy's Café, Xtra Innings, Napoli's, Blackmon Antiques, Family Care of Texas, Prayers From Heaven, and Wally's Party Factory.



Those who came hungry were certainly not disappointed as well. A total of 28 food and beverage vendors in 37 spaces boasting a variety of culinary options resulted in a record \$52,000 in food ticket sales this year. Out of the 28 food and beverage vendors, 25 were from the Navarro County area. Offerings included funnel cake, sausage on a stick, BBQ, or a snow cone. The food and beverage

vendors arrived as early as 6:00 a.m. on Saturday morning to setup booths and trailers to serve festival goers. Registration for the festival opens every January, and by the end of March all booth spaces were claimed.

The Derrick Days Committee consists of a number of volunteers who have a passion for the annual festival and the City of Corsicana. Derrick Days first began in 1976 commemorating Corsicana's rich oil history and its significant impact on the community's development. Today the committee strives to continue the tradition and celebrate our oil history by providing Oil Tours throughout the day and drawing people to the Historic Downtown to



shop and enjoy. This year was a huge success for the downtown merchants and businesses this year.



“I thought Derrick Days went off extremely well. I thought it was very well planned out, which was a great improvement from previous ones. Was a great idea to not have pets, skateboards and bikes for the safety and welfare for all who attended. I also thought it was a great idea to have vendors on the curb. It attracted more people to the stores by walking on the sidewalk instead of the middle of the street. I think the turnout was awesome. Seemed there were more people there this year. Having facilities available was a great idea it took a lot of burden off shop owners. And last but not least hats off to the Corsicana Police and all those involved in keeping Derrick days safe and fun for everyone they did an exceptional job. Again, Thank You and I look forward to more events.” –*Prayers From Heaven, 121 N. Beaton Street*

“Derrick Days was huge for us, as well as the wine stroll. We did very well with both events. Derrick Days brought in customers that didn't even know we existed. In particular, we have one sectional sofa on the floor and we sold 5 during the Derrick Days festivities. It's just plain silly for other businesses not to be open during this time. Plus, we had fun doing it.” –*McCain's Furniture, 116 N. Beaton Street*

“Derrick Days was great for Cotton Kisses Boutique. My booth was a success, and several people who met me at Derrick Days have come into the store to shop. It was a perfect way to get my name out there and have fun, too!! I'm looking forward to next year. My store will DEFINITELY be OPEN during Derrick Days!!” –*Cotton Kisses, 118 W. Collin Street*

“I feel we did benefit by the walk in traffic and exposure to many of the people coming to Derrick Days. I do plan on being open next year as well.” –*Children's Shop, 112 W. Collin Street*

“Family Care of Texas had an awesome day at Derrick Days! We were so thankful to be able to set up a booth out in front of our office and share our services with the community. We actually got several inquiries which have turned into new patient admissions for us. And that is just awesome! We hope to be able to do it again next year!” –*Family Care of Texas, 202 N. Beaton Street*



“This year Derrick Days was successful for my business, the location of the vendors really helped. I kept my store and booth open. Both were a success, for traffic was super. Many people were able to explore my store after seeing samples in my booth. Thank you Corsicana and to Main Street for all you do to promote downtown.” –*This-N-That Antiques, 108 N. Beaton Street*

“Derrick Days was a huge success for our business. It brought tons of people in that didn't even know we were open. The staff and volunteers did a fantastic job keeping us informed of closures and the events--thank you.” –*Across The Street Diner, 125 N. Beaton Street*

Next year will mark the 40th Anniversary of Derrick Days Festival, and the committee looks forward to growing and improving the event each and every year, just as the founders wished. If you are interested in volunteering or helping for Derrick Days 2016, please visit the Visitor Center located at 301 S. Beaton or call 903-654-4850 for more information.