



City of McKinney Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dickens of a Christmas...Home for the Holidays

New twists update long-time holiday event in Historic Downtown McKinney

McKINNEY, TEXAS (Nov. 13, 2009) – McKinney celebrates twenty-nine years of holiday spirit in Historic Downtown McKinney with the annual favorite Dickens of a Christmas. To bring fresh and innovative twists to this holiday classic, McKinney Main Street will add new activities and update the theme for “Dickens of a Christmas...Home for the Holidays.”

“Across the globe, there are celebrations scheduled from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve. For nearly three decades, McKinney has found a niche for our celebration to be a successful combination of many of these cherished favorites that takes place over Thanksgiving weekend and into the month of December,” said McKinney Main Street Program Director Ty Lake.

McKinney’s event is centered on showcasing the unique culture and history of the city in the historic town center. New features incorporated into the event include a 30-horse carousel ride, live reindeer and “Texas reindeer,” also known as Texas Longhorn cattle. McKinney Main Street will support a Sing Out! youth choir competition and offer cash prizes during the event, and an “Earlier than the Bird Shopping Extravaganza” brings discounts and goodies to downtown shoppers on Nov. 27 from 8 -10 a.m.

Visitors will recognize annual favorites like strolling carolers, visits and pictures with Santa, live entertainment, food, fun, children’s activities, and holiday shopping and dining at the more than 100 shops, restaurants, spas and more in historic downtown. City officials light the city’s living Christmas tree, and the Maylee Thomas Band rings in the holiday season in Mitchell Park on Friday, Nov. 27 at 6:15 p.m. For a complete list of live entertainment and scheduled activities visit www.downtownmckinney.com or call Main Street at 972-547-2660.

Sponsors for this year’s event include the City of McKinney, the McKinney Community Development Corporation, MorningStar Treasures, Methodist McKinney Hospital, the Retreat at Stonebridge, Nissan of McKinney, WFAA Channel 8, 97.5 KLAK, Wal-Mart, Spoon’s Café, Pat Lobb Toyota and McKinney Partners Against Crime.

Dates: Friday, Nov. 27 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 29 from noon – 6 p.m.

Address: 111 N. Tennessee, McKinney Texas, 75069

Other holiday events located in Downtown McKinney:

Believe! 2009

Saturday, Nov. 28 at 7 a.m.

Mitchell Park, located one block west of the square

10K Certified Believe! Run, 5K Certified Believe! Run, 1 Mile Holiday Walk and the Great Santa Chase for kids 12 and under

www.believmckinney.org.

McKinney Repertory Theatre Presents "A Christmas Carol" at the MPAC

Friday, Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 28 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 29 at 2 p.m.

This adaptation of the enduring classic places special emphasis on the ghostly apparitions in the spirit of Dickens' original text and is full of Victorian song accompanied by music on the vintage theatre pipe organ.

www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org.

4th Annual Festival of Trees at the MPAC

Friday, Nov. 27 at 10 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 28 at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 29 at 12 p.m.

McKinney ISD's main fundraiser for Project Graduation features holiday decor and gifts made by local citizens. All proceeds go to the McKinney Project Graduation.

www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org

Candlelight Shopping in Downtown McKinney

Saturday evenings in December many businesses open for extended hours.

www.downtownmckinney.com

Visits with Santa Claus

Saturdays in December (Dec. 5, 12, 19)

Visit www.downtownmckinney.com for specific times and locations.

10th Annual Rotary Christmas Light Parade in Historic Downtown McKinney

Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Historic Downtown McKinney

www.mckinneyparadeoflights.com

2009 Holiday Tour of Homes

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The first weekend of December has been The Heritage Guild Holiday Tour of Homes since 1973. Tickets for the 2009 Holiday Tour of Homes are available at

www.chestnutsquare.com or by calling 972-562-8790.

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About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of 122,000. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments. Visit the city's Web site at www.mckinneytexas.org.

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