

Destination McKinney:

Story Ideas



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McKinney Has Stories to Tell

A variety of story ideas are given below, including city attractions, initiatives and events. Find more story ideas at VisitMcKinney.com or by contacting the MCVB at 214-544-1407, toll-free at 888-649-8499, or via e-mail at info@visitmckinney.com.

About McKinney in General

McKinney: One of the Fastest Growing Cities in the U.S.

Located just 30 miles north of Dallas, McKinney offers the conveniences and variety of a large city while maintaining its small town feel. McKinney is home to a beautifully preserved Main Street, historic homes, a wildlife sanctuary, museums, galleries, shopping and various dining options. The Collin County seat is the home to nearly 162,000 residents (Jan. 2016), marking more than 100 percent growth in about a decade. McKinney has been named the Fastest Growing City in the U.S., thanks to a population increase of 97.6 percent recorded between 2000 and 2006. **Money Magazine** has honored McKinney three times in the past six years, naming the city its #1 Best Place to Live in America in 2014, up from #2 in 2012, #5 in 2010, and #14 in 2008. **972-547-7500; www.mckinneytexas.org**,

McKinney: Going “Green”

McKinney is home to two specifically cutting-edge “green” facilities that are both firsts in the U.S – the first environmentally-friendly Wal-Mart, dubbed “The McKinney Experiment” (built in 2005) and the first LEED-certified car dealership, Patt Lobb Toyota. More details of each are given below under the “Attractions” heading below.

Places/Events of Interest

Historical:

Chestnut Square Historic Village

The Chestnut Square collection features nine historic houses and buildings that date from the 1850’s, including the oldest house in McKinney, a general store circa 1900, a chapel, schoolhouse and gardens. One Civil War battle was fought in McKinney, leaving behind some bullets in the structure of the oldest home in Collin County, the Faires home located in Chestnut Square Historic Village. **972-562-8790; www.chestnutsquare.org**

Heard-Craig House

Built by the Heard family in 1900, this majestic 7,000-sq. ft. home served as the center for McKinney's social, business, art and literary activities. After serving as a family home for almost 80 years, the home was left via a trust to the people of McKinney and restored with original furnishings, heirlooms and art produced by the home's owner, Kathryn Heard-Craig, and many historic Texas artists. 205 W. Hunt St., **972-569-6909**, www.heardcraig.org

Historic Downtown McKinney – History, Boutique Shopping & Unique Dining Options

Downtown McKinney features more than 100 retail shops in an historic setting. Browse through specialty shops, art galleries, furniture and antique stores, craft-oriented businesses, gift shops and apparel boutiques while taking in a variety of restaurant options. From home cooking and pub fare to tapas and fine dining, the historic downtown demonstrates why McKinney truly is unique by nature. In fact, all the restaurants on the downtown square are independently owned; you'll find no chain fare here! **972-547-2660**; www.downtownmckinney.com

McKinney Performing Arts Center (MPAC)

MPAC serves as the cornerstone of performing and visual arts in Historic Downtown McKinney. The beautifully restored Collin County Courthouse, built in 1875 and drastically remodeled in 1927, is a multi-purpose facility including a working artist studio and art gallery. The 425-seat historic courtroom maintains the original judge's bench, jury box and witness stand, stored behind the stage. The transformation of this building resulted in the reopening as MPAC in 2006. 111 N. Tennessee; **972-547-2650**; www.mckinneyp performingartscenter.org

Pecan Grove Cemetery

Situated on 57 acres granted by the Republic of Texas in 1845, Pecan Grove is the final resting place for many Texas pioneers including governors, gunslingers and soldiers. Veterans from the Texas Revolution, Mexican War, Civil War and every war since are interred here with the oldest grave dating back to 1854.

In a Category All Its Own

Adriatica of Stonebridge Ranch

Adriatica is a Croatian city-in-the-making, right in the heart of McKinney. Designed after the village of Supetar near the tip of the island of Brac in Croatia, Adriatica embraces the beauty and charm of this distinctly Mediterranean harbor town, with its stone streets, carvings, palm trees, and Croatian architecture. This uniquely-McKinney destination features retail, dining and office space as well as a wedding chapel, bell tower and numerous houses and apartments, both for rent and purchase. An event and concert venue called The Sanctuary at Adriatica is available for rent by the general public. The Guitar Sanctuary (located in the same building) also hosts concerts there. **972-540-0304**; www.adriaticamckinney.com

Nature**Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary**

The Heard brings nature and people together to discover, enjoy, and experience our environment. The sanctuary sits on 289 acres featuring four miles of hiking trails, two-acre native plant garden, live animals, indoor and outdoor exhibits, classrooms and laboratories. An animatronic dinosaur exhibit, "Dinosaurs Live!," visits the museum six months out of the year, opening each fall. **972-562-5566;**

www.heardmuseum.org

Lake Lavon

The Lavon Lake Dam is located on the East Fork of the Trinity River, approximately 20 miles East of McKinney. Lavon Lake is approximately 21,400 acres and is part of the Trinity Project in the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Approximately 1.6 million people visit Lavon Lake each year to enjoy camping, fishing, swimming, boating and much more.

972-442-3141; www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/lavon/

Myers Park & Event Center

Sitting on 165 acres of rolling hills, Myers Park features a primitive wooded camping area, a lake, plenty of open spaces, an indoor event arena, a pole barn and an indoor party facility called "The Landing." Myers Park regularly hosts dog agility trials, horse shows and livestock competitions with the occasional rodeo in the arena while weddings, family reunions, church parties and other celebrations occur in The Landing, amphitheater, and waterside gazebo. **972-548-4792; www.myersinfo.com**

Shopping – Flea Market Style!**Third Monday Trade Days**

One of the largest flea markets in North Texas, Third Monday Trade Days features more than 900 vendors selling everything from handmade crafts and clothing to antiques and animals (puppies, kittens, bunnies, fowl and even alpaca) to tools and transportation. Trade Days typically welcomes about 20,000 people each weekend it's open, the weekend before the third Monday of each month. Admission is free and parking is \$5 per car before 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Third Monday Trade Days is located on U.S. Highway 380 (W. University, two miles west of Central Expressway). 972-562-5466. **www.tmtd.com**

Spirits**Wineries**

Wine aficionados will love McKinney, with its wineries and wine bars on the Historic Downtown McKinney wineries, a wine bar in Adriatica or visiting Collin County's first winery/vineyard in a rural setting. McKinney produces some of the finest wines in Texas.

- **Landon Winery**, 101 N. Kentucky (downtown square); (972) 542-3030
- **Lone Star Wine Cellars**, 103 W. Virginia (downtown square); (972) 547-WINE (9463)
- **Wales Manor Winery & Vineyard**- 4488 CR 408 (east of Highway 5/north of U.S. 380); (972) 542-0417
- **Mitas Hill Vineyard & Winery** - 2300 Vineyard Hill Lane, (972) 316-7991
- **Zin Zen Wine Bar & Bistro** - 6841 W. Virginia Parkway (in Adriatica); (972) 547-4620

Beer, McKinney Style

Beer is also big in McKinney, where you can tour **Franconia Brewing Company**, a Bavarian-style brewery that hosts tours every Saturday starting at 11 a.m. Owner Dennis Wehrmann hails from a long line of Bavarian brewmeisters dating back to the 1800s. His facility is entirely environmentally friendly, with everything there recycled. www.franconiabrewing.com, (972) 542-0705.

A second brewery, **TUPPS**, opened on the grounds of the McKinney Cotton Mill in 2015. Tours are held each Saturday (11 a.m.-5 p.m.) with events taking place Saturday evening including things like paint nights, live music, bike rallies, pet adoption days, BBQ feasts and yoga, among others. The brewery is also open in the evenings Wednesday-Friday and for private functions. Tuppsbrewery.com; 214-856-7996.

*Sports***Disc Golf**

The City of McKinney offers disc golf on two courses constructed and maintained by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. The smaller course, the Alex Clark Disc Golf Course, is adjacent to the Al Ruschhaupt Soccer Complex at Park View and Central Expressway, featuring 18 holes on 18 acres. The course is named for high school student and avid disc golfer Alex Clark who was killed in an auto accident his senior year (2000). The course features a sculpture designed on his love for the idea of "Paying It Forward." The larger course, new in 2009, is located just south of the Towne Lake Park Softball Complex and features pro-am holes and tees. A more complicated course, it is comprised of 18 holes on 47 acres. Information about these courses can be obtained by calling the City of McKinney Athletic Director Rick Lung at **972-547-2686**.

Michael Johnson Performance Center

The Michael Johnson Performance Center is a 24,000-square-foot indoor training facility that includes the Nautilus Strength Training Center; a four-lane, 60-yard indoor track; a basketball court; synthetic turf field; Peak Physical Therapy Clinic; and 400-meter track/football field. Bearing the name of its owner, the multiple Olympic track gold medalist, the Michael Johnson Performance Center attracts both youth and professional athletes to train in its state-of-the-art facilities. **469-424-6572**;

www.michaeljohnsonperformance.com

Tournament Players Club (TPC) at Craig Ranch

Designed by PGA TOUR Legend and world renowned golf course designer Tom Weiskopf, the private course stretches to 7,438 yards from the PGA TOUR tees and plays to a par 71 (all other sets of tees are par 72). In 2007, the Dallas Morning News ranked the TPC Craig Ranch as the 13th Best Golf Course in Texas. In November 2008, the TPC hosted the week-long Nationwide Tour, and will host the same tournament, now named the Web.com Tour, in late October 2012. **972-747-9005**;

www.tpcatcraigranch.com

Annual Events

Home for the Holidays: A McKinney Christmas

For over 25 years, downtown McKinney has hosted an annual Christmas season event featuring the city's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Historic downtown channels holidays of the past to create an old fashioned atmosphere with horse drawn carriages, strolling carolers, visits with St. Nick and activities for all ages. (Previously named Dickens of a Christmas; name change took place in 2013 to update the event). **972-547-2660; www.downtownmckinney.com**

Flamefest Soccer Tournament

Hundreds of youth soccer teams converge on McKinney's soccer complexes for a weekend regional tournament in June featuring top youth players. **www.flamefestsoccer.org**

Killis Melton Homemade Ice Cream Crank Off

The flavors and competition have gotten fierce and exotic at this event held annually in June to provide a kick-off to the summer season in McKinney. Featuring flavors from jalapeño to Frito and a wide range of fruit or chocolate-inspired choices, the crank off has been highlighted on the Food Network. This event is held at Chestnut Square Historic Village which also happens to be the home of the Doc Watson's & Clyde's Ice Cream Freezer Museum, a collection of roughly 300 ice cream freezers dating back to the early 1900s. **972-562-8790; www.chestnutsquare.org**

Krewe of Barkus Mardi Gras Dog Parade

Hundreds of dogs and their owners dress in costumes based on the year's theme (i.e. Rock n Roll, Hollywood Hounds, Classic TV) for a parade through the historic downtown area to kick off Mardi Gras. The event starts at Mitchell Park just west of the downtown square. **972-529-6872; www.artinstituteofmckinney.com**

Oktoberfest

Held the last weekend in September, McKinney's Oktoberfest features plenty of German beer, authentic music, dance, clothing and food. Started by a family in McKinney several years ago, the celebration grew too large for their home and yard, so in 2008, the family partnered with the City of McKinney to move the festival to the historic downtown square. In its first year, the festival drew 25,000 people for the one-day event. In 2017, the festival, now three days, drew more than 50,000 attendees to the downtown square. **972-547-2660; www.downtownmckinney.com**

Red White & BOOM

The city of McKinney's Parks & Recreation Department hosts a day-long celebration of the 4th of July with a parade, car show, concerts, a veteran's salute, and a large fireworks show. **972-547-7480; www.mckinneytexas.org**

Second Saturday on the Square

Every Second Saturday of the month, the downtown square welcomes live music to some of its restaurants and art galleries while some of the stores stay open late for extended shopping hours. In warmer months, some of the music groups will set up outside while shops have been known to have potters and other artists set up on the sidewalk to demonstrate their talents. Art galleries will often use Second Saturday as a time to launch a new exhibit, invite guest artists in to exhibit their work or have receptions complete with hors d'oeuvres and wine. **972-547-2660;**

www.downtownmckinney.com