



LIFE... WITH A TOUCH OF GOLD

GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION

CENTENNIAL

COMMUNITY

MEXICAN FIESTA

THEN, NOW, & SIEMPRE



1926



2026



SEPTEMBER 11, 12, & 13, 2026

WELCOME

FOR 100 YEARS, the Garden City Community Mexican Fiesta has welcomed generations of Kansans. The 2026 Centennial: “Now, Then & Siempre (Always) 1926-2026,” honors the enduring contributions of Latino families to Garden City, southwest Kansas and the story of our state while looking ahead to the next generation.

For a century, the Fiesta has reflected the heart of Garden City. It honors generations of Latino families whose perseverance and deep roots in the community have helped shape southwest Kansas. This year’s Centennial welcomes residents, former residents and visitors to celebrate that shared history and carry the tradition forward.

The milestone has also received statewide recognition. Kansas Governor Laura Kelly has proclaimed Sept. 12, 2026, as “The 100th Anniversary of the Garden City Community Mexican Fiesta,” in Kansas, recognizing the Fiesta’s century-long contribution to the community’s cultural heritage and the economic and social growth of Garden City.

“This Centennial belongs to every family that carried this tradition forward over the past 100 years and to the young people who will carry it into the next 100,” said Angelica Castillo Chappel, president of the Garden City Community Mexican Fiesta Association. “Fiesta is about celebrating our culture and community while investing in education and the generations who will follow us. We hope people from across Kansas will join us in Garden City for this historic celebration.”

This year’s Centennial expands the traditional two-day Fiesta into a three-day celebration, Sept. 11-13, with the Miss Garden City Fiesta Scholarship Queen Pageant, Main Street parade, folklorico dance, live music, authentic food, community traditions and activities celebrating Latino culture.



HISTORY

As far as we can tell, "La Fiesta" came to being in 1926. An article from the Garden City newspaper dated September 1926 stated "...at about 10 am, a procession of cars loaded with Mexican people and decorated in the national colors of Mexican and of the United States passed up Seventh Street..." to commemorate Mexico's Independence from Spain. A number of people came from Lamar, Granada and Holly, Colorado; they also came from Syracuse, Lakin, Cimarron and Dodge City, Kansas. During that time, there were two different groups, the Honorary Mexican Commission and the Mutual Society of Benito Juarez, that each celebrated the Mexican Fiesta in their own manner.

The first Fiesta Queen, Dolores Avila, was introduced in 1929 and it was believed that the two-day event began at that time. Some of the activities progressed and included the raising of the American and Mexican flags in "la colonia Mexicana", the parade, the crowning of the queen, folkloric dancing, ball games and rifas (raffles). In 1968, the Fiesta Committee started to set aside some of its funds for scholarships for Mexican-American students. The first recipients were Albert Bribiesca and Elaine Munoz.

The early Fiesta Committees went through some rough times in gaining acceptance of an annual Fiesta celebration; but a determined people with pride and respect in themselves kept "el espiritu de la Fiesta viva en cada uno de nosotros." Although it began as two different celebrations, the ideals each group pursued were basically the same and from these ideals became a community celebration for all to enjoy and share in the rich and proud culture of the Mexican people.

The annual Community Mexican Fiesta celebration is the result of a dedicated group of individuals called the Garden City Community Mexican Fiesta Association who, with the help of many people, businesses and foundations in and around this community, tiene el orgullo de llamarnos "Mexicanos", and we proudly present this annual celebration to our community.



22ND ANNUAL MISS GARDEN CITY FIESTA PAGEANT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

KCB BANK AUDITORIUM,
GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Centennial weekend begins at 7 p.m. at Garden City Community College's Pauline Joyce Auditorium with the Miss Garden City Fiesta Scholarship Queen Pageant, now celebrating its 22nd year. A new Fiesta Queen will be crowned during the evening.

More than a cherished tradition, the pageant is an important fundraiser supporting educational opportunities for local students, including students who may be the first in their families to pursue post-secondary or technical education. The Fiesta's scholarship endowment provides financial assistance to students while helping develop the next generation of community leaders.

MISS GARDEN CITY FIESTA PAGEANT BRANDING ARTWORK BY MISS GARDEN CITY FIESTA SOPHIA HERNANDEZ

This design is a contemporary collage, a style that uses different images and graphic elements to tell a story rather than relying on a single photo. Every piece was intentionally chosen to represent an important part of the Miss Garden City Fiesta Scholarship Pageant and the legacy it celebrates.

The crown is the main focus of the design and is being presented in an open hand to symbolize the opportunity being offered to the next Miss Garden City Fiesta. The stack of books represents the scholarship aspect of the program, while the Garden City water tower represents the community contestants serve. The folklórico dancer celebrates the culture and traditions of Fiesta, and the historic queen and vintage Fiesta poster recognize the women and history that came before us. Even the red floral background and gold accents were chosen to bring in traditional Mexican-inspired design elements while giving the piece a fresh, modern feel.

My goal was to create something that tells a story instead of simply advertising a pageant. The design represents the idea that becoming Miss Garden City Fiesta is about much more than wearing a crown.

It's about scholarship, leadership, service, culture, community, and becoming part of a tradition that has connected generations of young women for nearly 100 years.



GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION
CENTENNIAL MEXICAN FIESTA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12



The Centennial Celebration continues Saturday with the colorful Main Street parade beginning at 10 a.m. featuring music, folklorico dancers, floats and community pride. This year's Parade Marshal is Angelica Castillo Chappel, who has served on the Fiesta board for 24 years, including the past 15 years as president.

Immediately following the parade, the celebration moves to Stevens Park in downtown Garden City for live entertainment, food and cultural activities. The traditional grito – a spirited cry of celebration and patriotism – will be led by representatives of the Mexican Consulate in Kansas City, MO, including Consul Cesar A Quezada Sánchez.

The day's entertainment will include Garden City's own Folkloric Sol De Mexico, led by Estela Gutierrez, along with live musical performances and food vendors offering cuisine from Mexico and Central America. Scheduled performances include Chemita y Los Chago Boys, The Ortiz Night Shift Band, Son Lagunero, Mariachi Santa Ana of New Mexico, Benito Dominguez and other local talent.

For the first time, the Saturday celebration will extend into the evening with a dance from 7 to 10 p.m. featuring Los Terribles Del Norte from San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

MONICA RUBIO
MISS 2020 GC FIESTA

MEXICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

LUPITA SÁNCHEZ

EMCEES  ideatek

BENITO DOMINGUEZ
SALVADOR CASTILLO
JESSE VARGAS

PARADE MARSHALL

ANGELICA
CASTILLO-CHAPPEL





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CENTENNIAL MEXICAN FIESTA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

PIONEER COMMUNICATIONS

DESFILE/PARADE.....10AM

DOWNTOWN MAIN ST

GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION

CENTENNIAL MEXICAN FIESTA11AM

STEVENS PARK

BAILE/EVENING DANCE7PM

STEVENS PARK

VENDORS • COMIDA • LIVE MUSIC

MARIACHI SANTA ANA



FOLKLORICO SOL DE MEXICO



THE ORTIZ -NIGHT SHIFT- BAND





LOVE WITH A TOUCH OF GOLD

GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION

CENTENNIAL MEXICAN FIESTA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The Centennial weekend continues Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with live entertainment with the Diamond Dig presented by Riddle's Jewelry at 3 p.m. Musical performances will include Chemita y Los Chago Boys, The Ortiz Night Shift Band, Son Lagunero and Los Terribles del Norte.

GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION

CENTENNIAL MEXICAN FIESTA 11AM
STEVENS PARK

RIDDLE'S JEWELRY

DIAMOND DIG 3PM
STEVENS PARK

VENDORS • COMIDA • LIVE MUSIC



RIDDLE'S
JEWELRY
Diamond Dig



11 LUCKY QUALIFIERS WILL GET A CHANCE TO DIG (LITERALLY) FOR DIAMONDS!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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HECO HEATING COOLING & PLUMBING

ABBY FRANCO - CROCKETT & CO REAL ESTATE

ALA TRANSLATION - ANALILY CARAVEO-ARAIZA

NEW IMAGE REALTY - LORENA MONTOYA & OLGA ROMO - REALTORS



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PAGEANT CROWNS SPONSOR

**ALA TRANSLATION & MORE
ANALILY CARAVEO ARAIZA**



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GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

MEXICAN FIESTA THEN, NOW, & SIEMPRE

The Community Mexican Fiesta is a public non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission to celebrate Mexico's Independence from Spanish rule, to promote cultural awareness in our community, and to provide financial assistance to students hoping to attend Garden City Community College by expanding its Endowment Scholarship Fund.

SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT MISS GARDEN CITY FIESTA

Sofia Terrazas
Miss GC Fiesta 2025

Monica Aguilar Rubio
Miss GC Fiesta 2020

Sophia Hernandez
Miss GC Fiesta 2014

Adriana Mendoza
Miss GC Fiesta 2021

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Compañeros Mix

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

GCHS JROTC

CITY OF GARDEN CITY

GC DOWNTOWN VISION

REAL MEN REAL LEADERS

FINNEY COUNTY MUSEUM

GC AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GARCIA GROUP (MONIQUE GARCIA)



**Kansas Health
Foundation**

