



COMMUNITY MEXICAN FIESTA
ASSOCIATION OF GARDEN CITY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Angelica Castillo Chappel
President

Jesse Nuñez
Vice-President

Jeremy Haden
Treasurer

Terbina Nuñez
Secretary

100th Anniversary

Members at Large

AnaLily Araiza-Caraveo
Robin Bergkamp
Diann Claussen-Gonzalez
Robert Gonzalez
Edna Garcia
Roxanne Lansink
Lorena Mendoza

Entertainment

Salvador Castillo Chair
Jim Randall Co-Chair
Hector Sanchez
Compañeros Mix

Scholarship Pageant

Miss Garden City Fiesta

Sophia Jimenez-Hernandez
2026 Pageant Director

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

***Garden City Community Mexican Fiesta Celebrates 100 Years of Culture, Community & Tradition
Centennial Celebration Sept. 11-13 honors a century of Latino heritage while investing in the next generation***

GARDEN CITY, KAN., (August 31, 2026) – 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.

Friday, Sept. 11 – Scholarship Pageant

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.

Saturday, Sept. 12 – Centennial Parade and Fiesta

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 -

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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.

Sunday, Sept. 13 – Centennial Celebration Continues

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

Community Support Makes the Centennial Possible

The Garden City Community Mexican Fiesta Association extends a heartfelt "gracias" to the businesses, organizations and community members whose support has made the Centennial a reality!

This year's *Centennial Fiesta is presented to you by Golden Plains Credit Union* followed by *Marketing Partner the Kansas Health Foundation*, our *Stage Sponsor Baron's Steakhouse and Blue Sky Restaurants*, *Parade Sponsor Pioneer Communications*, *Car show Sponsor Legacy Auto Center*, *Scholarship Sponsor Security State Bank and Garden City Community College*, *Mariachi Sponsor Lewis Automotive*, *Emcee's Sponsor Ideatek*. Our *Maraca Sponsors include: United Wireless, That Juan Light Guy, Finney County Convention & Visitor's Bureau*, *Chipotle Sponsors include Ackerman Drees & Trejo, DFA, Empirical, Iron Insurance Partners, McDonald's, Telemundo, Triple Oak Power, El Zarape Mexican Food and Restaurant, WKBC – LaKeBuena 105.9, Wharton's Flowers and BVarion*. *Nopal Sponsors include: WalkOn's, Casco Homes Inc., Common Spirit, Morris Laing Law Firm, and The Refinery*. *Sombrero Sponsors include Fry Eye Associates Inc, Randall Beef LLC, Varela Auto Body LLC, Bob Lewis, El Remedio, La Chiquita, HECO, Screen Printing & Specialties, Town Place Suites, ALA Servicios (AnaLily Caraveo), Robson Funeral Home, Wind River LLC, Peach Wave, New Image Realty – Lorena Montoya & Olga Romo, Realtors; Millennial Marketing Agency, Abby Franco, Crocket & Co., SW Kansas Agency for Aging, Carniceria Garcia, Botas Chihuahua. Diamond Dig Sponsors include Main Street Food & Brewhall, AAA Pawn Shop & Armory, Tommy's Market, Equipment Share, Tequilas, Tortilleria Los Potrillos, WalkOns, Colleen's Trophies, Klaus Wood Pellets, UPumpIt, Flourish Herbals & Aroma Therapy, WKBC Q97/ LaKeBuena 105.9 & Palace Computer Center.*

A special thank you to the City of Garden City, Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce, Garden City Downtown Vision and Garcia Group LLC (Monique Garcia).

For a full schedule of events, visit website page www.gcfiesta.com

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