



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Muskogee Blossoms during the April Azalea Festival**

The entire Muskogee community “blossoms” during the Azalea festival! Join in the celebration of the beautiful flowers in bloom with a wide variety of activities for you to enjoy in between your shopping adventures. Visit the all new [www.muskogeechamber.org](http://www.muskogeechamber.org) and click on the Community Calendar of Events button for a link to a complete list of April festivities with contact information for each event.

Enjoy Muskogee’s colorful display of Azaleas as we celebrate the Azalea Festival the whole month of April. Every year, Muskogee’s Azalea Festival attracts over 300,000 visitors to Honor Heights Park, one of the oldest and most celebrated public parks in the southwest. The 122 acre park features spectacular color throughout 40 acres of beautifully manicured gardens, highlighting over 30,000 azaleas as they flourish in 625 varieties. Roses, tulips, other flowers and perfectly manicured landscaping compliment the azaleas – an unforgettable impression to last a lifetime and a perfect backdrop for family photos!

While you’re in Muskogee explore Muskogee’s exceptional museums this month. Stroll through the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in April for the Art Under the Oaks Exhibit of basketry, beading, cabin crafts, knapping, textiles, and more. Tour the U.S.S. Batfish Submarine War Memorial Park, featuring a submarine launched in 1943 and one of the most highly decorated submarines in World War II. Visit the Three Rivers Museum for history on the Muskogee area and an outdoor exhibit of an antique 1940’s switch engine. Another highlight of the festival is the Three Rivers Museum Historic Downtown Trolley Tour on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Walk through the Thomas-Foreman Historic Home and learn about the five fascinating people that lived there. Enjoy the Ataloo Lodge Museum which presents collections of traditional and contemporary Native American art. And finally the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and Museum is a celebration of musicians that have contributed to Oklahoma’s rich musical heritage.

Inductees include Merle Haggard, Toby Keith, Vince Gill, Brooks and Dunn, and Carrie Underwood, just to name a few.

Muskogee Little Theatre presents "The Girl in the Frame" from April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. In this fast paced musical comedy, a tricky situation turns comical when a tuxedo clad Adonis, a hunky fireman and the perfect girl next door help a young couple bring their fantasies to life.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> bring your lawn chairs and guitars and tap your toes to some down home Bluegrass on the Square on the lawn of the Muskogee Civic Center. Then head over to the Muskogee Songfest to hear the finalists of the Muskogee Songwriting Contest perform their entries at the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

On April 11th - 18th the Muskogee Art Guild will host their Sixth Annual Judged Fine Art Show and Sale at Arrowhead Mall, 501 N Main. Drawing artist from across the state, the Muskogee Art Guild's show is becoming one of the premier fine arts shows in Green Country featuring oil, acrylic, watercolor, drawings, mixed media, photography and sculpture.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Muskogee Farmers' Market will celebrate opening day, featuring Oklahoma-grown fresh produce, plants, herbs, flowers and bakery goods. The Farmers' Market will then be open on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

The pinnacle of the Azalea Festival is on April 18<sup>th</sup> with a parade through Downtown Muskogee and then the Muskogee Exchange Club's Annual Chili & Barbeque Cook-Off outside the Muskogee Civic Center, tantalizing taste buds with chili, brisket, baked beans, and ribs!

The Muskogee Area Quilter's Annual Quilt Show runs April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Muskogee welcomes filmmakers, directors, producers, writers, actors and entertainers from all over the United State and abroad for the Bare Bones International Film Festival April 16<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>. Dubbed a little bit of Sundance with a sunny disposition, Bare Bones is the friendliest film festival in the west. Independent film productions, including features, shorts, animation, horror, drama, comedy, documentary, music videos, movie trailers and more will be playing a various locations in the City.

For the sports enthusiasts, Honor Heights Park will host the Service League of Muskogee's Flower Power Run for a one mile run and a five kilometer run on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and then a Flower Power Bike Ride for the 100 mile and 68 mile routes on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Outlaw Motor Speedway features car racing April 3rd with an April Fools 100 lap Enduro Race. On April 10th an Easter Egg Extravaganza Egg Hunt and Modified Gambler, plus watch the Human Cannon Ball shoot himself across the track! On April 17th the Azalea Nationals with the OCRS Sprints and Go Kart Show. And on April 24th the Late Model Spring Nationals MARS and DRL Late Models! The Big Boys return with the big bad Late Models featuring national names.

Planning ahead for May? Make sure you visit the Renaissance Festival at the Castle of Muskogee each weekend in May. Step back in time to days of old with King Henry VIII, Queen Margaret of Scotland, the Royal Court, jousters, jesters, jugglers, magicians, musicians and minstrels. Delight your taste buds with the wonderful and unique foods of the day. Browse through the more than 80 handcrafted booths with one-of-a kind items.

*The Greater Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is the unified voice of business dedicated to building and promoting a better business and community environment. For more information, please call 918-682-2401 or visit [www.muskogeechamber.org](http://www.muskogeechamber.org).*

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