



NEWS RELEASE

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Annual Community Picnic strengthens local traditions

PROSPER (August 21, 2019) While Prosper's population continues its steady climb upward, cherished traditions such as the annual Community Picnic remain solidly in the hearts of residents. This year, the ever-expanding Prosper Community Picnic is set for Saturday, Sept. 7 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Frontier Park.

In fact, the population growth is among the reasons the free event has become so popular. Meeting and making new friends, enjoying free food, taking advantage of fun attractions, and having a chance to speak with elected officials, firefighters and police officers are among the things that make the event special to both new and established residents.

Like in previous years, the picnic also presents a way for residents to express their support of nonprofit organizations, as well as a chance to demonstrate their generosity. The annual event is again supporting the "Hunger is No Picnic" and the new "September Santa" campaigns by asking attendees to bring canned goods for the food pantry and a gift for underprivileged youngsters in the community.

The "Hunger is No Picnic" Food Drive is an annual competition to stock the shelves of Bethlehem Place, Prosper's only food pantry. Elementary schools in the Prosper ISD compete to bring in the most canned items during the picnic. The winning school takes the traveling trophy for a year and is treated to a special presentation from the Town. Parents are asked to encourage students to participate in the food drive at their school and consider bringing canned goods to the picnic.

Meanwhile, Cornerstone Assistance Network NCT is inaugurating the "September Santa" gift drive to benefit local kids at Christmastime. Unwrapped gifts or toys for children from infants to 18 years of age are being accepted. The gifts should be between \$15 and \$40 in value.

Prosper's Director of Parks and Recreation Dudley Raymond says that traditions like the Community Picnic are an important part of what makes Prosper exceptional.

"The Prosper Community Picnic is one of the Town's signature events and it is a truly unique initiative," he said. "Families come to the park to enjoy a day of tradition and fun, and also to learn about and support Prosper's nonprofit organizations and community partners that serve the Town so well throughout the year."

Keeping in tradition, Mayor Ray Smith and members of the Town Council will be featured servers of hot dogs provided and grilled by members of Lighthouse Christian Fellowship. Members of Prosper United Methodist Church will provide and serve drinks, and dessert will be furnished and served by the Prosper Ladies Association.

The family friendly event hosts many attractions for kids, including pony rides, petting zoo, face painting, bounce houses and inflatable obstacle courses, slides, football and basketball games. More information about the Prosper Community Picnic can be obtained by contacting Parks and Recreation at 972-569-1160 or by visiting the Prosper Parks and Recreation Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ProsperParksandRec/>.

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ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 25,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 70,000 residents, Prosper's vision is to remain a "Place Where Everyone Matters."