



City of Murphy  
206 N. Murphy Rd.  
Murphy, TX 75094  
(972) 468- 4000  
[www.murphytx.org](http://www.murphytx.org)

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Celso Martinez 972-623-8836

August 26, 2014

## Local talent search returns to Murphy Maize Days *Karaoke Corn Idol contest expands age categories*

MURPHY (August 26, 2014) The search for talent in the Murphy community continues as the Murphy Maize Days celebration, set for Saturday, Sept. 27, brings back the Karaoke Corn Idol contest for another run, according to Recreation Specialist Kayla McFarland.

“The contest is a fun way for anyone with a burning desire to show off their talents in front of friends and family to do so,” she said. “And, who knows, there might even be a prize in it for them.”

The Karaoke Corn Idol contest is held at the Community Stage at Murphy Maize Days, which runs from 10 a.m. until 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the City of Murphy Municipal Complex, 206 North Murphy Road.

“The Corn Idol competition is one of the Maize Days most popular attractions,” she added. “Some people show an extraordinary amount of talent, and others are there for the sheer fun of performing in front of a friendly crowd.” Entry into the contest is free, but requires registration. While registration will be available at 10 a.m. on the day or the event, prior registration online is highly encouraged. Minors must have parental or guardian permission.

As before, Rob Hunter of Ballard Street Music will serve as a very capable and entertaining Master of Ceremonies for the Community Stage. The company is also the Stage’s main sponsor. The Community Stage will operate from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New this year are more evenly distributed age groupings for the competition. For example, kids under age 9 will compete only against each other. Competitors between the ages of 10 and 13 will face off against each other, and participants 14 to 18 will have their own competitive category as well. Contestants 19 and above will be placed in their own class.

Each of the four categories will produce a first, second and third place winner, and there will be one overall winner from among all contestants. Judges will evaluate each contestant in three critical areas: pitch; rhythm and timing; and projection and vocal dynamics.

Registration can be accomplished at [www.murphymaizedays.com](http://www.murphymaizedays.com) and is a prerequisite to participate. In the registration form, contestants must provide the names of two or three popular tunes which they plan to sing.

Additionally, talent for the Community Stage is being sought to play before and after the Corn Idol contest. Send an e-mail to [murphymaizedays@murphytx.org](mailto:murphymaizedays@murphytx.org) to get on the entertainment schedule.

“People always congregate at the Community Stage when the Corn Idol contest gets close to the finals,” said McFarland. “It’s a fun way to compete, win prizes and provide some homegrown entertainment.”

Murphy Maize Days will be held rain or shine. In addition to the Community Stage, the Main Stage will provide top-tier entertainment. There will be food booths, vendor areas, crafts, a Kid Zone, and other rides and attractions available. The event is free, however some items are available for purchase. A fireworks display will conclude the day’s events. Free parking and shuttles are provided from Tom Kimbrough Stadium and Murphy Marketplace.

###

**ABOUT MURPHY** -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. The centrally-located municipal complex includes four buildings that house Fire, Police, City Administration and Public Works. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.