

FESTIVAL DATES:  
MARCH 10-16, 2008



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# Family, food and fun all rolled up into one

By Amy Moore

NEDERLAND — Award winning chili, gumbo and don't forget about the strawberry shortcake — You'll find all this and much more at the Nederland Heritage Festival.

An event to celebrate the city's birthday, the Heritage Festival will celebrate its 35th year in 2008.

"This festival is one of the biggest, brightest, most fun events of the year," Wanda Hollier, manager for the festival, said. "It's a great family fun event."

With free parking and admission, the annual, week-long event features many of the same festival favorites from years past and a few new shows to keep the crowds entertained.

Local school choirs, dance teams and musicians put their talents on display with concerts during the festival. But rides that thrill and chill to the bone will bring the most enjoyment to the kids.

More than anything, Hollier wants festival revelers to simply "take a break."

"The theme this year is 'Spring Break 2008 - Take a Break with Us!'" Hollier said. "The carnival starts March 10 but there are several events leading up to the festival."

The festival is held on the historic

Boston Avenue near the Tex Ritter Museum and kicks off with a mixer to announce the theme and the winner of the Mr. Nederland award — given to someone who volunteers and makes a positive difference in the city.

Other events include a chili cook-off, motorcycle and car show, craft market, washer tournament, fun run and country music festival.

The festival will also crown a Miss Nederland at the annual pageant. The toddler through high school age winners from that event will be seen in the Nederland Heritage Festival parade that will travel through the downtown area.

With food, fun, rides and friendly competitions, Hollier said the Nederland Heritage Festival has something for everyone, local or out-of-town visitors.

Not only does the festival bring entertainment for all, but puts the proceeds from the festival right back into the community. The profits generated become part of the Nederland Heritage Festival Foundation which in turn uses the profits to benefit citizens. Each year the foundation donates money to the police and fire departments, the city parks, city library and other entities that benefit the people of Nederland.

