



300 Country Club Road,  
Wylie, Texas 75098  
Collin County  
[www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov)

**City of Wylie**  
**Public Information Office**  

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**PRESS RELEASE**

Media Contact: Craig Kelly, Public Information Officer  
Ph: 972-516-6016  
[craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov](mailto:craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov)

## **Bluegrass on Ballard Returns July 5**

**Wylie, TX, June 11, 2014** – The Wylie Downtown Merchants Association and the City of Wylie present the second annual Bluegrass on Ballard in historic downtown Wylie. This year’s festival, slated for Saturday, July 5, promises to be even bigger and better than last year’s, which brought thousands of citizens and visitors from throughout the state.

The free event begins at 10 a.m. with arts and crafts in Olde City Park, sponsored by the City of Wylie Public Arts Board, and the American Legion’s Chili Cook-Off. Dallas Mopar Club’s 125-vehicle car show goes from 4 to 9 p.m., and North Texas Equestrian Center presents pony rides for the kids from 5 to 8 p.m.

### **Live on stage**

Music is the star of the event, and this year’s lineup includes Grammy-winner Brad Davis (performing with Texas & Tennessee), Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass, Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Bluegrass Band, Purple Hulls, Phil Ferguson & Texas True, and Nickelville Road.

Davis has performed with such legends as Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Earl Scruggs, Emmylou Harris, Dwight Yoakam, Travis Tritt, Merle Haggard and Johnny Cash. His original songs have been recorded by Tim McGraw, Jo-El Sonnier, Tony Trischka and others. Known for his “double-down-up guitar technique,” his hit “Never Give the Devil a Ride” and his 2013 “Walk on Faith” bluegrass gospel project have drawn attention from a variety of musical genres.

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Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass play “powerful, unadorned and intense traditional bluegrass.” Their combination of instrumentation and voices conveys the energy and emotion of classic bluegrass and country music, and Paisley’s lead vocals combine a powerful range and soulful blues.

Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Bluegrass Band performs Beatles classics, but with a bluegrass spin. This fab four features Reggie Rueffer on fiddle, Bach Norwood on upright bass, Gerald Jones on banjo and Dave Walser, founder, on guitar. Expect to hear “Back in the U.S.S.R.,” “Come Together,” “Blackbird” and many other favorites. Band members say that, like the Beatles, they use a bit of experimentation with their instruments, making sounds not normally heard, to create a “pleasing sound with a lot of fun surprises along the way.”

Purple Hulls – made up of brother Ben and twin sisters Penny and Katy – are well acquainted with the music business and life on stage. “Banjo Ben,” who has worked with Taylor Swift, and his sisters perform “authentic, acoustic-driven country music.”

Native Texan Philip Ferguson has been writing songs for 35 years. His work combines country, bluegrass and Americana, and he recently formed Texas True with his wife June, who plays bass and sings harmonies. Roddy Fuller on banjo and Justin Thompson on fiddle and mandolin round out the ensemble.

Local favorite Nickelville Road combines tight vocals and “amazing string work” and has been called the result of “Blue Highway crossing the Lonesome River Band.” Though the group has been influenced by the early days of bluegrass when Bill Monroe and Jimmy Martin were in their heyday, they are equally at home with modern bluegrass sounds. Fiddler Hailey Sandoz is the newest band member and popular with local audiences. A native Texan

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with Celtic and Cajun roots, she combines country and western, bluegrass and Texas swing.

Bluegrass on Ballard is the updated July Jubilee street dance, an event that celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary last summer. For more information about Bluegrass on Ballard, visit [www.wylietexas.gov/bluegrass](http://www.wylietexas.gov/bluegrass) or call 972-516-6016.

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About Wylie -- Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 44,158) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the State of Texas with a 192% increase since 2000.