

# Why this Year's Texas Tow Show is 'Da Bomb



By George L. Nitti

As the towing community descends upon Grapevine, Tx on August 16 - 19 for American Towman's extravaganza, Tow Expo Dallas/Ft. Worth, a great summer break awaits you, your family, and friends. Here's why.

## The Main Attraction – The Tow Expo

The main attraction, the reason why you are coming, are the many activities happening at this year's tow show. What we have planned is what American Towman has always excelled at: a packed exhibition hall brimming with vendors, first-rate conference seminars and educational workshops, an unparalleled recovery show that will have you "oohing" and "ahhing," a Wrecker Pageant that may inspire your next wrap or custom paint job, and lots of other fun stuff that has been a hallmark of any AT event, like the Big Smoke, Casino Games and more.

Perhaps, too, there will be a bit of serendipity and comradery, as there was last year, when towers came out to Grapevine's Eulesless Towing and Recovery for a Spirit Ride event that included 75 to 100 tow trucks.

Eulesless owner Debi Chesney said, "We had pizza and they all parked out at our lot. It was fun."

## The Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center

Many coming to Grapevine will stay at The Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center. A fun and popular destination, the hotel offers a one-of-a-kind retreat with luxurious accommodations, first-class restaurants, eclectic shops and 4.5 acres of lush indoor gardens and winding waterways.

Within the resort complex, you won't miss The Riverwalk Market District, where "Old World Mexico meets modern Tex-Mex for a delicious dining experience. Riverwalk Cantina captures the charm of the San Antonio River walk in an open-air café setting featuring a delightful Koi stocked waterway, festive architecture, and colorful vegetation.

Tommy Anderson, who runs the Southwest Tow Operators Association, said, "Gaylord is a waterpark themed resort. You think you are standing outside, but are actually covered by a dome, which is climate controlled. Once you come to the show, you may realize that you don't have to experience anything else. It's all right here for you."



Since water and summer meld in Texas's hot summer weather, which may rise well over 100 degrees in August, many take advantage of the waterparks, especially the kids, who will insist upon it.

At the resort, Paradise Springs Aquatic Park is a major attraction. A western themed, 10-acre resort pool and lazy river complex, it includes three winding waterslides, 6,000-square-foot family lagoon with a 27-foot waterslide, and a state of the art water play structure.

Across the highway, 5 minutes away, is Great Wolf Lodge and Water Park, which offers many more options for water activities, family fun and entertainment.

But there is so much more beyond the resort and convention center that Grapevine offers. Chesney said, "Everything is compact and nothing is really far. It's easy to get to any of these places by shuttle." Historic Downtown



In fact, only 5 minutes from the Gaylord Convention Center and Resort is historic downtown Grapevine, with attractions that include quaint little shops, plenty of restaurants, and local history.

Anderson said, "In downtown there are a lot of nice restaurants. You are not shopping at Macy's. It's very mom and pop and the wives like that. They even have a couple of local craft breweries."

While in town, you may consider taking a wine tour, as you discover the name "Grapevine" springs from the dozen or so wineries that are in the area. A 4-hour tour will take you to 3 wineries and include lunch or dinner options.

For local history, Grapevine's railroad legacy is on display, a 1,000 square-foot working model railroad that will "wow young minds and curious older minds alike," showcasing the impact the railroad has had on the development of the city while giving kids hands on activities.

The city of Grapevine has Fireworks every Friday Night and from the Gaylord Resort you can go onto their upper deck parking lot to watch them.

Other favorite downtown attractions include the Farmer's Market, Botanical Gardens and just further out, The Sea Life Aquarium at Great Mills Mall. Beyond Grapevine

If you decide to go further out, there is so much more to explore, including the towns of South Lake and Roanoke. Chesney said, "You can go 15 minutes and be in the little town of Roanoke, where they are building a Piedmont Hotel. It's a real country place."

Dead center between Grapevine are the cities of Ft. Worth and Dallas, only 15 miles in either direction.

At this point in your travels, if you are without a car, you might consider using UBER to whisk you around.

Chesney said, "It's fast and cheap plus they know their way around. There is a lot of road construction and toll ways you would have to otherwise navigate."

Going to Ft. Worth, one highly regarded destination is the Ft. Worth Stockyards, which is approximately a 35 minute car ride from the Gaylord Resort. Better yet, take the Grapevine Vintage Railroad, which travels along the historic Cotton Belt Route from Grapevine to the Stockyards.

Anderson said, "At the Stockyards, every day they run the bulls, rounding them up around 3 o'clock," while Chesney added, "There's steak houses, museums, and dancing. It's a real country experience."

Whether you wear your country boots and cowboy hat or come in plain clothes to the Lone Star State, whatever you decide to do during your summer break at Tow Expo – Dallas/Ft.Worth, know that there are many options for all of your tastes.

Places to consider:

- Grapevine, TX The Vineyards Campground and RV Park is right by the Gaylord 4 minutes
- Grapevine, TX Gaylord has Shopping, Restaurants, Spas and the Paradise Springs Aquatic Park use their Shuttle 2 minutes
- Grapevine, TX Great Wolf Lodge & Water Park across the hwy from Gaylord Texan Hotel 5 minutes
- Grapevine, TX Downtown Historic Shopping, Wineries, Restaurants etc... Shuttle from Gaylord 7 Minutes
- Grapevine, TX Sealife Aquarium in Grapevine Mills Mall 8 Minutes
- Grapevine, TX LEGO LAND in Grapevine Mills Mall 8 Minutes
- Southlake, TX Southlake Town Square UPSCALE Shopping, Restaurants and Movie Theater 12 minutes
- Eules, TX Glade Parks NEW lots of Shopping Center and DAVE and BUSTERS, Movie Theater, Nail Salons 15 minutes.
- Roanoke, TX Historic Downtown Shopping and Restaurants 16 minutes.
- The Colony, TX TOP GOLF all kinds of entertainment and food there Kid friendly 19 minutes
- Hurst, TX IFLY Indoor flying. Adults & Kids love it. 23 minutes
- Frisco, TX IFLY Indoor flying. Adults & Kids love it. 23 minutes
- Dallas, TX Book Depository, Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza 24 minutes
- Arlington, TX AT&T Stadium 29 minutes
- Arlington, TX Six Flags Over Texas 30 minutes
- Arlington, TX Ranger Stadium 32 minutes
- Ft Worth, TX Stockyards 38 minutes
- Thackerville, OK Winstar THE LARGEST CASINO and Hotel, Resort, RV Park, Golf etc... 1hr 11 minutes

