



## Chandler Oklahoma Route 66 Interpretive Center

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### Chandler Route 66 Interpretive Center Grand Opening on Saturday, May 19

**Chandler, OK - May 2, 2007** – The public is invited to experience the newest attraction on Route 66 when the Chandler Route 66 Interpretive Center is officially open for visitors at 11:00am on Saturday, May 19. The Chandler Route 66 Interpretive Center is located in the old Chandler Armory building located on the corner of Route 66 and Mickey Clarkson Avenue in Chandler Oklahoma. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

Invited guests and speakers to kick-off the event including Gov. Brad Henry, Lt. Gov. Jari Askins (speaking), Arts Council Director Betty Price, Dep. Director State Historic Preservation Officer Melvena Heisch, Centennial Commission Representative Jeanne Edney and Terry Humphries. Also invited are representatives from the OK Dept. of Transportation, TAP Architecture, and Oklahoma National Guard Adjutant General Major General Harry Wyatt.

The Interpretive Center is located in the native sandstone block 1930's-era Armory Building on the prominent crossroads in Chandler. After over ten years of fund-raising and hard work by dedicated community volunteers, the grand opening of the Interpretive Center and Gift Shop represents the first-phase completion of renovation on this historic building.

The Interpretive Center takes the participant through a visually entertaining "drive" from the 1920's through current day on our Mother Road, aka Route 66. Experience the bleak dust-bowl years from the seats of a Model A, the booming 40's & 50's from the seat of a 48 Willy's Jeep and the happy days of the 60's and on from authentic 65 Mustang seats. Track the "route" through eight states on bill boards reminiscent of the kind seen by travelers back when Route 66 was THE road. Experience the unique lodging enjoyed by early travelers in your own virtual hotel room with themes like "Vanished Icons" and "Neon Nights". After your trip, stop by the Gift and Book shop to browse and buy items selected to reflect the Southwestern U.S. and Route 66.

"Where once stood a dilapidated and run down building is now a functional, appealing attribute to our community," says Howard Dickman, President of OARS (Old Armory Restorer's). "We are grateful to all of those who have supported us financially and by volunteering their time and labor to the project. It is something we should all be proud of and enjoy."

**Directions** - From Oklahoma City or Tulsa - Located half-way between Tulsa and OKC, take I44 (Turner toll-road) to the 166 Exit. After exiting toll booth, turn right and continue for approximately .8 mile (crossing the railroad tracks). Parking is provided across the street near the pool and park.