



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Exchange Club of Naperville  
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### *Rapper Nelly to light up the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Ribfest in Romeoville*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Romeoville, Illinois – Fans of superstar Nelly will be shaking their tail feathers July 4<sup>th</sup> at the Exchange Club of Naperville's 33rd Ribfest, now located in Romeoville. The world-renowned and multi-talented artist is the king of summer anthem songs, and an influencer in the musical, television and sports worlds which makes him a fascinating entertainer. "We can't wait to host Nelly," says Mary Howenstine, director of marketing for Ribfest. "He's tremendously talented artist and philanthropist. He's top notch." A co-headliner will be announced soon, and a fireworks show is also scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup>. REO Speedwagon and Styx, with guest artist Head East, will open Ribfest July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **ABOUT NELLY**

Diamond Selling, Multi-platinum, Grammy award-winning rap superstar, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and actor, Nelly, has continually raised the bar for the entertainment industry since stepping on the scene in 2000 with his distinctive vocals and larger-than-life personality. He became king of the "Summer Anthem" with songs like Hot in Herre, Ride Wit Me, Country Grammar, Cruise, Shake Ya Tailfeather, Dilemma and Just a Dream. 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of Country Grammar disrupting the music scene with Nelly's unique sound and vocals. Nelly's collaboration with Florida Georgia Line received Diamond status and he is only one of seven rappers to date to reach this honor. Currently he is touring around the globe and recently was the first artist to play in Saudi Arabia with a mixed gender/family crowd. Nelly along with TLC and FloRida kick off a sure to be spectacular show this summer. Adding to his list of "firsts" Nelly is the first hip hop artist to play with multiple symphonies nationwide and played himself in BET's Real Husbands of Hollywood with Kevin Hart for 6 seasons. His sports knowledge and love of all sports secured him a gig as a sports caster with Skip Bayless. 2019 is going to be a huge year for the hip hop mogul, currently Nelly is in studio preparing for new music to be released and announced another collaboration with Florida Georgia line producing an EP with Nelly and a new crossover festival! Nelly has several unique business ventures to be announce in fourth quarter of 2019 which will hopefully be as successful as Apple Bottoms was, selling for multiple millions. Billboard ranked Nelly the number three Top Artist of the Decade in 2009 and he to date holds the philanthropic honor of hosting the most African American attended donor registry to date. Nelly is the co-owner of the Charlotte Hornets with Michael Jordan and founded a college program that offers music production to students and Nelly funded scholarships.

Always appreciated **GRAND SPONSORS** for Ribfest 2020 are: Navistar, Great Lakes Coca-Cola, Romeoville Toyota, ABC7 Chicago, and D & J Amusements. Tickets for July 4<sup>th</sup> are on sale January 27th. July 2<sup>nd</sup> tickets are on sale now through [ribfest.net](http://ribfest.net).

#### **ABOUT EXCHANGE CLUB OF NAPERVILLE AND RIBFEST**

*Exchange, America's Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities, and its national program—the Prevention of Child Abuse. Exchange Club of Naperville chartered in 1987. Mission-driven and volunteer run, Exchange Club of Naperville's Ribfest is a premier Midwestern 4<sup>th</sup> of July concert series and celebration. Ribfest, in its 33rd year, now draws more than 150,000 visitors annually. In 2020, the venue has a new home: Romeoville, Illinois. Net proceeds from Ribfest directly support 50+ agencies that work tirelessly to eliminate child abuse and domestic violence in all forms. To date, Exchange has donated over \$18 million to these agencies.*

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NOTE: Romeoville residents can use their early access/discount code at [ribfest.net](http://ribfest.net) for 72 hours starting on Friday, January 24th. The discount code was sent with the December water bills to all Romeoville residents. Residents who receive their bills electronically, also received the code via email. For questions or information on the discount code please email [Ribfest@romeoville.org](mailto:Ribfest@romeoville.org)