

Yukon Freedom Fest set for July 3 and 4

By Jacob Sturm

A two-day celebration will be an event the public is welcome to participate in during the July 4 festivities in 2022.

That comes through an annual Yukon Freedom Fest happening July 3 and July 4 as the city helps recognize veterans in the community and celebrate Independence Day.

Yukon's Assistant to the City Manager, Jason Beal, discussed the event starting with the organized plan for July 3.

"On July 3, that evening is our tribute to veterans," Beal said. "So, we work with our local veterans' groups and we invite Yukon resident veterans into the park. They get a catered dinner and everything. So, that's

something special and then that evening is patriotic music and of course the rest of the park is open and the public fills it up."

"The veterans' part is really community driven," Beal said. "We have a local business that sponsors the dinner and takes care of all the veterans. And then we as the city will coordinate the invites and everything."

There will be a large firework show at 10 p.m. that evening.

Then July 4 will start it's all day festivities with a Cherry Bomb Youth Triathlon in the morning for the children. The Library hosts the children's parade, where Beal said imaginations are always running wild for the floats in the parade.

There will also be a car show, a free family swim, a hotdog eating contest

and other children's activities. In the evening, the festivities move over to Chisholm Trail Park for live bands, the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, free ice cream and watermelon, and food trucks.

The veteran's museum will have its mobile museum out there on both nights. Beal encourages the people to arrive early for the events to avoid the complications of traffic when filing into the parks. July 3 is slightly different, as the city holds parking for the veterans first since the evening is for them. Shuttles will be running from one side of the park to the other for those who don't want to walk across the park for other activities.

The Yukon Police Department will be out to help direct traffic and make sure people can leave safely and in an

orderly fashion.

"We're always looking at what we can improve on parking," Beal said. "So, this year we are trying to add a little bit more parking for the veterans that have a parking pass or things like that."

"One new thing that we've started now is when the fireworks start, we play music out in the park that goes along with the fireworks," Beal said.

People in Yukon can tune into 96.1 KXY to watch the fireworks from around Yukon while listening to the music that goes along with the fireworks.

The firework shows will be different each night, with Beal claiming the July 3 show is five minutes shorter than the July 4 show. The music will also be different both nights.

Fireworks planned for July 4 at Minco football field

By Jayson Knight

Minco Football Field will be hosting the fireworks display for the Minco community on Independence Day Monday, July 4, beginning at dark.

The event will begin at 7:30 p.m., and concessions will be offered.

The fireworks show will be conducted by the Minco Fire Department.

Minco Fire Chief Todd Curtis said Monday, "It'll be that evening at dark. They're going to be doing homemade ice cream sales and Bomb Pops and everything for fundraising."

The city's fire department conducts a raffle fundraiser throughout the year to be able to afford the fireworks show, and thanks to so many people participating, the fireworks show is expected to be even more explosive.

"That's why we have a fireworks raffle fundraiser every year," Chief Curtis said. "When we do our raffles, that's what it's for, to pay for the fire-

works for the show. We're going to have the same amount of fireworks as last year, or even more. I think we bought a couple of things extra, given the amount went up a little bit more this year than last year. That's strictly all that money goes to when we fundraise for that. It was a little over \$4,000."

Chief Curtis explained why it's important to the MFD to have an Independence Day celebration.

"It brings people together for the celebration of the 4th and just gets families together, watching and experiencing fireworks in the same setting," the chief said

"It's usually about 10 of us or more, it's kind of hard to tell since we may have a few that might not be able to show. I say about ten or twelve average that are able to make it that doesn't have prior plans. The audience varies. With COVID-19 last year, it was smaller but we usually have a good turnout."

Tuttle moves show to July 3

By Jayson Knight

The City of Tuttle will host its annual fireworks display Sunday, July 3. Fireworks will start at dark, approximately 9:30 p.m.

Organizers are advising citizens to park anywhere around the high school or along Main Street for best viewing.

The fireworks display is being held a day earlier than usual. Traditionally, the celebration is held on July 4 at Schrock Park, but this year, some of the feedback the city received has given them cause to reconsider the date and location.

Civic Engagement Coordinator for the City of Tuttle Amber Riley explained the change last week.

"In years past, we have always had our fireworks show on the 4th," Riley said Monday.

"However, this year there were some scheduling conflicts with the shooter. So rather than cancelling the show, we decided to move the show up a day.

"We will have the show behind the high school again this year. We made the change last year because the park was too wet. After feedback from the community, stating how much everyone thought viewing was better from the high school, we are keeping the location this year.

"Fireworks will start at dark, approximately 9:30 PM, park anywhere around the high school or any empty parking lots around Main Street, but keep in mind the construction around the high school. Also, the football field will remain closed during the event, so please plan on bringing a lawn chair, or enjoy viewing from your car. Please let your friends and neighbors know about the date/location changes so no one is taken off guard.

"This will allow people with sensitivities to take precautions for themselves or their animals.

If you have questions please call City Hall at 405-381-2335 or email ariley@cityoftuttle.com"