

# Midwest City's Tribute to Liberty adds laser show, family activities for America's 250th celebration

By Jeff Harrison  
Midwest City Beacon

Midwest City's annual Tribute to Liberty celebration will feature several new attractions this year as the city joins communities across the nation in marking America's 250th birthday.

The free event is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 4, at Joe B. Barnes Regional Park, 8700 E. Reno Ave.

The biggest addition to this year's celebration is a choreographed laser show that will be incorporated into the fireworks finale.

"We wanted to take it up to the next notch and really hallmark the significance of it," said Melanie Krause, Midwest City's special events coordinator. "We're officially taking part in the celebration."

Krause said city officials worked with the state to have Tribute to Liberty designated as an official Oklahoma America 250 event. The recognition allows the celebration

to be promoted through state tourism channels as part of the nation's semiquincentennial observance.

The laser display will be produced by Laserwolf FX, a company with local ties.

"Lasers should be a very interesting addition to the show," said Josh Ryan, the city's director of communications and marketing.

The laser effects will be incorporated into the second half of the fireworks show, ending in a synchronized grand finale.

To get the best view, Ryan said attendees should plan to watch from the central portion of the park.

"It will shoot out over the crowd south from the golf course," Ryan said. "Mostly in the central part of the park you'll see it best."

Returning to the stage will be The Wise Guys, a longtime crowd favorite with Midwest City connections.

Bassist Dave Copenhaver is a Midwest City resident. The band will perform throughout the evening from 7 to 9:45 p.m.

Organizers have also expanded the event's family activities. Free face painting, balloon artists and balloon character creations will be available, and several food trucks will be on site throughout the evening.

As part of the 250th anniversary celebration, Northrop Grumman has partnered with the city to provide 2,500 free patriotic light-up wands for attendees while supplies last.

"This year we wanted to elevate the experience and celebrate the semiquincentennial above and beyond a normal year," Krause said.

Admission and parking are free. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy an evening of live music before the fireworks and laser show begin at about 9:45 p.m.



Fireworks light the sky in Midwest City during a previous Tribute to Liberty. More is expected for the 2026 celebration. FILE PHOTO



The Wise Guys perform at one of Midwest City's Tribute's to Liberty events, drawing a notable crowd in the process. FILE PHOTO



Plan to watch the fireworks and laser show from the central portion of the park as part of America's 250th celebration. FILE PHOTO



Midwest City's Tribute to Liberty is set for 7 p.m. Saturday, July 4 at Joe B. Barnes Regional Park, where folks can set up shop and enjoy the event that has expanded its family activities. FILE PHOTO