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PARA HOSTS JULY JUBILEE IN SOKOL PARK FOR SECOND YEAR

Tuscaloosa, Ala. – The Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority will host July Jubilee, the largest Independence Day event in West Alabama, on July 4 at 6-9 p.m. in Sokol Park located at 5001 Watermelon Road, Northport, Alabama. The event is free and open to the public.

This is the second year at Sokol Park for the event which was traditionally held in downtown Tuscaloosa. The event was moved last year due to the uncertainty of availability of the location known as the “city fest block.” Gary Minor, recreation superintendent says, “The Sokol Park location was a huge success.”

“There is typically a big demand for children’s activities such as face painting and bounce houses. Hosting the event in our park allows us to spread out and offer more,” Minor said.

Due to the expectation of a larger crowd, PARA staff has suggested parking according to the July Jubilee Parking map as follows:

1. Main Entrance for all activities and fireworks viewing is located off of Old Colony Road.
2. Handicapped and Emergency Vehicle Entrance is located off of Watermelon Road by the Jenkins Multi-Purpose Arena. This entrance is closed to the public.
3. Sokol Park North – an additional parking area for fireworks viewing is also located off of Watermelon Road.

Directional signs will be posted within the park with additional event information. The event layout will be basically the same as last year with children’s activities located near the Multi-Purpose Arena in the center of the park.

Sokol Park is located on high point in Tuscaloosa County. Due to this attribute, the fireworks will be visible from anywhere inside the park and for several miles surrounding the park.

Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket or folding chair to sit and listen to the band and watch the fireworks which will be visible from any location in the 325 acre park.

Highlights of the event include family activities, live music and fireworks. Children's programs which begin at 6 p.m. will be abundant with games such as a water balloon toss, sack races, ice cream eating contest, face painting, and inflatable bounce houses to jump on. A rock climbing wall is a returning activity this year for teens and adults.

The live music will begin at 7 p.m. with entertainment from local band "35 West." Self-described as classic rockers, the band members are Wayne Lee-lead vocalist, Bruce Pate and Mike Largin, who have been playing together for 15 years.

The grand finale at 9 p.m. is a 25 minute fireworks display which will be choreographed to patriotic music by Clear Channel Radio.

PARA is thankful to sponsors who have made it possible to offer the event free of charge to the public. The major sponsors are Jim Walter Resources, NUCOR Steel Tuscaloosa, Buffalo Rock Pepsi, The Tuscaloosa News, WVUA-TV, Drake Printers and Clear Channel Radio.

Concessions, such as hotdogs, nachos, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn and ice cold beverages and patriotic novelty items will be available for purchase.

All PARA activity/community centers will close at 6 p.m. on July 4. This includes the Belk, Hughes, McAbee, Miller and Phelps Centers. This is to encourage the community and PARA staff to participate in the July Jubilee festivities.

Attachment: July Jubilee Parking Map

Live, Learn, Play PARA! The Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority is a county wide non-profit agency funded by the city of Tuscaloosa, the city of Northport and Tuscaloosa County, whose mission is to provide safe, clean, and beautiful facilities, parks and open spaces, along with professionally managed leisure activities for all people and to enrich the quality of life, provide economic value, and encourage long-term community stability and growth. Through strong partnerships, we will achieve exceptional services and foster an atmosphere of cooperation, trust, and innovation to better serve our community.
