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ANTHEM'S ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION ON JULY 3 RETURNS FOR 18th YEAR

Anthem, Ariz. – Anthem celebrates its 18th annual Independence Day Celebration July 3 in Community Park from 6-10 p.m. The popular event includes wet and dry rides, inflatables, food vendors, DJ/dancing, fireworks and more.

Dry rides and inflatables will be on Softball Field #1; water rides will be located on Softball Fields #2 and #3. Each individual is required to have a wristband to ride the slides or use the inflatables; they are available for an early-bird price of \$12 during June at the Anthem Community Center, 41130 N. Freedom Way. Wristbands also will be available for purchase at the event for \$15 each. Wristbands are non-refundable and non-replaceable.

The event will conclude with the National Anthem and the fireworks finale at 9:30 p.m., weather permitting. Auditions to select the National Anthem performer will take place May 31, 6 p.m. at the Anthem Civic Building. Audition details are online at OnlineAtAnthem.com/independence-day; deadline to enter is May 19.

More than 20,000 people - about the equivalent of a small city - descend on Anthem for the Independence Day Celebration. That fact alone requires additional planning, specifically in the traffic department. "We work with local law enforcement and MCDOT to create a plan that aids in the safety of our residents and guests," said Michele DeMichele, director of special events for the Anthem Community Council. "It is the largest crowd in Community Park at one time during the course of the year, but the attractions are spread throughout the park, so event goers don't feel congested."

The traffic control plan will take effect mid-afternoon on the day of the event. Residents should also note that certain amenities will close early to allow for event preparation. The walking bridge between the Community Center and Community Park, the Skate Park and Roller Hockey Rink will close at 2 p.m. (the Hockey Rink will reopen at 6 p.m. as a fireworks viewing area for those with special needs). The Community Center Aquatics Park closes at 3:30 p.m., while the entire facility closes at 4 p.m. Vehicles must be removed from the parking lot by 4:30 p.m., because that area is part of the fireworks fallout zone.

Residents and guests are welcome to bring food and non-alcoholic beverages to enjoy picnic-style in the park. Outside food and beverages are not permitted within the fenced field areas, however. Attendees are encouraged to visit the Food Court and Rotary Beer Garden on Softball Field #4.

As a reminder, attendees are not allowed to bring or launch personal fireworks in Community Park; however, lawn chairs or blankets to watch the fireworks in the open areas of the park are recommended (no seating will be permitted inside fenced field areas).

Anthem Community Park is located at 41703 N. Gavilan Peak Parkway in Anthem, Arizona. For more information about the event, contact Michele DeMichele at mdemichele@anthemcouncil.com or 623-742-6050, or visit OnlineAtAnthem.com/independence-day.

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