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Press Release

Fall Friday Family Movie Series starts Sept. 23 at Wilson Park

At least three more family-friendly movies planned for September, October

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (September 15, 2016) — The 2016 Fall Friday Family Movie Series will kick off at 7 p.m. Sept. 23 in Arkansas City with a Disney hit under the Wilson Park rotunda, 701 N. Summit St.

At least three movies will be shown on several nights through October, including a special Monday night showing in conjunction with the National Night Out kickoff party Oct. 3 at Wilson Park.

All movies will begin promptly at 7 p.m. each night. In the case of inclement weather, the movie will be moved to the Agri-Business Building, 712 W. Washington Ave., or another suitable facility.

The autumn 2016 series will kick off Sept. 23 with "Zootopia," cosponsored by Chaplin Nature Center and the Arkansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau. The movie and accompanying hands-on exhibits provided by the nature center will provide fun family entertainment during Last Run Car Show.

The following week, another family favorite, "Minions," sponsored by Munson Insurance, will be shown Sept. 30 at the park.

The movie is planned as part of the grand opening events at the V.J. Wilkins Family Center for the Arts at the Burford Theatre. V.J. Wilkins Memorial Foundation board members are expected to attend.

That following Monday, the National Night Out kickoff party will begin at 5 p.m. in its new location at Wilson Park. The following night, neighborhood block parties will be held all around Arkansas City.

In conjunction with the kickoff party, a movie will be shown from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The title will be announced at a later date. Promotional materials such as posters also will be made available to media.

A fourth movie may be shown in October or November, but the date, location and movie title have not been set yet. More information will be released as the event takes shape.

For immediate release

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The 2015 Outdoor Friday Family Movie Series was a huge success in the debut season for the new V.J. Wilkins Memorial Stage at the rotunda, with the largest crowds viewing “Big Hero 6” and “Frozen.”

The projection equipment, sound system and stage all were made possible by a grant received two years ago from the V.J. Wilkins Memorial Foundation, in order to promote the arts throughout the city.

A special autumn showing of “Inside Out” drew more than 300 people to the rotunda last November, despite colder temperatures. Plans were launched then for more autumn showings in 2016.

Various weather conditions impacted attendance often this spring and summer, but the season’s highlight undoubtedly was June 10, when more than 600 people packed Paris Park Pool for a special doubleheader movie event, featuring “Finding Nemo” and “Jaws,” during a free swim-in night at the pool.

Check www.arkansascityks.gov or www.facebook.com/arkcity for weather updates or cancellations.

For more information on becoming a sponsor for one of the movies, call Nick Hernandez or Andrew Lawson at (620) 441-4415.

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