

Contact: Nick Hernandez
Phone: (620) 441-4415
Fax: (620) 441-0869
nhernandez@arkansascityks.gov

City Manager's Office
City of Arkansas City
118 W. Central Ave.
Arkansas City, KS 67005



News Release

Fall Friday Family Movie Series concludes Friday at Ag Building

'Beauty and the Beast' completes run of 16 free films this summer, autumn

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (November 7, 2017) — The 2017 Fall Friday Family Movie Series will end at 6 p.m. Friday in Arkansas City with a Disney movie at the Agri-Business Building, 712 W. Washington.

The 2017 live-action version of "Beauty and the Beast," cosponsored by the Optimists and Soroptimists of Arkansas City, is a new PG-rated adaptation of the classic fairy tale about a monstrous-looking prince and a young woman who fall in love. It stars Dan Stevens and Emma Watson.

The movie had to be rescheduled from Nov. 3 at Wilson Park due to cold, rainy conditions that day.

It instead will be held in the north end of the Agri-Business Building so weather will not be a factor.

"We are so appreciative of the generous sponsors who make these wonderful events possible," said City Manager Nick Hernandez. All told, a total of 16 sponsored movies were shown for free in 2017.

"We would like to thank the local Optimist and Soroptimist clubs for stepping up to help us to round out this year's slate of films," said Public Information Officer Andrew Lawson.

"The City also would like to express its appreciation to both Ark City Daily Bytes and Rogers Family Dentistry for agreeing to co-sponsor our 'Guardians of the Galaxy' doubleheader on such short notice, even though there were very few opportunities to advertise their sponsorship beforehand."

About the Outdoor Friday Family Movie Series

The 2015 Outdoor Summer Movie Series was a huge success in the debut season for the new V.J. Wilkins Memorial Stage at the rotunda, with particularly large crowds viewing "Big Hero 6" and "Frozen."

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

For immediate release

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A special fall showing of “Inside Out” drew more than 300 people to the rotunda in November 2015, despite colder temperatures. Plans were launched then for more autumn showings in 2016 and 2017.

Various weather conditions impacted attendance often last spring and summer, but the season’s highlight undoubtedly was in June 2016, when more than 700 people packed Paris Park Pool for a special doubleheader, consisting of “Finding Nemo” and “Jaws,” during a free swim-in night at the pool.

The sequel event, featuring “Finding Dory,” drew more than 500 visitors to the pool on July 21, 2017.

During the last three years, the City of Arkansas City has shown a wide variety of movies, including:

- '80s classics — “Back to the Future,” “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,” “Ghostbusters,” “The Great Outdoors,” “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” and “¡Three Amigos!”
- Classic Disney films — “The Fox and the Hound,” “The Jungle Book,” “Mary Poppins” and “Pete’s Dragon”
- Disney animated features — “Big Hero 6,” “Frozen,” “Moana” and “Zootopia”
- Disney live-action remakes — “Cinderella” and “Maleficent”
- Disney-Pixar animated collaborations — “Finding Dory,” “Finding Nemo,” “The Good Dinosaur” and “Inside Out”
- Marvel Cinematic Universe films — “Doctor Strange,” “Guardians of the Galaxy” and “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2”
- Other animated films — “The Lego Batman Movie,” “The Lego Movie,” “The Lorax,” “Minions,” “The Secret Life of Pets” and “Sing”
- Star Wars movies — “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story,” “Star Wars: A New Hope” and “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”
- Summer and holiday blockbusters — “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” “Jaws,” “Jurassic Park,” “Jurassic World,” “Monster Trucks” and “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows”

The Outdoor Friday Family Movie Series only has been possible with the assistance of many generous donors, including:

- Civic and service clubs such as the Arkansas City High School KAY Club, the Kiwanis Club, and the Optimists and Soroptimists of Arkansas City;
- Local businesses such as Ark City Daily Bytes, Ark Valley Credit Union, Community National Bank & Trust, Elite Advertising, Grass Clippings, Mitch Reichle—Farm Bureau Financial Services, Munson Insurance, Plumber Bob’s, RCB Bank, Reedy Ford, Rogers Family Dentistry, The Stock Exchange Bank, Union State Bank, and WB Meats;

- Governmental entities such as the Arkansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau, Arkansas City Public Library, and City of Arkansas City;
- Nonprofit organizations such as the Arkalalah Executive Committee, the Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fraternal Order of Police, Newkirk (Oklahoma) Main Street, Newman's Quest and the Young Professionals of Cowley County.

For more information on becoming a sponsor for a movie in 2018, call Lawson at (620) 441-4415 or email alawson@arkansascityks.gov.

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