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News Release

Outdoor Family Movie Series to resume June 1 at Wilson Park

'Despicable Me 3' planned at 8:30 PM; two more films shown within 2 weeks

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (May 29, 2018) — The 2018 Outdoor Family Movie Series will resume Friday night in Arkansas City with an animated favorite under the Wilson Park rotunda, 701 N. Summit St.

The 2017 hit "Despicable Me 3," sponsored by Rogers Family Dentistry, will be shown starting at 8:30 p.m. Friday. The PG-rated family film is approximately 90 minutes long.

This movie will be the fifth film by Illumination to be shown at the park as part of this outdoor series, preceded by "Minions" in 2016 and "The Secret Life of Pets," "The Lorax," and "Sing," all shown in 2017.

At least six movies are planned this year, including several recent Marvel Cinematic Universe hits and a "three-quel" to the last two years' super-popular showings of "Finding Nemo" and "Finding Dory" at Paris Park Pool. (More pool event details will be announced at a later time.)

This will be the first of three films to be shown locally in the next two weeks, and the first of four in the region. The movie series will return June 15 with another special outreach event in Newkirk, Oklahoma.

(The date, location and title of the Newkirk movie showing are yet to be determined.)

Between Friday and June 15, there also will be special showings of "Thor: Ragnarok" on June 7, immediately following the Ark City Community Band concert, and "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" on June 12, immediately following the Arkansas City Farm and Art Market's special monthly market event.

"We are so appreciative of the generous sponsors who make these wonderful events possible," said City Manager Nick Hernandez. "If you are interested in being a sponsor this year, please call myself or Andrew Lawson at 441-4415 to discuss pricing options. There are still a couple of opportunities left!"

About the Outdoor Family Movie Series

For immediate release

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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.

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 impacted attendance often in the spring and summer of 2016, 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 “iThree 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 — “Beauty and the Beast,” “Cinderella” and “Maleficent”
- Disney-Pixar animated collaborations — “Coco,” “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 Family Movie Series is only possible with the assistance of many generous donors:

- 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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