

Salute to Freedom returns for 33rd year

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Across the country fireworks will ring out to celebrate this nation's freedom for Independence Day and, for the 33rd year, Salute to Freedom in Mt. Vernon will bring its own style of celebration.

According to information provided, Salute to Freedom will begin with gates opening at 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, presented by the city of Mt. Vernon. Mt. Vernon Tourism Director Angela Schrum said this year's Salute to Freedom will continue the long-standing tradition of affordable family fun.

"We hope people will come out and spend time with family and friends. It is just a good community gathering and we encourage them to bring blankets and lawn chairs," Schrum said.

There will be around 10 food vendors serving up crowd favorites and other delectable treats. The Kids Zone is returning and will include inflatables for the children to bounce around and have a fun.

"There are food vendors, a kids zone with laser tag, inflatables, face painting, glitter tattoos and we have a vendor that does light up toys and

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4TH OF JULY
SALUTE TO FREEDOM
at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport
2018

Gates Open at 5 p.m.
Free Admission
Concessions
Lazer Tag
Inflatables
Live DJ
Performance by Patch Lee 7 p.m.
Fireworks at Dusk

For more information visit www.enjoymtvernon.com or call (618) 242-3151

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things like that," Schrum said.

At 7 p.m., musician Patch Lee will perform a concert.

"We will have an artist named Patch Lee that is going to do a concert," Schrum said. "He does American Country and he has performed at other events at the airport."

The main event will be the fireworks and that will happen around 9 p.m. Central

States Fireworks, Inc. will once again put on the display, which will be 20 to 30 minutes long.

"They have been our fireworks provider," Schrum said. "We have a contract with them for the next three years. They do a phenomenal job and are very good with safety."

In order to make sure you see the fireworks show, people are recommended to be at the airport by 8:30 p.m.

"Shortly after 8:30 they will shut traffic down," Schrum said. "Because there can't be traffic going by when the fireworks are going off."

Schrum said that outside fireworks are not permitted at the event due to fire concerns.

"We ask them to leave their consumer fireworks, sparklers and that kind of stuff at home because it is not allowed on the grounds," Schrum said. "Those are better off to do at home."

Schrum thanked the Mt. Vernon Police Department, the Mt. Vernon Fire Department, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and Litton Ambulance Services for their assistance during the event.

Schrum said she has her own fond memories of Salute

to Freedom.

"We want to keep the traditional things that people love," Schrum said. "I know before I had this job, we would always meet there as a family. My mother and father-in-law would be there, my brother-in-law, sisters-in-law and nieces and nephews meet there and watch the fireworks together. It is a great gathering place."

Salute to Freedom will be held rain or shine. Admission and parking at the event is free. For more information people can call 242-3151.

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