

For Immediate Release
July 1, 2020

A show to lift our heads and our spirits

Harvest Church beefs up fireworks show for city “as big as legally allowed”

Billings — July 1, 2020— Five-inch mortars are impressive, but 8-inch mortars are downright spectacular! It’s hard for Harvest Church to outdo its previous years’ fireworks shows, but this year the display for the city, now at MetraPark, is bigger and better than ever.

“At Castlerock Park, the largest shells we were allowed to use were 5 inches in diameter. Now we’re able to fire off 6-inch and 8-inch mortars,” said Rachel Woosley, Celebrate Freedom Director at Harvest. “We’re also lengthening the show to 35 minutes!”

The display will begin at dark from MetraPark’s upper parking lot. Loudspeakers will pump choreographed music to the lower MetraPark parking lot and nearby business lots. The music will also be broadcast on KURL radio, 93.3 FM.

Harvest’s lead pastor Vern Streeter says liberty has never been more important.

“For 19 summers Harvest Church has thrown an Independence Day party for the city,” Streeter said. “This year we got Covid-smacked, but not even the Coronavirus can stop an 8-inch mortar! Fireworks will lift our heads and our spirits. Let’s celebrate freedom!”

Woosley said the event, a festival normally attended by thousands, with activities, food and live music, was changed to fireworks-only this year and moved to MetraPark due to state Phase 1 Covid precautions and uncertainty.

“Our most crucial planning months for Celebrate Freedom were during Phase 1, and we had no way of predicting volunteer numbers or whether our event would even be allowed at Castlerock.” Woosley said. “So we decided to find a more central city location and put all of our resources into a massive fireworks show. We’re hoping as many people as possible will see it and feel encouraged.”

Todd Reichenbach, owner of Billings-based professional choreography company PYRO F/X, says the displays he creates for Harvest – and for all of his clients – are unique.

“My favorite type of fireworks show is a combination of European style displays, that utilize a large number of lower-level fireworks in formations and fronts to create an artistic scene combined with American-style displays that are mainly aerial shells,” he said. Reichenbach said this stylistic mixture isn’t common because it’s more labor-intensive.

“At Castlerock Park we would set up a frontage for best viewing from the park. This year’s site allows us a unique challenge of creating a high 3D fireworks show with formations that will be interesting and unique to view from any direction.” He said another bonus to this shoot site is that it allows for larger fireworks to be used.

Info Box

What: Celebrate Freedom Fireworks Display. The 35-minute show will be choreographed to music, which will be pumped through loudspeakers aimed at both the lower MetraPark parking lot and surrounding area business parking lots. A radio broadcast of the music will be available at KURL, 93.3 FM.

Launch zone: MetraPark upper parking lot. No parking allowed in any portion of the upper lot.

Where to park: Free parking in the lower lot of MetraPark, nearby business parking lots (after closing hours) and the surrounding areas. First come, first served. Rim parking is prohibited by the city.

When: At dark (sometime after 10:15)

Cost: Free

More info: CFBillings.com

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For more information on Celebrate Freedom and Harvest:

CFBillings.com
harvestchurch.tv

Editors: Correct spelling of Castlerock Park: Castlerock is one word, not two, according to the city. Google has it wrong.

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JULY 4, 2020

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IT'S OUR BIGGEST, LONGEST SHOW YET!

A 35-minute choreographed fireworks display will launch from MetraPark's upper parking lot at dark

