



Fireworks to illuminate Town Center

By Mike Roberts | Village Life staff writer | May 25, 2010 10:25

This Fourth of July weekend the sky above El Dorado Hills Town Center will be ablaze with a barrage of “Red Crossing Comets,” “Violet Peonies” and an assortment of “Souza bombardment shells.”

The aerial pyrotechnics aren’t an artillery attack. It’s all part of Town Center’s first annual Independence Day Fireworks Jubilee on July 3. Save the date.

Expect a big crowd. Some of the logistics are still being ironed out, but this much we know. Family festivities will kick off at 4 p.m. with kids’ activities and live music. Come down early to get a good spot on the patio and join in the family fun, compliments of the Mansour Company.

Parking will be offsite but within walking distance, probably at Blue Shield or Lakehills Covenant Church.

El Dorado County’s own fireworks company, Pyro Spectaculars, is putting on the show. The Sousa family has been in the business more than 90 years, and is known as the “fireworks ambassadors to the world.” They’ve lit up presidential inaugurations, Superbowls, the Olympics, the Golden Gate Bridge and the Statue of Liberty.

There will be plenty of food and beverages stands. But considering dining at one of Town Center’s restaurants, just make that reservation soon.

After the fireworks there will be more live music, dancing and dining.

Tony Mansour has been working out logistics with the El Dorado Hills Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department and county Department of Transportation for several weeks to ensure that everyone can get in and out of Town Center safely and smoothly.

The simplest way to come and go is simply to stay. Holiday Inn manager Jennie Klann has weekend packages that will guarantee a ringside seat. Reserve early.

Safety is the utmost concern. Mansour called on a couple Veerkamps to ensure that no one gets hurt. Brother Brian’s fire department will be on hand providing fire protection and paramedic support. Brother Doug’s construction company will clear a 200-foot radius around the launch site in the vacant lot south of the Mercedes-Benz dealership where the Chateau du Lac hotel is planned.

“We feel pretty good about it,” said Deputy Fire Chief Jim O’Camb, who promised a safe shoot. “If something goes awry we’ll be there to nip it in the bud.”

The El Dorado Hills Fire Department has worked with Pyro Spectacular several times on smaller shoots over Serrano Golf Course, and has learned to respect their work.

They'll use a test shot before the show to determine wind conditions, and "whether we let the show proceed," said O'Camb. "We have the ultimate say. If anything's not right, we'll stop it."

The jubilee is a Pyro Spectacular reunion for Jamie McDaniels, the Mansour Company's new marketing director. She helped setup Fourth of July shows as a girl, and even lit fuses in the days before fireworks were controlled electronically. "I was on a fireworks high for a full day after one of those," she recalled.

McDaniels won't light any fuses on July 3 - more like running around with a walkie talkie making sure the thousands of attendees are having a good time.

The pyrotechnics will begin at about 9:30 p.m. with "opening salutes" launched from a floating platform in the Town Center lagoon, followed by an aerial sky show comprised of more than 2,500 pyrotechnics shells, concluding with a grand finale to remember.

Please don't bring fireworks or alcohol to Town Center during the Jubilee. Sheriff's deputies will be on hand to insure that the event is safe and family-friendly.

Mansour won't predict the turnout, but predicted that the Independence Day Fireworks Jubilee will be "the largest event in El Dorado Hills history."

Sounding not at all like Ed Sullivan, he promised "a really big show." Don't miss it.

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