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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Salute to America with some changes”

Durango, CO – The City of Durango announces its annual series of Independence Day, family-oriented activities promoted collectively as Durango’s “*Salute to America.*” All events will take place on Monday, the 4th of July.

The holiday festivities will begin with the *Freedom 5k Run/Walk*, presented by Parks and Recreation beginning at 9 a.m. sharp and starting from Rotary Park. This event is free and invites all levels of runners and walkers to join in the fun. Participants, friends and family can celebrate with a great breakfast afterwards.

The popular *All-American Gourmet Breakfast*, organized by Rotary Club of Durango, will also be held at Rotary Park and features varieties of fruit-topped pancakes, eggs, juice and coffee. Adult and children’s tickets will be available at the event. Serving time will be 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Info at www.DurangoRotary.org

The center of activity moves to the 1200 block of Main Avenue in Buckley Park for *American Voices*, a public reading of the Declaration of Independence and other important American documents organized by Fort Lewis College. “This event reminds us that this is first and foremost the birthday of our nation and we are all guests at this great celebration of freedom in America”, says Bob Kunkel, the City’s downtown business development manager. The readings will begin promptly at 11 a.m.

Children (18 and under) can sell their old toys, sports gear, clothes, music and books at the ***Kids-to-Kids Flea Market***, sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank. The Kid's Flea Market begins at noon and ends at 3 p.m. Bank staff will assist kids with booth space organization, money transactions, and refreshments. Space is FREE, but must be reserved by calling 385-1518.

A change is that the City of Durango will host the traditional ***Family Picnic*** from 11am to 5pm. Picnic goers should plan to bring their blanket and picnic basket lunch or dine at downtown restaurants. There will be no food vendors. Refreshments will be for sale at the Coke trailer or in the adjacent beer garden on 12th Street. A full day of American style music will feature three bands playing blues, jazz and blue grass. Children's activities will include the kid's flea market, a jumping castle, face painting, and magicians. All activities are held in Buckley Park which is 9R school property and prohibits alcohol and tobacco in the park.

The evening events are all in the heart of downtown on Main Avenue and begin with the ***Stars and Stripes Parade*** at 6 p.m. sharp. The parade will travel north along Main Avenue from 5th to 10th Street. Parade entrants will be led by a Color Guard made up of representatives of the United Veterans Council. Parade entrants are welcome and should call 375-5067 for sign-up information. This parade is best described as a hokey-dokey hometown parade...it's free and everyone is welcome to enter. Please call 375-5067 to sign up.

Locals and visitors alike can enjoy several hours of great music and dancing at the "***Salute-To-America***" ***street dance***, presented by the City of Durango. The music of the High-Rollers will be begin after the parade and end with the first BOOM of the fireworks. Coco-Cola products and local brews from SKA Brewing will be available. The 800 block of Main Avenue will be closed to traffic until 10 p.m.

Topping off the day's celebration will be the "***Salute America***" ***fireworks display*** presented by Durango Fire and Rescue. The show boasts over 2,000 charges and lasts nearly 30 minutes. Most locals have their favorite viewing spot, and newcomers can find many great downtown locations from which to enjoy the show. Start time is planned for dark, approximately 9:15 p.m.

Expect that downtown will be busy. Locals are encouraged to walk, bike, car pool or use the public transit system for quicker access in and out of downtown. Parking is available in public lots, on side streets and in after-hour private lots. Pets are not allowed at organized events.

