



Fall Festival, Halloween Parade coming



Community creativity and pride are set to take to the streets of downtown Anaheim for the annual Anaheim Fall Festival & Halloween Parade on Oct. 28.

The fun starts at 11 a.m. with food booths and trucks, entertainment and a haunted house. The parade starts at 6 p.m. with elaborate, nostalgic floats and movie-quality costumes.

Among the floats: a grumpy tree with arms and a crown of lighted paper lanterns, a giant Día de los Muertos couple in a top hat and ornate sombrero, and Trick or Treat Kitty, an oversized purple cat with a Halloween-orange bowtie.

And, of course, there's Andy Anaheim, the city of Anaheim's mascot dating back to the 1950s. He bangs a giant drum and leads the parade.

It's a spectacle you won't want to miss.

The parade runs along Broadway from Manchester Avenue to Harbor Boulevard and then winds through Center Street Promenade before concluding at the Packing House on Anaheim Boulevard.

About 70,000 people are expected to line the parade route. Everyone's welcome. But if you don't plan on coming, you'll want to take note of street closures and lots of folks on the street that night.

Now in its 94th year, the festival and parade got their start in the 1920s. In 1924, baseball slugger Babe Ruth and legendary pitcher Walter Johnson led the procession. In 1972, a young Jodie Foster led the parade.

These days, the festival and parade are enjoying a retro-cool revival along with the rest of Anaheim's historical center, which has a new brand image as Center City.

Dedicated volunteers and moonlighting creative types make this a lot more than your ordinary community parade.

For more, check out Anaheimfallfestival.org.

ACC North debuts at Anaheim Convention Center



The Anaheim Convention Center last week officially opened ACC North, its largest and most significant expansion in nearly two decades.

The expansion, the seventh in the center's 50-year history, adds 200,000 square feet of flexible space for trade shows, conventions, meetings, galas and more. With a new total of 1.8 million square feet, the Anaheim Convention Center solidifies its spot as the largest convention center on the West Coast.

"This is a transformative event for the Anaheim Convention Center," said Tom Morton, executive director of Anaheim's Convention Sports & Entertainment Department. "Not only is this our largest expansion since 2000, it is one of the most significant in terms of the features and innovation it brings to Anaheim."

ACC North's striking, modern design adds a highly visible presence on one of The Anaheim Resort's most traveled streets.

The building's design is inspired by ocean waves and the California coastline. Even the carpet is designed to mirror the palm trees that line the street just outside the dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows.

ACC North includes a large ballroom, a new parking structure and a 10,000-square-foot balcony overlooking the Disneyland Resort, where conference and meeting attendees can view the nightly fireworks show.

The Anaheim Convention Center hosts an average of 1 million attendees a year, a number expected to increase with the expansion.

When visitors come to the convention center, they generate revenue for Anaheim's residents. The money visitors spend on hotels, dining and shopping helps the city provide public safety, parks, libraries and more for our neighborhoods.

For more on the Anaheim Convention Center, go to [VisitAnaheim.org](https://www.visitanaheim.org).

Be ready for the next fire



A big thank you goes out to all the men and women of Anaheim Fire & Rescue and those of 10 other agencies who saved lives and homes fighting the Canyon Fire.

The fire started on Sept. 25 along the Riverside (91) Freeway just east of the 241 Toll Road. At its peak, the fire spread across 2,600 acres, forced 500 evacuations in Corona and damaged a handful of homes there.

There was no damage or evacuations in east Anaheim, thanks to the great work of firefighters and cooperating winds. But it was touch and go for several days on whether the fire would come our way.

The fire is a reminder for anyone who lives in the hills to have a family emergency plan in place and to know what to do if your home is threatened by fire.

And everyone in Anaheim should have a plan for what to do in an emergency, be it a fire, earthquake or other incident.

Anaheim Fire & Rescue's Ready, Set, Go! program helps homeowners in fire-prone areas prepare and safeguard their homes.

You can request a free home consultation from Anaheim Fire & Rescue where we can offer advice on fire safety inside your home, creating a buffer around your home and developing a family emergency plan.

For more, check out [Anaheim.net/ready](https://www.anaheim.net/ready).

It's mariachi time



Enjoy the sounds and sights of Mexican music, dancing and art at the 12th annual Anaheim Mariachi Festival on Oct. 14 in downtown Anaheim.

The festival will feature mariachi music by artists such as José “Pepe” Martínez Jr., Vanessa Del Fierro and Danny Muñoz. Attendees can also hear from local Mariachi groups including Mariachi Anacatlan, Mariachi Rosas Del Tepeyac and Rythmo Mariachi Kids.

Ballet Folklórico Flor de Mayo Dance Company will also perform traditional Mexican folk dances. The day’s entertainment will be hosted by journalist and social media personality Arasely Martínez and radio host El Konejo.

It will also include a street fair with food booths, a beer garden and local crafts.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Rhythmo Inc. Mariachi Academy in Anaheim, a nonprofit that teaches Mariachi to children who might not have access to music classes or other enrichment programs in their lives.

What you need to know:

- **When:** Saturday, Oct. 14
- **Time:**
 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Street Fair
 - 6 to 9 p.m.: Spectacular Mariachi Show
- **Where:** Anaheim River Arena, 201 E. Broadway
- **Cost:**
 - Street Fair: Free admission
 - Spectacular Mariachi Show: \$25 to \$75
- **More:** Anaheimmariachi.com

Honoring our veterans



21 million.

That's the number of veterans living in the U.S.

They make up more than 6 percent of our country's population, so odds are good you probably know a veteran, live with a veteran or are a veteran.

Our veterans have sacrificed time away from their families, their personal safety and so much more to serve and protect our country.

Here in Anaheim, we're proud to have veterans call our city home. Throughout the year, we work with local veterans, providing resources and connecting them to the services they need.

And when Veterans Day comes around each November, we take the opportunity to showcase just how important they are to our community.

We also take the opportunity to celebrate the Marine Corps' birthday with an official cake cutting ceremony. This year, we will celebrate the Marines' 242nd birthday.

Each year's ceremony is unique, but one thing remains the same: a commitment to honoring all veterans from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Join us for this year's ceremony on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Anaheim Veterans Monument, 241 S. Anaheim Blvd.

For more information about veterans resources, click [here](#).

10 years with the Fighting 13th



Anaheim is marking a decade of community support for a Marine Corps unit that has served our country in nearly every major operation since the early 1990s.

In 2007, the Anaheim City Council adopted the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

For 10 years now, community volunteers have raised money to support the 13th. Now the Anaheim 13th Expeditionary Unit Adoption Committee is hosting a 10th anniversary celebration on Monday, Oct. 9.

Everyone is welcome to an open house from 7-8 p.m. at the Downtown Community Center at 250 E. Center St.

You can RSVP by emailing classlassieteri@gmail.com.

Known as the “Fighting 13th,” the unit conducts a variety of military operations, including amphibious assaults, recovery of aircraft and personnel, peacekeeping, electronic warfare and anti-terrorism efforts.

The 13th includes about 2,500 Marines and sailors. The unit is deployed to U.S. bases and naval ships around the world in support of military missions.

The 13th was formed in 1985 and served in the Gulf War in the early 1990s, in Somalia in 1990s and in Afghanistan in the early 2000s.

In June 2016, the 13th’s Harrier jet pilots flew from a U.S. aircraft carrier off the coast of Yemen to led airstrikes against Islamic State in northern Iraq.

Making playtime fun



Bright green slides, new swings and a kid-sized bulldozer now greet neighborhood boys and girls at Willow Park in north-central Anaheim.

Last month, nearly 300 volunteers came together and in eight short hours assembled a KaBOOM! playground unique to Willow Park.

The playground, a partnership between the city, Disneyland Resort, KaBOOM! and Anaheim Family YMCA, was designed with input from local kids. KaBOOM! asked “What would you like to see at your playground?” And from there, the designers went to work.

The playground at Willow Park marks the ninth KaBOOM! playground built in Anaheim since 2011. There are three more playgrounds scheduled to be built at Pearson Park, Barton Park and Julianna Park.

Each playground build includes a day of fun mixed with a lot of hard work. To celebrate the day's achievement, Mickey Mouse was on hand to give high fives and thank everyone for bringing the gift of play into the neighborhood.

For more on KaBOOM! parks, visit [Kaboom.org](https://www.kaboom.org).

Bucket list



Kids can soar 55 feet into the air on a free bucket truck ride this Thursday at the Downtown Anaheim Farmers Market.

The free rides let you experience the view our Anaheim Public Utilities workers see every day as they make sure your home or business gets reliable electricity.

After the bucket ride, you can explore more booths and hands-on activities to teach you about how our very own utility powers your life. Learn about power safety and energy conservation, and get free giveaways.

It's all part of Anaheim Public Utilities' celebration of national Public Power Week, which celebrates community-owned utilities such as Anaheim's.

Join us on Oct. 5 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Downtown Anaheim Farmers Market on Center Street Promenade.

More at [Anaheim.net/utilities](https://www.anaheim.net/utilities).