



Buy fireworks, support your community



Fireworks stands are coming to Anaheim.

This year, you can stock up on sparklers, smoke bombs and other “Safe and Sane” fireworks at 16 stands across the city.

Fireworks sales begin on June 28 and go through July 4.

Each fireworks stand will be hosted by a school group or nonprofit serving the Anaheim community.

All of Anaheim's eight public high schools automatically were granted a stand, while eight nonprofits were selected via a lottery. Profits from fireworks sales will directly benefit each group.

Stands will be hosted by:

- American Legion
- Anaheim High School Band Boosters
- Anaheim Hills Rotary
- Canyon High School Education Foundation
- Church of Power Christian Fellowship
- Esperanza Aquatics Booster
- Foster Care Auxiliary of Orange County
- Junior United Soccer Association
- Katella High School Band Boosters
- La Gran Cosecha Sobrenatural Anaheim
- Loara High School Band Boosters
- Magnolia High School Band Boosters
- Orange County Christian School
- Orange County Symphony
- Savanna Band and Pageantry Boosters
- Western High School Football Boosters

This is the third year of fireworks sales in Anaheim, after a nearly 30-year hiatus. The City Council voted to add more stands this year to better benefit local groups.

Use of "Safe and Sane" fireworks is only allowed on July 4 between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Fireworks are not allowed in east Anaheim due to fire concerns. And remember, real fireworks are illegal in Anaheim!

For a fun, family holiday, check out the Anaheim Hills Fourth of July Celebration at Peralta Park. The day kicks off with the Firecracker Run 5k/10k and a pancake breakfast, and continues with a dog show, food booths, entertainment and the annual Fourth of July parade. The fireworks show starts at 9 p.m. More details at Anaheimhillscommunitycouncil.org.

Find a full map of all the fireworks stands and other details at Anaheim.net/Fireworks.

Do the Fourth right



Happy birthday America!

As holidays go, Fourth of the July ranks right up there. Who doesn't love a summer day of fireworks, food, family and fun?

We wish everyone in Anaheim an awesome Fourth. But we also want to make sure everyone stays safe.

Remember, only "Safe and Sane" fireworks are allowed in Anaheim. Real fireworks are illegal.

What's the difference? Safe and Sane fireworks are lots of fun, but they're small and tame. They won't explode or fly into the air.

We work hard to create a strong safety plan each year, bringing together different city departments.

Anaheim Police, Anaheim Fire & Rescue and Code Enforcement will have extra patrols out around the holiday making sure residents aren't putting their neighbors in danger by setting off illegal fireworks, or misusing Safe and Sane ones.

And save the fireworks for the Fourth! Safe and Sane fireworks can only be used on July 4 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

And remember: All fireworks, even Safe and Sane ones, are prohibited in east Anaheim, east of the Costa Mesa (55) Freeway and south of the Riverside (91) Freeway due to wildland fire concerns.

For more on the sale and use of safe and sane fireworks, visit Anaheim.net/Fireworks.

What to know

When: only on July 4 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Where: in neighborhoods, 10 feet or more away from houses, garages, vehicles, utility lines and vegetation that could catch fire.

Other: at gated, condominium and apartment communities *only* with approval of a homeowners association or property management.

Where not: in parks, industrial areas, commercial areas, retail parking lots, public streets and highways.

No fireworks zone: east of the Costa Mesa (55) Freeway and south of the Riverside (91) Freeway.



Anaheim's budget: funding our lives



What's in Anaheim's newly adopted city budget? In short, the things that touch the daily lives of our residents, businesses and visitors.

There's a new community center that helps make life easier for families. Renovations that make Anaheim's parks better places to play. Street upgrades that make daily commutes better and safer. A new fire station and additional police officers to keep our community safe.

The City Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted a \$1.7 billion budget covering Anaheim's projected spending for the next 12 months through June 2018.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Ponderosa Community Center

The budget includes \$6.9 million in funding to complete, staff and operate Anaheim's newest community center at Ponderosa Park, located along Orangewood Avenue at Haster Street.

The 18,400-square-foot center (pictured above) is set to open this fall and includes a gymnasium, teen room, classrooms and more.

The center is what's known as a family resource center, offering homework help, field trips, sports and games for kids, and English-language, parenting, fitness and other classes for families.

Residents also can get help with resumes, job searches, filling out forms, translation help and referrals to other services.

The new community center, which replaces an older, outgrown facility at Ponderosa Park, will play a vital role in the lives of people in the neighborhood, many of whom are first- or second-generation residents.

Transportation Improvements

The budget includes \$76 million in spending on upgrades to streets, traffic signals, landscaping as well as resurfacing of streets. Projects include:

- The widening of Brookhurst Street from La Palma Avenue to the Riverside (91) Freeway, going from four to six lanes. Along with improving traffic, the project will add bike lanes and landscaped medians and parkways and is set to finish in 2018.
- Replacing street lights along the 1.5-mile stretch of Beach Boulevard in Anaheim. The project will improve visibility and safety and is part of the city's larger effort to revitalize Beach Boulevard.
- Street improvements, including new traffic lane striping, signal loops, pavement markings and curbs on Cerritos Avenue, Blue Gum Street, Orange Avenue, Gilbert Street, Miraloma Avenue and Rio Vista Street.

Parks

The budget includes \$13 million in funding for parks, trails and facilities, including:

- \$2.3 million to create Anaheim Coves North, an 11.4-acre nature area with a trail on the west side of the Santa Ana River, set to finish in 2018.
- \$800,000 for updates and repairs to parks throughout the city, including play area improvements and restroom renovations.
- \$800,000 for a skate park at Manzanita Park, set to open in 2018.
- \$300,000 for improvements to the Gramercy Trail, which is part of the Oak Canyon Trail in east Anaheim. The project is set to include signs on the area's plant life and open in 2018.

- \$410,000 for a gated, outdoor green space at Anaheim Central Library for children's events with added lights, benches, drinking fountains, trees and other landscaping. The project is set to finish in 2018.
- \$300,000 for relocation of the iconic Home Oil Co. building, now vacant, to Ross Park as a venue for park programs. The project is set to finish in 2018.

Public Safety

The budget includes \$5 million in funding for Anaheim's first new fire station since 2007. Station 5 is set to break ground in July and finish in mid-2018. The 9,481-square-foot station on La Palma Avenue near the Orange (57) Freeway will replace a 56-year-old station on Kraemer Boulevard and improve response times in the area to four minutes or less.

The budget also includes \$2 million in funding to hire 10 police officers as part of the final year of the "40 in four" initiative to add 40 officers in four years. Funding for these new officers comes from a \$2.9 million general fund surplus above and beyond projected spending for the year.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.7 billion

Anaheim's overall city budget. It includes the city's general fund for day-to-day services, a capital improvement program for big projects and enterprise funds for the city's water and power utility, the Anaheim Convention Center, golf courses and other facilities.

Anaheim's overall budget for fiscal year 2017-18 is 3 percent lower from the prior fiscal year, due largely to September's pending completion of the Anaheim Convention Center expansion, which will reduce construction-related expenses in the newly adopted budget.

\$732 million

Anaheim's enterprise funds. They cover city operations that collect revenue for providing services to customers. These include Anaheim Public Utilities, the city's not-for-profit water and power provider, and the Convention, Sports & Entertainment department, which runs the Anaheim Convention Center and oversees Honda Center, Angel Stadium of Anaheim and the ARTIC transit center.

Enterprise funds make up the largest portion of Anaheim's overall budget, with the money they generate going to offset the expense of their operations or to fund

improvements. Enterprise funds are 12 percent lower than the prior year with the winding down of the Anaheim Convention Center expansion.

\$313 million

Anaheim's general fund. This is the city's main source of funding day-to-day operations and covers spending on staffing and offerings at parks, libraries and community centers as well as public safety and other city services. The general fund is up 2 percent from the prior fiscal year.

\$224 million

Anaheim's capital improvement program. This funds improvements to parks, a new fire station, roadways, sewers, landscapes, electric and water systems and more. The capital improvement program is funded by outside sources including the state's gasoline tax, a portion of sales tax for transportation, federal Community Development Block Grants, developer fees and other sources.

\$33.2 million

Anaheim's reserve balance, equal to 11 percent of the general fund.

For more on the city of Anaheim's budget, visit Anaheim.net/mycitybudget.

Calling all angels



The ultimate selfie is coming to Anaheim.

From July 11 to Sept. 30, the Anaheim Convention Center will host “Wings of the City,” an outdoor exhibit of nine larger-than-life bronze sculptures by acclaimed Mexican artist Jorge Marín.

Among them is “Alas de México,” or “Wings of Mexico,” a pair of giant wings suspended above steps for people to pose in front of and become part of the art.

The wings, which debuted in 2010 as a public art exhibit on Mexico City’s Paseo de la Reforma, have been the backdrop for millions of photos as they’ve toured the world.

Now Anaheim residents will be able to get their own pictures with “Alas de México” and view the other statues in the collection.

The statues pay homage to classic sculptures with surreal twists: men adorned with dream-like wings or bird masks, and some in stunning acrobatic poses.

Anaheim is the only California city on a U.S. tour that started in 2013 in Texas. The statues also have been displayed in Europe, Asia and Africa.

The statues will be arranged so visitors can enjoy the art on a leisurely stroll through the walkways around the Convention Center.

Four will be along Katella Avenue in the courtyard of the convention center's domed arena.

The other five will be placed along the Palm Court walkway near the Hilton Anaheim hotel.

Taking and sharing personal pictures is encouraged using the hashtag #wingsinanaheim.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. Parking is available at Car Park 2, which is the parking structure alongside the Hilton Anaheim.

Please note parking in the structure is \$6 for the first hour and \$1.25 for each additional hour.

The exhibit is presented by the city of Anaheim, Visit Anaheim, the Consulate of Mexico in Orange County and Mexican Agency of International Cooperation and Development.

It's here to share internationally acclaimed art with residents and visitors and to support cultural ties with Mexico.

Garden variety mentoring



Stephanie Saldana, a Lincoln Elementary second-grader, proudly shows off a cucumber she and her classmates have been growing for the past two months.

The 7-year-old loves cucumbers, but her passion grew even more after she helped raise and care for the green vegetable from a seed.

She's not alone. In the age of smartphones, you wouldn't think kids would be into growing produce. But 8-year-old Jonathan Huerta-Solis would beg to differ.

"At first, I thought gardens were boring," Jonathan said. "But then it got more interesting. Now I look forward to coming out to the garden each week."

Stephanie, Jonathan and other students who work in the garden are part of a program at Lincoln Elementary run by Higher Ground, a Santa Ana-based nonprofit that runs after-school classes and activities.

The goal of the program: mentor and teach kids in the vulnerable hours after school ends and while parents might be at work.

The purpose of the garden is to teach the kids not only about responsibility but also trial and error. It is giving them life experiences that will help them as they grow older.

Grown-up volunteers help the kids take care of the plants at the program's four gardening beds.

"This is their garden, not mine," said Victoria Michaels, a community volunteer. "It's their reward for taking responsibility."

The class is held every Thursday after school. Originally geared toward second- and third-graders, it is now open to any kids who are interested, including those from other Anaheim elementary schools.

To learn more, call (714) 833-5087 or email info@highergroundoc.org.

Beat the heat this summer



Good things keep happening at Twila Reid Park.

The 27-acre park in the heart of west Anaheim is getting two new pedestrian bridges to go with a new picnic shelter and tables, barbecue grills and a resurfaced parking lot.

The \$317,000 in upgrades is part of Anaheim's parks refresh project, which is also bringing improvements to Ronald Reagan, Pelanconi and Peralta parks.

At Twila Reid Park, two wood and metal bridges are being installed over a drainage canal to replace older, worn bridges.

The project also includes the installation of river rock and landscaping to discourage access to the canal. The improvements are set to be done this summer.

Earlier this year, we installed a new picnic shelter roof and 19 tables were at Twila Reid. And, this spring, new barbecue grills were installed.

Twila Reid is one of Anaheim's most enduring parks.

Opened in 1965, it features disc golf course, an activities center, play areas, horseshoe pits, softball fields, pickleball courts and restrooms.

The park is named for Twila G. Reid, the first female school superintendent in California who worked for 37 years at the Savanna Elementary School District.

Eight park restrooms to be redone



Eight park restrooms will soon be good as new

By the end of August, eight restrooms at our city parks will be looking as good as new, thanks to a renovation project set to begin in the coming weeks.

The project includes bathrooms at Maxwell, Brookhurst, John Marshall, Pearson, Edison, Boysen and Peralta parks.

Construction will begin the week of July 17 and crews plan to complete one restroom each week, in the order listed above. For parks where there is only one restroom, we'll provide a portable toilet for park-goers during construction.

Improvements to the bathrooms will include better lighting, new stainless steel toilets and sinks, new flooring, new and more durable wall surfaces, a fresh coat of paint and updated signs.

The City Council gave \$510,000 in extra money this year for the bathroom renovations after hearing from residents and visitors that better park bathrooms were a high priority.

The project is part of a larger plan to update or rebuild 36 of the city's 42 park restrooms.

Summer reading fun



Anaheim kids will be hitting the books this summer ... for fun!

As part of Reading by Design, the Anaheim Public Libraries summer reading program, kids can keep track of their reading to win fun prizes, including stickers, beads for necklaces, free library video rentals and restaurant coupons.

And kids at heart can take part too by logging their reading for the chance to win coffee gift cards and other prizes.

Anaheim's libraries will also host events throughout the summer that tie into the program's theme of science, technology, engineering, arts and math.

Central Library

- Meet Wall-E and a Star Wars Droid, July 10 ● 6 p.m.
- Minecraft Day, July 13 ● 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Chazz's Drum Circle, July 20 ● 3:30 p.m.
- DINO Encounters: A Jurassic Experience, July 27 ● 3:30 p.m.

Canyon Hills Library

- Fourth of July Craft, July 3 ● 6 p.m.
- Ingrid Garner: Stories with a Wink and a Smile, July 10 ● 6 p.m.
- Teddy Bears' Picnic with Percussive Storytelling, July 15 ● 11 a.m.
- Strawbees Build-A-Thon 2017, July 17 ● 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Flying Toy Workshop, July 24 ● 6 p.m.

East Anaheim Library

- Movie and Craft, July 5 ● 11 a.m.
- Christopher T. Magician -- Let's Get Building, July 12 ● 11 a.m.
- STEMup4Youth, July 19 ● 11 a.m.
- DinoEncounters: A Jurassic Experience, July 26 ● 11 a.m.

Euclid Library

- Best Bubble Show, July 13 ● 3:30 p.m.
- STEMup4Youth, July 27 ● 3:30 p.m.
- Barnyard Extravaganza, Aug. 3 ● 3:30 p.m.

Haskett Library

- Magician Allen Oshiro, July 6 ● 3:30 p.m.
- One World Rhythm, July 13 ● 3:30 p.m.
- Long Beach Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo, July 27 ● 3:30 p.m.

Play it safe with Mylar balloons



Summer can bring outdoor fun, especially on the Fourth of July.

But make sure your family fun doesn't cause a power outage.

If you have Mylar balloons, be sure they don't fly away and drift into power lines, causing power outages. These could last a few minutes or a few hours, and nobody wants to be sans A/C in this heat.

Here are a few tips to keep your balloons in check:

- Make sure that when you purchase balloons they are weighed or tied down
- Never release or let balloons escape into the sky, keep them indoors to be safe
- Metallic string or ribbon should never be used with helium-filled balloons
- Always deflate balloons completely and dispose of properly

If you see a balloon tangled in power lines, do not attempt to retrieve it. Call Anaheim Public Utilities at (714) 765.3300.