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MALCOLM W. MARTIN MEMORIAL PARK IN EAST ST. LOUIS TO HOST FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

East Riverfront Venue Offers Amazing Views of Fireworks and Free, Family-Friendly Festivities July 2, 3 and 4

East St. Louis, Ill., June 22, 2011... Area families are encouraged to take in the Fair Saint Louis fireworks from the best seat in the region – Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park on the banks of the east riverfront. The park offers unmatched views of the downtown skyline and will feature an array of free, family-friendly activities leading up to the fireworks on July 2, 3 and 4. The venue is also expected to be a hotspot for watching the daily Fair Saint Louis Air Shows.

During the daytime hours, Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park visitors can access the 43-foot tall Mississippi River Overlook viewing platform; check out the Gateway Geyser when scheduled eruptions blast 8,000 gallons of water a minute 600 feet into the sky, matching the height of the Gateway Arch; and watch Fair Saint Louis Air Shows set for 12 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, noon and 4 p.m. on Sunday and 1:30 p.m. on Monday (schedule subject to change).

Family-friendly activities get underway at 6:00 p.m. each evening and will include free face painting, caricature drawings, balloon art and magic shows. Radio Disney AM 1260, part of the #1 radio network for kids, tweens and families, will be onsite each night from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. with music, interactive games and prize giveaways. Jen Myers of Y98 FM will also be on hand with her crew on Monday, July 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be made available for purchase throughout the duration of the event, beginning just prior to each day's air show.

This independence celebration is being made possible thanks to the Gateway Center of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Metro East Park and Recreation District. Illinois American Water is sponsoring each of the Gateway Geyser eruptions.

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**MALCOLM W. MARTIN MEMORIAL PARK
FIRST AND FINAL ADD**

“There’s no better time than over the July 4th weekend to experience this wonderful park,” stated Mike Buehlhorn, executive director of MEPRD, “Our 10-acre park offers a spacious landscape for spreading out with your family and friends to take in the spectacular view of the fireworks in a fun, entertaining environment. If you haven’t been to the park, I encourage you to come out, the views are nothing short of breathtaking.”

Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park is located directly across from the Gateway Arch on the banks of the East St. Louis Riverfront, just south of the Casino Queen on Front Street. Parking is limited. Attendees are encouraged to carpool or take the MetroLink to the East Riverfront station and follow the marked pedestrian walkway to the park.

The park will be alcohol-free and additional security will be on hand to assist with pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The park opens at dawn and closes following the conclusion of the fireworks. The Mississippi River Overlook will be closed to the public each evening during the fireworks display. The rules of the park, which will be strictly enforced, include no alcohol, no weapons, no fireworks or sparklers of any kind, no glass containers, no grills or open fires and no pets (service animals are permitted). All bags, backpacks, cooler, containers, and purses will be searched upon entry. All persons are also subject to search.

For more information, and a complete listing of scheduled entertainment, visit www.meprd.org.

The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) was formed by voters in November 2000, and is responsible for the development of parks, greenways, and trails in Madison County and St. Clair County, Illinois. The District often supplements the efforts of local governments, special districts, and other jurisdictions already engaged in the management of parks and recreation facilities. The park district is the first of its kind in Illinois, serving over half a million residents.

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