

Festivities galore to celebrate the Fourth of July

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Area residents have plenty of options for Fourth of July activities — from the Freedom Run in north Evergreen to the Evergreen Music Festival at Buchanan Park to events in Indian Hills.

Freedom Run 5K

The Freedom Run to benefit Mount Evans Home Health Care & Hospice begins at 8 a.m. at Evergreen Middle School, winds through the Hiwan subdivision and ends at Nick's Pro Fitness, where a party is planned.

Participants should arrive at least 45 minutes early to have plenty of time to walk to the starting line. Runners are the first to start, followed by walkers, those with strollers and those with dogs. There's a shuttle from the finish line back to the parking lots.

Cost is \$35 for adults and \$15 for those under 18, and register at mtevens.org. Add \$5 on race day. Pick up T-shirts and bibs on July 3 at the Mount Evans office, 3081 Bergen Peak Drive, or at Evergreen Middle School on July 4.

Mount Evans provides a host of services including in-home medical care, hospice care, counseling programs and support groups.

Evergreen Music Festival

After the Freedom Run, prepare to enjoy many genres of music at the Evergreen Music Festival, which runs from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Buchanan Park in north Evergreen. Proceeds from this year's festival benefit the Evergreen High School performing arts: theater, choral, band and orchestra.

Cheri Rubin, head of the music festival board, said donating to the EHS performing arts departments is a good fit since the money goes to help aspiring artists, and attendees

will see lots of EHS students helping out at the event.

In addition to the music, food and other refreshments, there's an area for kids that will include bounce houses, a balloon artist, a musical instrument petting zoo and a fire truck. The kids area will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Seven musical groups are lined up to perform between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. including the Evergreen Chorale with the Altezza Chamber Chorale and the Thomas Dance Project; Sakura Guitar Duo; Franny & the Jets; Circus No. 9; Subject2Change; Denver Bras; and the Queen City Jazz Band with 23 Skidoo.

From 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Liat, Joe Bye & Friends and the Hazel Miller Band will perform.

A British car display is also planned, and vendors have been lined up.

"We want the performing groups to have the audiences they deserve," Rubin said, "and the vendors to have the attendees they want."

Rubin is thankful for her board members, who have worked tirelessly to put the event together.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens age 13-18 and free for those 12 and under. Veterans and active military are admitted free. Purchase tickets at evergreenmusicfestival.org.