

Fireworks moving to Hafer Park is a blessing — and opportunity — for the Edmond Church

By Bobby Ross Jr.

Faith, meet fireworks.

The two will have a chance to mix Wednesday night — the Fourth of July.

The Edmond Church of Christ's parking lot and nearby Angel Park will be prime viewing locations for the grand finale of LibertyFest, the city's Independence Day celebration.

That's because the fireworks staging area is moving from the University of Central Oklahoma to Hafer Park, right across the street from the church campus.

"In our adult Bible classes, we are discussing the perceptions that many unchurched people have about the church," preaching minister Randy Roper said. "Unfortunately, these perceptions are not always positive. The Fourth of July event is a small way for us to help shape our community's perception of the Edmond Church of Christ."

Deacon, Jim Goodin is helping organize church volunteers — about 50 already have signed up — to show hospitality and greet the community.

Dozens of other members have signed up to donate bottled water and snacks.

"Water and a snack and a parking lot may seem like a small thing," Goodin said. "But I think it provides a real opportunity for our members to be visible and friendly and engage in some positive dialogue."

Goodin's tips for members:

- Come and watch the fireworks at



**JULY 4TH
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

**5:00pm
Devotional in the
Auditorium**

**7:00pm
Classes Canceled**

the church building.

- Be visible. Engage those around you. Be friendly.
- Let God's love shine through you and be a light to visitors who will be watching the fireworks with us.
- Park in the OCA or Will Rogers Elementary lots (to save the better spaces for guests).

Areas near the fireworks staging area — including the Hafer Park ball fields — will be closed to parking. Even pedestrian traffic at Hafer Park will be curtailed after 4 p.m. in anticipation of the fireworks show, which is scheduled to start at 9:30 p.m.

Edmond members will meet for a church-wide devotional at 5 p.m., then prepare for guests to arrive as soon as 7 p.m. to stake out viewing spots.

All the spots in the church parking lot will be open for fireworks guests, and Angel Park will be available for lawn chairs and blankets. Restrooms at the gym will be open, and

portable facilities will be placed near Angel Park. Trash cans also will be placed strategically, and teams will pick up trash in the parking lots and Angel Park after the show.

Signage will promote church worship times and invite the community to the upcoming Vacation Bible School.

"The moving of the Edmond fireworks show to Hafer Park is a god-send," Roper said. "When else will we have so many people from the community on our campus? It is an opportunity to simply show kindness and hospitality to our neighbors in the community, to let them know we care about them."

"Once again, our church is stepping up in a major way to connect with our community," he added. "We are thankful for the many volunteers and donations, and for Jim taking the lead in this important effort."