



city of
bristol

News Release

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Steele Creek Park's 50th Anniversary Celebration kicks-off June 5-7

What were you doing fifty years ago, were you even born? The game show Jeopardy began its run on television, President Johnson declared "War on Poverty", the 1st government warning that smoking may be hazardous to your health was issued, plans for the World Trade Center were announced, Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand" hit number 1, earthquake strikes Alaska, 8.4 on Richter scale, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Noble Piece Prize and Steele Creek Park was born.

In 1964 the 2200 acre municipal park, one of the largest municipal parks in the State of Tennessee, was opened to the public. Most everyone in Bristol has a story to tell about the park, either hiking there, or walking along its paths with grandparents who have passed on their love for the park. A few years ago as the train made its grand re-appearance, one could stand near the tracks and hear the whispered stories from the parents and grandparents who were watching their children and grandchildren ride the train for the first time.

About everyone who has been to Steele Creek in the last 50 years has a story about 'catching the big one' there. If you take a ride through the park on any sunny day you can find Dads sitting peacefully along the banks of Steele Creek talking quietly to their kids as they let the worm soak on the other end of the fishing line. You see it is really more about the time than the fish. What a wonderful treasure Steele Creek Park is to so many generations. It has provided shade in the heat of the day, beautiful snowscapes during the winter and in the spring it comes alive with new life.

During the past few years the city has offered new ways of making memories; the nature center, musical concerts, playgrounds, new shelters, and now movies in the park!

Beginning in June every Thursday evening as weather allows, the park will play host to a family movie night. WXBQ 96.9 and Electric 94.9 are partnering with the city to offer four great nights of fun in Steele Creek Park in commemoration of its 50th anniversary. “We can’t thank WXBQ 96.9 and Electric 94.9 enough for bringing such a great family oriented event to Bristol’s largest park. They have always played a great role in entertainment in the Bristol market. They are truly a good neighbor in every sense of the word,” said Darlene Cole, Community Relations representative.

“This is a good fit for the park and a great way to kick off our 50th Anniversary celebration. We are looking forward to a great weekend of anniversary events scheduled for June 5-7,” said Terry Napier, Director of Parks and Recreation.

On Thursday, June 5 the park will host movie night, followed by the official kick-off on the evening of Friday, June 6 featuring inflatables for the kids, hot dogs, cake, cotton candy and goodies for as long as they last and of course, music by Lightin’ Charlie. On Saturday, June 7 the fun continues with the inflatables remaining in place all day and other activities that will be announced later.

For more information on the 50th Anniversary Celebration contact Terry Napier at 423-764-4023.

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