

GLENSIDE JULY 4 CELEBRATION TO FEATURE

108th PARADE, FIREWORKS, KIDS' PROGRAM

GLENSIDE, PA -- When America celebrates its 235th birthday Monday, July 4, the Abington and Cheltenham Townships' community will again become the patriotic capital of Greater Philadelphia's suburbia via a huge, morning-into-night Independence Day gala.

Hailed as "Suburban Philadelphia's biggest and best family style Independence Day celebration" by its sponsor, the not-for-profit Greater Glenside Patriotic Association (GGPA), the free-admission, three-tier event will feature the 108th Annual Grand, Glorious, Patriotic Parade at 4 p.m. This colorful march through the heart of Glenside is among America's oldest running 4th of July parades. Starting at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 676, Jenkintown and Edge Hill Rds., the 1.5-mile route for the three-division parade will be east on Jenkintown Rd., south along Easton Rd., and east on Waverly Rd, for two blocks to the end point at Keswick Ave. The reviewing stand will continue being front, main entrance steps of St. Luke the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Easton Rd. at Fairhill Ave.

The local celebration will actually begin six hours before the popular parade's start with a 10 a.m. We Love America Children's Program at Cheltenham Township's Harry Renninger Memorial Park, Keswick Ave. at Waverly Rd. in south Glenside. Decorated bicycle and stroller contests will launch festivities, followed by girls and boys field sports events at 10:30 a.m and, at 12 noon, the serving of refreshments for youngsters.

The celebration's finale will be a traditional after-dark America the Beautiful Aerial Fireworks' Spectacular, launched from the Abington Township Maintenance Yard that adjoins the western side of the Abington

Senior and Junior High Schools' complex. The \$15,000 display of nearly 1,000 high-level rockets is the only free-admission July 4 fireworks show in eastern Montgomery and lower Bucks Counties. Supplying and triggering the rockets will be Pyrotecnico Vitale Fireworks, of New Castle, PA.

Aiming to add more youthful red, white and blue patriotic color to the afternoon parade, GGPA officials have, for the first time, invited area youngsters, and their families, to join in the Independence Day march. They may do so with a patriotically decorated bicycle/tricycle, stroller, wagon or home-made float that can roll along the parade route. Staging site for the youthful assemblage is the southeast corner of Roslyn Ave. and Jenkintown Rd., opposite the parade's starting point at aforementioned VFW Post 676. Sign-ups are not required, but participants are advised to report by 3:15 p. July 4. "The report area will be a drop-off spot only," said GGPA officials, "since no parking will be permitted there."

Within the past week, in its annual mass fund-raising mailing to the Abington-Cheltenham community, the GGPA stressed, "Some believe that because Abington and Cheltenham Townships host and provide valued logistical support to the local 4th of July celebration, these municipalities pay for the overall event. Not so! The celebration's entire cost (\$50,000-plus) is paid by the not-for-profit Greater Glenside Patriotic Association from tax-deductible contributions to this all-volunteer membership, 501(c)[3] group."

"Partnering in Patriotism" financial contributions to help fund the Independence Day celebration are accepted year-round by the GGPA, % Abington Bank, P.O. Box 9009, Jenkintown, PA, 19046.

Saturday, July 9, is the celebration's rain date, with further

information available at the GGPA web site: www.glensidejuly4thevent.com).

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Thank you!

Wm. B. Hall, Media/Public Relations Director

Greater Glenside Patriotic Association