

SenecaFest laser show contract approved

BY NORM CANNADA
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SENECA — Plans for a laser light show to end this year's SenecaFest in downtown Seneca were officially confirmed this week.

Seneca City Council approved a \$13,000 contract with Peachtree Laser Inc. to put on the 20-minute laser show on Saturday, May 25, at Norton Thompson Park. The money for the laser show will come from the city's hospitality and accommodations tax funds.

"It provides another family-friendly environment, another event where families can come in and enjoy something you don't get to see every day," city administrator Scott Moulder said. "There'll be smoke and lights and lasers and music. It's going to be an interesting event for people to come down and see."

The laser show is one of several changes to SenecaFest, which is moving back to downtown after several years at Gignilliat Field. The event has also been extended to three days this year.

The festival is set to run from 5-9 p.m. each night from May 23-25 along Main Street from Walnut Street to Ram Cat Alley. A movie will be shown Friday night, and the laser show is set for Saturday night. Both of those events are scheduled for Norton Thompson Park around 9:30 p.m., according

to city events coordinator Riley Johnson.

Johnson said the laser show was popular with residents when it was held about five years ago.

"We've done it once in the park, and people are still talking about it from five years ago," he said. "We just wanted to give it back to them. It's basically a festival of lights and smoke and music. It just lights up the night."

Johnson added officials are considering letting people vote on the movie they want to see on Friday night, adding that the movie will be "family friendly."

Six bands — two each night — will perform on two stages on the Ram Cat and Walnut Street sides of Main Street. On Thursday night, Leisha J & Company is scheduled to perform jazz and party music, while Magic, a beach band, is set to play on the stage at the other side of Main Street. Funk Factory 5, a party band, and Adam Carter, who performs country and blues, are scheduled to perform on

Friday night, followed by the movie. On Saturday night, Corey Ste-

vens is set to take the stage performing Southern rock, and country rock band Bad Creek is scheduled on the other stage.

Alcohol will be sold at SenecaFest, but outside alcohol will not be allowed, according to officials. Everyone wanting to drink alcohol will have to have their identification checked and will be required to wear a wristband. Officials said alcohol will be served in special SenecaFest cups, and other cups will not be permitted.

Johnson said those interested

in becoming vendors for the event should call City Hall at (864) 885-2700.

"We're waiving the vendor fee this year," he said. "All we're doing is charging a peddler's license, so you can come and sell all three days from 5-9 (p.m.) for \$7."

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