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ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR FINANCIAL HELP

Volunteers of the committee who put on the annual 4th of July day-long community celebration at State Fair Park are looking for sponsors so the event can continue this summer. In past years the celebration has been financed largely in part by a \$25,000 contribution from the City of Yakima. City officials recently announced budget cuts that included the 4th of July monies.

“The 4th of July committee has been out looking for financial support to try to make up for the lost contribution from the city,” said 4th of July committee member and president of Central Washington State Fair, Greg Stewart. “But we aren’t having much luck.”

Stewart said the money from the city was used to purchase the fireworks and helped cover other costs for the day-long event.

He said one option would be to charge people to attend the event to help cover costs, but the celebration has been open and free to all community members for 28 years, the committee doesn’t want to charge admission.

“We have vendors and the carnival company who are trying to set their calendars for the year and we have to let them know if the 4th of July celebration is a go or no-go here pretty soon,” Stewart said.

The 4th of July committee is made up of a number of community volunteers who have worked to keep the annual celebration going. State Fair Park donates the facilities for the event, including personnel who help set up for the event, and clean up afterwards.

There is still time to make the event happen, but Stewart said the final decision to pull the plug or not will need to be made by the end of January.

“We’re still hoping we can get a group or business to step up and help us keep this really fun community event going,” Stewart said.

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