



Aquatennial announces James Beard winner Ann Kim, Minnesota United's Darwin Quintero as 2019 CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade Grand Marshals

The 80th Aquatennial, taking place July 24-27, will also feature 80s-themed Target Fireworks soundtrack, Frey's Fry Throwdown

MINNEAPOLIS (June 19, 2019) – The Minneapolis Aquatennial announced today that 2019 **James Beard Award winner Ann Kim** and **Minnesota United midfielder Darwin Quintero** will be the 2019 CenterPoint Torchlight Parade Grand Marshals as the Aquatennial celebrates its 80th year.

Kim, the chef/owner of Young Joni and Pizzeria Lola in Minneapolis and Hello Pizza in Edina, and Quintero, who led the Loons in goals last season and was the team's first Designated Player when he arrived from Club America of Liga MX in 2018, will lead this year's edition of the largest nighttime parade in Minnesota. It will take place **Wednesday, July 24 beginning at 8:30 pm** and run down 2nd Avenue from the Minneapolis Convention Center to 3rd Street.

"Every year, our company looks forward to the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade because of the opportunity to celebrate, support and show appreciation for the communities we serve each day," said **Brad Tutunjian, CenterPoint Energy division vice president of Gas Operations in Minnesota**. "It has been an honor to sponsor this fun-filled event for 19 consecutive years, and it's our hope that everyone can join in celebrating on July 24."



As part of its 80th year, Aquatennial is celebrating some of our community's best stories of 2019 throughout its four days. Kim represents our local culinary excellence through the success of her local restaurants and her 2019 James Beard Award, while Quintero embodies the energy and vibe of the Loons and their newly-opened Allianz Field.

Kim and her restaurants are revered and nationally-recognized. Most recently, in 2019, she received the James Beard Award for "Best Chef Midwest." Young Joni was named the 2017 Best New Restaurant in America by GQ and Eater, and the Minneapolis Star Tribune named Young Joni its 2017 Restaurant of the Year.

A Korean immigrant, she credits her culinary palate to helping her mother and grandmother at an early age make traditional staples such as fermented bean paste and kimchi. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English from New York's Columbia University, where her sustenance often came in the form of a daily cheese pizza slice from a fair number of corner pizza shops. These formative pizza-eating years laid the foundation for her dream to someday bring great pizza to Minnesota, and her years as a freelance actor fostered her value of creativity, the art of the hustle and storytelling.



"I am honored to be a Grand Marshal of this year's Aquatennial CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade," **Kim** said. "Each year, Aquatennial brings thousands of people to our city as a way to celebrate what makes Minneapolis special. I look forward to sharing in the events that bring our city's tradition and future together in such a fun way."

Quintero boasts immense speed and intelligence with the ball at his feet. A Tumaco, Colombia, native, Quintero joined Minnesota United in March 2018 as the club's first Designated Player. Quintero made an immediate impact for Minnesota, scoring a goal in his first appearance on April 14 against the Portland Timbers. In July, he scored six goals and provided six assists in six games, one of the best single months in league history. Quintero had a seven-game point streak in August and closed out the season with a team-leading 11 goals and team record 15 assists. He began his professional career with Deportes Tolima in his native country in 2005 and has played internationally with the Colombia national team as well as for teams based in Colombia and Mexico.

"It has been such a great year for our club, and the community has made Allianz Field an unbelievable place to play," **Quintero** said. "I'm honored to represent Minnesota United at the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade and hope our fans will bring their enthusiasm out to join me at Aquatennial."

In addition, K102's Chris Carr & Company morning show crew will be back to emcee this year's CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade.

The CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade, along with fellow flagship event Target Fireworks on Saturday, July 27 at 10 p.m., book-end four jam-packed days of Aquatennial featuring more than two dozen free and family-friendly events.

This year's Target Fireworks will pay tribute to the Aquatennial's 80th year by syncing the fireworks display to 80s music. The pyro-musical is choreographed to match every beat with the display itself.

"This year's Aquatennial brings together our annual favorites with new traditions that really speak to the spirit of Minneapolis," said **Leah Wong, vice president of external relations, mpls downtown council**. "Whether you want to see the downtown skyline from the top of a Ferris Wheel or watch local restaurants compete in a fry dish contest, this year's new events bridge the history of our city with the creativity and trends of today's Minneapolis. Join us and enjoy events for all ages, abilities and interests at the 2019 Aquatennial."

Aquatennial's lineup will feature two dozen events, featuring new and enhanced features that will make this year's 80th celebration a must-see. This year's lineup includes:

- An expanded and enhanced celebration along the Mississippi Riverfront **leading up to the Target Fireworks** on Saturday, July 27. From 4-10 pm, enjoy views from atop a Ferris Wheel, a Family Fun Zone, food trucks, local craft beers, live music, a 50-vendor Mpls Craft Market and AquaJam skateboarding at West River Parkway near the Stone Arch Bridge.
- **Frey's Fry Throwdown at Aquatennial** is a new event on Friday, July 26 from 12-1 pm #OnNicollet between 9th and 10th streets. Playing off Mayor Jacob Frey's dynamically delicious name and our city's culinary creativity, local restaurants will develop a new French Fry-based dish that will be taste-tested by a panel of judges. Restaurants include Constantine, Crave, Devil's Advocate, Fulton Taproom Kitchen, The Bird, The Local, The Newsroom and Red Cow.
- The **Life Time Torchlight 5K After Party** is open to the public on Wednesday, July 24 at Boom Island. The event will include music, food, beverages and incredible views of the Minneapolis skyline across the river. No need to run the race, just stop by and celebrate.
- The **Aquatennial Blood Drive** returns in partnership with the American Red Cross on July 24-26 from 9 am-3 pm at IDS Center. Sign up in advance at www.aquatennial.com/events or walk-in the day of to give blood and help save a life.

For those looking to take part in Aquatennial, the **Aquatennial Volunteers Program** is now accepting sign-ups. Volunteers will be in the heart of the Aquatennial action and will also receive a t-shirt, Skyline Specs sunglasses, access to the Target Fireworks private viewing area and more. Visit www.aquatennial.com/volunteers for more information.

Aquatennial goers can get to the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade and the Target Fireworks by bus or light rail for FREE thanks to **Metro Transit's free ride pass**. From 4 p.m. to midnight on Wednesday, July 24 and Saturday, July 27, riders can ride Metro Transit for free by printing a pass—Wednesday's pass will be available at www.aquatennial.com/torchlightparade and Saturday's pass will be available at www.aquatennial.com/fireworks as we get closer to the events.

The Aquatennial has also partnered with the City of Minneapolis to bring **Tap Minneapolis** water fountains to the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade. These water stations will be available along 2nd Avenue during the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade and Life Time Torchlight 5K as well as in Loring Park at the Pre-Parade Family Fun Night on Wednesday, July 24, and they will also be placed along West River Parkway during the Target Fireworks on Saturday, July 27. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to the events to refill at the Tap Minneapolis fountains.

Aquatennial's full schedule, guide, sign-up links, Skipper Pin sales and more will be available at www.aquatennial.com leading up to the events.

Media is encouraged to bookmark and follow <http://aquatennial.mediaelc.com/> for more information, photos, resources and updated content leading up to and throughout Aquatennial.

The [full Aquatennial schedule of events is available online](#).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Aquatennial Blood Drive | IDS Center Crystal Court (80 S. 8th St), 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Go Outside with Hennepin County Lawn Games and Activities | Hennepin County Government Center South Plaza (300 S 6th St), 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

JB Hudson Aquatennial Tailgate Party | JB Hudson Jewelers (901 Nicollet Mall), 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Loring Park Pre-Parade Family Fun Night | Loring Park, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Wilderness Inquiry Voyageur Canoe Rides | Loring Park, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Twins vs. Yankees | Target Field, 7:00 p.m.

Life Time Torchlight 5K | 2nd Avenue beginning at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 7:30 p.m.

Life Time Torchlight 5K After Party | Boom Island, 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade | 2nd Avenue beginning at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 25

Nicollet Farmers Market | Nicollet between 6th and 9th St, 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Aquatennial Blood Drive | IDS Center Crystal Court (81 S. 8th St), 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Go Outside with Hennepin County Piano Performance | Hennepin County Government Center South Plaza (300 S 6th St), 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Go Outside Trivia Night | Target Field Station, 7:00 p.m.

Twin Cities River Rats Water Ski Show | Mississippi River, West River Road (between Broadway & Plymouth Aves) 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Aquatennial Blood Drive | IDS Center Crystal Court (80 S. 8th St), 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Frey's Fry Throwdown at Aquatennial | Nicollet between 9th and 10th St, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Alchemy 365 at Aquatennial | Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (726 Vineland Pl), 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Loring Park Art Festival | Loring Park, 10:00 AM - 6:00 p.m.

Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam Open House | St. Anthony Falls Lock & Dam (1 Portland Ave), 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wilderness Inquiry Voyageur Canoe Rides | Boom Island (724 NE Sibley St), 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Aquatennial Yoga with Core Power Yoga classes | Boom Island (724 NE Sibley St), 9 a.m. - C2/Yoga Sculpt mash-up | 10:15 a.m. - Guided meditation with gentle movement

AquaJam | West River Parkway near Portland Ave., 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Twin Cities Carifest | West River Road between Plymouth & Broadway, 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Aquatennial Ambassador Organization Coronation | U of M Ted Mann Concert Hall, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Target Fireworks | West River Parkway near Portland Ave, 10:00 p.m.

Featuring pre-fireworks festivities | 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

- Live music
- Family Fun Zone
- Mpls Craft Market
- Local craft beer

- Food Trucks

About the Minneapolis Aquatennial

The Minneapolis Aquatennial is the Official Civic Celebration of the City of Minneapolis offers outstanding entertainment and activities in the City of Lakes for all ages. It is managed and produced by the mpls downtown council. This year's Aquatennial is sponsored by Target, CenterPoint Energy, U.S. Bank, Hennepin Healthcare, Metro Transit, Skyline Specs and more. For more information, please visit aquatennial.com or call (612) 376-7669.

About the mpls downtown council

Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic business associations in the nation, the mpls downtown council (mdc) is a membership-based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The mdc's collaborative development of the Intersections: Downtown 2025 Plan is designed to help downtown businesses, community leaders and citizens build on downtown assets and implement future goals. For more information, please visit mplsdowntown.com.

About CenterPoint Energy

Headquartered in Houston, Texas, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. is an energy delivery company with regulated utility businesses in eight states and a competitive energy businesses footprint in nearly 40 states. Through its electric transmission & distribution, power generation and natural gas distribution businesses, the company serves more than 7 million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas. CenterPoint Energy's competitive energy businesses include natural gas marketing and energy-related services; energy efficiency, sustainability and infrastructure modernization solutions; and construction and repair services for pipeline systems, primarily natural gas. The company also owns 53.8 percent of the common units representing limited partner interests in Enable Midstream Partners, LP, a publicly traded master limited partnership that owns, operates and develops strategically located natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. With approximately 14,000 employees and nearly \$29 billion in assets, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 150 years. For more information, visit CenterPointEnergy.com.

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