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Celebration City now open in Branson

Celebration City, a new nighttime theme park in Branson, Mo., closes each night with a pyrotechnic flourish. A nightly outdoor multimedia laser production show called *Celebrate* whisks guests through the 20th Century. High-tech special effects highlight World War II Victory parades — the first steps on the moon, rock and roll, disco, the computer age, Marilyn Monroe, John Wayne, James Dean, Elvis Presley and the Beatles — culminating with the Stars and Stripes, all projected against the side of a mountain.

The park, which opened last month, also unveiled 30 themed rides and attractions. A choice of three roller coasters includes the Ozark Wild-Cat, a new retro wooden coaster that reaches speeds of 45 mph and drops riders eight stories; the Thunderbolt, a 60-foot steel coaster that peaks at 35 mph; and Jack Rabbit, a 52-foot coaster that provides camel-back features.

But the main theme of the park is to take visitors back to the early 1900s and to show that "Branson isn't only about music," said spokesman Lisa Rau. Visitors enter through Celebration Street, which is filled with vintage cars and a carousel. They proceed to a Coney Island-style boardwalk and go onto Route 66, which celebrates the '50s and '60s with shiny cars and drive-in diners.

The park, a Silver Dollar City attraction, is open daily 3-11 p.m. Call 800-831-4FUN; www.silverdollarcity.com.

— *Newsday*

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— *New York Tim*

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