

It's time to celebrate America!

Area residents should mark their calendars, as a number of Independence Day events are on tap.

Eldon

Plans are in the works for the annual city of Eldon Independence Day celebration Thursday, July 4.

Festivities will kick off at 7 a.m. with the 5K run/walk.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. (lineup at 9 a.m.), followed by a free swim at the aquatic center from noon to 2 p.m.

The airpark will open at 4 p.m. for a variety of activities, entertainment and vendors, with the fireworks display at dusk.

As in the past, Citizens Bank of Eldon is sponsoring the fireworks show.

More event details will be announced soon.

Iberia

Iberia Baptist Church will host an Independence Day celebration Sunday, June 30, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The event will feature free food and drinks, children's games, live entertainment and a homemade ice cream contest.

This will be followed by a fireworks display at dusk.

The Iberia community will host an Independence Day celebration Saturday, July 6 at the Iberia Lions Club.

The event, from 5 to 10 p.m., will feature food, music, kids activities, volleyball and cornhole, with a fireworks display at dusk.

High Point

The High Point Community Renewal Association will host its annual Fourth of July celebration Thursday, July 4 at the Albert Jobe ballfield.

Food service begins at 6 p.m. featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries and ice cream.

The event will also feature a tribute to veterans at 8 p.m. at the memorial, followed by the fireworks display at dusk.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed.

St. Elizabeth

The St. Elizabeth Care Center will host a holiday celebration at 6 p.m. Friday, June 28 at the care center at 649 S. Walnut.

The event will feature food and drinks, with fireworks at dusk.

Pulled pork nachos will be sold for \$5, with drinks \$1.

For more information, call Jaicee Schrimps at (573) 480-8116.

Tuscumbia

Miller County Care and Rehabilitation Center will host a Fourth of July celebration Friday, July 5.

The event will feature concessions for sale, with proceeds going to the residents' activity fund.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will go on sale at 7 p.m. and Roscoe's ice cream truck will also be on-site.

Families are also encouraged to bring blankets or chairs for the free fireworks show by the Tuscumbia Fire Protection District.

The Tuscumbia Independence Day fireworks will be held Saturday, July 13 at the Riverside Park.

Fireworks will be provided by Thomas Elmore, and the Tuscumbia Betterment Committee will serve hot dogs, walking tacos, popcorn, cotton candy, water and soda, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The fireworks display will be at dusk.



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Learn the history of America’s Independence Day

Few summertime holidays elicit as much excitement as the Fourth of July, also known as Independence Day in the United States. Each year, family, friends and revelers anticipate the arrival of the holiday so they can host barbecues, enjoy the sun, listen to their favorite summertime tunes, and commemorate the freedoms afforded by the monumental events that led to the holiday’s establishment.

Independence Day became a federal holiday in 1941, but July 4th has stood as the birth of American independence for much longer. July 4th marks a pivotal moment in the American Revolution. According to PBS, the colonies were forced to pay taxes to England’s King George III despite having no representation in the British Parliament. “Taxation without representation” became a battle cry and was one of several grievances colonists had with Great Britain.

Conflict between the colonies had been going on for at least a year before the colonies convened a Continental Congress in Philadelphia in June of 1776, says Military.com. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence from England. Two days later, on July 4, 1776, delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration of Independence is an historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer of the declaration writing committee charged with putting the colonies’ sentiments into words. Richard Henry Lee of Virginia was one of the first people to present a resolution for American independence, and his commentary was the impetus for the formal Declaration of Independence. A total of 86 changes were made to Jefferson’s original

draft until the final version was adopted. The signing of the document helped to solidify independence, and eventually lead to the formation of the United States of America.

A total of 56 delegates signed the document. Although John Hancock’s signature is the largest, it did not hold more weight than the other signatures. Rather, rumor has it, Hancock signed it so large so that the “fat, old King could read it without his spectacles.” However, the National Archives says it was also customary that, since Hancock was the president of the Continental Congress, he be the first person to sign the document centered below the text.

The Pennsylvania Evening Post was the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence on July 6, 1776. The first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia’s Independence Square on July 8, 1776.



Did you know?

John Adams, a staunch supporter of American independence and a representative for Boston at the First Continental Congress, felt that, after America gained independence from Great Britain, July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate American Independence Day. July 2nd was when the vote for independence took place. July 4, 1776 was when the Declaration of Independence was officially signed. Thereafter, Adams would reportedly decline invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. In an interesting turn of events, July 4th would prove significant to Adams in another way. Both Adams and Thomas Jefferson, another key figure in American history, died on July 4, 1826, which marked the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

July 4th is a day when Americans celebrate their independence, but it’s also a day to commemorate two men who played vital roles in procuring that independence. Both John Adams, the second President of the United States, and his successor Thomas Jefferson passed away on July 4, 1826. The two men had an interesting relationship that became increasingly complex as the nation they helped to found developed. According to History.com, Adams and Jefferson were confidantes in the 1780s. But as time wore on, each man developed a different view of what the United States government should be, creating a rift in their relationship that was only widened by the 1800 presidential election. The men ran against each other in that election, which is still considered one of the more contentious elections in American history. Jefferson ultimately claimed victory, a result so unnerving to Adams that he left Washington, D.C. prior to Jefferson’s inauguration. The two men would ultimately reconcile, exchanging more than 150 letters before dying within hours of one another on Independence Day in 1826.

The Declaration of Independence and July Fourth are indelibly linked. But you may need to be an American history buff to know that the link is less direct than it may seem. The Continental Congress declared American independence on July 2, even though the final wording of the Declaration of Independence had yet to be approved. That approval came two days later, which is why American independence is celebrated on July 4. Furthermore, the Declaration of Independence now on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., was not signed on July 4. The signatures on that document, which have been a source of pride for descendants of the signers for centuries, were written on August 2, a full month after the Congress declared its independence from Great Britain. And in a reflection of life in the 18th century, Great Britain did not even receive the declaration until November of 1776.

Check out these Fourth of July celebrations

July Fourth is a day of celebration across the United States. The Fourth of July commemorates American independence and millions of people throughout the country celebrate the day with family and friends.

Communities host their own celebrations on July Fourth. Some celebrations are relatively simple, while others are must-see events for any patriot. The following are some of the more noteworthy Fourth of July celebrations that will entertain millions in person or on television this year.

- Washington, D.C.: It should come as no surprise that the capital of the United States hosts an especially awe-inspiring Fourth of July celebration. In addition to a concert featuring well-known musical acts on the National Mall, the festivities in the nation’s capital are marked by a fireworks extravaganza that will impress anyone seeking a unique way to celebrate the holiday.

- Boston: Estimates suggest roughly half a million individuals take in the Fourth of July festivities in Boston. A hotbed of patriotism during the American Revolutionary War, Boston embraces that spirit each July with a celebration on the city’s Charles River. The Boston celebration spans two days and includes a popular performance by the Boston Pops.

- Philadelphia: Another city with deep ties to the American Revolutionary War, Philadelphia celebrates the nation’s independence against the backdrop of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which is one of the city’s more notable and recognizable buildings. Individuals along both sides of the Delaware River can view the impressive fireworks display.

- San Diego: Notable celebrations of American independence are not



exclusive to the eastern portion of the country. The Big Bay Boom fireworks over San Diego Bay can inspire any patriot, while across the bay on the island of Coronado celebrants can enjoy a parade and family-friendly concert before settling in for a fireworks show in the evening.

- New York, NY: Perhaps no Fourth of July fireworks celebration is as well-known as the one hosted by the Big Apple. Typically taking place on the East River, the New York City fireworks display

can be viewed from various points throughout the city. Individuals looking for a unique way to take in the show can book a spot on a boat sailing in New York harbor.

There’s no shortage of Fourth of July celebrations. In addition to these noteworthy spots to celebrate American independence, the cities of Portland, Ore.; Chicago; San Antonio, Tex.; and Atlantic City, N.J. host their own unique celebrations.

Get to know the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is a formal document that served as the signatory colonies’ statement that they were now “free and independent States.” It is a vital document in American history.

On July 1, 1776, delegates from the original 13 colonies, making up the Second Continental Congress, met in Philadelphia to vote on Richard Henry Lee’s motion for independence. After some deliberation, ultimately 12 of the 13 delegates voted in favor. In recognition of those 12 delegates, here are 12 facts regarding the Declaration of Independence.

1. The drafted document was officially adopted on July 4, 1776, two days after freedom from Britain was approved. However, most delegates signed the document on August 2, 1776, while others signed on a later date. John Dickinson and Robert R. Livingston never signed the Declaration of Independence.

2. John Dunlap was the official printer of Congress at the time. He worked all night and into the morning of July 5 to produce the large, single-sided sheet, known as a broadside. About 200 copies of Dunlap’s broadside were made.

3. The University of Virginia owns two copies of a rare early printing of the Declaration. It is on display in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library. It

is believed the copy once belonged to George Washington.

4. Benjamin Franklin, George Read, Roger Sherman, Robert Morris, George Clymer, and James Wilson signed both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

5. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were hidden at Fort Knox during World War II, two weeks after Pearl Harbor was attacked.

6. Despite what the movie “National Treasure” will have one believe, the message on the back of the document is visible and reads “Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776.”

7. Richard Stockton, a lawyer from New Jersey, was a signer of the Declaration who later recanted his support of the American revolution. He subsequently swore his allegiance to King George III after being captured by the British.

8. In 1989, an original Dunlap Broadside was found hidden behind a picture a Philadelphia man bought at a flea market for \$4. It later sold for \$8.1 million. Ultimately, 26 copies of the original prints have been found.

9. The United States celebrates Independence Day on July 4th, even though independence was accepted on July 2nd.

10. Early on, not everyone in America was supportive of

the Declaration of Independence. Partisan politics led to discord. Federalist John Adams was feuding with Republicans and Thomas Jefferson. The anniversary date of the signing was not widely celebrated until the Federalists were no longer involved in politics.

11. The one-year anniversary of Independence Day and the celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence slipped the minds of Congress in 1777. When they remembered it was July 3rd, they planned a last-minute celebration on July 4th, and each year thereafter.

12. John Trumbull’s painting “Declaration of Independence,” which was made into a lithograph replica by Ralph Trembly, hangs in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. It is a fictional depiction of the five-man drafting committee presenting their draft to Congress, and not the signing. The painting shows 42 of the 56 signees, since Trumbull couldn’t get likenesses of all involved. The men featured in the painting were never all in the room at the same time during the Declaration’s debate and signing.

The Declaration of Independence is a key document in American history, and its words are celebrated each Independence Day.

Learn these nine facts about the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is a document that indicates the founding principles of the United States of America. The declaration was issued by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and announced the separation of the 13 British colonies in North America from the United Kingdom.

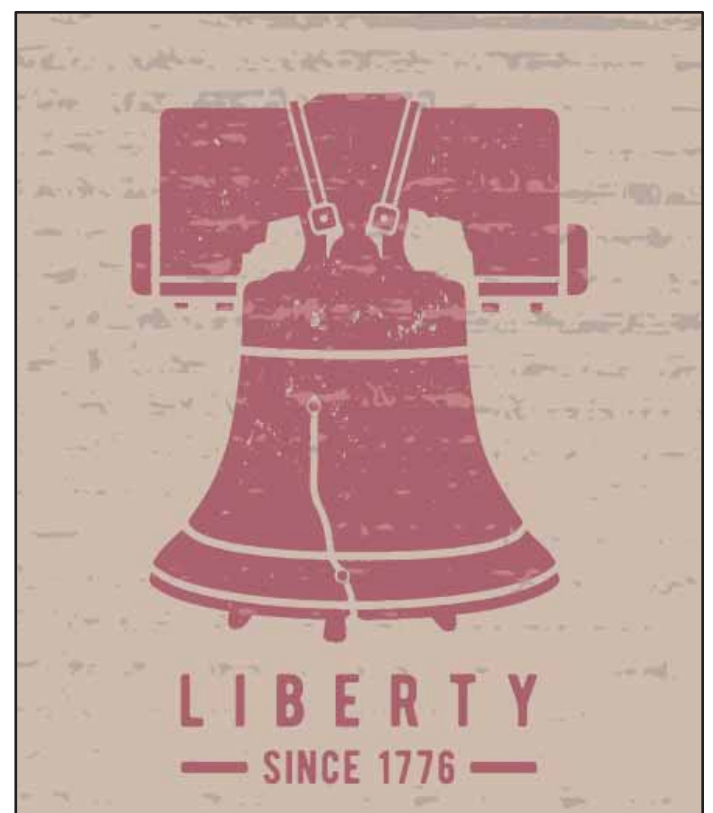
That significance means the public may want to learn more about the Declaration of Independence. Here are some key facts.

1. While Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was carefully reviewed and modified by other members of the Continental Congress, notably John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

2. The Continental Congress actually voted for independence on July 2, 1776. The written Declaration was dated July 4, 1776, but it wasn’t actually signed until August 2nd of that year. John Adams thought July 2nd would be marked as the national holiday.

3. Fifty-six delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, but not all were present on that day in August.

4. While many know that John Hancock signed first, with his prominent signature readily visible, it is believed that Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person



to sign.

5. Others signed according to state delegation and in columns, starting with the northernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).

6. About 200 copies of the Dunlap Broadside were printed. Today, 26 copies remain.

7. The original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence has been lost.

8. The Declaration of Independence was not universally accepted, and many people in the colonies remained loyal to the British monarchy and opposed American independence.

9. The Declaration of Independence has a message written on the back of it. It reads, “Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776.”

What to know about fireworks' injuries

Fireworks are a common sight at various celebrations throughout the year, but are most prominent during the summer months when Canada Day and Independence Day are celebrated. Fireworks have been in use for thousands of years. Many historians believe fireworks were developed in Liuyang, China, in the second century B.C. The first "fireworks" were made from bamboo stalks that, when thrown into a fire, would explode due to hollow pockets of air in the bamboo, says the American Pyrotechnic Association. Eventually early gunpowder recipes provided the boom behind the fireworks, and modern fireworks are not very different from those early incarnations.

Due to the explosive nature of fireworks, not to mention the required flame to light the fuses, fireworks have the potential to cause serious injury if not handled properly. Many injuries occur each year, particularly among do-it-yourselfers setting off fireworks in their neighborhoods.

The following are some of the most prevalent injuries related to fireworks, courtesy of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Burns are the most



common injuries associated with fireworks. The CPSC says burns accounted for 39 percent of all injuries in 2022. The hands and fingers (29 percent); head, face and ears (19 percent); legs (19 percent); and eyes (16 percent) are the areas of the body most often affected by burns.

• Cuts and bruises to the head, face and ears also are common fireworks-related injuries. Such injuries may

result from the fast movement of the fireworks upon launch. The blast of fireworks can even damage facial tissue and break bones in the face.

The CPSC says where known, the fireworks with the highest estimated emergency department-treated injuries in 2022 were firecrackers and sparklers. Many people think that sparklers are safe because they are largely marketed to children, but

they burn very hot. According to Wired, sparklers can reach temperatures anywhere from 1800 F to 3000 F. To put that in perspective, iron melts at 2800 F.

To protect oneself, it's always best to leave fireworks to the professionals. Safer options for home celebrations include confetti, balloons, silly string, and other colorful options.

Sparklers are not child's play

Did you know that the average primary flame blowtorch burns at around 2,000 F? USFS National Technology and Development says wildland fires typically burn between 1,600 and 2,000 F. Aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, and cast iron also can reach melting points at or slightly below 2,000 F.

It's likely safe to say that parents would never let their children handle a blowtorch, wander into a forest fire nor touch molten metals, yet many seemingly have no concerns about children playing with sparklers during July 4 celebrations. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia says people often treat sparklers much too casually, even though they can burn at temperatures of about 2,000 F. Children are allowed to hold and wave these red-hot metal rods like toys. Sparkler sticks pose a serious burn risk, and the sparks can cause additional burns and eye injuries, warns the CHOP. Young children who would not be trusted with other hot materials should not hold sparklers, warn health experts. Older children should be carefully supervised around sparklers and other fireworks.

Those who want to avoid any possible injuries on July 4 and during other summer

celebrations would be wise to avoid sparklers in favor of safer forms of entertainment. Here are some ideas.

- Glow sticks light up in the dark and can be worn or waved around safely.

- Fill water balloons with a mixture of glitter and water. When the balloons pop, it is a festive display.

- Send children around with canned string products that they can spray on one another. If making a mess isn't an issue, shaving cream "fights" also can be fun diversions for children.

- Adults can lead by example and leave the fireworks displays to the professionals. Take a ride over to the seaside or where a town is hosting a fireworks display and enjoy the sights from a distance.

- Purchase battery-powered blinking lights, such as those sold at circuses or concerts. Kids can spend hours running around with them in hand. Less expensive flashlights purchased at a dollar store can create the same effect.

- Let children play with confetti cannons.

- "Snappers" or "poppers" could be an option if they are sold nearby. These are small noisemakers that explode and pop when they are thrown at a hard ground surface.

Sparklers may be festive



and beautiful to behold, but they are not designed to be handled by children. Alternatives to sparklers are equally fun and much safer.

Handle fireworks safely

Warm weather generally translates to more time spent outdoors. That means more barbecues, days spent poolside, trips to the beach, and even camping excursions. This time of year also inspires people to celebrate. What better way to signal the party has started than with fireworks?

Fireworks traditionally are part of large celebrations, such as national holidays or grand opening events. Many individuals also take it on themselves to set off fireworks during block parties or other neighborhood gatherings. Though fireworks are awe-inspiring, they're also dangerous, which is why it's best to leave them to the professionals.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that fireworks-related injuries and deaths in the United States have risen by roughly 25 percent in the last 15 years. In 2021, nine people died in accidents involving fireworks, and 11,500 were injured.

"The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch the professional displays," said Alex Hoeh-Saric, chair of the CPSC.

Three-quarters of fireworks injuries occur the weeks before and following the July 4th holiday in the United States. The Canadian Government indicates two-thirds of all fireworks-related



injuries in Canada occur between May and August, with nearly one-third happening on days surrounding Victoria Day and Canada Day.

Fireworks can injure any part of the body, but burns to the hands and fingers, trunk, and arms are the most commonly affected areas. Injuries to the eyes, including blindness, also may occur.

Sparklers are not necessarily safe, either. The CPSC reports that 1,100 injuries result from sparklers

each year.

As fireworks become widely available, it's imperative that individuals follow these crucial safety tips when using them.

- Never allow children to play with or ignite any type of firework, including sparklers.

- Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to extinguish fires or sparks.

- Only buy and use fireworks if they are legal.

- Light fireworks one at a time in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

- Choose a field or area free from trees and other obstructions, far away from spectators to light fireworks.

- Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

- Never point or fire fireworks in the direction of other people.

- Do not place any part of the body directly over fireworks when lighting a fuse.

Fireworks can be beautiful, but are best left to the professionals.

Things that go boom on the Fourth of July

Fireworks are staples of summer, when neighborhoods sporadically light up with multicolored splendor, and distant pops can be heard on a regular basis.

Most fireworks are made of a small tube called an aerial shell that contains various explosive chemicals, says the American Chemical Company. The shell has gunpowder and something called "stars," which give fireworks their color when they explode. The shell is housed in a mortar that will launch the firework into the air after a fuse is lit. Ultimately, a bursting charge of the firework explodes and ignites the black powder and stars.

If the stars are randomly placed in the shell, they will produce random patterns. But many fireworks are carefully created so that the stars are placed to allow for specific patterns when the firework explodes. The following are some types of fireworks that surely will be lighting up night skies, courtesy of Sky Bacon Fireworks, Jake's Fireworks, and American Pyrotechnics Safety & Education Foundation, and Pyro City.

- **Brocade:** This firework has a large number of trailing stars falling slowly in an umbrella pattern. It's one of the most common firework effects.

- **Cake:** Sometimes called a "repeater" or a "multi-shot aerial," a cake is a firework that has a single fuse used to light several tubes in sequence. They fire at a rapid pace and can sometimes feature more than 1,000 shots. Cakes are often used as part of a show's finale.

- **Chrysanthemum:** This is a spherical break of colored stars that leave a visible trail of sparks.

- **Crossette:** A crossette is a shell that contains several large stars that travel a short distance before breaking apart into smaller stars with loud crackling sounds. This creates a criss-crossing effect.

- **Dahlia:** This shell produces a starfish-like shape when it bursts.

- **Firecrackers:** These are more about bang than flash. They lay on the ground, and when the fuse is lit, will go off one after another with a loud bang.

- **Fish:** These produce an aerial effect that seems like several objects swimming through the air and only lasts a few seconds.

- **Fountains:** These fireworks shoot between four and eight feet into the air and are very colorful. They are sometimes called "driveway items" or "safe and sane" because they don't propel like other fireworks and may be safer for novices.

- **Pistol:** A pistol features a center sphere of stars that burst in a spherical shape. Pistils contain an outer sphere of stars as well.

- **Roman candle:** This firework has a paper tube that shoots flaming balls out of one end of the tube.

- **Strobe:** Similar to other fireworks with a spherical break shape, this has the added effect of blinking components that makes it appear like shimmering water in the sky.

- **UFO:** This firework spins very fast and lifts high into the sky, where it bursts into a special aerial effect. They're sometimes called helicopters, sky flyers or planes.

There are many different types of fireworks that add bang and color to evening celebrations.

Did you know?

According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 15,000 people were treated for fireworks injuries in emergency rooms in 2020. In addition, injuries and deaths from fireworks increased by 50 percent between 2019 and 2020. Forty-four percent of those injuries were burns, 30 percent involved the hands and fingers and 22 percent affected the head, face and ears. USCPSC data also indicated that 15 percent of injuries affected the eyes. The majority of injuries (66 percent) occurred around the July 4th holiday, but it's important that individuals exercise caution whenever they celebrate with fireworks. And those precautionary measures should remain in place when using sparklers, which the USCPSC indicates caused 900 injuries in 2020.

July 4th party tips

More than 332 million people live in the United States, according to the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau. There's a good chance that, come July 4th, a considerable number of those individuals will be hosting or attending parties to celebrate American independence.

This year those planning on a July 4th fête can consider these tips as they prepare to celebrate with family and friends.

- **Borrow a second grill.** Those tasked with grilling often find themselves standing there for hours over hot flames. Cut down on time at the grill by adding an extra cooking surface. That's easily achieved by having more than one grill going simultaneously. Cook fast-cooking items like hamburgers and hot dog on one grill, and reserve the other for sausages and chicken, which may need more time to reach safe levels of doneness.

- **Stop peeking.** Resist any urge to check the food too often. Every time you flip, press or move the meats, you compromise flavor and could make the food dry out.

- **Lure insects away.** Bees are attracted to sweet smells, but wasps and hornets are drawn to meats. Put a saucer of very sweet soda and some chicken scraps in a far corner of your yard to attract yellow jackets and other stinging insects to that area, drawing their attention away from guests and their meals.

- **Hire a lifeguard.** If your party will involve time spent in a pool, consider hiring a lifeguard or designate someone to observe pool activities. Party hosts may be distracted by other duties, and one can't count on guests to watch what is going on in the pool. For safety's sake, a dedicated set of eyes on swimmers can prevent injuries and accidents.

- **Give neighbors a heads-up.** Parties and barbecues on July 4th are largely expected, but you can offer a courtesy to neighbors by informing them of your plans, including the start time and proposed ending time. If you are close with neighbors, consider inviting them to participate.

- **Skip the fireworks.** Even if fireworks are permitted where you live, it's best to avoid the potential safety hazards and leave fireworks displays to the professionals. Shooting off fireworks in neighborhoods causes debris to rain down on guests or land in pools, and it may even be ingested by pets or wildlife. Even sparklers can be dangerous, as they burn at 2,000 F. In fact, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission says sparklers account for around 60 percent of injuries among children under five during summer festivities.

- **Create a patriotic playlist.** Use your favorite music streaming service to curate a music list that features America-specific songs, songs about summer and general party tunes. Be sure the music is in the background and does not overpower the conversation.

July 4th plans are heating up. When hosting a party or barbecue, keep it simple and safe.

Prepare your pets for fireworks noise

Many people are eager for Independence Day celebrations in early summer. There is much to be excited about, as festivities often begin in the afternoon with barbecues and pool parties, and commence late at night after fireworks shows that light up the night sky. Still, not everyone enjoys the extra noise and busy nature of July 4th parties, particularly furry members of the family.

Animal control services often report an increase in lost animals between July 4th and July 6th. That's because the excitement of the holiday puts pets out of their comfort zones.

While pet owners need not cancel their July 4th plans, they should take heed of the many ways to keep their pets safe during the festivities.

Update identification

Be sure prior to any July 4th events that pets are wearing collars with current identification information.

If an address or phone number has changed since the last time you updated microchip records, be sure to check the account is current.

Be careful with alcoholic drinks

Party hosts typically serve beer, wine and cocktails. Al-

coholic beverages have the potential to poison pets, says the ASPCA. Animals can become very intoxicated, severely depressed or go into comas if they drink alcohol. Keep spirited drinks well out of reach.

If you suspect your pet has consumed alcohol call your vet immediately.

Check with the vet

Many pets are prone to anxiety from loud noises, such as thunderstorms and fireworks, and lots of commotion – something that occurs in spades come July 4th.

Some veterinarians recommend a small course of anti-anxiety medication or a sedative to help pets cope with the stimuli.

Create a quiet space

Allow pets to ride out the day in their comfortable, quiet and cozy retreats. If necessary, create a space in an interior room. Cover the pet crate with a blanket and offer favorite toys or bedding to create a soothing environment.

Place notes on doors and gates

While it's best to keep pets in a locked room away from the fray, some pets like to socialize with guests and are not bothered by noises. However, alert guests with



notes posted on doors and fence gates to check to make sure pets are not trying to escape behind them. All doors should be closed firmly when entering or exiting.

Pick up debris

Firework debris can rain down on properties even if you were not shooting off the fireworks. Curious pets may pick it up or eat it, which runs the risk of an upset stomach or even an intestinal blockage. Check your yard before letting pets out to play.

Keep an eye on the grill

Pets can be opportunists, and those burgers and chicken drumsticks smell delicious to pets. Pets that get too close to the grill can become injured.

And if pets eat leftovers, they may end up with digestive distress or even be poisoned by foods that are toxic to cats and dogs.

Pets need to be protected during summertime parties like Independence Day celebrations.

Sooth your pet

Pets take their cues whether to be afraid or not from you. Keep a calm demeanor when fireworks are going off and comfort your pet.

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4th OF JULY

Join us on July 4th for FIREWORKS at the High Point Community Event
Starts with food beginning at 6 p.m., a tribute to veterans happens at 8 and fireworks begin as the sun goes down.

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