

# HOME & Holiday

## INDEPENDENCE DAY EDITION

### Fourth of July Trivia

By Duane Martin

Most of us view July Fourth as the birthday of America, a day off, a chance to see fireworks, eat hot dogs, watch or play baseball, and attend family gatherings. Below are some interesting facts about the Fourth of July, and how it came to be that we celebrate the holiday.

- July 2, not July 4, was the day the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

- July 4 was the day the Declaration was published in newspapers.

- 56 representatives from Thirteen Colonies signed the Declaration.

- Events that led the Declaration of Independence:

- \* Stamp Act (1765) British tax on the colonists for all government papers.

- \* Townshend Acts (1767) British tax/tariff on all internal trade and imports among the Colonies and with Britain.

- \* Boston Massacre (1770) A disagreement between a local merchant and British troops led to a mob of 200 surrounding seven British soldiers, the crowd hurled rocks at the soldiers who opened fire. They were tried and found not guilty for using self-defense; the defense lawyer was future president John Adams.

- \* Boston Tea Party (1773) British passed Tea Act, which placed tariff on Dutch tea imports to help the politically connected British East India Company that was a tea importer. Boston citizens, dressed as Indians, dumped 92,000 pounds of tea in Boston Harbor.

- \* Coercive Acts (1774) The British government removed all colonial legislatures and replaced them colonial loyalist and gave Colonial Governors military police powers. Colonial citizens had also had additional taxes placed on them to house and feed soldiers set to enforce the laws.

- \* Lexington and Concord (1775) Colonial militias and British troops exchanged fire. British troops have been alleged to have bayoneted wound colonial militia men.

- \* Coastal bombardments (1775-1776) Royal navy bombed and raided coastal towns, including Norfolk, Va., Falmouth, Mass., Islip, Long Island and even Catskill and Kingston on Hudson River.

- Average age of Declaration of Independence signers - 45 years old.

- Youngest Declaration of Independence signers were South Carolina's representatives Thomas Lynch Jr. and Edward Rutledge - each 26 years old.

- The oldest Declaration of Independence signer was Pennsylvanian Benjamin Franklin who was 70 years old.

- Virginian Richard Henry Lee, cousin to George Washington and grandfather of Civil War general Robert E. Lee, introduced the motion to declare Independence from Great Britain. He later offered amendment to the Constitution to abolish slavery.

- Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration on a desk that fit on a lap, which was called a "lap top."
- New York Delegation did not approve the Declaration until July 9 because state legislature had not approved before then.

- John Hancock was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- Mary Katharine Goddard wasn't one of the official signers in 1776, but the printer and publisher added her name to the Declaration of Independence after she was hired by Congress to print copies.

- New Jersey signer Richard Stockton is only signer who recanted signing the Declaration, after being captured by British troops, imprisoned and tortured. British troops burned his home and law office. He died in 1781 as a result of injuries from his imprisonment. He is one of only six signers for which a statue stands in the Capital rotunda in honor of his sacrifice.

- President John Adams wrote his wife Abigail, predicting the Fourth of July would be a day of celebration, feasting, parades, parties, music and sport.
- Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on July 4th, 1826, hours apart, President James Monroe died on July 4th, 1825.
- President Calvin Coolidge was born on July 4, 1872. Also born on July 4, Nathaniel Hawthorne, George Steinbrenner, and Malia Obama.

- Fourth of July became a federal holiday in 1870.

- Massachusetts was first state to declare Fourth of July a state holiday in 1781.

- Susan B. Anthony addressed Congress on July 4th 1876.
- France presented Statue of Liberty to America on July 4th, 1884.

- Washington D.C. celebrated July 4th on National Mall in 1909.
- The United States granted the Philippines independence on July 4th, 1946.

- Radio Free Europe started its first broadcast on July 4th 1950.
- The Freedom of Information Act was signed into law on July 4th, 1966 by President Lyndon Johnson.

- In 1776, 2.5 million people lived in the United States.
- In 2023, there are 325.7 million people living in the United States.

- First firework display, Philadelphia on July 4th, 1777.
- Americans spend over \$1 billion in fireworks.
- Only 10% of fireworks displays are done by professionals.

- On July 4th, an average of 18,500 Americans go to emergency rooms for firework accidents.
- Common firework injuries; hand/fingers (31%), face, ears, head (22%), legs (17%), eyes (14%), trunk/stomach (10%), arm (6%).

- On July 4th, 1884, miners in Swan, Colo., blew up the post office with dynamite because the local postmaster refused to deliver or accept any fireworks in post office.

- On July 4th, 1778, George Washington double ration of rum to troops.
- Americans purchase more beer for Fourth of July than any other holiday.

- Americans eat 150 million hot dogs on Fourth of July.
- 190 million pounds of hamburger is consumed by Americans on Fourth of July.

- Americans spend \$6.77 billion in food for Fourth of July.
- Apple pie is most common Fourth of July dessert followed by cupcakes.

- 65% of all Americans celebrate July 4th, will attend barbecues and picnics.
- 43% Americans will attend fireworks display on July 4th.

- 12% Americans will attend

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# Area weekend events and Fourth of July celebrations

## Margaretville Fire Department Field Days

The Margaretville Fire Department will host its annual Field Days from Thursday, June 29 through Tuesday, July 4 in the Margaretville Village Park. Fireworks this year will be Saturday, July 1 and Tuesday, July Fourth.

There is no cost to enter the fairgrounds, although there will be a free will donation box to help cover the cost of the fireworks. Come to support the Volunteer Fire Department. Fun for all ages with rides, food, beer, fireworks, games, live music, and so much more.

The full schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, June 29:** Rides open at 6 p.m. - Pay One Price until 10 p.m. - \$20

**Friday, June 30:** Rides, car show, band with Randy Hulse Sr. open at 6 p.m.

**Saturday, July 1:** WRIP live radio on grounds, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; chicken barbecue from noon until sold out; rides open at 1 p.m.; rides Pay One Price 1-6 p.m. - \$25; local cidery and beer tent 6-10 p.m.; Music with DJ Greg, 6-10:30 p.m.; giant fireworks, 9:30 p.m.

**Sunday July 2:** Rides Pay One Price 1-6 p.m. - \$25; Country Express Band 4-8 p.m.,

**Monday July 3:** Rides Pay One Price 6-10 p.m. - \$25

**Tuesday, July Fourth -Independence Day:** Chicken barbecue from noon until sold out; Rides Pay One Price 1-6 p.m. \$25; Local cidery and beer tent 6-10;



band Roundhouse Rockers - 6:30-10:30. **Giant fireworks display;** \* benefit raffle drawing following fireworks Tuesday night.

## East Branch Field Days

Celebrating 100 Years of Service starting June 30 at 5 p.m. through Saturday, July 1 at 11 p.m. at the East Branch Firemen's Field (Humble Park) on O & W Road, East Branch. **Fireworks both nights** coming in even bigger this year; J&A Amusements - bounce houses, games, face painting, cotton candy & more; live music & DJ; Firemen's parade Saturday at 6 from the East Branch Firehouse to Firemen's Field; softball tournament; \$1,000 raffle - tickets 3 for \$10 or \$5 each; vendors; EBFD T-shirts; bake sale; food; drinks; funnel cakes; beer tent; big wheel.

## 25th Annual Stagecoach Run Art Festival

**25th Annual Stagecoach Run Art Festival Franklin** is a free, self-guided open studio and gallery tour of some of the area's best artists, performers and makers. Visit [stagecoachrun.com](http://stagecoachrun.com) or email [info@stagecoachrun.com](mailto:info@stagecoachrun.com)

## KIDSTOCK! at WKC

**WKC Presents KIDSTOCK!** on July 1 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This children's event features live music by party brass band Brasskill and kindie rockers Rolie Polie Guacamole as well as a fabulous Bubble Circus with Doug Rougeux. Mike the Juggler will teach kids tricks of his trade and throw balls in the air. Additional children's activities include free face painting, recycled fabric jewelry making, build-your-own-bubble wand, a native plant giveaway, tintype portraits by Kevin Gray, an obstacle course, Carnival games and more. Food and drinks will be for sale at the concession stand.

**KIDSTOCK!** performance program: 11 a.m. - Mike the Juggler; 11:30 a.m. - Bubble Circus! with Doug Rougeux; 1 p.m. - Brasskill; 2:30 p.m. - Rolie Polie Guacamole

Suggested donation is \$20 per family. **KIDSTOCK!** will be held rain or shine. This is an outdoor event; schedules and guidelines are subject to change. Check [www.westkc.org](http://www.westkc.org), call 607-278-5454 or email [info@westkc.org](mailto:info@westkc.org) with questions.

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## Why isn't July 2 the day to celebrate American independence?

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 Inde-

pendence 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 Aug. 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.



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# Prepare pets for Fourth of July festivities



derstorms and fireworks, and lots of commotion — something that occurs in spades come July Fourth. 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.

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 end late at night after fireworks shows that light up the night sky. Still, not everyone enjoys the extra noise and busy nature of July Fourth parties, particularly furry members of the family.

Animal control services often report an increase in lost animals between July 4 and July 6. That's because the excitement of the holiday puts pets out of their comfort zones. While pet owners need not cancel their July Fourth 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 Fourth 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. Alcoholic 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.

### Check with the vet

Many pets are prone to anxiety from loud noises, such as thun-

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## Trivia... continued from page 17

parade on July 4th.

- Nine percent of Americans go vacation on July 4th.
- Freedom Tower or One World Trade Center in New York City is 1,776 feet, built to honor year independence was declared.
- The Liberty Bell rang thirteen times on July 4th 1776 and every Fourth of July until 1846, when a crack was discovered in the bell.
- Thirty-one towns in the United States are named Liberty.
- Liberty, Missouri is the largest, with population of 32,865 people.
- American flag has Thirteen Strips to represent each colony, seven red and six white, which stars representing states as they were added.
- The colors represent white: purity and innocence, red: brav-

ery and valor, blue: justice, perseverance, and vigilance.

- Flags has undergone 27 changes; 25 changes have involved stars.
- The designer of the current flag was Robert Heft of Lancaster, Ohio. He was 16 at the time and it was a social studies assignment, for which he received a B-. Out of the hundred of thousands of flag variations, his was the only one that was made out of cloth. It became the official flag in 1960. His teacher changed his grade to A when President Eisenhower announced Heft was the winner.
- Hawaii was the last star added to the flag in 1959.
- Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were first Americans to plant a flag on different world, the moon on July 16, 1969.



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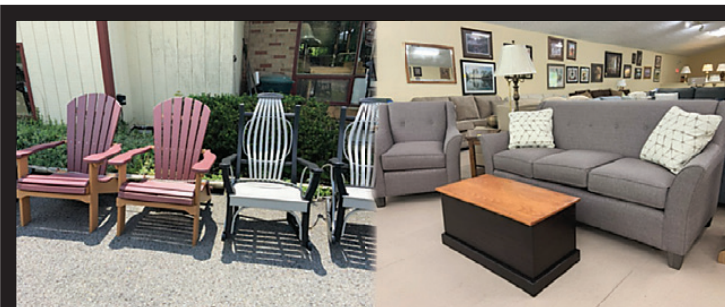
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# How to avoid food poisoning when grilling this summer

Cooking over an open flame produces a unique flavor that's difficult to match. The smoky flavor of grilled foods is hard to resist, especially on summer nights that seem made for cooking and dining outside.

Cooking over a flame comes with certain safety risks, and those risks are easily mitigated with some simple strategies. It's equally important that grilling enthusiasts make an effort to reduce the risk of food poisoning when grilling. Dishes used to cook indoors are routinely scrubbed clean after a good meal, but grills rarely garner the same level of post-meal attention, which can increase the risk for food poisoning. A less-than-spotless grill grate isn't the only food poisoning risk linked with grilling. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer these tips to avoid food poisoning when grilling in the months ahead.

• **Separate raw foods before grilling.** Cross-contamination can contribute to food poisoning. The CDC suggests efforts to prevent cross-contamination should begin at the grocery store. Foods should be kept separate in grocery carts and bags, and packages of raw meat and poultry should be kept in their own individual bags. • **Keep foods cool at all times.** The CDC recommends picking up meat,

poultry and seafood right before checking out so the food remains as cool as possible at all times. If it's a long drive from the store to home, which can be the case when grilling foods that must be purchased at specialty stores or fisheries instead of traditional neighborhood grocery stores, shoppers can place items in insulated coolers and keep them at 40F or below. All raw meat, poultry or seafood should be refrigerated until cooks are ready to place it on a grill.

• **Thaw foods safely.** The CDC notes that foods should never be thawed on a counter, even if they're in a pot or bowl of lukewarm water. Foods should be thawed in a refrigerator or by utilizing the defrost function on a microwave.

• **Marinate safely.** Like thawing, marinating should always be done in a refrigerator, regardless of which type of marinade is being used. When marinating foods are ready for cooking, discard the marinade and clean the dish immediately to avoid contamination.

• **Routinely clean hands when handling raw meat, poultry and seafood.** Cooks should wash their hands thoroughly after handling raw meat, poultry or seafood. Wet hands, lather them with soap and then scrub for at least 20 seconds. Make sure hands are dried on a clean towel,



and repeat this process any time raw meat is touched.

• **Clean the grill thoroughly.** A grill should be given a thorough cleaning before each use. The CDC urges individuals using a wire bristle brush to thoroughly inspect the grilling surface before lighting a flame and cooking. Wire bristles can be dislodged during cleaning, and then end up on food, where they can pose a significant health hazard once foods are eaten.

• **Always place cooked foods on clean dishes.** Cooked foods should never be placed back on the dishes or in the containers where they were stored prior to being cooked. Doing so can lead to food poisoning and illness.

• **Cook foods to the appropriate temperature.** Foods require different cooking temperatures, and cooks are encouraged to determine those temperatures for each food they grill. Utilize a meat thermometer to ensure foods are cooked hot enough to kill germs.

Safe grilling includes doing everything possible to prevent food poisoning.

# How to handle fireworks safely

Warm weather generally translates to more time spent outdoors. That means more barbecues, days spent poolside, trips to the beach, and 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% 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 Fourth holiday in the United States.

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 a 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.**

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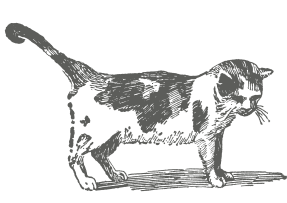
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