

## Have a Happy & Safe Fourth of July

Written by Jessie Williams  
Tuesday, June 26, 2012

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If you haven't decided how you and your family will celebrate our nation's birthday this year, several events have been scheduled in and around Macon County including a Pre-Fourth of July Celebration at The White House Assisted Living in Lafayette, an Independence Day Celebration in Red Boiling Springs, an Independence Day Parade in Hartsville and a Fourth of July celebration at the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept.

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- **Lafayette:** Everyone is invited to a Pre-4th of July Celebration on July 3rd at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn at The White House Assisted Living. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the music presented by: Paul Ballou, Keith Ballou & Friends. Serving an all American Meal of Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Chips & Drinks. Fireworks at dusk.

- **Red Boiling Springs:** Red Boiling Springs Fire Department & Rescue Independence Day Celebration Wednesday, July 4, 2012. Live music by Shattered Silence from 5-10 p.m. Fireworks will begin at dark on the grounds of The Thomas House Bed & Breakfast. Bring your Lawnchairs. No Alcoholic Beverages Permitted. Not Responsible for Injury or Accidents. Special Thanks to the various businesses throughout Red Boiling Springs who donated money to purchase the fireworks.

- **Hartsville:** Hartsville Independence Parade - July 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. All entries welcome. To be entered you must contact Mark Presley 615-374-1010 or Mark White 615-202-9752. (See separate front page story)

- **Mount Vernon:** Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept. (next to 4103 Bakerton Rd., Red Boiling Springs). Fireworks at dark – bring your lawn chairs. Tournaments will begin promptly at these times: Horseshoes (10 a.m. – noon), Volleyball (noon - 2 p.m.), Cornhole (2 p.m. - ?), Pitch (after fireworks). Tournament rules will be announced prior to each tournament. Concessions: BBQ plates, sandwiches, drinks, chips, desserts, etc. Not responsible for injuries or accidents. All donations are greatly appreciated.

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If you plan to host your own Fourth of July celebration, local law enforcement officers and city firefighters encourage you and your family to have a happy and safe holiday this year by following a few important safety tips and educating yourself on the rules of shooting fireworks inside City limits.

The following ordinances for the City of Lafayette and the City of Red Boiling Springs are in place for the use of fireworks:

### City of Red Boiling Springs

- It is unlawful for any person to explode or ignite fireworks between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- It is unlawful to explode or ignite fireworks within 300 feet of any gasoline pumps or tanks or any propane tank.
- The sale of fireworks is prohibited within the corporate limits.

### City of Lafayette

- The permissible time to discharge fireworks within the City limits shall be from July 3 through July 5.
- It is unlawful for any person to explode or ignite fireworks between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Fireworks must be discharged on your own property or on property for which the owner has given permission for the discharge of fireworks.
- Fireworks are only allowed within the corporate limits when a responsible adult is present at all times during the discharge of fireworks.
- Fireworks must be used and discharged in accordance with the Fire Prevention Code.
- The fire chief shall seize, take, remove or cause to be removed at the expense of the owner all stocks of fireworks or combustibles offered or exposed for sale, stored, or held in violation of the chapter.
- Any person, firm, co-partnership or corporation violating the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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The number one concern about the Fourth of July holiday is safety. In the last ten years there have been between 7,000 to 11,000 injuries reported annually in the United States due to consumer fireworks. To ensure the safety of you and your loved ones this holiday, the Lafayette Fire Department encourages everyone to adhere to the following fireworks safety tips:

1. Sparklers, considered by many as “safe,” burn at very high temperatures, can easily ignite clothing and stay hot long after burning out. They are as dangerous as matches or lighters to children. Be sure to collect all burned out sparkler wires for disposal.
2. Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close supervision. Never allow any running or horseplay.
3. Use lighters with a child resistant feature. Keep matches and lighters out of children’s reach.
4. Light fireworks outdoors, one at a time, on a clear, smooth, flat surface away from houses, dry leaves or grass, or flammable materials.
5. Keep water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on misfired or spent fireworks.
6. Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse and soak them with water and throw them away.
7. Be sure other people and pets are out of range.
8. Never experiment with fireworks or ignite them in a glass or metal container. Do not attempt to make your own.
9. Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas. Store them in a dry, cool place out of reach of children.
10. Dispose of all fireworks properly.

According to Lafayette Fire Chief Keith Scruggs, there is at least one fire reported in Macon County every year involving Fourth of July fireworks, and he encourages residents be aware of their surroundings. “There are a lot of dry areas that could catch fire,” he stated. “Surveying the area for potential fire hazards before igniting fireworks is the best way to prevent danger.”