



CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI MEDIA ADVISORY

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City Cancels Annual Fireworks Display *Location Issues - Factor for Event Cancellation*

Blue Springs, Mo. – The City of Blue Springs recently announced that it will not hold its annual fireworks display for the 2009 Independence Holiday. Each year, the City hosts the free event for citizens of Blue Springs and surrounding communities at the Blue Springs High School Peve Football Stadium, on Independence Day (July 4).

Roscoe Righter, Director of Parks and Recreation said the decision to cancel this year's fireworks display is two fold, citing "location and budget issues as two primary reasons for the cancellation." Earlier this year, the Blue Springs School District successfully passed a bond issue for the expansion and structural improvements to several of its schools, including Blue Springs High School.

"The current fireworks display location at Blue Springs High School is and will be under construction throughout the summer, thus eliminating the parking, stadium and bleachers normally used for the July 4th exhibit," said Righter.

"As this is a popular event for not only our immediate community, but throughout the entire metropolitan region, it was necessary to find a site suitable for accommodating such large numbers of people and to properly handle any parking, traffic and citizen safety issues. Unfortunately, no acceptable or safe alternative site was located for this year's display."

Recent financial trends were also part of the City's decision to cancel the annual fireworks display. "Cancellation of the 2009 fireworks display also comes at a time when city staff and officials are carefully monitoring budget resources and looking for ways to trim line items in many areas" said City Administrator Eric Johnson.

"Although funds were allocated for this event and were preserved in the annual budget, foregoing the event this year will provide some immediate budget relief" said Johnson.

Administrator Johnson also stated that the City is appreciative of the support and cooperation shown by the Blue Springs School District in their history of working with the City to host its annual fireworks event. "We are certainly grateful for the relationship we've shared with the School District, and look forward to returning to Peve Stadium in 2010."

Mayor Carson Ross said he is supportive of the City's decision to cancel this year's event, and encourages citizens to enjoy the Independence Day holiday through a variety of alternative resources offered both within and outside the City.

"As we have done every year, we will continue to promote the City's annual *Be a Good Neighbor Fireworks Education Campaign*, which encourages citizens to purchase and discharge their own fireworks safely and responsibly within Blue Springs city limits" said Mayor Ross.

"We are one of few cities within the region that permits the discharge of fireworks within the City. While we are unable to produce a community-wide fireworks display for our citizens this year, we still want them to enjoy the celebration of the holiday here in Blue Springs."

The following are some of the communities within the Kansas City Metropolitan area that are hosting fireworks displays, parades and other events that the public can attend this fourth of July:

1. Lee's Summit - Legacy Blast

- **Where:** Legacy Park. Enter through the south entrance of Legacy Park will open at 6:00pm & close at 9pm.
- **When:** Saturday, July 4.
- **Guide Tip:** A free fireworks event choreographed to music. Food vendors, entertainers & inflatables will be on site before the fireworks For more info call LSPR at (816) 969-1500

2. Oak Grove - Celebrate Freedom and the 4th of July Fireworks

- **Where:** Webb Park
- **When:** Saturday, July 4th, Activities start at 6:00 pm, Fireworks sill start at 10:00 pm
- **Guide Tip:** An event with several children's games, vendor booths, inflatable games, music, entertainment and fireworks out at Webb Park. Event co-sponsored by New Life Assembly of God and the Oak Grove Chamber of Commerce.

3. KC Riverfest

- **Where:** Berkley Park on the River between the Broadway and Paseo bridges.
- **When:** Ongoing events July 3rd and 4th. Fireworks at 10pm, Friday.
- **Ticket Info:** \$5. Kids 12 and under are free.

4. Parkville 4th of July Fireworks and Festival

- **Where:** English Landing Park, Parkville, Mo. Fireworks shot over Missouri River.
- **Time:** Approximately 9:30 pm
- **Guide Tip:** Shuttles are offered from 6pm-midnight to and from Park Hill South High School and Park University.

5. Corporate Woods Star Spangled Spectacular

- **Where:** Corporate Woods, I-435 and College Blvd @ 109th/Mastin.
- **Time:** 9:30 pm

6. Independence Fireworks Display at the Mormon Visitor Center

- **Where:** Mormon Visitor Center, 937 W. Walnut, Independence, Mo.
- **Time:** 9:30 pm

7. Worlds of Fun

Worlds of Fun has one of the longest standing 4th of July celebrations in the metro. Watch fireworks from within the park or by parking close by. Event starts at 10pm.

8. Booms and Blooms Fest at Powell Gardens

- **Note:** Booms and Blooms will be held July 3rd, 2009.
- **Where:** Powell Gardens, 1609 NW US HWY 50, Kingsville, MO, 64061
- **When:** July 3rd; Activities throughout the day, starting at 9am. Fireworks begin at dusk.

9. **Smithville Marina Fireworks Display**

Smithville Marina holds its annual festivities with a huge display shot off the Smithville dam. View at the marina, by boat, or at the Smith's Fork Park.

- **Where:** Smithville Lake, Smithville, MO. Smith Fork Park is located at 1601 DD Highway.
- **When:** Dusk, July 4th.

Residents can look for additional information regarding the Blue Springs *Be a Good Neighbor Fireworks Education Campaign*, to arrive in homes by June 29, 2009. Additional information can also be found at www.bluespringsgov.com/fireworks.

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