

Ashe Independence Day: Like out of a picture

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
Tuesday, 03 July 2007 19:45

According to Parks and Recreation Director Joe Boccardy, Uncle Sam himself would want to attend Ashe County's Independence Day celebration.

It's like out of a picture, he says.

The fireworks celebration and Pickin' in the park is free- but donations will be accepted to offset next year's cost. Music starts at 3, and includes a Colgate Country Showdown Finalist. The main concession stand benefits ASHE, A Safe Home for Everyone, a non-profit domestic violence support service. One of the best parts of the fourth in Ashe? Parking will not be a problem.

A shuttle will be provided so you can avoid bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Fireworks start when it gets dark.

The following is courtesy of Ashe County Parks and Recreation:

Fireworks Celebration Scheduled Wednesday Night

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Shuttles will Provide Relief from Traffic Congestion

The Fireworks celebration and Pickin' in the park is scheduled for Wednesday, July 4th. The event is free and open to the public, with donations being accepted at the gates to help offset next year's cost of the event.

The music will start at 3pm with the featured musical highlights being local favorites the Grayson Highlands Band and the Rock Bottom Band. Sierra Wilson, a Colgate Country Showdown Finalist, will be performing the National Anthem.

A.S.H.E. (A Safe Home for Everyone) will be running the main concession stand next to the stage. All proceeds from this concession stand will benefit A.S.H.E., a non-profit, domestic violence support service to help with their shelter operations.

In order to provide a quality experience this year, Parks and Recreation staff has been working with Sheriff James Williams, the Ashe County Sheriff's Department and North Carolina State Highway Patrol on a traffic control plan to alleviate the well known traffic stress that Park Director, Joe Bocardy likes to call "exit fever"- the condition that is experienced when a mass group of people leave an event at the same time.

With help from ACTA, the Ashe County Transportation Authority, a shuttle will be running back and forth from the new courthouse parking lot to Ashe Park.

The shuttle will start running at 3pm and will run until all shuttle guests are carried back to their vehicles. The shuttle is provided free of charge, with donations being accepted to go into next year's firework budget. The map shown gives a route the shuttle will operate from.

Good times are the goal for the festival, but please take note of several particular rules that staff wish to stress that help with the overall success of the festival:

- No individual fireworks (sparklers are not considered fireworks)
- No Dogs – dog's ears are very sensitive to the explosions that large commercial grade fireworks make and can cause them to panic and run.
- No children under the age of 12 without parental supervision.
- No ATV's, four wheelers, or any other off road vehicle.
- No horses
- No alcoholic beverages
- Parking only in designated areas which will be marked off with orange cones; park staff will be directing traffic in and out of the areas.
- Carpooling is strongly encouraged, and please take advantage of the shuttle
- Bring hearing protection for children, especially young children.
- Part Staff and Park Volunteers will be wearing yellow "Staff" shirts in case anyone needs their assistance.
- Be patient with the parking situation – everyone will be doing the best they can and will attempt to keep the main road open for emergency vehicles.

For more information, or to volunteer for this event, please call Parks & Recreation at (336) 982-6185.