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Celebrate the 4th safely in a fireworks-free city

Many public events planned for the 4th of July to enjoy fireworks display, food and fun

(Lawrence, Kan.) - Independence Day is just a week away and Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical wants to remind the public that Lawrence is a fireworks-free city and only novelty items are permitted in the City of Lawrence.

Since 2002, Lawrence has limited the use of fireworks in the city and prohibited the sale, possession and handling of fireworks. Some novelty items are exempted from the city's ordinance which includes party poppers, snappers, snakes/glow worms, sparklers, toy caps and toy smoke devices.

As necessary, local law enforcement can confiscate fireworks not permitted in Lawrence.

There are many other ways to celebrate the 4th of July without fireworks in Lawrence. Several public events are planned for residents and guests to enjoy fireworks, delicious food and drinks, and partake in family-friendly fun.

The Lawrence Jaycees will again provide a public fireworks display at approximately 9:45 p.m. on the river levee in north Lawrence. Public parking is available in downtown Lawrence on the 4th of July – meters and parking garages are free on the Independence Day holiday.

Where to go for 4th of July fun?

The 6th annual "Party in the Park" will be held on Friday, July 4 from 5:00-10:30 p.m. in Buford Watson Park (6th and Kentucky). This event is presented by Lawrence Originals and LawrenceHits.com. There will be bands, live performances, and children's activities. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs and cash for food and drinks. 7th Street will be closed from Kentucky to Tennessee for the day.

The City of Lawrence's Outdoor Aquatic Center (OAC) at 727 Kentucky will be open from 1:00 to 6:45 p.m. on Friday, July 4. Admission for July 4th for adults and children will be \$1.00 for the entire day. The OAC is closing early at 6:45 for staff to enjoy the holiday.

There are other public events in Lawrence including a family-friendly fireworks viewing party at Abe & Jake's Landing, 8 E. 6th Street, in downtown Lawrence. The event is a benefit for Ballard Community Services and opens to the public at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 4.

There are many ways to celebrate the 4th of July in Lawrence without consumer fireworks. Enjoy the long weekend this year and celebrate safely!