2024 Happy JULY 4th

Featuring Blooming Prairie's Old-Fashioned Fourth and Owatonna's Patriotic Skies celebrations









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ICONIC FOR A HALF CENTURY

BP's Old-Fashioned Fourth hits 50 years of fun

BY JONNY CLUBB
STAFF WRITER



This year marks the 50th iteration of Blooming Prairie's iconic Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration. Some parts of the celebration come and go, while others – like the parade and fireworks – have been mainstays.

The 2024 celebration will be full of long standing traditions and returning favorites, so it is important to know what is happening and when.

July 3

Festivities will begin on July 3 at 1:00 p.m. with the Schiffelly Puppets performing in the Council Chambers at City Center. Fourth of July Chair Karen Peterson said, "We haven't had (the puppets) in a quite a few years. Most kids like puppets, so I know the daycares and youth club might be bringing their children down."

The celebration will continue with tours of Blooming Prairie High School at 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. There will also be antique tractors at Victory Field from 4-8 p.m. and a kid's pedal tractor pull at Central[1] Park with sign up at 4:30 p.m.

The car and bike show will be returning for the first time in a couple of years. The event will be held on Main Street and there will be a $20 entrance fee for any truck, car or motorcycle that would like to participate. Sign-ups for the event will be at 3 p.m. and the show will run for 4-7 p.m.

Blooming Prairie's Central Park will also be busy all afternoon. The park will host the beer garden, a dunk tank in support of United Way of Steele County and more. There will also be plenty of other fun activities at the park including inflatables, FURever Friends and a video game trailer.

Live music will also be available all afternoon on Wednesday. The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic will be performing from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. at the large gazebo in Central Park and Generation Gap will be playing at the beer garden in Central Park from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

The festivities for July 3 will conclude with the street dance at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tri Eight will be performing live and the Taco Lab food truck will be at the event.

July 4

Independence Day will kickoff with the Blooming Prairie Lion's Club Breakfast at Prairie Manor from 8:00-11:30 a.m. Meanwhile, the Red, White & Boom 5K will start at 9:00 a.m. and Leo Augusta Children's Academy will be holding bingo at the picnic pavilion in Central Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Central Park will be full of many more great events and activities from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Fourth of July parade, which has long been a local favorite, will begin at 2:30 p.m. and wind through Blooming Prairie. (See the route map published with this article.) Karen Fouarge, a long-time Fourth of July volunteer, will be the grand marshal of this year's parade.

Singer-songwriter Jake Schrodt will be performing live at the beer garden in Central Park from 6-9 p.m. before the night concludes with fireworks at Victory Field at 10 p.m.

Fourth of July buttons are another long time tradition of the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July. This year buttons cost $5 and will be available leading up to the Fourth at Vandal's Family Market and Casey's in Blooming Prairie. Peterson said that buttons will give people "a dollar off of every beer in the beer garden" and kids get a dollar off admission the video game trailer and bounce house in Central Park.

BP FOURTH OF JULY VOLUNTEERS

Overall 4th of July Chair: Karen Peterson
Concession Chairs: Karen Peterson and Jennifer Grovdahl
Parade Chairs: Karen Fouarge and Suzi Burt
Bounce House/Video Game Trailer Chair: Sue Kern
Facilities Chair: Aaron Brack
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5K Chair: Jenny Cashman
Fine Arts Market & Craft Fair Chair: Jennifer Grovdahl

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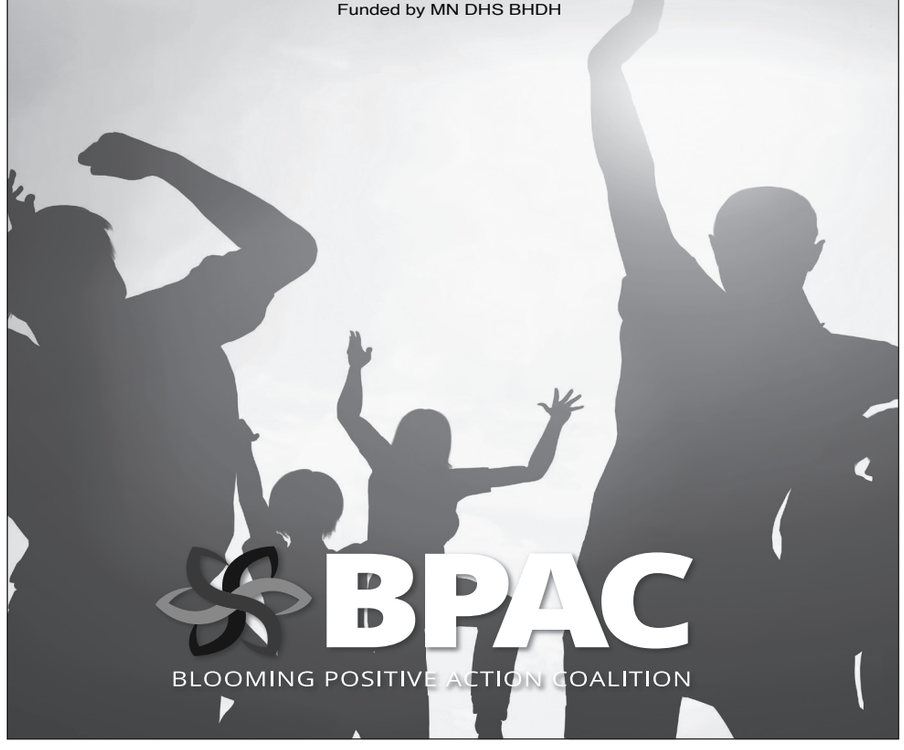
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Looking back on (more than) 50 years of BP Fourth celebrations

BY JONNY CLUBB
STAFF WRITER



Over the past 50 years, Blooming Prairie's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration has provided plenty of patriotic entertainment while spanning 10 U.S. presidencies, surviving a pandemic, and more.

According to a 1975 edition of the Blooming Prairie Times, the Fourth of July celebration in its current form began in 1974 as part of "three Independence Day celebration designed to climax…with the Bi-Centennial." However, the community has celebrated the Fourth and held a number of other summer festivals dating back much farther.

Blooming Prairie's Fourth of July celebration in 1936 was described as "rousing," as over 8,000 people attended the event at Blooming Prairie's Country Club grounds. The bash featured three bands, a kittenball tournament (baseball and softball fans should look this up if they have time), fireworks and a speech from U.S. Congressman August Andersen.

An article from the Blooming Prairie Times in 1976 recounted stories from the Fourth of July in the early twentieth century. One resident, Paul Birgin, said, "Back then, the celebration started at 4 a.m. July 4 with 100 guns fired at sunrise. I don't know if they were actually guns or firecrackers or what, but they sure woke everyone up."

Birgin also remembered horse races and "hotly contested baseball games" from days of old.

Another resident, Harriet Ressler, remembered Fourth of July parades, as well as celebrations like the one in 1936.

She said, "The last Fourth of July celebration they had out there was in the early 1940's. After the guys in town went into the service, it just kind of died out."

The next great summer festival in Blooming Prairie, the "Soybean Festival," began in 1950. According to a 2002 article in the Blooming Prairie Times, "over 8,000 were on hand" to see the dedication of the soybean mill that had long been pursued for the community. The first edition of the event featured "a parade with 50 entries, kiddie rides and the Jerry Rypka Orchestra."

> "(The Fourth) probably is the biggest family reunion, class reunion, all school reunion event of the entire year."
>
> **Sue Zwiener**
> BP Resident

The event expanded to two days the next year and had over 20,000 attendees, and in 1952 "over 75,000 people were expected" for a three-day event. The event's name was also changed in 1952 to be called "the Soybean and 4-H Jamboree."

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, Blooming Prairie named itself the "Petunia Capitol of Southern Minnesota" and, as such, held a festival to celebrate. The festival was "similar to the Soybean Festival." The first celebration in 1968 included a parade, a carnival, fireworks, and awards for the best "petunia displays." The Petunia Festival was short lived though, as by 1971 it was all but history.

Fortunately, just three short years later began the tradition of what is now known as the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July. The inaugural celebration in 1974 was the first of three that were meant to lead up to a "gigantic bicentennial celebration in 1976."

According to a 1974 Blooming Prairie Times article, the 1974 celebration was held at Victory Field and included baseball games, contests between the fire departments of Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Hayfield, and Claremont, races for kids, and a number of pool activities. There was also an hour-long program held 8:30 p.m. before a "large and impressive display of fireworks" at 9:30 p.m.

The celebration in 1975 was largely similar to the one held in 1974, except that a "kiddy parade" was added for young children.

In 1976, the celebration continued to expand and included at least one event on July 3. The festivities on July 4 began at 8:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast and lasted until the late afternoon. Interestingly, the 1976 Independence Day festivities did not include a fireworks display "in deference to Blooming Prairie's bicentennial celebration in September."

Over the next 48 years, the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration has grown and changed, and each year of the celebration has had its own unique moments.

Events over the years include activities such as tennis, volleyball, archery, basketball, rollerblading, horseshoes, swimming and more. There have also been dozens of entertainment groups to visit Blooming Prairie for the Fourth of July over the past half century. The most consistent favorites, though, have been the parade and fireworks show.

Even more consistent is the swath of volunteers that come together to put on the celebration every year.

In a 1999 article in the Blooming Prairie Times, then Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce President Chad Eischens said, "I must reiterate the feelings I have for the local volunteers. Really. that is what this wonderful get-together is about. It brings together workers of all ages. intent on quality and fun. And they all do so much work, which allows all of rest of us to have so many exciting events to participate in!"

Similarly, a 2004 article was titled "Blooming Prairie's 30th Fourth of July celebration takes lots of good volunteers" and thanked the large number of volunteers for that year's event.

In an interview this year, Nick Schiefert, a former longtime volunteer who led concessions for many years, said, "The big part of putting on an event like this is you need to have people that want to be involved and you need to have volunteers…That's really what makes it successful."

Schiefert emphasized the continued need for volunteers to help keep events like the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July thriving.

Fifty years since its inception in 1974, the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration is an immensely important event for the Blooming Prairie community and surrounding area.

"(The Fourth of July) is a chance for all the area towns and our community to get together," said Blooming Prairie resident Sue Zwiener, who has attended the celebration since at least 1978.

Kari Adams, who grew up in another community and is now the general manager of the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, said, "Blooming Prairie always had the best parade…it's where we always went. It's always been a very good celebration at Blooming."

"(The Fourth) probably is the biggest family reunion, class reunion, all school reunion event of the entire year," Zwiener added. "A lot of people live here, they go to school here, they go off to college and they settle back here because they love Blooming Prairie. The people that don't do that still love to come back to the Fourth of July."



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Long-time volunteer 'shocked' to be named grand marshal



STAFF PHOTO BY JONNY CLUBB

Karen Fouarge was named grand marshal of the parade for the 50th Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration in Blooming Prairie. Fouarge has been involved with the parade as a volunteer for over 20 years and has also been involved with the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation for over a decade.

BY JONNY CLUBB
STAFF WRITER

Karen Fouarge is used to being at the tail end of the parade at Blooming Prairie's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July, but this year things will be different. As this year's grand marshal, Fourage will be much closer to the front of the parade.

Fouarge was not expecting to be named grand marshal, but she was happy to hear the news. "I was really shocked…it's kind of an honor to be (grand marshal)," she said.

The parade during Blooming Prairie's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration has been a local favorite for decades, and large part of the parade's success can be attributed Fouarge.

Fouarge has been involved with the Fourth of July parade for over 20 years, but she has said this will be her final year. This year she is co-chair of the parade with Suzi Burt. Fouarge said she has helped out with other parts of the Fourth celebration when she could, but her main focus has been on the parade.

Putting the parade together is a months long process. Fouarge said that around January or Febuary information is sent out to people that were in the parade the previous year. Then it is a waiting game until the middle of June when Fouarge and Burt will get together, line up the parade and give each unit a number.

> "I always said I can volunteer if I have the time. I don't mind doing it, but now it's time to step and let someone else have the reins."
>
> **Karen Fouarge**
> BP Grand Marshal

On the fourth, volunteers mark out where each unit should line up and those that will be in the parade check-in and are told where their spot is. "Then at 2:30 we start the parade, and everything just flows normal, or we hope," Fouarge said with a chuckle.

Even though Fouarge is busy on and around the Fourth of July, she still loves celebration. "(My favorite) is to see all the people come into town and the different things they bring into town," Fouarge said. "(I like) to see new concession stands and new entertainment."

Since she is busy with the parade, Fouarge said her "Fourth of July is more or less the third of July" when she has time to go see what is going on.

"That's okay by me because sometimes it gets a little crazy," she added. "We appreciate all the people that come to (the parade). It just sometimes gets a little crazy."

Beyond her involvement with the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July celebration, Fouarge has been involved with the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation and is currently the organization's president. Fouarge was also named the 2021 Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

"It's been many different hats throughout my years," Fouarge said. "I always said I can volunteer if I have the time. I don't mind doing it, but now it's time to step and let someone else have the reins."

This year's parade will start at 2:30 p.m. near Blooming Prairie High School before winding its way through Blooming Prairie.

BP 4th button: 'Most iconic thing'

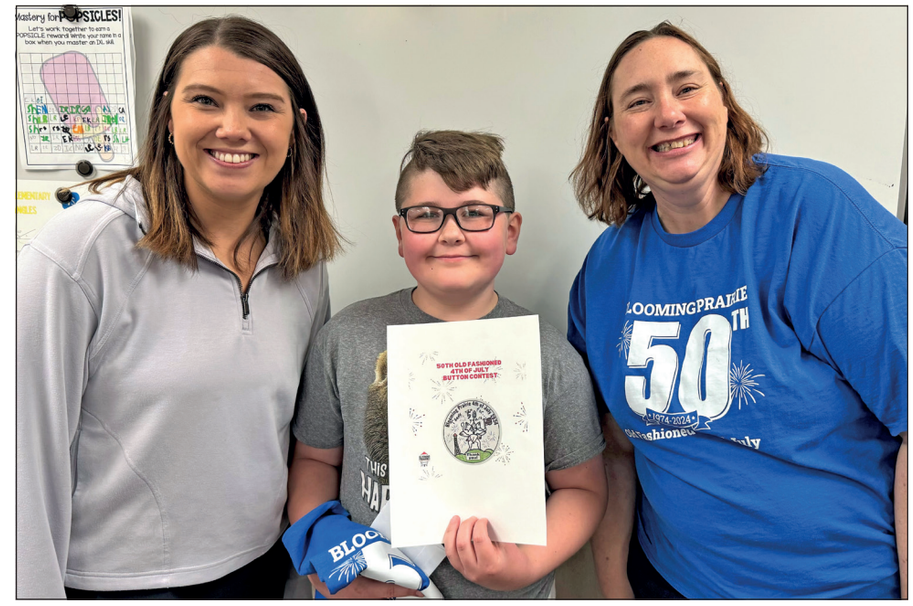


BY KAY FATE
STAFF WRITER

Of all the years to be a fourth grader at Blooming Prairie Elementary School, this was a big one.

Traditionally, those are the students asked to submit a design that will be featured on the town's annual Fourth of July button – which

See **BP 4TH** on 18 ►



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Noah Olson, center, drew the winning design for the button that will commemorate Blooming Prairie's 50th celebration of the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July. A fourth-grader, Noah is the son of Mathew and Kerie Olson. He received $20 in BP Chamber Bucks, a 50th anniversary T-shirt and will have the first button from the printer. Noah's teacher, Jenna Volgarino, is on the left. BP Area Chamber Executive Director Karen Peterson is on the right.



HAPPY 4TH of JULY



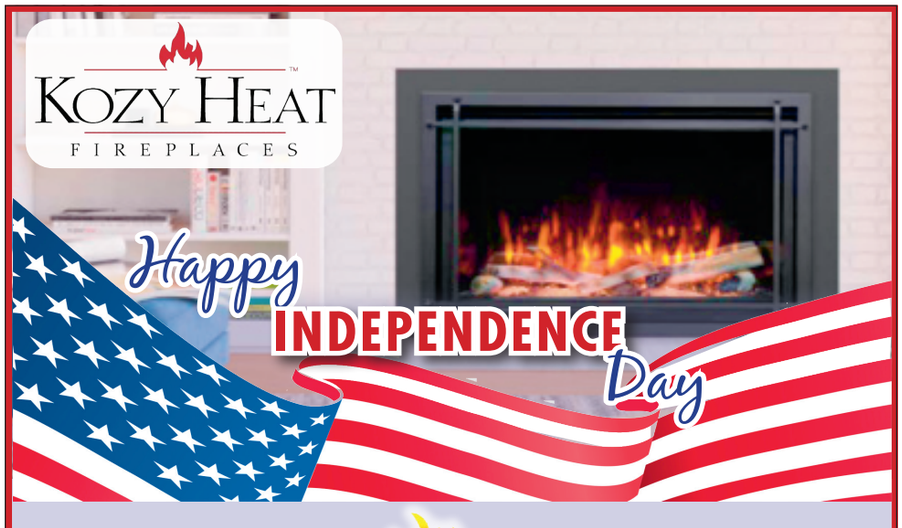
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Street dance finds new home at BP Servicemen's Club

BY JONNY CLUBB
STAFF WRITER

A long-time Fourth of July favorite song and dance event will continue in a new location this year.

The street dance during Blooming Prairie's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration is now set to take place at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. The street dance will run from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on July 3 and will feature live music from Tri Eight and a food truck.

The Mankato-based band's Facebook page says they play 70s, 80s and 90s classic and modern alternative rock, along with "blues and a splash of country."

The Taco Lab food truck will come to the event from Rochester. On its website, Taco Lab describes itself as continuously looking "for ways to incorporate worldwide cuisine in our Mexican food items and experiment -you guessed it- with Tacos!"

The street dance will be a 21-plus event and will have a $5 cover charge.

After organizers learned that the previous hosts would be unavailable this year, the Servicemen's Club seemed like a clear choice to be the new host.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Based out of Mankato, Tri Eight will be performing live music for the street dance at the BP Servicemen's Club on July 3.

"They support their veterans, and we like to support them," said Karen Peterson, the Fourth of July event chair and executive director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. "It was (also) a way to collaborate and work together with…a chamber member."

Hosting the street dance is also a great way for the Servicemen's Club to show what they are all about.

"It means a lot to the club. People can get a feel of what we have there and what the club is like," said Kari Adams, general manager of the Servicemen's Club. "They can come in and see what we have to offer for future events."

The Servicemen's Club is located at 210 4th St. NE in Blooming Prairie.

Live music galore at 50th celebration

BY JONNY CLUBB
STAFF WRITER

Patrons of the 50th Old-Fashioned Fourth of July celebration in Blooming Prairie will have plenty of opportunities to hear musicians performing live.

This year's lineup includes high schoolers, grandfathers, Michiganders, Minnesotans, and more.

Three of the groups–the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, Generation Gap and Tri Eight–will be performing on Wednesday, July 3, while Jake Schrodt performs on July 4.

Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic

The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic is coming to Blooming Prairie all the way from Saline, Mich., as a stop on their 30th Anniversary Tour this summer. The group consists solely of students from Saline High School chosen for their "musical talent and personal maturity."

According to the group's website, the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic was founded in 1994 with the goal of introducing "an alternative style of music education to public school students to maintain and expand their interest in music performance."

In the years since, the group has grown to nationwide acclaim over the course of more than 1,500 performances including three at the White House.

The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic will be performing at the large gazebo in Central Park from 4 to 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday. Listeners will be treated to a mix of "American folk, fiddle, bluegrass, jazz, western swing, and Celtic traditions" as well as "Appalachian step dancing."



PHOTO COURTESY SALINEFIDDLERS.COM

The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, an all-student group, will travel to Blooming Prairie all the way from Michigan for this year's 4th of July celebration.

Generation Gap

The duo of Carter Quast and his grandpa, Rod Scheitel, have used music to entertain Minnesotans and grow their relationship for the past few years. Generation Gap, as the pair are more commonly known, performs largely 70s singer-songwriter music, but their song list spans decades.

Generation Gap started off playing for fun and at fundraisers before expanding to more gigs.

"I started playing guitar when I was 19, and with a heavy influence from my grandma and my grandpa, I really got into playing a lot of 70s music on the acoustic guitar," Quast said. "Eventually, that led to my grandpa asking if I wanted to play some fundraisers just for free…We did that a few times, and people started asking us for business cards. We didn't have any plans to make it into something, but soon enough it did (turn into something)."

Grandpa Sheitel's music journey has been much longer.

"I started studying piano when I was eight years old…and all I've ever known in the family was singing," Sheitel said. "You sang all the time. You (would) just break out in song in the middle of the day…It's relaxing and it becomes a really enjoyable habit."

Since then, Scheitel was a member of a band called Azby, and he runs Scheitel's Music in Mankato.

Quast now has his own band that has taken on the Azby name.

"Anybody that has the good fortune to be exposed to music and then encouraged to get further into music at a younger age is truly blessed," Scheitel added. "As long as you live, you can do (music). A lot of things you sort of start backing away from…but music isn't like that."

Both members of Generation Gap enjoy working on their craft.

"Honing your musicianship is fun, and I'd go back to the family aspect too," Quast said. "(I enjoy) playing with my grandpa and having my grandmother there supporting all the time, because she just loves it."

See **CELEBRATION** on 16 ►



Leo Augusta Children's Academy brings bingo back to BP Fourth of July

BY JONNY CLUBB
STAFF WRITER

"B4!" "And after!", a common bingo pun, might be heard coming from the pavilion at Blooming Prairie's Central Park on the Fourth of July.

Leo Augusta Children's Academy will bring bingo to attendees of the 50th Old-Fashioned Fourth of July in Blooming Prairie. Bingo lovers can head to the picnic pavilion at Central Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 4 to try their luck.

Jessica Kremer, the academy director at Leo Augusta, said that games will cost $1 per card and that half the pot will be awarded to each round's winner. Kremer said in a tie, winners will pull cards and the high card will take the pot.

"I've been a Blooming Prairie community member for 20 years now, and I think there's only been one (Fourth of July) that I've missed," Kremer said. "It's a huge turnout for the community and a big program for the community to come together to support other businesses and non-profits."

"Considering we are a non-profit, and we continually need to raise funds and get financial support, I thought this would be an awesome fundraiser for our program," Kremer added.

Bingo can be fun for all ages, so anyone interested in playing should make their way to the pavilion at Central Park next Thursday.

"I think it's going to be great to bring bingo back. I know a lot of older individuals find a lot of joy in it, but I know a lot of kids are also really enjoying it," Kremer said.

Live music galore at 50th celebration

◄ **CELEBRATION** from 15

Quast also loves connecting with the crowd when he performs.

"(One of my favorite things) is to see the crowd because we are playing a lot of older songs. Generally, our following is of that (70s) era…I'm sure it's bringing back a lot of memories for them when those songs were new and they were younger, so that's definitely a very fun part of it."

Generation Gap will be performing on July 3 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the beer garden in Central Park.

Tri Eight

The Tri Eight band will headline the street dance at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on July 3 from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. More information about the street dance can be found on page 14.

Jake Schrodt

Singer-songwriter Jake Schrodt will be performing rock, country, and Americana on July 4 from 6-9 p.m. at the beer garden in Central Park. Schrodt performs both covers and originals. He describes his original music as "alternative rock meets outlaw country."

Schrodt began his music journey in fifth-grade band playing the saxophone, which he "wasn't very good at." Around that same time, he started taking guitar lessons since he "was really interested in guitar." Schrodt switched to the drums his freshman year of high school.

When he was 16, Schrodt started the process of becoming a singer-songwriter.

"About when I was 16, I started writing some songs and kind of figuring out I can sing a little bit here you know," he said. "I started playing open mics when I was 16. It was kind of funny, I'd go to these bars, and they'd have to get me in there pretty early because as 16-year-old, I had to be out of there by nine."

"I kept playing guitar, singing, writing songs. I went to college and started my first band my freshman year of college. I've been playing music ever since," Schrodt added.

Schrodt has enjoyed many parts of performing, but one thing sticks out.

"I'd say the best thing about it all is being the life of the party, being the life of the evening," Schrodt said. "I like having a good time myself, so it's always nice to see people enjoying the evening based off the (music) I can provide to them."



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Carter Quast, left, and his grandpa, Rod Scheitel, make up Generation Gap, which will perform on July 3 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the beer garden in Central Park.



PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

Singer-songwriter Jake Schrodt will perform on July 4 from 6-9 p.m. at the beer garden in Central Park. Schrodt plays rock, country, and Americana.

THE MAGIC OF THE FOURTH

Rotary to sponsor Patriot Skies display in Owatonna



BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Exploding colors and infinite wonder will light up Owatonna's skies on the Fourth of July.

The Early Edition Rotary Club is once again sponsoring the city's annual Patriot Skies fireworks show originating from the Steele County Fairgrounds. The show will get underway at 10 p.m. July 4.

Rotary member John Havelka said this year's show will cost $25,000 and will be slightly smaller in total cost than last year ($27,500), but the fireworks company has promised to add more fireworks. "It should be a similar show to last year," he said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brick-Meger Funeral Home has hosted a party in its parking lot for the past 25 years on the Fourth of July. This year will be no exception as the party begins at 7 p.m. on July 4.

Club members will be selling flags outside area stores and at the fairgrounds on the Fourth to generate additional funds for the big show. Havelka said they have sold anywhere from 500 to 1,000 flags on the Fourth depending on how hard the groups involved push. A church group from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Meriden will be selling the flags this year.

Contributions also can be made directly to the Patriot Skies Fund at the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.

Other ways the Rotary raises funds are hosting two purse bingos in spring and fall, corporate donations and doing "round-ups" at the cash register with various businesses, including Ace Hardware, Cashwise Foods, Fareway and Hy-Vee.

The Rotary is offering a special VIP viewing area for those who contribute $500 or more to the fireworks fund. The area will be located at Bridges Chiropractic Health Clinic.

Looking to the future, Havelka said the group is planning ahead to 2026 when America will celebrate its 250th birthday. He would love to see a "bigger than ever" show for that year and encourages people to start making contributions for it.

Fireworks has been a tradition in Owatonna for many years. Havelka said the Early Edition and Noon Rotary clubs took over the fireworks in early 2000 for a few years before the Noon Rotary took over by itself. Prior to the Rotary becoming involved, the Owatonna Jaycees sponsored the fireworks until the group disbanded.

The rain date for this year's fireworks is July 5. Havelka pointed out the event has never been cancelled.

Brick-Meger party

Prior to the show, Brick-Meger Funeral Home, which is located across from the fairgrounds on Austin Road, will host its annual party in the parking lot. The fun begins at 7 p.m. and goes until the fireworks finale.

The Megers offer prime viewing of fireworks from their parking lot. People are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

This will be the 25th year that the Megers have hosted a Fourth of July party, which owner Glen Meger said began innocently enough with folks using their parking lot to watch fireworks. In the second year, the Megers added watermelon and have done other variations of food and entertainment throughout the years.

"It's nice for the community to see us not just doing funerals," said Meger. "We like people to see us in a more non-emotional environment and see us outside of being morticians."

During this year's party, the Megers will be streaming patriotic music as well as offering complimentary ice cream from the Chocolate Shoppe as featured at Old Town Bagels in Owatonna. Brick-Meger will also have free watermelon available.



Glen Meger

"It doesn't get any more American than that," Meger said of the watermelon and ice cream. "We want to host the community."

Visitors will also have a chance to spin the prize wheel for some great prizes for both youth and adults.

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BP 4th button: 'Most iconic thing'

◄ BP 4TH from 11

leads to discounts and deals during the holiday celebration.

This year, though, is the 50th celebration of Blooming Prairie's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July, an event that often quadruples the town's population, at least for a day.

Noah Olson's winning design will be seen everywhere, after his drawing was voted the top entry.

The son of Mathew and Kerie Olson, Noah said a classroom visit from BP Chamber Executive Director Karen Peterson – talking about what the 50th celebration means – helped him come up with the drawing.

His design includes the Awesome Blossom mascot holding an American flag as fireworks burst around it, under the words "Thank you for … 50 years."

In the background is the red-topped water tower that has stood in Central Park for more than 100 years but will be replaced with a new, larger tower this summer.

Noah said he wanted to represent the school, and the water tower "is the most iconic thing about Blooming Prairie."

The Olsons, who live in the country, come to town for the parade and fireworks, he said. His favorite food for the holiday is cotton candy, and his favorite fireworks color is blue.

That fit in well with Peterson's order of "a lot of red, white and blue fireworks for this year" to mark the 50th anniversary.

Noah received $20 in BP Chamber Bucks, a commemorative 50th Old-Fashioned Fourth of July T-shirt – and will be given the first button when the order arrives from the printer.

The T-shirts are available for sale in the Chamber office for $20 each; the buttons are expected to be available at the end of May and are $5 each.



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50TH OLD FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY 2024 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN

Event Schedule

Wednesday, July 3rd

Schiffelly Puppets	City Center, Council Chambers	1:00pm
Blooming Prairie High School Tours	BP High School (Main Entrance)	2pm, 3pm, & 4pm
Antique Tractors	Victory Field	4:00pm–8:00pm
Beer Garden ($1 off w/ 4th of July button) *	City Park	4:00pm–9:00pm
BPHS 45th Class Reunion	City Park Beer Garden	5:00pm
Car & Bike Show (Sign up at 3pm)	Main Street	4:00pm–7:00pm
Concessions	City Park	4:00pm–9:00pm
Dunk Tank (3 Balls for $5) *Support United Way of Steele County*	City Park	4:30pm–7:30pm
Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull	City Park	Sign up @ 4:30pm
Local Nonprofits *BP Youth Club, Blossoming Community Foundation, United Way of Steele County, etc.*	Various Locations City Park	4:00pm–9:00pm
Merchandise (4th of July T-Shirts, Buttons)	City Park Beer Garden	4:00pm-9:00pm
Red, White & Bounce (Inflatables) *	West Side of City Park	4:30pm–8:30pm
Red, White & Build (FURever Friends)	1st Ave NW – City Park	4:30pm–8:30pm
Red, White & Game On (Video Game Trailer) *	1st Ave NW – City Park	4:30pm–8:30pm
Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic	City Park Large Gazebo	4:00pm–5:15pm
Live Entertainment: Generation Gap	City Park Beer Garden	5:30pm–8:00pm
Street Dance: Tri-8 ($5 Cover, must be 21+)	BP Servicemen's Club West Lot	8:30pm–12:30am

Thursday, July 4th

BP Lion's Club Breakfast	Prairie Manor	8:00am–11:30am
Red, White & Boom 5K	1st Ave NW – City Park	9:00am
Fire Department Open House	Fire Hall	9:00am–11:00am
Pony Rides	Southeast Corner of City Park	9:00am–1:00pm
Antique Tractors	Victory Field	9:00am–4:00pm
Leo Augusta's Children's Academy Bingo	City Park Picnic Pavilion	10:00am–2:00pm
Kid's Races	Victory Field	10:00am–11:00am
First Lutheran Church Music	City Park Large Gazebo	10:00am–11:30am
Fine Arts Fair & Vendor Market	City Park	10:00am–5:00pm
Local Nonprofits *BP Youth Club, Blossoming Community Foundation, United Way of Steele County, etc.*	Various Locations City Park	10:00am–9:00pm
Beer Garden ($1 off w/ 4th of July button) *	City Park	10:00am–9:00pm
Concessions	City Park	10:00am–9:00pm
Merchandise (4th of July T-Shirts, Buttons)	City Park Beer Garden	10:00am-9:00pm
4th of July Kids' Painting Extravaganza	City Park	10am, 1pm & 3pm
Red, White & Bounce (Inflatables) *	West Side of City Park	10am-2pm; 4:30pm-8:30pm
Red, White & Build (FURever Friends)	1st Ave NW – City Park	10am-2pm; 4:30pm-8:30pm
Red, White & Game On (Video game trailer) *	West Side of City Park	10am-2pm; 4:30pm-8:30pm
Dunk Tank (3 Balls for $5) *Support the Blossoming Community Foundation*	City Park	12:00pm–2:00pm
4th of July Parade		2:30pm–4:00pm
Dunk Tank (3 Balls for $5) *Support United Way of Steele County*	City Park	4:30pm–7:30pm
Live Entertainment: Jake Schrodt	City Park Beer Garden	6:00pm–9:00pm
Fireworks (Rain make-up date: 7/5)	Victory Field	10:00pm

Saturday, July 6th

Tractor Pull – Jonny Kraling 507-475-3088	West of Victory Field	9:00am

*** Equals $1 off with 4th of July button**

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