

America's
250th
4TH OF JULY
Celebration!

Let's celebrate freedom together!

A SPECIAL NEWS SUPPLEMENT TO

The Coffey County

Republican

June 25, 2026

Know the rules before lighting fireworks

State law changed last year to allow year-round sales of consumer fireworks in Kansas; however, local governments—especially cities—continue to retain regulatory authority over sales and use.

State statutes expanded the seasonal sales period for fireworks vendors from nine days to 18 days. Seasonal fireworks sales, which generally include local fireworks stands, are permitted from June 20 through July 7.

Kansas law also allows year-round fireworks sales from permanent locations that are properly registered and inspected.

While fireworks remain a popular part of Independence Day celebrations, residents should be aware of both state and local regulations and take precautions to avoid fire hazards.

Many cities have ordinances that establish when fireworks may be discharged and restrict certain types of fireworks.

In general, fireworks used within city limits must be approved for sale and use in Kansas by the State Fire Marshal. Bottle rockets and other self-propelled fireworks, or devices consisting of a tube with an attached guiding rod or stock, may not be sold or discharged.

Most cities also prohibit discharging fireworks in public streets, alleys, avenues, parks, or other public places. Throwing fireworks at



another person is prohibited, and permits are generally required for public fireworks displays.

Residents are encouraged to clean up fireworks debris once it is safe to do so.

The following information applies to area communities:

Burlington

Burlington city ordinance states fireworks may only be discharged July 1–5. On those dates, fireworks

See FIREWORKS, Page 8

Celebrate Small Town Life & America's Birthday!

Remember to purchase your fireworks locally!

- Gridley's Independence Day Celebration
- Lebo's Stars & Stripes
- Burlington's Freedom Festival
- Red, White, Blue & Bulls (Lebo)

Coffey County Chamber of COMMERCE

Shop Local Coffey County KANSAS

Check out our Events Calendar



Happy 250th Birthday America!

Closed Saturday, July 4

in honor of the

4th of July!

Chrisman Hardware

1125 N. 4th, Burlington • (620) 364-5542

Happy 4th

Burlington Recreation Center will be closed on July 4th.

Celebrate the holiday at the Outdoor Pool which will be open from 1-5 p.m.!

Veterans and 55+ get Free admission!



AAA projects modest increase in July 4 travel despite higher costs

WICHITA — More Americans are expected to travel for the Independence Day holiday this year despite higher transportation and vacation costs, according to projections released June 17 by AAA.

AAA estimates 72.2 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles from home during the nine-day holiday travel period from June 27 through July 5. That would top last year's record of 71.8 million travelers, though the increase is smaller than recent year-over-year gains.

"For many Americans, July 4th travel is a longstanding tradition, and that tradition remains strong this year even as prices rise for most modes of transportation," AAA Kansas Public Affairs Manager Shawn

Steward said.

Road travel remains by far the most popular option. AAA projects 61.4 million people — about 85 percent of holiday travelers — will drive to their destinations, essentially unchanged from last year. Gasoline prices are running more than \$1 per gallon higher nationally than they were during the 2025 holiday period, although still below the highs seen in 2022.

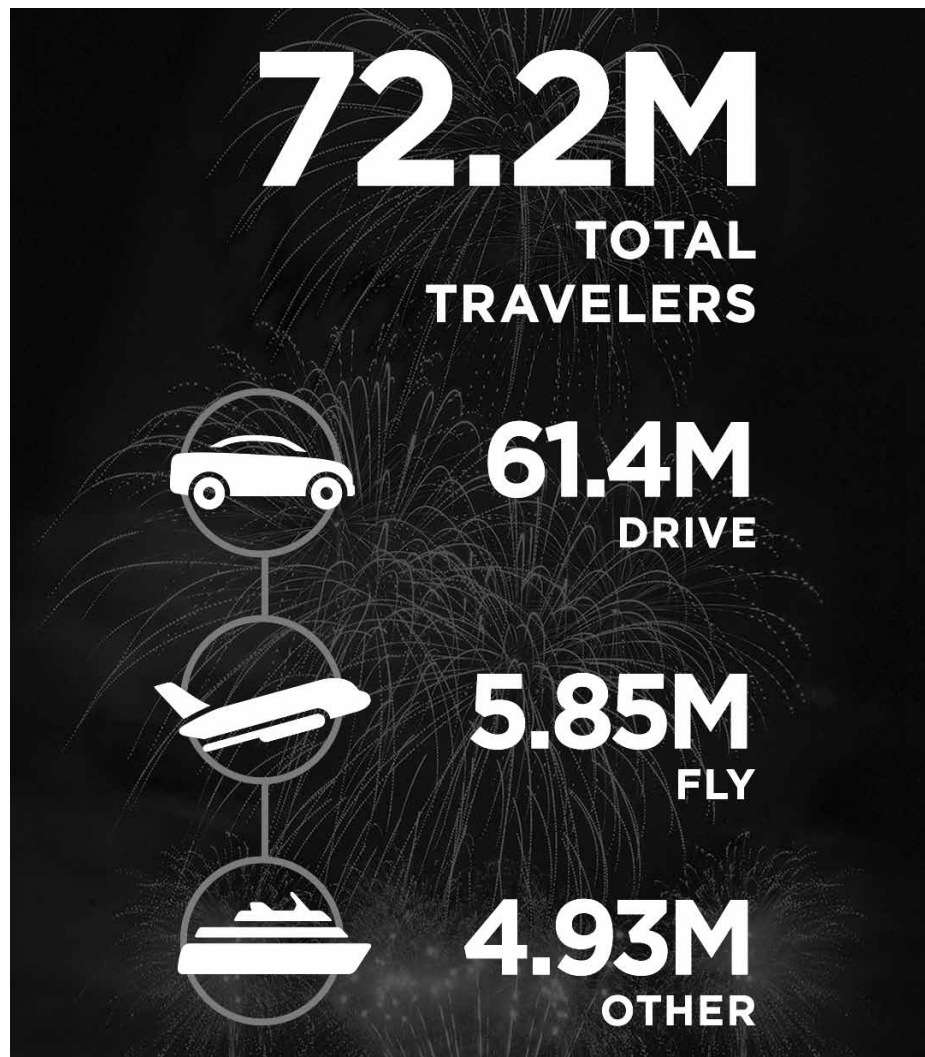
Rental car demand is expected to peak Thursday, July 2, according to AAA partner Hertz, with domestic rental rates averaging about 10 percent higher than last year.

Air travel is also expected to remain steady. AAA forecasts 5.85 million people will fly domestically, up

0.2 percent from last year. Domestic round-trip airfare is averaging about \$830, with flights to popular destinations such as Chicago and Denver costing about 5 percent more than a year ago.

The largest increase is expected in other forms of travel, including buses, trains and cruises. AAA projects 4.93 million travelers will choose those options, up 5.3 percent from 2025 and surpassing pre-pandemic levels. The growth is driven largely by continued demand for cruise vacations.

AAA also urged travelers to prioritize safety. According to the organization, nearly one in three summertime traffic deaths involves an impaired driver. Last Independence Day week, AAA responded to more than 687,000 roadside assistance calls nationwide, with towing, battery problems and flat tires among the most common issues.



★ CELEBRATING ★
AMERICA
250 ★

★ ★ ★
HAPPY
4th of July!

PLEASE NOTE:
BOTH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
FRIDAY, JULY 3RD
★ Thank you for your understanding! ★

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

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Tri-County Insurance

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carmenymackey@gmail.com

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Decorating for America's 250th anniversary

Each year on July 4, many Americans are in a celebratory mood as they prepare for all the fanfare involved with Independence Day festivities. But Independence Day 2026 stands to be extra special since it marks America's 250th birthday. Towns, cities and the entire country will be planning much more extravagant July 4 celebrations in 2026.

People who want to get in on the America 250 action may want to begin thinking about how they are going to make their homes and businesses more festive.

- **Bunting and banners:** Bunting and banners are traditional patriotic decorations. They traditionally are red, white and blue and can be hung from porches, fences and railings.

- **American flags:** Many homes and businesses already display the flag, but this is the perfect opportunity to do so for those who want

to exhibit their pride in America. Be sure to treat the flag with respect and review the official United States Flag Code, which mandates that the flag never touches the ground and is illuminated if flown at night. When hanging against a wall or window, the blue union must be at the top left.

- **Specialty signs:** Many municipalities are getting in on the America 250 action and will organize specialty parades and parties. People can check with local government offices to see if lawn signs will be available. If so, they can be displayed in front of homes or retail stores.

- **Tablescapes:** Themed America 250 tablecloths can be used for backyard parties and picnics. Centerpieces of mason jars filled with mini flags and birthday number

See DECORATING, Page 5

Join us in celebrating our great nation's 250th birthday at Kelley Park in Burlington with great food, live music and fireworks on Saturday, July 4th!

FREEDOM FESTIVAL

- Food will be provided by **Hogmans BBQ and K&V Catering** starting at 6:30 p.m.
- Live Music will be provided by the **Isaac Kenneth Band**.
- Fireworks performance will be provided by **Strawder's Fireworks** at dusk.

Freedom Festival is brought to the community free of charge by the following sponsors:

- City of Burlington
- Burlington Recreation Center
- Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station
- Kansas Power Pool
- Lewis Oil
- Floyd Lewis Foundation
- Strawder's Fireworks
- TrustPoint Insurance and Real Estate
- Hoover's Thriftway
- Chrisman Hardware
- Vintage Sisters
- C. Allen for Your Doors
- Farm Bureau - Larry Gleue
- Bahr Tire
- Coffey County Economic Development
- Burlington Tax Center
- EB Sports & Outdoors
- Cook's Plumbing
- The Coffey County Republican
- Alpha Roofing
- The Bake-Ary
- Burlington Rotary Club
- Integrity Insurance
- Strawders and Daughters
- The Appliance Store
- Coffey County Council for the Arts

We look forward to seeing you there!

City of Lebo
presents
37th Stars & Stripes Celebration
RED, WHITE, & BOOM!

July 3rd - July 6th, 2026
"Red, White & Boom: 250 Years Strong"

FRIDAY, JULY 3

- 6-8 p.m. Kids' Games, Turtle Races, Hot Dog Eating Contest & DJ (Downtown Lebo)
- 7 p.m. Hometown Gravel Grind (Downtown Lebo)
- At Dusk **FIREWORKS**, Presented by Courtney Bartley & Rainbow Fireworks (West Park)

SATURDAY, JULY 4

JUNIOR CLASS CONCESSIONS & FRESHMAN ICE CREAM AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT EVENTS

- 7-10 a.m. Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast @ Lebo School - Sophomore Class
- 9 a.m. Baby Contest & Toddler Costume Contest @ Community Building
- 10 a.m. Cornhole Tournament @ the Heidi Inn
- 11 a.m. Parade - 2025 Parade Marshals: Ted & Mary Vannocker
- 12-2 p.m. BBQ lunch @ Lebo school - senior class
- 1-2:30 p.m. Kid Art Class @ Community Building
- 3:30-6 p.m. Adult Art Class @ Community Building
- 7 p.m. Frog Creek Bull Fights

SUNDAY, JULY 5

- 7-10 a.m. Pancake Feed (Lebo School)
- 9 a.m. Pickleball Tournament (Downtown Courts)
- 9 a.m. Transportation & Bob Ellis Memorial Tractor Show (W. Broadway St.)
- 10 a.m. Cornhole Tournament (The Heidi Inn)
- 12-2 p.m. BBQ Lunch (Lebo School)
- 2 p.m. Baby Contest & Toddler Costume Contest (Community Building)
- 2 p.m. Discord Illusions (Downtown W. Broadway)
- 4 p.m. Parade - Theme: Red, White & Boom: 250 Years Strong
2026 Parade Marshals: John & Amy Jarvis
- 7 p.m. Frog Creek Bull Fights

SUNDAY, JULY 6

- 8 a.m. Color Run (Meet at Concession Stand)
- 1 p.m. Bingo (Community Building)

The Stars and Stripes celebration is funded in part by donations from:
Knight Trucking, Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station/Evergy, Coffey County Sheriff's Department, Coffey County Economic Development and Casey's.

The City of Lebo would like to thank everyone for each of their monetary donations and time to help make the celebration a success each year.

The kid's games would not be possible without our volunteers:
Blue Ribbon 4-H Club

Decorating

Continued from Page 4

candles spelling out 250 are another fun idea.

- **Cozy accents:** Both homeowners and store owners can incorporate cozy accents like wooden blocks or patriotic table runners that display the 1776-2026 theme. Throw pillows and blankets featuring stars and stripes tossed over an antique rocking chair on a porch or near an entryway is a great way to offer a touch of Americana.

- **Lights:** Twinkling holiday lights in red, white and blue can be hung around windows and doors, or wrapped around trees in the yard for festive appeal.

Communities may identify specific decorating goals, like entire streets featuring paper lanterns, or America 250 flags on telephone poles. Residents can participate in such plans where possible.

America's 250th birthday certainly is worthy of celebration and lots of patriotic decor can commemorate this special event.

"We believe in America because we have great dreams, and because we have the opportunity to make those dreams come true."
 - Wendell L. Wilkie

Happy 250th Birthday America!
In Honor of Independence Day, First National Bank will not be open Saturday, July 4.

MEMBER FDIC LENDER

www.fnbofks.bank

600 N. 4th, Burlington • (620) 364-8472
 305 Pearson, Waverly • (785) 733-2564
 18 W. Main St., Osage City • (785) 528-3133

SMILE AMERICA! It's Your 250th Birthday.

Happy 4th of July from the office of Dr. Jordan Weber, D.D.S. and Dr. Rick Smith, D.D.S.

Our office will be closed in observance of the holiday on Friday, July 3.

BURLINGTON Dental Center
 314 Neosho, Burlington
 (620) 364-8414

HAVE A HAPPY & SAFE 4TH OF JULY

Grill Safety

1. Keep grill away from structures
2. Grill in a well-ventilated area
3. Keep away from children & pets
4. Never leave grill unattended

Firework Safety

1. Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks, even sparklers can reach 1200'
2. Keep a bucket of water or hose nearby
3. Never point fireworks at any person or structure, keep a safe distance from people or pets
4. Never try to re-light fireworks

110 S. 6th St., Burlington
 (620) 364-2721
 Find Us on Facebook
www.coffeycountyks.org

"More pets get lost on July 4th than any other day of the year. Many animals are scared of fireworks. Assure pets have a safe, protected space away from fireworks & that they are wearing ID tags, should they get loose & run."

Gridley, KS

Party like it's

1776 IN 2026

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
Friday, July 3rd, 2026

4-7 pm	Gridley Cruise-In	Main Street
4-6 pm	Tea Time by Gridley Branch Library & Outdoor Games	Jones Park
5-7 pm	Firework Dinner — Hamburgers & Hot Dogs By Trimble & Maclaskey Oil and TrustPoint Insurance & Real Estate	Community Building
5-7 pm	Community Farmers' Market	Jones Park
5-9:30	Drinks by Gridley Christian Church	Jones Park
5 pm	Performance by Stories Dance Company	Jones Park
6 pm	5K/10K Friday Night Fun Bike Ride (Registration begins @ 5:30)	Jones Park
6 pm	Ice Cream Social - Free Will Donation Sponsored by Gridley UMW	Jones Park Shelter House
6:00-7:30 pm	Music by Trent Crisswell Sponsored by the Coffey County Council For the Arts	Jones Park Shelter House
8 pm	Family Bingo — 1st Card Free! Cash Prizes!	Community Building
9 pm	Honor Flight 5K (Registration begins at 8:30 pm) Kitchen & Bath Trends of Kansas, Citizens State Bank, Thomsen & Sons & MT Networks	Jones Park

Saturday, July 4th, 2026

ALL DAY	Nancy's Grocery — PIZZA-COLD DRINKS - TACO SALAD	Main Street
7 am	Gridley Gravel Grind (awards presented at 9:30 am) Sponsored by The Gridley Community Association	Jones Park
7-9:30 am	Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast by Class of 2027	Community Building
7:30 am	3 on 3 Basketball by the Class of 2030 (\$20/team)	Jones Park
ALL DAY	Vendor Booths	Jones Park
8-9 am	Youth Fishing Derby (FREE) Register at the lake	Gridley Lake
9 am-4 pm	Justin's Sugar Rush- snow cones, cotton candy & more	Jones Park
9 am	Pickleball Tournament - Proceeds go to GCA	Jones Park
9 am	Red Woodcock Memorial Horseshoe Pitch (Registration begins @8:30)	Jones Park
10 am	Baby Contest "Party Like it's 1776"	Jones Park Shelter
10 am-4 pm	Masonic Lodge Car Raffle by Class of 2029	Jones Park
10 am-2 pm	Face Painting & Tattoos by Stories Dance Company	Jones Park
10:30 am	Kids Games - Bring your BOX turtle!!!	Jones Park
11 am-3 pm	Bounce Houses & Water Slide	Jones Park
11 am-5 pm	Drinks by Gridley Christian Church	Jones Park
11 am-1:30 pm	Hog Man BBQ	Jones Park
11 am -1 pm	German Dinner	Community Building
11 am-5 pm	Dunk Tank by Class of 2029	Jones Park
11 am-3 pm	Fancy Lemonade by Class of 2027	Jones Park
11 am-3 pm	The Axe Shedd - Mobile Axe Throwing Trailer	Jones Park
11:30 am	Zero Turn Lawn Mower Barrel Racing (Registration begins @ 11)	Gridley Co-op
1 pm	Stars & Stripes Olympics (Sponsored by Nancy's Grocery)	Nancy's Grocery
2 pm	Corn Hole Tournament - Proceeds to SCC Activity Fund	Jones Park
3 pm	Watermelon Eating Contest and FREE Watermelon by Gridley Christian Church	Jones Park Shelter House
3:30 pm	Kids Money Hunt	Jones Park
4 pm	Kids Spray Down by the Gridley Fire Department	Jones Park
5 pm	Sloppy Joe Dinner by Titan Rec - Free Will Donation	Community Building
5:30 pm	Whip Show by Aubrey Whiplt Zechariah Sponsored by The Complete Cowboy & Choo Choo Ropes	Main Street
7 pm	Parade — 6:15 Entry Time @ Grade School "Party Like it's 1776 in 2026" sponsored by the Cameo Women	Main Street
Dusk	Concessions by the Masons Fireworks brought to you by the City of Gridley & the Masons Dance Following Fireworks BYOB - NO GLASS BOTTLES	City Lake

LIVE BAND!! BRICKHORSE
 Brought to you by Evergy - Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant
 Find us online at <http://www.facebook.com/GridleyIndependenceDayCelebration>
 Complete Schedule and All Registration Information Online!

Did you know?

Americans will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in July 2026, and the word “semiquincentennial” may come up in conversation during those celebrations. Some people may not be familiar with the term and what it means. A semiquincentennial is the 250th anniversary of something. It breaks down

to “half” of a “quincentennial,” which is 500 years. Synonyms may include sestercentennial, bisequincentennial or quartermillennial. Each term refers to a period of 250 years. It’s a rather large word for a simple meaning, but people are bound to hear more of it as 2026 goes on and Independence Day is celebrated on



Fun Facts: Celebrating 250 Years of America



Celebrating 250 Years of Independence

Since declaring independence on July 4, 1776, the U.S. population has continued to grow. The 2020 Census recorded 331 million people living in the United States—an 8,336 percent increase from just 3.9 million counted in the first census in 1790. As the nation approaches its 250th birthday, Americans continue to celebrate this milestone of freedom with festivities like fireworks, parades, concerts, and more.

Places to Celebrate America's Birthday

- Museums: **5,480**
- Historical Sites: **1,120**
- Zoos and Botanical Gardens: **781**
- Nature Parks: **797**
- Amusement and Theme Parks: **742**
- Sports Arenas: **4,274**

Patriotic Places

Our nation is filled with patriotically named places! As of July 2024, there were 55 incorporated places with patriotic names. Topping the list: “Liberty” with “Independence” a distant second.



Founding Father

George Washington is the only founding father after whom a state is named. And that state even has a small city named George! The 2020 Census population of George, Washington was 809.



How We've Grown

2.5 Million

The number of people living in the new free nation in July 1776.



341.8 Million

The nation's estimated population as of July 2025.

And the Rockets' Red Glare

- **1,319** — The number of U.S. fireworks manufacturers in 2023.
- **Approximately \$407 million** — The value of fireworks imported into the United States in 2025.
- **Approximately \$1.8 million** — The value of American flags exported from the United States in 2025.



Populations of Historic U.S. Landmark Locations

- **Statue of Liberty** — New York, NY (8,478,072)
- **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** — Keystone, SD (261)
- **The White House** — Washington D.C. (702,250)
- **Liberty Bell** — Philadelphia, PA (1,573,916)

Did You Know?

In 2024, about 14 million men age 18 and older were U.S. veterans (89 percent), compared to their 1.7 million female counterparts (11 percent).

Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2025 Population Estimates, 2025 International Trade Statistics, 2024 Population Estimates, 2024 City and Town Population Totals, 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 2023 County Business Patterns, 2020 Census, 2020 Facts by Decade, 1790 Facts by Decade, and Historical Statistics of the United States: 1789-1945 report.



CENSUS.GOV/SCHOOLS



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ON JULY 4TH!**



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Party like it's

 1776 IN 2026

Have a
 safe and happy
 4th of July!

from
**The City
 of Gridley**

HAPPY
 INDEPENDENCE
 DAY!



Celebrate Safe!
 Utilize a Designated Driver

~~~~~

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**



Coffey County Sheriff's Office  
 Thomas L Johnson, Sheriff  
 625 Neosho St  
 Burlington, KS 66839  
 (620) 364-2123

**Closed  
 July 3rd**

The City of Burlington  
 wishes everyone a happy  
 and safe Independence  
 Day as we honor  
 250 years of American  
 history, freedom,  
 and community!

Our office will be  
 closed in observance  
 on Friday, July 3.

Happy 250<sup>th</sup>  
 BIRTHDAY  
 AMERICA

Our office will be  
 closed on July 3rd  
 in observance  
 of the holiday.

  
 EST 1980

507 Neosho - Burlington  
 (620) 364-2866



"And the star-spangled banner  
 forever shall wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the  
 home of the brave!"

Francis Scott Key

As we celebrate Independence Day, we are once again  
 reminded that freedom is not free. Just as America fought  
 for independence in 1776, American troops continue to  
 defend freedom around the world today. July Fourth is a  
 day to honor the men and women who have sacrificed so  
 much to protect our liberty. It's a day to proudly celebrate  
 our great country and the ideals it represents.

Happy Birthday, America let freedom ring forever!

**The Coffey County  
 Courthouse will be  
 closed Friday,  
 July 3 in  
 observance of  
 Independence Day.  
 Regular business  
 will resume  
 Monday, July 6.**

## Fireworks

Continued from Page 2

may not be discharged before 8 a.m. or after 11 p.m. A public fireworks display will be held during the Freedom Festival at Kelley Park on July 4 at dusk. Fireworks are prohibited in public parks.

### New Strawn

Fireworks may be discharged from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. June 27 through July 5, except July 4 when use is allowed until midnight. New Strawn does not plan to host a public fireworks display.

### Lebo

Lebo's ordinance allows fireworks to be fired within city limits from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. June 27 through July 5, with extended hours until midnight on July 4. Fireworks sales are permitted within city limits with a city permit from June 27 through July 5. Lebo's annual Stars and Stripes Celebration will be held July 3-6 and includes a public fireworks display at dusk Friday, July 3, at West Park.

### LeRoy

In LeRoy, fireworks may be discharged from 8 a.m. to midnight June 20 through July 7. The city does not plan to host a public fireworks display.

### Gridley

Gridley ordinance allows fireworks to be discharged within city limits from 8 a.m. to midnight July 1-4, provided fireworks remain on the user's own property. Gridley's Independence Day celebration is scheduled for July 3 and 4, with a public fireworks display planned for dusk Saturday, July 4, at Gridley City Lake.

### Waverly

Waverly permits fireworks from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. June 27 through July 3 and from 8 a.m. to midnight July 4 and 5. No public fireworks display is planned.

### Hartford

Hartford does not have city ordinances specific to fireworks use and does not plan to host a public fireworks display.

In honor of  
Independence Day,  
we will be closed  
Friday, July 3.

Happy 250th  
Birthday America!



Heath, Holly, and Larry

**Farm Bureau Financial Services**  
516 Neosho, Burlington (620) 364 5341

**Celebrate 250 Years of  
Freedom in America!**

**STRAWDER'S**  
**50**  
1976 **2026**  
**YEARS**  
**FIREWORKS**  
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LOWEST PRICE IN THE  
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Burlington Freedom Fest Fireworks Display  
Sat, July 4th @ Dusk • Kelley Park

**BURLINGTON  
LOCATION OPENING  
JUNE 25TH**

½ mile south of town  
on US HWY 75

**NEW STRAWN COMMUNITY  
BUILDING & BETO LOCATIONS  
OPENING JUNE 27TH**

New Strawn Community Building  
operated by Radiant Life Church  
Youth / Children's Ministries to raise  
funds for future events & activities

