

## PRESS RELEASE

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### USE OF FIREWORKS ILLEGAL IN BENICIA Residents Encouraged to Start a New Tradition This Year

**Benicia, CA (June 23, 2020)** – As the celebration of Independence Day approaches, the Benicia Fire Department wants to remind everyone about the regulations and dangers associated with the private use of fireworks. Fireworks present a hazard and are highly regulated, therefore, the sale and private use of fireworks is banned in the City of Benicia, including fireworks that are generally referred to as “safe and sane.”

Thousands of people are injured each year by fireworks around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Not only do fireworks present a danger by potentially causing physical injuries, they also can cause fires. With the devastating destruction of entire neighborhoods due to recent wildfires, Benicia Fire Department is concerned with the potential for open space fires caused by the sparks generated from fireworks and remind residents that ALL fireworks are illegal in Benicia.

The cancellation of the 2020 Torchlight Parade, Picnic in the Park and fireworks display by Benicia Main Street and the City of Benicia is disappointing but an essential decision to protect the health and safety of residents and visitors to Benicia during the coronavirus pandemic. Please consider alternative, safely distanced activities. As a reminder, only residents of the same household should gather in distances of less than six feet.

Alternative, safe activities might include:

- Virtual block parties - flyer your neighborhood with a Zoom party invitation
- Watch ‘Hamilton’ movie via the [Disney+](#) streaming service starting July 3
- [Macy’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks](#) show will be televised from 5 - 7 p.m. PST
- Neighborhood Driveway Party – provide your own food and party in your driveway
- Garage door driveway movies – Benicia Public Library has a selection of free movies through [Kanopy](#) to show with your outdoor movie projector on your garage door.
  - As an alternative to fireworks, consider using [Nasa’s “Make a Straw Rocket”](#) template and shoot them off into the sky

Benicia Fire Department wishes you a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

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