

Celebrating Our Nation!

Independence Day commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Independence Day is the most important secular holiday held in the United States. Americans take this day to celebrate all that is American, remembering the great sacrifices of our forefathers as they fought and won our independence from Great Britain. The holiday is also referred to as 4th of July, named after the date it is celebrated each year.

Facts & Quotes

- In July 1776, there were approximately 2.5 million people living in the new nation.
- The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence didn't occur until July 8, 1776. It was sent to the printers on July 4th.
- The Statue of Liberty is a great symbol of American Freedom. It was given to the US by France in 1886. It was delivered in 214 crates and assembled on what is known as Liberty Island, in New York Harbor.



- Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty.*
- John F. Kennedy
- The original Declaration of Independence can be viewed by visiting the National Archives, Washington D.C. The original copy is severely faded and sits under special glass in the Rotunda for the Chambers of Freedom.

Top Events & Things to Do

- Attend a BBQ.
- Watch Fireworks.
- Read or recite the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence.
- Watch or attend Nathan's famous Hot Dog eating contest in Coney Island.
- Watch a Parade.

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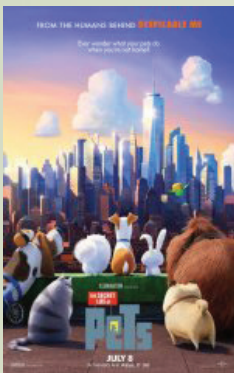
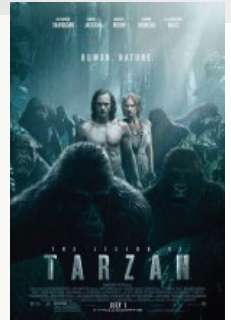
Log in to ConcordCentral.com to view your Community's Event Calendar!

MOVIE Madness!

Coming to Theatres this Month...

The Legend of Tarzan - July 1st

It has been years since the man once known as Tarzan left the jungles of Africa behind for a gentrified life as John Clayton III, Lord Greystoke, with his beloved wife, Jane at his side. Now, he has been invited back to the Congo to serve as a trade emissary of Parliament, unaware that he is a pawn in a deadly convergence of greed and revenge, masterminded by the Belgian, Captain Leon Rom. But those behind the murderous plot have no idea what they are about to unleash.



The Secret Life of Pets- July 8th

Set in a Manhattan apartment building, after the two-legged residents head for work and school, their pets gather to start their day, which consists of hanging out, trading humiliating stories about their owners, and helping each other work up adorable looks that will lead to more snacks. The head hound is a quick-witted terrier rescue, whose position at the epicenter of his master's universe is suddenly threatened when she comes home with Duke, a sloppy mongrel with no polish. The two soon find themselves on the mean streets of New York, where they meet the adorable white bunny Snowball. It turns out that Snowball is the leader of an army of pets that were abandoned and are determined to get back at humanity and every owner-loving pet. The dogs must thwart this plot and make it back in time for dinner.

Ghostbusters - July 15th

Erin Gilbert and Abby Bergman are a pair of unheralded authors who write a book positing that ghosts are real. A few years later, Gilbert lands a prestigious teaching position at Columbia University, but her book resurfaces and she is laughed out of academia. Gilbert reunites with Bergman and others when ghosts invade Manhattan and try to save the world.



Bad Moms - July 29th

Amy Mitchell puts her family first, second, and third. But her man-child husband, high-maintenance kids and idiot boss are taking a toll. She gives and gives, and gives and gives, and then gives a little more, but it's never enough. When the alpha moms at her kids' school push her too far, Amy finally snaps. Good Amy becomes Bad Amy really fast -- and she doesn't go alone. Teaming up with two other misfit moms, Amy gets a jolt of freedom that shakes up her life and might even make her a better mom. So call a sitter, put on your comfy pants, and pour yourself a double Chardonnay, because these moms are about to get bad.



RECIPES

Throw Another Burger on the Grill!

Bacon-Wrapped Hamburgers

Ingredients:

1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese
1 small onion, chopped
1 egg
1 tablespoon ketchup
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1 pound ground beef
6 slices bacon
6 hamburger buns, split

Directions:

Preheat a grill for high heat. In a large bowl, mix together the Cheddar cheese, Parmesan cheese, onion, egg, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper. Crumble in the ground beef, and mix together by hand. Form into 6 patties, and wrap a slice of bacon around each one. Secure bacon with toothpicks. Place patties on the grill, and cook for 5 minutes per side, or until well done. Remove toothpicks before serving on hamburger buns.



Seven Layer Taco Dip



Ingredients:

1 (1 ounce) package taco seasoning mix
1 (16 ounce) can refried beans
1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
1 (16 ounce) container sour cream
1 (16 ounce) jar salsa
1 large tomato, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
1 bunch chopped green onions
1 small head iceberg lettuce, shredded
1 (6 ounce) can sliced black olives, drained
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Directions:

In a medium bowl, blend the taco seasoning mix and refried beans. Spread the mixture onto a large serving platter. Mix the sour cream and cream cheese in a medium bowl. Spread over the refried beans. Top the layers with salsa. Place a layer of tomato, green bell pepper, green onions and lettuce over the salsa, and top with Cheddar cheese. Garnish with black olives.


YOUR Safety



How to Safely Enjoy Fireworks

Remember, fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries. You can help prevent fireworks-related injuries and deaths. How? By working with a national, state or local organization where you live to promote fireworks safety in your community.

Follow these safety tips when using fireworks:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
 - Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
 - Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees — hot enough to melt some metals.
 - Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
 - Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
 - Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
 - Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
 - Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
 - Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
 - After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
 - Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
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COLORING Fun

A Special Place Just for Kids!

