

Contact: Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator 828-845-0650 Rebecca.McCann@cityofbrevard.com

City of Brevard Announces 4th of July Celebrations

[BREVARD, N.C., May 31, 2023] – This City of Brevard is thrilled to announce its highly anticipated Independence Day celebration, set to take place on July 4, 2023. This year, the 4th of July festivities will return to Brevard College. The event, hosted by the Heart of Brevard and Brevard College, will begin with the Brevard Fire Department raising the American flag near Green Hall at 2:00 p.m. Attendees will then be able to enjoy the BC campus and visit snack vendors next to the field house. Families are invited to bring lawn games, food, chairs, and blankets during this celebration of the 4th of July holiday. "We welcome everyone onto our beautiful campus to celebrate July 4th this year," said Dr. Bradley J Andrews, president of Brevard College. "We look forward to being together as a community to enjoy the holiday."

The Transylvania County Arts Council will also host its annual duck race fundraiser on King's Creek. While the public can purchase ducks in advance, day-of duck sales will begin at 4:00 p.m. behind Stanback and Jones Halls. Spectators can then watch as hundreds of rubber ducks race down the creek, winding their way to the finish line. This unique tradition, beloved by locals and visitors alike, is a wonderful way to support the arts in our community.

A reading of the Declaration of Independence will air on WSQL, and music will be provided at the College by Sound Extreme starting at 6:30 p.m. and lasting until the fireworks begin at 9:30 p.m. The spectacular firework display can be viewed from a number of locations on the BC campus, including the interior of the track.

Emphasizing the community focus of the event, Mayor Maureen Copelof said, "I'm excited to partner with Brevard College and Heart of Brevard in making our Fourth of July celebration a special time for families to enjoy this important day. We are focusing our celebration on community with the opportunity for all of us to come together on the beautiful College campus with families and friends and just relax to uplifting patriotic music." Patriotism will certainly take top billing at the event, according to Copelof. "The Fourth of July is one of those days with special meaning to all Americans," the mayor continued, "and I look forward to joining with our community as we watch the fireworks and give thanks to the courage of our Founding Fathers in creating this incredible country."

Prior to the community celebration at the College, residents and visitors will have myriad opportunities to partake in other local events. The Rotary Club of Brevard will host its Red, Blue, and White Squirrel 5k race on Saturday, July 1, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Depot Railroad Avenue Park. Downtown Brevard will also serve as a vibrant activity hub over the holiday weekend, offering, as always, an array of local shops with everything from unique crafts and boutiques to restaurants and art galleries. "We encourage everyone to explore downtown and shop at our local businesses, savor delicious cuisine, and indulge in the unique charm of our downtown district," shared Nicole Bentley, Executive Director with Heart of Brevard.

Music lovers of all ages can take in the Pendergrast Family Patriotic Pops concert at the Brevard Music Center's Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium on July 4 at 2:00 p.m. The Brevard Symphonic Winds and Seraph Brass will perform inspirational American music, traditional Sousa marches, and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" complete with the sounds of a live cannon.

Additionally, to celebrate the "Year of the Trail," Brevard invites everyone to spend the day picnicking and recreating in our public lands. With thousands of acres of national and state forests, miles of paddle trail, and long stretches of urban greenway, everyone can enjoy quality time with family and friends while exploring our beautiful outdoor spaces.

This year's 4th of July promises to be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our nation's founding while enjoying the beauty of our small town, and we look forward to celebrating Independence Day with friends and family on the BC campus.

A digital <u>map of the campus</u> can be found on BC's website. The road along the creek behind Jones Hall (14) and Stanback Hall (13) will be closed to vehicular traffic during the event to allow for safe pedestrian travel around campus. The DJ and food vendors will be located in the field house parking lot (area 25).

