

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 30, 2017



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## **CORRECTION**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (June 30, 2017) Please note that the incorrect number for the Fire Marshal's Office was noted in this release. The correct contact number is 757.514.4540. We apologize for any confusion.

## **PUT SAFETY IN PLAY DURING THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (June 30, 2017) Everyone enjoys fireworks, and it wouldn't be the 4<sup>th</sup> of July without them, however, the Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind residents to leave these to the professionals.

In fact, the use or sale of fireworks in the City of Suffolk is prohibited by City Code. The Code states, "It shall be a violation of this Code for any person to store, to offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail, or use or explode any fireworks. Fireworks include, but are not limited to, firecrackers, skyrockets, torpedoes, sparklers, or any other fireworks which explode, travel laterally, rise into the air, or fire projectiles into the air."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) notes that, on a typical Independence Day, more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for more than half of those fires.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue and the NFPA encourage people to enjoy public displays of fireworks, as the safest way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave

fireworks displays to trained experts. Preparing for a day of family barbeques and holiday excitement is no fun if it includes a trip to the emergency room due to improper handling of fireworks. For more information on fire safety, please contact the Suffolk Fire Marshal's Office at 514-7540.

The Suffolk Parks & Recreation Department will host this year's "Stars & Stripes Spectacular" on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, at Constant's Wharf Park & Marina, located at 110 East Constance Road. The park will open at 5:30 p.m. with entertainment, children's activities, and local merchandise and food vendors. The fireworks show will begin over the river at 9 p.m. for the whole family to enjoy. Music will be provided by the popular band *Hotcakes*, and the children's area is only \$5 (kids 12 and under). Free shuttles will operate from the First Baptist Church, Godwin Courts Building, and City Hall parking lots beginning at 5:15 p.m.

The Suffolk Police Department would also like to remind our citizens that with many people traveling over the extended holiday weekend, it's more important than ever to drive safely. People should be well rested and alert, use their seat belts, observe speed limits and follow the rules of the road. If anyone plans on drinking alcohol, they should designate a driver who won't be drinking. Suffolk Police will have extra patrols on our roadways to keep the roads safe and to deter impaired driving.

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