

# July 4 fireworks controlled by two-day sales ordinance

BY JOANNE YOUNG

"And the rockets red glare,  
The bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night..."  
Fireworks are as popular as ever on the Fourth of July.  
People of all ages in Nebraska buy them and they turn out in large numbers to watch the large fireworks displays.  
For all the enjoyment they bring, though, fireworks are not without problems.  
Nebraska has laws restricting the use of fireworks, and each city controls their purchase and use.

In Lincoln, fireworks can only be sold from the morning of the third through midnight on the fourth, which coincides with the time fireworks can be used within the city limits. No one under 18 may purchase fireworks, and anyone under 18 discharging fireworks must be supervised by a person 18 years or older.

There are also restrictions on the types of fireworks that can be shot in Lincoln. The law says bottle rockets, sky rockets or "like devices" are illegal, as are M-80s and cherry bombs.

Lincoln police said they haven't had much of a problem with illegal fireworks in the past several years. They get the usual calls about cherry bombs and M-80s going off, Lt. Al Maxey said, but when they investigate, they can't find anyone shooting them.

"When someone is caught," Maxey said, "they are charged with discharging illegal fireworks, which is a misdemeanor, unless there is a certain amount of damage."

There are laws in Lincoln against launching or throwing anything that explodes on the street, sidewalk, or near any person or group of persons.

Lincoln Assistant Fire Marshall Ed Cropp said another rule to remember is that fireworks that leave the ground have to be destroyed in the air.

Ladyfingers, which are small firecrackers, are legal in Lincoln, Cropp said, as long as they are not over seven-eighths of an inch long.

"None of them (fireworks) are safe if not handled properly," Cropp said. Even sparklers are dangerous if a child grabs the wrong end, he said.

Cropp said smaller aerial shells seem to be the most popular fireworks for individual use. The larger shells used in the public displays always draw a crowd, he said.

When illegal fireworks show up in Lin-

coln, Cropp said, they usually have been purchased in Missouri, Kansas or South Dakota. These states have fewer fireworks restrictions, he said. Colorado and Iowa don't allow fireworks, he said.

Cropp said his advice for fireworks safety is for people to use common sense and be as reasonable as possible about their use. Adults should be the only ones allowed to discharge them, he said.

Local fireworks distributor, Bob High, Duffy's Fireworks, said some of the more popular fireworks in the area are ladyfingers, roman candles, ground bloom flowers, spinners, parachutes and aerial shells.

Ladyfingers are about the cheapest to buy, High said, and aerial shells are more expensive, ranging from \$3 to \$12 per shot. You can also buy packages of assorted fireworks, he said.

High said he is not happy with Lincoln's two-day sales ordinance.

"But it's the law," he said, "and we have to live with it."

He said last year was the first year for two-day sales.

"I don't know why the city council wanted two-day sales," he said. "It was personal feelings, a bunch of small reasons."

He said Lincoln residents can go to small towns in the area to purchase fireworks between June 25 and July 4.

High said the best advice he could give for safety was to follow the manufacturer's printed instructions for use, observe common sense and the city ordinances.

Duffy's sold the fireworks for this year's display at Holmes Park sponsored by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

High said the prices on fireworks for the display were from \$15 to \$40 per shell, not the least expensive and not the most expensive.

Chamber official Terri Dageford said the chamber collected about \$3,000 from Lincoln businesses for this year's display and Duffy's "helped out a little." There will be 176 shots, comparable to last year's display, she said.

The finale will include a flag and a "big spurt of fireworks," she said.

"I know the people of Lincoln appreciate it (the display)," Ms. Dageford said, "but we do get more negative comments than positive. People feel their tax dollars are paying for it, but they're not."

She said the city co-sponsors the event by supplying the place to have it and personnel.



Photo by Dave Wesely

Clark Schnase re-arranges the fireworks display at the Davey Fireworks stand at 3530 Cedar St.

## Community activities headline various local July Fourth efforts

BY JOANNE YOUNG

Parades, games, races and, of course, fireworks are just a few of the ways Nebraskans will celebrate the 207th birthday of the United States this Fourth of July weekend.

The nation's birthday party includes live music and activities Monday at Holmes Park, located at 70th Street and Normal Boulevard. The City Parks and Recreation Department and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring a 176-shot fireworks display at 10 p.m. paid for with donations from Lincoln businesses.

Also planned are softball games, canoe and canoe portage races and a model airplane show. There is no admission charge for the events which begin at 10 a.m.

Nearby in Seward, a full day of events are planned beginning with a pancake feed in the civic center, 7-11 a.m. Exhibits, movies, games, and music follow, with more food at the Kiwanis' barbeque, ice cream and pie social in the city park. A fireworks display in city park finishes the evening at 10 p.m.

For those who feel like running to celebrate the Fourth, Ralston, a neighboring community to Omaha, plans to start its day-long activities with a mini-marathon. Ralston Chamber of Commerce officials say the marathon is 5,000 meters or 3.1 miles and begins at 8:30 in downtown Ralston. The entry fee is \$5.00 and deadline for entry is Saturday. Entry forms may be picked up at the Chamber office, the Ralston Bank or the Ralston Insurance Agency.

Other activities in Ralston include a day-long flea market and a two-hour parade

beginning at 11 a.m. Entertainment, including music and sky-diving, begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends with a 20-30 minute fireworks display.

Avoca has 2-and 5-mile Fun Runs planned for Saturday morning at 8:30, followed by games and activities for all ages and a Saturday night fireworks display at 10 p.m.

Beatrice has a three-day celebration planned with mud drags, foot races and stock car races Saturday at the fairgrounds, along with a mechanical bull championship rodeo at 3 p.m. at the mall. Activities continue on Sunday with a fireworks display after the Coors Cup stock car races at the fairgrounds.

A parade in Beatrice starts the activities on the Fourth at 10 a.m. and ends with another fireworks display near the mall at 9:30 p.m.

Waverly activities begin Saturday night with a teen dance and continue Sunday and Monday with a variety of games, contests and food.

There will be a parade on the Fourth and a beer garden in the plaza from 11 a.m. to midnight. A street dance with the Whiskey River Boys starts at 8 p.m., and a fireworks display in the park begins at 9:45 p.m.

For those who want to start celebrating a little early, there is a centennial celebration in Cortland, 22 miles south of Lincoln on the way to Beatrice. Highlights of the three-day event beginning at 5:30 Thursday include a time-capsule burial, a cow-chip throwing contest, a beer judging contest, a carnival and a Saturday parade featuring Gov. Kerrey at 10 a.m.

Cortland is expected to swell from its usual 400 residents to 6-7,000 people for the Thursday through Sunday event, said a centennial representative.

On Sunday a centennial quilt made by Cortland residents will be raffled.

In Grand Island, the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer is planning an 1890s parade featuring horse-drawn buggies, flags and decorations. The parade gets under way Monday at 1:30 p.m.

### Scottsbluff to apply for \$350,000 in grant

SCOTTSBLUFF (AP) — Scottsbluff's City Council has approved the application for a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant to finance several community projects.

### NCAA sub-regional hoop tickets set for sale

Tickets for the 1984 NCAA Midwest sub-regional basketball games at the Bob Devaney Sports Center will go on sale Friday by mail only at the Athletic Ticket Office.

The schedule for the sub-regional calls for a pair of games Friday, March 16. The winners will advance to meet the top two seeded teams in a pair of games Sunday, March 18. The winners of Sunday's games will advance to the Midwest finals.

Ticket orders should be sent to the University of Nebraska Ticket Office, Box 82848, Lincoln, Neb. 68501.

All tickets are reserved and must be purchased for both day's games. Prices are \$10 a day (\$20 total) for all floor and chairback seats and \$8 a day (\$16 total) for upper-level

bench seats. Full payment must accompany each order along with a \$1 handling charge.


Orders are limited to four tickets and all orders must be post-marked no later than July 8. Phone orders will not be accepted. Over-the-counter sales of any remaining tickets will begin July 11.

### State's farm managers meet in Norfolk July 21


The Nebraska Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers will have its summer meeting July 21 and 22 in Norfolk, according to Chapter Secretary Larry L. Bitney.

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