

Fourth of July gets early start in Austin with parade, fireworks on July 2

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The evening sky over Austin will explode with the sounds and sights of colorful fireworks on Friday, July 2, when the city and its Beautification Committee sponsor a parade, an evening of free musical entertainment and its fireworks show on the grounds of the Austin High/Middle School complex.

This year, the event starts at 5 p.m. when the first-ever Independence Day parade in Austin takes place.

With the theme "Summer Fun," parade participants will step off at the staging area, located at U.S. Highway 31 North and Broadway Street, and come south on U.S. 31 to the high school parking lot, where it will disband.

Anyone can enter the parade, advised Mayor Doug Campbell. Participants should be at the staging area by 4:30 p.m. Call his office at 794-6466 for more information.

Once the parade ends, people can go on to the fireworks site behind the high school/middle school off U.S. 31 South.

There, they will find Austin Lions, ladies with the Beta Sigma Chapter of Psi Iota Xi Sorority and Jennings Township firemen ready to serve up an array of goodies. Austin Lions will fix grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. Psi Otes plan to serve several different flavors of their homemade ice cream, and firemen and their wives will prepare their famous fish sandwiches and meals.

Visitors can buy their food and then sit back and enjoy a line-up of free music starting at 6 p.m. provided through Bobby Deal and Spare Change Sound Company.

First off will be John Cornett and Cabin Creek. Next, a high school band, Monday's Remedy, will perform. On The House is next, followed by Wolf Canyon.

Double Standard will be the last band. Following the fireworks at 9:30 p.m., the band will play another 30-minute set.

Of course, everyone is going to enjoy the fireworks, which will climax the evening. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to spread on the ground.