The eighth annual free fireworks show will be presented by the City of Austin on Friday night, June 29, on the grounds of Austin High School.

The evening of free entertainment will be offered behind the high school/middle school complex starting at 6 p.m. A variety of the colored explosives will be set off around 9:30 p.m.

Last year, a huge crowd estimated at up to 3,000 people gathered on the school grounds to enjoy the summer evening, free music and food served by several local organizations. Officials are preparing for another big crowd this year.

Several organizations will be setting up food booths for the evening.

Members of the Beta Sigma Chapter of Psi Iota Xi Sorority will sell nachos and cheese, their famous homemade ice cream and bottled water. Austin Lions will offer hamburgers, cotton candy, popcorn and drinks during the early Fourth of July celebration. The Jennings Township Volunteer Fire Department auxiliary will be serving fish sandwiches and chicken strips.

All of the organizations use the funds raised to support community projects that benefit youth.

Following the official opening by members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 65, entertainment will include the Hick Billys band from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.; the 812 Band from 7:45 to 8:45 p.m.; and On The House from 9:15 p.m. until fireworks begin. They’ll pick back up following the fiery show and end the evening.

Mayor Campbell said the night “...is a great time to get your family together and enjoy an old-fashioned community gathering. Everyone is invited to come!”