

Erin Dunn
Community Comment
Tuesday, July 4

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

Happy Independence Day! If you were in Fortuna yesterday, you already have jump-start on the Fourth of July festivities. We have a Fireworks Festival in Fortuna every July 3. That way we have two days of celebrating in Humboldt County and we don't compete with other Fireworks shows.

Today in Old Town Eureka from 10 this morning until 5 tonight there will be a festival with vendors, kids' activities, carriage rides and a Carnival at the foot of D Street. Fireworks over Humboldt Bay start at 10 p.m.

You can grab a free firetruck ride for the kids in Ferndale this morning from 10 until Noon and catch the annual Fourth of July parade down Main Street at Noon.

Arcata has a Fourth of July Jubilee Festival on the Plaza from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today that includes a bubble parade, live music, craft and food vendors and a Kids Zone.

And if you are headed south, you can catch Fireworks at Benbow Lake State Recreation Area when it gets dark. There is a day use fee of 8 dollars per car.

In my hometown in Oregon when I was growing up, we always had fireworks over the River. During the day it was sparklers, worms that you light and watch grow, and caps that came in a red strip that you either had to use a toy gun to set off or hit them with a rock. Very low tech.

I have to confess that I have never loved the timing of this holiday.

I spent my first July Fourth in Washington, D.C. going to the Mall for the annual concert—it poured rain a lightning danced across the sky in the middle of it. I never felt I had to go back and do that again. I've been to the fireworks in Boston while the Boston Pops played. It was so hot and muggy I could barely function. Once was enough for those fireworks.

When I lived in New York City, I had a chance to get to the Macy's Fireworks over the East River. That was overwhelmingly beautiful. The traffic when we left—not so much.

Once I spent the fourth stranded in Mitchell, South Dakota—home of the Corn Palace—after leaving my wallet in The Dells, Wisconsin, when I was driving across the country. Did I mention—it was hot.

The Fourth of July conjures up some mixed emotions each year. Most of them have to do with being hot and surrounded by lots of bugs—that was before I moved to Fortuna.

A lot of famous people were born on the Fourth of July—Henry Mancini, Tom Cruise, even Koko the sign language gorilla.

Both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on July Fourth in 1896—50 years after they signed the Declaration of Independence.

The Fourth is a great reminder of how precious our Country is, and how much we need to value what our Founders fought for.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.