



Finances looking good for annual Freedom Fest

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

The Cass City Freedom Festival is one of the most well-attended celebrations in Cass City, bringing in 10,000 to 15,000 people each year according to Carrie Luana, chairperson of the event.

The festival relies on donations from businesses in the area and residents in the community. This year, committee members had their work cut out for them financially, as they combined the Freedom Festival with Summer Mania and a special celebration honoring the village's sesquicentennial.

"The fireworks alone are usually between \$6,000 and \$7,000," Luana said. "The parade usually costs us around \$2,000, and tent rental is around \$2,500, so overall we spend around \$15,000," Luana added. This is in addition to the costs of Summer Mania and the sesquicentennial.

So, how did they do it?

"What we did was just ask the businesses to consider donating the amount they would normally give to Summer Mania as well

since we weren't going to be asking for donations for Summer Mania," Luana said. "The donations that have been coming in so far have been more generous than in previous years."

The donors include platinum sponsors Cass City Downtown Development Authority, Cass City Lions Club, Rolling Hills Golf Course, Thumb Cellular, Thumb National Bank and Walther Farms.

"The Freedom Festival wouldn't be possible without the individuals and companies that support (it), as well as the village itself — the parks and recreation department as well as the police department, (which is) having extra officers on duty that weekend. We want to have a fun event, but also a safe event," Luana said.

While it does cost a lot to put on the Freedom Festival, there is a payoff for the town.

"The people that are coming in, they're spending money somewhere, whether it be gas or going out to eat or stopping in a store

to shop. The businesses are bound to generate more business on that weekend," Luana explained.

"There's absolutely an increase (in sales). I can't even give numbers. It's always just

crazy busy," said Sherry Parks, manager of the Shell gas station on Main Street. Erin Jaenicke, manager of the local McDonald's, agreed. "Any festival, like homecoming or this, there's an increase (in sales)."



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THURSDAY, JULY 2ND

Noon.....4th of July Golf Tourney @ Rolling Hills
 4 p.m. to Close.....CARNIVAL (rides for all ages) @ Park
 7 p.m.....BINGO (cards for sale 6:15 p.m.) @ Lion's Pavilion

FRIDAY, JULY 3RD

SUMMER MANIA IN JULY

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m....FREE Lunch for all children @ Rotary Park
 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.....FREE Inflatables @ Rotary Park
 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.....FREE Snow Cones & Cotton Candy @ Rotary Park
 Noon - 4 p.m.....FREE Face Painting @ Rotary Park
 Noon - 4 p.m.....FREE Craft Area @ Rotary Park
 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.....FREE Magic Show @ Rotary Park
 4 p.m.....150 Balloon Release @ Rotary Park
 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.....Music in Rotary Park - "Muzyka!"
Hoola-Hoop Contest, Variety Show & Free Snacks

Noon to Close.....CARNIVAL (rides for all ages) @ Park
 Noon to 9 p.m.....Craft Show @ Park
 Noon to 9 p.m.....Food Vendors @ Park
 Noon to 9 p.m.....Petting Zoo & Pony Rides
 1-5 p.m. & 7-9 p.m.....Cass City Village Pool - Free Swim - *Sponsored by Reggie Ignash/Farm Bureau*
 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.....Pageant in the Park Gazebo - Registration 4 p.m.; Contest 5 p.m.
Sponsored by State Farm - Chris Barrios Agency - Caro
 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.....Methodist Church Ice Cream Social @ South Pavilion
 6 p.m.....Classic Car Show @ McDonald's
 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.....36th Annual Grand Parade @ Entertainment Tent - Featuring Live Music @ Rolling Hills Golf Course

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

8 a.m.....Hills & Dales Rehab 5K Run/Walk, 8K Run & Toddler Trot @ Hills & Dales
 9:30 a.m.....Parade Entries Meet @ Garfield St.
 10:30 a.m.....37th Annual Great Parade
 11 a.m. to Close.....CARNIVAL (rides for all ages) @ Park
 Noon to 5 p.m.....CCRC Airplane & Helicopter Display & Demo @ Softball Field
 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.....AAUW Kids Area Paint In @ Gazebo in Park
 After Parade.....Cass City Lions Club BBQ Chicken Dinner @ Lion's Pavilion
 After Parade.....3-on-3 Basketball Tournament @ Park
 After Parade.....2-Cylinder Tractor Display @ Park
 After Parade to 5 p.m....Thumb Area Tail Waggers @ Park
 After Parade to 9 p.m....Craft Show @ Park
 After Parade to 8 p.m....Kids' Area - *Inflatables, Water Slide, Mechanical Bull & Obstacle Course @ Park*
 After Parade to 7 p.m.....Cass City Village Pool - Free Swim - *Sponsored by Reggie Ignash/Farm Bureau*
 After Parade to 9 p.m.....Food Vendors @ Park
 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.....MT Pocket Pullers Tractor Pull @ North of Park
 DUSK.....GRAND FIREWORKS!!!! @ Park & School
 After Fireworks.....Entertainment Tent - Featuring "Kronic Entertainment" @ Rolling Hills

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH

Cass City Worship Experience Seeger St., North of Main Street
 9 a.m....Refreshments † 10:30 a.m.....Service † 12 p.m.....Lunch
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Music in Rotary Park

Local bands set to perform during July 4th celebration

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

After a busy day of Freedom Festival events, the public is invited to relax to live music provided by Muzyka! at Rotary Park Friday, July 3, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Children attending should remember to bring their hula hoops.

At 6:30, the show will open with the Star Spangled Banner, with attendance by both local Girl Scouts and the Cub Scouts. After that, Muzyka!, a Tri-City bluegrass, folk, pop and gospel group, will begin its show.

"It's really nice to see people come out and be outside, just relax and enjoy some music," said Carolyn Sorenson, who coordinates the music series.

Following the music, there will be a variety show featuring local people demonstrating various talents. Anyone who is interested in participating should contact Sorenson at (989) 872-4311 to sign up.

Sorenson said she's had a good response by people looking forward to participating in the show. "I've got a good number already signed up for it. It's something different," she said.

"It's local talent of people who enjoy performing, or musicians who are local and would just like to maybe (sing or play) some patriotic or other numbers that they would like to perform," Sorenson explained. A CD player will be available for people who want to use CD accompaniment.

"I would also like a couple of students maybe to read a poem maybe about their life growing up in a small town or some memories maybe that they have," she said.

So, why should the kids bring their hula hoops? Between the concert and the variety show, there will be a hula hoop competition. Children will be divided into age groups (determined by who shows up) and prizes will be awarded.

Music in Rotary Park will continue throughout the summer, with live music provided each Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. through Friday, Aug. 14. For a schedule of the performers, see the bulletin board at Rotary Park on Main Street.



THE BAND MUZYKA! a Tri-City bluegrass, folk, pop and gospel group will perform at the Cass City Rotary Park Friday, July 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



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Rolling Hills set to bring back entertainment this 4th of July

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer
After a day of family fun, an adult-only activity will also be taking place during the Freedom Festival at Rolling Hills Golf

Course, which will once again be hosting its entertainment tent both nights of the celebration.

The tent will be open Friday, July 3, from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., and Saturday, July 4, starting just before the fireworks.

The 21-and-up tent will feature musical entertainment, beer and drinks with a full bar available inside the building. Amy Lowman, event coordinator and co-owner of Rolling Hills, explained, "The first night we have a guitar duo. They take requests, anything from 60s to country to now. They're from the Saginaw area. That night will be more mellow, just visiting and stuff."

The next night will be open to all ages before the fireworks, but after the fireworks end, the tent will be open to those 21 and older

again. "During the fireworks (the DJ will) play family-friendly music and kids can come up and watch, and then after the fireworks it's 21 and up. There's a \$5 cover and there will be an arm band to get in," Lowman said.

This is the third year that Rolling Hills has hosted the tent events.

"We found that a lot of people would gather here after the festival anyway, so (we started the event) just to increase capacity and make it more comfortable and be able to utilize the outside, because it's usually a nice night to be out, and the fact that you can see the fireworks so perfectly. It's a good meeting spot for a lot of people."

Rolling Hills is located at 6586 Milligan Rd., just east of Cemetery Road.

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Patriotic residents set to sparkle in pageant

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

Residents of Cass City — prepare to dazzle!

This year's Pageant in the Park will be held Friday, July 3, at 5 p.m. and is open to boys and girls of all ages.

"We will have 'beautiful baby', 'baby boy' and 'baby girl' ages one year and younger, and then 'terrific

toddler boy' and 'toddler girl' one to three years. 'Tiny miss sparkler' three to five', 'young miss' six to eight, a 'junior miss' nine to 12, 'teen' from 13 to 16, 'miss candidate' from 17 to 21, and 'miss golden dynamite' 62 or (older)," explained Nancy Barrios, who organized this year's pageant.

There will be no charge to participate. Registration forms are available on the Freedom Festival's

Facebook page and at the Cass City Municipal Building, but there will also be a table set up at 4 p.m. for registration the day of the event.

This year's pageant is based solely on personality, so contestants are encouraged to arrive in clean, comfortable clothing. The youngest contestants will go first.

"It's just an opportunity to be themselves and have fun, and then after the pageant go outside and play," said Barrios. "The little kids

will come across the stage...but the other children that are able to talk will be asked a question depending on their age group. It'll be strictly judged on how they respond to the judges."


Kerry Rose from Otter Lake will be singing in the pageant as well.

The trophies will be commemorative of the 150th anniversary of Cass City, and photos will also be taken of the participants and placed

in a time capsule that will be opened in 50 years. All contestants will also receive a keepsake for the sesquicentennial.

"I like the idea that somebody can actually have an accomplishment. It's something that (participants) can have and help them build their self-confidence as they grow," said Barrios. "It's not a full-fledged pageant, but it's a chance for contestants to become more self-confident, and maybe get a trophy!"

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DEBBIE DALEY, one of the judges of last year's Tiny Sparklers Patriotic Pageant, awards Abigail VanderElzen with the title of Young Miss Firecracker.

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Wide variety of vendors and crafters this year

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

A classic favorite of many who attend the Freedom Festival is the craft show.

This year's event, which will be held from noon to 9 p.m. Friday, July 3, and from the end of the parade until 9 p.m. Saturday, July 4, will be featuring a wide variety

of items.

"We have 25 crafters signed up as of now," said Shannon Loth, who organized this year's show. "There will be silk flower arrangements, maple syrup, wood and metal yard ornaments, video games, homemade primitive decorations — a little bit of everything."

There's no admission fee, so everyone is welcome to come walk around and see what's available for purchase.

"It's a tradition. We've had it ever since I was a kid. People like to come out and look at different things that people made," added Loth.

The crafters attending this year

are primarily local people, and the booths are returning crafters. Also returning this year are food vendors.

"There is going to be pulled pork, French fries, hot dogs, cotton candy, slushies, floats — variety there, too," Loth said. "They'll be down in the park by the old municipal building."

As an added benefit, the food vendors, which will be available at the same times as the crafters, send a portion of their profits back to the event, Loth noted. "(A portion of the vendor's profits] go for our Fourth of July committee so we can continue to have each and every one of these events each year."

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Festival set to hold a variety of sports

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

Hills and Dales Rehab Run

Looking for a good way to cool off on Friday or Saturday? Head over to the open swim at the Helen Stevens Memorial Pool, sponsored by Reggie Ignash.

“It started as a fun way to give back to the kids in the community. It is normally hot that time of year — I grew up on the water in Huron County and can remember how enjoyable it was spending time with my family cooling off in the water,” Ignash said.

The pool will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, July 3, and after the parade until 7 p.m. Saturday, July 4, and it’s free of charge.

“We are hoping everyone can enjoy it,” Ignash added. “[It’s] quality time for the family and friends to be able to get together! I would like to thank the recreation department for the opportunity on the sponsorship.”

For those who enjoy keeping in shape, Hills and Dales rehab hosts a 5k walk and run and 8k run. The runs and walks will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 4, across the street from the hospital at the MARC building.

“We like to encourage physical activity and health and wellness in the community, and so it’s just a fun way for us to do that,” said Danielle Blain, Hills and Dales’ public relations director.

Age groups start at 8 to 14, then go in four-year increments up to 60 and up. Those younger than eight can participate in the “Toddler Trot”, a half-mile run around the hospital.

To register, go online to hdghrehab.com.

Some gift cards and free memberships to the fitness center will be available as prizes for the races.



REGGIE IGNASH and Jamie Bulla of Farm Bureau Insurance pose with area children at the Cass City pool. Farm Bureau Insurance will be sponsoring the pool Friday and Saturday during the Freedom Festival.

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Car show set to be a blast from the past

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

Classic car owners and lovers alike can look forward to this year's classic car show, sponsored by McDonald's. As in past years, the cars will be parked in the field next to McDonald's starting at 6 p.m. Friday, July 3. There are typically around 100 cars in attendance, according to Jim and Gerri Perry, who help coordinate the event. "They come from everywhere. Some come from Saginaw, Bay City, the other

side of Midland. But most of them are local people — Vassar, Bad Axe, Sandusky," Jim noted. Participation is free, and all are welcome to come socialize with other car buffs. There will be a wide variety of cars, from antiques to hotrods and everything in between. Prizes will be presented to those who participate. One car from the Thumb Area Antique Auto Club will also be the featured plaque winner, which is chosen by a vote of club members. "We usually try to keep to local people,

but always using new cars," Jim said of the voting process. This year, the winner of the plaque is Jim Young. "I've been into cars almost all my life. I used to race them," Young said. "(The show is) a nice gathering, a good get-together." Young, who is from Cass City, won the

plaque for his 1931 Model A Ford Pickup. "There are a lot of people who show up just to look at cars," Jim said. Gerri added, "It's a family thing. McDonald's sponsors us, and they also give us coupons for ice cream cones, so that brings in the kids." "We just hope everyone comes and has a good time, and they usually do," Jim said.



JIM YOUNG stands with his winning 1931 Model A Ford Pickup. Last year Young won the Classic Car show sponsored by McDonald's

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Community worship experience set during the Freedom Festival

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

A special event this year at the Freedom Festival is the community worship experience, which will be held Sunday, July 5, on Seeger Street, north of Main Street. The service is slated to get underway at 10:30 a.m., but set-up and refreshments hosted by Revive Ministries will be at 9:30 a.m. After the service there will be a free lunch of hot dogs, chips, and ice cream, and there will be inflatables for the kids to enjoy. The Rev. Mark Karwowski, who helped organize the event, explained, "We've done community services in the past. What we wanted to do here was for the Cass City 150th anniversary. The whole theme is to bless this city in the name of Jesus. It's all about showing the love of Christ. We're trying to tie it in with the anniversary, so the message (is) of Christ past, present and future." Several local churches are involved with this project, including Living Word Worship Center, Novesta Church of Christ, Cass City Missionary Church, Cass City Nazarene Church, Our Lady Consolata Catholic Church, Mizpah Missionary Church, Cass City United

Methodist Church, the First Presbyterian church, and the Frasier Presbyterian Church. According to Karwowski, ministers from all of the churches will be involved in some way. Brad Speirs, from Novesta Church of Christ; Karwowski, representing the Living Word Worship Center; and Phil Burkett, pastor of the Cass City Missionary Church, will be preaching. Music for the service will be a combined effort of groups from the participating churches, and their youth will be performing dramas. "I just think it's going to be incredible to be in the middle of town and being able to show Jesus to the community. What an opportunity. And I think it's awesome that this community is open to doing something like this," said Karwowski. There will also be a portion of the service dedicated to honoring those who have served this nation, along with local emergency response workers. "It's a great opportunity for fellowship, to be blessed and to experience God in a non-threatening, comfortable setting," Karwowski added. "Everybody is welcome, it's not just if you're a member of those churches. Come on out and check it out! It's not going to be like your typical service."



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Cass City's Sesquicentennial Celebration

Plan now to attend the big event downtown at the Cass City's Rotary Park, July 3rd at 6:30p.m.

6:30 p.m.	National Anthem lead by Shannon Allen & local Cub Scout Troop #594 and Girl Scout Troop #509
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Music by the band "Muzyka!"
7:30 p.m.	Hoola Hoop contest (all ages)
7:40 p.m.	Old Time Variety Show

Celebrating Cass City's 150 anniversary

Free snacks will be provided throughout the event by Cass City Chamber of Commerce and Revive Ministries and Free inflatables provided by Living Word Ministries for the kids. Bring a lawn chair and a friend!

Don't miss out!

Submit stories and recipes to be published in Cass City's Sesquicentennial book at Thumb National Bank. You won't want to miss this once in a lifetime special book!

Thumb National Bank is pleased to offer a Commemorative Sesquicentennial Wooden Nickel to the Cass City Community to celebrate our 150th anniversary. If you haven't gotten yours yet, they are available at area merchants and Thumb National Bank.

Freedom Festival Parade ready for another great year

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

"You don't want to miss this! It's the 150th anniversary of Cass City, and the 37th annual Freedom Festival Parade — the biggest parade in the Thumb," said Vicky Sherry, grand parade organizer.

At last count, there were more than 50 entries to the parade, and Sherry estimates it will last anywhere from an hour to 90 min-

utes. The parade starts one block from McDonald's and continues down Main Street.

Returning old parade favorites will include the Glenview Clydesdales and the Elf Khurafeh Shrine motorcycle drill team. New entries will include a Korean War era duce and a half army truck, entered by Mark Hollenbeck in honor of his father, who was a marine.

Another returning favorite is

sure to spark a surge of patriotism in the crowd. "d/S Services was kind enough to donate the service of one of their cranes, and we had a flag donated by the Gavel Club, so they will be flying the flag. When we get there, Commander Joe Merchant will be placing a wreath at the Veteran's Memorial

and the marching band will be playing the national anthem, and then the parade will continue to the park," Sherry explained.

The majority of entries will feature local groups, which Sherry says makes the parade great. "It's the hometown support. The majority of these entries are from

the local area, and it's just that wonderful hometown support," she said.

"It's one of the great highlight events of the Freedom Festival — it's kicking off one of the biggest days. It just helps really bring in that feeling of celebrating our freedom."



The Grand Parade didn't disappoint last year, with members of VFW Post 3644, Cass City, proudly leading the parade entries that included a fire breathing performer with Miraculous Entertainment and the Glenview Clydesdales.

MT Pocket Pullers to add competitive edge to festival

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

A classic Freedom Festival favorite is the MT Pocket Pullers, and this year they will be featured once again, organizing pulls just north of the village park Saturday, July 4, from 6 to 9 p.m.

"We're a quarter scale tractor pulling group. We have 0-13 kids' garden tractor classes all the way up to small black V-8 classes. We have participants that follow our organization, and we compete for

points," explained Melissa Richardson, who coordinates the event.

Area residents interested in participating are welcome, according to Richardson. "Anyone who has a garden tractor or a four wheeler or an ATV is more than welcome to attend. For any of our members it's a \$10 hook fee, for non-members, it's \$15."

Admission is free for spectators. "Everyone's welcome to come out and enjoy the show with us," said Richardson.



THE CROWD GATHERS to watch MT Pocket Pullers during last year's Freedom Festival celebration.

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Red, white and blue cookies

Ingredients:

1 cup granulated sugar

1 cup butter or margarine, softened

½ teaspoon almond extract

1 egg

2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour

2 tablespoons red colored sugars

2 tablespoons blue colored sugars

Directions:

Beat granulated sugar, butter, almond extract and egg in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed 2 minutes. Stir in flour.

Divide dough in half, cover half and set aside. Place remaining half on waxed paper or plastic wrap; press into 8-inch square. Sprinkle with one tablespoon each of the red sugar and blue sugar. Using waxed paper to lift, roll up dough. Repeat with remaining dough and colored sugars. Wrap rolls in plastic wrap and refrigerate about 1 hour or until firm.

Heat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Cut rolls into 1/4-inch slices. Place about 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake six to eight minutes or until edges begin to brown.

Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheet to wire rack.



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Summer Mania in July

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

Summer Mania, a classic August celebration in Cass City, has been moved to the weekend of the Freedom Festival to help amplify this year's Freedom Festival fun.

Summer Mania activities will be located at Rotary Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, July 3.

The event features a host of several free activities for area youngsters.

"The school will provide the free summer lunch program at Rotary Park from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for kids 18 and under, and then we will have the five different bounce houses from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We'll

have snow cones and cotton candy, Gail Tuckey is going to do face painting in the park from noon to 4 p.m., (and) there will be a craft area as well," explained Angie Burnett, Summer Mania coordinator.

There will be a couple new events for the kids this year as well, including a comedy magic show by magician Gordon Russ, who will perform at 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. The other will be the release of 250 red, white and blue balloons at 4

p.m. "It's something that the whole family can do, and it's free. It's just unlimited fun for the kids that day," Burnett said.



Carnival rides for all ages

by Anna Bagnall
Staff Writer

There's a new event headlining this year's Freedom Festival — a carnival featuring rides, games and food vendors.

The rides will be in the park near the crafters' area Friday, July 3, from noon to the end of the night, and Saturday, July 4, from 11 a.m. to the end of the night.

"We've always kind of thought about it, but we've never really looked into the costs of it," said Carrie Luana, chairperson of the Freedom Festival. "This year we were approached by the company, and we were able to bring them here, and we're hoping that we can have great success with it."

The carnival, which is being provided through Maple Leaf Amusement, features 21 total rides for all ages, from small children's rides such as a merry-go-round, to rides such as giant swings for older kids, to thrill rides, including the "Sky Dancer".

Full-day passes for one day's unlimited rides are available for pre-sale at the Cass City Chamber of Commerce (located inside the municipal building), Chemical Bank, Independent Bank and Thumb National Bank for \$12. If purchased the day of the carnival, the day pass-

es rise to \$20.

Visitors can also purchase individual tickets for particular rides.

"I'm excited that this town is bringing in something new, and I can't wait!" said Chandler Cryderman, 17, of Cass City. "I'm kind of addicted to fairs and amusement parks. It gets my adrenaline going."

"I'm hoping that it brings more peo-

ple into our town than we have in the past," Luana said. "I'm hoping this is something (the kids) will be super excited about and that it's something that people will look forward to and bring the kids to."

A full listing of the available rides can be viewed at the company's website at <http://mapleleafamusements.com>.



CARNIVAL RIDES have begun arriving at the Cass City Park guaranteed to bring a fun-filled weekend to this year's Annual Freedom Festival.



Fun facts for Independence Day

- *The oldest continuous Independence Day celebration is the Bristol Fourth of July parade in Bristol, R.I. The town has hosted the parade every year since 1785.
- *July 4 also marks a day of independence for the Philippines and Rwanda. For the Philippines, July 4 marks "Republic Day," the day that the U.S. officially recognized the nation as an independent state in 1946. However, the country has celebrated an official Independence Day on June 12, since 1962.
- *Americans reportedly consume about 155 million hotdogs on Independence Day alone. However, the origins of how the hotdog came to be a popular American food remain a mystery.
- *The famous Liberty Bell has not been rung since 1846, due to increasing concerns about its crack. Instead, the bell is tapped 13 times to signal for bells across the country to start ringing.
- *The Fourth of July wasn't a legal federal holiday until Congress declared it to be so in 1941.
- *There have been 28 versions of the United States flag to-date. The latest version, designed in 1958 to accommodate Alaska and Hawaii, was designed by a 17-year-old whose pattern won a national competition for the new flag.

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