

STAFF / File

Fireworks displays **will light up the nighttime skies over** several venues **in the** Upstate **during the** holiday weekend.

Festivities celebrate the Fourth all week long



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Furman will celebrate with a patriotic edition of Music by the Lake on Thursday.

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The USA is getting ready for another birthday this weekend, the big 234.

While it's a good time to think about patriotism and freedom and all the ideals of the Founding Fathers, it's also a good time for a party.

And the Upstate has plenty of them going on in the coming days. You might not be able to find a cake with 234 candles, but the many fireworks displays should help to make up for it.

Here's a look at some of the celebrations going on this week:

■ Greenville Drive vs. Savannah SandGnats, 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, Fluor Field.

It doesn't get much more American than a baseball game the weekend of Independence Day. The Drive has five games this week at home. On Friday, the game will be followed by a fireworks display.

Game tickets are $5 to $8. Call 240-4528.

■ Miss South Carolina pageant, Wednesday through Saturday, Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium.

Beauty queens take over Spartanburg for four days of activities that culminate in a new Miss South Carolina being crowned. The preliminaries begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and the pageant starts at 5 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are $20 to $150. Call 800-745-3000.



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The Miss South Carolina Pageant is sure to offer plenty of holiday fireworks Wednesday through Saturday at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium.

■ Music by the Lake, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Furman University.

The weekly outdoor music series takes a red, white and blue turn this week. "From Sea to Shining Sea" is the theme, and it fea-

See JULY 4 on page 3C

JULY 4

FROM PAGE 1C

tures patriotic music by Greenville Chorale and Lakeside Concert Band.

The event takes place in the Furman Amphitheater, and admission is free. Call 294-2086.

■ Red, White and Boom, 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Barnet Park, Spartanburg.

Sparkle City will light up with patriotic colors on Saturday. The festival will feature music by Spartanburg Jazz Ensemble, Spartanburg Community Band, and Palmetto Statesmen Chorus and Quartets. A fireworks finale begins at 9:45 p.m.

Admission is $5; kids 6 and under get in free. For more info, go to www.cityofspartanburg.org.

■ Greer Memorial Hospital Freedom Blast, 4-10:15 p.m. Saturday, Greer City Park.

Children's activities, old-fashioned games, and live music are among the highlights of this event. Performers include Gap Creek Singers, Aaron James and the Adrenaline Junkies, and Tropic Culture. The fireworks begin at 10:15 p.m.

Admission is free. Call 848-2150.

■ Clemsonfest 2010, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Foothills Area Family YMCA on Lake Hartwell.

This Independence Day party will feature live music by the Catalinas, as well as children's activities, a visit from the Clemson Tiger, and a fireworks show.

Admission is $10 per car. Call 864-654-1200.

■ Freedom Fest, 6:30-10 p.m. Saturday, Veterans Park, Pendleton.

Pendleton's celebration will feature music by Southern Crescent, children's activities, a bake sale and cake walk, and of course, fireworks. Admission is free.

Call 864-934-3461.

■ Independence Day at Heritage Park, 8 p.m. Saturday, Heritage Park, Simpsonville.

The Simpsonville venue is a relative newcomer to the July 4th partying; this is the event's third year.

The Greenville Symphony Orchestra headlines the festivities, which also feature kids' games and a fireworks-and-cannon finale.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m., and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5 for general admission lawn seating, and VIP tables are $75 per seat, or $350 for a six-person table. Call 800-745-3000.

■ AT&T Red, White and Blue Festival, 5-10:30 p.m. Sunday, downtown Greenville.

The city's annual Independence Day party gets under way at 5 p.m. Sunday in the South Main Street area.

Live music will be presented on two stages throughout the event, and the performers include the Army Ground Forces Jazz Guardians, the Note Ropers, and the winner of the G Magazine Last Band Standing competition.

There's also a children's area on East Broad Street. A huge fireworks show caps off the festivities at 9:45 p.m.

The festival area extends from Court Street to Camperdown Way, and Broad Street from Laurens Street to Falls Street, and includes Falls Park. Admission is free. For more info, call 467-6667.



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Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Saturday for the Independence Day celebration at Heritage Park in Simpsonville. The event includes children's activities, and a concert by the Greenville symphony orchestra gets under way at 8 p.m. The evening concludes with a fireworks and cannon finale.