


# Weekend of festivities planned for July Fourth

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SENECA — Fourth of July fireworks are as American as apple pie. Nearly everyone has fond memories of sitting on grandma or grandpa's lap watching an elaborate display of color fill the night sky.

This weekend will be another one for the books, with fireworks shows in the area planned for today, Sunday and Monday.

The 23rd annual ClemsonFest will kick off the celebration today at the Snow Family Outdoor Fitness and Wellness Center, formerly known as the Y beach. Gates open at 5 p.m., and festivities will continue until 10 p.m. Admission is $5 per person or $10 per carload.

The event will draw in thousands of people to enjoy the music of the Carolina Beach Band. Setting the standard for Carolina

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# **FESTIVITIES:** Variety planned

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shag music performances, the band will offer a few of its original tunes, such as "I Love Beach Music" and "Carolina Girls," along with a wide selection of songs from other artists including Wilson Pickett, Van Morrison and the Beach Boys.

At 9:30 p.m. the band will give way to a sky lit by fireworks before returning to close out the event. Keeping with the Independence Day theme, the Boy Scouts of Troop 161 will perform a flag-raising ceremony at 5:50 p.m. and will return later at dusk for the flag lowering and playing of taps.

"We present ClemsonFest as a community event that has family appeal and combines all the elements of a patriotic outing," Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce president David Lane said. "Taps are blown for the flag lowering by the band's horn section. The finale is the fireworks, which go on for 20 minutes — a great show over Lake Hartwell. This is the only fireworks over a lake in the area."

The celebration will move to Walhalla on Sunday, when the city hosts Independence Eve at the Walhalla Soccer Field. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m., and RJ Live Sound will provide music throughout the evening. Last year, approximately 3,000 people attended Independence Eve.

"It's a free event put on by the city that provides a safe environment for families to come and enjoy being with their neighbors," Walhalla Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Vanessa Penton said. "We also have the best fireworks display this side of Oconee County."

Local churches and civic clubs will have food and drinks available for purchase. The fireworks show will begin at 9:30 p.m.

Seneca and Salem will finish off the holiday weekend with fireworks shows on Monday evening. Salem's show will begin at 9:30 p.m., following a car show in the former Tamassee-Salem Middle and High School parking lot.

Seneca's annual Fourth of July celebration will run from 6-10 p.m. on Monday. Two bands will perform at Gignilliat Field, and Seneca's award-winning fireworks show will begin around 9:30 p.m. to round out the night.

Authenticity featuring Doug Norwine is set to take the stage as the opening act, then the Catalinas will take the stage at 8 p.m.

"July 4 has always been a beach theme, so that's why we went with the Catalinas this year," Seneca city events coordinator Riley Johnson said. "They were real big in the beach era, and they still tour great. If you like to shag, dance and just have a good time, they're for you."

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