
NW METRO ATLANTA · 2026

Fourth of July Around Town

Your guide to Independence Day across Cobb, Cherokee, Paulding, Bartow, and North Fulton: where to celebrate, fireworks safety, hosting your own gathering, and a town-by-town map you can keep on your phone.

250

Presented by **Marna Friedman**, REALTOR® · Atlanta Communities

WELCOME

A weekend worth planning for

2026 is a big one. July 4 falls on a Saturday, and it marks the country's 250th anniversary, so cities across NW Metro Atlanta have grown their celebrations. There is a lot happening, often on different days, so I pulled it together in one place.

I put this guide together the way I approach helping people find the right community: practical first. Inside you will find where the public celebrations are and when the fireworks start, a safety section built around current Georgia law, ideas for organizing a get-together on your own street, and a simple plan for hosting at home. Use what is helpful, skip what is not, and go enjoy the long weekend.

If getting to know an area is on your mind this summer, holidays are one of the best windows into daily life in a place. I am always glad to talk it through.

Warmly,

Marna Friedman

REALTOR®, Atlanta Communities · NW Metro Atlanta

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SECTION 01

Celebrations around town

From hometown parades on a downtown square to large regional fireworks shows, the NW Metro has a full slate. Most city events are free and built around live music, food vendors, and an evening fireworks finale. The table below covers the core public celebrations, the 2026 date, the venue, and the approximate fireworks time. All times are weather permitting, so confirm with the host before you go.

City (County)	2026 Date	Where	Fireworks
Acworth (Cobb)	Sat, Jul 4	Cauble Park, Lake Acworth	~9:30 p.m.
Kennesaw (Cobb)	Fri, Jul 3	Depot Park & downtown	9:30 p.m.
Marietta (Cobb)	Sat, Jul 4	Glover Park, Marietta Square	~9:30 p.m.
Powder Springs (Cobb)	Sat, Jul 4	Thurman Springs Park	9:30 p.m.
Austell / Six Flags (Cobb)	Jul 4 & 5	Six Flags Over Georgia	9:30 p.m.*
Woodstock (Cherokee)	Sat, Jul 4	The Park at City Center	At dusk
Canton (Cherokee)	Sat, Jul 4	Downtown; Riverstone Pkwy	~9:00 p.m.
Cartersville (Bartow)	Sat, Jul 4	Dellinger Park	~9:30 p.m.
Dallas (Paulding)	Sat, Jul 4	Downtown Dallas	At dark
Alpharetta (North Fulton)	Sat, Jul 4	Wills Park	~9:15 p.m.
Roswell (North Fulton)	Sat, Jul 4	Roswell Area Park	At sunset
Johns Creek (North Fulton)	Fri, Jul 3	Boardwalk at Town Center	After 9:00 p.m.
Stone Mountain (regional)	Jul 1 to 7	Stone Mountain Park	9:30 p.m.*

*Stone Mountain Park and Six Flags Over Georgia require paid admission. All other listings are free to attend; some parks charge for parking.

OPEN THE INTERACTIVE MAP FOR YOUR PHONE

Every celebration above (plus this year's America 250 history events) is pinned on a map you can tap for the date and time and get directions to, color-coded by date so the July 3 and multi-night shows are easy to spot. The full map is on the next page.

Tap to open: [View the NW Metro Atlanta map](#)

Small-town squares vs. large regional shows

The two styles serve different evenings. A downtown square gives you a short, free, walk-up celebration close to home, often with a parade earlier in the day. The large parks are full-day, ticketed outings that pair attractions with a bigger show. Many residents do one of each across the long weekend.

- **On the square:** Marietta's Let Freedom Ring Parade steps off at 10 a.m. with a festival all day on Glover Park. Woodstock pairs a morning parade with a festival at The Park at City Center. Canton runs a 6 p.m. parade through historic downtown, and Cartersville a 9 a.m. parade with an afternoon at Dellinger Park.
- **At the parks:** Stone Mountain Park's Fantastic Fourth runs nightly July 1 to 7 with a drone-and-light show and fireworks at 9:30 p.m. (the new program is built around the 250th). Six Flags Over Georgia runs its show July 4 and 5.

One more reason this year is bigger: America's 250th

Because 2026 is the semiquincentennial, Georgia is running a statewide program (Georgia US250) with local history events layered on top of the fireworks. Marietta has a yearlong celebration with a founding-documents display downtown, Woodstock has themed its weekend around the milestone, and the Georgia Archives in Morrow is showing the state's 1777 copy of the Declaration on select dates. The interactive map includes these too.

SECTION 01

Your interactive map

Here is the full town-by-town map. In the digital flipbook, the live map appears in the frame below, so you can pan, zoom, tap any pin for its date and time, and get directions. From a printed or saved copy, scan the code or tap the link to open the same map in your browser.



LIVE INTERACTIVE MAP

NW Metro Atlanta Fourth of July and America 250 celebrations, 2026. Pins are color-coded by date.

Open: [View the map online](#)

Scan the QR code, or tap anywhere in this box.

Local spots joining the celebration

Beyond the city shows, plenty of local businesses lean into the holiday and the 250th. Here are a few across the area worth working into your weekend. Hours and event details change, so confirm with each spot before you go.

Marietta goes all in for the 250th

Marietta is running a yearlong America 250 program, and the days around the Fourth are full. Alongside the Independence Eve concert (July 3) and Fourth in the Park (July 4), the city's calendar includes a George Washington letter display and a ragtime lunchtime concert (July 1), a Revolutionary Soldiers program at the Marietta National Cemetery (July 6), and a series of Revolutionary War lectures and history programs later in the month. The full, updated schedule lives on the Marietta 250 page at visitmarietta.com.

- **Marietta 250 booth at Glover Park Concerts:** At the monthly 8 p.m. concerts on the Square (June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25), the city hosts a Marietta 250 booth with free patriotic gear, custom 250th apparel, and commemorative keepsakes.
- **Glover Park Brewery:** A taproom and beer garden steps from the Square with rotating food trucks, an easy stop before or after the festivities on the Fourth.

Sip local at an area winery

Three wineries inside the area pour estate and fruit wines with weekend live music, lawn seating, food trucks or wood-fired pizza, and dogs and picnics welcome. Each posts its own holiday-weekend lineup, so check the calendar for what is on around the Fourth.

- **Qualusi Vineyards, Acworth (Cobb):** Vineyard and tasting room at 440 Blossom Trail, founded by the Gilbert family, with weekend live music on the patio and rotating food trucks.
- **Three Strands Vineyard & Winery, Dallas (Paulding):** At 1505 Willow Springs Road, with wood-fired pizza, wine by the glass, bottle, or flight, and patriotic-themed events through the season, such as a Red, Wine & Bingo night. Reserved seating packages available by phone.
- **Painted Horse Winery & Vineyards, Milton (North Fulton):** A 22-acre estate winery with live music and seasonal celebrations.

TAKE HOME A PIECE OF THE 250TH

Looking for a keepsake? The Marietta 250 booth at Glover Park Concerts carries custom 250th apparel and commemorative items. [<https://store.gwtwmarietta.com/250th-Celebration-Ornament-p836923852>]

Fireworks safety and Georgia law

If you plan to set off your own fireworks, a short safety routine prevents the great majority of problems. Most consumer-fireworks injuries happen in the weeks around July 4, and a large share involve sparklers, which burn at roughly 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to cause a serious burn.

GEORGIA CONSUMER FIREWORKS LAW, IN BRIEF

- Consumer fireworks are legal to buy and use in Georgia. You must be **18 or older**.
- General hours are **10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.** On New Year's Eve into January 1, use is allowed until 1:00 a.m.
- It is illegal to set them off on public roads or rights of way, in public parks or on other government property, or within 100 yards (about 300 feet) of a hospital, nursing home, gas station, electric substation, or airport.
- Using fireworks while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a misdemeanor.
- Local governments may add restrictions. Some areas, including parts of Cherokee County, limit launches near horse and equine facilities.

Always confirm your city or county ordinance and your HOA covenants, which can be stricter than state law. This is general information, not legal advice.

Before you light anything

- ✓ Read the label and use fireworks only as directed, outdoors only.
- ✓ Choose a flat, hard, level surface away from homes, vehicles, dry grass, and brush.
- ✓ Keep a bucket of water and a connected garden hose within reach.
- ✓ Clear the launch area of spectators and keep a wide buffer downrange.
- ✓ Bring pets indoors before dark; the noise is stressful for many animals.

While you are lighting

- ✓ One adult lights; everyone else watches from a distance.
- ✓ Light one item at a time, then move back quickly.
- ✓ Never hold a lit firework, and never point or throw one toward people, animals, or buildings.
- ✓ Never try to relight or pick up a dud. Wait 20 minutes, then soak it.
- ✓ Skip homemade or altered fireworks entirely.

Sparklers and younger children

Sparklers cause a large share of fireworks injuries despite seeming mild. If they are part of your evening, an adult should hold them, keep them pointed away from clothing and faces, and drop each spent sparkler directly into a water bucket. Glow sticks are a cool-to-the-touch alternative for the youngest in the group.

After the show

- Soak all used and unused fireworks in water before disposal; never put them in the trash dry.
- Do a walk of the yard for stray debris once everything has cooled.
- If a burn blisters or is larger than a few inches, or involves the face or hands, seek medical care.

Neighborhood and subdivision celebrations

Some of the best Fourth of July memories happen right on your own street. A cul-de-sac cookout or a subdivision block party is low cost, walkable, and easy to repeat year after year. Here is how to put one together without much fuss.

Start with the logistics

1. **Check your HOA first.** Many subdivisions have a social committee, a clubhouse or pool that can be reserved, and rules about closing a street or amplified music. Confirm what is allowed before you plan.
2. **Pick the format.** A potluck on a cul-de-sac, a pool deck gathering, or a short golf-cart and decorated-bike parade down the main loop all work. Choose one anchor activity and keep it simple.
3. **Set a time window.** Late afternoon into the evening lets people drift in and out and still get to a city fireworks show afterward.
4. **Spread the load.** A shared sign-up sheet for food, drinks, ice, and a few canopies keeps it from falling on one household.

Easy activities that bring people out

- A decorated-bike, wagon, and golf-cart parade around the neighborhood loop, ending at the gathering spot.
- A dessert or chili contest with a simple ribbon for the winner.
- Classic lawn games: cornhole, water-balloon toss, sack races, a sprinkler run on a hot afternoon.
- A shared playlist and a portable speaker, kept within HOA noise hours.
- A flag-and-bunting decorating table for mailboxes and bikes.

A GOOD-NEIGHBOR NOTE ON FIREWORKS

If anyone plans to set off fireworks, give neighbors a heads-up a few days ahead, keep to legal hours, and steer clear of homes with pets or anyone sensitive to noise. A quick group text prevents most friction, and it is a courtesy many appreciate.

Keep it inclusive and easy

Label dishes for common allergens, offer a few non-alcoholic options, set out a shaded seating area, and make sure the route and gathering spot are easy to reach on foot. Small touches like these let everyone on the street join in comfortably.

Entertaining at home for the Fourth

Prefer to stay in? A backyard cookout or a viewing party for the neighborhood show is an easy win. The trick is to prep what you can the day before so you are not stuck in the kitchen when guests arrive.

A simple menu that travels

- Grill-forward mains you can cook in batches: burgers, chicken, hot dogs, plus a veggie option.
- Make-ahead sides: pasta salad, slaw, baked beans, a fruit tray, watermelon.
- A build-your-own toppings bar so guests customize their own plates.
- Red, white, and blue desserts: berry trifle, flag fruit tray, or star-cut watermelon.
- A drink station with a big batch beverage, plenty of water, and a separate cooler of ice.

Host checklist

- ✓ Prep and chill sides the night before.
- ✓ Set up shade: umbrellas, a canopy, or a covered patio.
- ✓ Stock sunscreen, bug spray, and a basic first-aid kit.
- ✓ Put out a clearly marked trash, recycling, and compost station.
- ✓ Have a rain plan: a garage, covered porch, or quick indoor shift.
- ✓ Charge a speaker and queue a playlist within quiet hours.

Set up a backyard viewing party

Several NW Metro shows are visible from nearby high spots and open areas, and Stone Mountain's nightly run gives you more than one chance to catch it. If your yard has a sightline, lean into it: string up simple lights, set out blankets and folding chairs facing the right direction, and time dessert for about 9:00 p.m. so everyone is settled before the first shell.

Beat the heat and the crowd

- Run a sprinkler or set up a small water-play area for the afternoon.
- Offer frozen treats and keep water visible and refilled.
- If you are heading to a public show afterward, park facing the exit and agree on a meetup spot in case the group splits up.

However you spend it, the Fourth is a chance to slow down, see your neighbors, and enjoy where you live. Have a safe and happy Independence Day.

LET'S TALK

Thinking about a move in NW Metro Atlanta?

Holidays are a great way to get a feel for a town before you ever tour a home there. If a particular community has you curious, I can help you explore the area and your options at a comfortable pace. New construction, single-level and 55-plus communities, luxury and everyday listings, I work across Cobb, Cherokee, Forsyth, Paulding, Bartow, and North Fulton.

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This guide is for general information. Event dates, times, admission, and policies are set by each host and can change, so confirm details with the organizer before attending. Fireworks information reflects general Georgia law and is not legal advice; confirm local ordinances and HOA rules.

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