

CITY MANAGER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarah Millard, Director of Strategic Communications
608-364-6726 or millards@beloitwi.gov

City Encourages Safety During Independence Day Holiday

June 28, 2019 - In advance of the upcoming Independence Day holiday and related activities, the City of Beloit, the Beloit Police Department and the Beloit Fire Department encourage Beloiters to celebrate safely and responsibly.

We recommend that area residents attend the annual Pops on the Rock event, which begins at 7:30 p.m. with a free concert from the Beloit-Janesville Symphony Orchestra at Riverside Park and ends with the fireworks show. Please leave any fireworks you have at home for the safety of everyone around you.

If you're celebrating in other areas of the city, **only sparklers, snakes, tanks, spinners, party poppers, snaps, smoke bombs, cone and cylindrical fountains are legal in Wisconsin.** If it goes up, shoots a flaming ball or blows up, it is illegal. **Bottle rockets, mortars, firecrackers, and roman candles are all illegal in Beloit.**

If Beloit residents choose to use legal fireworks while celebrating Independence Day, we encourage the following safety precautions:

- Only adults should use fireworks. Children should only observe from a distance and not touch.
- Wear eye protection and do not wear loose clothing.
- Anchor sparklers in the ground, please do not hold them.
- Respect your neighbors and your surrounding environment. Please follow the city noise ordinance.
- Do not unlawfully block roads to use fireworks. Using fireworks in this manner creates a safety issue and impedes traffic.
- Do not dispose of hot embers and devices in the trash. Please wait until the next day to clean up.
- Call for help or go to the ER immediately if injured.
- Dial 911 immediately if a fire occurs.

The City of Beloit wants everyone to enjoy a happy and healthy 4th of July celebration, however, we will actively enforce illegal fireworks violations for those that cannot regulate their conduct and endanger others in our community.

- *A person who possesses or uses fireworks without a valid permit, or who sells fireworks to a person who does not have a valid permit, is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation. Each firework illegally possessed, used or sold may be a separate violation.*

- *A parent or guardian who allows a minor to possess or use fireworks (not including those for which no permits are required) is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation (and up to \$5,000 for non-parents or guardians).*

The Beloit Police Department and the Beloit Fire Department encourage our community members to collaborate with us by talking to their friends, family and neighbors about the dangers of illegal fireworks in populated neighborhoods and discouraging such conduct.

###