



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: July 4th Safety Information

Date: July 1, 2020

The Fourth of July is a time when families, friends, and communities gather to enjoy food, friendship, fun, and of course fireworks.

While many choose to partake in putting on backyard fireworks displays, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office recommends leaving it to the pyrotechnics professionals or maybe finding an alternate way to celebrate this year.

Many communities that typically offer professional fireworks displays have opted to cancel those events this year, in hopes of limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Some communities, including our own, have opted to go ahead with planned events, asking that all persons in attendance abide by state guidelines.

Whatever you choose to do, please be sure to do so safely.

In Hernando County, the Hernando County Fairgrounds will host a fireworks show following the Firecracker Smash'm Up on Saturday, July 4th, starting at 4 p.m. (rain or shine).

While you're out celebrating this Independence Day, please remember firing celebratory gunshots into the air is both dangerous and illegal.

Over the years many people have been seriously wounded or killed by falling bullets.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office maintains a zero-tolerance stance on any and all illegal gun use and gun crime, especially during the holidays.

If you choose to purchase fireworks, it is your responsibility to ensure they are legally purchased, stored, and ignited.

Civil citations will be issued to those found to be in violation of the county ordinance pertaining to fireworks. To understand which fireworks are illegal, please refer to the link to the county ordinance below:

https://library.municode.com/fl/hernando_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIC_OOR_CH18LIPEMIBURE_ARTIVFI

The fine for a first offense is \$50.

In addition, all illegal fireworks may be seized (and destroyed) from individuals found to be in violation of county code.

Please remember to be respectful of your neighbors and if possible, consider attending a professional fireworks display.

Happy Fourth of July everyone.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.