

[Fourth of July Events to Feature Local Talent](#)

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Lillian Clemons was so pleased with last year's Fourth of July celebration she wrote a letter to the editor of The Indiana Gazette expressing her great satisfaction with how the festival turned out.

"The day was a very enjoyable blessing," she wrote in the July 16, 2003, issue. Clemons, director of the Chevy Chase Community Center, the event's organizer, is just as excited for this year's Independence Day jubilation, planned for Saturday at J.S. Mack Community Center.

The entertainment lineup highlights local talent, a fresh spin to this summer's festivities, Clemons said.

While enjoying a hodgepodge of foods, crafts, horse-and-buggy rides, a flea market, pet parade and petting zoo, Mack Park visitors will hear the musical stylings of the Nevin Saylor Group, a jazz band comprised of 2004 Indiana Area Senior High School graduates Philip Kuehn, Angelo Versace and Joe Saylor and fathers John Kuehn and Nevin Saylor.

Hiram & the Walkers, an Indiana oldies band, and Anthony Frazier & Friends, a contemporary and R&B group, will also take the stage. Frazier is the community center's Web site designer.

The amusements, however, aren't limited to the tastes of an older crowd.

A puppet show by Another Bloomin' Puppet Company, co-founded by Indiana University of Pennsylvania set designer and theater professor Brian Jones and Indiana artist Leslie Swentosky, is sure to be a hit with kids.

And, of course, what Fourth of July celebration would be complete without the destructive fun of the Indiana Lions Demolition Derby and the kaleidoscopic beauty of a fireworks display, set off by Starfire Corp. of Northern Cambria?

Admission is \$2 for individuals and \$5 for families. Proceeds benefit the Chevy Chase Community Center, a nonprofit organization devoted to bettering the community through soup kitchens, free lunch programs and computer classes, youth drug and alcohol prevention groups, a clothing bank, food pantry and a help center designed to assist the unemployed in job searches.

Clemons said this is the eighth consecutive year the center, headquartered on North Fifth Avenue, Indiana, has coordinated the Fourth of July celebration and activities.

In addition to the celebration monetarily benefiting the center, Clemons said, it's also a way for the center to show appreciation for the community's volunteer efforts by providing a day of celebration for summer's biggest holiday.

"This is our way of giving back to the community, our way of saying thank you," she said. "We can come together and have fun."