

Fourth Turned Out Great

July 16, 2003

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Thanks to our fine committee who planned the July 4th celebration at Mack Park.

The day was a very enjoyable blessing. After eating everything in sight and visiting crafters, vendors and flea marketers, I visited Stony Run's petting zoo and relaxed on Russell Johnson's hay wagon ride, pulled by handsome black horses through the park.

From the wagon I got a peek at the demo derby, where thousands of folks were watching their favorite drivers plaster other cars or be demolished themselves.

So many volunteers, sponsoring community businesses, entertainers and concessionaires, among others, worked to make this a memorable day for Indiana County.

The Chevy Chase Community Center, organizer of the festival, is grateful to them all.

That includes Doug Varner and Mike Feight, who reacted quickly to a sudden rainstorm that threatened our evening's plans and scattered the afternoon crowd.

The Everlife concert took cover in the old Ice rink where the trio of sisters known as Everlife raised the roof, and the hair on our arms, starting with a harmonious a cappella rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner."

One concession-stand owner stood outside her lemonade stand, worried about making a profit as the storm approached and yelled to the sky, "I need a sign!"

And later we all received one - a double rainbow. It promised a clear evening for the crowd to return and view the fireworks.

As it turned out, a dazzling sunset first draped the night sky, providing the perfect backdrop for the Mark V concert that preceded the spectacular fireworks display put on by Starfire of Northern Cambria.

The fireworks, the rainbows, the sunset, the music, the happy crowd - they were all reminders that we have much to celebrate during Indiana County's Bicentennial year - our freedoms, our independence, our country.

While we were celebrating at Mack Park, an observance occurred in front of our county courthouse, where veterans remembered the price paid by themselves and others so that we have the freedom to hold celebrations like the 4th of July.

We at the Chevy Chase Center are so grateful to the thousands of people who turned out to enjoy the day with us in support of our center's programs.

We're also grateful to those veterans who made it possible for us to have a day to celebrate.

In the dawn of every morning, a new opportunity is given to each of us to keep the flame of freedom fervently burning. A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.

Thank you, Indiana County, for being a part of the solution. "It's a Wonderful Life." Happy 200th birthday!

Lillian Clemons, director
Chevy Chase Community Center