

The Kingdom Heights Newsletter

CASTLE GAZETTE

June - July 2019

A publication of the

Fort Bend Herald
AND TEXAS COASTER



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IMPORTANT INFO:

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Kingdom Heights website

kingdomheightscommunityassociation.com

Fort Bend LID 20 website

www.fblid20.com

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No one under the age of 18 is permitted in the fitness center.

Kingdom Heights Social Committee

Contact Mary Dimmick at marydimmick@sbcglobal.net

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Lee Hartman EDITOR & PUBLISHER	Scott Reese Willey MANAGING EDITOR
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Stefanie Bartlett ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE	Rachel Cavazos GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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The history of the American flag

National flags serve to unite citizens of a given country. Flags wave proudly in front of government buildings and schools, and they also identify athletes during international sporting competitions. In many countries, flags also serve as symbols of honor for members of the military and their families.

For more than 200 years, the American flag has been a symbol of unity and pride in the United States. The red, white and blue flag has a storied history and has gone through various incarnations. The following are some of the more interesting facts pertaining to the American flag.

- Six different flag designs were flown before Betsy Ross announced that she had sewn the official American flag. These designs included a series of alternating red and white stripes, the Liberty Tree, the Sons of Liberty, and the Forester flag designs. The Continental Army once used a flag featuring a snake with the mantra “Don’t Tread on Me.”

- On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress proposed and passed the Flag Act of 1777. This resolution was designed to facilitate the creation of an official flag for a nation that was aiming to earn its independence from Great Britain. The flag was to have thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, with thirteen white stars on a blue field. The thir-

teen stars signified the original members of the Union.

- The American flag remained unchanged until 1795, when the stripes and stars were increased to 15 for the addition of Kentucky and Vermont to the Union.

- After seeing the new 15-star and striped flag flying over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem that would eventually become the nation’s national anthem.

- A sea captain from Massachusetts named William Driver named a large, 10-foot-by-17-foot flag “Old Glory” after it survived multiple defacing attempts during



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The history of the American flag

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the American Civil War. Driver's nickname of the flag inspired the name to be used for all American flags.

- Although Flag Day was established as a formal national holiday in 1949, it was not made a federal holiday. Flag Day is only an official holiday in the state of Pennsylvania. This may be fitting because legend holds that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag in Pennsylvania.

- Today's flag features the original 13 alternating white and red stripes (in 1818, another design went into effect, permanently setting the number of stripes at 13 in honor of the original colonies) and 50 stars to represent the states of the Union. The colors of the flag signify as follows: red for hardiness and valor, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance, perseverance and justice.

The Color Association of the United States creates the palette of colors used for both private and public institutions and the U.S. Army. Mass-market flag manufacturers tend to use Pantone Matching Shade of Dark Red (193 C) and Navy Blue (281 C).

The American Flag has been a fixture of the United States for centuries and continues to serve as a symbol of pride, valor and history.



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Fireworks displays are a hallmark of summer, and a frequent component of Independence Day celebrations and commemorative events that require a touch of flair. Awe-inspiring pyrotechnics shows lure millions of spectators around the world each and every year.

Many people experiment with fireworks on their own, but that can be dangerous. According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission, thousands of people are injured by fireworks in the United States each year. Whether purchased legally or on the black market, fireworks pose a considerable threat. Fireworks purchased on the black market may be especially dangerous, as they likely were not subjected to government regulations and inspections.

While summer might be the season of fireworks, it's important that people who intend to incorporate fireworks into their summer festivities keep safety in mind at all times. The following are a handful of ways to ensure this summer is both fun and safe.

- ★ Attend a municipal firework display rather than hosting your own. Professionals follow certain safety protocols that private citizens are unfamiliar with, and there is often a considerable distance between audiences and professional fireworks displays.
- ★ Exercise caution if fireworks are legal where you live. Maintain a safe distance from fireworks at all times and never allow children to handle fireworks.
- ★ Read and strictly adhere to manufacturer's instructions.
- ★ Light only one firework at a time, and never attempt to re-ignite a firework that doesn't light the first time around.
- ★ Do not carry fireworks in your pocket.
- ★ Do not shoot fireworks out of metal or glass containers.
- ★ Always wear safety glasses when lighting fireworks, and keep water or a fire extinguisher around for emergencies.

If not handled properly, fireworks can cause serious injuries to kids and adults. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to leave it to the professionals.



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The craft beer business is booming. According to the Brewers Association, small and independent American craft brewers contributed \$55.7 billion to the United States economy in 2014, providing more than 424,000 jobs across the country.

While craft beer is growing in popularity, even the most ardent craft beer drinkers may not know just what qualifies a beer for craft beer status. Defining craft beer can be difficult, but the Brewers Association says there are certain criteria that American brewers should meet before they can be characterized as craft brewers.



SIZE: Craft brewers are small, with CraftBeer.com saying breweries cannot produce more than six million barrels of beer per year.



INDEPENDENT: Ownership also determines if a brewer can be characterized as a craft brewer. The Brewers Association says that, to be considered a craft brewer, no more than 25 percent of the brewery can be owned or controlled (or equivalent economic interest) by an alcohol industry member that is not itself a craft brewer.



TRADITIONAL: Craft brewers must have a majority of their total beverage alcohol volume in beers whose flavor derives from traditional or innovative brewing ingredients and their fermentation.

Those requirements are more stringent, but there are some additional characteristics that help to define the craft brewing industry. For example, the Brewers Association

notes that many craft brewers are heavily involved in their communities. Such involvement may involve craft brewers sponsoring local events, but may also include philanthropy, product donations and volunteerism.

Innovation is another hallmark of craft brewers. Craft brewers often offer their own interpretations of classic beer styles, giving these styles unique twists. That departure from the norm is what draws beer drinkers to craft beers.

The craft beer business is booming and has revolutionized how people think about and consume beer. More information about craft beer is available at www.brewersassociation.org.



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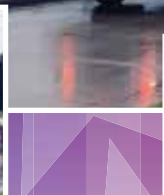
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