**BATAVIA’S SUMMER PATRIOTIC CELEBRATIONS**

For patriotic citizens everywhere, the next five weeks provide a red, white and blue trifecta of fun and special memories. And this year we are delighted to be able to celebrate these special days with our neighbors, families and friends! Please put the following celebrations on your calendars.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, at 11:00 am, the Batavia Veterans of Foreign Wars on Route 25 will be hosting an outdoor remembrance ceremony to honor those who have fallen in service to our country. The Batavia Community Band will be providing a patriotic salute to all branches of the service. Marine Bill Gray, a rising star in country music, will be singing The Star Spangled Banner. This spring, the Batavia VFW has raised thousands of dollars through poppy sales to provide smart TVs for veterans at the LaSalle Veterans Home to connect families with their loved ones. VFW members will be selling poppies throughout the Memorial Day weekend: at Woodmen’s in North Aurora from 10:00am-6:00pm on May 29-30, and at the Batavia FVW on Monday, May 31.

On Monday evening, June 14, the Batavia community will celebrate Flag Day outdoors at the Peg Bond Center on the Riverwalk at 7:00pm. The Batavia Community Band will provide a concert of patriotic favorites, along with a tribute to Dr. Bernard Cigrand, the nationally recognized Father of Flag Day and a Batavia dentist for decades. An update on the building of the Flag Day Monument, dedicated to Dr. Cigrand and our military and first responders, will be shared (posters of what the monument will look like as well as ways to purchase bricks and challenge coins to help fund the monument will be available).

On Sunday, July 4th, the City of Batavia will host its 70th annual fireworks Sky Concert on the fields at Engstrom Park and Batavia High School. Starting at approximately 5:00 pm, food vendors will offer a variety of delicious foods. The Batavia Community Band will provide a patriotic concert prior to the 9:30 pm firing off of a beautiful fireworks show set to popular music past and present. No taxpayer dollars are ever used to pay for these fireworks which are totally funded by individual, business, and organization donations, along with fundraisers such as the Citywide Garage Sales the first weekend in May. Due to the pandemic, most fundraising opportunities were not able to be held this past year. Therefore, any and all donations are incredibly important this year to help pay for the fireworks, sound system, lighting, etc., which all make our show such a beloved event in the Fox Valley area. Please go to our website (bataviafireworks.org) to donate, or drop off a check to Batavia City Hall addressed to the Batavia Fireworks Committee. On the fields before, during and after the fireworks show, please look for volunteers in bright yellow T-shirts who will gladly take your cash donations.

Thank you for supporting all three of these special events with your participation and dollars. May our summer patriotic traditions which we so dearly missed in 2020 lift up your spirits and bring joy to you and your families this year!