



Maple Shade Police Department
Township of Maple Shade
In the County of Burlington



Christopher J. Fletcher
Chief of Police

Dear Maple Shade Community,

Next Saturday, Maple Shade Township will host its annual Independence Day fireworks celebration. This cherished tradition brings our community together, and we look forward to another great evening of celebration.

You may notice some changes this year, all designed to enhance the safety of attendees. We will have an increased police presence, including support from Cinnaminson Police, Mount Laurel Police, and the Burlington County Sheriff's Department. In addition, we will be utilizing technology such as mobile and fixed camera systems, as well as drones, to provide additional security coverage.

The area surrounding Maple Shade High School will be fenced, with clearly marked entry points for all guests. Backpacks and face coverings will not be permitted inside the fenced area, as these items have been commonly used in recent disturbances throughout the region.

These preparations are based on troubling trends we've seen locally (including Maple Shade) and across New Jersey, where large groups of unsupervised juveniles have disrupted public events often arriving via rideshare services and then engaging in disorderly or violent behavior. These incidents have made event safety more complex, with many towns opting to cancel their events entirely.

Maple Shade is not canceling.

Instead, your Town Council, Township Manager, and Police Department have made a clear and unified decision: our community deserves to continue its long-standing, beloved traditions. We are committed to hosting this event safely and responsibly so that families, friends, and neighbors can celebrate together.

To that end, we've developed a comprehensive operations plan in collaboration with local, county, and state agencies, including law enforcement, fire, EMS, and intelligence units. Our use of incident command will centralize communications and help ensure a rapid response to any issues that may arise.



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We recognize that some of these security measures such as fencing, entry screening, and restricted items may cause minor delays or inconvenience. We ask for your patience and understanding, knowing these steps are in place to protect everyone attending.

Finally, we ask for your assistance. If you have teenage children, please consider attending with them or speaking with them ahead of time about the importance of good behavior and personal responsibility. Encourage them to steer clear of trouble and report any concerns to a nearby officer.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make this year's celebration both safe and memorable.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Fletcher
Chief of Police
Maple Shade Police Department