INDEPENDENCE DAY
THE 4TH OF JULY

Independence Day, which is commonly known as the Fourth of July to commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th 1776 from Great Britain. We also associate it with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, and family reunions. It is a National Holiday of the United States.

THE DOIN’S

Northville has celebrated “the 4th” for many years. For years Northville folks have called it the DOIN’S. There was always a parade, which always included the Northville High School Band, floats, horses, fire engines, bikes, and out of town bands. In the 1940’s the Northville Fireman’s Association sponsored the “Doin’s. In 1950 the Firemen announced that they were dropping the sponsorship because it was getting to be more than they could handle. At this time the Northville Civic Association was formed and they took over the sponsorship. They are still involved, but for the last 3 yrs they delegated the organization of the parade to Teresa Greenhill and her committee. Teresa just announced that this will be her last year to do so.

In the 1940’s and early ‘50’s the Doin’s were held in the vacant lot where our fire station is now located. As the event became larger, the Doin’s were moved to the property of the American Legion on North Main Street. (The post office is located there now) During this era, there was much local involvement from the churches, scouts, and other local organizations. Remember the ring toss to win a cane or wooden majorette baton? I still have one of those batons, it’s now in our museum. The Doin’s also took place at the school grounds and once in the Catholic Church parking lot. After the new post office was built on the American Legion property, it has been held in the Village Waterfront Park behind the Main Street businesses.
This poster was sent to me a number of years ago from a historian in Albany, NY. It may be the oldest record of the Fourth of July celebration that took place in Northville. (1859) Notice they also enjoyed fire works. They were shot off on the hill behind the Presbyterian Church.
The Civic Association

For many years the Civic Association has given out programs to the public. They contained the daily events, sometimes some local history and many advertisements of local businesses. Here are a few samples. There are many more in the historians archives if anyone would like to look at them.

Program of Events

**TUESDAY, JULY 5:**
Midway of Rides, Games and Refreshments 7:00 to 11:00 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 6:**
Midway 11:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.
Black Dancing, with music by Edie and the Boys, with Jim Colman 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, JULY 7:**
Midway 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Black Dancing with music by Jim Colman and Edie and the Boys 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.
Fireworks Display over Lake Northville 10:00 P.M.

**SATURDAY, JULY 8:**
Parade, to move over Main, Head and Third Streets 1:00 P.M.
Dram Corp exhibits in front of midway grounds 3:00 P.M.
Black Dancing, with music by Jim and Edie and the Boys 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.

**Sponsored by Northville Civic Association**
Chairman: Corliss Vander Nest
Co-Chairman: James B. Cosey, Jr.
Secretary: Grace Lord
Treasurer: A. U. Hopkins

The Association wishes to thank everyone who helped to make this carnival and the program book successful.

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Black Dancing, with music by Jim Colman 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, JULY 7:**
Midway 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Black Dancing with music by Jim Colman 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.

**FRIDAY, JULY 8:**
Midway of Rides, Games and Refreshments 12:00 to 12:00 P.M.
Black Dancing with music by Jim the Spectre 7 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.

**SATURDAY, JULY 9:**
Midway of Rides, Games and Refreshments 12:00 to 12:00 P.M.
Parade, to move over Main, Head and Third Streets 3:00 P.M.
Dram Corp exhibits at midway grounds 3:30 P.M.
Chicken Barbecue at Midway 7:00 P.M. to dusk
Black Dancing, with music by Edie and the Boys 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.
Fireworks Display over Lake Northville 10:00 P.M.

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**SATURDAY, JULY 8:**
Parade, to move over Main, Head and Third Streets 1:00 P.M.
Dram Corp exhibits at midway grounds 2:30 P.M.
Chicken Barbecue at Midway 7:00 P.M. to dusk
Black Dancing, with music by Edie and the Boys 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.
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Today the fireworks are shot off by professionals which prevents injury to our firemen.
For many years Linda and Rusty Mosher organized the 4th of July Parade
Kids watching the parade and waiting for the candy to be thrown to them.

When did the tradition of throwing candy from vehicles and floats begin? So many memories from these parades and Doin’s. Remember Frances Rhodes always dressed up and Oscar Horton had a float in the parade every year, and Eva Stewart marched every year in some sort of costume.

What memories do you have? Send them to me and I’ll include them in next months newsletter.