

BELL  
MEMORIAL  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

Library Hours:

Monday—Thursday:

9:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

Friday:

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday:

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

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574-353-1307

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# The Bell Bulletin

July 2021

## Why Do Americans Celebrate the Fourth of July with Fireworks?

Fireworks have been part and parcel of U.S. Independence Day, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, since its first celebration in July 1777. That celebration took place in the midst of the Revolutionary War, however, and explosions, artillery fire, and “bombs bursting in air” were not exactly a cause for joy and celebration at the time. So why did Americans begin celebrating Independence Day with fireworks?

To answer this question, a lot of people point to John Adams’s letter to his wife, Abigail, informing her that the Continental Congress had declared independence: “[This day] ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

But pyrotechnics were already a common manner of celebration and thanksgiving, particularly to mark national triumphs and the restoration of peace, and John Adams had little to do with that. How fireworks came to be a central component of Independence Day celebrations in the United States was ultimately the result of hundreds of years of royal pageantry.

The celebratory display of fireworks we know today evolved out of the use of fireworks in romantic performances of combat and in elaborate pageants and plays, typically associated with national events. England’s King Henry VII, whose royal standard bore the Red Dragon, included fireworks at his wedding in 1486, the first known use of fireworks at a national celebration, and his wife’s coronation in 1487 featured a fire-breathing dragon, which became popular in royal fireworks displays during the reign of the Tudors. Queen Elizabeth I (ruled 1558–1603) was so fond of fireworks in performances that she even appointed a royal “Fire Master of England” to coordinate shows. After Robert Catesby’s Gunpowder Plot to blow up Parliament was foiled, fireworks were used locally in the annual commemoration of the event, sometimes called Fireworks Night. By the 18th century the displays had grown particularly extravagant in Europe in proportion to the opulence of rulers such as King Louis XIV and Peter the Great. Thus, by the time of the American Revolution, spectacular displays of fireworks had already become a popular way to celebrate national prosperity and patriotism.

So when the United States declared its independence in 1776, John Adams was not prescribing a novel way to celebrate America’s freedom. “Illuminations” were already a common mode of celebration. **Instead, when he wrote to Abigail, he was heralding the birth of the world’s newest nation by invoking one of the most recognizable celebrations of nationhood of his time: fireworks.**

<https://www.britannica.com/story/why-do-americans-celebrate-independence-day-with-fireworks>

## Recipe: Beef and Broccoli

Prep/Cook Time 30 mins Total Time 30 mins

### Ingredients

1/3 c.  
low-sodium soy sauce, divided  
2 tbsp.  
fresh lime juice  
2 tbsp.  
packed brown sugar  
2  
cloves garlic, grated  
1 tbsp.  
grated fresh ginger  
1 to 2 tsp Sriracha  
1 tsp.  
toasted sesame oil  
3 tsp.  
cornstarch, divided  
1 lb.  
sirloin or strip steak, steak halved lengthwise, then thinly sliced  
1  
large head broccoli (about 1 lb), cut into small florets, stem peeled (if necessary) and sliced  
1 tbsp.  
canola oil  
White rice, sliced red chilies, sesame seeds and scallions, for serving



### Directions

In a medium bowl, whisk together soy sauce, lime juice, sugar, garlic, ginger, sriracha, sesame oil and 2 teaspoons cornstarch. Transfer half (about 1/3 cup) to a small bowl and whisk in remaining teaspoon cornstarch and 1/3 cup water; set aside. Add steak to remaining sauce, toss to coat and let sit for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, heat a large skillet on medium. Add 1/2 cup water and bring to a simmer. Add broccoli and cook, covered until bright green and just barely tender, 4 to 5 minutes. Transfer broccoli to a plate. Wipe out skillet and heat oil on medium-high. Cook steak in a single layer in batches until browned, 2 minutes per side. Return first batch of steak to skillet, add sauce and simmer until beginning to thicken, 2 to 3 minutes. Add broccoli and toss to combine. Serve over rice sprinkled with scallions and sesame seeds, if desired.

## ~Creative Corner~

We will be taking a break from Creative Corner during our SRP. Crafts will return in September.

UNTIL NEXT TIME:  
*happy crafting*

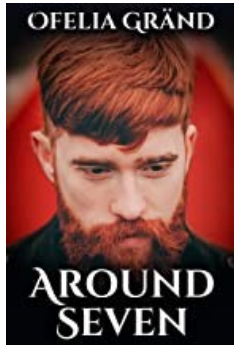
## ~Kids/Teens & Young Adults~

**Preschool story hour:** returns on July 16th at 10:00 a.m. in our children's room.

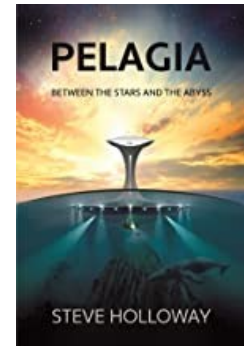
### **Teens & Young Adults:**

**Teen Craft Night:** Thursday, July 22 from 4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Teens will be making a craft project using playing cards. All supplies needed will be provided at no cost.

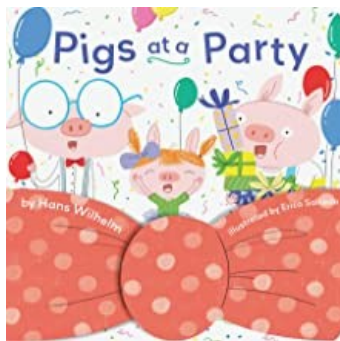




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Come see any staff member at Bell Memorial Public Library for information on how to get started.

### Wi-Fi Hotspots!



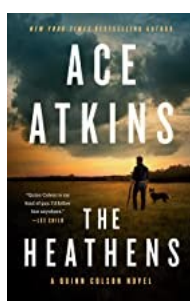
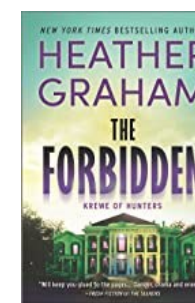
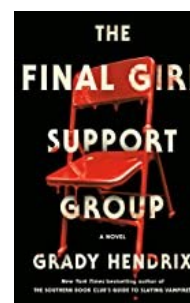
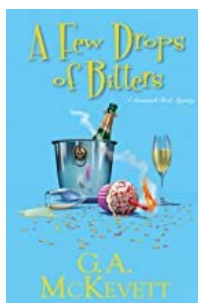
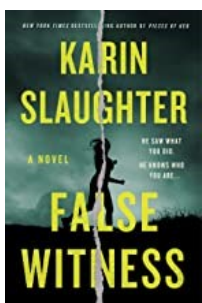
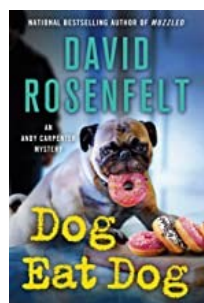
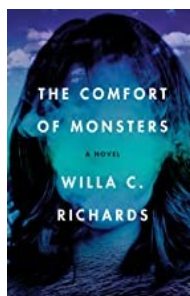
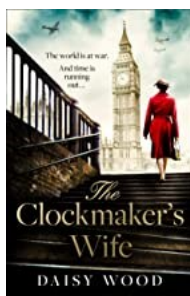
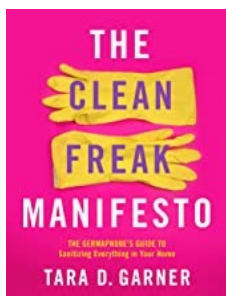
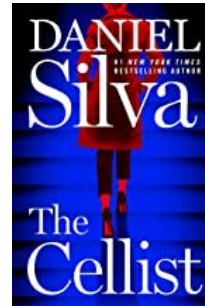
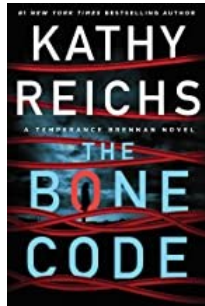
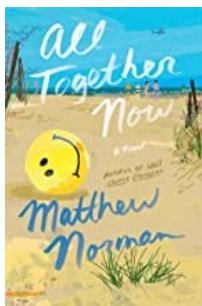
No Internet access at home? Let the Library help with that. Bell Memorial Library is circulating 4 Internet Hotspots.

These devices are about the size of a large cell phone and connect the user to the Internet via cell phone towers. The device will circulate for a week with a possibility of renewing for an additional week (as long as there are no prior holds, units can be reserved. For more information, contact Stephen Boggs at (574) 353-7234 or via e-mail at

[sboggs@bell.lib.in.us](mailto:sboggs@bell.lib.in.us)



# Coming Soon!!!





Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 <i>Last day Of SRP</i>	3
4 <i>Closed</i> 	5	6	7	8	9 <i>No Story Hour</i>	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Story Hour 10:00 a.m.</i>	17
18	19	20	21	22 <i>Teen Craft Night 4:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.</i>	23 <i>Story Hour 10:00 a.m.</i>	24
25	26 <i>Library Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m.</i>	27	28	29	30 <i>Story Hour 10:00 a.m.</i>	31