

# SATURDAY: Bombs bursting in air

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the sky.

Neisler said he fell into the fireworks game back in the 1980s when he served a couple of terms as mayor of Kings Mountain. Since then, he's turned it into a sideline for himself, having run fireworks shows at the Cleveland Mall, the American Legion World Series and other special events in the region.

The kind of fireworks that go into a commercial show like Saturday evenings are much different than what ordinary consumers can pick up at the firecracker stores

that dot our neighboring state to the south.

Chiefly, the bundles of blackpowder and primer devices used in professional shows are far larger and more dangerous than those available at retail counters.

Pyrotechnicians then use pre-packaged balls that wrapped in a thick brown paper and equipped with carefully calibrated fuses. The balls, depending on their sophistication and firepower, range in size from three to ten inches. They're placed in correspondingly sized tubes that point skyward.

Those putting on these expert shows must allow for a spectator distance of

70 times the diameter of the tube. That means that the smaller tubes that help propel lower powered fireworks into the air can be positioned closer to the watching crowd. Larger pyrotechnical balls – eight and ten inches – must be positioned hundreds of feet from the casual viewer.

Neisler said he's excited about bringing a favorite trick back into the rotation this year.

Called a Cremora Fireball, it uses almost a pound of black powder and because of its explosive nature so close to the ground, it can give the impression that there's been a misfire at the ground level.

"That one's a lot of fun – it's a blossoming fireball from the ground up," said Neisler, adding that it gets its name from the fact it non-dairy creamer is one of its key ingredients.

Look for the same rapid-fire assault of sparking, exploding missiles seen in years past that at times will have 460 shots coming out of a single firebox in about 10 seconds.

Chapel Hill-based pyrotechnician Chris Parks joins retired N.C. Hwy Patrolman David Allen, along with his sons Jake and Noah, in rounding out Neisler's safety-conscious crew.

# POST OFFICE CELEBRATION

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the 1941 mural depicting the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain which has recently returned to its original location at the former U. S. Post Office.

The mural, painted by Verona Burkhard in 1941, was moved to Kings Mountain City Hall when a new post office was opening in the city in the late 1980s. The painting was commissioned as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal program which aimed to provide jobs and bring hope to the American public. Through part of that program, artists created works celebrating local history for post offices across the nation.

Since the City of Kings Mountain owns the old post office building, now the Historical Museum, city council on Tuesday authorized the mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Museum for the loaning of the Battle of Kings Mountain mural and in a second resolution authorized the donation of personal property to the non-profit organization.

Today's event also celebrate the post office's recent entry into the National Register of Historic Places.

"This is the right time to return the mural to its original location and we invite the public to join us in the diamond anniversary celebration," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

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