

Historical Comments of Fireworks at the Ann Arbor Airport

- It's a distant memory, but at one time there was a beautiful fireworks display shot from Ann Arbor's Buhr Park every Fourth of July. When the crowds became too large, it was moved to the Ann Arbor Airport with local businesses picking up the cost. And then, it was gone. Officials cited costs, crowd control, and clean-up, but other much smaller Washtenaw County communities with far less resources continue to host magnificent displays. Ann Arbor News, July 2, 2011
- A Fourth of July airshow and fireworks were held at the airport until around 1990, when the rising cost of insurance forced the city to end the event. Localwiki
- For years, Ann Arbor had fireworks. First at Buhr Park, then at the airport. They were a great community tradition. I think they were sponsored by the Jaycees with much of the money coming from a local businessman. I'm curious how communities much smaller than Ann Arbor can afford fireworks, but we can't. Localwiki
- Ann Arbor City Council agenda, May 1994 Charles Gelman, Gelman Sciences Inc. Board Chairman, 600 S. Wagner Rd., stated that his company would like to sponsor a Fourth of July fireworks display, which has the support of volunteers from many community groups, businesses and government agencies. Mr. Gelman asked the City for all the support it can give for the event. (Not specifically at the airport, but anywhere in AA) Localwiki
- The annual fireworks show that originated at Buhr Park off Packard Road was organized by N.B. Kelsay, a long-time Ann Arbor grocer. In 1968, he posted this ad in the June 28, 1968, Ann Arbor News (page 17). The following year, the Ann Arbor Jaycees stepped forward to take over the fundraising for this event which later moved to the Ann Arbor Airport. Ann Arbor Jaycees Diamond Jubilee, 2011
- Although the Ann Arbor Junior Chamber of Commerce took over the Annual Fireworks show in 1969, the late 1970's / early 1980's saw them take it another step. In 1979, the pyrotechnic show was moved from Buhr Park to the Ann Arbor Municipal Airport. The Jaycees didn't stop there but added an airshow and auto race for an all-day celebration. The Jaycees would continue to manage this project throughout the 1980's before turning it over to other organizations (The Ann Arbor News, Domino's Pizza, O&W Distributors, Comshare and WIQB/WNRS radio) by 1989 or 1990. Ann Arbor Jaycees Diamond Jubilee, 2011

1970 - 1989

THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Ann Arbor, Michigan, Thursday, July 5, 1974



Fireworks Cascade Spectacularly Over Buhr Park

40,000 Watch Fireworks

Jaycees Seeking Award Nominees

The deadline for nominations for the Ann Arbor Jaycees Distinguished Service Award is Jan. 18. All entries must be postmarked by that date.

The names of young men under 35 years of age in all fields of endeavor may

be submitted by an individual, organization, association or institution. Jaycee President Cliff Sheldon said. Winners will be selected by a group of "distinguished citizens," he said.

Each January the Ann Arbor Jaycees honor an area resident as its outstanding

The Ann Arbor Jaycees wasted no time when recognizing outstanding leaders in their community. The above is a clipping from the *Ann Arbor News* from January 4, 1974, seeking nominations which were due by January 18th. Below they honor their DSA winner on January 24th, as written in the *Ann Arbor News* the next day.

Jaycees Salute Robert Foster

Local attorney Robert Foster was presented the Ann Arbor Jaycees Distinguished Service Award Thursday night.

Foster, a partner in the law firm of Burke, Ryan, Bennett, Foster and Hood, was honored at the Jaycees annual bosses night banquet.

The award is presented to the person of Jaycee age (under 35 years old) who exhibits most meritorious service to his family, community and nation. The DSA is the highest award the Jaycees annually present.

Foster was nominated by Rev. Terry Smith of the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor.

The Rev. Smith said institutions have been under criticism by many young people in the past few years and it is good to have a young man who is willing



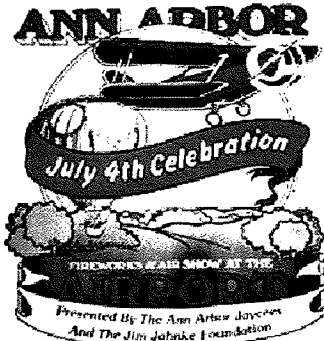
ROBERT FOSTER

Fireworks show moving to airport

By William H. Treadwell FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1985
 Moving of the annual project, awards selecting the display and that these things didn't happen again," Hirtz says.

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The 4th Annual



Thursday, July 4th 1985 - No Rain Date!!!

Ann Arbor Jaycee SCCA "Firecracker Solo" Auto Race - 1:00pm. to 4:00pm.

Danny Clisham Can-Am Airshow Airshow - 6:30pm. to 8:30pm.

Michigan's Second Largest Fireworks Display Start At Approximately 10:20pm.

Live Music on Stage Before and After The Airshow



All Profits Will Be Turned Over To Memberships of Michigan Through the Jim Jabacke Foundation - A Michigan Charitable Organization

Christmas Tree Sales.

Although we are not sure what year this project started, it is believed to have been around during the 1970's thru 2010. Originally set up in the lot next to Fox Tent & Awning on Main Street, hundreds of live trees were sold to the community each year. A trailer was leased from another service organization and many friendships and marriages resulted from the long evenings around the space heater. In 2005, the tree lot was relocated to the Dollar Tree Store on Washtenaw (formerly Frank's Nursery). The live tree market had stiff competition from artificial trees, and this project ended in 2010.

SUPPORT YOUR ANN ARBOR JAYCEES

Annual Christmas Tree Sales
 Open Everyday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Located at The Fox Tent & Awning Lot
 South Main at Mosley

- SCOTCH PINE
- SPRUCE
- DOUGLAS FIR

All Proceeds Benefit The Jaycees's General Fund.

