

Summer is here!

Community Comment
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Colorado wildfires, record heat on the Eastern seaboard, baking in the desert Southwest; is there any doubt that summer is here? Locally, the Oyster Festival was held last Saturday. This has turned into an amazing event. The Plaza was packed with those in search of the best oyster. Unfortunately, the search also included beer. People were walking back to their cars parked by our house seven blocks away with open containers and an unsteady walk. Too many got into their cars to drive with probably too much to drink. Do we really have to go overboard with these activities. If you think I'm just an old guy getting cranky in his later years, I heard this complaint from the 20 and 30 somethings that waited in the long lines for their oyster sample. The danger of drunk driving is my immediate concern, but the festival will lose it's appeal as a family friendly event if we can't control ourselves. Things like this re-enforce my view that the steady collection of new laws come about from too many of us not behaving in an appropriate manner.

Summer means decent weather on the coast and warm to hot weather over the hill. It's a good idea to have that family discussion about summer safety. Drive defensively and look out for the other guy. Don't swim drunk. Do swim with a buddy. Tell family or friends where you are going and when you expect to be back. Don't change plans without telling someone. I think that the most important safety advice is to be aware. Take the earbuds out of your ears and fully engage in whatever activity you are doing.

The Trinidad Fish Festival is tomorrow. It's on a Saturday this year and should, once again, be a great event. This little town goes all out to provide a great meal and a good time to all who come. Again, a little self control and curtesy goes a long way towards everyone having a good time.

Events like these help fund many other local projects and activities that create our great quality of life here on the north coast. It's all of us helping each other. It's why many of us live here and raise our families here. These summer festivals and our natural beauty and resources also bring tourists to visit. Tourism plays a big role in our local economy. I hear from so many visitors how friendly we are. This helps attract and keep visitors and that means more money spent and more jobs kept or created. Those of us who work in the tourist industry need to keep this in mind. But we all, in whatever we do, contribute to the welcome we give to visitors. Our houses, our stores, our streets, and the people who tend them generate the atmosphere that welcome people. Bing mindful of this helps all of us.

On one political note, a look at the voter turnout is disturbing and disappointing. In our country, where we set the example for self government, we don't even care enough to take ten minutes and vote. I know we only have a right to vote; but really we have a duty to vote. A low voter turnout means less of us decide what is best for the rest of us. That's no way to run a republic but it assures that we get the government that we deserve.

Have a great summer, be aware, and be safe.

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.