

NITRO BOOMTOWN DAYS KICKS OFF FRIDAY WITH GOSPEL SING

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It was once home to gunpowder factories, but the only thing going "boom" in **Nitro** this weekend will be a fireworks display.

The sixth annual **Nitro** Boomtown Days celebration kicks off this Friday, July 23, with a new event: a 7 p.m. gospel sing featuring Charlton Jordan and Squire Parsons and his trio in the Kathy Mattea Auditorium inside the **Nitro** Community Center on 21st Street.

"This is the first year we've done a gospel sing," said Boomtown Days Coordinator Debbie Jordan.

Cooke Funeral Home is sponsoring the gospel sing, she added.

Boomtown Days highlights Nitro's historical beginnings as a town that was built during World War I for the production of gunpowder for the war effort.

"We have a lot of history in this town," Jordan said.

Jordan said the event grew out of the town's homecoming celebration for **Nitro** High School graduates, traditionally held during the Fourth of July holiday.

Boomtown Days was established as an event to get more people involved in celebrating the town's history. It was also moved to a different date so as not to conflict with the busy Fourth of July holiday.

"We started as a homecoming for all (**Nitro** High) classes, but we wanted to do something to get more people involved. And we're still honoring troops and emergency services personnel," Jordan said.

A full day of events is scheduled for Saturday, July 24, in the vicinity of the **Nitro** City Pool and **Nitro** City Park.

There will be a Run for the Flag 5K run or 3K walk beginning at 8:30 a.m. Registration is from 7 to 8 a.m.

Proceeds from the race and walk will go to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Flag Memorial at W.Va. 25 and 21st Street.

Saturday's events will also include a cornhole tournament that has a \$1,000 purse. Registration for the tournament starts with registration at 10 a.m. In the event of rain, the tournament will be held in the **Nitro** Community Center gymnasium.

For more details about the cornhole tournament, call Eddie, 304-415-4522, or Melodie, 304-415-4974.

"The cornhole tournament is very popular, and we'll have inflatables for the kids," she said.

The **Nitro** City Pool will open at 11 a.m. on Saturday and remain open until 10 p.m. Admission to the pool is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for children (free for kids 4 and under). A DJ will provide music for swimmers from 1 to 5 p.m.

Also near the pool, there will be live bands starting at 2 p.m. Bands include Legends, Area 51, Fort Hillbillies and the Steve and Steve Band. The bands will play until 10 p.m.

As a summertime treat, free watermelon slices will be available (while supplies last) beginning at 2 p.m.

For car enthusiasts, the Starry, Starry Night Antique Car Show will be featured at **Nitro** City Park from 5 to 10 p.m.

Boomtown Days will end with a fireworks display at 10 p.m. at **Nitro** City Park.

For more information, call Jordan, 304-755-5936.