



## Agenda Abstract

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date:	April 27, 2026
Department:	Planning and Economic Development
Agenda Section:	Consent
Public hearing:	No
Date of public hearing:	N/A

#### PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Planning Technician Dakotah Kimbrough

#### ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

**Subject:** Special Event Permit – America 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

#### Attachments:

Special Event Permit Application (includes event layout)

#### Summary:

Orange County Arts Alliance to hold the America 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, July 4, 2026. Set-up for this event will take place from 6 to 10 a.m., it will run from 10 a.m.- to 10 p.m., and breakdown will be completed by 12 a.m. Organizers estimate around 2,500 folks will attend this free event, with peak attendance around 8 p.m. for the entertainment.

Per their application, "The event begins at 10 a.m. with a juried arts market in River Park. Following the closing of the Eno River Farmers Market, the footprint will expand to include the Farmers Market Pavilion area. Beginning at 1 p.m., the program will feature amplified musical performances with stage and lighting, along with food vendors/sampling opportunities, and a beer garden. A pedestrian parade will take place at approximately 5 p.m. Historical and cultural demonstrations, activities, and displays from community partners will occur throughout the day. The event will conclude before 10 p.m."

Organizers anticipate 50-60 craft arts and crafts vendors, and a small number of prepared food and beverage vendors. Vendors, activities, field games, and demonstrations will take place in the northern half of River Park, while the concert and beer garden area will occupy the central southern part of the park. The Single-Day Food and Beverage Tax Form will be provided to the organizer to be distributed to all prepared food and beverage vendors. Alcohol will be served in a cordoned area; the ABC permit will be applied for and provided.

Equipment including staging, portable toilets and handwashing facilities, generators, light towers, and rental tents will arrive on Friday, July 3rd, and be removed on Monday, July 5th. The entertainment will utilize a portable stage and concert production sound and lighting package.

Organizers are requesting multiple town-sponsored services, including:

- Road Closures: Court Street from 6 to 10:15 a.m. for parking of craft vendors; and East Margaret Street, Court Street, East King Street, and South Cameron Street for the pedestrian parade from 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. (NCDOT approval needed for closure of East King Street).
- Traffic Control: Four traffic barricades – one at the south end of Court Street and three within the Justice Facilities lot.

- Police Coverage: officers present at intersections identified above during pedestrian parade and other stations as needed.
- Trash Rollout Carts: 10 roll-out trash carts, 1 roll-off container dumpster.

**Financial impacts:**

Low to medium; this is a day-long event that will require staffing and services from multiple departments.

**Staff recommendation and comments:**

Staff recommends approval. A Certificate of Insurance and ABC permit need to be provided before the permit is released.

**Action requested:**

Approve, approve with conditions, or deny the special event permit.