



Alpharetta Post 201

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Thursday, July 6, 2023

Upwards of 1,000 Visit Post For Independence Day Activities

The music of the Alpharetta City Band, punctuated by the screams of delight as children play on the bounce houses on the Post grounds, and the smells of hot dogs and hamburgers being cooked on the grill at the baseball field concession stand welcomed the early-evening arrivals who had decided that the Post was the best place to see the City's July 4 fireworks.

After getting off to a slow midday start, even though children and their parents started showing up at 12 noon, by the 6 p.m. band concert time crowd estimates stood at 400-500 people on the grounds and another 30 or so in the Clubroom/Bar.

A hard count of automobiles parked on the grounds at 6:30 p.m. registered 190. Between then and 9:30 p.m. fireworks time, parking spaces on the lot and grass field behind the Post reached max capacity and nearby neighbors could be seen walking onto the grounds - - - swelling the crowd to nearly 1,000.

But perhaps the surprise of the evening for many was watching Post Commander Tom Billings take the conductor's baton from band leader Dr. Nicole Fallin. He's not a neophyte in the music world having played with the Atlanta Concert Band during his younger days as well as playing the club and party circuit with a small dance band. So he stepped on the podium displaying the confidence of a maestro to lead the 40-plus musicians in the final piece for the evening - - - the traditional and much-loved John Philip Sousa march, *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

By all accounts July 4th at the Post was a clear success - - - thanks in large measure to Event Committee Chair David Kirchner and all the volunteers who helped make it happen.

John Dowd and his car-parking team raised \$3,028.72 in donations. The odd "cents" in the final number can be attributed to the cost of fees associated with credit card processing. However, at the start of the day Dowd said his parking donation goal was \$3,000. He met the mark!

Food sales at the concession stand totaled \$1,696.00, It would probably have been slightly more except for the fact that Alan Dudley and his team sold all the hot dogs and hamburgers they had in stock nearly an hour before the start of the fireworks.

Bar sales for the day were \$1,690.00 - - - four-to-five times the normal Tuesday sales at the Post. But the sales, which were exactly \$6 less than the concession stand sales, proved to be something of a 'head scratcher' when Finance Assistant DiAne Casale ran the numbers yesterday morning. But after multiple rechecks, the sales number was accurate.

While there may be another invoice or two that hasn't surfaced yet, it's safe to report that the Post cleared more than \$4,800 to support veterans' activities.

(Editor's Note: [Click here](#) to see a 4-minute video of the day's activities shot, edited and produced by Scott Hoehn. He has also posted a number of July 4 photos on the "American Legion Post 201 Alpharetta" Facebook page.)

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Post Slated to Host 2-Day District 9 'Revitalization Event,' July 21-22

Post 201 will host a two-day Department of Georgia's District 9 "revitalization event" on Friday and Saturday, July 21 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Military veterans in and around the 16 North Georgia counties of Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens, Cherokee, Towns, White, Hall, Habersham, Union, Lumpkin, Dawson, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Rabun, and Stephens are being invited to attend to either day. Those attending will be able to visit with American Legion staff members to discuss veterans' benefits, VA benefits, renewing their 2024 memberships, and other associated training opportunities.

A department veteran service officer will also be available to assist area veterans with claims or other veteran benefit-related questions.

Volunteers from Post 201 are needed to help support this activity. Contact House Committee Chair Ralph Fike, ralphtangofxtrot@gmail.com, or Events Chair David Kirchner, davekirchnerusmc@yahoo.com, if you can spare a few hours to help on either or both of the two days.

District 9 Commander Gary Ely said the opportunity at the Post reflects the Legion's "focus on community service and assistance to veterans. The scope and nature of the posts' (District 9) community service is determined by its members and with input from local civic and community officials," he added. For more information contact Ely at 678-882-2881, or gad9commander@gmail.com.

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~ ~ Military- Veterans Related News ~ ~ (Not likely to be published locally in other media.)

Cancer Research Gets New VA Effort; Burn Pit-Linked Cases Expected to Rise [Click here to read.](#)

Supreme Court Accepts GI Bill Case That Could Affect 1.7 Million Vets
[Click here to read.](#)

Nationwide Patient Survey Shows VA Hospitals Outperform Non-VA Hospitals

[Click here to read.](#)

What an All-Volunteer Force Looks Like Today, 50 Years After Draft is Ditched

[Click here to read.](#)

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Upcoming Post 201 & Other Veterans Related Activities

[Click here to see the most current baseball schedule for the Post's field..](#)

Volunteers are needed to work at the concession stand. A signup sheet is posted on Clubroom bulletin board, or contact a member of the Baseball Committee.

Saturday, July 8, 8 a.m. First Saturday Pot Luck Breakfast for members of the Post family and first responders. Rescheduled from Saturday, July 1. Cooking generally starts around 7:30 a.m. - 8 a.m. Meal served in 9 a.m. time frame. Be sure to bring something to share. First responders are not expected to 'bring a dish to share'. This is opportunity for members of the Post 201 family to gather in an informal setting. For more info contact John Dowd, 770-366-1284, or email jedowd3@gmail.com.

Monday, July 10, 4 p.m. Special Executive Committee meeting to review the FY 23-24 Budget.

Tuesday, July 11, 6 p.m. Executive Committee.

Thursday, July 13, 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee.

Tuesday, July 18, 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting. Installation of Post, Auxiliary and SAL Officers. Dinner served prior to the meeting starting in the 6 p.m. time frame

Wednesday, July 19, 7:30 a.m. VetBuds. Meets at Uptown Cafe the third Wednesday of each month, 9850 Nesbitt Ferry Rd., Johns Creek. For more information contact Matt Cronley, matt@cronley.com. Phone: 770-294-5672.

Thursday, July 20, 7 p.m. Order of the Purple Heart. Meets 3rd Thursday each month.

Saturday, July 22, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Summer Rockin' Boots Line Dance Party. Enjoy an afternoon of line dancing. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. [Click here for details.](#)

Friday, July 28, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Scotch and Cigar Night. *SAVE THE DATE* and plan to attend. Tickets, which may be purchased at the Clubroom/Bar, are \$40 per person until July 14. \$50 per ticket after that. [Click here](#) for more information.

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 6:30 p.m. House Committee Meeting.

Thursday, Sept. 28 - Sunday, Oct. 1. Georgia Military Officers Association of America State Conference. University of North Georgia, Dahlonega. www.gmcmoaa.org

Wednesday, Oct. 11. SAL's 6th Annual Rick Gimpel Memorial Golf Tournament at The Golf Club at Bradshaw Farm in Woodstock. [Click here](#) for more information on corporate

sponsorship. Or contact either Derek Garmon 770-294-4259 or Kevin Solik, 404-483-3230 for more information.

Sunday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Annual Cruz-In. Planning Lead: Tommy Youngblood.
Email - youngbloodtom@att.net. Mobile: 678-462-9023. Leave message if no answer.

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Club 201 Dance Activities

Visit both www.club201dance.com
and the [Club 201 Dance FaceBook Page](#)
for detailed information about
all dance activities and schedules.

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Resource Links

Post 201 Walk of Memories - [Click here](#) for more information.

Survivor Assistance Checklist - [Click this link](#).

Benefits for Georgia Veterans - [Click this link](#).

Past Issues of Post 201 E-Newsletter - Visit www.legion201.org and click on the "Weekly eNewsletters" box at the top right of the landing page.

Post 201 Website - www.legion201.org.

VA Telephone Hotline - 1-877-222-8387

Veterans Crisis Line - 1-800-273-8255 Press 1

Post 201 Service Officer Hotline for Vets-at-Risk - 631-720-6022

Emory Healthcare Veterans Program - [888-514-5345](tel:888-514-5345) or [click here](#) for more info.

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***"It's not the price you pay to be a member,  
It's the price you paid to be eligible."***

**Post 201 - Serving Vets for 75 Years**  
*November 26, 1947 - November 26, 2022*

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