

Village of Hales Corners

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James R. Ryan Municipal Building

JULY 4TH COMMITTEE Minutes May 20, 2026 Village Hall (Meadows Room)

- 1.0 Call to Order & Roll Call-** N. Wilkes called to order at 6:32 pm.
Present: N. Wilkes, Dan Besson, Diane Besson, E. Valaitis, J. Gilboy, R. Lindner, I. Thomson, O Stern, R. Dodd
- 2.0 Approval of 4/29/26 minutes**
 - Approved
- 3.0 Treasurer's Report**
 - No Updates reported
- 4.0 Safety & Security Review**
 - Officer Henner was not present.
- 5.0 Food and Drink Vendors**
 - N. Wilkes is working on gathering contracts from vendors,
- 6.0 250th Commemorative T-Shirts**
 - Deadline for ordering is May 31.
 - 30 T-shirts sold as of May 20th.
- 7.0 Website Review**
 - I. Thomson will update the Parade Participation Form
 - R. Linder will update the Bed Race Participation Form
 - R. Dodd to update Firecracker 4 Course Map
- 8.0 2026 Flyer**
 - The flyer is complete and very nicely done – it includes recognition of America's 250th.
- 9.0 Events**
 - 9.1 Firecracker Four**
 - The new route description and map will be posted on the Village website.
 - R. Dodd recognized sponsors: Performance Running Outfitters, Awards, and Festival Foods
 - R. Dodd indicated new bunting for the race from Finished Line Flags
 - Registration is up 20% at this point.
 - Pre-Race Packet Pick Up:
 - 7/2 at Performance Running Outfitters-Brookfield 1-6 pm

Ideal Logos &

- 7/3 at Hales Corners Pool House noon-3 pm

9.2 Holz Car Show

- D. Besson reported the Car Show is all set.

9.3 Children's Parade

- A. Dunning not present

9.4 Ice Cream & Children's Games

- N. Wilkes reported that Festival Foods approved Ice Cream Donations
- E. Valaitis confirmed that she will hang banners to recognize Festival Foods for their ice cream donation at the event.
 - Field Games lines will be marked Friday, 7/3 6 pm followed by water balloon filling.
- Field Games by age group itinerary is listed on the Village 4th of July website.

9.5 Patriotic Pet Costume Contest

- N. Wilkes has this fully organized with judges and prizes secured.

9.6 Pie Baking Contest

- Pie drop-off time is 11:00 am-12 noon.
- Judging begins at noon,

9.7 Hot Dog Eating Competition

- Tim Gjerde volunteered to emcee the event.
- Elmer's American Food Truck is the event sponsor, providing \$100 contribution and Gift Certificates to the top three winners.
- Three 8-ft tables are needed, plus the 8 chairs from the review stand.
- R. Lind will set up a sound system for Hot Dogs and Bed Races
- Discussed some coordination of setup. I. Thomson will warm hot dogs at the pie contest, and Dan Besson will bring the hot dogs from the pie contest over to the hot dog contest.
- Dan Besson and additional helpers are needed to assemble hot dogs and buns.

9.8 Bed Races

- R. Lindner reported the bed is at Reis Auto to try to fix the alignment.
- N. Wilkes will order a yard sign recognizing Reis Auto, and R. Lind will provide signage for the bed.
- Discussion on Team Classifications. New Classifications: Grade/Middle School, High School, All Girls (any age), 25&over. Classifications may still need to be combined in the spirit of competition based on actual teams participating.

9.9 Big Parade

- I. Thomson will apply for a permit for the parade route.
- I. Thomson provided an overview of units currently committed and pending.
- N. Wilkes will order signage for the New Village Trustee (Alyssa Dunning)
- O. Sterny will collaborate with units to provide more fun facts for the parade script.
- N. Wilkes announced that Tom and Kelly Nowak from Daily Social will Emcee this year's parade.
- Dan will reach out to Jeff Chesney about the review stand setup. Alyssa will reach out to N&S towing and make pizza arrangements.

Adjournment- 7:15 pm Motion by N. Wilkes, seconded by R. Lind

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 10th, 6:30 pm and Wednesday, July 1st 6:30 pm