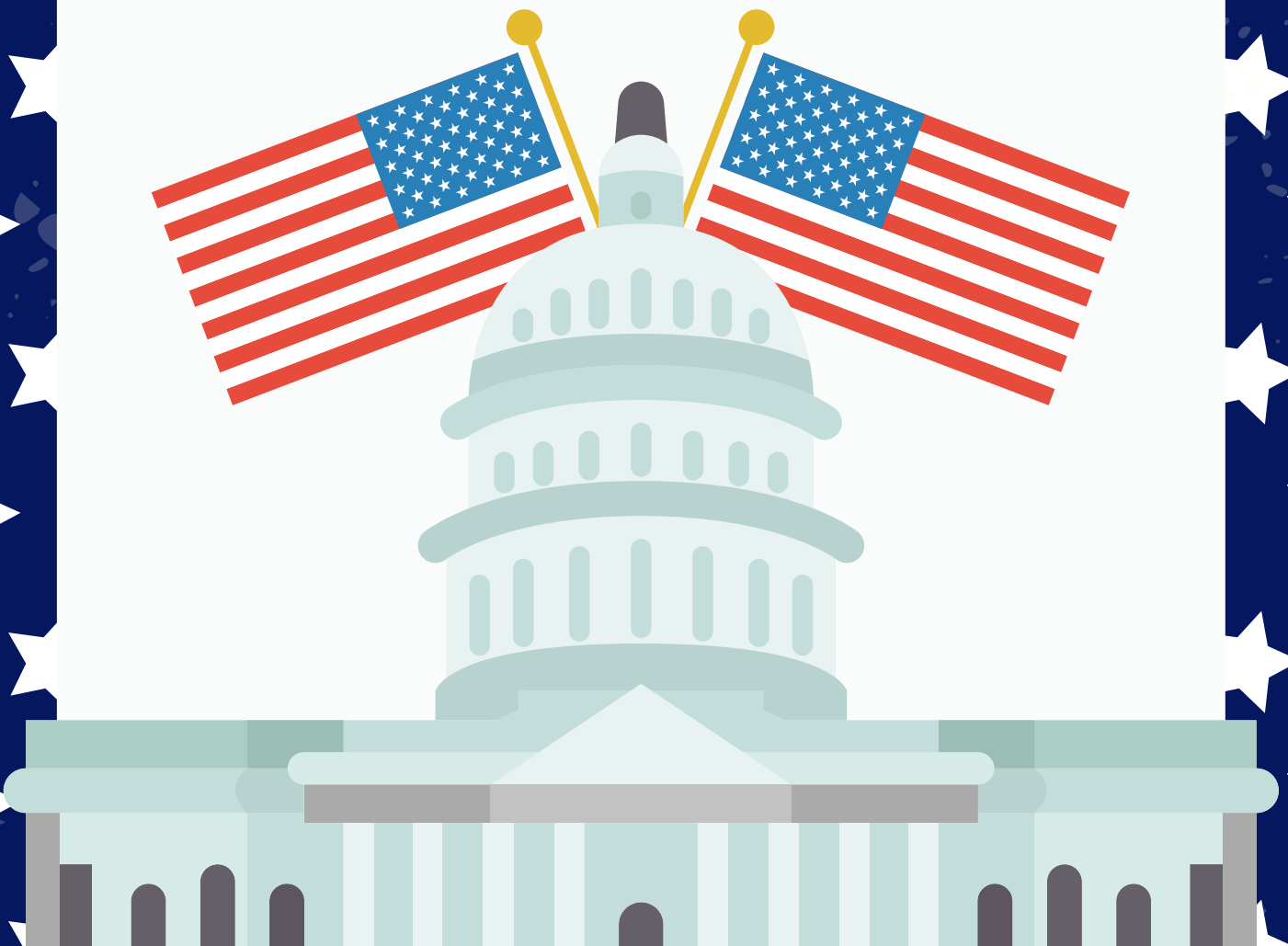


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The News

JULY 2025



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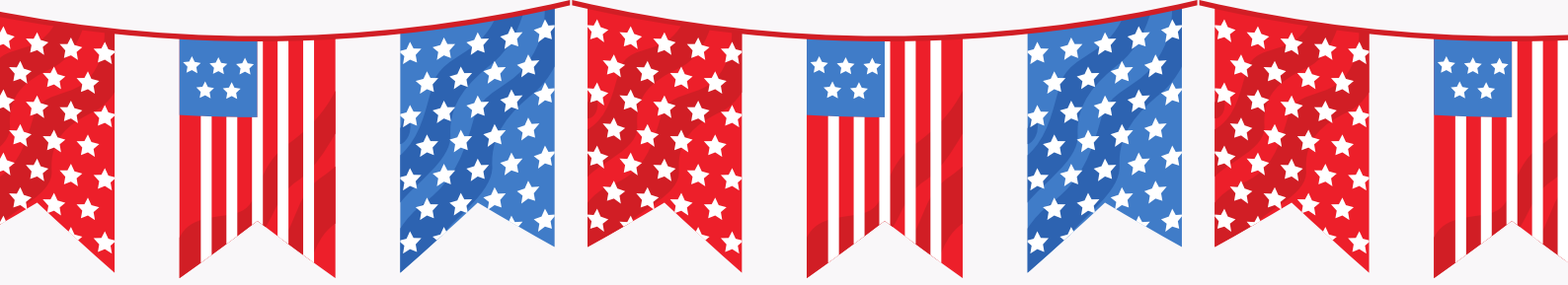
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casawestcenla.org

<https://www.facebook.com/CASAWestCenla>





Words From the Director

Dear CASA Community,

As we move into the heart of summer, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the incredible dedication and compassion each of you brings to our mission. July marks not only a time for fireworks and family barbecues, but also a moment to reflect on the freedoms we cherish — including the right every child deserves to be safe, heard, and nurtured.

This year, we've seen powerful examples of advocacy in action. Our volunteers continue to stand as unwavering voices for children in the foster care system, ensuring that their best interests are front and center. Your work brings hope where it's needed most — and for that, I am deeply grateful.

As we hit the mid-point of 2025, let's carry this momentum forward. Whether you're a volunteer, staff member, board member, or supporter, your commitment fuels real change. Thank you for being part of this movement and for helping us build brighter futures, one child at a time.

Wishing you a joyful and restful July.

~Tommy



Supervisor Tips



Effective conversations with biological parents require empathy, clarity, and a focus on the child's well-being. Here are some strong communication approaches:

- **Building trust:**
 - Start with a supportive tone, such as "I appreciate you taking the time to talk. My goal is to ensure the best for your child." This sets a collaborative foundation.
- **Encouraging openness:**
 - Ask non-judgmental questions like "What are some things that have been working well for you and your child?" This invites them to share strengths.
- **Addressing concerns with sensitivity:**
 - If discussing challenges, frame it constructively: "I understand this situation is difficult. What support would be most helpful for you right now?"
- **Providing resources:**
 - Offer practical guidance: "There are programs that can assist with summer activities and stability. Would you like more information?"
- **Reinforcing shared goals:**
 - Use inclusive language like "We all want to see your child thrive. Let's work together to make that happen." This fosters cooperation.

Training



What's Happening in Our Communities

Beauregard Parish



July 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 CASA Offices Closed <u>4th Fest</u> <u>5pm-10pm</u>	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <u>Patriot Walk</u>
13	14 <u>Art Camp for Kids</u> Geebo Magician	15 <u>Art Camp for Kids</u>	16 <u>Art Camp for Kids</u>	17 <u>Art Camp for Kids</u>	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 <u>NNO Books with the Blue</u>	31		

What's Happening in Our Communities

Vernon Parish



July 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 CASA Offices Closed	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <u>Free Acrylic Painting Class</u>
13	14	15	16	17	18 <u>Christmas in July.</u>	19 <u>Christmas in July.</u>
20	21	22	23	24 <u>LSU AG Learning Labs</u>	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July Fun Days

- Jul 1 Tuesday International Joke Day
- Jul 2 Wednesday I Forgot Day
- Jul 2 Wednesday World UFO Day
- Jul 3 Thursday Compliment Your Mirror Day
- Jul 3 Thursday International Plastic Bag Free Day
- Jul 4 Friday Sidewalk Egg Frying Day
- Jul 5 Saturday Workaholics Day
- Jul 7 Monday Tell the Truth Day
- Jul 8 Tuesday Video Games Day
- Jul 8 Tuesday Math 2.0 Day
- Jul 9 Wednesday Sugar Cookie Day
- Jul 10 Thursday Teddy Bears' Picnic Day
- Jul 10 Thursday Clerihew Day
- Jul 11 Friday Cheer Up the Lonely Day
- Jul 12 Saturday Simplicity Day
- Jul 13 Sunday Embrace Your Geekness Day
- Jul 14 Monday Pandemonium Day
- Jul 15 Tuesday Gummi Worm Day
- Jul 16 Wednesday Corn Fritters Day
- Jul 17 Thursday Yellow Pig Day
- Jul 17 Thursday Emoji Day
- Jul 18 Friday Insurance Nerd Day
- Jul 18 Friday Caviar Day
- Jul 19 Saturday Stick Out Your Tongue Day
- Jul 20 Sunday Space Exploration Day
- Jul 20 Sunday Ice Cream Day
- Jul 21 Monday Junk Food Day
- Jul 22 Tuesday Pi Approximation Day
- Jul 23 Wednesday Vanilla Ice Cream Day
- Jul 24 Thursday Cousins Day
- Jul 25 Friday Culinarrians Day
- Jul 26 Saturday Uncle and Aunt Day
- Jul 27 Sunday Take your Pants for a Walk Day
- Jul 28 Monday Milk Chocolate Day
- Jul 29 Tuesday Lasagna Day
- Jul 30 Wednesday National Cheesecake Day
- Jul 31 Thursday Uncommon Musical Instrument Day



Summer Safety

Summer's all about sunshine, barbecues, and beach days—but it's also prime time to stay sharp about safety. Here are some top tips to keep your summer fun and hazard-free:

Beat the Heat

- Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of water, especially when outdoors.
- Avoid peak sun hours: Try to stay indoors between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun is strongest.
- Wear sunscreen: Use SPF 30 or higher and reapply every two hours.

Water Smarts

- Swim where there's a lifeguard and never swim alone.
- Designate a “water watcher” to keep an eye on kids and weak swimmers.
- Learn CPR—it could save a life.

Bug & Wildlife Awareness

- Use insect repellent with DEET or picaridin to ward off mosquitoes and ticks.
- Check for ticks after hikes or time in grassy areas.

Fire & Grill Safety

- Keep grills away from structures and never leave them unattended.
- Use long-handled tools and keep a spray bottle or extinguisher nearby.

Outdoor Activity Tips

- Wear helmets when biking, skating, or scootering.
- Stay visible with bright clothing and reflectors if you're out near dusk.

Summer Safety - Children

Keeping kids safe during summer is all about staying ahead of risks while letting them enjoy the season. Here are some key tips:

Heat & Sun Protection

- Apply SPF 30+ sunscreen and reapply every two hours.
- Dress kids in lightweight, sun-protective clothing and hats.
- Keep outdoor play to mornings or evenings to avoid peak sun hours.

Water Safety

- Always supervise kids near water—drowning can happen in seconds.
- Teach children basic swimming skills and ensure they wear life jackets when needed.
- Avoid distractions (like phones) when watching kids in pools or lakes.

Hot Car Awareness - LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK!

- Never leave kids in a parked car—temperatures can rise dangerously fast.
- Check the back seat before locking your car.
- Teach kids that cars are not play areas.

Bug & Wildlife Precautions

- Use kid-safe insect repellent to prevent mosquito and tick bites.
- Check for ticks after outdoor activities.
- Teach kids to avoid unknown animals to prevent bites or scratches.

Fireworks & Grill Safety

- Keep kids away from fireworks—they cause thousands of injuries yearly.
- Supervise children around grills and fire pits.
- Teach kids stop, drop, and roll in case of fire emergencies.

Outdoor Play & Activity Safety

- Ensure helmets are worn when biking, skating, or scootering.
- Keep kids hydrated—they need more water than adults.
- Watch for signs of heat exhaustion like dizziness or nausea.

Summer Safety - Children's Activities

Summer is the perfect time for kids to enjoy the outdoors while staying safe. Here are some fun and safe activities to keep them active and entertained:

Nature & Exploration

- Picnic in the park—bring snacks, games, and a blanket.
- Scavenger hunts—create a list of nature items for kids to find.
- Gardening—let kids plant flowers or veggies and learn about nature.

Active Play

- Bike riding—always wear helmets and stick to safe paths.
- Obstacle courses—set up fun challenges in the backyard.
- Jump rope or hula hoop—great for exercise and coordination.

Water Fun

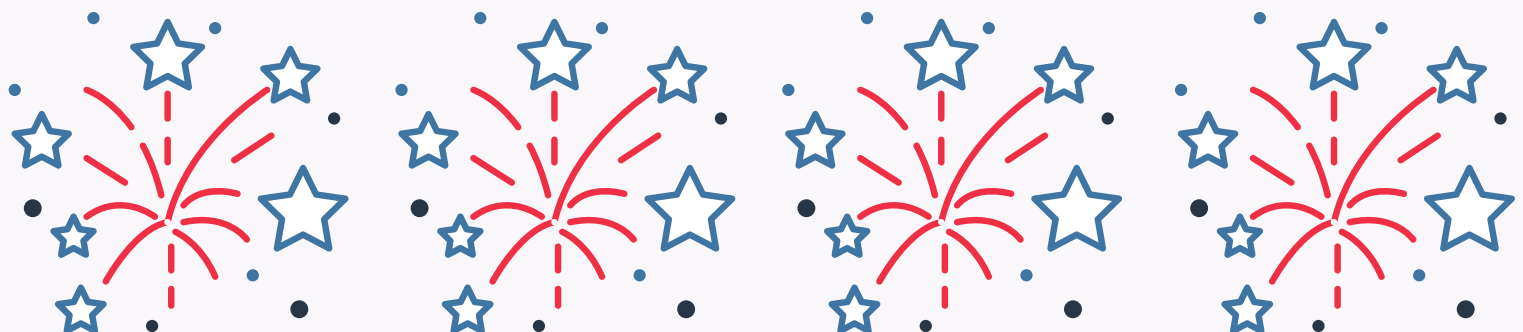
- Sprinkler play—a safe way to cool off without deep water.
- Water balloon toss—keep it friendly and supervised.
- Kiddie pools—always supervise young children.

Creative Outdoor Activities

- Sidewalk chalk art—let kids create colorful masterpieces.
- DIY nature crafts—collect leaves, rocks, or flowers for art projects.
- Bubble blowing—simple, fun, and mess-free.

Camping & Adventure

- Backyard camping—set up a tent and enjoy a night under the stars.
- Storytelling around a (safe) fire pit—use flashlights for a fun twist.
- Stargazing—teach kids about constellations



Summer Safety - Camping

Summer camping is an adventure, but staying safe is key to making it memorable for the right reasons. Here are some essential safety tips to keep in mind:



Camp Setup & Fire Safety

- Choose a safe campsite away from cliffs, unstable terrain, or dead trees.
- Keep fires small and contained in designated fire pits.
- Never leave a fire unattended and fully extinguish it before sleeping.



Weather Awareness

- Check forecasts before heading out—summer storms can be unpredictable.
- Pack for all conditions including rain gear, sunscreen, and insect repellent.
- Stay hydrated—heat exhaustion is a real risk.



Wildlife Precautions

- Store food securely to avoid attracting animals.
- Respect wildlife—observe from a distance and never feed them.
- Know local hazards like snakes or bears and how to respond.



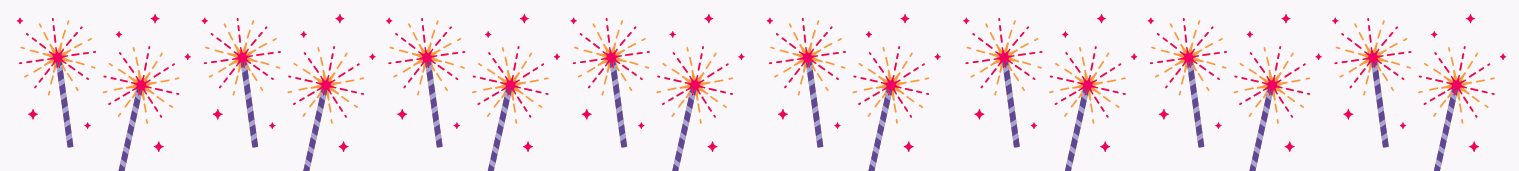
Hiking & Outdoor Safety

- Stick to marked trails to avoid getting lost.
- Carry a map, compass, or GPS—cell service may be unreliable.
- Pack a first aid kit for minor injuries.



Food & Water Safety

- Use proper food storage to prevent contamination.
- Purify water before drinking from natural sources.
- Wash hands before handling food.



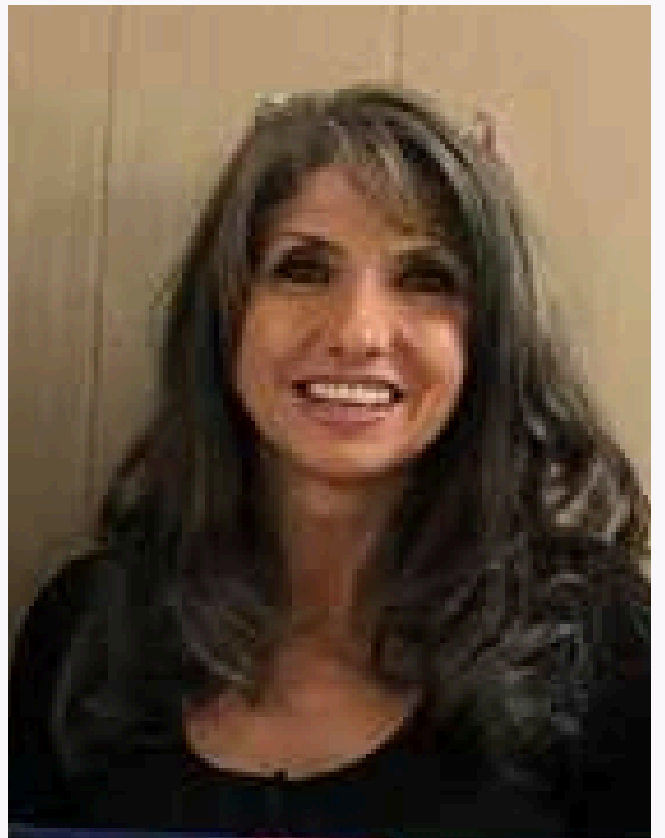


JoAnn

Beauregard Parish

Vernon Parish

Jami





Board Spotlight

**Kevin Blake
Board Member**