

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, CLARE COUNTY**  
**ORDINANCE NO.**  
**FIREWORKS ORDINANCE**

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP ORDAINS:**

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act; MCL 28.457, Hamilton Township ordains:

**Section 1. Definitions:** As used in this Ordinance, the following words and phrases have the meanings set forth herein:

(a) “Articles Pyrotechnic” mean pyrotechnic devices for professional use that are similar to consumer fireworks in chemical composition and construction but not intended for consumer use, that meet the weight limits for consumer fireworks but are not labeled as such, and that are classified as UN0431 or UN0432 under 49 CFR 172.101.

(b) “Chinese lanterns”, also known as Sky lanterns or Kongming Lantern, are airborne paper lanterns constructed from oiled rice or other paper on a frame, and contain a small candle or fuel cell composed of a waxy flammable material. When lit, the flame heats the air inside the lantern causing the lantern to rise into the air.

(c) “Consumer Fireworks” means fireworks devices that are designed to produce visible effects by combustion, that are regulated to comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations promulgated by the United States consumer product safety commission under 16 CFR parts 1500 and 1507, and that are listed in APA standard 87-1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, or 3.5. Examples include, but are not limited to aerials, roman candles, bottle rockets, firecrackers, helicopter/aerial spinners, re-loadable shell devices, missile-type devices, single tube devices with report and other items that leave the ground. Consumer fireworks does not include low-impact fireworks.

(d) “Display Fireworks” means large fireworks devices and explosive materials intended for use in fireworks displays and designed to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation, as provided in 27 CFR 555.11, 49 CFR 172, and APA standard 87-1, 4.1.

(e) “Federal Holiday” is defined as:

- 1) New Year’s Day (January 1)
- 2) Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. (Third Monday in January)
- 3) Washington’s Birthday (Third Monday in February)
- 4) Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)
- 5) Juneteenth (June 19)
- 6) Independence Day (July 4)
- 7) Labor Day (First Monday in September)

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- 8) Veteran's Day (November 11)
- 9) Thanksgiving (Fourth Thursday in November)
- 10) Christmas Day (December 25)
- 11) New Years Eve (December 31)

(f) "Firework" or "fireworks" means any composition or device, except for a starting pistol, a flare gun, or a flare, designed for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation. Fireworks consist of consumer fireworks, low-impact fireworks, articles pyrotechnic, display fireworks, and special effects.

(g) "Low Impact Fireworks" means any ground-based and some handheld sparkling devices as that phrase is defined under APA standard 87-1, 3.1, 3.1.1.1 to 3.1.1.8, and 3.5.

(h) "Novelty fireworks" mean that term as defined under APA standard 87-1, 3.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, and 3.2.5 and all of the following:

- (i) Toy plastic or paper caps for toy pistols in sheets, strips, rolls, or individual caps containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive content per cap, in packages labeled to indicate the maximum explosive content per cap.
- (ii) Toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, toy trick noisemakers, and toy guns in which toy caps as described in subparagraph (i) are used, that are constructed so that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in place for the explosion, and that are designed to break apart or be separated so as to form a missile by the explosion.
- (iii) Flitter sparklers in paper tubes not exceeding 1/8 inch in diameter.
- (iv) Toy snakes not containing mercury, if packed in cardboard boxes with not more than 12 pieces per box for retail sale and if the manufacturer's name and the quantity contained in each box are printed on the box; and toy smoke devices.

(i) "Special Effects" means a combination of chemical elements or chemical compounds capable of burning independently of the oxygen of the atmosphere and designed and intended to produce an audible, visual, mechanical, or thermal effect as an integral part of a motion picture, radio, television, theatrical, or opera production or live entertainment.

(j) "Use of fireworks" means the ignition, discharge, and use of fireworks.

(k) "Person" means an individual, agent, association, charitable organization, company, Limited Liability Company, corporation, labor organization, legal representative, partnership, unincorporated organization, or any other legal or commercial entity.

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**Section 2. General Prohibition on Ignition, Discharge and Use of Consumer Fireworks and Chinese Lanterns:**

No person shall ignite, discharge, or use Chinese Lanterns within Hamilton Township at any time.

No person shall ignite, discharge, or use fireworks within Hamilton Township at any time, except that:

(a) A person shall not ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks between the hours of 11:45 p.m. and 11:00 a.m.

(b) **Federal Holiday** The use of consumer fireworks is permitted the day before, the day of, and the day after a Federal holiday between the hours of 11:00 a.m. (1100) and 11:45 p.m. (2345).

- December 31 until 1 a.m. on January 1.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days

(c) The use of low impact fireworks are permitted year-round.

**Section 3. Additional Prohibitions:**

(a) Chinese Lanterns are prohibited at all times.

(b) Consumer fireworks shall not be ignited, discharged, or used from any property without the owner or the legal representative's express written permission if the owner is not present.

(c) No fireworks shall be ignited, discharged, or used by a person under the influence

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of alcoholic liquor or a controlled substance or a combination of both.

(d) Any person who uses fireworks, shall be in compliance with all other applicable laws or ordinances.

**Section 4. Application and Site Plan:**

(a) Any person using fireworks shall be responsible for all shells or devices being fired or burned. In the event any shell does not explode, the person shall secure the area until the unexploded shell is found and properly disposed of.

(b) Smoking in an area where fireworks are being used is prohibited under NFPA 1124, 7.3.11.1 and is regulated by Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, Act 256 of 2011, Section 12(4)

(c) Nothing herein limits the liability of any individual for injury to any person or property, as a result of the use of fireworks, including any fire suppression costs incurred as a result of improper, careless or negligent use of fireworks.

**Section 5. Enforcement, Seizure of Fireworks and Penalties:**

(a) This ordinance may be enforced by the any sworn law enforcement officer.

(b) If an enforcing official determines that a violation of this Ordinance or the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act has occurred, the official may seize the fireworks as evidence of such violation.

(c) Any person who violates this Ordinance is guilty of a Municipal Civil Infraction which shall be punishable upon conviction thereof by a fine not exceeding \$500 at the discretion of the court.

(e) Upon conviction, or finding of responsibility, for a violation of this Ordinance, the Village may dispose of or destroy any consumer fireworks or low impact fireworks retained as evidence for prosecution of the violation.

(f) In addition to any other penalty provided herein, a person who is found responsible, for a violation of this Ordinance shall reimburse the Village for the costs of storing, disposing of, or destroying any consumer or low impact fireworks seized as provided for herein.

**Section 6. Repealer.**

Any and all ordinances and resolutions heretofore adopted inconsistent herewith are

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hereby repealed to the extent that the provisions thereof are inconsistent with the provisions hereof.

**Section 7. Severability**

The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section, or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 8. Savings.**

All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing, acquired, or incurred at the time this Ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law in force when they were commenced.

**Section 9. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after publication in the local newspaper.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_