Flagler Beach Fireworks and Parade Schedule on July 4

FlaglerLive

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Flagler Beach's epic fireworks show has been a city favorite roughly since the Middle Ages. Click on the image for larger view. (© FlaglerLive)

Independence Day fireworks in Flagler Beach this year–2012– will be held on Wednesday, July 4, at 9 p.m., off the Flagler Beach Pier, as always. Flagler Beach's Holiday Parade will begin at 10 a.m. The parade is sponsored by the Flagler Beach Rotary.

Unlike last year, this year's fireworks are attended neither by controversy nor the shadow of a burn ban: the fire danger is as low as it's been in years, registering–as of the morning of June 28–precisely 1 on the 800-scale drought index, which means the ground is fully saturated.

And this year Palm Coast will again have its own Independence Day fireworks show at Town Center's Central Park. That one will take place on Tuesday, July 3rd, at 9:30 p.m. It will be preceded by a five-hour party around the lake, with music, games, beer, burgers and hot dogs, hosted by the Flagler County Rotary and Beach 92, the Palm Coast radio station. There is no gate fee. Bring your own cooler, fill it with beer and other drinks: that, too, is allowed. Brink chairs, bring blankets, bring a few dozen shades of gray as long as you're at it.

Palm Coast first held a fireworks show of its own in 2010. Last year's show was cancelled because of the burn ban. The Palm Coast fireworks are never scheduled on the same day as Flagler Beach's so as to preserve the iconic nature of the beach town's signature event.

The fireworks had been cancelled last year by order of the Flagler County Commission on June 20. The commission reversed itself on July 1 after much politicking and allowed the Flagler Beach fireworks to go on–but *only* the Flagler Beach fireworks.

Flagler Beach Parade and Other Activities

Line-up or staging takes place on Daytona Avenue North between 8 and 10 a.m.

The parade route: east on North 6th Street, south on A1A, west on S. 6th Street, north on South Daytona Avenue. The parade will take place, rain or shine. (If there's heavy rain at 9 p.m., fireworks won't go off.)

Parade awards, sponsored by the Flagler Beach Rotary Club, include "Best of Parade," "Most Original," "Best Marching Unit" and" Best Depicting Theme." Judging takes place before the parade. Trophies are awarded in Veteran's Park immediately following the parade. (The entry deadline for the parade is Friday, June 29. Here's the entry form.)

Many other activities will follow, including, at 1 p.m., the Fourth Annual Tiny Tiki & Lil' Kahuna when, in the words of the chamber's Gretchen Smith, "some of the cutest 3- to 5-year-old kids you've ever seen dance the hula, strike a favorite 'surfing pose' and otherwise ham it up for the audience. Every child who participates is a winner and leaves with a goody bag. (Please note advanced registration is necessary before the June 22 deadline. Registration will be limited to 20 boys and 20 girls.)" The day's events are hosted by Flagler Beach and the Flagler Beach Chamber of Commerce.

An important traffic note from Flagler County Assist REACT: "For those going to the July 4th Flagler Beach Fireworks please note that right after the fireworks traffic approaching State Road 100 from the north and south will likely be forced west on SR 100 by the Police. This is the fastest way to clear traffic out of the city. No exceptions are made. If you must keep going north or south, plan to head west on State Road 100 to the first place you can turn around and then head back to A1A. Please plan accordingly or avoid the area. As soon as the worst of the traffic is cleared it will go back to normal. Typically this is between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m."

Here's the day's full line-up for Wednesday, July 4, 2012:

10 a.m. Independence Day Parade
11 a.m. Cornhole Competition
12 p.m. Watermelon Eatin' Contest
1 p.m. Tiny Tiki/Lil' Kahuna Event
1:45 p.m. Hot Dog Eating Competition
2 p.m. Battle of the Bands
9 p.m. Fireworks

Parking, as always in Flagler Beach, is catch as catch can.

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