

## Flagler Beach Fireworks Scheduled for July 4, Palm Coast on July 3

FlaglerLive



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

*Last Updated: 6:10 p.m., July 4, 2014.*

**Weather Note:** as of 6 p.m. on July 4, the fireworks in Flagler Beach were ON for 9:30 p.m., though the weather forecast was pointing to possible periods of heavy rain until then.

Independence Day fireworks in Flagler Beach this year—2014— will be held on Friday, July 4, at 9:30 p.m., off the Flagler Beach Pier. Flagler Beach's Holiday Parade will begin at 10 a.m., rain or shine. The parade is sponsored by the Flagler Beach Rotary. You can download a [parade entry form here](#).

Palm Coast fireworks are scheduled for Thursday, July 3, at Central Park in Town Center, at 9 p.m. See further below for details.

Flagler Beach will be hosting a two-day celebration Friday and Saturday, with vendor registration on July 3 from 3 to 7 p.m. As was the case last year, Flagler Beach city government will be running the event. Before 2013, the event was organized by the Flagler County Chamber of Commerce and Affiliates. City staffers and city commissioners have teamed up to bring dozens of vendors and some \$16,000 in fees and sponsorships. The vendors will be lined up in the core section of Flagler Beach over the three-day event.

Independence Day events on July 4 will focus on the traditional children's and musical activities around Veterans' Park. July 4 this year coincides with Flagler Beach's monthly First Friday celebration. Veterans Park will fill with musical performances and a kids' zone, culminating with a concert by the 40-piece U.S. Navy Band at 5:30 p.m. and more live music from the 7th Street band before and after the fireworks.

Saturday will follow a similar pattern, with music, vendors and children's activities, along with children's sixth annual [Rain Gutter Regatta](#) from 10 a.m. to noon. You can download the [regatta rules here](#).

A DJ will keep the music going from noon to 4 p.m., with music by Jim Lamb after that.

**Palm Coast will have its own Independence Day fireworks** show at Town Center's Central Park. That one will take place on Thursday, July 3, at 9 p.m. It will be preceded by a party around the lake, with music, games, beer, burgers and hot dogs, hosted by the Flagler Education Foundation, and Beach 92.7 FM and Kix Country 98.7 FM, the Palm Coast radio stations.

Uniquely for a Palm Coast event, there is no gate fee, no parking fees, no seating fee. Bring your own cooler, fill it with beer and other drinks: that, too, is allowed. Bring chairs, bring blankets, bring your pop-up tent, bring your favorite Anthony Trollope novel.

Because of construction on Bulldog Drive, there are some changes to parking this year. But while the city initially announced that the location from which the fireworks would be ignited was changing this year, along with parking areas, the city reversed that decision on July 1, issuing the following statement:

"The launch location of the City of Palm Coast's July 3 fireworks celebration is moving back to the traditional fireworks launch area just northeast of Central Park. The Fireworks in the Park display will begin at 9 p.m. this Thursday, July 3. The best viewing area will be at Central Park, 975 Central Avenue, and along Central Avenue near the park. Central Park can be accessed via Central Avenue – from Belle Terre Parkway or Town Center Boulevard (off SR100)." Bulldog Drive will remain closed. "Parking and viewing will not be available at Flagler Palm Coast High School as previously announced. The City had previously planned to move the fireworks launch location to Bulldog Drive this year, but that was changed Tuesday due to concerns about the proximity to the Flagler Airport."

Central Park can be accessed from Central Avenue – from Belle Terre Parkway or Town Center Boulevard (off SR100). Once all parking at the the park and the area around park has been filled, vehicles will no longer be allowed into the Central Park area.

Pre-fireworks family fun will be provided by the Flagler Education Foundation from 5-9 p.m. at Central Park. The evening will include live entertainment, family fun and games, free prizes, music, dancing and a cookout, a frozen T-shirt contests, whipped cream battles and other games.

The Fireworks in the Park celebration is produced by Palm Coast, Flagler Education Foundation, and Beach 92.7, with the fireworks funded by a grant from the county's Tourist Development Council. Proceeds from the pre-fireworks event will benefit Flagler School programs and scholarships.

The fireworks show begins at 9 p.m., with patriotic music broadcast on Beach 92.7. While most people will gather at Central Park, thousands of others can see the fireworks from area parking lots and backyards.

Sponsors and exhibitors for the pre-fireworks event are being coordinated by Beach 92.7; contact Greg Otte at 386/437-1992, Ext. 218, for more information. Food and drink vendors should contact Deborah Williams at the Flagler Education Foundation at 386/437-7526, Ext. 3125.

For more information about Fireworks in the Park, contact Palm Coast Parks and Recreation at 386/986-2323.

Palm Coast first held [a fireworks show of its own in 2010](#). 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.

Palm Coast also has a July 4 event: On Thursday, it will hold its "By Dawn's Early Light" ceremony at 8 a.m. at Heroes Memorial Park, 2860 Palm Coast Pkwy, near the Flagler County Library. Guest speakers will be Ted St. Pierre, past president of the Sons of the American Revolution, Flagler Chapter, and Palm Coast Mayor Jon Netts. Others will read parts of the Declaration of Independence.

The Palm Coast Community Band will perform The Star-Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful. Flagler County Sheriff's Office Deputy Kenny Goncalves will sing God Bless America. The presentation of colors will be done by the Palm Coast Fire Department Honor Guard.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at nearby Fire Station 21, 9 Corporate Drive.

### **Flagler Beach Parade and Other Activities**

Parade 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.

Many other activities will follow, including, at 1 p.m., the Fourth Annual Tiny Tiki & Lil' Kahuna when 3- to 5-year-old will 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. (Registration is limited to 20 boys and 20 girls.)

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

**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 p.m. and 11 p.m."

### **A Note on Private Fireworks:**

While fireworks are sold in Florida, it is illegal for people without a permit to set off fireworks other than sparklers. The rule comes down to this: "If it leaves the ground where it explodes, it's considered an illegal firework in the state of Florida," says Palm Coast Fire Chief Mike Beadle. That also applies to firecrackers that go boom.

Exceptions apply in narrow circumstances, as when farmers use firecrackers to scare off birds and protect vegetation or fisheries, says Palm Coast Fire Marshal Jeff Pattee. Palm Coast passed its own ordinance setting out restrictions and prohibitions on fireworks. That ordinance, Pattee said, is almost identical to state law on the matter. That law [may be read here](#).





Click on the image for larger view. (© FlaglerLive)

**Note:** the comments below archive comments from previous editions of Independence Day fireworks schedules.