



**MORE EVENTS, MORE DETAILS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2018 WAWA WELCOME AMERICA FESTIVAL
THURSDAY, JUNE 28 – WEDNESDAY, JULY 4**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Philadelphia, PA (JUNE 21, 2018) – Welcome America, Inc. and the City of Philadelphia announce more events and new details for the **2018 Wawa Welcome America** seven-day Independence Day festival Thursday, June 28 through Wednesday, July 4. *Wawa Welcome America* celebrates American history, education and Philadelphia. The 2018 festival will encompass 50 free, all-ages, patriotic events in Center City, the Historic District, in Philadelphia’s diverse neighborhoods and Valley Forge. The festival concludes with 12 hours of non-stop commemorations and celebrations on July 4th. The theme of this year’s *Wawa Welcome America* is “Welcoming the World with Love.”

NEW PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Pitbull “Time of Your Life” Tour: Grammy® Award-winning artist and *Wawa Welcome America* 2018 headliner, Pitbull, will be performing the entire 75-minute set from his wildly popular “Time of Your Life” tour at Philadelphia’s iconic July 4th Concert on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. *Wednesday, July 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. (televised on NBC10)*

Chill Moody: Catch three performances by Philadelphia native, Chill Moody!

- Summer Love Launch Party in the City Hall Courtyard: Hosted by Chill Moody and DJ Hank McCoy, Chill has curated a “Summer Love” playlist exclusively for this event. *Thursday, June 28 from 3 to 7 p.m.*
- SugarHouse Casino’s Red, White & Brew Fest at Fishtown Hops: Chill Moody will perform with a full band. *Saturday, June 30 from 5 to 9 p.m.*
- Party on the Parkway on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway: The “Chill Moody Stage” will feature 15 of Philly’s next up, breakthrough talent curated by Philadelphia’s Music Ambassador Chill Moody. *Wednesday, July 4 from 12 to 5 p.m.*

Viva Mas: The Philadelphia born group will bring their Latin rhythms to the stage alongside The Philly POPS® Big Band during the July 4th Concert & Fireworks. Don’t miss their soulful music performed in both Spanish and English! *Wednesday, July 4 from 7 to 10 p.m. (televised on NBC10)*

DJ Diamond Kuts: Philly’s own DJ Diamond Kuts will get the party started at the July 4th Concert & Fireworks with a special pre-show set on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. *Wednesday, July 4 from 6 to 7 p.m.*

Philadelphia's Talented Performers: This year, *Wawa Welcome America* will feature more talented Philadelphians than ever before! Cheer on your neighbors at the following events:

- Historic Block Party at Independence Mall, featuring 75 local performers *Tuesday, July 3 from 12 to 7 p.m.*
- The United States of America's Independence Day Parade at Independence Mall, featuring 2,500 local performers and 40 local groups *Wednesday, July 4 from 11 am to 12:45 p.m.*
- Party on the Parkway's Groove Stage will feature 50 local performers and the Kids Zone will feature 60 local performers on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway *Wednesday, July 4 from 12 to 5 p.m.*
- The July 4th Community Picnic in the Park at the Visitor Center at Valley Forge National Historical Park will feature 50 local performers *Wednesday, July 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

MORE TO DO AND IT'S ALL FREE

Summer Love Launch Party: Produced in partnership with *Wawa Welcome America*; the Office of Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy; the Office of the City Representative; and Center City District everyone's invited to City Hall for the first party of the *Wawa Welcome America* festival. Enjoy music curated by Philly's own Chill Moody and spun by DJ Hank McCoy in the City Hall Courtyard. Festivities include dancing, performances from the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts, games like cornhole and giant Jenga, giveaways, food trucks and a beer garden. Bring your selfie game to the patriotic photo booth and share what you love about summer in Philly using the hashtag #July4thPhilly. Presented by Wells Fargo.

Also, during the Summer Love Launch Party, visit the Neighborhood Arts Celebration at Dilworth Park. Enjoy non-stop entertainment on multiple stages celebrating Philadelphia artists and neighborhoods along with food and drink. Beat the heat with refreshing summer cocktails and cold beers while sitting outside at the Dilworth Park Café and Air Grille. *Thursday, June 28 from 3 to 8 p.m.*

A Celebration of Community and Culture at Mifflin Park: Celebrate what it means to be a Philadelphian at Mifflin Park. Enjoy local food trucks or BYO-BBQ and learn about the cultures and communities that make up Philadelphia. *Friday, June 29 from 5 to 7 p.m.*

Red White & Blue Happy Hours: Guests over age 21 can indulge in tasty food, crafty cocktails and dynamic entertainment at the return of Red, White & Blue Happy Hours. Attendees will have the chance to enter to win tickets for the special guest seating area at the July 4th Concert and Fireworks on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway starring Pitbull.

Friday, June 29 from 5 to 7 p.m.

- **The Beer Garden at the Bourse** – Come out to enjoy the pop-up Beer Garden at The Bourse, operated by BRÛ Craft & Wurst, will be located on the steps of the building and will feature \$7 draft brews and \$10 custom frozen concoctions courtesy of Bluebird Distilling.
- **The Piazza at Schmidt's Commons Beer-BQ** – Enjoy lawn games and the sounds of DJ Christian Lucas, Craig Dash, Rebel Foster with special guest from TX DJ Souljah. Feast upon BBQ from Mike's BBQ, Donuts NV (hot donuts and fresh lemonade), Mac n' Mari, cocktail specials from Gunners Run and beer from Urban Village Brewing Company. Come early and claim a spot for the Philly @ the Movies screening of *E.T.* at 8 p.m.

- **Capriccio at Café Cret** – Fit Fest Happy Hour sponsored by Barefoot Wine and hosted by Alexis Rose of ARX Fitness includes music, Beyoncé inspired moves and of course Rosé! This is a preview of the Orangetheory Freedom Fit Fest supported by US Army at the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Sunday, July 1.
- **Sonesta ARTBAR** – Sip on inspired cocktails and experience unique bites while admiring the Sonesta Hotel’s art display.
- **Admiral’s Tavern at Independence Seaport Museum** – Kick back and unwind on the National Historic Ship, Cruiser Olympia, with stunning views of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge and waterfront with a craft beer in hand.

Monday, July 2 from 5 to 7 p.m.

- **The Deck @ the Moshulu** – Enjoy a signature cocktail waterside with spectacular views of Philadelphia and the waterfront.
- **Founding Farmers** (King of Prussia) – Venture out to King of Prussia and enjoy this farm fresh favorite. Travel back in time and cheers with George Washington.
- **Cuba Libre** – Put your dancing shoes on and get ready to spice up your night with live music by the Cintron Latin Trio. Including representatives from Stonewall Sports, a non-profit community sports organization focused on providing safe spaces for LGBTQIA individuals to play intramural sports.
- **Sofitel Liberté Blue** – Enjoy this urban chic outdoor lounge featuring Bluecoat Gin based cocktails and a side of people watching.

SugarHouse Casino Red, White and Brew Fest: Experience a patriotic night full of food, drinks and entertainment at SugarHouse Casino’s Fishtown Hops. Philadelphia's own Chill Moody will be providing musical entertainment all night long. Enjoy his signature beer with Dock Street, nicethings IPA, at the bar and pair it with one of Fishtown Hops delicious appetizers. At 5:45, 6:45 and 7:45 p.m., head out to the parking lot to be amazed by a performance from the legendary XPogo Stunt Team featuring championship pro athletes flying over 10-feet in the air on extreme pogo sticks throwing down flips and incredible tricks. Saturday, June 30 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Wells Fargo’s Citywide Reading Locations: Hundreds of FREE books and the Global Philadelphia Coloring Book will be distributed during readings at select branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia Monday, July 2 at 12 p.m.

- Thomas F. Donatucci, Sr. Library, 1935 Shunk Street
- Logan Library, 1333 Wagner Avenue
- Lawncrest Library, 6098 Rising Sun Avenue
- Haddington Library, 446 North 65th Street

Premier Independence Day Parade: Don’t miss the United States of America’s Independence Day Parade supported by Pep Boys, the ONLY Independence Day Parade to process in front of Independence Hall! This year’s parade will depict the constitution, featuring a wide range of groups and floats from seven states, including: Maine, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Wednesday, July 4 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Party on the Parkway Experience: Celebrate the 4th of July on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway with food, fun and FREE entertainment for all ages. The day will feature a packed schedule of musical performances, food trucks, craft beer gardens, jumbotrons, games, a zip-line and a kid's zone!

Wednesday, July 4 from 12 to 10 p.m.

FIREWORK SOUNDTRACKS

Two Nights of Fireworks: The biggest *Wawa Welcome America* fireworks shows in a decade will be themed around love.

- **Saturday, June 30 at 9:30 p.m. on the Delaware River Waterfront**
Celebrate the Human Spirit – Life's highs, lows, decisions and celebrations serve as the motivation behind the fireworks show over the Delaware River that opens with Beyoncé's "Crazy In Love" followed by "Hey Brother" by Avicii. Next is "Don't Look Down" by Martin Garrix and "RISE" by Katy Perry. Then "Just Like Fire" by P!NK is followed by "Beautiful Now" by Zedd and "Red Lights" by Tiesto. The show closes with "America The Beautiful" by the Mississippi Mas Choir. Best waterfront views include the official viewing areas at the Moshulu, the Battleship New Jersey, One Liberty Observation Deck and Sugarhouse Casino. Presented by NBCUniversal and Pyrotecnico with support by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation.
- **Wednesday, July 4 at 9:30 p.m. on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway**
L-O-V-E – This fireworks show is filled with love and opens with a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King and a portion of the "Star Spangled Banner" performed by Jennifer Hudson. The first love song is "L-O-V-E" performed by Natalie Cole, and the letters L-O-V-E will be illuminated in fireworks. Next is "Love Train" by the "O-JAY's" followed by "Believe" by Cher. Then "Love On The Brain" by Rihanna followed by "What About Us" by P!NK, "Love Me Now" by John Legend, and "I will always Love You" performed by Heather Headley. The show closes with "Motown Philly" by Boyz II Men and the fast paced and exciting "Dance Again" by Jennifer Lopez and Pitbull. The July 4th fireworks show is presented by NBCUniversal and Pyrotecnico.

For more details on these and the 50 free events already announced visit WelcomeAmerica.com.

Join the conversation at:

- Facebook – [Facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica)
- Twitter – [Twitter.com/July4thPhilly](https://twitter.com/July4thPhilly)
- Instagram – [Instagram.com/July4thPhilly](https://www.instagram.com/July4thPhilly)

About Welcome America, Inc.

Welcome America, Inc. is a 501c3, non-profit organization in public-private partnership with the City of Philadelphia. Welcome America, Inc.'s mission is to promote American history, education and Philadelphia. The organization seeks to enhance the resident and visitor experience through citywide events that provide an economic boost to the local economy. Moving forward, Welcome America, Inc. may produce and assist in the growth of select city events year-round.

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