

*****To help avoid heat-related issues, those attending Wawa Welcome America events should remember too follow these Safety Tips: <https://welcomeamerica.com/guides/safety-tips/>**

There are also many indoor, air-conditioned events visitors can enjoy.****



MEDIA ALERT!

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 *WAWA WELCOME AMERICA* FREE FESTIVAL EVENTS:
FREE MUSEUM DAY, CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM CEREMONY, UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE, THE 4TH OF JULY
COMMUNITY PICNIC IN THE PARK, TERMINI'S BIRTHDAY PARTY,
NATURALIZATION CEREMONY, PARTY ON THE PARKWAY, WAWA WELCOME
AMERICA JULY 4TH CONCERT & FIREWORKS, AND SAND SCULPTURE
SPECTACULAR**

WHAT: Sand Sculpture Spectacular (display)

WHEN: **9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

WHERE: The Rotunda at The Shoppes at Liberty Place
1625 Chestnut St.

**MEDIA
CONTACT:** April McPhatter
amcphatter@shopsatliberty.com

TV PARKING: On street, Chestnut or Market Streets, between 16th and 17th Streets, in
curb lane.

WHAT: Free Museum Day at the National Museum of Jewish American
History

Eighteen of Philadelphia's museums and cultural institutions will open their doors free of charge (or an optional pay what you wish) during *Wawa Welcome America*. Courtesy of each museum and institution. The National Museum of American Jewish History, on Independence Mall in Philadelphia, presents educational programs and experiences that preserve, explore, and celebrate the history of Jews in America. **Free admission. No ticket required.**

WHEN: **Wednesday, July 4 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

WHERE: National Museum of Jewish American History
101 S Independence Mall E, Philadelphia, PA 19106

MEDIA

CONTACT: Alyssa Stuble
Astuble@nmajh.org
215-923-3811 x144

Rachel Urkowitz
rurkowitz@nmajh.org
215-923-3811 x153

TV PARKING: For most of the various daylong activities in the historic district, TV vehicles can park in this location on 6th Street.

WHAT: Welcome America Celebration of Freedom Ceremony
The City of Philadelphia's Office of the City Representative and Independence National Historical Park will present the *Celebration of Freedom Ceremony* at Independence Hall where The Philly POPS will be honored for their 40-year history in Philadelphia and their contributions to education in schools. Mayor Kenney will present **The Magis Award**. The Wawa Foundation will present **The Wawa Foundation Hero Award**, totaling \$80,000 to four non-profit organizations committed to serving the Greater Philadelphia area.

WHEN: **10 a.m. - 11 a.m.**
(Mayor Jim Kenney is scheduled to speak and present the Magis Award)

WHERE: Independence Hall
520 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19106

MEDIA

CONTACT: Kellianne Nicholas
kellianne@welcomeamerica.com
215-760-2377

TV PARKING: Beginning 7 a.m., east side of 6th St., between Ranstead and Market streets. TV vehicles can park near procession of production vehicles of event broadcast sponsor, NBC10/ Telemundo62.
NOTE: For most of the various daylong activities in the historic district, TV vehicles can park in this location on 6th Street.

WHAT: United States of America Independence Day Parade
Kicking off at Independence Hall immediately following the Celebration of Freedom Ceremony, 4,000 marchers, floats and celebrities will parade through Historic Philadelphia during the patriotic United States of America's Independence Day Parade. Supported by Pep Boys.

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

WHERE: S. 5th St. & Chestnut St.

MEDIA

CONTACT: Kellianne Nicholas
kellianne@welcomeamerica.com
215-760-2377

TV PARKING: Beginning 7 a.m., east side of 6th St., between Ranstead and Market streets. TV vehicles can park near procession of production vehicles of event broadcast sponsor, NBC10/ Telemundo62.
NOTE: For most of the various daylong activities in the historic district, TV vehicles can park in this location on 6th Street.

WHAT: The 4th of July Community Picnic in the Park

Expanding *Wawa Welcome America* beyond Philadelphia for the first time, Valley Forge National Historical Park will host an all-American outdoor picnic and BBQ with live music. Kids can join the Continental Army, play interactive “Secrets & Spies” games, make arts and crafts and more. Live storytellers, demonstrations and tours of the park bring the history of Valley Forge to life. Presented by Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board.

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WHERE: Valley Forge National Historical Park
1400 N Outer Line Dr, King of Prussia, PA 19406

MEDIA

CONTACT: Jonathan Parker
jonathan_parker@nps.gov
610-342-5182

TV PARKING: Media parking was not organized through the festival. Please contact Valley Forge National Historical Park for approved media parking.

WHAT: 7th Annual Birthday Party Hosted By Betsy Ross and Termini Bros. Bakery
7th Annual Birthday Party at the Independence Visitor Center hosted by Betsy Ross and Termini Bros. Bakery. A spectacular five-tier cake will be decorated on site by Termini Brothers; 2,500 red, white and blue cupcakes will be arranged in the shape of a flag; Betsy Ross, accompanied by a fife and drum will lead visitors in singing “Happy Birthday”.

WHEN: 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

WHERE: Independence Visitor Center
599 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19106

CONTACT: Nicole Woods, IVCC
nwoods@phlvisitorcenter.com
484-343-0057

TV PARKING: For most of the various daylong activities in the historic district, TV vehicles can park on the east side of 6th Street.

WHAT: Naturalization Ceremony
Thirteen children will take the Oath of Citizenship during the Children's Naturalization Ceremony, sponsored by the Flag House Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Betsy Ross House at 1:30 p.m.

WHEN: **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
(Mayor Jim Kenney is scheduled to speak at 1:30pm.)

WHERE: Betsy Ross House
239 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19106

MEDIA CONTACT: Heather Kincade
heather@historicphiladelphia.org
267-278-1505

TV PARKING: For most of the various daylong activities in the historic district, TV vehicles can park on the east side of 6th Street.

WHAT: Party On The Parkway
Families can enjoy five blocks of free entertainment, food and fun including an interactive kid's area featuring a zip-line, games, activities and more. The 21+ crowd can kick back and relax in two beer gardens featuring a wide selection of brews, ciders and Barefoot Wine, and all can enjoy interactive fitness activities with the U.S. Army, art from Photo Pop Philly, and diverse food and music from the PA Lottery Philly Groove stage and Chill Moody stage featuring local up-and-coming artists on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

WHEN: **12 p.m. - 10 p.m.**

WHERE: Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA

MEDIA

CONTACT: Kellianne Nicholas
kellianne@welcomeamerica.com
215-760-2377

TV PARKING: Only available for authorized pre-approved marked TV vehicles, at north curb lane of Eakins Oval, between Spring Garden St. and 23rd Streets. Approved vehicles should begin parking at 12:30 (through 1:15 p.m. only) at the Eakins Oval location, but first must enter at designated Security Checkpoint at 25th Street and Kelly Drive.

WHAT: Wawa Welcome America July 4th Concert & Fireworks
Grammy® winning global superstar, business entrepreneur and community icon Pitbull headlines the *Wawa Welcome America July 4th Concert* for the first time. The free, three-hour extravaganza also features The Philly POPS® BIG Band joined by Grammy Award Winning R&B, Gospel and Broadway Star Heather Headley, Philly's own Viva Mas and R&B singers Tiffany Jones, Alita Moses, and Desahanna Wooden. ***Mayor Jim Kenney is scheduled to attend.***

WHEN: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

WHERE: Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA

MEDIA

CONTACT: Kellianne Nicholas
kellianne@welcomeamerica.com
215-760-2377

TV PARKING:

- **TV VEHICLE PARKING (ONLY):** Only available for authorized pre-approved marked TV vehicles, at north curb lane of Eakins Oval, between Spring Garden St. and 23rd Streets. Approved vehicles should begin parking at 12:30 (through 1:15 p.m. only) at the Eakins Oval location, but first must enter at designated Security Checkpoint at 25th Street and Kelly Drive.

- MEDIA AREA AND CHECK-IN: Concert check-in officially opens at 4 p.m. next to north curb lane of Eakins Oval, between Spring Garden and 23rd streets, on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway (on grass area), for the start of the concert. The area is labeled D-1, with a pole sign or marker.
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About Wawa Welcome America

Wawa Welcome America is a seven-day festival taking place Thursday, June 28 through Wednesday, July 4 that 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."

For more information, visit WelcomeAmerica.com. Join the conversation at:

- Facebook – Facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica
- Twitter – Twitter.com/July4thPhilly
- Instagram – Instagram.com/July4thPhilly

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