

## Valparaiso Partners with Family Express for 4<sup>th</sup> of July Freedom Celebration

The City of Valparaiso has announced that it will partner with Family Express to host the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> of July Freedom Celebration, modifying the event and expanding the outdoor events to several locations to provide options for families and to allow for social distancing. “Family Express is an ideal partner for this community event. Not only are they a supportive community-minded company, but they’ve been providing valuable industry leadership in hygiene and safety throughout the coronavirus pandemic,” said Mayor Matt Murphy. “We’re pleased to have their support in guiding safety and supporting our celebration for the 4<sup>th</sup>,” he said.

To enhance safety for Valpo’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, the City is offering a number of locations and events throughout the day so that people can choose how and where they’d like to celebrate. Venues will have hand sanitizer and hand wash stations available, as well as masks and abundant portable restrooms.

Further, to add safety, the fireworks and downtown concert events are being restricted by offering a limited number of free tickets so safe, social distancing may be maintained. When ticket limits have been reached, ticket distribution will be closed. However, the fireworks will also be visible beyond the ticketed area as well as live streamed for universal viewing. In addition to the following scheduled activities, downtown businesses will be offering specials as part of a Lift Up Valpo campaign.

Here is the schedule for the day:

- 7:30 am** 4<sup>th</sup> of July Blast 5K and 2K Run/Walk with staggered start to allow for social distancing between athletes. For sign-up details, visit [ValpoParks.org](http://ValpoParks.org)
- 10 am** *Lift Up Valpo* Parade downtown, including Valpo businesses, first responders and others. The parade will be all vehicles and contactless, similar to the recent successful Valparaiso High School graduation parade. The route will begin at Valparaiso High School, heading south on Campbell, east on Lincolnway and ending at Morgan.
- 8 am to 1pm** Valparaiso Market featuring local farmers and artisans at the William E. Urschel Pavilion at Central Park Plaza
- 8:30 pm to 10 pm** FREE Concert (tickets required) featuring the Crawpuppies at the Porter Health Amphitheater at Central Park Plaza, hosted by Valparaiso Events. **Limited free tickets** will be available starting at noon on June 25. For details, visit [ValparaisoEvents.com](http://ValparaisoEvents.com)
- 9 pm** FREE fireworks (**tickets required**) at Urschel Field, hosted by Valpo Parks. Gates open at 7:30 pm. Note that no food or musical entertainment will be available on site, but the fireworks will be choreographed to music.

**Limited free tickets** will be available and restricted to those who live within the City limits of Valparaiso -- **available on a first-come, first-served** basis at a ticket pick-up event at the William E. Urschel Pavilion, 63 Lafayette St. on June 24 from 6 pm until “sold out.” Please bring proof of Valparaiso address and be aware that there will be a 6-ticket limit per address.

The fireworks will also be live-streamed so others may enjoy remotely. For a link to the stream, visit the city’s Facebook page at Valparaiso Now.

A rain date for the fireworks has been set for Sunday, July 5 in case of inclement weather. Remaining events will not be rescheduled due to weather.