

Valparaiso Confirms 4th of July Celebration Plans

The City of Valparaiso has confirmed that its 4th of July plans remain as scheduled in accordance with Governor Eric Holcomb's revisions to Stage 5 reopening plans. "We agree with Governor Holcomb's guidance in modifying re-opening plans. We're also grateful that our 4th of July plans are all outdoors and able to proceed without alteration," said Valparaiso Mayor Matt Murphy. "We've taken precautions to limit crowd sizes and expand venues to multiple locations, giving people many options to enjoy the day," he said.

Valparaiso is partnering with Family Express to host the day's celebration. "We're pleased to have such a supportive community-minded partner and one who is very committed to hygiene and health," said Murphy.

To enhance safety for Valpo's 4th 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, which have been fully distributed in successful online and in-person offerings. 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** 4th 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
- 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. For details, visit ValparaisoEvents.com
- 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** were distributed online. For details, visit 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** were distributed in an in-person ticket event. 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.