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Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation Welcomes Visitors with Extended Holiday Hours & Summer Events

June 24, 2024 (PHILADELPHIA)—The <u>Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation</u> ("the Visitor Center") today announced its extended operating hours, closures, and key summer happenings ahead of the July 4th holiday. The updates come as the Visitor Center prepares to welcome visitors attending a series of vibrant events to celebrate Independence Day at the Birthplace of America.

In anticipation of increased visitation during the city-wide Wawa Welcome America festival (June 19-July 4) and the Historic District's inaugural Red, White, & Blue To-Do (July 2), the Visitor Center is extending its operating hours to provide visitors with access to all the city has to offer—maps, activities, tickets, reservations, and opportunities.

"There is no better place to celebrate Independence Day than in America's most historic square mile," s said Kathryn Ott Lovell, President and CEO, Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation. "Whether you're visiting Philly from South Jersey or South America, the Visitor Center is your first stop for a fun, festive and cool Philly 4th of July!"

In partnership with Art Star, the Visitor Center will host a **Red White and Blue Craft Market** on July 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring unique gifts and souvenirs crafted by local artists and artisans.

The Visitor Center's extended hours, events, and happenings include:

Upcoming Extended Hours and Closures

- Independence Visitor Center now open daily until 6 pm through Labor Now
 - o June 30: Extended hours 9 a.m.- 9:30 p.m. (Visitor Desk Closes at 7 p.m.)
 - O July 1-2: Extended hours 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
 - o **July 3:** Extended hours 9 a.m.- 9:30 p.m. (Visitor Desk Closes at 7 p.m.)
 - o **July 4-5:** Extended hours 9 a.m.-7 p.m.



- Parkway Visitor Center and Rocky Shop now open 7 days a week! Sun Thurs 10 a.m. 5
 p.m.; Fri and Sat 10 a.m. 7 p.m.
 - June 26: Extended hours 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. (Rocky Movie Night at The Rocky Shop in partnership with Wawa Welcome America)
 - July 4: Closed
- City Hall Visitor Center

July 19: ClosedJuly 4: Closed

- PHLASH Visitor Public Transit Service operates daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - o July 4: No PHLASH service

Key Summer Events

Red, White, & Blue To-Do (July 2)

- July 2 Schedule of Events
 - 9-11 a.m.: The fun begins with flag raisings, museums and historic sites openings, special recognitions, and Children's Naturalization Ceremony at the Betsy Ross House (9 a.m.)
 - 11 a.m.-4 p.m.: Red, White, & Blue To-Do Craft Market at Independence Visitor Center (North End)
 - 11 a.m.: Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade kicks off at the National Constitution Center, traveling along Independence Mall.
 - o 11 a.m.-3 p.m.: Welcome America's Go 4th & Learn: Carpenters' Hall 250th Anniversary
 - Noon: Parade arrives at the end point at Carpenters' Hall
 - 2-5 p.m.: Musical performances at four locations throughout the Historic District
 - 4-7 p.m.: Extended hours and special events at various historic sites and food and drink specials throughout Old City

Wawa Welcome America (June 19-July 4)

- June 24: Declaration House Block Party, 4-7 p.m.
- June 26: Rocky Movie Night at The Rocky Shop, 6-10 p.m.
- June 27: Wawa Hoagie Day
- June 30: Gospel on Independence
- July 3: LeAnn Rimes & US Army Field Band Concert, 7-9 p.m.
- July 4: Salute to Independence Parade, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- July 4: Celebration of Freedom Ceremony on Independence Lawn, 10 a.m.



• **July 4:** July 4th Concert and Fireworks at 7:00 p.m. (Benjamin Franklin Parkway)

About the Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation:

The Philadelphia Visitor Center Corporation (PVCC) connects visitors to memorable, authentic, and fun Philly experiences at our four visitor center locations: 6th and Market, City Hall, Love Park, and the Parkway. It facilitates the operation of the Independence Visitor Center, the primary point of orientation for Independence National Historical Park and the official visitor center of the Philadelphia region, including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. PVCC also operates the Philly PHLASH seasonal public transit service, and The Liberty View, a private event space at The Independence Visitor Center overlooking the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall. For more information, please visit www.phlvisitorcenter.com.

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