

HOME OF THE BRAVE

★ SINCE 1776 ★



Evanston's 4th of July Celebration

EVENTS PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026





Helping Organizations Tell Their Story for 39 Years.

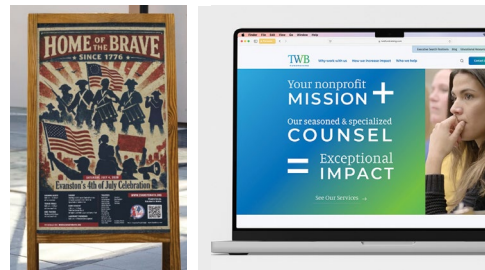
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This year's Fourth of July program was designed by our Evanston team.



(847) 328-1648 1515 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

2026 EVANSTON FOURTH OF JULY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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MORNING GAMES

Starting at 9:00 am at five locations:
Lincolnwood School, Willard School, Kamen Park, Baker Park, Robert Crown.

KIDS FUN RUN

Starting at 12:45 pm
For kids 10 and under. Starting at Ackerman Park, Central St and McDaniel Ave.

TENNIS FINALS

8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Ackerman Park
Managed by the Evanston Community Tennis Association
www.evanstontennis.org

PARADE

Starting at 2:00 pm
Begins at Central Park Ave.
it travels east on Central St.
to Ryan Field at Ashland Ave.

BAND CONCERT

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Palatine Concert Band
Arrington Lakefront Lagoon at Dawes Park

LAKEFRONT FIREWORKS

9:30 pm A Musical Extravaganza!

**SUPPORT THE EVANSTON
FOURTH OF JULY ASSOCIATION**





Message From The President

We The People have sustained 250 years of independence through glory and shame, success and failure, yet remain a beacon of hope for all. Our theme **Home Of The Brave Since 1776** was chosen because there's a need to be brave today. Our nation is meant to be the unification of liberty, individualism & free enterprise. Each of us must be willing to help each other and take responsibility for doing better. The system may seem damaged and broken but the common goals of justice, freedom and equality for all are only available to a free people. The vision is clear, yet the goals are unfinished. May you find your place to serve.

Consider this. We need help. We need volunteers. We need money. The Evanston Fourth of July Association is a volunteer, nonprofit organization working in tandem with the City of Evanston. For over 100 years we have dutifully and faithfully brought the most diverse groups together to enjoy a day of spectacle, entertainment and amazement on July 4. We are proud of our accomplishments and the relationship with the City.

Despite our many efforts to raise money each year, the Association has steadily depleted its investment fund to pay for the annual July 4th Celebration. As it stands now, we may be completely unable to fund the Celebration as we know it without a major influx of donations and sponsorships. Please be part of the cure so this remains a cherished and healthy tradition. Go to www.evanston4th.org for more information.

A republic, if you can keep it (Ben Franklin)
A tradition, if you can fund it. (Tracy Alden)

Please join the cause.

Tracy Alden, President
Evanston Fourth of July Association

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and it does seem to me that notwithstanding all these social agencies and activities there is not that vigilance which should be exercised in the preservation of our rights."

Ida B. Wells



Mission Statement

The Association's Sole Mission is to provide safe and entertaining family-oriented events and activities on the nation's Independence Day Holiday.

Our Vision is for everyone to discover, enjoy and support the wonderful 4th of July traditions this Association has provided since 1922.

The Association was founded and continues to operate on these Core Values: freedom of views and expressions, respect for individual rights, responsibility to provide fair and equal treatment of participants and spectators, cooperation with City of Evanston codes and ordinances, and provide the best Independence Day celebration possible for all to enjoy and remember.





2026 Celebration Theme

Home of the Brave Since 1776

Artist's Vision by NeigerDesign

A "Home of the Brave Since 1776" reflects a visual dialogue between past and present, honoring 250 years of American resilience. In commemoration of the nation's semiquincentennial, this work draws a parallel between the courage of soldiers in 1776 and the enduring bravery demonstrated by people today.

The composition weaves historical reverence with contemporary strength, using the stripes of the American flag as a foundational backdrop to symbolize unity, sacrifice, and continuity. Rendered in a letterpressed, vintage poster style, the design evokes a sense of heritage and permanence—tactile and worn, as if preserved through time.

This piece is not only a tribute to history, but a reminder that bravery is not confined to the past; it is a living identity carried forward through generations.

We appreciate the efforts of NeigerDesign throughout this process.



Mayor's Office
 909 Davis Street
 Evanston, Illinois 60201
 T 847.448.8268
 TTY 847.448.8064
www.cityofevanston.org

July 4, 2026

Dear Fellow Evanstonians,

Welcome to another Independence Day celebration! This cherished event is an opportunity for Evanstonians of all walks of life to come together, enjoy one another's company, and appreciate the benefits and aspirations this holiday commemorates.

This year's celebration is special in two ways. First of all, this is the 250th anniversary (semiquincentennial, in case you're looking for an off-the-beaten-path Latin word to impress your friends with) of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, a powerful reminder of the durability of our nation and its founding ideals in the face of enormous and varied challenges, both internal and external.


Secondly, it's an opportunity for us to celebrate Grand Marshall Jan Schakowsky, who will be retiring after a truly extraordinary career of public service, including 28 years as our Congresswoman, 8 years as our State Representative, and a lifetime of consumer advocacy and dedication to lifting up the voices and needs of those who society most often neglects.

The full day's schedule includes a parade, concert, fireworks show, fun run, and games, showcasing the beauty and vibrancy of all of Evanston. Putting on an event of this magnitude and complexity is a huge undertaking, and I'm enormously appreciative of the Evanston Fourth of July Association, an all-volunteer group of community-minded stalwarts who make all of this happen. Thanks to the many volunteers who work countless hours to ensure that the Independence Day celebrations are not only fun and joyful, but smoothly run and safe.

Speaking of safety, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the many City staff who come together to make this event possible. This includes not only our terrific public safety personnel, but also parks & recreation staff, our public works team, and more.

Looking forward to seeing you on July 4th!

Sincerely,


 Daniel Biss
 Mayor, City of Evanston



Parks and Recreation Department
 909 Davis Street
 Evanston, Illinois 60201
 T 847.448.8173
 www.cityofevanston.org
 athompson@cityofevanston.org

July 4, 2026

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, it is a privilege to express our enthusiastic support for this year's 4th of July Parade and Fireworks Celebration. This year, we gather under the resonant theme, "Home of the Brave Since 1776," a reminder of the enduring spirit and courage that define our nation and our local community. We are especially honored to welcome Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky as the Grand Marshal. Her lifelong dedication to public service perfectly embodies the bravery and commitment we celebrate today.

An event of this magnitude is a massive undertaking, and we wish to extend our deepest appreciation to the Fourth of July Association whose tireless planning and coordination are what make this beloved tradition possible year after year. This celebration is a true "Evanston Proud" moment, made safe and seamless through the synchronized efforts of multiple city departments, including our Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. It is their behind-the-scenes dedication that allows our families to celebrate with peace of mind. We look forward to the planned festivities, beginning with a concert at the Arrington Lagoon at 7:30pm, followed by the spectacular fireworks display along the lakefront at approximately 9:20pm. Let's come together to honor our history and celebrate our community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Warmly,

Audrey Thompson, LMSW, CPRP
 Director, Parks and Recreation Department



WANTED!

**Evanston 4th of July Stories & Historical Photos
 Yours or from newspapers**



Send to:

Sam Sibley c/o Evanston Fourth of July Assoc.,
 P.O. Box 1898, Evanston, IL 60204
 or info@evanston4th.org



2026 Grand Marshal

Jan Schakowsky



Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky has proudly represented Illinois' 9th Congressional District since 1999, following eight years of service in the Illinois General Assembly. A member of House Democratic Leadership as Chief Deputy Whip and of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, she has spent nearly 28 years in Congress championing affordable health care, consumer protection, seniors, and families, helping pass landmark legislation that has improved the lives of millions of Americans.

For more than 50 years, Jan has called Evanston home. She and her husband, Bob Creamer, raised their family here and built lifelong friendships, becoming deeply involved in the civic life of the community. Although she splits her time between the 9th District and Washington, Evanston has always remained at the heart of her story, from neighborhood gatherings and community events to everyday moments like running into so many of you at the Jewel on Chicago Avenue. Whenever she gets the chance,

Jan enjoys the simple joys of Evanston life, like a peaceful walk to the lake, brunch with friends at the Lucky Platter, and time with her energetic rescue dog, Eleanor.

As she concludes her final term in Congress, Jan is honored to serve as Grand Marshal of the 2026 Evanston 4th of July Parade. Knowing this will be her final 4th of July parade as a Member of Congress makes this honor especially meaningful. She is deeply grateful for the trust, friendship, and support she has received from the people of Evanston and is proud to celebrate this special day with the community she loves.



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Hang in there, Evanston!

Law Offices of Jeff Smith

Advocacy + Creativity



Parade Flag Etiquette

As the Color Guard carrying the lead parade flags passes, spectators should acknowledge the flag appropriately. These demonstrations of respect should be given as the flag passes. Members of the Armed Services present and in uniform render the military salute. Veterans — and members of the Armed Services not in uniform — may use the military salute or may respond as civilians.

The proper civilian response to the flag, whether President or a regular citizen, should be to stand at attention and place



the right hand over the heart. If they wear a hat, the hat should be removed and held to the left shoulder — placing the hand on their heart. Non-citizens indicate their respect by standing at attention.

What The Declaration of Independence Means To Me.

By Tracy Alden, President of the Evanston Fourth of July Association

I vote. I try to be an informed voter, too. I do research on judges and the candidates' positions. I'm an Independent and have voted in both Democratic and Republican primary elections (but not in the same election – joke). I have both conservative & liberal views on spending, social issues and justice. I'd like to think I'm like most voters who believe in fairness, balance and trust. I'm an optimist, too. For 250 years our nation has sought and fought to be a beacon of hope. I believe the words in the Declaration of Independence that state "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." That's a beautiful phrase yet I know it has fallen short, way short in areas, in the hopes and dreams it represents. However, I work and live to seek those ends.

For every right of citizenship there's a duty of citizenship. Voting is one right not to ignore. Unfortunately, 50% don't vote. When you vote, then you speak. If you don't vote, then you give up your voice to someone else. Who then is speaking in your place? Make your voice heard for it's your right.

Let's remember that individuals, families, religious groups, races and genders have paid a huge cost over these 250 years. However, history shows we can protect and provide for the people in the long run. It's not been an easy or clear path but freedom for all is the direction. We must respect the dignity of each other and our combined integrity to preserve our freedoms. Be part of an intelligent and well-informed public that keeps our republic vital for the next 250 years.

I'll end with a quote credited to Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of the UK. "Democracy, the worst form of government except all the others we've tried."

Happy Independence Day, 2026



South Evanston's
Very Own **Independent**
Park District

WWW.RIDGEVILLE.ORG



Outdoor concerts & theater
Summer camps • **Garden programs** • Classes, sports and fitness for all ages • **Fun-filled adult & family events** • **Ten parks to explore**




Ridgeville
PARK DISTRICT
Little District. Big Vibes.





Criteria for Judging the Evanston 4th of July Parade

To you, the Evanston 4th of July Parade may just be a beautiful display of patriotism and community spirit. To some who participate in the parade, however, it's serious competition!

There are eight judging categories for the Evanston 4th of July Parade.

1. **Community Performance:** community musical or performance group.
2. **Youth:** a group consisting predominantly of people eighteen years of age or younger.
3. **Community Float:** built by members of a group from the community.
4. **Community Participating:** a group of people walking or riding.
5. **Invited Performer - Band:** sponsored band, orchestra or corp.
6. **Invited Performer - Other:** sponsored musical or performance group.
7. **Commercial Float:** built by members of a group from the commercial community.
8. **Motor Vehicle:** all antique or special cars and trucks.

The top winner in each category will receive an award. We designate first, second, and third place for most categories.

Three additional awards are given regardless of category:

President's Cup: awarded to best group overall.

Pelton Plaque: awarded to the outstanding neighborhood group.

Chief Judge's Award: given for special merit.



**INTERESTED
IN BEING IN
A FUTURE
PARADE?**

Please send us your contact information and we'll be sure to include you in our spring mailing. Send all questions and contact information to: parade@evanston4th.org.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

4th of July 2025 Winners

PRESIDENT'S CUP: Evanston Township High School

PELTON PLAQUE: Tierra y Luz de Mexico-Evanston

CHIEF JUDGE AWARD: Four Star Brass Band

COMMERCIAL FLOAT	1. Gym 1801 2. Canal Shores Golf Course
COMMUNITY FLOAT	1. Backlot Playground Association 2. Teresa Parod Murals and Thayer Street Engineering 3. Chicago Union Ultimate Frisbee
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATING	1. Indivisible Evanston 2. Asparagus Council of South Evanston 3. Evanston Voices for Choice Coalition
COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE	1. Second City Samba 2. CirquesExperience 3. Purple Line Drummers
INVITED PERFORMER — BAND	1. Chesterton Trojan Guard 2. Chicago Highlanders Pipes and Drums 3. Los Paisanos Mariachi Band
INVITED PERFORMER — OTHER	1. South Shore Drill Team 2. Jesse White Tumbling Team 3. Charros de la Mesa
MOTOR VEHICLE	1. Priehl Cleaning 2. Windy City Miata Club 3. American Taxi Dispatch
YOUTH	1. JaHbat FC — Uniting the Community 2. Troop 924 and Liberty Bell 3. High Ridge Chargers Football and Cheerleading

2026 Evanston 4th of July Parade Entries

1. Evanston Police Department Motorcycle Officers
2. Jr Wildkits & Mammoth Hockey
3. We thank our Sponsors for this Semiquincentennial Celebration — and our 105th!
4. Evanston Police and Fire Honor Guard
5. Evanston Police Department
6. Evanston Fire and Life Safety
7. Sparky
8. Uncle Sam
9. Chesterton HS Trojan Guard Marching Band
10. American Legion Evanston Post 42
11. Scouting America Troop 924 with the Evanston Fourth of July Association Liberty Bell Float
12. Troop 916
13. Cub Scout Pack 929
14. Evanston Girl Scouts
15. Tracy Alden, President, Evanston Fourth of July Association
16. Midwest Chapter Model T Ford Club
17. Sam Sibley Trustee Emeritus
18. Paul Wilson, Trustee Emeritus
19. 2026 Grand Marshal Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
20. Mayor Biss & the Evanston City Council
21. Purple Line Express
22. Canal Shores
23. Rotary Clubs of Evanston with Rotary International
24. Unidos por Evanston
25. Red White & Goldens
26. David Zornig and his 1961 Plymouth Valiant V200
27. Invest in Neighborhood Schools
28. Backlot Playground Association
29. Los Paisanos Mariachi Band
30. League of Women Voters of Evanston
31. Illinois Wheelmen
32. The Arrington Foundation supporting
33. Evanston Township High School
34. The Trade Collective
35. Jr. Wildkit's Cheerleading
36. Wilmette Community Band
37. Thundercats Flag Football
38. Chicago Highlanders
39. Gym 1801
40. Pope John XXIII School
41. Little Green Tree House
42. Second City Samba
43. Bennett Brigade
44. Evanston Folk Festival
45. Kids Empire
46. Four Star Brass Band
47. Evanston RoundTable
48. Double Clutch Brewing Company
49. Evanston for a Free Palestine
50. Mid-USA Falun Dafa Association
51. American Taxi Dispatch
52. Haitian Community Organization
53. Priehl Cleaning
54. CirquesExperience LLC
55. Lake Street Church of Evanston
56. Trophy Pet
57. Refuse A Fascist America
58. Eclipse Drum and Bugle Corp
59. Chuck's 1935 Ingo Bike
60. Indivisible Evanston
61. Windy City Miata Club
62. Central Street Neighbors Assn
63. Evanston 311
64. Bill's Mobile Sharpening Service
65. Jesse White Tumbling Team
66. The Famous Hula Hooping Frankensteins of Southeast Evanston
67. Evanston Marching Kazoo Band
68. Asociacion de Charros de la Mesa
69. Democratic Party of Evanston, (DPOE)
70. State Representative Robyn Gabel
71. Cook County Commissioner Josina Morita
72. Biss for Congress
73. Patrick Hanley for Illinois State Senate
74. Parade Director Hillary A Bean
75. Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps
76. City of Evanston Streets and Sanitation



"If you want something you've never had, you must be willing to do something you've never done."

– Thomas Jefferson



Fireworks and a Concert Band Performance at the Lakefront Tonight

Celebrating 250 Years — Home of the Brave Since 1776!

The official evening event begins at 7:30 PM with our traditional concert featuring the Palatine Concert Band at the Arrington Lakefront Lagoon in Dawes Park. Our award-winning musical fireworks display will start shortly after the concert's final number, at around 9:30 PM. Our on-site sound system will cover both Centennial and Dawes parks.



The Fireworks

This year's show is truly special — we are proud to be part of America's 250th birthday celebration! Each year we try to top the previous year in formulating one of the most recognized fireworks displays in the country, and for this historic Semiquincentennial milestone, we have pulled out all the stops. A great deal of effort and money has gone into this year's show, which is costing us almost \$65,000. This is over \$10,000 higher than last year, partly due to the tariffs and the general shortage of shells due to supply chain issues. Please consider donating to help us continue this amazing event; we are a self-funded organization, and we rely on the community to help us maintain this and all of the activities of our celebration.

Technology Behind the Scenes and the Move to the Lake

In 1980 we moved the fireworks from Dyche Stadium (now Ryan Field) to a launch point at Clark Street beach. For many decades we charged admission to the fireworks show. With the move to the lakefront, we lost a large revenue stream that we never replaced, but more importantly all of Evanston residents could now see the fireworks display from several parks up and down the lakefront and Northwestern's campus, **free and open to the public.**

Technology has improved significantly from the days of lighting each shell by hand using road flares. By the mid 1980's we were using an old-fashioned cassette tape with music on one channel and verbal firing cues on the other, with each shell being manually fired. Now the music and the fireworks are done with wireless electronics.

Your Crew This Year

Our lead pyrotechnician this year is Lenard Stella from RKM Fireworks. He brings a dedicated veteran crew with him. Miles of wire, and hundreds of firing circuits are installed and tested beginning early on July 4th. Each shell is carefully placed in its own mortar, and everything is tested again.

Evanston Police and Fire Departments are invaluable in keeping things safe in all respects, from the inspection of our professional display to curbing the use of dangerous home fireworks in the crowd. City of Evanston Departments including the Police, Fire, Emergency Preparedness, Parks, Recreation & Community Services, Facilities Management, Public Works, Street & Sanitation, Transportation and all department staff always go the extra mile, helping with the setup of the many cables and antennae throughout the park to keeping power supplied all night and then for the massive cleanup afterward.

Apart from the support from City staff mentioned above, **the City does not fund this production. It is privately funded from sponsorships and your donations.** We cannot do this without your help, support and attendance. The future of this wonderful lakefront evening — now in its 85th year and celebrating America's 250th birthday — depends on your generosity. Please consider donating to keep this tradition alive for our amazing community. You can donate at our website, www.evanston4th.org, or by scanning the QR code on the side.

We are confident you will have a wonderful and truly historic evening with us. Happy 250th, America — and thanks for coming. Enjoy the show!



EVENT MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Robert Bady is a Business Development Manager at Universal Gaming Group. For 24 years, he has called Evanston home, where he and his wife raised three wonderful young adults. He firmly believes an engaged community is a thriving community. Whether serving on the Ridgeville Park District as a former elected commissioner, the ETHS Booster board or the Levy Senior Center Foundation Board, his commitment to support all community members, regardless of age, has driven this work. In addition to his board work, music and basketball have been life-long passions and an integral part of his community service. He is a founding member of a 10-piece funk band called Suite Mollie, which helps fulfill both his love of music and his community outreach. Rob says, "I am passionate about making a positive impact and especially look forward to continuing my service to the Evanston community."

Fourth of July Joke

What were the founding father's favorite cereals?

Chex and Balance



evanston4th.org



Palatine Concert Band



The Palatine Concert Band was established in 1875 and, after being inactive during the depression years and WWII, the band was reorganized and has been in continuous operation since 1955. Today, the Palatine Concert Band is a vibrant ensemble that features 80 select musicians playing the finest concert band repertoire.

The conductor of the Palatine Concert Band is Dr. Frederick Lowe, who is the director of the music program at Loyola University Chicago, where he also conducts the Wind Ensemble. The Palatine Concert Band has been performing on the 4th in Evanston for over 30 years. We welcome them back to Evanston for another great year. Please enjoy this wonderful concert.



Photo by Hillary A Bean

Program

- The Star-Spangled Banner** – Francis Scott Key
- Taps** – U.S. Military Traditional, trumpet solo played by Rick LoPresto
- Fanfare for Rocky** – Bill Conti, arranged by Thomas Wyss
- Armed Forces Salute** – Medley of U.S. Military Traditional songs, arranged by Bob Lowden
- Overture to Candide** – Leonard Bernstein, arranged by Clare Grundman
- Midway March** – John Williams, arranged by James Curnow
- Serenade to Spring Medley** – Richard Rodgers, arranged by John Warrington
- Music from Rent** – Jonathan Larson, arranged by Jay Bocook
- INTERMISSION
- Hail to the Spirit of Liberty** – John Philip Sousa, edited by Donald Hunsberger
- Overture to Gypsy** – Jule Styne, arranged by James Gourlay
- Variations on a Shaker Melody** – Aaron Copland
- The Symphonic Gershwin** – George Gershwin, arranged by Warren Barker
- The Liberty Bell** – John Philip Sousa
- America the Beautiful** – Samuel Augustus Ward, arranged by Carmen Dragon
- The Stars and Stripes Forever** – John Philip Sousa

Radio Communications — NSEA

The North Shore Emergency Association (NSEA) has provided two-way communications for the 4th of July Celebration since the 1980's.

NSEA is a non-profit organization of volunteer radio operators with an interest in communications and serving the public. NSEA members are licensed GMRS operators, and many members are Amateur Radio operators as well.

Members participate in pre-planned events, such as the Evanston 4th of July Parade, the Ottawa Starved Rock Country Run, the Chicago Marathon, and other volunteer radio communications projects.

NSEA members operate several repeater systems. Weekly Radio Nets are conducted on 462.675 MHz on Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm. If your organization's event could benefit from two-way radio coordination and logistical support, please contact NSEA as shown below to discuss how we may be of assistance.

Anyone interested in public service and GMRS radio communication is encouraged to contact NSEA.

North Shore Emergency Association

NSEA
Post Office Box #492
Techy, Illinois 60082

www.nsea.com
info@nsea.com



The Story of the Fourth of July

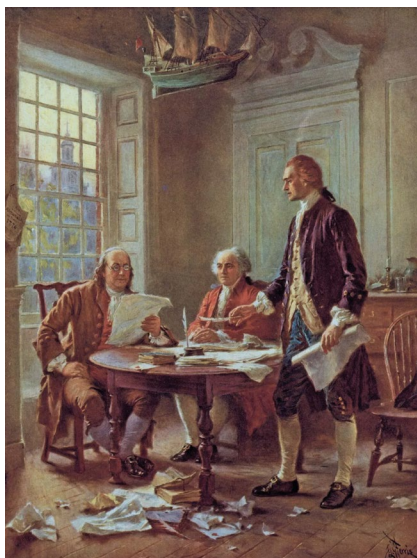
The Declaration of Independence

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).



Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
(Digital file no. 3g09904u)

So What Did Happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it

was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!

How Did the Fourth of July Become a National Holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial – One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

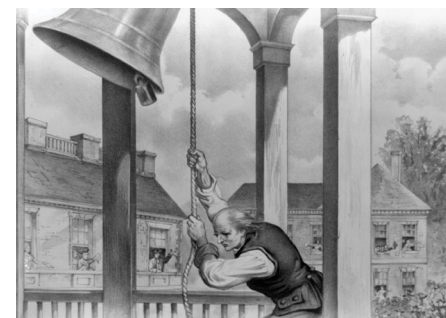
After the War of 1812, the Federalist party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

Fourth of July Joke

Why aren't there any Fourth of July knock-knock jokes?

Because freedom rings.



Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
(Digital file no. cph 3a04729)



Selected Passages from the Declaration of Independence

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government . . .

The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

. . . .

27 facts, injuries, usurpations and tyrannies are then listed.

(Project: read through the 27 to see all the reasons we became the United States of America and stopped being the Colonies and subjects to the King of Great-Britain.)

. . . .

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.



Architect of the Capitol

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Followed by 56 signatures of the Members of the Second Continental Congress August 2, 1776, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The Declaration of Independence: What Does it Say?

The Declaration of Independence was designed for multiple audiences: the King, the colonists, and the world. It was also designed to multitask. Its goals were to rally the troops, win foreign allies, and to announce the creation of a new country. The introductory sentence states the Declaration's main purpose, to explain the colonists' right to revolution. In other words, "to declare the causes which impel them to the separation." Congress had to prove the legitimacy of its cause. It had just defied the most powerful nation on Earth. It needed to motivate foreign allies to join the fight.



Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (LC-DIG-pga-04793)

Preamble

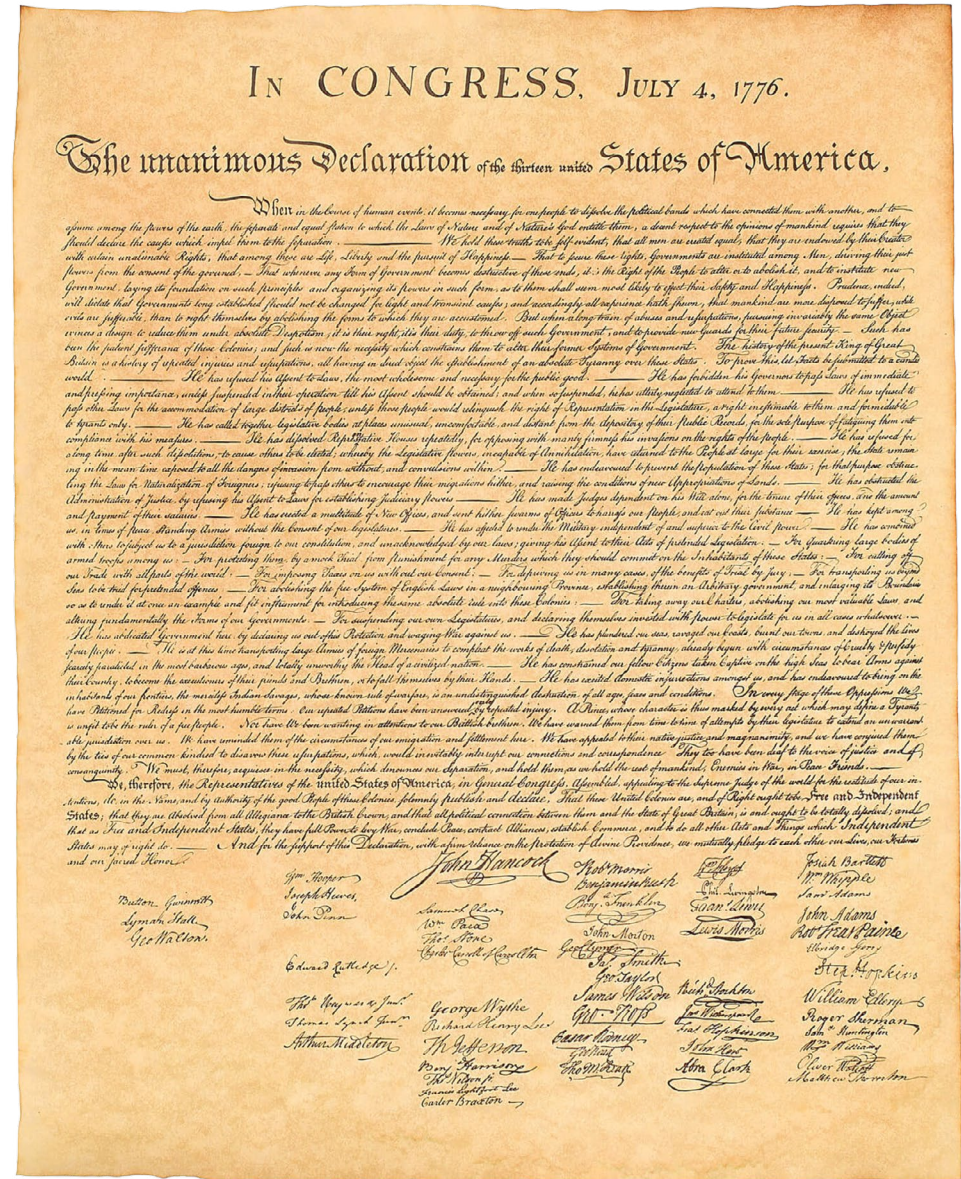
These are the lines contemporary Americans know best: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness." These stirring words were designed to convince Americans to put their lives on the line for the cause. Separation from the mother country threatened their sense of security, economic stability, and identity. The preamble sought to inspire and unite them through the vision of a better life.

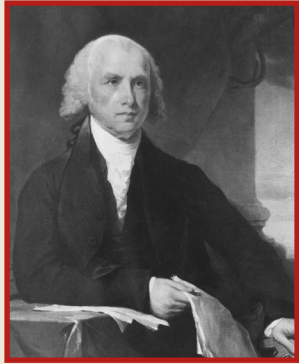
List of Grievances

The list of 27 complaints against King George III constitute the proof of the right to rebellion. Congress cast "the causes which impel them to separation" in universal terms for an international audience. Join our fight, reads the subtext, and you join humankind's fight against tyranny.

Resolution of Independence

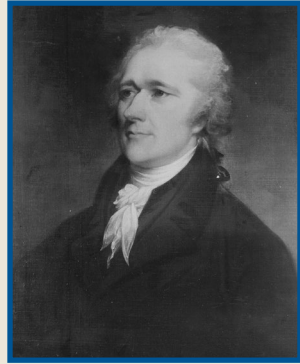
The most important and dramatic statement comes near the end: "That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States." It declares a complete break with Britain and its King and claims the powers of an independent country.





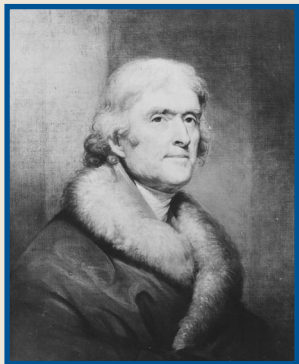
“The people are the only legitimate fountain of power.”

– James Madison



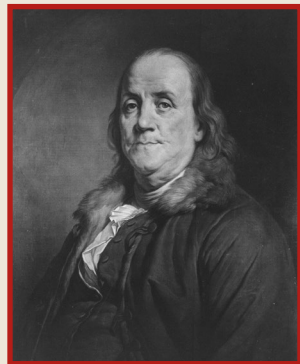
“Those who stand for nothing fall for everything.”

– Alexander Hamilton



“Whenever you do something, act as if all the world were watching.”

– Thomas Jefferson



“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

– Benjamin Franklin



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Remembering Jay, Stay Brave.
The Aldens



Cheers to Lisa Tucker for joining our 4th festivities for so many years !
Love, the Landon Family



Happy 4th of July!
The Lane Family



Happy Evanston 4th...yesterday, today and tomorrow!
The Murphs

“Beer is proof God loves us and wants us to be happy.”
– Benjamin Franklin



Soule Family Friends 2024



Stay Brave
The Aldens



In Memorium

Peter Hall

Longtime Parade Marshal, especially at the end of the Parade where he collected numbers, signs and banners as the units reached the end.

Longtime Scout Leader with Troop 16, often serving as Scoutmaster during the week of summer camp at Camp Ma-ka-ja-wan.

Peter was also a long-time swimming instructor for the Scouts *Learn to Swim* program at the Playdium in Glenview.

Jay Alden

Long serving Parade Marshal and "Flying Squad" Captain for three years.

Grew up in Evanston with enjoyment of the July 4th Celebration.

Deeply devoted to AA as a speaker, sponsor and witness.

Beloved brother and friend to many in the area.



The Evanston Fourth of July Association is a non-profit organization that relies completely on contributions and the efforts of many, many volunteers.

The City of Evanston provides no funding for the Celebration, but does provide for Police, Fire and Life Safety, personnel from Parks & Recreation and Streets & Sanitation in order to maintain the health and safety of the Evanston population and all of the visitors our Celebration brings to the city for the day. We thank them for their support.

The annual budget is over \$160,000. Last year our total income was \$80,000. Obviously, we can't continue to celebrate without your help. The fireworks alone cost almost \$65,000 this year, the increase partly due to tariffs. But we can't have a 4th without fireworks, can we?

A little history: the Fourth of July Association began in 1922. We have organized the day's events ever since.

The day begins at 9 am with the **Morning Games** in 5 parks (Robert Crown Community Center, Willard School, Lincolnwood School, Baker Park and Kamen Park.) The **Fun Run** starts at 12:45 pm at Ackerman Park and is for children up to 10 years old. 2 pm is when the **Parade** steps off at Central St and Central Park Ave. The **Palatine Concert Band** starts playing at 7:30 pm at the Arrington Lakefront Lagoon. **Fireworks** begin when it is dark enough to see them against the near-black sky, at approximately 9:30 pm. Head to one of the beaches to watch!

This year's theme is **HOME OF THE BRAVE SINCE 1776. ENJOY THE DAY!!**

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JOSEPH LEIGH DESIGNS

salutes the Evanston Fourth of July Association Trustees
for working tirelessly to preserve
this community celebration!



The Evanston Fourth of July Association wishes to thank the following friends, supporters and sponsors who have made this 105th Celebration possible.



The Morning Activities are generously supported by the City of Evanston Parks and Recreation, Ridgeville Park District, Lucky Platter Restaurant, Byline Bank of Evanston, Unidine Corporation/Westminster Place and Food 4 Less.

The Morning Games Site Coordinators are: Jack & Susie Mortell; Larry Brown; Jill Baker Oda & Chris Lowery; Natalie Sallee; Vicki Revere

The Fun Run wouldn't happen without the volunteers from the Flying Turkey 5K Run, led by Eliot Wineberg and the Evanston Running Club, led by Chuck Janczy as well as Trader Joes and the City of Evanston.

Lakeside Auto Rebuilders and Armen Tokat and Sarkis Tokat for generously providing space for the Information Booth and for anchoring the staging area.

North Shore Emergency Association (NSEA), for providing communications for the Evanston Fourth of July Association. Visit www.nsea.com for information.

Patrick & Elizabeth Breslin and the Celtic Knot Public House on Central St for providing sandwiches for the parade marshals, judges and all other manner of volunteers.

Allegra Marketing Print Signs in Evanston and Frank Muns for their beautiful print work and for always meeting our deadlines even when I don't meet theirs.

NeigerDesign for their graphic design services for the 2026 event poster, button, mailer and, most importantly, this program book. Carol Neiger and her team continue to dazzle me with their creativeness year after year.

National Awards & Fine Gifts for the beautiful parade award plaques.

Photos in this program have been generously provided by The Daily Northwestern, Evanston Now, Kitty Finn, our playground volunteers and you, the public, who have shared your pics with us over the years. Should you have any pics to share, recent or not, please send them to info@evanston4th.org.

City of Evanston Mayor, City Council and City Manager's Office, and its departments: Police; Fire: Emergency Preparedness; Parks, Recreation & Community Services: Facilities Management; Public Works: Street & Sanitation, Transportation, and the associated managers of these divisions.

The volunteer Celebration Team including: Celebration Managers, Parade Director, Lakefront Director, Playground Activities Director, Chief Marshal/Volunteer Coordinator, Chief Judges, Communications, Info Booth staff, Banners and Signs, Judges, Marshals, and me, hab, your Program Book Editor.

You and your fellow citizens, for your contributions and financial support of today's festivities. Please visit www.evanston4th.org. Thank you!

"the atmosphere of this village by the lake is favorable to the development of heroic qualities.... clear-brained, brave-hearted sons and daughters"

— Ms. A.E. Sanford, letter to Frances E. Willard Willard, Frances E., A CLASSIC TOWN (1891)

May Evanston always be a home of the brave!

Wishing a happy 4th of July to all and a meaningful 250th birthday to the U.S.A.



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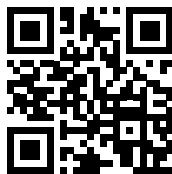


This celebration is entirely community funded.

★
Your support helps power the
Kid's Events, Parade, Live Band, and the Fireworks.

Every donation makes a difference.
To donate or for more information visit

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Evanston Fourth of July Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
Your donations are tax-deductible. Thank you.