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JUNE 21, 2018

Kids can help create mosaics with LEGO bricks at Independence Mall

Have a little one who loves building? Take them to this free event.



BY **SINEAD CUMMINGS**
PhillyVoice Staff



SINEAD CUMMINGS/PHILLYVOICE

On Thursday, July 5, families are invited to help create four different mosaics with LEGO bricks. The family-friendly, free event will be held on the newly-renovated second floor terrace of the Independence Visitor Center at Independence Mall.

Kids of all ages can assist LEGOLAND Discovery Center's "Model Builder team" in creating the 2.5-by-4-foot mosaics, which will be displayed at the Visitor Center for an extended period of time.

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Families can stop by anytime between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to join in the LEGO brick-building fun, but those who visit at 2 p.m. will get to see the unveiling of a LEGO model of the Comcast Technology Center.

The model was created from 49,728 LEGO bricks and stands at nearly 11 feet. It will be added to LEGOLAND's MINILAND exhibit in Plymouth Meeting. In the exhibit, Philly landmarks like City Hall, Citizens Bank Park, Reading Terminal and Lincoln Financial Field were recreated with LEGO bricks.

LEGO Mosaic Event

Thursday, July 5

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Free

Independence Visitor Center

599 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19106



Independence celebration to include LEGO-based festivities

Joan Hellyer, @BCCTintheknow
June 27, 2018 at 2:00 PM

The event begins at 10 a.m. on July 5 at the Independence Visitor Center in Philadelphia.

Visitors to Philadelphia during the week of the nation's 242nd birthday can participate in a public, day-long LEGO mosaic brick building event.

LEGOLAND Discovery Center Philadelphia is partnering with the Independence Visitor Center to host the activities beginning at 10 a.m. on July 5.

Participants will be invited to help construct four different mosaic designs during the event in the center at 599 Market St. Each of the mosaics will be 2.5-feet by 4-feet and one will feature a patriotic design to celebrate the Independence Day holiday.

After the event, the four mosaic designs will be on display at the center for an extended period of time.

As part of the festivities, LEGOLAND will hold an unveiling at 2 p.m. July 5 of its brand-new, almost 11-foot high LEGO model of the Comcast Technology Center. The 49,728-brick display weighs 247 pounds, and took model builders 360 hours to construct.

Once unveiled, the model will be housed in LEGOLAND's MINILAND Philadelphia exhibition, which is a recreation of Philadelphia landmarks created from more than 1.5 million LEGO bricks.

The activities will run until 5 p.m. in the second floor terrace of the center.

Your guide to July 4 in Philadelphia

Celebrate America's birthday in the place where it all started.

By [JENNIFER LOGUE](#)

Published : June 29, 2018 Updated : June 29, 2018



Here are the top things to do in Philadelphia on July 4. R. MYERS FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

The United States of America turns 242 this year, and there's no better place to be than Philadelphia, our country's birthplace. While firing up the BBQ and staying home with family and friends is certainly an option, there are a ton of free activities all over the city thanks to Wawa Welcome America that you can make the most of as well. Here are our top picks on things to do in Philadelphia on July 4.

Sand Sculpture Spectacular

9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Shops at Liberty Place

1625 Chestnut St.

Start off your July 4 by making a stop at the Sand Sculpture Spectacular at The Shops at Liberty Place. World-renowned sculptors have created a 40-ton sand sculpture to commemorate Parkway 100, which celebrates 100 years of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Hungry? Stop by

SoBol Philly (46 S. 17th St.) for healthy breakfast options like acai bowls, smoothies and of course, coffee!

Free Museum Day

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

National Museum of American Jewish History

101 South Independence Mall East

A few steps away from Independence Hall is the National Museum of American Jewish History, and on July 4, you can go to the museum for free! There will be talks, Independence Day-themed art projects (like painting your own flag), and of course, there is plenty to see in the museum's collection, including their special exhibit on legendary composer Leonard Bernstein. Taking in so much information is sure to make you hungry. Luckily Red Owl Tavern is only a block away, and has extensive menu to satisfy both parents and kids, alike. (Pro tip: If you get the Red Owl Tavern Burger, take it over the top by adding a fried egg.)

7th Annual Birthday Party at Independence Visitor Center

Independence Visitor Center

599 Market St.

1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Who doesn't sweet treats on their birthday? At Independence Visitor Center, a five-tier cake will be on display along with 2,500 cupcakes in the shape of an American flag, to celebrate America's birthday, beginning at 9 a.m. Once the cake is finished being decorated at 1 p.m., Betsy Ross will sing "Happy Birthday" with the crowd. After that, everyone gets to eat free cake and cupcakes thanks to Termini Bros. It is first-come, first-served, however.

Party on the Parkway

12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Benjamin Franklin Parkway

If you didn't fill up on cupcakes before heading over to the free Party on the Parkway, that's okay, as there will be a ton of food trucks on site, like The Cow and The Curd, Mama's Meatballs, Nick's Roast Beef, Bassett's Ice Cream and Empanada Guy. There will also be live music from up-and-coming Philly artists on the Chill Moody stage like Foxtrot and the Get Down, Shawn Smith, Hard Work Movement and more. The Claymobile will also be at The Kids Zone section of Party on the Parkway, giving free lessons to kids on ceramics and even claymation.

July 4 Concert and Fireworks

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

2451 Benjamin Franklin Parkway

If you're already at Party on the Parkway, stay put for the spectacular fireworks display and free concert later on in the evening. Grammy-winning artist Pitbull is headlining the concert this year and will be joined by Broadway star, Heather Headley, and The Philly POPS Big Band.



Wawa Welcome America festival road closures, event information and more

Plus SEPTA schedules, maps and parking.

BY EMILY ROLEN

PhillyVoice Staff



SOURCE/WAWA WELCOME AMERICA! FESTIVAL

This year's Wawa Welcome America festival already began this past Thursday with a slew of free events — but things are only getting crazier from here.

The multi-day festival concludes on July 4 with a large takeover of Center City, complete with a parade, a shutdown of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, fireworks and a concert.

Starting July 3, there will be some pretty massive road closures and changes to our regular transportation schedules, so be prepared.

Here's how to avoid, or celebrate, the festivities.

EVENTS

For a full list of events, you can visit Wawa Welcome America's calendar. There are free museum days, movie screenings, happy hours and more.

On July 4, things kick off at City Hall, with the Celebration of Freedom at 10 a.m. A parade will commence at 11 a.m.

There are also a slew of historical lectures and tours at the Independence Visitor Center in Old City. [Here's a full schedule.](#)

Want to watch some fireworks? We've already put together a list of fireworks in Philly, New Jersey and the suburbs.

ROAD CLOSURES

The road closures are going to be extensive around the Parkway and Art Museum area. It begins on Tuesday, July 3 at 7 a.m. and will be implemented in phases until the end of the day July 4.

To get you started: The inner lanes of the Parkway on Tuesday at 7 a.m. They will reopen at 3 p.m. for rush hour traffic and then close again at 7 p.m. These lanes will remain closed until the morning of Thursday, July 5.

For the rest of these instructions, and a comprehensive look at the road closures, here's a useful map.

For Old City closures, here's another map. These all begin at noon on July 4.

PARKING

Parking restrictions begin on Tuesday at 7 p.m. For a comprehensive look at the parking restrictions, here's a useful map. (Parking restrictions are highlighted in blue.)

PUBLIC TRANSIT

On July 4, all buses, trolleys, the Broad Street and Market Frankford lines and Regional Rail trains will operate on a Sunday schedule, with special late night Regional Rail service following the fireworks on the Parkway.

If you want to watch the fireworks on either the Delaware River Waterfront or the Parkway, you can still catch a late-night train. Here's a full late-night schedule of Regional Rail trains.

Customers are encouraged to check SEPTA's System Status routinely to make sure everything is on time and running smoothly.

The BSL and MFL lines will be up and running, but a few bus routes — 7, 32, 33, 38, 43, and 48 — will be detoured. Here are more details.



Wawa Welcome America: Everything you need to know



Photo by Osman Rana via Unsplash

UPDATED: JUL 04 2018 08:33AM EDT

PHILADELPHIA (WTFX) - Wawa Welcome America—a multi-day festival celebrating America's birthday in America's birthplace—goes out with a bang Wednesday.

The festival kicks off 12 hours of non-stop commemorations and celebrations at Independence Mall in Philadelphia's Historic District at 10 a.m. Here is everything you need to know:

EVENTS

- Celebration of Freedom: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Independence Hall
- Free Museum Day: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the National Museum of American Jewish History
- USA Independence Day Parade: 11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
- **7th Annual Birthday Party: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Independence Visitor Center**
- Children's Naturalization Ceremony: 1:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Betsy Ross House
- Party on the Parkway: 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Benjamin Franklin Parkway
- Welcome America Concert: Begins 7:00 p.m. at Benjamin Franklin Parkway; starring Pitbull and The Philly POPS BIG Band with special guest Heather Headley
- Welcome America Fireworks: Begins 9:30 p.m. at Benjamin Franklin Parkway

ROAD CLOSURES / PARKING INFO

A number of street closures and parking restrictions will be in effect throughout the city.

DAILY LOCAL NEWS

Miniland Philadelphia exhibit at Legoland grows

By Digital First Media
July 27, 2018



An 11 foot tall replica of Philadelphia's Comcast Technology Center has been added to the Miniland Philadelphia display at Legoland Discovery Center Philadelphia in Plymouth Meeting. The tower was made from 49,728 Lego bricks.

Plymouth Meeting -- A nearly 11-foot-tall replica of the Philadelphia's Comcast Technology Center is now on display at Legoland Discovery Center Philadelphia, located at the Plymouth Meeting Mall, 500 W. Germantown Pike.

The replica has become part of the attraction's Miniland Philadelphia exhibit — a re-creation of some of Philadelphia's most iconic landmarks made from more than 1.5 million Lego bricks.

The tower was unveiled July 5 during a day-long mosaic brick building event at the Independence Visitor Center in Philadelphia. The Lego model took model builders 360 hours to complete, is made from 49,728 Lego bricks and weighs 247 pounds.

The Comcast Technology Center replica is prominently placed at the entrance to the Miniland Philadelphia exhibit. It is the largest Lego building in Miniland Philadelphia, according to a press release. Visitors to the exhibit will notice that the builders of the replica added a William Penn Mini figure at the top of the tower.

Some of the other Philadelphia landmarks included in Miniland Philadelphia are: City Hall, Boathouse Row, Independence Hall, Eakins Oval, the Phillies and Eagles stadiums, Pat's and Geno's and the Art.

Legoland Discovery Center opened in April 2017. In addition to Miniland Philadelphia, the Legoland Discovery Center includes multiple build and play zones, a 4D cinema and a Lego-themed ride called the Imagination Express. The center is geared for families with children ages 3 to 10, and all adults must be accompanied by a child.

For more information about Legoland Discovery Center, visit www.LEGOLANDDiscoveryCenter.com/Philadelphia.



Lego Comcast Technology Center Replica Unveiled

By Brendan Gee

Published at 3:46 PM EDT on Jul 5, 2018 | Updated at 9:02 AM EDT on Jul 6, 2018



Philadelphia's newest skyscraper gets a Lego treatment from the LEGOLAND Discovery Center in Philadelphia.

Nearly 50,000 Legos and 360 hours later, Legoland Discovery Center Philadelphia has completed its replica of the Comcast Technology Center.

On Thursday, the replica was unveiled at the Independence Visitor Center as the newest addition to the MINILAND Philadelphia exhibit. This collection of Lego landmarks now contains over 1.5 million Lego bricks.

As befits the building's stature in Center City, the CTC model is the tallest in the exhibit. It's 11 feet tall and weighs 247 pounds.

The unveiling was part of an Independence-themed event by Legoland Discovery Center Philadelphia and the Independence Visitor Center.

They asked guests to assist with building multiple mosaic Lego designs, including replicas of iconic Philadelphia.



Comcast meets LEGO at Philadelphia's Independence Visitor Center

LEGO 'Model Builders' say the towering recreation took roughly 360 hours to complete!

JULY 06, 2018 - 10:21 AM

By Kevin Wright

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) -- On Thursday, visitors were invited to the unveiling of a new Comcast Center made entirely of LEGO bricks!

KYW Newsradio was in attendance as LEGOLAND Discovery Center Philadelphia, partnered with the Independence Visitor Center Corporation, hosted a day-long event to unveil their brand-new LEGO creation, a model of the Comcast Technology Center.



Holli Stephens | KYW Newsradio

LEGO 'Model Builders' say the towering recreation took roughly 360 hours to complete, with an astounding 49,728 LEGO bricks. Officials say the creation stands nearly a whopping 11 ft. tall and weighs in at 247 lbs.

If you missed the big reveal in person, you are still in luck. The recreation will now be featured in the LEGOLAND Discovery Center's MINILAND Philadelphia.

Inside of MINILAND Philadelphia you can find 1.5 million LEGO bricks all in the form of the City of Brotherly Love's most famous landmarks.



2018 Fashion Touchdown Announcement Party, With Eagles Players Chris Maragos, Rodney McLeod and boxer Bernard Hopkins Photos by HughE Dillon

Latest Photos

Filed Under: [Buzz Photos](#), [HughE Dillon](#), [Photo Galleries](#), [Photos](#)



2018 Fashion Touchdown Announcement Party

2018 Fashion Touchdown Announcement Party Photo by HughE Dillon

The Fashion Touchdown 2018 Announcement Party on July 19, 2018, at the Independence Visitor Center from 5:30 - 7:30 pm EDT. The annual fundraiser, set for Nov. 5, 2018, will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region for the fifth year in a row.

AUGUST 21, 2018

Students can visit Philly's museums for free during CollegeFest

Check out places like the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Franklin Institute and Museum of the American Revolution.

BY **SINEAD CUMMINGS**

PhillyVoice Staff



THOM CARROLL/PHILLYVOICE

Campus Philly's annual CollegeFest, a free festival at Dilworth Park outside City Hall, will take place Saturday, Sept. 8.

Philly's college students can kick off their fall semester at the afternoon event where there will be outdoor games, giveaways, pop-up performances and contests.

By registering for CollegeFest, students will also receive free admission to museums and cultural attractions all day.

Below is a list of all the places CollegeFest attendees can visit for free on Sept. 8:

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- Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Rodin Museum
- Franklin Institute
- Museum of the American Revolution
- Eastern State Penitentiary
- Betsy Ross House
- National Constitution Center
- Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University
- National Museum of American Jewish History
- Independence Seaport Museum
- Philadelphia Theatre Company
- The Fabric Workshop and Museum
- Mural Arts Philadelphia walking tour (departing from Dilworth Park at 1 p.m.)

UPDATE: The National Liberty Museum and the Penn Museum are now participating, also.

Students can register in-person at CollegeFest to gain free museum admission and a free, all-day pass for the purple Philly PHLASH bus, or can register online here to skip the line at the event.



Mayor Jim Kenney addresses the crowd gathered at the USHCC National Convention Preview Reception. (Peter Fitzpatrick)

A sneak peak of the nation's largest Latino business convention

The U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) will bring its National Convention to Philadelphia in September.

Peter Fitzpatrick
August 29, 2018

The USHCC National Convention brings together Hispanic business owners, corporate executives and members of more than 200 local Hispanic chambers of commerce from across the country. The largest Hispanic business organization in the country represents over 4.37 million Hispanic-owned businesses.

On Aug. 15, USHCC gave a preview of the upcoming convention, which will take place in Philadelphia from Sept. 16-18. The reception of at least one hundred people was held at the Independence Visitor Center.

Among those in attendance were Interim President and CEO of USHCC Fernand Fernandez, Mayor Jim Kenney and Carlos Medina, Chairman of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. Also seen at the event were L. Jay Burks of Comcast, the Honorable Nelson Díaz, Camden Councilperson Angel Fuentes, and Philadelphia Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez.