

Fourth annual 4th of July Jubilee set to light up Long Beach June 27

By Toni Miles

The City of Long Beach will get a head start on the Independence Day holiday with the fourth annual 4th of July Jubilee daylong celebration, set to take place this year on Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. in downtown Long Beach.

It all starts with a free, celebratory festival from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Harper McCaughan Town Green in downtown Long Beach, which will include food trucks, kids' activities, vendors and more.

At 6 p.m., there will be a parade that will roll down the streets of downtown Long Beach. As in years past, the parade procession will include "floats," such as golf carts, lawn mowers and even wagons. The parade and event are free and open to the public. Parade-goers are advised to show up early to stake out a good spot on the parade route on Jeff Davis Avenue where chairs can be set up at prime viewing spots along the parade route. Military personnel, local Boy Scouts, and patriotic residents and businesses are all scheduled to be part of this year's parade procession.

After the parade, there will be a block party from 7 to 11 p.m., which will include live music by The Live Stock Band at the corner of 5th Street and Jeff Davis Avenue in downtown Long Beach. This event is also free.

Fireworks will light up the sky over the Long Beach Harbor at 8:45 p.m. in an early celebration of the July 4th holiday weekend the following week.

Making its debut back in 2023, the City of Long Beach's 4th of July Jubilee has grown in popularity over the past few years, drawing locals and visitors alike, and has become a Long Beach tradition.

Those who would like to be a part of the festivities or the parade procession are encouraged to email LBMSMainStreet@gmail.com for a vendor or parade application.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Colonel Andy Ratcliffe will serve as the 2026 Grand Marshal of this year's 4th of July Jubilee Parade. Ratcliffe is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the Army ROTC program at the University of Southern Mississippi and has served the Mississippi Army National Guard for nearly three decades. He currently serves as Facility Commander of the Mississippi Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot

(MS-AVCRAD) and Commander of the 1108th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group (TASMG), where he oversees aviation maintenance, readiness, and sustainment operations supporting military missions across the region.

Throughout his military career, Ratcliffe has held numerous leadership positions, including multiple command assignments within the Mississippi Army National Guard. He has deployed in support of operations in Iraq, Kuwait and Kosovo and is a Master Army Aviator with extensive experience as a UH-60 Black Hawk Maintenance Test Pilot. His military honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Master Army Aviator Badge.



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