Strike up the band, inflate the balloons and add fringe to the floats...the Patriotic Parade is coming to town!

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 4  •  ESCORT PARADE - 8:30 A.M.  •  PATRIOTIC PARADE - 9 A.M.**

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**The Parade Route**

The parade steps-off at Hillpointe Road and Hills Center Drive, travels south on Hills Center Drive to Village Center Circle, then turns west onto Trailwood Drive ending at the Trails Village Shopping Center.
Parade Preview

Strike up the band! Summerlin’s grandest tradition, The Summerlin Council Patriotic Parade, returns this Independence Day in star-spangled style. Now in its 24th year, the parade is set to continue its tradition of huge family fun and spirited, colorful patriotism with an exciting mix of entries presented on Wednesday, July 4 at 9 a.m.

The Patriotic Parade is recognized for its unique and dazzling parade displays – and this year is no exception. New floats debuting in 2018 include “Vegas Golden Knights: Vegas Born, Vegas Strong,” “Hamilton’s America,” “Coco’s Fiesta Espectacular,” and “The Greatest Show” featuring circus-style entertainment and wonder. Also joining the lineup are new giant inflatable balloon entries “Viva Las Vegas” and “Escape from Jurassic World,” along with appearances by The Incredibles, Black Panther, and Paw Patrol.

“We showcase an all-star cast of beloved and popular characters from American history, pop culture, cartoons, books, and movies” said Lezlie Barnson-DeNardin, parade organizer and community relations director for The Summerlin Council. “The goal is to create a line-up of parade entries that stirs our patriotic spirit while appealing to the child in all of us.”

Fan favorites such as the “All-Star Salute to the Military,” “The Fourth Awakens - A Star Wars Tribute,” “Moana’s Ocean Journey,” and “Captain Jack’s Black Pearl” floats, as well as bands, performing groups, and the iconic “American Eagle” giant inflatable balloon, will make return appearances this year. And of course, the parade will feature its original entry, “Patriotic Peddlers” where young Summerlin residents decorate their bikes and cycle the parade route kicking off the annual event.

“The parade began with a few dozen neighborhood kids decorating their bikes and riding from the Summerlin Library to the Trails Park” said Barnson-DeNardin. “Today, we have more than 2,500 participants and 35,000 people filling Summerlin’s streets for the event. It’s become such a family tradition that some claim their favorite spot on the parade route the night before the parade with blankets and festive decor.”

There is never a shortage of red, white, and blue at The Summerlin Council Patriotic Parade. So be sure to don your stars and stripes and be a part of this Independence Day extravaganza.

TIPS FOR A GREAT PARADE DAY

School may be out for summer, but “Parade 101” is now in session! To help ensure your best parade experience possible, please take note of these helpful event hints:

- Three Announcers Tents are located along the route (see parade map to the left). These areas feature additional entertainment elements and amplified sound for spectators’ enjoyment.
- Parking is limited the day of the parade. Carpool with friends, bike or even walk to the parade.
- Many spectators stake their viewing location along the route prior to the official parade start time. Be sure to arrive early to identify a great spot to view the event.
- The parade route is lined with grass so bring a chair, open an umbrella or lay out a blanket to enjoy the parade comfortably.
- Don’t forget it’s hot out there! To beat the heat, drink plenty of water (one cup every 15-20 minutes) even if you don’t feel thirsty, wear protective clothing and slather on sunscreen.
- Please be responsible with your children and keep them safe during the parade. Do not allow kids—or kids at heart—enter the parade route and approach entries during the event.
- Wear red, white, and blue to celebrate America and display your patriotism. Consider bringing a few decorations to make your viewing location extra-spirited!
Sherry Swensk wakes up TV viewers as the weather anchor for 8 News Now Good Day. After graduating from the University of Texas Arlington with a degree in Radio and Television, Sherry worked in Dallas, Fresno, Los Angeles and San Francisco before moving to Las Vegas in 1994. Outside of work, Sherry enjoys spending time with her family, serving on the board of the Southwest Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and visiting schools to “talk weather” with kids.

Brian Loftus is an Emmy Award-Winning Anchor who joined the 8 News Now team in 2009 and is currently the evening News Anchor of the 5, 6, and 11 p.m. newscast(s). Brian earned a B.A. in English from the University of Iowa and Masters in Teaching from Loyola Marymount University. Serving as a teacher and coach for many years, Brian made the jump to radio broadcasting first, and then to television news in 2006. Brian is a fan of the Chicago Bears and Cubs. He enjoys swimming, biking, and spending time with his wife and two daughters.

Mercedes can be heard on “Mercedes in the Morning” every weekday on Mix 94.1 and seen on television as host of Las Vegas Now on KLAS Channel 8. She is a UNLV graduate, a proud Summerlin resident, and volunteers at various charities throughout the valley. Originally from Denver, Colorado, she has made Las Vegas her home since 1997. She is married with two daughters, loves Crossfit, and cheering for the Broncos, New York Yankees and the Vegas Golden Knights.

JC can be heard weekdays as co-host of “Mercedes in the Morning” on Mix 94.1. JC was born and raised in Philadelphia and moved to Las Vegas in 1995 to attend UNLV. He instantly fell in love with the city and began working at Mix 94.1 after graduation. He is married with no kids, but does consider his chihuahua, his australian cattle dog Jax, and his wife’s horse Contact to be part of the family. JC happily calls Summerlin home.

Colonel Christopher J. Zuhlke

Colonel Christopher J. Zuhlke is the Commander at the Nevada Test and Training Range on Nellis Air Force Base. The NTTR supports advanced composite force training, tactics development and electronic combat testing for the Department of Defense. He is responsible for the planning and oversight of the United States’ largest and most sophisticated instrumented battle space for testing and training in the U.S. military and coalition air forces. Colonel Zuhlke entered the Air Force in May 1995 as a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. He is a Command Pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, primarily in the F-15E Strike Eagle and has participated in combat operations in Iraq, Serbia/Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Senior Master Sergeant Jason R. Driscoll

Senior Master Sergeant Jason R. Driscoll is the Superintendent of the Nevada Test and Training Range at Nellis Air Force Base. He is responsible for guiding the Commander and his directorates on all enlisted matters and ensuring the quality force standards of more than 650 military, civilian and contractor personnel situated throughout six geographically separated locations. Senior Master Sergeant Driscoll entered the Air Force in 1996. His career highlights include being handpicked for a selectively manned organization supporting our nation’s future warfighters. In addition, he was handpicked to lead a team through a year-long deployment to provide airborne command and control for Commanders on both C-17 and C-130 aircrafts.
**Order of the March**

**Escort Parade – 8:30 a.m.**
- Palo Verde High School Air Force JROTC Color Guard
- Patriotic Peddlers
- City of Las Vegas—Big Red
- Boy Scouts of America, Troop 312
- Summerlin Seals
- Southern Nevada Living History Association
- Las Vegas Swim Club
- Nevada Diabetes Association
- Las Vegas Valley Model A Ford Club
- Las Vegas Cadillac and LaSalle Club
- Mustang & Classic Ford Club of Las Vegas
- King Solomon Lodge No. 58
- Military Order of The Purple Heart Chapter 711
- Fleet Reserve Association Branch 90
- United Service Organizations (USO)
- Community Ambulance—Greatest Generation
- American Legion “Spirit of Freedom” Post 76
- Marine Corps League—Greater Nevada Detachment #186

**The Summerlin Council Patriotic Parade – 9 a.m.**
- Summerlin presents “Happy Birthday, America!”
- Downtown Summerlin presents “Vegas Vanguard Drumline”
- Q.I. Security Services presents “Palo Verde Cross Country—American Flag”
- Par 3 Landscape Maintenance presents “An All-Star Salute to the Military”
- Pennsylvania Lions All-State Band
- Pardee Homes presents “America Standing Tall”
- Neon City Garrison—501st Legion/Twin Suns
- Summerlin Hospital Medical Center presents “The Fourth Awakens”
- Leach Johnson Song & Gruchow presents “Grand Old Flag”
- City National Bank presents “Vegas Golden Knights: Vegas Born, Vegas Strong”
- Vegas Junior Golden Knights
- Mix 94.1 presents “Viva Las Vegas”
- Mormon Pioneers of Las Vegas
- Egg Works and Egg & I Family Restaurants present “Danza Del Carrizo”
- U.S. Forest Service—Smoky Bear
- Philippine Americans of Las Vegas
- Summerlin Rotary Club

**SUMMERLIN RESIDENT CHOICE AWARD**

YOU’RE THE JUDGE! Summerlin residents—let your voice be heard and vote for your favorite Patriotic Parade entry from this year’s event. Online voting takes place July 4 – 15, 2018, at www.summerlink.com. Winners will be announced in the August issue of Summerlines. Vote as often as you like!

Be sure to take along this issue of FanFare to the Patriotic Parade to follow the entries and take note of your parade favorites for voting in the “Resident Choice Award” on www.summerlink.com.
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