

AMERICA'S OFFICIAL  
Fourth of July City  
SEWARD, NEBRASKA  
invites you to the 157<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
4<sup>th</sup> of JULY CELEBRATION

"Preserving the Present for the Future!" Celebrating the Opening of the World's Largest Time Capsule!

2025 Schedule of Events

★ July 1st - Special String Beans Concert - Seward Memorial Library. 7p. Friends of the Library.

Thursday, July 3 - Pre-Party

- 7:00a ★ **Self-guided Volkswalk "The Beat of Seward"** - Starts at Fast Mart, 215 N. 6th St., 5K (3.1 miles) or 10K (6.2 miles). All day. All weekend. Free. See [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com) for details and maps.
- 8:00a ★ **Nebraska National Guard Museum Open House** - 8a-3p. Best public bathrooms in Seward. Air conditioned. Free. Check out the new and latest exhibits. Gift shop open all day. Self-guided tours.
- 9:00a ★ **Antique Market opens** - Liberty House Bed & Breakfast, 5th & Moffitt.
- ★ **"Inner Maker Art Village"** - 1693 224th Rd. Rose Meditation and Labyrinth Walk. Honoring the Heart of America through the Art of Wellness. Art of the Rose & Art of the Labyrinth.
- 10:00a ★ **Bottle Rocket Brewing Co. opens** - 10a-10p. Brews, food truck, beer garden, and new canned root beer!
- ★ **Seward County Historical Society Museum opens** - Goehner, 10a-4p. Hand-sewn US flag made for Seward's first 4th of July, 1868. Seward "Images of Independence" - black and white photo display of 1981 Seward 4th of July celebration. Other new exhibits. Free admission.
- 11:00a ★ **"Inner Maker Art Village"** - 1693 224th Rd. Rose Meditation and Labyrinth Walk. Honoring the Heart of America through the Art of Wellness. Art of the Rose & Art of the Labyrinth. Free.
- 12:00p ★ **Red Path Art Gallery and Tasting Room Open House** - Noon-5p. Features art of Lincoln Art Guild. "Preserving the Present for the Future!" Vote on People's Choice Award. Nebraska art, wine, beer, and spirits.
- ★ **Art Shows** - Featuring Lincoln Artist Guild, Pam Apley, William Greusel, Rhonda Bruggeman, Reinhold Marxhausen & over 20 additional Nebraska Artists.
- 4:00p ★ **Gun Show** - Ag Pavilion, fairgrounds. 4-8p.
- 5:30p ★ **Food Truck** - Bottle Rocket Brewing Co.
- 6:30p ★ **Bottle Rocket Cornhole singles tourney** - Register at Bottle Rocket Brewery 230 S. 5th St. Call 402-646-5867 for details.
- 7:00p ★ **Special "Salute to End of WWII - 80th Anniversary"** - Seward High School Auditorium. Featuring the Firehouse Five (Plus). Hear the stories of Columbus's Andrew Higgins, boat builder; Seward's own Major John Cattle Sr.; and Army Nurse, Col Rita M. Geis of Beaver Crossing - all involved in WWII war effort. Special Honorees and extra entertainment. Free. Sponsored by the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society/Nebraska National Guard Museum.
- 7:30p ★ **The Wissman Family Singers In Concert** - Family Reunion at Seward Bandshell. Free admission. A Seward tradition.
- 9:00p ★ **Band: Live Music** - Sparetime Lounge. 9p-1a.

RAIN OR SHINE

In case of extreme rainfall, the fireworks display will be postponed until Friday, July 5, 2025.

Friday, July 4

- 7:00a ★ **VFW Auxiliary Community Buffet Breakfast** - VFW Club. 7-11a.
- ★ **2-Mile & 10K Freedom Runs** - Seward Wellness Center. Entry Fee. Forms at [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com).
- ★ **Registration for July 4 Car Show** - Seward St. between 7th & 8th Sts. 7-10a. Entry Fee. Contact CJ Nowak, 402-646-5214. See [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com) for more details.
- ★ **Lincoln's Great Plains Bicycling Club's Family Day** - Registration at Living Word Lutheran Church, 1200 W Hillcrest. To "Braindrain/Dwight" and back or shorter route. Visit [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com). Approved bike helmets required. Open to all. Free.
- 7:30a ★ **Anvil Firing** - Zabka Park behind Bandshell, before and after prayer service. Seward Volunteer Fire Dept. Colonial custom.
- ★ **Reveille (75mm Howitzer Cannon Fire) and Flag Raising** - Nebraska National Guard Museum. With Civil War re-enactors.
- ★ **Flag Raising** - Bandshell. Boy Scout USA Troop 256.

Key Locations & Hours

**Info Booth** - Located at NE corner Courthouse Square in the street, also in NE Natl Guard Museum, & Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home. Register in the quest book. **Opens: July 4, 7:30a-6p.**

**Bandshell** - 5th St. & Jackson Ave.

**Bottle Rocket Brewing Co.** - 230 S. 5th St. Brews, food truck, beer garden and root beer. Tours available. Cornhole Tourney. **Hours: July 3, 10a-10p; July 4, Opens 8a.**

**Changing Table & Feeding Station** - 5th & Jackson Ave., Bandshell Park. Hosted by MOPS.

**Civic Center** - 616 Bradford St.

**Family Rest Area** - Seward Civic Center, 616 Bradford St. Free. Featuring silent auction. GFWC SWC. **Opens: July 4, 8a-2p.**

**Freedom Run** - Seward Wellness Center, 2765 Eaton Drummer Blvd. Forms at [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com). **Starts: July 4, 7a.**

**High School** - 532 Northern Heights.

**Liberty House Bed & Breakfast** - 5th & Moffitt Sts. **Antique Market Opens: July 3-4, 9a.**

**Living Word Lutheran Church** - 1300 W. Hillcrest

**Seward Memorial Library** - 233 S. 5th St.

**Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church** - 6th & Bradford Sts.

**Nebraska National Guard Museum (NENG)** - 201 N. 8th St. Air-conditioned public restrooms. Free. Self-guided tours. New gift shop. "Cooling station open on July 4 until 3p" **Hours: July 3-4, 8a-3p.**

**Plum Creek Park** - N. Rainbow & E. Pinewood Aves. No cars. Walking traffic only. No private fireworks.

**Post Office** - 507 Main St. Pictorial cancellation for Seward's July 4th Celebration. Free postcards.

**Red Path Gallery & Tasting Room** - 514 Seward St. Nebraska art, wine, beer and spirits! **Hours: July 3, 12-5p; July 4, 9:30a-2p.**

**Rivoli Theatre** - 533 Main St. **Free Movie: July 4, 10:30a.**

**Seward County Historical Society Museum** - 1037 364th Rd., Goehner, NE. **Hours: July 3 & 4, 10a-4p.**

**Shuttle/Trolley Rides** - See map on [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com) or pick up a map at the Info Center on the Square. Free. **Hours: July 4, 8:30a-3:15p & 5-7p.**

**Sparetime Lounge & Grill** - 123 S. 4th St. **Hours: July 3, 9p-1a; Opens July 4, 10a.**

**VFW Club** - 243 S. 9th St.

**Zabka Park** - 4th St. & Jackson Ave.

**FIRST AID**  
**Southeast Citizen Corps**

**HANDICAP PARKING**

203 S. 6th Street  
Jones Bank main parking lot & Karol Kay Blvd. during fireworks

Items of Interest on July 4th

- ★ **GRAND PARADE** - Bands, floats, units, Theme: "Preserving the Present for the Future - Honoring and Opening Celebration of the World's Largest Time Capsule." Parade entry forms available at the Civic Center, 616 Bradford; or contact SCCDP, Collin Hain at 402-643-4189. You can also visit [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com) for an entry form or email [parade@cultivatesewardcounty.com](mailto:parade@cultivatesewardcounty.com).
- ★ **Fireworks Show at Plum Creek Park** - 10p. Extra seating at the Middle School grounds and Plum Creek Soccer Fields. Sponsored by Concordia University-Nebraska, Jones Bank, Scouler Manufacturing-Pet Source, Cattle Bank & Trust, Hughes Brothers, Tenneco and The Seward County Visitor's Bureau.
- ★ **Seward Wellness Center Freedom Run** - See [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com) for details.

- ★ **July 4 Historical Marker** - S.W. corner of Courthouse Square; Nebraska State Historical Society, City of Seward.
- ★ **Holiday Lights - Seward's "Operation Silhouette"** - Outline of Courthouse and businesses, week of July 4th.
- ★ **Lincoln Volkssport Club** - See [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com). The Music of Seward.
- ★ **Food on celebration grounds** - St. John Music Ministry at St. John Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 7:30-10a; Seward VFW Auxiliary, Post Home, 243 S. 9th St., 8a-noon; Food Alley, 5th and Seward St., 9a until sold out; Mighty Fortress Church Hot Dog Feed (benefitting Blue Valley Community Action) 10a-3p; SHS Band Boosters, Olde Glory Theatre, 11a-1:30p; Pie Festival, Raymond Church Pie Makers in Olde Glory Theatre, 11a-2p; Burger/Hot Dog Basket Feed, Seward VFW Club, 5-8p.

- ★ **Patriotic Outdoor Home Decorating Contest** - Sponsored by Seward Rotary and SHS FBIA, daytime/night lighting contest.
- ★ **Tourist Family** - 4th of July Committee, Seward County Sheriff/ Seward Police Department.
- ★ **Seward County Community Service Award** - Sponsored by Seward VFW Auxiliary 4755, 4th of July Committee, Seward County Independent.
- ★ **Special Edition by the Seward County Independent** - At Information Booth on July 4 Downtown and at the Nebraska National Guard Museum.
- ★ **Special Postal Cancellation Theme:** "Preserving the Present for the Future!" - U.S. Post Office. Celebrating the opening of the World's Largest Time Capsule.

- ★ **Information Booth/Guest Register** - Register in the guest book, N.E. corner of Courthouse Square, by Cattle Bank & Trust. Also located in Nebraska National Guard Museum and inside Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home.
- ★ **Crafts on the Square** - On the Square, 9a-4p.
- ★ **Free Concert in the Park: Columbus Jazz Orchestra** - Plum Creek Park. 8p. Noon Seward.
- ★ **July 4 Shuttles All Day** - Park at the high school. 8a-3:15p & 5-7p. See maps. No rides from fireworks.

★★★ No private fireworks during parade or fireworks display ★★★  
City Ordinance 56-366.2

Please respect the property and lawns of the community!

- ★ **Fourth of July BINGO** - Civic Center basement. Until 3p. Free. Prizes. Air-conditioned seating.
- ★ **Lecture: "Rediscovering God in America: The Importance of God to Our Nation's Founders," Cliff Lowell** - Includes a tour of Washington DC. Civic Center East fireplace room.
- ★ **Musical Presentation: Brian "Pickles" Gerkenmeyer, Guitar** - Bandshell.
- ★ **Travelogue: "Peru: Time Capsule of the Incas" Ian Fiala, CLINE** - Civic Center East fireplace room.
- 2:30p ★ **Mayor's community reception** - Honoring July 4th Dignitaries. Hosted by GFWC Seward Woman's Club, St. John Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Seward Mayor Josh Eickmeier. Senator Jana Hughes.
- 3:45p ★ **Seward Car Show "Duck Dash"** - 7th & Seward Sts.
- 4:00p ★ **GRAND PARADE** - Bands, floats, units, Theme: "Preserving the Present for the Future - Honoring and Opening Celebration of the World's Largest Time Capsule." Parade entry forms available at the Civic Center, 616 Bradford; or contact SCCDP, Collin Hain at 402-643-4189; or visit [www.julyfourthseward.com](http://www.julyfourthseward.com); or email [parade@cultivatesewardcounty.com](mailto:parade@cultivatesewardcounty.com).
- 5:00p ★ **VFW Hamburger/Hot Dog Basket Feed** - VFW Post 4755, 243 S. 9th St. 5-8p.
- 6:00p ★ **Mayor's Welcome: Crowning Miss Independence and Mr. Firecracker** - Bandshell. Seward County Community Service Award, Nebraska's Friend Award, Tourist Family introduced. Sponsored by Seward Rotary.
- ★ **Concession stand** - Plum Creek Park.
- 7:00p ★ **Concert** - Bandshell.
- 8:00p ★ **Concert in the park featuring Columbus Jazz Orchestra** - Plum Creek Park. Free. Extra seating and parking for fireworks following the concert in Middle School Grounds and Plum Creek Soccer Fields.
- 10:00p ★ **GIANT FIREWORKS SALUTE - A FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA** - Plum Creek Park. Tune into 104.9 MAX Country for music with fireworks. Bring a blanket and chair. Extra seating at Seward Middle School and Plum Creek Soccer Fields. July 4th Committee, coordinator Darin Urwin & Company. Sponsored by Cattle Bank & Trust, Concordia University, Jones Bank Seward and Milford, Hughes Brothers, Petsource by Scouler Manufacturing, Tenneco, and Seward County Visitor's Bureau. In case of rain, fireworks will be on July 5 at 10p.

★★★ No private fireworks during parade or fireworks display ★★★

★ **Downstream Seward's "Operation Silhouette"** - Holiday lights around the square. Featuring Courthouse lights. Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership.

★ **Homes Decorated with Red, White and Blue Lights** - Throughout Seward. Home lighting contests. Sponsored by Seward Rotary Club and SHS FBIA.

★ **Red, White and Blue Plantings** - Throughout Seward. Keep Seward Beautiful Committee.

Saturday, July 5

- 6:00a ★ **Clean Up** - City of Seward. Meet on north side of square, citywide throughout morning. A litter-free event. Keep Seward Beautiful! Seward Scouts, SHS FFA, FBIA, SkillsUSA, FCCLA and Key Club, 4-H Clubs, community volunteers.
- 2:00p ★ **Children's "Post-4th" Parade** - Begins at Ridgewood and visits area senior living residences. Informal "Senior July 4th Salute." Line up at Ridgewood East parking lot at 1:30p. No pre-registration needed. For more details, contact Molly Marroquin at [tina\\_marroquin@yahoo.com](mailto:tina_marroquin@yahoo.com); or Julia and Ayda Metschke, Youth Parade Co-Chairs, at [Julia.Metschke@sewardschools.org](mailto:Julia.Metschke@sewardschools.org).

★ Plan to Spend July 4, 2026, in SEWARD ★

*Nebraska's Official Fourth of July City*

Remember, July 4, 2026, is the 250th birthday of the USA! Come join us as we are the official Nebraska celebration site for July 4th. "One Nation, Many Stories!" USA 250: America's Semiquincentennial!

History

Since 1868, the community of Seward, Nebraska, has honored and celebrated the anniversary of the United States. Rich in community history, this celebration has grown to state and national attention, emphasizing the total community effort. This example of "small town" America celebrating as it has for over 150 years will again happen on July 4, 2025, and we invite you to share this day with us, if not in person, at least in spirit!

Seward was named Nebraska's Best Festival 2021, 2015 and 2016; received the top award in 2005, 2006 and 2007; finished as a finalist in 2011-2014 & 2017; was named Nebraska's Festival of the Year 2021-2022; was named one of America's Top Ten Fourth of July Celebrations in the nation; and received the 2019 George Washington Honor Medal - Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge.

"Nebraska's Top Festival Attraction"  
by State Tourism - State of Nebraska!  
2021-2022

FOR INFO, CONTACT: Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership 402-643-4189 or visit [julyfourthseward.com](http://julyfourthseward.com)

WEBSITES:  
[julyfourthseward.com](http://julyfourthseward.com) ★ [sewardnebraskatourism.com](http://sewardnebraskatourism.com)

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