

Villa Park VFW Post 2801 Presents

# STARS, STRIPES, AND 250 LIGHTS

2026 FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



[invillapark.com/independence-day-parade](http://invillapark.com/independence-day-parade)

Saturday, July 4, 2026 | Step Off 10:00 am



### **ABOUT VILLA PARK VFW POST 2801**

The Villa Park VFW Post 2801 is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency that serves the Villa Park and surrounding community members. The Villa Park VFW fosters camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

**VILLA PARK VFW POST 2801 MISSION STATEMENT** Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

### **VILLA PARK VFW POST 2801 CORE VALUES**

- Always put the interests of our members first.
- Treat donors as partners in our cause.
- Promote patriotism.
- Honor military service.
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families.
- Serve our communities.

### **ABOUT THE VILLAGE OF VILLA PARK**

At the turn of the century, an electric railway called the Aurora, Elgin, and Chicago streaked across the prairie farmland. This land was owned by German farmers: the Cables, Meyers, Karnstedt, and Biermanns. They had settled here in the 1850's and 1860's. Two subdivisions sprang up - Villa Park in 1908, and Ardmore in 1910. Summit Avenue was the dividing line. In 1914, the two were incorporated as Ardmore. In 1917, the name was changed to Villa Park.

Today, Villa Park provides a good life for its over 22,500 residents. They enjoy a 'small town' atmosphere, excellent schools, outstanding police and fire protection, 'state of the art' paramedic service, and exceptional recreational facilities. Villa Park residents are comfortable with a wide variety of housing, and convenient shopping.

### **VILLAGE MISSION STATEMENT**

"We are committed to transparency, communication, excellence in public service, being good stewards of community resources, and providing support and opportunities for our residents and businesses."



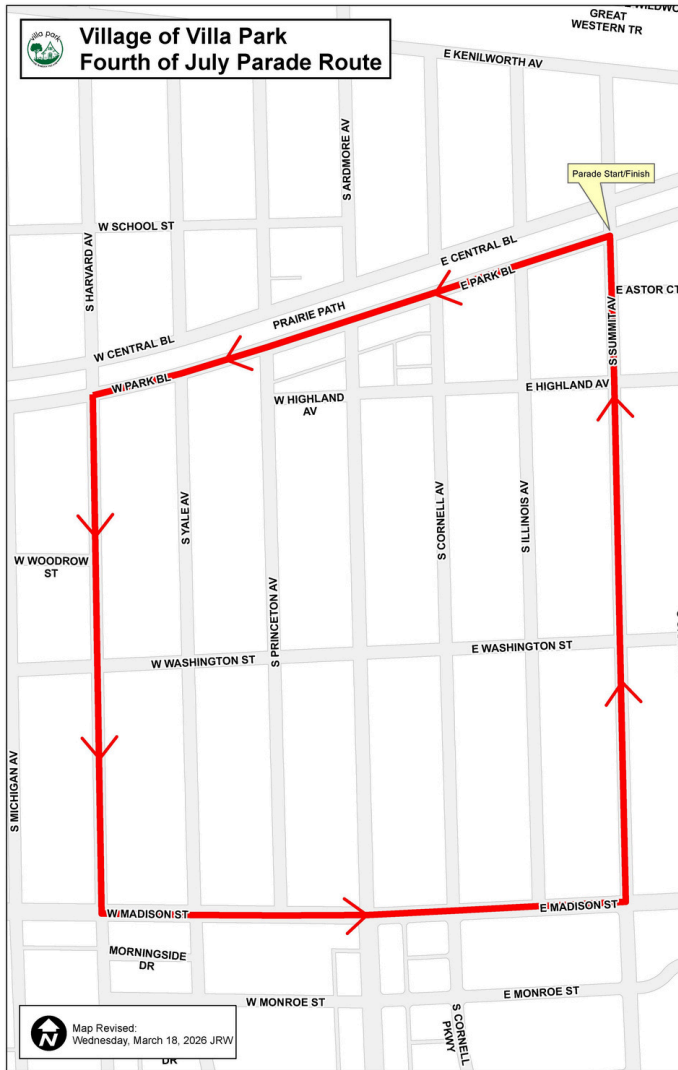
### **ABOUT THE PARADE**

The Villa Park Fourth of July Parade first stepped off more than 50 years ago and continues to be a way of bringing the community together to celebrate those who have and those that are currently serving in our nation's armed forces. This highly-anticipated community event brings together thousands of community members, businesses, civic organizations, and clubs in celebration of this important day and to raise much-needed funds for Post 2801.

Some of the projects that have been accomplished because of fundraisers such as this include, but are not limited to:

- Providing meals to active service persons during the holiday season
- Repairs to the local VFW Hall
- Community education opportunities
- Emotional support

We hope that you will demonstrate your support and join us in 2026!



**PARTICIPATION INFORMATION & RULES**

Your entry is contingent upon the receipt of a completed paper registration along with your payment dropped off or mailed to the Villa Park VFW Post 2801.

All vehicles must be decorated appropriately for the July 4th holiday.

Passing out of items including but not limited to candy, flyers, and giveaways, should be handed out.

All participants must walk with their group or be in a vehicle/tow float.

Floats or vehicles should be no wider than ten feet, no longer than forty feet, and no taller than 13 feet from the ground. However, the float should be constructed so it can fit under tree branches, traffic lights, telephone, and electrical wires along the parade route and in a way that it is able to make all required turns on the parade route, as well as navigate inside staging areas.

The maximum speed for vehicles will be 5 miles per hour.

Water guns, super soakers, or water balloons are not permitted by spectators or participants.

Parade volunteers will be present along the parade to ensure safety and to keep the parade moving. You are required to follow their instructions. Please be respectful of these volunteers and the police who will be assisting them.

The Villa Park VFW Post 2801 and the Village of Villa Park are not responsible for any of your entry's actions.

Please inform all of your participants of these rules. These rules have been based on community feedback. It is strongly suggested that your entry follows the spirit of these rules and not try to work around them.

Above all else, have a great time and enjoy the parade. The Villa Park VFW Post 2801 reserves the right for all group placement and lineup in the parade. Our intent is for participants and spectators alike to have fun and enjoy the event!

The parade happens rain or shine! Entry fees are non-refundable.

**FEES**

- NFP, Community Clubs, & Civic Agencies \$50
- Businesses & Political Groups \$100

**LINE UP INFORMATION AND TIMING**

Parade groups are to arrive and begin lining up at 8:30 am at their designated spot. It is the responsibility of the main contact listed on your application to communicate information to your group about lineup location and procedures. For the safety of everyone, vehicles will be prohibited from entering streets in and around the red outlined area shown above beginning at 8:00 am.

**AWARD CATEGORIES**

First-place award winners will be announced after the parade in the following categories:

- Most Patriotic | Symbolizes America and the Fourth of July
- Best Musical | Best entry performing music
- Best Use of Theme | Demonstrates best use of current parade theme
- Community's Choice | An online community vote will be held after the parade to select the honorees in this category.

All awards will be presented at a Village Board Meeting.

## EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Event sponsorship provides our partners a vast marketing and promotional value to a targeted audience in a variety of avenues. Individual partnership benefits listed on the next page can assist you in figuring out how you can best showcase your business or organization to thousands of spectators while supporting the local VFW Post 2801 and the Village of Villa Park to bring these long-standing traditions to Villa Park each year.

<b>Sponsorship Levels</b>	Presenting Sponsor \$2,500	Entertainment Sponsor \$1,000	Patriotic Sponsor \$250	Business or Political Group Parade Entry \$100	Community Group Parade Entry \$50
Parade Entry	X	X	X	X	X
Name Recognition in Grandstand Announcements	X	X	X	X	X
Logo on Grandstand Banner	X	X	X		
Logo on Parade Website, Emails & Social Media Posts	X	X	X		
Logo on Commemorative Volunteer Parade T-Shirt	X	X	X		
Parade Commemorative T-Shirt	6	4	2		
Logo on Parade Banners	X	X	X		
Acknowledgement on Press Releases	X	X			
Reserved Parking Spaces	2	1			
Grandstand Seating	4	2			
Opportunity to Welcome Parade Participants	X				
Opportunity to Present Parade Awards	X				

# 2026 VILLA PARK FOURTH OF JULY PARADE PARTICIPANT & SPONSOR REGISTRATION

Please complete this application and submit it with full payment to:  
 Villa Park VFW Post 2801  
 ATTN: Jim Blankshain 39 E St. Charles Rd, Villa Park, IL 60181

Checks can be made payable to Villa Park VFW Post 2801. Should you have questions, please call 630.834.8191. Sponsorships must be received by Friday, May 1 for your logo to be included. General parade participants must be submitted by Monday, June 1. Thank you for your support!

MAIN CONTACT INFORMATION	
First Name	Last Name
Address	City, State, Zip Code
Email	Cell Phone
GROUP INFORMATION	
Group Name	
Website	Telephone
Specify Type of Float:                  Length of Float:	Number of Pedestrians:
Vehicle Type & how many vehicles: (car/suv, truck, semi, flat bed)	Total number of people in your group:
Please share a few sentences about your group to be read at the grandstand:	
GROUP INFORMATION: Select Your Commitment Level	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community, Nonprofit, Civic, Youth, or Faith-Based Group Parade Entry   \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Business or Political Parade Entry   \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Presenting Sponsor   \$2,500 Will your group have an entry in the parade? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment Sponsor   \$1,000 Will your group have an entry in the parade? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Patriotic Sponsor   \$250 Will your group have an entry in the parade? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Sponsorships must be received by Friday, May 1 for your logo to be included. General parade participants must be submitted by Monday, June 1. Thank you for your support!	

## WAIVER

**In case of MEDICAL EMERGENCY, I authorize Villa Park VFW Post 2801 and the Village of Villa Park, its directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, and designees (collectively "Parade Committee") to take such emergency action as may be deemed necessary.**

Please read this form carefully and be aware that enrolling and participating in any program, you will be expressly assuming the risk and legal liability and waiving and releasing all claims for injuries, damages, or loss which you or your minor child/ward might sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with and associated with this program.

I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury or illness associated with participating in this program, and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, illness damages, or losses, regardless of severity, that I or my minor child/ward may sustain as a result of such participation. I fully understand and agree that all program shall be at my or my minor child's/ward's sole risk. I further agree to waive and relinquish all claims I or my minor child/ward may have or which may occur to me and/or my minor/ward as a result of participation in this program. I do hereby fully release and forever discharge the Parade Committee from any and all claims for injuries, damages, or loss that I or my minor child/ward may have or which may occur to me or my minor child/ward and arising out of, connected with, or in release of all claims.

**I, hereby grant the Parade Committee non-revocable permission to capture my/my minor child/ward image and likeness in photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings, or any other media (collectively "Images").** I acknowledge that the Parade Committee will own such Images and further grant the Parade Committee permission to copyright, display, publish, distribute, use, modify, print, and reprint such Images in any manner whatsoever related to the Parade Committee business, including without limitation, publications, advertisements, brochures, web site images, or other electronic displays, and transmissions thereof. I further waive any right to inspect or approve the use of the Image by the Parade Committee prior to its use. I forever release and hold the Parade Committee harmless from any and all liability arising out of the use of the Images in any manner or media whatsoever, and waive any and all claims and causes of action relating to use of the Images, including without limitation, claims for invasion of privacy rights or publicity.

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Signature

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Date