

Fireworks viewing guide

By Wade Tatangelo , Herald-Tribune



Fireworks explode over Sarasota Bay during last year's Fourth of July celebration at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. (Herald-Tribune staff photo by Dan Wagner)

Every year glorious explosions light up the skies of Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties in celebration of Independence Day. This year, concerts and other fun stuff are also part of the festivities taking place Thursday and Friday. From beaches to ballparks, from Palmetto to Punta Gorda, here are the best places to behold some patriotic pyrotechnics.

Sarasota

North Port Freedom Festival

Sarasota singer Chris Eisenberg, who became famous at age 12 as "Lil Chris" while competing on "America's Got Talent" in 2010, will perform at 8 p.m. as the opening act for the 9 p.m. fireworks. Local rock band Adrenaline Junkies kicks things off followed by opening ceremonies at 7 p.m. There will also be food and vendor booths, a family activity area as well as an obstacle course and tropical slide.

6 p.m. Friday; North Port High School, 6400 W. Price Blvd., North Port, 955-0991; visitsarasota.org.