

Grand Island Independence Day Activities - 2013

The Town of Grand Island starts the 4th of July celebrations with the 38th Annual Dick Bessel Independence Day Run. The 2.3 mile races begin at 9:00 am sharp, ending no later than 10:30 am, and are followed by a community parade.

Grand Island Boulevard will be completely closed to traffic between Staley Road and Baseline Road from 8:45 am until approximately noon. Baseline Road, from Whitehaven Road to GI Blvd. is closed to both north and south bound traffic from 9:00 am to 9:20 am to allow runners to clear the area.

The parade begins immediately following the race; it moves north on Grand Island Boulevard to Baseline Road, with judges stationed in front of the Fire Hall. Ending time is no later than noon. Many town folks then enjoy the hospitality of the VFW's open house during the afternoon hours.

Beginning at 5 pm on July 4th, Martin's Fantasy Island, at 2400 Grand Island Boulevard, allows Grand Island residents free admission with photo identification and proof of Grand Island residency (adults). They host fireworks at dusk with ground and aerial displays. Ample free parking exists in their parking lot, as well as neighboring plazas.

It's also a big weekend for Grand Island class reunions with special events over several days for graduated classes from 1973, 1983, 1988 and 1993. The 3rd Annual "Grand Reunion" for graduates from any class, sponsored by Mallwitz's Island Lanes will be on Wednesday, July 3rd starting at 6:00 p.m. Live music provided by "Wide Right" will begin at 7:00 p.m. This event is taking place outside. All GIHS Alumni and friends and the general public over 21 are invited to attend. There is no admittance charge. A cash bar and food will be available for purchase, including wood fire pizzas from Pizza Amore.