



**10 EVENTS  
TO UP YOUR  
FIRST STATE  
STREET CRED**

**W**ith warmer weather comes a plethora of festivals and events that are Delaware classics. ■ Events at which you'll almost certainly run into someone you know, whether it's a co-worker or the parent of your third-grade crush. ■ We couldn't detail all of the state's greatest hits — we do have a space limitation. But attendance at these 10 First State festivals and events help define what it means to be a Delawarean. Think of warmer days and Point-to-Point, which kicks off our list.

Ken Mammarella Special to Delaware News Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

# Very Delaware



**6 The beach around the Fourth of July**

The busiest time at Sussex County's five beach towns is around the Fourth of July, with holiday celebrations illustrating their different characters. Lewes on the Fourth hosts children's games, a boat parade and a doo-dah parade, and it's adding fireworks this year. **Rehoboth Beach** arranges for music in the bandstand and fireworks — but the date might not be July 4 (it's **July 1** this year). Dewey Beach gets fireworks thanks to the Highway One Group, which owns several local restaurants and bars. **Bethany Beach** goes for a parade and fireworks. **Fenwick Island** — the quietest of the Quiet Resorts — arranges just a friendly bonfire on a nearby evening. Complete the holiday at one of the seven beach locations of Grotto Pizza, co-founded by Dominick Pulieri the month before he turned 18 on July 2, 1960. No matter what activities are planned, each town will be packed, and fun will be had by all.

Beaches will be packed around Fourth of July, with fireworks, music and parades — and the actual beaches — drawing crowds. CHUCK SNYDER, SPECIAL TO THE NEWS JOURNAL

**1 Point-to-Point**

Winterthur's Point-to-Point calls for fancy food, fancy drinks, fancy clothes and fancy hats for the thousands of people elegantly tailgating as they watch horses race (steeplechase and on sticks). There are also parades of antique carriages and foxhounds, plus a chance to spot a boldface name. It's a rain or shine event, so be prepared for both with wet-weather gear and plenty of sunscreen — and layering is a good idea if it's chilly. The 40th edition is **May 6**. [www.winterthur.org/?p=1142](http://www.winterthur.org/?p=1142)



Katie Kramedas and Meghan Garrison attend last year's Point-to-Point at Winterthur. The 40th annual event is set for **May 6**. KYLE GRANTHAM/THE NEWS JOURNAL

**4 Firefly Music Festival**

The Firefly Music Festival, which since 2012 has each summer brought tens of thousands of people to **Dover** for a weekend, traces its roots to a fan of the TV show "The Amazing Race." That was Joe Reynolds, founder of Chicago-based Red Frog events. Music remains front and center — this year's lineup includes Eminem, Kendrick Lamar, The Killers, SZA and Arctic Monkeys and about 90 others — but it's also done beach volleyball, yoga and a hot air balloon and it has continually supported St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In the end, the music, the dancing and the camaraderie unite the crowds camped out in the 105 acres of The Woodlands of Dover International Speedway. The seventh edition is **June 14-17**. [fireflyfestival.com](http://fireflyfestival.com).



**ODESZA** comes to Firefly this year. Clayton Knight of **ODESZA** preforms at **SXSW** in 2015 in Austin, Texas. ROBIN MARCHANT, GETTY IMAGES FOR TUMBLR

**5 DuPont Clifford Brown Jazz Festival**

Jazz trumpeter Clifford Brown, a Wilmington native who died in a car crash at age 25 in 1956, lives on in the DuPont Clifford Brown Jazz Festival. The event, billed as the East Coast's largest free jazz festival, each year brings stars and up-and-comers to Rodney Square in downtown **Wilmington**. Look for jazz of all sorts in the 30th edition, **June 20-23**.

**7 Brandywine Festival of the Arts**

The Brandywine Festival of the Arts since 1961 has helped end the summer and start the holiday shopping season by bringing together hundreds of artists and artisans and thousands of aficionados in Brandywine Park's Josephine Gardens in **Wilmington**. The format has evolved (the bull roast is out, food vendors are in), and so has the name and the operator. Musicians, children's activities and the view of the Brandywine do offer a contrast to the art. But all along the experience has involved navigating through the crowds, watching out for tree roots and chatting with creative types in their tents as you seek treasures that just speak to you. The next one is **Sept. 8-9**. [www.brandywinearts.com](http://www.brandywinearts.com).

**8 Nanticoke Indian Powwow**

Powwow, "from the Narragansett Eastern Algonquian language, is defined as any gathering of Native people," the Nanticoke Indian Association writes. Its powwow is more than that. "Through these gatherings, cultural traditions are passed from generation to generation." The Nanticoke Indian Powwow, conducted in **Millsboro**, is also a showcase of Native American culture for everyone, especially dances, dance attire, music, food and handicrafts. Look for the 41st edition **Sept. 8-9**.

**9 Sea Witch Festival**

Two parades (one for costumes and floats and another for dogs) generate the biggest crowds during the Sea Witch Festival. But the festival, sponsored by the Rehoboth Beach-Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, fills the weekend with dozens of events — including the fiddlers bumped from the name — in **Rehoboth Beach**, **Dewey Beach** and north to **Cape Henlopen State Park** and south to the **Indian River Life-Saving Station Museum**. The 29th edition is **Oct. 26-28**. [www.beach-fun.com/sea-witch-halloween-fiddlers-festival.html](http://www.beach-fun.com/sea-witch-halloween-fiddlers-festival.html).



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**10 Return Day**

Return Day, when Delaware's winning and losing politicians are supposed to make nice with each other, is "the only event of its kind in the country," a state historical marker says. The tradition goes back two centuries, when a board met in **Georgetown** two days after the election to determine voting returns. Today, with results often calculated within two hours of polls closing, Return Day goes for a ceremonial reading of results, but the real draws are a parade, entertainment, an ox roast, the burying of a ceremonial hatchet and speculation on the election two years to come. The next one is **Nov. 8**.

**2 Old New Castle's biggest festivals**

Delaware's independence day — June 15, 1776, when the New Castle, Kent and Sussex counties separated from Pennsylvania — inspires one of Old New Castle's big annual festivals. **Separation Day** (this year it's **June 8-9**, according to [www.sepayde.com](http://www.sepayde.com)) includes re-enactors, games, artisans and entertainment. Another favorite festival is **A Day in Old New Castle**, which started in 1924, making it America's oldest continually operating house and garden tour. The next edition, on **May 19**, partly carries out its "Taverns, Taprooms and Tippling Houses" theme with a beer garden, in addition to classic draws like re-enactors, period games and carriage rides. And with its **Spirit of Christmas**, New Castle Presbyterian leads the way in heralding the holiday with music, caroling, a tree lighting, house tours, shopping and Christmas cookies. The 18th edition is **Dec. 8**.

**3 St. Anthony's Italian Festival**

Many people go to St. Anthony's Italian Festival just to eat, drink, listen to music and chat. But some of the 75,000 who attend each year go deeper into Italian culture by taking a tour of the 1926 church, watching a traditional procession of the saints or taking home souvenirs imported from Italy. Your game plan? Consider the wisdom of the crowds — and all the offerings in four main areas for food, 10 bars and three stages for music. The 44th edition — with a focus on Apulia, the "heel" of the Italian peninsula — runs **June 10-17** in **Wilmington**. [stanthonysfestival.com](http://stanthonysfestival.com)