

67TH ANNUAL BILLY BOWLEGS PIRATE FESTIVAL 2023

INFORMATION SHEET

- **May 18-22 (weekend after Mother's Day), second year on its new date**
- **Since 1954, the original and continuing purpose of the Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival: To promote business and tourism, and showcase our beautiful Emerald Coast community**
- **This year's theme is "Loud & Proud!"**
- **Events held at Fort Walton Landing and Downtown Fort Walton Beach**
- **Thursday Evening, May 18 – “Pre-Invasion”**
 - Location: Downtown Fort Walton Beach, Ferry Road, just off Main Street
 - Captain Billy Bowlegs and his 'Krewe in Black' will arrive between 4:30pm and 5:00pm aboard their pirate ship parade float, the Blackhawk, to greet area children, take photos, and hand out treasure. They will be on hand for approximately 2 hours.
 - Later in the evening, Captain Billy and his Krewe will join the Downtown Pub Crawl and “invade” local establishments.
- **Friday Evening, May 19 – “Skirmish”**
 - Location: Fort Walton Landing
 - The City of Fort Walton Beach will host its Concert in the Park, with live entertainment from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, and vendors on hand.
 - Members of the U.S. Army 6th Ranger Training Battalion will be on hand with static displays, and “assets” on the water firing simulated weapons to deter Captain Billy
 - Captain Billy and his 'Krewe in Black' will arrive by water shortly after 6:30pm
 - The Mayor of Fort Walton Beach and his forces are prepared, and have threatened to arrest Captain Billy if he tries to land.
 - The evening will end with a Fireworks show over Santa Rosa Sound shortly after 8:00pm
- **Saturday, May 20 – “Invasion of Captain Billy Bowlegs 67”**
 - Location: Fort Walton Landing and Downtown Fort Walton Beach
 - Various arts and crafts, food, beverage, and other vendor booths on hand at Fort Walton Landing starting at 10:00am, with music provided by a DJ, throughout the day.
 - Members of the U.S. Army 7th Special Forces will be on hand with static displays
 - Captain Billy will return and land by water between 3:30pm and 4:00pm with the entire Krewe of Bowlegs, as well as his allies from visiting Krewes from across the country. The mayor will try everything to stop him, but Captain Billy will prevail and take over the City of Fort Walton Beach once again!
 - Captain Billy will have a live drawing of the fewer than 100 lucky holders of the treasure coins, and will announce the winner of the Treasure Hunt, with grand prize valued at \$1,000.
 - The Krewe of Bowlegs pirates and wenches will greet the citizens of Captain Billy's newly-captured city and distribute treasures.
 - Captain Billy and his Krewe will “invade” willing businesses and establishments downtown, and the evening will turn into a pirate street party.
 - There will be a Fireworks show over land Downtown around 8:00pm.

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- **Monday Evening, May 22 – “Torchlight Parade”**

- Location: Eglin Parkway, from First Street to Hughes Avenue, Downtown Fort Walton Beach
- Start time: 7:00 p.m.
- The parade will be anchored by Captain Billy and the entire Krewe of Bowlegs aboard their 5 floats to celebrate Captain Billy Bowlegs' 67th annual capture of Fort Walton Beach!

- **2023 Sponsors:**

- Murder Creek Distillery
- Thrive Wellness
- Community Bank
- Emerald Coast CPA
- The Island Resort
- The Will Lawyers
- Edward Jones / Matthew Ritter, AAMS
- The City of Fort Walton Beach
- William Augustus Bowles Museum & Historical Foundation
- Krewe of Bowlegs
- Omni Broadcasting / 100.3 K-ROCK
- Emerald Coast Connected

- **The Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival is produced as a partnership between the William Augustus Bowles Foundation, the City of Fort Walton Beach, the Krewe of Bowlegs, the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses and community organizations.**

- **Captain Billy 67 is looking for a BIG turnout this year, so please come out and join him and his 'Krewe in Black' as they 'Turn it up to 11!' and take over the City of Fort Walton Beach!**