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**Saturday
July 4, 2026**

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July 4th, known as Independence Day, commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and has evolved into a major national holiday celebrated with fireworks, parades, and various festivities.

Continue to page 3 for the full July 4th Independence Day story.

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JULY 4TH: HOW A DECLARATION BECAME A TRADITION

By Kevin Gallagher



July 4th, known as **Independence Day**, marks the moment the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.



The actual vote for independence had taken place two days earlier, on July 2, but July 4 became the date printed on the document — and the date the nation chose to celebrate. What began as a political milestone has grown into one of the most widely recognized and enduring holidays in the United States.

The first anniversary celebration came quickly. In 1777, while the Revolutionary War was still underway, Philadelphia marked the day with fireworks, bonfires, music, and a communal meal. It was a bold, almost defiant celebration for a nation still fighting for its existence. John Adams had predicted that Independence Day would be honored with “pomp and parade,” and that first celebration set the tone for everything that followed. Even in uncertain times, Americans found a way to gather, commemorate, and look forward.

As the country expanded, so did the holiday. By the early 19th century, July 4th had become a major civic event, complete with parades, speeches, militia demonstrations, and community gatherings. It was one of the first truly national celebrations — a day that didn't belong to any single region, religion, or political group. Towns used the holiday to bring people together, celebrate local pride, and reflect on the country's growing identity. In 1870, Congress designated Independence Day as an unpaid federal holiday, and in 1938 it became a paid one, solidifying its place in American culture.

Modern celebrations look different from those early gatherings, but the spirit remains the same. Fireworks still anchor the day, a tradition that traces back to ancient China and traveled through Europe before becoming part of American festivities. Today, cities and small towns across the country host elaborate displays that draw millions of spectators. Families



gather for barbecues, beach days, concerts, and neighborhood events. Americans spend billions each year on food, travel, and celebrations, making July 4th one of the most anticipated holidays of the summer.

The foods associated with the holiday — grilled chicken, hot dogs, corn on the cob, watermelon, potato salad — aren't ceremonial or symbolic. They're simply the foods people enjoy eating together in July. That's part of the charm. Independence Day isn't a holiday that demands formality. It's built on simple rituals that repeat year after year, creating a sense of continuity that feels both comforting and familiar.

Beyond the fireworks and cookouts, July 4th serves as a reminder of the country's founding ideals — freedom, self-determination, and the ongoing work of shaping a nation. The holiday has evolved over nearly 250 years, but its purpose remains steady: to celebrate the moment the colonies declared their independence and to reflect on the values that continue to define the United States.

In the end, Independence Day is less about looking back at a single historical moment and more about looking at the communities we live in, the traditions we keep, and the shared sense of identity that continues to bring people together every July. It's a holiday built on gathering, celebrating, and remembering that the story of the country is still being written, one generation at a time.



Our Flag in American Art: 1935–2026

As America celebrates its 250th birthday, the Museum of Art - DeLand invites visitors to reflect on themes of patriotism, identity, and national symbolism through diverse artistic visions of the American flag. This thoughtful exhibition includes artists and artworks selected from our Permanent Collection as well as noted artists represented by Harmon-Meek Gallery, all exploring the American flag's legacy as a lasting cultural icon.

Location: Museum of Art – DeLand

100 N Woodland Blvd, DeLand, FL 32720, USA

CERT NEWS

By Donna Bruno



May was a busy and productive month for the Plantation Oaks Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Congratulations to **Bob Greenlaw** and **Paula Watson**, who completed CERT training at the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center. Their dedication helps strengthen our community's emergency preparedness efforts. The next CERT training class begins in September and will be held in the evenings. Watch for future announcements and registration details.

We are also pleased to welcome **MJ Arrigoni** to the PO CERT team. MJ will work with **Stan Masscotte** in maintaining PO CERT equipment and plans to attend the September CERT training class, further expanding his emergency preparedness skills and our readiness! PO CERT will be entering into a partnership with the American Red Cross to receive 24 smoke detectors. Through this program, trained CERT members will be able to install smoke detectors for residents, helping improve fire safety throughout our community.



Pictured left to right: Jonathan Lord (Director, Flagler County Emergency Management); Donna Bruno, PO CERT Finance and Admin Officer; Bob Greenlaw, PO CERT Operations and Communications Officer; Paula Watson; Frank Claire, PO CERT Planning and Intel Officer; Ken Cerney, PO CERT Logistics Officer; and Ed Kapshak, PO CERT Team Leader.

We received valuable guidance from a founding member of Southeast Volusia CERT regarding the Small Business Development Program. We will submit our Articles of Incorporation and by-laws for review, and the program will assist us with the filings needed to obtain our 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation from the IRS and the State of Florida. The purpose of pursuing this designation is to legally allow the team to fundraise, accept donations, and purchase training materials, equipment, and supplies on a tax-exempt basis. **We continue to work closely with Flagler County Emergency Management and remain under the County's Emergency Operations Center umbrella.** Our goal is to build a sustainable program

that can serve as a model for other CERT teams as existing teams are revitalized and new teams are formed throughout the area.

The storm on May 28th, where 63 homes (including the gate house!) lost power and internet, provided a good opportunity to test our preparedness for the upcoming hurricane season. As a result, several Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for storm response and CERT operations have been updated. These, along with the minutes and financial report, can be found in the binder in the clubhouse for all to review.

PLEASE NOTE: To date, **only 122** Emergency Information Survey Forms (**only one third** of our community of **377 homes**) have been returned by our residents. This information is vitally important during power outages and other emergencies, so we know who in our community is most at risk and possible need of assistance. These forms are available online at www.ourpora.org under "Forms, Lists, and Applications," then click on "CERT." You will find the CERT Emergency Information Survey there to download. **Once completed, return it to your BLOCK CAPTAIN or place it in the PORA mailbox in the clubhouse.** If you would prefer one delivered to your home or if you need additional information, please contact us at POCERT2026@gmail.com. Please know that this information will be kept confidential. It is meant for the safety and well-being of all our residents. CERT = Residents Helping Residents!

BRAIN TEASERS

Submitted by Linda Morrison

New Series: 5 Each Month!

Here are the second 5 teasers:

Example: 16 = O in a POunces in a Pound

Answers found on another page in

1. 54 = C in a D with the J
2. 9 = P in the SS
3. 88 = P K
4. 13 = S on the A F
5. 32 = D F at which W F



Beauty Tips!

By Terry Johnson



Yellow toenails from UV rays and dark polish?

SOLUTION: Make a brightening paste! Simply mix the juice from 1 lemon (its citric acid bleaches nails) 1 teaspoon each of baking soda (it scours the stains) and hydrogen peroxide (it oxidizes pigments deposited by dark polish). Rub paste on nails, let sit for 5 minutes and rinse.

TRIVIA TIME!



By Rich Bencal

July is here and we are now entering the second half of the year. While the temperatures are still warm to hot, the sun is slowly setting earlier each day. This month I have prepared 10 questions based on July events. As always, the answers will appear on another page of the POP. Good luck and stay cool.

QUESTIONS:

1. What US city was the first to celebrate Independence Day on July 4?
2. After what war did Fourth of July celebrations increase significantly?
3. In what year did Independence Day become a legal federal holiday?
4. What did George Washington give his soldiers to celebrate Independence Day?
5. What was the first state to make Independence Day a state holiday?
6. On what day did the Continental Congress vote to declare Independence?
7. Who made the motion in the Continental Congress to declare independence?
8. In what year did the US declare its independence from England?
9. Approximately 150 millions of these are consumed on July 4th. What are they?
10. What US retailer opened their first store in Rogers, AK on July 2, 1962

BLOCK CAPTAINS

By Donna Copeland



As Block Captain Coordinator I have been blessed to have wonderful volunteers to our 13 zones in Plantation Oaks. We now have to say goodbye to a few, but we are lucky to have replacements!

The following fabulous Block Captains are retiring:

Diane Williams, Zone 7 (Morington Lane);
Claire Hamel, Zone 2 (Habersham and Winthrop); (special thanks to Don Hamel for delivering for Claire);
Grace Patrick, Zone 8 (Claremount and Chatsworth);
and **Betty Shaver**, Zone 13 (Ashbury). Thank you all for your dedication to the Plantain Oaks Block Captains! More information regarding the new Zone Captains will be published in a future POP. Stay tuned!

THANK
YOU
for the lives you touch
we appreciate you
SO MUCH

Happy Birthday

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Margaret Girard | 18 Chuck Allspach |
| 1 Carol Manowski | 18 Grace Patrick |
| 2 Thomas Michael Testa | 19 Carollee Eppinger |
| 2 Anne Mowling | 19 Kathleen Akins |
| 4 Good Ole USA - 250 🖐️ | 19 Eileen Biers |
| 6 Dana Matlock | 19 Suzanne Ertl |
| 6 Jeffrey Dawkins | 19 Betty Vandermyn |
| 6 John Taylor | 20 Mary Shaw |
| 8 Joseph Falis | 21 Patty Hillis |
| 8 Larry Pickett | 21 Robert Stearns |
| 8 Marie Grudzien | 21 Jack Delvecchio |
| 8 Peter Pasquariello | 21 Al Waltersdorf |
| 9 Judith MacLeod | 22 Robert Bataille |
| 9 Shannon Fitzpatrick | 22 Art Brehn |
| 10 Colin MacLeod | 24 Alan (Ollie) Davey |
| 12 Gail Pulak | 24 David Manowski |
| 12 Faith Tehan | 24 Christine Davis |
| 12 Sharon Avery | 25 Frank Clair |
| 14 Mary Hunt | 26 Tom Brennan |
| 14 Fran McNamara | 26 Ann O'Leary |
| 14 Mike Reed | 27 Debbie Marron |
| 14 Tom Young | 28 Lee Burbridge |
| 15 Patricia Rewitzer | 28 Karen Dolan |
| 18 Kathy Schultz | 29 Dee Cohen |
| 16 Janet Scanlan | 29 Dean Rostamo |
| 16 Carol Waltersdorf | 30 Peggy Grandin |
| | 31 Lillian D'Urbano |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Michael & Donna McGeehan
- 11 Betty & Tom Brennan
- 14 Benny & Carol Cerney
- 15 Tom & Gail Young
- 16 Frank & Raylene Messina
- 18 Gary & Patricia Watkins
- 20 Don & Deb Clack
- 22 Jim & Rose Schafer
- 24 Frank & Val Clair
- 24 Tom & Ann Greene
- 26 Mike & Rosemary Merry
- 27 Cliff & Pam Oberg

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, have the dates wrong or name misspelled, please contact dbmatlock@live.com.





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THE COOLEST DESSERT: LEMON POSSET

By Kevin Gallagher MS, CECE



By this point in the summer, most people want a dessert that cools them down without weighing them down. As a chef, I pay attention to that. I want to give you something that feels refreshing the moment you take a bite — clean flavor, smooth texture, and nothing heavy or fussy. That's why I love this recipe for Lemon Posset. It's bright, chilled, and incredibly satisfying, and you'd never guess it's made from just a few simple ingredients. It's the kind of dessert that makes you feel taken care of, especially on a hot summer evening.

Posset is even more interesting when you realize it didn't start out as a dessert at all. Its roots go back to medieval England, where it began as a warm drink of curdled milk mixed with wine or ale — more of a tonic than a treat. Over time, cooks refined the idea, swapping alcohol for citrus and discovering that cream thickens beautifully when balanced with just the right amount of acidity. By the 19th century, posset had evolved into the chilled, spoonable custard we recognize today. It's a rare example of culinary history improving itself through simplicity.

Lemon posset sets nicely in the refrigerator, holds beautifully, and tastes like it was designed for summer evenings — cool, silky, and bright enough to cut through the day's humidity. It's elegant without being cloying, and it's the kind of dish you can serve in anything from a ramekin to a pretty cut glass coupe and still feel like you've delivered something special.

It also happens to be one of the most reliable make-ahead desserts you can offer. Once it's poured and chilled, it stays perfectly set and ready for service, which makes it ideal for entertaining or for a weeknight dinner when you want something impressive without extra work. Add a few berries, a twist of lemon, or a sprig of mint, and you've got a fancy dessert!

Here is the recipe — straightforward, easy, and consistent. It is guaranteed to get a positive reaction. So there you have it...just a couple of ingredients, a little technique, and a huge of payoff!



Lemon Posset

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest
- 6 tablespoons fresh lemon juice (about 2–3 lemons)
- 1 Pinch of salt (rounds out the flavor)

Instructions

1. Combine the cream, sugar, lemon zest, and salt in a medium saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally.
2. Reduce heat and **simmer 5 minutes** — this step is what gives posset its silky set.
3. Remove from heat and stir in the lemon juice. It will thicken as the acid works its magic.
4. Let it cool for 10 minutes, then strain through a fine-mesh sieve into a measuring cup for a perfectly smooth texture.
5. Pour into four small glasses or ramekins, leaving room for fruit garnish.
6. Chill 3 hours, ideally overnight, until softly set.
7. Serve cold with fresh berries, fresh berry compote, or a thin twist of lemon zest.



Welcome

We're Glad You're Here!



Lillian D'Urbano

16 Winthrop Lane

Lillian joins us from Palm Coast, Florida, and originally hails from Rochester, New York. She is the proud mother of four grown children, with one currently living in Florida. In her free time, Lillian enjoys playing pickleball, Texas Hold'em, and cornhole.



Dean & Brenda Rostamo

18 Morington Lane

Dean and Brenda are from St. Michael, Minnesota, and plan to make this their permanent residence. They have family living in Plantation Oaks, which makes the community especially meaningful to them. They have two sons, both of whom serve in the U.S. Army and have chosen military service as their careers.

Welcome Committee Chairs: Linda Theriault & Linda Morrison.

PATRIOTS, PRIDE AND MONUMENTS

By Jeanie Scionti



Aside from the challenges of New England winters, living in Massachusetts has been a historical education. For the past sixty years my husband and I have enjoyed exploring the historic landmarks of not only Boston but our hometown of Framingham.

A few steps from our door stands a statue in bronze representative of the sacrifices made by the patriots of the American Revolution. "This statue represents:

- The spirit of American independence and patriotism.
- Commemorates the local militia's role in the Revolutionary War.
- Symbolizes readiness and the call to action in defense of freedom.
- Reflects the values of courage, sacrifice, and community unity."



Just around the corner from this Minuteman sculpture is the "Old Burying Ground," established in 1698. Upon entering the cemetery, the inscription on a bronze plaque reads: "Within these walls are the final resting places of eighty-nine Veterans of the Revolutionary War."

One grave is the resting place of an individual who made a distinguished impact on history. His name was



Peter Salem. "Peter Salem was born in Framingham on October 1, 1750, and spent the entirety of his early life enslaved. His original enslaver was a man named Jerimiah Belknap who named Salem after his hometown of the same name in Massachusetts. In 1775, Belknap sold Salem to Major Lawson Buckminster,

the commander of the Framingham Minutemen. Buckminster emancipated Salem so he could enlist in the local militia. On April 19, 1775, Salem fought in the Battles of Lexington and Concord and on April 24, enlisted in the 6th Massachusetts Regiment under the command of Colonel John Nixon. On June 17, 1775, Salem was at the Battle of Bunker Hill and according to legend, mortally wounded British Marine Service Major John Pitcairn with a musket shot. Salem continued to serve in the Continental Army until 1780 and fought at the battles of Saratoga and Stony Point. He died on August 16, 1816, and was buried in his



hometown of Framingham, which had a monument erected in his honor in 1882." The grave of Peter Salem is a memorial not just to one man but to all Americans who served and fought for their fledgling nation.

Henry Knox, another patriot who passed through Framingham, MA, played a pivotal, behind-the-scenes role in the Revolutionary War. George Washington commissioned Knox to transport 59 captured British cannons to the army camp outside Boston to help the Continental Army fight against the British. Knox used sledges pulled by teams of oxen to haul these cannons. Instead of proceeding directly to Cambridge, the cannons were stopped in Framingham, concealed on and around the town common. Framingham's strategic location was crucial as the town was used as a



staging area to build new wooden carriages for the heavy 60 tons of artillery before they were deployed to Dorchester Heights."

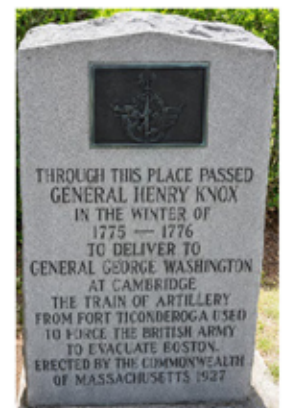
About two blocks down from our street

stands a stone marker. The top of the marker contains a bas-relief bronze plaque depicting Gen. Knox overseeing a train of ox-drawn sleds. This memorial marks the trail along the route he took.

Both slave and immigrant, these patriots and others fought for our democracy. "The American Revolutionary War lasted 8 years and 5 months. The armed conflict began on April 19, 1775, with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Although the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781 effectively won the war, fighting did not formally end until the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783."

While drafting this essay along with being surrounded by these and other historical monuments from that period of our history, I decided to read the Declaration of Independence. You should too! It is "Amazing!"

HAPPY 250th ANNIVERSARY!



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BIRDS

By Dana Matlock



How did Bob and I become such fans of birdwatching? Well, one of our children gave us a Birdfy for our anniversary. It's a solar-powered bird feeder with a camera that records a video every time a bird lands on it. We can watch the videos through an app on our phones. It's really neat!

We recently captured the courtship ritual of a pair of cardinals to show you what I mean. The beautiful, bright-red male cardinal is feeding the lovely, though less vibrant, female.



What Does Seeing a Cardinal Mean?

For many people, seeing a cardinal feels meaningful and comforting. The bright red bird is often viewed as a symbol that loved ones who have passed away remain with us in spirit and memory.

A cardinal's cheerful song can bring back treasured memories and remind us that those we love are never truly forgotten. There is an old saying: "When cardinals appear, angels are near." I love that thought and often think of my loved ones who have passed when I see a cardinal. I like to believe they are sending me a sign. It brings me comfort, and I choose to embrace that feeling.

Others believe cardinals are a sign that family members or friends are safe and well, even when they are far away. Their vibrant color brightens winter landscapes, making them a symbol of hope, joy, and comfort—especially during the holiday season.

Here's a bit more information about bird-related incidents we've experienced in the past.

Bird in the House: Meaning and Symbolism

To be clear, from a practical standpoint, if a bird flies into your house, it usually means there's a door or window open!

Some people believe birds symbolize free spirits. A bird visiting you may be a reminder to let go of past troubles and trust your intuition. Others interpret it as a sign of hope, especially during difficult times. Still others believe a bird can be a visitor from beyond, bringing a message from a loved one.

What Does It Mean If a Bird Hits a Window?

Before considering any symbolic meaning, check whether the bird is injured and take steps to help prevent future window collisions. Often, birds strike windows because they see their reflection in the glass. Some spiritual interpretations suggest that a bird hitting a window represents a sudden change on the horizon. Others believe it may signal challenges or obstacles ahead.

If this has piqued your interest, join us in birdwatching! Once we figured out how to keep the squirrels and raccoons out of the birdseed, we were hooked. We're loving it

FLORIDA STATE BIRDS

The American flamingo will be Florida's official state bird starting July 1, 2026, replacing the northern mockingbird. In October 2025, South Florida Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez introduced SB 150 (and House Bill HB 11) to designate the American flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) as Florida's official state bird and the Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) as the official state songbird. The bill supersedes the 1927 designation of the northern mockingbird, which has held the title for nearly a century.

Why the Flamingo?

- **Native presence:** American flamingos are native to Florida but largely disappeared by the 20th century. Captive colonies began appearing in South Florida after 1925, with a breeding colony at Hialeah Park Race Track in the 1930s.
- **Current sightings:** Today, they are primarily found in the Everglades, Biscayne Bay, and the Florida Keys, with only about 1% of the estimated 260,000–300,000 birds in the wild residing in Florida.
- **Cultural symbolism:** Supporters argue the flamingo better reflects Florida's unique wildlife and culture, especially its coastal and wetland ecosystems.

LEGENDARY GENERATION

Submitted by Keith Mowling



Part 2 of 2.

We are the only generation to have lived a fully analog childhood and a digital adulthood. We remember waiting days for a handwritten letter to cross the ocean. Now we see a loved one's face instantly on a handheld screen, their voice traveling through space in seconds. We moved from typewriters to laptops, from punch cards and filing cabinets to gigabytes of memory carried in our pockets.

We spanned two centuries. We watched the calendar turn from 1999 to 2000 with a mixture of awe and uncertainty. We have lived through eight decades of invention, upheaval, reinvention. Our clothing alone tells the story: stiff Oxfords and pressed dresses, then bell-bottoms and denim jackets, then the comfortable blue jeans and sensible shoes of hard-earned wisdom. Our bodies carry their own timeline. We remember the fear of polio, the caution around tuberculosis. We lined up for vaccines that felt miraculous. We later heard of swine flu and other outbreaks that stirred old anxieties. And when COVID-19 brought the world to a sudden, global hush, we understood something about endurance. We had seen fear before. We knew how to wait it out, how to check on neighbors, how to endure silence.



We saw scientists decode DNA, unlocking the blueprint of life itself. We watched medicine move from house calls to robotic surgery. We drove cars that once rattled and coughed, and now we see vehicles glide almost silently down the road powered by electricity.

We have buried friends. Too many. Each farewell a reminder that survival is both privilege and ache. Those of us still here carry their stories forward. We remember the jokes they told, the songs they loved, the way they laughed with their whole bodies. In that remembrance, we form a quiet brotherhood and sisterhood that only shared decades can create. We watched the first moon landing on grainy screens, holding our breath as a human footprint pressed into lunar dust. We watched the rise of the internet, unsure at first what it would mean. We learned email. Then texting. Then video calls. Each time the world changed, we adapted. Not perfectly. Not instantly. But faithfully.

And now, in these later chapters, we are not relics. We are architects. We remember when time moved more slowly. We remember the taste of lemonade from a glass bottle sweating in the heat. The snap of a vegetable pulled fresh from the garden. The sound of a conversation uninterrupted by notifications. We know that speed is not the same as depth, and that connection requires more than a signal. What a life we have led. Breathtaking. Exhausting. Beautiful.

If you belong to this era, pause for a moment. Look in the mirror not for wrinkles, but for resilience. See the decades reflected there. See the child who once played in the dirt and the adult who learned to navigate satellites and screens.



We are not simply getting older. We are becoming legend. A generation that began with landlines and now speaks to machines that answer back. A generation that crossed from steam to silicon. A generation that remembers, adapts, and endures.

We are one of a kind.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AT PLANTATION OAKS

There will be no Christian Fellowship in July or August 2026. We will resume our regular monthly meetings on Sunday September 13, 2026.

Have a blessed summer everyone!

?? Contact Carol Cerney at 507-213-0121

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

IN COMMEMORATION OF AMERICA'S 250th Anniversary 1776 - 2026

JULY 3RD FIRST FRIDAY 6-9 PM

- Kids Rock Band & Singers from the Flagler Performing Arts Academy
- United States Navy Jazz Band July 3rd - 1 HOUR - Veterans Park
- Free Live Music & Entertainment Hosted by SURF 97.3 FM & Pyramid DJ's
- Local Food Vendors & Artisan Crafts
- Family-Friendly Games & Activities

Special Thanks to the City of Flagler Beach Parks Committee

JULY 4TH!

STARS & STRIPES PARADE	POST-PARADE BEACH FESTIVITIES	FLAGLER EXECUTIVE AIRPORT
JULY 4TH - 9 am AIA in Flagler Beach Local Floats & Patriotic Displays	JULY 4TH - 10 am - 1 pm Veterans Park The Band Madam • FREE Admission	JULY 4TH - 5-9 pm Food Vendors • Beer Garden Live Entertainment • Fireworks at 9 pm

A NOTE FROM OUR PORA PRESIDENT

By Gary Watkins



Hoping our residents here and our snowbirds up north are doing great. I want to thank Murex, Angela and Karla (our Plantation Oaks office), for sponsoring our Memorial Day Picnic. Also, much appreciation and

thanks to our fellow residents who worked so hard and put in so much time to make the picnic happen. I ask everyone to remember that without fellow residents volunteering we would not have any events here to enjoy.

With Betty and George Shaver leaving us to begin a new chapter in their lives up north, there really aren't enough words to say thank you or show the appreciation from our community for the many years of their contributions to our community. You guys will be greatly missed but we wish you the best.

Their shoes are hard to fill but we do have residents stepping up to fill them. Peggy Grandin will be taking over the monthly free ice cream social sponsored by Murex and PORA, Marlene Anderson has volunteered to take over the free coffee and doughnuts sponsored by PORA. Frank Schafer will handle the yearly wine and cheese event sponsored by PORA. On behalf of myself and the PORA Board, we extend our sincere gratitude for your invaluable volunteer contributions. Speaking of volunteering, sometimes I ask myself why I keep doing this? For the last twelve years, why do I keep being involved when so many residents are not? It seems to be the same residents doing everything every year. Then I realize if I don't, who will? Come on, get involved! Our social committee can always use new blood with new ideas! Please come to the social committee meeting on the first Monday of every month at 1:30 at the clubhouse. Everyone has knowledge or talent that can help make our community a great place to live.

A friendly reminder: 2026 PORA dues are due! Being part of the residents association **means you get a voice in what happens where you live** — not after the fact, but before decisions are made. Commit to being a part of the solutions and not part of the complaints! **Join YOUR PORA...** Your Plantation Oaks Residents Association, www.ourpora.org.

BRAIN TEASER ANSWERS

1. 54 = Cards in a Deck with the Jokers
2. 9 = Planets in the Solar System
3. 88 = Piano Keys
4. 13 = Stripes on the American Flag
5. 32 = Degrees Fahrenheit at which Water Freezes



SINCE GRANDMA TOOK UP GOLF

Submitted by Linda Morrison

Since grandma took up golf,
She gets out early in the day,
And with her fairway lady friends,
She sallies forth to play.

There's a lot of talk of bunkers now,
And much on teeing off,
And all us kids are interested
Since Grandma took up golf.

Since Grandma took up golf,
She wears a sweater bright but neat,
And when she talks of greens,
You bet it's not the kind you eat.

We thought perhaps the neighborhood,
Behind its blinds, might cough,
But they all think it's just the thing
That Grandma took up golf.

Since Grandma took up golf,
Somehow the young folks have more pep;
That this is quite a jolly world,
We're just now getting hep.

We cannot count our age by years;
The spirit — don't you scoff —
Old age has lost its fears for me
Since Grandma took up golf!

Author unknown



JULY 4 CELEBRATIONS FROM FLAGLER BEACH PARADE TO PALM COAST FIREWORKS AT COUNTY AIRPORT

Source: *FlaglerLive.com*

Flagler County Government and the Cities of Palm Coast, Flagler Beach, and Bunnell invite all Flagler County residents and visitors to the United Flagler 4th Community Celebration on Friday, July 4.

Festivities begin with the **Stars and Stripes Parade starting at 9 a.m.** down A1A in Flagler Beach in the morning, presented by the Rotary Club of Flagler Beach. The parade will follow its traditional route from North 6th Street to South 6th Street along A1A in Flagler Beach, within view of the pier about to be demolished and rebuilt (along with that boardwalk).

Following the parade, residents and visitors can enjoy the beach while indulging in the music and entertainment provided by DJ Vern of SURF 97.3 FM at Veterans Park in Flagler Beach. Day-long activities there including hula hoops, corn hole toss, limbo, and a Kona Ice brain-freeze contest.

The highlight of the day will be the **Fireworks Over the Runways**, hosted at the Flagler Executive Airport off of Fin Way in Palm Coast. Gates open at 5 p.m. The fireworks display, a \$30,000 production of Master Pyro Displays of Jacksonville, consists of several thousand shells. Palm Coast and the county are splitting the cost. The show is slated for about 15 minutes. There will be food trucks, vendors, a beer garden, children's activities, and live entertainment on the main stage.

Local officials will deliver a reading of the Declaration of Independence at 6:30 p.m., following a performance of the National Anthem. At 7 p.m., spectators can cheer on contestants in the **first-ever United Flagler Fourth Hot Dog Eating Competition**, presented by **Hot Diggity Dogs & Shakes**, as local leaders and community personalities compete for the coveted title of "Top Dog." Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and settle in for an evening of entertainment leading to the fireworks display.

Parking for the Fireworks

Guest parking, including handicapped parking, will be situated on the **south side (back of the airport), accessible via Fin Way off South Belle Terre Boulevard**. This will be the sole event location this year. There will be **no access to the front of the airport and no parking at Flagler Palm Coast High School**. Airport Road and Bulldog Drive will be closed to traffic at 5 p.m. Parking along South Belle Terre Boulevard is strictly prohibited. All guests must use designated parking areas on Fin Way. **Parking is free.**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Cyndi Easter



The Social Committee is introducing two new complimentary events. The first is a monthly Movie Night. Movie selections will be chosen by attendees at each event from a prepared list, and residents are welcome to submit DVD suggestions for consideration. The second event will be a dance held in the clubhouse, featuring music for everyone to enjoy. Additional details for the dance will be shared soon. Please note that attendees should bring their own snacks and beverages for both events.

JULY EVENTS

July 4th – Potluck and Pool Party - 11:00 – 3:00. In honor of our Country's 250th birthday, we will have a patriotic sing-along with Stephanie Mahler at 11:00 am. Beginning at 12:00, the cooks will be serving up Bob's burgers and hot dogs. Tickets will be \$7.00 each, which includes either one burger or two hot dogs, iced tea, and water. Everyone who attends is asked to bring a side dish or dessert for all to share. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the clubhouse so you can let us know what you are bringing.

July 18th – 7:00 pm – Movie Night.

July 26th – Ice Cream Social.

AUGUST EVENTS

August 8th – 7:00 pm – Movie Night.

August 30th – Ice Cream Social.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 7th – Labor Day. Details to follow.

September 27th – Ice Cream Social.

OCTOBER EVENTS

October 25th – Ice Cream Social.

October 27th – Pig Roast. Details to follow.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 14th – Senior Prom. Details to follow.

November 29th – Ice Cream Social.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions for future events, you can contact me, Cyndi Easter, at (618)558-9976. We are always looking for volunteers for our events. We welcome all the help you are willing to give. The Social Committee meets on the first Monday of every month, unless there is a holiday, at 1:30 in the clubhouse. The next meetings will be on July 1st and August 3rd, and we urge our residents (especially our new residents) to come and get involved with your neighbors. We look forward to seeing you there

Instructional Pickleball: Come Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:00 pm to the Pickleball court. For questions, call Lynn Ceman 386-503-6861 or Tom Greene 386-338-3090.



2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PORA website: ourpora.org

2026 Quarterly meetings held the 1st Sunday of the month at 7 PM in the clubhouse:

September 6, December 6

(Workshops: Aug. 30, Nov. 29)

Annual Meeting January 16, 2027

THE PLANTATION OAKS PRESS (POP)

The POP was started by, and continues to be produced by, a group of Plantation Oaks residents. Community Media prints and ships the completed newsletters to us. PORA supports our efforts by purchasing the door hanging bags for ease in delivery. We publish monthly and our wonderful Block Captains deliver to your door before the beginning of each applicable month.

Editors reserve the right to edit submitted material for proper grammar, punctuation, content, and length. To submit an article for consideration, simply email it to: dbmatlock@live.com. Or you can drop off a written copy to 4 Tobias Lane or call me at 386-439-3443 and I will pick it up. Include your name and contact number. All efforts are made to ensure accuracy of information contained but cannot be guaranteed. If you notice inaccuracies or omissions, please notify the editors.

To view or print our current or previous POP newsletters, go to the PORA website: ourpora.org. Click on: Contacts/Links/The POP. If you are unable to reach this site, you can also access the publications on www.4communitymedia.com; click on the *Newsletters* tab on the right-hand side of the page and scroll through the list until you find Plantation Oaks – Flagler Beach, FL. Click on it and then you will have access to all of our newsletters published.

Don't forget to support our advertisers if you can.

They keep this newsletter coming to you!

We hope you find this newsletter informative and engaging. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future topics. Thank you for being an integral part of our community!

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Philadelphia, PA
2. War of 1812
3. 1941
4. He doubled their rum rations
5. Massachusetts
6. July 2
7. Richard Henry Lee
8. 1776
9. Hot Dogs
10. Wal-Mart



On **July 20, 1969**, Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon's surface from Apollo 11, saying: **"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."**

PLANTATION OAKS

**Federation of Manufactured Homeowners
(FMO) Representatives**



Dana Matlock - 386-439-3443

James Pursley - 386-986-9632



NEW! 2026 Mission Statement: To educate and assist our Community to mitigate damages or harm to our residents before, during, and after an emergency situation especially when first responders are unavailable or delayed. *All residents are urged to encouraged to register at PO.CERT2026@gmail.com with any special needs or assistance you may require during an emergency.* This will greatly assist us in planning and executing an emergency response. Also, residents are encouraged to join the Community's CERT Team. Training will be ongoing and tailored to our Community. Please plan to attend our meetings, seminars and training exercises. For information, please email PO.CERT2026@gmail.com.

JULY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Highly skilled
6. Manila hemp
11. Metric unit of capacity
12. Pours
15. Countenance
16. Eternally
17. Evil spirit
18. To provide maintenance
20. Black bird
21. See the sights
23. Apiece
24. Assists
25. Initial wager
26. Skin disease
27. Carpenter's tool
28. Strong cleaners
29. Dog with a wrinkly face
30. Not younger
31. Too keen
34. Team
36. Falsehood
37. Ages
41. Kick
42. Digestive juice
43. Kitchen or bathroom
44. Electrical distribution system
45. Labyrinth
46. Fizzy drink
47. Petroleum
48. In an exposed manner
51. Make lace
52. Woven together
54. First-aid item
56. Robber
57. Go-between
58. Clothe
59. Scope

DOWN

1. Payment to an ex
2. Argument
3. Greek letter
4. Clothespins
5. Tall woody plant
6. Consultant's offering
7. Kind of nut
8. Unot of land
9. A rotating disk
10. Coat electrolytically
13. Dealer
14. Stitches
15. Critical
16. Converted to Christianity
19. Happen again
22. Echo
24. House location
26. Mimicked
27. Beer
30. Curved molding
32. Tank
33. Was laid up
34. Run very fast
35. Worked patchwork
38. Carousing
39. Moderate in tempo
40. Glide over ice
42. Bread makers
44. Leaves
45. Flowing tresses
48. Egyptian river
49. Teller of untruths
50. Eastern discipline
53. Armed conflict
55. Lair



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Hurricane Season is June 1st to November 30th

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit

- ☐ Water and non-perishable food for several days
- ☐ Extra cell phone battery or charger
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☐ Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- ☐ Local maps

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- ☐ Prescription medications and glasses
- ☐ Infant formula and diapers
- ☐ Pet food, water and supplies for your pet
- ☐ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a portable waterproof container
- ☐ Cash and change
- ☐ Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
- ☐ Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes.
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container
- ☐ Feminine supplies, personal hygiene items and hand sanitizer
- ☐ Mess kits, Paper cups, plates and disposable utensils, paper towels
- ☐ Paper and pencil Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children



FEMA
www.ready.gov/kit

