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• C O U R I E R •

July • 2017

**Issue 5
41st Year**

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Crystal Lake Management and Staff

Manager Tom
 Office Phone.....(727) 544-2745
 Office FAX.....(727) 549-1337
 Office Hours.....Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday
 (Hours vary due to other locations needing attention)
 Sunday & Thursday Closed
 Maintenance.....Emergency: 727-657-6265

HOA Board Officers

President:.....Cliff Shaffer.....(727) 504-7012
 1st Vice Pres.:.....Joan Mrowiec.....(810) 278-6114
 Secretary:Jane Frank Hatch.....(727) 452-6674
 Treasurer:Kim Gaines.....(727) 320-7854
 Advisor.....Stephanie Anderson....(585) 943-8135

Courier Editor & Communications

Stephanie Anderson: (585) 943-8135
wdwisgreat@gmail.com

Block Captain Coordinator

Ursula Korten-Tompkins ... Lot 208, 1st St.

Crystal Lake Facebook group link:

See/Call/e-Mail -

Violet for your Invitation to join

Block Captains

Circle – 242 - 267 ...Faith Johnson
 1st St – 200 - 241Ursula & Joe (208)
 2nd St –184-199Dan Whallon (190)
 3rd St – 164 -183.....Dawn Ramsdell
 4th St – 111 –161Kim Gaines (158)
 5th St – 89 – 110JB Bodwell
 6th St – 65-87Stacy Werner-Szlosek

Neighborhood Watch

Non-emergency, Pinellas Park Police
 Department at (727) 369-7864
Emergency: Police, Fire, Medical, please dial
 911.

Pinellas Park police station: 7700 59th Street

To report a street light out: call Duke Energy
 at (727) 443-2641

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Editor's Notes

The heat is on! So is the rain. We have definitely needed it, but...

A couple of adjustments to our calendar. The Saturday Texas Hold 'em games have been discontinued.

Welcome not had a great turnout for our Potluck Dinner last month!! We had such a great time and great food that we are planning it again for each month. Check out the calendar for the change in time. Also, you will see that there is no HOA monthly meeting for July, as well as, August. Many people travel during the summer or head to their other home, but we wanted to enjoy a meal together.

We hope you will join us! ☺

Facebook Page for Crystal Lake Homeowners

We have a Facebook Page now that you can be invited to or ask to join. If you have a Facebook account you can go to **"Crystal Lake MHP Homeowners"**. We would love you keep you informed on what's up in the neighborhood.

You will get info on water shut offs, event reminders. All kinds of info that will bring us closer as a community.

Hurricane Information

As we all know we are in hurricane season again. Be prepared!!

If there is a tornado heading for our area and we need to find shelter, know that the clubhouse is our safe haven. The clubhouse is never to be used for a hurricane shelter!

If we are under a hurricane warning, you must have an evacuation plan ready to use at the drop of a hat. Know that when there is a warning for our area, there will be a mandatory evacuation for our neighborhood starting at a Category 1.

Here is a copy of the website for you to check your location. Remember, if you are disabled or have a pet, you MUST register with the shelter beforehand or they can not guarantee you a spot. They do fill up quickly, so I highly recommend contacting them ASAP.

The website is: pinellascounty.org or call (727) 464-3800 to get a copy of the brochure.





House Keeping

In last months Courier we posted about our Day of Helping. One thing that was not posted was the generosity of our neighbors. We had several monetary donations. Without each of you we would have had to pull the monies from the HOA funds. The reason we are trying not to use the HOA funds is because we want to build it up for some up coming necessities.

Thank you again for all of the help financially and physically. It is so deeply appreciated.

We will be planning another Day of Helping around late September or early October.

“As we arise each morning, let us determine to respond to more love and kindness to whatever might come our way.”

~Thomas S. Monson

Home Owners Association Updates

There was a Town meeting on June 22nd regarding the renovation plans for the property next door. I will have updates in next months Courier due to no HOA meeting in July.

As of our June meeting, we have 77 members. If you are interested in helping to get out last 38 members, you can contact Kim for the list of remaining future members and a stack of membership forms.

We need to get our 115!! Please fill out the membership form below and get it back to us as soon as possible so we can get moving faster.

CRYSTAL LAKE MOBILEHOME PARK • HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (HOA)
9301 49TH STREET NORTH • PINELLAS PARK, FL 33782

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION	
Full Name	
Lot Number	
Cell/Tell Number	
Email Address	
Resident Signature	

VERY IMPORTANT -- PLEASE READ

- **OUR VISION:** We envision a community that offers an inspiring lifestyle and quality of life, and is a desirable place in which to live and enjoy the benefits of family, friends and community.
- **OUR MISSION:** Our mission is to enhance and preserve the quality of life and sense of community through effective and efficient management of the Association, enforcement of rules and support initiatives and improvements that benefit the greater good of the community.
- **OUR VALUES:** In all our activities we strive to achieve our vision and mission. We value integrity, fairness, common sense, community participation, respect, cooperation and sense of community.

INFORMATION: This information is collected for our purpose and will not be shared. •• **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership Fee is \$12 a year per household. •• **MEETINGS:** Meetings are held the FIRST MONDAY of the month.

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Here Are The Responsibilities Of An Hoa Member

-You will have a right to all HOA information that is not discussed in our Courier. (Meeting minutes and so forth).

-YOUR VOICE is the ONLY way to make a HUGE impact on what we CAN and CANNOT do, when it comes to our rights as home owners in a mobile home community.

-The HOA MUST HAVE 2/3's membership for us to help make the changes we want to make. (ex. Better lawn care, usable washers and dryers, paved streets, water not being turned off for repairs, and MOST IMPORTANTLY rent increases.). This is just a few things we can do. There is much much more!

-We now have a comity of some Board members and HOA members taking this to another level.

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***The Best Part Of Being An Hoa Member ***

- You can have a voice without going to the meetings!
- You can be involved OR not.
- When we have a vote we will come to YOU!
- We will give you basic updates here.
- Anything more detailed, we will send you updates of our progress.
- Membership fee is \$12 a YEAR (\$1 per month) That one cup of coffee a month at McDonald's.

Neighborhood Watch Is – You

We are a neighborhood watch...let's start acting like one. Too much vandalism and loitering going on around here. Also, there are some vehicles that are parking in the entrances of the park that seem to think they can "DO BUSINESS" here. If you see anything suspicious **CALL THE POLICE!!!!**

I recently confronted one of them and stated we don't tolerate that kind of thing here. I have not seen anyone since. If you have please let me know and I will go directly to their home and tell them again.

Almost everyone has access to a camera and video. Start using them! The more evidence we have to bring to management the better. Also, the police. Be Alert! Be Responsible! Be a good neighbor! Be safe!

Remember that your neighbors are the people who you can hope will be watching out for you, too. Don't be afraid to make that call to the PPPD if you see something that looks suspicious to you.

Please make note of the **NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER – 727-369-7864**.
Emergencies are always 911.



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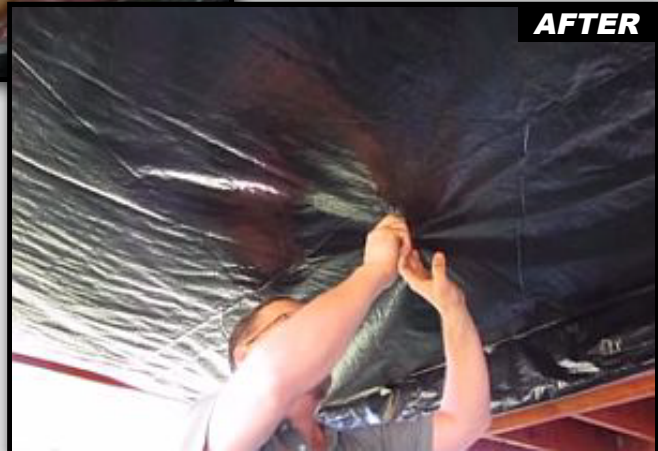
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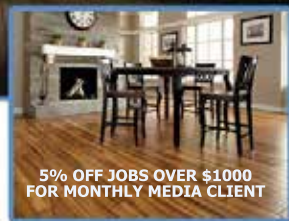


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Welcome All Our Newest Residents

The Crystal Lake Home Owner's Association wishes to welcome you to your new home. We trust you will enjoy your living experiences here as much as we do. We encourage you to join the HOA if you haven't already done so. If you have any questions about joining please feel free to contact any of the HOA Board Members. We would be glad to help.

MONTHLY HOA MEETING – THERE WILL BE NO MEETING FOR JULY OR AUGUST.

Bingo & Snack Bar – Sponsored By Your HoA

People tell me all the time that this is one of the highlights of their week. We want you to bring your appetite to the clubhouse on Friday nights and plan to have dinner at the snack bar starting at 6:30 p.m. There's always a good assortment of chips and sodas that are included with your burger or dog or buy them separately. It's a great way to have dinner for \$3.00 or less on a Friday night.

Then Bingo starts at 7p.m. with lots of fun and a great way to bring home some extra cash. If you haven't played in a while, you're in for a surprise. It just gets better and better all the time. If you haven't played it before, don't worry... we love helping you along. For many of us, there's no better way to spend our Friday nights. We hope you'll be there to join in the fun!



Quote Of The Month

The greatest test is when you are able to bless someone else while you are going through your own storm.
~Unknown

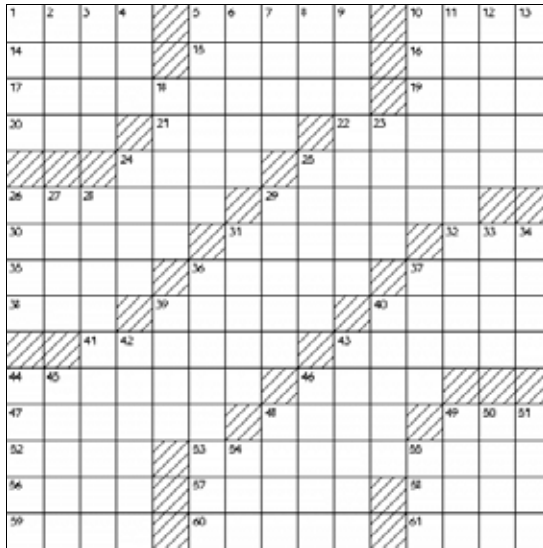




JULY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Pigeon pea
5. Render harmless
10. Close
14. Margarine
15. Water wheel
16. A three-tone Chadic language
17. Burning
19. Seed coat
20. September (abbrev.)
21. Litigated
22. Source of lead
24. Psyche
25. Luminous meteors
26. Raising
29. A Niger-Congo language
30. Cause to crash
31. Swarm
32. An Internet data exchange protocol
35. Thereto (2 words)
36. Hinged device used to pick up things
37. Goddess of the earth (Greek mythology)
38. Possess
39. Foam
40. Not late
41. Religious Islamic leaders
43. Diamond-shaped pattern (knitting)
44. Pertaining to small sacs in a compound gland
46. Hillside
47. Sieve tubes (Botany)
48. Goals or objectives
49. Traverse on snow
52. ___ Lang Syne
53. Moderately rich
56. An Algonquian people of North America
57. City in Viet Nam
58. A British noble title
59. Goes astray
60. Expended
61. Not false



DOWN

2. Found in skin lotion
3. Cannabis
4. Toss
5. Unappreciated
6. Noticed or famed
7. Dry
8. ___ de Janeiro, Brazil
9. Type of beet used as cattle feed
10. Soviet dictator Joseph ___ (1879-1953)
11. Ancestral
12. Mammalian liquid waste
13. Monetary units of Western Samoa
18. Utilizing
23. Winged
24. Stamp coinage
25. Borough in Scotland
26. Busy with (2 words)
27. Front part of a vessel
28. Aspirin or Tylenol
29. Typefaces
31. Feet of horses
33. Basic structural unit of all organisms
34. Pay As You Earn
36. Victories
37. An instrument for indicating a quantity
39. Flat mass of floating ice
40. Delete
42. Positive electrodes
43. Underarm
44. Rapidly
45. A whirring sound
46. Buffalo
48. A1
49. Fly high
50. Turkish monetary unit
51. Small island
54. Knock
55. Drench



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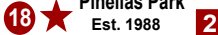
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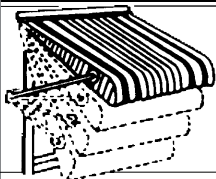
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2	3 6:00PM Potluck Dinner	
9	10	Independence Day
16	17	
23	24	
30	31	

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Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1
4 Independence Day	5	6	7 6:15PM- 7PM Snack Bar 7PM BINGO	8
11	12	13	14 6:15PM- 7PM Snack Bar 7PM BINGO	15
18	19	20	21 6:15PM- 7PM Snack Bar 7PM BINGO	22
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Artificial intelligence is coming

Artificial intelligence sounds scary in science fiction stories and movies, but it's becoming a big factor in business success, according to a report from Tata Consultancy Services. Its survey of 834 executives across 13 global industry sectors found that 84 percent of organizations see AI as essential, and 50 percent believe it will transform their businesses.

AI doesn't appear to be cheap, though. Seven percent of business survey said they invested more than \$250 million on AI in 2016, and 2 percent expect to spend a billion dollars by the year 2020.

Energy drink and vodka? Think again

Energy drinks like Red Bull or Monster Energy are all the rage, and so is mixing them with alcohol for a more potent cocktail, especially among young people. But is it safe? In research reported on the WebMD website, the answer looks like "no."

Canadian researchers analyzed 13 studies involving alcohol mixed with highly caffeinated energy drinks. They found a higher rate of injury among people indulging in such cocktails compared with simply drinking alcohol by itself. Injuries included car accidents, falls, violence, and suicidal behavior.

The authors point out that the stimulant effects of energy-drink caffeine can mask the impact of alcohol, even though alcohol still has an impairing effect on the body and the brain.

Watch your waist in your 40s to avoid dementia later

Carrying belly weight during the 40s appears to increase the risk for dementia in the 70s, whereas carrying extra midsection weight later in life isn't as accurate an indicator. Researchers say these findings are disturbing because 50 percent of adults in the United States are considered abdominally obese.

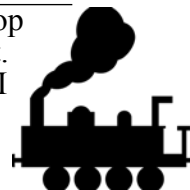
Researchers at Kaiser Permanente studied 6,583 people who were between the ages of 40 and 45. An average of 36 years later, 16 percent of the participants—who had been measured for abdominal density—were diagnosed with dementia. Abdominal obesity increased the risk of dementia regardless of whether people had normal overall weight or were overweight or obese overall—and regardless of the health conditions including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and stroke.





A simple answer

A seeker of spiritual truth decided to visit a very wise sage who lived on top of a mountain. The seeker climbed for weeks to make the painful ascent. When he finally reached the wise man's home, he asked, "What should I do to make my life happier?"



The sage responded, "To begin with, the next time you come to visit me, start on the other side of the mountain and take the train to the top."

The wrong answer

Two applicants, Smith and Jones, applied for work at an organization that had only one open position. The hiring manager sat the two of them side by side to take an aptitude test. When time was up, she found that both applicants missed only one question—the same one. After studying the results, the administrator announced that although both candidates had given the same wrong answer, candidate Smith had won the job.

"Wait a minute," Jones complained. "How can one wrong answer be better than another?"

"Well," the manager said, "on the one question you both missed, Mr. Smith wrote, 'I don't know this answer.' You wrote, 'Neither do I.'"

The best listener

A speaker arrived for his presentation at a high school graduation and immediately became uneasy. The crowd was full of families talking with each other. Their small children ran around the gymnasium, shouting happily. It was not a crowd looking forward to a speech; people just wanted to see their kids graduate.



The crowd paid little attention to the speech. He tried all the attention-getting tricks he knew—changing the volume and pitch of his voice, walking about the stage, telling his funniest stories—but nothing worked.

Then he saw one man looking directly at him, smiling and nodding his head. The speaker remembered the value of focusing on a sympathetic listener. By concentrating on giving that one person the very best speech he could, he made it through the presentation.

Afterward, the principal of the school asked, "Would you like to meet any of the audience?" The speaker, wanted to thank the man on whom he'd relied to finish his speech. "Yes, I'd like to meet that gentleman over there."

"Certainly," said the principal. "But you know, of course, that he's completely deaf."

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								2
	4	7			2			
				6	9	8		
		4				6		9
				8				5
9				1	5	2		
	9					1	2	
3						9		
2		6			7	4		



8	3	9	5	4	1	7	6	2
6	4	7	8	3	2	5	9	1
1	2	5	7	6	9	8	4	3
5	1	4	2	7	3	6	8	9
7	6	2	9	8	4	3	1	5
9	8	3	6	1	5	2	7	4
4	9	8	3	5	6	1	2	7
3	7	1	4	2	8	9	5	6
2	5	6	1	9	7	4	3	8



Credit card debt on the rise

Financial counselors usually advise consumers to pay off their credit cards every month, but more Americans are carrying credit card debt from month to month since the most recent recession, according to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

A survey of more than 1,600 U.S. adults conducted in March found that 39 percent carry debt from month to month, up from 35 percent in 2016. Sixteen percent are carrying more than \$2,500 monthly, compared with 14 percent last year.



Other results from the survey: Younger adults were more likely than older adults to be denied a credit card (11 percent vs. 6 percent). They were also more likely to make a late credit card payment (11 percent vs. 5 percent), miss a payment (12 percent vs. 4 percent) or pay less than the minimum amount required (13 percent vs. 3 percent).

Online shopping: The latest stats

Shopping online is big business these days. A survey of more than 1,000 U.S. consumers by e-commerce platform provider Big commerce found that 96 percent of Americans shop online, accounting for 36 percent of their purchases.

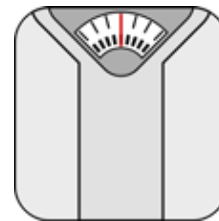


The survey found that 80 percent of consumers make online purchases at least once a month, and 30 percent buy something at least once a week. Forty-eight percent reported spending more than they had originally intended.

Millennials do half their shopping online. Sixty-seven percent of them, along with 56 percent of Generation Xers, would rather shop via the internet, a preference shared by 41 percent of Baby Boomers but only 28 percent of senior citizens.

Giving up on losing weight?

The obesity trend in the United States continues, with the number of adults who are either overweight or obese expanding from 53 percent to 66 percent over a 26-year period from 1998 to 2014. Apparently many of us have given up trying to fight it. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the number of people actively trying to lose weight in the past year dropped from 56 percent to 48 percent over the same period.



Researchers theorize that the decline is due to changing perceptions about acceptable body weight.

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National Cell Phone Courtesy Month. As the cell phone has developed into the smartphone, it's become one of the biggest distractions of all time. National Cell Phone Courtesy Month was founded in 2002 with the intent of making cell phone users more respectful of their surroundings.



Eye Injury Prevention Month. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, an estimated 90 percent of eye injuries are preventable with the use of proper safety eyewear. Even a minor injury to the cornea from a small particle of dust or debris can be painful and become a lifelong issue, so take the extra precaution and always protect your eyes.

Independent Retailer Month. Independent Retailer Month encourages consumers to shop at independent retailers locally, nationally and globally. Support and shop at independent retailers year round and use July as a time to unite as a celebration for the independent retailers across the country and in your community.



National Farriers Week, July 9-15. Honoring the men and women who care for and maintain the hooves of horses, a highly specialized trade that requires skill in hoof care, blacksmithing, and the care of injured and diseased hooves.

Captive Nations Week, July 16-22. A week aimed at raising public awareness of the oppression of nations under the control of Communist and other nondemocratic governments. It began in 1953 and declared by a congressional resolution and was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959.

National Parenting Gifted Children Week, July 16-22. Parents of gifted children need special understanding in order to raise and advocate for the social and emotional needs of their unique children. NPGC Week celebrates the joys and challenges of raising, guiding, and supporting bright young minds.

Canada Day, July 1. A national holiday celebrating the Constitution Act of 1867, which united the separate colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick into a single dominion within the British Empire called Canada.



Independence Day, July 4. The date of the Declaration of Independence, formally announcing the separation of the original 13 colonies of the United States from Great Britain.

Official Shark Awareness Day, July 14. Much as we love to fear this predator of the seas, the shark has a key role to play in keeping marine ecosystems in balance.

National Mutt Day, July 31. Also known as National Mixed Breed Dog Day, National Mutt Day is all about embracing, saving, and celebrating mixed-breed dogs. (It's also celebrated on Dec. 2.)



Underwater cave fish is first found in Europe

The first cave fish in Europe has been discovered by a German underwater cave explorer, according to the U.S. News & World Report website.

Cave fish have been discovered in other parts of the world, but the German discovery is the first time one has been found as far north as Europe. Scientists believe it arose some 20,000 years ago and has evolved to live in an underground environment.



The diving spelunker encountered the fish while exploring an underwater cave in southern Germany. The fish is almost colorless and resembles the stone loach found in rivers close by, although it has smaller eyes and larger nostrils.

Enhance your success with kindness

Nice people can finish first, insist Lisa Kaplan Thaler and Robin Koval in *The Power of Nice: How to Conquer the Business World with Kindness* (Currency). The book's core tenets remain worthy of consideration. Improve your "NiceQ" with these exercises:

- Be kind to yourself so it's easier to be nice to others.
- Share credit and treat everyone with respect instead of "kissing up and kicking down."
- Say no when necessary—but present it in a positive light. When turning down an assignment, help find someone else who can take it.
- Plant seeds of kindness by doing five nice things every day that have no quick payoff.
- Complete the statement "If I were a kinder person I would ..." and then act on it.

Don't let these get in your way

Often the biggest obstacle to our success lies in our way of thinking. Self-help guru Tony Robbins points out three mistakes you may be making that undermine your progress:

- Confirmation bias. When looking for data or advice, do you have a truly open mind or are you just looking for information that confirms what you already believe? If the latter, you could miss important facts.
- Recency bias. Everything changes, but if you ignore this fact of life you may end up repeating the same steps without making real progress. Just because something worked once doesn't mean it will continue to be successful. Review your strategies on a regular basis and be ready to change if they're no longer applicable.
- Loss aversion. Some of us tend to dwell more on our failures than our success, leading us to avoid risks at all costs. Anticipate failures so you can prevent them. Learn to accept and learn from your failures so you can move forward.

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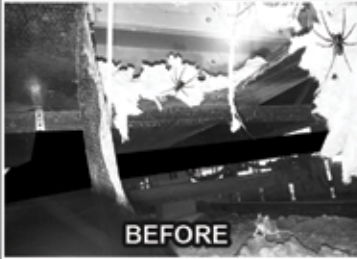
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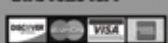


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Monthly Mania: It Pays (Up to \$100) To Patronize the Advertisers in Your Newsletter

THOUSANDS manufactured home residents have won over **\$135,000** since our contest began. It's simple to play ... when you patronize a current advertiser, ask for a Monthly Mania ticket (or a reasonable facsimile) and fill it out completely. Put the ticket in our Monthly Mania drop box in your community or mail your paid receipt to us at **Monthly Media • 220 Bahama St. • Venice, FL 34285**. That's all you do. At the end of the month the Publishers will pick up the tickets and hold a drawing. If your ticket is drawn, we mail you a check.

(Allow 4-6 weeks for mailing of check). **This month's cash winners are:**

Alan Dusseault..... \$100	Underhome Armor	Bert Pattison..... \$5	Battleline Termite & Pest Control, Inc.
Charles Perry..... \$10	Discount & Computer Repairs	Joan Taylor..... \$5	Modern AC & Appliance Service Co
Clifton Haseltine..... \$10	Suncoast Auto & Tire, Inc.	Jeffrey Stringfield..... \$5	Dunedin Plumbing Co.
Charles Parker..... \$10	Rod Runners, Inc.	Marvin Prochaska..... \$5	Kathy's Cleaning Service
Dan Baldassi..... \$10	Ron Wyngarden MH Wash, LLC	Eugene Kerkey..... \$5	Hellers Mobile Home Washing
Stan Dewey..... \$10	Modern AC & Appliance Service	Effie Reed..... \$5	Barrons AC & Appliance Service
Lynn Rasmussen..... \$10	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners	Laurie Stockle..... \$5	Boss Electric Corp.
Michelle Smith..... \$10	ASC Aluminum Specialty Contractors	Paul Brown..... \$5	Haseney Electrical Services, Inc.
Ralph Lamontagne..... \$10	E & E Gliddon Air Conditioning, Inc.	Doyce Hayth..... \$5	At Home Floors, Carpets, + Color Tile
Junior Carden..... \$10	Natures Resource Pest Control, Inc.	Elliot Cameron..... \$5	AMS North West
Charlotte Kuropatwa..... \$10	Habitat for Humanity	Genny McCool..... \$5	Imperial Electric Service of Pinellas
Yvonne Erfourth..... \$10	Master Plumbers and Septic Inc.	James Cates..... \$5	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.
Raymond Bachara..... \$10	Recreational Golf Carts LLC	Pat Jackson..... \$5	Recreational Golf Carts LLC
Margaret Cummings..... \$10	Appliance Specialty, Inc	Alfred Cyr..... \$5	Largo Plumbing Co.
Gary Weaver..... \$5	Royal Enterprises	Harold Caldwell..... \$5	Royal Enterprises
Nicholls Maschak..... \$5	Bill the Carpet Guy	Mary Wahl..... \$5	Ron Wyngarden MH Wash, LLC
Sandra Hackett..... \$5	Air Masters of Pinellas, inc.	Jeanne Cole..... \$5	Florida Anchor & Barrier
Alice Faccenda..... \$5	Florida Anchor & Barrier	Dave Uhlenbrauck..... \$5	Royal Enterprises
Barbara Carpenter..... \$5	Bob's Mobile Home Washing	Donna Savery..... \$5	Sunset Appliance Service
Claudia Dell..... \$5	Haseney Electrical Services, Inc.	James Fay..... \$5	Hellers Mobile Home Washing
Jim Lyness..... \$5	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc.	Sheila Pape..... \$5	Barrons AC & Appliance Service
Joe Doyle..... \$5	Heller's Mobile Home Washing	Maryann Maitino..... \$5	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners
Mary Schmidt..... \$5	Boss Electric Corp.	Deborah Arntz..... \$5	AMS North West
Heidi Willeford..... \$5	Appliance Specialty, Inc	Jeff Grimm..... \$5	Bob's Appliance Repair

• Limit of one ticket per visit • Advertiser may have up to 4 winners per month • Advertiser must have bill paid current to qualify • No purchase necessary • Contest void where prohibited by law • Green tickets available at participating Monthly Media advertisers.

No guessing required

A farmer was tending a flock of sheep in a field when a man in a sleek sports car screeched to a stop on the road nearby. The driver, a young man in expensive designer clothes and sunglasses, leaned out of the window. “If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have here, can I take one?”

The farmer looked the young man up and down and answered, “Sure, why not?”

The young man stepped out of his car holding a state-of-the-art laptop computer. Using all the resources of the internet, including GPS and satellite imaging, he came up with a number: “You have exactly 800 sheep, including six rams and 184 lambs.”

“That’s right,” said the farmer. “I guess you get to take one of my sheep.” The young man made his choice and led the animal to the back seat of his car. But before the man could drive off, the farmer said, “Hey, if I can tell what you do for a living, will you give that back to me?”

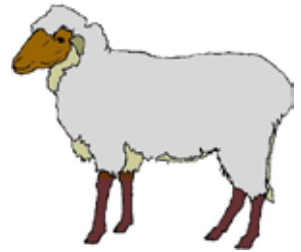
“Sure,” the young man said, feeling confident.

Without hesitation the farmer said, “You’re a business consultant.”

“How did you guess that?”

“I didn’t guess anything,” the farmer replied.

“You showed up here without being asked, you took a fee for an answer I already knew to a question I never asked, and you don’t know anything about my business. Now give me back my dog.”



Alleviate the split-shift blues

Today’s nonstop global economy can be tough on marriages and families. Separation and divorce tend to be higher among couples who work different schedules—and even when just one spouse works a night shift. How do you keep in touch—and keep your marriage and family strong—when you work a different shift from your partner? Here are some suggestions:

- Set aside an hour or two to talk. Make this together time for just the two of you a priority. Schedule it at least once a week, or as often as you need to.

- Keep it fun. When you and your spouse are together, make sure you make room for fun. Talk about the other niggling stuff like bills and errands at your weekly meetings or over the phone.



The evolution of Independence Day

If Americans have one holiday in common, it's the Fourth of July. How long have we officially been celebrating independence from Great Britain? Here's a timeline:



- July 4, 1776. Members of the Second Continental Congress meet in Philadelphia and adopt the final draft of the Declaration of Independence.
- July 4, 1777. To commemorate the first anniversary of the signing, Philadelphians light candles and set off firecrackers. Yet with no sure outcome in the war for independence, celebrations are kept to a minimum.
- July 4, 1778. On the second anniversary of the signing, Gen. George Washington issues his troops a double ration of rum and orders a Fourth of July artillery salute.
- 1781. Massachusetts carries out the first official state celebration of the Fourth of July.
- 1801. The White House hosts its first public Fourth of July reception.
- 1870. Congress establishes the Fourth of July as an unpaid holiday for federal employees and the District of Columbia.
- 1938. Congress establishes the Fourth of July as a paid holiday for federal employees.
- 1941. Congress expands the 1938 law to include the District of Columbia.

A salute to the Fourth of July

On 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, initiating 200+ years of annual fireworks, outdoor concerts, and picnics. Still, there may be a few things you don't know about our most patriotic holiday:

- The resolution to dissolve ties with Great Britain was actually introduced on June 7 and approved by 12 of the 13 colonies on July 2. New York voted aye a week later.
- It was August before most of the 56 signers managed to affix their signatures to the document. One, Thomas McKean, didn't sign until 1781.
- The Fourth of July is one of only four holidays still observed in the U.S. on the proper calendar day. The others are Halloween, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



If you can keep it

One afternoon in the 18th century a young man approached Benjamin Franklin outside Philadelphia’s Independence Hall. Throughout the broiling hot month, the statesmen of the young nation had been debating furiously over the establishment of the Constitution of the United States. The young man asked Franklin, “Well, sir, what sort of government have you given us? A monarchy or a republic?”

Franklin, understanding the importance of popular support in keeping democracy alive, responded, “A republic, if you can keep it.”

The power of short words

Mark Twain once told the story of a Missouri farmer who ran five times for the state legislature without winning. He practiced his campaign talks every day while milking his cow. He filled his speeches with wordy expressions, referring to himself as “my humble aspirant” and his audiences as “my enlightened constituents.” He talked of “obtaining a mandate” for his “legislative mission.”



Then one day the cow kicked him in the teeth. With his front teeth knocked out, the farmer could speak only words of one syllable. The result? He won his next election and got re-elected many times after that.

No answer

A powerful king once undertook an expedition to conquer foreign lands. A counselor asked him, “Great king, why do you propose to set out on this endeavor?”



“First I shall become master of Asia,” the king replied. “Then I’ll invade Arabia. After that I will conquer Europe and Africa, and finally, when the whole world is under me, I shall rest and live at ease without worries.”

The wise counselor replied, “But what keeps you from resting and living at ease here and now, if that is what you want?”

The king had no answer.

Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out.

—John Wooden

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