



# THE OAKS NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING, MANOR TOWN AND CARSON CREEK RESIDENTS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

**JULY 2016**

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## INDEPENDENCE DAY - FUN FACTS AND HISTORY!!

The word patriotism comes from the Latin patria, which means homeland or fatherland.

The first Independence Day celebration west of the Mississippi occurred at Independence Creek and was celebrated by Lewis and Clark in 1805.

On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C. to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote.

The origin of Uncle Sam probably began in 1812, when Samuel Wilson was a meat packer who provided meat to the US Army. The meat shipments were stamped with the initials U.S. Someone joked that the initials stood for "Uncle Sam". This joke eventually led to the idea of Uncle Sam symbolizing the United States government.



The names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were withheld from the public for more than six months to protect the signers. If independence had not been achieved, the treasonable act of the signers would have, by law, resulted in their deaths.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY TRIVIA

John Adams wrote, in a letter to his wife:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

So why is Independence Day celebrated on July 4th? From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4th, because it was the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence rather than on July 2nd, which was the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.



Another bit of interesting trivia is the fact that most historians think that the Declaration was actually signed on August 2nd, 1776, nearly a month after its adoption and not on July 4th, as is commonly believed.

Finally, did you know that John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both of whom had not only signed the Declaration of Independence but went on to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on July 4th, 1826. Another Founding Father who became President, James Monroe, died on July 4, 1831 becoming the third President in a row to die on Independence Day.



## STRAWBERRY ANGLE FOOD DESSERT!

### Ingredients

1 (10 inch) angel food cake  
 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened  
 1 cup white sugar  
 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed

1 quart fresh strawberries, sliced  
 1 (18 ounce) jar strawberry glaze

### Directions

Crumble the cake into a 9x13 inch dish.  
 Beat the cream cheese and sugar in a medium bowl until light and fluffy.  
 Fold in whipped topping.

Mash the cake down with your hands and spread the cream cheese mixture over the cake.

In a bowl, combine strawberries and glaze until strawberries are



### Online Payment Starts July 1st!!!!

Residents that live in The Oaks (Alexander Oaks, Eastern Oaks, Summit Oaks) are now able to pay online at [www.hatctx.com](http://www.hatctx.com). In order to access an online account you will have to provide Gabrielle with your email. If you have not provided Gabrielle with your email, call 512-480-8245 ext. 38 and leave your email in her voicemail. Below are the instructions to set an account:

- Visit [hatctx.com](http://hatctx.com)
- Select the "Make A Payment" option on the Home Page.
- To create an account, select "Register".
- Fill in all the information requested:  
 Username, First Name, Last Name, Email, Password, Repeat Password
- Select Register

You will receive a confirmation email to verify your account.

You will have the option to:

- "Make A Payment" on the "Dashboard" screen
- View your past payments on the "Payment" screen
- View your profile.

With online payments, we will **NOT** accept partial payments, late fees will be \$25 the 6<sup>th</sup> of each month and an additional \$5 each day after that. If you have any questions please contact Gabrielle or Joanne at 512-480-8245. Thanks!

### 1. On what day did the Second Continental Congress vote in favor of independence from Britain?

- a) July 1, 1776      b) July 2, 1776      c) July 3, 1776      d) July 4, 1776

### 2) Thomas Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration of Independence. To whom did he give the first draft for revisions?

- a) Benjamin Franklin and John Hancock      b) Robert Sherman and John Adams  
 c) John Adams and Benjamin Franklin      d) Robert Sherman and John Hancock

3) True or False. As the movie "National Treasure" suggests, there is something written on the back of the original Declaration of Independence.

### 4) How many copies of the declaration were made on July 4, 1776?

- a) 2      b) 12      c) 24      d) 26

### 5) What special meaning do the colors red, white and blue on the American flag hold?

- a) blood, sweat and tears      b) purity, hardiness, vigilance      c) innocence, valor, justice  
 d) none

### 6) The Declaration of Independence famously begins with these words: "When in the course of human events." With what words does the text end?

- a) "with liberty and justice for all."  
 b) "we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."  
 c) "all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved."