

JULY 2026

TROPICAL PALMS BREEZE



T.P.H.O.A. Newsletter



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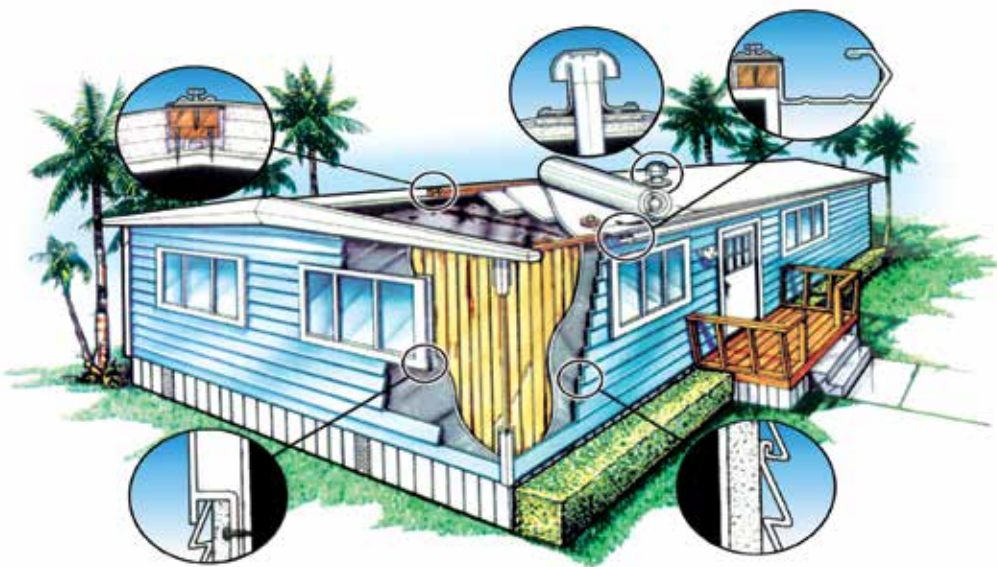


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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy July, Friends and Neighbors!

We are now at the ½ way point of 2026. I thought I would take some time to update you on information we have gotten at our recent meetings with Tiki/ELS. Mike and I went in to discuss the letter we got from ELS about the bridges going to the pond and over the swale by the pool being removed. She originally wanted the 2 rotten bridges removed and would remove the last one by the pond when it deteriorated. But after complaints about the bridges, Corporate insisted all 3 come down. We conveyed the disdain of the residents, and not one resident had anything positive to say about it. We also proposed an idea from a resident about adding a viewing area with benches to allow residents to sit and enjoy the pond. Tiki thought that warranted looking into.

A some things happening soon are:

- The house at 120 is slated for demo in the 3rd quarter.
- A gutter on the front entrance.
- The dart board has been temporarily moved to the wall by the hallway and will have a more permanent set up when they rebuild the wall in the future.

Tiki then laid out HER 3 year plan for the community. Stating these are just a few ideas she has and will of course need the funding to be approved for these projects from corporate.

2026

- Most stated above.
- Nothing will be done with the dog park. It is staying like it is.

2027

- A pavilion with a picnic area (picnic tables, and possibly a charcoal grill) if it is well used there may be a 2nd area beside it installed. This is presumably when a pond viewing area will be put in, if it is approved.
- Tiki is looking to remodel the laundromat to maximize usage as a multiuse building. She also mentioned possibly moving the library to that building . We mentioned there was a concern about the books and moisture. She said the a/c takes care of that, and the dryers would be well vented to the outside. This is still in the planning stage anyway.
- A soft remodel of the inside of the clubhouse. Floors possibly counters and paint.

2028

- • Putting in a walkway for pedestrians to use

around the field with pads containing outdoor exercise equipment stations. This will NOT be for golf carts.

- Exterior resurface of the clubhouse.
- Replace/ resurface pool deck
- Update the entrance to the park (sign etc)

There will be many other things done, but these are the major ideas she has. All these projects are her wish list and will need approval from the corporate level. They sound like great ideas. Let's cross our fingers.

Have a great summer and I will see you around the park.

*Pam Timmins
TPHOA President*



L to R: Pam, Pat, Jim, Patsy, Mike, Lorraine, Roberta, Kerrie, Dee, Susan

2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Pam Timmins	Lot 267
Vice-President	Mike Washington	Lot 223
Secretary	Dee Harrison	Lot 99
Treasurer	Patsy Lund	Lot 40
Co-Treasurer	Roberta McEwen	Lot 48
Directors:	Jim Lee	Lot 185
	Kerrie Kelley	Lot 250
	Susan Duchesneau	Lot 193
	Lorraine Dufour	Lot 284
Parliamentarian (without vote)	Pat Stowell	Lot 24



TPHOA LEGAL FUND

Thank you to the residents who have generously donated to the Legal Fund in anticipation of legal expenses.

The Board and the Homeowners' Committee continue our efforts to ensure homeowner's rights regarding our prospectus and our quality of life at Tropical Palms. Although we are nearing agreement with ELS on these issues, legal fees will continue until the complaint is satisfactorily settled. We ask that you consider a contribution to the Legal Fund. Any amount is appreciated.

To ensure confidentiality, please give any donations directly to Treasurer Patsy Lund (40 Pine) or Co-Treasurer Roberta McEwen (48 Pine). (checks should be made to TPHOA with Legal Fund noted on the memo line).

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Water and Sewer problems - always contact manager first! During workday..... 239-731-7200
When office is closed..... 979-446-9436
Drinking Water Machine maintenance.....
..... 941-697-2551
Emergency - Fire, Police or EMS 911

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Park Manager's Office (business hours)
..... 239-731-7200
Tropical Palms Off Hours Emergency
..... 979-446-9436
Clubhouse 239-731-5533
Charlotte County Fire (Non-Emergency).....
..... 941-833-5600
Charlotte County Sheriff (Non-Emergency)
..... 941-639-2101
ShorePoint Health ER & Urgent Care
..... 239-242-1357
Lee Health Convenient Care 239-424-1655
LCEC (light dept)..... 239-995-2121
To report non working street light .. 239-656-2300
Waste Management - Bulk pickup. 941-629-1106
Animal Control..... 941-833-5690
Mosquito Control 941-764-4370
US Water (first contact Park Manager).....
..... 866-753-8292
Century Link (send text to) 888-320-3452
Comcast/Xfinity..... 877-229-5999
Notification of Road Closures/Public Safety sign
up at alertcharlotte.com or call 941-833-4000
Aging Services: For rides, meals on wheels, etc
..... 800-677-1116
Red Cross: 866-438-4636
United Way: 211
Hope Coalition - They can direct people to places
with resources for different things.. 866-388-4673

SUNSHINE REPORT



Sympathy Cards were sent to Dee Harrison, #99 Evergreen, on the death of her mother, Doris Laurange of #10 Pine; to Jan Doss, #127 Evergreen on the death of her daughter; and to the family of Donna Murphy, former resident (Spruce St) who served as TPHOA President (2014-2016).

Get Well Cards were sent to Brian Knake, #110 Evergreen and Bill Bourne, #193 Evergreen Circle. Please contact me if you know of anyone who could use a note of encouragement or condolence from our community. Cards are typically sent for illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths of community members or immediate family but only if the information is given to me.

Remember, if you **DO NOT WANT** your family's information posted in the newsletter, please contact me before the 10th of each month. If I do not hear anything from you, I will assume I have your consent to publish the information and continue to wish our best-wishes for recovery.

Lorraine Dufour, Director and Sunshine Chair
284 Evergreen Circle
Phone: 978-580-1127
Email: lorrainebo59@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

A Warm Welcome to Our New Residents at Tropical Palms!

- We're delighted to welcome all the new residents who have recently joined our Tropical Palms community! Whether you've moved here for the sunshine, the lifestyle, or the wonderful neighbors, we're so glad you're here.

Get Involved and Meet Your Community

- Tropical Palms is a vibrant place to live, with activities and events happening throughout the week. We encourage all newcomers to join in - whether you enjoy cards, crafts, exercise classes, dinners, or simply connecting with others, there's something for everyone.
- Participating in activities is a great way to meet your neighbors, make new friends, and feel right at home.

Join Us for Coffee Chat and Stay Informed at HOA Board Meetings

- We also invite all new residents to attend the Coffee Chat and HOA Board Meetings. These meetings are a helpful way to stay informed about community updates, upcoming projects,

and ways to get involved. Your voice and participation are always appreciated.

Welcome Package is Waiting for You

- Contact Pauline Gagne to make arrangements to receive your Welcome Package. Stop by Lot 84 East Cypress or call Pauline at 774-365-2605 so she can visit you at a convenient time.
- The package is filled with helpful information about the community, amenities, services, and activities - everything you need to settle in comfortably.

We're Glad You're Here

- Welcome once again to all our new neighbors! We hope you find Tropical Palms to be a friendly, supportive, and enjoyable place to call home. We can't wait to see you around the community!

Pauline Gagne

Welcome Committee Chair

🌴 2026 HOA MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE! 🌴

It's time to renew or join for another great year at Tropical Palms! 2026 TPHOA memberships are now available for purchase. Your membership helps fund the many activities, events, and improvements that keep our community vibrant and welcoming.

Membership benefits include:

- Enjoy HOA-sponsored events and activities
- Support for clubhouse supplies, decorations, and community projects
- A stronger voice in keeping Tropical Palms beautiful and fun for everyone
- Right to participate at Membership meetings and the Annual Meeting

You can purchase your 2026 membership from:

- Pauline Gagne at Lot 84 Evergreen
- Or pick one up at any upcoming community event!

Join or renew today and help make 2026 another fantastic year at Tropical Palms.

WHAT OUR TROPICAL PALMS HOA BOARD CAN (AND CANNOT) DO

Our HOA Board works tirelessly as volunteers to do what we can to assist in improving our community to our best ability. However, there continues to be some confusion as to what the Board can or cannot do.

What the Board can do:

- Act as liaison between residents and management when issues arrive. If you see or hear of a problem, let a Board member know and he or she will convey that information to Management, and will keep everyone informed as to updates..
- Advocate and negotiate on your behalf with management.
- Work with other ELS communities to brainstorm and provide the best opportunities for our residents.
- Plan events to provide a healthy social environment in our community.
- Coordinate speakers and professionals from outside businesses and agencies to provide informative information to residents.
- Be involved in environmental organizations to improve resident safety.
- Act as first contact person in case of community problems.
- Provide a "sounding board" when conflicts arise.
- Work with legal representatives for the benefit of the community.
- And much more.

What the Board can NOT do:

- Enforce State or ELS rules or regulations. *We are not police!*
- Give penalties or consequences for failing to abide by rules. *We are not the park owners!*
- Govern or rule management in any way. *We can request or suggest, but the ultimate decision always lies with management.*
- Anything punitive. *We strive to work together.*

Remember, Board members live in this community too, so what impacts you affects us as well. We volunteer our time to ensure that all of us have the best living environment possible. Let's all work together to keep this park as comfortable as possible!

Note: For more information please read **HOAs in FLORIDA** article in this newsletter.

TPHOA EVENT FOR JULY

July 4 Barbecue 2 pm

Watch for more event announcements on signage near the park entrance, on Facebook and on the Bulletin Board in the Club House.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Billiards, Wednesday Bingo, Corn Hole, Shuffleboard and Cribbage will continue through the summer months at their scheduled times. Other activities may be continued or added if there is interest. An up-to-date list will be posted in the Clubhouse and on the Facebook page.

Want to set up a new activity or event?

We would love it - resident driven events are awesome! Just clear the time and dates with our event coordinators Dee Harrison at 828-467-0037 or dharrisoncounseling@gmail.com, Lorraine Dufour at 978-580-1127, or Pam Timmins at 603-661-4488.

Need help with promoting your activity?

Just contact a board member with any questions! We are here to help!

LET'S PLAN TOGETHER SO WE CAN ENJOY ALL THE FUN ACTIVITIES TOGETHER!

INDEPENDENCE DAY



BBQ
featuring
Sausage Subs
July 4th
2 pm
at the Club House

Sides and dessert are welcomed
but never expected



NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

If you spend any time on our facebook page you have learned about the Neighbor Helping Neighbor program started and organized by the HOA..

In talking to ELS management,



the HOA felt there are those in the community that need a hand up not a hand out.

It was started with the idea of giving a helping hand to those who need small repairs, projects, or just a little help. It is also for those who cannot afford to hire someone or just cannot do a small project themselves.

Examples of projects, but not limited to:

- Someone is not steady enough to change a

light bulb above their head.

- You have just gotten home from the hospital and need help with light household chores IE vacuuming, dusting, bringing trash to the curb.
- Other things might be fixing a cupboard, tightening a railing, a chair is getting wobbly, and it needs to be glued and tightened.
- These are just some examples of what might be done.

Things that cannot be done:

Electrical or plumbing, carpentry projects or construction and projects that require a license or permit in the State of Florida are some examples..

Another important note: Those needing work will need to procure all necessary supplies. We offer

the physical help and will bring the tools to do the work.. We can guide you to other services that may be able to help you financially to buy the supplies but you need to go through those avenues or others to get what is needed. We do not provide the repair supplies.

When someone comes to us for help we assess the problem and see what we may be able to do for them.

Our first project is in the books!

In this instance, the person needed some pretty big repairs- more than we could do. One of the committee sat with them and helped to give them direction to get help to procure the construction and supplies. They did the work, they reached out to local agencies and were able to get plywood installed to replace their floor. But having raw plywood was a dangerous situation in itself. They reached out for financial help with encapsulating paint and a local church was able to help. It wasn't to make their floor pretty, it was to keep them healthy. They then contacted us to see if anyone could paint the floors. Pam, Mike and Cindy went over and laid down 3 coats of the paint - Easy Peay. Was it perfect or professional? No, but it solved the problem.

Helpers Welcome!

We have had people wanting to help but they worry they will be taken advantage of and used as a way to get free services. All projects will be cleared by the program and you will be helping those in need financially or physically. Please consider volunteering.

Need help?

If you are in need of help now, or in the future, please



contact a board member to be considered. There is also a list of recommended vendors on our Facebook page for those who don't need the Neighbor Helping Neighbor program, but need a recommendation for a service. It is under the files tab near the top of the page. The file is labeled Resource List. If you have used a service and been very happy with them, please contact Dee Harrison to add them to the list.

BLUE RIBBON HOUSE OF THE MONTH

This is Tiki, your park manager, wanting to recognize this month's Blue Ribbon House Winner of Tropical Palms. This monthly award is given to a resident who continues to show pride in their home and site and how it looks.

This month's award goes to Penny and Lance Bryan at #38 Pine Street!

This home and site is maintained beautifully and really showcases some beautiful flowers and color for the season.

Thank you to the Bryans for continuing to help make Tropical Palms a beautiful place that everyone can call home!

I also want to say a big "Thank You" to all the residents in this community who continue to take pride in how their site looks. It does not go unnoticed.

We recently had a visit from our Regional Vice President and he remarked that Tropical Palms is one of the cleanest properties he has seen across multiple regions. That is a testament to all of you and the pride you take in your home and your community. Thank you for making me so proud to be the manager of this beautiful community.

~ Tiki



FLAG DAY



ICE CREAM FOR FATHER'S DAY



HOAS IN FLORIDA

What can your HOA legally do for you? And what is it not able to do?

Although the term HOA is used, our Association does NOT have the rights nor responsibilities of an HOA as used in other contexts - **Florida law is very specific about that.**

An HOA in a community where a lot is rented from a property owner (such as ELS) has a drastically different role than the HOA in a condominium or resident owned community. The primary differences are in the areas of rules and regulation enforcement, upgrade and maintenance decisions, and hiring of staff. Tropical Palms is a community owned by Equity Lifestyles, Inc. (ELS) and we rent lots from them so all of those issues are out of our control. So you ask...

Why do we have an HOA?

Florida law requires an HOA for the purposes of negotiating with the owner (ELS) regarding rental amounts, changes to the Prospectus or Rules & Regulations, and changes to amenities or utilities. Basically, the HOA brings concerns that relate to the residents as a whole to the attention of the park manager (Tiki) and works closely with her in an effort to keep resident concerns "on the front burner." **And that's the primary focus of your TPHOA board members.**

We strive to:

TPHOA endeavors to represent all mobile home owners in the park by maintaining a cordial and professional relationship with ELS.

Maintain connection with all residents. Individual mobile home owners may bring issues to the attention of TPHOA, and, if the issue affects residents in general, TPHOA will work with you to bring the issues to ELS management.

However, if the issues relate to only one home or owner, you are strongly encouraged to speak with the manager directly. (Home exterior modification and tree removal are examples of this type of issue.) The Board holds regularly scheduled Board meetings open to all residents to share information regarding issues being addressed.

Updates are also provided through the Tropical Breeze newsletter and on the Facebook page (Tropical Palms Message Board).

Florida law also requires that the common areas be open to all residents of the park and that the HOA maintain liability insurance to cover activities in these areas. (In order to maintain coverage TPHOA

needs to be able to identify activities and verify that insurance limitations are in place - no serving alcohol without a license is an example.)

And, that's how TPHOA gets the "party planner" image.

Truly, your board continuously works hard to carry out its legal representative mandate but is rarely seen doing the daily work that demands. What is most visible is event planning and participation. **But that is the frosting on the cake for the TPHOA Board.**

The Board enjoys finding opportunities to bring the community together (and is always looking for help in this area) as events provide::

Opportunities to meet and interact with your neighbors through barbeques, dances, meals, games, etc.

Chances to mingle with the Board members in informal settings and for fun, not just business - *they really are just like the rest of us!*

And, this all costs money. Since the membership dues don't cover the cost of food, bands, djs, etc, a fee may be charged for some events simply to cover the expenses. (We have been fortunate that ELS has donated some funds toward some events, but that is not always the case.)

I truly hope we can all continue to work together to ensure our community is a place we enjoy calling home!

Pat Stowell

*Tropical Palms resident 2010 - present
TPHOA Board member 2013 - 2020
TPHOA Advisory Committee 2020-2026*

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Laurange

Doris Laurange, age 97, passed peacefully Thursday, May 28, 2026 with her loving daughter by her side. She is survived by her four children: a daughter Denise (Dee) Harrison, of Spruce Pine, NC and Punta Gorda Florida; and three sons, Duane



Laurange of Camden, New York; Daryl Laurange of Gambrills, Maryland; and Daniel Laurange of Fort Myers, Florida. She was preceded in death by her husband Elmer Laurange. Her surviving siblings include a brother Richard Howard, and a

sister Barbara Howard. Her brother William Howard passed previously. She has five grandchildren.

She was born in Hudson, NY on July 19, 1928 to Sherwood and Hattie Howard. She married the love of her life in 1947, and remained married for 75 years until his demise in 2022. She raised four children, then later in life worked at The Home For Aged in Hudson, NY, splitting responsibilities as an Aide and Front Desk Clerk. She and her husband bought a home in Tropical Palms and were "snowbirds" for many years, before finally selling the home in New York and moving to Florida fulltime. After Elmer's passing in 2022, she split her residencies between Florida and Spruce Pine, NC.

In spite of her diminutive stature, Doris was a force to be reckoned with. She was sweet, but would not hesitate to speak her mind if needed. Her spirit and attitudes were decades younger than her biological years. She and her daughter enjoyed many trips and adventures, and her zest for life was refreshing. She was an inspiration to many. She will be sorely missed.

Doris and Elmer were among the original residents of Tropical Palms (then known as Evergreen Village) having purchased their home in the newly formed community in September 1988 and had spent winters here each year since that time. As newer residents joined the community Doris and Elmer were among the first to welcome them with a friendly greeting and encourage participation in community dinners and events. They will be missed.

Donna Murphy

Donna Teresa Murphy passed away peacefully on May 29, 2026. She was born on September 20, 1944, to Ruby and Herman Thibedeau. Donna graduated from Arlington (Massachusetts) High School and Northeastern University. She and the late Paul John Murphy, were married 60 years and raised three children in Malden, MA. Donna was active in many local organizations and had a long career at First Realty Management. Donna and Paul retired to Florida, where they enjoyed time with friends at Tropical Palms in Punta Gorda. Always community minded, Donna served on the Board of Directors of the HOA from 2013-2017, serving as president 2014-2016.



They later returned to Massachusetts to be closer to their children, son Paul and daughter, Charlene and son-in-law John, with whom they lived in Tewksbury. She is survived by her son, Paul T. Murphy and his wife, Jeanne, of Melrose, and daughter, Charlene Schiavo and her husband, John, of Tewksbury., and 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, a sister, many nieces and nephews and dear friends in Florida and Massachusetts. She was predeceased by her youngest daughter, Lynn Marie Finn, and her husband, Paul.

Donna was social, generous, and deeply charitable. She will be remembered here at Tropical Palms for her leadership and her genuine concern for the wellbeing of all residents.

july

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**LUNAR CALENDAR - JULY 2026 -
PUNTA GORDA, FL**

Moon Phase	Date	Local Alignment / Description
Third Quarter	July 6, 2026	The left half of the moon is illuminated. It rises around midnight and sets around noon.
New Moon	July 14, 2026	The moon is between the Earth and the Sun, making it invisible. Excellent night for stargazing.
First Quarter	July 21, 2026	The right half of the moon is illuminated. It rises around noon and sets around midnight.
Full Moon	July 29, 2026	The moon is fully illuminated and visible all night long, rising right at sunset.

Local Marine & Wildlife Impacts

- **Spring Tides (Highest Highs & Lowest Lows):** Expect the strongest tidal currents and the greatest variation in water levels around the **New Moon (July 14)** and the **Full Moon (July 29)**. The gravitational pull of the sun and moon align during these phases, creating more dramatic water movements in Charlotte Harbor.
- **Neap Tides (Milder Tides):** Around the **Quarter Moons (July 6 and July 21)**, the tidal range will be at its smallest, meaning less dramatic shifts between high and low water marks.
- **Night Visibility:** The final week of July (leading up to the Full Moon on the 29th) will provide bright, naturally lit evening waters—ideal for late-evening dock fishing or night boating, though you'll want to keep an eye out for those typical Southwest Florida summer evening thunderstorms.



**SOLAR ACTIVITY - JULY 2026 - PUNTA
GORDA**

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Daylight Duration
July 1, 2026	6:37 AM	8:26 PM	13 hours, 48 minutes
July 15, 2026	6:43 AM	8:24 PM	13 hours, 40 minutes
July 21, 2026	6:47 AM	8:22 PM	13 hours, 35 minutes
July 31, 2026	6:52 AM	8:16 PM	13 hours, 24 min

Key Solar Observations for July

- **Late Sunsets Persist:** Even though the days are getting shorter, the sunsets remain quite late into the evening. This is because the shift in daylength mostly impacts the morning hours first, causing the sunrise to become notably later (moving from 6:37 AM to 6:52 AM) while the sunset only pulls back by about 10 minutes.
- **Daylight Loss:** Over the course of July, Punta Gorda loses a total of **24 minutes** of daylight as the sun's direct rays slowly begin their march back south toward the equator.





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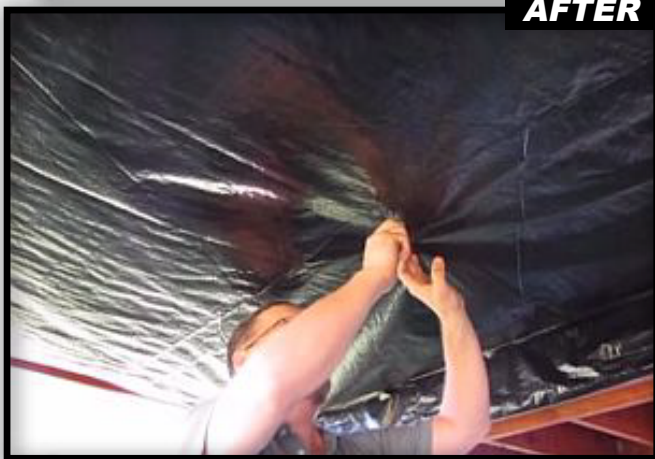
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POETRY BY PENNY

IT'S JULY!

It's time to Fly
High in the sky (Air Force)
It's time to Sail through the waters blue (Navy)
It's time to be on alert from coast to coast
to rescue those who need it most (Coast Guard)
It's time to strengthen and
support our troops (Army & Marines),
WHO WORE the BOOTS!
And Merchant Marines on the scene,
bringing supplies and weapon machines.

...

Our Country 'Tis of Thee,
Sweet Land of Liberty to
Thee We Sing,
On this 4th of July 2026.
EVERYDAY,
Remember the Statue of Liberty
&
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag,
We used to say
EVERY MORNING
BEFORE WE STARTED
OUR SCHOOL CLASSES!

OUR HEROES

Ed Prentice, #282 Evergreen Circle:

We were asked to think of someone who was special and deserved recognition, the first person that entered my mind was Ed Prentice. In spite of his painful loss, he always remains positive and upbeat. He is a loyal friend to many, and never hesitates to lend a helping hand or a listening ear if needed. He is generous to a fault, as demonstrated by his annual free hot dog roast. (excuse me "coney dogs"! I am sure he would correct me about this!!) When help is needed at an event, he is there. Such a great person definitely deserves some kudos!

Ruth Shreve, #241 Balsam:

I think Ruth Shreve is a wonderful woman, and I think she is somebody who should be noticed for her kindness, her consideration and totally a person who can talk to you and care and share. Thank you for being you and always being there for us!

Penny and Lance Bryan, #38 Pine:

I have wonderful neighbors! Last January, I came home to find my house had been washed down! Today, June 14th I came home to find the branches on my tree in my side yard had been trimmed, cut

down and cleaned up! I can't reach them and they were in my gutters. I mentioned to them yesterday that I was going to climb my 3 step ladder and try to get the branches. Lance said he'd look at it! Well he did more than that! What a blessing for this very short widow! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I can always count on Penny to keep an eye on things when I'm at work too!

* * *

If you know of someone that deserves recognition for their contributions to our community, please send the person's name and a detailed (up to 200 words) description of what makes this individual special! Send to Dee Harrison via Facebook Messenger, text at 828-467-0037, or email at dharrisoncounseling@gmail.com; or to Pat Stowell by email at newslettertphoa@gmail.com or text 774-722-3395.



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MUST PRESENT COUPON
EXPIRES 12/31/2026

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2 TON	8 KW HEAT	\$5,900.00
2.5 TON	8 KW HEAT	\$6,000.00
3 TON	10 KW HEAT	\$6,100.00
3.5 TON	10 KW HEAT	\$6,350.00
4 TON	10 KW HEAT	\$6,500.00
5 TON	10 KW HEAT	\$7,000.00

Includes unit & heater, anchored to existing slab & electric.
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OBSERVANCES AND CELEBRATIONS

- JULY 2026

Month-Long Observances

National Ice Cream Month: Officially designated in 1984, celebrating the ultimate summer treat.

National Grilling Month: Highlighting backyard barbecues and summer cookouts.

American Artist Appreciation Month: Celebrating the contributions of fine artists throughout history.

National Anti-Boredom Month: Encouraging people to pick up new hobbies, travel, or explore the outdoors during the long summer days.

Key Individual Days & Long Weekends

Date	Celebration / Observance
July 1	Canada Day: Commemorating the 1867 confederation. A major national holiday.
July 4	Independence Day (USA): Falling on a Saturday in 2026, making for a major summer weekend.
July 9	Nunavut Day: Commemorating the passing of the land claims agreement in northern Canada.
July 11	World Population Day: Focusing attention on the urgency and importance of population issues.
July 14	Bastille Day: French National Day, celebrating the turning point of the French Revolution.
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day: Promoting global peace and community service.
July 26	Parents' Day: Observed on the fourth Sunday of July to celebrate teamwork in parenting.
July 30	International Day of Friendship: A UN day promoting cross-cultural bridges and connections.



Tropical Palms

"JUST FOR FUN" ITEMS

Food & Drink Favorites

- **July 6 – National Fried Chicken Day:** A classic summer picnic staple.
- **July 7 – World Chocolate Day:** Marking the traditional introduction of chocolate to Europe in 1550.
- **July 13 – National French Fry Day:** A great excuse to indulge at a favorite local drive-thru.
- **July 15 – National Hot Dog Day:** Celebrated on the third Wednesday of July—perfect for a mid-summer barbecue.
- **July 19 – National Ice Cream Day:** Falling on the third Sunday of the month, this is the crown jewel of July's food days.

Hobbies & Leisure

- **July 2 – "I Forgot" Day:** A humorous day dedicated to making up for forgotten birthdays, anniversaries, or unreturned emails from earlier in the year.
- **July 4 – National Hop-a-Park Day:** Held on the first Saturday of July, encouraging people to get outside and check out local public green spaces or conservation areas.
- **July 13 – Embrace Your Geekness Day:** A fun day to celebrate niche passions, from tech troubleshooting to history research.
- **July 17 – World Emoji Day:** A modern celebration of how we communicate digitally



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TIDES - JULY 2026 - PUNTA GORDA

Like June, the waters in Charlotte Harbor during July typically experience a mixed semi-diurnal tide pattern (two highs and two lows of unequal sizes each day), heavily influenced by summer winds and seasonal barometric pressures.

Date	First High	Second High	First Low	Second Low
July 1, 2026	6:01 AM	3:08 PM	8:28 AM	11:27 PM
July 15, 2026	6:53 AM	8:36 PM	1:17 AM	1:53 PM
July 31, 2026	6:15 AM	4:32 PM	9:36 AM	11:51 PM

Summer Boating & Fishing Notes

- **The Afternoon Shift:** Notice how on July 15, the highest tide of the day pushes late into the evening (8:36 PM). During mid-July, the daytime low tides often bottom out right in the middle of the afternoon, exposing shallow flats.
- **Murdock & Peace River Variance:** If you are navigating further up into the Peace River or handling a vessel near the bridge, expect these times to lag behind by about 15 to 30 minutes compared to the open harbor station.
- **Heavy Rain Influx:** July is prime rainy season in Southwest Florida. Massive afternoon downpours dump significant freshwater into the Peace and Myakka rivers, which can occasionally mask a weak incoming low tide or prolong a high tide as the harbor struggles to drain out into the Gulf.

WEATHER - JULY 2026 - PUNTA GORDA

July in Punta Gorda represents the absolute heart of the tropical rainy season. The primary difference from June is that the ground is completely saturated by this point, and the atmosphere becomes an absolute pressure cooker of heat and humidity.

The National Weather Service records for the Punta Gorda:

July Temperature All-Time Records

Record Type	Temperature	Date / Year
Record High	100°F	July 3, 1998
Record Low	63°F	July 1, 1981

Context for Temperatures:

- **The 100°F Threshold:** Hitting a true triple-digit thermometer reading right on the coast is incredibly rare because the daily afternoon sea breeze almost always acts as a natural ceiling. July 1998 was a notorious exception during a massive, historic statewide heatwave.
- **The 1981 Cool Dip:** Dropping down to 63°F on the first day of July in 1981 stands as a highly unusual anomaly—most July nights refuse to drop below the mid-70s.

July Rainfall All-Time Records

July is a powerhouse month for precipitation, heavily driven by daily sea-breeze convection storms and occasional tropical waves.

Record Type	Rainfall Amount	Year
Maximum Monthly Rain	18.25 inches	1947
Minimum Monthly Rain	1.75 inches	1932

- **The 1947 Deluge:** The staggering 18.25 inches in 1947 occurred during a legendary, highly active tropical year in Florida history, where multiple systems saturated the peninsula back-to-back.
- **The 1932 Drought:** Seeing under two inches of rain in July is exceptionally rare for Southwest Florida. It requires a massive dome of high pressure to sit directly over the state, completely suppressing the daily afternoon thunderstorm machine.

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ASK DEE

Dear Neighbors:

In lieu of answering a question this month, I decided to take a few moments to reflect on some of the most amazing beings on the planet, mothers. With Mother's Day just passed, and with me losing my own sweet mom very recently, the value of these marvelous ladies has been even more abundantly clear. They bring us to life, they nurture us, raise us, watch us become adults and then continue to care for us and often become our best friends. They are magical, mystical and sometimes fearsome. They can peer into our eyes and can read our very souls. And when they become aged and feeble, and the roles reverse and we are taking care of THEM, they fret and worry that they are being a "burden". How could someone we literally owe our lives to EVER become a burden?

I have found some wonderful quotes on the glory of mothers. Here are just a few.:

"A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity. It dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path." — Agatha Christie

"Mother's love is peace. It need not be acquired, it need not be deserved." — Erich Fromm

"A mother's arms are made of tenderness and children sleep soundly in them." — Victor Hugo

"The love of a mother is the veil of a softer light between the heart and the heavenly Father." — Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Motherhood: All love begins and ends there." — Robert Browning

"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness." — Honoré de Balzac

"Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible." — Marion C. Garretty

"A mother's love is more beautiful than any fresh flower." — Debasish Mridha

"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." — Abraham Lincoln

"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother." — George Washington

"The truth is that no matter how old we are, as long as our mothers are alive, we want our mother." — Goldie Hawn

"A mother is the truest friend we have." — Washington Irving

An unknown author said, "A mother is your first friend, your best friend, your forever friend." This is so true. My mom was my best friend as long as I can remember. When we both became widowed just a couple of months apart, our friendship grew to an even higher level in which we supported one another, comforted each other, and helped the other to heal. When she was still able to get around, we had adventures together, day trips, vacations, getting stranded in a freak hurricane/flood up in the mountains together. When something would happen during the day, our first instinct was to pick up the phone and call the other. How I am going to miss that!

Rudyard Kipling said, "God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers." Truer words were never spoken.

Rest in peace Mom, you have my heart forever.

Dee (Denise) Harrison resides in Tropical Palms and in Spruce Pine NC with her puppy Loki. Questions for this column are generated from within this community and from outside sources. Please send inquiries to dharrisoncounseling@gmail.com The identity of all contributors is kept confidential.



HISTORICAL EVENTS - JULY 2026

July is a heavy-hitter in the history books. It's a month heavily defined by revolutions, massive military turning points, and major leaps in human exploration.

Births of Nations & Revolutions

The Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776):

The Continental Congress formally approved the final text of the Declaration of Independence, marking the official separation of the 13 American colonies from Great Britain.

Canada Day / Confederation (July 1, 1867): The *British North America Act* took effect, officially uniting the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec into a single federation called the Dominion of Canada.

Storming of the Bastille (July 14, 1789): Parisian revolutionaries stormed the Bastille prison, a hated symbol of royal absolute power. This dramatic event effectively launched the French Revolution and is celebrated today as France's National Day (Bastille Day).

Turning Points of War

The Battle of Gettysburg (July 1–3, 1863):

Widely considered the most critical turning point of the American Civil War. General George Meade's Union forces defeated General Robert E. Lee's Confederate army, putting an end to the South's major invasion of the North.

The Battle of the Somme Begins (July 1, 1916):

One of the largest and bloodiest battles of World War I began in France. On the very first day alone, the British Army suffered an astonishing 57,000 casualties.

The Battle of Kursk (July 5, 1943): The largest tank battle in human history began between German and Soviet forces on the Eastern Front of WWII. The Soviet victory permanently shattered Germany's offensive capabilities in the East.

Science, Exploration & Social Milestones

The Apollo 11 Moon Landing (July 20, 1969):

Neil Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface and uttered his famous words, *"That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind."*

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 (July 2, 1964): U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed this landmark piece of legislation into law, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The Discovery of the Rosetta Stone (July 19, 1799): French soldiers in Egypt uncovered a stone slab inscribed with three different scripts. Because

it included Greek alongside ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, it became the key that finally allowed scholars to decipher hieroglyphs.

First Successful Inoculation (July 6, 1885):

French microbiologist Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first anti-rabies vaccine to a young boy who had been bitten by an infected dog, marking a massive breakthrough for modern medicine.

Fascinating Coincidences & Mysteries

The July 4th Presidential Coincidence (July 4, 1826):

In a staggering twist of historical fate, founding fathers and former U.S. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on the exact same day—the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Amelia Earhart Disappears (July 2, 1937):

Legendary aviator Amelia Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan vanished over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to fly around the globe, sparking one of the greatest unsolved mysteries of the 20th century.

THE WRECKING CREW

The Sonic Engine of the Golden Age

In an era where the "California Sound" defined global culture, the Wrecking Crew provided the muscle and the polish. They were a loose collective of jazz-trained virtuosos who brought sophisticated musicality to the raw energy of Rock and Roll. They were the team that made great songs even better.

The Wrecking Crew wasn't just a group of musicians; they were the invisible architects of the American soundtrack. While the public idolized the "frontman," the industry knew the truth: if you wanted a hit in the 1950s, 60s or 70s, you didn't just need a song—you needed the Crew. They are reputed to have contributed their talents to 40+ #1 hits during the 60s and 70s plus innumerable top 40 hits plus thousands of songs in total. Their contributions were almost never publicly recognized on the recordings. Their contribution can be summarized through three primary pillars:

- **The "Wall of Sound":** Working under Phil Spector, they mastered the art of orchestral layering. By doubling or tripling instruments—multiple pianos, guitars, and basses playing in unison—they created a dense, reverbed "symphony for teens" that changed how records were produced.



- **Defining the California Myth:** They were the actual hands behind the Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds*. While Brian Wilson provided the genius vision, the Crew provided the technical execution for complex tracks like "Good Vibrations," translating avant-garde arrangements into pop gold.
- **Consistency and Speed:** In the 1960s, time was money. The Crew's ability to sight-read any chart and nail a "perfect take" in one or two tries allowed labels to churn out hits at an industrial pace. They were the reason the Monkees, the Mamas & the Papas, and Frank Sinatra could all share the charts simultaneously.

A Versatility Without Peer

Their influence crossed every genre boundary. From the surf-rock grit of Dick Dale to the sophisticated pop of Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," the Crew's fingerprints are everywhere.

The Legacy Beyond the 60s

The Wrecking Crew's contribution to the evolution of music was the professionalization of the session. They proved that a specialized "A-Team" could elevate a simple melody into a timeless masterpiece. They bridged the gap between the big-band era and the rock revolution, ensuring that even as music became more rebellious and experimental, it remained technically brilliant.

They didn't just play the notes; they created the "feel." When you hear the drum fill on "Strangers in the Night" or the bass movement on "California Dreamin'," you are hearing a group of musicians who shaped the DNA of modern recording. They remained largely anonymous for decades, but their influence is permanent—etched into the grooves of thousands of recordings that remain the benchmark for production excellence today.

Below is a list of some of the major artists and groups whose records featured the Wrecking Crew.

Major Pop & Rock Groups

- **The Beach Boys:** Most notably on *Pet Sounds* and "Good Vibrations."
- **The Monkees:** They played on almost all of their early hits like "Last Train to Clarksville."
- **The Mamas & the Papas:** Featured on "California Dreamin'" and "Monday, Monday."
- **The Byrds:** They played on the debut single "Mr. Tambourine Man" because the label didn't trust the band's own playing yet.
- **The 5th Dimension:** Including "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In."
- **The Association:** On hits like "Windy" and "Never My Love."
- **The Carpenters:** Featured on "Close to You" and "We've Only Just Begun."
- **The Grass Roots:** On "Midnight Confessions."

Solo Superstars

- **Frank Sinatra:** Including "Strangers in the Night" and "That's Life."
- **Nancy Sinatra:** Most famously on "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'."
- **Elvis Presley:** On tracks like "Viva Las Vegas" and "A Little Less Conversation."
- **Simon & Garfunkel:** On "Mrs. Robinson" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water."
- **Glen Campbell:** Before his solo stardom, he was actually a member of the Wrecking Crew; they later played on his hits like "Wichita Lineman."
- **Sam Cooke:** On "Another Saturday Night" and "Twistin' the Night Away."
- **Nat King Cole:** On some of his final recordings.
- **Dean Martin:** On "Everybody Loves Somebody."
- **Barbra Streisand:** On "The Way We Were."
- **John Denver:** On "Annie's Song."

Phil Spector's "Wall of Sound" Artists

Producer Phil Spector used the Wrecking Crew as his house band to create his famous dense recording style for:

- **The Ronettes:** "Be My Baby."
- **The Righteous Brothers:** "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'."
- **The Crystals:** "He's a Rebel" and "Da Doo Ron Ron."
- **Ike & Tina Turner:** "River Deep – Mountain High."

Other Notable Collaborations

- **Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass**
- **Jan and Dean**
- **Sonny & Cher**
- **The Partridge Family**
- **Ritchie Valens:** "La Bamba."
- **Paul Revere & the Raiders**

Fun Facts:

- Drummer **Hal Blaine**, a core member of the Crew, played on **six consecutive** Grammy winners for Record of the Year (1966–1971), including songs by Frank Sinatra, The 5th Dimension, and Simon & Garfunkel.
- Several of the Crew went on to very successful solo careers (like Glen Campbell) or band members of successful bands.

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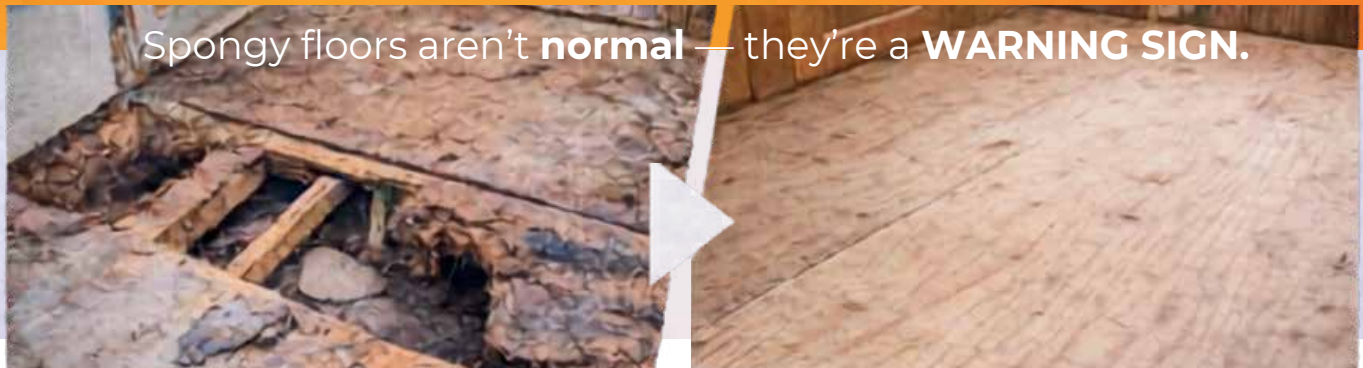
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