JULY NEWSLETTER



# The month of July marks the midway point of the year. It's also considered a month of fun thanks to the biggest patriotic party of the year that starts the first week of July. It's also a favored month to take a vacation because of the consistently warm and sultry weather across much of the world. But if you're looking for a reason to celebrate anything related to chocolate and ice cream, you've landed in the right month where you'll find multiple days dedicated to these sugary delights in between more historical observances.

***FAQ***

* **Why is July a popular month for vacations?**

July is one of the busiest travel months due to the weather being warmer in most places, and summer vacations for many schools are happening. A lot of families take their vacations during the month of July.

* **Why do we celebrate the fourth of July?**

July fourth is a historic moment in the United States, as it is the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776. It is considered the birthday of the USA and is also known as Independence Day.

* **Why is July considered the middle of the year?**
* There are 365 days a year, and July 1st is the 182nd day of the year, placing the month of July right in the middle of the annual calendar.



During the [American Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolution), the legal separation of the [thirteen colonies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_Colonies) from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the [Second Continental Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Continental_Congress) voted to approve a [resolution of independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Resolution) that had been proposed in June by [Richard Henry Lee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Henry_Lee) of [Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia) declaring the United States independent from Great Britain's rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the [Declaration of Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence), a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by the [Committee of Five](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_of_Five), which asked [Thomas Jefferson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson) to author its first draft.

While Jefferson consulted extensively with the other four members of the Committee of Five, he largely wrote the Declaration of Independence in isolation over 17 days between June 11, 1776, and June 28, 1776, from the second floor he was renting in a three-story private home at 700 [Market Street](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Market_Street_(Philadelphia)) in [Philadelphia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia), now known as the Declaration House, and within walking distance of [Independence Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Hall).

Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, removing Jefferson's vigorous denunciation of [King George III](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_III) for importing the [slave trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_Trade), finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, [John Adams](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Adams) wrote to his wife [Abigail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abigail_Adams):

***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.***

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and [Benjamin Franklin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Franklin) all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

By a remarkable coincidence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as [presidents of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States), both died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, [James Monroe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Monroe), another [Founding Father](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Founding_Fathers_of_the_United_States) who was elected president, also died on July 4, 1831, making him the third President who died on the anniversary of independence. The only U.S. president to have been born on Independence Day was [Calvin Coolidge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvin_Coolidge), who was born on July 4, 1872.  



Hard to believe it is July already, summer is flying by!! As you are getting ready to celebrate Independence Day, please remember to be safe at all times. If you are planning to light fireworks, I would like to share a few reminders and safety tips with you; you are allowed to light fireworks:

June 27th – July 3rd - Between the hours of 10:00 AM and 10:00 PM

July 4th - Between the hours of 10:00 AM and 12:00 AM

July 5th – Between the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Lighting fireworks in the street, alley or public property is prohibited, keep a fire extinguisher or a water hose close by.

We want all of our citizens to enjoy the beautiful fireworks without the danger that could follow. Please keep in mind, anything that shoots up in the air can be potentially hazardous for your nearby neighbors, think before you light!!

Please remember to dispose any firework that has been discharged, the city is not responsible in cleaning left over debris.

Have A Very Safe And Happy 4TH Of July!!!!



**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024**

**Fitness center fees are increasing to $15.00 per month.**

**If you have questions, contact City Hall (620)496-2241.**



**Did you know that La Harpe City Hall is a cooling center for those in need? We have also decided to open our library for relief as well, so if you need to cool off stop by and read a book in the air-conditioned room.**

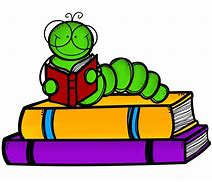


***July Library Hours***

***Tuesday***

***Wednesday***

***1pm to 4pm***



 LOCAL NEWS

* La Harpe Days T-Shirts available at City Hall.

**If you need assistance after-hours please call the Iola Dispatch Center at (620) 365-1437, they will notify the proper personnel.**

 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL LAHARPE CITIZENS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!!!! MAY YOUR DAY BE AS SPECIAL AS YOU ARE TO US!**



**ACTIVITIES FOR JULY**

**JULY 8TH**

Bee Wreath Making @ 6pm

**JULY 9TH**

Funnel Cake Class @ 2pm

**JULY 12TH**

Making Bags for Area Shut In People @ 2pm

**JULY 17TH**

Drug Awareness @ 6pm

**JULY 18TH**

Hygiene Bags @ 2pm

**JULY 22ND**

One Dish Class @ 6pm

**JULY 23RD**

Homemade Snow Cones @ 2pm

**JULY 25TH**

X-MAS in July Wreath Making @ 2pm

**JULY 29TH**

Kid’s Quick Meals @ 11am

**JULY 30TH**

Painting with Forks @ 6pm

**JULY 31ST**

Rock Painting @ 2pm

*You can follow our health & wellness director on Facebook: La Harpe Health & Wellness. Kathy will share weekly brain teasers, hygiene facts and healthy quick meals. Don’t have access to Facebook, please let us know and we will find a way to get you the information.*



**TO ALL CITIZENS IN LA HARPE**

**It is in the city ordinance that you are not to blow your grass in the street. If you happen to get grass in the street, I’m asking you to blow or sweep the grass back into your yard or you will receive a Notice to Appear in Court. That will be an $80.00 court cost and whatever the Judge fines you. Please don’t blow grass in the street when you mow or at any time.**

**If you have any questions, please contact us by phone (620) 496-2241 here at City Hall.**

**Sincerely,**

**Animal and Code Officer**

**Dates to remember:**

 July 5th: City Hall will be closed for the holiday.

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated with low confidenceJuly 10th: Council Meeting at City Hall at 7:00 pm

A picture containing text, lined

Description automatically generated July 15th: PRIDE Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiI3_mmgoLLAhVW9mMKHe22Ar8QjRwIBw&url=http://www.paymentus.com/industry-utilities.html&psig=AFQjCNF-5ANx5SktbJug46KiWwMehsjzzw&ust=1455908868261283) July 25th: **Past due Utility shut off date.**

*If you can’t pay your account in* ***full*** *at this time then you must submit your reasoning to the City Clerk* ***BEFORE*** *July 24th.*

**CITY COUNCIL NEWS**

**PUBLIC HEARING – SEWER IMPROVEMENTS**

Mayor Crowell opened the public hearing at 7:00pm. Wes Weishaar with BG Consultants was present; he presented the CCTV inspection that included the defects in the sewer system. He stated the defects are coded; with 5 being the most severe and 1 being less severe. Most of the manholes looked to be in decent shape, those that are downstream from the lift stations had corrosion but nothing critical that needs replaced now. He stated the blue spots on the map showed I&I, assuming to be ground water getting in the system, once again nothing seemed critical to repair at this time. He shared the report is showing about 30-40 spots that would need to be opened up and repaired before a liner could be used. Overall, about 40% of the system has deteriorated, some worse than others. The lift stations have reached their life expectancy, we are running into issues with trying to find replacement parts. Wes also shared an updated user rate analysis, stating the first two columns may be the better fit for the city and it shows the city needs to increase either $24.00 or $16.00 per user per month. Wes reminded the council; we can do nothing at this time and wait for potential funding, we can move forward with the design; get it shovel ready and apply for grants, the city has the KDHE loan in place and interest would not accrue until 1 year after first distribution, or we can move forward with design and loan only project. Carey Spoon, with CDBG, was present to answer any questions and stated CDBG was an option as well. Danny Ware Jr asked how much money was available and Carey stated there is $650,000.00 available with a 25% required match but if the city wanted to be competitive, they would need to match 50%. Mayor Crowell asked when the city needs to move forward on this, Wes stated an answer does not need to be decided tonight. He mentioned the Kansas Water Office (KWO) can grant o0n top of the USDA funding and if the city wanted the route, we would need to be KWO ready for this winter. Citizen, Harry Lee asked if the correct size of pipe was available to purchase and could the city start these repairs so they are ready for the liner. Wes stated, that is definitely an option but the city would have to budget for the project to do so because that would not qualify for a grant or loan. Mayor Crowell stated, we need some time to review the CCTV so that we know what we have out there. Wes also stated he could supply a link that has a video of the system as well. Harry Lee suggested the city has a chart showing this is where we are and this is where we need to be. Wes stated, the city has a workflow chart but right now the funding is questionable. Harry Lee asked the total cost of the project, Mayor Crowell stated 1.5 million to do the lift stations and 5.2 million to do the entire system. Wes stated he will update the PER to include the CCTV results and the new rate analysis numbers. He also mentioned the map is now showing each manhole has a number showing which lift station it feeds in to. Mayor Crowell requested that Wes get us one more large map. Mayor Crowell asked for any other comments, no comments or questions we noted so she closed the p[public hearing.

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. Diana Mullins, requested the council allow her to have her horses back. She stated we have always had horses but we had to move them out because of the COVID pandemic, but would like to bring them back. Fred Works suggested they get with Penny and a file a variance, share their story on that variance and bring it back to council next month.
2. Ray Maloney, expressed concerns with a water meter he was gifted when the city changed the outside water users, he is concerned because it has over 2 million gallons on the meter and worried that it’s going to quit working. He wants the city to replace it for him. Ron Knavel suggested the city could sale you the meter but you will have to replace it. Danny Ware Jr suggested he reach out to the other users for help replacing the meter. Mayor Crowell said the city will not be doing anything with that meter, it is now yours.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Gym Floors – Danny Ware Jr asked where we were at finding a grant to replace the floors. The guy I have been talking to is willing to give a quote but I told him to wait until I find out about funding. Mayor Crowell stated she is still looking into options.
2. Back Doors – Danny Ware Jr was asking why they weren’t done yet. Mayor Crowell stated they will be here next week to finish them.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Pempkes Tree Service – Tabled until July
2. Old Sewer Plant – Table until July
3. Cold Patch – Mayor Crowell stated we are low on cold patch but Whitaker is not making it yet, probably 2-3 weeks out, but would like a motion to allow the crew to get some once they do. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to get the cold patch when it’s available but not to exceed $3,000.00 and take it out of special highway. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Water Operator – Mayor Crowell stated she was talking with Gas City’s Mayor and got the idea of making Michelle our water operator. I would like to send Michelle to the water operator school in July and have her test when she is ready. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to send Michelle to school in Lawrence in July. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
5. Employee Handbook – Mayor Crowell stated, I wanted this item on the agenda for you to review, make notes of any changes you see needs to happen and we can get together later to discuss those changes.
6. Online Banking – Michelle stated our city treasurer is not getting the bank statement in time to get her reports done and the Bank of Commerce offers online banking, we just need the council to allow permission for Audra Riggins to have online access only to balance the books and the mayor, myself and Teresa still listed as signers. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to allow access to online banking as requested. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. #5 lift station pump – pricing was shared from JCI to rebuild the old pump would cost $9,901.00, a new pump would cost $15,430.00 and installation is $6,573.00. Danny Ware Jr stated since we will be replacing our lift stations soon, I don’t see any reason to get the new pump when it may not fit the new lift station. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to rebuild the old pump and take funds out of the sewer lagoon reserves. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
8. Mosquito pellets – Michelle shared pricing on pellets: 220 pellets that will last 150 days are $842.60, pellets that will last 30 days are $536.00 through Van Diest. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to get the case for $536.00. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
9. 1% Sales Tax – Mayor Crowell stated the 1% sales tax for the streets will be expiring in March of next year. If you want to keep the sales tax then it has to go on the November ballot. Fred Works shared resolution #2024-4 to get the 1% sales on the November 5th ballot. Danny Ware Jr suggested the city change that to 1.50% because the cost of getting the roads done is costing more than what we are taking in. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to change the sales tax to 1.50% instead of the 1%. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 3-1 with Cynthia Carr opposing.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Shared a quit claim deed for Dustin Sinclair stating that corner piece is being gifted to Dustin. Mayor Crowell requested a motion to allow her to sign the quit claim deed. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion for the mayor to sign the quit claim deed. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards and report.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports. There were 2 bids for demolition of 2 properties; 310 W. 5th and 409 S. Jefferson. Ray’s Metal Depot was the only bids submitted; 310 W. 5th was $2,800.00 and409 S. Jefferson was $1,900.00. Cynthia Carr made a motion to accept both bids. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Absent from meeting. Fire meeting minutes were shared: The La Harpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Ronald Splector, Kiefer Endicott, Bill Gay, Matthew Waggoner, and Meghan Sparks. Absent were, Pamela Waggoner, Dennis Sidebottom and Justin Pritchard. La Harpe firefighters had meeting, discussed who would volunteer for the La Harpe Day activities, then ended the meeting.
6. Maintenance Department - The workorders were shared. Mayor Crowell stated she didn’t want to do anything with the CDL class at this time but asked the council their thoughts on sending Joe to the instructor class in September. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to send Joe to the CDL instructor class in September. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Mayor Crowell requested a motion to go into executive session on non-elected personnel for 15 minutes. Cynthia Carr made a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes on non-elected personnel and resume at 9:08pm. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

After returning to regular session Ron Knavel made the motion to give Larry Laird and Penny Miller a $1.00 per hour raise effective June 10, 2024. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**TREASURER’S REPORT –** File for audit.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Cynthia Carr asked about drywall screws, Penny explained they were for lift station #5. Danny Ware Jr asked about the electric upgrade account and the invoices to KMEA and Border States, wondering why the council never sees these invoices. Michelle was under the impression, if it had anything to do with the electric upgrade we were to pay them from that fund. He wanted to know why KMEA charged the city almost $10,000.00 to replace 4 poles. Mayor Crowell stated those poles had transformers and a lot of hardware on them. Danny Ware Jr thought being a KMEA member we got a discount for them helping us. Then the border states invoices, we have spent an insane amount of money and not seen any invoice. He stated the council should be seeing these and approving them before spending. Mayor Crowell reminded Danny that the council did approve them at one time or another. Michelle stated she will put those invoices in a separate folder to review each month before paying.

Sharlyn Thompson made a motion to approve bills as presented. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.



***Mayor****: Ella Mae Crowell (620) 496-6219*

***City Attorney****: Fred Works*

***City Municipal Judge****: Patty Miklos*

***Police Chief****: Joseph Stotler*

***Fire Chief****: Marc Waggoner*

***Assistant Fire Chief****: Dennis Sidebottom*

***City Clerk****: Michelle Altis*

***Assistant Clerk****: Teresa Driskel*

***City Treasurer****: Audra Riggins*

***Maintenance Staff****: Travis Doolittle, Darren Northcutt & Larry Laird*

***Code & Animal Control****: Penny Miller*

***City Council Members:***

***Ron Knavel (496-2508) Danny Ware Jr. (496-2156)***

***Cynthia Carr (496-7500) Sharlyn Thompson (496-3348)***

***Laharpe City Hall Hours: Monday-Friday***

902 S. Washington 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00

P.O. Box 10 Ph. (620) 496-2241

Laharpe, KS. 66751 Fax (620) 496-2240

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# CHESY BAC AND EGG HASH

# Firecracker Casserole Exps10550 Gb2919407b01 24 2b Rms 2

# Firecracker Casserole

# Ingredients

* 2 pounds ground beef
* 1 medium onion, chopped
* 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
* 1 to 2 tablespoons chili powder
* 2 to 3 teaspoons ground cumin
* 1/2 teaspoon salt
* 4 flour tortillas (6 inches)
* 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
* 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and green chiles, undrained
* 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

## Directions

* **1.** In a large skillet, cook beef and onion until the meat is no longer pink; drain. Add the beans, chili powder, cumin and salt.
* **2.** Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Arrange tortillas over the top. Combine soup and tomatoes; pour over tortillas. Sprinkle with cheese.
* **3.** Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until heated through.



# Grilled Firecracker Potato Salad

## Ingredients

* 3 pounds small red potatoes (about 30), quartered
* 2 tablespoons olive oil
* 1 teaspoon salt
* 1/2 teaspoon pepper
* **DRESSING:**
* 1-1/2 cups mayonnaise
* 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
* 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
* 2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish
* 1/2 teaspoon paprika
* 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
* **SALAD:**
* 6 hard-boiled large eggs, chopped
* 2 celery ribs, finely chopped
* Minced fresh chives, optional

## Directions

* **1.** Toss potatoes with oil, salt and pepper; place in a grill wok or basket. Grill, covered, over medium heat 20-25 minutes or until potatoes are tender, stirring occasionally. Transfer potatoes to a large bowl; cool slightly.
* **2.** In a small bowl, mix dressing ingredients. Add dressing, eggs and celery to potatoes; toss to combine. Refrigerate, covered, 1-2 hours or until cold. If desired, sprinkle with chives.



# Red, White and Blueberry Pie

**Ingredients**

2 ounces white baking chocolate, melted

1 graham cracker crust (9 inches)

3/4 cup sliced fresh strawberries

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

3/4 cup confectioners' sugar

3/4 cup 2% milk

1 package (3.3 ounces) instant white chocolate pudding mix

1 cup whipped topping

1 cup fresh blueberries

8 fresh strawberries, halved lengthwise

**Directions**

1. Spread melted chocolate onto bottom and side of crust. Arrange sliced strawberries over chocolate.

2. In a bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth; gradually beat in milk. Add pudding mix; beat on low speed until thickened, about 2 minutes. Spread over strawberries.

3. Decorate pie with whipped topping, blueberries and halved strawberries. Refrigerate until serving.



# All-American Banana Split

## Ingredients

* 1 medium banana, peeled and split lengthwise
* 1 scoop each vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream
* 2 tablespoons sliced fresh strawberries or 1 tablespoon strawberry ice cream topping
* 2 tablespoons pineapple chunks or 1 tablespoon pineapple ice cream topping
* 2 tablespoons whipped cream
* 1 tablespoon chopped peanuts
* 1 tablespoon chocolate syrup
* 2 maraschino cherries with stems

## Directions

* **1.** Place banana in a dessert dish; place scoops of ice cream between banana. Top with remaining ingredients. Serve immediately.





