



A few history facts about our U.S. birthday

- ❖ **We Didn't Actually Declare Independence on the 4th of July.** One of the greatest misconceptions of the 4th of July lies in the name and date. It is widely believed that America declared their independence from Britain on July 4, 1776. However, the official vote actually took place two days before and the "Declaration" was published in papers on July 4.
- ❖ **Americans Will Enjoy 150 million Hot Dogs During the 4th.** According to the National Sausage and Hot Dog Council (NHDSC), Americans are expected to eat 150 million hot dogs over the July 4th holiday. This is part of an estimated 7 billion that are expected to be eaten during the summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- ❖ **Only Two Men Signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.** Charles Thompson and the infamous John Hancock were the only two men who actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The other 54 delegates signed over the course of the next month.
- ❖ **There is Something Written on the Back of the Declaration of Independence...** and no, it isn't a treasure map written in invisible ink. According to the History Channel, a simple message is written upside-down across the bottom of the signed document that reads, "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776." According to the same article, no one knows who wrote this or when, but it was believed to have been added as a label during the years of the Revolutionary War when parchment was frequently rolled up for transport.
- ❖ **One Signed Later Recanted the Declaration of Independence** Richard Stockton, a lawyer from New Jersey, became the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to recant his support of the revolution after being captured by the British in November 1776 and thrown in jail. After years of abusive treatment, and his recanting of loyalties, Stockton was released to find all of his property destroyed or stolen by the British.
- ❖ **The Average Age of The Signers Was 45 Years.** Of the 56 signers, the youngest signers, Thomas Lynch Jr. and Edward Rutledge of South Carolina, were only 26. However, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania was the oldest signer at 70 years old.
- ❖ **The Declaration of Independence Was Written on a Laptop...** Okay, not a modern laptop, but still. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on a writing desk that could fit over one's lap. This device was referred to at the time as a "laptop."



4 Common Myths About Our KOA & Your Property Value

I have mentioned “curb appeal” many times in my newsletters. Property value is one of the most frequently addressed problems in any HOA. It's no surprise that maintaining property values is a shared priority that I assume everyone can agree on. I will address just a few common myths about HOA and property values.

Myth: Homes Must Look Uniform to Maintain Property Value. The single most controversial issue in any HOA is home uniformity. Is it essential for every home to have the same exterior color and roof shingle...right? Will your home values plummet the moment someone paints them a deep ocean blue instead of moss charcoal or khaki beige? No.

It's often easier to enforce strict rules, however, than to make on neighborhood aesthetics. In truth, a home with unique beauty can undoubtedly have high and rising home values. The key is that each home *contributes to the beauty of the entire neighborhood, with architecture and color palettes just similar enough to please the eye of any potential home buyers.*



Myth: High Dues Relate to High Property Values. Any HOA that charges high dues must have high property values, right? Not necessarily folks! This common misconception is often mixed with "Watch out for extra high dues" and "Watch out for extra-low dues." Our KOA dues are determined by the value and upkeep of our facilities. I am sure you would agree that well maintained amenities can raise property values, and many homeowners will agree that additional amenities are worth higher dues, but the two are not directly related.

Low dues may mean that an HOA has excellent home values and very efficient budgeting. High dues can mean great amenities or inefficient money management. We currently are in the best financial shape ever, and our dues are in line with our needs to maintain services, repair needs and administrative cost and operational needs. Any increases are directly related to inflation, such as pool/landscape service fees, utilities (Georgia Power 12% increase June), needed/necessary repairs etc.

Myth: Renters Lower Property Value! There is a widespread stigma against renters in the neighborhood. The renter to homeowner ratio indeed has some influence on local insurance, but renters do not lower the value of local homes. The number of homes rented is a different scenario.

Instead, renters are often future homeowners who aren't ready to buy yet. Neighborhoods welcoming renters often find that these "temporary" residents are here to stay and very interested in buying goods in the neighborhood when they get the chance. Therefore, the number of homes renting in your neighborhood does not influence home values in any measurable way.

Myth: HOA Living is Effortless Finally; it is frequently argued that being a member of an HOA offers property value with little to no work. This statement is only half accurate. Many HOA residents choose not to participate in community administration but reap the benefits of facilities, local upkeep, and enjoyable community events. Often, the homeowners in charge are those willing to volunteer. Never assume an HOA is a free ride. It all depends on the HOA and the current board whether our HOA will be adrift down the lazy river or a snarl of mismanagement as we've seen in the past.



“We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident”

The 33-year-old Jefferson may have been a shy, awkward public speaker in Congressional debates, but he used his skills as a writer and correspondent to support the patriotic cause. By the late spring of 1776, more and more colonists favored an official and permanent break from Great Britain; in mid-May, eight of the 13 colonies said they would support independence.

”The body of Jefferson’s draft contained a list of grievances against the British crown, but it was its preamble to the Constitution that would strike the deepest chords in the minds and hearts of future Americans: “We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

The Declaration of Independence



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

(Print Library of Congress Online Catalog 1,410,615)

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America:

Sometimes it becomes necessary for a group of people to declare their independence from a government they used to be connected to. They have a right to do so under natural law, though they should respectfully lay out the reasons for the separation.

It is obvious that all people have the right to equal treatment, and that God gives people rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness that can be neither taken nor given away.

The only legitimate purpose of government is make sure that these individual rights are protected, and the only legitimate way for such governments to exist is for the people to consent to their existence.

But, if a government ever fails in its task to protect individual rights, the people have the right to alter or abolish it, and create a new government based on whatever principles they think best.

But we need to be careful not to be too quick to change or abolish long standing governments, even though people will usually continue to suffer under unjust governments rather than take action to change an existing system that they are used to.

But when a government continually violates the rights of the people, clearly and with the purpose of exercising absolute power over them, the people have a right and duty to throw off that government.

That is exactly what has happened here in British America, and which compels us to throw off the government of Great Britain. The current King has continually violated our rights, obviously intending to exercise absolute power over us. These violations include:

- He has refused to approve useful laws.
- He has interfered with the rightful lawmaking of individual colonies.
- He has refused to allow new sovereign political divisions.
- He has called legislative meetings in strange and uncomfortable places.
- He has dissolved the legislatures that tried to oppose his violations.
- He has refused to allow those legislatures to be re-formed.
- He has refused to allow us to make immigrants citizens, or pass laws to encourage them to immigrate here, including the use of public lands.
- He has refused to allow us to pass laws to establish courts.
- He has created a conflict of interest where judges are more loyal to him than the law.
- He has created a vast bureaucracy that harasses and harms our people.
- He has kept armed agents of the state among us, even in times of peace.
- He has made the military independent of and superior to civil power.
- He has subjected us to the laws of a foreign government without our consent:
- He has forced us to house foreign troops in our homes
- He has removed them from the operation of the criminal justice system
- For not allowing us to trade with the rest of the world
- For imposing taxes on us without our consent
- For taking away our right to have a jury trial
- For transporting us across the ocean for fake crimes
- For abolishing the laws and government in a neighboring colony, establishing a false and unjust government, and enlarging its borders as an example of the same unjust measures that could be applied to any other colony.
- For not letting us control our own colonial governments and laws:
- For suspending our legislatures and asserting his power over us
- He has declared us out of his protection, and attacked us
- He has attacked us on the sea, land, burnt our cities, and killed our people

- Even now he is transporting foreign armies to these shores to assert power over us and attack us, rivaling even the most cruel acts in history
- He has forced our fellow citizens to fight against us
- He has caused domestic unrest among our cities, and prompted violence from indiscriminate savage native inhabitants (historical context being important here)

The entire time we have humbly asked for these actions to stop, but we have been repeatedly ignored. A King who acts this way is not fit to be the ruler of a free people.

We have also told our fellow citizens in Britain about what has been happening here. We have specifically warned them about what the government was up to, and all that has happened since we immigrated here.

We have tried to remind them of our common bonds, but they too have ignored us. Thus, we have to treat them like we would any other people, enemies in war or friends in peace.

Therefore, we as the Representatives of the United States of America, appealing to the judgement of God for the purity of our intentions, do in the name of the people declare that we are independent states that shall have no further political connection with Great Britain.

As independent states we have the power to engage in war, make peace, make alliances, engage in trade, and every other power that independent states possess.

In support of this declaration, relying on the protection of God, we pledge to each other our lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.

