

# Emerald Green HOA Newsletter

## Celebrate America! Celebrate Freedom!

Volume 1, Issue 4 July 2017

There is such intriguing history behind our patriotic American symbols, and July 4th is the perfect time to explore them. I hope that learning more about the history of these symbols helps to make the celebration of July 4th more meaningful for you and your family! No matter how you wear your colors or celebrate with family or friends, let's all celebrate



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### The Stars and Stripes

On August 21, 1959, President Eisenhower proclaimed Hawaii the 50th state of the Union and ordered a new arrangement for the stars on the flag – 5 rows with 6 stars and 4 rows with 5 stars. This new flag, the same one that we fly today, was first raised at Fort McHenry on July 4, 1960. Recall that this is the place where Francis Scott Key was inspired to write "[The Star Spangled Banner](#)" during the War of 1812.



### Bald Eagle

The Bald Eagle became a national emblem of the United States on June 20, 1782, the day the design was chosen for the [Great Seal](#) of our country. The magnificent creature can now be found with outstretched wings on coins, bills, and stamps. Eagles have long been a symbol of power and strength. Thus it came as no surprise when Congress adopted a design for its national seal, or coat of arms, which prominently featured an eagle.



### Colors of Red, White, and Blue

The colors of red, white and blue are typically associated with the American flag, but when the flag was officially adopted on June 14, 1777, it does not appear that Congress made any intentional effort to choose colors that were symbolic in meaning. Rather, they retained the colors of the country of which they had been citizens for so many years — Britain. It was not until the Great Seal of the United States was established (in 1782) that Congress assigned clear meaning to the colors of red, white and blue. When reporting to Congress on the Seal, Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, stated, "White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness and valor, and Blue . . . vigilance, perseverance and justice."



### Fireworks

The earliest known documentation of fireworks, or more specifically "firecrackers," dates back to 7th century China when they were noted for their loud sound. Over time, technology developed, and by 1264, Chinese records make mention of a rocket propelled firework that scared the Empress Dowager. Not surprisingly, the Chinese were also credited with discovering gun powder, a substance similar to that used in fireworks. Despite their danger, fireworks have never ceased to be a popular form of entertainment and a joyous part of celebrations. Early American settlers brought their enthusiasm for fireworks to the continent and used them for various occasions throughout colonial history. However, the first anniversary celebrations of independence in 1777 marked the most widespread use of fireworks in a shared American celebration, and the tradition continues to this day.

## Community News and Updates

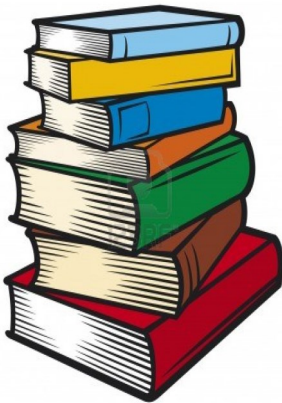
- ◇ Just a reminder that the Men's Night Out (MNO) on Mondays and the Ladies' Wine Wednesdays, have suspended meeting for the summer due to vacations and travel. Both will resume in September.
- ◇ If you are going to be away on vacation for an extended time, please alert a trusted neighbor to watch your home, pick up newspapers, stop your mail, leave a light on, etc.
- ◇ The current Rules and Regs are posted on the Emerald Green website [www.emeraldgreenhoa.com](http://www.emeraldgreenhoa.com). Please consult the R&Rs before you make any changes to your home. Examples: an ARC request must be filled out and approved before you make any architectural changes to your home (such as adding ceiling fans on porches, adding storm doors, removing existing shrubbery, and adding bird feeders).



- ◇ Please remember our pet policy that all dogs must be on a leash when outdoors, and owners must pick up all dog waste and dispose of properly. Thank you.

- ◇ As you know, the board works with various vendors and contractors throughout the year to get work done in the community. If you have an issue with any contractor, please contact Cedar Management at [mysupport@cmg.com](mailto:mysupport@cmg.com). Do not confront the workers. Cedar will work with the board to address the issues.

## Summer Reading Tips



Whether reading for fun or to increase your knowledge, the following books were recommended by Allie Long as great reads:

**Light Between Oceans** by M. L. Stedman

**Washington's Spies** by Alexander Rose

**The House Girl** by Tara Conklin

**Truly Madly Guilty** by Liane Moriarty

**All Grown Up** by Jami Attenburg

**Same Beach, Next Year** by Dorothea Benton Frank

**Into the Water** by Paula Hawkins



## Recipe Corner

Several of you asked for the recipe for the Spicy Chicken Tacos supplied by Allie Long at the Cinco de Mayo event. Well, ask and you shall receive!

1 tablespoon olive oil

1/2 pound cooked chicken, shredded (such as cooked Rotisserie chicken)

1 (1 ounce) packet Old El Paso Hot & Spicy Taco Seasoning

1/2 cup diced onion

1 (14.5 ounce) can Old El Paso Chopped Green Chiles

10 Old El Paso Stand and Stuff Taco Shells

1/2 (16 ounce) can Old El Paso Refried Beans

2 cups Mexican Blend Cheese, shredded

Toppings such as sliced Jalapenos, sour cream, salsa, cilantro, shredded lettuce, or any of your favorite taco toppings can be added .



### Instructions

Preheat oven to 400F. Line a 9x13 baking dish with foil. Heat olive oil over medium heat in a medium skillet. Add onion to skillet and cook for 2-3 minutes, or until the onion is translucent and fragrant. Stir in the chicken, taco seasoning, tomatoes (if desired), and green chilies. Stir to combine fully. Reduce to simmer and allow to cook for 5-8 minutes.

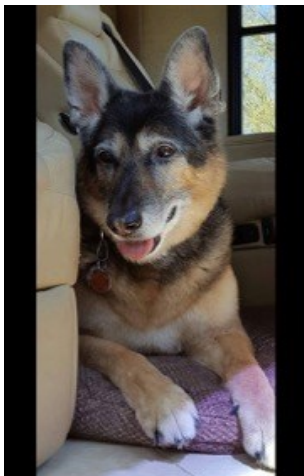
Place the taco shells in the baking dish, standing up. Spoon 1 tablespoon of beans into the bottom of each taco shell. Top with the chicken mixture, almost to the top of each shell. Sprinkle each shell generously with shredded cheese, the more the better!

Bake for 12-14 minutes or until cheese is fully melted and the edges of the shells are browned. Remove from the oven and top with your favorite items such as jalapenos, sour cream, cilantro, and salsa. Enjoy!

## Maintenance Updates

The gutter cleaning and power washing was completed in June. Universal Remodeling was in the community to repair the sinking pavers at the clubhouse as well as shingles on the clubhouse roof. Universal also addressed safety issues on the original phase back decks that needed repair. CZS has trimmed many trees and shrubbery over the past few weeks. Great effort is being made to trim the greenery in the season in which it should be done. Have you noticed that gardenias are growing back?! With the rain we have had this year, weeds are definitely on the rise. This past week CZS sprayed for weeds, in the turf in natural areas and on concrete. All lawns were sprayed as well as medians with pesticides (all which are pet friendly). We ask for your help between mowings; if you see unsightly weeds around trees or in your shrubbery, please spray or pull them if you are able. New pine straw in both front and back yards will be distributed before the end of July.

## Pet of the Month - Meet Zeppelin Ren



Zeppelin is a wonderful German Shepherd belonging to Rick and JoAnn Ren. I asked the Ren's to provide a little background on Zeppelin and we all know how attached to our pets we are! There was no way to leave out any background, so I wanted you to have the full story. Here in JoAnn's own words, Zeppelin's story.



From JoAnn...

Yes, he is named after the famous band group, Led Zeppelin. I've never really been a fan of their music...too rock and roll for me, if that's even possible. But this was his name when we got him. It suited him well, so the name stuck. We adopted Zeppelin from a lovely family, who we're still close with by text, email and Facebook. They kept Zeppelin's littermate, Bella, but since they already had a 2 year old and gave birth to twins, they needed to find a home for Zeppelin.

We adopted him on Nov. 6, 2011, so he's been with us for only 5.5 years. It seems like longer, and I wish I could say he'll make it to 6 years with us, but I really don't expect him to make it too much longer. I know I've been saying this to you for months, but there have been so many little changes happening faster and we've been through the end of life/old age stage with 2 other German Shepherds. Obviously, as long as he's not in pain and can handle the duties of walking outside he'll be around. His mind and spirit are awesome. He's like a puppy in that aspect, but his hind legs are beginning to show his age...and we cannot stop or slow it down. All we can do is love on him and keep him comfy. If he can make it another month, I will be throwing him a big birthday celebration!!! On July 9th, he will turn 13 years old. This is really quite old for a German Shepherd, as their average life span is usually only 8 to 12 yrs. We've been blessed to have him, and we were fortunate to be able to take him with us in the RV while we traveled to Illinois and some of the racetracks. Those were fun times.

He has quite a few nicknames and still has a few favorite things he loves to do...he still watches and barks at the TV, and still LOVES to play ball. It's really something quite adorable...he'll flip the ball to you with his nose, and he'll do this for hours if you let him. He will answer to the following names: The Z-Man, The Zamboni, The Zepster, Zeppelin, Zeppelin Von Guenther, Zeppelin Von Guenther-Ren, Zep, Z, and Buddy!! Besides the typical dog biscuit, his favorite treats include ice cubes, carrots, celery, and cucumbers!!!

*Please join me in wishing Zeppelin happy birthday on July 9th!!*