



July 2025



FIREWORKS-FREE FUN: CELEBRATING THE 4TH WITHOUT THE BOOM

For many, the Fourth of July is filled with fireworks, festivities, and fanfare. But for some—especially residents with pets, young children, or those who live with PTSD—loud, sudden noises can be more stressful than celebratory.

If you're looking to enjoy the spirit of Independence Day without the booming distractions, there are plenty of meaningful, festive, and peaceful alternatives to make the day special.

1. Host a Red, White, and Blue Potluck

Invite neighbors or family members to share a meal made with patriotic flair. Think fruit salad with strawberries, blueberries, and whipped cream; red punch with frozen blueberry ice cubes; or mini flag-themed desserts. It's a wonderful way to gather, celebrate freedom, and connect with others—all without the noise.

2. Get Crafty with the Kids (or Just for Fun!)

Set up a simple crafting station with materials from the dollar store. Try making:

- Paper lanterns with red and blue designs

- DIY pinwheels that spin in the summer breeze
- Handprint flags or sparkler-free "firework" art using glitter and paint

These activities are a great way to engage kids, decorate your space, and enjoy the holiday creatively.

3. Movie Night with a Side of History

Celebrate America's birthday with a cozy, air-conditioned movie night. Patriotic picks like *National Treasure*, *Hidden Figures*, *The Sandlot*, or *A Capitol Fourth* (a PBS special featuring music and fireworks on screen only!) make for a meaningful evening without any real-life explosions.



4. Create a Memory Jar

Take a moment of gratitude and reflection by writing down what freedom means to you, or what you're most thankful for this year. Place

these slips in a mason jar and invite family or friends to do the same. Read them aloud over dessert or save them as a new yearly tradition.

5. Enjoy Nature's Quiet Beauty

Plan a peaceful evening walk at dusk or a picnic at a local park before sunset. Watch the sky change colors, listen to the sounds of summer, and savor the slower pace of a fireworks-free night.

6. Offer Comfort to Others

If you know someone who struggles during fireworks season, consider reaching out. Invite them to one of your quiet celebrations, or simply check in to show you care. A little kindness can go a long way.

No matter how you choose to celebrate, the heart of Independence Day lies in togetherness, gratitude, and freedom. A quiet Fourth can still be a meaningful one—and perhaps even more memorable in its simplicity.

From all of us at Mark Dana Management, we wish you a safe, peaceful, and joy-filled July 4th!

STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE BITES

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 oz Softened Cream Cheese
- 2 cups Powdered Sugar
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla
- Blueberries & graham crackers for topping (optional)
- 20-30 Large Strawberries

DIRECTIONS:

1. Prep strawberries by washing and drying completely.
2. Cut out the stem and leave hole in the top of the strawberry. Now cut the very bottom of the strawberry off flat so that they can stand on their own.
3. In a mixer, add cream cheese, vanilla and powdered sugar and blend until combined.
4. Pipe this mixture into the strawberry tops. Top with graham crackers and a blueberry to add the red, white and blue.
5. Serve and eat immediately.



SUDOKU PUZZLE CORNER

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| | | 3 | | 8 | | | | 5 |
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Fill all empty boxes with a number 1-9 so that the no number repeats in the row, column, or boxes.

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| 5 | 2 | | | | | | 6 | 4 |

BROOK VILLAS

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JULY 2025 CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|----------------------|--|---|---|----------|
| | | 1 Rent Due | 2 | 3 | 4 Office Closed Independence Day | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Pest Control Building 3 (7812) | 10 Late Notices at 10:00 am | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Pest Control Building 1 (7808) | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Pest Control Building 2 (7816) | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

COMMUNITY CORNER

- Happy Independence Day!
- A friendly reminder: rent is due on the first of the month. A late fee will be applied to rent not paid in full by 10:00 am on July 10th. The only forms of payment we accept are checks, money orders, or credit/debit cards (with a \$5 fee). Please do not drop cash or change in the drop box for payments. **Please remember to add the \$5 fee to your online payment. This has been a problem and could be why some tenants still have a balance after paying rent.**
- Residents, please note the extermination date for your building. Pest control will be done on Wednesday.
- If you have a maintenance emergency after hours or when the office is closed, please call 1-800-224-4787. Do not call the office phone after hours or on the weekends.

COMMUNITY CORNER CONTINUED

- Guest/Visitors must have a guest/visitor pass if staying overnight. They MUST park in the visitor area.
- All tenants must have a Brook Villas parking pass placed on the windshield. If you are a tenant and do not have one, please bring your current registration to the Property Manager, and one will be assigned.
- Please pick up your trash. We want to keep the property looking nice. Anyone found leaving trash in the breezeways will be fined.
- If the dumpsters are full, please do not leave trash outside the dumpsters or outside of your door.
- Please do not drag trash bags through the breezeways. It leaves the area looking unpleasant.
- **When putting trash in the dumpster, please be sure bags are securely tied closed!**
- Please do not put flushable wipes down the toilet or grease down the drains. Both will damage pipes and cause a lot of issues. Tenants will be charged a \$100.00 fee to their rent for any damages resulting from ignoring these requests.