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Town of San Luis

NEWSLETTER

July 2020 — FREE

The Story of the Fourth of July!

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

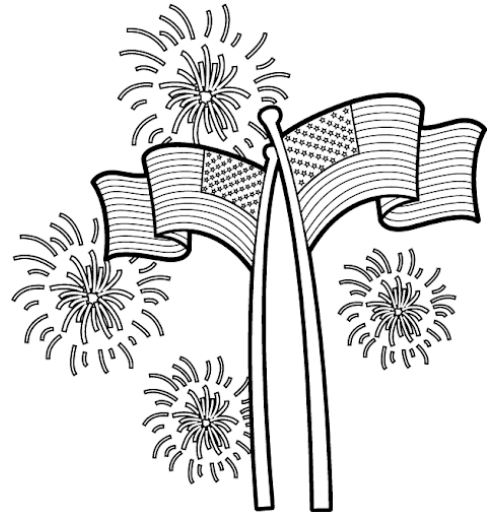
It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

So, what did happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the



date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved. If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed!

How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too

The Story of the Fourth of July

much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration. But the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies.

By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change.

After the War of 1812, the Federalist party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans.

Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

Reprinted, with permission, from www.constitutionfacts.com/us-declaration-of-independence/fourth-of-july.

Can Our Kids Play in the Park?

Please be advised the San Luis Community Park continues to stay closed to the public for safety reasons. The San Luis Board of Trustees feels it is in the best interest of the public to keep the park closed to prevent any spread of COVID-19 to our citizens, including children. There is a continued outbreak of the virus in the community and until the outbreak significantly slows, the park will remain closed.

Currently, the Town does not have the manpower to clean and disinfect the playground equipment on an frequent basis required by state law. If you or your children choose to play on the playground equipment, even though the park is closed, please be advised it is at your own health risk.

As soon as demolition of the old gym begins the park will remain closed to the public. A strict “no usage of the park” will be implemented. This is for the safety of our children as well. Please find other ways for your children to play and exercise until the town is able to re-open the park after the installation of the bike playground.

PARKS IN COLORADO

DURING COVID-19



San Luis Board of Trustees Vacancies

The Town of San Luis has two open positions on the Board of Trustees. The Board meets the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of every month. There will be special meetings as well. You must be a San Luis resident for no less than 12 consecutive months, live within the town limits, be a registered voter, and be a minimum of 18 years of age.

The Board is looking for energetic folks who are ready to roll up their sleeves and desire to make a positive difference in our community. If selected as a Trustee, the position serves a two-year term until April 2022. If interested please send a letter of intent listing your qualifications, vision for the Town of San Luis and why you would like to become a Town Trustee to Town of San Luis, P.O. Box 200, San Luis, CO 81423. You can also deliver it to the town hall located at 408 Main Street; or email your letter of intent to townclerk@townofsanluisco.org.

Town Hall Meetings

Will be held by conference call until further notice.

If you would like to attend by phone please email townclerk@townofsanluisco.org

Town Hall Meeting 6:00 pm

The 2nd Tuesday of each month

Work Sessions 6:00 pm

The 1st Tuesday of each month

Safer at Home is in Effect for San Luis

SAN LUIS VALLEY - As of June 23rd, nine new cases for the SLV have been reported, six from Alamosa County, two from Rio Grande, and one from Saguache. The total number of cumulative cases is now 380. Twenty-nine total people have been hospitalized, and 260 have completed isolation. A second fatality has been confirmed for Rio Grande County. There have been seven fatalities of individuals with COVID-19 virus.

San Luis is now in the Safer at Home phase but advise citizens to Stay at Home as much as possible during the current San Luis Valley's continued outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Think Safety First!

Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana Cancelled

The San Luis Board of Trustees, the Costilla County Health Department and the Sangre de Cristo Parish have decided to cancel the annual Fiesta de Santiago y Santa Ana event scheduled for July 25th and 26, 2020. Large events and mass gatherings offer more opportunities for person-to-person contact and therefore pose greater risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Meanwhile we must all do our part to stop the spread of this virus. Please remember health officials now recommend wearing non-medical cloth masks or face coverings when you need to leave home. For more information continue to visit <https://covid19.colorado.gov>. Stay Safe!!

Exciting News! Adelante San Luis Receives Funding for Another Year of Work!

Adelante San Luis, a project of the Colorado Trust, applied for funding during the Spring of 2020. On May 27, 2020, we received notice from the Colorado Trust that our 2020-2021 proposed Strategic Plan was approved.

Executive Director Judith Gurulé received notice about the award and immediately informed the Executive Board of the decision by the Colorado Trust. This means that Adelante San Luis programs planned for the upcoming fiscal year can be implemented. These funds will be available to Adelante San Luis after July 15, 2020.

Our organization's goals remain the same over the next year and reflect our vision and issues:

1. Develop cultural opportunities for youth and young adults that promote healing, integration, and acceptance of their heritage.
2. Promote self-worth among youth and young adults through learning communication skills and participating civically in the community, and
3. Develop diverse educational training, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities that promote prosperous youth and young adults.

Included in the plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 are several programs and monetary support at Centennial School:

1. Implementation of the Manito Spanish Language Curriculum purchased by Adelante San Luis from University of New Mexico and the hiring bonus for the Spanish Teacher.
2. Scheduling and support of the third Entrepreneurship Camp for 8th graders.
3. Providing a second year of funding dollars for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter.
4. Scheduling and Implementation of the Career Fair.
5. Continuing work on the Student to Career Pathway creating Internship/Apprenticeship Program.

Other programs include the Memory Project in partnership with History Colorado and the Fort Garland Museum and Culture Based Learning Classes. We will continue to sponsor and provide funding for the four annual community events which have become so vital to community connection, business opportunities for cottage industries and cultural revitalization: Founders' Day Celebration, Santiago y Santana Festival, Fiesta de Otono and Manito Christmas.

As always, we want to thank the community and our local partners for all your support and assistance in helping us to reach our goals.

Subscribe to Our Local Newspapers!

For more local and Costilla County news, be sure and subscribe and support our two area local newspapers.

La Sierra

P.O. Box 591
 San Luis, CO 81152
 \$22 per year in Colorado
 \$25 out of state
 Maria Martinez, Publisher
 lasierra@gojade.org

Costilla County Free Press

P.O. Box 306
 San Luis, CO 81152
 \$22 per year in Colorado
 \$24 out of state
 Iva Gallegos, Publisher
 costillacountyfreepress@gmail.com

Virus Information

Colorado HELP line

1-877-462-2911

(English and Spanish) for Colorado general information.

Colorado updates and guidance:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov>

CDC updates and guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

Small Business

www.choosecolorado.com

Volunteer or Donate

www.helpcoloradonow.org

Home Ownership?



Are you tired of renting? Have you thought about homeownership? Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC) can help! We help you with your path to home ownership!

CRHDC is currently accepting applications for Luz del Cielo subdivision located on Pedro and Salazar Street in San Luis. Construction is being planned for the next grant cycle which begins September 2020. The San Luis project plan is to build three bedroom homes with a garage. Homes range in size from 1,100 to 1,086 square feet.

CRHDC encourages first time homebuyers and other eligible individuals who want to live in San Luis to apply now.

Self-help eligibility income, from all sources is: 1-4 persons very low income, \$34,050; low income for 1-4 persons not to exceed \$54,500; 5-8 person very low income; \$44,950 and low income 5-8 person not to exceed \$71,950.00.

Our staff will assist you every step of the way, from the application process through the construction phase, to move in. Use your own hands to help build your own home. Become part of a neighborhood that thrives in our community of San Luis. Please call (719) 589-1680 for more information.

Support San Luis Businesses

- ASC Electronics** 672-0362
- BeLeaf Wellness** 206-3361
- Family Dollar** 672-0377
- Carson Construction** 298-0727
- Central Oil** 672-3840
- Ernie's Barbershop** 588-9942
- GT's Trash Service** 672-3601
- Gus's Liquor Store** 672-3331
- Jacales Art Gallery** 588- 6831
- J&J Self Storage** 672-3660
- La Casa Canna Bis** 672-4220
- Mondragon's Tire** 672-3325
- Mrs. Rio's Restaurant Thai Kitchen** 672-0211
- Painted Sage** (303) 919-9937
- Piccadilly Pizza** 672-0340
- R&R Market** 672-3346
- Romero Funeral** 589- 9200
- San Luis Inn** 673-3399
- San Luis Music** 680-3933
- San Luis Propane** 672-4204
- Sonia's Convenience** 672-4461
- Speedway Garage** 672-9903