

July 2024

# Northern Pines Newsletter

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## Celebrating July

### Ice Cream Month

#### Farriers Week

July 7–13

#### Zookeeper Week

July 21–27

#### Independence Day

July 4

#### Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Irene!

July 4

#### World Kiss Day

July 6

#### Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tom!

July 6

#### Bastille Day

July 14

#### Caviar Day

July 18

#### Amelia Earhart Day

July 24

#### Talk in an Elevator Day

July 26

#### Rain Day

July 29

## Fireflies and God's Love

Fireflies make their appearance in the evening on a warm summer day. Some people call the firefly a lightning bug. Interestingly, it isn't a really a bug. The firefly is a beetle. These little beetles are found throughout the United States—except Hawaii. Seeing a yard full of fireflies brings a smile to most people's faces. Watching the light of a firefly flash on and off is magical. Little children are filled with a sense of wonder. They run through the yard and chase the flashing light. As we get older, we pull up a lawn chair just to watch the evening light show in our yard. During one firefly light show, I got to thinking how the little lights of the firefly flashing here and there in the darkness were a lot like people shining God's love. The Good Book tells us in Leviticus 19:18 we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus recites this verse in Matthew 19:19. In Matthew 5:14 we are told that we are the light of the world. We are to let our light shine before men. Sometimes we get discouraged and our day seems a bit dark. Then we see little acts of kindness here. We see expressions of God's love there. Little flashes of love appear and reappear throughout the day. They remind us that we are loved and that we can love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Seeing these little flashes of God's light brings a smile to our faces. The next time you see fireflies putting on their evening light show, take a moment and think of all the ways God's love is shining in your life.

-Chaplain Jeff

## A Canned Classic



Over the past 87 years, Spam—Hormel’s renowned meat product in a can—has transformed from a mere food into a worldwide pop culture phenomenon. On July 5, 1937, it was first introduced to the world as Hormel Spiced Meat, but shortly thereafter, Ken Daigneau entered the name *Spam* into a naming contest and won \$100 for his efforts. Since then, over nine billion cans of Spam have been sold.

Spam was popular from the moment of its inception. Within one year of its introduction, 18 percent of all American households were enjoying the canned meat. However, it was during World War II that Spam really took off, as it was part of American army rations. Perhaps it is thanks to those American soldiers that the biggest consumers of Spam are residents of tiny islands that served as American military outposts: Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands. The average Guamanian eats 16 cans of Spam a year. Spam is incorporated into family recipes, eaten at restaurants, and can even be found on burgers at McDonald’s and Burger King. Spam is so popular in Hawaii that it is called “The Hawaiian Steak,” and other canned meats, such as Armour Treet, are not nearly as popular.

Why has Spam become such a celebrated piece of Americana? Was it the now-famous 1970 sketch by Britain’s comedy troupe Monty Python that launched Spam to international stardom? Or is it the curiosity surrounding the meaning of its name or the mystery of its ingredients? We may never know why Spam has become so popular, but the Smithsonian has taken the lead in immortalizing it. Two cans of Spam, one bearing the original packaging and another with an updated design, have been added to the museum’s exhaustive collection. It may satisfy Spam’s devoted followers to know that their favorite canned meat product is a work of art.

## July Birthdays

Those born between July 1–22 are Crabs of Cancer. Crabs love family and nurturing others. They may be emotional, kind, and gentle but are never soft. Cancers are strong-willed and tenacious in their search for peace and homeyness. If you were born between July 22–31, you are a Leo, the Lion. Creative and ambitious with magnetic personalities, Leos enjoy the spotlight. Warm, loving, and kind, they make loyal and honorable friends.

Princess Diana (British royalty) – July 1, 1961  
 Neil Simon (playwright) – July 4, 1927  
 David McCullough (author) – July 7, 1933  
 Marty Feldman (actor) – July 8, 1934  
 Milton Berle (actor) – July 12, 1908  
 Bess Meyerson (model) – July 16, 1924  
 Sandra Bullock (actress) – July 26, 1964  
 Jackie Kennedy (U.S. first lady) – July 28, 1929  
 Buddy Guy (guitarist) – July 30, 1936  
 J. K. Rowling (author) – July 31, 1965

## From Scotland to the World



Depending on your musical tastes, you may or may not enjoy Bagpipe Appreciation Day on July 27. This quintessentially Scottish instrument is traditionally used for almost any occasion.

There are over 200 different types of bagpipes, and variations have been played for centuries in parts of Russia, the Middle East, and Northern Africa. Scotland’s Great Highland Bagpipes have earned the most renown. A piper blows air into a blowpipe, which inflates a bag made of elk or sheepskin. Another pipe, a chanter, is held in the piper’s hands and is played like a flute. Also rising from the main bag are drone pipes that produce constant bass or tenor notes, providing background to the chanter’s melody. The music is unmistakable, and you may appreciate it even more after a glass of scotch. It may not be a coincidence that July 27 is also Scotch Day.