July 2022

Golden Age Newsletter

1915 S. 18th St. Centerville, Iowa 52544 Phone # 1-641-856-2757

Facility News

Covid Update:
We had one employee and one resident test positive in June. However, we have had no new cases since June 23.

This caused us to delay our carnival and fireworks. We still plan to do both in July and will send out flyers when we have a set date.

Please have a happy and safe 4th of July!

Becky Oposnow, Administrator

"Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."
~ John Dickinson

Bombs Bursting in Air

It is common on July summer nights to hear the far-off crackle and boom of fireworks, but no holiday boasts a more grandiose display of fireworks than America's Independence Day celebrations on July 4.

Setting off fireworks to celebrate Independence Day is a tradition that dates all the way back to America's Declaration of Independence in 1776. On July 1 of that year, the Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia to debate whether the colonies should declare independence from Britain. In the midst of their debate, news suddenly arrived that British ships had entered New York Harbor. The delegates' sense of urgency increased, and on July 2 they voted in favor of independence.

John Adams, representative of Massachusetts, sensed the significance of the decision. He wrote to his wife, Abigail: "The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America… It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other." Adams may have been off by two days, but his vision of future Independence Day celebrations was spot on. Cities would commemorate the day just as Adams had predicted. In Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, a cannon was fired 13 times to honor the 13 original colonies, and 13 fireworks were shot into the air.

Those early fireworks looked very different from those we enjoy today. Many offered nothing more than a fountain of monochromatic sparks or a loud explosion. It wasn't until the 1830s that Italian inventors added metal salts like strontium and barium to the incendiary mixtures, finally giving fireworks a palette of color. At last, crowds could "Ooh!" and "Ahh!" as the night sky was lit up in glittering shades of red, white, and blue. Other innovations in fireworks are on the way. Quiet fireworks, those without the loud explosions, have been tested in Europe. There are even daytime fireworks with vivid colors that stand out against a sunlit sky.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of:
Anna Janicke
Patty Ballenger

Just Hanging Around

What better way to relax on a hot July day than to swing freely in a hammock while sipping on an ice-cold drink or reading a book? If you've never "hung out" in a hammock, why not try it on July 22, Hammock Day?

Christopher Columbus discovered more than a "New World" in 1492; he also discovered hammocks. On October 17, 1492, he recorded in his journal that "people were sleeping in nets between the trees." These people were the Taino of the Greater Antilles. The Taino fished with nets called *hamaca*. The woven cotton slings were also used as hanging seats, beds, or sacks. The Europeans would eventually turn the word *hamaca* into the word *hammock* and bring hundreds of them back to Europe. Sailors, used to sleeping on the hard, filthy wood floors of sailing ships, quickly adopted the hanging beds as a modicum of comfort. The Taino did not have comfort in mind when they invented their *hamaca*. Sleeping high off the jungle floor protected vulnerable sleepers from venomous insects and reptiles. Hopefully, such dangers don't exist if you enjoy a hammock in your own backyard.

Many hammock lovers tout the restorative benefits of sleeping in a hammock. A study in Switzerland concluded that sleeping in a bed that rocks gently offers a deeper and more restive sleep. Hammocks can replicate this rhythmic motion. Others swear that sleeping in a hammock reduces back pain. A relaxing nap in a hammock might reduce overall tension, which might relieve some back pain. Doctors are skeptical, but if snoozing in a hammock reduces stress, then why not go for it?

Cotton hammocks are easy to find in stores and soft to snooze in, but many modern hammocks are made of lightweight nylon, a fabric sometimes called parachute. This nylon is often strong

Lottery Dreams

If you wake up feeling lucky on July 17, perhaps you should take a chance and play the lottery, for it is Lottery Day. The first record of a lottery comes from China's Han Dynasty, where proceeds are believed to have helped finance the construction of the Great Wall of China. Today, most lotteries are still government-run operations with proceeds used to fund municipal projects. Lotteries are a game of chance between the citizens and the state: the chance of a prize in return for much-needed revenue. All lotteries are longshots—the odds of winning are one-in-12 million—but payouts can be astronomical, with the average prize in the tens of millions of dollars. Furthermore, lottery tickets often cost just a dollar or two, making the risk fairly small for an average player. Lotteries played an important role in the American Revolution. Benjamin Franklin sponsored a lottery to purchase cannons to fight the British, and others were used to pave streets, construct wharves, and build churches and universities like Harvard and Yale. For many, the purchase of a lottery ticket allows them to dream of riches until the numbers are drawn and dreams are dashed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of:
Anna Janicke
Patty Ballanger

Hope Engle 8th
Reggie Ward 17th
Mary Herbst 23rd

Pilgrims at the Peak

On the last Sunday in July, tens of thousands of pilgrims climb Ireland's Croagh Patrick to honor the revered patron saint of Ireland. This tradition, known as Reek Sunday, has occurred for 1,500 years and pre-dates both St. Patrick and Christianity. Some historians believe that climbing the mountain was part of a pagan ritual associated with *Lughnasadh*, the Gaelic festival marking the start of the harvest season. One legend tells of how St. Patrick went to the mountain to convert a pagan king to Catholicism. Patrick battled the king's mother, a demon in disguise, and cast her into a lake far below, successfully converting the king.

St. Patrick is believed to have spent 40 days atop the mountain in the year 441, fasting and praying. A church has been located on its summit since the fifth century. In 1905, a new chapel was built atop Croagh Patrick, and on Reek Sunday, a mass is held and pilgrims are given the opportunity to have their confessions heard.

For some pilgrims, penance is done long before they reach the top. The most devout make the climb barefoot, suffering each nick and scrape from the rocky trail as a form of penance. Others perform rounding rituals, where they walk "sunwise" around special features of the mountain. It is seven times around a cairn marked as the grave of St. Benan, St. Patrick's most devoted disciple, known as the Psalmsinger for his beautiful singing voice; seven times around three ancient burial cairns known as Mary's cemetery; seven around a patch of rock at the summit called Patrick's bed, where the saint is believed to have slept during his 40 days; and 15 times around the summit itself.

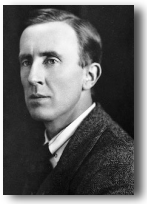
All that extra walking makes a demanding hike even more difficult. The mountain stands over 2,500 feet high, and the route is steep and rocky. Each year, pilgrims need rescuing, but still they climb. For some, the climb is a religious rite. For others, it is an Irish rite of passage.

Walk the Plant

First, we were told that we should talk or sing to our houseplants to help them grow. Now we're told that we have to take them for a walk on Take Your Houseplant for a Walk Day on July 27? While it is true that a study conducted by the UK's Royal Horticultural Society demonstrated that women's voices helped tomato plants grow at a faster rate than men's voices, there has not yet been a conclusive study to declare that plants enjoy going on walks with their owners. But don't let that stop you!

This day isn't just a day to take your houseplant for a walk but to shower your houseplants with attention. They've been indoors for many months and might like a bit of sunlight and fresh air. Moreover, houseplants need a good dusting. Dusty leaves inhibit photosynthesis, and a plant's health could suffer. Furthermore, walking outside with your houseplant will benefit you, too. Gardening has long been proven to be a stress reducer. So, too, is taking a walk with your houseplant.

Lord of Fantasy



On July 29, 1954, the first book of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Fellowship of the Ring,* was published in London. It was a work that would lay a lasting foundation for fantasy literature. After the success of *The Hobbit* (1937), Tolkien's publishers begged him for more stories about the diminutive heroes. A notoriously slow writer, he did not even finish a draft of his story about a "new Hobbit" until 1949. The first volume was envisioned as two books: *The Ring Sets Out* and *The Ring Goes South*. His end products, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*, have sold more than 150 million copies, making them some of the bestselling books of all time. Countless books, the *Dungeons & Dragons* role-playing game, and video game franchises all have been inspired by Tolkien.

Golden Age
1915 S. 18th St.
Centerville, Iowa 52544

Postage Information

No Laughing Matter

On July 20, 1715, the “Riot Act” took effect in England. The act stipulated that if a gathering of 12 or more people was found to be loud or unruly, an officer could approach them and compel them to disperse by reading:

“Our Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons, being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of King George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. God Save the King!”

If rabble-rousers did not disperse, they could be jailed or worse. The act was eventually deemed unlawful and was repealed on July 18, 1973, but not before it entered the lexicon as an apt metaphor for expressing frustration.

July Birthdays

In astrology, those born from July 1–22 are Crabs of Cancer. Crabs are very intuitive and sensitive to their environment. Their home is their sanctuary, and they are emotionally committed to family and loved ones. Those born from July 23–31 are Leo’s Lions. As lions are kings of the animals, Leos are strong and charismatic leaders. Proud and confident, Leos enjoy performing and the attention it brings.

Carl Lewis (Olympian) – July 1, 1961
Richard Petty (racing driver) – July 2, 1937
Bill Withers (singer) – July 4, 1938
Anjelica Huston (actress) – July 8, 1951
Mavis Staples (singer) – July 10, 1939
Richard Simmons (fitness guru) – July 12, 1948
Clive Cussler (author) – July 15, 1931
Nelson Mandela (political leader) – July 18, 1918
Carlos Santana (musician) – July 20, 1947
Robin Williams (actor) – July 21, 1952
Sandra Bullock (actress) – July 26, 1964
Laurence Fishburne (actor) – July 30, 1961