

October 2023

Villages Gazette

The Villages at the River Club | 1176 Warfield Blvd | 931-552-7455 | VillagesRiverClub.com



Celebrating October

Popcorn Poppin' Month

International Day of Older Persons *October 1*

World Teachers' Day *October 5*

Columbus Day *October 9*

Todd County Bale Trail Trip *October 11*

VILLAGES OKTOBERFEST *October 14*

Bosses Day *October 16*

Country Music Month *Coal Miner's Daughter –* Movie *October 22*

General Jackson Boat Cruise *October 26*

Halloween & Party *October 31*

A Magical Life

When Harry Houdini died on October 31, 1926, obituaries called him the world's greatest magician and an unparalleled escape artist. Houdini was born in Hungary and emigrated to the United States with his family, where they soon fell into poverty. Houdini began his magic career in 1891 with little success. It wasn't until 1899 that Houdini impressed vaudeville manager Martin Beck with a handcuff escape act. He went on to baffle inspectors from Scotland Yard with his escapes, a feat that earned him regular performances and a decent salary. It did not take long before Houdini was a household name all over Great Britain. He dazzled audiences with card tricks, illusions, and, of course, escape acts. Houdini suddenly found himself the highest-paid entertainer in the world.

Houdini's escapes, while marvelous and death-defying, were also extremely dangerous. Failure to escape meant certain death. Houdini wrapped himself in chains and plunged into a river. He was put in handcuffs and sealed into a milk can filled with milk. He was wrapped in a straitjacket, placed in a coffin, and buried alive. One of his most famous tricks was the "Chinese water torture cell," where his ankles were locked in stocks, and he was suspended upside down in a locked glass-and-steel cabinet filled with water. His escapes were so unbelievable that critics often called him a fake. But no one took their work more seriously than Houdini, and as president of the Society of Magicians, he did not hesitate to expose frauds.

Houdini might be the most famous name in magic, but he is far from the world's only famous magician. Other greats include illusionist Jean-Eugene Robert-Houdin, from whom Houdini took his name. Robert-Houdin is credited with transforming magic from a gimmick for the lower classes to respectable entertainment for the wealthy. And Alexander Herrmann, billed as "Herrmann the Great," was married to Adelaide Herrmann, known as the "Queen of Magic." Hermann was an expert card thrower and could land cards in the highest balcony of a theater. And, of course, he perfected pulling several rabbits out of a hat.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: Allan Anthony – Apt. 404



Birthplace: Tulsa Oklahoma

Hobbies: Golf; spending time with family; watching horse racing

Family: My wife Emma; two sons: Keith & Rick; five granddaughters and two daughters-in-law

Pets: I like dogs and cats

If I could live anywhere in the world, it would be: Germany & Belgium

Something unique about me: I served 22 years in the Military and was a Contractor with the Explosives Ordinance for over 15 years

Something I love most about living at the Villages: the people here are very friendly

Leif the Lucky

Each year, October 9 is proclaimed Leif Erikson Day to honor the Scandinavian explorer who landed in North America over 1,000 years ago. For many people of Scandinavian descent, this is a day to remind the world that Leif Erikson, also known as Leif the Lucky, was the first European to set foot in North America.

Both the *Saga of Erik the Red* and the *Saga of the Greenlanders* are books that offer details about Leif Erikson's voyage to Vinland, in present-day Newfoundland. While sailing from Norway to Greenland, Erikson was blown off course. He discovered a land full of wild grapes, wheat, and maple trees, samples of which the seafarers brought back to Greenland. The new land was called Vinland, or "wine land," after the grapes found growing there. Erikson never returned to Vinland, but others from both Greenland and Iceland did, including the Icelandic explorer Thorfinn Karlsefni, who unsuccessfully attempted to establish a permanent settlement there.

Giving Thanks

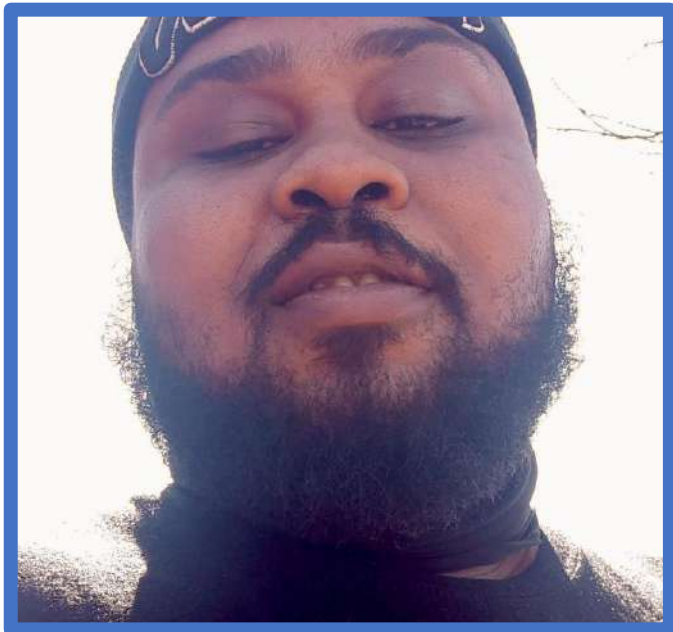


Thanksgiving may fall on the fourth Thursday of November in America, but for Canadians, the second Monday in October will always be Thanksgiving. Canada's holiday commemorates Sir Martin Frobisher, who sailed from England to Canada in 1578 in search of the Northwest Passage. When Frobisher reached Nunavut in the eastern Arctic, he gave a "thanksgiving" for their safe arrival, eating a meal of salty beef, biscuits, and mushy peas. Luckily, most Canadians don't repeat this meager meal on Thanksgiving. As in America, most Canadians opt for turkey. Stuffing and pumpkin pie also grace the Thanksgiving table, but the stuffing is made of rice and breadcrumbs, and the pie is chock full of ginger and other spices, like cloves, nutmeg, and cinnamon. As the holiday's name implies, it is still a day to give thanks for family and the fall harvest.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Roman Holtzclaw – Security & Breakfast Cook



My Birthplace: Detroit, MI

Hobbies: driving, cooking, listening to music

Family: it's just me and my Mom back home

Pets: none

If I could live anywhere in the world it would be: I don't have a specific place but it would be somewhere with all four seasons and great food!

Something unique about me: I am multi-talented

Something I love most about working at The Villages: the people

October Birthdays

In astrology, those born from October 1–22 balance the scales of Libra. Libras strive to find equilibrium and fight for equality and justice. They use their sharp minds to de-escalate conflicts and find peace. Those born from October 23-31 are Scorpio's scorpions. Scorpions seek deep connections and nurture deep empathy and commitment.

Carol Ballard #408 – October 4
Betsy Peacock #416 – October 6
Keith Stepp (Security) – October 21
Fay Price #217 – October 22
Judy Pryor #312 – October 22
Gloria Franklin (Hskpr.) – October 22
Joanna Berke #406 – October 23
Tracy Sutton (HomeCare Dir.) – Oct. 24
Betty Martin (Hskpr.) – October 27
Richard Short #203 – October 28

BIRTHDAY PARTY: 10/20/23

The Lady with the Lamp



Would the "Florence Nightingale effect" exist if Florence Nightingale never left for Crimea on October 21, 1854? Nightingale and her nurses

arrived at the Crimean War hospital in Scutari to find that conditions were so unsanitary that soldiers were dying ten times faster than they should have. Nightingale nearly single-handedly turned the hospital around, cleaning the rooms, providing laundered clothes and linens to patients, bringing fresher food, flushing out the sewers, and ventilating the rooms. She made her nightly rounds with a handheld light, earning her the nickname the "Lady with the Lamp." Some wonder, did Florence Nightingale fall in love with any of the patients under her care? Records show that Nightingale never married out of fear that it would interrupt her duties as a nurse. Perhaps we should be thankful for that decision, as Nightingale's efforts have earned her renown as the "Founder of Modern Nursing."