

Villages Gazette

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Celebrating November

American Indian Heritage Month

International Games Month

Adopt-a-Turkey Month

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Turn back 1 hour

Nachos Day
November 6

World Freedom Day
November 9

Veterans Day (U.S.)
November 11

Rock Your Mocs Day
November 15

Resident Family Thanksgiving Dinner
November 16

Thanksgiving (U.S.)
November 23

Executive Director Notes:

Happy Fall Y'all!!

This is the time of year that we give Thanks for all the Blessings that life has brought into our life. This month marks my one year anniversary in the Executive Director role here at the Villages. Most of you have ridden this past year's roller coaster with me through all of our trials and tribulations. I have appreciated all the love and support shown to me while we figured out things together. I hope that next year brings us all happier memories!

*Sorry that this month's Newsletter & Calendar looks a little empty. With the loss of our Activity Director and dealing with our Kitchen Staffing needs, I have not had the time to devote to filling all gaps. But, I do have some good news! We have a new Activity Director that started on October 24th – **Beth Taylor** and hopefully she will be able to spice up our November with some new activities and events! Watch for new events via our WhatsApp or Bulletin Board flyers. You may also notice that we have a new YOGA exercise class that is self-lead with video assistance in the Roxy Theater.*

*On **November 16th**, we will have our Annual Family & Guests Thanksgiving Dinner event. This is when our Dining Service team really shines with all their awesome foods and desserts! Stay tuned for more details.*

Last, but not least, thank you to all who served in the Military. November 11th is Veteran's Day. – Lisa Klasen



The Finest Hour



November 12 might be National Happy Hour Day, but on most any day of the week, you can find restaurants offering half-priced drinks and appetizers. The first “happy hours” actually had nothing

to do with cheap drinks and apps but were instead a practice initiated by the U.S. Navy to alleviate the boredom of sailors out at sea.

In 1913, a group of navy wives and homemakers who called themselves the “Happy Hour Social” organized weekly parties known as “smokers” aboard the USS *Arkansas*. These social events provided entertainment, such as boxing and wrestling matches, music, dancing, movies, ice cream, cake, and plenty of cigarettes and cigars, yet had nothing to do with alcohol. By the end of World War I, these parties were widely called “happy hours,” and the practice had spread beyond the *Arkansas* throughout the U.S. Navy.

When the 18th Amendment establishing Prohibition was passed in 1920, people were driven to drink in secret, either in their homes or in speakeasies. Before heading out to dinner or a show, people would drop into a speakeasy for an illegal late-afternoon drink. The banning of alcohol during Prohibition led to the invention of the first cocktail hours, and these cocktail hours were eventually called “happy hours,” a coded euphemism used by those wanting to skirt the law and find a place to drink.

By the end of Prohibition, the notion of a “happy hour” was cemented in the public’s imagination. By the 1960s, restaurants recognized that they could cash in on the practice and began to offer discounted cocktails and bar food as a means to lure customers. Over the decades, businesses have offered all kinds of deals: two-for-one, half-price, kids eat free, early afternoon discounts, and late-night discounts. States like Massachusetts, Indiana, and North Carolina, in an effort to rein in customers who might get too “happy,” banned happy hours altogether. But just as during Prohibition, even bans have not dimmed the happiness of a determined public.

Life Support

November 18 is Married to a Scorpio Support Day, but what is it about Scorpios, those born between October 23 and November 21, that makes marriage to them so difficult?

Every astrological sign has personality traits and characteristics associated with it, but Scorpios have gotten a bad rap for their intensity. Not only is Scorpio’s astrological sign a dangerous scorpion, representing the scorpion that stung Orion to death, but the sign is ruled by both Mars and Pluto, the two most powerful planets of the zodiac. Astrologers believe that under these ruling planets, Scorpios’ life experiences are more intense.

No wonder Scorpio spouses might need a little extra help! Blake Lively is married to Scorpio Ryan Reynolds. Kurt Russell is the partner of Scorpio Goldie Hawn. Bill Clinton is married to Scorpio Hillary Clinton. It takes a lot of energy to match these Scorpio personality powerhouses!

Sandbox Artistry



The Siesta Key Crystal Classic, America’s premier sand sculpting competition, will be held from November 11–13 on the island of Siesta Key, near Sarasota, Florida.

This is no regular day at the beach. The sand sculptors are magnificent artists able to sculpt sand like the Renaissance artists of old. Just how do they do it? Professionals often have access to tools that common beachgoers do not. This starts with massive wooden forms used to create giant bricks of wet, compacted sand. More water often means better sand for carving. Next, professionals get creative with their tools. A margin trowel, the kind used to set mortar or lay tile, is common, but some pros resort to forks, knives, credit cards, horse combs, or straws—anything that will work. The final and most important ingredient is creativity!



Lighting the Darkness

Diwali, India's fabulous "festival of lights," occurs on the night of the new moon during the Hindu month of Kartik, and this year falls on November 12. Diwali is the most important holiday of the Indian calendar. It is primarily a religious celebration for Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs, but it has become so popular that many other South Asian countries treat it as a national holiday.



Across India, Diwali is celebrated over five days, but the darkest night, the night of the new moon, is the main day of the festival. Families light small, clay lamps known as *diyas* to ward away evils associated with the darkness. Diyas, candles, and lanterns are arranged throughout the home, in the streets, in places of worship, and even floated on lakes and rivers. Some places set off bright explosions of fireworks in the night sky. Once the lamps are lit, families gather for fabulous feasts and prayers to Lakshmi, the Mother Goddess of good fortune and prosperity. To celebrate Diwali is to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

Throughout India, there are many legends associated with Diwali. In the north, Diwali commemorates the return of King Rama to his kingdom of Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. To celebrate the king's return, his subjects lit lamps and decorated Ayodhya with rows of diyas, a practice reflected in modern Diwali celebrations.

In southern India, the story is told of Lord Krishna vanquishing the demon Narakasura with the help of his wife, Satyabhama. The demon had been granted immortality and could be slain only by his mother. Krishna knew this and asked his wife to accompany him to battle. It was Satyabhama, as an incarnation of Narakasura's mother, who felled the demon with an arrow. In western India, as in the south, Diwali is celebrated as the triumph of good over evil. Here, the festival marks the day that Lord Vishnu sent the selfish and vain King Bali to the netherworld. Despite these differences, no matter where you go, Diwali is marked with light and family.

November Birthdays

In astrology, those born from November 1–21 are Scorpio's intense scorpions. Scorpions seek deep connections and nurture deep empathy and commitment. Those born from November 22–30 are Archers of Sagittarius. The Archers have a unique blend of passion, curiosity, and adaptability. Bold travelers, they are unafraid to explore and conquer new terrain.

Rhonda Orr (Server) – Nov. 18
Janice Kelly #116 – Nov. 21
Gina Thibodeau (Home Care) – Nov.23
Murriel Noel (Villa 1168)
Sheila Runyon #418 -Nov. 28
Carmen Rakes #302 -Nov. 30

BIRTHDAY PARTY: November 17th

Monster Success



On November 3, 1954, the film *Godzilla* premiered across Japan. *Godzilla* remains one of Japan's most enduring pieces of popular culture and has been identified by *Guinness World Records* as the longest-running film franchise in history. The film and its gargantuan monster symbolize something more sinister, however—a nation's collective terror over nuclear war. In early March of 1954, a Japanese fishing ship was contaminated with radioactive fallout from a nuclear test conducted by the Americans at Bikini Atoll. Soon, fears of nuclear contamination spread across Japan. The film's producer and director deliberately seized on that anxiety when they created a monster that embodied nuclear destruction. Skeptical critics thought the film would be a flop, but time has shown that