

VILLAGES GAZETTE

The Villages at the River Club | 1176 Warfield Blvd | 931.552.7455 | VillagesRiverClub.com



Celebrating August

Poms Movie & Popcorn

August 2

Author & Speaker

Sharon Mabry

August 5

***Pinky's Tea-Time**

August 7

Let's Talk: Sleep

August 8

***Nashville Sounds Game**

August 11

Travel Show w/ Elaine

August 14

Drain the Oceans Show

August 20

Test your knowledge 50 States

August 21

Solving Sudoku

August 22

***L & R Soda Shop & Car Show**

August 24

Aloha Anniversary

Hawaii, a tropical paradise in the Pacific Ocean, is known for its stunning natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and unique history. This year marks the 65th anniversary of Hawaii's statehood, a significant milestone in its journey as part of the United States.

Before becoming the 50th and final state on August 21, 1959, Hawaii's history is a tapestry of Indigenous Polynesian culture, European exploration, and colonialism. Captain James Cook's arrival in the late 18th century marked the beginning of significant Western influence on the islands. In the 19th century, Hawaii became a hub for the global sugar trade, attracting immigrant labor from China, Japan, Portugal, and the Philippines.

The road to statehood was not without challenges. Despite the islands' importance during World War II, it wasn't until after the war that momentum for statehood gained traction. In 1959, Hawaii joined the Union, becoming the first state with a majority Asian population and the only state composed entirely of islands.

Today, Hawaii is celebrated for its breathtaking landscapes—lush rainforests, cascading waterfalls, and pristine beaches with crystal clear waters. The islands are also home to unique flora and fauna found nowhere else on Earth, such as the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and the vibrant hibiscus flower, the state symbol.

Hawaii's cultural diversity is reflected in its cuisine, music, and festivals. Traditional Hawaiian luau feasts, ukulele melodies, and hula dancing are beloved cultural expressions that thrive alongside modern influences.

From Hawaii's ancient roots to its modern-day vibrancy, this unique state remains a cherished destination for travelers seeking adventure, relaxation, and the aloha spirit that permeates every corner of the islands.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Tiffany Thompson - Chef



Tiffany was born in Hillsdale, Michigan. She has also lived in Ohio and Kentucky. Her favorite place is Clarksville.

Both of Tiffany's parents and grandparents live in the area. Tiffany has a brother who lives in Clarksville. Tiffany has two daughters Kayleah (19) and Trinity (13). She loves dogs, but currently doesn't have any pets.

If she could live anywhere in the world she would live 'underground'.

One of Tiffany's hobbies is that she enjoys writing poetry. An interesting fact about Tiffany is that one of her writings was published in eighth grade.

Her favorite thing about the Villages is connecting with the residents. She loves to cook and grew up watching her grandma cook. A favorite cook of hers is Emeril Lagasse. This inspired her to take classes to learn how to cook.

Angel for a Day

The clouds may part and a radiant light shine down on someone you know on August 22, Be an Angel Day. The word *angel* comes from the Greek word *anglos*, which means "messenger." Many people believe that angels do exist, acting as messengers of God, and the Catholic Church has documented over 490,000 specific angels of nine different types: seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominions, virtues, powers, principalities, archangels, and angels. Angels also figure prominently in Judaism and Islam.

How can we emulate angels here on terra firma? Perhaps we, too, can be messengers of truth, justice, and love. Another way is to be a guardian angel, a selfless defender of those who cannot defend themselves, a guide and protector of those who have lost their way. A more modern twist is to become an angel investor. These investors offer money or capital for a promising business venture. While it may be impossible to embody the characteristics of a heavenly angel, Be an Angel Day can still inspire us to be better people.

To Buzz or Not to Buzz



World Mosquito Day may fall on August 20, but what reason do we have to celebrate this annoying pest of an insect? Researchers are beginning to ask that very question. What would a world without mosquitoes look like? Would anyone miss them? Would ecosystems suffer? Mosquitoes, after all, have lived on Earth for hundreds of millions of years. Many animals rely on mosquitoes as a source of food. However, many scientists believe that any ecological disaster produced by their eradication would be worthwhile. The world would learn to live without the mosquito, and humans would suffer fewer diseases... although we'd have one less holiday to celebrate.



A Striking Hobby



The first matchbook was invented by a Philadelphia lawyer named Joshua Pusey, who wanted a way to light his cigar while riding the train to work. By the early 1900s, businesses were printing matchbooks as advertisements. During the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, matchbook

enthusiasts started gathering to show off their collections. And in 1940, a collector named Henry Rathkamp decided that he would hold a collectors' convention at every World's Fair. In this way, the Rathkamp Matchcover Society was born, and its 83rd Annual Convention is meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, this August 25–30.

A matchbook cover collector is called a *phillumenist*, and they collect unused matchbook covers with the matches stripped out of them. Generally, the covers are worthless, but what makes the hobby exciting is finding interesting or unusual pictures on the matchbook cover. Some covers also feature an “odd striker,” which means that the striker for lighting the match is located in an unusual area, such as on a picture of the seat of Hitler's pants. Matchbook covers span a variety of themes, including patriotic, railroad, national parks, colleges, and sports teams. Some matchbook covers are contoured with interesting and atypical shapes.

As with most hobbies, the rarer covers are the most coveted. Perhaps the rarest matchbook cover is from a matchbook given to guests attending Charles Lindbergh's luncheon at the Astor Hotel in New York in 1927 to honor his crossing of the Atlantic. The Lindbergh cover sold in 2015 for \$6,000 at auction, becoming the most valuable matchbook cover in the world. Only 11 of these covers are known to exist. Of course, one needn't own a rare matchbook cover to enjoy this hobby. Even the simplest matchbook cover may strike your fancy and ignite your passion for collecting.

August Birthdays

If you were born between August 1–22, you are a Leo, the Lion. Creative and ambitious with a magnetic personality, Leos enjoy the spotlight. Warm, loving, and kind, they make loyal and honorable friends. Those born between August 23–31 are Virgos. Virgos are considered shy and sometimes naïve, private, and tidy. They are curious explorers who are incredibly loyal and well respected by their friends and colleagues.

Shannon Jacobs (Bus. Office) – August 2
Don McLaren (Villa) – August 4
Deven Andrews (Server) – August 8
Jan Roberts (Villa) – August 9
Shannon Large (Home Care) – August 10
Debra Pinedo (Home Care) – August 15
Virginia Jackson – August 17
Geary Eason (Villa) – August 19
Judy Orem – August 23
Caroline Wright – August 25

The Golden Age



August 21 is Senior Citizens Day, a day to recognize the importance of seniors and support them in their endeavors as they age. August 14 marks another significant day for older generations—Social

Security Day, a day honoring FDR's signing of the Social Security Act into law in 1935.

We should honor our seniors all year long, not just in August, but what makes this demographic so special? For one, there are a lot of them—over 62 million in America, or about 18 percent of the population. And research shows that seniors are more satisfied than the young. Perhaps it comes from a confidence born of living through the Great Depression and WWII. It may be that seniors finally have time to focus on enjoying the present rather than worry about the future. This might be the most valuable lesson we can learn from our senior friends!