

December 2025

Carton Commons De Pere

Arcadian Ln De Pere WI 54115

Celebrating December

Bingo Month

**Spiritual
Literacy Month**

Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Antarctica Day
December 1

Make & Bake Cookies
December 4

Hanukkah
December 14–22

Reindeer Games
December 17

CCDP #1 Christmas Party
December 18

CCDP #2 Christmas Party
December 19

CCDP #3 Christmas Party
December 22

Christmas Day
December 25

New Year's Eve
December 31

Resident of the Month



Janet grew up in West De Pere, where some of her favorite memories include playful moments with her sister—especially tossing things down at her while she sat on the swing. She comes from a family that got along well, celebrated family reunions, and shared a deep love for one another.

Her favorite season is fall, when the world bursts into beautiful colors. She loves a good bowl of chili, and whenever *Blue Skirt Waltz* plays, you would find her out on the dance floor. If she could choose a superpower, it would be the ability to get everything done fast.

Janet's advice to others is simple and heartfelt: "*Just be happy.*" She feels grateful for the warm, friendly, and always helpful caregivers at Caraton Commons De Pere.

When Krampus Comes to Town



December 4 is Santa's List Day, but throughout December, children worldwide will be wondering whether old St. Nick has counted them as *naughty* or *nice*. Of

course, most fall somewhere in the middle. But tell that to Krampus. In the alpine villages of Europe, December 5 is celebrated as *Krampusnacht*, or Krampus Night. It's the eve before Saint Nicholas Day, and—says cultural historian Stefanie A. Babb—it's the night when a creature called Krampus (half Bigfoot, half devil) searches for all the children who've been naughty. This long-haired beast is thought to be Santa's twin brother and helper. The clanking chains and bells around his waist announce his arrival. The punishment for the naughty depends upon the child's degree of naughtiness. Some children are given coal or bundles of birch. But the naughtiest are said to be thrown into a sack and carried away to the Krampus' lair, where they're eaten for dinner.

Modern-day *Krampusnacht* activities involve men and women donning elaborate goatskin costumes and exquisitely carved wooden masks. Photographer Alan Taylor has traveled throughout the Alps—from Italy to Austria and Germany—capturing groups of people parading the streets in their terrifying costumes while dragging chains and carrying flaming torches. It's a common sight for homes to be decorated year-round with bundles of the Krampus' birch, painted gold, to remind children to remain well-behaved. There's even a horror movie that tells the tale of this devil beast.

It's the "nice" children who enjoy the big payoff on December 6, Saint Nicholas Day. It's named for the fourth-century bishop of Myra, famed for his secret gift-giving. Lucky children awake to find gifts and sweets, breathing a sigh of relief that there's a whole year before Krampus returns.

Shining Star



Tanya has been part of Caraton Commons De Pere for three months, and she already loves the community, both her coworkers and the residents she supports each day. A Green Bay native, she grew up with two older brothers and is now a proud mother of three children: two girls and one boy.

She chose a career in healthcare because helping people comes naturally to her. A true social butterfly and people person, Tanya thrives on connection and positivity. Outside of work, she enjoys swimming and spending quality time with her children.

Tanya feels grateful to work alongside such amazing coworkers, who make each day meaningful and enjoyable.



Ringin' Through History

Everyone singing "Jingle Bells" this holiday season may be surprised to learn it's a Thanksgiving song. The vice president of the Medford Historical Society in Massachusetts explained that the song's 19th-century composer, Medford resident James Pierpont, based it on a local tradition of one-horse open sleigh races through the streets of his hometown. When Pierpont moved to Savannah, Georgia, and became a pastor, he led his congregation in singing the song on Thanksgiving. They loved it so much they sang it again a month later on Christmas.

Resolutions with a Twist



The holiday season is sometimes one of indulgence. After all, food and drink are a major part of many holiday events. By the end of the month,

many people are thinking of their New Year's resolutions. Recent surveys show that the most common resolutions include saving more money, spending less, exercising more, and eating healthier. These are also often among the most broken resolutions, so this new year, think beyond the ordinary. Try a wild, wonderful, or just plain weird resolution—something fresh and fun to help you stick with it (for a few months at least).

This year, quirky resolutions are having a moment. One example: the “buy nothing” challenge, inspired by the Buy Nothing Project. Participants vow to buy only necessities, reuse and borrow items, and shop secondhand. It's a creative, wallet-friendly resolution that also builds community spirit—lending books via Libby, swapping items through local groups, or borrowing instead of buying new.

Another trend gaining traction is turning your resolutions into a bingo game. A popular TikToker shared how she gamified her goals using a bingo card—mixing easy “base goals” and tougher “stretch goals,” and rewarding herself for each completed square. The gamelike format makes resolutions feel fun, manageable, and less intimidating.

Still craving silliness? A UK study found that lots of people are embracing resolutions like laughing more, setting “no lists” instead of to-do lists, taking a monthly spontaneous adventure (like exploring a nearby town), and putting their own happiness center stage. Whatever resolution you choose—saving money, laughing more, or playing bingo with your goals—the key is to keep it playful and personal. The best resolutions are about adding a little more joy to the year ahead.

Quiet Wins the Day

We live in the Digital Age, where computers allow us access to vast amounts of information and copious social networking. It's a nearly endless amount of distraction. Gloria Mark, University of California professor of informatics (the science of computer data), likens it to a candy store with unlimited offerings. As we know, an endless stream of candy is bad for our health.

What better way to ring in the new year than with No Interruptions Day on December 31? Research conducted by Mark and her colleagues shows that work interruptions cost us hours in productivity each day. But what of those who believe work itself is an interruption? Then you, too, can participate. Take time on the 31st to unplug and spend quality time with someone special—face-to-face, heart-to-heart.

Cable Cars That Could



San Francisco's cable cars are recognized the world over. The modern three-line system debuted on December 22, 1957, when car No. 51 rang its bell, exited the Washington-Mason cable car barn, and pulled onto Washington Street.

But the story of San Francisco's famous cable cars really began when Andrew Smith Hallidie witnessed a horse struggling to carry a horse-drawn tram up a slippery, steep cobblestone street in 1869. Hallidie conceived a system using thick steel cables powered by massive steam engines. The trams would grip cables embedded in the roadway. As the engines moved the cables, the tram would be pulled up and down San Francisco's steep city streets. It's a system that has changed little from its first incarnation in the 1800s. Today, cable cars endure as a symbol of hilly San Francisco and a romantic slice of California history.

Art of Appreciation

With so much giving and receiving this holiday season, it only stands to reason that Thank-You Note Day falls on December 26.



To some, letter writing might seem like a lost art. To others, it feels like an outdated ritual, made obsolete by email, texting, and social media. But research in

evolutionary psychology offers a different perspective. Studies suggest that expressions of gratitude and appreciation are deeply ingrained cooperative behaviors that help strengthen social ties. Even primates, for example, demonstrate a sense of reciprocity, engaging in a kind of “you scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours” exchange that highlights the enduring value of saying thank-you.

Leave it to the experts at Hallmark to offer tips on writing the perfect thank-you note. A thank-you note begins long before you sit down with a piece of stationery. First comes a careful tally of names: those in attendance at your party, those who sent you a gift, and those who were particularly helpful, caring, or kind.

A good thank-you note doesn’t have to be written on expensive paper with gold-embossed filigree. Emotion shines through in the voice of your written words. Charm is in the imperfection of your unique handwriting. Excitement comes in finding a hand-addressed envelope in a stack of junk mail.

Next, think about what you’d like to say. Be sure to spell the person’s name correctly and choose a greeting that fits. Begin by expressing your thanks. Then, share a few details about what the person did and how it made a difference to you. Let them know how it made you feel. To close, repeat your thanks. *Sincerely* is always a thoughtful way to end, but you can also choose something more personal, like *With love*, *Warmly*, *Many thanks*, or *Yours truly*. Decorum requires thank-yous within a week. However, a late thank-you is always better than no thank-you at all.

December Birthdays

In astrology, those born December 1–21 are Archers of Sagittarius. Archers are exciting and independent. Their positive attitude, great sense of humor, and kind heart make them excellent friends. But get ready for an earful. Archers often speak their mind. Those born December 22–31 are Goats of Capricorn. Goats are the most stable and sure-footed of astrological signs. Reliable, economical, practical, and organized, they make good multitaskers and politicians.

Bette Midler (singer) – December 1, 1945
 Eli Wallach (actor) – December 7, 1915
 Rita Moreno (actress) – December 11, 1931
 J. Paul Getty (industrialist) – December 15, 1892
 Ray Romano (comic) – December 21, 1957
 Diane Sawyer (journalist) – December 22, 1945
 Howard Hughes (aviator) – December 24, 1905
 Maggie Smith (actress) – December 28, 1934
 Bo Diddley (musician) – December 30, 1928

Dial a Smile

Some would argue that Ding-a-Ling Day on December 12 is a day to celebrate the kooky, off-the-wall ding-a-ling in your life. Well, those



ding-a-lings probably don’t know the real meaning of Ding-a-Ling Day. According to the *Chicago Sun-Times* newspaper, the Ding-a-Ling Club was started in 1971 by Franky Hyle of Chicago, Illinois. Hyle believed that city dwellers needed to be friendlier to one another. His solution was to spread cheer through the telephone lines. The mission of the club was to pick up the phone and dial a friend you haven’t seen or spoken to in a long time. Why the name *Ding-a-Ling*? Hyle looked up the word and found the meaning to be “one who hears bells in his head.” The name stuck, and so did his heartwarming method of “ringing” up old friends.