

December 2022

Normandy Connection

The Normandy Care Center, 22709 Lake Rd. Rocky River, Ohio 44116, (440) 333-5400

Leadership Team

Administrator
Emily Connolly

BOM & Billing
Jeanne Kucinski, Lynn Rhoades

Dietary Manager
Kathy Halderman

Director Of Nursing
Fabian Mediavilla

Facility Rehab Coordinator
Tom Palcisco

HR Director
Paula Mulder

Housekeeping & Laundry
Liz Eisom

Life Enrichment Director
Cindy Hadley

Medical Records
Lisa Boggs

MDS
Kim Kinney

Social Service Directors
Ginny Moes, Rya Laurel

Staffing Coordinator
Jamesha Lopez

Unit Manager
Gia Falbo
Cindy Oliver



Resident of the Month *Susan Benne*

Susan has been a resident and a part of the Normandy Care Center family since April, 2022. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio on September 25, 1953. Her parents were Betty Jane and George Benne. Susan's Dad worked for Perfection Stove Company while her Mom was a homemaker, though around the holidays she used to work at Feren Fruit Basket Company to make some extra money. Susan grew up as an only child, when at South High School she has fond memories being a gym leader. After her graduation she went to Tri -C for continued schooling. During and after this time she worked in banking and like her Mom before her, worked at Feren Fruit Basket Co. during the holidays. Susan married Joe Perkowski and they had one child (Jason). Susan enjoys being social, some of her hobbies included bowling (she started bowling at age 5 with Dad), walking, singing and organizing her home. While at the Normandy, Susan likes getting her nails done, loves jewelry, music, bingo, most activities, socializing with residents and being helpful. Susan is a pleasure to be around, please Congratulate her on being our December Resident of the Month!!

Still Living in Infamy



U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt called December 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy.” 81 years later, we still remember the attack on Pearl Harbor and pause to honor all who were lost.

Pearl Harbor is a U.S. naval base located near Honolulu, Hawaii. It was home to the bulk of the U.S. Navy’s Pacific Fleet, hundreds of airplanes, and thousands of soldiers. American intelligence officials never expected Japanese forces to start a war with the United States with an attack on Hawaii, 4,000 miles away. For this reason, Pearl Harbor was left largely undefended on December 7, 1941. As a target, Pearl Harbor was too good of an opportunity for the Japanese to ignore.

In an audacious sneak attack, without any declaration of war, Japanese forces began their assault on Pearl Harbor at around 8 a.m. At 8:10, a 1,800-pound bomb fell through the deck of the battleship USS *Arizona* and struck an ammunition store, resulting in a massive explosion and killing thousands. After two hours of fighting, 20 American ships (including every battleship in Pearl Harbor) were crippled; 300 airplanes were destroyed; 2,403 sailors, soldiers, and civilians were killed; and a thousand more were wounded.

Luckily—amazingly—the Pacific Fleet was left intact. Despite losing its powerful battleships, the Fleet’s aircraft carriers had been off base during the attack and were safe. Pearl Harbor’s vital infrastructure, including repair shops, oil storage depots, shipyards, and submarine docks, had been largely untouched. The U.S. Navy would be able to rebuild itself for a sustained war effort.

The day following the attack, President Roosevelt declared war on Japan. And though history remembers America and its Allies as the brave victors of a long and bloody world war, scars of that war remain. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is a time to reflect on all that was lost and a celebration of the freedoms that were won.

Make It Count

Every year from December 14–January 5, the National Audubon Society conducts its Christmas Bird Count (CBC). During these few weeks, volunteer birders count and record bird species in an effort to monitor the health and status of bird populations across North America. Bird counts accumulate over the decades, offering scientists long-term perspectives on the continent’s bird populations.

Audubon’s CBC grew out of the Christmas “Side Hunts” of the late 19th century, when hunters would compete to bring in the largest pile of birds and animals. In 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed a new tradition, a “Christmas Bird Census,” where people would count birds instead of hunting them. These days it’s easier than ever to join a CBC. Registration for birders begins in November, with counts starting on December 14. If you choose to participate, you could join a tradition that is over a century old.

Plunge in Head-First



One of December’s strangest holidays falls on December 18. It’s Wear a Plunger on Your Head Day. An internet search will tell you that an ex-bounty hunter named Vern Halsey might be the only person in the world who celebrates this holiday along with his pet Komodo dragon Felix, of course. If you’d like to keep Vern and Felix company this December 18, here’s a tip: Make sure you wear the correct type of plunger on your head. plungers often come in two designs. Those that narrow at the bottom are specifically designed to fit into a toilet and are called flange plungers, while plungers designed for the sink and shower are flat and are known as cup plungers. If you’re keen on celebrating, a new, clean, store-bought cup plunger is the way to go. Happy Wear a Plunger on Your Head Day!



Resident Birthdays

Edna Villios 12/14
 Vernon Dozier 12/18
 Eleanor Stasik 12/19
 Mary Moulton 12/30
 Theresa Thomas 12/31

Staff Birthdays

Tashia Fowlkes 12/3
 Twondria Wright 12/4
 Nickie Johnson 12/5
 Maria Collazo 12/7
 Theresa Baker 12/10
 Vjola Tako 12/10
 Gertrude Uzuoku 12/10
 Lindsey Otero 12/11
 Clark Orban 12/22
 Stephanie Johnson 12/24
 Carolyn Smith 12/25
 Latonya Freeman 12/27
 Gab'brielle Norfus 12/28
 Karoulin Nasser 12/29
 Martino Andrews 12/30



Ericka Gary 12/14 (1yr)
 Vernon Huston 12/7 (1yr)
 Linda Miller 12/20 (1yr)
 Lisa Boggs 12/19 (11yrs)
 Alice Hughes 12/14 (13yrs)
 Helen Ballard 12/10 (26yrs)
 Michael J Pachniuk 12/12 (26 yrs)

Digital Revolution



On December 9, 1968, inventor and computer engineer Douglas Engelbart gave what is now known as “The Mother of All Demos” at a computer conference in San Francisco. Engelbart’s 90-minute presentation introduced a number of computing innovations that we take for granted today: windows, hypertext, graphics, word processing, video conferencing, collaborative editing of documents in real-time, and the computer mouse. Demonstrating all of these innovations on a single personal computer system in 1968 was groundbreaking. Engelbart’s demo was the result of years of work at his Augmentation Research Center at Stanford University. He wanted to free computers from mere number crunching and turn them into tools for communication and information sharing.

Chasing Tradition

At precisely 8:15 p.m. on December 5, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, all the lights in the Swiss hamlet of Küssnacht are turned off, plunging the village along Lake Lucerne into darkness. So begins the *Klausjagen*, or “Santa Chase,” one of Europe’s most impressive St. Nicholas Day traditions.

Thousands of spectators line the cobbled street that has wended its way through town since the medieval era. Suddenly, explosions as loud as gunshots pierce the darkness. Spectators shrink back from the street, fearing that they may be struck by the long sheep whips wielded by the men leading the procession.



The cracking whips passing through the pitch announce the arrival of the magnificent, glowing *iffelen*. These are massive cardboard hats, some over six feet tall, worn by robed dancers. The *iffelen* are shaped like bishops’ miters. They have been

painstakingly cut and colored with tissue paper, showcasing intricate patterns that mimic beautiful stained-glass windows. The most elaborate easily take 500 hours to complete. As if this spectacle isn’t magnificent enough, the spectators hold their breath and await the arrival of Santa Claus.

Santa, or St. Nicholas, arrives with a cacophony of clanking cowbells, tooting cow horns, and a band that plays the “Santa song,” a melody of only six notes, repeated over and over again. Santa may be the star of the show, but he is not alone. *Schmutzli* walks by his side, a sinister figure robed in black who carries a broom of twigs, traditionally for whipping children who have been bad all year. This *Schmutzli*, luckily, is more benevolent, and he hands out pastries along the parade route.

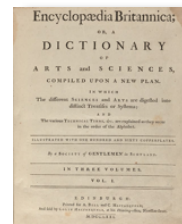
This ancient procession owes its origins to pagan winter rites where loud noises were used to scare away evil spirits. Over the centuries, Christian and pagan traditions blended to create the famous *Klausjagen* procession that attracts thousands of spectators today.

December Birthdays

In astrology, those born from December 1–21 are Archers of Sagittarius. These Archers are philosophical seekers of knowledge who love traveling to new places to absorb new cultures. Those born from December 22–31 are Capricorn’s Goats. Patience, perseverance, and dedication help Goats climb to the highest of heights. Their drive to the top makes them excellent partners and collaborators.

Sarah Silverman (actress) – Dec. 1, 1970
 Tyra Banks (model) – Dec. 4, 1973
 Little Richard (musician) – Dec. 5, 1932
 Eli Wallach (actor) – Dec. 7, 1915
 Rita Moreno (actress) – Dec. 11, 1931
 Dionne Warwick (singer) – Dec. 12, 1940
 Jamie Foxx (actor) – Dec. 13, 1967
 Pope Francis (Pope) – Dec. 17, 1936
 Steven Spielberg (director) – Dec. 18, 1946
 Samuel L. Jackson (actor) – Dec. 21, 1948
 Humphrey Bogart (actor) – Dec. 25, 1899
 Denzel Washington (actor) – Dec. 28, 1954

Encyclopedic Memory



The *Encyclopedia Britannica* was conceived by printer Colin Macfarquhar and engraver Andrew Bell, both from Edinburgh. The two chose William Smellie as their editor, and while Smellie wrote many

of the entries, he borrowed most, admitting that he “snipped out from books enough material for the printer. With pastepot and scissors I composed it!” What made the *Britannica* different was that it grouped related topics together into larger essays and organized those alphabetically, rather than separating entries by alphabetical order. Release of the first edition was announced on December 10, 1768. Critics called it the “Gospel of Satan,” while doctors complained that it undermined their authority. The prose was so vivid and the organization so easy to navigate that demand for a second edition was instantaneous, despite the first edition’s imperfect scholarship.