

DECEMBER 2024

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

— Aristotle

December is National:

- * Learn a Foreign Language
- * Car Donation
- * Pear
- * Bingo's Birthday
- * Human Rights
- * Operation Santa Paws
- * Safe Toys & Gifts
- * Spiritual Literacy
- * Universal Human Rights
- * Food Service Safety

Month

Just to name a few!

Symbols of December:

Birthstone: **Turquoise, Zircon, & Tanzanite**

Flower: **Narcissus**

Zodiac Signs: **Sagittarius & Capricorn**



December at Oak Meadows: A Season of Joy, Reflection, and Togetherness

As the year draws to a close, December brings a season of warmth, reflection, and celebration to Oak Meadows Senior Living. This month, we embrace the spirit of the holidays and the opportunity to connect with one another, share memories, and spread cheer!

At Oak Meadows, we believe that the holiday season is about more than just decorations or gifts—it's about creating cherished moments with loved ones and neighbors. This December, we invite all residents, families, and staff to join us in our community's holiday dinner party on Wednesday, December 11th from 4-6:30. Celebrate the season with us with an evening together, or by participating in any of our other fun holiday activities; Check your monthly Activities Calendar for a list of our events. December is a wonderful time to strengthen the bonds of friendship.

This month, we also encourage a spirit of giving. Our annual food drive continues, and we invite everyone to contribute what they can to support our neighbors at Open Cupboard. Your generosity will help bring smiles to those in need in our local community. Together, we can make a meaningful difference this holiday season.

December is a perfect time for reflection. As we approach the end of the year, we look back on all we've accomplished together and the many wonderful moments we've shared. Oak Meadows is truly a place where friendships are formed, lives are enriched, and every day is an opportunity to create new memories.

As we move into the new year, we want to express our deepest gratitude to all our residents, families, and staff for making Oak Meadows Senior Living a place full of warmth and joy. We look forward to another year of shared experiences, growth, and community. From all of us at Oak Meadows, we wish you a joyful, peaceful, and memorable December. May this season bring you comfort, joy, and the company of those you hold dear.



***Especially for The Ladies of
Oak Meadows!
Please join us for a “Holiday High Tea”
at 2pm on December 23rd***



Happy December Birthday!

Staff Birthdays:

Margaret “Marge” R. 12/3

Fred M. 12/4

Merritt M. 12/5

Paul W. 12/7

Jacquelyn L. 12/14

Ralph B. 12/15

Becky J. 12/17

Linda S. 12/18

Joan S. 12/19

Audrey C. 12/21

Estherann “Dode” O. 12/22

John “Jack” B. 12/23

Mark D. 12/27

14. Alice Kuefler 12/28

15. Sandy Galler 12/30



***Birthday
Lunch will be
served at 11:30
on December
12th in the
dining room!***

Madeline Heille 12/2

Helen Okakor 12/6

Anne Scherff 12/6

Ebere Onueglou 12/13

Claire Rice 12/13

Kerry Soban 12/13

Tammy Acosta 12/15

Jeff Klingbeil 12/24

Diana Huebner 12/25



*Wintry mornings wrapped in white, Evenings calm and still,
Snowflakes dancing all around, Sled rides down a hill,
Gatherings with loved ones, Such a pleasure to remember,
All memories and special gifts,
That come with each December*
~Author Unknown

The Legend of the Candy Cane

The candy cane, a beloved holiday treat, has a fascinating legend behind it. While it's a familiar part of the Christmas season, few know the story of how it came to be associated with Christmas and the symbolism it holds.

The Origin Story

The origins of the candy cane date back to the late 17th century in Europe. According to one popular legend, the candy cane was created by a choirmaster in Germany. In 1670, he was looking for a way to keep children quiet during the long Christmas services at church. To do so, he had a local candy maker craft the candy in the shape of a shepherd's crook, symbolizing the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus in the nativity story. The crook shape was a reminder of the shepherds' role in the first Christmas and became an enduring symbol of the holiday.

The Symbolism of the Candy Cane

Over the years, the candy cane evolved, and with it came additional layers of meaning that are often associated with the Christmas season:

- **The Shepherd's Crook:** The "J" shape of the candy cane represents the shepherd's crook, an essential tool used by shepherds in the biblical nativity story. It serves as a symbol of guidance, protection, and care.
- **The White Color:** The white color of the candy cane symbolizes the purity of Christ. Just as Jesus is seen as the light of the world, the white color represents that purity.
- **The Red Stripes:** The red stripes on the candy cane are said to represent the blood of Jesus Christ, symbolizing the sacrifice he made for humanity.

The Hardness of the Candy: The candy's hardness is often seen as a reminder of the solid foundation of faith and the strength that comes with believing in Christ.

A Modern Tradition

Today, candy canes are not just a treat enjoyed by children during the Christmas season—they've become a symbol of holiday joy, generosity, and celebration. Whether hung on Christmas trees, shared at holiday parties, or enjoyed in various recipes, the candy cane remains a sweet reminder of the traditions and stories that make Christmas so special.

This simple yet meaningful treat continues to delight people of all ages, bringing a taste of history and tradition to the festive season.



Construction Alert: Siding Replacement

Starting Monday, December 9th, the building siding replacement project will begin. They anticipate the project will continue through January. It is recommended that you remove any delicate or fragile items from your walls while they are working on your section of the building. We appreciate your patience during this project.

~Ann Grode
Executive Director



CHRISTMAS WORD FIND

Find all of the words in the puzzle below.

a w c r h o k s u u p r h c n
g f o s t o c k i n g t o d m
w r o t k i a h t w t r e e d
o n k a g f n t s r a k s c o
c p i r s n d i n a w p m o s
a c e d l m y p b p e j k r x
w m s p r o c h r i s t m a s
c w f m n o a p t e d c k t g
o r n a m e n t s w h t e i c
a e p t p r e s e n t d c o e
t a g o o c i e n d y p s n t
s t o g p t c t s g i f t s m
r h c o m i p h a n g w s u w

Christmas
tree
present
unwrap
gifts
decorations

stocking
star
ornaments
candy cane
wreath
cookies

