

## The First Christmas Tree

The trees shivered in the cold moon shine,  
a date palm, an olive, and a dark green pine.

They whispered together, saw a light in the sky,  
paused secrets forgotten, heard a new baby's cry

They stood in the yard near the child's manger bed.  
"What can we give him?" the gentle pine said.

The olive gave oil to smooth his small feet.  
The palm promised dates, all sticky and sweet.

"But what about me?" the poor pine tree cried.  
"I can't think of a thing. I've tried and I've tried!"

Hearing her cries the stars all tumbled down  
to light up her branches like a bright golden crown.

Then the pine tree stood tall  
so the baby could see on that first  
Christmas day, his first Christmas tree.

- Moira Andrew



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## Resident Advisory Council

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**Peg Davis**

Secretary

**Elizabeth Jones and Ray Taylor**

B Wing

**Butch Carver**

C and D Wings

**Steve Bollinger and Steve Sanford**

Village

**Gordon Sprigg**

Magnolia Court

**Christmas  
and  
Hanukkah  
fall on the  
same day this  
year.**

**However you  
celebrate, we  
wish you the  
happiest  
holiday  
season**





The best-selling Christmas single ever is Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," shifting more than **50 MILLION COPIES** worldwide since 1942



During the 2017 holiday shopping season, US shoppers bought an average of fourteen presents, spending an average of **\$1028**



# Holiday Fun Facts



The song **JINGLE BELLS** was first called One Horse Open Sleigh and was written for Thanksgiving.

US scientists calculated that Santa would have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, traveling at approximately

**650 MILES PER SECOND**

## HANGING STOCKINGS

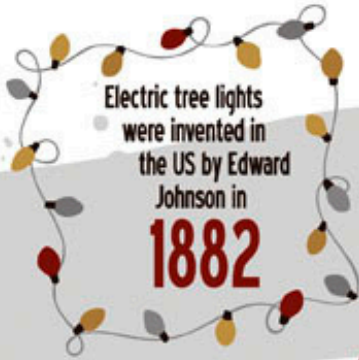
comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St. Nicholas' donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.



**221 ft** the height of the world's tallest Christmas Tree, erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.



Electric tree lights were invented in the US by Edward Johnson in **1882**



Santa's traditional red suit originated from an ad by Coca Cola® during the **1930's**

First documented use of candy canes in Christmas celebrations was in **1847**



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# 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS OUTFITS

*Starting Monday, December 9, 2024, dress in your most festive outfits to fit the theme of the day.*

**Monday, December 9** *Christmas Shirt Day* - wear a shirt that screams Christmas

**Tuesday, December 10** *Candy Cane Day* - wear red and white from head to toe

**Wednesday, December 11** *Green and Red Day* - wear your green and red outfits

**Thursday, December 12** *Jingle Bell Day* - we want to hear you coming, wear anything that jingles and jangles or sing Jingle Bells when you see another person

**Friday, December 13** *Feelin' Frosty Day* - wear as much white as you can

**Monday, December 16** *Grinch Day* - 100% that Grinch, wear all the green you can

**Tuesday, December 17** *Christmas Socks* - pull out your most festive Christmas/Holiday socks and show them off

**Wednesday, December 18** *Holiday Vacation* - wear your vacation attire, hawaiian shirts, bermuda shorts, and sunhats

**Thursday, December 19** *Winter Wonderland* - wear your blue and white

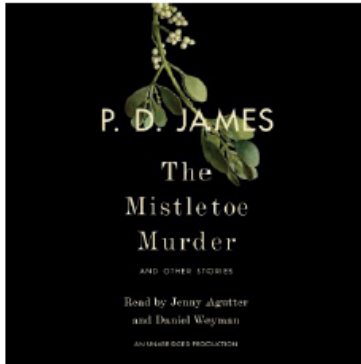
**Friday, December 20** *Ugly Sweater Day* - wear a Christmas Sweater, we will decide if its ugly or not!

**Monday, December 23** *Flannel Day* - wear your flannel, and plaid

**Tuesday, December 24** *Island of Misfit Toys* - nothing needs to match

## Upcoming MAHOVA Book Club Titles

### Masonic Book Club December 2024 - January 2025 Titles



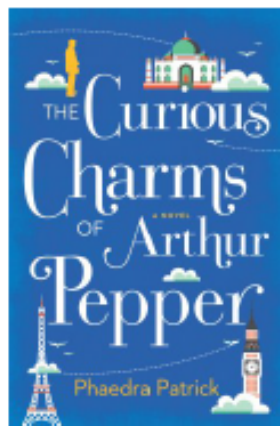
#### The Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories

by P. D James

Four previously uncollected stories by the late Mystery Writers of America Grandmaster Award-winning author include two featuring

her popular detective hero, Adam Dalgliesh, in his early years.

Meets on Monday, December 9th @ 3:00 pm in A-Wing Conference Room



#### The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper

by Phaedra Patrick

Finding a mysterious bracelet among his late wife's possessions, 69-year-old Arthur Pepper breaks from his routine life for the first time since her death and embarks on a quest to learn about his wife's life before their marriage, a journey that leads to unexpected self-discoveries.

Meets on Monday, January 13th @ 3:00 pm in A-Wing Conference Room

## Anniversaries

December 1, 1962 Wayne and MaryAnn Flora  
December 21, 2005 William and Dolores Reinhold  
December 21, 1984 Gardner and Gypsy Rollings  
December 22, 1956 Chester and Marian Wright



## New Residents

Anne Grubbs  
Varina Lodge No. 272

Weba "Allan" Vanderploeg  
Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178



## New Hires



Heaven Barton, Food Service Aide  
Destiny Fleming, Food Service Aide  
Heather Kyeremateng, LPN

## Volunteers Needed

The Gift Shop is looking for volunteers that would like to help on Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please contact Betty Klotz for additional information.



## Recycling Impacts

November 15 was “America Recycles Day”, a day to recognize the impact recycling has on the environment.

In fiscal year 2024, Central Virginians recycled 58 million pounds with Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) and that was just at the curb!

Over the years, CVWMA has expanded to recycle more than just cans, bottles and paper. Today, there are recycling programs for household hazardous waste, batteries, tires, and even old mattresses.

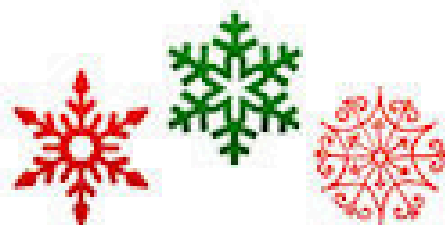
Virginia requires our region to recycle 25% of our waste.

The next time you take a final sip of a canned beverage, consider this: Aluminum cans can be recycled endlessly without losing quality. The energy saved by recycling just one can could power a TV for three hours!



# CHRISTMAS

## Word Search Puzzle



P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	G	Y	K	U	Z	X	M	Y	D
O	H	M	F	W	M	D	C	M	W	B	Q	R	W	L	G	E
Z	R	W	N	V	I	F	S	C	M	V	W	L	L	K	S	C
R	G	N	C	A	R	D	S	A	A	F	A	O	G	K	N	E
U	Y	J	A	B	N	L	Q	R	N	M	H	I	S	P	O	M
D	S	V	B	M	D	V	X	O	G	T	M	H	L	T	W	B
O	A	O	U	O	E	G	S	L	E	Y	A	S	E	R	M	E
L	S	C	W	S	J	N	O	E	R	U	E	L	I	S	A	R
P	E	T	T	W	Z	W	T	R	Y	V	T	T	G	W	N	K
H	B	F	O	T	M	S	R	S	L	S	L	R	H	D	C	Y
C	I	B	B	C	E	L	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	C	Q
G	K	G	S	I	K	G	T	M	A	E	A	I	H	S	H	Q
T	U	T	K	A	N	I	X	A	E	T	C	C	T	I	I	V
P	I	O	H	N	L	C	N	R	K	N	H	H	V	T	M	N
D	O	E	Q	C	Z	E	T	G	V	B	G	B	U	Z	N	T
C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	T	I	N	S	E	L	E	K
G	A	R	L	A	N	D	X	G	L	D	X	R	Q	V	Y	M



CANDY CANE

GIFTS

RUDOLPH

CARDS

HOLLY

SANTA

CAROLERS

LIGHTS

SLEIGH

CHIMNEY

MANGER

SNOWMAN

COOKIES

MISTLETOE

STOCKING

DECEMBER

ORNAMENTS

TINSEL

ELVES

PRESENTS

TREE

GARLAND

REINDEER

WREATH



## December Movies

Movies start at approximately 6 PM. Channel 5.1 and TV Room

### **A Christmas Carol - Monday, December 2**

Parsimonious Victorian money-lender Ebenezer Scrooge, a hated misanthrope stubbornly refusing to believe in Christmas and share his inexhaustible wealth, can't be bothered with the destitute during the most festive time of the year. After all, the sceptical curmudgeon is bent on spending the holy night alone. Instead, a sympathetic old friend pays Ebenezer an unexpected visit, paving the way for an otherworldly, eye-opening encounter. As the pale spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future make their presence felt, pressing questions arise. What do the unwelcome ghosts want? With a heart as cold as ice, can a wicked miser admit the error of his ways and embrace change? Above all, is Scrooge ready to love and be loved? Released: 1951. 1 hour 26 minutes. Not Rated. Starring: Alastair Sim, and Jack Warner

### **Eight Below- Friday, December 6**

In the Antarctic, after an expedition with Dr. Davis McClaren, the sled dog trainer Jerry Shepherd has to leave the polar base with his colleagues due to the proximity of a heavy snowstorm. He ties his dogs to be rescued after, but the mission is called-off and the dogs are left alone at their own fortune. For six months, Jerry tries to find a sponsor for a rescue mission while his dogs fight for survival. Released: 2006. 2 hours. Rated PG. Starring: Paul Walker, and Jason Biggs

### **Holiday Affair - Monday, December 9**

Just before Christmas, department store clerk Steve Mason meets big spending customer Connie Ennis, really a commercial spy. He un.masks her but lets her go, which gets him fired. They end up on a date, which doesn't sit well with Connie's steady suitor, Carl, but delights her son Timmy, who doesn't want Carl for a step-dad. Standard (if sweet) romantic complications follow. Released: 1949. 1 hour 27 minutes. Not Rated. Starring: Robert Mitchum, Janet Leigh and Wendell Corey





## December Movies

Movies start at approximately 6 PM. Channel 5.1 and TV Room

### **White Christmas - Friday, December 13**

Having left the Army following W.W.II, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis team up to become a top song-and-dance act. Davis plays matchmaker and introduces Wallace to a pair of beautiful sisters (Betty and Judy) who also have a song-and-dance act. When Betty and Judy travel to a Vermont lodge to perform a Christmas show, Wallace and Davis follow, only to find their former commander, General Waverly, as the lodge owner. A series of romantic mix-ups ensue as the performers try to help the General. Released: 1954. 2 hours. Not Rated. Starring: Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and Rosemary Clooney

### **Love Actually - Monday, December 16**

Follows the lives of eight very different couples in dealing with their love lives in various loosely interrelated tales all set during a frantic month before Christmas in London, England. Released 2003. 2 hours 15 minutes. Rated R. Starring: Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth, and Emma Thompson

### **Elf - Friday, December 20**

Buddy was a baby in an orphanage who stowed away in Santa's sack and ended up at the North Pole. Later, as an adult who happened to be raised by elves, Santa allows him to go to New York City to find his birth father, Walter Hobbs. He, who is on Santa's naughty list for being a heartless jerk, had no idea that Buddy was even born. Buddy, meanwhile, experiences the delights of New York City (and human culture) as only an elf can. When Walter's relationship with him interferes with his job, he is forced to reevaluate his priorities. Released 2003. 1 hour 37 minutes. Rated PG. Starring: Will Ferrell, and James Caan



## December Movies

Movies start at approximately 6 PM. Channel 5.1 and TV Room

### **It's A Wonderful Life - Monday, December 23**

George Bailey has spent his entire life giving of himself to the people of Bedford Falls. He has always longed to travel but never had the opportunity in order to prevent rich skinflint Mr. Potter from taking over the entire town. On Christmas Eve, George's Uncle Billy loses the business's \$8,000 while intending to deposit it in the bank. When the bank examiner discovers the shortage later that night, George realizes that he will be held responsible and sent to jail and the company will collapse, finally allowing Mr. Potter to take over the town. Thinking of his wife, Mary, their four children, and others he loves will be better off with him dead, he contemplates suicide. But the prayers of his loved ones result in his guardian angel named Clarence Odbody coming to Earth to help him, with the promise of earning his wings. He shows him what things would have been like if he had never been born. Released 1945. 2 hours 10 minutes. Rated PG.

Starring: James Stewart, and Donna Reed

### **When Harry Met Sally - Friday, December 27**

Harry and Sally meet when she gives him a ride to New York after they both graduate from the University of Chicago. The film jumps through their lives as they both search for love, but fail, bumping into each other time and time again. Finally, a close friendship blooms between them, and they both like having a friend of the opposite sex. But then they are confronted with the problem: "Can a man and a woman be friends, without sex getting in the way?". Released 1989. 1 hour 35 minutes. Rated R. Starring: Billy Crystal, and Meg Ryan

### **Christmas with the Kranks - Monday, December 31**

Strange as it may sound, Luther and Nora Krank, the neighborhood's award-winning Christmas experts, are determined to do the unthinkable: skip Christmas and spend the money on a sun-kissed, 10-day Caribbean cruise. But this is easier said than done. And as the community's sweet eccentrics turn their backs on Christmas, a last-minute phone call from their homesick daughter changes everything. Now, the clock is ticking--the Christmas rebels must face the music. Can the Kranks create Christmas out of thin air and save the day in a few hours? Released 2004. 1 hour 39 minutes. Rated PG. Starring: Tim Allen, and Jamie Lee Curtis

**Save the Date - Candlelight Dinner**



*Tuesday, December 17*

*HORS D'OUERVES*

**4:00 PM READING AND TV ROOM**

*DINNER*

**5:00 PM MAIN DINING ROOM**

**Dinner Rolls**

**Wedge Salad**

**Grilled Beef Tenderloin with Sauce Madeira**

**Potatoes Au Gratin**

**Grilled Asparagus**

**Molten Chocolate Cake with Strawberry Sauce**

**Residents Only**

**No Meal Tickets Required**

**Attire for men: Jacket and Tie**

**Cocktail attire for women**

## Resident Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following residents who celebrate their birthdays:

12/04 Betty Klotz  
12/06 Helen Wadkins  
12/16 Maxine Watson  
12/21 Gene Watson  
12/23 Milton Eaton  
12/24 Woody Davis  
12/25 Christine Johnson  
12/27 Eleanor Shipley  
12/27 Wayne Shipley  
12/28 Bea Holm

Scan this QR image to go to the Masonic Home Website



Masonic Home Census: 169

## Employee Birthdays

12/07 Bonnie White  
12/08 Heather Kyeremateng  
12/10 Johnetta Bell  
12/12 Shyvonne Bagby  
12/15 Cheryl Smith  
12/18 Dianne Winston  
12/18 Rashida Traywick  
12/19 Ciera Rawlings  
12/20 Rodnika Lewis  
12/21 Sheba Bowman  
12/22 Ternika Battle  
12/26 Brian Wisecarver  
12/27 Mark Mumford  
12/27 Janet Jamison  
12/28 Carol Whyte  
12/28 Wanda Woody-Cupitt  
12/28 Tamberlyn Russell

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Director of Development

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