

January 2022

The Senior Gazette



“New Year’s is a harmless annual institution, of no particular use to anybody save as a scapegoat for promiscuous drunks, and friendly calls, and humbug resolutions.” —Mark Twain

New Year’s resolutions usually revolve around breaking bad habits or starting good ones. Roughly 45% of Americans make New Year’s resolutions, and 25% of them break them by mid-January.

The earliest known New Year’s celebrations date back to 2000 BC in Ancient Mesopotamia. The Romans celebrated the new year by offering sacrifices to Janus, the Roman god of change and beginnings, in hopes of being granted good fortune for the year. They would decorate their homes with laurel branches and attend parties.

Superstition dictates that at midnight on New Year’s Eve, all doors to the house must be opened to assist the old year in finding his way out. Until the old year leaves, the new year will be unable to come in.

In Japan, Buddhist temples all over the country ring their bells 108 times at midnight to symbolize and get rid of the 108 types of human weakness.

In parts of Italy, people welcome in the New Year by tossing old things out of their windows. By tossing out the old, they make room for new and lucky things to enter their households and lives in the coming year.

Enjoying a glass of champagne is a common New Year’s tradition. Originally popularized in the court of Louis XIV, the associations with wealth and royalty trickled down to the middle classes as a form of “aspirational drinking.” Over time, bubbly became associated with celebration, and in the 19th century, newspapers began to associate champagne with holiday family gatherings. By the 20th century, champagne became a must for New Year’s Eve.

In Spain, eating grapes at midnight is both a tradition and a superstition. At the stroke of midnight, Spaniards eat 12 grapes symbolizing 12 lucky months ahead. In some areas, the grapes are also believed to ward away witches and general evil.

In ancient times, fire and noise were said to dispel evil spirits and bring good luck. Fireworks were invented by the Chinese, and they are credited with linking them to New Year’s celebrations.

The famous ball-drop in Times Square is a long-standing New Year’s ritual. In 1907, fireworks were banned in New York City, so the city decided to try something different. Instead of fireworks, they lowered a 700-lb ball made of wood and iron.

Whatever your traditions are for bringing in the new year, I wish you happiness, health, and lasting friendships!

COVID does not seem to be backing down right now so we are going to take a little break from getting together in January. As much as I would love to see all of you, my first thought is for your health. I hope you are staying well, warm, and cozy at home. If you need anything, don't hesitate to contact me at City Hall at 330-562-1234.



It's a Super Valentine's Day Party!

We're going to celebrate Valentine's Day
and get ready for Super Bowl Sunday!

**Friday, February 11, 2022
12:00pm**

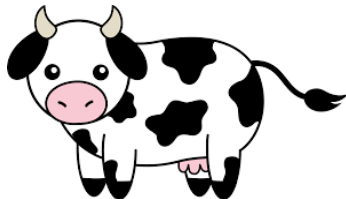
Heritage Hall (across from the police station)
We'll have Super Bowl squares so bring quarters if you want to play!

**If you want to buy squares without attending, call Stacey*

25 person capacity – RSVP to Stacey 330-562-1234

**Studies show that cows produce more
milk when the farmers talk to them.**

**It's a case of
in one ear and
out the udder.**



Hardy

Har

Har!

If you wear cowboy
clothes,
are you ranch dressing?

**What is an astronaut's
favorite part of a computer?**

The space bar.

Smith climbed to the top of Mt. Sinai to get close enough to talk to God.

Looking up, he asked the Lord, "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord replied, "A minute."

Smith asked, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?" The Lord replied, "A penny."

Smith asked, "Can I have a penny?"

The Lord replied, "In a minute."

If you need anything, please contact
Stacey at Village Hall at 330-562-1234 or stask@reminderville.com