

A Day for Kings and Queens

Every year on July 20, chess enthusiasts worldwide celebrate **International Chess Day**, marking the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1924—a major step in organizing chess as a global competitive sport.

Chess has deep roots, originating in ancient India as *chaturanga* over a thousand years ago. It spread globally, influencing cultures and promoting intellectual growth. Today, millions play the game, which bridges language and cultural divides.

First celebrated in 1966 with UNESCO’s support, International Chess Day highlights chess’s role in fostering cultural exchange and understanding. The United Nations officially recognized the day in 2019. On this occasion, chess clubs, schools, and communities host tournaments, workshops, and events to honor the game’s enduring appeal and educational value.



Why is chess so special? It’s more than just a game—it teaches strategy, patience, and sportsmanship. As an educational tool, it builds life skills and brings people together.

Whether you’re a grandmaster or a beginner, July 20 is a chance to connect through the shared joy of chess.

So, **this July 20**, set up a board, invite friends, and celebrate a game that unites us all. As FIDE’s motto says, “*Gens Una Sumus*”— “*We are one people, united by our love for chess.*”

Join Our Book Club!

Calling all readers! We’re inviting residents to be part of our book club—whether you’re a lifelong book lover or just getting started. This season, we’re diving into the magical world of *Harry Potter*, starting with **Book 1: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone***. It’s a great time to join, (we’re only a few chapters in) meet fellow readers, and enjoy fun discussions and activities. Come be part of the adventure!

ALL Summer & Fall Resident Birthdays:

Claudia Ehrenfeld – July 23rd
Elizabeth Kuklis – July 24th

Gretchen Taylor, August 20th

Joyce Erickson – September 5th
Phyllis Gross – September 13th
Gayle Campbell – Sept. 14th
Steve Conrad – September 26th

The Birth of a King

On July 18, 1953, a young man named Elvis Presley walked into the Sun Records studio in Memphis, Tennessee, to make his first record. The resulting acetate disc, with just two songs—



“My Happiness” and “That’s When Your Heartaches Begin”—was supposed to be a gift from Elvis to his mother. Rumor has it, though, that the Presleys did not even own a record player. And besides, his mother’s birthday had long passed.

Many speculate that the recording was an attempt by Elvis to get the attention of Sun Records owner Sam Phillips. Apparently, Elvis made an impression, because he was invited back to the studio a year later, on July 5, 1954. At first, the session was uninspiring. The band was about to give up when Elvis began fooling around, goofing off, and singing. That sound was exactly what Phillips was looking for, and the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll was born.

Summer/Autumn

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Meet your

HCC team members:

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Kiwi Christmas Magic

New Zealand’s Festival of Christmas brings a unique twist to holiday celebrations, transforming the small town of Greytown into a winter wonderland each July. This monthlong extravaganza, aptly nicknamed the “happiest festival in New Zealand,” offers a delightful blend of festive cheer and ingenuity.

Although it began only five years ago as a pandemic initiative, the Festival of Christmas has quickly become a beloved tradition, drawing visitors from across the country. The event’s timing in July, which is winter in the southern hemisphere, allows New Zealanders to experience a more traditional chilly Christmas atmosphere, complete with the (unlikely) promise of snow.

The festival boasts an impressive array of activities and attractions. Visitors can marvel at spectacular light displays, participate in workshops, and celebrate the Māori New Year. The program also includes vibrant night markets, lively parties, and an abundance of festive food and drinks, including the warming winter favorites of mulled wine and gin.

One of the festival’s unique features is how it embraces a “Fire and Ice” theme, creating a captivating contrast that adds to the event’s charm. Attendees are encouraged to don Christmas sweaters and gather around braziers (portable outdoor firepits), fostering a cozy community atmosphere despite the winter chill.

But the Festival of Christmas isn’t just about entertainment; it’s a community effort that brings together families, school children, and local groups. This collaborative spirit is evident in the diverse range of events, from art classes and author talks to “Books at the Bar” reading parties.

While the festival primarily takes place in Greytown, it has put the region of Wairarapa on the map as a winter destination. The event has grown to attract people from all around New Zealand, boosting local tourism and showcasing the region’s hospitality. With its unique blend of traditional Christmas elements and distinctly Kiwi touches, this midwinter celebration offers a fresh perspective on holiday festivities, proving that the Christmas spirit thrives in New Zealand, summer or winter.

Celebrating The Months & Special Days to Remember:

***July is Grilling Month; Family Reunion Month & Share a Sunset with Someone You Love Month**

Canada Day
July 1

Independence Day
July 4

***August is Read a Romance Novel Month, & What Will Be Your Legacy Month**

Bowling Day
August 9

Vinyl Record Day
August 12

Poet's Day
August 21

***September is World Alzheimer's Month**

Labor Day
September 1

Bald Is Beautiful Day
September 13

Respect Day
September 18

Good Neighbor Day
September 28

Pawsitive Days of August



The hot and sultry days of summer, known as the “dog days,” stretch from July 3 to August 11.

This period of time was named by the ancient Romans, who observed that the Dog Star, Sirius, was most visible in the night sky during this steamy season.

It makes perfect sense, then, that August 3–9 is Assistance Dog Week, a week honoring canines that help humans with disabilities. Guide, hearing, and medical-alert dogs are specially trained to accompany their owners anywhere and everywhere. “Detection dogs” sniff out everything from bedbugs to forest truffles to cancer.

In addition, August 5 is Work Like a Dog Day, a day for all those dogs who put in a hard day of work. Search-and-rescue, police, therapy, herding, hunting, tracking, guard, and sled dogs are not merely pets but are integral partners in working endeavors. For example, no other dog can compete with the bloodhound’s sense of smell, which is so reliable that it’s admissible as evidence in a courtroom. Bloodhounds can track a smell more than 300 hours old and trails more than 130 miles (209 km) long.

German shepherds are renowned Hollywood actors as well as police and therapy dogs. The breed’s courage may be rivaled only by their charisma. When Rin Tin Tin debuted on the silver screen, he received more than 10,000 pieces of fan mail per week.

While we’ve all heard the saying “work like a dog,” these industrious canines give the phrase new meaning.

***Nominate a neighbor you love for the next edition Resident Spotlight, Deadline is September 30th for all Votes. See Activity Director in Resident Council to Submit your ballot.**

Beyond the Browser



Who could have known on September 4, 1998, that the strange term *google* would come to be used in hundreds of languages across the planet? Twenty-seven

years after the company’s September creation, Google has become a part of our everyday lives. Google’s internet search engine and email are its most well-known tools, but that technology is small potatoes compared to what Google hopes to achieve in the future.

Google began at Stanford University in California. Two PhD students, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, wanted a better way to search for information on the internet. Their mission statement was “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful.” New Google projects hope to do that and so much more.

Lefties Take the Lead



Did you hear the one about the inventor who developed a left-handed hammer? It didn’t sell. He forgot to invent left-handed nails! But if he had, they likely would have been sold by the Left Handers Club, which

celebrates International Left Handers Day on August 13.

Left Handers Day is about more than just advocating for left-handed products, like scissors, pens, and can openers. It’s about creating “Lefty Zones,” where right-handed people attempt tasks using their left hands. For one day, the proverbial shoe will be on the other foot, with righties struggling to use tools unfit for their right-handedness. It’s a day when all lefties will fight for their, um... rights.

Cents and Sensibility

It’s one of those things you don’t appreciate until it’s not there—the Take a Penny/Leave a Penny Tray. What luck when the tray is there, brimming with shiny pennies so you don’t have to pocket a handful of change. Do your part and keep those penny trays filled on August 8—Take a Penny, Leave a Penny Day.

There are many who deem the lowly penny a useless denomination of currency. In the United States, it costs 3.7¢ to make one penny. In 2012, Canada decided a penny wasn’t even worth minting. Their lowest denomination of currency is now 5¢. Such a change in currency won’t help the U.S., however, where it costs a whopping 13.8¢ to mint one nickel. Why does it cost so much to make these coins? It all depends on the price of copper, a component in coins. Even when the price of copper fell in 2014—saving the U.S. Mint \$29 million in overall production costs—it still lost money minting pennies and nickels. It seems that coins are becoming more of a financial burden than a practical currency in today’s economy.

The Dough Must Go On

Over almost 70 years, more than one billion pounds of Play-Doh have been extruded into billions of little plastic canisters for kids to play with. In 1998, this modeling compound was even inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame. And now it has its own holiday on September 16: National Play-Doh Day. There



are many unofficial recipes for homemade dough, but what you may not be able to replicate, however, is Play-Doh’s trademark smell.

Play-Doh was invented to be wallpaper cleaner (rolled on walls to remove dirt and grime), but the glob of off-white putty soon inspired the imagination of school children.