

Monthly Gazette

Lanessa Extended Care Facility 751 School Street Webster Ma 01570 508-949-1334

Celebrating February



Black History Month

Library Lovers' Month

Heart Month

Wild Bird Feeding Month

Groundhog Day

February 2

Super Bowl XLII

February 3

Mardi Gras

February 5

Chinese New Year

February 7

Westminster Kennel Club Show

February 11-12

Valentine's Day

February 14

Nest Box Week (House a Bird)

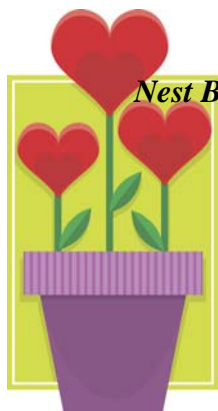
February 14 – 21

Presidents' Day

February 18

Leap Year Day

February 29



Leaping through Time

Julius Caesar changed the times he lived in – quite literally. The early Romans had a 355-day calendar, but every second year they would add an extra “month” of about 22 days, so that their major festivals would occur at about the same time each year. In about 46 B.C., Caesar’s astronomer, Sosigenes, calculated that the solar year was actually 365 days and 6 hours long. (In fact it is 365.242 days, which is only slightly less.) Caesar decreed that the six hours were to be set aside until every fourth year when an extra day was added to the calendar following the 28th day of Februarius (February 29).

Things stayed pretty much the same until February 24, 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII further refined the calendar with the rule that leap day would occur in any year divisible by 4. Since Sosigenes was off slightly in his calculations, adding a leap year every four years would mean that over the course of four centuries, the calendar would accumulate three extra days. By having a leap year only on the century years divisible by 400, the problem was solved. This means that 2000 was a leap year but 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not.

February 29 is called “leap day” and the years in which it occurs are called “leap years” because of how dates fall on different weekdays than they do in ordinary years. For example, if your birthday falls on a Monday one year, the next year it will fall on a Tuesday. However, in leap years, it will fall on a Wednesday – leaping over Tuesday – because another day has been added to the calendar. (Of course, if your birthday is in January or February, the skipped day will not occur until the next year.)

Is that clear? Aren’t you glad someone else was responsible for figuring all that out?

Resources: <http://www.1911encyclopedia.org/Leap-year> and the article “The History of Leap Year” at <http://inventors.about.com>

Birds of a Feather Stick Together



The “Wings Over the Platte Spring Migration Celebration” (Feb. 16 – Apr. 13) highlights the world’s largest concentration of Sandhill Cranes. There are three species of migratory Sandhill Cranes (Lesser Sandhill, Canadian

Sandhill, and Greater Sandhill) and they all pass through Nebraska.

Although the birds begin heading north from Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico in February, the peak of migration is late March. In Nebraska, they find mates. The elaborate and somewhat comical dance of the males as they attempt to find a willing wife involves bowing, leaping, and wing stretching. The Platte River has been referred to as “the greatest singles bar for cranes” because it involves a commingling of birds from throughout the Northern Hemisphere. If they are lucky, they may return 25 years in a row.

The average crane spends nearly a month along the Platte River, fattening up on waste grain corn in farmer’s fields and earthworms, snails and larvae. By mid-April, virtually all of the cranes will have moved on: the Greater Sandhill Cranes to western Minnesota and the Interlake region of Manitoba; Canadian subspecies throughout central Canada from the Hudson Bay west to the Rocky Mountains; and the Lesser Sandhill Crane to the high arctic, nesting across the northern reaches of Canada and Alaska. About 80,000 cross the Bering Strait to nest in eastern Siberia.

Another Bird Fest

If cranes aren’t your thing, consider the Festival of Owls, Feb. 29 – March 2 in Houston, MN, where events include Owl Prowls, owl pellet dissection, and owl-faced pancakes and Barn owl bratwurst!



A Valentine Quiz

by Camilla Eriksson

1. Who said, "A rose is a rose is a rose..."?
 - a. Gertrude Stein
 - b. Buddha
 - c. Bertrand Russell
2. Mr. Casanova himself, Giacomo Casanova, ended his days as a _____.
 - a. priest
 - b. prisoner
 - c. librarian
3. Where does the expression “tie the knot” come from?
 - a. Rome
 - b. France
 - c. Germany
4. What was an old English term for the heart?
 - a. firkytoodle
 - b. aggrawator
 - c. raspberry tart
5. Which couple was known as America’s Sweethearts ?
 - a. Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor
 - b. Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald
 - c. Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall

Answers: 1. a; 2. c; 3. a; 4. c; 5. b

Details:

- “Tie the knot” referred to a special bridal girdle that the groom had to undo.
- “Firkytoodle” meant to caress someone and “aggrawator” was a small curl of hair on a cheek or temple also known as a lovelock, kiss curl, and beau catcher.
- Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald were in love, but when the movie studio wouldn’t allow them to marry, they ended up marrying other people.



The Best of Show – Feb. 11-12



The annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is the second longest continuously-held sporting event in the U.S., just one year behind the Kentucky Derby. Established in 1877, The Westminster Kennel Club is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs; its annual show is the canine version of the Super Bowl and Academy Awards.

The dog show has outlasted three previous versions of New York City's Madison Square Garden, and is currently being staged in MSG IV. It has survived power outages, snowstorms, a national depression, and two World Wars. The show has been popular from the start, when entry fees of \$2 included care and feeding of the dog. The first show featured 1,201 dogs and a daily crowd of 20,000 spectators – an unexpected crowd that prompted the addition of a fourth day.

In the late 1800s, as the popularity of the annual show grew, dog owners who submitted entrants included the Queen of England, the Czar of Russia, and the Emperor of Germany. Philanthropist J. P. Morgan and journalist Nelly Bly were other relatively early enthusiasts who entered their dogs. In 1948, the show was televised for the first time and it remains a popular TV event for dog-lovers today.

In its first year, about 35 breeds were entered, but additional breeds keep being added. Fire Department Dalmatians first became a class in 1910. In 2008, four new breeds will be accepted: the Plott-hound group (hunters), the Tibetan Mastiff (workers), and the Beauceron and Swedish Vallhund (herders). Throughout its history, nearly 300,000 dogs have been shown at Westminster. That's a lot of best friends!

Erma's Words of Wisdom

February 8-14 is "Love May Make the World Go Round, But Laughter Keeps You from Getting Dizzy" Week, a good time to listen to the words of wisdom from humorist Erma Bombeck (born February 21, 1927), who knew that the best way to make a hopeless situation better was to laugh at it:

- A friend never defends a husband who gets his wife an electric skillet for her birthday.
- Anybody who watches three games of football in a row should be declared brain dead.
- Never have more children than you have car windows.
- Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth.
- People shop for a bathing suit with more care than they do a husband or wife. The rules are the same. Look for something you'll feel comfortable wearing. Allow for room to grow.
- The only reason I would take up jogging is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.
- When your mother asks, "Do you want a piece of advice?" it is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway.

It's bissextile time!

The official word to describe leap year day is "bissextile," but if the word puts you in mind of courting, then go for it, ladies. The tradition of role reversal on February 29 that encourages women to ask men for a date or marriage may go back as far as 5th century Ireland. Another tradition says it began in the 13th century, when fines were levied if a man refused a proposal. In any case, the idea has a long history, so don't be shy ladies.



A Flying Cow to Celebrate



On February 18, 1930, the first cow to fly in an airplane was milked during the flight. Elm Farm Ollie (also known as “Nellie Jay”) came from Bismarck’s Sunnymede Farms near Mount Horeb,

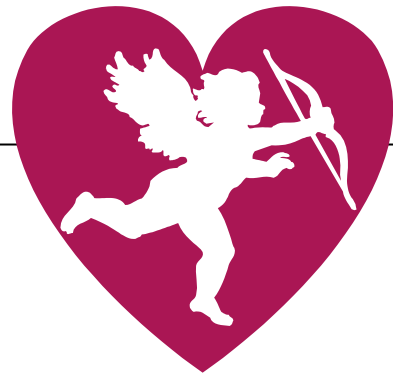
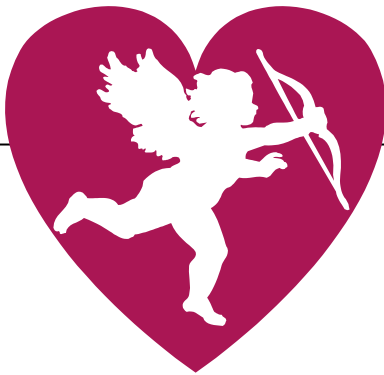
Wisconsin, where she was unusually productive, requiring a thrice daily milking – which is how she happened to give up 24 quarts of milk on that historic flight to the International Aircraft Exposition in St Louis. Nellie Jay’s milk was carefully bottled, sealed, and dropped from the airplane as it flew over St. Louis. Small parachutes were attached to keep the milk from spilling. Nellie Jay was later celebrated in a “Bovine Cantata” (from “Madame Butterfat” by Giacomo Moocini and Ludwig Von Bovine) with words that included, “She flies through the air with the greatest of ease, dropping her ice cream, yogurt, and cheese.”

February Birthdays

People born in February tend to value their privacy and independence. At the same time, they are friendly, charming, and genuinely helpful toward others. They are both inventive and logical as problem-solvers. Some famous people born in February include:

Joey Bishop	February 3, 1918
Hank Aaron	February 5, 1934
Zsa Zsa Gabor	February 6, 1917
Gypsy Rose Lee	February 9, 1914
Kim Novak	February 13, 1933
Jack Benny	February 14, 1894
Toni Morrison	February 18, 1931
Rue McClanahan	February 21, 1934
Fats Domino	February 26, 1928
Joan Bennett	February 27, 1910
Dinah Shore	February 29, 1916

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!



Special Events:

- 3rd - Super Bowl XLII
- 5th - Mardi Gras Party
- 6th - Ash Wednesday
- 7th - Resident Council Meeting
- 14th - Brunch for Lunch and Valentines Day Party
- 21st - Bingo with American Legion
- 29th - Birthday Social and Entertainment with Bob Quiry