

Beyond the Shelves

VOLUME 3

ISSUE 1



As we prepare to turn the page on this past year, we find ourselves reflecting on the moments that shaped us—both the ones that challenged our resilience and the ones that reminded us of our collective strength. Over these months, we’ve celebrated meaningful milestones, supported one another through unexpected hurdles, and continued building a community rooted in connection, compassion, and purpose. Each project, each gathering, each shared story has added another thread to the fabric of who we are together.

Looking ahead, the new year offers us a fresh canvas—one filled with possibility, renewed energy, and the opportunity to grow in ways we may not yet imagine. It invites us to carry forward the lessons we’ve learned, to deepen our commitment to one another, and to embrace the hope that comes with new beginnings. May the coming year bring clarity where we need direction, joy where we need encouragement, and bold opportunities that inspire us to keep moving forward with intention.

Here’s to a year of progress, connection, and purpose—one we will shape together.

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Billie Humphrey, President

From the President's Desk

Happy New Year

Welcome to 2026—a fresh year full of possibility, promise, and adventure. January always feels like opening a brand-new notebook: clean pages, no scribbles, no last-minute changes... just space waiting to be filled. A blank slate can feel a little quiet, though, so let's brighten it up with all the exciting things the Friends have planned for the year ahead—plus a few resolutions to keep us inspired.

The Friends jump right into January with budget planning and fundraising prep. February brings our Sweetheart & Romance Book Sale at the Second Chance Book Store. In March, we'll take part in the "Do More 24" program, followed by our beloved Bag, Book & Bake Sale in April. May will be bustling with our second annual Craft Fair.

Summer promises sunshine and community as we host our Blooms & Bites fundraiser with Spectrum Farms and finalize plans for September's Book Fest. After Book Fest, we'll shift gears toward our festive Baubles & Bling Sale in December.

Blink twice and we'll be welcoming 2027. And in between these big events, we'll stay connected through community outreach—Lake Forest Day in May, the Summer Reading Challenge kickoff in June, Heritage Day in August, and Trunk or Treat in October.

We're also dreaming up new ways to engage our adult readers—perhaps a crafting afternoon, a social tea, or something entirely new. We'd love to hear your ideas.

Of course, a new year also brings resolutions. Many of us vow to eat better, move more, or spend more time with loved ones. We make these promises with the best intentions... and by mid-April, many have quietly slipped away.

So, this year, I'm choosing a resolution I know I'll keep: reading a book outside my comfort zone. I adore historical fiction with a dash of suspense and romance, but science fiction has never been my go-to—despite loving sci-fi movies. So, in 2026, I'm committing to reading a science fiction novel. I'll report back on my adventure.

And you, my friends—what will you resolve this year? If you're unsure, you can always choose the most delightful resolution of all: visit the library. You'll discover new stories, meet wonderful people, and brighten your day. Now that's a resolution worth keeping

Best wishes for 2026,

Billie



A Peek Into 2026: The Year Ahead for Harrington Public Library & The Friends

As we close the book on 2025, the Friends of the Harrington Public Library are already imagining the bright, bustling, joy-filled chapters waiting for us in 2026. If this past year proved anything, it's that our community loves its library, loves its stories, and loves showing up for one another. So why not have a little fun with some light-hearted predictions for the year ahead?

Predictions for a Wonder-Filled 2026

1. Friends Bake Sales Will Break Every Record

Cookies, brownies, and mystery bars—oh my. We predict a new “famous dessert” will emerge and become the talk of the town.

2. The Friends Will Launch Something Big

Every year brings a surprise. Our 2026 prediction: a new idea so delightful that people will ask, “How did they think of that?”

3. Photo Ops Will Multiply Like Magic

If 2025 was the year of festive backdrops, 2026 will be the year of “Wait—take my picture here too!”

4. New Faces, New Stories, New Connections

Families discovering the library for the first time, longtime patrons returning with renewed enthusiasm—2026 will be a year of warm welcomes.

5. Second Chance Book Store Will Have Its Best Year Yet

Our boldest prediction: **Second Chance Book Store will become the go-to treasure hunt of Harrington.**

Expect:

- Surprise rare finds tucked between paperbacks
- A new wave of volunteers who “just came in to browse”
- At least one customer who walks in for one book and leaves with a full tote
- A donation day so big it becomes a community event
- 2026 might just be the year Second Chance becomes the town’s unofficial happy place.

Cheers to a Bright New Year!

To every volunteer, patron, baker, reader, crafter, and community champion—**thank you** for making 2025 a year filled with creativity, kindness, and connection.

May 2026 bring you joy, good books, new adventures, and plenty of reasons to stop by the library and Second Chance Book Store.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year from the Friends of the Harrington Public Library!



Photo courtesy: MART PRODUCTIONS via Pexels.com

Is It the Holiday Blues? Or Something Else?

By Janel “Jaycee” Miller

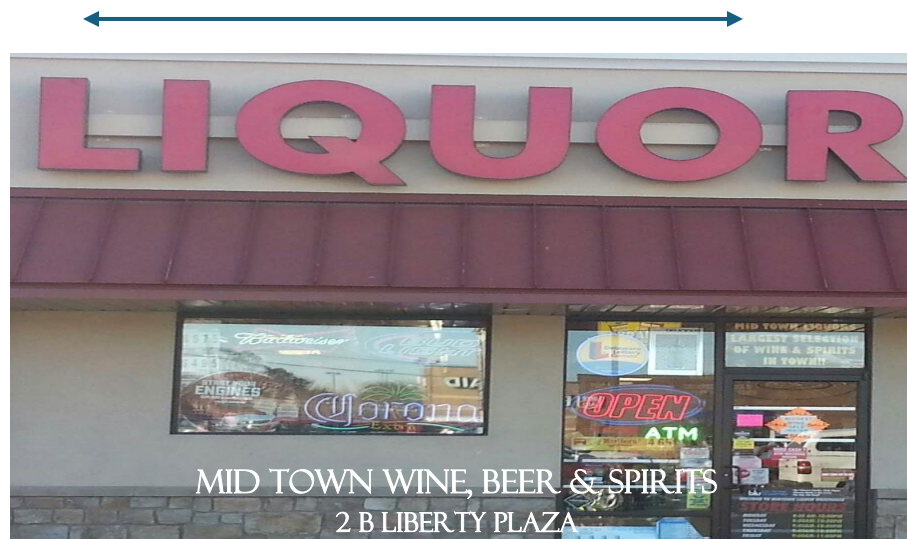
The American Psychological Association reported a few years ago that almost nine in 10 Americans experience some kind of stress or sadness during the winter holidays. This data suggests that contrary to an often-heard Christmas carol, the days between November and December are not always “the most wonderful time of the year” for everyone.

But for some, the sadness or stress in the colder months runs much deeper. According to the Mayo Clinic, some of these people may be experiencing seasonal affective disorder, a condition that often occurs during the transition from fall to winter.

Seasonal affective disorder is often accompanied by one or more of the following symptoms: a loss of energy, moodiness, feeling listless, hopeless or worthless, loss of concentration and frequent thoughts of suicide.

(It is important to note that the list of symptoms above is by no means complete. If you’re going to start googling to see if you might have seasonal affective disorder, please add a reputable hospital to your search, such as Mayo Clinic, University of California at San Francisco, Johns Hopkins University or Cleveland Clinic.)

The Mayo Clinic also states that just about everyone feels depressed or stressed at some point. However, if the feelings listed above persist for “days at a time” and doing the things you used to enjoy doing are no longer satisfying you, in tandem with your sleep, eating and drinking alcohol patterns abruptly and significantly changing, talk to a health care professional about possible treatment options. You don’t have to suffer alone or in silence.





Judy Newton, Friend &
Newsletter Co-Editor

My Literacy Story

Judy Newton

I find it hard to define what literacy means to me—it's something I take for granted. As part of the Friends of the Library, we started a campaign to promote literacy. I was shocked at the statistics showing the rate of illiteracy for the different age groups in Delaware and across the nation

When I was a child, I found it captivating whenever my teacher wrote the alphabet letters on the blackboard. Every day, she introduced three new letters and, with just a few strokes or curves, transformed each into a related word. This experience marked the beginning of my path toward literacy.

My bookshelf was always a dependable portal to countless adventures, starting with the Bobbsey Twins and later venturing into Nancy Drew stories. It saddens me that many children miss out on this joy, particularly now when there are so many resources available that could introduce them to the world through reading.

Reading is essential in my daily life! I love to read to my Grandchildren and listen as they read their books to me. I can read the directions on any prescription I may get. I can check the list of ingredients on food items to avoid the ones that contain allergens I must avoid. I can be a member of reading groups. I can read exit signs to get off on the correct exits when traveling. I was able to get a college degree and enjoy a career involving teaching computer programs.

I recognize the significant importance of literacy in enabling individuals to participate fully and succeed in society. It is essential that we contribute to advancing literacy and making its benefits accessible to others.



January is a great time to rediscover the joy of reading. Even a few minutes with a good book, article, or poem can spark curiosity, strengthen the mind, and brighten the day. Let this month inspire you to explore new stories, revisit old favorites, and keep learning—one page at a time.



You Say You Made a New Year's Resolution

By Janel "Jaycee" Miller

Photo courtesy: Polina via

I'll admit it. Every year for as long as I can remember, I've made a New Year's resolution. Sometimes it's to stop cracking my knuckles. Sometimes it's to eat better. Sometimes it's to stop drinking so much diet soda. Sometimes it's walking at least a mile a day.

And for as long as I can remember, my resolve to keep that resolution, whatever it is, lasts at most two or three days. Sound familiar?

According to [statista.com](https://www.statista.com), some of the most common New Year's resolutions that Americans said they made for 2025 included saving more money, spending more time with family and friends, quitting smoking, exercising more (doh!), and eating healthier (double doh).

However, data from the Pew Research Center among a different group of Americans who had made more than one resolution indicated that by the end of January, 13% had kept none of those pledges.

The Cleveland Clinic points out some ways to stick to these resolutions: be specific but realistic, identify challenges that may hinder you from reaching your goal, find someone who will hold you accountable for your resolution-specific actions, place reminders about your resolutions where you can frequently see them and keep track of the progress towards your goal.

Here's to keeping our resolutions!



As we settle into the new year, January offers the perfect moment to rekindle our love of reading. Whether it's a favorite classic, a short article, a poem, or a brand-new genre waiting to be explored, every page we turn keeps our minds active and our imaginations alive. Literacy isn't just about books—it's about staying connected, learning something new, and giving ourselves the gift of discovery. Let this month be an invitation to read a little more, share a story with a friend, or dive into a topic that sparks your interest. Your next great insight might be just a paragraph away.



Michelle Baultrusch, Friend &
Newsletter Co-Editor

Where Our Love of Stories Grows (Part 2)

By Michelle Baultrusch

If Part 1 reminded us where our love of stories *began*, this next chapter celebrates where that love is *taking us*.

Because literacy doesn't stop with childhood memories or the first books that shaped us. It grows—quietly, steadily, beautifully—every time we share a story, teach a skill, or open a door for someone else to discover the joy of reading.

At the Harrington Public Library, we see that growth every day.

We see it when a child proudly sounds out a new word.

When a teen finds a book that finally feels like *them*.

When an adult learner gains confidence reading aloud.

When a senior rediscovers the comfort of stories through audiobooks.

Literacy is not a single moment—it's a lifelong unfolding.

And the Friends of the Library play a vital role in that unfolding. Your support helps create spaces where stories can be explored, questions can be asked, and imaginations can stretch. You help make literacy accessible, welcoming, and woven into the fabric of our community.

This month, we invite you to look not only backward at your literacy roots, but forward toward the branches still growing:

- Who might need encouragement on their literacy journey
- What stories our community still longs to hear
- How we can nurture curiosity in every age and stage
- Where your gifts—time, creativity, generosity—can spark new beginnings

Our love of stories began with listening.

It grows when we choose to share.

Together, let's keep cultivating a community where every person—every reader, every learner, every dreamer—can find their place in the story.

DELAWARE AGRICULTURE WEEK

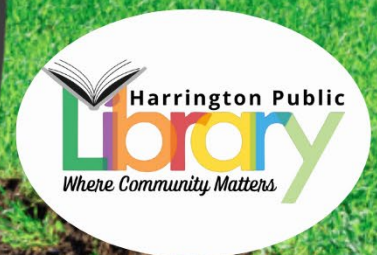
Community Connect

Celebrate Delaware Ag Week during a special hands-on program led by
Lake Forest FFA!

Featuring antique farm machinery demonstrations by Bruce Betts.

Learn about the importance of Agriculture in our community and the many
benefits local agriculture brings - from food and farming to caring for
animals and the land.

January 15th 6:00pm



101 Little Mastens Corner Rd. Harrington, DE 19952 302*398*4647 Harrington.Lib.De.Us



From the Heart: Resolutions That Matter

January arrives with a hush and a promise. The calendar resets, the air feels fresh, and we're invited to begin again—with intention, with hope, and with heart.

At Harrington Public Library, our resolutions aren't just about goals. They're about impact. About showing up for our neighbors, nurturing curiosity, and making space for stories that heal, challenge, and inspire.

As Friends of the Library, you embody that resolution every day. You offer your time, your creativity, your kindness. You believe in the power of books, the importance of access, and the beauty of community. You help transform our library from a building into a gathering place—warm, welcoming, and alive with possibility.

This year, let's continue building something lasting. Whether it's organizing a book sale, welcoming a new reader, supporting a child's first library card, or simply sharing a smile at the front desk, every act of service becomes a thread in the tapestry we're weaving together.

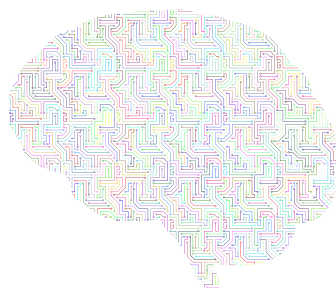
If you're setting resolutions this month, consider this one:

"I resolve to be a Friend—to lift up literacy, celebrate connection, and help our library thrive."

Thank you for being part of this story. Thank you for the joy you bring, the care you offer, and the difference you make. We're so glad you're here.



Donations of gently used books accepted *Fridays at the HPL* from 9-5.



Brain Teasers



NEW YEAR

— WORD SEARCH —



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

WORD LIST

AWAKE	CELEBRATION	DECEMBER	FOOD	HOLIDAY	PARADE
BALL DROP	CHAM	DRESS	GAMES	HOURLASS	PARTY HAT
BEVERAGES	CLOCK	EVE	GIFT	JANUARY	RESOLUTION
BOOM	COUNTDOWN	FIREWORKS	GOALS	MASK	TIME
CAKE	DANCE	FLUTE	HAPPY	NEW YEAR	TOAST

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

January Happenings at the HPL



January 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

8th 5:00

**Dungeons & Dragons

9th & 23rd 10:00

Creative Hands- Adult Open

Crafting

10th 11:00

STEM Saturday

13th 5:30

Friends of HPL Meeting

14th 3:30

Game Night- Tween/Teen

15th 6:00

Delaware Ag Week Family Event:

Presented by Lake Forest FFA

20th 5:00

**Craft Night- Adult

22nd 5:00

Book Club-Adult

"The Guernsey Literary And
Potato Peel Pie Society"

22nd 5:00

**Dungeons & Dragons

24th 11:00

**Murder Mystery Game

UPCOMING EVENTS

26th 2:00

BINGO-Adult

27th 3:00

Crafternoon- Teen

31st 10:00

Yeti-Fest

**** Program REQUIRES Registration**

CLOSED

**1st -4th : New Year's
17th & 19th : MLK Jr. Day**

WEEKLY

- Daily- FREE SNACKS under 18!
- Weekdays- After School Hangout: Teens
- Weekdays- Stay & Play: K-5th grade
- Monday- Tele Services Rep. 12:00-4:00
- Monday- Craft Kits for Kids!
- Wednesday- Storytime 10:45

HOURS

Monday: 9:00-4:45

Tuesday: 11:00-6:45

Wednesday: 9:00-4:45

Thursday: 11:00-6:45

Friday: 9:00-4:45

Saturday: 10:00-1:45



101 LITTLE MASTENS CORNER RD HARRINGTON DE 302*398*4647 HARRINGTON.LIB.DE.US



Director's Corner

January is the perfect time for fresh starts — and for clearing a little space on your shelves while supporting your library. As you tidy up after the holidays or begin your New Year organizing, the Friends warmly welcome your **gently used donations** to help stock upcoming book sales and support library programs all year long.

What We Gladly Accept

- **Books in good condition** — fiction, nonfiction, children's, large print, and more
- **Audiobooks and DVDs**
- **Magazines**
- **Puzzles and board games** with all pieces
- **Jewelry** for our specialty sales
- **Seasonal items** in excellent condition

What We're Unable to Take

- Damaged, moldy, or heavily worn books
- Encyclopedias, outdated textbooks
- VHS tapes or cassette tapes
- Items with strong odors or signs of storage damage

What We Have a Temporary Hold on at this time due to heavy volume

- Cookbooks
- Craft books
- Gardening books

Where to Bring Donations

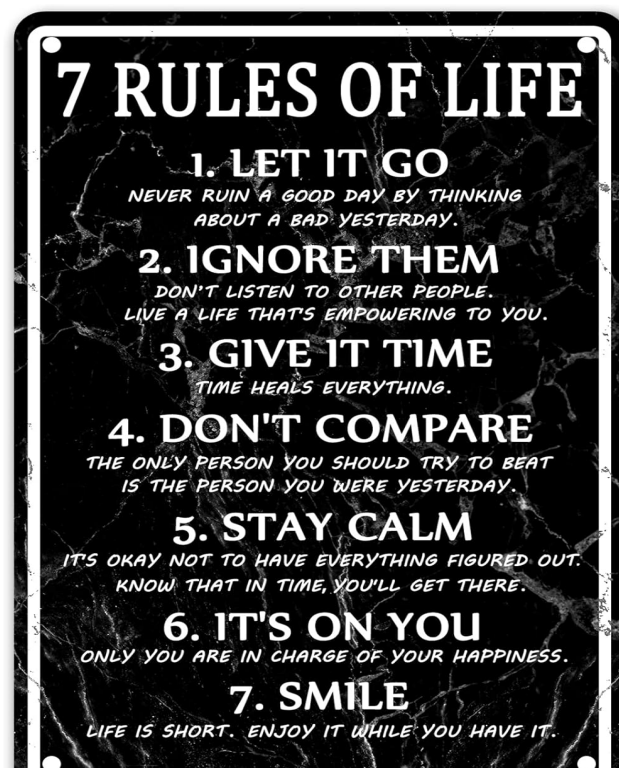
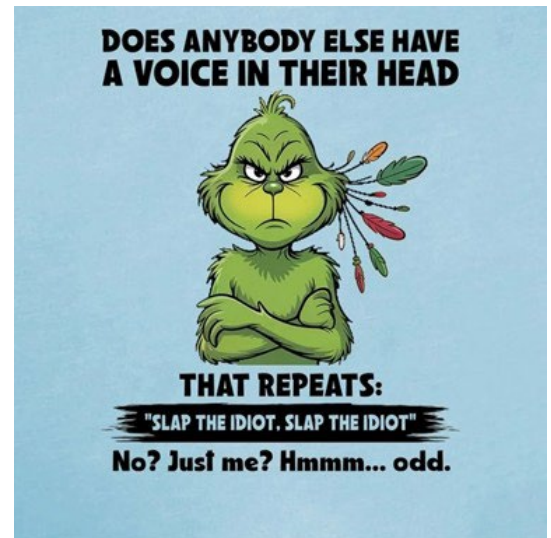
Donations may be dropped off at the **Harrington Public Library** during regular hours. If you have a large quantity, feel free to call ahead so staff can assist you.

Every item you donate helps the Friends raise funds for programs, events, and resources that enrich our community. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

Thank you for thinking of the library as you begin the new year — and for helping us keep the shelves full of treasures waiting to be discovered.

Marleena

Laughter and Inspiration Corner



*The fact there is a highway to hell
and a staircase to heaven says a lot
about anticipated traffic numbers.*

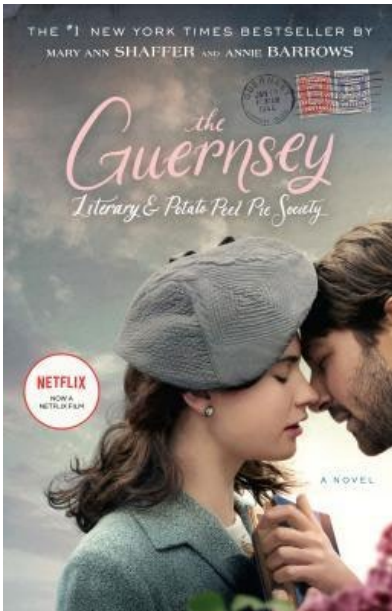
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2025-2026 Sponsor



Book Club Read of the Month:

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

By: Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows



**January book club will
meet 1/15 at 5 pm.**

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER - NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE ON NETFLIX - A remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German Occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.

"I wonder how the book got to Guernsey? Perhaps there is some sort of secret homing instinct in books that brings them to their perfect readers." January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb...

As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends—and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society—born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island—boasts a charming, funny, deeply human cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all.

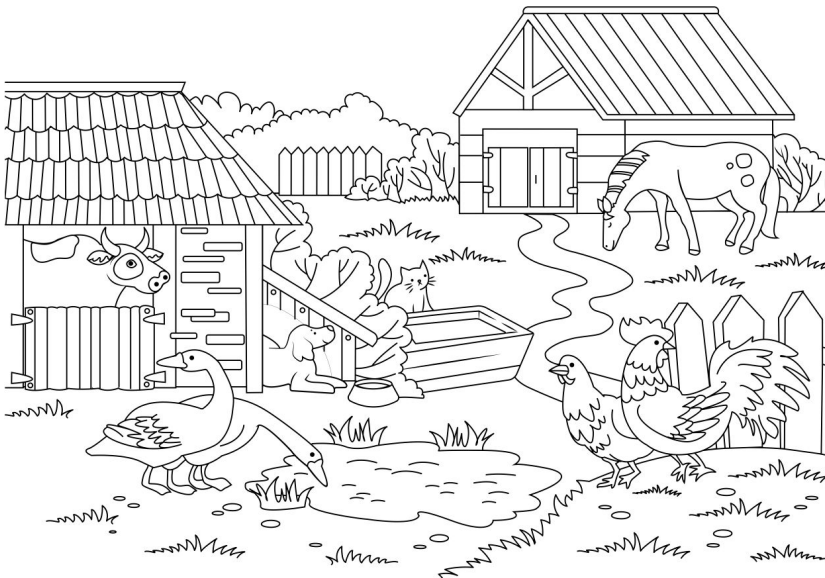
Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society's members, learning about their island, their taste in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.



Think of January as the perfect excuse to treat yourself to a little reading adventure. Pick up something that makes you smile—a mystery, a recipe, a fun fact, even the back of a cereal box counts. Every word gives your brain a happy stretch and keeps curiosity dancing. Let this month be your reminder that reading doesn't have to be serious to be good for you—it just has to be fun.

Brain Teaser #2

Find 7 Differences



Puzzle courtesy of printable.com

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

HFL

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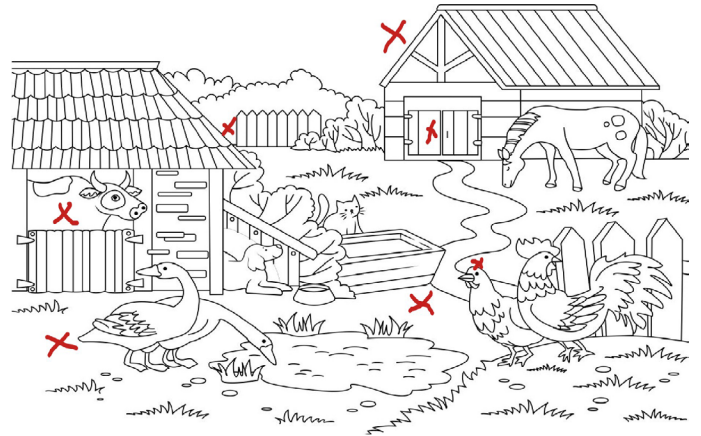
Family Owned & Operated Local Business
Serving Delmarva Since 1963


Harrington



Lodge 534


And the Answer Is.....





NEW YEAR

— WORD SEARCH —



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

— WORD LIST —

AWAKE	CELEBRATION	DECEMBER	FOOD	HOLIDAY	PARADE
BALL DROP	CHAM	DRESS	GAMES	HOURGLASS	PARTY HAT
BEVERAGES	CLOCK	EVE	GIFT	JANUARY	RESOLUTION
BOOM	COUNTDOWN	FIREWORKS	GOALS	MASK	TIME
CAKE	DANCE	FLUTE	HAPPY	NEW YEAR	TOAST

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Honoring Service, Legacy, and Mindfulness: Three Days That Shape January

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY JANUARY 9TH

Across the country on January 9th each year, citizens take the lead to show support on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and to thank them for all the daily sacrifices they make for their communities. From local, state, and federal, their duties command dedication. The jobs are often thankless and take them away from their families for long hours. Rarely do they know what their days have in store for them.

On National Law Enforcement Day, we have an opportunity to thank them for their service and offer a token of respect. There are several ways to show your support. Send a note of thanks to your local, county or state police agency. Wear blue, turn your social media channels blue or shine a blue porch light to show your support. Share your support using #NationalLawEnforcementAppreciationDay to share on social media.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY JANUARY 19TH

On the third Monday in January, Martin Luther King Jr Day honors the American clergyman, activist, Civil Rights Movement leader. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) is best known for his role in advancing civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience. King has become a national icon in the history of American progressivism.

King was influential in organizing marches, sit-ins, and political rallies for civil rights. For example, during a 1963 March on Washington, D.C. for Jobs and Freedom, King spoke before more than 200,000 regarding the challenges African Americans face. His "I Have a Dream" speech has gone down in many history books as one of the greatest speeches ever given. Brutally honest, with a call to action and a vision of hope, King's speech resonated throughout the nation. In 1964 King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his unswerving work in the Civil Rights Movement.

NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY JANUARY 29TH

Each year on January 29th, National Puzzle Day recognizes how exercising our brains with puzzles is just one of its many benefits. Whether it's a crossword, jigsaw, [trivia](#), word searches, brain teasers or Sudoku, puzzles put our minds to work. Studies have found that when we work on a jigsaw puzzle, we use both sides of the brain. And spending time daily working on puzzles improves memory, cognitive function, and problem-solving skills.

Puzzles also offer social benefits. When we work on these brain teasers with someone, we improve our social interactions. Whether we join a group or play with our children, those interactions keep us socially active and teach our children social skills, too. Even working them quietly together provides an opportunity to focus the mind in a meditative way that isn't forced.

Recipe of the Month: Shrimp & Crab Croissant Cups

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of cooked shrimp, chopped
- 1 cup of crab meat, shredded
- 1/2 cup of cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup of green onions, chopped
- 1/2 cup of shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon of lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Cooking spray

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C).
2. Mix shrimp, crab, cream cheese, green onions, cheddar, lemon juice, salt, and pepper in a bowl.
3. Unroll the croissant dough and lay the triangles flat.
4. Press each triangle into a greased muffin tin to form cups.
5. Fill the cups generously with the shrimp and crab mixture.
6. Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown.
7. Cool for a few minutes before serving.

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