



640 W. Randall, Coopersville (616) 997-9253 www.coopersvillefountainview.org

Celebrating December

Spiritual Literacy Month

Write a Friend Month

Cookie Cutter Week

December 1-7

Coats and Toys for

Kids Day

December 3

St. Nicholas Day

December 6

Nobel Prize Day

December 10

Las Posadas

December 16-24

Hanukkah

December 18-26

Christmas

December 25

New Year's Eve

December 31

Dates to Remember

Tree Lighting

Mon., Dec. 5 – 7pm

Christmas Party

Thursday, Dec. 15

B3-5pm

B1 & B2-6pm

A Fresh Take on Peppermint

Peppermint bark. Peppermint lattes. Peppermint candy canes. There is no doubt about it—peppermint is the undisputed flavor of the winter season. Mint is full of the chemical menthol, which, when tasted, activates the same nerve sensors that allow us to feel cold. We love the refreshing, cooling sensation of mint in our mouths and are reminded of winter each time we take a taste. But there is more to the story of peppermint's hold on the winter season than its chemical composition.

Mint-flavored hard candies have been made for hundreds of years. Before the invention of air-conditioning, hard candy could be made only during the cool, dry months of winter, for heat and humidity would spoil the candy. Mint is a reliable flavoring because it does not cook off during the manufacturing process. Its flavor remains incredibly strong. For this reason, mint-flavored hard candy has always been a wintertime treat.

Legend has it that the first candy canes were invented in the 17th century by a German choirmaster who bribed his choirboys with peppermint candy sticks to keep them complacent during mass. Candy in church was not exactly solemn, so the choirmaster asked the candy maker to fashion the candy sticks into shepherds' crooks, honoring Jesus.

It wasn't until 1847 that a German Swedish immigrant to America named August Imgard used the candy cane as a Christmas decoration. He spun white hard candy into its crooked shape and hung the canes along with paper ornaments from a blue spruce. It would take a few more decades and the advent of mass production techniques for candy canes to get their red stripes. Why red? Some say this color represents the blood shed by Jesus on the cross, while others attribute it to the red berries and green garland of evergreen holly that has been associated with Yule traditions. Don't wait until December 26, Candy Cane Day, to enjoy candy canes. Most people start buying them the day after Thanksgiving.

Still Living in Infamy



U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt called December 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy.” 81 years later, we still remember the attack on Pearl Harbor and pause to honor all who were lost.

Pearl Harbor is a U.S. naval base located near Honolulu, Hawaii. It was home to the bulk of the U.S. Navy’s Pacific Fleet, hundreds of airplanes, and thousands of soldiers. American intelligence officials never expected Japanese forces to start a war with the United States with an attack on Hawaii, 4,000 miles away. For this reason, Pearl Harbor was left largely undefended on December 7, 1941. As a target, Pearl Harbor was too good of an opportunity for the Japanese to ignore.

In an audacious sneak attack, without any declaration of war, Japanese forces began their assault on Pearl Harbor at around 8 a.m. At 8:10, a 1,800-pound bomb fell through the deck of the battleship USS *Arizona* and struck an ammunition store, resulting in a massive explosion and killing thousands. After two hours of fighting, 20 American ships (including every battleship in Pearl Harbor) were crippled; 300 airplanes were destroyed; 2,403 sailors, soldiers, and civilians were killed; and a thousand more were wounded.

Luckily—amazingly—the Pacific Fleet was left intact. Despite losing its powerful battleships, the Fleet’s aircraft carriers had been off base during the attack and were safe. Pearl Harbor’s vital infrastructure, including repair shops, oil storage depots, shipyards, and submarine docks, had been largely untouched. The U.S. Navy would be able to rebuild itself for a sustained war effort.

The day following the attack, President Roosevelt declared war on Japan. And though history remembers America and its Allies as the brave victors of a long and bloody world war, scars of that war remain. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is a time to reflect on all that was lost and a celebration of the freedoms that were won.

Make It Count

Every year from December 14–January 5, the National Audubon Society conducts its Christmas Bird Count (CBC). During these few weeks, volunteer birders count and record bird species in an effort to monitor the health and status of bird populations across North America. Bird counts accumulate over the decades, offering scientists long-term perspectives on the continent’s bird populations.

Audubon’s CBC grew out of the Christmas “Side Hunts” of the late 19th century, when hunters would compete to bring in the largest pile of birds and animals. In 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed a new tradition, a “Christmas Bird Census,” where people would count birds instead of hunting them. These days it’s easier than ever to join a CBC. Registration for birders begins in November, with counts starting on December 14. If you choose to participate, you could join a tradition that is over a century old.

Annual Tree Lighting



Join us Monday, the 5th of December at 7:00pm as we light up our tree! A short memorial service will be held in building #2 followed with a holiday snack and social time. Add your loved one(s) name, by calling or dropping off donation today! God bless you all.

Please provide the name(s) of each person you would like to honor with your gift of \$25 for each loved one.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Please mail this form or drop it off to



640 W. Randall
Coopersville, MI 49404

Christmas Party

Thursday, Dec. 15

5pm – Bldg. 3

6pm – Bldgs. 1 & 2

Please join your loved one for music, appetizers, a meal and gifts from the angel tree!



Birthday girl, Jo....& a buck in the backyard!



Happy Birthday

Marguerite Anderson.....1

Helen Smith.....2

Tom Zaski.....7

Tom McHalpine.....11

Monica Zahm.....21



We will sadly miss....

Judith Stinson who recently passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Chasing Tradition

At precisely 8:15 p.m. on December 5, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, all the lights in the Swiss hamlet of Küssnacht are turned off, plunging the village along Lake Lucerne into darkness. So begins the *Klausjagen*, or “Santa Chase,” one of Europe’s most impressive St. Nicholas Day traditions.

Thousands of spectators line the cobbled street that has wended its way through town since the medieval era. Suddenly, explosions as loud as gunshots pierce the darkness. Spectators shrink back from the street, fearing that they may be struck by the long sheep whips wielded by the men leading the procession.



The cracking whips passing through the pitch announce the arrival of the magnificent, glowing *iffelen*. These are massive cardboard hats, some over six feet tall, worn by robed dancers. The *iffelen* are shaped like bishops’ miters. They have been painstakingly cut and colored with tissue paper, showcasing intricate patterns that mimic beautiful stained-glass windows. The most elaborate easily take 500 hours to complete. As if this spectacle isn’t magnificent enough, the spectators hold their breath and await the arrival of Santa Claus.

Santa, or St. Nicholas, arrives with a cacophony of clanking cowbells, tooting cow horns, and a band that plays the “Santa song,” a melody of only six notes, repeated over and over again. Santa may be the star of the show, but he is not alone. *Schmutzli* walks by his side, a sinister figure robed in black who carries a broom of twigs, traditionally for whipping children who have been bad all year. This *Schmutzli*, luckily, is more benevolent, and he hands out pastries along the parade route.

This ancient procession owes its origins to pagan winter rites where loud noises were used to scare away evil spirits. Over the centuries, Christian and pagan traditions blended to create the famous *Klausjagen* procession that attracts thousands of spectators today.

Leadership Team

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Chief Operating Officer

Kelly Smith
Regional Operations Director

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Administrator

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Business Manager

Andrea Steffes
Life Enrichment & Volunteer Director

Gary Lutz
Food Service Director

John Lutz
Maintenance Director

Tara Frazier
Staffing Director



Eleanor Shellenbarger and Eva Gregerson to Fountain View!
We are so glad that you are here!

