

April 2024

The Periodical

Parsons House on Eagle Run | 14325 Eagle Run Dr. Omaha NE. 68164 | 402-498-9554



Celebrating April

Humor Month

Peanut Butter and Jelly Day

April 2

World Rat Day

April 4

National Gardening Day

April 14

Earth Day

April 22

Talk Like Shakespeare Day

April 23

International Jazz Day

April 30



The month of March sure kept us on our toes this year! We packed in Daylight Savings, St. Patrick's Day, the first official day of Spring, and even ended the month with Easter! Speaking of Daylight Savings, how nice is it to have the sun hang around a little bit longer at the end of the day? It most definitely brings a smile to my face. Now if we could just get this weather under control, we would be set. Thankfully, it's just a matter of time before the "nice" weather sticks around for good....right? Old Man Winter isn't going down without a fight this year. Don't quote me, but I think February might have been warmer than March?!

The grounds around Parsons House always flourish during the spring. With lush green grass, ever-changing trees, and a colorful array of flowers, it is truly something for all to enjoy. There are a lot of new faces within our community, so if you haven't had the opportunity to spend some time in the courtyards during springtime, you are in for a treat! Keep your eyes open and watch for the beautiful outdoor magic to bloom!

In addition to the beauty that awaits, we look forward to seeing what else April has in store for us. From all of us here at Parsons House, we wish you a fresh and clean spring!

The Rise of Robots



From April 6–14, science and technology geeks will gather for RoboWeek 2024 to explore the future of robots and their place in society. Robots have long fascinated humans. Leonardo da Vinci may have been the first to envision a humanlike robot. The original Renaissance man, da Vinci was a painter, sculptor, inventor, and engineer. He sketched his idea of a “mechanical knight” and engineered a suit of armor that could be moved by a system of pulleys and levers.

When does a simple machine become a robot? Robots often possess computers that enable them to sense the environment and react accordingly. Also, they are able to move, either by themselves or via remote control. In these ways, robots are truly intelligent machines. From R2-D2 and C-3PO of *Star Wars* to Rosie the robot maid in *The Jetsons*, robots have become an integral part of our vision of the future.

The word *robot* first appeared in 1920, when the Czech writer Karel Čapek wrote a play about a factory that makes humanlike android workers. The word *robot* in Czech means “serf labor,” “drudgery,” and “hard work.”

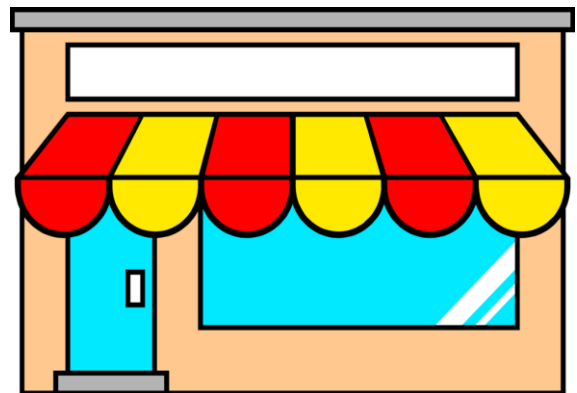
Today, companies are beginning to manufacture intelligent machines that perform many laborious household tasks. For example, the Roomba is a floor-cleaning robot about the size and shape of a round cake that moves independently around the room sucking up dirt. Sure, it may get stuck under the couch or miss some dirt in the corner, but it could make vacuums obsolete. A similar lawn-mowing robot, the Automower, cuts lawns by itself. Sensors keep it from running into lawn furniture, flowers, or pets. There are even robots with arms that can feed people with disabilities, and soft pillows with robot arms inside that can be remotely directed to contract, hugging whoever is holding the pillow.

Honesty and Deception

You may find that April 4 goes against your moral code, for it’s Tell a Lie Day. Many ethical people live by the credo “Always tell the truth.” But do we? Researchers have discovered that most people tell occasional lies for several reasons. Sometimes we lie to gain other people’s respect or to cover up for making mistakes. The good news is that most people lie to spare someone else’s feelings from being hurt. If people choose to always be honest regardless of the consequences, that honesty could lead to injury or harm. Compassion may sometimes override honesty.

Lucky, then, that April 30 is Honesty Day. Honesty can certainly hurt sometimes, but it also takes courage and maturity to be honest in difficult situations. Furthermore, staying honest attracts other honest people to you. When you are surrounded by the truth, you can be your authentic self. The freedom that comes with honesty is worth celebrating!

Corner Store



The Corner Store will be open April 8th and April 29th

No Bake Oreo Ice Box Cake



Ingredients

- 2 boxes Oreo Thins
- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ cup powdered sugar, sifted, optional

Instructions

1. Take the cream off the cookies. Beat the cream to soft peaks, adding sifted powdered sugar if desired.
2. Arrange a layer of cookies on a small, round cake plate, making a circle.
3. Spread or pipe on cream and repeat placing cookies in a circular pattern
4. Chill overnight, then cut into slices and serve!

Mobile Milestone

On April 3, 1973, Motorola employee Martin Cooper stood on a New York City street corner and made the first cellular phone call to a colleague at Bell Labs in New Jersey. Unlike the first telegraph message (“What hath God wrought?”) or the first telephone conversation (“Watson, come here. I want to see you.”), Cooper’s words have been forgotten. His device, however, is now everywhere, thanks to a purchase price far below the original price tag of \$3,995.

Let the Good Times Roll



All April long, opponents will be throwing their knuckles down. Don’t worry, this isn’t anything sinister. “Knuckles down” is the position you assume before shooting in a classic game of marbles. So, this April, Knuckles Down Month, you too can play for keeps.

The classic game of marbles is called ringer. Two parallel lines, lag lines, are drawn 10 feet away from each other. A large 10-foot circle is drawn between the lag lines. In the middle of the circle is a cross made of 13 target marbles, or mibs. To determine who plays first, each player lags from one lag line to the other; that is, they toss their shooter marble to the opposite line. The player whose shooter lands closest to the lag line goes first.

Play starts by knuckling down along the edge of the ring and using your thumb to cast your shooter at the mibs inside. The object is to knock a mib outside the circle while keeping your shooter inside. You next knuckle down inside the ring where your shooter landed. If you fail to knock out a mib, then it is your opponent’s turn. The first player to knock out a majority of marbles wins, and it’s up to you to determine whether to play for fair (return all marbles to their original owners) or play for keeps (the winner keeps all the marbles).

For the Love of Birds



Many have heard of the Audubon Society and know it as an environmental organization dedicated to studying and preserving birds and their natural habitats. The organization is named after John James Audubon, the French American painter of birds who dedicated his

life to his unique art. His birthday, April 26, is now celebrated as Audubon Day.

Audubon showed an affinity for birds starting in childhood. He spent hours roaming the countryside, collecting birds' nests and eggs, and drawing them once he returned home. Audubon's father was a sailor and hoped his son would join the navy, so John James went to military school. However, he suffered from seasickness and so returned to the woods.

In 1803, the Napoleonic Wars broke out in France. Audubon's father obtained a fake passport and sent John James to America to avoid the war. It was at his family's farm in Pennsylvania that Audubon devoted himself full-time to the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and drawing birds.

Audubon was obsessed with birds. In an effort to study their habits, he tied string around their legs to see if they returned year after year. He learned the art of taxidermy and worked in natural museums. But his greatest contribution to ornithology was his brilliant book *Birds of America*. He dedicated his life to drawing every single bird in America. His style was new and different: a highly detailed drawing of each bird, more accurate than ever before. His drawings were life-sized, with some pages over three feet tall and two feet wide. After 14 years of traveling the entire country, Audubon drew over 700 species of birds. *Birds of America* is often considered the greatest picture book ever made, and original copies have sold for over \$10 million. How's that for a nest egg?

April Birthdays

If you were born between April 1–19, you are Aries, the Ram. These independent adventurers like to strike out on their own and are natural leaders. Their enthusiasm and confidence give them big, outgoing personalities. Those born between April 20–30 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls show a steady persistence in endeavors both professional and personal, and after working hard, they like to reward themselves for a job well done.

Dixie H. 4-17
 Viola K. 4-3
 Margaret 4-15
 Nancy H. 4-17
 Carolyn W. 4-14
 Jeanne P. 4-3
 Ron B. 4-30
 Gary E. 4-10
 Todd M. 4-21
 Claryce K. 4-8
 Jacqueline B. 4-9
 Fran J. 4-10
 Howard R. 4-25

Major League Debut



On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson played his first major league baseball game with the Brooklyn Dodgers against the Boston Braves in front of a crowd of 25,000 spectators at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. This marked the first moment that an African

American athlete played a sport in any of the major leagues.

Robinson did not get a hit that day, but he was awarded the first ever Rookie of the Year title that year. In 1949, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player. The next year, he became the Dodgers' highest paid player with a salary of \$35,000. In 1955, Robinson led the Dodgers to a World Series victory over the New York Yankees. A perennial All-Star and Hall of Famer, Robinson's number 42 was retired by all of baseball on April 15, 1997.