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COLONIAL VILLAGE

• CHRONICLE •

May • 2024

Issue 3 48th Year

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Attention Colonial Villagers

Editor:

Barbara Roos

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Colonial Village Office Hours

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Tel: (727) 584-7472 Fax: (727) 587-7020

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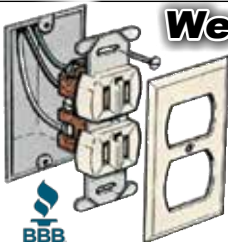
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President's Message

Ron Hanson



As May has arrived and the majority of the park residents have left, I just want to take this time to thank everyone for the effort that has been put in by those who volunteered and participated in the activities in the park, whether it was the social events or the work to keep the park infrastructure working. This really generates a sense of community and builds relationships between the members of the community that is unique, and rare to find.

My wife and I are amongst those migrating north, and am looking forward to reconnecting with family and friends at home. However I know that once the height of summer is over, and the weather starts cooling down, we will once again feel the urge to migrate south, to our friends in Colonial Village.

Stay safe everyone, those of you who are traveling to spend time elsewhere, and those who stay in the park year round.

Highlights from the Annual Meeting



March 21, 2024

Eight of the 9 Board Members were present; Wes Smith was absent. Last year's Annual Meeting minutes were read and approved. President Ron announced the results of this year's Board of Directors election: There were 103 electronic votes and several paper ballots. The new board members are Marie Clement and Tony Foster. He thanked all the candidates; thanked the residents for voting and encouraged shareholders to consider running for the four open seats next year. Secretary Susan Collins announced this year's 7 deceased residents. Kay Smith #5, Garfield Baker #75, Jerry Henry #92, Shirley Burns #93, Patty Denny #139, Gini Thibault #141 and Doris Ashley #158. She thanked Evelyn Van Duyne #57 for maintaining the 'condolences' record book and flowers. Treasurer David Hopkins reported CV is solvent with excess revenue of \$31,800 and \$12,500 was transferred to reserves and the two mortgages of \$17,000 paid off. The auditor's 2023 final report is forthcoming by the end of March.

A horseshoe pit will be set up soon. Thirteen of the aged water shut off valves were replaced, more to be done eventually: thank you many volunteers saving the park lots of money. A fire hydrant leak was fixed; thank you Wayne Smith. Susan Collins is working diligently on a new residents directory; should be available in the fall. Thanked Wes Smith and Scott Oke for their time serving on the board. Scott reported that the tie-down project with 130 units should be completed by the end of the month; the certificates will be available in the fall for those who want one. Some of the upright pool chairs with unsafe rusty feet will be replaced. Sandy Sanders volunteered to paint the cement pool tables; CV will buy the paint. Susan suggested we have a special event to celebrate our 50 Anniversary. The next Annual Meeting will be March 6, 2025.



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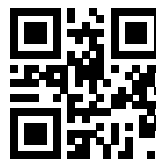
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Meet Our New Board Members



Marie Clement, Unit #58, lives in DE and has lived in many of the New England states, NY, IL, MI, CA, and OH. She is a avid Buckeye fan. She has two adult children who are living in CA and GA, 3 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter. She enjoys traveling especially to historic sites abroad. Marie was eager to join the board to lend her financial training and 40 years of experience in public accounting. She holds a Bachelor of Science Accounting Major Degree. Her major area of expertise is accounting and auditing. Her responsibilities included general bookkeeping, year-end accounting, preparation of financial statements and tax returns for corporations, partnerships, nonprofits and retirement plans. She was in charge of non profit audits and audited financial statements, as well as quality control for the firm. Marie has been active on the park's finance committee and was chair of that committee. She assists the CV office staff, and conducts the water aerobics class during the fall and spring. Her grandparents, Arvil and John Gray, were one of the original inhabitants of CV during the early 1960s. Their son Earl Clinton was a frequent visitor and became owner. At his passing she and sister Barbara became the shareholder. At the March 21, 2024, Annual Meeting, Marie was elected to the board for a three-year term. At that time she was appointed by the board as Treasurer. Marie's goal is to see more transparency in reporting to shareholders and assist with financial reporting and internal control over financial matters.

Tony Foster, Unit 76, was elected to the board as a director at the March 21, 2024, for a three-year term. Tony and his wife Bonnie have been CV residents for 11 years. They are both retired and split their time close to 50/50 between here and their Caesarea, Ontario Province home. Tony is a Certified Fluid Power Technologist (Hydraulics, Pneumatics, Fluidics) and worked as a Sales Manager in the Fluid Power Industry; retired since 2017. Prior to that his career was spent in the technical sales management arena working in Canada, Europe and the USA. That experience took them to live in Minnesota for two years, Tennessee for two years with the balance in Canada. In the last 10 years he ran a \$60M division that earned 80% of its revenue from the USA with seven direct reports throughout the country. So between the inordinate amount of time Tony have spent here and the fact that his eldest daughter was born in Minnesota, he has a great affinity for both countries. Tony and Bonnie have five children (all girls) and three grandchildren who have all been here and love to visit. Tony and Bonnie especially enjoy the community atmosphere here and the many friendships they have made over the years. Tony looks forward to working with the board and all the residents to keep Colonial Village the place we are all so fond of. Tony enjoys playing pickleball and assisted with odd jobs like the flea market, putting up Christmas lights, pool closures, etc.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

May Birthdays

- 2 Don Hilgert Unit #55
- 5 Bill Williams Unit #45
- 6 Jack Moore Unit #149
- 9 Carmel Foster Unit #171
- 15 Barbara Stanley Unit #87
- 17 Jack Wilcox Unit #111
- 29 Connie Brinkworth Unit #147
- 31 Jacqueline Burgden Unit #78



May Anniversaries

- 6/89 Rick and Pauline Lockhart Unit #63
- 16/70 Don and Vickie Hilgert Unit #55
- 17/69 Frank and Bride Janes Unit #62
- 25/91 David and Terry Benham Unit #129



March Activities

The March 5th Pot Luck Dinner was well received with about 48 attending. March 9th Dance featuring J2 was well attended with about 50 attendees. About 108 folks came out to the March 15th Pancake Breakfast. Janet Oliver, 2nd from the right, Unit #68, led the art workshop making hand crafted Easter Wreaths; thank you, Janet.



Easter Wreath Making led by Janet Oliver, 2nd from the right.

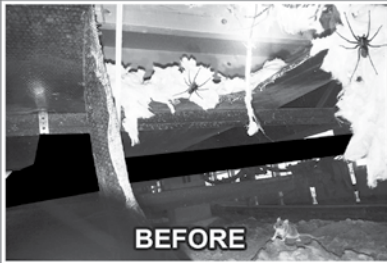
Howl At the Moon

Peter Grenon, Unit #101, sang his “heart out” and “played his fingers raw” during his annual “Howl At The Moon” show on March 10th in the clubhouse. We thoroughly enjoyed him and the audience participation; The room was filled to capacity! This was Peter's 26th anniversary of his first show all of which raised funds for St. Jude's Children's Cancer Research. This night's donations raised almost \$700.



COLONIAL VILLAGE CHRONICLE MAY, 2024 E

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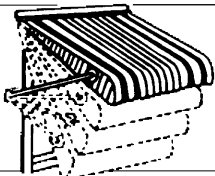
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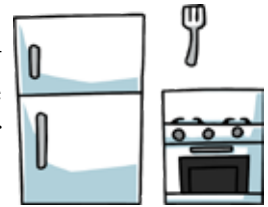
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Kitchen Party



The March 23rd musical event was our last for the season. We thank our multi-talented resident musicians and vocalists for their participation. One could hear them practicing as a group several days prior; they had never played together before. The clubhouse was packed with over 100 fellow residents to hear this evening's production, and give them support. It was so well received; we should schedule another one for 2025. Thank you, Jack Sonneborn for your help, and for another season of bookings of our musical entertainment groups. Musicians: Wayne Smith Unit#100, Peter Grenon#101, Rod Long#182, John Siddall#97, Myra (Lives with Bob Hopkins)#43, Bernard Harter#108, Ann Hartery#108, Scott Oke#148, Andy Hickey#73, Jack Sonneborn#149, Myra Sonneborn#149, and John Brennan (from another Park).

Spring Fling

On Saturday, April 6th we said "Farewell" to our Snowbirds friends. This was the final large gathering for residents before they departed for their northern homes. We had many lawn games organized by Rollie Tremblay, Unit #26, shuffleboard, ring toss and horseshoes and more. A pizza and salad lunch was provided for 116 residents with 29 pizza pies; planned by Wendy Gluhushkin, Unit #172 and Barbara Roos, Unit #58. It took many volunteers to produce this fun event both inside and outside activities. Prizes: The top scoring lady for the games was Ginette C. There was a two-way tie for men's score between Bert and guest Mike W. There was a tie in guesstimating the number of pieces of candy in the jar: Betty S., Claude R and guest Marcel B; all gusted 77. The actual count was 75. They all received a CV mug! Thank you, everyone. It takes a village!

Long Time Residents

Barbara Stanley, Unit #87, and her husband Walter moved to Largo in 1978 from Staten Island, NY. They owned and operated several businesses while in NY. They sold their home and businesses and spent their leisure time fishing, hunting, boating and camping. Barbara and Walter moved to Colonial Village in November of 1999. Their F1 business for 23 years was High Performance Coating Inc. Walter and their 2 sons ran the business; Barbara ran the office. They were married for 60 years before he died in 2014. She and 'chef' Walter chaired the Sept. 2001 Labor Day Chili Party in the park for 40 people Barbara played "65" cards and swam in the pool in the park. They have 4 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Barbara, a full-time resident, has been here for 25 years and Largo for 46.

Shuffleboard Tournament

Another successful Shuffleboard Tournament was held on St Patrick's Day, Feb 17th, 2024. The winners for the day's event were:

1st place women's Carmel Foster \$40 1st place men's Scott Oke \$40

2nd place women's Sharon Barbpir \$24. 2nd place men's Claude Rowsell \$24

Booby prize women's Wendy Gluhushkin \$16
Booby prize men's Tony Foster \$16

Thank you, Cliff Bugden, Shuffleboard organizer. Thank you to all participants who joined in the fun, it's nice to see more people taking an interest in Shuffling. Also a big thanks to the SAC Committee for providing coffee and pizza lunch for the day's event.



Welcome New Residents

Peggy and Gary Dible, Unit #160, from Ohio (Ilah Meddles and Ernie Bowman introduced them to CV)

John and Lynn Perekslis, Unit #104, from MA.

Kendra Orr, Unit #181



Peggy and Gary Dible on left with Ilah Meddles and Ernie Bowman



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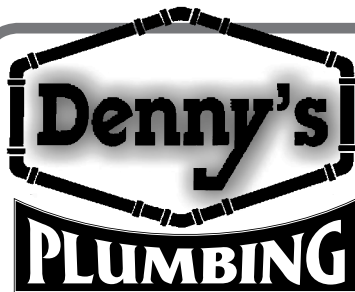
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Residents' Recipes

Fruit Magic Cobbler

submitted by Marilyn Marten, Unit #90

- 1 pkg Jiffy Golden Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 can (21 oz) pie filling
- ½ c chopped nuts (optional)
- ¼ c margarine or butter, softened

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Select your favorite pie filling and spread into an ungreased 8" square pan. Cut butter or margarine into cake mix until crumbly. Add chopped nuts. Sprinkle over top of pie filling. Bake 45-50 minutes.



Weight Watcher Cheesecake

submitted by Grace Hiscock, Unit #54

Beat until fluffy
3 eggs

Add
3 c fat free Greek yogurt
2 Tbsp sweetener (optional)
1 box vanilla pudding, dry
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp lemon juice

Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Will be jiggly in center. Let thoroughly cool before cutting. Refrigerate.



Residents' Favorite Authors

Kendra Goulding, Unit #109, James Paterson, John Grisham, David Baldacci

Eram and Beverly Kennedy, Unit #94, Danielle Steele, Nora Roberts, Greg Hurwitz

Ken Holtz, Unit #96, James Paterson

Lynn, Unit #104, Christ-Kristin Hannah, Philip Morgan, Kate Morton



Residents' Favorite Restaurants



Claire Richards, Unit #52; Long Horn Steakhouse
Andre Gosselin, Ginette Carmel, Unit #105; Long Horn Steakhouse, chinese buffets
Georgia VanWassenhova, Unit #118; Untouchables, Golden Bear, Harolds Seltzer
Duncan, Brenda Lewis, Unit #32; Cheddars

Colonial Village History

Part II Jack Moore, Unit #140. Long Time Resident, past Board Member and President

Prior to our owning the park land, prospective residents were interviewed by the “Sales Team”, shown the mobile home for sale (or they brought in their mobile home), explained the park rules and the park amenities. The sales team comprised of Ilah Meddles, Jack Moore, David Conway (then president), Bob Smith, Bud Pruitt and Ken Woods. The average price was sold for \$20,000 of which 5% went to Colonial Village.

The Colonial Village Mobile Home Park land purchase closing was on April 17, 2003 for \$1,500,000. The Park total cost was \$1,855,250 which included the \$1,500,000 for the land; \$90,000 for Closing Costs and Attorney fees; \$200,250 Reserve Accounts (pool, roads, etc.); and \$65,000 Retire Existing Mortgage. The total cost, \$1,855,250, was divided by the 181 number of unit owners, producing a figure of \$10,250. To arrive at the final share cost of \$14,000, the current share held by all residents of \$3,750 was added.

By the year end, they gathered more information for the tax appraisals, issuance of shares and the engineer's assessment as to the condition and remaining life of park amenities such as roads, sidewalks, sewer and water lines, clubhouse, laundry area, shuffleboard courts, pool, etc. The information was needed so they could properly establish their reserve funds. There were 181 unit shareholders. Residents were offered to purchase a share for \$10,500, plus a maintenance fee of \$100 a month. Some did not participate in the purchase of the park. They continued to be part of the park family but not members of the corporation, and they paid a monthly maintenance charge. As of April 2006, 159 purchased, and 104 paid in full for their shares. Effective August 1, 2006, the price of a CV share was increased from \$17,000 to \$25,000. The Board considered: 1) our share should be competitive with other parks in the area - \$30,000 to \$50,000 range. 2) should a catastrophic storm do damage to our park, the land is our most valuable asset, not the mobile homes. The land would not lose its value and a greater amount of our investment could be recovered through the sale of the share if it became necessary for some residents.

CV History continued next month



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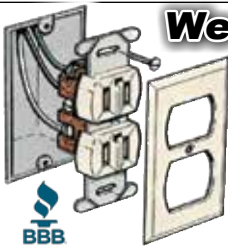
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26	27	28	29	30	31	



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May 1 Play Express
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May 3 Sweeney Todd
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May 4 Mayor's Golf Tournament
at Largo Municipal Golf Course. Tee off with Mayor Woody Brown. 8:30AM-12:30PM

May 4 Heartbeat of the Earth.
CPPAC. 11AM

May 5 Train Ride.
Largo Central Park. 10AM-2PM. And June 2

May 15 Play Express.
Largo Central Park. 9AM

May 17 Disc Golf Tournament
at Largo Municipal Golf Course. Practice Round, 5PM-8PM

May 18, 19 Disc Tournament
at Largo Municipal Golf Course. 8AM-5PM

May 18 Mother Daughter Tea Party
at Ulmer Park. 11AM-1PM

May 22 Play Express.
Largo Central Park. 9AM

May 27 Memorial Day Ceremony
at Military Court of Honor in the Largo Central Park. 11AM-12PM

May 29 Play Express.
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June 1 Largo Historic Society Museum Open House.
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Why Are Owls Considered Wise?



For those of us who enjoy the outdoors (at the pool, walking, at shuffleboard or pickleball) with its sounds, sights and fragrances, you have heard the many crows socializing with each other and have seen them flying in a group and landing on nearby overhead wires. In fact their shrill high-pitched cries could wake you up from the pool side nap. So I thought I'd share this information with you. What do you think? Are owls smarter than crows and ravens? No, owls are not smarter than crows and ravens! .

Crows and ravens are considered to be one of the most intelligent birds on the planet. Some researchers go even further and claim that birds from the Corvidae family are smarter than apes. These two types of birds know how to use tools, tackle complex problems, share knowledge, and even mourn their dead. No owl in the world can perform either of these tasks. Eagles and owls have a lot of things in common. Both are solitary birds of prey with exceptional vision and hunting abilities. Owls are not as intelligent as eagles. Eagles are believed to be one of the smartest birds of prey, if not the smartest, whereas owls are down at the lower end. Why are owls considered wise? The saying that owls are wise dates all the way back to ancient times. Different cultures have believed that owls represent symbols of wisdom because of their unique appearance and mystical night lifestyle, and the ability to see in the dark.

In Greek and Roman mythology an owl represents Athena, the goddess of wisdom and knowledge and prophecy. In Native American culture, owls were usually associated with death. The Aztecs and the Maya considered owls symbols of destruction and death. The Ojibwe tribes viewed the owl as a symbol of death and evil. The Pawnee associated owl as a symbol of protection. The Puebloan people viewed owls as the god of death as well as the spirit of fertility. In Japan owls have the status of something positive, a symbol of fortune and wisdom.

Ravens and crows are Earth's smartest birds. Their brains are tiny, but have been known to outsmart children and apes. Studies have shown that crows make tools. Ravens solve puzzles and parrots and corvids boast a diverse vocabulary. Birds make good use of the allotted space for their tiny brains by packing in lots of neurons – more so than mammals. Members of the corvid family are (songbirds) include ravens, crows, jays and magpies. Being able to fly to Argentina, come back and land on the same bush. “ They know my backyard; knows my face, my car, my walk and know me 10 miles away from where they've ever encountered me before”, writes one researcher in the journal Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology. Crows can “scold” screech people, cats, dogs, etc. and even alert other crows in the vicinity,

African Grey Parrots have a penchant for human speech and they live so long they can mass a lot of intelligence and a lot of memories. Cockatoos are the first animal observed making musical instruments when courting. The male palm cockatoos of Australia use twigs and seed pods to create drum sticks. Great-tailed Grackles belong to the same family as blackbirds and orioles, all are intelligent as well.



Washington, D. C. has more cherry blossoms than any other U.S. City.

People have been celebrating cherry blossoms for over a thousand years. Few trees are more beautiful than cherry trees when in full bloom. Although millions flock to see cherry blossoms around the world, the trees have a special resonance in Japan, where they are known as sakura. During Japan's Heian period (794 to 1185), when art and poetry flourished, sakura became associated with the ephemeral beauty of life, since the blossoms last only a few weeks before wilting. The Japanese aristocracy ate and drank tea under sakura during events known as hanami (cherry blossom viewing), a tradition that's still observed in Japan today. Throughout the centuries, sakura continued to play a role in Japanese society, especially during the Edo period, when the pink blossoms became the subject of many woodblock prints known as ukiyo-e.



One of the most famous collections of cherry trees in the U.S. is in Washington, D.C.; it was sent as a gift from Japan in 1912. Although some people considered digging up the cherry trees at the absolute nadir of U.S.-Japanese relations during World War II (and four trees were vandalized), the sakura survived and are now the central attraction of the capital region's National Cherry Blossom Festival. Held every year in March and April, the festivities showcase the full bloom of these amazing trees, the likes of which have enchanted generations of onlookers for so many years.



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Trivia - 1990s



1. What was the highest rated TV show in 1990?
Golden Girls, Game of Thrones, Cheers, Family Guy
2. In 1990 Margaret Thatcher resigned as the prime minister of what country?
Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, France
3. What sci-fi novel by Michael Crichton was published in 1990?
Dune, Frankenstein, Jurassic Park, The War of the World
4. 1990 was part of the golden age of what musical genre?
Disco, Jazz, Hip Hop, Blues
5. Which of these was a must-have fashion item of 1990?
poncho, gogo boots, pillbox hat, overalls
6. Which European country was officially reunited in October 1990?
Germany, Austria, Italy, France
7. Starring Patrick Swayze, what was the highest grossing film in 1990?
Dirty Dozen, Point Break, Ghost, Road House
8. What space technology was launched on April 24, 1990?
Apolo 11, Hubble Space Telescope, Sputnik 1, Skylab
9. What children's frozen food brand debuted in 1990?
Lunchable, Kid Cuisine, Capri-Sun, Eggo
10. What archaeological find named "Sue" was unearthed in 1990?
Ancient City, Prehistoric Woman, T Rex Skeleton, Egyptian Tomb
11. Released in 1990, what was the name of the first web search engine?
Linux, Google, Bing, Archie

....answers p. 43





The epitaph on Shakespeare's grave is a curse.

Those who travel to Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England, to see the final resting place of the world's greatest playwright are greeted with an ominous warning befitting the legendary wordsmith: "Good friend for Jesus sake forbear, To dig the dust enclosed here. Blessed be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones." Although historians aren't exactly sure how Shakespeare died at the age of 52 in 1616 (fever is a leading theory), they do believe these words likely belong to the Bard himself. And in the 17th century, Shakespeare had cause to worry — grave-robbing was common at the time, and graves were often also moved to make room for more burials.

However, Shakespeare's curse appears to have done the trick, as the church kept his grave intact — at least, mostly. In 2016, a (noninvasive) radar scan of Shakespeare's grave revealed, in an almost Shakespearean twist, that the playwright's skull seemed to be missing. For evidence surrounding this missing head's whereabouts, experts reexamined an 1879 article from *The Argosy* magazine that told a tale about a trophy-hunter taking Shakespeare's skull. While the story was originally dismissed as fantasy, the details appear to closely line up with the results of the radar study. Although the story relates that the skull was deposited in another church some 15 miles away after the grave-robbler panicked, an analysis of a skull at the church in question showed that it appeared to belong to a 70-year-old woman. We'll likely never know for sure who stole Shakespeare's skull — and whether the Bard's curse delivered on its ominous promises.

Knock-knock jokes may have originated in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Modern English wouldn't be the same without William Shakespeare. Thanks to the Bard's plays and sonnets, more than 1,700 words, have been added to our language. But Shakespeare did more than just spice up the dictionary; he may also have invented one of the world's greatest (or worst) comedy setups — the knock-knock joke. Strangely, the joke isn't found in one of Shakespeare's masterful comedies. Instead, it's embedded within one of his darkest, most intense works.

The beginning of Act 2, Scene 3 of *Macbeth*, after the tortured title character has just killed King Duncan, is known as the "porter scene." It opens with a drunken porter (or gatekeeper) at Macbeth's castle hearing a distant knock, pretending to be the porter of "hell-gate," and saying, "Knock, knock, knock, who's there?" Adding a bit of comic relief, the porter imagines the arrival of a farmer, an equivocator, and a tailor, using the same "knock-knock" construction each time. Although there's none of the eye-rolling wordplay central to the modern knock-knock joke, this is the first known reference to a "knock, knock/who's there" sentence structure in the context of comic relief. Yet it wasn't until the 1930s that the modern knock-knock joke really caught on, as a reassuringly predictable form of comedy during the Great Depression. In other words, across its 400-year history, it seems the knock-knock joke has a knack for bringing levity to dark times.

Shakespeare wrote the first "Yo Mama" joke.

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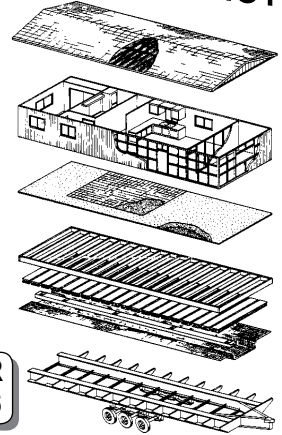
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Tonic Water Can Glow In The Dark.

Tonic water is best known for adding a little bite to cocktails, though it has a hidden talent: It glows when exposed to ultraviolet light. While modern tonic waters often include citrus flavors or sweeteners to ease their bitter taste, the mix is traditionally crafted from just two ingredients — carbonated water and quinine, the second of which is capable of illumination. Quinine’s ability to glow, technically called fluorescence, only occurs when the substance is exposed to the right conditions, particularly when its molecules absorb invisible ultraviolet light (such as that projected by a black light). The excited molecules then quickly release that energy, which appears as a blue hue to the human eye in a darkened room.

Though tonic water is now a bar cart staple, its initial purpose wasn’t enjoyment — it was to prevent and treat malaria. Quinine, which comes from the bark of the South American cinchona tree, was first used by the Indigenous Quechua people as a cure-all for stomach ailments; by the 1600s, Europeans had documented its fever-reducing properties. In the 1700s, Scottish doctor George Cleghorn discovered it could also effectively treat malaria. As the only known treatment for nearly 300 years, quinine’s bitter flavor was paired with water to create a “tonic,” and distributed to British soldiers stationed in India and other malaria-prone regions. Some historians believe soldiers began adding the medication to gin and other alcohols to make the bitter flavor more palatable, eventually creating the “gin and tonic” drink we know today. However, other researchers suggest it wasn’t until the 1860s that the classic drink emerged, served to victorious patrons at horse racing tracks in India.

The Chicago River flows backward.

In the second half of the 19th century, Chicago was one of the fastest-growing cities in the world. In 1870, it was home to 299,000 people, and by the century’s end, 1.7 million. But along with that population boom came unfortunate side effects, including waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. The problem was in large part that the city’s sewage flowed into the Chicago River, which in turn emptied into Lake Michigan — the source of the city’s drinking water. So Chicago turned to engineer Ellis S. Chesbrough, designer of the city’s sewer system, to solve the problem once and for all.

Initially, Chesbrough designed a 2-mile-long tunnel 60 feet below the bottom of Lake Michigan to draw less-polluted water from farther offshore. Unfortunately, all it took was a heavy rain for this far-flung water source to also become polluted, so Chesbrough eyed another solution. If the city’s eponymous river could just flow away from Lake Michigan and empty into the waterways leading to the Mississippi, Chicago’s water problem would be solved. The subcontinental divide just west of Chicago is what caused the river to flow toward the lake, so if the city dug a ditch lower than both the lake and the river through the divide, gravity would take it from there.

...continued on page 39



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Workers began the laborious process of reversing the Chicago River in 1892. After eight years of digging (and under cover of night due to mounting lawsuits from cities downstream), Chicago blew up the last dam on January 2, 1900. Chesbrough never saw the incredible feat of human engineering — he died in 1886 — but his ambitious plan saved the city, securing its prosperous future into the 20th century and beyond. Chicago is the windiest city in the U.S.A.

The first U.S. gold rush was started by a 12-year-old boy.

Although the 1848 California Gold Rush was the largest in American history, it wasn't the first. That distinction belongs in the state of North Carolina, where in 1799, Conrad Reed, the 12-year-old son of a Hessian Revolutionary War deserter named John Reed, found a 17-pound gold nugget in Little Meadow Creek outside Charlotte. At first — not knowing what his son had stumbled across — the elder Reed used the rock as a doorstep for his home's front door. It wasn't until 1802, when he took the rock to a local jeweler, that he began to grasp the enormity of his son's discovery (although he sold the nugget for far less than it was actually worth).

By 1803, Reed had established the first gold mining operation in the U.S. As local papers reported on his business, nearby farmers began hunting for gold on their own properties by searching shallow riverbeds, a practice known as “placer mining.” When these shallow-lying deposits dried up in the 1820s, companies ditched the gold pans and began excavating lode mines, which required many more workers. Until 1828, North Carolina was the only gold-producing state in the Union, and its gold rush reached its peak in the 1830s and 1840s, when the industry employed nearly 30,000 people. The state's gold-hued fortunes changed once the first reports of wealth out West arrived in the Carolinas, but Reed never saw the end of his state's gold-rush boom time, dying a rich man in 1845 with his mine raking in millions.

Humans can tell when someone is watching them.

“I feel like someone is watching me” is a classic horror film trope, but the idea also taps into a biological fact: Humans are good at sensing when someone is looking at them. While some label this gut feeling a kind of sixth sense, it's really a biological phenomenon known as gaze detection, caused by a complex neural network in our brain. This detection system rests largely in our peripheral vision; the sense dissipates quickly when someone turns only a few degrees away from us. Because some 10 regions of the brain are involved with human vision, and little is known about gaze detection generally, scientists haven't pinpointed what's controlling this seemingly uncanny ability — although researchers have detected a dedicated group of gaze-detecting neurons in macaque monkeys.





Gaze detection is particularly interesting in humans because our eyes are unlike any other in the animal kingdom. The area around the pupil, known as the sclera, is very prominent and white, which makes it easier to discern in what direction someone is looking. The overall theory as to why humans are so good at gaze detection boils down to the evolutionary advantage of cooperation. Simply put, humans are social creatures, and the detection of subtle eye movements helps us work with others while also helping us avoid potential threats. But because of the evolutionary importance of knowing when someone is looking at you, our brains tend to oversignal that someone is staring at us, when they're really not. So if you're ever feeling a bit paranoid, blame your brain.

Flamingos Can Sleep Standing On One Leg

Flamingos are some of the most striking birds on the planet. Their bright pink plumage is easy to spot in wetland habitats around the world, they eat upside down, and yes, they can fall asleep standing on one leg—a task that's impossible for most vertebrates. So how (and why) do flamingos pull off this impressive feat? For years, scientists believed it was because flamingos conserved heat by retracting their other leg into their body—similar to how a cat “loafs” to conserve warmth. However, this didn't quite square with most birds' physiology. So a study in 2017 went back to the proverbial drawing board, analyzed both dead and living flamingos, and discovered the answer has to do with some surprising physics.



Scientists placed juvenile flamingos on what amounted to a highly sensitive bathroom scale to analyze the minuscule muscle movements in their legs and feet. When the birds slept on one leg, swaying decreased sevenfold compared to when they were standing or grooming on two legs. Scientists also realized that flamingos can passively lock their knee, which is located close to their trunk (the visible joint we see is actually their ankle), and then stabilize their center of gravity over this leg. Doing so doesn't seem to require any conscious activity or muscle effort, as even dead flamingos were capable of doing it. The one-legged pose thus allows flamingos to expend less energy while they snooze—even if it looks a little unconventional. *By the way the Flamingo is not Florida's state bird; it is the Northern Mockingbird.*



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“65”	Mon. and Thurs	6:30PM.....	Jan Tremblay.....	#26
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|-------------------|---------------------------|
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| 2. United Kingdom | 8. Hubble Space Telescope |
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