



Villager



For you that are very observant, this is not this year's decorated clubhouse. This picture was taken in December 2012.

For many of us, December is the 'Christmas Season'. However, for millions, maybe billions of us, December has another special meaning. I did a little research on special holidays that are in December or almost in December and I found quite a few. The following is a list of some of them. I am not an expert on any of these celebrations and had to rely on Google for most of the information. If you would like to add to or change any of the information here, just email me and I will publish it in next month's Villager.

Have a happy holiday, regardless of the one you celebrate.

Baha'í

Nov 12 - Birth of Baha'u'llah

Bahá'u'lláh taught that humanity is one single race and that the age has come for its unification in a global society. He taught that "there is only one God, that all of the world's religions are from God, and that now is the time for humanity to recognize its oneness and unite." [3] His claim to divine revelation resulted in [persecution](#) and imprisonment by the [Persian](#) and [Ottoman](#) authorities, and his eventual 24-year confinement in the prison city of `Akka, [Palestine](#) (present-day [Israel](#)), where he died. He wrote [many religious works](#), most notably the *Kitáb-i-Aqdas*, the *Kitáb-i-Íqán* and [Hidden Words](#).

Buddhist

Dec 8 - Bodhi Day

Bodhi in Buddhism is the understanding possessed by a Buddha regarding [the true nature of things](#). It is traditionally translated into English with the word [enlightenment](#), although its literal meaning is closer to "awakening." The verbal root "budh" means to awaken.

Bodhi is presented in the Nikayas as knowledge of [the causal mechanism](#) by which beings [incarnate](#) into material form and experience [suffering](#). Although its most common usage is in the context of [Buddhism](#), the term [buddhi](#) is also used in other Indian philosophies and traditions.

Christian

Nov 29 - Advent Sunday

Advent Sunday is, for the Western Christian churches that use the term, the first day of the liturgical year and the start of the season of Advent.

Dec 8 - Feast of Immaculate Conception (Catholic)

The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. We celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8; nine months before is December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Dec 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning, December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

He was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared and within it stood a young Native American maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan Diego to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan Diego's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Diego to try to avoid the lady. The lady found Diego, nevertheless, assured him that his uncle would recover and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

When Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground and the bishop sank to his knees. On Juan Diego's tilma appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac. It was December 12, 1531.

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve (Western Churches)

Dec 25 - Christmas Day (Western Churches)

Hindu

Nov 11 - Diwali

Diwali is one of the biggest festival of Hindus, celebrated with great enthusiasm and happiness in India. The festival is celebrated for five continuous days, where the third days is celebrated as the main Diwali festival or 'Festival of lights'.

Different colorful varieties of fireworks are always associated with this festival. On this auspicious day, people light up diyas and candles all around their house. They perform Laxmi Puja in the evening and seek divine blessings of Goddess of Wealth. The festival of Diwali is never complete without exchange of gifts. People send for diwali to their near and dear ones.

Jan 14 - Makar Sankranti is a Hindu festival celebrated in almost all parts of India and Nepal in a myriad of cultural forms. It is a harvest festival.

Makar Sankranti marks the transition of the Sun into the zodiac sign of Makara rashi (Capricorn) on its celestial path. The day is also believed to mark the arrival of spring in India and is a traditional event. Makara Sankranti is a solar event making one of the few Indian festivals which fall on the same date in the Gregorian calendar every year: 14 January, with some exceptions when the festival is celebrated on 13 or 15 January.

Jain

Nov 11 - Diwali

See Hindu

Jewish

Dec 6 - Dec 14 - Hanukkah

Hanukkah (sometimes transliterated Chanukkah) is a Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and nights. It starts on the 25th of the Jewish month of Kislev, which coincides with late November-late December on the secular calendar.

In Hebrew, the word "hanukkah" means "dedication." The name reminds us that this holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks in 165 B.C.E.

Kwanzaa

/ˈkwɑːnzə/) is a week-long celebration held in the United States and in other nations of the Western African diaspora in the Americas. The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving.[1] Kwanzaa has seven core principles (Nguzo Saba). It was created by Maulana Karenga, and was first celebrated in 1996-1997

Pagan

Dec 22 - Winter Solstice (Yule)

As forms of [Neopaganism](#) can be quite different and have very different origins, these representations can vary considerably despite the shared name. Some celebrate in a way as close as possible to how they believe Ancient Germanic pagans observed the tradition, while others observe the holiday with rituals "assembled from different sources".^[15]

In Germanic Neopagan sects, Yule is celebrated with gatherings that often involve a meal and gift giving. Groups such as the [Asatru Folk Assembly](#) in the US recognize the celebration as lasting 12 days, beginning on the date of the [winter solstice](#).^[16]

In most forms of [Wicca](#), this holiday is celebrated at the [winter solstice](#) as the rebirth of the [Great horned hunter god](#),^[17] who is viewed as the newborn solstice sun. The method

Sikh

Nov 25 - Birthday of Guru Nanak

Guru Nanak Jayanti or GURPURAB is one of the most revered day observed by the Sikh community to glorify the tenets of Sikhism. Guru Nanak Jayanti commemorates the birth of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru. Both in the literal sense and In essence, GURPURAB means 'festival of the gurus'. The historic day is celebrated across the world by devout Sikhs with great fervor and collective spirit and effort, asserting the message of morality, hard work and truth inherent in the preachings of Guru Nanak. Owing to the fact that Guru Nanak enlightened the world with his profound teachings, the day is also known as 'Prakash Utsav'.

Shinto

Nov 23 - Niinamesei

Labor Thanksgiving Day (Niinamesei): This national holiday takes place in Japan and was originally meant as a harvest festival, allowing people to appreciate their harvest and have a chance to share in the joy with Kami.

HOA President



Paul's column will return next month.

Gardening with Deb



This is a reprint from November 2013

This year while everyone was out trick or treating, I was out worrying about my garden. Charlotte had a very early frost this year and unless your plants were covered you probably lost some of them due to the frost. If this happened to you; not to worry; there is still hope. Here's how to fix the problem. Cut off the dead leaves along with any dead vegetables. Be careful not to cut off any new growth. It's been mild enough that your plants will still produce.

Most cool weather plants will survive a frost if it's not too long and not a severe one. (your cool weather vegetables are your leafy greens, kale, cabbage greens, spinach etc.) They like the cool weather, hence the term cool weather vegetables. Also in that category are your root vegetables, since they grow mostly underneath the soil. (this includes beets, carrots, onions, garlic and squash. These are all second season vegetables, which are planted after the long hot summer.

The best thing you can do when expecting a frost is to cover everything. Depending on the size of your garden you can probably get by with just a sheet thrown over. Just remember to cover everything and to remove it in the morning. Even though it's cold outside your garden still needs sunshine and water.

My tale of woe this year is as follows. I usually use sheets to cover my garden. However I usually procrastinate since covering my garden it's a 2-man job. Inevitably I wind up doing it myself and miss covering everything; or I cover everything but forget to fasten the sheet down and it blows away. In the morning I usually have to prune around the frozen plants to remove any dead vegetation. This year I was going to be smart. I ordered some garden hoops. These are like an arc with the ends on each side that stick into the ground. You've probably seen them in garden centers. The way I figure it; anyway to make your life easier. I was very excited. The problem was they didn't arrive until after the frost. So much for planning. I didn't lose much since it was a mild frost. And the good news is that Mother Earth took things into her own hands again. Although they are warm weather vegetables my tomatoes survived as did my eggplant, and my peppers. Go figure?

For those of you that are wondering; I no longer have a rabbit problem. I think it must be too chilly for them or maybe they just gave up and went somewhere else. That being said the rabbit fence is still getting put up. Maybe this weekend?? Have a happy healthy Thanksgiving.

Travel Photography



Several years ago, Connie and I visited Seagrove North Carolina. It is a small town with primarily one industry, pottery. We returned again, for the first time, a few weeks ago.

Have you ever returned to a place that you had not visited for several years? Was it different? Did it seem smaller than it was your first time there? Was there more to do before?

I went to grade school in a small town in Kentucky. I visited it for the first time after about 30 years. Although I recognized some of the buildings and businesses, it was not the same. The town seemed smaller, the stores that I would frequent were no longer there and of course, the friends that I had there had grown up and moved away. I guess you can't go home again.

That brings me back to Seagrove. Our first visit there was shortly after we moved to Charlotte in 1994. Our memory, especially Connie's, was of a town with a main street lined with quaint shops selling pottery and other hand made items. That is still Seagrove today except we remember more stores, more variety, more town. The town has not changed but our memory of the town has.

However, if you are into pottery, Seagrove is the place to go. There is a lot or variety in their pottery and there are other homemade crafts. It is not too far for a day trip.

Henderson Properties

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Laurie Merriman



Matt Pryor

Meet the Board

President–Paul Greiner



Paul and his wife moved to Leacroft in September 2008 and plan to live here for many years to come. He has a BSBA in Production & Operations Management with minors in Finance & Accounting. Paul is an owner of an HOA management company however his firm does not manage Leacroft for many reasons but he brings his 14 years of expertise in Associations to the Board and the membership at large. He is a Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA), an Association Management Specialist (AMS) and a Professional Community Association Manager (PCAM). The PCAM designation is held by only ~2500 other people in the world who specialize in the Association

Management business. Prior to going in to business for himself Paul held positions in marketing and advertising fields where he oversaw large portions of the marketing budgets for many Fortune 500 companies and many smaller regional clients. In his free time he enjoys traveling with his wife and their two dogs, being outdoors in the woods somewhere and has even been known to jump out of a perfectly good airplane at 15,000 feet.



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Leacroft Small Businesses		
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If you need some help around the house; painters, plumbers, electricians, handyman...just check out the Leacroft List below

Leacroft HOA Links	
HOA forms and documents (ARC forms, bylaws, covenants)	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=93
Leacroft Contacts (Board members, committee chairs etc)	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=89
Leacroft List (List of service providers recommended by Leacroft residents)	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=1311
Villager Archives	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=123
CMPD Newsletter Archives	http://www.leacroft.org/?page_id=965



Steve Smith
Handyman
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Classified Ads	
These ads are free for Leacroft residents under 19 years old	
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Sarah Moore is available for babysitting or pet sitting. She is Red Cross-certified for babysitting. Sarah can be reached at 980-225-7733.	John Caffrey 704-307-0465 rake leaves, lawn mowing, pet setting
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