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Better Home Living

A newsletter that is both informative and fun!

FEBRUARY 2024

Hello and welcome to our newsletter!

FULL SNOW MOON

On February 24, we will witness the occurrence of February's Snow moon. It is referred to as the "snow moon" due to its appearance during the coldest time of the year. Interestingly, this year's snow moon will coincide with the moon being at its farthest distance from Earth, resulting in its smaller-than-usual appearance. This phenomenon is known as a "micromoon," which is the opposite of a "supermoon."

DID YOU KNOW:

Apples, peaches, and raspberries are all members of the rose family.

Humans have been performing dentistry since 7000 B.C., which makes dentists one of the oldest professions.

Your tonsils can partially grow back if there was tissue left behind during the removal process.

The hand and footprints in front of Los Angeles's Chinese Theater tradition started accidentally when silent film actress, Norma Talmadge stepped on wet cement.

You can now get a headstone with a QR code. Called "Living Headstones", they show pages with photos, video biographies, and comments from loved ones.

Kangaroos keep growing until they die.

There is a town in Indiana called Santa Claus.

Crows can remember the faces of individual humans. They can also hold a grudge.

There are more stars in space than there are grains of sand on every beach in the world.

Selfies now cause more deaths than shark attacks.

Pigeons have been trained by the U.S. Coast Guard to spot people lost at sea.

From: <https://parade.com/1019842/maryniles/weird-facts/>

FEBRUARY DATES

February is the only month to have a length of fewer than 30 days! Though it's usually 28 days, February is 29 days long in leap years such as 2020 and 2024.

February 2 - Groundhog Day

February 10 - Chinese New Year

February 12 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

February 13 - Mardi Gras

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 15 - Susan B. Anthony's birthday

February 19 - Presidents Day

February 29 - Leap Day

February 25 - St. Paul Winter Carnival

CHINESE NEW YEAR

We usher in the majestic Year of the Dragon, specifically the enchanting wood Dragon!

Some of the traditional customs during Chinese New Year are:

Family Reunion Dinner on New Years Eve: This meal is considered the most important of the year, where family members gather to enjoy a feast and celebrate together.

Visiting Relatives: Throughout the 15-day celebration, families visit the homes of their relatives to exchange greetings and well wishes.

Decorating: People decorate their homes with vibrant red lanterns, and paper cuttings. Red is believed to bring good luck and ward off evil spirits. They symbolize the arrival of prosperity and happiness.

Lion and Dragon Dances: Colorful lion and dragon dances are performed that are believed to bring good luck and drive away evil spirits.

Eating Traditional Foods: Some popular dishes include dumplings, fish, spring rolls, and sticky rice cakes. Each dish has symbolic meanings associated with luck, prosperity, and good fortune.

Lantern Festival: The 15-day celebration culminates with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the lunar month.

HOW DID VALENTINES DAY START?

Valentine's Day has a rich history that dates back to ancient Rome and Greece. The ancient Roman calendar called Lupercalia celebrated fertility, and Ancient Greeks observed a mid-winter celebration for the marriage of the god Zeus and the goddess Hera.

St. Valentine's Day was a feast day in the Catholic religion, added to the liturgical calendar around 500 AD. The day was commemorated for martyred saints named Valentine. The feast day was removed from the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar in 1969.

Over the years, Valentine's Day has had religious celebrations, ancient rituals, and a commercial holiday. Today, you can celebrate it however you want. Here are some fun facts about Valentine's Day:

- The average Valentine's Day gift giver spends nearly \$200 on Valentine's Day gifts and goodies.
- While most people send out nice messages for the holiday, Victorian-era folks sometimes used valentines to turn down a suitor, called a vinegar valentine.
- More than 250 million roses are produced for Valentine's Day—with red roses making up nearly two-thirds of that number.
- The color red and the heart shape first started showing up in medieval art during the 14th and 15th century.

St. Valentine's Day was a feast day in the Catholic religion, added to the liturValentine's Day is a day to celebrate love and affection. Whether you're single or in a relationship, it's a great opportunity to show your appreciation for the people you care about. So, go ahead and spread the love!

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>.

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day>.

<https://www.cnet.com/culture/valentines-day-2022-history-and-meaning/>.

<https://www.realsimple.com/holidays-entertaining/holidays/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day>.

CHOCOLATES AND VALENTINES DAY

The tradition of giving chocolate on Valentine's Day is a relatively recent development.

Richard Cadbury, a member of a British chocolate manufacturing family, is credited with creating the first Valentine's Day box of chocolates in the 19th century. The heart-shaped boxes were so popular that they quickly became a beloved gifting tradition for showing love.

While the exact reason for chocolate's association with Valentine's Day is unclear, it's possible that it's due to chocolate's reputed aphrodisiac qualities.

<https://www.history.com/news/valentines-day-chocolate-box-history-cadbury>.

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/valentines-day-facts>.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-chocolate-and-valentines-day-mated-life-180954228/>.

Here are a few examples of some other aphrodisiacs foods, although their effectiveness is still debated.

- Chili Peppers
- Strawberries
- Oysters
- Asparagus
- Figs
- Watermelon
- Honey
- Pomegranate
- Cucumbers

DID YOU KNOW CUPID BEGAN AS A GREEK GOD:

The chubby baby with wings and a bow and arrow that we call Cupid has been associated with Valentine's Day for centuries. However, before he was renamed Cupid, he was known to the ancient Greeks as Eros, the god of love. Eros, the son of Greek goddess Aphrodite, would use two sets of arrows—one for love and another for hate—to play with the emotions of his targets. It wasn't until stories of his mischief were told by Romans that he adopted the childlike appearance that we recognize today.

We're so honored that you chose Kristi Klean to help make your life a little easier and a little cleaner. As a thank you, we'd like to invite you to join our referral program. Here's How It Works:

For every new client you refer to us who books a cleaning service, you'll receive a \$25 credit after the referrals first clean.

SPECIAL FOR FEBRUARY: *And since it's almost Valentine's Day, we're doubling the love!* For every referral in February, you'll receive double the usual reward. **\$50!**

Just share Kristi Klean with your friends and family and ask them to mention your name when they book their first service. Earn your reward as soon as their first cleaning is complete!