OCTOBER 2026

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8

The HAMMOND COMPASS



A Letter From The Editor...

It's October 1st and I'm looking at my laptop time/date - 10/1/2026. Hmmm - isn't "octo" Latin for eight? How is October the tenth month???! I knew you'd want to know!

The early Roman calendar had only 10 months – March through December. Ah, so October was the eighth month (and named correctly). What happened during the 61 days that had no month or part of the calendar? Actually, nothing. This was a time of winter survival, maintenance, and waiting for the high priest to declare it was spring and time for the calendar to begin again –like hibernation! I am totally fine with a little of that.

The story goes on because Rome is growing and the two months off becomes a problem. King Numa Pompilius decides he's going to standardize the year to follow a 12-month *lunar* cycle of 355 days and he adds January and February to the end of the year. Not a bad idea but humans live by the *sun* cycle which is 365 days – meaning Numa's calendar was roughly 10 days too short. Not to worry, Numa invented a leap month called Mercedonius that popped into the calendar every two years – give or take. Unfortunately, no one really kept track and after many years the annual calendar was showing winter festivals in autumn.

In comes Julis Caesar. He is going to fix everything by creating a year that will last 445 days. This year was aptly named the "Year of Confusion". The year is 46BC. Caesar adds the usual leap month AND adds two new temporary months between November and December to get traditional festivals realigned with

Continued on the last page - - -

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LOCAL EVENTS

October 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 QiGong@The Blue Goose Studio 9am	7 VILLAGE BOARD MEETING 5pm	8	9	10 Community Supper 5:30pm HCS LANTERN PARADE 7PM HCS
11	12	13	14 H O P E MEETING 5pm TOWN BOARD MEETING 6:30pm Public Hearing 7pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 PLANNING BOARD MEETING 6:30pm	22	23	24 HUGs Halloween Sing a long 2-4pm Village Hall
25	26 Hunter's Moon	27	28	29 FOOD PANTRY 9-11am FOOD SENSE - PICK UP 1pm	30	31  Truck or Treat @ the Fire Hall

TOWN NEWS

FROM YOUR TOWN SUPERVISOR - RON BERTRAM

We are diligently working on next year's budget and are doing everything possible to keep any increases to a minimum given the current economic conditions.
At this time, it appears that we may exceed the allowable 2% tax levy cap this year due to several factors, including contractual cost-of-living increases under the Teamsters agreement, rising health insurance expenses, and uncertainties regarding the cost of heating fuel and diesel fuel for the upcoming season.
As always, the Town Board remains committed to minimizing any tax increase. We are proud to note that the Town has not exceeded the tax cap in the past 12 years.
As required by law, a public hearing on a potential tax cap override will be held at our next Town Board meeting. The tentative budget should be available shortly thereafter for any resident who wishes to review it.

FROM YOUR TOWN CLERK - PAM BURTON

The new state historical marker for the Hammond Old Town Hall and Opera House at 17 North Main Street was dedicated on September 9th. In the photo, L-R, Pam Burton, Pam Winchester, Ron Bertram, Donna Demick, & Corin Phalen



*Editor's note: See the **Hammond Historian page** for a fun challege in regards to the blue and yellow signs around town!*

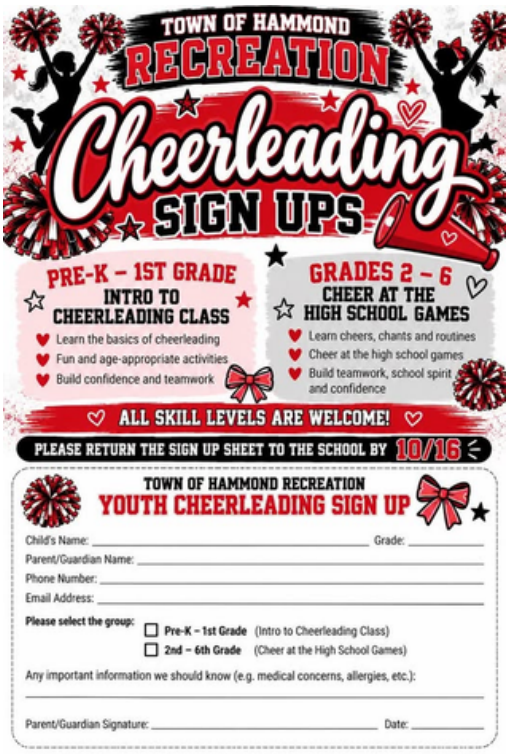
TOWN HALL ARTWORKS

Just planting the seed for all photographers - Currator, Pam Winchester is looking for photographs of HAMMOND for the next Town Hall art exhibit. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes awarded. This will be in conjunction with Hammonds 200th birthday next year.

TOWN NEWS

TOWN RECREATION DEPARTMENT

BETH LACEY - DIRECTOR





Soccer is wrapping up the first week of October! A huge thank you to all of the *coaches* for their time and dedication to the kids! Thank you to all the *high school kids* that helped out with teaching the smallest players how to play soccer as well as refereeing when needed.

Elementary Basketball through Hammond Central School is starting for 3-6.

Sign ups are going out for Town Recreation Cheerleading.

We will be doing Biddy Basketball for K-2 over the Winter.

Weekly schedules and sign up links can be found on FaceBook here.

Starting in October, we will be hosting movies for the kids outside as long as weather permits. More information on that will be provided on the Town of Hammond Recreation facebook page.



HAMMOND SCHOOL NEWS

HAMMOD CENTRAL SCHOOL PTSO SUPPER FOLLOWED BY A LANTERN PARADE





SEE ALSO PAGE 10 FOR DETAILS!

HOPE NEWS

UPDATE ON 17 N MAIN STREET - PAM BURTON

HOPE is excited to share that our own old town hall and opera house will be at the center of Clarkson University Professor Erik C. Backus's Civil Engineering Student studies this fall. Referencing Crawford and Stearn's building assessment report, the building's asbestos survey, and HOPE'S Long Range Development Survey for Hammond, the student reports will include reuse plans for the historical building and take into account the immediate area and 4-corners.
Stay tuned.

H.O.P.E
Hammond Opens Possibilites for Everyone

JOIN US!
HOPE meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the New Town Hall, 21 S. Main St., 5-6pm

FARMERS' & ARTISANS' MARKET

Updates

BROOKE STARK & LORI THISTLE

Our thirteenth year came to an end on September 9, with a little party for vendors and our musicians under the pavilion. It's always hard to say good-bye for another year, but we look forward to the restful months ahead before it's time to restart gardens and organize crafts.

The Hammond FAMM would like to send out a big thank-you to all of our amazing patrons who attended the Market this season. While our numbers were down a bit, we still had over 1,000 visitors, and most made purchases. The weather was not our friend this year! Nevertheless, we are grateful for the hardy vendors who weathered the storms (literally). We really hope to increase attendance of our local residents next year.

You have had a chance, through the Hammond Compass, to learn a bit about our vendors. Next issue, we'd like to spotlight our lovely musicians, all of whom added so much to the atmosphere for our shoppers and vendors alike. Thank you to all of you! And, as always, thanks are sent out to The Village of Hammond and GardenShare for your support. We couldn't do it without you!

HAMMOND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

TOWN OF HAMMOND BICENTENNIAL IN 2027

DONNA DEMICK

T W O H U N D R E D Y E A R S

In 2027, the Town of Hammond will celebrate its 200th anniversary! This page will be updated each month with committee news and requests for help. We are counting on everyone lending a hand in some way.

Message the HOPE FaceBook page or email hammondnyhope@gmail.com, message Donna at 315-528-4742, or email hammondhistorian@gmail.com.



VINTAGE CARS -

We are looking for vintage cars to be driven in the July Fireman's Field Day Parade. Please contact Pam Winchester at 315-590-2740

STORYTELLERS

The museum is looking for storytellers who can share memories of Hammond via video, audio or in writing. Please contact Donna Demick.

HAMMOND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A HUNT FOR HAMMOND HISTORICAL SIGNS

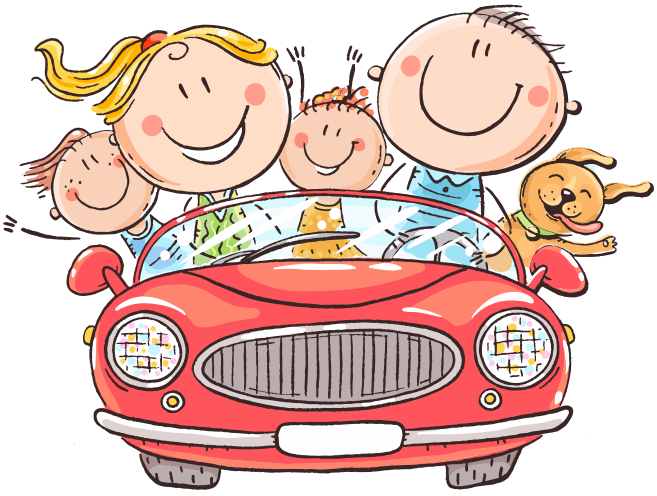
DONNA DEMICK, HISTORIAN

Have you ever really paid attention to any of the blue and yellow historical signs that are scattered around this area? Well, I have a challenge for you all, that just might result in a little reward. But first, I'd like to fill you in on some of the historic signs that have been placed in the Rossie and Hammond area since last year. We are very grateful for these signs, which were graciously granted by the William Pomeroy Foundation.

In 2025, a sign was installed near the old Rossie grist mill and foundries, titled "Early Mining in NY". To learn more about these historic buildings, watch the video, Dedication of Rossie Early Mining Sign. In the fall of last year, the Hammond Highway Department men put up a Pomeroy sign at the Rarick Cemetery in South Hammond. It notes that War of 1812 and Civil War soldiers were buried there.

On to 2026! On September 9th, we unveiled a historic sign for the old town hall in Hammond. Several people went for a tour afterward and got to see the stage, balcony and decorative ceiling that's been hiding above the dropped ceiling since 1963.

Coming up on October 3rd, 10 AM, at Riverside Cemetery in Rossie, a new patriot sign will be dedicated for a Revolutionary War soldier, Jonathan Church, who came from Vermont. And more signs are in the works for the future!



LET THE ROAD RALLY BEGIN! HOW MANY OF YOU WILL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?!

Finally, let's get back to that sign challenge! How many of the blue and yellow signs that you have been by a gazillion times have you actually read? Well, here's your challenge for the month of October. Do a little road trip with your family, by yourself, or take a friend along. Try to find all the signs, read them, and list the titles on your phone or on paper. You should be able to find at least 10 signs that are located on Route 37, Academy St., Triangle Road, Cemetery Road, Chippewa Bay & the Chippewa Bay Road, Oak Point, and the overlook on Route 12. Then, take a photo of your list of sign titles and text it to 315-528-4742 OR come to the museum to show the list to me. (Wed.10-4 or Sat. 9-1) If you come up with at least 10 sign titles, a Hammond Museum coffee mug will be awarded to one person per vehicle. Treats for any kids who participate!

HAMMOND FIRE & RESCUE



ARTS & MUSIC

The Iva Smith Gallery - The Yellow Barn

Word Lovers Unite!!!
An evening of shared poetry with host
Laurinda Lind Petersen

Friday, October 2, 2026 beginning at 6 p.m.



Poetry night in the yellow barn is a beautiful season's closing among friends old and new - a chance for word lovers to have their say! Grab a poem you especially love - one by another or one of your own, and bring it to share. There will be inspiring prompts provided by Laurie to do some of your own writing as well....

Iva Smith
Gallery of Fine Art

Poetry at The Yellow Barn

The Iva Smith Memorial Gallery of Fine Art
627 State Highway 37, Hammond, NY 13646
718.753.7947

50 years north country public radio

ARTS & MUSIC

OCTOBER SING ALONG -

The Hammond Ukulele Group invites you to a
Halloween Sing Along.
Saturday Oct 24 from 2-4pm
at the Village Hall on Main Street
Songs of the season will include:
The Adams Family - Spooky - Thriller - Werewoves of London - Bad Moon Rising - Ghost Riders In the Sky - Little Red Riding Hood - Love Potion #9 - Mad World - Monster Mash - She's Not There - Spooky - Hotel California - and others!

Snacks at intermission!
Hope to see you there!





HAMMOND TARTAN PROJECT

A joyful gathering of the tartan committee with Joan Timmerman resulted in the first cut of the new Hammond tartan. Joan will be designing and sewing smaller items using the tartan. The items will then be photographed and printed onto a brochure type order form. Stay tuned for further info.

ARTS & MUSIC

2026 LANTERN PARADE

PAM WINCHESTER



This October, you and your family have the opportunity to participate in a community lantern parade. Students in Mrs. LaAbbe's grade 5,8 and high school art classes have had a unique experience learning how to make lanterns. Artist, Pam Winchester, guided them in creating lanterns out of found materials. In order to celebrate their sculptures in a festive manner, Ms Sherman has recruited a student percussion group to march alongside the art classes in a parade on the school's walking trail.

This free parade will be held at 7pm after a delicious soup dinner at the school on October 10, with a rain date of October 11. The soup supper will be hosted by the PTSO in the cafeteria from 5:30-6:30. It will cost $5 a person:all you can eat. Children 5 and under are free. Vegetables are being donated by the Circle G Farm. Breads will be baked by local bakers.

At 6:30 the students will be joined by other community members with lanterns, and the lighting of the lanterns will begin. The free parade begins at 7pm. If you and your family or friends would like to make lanterns at home, you may also join the parade. It will be on the new walking trail behind the school.

An amazing lantern parade was held in Oak Point in 2021. There is a video about it on YouTube. Just Google; Oak Point Lantern Parade 2021 (or click on the link below). It was organized by Lisa Sarfaty. Sadly, Lisa has recently passed. This year's Community Lantern Parade will be dedicated to her. The theme of the 2026 lantern parade is- ***A Treasure Hunt- shining a light on things we love***. Please try to honor a person, activity, place or thing that you love on your lanterns.

You may also watch the parade and help us celebrate. This Community Lantern Parade - A Treasure Hunt- Shining light on things we love is made possible with funding from the regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and administered by the St. Lawrence County Arts Council.

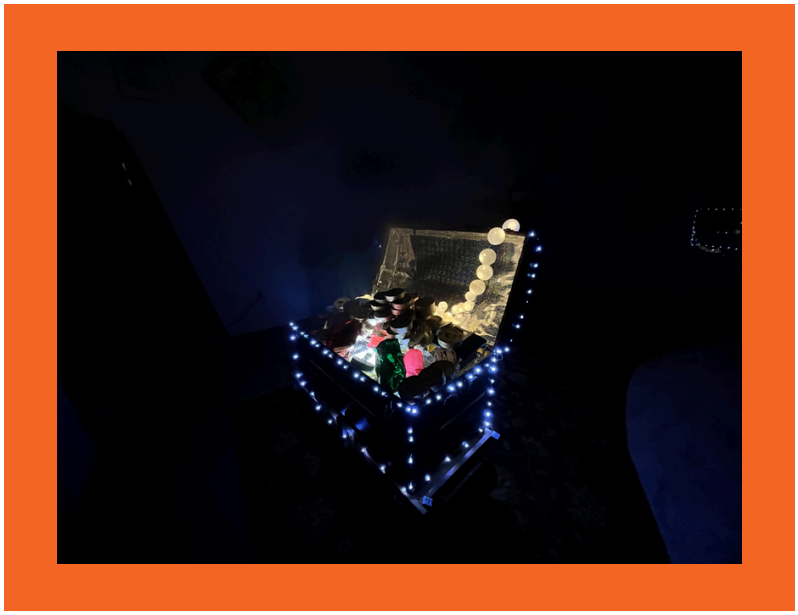
HERE IS A LINK TO ONE OF THE 2021 OAK POINT LANTERN PARADE VIDEOS

ARTS & MUSIC

2026 LANTERN PARADE PREPARATIONS



Community Members working on lanterns



Our new Treasure chest lantern



Sue Volkmar painting jewels



Lynne Sweet and Ruth Widrig create a super-sized surprise lantern!

HEALTH & FITNESS

The Wellness Thread



RUTH WIDRIG

The Long Exhale

October is the month when the world begins to tuck itself in. Gardens offer their final gifts. Herbs dry in bundles. Jars cool on counters. The light thins and the body instinctively gathers itself inward. It is a season of preserving what nourishes us and returning what no longer serves to the earth. A month of preserving, releasing, and settling into the long exhale of autumn.

The Four-Jar Ritual

This month, we honor both sides of the season: what we keep for winter, and what we let go with kindness. You may place four empty canning jars on your counter, windowsill, or entry table - somewhere you pass often, somewhere the season can speak to you. Now, label them: Wisdom, Gratitude, Joy and Release/Compost. Throughout October, slip small handwritten notes into each jar - tiny preserves of your inner harvest. You can write your notes on whatever feels most connected to your home and land: small slips of paper, bay leaves (long used for wishes, prayers, and release) or fallen leaves from your yard or favorite walking path. Using leaves brings the ritual closer to the earth - each offering already part of the cycle of letting go.

As you move through this month, reflect and write:
Wisdom - Moments that taught you something. Insights that arrived quietly. Lessons gathered from the year.
Gratitude - Warmth, kindness, small blessings. Anything that softened your heart.
Joy - Delight, laughter, beauty. Even the smallest flicker counts.
Release/Compost - Habits that no longer serve. Thought patterns that feel heavy. Clutter, tension, obligations ready to return to the earth.
By the end of the month, your jars become a pantry of the inner world –nourishment for the colder days ahead.

End-of-Month Ritual: Returning the Release Jar to the Earth

On the final weekend of October, take the notes from your Release/Compost jar and offer them back to the earth. You may burn them in your woodstove, place them in a small outdoor ritual fire or bury them gently in the garden. As the paper or leaves turn to ash or soil, imagine those old patterns becoming compost - transformed into future nourishment, returned to the cycle with kindness. This ritual completes the arc of the month: preserve what warms you, release what weighs you down, transform what is ready to change.

HEALTH & FITNESS

The Wellness Thread - continued

October is the long exhale of the year. It is the breath that loosens what's tight and the pause before winter's deeper stillness. The trees show us how to let go without fear. The wind shows us how to soften. The season teaches us how to trust the cycle. Let your breath mirror the month.

Practice: The Long Exhale Breath

Inhale slowly through the nose. Exhale longer than the inhale - the soft, steady release. Let the breath carry what the body no longer needs. Add an aroma to this practice, maybe holding a warm steaming mug and breathing in the essence, breathing in the now.

Medicinal Hot Cocoa: a warm, comforting treat with ashwagandha that offers restorative benefits - nourishing the bone layer and strengthening the immune system.

2 cups plant based, or cow's milk
1 tbsp maple syrup
1 tsp ashwagandha
¼ cup cacao powder
1 tsp cinnamon or 2 cinnamon sticks
2 servings freshly grated nutmeg

Warm milk. Add sweetener and cacao. Whisk briskly until steamy. Remove from heat. Whisk in cinnamon and ashwagandha. Grate fresh nutmeg on top for added smiles.

Closing Blessing

May your jars fill slowly and sweetly with wisdom gathered from quiet moments, gratitude that steadies the heart, and joy that glimmers even on ordinary days.

May your Release jar grow lighter as the month goes on, holding only what is ready to return to the earth. Liberations written on paper, bay leaves, or the fallen leaves that already know how to let go.

May the final fire, whether in your woodstove or under the open sky, transform those offerings into ash, into compost, into future nourishment.

And for those of us who live between two homes, two landscapes, two beloved communities may this ritual soften the leaving and the returning. May it remind us that we are allowed to belong in more than one place, to be held by more than one circle, to carry love in both directions without losing ourselves.

May the community we step away from be wrapped in peace and safety in the days ahead: their homes warm, their hearts steady, their paths protected. May they feel our gratitude for the season shared, and may they be blessed as we journey toward our other home.

May October's long exhale guide your steps gently warmed by what you've preserved, freed by what you've let go, and steadied by the knowing that home can be more than one place, and your heart is wide enough for all of it.

GROUPS & CLUBS

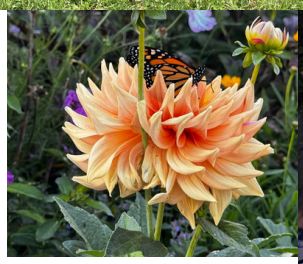
GARDEN CLUB - NANCY MISENKO

It is autumn in Hammond so the wagon is all decked out . We thank Brooke Stark and Lori Thistle for adding the fun decorations surrounding the mums! And the HCS elementary children have once again brought their Monarch Butterflies for release at the pollinator garden on this beautiful day. A few of the students even became Monarchs themselves in front of our mural. They really look like butterflies ready for flight !









2ND ANNUAL DEATH CAFE' - LIZ SCARLET

Last November 10 people were adventurous and curious enough to try something new. Inspired by Lisa Sarfaty's interest in Death Cafe's, Liz Scarlett hosted the first Death Cafe' in Hammond in the dining room at the Hammond Presbyterian Church. As gloomy as the words Death Cafe' sound, there were some smiles and laughter throughout the one and a half hours.

WHAT IT IS: Over refreshments, participants are invited to sit together and openly talk about death and share their experiences, if they wish. There are a series of prompt questions to stimulate conversation. One example is,"How old were you when you realized human beings and animals die?" You do not need to share unless you wish to. Confidentiality and respect for other people's views are expected.

WHAT IT IS NOT: It is not a lecture, a grief support group, or grief counseling. It does not support any particular belief system about what happens after there is no longer a physical form.

WHEN: Monday, November 9, 2026 7-8:30pm

WHERE: Hammond Presbyterian Church - 215 St. Lawrence Ave. Hammond, NY 13646

Questions &/or RSVP: Text or call Liz Scarlett 315 276 4885

Dessert and beverages will be served.

On the evaluation sheets of last year's Death Cafe' participants, every person said that they would recommend the experience to a friend.

GROUPS & CLUBS

HAMMOND FOOD PANTRY

DAN IPSEN

The Hammond Food Pantry (HFP) is proud to serve the communities of Brier Hill, Hammond, Macomb, Morristown and Rossi.

As an emergency food pantry, HFP supplements SNAP by providing 15 nutritious meals per month for each family member served. We also emphasize a client choice grocery store-like experience that balances each of the major food groups. In September we served 46 families and 122 individuals of all ages.
We want to express our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who help during pantry hours, as well as those who just painted the building and installed a new ramp with safety treads. Special thanks to the H.O.P.E. Committee members who helped us complete the painting project in just one day!

Our next distribution date is Thursday October 29 th from 9 to 11 am at the Hammond Fire Hall. Food, financial or volunteer hour donations are always appreciated. If you know of other families in need, please don't hesitate to refer them to our pantry.



GROUPS & CLUBS

HAMMOND'S 1ST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES

This December, Hammond will host it's first Festival of Trees at the Village Hall! Any business, school group, team, club, organization, family or individual can participate. Trees will be set up on Thursday, December 3rd from noon - 8pm. If you are interested, please read and complete the application on the next page and email it to hammondcompass@gmail.com. Note that it is time sensitive.

Award Certificates will be given to the winning trees in these categories: People's Choice - Best Use of Theme - Most Tradtional - Most Unique - Most Elegant - Best Use of Natural Materials. Any person visiting the Festival can complete a ballot sheet and return it to the front desk. Votes will be tallied on Dec 12th.

Each year there will be a Community Tree - decorated by YOU. Details will be at the front desk when you arrive.

The Festival of Trees is free but donations are gratefully accepted to help defray costs. There will be a donation box at the front desk.

Festival hours will be:

Friday Dec 4th - 4pm - 7pm
Saturday Dec 5th - 12 - 5pm
Sunday Dec 6th - 4pm - 7pm ***
Thursday Dec 10th - 4pm - 7pm
Friday Dec 11th - 4pm - 7pm
Saturday Dec 12th - 12-5pm
Sunday Dec 13th - 12-5pm

We will need lots of voluteers to help sign people in and lead 'tours'. If you are interested, please let Jamie Ipsen know 518-369-8211.

*** the Memory Tree Lighting w/student singers and refreshments will take place from 6-7pm. All are welcome!

2026 FESTIVAL OF TREES APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the form below to apply for participation.

Festival of Trees
Hammond, NY - 2026

Contact Name: _____

Organization/Team: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Theme For Tree: _____

Height Of Tree: _____

Rules for Participation:

- Registration is first come first serve and will close once all slots have been filled or by November 27th, whichever comes first. All interested participants must complete this application and email it to: hammondcompass@gmail.com
- All trees will be set up Thursday December 3rd from 11am - 8pm at the VIllage Hall on Main Street. Your tree should be set up by you and your team. Each tree must be a 4-8ft artifical tree with LED lights and a topper. All lights must be connected into a single plug. Trees must be free standing in a secure stand. All lights and decorations must be firmly attached.
- Trees can be set up and decorated in any style that represents you or your organization. Visitors will be voting in several categories for their favorites so be creative!
- The Festival will be open to the public December 4, 5, 6 (with the Memory Tree Lighting on the 6th) and also December 10, 11, 12 & 13. While there will be 'staff' in the building, we cannot be responsible for lost, stolen or broken items. All trees must be taken down December 13th.
- You may list your tree as "For Sale". 25% of your sale will go to the FOT.

GROUPS & CLUBS

LET'S GET LIT - BOOK CLUB

BETH LACEY

Our group meets at the end of each month to discuss books, life, and participate in fun activities.



New members are always welcome! For updates and event locations, please join our Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1Hxdvhgkkw .

The book for October is "The Witch" by Freida McFadden

HUMOR & FUN

DID YOU KNOW?

John McIntosh was a Scottish-Canadian farmer who discovered the first McIntosh apple tree by accident in 1811 while clearing brush on his farm in Dundela, Ontario. John McIntosh found about twenty wild apple saplings. He dug them up and moved them closer to his house. Goats, tools, or bad luck killed all but one of the tiny trees. John refused to give up on the lone survivor.



The single surviving tree grew up and produced bright red, tart, and juicy apples unlike anything anyone had tasted. The family loved the apples so much they tried planting the seeds to grow more trees. Unfortunately, apple seeds do not grow true to the parent tree. Every single seed grew weird, sour, completely different, and mostly terrible apples. For over twenty years, they had just one good tree. Finally, in 1835, a traveling hired helper taught John and his son Allan the secret art of grafting. Every single McIntosh apple in the world today is a cloned descendant of that one stubborn survivor!

from Chatgpt and Chris Agro's FB Post

RECIPES

Quick Hearty Soup for Fall

NANCY MISENKO

One day I made this soup with what I had on hand, and have used this recipe often since. You can adjust it anyway you want.



1 small onion diced
1 stalk of celery diced
1 lb. ground turkey (or hamburger)
2-3 boxes (32 oz.) beef broth (or chicken)
1 bag (16 oz)frozen mixed veggies *
Fresh spinach or kale (optional) chopped
1/2 cup (or more) uncooked orzo
Salt and pepper to taste

* I have also added fresh veggies from the garden when available .

Cook onion and celery with ground turkey or hamburger until the meat is done . Add broth and frozen veggies and /or fresh veggies and orzo . Bring to boil uncovered for about 10 minutes. Add more broth if needed . Add spinach and/kale . Cook for a few minutes . Add salt and pepper to taste.
Serve with crusty bread.

Glazed Meatloaf

DENISE PITCHER



Ingredients:

- 3 slices bread
- ⅔ cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 lbs ground beef
- 2 tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- ⅔ c chopped onion
- ⅔ c shredded carrot
- 1 ½ c shredded cheddar cheeze

Glaze:

- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 1 Tbs mustard

Directions: Preheat oven to 350°. Cut bread into cubes and add to milk. Add eggs to ground beef. Add salt and pepper and mix well. Add bread and milk and remaining ingredients. Shape meat mixture into a mound in a 13x9 inch dish. Bake for 1 hour. Prepare glaze and pour over meat loaf. Bake 15 minutes longer.

NEARBY









PUNKIN CHUNKIN

October 17
DOWNTOWN CLAYTON



CLICK HERE TO SEE A VIDEO

- Farmer's Market 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM along Riverside Drive
- BBQ: 11:00 AM – Until gone
- Youth Chunkin': 11:00 AM - Frink Park
- Adult Chunkin' Competition: Starts at 1:00 PM - Frink Park
- BBQ Contest Tasting: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Free Shuttles: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM (running between Cerow Recreation Park Arena, Guardino Elementary School, and downtown)

A Letter From The Editor...

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

their proper seasons. Waiting for Christmas must have seemed impossible – oh wait, the first Christmas hadn't happened yet! January 1st 45BC the Julian calendar began. No more leap month. Ten extra days were assigned among the existing months, and a leap day was added every four years to account for the extra quarter of a day it takes Earth to orbit the sun. Great!

Well almost. Caesar's calendar was very slightly too long – 11 minutes each year. Really? That made a difference? Over many many years, yes! Pope Gregory XIII realizes that Easter is drifting towards wintertime because the spring equinox (which determines the date of Easter) has shifted from March 21 to March 11. He decides to make a major change in 1582 to address this problem. He deletes ten days from the calendar – just like that. People went to bed on Thursday, October 5th, 1582 and woke up on Friday, October 15, 1582. I'm astounded to learn this! What would it be like to lose 10 days? My niece lost one day when she moved to Australia, but 10?? Pope Gregory also adjusted the leap year math. He concluded that century years would not be leap years unless they are perfectly divided by 400! Mark your calendar, 2100 will NOT be a leap year. The Gregorian calendar is so accurate that it takes 3,200 years to drift one day.

There you have it. I must say I'm glad they got it all in order so we can live in harmony with the natural world and with the customs/traditions we know. But I have to admit, there's something appealing about the ancient Romans simply leaving part of winter off the calendar altogether. A season dedicated to waiting, surviving, and quietly preparing for spring sounds rather enlightened. As October begins and the days grow shorter, I believe we could all use a little more time for hibernation between the rushes of life. Eighth month or tenth month enjoy every day of October! Carpe Diem indeed!

Jamie Ipsen