

What’s Up, Doc?

On April 30, 1938, Warner Bros. released a new Looney Tunes cartoon featuring Porky Pig as a hapless hunter trying to unsuccessfully bag a humorously hyperactive rabbit named Happy. How could audiences know that this rabbit would evolve into Bugs Bunny, one of the most recognizable cartoon characters of all time?



The rabbit in *Porky’s Hare Hunt* bore little resemblance to the Bugs Bunny we all know and love today. This white rabbit wore no gloves, lacked Bugs’ recognizable voice, and did not eat a single carrot! Nevertheless, the rabbit was voiced by Mel Blanc, the future voice of Bugs Bunny, and the short was directed by Ben “Bugs” Hardaway, for whom Bugs Bunny was later named. It would be two years before Bugs made his official debut in *A Wild Hare*. When a redesigned rabbit was requested for the short, Bob Givens went to work and sketched a rabbit based on a Bugs Hardaway design labeled “Bugs Bunny.” The name stuck. When audiences got their first glimpse at the new and improved rabbit, the character stuck, too. The Bugs Bunny featured in *A Wild Hare* already displayed many of the Bugs Bunny trademarks we have come to love. When staring down the barrel of Elmer Fudd’s shotgun, Bugs first utters his catchphrase “What’s up, Doc?” in a Brooklyn-esque accent. The phrase was added by the cartoon’s director, Tex Avery, who had heard the expression a thousand times in his native Texas. Avery figured it a throwaway line and was more surprised than anybody when it left audiences rolling with laughter. As for Bugs’ obsession with munching carrots, this was a habit “borrowed” from Clark Gable’s character in the 1934 movie *It Happened One Night*. In one scene, Gable stands by a fence spouting advice to Claudette Colbert while chewing a carrot and talking with his mouth full. The scene was so famous at the time that audiences immediately got Bugs’ imitation, and it earned the bunny instant panache. His popularity would endure for over 70 years and he would remain Warner Bros.’ most popular and recognizable mascot.

April Birthdays

In astrology, those born from April 1–19 are Rams of Aries, the first sign of the zodiac. Rams are unafraid to forge ahead with passion, zeal, and confidence. Full of optimism and hope, they are both eager to get the job done and unafraid to confront problems head-on. Those born from April 20–30 are Bulls of Taurus. While Taureans enjoy the comforts of luxury, they are unafraid of hard work and dedicate themselves to the tasks at hand. Their steadfast nature makes them reliable.

Claire Massingill	April 12th
Helene Allbritton	April 18th
Cliff Ming	April 22nd
Nancy Padgett	April 25th
Alberta Ballard	April 27 th

The Almighty Dollar



The U.S. dollar is one of the strongest and most traded currencies on the planet, and its symbol \$ is instantly recognizable. It was invented by accident by Oliver Pollack on April 1, 1778. Pollack was an Irish merchant living in New Orleans when the Revolutionary War began. War was expensive. As a British colony in revolt, America could not use British currency, so the Spanish peso became the preferred method of payment. Luckily for Pollack, he had built his fortune in Spanish pesos through illegal trading in the Spanish Caribbean. Pollock lent the Americans 300,000 Spanish pesos, equivalent to one billion of today’s dollars, and kept detailed records of his transactions. In a ledger dated April 1, 1778, Pollack scribbled “ps,” short for Spanish peso, in a way that looked like the dollar sign \$. In 1797, founding Father Robert Morris adopted the strange symbol for America’s new currency.

Winding Commons

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Deanna’s Download

The weather has finally realized that it’s springtime and it’s warming up. I love seeing the residents on their patios or visiting with their families outside near the pond. Remember, we also have that great outdoor space with the barbecue that you can use with your family and friends.

The re-opening of the dining room has been very well received. It’s great to see all of the smiling residents enjoying each other’s company. I’m receiving great reviews about food and our new Chef, Kevin Casey. He has many years working in this industry, and it shows.

Check your calendars...we are bringing back one of your favorite games...Horse Racing. Barbara really knows how to party and make that lots of fun. Don’t forget to call the office to sign up and join us.

For all the crafters...I’m going to have another Fused Glass class. This time we are going to be making a springtime piece of art for your refrigerator. It will be a fused glass magnet. If you love crafts, you may love this.



Wishing you all a happy and healthy spring!

An Olympian Task

On April 6, 1896, the first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens, Greece, nearly 1,500 years after they had been banned by the Roman



Emperor Theodosius I. The ancient games were a tribute to the Greek god Zeus. Theodosius, a Christian ruler, abolished the games as part of his campaign against paganism. It wasn't until 1894 that the Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin suggested reviving the competition. The 79 delegates in attendance unanimously approved the proposal, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was formed.

What drove De Coubertin to revive the lost tradition of the Olympic Games? In 1890, he paid a visit to the Wenlock Olympian Society, organizers of the annual Wenlock Olympian Games, held in Shropshire, England. These games were spearheaded by local doctor William Penny Brookes, a man who believed that sports and physical competition were as necessary for one's self-improvement as morality and education. Brookes organized the first Wenlock Olympian Games in 1850 as a mixture of athletics (such as running, hurdles, quoits, football, and bicycle racing on penny farthings) and traditional country games like blindfolded wheelbarrow races and even an "Old Women's Race" where the senior participants could win a pound of tea. Perhaps the most important aspect of the games was their egalitarianism. Aristocrats and working classes alike were invited to participate, for Brookes keenly felt that athletics and friendly competition could improve the entire town and community.

De Coubertin was deeply inspired by what Brookes had accomplished in Shropshire, and he modeled the IOC after Brookes' Wenlock Olympian Society. Although those very first Olympic Games in Athens featured 280 athletes from 13 nations, the games lacked popular support. Not until 1924 were the first truly successful Summer Olympics held in Paris. After the first Winter Olympics were held later that year, De Coubertin felt his work was finally done, and he retired as IOC president in 1925.

Unnatural History

If ever there was a day to believe in magic and hope for the impossible, it is April 9, Unicorn Day. Unicorns have not entered our collective imagination from myth or legend but from natural history. Various ancient Greek historians recorded the existence of unicorns. The Indus Valley Civilization emblazoned the unicorn on official seals, and a unique animal known as a *re'em*, which many believe to be a unicorn, is even mentioned in the Bible. Even Leonardo da Vinci mentioned them in his famed notebooks. Modern-day scientists may have something in common with these scientists of centuries past. Researchers have discovered evidence of a giant hairy rhino that roamed the grasslands of Eurasia as recently as 39,000 years ago. This Ice Age relic survived long enough to live alongside humans. Scientists speculate that this "Siberian unicorn" might very well have been the origin of many unicorn myths that pervaded so many ancient cultures.

Culinary Corner

Welcome Kevin Casey, Director of Dining Services and Executive Chef of Morrison. Kevin has been in the hospitality industry for 30 years. Most of his experience ranges from private country clubs, hotels, casinos, and fine dining. He also lived in Switzerland for 15 years and owned a 3-star hotel in the village of Leukerbad, in the Alps. He's currently living in the Sacramento area with his two sons, Dylan and Colin.

Kevin is an outdoor enthusiast who loves to fish and spend time at the ocean with his family. Kevin is very excited to be here at Winding Commons and looks forward to meeting everyone soon.

Bon Appetit!

Activities Corner by Barbara

Welcome to Spring!!

Along with the newness of the season, we are happy to announce the addition of new activities to the monthly calendar for you to enjoy!

-Kickball (taking the place of Volleyball) will start **Monday April 6th at 2:30pm in the Exercise Room.**

-Ring Toss will be played every other **Monday beginning April 12th at 2:30pm.**

Indoor Golf is currently played **every other Tuesday.**

-Bean Bag Baseball is returning as Bean Bag Toss and will be **played every other Tuesday beginning April 13th in the Exercise Room.**

Along with the newly added activities be sure and mark your calendars for **Thursday April 15th-Derby Days (Horse Racing) is back!!**

Please remember social distancing and wearing masks along with signing up for activities remain in effect. We are limited to the number of residents participating in each activity due to covid restrictions. Therefore, it is necessary that we do not exceed our numbers and we ask that you call the office to reserve a seat for each activity.

An exception will be made for Horse Racing. Chairs will be spaced 6-feet apart and we ask that you remain in your chair once you arrive. Plan to join us for a fun afternoon. YOU could be the winner of one of the three \$25.00 dollar gift cards that will be given out that afternoon! After a very challenging year we are excited about being able to move forward somewhat with the activity program within our community and hope you are ready to play and visit with others.

Happy spring!!

Barbara Higley
Activities Director

A Poem Like a Secret

April is Poetry Month, which gives us 30 days to appreciate poems and the creative minds that give them to us. For some, poetry is as necessary to life as breathing. Poems are unique expressions of thoughts and feelings that inspire epiphanies large and small. For others, poetry remains inaccessible and difficult to understand. You can almost hear the desperate cries of "30 days?!" Thirty days' worth of the stuff is torture for some, so for those in need of a smaller dose, April 29 is Poem in Your Pocket Day. On this day, choose any poem you like—long or short, modern or old-timey, humorous, or serious, simple, or complicated—and carry it in your pocket. Read it to yourself throughout the day or whenever the feeling strikes. Contemplate it. Puzzle over it. Question it. Share it with others if you like. Or keep it to yourself, like a secret. No one has to know that you have a poem stashed away in your pocket. Above all else, enjoy it.

Marketing Minutes by Hilary

First and foremost, I would like to have you help me welcome our newest residents Kathy Marron #140 and Arlene Welsh #115 to the community. I look forward to having many more new residents move into the community in the next few months.

Thank you again for always being so welcoming when you see me with prospects. It really means a lot to me and it is a great way to see that you enjoy living here. If you have a friend that could benefit from moving into Senior Living, please let them know we are able to tour and have great specials going on right now. Also make sure they mention your name for the \$1,000 resident referral. Have a great month and make sure you get out and enjoy this beautiful weather and get some vitamin D & sunshine.

Hilary