

Friends make the best neighbors.

Refer a friend to Prairie Hills and receive \$1,000 off your rent. Speak with Chrissy for details.



REMINDER: In the Activity Room, we have a wonderful selection of books from the Camanche Public Library. Remember that you must return them when you are finished reading them. There will be tickets in the book, please sign it and leave it on Becky’s desk. We really appreciate the CPL for their lending library.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mark N – 8th

Sandy M- 16th

Alice F-30th

There will be a sign-up sheet on the front table for shopping trips. Also look for one for a trip to see a play on the Showboat or Timberlake playhouse

Happenings at the Hills



Celebrating May

Personal History Month

Global Health and Fitness Month

World Laughter Day
May 1

148th Kentucky Derby
May 7

Mother’s Day (U.S.)
May 8

Memorial Day (U.S.)
May 30

Staff’s Birthday
Brenda-14th
Belinda- 25th

Welcome Jim Hass

An Inventive Month

May is Inventors Month, a good time to consider where we would be without the ingenuity of inventors. Our everyday life is filled with innovative products. Thanks to internet connectivity, we can speak to smart assistants that both turn on our coffee makers and dial our loved ones for a video chat. In many ways, it seems as if the future is already here, but there are plenty more mindboggling innovations just over the horizon.

One of the hottest technological buzzwords of the moment is *metaverse*. What is the metaverse? It is an alternate online virtual world. Using elements of virtual reality and augmented reality, people will use digital avatars to “live” in an online environment where they can interact, communicate, work, and play. Imagine going on a virtual trip to a faraway country with some friends, or attending a virtual meeting in a digital boardroom with colleagues from all around the country. You can even visit digital clothing stores to buy expensive new clothes for your virtual self. These are just small examples of the burgeoning metaverse.

One arena of invention we often forget about is food. In a fast-growing world with limited food resources, finding new ways of feeding the population is necessary. It is becoming more common for food to be grown in a lab. Steaks have already been grown cell-by-cell. Scientists are also improving methods of replicating milk, ice cream, cheese, and eggs. With the dairy industry responsible for more carbon emissions than air travel and shipping combined, these innovations offer a green alternative.

Concrete is the second-most-consumed material on Earth after water. Scientists have invented a living concrete made of sand, gel, and bacteria. They envision an environmentally friendly concrete that can heal its own cracks, absorb dangerous toxins from the air, and glow on command. While your vision of the future might be filled with flying cars and vacations to outer space, a more accurate version might be one filled with lab-grown food, living buildings, and an expansive virtual world.



Animal Attraction



The first week of May is Pet Week, a week for humans to shower their animal companions with love and attention. Such a celebration of the human-animal bond might sound strange to those who do not have or want a pet, but some scientists argue that keeping a pet is an intrinsic part of human nature. Plenty of headlines tout the health benefits of pet ownership, but scientists suggest that our real attraction to animals might be a deep genetic predisposition for social grooming. Social grooming, the physical combing of hair, was one of the first and most powerful forms of social bonding. Petting animals stimulates the release of powerful “love hormones” such as oxytocin. In fact, studies show that some animal lovers possess a genetic variation that produces more oxytocin, making them even more likely to feel bonded to others, including pets.



Motherhood: Priceless



How will you show Mom that you care on this Mother's Day, May 8? In its early days, Mother's Day was celebrated by attending church and sending mom a handwritten letter. Today, Mother's Day is a \$28 billion industry. As well it should be! After all, if we were to pay Mom for the various tasks she performs, that salary would be over \$116,000 a year. The least we can do is shower her with gifts! Mothers aren't the only ones who look forward to the holiday. It is the busiest day of the year for restaurants, with 80 million people dining out. Jewelry stores make out big, too. Shoppers spend \$5 billion on new bling for Mom. When Mother's Day began in 1914, the floral industry declared that carnations were the best way to honor mothers: red carnations for moms still living, and white for those who had passed. Today, the tradition of gifting flowers lives on. Mother's Day is the number one day for floral sales, which total \$2.66 billion.

April was filled with so much fun. From easter egg hunts to cards and crafts.

