

THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

"Summer has a flavor like no other. Always fresh and simmered in sunshine."

~ Oprah Winfrey



Tree of the Month – Cherry

Cherry trees produce the wonderful fruit that fills many a summer pie. Many types of cherry trees originated in Asia. They are common in Japan, where they have been cultivated for centuries. Cherry trees are also native to China and other parts of western Asia. They were likely brought to Europe by birds. Some varieties, like the black cherry, pin cherry, and chokecherry, are native to North America. Japanese cherry trees were given to the United States by Japan as a gift of friendship in 1912. These famous trees were planted in Washington,



D.C., and tourists still travel to America's capital to see them as they bloom in bright pink and white each spring. Macon, Georgia, which boasts over 300,000 Yoshino cherry trees, is known as the world's cherry-blossom capital. The delicious, sweet-tart fruit is in peak season from May to August.

Special Days

Canada Day
July 1

Halfway Point of 2024
July 2

Independence Day
July 4

World Chocolate Day
July 7

Pick Blueberries Day
July 10

Bastille Day (France)
July 14

Aunt and Uncle Day
July 26

Flower – Larkspur



Many flowers take their names from their colors, but the larkspur takes its name from an animal. The flower's scientific name, *delphinium*, from the Greek word *delphis*, means "dolphin." As the larkspur blooms, its petals curve in a bottle-like shape, resembling the joyful marine mammal. The purple larkspur represents the soaring emotions of first love. Larkspurs of all colors are thought to symbolize feelings of lightness, levity, and an open heart.

Birthstone – Ruby



Not surprisingly, the word *ruby* comes from the Latin word *rubens*, meaning "red." But rubies come in a range of colors, from light raspberry to dark purple. The Mogok rubies from Myanmar, formerly Burma, are the most valuable and sought-after because of their color, described as pigeon-blood red. Large rubies of good quality are very rare—and very expensive. In fact, in May 2015, a Burmese ruby sold for \$30 million at Sotheby's Geneva auction.

Go for the Gold!

July 26 marks the start of the XXXIII (33rd) Summer Olympics, which will be held in Paris. The City of Light has hosted the games two other times—in 1900 and 100 years ago in 1924. The only other city to host the Olympic Games three times is London. The festivities will last for over two weeks, ending on August 11. More than 10,000 athletes from around the world will compete in 329 different medal events in 32 sports. In addition to the many popular events like track and field, swimming, and gymnastics, there will be several new

sports this year, including breakdancing (which is also known as "breaking"), skateboarding, surfing, and sport climbing. Surfing events will be held in Tahiti. Sports that have been dropped from the schedule include karate, baseball, and softball. Just a few of the many athletes to watch on Team USA include Griffin Colapinto in men's surfing, Nic Fink in men's swimming, Katie Grimes in women's swimming, and Anna Hall in the heptathlon.



Riddle Me July

If May = 1353
If June = 1064
If August = 186
If September = 1999

What is the code for July?

(J is the 10th letter, July is the 7th month, and July has 4 letters.)

Answer: 1074

July Zodiacs

Cancer (The Crab)
July 1–22

Leo (The Lion)
July 23–31

July wasn't the original name for the month. On the early Roman calendar, July was called *Quintilis*. Julius Caesar was born in this month, and the name was changed to *Julius*, or *July*, to honor him. Julius Caesar made major reforms to the inaccurate Roman calendar, and his Julian calendar is still used in Eastern Orthodox Christian countries. The Gregorian calendar that exists today in the West is a slightly edited version of the Julian calendar.

In the Good Old Days

In 1924 (100 years ago), the average annual income was \$2,196. The average cost of a new house was \$7,720. The average new car cost \$265. A loaf of bread was 9¢, and a gallon of milk was 54¢. You could purchase one gallon of gas for 11¢, stamps were 2¢ each, and a Victrola record player cost \$150. According to the Consumer Price Index Calculator, \$1 in 1924 is equivalent to \$18.15 today.

What's Lucky in July?

Lucky Color: Red
Lucky Animal: Elephant
Lucky Letters: V and H
Lucky Day: Thursday
Lucky Plant: Broccoli



July Birthdays

Dan Aykroyd (comedian) – July 1, 1952
Thurgood Marshall (justice) – July 2, 1908
Frida Kahlo (painter) – July 6, 1907
Kevin Bacon (actor) – July 8, 1958
Mattiwilda Dobbs (soprano) – July 11, 1925
Gertrude Bell (archaeologist) – July 14, 1868
Kristen Bell (actress) – July 18, 1980
Cat Stevens (singer-songwriter) – July 21, 1948
Amelia Earhart (aviator) – July 24, 1897
Iman (supermodel) – July 25, 1955
George Bernard Shaw (writer) – July 26, 1856
Peggy Fleming (ice skater) – July 27, 1948
Paul Anka (singer) – July 30, 1941
Hank Jones (jazz musician) – July 31, 1918