

Northern Pines News

Northern Pines Assisted Living | 130 Mary Ann St. Grayling, MI 49738 | (989) 344-2010



Celebrating November

American Indian Heritage Month

Adopt-a-Turkey Month

Día de los Muertos

November 1

Nachos Day

November 6

World Freedom Day

November 9

Veterans Day (U.S.)

November 11

Diwali

November 12

Rock Your Mocs Day

November 15

International Men's Day

November 19

Thanksgiving (U.S.)

November 23

Happy Birthday Pam!!!

November 27

Square Dancing Day

November 29

Giving Thanks for God's Bounty

It is a cool, autumn, October morning. Looking out my window, I am seeing God's bounty of sunshine and His clouds floating across the sky casting shadows over the green grass. The trees with their mild shades of yellow, green, orange and red are swaying to and fro in the breeze and two steer are feasting on the abundance of grass in the prairie. Soon, though, the grass will die away in the cold, winter air. Opening my window, I am feeling cool air rushing across my cheeks and the warmth of the sun on my feet, reminding me of the changing seasons. One is leaving, the other is coming. Yesterday, I was tasting God's bounty from our garden. I made a garden casserole filled with rice, onions, tomatoes and zucchini topped with Velveeta cheese and bacon! Yummy! From our garden, I picked tomatoes, made tomato sauce and enjoyed gathering pumpkins and gourds to share with family and friends. When I think about God's bounty it is a gift generously given. I encourage you to begin using your five senses to discover God's bounty in your life. Every day we live in the abundance of His generosity toward us. John 1:16 tells us, "We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift" (MSG). Through seeing, smelling, tasting, touching and hearing, we can give thanks for God's abundance in our life. God's most bountiful gift is found in Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us". This gift of salvation is something we can see, taste, touch, smell and hear through scripture, prayer and interacting in our communities with fellow believers. What joys and blessings we receive from God's gift of salvation! Psalm 34:8 encourages us with these two senses: "Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him". This fall season, be intentional of using your five senses to be aware of God's bounty. If needed, write on your calendar each day one of God's bountiful gifts using your senses. Remember, His bounty is not only outward but also inward - our words, our attitude, our thoughts, our daily rhythm of life. Isaiah 55:6 reminds us to "Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near". Don't wait or it will be too late, and you will have missed His bountiful goodness toward you!! Enjoy seeking the Lord and His bountiful blessings!

Chaplain Val

Lighting the Darkness

Diwali, India's fabulous "festival of lights," occurs on the night of the new moon during the Hindu month of Kartik, and this year falls on November 12. Diwali is the most important holiday of the Indian calendar. It is primarily a religious celebration for Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs, but it has become so popular that many other South Asian countries treat it as a national holiday.



Across India, Diwali is celebrated over five days, but the darkest night, the night of the new moon, is the main day of the festival. Families light small, clay lamps known as *diyas* to ward away evils associated with the darkness. Diyas, candles, and lanterns are arranged throughout the home, in the streets, in places of worship, and even floated on lakes and rivers. Some places set off bright explosions of fireworks in the night sky. Once the lamps are lit, families gather for fabulous feasts and prayers to Lakshmi, the Mother Goddess of good fortune and prosperity. To celebrate Diwali is to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

Throughout India, there are many legends associated with Diwali. In the north, Diwali commemorates the return of King Rama to his kingdom of Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. To celebrate the king's return, his subjects lit lamps and decorated Ayodhya with rows of diyas, a practice reflected in modern Diwali celebrations.

In southern India, the story is told of Lord Krishna vanquishing the demon Narakasura with the help of his wife, Satyabhama. The demon had been granted immortality and could be slain only by his mother. Krishna knew this and asked his wife to accompany him to battle. It was Satyabhama, as an incarnation of Narakasura's mother, who felled the demon with an arrow. In western India, as in the south, Diwali is celebrated as the triumph of good over evil. Here, the festival marks the day that Lord Vishnu sent the selfish and vain King Bali to the netherworld. Despite these differences, no matter where you go, Diwali is marked with light and family.

November Birthdays

In astrology, those born from November 1–21 are Scorpio's intense scorpions. Scorpions seek deep connections and nurture deep empathy and commitment. Those born from November 22–30 are Archers of Sagittarius. The Archers have a unique blend of passion, curiosity, and adaptability. Bold travelers, they are unafraid to explore and conquer new terrain.

Will Rogers (cowboy) – Nov. 4, 1879
 John Philip Sousa (conductor) – Nov. 6, 1854
 Bram Stoker (novelist) – Nov. 8, 1847
 Jonathan Winters (comedian) – Nov. 11, 1925
 Whoopi Goldberg (comedian) – Nov. 13, 1955
 Gloria Foster (actress) – Nov. 15, 1933
 RuPaul (drag queen) – Nov. 17, 1960
 Allyson Felix (athlete) – Nov. 18, 1985
 Robin Roberts (newscaster) – Nov. 23, 1960
 Joe DiMaggio (athlete) – Nov. 25, 1914
 Tina Turner (singer) – Nov. 26, 1939
 Chadwick Boseman (actor) – Nov. 29, 1976

Monster Success



On November 3, 1954, the film *Godzilla* premiered across Japan. *Godzilla* remains one of Japan's most enduring pieces of popular culture and has been identified by *Guinness World Records* as the longest-running film franchise in history. The film and its gargantuan monster symbolize something more sinister, however—a nation's collective terror over nuclear war. In early March of 1954, a Japanese fishing ship was contaminated with radioactive fallout from a nuclear test conducted by the Americans at Bikini Atoll. Soon, fears of nuclear contamination spread across Japan. The film's producer and director deliberately seized on that anxiety when they created a monster that embodied nuclear destruction. Skeptical critics thought the film would be a flop, but time has shown that *Godzilla* has conquered even those critics.