

March 2021

Edgeworth Park News

5501 Discovery Park Blvd., Williamsburg, Virginia



Celebrating March



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March into the World of Crafting

Crafting is a \$44 billion industry in America, with people of all ages and backgrounds taking part in pastimes like knitting, scrapbooking, quilting, making homemade jewelry, and even reupholstering furniture. As both Craft Month and Knitting and Crochet Month, March boasts a number of crafting holidays, such as International Scrapbooking Day on March 4, Children's Craft Day on March 14, and Worldwide Quilting Day on March 20. Whether you craft as an outlet for your creative impulses or to earn money on the side, March provides ample opportunities to create something unique.

Personalization might be crafting's most alluring attribute. Even if two crafters follow the same pattern or set of instructions, no two people will knit the very same scarf or build identical birdhouses. Each and every handcrafted item is a unique reflection of its maker, and these personal touches are often what make handcrafted gifts so special. Crafting has long been considered the domain of older generations, yet younger generations, particularly millennials, are being drawn to crafting and other creative hobbies specifically because they can personalize their creations. In a world of mass-produced goods, millennials enjoy making unique items that bear their initials or display symbols or icons that are personally meaningful. And just as younger generations have started taking up crafting, the crafting industry is changing to accommodate a new generation of crafters.

The longtime fabrics and craft retailer Joann recently opened a new Creator's Studio store where young crafters can gather to take classes, share ideas, and rent machines to finish projects. Younger crafters have also inspired technological breakthroughs in crafting. It is not uncommon for crafters to sketch designs on digital tablets, cut materials with lasers, or create pieces on 3D printers. Yet no matter how newfangled the creative process has become, one thing has stayed the same: there is still nothing more thoughtful or special than a homemade gift.

Valencia's Fire and Fury

The festival of Las Fallas in Valencia, Spain, is one of Europe's wildest spectacles. Valencians greet the arrival of spring on March 19 with music, humor, religious ecstasy, and a massive bonfire.



For millennia, fire has been used as a symbol of rebirth and cleansing during the springtime. The original meaning of the term *falla* was "torch." Over the centuries it evolved to mean the bonfires that were lit in the center of towns during periods of fiesta or religious gatherings. The very first Las Fallas celebrations were held by carpenters on the Feast Day of St. Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters, on March 19. Carpenters would create pyres out of *parots*, which were the wooden scaffolds used to hold the lamps during the darkness of winter. Over time, these parots were dressed in rags and made to resemble local characters. They were lit to both honor St. Joseph and welcome the light of spring. Today, *Las Fallas* refers to not only the festival but also to the fires lit to welcome spring and the massive effigies that are eventually burned on the festival's final day.

Today's festival of Las Fallas lasts for five days from March 15–19, but the excitement starts to build from the very first of the month. Starting on March 1, booming fireworks shows known as *mascleta* are set off at two o'clock each day. The parots of centuries past have evolved into *ninots*, enormous works of art, satirical floats that lampoon politicians, celebrities, or any other international target of derision. On the morning of March 16, the *ninots* are put on display all over the city, and prizes are awarded to the best ones. On the morning of March 17, the sculptures are paraded to the city square, where they lay in wait for two days. Finally, on March 19, *la Crema* begins, and all the *ninots* of Las Fallas are burned. Around ten o'clock, smaller neighborhood floats are set on fire throughout the city. Not until well past midnight is the largest fire set at the city square. *Ninots* stuffed with fireworks explode with raucous fury, starting a deafening inferno that burns until the dawn.

Hold the Phone!

Research shows that on average, a person will spend up to 13 hours per year waiting on hold. That's 43 days of your entire life waiting on the telephone! The month of March, as On-Hold Month, wishes to honor the businesses that provide enjoyable music or other helpful information while we while the hours away. But if you'd rather skip the waiting entirely, here are some tips for avoiding the wait for customer service.

First, call during off-peak hours. Don't call at lunchtime, when reps are most likely to be busy, or on Mondays or Fridays, when calls are heaviest. If given the option, press 0 to be connected to an operator. This will prevent endless computerized menus. Another tip is to choose the "sales" or "place an order" option no matter what your purpose. This will likely get you to a live person who can put you directly in touch with a customer service representative. You can even download an app that will wait on hold for you, so you don't waste those precious hours.

St. Patrick's Day Sins



The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in Boston in 1737, and it seems as if we've been wearing green and eating corned beef and cabbage on March 17 ever since. But some of the most beloved St. Patrick's Day traditions are not traditional at all. For example, the Irish don't eat corned beef. It was Irish Americans who began eating beef in the 19th century. In Ireland, Irish bacon or lamb stew is the dish of choice on the holiday. Long before green was the color of the Emerald Isle, St. Patrick was associated with the color blue. As the political divide grew between Britain and Ireland, the Irish adopted the color green as a symbol of independence. Perhaps most shocking of all, St. Patrick's real name wasn't Patrick at all, but Maewyn Succat. Nor was he from Ireland but born in Britain under the rule of the Romans. Was St. Maewyn Italian?

100 & Fabulous!

Edith Layman is Turning 100!!!

When I spoke with Edith about her turning 100, and asked what was her secret?

“Live Each Day Without Worry”

I think we could all benefit from that advice!

Edith was born in Denbigh, V.A.

One of 8 children

Edith said at that time Denbigh was a country setting and her parents were farmers.

She remembers the Automobile and Televisions being a “Big Deal”

The first gift she ever remembers receiving was a ball on her 4th Birthday!

She said it is still one of her favorite memories!

I asked what was the most historic event she remembered and she replied

“When we landed on the Moon!”

Edith married and had 4 children, she will tell you they have always been her reason for living, and her biggest source of Joy.

Edith Loved to Bake and enjoys all food, especially Chocolate!

Edith also did a bit of modeling in her day as you can see from her beautiful picture

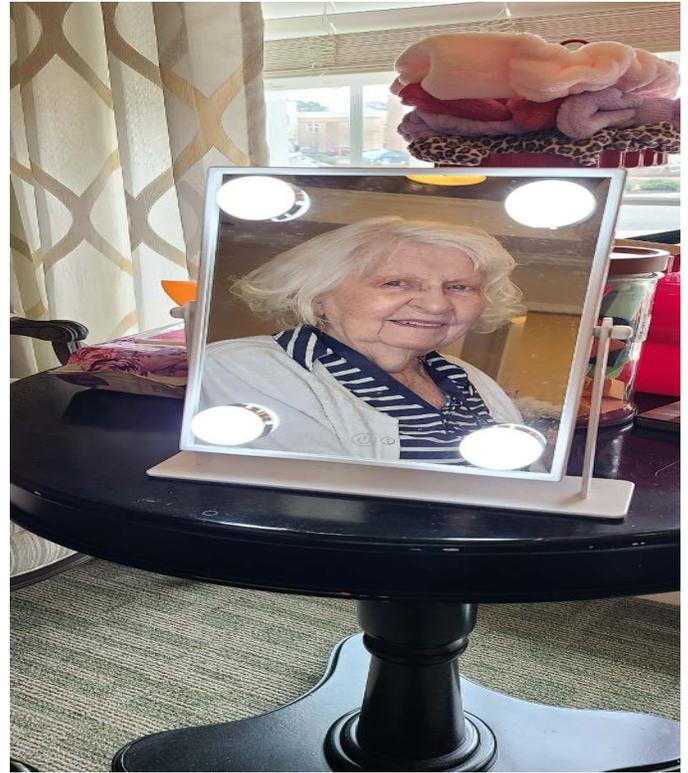
100

And Fabulous!!

Join us for Edith’s Birthday Party

Monday March 1st

2pm



Happy Birthday
Edith L.



Shining Stars



Timely Shelton & Athena Bell
Thank you both for your hard work and dedication!



March Birthday's Staff

Sandra Taylor – Laundry/Hskp	3/2
Madeline Roberts – Concierge	3/3
Donald Ferguson – Sous Chef	3/7
Nita Hodges – Sous Chef	3/11
Kadesha Allen – Housekeeper	3/18
Kim Roberts – Program Director	3/22
Don Agett, DOHS	3/24

Residents

Edith L. - 3/1
Don W. - 3/1
Jerry V.- 3/3
Eleanor P. - 3/3
Chestina F.- 3/4
Mary S. – 3/5
Inez T. – 3/28
Bob B. – 3/30
Reinhilde S. – 3/30
Nell F. – 3/31

