

## Blast the Birthday Horn

On March 2, don't just wish Dr. Seuss a happy birthday. Do as they do in Dr. Seuss' fictional land of Katroo and let loose a "big blast on the big Birthday Horn!"



Theodor Seuss Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss, was never a doctor of anything. He called himself "doctor" because his father wanted him to study medicine. Thankfully, he pursued children's literature and in 1937 wrote his first book, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, debuting the pen name Dr. Seuss. The idea for the book struck Geisel while on an ocean voyage. The rhythm of the ship's engines inspired him to write the lines:

*And that is a story that no one can beat.  
And to think that I saw it on Mulberry Street.*

No fewer than 20 publishers rejected the book before Geisel showed it to an old college classmate, who was editor of children's books at the publishing house Vanguard Press. Dr. Seuss went on to write over 60 children's books (including some under the name Theo LeSieg), selling over 600 million copies in over 20 different languages.

What makes Dr. Seuss' books so enduring? Children's literature expert Ann Neely believes it is the books' readability. "Children can read Dr. Seuss books many, many times without tiring of the rhythms, the plot, or the art." Furthermore, Seuss' moral lessons appeal to young and old alike. Journalist Melissa Breyer believes adults have plenty to learn from Dr. Seuss. *Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?* teaches us that self-pity is an unnecessary indulgence. *The Lorax* reminds us that it's up to us to give a voice to the voiceless. Truly, Dr. Seuss' children's books may be more valuable to adults than his odd adult work. A humorous, slightly scandalous take on the legend of Lady Godiva, full of illustrations of the seven nudist Godiva sisters. That book, perhaps understandably, was Seuss' only major flop.

After a long lifetime, more than 100 years, America's telephone infrastructure is showing its age. Disappearing, too, are the engineers and technicians who maintain traditional landline service, according to professor of telecommunications Rob Frieden. Not so fast, say those who celebrate Landline Telephone Day on March 10. Consumer Reports still recommend keeping a landline: sound quality is often better, and because numbers are directly linked to a home address, emergency calls from landlines remain highly reliable. When power goes out, some landlines continue to work, thanks to backup batteries, though these are becoming less common. Telephone companies, however, are shifting to digital networks that are cheaper to maintain. So, enjoy landlines while you can—before they disappear.

## Last Call for Landlines



### March Birthdays

#### Resident Birthdays

Terry G. 03/06  
Bill P. 03/06  
Art M. 03/28  
Tim M. 03/30

#### Staff Birthdays

Danielle Y. 03/01  
Taylor H. 03/20  
Sheridan A. 03/21  
Shylo I. 03/24  
Kimberly G. 03/25

In astrology, those born between March 1–20 are Pisces. These Fish are spiritual types who feel comfortable in their introspective natures. As passionate, romantic, creative dreamers, they are charitable helpers who "go with the flow." Those born between March 21–31 are Rams of Aries. As the first sign of the zodiac, Arians charge out of the gate with energy, confidence, power, and zeal. As pioneers, Arians are unafraid of the unknown.

# Deerfield Gazette

Deerfield Village | 5770 SE Kellogg Creek Drive | 503-653-4064



## Meet Our Team

### Executive Director

Milissa Wright

### Wellness Director

Karen Harrison

### Resident Services Director

Stephanie Paxton

### Plant Operations Director

Craig Fouche

### Life Enrichment Director

Danielle Yochum

### Community Relations

#### Director

Taylor Hilker

### Dining Services Director

Sean Moss

### Business Office

#### Manager/Concierge

Robin Reynolds

## A Broadway Classic Turns 70

Seventy years ago, on March 15, 1956, *My Fair Lady* opened on Broadway and quickly became one of the most celebrated productions in musical theater history. Its premiere at the Mark Hellinger Theatre marked the beginning of a record-setting run that helped define a golden era for the American stage.

Set in 1912 London, the story follows Eliza Doolittle's transformation from a struggling flower seller into someone confident enough to challenge the expectations placed on her. Although the original production reflected mid-20th-century attitudes, many modern viewers see Eliza's arc as a useful lens on empowerment—an idea that aligns neatly with March's Women's History Month. Her pushback against Professor Higgins feels more relevant now than ever.

The musical also offers a snapshot of a changing era. London in 1912 balanced Edwardian elegance with social tension. Suffrage activism was gaining momentum, fashion was beginning to loosen from restrictive styles, and the traditional class structure faced increasing scrutiny. While *My Fair Lady* presents these shifts with wit and charm, its backdrop hints at the larger societal forces shaping the characters' world.

Over the decades, the show's score has played a major role in its longevity. Songs like "I Could Have Danced All Night" and "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" became standards, recorded by a wide range of performers and woven into popular culture. The familiarity of the music keeps the show accessible, even for those who haven't seen a full production in years.

The anniversary arrives just ahead of World Theatre Day on March 27, a reminder of how live performance continues to bridge generations. Few shows have matched the musical's staying power; its songs and characters have been reinvented through revivals, films, and countless stagings across the globe. *My Fair Lady* still invites audiences to reflect on identity, opportunity, and the ways people reinvent themselves. For a production rooted in another century, its voice remains remarkably current—and still worth hearing.

## A Legacy of Laughs



Funny how men often think themselves funnier than women. Studies on humor between the genders have found that men's jokes are sometimes rated slightly funnier—but often it's other men who are laughing. Women, meanwhile, may quietly have the last laugh

on March 31, She's Funny That Way Day, a day celebrating comedians past and present.

Carole Lombard was a leading lady of old Hollywood, a natural beauty whose charm and comedic timing shone even when she took the occasional pie in the face. Barbara Stanwyck could play any role: glamorous dame, femme fatale, tough feminist, and yes, the madcap comedian. Both women were nominated for Oscars yet never won.

Any discussion of funny women must include Lucille Ball, often called the Queen of Comedy. Ball once told a *Rolling Stone* reporter, "I am not funny," though her millions of fans would beg to differ. Not only was she hilarious, she mentored another extraordinary comedian, Carol Burnett.

Many of these performers also changed the business behind the scenes. They pushed for better roles, wrote their own material, and shaped shows that reflected their voices rather than someone else's idea of what women should be. Their influence extends well beyond their punchlines, reminding us that real comedic power comes from having the freedom to tell your own story.

Like many of the men who came before them, no topic is too bold for these daring women. From Phyllis Diller to Joan Rivers to Whoopi Goldberg, to modern comedians such as Tina Fey, Kristen Wiig, Melissa McCarthy, Sarah Silverman, Mindy Kaling, Amy Poehler, Wanda Sykes, and Maya Rudolph, the list of talented women is truly endless—and so are the laughs.

## Welcome to Deerfield



### New Residents & Move-in Anniversaries

#### New Residents

Joyce K.  
Nancy M.

#### Move-in Anniversaries

Kris F. 9 years  
Russ M. 3 years  
Vicki G. 2 years  
Dick G. 2 years  
Terry G. 2 years

## Stitched Across the World



Quilters all around the world will be piecing together fabric into wonderful creations on March 21, Worldwide Quilting Day.

During its heyday in the American mid-19th century, quilting was a utilitarian craft. According to Emporia State University's Center for Great Plains Studies, westward homesteaders, inheritors of many great European quilting traditions, fashioned blankets, door and window covers, and play mats for children out of whatever scraps of fabric they could find. Quilters learned to arrange fabric to make wonderful works of art. And because blankets were always needed to protect against the elements, quilting never went out of style.

A number of quilting bees will no doubt be held on March 21, so be ready to cut your favorite patterns—Irish Chain, Log Cabin, Bear's Paw, or Tree of Paradise.

## Courtesy Counts



Many lament that common courtesy is not so common anymore. If someone you know is acting less than civil, March 21, Common Courtesy Day, is the perfect opportunity to tactfully share a few tips and reminders on how to treat others with respect.

Some point to technology as a major culprit in the decline of courtesy, especially as we've grown more tethered to our screens. Others see a broader cultural shift: When people feel rushed, stressed, or isolated, empathy tends to shrink. Researchers continue to note that young adults report feeling more pressure and less connection than in previous generations. Etiquette experts also observe that norms have loosened over time, sometimes in ways that make everyday interactions feel less considerate.

Across many countries, parents and teachers are trying to balance freedom with guidance, and the line can get blurry. When expectations around behavior become too vague, kids can miss out on learning how their actions affect others. The result can be the same everywhere: a little more self-focus, a little less awareness. Renewed interest in teaching social skills and emotional literacy suggests that people are recognizing the need to rebuild those habits.

If we don't practice empathy every day, we may have to rely on others to pass laws of courtesy for us. Restaurants declare "No Cell Phone Zones." Sports stadiums regulate fan conduct. New York City even imposes a fine on those who prop their feet on a subway train seat. Psychologist Marie Hartwell-Walker believes that even "faked" manners can teach empathy, that cornerstone of courtesy. Simple acts such as holding doors open, returning phone calls, treating clerks and cashiers with respect, and saying *please* and *thank you*—these daily reminders to consider others' feelings lay a foundation for building empathy.

## March Outings and events

- 3/5-** 2:00 PM, Vocal performance by Rachel Varayne & Tom (DR)
- 3/6** - 10:00 AM, Fred Meyer & Starbucks (FL)
- 3/13** - 10:00 AM, Michaels Craft Store (FL)
- 3/13** - 2:30 PM – Vocal performance by Heidi Davis
- 3/20** - Dairy Queen (FL)
- 3/24** - 2:30 PM, March Birthday celebration W/ vocal performance by Barbara Cecil (DR)
- 3/27-** Winco (FL)

## Medical Transportation

Medical transportation is available on Wednesday and Thursdays. Appointments should be scheduled between **12:00 PM and 4:00 PM**. To arrange a ride, please see Robin at the front desk for assistance in scheduling. Make sure to have Date, Time, and Address.

**Same day appointments may not work, please give at least a 24-48hr notice for transportation.**

