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## Web Resources

[NationalCalendarDay.com](http://NationalCalendarDay.com)

[GreenLivingTips.com](http://GreenLivingTips.com)

[lmbd.com](http://lmbd.com)

[Forvo.com](http://Forvo.com)

## Newsletter

# Resident Link

Volume 11, Issue 12

December 2018 Newsletter

## 'Tis the Season: The History of Christmas

The annual celebration of Christmas, (is a derivative of the Old English Crīstesmæsse which means Christ's Mass. The holiday celebrated around the world, by Christians and non-Christians alike.



One of the earliest references to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ is in a homily by John Chrysostom, a 4th-century archbishop. Christmas is a relatively new celebration when considering church holy days. Passover, Lent and Easter were celebrated long before Christmas.

As Christianity spread into northern and western Europe, Christmas adopted many of the customs associated with the winter solstice. Decorating with evergreen trees and their boughs, holly and mistletoe, a bearded man delivering gifts and even the large feasts all harken back to these celebrations.

It wasn't until almost 100 years after the founding of the United States that Christmas became a federal holiday. The day itself involves the exchange of presents such as clothes, electronics, sweets, and so forth. The entire holiday season becomes a noteworthy shopping event, and many retailers—online or otherwise—run offers on items that can be exchanged as Christmas gifts. Despite the other stressors of the season, the hunt for the perfect gift or gifts keeps everyone in a extremely festive mood—nothing is more rewarding than the surprised looks on Christmas morning!

## Green Living Tip

As you get your home ready for the holidays, you may be inclined to use commercial air fresheners. However, these products can introduce harmful pollutants into the atmosphere.

To fill your house with fragrance, add some whole spices to some boiling water on your stove. Place a few drops of vegetable oil, along with whole nutmeg, cinnamon sticks, cloves, and orange slices to the water and let simmer on low. Add more water as the level drops, and you can have wonderful smells in your home all day.

Reduce . Reuse . Recycle.



# Playing @ The Movies

## Mary Poppins Returns

In Depression-era London, a now-grown Jane and Michael Banks, along with Michael's three children, are visited by the enigmatic Mary Poppins following a personal loss. Through her unique magical skills, and with the aid of her friend Jack, she helps the family rediscover the joy and wonder.



## Movie Stats

Rating: PG / Fantasy & Musical

Release Date: December 19, 2018

Director: Rob Marshall

Starring: Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Dick Van Dyke

## Your Monthly Internet Tidbit

***"Forvo.com provides a free way to access the pronunciation of millions of words in their original language."***

When you run across a word in a foreign language, it can be difficult to know how to pronounce it. Forvo.com provides a free way to access the pronunciation of millions of words in their original languages with audio pronunciations in more than 200 languages. When you are traveling in a foreign country, Forvo can help you with the pronunciation of cities, landmarks, and street names as well.

Forvo is also helpful for learning new words in your own language. If you run across a word you've never heard before, check out Forvo to find out how to say it correctly. You can even add words to expand the library, if necessary!

*Check it out today at [Forvo.com](http://Forvo.com)*

## December 12th is Gingerbread House Day

Gingerbread House Day is observed annually on December 12th. A favorite food of an Armenian monk, Gregory of Nicopolis, brought gingerbread to Europe around 992 AD. Gingerbread was often used in religious ceremonies and was often molded into images of saints.

We can thank the Brothers' Grimm for the idea of a gingerbread house through their tale of Hansel and Gretel. To observe National Gingerbread house day, gather the family together, bake up some gingerbread, and start building & decorating your very own gingerbread house. There are even kits available if you're in doubt of your skills.



*For more information, visit [NationalCalendarDay.com](http://NationalCalendarDay.com)*



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