

# THE FAMILY MATTERS

NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE # 24

MONTH <b>12</b>	OUR EDITOR Joann Poremba	CONTACT Jporemba@annamariaofaurora.com	FIND US ON FACEBOOK Anna Maria of Aurora
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**“It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.”** - *William Thomas Ellis*



The Campus of Anna Maria of Aurora participated in the “Festival of Trees” in beautiful downtown Chagrin Falls. Sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Chagrin Valley Jaycees, local businesses “adopted” a tree in Riverside Park, and decorated it accordingly. Looking for a fun outdoor activity? Take a stroll through Riverside Park and check out all these beautiful trees.

Vote for your favorite at cvcc.org by December 21. All the trees are beautiful, but of course we are a bit partial to our tree. Hoping you enjoy our tree as much as we enjoyed decorating it.

*Though we may be apart,  
FAMILY IS ALWAYS  
close to the heart!*

**We Wish You and Yours a Very Merry Christmas...**

And a much happier and healthier New Year 2021. This has been a year unlike any we’ve ever seen, and we know it’s been extremely difficult maintaining distance from your loved one these past nine months. We were fortunate to enjoy outdoor visitation during the summer months, and about two weeks

of indoor visitation. Please continue to reserve time for Skype and FaceTime through our activities departments. We are encouraged by recommendations from the CDC and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that both long-term care residents and health care personnel be included

in Phase 1a of the Covid-19 vaccine. This good news is intended to guide allocation of vaccines by the federal and state governments. As always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the welfare and safety of your loved one. Peace and Love to You and Yours .

- *Aaron Baker and Chris Norton*

# Peggy Strohmenger



“Her painting reflect her love of nature and a passion for the vibrant colors of the changing seasons.”

**P**eggy Strohmenger was born on March 22, 1928 in Cincinnati, Ohio. She grew up in Wyoming, a suburb of Cincinnati, known as one of the best suburbs in Ohio, and attended Wyoming High School. After graduation, Peggy was accepted at the University of Cincinnati, majoring in advertising design. Not only is the U of Cincy a good school, it's also a great place to meet your future spouse, as Peggy became acquainted with a cute young man named Al, a metallurgical engineering student. The two became smitten with each other and fell in love, marrying on June 2, 1951. They couple also graduated from the University of Cincinnati this same month (what a busy June!). In 1956, the couple and their three small children (Mark, Nicki, and Scott) relocated to Solon, Ohio, where Al began a new job as a manufacturer's representative selling steel manufacturing products to the steel companies in northern Ohio and western PA.

**O**nce the children began school, this allowed an opportunity for Peggy to fulfill a lifelong dream – Art. She enrolled at the University of Akron, obtaining an art teaching certificate. Peggy was hired by the Bedford City Schools as an art educator, where she taught for many years. At the same time, she began freelance art with many of her beautiful pieces exhibited in shows throughout the Midwest. Locally, her pieces have been exhibited at

Boston Mills Art Festival, Yankee Peddler, Cain Art Festival, Lakewood Art Show, and many others, including the NOVA art exhibition in London.

**H**er favorite medium is watercolor; many of her paintings reflect her love of nature and a passion for the vibrant colors of the changing seasons. Peggy is a signature member of the Ohio Watercolor Society and was involved in many local art organizations: Bay Arts, NOVA, Solon Fine Arts Council, Chagrin Valley Art Center, Hudson Society of Artists and others. She played an instrumental role in the formative years of the Chagrin Valley Art Center. Peggy and Al travelled extensively throughout the U.S. and Canada in their RV to exhibit Peggy's art; of course, many of their trips were for fun. Most amazing trip? New Zealand where they rented an RV and toured the North and South islands as part of an RV caravan tour group. Favorite trip? Enjoying the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena on New Year's Day.

**I**n 1992, Peggy and Al moved from Solon to this lovely city of Aurora. They spent their winters in sunny Polk City, Florida, living in what else? An RV! Sadly, Al passed away in 2003, after 52 years of marriage. Peggy moved to assisted living here at Anna Maria six months ago, and we are thrilled to have her here with us.

*December 2020*

# Employees of the Month

*Anissa Davis,  
Assisted Living Caregiver.*



## Anna Maria

*Anissa is well-liked by all!*

Congratulations to our Anna Maria Employee of the Month, Anissa Davis, Assisted Living Caregiver. Anissa began her career at Anna Maria in the housekeeping department, where she did a great job keeping our facility sparkling clean. Wanting more resident interaction, she transferred to our assisted / independent living area, working as a caregiver, providing hands-on care to our residents. Anissa is well-liked by all; she has a gentle touch and calm manner. She is a team player and will go above and beyond every time. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

*Chae Bivins,  
Dietary Supervisor.*



## Kensington

*Chae is an exemplary employee!*

Congratulations to our Kensington at Anna Maria Employee of the Month, Chae Bivins, Dietary Supervisor. Chae is an exemplary employee, setting the bar high for others to follow. The dietary needs of our residents are her top and main priority. She is a team player and has been known to assist other departments if help is needed. Chae has a big heart, a beautiful smile, and a kind word for all. We are fortunate to have someone like Chae on Team Kensington. Congratulations! We appreciate you Chae!



*A look at what is going on...*

## Welcome New Anna Maria Activities Director, Aubrie Rivera!

**A** warm welcome to our new Anna Maria Activities Director, Aubrie Rivera, TRS. Aubrie is excited to be a part of the Anna Maria of Aurora family, bringing with her a plethora of experience and knowledge. Aubrie replaces Activities Director Bridget Sassa who has taken on a part-time position with the activities department. Aubrie hails from the proud Quad Cities of Iowa/Illinois. She is a passionate Hawkeyes fan, graduating from the University of Iowa with a B.S. in Therapeutic Recreation, which concentrates on a more holistic approach to recreation.

After graduation, Aubrie moved to Chicago, working with adults with disabilities at a company called Misericordia. This is where she discovered her passion working with the older population. Her top goal for the residents at Anna Maria? To be “better than Bingo!” She has many new ideas up her sleeve for enhancing the activities program offered

to our residents. Though she is new to the Cleveland area, she can’t wait to explore all the great places this city has to offer. She is very close to her family and dogs, and loves the outdoors. Please give Aubrie a warm welcome!



## Congratulations Angie Tibbs and Amber Reed

**C**ongratulations to Kensington at Anna Maria employees Angie Tibbs, RN, and Amber Reed, Activities Supervisor. These lovely ladies recently celebrated 10 and 5 years of service, respectively. Though acknowledging these milestone anniversaries is a little difficult during Covid times, we were able to celebrate safely with the staff. Looking forward to many more years of dedicated service from Angie and Amber! Congratulations!



Amber with administrator  
Chris Norton



A sweet treat for Amber



What a lovely cake!



Angie (middle) with Chris  
Norton and Jill Bevino

## Happiness is... a Warm and Fuzzy Blanket

**M**any, many thanks to the “PieceMakers,” a talented group of volunteers from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Aurora who love to knit and crochet, for donating several gorgeous lap blankets to our residents, helping them stay fashionably warm this winter! We so appreciate the kind gesture.



Frances H.



Lucille S.

## Gobble, Gobble...



## Warning: Cuteness Overload!



Does this not make your day a little brighter? Activities Assistant Bridget Sassa and her dog, Lola, a Cavalier King Charles/Beagle mix.

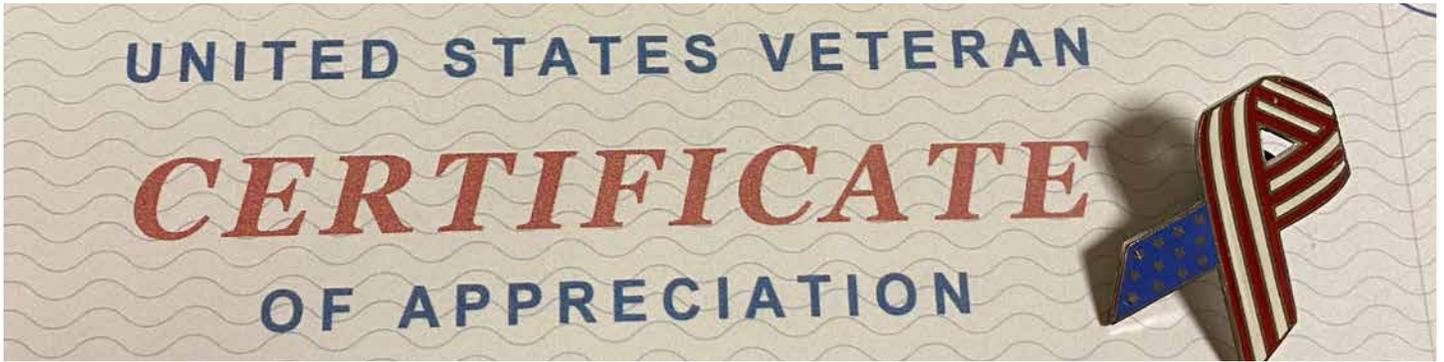
**K**ensington at Anna Maria residents love their crafting, it’s certainly no secret. To help kick-off the Thanksgiving holiday, residents crafted a most adorable miniature turkey using a pinecone, felt, paint, and googly eyes. Each one is so unique.



Edith A. carefully paints her pinecone



Marjorie L. is smiling beneath that mask



Ernie Sarosi, Army



Earl Cortright, Army



Donald Neill, Army

## Veterans Day

**H**onoring those who served.... A Salute to our Veterans... The Campus of Anna Maria held a Veterans Day Celebration on November 11. Slightly different from previous years, but nonetheless, still meaningful. Each veteran was presented with a pin and a certificate. We are proud to be the home to over 20 veterans, including two World War II veterans (less than 330,000 WWII vets are alive today out of 16 million). May God continue to bless our veterans; we thank you for your service.



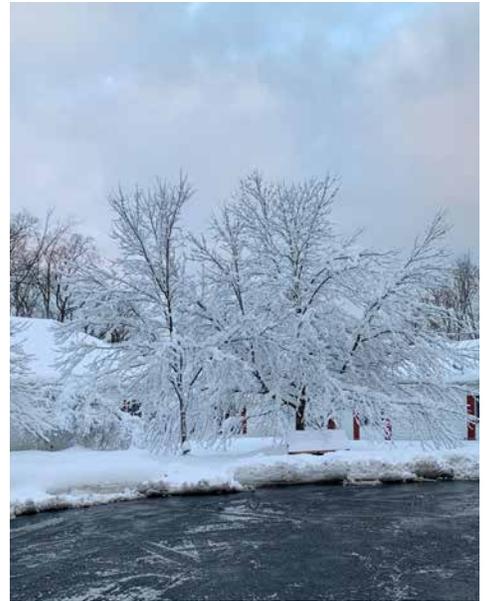
Harold Stubing, Army



Marvin Hamby, Army

## A Winter Wonderland

For once the weather forecast was correct; snow and more snow! December greeted us with lots of snow, with some areas receiving over 20 inches (12 inches fell in Aurora). Here in Cleveland, we know snow. Winters can be harsh, unpredictable and unforgiving. Nonetheless, most of us stop to marvel at the quiet beauty of a snow-covered forest, and the first snowfall sprinkled on our porches is still magical sight. These pictures were taken right here on the grounds of Anna Maria. Beautiful, isn't it?



Bowie loves the snow!

## A Little Bit of Pampering

Anna Maria resident Helen Scherba receives a relaxing manicure and hand massage from Bridget in activities. Nothing like a little bit of pampering.



# Assisted / Independent Living



*A look at what is going on...*

## Charades

Charades is a game of pantomimes: you have to “act out” a phrase without speaking, while the other members of your team try to guess what the phrase is. The objective is for your team to guess the phrase as quickly as possible. Sounds easy? Definitely not as easy as it sounds as assisted living residents quickly found out. Oh well, we still had fun.



No, Lisa McFarland (activities) is not really kicking Marie R. – she’s only acting!(not sure what her clue is?)



Ginny R. provide two good clues – four (4) and rocking a baby (can you guess what her word is?)



## Looking and Feeling Good



Betty S. – beautiful!



Marge O. and Joe V. with new haircuts



Pat A.- freshly painted nails

It’s always a good day when the beauty salon is open. Beautician Robin Trautman always makes our residents look and feel good, inside and out.

## Thanksgiving Crafts

In preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday, residents spent an afternoon getting “crafty.” Under the guidance of activities assistant Jazmin Williams, residents crafted foam pilgrims, pop”corn” on cob, and thankful rocks all while reflecting on how fortunate we are. We are thankful for so many things.



Marge O. is proud of her pilgrim



Nikki S. was busy all afternoon



Betty B. – can I eat this popcorn?  
Smells SO good



Marge O. and her Thankful rock



Residents did a nice job on the rocks

## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...

Pam Courie, the daughter of assisted living resident Eleanor Gaydos, graciously donated a dozen poinsettia plants for the assisted and independent living dining rooms. The beautiful plants add a very festive touch. Thank you Pam!



Eleanor can't believe her daughter delivered all these plants!

# Oatmeal Chocolate Chunk Cookies

*From the Kitchen of Amber Reed, Activities Supervisor  
(Kensington @ Anna Maria)*

**Preheat Oven: 375 ° Fahrenheit**

## Ingredients:

**2/3 cup butter or margarine, softened**

**2/3 cup brown sugar**

**2 large eggs**

**1 ½ cups old-fashioned oats**

**1 ½ cups flour**

**1 t. baking soda**

**½ t. salt**

**1 – 6 oz. package Ocean Spray Craisins Dried Cranberries**

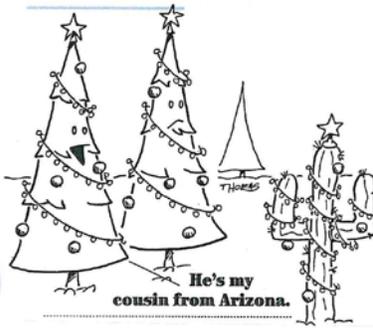
**2/3 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips**

## Directions:

1. Beat butter and sugar together in a mixing bowl until light and fluffy using an electric mixer. Add eggs and mix well. Combine oats, flour, baking soda and salt in a separate mixing bowl. Add to butter mixture in several additions, mixing well after each addition. Stir in dried cranberries and chocolate chips

2. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown.

3. Cool on wire rack and ENJOY!



# December Calendar

*The month of December is “Read a Book” month. When is the last time you visited your local library (some libraries just recently re-opened). Check out these bestsellers – *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson; *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins; *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate (editor’s pick: *American Dirt*)*

**K**eepp those germs away, now more than ever! December 1-7 is National Handwashing Awareness Week. Best-selling brand of hand sanitizer? Purell, with headquarters right here in Akron, Ohio (GoJo Industries) – How many of you have a Bath & Body Works hand sanitizer in your car or purse?

**Dec. 4** – National Cookie Day – Have a sweet treat today! Did you know that the world’s top-selling cookie is the Oreo?

**Dec. 7** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)

**Dec. 10** – Hanukkah begins at sundown

**Dec. 19** – Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization, will honor and remember fallen veterans by placing winter wreaths at their graves

**Dec. 21** – Get ready for cold and snow as this day marks the official first day of winter. According to the Farmer’s Almanac, this winter is predicted to have plenty of snow!

## Birthdays!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Betty Post <i>Happy 90th</i> Jane Bergh Pat Azzarello	2 <i>Happy 90th</i> Gertrude Unverrich	3	4	5 Irma Szoke
6 Fatini Coutris	7	8	9	10	11 Marsha Vaness	12 Phyllis Hoefel Peter Krembs
13	14 Osie Echols	15	16 Russell Wainwright Carol O’Laughlin	17 Virginia Richner	18 Marjorie Cook Joseph Vrona	19
20 Christina Elwood	21	22	23	24 Robert Banham	25	26 Michael Meiring
27	28	29 Judith Gianelos	30	31		

# On This Date...

## Dec. 1, 1955

Rosa Parks takes a stand in the civil rights movement by resisting bus segregation. Dec. 1 is known as Rosa Parks Day, honoring the bravery of this American activist



## Dec. 8, 1980

Former Beatle musician John Lennon is assassinated in New York City (this year marks the 40th anniversary)

## Dec. 20, 1817

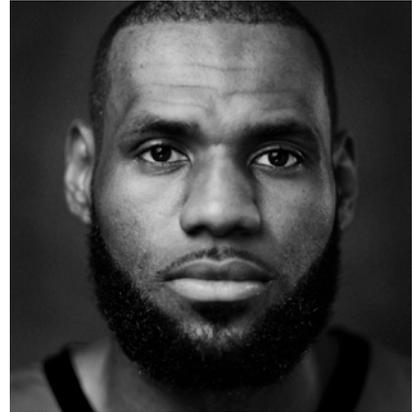
Mississippi becomes the 20th state

## Dec. 30, 1984

Four-time NBA MVP LeBron James is born (what basketball team does LeBron now play for?)

## Dec. 13, 1972

During NASA's Apollo 17 mission, humans land on the moon for the sixth and last time



### Did You Know?

A properly constructed igloo can keep you warm in severely cold weather?

The snowiest city on Earth is Aomori City in northern Japan? About 26 feet of snow falls each year!

# Not Just Santa!

On Christmas Eve, many children look forward to a visit from Santa Claus. Despite the pandemic, Santa WILL still deliver gifts to all the good boys and girls, no worries! Here are some other popular holiday callers around the world...



Greece

**S**t. Basil delivers presents on New Year's Day, his feast day. According to folklore, holiday visitors might include troublesome elves known as kallilantzaros. Families protect themselves from these mischief-makers by keeping the fireplace burning continuously between 12/25 and 1/6.



Italy

**L**a Befana is a mystical old woman who traditionally brings gifts to good boys and girls on Jan. 6.



Iceland

**J**olasveinars, or Yule lads, are mischievous characters. They bring gifts to good children and potatoes to the naughty ones. They also play pranks. According to folklore, these Yule lads are the children of ogres. (Like Shrek and Fiona?)