

Please see insert on our Good Neighbors program!

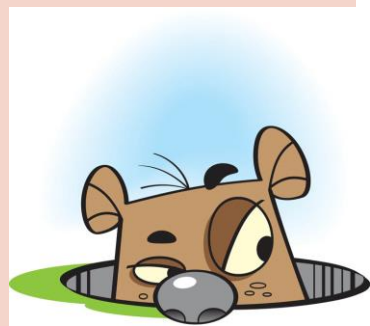
You could receive a \$500 rent credit for a referral of a friend or a loved one.

Please see Laura Spearman, Executive Director, for more information.

### Notable Quotable

“Every man’s life is a fairy tale written by God’s fingers.”

~ Hans Christian Andersen, author



## February Horoscopes and Birthdays

In astrology, those born between February 1–19 are Water Bearers of Aquarius. Water Bearers are deep-thinking intellectuals and unafraid of exploring outlandish ideas. Their strong sense of community makes them good friends and teammates. Those born from February 19–28 are the slippery Fish of Pisces. Selfless Pisces are very wise and empathetic, making them always willing to help others. These

deep emotions also make Pisces talented artists.

### Our February Birthday Gems:

*Virginia Beeks 3<sup>rd</sup>; Teala Poole 4<sup>th</sup>; Hannah Donald 6<sup>th</sup>; Dianne Wood 11<sup>th</sup>; Jeannie Head 14<sup>th</sup>; Susan Bolton 17<sup>th</sup>; Rhonda Robinson 22<sup>nd</sup>; Edna Kelley 25<sup>th</sup>; Barbara Alexander 27<sup>th</sup>.*

### Once Upon a Time continued from pg. 1

The brothers Wilhelm and Jakob Grimm, famous for their collection of fairy tales, also believed that many of the stories they found had existed for centuries before they wrote them down. They listened to old-timers tell the beloved tales “*Little Red Riding Hood*,” “*Cinderella*,” “*Hansel and Gretel*,” and “*Snow White*” and then transcribed their versions of the tales into print. The Brothers Grimm were the first scientists of folklore. They even took positions as

librarians and historians at the University of Göttingen in Germany.

It would be wise on *Fairy Tale Day* to choose a story collected by Wilhelm Grimm, for this brother’s birthday falls on February 24. If you’ve grown tired of the same old tales, then perhaps you can read a new tale you might be unfamiliar with, such as “*The King of the Golden Mountain*,” “*Hans, My Hedgehog*,” or “*Cat and Mouse in Partnership*.”

### Punxsutawney Phil

Annually on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, groups of people gather in a village square named Gobbler’s Knob to celebrate the 133<sup>rd</sup> fictitious predictions of a rodent named Phil. I say “fictitious” because regardless of what he “predicts”, we are in for six more weeks of winter.

How did a groundhog get to be named ‘Phil’? It began as an editorial post in the local newspaper based off an article that local farmers were hunting and trapping groundhogs for meat for dogs

because the marmot was a pest to their farms or for mid-winter target practice.

In 1887, a bed and breakfast served Roasted Groundhog as a menu option for dinner. It was so well received that it became an annual treat during mid-winter and *The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club* was formed. *Phil* was a name dubbed by the editor as a way of identifying the delectable dish.

Humans for centuries use animals to explain meteorological phenomena.

Can you think of any?

# The Whispering Willows

February 2019



The Willows of Easley – Assisted Living  
105 Willow Place, Easley, SC 20640  
(864) 855-9800.  
[www.thewillowsofeasley.com](http://www.thewillowsofeasley.com)

### Celebrating February

**Mend a Broken Heart Month**

**Library Lovers Month**

**Bubble Gum Day**  
February 1

**Groundhog Day**  
February 2

**Celebration of Love Week**  
February 10–16

**Valentine’s Day**  
February 14

**Love Your Pet Day**  
February 20

**Tooth Fairy Day**  
February 28

### Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time, it was decreed that February 26 would forevermore be *Fairy Tale Day*. Whether you fancy woodland sprites, fire-breathing dragons, princesses locked in high towers, or talking animals, fairy tales and the lessons they impart are integral parts of every culture.

Scientists have traced the first fairy tales back to an era before the written word. An old folktale entitled “*The Smith and the Devil*,” which is about a blacksmith selling his soul to the devil in order to gain magical abilities, dates to the Bronze Age—6,000 years ago. Researchers from the New University of Lisbon in Portugal believe that this ancient tale was shared orally in a language that

does not exist today. It is no surprise that fairy tales are so old. The purpose of these stories, after all, is to teach children clear distinctions between good and evil and right and wrong. Fairy tales are morality tales filled with magic and wonder as a means to attract the attention of a young audience. Yet, adults are no less in need of morality tales.

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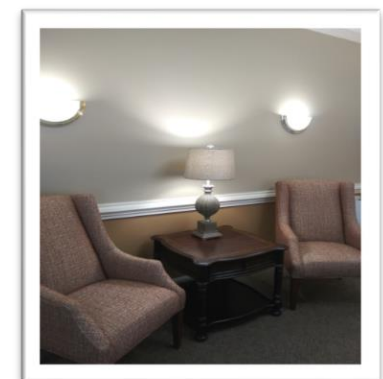


### Patience is a virtue.

We thank you for your continual patience while our facility continues to be remodeled and updated. We have had all the wall paper removed and the walls have been painted. New carpet was laid throughout the facility, as well.

We are hopeful for more new furniture – inside and outside, artwork, new lighting, and other

goodies in the future.



## The Year of the Pig

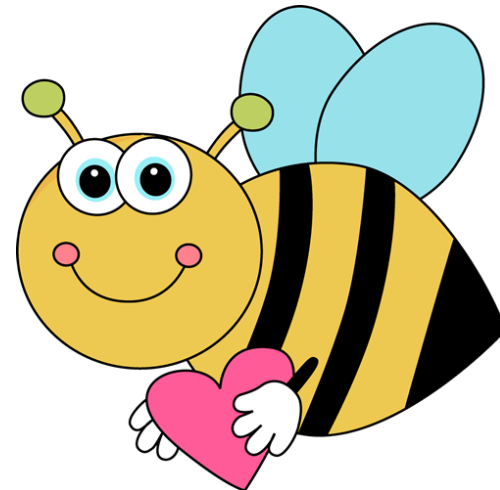
*Xin nián kuài lè!* That means "Happy New Year" in Chinese. February 5 ushers in the Year of the Pig, a very auspicious year in Chinese culture. Why does the pig represent wealth and good fortune? Perhaps the chubbiness of the pig indicates prosperity. Or maybe it is because wild boars are known to be fearless and will run headlong into any situation, usually winning out in the end. With pigs held in such high esteem, it may be surprising to learn that the pig is the very last animal of the Chinese zodiac and the legend concerning the pig is not very flattering.

conceded, and the pig could enter but was made the last sign of the zodiac. Perhaps the pig's connection to good fortune stems from this tale: despite the pig's hardships, he still triumphed and was added to the zodiac.

The Chinese New Year's celebration lasts not for one day, but for two whole weeks, observing many traditions and superstitions. For example, on New Year's Day, it is commonplace to set off firecrackers, yet it is forbidden to sweep because you may sweep away good luck. Celebrations continue to February 19, which culminates in the five-day-long Lantern Festival. The displaying of lanterns is a major event, and one of the most popular pastimes of the Lantern Festival is guessing at lantern riddles. Riddles are written on lanterns, and the answers often involve blessings for the family and fortune, reinforcing the major themes of the Chinese New Year.

Thank you for your continual support of Life Enrichment Programming! We appreciate you all very much!!

Thank you for showing your support by liking our posts on our Facebook page!



In China, the year of your birth sign is considered unlucky.

### New programming additions!

**Introducing:** Vanessa Cole, Professional Storyteller. Vanessa will be here to add a therapeutic approach to history lessons. Vanessa has degrees in Fine Arts, is a former teacher and has a certificate in Anthropology from The State of Virginia.

**Introducing:** Health Talks. Different Hospices and/or health professionals will present varying topics to continually educate our residents to help aid in their daily routines and care choices.

## Valentine's Day Odd Trivia

With roots in paganism, Valentine's day was originally celebrated as an fertility festival called *Lupercalia*. *Lupercalia* included sacrificing animals and whipping women with animal skins until the women bled, as a sign of a show of fertility. In the 1300s, Christianity changed the tradition to coincide with bird mating season – which fell around the middle of the month of February. Hence, why doves are associated with love.

The average man will spend twice as much as women on Valentine's Day. Most popular gifts are flowers, followed by chocolate and then jewelry. Plus an estimated nine million Americans will buy gifts or cards for their dogs!

The oldest surviving valentine dates to 1415. Hallmark company produced the first valentine for sales in 1913.



**Foot Doctor** will be here on **February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 around 1pm** for the quarterly visit. If you would like to see him, please contact Becky to confirm you are on the list.

I am seeking a group to lead either a bible study or a sing-a-long. Hours of availability are either 9am or 2pm. If you attend a church or know of someone that would be wonderful at doing this, it would be greatly appreciated! Please have them reach out to Becky.

Also seeking volunteers to do nails (Paint and file), help with outings (we have some great trips planned for this year!!), and/or lead a craft group, co-host a social or themed party and a watercolor class. Ideas encouraged and accepted.

### Take me out to the Ballgame!

We will be attending a Greenville Drive Game on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We have 20 seats reserved. This is an afternoon game – rain or shine. Please consider joining us for the fun and friendship!

### Ambassador Program

It's a hit! The residents are loving getting to know each other and participating in creating items to give to each other. Last month we made birthday cards.

