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Pensacola Park Post

A Monthly Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association Distribution
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The Neighborhood History Corner: Prohibition by Rebecca C. Glasscock

'Tis the Holiday season for indulgence. Did you know that during WWI, momentum had been building to quash alcohol consumption? By the end of the decade, the calls for Prohibition were strong. So, with the early settlement of Pensacola Park came Prohibition, from January 1920 until December 5, 1933. As History.com points out, there are a number of misconceptions about Prohibition. It was not illegal to drink alcohol, only to manufacture, sell, or transport it. Those who were financially able to do so stockpiled alcohol before Prohibition went into effect. Loopholes, as established by the Volstead Act, allowed the use of sacramental wine for religious purposes. Drug stores were allowed to sell "medicinal whiskey."

This medicinal whiskey was used for everything, from toothaches to the flu. With a prescription, one could legally purchase a pint of hard liquor once every ten days. As one can imagine, speakeasies became "pharmacies" and drugstores flourished. To illustrate, during the 1920s, the number of Walgreens grew from twenty to 500. In Lexington, our neighborhood was involved in two employment-related responses to Prohibition. Before the days of microbrews, Lexington had the Dixie Brewing Company. Prohibition caused it to close, so the owner, John Kloecker, changed tactics. The operation was turned into Dixie Ice Cream! Located adjacent to the closed brewery, at 123 Rose Street, the creamery employed 25 and produced up to 1,600 gallons of ice cream per day. Dixie Ice Cream's Vice President, James Proctor, lived in Pensacola Park, having moved to 129 Suburban in 1930 and then to 129 Goodrich in 1933-34. Times, how they change. Today, 34.3% of Kentucky's population is obese, the 8th highest adult obesity rate in the country. For children, 10 to 17, the obesity rate is the highest of any state. That was not the case in 1920. In that year, the Leader reported that John Kleeder of Dixie Ice Cream Company donated ten gallons of ice cream to the kids participating in the summer camp on the old Elmendorf farm. The camp spokeswoman noted how happy the children were, and that all of them were gaining needed weight. This fact was important enough to be reported in a June, 1920 issue of the Lexington Leader.



Luminarias: Starting a Neighborhood Tradition? by Rebecca C. Glasscock and Peggy Somsel



You've likely seen, and perhaps set up luminarias yourself. A luminaria, sometimes called a farolito, is a small paper lantern. Typically candles, tea lights, or string lights are set in small paper bags with sand to hold them down. While they can be used indoors, they are often lined up (or set up in a design) outside to celebrate a special event. Luminarias have a multi-century history, both religious and secular. As one example, in the 19th century, German and French settlers are said to have lit 100s of little fires along the Mississippi River to guide Santa (who the settlers called Pa Pa Noel) up the river.

Might you be interested in setting up these cheerful lights at the edge of your yard, in celebration of the Winter Solstice on December 21st? I'm planning to keep my luminarias – lit by solar string lights – going from December 21st through January 4th.

If you want to purchase luminarias, Birch Lane, Etsy, Wayfair, Amazon, and other vendors carry them.

Fun Fact: On the Winter Solstice, December 21, the sun will be directly overhead the Tropic of Capricorn. In Lexington, we'll have 9 hours and 31 minutes of daylight, the shortest of the year. It comes as a surprise to many that on January 4th, the earth will be at its closest point to the sun; this is called the Perihelion.

Needed in the Neighborhood:

We are looking for bags of leaf mulch or large cardboard (cut down into flat pieces and tape removed) to help develop Penmoken Circle, and prepare it for mulch. Please leave these items on the porch of 177 Penmoken. If you would like to volunteer to help lay out the clippings, cardboard, or mulch. Please email pensacolapark@gmail.com.



Firefly Habitats:

Another good use for your leaves is to leave them where they are! Did you know that Firefly (lightning bug) larvae spend the first two years of their lives underground and in fallen leaves? If you want to see more fireflies, then leave the leaves! If you must rake, then try to rake leaves into a wild portion of your yard. The fireflies will thank you!



Happy Holidays:

Merry Christmas! December 25th is viewed as both a sacred religious holiday (to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ for Christians), and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing traditions and practices on this day that are both religious and secular in nature. Interesting tidbit about Christmas: in the early years of Christianity, Easter was the main holiday; the birth of Jesus was not celebrated. In the fourth century, church officials decided to institute the birth of Jesus as a holiday. Unfortunately, the Bible does not mention the date of his birth (although some evidence suggests that his birth may have occurred in the spring.) Pope Julius I chose December 25th. It is commonly believed that the church chose this date in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Winter Solstice festival. Before it was called Christmas, it was known as the Feast of the Nativity, the custom spread to Egypt by 432 BC and to England by the end of the sixth century. As sourced from History.com

Happy Hanukkah! While this newsletter will probably be too late in reaching many celebrating this holiday (as the holiday is celebrated from Nov 28th-Dec 6th in 2021), the neighborhood still wants to wish all of our Jewish neighbors a Chag Urim Sameach! Hanukkah (to put it simply) is known as the “festival of lights.” It is an eight-day holiday where Jewish people light a candle on each of the eight evenings in remembrance of God’s provision. Interesting Hanukkah tidbit: one of the games that are played during Hanukkah is that of the dreidel. During the time of the Maccabean struggle (164-160 BCE), Israelites were not allowed to worship YHWH (God). If the Greeks caught them studying the Torah or praying they would be put to death. The Hebrews thought up a plan to enable them to worship and serve YHWH. Next to their holy books, they kept little tops, otherwise known as dreidels. If a Greek came by, they quickly put away their books and pretended to be playing the dreidel game. A “dreidel” is a four-sided spinning top, made of wood, clay, or plastic. A Hebrew letter is written on each of its four sides. The four letters on the dreidel include the nun, gimel, hey, and shin. These letters represent the Hebrew phrase, “Nes Gadol Hayah Sham” (a great miracle happened here). As sourced from lifeinmessiah.com.

Good Yule and Winter Solstice to our fellow pagans in the neighborhood! Yule is celebrated from Dec 21st - Jan 1st 2022. In celebration of the Winter Solstice being the shortest day of the year, the idea is that one must keep the light going in order to drive out the darkest days, and bring about a new spring, for the new harvest. So how does one celebrate Yule? Well, you can burn the Yule log, or have a bonfire, or light a candle. In modern times, many who celebrate Yule, burn a fire/flare for an entire day and night, in the past the tradition mandated that you keep the fire lit consistently for 12 days straight never letting it dwindle (can you imagine a bonfire for 12 days straight!) The ash from the logs will then be scooped up and used in the planting beds for the New Year, thus what was old, will become new. The candle will typically be lit on all of the seasonal holidays throughout the year, and on Yule it will be the last time it will be burned. After this a new candle will be lit for the New Year, to bring in the new light. Interesting tidbit about Yule: many Christmas traditions actually borrow from Yule traditions. For example, decorating an evergreen tree comes from Yule, which was done to give thanks to the tree spirits and encourage them to return in the spring. Santa Claus is also tied to Yule, except he was once called Old Man Winter, or Father Winter.

Joyous Kwanzaa! Celebrated on December 26th – January 1st 2022, Kwanzaa derives its name from the Swahili phrase *Matunda Ya Kwanza*, which means “First Fruits.” It is based on ancient African harvest festivals and celebrates ideals such as family life and unity. A relatively new holiday compared to other holidays in the U.S., Kwanzaa was started in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of African Studies at California State University; it was his response to the Watts Riots in Los Angeles as a way to bring African Americans together as a community. Interesting tidbit about Kwanzaa: there are seven guiding principles to be discussed during this holiday. Each day a different principle is discussed and a candle is lit on the kinara (candleholder). Once all candles are lit on the final day the families enjoy an African feast, called karamu. These seven core principles, also called Nguzo Saba, are: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). As sourced from interchange.org

EMBLEM ORDERS All end of the year emblem orders will be placed on Dec 20th 2021. Next emblem order will be in March 2022.

HOW TO ORDER A PENSACOLA PARK EMBLEM

Please visit our website www.pensacolapark.org to order any emblems, or write us at pensacolapark@gmail.com. Payment is via paypal, check, or cash. There are three types of emblems you can order:

- Flag. Comes in three colors: 2'x3' Black, Green, Red (\$85)
- Metal Plaque. Comes in two sizes: 8x8 (\$165) and 5x5 (\$80)
- Stickers. Comes in eight different colors (\$2 each)



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

As an organization we do not currently collect any neighborhood association dues, instead we function off of grants, fundraisers, and donations from the neighborhood. Donations allow us to go after matching grants, buy trees to increase our canopy, improve street conditions, throw community events, and be able to print this newsletter. If you would like to donate, you can either:
(1) Drop off Cash or Check to our GREEN PPNA mailbox at 107 Lackawanna Rd / (2) Use Paypal @ pensacolapark@gmail.com

ABOUT PENSACOLA PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY AND PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Pensacola Park Preservation Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 formed by Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association in order to bring together residents and businesses located in the Pensacola Park Nationally Registered Historic Boundary, for the common good of (1) preserving the historic integrity and resources of the area; (2) creating an environment that promotes sustainable and appropriate growth for the neighborhood; (3) providing historic education and assistance to those in the Pensacola Park Neighborhood for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic homes, structures, and landscapes; and (4) Unifying and being representative of all the original streets in the Pensacola Park Historic boundary. Also check us out online at www.pensacolapark.org, and follow us on Facebook @ Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association.

If you have any questions or would like to submit topics or op-eds to Pensacola Park Post, please feel free to write us at pensacolapark@gmail.com. If you would like to stop receiving the free monthly post, please write us and put “stop post” in the heading, along with your physical address. Thank you.

Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) and Pensacola Park Preservation Society (PPPS), our nonprofit, are not affiliated with WGPL Neighborhood Association. PPNA/PPPS represent ALL streets in Pensacola Park Historic District, including: Goodrich, Lackawanna, Nicholasville, Norfolk, Penmoken, Pensacola, Rosemont, Suburban, and Wabash.