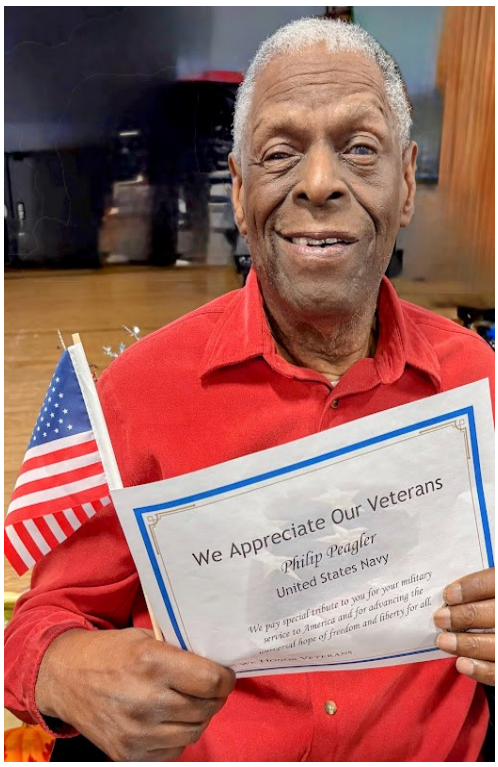
THE WITHERELL TIMES

DECEMBER 2025 VOL. 129 NO. 12

VETERANS DAY - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Veterans Day is always a special celebration here as we honor those NW residents & patients who served our country in the US military - recognizing their patriotism, service, courage, and sacrifice. At a patriotic concert here, veterans were honored with a US flag pin and certificate. We extend our deepest gratitude to those here at NW:



Navy: Henry Baker and Philip Peagler

Army: George Ipekdijan, Dennis Sokol, Patrick Biase and Joan Smith.

Army National Guard: Richard Roth

GOBBLE TILL YOU WOBBLE

Our NW kitchen crew began preparing the traditional Thanksgiving feast three days ahead of the holiday, with turkeys, potatoes, gravy ,stuffing, veggies, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pies - whew, that's a lot of cooking! The NW Café also treated our staff to a Thanksgiving holiday lunch. Sincere thanks to our Chefs (pictured here: Head Chef Monica and newly promoted Sous Chef, Devon) and the entire kitchen team for their hard work - we are grateful for the hands that feed us, and to the team that made the holiday delicious.

Local grade schools made Thanksgiving placemats for each resident's meal tray.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our Chaplaincy hosted a Thanksgiving service where residents from different religious faiths celebrated in fellowship and gratitude. It was a time of thankful hearts, words from our Chaplains Lizzie, Tony and Jen, songs of praise from our Recreation musician Vincent, and sharing of the holiday as a community.

THANKSGIVING IS BETTER WITH PUMPKIN COOKIES

The 3rd Floor Recreation dream team - Gail, Lily, and their trusty mobile oven, were at it again, this time baking pumpkin cookies for the Thanksgiving holiday. Just to make it a *bit* better, the cookies were laced with tons of chocolate chips. Who needs pumpkin pie when you can have these sweet treats!

A BIG GOOD-BYE

This month brings the retirement of Chaplain, Tony Correale, who has been a part of the Chaplaincy team for 24 years. Tony started as an Intern within the Chaplaincy dept. and has continued a legacy here of providing spiritual support to residents and families. Tony's kind approach, humor and genuine connections will truly be missed. Enjoy a well-deserved retirement, Tony!

SOMETIMES SANTA NEEDS A LITTLE HELP

With Christmas just around the corner, it's "Toys For Tots" time. Started in 1947 by the US Marines, Toys For Tots continues to make a difference. Here at NW, volunteer Jim Mullins (pictured here) collects these toys in our drop box located in the NW Lobby entrance. Any toy, big or small, for a girl or boy, is welcomed! **Joy can be in the giving.**

OUR TAG SALE - DEALS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

Our annual Tag Sale was a door buster again, with serious shoppers arriving at 10:00 as the auditorium doors opened. Then at 3:00 we announced: "Everything is free" and the stampede began! Our thanks to all those who donated items for this worthy cause, with all proceeds going to resident recreation activities. Also big thanks to the Recreation team and volunteers who were there for set-up, all day operation and cleaning up at day's end. It was a fun and welcoming atmosphere for our shoppers that made the day special.

I LIKE LONG WALKS…. ON THE OCEAN FLOOR

Andy Cummings is an under-water photographer who recently showed his works in our gallery. Now Andy is back with a presentation to our residents on how it is all done, stories of the deep, getting the fish to smile, and even bringing along his under-water camera for residents to see. For Andy, most conversations are with fish.

GREEN THUMBS

For many, gardening is their happy place. Our residents were able to get their hands in the soil with a visit from The Greenwich Botanical Center volunteers. Each resident was given a clay pot and lots of soil, and planted 4 paperwhites bulbs (these flowers are a close relative to the daffodil). A few weeks from now, with watering and some TLC, residents who enjoy the “green zone” are able to see their flowers bud and bloom. Soon we will break out of the winter doldrums with these easy-to-grow flowering bulbs.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our facility will be hosting a Blood Drive on Jan. 4. As we all know, Blood Drives serve as a way to support community health and to maintain a sufficient blood supply in our area. For NW staff and families to donate, you must be over 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good general health.

THINK YOU KNOW CHRISTMAS? LET'S FIND OUT: CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. What is the main ingredient in gingerbread cookies?

2. How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Spanish?

3. What Christmas song features the lyrics "You better watch out, you better not cry"?

4. What Christmas decoration is actually a parasitic plant?

5. Who played George Bailey in the classic Christmas movie "It's a Wonderful Life"?

6. In Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol", what was the first name of Scrooge?

7. What 225-ton gift was given to the U.S by the French on Christmas in 1886?

8. What much-reviled Christmas dessert is known for its long shelf life?

9. What sparks roughly 160 accidental fires each holiday season?

10. What is the real life department store in the movie "Miracle on 34th Street "?

11. Elvis isn't going to have a white Christmas, he's going to have a….

12. Which Christmas song is among Americans' most disliked, according to a US survey?

ANSWERS: 1. Molasses 2. Feliz Navidad 3. Santa Claus is Coming to Town 4. Mistletoe 5. James Stewart 6. Ebenezer 7. The Statue of Liberty 8. Fruit Cake 9. Dried-out Xmas trees 10. Macy's 11. Blue 12. Santa Baby

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

The election of new officers of the NW Resident Council was recently held . Pictured here are: Ian Macmillan, President and Mary Winslow, Vice President. Congratulations to both Ian and Mary and our thanks for taking on this leadership role. The Resident Council meetings are held monthly in the auditorium and will now be conducted by these new Officers.

IT'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TIME

Countdown to Christmas shopping has begun and no better place to pick-up a few things on your *Nice List* than our NW Gift Shop. There is a great selection of gifts and stocking stuffers. With each purchase over $30 comes a free ornament.

Christmas cheer starts here!

WELCOME TO THE NW CAFÉ

A new face in our Café is Chef Bohdan Lolock, who likes to be called "Bo". Bo started in the family restaurant business when he was 12 years old and has never left the kitchen. Even serving 14 years in the US Army, Bo continued his passion for food as a Dining Officer. His favorite food to cook: seafood.

See you in the Café, Bo!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

With artistic talents of volunteers like Sally and Debbie, our residents engaged in crafting holiday ornaments made of yarn, ribbon and imagination.

Tis the Season!

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Joining our Rehab team is Occupational Therapist Briana Tucci. Briana is a recent graduate from Yeshiva University in NYC. Prior to graduating, Briana completed several college internships at facilities similar to ours. She loved the work and atmosphere at these sites so after graduation, joining us was an easy decision. Happy to have Briana as part of the Rehab team.

UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER CONTEST - UGLY NEVER LOOKED SO FESTIVE

Just a reminder to start creating your Ugly Holiday Sweater for our annual contest which will be held Wednesday, December 17.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

A few days ago, I went to the grocery store to buy salad and came out with a whole cart load of food! Why? I don't really know, but as soon as I entered the store, I sensed a tension; waves of desperation, distress, and infectious panic.

Truthfully, during this Advent season, we often struggle to cope with our circumstances, our responsibilities, our family, and with the state of our complex world; we recognize that all is not as it should be, and we need serious help.

Bethlehem too, was a place of anxiety and distress, and yet God chose to appear anyway, in the form of a tiny baby. Jesus was to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies of God's salvation for the world; the miraculous birth happened despite the fear and chaos surrounding Roman rule and King Herod's brutality.

Years before, God had delivered the Jews from another hated king, and then miraculously allowed for one day's worth of oil to last eight, enough to light the menorah in the Temple, a sign of God's presence, and celebrated as Hanukkah.

Both celebrations reflect unexpected divine intervention, miraculous moments promising restoration for God's people.

In the coming weeks I invite you to quiet your heart, and to expect the unexpected, even the miraculous. Together let's seek God's gentle presence and extend that gentleness of spirit to each other. God rarely works alone; he delights in inviting each of us to take part in his ongoing miraculous works of healing and restoring.

Holiday blessings to you and those whom you love from:

Lizzie, and the NW Chaplains

NATHANIEL WITHERELL FAMILY COUNCIL

Family members who have a loved one in a nursing home are encouraged to join a united voice called the Family Council. This group's mission is to support resident life by communicating concerns to facility administrators and work towards resolutions. Our NW Family Council welcomes and supports new family members. To join the Nathaniel Witherell Family Council, email Amy Badini at: abadini06870@gmail.com.

NW RESIDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Resident Council meetings are held monthly in the auditorium and are conducted by resident Officers & a NW Staff Advisor. Meeting minutes are available to residents upon request. For any questions, contact Carissa Ronish in Recreation.

FRIENDS OF NATHANIEL WITHERELL

Friends of Nathaniel Witherell is a nonprofit that enhances the lives of Witherell residents & patients through volunteer services and charitable support for recreation programs and quality of life projects. For more information visit https://friendsofnathanielwitherell.org/ or Lisa.Harding@FriendsofNW.org.

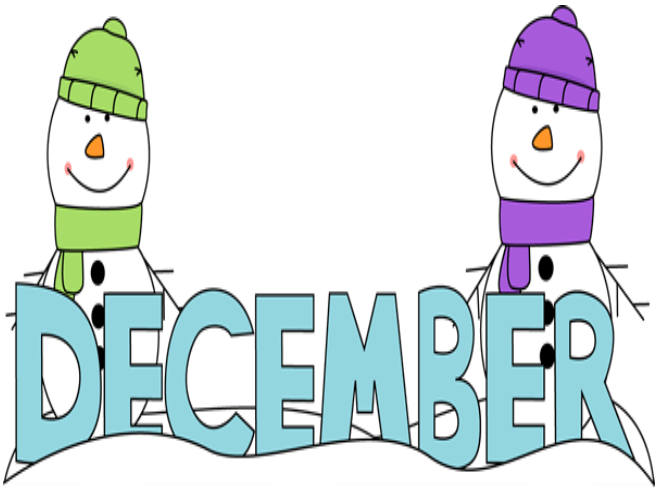
DECEMBER 2025 HOLIDAYS:

Dec. 14 - Beginning of Hanukkah

Dec. 21 - Winter Solstice: shortest day of the year

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Dec. 26 - Kwanzaa begins



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WORD SEARCH: CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

ADVENT
ANGELS
CANDYCANES
CHRISTMAS TREE
ELVES
FIGURINES
GARLAND
NUTCRACKER
NATIVITY SET
SANTA
HOLLY
ORNAMENTS
POINSETTIA
REINDEER
STAR
WREATH
SNOWMAN
SNOWFLAKE
TREE LIGHTS
TREE SKIRT
WINDOW ART
STOCKINGS
CANDLES

K R M E B U J Z S L E G N A W N W
G W A Z V T R O S T N E M A N R O
V I S D C H R I S T M A S T R E E
T N T A N D P S E N A C Y D N A C
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S O F M E T L T I S T A R U E E Y
Y W I A X E A A T N S E T K D L S
T A G G V A S H C N S C F N E D G
I R U N J R G K O T R E A C Y N N
V T R R A I H W I A N L T L I A I
I W I O L M F T C R R E L T E C K
T H N E Q L W K A A T O V L I O C
A X E I A B E O G E H T V D T A O
N R S K G R Q W N M R E G A A H T
T R E I N D E E R S S W P P R G S

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION:

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

K R M E B U J Z S L E G N A W N W
G W A Z V T R O S T N E M A N R O
V I S D C H R I S T M A S T R E E
T N T A N D P S E N A C Y D N A C
E D C R N E Z O S O R U J M N S G
S O F M E T L T I S T A R U E E Y
Y W I A X E A A T N S E T K D L S
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I R U N J R G K O T R E A C Y N N
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T H N E Q L W K A A T O V L I O C
A X E I A B E O G E H T V D T A O
N R S K G R Q W N M R E G A A H T
T R E I N D E E R S S W P P R G S