



2147 Davie Ave, Statesville, NC 28625

Postage Information



### Management Team

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**Holly Brown, Activity Director**

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### April Birthdays

In astrology, those born from April 1–19 are Rams of Aries, the first sign of the zodiac. Rams are unafraid to forge ahead with passion, zeal, and confidence. Full of optimism and hope, they are both eager to get the job done and unafraid to confront problems head-on. Those born from April 20–30 are Bulls of Taurus. While Taureans enjoy the comforts of luxury, they are unafraid of hard work and dedicate themselves to the tasks at hand. Their steadfast nature makes them reliable.

#### Radiant Residents

- Sue Campbell 4/11
- Rachel Edwards 4/24
- Carlin Gardner 4/4
- Dare Joines 4/24
- Sarah Kumpe 4/13
- Beulah Mack 4/2
- Grace Robbins 4/26

#### Exceptional Staffers

- Jennifer Hubbard 4/20

April 2021

# The Garden Post

The Gardens of Statesville | 2147 Davie Avenue | 704-878-0123 | 704-878-8689

### Celebrating April

**Habitat Awareness Month**

**Jazz Appreciation Month**

**Card and Letter Writing Month**

**April Fools' Day**

*April 1*

**Easter**

*April 4*

**Scrabble Day**

*April 13*

**World Amateur Radio Day**

*April 18*

**Earth Day**

*April 22*

Follow us on social media:

Gardens of Statesville & Cardinal Village

@Premier\_GOS

gardens\_of\_statesville

*Resident Referral Bonus: Refer a friend, they move in and stay more than 30 days...you could get \$1,500 off your next months' rent. See Mechelle or Cyndi for more information.*

Visit our website:

<https://www.premierseniorliving.com/the-gardens-of-statesville/>

### Great Works of Art with Holly

Leonardo da Vinci was born just outside Florence, Italy, on April 15, 1452. It is most fitting that Da Vinci was born in the springtime, during the season of rebirth. The Renaissance was a period of cultural reawakening after the darkness of the Middle Ages, with Europeans making significant advancements in science, art, philosophy, and politics. Perhaps no one epitomized the era more than Da Vinci. As an artist, scientist, and inventor, he was the ultimate "Renaissance Man."



Surprisingly, it was not Da Vinci who developed the idea of the Renaissance Man. It was the philosopher, writer, artist, and architect Leon Battista Alberti, a predecessor of Da Vinci who wrote that "a man can do all things if he will." Alberti called this the *uomo universal*, or "universal man," a persona that he himself embodied. But if Alberti laid the foundations of the Renaissance Man, Da Vinci built himself up as its masterpiece.

Da Vinci received no formal schooling beyond the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic. He showed so much artistic promise that his father apprenticed him to the master painter Andrea del Verrocchio. It was in Verrocchio's workshop that Da Vinci's genius began to shine. Verrocchio found his own work so inferior to his young apprentice's that he vowed never to paint again. Yet Da Vinci was restless. He was interested in so much more than painting. His passion for science led him to study mechanics, architecture, and human anatomy. Da Vinci began keeping meticulous records of his studies in illustrated notebooks. While the vast majority of what we know of Da Vinci comes from the 6,000 pages of notes and drawings that he left behind, he is best remembered for two paintings: *The Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa*. But perhaps the most important contribution Da Vinci made to humanity was his belief that science and art were complementary disciplines. To truly see the beauty of the world around us, and to fully appreciate Da Vinci's genius, we must use science to elevate art and employ artistic principles in the pursuit of scientific inquiry.



## An Olympian Task

On April 6, 1896, the first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens, Greece, nearly 1,500 years after they had been banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius I. The ancient games were a tribute to the Greek god Zeus. Theodosius, a Christian ruler, abolished the games as part of his campaign against paganism. It wasn't until 1894 that the Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin suggested reviving the competition. The 79 delegates in attendance unanimously approved the proposal, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was formed.

What drove De Coubertin to revive the lost tradition of the Olympic Games? In 1890, he paid a visit to the Wenlock Olympian Society, organizers of the annual Wenlock Olympian Games, held in Shropshire, England. These games were spearheaded by local doctor William Penny Brookes, a man who believed that sports and physical competition were as necessary for one's self-improvement as morality and education. Brookes organized the first Wenlock Olympian Games in 1850 as a mixture of athletics (such as running, hurdles, quoits, football, and bicycle racing on penny farthings) and traditional country games like blindfolded wheelbarrow races and even an "Old Women's Race" where the senior participants could win a pound of tea. Perhaps the most important aspect of the games was their egalitarianism. Aristocrats and working classes alike were invited to participate, for Brookes keenly felt that athletics and friendly competition could improve the entire town and community.

De Coubertin was deeply inspired by what Brookes had accomplished in Shropshire, and he modeled the IOC after Brookes' Wenlock Olympian Society. Although those very first Olympic Games in Athens featured 280 athletes from 13 nations, the games lacked popular support. Not until 1924 were the first truly successful Summer Olympics held in Paris. After the first Winter Olympics were held later that year, De Coubertin felt his work was finally done, and he retired as IOC president in 1925.

## Upcoming April Events



**Easter Egg Critters**  
1<sup>st</sup>

**Leonardo da Vinci**  
12<sup>th</sup>

**The Price is Right**  
21<sup>st</sup>

**A Earthly Game of Family Feud**  
22<sup>nd</sup>

**Planting in the Courtyard**  
30<sup>th</sup>

### Employee of the Month- Amber Bryson, Dietary



Amber is our March employee of the month; she has been with the Gardens since June 2017. I feel she truly enjoys preparing the meals for all of us. She is always

smiling and is very thoughtful.

When Amber isn't here at the Gardens she enjoys spending time with her dogs Kytana, Prince, and Kane. She also lives with her grandmother and provides her care daily.

Amber, we are glad you are a part of this team! Thank you for all you do!



## Fountain of Fiction

On April 2, 1513, explorer Juan Ponce de León landed on a peninsula he called "La Florida" and claimed it for the Spanish crown. But why had he come? Some say he was searching for the fabled Fountain of Youth, a spring that granted eternal youth to whoever bathed in its waters.



It is said that the indigenous Taino people of the Caribbean passed on stories of a magical fountain and river of rejuvenation to the Spaniards. Rumors reached De León that this was located somewhere north of Cuba. So with permission of King Ferdinand of Spain, De León set out from Puerto Rico to find it. He set sail with three ships and landed in Florida, yet he never found the Fountain of Youth. But then again, historians argue that was never his intention. Not only was the Fountain of Youth a legend but so was De León's search for it. The truth is that stories of De León's search for the Fountain of Youth were invented by his rivals as a means of ruining his reputation after his death.

In 1508, Ponce de León colonized Puerto Rico and became its governor, but a political rift forced him to give up Puerto Rico to Diego Columbus, the son of Christopher Columbus. As a consolation, King Ferdinand of Spain granted De León permission to colonize and become the governor of the island of Bimini, the modern-day Bahamas, but only if De León could find it and finance the expedition himself. Amongst all the correspondence between De León and the crown, there is not one mention of a Fountain of Youth or search for magical waters. So how was De León's name ever tied to this fable?

After De León's death, Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo, a Spanish court historian and ally of Diego Columbus, wrote an account of a bumbling and foolish De León searching for a magical fountain of youth in Florida. While many at the time knew the writings to be a satirical smear campaign against De León, over the centuries Oviedo's fantastical fictions have morphed into fact for those searching for eternal youth.

## Welcome Back Tammy Bennett, Beautician

Beauty Shop will be open the following days in April:



Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

*All services provided by Tammy will be added to your monthly statement.*

## Snack Cake Super Stardom



James Dewar started working at Illinois' Continental Baking Company in the 1920s as a delivery boy, hawking pastries from a horse-drawn cart. By 1930, he had risen to plant manager, and on April 6 of that year, he created the most famous snack cake the world has ever known, the Twinkie. Before the cakes were called Twinkies, they were Little Shortcake Fingers, pre-packaged strawberry-filled shortcakes that were available only during the short strawberry-harvest season. The idle factory equipment drove Dewar to invent a new, still nameless, yellow sponge cake filled with banana crème. While on his way to a marketing meeting, Dewar passed a billboard advertising Twinkle Toe Shoes. He had found the Twinkies name, and the rest is snack cake history.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,  
THANK YOU!!!**

to....

Shirley Looser and Clara Underwood  
for assisting with B-I-N-G-O!  
I couldn't do it without YOU!

♥ Holly