

# Caraton Commons De Pere December Edition

De Pere\*1500 Arcadian Lane\* (920) 339-0601 \*assistedlivingbyhillcrest.com\*  
Green Bay \*653 Woodside Road\* (920) 465-7600 \*assistedlivingbyhillcrest.com\*



## Celebrating December

### Caraton Commons Christmas Party Dates:

**Building One De Pere  
December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00**

**Building Two De Pere  
December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00**

**Building Three De Pere  
December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00**

**Caraton Commons Green Bay  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:00**

### Bingo's Birthday Month

**Hanukkah Continues**  
*December 1-6*

**Saint Nicholas Day**  
*December 6*

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**  
*December 7*

**Poinsettia Day**  
*December 12*

**Christmas**  
*December 25*

**New Year's Eve**  
*December 31*

## Resident of the Month



*Brian H.*

Meet Brian H. he is our resident of the Month of December!!

Brian is originally from Green Bay, WI

and has three brothers. Brian has done various jobs in his life; he is most proud of the time he spent in the army.

One fun fact in the Army he had to watch movies on how to birth a baby, in case he would ever have to do it in his lifetime, Brian said "it could come in handy". Brian enjoys singing, he can be heard throughout the facility with his wonderful booming voice. Brian likes to socialize with his fellow residents and staff. One of his famous sayings is "can I have more chocolate milk please" and he greatly enjoys the desserts and has been known to ask for second and thirds. Brian's advice would be to keep smiling and singing.

## From Saint to Santa

Illustrator Thomas Nast has been called the “Father of the American Cartoon” for the illustrations he featured in *Harper’s Weekly* magazine in the 19th century. It was Nast who first used a donkey and elephant to symbolize America’s political parties. He fought corruption with scathing political cartoons. But Nast’s most enduring contribution to popular culture might be his depictions of Santa Claus as a jolly, fat man from the North Pole dressed in red and white.

Long before he was Santa Claus, he was Saint Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra, a fourth-century holy man renowned for the miracle of resurrecting three young boys killed by a butcher. For this remarkable feat, Saint Nicholas became the patron saint of children. Over the centuries, veneration of Saint Nicholas would spread. The Dutch called him Sinterklaas, and when the Dutch set sail for the New World in the 17th century, they brought Sinterklaas with them.

Sinterklaas, or Santa Claus, and Christmas, were well-established in America by the 1800s. But in December of 1823, Clement Clark Moore published his poem *’Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and first described Santa Claus not as

an austere bishop, but “chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf.” Charles Dickens then published *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, transforming Christmas from a religious holiday into a popular and commercial extravaganza. By January of 1863, with the United States plunged into Civil War, Thomas Nast had plenty of inspiration for his first cartoon depicting Santa Claus.



Nast’s first depictions of Santa portray him not just as a jolly old elf but as an ally of the Union Army, and he used his own long beard as inspiration for Santa’s flowing white one. Over the next 23 years, Nast would make 33 illustrations of Santa, none more

influential than his 1881 image of “Merry Old Santa Claus,” complete with a white beard, rosy cheeks, red suit, and pack full of toys. This image, more than any other, has made Santa Claus who he is today.

## The Silent Treatment

On December 20, 1980, the Miami Dolphins and New York Jets played a rather meaningless football game at the end of the regular season. Neither team had any hopes of making the playoffs, but the game’s broadcaster, NBC, used the game to conduct a national experiment.

NBC called it the “Announcerless Game.” They wanted the game to speak for itself in all its hard-crunching, play-calling, endzone celebrating glory. For producers, it proved a technical challenge. Play needed to be covered by a wide variety of camera angles and sensitive microphones, so that viewers believed they were in the game. Unfortunately, many of the sounds were muffled by the grass on the field, the shape of the stadium, and the background crowd noise. Despite all the frantic hard work of the producers—changing cameras, zooming in on quarterbacks, all attempts to heighten visual drama—television viewers were watching a silent movie. It turns out that announcers are a vital ingredient to any broadcast. An “announcerless game” has never been attempted since.

## Bah, Humbug!

Maybe it’s the long lines at shopping centers, or maybe it’s the incessant drone of holiday music, but some people just don’t enjoy the holiday season. Luckily, December 21 is Humbug Day, a day to unapologetically embrace your inner Scrooge.



No one knows where the word *humbug* came from. Some think it came into use during the 18th century as the word *Hamburg* during a time when England was flooded with counterfeit coins from that German city.

Others think that it comes from a humming bug, something small, but incredibly irritating. Either way, the word denotes something that is a hoax or nonsense. When Scrooge utters, “Bah! Humbug,” he is declaring Christmas to be a fraud.

## *Our Shining Star!!*

### *Meet Emma*



The first Tuesday in December brings World Trick Shot Day, a holiday started by the Harlem Globetrotters, those basketball wizards renowned for making impossible shots look easy. Ordinary people with a basketball hoop and a ball are encouraged to amaze their friends by making trick shots of their own.



If you need inspiration, look to the Globetrotters. Each year on Trick Shot Day, they perform an impossible shot. In 2019, Globetrotter star Hammer Harrison performed the world's highest slam dunk by skydiving from 13,000 feet and slamming the ball home.

Share your trick shot on social media, and the Globetrotters might take notice. You could win tickets to a Globetrotters game.

Emma has been a with Caraton Commons for one year as a PCW and a med passer. Emma is from West Bend, WI. she has 3 siblings; 2 sisters and a brother who all still reside back home in West Bend. Emma spends a lot of time at her parent's cabin, it is near Minocqua, WI. While there she enjoys 4 wheeling, and in the summer, boating. Emma moved to De Pere in November of 2020 from West Bend. Went to University of Green Bay for one year and then Northwest Technical College for nursing school. Emma is currently taking a break from school to make some money. Emma moved to De Pere to motivate herself to go back to school to pursue her passion for nursing. Some of Emma's hobbies include: riding ATV's, swam for 6 years, and hiking. When getting time to go back home to her parent's house in West Bend she enjoys time with her two dogs Millie and Roscoe. Her favorite place to visit is Mississippi, because a lot of her family lives there. One great memory from her last trip there she got her Great Dane, Roscoe. Emma's favorite time of year is the fall, loves the changing of the leaves and all the color in provides

Emma sees herself in ten years as a Neonatal ICU Nurse. Some of the reasons why Emma loves her job is she enjoys listening and getting to know the residents, she likes the fact the she brings them joy. If Emma would win the lottery, she would pay off her student debt and go back to college, give some of her winning to her parents and buy a big house in the country and have lots of dogs.

Thank you, Emma, for everything you do and congratulations on being this month's Shining Star!!!

## Roman Holiday

As an old carol reminds us, Christmas is “the most wonderful time of the year.” In ancient Rome, the weeklong festival of Saturnalia starting on December 17 was just as popular. The famed Roman poet Catullus went so far as to say that Saturnalia offered “the best of days.”

Saturn was the Roman god of agriculture, seed, sowing, and time. Saturnalia began as a farmer’s holiday to mark the end of the autumn planting season. Over time, the holiday evolved into a widely celebrated festival and moved later into the season, eventually coinciding with the winter solstice. The Temple of Saturn in Rome was the best place to celebrate Saturnalia. Rituals were performed to honor Saturn and ensure a good harvest. Some records indicate that the hollow statue of Saturn was filled to the brim with olive oil. The statue’s feet were bound with woolen ties, which were loosened on Saturnalia to symbolically free the god.



Romans also freed themselves. Slaves were permitted to wear the *pileus*, the red felt cap denoting freedom. Businesses and courts were closed. Banquets and feasts were held throughout the week, and gifts of

candles were exchanged so they could be offered at the Temple of Saturn. Evergreen boughs were used as decorations, and tin ornaments were hung from trees and shrubs. Revelers wandered from door to door singing songs. Saturnalia was such a raucous affair that the author Pliny the Younger built a soundproof room to shield him from the noisy crowds.

Many cherished Christmas traditions were originally part of Saturnalia: gift-giving, decorating with evergreen boughs, lighting candles, and door-to-door caroling. Emperor Constantine may have converted to Christianity in AD 312, but Saturnalia celebrations continued into the next century. Slowly, as Christianity became the dominant religion, the traditions associated with Saturnalia were celebrated on Christmas Day, December 25, a date chosen nine months after Gabriel’s Annunciation to Mary on March 25.

## December Birthdays

In astrology, those born from December 1–21 are Archers of Sagittarius. The Archers are the travelers of the zodiac, curious and energetic, with open minds craving new experiences and challenges. Those born from December 22–31 are Capricorn’s Goats. Like goats that perch on mountain crags, Capricorns are masters of self-control and responsibility. Intense focus and fortitude help them reach their goals.

Bette Midler (entertainer) – Dec. 1, 1945

Lucy Liu (actress) – Dec. 2, 1968

Sammy Davis Jr. (entertainer) – Dec. 8, 1925

Raven Symone (actress) – Dec. 10, 1985

Frank Sinatra (entertainer) – Dec. 12, 1915

Jamie Foxx (actor) – Dec. 13, 1967

Beethoven (composer) – c. Dec. 16, 1770

Cicely Tyson (actress) – Dec. 18, 1924

Samuel L. Jackson (actor) – Dec. 21, 1948

Clara Barton (nurse) – Dec. 25, 1821

John Legend (musician) – Dec. 28, 1978

LeBron James (athlete) – Dec. 30, 1984

## Waxing Poetic



Marie Tussaud, born on December 2, 1761, is best known for the many wax museums around the world that bear her name, but in the late 18th century, she was one of the world’s most famous artists. Tussaud learned the art of wax modeling from Philippe

Curtius, a doctor whose house was cleaned by Tussaud’s mother. Tussaud showed exceptional talent in the art of waxworking. Her uncanny models of the author Voltaire, the philosopher Rousseau, and American patriot Benjamin Franklin caught the eye of the French royal court, but her associations with the French royals would put her in danger during the French Revolution. In 1802, Tussaud left France for England, where she became a household name. In an era before photographs, Tussaud’s waxwork figures of famous people satisfied a public craving. In 1835, she opened a museum in London, and it has drawn visitors ever since.