

Sweethearts (also known as conversation hearts) are small heart-shaped sugar candies sold around Valentine's Day. Each heart is printed with a message such as "Be Mine", "Kiss Me", "Call Me", "Let's Get Busy", "Miss You", or "I'm Yours". Sweethearts were made by the New England Confectionery Company, or Necco, before being purchased by the Spangler Candy Company in 2018. They were also previously made by the Stark Candy Company. Necco manufactured nearly 8 billion Sweethearts per year. Similar products are available from Brach's and other companies. A similar type of candy is sold in the UK under the name Love Hearts; while similar in formulation to Sweethearts, Love Hearts are round, with the heart design and message embossed on their surface. Oliver R. Chase invented a machine in 1847 to cut lozenges from wafer candy, similar to Necco Wafers, and started a candy factory. Daniel Chase, Oliver's brother, began printing sayings on the candy in 1866. He designed a machine that was able to press on the candy similar to a stamp. The candy was often used for weddings since the candies had witty saying such as: "Married in pink, he will take a drink", "Married in White, you have chosen right", and "Married in Satin, Love will not be lasting". The candies were originally in the shape of a seashell and were large enough to carry a longer message. The heart-shaped conversation candies to be called Sweethearts got their start in 1901. Other shapes formerly produced include lozenges, horseshoes, and baseballs. Line extensions carrying the Sweethearts brand include chocolates and sugar-free hearts. Necco produced the hearts year-round, but mixing of colors and packaging were ramped up beginning in September to meet the demand for the product at Valentine's Day. Approximately 100,000 pounds (45,000 kg) of hearts were made per day, which sells out in about six weeks.



The company produces 8 billion hearts per year. As a Valentine candy, it is second in popularity only to chocolate. The largest market is related to school celebrations on Valentine's Day. In 2018, Necco declared bankruptcy. The original plant closed and their candy brands were sold off. The rights to Sweethearts were acquired by Spangler Candy Company. With the purchase of the brand by Spangler, Sweethearts were unavailable for Valentine's Day 2019 as Spangler set up production of the confections in a new plant. Sweethearts returned in 2020 with the original flavors from before Necco's 2010 change, but due to equipment problems, the familiar sayings were largely either incomplete or missing entirely.

Banana Bread

INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 cup margarine
- 1 1/2 cups mashed bananas
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp soda
- 1/2 cup sour milk or buttermilk
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 chopped nuts



DIRECTIONS:

Cream together margarine and sugar. Blend in bananas, eggs, vanilla, flour, soda and salt. Add slowly with sour milk, and mix all together well. Add the nuts if you wish. Bake in 2 loaf pans at 350° .

Notes:

I make my bread in a sprayed/flour bundt cake pan. I turn my pan ever 20 minutes until a butter knife comes out clean.

GOOD LUCK AND ENJOY A WARM SLICE OF BANANA BREAD!!!

Chasing Winter Glory . . .

~Activity Connection



The 2026 Winter Olympics are headed to the stunning landscapes of northern Italy, bringing together athletes and fans for a celebration of winter sports, culture, and camaraderie. Set across Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, the Games promise a picturesque backdrop of snow-capped Dolomite peaks, charming Alpine villages, and historic cities bursting with Italian flair. Visitors can expect not only thrilling competitions but also the chance to savor local traditions—from hearty mountain cheeses and cured meats to rich pastries and steaming bowls of polenta. Northern Italy's cuisine, hospitality, and vibrant markets offer a unique flavor to the global event, making the Olympics more than just an athletic spectacle. At the heart of the Games are the timeless Olympic values: teamwork, perseverance, and friendly rivalry. Whether athletes are coordinating flawless relay passes on the ice, supporting teammates in grueling downhill runs, or striving to shave precious seconds off their times, the Olympics showcase how dedication and collaboration turn individual effort into shared achievement. Even the competition itself, while intense, is framed by respect and admiration, highlighting the joy of challenging oneself and connecting with others from around the world. For winter sports enthusiasts, the 2026 Olympics also carry a strong sense of nostalgia. Fans will relive the thrill of skiing down glittering slopes, the elegance of figure skating routines, and the exhilaration of sledding through icy tracks. From alpine skiing and snowboarding to speed skating and bobsled, the Games celebrate the full spectrum of winter sports, each steeped in history and tradition. The Milan-Cortina Olympics offer a rare combination: breathtaking scenery, rich cultural experiences, and the universal language of sport. As nations gather to compete, cheer, and share in this global festival, the event promises to leave lasting memories for athletes and spectators alike. Whether you're drawn by the chance to witness record-breaking performances or simply to enjoy the snowy landscapes and Italian charm, the 2026 Winter Olympics are shaping up to be a spectacular, heartwarming celebration of skill, spirit, and wintertime joy.



PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Tenant Led Coffee Social	1 st 8 th 22 nd
Hope Harbor: Olympic Minute to Win It	2 nd
HRS 2nd grade Readers	3 rd 10 th
Virtual Voyage: Wonders of Italy	3 rd
St. Stephen Confirmation Students Visit	4 th
MLC Library Outreach	5 th
Football Party	5 th
500 Card Party-OPEN INVITE	6 th
Tenant Led Happy Hour	6 th 20 th
Musical Entertainment: Bonnie Folkerts & the F.R.O.G.S	11 th
Lunch Outing : Hitching Post	12 th
Movie Matinée : Miracle	12 th
Lorenzo Bingo	14 th 28 th
Sing Along with Dana Funk	15 th
President Jeopardy	16 th
Mardi Gras Bingo	17 th
Chautauqua: Silver Dollar Auction Company	18 th
Enchanted Evening Event!	19 th
True Light Students :Build a Snowman	20 th
Monthly Birthday Party	23 rd
Page Turners	24 th
A.I.M. Meeting	24 th
PO•KE•NO	26 th
Fold & Deliver	27 th
Business Tour: Marshall Radio Station	27 th

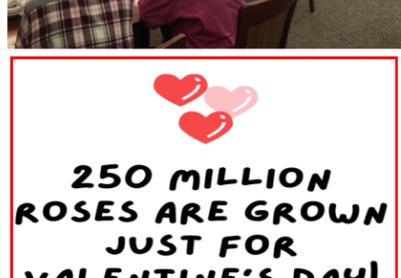
Upcoming Events...

Page Turners Book Club: The book this month is: *Peace Like A River* written by: Leif Enger. If you would like a copy, stop into the Activities Office, after February 5th. Join us for the discussion on Tuesday, February 24th at **11:00AM**.

Helping Hands at Hill Street Place: During the month of December, we recorded a total of **67 hours & 10 minutes**, volunteer hours. Thank you so much for all you do at Hill Street Place.

Thank you: We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has brought in treats, supplies, and other thoughtful contributions. Your generosity and support mean so much to us and truly help make a difference. We are incredibly grateful for our amazing community and all that you do to help us succeed. Thank you for being part of what makes Hill Street Place so special!

Last Month at a Glance . . .



UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

SUPER BOWL 60

Seattle Seahawks &
New England Patriots
5:20 PM on NBC



A.I.M. MEETING

Please plan to attend the meeting,
Tuesday, February 24th
3:30 PM Dining Room



Tenant Led Coffee Social

NEW IN FEBRUARY . . .

****Bring your own beverages and snack**

Sunday's at 2 PM

February 1st, 8th and the 22nd

Catch up with your neighbors

HEART WALK



Wednesday's in
February

4th, 11th, 18th 25th

meet at 3:30 Dining Room

Join us as we walk for our



Holy Redeemer hosting

SOUP & SERMON

the first 6 Wednesdays during the
Lenten Season, at Carlin Hall.

Starting Feb 25-April 1st , Bus leaves at 11:15 AM

Please sign up weekly on bulletin board, Free will
offering & all denominations are welcome!!!

ENCHANTED EVENING EVENT

Join us February 19, from 4-6 PM here at Hill Street Place for an afternoon filled with music from a DJ, delicious snacks, refreshing punch. **DRESS UP IN YOUR BEST** and enjoy a fancy night out by making new memories in 2026!!

I'm excited to welcome some very special guests to our Enchanted Evening event at Hill Street Place. My Dad, Maurice Blomme, Jr., will be joining us with his DJ system, The Music Box, which has been bringing people to the dance floor for over 35 years! He will be joined by my brother, Joseph Blomme, who accompanied him to many dances throughout his life. With a lifetime of music and memories behind him, he's sure to make this a magical event filled with great tunes and even better memories!

Shelby McDonald

Guardians of the Arctic ...

~ Activity Connection

You don't have to live in the Arctic to celebrate International Polar Bear Day on February 27. The polar bear is one of nature's most awesome beasts and is the world's biggest hunter. Polar bears spend much of their time lying in wait outside holes cut in the ice by ringed seals, which must return to the surface for air every five to 15 minutes. A seal's survival depends on maintaining its series of breathing holes. That same survival instinct is what eventually provides the polar bear with its next meal. As the Arctic warms and ice recedes, polar and brown bear habitats have begun to overlap, and hybrid polar-brown bear offspring have appeared. Dubbed nanulaks by Canadian wildlife officials, the hybrid bears are whitish brown with long claws and a humped back. Offspring of a male polar bear and a female grizzly are called pizzlies; reverse the parentage and it's a grolar bear. However, as long as there is ice to roam and there are seals to hunt, a polar bear's home will always be the Arctic.



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!!!