

## SWEET TREAT

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## American Space Program

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Grab a pencil and piece of paper. How many words can you make using the letters in "Chocolate Mint Day" We found 123!!


Chocolate goes well with almost
everything, but there is one chocolate pairing that is classic - chocolate and mint. So, it is only fair that the United States National Confectioners Association has declared February 19 to be Chocolate Mint Day in honor of this hugely popular flavor pairing.



Mardi Gras Day Was February 16 2021. Also called Fat Tuesday it is the last day of the Carnival season as it always falls the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. While there were no parades this year, there was Mardi Gras house floats, special Mardi Gras cocktails in bars and restaurants, king cakes and more.

More info on page 3.


Free Masks
Lavelle Ford and Barbara Spencer are still making masks. Masks are free to all members and to all TMRC residents and staff.
Barbara: barbs1145@hotdogcrafts.com Lavelle: lavelle.ford@gmail.com




Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, refers to events of the Carnival celebration, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany (Three Kings Day) and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday, which is known as Shrove Tuesday. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual Lenten sacrifices and fasting of the Lenten season.

Related popular practices are associated with Shrovetide celebrations before the fasting and religious obligations associated with the penitential season of Lent. In countries such as the United Kingdom, Mardi Gras is also known as Shrove Tuesday, which is derived from the word shrive, meaning "to administer the sacrament of confession to; to absolve".
While not observed nationally throughout the United States, a number of traditionally ethnic French cities and regions in the country have notable celebrations.

Mardi Gras takes place annually on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday-the beginning of the Christian observance of Lent, which last about six weeks and ends just before Easter. This means that Mardi Gras can take place in either February or March. In 2021, Mardi Gras will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 16

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, the night before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial. This event is observed in the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, Presbyterian, Oriental Orthodox, Reformed, and Roman Catholic Churches. Some Anabaptist and evangelical churches also observe the Lenten season.

The last week of Lent is Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday. Following the New Testament story, Jesus' crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday, and at the beginning of the next week the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday recalls the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Depending on the Christian denomination and local custom, Lent ends either on the evening of Maundy Thursday, or at sundown on Holy Saturday, when the Easter Vigil is celebrated. Regardless, Lenten practices are properly maintained until the evening of Holy Saturday.

In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days

February joined the calendar with January around 700 B.C. It derives its name from the Latin februo, which means "purification rites."
During the ancient Roman festival Lupercalia, thongs made from goatskin were used in purification rituals, which took place during the month, earning it the name februarius.

When February was first added to the calendar along with January in 700 BC by Numa Pompilius, it became the last month of the year.

Pompilius tacked on these two months to line up with the lunar cycle. However, Romans believed odd numbers to be lucky. Since February ended up being the unlucky one, they placed it at the end and shortened it so the bad luck wouldn't last long. February remained there for nearly 200 hundred years. Then, both January and February moved to the beginning of the year.

Julius Caesar attempted to align the calendar with the solar season creating the Julian calendar. February, already a short month, gained a few days bringing it to 28 . Then every four years, a leap day was added.

Under the current Gregorian calendar, the leap year functions differently. Leap years are divisible by four, with one exception. Centennial years must be divisible by 400. February is unique in other ways, too. Because it usually has 28 days, once every 6 years, it's the only month to have 4 full 7 day weeks. In the years that aren't leap years (otherwise known as common years), February and March start on the same day of the week.

## February Culture Overview

The month has some fun events. Everyone loves to talk about Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, and the Super Bowl in February. However, the big news in February is that pitchers and catchers report kicking off spring training for a new baseball season.

Black History Month takes place during February because Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were both born during the month.
One of the earliest flowers to bloom in spring is the primrose. It is also the flower of February.
If you are born in February, you are either an Aquarius or a Pisces. Your birthstone is the pretty purple quartz called amethyst.

## February

Flower:Violet
Birthstone: Amethyst
Zodiacs:
Feb 1-18 = Aquarius
9-28 = Pisces
2 Groundhog Day
12 Chinese New Year
12 Lincoln's Birthday
14 Valentine's Day
15 Presidents Day
16 Mardi Gras
17 Ash Wednesday
19 Chocolate Mint Day
20 Love your pet Day
26 Pistachio Day
27 Strawberry Day


