

The Barry Bulletin

Connecting you to English language, culture and Washington D.C. events

Thanksgiving is Nov. 26th

Everything will be closed, or open for very limited hours. It is a good day to stay home, rest, and enjoy not having any zoom calls!

Black Friday is Nov. 27th

This is a day when many people shop for the upcoming holidays. Some sales can be great bargains, but the crazy atmosphere in the stores is a reason many people avoid shopping today. There will be great on-line deals all weekend.



History in the making

As a visitor to Washington, D. C. you will have a front row seat to a long held process in our American democracy; The inauguration of a new president. Every four years we celebrate the peaceful transfer of power from the outgoing president to his or her successor. Politics aside, it is a day that has been historically patriotic and unifying as all Americans celebrate the process of our government. No matter which candidate you voted for, we hope for greater unity as a nation and peace in the future.

Not every election and inauguration has been “smooth sailing” (without problems). Check out this article:

<https://www.history.com/news/10-unexpected-moments-in-presidential-inauguration-history>

or this short article about the inaugural speech:

<https://www.whitehousehistory.org/presidential-inaugurations-the-inaugural-address>



Some important winter dates:

December 25th- Christmas

January 18th Martin Luther King day (MLK) -federal holiday

January 20 - Inauguration Day

February 7 - Super Bowl?

February 14 -Valentine's Day

February 15 - President's Day/
Washington's Birthday

February 16- Mardi Gras
(celebrations before the time of
Christian lent)

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Prepare for a "cold snap" (cold weather) by having these items:

- a snow shovel
- flashlight and batteries
- Download the Pepco app to report loss of power and monitor repairs. <https://www.pepco.com/MyAccount/CustomerSupport/Pages/MobileApp.aspx>

Winter holiday light displays in December:

Here are some places to see holiday decorations that are still open this winter- these are **DRIVE -THRU** events, so you stay in your car. Tickets are required for some.

<https://www.merriweatherlights.com/>

<https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recreation/special-events/winter-lights-festival>

<https://www.lightsonthebay.org/>

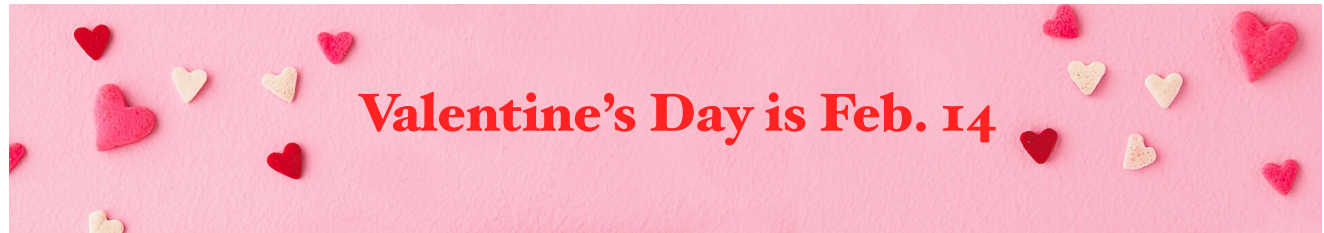
<http://www.pgparcs.com/742/Festival-of-Lights>

<https://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights>



The fall and winter are a time when we enjoy some classic treats. While this one should be made by slowly warming marshmallows over a fire, but, this is pretty good too! You will also find s'mores flavored ice cream, coffee, and candy. Enjoy! Watch:





Plan ahead for this holiday. I hear that other countries celebrate gift giving in February and later in the year. In the U.S. we do not! So buy your heart shaped chocolates and other treats before February 14th so you can celebrate with your sweetheart at whatever time is right for you!

English idioms you may hear....

“To snowball” means for a problem or situation to gradually grow larger and larger, like rolling a snowball to make it bigger.

“Let’s make some changes to the budget before our spending snowballs and we can’t repay our debts.”

“To be skating on thin ice” - means what you are saying or doing is very close to causing trouble or danger. “ You are skating on thin ice, you better get a good grade on the next test.”

“When hell freezes over” - means at a time that will never occur. Hell is a very hot place, there will never be a time when ice will build up in hell. “I’ll apologize when hell freezes over!!” Also **“a snowball’s chance in hell”** means about the same thing.

“Cold turkey” - to stop doing something suddenly. We might say this about stopping a bad habit. “I quit smoking cold turkey.”

“To break the ice” to do or say something that eases tension in a social situation. “I told a joke to break the ice, then everyone started talking.”

As the holiday season approaches, I want to express my sincere thanks for the opportunity to teach and to learn from all my students. Growing this business during the pandemic has been an unexpected blessing for me. I am mindful and appreciative of the impact all of you have had on my pandemic experience. Every lesson is a chance for me to engage in meaningful work that I love.

While we are all hopeful for an end to the pandemic in 2021, I know that my strongest memories of 2020 will be of all of your faces and smiles on the computer. I would love to have a photo to remember you by, so if you like, please email me a picture of your best holiday fun this season.

I will continue to teach and chat, so please continue to recommend me to your friends and acquaintances both here in the U.S. and back home. Zoom has opened up the world in so many ways! I can't wait to meet many more wonderful people like you in the coming year!

Happy Thanksgiving

Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year!