

2022
CITIZEN
HOLIDAY
NEWSLETTER

Greetings Citizens! It's been an exciting year full of amazing accomplishments, inspiring philanthropic gestures, and deliciously wicked deeds. We're proud to say that this first annual Citizen Holiday Newsletter will leave you wanting to be a better person, a better giver, or a better villain (We don't care if you're good or bad, just be the best at it!)

In the following pages, you'll read tales of Outstanding Citizens (subscribers to my newsletter) who have started charities for homeless squirrels, fought pirates off the coast of Tanzania, and played the accordion in space. And we're so proud that some of the villains on our list were ranked by the League of Unsavory Characters for their nefarious exploits in 2022. So, let's dive right in and see what the Citizens were up to this year!



Outstanding Citizen Melanie was convinced that nothing interesting happened in her life. That's until Netflix came knocking on her door and offered a wheelbarrow full of cash plus free streaming for life, in exchange for her life story. It seems Netflix was running out of content ideas and needed to fill space. So, a randomizer picked Melanie, and now she has her own reality show. People on TikTok discuss her choices in breakfast cereal, TMZ goes through her trash for juicy gossip, and a major retailer is considering dropping a Kardashian/Jenner for her. Now EVERYTHING about her life is interesting!



Barbara M. was promoted to CEO of the Squirrel Action Project. Unfortunately, many squirrels find themselves homeless in this economy. Squirrels, who for no fault of their own, find that their trees have been foreclosed on and are now sleeping at a friend's tree or worse -in a shrub. There are an estimated 7 million undocumented squirrels living in the United States. The Squirrel Action Project advocates for the fair treatment of alien squirrels, until Congress can determine their fate.



Michelle S., in a moment of rage when seeing Christmas marketing *before* Halloween has even taken place, did something beyond our wildest imagination. She hacked into satellite radio and reprogramed the all-Christmas music channel to play KISS Alive 1 and 2 on constant rotation. But she didn't stop there. She hacked into the Hallmark Channel and replaced the last 5 minutes of every movie (right before the big city girl decides she wants to be with the hometown boy) with the final scene of *Die Hard*. She was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the League of Unsavory Characters and they are wildly anticipating what she'll do to pumpkin spice next year.



Scott L. got lost looking for Guest Services at the World Cup in Qatar. Through a series of wrong turns and in a moment of lax security, he wound up in the locker room for Switzerland. One of their players didn't show after an all-nighter with one of the Spice Girls (most likely Sporty Spice) and the coach asked Scott to suit up. He held his own during the match and since Switzerland didn't advance, nobody questioned who the new guy was. He's now a legend at home in his 50+ soccer league.



Maureen H. left her husband after he announced that he had invented the world's first electric razor attachment dedicated to shaving toe knuckles. Despite there being no discernable market for toe knuckle grooming, he felt convinced he could become the first toe shaving baron. But don't feel bad for her, she quickly bounced back and met the man of her dreams. Meanwhile, Mr. Toe Knuckle is the broom guy at a Great Clips in Bakersfield.



Outstandingly Devious Citizen Teri V. convinced a leading manufacturer of health food products to buy her tofu substitute, under the guise of a drought induced soybean shortage in the Western United States. Now that the nation is hooked on meat substitute burgers, they gladly bought millions of dollars' worth of her tofu substitute. They were surprised how her tofu burgers tasted so much like real meat, but she refused to divulge her formula. Of course, her secret is that she's been selling them actual meat. Teri is now #6 in the Unsavory Characters rankings, and we couldn't be prouder.



Linda F. left her boring life in New Zealand and embarked on a sailing trip around the world. Off the coast of Africa, she encountered Somali pirates who tried to steal her boat and capture her crew. But this Outstanding Citizen was more than they bargained for and up to the challenge. She defeated the pirates, sunk both of their ships, but her own boat was scuttled in the fight. Through sheer willpower she summoned a pod of dolphins who bore her and her crew all the way to the coast of Tanzania...



Where equally Outstanding Citizen Marlene S. was on a photography holiday with her son Simon. She captured the images of Linda riding the dolphins and sold the photos to Time magazine for a small fortune. Photography Magazine named her the Artist of the Year and her work is now on the covers of publications throughout the world as well as unauthorized post cards in a chain of tourist shops in Tarpon Springs, Florida.



Jennie C. became the first Citizen to win the Nobel prize for science. On an amateur fossil dig just a few miles south of Bedrock City, Arizona, Jennie actually found the fossilized remains of Fred Flintstone and his dog/dinosaur Dino. This set off a flurry of activity, lawsuits, etc. Hanna Barbera tried to claim the rights to the remains, while an endless line of people are claiming they descended from Fred and are owed royalties for the cartoons, lunch boxes, and figurines. Jennie plans to go to the moon next to see if George Jetson is buried there.



Last month, the Dept of Defense announced the arrival of the new stealth bomber. Three days later, on a golf course in Florida, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff crashed his cart into seemingly nothing. That nothing was something only an Outstanding Citizen could invent. And that Citizen was Mitchel. For \$22,939,393,939,339 less than what the air force spent on the stealth bomber, Mitchel invented the stealth golf cart. He got the idea from a *Mission Impossible* episode. With items he purchased at Home Depot and the last remaining Radio Shack in North America, he turned a used golf cart into an invisible mode of transportation that allows him to sneak into the golf courses of Wisconsin (in the Spring and Summer) and Florida when he's doing the snowbird thing.



Jan I. started a foundation that awards grants to people who are thinking about writing a novel. The funds are to be used for anything BUT writing a novel as the world doesn't need another paranormal cozy mystery about witches or billionaire romance tales of lust and bondage. In 2022 alone, they successfully prevented the writing of over 500 novels that only the author's close friends and mothers would have read anyway.



Linda M. started a nonprofit that helps reunite sippy cups with the toddlers who lost them. In a very special reunion, filmed by CNN, they returned a sippy cup that had been missing for over 10 years to Thad Jenkins of Bend, Oregon. Thad was delighted to have it back, but his mother, horrified by the thought of where it might have been the last decade asked Linda to leave and slapped the cup out of Thad's hands, which he had just filled with Mountain Dew. Linda's charity has decided that some sippy cups are just too old to be reunited with their humans and will adjust their policies for 2023.



Shari N. and her husband have discovered a cure for hipsterism. It's a topical cream for men, applied twice per day that helps control the urge to wear handlebar mustaches and create craft beers. After selling the formula to Pfizer, they plan to work on a similar product for women who can't control the urge to put barn doors inside houses.



Sara B. wrote a song about her pet lemur, set to the tune of *Dreamer* by Supertramp. It went viral on TikTok. It got so much attention; she started performing live at craft fairs and Tim Horton's openings. The music industry took notice, and she was invited to open for U2 at Wembley Stadium while her mother Eddi accompanied her on harpsichord. That performance got her a record deal, and she released *Live Like a Lemur* in the spring. By year's end, her Spotify streams ranked between Toto's *Africa* and a song whose title I can't print by Trippy Red. The lemur is suing her for royalties.



Ruth N. used a mostly faded black wardrobe to her diabolical advantage, convincing cells of emo and goth kids that she was the grandmother of the two cultures. Once roped in she took advantage of their gullibility and to organize the largest counterfeit ticket ring in North America, specializing in goth rock tours. After The Cure and Bauhaus reunion tours, she scarpered with the cash, and left the goth kids to deal with the fallout. She's rumored to be living on an island in the Mediterranean with a bright new wardrobe.



Tony P. set the world record for helping little old ladies across the street. At 1,075 in one day, it was the largest act of crosswalk kindness ever recorded according to Guinness Book of World Records. A Belgian man, who previously held the record, filed a protest. He claimed that only 900 of the little old ladies actually wanted to cross the street, but Guinness upheld the new record anyway.



Jeff M. donated so much blood this past year that Ancestry.com was fooled into believing ¼ of the world's population is related to him, which of course created some consternation with his wife. But once he convinced her it was charity not infidelity that caused the mix-up, he was given the Red Cross's highest award for service and bravery. The medical world was so grateful, they've changed the blood type B- to J.



Susan D. hitched a ride to the International Space Station where she became the first person to perform Handel's Messiah on an accordion. According to Guinness, she could have played the Chicken Dance and it would have been the first song played in space on an accordion, but a record is a record. The Russian astronauts were not impressed, as they aren't big on classical music being played on an instrument traditionally used for polkas. The Canadian astronauts wept, however. She's been invited to perform at a Boxing Day event in Toronto.



Terri D. killed an armed intruder with a Backstreet Boys bobblehead doll. Turns out the guy was #5 on the FBI's most wanted list and he had confused her home with the one of a person he was hired to kill one block over. The reward was in the six figures. Terri used it to spend a week on a luxury yacht in the Mediterranean. There she met a prince and is now planning a wedding in Mallorca.



Helen R. discovered a cheap renewable energy source could help solve the power needs of the US for decades. It's called Canada. Helen recalled how in college, lots of people would hook up cable to their neighbor's box, enjoying the benefits of free HBO, unencumbered by annoying monthly bills. Helen has been employing really long extension cords that cross the international border in a part of Montana that neither the US nor Canada has kept an eye on in decades. Helen's carbon footprint is way down, meanwhile a family in Kamloops consumes more electricity per month than the entire city of Calgary.



Tanya R. got fed up with a particularly handsy co-worker and took matters into her own hands. After hours she had an electrician play with the wiring of a switch in her office and an outlet in her co-worker's where he had plugged in his electric stapler. Knowing he takes a nap in his office every day at 2:00 PM, she waits until 2:15, flips the switch, and fires off the stapler. Taya just giggles from her office as she can hear the co-worker scream from his. He's replaced the stapler four times, called in an exorcist, and is now seeing a team of psychologists.



Elizabeth S. was particularly naughty this year but in the most creative way imaginable. She spent the winter breeding tapeworms in her basement lair, then took to the Spring/Summer carnival circuit to sell them as pets. She dubbed them "live gummy worms" and the unsuspecting public gobbled them up, so-to-speak. She also created her take on the old game of ring toss where you win a fish, (except in this instance you win an intestinal parasite). She netted \$50k in just four months' work but is now wanted in most of the Pacific Northwest. She'll be working the Midwest circuit in 2023.



Katherine Y. may be 80, but she can run a con game as good as anyone in the underworld. This year she convinced Playboy to purchase the rights to her braille porn content for \$10 million. In fact, she had actually sold them thousands of 1970s Popular Mechanics magazines written in braille. Since Playboy had no visually impaired employees, they were clueless until they started getting customer complaints about the practical advice for fixing old appliances and vintage cars dominating their adult content for the visually impaired.



To kill some time this year, Ruth Ann B. subbed as a school bus driver. One particular spring day, she accidentally missed a “Road Closed” sign on an old country road. It was closed for good reason as it was the site of a movie shoot that day. Suddenly, she and the kids were caught up in a chase scene for the next installment of *Fast & Furious*. The stunt people and actors were a little fuzzy with the script, so they thought the bus was part of the shot. They tried to wreck the bus, but Ruth Ann ordered the kids into action, throwing textbooks, juice boxes, and anything else at hand until they had successfully repelled the stunt people and crashed the other cars. The mishap cost the filmmakers nearly \$2 million in damaged equipment, but the ordeal will be included in the deleted scenes package when the movie is released for streaming and DVDs.



Do you ever get those annoying text messages from people trying to get you to sell your house? Well, Outstanding Citizens Villain Jennie V. sold sixty-seven houses she didn't own to text spammers who work for cash quick real estate companies this year. It worked because half the time, those spammers ask you about an address you don't even own. So, Jenny forged the necessary documents and beat the spammers at their own game. Most of them are out of business and/or facing lawsuits from the true homeowners while Jenny just bought a multi-million-dollar second home condo with a view of Central Park.



Eileen H. created a board game that combines the fun of playing with stuffed animals with the gritty reality of the French Revolution. Squeamish parents argued that a game that ends in a stuffed animal losing its head via a guillotine was a little too much gritty reality. However, the game was a hit with adults. A savvy businesswoman, Eileen then released a political party version which sold out in a matter of minutes. Psychologists throughout the European Union praised the game for the uptick in business they've experienced since its release.



Susan J. took Citizen Villainy to a new level when she out protested the protesters. Those of you familiar with the string of art desecrations happening in Europe will appreciate this. If you're not familiar, a group of climate protesters started defacing famous works of art with cans of tomato soup then gluing themselves to the walls or floors of the museum. Susan found the homes of the people responsible and poured motor oil on their Greta Thunberg shrines. Instead of gluing herself to their walls, she nailed used tires.



Citizens are tough. But none are tougher than Outstanding Citizen, Linda J. She was visited by the Grim Reaper this past year, much to the Reaper's regret. She broke his scythe over her knee, then proceeded to beat him with the pieces. The Reaper woke up the next day in a ditch two states away from where Linda lives. He suffered multiple contusions, five broken bones, and he now has permanent tinnitus. Death is now afraid of Linda.



Dan invented a computer that updates itself, orders its own hardware upgrades, and automatically sends the authorities to the homes of people that send it viruses. It's the perfect computer. Too perfect in fact. Microsoft and Apple offered him millions to buy the rights to it, so they could NOT make it. Such a computer would kill their sales. They need computers to breakdown, so we must buy new ones every so often. He turned them down and now they've hired mafia muscle to convince Dan to take the money. Dan's computer hacked the mafia's GPS and keeps sending them to the homes of confused telemarketers to rough up "Dan."



Cheryl W. created a fake crypto exchange that targeted the people who created the real estate collapse in 2008. Once those people lost all their money, she swooped in and bought their foreclosed homes at auctions and turned them into orphanages, women's shelters, and group homes for people still traumatized by the cancellation of Battlestar Galactica.



Tenley won VIP concert tickets to see the band Foreigner at his local amphitheater. When he arrived at the sound check, the band asked the VIPs if anyone played bass guitar. It seems their own bass player had abruptly joined a cult that worships Niles the Butler from the Nanny and moved to Wisconsin. Tenley raised his hand and before he could blink, he was wearing leather pants and a wig. Since Foreigner has only one original member left anyway nobody in the crowd noticed. He wound up playing all the dates of their East Coast tour and nobody was the wiser.



In related news, Outstanding Citizen Villain Roxy C. started a cult that worships Niles the butler from the 90s sitcom, *The Nanny*. This of course was a scam, but there were thousands of people who were eager to fork over \$19.95 to communicate with the spirit of actor Daniel Davis (who's not even dead) and the beloved character Niles whom he played. She was of course able to hide her involvement through a series of shell companies that when the Feds investigated, pointed the blame at David Schwimmer, the actor who played Ross on *Friends*. The League of Unsavory Characters welcomed her to the top 25 of their rankings.



Kate W. started a company that does painstakingly accurate funeral rituals from history. Their most popular package in 2022 was the Viking Funeral. In this ceremony, the body is placed on a boat with kindling and set free upon a body of water. From the shore, archers shoot flaming arrows to set the boat alight. Boat and body burn in what is quite possibly the coolest version of cremation ever conceived. Their second most popular (but the most expensive) is the mummy package. This one has caused them to run afoul of the Egyptian government as they are not keen on having new mummies inserted into the old pyramids.



Sandy M. had the most outstanding trip to Asia that a Citizen has ever had. She survived a plane crash off the coast of Maldives. Authorities were amazed when they plucked her from the sea without a scratch. She continued to India, where she survived a thirty-car train derailment in Jaipur. Again, she was rescued without a scratch. Sandy soldiered on and went to Nepal, despite the advice of friends who told her she shouldn't press her luck and come home. Once in Nepal, she joined a group that planned to climb Mt. Everest. On day three of the journey, they encountered an unexpected storm and everyone, but Sandy suffered frost bite in the wait to get rescued. Penguin Publishing offered her an advance for her memoirs, but on day one of writing her manuscript, she got a paper cut and decided to get a ghost writer.



Outstanding Citizen Villain Debbie D. was fed up with the state of fast-food restrooms. To protest, she stole the toilet seats from 175 Burger King bathrooms and one Little Caesars. She then sends them via Fed Ex to company execs and franchise owners. When they didn't get the message to clean up their acts (and their restrooms) she went to extreme lengths to drive home the point. She stole all the port-o-potties from Lollapalooza (after the festival was over), kidnapped company execs, and locked them in the used portable johns for 48 hours. Thanks to Debbie, the chain now has the cleanest bathrooms in the industry.



Outstanding (and alert) Citizen, Avis W. saved a man from choking to death in the Royal MacGregor when a haggis fritter got stuck in his windpipe. Clearly inebriated and performing what he called "deleted scenes" from MacBeth, he suddenly collapsed. While the rest of the patrons thought he had passed out drunk, Avis recognized he was choking and sprang into action. It turns out the man was a famous member of the Scottish National Football team. Now Avis is a national hero and the Royal McGregor (where the incident took place) has offered her free food and whisky for life.



Sheri M. took Citizen Daredevilry to a whole new level in 2022. She recreated Evel Knievel's famous rocket ship jump of the Snake River Canyon. Only instead of using a rocket powered cycle, she strapped two rockets on either side of a minivan. For additional flare and motivation, she stuffed the back of the minivan with a 5-6-year-old soccer team that needed a ride to practice. Not only did she make the jump (something Knievel failed to do) but she delivered the kids to practice on time. Sheri is now a legend in the burgeoning Mom Daredevil movement and has sold the rights to her life story to Sony Pictures.



Sometimes a new career can improve your outlook on life. That's why we're very excited for Citizen Marcia D. as she successfully auditioned for the lead singer role in the classic punk band, the Neurotic Meter Maids. For those not familiar with the band, The Maids are staunch anarchists, except when it comes to the issue of parking. They are famous for having a drummer, Roxy Bone, who plays with the rib bone of one of her former boyfriends. Former lead singer Shank is serving a 7-year prison sentence for bludgeoning a tourist at Disney Land for parking in a handicapped spot. Her incarceration opened the door for Marcia to follow her dream!



Susan F. had a particularly amazing day at Dave & Busters this year. She dominated the pop-a-shot, danced rings around the Gen-Z patrons on Dance Dance Revolution, defeated an entire team of visiting life insurance salesmen at ski-ball, and set the all-time high score on Pac Man. To say she was in the zone would be an understatement. In the history of the food and games chain, no one has won as many prize tickets (500 million) as she accomplished that day. Susan managed to redeem her tickets for nearly every prize in the store, leaving only a stuffed moose and a Golden Girls lunchbox.



Looking to give back to the world that has done so much for her, Outstandingly Philanthropic Citizen Jackie W. decided to do some volunteering in 2022. After much research into all the needs around her, she chose to venture into deepest darkest jungles of West Hollywood to help aging former members of hair bands find hope and meaning. Unable to afford hair spray, makeup, and spandex pants after years of irrelevance caused by the grunge music wave in the 90s, the aging rockers were grateful to have somebody listen to them again. Hairband Outreach even organized a concert in the park so they could perform in front of a live audience again. The success of the program has them considering a mission to the UK next year to rescue discarded members of the New Wave music scene.



In an act of Citizen Villainy that will almost certainly get her a role in a future Marvel comic, Julie R., taught a cat to do sign language. Just getting a cat to do anything it doesn't want is a miracle, but to get it to communicate in a language that humans can understand is beyond imagination. The administration was so impressed, it had the cat sign the State of the Union Address. And that's when the villainous part of Julie's plan kicked in. The cat went off script and told hearing impaired viewers that we would be invading Canada within the hour, Congress was being abolished, and all dogs would be forced into servitude of their new cat masters. The White House switchboard lit up immediately and the administration announced that a new vetting process for sign language interpreters would be instituted.



In a humanitarian effort that is sure to be considered for a noble prize, Kelly F. saved humanity by stealing Nickelback's new album so it couldn't be released. The Canadian based band has long been a top vote getter in Most Hated Band polls, but they can't seem to get the hint and keep releasing music. Kelly recognized that most of the turmoil she could remember in her life has not been as a result of a political parties, economic forces, or even climate change. Instead, she pinpoints each and every bad event to the chart position of Nickelback singles. Now that the master tapes to the band's newest release have been destroyed, she is planning to destroy James Cameron's ability to make any additional Avatar sequels.



Susan D. and her husband Steve discovered the baseball relic of a lifetime. While cleaning out the attic of a recently deceased relative in upstate New York, they found a perfectly preserved hot dog that Babe Ruth himself had bitten into and never finished. Although the hot dog was in great shape, the bun was a little moldy. It turns out the grandfather of the deceased relative was sitting front row at a Yankees game when the Babe wandered over to ask for a bite

of his hot dog. He agreed and the local press took a photo (which was later used to authenticate the item). Instead of finishing it, he took it home to place in what can only be described as a very unusual memorabilia collection. He would later buy the donut Joe DiMaggio dunked in the famous episode of *Seinfeld*. Susan and Steve sold the hot dog at auction and now are planning to visit every ballpark in North America with the proceeds.



Outstanding Citizen Teresa C. took a summer trip to Canada and became embroiled in an international tale of intrigue. While fishing in an undisclosed lake, she watched a plane drop contraband near the shore and a rowboat quickly dispatched to get the merchandise. Suddenly, moose riding Canadian Mounties burst from the woods and engaged the drug smugglers in a firefight. Two Mounties were shot, and it seemed the drug smugglers would get away. But Teresa, a retired nurse, patched up their wounds, jumped on a moose, and tracked the smugglers through the night. Teresa caught up to them as they were hiding in an igloo where the moose sniffed not only the drugs, but the bomb they had booby trapped them with while they hunted for dinner. When they returned, she captured them, blew up their contraband, and handed them over to the authorities.



In a move that is destined to transform the airline industry as we know it, Concerned Citizen Sue H. successfully lobbied to have Congress change the way airplanes are laid out. Beginning in 2024, all planes must have a designated kid zone with soundproof plexiglass encasing. People who bring too many carry-on items are tased and thrown into the kid zone. Their bags are dropped over the body of water (or remote wilderness area) of the pilot's choosing. Sue is particularly proud that the legislation includes a provision to put people who bonk the heads of other passengers with their backpacks more than twice on the permanent no-fly list.



In a move of diabolical genius, Citizen Villain Carrie M. convinced two counties on opposite sides of the Ohio River to go to war with each other. Hawesville in Hancock County Kentucky and Cannelton in Perry County, Indiana are connected by the Lincoln Trail Bridge. With an appetite for chaos, Carrie used social media and the opinion pages of the respective towns local newspapers to convince each that the other was going to invade. This created a massive traffic jam as both towns put up barriers on the bridge. Both state governors send National Guard troops to break up the nonsense, but even they got into a scuffle. A neutral party was called in to negotiate the peace. Nobody died, although one motorist did get poison ivy when he had to relieve himself while waiting for the bridge to reopen. Carrie is looking at the Minneapolis/St. Paul area as her next target of chaos.



After years of participating in a variety of bowling leagues, Sherri M. bowled her first ever perfect game. And then she bowled her second. Then her third. In the history of the league, nobody has bowled three in a row on the same night. Sherri will have a permanent plaque near the shoe rental counter documenting her achievement. Her secret? Her best friend and teammate's mother-in-law accidentally dialed Sherri accidentally as the league play began that night. Known for her long-winded soliloquies on whatever illness she has this week, the mother-in-law spent nearly two hours describing in pain staking detail her recent bout with gout. The nonstop chattering (with no opportunity for Sherri to speak) provided the perfect white noise background for Sue to block out everything going on around her and focus on the pins. Sherri is secretly hoping her friend's mother-in-law gets the shingles before the league championship next month.



Outstanding Citizen and emerging artist Anette H. created a 30-foot-tall sculpture of Indiana music legend John Mellencamp using chicken wire, fossilized shellfish, and discarded bottles of shampoo. The sculpture caught the eye of the mayor of Carmel, IN and the city purchased the

sculpture to place in its latest roundabout at 116th and Rangeline Road. Carmel is home to the most roundabouts in the United States and the roundabout center art has captured attention all over the world. Selling the sculpture has given Annette the motivation to create sculptures of other Indiana born artists including Michael Jackson and David Lee Roth.



Vickie D. created a network of safe houses for people who were victims of musical abuse during their childhoods, called Save the Ears. Musical abuse is only now getting the attention it deserves in this country and people are coming forward to tell their stories. Vickie was particularly moved to start the charity when she heard the story of three siblings from Wisconsin who were forced to listen (at a very young age) to *Sussudio* by Phil Collins. As she investigated the problem further, she found that parents exposed their children to all sorts of musical trauma including Starship's *We Built This City*, everything recorded by Vanilla Ice, and the multi-generational offenses of Billie Ray and Millie Cyrus. Vickie's important work is helping thousands of recovering people to know that good music does exist.



Outstanding Citizen Ruth G. has been nominated for a Nobel Peace prize for her skilled negotiations to put an end to hostilities in the Lincoln Trail Bridge War. Ruth is Super Villain Carrie M's arch nemesis. She also was able to sustain peace in the middle east for a whole hour by distracting everyone with a live-link feed of the unveiling of the unusual roundabout sculpture created by Citizen artist Annette H. Later in the year, she was able to keep partisanship out of the Airplane Seat Adjustment act, sealing a victory for Sue H. In all, it was a good year for Ruth supporting her fellow citizens (accept of course Carrie who has sworn to avenge her for stopping the war).



The Citizen Longevity award this year goes to Paul M. and his wife Dolores. They've been married for 60 years. In these good years, Dolores kissed Paul 351,000 times, provided the sole income for 8 years, delivered our 8 children, cooked 3021 tubs of spaghetti sauce (plus spaghetti as needed), and other stuff. Paul, as husband, father, film actor, energy-conservation homebuilder, woodturner, and PhD psychologist for 45 years, worked to keep up with Dolores.



Outstanding Citizen Karen successfully ran for Congress in her home district. Once in office she introduced the Defense of Karens Act. After years of associating the name "Karen" with people who complain in public, she had had enough. She commissioned university research that proved once and for all that women named Karen are the least likely members of the public to actually behave like a "Karen." With that question settled, it will be illegal to call someone behaving badly in public the "K" word in 2023. Congress is currently debating whether to call them Melissa or Jennifer.



Barbara H. had a good year in the area of Citizen Villainy. For years she aspired to be the Anti-Wonder Woman—think strawberry blond Gal Gadot—and this year she achieved that status. She was even sued by Marvel for shameless copying Wonder Woman's costume and simply changing the colors to purple and gold. But her signature achievements of villainy the year included popping all the balloons in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, kidnapping Mickey from the Disney Christmas Day Parade, and wilting all the flowers in the Tournament of Roses Parade. By carving out her niche in disrupting parades, she moved up to number 17 on the List of Unsavory Characters rankings. Next year she hopes to enter the top 10 by scuttling the Indy 500 parade.



Anne-Marie C. and her husband Stone have had a busy year. Their Shetland pony farm saw an incredible demand for birthday parties, corporate gatherings, and Instagram influencers who wanted to convince their followers that they were giants. In a stroke of pure genius, Stone invented a bus engine that runs on pony poo, thus solving two problems at once. The buses are so popular, they may have to triple the number of Shetland ponies on their farm or purchase a dozen Clydesdales to keep them fueled. Anne-Marie has secured an agent who is currently shopping their life story to Penguin Publishing and the Lifetime Network.



Janet W. won a weight loss contest, the prize being a Mediterranean cruise. While on vacation, she discovered the cure for the obscure sleep disorder known as Exploding Head Syndrome (yep, it's a real thing) by mixing spices she found in an outdoor market in Morocco. On to Algiers, she saved a toddler from a puff adder bite by sucking out the poison, calling an ambulance, and killing the snake. In Rome, she inadvertently tripped a man running out of a crowded restaurant. Turns out he was on Interpol's most wanted list, and he was running from police who had spotted him as he was ordering wine. Janet was given the reward money for his capture and is planning a cruise of the Caribbean.



You've heard of people being abducted by aliens. Well, not Outstanding Citizen Amy M. She turned the tables and abducted the alien. She kept it in her basement and ran all manner of scientific and not-so-scientific experiments on the alien. She was able to determine from what part of the solar system it came (the part with all the nebulas and whatnot) and how often it has visited Earth (a dozen or so, but this is definitely the last) and what its mission is (usually, fish tacos, but no Earth food is worth the variety of experiments Amy ran on it). NASA managed to track the alien to Amy, but she had already let it go. Space Force has since offered her a six-figure job.



Joan D. secured \$20 million in venture funding to roll out her new app called Better Partner. Better Partner sounds an alarm with the toilet seat is left up in the middle of the night. Users can set it to turn off their husband's Wi-Fi when he leaves socks anywhere besides the dirty clothes hamper. It can even sense when he is going to ask where something is without looking for it first and turn his phone into an airhorn. Developed in conjunction with Women's Health magazine, the app helps thwart the 30 most annoying guy behaviors. She's even working on an advanced version that will lock a man in a bathroom until he cleans up any errant pee that didn't make it into the toilet.



Donna set a world record for the longest swim while holding a strawberry daiquiri. She didn't set out to break the record, but things just sort of happen to Outstanding Citizens like Donna. She was visiting the world's largest pool at San Alfonso del Mar, Chile. Having just ordered a raspberry daiquiri from the swim up pool, she swam off to find her friends. However, it's easy to lose your friends in a 20-acre pool. And as if losing her friends wasn't enough, she realized they gave her strawberry instead of raspberry. Slightly disoriented from the half dozen or so pina colodas that came before, she wound up swimming the entire length of the pool. But as it happened, the Guinness book of world records was there observing two men from Argentina who, themselves were trying to break the record. Donna beat them both, didn't lose a drop of her daiquiri and was awarded the raspberry one she ordered in the first place.



After reading about the recent success France had in having the U.N. add the baguette to its list of "intangible cultural heritage," Outstanding Citizen Wanda S. made it her mission to get an American made delicacy added to the list. Most of her friends scoffed early on, saying things like, "intangible cultural what?" and "doesn't the U.N. have anything better to do?" But Wanda was undaunted. In November of this year, she addressed the U.N. in a speech so passionate, the world forgot about Greta Thunberg and sought to name Wanda Time's person of the year.

And that is how the Pop Tart was added to the list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage” that the U.N. keeps in a slightly dusty storage room in the basement of its New York headquarters.



Mary-Lou W. took Amateur Citizen Science to another level when she performed a DIY project on her aging kitchen pipes. The congealed output of her garbage disposal was not only blocking the pipes but transforming itself into something never before seen by humans. And thus, she discovered a new element that is neither gas, nor liquid, nor solid. Gargabium is a plasma that companies are throwing piles of cash at Mary-Lou so they can adapt it as environmentally friendly way of preventing leaks and sealing off active volcanoes. She’s planning to use the proceeds to fix the damage she did to her kitchen in the process.



Darkwing D recruited a team of ex-army pilots to fly secret missions into Canada, bringing unspoiled French fries to persecuted people who don’t like their fries swimming in gravy and cheese curds. The Freedom From Poutine First Airborne Division flew 137 humanitarian flights, dodging border patrol, the Royal Canadian Air Force, and the Canadian Poutine Alliance to bring unspoiled waffle fries, crinkle-cuts, and even curly fries to the rebels. Canadians who long for freedom from the oppression of heavy side dishes praised Darkwing and his fellow pilots as, “truly outstanding Citizens who have brought dignity to the dinner hour.”



Elaine K. discovered a disturbing prophecy while on holiday in Ireland. While exploring marine caves along the shore, she unearthed an ancient text written in a previously unknown version Celtic runes. This started a whirlwind tour of museums, universities, and morning talk shows where Elaine discussed her discovery and shared the dismal predictions it included. The runes accurately predicted the rise of the Kardashians, the self-checkout lane, and the winner of Season 3 of American Idol —astonishing as they didn’t even have television or auto-tune. Of course, the most depressing (and accurate) prediction was that the fall of civilization would come not long after crocs became acceptable footwear.



Leslie had a lot of nicknames in her younger days, not all of whom she liked. But that didn't prevent her from becoming an Outstanding Citizen and starting a charity for people who don't like their nicknames. Nickname Rehab helps people come to grip with their nicknames (if the name accurately describes them) or develop a new nickname and go through the formal process of having the old one changed (if it doesn't). Leslie was named Humanitarian of the Year for her efforts. In her acceptance speech she said, "If he were alive in our day, Vlad the Impaler could have had his nickname changed to something less self-loathing like Vlad the Avant Guard Landscaper. It's impossible to live your best life when people focus so much on the impaling." Next year, the California penal system will have Leslie's organization work with gang members to change their nicknames.



Philanthropic Citizen Carolyn O. won close to \$300 million in the Powerball lottery. Rather than let all that money change her, she donated 100% of the money to charity. The first charity was the federal government, to which she "donated" half her winnings. Then she magnanimously gave an additional third to her state government. She split the rest between the Squirrel Action Project, Save the Ears, Hairband Outreach, and the Survivors of the Lincoln Bridge War.



Cheryl L. created an AI (artificial intelligence) app that will be a godsend to seniors, moms with small children, people under stress, and the generally absent-minded. It's called Why Did I Come In Here? If you've ever walked into a room and wondered, "Why did I come in here?" you know the value of this new app available for Apple and Android. The AI programming learns from your normal behaviors, records what you went in that room previously for, accounts for things you've left behind, and tells you why you are now currently standing in this room. She's also working on other adaptations, such as Why Did I Go Out With This Guy, What Was I Thinking, and Who Drank All the Milk?



Joyce R has been going to Disney twice a year for as long as her family can remember. But this year, she has a confession to make that she thought would be best aired out in the Citizen Holiday Newsletter: She's actually a back-up Minnie Mouse. Her trips to Orlando were not for vacations and all the fun photos with friends were staged. In fact, she works twice a year dressed as Minnie, working the parade, visiting the hotels, taking pictures with the guests, and performing in Pete's Silly Sideshow. When she retires from her day job, Joyce hopes to be a full-time Minnie Mouse.



Outstanding Citizen Amanda M always loved the weather and dreamed of becoming a meteorologist. She even started her own website dedicated to amateur forecasting. Unfortunately for her, the National Weather Society has put a hit out on her. It seems Amanda has been right about the weather a stunning 80% of the time. The NWS prides itself on only being accurate 40% of the time. NWS spokesperson Carter Lamb said, "Meteorology isn't an exact science. If it were, most of us would have gone into Astrology or career counseling. We can't have an amateur actually getting the weather right all the time. It makes us all look bad." Amanda will continue to do the weather from her undisclosed hideout.



And that about wraps it up for this year's Citizen Holiday Newsletter. As you can see, the Citizens have been busy being the best (and the worst) they can possibly be. From all of us to all of you, Have a Happy 2023! Carry on, Citizens!

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