

# 2023 CITIZEN HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

Wow, that went fast! Another year of amazing accomplishments, philanthropic exploits, and sinister deeds were perpetrated by the Outstanding Citizens who subscribe to my newsletter. They've been hacking Teslas, saving Elephants, and finding lost river pirate treasure. Sure, your kid may have taken first in the spelling bee this year, but did anyone in your family start a Shetland Pony Jousting League? I didn't think so!

So, dive in and see what the Citizens have been up to this year. It may inspire you or frighten you, but you'll never be the same!



**Teri V.** created a virus to infect the Tesla Car company's operating system. For the entire month of June, Tesla owners had to say "release me Lord Teri" so they can exit their vehicles. She's currently working on a new version that will require Prius owners sing Toto's Africa in order for their lights to work.



**Sharon** set a record this year and we couldn't be prouder. She successfully had the free breakfast 173 days in a row in hotels where she wasn't actually a paying guest. She also managed to crash the lunch buffet and afternoon snack bar of 67 conferences held in hotels during that same stretch. In 2024, she will try to break her own record and open a thrift store to sell the conference swag she grabbed in the process.



For no other reason than the kind of random mischief we encourage here, **Laura T.** kidnapped every cat in the town of Tipton, IN. (population 5,271) and released them in the NY subway system. Sadly, only the rats seemed to notice. Most New Yorkers couldn't be bothered to care. Laura is working on a prank involving goats for 2024.



**Sherri** invited influencers to a secluded home in Maine, locked them inside, and made them fight to the death using knitting needles, rotary cutters, and sharp-edged rulers. Of course, she live-streamed it so the influencers could influence as they eliminated each other. The video got so many views before being pulled that Netflix bailed her out, paid her legal fees, bought the rights and now she gets paid to "torture" influencers every week. It's America's most popular game show.



Fifty-two years after the song's release, **Sandy M.** finally decoded the secret backwards lyrics recorded with the song *Stairway to Heaven* by Led Zeppelin. Long thought by religious groups to be satanic in nature, the backward message was actually guitarist Jimmy Page's mother's recipe for Shepard's Pie. Sandy will now be featured at the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame and a celebrity cookbook along with Mr. Page's mother.



**Tony P.** created a mini elevator that straps on to trees. The purpose is to allow arthritic squirrels the ability to climb trees and continue other squirrel centric activities into their golden years. He was awarded a medal of honor by both PETA and The Squirrel Action Project. He's currently working on a squirrel-centric version of Meals-on-Wheels to deliver peanut butter to shut-in squirrels who no longer have their teeth.



**Scott L.** failed at a variety of attempts to start off-brand sports leagues this year, but his creativity was amazing. First there was his attempt to bring flag football to Florida's billion-dollar nudist colony industry. It failed after there were too many groin injuries on tackles. A short-lived Hooters Pickleball League crashed as well. But his beer-league croquet venture is promising as is his idea for bringing jousting back to the masses.



**Eileen** successfully sold North Dakota to Luxemburg. She's never been a fan of either Dakota and two just seemed superfluous. She managed to fake being a lobbyist, wrote the law in the most obscure language possible, and since no congress mammal actually reads the laws they vote on anymore, got it passed. Now Luxemburg is one country in two hemispheres and Eileen has her sights set on selling Maine to Panama.



**Debbie D.** hacked into the Bluetooth speaker of her nosy neighbor and now every time that neighbor returns home, Debbie screams "oh my god your wife is back early. I'm running out the back door." The nosy neighbor left her husband and Debbie is looking forward to welcoming a new family to the neighborhood.



**Pamela J.** started a nonprofit that delivers birthday cakes to the homeless. They arrive with 4-5 people to sing happy birthday and toss streamers and confetti. If the homeless person doesn't have a birthday that month, they make up a birthday and celebrate anyway. Her waiting list to volunteer is longer than the list of people waiting for Eras Tour tickets.



**Dana P.** created a companion app for Tik-Tok that spots and dispels bullshit. It was so popular with parents and people that can form complete sentences, it crashed on launch. Though she kept increasing the apps capacity to process data, Amazon Webs Services told her there is currently no amount of server power in the world that can keep up with the bullshit on Tik-Tok. Though she failed, parents have lobbied *Time* magazine to make her woman of the year for proving them right.



**Lynn M.** broke into a TJ Maxx and proceeded to hang and fold all the clothing in the store. The manager reported they had never seen such a blatant act of vandalism. Customers were confused by the lack of merchandise in the aisles to walk on and reported panic attacks just looking at things in size order. It went so well that Lynn is planning to hit an Old Navy next.



**Michelle S.** joined a fringe group of ne'er-do-wells in Carmel Indiana called the Lederhosen Mafia. They built a trebuchet that was 4 stories tall and use it to fling random works of art and feces onto a press conference and statue unveiling in a roundabout. As their leader fled the country after the event, Michelle is rumored to be in the running to take over.



**Ann D.** set a goal to meet 1 famous person in 2023. She backed over the foot of a secret service agent and missed meeting former President Barack Obama. She spilled a bowl of M&Ms in the lobby of a posh hotel, just in time to miss Bruce Springsteen get off the elevator. She paid for her gas at the pump and drove off just as Lady Gaga's limousine pulled into the space beside her. But all was not lost. After Thanksgiving she was putting a dollar in a Red Kettle and told the bell ringer he looked like the neighbor guy from *Home Improvement*, well at least from the eyes up. Turned out, it was him!



**Terry L.** hacked into ESPN's rivalry week feed in an act of legendary villainy. Instead of the Michigan vs Ohio State football game, the citizens of those two states were treated with the entire 1984 Presidential debate between Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale. For the second half of the game, they got all the annoying Cousin Oliver episodes of the Brady Bunch. Fox News and MSNBC are currently in a bidding war for Terry's services.



**Ruth Ann** saved a man from choking on edamame in a hip upscale restaurant while visiting our nation's capital. That man tipped her a lottery ticket and invited her to visit Capital Hill. During her tour, Congress didn't have a speaker of the house so her guide told her she could fill the role for the day. While nobody was paying attention, she passed National Ruth Ann Day which will be observed annually on her birthday beginning in 2024.



**Joan D.** conquered her fear of heights by climbing Mt. Everest, her fear of depths by scuba diving to 200 feet below, and her fear of widths by crossing from one end of Russia to the other. Next year she will meet her fear of bears head on.



**Marsha D.** went on Shark Tank with a deviously sinister product and came away with a pile of cash to invest. Her company has created a new acne medicine for kids who don't have acne. It's called Oxymoron. The idea of yet another project that feeds into the insecurities of shoppers in the 16 – 25 consumer group was too much to ignore. It started one of the highest bidding wars between the sharks the show had ever seen.



**Karen N.** dreamed up some diabolical fun that has us very impressed. She trained a falcon to snatch funnel cakes and elephant ears from visitors to Disney World. She then resold them to people leaving the park for the day. At ¼ the price inside, the people thought they got a deal. After feeding the falcon, it was almost pure profit for Karen.



**Deborah S.** broke up a pastry theft ring when she noticed a falcon delivering funnel cakes to a food truck in the Disney World parking lot. Although she alerted the authorities, the falcon and the food truck got away. Alert Citizens have reported sightings as far away as King's Island theme park in Ohio. Deborah has convinced her family that she should travel from theme park to theme park for the spring and summer to thwart falcon food theft and get some "me time."



**Karen H.** created the first totally safe jet pack for personal consumer use. She flew from Central Park to Long Island in under ten minutes for her first public unveiling. The patent was quickly purchased by the car manufacturers and is hidden in the same vault the Ark of the Covenant was hidden at the end of Raiders of the Last Ark. It will never see actual production. Now Karen is working on a flying car.



**Mel** invented a company called Tinier Homes. She recognized that people in the tiny home movement weren't catering to little people. These are tiny homes scaled down to the size that at Little Person would consider a tiny home. Whereas a tiny home can be pulled by a truck or large SUV, Tinier Homes can be pulled by a Prius or a Jetta.



On a Saturday with nothing better to do, **Jody** successfully located and friended every man named Kevin with a peanut allergy on Facebook. Now Jody runs the most active support group on the social media platform, despite not being named Kevin or having a peanut allergy. Even more amazing, Kevins Against Peanuts only has 173 members, but they are committed, have copious amounts of time to spend on Facebook, and post constantly.



**Sandy** stole James' idea for the jousting league and turned it up a notch by making the contestants ride Shetland Ponies. She sold the idea to ESPN who is struggling so bad they will put on anything for ratings these days. Season one has already been filmed and will premiere on Tuesday nights in April. If successful, Sandy has an option on an additional jousting league where the contestants ride ostriches, just like the popular 80s video game. And if that goes over, the two league champions will compete in the Super Bowl of Jousting, Ponies vs Ostriches.



**Marlene S.** set a world record for the most Christmas wreaths produced in just under one hour. She attributes her success to her quick decision-making skills, eye for holiday design, and not letting her husband get anywhere near the process. She defeated a field of nine other competitors that included Citizens Joyce R. and Kate W.



Slightly jealous that her sister won the wreath making contest, **Joyce R.** released undercover video of how Marlene S. cheated in the competition using an AI assistant that gave her tips via a small device worn in the ear. Having come in second initially, Joyce was declared the winner.



With Marlene S. out of the way and Joyce R. feeling smug and vindicated, **Kate W.** swooped in and exposed Joyce R.'s use of a 17" grapevine wreath instead of the regulation 18", giving her a distinct advantage. She also pointed out that Joyce used scented berries to sway the judges and used a foreign substance on her pics to make them insert easier. Joyce was disqualified and Kate W. declared the speed wreath making champion of West Central Indiana, 2023. Kate, Joyce, and Marlene have vowed to never make wreaths together again.





**Dan Q.** came up with a sinister invention that parents are raving about. It solves one problem, while making lemonade out of lemons for another one. First, parents are always battling with their kids over keeping the “Find My Friends” app turned on. Parents want to know where their kids are, kids don't want to be tracked. The second problem is nose rings and septum rings. Parents hate them. Kids, for now, love them. So, Dan invented a nose ring that is also a GPS tracker. If a parent can't keep the jewelry out of their kids' snouts, the snout can at least be a snoop! US sales alone has allowed Dan to retire.



**Teresa C.** took creative hooliganry to a level we haven't seen before in 2023. While visiting her favorite fast-food restaurants, she routinely paid for the meal of the car behind her at the 1<sup>st</sup> window then took both meals at the second as she has the receipts for both. Whenever she's having a bad day, she just hits the drive through and the chaos that she causes helps her laugh throughout the day and sleep like a baby at night.



**Julie** went full-on sinister by convincing thousands of people that Antarctica will be the new hot real estate market once the ice caps have melted. She managed to sell nearly 2,000 homes in the “deep south” as she called it before authorities caught on and informed the buyers that Antarctica will still be inhospitable to humans with or without ice. Julie is now living in an extradition free country and as of this writing is getting a beach massage from a man named Ricardo.



**Helen R.** filled her childhood frenemy's suitcase with dog biscuits and weed just before going to the airport in Turkey. Her friend is now serving 20 years in a Turkish prison while Helen had her high school reissue their class yearbook with the frenemy listed as "Most Likely to Contract Head Lice in Prison." Helen's epic revenge has earned her a Top 100 prospect ranking by the League of Unsavory Characters.



**Donna C.** created a one-hit wonder tribute band that plays songs from 70s and 80s artists that only had one song crack the top 40. Because the bands have now become obscure, she often shares the stage with the *actual artists*, but the audience doesn't know. It's either really cool or really sad, depending on your point of view. Donna's band is booked throughout Summer 2024 on the local festival and fair circuit.



**Monica J.** and her husband **Ron** always loved the movie *Fun With Dick and Jane*, although we're not sure if they prefer the 1977 version or the 2005 remake. At any rate, they decided to do a little family crime themselves and hacked into a bank's ATM software so that every transaction that takes place would also deposit money into their account. For spite, Monica named the virus "The U.S. Government." Their criminal flair and creativity have landed them a Top 20 spot in the League of Unsavory Characters annual rankings.



**Lyn O.** created a fake village where people addicted to Hallmark movies can live action role play the plots to their favorite made for TV movies. For an extra fee, you can be the main character and a dating site will provide two love interests to woo you. One from a small town trying to save the family Christmas tree farm and the other a self-absorbed over achiever just one case away from becoming a partner in a fancy law firm. It's Air B&B meets community theatre. The village is sold out through 2026 and Lyn is furiously trying to expand the capacity.



**Avis W.** came up with a brilliant idea for a reality show/competition. Millennial vs. Boomer cage fighting! Avis couldn't help but notice on social media that millennials and boomers don't like each other very much and tend to blame each other for everything that is wrong in the world. And Avis, being the sinister Citizen that she is, took advantage of this animosity by starting Millennial Vs. Boomer Fight Club. It began as an underground sport but has now been optioned by USA Network and TNT. The World Wrestling Federation is looking to invest.



When **Susan J's** city council voted to close their local library, she didn't get mad, she got even. She rented a local storefront and opened a museum dedicated to notorious women in history, naming it after the city council chairwoman: The *Lydia Smythe Museum of Famous Hussies* (because sluts or whores don't sound as funny as Hussies). The museum was a rousing success and Lydia tried to sue Susan, but by that time the rest of city council voted to overturn their decision, terrified of what museum Susan might open next.



**Francis C.** has spent the last twelve months teaching arthritic squirrels to use Google. She successfully taught them the alphabet and to use their lightning fast hands to type. Since the squirrels can no longer climb, due to severe arthritis in their knees and hips, Francis has given them a new life and purpose.



Unfortunately, **Maureen** saw a way to make a quick buck from the trained squirrels, kidnapped them and started her own version of an Artificial Intelligence platform. Her rival to ChatGPT is Squirrel GPT. Most users believe that the squirrel reference is to the company's mascot, but it's actually because users aren't chatting with AI. They're just chatting with squirrels who input their queries into Google at lightning speed. Aside from the cost of nuts and squirrel size keyboards (they tend to wear out quickly), it's a huge profit maker for **Maureen**.



**Mary Pat W.** started a missing squirrels charity that locates individuals believed to be the victims of squirrel trafficking, squirrel-napping, and drug mules (cocaine hidden in acorns). To date, she has rescued over 100 squirrels from captivity and returned them to their trees or rehab centers. She is currently raising funds to expose companies that force squirrels to work against their will, which she believes is common in the tech industry.



**Ronda S.** spent the year perfecting corn dog batter that doubles as a lightning-fast laxative. She used it to terrorize carnivals and local community festivals throughout the Midwest, selling it to the vendors who set up at those events. In 2024, she hopes to bring the same sort of mayhem to both Democrat and Republican national conventions.



**Helen** started an organization for ne'er-do-wells who have been forced out of the League of Unsavory Characters due to age. She called it the League of Crotchety Old Farts. Their first order of business was to put psychedelic drugs in the pumpkin spice used by a major coffee chain. For an entire week, everyone who bought pumpkin spice lattes reported sightings of Ricardo Montalbon dressed as Santa and throwing pickles at an elf named Larry. Helen has proven the agism has no business in the world of unsavory deeds.



**Suz D** and her husband **Steve** joined a group of ex-ball players in a prank on St. Patrick's Day at spring training. Every lead-off batter on that day was supposed to use a special green bat, made by Byrne Bats. They rigged a special bat to explode upon their 1<sup>st</sup> contact with a ball. Byrne Bats lost a fortune, and the unsavory deeds were later chronicled in a book called *The Fungo Society*.



**April B.** blew up an office building in Hollywood where TV executives were planning to reboot Cheers, The Nanny, and Happy Days. She became the first person to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Nobel Peace Prize, and a League of Unsavory Characters Medal of Hooliganry for the *same act!*



**Julie F.** was named Woman of the Year by her local Chamber of Commerce and Woman of the Month by the League of Unsavory Characters. We have no idea what she did to get Woman of the Year, but we do know in her diabolical double life, she sold meat based “pumpkin puree” to a chain of vegan bakeries on the East Coast.



**Eddi B** convinced over a million donors that the Grand Canyon was in danger of filling up as a result of climate change and to send money to her fake charity. Her daughter **Sara** got into the act by recording a series of Tik Tok videos calling attention to the fake problem. They became so viral; people began calling Sara the American “Greta.” Teens took to the streets in protest. They made the cover of the NY Times. It all collapsed when one reporter in a moment of clarity asked what the Grand Canyon was in danger of being filled up with. Eddi and Sara fled the country, bought an island off the coast of Greece, and are turning it into and Air B&B for international villains.



**Kate**, upon hearing Dolly Parton would be performing at the half-time of the Cowboys Thanksgiving Day game in a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader outfit, tricked her way into the dance troupe of the halftime show herself. Her friends at the 55 and older community where she lives were amazed to see her dancing with the cheerleaders and frankly showing much more agility than Dolly herself. In 2024, she plans to infiltrate the Rockets before the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.



**Larry W.** wandered into the loading zone while taking pictures outside his local arena. He noticed a lot of people loading equipment and always willing to lend a hand, started loading trucks with the crew. He has been on tour as a roadie for Iron Maiden ever since. He's been to 4 continents, 30 countries, and has 11 new tattoos, but still managed to come off the road long enough to welcome his first grandbaby!



**Margie R.** hacked into the operating system of The Sphere, Las Vegas' newest attraction where the band U2 played a 3-month residency. If you're not familiar, the entire outside of the sphere is a screen, which can be made to look like a planet, a pumpkin, and can project advertisements, fireworks, and anything you can imagine. And Margie imagined a giant zit that exploded puss and blood every 15 minutes. Tourists were grossed out and Margie received a special achievement award from the League of Unsavory Characters.



**Linda** created an underground distillery network to market to hipsters who have brought the speakeasy back. Her network of stills is more elaborate than anything seen since Prohibition. The appeal of drinking illegal booze has turned her into both a felon on the run and a multi-millionaire. HBO signed her to a development deal for a possible mini-series based on her life and Sammy Hagar is trying to buy her out to add to his booze empire.

One of the big stories this past year was the short supply and high demand for Taylor Swift's Eras Tour tickets. People suspected some sort of shenanigans took place and of course a sinister Citizen was behind it all! **AJ D.** created an app that hacked into Ticketmaster and bought huge blocks of tickets. AJ then resold them on the secondary market and bought a villa in Mallorca.



**Pat E.** knitted a giant quilt that depicts scenes from all 159 black and white episodes of the *Andy Griffith Show*. It took her two years to complete and was featured at Mayberry Days Festival in Mt. Airey, North Carolina. Next, she's working on a quilt that depicts every episode of *Frazier*, his appearances in *Cheers*, and the new *Frazier* series. She admits that this project, "may take the rest of my life."



**Roxy W.** came up with a fun and unique way of pranking the populace while she's out driving her semi at night. She will leave the boredom of the highways and make a few small-town detours. Once there, she likes to take political signs from yards and replace them with the opposite candidate. People will wake up to find Biden signs where their Trump signs used to be, or Trump signs where their Biden signs were posted. And when she's really feeling mischievous, she posts signs for forgotten candidates of the past like Walter Mondale and Spiro Agnew. She even posted signs with my name on them as write-in candidate, which is how I was recently elected Mayor of Perryville, MO and Sheriff of Pinckneyville, IL.



**Roberta** created a charity that takes plastic from the Oceans and turns it into retro-Christmas blow molds that sell for hundreds of dollars on eBay, Etsy and QVC. She managed to clean up 200 nautical miles of ocean and create enough blow molds to supply the nostalgic holiday decorating needs of Ohio and Pennsylvania, which are the two states with the highest number of Christmas decorations in the U.S.





In an effort to get kids moving, **Rose M.** convinced her local city council to purchase at a steep discount, an abandoned mall. She then worked with local college students and artists to turn the mall into a live action *Minecraft* game, free for kids of all ages. Now, she and her dog **Teddy** are grandma and grand dog to hundreds of kids who once sat around staring at screens for 10 hours a day, but now are actually moving!



**James W.** turned the emergency instruction time at the beginning of his flight from Memphis to Bakersfield into a real-life hero story. Two terrorists tried to take over the plane just as the flight attendant was explaining what to do in the event of a water landing. James grabbed the demonstration seat belt out of the attendant's hand and used it to beat one terrorist unconscious. Then he grabbed the attendant's uninflated life preserver, twisted it around the neck of the second terrorist and held it until the man passed out. The other passengers gave him a standing ovation and the flight attendant comped him free booze all the way to Bakersfield. The story will be the basis for his upcoming novel!



**Wanda S.** started an avian animal rescue for birds that have been given as gifts by dimwitted guys trying to recreate the 12 days of Christmas for their wives and girlfriends. Did you know that by the end of those 12 days, the recipient has 23 birds? Who has space for 23 birds? Let alone the pipers, drummers, and dancers. I'm guessing the guy who wrote the song knew a lot of unemployed theatre majors. Anyway, Wanda did a great thing by helping rescue those birds. I was so inspired, that I was going to start a mission for the nine ladies dancing, but my wife vetoed it.



**Alonza** went on a road trip to Key West, FL with a friend. They met an author who writes novels about a vigilante serial killer at a bar. He encouraged them to compete in a karaoke contest, which they won by singing a duet of The Bangles' *Manic Monday*. A concert promoter was in the crowd and invited them to open for Taylor Swift in Tampa. They thought he was a fraud, so they told him to get lost and invited the author to sing *Livin' On a Prayer* with them. They missed out on their chance for fame (the promoter was legit), but came back with some neon pink conch earrings, so it wasn't a total loss.



**Susan J #2** went on the show Jeopardy and racked up \$250K in earnings on the strength of her deep knowledge in the fields of winter weather and the general habits of various South American beetles. She also cleaned up on wooden kitchen implements and Scandinavian Goth Poets. However, she was eventually defeated when she incorrectly guessed which city in America has the most Roundabouts.



**Cheri L.** successfully landed a spot in an upcoming James Bond movie as a stunt double when she successfully drove a motorcycle off a cliff, pulled a parachute on the way down, landed in the Mediterranean, disengaged the parachute, and scuba dived to the bottom where she retrieved a doubloon from a sunken Spanish galleon. The filmmakers were so impressed, they may make *her* the next Bond!



After a mysterious mini tiger-pumpkin plant started to grow in her front yard, **Anette H.** found her yard taken over by the invasive species. Suspecting one of her neighbors, she retaliated by planting their seeds in the woman's garden. Once those sprouted, her neighbor planted them in someone else's garden. By the end of the summer, the entire neighborhood was overrun by tiger pumpkins and people were throwing them at each other.



**Gary** witnessed a woman being carjacked in a Walmart parking lot. Before the perpetrator could put the car in drive, Gary kicked the front bumper hard enough to deploy the airbag, breaking the perps' nose a-la Jack Reacher. He then then bludgeoned the bad guy with a frozen lasagna the victim had purchased and held him down until the police arrived. The police gave Gary a medal and the victim let Gary keep the lasagna.



**Susan** took being sinister pro and now she owns the largest business in the private creeping-people-out business (the government still has the largest public one). You can hire her company, Sinister Inc., to do something as simple as putting scorpions in your cheating husband's underwear drawer to having a team of druids perform a ritual on the lawn of your neighbor who refuses to trim her shrubs back so people can walk down the sidewalk.



**Barbara B** built a wooden raft and set out with her cat on an epic journey down Mississippi River. They took the same route described by Mark Twain in his book *Huckleberry Finn*. She stopped at all the same places described in the book and kept her cat entertained by playing her guitar and reading aloud. Next year she plans to build a bigger raft and bring paying guests. Or more cats.



**Jean P.** started a unique nonprofit/food truck concept. To help kids who want to do a lemonade stand but don't live where there is much traffic, she takes them on the road. It's like an ice cream truck coming through your neighborhood but with kids selling lemonade and cookies to raise money for a variety of projects.



**Tenley T and Jetta** were looking for something to do one day and decided to pick random names from an old phone book and send them random items from their home with letters from made up people. For example, they sent a paperclip to Ned Hannersmith of Dayton with the following instructions, "Ned, over the years this paperclip held together the evidence of our crimes in Morocco, much like it held together out love. But alas, I can't take the guilt anymore so by the time you read this, I will have plunged over Niagara Falls along with the evidence. We'll always have Amarillo." Frankly we like this type of demented pranksterism and can't wait to see what the sinister duo of Tenley & Jetta do next with it.



**Pamela Z.** won the lottery and used the proceeds to finally create a social network that we can all agree is NOT a waste of time. Her program allows families and friends from all over to send pictures and videos to a screen inside the room of loved ones in nursing homes and memory care facilities. Caretakers have reported that it boosts moral and even slows cognitive decline in their patients. Next year she plans to create a version for Congress to help slow their cognitive decline.



**Amy** quit her job and landed the greatest job ever known to man. A job so amazing and wonderful I had to sit down and contemplate all the bad choices I had made in life to not put me in a position to snag this amazing career instead of Amy. Of course, I'm talking about the official frosting tester at Betty Crocker. Imagine getting to taste test frosting ALL DAY! Now some of you are thinking, "who could do that, day in, day out?" Amy, that's who! And me, if Amy ever becomes impaired or unable to hold a spoon.



Speaking of which, the previous frosting tester at Betty Crocker disappeared under mysterious circumstances. There are rumors floating around that Amy was in cahoots with **Jacqueline**. And of course, those rumors are true. Jacqueline traded a lifetime supply of Betty Crocker products (smuggled to her by Amy) in exchange for making the previous frosting tester disappear. Again, why didn't I think of that myself? The League of Unsavory Characters have placed Jacqueline on their Top 100 Unsavory Prospects List.



**Jolie C.** started the year off right by posing as the Grand Marshal of the Tournament of Roses Parade and diverting the entire party to the Kardashian's house, disrupting their reality show post New Year's Eve recap show. She also swiped a float that was a replica of a Mississippi riverboat and drove it around for two weeks until all the flowers had died. Oscar Meyer paid her bail and legal fees, offering her a job driving the Weiner Mobile as they felt she had the right amount of guts and determination to pilot a 27-foot hot dog on wheels.



**Mary-Lou W.** got a sinister idea while watching her dog turn some snow yellow. She bought a snow cone maker, collected gravel from around the neighborhood, and started selling “Genuine Glacier Snow and Healing Mountain Rocks from Antarctica.” You wouldn’t believe how many people would pay \$19.99 + shipping to have some “real” snow and rocks from Mount Shinn. What’s even more unbelievable is how many months she got away with it. Even using dry ice packs, she was still clearing about \$15 per order. But don’t worry, she had enough layers of shell companies that she hasn’t been caught and is already working on her next scam!



**Anne N** got tired of waiting for the auto industry to give us the car from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Let’s face it, we have the AI robots and remote-controlled vehicles on Mars. But we still haven’t developed the real-life version of the car that helped rescue the Potts children from captivity in Vulgaria. So, Anne decided to do something about it and with parts you can order off Amazon, created a working replica of the car. She then successfully flew it from Australia to New Zealand and back again. Tesla and Ford are in a bidding war for her design.



Most people think **Barbara H.** is amazing because she successfully raised triplets and has 3 grandchildren. They would be wrong. She’s amazing because she is also a spy who smuggled information from America’s enemies to our intelligence community through a secret network of oboists. “Nobody expects the oboists,” our nation’s chief intelligence officers said. And they were right. With Barbara’s help, the U.S. defeated the Soviet Union and gave Castro a nasty rug burn. Okay, that had nothing to do with the oboists, but they like taking credit for it. Today, she and the oboist spy ring are retired. Or are they?



**Kay H.** combined sinister and philanthropy in a way we must salute. Tired of the people who disturb sea turtle nests, she invented a land mine device that can tell the difference between humans and animals that approach the nest. It's become a real problem with people who either want a selfie with a baby sea turtle or just can't resist digging up the nests. So, if a human or a predator gets too close, her device launches (rather than explodes) the offender trebuchet style a good twenty yards into the ocean. Now if you're at the beach and you see someone go tumbling through the air and splash in the water, you know Kay's Turtle Guard is on the job!



Now that the KISS world tour is finally at an end, we can let you in on a secret. **Barbara B #2.** has been sitting in on the drums for the band for the past 8 months. In fact, she and three of her friends stood in for the entire band on some nights. Since they all wear makeup, nobody was the wiser. It was a win-win. Barbara got to see the world and the band's manager didn't have to keep the guys in line on the road. So next time you see a KISS video on YouTube you'll ask, is that KISS, or is it Barbara and friends?



**Debbie** conquered her fear of singing in public by performing the national anthem at a dozen minor league baseball games, two rodeos, a monster truck show, and the grand opening of a Dunkin' Donuts in Sioux Falls South Dakota. She credited her success to her family's support and the fact that her eyesight has declined to the point that without glasses, she can't tell if she's singing in the shower or at a ballpark.



Looking to even the score between dental hygienists and their patients, **Ruby H.** invented a handheld device that senses when your gums have been poked too hard. The device then

jabs the dentist or hygienist back in the leg or arm. She's still working out the kinks, as jabbing a person who has a sharp metal instrument in your mouth is fraught with peril, but we like where this is going.



Tired of dogs pooping on your lawn? What if you and your lawn could fight back? Well thanks to Outstanding Citizen **Sue P**, you can! She crossed the DNA of Kentucky bluegrass, a Venus Flytrap, and a few other species that the nondisclosure agreement she forced us to sign prevents us from mentioning, and voila! Her new Poop Shield® specialty grass will fling the poop right back at the dog's owner. Fussy homeowners are lining up to buy it and now Sue is working on a potted plant that repels door-to-door salespeople.



**Kim M.** discovered a treasure map and skeleton key hidden behind a picture in her deceased aunt's attic. The treasure was supposedly buried by Steamboat Sam, a grifter and ne'er-do-well who stole money from a gambling boat in New Orleans. Steamboat Sam was caught, but the money never found. Kim said she knew where the money was hidden but was too busy reading the newest book from her favorite author to go look for it. She donated the map and the key to a museum...



...where **Marcia D.** broke in and stole the map and the key. She followed the clues through Louisiana, into Mississippi, across to Arkansas, back to Mississippi, up to Graceland (not because of the map, just as an Elvis fan) and back to Arkansas. She was just about to solve the mystery and claim the cash when the feds closed in and arrested her. But they had to let her go, because the key and map weren't on her. She sensed them closing in and threw them off the bridge...





...where they landed on the raft that **Emogene** was taking school children on an educational tour of Huckleberry Finn's journey, an idea she got from Outstanding Citizen Barbara B. Emogene was just about to read about the Phelps farm when the box with the map and key fell into her lap. She noticed the clues looked strikingly similar to the place she was about to dock and let the kids off to eat lunch. While they ate, she dug up the treasure. She used the money to start a nonprofit with the help of...



... **Ann C.** who created an endowment that takes school children on riverboat, raft, and helicopter trips up and down the Mississippi to learn history, agriculture, and about life in and around the river. Ann even designed the clever logo of the nonprofit (Mississippi River Kids) using skeleton keys in place of the p's to recall the key to Steamboat Sam's loot.



The success of **Barbara M's** squirrel nonprofit last year, gave her the idea to think even bigger. Much bigger. This year she started an elephant rescue organization that sends armed mercenaries into zoos, circuses and carnivals to rescue elephants and bring them to a safe habitat in an undisclosed location. She's very serious about not disclosing. In fact, there's a mercenary standing next to me as I type this to make sure I don't tell you. She really loves those elephants!



**Donna P** is all about family. So, this year, with the magic of Zoom, she set the Guinness Book of World records by hosting the largest digital family reunion in history. Pretty much anyone on the planet with her last name was invited. At first, she was a little worried that one particular uncle, who shall remain nameless,\* was going to suck all the air out of the digital room with some off-color humor. But he was stuck on mute the whole time (although he never caught on) and all was fine.

*\*Larry, it was Uncle Larry.*



**Cheryl L.** set the record for the fastest time in the Boston Marathon. She beat everyone in her age group as well as the overall favorites in the men and women's categories. Cheryl confessed she wasn't actually planning to participate, having only attended to cheer on some co-workers. But someone told her there was a spider about to land on her shoulder, and Cheryl thought 26 miles sounded like a safe distance. As someone who has been bitten by a poisonous spider, I couldn't agree more.



**Anu** became my wife's favorite Citizen of 2023 by developing broccoli that tastes like chocolate, soda that doesn't have sugar but doesn't taste like carbonated sewer water, and tofu that tastes like buffalo wings. She hasn't gotten me to eat these things yet, but Anu has given my wife hope that my heart won't explode before I can collect social security.



**D.L.** created an app that works similar to Google Translate. But instead of translating English to Portuguese, this translates teenager into common English. Parents never need to be in the dark about what their kids are saying. It will even tell you if you're not cool enough

to use the same slang your kids are using (You're not. Ever). The app also translates Tik Tok videos and Influencer Speak. DL is also working on an all-generations version so people can translate Real Housewives and The View.



**Ann** took sinister animal training to a new level last year. She trained a skunk to spray on demand and now her neighbors live in fear. She takes it with her as a support animal and now she gets on the plane first, no matter what boarding group she is in. When flying Southwest, people sit on each other's lap rather than sit beside her and the skunk. The flight attendants don't even protest. At restaurants, she gets the private party room to herself. It's gone so well; she's thinking of training a badger next year.

**And that about wraps it up for this year's Citizen Holiday Newsletter. Once again, 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 2024!**

*Carry on, Citizens!*

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