

CELEBRATING THANKFULNESS: FINDING JOY IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS

November is often known as the month of gratitude, a time when we're encouraged to notice the good around us—no matter how big or small. While life can bring stress, tight budgets, and daily challenges, choosing to pause and appreciate simple moments can make a real difference in our outlook and well-being. This season, consider these five small but meaningful ways to celebrate thankfulness right where you are.

1. Notice the Little Things

Gratitude doesn't always come from big events. It can be found in a warm cup of coffee, a quiet moment in the morning, a child's laugh outside your window, or even the comfort of your favorite blanket on a chilly evening. Take a breath and let yourself appreciate small comforts—they add up.

2. Keep a Gratitude Note

You don't need a fancy journal. A scrap of paper on the fridge or a note on your phone works just fine. Each day, write down one

thing you're thankful for. It could be something simple like "a good meal," "a kind neighbor," or "a sunny morning." Over time, these small notes can remind you how much good surrounds you.

3. Speak Kindness Out Loud

Gratitude grows when it's shared. Telling someone, "I appreciate you" or "Thank you for being a good neighbor" can brighten their day—and yours. Whether it's a family member, a friend, a staff member in the community, or someone you pass in the hallway, a few kind words go a long way.

4. Offer a Helping Hand

One of the best ways to feel thankful is to be a blessing to



someone else. Holding the door, checking on a neighbor, or lending a hand with groceries are small actions that build a caring community. Helping others reminds us that we're connected, and that we all have something valuable to give.

5. Create Simple Traditions

Gratitude doesn't require money—just intention. Maybe it's a weekly walk with a friend, a family night with board games, or making hot cocoa on a cold evening. These small traditions bring joy and something to look forward to.

This November, let's choose thankfulness not just as a holiday theme, but as a daily practice. In the middle of ordinary days, there are moments of joy waiting to be noticed. By slowing down, appreciating what we have, and caring for those around us, we can fill our community with warmth and gratitude—one small moment at a time.

OLDEST PRINTED PUMPKIN PIE RECIPE (1672)

Recipe Adapted for Modern Kitchens

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup Pumpkin purée (not pie mix)
- 1 cup Apples, peeled & chopped
- 2 Tbsp Raisins or currants
- 2-3 Tbsp Sugar or honey
- 1 tsp Cinnamon

- 1/4 tsp Nutmeg
- Pinch of Black pepper
- 1 tsp rosewater
- 1 Tbsp Butter
- Prepared pie crust



DIRECTIONS:

1. Make the Filling

Boil chopped apples in a small pot with a splash of water until soft (5–7 min). Add pumpkin and cook 2 more minutes. Drain well and lightly mash. Stir in raisins, sugar/honey, cinnamon, nutmeg, pepper, and rosewater/vanilla. Taste and adjust sweetness.

2. Assemble the Pie

Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Line pie dish with bottom crust. Spoon in filling and dot with butter. Add top crust, seal edges, and cut vents.

3. BAKE

Bake 35–40 minutes, until crust is golden. Cool slightly before serving. Enjoy warm or room temp, just like they did centuries ago.



HILLCREST MANOR

1400 Spruce Avenue Buena Vista, VA 24416 (540)261-6652 www.MarkDanaVa.com





NOVEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends	3 Rent Due	4 Election Day	5	6	7 Dodson Pest Control	8
9	10 Late Notices at 10:00 am	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday	28 Office Closed Thanksgiving Holiday	29
30						

COMMUNITY CORNER

- ► We would like to thank you for being great residents and for making our community a wonderful place to live! Happy Thanksgiving from Our Family to Yours!
- ► Daylight Saving Time ends November 2nd. Be sure to set you clocks back 1 hour.
- A friendly reminder that rent is due on the first day of the month. Please do not drop blank or incomplete money orders/checks in the drop box. Money orders/checks should be payable to "Hillcrest Manor," and your name and apartment number should be included in the memo. To pay your rent by card, please use the link provided. If you do not have the link, contact the office and we will be happy to provide it for you. Please do not forget to add the \$5 technology fee when paying online. If paying late, include additional late fees to your balance due.
- Any payments made to management are applied to past due balances (Rent, Court, Late Fees, Damages, etc.) before being applied to current balances. The only time payments will not be applied to past due damages is if you have a <u>written</u> payment arrangement with management and it is current.
- ► Please remember to contact the Management Office to receive written approval prior to installing any security camera or similar recording devices. Kindly refer to the prior memo distributed to all residents.