



December 2025

## DECEMBER MOMENTS THAT BRING US TOGETHER

December is a special month in every Mark Dana community. The days feel shorter, the air gets colder, and many of us find ourselves spending more time at home. Even though winter can be chilly, this season brings many chances to slow down, enjoy simple moments, and feel connected to the those around us.

One of the nicest things about December is that it invites us to enjoy the little things. A warm cup of cocoa, the sound of a favorite holiday song, or the glow of lights in a window can make our day brighter. Families may enjoy

cooking a warm meal together or watching a classic movie at home. Seniors might enjoy sitting with a good book or looking through old photos that bring back happy memories. Kids often love crafting, drawing, or helping decorate the home. These small activities make the season feel cozy and full of joy.

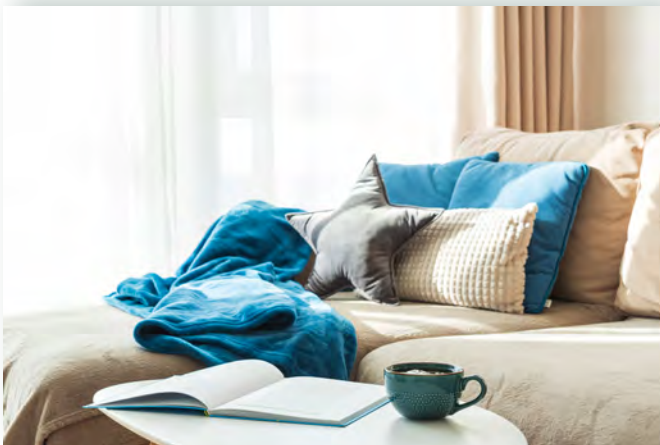
December is also a time when many people like to show kindness. A simple wave to a neighbor, holding the door for someone who has their hands full, or checking on a friend who lives alone can make a big difference. Even the smallest acts can help our communities feel warm, safe, and welcoming. You never know how much a kind word or a friendly smile might mean to someone during this time of year.

Another special part of December is the feeling of togetherness. Even

though all of our Mark Dana communities are in different parts of Virginia, we all share the same wish for a peaceful and joyful season. Some of us celebrate holidays, while others simply enjoy the quiet calm that winter brings. No matter how you spend the month, we hope you feel supported, connected, and at home.

As we wrap up another year, we encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on the good things—big or small—that happened over the past twelve months. December gives us a chance to start fresh, look forward to a new year, and celebrate the strength of our communities.

From all of us at Mark Dana, we wish you a warm, safe, and happy December filled with comfort, kindness, and moments that make you smile.



# BROWN SUGAR BANANA HOT CHOCOLATE

## INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups Milk (any type)
- 1 cup Heavy Cream
- 1 medium ripe Banana
- 2 Tbsp Brown Sugar
- 1 Tbsp Cocoa Powder
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 1/2 cup Chocolate Chips
- 1/2 tsp Cinnamon
- 1 tsp Vanilla Extra
- Pinch of Salt

## DIRECTIONS:

### 1. BLEND THE BANANA BASE

In a blender, combine the banana, milk, and brown sugar. Blend until smooth.

### 2. HEAT THE MIXTURE

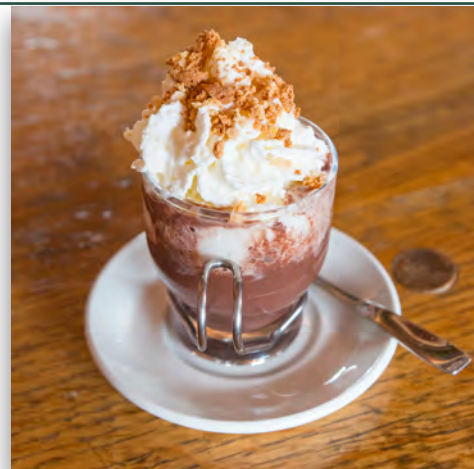
Pour the blended mixture into a medium saucepan. Add the heavy cream, cocoa powder, cinnamon, and salt. Warm over medium heat until hot but not boiling.

### 3. ADD THE CHOCOLATE

Stir in the chocolate chips until fully melted and the drink becomes creamy and smooth.

### 4. FINISH AND SERVE

Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla extract.. Pour into mugs and top with whipped cream and extra chocolate or cookie crumbs if desired.



## HOT CHOCOLATE WORD FIND

BEVERAGE  
PEPPERMINT  
CANDY CANE  
SPRINKLES  
CHOCOLATE  
DELICIOUS  
SUGAR  
CREAM  
MILK  
HOT



T	B	C	Q	Z	H	K	C	J	K	M	C	U	F
T	N	E	N	A	C		Y	D	N	A	C	W	J
B	J	I	T	L	T	D	N	C	I	V	B	F	V
A	J	S	M	J	E	F	C	D	W	B	J	L	J
K	A	E	L	R	C	X	Z	W	M	E	I	A	K
Z	N	L	B	N	E	R	H	T	H	V	M	D	Y
I	W	K	D	N	A	P	E	R	F	E	X	T	T
J	C	N	Q	A	Z	G	P	A	C	R	J	S	O
E	M	I	L	K	E	S	Q	E	M	A	O	N	H
V	X	R	X	Z	U	Z	Y	Z	P	G	D	S	V
V	J	P	O	G	R	Y	G	J	G	E	V	R	E
C	P	S	A	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	J
L	D	R	N	V	P	D	J	E	K	F	U	K	J
U	U	R	E	C	D	E	L	I	C	I	O	U	S



# ASHLAKE TRAILS

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## DECEMBER CALENDAR 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Rent Due</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 <b>Late Notices at 10:00 am</b>	11	12 Pest Control	13
14	15	16	17	18 <b>Office Closed</b>	19	20
21	22	23	24 <b>Office Closed</b> Christmas Eve	25 <b>Office Closed</b> Christmas Day	26 <b>Office Closed</b>	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve			

## COMMUNITY CORNER

- ▶ Happy Holidays to all!
- ▶ A friendly reminder that rent is due on the 1st of the month. Please be sure you pay on time to avoid additional fees. Late fees for rent will be applied to rent not paid by 10:00 am on the 10th unless otherwise stated. \*\* If you pay your rent and water with your credit or debit card, remember to include the \$5 fee.
- ▶ There is a Winter Wonderland event on December 13th from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at The Learning Experience located at 15501 Cosby Rd, Chesterfield, VA.
- ▶ The CarMax Tacky Light Run will be held on December 13th at Midlothian Mines Park.
- ▶ You can go to <https://www.chesterfield.gov/158/Community-and-Cultural-Events> for all local events in Chesterfield County.
- ▶ **Office Hours Update:**  
We are happy to serve you at both of our communities!  
**Ashlake Trails:** 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
**Ashlake Commons:** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
- ▶ **Maintenance Requests:** All maintenance requests must be submitted using a **Work Order Form** and placed in the **Rent Drop Box**. This ensures we handle your needs as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- ▶ The after-hours maintenance emergency number is (800)224-4787. This number is for use in maintenance emergencies only.