FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

 

Ahhhhh February. What a weird month. Just 28 days long (but sometimes 29 every four years, which is so random when you think about it), February is the most intriguing month on the calendar. February often gets us in a bit of a tizz too. Famous for Valentine’s Day, partners are often scrambling around trying to find an ‘I Love You’ teddy bear or box of chocolates. And if you forget to buy a present for your partner because you don’t believe in the manufactured commercial nature of Valentine’s Day? Well, then you’re a very brave soul indeed!

As you’ll learn in our fun facts about February, the month has gone through a series of transitions over the millennia. Keep on reading to find out why!

In Ancient Rome, it was the last [month](https://www.funfactsabout.com/facts-about-months/) of the calendar year. Then they changed that and it became the second month. At some point it was shortened to 23 or 24 days. Then, it was stretched to 27 days occasionally to realign the year with the seasons. Presently, it has 28 days, but that becomes 29 days every four years in a leap year. As we said, this isn’t your standard month! Just imagine if they changed it all again and just said “sod it, let’s make it 30 days and have done with it…”

There are a number of February facts that will really surprise you, so make sure you keep on reading. From extraordinary celebrations to weird events, this is what’s special about February!

### Where did the word “February” come from?

February comes from “februa,” a Latin word meaning “to cleanse,” and was named after a month-long purification festival held this time of the year.

### Why is February shortened to 28 days?

Believe it or not, a past Roman superstition made this happen.

The Roman King [Numa Pompilius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numa_Pompilius) added January and February to the original 10 month calendar to fully sync a new calendar with the lunar year. However, Numa wanted to avoid having even numbers in his calendar, as Roman superstition at the time held that even numbers were unlucky.

To try and avoid this, he chose February, a month that would be host to Roman rituals honoring the dead, as the unlucky month to consist of 28 days.

### Why does it become 29 days every four years? And why is it called a leap year?

It’s time for some leap year facts? Relative to avoiding even numbers, Numa added a leap month at a certain interval – with February having 29 days every four years.

The term “leap” is supposed to describe how the calendar catches up with the Earth’s orbit. By adding a 29th day to February, the calendar year was synchronized with the astronomical year.

### How many people are born on February 29?

The probability of February 29 birthdays is 1 in 1,461.

U.S. Census Bureau data reveals that only about 0.07% or 205,000 people in the U.S. have a February 29 birthday.

Another interesting fact about February: People born on February 29 are called “leapers.” How cool is that!?



## Portrait of George Washington What is Presidents' Day?

Presidents' Day is the popular and commonly used name for the United States federal holiday officially called [Washington's Birthday](https://www.calendarpedia.com/when-is/washingtons-birthday.html). It is celebrated annually on the **third Monday of February** and celebrates the life and achievements of George Washington, the first President of the United States (1789-1797) and 'The Father of his Country'. The day is, in practice, often used to honor and remember all past US presidents, and in particular Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson.  
  
Presidents' Day was created in 1879, first celebrated the following year. It was the first federal holiday to be created in honor of an American citizen. It was originally held on Washington's actual birthday (February 22), but in 1971 this was changed to the third Monday of February (placing it between February 15 and 21 - which means it can never occur on Washington's actual birthday anymore).  
  
Today it's an occasion for community celebrations and parades. Many stores and businesses hold special sales. The [Purple Heart military badge](https://www.purpleheart.org/) (which carries an image of Washington) for soldiers injured in the course of duty is awarded on Presidents' Day.  
  
**Is it Presidents' Day, President's Day or Presidents Day?**  
Because "Presidents' Day" is not the official name of the federal holiday, the placement of the apostrophe, if any, varies, and three different spellings are commonly used, both colloquially and in the names of official state holidays. When used with the intention of celebrating more than one individual, the form **Presidents' Day** was usual in the past. In recent years, however, the form **Presidents Day** has become more widespread and is now used by most newspapers and some magazines. **President's Day**, as an alternate rendering of "Washington's Birthday", or for the purpose of commemorating the presidency as an institution, is a proper use of a possessive and is the legal rendering in some states (the various states use 14 different names for the holiday).

 LOCAL NEWS

* Are you in need of grocery delivery service? Call 620-228-5570 for more information on this new service.
* La Harpe Days T-Shirts available at City Hall.
* Don’t forget, we have a community food box in front of City Hall…. Take what you need, leave what you can.
*  Stay informed with activities in the community by calling the information line (620) 496-3112

**If you need assistance after-hours please call the Iola Dispatch Center at (620) 365-1437, they will notify the proper personnel.**

 *HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL LAHARPE CITIZENS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!!!! MAY YOUR DAY BE AS SPECIAL AS YOU ARE TO US!*



**ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH:**

* Every Tuesday Walk & Talk at City Hall from 10:00am – 11:00am. Exercise those legs while having a visit with a friend, all indoors and out of the weather!
* Sunday, February 5th: Line Dancing from 2:00pm – 3:30pm at City Hall. FREE for ALL and all ages welcome!
* Saturday, February 11th: Come join the fun of making Valentine crafts! This event starts at 2:00pm – 4:00pm at City Hall. FREE for ALL and all ages welcome!

*You can follow our health & wellness director on Facebook: La Harpe Health & Wellness. Kathy will share weekly brain teasers, hygiene facts and healthy quick meals. Don’t have access to Facebook, please let us know and we will find a way to get you the information.*

**Dates to remember:**

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated with low confidence February 8th: Council Meeting at City Hall at 7:00 pm

A picture containing text, lined

Description automatically generated February 20th: PRIDE Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiI3_mmgoLLAhVW9mMKHe22Ar8QjRwIBw&url=http://www.paymentus.com/industry-utilities.html&psig=AFQjCNF-5ANx5SktbJug46KiWwMehsjzzw&ust=1455908868261283) February 28th: **Past due Utility shut off date.**

*If you can’t pay your account in* ***full*** *at this time then you must submit your reasoning to the City Clerk* ***BEFORE*** *February 28th.*

**CITY COUNCIL NEWS**

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

No business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2023 GAAP Waiver – Cynthia Carr made the motion to approve the 2023 GAAP waiver. Danny Ware Jr. seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
2. Outside city limit water users – Sharlyn Thompson shared 2 options: Option #1 install a master meter at all 4 corners. Option #2 add a $30.00 charge on each meter. $20.00 of that increase will go into a separate account for maintenance and the other will go into an account to fund our water tower. She suggested the council set a cap of $30,000.00 to $40,000.00 and each year after that, any monies over that cap mark will be refunded back to the user. Ron Knavel suggested the rural water districts pay more than the $30.00 increase. After discussion, the council would like to know how many users are on the water district lines and the gallons sold to them and bring that information to a scheduled special meeting January 17, 2023 at 5:30pm.
3. BCBS Renewal – Austin Lee made the motion to accept the BCBS renewal. Cynthia Carr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
4. Facilities – Austin Lee expressed concerns on the floors at city hall, stating a lot of tiles are lifting and loose, wondering if there was any loans or grants available for something like this.. Michelle Altis suggested we include the floors on our next health & wellness grant this fall.
5. Damage at city hall – Sharlyn Thompson stated, we received a bid in March of 2022 from Danny Ware Jr and would like to know if there will be an increase in pricing because of material prices. Danny Ware Jr stated he will honor the bid he submitted in March. Cynthia Carr asked for a time frame for completion. Danny Ware Jr stated, if the weather cooperates, I should be able to get to it within the next month. Austin Lee made the motion to wait until March 1, 2023 to decide. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 3-0, Danny Ware Jr abstained from voting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Hay Permit with stipulations – Tabled until February.
2. Park Cameras – Austin Lee made the motion to spend no more than $500.00 on cameras for the park. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 3-1 with Cynthia Carr opposing.
3. Sewer Ordinance – Michelle shared a sewer ordinance reflecting the increase of the sewer rates. Cynthia Carr stated the commercial users should read $43.00 and don’t see any reason to have an industrial charge in there. Austin Lee stated all commercial business should be paying the same amount. Michelle stated she will get that fixed. Danny Ware Jr made the motion to continue putting $8.00 in the lagoon fund, $4.00 to the sewer working fund, $4.00 to the sewer upgrade fund and the $.006 over the 1,000-gallon mark be kept in the working fund. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Austin Lee made the motion to publish the ordinance as presented. No one second the motion, motion failed. Savannah Flory requested an extension on publishing the ordinance so that she can get a separate water meter for watering plants. Ron Knavel made the motion to make the ordinance effective March 1, 2023 with the wording corrected. Austin Lee seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Absent from meeting
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Absent from meeting
3. Joe Stotler, Police Chief – Shared his monthly time cards and report. He asked permission to shred documents that were 10 years old, council suggested he take them to Tri-Valley. Joe also mentioned issues he is having with lighting in his office, Cynthia Carr suggested getting a bid on the lights.
4. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control – Shared her monthly reports. Penny stated there is a new billboard going up on highway 54 and 2 new homes coming in to town. Cynthia Carr asked about the placement of the billboard and size. Penny stated it was being placed on Ray Maloney’s property and the size is 8X20. Penny stated that Fred had suggested we reach out to Kenny Rose about the property he owns at 508 S. Harrison, to see if he would deed it to the city if we pay the back taxes of $1,119.00 and the utility bill of $803.72. Penny stated Fred suggested we would have more control over the property, she asked the council to think about it. Cynthia Carr asked how things were going with the CCTV project. Penny stated it’s going pretty well, on the northside of highway 54 we found an area where a lot of ground water is getting into our sewer system but other than that our lines are looking pretty good. Cynthia Carr expressed concerns about how the company are treating people’s properties and Penny stated that has been addressed.
5. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Shared the meeting minutes: The LaHarpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present was; Dennis Sidebottom, Josh Sparks, Ronald Splector, Matthew Waggoner, Marc Waggoner Sr., Meghan Sparks, Bill Gay and Pamela Waggoner. Had meeting, took trucks out to flush two locations. Flushed one at 802 S. Washington, still half full of dirt, ditch needs dug out and then replace whistle. The one on 208 W. 9th is totally plugged on south end, Dereck will have to look at it.. Returned to the barn and adjourned the meeting. Marc stated the Allen County fire department will be doing training February 12th on a car fire. Marc stated that Humboldt has a truck they are trying to sell. The kick pump needs replaced because it kills the truck. Austin lee asked the cost for a new pump and Marc stated $10,000.00 to $15,000.00. Marc is trying to get the truck for $6,000.00 and believes it is a 90’s model. Austin Lee asked if we needed a truck, Marc stated yes, we have one truck that can’t be fixed. Marc reminded everyone it’s just an idea I am throwing out there. Humboldt was able to get a new truck through a grant. Marc shared a picture of a light weight nozzle he would like to get; the cost is $1,100.00. Cynthia Carr asked Marc to fixed the “R” on the outside of barn, Marc stated he will get it fixed.
6. Maintenance Department –The workorders were shared. Dereck Ranes turned in his monthly report on his schooling. Dereck shared pricing on 3 phasing sticks, Penny stated the phasing sticks provide safety when working on powerlines to make sure they are not live and KMEA suggested we get one. Austin Lee made the motion to buy one through KMEA and take the funds out of electric upgrade. Danny Ware Jr seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Nothing to report



***Mayor****: Ella Mae Crowell (620) 496-6219*

***City Attorney****: Fred Works*

***City Municipal Judge****: Patty Miklos*

***Police Chief****: Joseph Stotler*

***Fire Chief****: Marc Waggoner*

***Assistant Fire Chief****: Dennis Sidebottom*

***City Clerk****: Michelle Altis*

***Assistant Clerk****: Teresa Driskel*

***City Treasurer****: Audra Riggins*

***Maintenance Staff****: Dereck Ranes, Larry Laird & Gentry Dougherty*

***Code & Animal Control****: Penny Miller*

***City Council Members:***

***Austin Lee (496-2323) Danny Ware Jr. (496-2156)***

***Cynthia Carr (496-7500) Sharlyn Thompson (496-3348)***

***Ron Knavel (496-2508)***

***Laharpe City Hall Hours: Monday-Friday***

902 S. Washington 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00

P.O. Box 10 Ph. (620) 496-2241

Laharpe, KS. 66751 Fax (620) 496-2240  *CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE; CITYOFLAHARPE.ORG* ** *Follow us on Facebook*



# Strawberry Vanilla Pancakes

## Ingredients

## 1 cup all-purpose flour

## 2 tablespoons brown sugar

## 2 teaspoons baking powder

## 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste

## 1 cup milk

## 1 large egg

## 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

## 2 tablespoons vanilla extract

## 1 cup chopped fresh strawberries

**Directions**

Step 1 Stir flour, brown sugar, baking powder, and salt together in a medium bowl. Pour in milk, egg, oil, and vanilla; mix until well blended. Stir in strawberries.

Step 2 Grease and heat a large skillet or griddle over medium heat.

Step 3 Drop batter by large spoonful’s onto the griddle and cook until bubbles form and the edges are dry, 2 to 3 minutes. Flip and cook until browned on the other side, about 2 minutes more. Repeat with remaining batter.



# Chicken Parmigiana

## Ingredients

## 1 egg, beaten

## 2 ounces dry bread crumbs

## 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

## ¾ (16 ounce) jar spaghetti sauce

## 2 ounces shredded mozzarella cheese

## ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

**Directions**

Step 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a medium baking sheet. Step

2 Pour egg into a small shallow bowl. Place bread crumbs in a separate shallow bowl. Dip chicken into egg, then into bread crumbs. Place coated chicken on the prepared baking sheet. Step

3 Bake in the preheated oven until no longer pink and juices run clear, about 40 minutes. Remove from the oven.

Step 4 Pour 1/2 of the spaghetti sauce into a 7x11-inch baking dish. Place chicken breasts over the sauce, then cover with remaining sauce. Sprinkle mozzarella and Parmesan cheeses on top. Continue baking until heated through and cheeses have melted, about 20 more minutes



# Red Velvet Cheesecake Swirl Brownies

## Ingredients

## Red Velvet Brownies:

## 1 cup white sugar

## ½ cup unsalted butter, melted

## ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder

## 1-ounce red food coloring

## 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

## 1 teaspoon distilled white vinegar

## ¼ teaspoon salt

## 2 large eggs, slightly beaten

## ¾ cup all-purpose flour

## Cheesecake Filling:

## 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese at room temperature

## ¼ cup white sugar

## 1 large egg

## ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

**Directions**

Step 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease an 8x8-inch baking pan.

Step 2 For the red velvet brownies: Whisk 1 cup sugar and melted butter in a large mixing bowl; stir in cocoa, red food coloring, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, vinegar, and salt, one at a time, mixing well after each addition to avoid lumps. Mix in 2 eggs until thoroughly combined. (Tips The fluffier and smooth you can get the cheesecake mixture, the easier it will be to spread. I think this is best served the next day!

Step 3 Stir flour into cocoa mixture just until combined; set aside 1/4 cup batter. Pour remaining batter into the prepared baking dish.

Step 4 For the cheesecake filling: Beat cream cheese in a bowl using an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add 1/4 cup sugar, 1 egg, and 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract; continue to beat until well blended and only small lumps remain, 3 to 4 minutes.

Step 5 Spoon cream cheese mixture in dollops over the batter in pan; gently smooth tops of dollops even with batter using a knife or offset spatula. Do not overmix. Drizzle reserved 1/4 cup of batter over the dollops of cream cheese mixture. Drag a knife or skewer through the batter and cream cheese mixture to create swirls.

Step 6 Bake in the preheated oven until top is dry and edges have started to pull away from the sides of the pan, about 30 to 35 minutes. Cool completely before cutting into bars; store covered in refrigerator

