

The Plaza of Bal Harbour Monthly News



A Newsletter for the Residents of The Plaza of Bal Harbour Condominium

Volume 7 Issue 1

January 2013



Condominium Association, Inc.
10185 Collins Avenue
Bal Harbour, Florida 33154

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There is a lot more to January than New Year's Day and Resolutions. The name January comes from the Latin word *ianua* meaning door. It is named after the god of the doorway, Janus. January is known as the door to the year and it is the first month of the year in the Gregorian calendar.

The birthstone for January is the garnet. Most garnets are deep red in color. However, there are several varieties of garnets, with colors ranging from pink to orange, brown, black and even green. Garnets symbolize constancy and fidelity.

The flower for the month is the carnation. It is one of the world's oldest cultivated flowers, dating back to ancient Greek and Roman times. The carnation symbolizes love, fascination and distinction.

The most well known holiday of the month is January 1st, New Year's Day. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is January 15th. The federal holiday honoring Dr. King's birthday is the third Monday in January each year. Inauguration Day takes place every four years following the Presidential election. It is held on January 20th. However, if the 20th falls on a Sunday, Inauguration Day takes place on January 21st.

The following historical events took place in January. The Gulf War began on January 16th, 1991. The first

Superbowl game was played on Jan 15th, 1967. (The Green Bay Packers defeated the Kansas City Chiefs by a score of 35-10.) The first heart transplant was performed on January 24th, 1964. Samuel Morse first demonstrated the telegraph on January 6th, 1838. ('What God hath wrought') was the first formal message sent.)

Here are a few famous people who were born in January. Actors and actresses Jim Carey, Kevin Costner, Geena Davis, Orlando Bloom and Paul Newman. Authors Carl Sandburg and J.R.R. Tolkien. Singers Alicia Keys, Janis Joplin, Elvis Presley and Justin Timberlake. Talk Show hosts Ellen Degeneres and Oprah Winfrey.

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Did You Know?

- The ball in Times Square was first dropped in 1908 to signal the beginning of the new year.
- The Chinese New Year is celebrated on February 10th this year. It falls on the first new moon of the first Chinese lunar month. This year, 2013, is designated as the Year of the Snake.
- In Scotland, the New Year is called Hogmanay. In some villages, barrels of tar are set afire and then rolled down the streets, symbolizing the old year burning up.
- In Greece, New Year's Day is also celebrated as the Festival of Saint Basil. Children leave their shoes by the fireside on New Year's Day with the hope that Saint Basil will come and fill their shoes with gifts.
- In Japan, on New Year's Day everyone gets dressed in their new clothes and homes are decorated with pine branches and bamboo—symbols of long life.



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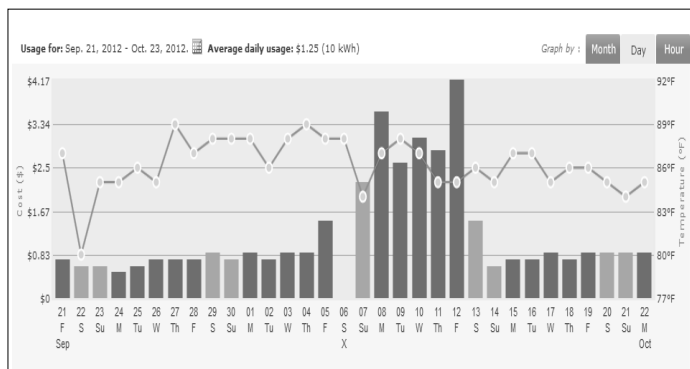
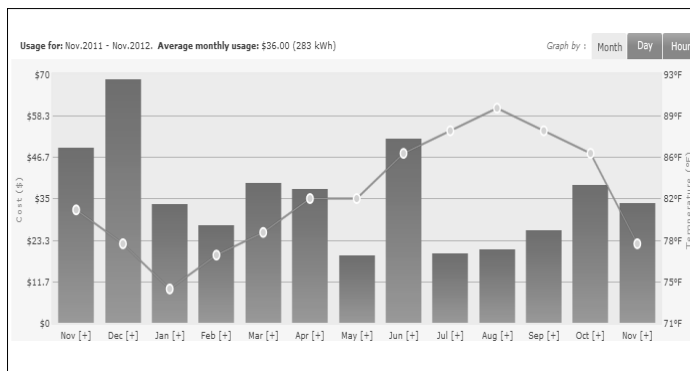


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