

The Village of Indian Point

Latest News and Updates

Financials:

No one's ever achieved financial fitness with a January resolution that's abandoned by February. (Suze Orman)

December Sales Tax Revenues were down by \$1.174.53 for the month but ended the year up \$22.9K YTD.
December Expenses were below budget by \$10k and ended the year below budget by \$255K
Year end results show a surplus of \$321K of which \$271K is allocated to the upcoming road projects leaving \$47K to be put towards the Villages \$1 million dollar reserve goal. This goal was set by the Board of Trustees to cover nearly a full year of operation. Which is vital for an economy like ours that relies so heavily on tourism as our revenues are tied almost exclusively to sales tax and we have little to no guaranteed revenue source. This surplus was attributed to continuous monitoring and cuts in expenses, accuracy in budgets, and weather delays in Road Projects.
December Sewer Revenues were down by \$7K for the month but ended the year up by \$10.7K YTD.
December Expenses were over budget by \$1K for the month and ended the year over budget by \$27K YTD.
Although the expenses exceeded the budget due to unanticipated pump and sewer repairs, we ended the year with a surplus of \$7K which will be allocated towards new sewer pumps for the wastewater treatment plant that we can now purchase.



What's going on at the office?

You don't have to be crazy to work here... We will train you for free!

Financial & Sewer Administrator:

Sewer: We ended the year with a surplus of \$7K as discussed in financials! We held a Public Hearing on December 16th, 2024 regarding the 2025 Sewer Rate increase. The 3% rate increase was approved by the Board of Trustees on January 15th, 2025 and will take effect in March 2025. Notices of the rate increase will be going out to all sewer residents next week via mail.

The Village of Indian Point will be holding a meeting on February 17th, 2025 for local business that would like to update their information or be added to the 2025 Indian Point Maps. This meeting is scheduled for 10am at the Village Hall.

Meetings that Shannon attended in December:

- December 5th: Christmas Parade Meeting
- December 6th: Yoga Retreat Meeting
- December 12th: EOY Chamber Luncheon with BOT Barb Manisco, Chief Lucas, and VC Beth Frazier
- December 14th: Attended and Participated in the Indian Point Christmas Parade
- December 16th: Attended the Public Hearing for the Sewer Rate Increase
- December 30th: Phone Conference with Patrich Bly regarding the Indian Point 2025 Maps

Village Clerk:

There was one Business License completed for December ending the year with a total of 167 completed Business Licenses for 2024 which is 20 more than 2023 and an all-time record. There were 62 completed Golf Cart Permits and 13 Sunshine Requests for 2024.

Beth attended the following meetings in December:

- December 3rd: MEC Webinar
- December 12th: EOY Chamber Luncheon
- December 14th: Attended and Participated in the Village of Indian Point Christmas Parade
- December 16th: Public Hearing for Sewer Rate Increase
- December 18: Comprehensive Plan meeting
- December 19: Webinar with MEC regarding Candidate Filers List
- December 20th & 30th: Iworq zoom meetings for Business Licenses



Blood Drive American Red Cross

January 23, 2025 from 12PM-4PM
American Legion Post #637 at Table Rock Lake
6 Woodland Ave Kimberling City Mo 65686

U.S. Route 160, MO RT 13 & 248 Roundabout Projects in Reeds Spring

January 23rd, 2025 from 4:30PM-6:00PM
20277 State HWY 413 Reeds Spring
Public Hearing to learn about the project and ask questions

Sincerely Yours, Laura Ingalls Wilder

Laura (portrayed by Kathleen Boswell) will share her story of Laura and her move to MO and much more.
January 25th at 12:30
Library Center of the Ozarks
200 S. 4th St Branson Mo

What a year.....
Small steps yield BIG results!

Planning and Zoning: one PDD (Planning and Developing Document) application was reviewed at the December commission meeting. No other agenda items noted.

Comprehensive Plan Update: The CPC met for the first time on December 18th, 2025. Beth represented the Village of Indian Point as well as Denise Petersen and Barbara Manisco from the Board of Trustees. Indian Point demographic data and a community survey were among the topics discussed.

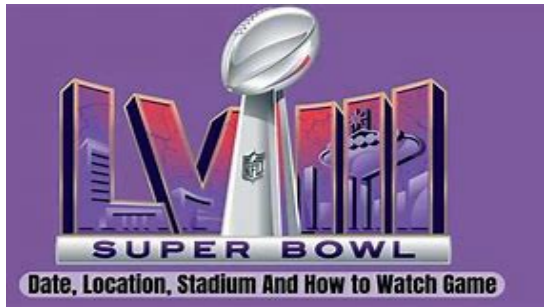
Storm Water Management Grant: The State approved the Villages agreement with Cochran on December 17th. A kickoff meeting with the Cochran engineers and Kelsi Burton (Grants & Environmental Manager from SMCOG) is expected to kickoff at the end of January 2025. A Public hearing is expected to be announced sometime in February or March of 2025.

End Of Year: Nathan is working on the Boundary and Annexation Survey for the U.S Census as well as an assessment for MODOT on the roads within the Village.

Nathan attended the following meetings in December:

- Launch Stone County Housing Study along with Barbara Manisco
- SMCOG Executive Committee Meeting
- Iworq ordinance enforcement software training along with Chief Lucas and Beth Frazier
- HR Webinar regarding the new COLA retirement updates, sick time requirements, and other new HR policy updates.

Super Bowl LIX



When: Feb 9th, 2025
Where: New Orleans Super Dome
Kickoff: 6:30 PM
Halftime Performer: Kendrick Lamar - Kendrick Lamar
Duckworth is an American rapper. Regarded as one of the most influential hip-hop artists of his generation, and one of the greatest rappers of all time, he is known for his technical artistry and complex songwriting. He was awarded the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Music, becoming the first musician outside of the classical and jazz genres to receive the honor.



Chief Lucas assisting in the Shop with a Hero event during the Holidays at the Branson West Walmart.

Indian Point Police Dept
The latest from the Chief

The IPPD responded to 40 calls of service for the month of December. They also completed 100 miles of police patrols within the Village which is approximately 18 miles of roads throughout the Village.

Indian Point Police Department Outreach and Community Involvement:

- 12.1.24 – Chief Lucas participated in the Reeds Spring Christmas Parade
- 12.6.24: Chief Lucas attended the Branson City Employee Christmas Party
- 12.7.24: Chief Lucas participated in the Kimberling City Christmas Parade
- 12.10.24: Chief Lucas attended the Branson City Council Meeting and Employee recognition Ceremony

- 12.12.24: Chief Lucas attended the SMPCA monthly Police Chief meeting.
- 12.12.24: Chief Lucas attended the Year End Chamber Luncheon
- 12.13.24: Chief Lucas attended the Stone County Sheriff Department Christmas Celebration
- 12.14.24: IPPD participated in the Village of Indian Point Christmas Parade
- 12.17.24: Chief Lucas Participated in the Annual Shop with a Hero Event at the Branson West Walmart
- 12.18.24: IPPD had their end of year banquet in Nevada Mo
- Chief Lucas attended the SWMIG Investigators meeting at MOCIC

No recent significant cases or reported crimes to report for the month of December.

Public Works
All in a day's work

Daron is working closely with the contractors and engineers on the upcoming road projects this spring.

Public Works had no sewer calls for the month of December and allocated some of this time to clear trash from our Village roadways. They also decorated the street signs with wreaths made by our Board of Trustee Chairman, Denise Petersen.

Lance & Daron played a huge roll in the setup, traffic control, take down, and clean up of the Indian Point Christmas Parade. A big Thank you to include Toni Manisco and Zach Hamilton for assisting.

The Public Works Department worked night and day clearing the roads during days we had snow and ice and worked hard keeping the roads cleared. Way to go guys!

A new salt dog has been delivered for one of our new Public Works trucks for even more efficiency during winter weather.

A HUGE Thank You



For all you do for our Village!

Stone County Health Department
What do they offer?



Stone County Health Department has two locations:
North Office - 109 E 4th St Galena Mo, 65656
417.357.6134
South Office - 701 Old Wilderness Rd Reeds Spring Mo
65737 417.272.0050

The Health Department offers many services that
Stone County Residents may not be aware of.
Here is a list of the services that they offer:

Environmental Services:

- Stone County MO Food Handlers Card
- State Food Safety Manager Training Course
- Septic System Information, Permit Verification, & Permits
- On-Site Wastewater Treatment Program & Courses
- Health Codes & Ordinances
- Recreational Water Testing

- Lodging Establishment Ordinance & Health Permits
- Other Permits and Applications:
Property Transfer Certificate
Body Piercing/Tattooing Establishment application
Body Art Cautionary Notice
Vacation Nightly Rental Permit
Food Service Permit
Not for Profit Food Service Application

Community Health:

- Community Health Assessment
- Health Bundles (must have a child under the age of 1 or be pregnant)
- Resources and Mental Health for Stone County
- Reporting of Communicable Diseases
- Health Education (free consultations and presentations)
- Baby and Me – Tobacco Free Program (for expecting mothers)
- Car Seat Safety Program (free car seat fittings, installations, and free or low-cost car seats)

Birth & Death Records:

- Certified copies of most MISSOURI birth and death records may be obtained through the Stone County Health Department. Birth Records from 1920 to current and Death records from 1980 to current. You can walk in for the same day service. You must have your ID and cash or check for payment. BC: \$15.00 DC: \$14.00

Continued....

Medical Services:

- Child Health & Immunization
- Adult Immunization
- Family Planning
- Lab Draws
- Covid 19 Vaccinations
- STD Testing
- TB Testing
- Lead Screening
- Sports Physicals
- Women's Wellness Exams
- Show me Healthy Women (Breast & Cervical Cancer screenings)

WIC:

The WIC program serves pregnant women, mothers (please refer to the guidelines for coverage on mothers) & children up to age 5

For more information:
<https://stonecountyhealthdepartment.com/>



The Indian Point Christmas Parade

Making memories and bringing the community together

The 1st Annual Christmas Parade held at The Village of Indian Point was a huge success! A huge THANK YOU to all of the people that made it happen and participated! The event was featured in the Tri-Lakes Newspaper. Shannon McQuality quoted saying: “When Chief of Police Mike Lucas mentioned the idea of a parade, I ran with it.” “The recognition for the parade is with all of the people who call the Village of Indian Point home and those who work here.” “The community exceeded my expectations and I’m still smiling from seeing everyone come together as one for the holiday.” “My favorite part is hard to narrow down. I can’t say enough how I love being a part of this community and seeing the smiles and creativity” Jan Hoynacki was the Grand Marshall! The best I have seen yet!

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/z8qwr11peft6fes2sc7l/AlMYVa5xhdAU5ukv0CaqpsA?rlkey=mvuv106teqykn68ig421bw8h9&dl=0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmTacHtrmjs>

“It’s a Major Award” Most Traditional – The Villages at Indian Point
“You Serious Clark” Best Decorated Golf Cart – The Cottages
“The Jolliest Bunch of Elves this side of the Village” Overall Favorite – The Grinch aka Cy Bortner
“Son of a Nutcracker” Best Entertainment – Ridge Runner Cloggers
“The Sleighing It Award” Most Creative – Watermill Cove
A special Thank you to Bob and his Crew at the Harbor for the drone footage and pictures as well as the banners and boat for Santa and Mrs. Clause. The parade committee: Cy Bortner, Marcia Servatius, Mike Lucas, Heidi Colon, Sharon McSpadden, Jan Hoynacki, Beth Frazier, and Helen Slagle.

To the left are the links to view photos and video footage brought to us by the Harbor



The History of Valentine’s Day

I thought it was all about the chocolates!

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine’s Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine’s actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Still others insist that it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a bishop, who was the true namesake of the holiday. He, too, was beheaded by Claudius II outside Rome. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor’s daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France. While some believe that Valentine’s Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine’s death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine’s feast day in the middle of February in an effort to “Christianize” the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat’s hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city’s bachelor’s would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the “Mother of the Valentine,” made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as “scrap.” By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one’s feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine’s Day greetings.

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity but was outlawed—as it was deemed “un-Christian”—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine’s Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds’ mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine’s Day should be a day for romance. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to record St. Valentine’s Day as a day of romantic celebration in his 1375 poem “Parliament of Fowles,” writing, “For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne’s day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate.” Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine’s didn’t begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois. Cupid is often portrayed on Valentine’s Day cards as a naked cherub launching arrows of love at unsuspecting lovers. But the Roman God Cupid has his roots in Greek mythology as the Greek god of love, Eros. Accounts of his birth vary; some say he is the son of Nyx and Erebus; others, of Aphrodite and Ares; still others suggest he is the son of Iris and Zephyrus or even Aphrodite and Zeus (who would have been both his father and grandfather). According to the Greek Archaic poets, Eros was a handsome immortal played with the emotions of Gods and men, using golden arrows to incite love and leaden ones to sow aversion. It wasn’t until the Hellenistic period that he began to be portrayed as the mischievous, chubby child he’d become on Valentine’s Day cards. *History.com*

Famous Birthday's

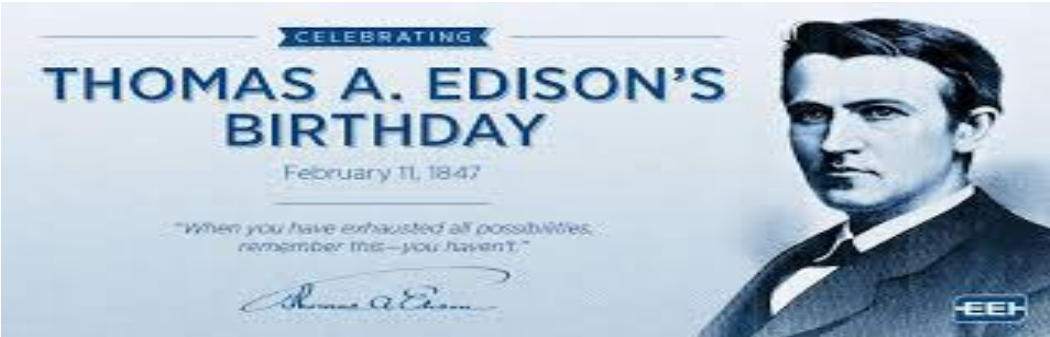


Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, the second child of Martin Luther King Sr., a pastor, and Alberta Williams King, a former schoolteacher. Along with his older sister Christine and younger brother Alfred Daniel Williams, he grew up in the city’s Sweet Auburn neighborhood, then home to some of the most prominent and prosperous African Americans in the country. A gifted student, King attended segregated public schools and at the age of 15 was admitted to Morehouse College, the alma mater of both his father and maternal grandfather, where he studied medicine and law. Although he had not intended to follow in his father’s footsteps by joining the ministry, he changed his mind under the mentorship of Morehouse’s president, Dr. Benjamin Mays, an influential theologian and outspoken advocate for racial equality. After graduating in 1948, King entered Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree, won a prestigious fellowship and was elected president of his predominantly white senior class. King then enrolled in a graduate program at Boston University, completing his coursework in 1953 and earning a doctorate in systematic theology two years later. While in Boston he met Coretta Scott, a young singer from Alabama who was studying at the New England Conservatory of Music. The couple wed in 1953 and settled in Montgomery, Alabama, where King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. The Kings had four children: Yolanda Denise King, Martin Luther King III, Dexter Scott King and Bernice Albertine King. The King family had been living in Montgomery for less than a year when the highly segregated city became the epicenter of the burgeoning struggle for civil rights in America, galvanized by the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of 1954. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, secretary of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery bus and was arrested. Activists coordinated a bus boycott that would continue for 381 days. The Montgomery Bus Boycott placed a severe economic strain on the public transit system and downtown business owners. They chose Martin Luther King Jr. as the protest’s leader and official spokesman. By the time the Supreme Court ruled segregated seating on public buses unconstitutional in November 1956, King—heavily influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and the activist Bayard Rustin—had entered the national spotlight as an inspirational proponent of organized, nonviolent resistance. King had also become a target for white supremacists, who firebombed his family home that January. On September 20, 1958, Izola Ware Curry walked into a Harlem department store where King was signing books and asked, “Are you Martin Luther King?” When he replied “yes,” she stabbed him in the chest with a knife. King survived, and the attempted assassination only reinforced his dedication to nonviolence: “The experience of these last few days has deepened my faith in the relevance of the spirit of nonviolence if necessary social change is peacefully to take place.” Emboldened by the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, in 1957 he and other civil rights activists—most of them fellow ministers—founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a group committed to achieving full equality for African Americans through nonviolent protest. The SCLC motto was “Not one hair of one head of one person should be harmed.” King would remain at the helm of this influential organization until his death. In 1960 King and his family moved to Atlanta, his native city, where he joined his father as co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. This new position did not stop King and his SCLC colleagues from becoming key players in many of the most significant civil rights battles of the 1960s. Arrested for his involvement on April 12, King penned the civil rights manifesto known as the “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” an eloquent defense of civil disobedience addressed to a group of white clergymen who had criticized his tactics. Later that year, Martin Luther King Jr. worked with a number of civil rights and religious groups to organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a peaceful political rally designed to shed light on the injustices Black Americans continued to face across the country. Held on August 28 and attended by some 200,000 to 300,000 participants, the event is widely regarded as a watershed moment in the history of the American civil rights movement and a factor in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The March on Washington culminated in King’s most famous address, known as the “I Have a Dream” speech, a spirited call for peace and equality that many consider a masterpiece of rhetoric. The speech and march cemented King’s reputation at home and abroad; later that year he was named “Man of the Year” by TIME magazine and in 1964 became, at the time, the youngest person ever awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In the spring of 1965, King’s elevated profile drew international attention to the violence that erupted between white segregationists and peaceful demonstrators in Selma, Alabama, where the SCLC and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) had organized a voter registration campaign. Captured on television, the brutal scene outraged many Americans and inspired supporters from across the country to gather in Alabama and take part in the Selma to Montgomery march led by King and supported by President Lyndon B. Johnson, who sent in federal troops to keep the peace. That August, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, which guaranteed the right to vote—first awarded by the 15th Amendment—to all African Americans. As more militant Black leaders such as Stokely Carmichael rose to prominence, King broadened the scope of his activism to address issues such as the Vietnam War and poverty among Americans of all races. In 1967, King and the SCLC embarked on an ambitious program known as the Poor People’s Campaign, which was to include a massive march on the capital. On the evening of April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King was assassinated. He was fatally shot while standing on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, where King had traveled to support a sanitation workers’ strike. In the wake of his death, a wave of riots swept major cities across the country, while President Johnson declared a National Day of Mourning. James Earl Ray, an escaped convict and known racist, pleaded guilty to the murder and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He later recanted his confession and gained some unlikely advocates, including members of the King family, before his death in 1998. *History.com*



Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, was born near Hodgenville, Kentucky on February 12, 1809. His family moved to Indiana when he was seven and he grew up on the edge of the frontier. He had very little formal education but read voraciously when not working on his father’s farm. A childhood friend later recalled Lincoln’s “manic” intellect, and the sight of him red-eyed and tousle-haired as he pored over books late into the night. In 1828, at the age of nineteen, he accompanied a produce-laden flatboat down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, Louisiana—his first visit to a large city—and then walked back home. Two years later, trying to avoid health and finance troubles, Lincoln’s father moved the family to Illinois. After moving away from home, Lincoln co-owned a general store for several years before selling his stake and enlisting as a militia captain defending Illinois in the Black Hawk War of 1832. Black Hawk, a Sauk chief, believed he had been swindled by a recent land deal and sought to resettle his old holdings. Lincoln did not see direct combat during the short conflict, but the sight of corpse-strewn battlefields at Stillman’s Run and Kellogg’s Grove deeply affected him. As a captain, he developed a reputation for pragmatism and integrity. Once, faced with a rail fence during practice maneuvers and forgetting the parade-ground instructions to direct his men over it, he simply ordered them to fall out and reassemble on the other side a minute later. Another time, he stopped his men before they executed a wandering Native American as a spy. Stepping in front of their raised muskets, Lincoln is said to have challenged his men to combat for the terrified native’s life. His men stood down. After the war, he studied law and campaigned for a seat on the Illinois State Legislature. Although not elected in his first attempt, Lincoln persevered and won the position in 1834, serving as a Whig. Abraham Lincoln met Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois where he was practicing as a lawyer. They were married in 1842 over her family’s objections and had four sons. Only one lived to adulthood. The deep melancholy that pervaded the Lincoln family, with occasional detours into outright madness, is in some ways sourced in their close relationship with death. Lincoln, a self-described “prairie lawyer,” focused on his all-embracing law practice in the early 1850s after one term in Congress from 1847 to 1849. He joined the new Republican party—and the ongoing argument over sectionalism—in 1856. A series of heated debates in 1858 with Stephen A. Douglas, the sponsor of the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, over slavery and its place in the United States forged Lincoln into a prominent figure in national politics. Lincoln’s anti-slavery platform made him extremely unpopular with Southerners and his nomination for President in 1860 enraged them. On November 6, 1860, Lincoln won the presidential election without the support of a single Southern state. Talk of secession, bandied about since the 1830s, took on a serious new tone. The Civil War was not entirely caused by Lincoln’s election, but the election was one of the primary reasons the war broke out the following year. Lincoln’s decision to fight rather than to let the Southern states secede was not based on his feelings towards slavery. Rather, he felt it was his sacred duty as President of the United States to preserve the Union at all costs. His first inaugural address was an appeal to the rebellious states, seven of which had already seceded, to rejoin the nation. His first draft of the speech ended with an ominous message: “Shall it be peace, or the sword?” The Civil War began with the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter, South Carolina, on April 12, 1861. Fort Sumter, situated in the Charleston Harbour, was a Union outpost in the newly seceded Confederate territory. Lincoln, learning that the Fort was running low on food, sent supplies to reinforce the soldiers there. The Southern navy repulsed the supply convoy. After this repulse, the Southern navy fired the first shot of the war at Fort Sumter and the Federal defenders surrendered after a 34-hour long battle. Throughout the war, Lincoln struggled to find capable generals for his armies. As commander-in-chief, he legally held the highest rank in the United States armed forces, and he diligently exercised his authority through strategic planning, weapons testing, and the promotion and demotion of officers. McDowell, Fremont, McClellan, Pope, McClellan again, Buell, Burnside, Rosecrans--all of these men and more withered under Lincoln’s watchful eye as they failed to bring him success on the battlefield. He did not issue his famous Emancipation Proclamation until January 1, 1863 after the Union victory at the Battle of Antietam. The Emancipation Proclamation, which was legally based on the President’s right to seize the property of those in rebellion against the State, only freed slaves in Southern states where Lincoln’s forces had no control. Nevertheless, it changed the tenor of the war, making it, from the Northern point of view, a fight both to preserve the Union and to end slavery. The Lincoln administration did more than just manage the Civil War, although its reverberations could still be felt in a number of policies. The Revenue Act of 1862 established the United States’ first income tax, largely to pay the costs of total war. The Morrill Act of 1862 established the basis of the state university system in this country, while the Homestead Act, also passed in 1862, encouraged settlement of the West by offering 160 acres of free land to settlers. Lincoln also created the Department of Agriculture and formally instituted the Thanksgiving holiday. Internationally, he navigated the “Trent Affair,” a diplomatic crisis regarding the seizure of a British ship carrying Confederate envoys, in such a way as to quell the saber-rattling overtures coming from Britain as well as the United States. In another spill-over from the war, Lincoln restricted the civil liberties of due process and freedom of the press. On April 14, 1865, while attending a play at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C., Abraham Lincoln was shot by Confederate sympathizer, John Wilkes Booth. The assassination was part of a larger plot to eliminate the Northern government that also left Secretary of State William Seward grievously injured. Lincoln died the following day, and with him the hope of reconstructing the nation without bitterness. *History.com*

Famous Birthday's



Thomas Alva Edison was born on February 11, 1847 in Milan, Ohio; the seventh and last child of Samuel and Nancy Edison. When Edison was seven his family moved to Port Huron, Michigan. Edison lived here until he struck out on his own at the age of sixteen. Edison had very little formal education as a child, attending school only for a few monthss. He was taught reading, writing, and arithmetic by his mother, but was always a very curious child and taught himself much by reading on his own. This belief in self-improvement remained throughout his life.

Edison began working at an early age, as most boys did at the time. At thirteen he took a job as a newsboy, selling newspapers and candy on the local railroad that ran through Port Huron to Detroit. He seems to have spent much of his free time reading scientific, and technical books, and also had the opportunity at this time to learn how to operate a telegraph. By the time he was sixteen, Edison was proficient enough to work as a telegrapher full time.

The development of the telegraph was the first step in the communication revolution, and the telegraph industry expanded rapidly in the second half of the 19th century. This rapid growth gave Edison and others like him a chance to travel, see the country, and gain experience. Edison worked in a number of cities throughout the United States before arriving in Boston in 1868. Here Edison began to change his profession from telegrapher to inventor. He received his first patent on an electric vote recorder, a device intended for use by elected bodies such as Congress to speed the voting process. This invention was a commercial failure. Edison resolved that in the future he would only invent things that he was certain the public would want.

Edison moved to New York City in 1869. He continued to work on inventions related to the telegraph, and developed his first successful invention, an improved stock ticker called the "Universal Stock Printer". For this and some related inventions Edison was paid \$40,000. This gave Edison the money he needed to set up his first small laboratory and manufacturing facility in Newark, New Jersey in 1871. During the next five years, Edison worked in Newark inventing and manufacturing devices that greatly improved the speed and efficiency of the telegraph. He also found to time to get married to Mary Stilwell and start a family.

In 1876 Edison sold all his Newark manufacturing concerns and moved his family and staff of assistants to the small village of Menlo Park, twenty-five miles southwest of New York City. Edison established a new facility containing all the equipment necessary to work on any invention. This research and development laboratory was the first of its kind anywhere; the model for later, modern facilities such as Bell Laboratories, this is sometimes considered to be Edison's greatest invention. Here Edison began to change the world.

The first great invention developed by Edison in Menlo Park was the tin foil phonograph. The first machine that could record and reproduce sound created a sensation and brought Edison international fame. Edison toured the country with the tin foil phonograph and was invited to the White House to demonstrate it to President Rutherford B. Hayes in April 1878.

Edison next undertook his greatest challenge, the development of a practical incandescent, electric light. The idea of electric lighting was not new, and a number of people had worked on, and even developed forms of electric lighting. But up to that time, nothing had been developed that was remotely practical for home use. Edison's eventual achievement was inventing not just an incandescent electric light, but also an electric lighting system that contained all the elements necessary to make the incandescent light practical, safe, and economical. After one and a half years of work, success was achieved when an incandescent lamp with a filament of carbonized sewing thread burned for thirteen and a half hours. The first public demonstration of the Edison's incandescent lighting system was in December 1879, when the Menlo Park laboratory complex was electrically lighted. Edison spent the next several years creating the electric industry. In September 1882, the first commercial power station, located on Pearl Street in lower Manhattan, went into operation providing light and power to customers in a one square mile area; the electric age had begun.

The success of his electric light brought Edison to new heights of fame and wealth, as electricity spread around the world. Edison's various electric companies continued to grow until in 1889 they were brought together to form Edison General Electric. Despite the use of Edison in the company title however, Edison never controlled this company. The tremendous amount of capital needed to develop the incandescent lighting industry had necessitated the involvement of investment bankers such as J.P. Morgan. When Edison General Electric merged with its leading competitor Thompson-Houston in 1892, Edison was dropped from the name, and the company became simply General Electric.

This period of success was marred by the death of Edison's wife Mary in 1884. Edison's involvement in the business end of the electric industry had caused Edison to spend less time in Menlo Park. After Mary's death, Edison was there even less, living instead in New York City with his three children. A year later, while vacationing at a friend's house in New England, Edison met Mina Miller and fell in love. The couple was married in February 1886 and moved to West Orange, New Jersey where Edison had purchased an estate, Glenmont, for his bride. Thomas Edison lived here with Mina until his death.

When Edison moved to West Orange, he was doing experimental work in makeshift facilities in his electric lamp factory in nearby Harrison, New Jersey. A few months after his marriage, however, Edison decided to build a new laboratory in West Orange itself, less than a mile from his home. Edison possessed both the resources and experience by this time to build, "the best equipped and largest laboratory extant and the facilities superior to any other for rapid and cheap development of an invention ". The new laboratory complex consisting of five buildings opened in November 1887. A three-story main laboratory building contained a power plant, machine shops, stock rooms, experimental rooms and a large library. Four smaller one-story buildings built perpendicular to the main building contained a physics lab, chemistry lab, metallurgy lab, pattern shop, and chemical storage. The large size of the laboratory not only allowed Edison to work on any sort of project but also allowed him to work on as many as ten or twenty projects at once. Facilities were added to the laboratory or modified to meet Edison's changing needs as he continued to work in this complex until his death in 1931. Over the years, factories to manufacture Edison inventions were built around the laboratory. The entire laboratory and factory complex eventually covered more than twenty acres and employed 10,000 people at its peak during World War One (1914-1918).

After opening the new laboratory, Edison began to work on the phonograph again, having set the project aside to develop the electric light in the late 1870s. By the 1890s, Edison began to manufacture phonographs for both home, and business use. Like the electric light, Edison developed everything needed to have a phonograph work, including records to play, equipment to record the records, and equipment to manufacture the records and the machines. In the process of making the phonograph practical, Edison created the recording industry. The development and improvement of the phonograph was an ongoing project, continuing almost until Edison's death.

While working on the phonograph, Edison began working on a device that, "does for the eye what the phonograph does for the ear", this was to become motion pictures. Edison first demonstrated motion pictures in 1891 and began commercial production of "movies" two years later in a peculiar looking structure, built on the laboratory grounds, known as the Black Maria. Like the electric light and phonograph before it, Edison developed a complete system, developing everything needed to both film and show motion pictures. Edison's initial work in motion pictures was pioneering and original. However, many people became interested in this third new industry Edison created and worked to further improve on Edison's early motion picture work. There were therefore many contributors to the swift development of motion pictures beyond the early work of Edison. By the late 1890s, a thriving new industry was firmly established, and by 1918 the industry had become so competitive that Edison got out of the movie business altogether.

The success of the phonograph and motion pictures in the 1890s helped offset the greatest failure of Edison's career. Throughout the decade Edison worked in his laboratory and in the old iron mines of northwestern New Jersey to develop methods of mining iron ore to feed the insatiable demand of the Pennsylvania steel mills. To finance this work, Edison sold all his stock in General Electric. Despite ten years of work and millions of dollars spent on research and development, Edison was never able to make the process commercially practical and lost all the money he had invested. This would have meant financial ruin had not Edison continued to develop the phonograph and motion pictures at the same time. As it was, Edison entered the new century still financially secure and ready to take on another challenge.

Edison's new challenge was to develop a better storage battery for use in electric vehicles. Edison very much enjoyed automobiles and owned a number of different types during his life, powered by gasoline, electricity, and steam. Edison thought that electric propulsion was clearly the best method of powering cars but realized that conventional lead-acid storage batteries were inadequate for the job. Edison began to develop an alkaline battery in 1899. It proved to be Edison's most difficult project, taking ten years to develop a practical alkaline battery. By the time Edison introduced his new alkaline battery, the gasoline powered car had so improved that electric vehicles were becoming increasingly less common, being used mainly as delivery vehicles in cities. However, the Edison alkaline battery proved useful for lighting railway cars and signals, maritime buoys, and miners lamps. Unlike iron ore mining, the heavy investment Edison made over ten years was repaid handsomely, and the storage battery eventually became Edison's most profitable product.

Further, Edison's work paved the way for the modern alkaline battery.

By 1911, Thomas Edison had built a vast industrial operation in West Orange. The laboratory itself did less original experimental work and instead worked more on refining existing Edison products such as the phonograph. Although Edison continued to file for and receive patents for new inventions, the days of developing new products that changed lives and created industries were behind him.

In the 1915, Edison was asked to head the Naval Consulting Board. Edison favored preparedness and accepted the appointment. Edison spent several months on Long Island Sound in a borrowed navy vessel experimenting on techniques for detecting submarines.

Edison's role in life began to change from inventor and industrialist to cultural icon, a symbol of American ingenuity, and a real-life Horatio Alger story. In 1928, in recognition of a lifetime of achievement, the United States Congress voted Edison a special Medal of Honor. In 1929 the nation celebrated the golden jubilee of the incandescent light. The celebration culminated at a banquet honoring Edison given by Henry Ford at Greenfield Village, Ford's new American history museum, which included a complete restoration of the Menlo Park Laboratory. Attendees included President Herbert Hoover and many of the leading American scientists and inventors.

The last experimental work of Edison's life was done at the request of Edison's good friends Henry Ford, and Harvey Firestone in the late 1920s. They asked Edison to find an alternative source of rubber for use in automobile tires. Edison was still working on this at the time of his death. During the last two years of his life Edison was in increasingly poor health. Edison spent more time away from the laboratory, working instead at Glenmont. Trips to the family vacation home in Fort Myers, Florida became longer. Edison was past eighty and suffering from a number of ailments. In August 1931 Edison collapsed at Glenmont. Essentially house bound from that point, Edison steadily declined until at 3:21 am on October 18, 1931 the great man died. *Nps gov*