September 2025

# Currents at the Cove

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## Celebrating September

**Intergeneration Month**

**World Alzheimer's Month**

**Labor Day**
***September 1***

**Eat an Extra Dessert Day**
***September 4***

**International Day of Charity**
***September 5***

**Bald Is Beautiful Day**
***September 13***

**Balance Awareness Week**
***September 14–20***

**Respect Day**
***September 18***

**Centenarian's Day**
***September 22***

**Women's Health and Fitness Day**
***September 23***

**Good Neighbor Day**
***September 28***

## Generation Celebration

September gives us a great excuse to celebrate the power of cross-generational connection. With both Grandparents Day and Intergenerational Day on the calendar, it's a reminder that meaningful relationships don't have to come from the same age group.

Spending time with younger generations isn't just heartwarming—it's genuinely beneficial. Studies show that older adults who interact regularly with children or teens often feel more purposeful, experience less loneliness, and even see improvements in memory and mood. Meanwhile, younger folks gain a sense of perspective, patience, and emotional intelligence when they build relationships with seniors.

Some communities have taken this idea to the next level. In countries like Japan and the Netherlands, preschools and daycare centers are joining forces with senior living facilities, creating shared spaces where little ones and older adults can learn and play together. It turns out that finger painting and storytelling sessions can do wonders for everyone involved, young and old.

Even without a formal program, small moments matter. Reading to a grandchild over video chat, teaching a neighbor's teen how to knit, or joining a local school's mentorship program are all simple ways to build connections that stretch across generations. Volunteering with youth groups, offering career advice, or attending events at community centers can also open the door to meaningful exchanges. And don't underestimate the value of a casual chat at the park or the grocery store—sometimes the best conversations happen when no one's trying too hard.

Bringing generations together isn't about nostalgia—it's about building stronger communities full of curiosity, empathy, and mutual respect. This month, let's celebrate the many ways we can all learn from each other, no matter our age.

## Back from Beyond

Anyone who has owned a pet is familiar with the feelings of loss once that pet has passed on. World Animal Remembrance Month, celebrated in September, has been designated to remember all the good times with our companion animals.

When Dolly the sheep won worldwide renown in 1996 as the first cloned animal, few people may have considered the possibility of cloning a family pet. But for the hearty sum of approximately $100,000, a clone of a beloved pet is exactly what families can get. Sooam Biotech uses DNA to clone companion, pet, and police dogs in its South Korean laboratory. But it's a buyer-beware business; just because your pet may look the same, there is no guarantee that it will have the same personality or temperament.

Others are using this fascinating science not to bring pets back from the dead but to resurrect extinct animals. Many animals have gone the way of the dodo—the great auk, the thylacine, the Carolina parakeet, the Atlas bear, and even the black rhinoceros are all now extinct.

Some scientists are working to bring extinct species back to life using advances in genetics and synthetic biology. While a real-life Jurassic Park is still fiction, researchers—like those at Harvard and Colossal Biosciences—have made headway in resurrecting species like the woolly mammoth by splicing its genes into those of its closest living relative, the Asian elephant. Recently, the successful cloning of dire wolf pups using recovered DNA marked a new milestone in this rapidly evolving field.

Though you won't see mammoths or dire wolves roaming around just yet, tools like CRISPR have made species revivalism more viable than ever. The debate has shifted from "Can we do it?" to "Should we?" What do you think are the consequences of reviving the ancient past?

## Mythic Mateys

September 19 means it's once again Talk Like a Pirate Day. Does this mean we should go around spouting "Arrgh" and "Ahoy, matey"? Researchers chalk up this type of pirate speech as nothing but Hollywood hoopla.

Many real pirates from the Golden Age of piracy most likely spoke like any other river-dwelling Londoner. After all, pirates were often former English-speaking merchant sailors. Most pirate myths—from speech patterns to parrots, eye patches to peg legs—come from the book *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. When Disney turned the book into a movie in 1950, actor Robert Newton's portrayal of Long John Silver became the benchmark for nearly every pirate to follow. Perhaps September 19 should be named Talk Like Robert Newton Day instead? Aye aye!

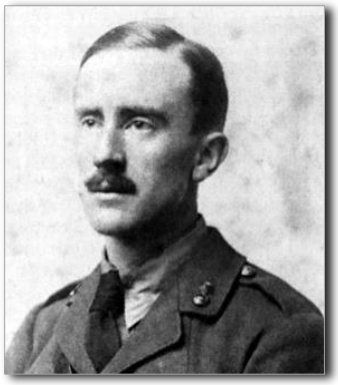
## The Dough Must Go On

Over almost 70 years, more than one billion pounds of Play-Doh have been extruded into billions of little plastic canisters for kids to play with. In 1998, this modeling compound was even inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame. And now it has its own holiday on September 16: National Play-Doh Day.

Play-Doh was invented to be wallpaper cleaner (rolled on walls to remove dirt and grime), but the glob of off-white putty soon inspired the imagination of school children. In 1956, Play-Doh inventor Joe McVicker cut a deal with Captain Kangaroo and other children's show hosts to promote the product.

There are many unofficial recipes for homemade dough, but what you may not be able to replicate, however, is Play-Doh's trademark smell. Even this was offered on its 50th anniversary—as a Demeter-brand cologne for creatives.

## Shire Delight



J. R. R. Tolkien is best known as the author of *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and *The Silmarillion*. This set of books conjures the fantasy world of Middle-earth, a magical place inhabited by elves, dwarves, trolls, dragons, wizards, and, of course, the peaceful and portly race of pint-sized people known as hobbits. *The Lord of the Rings*—with 150 million copies sold—is one of the best-selling English books of all time, with *The Hobbit* at an impressive 100 million. The legions of Tolkien fans worldwide now celebrate September 22 as Hobbit Day. After all, September 22 is the birthday of not just Bilbo Baggins, the hero of *The Hobbit*, but also of Frodo Baggins, Bilbo's nephew and hero of *The Lord of the Rings*.

As one day is not enough to honor Tolkien and his fiction, the entire week surrounding September 22 is now celebrated as Tolkien Week. After all, there is so much more to Tolkien's story than just hobbits; he created an entire universe complete with several languages and its own mythology.

The depth of the Tolkien obsession is perhaps best exemplified by the Tolkien Society—part fan club, part charity, and part literary society. In addition to publishing a journal of Tolkien scholarship and maintaining an extensive Tolkien archive, the society also hosts an annual event known as Oxonmoot. Each September Tolkien enthusiasts travel to Oxford, England, and attend a long-weekend's worth of seminars and art shows about all things Tolkien. This Tolkien-related gathering also includes a masquerade ball, where fans dress up as their favorite fantasy characters. For those unable to make the pilgrimage to Oxford, perhaps the best way to celebrate Tolkien Week is to read his novels, watch the film versions of the books, and complain about the many inaccuracies and liberties taken by the films' directors.

## Fibbing for Fame

It's no lie; in New Harmony, Indiana, the third Saturday in September brings the Big Whopper Liar's Contest. These aren't little white lies but long, well-wrought yarns expertly crafted to bring tears of laughter to audience members' eyes. There was one story about a woman who discovered that her grandma's trick for the perfect piecrust involved pressing her false teeth into the dough. Then there's the hunting tale of the boy who had his great-granddad's rifle full of enough shot to take down a rattlesnake, a charging wild boar, an 11-point buck, and 13 turkeys sitting on a tree limb. The grand prize won't make you rich, but it may make you famous... at least in New Harmony.

## Locals Only

Most cities love an influx of tourists. Tourists, after all, bring dollars. The more popular a city is, the more those dollars add up. So, it is very strange indeed that September 16 is Stay Away from Seattle Day, a day when Seattleites request that everyone please refrain from visiting their wet Pacific Northwest city.

Seattle residents themselves offer myriad reasons to shun their city: exorbitant gas prices, never-ending rain, earthquakes, and a fleeting summer. Or is the real truth that Seattle is so wonderful that its residents want to keep it all for themselves? It is world-renowned for its coffee (thank you, Starbucks), doughnuts (thank you, Top Pot), and salmon (thank you, Mother Nature). Then there's the unparalleled natural beauty, great music scene, a cutting-edge technology industry, and hey, we even hear the whole rain thing has been exaggerated. (It's mainly a constant drizzle, not a downpour.) So, which is it, Emerald City? Are you awful or awesome? The only way to find out may be to visit sometime soon.

## Beyond the Browser

Who could have known on September 4, 1998, that the strange term *google* would come to be used in hundreds of languages across the planet? Twenty-seven years after the company's September creation, Google has become a part of our everyday lives. Google's internet search engine and email are its most well-known tools, but that technology is small potatoes compared to what Google hopes to achieve in the future.

Google began at Stanford University in California. Two PhD students, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, wanted a better way to search for information on the internet. Their mission statement was "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful." New Google projects hope to do that and so much more.

One Google innovation is the self-driving car, now commercialized through Waymo, an Alphabet company. Waymo vehicles—based on partnerships with Jaguar, Geely, and others—have driven millions of miles autonomously. Experts argue that these vehicles may soon surpass human drivers in safety and efficiency, especially in controlled urban environments.

In the home, Google has expanded its smart tech through Nest, offering learning thermostats, security systems, and voice-activated controls. You can adjust your lights, start your coffee, or monitor your front door using just your phone or voice.

X, Alphabet's research division, continues to pursue ambitious projects, including drone delivery, wildfire detection, and sustainable energy solutions. Its goal remains the same: to tackle global problems with breakthrough technology that pushes the limits of what's possible.

## September Birthdays

In astrology, those born between the 1st and 22nd of September are Virginal Virgos. Virgos are industrious, efficient, and pay close attention to details, which is why they tend to get the job done right on the first try. Those born between September 23rd and 30th balance the scales of Libra. Libras seek harmony and value fairness and justice. Although they'd rather avoid conflict, they are excellent team players who are tactful and polite at soothing those embroiled in argument.

Lily Tomlin (comedian) – September 1, 1939
Bob Newhart (comedian) – September 5, 1929
Grandma Moses (artist) – September 7, 1860
Otis Redding (singer) – September 9, 1941
Agatha Christie (author) – September 15, 1890
Frankie Avalon (singer) – September 18, 1940
Jim Henson (puppeteer) – September 24,1936
T. S. Eliot (poet) – September 26, 1888
Gene Autry (singer) – September 29, 1907
Fran Drescher (actress) – September 30, 1957

## Point Taken

Grammarians rejoice! September 24 is Punctuation Day. If punctuation makes you feel as excited as an exclamation point, then get ready to express your enthusiasm over some rarely used punctuation marks, so obscure that they don't even appear on keyboards.

The *interrobang* looks like a question mark with an exclamation point cut through its heart, and it means "?!" The *exclamation comma* and *question comma* are versions of these marks with a comma below instead of a dot. Why? Because sometimes you want to express excitement or ask a question in the middle of a sentence, not at the end. Three dots forming an upside-down triangle are known as the *because sign*. An *irony mark* looks like a backward question mark and means that the sentence should be read with irony... this sentence not included, of course.