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FEATURING



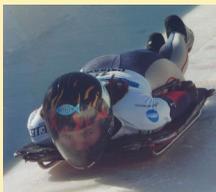
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Senior Times is now available at



LOCAL BARTENDERS AND HANGOVERS

Celebrating National Bartender Day

By Mary Anne White

When local bartender Dan Plank at Plank's Bier Garten on South High Street was asked "Do you celebrate National Bartender Day or World Bartenders Day?" his response was "Never heard of either one! When are they?" Dan's fellow bartender Matthew Carroll's response to the same question was an echo: "I'm sorry—I've never heard of them; but I'm going to look them up."

Bartender Mark McAfee at The Hickory House on East Main Street in Reynoldsburg was also unfamiliar with either of the special calendar days that celebrate bartend-



Dan Plank

and New Zealand, initiated by a competition called "The Perfect Blend." The purpose of the competition was to bring Australian and New Zealand bartenders together to celebrate bartenders and bartending culture.

The competition involved creating themed innovative cocktails with six ingredients, blind taste testing to identify the "spirit" without knowing the brand, exams on product knowledge, workshops, distillery tours, and mentoring. The competition became a cultural phenomenon that resulted in the creation of World Bartenders Day. It is celebrated by bartenders and



Matthew Carroll of Plank's Bier Garten



Bartender Mark McAfee at Hickory House

ers. He also wanted to know more about them.

In 2011, spirits brand Sailor Jerry Rum founded National Bartender Day. Celebrated on the first Friday in December, it coincides with Repeal Day—which ended Prohibition. National Bartender Day recognizes these professionals—not only for their ability to mix many wonderful concoctions—but for their willingness to provide a listening ear, protection of their customers by sending those who have over-indulged home in taxis, and for being the cultural figures they have become.

Customers celebrate National Bartender Day and acknowledge their favorite



bartenders with several simple courtesies: learning and addressing him/her by name; saying, "Please" and "thank you"; tipping generously; using a designated driver when necessary; giving the bartender an opportunity to talk; providing kudos about the bartender

to the manager; and posting a photo of your drink or a positive shoutout to the bartender on social media.

World Bartender Day is celebrated every February 24th. Relatively new to the calendar list of days to celebrate, it was first recognized in 2018. It began in Australia

customers alike. Bartenders host mixology classes or provide special menus for tasting, and discounted drinks for bartenders. Customers celebrate with the same courtesies mentioned for National Bartender Day.

Sandwiched between the December and February bartender recognition days, is National Hangover Day. A group of friends in an Arkansas restaurant were discussing days of note on the national calendar. Two members of the group—Keegan Calligar and Marlo Anderson—both said at the same time: "New Year's Day should be National Hangover Day." They sub-

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