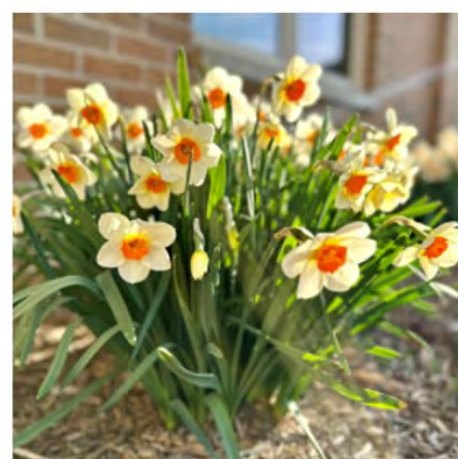




Eye on Evergreen

Conversations with your friends and neighbors

Vol. 5 No. 15 May/June 2025



A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE

The Sunshine Representative

This month I'd would like to “shine a light” on the Village position of Sunshine Representative. It's an interesting title but what do the Representatives do? Well, according to the job description, the *Sunshine Chairperson*, who is the *Village Council Treasurer*, appoints one person

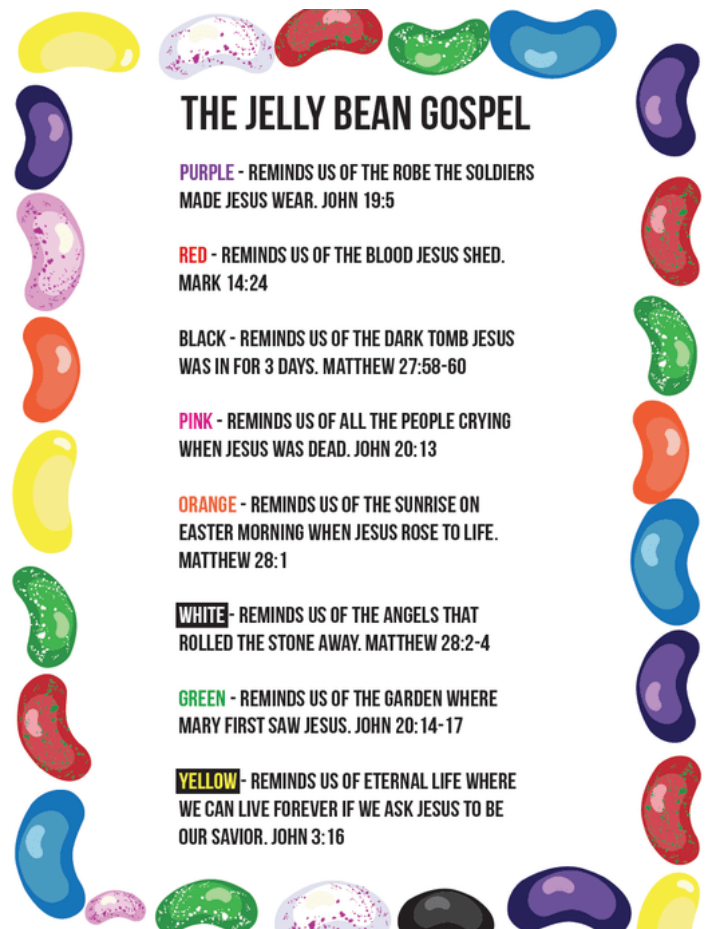


Pam Freeman and Joan Warwick

from each of the six Village condo buildings to serve a one year term in the role. This is somewhat arbitrary because in several of the buildings, the Sunshine Representative has been serving as long as they are interested in the role. Case in point, in the 1020 Building, Pam Freeman has been the Sunshine Representative for the past nine or ten years. She decided to retire from the role this year and Joan Warwick offered to take the position. On one sunshiny day I decided to interview both of them about the change in role.

“Pam, you've been serving quite a long time in this role. What has been your favorite part of the job?” She reflected for a moment and then said, “I really liked planning the monthly events when it was our Building's turn to host. I also thought it was time to “pass the torch to a new and perhaps 'younger' person.” She added that she also enjoyed talking to and helping out residents when they were in need such as failing health or other life's problem. Those are the first two duties of a Sunshine representative. I then asked Joan why she was interested in the role and she said, “I wanted to get more involved in the Village activities. It was time”. The April 15th luncheon at the Red Robin restaurant was her first newly appointed time to plan the event, with Pam's tutoring I'm sure.

Joan was in fine form and sported modified Bunny Ears. With Pam showing people to their seats, Joan busily set out the luncheon with an Easter theme. There were little bowls of jelly beans at each table and each resident had their own piece of Easter candy and a colored jelly bean at their place. The color of the jelly bean matched a religious saying according to The Jelly Bean Gospel. My Jelly Bean was white and the corresponding saying was, “*Reminds us of the angels that rolled the stone away*”. Matthew 28:2-4. Joan found the document on the Internet.



Continued on next page...

A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE cont.

Twenty-three residents from the Village and Homes attended the event. Joan welcomed everyone and gave a prayer. She also identified four residents who had April birthdays and told everyone that the birthday people would get free birthday sundaes, compliments of Red Robin. My husband was one of the birthday persons, so I was able to get several spoonfuls of the fabulous dessert.

The food was delicious, the camaraderie lively and spirited and the Red Robin staff friendly and helpful. Joan's first flight as "Sunshine Lady" was a huge success. A big thank you to Pam and Joan and the other helpers from 1020.

-Vicki M.



Ralph & Maribeth Nussbaumer



Doug Austin



Sally Mathison and Karen LaBorde

GRILLING SEASON

Warm weather is "Grilling Season" at Evergreen. Per Wisconsin Fire Code, open-flame cooking devices, such as charcoal or gas grills, **are not permitted** on balconies, under overhanging portions (balconies above you) or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

However, grills may be used on ground level patios if they are at least 10 feet away from the building and not under any overhangs. Electric grills are generally permitted on balconies and patios, provided they are UL-listed and designed for outdoor use. Enjoy "Grilling Season" but be aware of our Wisconsin Fire Code.

-Donna L.



What Are You Reading?



Susan Hegedus, a Courtyard resident, just completed reading the novel *James*, Everett, Percival. Doubleday, New York 2024. In brief, it is a retelling of Mark Twain's 1884 novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* that places Huck's enslaved adult companion, Jim, at the center of the story.

Susan chose the book because she is a reader of book reviews, which uniformly gave *James* high marks, and because the concept sounded very interesting. As she read the book, the character of James and his "personhood" intrigued her. Susan also noted the role preconceptions and stereotypes play throughout the story, such as when the reader learns that James speaks two languages and is fluent in each.

She absolutely recommends the book, which she said she couldn't put down. Susan viewed James' pursuit of a single-minded goal, rescuing his wife and daughter from slavery and getting them to freedom against life-threatening odds, as inspiration for achieving goals in her own life.

* * * * *

Manor South resident **Betsy Comstock** wanted to share *The Covenant of Water*, Verghese, Abraham. Grove Press, New York 2023. Betsy enjoyed an audio version of the book read by the physician/author. It was recommended to her by friend Bill Funcke, another member of Evergreen's Blind-Sighted Friends social group.



Much of this novel is set in the State of Kerala in southwest India on the Malabar Coast, following one family from 1900 to 1977. Water is physically ever present. In addition to the extensive coastline, people navigate by water through canals that crisscross the area. Water is very much a part of their world.

The story begins with the wedding of Mariama, a 12-year-old girl, to a 40-year-old widower. It is deemed a good marriage. Until such a young bride reached her late teens, custom treated her as a child of the household. When she reached sufficient maturity, she would be treated as a wife. Mariama's character frames the other stories.

Later, the story introduces a desperately poor family in Glasgow, Scotland. There is a tragedy, leaving only a young boy alive. He grows up and becomes a physician aspiring to become a surgeon. Because of his low station in life, he is advised to go to India for surgical training, where his life becomes involved with the family of Mariama. There is an intergenerational health condition in Mariama's family that this doctor investigates and tries to cure. Betsy said the author treats each character with respect and kindness, even despicable ones.

Betsy was an American Literature major in college and said the quality of writing means so much to her in any reading experience. She detected "no missteps in Verghese's stunning use of language" over the 700-plus pages of the book. Betsy felt empathy for all the main characters, and joy in the colors of India. She said the length is very manageable because of the way the story has been arranged in parts. She recommends this book highly. Her takeaway from the book: "The power of compassion".

-Alyson Z.

VOLUNTEERS

In addition to terrific staff, we at Evergreen are very fortunate to have volunteers who offer their time and talent to help us in so many different ways. Need to get to an entertainment event, fitness center, perhaps church service? Volunteers are here to help. Volunteers help with periodic Bingo games, various arts and crafts, work in the Manor Mart, or just come for a visit.

Per Pam Sengstock, Volunteer Coordinator, 115 volunteers recorded 6,793 hours last year. Did you know that each volunteer hour translates into an In-Kind unit valued at \$31.80 per hour? Our Director Foundation Advancement includes these In-Kind hours when applying for grants.

April was National Volunteer Month and 70 volunteers were recently recognized with a Fiesta in the Behnke Center. Fiesta food was enjoyed, as well as a musical surprise visit by Mariachi Garibaldi.

Our volunteers include Evergreen residents, family members and other non-residents.

To volunteer or more information, call Pam Sengstock at 920-237-2126.

115
Volunteers
6,793
Volunteer
Hours

-Donna L.




Thank You
Volunteers

COLLECTIONS & TREASURES

Collections and Treasures: Oh, You Beautiful Doll!

Dolls are the featured collections in the Isom Fireside Lounge display case during May and June. They represent eleven countries/Alaskan indigenous cultures.

Village resident **Fred Lilly's** Korean dolls were received as gifts or purchased by Fred in the markets of Seoul, Korea. Fred was drafted into the U.S. Army in late 1958 during the very early years of the Vietnam war. When the Army learned he was a C.P.A., he was assigned to the office of the Comptroller for Seoul Command conducting audits of NCO clubs. His late first wife Judy joined him in Seoul in 1960, where they lived for a year in a Korean style home, which had "no pipes coming in or out". Many of their dolls portray classical dance artists and musicians. One represents a "*chiga*" – a hired man in the markets who carried patrons' purchases home. But the doll, Fred said, is dressed far better than any actual *chiga* he ever saw, as men who did this work were very poor. He added that viewers cannot tell from these dolls how the South Koreans he and Judy encountered really dressed.



Fred Lilly, Jeanette Wallace, Jan Nash, Sandi Challoner

Jeanette Wallace, a Courtyard resident who collected Nancy Ann Storybook Dolls as a child, contributed a Hmong doll to the display that has special meaning for her. Jeanette at one time taught English to Hmong refugee children at First Presbyterian Church in Oshkosh. One of her student's mothers gave her this handmade doll in Hmong traditional dress as a thank you gift. Jeanette and her husband Wayne traveled multiple times with the late Carl and Leona Stapel, including trips to Africa and Alaska. In Kenya, Wayne bought the doll displayed. On their Alaskan trip, they visited an indigenous peoples' hospital where Jeanette found her favorite doll. It shows a traditionally dressed woman and is entirely handmade – even the face.

Courtyard resident **Jan Nash**, an inveterate traveler, found dolls representing the cultures of her destinations to be good souvenir choices that easily fit into her suitcase. She purchased one of the currently displayed dolls in Alaska and another in Hungary on a trip down the Danube River. The Russian *matryoshka* stacking dolls were uncharacteristically not purchased on a trip but were later acquired. Jan used them during her long career as the Omro elementary school librarian. The sari-clad doll, while representing the dress of India, was sewn by Jan in a class she took in Okinawa, Japan during her years there teaching U.S. servicemembers' third-grade children. The Mexican carved wooden figures in traditional dress were gifts to Jan's sister-in-law who lived and taught there.

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COLLECTIONS & TREASURES cont.

The dolls contributed to the display by Village resident **Sandi Challoner** are not travel souvenirs, but real dolls played with by two real girls who grew up in the United States. Sandi herself is one of the girls, and her late mother, Nina Harness Nixon is the other. Sandi's completely restored doll was given to her as a gift around 1940. He is dressed in his original sailor suit, with a newer blue sash and shoes, and is a "whistler" doll patented by Madame Hendren dolls in 1926. Steel springs and bellows were installed in his legs. When a child pushed up on the legs, the bellows emitted a whistling sound. His composition face is posed with puckered lips.

Sandi's mother Nina was born in 1902, so her dolls date from the early 1900's. At least their bisque heads and hands may have come from Germany. The larger doll's arms, legs and body are kid leather stuffed with sawdust, with a mohair wig and "sleep eyes" that opened and closed. Her time-period appropriate clothing was made by Sandi. The smaller doll, visibly much loved and played with, is also made of bisque and sawdust-stuffed kid leather. Her broken right hand happened when Nina, who preferred being out in the barn with her dad to being indoors playing with dolls, raced through the house with all her dollies in a box. When the box hit an obstacle, the dollies flew through the air, landing with disastrous results including the right hand casualty.

Thanks to these residents for sharing their treasures with us!

-Alyson Z.

Foot Care Clinic News

Sherri Rilling, a registered nurse with Evergreen at Home and the foot care specialist at the Evergreen Foot Care Clinic, brings exciting updates for both returning clients and those considering their first appointment. Here's what's new and what to expect moving forward:

- The spa room was recently remodeled with updated flooring to replace the old carpeting, the spa tub was removed, and a new modern spa chair was added. The new chair includes a remote control for customized positioning, which provides greater comfort and improved access during foot care appointments.
- To enhance the quality of care provided, Sherri recently completed the Foot and Nail Care program through UW–Eau Claire. The training included 12 weeks of online coursework and 40 hours of in-person clinical experience in Eau Claire.
- As a thank-you to loyal clients, Sherri is now offering a special promotion: After every five visits, clients will receive a \$5 coupon to use at any Evergreen restaurant.
- Foot care appointments are available on Thursdays and Fridays for \$33. Payment is accepted by cash, check, or billing to an Evergreen account.
- If assistance is needed getting to the spa, a volunteer is available in the afternoon. Volunteer transport can be arranged when scheduling appointments.
- Reminder calls are made the day before each scheduled appointment.



Sherri looks forward to continuing to serve the community with professional, compassionate foot care. To schedule your next appointment, call 920-237-6242, option 3.

CAMPUS NOTES



As we journey into Spring, the campus is greening up and exploding in vibrant colors. Trees are leafing out, and large clumps of golden daffodils and arrays of vibrant tulips brighten up the campus. The woodlands are coming alive. A stroll through the Oak Savanna reveals all sorts of surprises. Four oak saplings, planted by the ground crew, replace deceased trees removed during the winter; new nesting boxes are mounted on poles, and a carpet of daffodils has already reached its prime. Large patches of ferns and clusters of Virginia bluebells lighten up the Oak Savanna.

While bird life is active in the woods, the waterfowl are enjoying Spring activities on the water. Ducks are pairing off to nest, a flotilla of pelicans frequents our creek (to the dismay of fishermen), and a pair of egrets is scouting out a place to nest. Groups of turtles are sunning themselves on partly submerged logs. And on a sunny morning, I spotted an American bittern, a secretive, medium sized heron with a long neck and bill. It was a wonderful reward for patient observation.

Meanwhile the prairie plants on the berm and parking lot islands are coming alive, while our ground crew replenished the box garden with a load of fresh soil. This inspired some avid gardeners to seed certain crops early, and they now are rewarded with vigorous growth of peas, spinach, lettuce, or radishes.

The columbines we planted at the Angel last fall are doing well, but the hostas there have been nibbled down by hungry rabbits. When I recently learned that wildlife can be held at bay by mulching vulnerable plants with coffee grounds, I stopped at The Creekview Café for a supply of coffee residue. Hopefully, this measure will now save our hostas! Spring also has brought forth a new crop of thistles on the berm. Keeping their extensive subterranean root network at bay requires constant vigilance.

When Spring in the Oak Savanna was at its peak, members of the Grounds Committee had the pleasure of introducing a group of interested Evergreen residents to the beauty of our woodlands. We are indeed privileged to enjoy such a unique biotope amid densely settled parts of town, a place for calm and reflection in our troubled world.

-Barbara B.




Balkan Anemone



Daffodils



Virginia Bluebells

Just for Fun: Can you find the “Eye” on Evergreen? In each issue of “Eye On Evergreen,” an eye is hidden somewhere. Can you find it?  **Happy Hunting!**

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Have you met Greta Aberg – or admired her rotating art display on the board next to her Manor North apartment door? You may remember reading about her Norwegian background and rosemaling collection in the March/April issue of Eye on Evergreen.

Greta is a Wisconsin native, born in Mt. Morris. She has four younger brothers and grew up in a musical family. She attended a one-room country school in Mt. Morris until fifth grade, then went to and graduated from high school in Wautoma. Greta continued her education at “Teachers College” where she met her first husband, Matt. Ironically, her second teaching position in 1959 was at a one-room school! She and Matt were married in 1958; their first child, Sherri, was born July 4, 1959. They moved to Waupun in 1960 where Matt was offered a position as principal. Second daughter, Tammi, was born in 1963. Matt died of cancer in 1969.



After Matt’s death, Greta enrolled at Marian University, Fond du Lac, taking art classes and earning a degree in 1974. That same year, through friends, she met Harold and they married. He was a social worker. They bought a Victorian home in Waupun for his three teens and Greta’s two. Greta taught elementary art part-time for nine years; also Sunday School and played piano in her church. Harold died in 2017.

Life has not always been easy for Greta. As a young child, she remembers their house burning down at Christmastime. Her youngest daughter drowned while kayaking. Through it all, her faith and music have been a great comfort to Greta. For over 20 years, she was part of a vocal trio known as ECCLESIASTES III. Greta has three vinyl record albums and a cassette recording of their music. They had their last concert on August 2, 2001, in Fond du Lac County Park, Waupun.

Greta’s daughter lives near Winneconne; granddaughter, four great grandkids, Green Lake; grandson, Ripon, prompting her to move to Evergreen to “be in the middle.” She has lived here since June 7, 2024. If you see her in the halls, or working at one of the jigsaw puzzle tables, say Hi! Thank you for sharing your story, Greta. See you in the Neighborhood!

-Donna L.

POWER OUTAGE

Bad weather or unexpected events, such as car crashes, can cause power outages. To prepare, Be sure to plug any essential devices, such as oxygen equipment, into the **RED outlets** in your accommodation.

It’s also a good idea to keep your lantern in an easily accessible location in case you are suddenly left in the dark. If you have a flashlight, keep that handy too. Don’t have a working lantern? Contact Resident & Guest Services to submit a work order and request a replacement.

For Courtyard accommodations specifically: The entryway light will remain on during a power outage, but **you must flip the light switch on.**



-Donna L.

SPOTLIGHT: RESIDENT & GUEST SERVICES (R&GS)

This amazing team, located near the main entrance, plays an essential role in our community. They're always there with a warm greeting and a willingness to help. Their responsibilities go far beyond managing phone calls and greeting visitors. Here's just a glimpse into what they do every day.



MAIL SERVICES: Sorting and distributing mail, selling stamps, and assisting with outgoing packages.



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT: Need copies or send a fax? They've got you covered. They also help with work orders and Tech at Home requests.



FINANCIAL SERVICES: You can cash personal checks (up to \$50) or buy gift cards for use across campus.



KEY ASSISTANCE: Having trouble with your key fob, accommodation key, or mailbox key? They can help troubleshoot.



GROCERY HELP: Don't feel like heading to the store? Submit your grocery list every Monday by 3:00pm and they'll enter your order, schedule it for pickup, and then have your items delivered over the weekend.



PACKAGE COORDINATION: Looking for a delivery? Give them a call and they'll help locate and deliver it.



GUEST ROOM BOOKING: Have family coming to visit? They'll help you reserve a guest room.



TRANSPORTATION: Need a ride to an appointment? They'll help you get there and back.



Back row: Claire Odekirk (receptionist);
Debra Michels (admn. assistant)
Middle row: Lisa Ruiz (manager);
Stephanie Kintopf (admn. assistant),
Katie Leuthold (transportation coord.)
Front row: Terri Peterson (receptionist),
Mary Melchior (receptionist)

They also manage the **LITTLE MARKET**, which offers greeting cards, holiday décor, basic groceries, health and beauty items, and more – with help from our drivers, who stock the store.

Beyond that, this team provides vital support to Learning in Retirement, the Independent Living Housing Coordinator, our Director Foundation Advancement, and various departments across Evergreen.

This team wears many hats, and no matter what you need, if you're not sure where to go, stop by or call them at 920-233-2340 and you'll be pointed in the right direction with a smile. We are grateful every day for their dedication, service, and the positive spirit they bring to our community.

Residents Experiencing Vision Loss Connect at “Blind-Sighted Friends”

Evergreen residents living with vision loss can experience fellowship, gain information, and have fun with others who share their challenges thanks to late Courtyard resident Rose Collier. In 2024, Rose, who lived with age-related macular degeneration, brought the idea of a casual social group for visually challenged residents to Life Enrichment Team Manager Caitlyn Scott. Other residents with visual challenges were contacted and the new group was born.

The format is casual - just a group of people with common problems getting together socially on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 4:15 p.m. in the Courtyard Community Room, third floor close to the Courtyard northside elevator. There may be a speaker, but not at every meeting. Snacks and coffee are served. When games or trivia are played as icebreakers or just for fun, they do not require sight.

The group is welcoming. People can feel free to talk about whatever they want – complain, laugh, share “how to” tips to make routine daily activities easier. One such tip addressed the problem that once a person with low vision squeezes toothpaste from the tube, they can’t see to get it on the toothbrush.

Solution: squeeze the toothpaste onto your tongue or the side of your hand.

Kristin Walker is the primary staff member helping the group as needed.

The name of the group was chosen deliberately. In addition to being literally “blind sighted” to varying degrees, members of the group have been “blind-sided” by life-altering changes in their own bodies. Rose’s hope was that members of the group would share camaraderie, which would be a most fitting way to honor her memory.

If you are a sighted person reading this article and know of someone who might benefit from and/or contribute to the group, make sure you tell them about the “Blind-Sighted Friends” – and offer to walk them to the meeting location.

Questions or requests for an escort to the meeting can be directed to Kristin Walker, 920-237-2156.

-Alyson Z.

Helpful Tip!

For sighted members of the Evergreen community. When you meet a neighbor whom you know is living with low vision, remember to add “It’s (your name here)” to your greeting. It takes less than a second but will be appreciated.

Eye on Evergreen Committee Contact Information

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Donna Lord - dmlord9@gmail.com

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Alyson Zierdt - alyson.zierdt@gmail.com

Home Cookin' at Evergreen!

Grandma Rose's Light and Fluffy Cheesecake

Ingredients:

1 can evaporated milk
2 cups graham cracker crumbs
3 Tbsp. sugar
½ cup melted butter
1 (3 oz.) package lemon Jello (**Optional:** sugar free lemon Jello)
1 cup boiling water
8 oz. pkg. softened cream cheese
½ cup sugar
2 tsp. vanilla



Directions:

Chill large mixing bowl, beaters and evaporated milk in refrigerator for several hours or overnight.

Combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter in large mixing bowl. Press mixture into 9x12 inch baking pan. Bake 10 minutes in oven preheated to 350 degrees. Cool thoroughly.

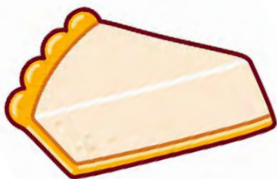
Combine Jello and boiling water in small glass bowl. Mix until thoroughly dissolved and then chill until partially set.

In medium mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, ½ cup of sugar, and vanilla. Mix until smooth. Set aside.

Whip chilled evaporated milk in chilled bowl until milk forms very stiff peaks. With beaters running, add cream cheese mixture and Jello. Whip until well mixed. Pour over cooled crust. Chill over night. Enjoy.

A Memory...

Aunt Eleanor reports that this recipe actually originated with Great Grandma Parilek --who received it from a friend in Chicago.



This family favorite is very light and refreshing!