

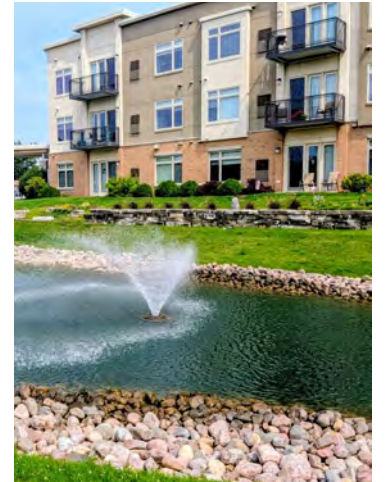
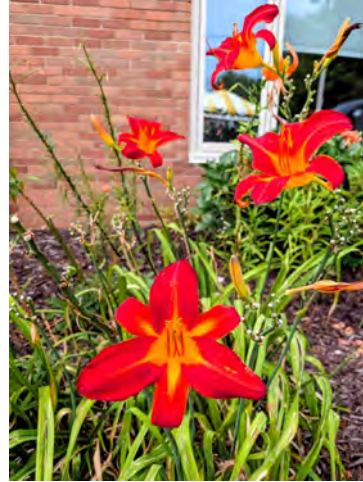


Eye on Evergreen

Conversations with your friends and neighbors

Vol. 5 No. 22 July/August 2026

Summer at Evergreen



Grocery Shopping Options at Evergreen

Whether you prefer ordering groceries online with assistance, placing your own online order for delivery, or shopping in person during a weekly outing, Evergreen offers several convenient options to help residents get the groceries they need.

Grocery Shopping Made Easy

Evergreen's Grocery Shopping Made Easy service offers two options for online grocery ordering and delivery. Deliveries are made on Saturdays for residents of Manor North, Manor South, Garden Terrace, Garden Place, Village, and Homes, and on Sundays for residents of Courtyard.

One-on-One Assistance

Need help placing an online grocery order? A volunteer personal shopper can assist you through the online ordering process.

1. Schedule an Appointment

Appointments may be scheduled through Resident & Guest Services. There is a sign-up sheet located at Resident & Guest Services.

2. Meet with Your Personal Online Shopper

A volunteer personal shopper will help you place your online grocery order and navigate the ordering process.

3. Receive Your Order

Once your order is placed, groceries will be delivered over the weekend.



Submit Your Own Order

Residents may also participate in Grocery Shopping Made Easy by either completing their own online grocery order or submitting a grocery list for staff to enter on their behalf. To receive grocery delivery during the upcoming weekend, orders must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on Monday to guarantee your weekend grocery pick up and delivery.

Weekly Grocery Outing

For residents who prefer to shop in person, join us for our weekly grocery shopping outing on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Shopping destinations alternate each week between Pick 'n Save and Festival Foods. Residents can sign up through Resident & Guest Services. This outing is open to residents who are ambulatory.

For questions about any grocery shopping option or to schedule an appointment for Grocery Shopping Made Easy, please contact Resident & Guest Services.

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!**

A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE

A Fun Time at TJ's Highland Steak House

The June Village luncheon was held this year at TJ's Highland Steak House which is not only known for its delicious menu, but also for the beautiful tartan décor found throughout the building. To enhance the Scottish theme, the walls are also covered with many large paintings portraying the landscapes of Scotland as well as the famous Scottish Highland cattle.

Our Village group of hungry eaters were seated in the red tartan room and offered a choice of five entrees. Many chose the “OCC Country Club”, while several others eyed “The Woody” wrap. The luncheon was hosted by the residents of the 1080 building with almost all of them in attendance.

The Village event ended with a large storm and nickle to quarter-sized hail. This was an EVENT in itself. The hail caused holes in outdoor plants, leaves all over the ground, patio furniture thrown around and left everything soaking wet. Several of our group were still at the restaurant, others were on the route home, and still others were in their accommodations, saying, “Oh, my gosh. It's hail!!” All in all, a good time was had by all with an extra special “treat” from the weather gods.



The July Village Outing

It's been a tradition in the Village that the July get together was called an “outing” which meant that there were more plans than just a lunch or dinner. This July the residents of the 1040 Building planned a self-guided walking tour of Evergreen Fox Crossing on Friday July 17th. It was planned as an open house event from 9-11 am followed by lunch at a Neenah restaurant of their choice. They listed things to “Know Before you Go” such as,

1. The site has rough and uneven terrain
2. Closed toe shoes are recommended
3. No bathrooms or seating will be available
4. Enter at the South entrance

Five Neenah restaurants were then listed with addresses for residents to choose: Greene's Pour House, Broken Tree, Bao Ju, Batleys, and Zuppas. It was suggested that they form small groups on their own to attend a restaurant of their choice.

There also was an option that if they couldn't make it on July 17th, the property could be toured on July 16th between 2-4 pm.

I'm not sure how many residents participated in this outing as there was no sign-up and I was unable to attend, however, I think this was a very interesting and personal idea and one that was certainly appropriate for an Evergreen Outing. Thank you 1040 residents.



-Vicki M.

Who Knew: There was a lot of Remodeling Being Done on the Campus

Ed and Meg Potempa bought their condo in August 2019 but the remodel did not start until November, so move in was delayed. There were many problems causing the delay such as Covid which was raging at that time and which also had affected the supply chain.

When asking why they chose Evergreen, Meg said she had been in Evergreen's water aerobics program as a community member since 2007. "I loved the pool. It is the only way I can exercise due to arthritis. So that was a big reason for our choosing Evergreen."

When they made the decision to relocate, the only Village opening was in the 1080 building, the 212 unit. They knew it needed a lot of upgrading, but they never considered turning it down because the location to the pool and the Manor was ideal. They took it because they could remodel it to their liking. "We were selling a big house and were happy to put some money into updating and making the condo our own".

They began the remodel by removing the walls between the kitchen and living room and between the living room and sun room. This gave them a large great room and more open area to navigate with Meg's walker. In the kitchen area, a custom made island was designed and installed to include a dishwasher, a garbage/recycling cabinet and tray cabinet. A counter cook top was setup on the top of the island so that Meg could cook and make meals while still watching what was happening and conversing with those in the great room. The island also included a large sink.

On the back of the island there were deep drawers and cabinets added to replace what was removed when taking out the kitchen wall. A wall oven was installed to accommodate Meg's back problems since this type of oven was not as low as other stove/oven appliances. To lighten up the kitchen area, the dark counters and cabinets were replaced with custom white cabinets including convenient pullouts and deep drawers. This made items easier to see while being easily accessible. The Lazy Susans found in the lower cabinets were removed and long deep drawers were installed to replace them.

Before Pictures



Continued on next page...



Who Knew: There was a lot of Remodeling Being Done on the Campus cont.

To finish out the room, a hutch was added to the dining area, plus a desk in the kitchen area. A dated ceiling light fixture was removed and another with recessed LED's was installed, which added lovely subdued light throughout. This enabled them to put their dining table anywhere they wanted and allowed their tall family to walk about without bumping their heads.

Since they had already undertaken a huge remodeling of the kitchen area, they decided to continue with the rest of the condo. All the dark cabinets in their Jack and Jill bathrooms were removed and replaced with white ones. The fluorescent lighting was removed and replaced with LED can lighting. For safety, grab bars were added for both of the toilets. The two vanities were replaced with taller white vanities, since the Potempas are both tall. The bedrooms and closets were also upgraded and carried out the white color theme. The final addition was the installation of three solar tunnels throughout the ceiling, which really capped off a wonderful new home, full of light even on a gloomy day.

Three main purposes for all the changes were:

1. to brighten up the space
2. to make it more open for entertaining their large family
3. to make the kitchen fully accessible for Meg to accommodate her physical limitations.

They said, “we are very happy with all the changes and are grateful for the contractors available to us: Packer Valley/Nekimi Cabinets, Beez Electric and Rasmussen Plumbing.”

-Vicki M.

After Pictures





Fall Opportunities



Fall is just around the corner, and we're excited to welcome back some of Evergreen's favorite offerings. Whether you're looking to sing or continue learning, these groups are a great way to stay active, connected, and involved throughout the season.

Evergreen Singers *Rehearsals begin September 10*



The Evergreen Singers are returning this fall! Directed by Paula Steinert with Marshall Potter serving as accompanist, this resident choir performs public concerts each December and June in the Arline L. Sitter Worship and Performing Arts Center. Rehearsals begin in September and are held Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. Through four-part harmony singing (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass), members enjoy making music together while preparing for seasonal performances. Sight-reading experience is helpful but not required.

For More Information: Contact Pastor Steve Wood at (920) 237-2153

Learning in Retirement *Courses begin September 9*



Learning in Retirement (LIR) at Evergreen in partnership with UW Oshkosh, is a member-directed adult learning group that promotes lifelong learning for older adults. Members enjoy presentations by expert speakers, peer-led learning opportunities, interest groups, and tours of local businesses and organizations. The fall semester runs from September through January, while the spring semester runs from February through May, offering a variety of opportunities to learn, connect, and explore new interests throughout the year. As an Evergreen resident, membership is free, though some activities may include a small fee for transportation, meals, or other expenses.

For More Information: Contact Kaylee Hennes at (920) 237-2124

HEALTH & SAFETY: IMPORTANCE OF TIME OUTDOORS!

Humans crave connection with nature. From gardening and horticulture to walking through a park or hiking through the mountains, people have found peace in nature. Traditionally, the healing power of nature has been defined as an internal healing response designed to restore health. Research shows that average Americans spend 87% of their time in enclosed buildings and six percent of their time in enclosed vehicles. There are several reasons why this is unhealthy for body, mind and spirit. Staying indoors all day may fuel anxiety and insomnia. Exposure to sun-strength rays calibrates the body's circadian clock which regulates everything from appetite and sleep schedules to mood and energy levels. Spending too much time indoors is linked to a decrease in the body's supply of healthy gut bacteria which can cause a number of issues in the body. Vitamin D deficiency, a lack of exercise resulting in weight issues, and an increase in cancer are all linked to too much time indoors.

Quality time in nature has many benefits. Here are some reasons to make the great outdoors a part of your daily life:



Boost Creativity and Focus: If you are trying to solve a problem or come up with a brilliant idea, take a walk outside. Researchers have found that spending time outside also increases novelty. All that fresh air is a quick way to kick your brain into high gear. In 2008, University of Michigan researchers demonstrated that after an hour of interacting with nature, memory performance and attention spans improved by 20%.



Reduce Stress: Research shows that levels of the stress hormone, cortisol, are lower when people exercise outdoors as opposed to indoors. By observing the ever-changing environments in nature, individuals cultivate a positive attitude, renewed attention, mindfulness and sensory awareness. Mother Nature has a great stressbuster through scent. The scent of flowers like jasmine, lavender and roses has been proven to decrease stress and increase relaxation. The scent of fresh pine has even been shown to lower depression and anxiety.



Improve Mood and Self Esteem: Spending time outdoors is a recommended treatment for Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) which is called winter depression. Outdoor light exposure may help your mood even if it's cold and cloudy. According to Mayo Clinic, "even on cold or cloudy days, outdoor light can help-especially if you spend some time outside within two hours of getting up in the morning." One study found people exposed to 46% more sunlight after surgery used 22% less pain medication per hour. Research also shows that older adults who spend more time outdoors have less pain, sleep better, and have less functional decline in their ability to carry out their daily activities.



Age Smarter: Research published in the Journal of Aging and Health shows that getting outside daily may help people stay healthy and function longer. Gardening can help individuals with dementia and those who had strokes improve social skills and confidence while even increasing mobility and dexterity.

Modern life and aging can deter us from nature but making every attempt to explore the outdoors and engage your mind, body and spirit can reap significant benefits. Go ahead and give it a try!

-Edie Norenberg

Campus Notes



Butterfly Weed



Bloom on Berm



Day lilies

As summer advanced, the diverse pastel colors of early foliage assumed a uniform green. Oak and hickory trees began leafing out in the savannah while daffodils and other ephemerals waned, being replaced by vigorous understory growth. Soon bunches of Golden Alexander and Woodland Geranium appeared along the trail, as vigorous growth began hiding the recently placed nesting boxes. By now the understory is about five feet tall, accented by elegant, orange Turk Lilies throughout. Bunches of Crown Vetch and Creeping Bellflower have also made their appearance. Although these plants display colorful bloom, both are highly invasive species and hard to keep under control.

The prairie plantings on the berm and parking lot islands show vigorous growth and are exploding into an array of colors: Purple Coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, orange Butterfly Weed, pink Malva Sylvestris, pinkish or red Monarda, iconic Blazing Star, golden Coreopsis, purple Poppy Mallow, and Common Milkweed, all species that attract a great variety of pollinators, among them Monarch Butterfly.

Bloom is gracing every corner of our campus. A great variety of Peonies and bunches of Daylilies flourish at every corner. Thanks to our diligent ground crew, all beds are now replanted with colorful annuals: Impatiens and Begonias in shady spots, Dahlias, Zinnias, Marigolds, and many others in sunny areas.

Activity in the box garden is in full swing. The beds are filled with a great variety of vegetables, such as lettuce, peas, beans, squash, cukes, zucchini, and tomatoes. Although the recent hailstorm caused some damage, especially to the tomato vines, the plants seem to recover nicely from the setback. Thanks to the removal of the huge cottonwood trees which used to shade large parts of the box garden, all beds are now exposed to bright sunshine; yet, during dry spells more watering is required than previously.

The Angel Garden still needs upgrading. Moves to diversify the plantings there are underway. Eventually we hope to establish a mix of various species that will provide continuous bloom during the summer.

Life is active along the river. A Blue Heron regularly patrols the waterway, while Egrets are fishing close to the shoreline. A mama duck steers her offspring to safe feeding spots, as Dragonflies hover over the water. Sadly, several of the ducks' nesting places were destroyed during the April floods; and now the elevated July temperatures, unfortunately, have facilitated the growth of unsightly algae on the river. It will take cooler temperatures and a good rain to flush all that gook away! Apart from waterfowl, many different songbirds spend summers on our campus, among them Robins, aggressive red winged Blackbirds, Goldfinches, Mourning Doves, and many other species.

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Campus Notes cont.

To learn more about our Oak Savannah and its environment, updated signs have been erected at the beginning and end of the woodland trail and near the feeding station at the river. The trail sign provides basic information on the composition of this woodland, while the wildlife panel features the most common birds and water creatures around Evergreen. Both signs contain a QR code, leading to more information regarding our natural environment.

Finally, I would like to mention that Evergreen was one of the sites the Oshkosh Garden club had chosen for their 2026 Garden Walk. The organizers had selected Sunday, July 12, 11 am to 4 pm for this event and were particularly interested in our Garden Grove, the vegetable garden, and the landscaping around the small condo at 1140 Eagle Street. Some Evergreen residents participated as docents for this garden walk and were gratified to host a constant flow of visitors, many of whom had never been on our campus. People seemed to enjoy themselves despite the heat. It was a rewarding experience for all.

-Barbara B.



What Are You Reading?

Courtyard resident Gail Bullard recently read and enjoyed *The Tiffany Girls*, Noble, Shelley. William Morrow Paperbacks, 2023. Gail chose it in part because it is historical fiction, her favorite genre. She also admires Tiffany's work, and the chance to learn more about it was another reason the book appealed to her.

The Tiffany Girls tells the stories of several of the real-life "Tiffany Girls", artists employed in Tiffany's "Women's Division" who created some of Tiffany's most iconic pieces – without credit for their work. The story is set in 1899 as the Tiffany Studio is working overtime to create designs for Tiffany's exhibit in the 1899 Paris World's Fair.

There are three heroines in the book. Emelie is an immigrant from France who aims to be an artist. Grace, Gail's favorite character, has a passion for creating political caricatures rather than Tiffany glass items. Clara is the head of the Women's Division and is really the main designer of the creations credited to Louis Comfort Tiffany. She needs to come to terms with this artistic and economic injustice. Each character has her own complications that enrich the story.

Gail concluded that the book is really about women's rights and their struggle to compete and earn a living in the "man's world" of the United States in the late nineteenth century. Her takeaway is that it was very hard to be out on your own in 1899. She found the book, while dealing with serious subjects, to be a good summer read and recommends it.

-Alyson H.



COLLECTIONS & TREASURES

Evergreen Homes resident Diane Lang's inherited collection of dolls will be featured in the Isom Lounge display cabinet from August through October 2026. The dolls were collected by Diane's maternal grandmother Beatrice Steik over her lifetime (1893-1978). Beatrice met Diane's grandfather Karl when they were both faculty members at the University of Wyoming – she in home economics and he in chemistry. He left university teaching for a position at DuPont where his name is on many patents. She taught and raised their four daughters.

After their daughters were on their own, Karl did not want to travel, but Beatrice did. Diane describes her as "very adventurous". She traveled extensively overseas to Europe and Asia as well as in the U.S. and everywhere she went, she acquired a souvenir doll to pack into her suitcase as a memory of the visit. Many of her dolls are dressed in their country's native costumes, creating a visual log of Beatrice's travels: Scotland, Ireland, China, Japan, Holland, Italy, Scandinavia, England and more. In addition, some dolls wear Indigenous U.S. residents' traditional dress, acquired on her travels in this country.



When Diane's aunts were cleaning out their mother's home after her death, they gave the doll collection to Diane because she was the only one among her cousins who showed any interest in them when she was a child.

Diane, a relatively new resident, moved into her Evergreen Home in January 2026. Originally from New Jersey, she and her late husband Jerry Lang previously lived in South Dakota, where he was employed by the State as the first court administrator ever appointed to the Sioux Intertribal Court of Appeals. Diane taught at an Indian Boarding School. She vividly recalls heart-wrenching situations for her students whose parents were caught up in substance abuse or incarcerated.

They moved to the Oshkosh area in 1984. Jerry worked as a Court Administrator in Wisconsin Judicial District IV, which included Winnebago County. Diane again taught in Oshkosh kindergarten, fourth grade, middle and high schools. They made their country home in the Town of Clayton. After retirement, Diane and Jerry were active community volunteers, including helping at Evergreen. She said it was their positive volunteer experiences here that led her to look at Evergreen as her possible home after Jerry died in early 2025. Thank you, Diane, for sharing your collection with us!

-Alyson H.



**Do you have a collection you'd like to
share for others to see?**

Please let us know!

**For more details contact:
Vicki Tessmer at 237-2120**

Lunch and the Tornado

On Monday July 27th, a hardy group of Evergreen residents boarded the new bus and headed for Appleton. Little did they know what lay ahead. Edie, Kristin, Lori and 9 passengers were heading to Pullman's Restaurant for a relaxing lunch. The outing had been scheduled for TJ's Harbor, however, the TJ staff had been given the day off after the very busy week of EAA. As they ventured north they saw a darkening sky and they all agreed, "we're going to get a storm!" Not long after they heard and felt an extremely loud crash combined with a blinding light and knew it came from a lightning strike. With all of the windows in the bus, the lightning strike seemed quite ominous. The storm was beginning.

They reached Pullman's, got inside before the rain started, sat down and ordered drinks. However, before they could take a sip, all of their phones went off with serious weather messages and the tornado sirens started wailing. They were quickly escorted by the staff to the bathrooms which seemed the best place to wait out the storm.

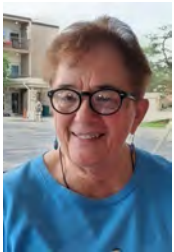
After the storm had stopped they returned to their table and began to order lunch. They had no idea what mayhem and destruction had occurred outside. The staff even told them if they wanted to leave they wouldn't be charged for their drinks, but they all decided to stay.

When they were finished and started to leave, the staff cautioned them that the storm had caused a lot of damage. Some roads were closed due to downed trees and 441 was closed due to fires and a turned over tractor-trailer. Many traffic lights were also out adding to the confusion, leading to traffic being rerouted. All in all, it took them two hours to get back to Oshkosh. Another Evergreen resident was also at Pullman's for lunch, and she said it took her and her group three hours to get back to Evergreen.

Bob Brandenstein said that on the way home, when the passengers saw the Butte des Morts bridge they became like little kids. They all began hollering "there's the bridge, there's the bridge. We're almost home". He also said that when he got off of the bus, someone told him he looked like he was in shock. His wife Connie said that lunch was fine because they really didn't know what was all going on. It was driving back to Oshkosh that put everything into perspective. A terrible storm had been occurring while they were enjoying a relaxing meal.



Dixie Laehn was also on the bus and said that the aftermath, driving back to Evergreen, was when she really felt upset. She had taught kindergarten through third grade in Menasha for 31 years and knew the tornado area very well. She said "many of those families in Menasha are not very well off and how are they going to get through this experience? Also the schools were damaged and school starts in a few weeks. Where will the kids be able to go?" She said she had a really eerie feeling traveling back to Evergreen when the seriousness of what had just happened was totally on her mind. Mike and Sue Fuller were also on the bus and echoed Dixie's statements. "We felt so sorry for the people who had lost their homes especially when we saw later on TV, homes without roofs and debris everywhere."



Everyone got safely home, so physically things were fine but the passengers were beginning to realize that a very bad tornado had destroyed a lot of their friends and neighbors homes and that Oshkosh and Evergreen had been spared. Even though the bus ride back was very stressful, everyone said that Lori the bus driver did an excellent job and helped keep them calm. She was able to maneuver in and out of streets to get them back to Oshkosh and did it quietly and professionally. Edie reported that everyone did very well throughout the experience, as well as the Pullman staff. "Everyone stayed calm." As Kate Cross told me, "I was just a little scared." What a day!!!

Summer Highlights

County Fair



Picnic & Car Show



Bus Trip Outings



America 250 Celebration



Pontoon Rides

