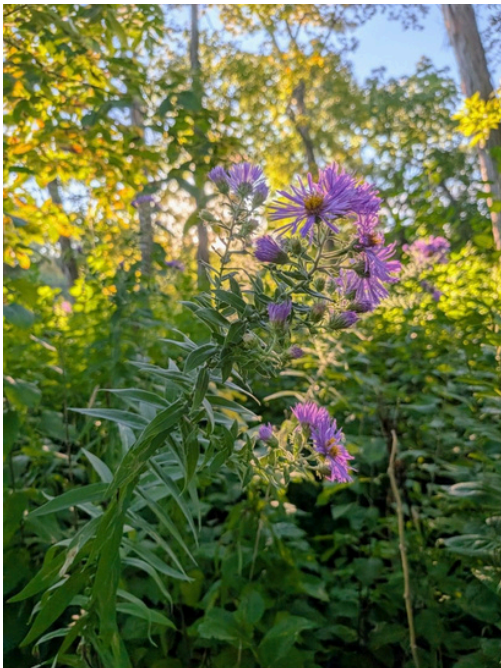




Eye on Evergreen

Conversations with your friends and neighbors

Fall at Evergreen



What Are You Reading

Courtyard resident Cynthia Kohles recommends *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, Smith, Dominic. Sarah Crichton Books, 2016. She chose the book because the setting of the story in the fine art world meshed with her affinity for art and painting. Learning that the story shifts between contemporary life and 1600's Holland, during the Golden Age of Dutch painting, added to its appeal for her, as she is a fan of historical novels.

There are two protagonists in the story: the titular Sara de Vos, described as the first woman admitted to the Guild of St. Luke as a master painter in the 17th century, and Ellie Shipley, a talented but impoverished 21st century Ph.D. art student. De Vos' alleged last painting hangs in the New York home of a wealthy lawyer, Marty de Groot, a descendant of the original owner. Ellie is persuaded by an unscrupulous "art dealer" to produce a copy of the painting, which is then used to disguise (for a time) the theft of de Groot's original. Personal complications ensue against the backdrop of the high-risk but lucrative fine art forgery business. Cynthia said it is not necessary to appreciate art to enjoy the book, but if the reader does, it adds to the richness.

In the parallel 17th century story, De Vos struggles for professional success and financial stability, complicated when her young daughter contracts the plague and her husband abandons her. While reading, Cynthia felt excitement, anger at one of the characters whom she described as a "snake", and anticipation for what was coming on the next page. Her overall takeaway from the book: "a certain delight knowing that there are authors out there who can spin a yarn that kept me turning pages." She felt "the author understands the female psyche well and showed a tremendous sensitivity to how women think and feel". She absolutely recommends the book.

Cynthia and her husband Greg are relatively new Evergreen residents, moving to the Courtyard about six months ago. They previously lived in California's Napa Valley for over forty-six years. They chose Evergreen because their daughter lives nearby. Cynthia commented on the friendliness and consideration shown by Evergreen staff that made them feel welcome, adding, "We think we're in the right place."

-Alyson H.



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!

Evenings Around the Fire Table



Back in 2024 we came to the realization that there was a lovely fire table on our front veranda that hadn't been used. In an effort to create a unique experience, Edie Norenberg, Life Enrichment Specialist, decided to light that table one September evening and throw a gathering to celebrate the fall season. The tables were adorned with white linen, candles served as centerpieces and a musician was hired to add to the experience. A make-shift bar was set up and snacks were served. Warm apple cider & hot chocolate were offered as well. Not knowing what to expect, as some of the fall evenings can get chilly, we were overwhelmed by the response! Approximately 30 residents were invited through a sign-up process. The waiting list exceeded 25 people. That's when we decided we needed to add another evening of this, and that we did!! It has been a popular event welcomed by all ever since. If there is inclement weather, we move it into our Isom Fireside Lounge. Flyers are sent out inviting people to sign up near our Resident & Guest Services and that process seems to work well. There, residents will find a clipboard with a sheet to sign up on. We simply ask that residents sign up for only one of the two evenings offered, giving all a chance to enjoy the experience. We wait each year for this event and well.... here comes fall!! (Just a reminder that the table can be lit with some assistance throughout the season. One doesn't need to wait for fall.)

-Edie Norenberg



A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE

An Ice Cream Afternoon Delight

On Thursday August 13th the 1140 and Homes residents hosted a lovely ice cream social for the Village in the Behnke Center. Thirty plus residents participated in designing their own sundaes with chocolate syrup, strawberries, nuts and whipped cream. Three types of bars were also available as well as coffee and lemonade.

Even though the residents ate heartedly, they were very open to my suggestion that seconds were available. Many headed quickly back to the treats table. For those who were already satisfied and full, “to go” containers were available and were excitedly filled. After the sweets, conversation could be heard buzzing at each table. People stayed for quite a while after and then participated in the cleanup. Thanks to all for a delightful afternoon treat.

-Vicki M.



Mary Weddig, Diane Kohl, Barb Bowlus, Joan Cason, Rose Metz



Roxy Lunch

The September Village and Homes lunch was held this year at the Roxy, a very well known Supper Club in downtown Oshkosh. The residents from Building 1010 hosted the lunch. We were offered a limited menu with these choices: haddock, shrimp, chicken picante, chopped sirloin, and tortellini alfredo. In addition there was a tossed salad and rolls plus a choice of baked potato or wild rice. As in the past, chicken picante seemed to be the most popular entree as well as a healthy portion size, so many “to go” boxes went home with the residents. All in all, it was a lovely way to spend a few hours eating and sharing conversation with our Village and Homes residents.

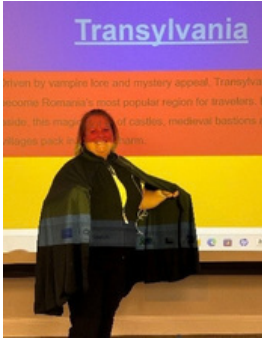


Vicki M.

Armchair Travel

How would you like to see different parts of the world?? You don't even need a passport!!!! Come to the Behnke Center on the 2nd Friday of the month from 1:30-2:30pm and you can go visit so many fun places with me! I am Kristin Walker -one of Evergreen's Life Enrichment Specialists. We have been to Paris, Scotland, Ireland, Sri Lanka, Iceland and many more places. We are going to be visiting other destinations. The destination doesn't have to be a Country, it could be a city, a place like Elvis' Mansion, Sea World, or even a mountain-the sky is the limit. If you have any pictures or items to share or would like to help Kristin do one of these sessions with your destination that you traveled to, please contact me-Kristin at 920-237-2156. I'm looking forward to traveling with you!!!

-Kristin Walker



Thank You for Making a Difference

Read Elementary School Supply Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies for Read Elementary. Your support helped students and staff begin the school year with the tools they need to learn, grow, and succeed.

Oshkosh Kids Foundation Laundry Supply Drive

Thank you to everyone who supported our laundry supply drive benefiting the Oshkosh Kids Foundation. Your donations helped provide much-needed laundry supplies to support local children and families.

We appreciate everyone who helped make a positive impact through both of these community outreach efforts.



Meet Your Neighbor

Have you met the DiBiasio-Snyders? Many Evergreen residents know of the couple who served as Co-Pastors for First Congregational Church in downtown Oshkosh for 27 years. They have been residents of Evergreen for less than one year, first living in the Courtyard and now in the Village. When asked for an interview date, I had a lovely surprise as they said, “Why don't you come to our house for wine and crackers. Then we can learn about you and your husband while you are learning about us.” I thought that was a great idea so we chose a date and spent one evening getting to know them and touring their Village condo. The wine and hors d'oeuvres were delicious and also a great way to get an interview.



Ralph and Carol were both born and raised in Ohio, Ralph in Akron and Carol in Euclid, a suburb of Cleveland. She is $\frac{3}{4}$ Italian as you can tell from her last name, and relishes heritage in her cooking and in her art. She has two siblings, both older than she, and graduated with an art education degree from Bowling Green State University. She was very active in her United Methodist home church growing up, and had thoughts of pursuing seminary work in the future.

Ralph also has two older siblings and also graduated from Bowling Green with a degree in English. He then left to attend Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. After graduation Ralph returned to Bowling Green to serve a Congregational church. At that time, Carol was a junior and had been very involved in the university religious life (and later graduated from Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia). Thus, the two met and the rest is history, with Ralph and Carol recently celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

I then asked about their hyphenated name and about sharing the pastoral ministry at the Congregational Church. They said, “marriage is sharing equally, and neither is superior to the other.” Applying that same value to the ministry, they wanted to try something really different at that time, by sharing a call to ministry, working together with two people who had different personalities, different genders, and different thought processes. It seems to have worked because their tenure as “Co-pastors” was very successful and lasted 27 years.

Ralph then shared that one of the reasons they moved to Evergreen was Carol's diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 2017. She stated that three generations of her family have developed the disease and her father died from it. Carol is participating in the “Rock Steady Boxing” class at the YMCA - a national program developed specifically for persons with Parkinson's. The movement of the training that boxers receive has been proven to relieve symptoms of the disease. Carol reports that the program serves as a support group as well as providing therapeutic exercise. Carol also takes Levadopa, which helps to replace the dopamine which is lacking with persons who have Parkinson's. Dopamine is a type of messenger in the body that acts as both a neurotransmitter in the brain and a hormone in the body, and it helps coordinate smooth and balanced muscle movements.

Carol also is a very talented artist and especially enjoys creating pottery. Ralph studies classical guitar, and another hobby is roasting and brewing coffee!

All in all, we spent a lovely evening getting to know the DiBiasio-Snyders and we look forward to sharing future evenings together. Ralph ended our evening sharing that even though he was involved with Evergreen for 35 years with pastoral duties, he had never noticed the beautiful woods on the Evergreen campus. As the four of us then gazed at the woods outside of their picture window, Ralph smiled and said, “we are truly grateful to be here!”

-Vicki M.

Campus Notes

As August wore on, heat and lack of rain took their toll on our campus. The bloom in the prairie gardens began fading prematurely, getting ready to set seed pods for the next year. Flower beds around the buildings, the Angel Garden, and the residents' vegetable garden required steady watering, while unsightly green gook accumulated on the creek. Thus, it was a great relief when storm events in the first days of September dumped 3.2" of rain on our area.

The creek ran clear again; and although much of the colorful diversity in the prairie gardens was gone, the sunny bloom of Goldenrod, black-eyed Susans, Helenium, and Coreopsis, occasionally accompanied by tall purple Ironwood, was developing in its full glory, a sure sign that Fall was at the doorstep.

The residents' box garden has passed its peak, while still yielding some squash and tons of tomatoes. Some beds have been graced with colorful flowers, adding a special touch to our utilitarian plantings. At the corner of the veggie garden where mighty cottonwood trees used to tower over the cultivated plots, Howie had planted annuals to fill the empty space. However, it soon became evident that the giant trees that used to occupy this area had not been totally defeated, as vigorous new growth kept cropping up everywhere, forming huge clusters along the trail.

Further down at the Angel garden, weeding and spreading mulch have improved the looks of this corner, while plantings and diversification of native species continue. It is, however, a project that requires much time and patience.

A visit to the Courtyard gardens revealed an array of colorful bloom surrounding the cascading fountain, a group of lovely rosebushes among a variety of annuals. An inviting setting to spend a quiet hour reading a book.

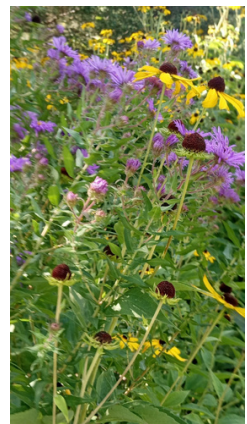
Since our Gardens have enjoyed much love and care from Luella Remmel, a long-standing member of our community whose passing we mourn, the Grounds Committee funded a brick at the Angel in her honor.

The text reads:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
LUELLE REMMEL 2026
YOUR GARDEN FRIENDS

Strolling along the path towards the woods, I encounter numerous Monarch butterflies, nipping on the tall yellow cup plants that grow along the river, getting ready for their long journey south. Moving into the woodlands, nutshells on the trail indicate that squirrels have been busy hiding away supplies for leaner times. Here and there the foliage shows spots of gold, yellow, and reddish-brown, indicating the changing of the season, reminding us of the passing time. We are thankful for our peaceful, natural environment in these times of strife and discontent.

-Barbara B.



Health & Safety: Fire Prevention Week 2026

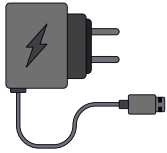
For the second year in a row, the National Fire Protection Association (“NFPA”) has chosen an aspect of the now-ubiquitous lithium-ion battery as the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2026, October 4-10: “Charge into Fire Safety™: Safe Charging is a SUPERPOWER”.

Our homes are filled today with everyday items powered by lithium-ion batteries. Smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, cordless vacuums, laptops, headphones and ear buds, medical devices like portable defibrillators and infusion pumps, e-cigarettes, toys and electric vehicles, personal care devices like electric toothbrushes and more.

These batteries are prized for their reliability, convenience and packing lots of power into relatively small sizes. Last year’s Fire Prevention Week focus was educating the public about the risks for lithium-ion batteries to ignite or explode if not used correctly or damaged. This year’s focus is on safe charging.

The NFPA says, “Battery safety starts before you plug in. Buy products listed by a national recognized testing laboratory such as UL, ETL or CSA. Listed products meet important safety standards.”

“Use Your Charging Superpowers” tips from NFPA follow:



“Cheap Charger? Don’t Chance It.” NFPA advises using the cord and charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer. ***Why it matters:*** Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increase the chance of fire. Cheap or off-brand chargers may not meet important safety standards.



“Soft Surface? Hard Pass.” Charge on a hard, flat surface like a table, desk or bare floor. ***Why it matters:*** Devices and chargers create heat during normal charging. Soft surfaces like beds, pillows and couches can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause a battery to overheat.



“Feels Hot? Stop Using It.” Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, smells strange, leaks, smokes, or makes popping or hissing sounds. ***Why it matters:*** A damaged battery can overheat and start a fire.



“Fully Charged? Time to Unplug.” Unplug your device when it is fully charged. ***Why it matters:*** Leaving a device plugged in can increase heat and stress on the battery.



“For Tools and Rides, Charge Outside.” Charge large items like e-bikes, scooters and power tools outside when possible. Do not block exits when charging. ***Why it matters:*** These batteries are larger and store more energy. Fire can grow quickly if the battery fails.



“Out of Sight? Not in Flight.” When on a plane, keep devices where you can see them while charging. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane. Tell a flight attendant if you notice a problem with your device, such as if it feels very hot, starts to swell, is smoking or has a strange smell. ***Why it matters:*** If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to be able to respond quickly. ©2026NFPA®



Health & Safety: Fire Prevention Week 2026 cont.

Regarding the tip to charge rides outside, Evergreen residents should be aware that their mobility scooters may be powered by lithium-ion batteries that require following these NFPA safe charging tips, especially if the model is a newer, lighter one.

A Seasonal Reminder

Ah, autumn – season of bonfires, warm candlelight, and – wait, what??? Not here at Evergreen – where having an open flame in our residences, even as small as the flame on a candle, presents too much of a fire hazard to allow. As we move into the holiday season, for the same reason, holiday trees and other decorations may not include live trees and greens. Your safety and that of your neighbors and our wonderful staff members truly comes first here at Evergreen.

-Alyson H.



Evergreen Writers Group

Several years back, a “Writers Group” was established at Evergreen. Since then, the Learning in Retirement program has expanded, offering two other groups for writers to create their memoirs. While that is an important avenue for writers, it doesn’t always meet the need for creative writing or poetry that a writer may prefer.



At Evergreen we have established a writing group that offers the opportunity to create whatever writing path you choose, whether that is life story writing, creative writing, poetry or journaling. Edie Norenberg one of our Life Enrichment Specialists, facilitates this group and usually provides writing prompts to spur your creative process. It’s a wonderful group, a bit more intimate with its sharing & feedback element to it. That process makes it a wonderful & encouraging avenue for writing. Please join us, won’t you? We meet the third Monday of each month at 1:00 P.M. in the Garden Terrace Lounge (up the ramp and down the hall from the GardenSide Restaurant.) Come see what we’re all about!!

Questions? Contact Edie Norenberg @ (920) 237-6221.

Recipes To Share

Do you have a recipe you would like to share in the upcoming *Eye on Evergreen*? With the holidays and winter season approaching, we would like to share a few resident recipes in the November/December issue of *Eye on Evergreen*. This could be a cookie recipe, holiday treat, a family favorite, a fun appetizer to share with others, or a winter staple that you make every year.

If interested, please share your recipe with Kaylee Hennes at KHennes@EvergreenOshkosh.com or contact her at (920) 237-2124.



Evergreen Supper Club

How did the Evergreen Supper Club Event come to be? Several years back we noticed our residents loved frequenting supper clubs, so we decided to try and recreate that experience right here at Evergreen! With a little creativity and collaboration with our Culinary Services department, we launched our Supper Club Event!

Residents were notified with an invitation to the events, with two dates to choose from due to this events popularity. After residents called to sign- up, our team determined a date and time for their reservation, along with who they would sit with. Some residents like to designate who they sit with, and others welcome the opportunity to sit with new people. It is a bit of a puzzle for staff to figure out where everyone will sit, while working off staggered times, so staff and residents have the best experience possible! The staggered time allows our staff to focus on one table, and one course, at a time, while allowing our residents to enjoy conversation and hot food.

We divided the Behnke Center in two sections with a floor to ceiling partition. One side served as a bar, with cocktails, which of course included old fashioned, non-alcoholic beverages, and a relish tray. The other side of the wall served as a dining room, with beautiful centerpieces and dim lighting. Residents stayed in the bar for twenty minutes, then were escorted to their table, where their first course was awaiting them. Staff timed out clearing and serving the following courses perfectly! Residents were charged a fee for the evening, which included the three-course meal and two cocktails, or mocktails, of their choice.

This year we had 66 reservations. It was a hit!

-Kristin W.



SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming Special Events

Spirit Week



October 26-30

Get ready for a week full of fun, creativity and spirit! Watch for the full schedule of dress-up days, special activities and surprises!

Christmas Events



Village & Homes Party
Friday, December 4



Manors, GP/GT Party
Wednesday, December 9



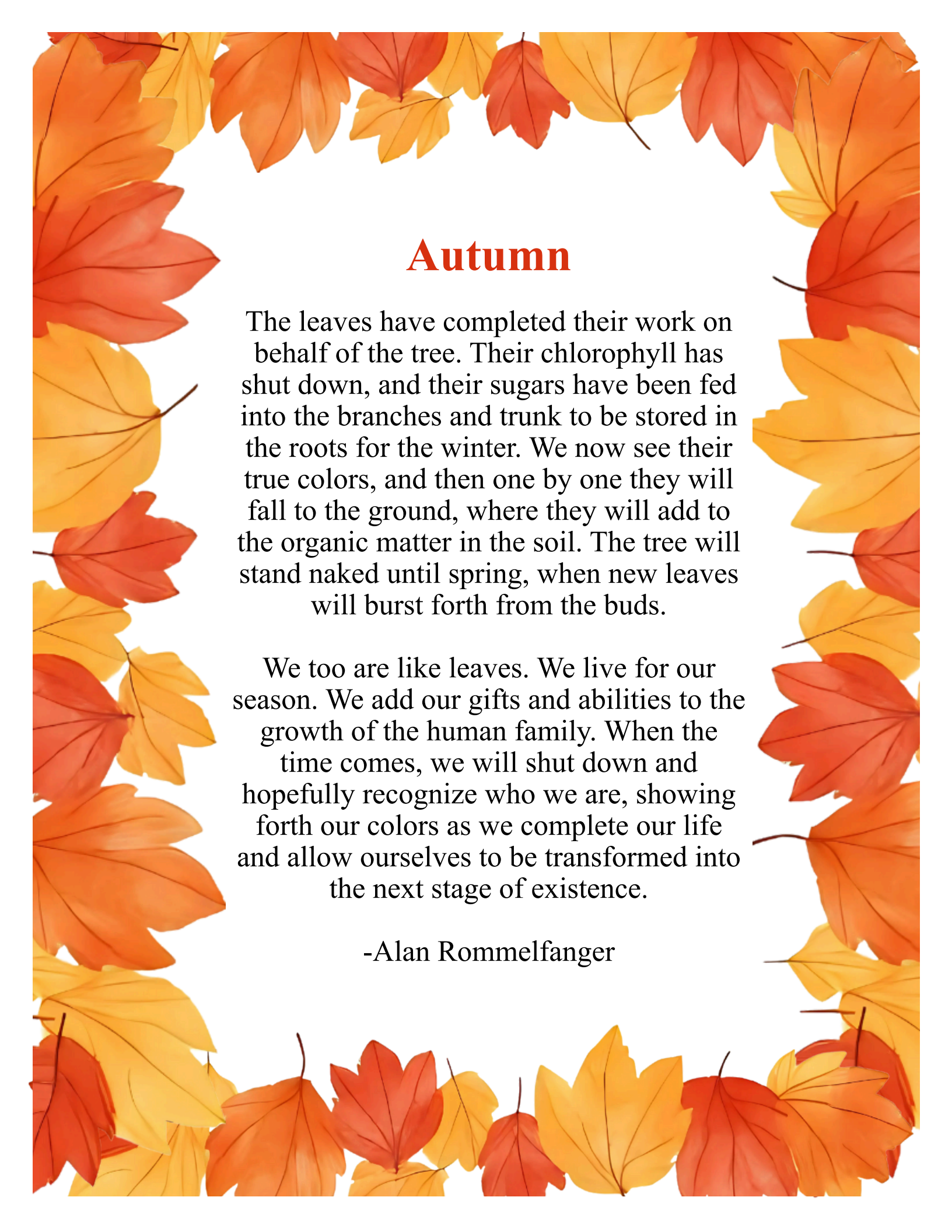
Courtyard Party
Thursday, December 16

Join your neighbors for food, fellowship, and holiday fun at your building's Christmas Party. All parties listed above will take place in the evening.



Evergreen Singers
Christmas Concerts
Thursday, December 10

The Evergreen Singers invite you to their Christmas Concert, featuring a joyful collection of holiday music and cherished seasonal favorites. Two performances will be held to accommodate all who wish to attend. Additional details, including performance times, will be announced soon.



Autumn

The leaves have completed their work on behalf of the tree. Their chlorophyll has shut down, and their sugars have been fed into the branches and trunk to be stored in the roots for the winter. We now see their true colors, and then one by one they will fall to the ground, where they will add to the organic matter in the soil. The tree will stand naked until spring, when new leaves will burst forth from the buds.

We too are like leaves. We live for our season. We add our gifts and abilities to the growth of the human family. When the time comes, we will shut down and hopefully recognize who we are, showing forth our colors as we complete our life and allow ourselves to be transformed into the next stage of existence.

-Alan Rommelfanger