

THE GROUNDS GAZETTE



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You've probably have heard the old saying, "Everything is coming up roses." Well, here at Evergreen we could probably easily adapt that to, "Everything was coming up tulips and daffodils, but now it's everything else." Yes, summer is almost upon us and we are hoping you have been enjoying the gradual explosion of color all these flowers brought to you these past couple of months. Spring and early summertime is such a busy time with all kinds of outdoor activities plus Mother Nature unfolding her beauty just beyond your windows.

Not only have the flowers been blooming, but the migrating birds have returned in force and are already building and setting in their nests. Generally, the sun is shining about 60% of the time in May and a bit more in June. That not only warms us up more, adding more smiles on our faces, but as you can see a greener nature has responded accordingly with an abundance of wildlife busy before us.



That's a robin in her nest.

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News from the Ground Department's crew has found all the guys busy removing the old tulip bulbs, trimming the spent daffodils, planting the new annual beds, pulling weeds and keeping up with a rapidly growing lawn. The work has ramped up considerably.

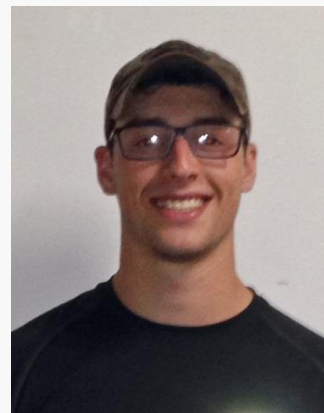
Speaking of the guys and work, we have also added our new seasonal employees for this year's gardening season. Returning from last year is Joe Zizzo, Tyler Giffey and Levi Eifolla. New to our lineup are Connor Lee and Taylor Manual and we would like to present them all to you now.



Tyler



Joe



Levi



Conner



Taylor



Prior to those seasonal activities mentioned above, during the late winter months the regular Grounds crew was readily engaged and working with the new building landscape contractor, Zillges Landscaping, to help create several new and exciting landscapes for the new apartment complex's courtyard, the chapel, the front of the manor building and the new parking areas associated with all of the above. It definitely has been an exciting time for us and we expect the completed project to be a great source of added enjoyment for everyone. Although it won't be completed all at once, phases will be called for as the various buildings are completed one by one.

As far as the development of the new apartment complex is concerned, the courtyard within that enclosed area is the current focus as of this writing. Not only will it have a unique waterfall and fountain and wrap around walkway, but the plan on paper is an imaginative creation of a wide variety of plants not commonly found anywhere else on campus. We envision the courtyard to be a great destination place to sit and visit amongst an ornamental garden that is both relaxing and pleasing to the eye.

Finally, as you probably know, you can keep up with the progress of the courtyard development from the manor north patio window and see for yourself as the excitement builds towards the completion of this enormous building addition and its distinctive courtyard.



Early construction

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Our bird of the month is actually a collection of several of our more colorful migrating songbirds, who recently have returned to Wisconsin in general and Evergreen in particular. These include the Scarlet Tanager, the Indigo Bunting, the Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Towhee, the Swamp Sparrow and the Ruby Throated Hummingbird. There many others, but most of these you may be familiar with. They don't all stay around here all season long or are very reclusive, but most are here long enough to be noticeable at one time or another. What's really quite remarkable about these particular birds is most of them have to make the 600 mile nonstop flight across the Gulf of Mexico in order to be here with us. Of the birds mentioned above, probably the most remarkable is the return of the Ruby Throated Hummingbird who does stay here all season long. Here is a bird that weighs less than 5 grams that will make roughly an 18 hour flight which requires over 3 million wing beats before it can stop for a rest. Not only is this migration rather miraculous, but these hummingbirds always return to the same spot where they nested the year before. How about that? With that tidbit, let's give these returning guests a hand and help them get off to a good start back here at Evergreen by keeping our feeders well supplied after such a long and perilous journey.



Scarlet Tanager



Indigo Bunting



Baltimore Oriole



Eastern Towhee



Ruby Throated
Hummingbird



Swamp Sparrow



Our plants of the season are the wood violets and the lilac. First, we will shine the proverbial light on the wood violet. These are little blue flowers that appear on a short stem and are quite prevalent on the Evergreen campus. In fact, because it can be found throughout the state, it was established as our state flower in 1949. It likes well drained soil and can be found in full sun to partial shady locations. More than likely it can be found in a garden near you as it is fairly aggressive due to its self-seeding characteristic. Besides its use in the garden and common appearance the woodlands, the flower and the leaves are actually edible. Those little blue flowers can make a colorful addition to one's table salad, believe it or not.



Our other choice for plant of the season is the Lilac. These are the shrubs that generate the sweet perfume of the plant world in mid spring. These guys like to be located in full sun and in fertile, moist soil. They should never be pruned until right after the blossoms are spent. That's because the new blooms form on wood from the previous year and the older the better. However, they do appreciate a good pruning and it seems to invigorate them to a certain extent and preventing them from getting too tall. Another item particular to these shrubs is they don't like to be transplanted, and if so, may not bloom again for up to ten years. Lilac blooms can range from white to pink and purple with each generating the same heavenly "Welcome to Spring" scent throughout the campus.





In closing, we are happy to present the Gazette to you once again and will leave you with these parting thoughts...



“The earth has music for those who listen.” William Shakespeare

“The earth laughs in flowers.” e.e. cummings