



Eye on Evergreen

Conversations with your friends and neighbors

Vol. 5 No. 10 July/August 2024



ELECTION SCAMS

There seems to be no lack of scams to tempt, fool and distract us all year long. With 2024 being “Election Season” there are individuals who see this as an opportunity to relieve us of our money. According to an article in the June issue of the AARP Bulletin, Scam PACs and Bogus Donations, Fraudulent Surveys, and Voter Registration Scams are out there and heading our way.

Sounding like charities, scammers can register as political action committees (PACs). Then, by phone, email, text and social media, they solicit donations, saying they will support candidates and campaigns that promote worthy causes. In reality, they keep most of the money for themselves. Scammers want you to use PayPal, send a check or a gift card, because the money can't be recovered. Don't be pressured to donate right away to groups that contact you. Rather, look up the charity or candidate online. Legitimate PACs must have bank accounts and will accept credit cards.

There are legitimate public opinion polls and surveys. Beware of scam surveys that will steal your personal identifying information, often by offering a gift or other incentive that requires you to provide your credit card number, Social Security number, address or date of birth. A legit political poll won't offer you a gift or ask for personal information. Best advice: do not participate in phone surveys as you can't verify who they really are.



Scammers impersonate election officials and ask you to provide personal data to update or renew your voter registration. You can't register to vote by phone and you can't vote online in a federal election. Don't click on a link in an email or text looking for your personal information.

-Donna L.

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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!**

COLLECTIONS & TREASURES

ART GLASS. The month of August features beautiful Art Glass in the display cabinet, the collection of CY resident Marge Leffin. Her husband Bill, an Art Professor (Art Metal) liked to make jewelry, often taking his pieces to art fairs. Marge went along, liking to browse the other vendors' offerings. She discovered art glass there, and that sparked her interest in collecting pieces. She bought many items at art fairs and directly from other artists, with Bill being a member of the art community. Marge also purchased some as they traveled in the U.S. and overseas. A favorite piece is a large unusually shaped bowl from a cruise on the Danube. She has her collection on display in her apartment.



Marge is originally from LaCrosse, then moved to Madison where she attended High School. She received her degree in Elementary Education from UW Whitewater, where she met Bill. She taught in Racine for a year prior to their marriage. Bill had transferred to UW Milwaukee, attaining his degree in Art Education. They were married June 15, 1954 while he was finishing his degree, and Marge taught in Brown Deer. They then moved to Janesville, where he was Art Supervisor. He ultimately attained his Masters, and they then lived in Madison where he got his PhD. During their time there, Marge was a substitute teacher at several schools. They moved to Oshkosh in 1966. She taught at Lakeside School, and then at Webster Stanley, retiring from there after 35 years.

Marge has always enjoyed traveling, and following Bill's death in 1996, she continued to take part in a number of tours. She has two children: John Leffin, Lake Geneva WI, and Lisa Kowalczyk, Columbus OH; one grandson and three granddaughters (two of which are also working in the art field). She had come to Evergreen on one occasion when looking for a place for her parents. She liked what she saw here, and a number of years after Bill's death she decided she did not wish to keep up a large home any longer. She had heard about the new Courtyard apartments being built, and immediately signed up, moving in right after completion in October 2017.



Marge is on the Library Committee, enjoys Wii Bowling, the Monday Games, What's Up With Edie, and is a member of a Bridge group. She loves to read, has become rather addicted to doing paint by number on her iPad, and is an avid baseball and football fan.

We are most appreciative of the opportunity to view these lovely glass pieces for the rest of August—many, many thanks, Marge! Residents, be sure to watch for the new cabinet exhibit in September. You won't want to miss it!

-Maurene C.

A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE

Matriarchs of the Village at Evergreen

I thought that it might be interesting to interview the Village longest current tenants to get their thoughts on life in the Village. Both Luella Rimmel, Sandi Challoner and husbands chose the 1040 Village building and moved to Evergreen the same month, August, 2006. They have been good friends and colleagues since they became Villagers 18 years ago.

Luella's journey started in the 1990s when her in-laws were living in Manor North. Then from 2004-2006, she and husband Ray attended many open houses as they thought it was time to seriously look at retirement living opportunities in the Village. They chose apartment #310. When asked if they had been interested in any of the other living accommodations at Evergreen it was a decided, "No". "We knew the Village was for us." As of today, seven Rimmels have lived at the Evergreen, but only one remains.



Sandi Challoner & Luella Rimmel

Around the same time Sandi and husband Bob were also looking for a place to retire. In general, the housing market had slowed and quite a few Village apartments were available. Many open houses were offered and Sandi and Bob attended. Sandi said, "It's different now. There is a long waiting list for the Village, so open houses aren't needed anymore." As an aside, as of 2024, there is a waiting list of 35 community prospects and seven in-house prospects waiting for a Village accommodation. Again, asking if Sandi and Bob had been interested in any other Evergreen accommodation, I was given another resounding "No. Our apartment has the most beautiful view of the woods and grounds". When the new Courtyard apartments were available, I asked if the women were tempted to move again, and got an even stronger, "No". Both agreed, however, that if their health became a major problem, they would consider moving into the main building.

I next asked how Evergreen has changed in the 18 years. They agreed that there are many more opportunities now for residents such as entertainment, enrichment through the Neta Library and LIR, more outings such as Food and Folly and other dining opportunities, and more in the transportation area such as Evergreen bus rides to grocery stores and doctor appointments. As for the Village, they both think that the clientele on a whole is more independent than in the early years and can participate more fully in Evergreen and Village activities. Also, in the last few years, new tenants are more likely to do more extensive remodeling before moving into their accommodations such as removing the wall between the main room and the sunroom, making the kitchen/main room pass-through bigger, or totally removing the wall between the kitchen and main room. Another change is that all bathtubs have been removed and showers installed for safety reasons.

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A VIEW FROM THE VILLAGE cont.

After these 18 years, someone might think these ladies would have slowed down a bit, however the opposite is true. Both women have served on almost every committee or governing position for the Village and Evergreen at large. Luella has served on six of the eight Residents' Council Committees, co-chairs the active Manor Mart, manages the Garden Boxes, and has edited the annual Advent Devotional for 10 years. In addition, she has served 9 years on the Evergreen Board, chairs the Nominating Committee for the Residents' Council, and has received the title of "Pie Lady". Sandi has been President of the Residents' Council and serves as the resident member on the Village Board. She currently serves on four Residents' Council Committees, and is the Chair of the Health and Wellness committee. Both women were instrumental in developing the Wii Bowling Program and have kept it running smoothly. Luella and Sandi are certainly well-loved and well known at Evergreen, and the old adage holds, "If you want something done, ask a busy person".

-Vicki M.

SAFETY FIRST: YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

Do you love being out in the sun? Gardening, boating, relaxing? Did you know that exposure to sunshine for at least 10 minutes during midday provides vitamin D that reduces the risk of heart disease, osteoporosis, and various cancers? Warm sunshine feels so good – until it starts to burn and sting – sunburn!

Do you remember to use sunscreen SPF of 30 or greater before sun exposure? Fragile, thinning skin makes older people more susceptible to sunburn. Do you wear a wide-brimmed hat that covers and protects areas like your head, neck, face and ears? If you already have sunburn, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants to prevent further skin damage.

Don't forget to protect your eyes! Long hours in the sun without eye protection can contribute to skin cancer around the eyes, and eye diseases that can deteriorate vision. Wear sunglasses that are labeled UV protective. Opt for larger, close-fitting sunglasses. Wrap-around pairs offer the most protection.

With the hot sun comes high temperatures. Stay hydrated- keep water on hand and drink often, even if you don't feel thirsty. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothes – they help reflect sunlight away from your body and keep heat levels down. Remember to perform self-examinations on skin regularly exposed to the sun to detect any changes.

There is still plenty of summer left and time for pontoon rides, gardening, or walking outdoors around our beautiful campus. Enjoy - but be careful of the sunshine!

-Donna L.



What Are You Reading?

Village resident and EOE team member *Vicki Moss* ordered Kristin Hannah's newest book, *The Women*, 2024, St. Martin's Press from the Oshkosh Public Library as soon as she learned it had been published without knowing much about its subject.

The book really struck a chord for Vicki when she discovered that *The Women* of the title were nurses, Vicki's own profession as an operating room nurse. The novel's nurses were in the U.S. Army, assigned to field hospitals and aid stations in Vietnam in the 1960's.



The novel's central character, a young nurse named Frankie, and two nurses who become her closest friends encounter injuries and situations beyond imagination. The mental trauma these women would carry forever because of their service experiences was worsened when they returned home. Their country had changed. Their service was not recognized by the military for services and benefits, and not acknowledged by people closest to them. Most painfully, they were not recognized as the veterans they were. When Frankie seeks help from her local veterans' organization, she is told she is not a veteran because, "there were no women serving in Vietnam."

While reading the book, Vicki felt sadness when certain characters with whom Frankie had developed close relationships were believed dead in action. She was touched by the camaraderie among the women who served together, even after they returned to the U.S. Vicki felt anger at how Frankie was treated when she returned from Vietnam.

In Vicki's opinion, this book was well-written. She believes, from accurate details contained in the medical depictions, that Hannah must have done considerable research. The book conveys an emotional impact.

Vicki highly recommends *The Women*, with a *caveat*. Descriptions of soldiers' injuries are very graphic – which some readers may find disturbing.



Maurene Christensen, Courtyard resident and EOE team member, just finished Irene Hannon's *Into the Fire: Undaunted Courage*, 2023, Revell, a romantic suspense novel. She chose the book because she's familiar with the author and likes the way she moves the plot along at a good pace. Hannon, a multiple RITA award winner, has written sixty-five books, and Maurene has enjoyed many of them. She obtained her copy through the Oshkosh Public Library. It is the first book in a two-part series. The second, titled *Over the Edge*, will be published in October 2024.

The main character, Bri Tucker, is a former "Smoke Jumper" – an elite group of men and women firefighters who parachute into rugged terrain to fight wildfires up close. She retired due to injuries sustained on that job and has become an arson investigator. She is joined in her current investigation assignment by Marc, an ATF agent. They eventually deem it to be arson and uncover a murder. Their suspect list is long, with multiple complications ensuing. Maurene says there are many twists and turns, with a most surprising "whodunit" conclusion.

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Maurene found this story exciting from the very beginning. She was amazed to learn that there are women as well as men willing to become “Smoke Jumpers”. Maurene was interested in learning how arson investigators do their work, and enjoyed the romance that develops between Bri and Marc.

In Maurene’s opinion, the book was well written. She said that Hannon always does a good job keeping the action moving, with humor injected along the way, and giving the reader a real surprise when the murderer is revealed. She recommends it to other readers.

-Alyson Z.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Have you met Manor North resident Barb Rowe? She was born February 3, 1934 in Bessemer, Michigan, and has one brother. Barb has always been interested in music and began piano lessons at age seven. She was fortunate to study voice with an opera professional in Bessemer. This began her love of opera during high school. After high school graduation Barb enrolled in St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, where she sang in the St. Olaf Choir for four years, as soprano section leader and soloist. In 1955 she joined the choir on a concert tour in Sweden, Norway and Germany. She obtained a BA in music and went on to a Masters in Music Education at UW-Whitewater. After graduation in 1956 Barb began teaching music in Neenah, Wisconsin. She has sung in several operas with the Florentine Opera Chorus, Milwaukee; her favorite solo role was as Papagena in the “Magic Flute.”



Barb met her future husband Marvin when she was in 8th grade and he was a junior. They shared a love of all things musical. And their paths often crossed. They were married in Ironwood, Michigan on July 9, 1960, where he was teaching music. Marvin entered seminary and after graduation, he was called to a Methodist church in Michigan. After accepting a move to the Wisconsin Conference, they served churches in Beloit, Fort Atkinson, West Allis, LaCrosse and Racine. Barb continued teaching vocal music. They were blessed with three children: David, Janet and William. After retirement, they lived in Montello on White Lake, where Marv had built a house. In earlier years they traveled in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii; England and Canada.

They had heard about Evergreen and moved from Montello into the Evergreen Village in 2008. Marvin died August 29, 2021 and shortly after Barb moved to her Manor North apartment. Barb continues her love of singing as a member of the Evergreen Singers, enjoys reading with More Than a Book Club, and PEO Chapter CG and GriefShare meetings. Thanks for sharing your story, Barb – see you in the neighborhood!

-Donna L.

Campus Notes: July– August

Summer started with much rain and humidity, resulting in vigorous growth and uniform green throughout the campus. The veggies in the box garden are thriving, providing residents with fresh lettuce, parsley, and snow peas, while carrot and beet seedlings are sprouting up, and tomatoes and peppers are setting fruit. The ground crew keeps busy mowing the grass, removing spent tulips, and planting the beds with colorful annuals. On the way into the woods, the bench near Diane Kohl’s Fairie Garden at the Windmill offers leisurely strollers a delightful spot for rest and contemplation.

Meanwhile the keepers of the prairie garden on the berm have been active filling in empty spots and expanding the plantings towards the river. The workers are grateful for the new water source that, thanks to a direct connection to the box garden, facilitates the maintenance of recent plantings. By mid-June the prairie vegetation was in full bloom, inviting visitors to linger on the recently installed bench that offers a splendid view of the colorful display sloping down towards the river. However, the maintenance of a prairie garden also requires continuing vigilance, since thistles and other invasive species tend to crowd out our native plants.

Walking the campus regularly allows for unexpected discoveries. In the Courtyard garden I came upon a sculptured cat near the waterfall where a duck matron paraded her ducklings. A stop at the blooming linden (or basswood) trees near the entrance to Creekview revealed a rare display of dozens of red admiral butterflies feeding on the fragrant blossoms. Later I also discovered red admirals in the prairie islands of the big parking lot. They seem to like our environment. And looking down towards the riverbanks you can always spot groups of toads sunning themselves on a log somewhere. Our Evergreen surroundings are full of little surprises on any given day. Take a walk and enjoy!

-Barbara B.



Wild Geranium



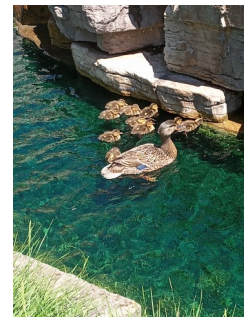
Milkweed



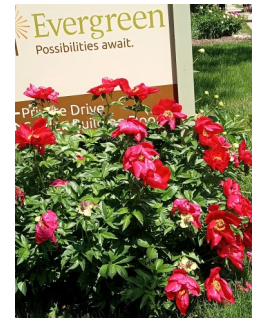
**Rabbit
in prairie
vegetation**



Prairie Bloom



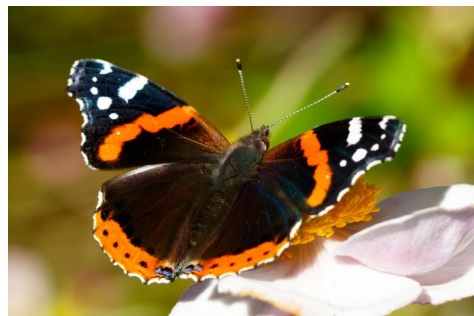
**Ducks in the
Courtyard**



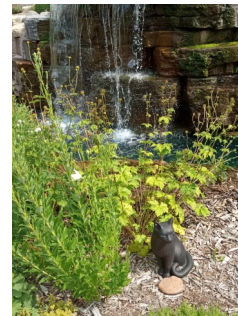
**Peonies at
Evergreen
Entrance**



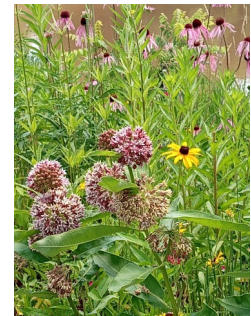
**Linden full of Red
Admiral butterflies**



Red Admiral Butterfly



**Cat in
Courtyard**



Milkweed

Marion Noffke's Snapshots of History

Since eighth grade, Manor North resident Marion Noffke, now 96, has saved a record of significant events in Oshkosh and the nation, one front page at a time. Her project started as she and her mother were leaving a program at Marian College, Fond du Lac. Attendees were excited about a news release saying war was coming, shouting “A war! A war!” Marion realized for the first time that world events could affect her family.

Moves have reduced her archive, which still spans 1944 to 2016. Papers primarily represented are *The Fond du Lac Commonwealth Reporter (The Reporter)* and *Milwaukee Sentinel (Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel)*, both received at the Donovan farm in Van Dyne, Marion's family home, and the *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern (Oshkosh Northwestern)*. The cost of each was 10¢ per copy.

1940's headlines reflect World War II: “400 MI OF JAPAN AFIRE”, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 7-31-1944; “All Germans Surrender”, *Milwaukee Journal*, 5-7-1945; “WAR ENDS! M'ARTHUR WILL RULE JAPANESE”, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, 8-15-1945. Marion's three first cousins served in the war. Her brother was drafted, but unfortunately contracted polio before he could report. She remembers rationing, with stamps issued for permits to buy gasoline, sugar, flour, tires, shoes, etc. New cars were unavailable, and extra money was used to buy war bonds to fight Germany and Japan.



Marion's engaging and highly readable memoir, *And Then There Were Five*, (©Marion Donovan Noffke, 2017) can be found in the Neta Library.

Oshkosh from its 1853 founding to its 1953 Centennial are captured in an *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern* commemorative issue, portions of which are in Marion's archive. Featured local business histories include “Noffke Fuel Firm Started Here in 1929” (predecessor to Marion's family's Noffke Lumber, Inc.) and “McDermott Firm Here since 1943” (Manor North resident Helen McDermott's family business A.I. McDermott Co Inc). Marion said her late father-in-law, Henry Noffke, liked to use the picture from that article in ads. It showed employees in a wagon pulled by two horses. Accompanying text said it proved Noffke was never a one-horse operation – it was always big enough to handle any job!

Oshkosh headlines increased after Marion's sister and brother-in-law introduced her to Henry “Hank” Noffke Jr. in early 1963. At that time, Marion lived in Milwaukee, working at WTMJ-TV writing commercials. Hank was a widower with five children, aged 3 to 10. Marion says, “We dated, fell in love and his children and I got to know each other.” They married in May 1964. Two years later, Marion adopted all five children. She and Hank shared over 50 years together before his death at Evergreen ShareHaven December 31, 2016.

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Marion Noffke's Snapshots of History cont.

Marion gave a 180-page *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern*, produced to mark the paper's Centennial in June 1968, to Edie Norenberg, who has used it for occasional program content. Its collection of national, world and local news stories over a century is endlessly fascinating – and made this reporter nostalgic for the newspapers we all took for granted before the digital age.

Marion's collection once included other events of huge import to the country, like the Kennedy assassination November 22, 1963; assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy on April 4 and June 6, 1968; Watergate and President Richard Nixon's resignation in August 1974. What remains is still an enlightening window to our history. Thank you, Marion!

-Alyson Z.

IN CASE YOU WONDERED

Evergreen has 317 accommodations on our campus: 157 Independent, 20 Enhanced Independent, 40 Assisted Living, 20 Memory Care, 58 Skilled Nursing and 22 Short Term Rehab accommodations.

Just before going to print, there were 337 residents living at Evergreen. There are currently 79 people living in Memory Care, Skilled Nursing and Short Term Rehab. There are 258 residents in Independent, Enhanced Independent and Assisted Living accommodations. Of this number there were 54 couples (108 people) and 150 single residents. The average age of our residents is 85 in Independent and 86 in Assisted Living.



Thanks to Erin and Paul of Marketing for this information.

Donna L.

THIS AND THAT

DRYER FILTERS

If you have a washer and dryer in your accommodation, do you clean out the lint filter after using the dryer? Did you know that lint-laden filters can be the cause of a fire? Please remember to check and clean the lint filter/trap after each use, to make sure there is not a build up of lint which could become a major problem. Easy to do – rub your fingers across the filter and the lint will gather for easy disposal.

EVERGREEN SINGERS

Do you enjoy singing and would like to share your talent? The Evergreen Singers welcome you to their group, which will start up again after Labor Day. Watch for details coming soon, or contact Edie Norenberg at 920-237-6221 for more information.



SCAMS

A warning I read about bears repeating about phone scams. Best advice is to NOT answer the phone if you don't recognize the number. If you do, and someone asks "Can you hear me?" – DO NOT answer with a YES. Instead, say "I can hear you." A YES answer could be recorded and used in charges against a credit card, bank withdrawals, etc. Be ever aware of those trying to relieve you of your hard-earned money!

A Splendid Summer

With August half over, our summer is speeding by! We have had abundant rains as well as glorious sunny days. It seemed like a good time to reminisce about some of the special summer programs and events which took place these past few weeks. All in addition to the regular classes, activities and sessions most of us participate in during each week.

- **June 5 Sampling Event**, with food and beverages from 12 different states
- **June 13 Our own Evergreen Singers**—two performances—great concerts!
- **June 19 Sherri Landig’s Retirement Party**, followed by terrific Elvis John performances. Special memories for Sherri, to be sure!
- **Trishaw Rides** shared in May, with wheelchair Trishaw beginning rides in June. Residents love these rides along the river path.
- **Pontoon Boat Cruises**, as always a favorite with residents, from going up the river to enjoying peaceful trips into Lake Butte des Morts, and restaurant cruises.
- **Outings** on Evergreen bus to restaurants for lunch or dinner.
- **FUN IN THE TENTS:** July 30 Bingo; July 31 Movie “Grease”; Aug. 1 Annual picnic. The weather gods cooperated for the most part for these events. Everyone most grateful for that.
- **August 12 Trip to Kelley Country Creamery.**
- **August 14 A must for baseball fans**—Evergreen bus to a **Timber Rattlers game** vs. the Peoria Chiefs. Included, a box seat ticket, voucher for food and beverages and a Timber Rattlers hat.
- We are still looking forward to **singalong evenings** on the front patio, with the fire pit going, music and appetizers.



As usual there have been numerous live entertainment programs, digital offerings on a variety of most interesting topics, and movies. The Life Enrichment Team, other staff members and volunteers work very hard to offer activities which will stimulate our minds, keep our bodies active, and just provide enjoyment to enhance our lives. We are most fortunate to call Evergreen home! Have a great rest of the summer!

-Maureen C.

Home Cookin' at Evergreen!

It's summertime and the living is easy . . . This issue gives a nod to all the Farmer's Markets and roadside vegetable stands located throughout the area.--and offers this easy sheet pan dinner. A considerable amount of rain has fallen these past two months. Plants are flourishing. Peppers, onions, zucchini, beans, peas, and multi-colored carrots are all on display. The tomatoes are on their way--as well as the long awaited sweet corn



This sheet pan dinner may be prepared as a vegetarian option---or with protein such as chicken, shrimp, or pork. Note the easy make ahead prep and ease of clean up.

Three members of our Eye on Evergreen staff will serve as the tasting team.

-Pat B.

Sheet Pan Mediterranean Vegetables

Ingredients:

- 8 oz small white button mushrooms (brushed clean, stems removed)
 - 12 cherry tomatoes
 - 1 medium zucchini (cut into 1 inch slices)
 - 1 each red, yellow, and green bell peppers (cut into 1 inch slices)
 - Season lightly with salt and pepper
 - 1/2 cup bottled balsamic vinaigrette salad dressing
 - Fresh basil and tarragon for garnish
- Optional:** Add 2 inch chunks of boneless chicken breasts or thighs; pork; beef; or shrimp.

Directions:

- Combine all ingredients in a large shallow dish
- Marinate while oven or grill is preheating
- Preheat oven to 425 degree or preheat grill or broiler to medium
- Line large baking sheet or broiler pan with heavy duty tin foil
- Transfer vegetable mixture to pan and distribute evenly
- **If baking**, bake mixture 30 to 45 minutes, stirring occasionally **OR**
- **If grilling**, place grill pan 4 inches from the heat source, turning once, until vegetables are cooked through and lightly charred--about 20 minutes.
- Transfer to a serving bowl and enjoy!