

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

September 2026 "For the residents, by the residents" Vol. 45, No. 8

EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2026



See story, page 4

Photo by Jesse Komara

Dear Reader –

***Oh, it's a long, long time from
May to December
But the days grow short
When you reach September.
When the autumn weather
Turns the leaves to flame
One hasn't got time
For the waiting game...***

***(From September Song, lyrics by Maxwell
Anderson)***

Let's not think so much about the days "dwindling down" at this point in the year when late summer morphs to early fall. Sure, the darkness comes earlier and the mornings start cooler.

But, there's much left to savor. Here, in our corner of the world: new friends to make, a regular and full schedule of entertainment, classes, interesting speakers and social gatherings. All that, and a campus full of the beauty of a changing season.

Get out and about, and enjoy it all! We have the dazzling, flaming, colorful beauty of October ahead.

~ Jan Wendt



Memorial Donations and Remembrance Cards

Did you know? Donation envelopes and remembrance cards are on the memorial table in the lobby. The donation envelope lists many options to choose from when contributing in memory of a resident or a loved one. Remembrance cards can be filled out and placed in Cubby #346; they will be collected and given to the spouse/ family.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Labor Day	Sept. 7
Rosh Hashanah begins	Sept. 11
Grandparent's Day	Sept. 13
Constitution Day	Sept. 17
Yom Kippur begins	Sept. 20
Fall begins	Sept. 22
National Coffee Day	Sept. 29

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the October issue must
be sent to the Editor no later than
September 15, 2026.

IN MEMORIAM

*Memories are precious possessions that time
can never destroy. For it is in happy
remembrance that the heart finds its
greatest joy.*

<i>Toby Exter</i>	<i>June 1, 2026</i>
<i>Ellen Brierly</i>	<i>June 3, 2026</i>
<i>James Burghacher</i>	<i>June 28, 2026</i>
<i>Richard Cox</i>	<i>July 11, 2026</i>
<i>Herbert Weiss</i>	<i>July 21, 2026</i>
<i>Mary Ann Williamson</i>	<i>July 29, 2026</i>
<i>Julie Eden</i>	<i>August 24, 2026</i>

RICK AND KAREN GAERTNER - #330

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photos by Marketing

I was welcomed into the Gaertner's new home exactly nine days after they moved in. I didn't see one box. These folks are pros, having moved more than 14 times over the years.

The most recent transition was from a condo in Gibsonia, a place they'd lived before, along with Ross Twp., Valencia and Avalon. They also spent two years at another retirement community before settling on Sherwood Oaks.

Rick graduated from Shaler High School and Karen from Avalon. They met when he was in the Air Force, based in Oakdale, and Karen was in nursing school. He served four years with the Air Force, with one year in Taiwan. They married in 1969 after his discharge and she had earned her RN.

Rick was an electrician and all-around handyman, having refurbished more than one home, at least one of them down to the studs.

Karen is a retired critical care RN, a graduate of Montefiore Hospital School of Nursing and Laroche College. She worked for 23 years at the VA Medical Center in Oakland.

The Gaertners have a son and daughter in the local area and a daughter in Colorado Springs. They have three grandchildren and two great-grands.

They are eager to jump into activities here. Rick enjoys gardening and wood-working; Karen loves to dabble with watercolors, a hobby picked up during Covid. She also is the proud owner of three ukeleles and plays "some." She became fascinated with the uke sound during a cruise to Hawaii.

Speaking of travel, they've done some! Favorites include a 21-day bus tour of some national parks, a month in Amelia Island, FL, a rail trip through New England, and a Viking River cruise.

They have been active participants at St. Richard's Catholic Church and plan to do the same at St. Ferdinand's. Both visited patients and were hospice volunteers at their previous retirement community. They hope to help with the Vigil Team.

Karen has already explored our nature trails. They express contentment in what they have already witnessed here in terms of campus beauty, staff performance and delicious meals. "We see it everywhere, how well it is managed," notes Karen.

Both say emphatically, "This is our last move!"

Find a way to connect with this delightful couple when you can. They'll remind you why you like Sherwood Oaks so much!



25 YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND SUCCESS

By Warren Howe - #337

The 25th year of the Sherwood Oaks Employee Scholarship Program is now fully inscribed in the record books. Thanks to the exceptional generosity of our residents, the 2026 scholarship effort has been an amazing success, ranking statistically at the peak of the program's quarter-century history. The picture on the cover shows just over half of the Employee Scholarship recipients for 2026, a happy and vital group for sure!

Sherwood Oaks residents have every reason to feel proud of this year's achievement. There were 163 donations received, totaling \$134,670, a distinct increase over the comparable figures for 2025 (126 gifts totaling \$89,304). Resident participation rate was 73% this year, compared to 67% in 2025. You all heard my concerns expressed after last year's results and responded wonderfully. The results this year were record-setting!

The number of applications for scholarship awards this year was also historic: 72 applications were received (highest number previously was 53) of which 9 were ineligible because the applicant had not accumulated sufficient hours of work. So, 63 scholarships were awarded: 60 for the maximum amount of \$3,500 and 3 for somewhat lesser amounts.

Combining the donations received with a draw from the Sherwood Oaks Scholarship Fund, which contains memorial scholarship fund gifts that have

been made over the years and is maintained as part of the Sherwood Oaks Fund, your Scholarship Committee was able to award \$214,947 in scholarships to employees. The maximum award amount was maintained for the third consecutive year, despite the marked upsurge in application numbers.

The cumulative data for the quarter-century of the Scholarship Program's existence is astounding. Since 2001, there have been 1,124 scholarships awarded by the program, for a total of \$1,960,950! All of these funds have resulted from Sherwood Oaks resident contributions. You've done, and continue to do, a wonderful thing indeed!

Your Scholarship Committee and especially past and present scholarship recipients thank you sincerely. Here's to the Sherwood Oaks Employee Scholarship Program achieving new heights over its next quarter century.

The hard-working Committee includes: Warren B. Howe, Chair; members Ruth Becker, John Houston, Dick Mobley, Katherine Montgomery and Shirley Poduslo.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

By Jean Henderson - #346

We're so proud of our 2026 employee graduates! Many of them have benefited from our Scholarship Program. Here are the colleges they plan to attend, with majors chosen:

Carter Garstecki - Slippery Rock Univ. - Exercise Science

Preston Mischik - Univ. S Carolina - Sports and Entertainment Management

Gabby Grizzle - Chatham - Nursing

Chris Golden - Rosedale Tech - Electrician

Jade Butler - South College - Surgical Technology

Eva Michaels - Duquesne - P.A

Anna Molyneaux - Duquesne - P.A.

Aubrie Cenna - Indiana U PA-Nursing

Eli Karns - SRU - Engineering

Evan Reckless - Penn State; Aerospace Engineering

Meghan Tresky - WVU - Environ. Sci.

Molly Bell - PSU - Elem. & Special Ed.

Morgan Schneider - Pitt - Finance

Ryan Sain - WVU - Finance

Juliana Butterfield - Duquesne - Pharmacy

Bella Dudash - U of Nebraska - Business

Payton Hollins - CCAC - Diagnostic Sonography

Madelyn Tresky - IUP - Biology

McKenna Schneider - SRU - Marketing

Landon Nickum - Pitt - Pre-Law

Koston Duehart - Undecided - HVAC

Allyson Marcinko - Ohio State - Psychology and Pre-OT

James Bidoli - Purdue - Aerospace Eng.

Jasmine Subramaniam - Dayton - Undecided

Kali Kilhof - IUP - Forensic Science

Briella Price - Ferris State - Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Fletcher Boice - Florida Instit. of Tech - Aeronautical Science w/Flight

Jackson Brandt - WVU - Forensic Science/Criminology

Alyssa Demeis - Penn State - PA



WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY

By Rita Bean - #729

“Everyone has a story worth sharing!” Have you thought about writing your life story as a legacy for your family or as a creative and reflective activity? How do you make decisions about what to share? Are you interested in getting ideas that will jog your memories? What motivates you to keep writing? We invite you to join your friends on this writing journey!

We are pleased that we have the enrollment needed to hold our workshop, Writing Your Life Story. At the same time, we encourage others who are interested to put their names on the wait list (see sheet posted in the mailroom).

At times, residents need to withdraw, and we would like to have a list of individuals who we can call, if that happens. This 8-session workshop will be held on Mondays, 1:30-3:30 p.m., from September 28 through November 16, 2026.

The workshop will be held in Sherwood Oaks Room on Lower Level. Facilitators for this workshop are Rita Bean, (412-780-9371); Donna Moul (412-209-8796), and Bill Moul (412-956-4707).

MARK NORD
Our “New” Senior Director

By John Hennon - #165



Photo submitted by Mark Nord

Many of us got to know Mark Nord during his five-year tenure as Sherwood Oaks’ Skilled Nursing Administrator. Since the beginning of May, Mark has undertaken greater responsibilities as the new Senior Director of Sherwood Oaks.

Mark’s journey as an advocate for the elderly began as a teenager in his home town of New Castle, PA when his grandmother became ill. Mark helped his mother provide care and realized that he was very comfortable in that role. As he explained recently, “I always enjoyed being around seniors.”

After graduating from New Castle High School, Mark attended Grove City College where he received his Bachelor of Science degree with concentrations in Business, Computer, and Financial Management. He subsequently received a Master of Business Administration degree from Robert Morris University.

Next came a less-than-satisfying five years working alone in a cubicle as a software engineer writing computer code. And then in 2005 Mark found his true calling was helping seniors in the world of long-term care when

he accepted a position with PennMed Consultants, a nursing home management company that operated a number of senior living facilities throughout Pennsylvania. Over the next 16 years Mark gained valuable experience working as an administrator at several Western Pennsylvania nursing homes before ultimately arriving at Sherwood Oaks in 2021. Needless to say, he is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator.

Mark resides in Neshannock Township near New Castle. His family consists of his fiancée Stacey and three teenaged children: Madison, Dan, and Katie. Mark enjoys outdoor activities, particularly fly fishing, and he goes hunting as his busy schedule allows. But his longtime passion is golf. It might not be a coincidence that Mark’s home is just down the road from Castle Hills Golf Course where he has played regularly since he was a boy.

Mark is a proud member of the Eintracht Maennerchor, a male chorus sponsored by New Castle’s Eintracht Singing Society that is dedicated to preserving and presenting German and American songs. He is also the current Church Council President for St. John’s Lutheran Church in New Castle.

During the few months that Mark has been in his new role, he has spent quite a bit of time reviewing the entire scope of Sherwood Oaks’ operations. Commenting on what crosses his desk daily regarding the various departments, Mark noted with a chuckle that “the volume of information is large!”

One of his initial objectives was getting up to speed on the major projects currently underway, such as the ongoing work on the campus plumbing system and Armstrong’s upgrades to our telecommunications network. After familiarizing himself with the intricacies of these and other multi-year initiatives, Mark recently began having discussions with department heads to gather their thoughts on potential new

Sherwood Oaks projects and priorities for physical plant and services improvements over the next five years.

Compared to other senior living facilities where he has worked, Mark is regularly impressed by what he described as the “friendliness, kindness, and genuineness” of Sherwood Oaks staff and residents. He might have inadvertently created a new motto for Sherwood Oaks by referring to our community as “a great place to be, a great place to work, and great people to know.”



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
JIM PIEFFER**

By Jean Henderson - #346

Jim Pieffer, President and CEO of Presbyterian SeniorCare Network, has received The Paul P. Haas Lifetime Achievement Award from LeadingAge PA, a trade association representing over 400 mission-driven senior providers across PA. The award was presented to Jim in recognition of his excellence in leadership.

Jim, an Adams Township resident, surely played a pivotal role in Sherwood Oaks’ transition in management from UPMC to PSCN. He spent many hours with our leadership team and also spoke at several resident meetings addressing the management changes.

Jim began with PSCN - a non-profit serving older adults - in 1985, leading PSCN to be recognized as a leader and innovator in the field of aging services. He has overseen development and renovation of over 40 senior communities

during his career, which began with a Master’s in Health Administration from Pitt. We’re proud of our friend and neighbor, Jim Pieffer.



CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

Service at 2:00 p.m. in the Card Room
Everyone is welcome
Bring a friend

Sunday, September 6
Rev. Joe Toomey
Life Pointe Alliance Church
Cranberry Twp.

Sunday, September 13
Rev. Doug Graham
Urban Impact – Pittsburgh

Sunday, September 20
Rev. Amy Wagner
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church
Allison Park, PA

Sunday, September 27
Rev. Dena Roy
Cranberry United Presbyterian Church
Cranberry Twp.

When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.
– C. K. Chesterton

SPECIAL MINI-CONCERT WITH RIVER CITY BRASS!

By Rita Bean - #729

The Entertainment Committee invites residents to a one-hour concert on September 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., featuring James Gourlay, Music Director and CEO of River City Brass, joined by two members of the River City Brass ensemble.



Photo provided by River City Brass

Internationally recognized as one of the leading tuba soloists and conductors of his generation, Gourlay has performed with ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, and has been heard on numerous soundtracks like *Yentl*, *Star Wars*, *Batman*, and *Superman*.

This informal concert offers a chance to hear James and his RCB colleagues up close, in a program that showcases the incredible range and warmth of brass music.

We'll travel through a variety of musical styles, from classical and traditional repertoire to pop, fan favorites, and more.

Expect great playing, good stories, a few laughs, and some incredible music!

OFFICER DAN ON THE NATIONAL PARKS

By Rita Bean - #729

Want to Learn More About the National Park Service? Join us on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 1:30 in the auditorium when we welcome Dan Johnston, Sherwood Oaks Security Officer, who will talk about his 22 years of service with the National Park Service.

Dan is a graduate of Seneca Valley School District; he also attended Butler Community College and received his bachelor's degree from Slippery Rock University in 1991.

He has worked in a number of national park sites, including the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Johnstown Flood National Memorial, and at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. He spent 16 years at C&O Canal National Historical Park in Maryland as a Law Enforcement Ranger. This park was a dream of George Washington, who saw it as an important route for transporting goods from the eastern part of the new country to the west.

After Dan retired from the park service, he came back to Pittsburgh and joined Sherwood Oaks as a member of the security team. His presentation will highlight his many experiences and adventures as a member of the National Park Service.



Photo courtesy of Dan Johnston

INTRODUCING A CONCIERGE:

LUCY BLACKFORD

By Rosemary Coffey - #113

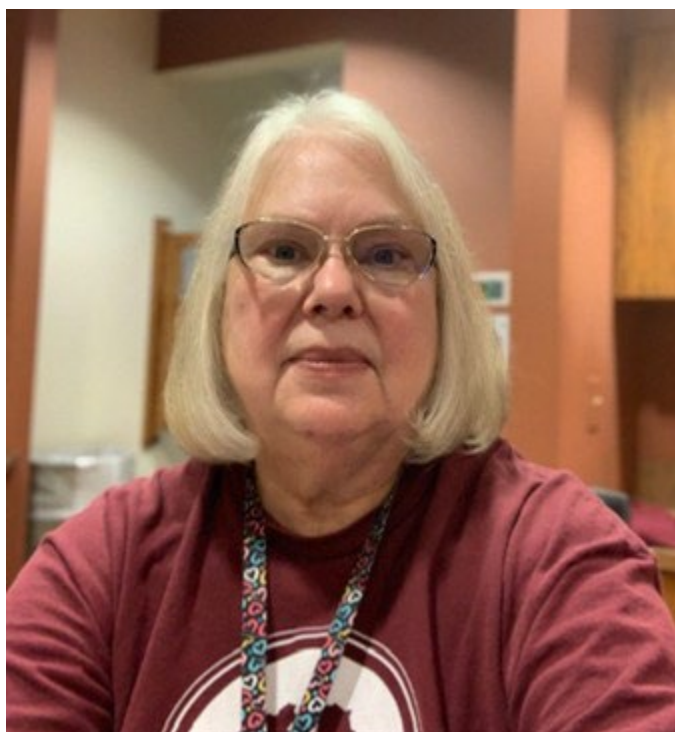


Photo shared by Lucy

Lucy Blackford has been a concierge at Sherwood Oaks for three and a half years. In her current role, she answers calls, assists with Oak Lodge and event reservations, and handles a variety of front desk responsibilities. Fortunately, she likes helping residents with work orders, away forms, room reservations, and any other issues that may arise throughout the day.

When she's not at work, Lucy enjoys reading and spending time with her family: three daughters (Melissa, Krystina, and Dawn Marie), six grandchildren, and (so far!) two great-grandchildren living in Florida. Watching her family grow has become one of her greatest joys. She also appreciates the companionship of her three cats.

In her past life, she worked for thirteen years as a contract administrator at the Network Operations Center at the University of Pittsburgh, where she was responsible for keeping equipment in shape by communicating with vendors as needed. Then, after taking a year off, she worked at the Paramount Senior Living Community for two years. When it closed down, staff had 24 days to find new accommodations for the 46 people who were living there!

After getting to know Cranberry Place, where she had physical therapy related to knee surgery, Lucy became aware of a part-time receptionist job there. If she was interested, she was told to go to the UPMC website and fill out an application. In doing so, she noticed a similar job description at Sherwood Oaks, so she applied for that one instead. Now she works a Wednesday to Tuesday schedule, followed by a week off. In the summers, that means spending time at or near her pool, where she also welcomes family members as their schedules permit.

Lucy appreciates the relationships she has built with residents and coworkers during her time at Sherwood Oaks and looks forward to continuing to serve the community for many years to come. We, as residents, look forward also to Lucy's time working with us!



From Living with Loss...

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

The LWL team has scheduled its annual memorial service for Saturday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. This non-denominational service honors all residents who have died since September 27 of 2025.

The program includes appropriate music and readings, and the acknowledgement of each resident with a flower added to a larger bouquet.

Family members of those being remembered will be invited to attend.

and ...

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

LWL will also sponsor a grief support group, to meet Tuesdays, October 20 and 27 and November 3 and 10. The group will meet in the Lower Level conference room at 1:30 p.m. It will be facilitated by Rev. Sam Blair, a Chaplain with Bridges Hospice.

More information and signups will be available in early October.



TRIPS AND TOURS TRAFFIC

By Maggie Bennardo - #211

We are back after our summer hiatus, but know that we have been busy planning for upcoming events. During this month, along with a dinner trip to Chen's, and a lunch planned for The Turn, both close by, a longer day trip to The Warther Museum is upcoming.

The Museum, located in Ohio's Amish Country, is home to the works of Ernest Warther. Within the beautiful gardens, workshops, and other buildings we will discover the reason he has been named the World's Master Carver. During his 82 years of what began as "whittling", Ernest created many unique pieces, mostly focused on steam engines. His wife tended to the home and gardens while amassing a 73,000-button collection. Watch for the announcement on 950 and on the board in the mailroom.

T&T Committee is planning a day trip to the Powdermill Avian Research Center located in the Laurel Highlands in October. Hopefully, the leaves will cooperate and it will be a colorful ride. An excursion to Johnstown for a visit at the Johnstown Flood Museum is also in planning stages. More details to come.

We are adding, as a reminder....

Trips and Tours is a SORA Activity committee whose members are tasked with proposing, planning, promoting and hosting events for Sherwood Oaks residents' enjoyment. We look at potential events with an eye to compatible accommodation, reasonable cost, availability, distance/time, and participation. Transportation costs are divided among participants. When participation is small, the cost per person becomes prohibitive.

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

In past columns, I've mentioned climate tipping points, but we need to be clear about what the term means. If I slowly tilt back in my chair, there will come a point when I suddenly crash to the floor at a rapid and accelerating rate. At some point, the frog in the pot of slowly heating water will suddenly realize that it needs to hop out of the pot.

On August 14, 2021, unprecedented rain fell for the first time in recorded history at Greenland's ice sheet summit, dumping 7 billion tons of water, which is enough to generate hydropower. A study by NASA revealed that Greenland's ice is melting on average seven times faster than it was at the beginning of the study period. Climate change is inevitable. Led by O'right CEO Steven Ko, a team of reporters visited 11 towns to conduct in-depth interviews with experts, scholars, government officials, and local residents from all walks of life.

As our planet continues to warm, it is very likely that we have passed the tipping point for the ice melt of Greenland. If that is true, when the melt is done, our global oceans will have risen by 24 feet. Today, 40% of world population lives in coastal areas, and 12 of the 15 largest cities are located on an ocean coast. You see the problem.

And it's likely that all of that cold water flowing into the ocean will slow or stop the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). Look it up.

We must stop heating our planet.

Watch *Melting Greenland* on Channel 950 on Monday, September 14, at 10:00 AM. Encore presentation on Wednesday, September 16, at 3:30 PM.

PHINEAS FIGG IS BACK IN TOWN

By Frank and Joanne Weiss - #154

After a long winter nap at our daughter's home in Wexford, Phineas Figg is back at Sherwood Oaks

He was given an upgrade on his accommodations this year. He napped in their garage instead of being buried in their compost pile. And he loved it!



Photo by Frank Weiss

The report is that he was already showing buds in February. The only downside were the jarring bumps he received during transport in the family cars.

This Summer, when he was covered with leaves and dozens of tiny figs, he was brought (pot and all) to his favorite sunny spot on our patio at #154. There, he spends his days just soaking up the rays and ripening his figs.

So, if you happen to pass along the Pembroke walkway, stop and take a look. He loves attention.

THE OLD VIOLIN

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by John Bridges

This story is a Sherwood Oaks tale, if ever there was one; the kind where neighbors connect, discover a common interest, and work together to solve a problem.

When Sid Baxendale moved here, he brought with him a family heirloom passed down over four generations: a lovely violin which the family had always believed to be a Stradivarius.

Sid has thorough documentation of the violin's genealogy. According to family lore, his great-great (or great-) grandfather traded a plough for the violin in England. The instrument came with Sid's grandfather when he immigrated to the States in 1910. And there it stayed, in the family home in Clinton, Indiana until Sid's father moved to a retirement home in 1995.

In 1982, Sid had obtained an opinion from a violinist colleague at Indiana University that the violin was, sadly, not a Strad. Later, when cleaning out his dad's home, he found the instrument in a box in the basement, where the weight of other boxes on it had caused it to disassemble; it was in pieces.

Fast forward to the Baxendale's move to Sherwood Oaks, where Sid met John Bridges who, he learned, had constructed a violin for his late wife, Sheila. Would John take a look at Sid's family heirloom? Could he repair it?



Photo by John Bridges

John, age 98, agreed to try, and began what became a six-month process requiring knowledge, patience, and a steady hand.

John recounts:

"The sides had been bent to shape, but many were distorted, with pieces broken off and missing. I tried to align them with front and back, but the width of the edge remains more variable than it should in a well-made violin."

He continues, “The triangular liner strips were likewise broken or missing, and I had to make many replacements before gluing them in place.

“Over the years, many pieces were scratched or dented, sufficiently to reveal white wood. To remedy these and the new replacements, I searched in vain at seven local stores for a wood *dye* (as distinct from a wood *stain*). I was eventually led to a cobbler running a shop in Wexford, where he had a range of leather dyes which work well on wood.

The tail piece was missing, but a friend offered an old damaged one, which was able to be repaired with epoxy.

“I am grateful to many residents who offered help throughout the project, offering suggestions and samples of string,” says John. But it was John Hayter who supplied the thin shoelaces that were finally used to attach the tail piece.

He reports that the head needed little attention and was glued into place without problem. Leftover strings from his late wife, Sheila’s, stock were used.

“The bridge was missing, but I found a new one at a violin shop in Wexford.”

While John worked on the violin, Sid turned to the bow, which he knew had not been “haired” in many years, and he plans to have that done soon. He notes the tension side is “locked solid.” Attempts have been made to free it in the wood shop, to no avail, so Sid will consult a professional.

The bow is stamped “TOURTE” and has “XVIII” scratched on it. An expert will have to determine if it is genuine or, like the violin, a good copy.



Photo by John Bridges



Photo by Betsy Baxendale

Above, owner Sid (L) and conservator John (R) admire the finished project, which initiated a new friendship.

CONTINUED LEARNING

By Jno L. Hunt - #308

We are pleased to offer seven outstanding presentations this fall. The series will be on **Mondays, starting on September 14 and running through October 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium.**

Our first speaker will be our own Monika Dalrymple, sharing her travel experiences from "Prague to Paris" on Monday, **September 14.**

The following presentations will be:

September 21: Dan Johnson, one of our security guards, will share his experiences as a ranger in our national parks.

September 28: Gretchen McKay, food editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette will speak on dining experiences.

October 5: Lauren Dietz Shaffer (Winnie's daughter) will return to present her insights on bird watching in western Pennsylvania.

October 12: Migue Sague will return on Indigenous Peoples Day to share with us his insights into the native peoples of the Caribbean.

October 19: Rachel Bezanson, Prof. of Astronomy at Pitt will provide us with the latest information we are receiving back from our telescopes.

October 26: Shannon Reed, a local author, will speak about her publications.

In the meantime, enjoy our presentations on Channel 950. Initial airings on Tuesdays are at 10:00 a.m., and encore presentations are on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

Tues., Sept. 1: "Gustav Mahler - Origins."
Encore on Thurs., Sept. 3

Tues., Sept. 8: "The Brain - Why do I Need You?" Encore on Thurs., Sept. 10

Tues., Sept. 15: "The Pittsburgh Steelers - Behind the Steel Curtain." Encore on Thurs., Sept. 17

Tues., Sept. 22: "The Holy Land Revealed" - Lectures 33 & 34. Encore on Thurs., Sept. 24

Tues., Sept. 29: "Reinventing Recycling." Encore on Thurs., Oct. 1

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## CURIO CABINETS

By Janet Desko - #210

A big Thank You to all the residents who brought their "vacation Time" items to the cabinets for August.

Our theme for September/October will be "School Days." Janie Cindric and I look forward to gathering your mementos from grade school, high school, college, university, etc. These could include photographs, newspaper clippings, yearbooks, T-shirts, hats or souvenirs from former students or roommates.

Pick up your "Vacation Time" items on Tuesday, September 8 from 10:30 a.m. – noon and from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Then, on Thursday, September 10, bring your "School Days" items from 10:30 a.m. – noon and from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

We can't wait to see what wondrous things everyone unearths for this "School Days" theme.

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Thea Stover, Secretary - # 606

**Note:** Complete minutes are always available for review on the SORA Bulletin Board in the mailroom, in the SORA binder in the library and on the Sherwood APP.

### **The Board met on August 4, 2026, with the following information shared:**

Finance: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$22,629.85 and the Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$25,612.43. The SORA Operating Fund balance is \$112,276.85.

Trips and Tours: September 10 is dinner at Chen's and September 25 is lunch at The Turn. A trip to either the Warther Museum in Dover, Ohio or the Carnegie International is being planned for September 15.

Continuing Education: A series of 7 speakers is scheduled starting Monday, September 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Woodshop: A camera has been set up in the woodshop due to concerns that people are entering the woodshop and using equipment they are not qualified to use.

Pool, Spa and Locker rooms: The committee asked maintenance to address benches, grab bars, flooring and painting which need work.

Sherwood Gifts: Sales amounted to \$35,000 this year which means revenue from sales was 3 times over the previous year.

Technology: There are 2 loaner laptops that are now available to residents. If interested, please contact a member of the committee.

Entertainment: The River City Brass Band will perform on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Sherwood Neighbors: Looking for volunteers to play games and do activities with Personal Care residents.

Living with Loss: Memorial Service for residents who have passed away since last September will be held on September 23, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Dementia 360 program by Amy Kowinsky will be repeated on Thursday, October 15 at 10:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Book Club: Meets on the second Tuesday at 3:30 PM now in Oak Lodge. Current book is always shown on Channel 950 and poster in mailroom.

New Operating Treasurer: If you are or if you know someone who would be interested in this position, please contact Beth Brown.

Updated By-Laws: The Board approved the revised By-Laws which are posted in the mailroom. Residents will vote on them at the Quarterly Meeting (Tuesday, September 15, 2026).

Administration: Mark Nord stated that Independent Occupancy as of August 1 is at 71% and the newer renovated units are over 90%.

With changes to telephone numbers, the Resident Handbook will be revised and updated. The goal is to release a newly printed copy by mid-September.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the Card Room

Residents Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

*All the months are crude  
experiments, out of which the  
perfect September is made.*

~ Virginia Woolf

## WORTH A LOOK

### Books New to Our Library

By Barbara Christy - #237

#### ***American Rambler: Walking the Trail of Johnny Appleseed***

by Isaac Fitzgerald. Non-fiction. ***American Rambler*** is a story about Americana; about searching. Inspired by childhood tales from living in Johnny Appleseed's hometown, the author follows the myths to find something true about himself and about America. Over the course of a year, Fitzgerald walks in Appleseed's footsteps, following the path Chapman took. He includes lesser-known facts of Appleseed's biography—that he belonged to an obscure Christian sect, or that the bitter, hard apples he distributed were used almost exclusively for making alcoholic beverages. Fitzgerald also weaves in his own history and memoir seamlessly: describing being nearly hit by a train, being taken in and sheltered by strangers, reckoning with his own relationship with alcohol and his family's shadow of mental illness. From graphic descriptions of sleeping rough, gas station bathrooms and hostile dogs to philosophical contemplation of human kindness, loss and grief, faith and religion the author finds hope and resolution in a true American odyssey and an antidote to the breakneck pace of modern life. 920APP

***American Men*** by Jordan Ritter Conn. Non-fiction. This book would be more aptly titled *Four American Men* as it draws from five years of interviewing four men, following them through their daily lives, interweaving their stories into a

mosaic that explores identity, heritage, and the pressures and performance of modern American masculinity. Ryan lives on a Mohawk reservation, likes martial arts and is struggling to come to terms with both his sexuality as a closeted gay man and his draw toward bar room violence. There is Gideon, a West Point graduate and former baseball star who can't cope with challenges to his status as the masculine ideal. Also featured is Joseph, a Seattle law student whose troubled marriage is undergirded by the effects of childhood sexual trauma and Nate, an Ohio man still living at home and trying to establish security for himself in a rural pocket of a red state. Nate is under threat as someone who is Black, trans, and poor. With themes of identity and masculinity, this book explores their struggles, successes and failures and insights as they try to build families, friendships, and fuller relationships to themselves. 305.31 CON

***Pineapple Street*** by Jenny Jackson. Fiction. On the lighter side this humorous, escapist novel chronicles the lives of siblings Darley and Georgiana and their brother's new wife (and outlander) Sasha. Fabulously wealthy, they are among the 1% of New York society and their daily concerns are unknown to the rest of us. To have – or have not – a prenuptial? How to score a reservation at the new hottest restaurant in town? Whether to take a yoga class or a golf lesson? But they have real world problems and their efforts to deal with them are both hilarious and heartwarming. A good beach read. FJAC

***The National Road: George Washington and America's First Highway West*** by Brady J. Crytzer. Non-fiction. This book comes in honor of our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It spans eighty years from the 1730's to the 1830's and is the history of the ambitious federal project that connected the young United States across the Alleghenies and into the western frontier. Originally a pet project of a young surveyor, George Washington, who wanted to unite the Potomac and Ohio Rivers, it became a means of securing more land for settlement, supporting a developing economy and extending democracy. Told with a scope that covers early settlers braving natural and man-made threats to contentious battles in the halls of Congress and includes obstacles like the Civil War, funding crises, and competition from the railroads. This is an absorbing stroll through a part of American history that is often overlooked. 388.109 CRY

***Don't Say a Word*** by Allison Brennan. Fiction. When the police determine that their son's death is the result of an accidental overdose, the parents turn to private detective Margo Angelhart to learn what really happened. Working for once with her family and not against them, Margo unearths three years of drug-dealing at the high school and no evidence that the honor student victim was involved. Despite threats from the drug cartel and possible collusion by the police that masquerades as indifference Margo and her high-school accomplice get to the bottom of the mystery. FBRE



## MEANT TO BE?

By Jim Seanor - #217

Many years ago, during a vacation cruise and while browsing the ship's jewelry store, my wife purchased a glass cube. Etched in the center of the cube were two swans. When questioned why she had chosen that particular cube, she replied, "I'm not sure, but I really like those swans."



Photo by Jim Seanor

Six years ago, we moved to Sherwood Oaks for two reasons: to be closer to family members and to utilize the outstanding medical facilities available for the care of dementia patients.

Recently, while going through my wife's jewelry collection, I discovered the long-forgotten glass cube. Currently, my wife and I spend many hours sitting in the beautiful glass-enclosed sunroom in the Oak Grove Center.

Almost daily, we see Oakley and Sherman, the two swans that inhabit our lake. As the swans gracefully transit to and from our view, I cannot help thinking that their presence is somehow connected to the glass cube purchased long ago. Predestination or incidental occurrence? You decide.

**THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS**  
**FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVD's**

|                                           |                   |         |            |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|------------|
| 26 Beauties                               | Patterson, James  | c. 2026 | F PAT      |
| Adaptation                                |                   | c. 2003 | F ADA DVD  |
| The Anniversary                           | Finlay, Alex      | c.2026  | F FIN      |
| The Brothers McKay                        | Johnson, Craig    | c.2026  | F JOH      |
| Camelot                                   |                   | c. 2012 | F CAM DVD  |
| The Correspondent                         | Evans, Virginia   | c. 2025 | F EVA L.T. |
| Elegy                                     |                   | c. 2006 | F ELE DVD  |
| The First Time I Saw Him                  | Dave, Laura       | c. 2026 | F DAV      |
| The Fourth Option                         | Carr, Jack        | c. 2026 | F CAR      |
| Friendly Persuasion                       |                   | c. 2001 | F FRI DVD  |
| Harlem Shuffle                            | Whitehead, Colson | c. 2021 | F WHI      |
| A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius | Eggers, Dave      | c. 2000 | F EGG      |
| The In-laws                               |                   | c. 2016 | F IN- DVD  |
| Intermezzo                                |                   | c. 1998 | F INT      |
| Kubo and the Two Strings                  |                   | c. 2016 | F KUB DVD  |
| Last One Out                              | Harper, Jane      | c. 2025 | F HAR      |
| Les Misérables                            |                   | c. 2013 | F LES DVD  |
| Little Big Man                            |                   | c. 1970 | F LIT DVD  |
| Men Behaving Badly. Season One            |                   | c. 2005 | F MEN DVD  |
| Neil Simon's Murder by Death              |                   | c. 2001 | F MUR DVD  |
| The Other Side of Mrs. Wood               | Barker, Lucy      | c. 2023 | F BAR      |
| The Producers                             |                   | c. 2006 | F PRO DVD  |
| Radio Days                                |                   | c. 2001 | F RAD DVD  |
| The Red Balloon: Le Ballon Rouge          |                   | c. 2008 | F RED DVD  |
| Rocket's Red Glare                        | Patterson, James  | c. 2026 | F PAT      |
| RV                                        |                   | c. 2006 | F RV DVD   |
| The Sting                                 |                   | c. 2012 | F STI DVD  |
| Theo of Golden                            | Levi, Allen       | c. 2026 | F LEV L.T. |
| This Book Made Me Think of You            | Page, Libby       | c. 2026 | F PAG      |
| Triple Crown                              | Francis, Dick     | c. 2016 | F FRA      |
| Wait for Me                               | Burns, Amy Jo     | c. 2026 | F BUR      |
| Waking Ned Devine                         |                   | c. 2011 | F WAK DVD  |
| Whistler                                  | Patchett, Ann     | c. 2026 | F PAT      |
| You Can't Take It With You                |                   | c. 2008 | F YOU DVD  |

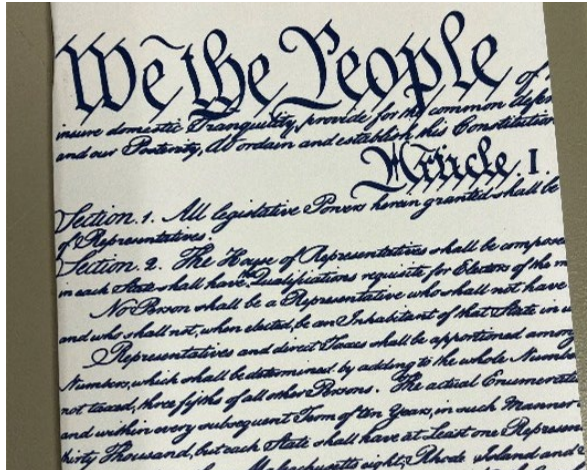
## **NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES**

|                                                                                                                            |                        |          |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Alexander Hamilton, American                                                                                               | Brookhiser, Richard    | c. 1999  | 973.40 BRO                       |
| The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness                       | Haidt, Jonathan        | c. 2024  | 305.230 HAI                      |
| Brats: Our Journey Home                                                                                                    | Brats                  | c. 2005  | 355.12 BRA<br>DVD                |
| Bush at War                                                                                                                | Woodward, Bob          | c. 2002  | 973.931 WOO                      |
| Centennial: The Great Fair of 1876 and the Invention of America's Future                                                   | Bordewich, Fergus M.   | c. 2026  | 606.4 BOR                        |
| Crucible of War: The Seven Years' War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766                           | Anderson, Fred         | c. 2000. | 973.2 AND                        |
| The Elephant Whisperer: Learning about Life, Loyalty and Freedom from a Remarkable Herd of Elephants                       | Anthony, Lawrence      | c. 2009  | 599.670 ANT                      |
| Extras: Ricky Gervais Extra Special Series Finale                                                                          |                        | c. 2007  | 721 EXT DVD<br>791.45 EXT<br>DVD |
| Extras: The Story of a Man with Small Parts                                                                                |                        | c. 2007  |                                  |
| In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart: Hope for the Hurting                                                                     | Graham, Ruth           | c. 2004  | 248.86 GRA<br>973.92 BER         |
| The Last Patrician                                                                                                         | Beran, Michael Knox    | c. 1999  | p.b.                             |
| Mindfulness Goes Mainstream                                                                                                | Mind                   | c. 2017  | 150 MIN DVD                      |
| Partners in Power: The Clintons and Their America                                                                          | Morris, Roger          | c. 1996  | 973.92 MOR<br>966.62 PRA<br>DVD  |
| Pray the Devil Back to Hell                                                                                                | Pray                   | c. 2008  |                                  |
| Silent Warriors, Incredible Courage: The Declassified Stories of Cold War Reconnaissance Flights and the Men Who Flew Them | Samuel, Wolfgang W. E. | c. 2019  | 358.4 SAM                        |
| Stand                                                                                                                      | Booker, Cory           | c. 2026  | 973 BOO                          |
| The U.S. Constitution: A Comprehensive and Annotated Guide for the Modern Reader                                           | Murray, Melissa        | c.2026   | 342.730 MUR                      |
| Washington's General: Nathanael Greene and the Triumph of the American Revolution                                          | Golway, Terry          | c. 2005  | BIO GRE                          |
| What Conservatives Believe: Rediscovering the Conservative Conscience                                                      | Pence, Mike            | c. 2026  | 320.52 PEN                       |
| Where We Keep the Light: Stories from a Life of Service                                                                    | Shapiro, Josh          | c. 2026  | 621.32 SHA                       |

# A CONSTITUTION QUIZ

Fun for America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday

By Barbara Christy - #237



1. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are known as \_\_\_\_\_
2. The youngest age at which a person can be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives is \_\_\_\_\_
3. What legislative power is given to the House of Representatives alone?
4. What is the definition of "states' rights"?
5. What is a pocket veto?
6. For what executive activities does the Senate have the responsibility to advise and consent?
7. Trials of all crimes shall be by jury except \_\_\_\_\_
8. Treason against the United States is defined as \_\_\_\_\_
9. True or false: The United States shall guarantee to every state a republican form of government.
10. True or false: The United States shall protect each of the states against invasion and, when asked by the legislature, against domestic violence.

(see answers page 21)

## CALLING ALL GOLFERS

By Gary Brandenberger - #602

Sherwood Oaks residents can golf at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course with our Sherwood Oaks group. The golf course is just ten minutes away from us. The group plays nine holes every Wednesday or Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m.

We typically have six to ten golfers, men and women. Senior residents of Cranberry Township receive a special discount. If you are interested, contact Gary Brandenberger by phone at 724-591-5385 or by email at [gbrandenberger@webtv.net](mailto:gbrandenberger@webtv.net).

There should be several weeks of good weather before we 'shut down' with the cold weather. Come and enjoy!



## OUTDOOR GAMES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602

Sherwood Oaks Park is a beautiful place to enjoy many outdoor games. We have ALL the equipment. All you need to do is bring three friends to enjoy one of our games, including Bocce ball, cornhole, shuffleboard, golf ball driving net and pickleball. Check posted pickleball schedule.

Croquet and putting are played at the greens by the Oak Lodge. Equipment is available at all locations.

Someone is always at the Park every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. to show you all the facilities, weather permitting. We have some good weather coming, so come and enjoy yourselves.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Bill of Rights
2. 25
3. Power of the purse
4. The political powers and authorities kept by individual state governments rather than by the federal government.
5. Pocket veto is a legislative maneuver by which the president can block a bill by refusing to sign it.
6. On international treaties and nomination of high-ranking federal officials and judges.
7. Trials of impeachment
8. Treason involves levying war against the U.S. or by giving aid or comfort to its enemies.
9. True
10. True



*"The President is a servant of the Constitution and not its master. There is nothing explicit or implicit in that instrument which exempts him from a duty the law imposes on all competent human beings."* ~ US Senator Sam Ervin

*"The problem is whether the American people have loyalty enough, honor enough, patriotism enough, to live up to their own Constitution."*

~ Frederick Douglas

*"Conceived in Grecian thought, strengthened by Christian morality, and stamped incredibly into American political philosophy, the right of the individual against the State is the keystone of our Constitution."*

~ John F. Kennedy

## T T F N

By John Bridges - #122

The title, **Ta Ta For Now** reminds me of stories about characters returning unexpectedly into our lives.

Soon after arriving in the states 40 years ago, I joined the Sailing Club at Lake Arthur and was soon helping kids to build little Optimist sail boats and teaching them to sail. Last year I was taken to the hospital in an ambulance. The driver took one look at me and said, "You're the man who built my boat."

When living in Chile, a German family were our next-door neighbors. Due to Allende they had to leave in a hurry and contact was lost. Years later we were living in the States and one day I found myself in the transit lounge of Bogota Airport. Who should I see there but my former Chilean neighbor, visiting Colombia on a consulting job. Contact was established for future e-mails and later we were able to visit them in their new German home.

Another popular pastime in Chile was mountain walking and climbing. One day we were on the rim of a volcano when there was an earthquake. Instead of the usual lateral tremors, this one consisted of vertical shocks which lifted us off our feet. A German friend was with us who had invited us to meet his mother when she visited him. Years later we got on a plane to visit Europe from the States, and the lady in front of us turned and said "I think I know you." In the following conversation, it turned out that she was the mother of our German friend.

When I was growing up in Wales, the small group of English kids quickly became friends, but contact was lost after the war and we returned to our previous homes. Years later I was living at Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight and one evening decided to walk down to the harbor to look at the

activity. On the Quay I found a previous friend from Wales who was now a cadet on a sailing vessel and had rowed ashore for a quick visit to obtain supplies. Contact addresses were exchanged and we kept in contact for many years and were able to visit our homes and introduce our acquired wives.



## TIME TO RING AND SING!

By Jean Henderson - #346



Mark September 30 on your calendar for the start of Handbell and Chorus rehearsals. Both groups are always looking for new singers and ringers!

The Handbell group meets at 1:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, and Chorus convenes there at 2:30 p.m. No auditions are required; an ability to read music is helpful.

Both groups will be directed by Lyn Marsh, and concerts will be planned at the holidays and in the Spring.

Come join the fun!



## A GARDEN AS ART

By Jan Wendt - #158

Stroll down the walkway from Parking Lot D and behold a flower garden like no other at Sherwood Oaks. It sits colorfully alongside Carol and Reed Harvey's unit #235.

You'll behold nine metal flowers of varying heights. These thrive season in and out, in sun and rain. They require almost no maintenance.



Photos by Jan Wendt

These blossoms are propagated in a garage in Carrollton, Ohio and made from sheet metal and unused parts of tools. The business is "Built by Pottsy". Carol says the business is only open for a few hours two days a week.

Carol and Reed first spied the metal flowers in a neighbor's yard when they lived at Freedom Crossing in Economy Borough. They were fascinated by the color and detail. Reed presented one as an anniversary gift, and a tradition was born.

There are now nine blossoms in the Harvey's collection.

When your mood needs a lift, walk over and enjoy.

## The Bridge

By Dorothy Hallard

Submitted by Rosemary Coffey - #113

*The way I walk I see my mother walking,*

*My feet secure and firm upon the  
ground*

*The way I talk I hear my daughter  
talking,*

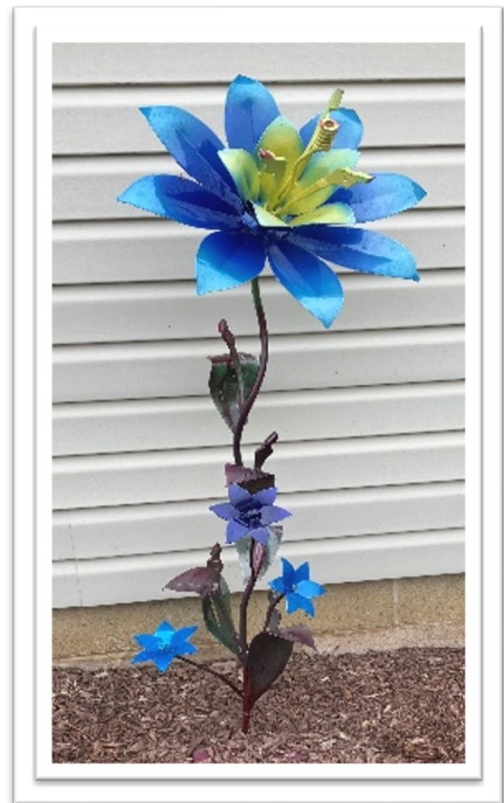
*And hear my mother's echo in the sound*

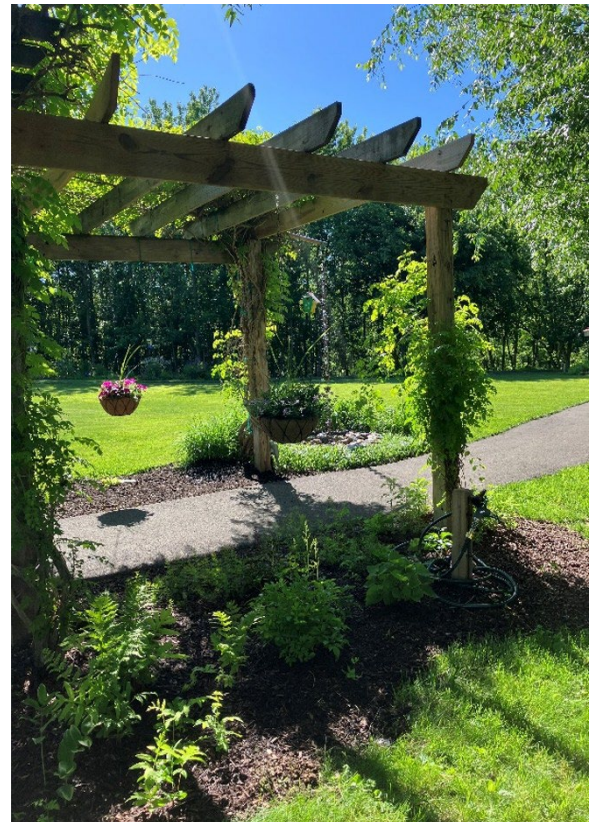
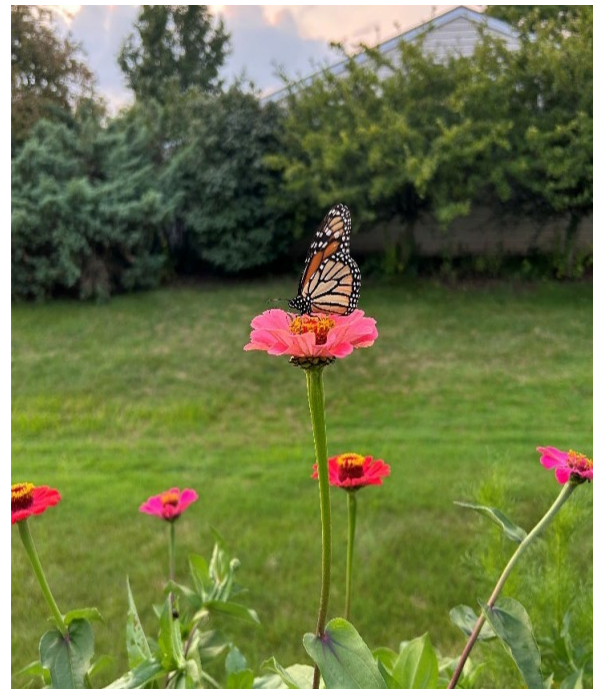
*The way she thought I find myself now  
thinking,*

*The generation linking in my mind.*

*The bridge of immortality I'm walking,*

*The voice before me echoing behind.*





**Summer snapshots** from residents, whimsical and beautiful. Clockwise (L to R) - Missy Wentz housekeeping), Jack Dills, Jan Wendt, Mike Desko, and Dee Welk