

The Terrace News

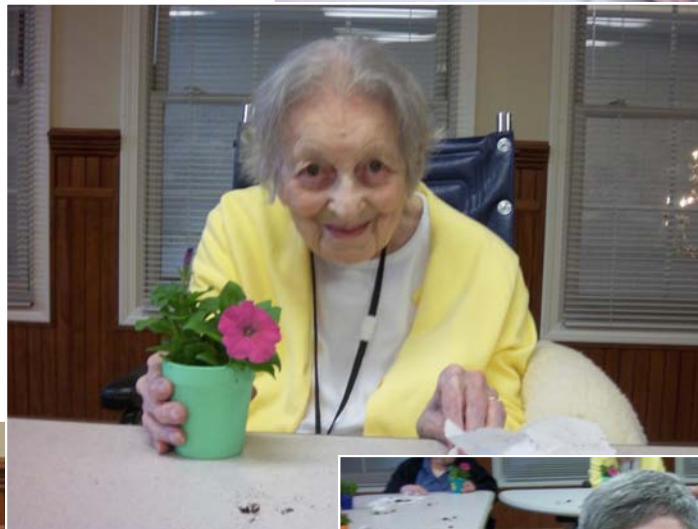
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Spring Craft Project

Terrace resident, Sara Carr, pictured right, Dorothy Raymond, pictured center, along with Dale Osborn and Mabeline Heiger, pictured below, enjoyed the *Spring Craft Project* of potting petunias on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, in the LEC.

Many residents participated, and left with lovely potted plants to add to their apartment décor, or to gift to a friend or family member.



Female Mallard Lays Eggs near Terrace Parking Lot



There is no shortage of wildlife at The Terrace, especially those of the ducks family. And resident Dale Osborn makes sure they are fed, watered, and comfortable. This mallard female laid ten eggs in the landscaping mulch under a bush just in front of the Terrace. Dale checks on her several times a day to make certain all is going as well as can be.

Once hatched, there should be a scurry of padded little feet for people to enjoy as they come and go from The Terrace. Hopefully, they will arrive just in time for Easter, but the projected date is April 13.

Upon hatching, the plumage coloring of the duckling is yellow on the underside and face (with streaks by the eyes) and black on the backside (with some yellow spots) all the way to the top and back of the head. Its legs and bill are also black. As it nears a month in age, the duckling's plumage will start becoming drab, looking more like the female (though its plumage is more streaked) and its legs will lose their dark grey coloring. Two months after hatching, the fledgling period has ended and the duckling is now a juvenile. Between three to four months of age, the juvenile can finally begin flying as its wings are fully developed for flight (which can be confirmed by the sight of purple speculum feathers). Its bill will soon lose its dark grey coloring and its sex can finally be distinguished by three factors. The bill coloring is yellow in males, black and orange for females. The breast feathers are reddish-brown for males, brown for females. The center tail feather is curled for males (called a drake feather), straight for females.

Terrace Cookie Decorating

Yes! They were a hit! The only difficult part of decorating shamrock-shaped cookies in recognition of St. Patrick's Day was waiting to eat them. Dorothy Johnson is pictured to the right decorating her cookie with Betty Crocker green icing.



Nancy Frye, pictured at the bottom of this page, may have been tasting hers along the way. And to

the left above is Marjorie Woodall, spreading the tasty sweet icing on her cookie.

Baking classes and holiday celebrations often combine to make a fun and "tasteful" activity.



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Jeanne's Humor by Jeannie Wiggers

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, 'What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?'



Bird of the Month: The Barred Owl by Dorothy Raymond



The Barred Owl is a North American bird found in Canada, the eastern United States, and Mexico. It has more names than any other bird. Some of these are Eight Hooter, Hoot Owl, Wood Owl, Rain Owl, Striped Owl, Northeastern Owl, Crazy Owl, Swamp Owl, Laughing Owl, Round Head Owl, Black Eyed Owl and names of states like Florida Owl. It is a large bird about two feet long with a long tail that has seven light brown bands.

The body is gray-brown with horizontal stripes on the chest and vertical stripes (bars) on the belly. Probably the most distinguishing feature is the eyes. They are brown with dark rings around them. The beak is yellow and the head round with no ear tufts. The ears are just holes in the head, but one ear is higher than the other enabling it to tell whether sounds are coming from above or below.

Barred Owls eat a wide variety of mammals from mice, frogs, squirrels, moles, small birds, etc. Like all owls they swallow their food whole. The Barred Owl, though, will take a large animal and tear it apart with its very sharp beak. Because they swallow their food whole, they regurgitate the bones and fur.

Barred Owls mate for life. Since they don't migrate they tend to remain in the same territory and even use the same nest cavity from year to year. They don't make a nest. They just use an available hole. They lay two to four white round eggs that hatch in four weeks. Then it takes four more weeks before they can fly. In the meanwhile, they crawl out onto branches and sit. At this stage in their life they are called branchers.

The call of the Barred OWL is eight hoots--Who cooks for you. Who cooks for you 'all.