



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Should we call it fall or autumn?

We won't complain about rain or wind or even lower temperatures on Monday as it's a special day. We celebrate the first day of autumn.

Do we call it fall or autumn? The question that comes up so often is why do we call it fall and why do we call it autumn?

In Michigan, we used to call it autumn. But I notice out here we call it fall, so maybe it's a cultural thing?

Have you ever gone on the Farmer's Almanac site?

Oh, my goodness. I could spend half a day researching on the site, almanac.com.

This is what I learned: "On the first day of fall – the autumnal equinox – day and night are each about 12 hours long (with the actual time of equal day and night, in the Northern Hemisphere, occurring a few days after the autumnal equinox. The sun crosses the celestial equator going south; it rises exactly due east and sets exactly due west."

That happens at 6:50 a.m. Pacific Standard Time on Monday, Sept. 23, this year.

Sarah Morgan Bryan Piatt, an American poet who died in 1919, wrote: "It is the summer's great last heat; It is the fall's first chill: They meet."

I suspect that, by the time this paper goes to press, the cooler weather and maybe even much rain will be upon us. I will miss sitting on my porch until the sun goes down. The weather has been such a gift these past few weeks.

But I now look forward to autumn and the many colors of the leaves before they fall.

Another interesting topic to research is the little cell-like scissors that prompt the leaves to fall so they don't fill with water and kill the tree. We are never too old to learn!

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young," That's a quote from Henry Ford.

I always tell my kids that no one has a right to be bored and that includes us seniors.

If you don't have a computer, I'm sure our local library down the road from the post office would love to have you visit its computer lab.

Readers may also enjoy my latest read, a biography of Martha Washington's granddaughter, Nelly Custis.

She was often referred to as Child of Mount Vernon. President George Washington doted on her and meticulously wrote down every penny spent on her.

She was Martha's granddaughter and his step-granddaughter. Yet he spoiled her by giving her whatever her heart desired. Ultimately she did not lead an easy life, however.

In reading stories of people who lived in years past I noticed a phrase that I probably have only heard a few times.

You may remember it or ask your great-grandmother.

Instruction was to never say "I am full" as you leave the dinner table. Instead, one should say "I've had a genteel sufficiency."

A lady named Billie reminded me of that phrase at senior lunch not so long ago.

See you at the library.

Grant: Grassroots downtown team wins award

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cans, plus they want the students to do projects with us."

The Beaverton-based Reser Family Foundation, established by owners of the company that makes deli salads sold at Fred Meyer and other markets, established the grant program to "transform people and places across the state. Our grants aim to provide the broadest public benefit, creating a future that's brighter for all," according to their website.

Reser's Small Community Initiative program is in its inaugural year and Spruce Up Warrenton is the first and only grant recipient this year from a pool of 111 applicants.

"Next year, we will add another community," said Lacey Sortman, the foundation's grant and program coordinator. "It is extremely special. The timing of where they are in their process – they're newly named, it was Downtown Revitalization Team when they first submitted in the spring. ... Their birth with the birth of our program is really great synergy."

Spruce Up has grown from 14 to 27 people this year with 64 documented hours of donated work each month. Members have pressure-washed downtown sidewalks, cleaned the Skipanon River Trail, removed trash and debris from numerous properties and obtained a new sign for Warrenton Community Library.



Spruce Up Warrenton Chair Brenda Hoxsey with her husband, Norm, in front of the Fenton Building.

The group will immediately receive \$5,000 and they'll get an additional \$5,000 as part of a community matching grant. If community members match the amount, Spruce Up will receive a to-

How to help

Until Spruce Up has its own nonprofit registry and bank account, donations can be made to Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids/Spruce Up, P.O. Box 2426, Gearhart OR 97138

tal of \$15,000 in its first year, with \$10,000 more coming each of the next three years.

"We're so excited to

be able to partner with them. The monumental work the volunteers have done is beyond admirable," Sortman said after a meeting with city officials on Wednesday. "We fell in love with them."

"I liked the personal approach I received from Ocean View and I'm relieved to think everything will be in order when the time comes."

—from Sherryan Reische



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Bridge will be closed to
vehicles from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

EVENT HOST



ASTORIA
WARRENTON
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Senior lunch menu

Monday, Sep. 23: Shrimp quiche, roasted potatoes, tomatoes, spinach salad, bread pudding.

Thursday, Sept. 26: Baked chicken, cornbread dressing and gravy, green bean casserole, mixed greens, chocolate cake.

The Warrenton senior lunch program is at noon (doors open at 10:30 a.m.) Mondays and Thursdays at Warrenton Community Center, 170 SW Third St. Suggested donation is \$6 for ages 55 and older; \$7 for those younger. For more information, call 503-861-3502.