



## UNDER THE ACACIA TREE

AUGUST 2018



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ACACIA VILLAGE?

YOUR'RE INVITED TO A CELEBRATION OF FALL BY CINDY

Y'all are invited to put on your western wear  
& kick up your *heels!*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018  
ACACIA VILLAGE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

## FALL FESTIVAL

*Special fall buffet*  
*4:30PM to 6:00PM*  
*\$10 per person*

*Entertainment by The*  
*Nelson Brothers Band*  
*5:00 to 7:00pm*

Those in costume  
will be entered in a  
prize drawing

You must RSVP by - Wednesday, October 3, 2018  
(315) 798-4775

**LETTER FROM LINDA AVOLIO**

“There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of the people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will have truly defeated age.” Sophia Loren, actress

I see a fountain of youth around me every day here at Acacia Village. It was particularly evident at the annual talent show where a group of our residents got together and did a very funny rendition of the song “Lollipop”! Another resident, who is in her eighties, did a very energetic line dance along with some employees.

We’ve been having a great summer so far. We were lucky to have some very nice picnics on the patio, on days when the weather was nice and not too muggy. We also had a wonderful Summerfest. It ended up being a happy accident, because the day of our planned outdoor concert, rain was in the forecast, so we ended up opening the dining room to our multi-purpose room and having a big indoor party. We had hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings. Vinnie Esposito and Dean Blask with *DVD the Band* entertained, and the residents are still raving about what a wonderful time they had.

There have been some great mini excursions recently. Residents spent an evening at Vernon Downs. They went to Cooperstown to the Youth Opera with a stop for lunch at The Otesaga. They went to the movies to see “Mama Mia” and so much more.

Our Acacia Village chorus put on an excellent concert of Broadway show tunes recently. Cheryl Pula did a fascinating presentation about the sinking of the *Andria Doria*. Myron Thurston from Clear Path for veterans was here to talk about all the programs that they have. Our residents gave him a check for the dogs2vets program for over \$600.00 that they raised from having a white elephant sale.

Our resident gardens are flourishing again this year. Residents have been harvesting lettuce, zucchini, cucumbers, radishes, and now gorgeous tomatoes. They love the raised gardens, because they are so much easier to tend to.

If you are on line, you can keep up to date on all the happenings here by checking out our Facebook page. We sure hope you’ll come and visit us again soon.

Warmly,

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ACACIA VILLAGE—BY LINDA RAE**

Janice Maloney and Teresa Black of Sawgrass Partners recently came to Utica for two days of focus group meetings. Prior to that, they had sent out a mass marketing survey in our area with questions focused on senior living. They were thrilled to receive over 900 responses back with some respondents saying that they would happily provide more insight by attending the focus groups. Sawgrass Partners is a national research firm that works with non-profit senior service providers across the country, based out of Chicago.

While they were here, Janice and Teresa facilitated 4 focus groups and a town hall meeting with current Acacia Village residents to look at expanding independent living options at the Masonic Care Community. Participants were shown examples of Cottages which would be stand-alone homes, Garden Homes that would connect 4 homes together with a lovely courtyard in the middle and Villa style apartments with 10 to 18 apartments per building that would connect to the Acacia Village Community Center.

The participants were asked about what amenities and services are important for people to have access to; swimming pool, water aerobics, yoga, fitness classes and equipment, massage therapy services, multiple dining venues, bar and lounge.

They also surveyed participants about the importance of having a garage, porch or patio. Would they be willing to pay more for those items? Janice and Teresa also tried to get a feel for whether or not these potential new res-

idents would like to have housekeeping on a regular basis and if so, what that housekeeping should entail.

Janice and Teresa continued to inquire about interior aspects of the Cottages, Garden Homes and Villas by asking about the importance of an open floor plan, solid surface countertop, a kitchen island, dishwasher, built in microwave and more. They also asked people for their preferences when it came to different styles of refrigerators. If there were two bathrooms, should one of those bathrooms have a tub? What appeals to you more, carpet or solid surface floors? Each focus group lasted approximately 90 minutes and was filled with much discussion. At the end of each session everyone received a paper survey to fill out with the questions that had been asked throughout, so everyone had a chance to make their opinions known.

Sawgrass Partners will be getting back to us soon with the results of their research and then will work with our Masonic Board of Trustees and an architectural firm to plan the first phase of an expansion of Acacia Village. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase might include the building of 8 cottages with attached garages to be built facing the lovely pond in the backyard of Acacia Village and some remodeling of the Acacia Village Community Center.

Exciting possibilities are on the horizon. Let us know if you would like to be kept up to date on expansion plans. Call us at 315-798-4775 or contact us through our website at [www.acaciavillageny.org](http://www.acaciavillageny.org).

**ACACIA DIDN'T KNOW: INTERGENERATIONAL  
FUN-KEEPING CURSIVE ALIVE BY CINDY COPPERWHEAT**

Tracy Graulich has been a teacher at Poland school since 2001 starting with Pre-K. She has taught both 3rd and 4th grade since and landed once again teaching 3rd grade for the last two years. This year is an exciting year, as she will be moved back to 4th grade with all the same students she had last year. This is called 'looping'. Research suggests that students, as well as the teacher, gain so much more in academics when they loop. She feels strongly that this WILL happen.

Tracy contacted us to ask if Residents here would be interested in starting something with her 4th grade class in the fall of this year. She was interested in having the residents and her students write letters to each other in CURSIVE. She taught them cursive this year, in 3rd grade and will loop with them to 4th this fall. She plans to continue with their cursive writing and wondered if there are residents that would be able to write back and forth to her 21 students. Eventually, they would like to meet up with the residents, either doing a field trip out to Acacia Village and/or come to their school for an afternoon of fun. We thought what a great idea and asked if anyone would be interested. Turns out that many residents were on board immediately. We have 15 residents signed up to correspond with the students.

We are looking forward to playing a small part in this exciting year and eventually meeting the students and Ms. Graulich.

(800) 593-3353 or (315) 798-4775.

Good Neighbors. Great Value. Exceptional Living.



**ACACIA VILLAGE**  
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