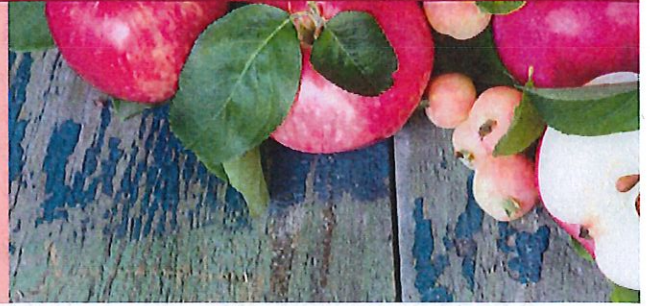


# THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*"Golden in the garden,  
Golden in the glen,  
Golden, golden, golden  
September's here again!"*  
~ Annette Wynne



## Dog of the Month – Shih Tzu

The shih tzu is an adorable, charming breed of Asian toy dog. They have been popular pets for centuries. Originally from Tibet, these affectionate, tiny pups were bred to be companions for nobility. The ultimate lap dogs, shih tzus don't need a ton of activity outside of short daily walks. These sweet pets are very happy spending their days snuggling on the couch and living a life of leisure. But, while their ancestors might have lounged in royal palaces, shih tzus also do very well in smaller living spaces. They typically weigh between nine and 16 pounds and stand



under a foot tall. Their lovely, flowing coats need daily brushing to maintain, and they come in a variety of color combinations, including white, black, gold, red, and silver. To avoid hair getting in their eyes, it's common to either trim the hair on the top of their heads or pull it into a bun or ponytail. *Shih tzu* means "little lion" in Mandarin.

## Special Days

**Labor Day**  
September 5

**Grandparents' Day**  
September 11

**Patriot Day &  
National Day of  
Remembrance**  
September 11

**Constitution Day**  
September 17

**Fall Equinox**  
September 22

**Rosh Hashanah**  
September 25–27

## Flower – Aster



The aster is a flower with brightly colored petals that unfold in the shape of a star. It is no surprise, then, that these blooms take their name from the Greek word for *star*. There are about 180 species of aster throughout North America and Eurasia, with colors ranging from purples and blues to reds and pinks. They are an ideal plant for showcasing in gardens, particularly as they symbolize love and patience. Along with chrysanthemums, asters are considered a classic autumn flower.

## Birthstone – Sapphire



September's birthstone is the sapphire. The sapphire has been revered by royalty since ancient times. King Solomon was said to have worn a sapphire ring to protect himself. Russia's Ivan the Terrible adorned himself with sapphires for strength and courage. And Prince Charles chose a sapphire for Princess Diana's engagement ring because it symbolizes loyalty, respect, and lasting affection. The famous blue sapphire surrounded by diamonds now adorns the hand of Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge.