

September 2023

THE MONTHLY GAZETTE

*"Happily, we bask in this warm September sun,
which illuminates all creatures..."*

~ Henry David Thoreau



Bird of the Month – Hawk

Hawks are a variety of majestic, small-to-medium-sized birds of prey, or raptors, including true hawks, goshawks, and sparrow hawks. These fast-flying, carnivorous birds are expert hunters and eat small mammals, like mice, reptiles, insects, and smaller birds.

They stealthily follow their prey until they can grab hold using their talons. Hawks are found on every continent except Antarctica. They usually build nests in trees, but some make their homes on the ground or on cliffs. Hawks typically mate for life and return to the same breeding grounds year after year. They lay one to six



brown-spotted eggs at a time. Incubation lasts several weeks, followed by a short childhood. They grow to adult size in a matter of months. Unlike most animal species, female hawks are larger than the males. Hawks are protected by laws that aim to prevent people from catching or killing them.

Special Days

Cherry Popover Day
September 1

Labor Day
September 4

Grandparents' Day
September 10

Rosh Hashanah
September 15–17

First Day of Autumn
September 23

Yom Kippur
September 24–25

Full Harvest Moon
September 29

Flower – Aster



The aster is a flower with brightly colored petals that unfold in the shape of a star. It should come as no surprise, then, that these blooms take their name from the Greek word for *star*. There are about 180 species of asters throughout North America and Eurasia, with colors ranging from purples and blues to reds, pinks, and whites. This flower's wide variety of shapes and colors makes it an ideal plant for residential gardens. Along with mums, asters are considered a classic autumnal flower.

Birthstone – Sapphire



It's fitting that this month's gemstone, the sapphire, is most commonly royal blue. The gem has been revered by royalty since ancient times. King Solomon was said to have worn a sapphire ring for protection, and Russia's Ivan the Terrible adorned himself with sapphires because he believed they strengthened the body and fostered courage. Sapphires also symbolize loyalty, respect, and lasting affection. Princess Diana had a gorgeous sapphire engagement ring. The famous blue gem now adorns the hand of Catherine, Princess of Wales.

Birthday Treats

September 1–7: Cupcakes

Your joyful, fun, and carefree attitude draws people in, but what people love even more is your sweet nature. You are easygoing, patient, and kind—a friend who can be counted on for a shoulder to cry on or a good laugh.

September 8–13: Brownies

A serious force to be reckoned with, you don't let obstacles get in your way. You can be intense, whimsical, funny, or relaxed, depending on your mood. Loving, loyal, bookish, and generous are a few other qualities you are known for.

September 14–21: Ice Cream

You are fun, creative, adaptable, clever, and strong. Known for your dramatic flair, you love to host parties and play games. You're also a great cook who knows how to combine flavors to create the perfect meal.

September 22–30: Pie

A homebody at heart, you also have a seriously silly side that delights your friends. You embody warmth, compassion, and consideration. You go the extra mile for family, friends, and strangers alike and always show up for the people and causes you care about.



Feeling Bookish?

Want some new reads while saving on the cost of books? Simple! Head to the library! It's perfect timing, especially if you don't have an account with your local branch, as September is Library Card Sign-Up Month.

September Zodiacs

Virgo (the Virgin)
September 1–22

Libra (the Scales)
September 23–30

September gets its name from the Latin word *septem*, which means "seven." It was the seventh month of the year until 153 BC. Around 44 BC, Julius Caesar reformed the calendar and made September the ninth month. The Anglo Saxons called this time *haligmonath*, which translates to "holy month," because the harvest time was sacred to them. In Japan, September is called *kugatsu*, which means "long moon." The Anglo-Saxons called it the *gerst monath*, meaning "barley month," because it was the month they harvested their barley crops.

The Month of Fire

While we associate September with going back to school, apples, and the start of fall, in ancient Rome, the month was devoted to the Vulcan god of fire and forge. Romans thought September was ruled by Vulcan and expected fires and earthquakes this month. This makes sense, as forest fires tend to occur in early fall, and the reds, oranges, and yellows of fall foliage look a lot like fire.

What's Lucky in September?

Lucky Color: Gold

Lucky Animal: Rooster

Lucky Letter: B

Lucky Day: Friday

Lucky Plant: Camellias



September Birthdays

Lily Tomlin (comedienne) – September 1, 1939

Charlie Sheen (actor) – September 3, 1965

Buddy Holly (singer) – September 7, 1936

Angela Cartwright (actress) – September 9, 1952

Roald Dahl (writer) – September 13, 1916

Oliver Stone (director) – September 15, 1946

B. B. King (blues musician) – September 16, 1925

Sophia Loren (actress) – September 20, 1934

Bill Murray (actor) – September 21, 1950

Ray Charles (musician) – September 23, 1930

Jim Henson (Muppets creator) – September 24, 1936

Barbara Walters (journalist) – September 25, 1929

Jack LaLanne (fitness guru) – September 26, 1914

Greer Garson (actress) – September 29, 1904