

The Village Times

Evergreen Village Cooperative April 2026

From the Editor

After a long, hard winter, we can finally feel the shift.

The weather is breaking, the light is returning, and spring has begun to show itself around the village. There's something deeper changing too—not just in the season, but in us. After months of quiet routines and necessary retreat, this is the time when we begin to open back up again.

Through the cold months, our community proved once again what it's made of. Neighbors checked in on one another, lent a hand where it was needed, and made sure no one faced the season alone. That quiet, steady care—that willingness to look out for each other—is something to be proud of. It speaks to the heart of who we are.

But spring asks something a little different of us.

It invites us not just to appreciate community, but to step into it more fully. To move from simply getting through the days...to showing up for them. To take that same spirit of care and turn it outward—with a bit more energy, a bit more presence, and yes, a bit more participation.

Now we turn toward new beginnings. The Social and Wellness Committee has a full slate

continued on page 7

Presidents Message

Dear Neighbors,

I want to start by extending a sincere thank you to everyone who joined us for our March board meeting, whether you participated in person or dialed in via Zoom. Your presence and thoughtful contributions are what keep our community thriving. I also want to express my gratitude to my fellow board members for their ongoing dedication and hard work.

We have a very busy season ahead of us!

Currently, we have a vacant seat on the board and are looking for a Secretary. If you are interested in serving or have questions about the role, please reach out to any current board member.

Regarding our infrastructure and maintenance, we have several updates:

- WWTP Project: This remains ongoing as we work toward completion.
- Paving: A project for Revolutionary Road is on the schedule.
- Pond Maintenance: The board has voted "yes" to obtain a permit as soon as possible to ensure we have it in place for future maintenance of our pond.
- Electrical Work: I'm happy to report that the work between Independence Way and Musket Way was completed last month with no loss of power to residents.

As spring slowly creeps in, please keep an eye out for information from our property management regarding upcoming spring inspections. (*See Page 6 this issue*)

We are also beginning preparations for the pool opening and looking ahead to our Annual Meeting and Election in August.

This year, the positions of President, Secretary, and Maintenance Director are up for reelection. We encourage anyone interested in these roles to consider running.

Thank you for making our community a great place to live!

Best regards,

Michelle Dinnen

Inside This Edition

From the Editor	pg 1
President's Message	pg 1
Invasion	pg 2
Calendar	pg 3
EVERGREENER ?	pg 4
From the Kitchen	pg 4
AED Donation	pg 5
Volunteers Needed	pg 5
Around Town	pg 6
Spring Inspections	pg 6
Help/Share/Teach	pg 7
Carole Schmidt	pg 8
Spring Clean & Fling	pg 8

The Water Chestnut Invasion in Our Village Lake

By Sam Brockman

Over the past season, many of us have noticed a change in the surface of our lake—the spread of a fast-growing plant known as the water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). While its name sounds harmless, this plant is considered one of the most damaging aquatic invasive species in the Northeast. It grows quickly, forms dense floating mats, and can dramatically alter the health, safety, and enjoyment of a pond like ours.

This narrative is meant to help all residents understand what we're facing, why it matters, and how our community can work together to restore our lake.

What Is Water Chestnut?

Water chestnut is an invasive aquatic plant introduced to North America in the 1800s. It thrives in calm, shallow waters—exactly the kind of peaceful environment our pond provides. The plant forms rosettes of floating leaves that block sunlight, reduce oxygen levels, and crowd out native species.

Each rosette can produce dozens of hard, spiky seeds that sink to the bottom and remain viable for up to 12 years. This means that once the plant takes hold, it can spread rapidly and return year after year unless actively managed.

Why It's a Problem for Our Community

Environmental Impact

Dense mats prevent sunlight from reaching native plants.

Decomposing vegetation reduces oxygen, harming fish and other wildlife.

Thick growth can choke out the natural balance of the pond.

Safety Concerns

The sharp, barbed seeds can injure swimmers, pets, and wildlife.

Thick mats can make boating or kayaking difficult and potentially dangerous.

Quality of Life

The plant can quickly turn a scenic pond into an unusable, unattractive waterbody.

Reduced water flow and oxygen can lead to foul odors and algae blooms.

What We're Doing About It

Evergreen Village is taking this issue seriously. We are working with environmental professionals and local agencies to determine the best combination of:

Manual removal (hand-pulling before seeds drop)

Mechanical harvesting where appropriate

Targeted herbicide treatments approved for safe aquatic use

Long-term monitoring to prevent re-establishment

Because the seeds persist for many years, this will not be a one-season fix. But with consistent effort, communities across the region have successfully restored their lakes—and so can we.

How Residents Can Help

This is a community-wide challenge, and every bit of involvement matters.

Volunteer for hand-pulling events if/when they are scheduled.

Avoid disturbing plant mats, which can spread fragments.

Share information with neighbors who may not read the newsletter.

Support long-term management efforts as part of our shared stewardship of the Village.

A Closing Thought

Evergreen Village has always been strongest when we work together. Our lake is one of the most cherished features of our community; quiet mornings, visiting wildlife, reflections of the seasons. Protecting it is not just a maintenance task; it's an act of care for the place we call home.

By learning, participating, and supporting the plan ahead, we can restore the health of our pond and preserve it for years to come.

Semiquincentennial

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Stretch 10:00</i> <i>Camera Club</i>	2	3 <i>Good Froday</i> <i>Stretch 10:00</i>	4
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	6 <i>Bingo 1:00pm</i>	7 <i>Stretch 10:00</i>	8 <i>Prayer,</i> <i>Share & Fel-</i> <i>lowship 10:00</i>	9 <i>Townhall</i> <i>6:00 pm</i>	10 <i>Stretch 10:00</i>	11
12 <i>Townhall</i> <i>3:00 pm</i>	13 <i>Bingo 1:00pm</i>	14	15 <i>Stretch 10:00</i> <i>Camera Club</i>	16 <i>Social-</i> <i>Wellness Com-</i> <i>mittee Meeting</i> <i>6:00 pm</i> <i>April Birth-</i> <i>days 5:30 pm</i>	17 <i>Stretch 10:00</i>	18 <i>Spring-</i> <i>Clean-Fling-</i> <i>Potluck 3:00</i>
19	20 <i>Bingo 1:00pm</i>	21 <i>Stretch 10:00</i>	22 <i>Prayer,</i> <i>Share & Fel-</i> <i>lowship 10:00</i>	23	24 <i>Stretch 10:00</i>	25
26	27 <i>Bingo 1:00pm</i> <i>B.O.D</i> <i>Meeting 6:00</i>	28	29 <i>Stretch 10:00</i> <i>Camera Club</i>	30		

What is Evergreen?

(A lighthearted Look)

By Rich DeLeo

On Evergreen Road you will find a welcome sign for entrance to Evergreen Village. Let's look inside.

There are 7 fire hydrants, 14 mailboxes, and 11 street signs on 8 streets with a lot of trees. The street names sound like the village is two and a half centuries old, but the streets are paved, I don't see any horses and the light is electric. There are a lot of long, low houses, nicely decorated. It's a place where UPS, Fed Ex, and Amazon trucks come regularly, I believe that's how the village survives. And there's a pretty lake in the middle separating the lower village from the upper village. The upper has fewer houses. The reason, they tell me, has something to do with altitude and fear of heights.

Next to the lake are common buildings. The smaller of the two places is for village business. Inside are maps on the wall and a large table & chairs, where the BOD hang out. They are a small group of people that tackle the tough jobs here. And to get in that group they say you have to be very Brave to want the job, hence the B in BOD. The rumor that it's Booze Or Drugs is not true. I've met a few and Brave definitely is the reason.

The larger place is called the Clubhouse, but it's more a meetinghouse. Inside looks like a kitchen and dining room but you can't order a meal here. Sometimes the serious folk meet here to talk, but more often it has happy people. They meet for various reasons; things they have in common, and what's pretty neat is anyone can come and be a part of these groups. You don't need a card or 2 forms of ID, just bring your interest. Next to it is a pool for swimming. No one here in April but later in the year the Pool People come out. They return like the swallows of Capistrano. Quite the migration.

With the warmer weather the doors to the long houses will start to open and out come the Evergreeners. There are those that walk, meet to talk, and some to gawk as the trees get green and flowers bloom. Soon the ducks return to the lake (just like the returning Pool People). What a wonderful place to park your long house and live.

And what about these Evergreeners. 55 or older they say, no whippersnappers here. Just mature, stable, patience, prudent ... OK, older people. They come here because they have mostly finished with a larger part of their lives and are beginning to devote their time to

taking life easier. They earned it. What a great idea. You come here, hang out with others your age or just enjoy quiet times. You can join a group at the clubhouse, become a gawker to sit and look at the ducks on the lake or become a Pool Person. Everyone I have meet has been friendly and easy to get along with. Neighbors being neighborly. Lots of waving hello. How do I know these things?

Well, I'm an Evergreener too.

From the Kitchen of

Carolyn Leidy

Pineapple Pie

1 Graham Cracker Pie Crust

1 Can Crushed Pineapple

(Do not drain)

8 oz Sour Cream

1 large package of Instant

Vanilla Pudding

Blend Pineapple, Sour Cream, and Vanilla Pudding

Pour into the Pie Crust

Refrigerate 2-3 hours

Top with shredded Coconut (if desired) or stir $i/2$ cup into mix.

Top with Whipped Cream and Cherries

YUM!

AED Donation

By Barbara Massarano

Evergreen Village extends heartfelt thanks to the Richmond Lions Club for their generous donation of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). This lifesaving medical device is used in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. It analyzes the heart's rhythm and, if needed, delivers an electrical shock to help restore an effective heartbeat. Quick access to an AED can make a critical difference in an emergency. Ours will be readily available at the clubhouse.

On March 4, 2026, Wayne Butler and Evergreen Village Board members Deb Sandt and Charlie Marstellar attended a dinner hosted by the Richmond Lions Club at the Richmond Methodist Church, where the AED was for-

mally presented.

This donation was made possible through the efforts of Washington Township Fire Chief Tighe Lane and Wayne, a lifetime member of the fire company. Wayne has since been exploring training opportunities for our residents. Suburban EMS has offered to provide a demonstration of the AED and free hands-only CPR instruction. Certification courses may also be available for a fee. Dates, times, and locations will be scheduled based on interest and instructor availability.

If you would like to participate, please contact Wayne Butler at 610-972-6399 or email: wsbutler4@gmail.com.

Once again, we express our sincere gratitude to the Richmond Lions Club for this meaningful and potentially lifesaving gift.

Presentation of A.E.D. by Richmond Lions Club



From Left to Right: Charles Marstellar, Deb Sandt, Wayne Butler, and Fire Chief Tighe Lane

Volunteers Needed

By Helene Walsh

Help Shape the Heart of Our Community

Evergreen Village continues to grow not just in size, but in spirit. As we build the kind of community we all want to live in—safe, friendly, and full of life—we rely on the gifts, time, and good will of our residents. Two important groups are now forming, and both will play a meaningful role in strengthening the Village we share.

Outdoor Activities Team

Our mission is simple and joyful: to ensure a safe, friendly, and fun environment for all residents during outdoor activities. Whether it's organizing games, helping with seasonal events, or simply making sure everyone feels welcome and included, this team helps bring our shared spaces to life. If you enjoy being outdoors, encouraging others, or adding a little spark to community gatherings, your presence would make a real difference.

Rules Committee

As a self-governing community, we depend on clear, fair, and well-understood rules to keep Evergreen Village running smoothly. The Rules Committee will help ensure that all residents are aware of our com-

Continued on page 7

Around the Township

By John Bermingham

The following events are taking place in April, 2026 at the Upper Mount Bethel Township Building

April 3rd 7pm - Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting.

April 8th 7pm – Wild & Scenic Designation for Upper Mount Bethel.

April 9th 7pm - Park and Recreation Committee Meeting.

April 13th 7pm - The Board of Supervisors Meeting.

April 14th 7pm - Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting.

April 15th at 7pm – Planning Commission Meeting.

April 21st at 7pm – Solar Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting.

April 22nd at 7pm - Open Space Advisory Board Meeting.

April 23rd at 7pm - Economic Development Committee Meeting.

April 27th at 7pm - The Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Other Events

The weekend of April 18th and April 19th – The Upper Mount Bethel Community-Wide Yard Sale.

April 23rd at 7pm – 8pm Supervisor John Bermingham and Supervisor David Friedman have Office Hours to answer any questions at TK’s restaurant.

If you have any questions about Township business, feel free to call the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, John Bermingham at (602) 703-3717.

Upcoming

April Homesite Inspections

Spring Maintenance

Reminder

By Cole DeBerry PMI

Spring is just around the corner! As the weather begins to warm and our community comes back to life after the winter months, it is time to prepare and refresh your home and homesite.

To help maintain the appearance and upkeep of our community, homesite inspections will be conducted during the month of April. We encourage all residents to begin reviewing their homesite now and plan for any maintenance that may be needed.

Self-Review and Preparation

Please take time to evaluate your home and homesite and address any items that may require attention. These inspections are part of our routine seasonal maintenance process and are intended to help ensure all residents remain in compliance with Village Rules and Guidelines.

Possible Items That May Be Noted During Inspections

If concerns are identified, you may receive a letter from our office outlining items that need to be addressed. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

Grass exceeding 3 inches in

Solicitation be it door-to-door or posting at the mailbox stations, is prohibited. The phone number, and any information, should be sent to PMI so they can notify them about no solicitation in Evergreen Village (it’s private property)

length

Grass trimming needed around the homesite; trees, shrubs, and planting beds requiring maintenance or weeding

Broken, missing, or damaged skirting panels

House numbers missing or not clearly visible from the street for emergency responders

Dog waste not being cleaned up promptly and consistently

Home, steps, deck, skirting, shed, or trim needing to be washed, painted, or power-washed or repaired.

Excessive items stored outside, including motorcycles, lawn equipment, tools, snow blowers, bikes, toys, or similar items not stored properly in a shed when not in use

Inspection Follow Up

If any items require correction, you will be notified by letter with details and a timeline for completion. Our goal is to work cooperatively with residents to maintain a clean, well-kept community

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the inspection process or maintenance expectations, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued pride in our community.

From the Editor

continued from pg 1

of plans to bring us together in the warmer months ahead, and there will be plenty of ways for everyone to take part. Whether it's attending an event, lending a hand, or simply making the effort to connect, each small step adds something meaningful to the whole.

Let's keep that momentum going—but also build on it. This is the season to re-engage, to try something new, to say “yes” a little more often. Communities don't just happen—they grow through the willingness of their members to be present and involved.

Spring is the season of renewal. that includes the life of our community. A fresh season brings fresh opportunity—not just to enjoy what's here, but to help shape what comes next.

Here's to new beginnings, renewed spirit, and the shared effort that helps this place truly come alive.

Contributors and Staff

- Rich DeLeo
- Barabra Massarano
- Marie Wolfrum
- Carolyn Leidy
- Phyllis Brockman
- Michelle Dinnen
- John Birmingham
- Helene Walsh
- Cole DeBerry

HELP/SHARE/TEACH

Our village is at its best when we bring our gifts to the table.

Every one of us carries a skill, a passion, or a bit of experience that can brighten the social life of our community. Some of us play music. Some paint or sketch. Some sew, knit, or quilt. Others bake, garden, tell stories, teach card games, or simply know how to make a room feel welcoming.

These talents don't need to be grand or polished. They just need to be shared.

As we plan the next season of activities, we'd love to weave more resident-led creativity into the life of the Village. Maybe you'd like to host a small craft circle, lead a sing-along, teach a simple art technique, or show a neighbor how to mend a button. Maybe you have an idea we haven't even imagined yet.

If you're willing to offer a little of what you love, we'll help you shape it into something the whole community can enjoy. Together, we can make Evergreen Village a place where everyone's gifts find a home and where social life grows richer through the hands and hearts of its residents.

Let's build the next chapter of our community life -one shared talent at a time. **evergreenvillagecoop@gmail.com**

Volunteers

Continued from page 5

munity guidelines and follow them respectfully. This group will also review and revise rules as needed, bringing recommendations forward for community approval. It's thoughtful, steady work-and essential to maintaining the harmony and safety we all value.

Why Volunteer?

Because Evergreen Village works best when many hands and voices are involved. Volunteering isn't about having special expertise; it's about caring enough to help shape the place we call home. Whether you join one of these groups or simply offer a few hours when you can, your contribution strengthens the fabric of our community.

If you feel called to help-whether in planning activities, supporting good communication, or guiding our shared rules-we would be grateful to have you join us. Contact Helene Walsh! 973-440-7966

Together, we can continue building a community that feels safe, welcoming, and full of possibility.

**Small Acts,
Big Impact**

Prayer, Share and Fellowship

By Carolyn Leidy

The Evergreen Village Prayer, Share and Fellowship Group was blessed on March 25th by the presence of a very special speaker: 91-year-old Village resident Carole Schmidt.

Carole, a woman whose faith shines through every word she speaks, shared with us the extraordinary and beautiful testimony of her life. She has journaled her story—from the beginning to the present—and has even had her writings printed into books so her family can carry her faith and experiences forward for generations. What a remarkable gift.

The story she chose to share with us that day was the heart-breaking loss of her son. He was a Navy pilot who died in service to our country when his plane went down over the Mediterranean Sea. He was only 25 years old.

Carole spoke softly as she described how God walked with her family through their grief, how He spoke to them over the

years, and how He brought them comfort through their son's own deep faith and belief in God. There wasn't a dry eye in the room.

Yet Carole also reminded us that even in sorrow, God brings light. She shared a pastor's words that stayed with her: "If life serves you lemons—make lemonade. But remember, you must cut and squeeze the lemons to get the juice. Life is not always easy. As she said it, it brought a moment of warmth to us all.

She also delighted us with a lighter memory: the day she and her mother tried their first cigarettes—only to decide, on that very same day, that they would also be their last.

Carole's loving, caring Christian spirit and her willingness to share her life stories are an inspiration to everyone who hears her. We are grateful for her presence among us.

She will be speaking again at a future Prayer, Share and Fellowship meeting. Watch for the announcement—and come join us. You'll be glad you did.



Spring Clean , Fling, and Potluck

April 18th

3:00—6:00 pm

**Clean out the freezer,
bring a dish to share!**

**Clean out the closet
bring an item or a basket of items in great condition that you no longer want, To swap with a neighbor**

**Sign-up sheet in the
clubhouse.**

RSVP by April 12th.

Call Kelly at

484-619-1563

Leave a message.

