

The Village Times

February 2026

From the Editor

Editor's Note: Our previous issue featured "The History of Evergreen Village," drawn exclusively from the personal narrative of longtime resident **Phyllis Cowell**. Her contribution was mistakenly left uncredited, and we're grateful for her willingness to preserve our shared history.



Involvement

As we continue growing into our identity as a self-governing community, it's worth remembering how far we've come in just a few short years. When we purchased the land beneath our homes, we took on not only ownership, but shared responsibility for shaping the place we all live. Our board, committees, and property manager work hard on behalf of everyone—but they can only do their best work

See Feedback. on page 4

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Presidents Message

Maureen Shindler

As we reflect on the past year, Evergreen Village experienced many changes, including the departure of several long-time residents and friends, some sadly by passing on. While we mourn these losses, we also celebrate the arrival of new members to our wonderful community, with some returning for a second time. We warmly welcome all new residents and encourage them to share their time and talents with the Village.

Community Improvements in 2025

Significant progress was made throughout 2025 to enhance our community and address several projects that had been outstanding for some time. The most important accomplishment was the initiation of repairs and updates to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This project is ongoing and continues as weather permits and equipment becomes available.

Clubhouse Renovations

Our clubhouse received notable improvements over the past year. The retaining wall was re-

next column

paired, and new stairs were installed at the rear of the building. Additionally, the walkway from the street to the clubhouse was repaved and widened, and the walkway in front of the clubhouse was also repaved. These updates help make access to the clubhouse safer and more convenient for everyone.

Community Contributions

We extend sincere thanks to Eagle Scout Matthew for his dedicated work installing the new flagpole and veteran memorial. Matthew, along with his parents, fellow scouts, and Mark, completed a project that had been outstanding for some time. Congratulations to all involved for their beautiful and meaningful contribution to our community.

Water and Tree Management

Several water-related issues were resolved last year, including various drainage problems throughout the community and repairing multiple leaks that were causing the loss of gallons of water. Additionally, many problematic trees were removed. This continues to be an ongoing issue, and the Board is actively addressing it in 2026.

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President's Message

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Roadway Improvements

Another major project completed was the paving of upper Independence Way. The Board is currently considering additional paving projects for 2026 to further improve our community infrastructure.

Appreciation for Community Efforts

I want to thank the Board Directors and all our volunteers for their commitment to making Evergreen Village a beautiful and neighborly community where all are welcome.



Prayer, Share *and* Fellowship January 14th, 2026

Capitol Report

From the Office of State Representative
ANN FLOOD

Offering Veteran Service Appointments

I host veteran assistance hours at my district office, located at [962 Pennsylvania Ave.](#), Pen Argyl, on the second Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. American Legion Service Officer Eric Medei will be available to help veterans and their widows with military benefits.

We owe our veterans so much for their service and sacrifice, which is why I'm committed to offering this support.

This service is available by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please call 610-746-2100

- Offering ideas for new sections

You can contribute once, occasionally, or regularly, at your comfort zone.

If you're interested, please reach out to me. Let's chat about what you might enjoy.

Evergreen Village Times Needs Your Voice!

- Writing short pieces about village activities or events
- Interviewing neighbors for resident spotlights
- Gathering small updates ("Around the Village")
- Sharing photos, poems, or creative contributions



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Ground Hog Day</i> <i>BINGO 1:00 Clubhouse</i>	3	4 <i>Stretch 10:00 am</i> <i>Camera Club 6:30 PM</i>	5	6 <i>Stretch 10:00 am</i>	7
8	9 <i>BINGO 1:00 Clubhouse</i>	10 <i>Stretch 10:00 am</i>	11 <i>Prayer, Share and Fellowship 10:00 am</i>	12	13 <i>Stretch 10:00 am</i>	14 <i>Valentines Day</i>
15	16 <i>BINGO 1:00 Clubhouse</i>	17	18 <i>Stretch 10:00 am</i> <i>Camera Club 6:30 PM</i>	19	20 <i>Stretch 10:00 am</i>	21 <i>Presidents Day</i>
22	23 <i>BINGO 1:00 Clubhouse</i> <i>BOD 6:00 PM</i>	24 <i>Stretch 10:00 am</i>	25 <i>Prayer, Share and Fellowship 10:00 am</i>	26	27 <i>Stretch 10:00 am</i>	28

Winter in the Village

when residents stay connected and engaged.

We know that not everyone can attend every meeting or activity, and that's perfectly understandable. Still, your voice matters. Participation—whether it's showing up to a town hall, joining a committee, or simply staying informed—helps ensure decisions reflect the needs and hopes of the whole community.

If you have feedback, concerns, or appreciation to share, we ask that you use the channels designed for that purpose. Bringing your thoughts directly to the board, the property manager, or the appropriate committee allows issues to be addressed quickly, respectfully, and constructively. Public complaints, especially when the full story isn't known, can unintentionally create confusion or discourage the volunteers who are working hard behind the scenes.

Evergreen Village thrives when we communicate with kindness, curiosity, and a willingness to work together. Your involvement—big or small—truly makes a difference.



Photo by Ginny Frank

Village Notes

www.evergreenvillagecoop.com

We are pleased to share that our community website is now live. The site offers a clear layout, easy navigation, and an accessible experience for all residents.

Please note that the Resources page is still under construction and will be available shortly. Thank you for your patience as we complete this final section.

We invite you to explore the new site and stay connected with all that's happening in Evergreen Village.

Also, the Village has a new contact at PMI. Cole Deberry (cdeberry@rentpmi.com) is now our primary contact at PMI and is assisted by Ashley Russel (arussell@rentpmi.com). They can be contacted by calling the following phone numbers.

Should an emergency arise, please contact PMI at 717-265-9128 or after hours at 717-730-4141

Community Rules on Pets

Domestic pets are allowed in the Community with restrictions:

Proper immunization and licensing is the responsibility of the Homeowner. Two domestic pets are allowed per home (dogs and/or cats) the following dogs are prohibited;

- 1. Any dog with a history of aggressive behavior or biting.**
- 2. Any dog that is on a list of prohibited pets, as provided by the Community's insurance company**

All dogs will either be restrained on the ground space unit lot or kept on a leash. Dogs may not be left outdoors unattended for more than fifteen minutes.

All cats must be kept inside of the house

All wastes from pets must be picked up by the pets' owner and disposed of in the proper manner.

February Observances

February offers a time to reflect, care for our health, and celebrate one another. We honor Black History Month, recognize the importance of heart health during American Heart Month, and focus on prevention through National Cancer Prevention Month. The month also highlights Senior Independence, promotes healthy relationships for younger generations, and adds a cheerful touch with National Cherry Month. Together, these observances remind us of the value of awareness, wellness, and community.



Romantic February

By Rich DeLeo

February is known for a few things; shortest month of the year, especially this year with only 28 days. President's Day the 16th, again especially this year because of the 250th Anniversary, and of course February 14th, Valentines Day.

I would like to write a little about the 14th. Valentine celebrations typically range from heart shaped cards for the grand kids, and for the adults; candy and a card for the guys and flowers and a card for the gals. All great ideas and show that you didn't forget. So don't forget.

But I would like to talk a little about romance. Lets face it, many of us remember Valentines Day and forget about romance. A card in itself is not romantic, even if you sign it, Love _____. It's not that we don't care about romance, many of us seniors just think that's for younger folks.

Many years ago I attended a Christian couples weekend at a hotel for those wanting to bet-

ter their marriages. There was no age limits, attendees were newly married and included those with 40 and more years of being married. 100 couples attended. After arriving on Friday evening there was a meet & greet preliminary program. The staff introduced themselves, had opening remarks. When they were done, each couple was given a handled gift bag with name tags, schedule of meetings for the next day, as well as a small candle and a small bottle of massage oil. When this 1st meeting broke up, off we went for the overnight. At the 9:00 o'clock morning meeting on Saturday young and old had re-discovered the romance in their marriages, without one word having to be mentioned.

Some of us work and come home tired, not wanting to think beyond supper and the TV. I get that. Well first, the 14th is a Saturday, no excuse there fellas. And after reading this (and she will be reading it too), you still have plenty of time to work out some ideas and details or go shopping. Gals, dig into the back of the closet or back of your

dresser drawer and find something nice to wear to dinner, something you haven't worn in a along time. And maybe wear something to smell nice too. Yes I know, when you look in the mirror you are not 30 or 40 anymore. But both of you try this, and I promise you when you see each other and notice the effort you will feel the romance and see the best of each other. Take a good look at your significant other, how long have you known them, been with them? Long time I would bet. They still are the handsome man and the beautiful woman you fell for so many years ago.

So whatever you decide to do this year, flowers, candy, a dinner out, or go all out and spend a weekend away at a hotel and only come out for meals, the choice is yours. This February 14th would be a great time to honor your love for each other. We are after all seniors here and in the autumns of our lives. And life can throw surprises at us, so make this year one to remember.

Pondering

By Sam Brockman

We are getting old.

There is no gentle way to say it, and pretending otherwise does not make it easier. Aging arrives not as a single moment, but as a series of small losses—some expected, others unsettling. Strength fades. Balance becomes uncertain. Tasks once done without thought now require planning, patience, or help. For some, memory softens at the edges. For others, clarity comes and goes. The body and mind no longer move in step with our intentions.

Alongside these changes is a deeper loss: independence as we once knew it. The freedom to act without asking. The confidence that tomorrow will look much like today. Many of us outlive our families and friends, and the circle of familiar faces grows smaller each year. Loneliness does not always announce itself loudly; often it settles in quietly, filling the spaces left behind.

With time, even the desire to strive can fade. The goals that once pushed us forward may no longer feel relevant. The future seems shorter, less defined. Old age can feel like a narrowing of options, a life increasingly shaped by limitations and uncertainty.

And yet, aging does not have to mean disappearing.

Coping begins with acceptance—not resignation, but honesty. Independence changes, but it does not vanish. It becomes the ability to choose how we live within new boundaries. Accepting help before it is forced upon us preserves dignity. Using tools, routines, and support is not weak-

ness; it is adaptation.

Structure becomes a quiet ally. When motivation falters, routine carries us forward. Simple, repeated rhythms—waking, moving, thinking, connecting—give shape to days that might otherwise blur together. Meaning often survives long after enthusiasm fades.

Loneliness must be met directly. It does not resolve on its own. Even brief, ordinary human contact matters: a shared meal, a familiar greeting, a few minutes of conversation. We do not need large circles or deep confessions. We need presence. We need to be seen.

As roles fall away, usefulness takes on new meaning. Fruitfulness in later life is rarely loud or celebrated. It appears in steadiness, in listening, in noticing others, in offering perspective earned through years lived. Simply being reliable, kind, and attentive still matters—often more than we realize.

There is also grief in aging, and it deserves acknowledgment. We grieve strength, opportunities, and people we have loved. Ignoring that grief only deepens it. Allowing it space makes room for peace.

Old age is not about reclaiming what was lost. It is about shaping what remains with intention, dignity, and care. Life may be quieter now, narrower in some ways, but it is not empty. There is still value in endurance. Still meaning in presence. Still worth in simply being here.

Growing old is not a failure of living. It is the final, honest season of it. Growing older may change many things, but it does not take away our worth, our voice, or our

place in the lives of others.

Life may move more slowly now, but it is still moving—and it is still ours to live. Growing older does not mean life is over. It means life is different—quieter, perhaps, but often gentler too. There is dignity in presence, in simply continuing to inhabit the world with honesty and care.

In this season, meaning often reveals itself in subtler, sweeter ways. A conversation that lingers. A memory that returns with warmth instead of ache. A moment of stillness that feels like peace. The world may narrow, but the heart can widen. We begin to see what truly matters, and what never did.

Aging invites us to live more deliberately, to let go of what weighs us down, and to hold close what brings comfort. It asks us to honor our grief without being defined by it, to accept our limitations without surrendering our joy. There is still room for laughter. Still room for discovery. Still room for small, bright moments that surprise us.

We are not who we once were, and that is the quiet truth of every life. But there is a different kind of fullness available here—one shaped by presence, by reflection, by the simple act of continuing on with kindness toward ourselves and others.

In the end, growing old is not a diminishing. It is a deepening. A final season, yes, but one still capable of meaning, of tenderness, of connection, and of quiet grace. There is still beauty to notice. Still people to care for. Still moments worth savoring. And still, always, a place for us in the world.

Around the Town

Dear Evergreen Village Residents,

Upper Mount Bethel has upcoming meetings in February, 2026 that the public is invited to attend. These meetings take place at the Upper Mount Bethel Township Building, which is located at 387 Ye Olde Highway, Mount Bethel, PA 18343.

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 7pm is the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting;

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 10am is PA American Water, Bangor Direct Service Line – Inventory Notice and Overview;

Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7pm is the Upper Mount Bethel Board of Supervisors meeting;

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7pm is the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting;

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7pm is the Park and Recreation meeting;

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7pm is the Solar Ad Hoc meeting;

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7pm is the Planning Commission meeting;

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7pm is the Upper Mount Bethel Board of Supervisors meeting;

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7pm is the Zoning Hearing Board meeting;

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7pm is the Open Space Advisory Board meeting;

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 7pm is the Economic Development Committee meeting.

There are some events at Allegheny Creek Brewing Company

<https://www.alleghenycreekbc.com> for events.

All Aspects at the Barn has some events

Their website is <https://www.allaspectsbarn.com/workshops>

We will be adding more events as the weather gets warmer.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Bermingham

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Upper Mount Bethel Township

(602) 703-3717

johnabermingham@aol.com

January in the Village



Photos by Rich DeLeo

The Three P's

Keeping Our Wastewater System Healthy Together

As we settle into the new year, it's a good time to remember how much our shared systems rely on everyday care. Our wastewater system is undergoing major upgrades, but like any community resource, it works best when treated with care.

A few simple habits can:

- Prevent clogs
- Protect pumps
- Avoid costly emergency callouts

⊘ Common Causes of Clogs

Most blockages come from items **that don't break down**, including:

Wipes of any kind (even those labeled "flushable")

Paper towels, napkins, or tissues

Feminine hygiene products

Dental floss, cotton swabs, or cotton pads

Grease, fats, or cooking oils

Cat litter, pet waste pads, medications, or other miscellaneous items

*These materials can snag, accumulate, and eventually block pumps, pipes, or filters. Unlike city systems with massive pipes (\$\$\$), grinders (\$\$\$\$), and built-in redundancy (\$\$\$\$\$), private wastewater systems rely on **gravity, settling, and bacteria** — all of which can be overwhelmed by foreign materials.*

✓ Prevention: Keep Bad Things Out

The simplest rule is the most effective: Only toilet paper and what your body produces should go down the toilet. Everything else belongs in the trash. Non-flushable items **do not break down** and

can create blockages that are costly and time-consuming to clear.

💧 Remember the Three "P's" of Flushing

Only **pee, poop, and paper** should go into the toilet.

Do NOT flush:

Wipes of any kind

Paper towels, napkins, or tissues

Feminine hygiene products

Cotton swabs, cotton pads, or dental floss

Bandages or disposable gloves

Cat litter or pet waste

Grease, fats, or cooking oils

Medications, chemicals, or cleaning wipes

Anything plastic, rubber, or other miscellaneous items

Tip: If it isn't toilet paper, toss it in the trash — and remind your visitors and caregivers to do the same.

△ Community Responsibility

The **community by-laws** give the **Board of Directors the right to request reimbursement** from any resident whose negligence or improper flushing causes damage to community property.

Caring for our wastewater system protects:

Our shared investment

The people who maintain it

The overall health and happiness of our community

Thank you for helping keep our system running smoothly!

These small choices add up to a healthier, happier community.