

The Village Times

Evergreen Village Cooperative

July 2026



From the Editor

Your Voice, Your Village

What's At Risk

Last month, we talked about why participation matters—and how a small turnout means a small number of voices shaping decisions for everyone.

Now let's look at what's at stake.

Our Annual Meeting depends on reaching a quorum—a minimum number of residents required to conduct official business.

Without it:

A budget cannot be approved
Leadership cannot be elected
Important decisions are delayed

In recent years, we've come very close to not meeting that requirement.

When that happens, it doesn't just delay a meeting—it delays

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The Presidents Message

Welcome to July!

As we settle into the lazy days of summer and prepare to celebrate Independence Day, it's also a wonderful time to celebrate something closer to home - our own community, Evergreen Village.

Just four years ago, the residents of our 158-home community came together to take control of our future. United by a shared vision, we formed a cooperative and purchased the land beneath our homes, making Evergreen Village the first resident-owned community in Pennsylvania. Together, we set a precedent for communities across the state, proving what neighbors can accomplish when they work toward a common goal. That is something worth celebrating, and each of you played a part in making it possible.

As our fiscal year comes to a close, many of this year's projects are wrapping up while planning for the year ahead is already well underway. Your elected Board of Directors has been working diligently to prepare operating and capital improvement plans that will be

presented at our Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting is the most important meeting of the year for our cooperative, and your participation is essential. We ask that one voting member from every household attend.

Mark your calendars:for Saturday, August 22, at 9:00 a.m. at the Portland Fire Hall

During the meeting, members will vote on the Operating Budget, Capital Improvements Budget, proposed rule and bylaw changes, and the election of Board members. These decisions directly impact the future of our community. Without the participation of our membership, the cooperative cannot conduct official business, delaying important projects and contracts such as snow removal, lawn care, waste collection, repairs, and other essential services.

Your voice matters. Your vote matters. Together, we continue building a strong and thriving Evergreen Village.

Thank you for being part of what makes our community special. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Michelle Dinnen



SHUFFLEBOARD AT THE CLUBHOUSE

Every Thursday at 6:30 PM

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>Water Aer- obics 10:00</i>	3 <i>Chair Stretch 1000</i>	4 <i>Annual Picnic After the Parade</i>
5	6 <i>Bingo 1:00 Chair Zumba 3:30</i>	7 <i>Water Aer- obics 10:00</i>	8 <i>Prayer, Share & Fel- lowship 10:00 Camera Club 6:30</i>	9 <i>Water Aer- obics 10:00</i>	10 <i>Chair Stretch 10:00</i>	11
12	6 <i>Bingo 1:00 Chair Zumba 3:30</i>	14 <i>Water Aerobics 10:00</i>	15 <i>Water Aerobics 10:00</i>	16 <i>Water Aerobics 10:00</i>	17 <i>Chair Stretch 10:00</i>	18
19	6 <i>Bingo 1:00 Chair Zumba 3:30</i>	21 <i>Water Aerobics 10:00</i>	22 <i>Prayer, Share & Fel- lowship 10:00 Camera Club 6:30</i>	23 <i>Water Aerobics 10:00</i>	24 <i>Chair Stretch 10:00</i>	25
26	6 <i>Bingo 1:00 Chair Zumba 3:30</i>	28 <i>Water Aerobics 10:00</i>	29 <i>Water Aerobics 10:00 Meet The Candidates 6:30</i>	30 <i>Water Aerobics 10:00</i>	31 <i>Chair Stretch 10:00</i>	

“We show up for each other — that’s what makes this group special.”

Prayer, Share and Fellowship

By Barbara Massarano

The Prayer and Share group is a Christian “fellowship” (without the fellows) that meets twice a month on the second and last Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. All women of Evergreen Village are welcome — no reservations needed.

Under the leadership of Gloria Marsteller, this once-small gathering has grown from an idea (sparked by Allie, a former resident) into a “community within the community” of about 20 women. They come from many denominations and with varying levels of Bible study, but they share faith, hope, humor, and of course, God’s love. The fellowship offers a welcome respite from the negativity so many of us feel in the world today.

Gloria always facilitates lively discussions built around thoughtful themes and accompanying Bible passages. A recent example was the theme “Coincidences... or the Hand of God?” For that meeting she invited a special guest, Carole Schmidt, a beloved 91-year-old resident, to read from her diaries (see Carolyn Leidy’s article in the April edition of the Village Times). Carole shared a powerful testimony of God’s guiding presence during and long after the untimely death of her son.

Prayer requests for family members, friends, and others in need are always welcomed. The group also maintains an active prayer chain through text messages that can be summoned at a moment’s notice for urgent requests or updates. Many of you reading this have likely been — knowingly or unknowingly — recipients of their prayers.

A second monthly meeting was added by popular demand and is dedicated to social activities such as picnics, movies, field trips, and parties. Everyone abides by the Ten Commandments... except during the Christmas “whacky gift exchange,” when it becomes perfectly acceptable to steal your neighbor’s gift — and all is forgiven. Then the Golden Rule kicks back in.

If any ladies are interested in learning more, you can call Gloria or simply show up at a meeting. You will be warmly welcomed. If you or someone you know needs assistance in order to attend, please let Gloria know.

Whether you come seeking fellowship, prayer, laughter, or simply a moment of peace, there is a place for you here

There is only one rule: The Golden Rule.

In a world that often feels hurried and heavy, the Prayer and Share group offers a gentle place to breathe, connect, and grow in faith

Coming Events

July 18th

**Ice Cream
Social**

August 15th

Luau

September 12th

Tricky Tray

From the Editor

Continued from page 2

decisions that affect the entire community. Plans get pushed back. Uncertainty increases. Progress slows.

No one wants that.

The good news is this is entirely within our control. It doesn't take a major effort—just enough residents choosing to show up.

August is right around the corner. If you haven't already, take a moment to plan to attend.

Because avoiding these problems is simple—and it starts with being there.

Contact Editor

scb9949@gmail.com

August 22nd, 2026

9:00 AM

Portland Firehouse

Community Bulletin Boards

The bulletin boards located at our mailbox pavilions are provided for the purpose of communicating official community information, announcements, notices, and events that are relevant to all residents.

Recently, a number of advertisements for items for sale, services offered, and other personal notices have been posted on these boards. While we appreciate the entrepreneurial spirit and willingness of neighbors to support one another, the pavilion bulletin boards are not intended for personal or commercial advertising.

To better serve residents, our community website includes a dedicated Classified Page that is available for posting items for sale, services offered, wanted notices, and other resident advertisements. The classifieds section is easily accessible, available to all residents, and provides a more effective venue

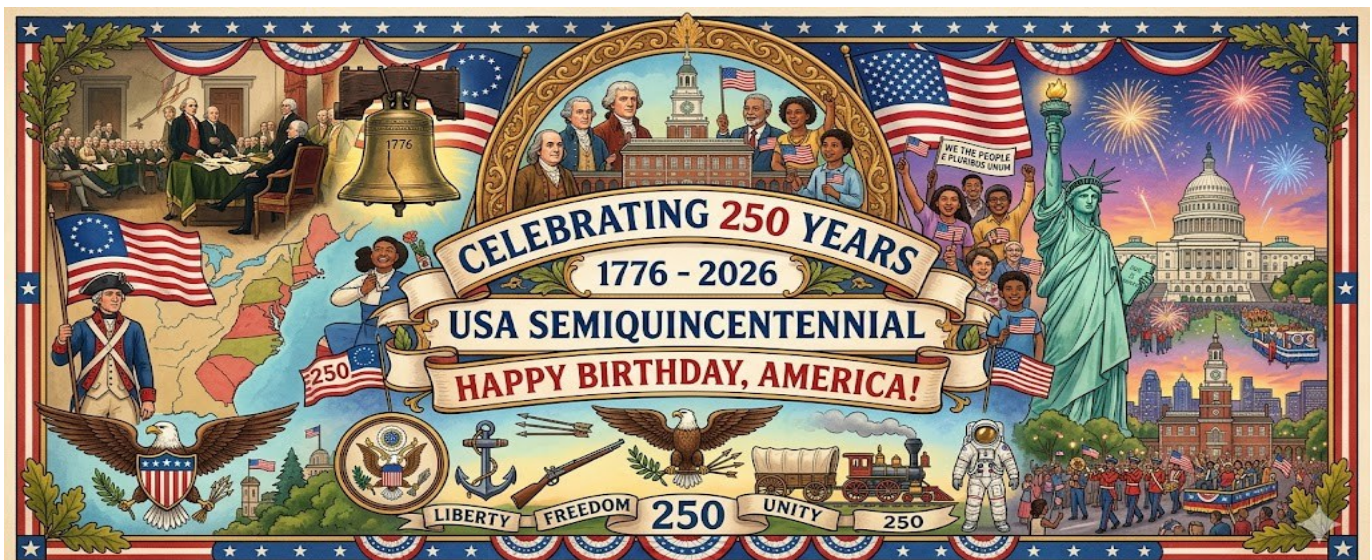
for these types of postings.

Effective immediately, any notices, advertisements, flyers, or postings that have not been authorized for display on the community bulletin boards may be removed without notice.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of the website's Classified Page for personal and business-related announcements. This helps keep our bulletin boards organized, ensures important community information remains visible, and provides a centralized location where residents can easily find local offerings and opportunities.

Our goal is not to limit communication among residents, but to ensure that important community notices remain visible while providing an effective location for personal advertisements and announcements.

Thank you for helping maintain clear and effective communication throughout our community



Dog Days of Summer at Evergreen Village

Celebrating the Companions Who Brighten Our Days

As August rolls in with its long afternoons and golden light, we're turning our attention to some of the most joyful members of our community — our dogs. Big or small, young or old, shy or outgoing, our pups have a way of lifting spirits, sparking conversations, and reminding us that companionship often comes on four legs with a wagging tail.

This month, Evergreen Village is proud to celebrate the Dog Days of Summer, a special feature honoring the pets who share our homes, our routines, and our hearts.

A Community Photo Studio — Just for the Dogs

To make this celebration extra fun, we're setting up a simple, cheerful photo studio where residents can bring their dogs for a portrait session. Whether your pup is dignified, goofy, or somewhere in between, we'll capture their personality in a keepsake photo.

A small fee (to be announced) will help support future community activities.

Share Your Photos and Stories

Not every dog loves the camera — and that's perfectly fine. We also invite residents to share their own snapshots and stories. Tell us about the dog who greets you at the door, the one who naps in sunbeams, or the one

who once stole a sandwich right off the counter. Funny, sweet, mischievous, or heartwarming — every story adds to the tapestry of life here at Evergreen Village.

Why Dogs Matter Here

In a community like ours, dogs do more than fetch tennis balls. They bring neighbors together. They encourage us to walk a little farther, laugh a little more, and connect in ways that feel natural and easy. Even those who don't have a dog of their own often enjoy the chance to say hello, offer a pat, or simply watch the parade of wagging tails go by.

How to Participate

Bring your dog to our portrait studio on the announced dates. Submit your own photos for the newsletter.

Share a short story, memory, or fun fact about your pup.

Or simply enjoy the celebration and cheer on your neighbors' furry friends.

Let's fill August with smiles, shared moments, and the joyful chaos that only dogs can bring. After all, the Dog Days of Summer aren't just about the heat — they're about the warmth our pets bring into our lives.

Submit a photo and/or a story to Barbara Massarano by July 18th for inclusion in the newsletter.

The photo studio info will be published on the community website and on Facebook.

Contributors and Staff

Rich DeLeo
Barbara Massarano
Marie Wolfrum
Carolyn Leidy
Phyllis Brockman
Michelle Dinnen
John Bermingham
Ginny Frank
Michelle Dinnen



Now in the Clubhouse Chair Zumba

Fitness, Fun, and Friendship

Chair Zumba is a seated version of the popular Zumba fitness program, designed for individuals who want to enjoy the benefits of exercise in a safe, low-impact way. Participants perform easy-to-follow dance-inspired movements while seated, often accompanied by upbeat music that makes exercise feel more like a celebration than a workout.

Chair Zumba helps improve flexibility, coordination, balance, and muscle strength while providing a gentle cardiovascular workout. It can also increase energy, reduce stress, and promote better overall health. Just as important, it offers an opportunity to socialize, laugh, and enjoy time with friends in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Whether you're new to exercise or simply looking for a fun way to stay active, Chair Zumba is a great way to keep both your body and your spirit moving!

Meet the Candidates

President, Secretary, Maintenance Director

July 29th 6:30 PM

August 1st 6:30 PM

At the Community Clubhouse

Street Captains: Keeping Our Village Connected

Evergreen Village is fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteer Street Captains who make sure every resident stays informed. They deliver notices, the Village newsletter, and all Official Cooperative Documents — rain or shine.

Our Street Captains

Lexington Lane

Phyllis Cowell

Flintlock Road

Charles Marstellar

Lower Independence Way

Sam Brockman

Upper Independence Way

Carolyn Leidy

Liberty Lane

Deb Sandt

Molly Pitcher Road

Volunteer Needed

Musket Way

Ron Pease

Powderhorn Place

Mary Myers

Revolutionary Road

Ginny Frank

A Note of Thanks

These volunteers are a quiet but essential part of our cooperative life. Their steady commitment keeps communication flowing and helps every resident feel included and informed. If you see your Street Captain out and about, a warm thank-you is always appreciated.

If you know someone who might enjoy serving on Molly Pitcher Road, please reach out to the Board.

A Small Thought for a Big Village

Every month, Evergreen Village is stitched together by small acts of kindness — a wave from a porch, a shared recipe, a neighbor checking in after a storm. These gestures don't make headlines, but they make a community.

And the beautiful thing is that they happen quietly, without fanfare. Someone brings in a package for a neighbor who's away. Someone else takes a neighbors trash to the dumpsters. A resident pauses to chat with a newcomer, making sure they feel at home. None of these moments take much time, yet they create the gentle rhythm that makes our Village feel welcoming.

As we move into July, may we keep choosing the little things that help Evergreen Village feel like home. Kindness doesn't need to be grand to matter — it just needs to be shared.

Important Notice

On the last day of this month, **(July 31, 2026)**

there will be only 147 more

shopping days until Christmas

GOD BLESS AMERICA

"God Bless America" was written by Irving Berlin, one of the most prolific songwriters in American history.

While the song became famous on the eve of World War II, its history is actually split into two distinct chapters: why he originally wrote it, and why he pulled it out of a drawer twenty years later to rewrite it.

1. The Original Version (1918): A Solider's Review

Berlin first wrote the song in 1918 while serving in the U.S. Army at Camp Upton in Yaphank, New York, during World War I. He was putting together an all-soldier musical review called Yip, Yip, Yaphank.

He penned "God Bless America" as the grand finale for the show. However, after listening to it, Berlin felt it was a bit too solemn and "sticky" with sentiment for a lighthearted comedy show. He decided to cut it from the lineup and tucked the manuscript away in his files, where it sat forgotten for two decades.

2. The Rewrite (1938): A Response to the Rise of Fascism

The "why" behind the song we know today happened in 1938. As Adolf Hitler rose to power and the shadow of fascism spread across Europe, Berlin—a Jewish immigrant who had fled severe

anti-Semitism in Russia as a child—was deeply disturbed by the gathering storm clouds. He wanted to write a song that could serve as a peace anthem, a prayer for a nation trying to stay out of another global conflict.

Instead of starting from scratch, he remembered his old 1918 melody. He pulled it out of his files and made several crucial lyric changes to shift the tone from a standard wartime march to a sincere prayer for peace.

The Big Change: In the original 1918 draft, a line ran "Make her victorious on land and foam." In 1938, Berlin changed this to focus entirely on protection and guidance, giving us the famous line: "Guide her through the night with a light from above."

The Debut That Made It Famous

Berlin gave the exclusive rights to perform the revised song to radio star Kate Smith, who debuted it on her Armistice Day broadcast on November 11, 1938.

The response was immediate and overwhelming. It struck such a deep chord with a worried American public that many people even lobbied for it to replace "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem, preferring its gentle, prayer-like quality over a song about a military battle.

A Legacy of Charity

Because Berlin felt it would be wrong to profit from a song that was essentially a love letter to the country that took him in, he never kept a dime of the royalties. In 1940, he established the God Bless America Fund, directing every single penny earned from the song's sheet music and recordings to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America—a tradition that continues to this day.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

"While the storm clouds gather
far across the sea,

Let us swear allegiance to a land
that's free,

Let us all be grateful for a land so
fair,

As we raise our voices in a solemn
prayer.

" God Bless America, Land that I
love.

Stand beside her and guide her

Thru the night with a light from
above.

From the mountains, to the prairies,

To the oceans, white with foam

God bless America,

My home sweet home.