

The Village Times

May 2026

From the Editor

Your Voice, Your Village: What's Really Decided

Last month, we talked about something simple but important: our community doesn't run on its own—it depends on residents staying aware and involved.

Now let's take the next step and look at what that involvement actually affects.

The Annual Meeting in August isn't just another date on the calendar—it's where the decisions that shape daily life in our community are made.

This includes:

The Budget – How community funds are spent

Rent Levels – What we all pay next year

Leadership – Who serves on the Board

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Presidents Message

Dear members, Welcome to May. Signs of spring are among us and our beautiful community is bustling with activity. As we start to enjoy our outdoor spaces, please keep in mind that open flame fires or burning is not permitted. Please also be mindful of speed limits. With the warmer weather more members will be walking, cycling, golf carts, etc. For the safety of others speeding will not be tolerated by members or their guests. The pool will be opening by May 23rd. This year we have a pool committee with volunteers monitoring the pool and compliance of pool rules. On your first visit to the pool, you will receive a copy of the pool rules. Members are required to sign in themselves and how many guests are joining them. At no time can guests be at the pool without a member being present. If you are planning

to reserve the clubhouse during pool season, please know that members at the pool have access to the restrooms. Signs of red, white, and blue will start to be visible around our community as we celebrate Americas Birthday!

Our Annual Meeting will be held at the Portland Fire Hall on Saturday August 22nd at 9:00am. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Voting Members must be present and a quorum needs to be met for our cooperative to elect new officers and approve next year's CIP and operations budgets. Refreshments will be served. We have three board positions up for reelection- President, Secretary, and Maintenance Director. Please be on the lookout for more information on how you can nominate yourself or anyone you might like to see in a board position from the nominating committee soon.

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Wanted

There is a Open Seat on the Board of Directors

Interim Secretary (ends Aug. 2026)

If you can help, contact any Board Member

See Description of Duties—page 6-

Paul Miller’s Law

By Sam Brockman

A Split Second Can Change Everything

How Dangerous Is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving remains one of the most preventable causes of crashes on Pennsylvania roads. Even a brief glance away from the road can have life-altering consequences. State officials emphasize that “just one second of inattention can result in irreversible consequences,” a reminder that staying focused behind the wheel protects everyone.

Crashes, Injuries, and Fatalities in Pennsylvania

PennDOT reported 9,950 distracted-driving crashes in 2024, resulting in more than 6,000 injuries and 49 fatalities across the Commonwealth.

These numbers may even be underreported, as many drivers hesitate to admit distraction after

a crash.

How Quickly Can an Accident Happen?

Accidents caused by distraction often occur in the blink of an eye. A momentary glance at a phone, a quick reach for an item, or a few seconds of daydreaming is all it takes for a vehicle to drift, miss a hazard, or fail to stop in time. Police and safety officials repeatedly stress that “just a moment of inattention” can lead to life-changing outcomes.

At 50 Miles an Hour, How Far Do You Travel in 3 Seconds?

Using the basic distance formula (Distance = Speed × Time), a car traveling at 50 mph covers:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &50 \text{ miles per hour} \\
 &= 73.3 \text{ feet per second} \\
 &\times 3 \text{ seconds} \\
 &\approx \mathbf{220 \text{ feet}}
 \end{aligned}$$

That’s more than half a football field traveled blind if your eyes are on a phone instead of the road.

Pennsylvania’s Law on Hand-Held Phones

Pennsylvania’s new hands-free law (Paul Miller’s Law) was signed on June 5, 2024. It officially takes effect on June 5, 2025, making it illegal to hold a phone for any reason while driving, even when stopped at a red light. This means the law has been on the books since 2024, with a one year warning period before enforcement begins.

Enforcement Begins June 2026: What Is the Fine?

Starting June 6, 2026, drivers caught holding a phone behind the wheel will receive a \$50 fine, plus court costs and additional fees.

Additionally, if a distracted driver is convicted of homicide by vehicle, they could face up to five additional years in prison under this law.



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Stretch 10:00	2
3	4 Bingo 1:00	5 Stretch 10:00	6	7	8 Stretch 10:00	9
10 Mother's Day	11 Bingo 1:00	12 Stretch 10:00	13 Prayer, Share 10:00 Camera Club 6:30	14 Shuffleboard 6:30	15 Stretch 10:00	16
17	18 Bingo 1:00	19 Stretch 10:00	20	21 Shuffleboard 6:30	22 Stretch 10:00	23
24	25 Bingo 1:00 BOD 6:00	26 Stretch 10:00	27 Prayer, Share 10:00 Camera Club 6:30	28 Shuffleboard 6:30	29 Stretch 10:00	30
31						

From the Editor

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These aren't abstract issues. They directly impact your costs, your surroundings, and how the community is run.

It's easy to assume these things "just get handled." But the truth is—they're decided by the people who show up.

Awareness is the first step. Participation is what gives that awareness meaning.

If you've ever had an opinion about how things should be done, this is where it matters.

From Marie's Desk

By Marie Wolfrum

After a bleak and snowy winter, it's great to see flowers bloom and green grass. Hope all our friends and neighbors are taking advantage of the fresh air.

Congratulations to the Bangor Production of The Phantom of the Opera held recently at the high school; if you missed it, what a shae. The music, dancing, scenery; all in all a superb performance. The directors,

teachers and students should be commended on a job well done. The Freddie Awards (given to high schools in the area for their performance for the arts), will be given out the end of May. Hopefully the committee will recognize Bangor High School for their amazing performance.

See you next issue - Marie



**From the Office of
Rep. Ann Flood**

**Social Media Investment
Scams**

707 American Bangor Road,
Bangor.

Watch Out for These Scams

Investment scams on social media and attempts to steal state benefits are both making headlines in the Commonwealth.

EBT Fraud

The Department of Human Services (DHS) warned of electronic benefits transfer (EBT) fraud phone calls in which a caller is leaving voicemails and claiming to be "Pennsylvania EBT Customer Service" in an effort to steal benefit card numbers. The agency emphasized it will never call or text an individual to request personal information.

Please report any suspicious texts or calls about DHS benefits by calling the DHS fraud tip line at 1-844-DHS-TIPS (1-844-347-8477).

The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General is warning about the prevalence of fraudulent investment schemes on Meta platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. Citizens are urged to scrutinize social media investment advertisements before investing. Most reputable broker-dealers and investment advisors do not post specific investment advice on social media platforms.

Victims of these types of scams should report them to the Bureau of Consumer Protection at 800-441-2555

**Free Document Shredding
Event in Bangor**

Join me for a free paper shredding event on Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Blue Valley Farm Show parking lot,

This event will give 138th District residents a safe and convenient way to dispose of sensitive documents while also learning how to better protect themselves from identity theft and common scams. Educational information on fraud prevention will be available throughout the event.

Each household may bring up to four boxes or bags of personal documents for secure shredding. Paper and manila folders will be accepted. Hanging folders and X-rays will not be accepted, and staples and paper clips do not need to be removed. This service is for personal documents only, and business materials will not be accepted.

Residents may also bring worn or damaged U.S. flags for proper retirement.

Prayer, Share, and Fellowship

By Ginny Frank

In March of this year, the Prayer and Share group took a field trip to the nearby Prince of Peace Church. Our goal was to view their Stations of the Cross displayed for the Lenten/Easter Season. These items were all created by the talented members of the church and there was a back story prepared by each Artist as to why they created what they did.. Our trip was attended by 15 members and was a lovely experience. Upon returning to our clubhouse we then spoke of the beautiful artistic work we had just seen and reflected upon the Easter Story. It was a deep and moving way to prepare for the Easter season. We are grateful to Carolyn Leidy for arranging our little excursion and for the church in sharing their wonderful artistic talents with us.

Our prayer group continues to grow and we have expanded to twice a month on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 10 am. All Ladies are welcome to come. There is a more 'formal' Christian type bible study on the 2nd week and a more 'informal' meeting on the 4th week, viewing Christian based movies and reflection. Please consider joining us.

Stations of the Cross Photo at www.evergreenvillagecoop.com/photos

A Husband's View of Mother's Day

By Rich DeLeo

On Sunday, May 10th, the United States celebrates Mother's Day. As a child I was encouraged to do something for Mom on this day, make a hand-made card, help with dinner, or help with dishes. When I got into my teens a gift was expected from me, usually by a reminder from dad to make sure it got done, and usually flowers, as we had a florist across the street. Much later in my 30s, it just required that I remember a phone call, but flowers were still a good idea and also a store bought card, an idea no doubt sponsored by greeting card makers everywhere.

But what exactly is the role of a husband in the celebration of Mother's Day? I have never heard a good answer to that question. Does he celebrate only his birth mother (and perhaps Grandmother), and leave his children to present the honors to his wife, their mother? I don't remember my mother getting gifts from my father. But then that wasn't something he was very good at. Does the husband have a role with his wife, even if his children are not present? After they call in and talk to Mom, is Dad expected to have a gift or take Mom out for dinner?

Any man worth his salt

knows all that the wife has done over the years raising the kids etc. He may think he has shared in that job, and to the extent that he has participated, if honest, it's been 80/20. The time to honor that 20% will come in June with Father's Day, a mostly honorary day as compared to Mother's significant achievement.

One more confusing aspect is couples that didn't have children or had no children together. Barbara and I are both in second marriages, and although we both have children, it's just not together. Does this still qualify for me personally to do something for her on May 10th? Maybe the day should be changed to Women's Day for clarity all around. It is all very unclear.

But now as I think about it, it seems this is one of those "better safe than sorry" situations. At the least, start the day with a Happy Mother's Day greeting. And if you have neglected to prepare something in advance, like flowers or candy, then a trip to a restaurant is the solution. You know she is worth it and deserves it, and it will go a long way to the old saying, "A happy wife is a happy life".

To all the women of Evergreen Village, young and older, married or otherwise, I wish you a wonderful May 10th. God bless you all.

Open Board Position

Board Secretary

Responsibilities and duties.

The Secretary shall keep the records of the Cooperative. Amendments to the Bylaws and Community Rules shall be typed, noted, dated and maintained with the Cooperative records. Copies of all amended documents shall be made available to the Membership. The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Directors and Members. If the Secretary is absent from any such meetings, the chair may request that some person act as a recording secretary to take the minutes. The Secretary may also be responsible for posting meeting notices, drafting correspondence and maintaining and updating Membership and resident lists. The signature of the Secretary, or acting secretary, on minutes and actions of the Board shall serve as evidence of their authenticity.

This seat on the Board of Directors will be on the ballot for a two year term at the Annual Meeting on August 22nd, 2026

The best thing about
the good old days

I wasn't good and I
wasn't old.

Dear Evergreen Village Residents,

Upper Mount Bethel has upcoming meetings in May, 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, May 6, 2026 at 7pm is the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting;

Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7pm is the Upper Mount Bethel Board of Supervisors meeting;

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 7pm is the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting;

Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 7pm is the Park and Recreation meeting;

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7pm is the Solar Ad Hoc meeting;

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 7pm is the Planning Commission meeting;

Saturday, May 23, 2026 is a Free Electronics Recycling Day at the Upper Mount Bethel Township Building at 9am;

Monday, May 25, 2026 at 11am is the Memorial Day Service at the Slate Belt Museum; and

Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 7pm is the Economic Development Committee meeting.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Bermingham

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Upper Mount Bethel Township

Contributors and Staff

Rich DeLeo

Barabra Massarano

Marie Wolfrum

Carolyn Leidy

Phyllis Brockman

Michelle Dinnen

John Bermingham

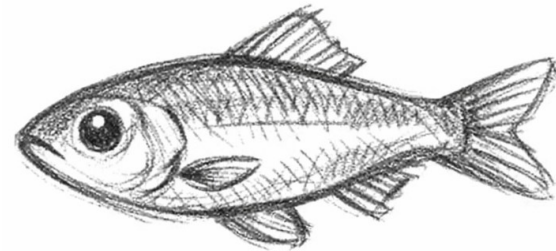
Ginny Frank

Shuffleboard

Begins May 14th

6:30 PM

Every Thursday



The Evergreen Village Pond is Private Property

Community Rules,

Section 1, para 7

The community pond is not to be used for swimming, boating or ice-skating or ice-fishing. Fishing from the shore is allowed for Homeowners and their guests - catch and release only. As with all other amenities, members must accompany guests.

In addition, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission requires any person 16 years or older to possess a valid fishing license.

Presidents Message

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A new Census form will be distributed by our street captains. Instructions on where to return this form will be included. Updating this information will help keep our cooperative records up to date and provide an accurate count of members in the event of an emergency.

Our long-term projects continue and updates are made at our monthly board meetings, website, newsletter, and our Facebook groups.

Thank you Members, Volunteers, and fellow board members for the valuable time and efforts you all give each day making Evergreen Village Cooperative a desirable community to call home.

Respectfully
Michelle Dinnen
Evergreen Village Cooperative
Interim President



JUKEBOX BINGO

May 16, 2026 at the Clubhouse

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Admission: \$4.00 (2 Bingo Cards)

Bring a Plant (flowers, vegetable, houseplant) get a **“Free”** Card

Hot Dogs, Chips, Soda - \$3.00

50/50 Raffle

Sponsored by the Social/Wellness Committee

Save a Life

**Learn / Refresh CPR Skills
and get acquainted with the
new AED**

**(Automated External
Defibrillator)**

**Contact Wayne Butler
Classes are forming
SOON**

Medication Safety Matters. Prescription drugs help us stay healthy, but taking them at the wrong time, in the wrong amount, or mixing them by mistake can lead to serious problems—falls, confusion, hospital visits, and dangerous interactions. That’s why having a clear, consistent system to organize daily medications isn’t just convenient; it’s a real safeguard. A good control method reduces guesswork, prevents missed or doubled doses, and gives residents and caregivers peace of mind.

Dan Myers has devised a system to organize medications and remove confusion and/or forgetfulness.

He would like to share his system with the Village. If this would be helpful for you or a loved-one, contact Dan

Pondering

On Being Old, and Remembering

There are days, now, when the mind wanders farther than the body ever could. Age has a way of loosening the knots that once kept us tied to the present moment. One small sound, one drifting scent, one scrap of sunlight across the floor—and suddenly we are barefoot again, standing in the long-ago summers of our youth.

I was born and raised in Missouri, in a childhood that felt—at least in spirit—like something Mark Twain might have scribbled into the margins of Tom Sawyer. My world was creeks and woods, dusty roads and vacant lots, the kind of place where a boy could disappear for a whole day and return home sunburned, scratched up, and utterly content.

We'd hike two miles through the trees to the banks of the Missouri River, swinging on vines like Tarzan, wading through cold creeks, stopping at still pools to drink handfuls of water and turn over rocks for crawdads. We didn't know we were poor or lucky or anything at all—we were simply alive, and that was enough.

Now, in the quiet hours, I often wander back there in my mind. I wonder what became of the boys who ran beside me, the schoolmates who shared my desk, the neighbors who filled those long Missouri days with laughter and mischief. Time has scattered us like dandelion seeds, and I suppose that's the way of things. But memory has its own kind of gravity, and it pulls me back to them more often than I expect.

We played pickup ballgames on vacant lots, using rocks for bases and arguing over whether a pitch was “good enough.” We went trick-or-treating before the world grew suspicious and sour, when homemade fudge, candy apples and popcorn balls were treasures, not threats. And every summer, families gathered at the local park for reunions—homemade ice cream, cold watermelon, fried chicken, and the easy comfort of people who had known each other forever. There were horseshoes and baseball, volleyball and badminton, and the kind of gossip that was more affection than judgment.

Those memories feel like they belong to a different country now—one I can visit but never return to. And yet, being old has taught me something sur-

prising: the past doesn't fade as much as it settles. It becomes quieter, yes, but also deeper. It becomes a well we draw from, not to escape the present, but to understand it.

When we are young, we race forward. When we are old, we finally have time to look back—and to realize how much of who we are was shaped before we even knew we were being shaped.

Maybe that's why remembering feels so tender. It's not just nostalgia. It's gratitude. It's recognition. It's the quiet truth that life is made of moments we didn't know were precious until long after they passed.

And so I let myself wander. I let the boy I once was walk beside the person I am now. I let the barefoot summers return when they want to. I let the woods and creeks and vacant lots rise up again in my mind. Because remembering is not a sign of being stuck in the past—it's a sign that the past still matters.

And maybe, in the end, that's what aging really is: learning to hold all our years at once, the old ones and the new ones, and finding that they fit together more gently than we ever expected.

Share your own Pondering — email to: scb21@frontier.com