

The Village Times

August 2026



From the Editor

: The "Dog Days" of Summer

As the midsummer sun reaches its peak, our days get longer, hotter, and distinctly slower. We often refer to this warm, sticky stretch of the year as the ***"Dog Days of Summer."*** But where does that familiar phrase actually come from?

Contrary to popular belief, it isn't about our four-legged friends lounging in the shade—at least not originally. The term traces back thousands of years to ancient Greece and Rome. They noticed that Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky and part of the constellation *Canis Major* (the Greater Dog), rose alongside the sun during late July and August. The ancients believed the combined heat of Sirius—the "Dog Star"—and the sun was responsible for the sweltering temperatures.

While astrophysics has since

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A Message from the President

Did you know August is often called the "Sunday of Summer"? It's that time of year when we soak up the last warm days, enjoy time with neighbors and family, and begin looking ahead to the seasons to come.

Here at Evergreen Village, that's exactly what we're doing.

Your Board of Directors has been hard at work wrapping up important projects from this year while planning for the year ahead. At the same time, our dedicated committees continue to make our community shine by organizing events, welcoming new members, recruiting volunteers, and creating opportunities that bring neighbors together.

Most importantly, I want to thank each and every one of you. You are what makes Evergreen Village such a special place to call home. The pride you take in your homes, your willingness to lend a helping hand, and the friendships you build throughout our

community are what make Evergreen Village so desirable. When prospective residents visit, they don't just see beautiful homes—they see a community that truly cares.

As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to make plans to attend our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 22, at 9:00 a.m. Your participation is vital. The decisions made at this meeting will help shape the future of our cooperative, and we need one voting member from every household to conduct business and move our community forward.

Next year depends on you. Your voice matters, your vote matters, and together we continue building a stronger Evergreen Village.

We'll have refreshments available, so come enjoy a cup of coffee, visit with your neighbors, and take part in one of the most important meetings of the year.

Warmly,

Michelle Dinnen



Two retired businessmen were sitting on island beach. Mike: Nice to meet you. I'm a retired businessman. When my store burned down, rather than rebuilding I took the insurance money and retired here. John: You know, I'm a retired

businessman, too. When a flood washed away my store I took the insurance money and retired here, too. Mike is silent for a while then he asks John, "How do you start a flood?"

The Tails of Our Lives

By Sam Brockman

It is a familiar scene around our neighborhood: the morning sun just hitting the pavement, a brisk breeze in the air, and a pair of dedicated walking partners—one on two legs, and one on four.

There is no denying that a dog can bring tremendous value to our lives. But as many of us know all too well, the emotional and physical cost at the end of that journey is profoundly real. Whether welcoming a dog into your home is ultimately "worth it" depends entirely on what you are looking for, your current routine, and exactly where you are in life.

The Bright Side of the Leash

The benefits of sharing a home with a dog stretch across every part of our daily well-being. Physically, a dog doesn't care if it's raining or if you just aren't in the mood to get off the couch; they create a non-negotiable routine that keeps us moving. Studies consistently show that dog owners walk more, spend more time outdoors, maintain lower blood pressure, and even recover faster from illness.

Mentally and emotionally, the impact is just as deep. For retirees, those navigating the quiet of a house after children have grown, or those walking the path of widowhood, a dog provides daily companionship and a powerful sense of purpose. There is a

unique medicine in the simple act of being greeted enthusiastically at the door every single time you return home.

Furthermore, our furry friends are natural community builders. They are the ultimate conversation starters. When you're out on a walk, you meet neighbors, exchange pleasantries, and naturally become part of a wider social circle.

The Realities of Care

Of course, true companionship requires a balanced look at the challenges. The financial commitment alone is significant. Between quality food, routine vaccinations, grooming, and the inevitable emergency vet visits, the lifetime cost of a pet can easily reach many thousands of dollars.

There are lifestyle restrictions to consider, too. Unlike a favorite hobby or a craft project, a dog cannot be tucked away in a closet for a few weeks when you want to travel or when you are simply feeling under the weather. They require daily structure, rain or shine.

Then, there is the reality of time. As our dogs age, they face many of the same ailments we do—arthritis, vision loss, and chronic illness. The final year or two of a dog's life can demand a heavy investment of both your bank account and your heart.

Facing the Empty Dish

What happens when a dog passes is the part of the journey many

people underestimate. For most of us, losing a canine companion feels identical to losing a close family member.

The grief is physically exhausting. It can disrupt our sleep, sap our appetite, and leave us with a heavy feeling of emptiness. Our brains are suddenly reacting to the abrupt end of a relationship that dictated our daily schedule for a decade or more.

Emotionally, the silence in the house can be deafening. There is the weight of intense sadness, occasionally mixed with the unfair guilt of wondering if we did enough. When a pet passes, the loss of the routine hurts just as much as the loss itself—suddenly, there is no morning walk to lace up for, no feeding time to attend to, and no loyal friend waiting by the door.

A Price Worth Paying?

Yet, despite the sharp sting of that eventual heartbreak, something remarkable happens: after deeply grieving, a great many dog owners eventually choose to open their hearts and homes to another dog.

They don't do this because the loss didn't hurt. They do it because they've realized the years of unconditional affection and joy far outweighed the grief. As a common sentiment goes: "The pain at the end is simply

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From the Editor

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disproved that theory, the name stuck. And frankly, we think our modern interpretation is much better!

Here in our community, the Dog Days are a perfect time to celebrate the loyal, tail-wagging companions who make our lives so rich. Our dogs don't care about heat-waves or humidity; they care about morning walks, a cool patch of grass, a splash of water, and—above all—spending time with us. They remind us to slow down, rest when it's hot, and find joy in the simple things.

So as we navigate the rest of the summer heat, let's make sure our furry family members stay cool, hydrated, and well-loved. Take a extra moment today to offer a cool bowl of water, a belly rub, or a favorite treat. After all, every dog has its day—and these summer days belong to them!

Sam Brockman

Many, Many Thanks
to our Street Cap-
tions. You keep our
Community
Connected!

Time to start planning for
the annual Tricky Tray on
September 12th.

If possible, please consid-
er making a basket for the
drawing or contributing a
side dish for the lunch.
Join your neighbors for a
great time!!

Contributors and Staff

Rich DeLeo

Barbara Massarano

Marie Wolfrum

Carolyn Leidy

Phyllis Brockman

Michelle Dinnen

Sue Siniscal

Ginny Frank



Carolyn Leidy-*left above*– presents the prize basket for the 250th Celebration House Decoration Contest to Winner Kathy Peligra. Winning House shown below. (*more photos page 8*)



Traveling The USA

I was fortunate that my father earned a two week vacation every year. He had a decent job but places we visited were value minded and included those that were less expensive and away from most of the large cities. So without much planning we opened the family Piggy Bank (literally), packed bags into the car and just picked a direction, often the morning we left. These trips developed on the fly and gave me a love of travel and discovery.

In the late 1950s and 1960s there were few large amusement parks like today's Disney World and Universal Studios to visit for kids. As we traveled, when the family stopped for meals, they had display racks of local attractions and historic sites near the doorways. My sister and I picked through those brochures and that is where we headed. Our vacations included the great historic sites up and down the East Coast from Arcadia ME to St. Augustine FL. Places like Gettysburg PA, Fort Ticonderoga NY &

Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Mount Vernon, Monticello, Williamsburg & Yorktown in VA . And Plymouth and Sturbridge in MA. We also visited the natural sites like Niagara Falls, Cape Cod, Shenandoah National Park, and The Great Smoky Mts. Being on-site at these places gifted me a love of the special places and history of this wonderful country and an understanding of the events surrounding these locations that no textbooks could.

Seeing the displays at the Revolutionary and Civil War battle sites, watching the working men and women craftsmen at the villages telling the stories of real people and walking the same footsteps through the places of great Americans including early Presidents. It has left lifelong memories 65+ years later. I still remember the sounds of reenactor's muskets & cannon and of hammers to iron of the blacksmiths. And the sweet smells from the wood fires of bakers, candle and barrel makers.

This month the 250th Anni-

versary continues, and with what's left of the nice weather before fall and winter, I encourage you to plan to visit some of these places. Being older doesn't prevent our appreciation of these places and things, I think now they speak to me more than back then. It's a perfect time. Take the kids & grand kids, go with your favorite travel companions or just go yourselves. Appreciate the legacy the men and women of this country built and preserved for us. We are fortunate to be on the East Coast, so much history can be visited in a single day or weekend. Most of these locations will have special programs this year, that you might never get another chance to see. And going there in person is so much better than seeing them online or on TV. Save the amusement parks, cruise or beach time for 2027. They will all be there next year.

Happy Birthday America!
Rich DeLeo

Tails of Our Lives

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the price of all the love that came before it."

Ultimately, there is no right or

wrong answer. For some, the responsibility, expense, or eventual sorrow is a path they understandably prefer not to walk again. For others, the daily wag of a tail is worth every single step.



On the Ballet

From the BYLAWS of Evergreen Village Cooperative, Inc.

ARTICLE VII—Officers

7.2 President The President shall serve as chair and preside at all meetings of the Directors and Membership. He or she shall be responsible for general day-to-day administration according to the authority granted by the Board and the Membership. The President shall perform such duties prescribed by the Board or as necessary to accomplish the directives of the Board of Directors.

7.4 Secretary

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

7.7 Maintenance Director Community Maintenance.

-The Maintenance Director – Community Maintenance is responsible for ensuring that the Community Buildings, Community Grounds, streets, sidewalks and Pool are maintained, and the operations remain uninterrupted and pre-

sentable. This is done by creating and implementing an annual maintenance calendar.

The Maintenance Director ensures this calendar is created and implemented. The Maintenance Director ensures that the Procurement Policy is adhered to when obtaining contractor bids for maintenance and purchasing goods in cooperation with the Project Management Company.

The Maintenance Director procures contractor cost estimate with the Project Management Company for annual landscaping and snow-plowing services are obtained and ensures completion of the Scope of Work was prepared to meet the needs of the community. The Maintenance Director also ensures that costs incurred are within the approved budget.

These responsibilities are not inclusive and subject to change.

Vote—August 22, 2026 Portland Firehouse

Let Us Shoot Your Puppies

The Evergreen Village Camera Club will be creating a photo studio in the Clubhouse on August 19th, for our village Puppies. All residents are invited to bring their canine buddies to pose for the camera.

A 5X7 photo will be available. Donations appreciated.. Proceeds to benefit the Village Social and Wellness events. Photos will appear in September's Newsletter. Additional sizes will be available. Pricing at time of selection. To reserve your time, contact Sam Brockman email:scb21@frontier.com text 484-553-4706

Vet's Corner

A 3 part narrative By Barbara Massarano, based on the narrated account of Wayne Butler

Part 1

A Family Tradition of Service

As America celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding, it is fitting to reflect on the generations of men and women whose service helped shape our nation. Military service has long been part of my family's history, with roots that extend back well before the American Revolution.

The Butler and Shook families established themselves in Pennsylvania generations ago. Historical records trace the Shook family to German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and neighboring states during the 17th and 18th centuries. The Butler name appears even earlier in history, with several notable figures connected to exploration and colonial America.

Among them was Captain Nathaniel Butler, an early governor of Bermuda who later served in Jamestown, Virginia. He is remembered for introducing the potato to North America and for documenting the difficult conditions faced by the struggling English colony. Another prominent Butler was Major Pierce Butler, who resigned his commission in the British Army to support the American cause during the Revolutionary War. He later

became a Founding Father, a signer of the United States Constitution, and a United States Senator.

While it is interesting to wonder whether my family shares a direct connection with these early Butlers, this story is about the documented military service of my own ancestors.

The American Revolution

The Revolutionary War began on April 19, 1775, with the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. Volunteers from throughout the colonies rallied to support the newly formed Continental Army under General George Washington.

As the war expanded into New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, many Pennsylvanians answered the call to defend their homes and their new nation. Among them was my ancestor, James Butler, who enlisted in the Continental Army as fighting moved closer to Pennsylvania.

James Butler lost his life in 1779 near Wyoming, Pennsylvania, during one of the most difficult campaigns of the Revolutionary War.

The Sullivan Campaign

For years before and during the Revolution, settlements in northeastern Pennsylvania and New York were repeatedly attacked by warriors from several Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) nations allied

with the British. Communities in the Wyoming Valley and Cherry Valley suffered devastating raids that claimed many civilian lives.

In response, General George Washington ordered General John Sullivan to lead a major expedition into central New York during the summer of 1779. The objective was to end the attacks by destroying the villages, crops, and supplies that supported the British-allied forces.

General Sullivan assembled approximately 4,000 to 5,000 Continental soldiers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and New Hampshire. Beginning in June 1779, they marched north from Easton, Pennsylvania, through some of the most rugged terrain in the colonies.

It was during this campaign that James Butler was killed near Wyoming, Pennsylvania.

The Sullivan Expedition ultimately destroyed dozens of villages and large stores of food, forcing thousands of Haudenosaunee to seek refuge at British-held Fort Niagara. Historians continue to debate the campaign's military necessity and its lasting impact on Native American communities, making it one of the most significant—and controversial—operations of the Revolutionary War.

Many books have been written about the Sullivan Campaign.

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Vets Corner

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One of the most respected is The Journals of the Sullivan Campaign (1779), published in 1885, which documents the expedition through firsthand accounts of those who participated.

Although James Butler's life was cut short during America's fight for independence, his service established a tradition that would continue through later generations of the Butler and Shook families.

That tradition would be tested again during the Civil War, when three more members of the family answered the nation's call. Their experiences would take them to some of the most famous battlefields in American history, including Harpers Ferry, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Monocacy.

To be continued in the September Village Times



AUGUST 22, 2026.

**EVERGREEN VILLAGE COOPERATIVE'S
MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF THE YEAR**



Images from 3 Independence Way—Winner of 2026 House Decoration Contest
Winners Basket on Right