The Village Times

November 2026

Presidents Message

Dear Evergreen Village

Members,

As the leaves fall and the air turns crisp, November invites us to appreciate the beauty of the season and the people who make Evergreen Village feel like home. With Thanksgiving approaching, I am especially grateful for our members, volunteers, and my fellow board members, who give their time and energy to caring for our community.

To my fellow board members, thank you for your dedication, teamwork, and willingness to take on the responsibilities of serving our cooperative. Your work behind the scenes, thoughtful discussions, and commitment to our members are deeply appreciated.

Our ongoing projects remain an important focus, including wastewater treatment needs, pond restoration efforts, and maintenance throughout the community. These efforts require careful planning, research, and coordination. Thank you for your patience as we work through the steps needed to care for our property and plan responsibly for the future.

Our volunteers bring so much to Evergreen through community activities, committee work, and everyday acts of kindness. To every member who attends a meeting, shares an idea, helps with an event, or lends a neighbor a hand—thank you. Each contribution helps our resident-owned community grow stronger.

As colder weather arrives, please prepare your homes for winter and check on neighbors who may appreciate a little extra support\. This season reminds us how much it means to look out for one another..

Wishing our members, volunteers, board members, and families a peaceful November and a happy Thanksgiving.

Warmly,

Michelle Dinnen

President, Evergreen Village Cooperative

Inside

Presidents Message	pg 1
Spooky Clubhouse	pg 1
Traditions	pg 2
Senior Life	pg 2
AI Slop	pg 3
Social & Wellness	pg 4
Contributors	pg 4
Toys for Tots	pg 5
Giggles n' Groans	pg 5
Dog Tails	pg 6
Good Reads	pg 6
Pondering	pg 7
Volunteer News	pg 7
Christmas Dinner	pg 8

Spooky Clubhouse



Traditions and Memories,

By Rich DeLso

My father was a supervisor where he worked and as such the company had a tradition of allowing them either a ham or turkey at Thanksgiving to bring home to their family. Of course he took the turkey. It was the only time my dad ever grocery shopped.

He was born on November 26th, so every couple of years, his birthday and Thanksgiving were on the same day. As a man of the 1930s, 40s and 50s he always wore a fedora style hat when he went out. Just like in the old black & white movies. And his birthday seemed to be the right day for a yearly replacement. My sister and I kept him in new slippers, bathrobes and Baby Ruth candy, his favorite, but my mother got him the hat. It was a Thanksgiving time tradition.

Early that day my mom and sister, and grandmother who lived upstairs, started the process of preparing the bird, making stuffing, dinner rolls, cutting & cooking potatoes and vegetables and setting the table. My job was putting the wood leafs in the table, getting additional folding chairs out of the basement, and also bringing up bottled soda to the refrigerator (this was before the use of aluminum cans). Then there was free time as the turkey cooked and I couldn't wait to turn on the TV, turn the channel changer to 13, and see 1934's Babes In Toyland featuring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. It came on right before The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on the New York station. It was in single color, sepia (tan) film, with the boys doing slapstick and those wonderful marching toy soldiers. A seasonal event that was just fun. One of my favorite early Thanksgiving traditions, along with the drumstick, of course.

Mom and dad are gone now, along with the aunts and uncles who shared the meal. The family home was sold years ago. Only some of the cousins, all spread out in Florida, California, Oregon and New Jersey are still around, but they all have their own families, who now have families of their own. Trying to bring this group together would be a mammoth task.

And making a whole fresh turkey dinner sounds wonderful but even if my wife and I tried we would be too exhausted to actually eat it. So just the turkey breast works for us now, gone are the drumsticks, stuffing cooked with the bird, fresh pan gravy and homemade dinner rolls. No more Brookdale soda in the large bottles. Also gone are those days of leftovers.

The memories, those wonderful memories still remain, and maybe some old photos if you can find them. Thankfully you can't outgrow the memories, accidentally throw them out, or lose them to flooding or fire, or when moving to new houses or anything else. Easy to forget what you had for dinner two days ago but the old memories remain. I keep mine close to my heart, and sometimes get to write about them. I love them. Of course the Babes in Toyland movie is still on occasionally, usually this time of year. And so is Macy's Parade, but even then, gone are the huge Mickey Mouse and Snoopy balloons, replaced by... what exactly is a Pikachu? Oh well, I still have the memories.

Senior Life

Nov 5 - 12:30 Senior Life Representative Jacqueline; with Lunch, games and give aways. Sign Up is **MANDATORY!**

Sign-up in the Clubhouse. If you plan to attend and share in the provided lunch,

Sign-up Deadline

November 2, 2026

Today's Tech.

By Sam Brockman

Beware the AI Slop

Pause Before You React: Spotting "AI Slop" & Emotional Clickbait Online

Have you ever seen a photo or video on your phone or computer that immediately made your heart race, made you furious, or seemed almost too strange to be true? You aren't alone. Today, more than ever, our screens are filled with artificial intelligence content—often called "AI slop"—specifically designed to catch our eye and manipulate our emotions.

Here is a quick guide on why this content exists and how you can protect yourself and your neighbors from being fooled.

Why Fake Posts Want to Make You Angry

Online programs (called algorithms) don't care whether a story or video is true—they only care about engagement. The fastest way to get someone to stop scrolling, click, or share a post is to make them feel a strong emotion: anger, fear, or outrage.

When a post makes you instantly mad or panicked, your natural reaction is to want to warn others. But that emotional reaction is often the exact trap the post was built to trigger.

Rule of Thumb: If a video or story makes you instantly furious or terrified, take a breath and pause. That strong reaction is your cue to check the facts before believing or sharing it.

What Is "AI Slop"?

"AI slop" refers to low-quality images, fake videos, audio clips, and articles generated automatically by computers in seconds. Scammers and click-farmers use it to get views, collect advertising money, or trick people into giving away personal information or money.

4 Quick Ways to Spot AI Content

Before you trust or share something suspicious online, put on your detective hat and check for these common warning signs:

Look at the Tiny Details

Hands & Fingers: AI still struggles with human hands. Look for six fingers, missing knuckles, or strange, rubbery palms.

Text & Signs: Look at street signs, book covers, or shirt logos in the background. AI often turns real text into jumbled, non-sensical squiggles.

Check the Eyes & Lighting

Unnatural Glances: In fake videos, the person's eyes may look glassy, fail to blink naturally, or look in slightly different directions.

Odd Shadows: Check if the light on a person's face matches the shadows on the ground or surrounding objects.

Listen to the Voice & Sync

Watch the mouth closely when people talk. In AI-generated videos, lip movements often lag slightly behind the spoken words, and voices can sound robotic or flat.

Verify the Source

Ask yourself: Who posted this? If a major news event actually happened, credible local and national news organizations will be reporting it—not just one random post on social media.

The 5-Second Rule: Pause Before Sharing

The easiest way to stop the spread of fake news, scams, and confusion in our community is simple:

Stop: Take 5 seconds to let the initial emotional surge pass.

Verify: Check trusted resources or ask a friend, relative, or neighbor to look at it with you.

When in Doubt, Don't Share: If you aren't sure it's real, simply keep scrolling.

By staying mindful, we keep our community informed, safe, and connected!

Social and Wellness

By Ginny Frank

The Social Wellness Group was very active in the month of October. We began the month with a visit from Mount Bethel Supervisors John Birmingham and David Friedman for a Question and Answer session. About 25 persons attended with questions ranging from Pop-up Voting stations, large trucks travelling on local roadways, a boat launch in Mount Bethel, banning of jake brakes, where our local emergency shelter is, grants and how to write them, rezoning laws, protection of our area wildlife and farmlands and Scenic Designation for our Delaware River, and of course the ever looming Data Centers.

Both John and Dave were extremely helpful in answering questions and very knowledgeable. They are both against Data Centers but fear the growth of our world will ultimately lead to Centers being a part of all our futures. The goal is how to blend our living quality with the building and growth of these Centers. They are both trying to get the best for our residents of Mount Bethel.

Next we had Sheri from Weis' Markets and the administration of Vaccines. About 22 persons were issued Flu shots and many other options that were available. She even did house calls for several of our residents.

Once again we had Cathy Allen come to see us. There were roughly 15 people who came out to listen to information regarding Social Security and all things involved in our health care. Cathy is very knowledgeable in many different plans and keeps up with current changes. If she doesn't know the answer she will find it. A great resource for us annually.

During our regularly scheduled meeting, many of the attendees helped to write out Christmas Cards for Soldiers. A program Carolyn Leidy and her daughter coordinate here yearly. Final cards must be done by Nov 11, so they can be ready for shipment to our Military.

Finally to wrap up the month is Halloween. Candy for the area children distributed from the Clubhouse and our Movie Night, both on Halloween 10/31 as this year it is a Saturday. Our feature The Witches of Eastwick, the Hot Dog Special and Haloween Costumes and Candy.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GUESTS THIS MONTH

Coming events in November are:

Nov 5 at 12:30 Senior Life Rep Jacqueline with Lunch, games and give aways. Sign Up is MANDATORY as she will be providing lunch.

Nov 17 at 1 pm State Trooper Nathan Branosky - Nathan will speak about emergency situations and answer questions from our residents.

Nov 19 - Social Wellness Meeting. Beginning at 5:30 is our Birthday Celebration for residents born in November. Come have some goodies and celebrate with your friends and neighbors. Our regular meeting follows at 6 pm. Come help us plan our future events

Contributors and Staff

Rich DeLeo

Barbara Massarano

Marie Wolfrum

Carolyn Leidy

Phyllis Brockman

Michelle Dinnen

Sue Siniscal

Ginny Frank

Deb Sandt

Carole Schmidt

Helene Walsh

Rule Reminder

Dogs (Pets) are not permitted in the Clubhouse or the pool area.

Exceptions to this rule must be pre-approved by the Board Of Directors

Spread Holiday Joy: Join Our Toys for Tots Drive!

As the holiday season approaches, our thoughts naturally turn to family, traditions, and the simple magic of children waking up on Christmas morning. For many of us, some of our fondest memories involve watching young eyes light up with pure wonder and excitement as they unwrap a special toy.

Unfortunately, for many families facing challenging times, providing that magical moment can be a struggle. But together, our community has the power to make a quiet miracle happen.

We are proud to, once again, partner with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program to ensure that local children experience the joy, hope, and magic of the holiday season.

Why Your Gift Matters

A new toy is more than just a holiday present—it is a powerful reminder to a child that their community cares about them. By giving, we pass along the warmth, kindness, and generosity that have always made the holidays so special.

Participating is simple and deeply impactful: Donate new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages (from infants to young teens). Place your donations in the official Toys for Tots collection bin located in the Clubhouse We will be accepting donations until December 8th

"No child should go without a smile on Christmas morning. Let’s join hands and hearts to bring light and laughter to young lives in our town this holiday season."

Thank you for your generous spirit and for making our community a place where kindness and cheer truly thrive!

Giggles and Groans

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, “Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?” I mentally polished my halo and I said, “No, how are we alike?” “You’re both old,” he replied.

I didn’t know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door saying, “Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!”

Dog Tails

This is a true story. It was my step-sons dog. Luckily, he ended up only 20 miles from home at the country home of a dog lover.

Carolyn Leidy

Casey Came To My House

The dog that came to my house,
Was s half-starved stray.
He was a German Shepard
We knew he'd lost his way.
It was the last week in November
So we filled the shed with straw,
Hw knew the bed was made for him.
It was late last fall.

His hip was broken
And in need of foof.
I gave him scraps I had,
And he thought it was good.

Hw wouldn't come close to me,
I put thr food outside the door.
He was starved and ate it fast
And looked around for more.

He wouldn't let us touch him
and he felt secure after dark.
Lso, for teo longs months,
We never heard him bark.

We watched the newspapers
In the lost and found
But, we never saw a thing
After he came around.

One day my brother said,
"Did youhear him bark at me?"
From that day on, he barked a lot
And chased my cat up a tree.

We put an ad in the paper
Then we talked it over.
We didn't get any calls,
So my brother called him "ROVER'.

On his collar hung two tags,
But he wouldn't let us see
We were afraid to force him
He night bite Bill or Me.

I called the S P C A
They had no trace or clue.
With a Cold winter and deep snow,
Now what can we do?

We fed him well
And he gained some weight,
We felt sorry for him
Not knowing his fate.

Five months passed by
And I sst down on a log'
He came over to me
Like he was my dog.

I reached out to touch him
And scratched under his chin
Bill said "Get the number
from his license, it you can."

I unhooked his collar
And with a silent cheer,
Bill made a few phone calls
In one hour his owner was here.

He was one happy dog
To see his own master
He couldn't get to her
And the car any faster

His name was CASEY
And he had gained a few pounds.
He was one happy dog
On his own stomping grounds.

Pete
(Esther Motts "Pocono Pete")

Casey lived happily with his real family for several more years

Good Reads

By Sue Siniscal

When Crickets Cry by NY Times bestselling author Charles Martin is a tender story of a 7-year-old girl in desperate need of heart surgery and a mysterious man in town and the relationship that develops between them. It's set in a small Southern town with characters that make you fall in love with and root for them. There's healing, grief and redemption. It's heartbreaking and touching.

If you're a Sound of Music fan you'll want to read ***Maria*** by Michelle Moran. It's historical fiction centered around the life of Maria von Trapp. She's woven unknown surprising facts about Maria's life into a story line in the 50's when Rodgers and Hammerstein were writing the Broadway musical. The addendum gives updates on what happened to the von Trapp family members. I found it very interesting and informative.

Pondering

By Sam Brockman

Thanksgiving: Choosing Gratitude

As Thanksgiving approaches, many of us begin thinking about the things we have to be thankful for. Family gatherings, cherished friendships, good meals, favorite memories, and traditions both old and new come to mind.

Yet Thanksgiving can also be a bittersweet time.

By the time we reach our senior years, we have experienced our share of losses, disappointments, and challenges. We have said goodbye to loved ones, faced setbacks, and watched life change in ways we never expected. During the holidays, it is natural to think about the empty chairs, the missed opportunities, and the things we wish had been different.

But Thanksgiving invites us to look in another direction.

It does not ask us to ignore our sorrows or pretend our struggles never happened. Instead, it reminds us that even amid life's difficulties, there are still blessings to recognize. We may be grateful for family, whether gathered nearby or remembered fondly in our hearts. We may appreciate loyal friends, caring neighbors, and the comfort of knowing we are not alone.

Here in our own community, gratitude can be found in the friendships we have built, the helping hands extended when someone needs them, the laughter shared at a gathering, and the simple pleasure of having neighbors who care.

We can also find gratitude in everyday gifts: a beautiful sunrise, a warm home, a kind smile, a favorite song, or the changing colors of autumn. These simple pleasures often become the treasures we value most.

Perhaps that is the true spirit of Thanksgiving. It is not about having a perfect life, but recognizing that even an imperfect life holds much for which we can be thankful.

As we celebrate this season, may we take a moment to count our blessings alongside our burdens. Gratitude does not erase life's hardships, but it can help us see beyond them. And sometimes, the greatest gifts are not the extraordinary moments we remember for years, but the ordinary moments we might otherwise take for granted.

For veryone who reads this, I wish you a peaceful, happy, and blessed Thanksgiving.

May we always find something to be thankful for, someone to share it with, and a reason to pass that kindness along.

Sam Brockman

Volunteer News

By Deb Sandt

The Property Conditions / Volunteer Committee last met in September.

This month (October) Mandy, Christine W. and Roger power washed, scraped and painted the roofs over the two sets of mailboxes on Powder Horn Place. They look brand new.

Mark power washed the steps behind the Clubhouse and Gregg stained them. They look awesome.

The streets are looking good thanks to Doris, Ron, Charlie, Earl and those of you residents that are cleaning up leaves in front of your homes and also helping out your neighbors.

The area around the clubhouse/ pool and shuffleboard court was spruced up by Mark, Roger, Mandy and Greg.

All of this hard work by our volunteers does not go unnoticed. It is what keeps our community looking beautiful and we can all be proud of our Village.

Thank you all so very much!

As always, if anyone is interested in volunteering, please let me or anyone on the committee know.

I can be reached at 610-751-7227 or dsandt@myyahoo.com.

Volunteers are a gift to our community

Editor's Note: Driving through the village I've been privilege to see many, many neighbors cleaning the streets and sidewalks. Thank you, all!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Evergreen Village Celebrates Christmas

TIPTONS TAVERN

3231 Belvidere Rd.
(just outside Belvidere on Route 519)
Phillipsburg, NJ
Saturday, December 12, 2026 – 1 p.m.

NO PRESELECTION – MENU ON DISPLAY IN CLUBHOUSE.
Choice of :
Salad,
Choice of Entrée
Tea, coffee or soda.
Dessert provided by Evergreen Village Social & Wellness.
$38.00 per person, including tax and gratuity.
Sign–up at Clubhouse and final payment due **no later than November 25, 2026.**
_Payments to: Sam Brockman, 484 553-4706;
checks payable to: Evergreen Village Activities.
Post dinner get-together will be held at the Clubhouse beginning at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome. Details to follow.

Optional: Please bring a $5.00 non-perishable food for donation to PUMP. Food may be dropped off at Clubhouse prior to dinner.

An Afternoon of Holiday Cheer!

The holidays are a special time for friendship, laughter, and sharing good times with our neighbors. We want everyone to have an opportunity to join in the holiday spirit!

For those who are unable to attend the luncheon at Tipton's, we invite you to gather with us at the clubhouse afterward for a little extra holiday cheer.

Dessert will be provided! If you'd like, bring a light snack or beverage to share—perhaps cocoa, w(h)ine, cheese and crackers, or some favorite holiday treats.

Most importantly, bring yourself and your holiday spirit! We look forward to enjoying a relaxed afternoon of fellowship, good conversation, and neighborly friendship.

Let's make sure everyone has a chance to share in the joy of the season! ☐

