The Village Times

October 2026

Tricky Tray 2026

The Village and surrounding area once again responded with generosity and creativity, preparing a wonderful array of baskets for our annual Tricky Tray. A huge **thank you** to everyone who contributed to such an impressive variety. Thanks to your efforts, the event raised **$850.00** for the Slater Family Network — a meaningful gift from our community.

Warm thanks, again, to all who helped make this year's Tricky Tray such a great success.

And a very special **Thank You** to **Phyllis Cowell** and **Michelle Dinnen** for the planning and guidance.

From the President

Hello, neighbors,

October is here, bringing cooler days and colorful leaves. I hope you have a chance to enjoy the season and connect with a neighbor. Thank you for the care you bring to Evergreen Village. Wishing everyone a happy October!

Michelle Dinnen
President, Evergreen Village Co-

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Happy Birthday Village Times

By Rich DeLeo

October 2026 makes one full year the Village newspaper has been published. Let me take you back to that first issue in October 2025 and its very first paragraph.

"We are pleased to introduce the first edition of the rebirth of our newsletter. This publication is designed to serve as a reliable source of updates, insights, and highlights that reflect our community, We look forward to keeping you informed and engaged as we begin this new chapter together."

I might be a little biased writing for this publication but I certainly believe, and I think you would too, that it has achieved its early goals. And it's just the beginning as more features are being added all the time. Filled with timely calendars, advance, detailed notice of upcoming events & meetings, fun pages, updates on village repairs, improvements and future work. Also articles on Evergreeners, volunteers, and enough notice to plan to get involved. And lets not forget the photos, both people & dogs. The paper is expanding, not just the number of pages but the number of contributors as well as the level, quality and completeness of information it contains.

Most of the credit for this goes to its editor, Sam Brockman. (and his wife Phyllis, Behind Every Good Man ...). He's a humble guy who doesn't want anything, well maybe a motorcycle, and to produce a great paper. He wants to serve the village residents and see more people get involved. So I encourage you to be a part of it, (make Sam happy while the cycle is on hold). New ideas are welcome. And so are your criticisms, it helps us improve (just be gentle).

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From the Editor

There's always something happening around Evergreen Village, and this month's newsletter is no exception. Inside you'll find a little bit of everything—good reading, helpful information, community news, upcoming activities, and stories from your neighbors.

This month, Sue Siniscal gives us an excellent review of Theo of Golden by Allen Levi and introduces us to a new neighbor. Marie Wolfrum brings the summer to a gentle close, while Rich DeLeo celebrates a milestone birthday. The Social & Wellness Committee has an active month planned and announces a few new endeavors. Barbara Massarano puts the spotlight on a neighbor's talents, and Carole Schmidt has a wonderful idea for Christmas, and Today's Tech takes a crack at passwords, and Pondering looks at our musical tastes.

As always, our newsletter is made possible by the residents who take the time to contribute their thoughts, talents, experiences, and information. Whether you write an article, share an announcement, submit a photograph, or simply pass along an idea, you help make this more than just a newsletter—you help make it our newsletter.

So settle in, turn the pages, and see what your neighbors have been up to. There may even be something inside that makes you smile, teaches you something new, or inspires you to contribute to the next issue.

Giving at Christmas

by Carole Schmidt

I would like to share with those of you who think there may be a better way to celebrate Christmas than the usual frenzy of gift decisions and buying, wrapping, and distribution at family gatherings on Christmas Day… followed by the clean-up of paper, bags, and boxes from giving gifts to all the adults and children.

I had enjoyed this scenario for as long as I can remember. However, I realized how much of our Christmas Day attention is centered on gifts…not really leaving time for quality family time, much less attention on the Person whose birthday we are celebrating.

Years ago, I bravely proposed that we no longer buy gifts for the adults. Most of us have so much more than we need. What a benefit to have more money to be able to help with the myriad of legitimate needs that surround us near and far. We would continue to buy for each child/grandchild but would consider buying them less too…unless there was a legitimate need.

Without exception, every adult in the family agreed to make this change. We still filled a stocking for each grandchild, which always included needed toiletries, fun stuff, and of course candy.

The first Christmas that we started this was so peaceful and relaxed. My husband planned a devotional, one or more grandchildren brought their instrument and played or sang, Scripture was read, etc. Then the kids opened their gifts, one at a time. It has worked perfectly for us.

I know "different strokes for different folks" and I am only sharing this for those of you who feel that you need to make some change in family gift giving at Christmas. Our way may not interest you, but I wanted to share it. Perhaps inquire with your family.

P.S. I must confess, Grandma cheats. If I know something that an adult really needs and/or would really enjoy, I give it to them before Christmas.

Only 85 Days until Christmas

Evergreen Village is going to the dogs!

By Barbara Massarano

Inspired by feedback from the last edition of The Village Times, and the "Dog Days of Summer" we decided to delve even further into the lives of our furry friends. The cover article featuring "glamour shots" of some of our favorite canines, (real and imagined) prompted positive "human interest". Rich DeLeo shared memories of his and Barbara's dogs over the

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Good Reads

By Sue Siniscal

I recently read, **Theo of Golden** by Allen Levi. It was a "feel-good" read about an 86-year-old man that moves to Golden, Georgia and changes the lives of the residents there through his generosity and intentional acts of kindness. His personal life is somewhat of a mystery and is gradually told throughout the book. This is Allen Levi's first novel, and it has become a NY Times bestseller. His background is a former attorney and judge, and then a singer-songwriter. The book is currently being adapted into a movie starring Tom Hanks as Theo.

Calling All Gardeners!

By Ginny Frank

We have a small group of residents looking to establish a **COMMUMITY Garden** next growing season. Although summer has just ended, planning needs to begin now to help prepare, plant and maintain (weed, water, pick) a garden for community use.

With costs, and uncertainty of where are produce comes from, all could benefit.

If interested, contact: Ginny Frank at 908-763-2737 or Rich DeLeo at 570-801-8882.

Marie's Desk

Marie Wolfrum

As the summer of 2026 fades away I stop and think of all the happy times that I will miss. The long days of sunlight, the trip to the Jersey Shore with my family and watching my Great Grand kids having fun at the pool, and then going to Kelly's for Chicken fingers, fries and ice cream. These memories will last me the long winter days. I definitely will not miss the hot, humid days sitting at home in front of the A.C. Enjoy the beautiful colors just around the corner

Show Us What You've Got!

Evergreen Village Talent Show Coming Soon

Do you sing in the shower? Play a little guitar? Know a magic trick or two? Have a dance you'd love to share? Maybe you tell a great story or enjoy making people laugh.

Our Social & Wellness Committee would like to put together a Village Talent Show, and we're inviting performers of all kinds—serious, silly, polished, or just-for-fun.

If you'd like to be part of the show, share your talent with the Committee and we'll save you a spot on stage. Let's fill the room with music, laughter, and community spirit.

Contributors and Staff

Rich DeLeo
Barbara Massarano
Marie Wolfrum
Carolyn Leidy
Phyllis Brockman
Michelle Dinnen
Sue Siniscal
Ginny Frank
Deb Sandt
Carole Schmidt

Birthday

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Join us, be creative, write a clever story, report an interesting story we can write for you. Send a village photo. Help the EPS with delivery, (Evergreen Postal Service). Help us make the next 12 months even better than the first. Thanks from all of us.

Note from the Editor: I appreciate the kind words supplied by Ruch. But, I would like to point you to the list above.

These are your neighbors, who bring the talent and put the value into the newsletter





Meet A Neighbor

By Sue Siniscal

My name is Christine P. Wolfe and I moved into Evergreen Village in March and am liking it more with each passing day. I am truly grateful to God for allowing me to find Evergreen Village and to have been able to move here. I was born in Newark N.J. but was raised during the 1960s and 1970s in Hackettstown N.J. during a time when we a knew almost everyone in the town. I married and moved to beautiful New Hampshire for 13 years where my three sons experienced their early childhood years and am blessed to still have family living there so I can go visit as well as visiting beautiful Oregon where my middle sons' family lives. I became an RN during that period of time, going to school in neighboring Massachusetts, a career in which God gave me the opportunity to meet and care for so many beautiful souls in numerous ways. I then relocated back to N.J. where I lived for 31 years before moving to Evergreen Village.

As I grow in my understanding of how a Resident Owned Cooperative works I realize how fortunate I am to be able voice my opinions, vote on issues that are important to me along with the community, and have the rewarding experience of contributing to the overall welfare and beauty of Evergreen Village by using my talents, as limited as they are and to whatever extent I am capable, through the various community committees in order to keep the place that I became so fond of the first time I saw it back in the fall of 2025, a place I am proud to call my home. I am grateful for the kind and thoughtful neighbors I have met (though it's hard for me to remember everyone's names) and I look forward to working with and meeting many more of you.

I like to crochet, garden and cook on occasion and live on Powderhorn Place.

Social & Wellness Upcoming Events

On October 5th, John Birmingham, Upper Mount Bethel Township Supervisor will conduct a Question and answer session to discuss local issues (Data Center) and answer questions.

A vaccination clinic will be held on October 13th, 10:00 am to 12:00 am. Sign up is required. Sign-up sheet is in the clubhouse. Flu, Pneumonia, Shingles Etc.

October 20th, Cathy Allen will be here to discuss medical insurance plans and needs.

November 5th A Representative from Senior Life will present the benefits of the Home for Life Program.

November 17th, the Pennsylvania State Police will present a program on sheltering in place at 1:00 pm

October 16th. October Birthday Celebration at 5:30 PM followed by the Social & Wellness Committing Meeting at 6:00 PM

Keeping the Village Up to Date

Today's Tech

Passwords Made Simple (and Safe!)

Keeping track of online logins can feel overwhelming, but staying secure doesn't have to be. Old advice—like using one main password and changing the last letter—no longer works. If one website is hacked, thieves can often guess the rest.

Here are four easy ways to protect your accounts without stress.

1. Switch to "Passphrases"

Short, complicated passwords are hard to remember. Instead, choose four simple words and add a number or symbol. They're easier for you and much harder for computers to crack.

Avoid: HouseWine92-A
Better: Purple-Cozy-Teapot92!

2. Use Three "Security Groups"

You don't need a different system for every website. Just sort your accounts into three groups:

Important Accounts (Banking & Email): Each one gets its own strong, unique passphrase. Never reuse these.

Shopping & Social Sites: Use solid passphrases, especially where credit cards are stored.

Low=Risk Accounts (Games & Clubs): Simple, unique phrases are fine for accounts with no personal or financial information.

3. Keep a Password Notebook

If apps feel confusing, a small notebook works beautifully. A notebook in your desk drawer can't be hacked. Write down the website, your login email, and the passphrase. Keep it tucked away—not on a sticky note on the computer.

4. Add a "Deadbolt" with Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Your password is the lock; 2FA is the deadbolt. When you sign in, you may be asked for a code sent to your phone. This extra step protects you even if someone learns your password.

Two Quick Safety Rules

Protect your email first. Your email is the "master key" to many accounts. Give it your strongest, unique passphrase.

Never click links asking you to "verify" your password. If you get a scary message about a locked account, don't click. Open your browser and go straight to the official website..

Pondering

by Sam Brockman

When Is Enough, Enough?

This headline caught my attention:

"Live Oak Cliff tops Bonham 105–14."

My first thought was, "What happened to the mercy rule?"

And I started Pondering.

For those who may not follow football closely, the idea behind a "mercy rule" is simple. When one team has built such an overwhelming lead that the outcome is no longer in doubt, some sports allow the contest to end early—or at least discourage the winning team from continuing to run up the score.

There is a practical reason for that. It can protect players from unnecessary injuries and prevent a difficult loss from becoming an exercise in humiliation.

But perhaps there is a larger lesson here.

Maybe knowing when enough is enough is a pretty good lesson for life, too.

Winning is one thing. Completely overwhelming someone who is already defeated is something else.

We have all probably been involved in an argument where we knew we were right. We had the facts, the better argument, or simply the last word.

But did we really need the last word?

Sometimes, once our point has been made, the wiser thing is to stop. There is little to be gained by backing someone into a corner just to prove that we won. There is a certain grace in allowing the other person to walk away with some dignity.

The same may be true of the battles we have with ourselves.

As we get older, we sometimes discover that there are things we simply cannot do the way

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

One of the great strengths of Evergreen Village is the people who call it home. Among our residents are people with a wide variety of talents, skills, experience and interests—and many of those talents could be helpful to a neighbor.

Perhaps you have experience caring for older adults, enjoy preparing a home-cooked meal, or would be willing to help with lawn care. Maybe you are handy with home repairs, enjoy cleaning, groom dogs, cut or style hair, or have another skill that could make life a little easier for someone nearby.

Why not let your neighbors know what you can do?

We would like to encourage residents who provide a service to consider placing a small listing in the Evergreen Village newsletter and on our website.

Listings might include services such as:

- Home care or companionship
- Meal preparation or home-cooked meals
- Lawn and yard services
- Home repairs and handyman services
- House cleaning
- Dog grooming or pet care
- Haircuts and hairstyling
- Computer or technology assistance
- Sewing, crafts or other specialty skills
- Transportation or errands

And other services you may be able to provide

Your listing can include **what you provide, how residents can contact you, and whether there is a charge for your service.** You may also indicate whether you are offering your service as a business, for a fee, or simply as a neighbor helping a neighbor.

This isn't intended to compete with local businesses. Rather, it is an opportunity for residents to share their talents with the people who live right here in our community.

Sometimes the person who can help with a problem is living just a few doors away.

If you have a service or skill you'd like to share, let us know. We can help get the word out through both the Evergreen Village newsletter and **Neighbors helping neighbors is one more way we can strengthen our community.**

Trick or Treat

Halloween is coming—and Evergreen Village is opening its heart and the clubhouse doors to the children of our neighboring communities!

Saturday, October 31

1:00–5:00 PM
Evergreen Village Clubhouse

We're inviting our residents to help make the afternoon special. Have some extra candy? Bring it to the Clubhouse during the event and help us fill the treats!

And you don't have to bring anything at all. Come join the fun, greet the children, enjoy the costumes, and show our young neighbors what Evergreen Village hospitality is all about.

Did You Know?

Silly, Useless, and Completely Unnecessary Facts

Cows Have Best Friends

Studies of cattle behavior have found that cows often develop preferred companions and can become stressed when separated from familiar animals.

So the next time someone says, "She's out with her best friend," remember that cows understand the concept, too.

A Chair Has Been Elected to Public Office

There have been plenty of unusual political stunts and joke elections throughout history. In some places, people have elected animals, fictional characters, and even objects to symbolic positions.

A chair, at least, has one major advantage over most politicians: it already knows how to sit quietly

***Your Brain Is Using* Energy Right Now**

Even while you're sitting quietly reading this completely unnecessary article, your brain is working away. Your brain uses a substantial amount of your body's energy even when you're resting.

So technically, reading this column is exercise.

You're welcome.

Volunteer

Volunteer

Volunteer

Property Conditions / Volunteer Committee



Revolutionary Road Lake Fence

Many Thanks to Earl, Christine W. Mandy, and Gregg

Photo be Sam Brockman

By Debra Sandt

The Property Conditions / Volunteer Committee met on September 21st and September 22nd. the fence/handrail on the Revolutionary Road side of the pond is complete. This was completed by volunteers Earl, Christine W., Mandy and Gregg. Thank you all so much. It looks like a new fence.

The next project Christine W. and Mandy will be working on is the roof structures over the mailboxes on Powderhorn Place. The paint needs to be scraped and then they can be painted. If anyone would like to help please let them or myself know.

Our main focus now is preparing for the cold weather. We discussed ways to pick up leaves and also bean pods (when they start coming down more). We will be cleaning out the Clubhouse basement and the putting the pool furniture away. Weather permitting, we would also like to power wash and stain the steps on the side of the office and the steps behind the clubhouse. Also still hoping to trim low branches that can be reached.

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 the HEART of the Village

Dogs

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years under the heading “Dog Stories”. Who knows, this could become a regular Human Interest column of weird/wonderful/whacky dog “tails” that go through fall, and into winter and spring!

“I had no idea there were so many dogs in the village”, commented Rosemarie Repetto, a certified dog groomer right here in Evergreen Village.

Rosemarie has been lovingly grooming dogs for 35 years. She has two standard poodles, Tara, 13, and Ashley, 11. Sadly, not long ago, she lost her beloved 14 year old Toy Poodle, Miss Scarlett. Naturally, I had to dig deeper.

Rosemarie was born in Newark, graduated from Parsippany HS and lived in Blairstown for 25 years, until five years ago, when she moved to Evergreen Village. With BOD approval she moved her business to her home on Molly Pitcher Rd. While she continues to groom many of her New Jersey pooches, she offers a discount to Evergreen Village clientele and regularly services 6 happy customers. As we strive to “keep it local” and support each other in the village, consider using her services. She works on small to medium sized dogs.



Evergreen Village Photographer Featured at Allentown Art Museum

A photograph by Evergreen Village resident Mark Bergman has been selected for the FOCUS Exhibition at the Allentown Art Museum. Mark is a founding member of the Evergreen Village Camera Club.

The exhibition runs October 4 through November 15, with FREE admission.

Museum Hours: Thursday–Sunday, 11:00 AM–4:00 PM

Thursday, October 15: Open until 8:00 PM

Closed Monday–Wednesday.

Free parking for museum visitors is available in the lot next to the Museum at Fifth and Linden Streets.

We hope you'll take the opportunity to visit and enjoy this exhibition—

Pondering *cont. from pg 5*

we once did them. A project takes longer. The house may not get cleaned quite as thoroughly. We may have to give up an activity we once enjoyed.

Perhaps we need a personal mercy rule.

That doesn't mean quitting. It means recognizing reality.

Sometimes the sensible thing is to say, "That's enough for today. I'll finish it tomorrow."

There are also times when we hang onto something simply because we've already invested so much time, money, or emotion in it. We keep trying to make a bad situation work because admitting it isn't working feels like failure.

Sometimes it is wisdom.

Knowing when to stop can free us to put our energy somewhere it can do more good.

And then there are the times when life itself seems to run up the score against us.

Illness. Grief. Family problems. Financial worries. Disappointments. Changes we didn't ask for.

During those times, we can be awfully hard on ourselves. Perhaps we can give ourselves permission to do a little less for a while. To rest. To ask for help. To postpone something that isn't urgent.

Giving ourselves a little grace isn't weakness. It's understanding that we're human.

I don't know what happened in that football game between Live Oak Cliff and Bonham. Maybe there was a perfectly good reason for the final score of 105–14.

But that lopsided score did make me think.

Life isn't always a fair contest. Some days we're ahead. Some days we're behind. And sometimes, despite our best efforts, the scoreboard simply isn't going our way.

Maybe the important thing isn't always winning.

Maybe it's knowing when to keep fighting, when to step back, when to offer someone else a little grace—and when to give ourselves some, too.

After all, there is no official referee walking around our lives carrying a whistle.

Sometimes, we have to know when to call our own mercy rule.