

The Village Times

Evergreen Village Coop

September 2026

Dog Days of Summer

Starring (in no particular order) **MOLLY, PEATY, BEAR, BAILEY, GINGER SNAP,**
SIDLICOUS and Greg's very rare puppy, **ABIGAIL**

Photos by Adam Anik, Ginny Frank, Mark Bergman, Sam Brockman



From the Editor

This month, we embark on a new mission: bringing you practical insights into the wonderful world of technology. Be sure to check out Today's Tech on page 4, where we'll share helpful tips and "how-to" guides for navigating common tech issues and making the most of modern tools.

In community news, a very successful annual Evergreen Village Coop Members Meeting was held on August 22.. We are also excited to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors, (Wayne Butler and Brian Ferguson) as well as an experienced board member stepping into a new role, Michelle Dinnen as President

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President's Message

Hello, Evergreen Village!

September is here, bringing cooler mornings, changing leaves, pumpkin everything, and the start of one of my favorite times of year. Fall always seems to bring a sense of change and a fresh start—and I think that fits our community especially well as we begin another year together.

I want to thank everyone who attended and participated in our Annual Membership Meeting on August 22. Your involvement is an important part of what makes Evergreen Village a cooperative. During the meeting, we completed several important pieces of business, including the election of Board members and officers for two-year terms and the approval of our Operating and Capital Improvement (CIP) budgets for the coming year.

I would like to welcome Wayne Butler and Brian Ferguson to the Board of Directors and thank them for stepping forward to serve our community. I also want to thank every Board member for the time, commitment, patience, and willingness to work together that comes with serving our membership.

With our budgets approved and a new Board year underway, we have an opportunity to build on the progress we've made while

continuing to look for ways to make Evergreen Village an even better place to live. There will be projects to tackle, decisions to make, activities to enjoy, and undoubtedly a few challenges along the way. My hope is that we approach all of them with communication, cooperation, respect, and a shared commitment to our community.

As we move into fall, I also encourage everyone to get involved in whatever way works for you. Attend a meeting, volunteer at an event, join a committee or activity, share an idea, introduce yourself to a neighbor you haven't met, or simply come out and enjoy one of our community events. Sometimes the smallest participation can make the biggest difference.

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving as your President, and I'm looking forward to what we can accomplish together in the year ahead.

For now, enjoy the cooler weather, the beautiful fall colors, and all those pumpkin-spice treats that seem to appear everywhere this time of year!

Here's to a wonderful September and a great year ahead for Evergreen Village Cooperative.

Michelle Dinnen

President
Evergreen Village Cooperative

Pool Volunteers

By Sue Siniscal

As we wrap up another wonderful summer at the Evergreen Village Pool, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to the volunteers and neighbors who kept our pool lively, welcoming, and running smoothly all season long.

Snack Shop Volunteers

Our snack shop was a hit again this year thanks to the cheerful crew who kept the treats flowing: Dave and Zach Dinnen,

Ginny Frank, Chris Piancone-Wolfe, Rich Trapp and grandson Hunter, and Helene Walsh. Your time, energy, and good humor made the pool feel like a true gathering place.

Water Aerobics

A special thank you to Bonnie Eagle, whose water aerobics classes brought fun, fitness, and friendship to so many residents. Your dedication is appreciated more than you know.

Pool Care & Maintenance

We also want to recognize

Mark, who did an outstanding job keeping the pool clean, safe, and sparkling all summer. His steady work behind the scenes made every swim more enjoyable.

Season Closing Reminder

The pool will officially close on Saturday, September 12th. Thank you to everyone who made this season memorable — from volunteers to swimmers to sun-soakers. We look forward to seeing you again next summer.

Committee Notes

My name is Ginny Frank and I am still a "newbie" in the community. I have only been here a year and a half. I enjoy being active and have participated in as much in my first year as I could.

Last fall I was asked to take over the stretch class. We meet on Tuesday and Friday to keep ourselves limber, work on our balance and maintain our health. With the exception of balance, all this is done sitting in a chair. These are important aspects as we continue to age, and an important factor in helping us have a "quality" life. There is also a Chair Zumba Class on Monday afternoons and I hope to see more of you come out as the weather cools down and the pool season comes to an end.

In June I became the Chair of the Nominating Committee, I was one of the committee members last year. We make sure we have nominees for the open Board positions, coordinate documents and get the Annual Meeting Packets together. This is an important part of our Annual Meeting and keeps me busy throughout the summer.

When the Chair of the Social Committee became busier as the Interim Board President, I was asked to chair the Social & Wellness Committee. This is a role that requires much preparation for all of our Social events that take place here in the Village and the Wellness portion is headed by Helene Walsh who coordinates the Flu Shots, informational meetings for Seniors, our Smoke detector placements and many oth-

er issues we as seniors need. Although a challenging position I feel our Social/Wellness Committee is one of the ways we can bring our Community together. But this committee gets lots of help from our residents as well who help to keep things going and bring new ideas to each meeting. All are welcome to meetings and we're always looking for new ideas to bring to our community.

As for myself, as I mentioned earlier, I enjoy being busy. My hobbies include getting dirty in my flower gardens, Clog Dancing with my group and performing, taking Photos and our Camera Club, singing in the church Choir, making Simple Quilts at the Church, leading our Stretch Groups and of course Monday afternoon BINGO here at Evergreen.

Meet a New Neighbor

By Sue Siniscal



Welcome, Fred Eyer!

Fred joined Evergreen Village in April 2026 and now calls Independence Way home. A retired locomotive engineer with 34 years on the rails, Fred has deep roots in our region—his grandparents hailed from Bangor and Pen Argyl.

A proud graduate of Stroudsburg High (Class of '80) and Kutztown University (Class of '84), Fred enjoys staying active, watching old movies, and relaxing by the pool. He has two adult children, William (33) and Angela (37).

We're delighted to have him in the Village and look forward to getting to know him.

Volunteer Highlights

By Deb Sandt

Just an update on projects that have been started. The white fence on the Revolutionary Road side of the pond is in progress. Earl trimmed the weeds away from the fence. Christine and Mandy have been cleaning it (steel wool) is what is working and Greg is doing repairs.

If you're planning or have time to volunteer, please contact Deb to let her know the date and time you would like to work on a project.

In addition, Earl trimmed some trees on Lexington Lane. Steve and Mark have looked at putting an outside faucet at the office and are gathering materials needed.

I'm thinking of having a meeting September 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM. Please let me know your thoughts.

From the Editor

The Social and Wellness Committee has new co-chairs. Ginny Frank and Helene Walsh

A Note to All Residents: The Village Times is currently seeking volunteers to contribute news stories, announcements, and informational articles. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Sam Brockman for details.

We hope you enjoy this month's issue and find the information, updates, and tips helpful.

Contributors and Staff

Rich DeLeo

Barbara Massarano

Marie Wolfrum

Carolyn Leidy

Phyllis Brockman

Michelle Dinnen

Sue Siniscal

Ginny Frank

Deb Sandt

Giggles and Groans

By Sue Siniscal

I saw an ad for a "mature" driver's course for people over 50. I've been driving for 60 years. I think I'm plenty mature by now, don't you think so too?

I don't feel so bad about senior moments these days. Even my grandkids are doing some odd things.

Today they're tweeting instead of talking. The last I heard, tweeting was for the birds!



July 10 is the date I set for lunch at my house with my book club. Why then, did everyone turn up on June 10 when I wasn't even home? Imagine, all THOSE women having the same senior moment at the same time!

TODAY'S TECH

By Sam Brockman

A monthly guide to staying confident, safe, and curious in the digital world.

ZOOM GUIDE

Joining the Meeting

Click the "**Zoom link**" at the bottom of the Facebook notification post, or in the Calendar on the Village website.

Click "**Open Zoom Meetings**".

Click "**Join**".

For the best experience, follow these simple tips:

1. Camera - On or Off

Look for the camera icon at the bottom left of your screen.

Start Video = camera ON

Stop Video = camera OFF

If your camera doesn't work:

Make sure nothing is covering it.

Close other apps using the camera.

Leave and rejoin the meeting if needed.

2. Microphone — Mute or Unmute

Look for the microphone icon at the bottom left.

Unmute = others can hear you

Mute = others cannot hear you

When you are not speaking, please stay muted. This helps prevent background noise.

If others can't hear you:

Make sure you are unmuted.

Move a little closer to your device.

Speak clearly and a little louder.

3. Reduce Background Noise

To help everyone hear the meeting clearly:

Turn off the TV, radio, or nearby fans when possible.

Close windows if there is outside noise.

Keep pets and other noisy activities away from your device if possible.

Mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

Headphones or earbuds can make voices clearer and help reduce feedback.

4. Adjusting Sound

To hear others better:

Turn up your computer, tablet, or phone volume.

Click the arrow next to the microphone - Audio Settings - Test Speaker.

Adjust the volume if needed.

Try headphones or earbuds for clearer sound.

To make sure others can hear you:

Click the arrow next to the microphone - Audio Settings.

Under Microphone, speak and watch the blue bar.

If the bar doesn't move, try selecting a different microphone.

5. Turning On Captions (Helpful for Soft Voices)

If voices are difficult to hear:

Click CC or Show Captions during the meeting.

Words will appear on the screen as people speak.

6. Quick Fixes

If something isn't working:

Leave the meeting and rejoin.

Restart your computer, tablet, or phone.

Check your internet connection.

Move closer to your Wi-Fi router.

Evergreen Village Tech Help

If you prefer hands-on assistance, please reach out to me. We're best when we help each other!

Have a tech question? Drop a note in the office or email Sam scb21@frontier.com. Your question may appear in next month's column.

Vet's Corner

A Family Tradition of Service – Part 2

By Barbara Massarano, based on the narrated account of Wayne Butler

Last month, we looked at my family's military service during the Revolutionary War. Eight decades later, another generation answered the nation's call as the United States was torn apart by civil war.

Three of my ancestors served in the Union Army during the Civil War: my great-grandfather Leonard Shook, his brother Abraham Shook, and my great-great-grandfather Nelson Labar. Their service placed them at some of the war's most significant campaigns.

This month, I would like to share the story of Leonard Shook.

Leonard Shook and the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry

Leonard Shook enlisted in Company D of the 67th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry on March 31, 1862. The regiment included men from communities across Pennsylvania and soon departed for Annapolis, Maryland, where they performed guard and provost duty before being assigned to active operations.

In early 1863, the regiment moved to Harpers Ferry, a strategically important location at the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Because of its railroad connections, canals, and federal armory, Harpers Ferry was one of the most valuable military positions in the region and was frequently contested by Union and Confederate forces.

In June 1863, Confederate troops attacked nearby Winchester, Virginia. The Union forces were heavily outnumbered and forced to retreat toward Harpers Ferry. During the fighting, hundreds of soldiers from the 67th Pennsylvania were captured.

Leonard Shook was among them.

Libby Prison

Leonard was transported to the infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. The prison was intended primarily for Union officers but soon became dangerously overcrowded. Prisoners endured poor sanitation, inadequate food, and harsh living conditions. Disease spread rapidly, making Libby one of the Confederacy's most feared prisons.

Fortunately, Leonard's imprisonment was relatively brief.

Under the prisoner exchange system then in use, captured Union soldiers were eventually declared exchanged and released. Leonard returned to Union control through Camp Parole in Maryland before rejoining his regiment.

Back to the Battlefield

After recovering from his imprisonment, Leonard resumed active service with the 67th Pennsylvania.

The regiment participated in several important campaigns during the final years of the war, including Kelly's Ford and the Mine Run Campaign. In July 1864, Leonard's unit helped defend Maryland during the Battle of Monocacy.

Although the Union army was forced to withdraw, its determined resistance delayed Confederate General Jubal Early's advance long enough for reinforcements to reach Washington, D.C. Historians often refer to Monocacy as "The Battle That Saved Washington."

Today, the service of the 67th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry is commemorated at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick, Maryland, where the regiment is honored on Pennsylvania's state monument.

A Soldier's Legacy

Like thousands of Civil War soldiers, Leonard Shook experienced both the hardships of combat and the uncertainty of imprisonment. He survived

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Dog Stories

By Rich DeLeo

Everyone knows a dog story or two, or twenty, even if you have a cat or have no pet at all. My uncle had multiple dogs through his life, he always chose ones about the same size and shape, they were always black, and always he named them Blackie. My brother-in-law Tommy had two Dobermans. The most serious dogs I ever met. They never relaxed. When in a room with them I was never sure if I was being protected or just watched like a suspect.

I shared by first dog with another family, or rather they shared her with me. In 2nd grade a collie mix followed Suzie Armbruster and me home from school. I tried as hard as I could to talk my mother into letting me keep her, but it wasn't to be. Suzie on the other hand did con-

vince her mother and Wiggles lived with them with the understanding it was both our dog. Suzie moved a few years later to a farm in Ailamuchy, NJ, 45 miles away from me. I never saw Wiggles again, but 10 years later Suzie, her brother and her mother came to visit my mother. Her brother had something for me. A couple of years after moving, Wiggles got into a fight with a raccoon and was killed. The gift was the raccoon's tail which they shot and saved for me knowing my feeling for the dog. I still have that's raccoon tail.

It was about 8 years later we got our first live-in dog, a tiny puppy, the size being the reason my mother agreed with us having one. About a year later 70 lb. Tuffy, a shepherd/collie mix was the love of the family, especially my mother. I would lay on the floor to watch TV with my head on Tuffy as a

pillow.

My wife Barbara's experiences with dogs was different. She and her daughter had multiple dogs their entire early lives. Along with her daughter's Sheltie they shared a 125 lb, Great Dane named Mai that stood about 6+ feet tall on her hind legs. After these two they shared the family home with an Irish Setter, Candy, and a Doberman, Baron, leading up to owning 4 beautiful, long haired Afghan Hounds. Fanny, Cleo, Parfait and Sassy. The UPS driver, having never met these sweet, gentle beauties, would have one look at 4 large, barking dogs and refused to come up the sidewalk to deliver to the door.

These are just a few true stories of dogs in our lives. Have a wonderful or funny dog story? Send it to the newsletter and we'll get it into print for you to share with us all.

ALOHA

By Ginny Frank

Our Luau was held on Saturday, August 15, 2026, and was enjoyed by more than 25 members of our community.

The Clubhouse was transformed into a Hawaiian paradise, complete with Hawaiian music,

beautiful leis, and plenty of delicious Hawaiian-inspired food and desserts. We also enjoyed a variety of fun Hawaiian-themed games, including the Flamingo Hula Hoop Toss, Flip the Flop Toss, and Tacky Tourist Relay Race. Of course, we added some Cornhole to the fun as well!

Congratulations to our 50/50 drawing winner, Helene Walsh, who took home \$\$28.00!

A fun time was had by all, and we hope to see even more of you join us next August for another fantastic Luau!

Aloha for now,

The Social Committee

Vets Corner

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capture, returned to duty, and continued serving until the conflict drew to a close.

His story represents the courage and perseverance shown by ordinary Pennsylvanians who answered their country's call during one of the darkest chapters in American history.

Leonard was not the only member of the family to serve during the Civil War.

His brother, Abraham Shook, fought with the distinguished 51st Pennsylvania Infantry at the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Another ancestor, Nelson Labar, served with the 20th Pennsylvania Cavalry and participated in the campaign that ended with General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Those stories—and the family's continued military service through World War II and my own years in the United States Air Force—will conclude this series next month.

To be continued next month

Did You Know

The area that became Mount Bethel was among the earliest settled parts of what is now Northampton County. Ulster Scots (Scotch-Irish) settlers established homesteads around 1730, in an area referred to as the Old Hunter Settlement and later Old Mount Bethel.

The Settlement was closely tied to European expansion after agreements like the Walking Purchase of 1737, which greatly affected land claims between the Penn family and the Lenape (Delaware) tribes.

Originally part of Bucks County following early settlement, the community became part of the newly formed Northampton County in 1752.

In 1787 Old Mount Bethel split into two municipalities:

Upper and Lower Mount Bethel Townships

The village of Mount Bethel itself is an unincorporated community within Upper Mount Bethel Township.

It lies along important travel routes like PA Route 611, historically a key corridor paralleling

the Delaware River.

One of the earliest institutions in the area was the Mount Bethel Presbyterian Church, tracing its roots back to 1738 and serving early settlers spiritually and socially.

Religious institutions often served as community centers in frontier regions like Mount Bethel.

The Slate Belt Museum & Historical Society, located in Mount Bethel, helps preserve the local history of the Slate Belt region, including this community's settlement stories. The museum is housed in the former Mount Bethel Presbyterian Church building and highlights early Scotch-Irish settlement.

Mount Bethel's history reflects the broader story of early Pennsylvania settlement — Scotch-Irish pioneers, post-Walking Purchase colonial development, early township governance, and community institutions built around churches and farm life.

While it has remained an unincorporated community rather than a formal borough or city, its identity is tied to deep colonial roots dating nearly 300 years.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1