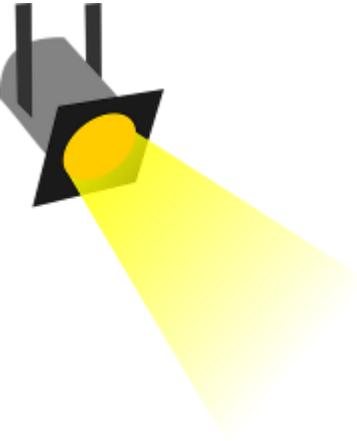


Neighborhood Newsletter

March 1, 2026

Volume 18, Number 1

Spotlight on Volunteers and Committees, The Backbone of any Community!



Check out Page 2 to see the many volunteers who make our community run. Might you join them?

This issue focuses on The Nominating Committee, The Executive Board, and the Grounds Committee/Garden Club.

VOLUNTEER



VOLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 2025- May 2026

Ruth Leaming, President

Dorene Grant, Vice President

Susie White, Treasurer

Eric Dean, At-Large

Activities Committee

Janet Sanders, Co-chair

Cheryl Ford, Co-chair

Bonnie Anderson

Judy Anderson

Maria deArmas

Maryann Fagan, Treasurer

Loretta Fitch

Sue Gandy

Nancy Halbedl

JoanMarie Powers

Sharon Mutschler

Dorene Grant, Board Liaison

Architectural Review Committee

Marion Bowman, Chair

Odette Haight

Linda Trach

Nancy Weldin

Eric Dean, Board Liaison

Clubhouse Committee

Cheryl Werner, Chair/Librarian

Bill Anderson

Judy Anderson

Jean Skelly

Linda Trach

Eric Dean, Board Liaison

Communications Committee

Sharon Dickol, Chair

Mary Ohara

Cheryl Werner

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Technology

Mike Ostroski, Chair

Gary Legreid

Tom Sutor

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Mary Ohara, Chair

Melody DeVoe

Clara Zawistowski

Ruth Leaming, Board Liaison

Finance Committee

Sam Cosby, Chair

Loretta Dougherty

Mary Ohara

Ken White

Susie White, Board Liaison

Grounds Team

Dick Grant, Chair

Eric Dean

Bob Leaming

Garden Club

Bill Anderson

Judy Anderson

Tom Novak

Judy Pannucci

Chandrika Thankappan

Linda Trach

Welcoming Committee

Susie White, Chair

Odette Haight

Sharon Mutschler

Chandrika Thankappan

Dorene Grant, Board Liaison

*Contact information for these volunteers can be found in the
Resident Directories, posted on the community website.*

www.myvolc.org

***This publication is written by and for the residents of the Village of Long Creek, and is not an official
function of the VOLC Maintenance Corporation.***

Contact Cheryl Werner, Editor, with suggestions or comments.

908-451-3348 or cherylwerner@verizon.net

The Nominating Committee meets and conducts its work for only a few months each year. Its sole purpose is to ensure that the Village of Long Creek has an Executive Board. They assemble a slate of candidates and, in coordination with IPS Management, oversee the Board election process.



A committee is being assembled now to prepare for the election that will be held in May. Loretta Dougherty has served as Chair for many years and has agreed to spearhead the effort again in 2026.

If you would like to help, contact [Loretta](#).



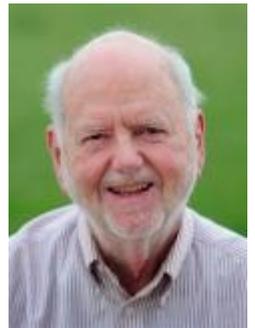
Ruth Leaming



Dorene Grant



Susie White



Eric Dean

The Executive Board

Under Delaware law, the Village of Long Creek is a Maintenance Corporation and must have a functioning Board of Directors. Fortunately, the VOLC has a long history of finding generous people willing to do the job! Boards are responsible for managing finances, maintaining common elements, and upholding community rules. Our community by-laws and state and local laws provide guidance on proper governance.

Currently, the Board consists of four individuals. The VOLC needs a few good men and women to run for the Board in May! Could that be you?

If you have questions or if interested, contact a Board member or say “Yes!” when you’re called by a Nominating Committee member.

*The **Grounds Committee** is responsible for maintenance of all our outdoor spaces. This includes “regular” upkeep, like lawn service and snow removal, but also might include special projects like those recently completed.*

At the January Board meeting, long-time Grounds volunteer Bob Leaming reported on the recent completion of the extensive New Castle Conservation District project to correct an area on the west side of the community that was always wet. The entire area was cleaned up, drains were added, the whole run was levelled, and



WEST SIDE BEFORE

grass seed was applied.

Bob expressed gratitude to State Representative Eric Morrison and State Senator Stephanie Hansen, who made the project possible.



AFTER



DURING

***Right** - Pavers were installed in an area across from the clubhouse that had often pooled, causing it to become muddy, unsightly, and unwalkable. Bob commented that committee member **Dick Grant** conceived the paver plan, and it’s working great.*



Grounds folks were certainly kept busy this winter! The VOLC is not a “zero tolerance” community, meaning that we are not first in line for snow removal like hospitals and nursing homes. That being said, after the January storm, Green Acres workers arrived early and worked through the night and into the following week.

The morning after the February “blizzard,” many residents woke to find the streets were plowed and their driveways and walkways were shoveled.

Help wanted!

A leadership role has opened for the Garden Club after the resignation of long-time chair Mim Krout.

The Garden Club is a subcommittee of Grounds, and their mission is to keep our two main common areas neat and seasonally attractive. Hard-working members plant and weed to keep the spaces neat and aesthetically pleasing.

Additional committee members are always welcome, either to help select plants or do the physical work required. If you enjoy the outdoors, love plants and flowers, and would like to help the neighborhood shine, this committee is for you! If you have interest in chairing this committee, please contact [Ruth Leaming](#), Board President.



Terms of VOLC volunteer service:

Board members commit to one year of service when they are elected.

Committee members have no prescribed time obligation.

More information on committees and their missions can be found on the [VOLC community website](#).

Artistry in snow... the big storm



While most of us stayed indoors, dismayed by the amount of snow, two hardy souls managed to have some fun.

***Bob Leaming's** sweet message for Valentine's Day was visible both day and night.*



***Donnie Thompson** built snowmen as best he could with the icy, hard snow.*

It was hard to drive by these masterpieces without smiling!



Left—Mother Nature left a perfectly symmetrical snow sculpture on Sue Gandy’s deck.

On right—Debbie Happold and Susie White were still dwarfed by a big pile of snow long after the first big storm.



Then came the “Blizzard of 2026.” Donnie Thompson got out early and took some great shots. He managed to build not one, but three snowmen! Below—Judy Anderson seen cozying up to one.



Neighbors



Left—Jane Crowe watched her bird feeder fill up fast in the snow. Sometimes, the little guys just had to wait their turn.



Below—A flock of robins came calling outside Cheryl Werner’s window in the cold of January.



Linda Trach’s granddaughter, Gianna, pulled up a chair so that Nana could draw and color with her! Who could resist?



Ken and Paulette Francis’s house just seems to attract wildlife. Ken joked, “Before church on Sunday, we have this wabbit on our front step. When we got home, that wabbit was still there. Now, Monday morning, the 2nd day, that wabbit is still on our front step. Anybody know how to make some wabbit stew?”



Above—Our resident master gardener, Chandrikamma Thankappan’s hibiscus thrived in her kitchen, and she provided fresh flowers for the Italian Festival, pretty in pink in a vase she painted.

Chandrika has placed seed and plant catalogs in the clubhouse. Please feel free to take one.



Left—Bob Leaming snapped this pretty picture as the snow was still falling.

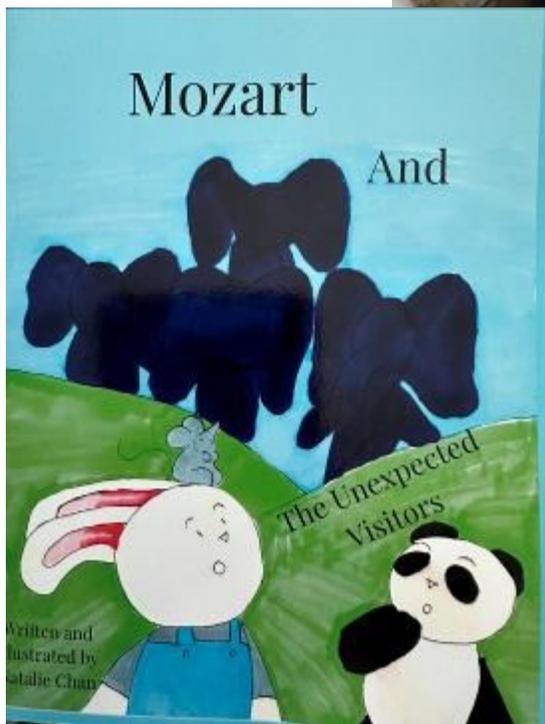


Mim Krout's snowman says it all!

Right—Neighbors enjoyed lunch at Chuck Lager Legendary Kitchen, the February outing organized by [Christine Killian](#). Next up—Cheddars Scratch Kitchen on March 2.



Linda Trach's granddaughter, Gianna, was evidently disappointed that there wasn't enough snow to make bigger snow people.....



At left—Monica Chan's granddaughter, Natalie, published her second book about Mozart the Hare and his town of Whimsyville. Mozart was introduced in Natalie's first book, Mozart and the Cloud.

The California teen, a classic pianist, plans to make Mozart's adventures a trilogy.

Florida Dreaming...

Marion & Mindy's EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

Winter Getaway - Key West, Florida



Marion Bowman and Mindy Steele

Marion's report:

At the beginning of February, we escaped

the Delaware winter and drove south for a week in sunny Key West. The scenery gradually shifted from bare trees to palm trees, and before long, we were enjoying warm breezes and ocean views.

We captured a classic Key West pelican along the waterfront and, of course, one of the island's famous sunsets — brilliant shades of orange and pink melting into the water. We also encountered some of the island's most confident residents: the colorful wild chickens that wander freely, even through outdoor restaurants!



One unforgettable highlight was visiting Dry Tortugas National Park, home to historic Fort Jefferson. Surrounded by turquoise water and endless sky, it was truly spectacular.

After a relaxing week in the tropics, we returned to VOLC refreshed, grateful, and already dreaming about our next adventure.



More sunny fun...

Sharon Dickol sent this picture of ducks in the pond at her and Bob's winter paradise.

Sharon said it was fascinating to watch how they all moved in synchronicity.





March

<i>Ray Whiteoak</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Bob Dickol</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Judy Pannucci</i>	<i>12th</i>
<i>Stephano Medio</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Monica Chan</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Charlie Pinchot</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Donnie Thompson</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Linda Smallbrook</i>	<i>28th</i>



April

<i>Bob Leaming</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Stephanie Nealy</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Marilyn Abrams</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Carolyn Aresu</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Linda Trach</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Joan Rowland</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>Don Hobson</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Sonja Lemanski</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Debbie Happold</i>	<i>19th</i>
<i>Carol Thompson</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Barbara Lawrence</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Bonnie Anderson</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Susie White</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Steve Rapp</i>	<i>29th</i>



RECYCLING

Toss **ONLY** unbagged, loose recyclable items listed below into your recycling bin

CARDBOARD/PAPER



Cardboard & Boxboard
(Clean & dry)



Junk Mail, Periodicals, Office Paper & Paper Cups
(Paper bags & cups, envelopes, & catalogs)

PLASTIC



Plastic Bottles, Jugs, Tubs, & Lids
(Empty kitchen, laundry & bath containers & clamshell packaging)

METAL



Aluminum & Steel Cans
(Clean foil & empty food or beverage cans)

GLASS



Glass Bottles & Jars
(Empty food & drink containers only)

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE BETTER!

No items smaller than 2" in size

All containers are empty, rinsed, & dry

Cardboard is flattened & broken down

There are NO items from the NOT ACCEPTED list in the recycling bin



For recycling tips and resources, visit casella.com/RecycleBetter

General Recycling tips from Casella

Empty and clean!** Recyclables must be **empty and clean**, so... Take that last sip! Enjoy that last bite **and rinse!

***Keep it loose!** Remember to **Keep it loose! Bags are a drag!** Bagged recyclables cannot be sorted, so if you collect your recyclables in a bag, be sure to dump them out when you get to your cart.*

***Shape matters!** When recycling, remember **shape matters!** Small and narrow items slip through the cracks in our sorting equipment and cannot be recovered. They should go in the trash. Caps are OK if you twist them back onto the container.*

***When in doubt, throw it out!** Americans toss far too many non-recyclable items in their recycling bins. These sorting mistakes add up and hurt recycling programs. We all need to understand what's acceptable in our local recycling program and remember: When in doubt, throw it out.*

Do not recycle:

Plastic bags

Batteries

Electronics

Clothing

Small items like plastic utensils

Food/liquids

Metal

Food/liquids

Anything that tangles

Casella holidays

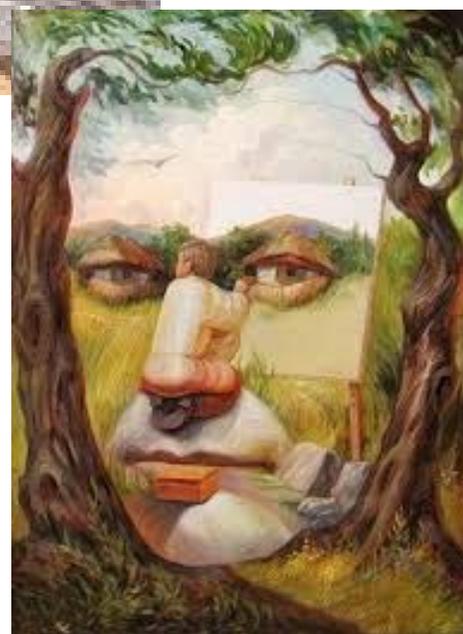
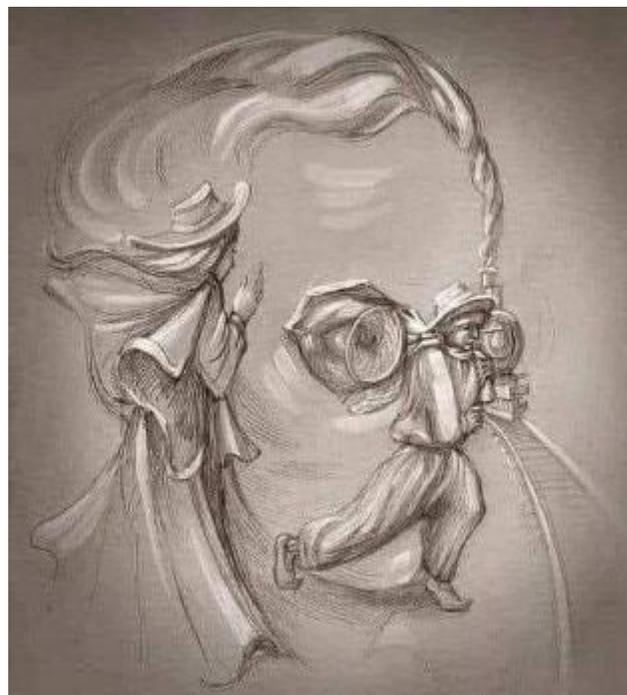
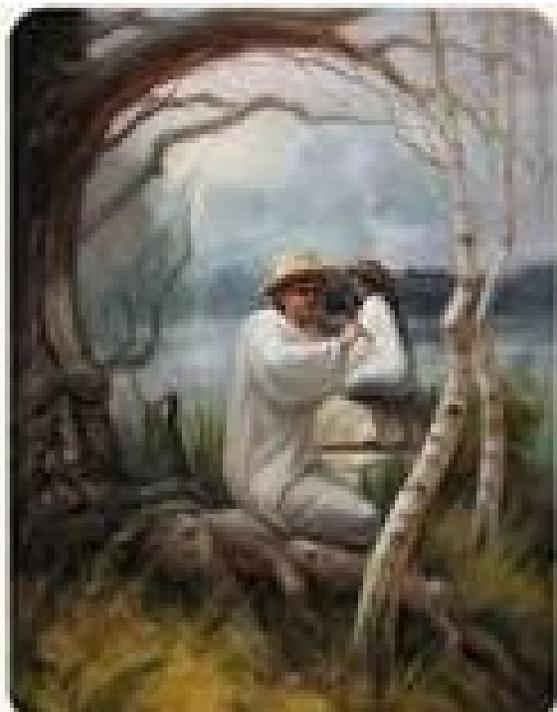
If the holiday falls on your scheduled day, pickup will be the following day. If the holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, there will be no delays.

Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day



ESTABLISHED 1975

What do you see first?



The VOLC Wayback Machine



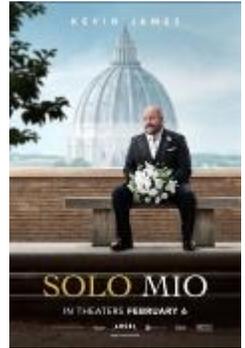
Jean Talks Movies

Reviews by Jean Skelly, Movie buff/theater group



*Hello, movie lovers,
We have seen some good ones recently and I would suggest seeing these if you can.*

"O Solo Mio" is a story about a man who is stood up on his wedding day but decides to go on his honeymoon anyway.



"Song Sung Blue" is up for awards this year. It's about a couple who sing Neil Diamond songs. True story.

"How to Make A Killing" is a man narrating his story to a priest about the deaths in his family. I loved this one.



"Send Help" is really intriguing, because you think one thing, and it turns out to be something else. Very Good.

*That's it for now. We will go over Oscar winners next time.
Grab your popcorn and start watching.*

Jean



Around the
clubhouse

New Year's Day
Brunch!



The Activities Committee hosted the annual New Year's Day brunch, again putting Chef Mark from the Omelette King into service. Juggling four pans at once, Mark kept things moving for the large crowd.

A great way to start a new year, this event has become a VOLC favorite!

Get Artsy classes—2026



Cheryl Werner led a group of crafters in the first Get Artsy session of the new year, turning natural shells into pretty dishes..

From left—Chandrika Thankappan, Janet Sanders, Bonnie Anderson, Jean Skelly, Susie White and Judy Anderson. (Debbie Happold is missing from the picture.)



Italian Festival

An Italian feast, catered by Amalfi's, was enjoyed by nearly 50 people on Saturday, February 21. Hosted by the Activities Committee, the evening was a great success.



Above—Committee members counter-clockwise from top right—

Janet Sanders and Cheryl Ford, Co-chairs, Maria deArmas, Maryann Fagan, Treasurer, Judy Anderson and Nancy Halbedl.

Wanda and Ray Search



Susie White and Chandrika Thankappan

Marilyn Abrams, Eric Dean, and Ken White





*Bob Greenblatt, Judy Anderson, Carol Thompson, Paula Kendrick,
Donnie Thompson, and Bill Anderson*



*Linda Trach (dressed for the occasion), Marion Bowman, Mindy Steele, Linda Watson,
Maureen Graham and Monica Chan*

The clubhouse is always busy . Here are some March events open to all.

- Pool—Every Tuesday at 3 PM**
- Friday Meetup—Every week at 3 PM**
- 3/4 and 3/11—Cards**
- 3/6—Games Friday 2 PM**
- 3/10—Stitch ‘n Bitch—1 PM**
- 3/17—Pizza/Bingo—6 PM**
- 3/20—Get Artsy 2 PM**
- 3/25—Open Board Meeting 6 PM**
- March 29—5 PM—Munchies and Music**

The **University of Delaware** seeks volunteers for studies related to human health and behavior.

Most projects take place at the Star Campus on South College Avenue.

If interested, sign up to be contacted for various studies for which you may be eligible.



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
**CENTER FOR HUMAN
RESEARCH COORDINATION**

COMMUNITY PARTICIPANT REGISTRY



- The Community Participant Registry connects volunteers with UD researchers looking for participants for current studies.
- You can join at anytime.
- There is no cost.
- Opt out at anytime.

Get started!

<https://redcap.link/communityparticipantregistry>

- Complete the survey/form.
- Wait to be contacted by a UD researcher.
- That's it! Thank you!



CONTACT

email: chrc@udel.edu

phone: 302-831-7499

website: chrc.udel.edu

Rules for Surviving Snow Storms in the South

Acceptance is key. You won't be going anywhere. No one cares what you did up north. There is one snow plow and it's probably broken. Plus no one else can drive. Plus ice.

Go to the store to buy your milk and bread. Yes, maybe milk makes no sense if there is no power, but milk makes a lot of sense if you can't buy it for days because the shelves are cleared. You can't beat them. Join them. Also add toilet paper and water in remembrance of Covid.

Take a shower and charge everything. You will thank us later if we lose power for a week.

Forget your snow luxuries. People here don't have sleds or snow boots. Join the culture by sledding on a trash can lid or lining your shoes with plastic bags.

This will either be a snow/ice apocolypse or nothing. There is no middle ground.



I was watching a show for about 10 minutes, and this lady was listing all of these great things to do for fun. Then I realized that it's one of the religious channels, and she was reading a list of sins.

Me: "I'm still tired from all the crossfit this morning."
My co-worker: "It's pronounced 'croissant' and you ate 4 of them."

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS MY WHOLE LIFE



DENIAL, ANGER, BARGAINING, DEPRESSION, ACCEPTANCE... THE 5 STAGES OF WAKING UP.

My parents had a TV like this,

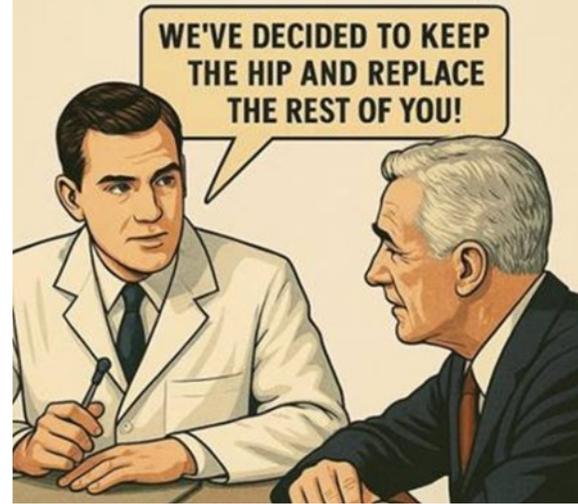


I remember because I was the remote..



FLIRTING WITH DEATH

Welcome to old age.



IF YOU'RE BUYING A WATCH FROM AMAZON, BE WARNED. I LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT IF IT SAYS YOU CAN SWIM WITH IT, THIS ONLY APPLIES IF YOU CAN ALREADY SWIM WITHOUT IT.

Not only did I **FALL OFF** the Diet Wagon, I **DROGGED** it into the **WOODS**, **SET** it on **FIRE**, and used the insurance money to buy **CUPCAKES.**

Why is everyone at the gym asking me why I am sitting still on a stationary bike?

I'm going downhill dude, mind your own business.

90% of the things I worry about never happen

WORRYING WORKS



Camouflage Jacket for sale:



Excellent condition

It's another hot day, so I've taken all my clothes off and opened every window...

I feel so much better, although the other people on the bus don't seem so pleased!

I took my suit to the cleaners, who wanted to charge me \$15.00 So I gave my suit to the charity shop next door. They cleaned and pressed it and put it in the window. I bought it for \$4.50!

Amazon's proof of delivery photo 10/10



Connections!



Not to brag, but I just walked into a room and totally remembered what I went in there for. 🙄💡💥

WORDS THAT IF YOU DELETE ALL THE LETTERS AND REPLACE THEM WITH "FIVE" IT SPELLS "FIVE"
ROOSEVELT, METEOR, PIE, SKUNK

WORDS THAT IF YOU DELETE ALL THE LETTERS AND REPLACE THEM WITH "TWINE" IT SPELLS "TWINE"
POLK, ASTEROID, MUFFIN, BUNNY

WORDS THAT IF YOU DELETE ALL THE LETTERS AND REPLACE THEM WITH "ART" IT SPELLS "ART"
TAFT, STAR, CROISSANT, DUCK

WORDS I JUST THOUGHT OF
JEFFERSON, MOON, SCONE, PIG

ME: ALEXA, REMIND ME TO GO TO THE GYM.

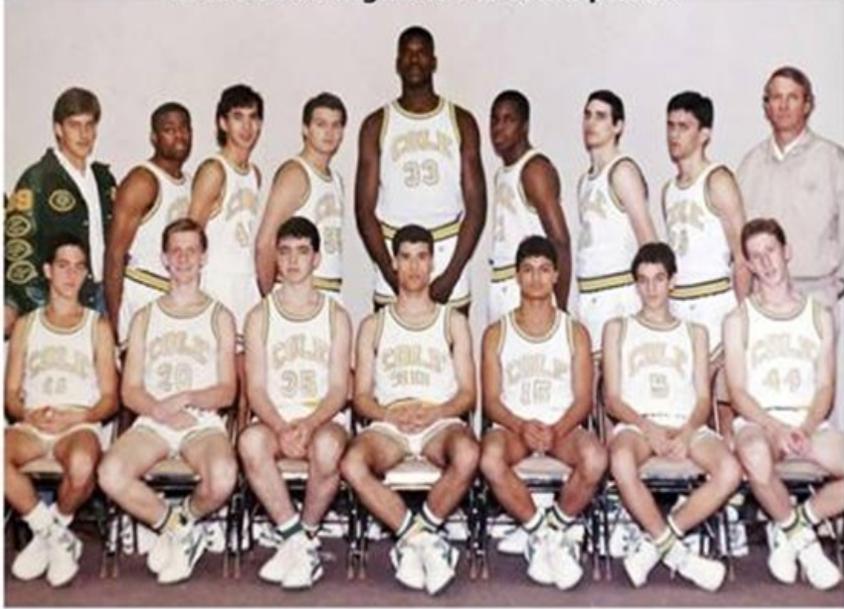
ALEXA: I HAVE ADDED GIN TO YOUR SHOPPING LIST.

ME: CLOSE ENOUGH.

At my age, I need one of those old fashioned candy necklaces, but with Tums and Ibuprofen.



Look closely, you can just make out Shaq in his 1989 high school team photo.



**Funny thing about getting older:
Your eyesight starts getting weaker but your ability to see through people's bullshit gets much better.**