

Village of Long Creek

# Neighborhood Newsletter

*March 1*

*2024*

Volume 16, Number 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Board and Committees	2
Neighbors	3
Around the Clubhouse	7
Funnies	9
Wisdom	10
Wordplay	12
Facts to ponder	13
Garbage Disposal Safety	16



*Spring!*

*It may not be official yet, but Chandrika  
Thankappan's Helleborus has  
announced its arrival!*

*Special early Spring flower displays:*

*Azalea woods of Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library*

*<https://www.winterthur.org/>*

*Glory of the Snow & Quaker Ladies at Mt. Cuba Center*

*<https://mtcubacenter.org/>*

*Lavender Fields at Warrington Manor in Milton*

*<https://www.lavenderfieldsde.com/>*

## **VOLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**May 2023- May 2024**

**Linda Trach, President,**

**Ray Jenkins, Vice President**

**Martyanne Grabusky, Vice President**

**Dorene Grant, Secretary**

**Ken White, Treasurer**

**Chandrika Thankappan At-Large**

### **Activities Committee**

Christine Killian, Co-chair

Cheryl Ford, Co-chair

Bonnie Anderson

Loretta Fitch

Nancy Halbedl

Mary Ohara

JoanMarie Powers

Janet Sanders

Wanda Search

Jean Skelly

Linda Trach, Board Liaison

### **Architectural Review Committee**

Odette Haight, Chair

Marion Bowman

Nancy Weldin

Linda Trach, Board Liaison

### **Clubhouse Committee**

Cheryl Werner, Chair, Librarian

Bob Dickol

Joe Lemanski

Karl Markiewicz

Linda Trach, Board Liaison

### **Communications Committee**

Sharon Dickol, Chair

Mary Ohara

Cheryl Werner

Martyanne Grabusky, Board Liaison

### **Finance Committee**

Ray Krout, Chair

Loretta Dougherty

Mary Ohara

Ken White, Board Liaison

### **Grounds Team**

Rebecca Crowe

Eric Dean

Stan Sanders

### **Garden Club Subcommittee**

Ruth Leaming, Chair

Judy Pannucci

Chandrika Thankappan

Ray Jenkins, Board Liaison

### **Welcoming Committee**

Odette Haight, Chair

Monica Chan

Martyanne Grabusky

Sharon Mutschler

Chandrika Thankappan, Liaison



***Contact information for Board members and Committee members can be found in the Resident Directories, posted on the community website.***

***[www.myvolc.org](http://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](mailto:cherylwerner@verizon.net)***



# Around the Neighborhood



*Berries in the snow Photo by Jane Crowe*



*"Barbie" pink clouds at dawn*

*Photo by Cheryl Werner*



*Dawn at the VOLC*

*Photo by Chandrika Thankappan*



*Moon setting at 6:30 AM.*

*Photo by Bob Dickol from his RV campsite in FL.*



*Left - February snow*

*Photo by Linda Trach*



**Mother Nature makes some pretty sights!**





January's neighbor luncheon, organized by **Christine Killian**, was held at Trattoria di Napoli on Pulaski Highway in Bear. Those who went thought the food was great and commented on the size of their portions.

The February luncheon was held at Red Lobster in Newark.

There is great variety in the restaurants chosen for the Monday Luncheons, so it's a wonderful way to sample those you may not know, as well as spend time getting to know neighbors.



The next luncheon is on March 4th at Café Napoli in the Kirkwood Plaza Shopping Mall.

<https://cafenapolidelaware.com>

Questions or to sign up, contact [Christine](#).





Below—Bear **Skelly** shares his new quilt with friends. Mom, **Jean**, got the quilt from a friend at church. Some believe that the bear prints on the patches are part of quilted codes displayed along the Underground Railroad.



In January, **Donnie and Carol Thompson** enjoyed a beverage in sunny Jamaica . Their getaway included stays at two Sandals Resorts in the Bahamas.

Below—This little guy wanders the halls of Christiana Hospital delivering medications.



**JoanMarie Powers’** “boys,” Jeff and John, were in the mood for donuts, so a trip to the Farmers’ Market in Middletown was in order.







Above —**Cheryl Ford’s** grandson, Gabe, made a special trip to Las Vegas over Superbowl weekend with his Dad. They didn’t get tickets to the game but still created some great memories.



Left - **Linda and George Middleton’s** grandson, Seth, tried on his granddad's Air Force fatigue shirt. It fit!

Seth’s folks plan to put it in a shadow box and keep it with family treasures.

Below—A group of residents gathered to watch the Super Bowl in the clubhouse. It was the perfect opportunity for **Jean Skelly** to sport her twirler headdress from her Conrad HS twirling days. Even **Bear** was dressed for the occasion.



Right—**JoanMarie Powers’** daughter, Janice, (on left) is shown with her daughter, Olivia, and Olivia’s boyfriend. The three recently toured around the Boston area, where Olivia works. Here they’re shown at Bunker Hill.





# Around the



Continued

# 2024

**Right**—Chef Mark from Omelette King Caterers prepared omelets four at a time at the 2024 New Year's Day brunch.

Sides included bacon, home fries, bagels, and a variety of pastries. The event was well-attended and very successful.



**Below:** Members of the Activities Committee filled Valentine bags for patients at the Little Sisters of the Poor.

From left, **Janet Sanders, Jean Skelly, Cheryl Ford, and Bonnie Anderson.**



**Above**—February birthday celebrants **Joe Lemanski and Ray Krout** were feted at Happy



**Joan Dreibelbis and JoanMarie Powers** were appropriately attired for the Valentine's Day Happy Hour.



## ***Around the Clubhouse***

*Birthdays are always celebrated at VOLC Happy Hours.*

*At right, our January babies share a joke.*

*From left, **Sharon Mutschler, Chandrika Thankappan, JoanMarie Powers, and Ken White***



*After most had left, a few folks stayed to shoot some pool. If you'd like to join the group that meets regularly, contact [Linda Trach](#).*



*Clockwise from right—**Mindy Steele, Janet Sanders,***

***Marion Bowman, and Linda Trach.***

***Karl Markiewicz** is shown waiting his turn.*





## *Funnies*

When people tell me  
"You're gonna regret that in the morning"  
I sleep in until noon  
because  
I'm a problem solver.

Do y'all remember,  
before the internet,  
that people thought  
the cause of stupidity  
was the lack of access  
to information? Yeah.  
It wasn't that.

When I was young  
I was scared of  
the dark.  
Now when I see my  
electric bill I am  
scared of the lights.

Brain cells die, skin  
cells die, even hair  
cells die.

But FAT CELLS...  
must have  
accepted Jesus  
Christ as their Lord  
and Savior because  
they seem to have  
eternal life.

Salt trucks spotted in Maryland



To get rid of  
unwanted junk  
during the  
holidays ...

Put it in an  
Amazon box and  
leave it on the  
porch.

Relationship tip for men:  
Tighten the lids on  
all jars in the house.  
She'll have to speak to  
you eventually.

**WEIGHT LOSS GOAL:**

TO BE ABLE TO CLIP  
MY TOENAILS AND  
BREATHE AT THE  
SAME TIME.

If you get a **LOAN** at a  
bank, you'll be paying  
it back for 30 yrs.  
If you **ROB** a bank,  
you'll be out in 10 yrs.  
Follow me for more  
financial advice

**FOUR STAGES  
OF A MAN'S LIFE:**  
1. You believe in Santa.  
2. You don't believe in  
Santa.  
3. You are Santa.  
4. You look like Santa.

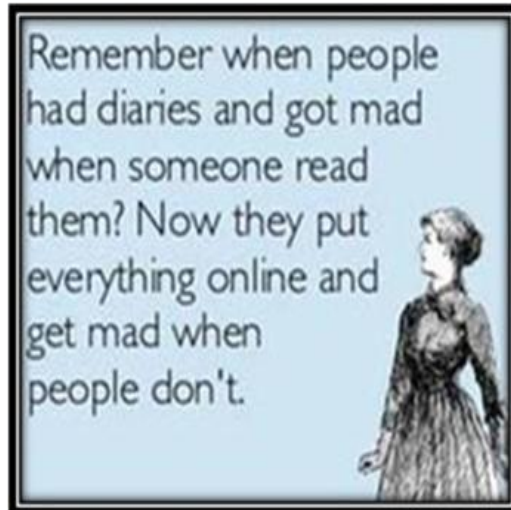
Troubled Parent Posted...

THIS MORNING MY KID  
SAID THEIR EAR HURT  
AND I SAID ON THE  
INSIDE OR OUTSIDE,  
SO THEY WALKED OUT  
THE FRONT DOOR,  
CAME BACK IN & SAID  
BOTH. MOMENTS LIKE  
THIS GOT ME  
WONDERING IF I'M  
SAVING TOO MUCH  
FOR COLLEGE..



# Thoughts and Reflections

Submitted by Jean Skelly





# Drinking from My Saucer

by John Paul Moore

Submitted by **Jean Skelly**

*I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.  
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.  
I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.  
I thank God for his blessings and the mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.  
I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.  
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.  
If God gives me strength and courage when the way grows steep and rough.  
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.  
And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.*



Growing older means being wise enough to know when to let things go and let things be.



## Can you do the same with another letter?

## A Tribute to the Letter “T” - Contributed by Chandrika Thankappan

The tongue's terrible tendency to tell tall tales totally tarnishes traditional trans communication theories. The tempestuous tirades traceable to the tongue testily to the traumatic tactics this tiny tissue tab takes. Thousands that take the time to think, try to tame the tumultuous torrent the too talkative tongue trills. Temporarily, the tide turns. Towering tempers turn to tenderness. Then, tragically, the trend tapers. The tongue trips, teeters, then tumbles; the temptation to trifling twaddle triumphs.

Take time to tabulate this timeless truth: to train the tongue takes tremendous talent, trust. Theology teaches that trust thrives through toil. Therefore, throttle the testy tongue.! Terminate the trivial topics that tinge the talk! Trim the trashy, tasteless terms that transgress the truth! Trounce the trite themes that today to thoughtless tattling!

Theoretically, the tantalizing target: the true, tactful, temperate tongue, torments those that tackle the task. To tell the truth, thrilling triumph throngs the tracks through the tough, tenacious thwarter of tawdry talk!!

**what's that you say?**

## How many times can you say

## The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick?

## Imagine an imaginary menagerie manager managing an imaginary menagerie.?

## Fred fed Ted bread and Ted fed Fred bread?

.....

## Word pairs: what's the connection?

## Piano : Lock

## Tree : Car

## Tennis : Noise

## Ship : Cards

Bed : Paper

Pillow : Court

## Silver : Table



Answers  
Keys  
Trunk  
Racket  
Decks  
Sheets  
Case  
Periodic



## **Surprising Facts!**

**Can't certify them all, but they sound good!**

*111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987, 654,321*

-----

*Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.*

-----

*Coca-Cola was originally green.*

-----

*It is impossible to lick your elbow.*

-----

*The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work:  
Alaska*

-----

*The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%*

-----

*The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%*

-----

*The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven:  
\$ 16,400*

-----

*The average number of people airborne over the U.S in any given hour: 61,000*

-----

*Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair..*

-----

*The first novel ever written on a typewriter, Tom Sawyer.*

-----

*The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.*

-----

*Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:*

*Spades - King David*

*Hearts - Charlemagne*

*Clubs -Alexander, the Great*

*Diamonds - Julius Caesar*

-----

*If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.*

*If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle.*

*If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.*



*(surprising facts cont.)*

*Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.*

-----  
*Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?*

*A. Their birthplace*

-----  
*Q. Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested?*

*A. Obsession*

-----  
*Q. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A' in the number?*

*A. One thousand*

-----  
*Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?*

*A. All were invented by women.*

-----  
*Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?*

*A. Honey*

-----  
*Q. Which day of the year, are more collect calls made than any other day of the year?*

*A. Father's Day*

-----  
*When the volcano Mt Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, it spewed out more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the entire human race had emitted in all its years on earth.*

-----  
*In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on.*

*Hence the phrase . . 'Goodnight , sleep tight'.*

-----  
*It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his new son-in-law with all the mead he could drink.*

*Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.*



*(Surprising facts cont.)*

*In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts.*

*So in old England , when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down' . . .*

*This is where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'*

-----

*Many years ago in England , pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups.*

*When they needed a refill , they used the whistle to get some service.*

*This is where we get the phrase 'Wet your whistle'.*

-----

*At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!*

-----

*t's not what happens to you, it's how you react that matters.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2024, when..*

- 1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave*
- 2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.*
- 3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.*
- 4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.*
- 5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.*
- 6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries...*
- 7. Every commercial on television has a Web site at the bottom of the screen*
- 8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 80) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it!*
- 10. You get up in the morning and go on-line before getting your coffee.*
- 11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile :)*

*And maybe...*

- 12 You're reading this and nodding and laughing.*
- 13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.*
- 14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.*
- 15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.*



# 15 Things You Should Never Put Down a Garbage Disposal

By [Michelle Ullman](#) and [Bob Vila Staff](#) | Updated Feb 14, 2024 4:30 PM Bob Vila website

It might seem like it can handle anything, but feeding your garbage disposal the wrong items is a surefire recipe for bad smells, clogs and, ultimately, a broken appliance. While it's fine to send most soft foods, ice cubes, chopped foods, and fruit peels through the garbage disposal, there are a few things that are better off in the trash can or your compost pile.

## 1. Fat, Grease, and Oil

While your garbage disposal can handle liquid or semi-solid fat, grease, and [cooking oil](#), the rest of your home's plumbing system cannot. "The biggest no-no is grease," plumbers say. "It may look harmless when it's a warm liquid you can run through your disposal, but it will cool quickly in a dark, hidden pipe and become a sticky mess that can either create a blockage on its own or grab other debris as it passes through."

## 2. Pasta, Rice, and Oats

Pasta, rice, and oats continue to swell with water, even after cooking. Toss them in the trash unless you're willing to risk a clog.

## 3. Bones



Even though very small bones will probably pass through without a problem, it's safest to keep all bones out of your garbage disposal.

## 4. Seafood Shells

Like bones, seafood shells shouldn't be ditched down the disposal.

**5. Potato Peels** It's super convenient to peel spuds over the kitchen sink, but don't send those peels down the drain. Potato peels turn into a gluey mass inside your plumbing pipes, and pose a major clog risk.

"Potatoes and potato peels being put down the drain are a big reason that the day after Thanksgiving is one of the busiest plumbing crisis days of the year, along with grease," Barnes explains. "Your garbage disposal is great at turning starchy foods into a sticky mess that can either clog your pipes...or grab onto other debris as it passes through."



## 6. Broken Glass or Metal

If metal or glass falls into your garbage disposal, don't turn the appliance on. Instead, cut off power to the unit and switch off the disposal at the unit under the sink, then try to fish out the interloping item with a fork, grabber, or hook. If that's not possible, put on gloves to protect your hands and carefully retrieve the item. Always make sure the garbage disposal is completely turned off before attempting to retrieve an item from the sink.

## 7. Eggshells

There's some dispute about whether or not eggshells are safe for the garbage disposal, but according to many, they're another big no-no.

## 8. Chicken Skin

Removing skin before cooking chicken is sure to reduce your fat intake, but don't toss the skin down your garbage disposal. It can easily clog your plumbing—and brings unnecessary germs and stink to your sink.

**9. Fibrous Vegetables**

# Keep

Fibrous veggies, including artichoke, celery, rhubarb, lettuce, kale, cornhusks, onion skins, asparagus, and chard tend to get tangled around the disposal's blades.

**10. Produce Stickers**

Be sure to remove any produce stickers before you put fruit peels in the disposal. Stickers are likely to adhere to the disposal's blades, or the inside of your pipes.

**11. Medication**

Tossing unused medication down the garbage disposal might seem like a smart way to dispose of controlled substances, but putting drugs into your plumbing can negatively impact the water supply..

**12. Fruit Pits**

# Disposals

**13. Coffee Grounds**

Eventually the grounds build up and form a sludge (like the dregs in your coffee pot), which creates a clog.

**14. Sauerkraut**

Sauerkraut is a delicious condiment, but it's also a prime offender for clogging a garbage disposal. Like potato skins, sauerkraut will form a gelatinous goo in the drain.

**15. Nuts**

They might be small, but nuts spell disaster when they meet with a garbage disposal. Think about it: The garbage disposal's grinding and mashing actions are similar to those for making nut butter. This pasty concoction won't do your hardworking



# Working!