

Neighborhood Newsletter

Holiday Season

2021

Volume 13, Number 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Board and Committees	2
Around the Neighborhood	3
Lois' Mississippi trip	9
On the Road with Bob and Sharon	11
Sage advice	13
Around the Clubhouse	14
Birthdays	16
Holiday Green Beans	17
Community Outreach	18
Amazing Photos	20
Did you know?	22
Wordplay	23
More funnies	24



Coming soon:

Race Night Happy Hour! - Cheer on "your" horse at our VOLC Race Night!!

Friday, November 12 at 6 PM.



Clubhouse pumpkins



By
Chandrika
Thankappan



*Annual Holiday Party
At the Rail, White Clay Creek
Country Club*

December 5, 1-5 PM.

Respond by 11/19!

VOLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 2021- May 2022

Mary Ohara, President,
Eric Dean, Vice-President,
Barbara Lawrence, Vice President
Susan Brubaker, Treasurer
Carolyn Aresu, Corresponding Secretary
Bernard Aresu, At-Large
Pam Smith, At-Large

Clubhouse/Activities Committee

Maria Tricarico, Co-chair
Cheryl Werner, Co-chair, Librarian
Mary Ohara, Treasurer
Steve Rapp, Facilities
Monica Chan, Activities
Loretta Fitch, Activities
Cheryl Ford, Activities
Nancy Halbedl, Activities
Christine Killian, Activities
JoanMarie Powers, Activities
Fran Rapp, Activities
Janet Sanders, Activities
Wanda Search, Activities Treasurer
Jean Skelly, Activities
Pam Smith, Board Liaison

Welcoming Committee

Chandrika Thankappan, Chair
Patti Abernethy
Susan Brubaker
Monica Chan
Loretta Fitch
Martyanne Grabusky
Odette Haight
Cindy Lewis
Sharon Mutschler
JoanMarie Powers
Barbara Lawrence, Board Liaison

COMMITTEES

Grounds Team

Bob Leaming, Chair
Steve Brubaker
Steve Rapp, Basin Lead
Stan Sanders
Garden Club
Susan Brubaker
Nancy Halbedl
Mim Krout
Ruth Leaming
Chandrika Thankappan
Eric Dean, Liaison

Governing Documents

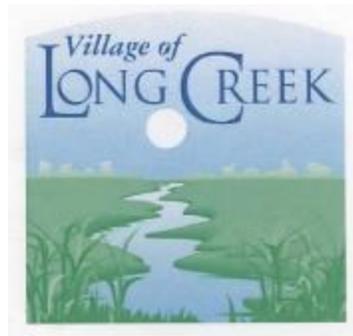
Patti Abernethy
Mary Ohara
Steve Rapp
Bernard Aresu, Liaison

Architectural Review Committee

Odette Haight, Chair
Marion Bowman
Nancy Weldin
Carolyn Aresu, Board Liaison

Communications Committee

Sharon Dickol, Chair
Carolyn Aresu
Steve Brubaker
Cheryl Werner
Mary Ohara, Board Liaison



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

This publication is written by and for the residents of the Village of Long Creek.

Contact Cheryl Werner, Editor, with suggestions or comments.

302-834-1473 or cherylwerner@verizon.net

Neighborhood Doings—Garden Club

On several bright October days, Garden Club members carried on the work begun and continued for so many years by **Don Doto**.



Susan Brubaker and Mim Krout, members of the VOLC Garden Club, dug out the summer annuals around the VOLC community sign and replaced them with fall mums and pumpkins.

Meanwhile, **Kay Bennett** gave Pax a face-lift, touching up the paint on his face and hooves.



Playing in the dirt...Another day saw members of the group working at the clubhouse. The women moved and cut back shrubs and flowers, planted bulbs in the front and side beds, and in general, had a great time!

When the gardening work was complete, Steve Brubaker and Bob Leaming loaded the debris into bags and put them on the BV truck that was in the neighborhood.



Above—Veteran VOLC landscapers, **Ruth Leaming**, left, and **Susan Brubaker**, right, were joined by newer resident, **Chandrika Thankappan (Mrs. T)**, center.

Other members include **Mim Krout** and **Nancy Halbedl**.

Don Doto remains Senior Consultant.

There is always more work to do. Anyone wishing to join the Garden Club should contact any of these hard-working members.

(Neighborhood cont.)

MUMS THE WORD IN THE VOLC



(Neighbors cont.)



At left and below—**Melody DeVoe's** house is all about Halloween!



Above—What Mommies won't do! When it was time for Cody to take pee break during a heavy rainstorm, Mom, **Linda Trach**, kept him dry. Tom Novak caught the scene and sent this pic.



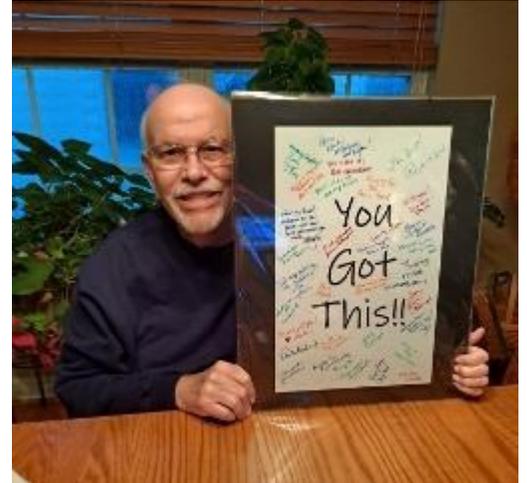
Right—**Jean and Tom Skelly's** grandsons Josh and JoJo were ready for trick or treat action! JoJo decided to go incognito, wearing a ghillie suit used by hunters. It worked, JoJo. NO one will know who you are!

Left—**Cheryl and Guy Werner's** grandson, Garrett, was ready too. He was a traffic light, complete with lights and cone hat.



(Neighborhood cont.)

Right—**The Sit-down!** - **George Fox** took a rest during his walk around the neighborhood and assessed the view from a VOLC bench.



Above right—**Tom Skelly's** neighbors wanted him to remember all their good wishes for a successful surgery by signing this framed card before he entered the hospital.

Above left—Tom's kids wouldn't let him forget his 75th birthday!



At left—Surprise! **Maria Tri-carico** was recently surprised by her family at a party for her 70th birthday! Once the shock wore off, she enjoyed the company and good wishes of family and friends.



From left—Husband **Lenny**, tasked with keeping the secret, The Birthday Girl Herself, daughter Maria, who designed and carried out a lemon Tuscan theme and her husband, Kevin, who helped with all.

(Neighborhood Doings cont.)



Scary—Tom Novak sent along these pictures of husband, **Mark**—and a bat!

“Mindy Steele pulled up as we were sitting on Linda Trach’s front porch. Mindy showed us the grill of her Jeep. She had caught a dead bat!! We were all trying to figure out how to remove the body when Bat Man Mark Conway pulled up and hopped out of his car. When he saw the bat, he picked it up without hesitating and showed it off. After a brief photo shoot, Batman Mark disposed of the body.

The residents of the Village of Long Creek are in good hands, safe from dead bats, thanks to Batman Mark Conway!!!”



BREAKING NEWS NBC BREAKING NEWS

10 FIRST ALERT WEATHER

VELOCITY (WIND)
TOWARD AWAY

- 6:36PM Marabou Meadows
- 6:37PM Glasgow
- 6:40PM Lauren Farms
- 6:42PM Red Lion
- 6:44PM Bear
- 6:46PM Christiana
- 6:49PM Midvale
- 6:52PM New Castle
- 6:54PM Landers Park
- 6:55PM Elsmere

MULTIPLE TORNADO WARNINGS FOR PHILADELPHIA REGION

MASSEY NBCPhiladelphia 6:29 77°

Above—**Bob Greenblatt** sent along this scare of a different type...

A screen shot of tornado warnings for our area. Note the first name on the list!



(Neighbors cont.)



Steve Brubaker sent along these pictures of him and **Susan** shoveling in Idaho. Is this a warning? Does he know something we don't???

Right—**Bear Skelly** got a new hat at the Conrad Alumni Association Craft Fair. It sure looks spiffy with the sweater knit by neighbor, Sue Bifano.

Bear's owner, **Jean Skelly**, reports that the Fair did well and they sold a record number of Conrad items.

Left—Looks like they had a skeleton crew working on the house...



Lois Inglisa's Trip Down the Mississippi

Great trip with interesting people...

“On Sept 25, my friend and I flew to St Paul thru Chicago. On our Uber ride to the St. Paul Hotel, we saw Laverne and Shirley's Milwaukee Shotz Beer sign and factory. Fun! The hotel was a wonderful place. It was built in 1910, and Theodore Roosevelt stayed there. We were told the ladies rest room was at one time considered a grand place for wedding receptions!



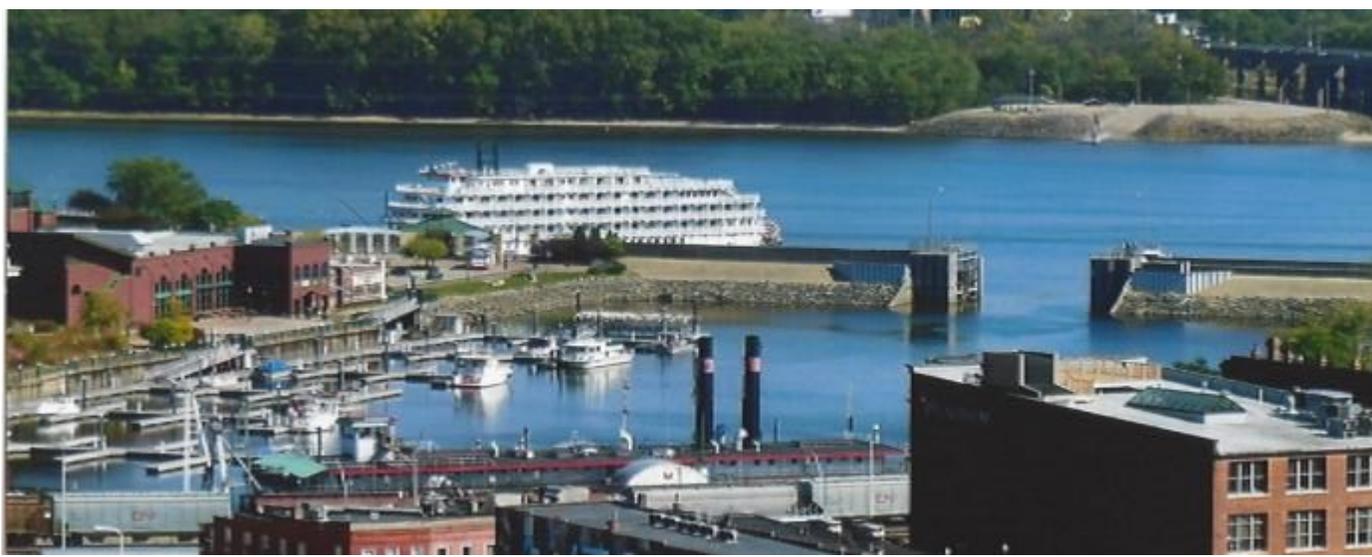
The next morning 4 coaches from American Cruise Lines were ready to transport us to Red Wing, MN 55 minutes away to board the ship.

Our cabin was on the 5th deck starboard with a balcony. The ship was built in Salisbury, Md in 2016, so was pretty new. We had to have COVID cards to prove we had our shots. We were all tested for COVID before boarding.



09.25.2021 09:50

In Dubuque, Iowa, we heard the history of the famous Fenelon Incline. Mr. J. K. Graves, a former mayor and Senator, lived at the top of a steep bluff and worked at the bottom. Mr. Graves liked to go home for his dinner, then a half hour nap, but this was impossible because of the long buggy ride around the bluff. So he hired an engineer to design and build the cable incline. This incline is the shortest and steepest railway in the United States. The view was great from the top; we could see our ship.



We also heard the story of Dubuque's gangster hideout. After word from a lookout, Al Capone would escape through a tunnel in the garage at the Hotel Julien, exiting onto the street from a car wash next door.

The Mississippi is 1,793 feet above sea level at Red Wing and drops to 1,264 feet at Hannibal, MO. We passed thru 22 locks on our trip. At one lock we dropped 36 feet. It was interesting to watch tugs push barges down the river. As they take turns from one to another, it is time consuming. The last lock is located at St Louis. As we traveled down the river we also passed thru many railroad bridges that were on turntables. They turn to allow ships to pass.



Mark Twain (actor) was aboard the ship and he gave talks about his life and adventures. He also went ashore at Hannibal to walk us thru the town, telling the history of his life. Our stop at Hannibal was a great one. In the town, we saw Mark Twain's boyhood home, the cave, and the Rockcliffe Mansion.



All these towns on the Mississippi are restoring their towns and their river walks.

We also stopped in Winona, Davenport, Fort Madison and St. Louis. At each town where we docked, the four American Cruise coaches were waiting for us. They traveled through the town every 30 minutes so you could hop off or hop on and travel to other stops. We were given a map with places of interest to visit. This was a great system.

The food onboard was great, with choices for each meal. We sat with different people every day. Fellow-travelers were kind and friendly, and very well-traveled. It seemed there was not a spot in the world that someone hadn't visited! This was my first river cruise and I enjoyed it."



On the Road

With Sharon and Bob Dickol

Bob Dickol retired in 2017 after years as a mechanical engineer. Sharon worked in rehabilitation and geriatric services and started her own company, AgeWise Solutions, in 2013. Now that Sharon has finally retired (well, mostly!) the Dickols are going places! With Sharon's complete buy-in, Bob jumped into the RV scene with both feet, spending hours researching and comparing. They decided to test-drive two home-on-wheels models: a really large one and one a bit smaller. They rented the bigger one first, a 37 foot, loaded model, featuring plenty of space



and all the bells and whistles. For their maiden voyage, they headed south to the Shenandoah Valley. The sights were incredible and the folks they met interesting and friendly. Turns out, they loved the roomy RV and Bob was comfortable handling it on the road.

Next up, the smaller 31 foot RV and a trip north...



Left—Bob was happy to provide a tour of the inside space he and Sharon ended up loving on their first roaming adventure. All the creature comforts made their idea of “glamping” quite enjoyable.



For their second adventure, our newbie nomads traveled north to PA, upstate New York, and Vermont. The timing was just right in a number of places as the foliage provided all the scenery they could wish for. While on the road this time, Sharon and Bob celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary at the Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards Winery in Hector, NY.



Retirement is also affording opportunities for museums, concerts and theater, and Bob and Sharon are taking full advantage. Additionally, touring the US in the RV is not the only type of travel they will pursue. Their next big out-of-country adventure is a safari in Africa, delayed by COVID, but still coming via a travel company they've used before. Sharon even took a recent opportunity to take a mother-daughter spa trip with Laura, mom to the Dickols' grand-kitty.

So—after their RV experiments, they've made their decision: life on the road suits them well, and they're contemplating buying their own dream-mobile. Their bucket list of places to see grows by the day.

Safe travels, Bob and Sharon! Send pics!

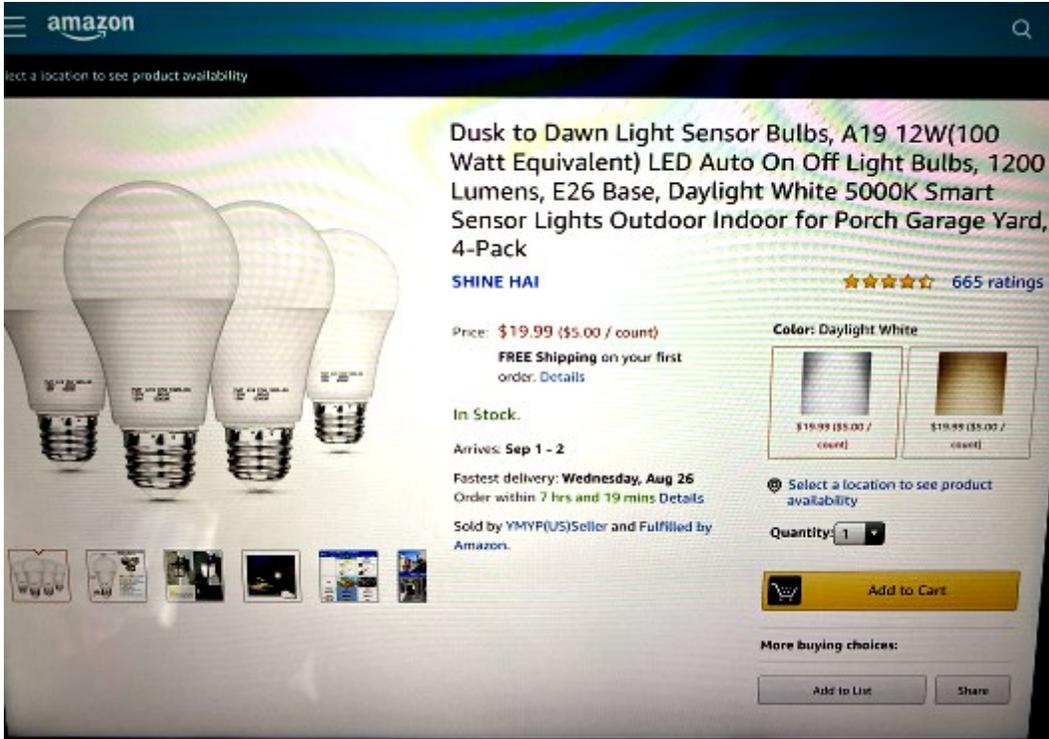


When not on the road, Bob is an avid biker. Sharon says, "It's not unusual for him to do 40-50 miles when he rides. When he's not riding, he is putting around the house, tending to the yard and garden and helping out with the VOLC. His down-time is likely to be the mid-afternoon when he can usually be found dozing in front of the TV." Sharon now has time for reading, knitting, and also volunteering for the VOLC. Each of the Dickols have served in various positions over the years and have helped to create the VOLC culture.

Asked how they ended up here, the couple says they both grew up in South Jersey, and Bob worked for Ashland, formerly Hercules, Inc. In 2009, he was transferred from Brunswick, GA to the home office in Wilmington. Their home search for a DE 55+ community brought them to the VOLC.



(Neighbors cont.)

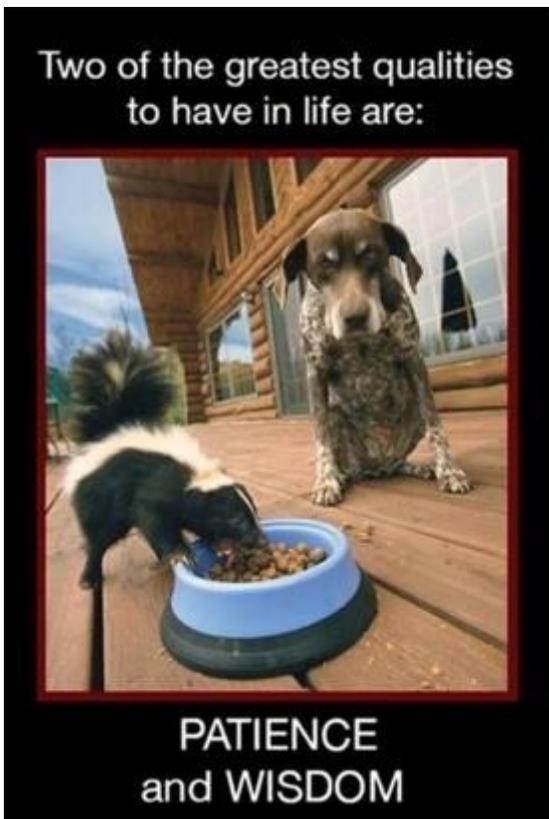


Lighting for safety

Bob Greenblatt sent along this tip for increased home safety: Dusk to Dawn bulbs that can be used to replace regular bulbs on your garage, front entrance or deck.

They are already in use in several homes along the section of Devalinder Dr. near Bob, and combine to keep that area bright all night.

The bulbs are available at home improvement stores like Home Depot and at online retailers like Amazon.



Some lessons should be learned in childhood...

Submitted by **Christine Killian**

LOL



Around the



Crimson Pallets Party—September 25th

A small group of women gathered in the clubhouse to produce gift-shop quality wall hangings made from wood. An instructor from Crimson Pallets guided them every step of the way as they painted and stenciled the designs they had chosen.



Participants with their finished products: From left—Cheryl Werner, Stacey Schmidt, Betty Ramsey, Patty Ramsey, Mary Ohara, and Wanda Search.



The group activity is one of several planned by the Activities Committee for fun and comradery. Keep an eye out for more. You may want to join us!

At left, **Betty Ramsey** with her base coat completed.

At right—**Maria Tricarico** with her finished sign.



PJ COLLECTION—

Cheryl Ford spearheaded the September collection of pajamas and books for the Activities Committee. Residents dropped off their donations at a number of locations throughout the neighborhood.



Cheryl delivered over 60 pjs and books to the Delaware office of Families and Children in Wilmington. The donated items will be distributed to children who are often taken from homes without any warning and placed in foster care.

(clubhouse cont.)

VOLC Halloween 2021



Little Red Riding Hood (**Pam Smith**), and The Big Bad Wolf (**Paul Wellborn**) enjoyed the party. Paul's costume was later voted SCARIEST.

Below—Clown, **Sue Getty** received a prize for Funniest.



Left—Even Minnie Pearl (**Lois Inglis**) made a posthumous appearance.

Pirate, **Nancy Halbedl** was voted the Hardest to Recognize.

CUTE!

Right—**Loretta Dougherty**, was pretty in a costume labeled, Most Original.



Above—**Susan Brubaker**, sporting the costume voted At Least I tried, chatted with Spelling Bee, **Sharon Dickol**.





September babies—from left—Cheryl Werner, Dee Pinchot, and Nancy Halbedl.

Coming in December

- Odette Haight 3rd*
- Janet Sanders 3rd*
- Nick Inglisa 8th*
- Mike Ostroski 8th*
- Martyanne Grabusky 17th*
- Debora Johnson 18th*
- Joan Dreibelbis 21st*
- Linda Watson 23rd*
- Cindy Lewis 31st*

Coming in November

- Ginny Pelachick 1st*
- Wanda Search 3rd*
- Brenda Simmons 12th*
- Nancy Weldin 12th*
- Gene Fitch 24th*



October's Birthday Babies were feted at the Halloween Happy Hour. From left—Sue Getty, Dr. T, and Susan Brubaker.

Healthier Green Bean Casserole from scratch

Makes: 10 serving

Perfect for Thanksgiving or other holiday meal.

Ingredients

6 cups green beans, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces (about 1 ½ pounds)

4 ½ teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided

1 tablespoon unsalted butter

3 shallots, minced

8-ounces Cremini or white mushrooms, finely chopped

2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme

½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon pepper

¼ cup dry sherry

1/3 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth or vegetable broth

1 cup low-fat milk

2 cups sharp cheddar, shredded and divided

3 tablespoons dry breadcrumbs

½ teaspoon paprika

¼ teaspoon onion powder

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Coat a 2 quart baking dish with cooking spray.

Meanwhile, bring several inches of water to a boil in a large saucepan fitted with a steamer attachment. Steam green beans until crisp tender, about 4 minutes. Carefully remove steamer from the saucepan, to stop the beans from cooking further.

Heat 4 teaspoons oil and butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add shallots and cook until just starting to brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Add mushrooms, thyme, salt and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally until the mushrooms have released their juices and the liquid has evaporated, 3 to 4 minutes. Add sherry and cook, stirring occasionally until the liquid has evaporated, 2 to 3 minutes.

Sprinkle flour over the mushroom mixture and stir to coat. Add broth and milk and bring to a simmer stirring often until the sauce is thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in 1 ½ cups cheddar. Add the green beans and stir to combine. Transfer to the prepared casserole dish. Top with the remaining 1/2 cup cheese.

Stir together the breadcrumbs and the remaining ½ teaspoon oil in a small dish. Add paprika and onion powder and stir until the breadcrumbs are evenly moist and bright orange. Sprinkle over the casserole.

Transfer the casserole to the oven and bake until bubbling and golden brown on top, 20 to 25 minutes. Allow to cool 15 minutes before serving.

Notes: To make Ahead: Prepare it in advance, but don't bake until the day you will serve. Just pop it in the oven when the Turkey comes out to rest. Keep in mind, the casserole will take a little longer in the oven if it is cold when it goes in the oven.

VOLC—A CARING COMMUNITY!

Over the years, the VOLC community has responded with enormous generosity to calls for assistance to those in need. From The Pajama Program to Collections for Troops to meals for the families of our own sick and dying, residents have opened their hearts—and their wallets!

As the holidays approach, we're seeking your good will once again.

- **TOYS!!!** - The Activities Committee is collecting new, unwrapped toys, books, puzzles, activity sets etc. Details are below.
- **FOOD!!!** - Bob and Ruth Leaming will be conducting a Food Drive as they have for years, wherever they've lived. Details can be found on the next page.

As Bob and Ruth say—we are "VOLC Proud!"



November Toy Drive

The toys will be distributed through a number of established organizations, including The Salvation Army and Samaritan's Purse. Drop-off locations are The Clubhouse (under the pool table), Cheryl Ford Home, #99, Maria Tricarico Home, #9, and Cheryl Werner Home, #14.

*Every child deserves a
visit from Santa!*

2021 Holiday Food Drive

VOLC Neighbors:

We would again like to help make a difference to Delawareans in need.

We will be collecting and delivering donations of food to:

The Food Bank of Delaware

As we did last year, we will offer

SAFE DROP OFF PRACTICES

Non-perishable Donations may be delivered to:

93 Devalinder

on:

Saturday, December 4 from 10:00am-3:00pm

Bob and Ruth Leaming will be available to help with anyone needing assistance during that day or the previous week

We will consolidate and load up all of our donations for delivery to the Food Bank of Delaware on Monday, December 6th.

We at the VOLC have already delivered

Over 2,000 pounds of food!

Begin your planning and let's do it again!

VOLC PROUD!

From: Bob and Ruth Leaming

Important Donation Notes:

Urgently needed: Hot and Cold Cereals, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruits, Canned Meats and Vegetables, Spaghetti Sauce. **Avoid:** Candy and Soda

Amazing Photos

Submitted by Jean Skelly



A bubble in mid-pop.

A cross sea. (A cross sea is a sea state with two wave systems traveling at oblique angles.)



A sunset from above the clouds

An eight-ton Orca jumping 20 feet out of the water.



A tree farm



Venice from above



Photos cont.



Two hours' worth of lightning in one picture



An oasis in Libya



Ice formations on Lake Baikal, Russia



Butterflies in the Amazon



Icelandic ice cave lit up by a burning flare

Did you know?

...that you should have your own key fob to the clubhouse? If you did not get one—or if you need a replacement key—contact our management company, IPS, at 302-994-3907.



...that fridge beverages are free when you're in the clubhouse for a VOLC committee meeting? Otherwise, please drop a donation in the can sitting on the counter.

...that the Newark Recycling Center is close by to the VOLC, right at the end of Corporate Blvd? They offer several types of special collections, including document shredding on the first Wednesday of each month! From our community, go north on Rt. 896 and take the first left onto Corporate Blvd. Go to the end and bear to the right.

<https://dswa.com/facilities/newark-recycling-center>

... that all homes in Delaware are set to be reassessed and every home will be visited next year?

https://www.wdel.com/news/delawareans-will-soon-start-to-notice-the-boots-on-the-ground-efforts-for-property-tax/article_3dc8c080-26d1-11ec-a62f-bbab1dc3b8e8.html



... that the books in the clubhouse library are free to borrow? No checkout, no due date, just take for as long as you want and return to the basket by the door when finished.

Neologism - alternate meanings for common words...

Contributed by Len Krygowski

Coffee - the person upon whom one coughs.

Flabbergasted - appalled by how much weight you've gained

Abdicate - to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach

Esplanade - to attempt an explanation while drunk

Lymph - to walk with a lisp

Flatulence - an emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller

Balderdash - a rapidly receding hairline

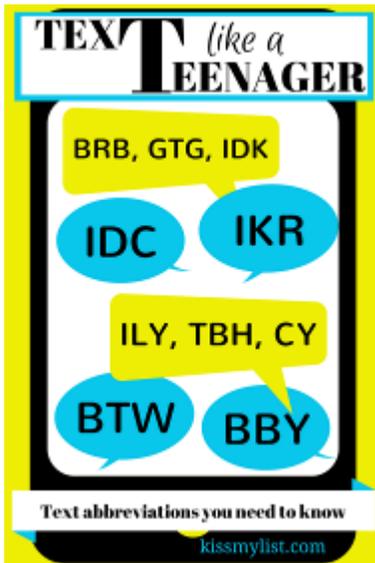
Pokémon - a Rastafarian proctologist

Frisbeetarianism - the belief that when you die, your soul flips up onto the roof and gets stuck there.



Young people have their texting abbreviations, now Seniors have their own:

Also Submitted by Len Krygowski



ATD - At the Doctor's

BTW - Bring the Wheelchair

BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth

CUATSC - See You at the Senior Center

DWI - Driving While Incontinent

FWIW - Forgot Where I Was

GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low

GHA - Got Heartburn Again



Funnies

People who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow probably assume that I even know what day of the week it is.

I tried the Japanese method of decluttering where you hold every object that you own and if it does not bring you joy, you throw it away. So far I have thrown out all of the vegetables, my bra, the electric bill, the scale, a mirror and my treadmill.

I just ordered a life alert bracelet so if I get a life, I'll be notified immediately.

Some call it multi-tasking, I call it doing something else while I try to remember what I was doing in the first place

It took "Click it or Ticket" to get people to wear a seatbelt.

I wonder if "Mask it or Casket" might work?

Donald Ray Whatley

I think the proper term for 'senior' women should be: Queen-agers.

The phrase "hindsight is 2020" may forever have new meaning.

I swear the me that orders groceries & the me that actually has to cook the meals are 2 entirely different people.

NOW THAT I'VE LIVED DURING A PLAGUE, I UNDERSTAND WHY MOST RENAISSANCE PAINTINGS ARE OF CHUBBY WOMEN LAYING AROUND WITHOUT A BRA.

Brain cells, hair cells and skin cells - they all die constantly, but freaking fat cells seem to have eternal life...

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

THE FACT THAT THERE'S A HIGHWAY TO HELL AND ONLY A STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN SAYS A LOT ABOUT ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC NUMBERS.

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

THE IDEA HAD TO
COME FROM SOMEWHERE



I don't
understand
why people
have to "get
ready" for bed.
I'm always
ready for bed.

Ha!



climate change hits New York



OMG SUSAN, CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW LUXURIOUS





Looking for a married woman, recently cheated on, mad and scorned, who is willing to sell her husbands tools for cheap.

