



Neighborhood Newsletter

Spring 2015

Volume 6, Number 1



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Send newsletter comments and suggestions to Sharon at sdickol@verizon.net Or call: 836-8575

Confessions from a Trekkie By Sharon Dickol

I am a Trekkie. When it comes to guilty pleasures, I must admit that watching old *Star Trek* and *Next Generation* reruns, and all their related movies, is something I enjoy. Science fiction, in general, is “what if” fantasy for me. There are endless possibilities and the ride can be exhilarating. That is, until you add time travel into the mix. That’s where I get stuck. The paradoxes time travel creates keep me caught in a never-ending loop of, “just how is that possible?”



I recently saw the movie *Interstellar*. The story centers on humanity’s last-ditch effort to find a new habitable planet – after Earth is ravaged by environmental catastrophe. When former NASA pilot-turned-corn farmer Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) finds the coordinates to a top-secret government project, he’s brought in on the secret. The government has been working to send a crew through a recently discovered wormhole in the hopes that humankind can find refuge in a new galaxy. However, in order to help save the remaining people on Earth, Cooper must leave his own family behind – and journey into unknown regions of space. Cooper knows that three hours on the new planet’s surface will cost him decades of time with his family. The effect of gravity on spacetime allows Cooper to communicate with his young daughter back on earth – at a time that occurred even before he left on this journey. Three-quarters into the movie and I have now lost the primary thread of the story. I am stuck in this mind-blowing loop of “just how is this possible?”

So, rather than dwell on what my mind cannot grasp (an astrophysicist I was never meant to be), I thought it might be fun to consider where I – or you – might like to travel to if it were possible to visit another time and place. This month’s teaser question: “*If you could witness any event of the past, present or future, what would it be?*” brought some interesting responses from several VOLC residents. Their answers begin on page 5. Enjoy!

VOLC Board Elections May 28th
See Page 4 for more information.

"Happiness is to hold flowers in both hands."

– Japanese Proverb



VOLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Davis, President
908-295-1001

Kitty Heston, Vice President
302-595-2902

Mary Ohara, Vice President
302-365-6414

Dennis Sabato, Treasurer
302-365-6713

Bob Dickol, Secretary
302-836-8575



The **VOLC website is easy to access!** Simply go to <http://volcde.wix.com/volc>, or click on any of the links below for frequently viewed items. If prompted for a password, enter: **volc19702**. This password is for VOLC residents ONLY.

[VOLC Monthly Activities Calendar](#)

[VOLC Neighborhood Directory](#)

[VOLC Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#)

[VOLC Referral List \(like Angie's List\)](#)

[VOLC Resource Guide](#)

DID YOU KNOW that the safest and most efficient way to leave information for the Board of Directors or any of the VOLC Committees is by placing it in the locking mailbox in front of the Clubhouse? Our secure mailbox is checked frequently by Board members.



CLUBHOUSE TELEPHONE
302-365-6727

VOLC STANDING COMMITTEES**Architectural Review Committee**

Kitty Heston, Liaison
Ken Reilly
George Lulli
George Middleton

Clubhouse Committee

Mary Ohara, Liaison
Cheryl Werner, Co-Chair
Wanda Search, Co-Chair
Jim Haefner, Treasurer
Mary Legreid, Activities
Jean Skelly, Activities
Paul Wellborn, Facilities

Communications Committee

Jim Davis, Liaison
Sharon Dickol, Chair
Patti Abernethy
Barb Doto
Bob Greenblatt
Mary Ohara
Tom Skelly
Cheryl Werner

Finance Committee

Dennis Sabato, Liaison
Don Doto
Joe Doto
Len Krygowski
George Middleton
Ken Smith
Joe Strasser
Maria Tricarico

**Grounds Committee**

Jim Davis, Liaison
Patti Abernethy
Jane Crowe
Eric Dean
Gene Fitch
Tom Skelly



Clubhouse Happenings

By Cheryl Werner

Welcome 2015!

The new year brought new activities to the VOLC clubhouse. Our **Potluck/Down Home Cookin' Night** featured a variety of wonderful dishes cooked up by residents to share with all. From lasagna and chili to shrimp n' grits, from chicken and dumplings to chicken pot pie, it appeared that every family favorite was covered. If only we could have tried them all! (Actually, we heard some people did!)

Partying in February started right in on the first day with the **Super Bowl**. Watching with friends - and groaning, and maybe yelling with friends - proved to be a great way to enjoy the big game. A Hundred Squares pool added to the fun and promoted even more interest in the game, even for non-fans. And, of course, there were the requisite goodies...



Pasta with Sinatra on February 20 was an unmitigated success. Sean Sinatra Reilly, a Wilmington vocalist, made the most of the Vegas lounge ambiance and delivered an evening of first-class entertainment. The home-made, four-course Italian dinner, served with style by the clubhouse ladies, was pronounced delicious. And the matching aprons? The pezzo forte! (pièce de résistance)

Photo from left: Wanda Search, Cheryl Werner, Jean Skelly, Mary Legreid, Janet Sanders, Maria Tricarico

On March 14, Barb Doto and Maria Tricarico led a **wreath-making class**. The finished products were beautiful and will surely brighten doors in the community. There are such talented folk among us.

March 21 saw a well-attended **community brunch**. With so many venturing out to the clubhouse after a winter spent indoors, it was a sure sign of spring on the season's first full day. Attendees were rewarded with yummy entrees and traditional breakfast treats. It's good to get out again!



Upcoming Events (Details coming soon):

April 18 - Ceramics class with Brianne Ellis - Join us to make a bright and beautiful sunflower plate.

April 25 - Casino Night - The clubhouse will be turned into an Atlantic City-inspired casino with professional gaming tables and dealers. And, of course, surprises!

June - Ticket Auction Fundraiser for cancer research - Pick the prize you'd most like to win and set your tickets down. All prizes will be donated by residents.

New Ongoing Events:

Movie Night - Mary Legreid and Mary Ohara have great ideas for reviving Movie Night, and they've been busy gathering residents' preferences. Mary and Mary will let everyone know the date and time and the movie to be shown. Grab some popcorn, take a seat, and watch with friends.

Magazine exchange - Thanks to Janet Sanders, we will now be accepting any magazines that you wish to donate for others in our community to enjoy. Janet will recycle them on a timely basis. Please place the magazines on the bistro table in the poolroom! Thanks and enjoy!



Know the Snow!

By Tom Skelly

Here is how the current snow removal program works.

This winter, we had two separate contracts for snow removal - one for the individual lots and one for common areas (the Service Corporation is responsible for individual lots and the Maintenance Corporation is responsible for the common areas). One snow removal company has both contracts. Both snow removal contracts will expire 4/30/15.

No snow removal is authorized for accumulations of less than one inch. No snow removal will be performed without consent of Premier Property Management (our management company). Snow measurement is determined by a State of Delaware DOT website. The cost of snow removal is determined by the depth of the snow and the number of occupied residential lots.

Our snow removal company typically provides 6 - 8 workers, including the Bobcat driver, who arrive within 60 minutes after it stops snowing. No salt/ice melt is used on either walkways/sidewalks or driveways. The use of the Bobcat greatly increases the speed of snow removal, thus reducing our cost. However, the Bobcat also causes some problems; damage to lawns and damage to sidewalks and driveways.

Damage to walkways/sidewalks/driveways/other should be reported, when observed, to the grounds committee (Tom Skelly - 302-365-6681). Damage to the grass will be surveyed and reported by the grounds committee at the end of the snow season to the snow removal company. Grass repair will take place at the same time as mulching.

Next winter, each home owner will be provided with marking stakes for their driveway, hopefully, to reduce grass damage. We also plan to use marking stakes at all sidewalk curves.

The snow removal company will be provided with guidelines for snow removal before the snow season begins, addressing such issues as snow removal by the mail boxes, at the handicap sidewalk ramps, and other issues raised by the residents.

Note: When our streets are fully paved, the problems with the gravel in the grass and on the sidewalks/driveways/gutters should cease.

Gearing up for VOLC elections

The VOLC Nominations Committee (Eric Dean, Barb Doto, Mary Legreid, Linda Middleton, Tom Skelly and Bob Dickol) is currently working on preparing the slate for the election of Board members for the Maintenance Corporation. More details will be coming soon, but you may wish to mark your calendar now for a **MEET THE CANDIDATES** evening at the Clubhouse on May 18th, 7:00pm.

Elections are scheduled to take place on May 28th. Residents may contact any member of the Committee with questions.



If you could witness any event in the past, present or future, what would it be? Why?

From Eric Dean:

"This teaser question stimulated me; I had to ask myself what was the most significant event in human history? It is a tough question, and I believe my answer is at least close to being correct.

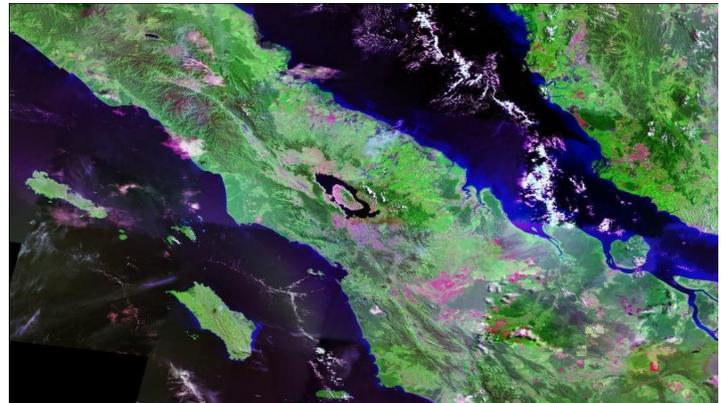
I would like to witness (from a safe distance) one of the most significant events in human history, the eruption of the volcano known as Lake Toba, approximately 75,000 years ago. It was possibly the most spectacular too."

Lake Toba is a 62 mile long lake on the Island of Sumatra in Indonesia, all that is left of the volcano. It is very similar to Crater Lake in Oregon. The eruption of the Lake Toba volcano was by far the largest in the million or so years of human existence. The eruption put some 200 cubic miles of ash into the air. This led to a 'volcanic winter' of about six years that lowered average temperatures by as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit. The population on earth was reduced to approximately 10,000 souls, something that has been determined recently by genetic analysis. There is no way to know the population before the explosion, but it must have been in the millions. Hence the loss was more than 99%. Many other species went through a similar reduction.

Compared to this event, our present problems with air pollution, global warming, internecine warfare and the nuclear arms race pale in comparison.

The attached photos are interesting. The bank note shows part of Lake Toba, which indicates the national interest in the

lake. The overview covers almost half of Sumatra, showing how large the lake is. And the close-up view shows how great one of the subsequent eruptions was, to create the 30 mile long island."



Overview of Sumatra



Close-up of Sumatra



Bank Note

From Jim Powers:

"The Battle of Gettysburg. It was the greatest battle fought in America."



Continued on next page .



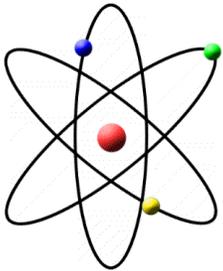
Continued from page 5.

From Jim Davis:

"I would want to witness the end of war on the planet and the elimination of death and suffering of so many innocents caught up in ethnic, religious, or political conflicts."

From Stan Sanders:

I would like to witness Day 6 of creation to see Adam looking around at the brand new, unspoiled earth in all its beauty!



From Janet Sanders:

"The debate between creationists and evolutionists has been going on for centuries. I would like to witness the first day of creation: was it really the Big Bang Theory or was it really, 'God said' . . . and bang, it happened!"

From Bob Greenblatt:

"In the future, I'd like to witness myself moving into the Playboy mansion. Hugh would tell the girls to call me 'Dad'."

From Cheryl Werner:

"I'd like to have been with the cast and creators of Sesame Street when it debuted in 1969. They must have been very excited and proud and had themselves quite a party! The gentleness and kindness displayed by the puppets and actors, the focus on inclusiveness and diversity, and the idea that learning could be fun were all novel ideas at the time. As an educator, and later, as a mother, I loved the show. It's mission was, and is, to teach the alphabet and numbers to 3-5 year olds, especially in the inner city. Fulfilling that mission, with what some see as a simple kids' show, they've helped to change the world. What fun to be a part of that!"



Time Travel Trivia

Can you name the movie for each fun fact? Answers appear below.

1. The crew of the starship Enterprise go back in time to retrieve two whales thus saving their future. Which Star Trek film is this?
2. In "The Final Countdown" (1980), a modern-day US Navy aircraft carrier encounters a strange storm which takes the ship back to the days prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. What was the name of the aircraft carrier?
3. Several versions of the classic H.G. Wells story "The Time Machine" have made their way to the big screen. Who directed the 1960 version that starred Rod Taylor and Alan Young?
4. Which real life president is shown in the movie "Contact"?
5. Who does Ray Kinsella meet when he takes a late night stroll, while Terence Mann takes a phone call from home in the movie "Field of Dreams"?



1. The Voyage Home
2. U.S.S. Nimitz
3. George Pal
4. Bill Clinton
5. An older Dr. Archibald "Moonlight" Graham



Contributing to a clean VOLC Neighborhood

By Jim Davis

The windy spring is upon us, and with it comes a sprinkling of trash that gets deposited in our yards, streets and the bioponds. No matter where it lands, it creates additional work for all of us. Several of our sharp-eyed neighbors and Brian Rickards from Benchmark have commented on this, and also offered what seems to be a cost effective and efficient solution to much of the problem. The observations were that our trash containers, and particularly, the recycle containers, are prone to having wind gusts flip the lids open. Since most of the trash is bagged, it seems that trash containers contribute little to the problem. However, recycle containers are filled with newspapers, junk mail, coffee cups, pizza boxes and cardboard and paper waste, and once the lid is open, it is easily spread by the wind.

A fairly simple solution is at hand. Both our recycle and waste



containers have a series of small holes in the opening side of the lid. If we get a short bungee cord from the hardware or big box store, and hook one end through one of these holes, and bend or secure that hook so it won't come off, then hook the other end around the metal lifting bar further down the container, we have a simple way to secure the lid.

Why Deed Restrictions need to be enforced.

By Kitty Heston

The best tool to protect the value of your home and the quality of your neighborhood is through strict enforcement of the community's Deed Restrictions. When Deed Restrictions are not corrected there can be a negative result over time. Estimates are that property values with inactive Architectural Review Committees can fall as much as twenty percent due to failure to enforce restrictions. There must be uniform standards for everyone. It's the responsibility of the Architectural Review Committee to explore what the ramifications for the entire community can be, both now and going forth, with each decision it makes in regards to Architectural Review Requests. ARC must be consistent in its decisions for the entire community.

There are valid reasons why restrictions are put in place. As examples:

Bird Feeders: If you've had a problem with mice nesting in your air conditioning unit, chances are that either you or your neighbor have a bird feeder on the property. Birdfeeders are probably the number one attraction for drawing mice, rats, squirrels, voles and snakes found in your area. Rodents are opportunistic with voracious appetites. Birdfeeder provide the perfect food source, with air conditioning units and insulated areas providing perfect nesting locations.

Lawn ornaments and statues: Everyone has seen how some people can go to extremes to personalize their outside spaces. Homeowners have different views of what is attractive and, without Deed Restrictions, there is a good chance of the neighborhood looking dramatically different over time from the way it did when you first bought your home. Curb appeal and good taste is subjective. Without uniform standards for everyone, our community can become a venue for the weird and unusual. This can have a financial impact on the value of all the homes within a community.

Need a Vacation? If you are new to VOLC, you may not be aware that Carol Thompson (58 Devalinder), is a Travel Consultant at Uniglobe Tour-N-Travel located in Peoples Plaza. You can reach Carol by email at carol2628@comcast.net, or call: 302-547-5483.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April

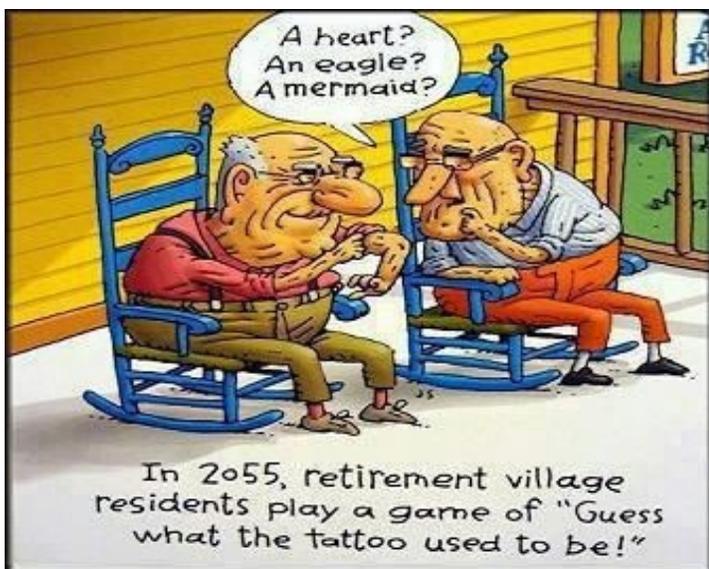
Patti Abernethy 7th
 Ray Search 9th
 Pam Smith 9th
 Mary Legreid 10th
 Jean Roberts 13th
 Linda Trach 15th
 Paul Wellborn 17th
 Don Hobson 18th
 Sonja Lemanski 18th
 Carol Thompson 26th
 Joann Sabato 29th

May

Becky Noetzel 2nd
 Anna Lagrasso 9th
 Jean Skelly 14th
 Richard Cutone 24th
 Bill McNamee 25th
 Don Doto 29th
 Dennis Sabato 30th
 Barbara Strasser 30th

June

John Killian 3rd
 Dot Dube 12th
 Joe Doto 23th
 Paula Kendrick 25th
 Ken Riley 27th
 Sharon Dickol 28th
 Norm Petterson 7th



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The neighbors listed below are available to help when you need a helping hand. **Don't be afraid to request support** whenever you need a ride to the doctor, groceries from the store, or help bringing in the mail or newspapers. Refer to the neighborhood directory for phone numbers and email addresses. You can also find this listing and the directory on our [VOLC website](#).

- Patti Abernethy
- Barb Carter
- Jane & Pat Crowe
- Richard Cutone & JoAnne Skidmore
- Jim & Judy Davis
- Jackie & Eric Dean
- Sharon & Bob Dickol
- Barb & Joe Doto
- Nancy Ferrara
- Bob Greenblatt
- Kitty Heston
- Don & Grace Hobson
- Kathy Karthaeuser
- John & Christine Killian
- Valerie Landon
- George Lulli
- Marty Lyon
- Anna Lagrasso & Vinnie Moricone
- Norm Petterson & Cathy Brindle
- Ginny Pelachick
- Jean Roberts
- Joan Rowland
- Stan & Janet Sanders
- Dennis & Joann Sabato
- Barbara & Joe Strasser
- Donnie & Carol Thompson
- Lenny & Maria Tricarico
- Peg & Paul Wellborn

