



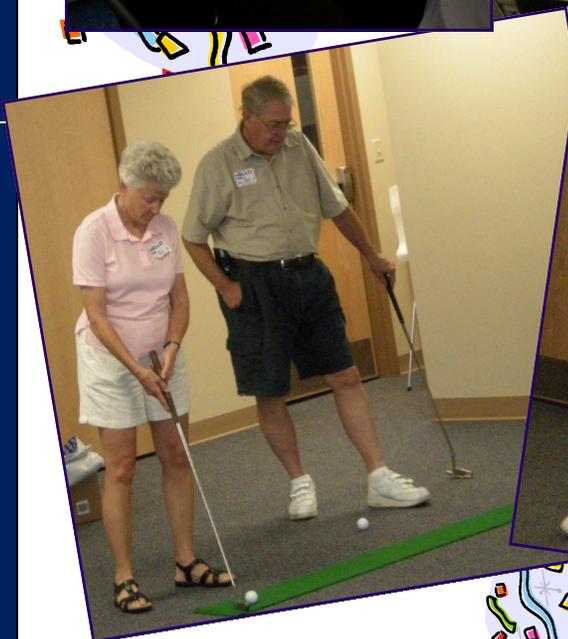
# Neighborhood Newsletter

Fall 2010

Volume I, Number 3

## Labor Day Celebration Enjoyed By All

*Photos courtesy of Vincent Moricone*



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## Home Maintenance Tips

Submitted by Bob Greenblatt

The following information was prepared by Benchmark Builders.

### Interior Home Care:

- ◆ Check all Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter outlets (kitchen, bath and exterior) for proper operation on a regular basis. There is a test button on the breaker for this purpose.
- ◆ Replace your HVAC system air filter every 30-60 days. Use of a filter having a particulate rating of over 700 is not recommended as these filters can reduce the flow of conditioned air from your system.
- ◆ Lubricate door hinges and hardware, including your garage doors, every year or as needed. This helps to prolong the life of these items.
- ◆ Inspect perimeter caulking of tub/shower units and vanity tops once a year. Replace this caulking if required.
- ◆ Replace the battery back up in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors twice a year.
- ◆ Inspect door and window weather stripping every year. Replace as needed.
- ◆ Maintain all appliances (including your hot water heater) as per the manufacturers instructions.
- ◆ Avoid the use of rubber backed area rugs on vinyl floors. They may permanently stain vinyl flooring.
- ◆ Avoid standing water on laminate counter tops. This may cause the laminate to separate from the substrate.



### Exterior Home Care:

- ◆ Seal coat your driveway within 3-6 months after the final coat of asphalt is applied.
- ◆ Remove all attachments from your exterior hose bibs in the fall. Devices left on the bib may cause it to freeze and burst.
- ◆ Check your landscaping (including the grass) for signs of insect or disease damage. Prune shrubbery and trees as needed. Use the recommended fertilizer on your trees and shrubbery. Maintenance for these items may be included in your maintenance agreement. Verify these services with your maintenance company.
- ◆ Do not use de-icing agents on your sidewalks or driveways. They can permanently damage these surfaces.
- ◆ Verify the integrity of any caulking around foundation or wall penetrations. Install new caulking as needed.
- ◆ Water seal pressure treated wood decking. This will help reduce damage to the wood from sun and weather exposure.
- ◆ Remove all debris from your gutters twice a year, or as needed.
- ◆ Clean the weep holes for your windows and doors as needed.

### Emergencies:

If there is an emergency situation in your home (i.e., **severe** roof leak, **severe** plumbing leak, total loss of heat or air conditioning, or an electrical issue) you must notify Benchmark Builders immediately by telephone. If this emergency occurs outside of business hours, please promptly notify the appropriate contractor (a list of contact numbers is included below).

Any request for service must be followed by written notification, sent via the United States Postal Service, to this office. This written documentation is extremely important.

### Contact Numbers:

Benchmark Builders Customer Service	(302) 995-6945
Plumbing Emergencies: McKinley Mechanical	(302) 798-5023
Heating/Cooling Emergencies: Glazar Brothers	(302) 764-2520
Electrical Emergencies: T.C. Electric	(302) 791-9100
Roofing Emergencies: Archer Exteriors	(856) 629-1343

## Helpful Resources

### The MetLife Guide to Reverse Mortgages

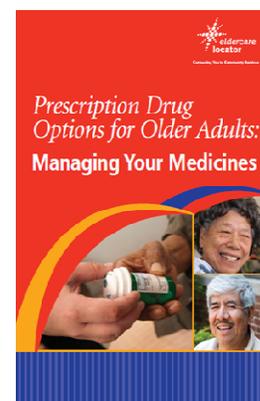
This new online booklet from the MetLife Mature Market Institute tells how reverse mortgages work, who is eligible, what the costs are and how to select the right lender. To download the guide, go to [www.metlife.com/mmi](http://www.metlife.com/mmi) and click on "The Essentials."

### Prescription Drugs for Older Adults

This online brochure from the Eldercare Locator team provides useful tools and information to help seniors manage and pay for the prescription drugs they need. Visit [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov) and click on "Brochures" to find this guide and other resources.

### Learn About Medicare on YouTube

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services now offers video information on their new CMS YouTube Channel ([www.YouTube.com/CMSHHSGov](http://www.YouTube.com/CMSHHSGov)). Content includes the "Caregiver Broadcasts" series and "Welcome to Medicare" for new enrollees.



Find helpful information online at [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov).

## Do You Know the Signs of Medical Identity Theft?

Medical identity theft happens when a scammer steals your personal information (such as your name, Social Security number or medical insurance / Medicare number) and uses it to obtain medical care, buy drugs or submit fraudulent billings.

This crime can cost money, damage your

credit rating and even endanger your health if someone else's information ends up in your medical records.

Always check your medical bills carefully. If you see questionable charges, contact your healthcare provider first. If you still suspect there's a problem, contact your insurance

company or your Medicare office, and file a police report.

You can read more about medical identity theft on the Federal Trade Commission website. Go to <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edupubs/consumer/idtheft/idthe10.shtm>

**More than  
300,000  
Americans were  
victims of identity  
theft in 2009,  
according to the  
Federal Trade  
Commission.**

## Area Events, Things to Do & Places to Explore

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- ◆ **"Living A Well Seasoned Life"** A seminar about coming of age in Delaware, Sept. 23 at the Buena Vista Conference Center. To register, call 255-9882 or Email: [Deborah.vandiver@state.de.us](mailto:Deborah.vandiver@state.de.us)
- ◆ **Over 50 and Fabulous Expo**, October 9 at the Dover Mall, 10a.m. to 6p.m.

### THEATER & THE ARTS

- ◆ **"The Homecoming"** by Harold Pinter at the UD Theater, Sept. 23—Oct. 16. For information on all the UD productions listed here, go to [www.rep.udel.edu](http://www.rep.udel.edu). All Tickets \$18—\$24.
- ◆ **"The Importance of Being Earnest"** by Oscar Wilde at the UD Theater, Oct. 7 — Nov. 6. Contact Barb Doto for group rates on Oct. 9 at [jfdoto@verizon.net](mailto:jfdoto@verizon.net).
- ◆ **"Our Town"** by Thornton Wilder, at the UD Theater, Oct. 21 — Nov. 7
- ◆ **"Private Lives"** by Noel Coward, at the UD Theater, Dec. 1 — Dec. 17
- ◆ **"Winter Wonderettes: The New '60s Christmas Musical"** by Roger Beam at the Milburn Stone Theatre, Cecil County Community College, December 16 & 17 at 8pm and December 18 & 19 at 3pm. Tickets \$12. Contact Barb Doto for group info.

*Continued on page 4.*



## Welcome to Our Newest Neighbors!

As you may have noticed there has been considerable construction activity in VOLC in 2010 (well, at least compared to 2009!). Please welcome our neighbors who have moved in since December 2009:

**Robert Harris & Barbara Charlton**  
7 Devalinder

**Dr. & Melody Devoe & Marion Devoe**  
84 Devalinder

**Brenda Durrett Devalinder** 52

**Jim and Judy Davis**  
5 Devalinder

**Marty Lyon**  
96 Devalinder

**Eric and Jackie Dean**  
47 Devalinder

Homes are currently under construction for these new neighbors who are expected to move in over the next several months:

**Joan Rowland**  
54 Devalinder

**John & Christine Killian**  
70 Devalinder

**Nancy Weldon**  
121 Devalinder

## Events, continued from page 3

- ◆ **The Everet Theatre** in Middletown, a beautiful and historical theater located on Main Street. The theater also offers "family friendly" movies at a reasonable price, [www.everettheatre.com](http://www.everettheatre.com).
- ◆ **Friday night films** at the Newark Library; go to [www.nccde.org/newark](http://www.nccde.org/newark). **FREE!**

### CLASSES & EXERCISE

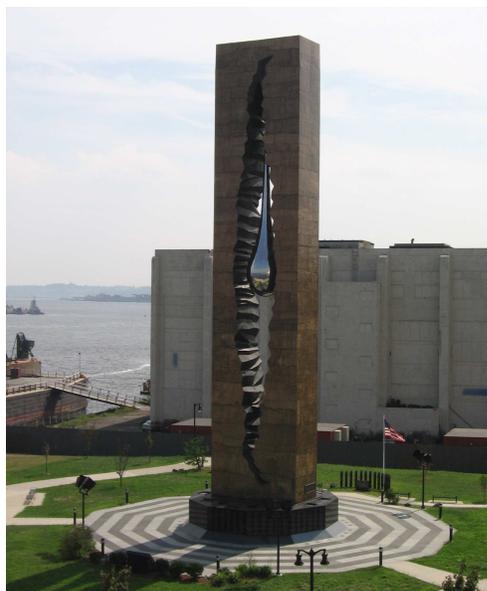
- ◆ Art classes and exhibits are available in Middletown at **The Gibby**, [www.thegibbycenter.com](http://www.thegibbycenter.com)
- ◆ Jazzercise classes are offered at the **Middletown Jazz & Fitness Center**. Classes are one hour and have cardio, strength and stretching for a great workout! [www.middletownjazzfitnesscenter.org/](http://www.middletownjazzfitnesscenter.org/)

### OTHER RESOURCES

- ◆ **Legal Handbook for Elder Delawareans** is available at [www.delawareelderlawhandbook.com](http://www.delawareelderlawhandbook.com).
- ◆ **Free Will Services** available at the Newark Senior Center, Wednesdays 9a.m.—11a.m. by appointment only. Monthly income cannot exceed \$1,700 per month. Call Jacki at 478-8680, ext. 212
- ◆ **Senior Roll Call Lifeline**, offers daily reassurance phone calls by the NCC Police for those age 55+ who live alone and have no daily contact with friends or relatives. Call 395-8159.

## Tear of Grief Contributed by Barb Doto

One of the more controversial of all the 9/11 memorials is an artwork originally entitled "Tear Of Grief", a forty-foot stainless steel teardrop suspended within a



100-foot-tall, 175-ton, bronze-clad tower that is now officially entitled "To the Struggle Against World Terrorism". This extraordinary work is a gift to the United States from the people of Russia and from its creator, renowned sculptor Zurab Tsereteli. Mr. Tsereteli first envisioned the image of the "Tear Of Grief" on September 11, 2001 after watching the horrific collapse of the World Trade Center towers on Moscow television and then driving past a crowd of crying Muscovites in front of the US embassy nearby. He began the design of the "Tear Drop Memorial" on that very day.