



Neighborhood Newsletter

Winter 2013

Volume 3, Number 4

Know thy neighbor?

Neighborly relations have declined in the U.S. since the 1950s, for reasons sociologists don't quite know. Lack of local ties is bad for crime and a community's ability to organize for their interests, to say nothing of leaving you stranded when you need one more egg.

Some 28 percent of Americans know none of our neighbors' names, reports a 2010 Pew survey. "The biggest barrier is just a perception that we should not be involved," said Keith Hampton, associate professor of com-

munications at Rutgers University. "We fear having people intrude in our lives, but we also have to recognize ... (the) risk in not knowing the people around you."

Knowing your neighbors can help defuse conflicts before they turn ugly.

"If someone leaves their dog out too late barking, then that's Joe — it's not some random guy you

hate," said Bob Borzotta, founder of neighborsfromhell.com, a chat room for people embroiled in neighbor disputes.

Though technology is partly responsible for making neighbors less relevant (it enables people get social support from afar), it also is helping revive neighbor ties. Several social networking sites are dedicated to connecting neighbors; Hampton's research shows that people who use those technologies are more likely to talk to their neighbors in person and on the phone than those who don't.

One such site is **Nextdoor.com**, which has more than 1,900 neighborhoods, said co-founder Nirav Tolia. Its purpose is not social but to solve practical problems, like finding a

lost dog or organizing a block party. The majority of posts are either recommendation requests (someone seeking a good plumber) or classifieds (trying to sell a couch). There's also an "urgent alerts" feature that sends an emergency note via text message; a neighborhood in Texas used it recently to alert people to tornadoes.

Jon Elliott, 28, joined the Nextdoor group for his neighborhood in Lancaster, Pa., in hopes of creating a sense of community because, he

said, "it's hard to go up to someone walking their dog and just start a conversation."

The site proved helpful when a posting about a car break-in spurred a slew of neighbors to respond that their cars also had been broken into, Elliott, said. But neighbors also now wave to each other in the street and call one another by their names, he added.

That's not to say neighbors should become best friends. It's

the weak ties that make a happy neighborhood, Hampton said, so just make it a point to say hello or offer to collect someone's newspapers if they're going out of town.

Respecting boundaries is vital, Borzotta added. Introducing yourself if you're new to the neighborhood, or welcoming a neighbor who has just moved in, is a good way to establish contact, he said.

So, how well do you know your neighbors? **Turn to page 5 and take the VOLC Know Thy Neighbor Quiz.** You may learn a few new and rather interesting facts about the people who live here. And, you may just have something more to talk about at the next social gathering!

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

Committees Formed

Recently, VOLC residents have organized committees to facilitate activities and maintain the use of the clubhouse. While these groups are very much in their infancy, meetings have been taking place, and as more items are accomplished, they will be reported to the entire community through email and/or this newsletter. To date, the following groups have been formed:

- ◆ **Clubhouse Rental Agreement Committee.** Spearheaded by Jim Davis, this committee is responsible for researching the rental agreements used by other similar communities, making recommendations to Benchmark, and further collaborate with Benchmark in the preparation of a rental agreement for residents wishing to use the clubhouse for private events. Others on this committee include Patti Abernethy, Kitty Heston, Donnie Thompson, Joe Strasser, Don Doto, and Bob Dickol.
- ◆ **Social Activities Committee.** This group will organize and maintain a calendar of events and social activities for VOLC residents, including monthly Happy Hours. To provide input or to request a special activity, contact anyone on the committee: Maria Tricarico, Carol Thompson, Kathy Karthaus and Christine Killian. Activity calendars will be emailed to residents monthly and will be posted on the clubhouse bulletin board.
- ◆ **Benchmark Liaison Committee.** Sam Ferrara and Paul Wellborn have agreed to serve as liaisons with Benchmark to communicate maintenance issues regarding the clubhouse or to address other concerns impacting the community.
- ◆ **Supplies "Captain".** This is a committee of one! Carol Thompson has agreed to monitor the use of supplies in the clubhouse (paper products, utensils, coffee, etc.) and to replenish items when the supply runs low.

Welcome to VOLC!

Mr. & Mrs. Paskevicious at 92 Devalinder
 Ray & Wanda Search at 110 Devalinder
 Mary O'Hara at 202 Devalinder Lane
 Linda Trach at 124 Devalinder
 Nick & Lois. Inglisa will settle on their new home
 January 23rd at 106 Devalinder

This 'n That . . .

DON'T THROW AWAY THOSE CHRISTMAS CARDS! Penny Riley recycles them for creating beautiful collages. She only needs the face of each card. So, be "green" and help a neighbor at the same time! Contact Penny at rileypen@gmail.com . . .

SPECIAL OFFER!! Linda Trach (124), writes: "I work for W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. (among many other products, we provide the material for any piece of outerwear/footwear that is marketed as GORE-TEX® or WINDSTOPPER®. It's expensive, but really incredible, stuff and I get at least 30% off anything that we carry. We have a store in one of our buildings on Barksdale Road in Newark (8 miles door to door from VOLC), and I'd be happy to meet any of you if you're interested in obtaining something. You can only get the discount through a Gore Associate; you can see some of the garments/footwear, etc. on our Gore.com website, but you can only purchase it at this location if you would like to use my discount." To learn more, contact Linda at ltrach@wlgore.com for more information . . .

GET WELL WISHES to **Barbara Strasser** and **Vinnie Moricone**, both of whom are recovering from recent surgery. . . **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Kitty Heston** on the birth of her first grandchild. . . **HUGE THANKS** to **Maria Tricarico** and **Donnie Thompson** for placing the Christmas lights at the entrance to VOLC. . . To **Maria and Lenny Tricarico** for donating those Christmas lights! . . . To **Kitty Heston** and **Carol Thompson** for organizing a VOLC Christmas dinner at McGlynn's -- it was GREAT! . . . To **George Fox, Kay Bennett**, and **Bob Greenblatt** for donating the Wii and Monopoly games to the clubhouse . . . To **Barbara Strasser, Barb Doto, Patti Abernethy**, and **Sharon Dickol** for developing the new VOLC Resource Guide, which is being printed by **Benchmark** and will be distributed in early 2013. . . To **Carol Thompson** and **Barb Doto** for organizing a fun-filled New Year's Eve celebration at the clubhouse . . . To **Ginger Murani, Bob Greenblatt**, and **Donnie Thompson** for providing photos for this edition of our Neighborhood Newsletter. . .

Whew!!!

*We have a clubhouse!
Grand Opening December 19th*



Good Times in the Village!



Christmas gathering at McGlynn's, December 12th.

New Year's Eve at the clubhouse.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

One of the greatest benefits of living in VOLC is having neighbors who care. We are blessed with amazing residents who are ready and eager to lend a helping hand. Whether you need a ride to the doctor, a few items from the store, a prescription from the pharmacy, all you need to do is call one of the people listed to



the right. Neighbors will also pick up your mail, the newspaper, and even water your plants when you are away from home. Many residents call on neighbors when ill or recovering from surgery, especially helpful when loved ones live a distance away. For more information, contact Barb Carter, 836-3023.

Barb & Joe Doto	37 Devalinder	302-836-3262	jfdoto@verizon.net
Barb Carter	49 Devalinder	302-836-3023	bcarter19720@aol.com
Dennis & Joann Sabato	43 Devalinder	302-365-6713	jpalaisa1@comcast.net
Dick & Lois Hallett	50 Devalinder	302-838-0652	dick2lois@aol.com
Don & Grace Hobson	24 Devalinder	302-838-1771	donhobson@aol.com
Donnie & Carol Thompson	58 Devalinder	302-595-2717	dthom51@comcast.net carol2628@comcast.net
Ginny Pelachick	59 Devalinder	302-834-8504	vpelachick@yahoo.com
Jackie & Eric Dean	47 Devalinder	302-838-1805	edeane@snet.net
Jim & Judy Davis	5 Devalinder	908-295-1001	jdavis@safetyresc.com
Joan Rowland	54 Devalinder	302-595-2090	rowlandjoan@gmail.com
John & Christine Killian	70 Devalinder	302-454-1098	Jckillian4@verizon.net
Kathy Karthaeuser	119 Devalinder	302-365-6067	kathy.karthaeuser@comcast.net
Kitty Heston	73 Devalinder	302-295-2902	klheston@comcast.net
Lenny & Maria Tricarico	9 Devalinder	302-595-2712	lott2do@comcast.net
Marty Lyon	96 Devalinder	302-838-1631	mils1@msn.com
Nancy Ferrara	25 Devalinder	302-834-3205	ferrarasamnancy@aol.com
Patti Abernethy	31 Devalinder	302-836-8447	pabernethy@verizon.net
Peg & Paul Wellborn	55 Devalinder	302-836-8524	pwellborn@verizon.net
Richard Cutone & JoAnne Skidmore	18 Devalinder	302-595-4348	mamajo102@aol.com
Sharon & Bob Dickol	62 Devalinder	302-836-8575	sdickol@verizon.net
Valerie Landon	35 Devalinder	302-365-6685	vlandon@psre.com

How well do you know your neighbors?

Can you match each true statement with the person it belongs to? Answers will be posted in the clubhouse in February. If you think you know them all, send your answers to Sharon at sdickol@verizon.net by 1/31/13. First person to get them all right wins the prize!!

1. Were kindergarten sweethearts
2. Has a current pilot's license
3. Rode a bicycle 200 miles in 1 day
4. Earned 3 college degrees over 15 years
and is now looking to change careers
5. Lived in Dunoon, Scotland for 6 years
6. Traveled to 59 different countries
7. Visited all 50 states in the U.S.
8. A guest on the Sally Jesse Raphael TV talk show in 1991

- A. Joann Palaisa
- B. Joe Strasser
- C. Ken & Penny Riley
- D. Nancy Weldin
- E. Sharon Dickol
- F. Paul & Peg Wellborn
- G. Bob Dickol
- H. Mary & Gary Legreid



Beware the Cold Weather!

The cold temperatures and slippery conditions that accompany our Delaware winters can create many dangers for older adults. Taking precautions to stay safe in cold weather can help prevent weather-related accidents and health problems. Some things to think about:

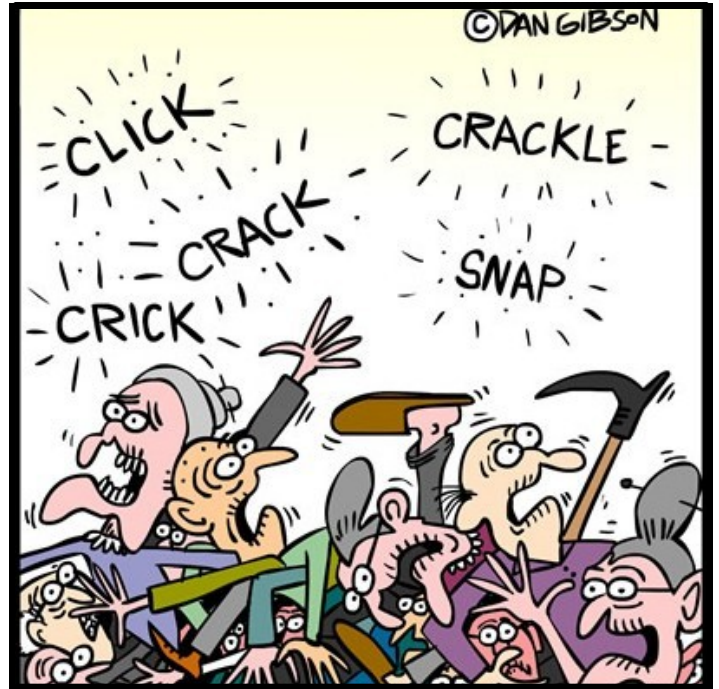
- ◆ Many people turn down their thermostats in the winter to save money. The National Institute on Aging recommends setting thermostats no lower than 68 degrees to prevent hypothermia. You can save money on heating by closing off unused rooms (shut the heating vents and close the doors), keeping blinds and curtains closed, caulking window and door gaps, and installing storm windows and insulating film.
- ◆ House fires are also a concern in winter months. Carefully follow the safety manual for any portable heater. Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off feature in case it tips over, and never leave it unattended. Make sure your fireplace has a screen to catch sparks, and have the flue checked annually. Use power strips instead of extension cords and turn them off when not in use. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home.
- ◆ Older adults are also at risk for dehydration in winter because the air is drier, and aging diminishes one's sense of thirst. Follow your doctor's recommendations for fluid intake.



- ◆ The likelihood of catching a cold or flu is greater during the winter. Keep healthy by washing your hands often. Flu shots are available at most large pharmacies, often provided at no cost to Medicare subscribers; check with your doctor or pharmacy.

And, lastly, seasonal depression is common at this time of year. It can be caused by decreased

sunlight, increased isolation and holiday melancholy. If depression is suspected, contact the Delaware Mental Health Association at 754-7933, or go to www.mhainde.org. The MHA offers support, education, and advocacy for those dealing with depression or anxiety disorders.



"Twister night at the Clubhouse."



The **VOLC BOOK CLUB** meets at 6:30 on the 2nd Monday of each month. Members take turns hosting and choosing what book will be read and discussed. For further information, contact Kitty Heston (#73) 595-2902.

Interested in sharing your crafting skills with others? Want to see what others are creating with their handiwork? Then come on out to the **VOLC CRAFTING CLUB**, lovingly referred to by members as the "Stitch 'n Bitch." The group meets the first Monday of each month at participants' homes, usually from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy Karthaeuser at 302-365-6067 or at kathy.karthaeuser@comcast.net.



To report suspicious, non-emergency criminal activity, call NCC police at 573-2800

