

# Neighborhood Newsletter

## Spring 2016

Volume 7, Number 1

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**COMING SOON!**

4/9—Spring Brunch with Omelet King, 11AM

4/12—Board Meeting, 6:30

4/19—Pizza/Bingo

4/22—HH/B'Day—6 PM

4/25—Movie Night



## VOLC - The Way It Was...

Seeing our community as it is now, it's hard to imagine or remember what it was like in the beginning. Take a look at these photos from Bob Greenblatt.



**By January, 2007, Eastern States had started to define the streets in VOLC Phase II.**

**In May 2007, the individual lots in Phase II had been surveyed and staked out.**



**Phase I pioneers had to collect their mail - and even packages - on Paxson Lane. No fun when it rained!**

**VOLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Patti Abernethy, President  
410-227-7388

Mary Theresa Lednum, Vice President  
302-834-8428

Ken Smith, Vice President  
302-838-2804

Joe Doto, Treasurer  
302-836-3262

Jane Crowe, Secretary  
302-365-6846

**VOLC STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Architectural Review Committee**

MT Lednum, Liaison & Chairperson  
Brook Kortvelesy  
Ron Peebles  
Brenda Simmons  
Joe Strasser  
Linda Trach

**Garden Club**

Coordinator—Don Doto  
Judy Davis  
Nancy Ferrara  
Gene and Loretta Fitch  
Joe and Sonja Lemanski  
Jean Roberts  
Maria Tricarico  
Nancy Weldin

**Clubhouse/Activities Committee**

Ken Smith, Liaison  
Mary Legreid, Co-Chair  
Wanda Search, Co-Chair  
Fran Bifano, Maintenance  
Loretta Fitch, Activities  
Mary Ohara, Treasurer  
JoanMarie Powers, Activities  
Janet Sanders, Activities  
Jean Skelly, Activities  
Cheryl Werner, Librarian

**Communications Committee**

Jane Crowe, Liaison  
Sharon Dickol, Chairperson  
Barb Doto  
Bob Greenblatt  
Mary Legreid  
Mary Ohara  
Tom Skelly  
Cheryl Werner

**Finance Committee**

Joe Doto, Liaison & Chairperson  
Don Doto  
Len Krygowski  
Dennis Sabato  
Joe Strasser  
Maria Tricarico

**Governing Documents Committee**

Patti Abernethy, Liaison  
Mary Ohara, Chairperson  
Jane Crowe  
Barb Doto  
Odette Haight  
Mary Legreid  
Linda Trach  
Maria Tricarico  
Paul Wellborn  
Guy Werner—Data

**Grounds Committee**

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

**Nominating Committee (Ad Hoc)**

Jane Crowe, Liaison  
Lois Inglisa, Co-Chair  
Christine Killian, Co-Chair  
Marilyn Abrams  
Loretta Fitch  
JoanMarie Powers  
Brenda Simmons  
Bo Yu

**By-Laws—(Subcommittee of the GDC)**

Patti Abernethy  
Mary Legreid  
JoanMarie Powers  
Barbara Strasser



Have an interest in any of the committees listed here? Contact the liaison or chairperson. Every resident is invited to participate.

***Committees and individual residents are asked to contact Mary Legreid to schedule the clubhouse for meetings or other activities:***

***302-834-2378***

*VOLC from a different perspective....*

*Alice Clabaugh's son, Scott, took this aerial photo in 2009.*



*Janet Sanders sent this photo to remind us of why we love spring!*

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# From the Board

Dear VOLC MC Members:

Lots of activity in our world right now and this newsletter provides some summary information. Don't hesitate to contact any board member when you have a question or need clarifications or have ideas.

1. **The VOLC MC Board survey:** This was given out at the Board meeting in December and sent a 2<sup>nd</sup> time for all to provide feedback to the Board. So far, 20 Members have submitted comments and the findings include:
  - a. ***Best day/night for board mtgs.***--Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday are the best nights for board meetings.
  - b. ***Invite to join committees***--A few more people volunteered for the committees; a few more asked for information about each committee to know what they do. (By April, each committee will have its mission statement and procedures on the VOLC website.)
  - c. ***Recommendations for any changes to board meetings***--Most asked that business be handled first and then general questions entertained. The current process seems to work well--keep it. Recommendation to put minutes on website asap. (Minutes go up ASAP even when not yet approved.)
  - d. ***Board meets at other times as issues surface and how would other residents like involvement in these meetings (except for the confidential parts)***--Residents like the once a month meetings; one person suggested opening up the part of any other meetings the board convenes for those topics not confidential to see if people want to come before the confidential aspects are discussed. (The board has had to discuss multiple confidential issues regarding working with the developer/builder, NCCo, personnel issues, contracts, etc., and while meeting on those aspects, other timely issues may be topics. Mostly, confidential meetings are for those topics approved by DE law.) Most reflected that issues remain confidential the way meetings are held now and there is no need to open up more meetings to the residents.
  - e. ***Recommendations for greater communications***--Current email communications are good (those without emails get hard copies of all emails); there is plenty of information; help train people in use of the VOLC website to access more information (to ask Communications Committee to follow-up on this request); general discussions by board members is helpful.
  - f. ***Particular questions any resident might have***-- ongoing concerns about developer, NCCo, but knowledge that the residents and Board are aware and working on all aspects; many indicated that things are "going well"; one resident commented about the need to review financial safeguards of HOA funds (currently multiple board members verify each bill to be paid and monthly balances and property mgmt. company has its own \$1 million insurance on such issues); one comment re split rail fences to be completed when VOLC MC built-out (Some residents signed off so split rail fences would not be put on their properties and the MC must take care of and replace all fences in the VOLC); concern about enforcing deed restrictions (When deed restrictions are decided by the Members through a vote, policy will be created and input received from the community prior to adoption of policy as per DE law).

(From the Board, cont.)

2. **VOLC Common Area Concerns 2-5-16--** Go to <http://volcde.wix.com/volc#!inspections--reports/c167c> where you will find this document, the most recent summary of what is to be done in our VOLC MC by the developer. There are multiple trees and bushes missing as well as grass that never grew on the downslopes of the basins. While in 8/2015 the VOLC MC was cited in its Basin Inspection as needing to grow this grass to 4"-6," we challenged NCCo because the grass never grew from the time the VOLC MC was turned over on 11/12/14. The pictures on this same website reflect much of what is missing or dead.
  - a. **What we need to do:** Now that spring is almost here, we will hold another meeting for organized groups of people to go out to our common areas and COUNT what is missing and where it is missing. Then NCCo will give the developer 30 days to comply. Planning all this is important as we must ensure that whatever is planted remains alive. How to do that and who does that will be part of this overarching plan. Please contact the Grounds Committee to volunteer even before a larger meeting is called (as we did last year in the Walk Around). Ideas and carrying experiences are welcome to help us all figure out how best to plan.
  - b. **Basin update:** Plans are still not approved yet by NCCo re the Basins. When they are more final, we will be called in to discuss them. We do know that basin #9 was made very muddy in the rip rap section as well as on the rocks. The developer will clean that out once the final home is completed. Contact has been made again to NCCo for Basin #2 as there is need for mulch there. In the 8/2015 Inspection Report, we were told to replace the mulch but we responded to NCCo that it was due to the streets not being done and overflow. They agreed and the developer has to replace the mulch. We have not been told when that will be done.
3. **Turnover of the Street (and sidewalks)--**Contact has been ongoing with NCCo and there is nothing new to report at this time. When information comes, you will get it ASAP. This means no one knows yet if sidewalks will be cut through blacktops, if not already continuous sidewalks. It does mean that all sidewalks near the curbs must be without cracks and the height between them must meet ADA standards. It is in writing that this is expected so that our MC cannot be sued for discrimination (not considering ADA needs). Driveways damaged by curb installation will be repaired by the developer as well once the roads are turned over.
4. **Special Thank You to our own:** So many here do so much and what you do is appreciated and valued. Know that we will call out a few each board meeting in the future--for acknowledgement and gratitude. At the March meeting we called out David Dillard for reminding us all to keep our heater pipes clear of snow; for our 55+ Active Adult Eagle scouts, George Lulli and Donnie Thompson who walked around the entire neighborhood getting the snow from around heater pipes; for Fran Bifano who repaired the toilet paper holders so they can give out more than 2 pieces at a time! We laughed and clapped for all these helpers. And thanks to Ken Smith and Fran Bifano who installed storage shelves in the clubhouse storage room and in the utility room. There are many more to note--give us your information and we will include a few each time. (They are also in the minutes of the meeting.)

Best to each of you in these warmer months. Thanks for all you do, all you add to this VOLC world.

Sincerely,

Jane Crowe, Joe Doto, Ken Smith, Mary Theresa Lednum, and Patti Abernethy

# At Home

With Pete and Maria deArmas

## *Out of Cuba*

We've all heard of Peter Pan, but do you know about Operation Pedro Pan? Between 1960 and 1962, the program airlifted more than 14,000 Cuban children from Havana to the U.S. One of them was 15 year-old Maria Extremera, who, in 1962, along with her twin brother, took a Pan Am flight to Miami. From there, she traveled to a camp in Florida City, where she was settled into housing that was run by the Catholic Welfare Bureau, headed by Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh.

In that same year, a young man named Pedro deArmas left Cardenas, the beautiful city linked by ferry to Key West. Pete had chosen to make his way to New York where his sister lived. He was one of three and a half million Cubans who fled the island when Fidel Castro and his Communist regime took over the country. One of 11 siblings, only Pete and his sister made it to the U.S. Pete left in September. All flights between Cuba and the U.S. were cancelled in October.

The memories of those dreadful days and stress-filled trips are still strong, and as Pete and Maria talked, they recalled the stories of why they left and what they left behind. The rumors and fears that drove them out did indeed become fact: Catholic and private schools were closed, children were taken from parents, homes and farms, guns and money were confiscated— all, the new government said, to be divided among "the people." When they left, they were allowed to take 3 pieces of clothing - nothing else - and absolutely no money. Pete's house was inventoried before he left, and then again the day after, to be sure he hadn't taken anything. Even Maria's gold chain was confiscated at the airport, although she managed to retain the Catholic medal that had hung from it.



From the camp, Maria was sent to Port Chester, New York to live with the family of a friend. Pete arrived in Rye, New York with visa in hand, speaking no English. To get work, he needed a green card. He went to Canada for one night, reentered the country, and applied. His first job was as a dishwasher in a posh club, making \$50 a week. Maria and Pete met through mutual friends and married six months later. Both became American citizens.

Pete soon found a good job with Avon Products and was later transferred with them to Newark, Delaware. Their two daughters were born in White Plains NY, but spent their formative years in Delaware. Their 6 grandchildren helped them celebrate their 50th anniversary last year.



Maria and Pete vividly recall their youth in Cuba when the country was prosperous and the lifestyle much like that of the U.S. Pete has returned 3 times, bringing his daughters with him 3 years ago. The girls were shocked by the living conditions in a country so close that their flight took just 28 minutes. Maria has returned just once, and was fearful the entire time. Family and neighbors warned them not to say anything against the government because “you never know who’s listening.”

The current conditions sadden them all. Everything is run by the government, including the only television station. There is a lack of materials for building, for manufacture or repair, a lack of medical supplies, and always the rationed food. The cost of a restaurant meal or any other “luxury” is out of reach, even for those with professional jobs. Pete relates the experience of his niece, who makes more money working at a hotel for generous European tourists than she was making as a government engineer, a profession that was



chosen for her, rather than by her. He recalls that he visited Cuba when his sister was sick, and a respected surgeon was grateful for his gift of soap.

In 2011, Maria shared her memories with her fellow Pedro Pan “children” at a 50th reunion in Miami. They all had stories. Both Pete and Maria refer to the movie *Dr. Zhivago*, which they feel is an accurate portrayal of a communist takeover. They saw the ruthlessness and cruelty for themselves, and the movie brings Maria to tears.

Both Maria and Pete are wary of the US normalizing of relations with Cuba, but they see that a few small things have changed. Although Cubans still cannot make out-of-country calls, some have received and are able to use cell phones with help from relatives abroad. Tourists are beginning to return. There are plans for American companies to operate there again.

When asked what they miss about Cuba, both agreed vehemently “Nothing - just family!” They are proud of their adopted country and proud of the life they’ve made for themselves and their daughters. They are especially proud of the medical care in this country, and Pete is currently participating in a study for lung cancer at the Helen Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Care. They agreed that, in America, if you work hard and do the right thing, you can hope to have a better life. “That is the most important thing,” Pete says, “HOPE. The people of Cuba had it taken away.”

*Story by Cheryl Werner*

*At home photos by Bob Greenblatt*

# Grass Class

## *From Tom Skelly, Grounds Chair*

This summer, we will have just one company for lawn care. That company, Forever Green, has the contract for lot services and common ground services. The contract will expire on 10/31/16.

Here is how the current lawn care program works:

Services for lots are the following: (season is April - November)

Spring Cleanup/mulching - 1 time - April

Mowing - 25 times per season (weekly)

Edging - 12 times per season

Bed Maintenance - 13 times per season

Fertilizing - 5 times per season

Shrub Pruning - 2 times per season

Services for Common Areas:

Mowing - 13 times per year

All other services are the same as for the lots.

Mowing totals are nominal by contract, but can change due to midsummer dry spells or extended growing season in the fall. VOLC has averaged 3 additional cuts per season over the last 5 years.

[To notify Forever Green to not fertilize your lawn, post red flags on front & rear lawns.](#)

Flags available upon request ([skellyt123@comcast.net](mailto:skellyt123@comcast.net) or Tom Skelly - 302-365-6681)

[To notify Forever Green to not mow your lawn, post white flags on front and rear lawns.](#)

Flags available upon request ([skellyt123@comcast.net](mailto:skellyt123@comcast.net) or Tom Skelly - 302-365-6681)

[For problems/concerns regarding lawn care, contact Tom Skelly -](#)

6 Devalinder Drive - ([skellyt123@comcast.net](mailto:skellyt123@comcast.net) or 302-365-6681)

Hints :

1. Prior to lawn fertilization, a sign is posted in the front of the community a day or two before the treatment - post your flags when you see the sign go up. I will try to notify the community by e-mail when treatment will take place.
2. If you have things such as hose boxes, hoses, sprinklers, sidewalk lights, spot lights, etc. in the grass outside your home, it makes it more difficult for the lawn care provider to cut/trim your lawn. Where possible, please move such things off the grass.

**PLEASE RETAIN THIS INFORMATION**  
**FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

## Communications: Keeping You in the Loop

Your VOLC Communications Committee is comprised of seven dedicated members: [Sharon Dickol](#) serves as Chairperson of the committee and maintains our website; [Barb Doto](#) manages the community directories; [Bob Greenblatt](#) is our photographer extraordinaire; [Cheryl Werner](#) serves as editor of the quarterly newsletter; [Mary Legreid](#), [Tom Skelly](#) and [Mary Ohara](#) offer their exceptional expertise in so many ways. [Jane Crowe](#) serves as the Board Liaison. All members assist with disseminating electronic and printed information, making phone calls, and doing whatever is necessary to keep the community informed.

The Committee has recently crafted and presented its Mission Statement to the Board of Directors. It reads: *“The mission of the Village of Long Creek Communications Committee is to keep VOLC residents informed of all news and activities as they relate to the governance and well-being of the community. This is accomplished through email and telephone communications, community publications, the VOLC website, and the hand-delivery of printed materials as needed.”*

In addition, the Committee has developed a phone tree system to relay information in the event of an emergency. This system will utilize five separate lists, each managed by a member of the Committee and will require homeowners to call the next person on their list. More details with instructions will be provided soon. **IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EMERGENCY PHONE TREE, YOU MUST NOTIFY A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.** Just click on any one of the individuals highlighted above to make contact by email. Or, call any member.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Sharon Dickol by [email](#) or by phone, 302-836-8575.

## Nominations Committee and Board Election

As you know, the terms of the current VOLC Executive Board members expire in May 2016. Board members serve for one year.

A Nominating Committee has been formed, and members include co-chairs, Lois Inglisa and Christine Killian, Marilyn Abrams, Loretta Fitch, JoanMarie Powers, Brenda Simmons, and Bo Yu, with Jane Crowe as Board Liaison. The committee’s purpose is to identify and elect 5 to 9 residents to serve on the Executive Board (providing the proposed by-laws are approved.)

Nominations have been accepted, and the nominees have been asked to submit biographies. It isn’t necessary for Board members to have a background in homeowners’ association issues and governance. Rather, it is important that candidates possess leadership qualities, strong decision making skills, and the ability to work and communicate well with others.

The committee will conduct the election by private ballot, with each household allowed one vote. Watch for details to arrive soon.

around the



January and February brought ice and snow that cancelled or postponed several events.

However, the *Super Bowl 50 Party* went off without a hitch, and attendees were treated, not only to great subs and goodies, but to a photo-matching game. Some folks brought photos from 50 years back, and neighbors were charged with guessing their identity. We heard there were some who hadn't changed much in 50 years!

As always, the February and March *Happy Hour/Birthday Celebrations* were well-attended. The new birthday cupcake proved popular and allowed a return to the yummy desserts the event is famous for. The St. Patrick's' theme added to the fun.



March Birthday Boys—from left, Pat Crowe, Ray Whiteoak, Bob Dickol, Steve Brubaker.

Here's news from Mary Legreid, co-chair of the Clubhouse Committee. "The Village of Long Creek Clubhouse Committee produced a cookbook, *Village Vittles*, using recipes contributed by many of the excellent cooks in the development. We were fortunate enough to cover our expenses and have some funds left over. The Clubhouse Committee decided a

good use for these funds would be a donation in the name of the VOLC to the "148 in the 148th" food drive appeal being sponsored by the 148th General Assembly and the Delaware Food Bank.

Thank you to all of those who contributed to the cookbook and all who so generously supported their efforts by purchasing the books." Great job, Everyone!

And, speaking of cookbooks, March 19th brought the clever *Village Vittles Pot-Luck Dinner*. VOLC'ers were encouraged to bring a dish made from the Community Cookbook. The food was delicious and the visuals even better, as some neighbors wore chef's hats and aprons, and carried cooking paraphernalia. A good time was had by all.

Get ready for the next big event—the Spring Brunch with made-to-order omelets on April 9. Make sure to secure your reservation with Mary Legreid or Wanda Search by Saturday, April 2.



Janet and Stan Sanders dressed like very good cooks!

Photos by Jean Skelly



## April

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Joan Holstein   | 5th  |
| Patti Abernethy | 7th  |
| Ray Search      | 9th  |
| Pam Smith       | 9th  |
| Marilyn Abrams  | 9th  |
| Mary Legreid    | 10th |
| Linda Trach     | 15th |
| Paul Wellborn   | 17th |
| Don Hobson      | 18th |
| Sonja Lemanski  | 18th |
| Fran Bifano     | 19th |
| MT Lednum       | 24th |

## May

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

## June

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Norm Petterson | 7th  |
| Dot Dube       | 12th |
| Joe Doto       | 23rd |
| Sue Bifano     | 25th |
| Paula Kendrick | 25th |
| Ken Riley      | 27th |
| Sharon Dickol  | 28th |



Guy and Cheryl Wemer's younger son, Tom, was married on March 26, to Chelsey Joy Granger in Philadelphia. The happy couple is honeymooning in Paris, and Mom and Dad Wemer are still recuperating from the festive weekend.



Stan and Janet Sanders' grandson, David Collins IV, is all dressed up in the family's 4th generation baptismal outfit .

# Barb Carter's

## Spring Movie Review

### *The Revenant*

Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy

Director: Alejandro Inarritu

A revenant is a person who has supposedly returned as a spirit or ghost after his death. As you've probably seen in the trailer for this film, Leonardo DiCaprio's character isn't afraid to die—he says he's already done it. The film finally won him the Best Actor Oscar he's been chasing for several years, and also won the second consecutive Best Director Oscar for Inarritu. I didn't agree with the Best Picture nomination, however. I didn't think a film based on revenge and with so much sheer brutality was appropriate for the award.

The film is based on the real life story of trapper and guide Hugh Glass, who in 1823 was left for dead by members of his fur trapping party in the Rocky Mountains, and who made his way across 250 miles of untamed territory to extract his revenge on the man responsible. As Glass, DiCaprio is a hard man who's lived a hard life. He's afraid of little and reserves his love for his half-breed Pawnee son Hawk. The film begins with an attack on the trapping party by Arikara Indians—alternately referred to as "Ree" in the film. You're thrown directly into this scene—a long extended take of men being scalped, shot, and clubbed to death. Glass plays a part in rescuing a part of the party whose number has already been sharply reduced by such attacks, and they are forced to abandon a large part of the furs they have already harvested. When they achieve the "safety" of their boat is when you realize that these white men are a sort of savage themselves. Ragged, dirty, untrustworthy, and uneducated, they're only interested in making it out of Ree territory and getting paid what they were promised. The English actor Tom Hardy is perfect as John Fitzgerald, a trapper who was partially scalped in an earlier fight and wants out of the fur business badly. But he also wants money to help him do that. Hardy also received a Best Supporting Oscar nomination for his role.

The expedition's commander requires Glass's help in finding a trail through Ree territory and back to the fort where the party started its expedition. Glass is scouting when he's attacked by a grizzly and the scene is really as awful as you've heard. The computer generated bear scared the liver out of me and I watched most of that scene with my hands over my eyes. It seemed to go on for about ten minutes, but maybe because it was so graphic. Glass's party and his young son find him near death and they try to carry him to a more comfortable place to die. But Glass is tough and the party's leader feels the need to move out of Ree territory as quickly as possible. Hawk will not leave his father and the commander assigns two men to stay with them until Glass dies and then catch up. One of the men is Fitzgerald, the other a young boy who eventually becomes the famed mountain man Jim Bridger.

But Glass won't die quickly enough for Fitzgerald, and soon his son is dead at Fitzgerald's hands and Bridger is compelled to help "bury" Glass so they can move on. They take everything of value from Glass, including his weapons. But Glass still won't die—he claws his way free and leaving his son's body in the snow he begins his journey of revenge.

There will be viewers who are wild about the scenic element—the location shooting was in Calgary, Alberta over a period of about nine months. But all the real snow and buffalo didn't provide a payoff for the brutality in this film. By the time we reached the key line of dialogue—and there's little dialogue at all in this film—I felt beaten up myself. I think we were supposed to be impressed by the man vs. nature element, but instead, I saw savage men in a savage setting and had no sense of payoff at the end.

## Maybe a book!

There are 2 **Book Clubs** in the VOLC. Both clubs meet once a month—one club in a member's home, the other in a restaurant—to discuss the book of the month that they've all read. Members take turns choosing the books, hosting the gathering, and conducting the discussion. Most feel that the clubs are a great way to socialize and to get reading books they might never have chosen on their own.

[Please note that if you're interested in starting another book club—or a club for any interest or hobby—write up your club idea's description and invitation and contact a member of the communication committee to distribute it via email. If you want to meet in the clubhouse, be sure to schedule your meeting time with Mary Legreid.]

Here are some of the VOLC Book Clubs' selections that proved popular with members:

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford—Set in Seattle, this is a sweet love story that deals with Japanese internment during the war, father-son relationships, and discrimination of all kinds.

The Secret Keeper by Kate Morton— A mystery that shifts between past and present to unravel an explosive long-held family secret.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr—A complex puzzle-like novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

When Men Betray by Webb Hubbel—A political thriller about a DC lawyer who returns to his hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas to defend his old friend—a peaceful, caring man, who shoots a US Senator in cold blood on live television.

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline—Vivian was one of the children taken to a new life on an orphan train. How her life evolves and the bond she shares with a teen-age girl in 2011 make a great story.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See—Set in remote 19th century China, the novel details the bond between two young girls, from foot-binding to marriage, and gives an in-depth look at the rigid rules and culture of the time.

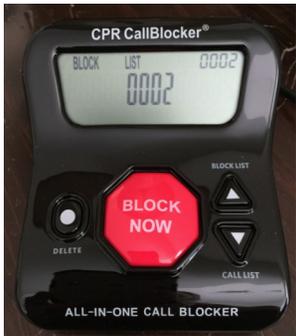
The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans in the Quest for Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown—The sons of laborers and lumberjacks from a public university go on to shock the world by challenging the German boat that is rowing for Adolf Hitler.

## Did you know?

... there's a way to get rid of those annoying **robo calls**? In fact there are at least two that we can recommend:

This first service is free and requires that you go to a website and sign up. The process is very easy—just enter your phone number. Once activated, the service decides if the call you're receiving is legit or not. If it's a robot call, it automatically hangs up after one ring. Very nice! Not all phone service providers are supported at this time, but many are, including Verizon and Comcast. If this sounds good to you, go to [www.nomorobo.com](http://www.nomorobo.com) to see if your service is supported and sign up.

Bob Greenblatt has found a call blocker that goes even further. It blocks calls from the offending number from ever getting through again—not even a first ring. Bob says, “Tired of getting robo calls that never stop? I had a robo call that spoofed a local Delaware number and called me three times a day. When I called the number back, it had a message stating it was out of service. On occasion, a number with a 314 area code also was displayed. This number was always busy. How to stop landline anonymous annoying robo calls? The CPR V5000 updated call blocker, released Dec 15, and available from Amazon, works! I hit the red button the next time I got a robo call and that was it - no more calls. Should come in handy for the election season robo calls to come.” The CPR Call Blocker comes preprogrammed with 5000 known scam numbers and you can add any telephone numbers or area codes you decide to block, as well as international calls. The cost of this equipment is \$99.99 on Amazon.



If neither of these options fits you, here's advice from the FTC:

- Hang up the phone. Don't press 1 to speak to a live operator and don't press any other number to get your number off the list. If you respond by pressing any number, it will probably just lead to more robocalls.
- Consider contacting your phone provider and asking them to block the number, and whether they charge for that service. Remember that telemarketers change Caller ID information easily and often, so it might not be worth paying a fee to block a number that will change.

[Report your experience to the FTC online](#) at or by calling 1-888-382-1222.

...that Barb Doto keeps the **Resident Directories**—both alphabetic and numeric? Any changes to your contact information—phone numbers or email addresses—should be sent to her.

...that the dates for Clubhouse Activities and Events are always accessible through the **Activities Calendar** posted on the community website? Go to the Activities button at <http://volcde.wix.com/volc>. Three months' calendars are posted in slideshow format.

... that if you need a ride or a meal, your neighbors are here to help? Barb Carter updates the **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** contact list, and it's posted on the website. If you'd like to be added, removed, or have new contact information, let Barb know.

...the IRS and AARP have partnered to provide **free tax preparation** help, especially to those over 60? Not much time left! If you need help, you can call one of these locations: Newark Senior Center, Newark Public Library, Bear Public Library.



*And while we're talking about taxes, did you know*

*...that you can get up to a **\$500 credit** on your county tax bill if you're 65 or older and have lived in the state for 3 years? Tom Skelly sends along the advice and information below from the state website. Follow the links for more information or to download the application, or call the county office to have the application sent to you. Tom has also placed copies in the clubhouse.*

## **SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR INDIVIDUALS AGE 65 OR OVER**

<http://finance.delaware.gov/publications/proptax/propmain.shtml>

### **ABOUT:**

Homeowners age 65 or over are eligible for a tax credit against regular school property taxes of 50 percent (up to \$500). This credit may only be used against property taxes on a primary residence.

### **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE STATE'S SENIOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM**

On June 28, 2012, Governor Markell signed [H.B. 209](#), which made the following changes to the State's Senior Property Tax program:

- **Three-year Residency Requirement for New Applicants:** Individuals who establish legal domicile in Delaware AFTER December 31, 2012, will be required to have been legally domiciled within the State for a period of at least 3 consecutive years in order to be eligible to receive a credit. Individuals who have established domicile in Delaware prior to January 1, 2013, will be eligible to receive the credit in the ensuing tax year.

**Application Deadline Moved to April 30:** As a result of this legislation, starting in 2013 applications must be filed with and received by the receiver of taxes or county treasurer no later than April 30 immediately prior to the beginning of the tax year. Eligible applicants, however, may turn 65 at any point up to June 30 immediately prior to the beginning of the county fiscal year. For example, an individual who turned 65 on June 15 would be eligible for the credit so long as his or her application was received by April 30.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- Taxpayers must pay their property tax bill in full by the end of each tax year in order to qualify for this credit for the subsequent property tax year.
- **Application Deadline:** April 30th.

To qualify, a copy of a valid driver's license or official state ID is required for each applicant at the time of application.

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

[FAQS: Senior School Property Tax Credit](#)

[Application: Senior School Property Tax Credit](#) (PDF format -- 190 KB)

**CONTACT:** [New Castle County](#) (302) 323-2600

Dear VOLC members:

*Come celebrate with us* -- It's the Chesapeake Brass Band's 20th Anniversary of performing concerts for the people of Delaware and surrounding states. Delaware's only first place, national award winning, 35 piece, all brass concert band (modeled after the fine brass bands in England) will feature audience-favorite tunes from our past 20 years:

Sousa and British marches, Big Band/Swing tunes such as Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing", Duke Ellington's "Caravan", the beautiful American folk tune "Shenandoah", the cornet trio feature "Bugler's Holiday", the classic "Grand March from Aida", the crowd pleaser "Padstow Lifeboat March", and much more.

The concert date and location is: Saturday April 30, 7 PM, at the First Presbyterian Church 292 W. Main St. Newark, DE -- directly next to the Newark Country Club -- and only about an 8 mile drive from VOLC. It is free and open to the public -- but donations are accepted and they help the church and band.

Our instrumental director and conductor is Dr. Russell Murray, chairman of the University of Delaware Music Department.

Please see the attached concert flyer, and visit our web site: [www.chesapeakebrassband.org](http://www.chesapeakebrassband.org)

I am proud to be one of the original members and really enjoy playing euphonium in this fine band.

Hope to see you there,

Sam Ferrara #25 Devalinder Dr.

E-Mail: [ferrarasamnancy@aol.com](mailto:ferrarasamnancy@aol.com)

Tele: (302) 834-3205

# Chesapeake *Silver Cornet* Brass Band

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

Dr. Russell E. Murray, Music Director and Conductor

*You are cordially invited to the anniversary celebration of musical performances by Delaware's own award-winning British-style, all-brass concert band. For 20 years the 30-plus members of the band have performed 100's of concerts throughout the Mid-Atlantic States as well as in New York, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The band has won national competitions and been invited an unprecedented three times to perform at the National Convention of the Association of Concert Bands.*

For this concert the band has selected audience favorites from past performances. The pieces include the Grand March from Aida, Sousa's Black Horse Troop March, Finlandia, Caravan, Floral Dance, Bugler's Holiday and many more.

**Saturday, April 30, 2016      7:00 P.M.**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**292 W. Main St., Newark, DE** (next to Newark Country Club)

Tickets: This is a free concert but donations are always appreciated.

