

Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 2

Hello Spring!



April brought signs of Spring around the VOLC, including the entryway tulips, thanks to the Garden Club, the last pile of snow which soon melted, and Pax the little lamb, named by the community during COVID, now safely home.



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May 2025- May 2026

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Chandrika Thankappan

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*Contact information for these volunteers can be found in the
Resident Directories, posted on the community website.*

www.myvolc.org

***This publication is written by and for the residents of the Village of Long Creek, and is not an official
function of the VOLC Maintenance Corporation.***

Contact Cheryl Werner, Editor, with suggestions or comments.

908-451-3348 or cherylwerner@verizon.net

Spotlight on VOLC Committees (Continued)



With only three members, ***the Communications Committee*** is the glue that holds the community together by keeping residents well-informed! It's a big job!



Sharon Dickol, Chair, Mary Ohara, and Cheryl Werner

From the Monday Update to one-off alerts and important messages, from the bi-monthly newsletter to the community website, neighborhood information is at our fingertips! Be sure to check out the community website often where you'll find almost everything you need to know, including resident directories (both by name and house number), business recommendations, MDR Guidelines, and so much more. With deep VOLC backgrounds, having served on numerous committees, (and in Mary's case, the Board for multiple years) this group's depth of knowledge and willingness to keep us in the know is a gift.



The Tech Team also consists of three hard-working people who get things done! Although these men like to stay out of sight and behind the scenes like most techies, they are essential to our Board meetings and speaker events.

Mike Ostroski, Chair, Gary Legreid, and Tom Sutor

Starting from nothing, the team has researched best practices and equipment and advised multiple boards (including the one Mike served on) on the purchase of technology components, building capabilities that can surprise visitors. From Zoom to presentations, recording and amplifying, the team has spent hours learning how they all work together with the original clubhouse equipment. Kudos to their shepherding the VOLC from a technology desert to a sophisticated presentation space.

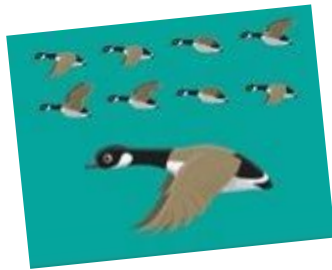
These committees, as all others in the VOLC, are open to new members. If you think you can help with any one, contact the Committee Chair, listed on page 2.

NEIGHBORS

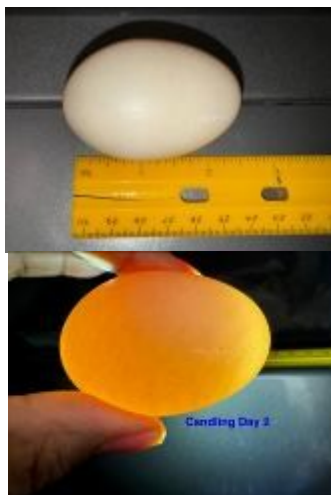
Right—Miami's Golden Girls have nothing on these active ladies of the VOLC out for a walk in the neighborhood.

From left: Mayann Fagan, Sue Gandy, Chandrikamma Thankappan, and Loretta Dougherty

Thanks to Linda Trach for the photo



Left—Ken and Paulette Francis's' adventures with wild-life continued when a pair of Canada geese decided to nest in their yard. Ken was able to chronicle the whole thing and sent these photos.



Above—Chandrika snapped this turkey vulture claiming to be king of the world.



Christine Killian's granddaughter, Kelsey, posed for pictures at pretty Brandywine Park before her Caravel Academy junior prom. Christine was grateful it was a beautiful day. She commented that there were lots of other school prom groups there as well.



Below—Bob Dickol snapped this sundown on one of his and Sharon's last nights at The Surf RV Resort in Palmetto FL, before heading home after three months in the sun.



Chandrikamma Thankappan caught these birds flying over the neighborhood.

At right—Guy and Cheryl Werner's grandson, Garrett, is ready to launch another rocket. Garrett and his dad, (and sometimes his mom) have become zealous fans of NASA launches and rocketry.



Do you know these valuable local resources?

The Bear-Glasgow YMCA

This busy Y is on Route 40, right down the road from the VOLC, and it offers a vast variety of services, including personal fitness classes and aquatic workouts. Many in the VOLC are members.



Newark Senior Center

This extremely active Center is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year! It offers an enormous array of services and activities ranging from daily lunches and classes to help with taxes and group trips. There are special events throughout the year and well-attended flea markets and book sales. Check out the monthly newsletter on their website.

Taking the center's bus trips, both day and multi-day, offers seniors travel without driving. There is a day trip on October 2 to New Hope Railroad and Peddlers Village. Several VOLCers have already signed up. If you'd like more info on this trip, contact sign-ups, [Christine Killian](#) or [Cheryl Werner](#).



OLLI at the University of Delaware

The Osher Life Long Learning Institute is a network of educational offerings for those over 50. There are chapters in all 50 states sponsored by universities and colleges. The program at UD is one of the oldest and one of the highest rated for its membership and number of courses offered. In fact, it often ranks as the highest, with over 300 classes in everything from finance to dance! Unlike many of the chapters in other states, OLLI at UD offers members unique access to university benefits, such as a UD email account, library resources, and discounts on performances/events. VOLC residents have often taken advantage. Check out the catalog online for classes both on-site and online.





Lily of the Valley—May Birth Flower



May

<i>Dorene Grant</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Bill Smallbrook</i>	<i>6th</i>
<i>Brenda Drett-Jones</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Jean Skelly</i>	<i>14th</i>

*Yes, I will spend the livelong day
With Nature in this month of May;
And sit beneath the trees, and share
My bread with birds whose homes are there.*

W.H. Davies

Rose—June Birth Flower



June

<i>Marion Bowman</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Lau Yang</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Norm Petterson</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Paulette Francis</i>	<i>11th</i>
<i>Greta Ostroski</i>	<i>14^h</i>
<i>Bernard Aresu</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Judy Anderson</i>	<i>21st</i>
<i>Cheryl Dean</i>	<i>23rd</i>
<i>Paula Kendrick</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Anthony Martin</i>	<i>26th</i>
<i>Ken Riley</i>	<i>27th</i>
<i>Sharon Dickol</i>	<i>28th</i>

She did not sing as we did—

It was a different tune—

Herself to her a music

As Bumble bee of June.

Emily Dickinson



Congratulations to Sam and his Band!

“Thirty years of music, dedication, and community engagement is an extraordinary milestone. Your organization’s continued efforts undoubtedly strengthen Delaware’s cultural heritage.”

~ United States Senator Chris Coons

“For thirty years, the Chesapeake Silver Cornet Band has modeled the joy, value, and lifelong benefits of music. Its dedication to service, education, and artistic tradition stands as a testament to the power of music to unite and uplift. Congratulations on thirty years; here’s to thirty more!”

~Governor Matt Meyer



Celebrating their 30th Anniversary!

*Our own **Sam Ferrara** is one of the founding members of the band and currently serves as the Band’s Historian. Performances are always great fun, featuring a variety of well-known and some not-so-well-known tunes, along with audience interaction.*

Check out more about Sam’s band, including their performance schedule, on their website.

[Chesapeake Silver Cornet Brass Band](#)



Some scams currently in our area

These two official-looking scams have been widely circulating in Delaware. We can't hear this enough: **Do not click on any links, never give out any personal information, and never call the number in the message.** If you have any question about authenticity, look up the company/agency phone number on their website.

Highway toll scams

Often called "smishing" (SMS phishing), these are widespread fraudulent text messages claiming you have unpaid toll balances or violations. Scammers aim to steal your personal and financial information by pressuring you to click a link and pay a fake fee immediately.

How it works—You receive a text message or email appearing to be from a legitimate toll agency like E-Z Pass or Highway Authority. It claims you must pay an outstanding toll within 12–24 hours to avoid massive fees or a suspension of your license. It contains a malicious link that, when clicked and information entered, allows scammers to steal your financial data.

Court Document scam



Delaware State Police and court officials are warning residents about a widespread text message scam falsely claiming to be from the Justice of the Peace Court.

How it works—Criminals send official-looking legal notices via text, email, or mail to trick people into sending money or revealing personal information. These scams often use "Final Notice" warnings or "Warrants" for issues like missed jury duty, unpaid tolls. It's a scam.

The VOLC Wayback Machine



Jean Talks Movies

by Jean Skelly, Movie buff/theater group leader

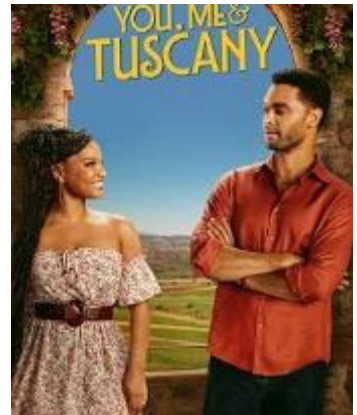


Hello, Movie Lovers,



"I Can Only Imagine" got 5 points with my movie group, the highest rating we give. It is based on the true story behind the hit song 'MercyMe', and the personal crisis the singer faced at the peak of his success.

If happy endings and beautiful scenery is your thing, then "You, Me, & Tuscany" is for you. It's a rom-com with stunning scenery.



If you like a true story that is informational, you might like "I Swear," a 2025 British biographical comedy-drama about a boy who grows up with Tourette Syndrome. Very interesting.

Lastly, if you like sci-fi, "Project Hail Mary" is for you. Science teacher Ryland Grace (Ryan Gosling) wakes up on a spaceship light years from home with no recollection of who he is or how he got there.



That's it for now. See you at the movies.

Jean





Getting Artsy!

Judy Anderson conducted the March workshop, bringing all needed materials and techniques for making unique gift boxes.

Judy is shown at right helping Susie White.



From left to right, participants included Maureen Graham, Nancy Halbedl, Debbie Fry, Chandrika Thankappan, and Loretta Dougherty.

*In April, **Judy and Cheryl** Werner led a class in painting flower pots. The results were cute, and every pot was unique.*



From left—Debbie Happold, Nancy Halbedl, Maryann Fagan, Dorene Grant, Mim Krout, Chandrikamma Thankappan, Susie White and Bonnie Anderson, who is overseeing the spraying process. Sharon Dickol and Lorretta Dougherty are missing from the pictures.

Music & Munchies!

Rick and Connie, well-known local entertainers, had the clubhouse rockin' on a March evening!

***Singing, dancing, food and fun
= a real good time!***

*This fun evening was arranged by
The Activities Committee.*



Rick and Connie

Below—Da Doo Ron Ron -

Never was there a better girl back-up group than Jean Skelly, Susie White, Cheryl Ford, and Sue Gandy!



Above—Committee members, JoanMarie Powers and Cheryl Ford couldn't resist the twist while working in the kitchen.



Left—Attendees agreed—the prize for most dancing enjoyment went to Christine Killian and Susie White! Lots of smiles were for them!





April Birthday Babies: Susie White, Bonnie Anderson, and Linda Trach

Groovin' to the Oldies...





The Friday Meetup

Is now outside for the season. (We hope!)

Join us on any Friday at 3 PM.

No sign-up. No fee. Just Bring yourself.



Some upcoming events, open to All:

5/4—Monthly Luncheon

Pool, every Tuesday at 3 PM

5/6 & 5/13 —Cards, 6:30 PM

5/14—Register of Wills, Ciro Poppiti, 6 PM

5/19—Pizza/Bingo, 6 PM

5/22— DIY Get Artsy, 2 PM

5/27—Book Club—1 PM

Open Board Meeting, Election, 6 PM

6/6—Basic Safe Driver Class, 9 AM

6/13—Refresher Safe Drive Class, 9 AM

Join Us!

*Check the calendar on the website
or the Monday Update for details.*

Volunteers! They get things done!



Maryann Fagan and Judy Anderson wiped up.



Sue Gandy did her part.



Judy Anderson + the power washer = LOVE!



Chairs were left to dry in the sun



Lester Watson and Donnie Thompson arrived early and worked for hours.



Lester, Donnie and Judy Panucci worked well together.

Cleaning up! When the Club-house Committee put out the word for volunteers to help clean up the patio, nine people showed up!

Here are scenes from that day. The pavilion and furniture look brand new!

Digging for Beauty! These volunteers worked hard digging and planting.



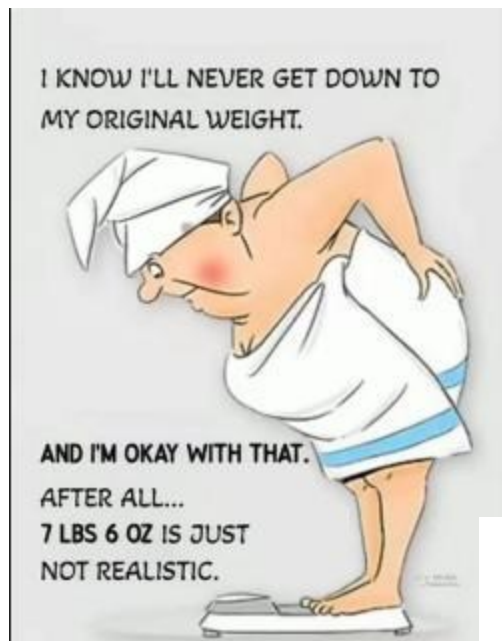
Bill and Judy Anderson



Chandrika Thankappan, Linda Trach and Judy Anderson



Joe and Sonja Lemanski



"You can come down now, Everett. The children have grown up and left."



"If it's any consolation, he slipped away peacefully."



"In my day, Virginia was for people who were just friends."

