

Village of Long Creek

Neighborhood Newsletter

July 1

2025

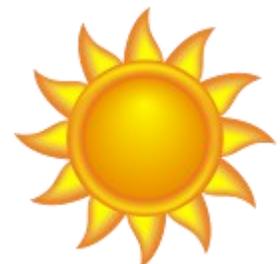
Volume 17, Number 3



Summer Fun at The VOLC!

While some activities may be on hold this July, there's still plenty happening in our community. Here's a look at what neighbors are organizing: (You can always check the online calendar on our community website for exact dates and times.)

- **Friday Meetups** – including a special **4th of July Cookout!** Contact: [Cheryl Werner](#)
- **Monthly Restaurant Trips**
 - July: Café Napoli
 - August: TBD Contact: [Christine Killian](#)
- **Breakfast Club at IHOP**
 - July 10 and August 14 Contact: [Sharon Dickol](#)
- **Weekly Games**
 - Tuesdays: Pool
 - Wednesdays: Cards, 1st and 3rd



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Contact information for Board members and Committee members 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



Ruth Leaming



Dorene Grant

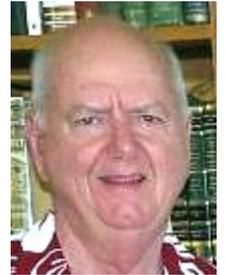


Susie White

2025-2026

Board of Directors

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Susie White, Treasurer,
Eric Dean, Member-at-Large



Eric Dean



Robert Leaming

As part of the 2025 VOLC

Board Core Mission

*Uphold the Governing Documents,
strengthen resident relationships, and main-
tain a pleasant living environment.*

Many thanks also to the 2025 Nominating Committee

Loretta Dougherty - Chair

Mim Krout

Mike Ostroski

Linda Trach

Ken White – Board Liaison

Congratulations to The Class of 2025



Cheryl Ford's granddaughter, Anna, graduated in May from Perryville High School in MD.

Left: Anna was awarded a full scholarship to the Bachelor's program in nursing at Cecil College.

Right: Anna joined with classmates in their traditional walk through their elementary school, applauded by students and staff.



Chandrika Thankappan's grandson, Nikil, graduated from MOT Charter High School.

He will attend Delaware University in the Fall.



*Above—Natalie Bohn, Granddaughter of **Mari-on Bowman and Mindy Steele**, is a 2025 Graduate of Apoquinimink High School and is shown at the Middletown Senior Prom.*



Natalie will be attending the University of Delaware in the Fall as a Communications major.



Karl Markiewicz attended his niece Nicole's graduation in Lynchburg, Virginia.

At right—Jean Skelly's granddaughter, Natalie, graduated from Archmere Academy. She is going to Northeastern University in the Fall.

THE NATURAL WORLD



Ken and Paulette Francis discovered that there was a bird nest built right in the artificial wreath on their front door. Ken managed to capture these intimate photos of the eggs and babies.



*Center -It was the life of Riley for this little rabbit as he made his home in the **Werners'** front yard. He lolled in the sun by the hour, only stopping to get a good meal. He made fast work of the lilies—completely gone! Phlox—nibbled away...*

After a couple of weeks, he moved on, leaving deflowered stalks behind....

Left—Remember when the community was being built, we had frogs everywhere? Remember you had to watch where you walked in the evening? For the most part, they've disappeared. So, it was a surprise at a Friday Meetup when this little fella showed up on a sling chair.

Folks just let him be and got out another chair...



Something pretty from Chandrika's garden..

MOTHER NATURE
MOTHER NATURE



(Neighbors cont.)

From Tom Sutor

As you may already be aware, the Newark Public Library is getting a face-lift. Or a more accurate description would be a body transplant.

In any event, the Friday Film Series at the Library has been moved to the Newark Senior Center. Below are the upcoming feature films to be shown.



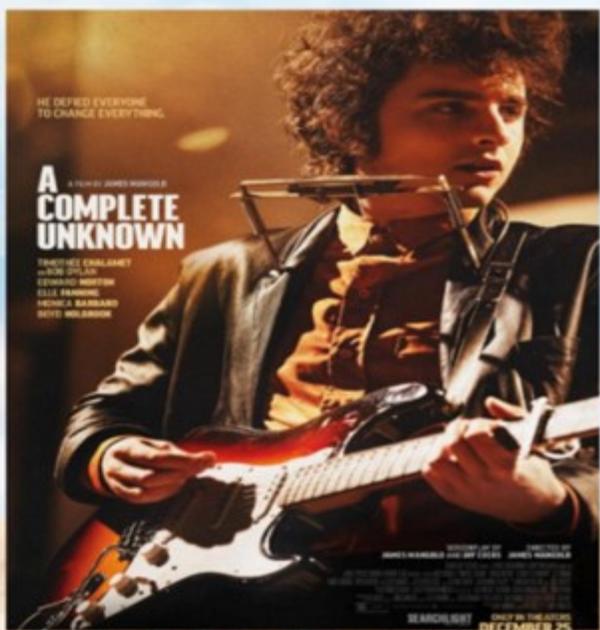
**Newark Free Library &
Newark Senior Center
present**

Friday Film Series

A Complete Unknown

In 1961, an unknown 19-year-old Bob Dylan arrives in New York City with his guitar and forges relationships with musical icons on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking performance that reverberates around the world.

Friday, July 11
2pm
Newark Senior Center
200 Whitechapel Dr., Newark, DE 19713



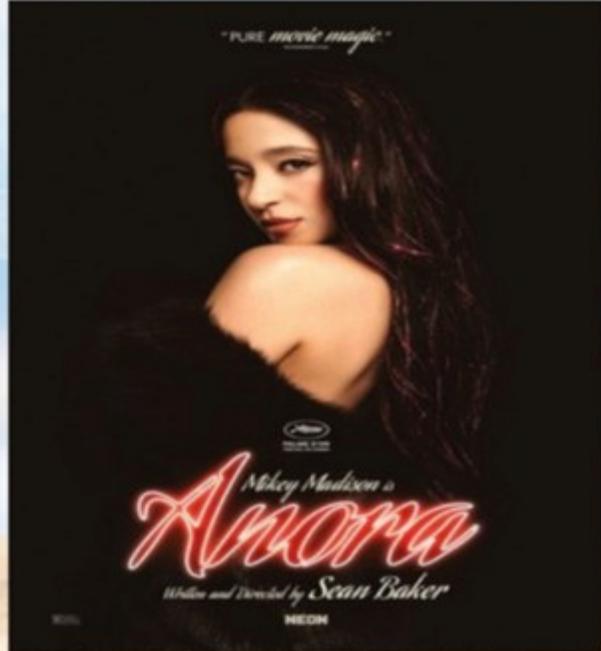

**Newark Free Library &
Newark Senior Center
present**

Friday Film Series

Anora

A young stripper from Brooklyn meets and impulsively marries the son of a Russian oligarch. Once the news reaches Russia, her fairy tale is threatened as his parents set out for New York to get the marriage annulled.

Friday, August 1
2pm
Newark Senior Center
200 Whitechapel Dr., Newark, DE 19713



(Neighbors cont.)



Left—Out and about for the VOLC Monday Luncheon.

Next up - Cafe Napoli, 4391 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington

July 7, 12 PM

Contact [Christine Killian](#).



Below—It's not often we see this temp, but June 2025 brought scorchers aplenty!

July is also forecast to have higher than average temps. Stay cool!



*Above—**Jean Skelly** and her granddaughter, **Caroline**, enjoyed a bus trip to Mackinac Island in Michigan. While there, they toured Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in nearby Frankenmuth, billed as the world's largest Christmas store. Jean, a regular online customer, was in 7th heaven.*



Tips from Neighbors...

From Nancy Weldin—Did you know that you can get a **Handicap placard** when you reach the age of 80, even if healthy? You can apply for it right online. Medical handicap placards must be applied for in person. <https://dmv.de.gov/OnlineServices/HandicapPlacard/index.shtml>

Nancy also wants to remind us that she and Debora Johnson offer **Notary Public** services free of charge to community members.



Bob Greenblatt sent along this photo for those who had prescription services from Rite Aid. You can transfer them to Walgreens online.

<https://www.walgreens.com/login.jsp?ru=/rx-checkout/order/transfer-prescription>

Initiated by former resident Patti Abernethy, a detailed database of VOLC military service was developed, listing both residents (those who chose to send information) and their families.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:2407c5a3-dea8-4861-9096-6fe173ffdee0>

It has not been maintained for a couple of years. If you'd like to take on this project to continue it, please contact [Cheryl](#).

If you missed the AARP Safe Driver Refresher Class in the clubhouse, you can always take it (or the Basic course) [online](#). At right, Bill Kutcher, our volunteer instructor for the class in June.



Photo by Bob Greenblatt

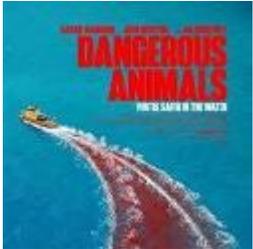
Jean Talks Movies



Hi, Movie Lovers,

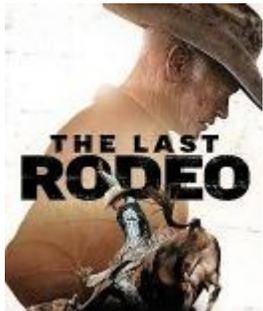
We saw several good movies last month, and there's something for everyone.

Our recommendations:



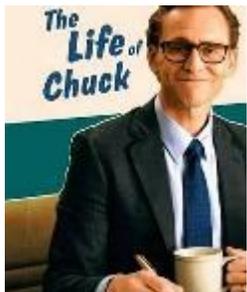
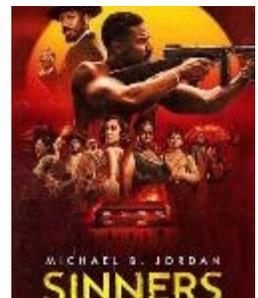
If you liked Jaws, see "Dangerous Animals," but don't blame me if you come out singing "Baby Shark."

If you like dangerous stunts, see "Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning." It has edge of your seat excitement.



If you like cowboys, see "The Last Rodeo", but bring tissues. It's by the Angel Network.

If you like something a little on the scary side, "Sinners" is the one for you. I would see this again just to be able to see the black magic unfold.



Lastly, "The Life of Chuck" starts with the end of Chuck's world and goes backward until you find out who Chuck is. I would see this again because all the people you see in the beginning show up in his earlier life.

That's all folks! See you at the movies.

Jean



The VOLC Wayback Machine

“What’s Next?” Field Trips



After her insightful presentation titled “What’s Next?”—which explored how to recognize when needing increased care may indicate a move—**Sharon Dickol**, a certified geriatric care manager, organized field trips to four exemplary communities. Each offers care from a broad spectrum of options, including independent living, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing. Sharon selected a balanced mix of communities, some requiring “buy-ins” and others operating on a rental-only basis.

At each community, visitors were welcomed warmly, treated to lunch, and offered comprehensive tours that concluded with engaging Q&A sessions. While the hospitality was generous, the sheer volume of information—and the complexity of care plans and financial models—can feel overwhelming. Sharon’s key advice: “Don’t wait. Start researching these communities well before the need arises, so you’re empowered to make confident, informed decisions when the time comes.”



Above, left—Stonegates in Greenville. Right—Harmony at Glasgow

Below, left—Millcroft Living. Right—Meadowcrest at Middletown



(Neighbors cont.)



Melody DeVoe captured this beautiful rainbow cloud over the northwest corner of the VOLC on a stormy night in June.

Also called Iridescent Clouds, they are caused by the diffraction of light on small individual water droplets. Very cool...



***Bernard and Carolyn Aresu** are thrilled to announce the birth of their second granddaughter, Emilia Patricia, on June 15 at 11:54 p.m. Bernard is beyond pleased to share a birthday with his granddaughter.*



***Lee Morris** found a fun way to scoot around the neighborhood with grandson, JJ, and granddaughter, Cori.*

Upcoming Birthdays

July

<i>Ray Cheek</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Tom Zawistowski</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Mindy Steele</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Cheryl Ford</i>	<i>31st</i>



August

<i>Katie Whiteoak</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Tom Novak</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Loretta Dougherty</i>	<i>9th</i>
<i>Linda Middleton</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Gary Legreid</i>	<i>14th</i>
<i>Janice Losito</i>	<i>20th</i>
<i>Bob Anderson</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Roger Getty</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Dina Bole</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Maureen Graham</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Mary Ohara</i>	<i>28th</i>
<i>Fran Rapp</i>	<i>31st</i>



Around the



#3



The May "Get Artsy" workshop, number 3 in a series, was devoted to painting tote bags. The 4 ladies above, traced, or stenciled their way to colorful, washable bags with a purpose.

From left: **Nancy Halbedl, Maureen Graham, Bonnie Anderson, and Judy Anderson.**



#4

**Jewelry-making
with Mandy!**

**Debbie Happold's
daughter, Mandy,
conducted the work-
shop in June.**



At left—**Chandrikamma Thankappan** was able to string beads to complement the pendant she brought to the session. At right—**Jean Skelly** chose a black and gold design to wear this summer.



Meet and Greet the New Board

The new VOLC Executive Board invited all to a “Meet and Greet” in the clubhouse to introduce themselves more fully to the community. The event was well-attended, and folks munched on the homemade goodies offered by the hosts. Folks responded in writing to the Board’s requests for questions or comments which they then addressed at the first open meeting.



From left—Green Acres site manager, Albert Hutchful, Grounds Committee Chair, Dick Grant and Grounds Board Liaison, Robert Leaming.



Nick Inglisa and Ray Krout.



Paulette and Ken Francis

HAPPENINGS...

*Right—Master Gardener JW Wistermayer spoke on the topic of Container Gardening in May. His Power Point presentation provided lots of tips, and had attendees taking notes! After the Q&A, he engaged in a lively discussion with **Chandrika Thankappan**.*



Below—The brave Ladies of the Garden Club got out early and worked even in the heat to beautify our common space. Thank you!

*From left: **Mim Krout, Chair, Judy Anderson, Chandrika Thankappan, and Linda Trach.***



*The **Friday Meetup** continued to be a popular event. As soon as the weather warmed up, folks moved back outside.*



*Below—**Mim Krout.***

A Gardener's work is never done!



*New homeowners and Garden Club members, **Judy and Bill Anderson**, helped to construct the stone walkways to the patio, allowing access to the space from both sides!*



***Joe Lemanski and Linda Trach** changed all the kitchen cabinet bumpers from sticky rubber to felt.*

Memorial DAY

Along with remembering those who gave their lives in defense of the United States, the VOLC event traditionally includes recognition of those residents who served in the armed forces.



The Activities Committee hosted the event, featuring a cookout catered by Jim Spicer and Chef Mark of The Omelette King. Following the meal, those vets in attendance were introduced, with a sing-along to service branch tunes.



*Top row—Don Hobson, Stan Sanders, and Bill Anderson, all Army. And Jeff Powers, JoanMarie's son, Navy
Bottom—Ken Francis, Navy, Nick Inglisa, Marines, and Bob Greenblatt, Air Force.*



Happy Hour Hot Dog/Sports' Night

Hot dogs, sloppy joes and sides were followed by a variety of ice cream novelties like Drumsticks and Dove ice cream bars.

Go Team!



***Linda Trach and
Judy Anderson***



Clubhouse Committee Co-chairs Janet Sanders and Cheryl Ford, along with Committee member, Bonnie Anderson.



Phillies' fans—Sharon and Bob Dickol. It was also Sharon's birthday!



***Nancy Weldin and
Bill Anderson***



Loretta Dougherty, Maria deArmas, and JoanMarie Powers



Oklahoma football fans, Stan and Janet Sanders



Fran Rapp, Maria deArmas, and Jean Pokropski

***Heard most often?
Go Phils!!!***



Nick Inglisa and Bob Greenblatt

A big thank you to Grandmas, Nanas, and Omas, and Nonnas, Abuelas, and Bubbes, and Grandmothers everywhere...

Submitted by Karl Markiewicz

A new study, conducted in Finland and published in HuffPost, found that a grandparent's positive influence on a child who had experienced trauma can extend for years.

If you've ever known the relief of a grandmother's embrace or the comfort of pulling up in her driveway and knowing that a hot meal was waiting for you, then you probably don't need any research to tell you that a grandmother's presence has restorative effects.

Though we can't precisely quantify the effect of a grandmother's love, a new study offers statistical proof that grandmothers do help children weather life's hardships.



How do grandmothers protect us?

Researchers at the University of Turku, in Finland, looked at data collected in a 2007 survey completed by 1,566 English and Welsh youth, ages 11 to 16. Youth who lived with their grandparents or who did not have at least one living grandparent were excluded from the study.

The survey included a behavioral screening questionnaire to measure the young people's emotional and behavioral problems.

"Our main finding was that investment from maternal grandmothers seemed to be able to protect their grandchild from the negative influence of experiencing multiple adverse early-life experiences," [Samuli Helle](#), the lead researcher, told HuffPost.

So having the ability to prevent adverse childhood experiences, or to blunt their effect somehow, can have a positive influence on a person for many years. This is where the grandmothers come in. Kids who had adverse childhood experiences were less likely to show the negative effects of these experiences as they grew if there was a maternal grandmother in their life who offered support, such as child care or financial assistance.

How to support a child facing hardship.

One of the best ways to counter the harm of an adverse childhood experience is for the child to have a strong support system, Bignall said. "This includes having an ongoing and trusting relationship with an adult. An involved grandmother who is consistent, loving and available can be an essential buffer for children," she explained.

No matter what role you play in a child's life, she recommended the following ways to support a child who is facing hardship:

- Provide consistent routines.
- Provide a stable environment.
 - Have clear expectations.
- Be open, honest, nonjudgmental and warm.
 - Model healthy ways to manage stress.
 - Provide praise and encouragement.
- Share your family's culture and traditions to increase a sense of belonging.
- Provide opportunities to connect with other adults who can help provide supportive relationships.



With all of their experience and wisdom, grandparents in particular are able to pass along culture and traditions in addition to offering support and guidance. "There is something that is very special about the love of a grandparent, and when given it is uniquely additive to children," Bignall said.

Savvy Caregiver Classes



*From: Laura Dickol LCSA (Bob and Sharon Dickol's daughter)
Compass Social worker*

Do you know family caregivers caring for someone with dementia? Help with that often stressful work is available with the Savvy Caregiver Program through the Jewish Family Services' COMPASS program..

(COMPASS stands for Caring for Older adults with Memory Problems And their Support Systems.)

Registration is open NOW for both summer in-person and virtual classes.

Savvy Caregiver is an evidence-based, group training program to develop caregiving skill mastery for family members providing care for people with dementia. Program participants will increase their knowledge on the stages of dementia, common behavioral symptoms of dementia, and better managing their own level of caregiver stress. After completion of the class, students will be prepared to correctly plan and respond to behavioral issues related to dementia. The Savvy Caregiver program is facilitated by licensed social workers with significant training in dementia and behavioral health.

For Summer 2025, Savvy Caregiver will be offered in-person at JFS Wilmington over 7 weeks on Thursdays, along with the virtual group over 6 weeks on Wednesdays. Virtual Savvy participants can attend from anywhere in the United States.

***When:** Thursdays 10-11:45AM, 7/17-8/28 (In person, 7 sessions)*

Wednesdays 5-7:00PM, 7/2-8/6 (Virtual, 6 sessions)

Register Here: <https://www.jfsdelaware.org/savvy-caregiver/>

*Additionally, in partnership with the Siegel JCC, we will be offering **Memory Cafe on Thursdays, 10AM to noon**, as a respite option, for your person with dementia to attend while you are in class.*

Now accepting insurance as well as private pay of \$210.

Registration is open to all.

The Glasgow Ave Main Street Project

Do we need a traffic light at the intersection of Paxson Lane and Glasgow Ave.?

There's been debate about this for years. After a recent accident at that corner involving a VOLC resident, VOLC Executive Board Secretary Robert Leaming reached out to State Senator Stephanie Hansen who in turn, reached out to DelDOT. They referred her to: [Project: Glasgow Avenue, SR 896 to US 40](#).

A more complete description of this project, can be found in [Glasgow Ave Main Street Project](#), made public in 2015, that sought to make "the area more pedestrian and bike-friendly, (including) the creation of inviting gathering places and a stronger sense of place; and the integration of an appealing mix of uses to support these goals."

The plan also considered construction of safer entrances to and from Glasgow Ave. Two roundabouts were suggested, one at our corner. Public meetings have been held over the years, and VOLC residents have attended, voicing their concerns and suggestions.

[Glasgow Ave. Main Street Study](#). (Below illustration copied from this presentation.)

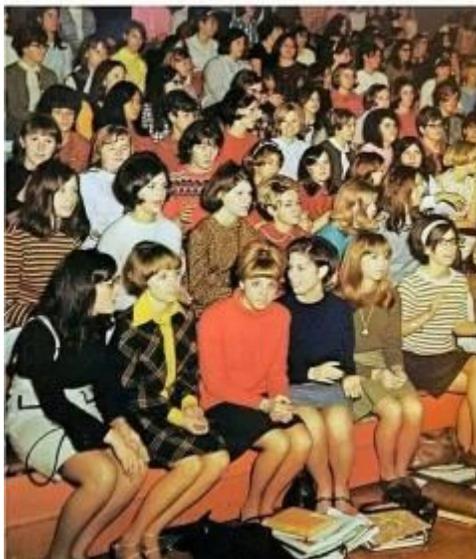


Currently there is a hold on construction due to lack of funding.

Remember??



1968 school assembly, no jeans allowed!



The winter of 1963 and the post still got through.



(Remember cont.)



Im positive you don't know what this is, if you do then you must be old...

