

Neighborhood Newsletter

Holiday 2020

Volume 12, Number 1

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*Check out the
great recipes on
page 15!*

*And try your
hand at Trivia on
page 6.*



DECEMBER



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**Contact information can be found
on the VOLC website**

<https://www.myvolc.org/>



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

302-834-2378 or mrlegried@gmail.com

This publication is written by and for the residents of the Village of Long Creek.

Contact Cheryl Werner, Editor, with suggestions or comments.

302-834-1473 or cherylwerner@verizon.net

A School Year Like No Other

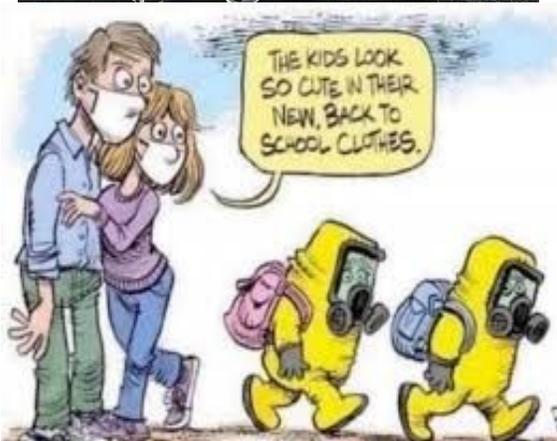


Carol and Donnie Thompson's grandkids headed back to school at Holy Angels.

At right, Noah and Colin.

Below, Ava.

At left - Colin's teacher showed ingenuity in constructing plastic glass partitions using yard sticks. VOLC neighbors donated dozens of plastic bags to collect every day's wipes.



Left - Cindy Lewis' twin grandchildren, Izzy and Brooks, headed back to 7th grade at Caravel Academy.



At right, Cindy's grandson, Christopher, is shown with his Dad on the first day of preschool. He was so excited on "picture day," he was up and dressed by 6 AM!

(1st day cont.)

Right - Susanne and Roger Getty's granddaughter, Aubrey, started kindergarten in matching outfit and backpack!

Aubrey is required to wear a mask at school, unless she's working at her individual computer station.



The kids are doing fine!!!



Above - Christine Killian's granddaughters, Kendall and Kelsey, were back at Caravel Academy, where Kendall is a sophomore, and Kelsey is in 6th grade. Christine can't believe how old they're getting!!!



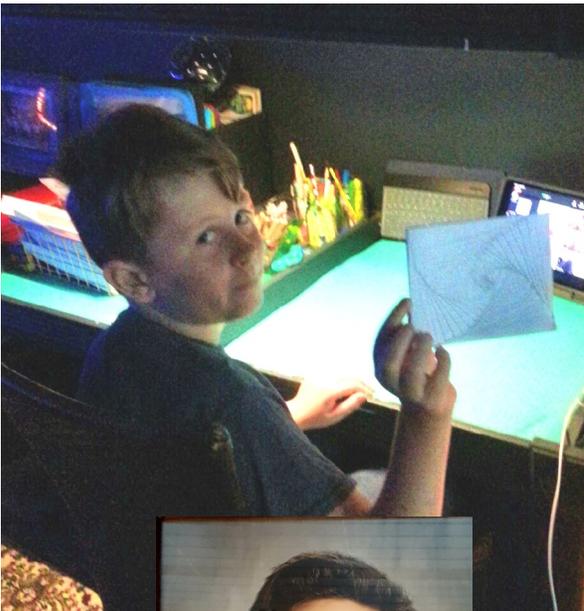
Janet and Stan Sanders' five year old grandson, David, happily headed off to preschool.

(School cont.)



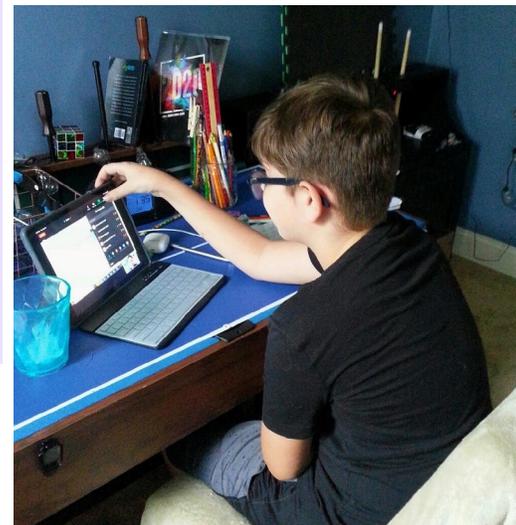
Cheryl Ford's grandchildren, (left to right - Lila, Gabe and Alaina, and Anna below) are hard at work at their home computers.

The children attend school in Charlestown, MD, in grades 3rd to 9th.



Jean and Tom Skelly's grandchildren, JoJo, upper left, Natalie, upper right, and Joshua, lower right, are all learning virtually.

Kyle, lower left, goes to in-person classes at Salesianum School a couple of days a week.



You Might Be Older Than Dirt...

The Special events Committee plans a Pub Trivia Night when the clubhouse reopens, following state of Delaware COVID-19 Guidelines. In the meantime, here's a little quiz to get you in shape. Answers are on page 8.

1. ... if you know what Emily Post's best-selling book was about _____
2. ...if you know the name of Ed Sullivan's puppet sidekick _____
3. ... if you know who recorded the 30's hit "Minnie the Moocher" _____
4. ... if you can name the comedy show Rowan & Martin hosted _____
5. ... if you know who hosted the original Candid Camera _____
6. ... if you know what product "A Little Dab'll Do Ya" was for _____
7. ... if you know the accordionist's name on "The Lawrence Welk Show" _____
8. ... if you know the name of this 1930's tap dancing child star _____
9. ... if you know who's routine was "Who's on First?"
10. ... if you know who hosted the 1st 1956 American Bandstand _____
11. ... if you know who was the poster girl for go-go boots _____
12. ... if you know who was the first cartoon flapper icon _____
13. ... if you know what teen magazine was published in 1944 _____
- ~~14.~~ ... if you know what icon was known as the "Duke" _____
15. ... if you know what 1950's teen idol made the hit "Diana" _____
16. ... if you know the name of this freckled-face boy marionette _____
17. ...if you know the name of Gunsmoke's Marshall Dillon's assistant _____
18. ...if you know the comedian who was famous for her Tarzan yell _____

Neighbors



Bernard Aresu snapped this pic of wife, **Carolyn**, with son Christophe in Washington D.C. Carolyn says “We FINALLY had a visit with him and Amy.”



Patti Abernethy’s grand nephew, 4 month-old **Cameron**, can’t get enough of imitating smiling faces!



Above - **Sue Bifano’s** grandson, **Paxton**, enjoys time with Dad on his 5th birthday.

Center - Many folks commented about the maple in **Christine Killian’s** backyard. It screams “Autumn” in the most colorful way!



Above - **Mary Ohara** issued an apology for the large pallet and box at her house, fearing it would be unsightly until her son could come by to help put the workout equipment together.



In typical fashion, VOLC neighbors responded big-time, with offers of dollies to borrow, help getting it together, and warm words of encouragement!

(Neighbors cont.)



Above - Seen **Joe Doto** lately? Maybe this is his way of social distancing? Or maybe he's the new rear camera in Barb's car? No matter the case - nice legs, Joe! (Photo by Bob Leaming)



Above - **Janet and Stan Sanders'** granddaughter, Haven, who was a year old on October 31st, is the family's newest cheerleader for the University of Oklahoma!

Awww... At right, **Marilyn Abrams** sent along this photo of her first great grandchild, Kurt, son of granddaughter, Shayna.



Above - **Christine Killian's** pretty kitten, Lily, a classic American Tabby, was adopted from neighbors, Cheryl and John Dean.

Read the Deans' extraordinary volunteer story on page 13.

The street sign shown below had faded so much that it was no longer legible. **Donnie Thompson** contacted Board member, **Patti Abernethy**, who advised Donnie to ask State Senator Stephanie Hansen for guidance. Senator Hansen reached out to DelDOT and the sign will be replaced. Thanks, All!



Trivia answers:

1. Etiquette/manners. 2. Topo Gigio 3. Cab Calloway 4. Laugh-in 5. Allen Funt 6. Brylcreem 7. Myron Floren 8. Shirley Temple 9. Abbott and Costello 10. Dick Clark 11. Nancy Sinatra 12. Betty Boop 13. Seventeen 14. John Wayne 15. Paul Anka 16. Howdy Doody 17. Chester 18. Carol Burnett

What was the invention or tool that has proven most useful for you during the pandemic?

Mary Legried - Most useful tool? “My cell phone with a paired Chromecast device. There are shows/events available only via internet that I can cast to my TV for easier viewing. Examples: Governor Carney's Weekly COVID-19 briefings; HBO MAX and other streaming services that have not reached agreements with ROKU and Amazon. Because, yeah, we're watching a lot of TV! (I specified "cell phone" because Chromecast will only work with cell phones and tablets, not with laptops or other non-tablet computers.)



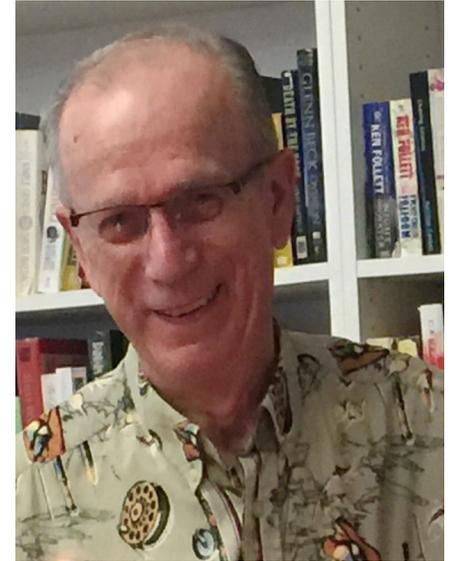
Jean Skelly thought her mask was her greatest tool. It allowed her to leave home and keep others safe.

Carol Thompson answered that her greatest asset was Hubby, **Donnie!** - “Having a great support person (Donnie) to guide me thru the first 5 months so I would not go crazy. Being a travel agent for over 35 years it was unreal what a travel agent had to go thru - canceling, rescheduling, refunds and answering lots of questions. I only knew what the client knew at that moment. Moving my home office to the front room of my house was the best environment. Taking rides often really helped both of us besides, social distancing with friends.

Most of all - babysitting 2-3 days a week for my 3 grandchildren was a much needed break since both parents are essential employees. Can't forget watching Hallmark, Netflix & Tubi. I am looking forward to 2021 and booking vacations.”



Sam Ferrara recently borrowed books about baseball from the collection of Brook Kortvelesy. That prompted an exchange about the sport and Sam's story of a uniquely personal experience. It bears repeating.



“My twin brother Pete and I played baseball all through middle school (Warner Junior High) and High School (P.S. DuPont High). While in high school, we also played baseball in the summers -- in the American Legion Baseball league.

Pete and I were the "battery" in most baseball games. Pete was a really good pitcher and I was his catcher -- An "Identical TWIN" battery!

A game that we will always remember took place one summer when we were playing in a sanctioned American Legion league game for American Legion Post No.1.

We were playing against Stahl Post; Pete was pitching and I was his catcher. Pete was really throwing his 'stuff' that game -- and would you believe it? -- he pitched a **"perfect game"** ! No one on the Stahl Post team got on base -- no hits, no runs, no walks!

Our whole team, and especially Pete and I, were full of excitement, since pitching a perfect baseball game is so very rare.

There was even a small article in the next day sports section of the News Journal about this.

All of our Post No. 1 team signed the game ball and gave it to Pete which he still has today -- a special cherished memory for him -- especially now that he is in the memory care unit at the Summit Retirement Home in Hockessin DE.



I think this is a very rare baseball game -- a "Perfect Game" in an established recognized league -- **where the pitcher and the catcher -- were identical twins.**

Years later, when the DE Sports Museum opened in Wilmington , the museum was interested in displaying the perfect game ball there. But the ball meant too much to Pete for him to part with it.

Pete still smiles and still remembers this wonderful part of our growing up years -- and so do I.”

Sam Ferrara

Identical twins, Sam and Pete Ferrara

Truisms!

When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.

* * * * *

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

* * * * *

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.

* * * * *

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

* * * * *

When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

* * * * *

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.

* * * * *

I had my patience. I'm negative.

* * * * *

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

* * * * *

When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.

* * * * *

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but....whatever.

* * * * *

I run like the winded.

* * * * *

I hate when a couple argues in public; and realize that I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.

* * * * *

When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"

* * * * *

When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?

* * * * *

I don't mean to interrupt people.....I just randomly remember things and get really excited.

* * * * *

When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."

* * * * *



November

Wanda Search	3rd
Brenda Simmons	12th
Nancy Weldin	12th
Gene Fitch	24th
Jean Pokropski	26th
Barbara McNamee	30th



December

Odette Haight	3rd
Janet Sanders	3rd
Nick Inglisa	8th
Mike Ostroski	8th
Martyanne Grabusky	17th
Debora Johnson	18th
Jim Powers	20th
Joan Dreibelbis	21st
Cindy Lewis	31st



Jean Skelly, shown at left, and **Cheryl Werner** brought 25 VOLC mail-in ballots to the official Ballot Drop Box at the New Castle County Board of Elections in New Castle.

When Bear heard about it, he insisted on voting too. SO - back Jean went! (Just don't tell Bear that it was pretend!)

Resident Volunteers Extraordinaire!

Christine's pretty kitten, Lily, was adopted from Cheryl and John Dean, who have been volunteering for the Delaware Humane Association for eleven years. They "foster" pregnant cats, mamas with kittens, kittens without mothers and bottle babies, nursing them to health so they can be adopted. They were honored by the DHA in 2012.

Cheryl tells the story of how she got involved with the DHA folks they now call their 'extended family.' "I was fortunate to be a chaperone for my granddaughter, Amanda's, Brownie troop when they toured the Delaware Humane Association. That's when I heard about their fostering program. At that point we had become empty nesters and, so, I applied to be a foster mother. I have always had a deep love for animals, which I got from my mother! Growing up, we had four cats, a dog, hamsters, etc. etc. If there was an animal in need of care, my mother would take it in. There were ducks, a chicken, and a baby goat with a broken leg, just to name a few."



In addition, Cheryl and John occasionally do medical fostering for Tanner's Endless Love, an area non-profit that caters to special needs animals. Several of those cases stand out for her, including the Siamese kitten who was thrown from a car in North Carolina and had so many injuries and fractures that the rural vet there said both of her hind legs would need to be amputated. By sheer coincidence, the Tanner director was in NC delivering supplies to a shelter and heard about the cat. Once Cheryl volunteered to help, the kitten, named Gabby, came to Delaware. After a trip to the Penn Veterinary Hospital, Gabby came to the Deans. Cheryl brought her to Middletown every week to have the casts changed by the vet there and saw her through five months of care - exercising and massaging and loving. Gabby is now happy and healthy, walking with a minor limp. She was adopted just before Christmas.



Then there's Samantha, who arrived at the Deans as a five week old kitten with severe burns from a car lid. After many trips to the vet for bandage changes, a procedure Cheryl learned to do herself, Samantha slowly started to heal. And she fell in love with John, following him everywhere. She was ready to go up for adoption at the end of December, but John couldn't let her go. Samantha was the best gift under the Christmas tree!



The Deans sometimes get a call about a feral cat hanging around a neighborhood or someone's home. Such was the case a few years ago, when "Carmel" decided that the VOLC was a good place to live and made herself comfortable in the area behind Patti Abernethy's, and Kay Bennett's and George Fox's houses. She even sunned herself on Alice Clabaugh's deck! As the cold weather set in, Patti was assigned the task of capturing Carmel; then, Cheryl did the rest, taking her to the DHA shelter where she was put up for adoption.



One time, a church friend called to tell Cheryl she thought the cat she'd been feeding, whom she called Pretty Girl, might be pregnant.



After coaching her friend through the catch, Cheryl took Pretty Girl to the DHA, where the pregnancy was confirmed. Cheryl took her home, set her up, and stayed with her through the delivery of five kittens, all weighing about 3-4 ounces. Like all kittens, they were born with eyes and ears closed, and needed constant care. With Cheryl's TLC, the kittens grew into healthy, happy cats, ready for loving homes.

Cheryl and John have now fostered approximately 700 cats & kittens. Their empty nest is now anything but! Being animal lovers, fostering brings them true joy, outweighing the rare occurrence when a bottle baby doesn't make it. And they've shared that joy with VOLC neighbors. Four households in VOLC have adopted six of Cheryl's foster kittens. Marty Lyon got one, Paula Kendrick got two, so did Mary Ohara. Christine Killian adopted Lily about six weeks ago. Approximately 25% of the Dean foster kittens have been adopted to people they know. Seems they're as good as salespeople as they are as caregivers!

Cheryl says they are frequently asked, "How can you give the kittens back?" The answer is; "While we have them in our home, we care for them, love and play with them as if they were our own. When the kittens are old enough for a forever home, we are proud of them and know they are happy and healthy and will be a wonderful addition to someone's family."

If you know of anyone who is looking for a kitten to love, email Cheryl at grannyslickchick@verizon.net or contact her at home 302-738-3578. You can also call or text her at 302-584-0040. She'd love to hear from you!



The Holidays' Special Foods

Cranberry Brie Bites - Delish

Submitted by Cheryl Werner

"Tangy cranberry, creamy brie, and crunchy walnuts come together in a buttery shell for an appetizer that will wow your guests. Bonus: These can be made up to 3 days ahead; wrap them in plastic wrap before the baking step and store in the refrigerator. Serve warm or at room temperature."

Ingredients

- 1 (8 ounce) round Brie cheese, rind removed
- cooking spray
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1/2 cup cranberry sauce
- 1/3 cup finely chopped walnuts
- sea salt to taste

Directions

1. Place Brie cheese in the freezer for 20 minutes. Oil a mini muffin pan with cooking spray.
2. Roll 1 puff pastry sheet out into a 10x14-inch rectangle. Cut the sheet lengthwise into 4 even strips and crosswise into 6 even strips; there should be 24 squares. Separate and press them gently into the muffin cups.
3. Cut chilled Brie cheese into 24 pieces approximately 3/4-inch in size. Add a teaspoon cranberry sauce to each pastry-lined muffin cup; press in 1 piece of Brie and top with 1 teaspoon of chopped walnuts. Sprinkle bites with sea salt.
4. Bake bites in the preheated 400 degree oven until golden brown, 18 to 20 minutes.



Bob's Tuna Melt Delight

Submitted by Bob Greenblatt

While not technically a holiday dish, this dish could make the busy holiday shopping days a lot easier. It's surprisingly tasty and all ingredients are easy to pick up at the grocery store...

Ingredients:

- Rye bread (1 slice)
- Swiss Cheese (1 slice)
- Tomato (2 slices)
- Tuna salad

Steps:

Layer ingredients on bread. Place on toaster oven rack. Toast. Enjoy.



(Recipes cont.)

Sweet Potatoes with Pecans and Bleu Cheese

Submitted by Sue Bifano

Sue says that even people who think they don't like sweet potatoes end up loving this. Easy and delicious!

Cook time - 30-35 minutes Oven Temp - 425

Ingredients:

4 1/2 lbs sweet potatoes, unpeeled, cut into 1" cubes

3 Tbsp. olive oil

1/2 tsp. dried thyme or 6 sprigs fresh

1 cup pecans

1 cup crumbled bleu cheese



Directions:

Place sweet potatoes and oil in a roasting pan.

Sprinkle with the thyme.

Roast 30 -45 minutes, until tender.

Transfer to a serving bowl and toss with the cheese and pecans. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve.



Pineapple Casserole

Submitted by Maria Tricarico

Maria says it would not be Thanksgiving in the Tricarico house without this dish.

Time: 45-60 min. Oven Temp: 350

Ingredients

1 stick butter (1/2 cup)

5 slices white bread

1 cup sugar

1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple

4 eggs, beaten

Directions:

Cream butter and sugar. Add the eggs and pineapple. Fold the bread into the mixture.

Pour into an ungreased 2 quart casserole dish.

Bake uncovered 45-60 minutes or until lightly browned.

AARP Quiz - How many can you answer correctly?

Answers and info on next page.

1. An irritating cough and scratchy throat can be helped with which household staple?

- Warm tea
- Honey
- Scotch
- Gargling with salt water

2. If you come into contact with poison ivy, using which household staple to rinse your skin may help prevent an itchy rash?

- Vinegar
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- Liquid dish soap
- Milk

3. Name an ingredient that not only tastes good in food, but also can reduce nausea and relieve motion sickness.

- Chocolate
- Lemon peel
- Cinnamon
- Ginger

4. Itchy, red, crusty eyelids, called blepharitis (a common eye problem in older adults), can be relieved with a simple solution made with:

- Baby shampoo
- Boric acid
- Allergy eye-drops
- Contact lens solution

5. Which familiar ointment has been shown to be a safe, inexpensive treatment for toenail fungus?

- Pond's hand cream
- Vaseline petroleum jelly
- Desitin diaper rash cream
- Vicks VapoRub

6. Regularly drinking which fruit juice can help prevent gout attacks and may help reduce joint pain from inflammation?

- Apple juice
- Tart cherry juice
- Cranberry juice
- Grape juice

7. According to a study, people who did what three times a day had nearly 40 percent fewer respiratory infections during cold and flu season?

- Brushed their teeth
- Took a five-minute walk
- Gargled with water
- Ate an orange

Answers:**1. Honey**

Yes, we know you wanted it to be Scotch, but a Pennsylvania study found that just a teaspoon or two of honey helps coat the throat and calm a simple cough better than over-the-counter cough medicines – or spirits.

2. Liquid dish soap

Washing with this kind of soap within two hours of contact with poison ivy or poison oak will remove much of the irritating oil that causes the itchy red welts, said Arkansas dermatologist Adam Stibich.

3. Ginger

Some studies have shown that eating one or two pieces of crystallized ginger before traveling can reduce motion sickness. A large federally funded study also found that cancer patients who took a little ginger with their anti-nausea drugs were able to control nausea much better than just taking the drugs alone.

4. Baby shampoo

A half-and-half solution of baby shampoo and warm water gently rubbed on the eyelid (never the eye itself) helps get rid of oil and bacteria but won't sting your eyes, according to the Mayo Clinic.

5. Vicks VapoRub

Mentholated ointments, such as Vicks VapoRub, are often more effective than over-the-counter products, studies have shown. One researcher with the Medical University of South Carolina suggests first wiping the affected toenails with white vinegar, then applying VapoRub.

6. Tart cherry juice

Unlike its sweeter cousins, the Bing and black cherry, tart cherry juice is bright red and higher in antioxidants. Gout experts found the juice helped reduce the frequency of gout attacks and seemed to lessen the joint inflammation gout can cause.

7. Gargled with water

Gargling with plain tap water several times daily helped 400 healthy volunteers in Japan ages 18 to 65 catch fewer colds or respiratory infections, perhaps because it rinsed away germs.

How'd you do?



Some funnies from Barb Doto...



**DOES ANYONE KNOW WHICH PAGE OF THE BIBLE EXPLAINS HOW TO TURN WATER INTO WINE?
ASKING FOR A FRIEND.**



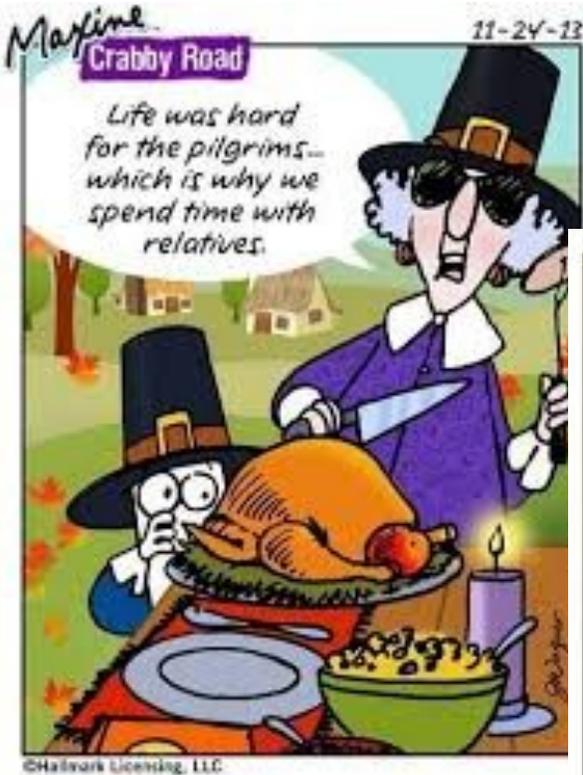
Holiday Maxine



Happy Everything

Now leave me alone
until next year!

OXXOXO-



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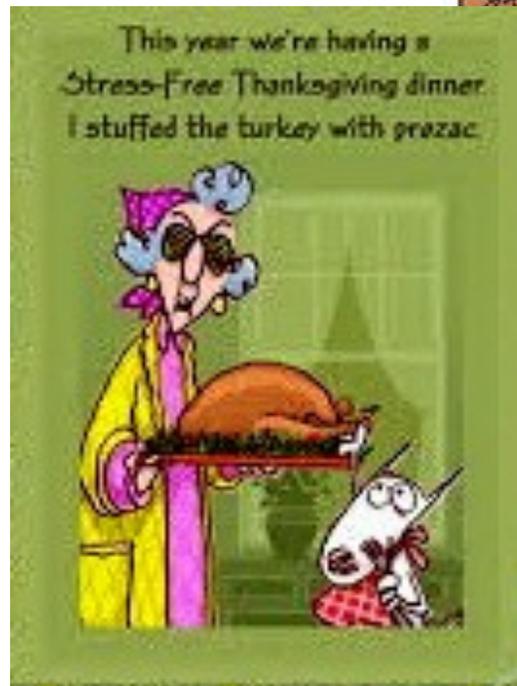
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Happy Holidays, Everyone!