



Daylight Savings  
Time Begins  
March 13th



Change your clocks  
and smoke detector  
batteries!

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# Neighborhood Newsletter

Spring 2011

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## VOLC: A Place Where Neighbors Help Neighbors

Reaching retirement definitely has advantages. But let's face it, getting older also presents challenges, especially when the nearest relative lives miles and miles away. So, whom do you call when you absolutely need assistance and no one in the family is available?

In the Village of Long Creek, you don't have to go far, as Patti Abernethy (31) recently learned when she needed an escort and a drive home following a minor medical procedure. The Glasgow Medical Center requires that patients have a relative or friend in the waiting room throughout the surgery. Patti would also need someone to drive her home after the procedure.

"My procedure was expected to take between 3 and 4 hours," said Abernethy. "I was very hesitant to ask any of my neighbors to give up half their day for me. But I learned quickly just how caring and thoughtful the residents in VOLC can be."

At the suggestion of Bob Greenblatt (41), Patti organized a "tag team" to assist her during her procedure. Having several people help meant that neighbors were only needed for a fraction of the time. Bob drove Patti to the



medical center at noon and stayed there until 1:15pm, when Barb Doto (38) came to relieve him. Kitty Heston (73) came at 2:30p.m. and stayed until the procedure was over at 3:30p.m., when she drove Patti home.

Patti's experience was possible thanks to the efforts of Barb Carter (49), who developed a list of VOLC neighbors willing to assist in times of need. Neighbors can be called upon to assist with errands, providing rides, or watching your house while traveling. A list of those you can call on was distributed by email in early January, and is also provided on page 4 of this newsletter. For more information, contact Barb Carter at 836-3023 or email at [bcarter19720@aol.com](mailto:bcarter19720@aol.com).

## February Meet 'n Greet: Good to the Last Drop!



Benchmark Builders hosted a coffee tasting social event on Saturday, February 26 in the Dickinson model home. The event provided a warm and comfortable setting for existing and potential residents of VOLC.

Approximately 25 people attended. A fun time was had by all, and the coffee was excellent!

Photo courtesy of Bob Greenblatt

## Day Trip to the Nemours Mansion

By Patti Abernethy

In December, nine VOLC residents ventured to see the Christmas tour at the Nemours Mansion. The guided tour was conducted in groups of 5-6 and explored the first floor, a bit of the second floor, and even the basement. It was amazing to learn that the 77-room mansion was built in just 18 months.

The tour covered about half the estate -- just 36 rooms.

The tour included bedrooms, a bowling alley, a lovely dining room, a gorgeous sunroom, and... the adjectives are endless --you must go see for yourself! Good walking shoes are

recommended as the guides move you through the estate with dexterity and at a pretty good speed. "The best tour ever," and "How did they build it in that amount of time"? and "So gorgeous everywhere you looked," were some of the comments from the VOLC group.

Those who went on the tour thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and plan to go again later this year when the gardens are in bloom and the water features are operating.

For more information, contact Patti at [pabernethy@verizon.net](mailto:pabernethy@verizon.net).



The Drawing Room at the Nemours Mansion, Wilmington.  
Photo taken from [www.thebrandywines.com](http://www.thebrandywines.com)



**Friday, March 11  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
25 Devalinder Drive**

**RSVP by 3/4 to  
Nancy & Sam Ferrara  
834-3205 or  
[ferrarasamnancy@aol.com](mailto:ferrarasamnancy@aol.com)**

**Bring your own choice of beverage. Appetizers, munchies, and snacks will be provided.**

## Frying Spam: Tips for Reducing Your Junk Email

From Club Norton, <http://us.norton.com/>

From phony charity pleas to dubious product claims, spammers will try anything to get a response from you. According to Symantec's latest State of Spam report, spam now accounts for 72% of all email messages. That's a lot of Viagra and fake Rolexes being peddled. It's also a huge annoyance.

Spammers constantly change tactics, so it's very difficult to eliminate 100% of your junk email, but there are ways to severely reduce it—if you follow some of these helpful tips

**Don't respond.** No matter how strong the urge, don't fire off an angry response to the spammers. You'll only be letting them know that they have a live address, ensuring you'll receive more spam.

**Block images.** Even if you don't click any links, an image opening in your email can alert spammers to a live address, too.

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## Winter Scenes Around the Village



Home of Carol & Donnie Thompson (58)



Above, Marie Tricarico (9) stands ready for the first VOLC Christmas Cookie Exchange held December 19th.

As the festivities get underway, Lenny and Marie share a cookie. Yum-yum and a ho-ho-ho!!



### *What is this... thing?*

Recently, VOLC residents were asked to identify these newfangled markers, apparently designed for alerting snowplows that a raised manhole cover lies beneath. Your creative and imaginative neighbors came up with these innovative names for the contraption: "Snow plow warning sign" from Alice Claybaugh (29)... "Missile on a Launching Pad" from Martha Eskridge (28) ... "Senior Slalom 101," "Senior Sobriety Test," and "Senior Outdoor Pole Dancing" all from Barb Doto (38)... Bob Greenblatt (41) likes to call them "Wussies," because real men would drive over manholes covers ... Ginny Pela-chik's (59) grandson calls them "Manhole's Win-ter Top Hats." And, last but not least . . . . .



**"Road Kill"**

Mud and snow -- a winter mess!! Let's all hope the groundhog was right -- bring on SPRING!!!!

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

### Volunteer List

Patti Abernethy	(31)	836-8447
Barb Carter	(49)	836-3023
Barb & Joe Doto	(37)	836-3362
Nancy Ferrara	(25)	834-3205
Bob Greenblatt	(41)	838-7769
Kathy Karthaeuser	(119)	365-6067
Kitty Heston	(73)	595-2902
Don & Grace Hobson	(24)	838-1771
Dennis & Joann Sabato	(43)	365-6713
Peg & Paul Welborn	(55)	836-8524
Dick & Lois Hallett	(50)	838-0652
Ginny Pelachick	(59)	834-854
Lenny & Maria Tricarico	( 9 )	595-2712
Richard Cutone & Joanne Skidmore		
	(18)	595-4348

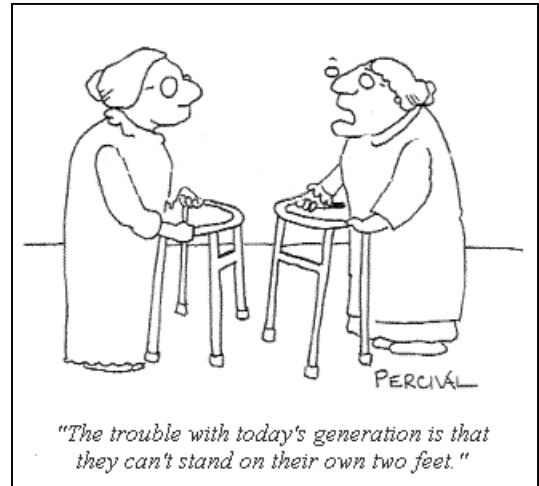
For more information, contact  
Barb Carter at 836-3023 or  
[bcarter1972@aol.com](mailto:bcarter1972@aol.com)

## SPAM, Continued from Page 2

**Safeguard your email address.** Commenting on blogs and Twitter can be fun. But be wary of how much personal information you reveal.

**Protect yourself with anti-spam software.** Arming yourself with anti-spam software can help—just make sure it uses the latest information against spam.

**Reconsider your email address.** Finally, here's one last tip many don't consider: Dumping your current, spam-ridden address for a clean start. If you've tried everything else, but you're still being overwhelmed with spam, you may want to consider a new, more complex address. Think of it as changing your phone number. Inform your friends and family, and ask them to keep your new address to themselves.



*The Newark Community Concert Band*  
is performing its 28th Anniversary Concert  
Sunday, March 20, 3 PM at  
First Presbyterian Church of Newark  
292 W. Main St., Newark, DE.

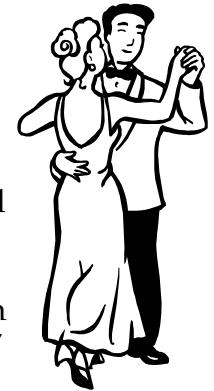
The theme is "Celebrate America" with a concert of marches, popular tunes and classics.



As an added musical treat, the First Presbyterian Church bell-ringers will perform a short program.

## Grab your boogie shoes!!

The University of Delaware offers ballroom dance lessons on Sunday and Tuesday evenings at 7p.m. in Newark. Several VOLC residents will be participating. The next set of new classes begins March 13th. For more information, you can call the Program Director, Pat Grim, at (302) 831-1117 or email [spring@udel.edu](mailto:spring@udel.edu).



The Village of Long Creek extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family of Rod Eiband, who passed away on March 1st. Our thoughts and prayers are with Nadine, their children and grandchildren.



This publication is written by and for the residents of the Village of Long Creek, and in no way is intended to represent the interests or concerns of Benchmark Builders, Inc.