

Village of Long Creek

Neighborhood Newsletter

January 1, 2026

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Happy New Year, Village of Long Creek!

Welcome, 2026!

As we step into a brand-new year, may the days ahead be filled with good health, joyful moments, and the simple pleasures that make our community feel like home. Here's to neighbors who become friends, gatherings that bring us closer, and a year full of laughter, learning, and shared experiences.

Wishing All a bright, peaceful, and uplifting 2026!



Happy New Year!



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May 2025- May 2026

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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

Community Outreach

Bob Leaming offered snickerdoodle cookies while accepting donations for the food drive he and wife, Ruth, conducted in early December.

From Bob: "Through your generosity we, the VOLC, delivered over 700 pounds of food and multiple checks to the Food Bank of Delaware in support of families in need during this holiday season. I am so proud to share that over the last 7 years our combined donations are closing in on 6,000 pounds. Stated another way, that is close to 3 TONS of food donations! We are clearly making a difference."



At right, a small sample of the TWENTY NINE large bags of toys and clothes that were collected by the Activities Committee for some needy Delaware children at Christmas.

Above—some of the wish list items fulfilled.

Co-chairs, **Cheryl Ford and Janet Sanders** report that the elementary school recipients were grateful for the generous contributions from the VOLC. Donors helped to make some lucky kids' dreams come true on Christmas morning.



SIGHTS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Some folks are fast on the draw with their phones and snap scenes of beauty right in the neighborhood.

These photos are from Donnie Thompson, Ken Francis, Chandrika Thankappan and Stan Sanders.



Goings on with Neighbors



The monthly Monday luncheons continue going strong. They are a good way to get to know your neighbors and maybe try a new restaurant!

Organized by [Christine Killian](#), the next outing will be on February 2 at Chuck Lager, 4500 Linden Hill Road, Wilmington (Pike Creek) Let Christine know if you plan to attend.



VOLC neighbors volunteered at the Peoples Plaza Christmas Celebration. Hundreds of people joined in welcoming in the Christmas season, and even Santa Claus made a visit! Local businesses and non-profit organizations and churches presented their services and distributed information.



*Jean Skelly and
Loretta Dougherty*



*Santa Claus with
Bear Skelly*



Greta and Mike Ostroski

Nancy Halbedl's Disney experience



Nancy went with her daughter and family to Disneyworld where granddaughter Annie danced in the Main Street parade. There were 500 dancers from the US and other countries.



From Nancy, "The fireworks in front of the castle were spectacular and the best I have ever seen.

Annie, age 12, has been taking dance lessons since pre-school at the American Dance Academy in Hockessin, DE. Her school was selected with several others in the US and Australia to be in the parade which totaled 500 dancers."

At right—Annie in the center, dancing down Main Street

At left, Annie with her brother Daniel



Above—Annie with her brother, Daniel



Cheryl Ford (extreme right in the picture above right) sent along news of Operation Christmas Child which is close to her heart. (The photo on the left is taken at the project's warehouse.)

Cheryl says that the first trailer loaded from New Castle County was sent to Ukraine. Millions of boxes filled with small toys, toiletries and school supplies are sent annually to over 170 countries.

Holiday Party at the Deerfield Golf Club



The annual VOLC Holiday Party organized by the Activities Committee was held on December 8 at Deerfield Golf Club. Co-chair Janet Sanders is pictured with her husband, Stan, at left, and co-chair Cheryl Ford is shown on the right leading a party game.



From left—Long-time friends Donnie and Carol Thompson and Judy and Bill Anderson



Chandrika Thankappan



*Marion Bowman, Mindy Steele,
and Linda Trach*



Mim Krout



Maryann Fagan



Ken and Susie White



Martyanne Grabusky



Joe and Sonja Lemanski



Justine Gilbert



Ken and Paulette Francis



Phil and Judy Pannucci



Ray and Katie Whiteoak



Right—Gary Legreid chatting with Odette Haight

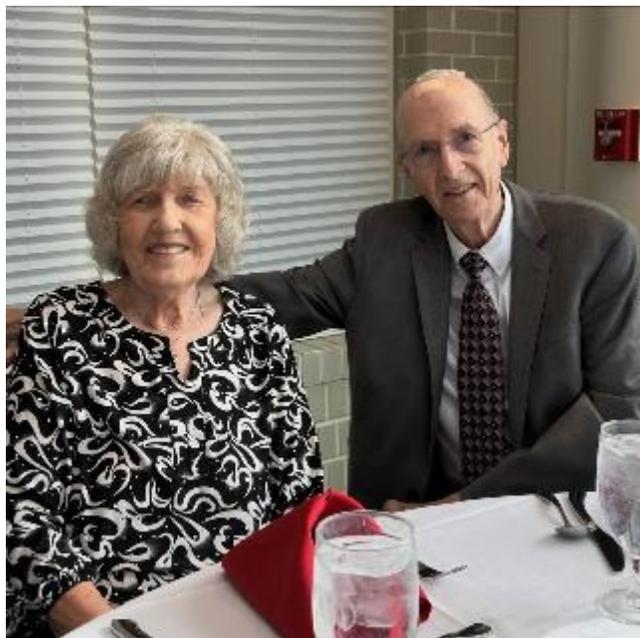
Left—Debbie Fry and Loretta Dougherty



Sue Gandy and Judy Anderson



Sandra Georgiu with Ken Riley



Grace and Don Hobson



Some happy winners!



Christine Killian



JoanMarie Powers' great-grandson, Remi, made his first trip to Canada to visit his grandparents. They made sure he had a snow-suit fit for the weather!



At the Village of Long Creek—The Season's first snowfall, December 5, 2025



*Jean Skelly
and Nancy Weldin*

Neighbors met for dinner at La Casa Pasta. While there, they celebrated the birthdays of Odette Haight and Karl Markiewicz.



*Judy and Bill Anderson
and Odette Haight*

News on Senior Health



Staving off dementia—From Science Daily

Listening to music after the age of 70 appears to be associated with a meaningful reduction in dementia risk. A research team from Monash University analyzed data from more than 10,800 older adults and found that people in this age group who regularly listened to music experienced a 39 percent lower likelihood of developing dementia!

Tips for winter safety—From AARP

With winter weather affecting many areas of the country, public health experts are urging older adults to take certain precautions. Just like extreme heat [poses unique risks for aging individuals](#), so does extreme cold.

People tend to [lose muscle as they age](#) — a condition known as sarcopenia — and muscle provides insulation and generates heat. Older adults are also more likely to have [thinner skin](#), making it easier for heat to escape, and decreased blood flow, due to changes in their blood vessels.

Certain [medical conditions that become more common with age](#) can make it harder to stay warm, according to the National Institute on Aging. Diabetes, which affects roughly [one-third of adults 65 and older](#), can prevent blood from flowing normally, which disrupts temperature regulation. Thyroid problems can affect the body's ability to maintain a normal body temperature, and [memory problems](#) can prevent people from taking certain precautions, like wearing warm clothing.

The National Institute on Aging suggests:

- ◆ *Dressing in warm layers and wearing a hat, scarf and gloves to prevent heat loss through your head and hands.*
- ◆ *Since older adults who exercise regularly throughout the year tend to be more resilient to weather changes, take your workout indoors and try mall walking, which is free.*
- ◆ *Limit the time you spend outside on cold-weather days, and if your clothes get damp or wet, be sure to change out of them as soon as you can.*
- ◆ *Keep your home's thermostat around 68°F or higher, and make sure you're staying hydrated.*

Delaware Trivia: Answers below



- 1.. The Delaware-based company RAPA is considered the largest manufacturer of what food mush that is traditionally a combination of pork scraps, cornmeal, wheat flour, and spices?
2. According to legend, Delaware gets the nickname "Diamond State" because it was once called "a jewel among the states" by what third U.S. President?
3. Born in Wilmington, DE in 1984, actress and comedian Aubrey Plaza is most well-known for her role as the curmudgeonly April Ludgate on what Indiana-based comedy?
4. Best known for its famous oratory reenactment of Walt Whitman poem "Oh Captain! My Captain!", what film starring Robin Williams was filmed at St. Andrews School in Middletown, Delaware?
5. Delaware's state flag design includes the date "December 7, 1787," the date on which it became the first state to ratify what document?
6. This indigenous nation was renamed the "Delaware" by English colonists, but their territory also extended beyond Delaware, including present day New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, New York City, Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley. What is their name?
7. The state insect of Delaware is this insect, who's scientific name is Coccinellidae, and who are believed to be talismans of luck.
8. *What Delaware town, originally called Duck Creek Crossroads, is named for a Greek port city in modern-day Turkey?*
9. What Sussex County city was founded by Dutch settlers in 1613 and proudly calls itself the "First City in the First State?"
10. The vast majority of the state of Delaware sits on what peninsula which is a portmanteau of the three states it encompasses?

1. Scapple 2. Thomas Jefferson 3. Parks and Recreation 4. Dead Poet's Society 5. U.S. Constitution 6. Lenni Lenape 7. Ladybug 8. Smyrna 9. Lewes 10. Delmarva

The VOLC Wayback Machine



Jean Talks Movies

Reviews by Jean Skelly, Movie buff/theater group organizer



Happy New Year, Movie Lovers!



If you like mastermind, intrigue and magic, I recommend "Now You See Me, Now You Don't." It is still playing in some theaters and is streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

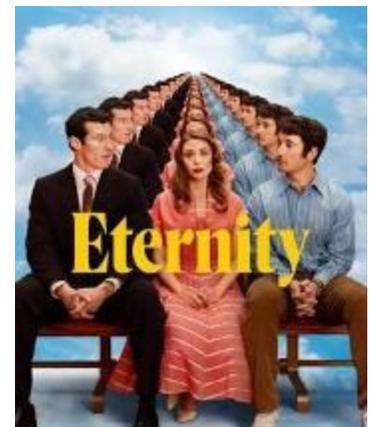


"Sarah's Oil" is about a little girl in the early 1900s who believes there is oil on her land. It's based on a remarkable true story.



"Song Sung Blue" is now in theaters. We saw it as the mystery movie, and if you are a Neil Diamond fan, this one's for you. Mystery movies are screened at Regal for \$5 every Monday night. They are movies not in full release yet, and you never know what you're going to see.

"Eternity" is a fantasy romantic comedy about what happens in the after-life. I loved this one.



That's it for now. Hope to see you at the movies!

Jean



Around the



Cheryl Ford served ice cream treats at Happy Hour.

Right—Wanda Search was serenaded at the Sub Night Happy Hour for her November birthday.



Volunteers decorated the clubhouse for the holidays.





Judy Anderson



Ruth Leaming



Fran Rapp

In November, Chandrikamma Than-kappan conducted a workshop in arranging fresh greens into stunning centerpieces for the holidays.



Sue Gandy



Nancy Halbedl

For weeks in advance, Chandrika collected the materials: greens, berries, and pinecones from right here in the VOLC; inexpensive containers for those who weren't bringing their own; the foam medium for the anchors; and even the bows for the crowning touch.



Sharon Dickol

Resulting arrangements (some shown here at their designers' homes) are all a bit different, but all are showstoppers!



Debbie Fry

Get Artsy!

Watch for more craft sessions coming soon!



Cheryl Werner



Maureen Graham



Odette Haight



"I'll get the rack!" is often heard at the clubhouse, where "time playing pool is never time wasted."

At left (l to r): Gary Legreid, Stan Sanders, Janet Sanders, Chip Basquill, Lester Watson)



Above—the 'girls' team, Linda Trach and Janet Sanders, who have actually won a few!

A Holiday-focused Friday Meetup!



Couples' Funnies

A couple are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair.

'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it!'

Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness' sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns

from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs.

She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'

A married couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant, and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What's the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. The first one then turned towards the kitchen and yelled,

'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged.

While working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet. He insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

You know you've sunken to new lows when you refer to a trip to the supermarket as 'going out'

When I die I want my last words to be, "I left a million dollars under the..."

I hope I'm not related to this person.



I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing...

If I HAD any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up to begin with.

I will be posting telepathically today. So if you think of something funny, that was me.

Getting old sucks. I used to wake up feeling like a million bucks... Now I feel more like a bounced check.

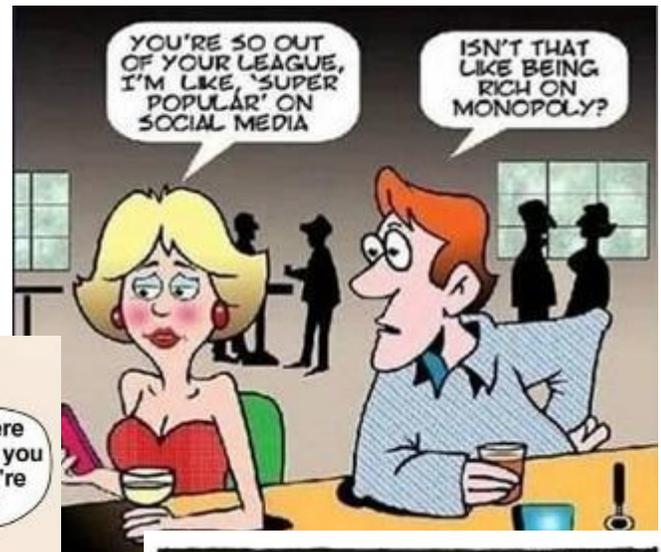
My wife sent me a text, "Your great"

So, naturally, I wrote back, "No, you're great"

She's been walking around all happy and smiling.

Should I tell her I was just correcting her grammar or leave it?

MEN SAY WOMEN SHOULD COME WITH INSTRUCTIONS...WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT? HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MAN ACTUALLY READ THE INSTRUCTIONS?



I JUST POSTED A SELFIE AND PEOPLE TOLD ME TO GET WELL SOON!



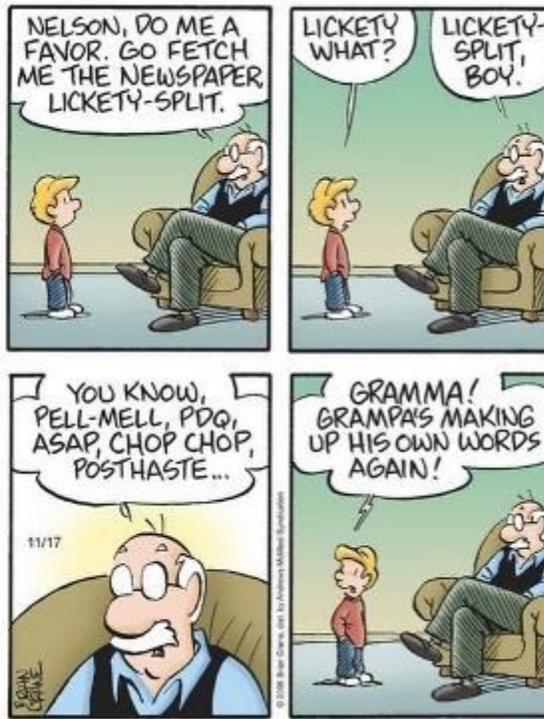
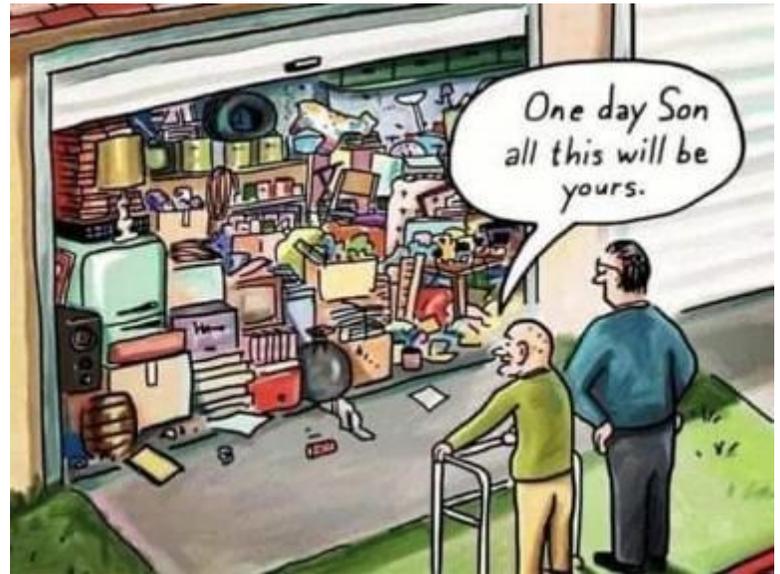
Thinking back to when "a new hip joint" meant someplace I wanted to go on Friday night.



NOT TO BRAG OR ANYTHING BUT I CAN FORGET WHAT I'M DOING WHILE I'M DOING IT.

Want to feel old?

- Bonanza premiered 66 years ago.
- The Beatles split 56 years ago.
- Laugh-In premiered nearly 58 years ago.
- The Wizard of Oz is 86 years old.
- Elvis died 48 years ago. He'd be 90 today.
- Thriller video is 42 years old.
- Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin died 55 years ago.
- John Lennon died 45 years ago.
- Mickey Mantle retired 57 years ago.
- Back to the Future is 41 years old.
- Saturday Night Fever is 48 years old.
- The Ed Sullivan Show ended 53 years
- The Brady Bunch premiered 54 years ago
- The Corvette turned 72 this year.



Guessing game answers

1—Debbie Carr

2—Sue Gandy

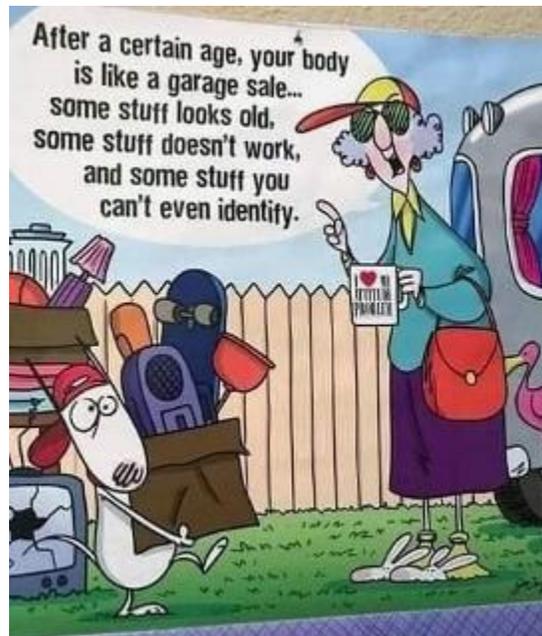
3—Odette Haight

Are you in?

Send pics for the next issue.

An elderly man thinking his wife was losing her hearing went about 20' behind her and asked "Can you hear me sweetheart?" No reply. Moved to 10' and inquired again. No reply. 5' and not a word. A few inches behind ear, he asked "Can you hear me now honey"? His wife said "For the fourth time, yes."

IKEA just dropped off our snowman!



At a girl's college hostel, dates were permitted only on Saturday nights. One young man showed up on a Tuesday evening, explaining to an older woman in the lobby of the dorm that it was imperative he see a certain young lady immediately. "I want to surprise her. You see, I'm her brother." "Oh, she'll be surprised all right," said the woman. "But think of how surprised I am! I'm her mother!"