

# Neighborhood Newsletter

**Summer  
2016**

Volume 7, Number 2

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## Summer Comes to VOLC...

*...And it kicks off with the annual Memorial Day Barbecue. For an event this size, it's all about the preparation. (More story and photos inside)*



*The hard-working ladies of the Activities Committee pray for good barbecue weather during one of their many planning sessions. Shown from left - Loretta Fitch, Mary Legreid, JoanMarie Powers, Janet Sanders and Jean Skelly. (Unable to make the meeting, Wanda Search and Mary Ohara prayed at home.)*

*Then comes the shopping. Shown here, JoanMarie Powers and Mary Legreid shop for soda, pickles and condiments. Burgers and dogs will need to be purchased another day.*



*Then it's time for the logistics. They say "it takes a village" and many members of our Village turned out to set up for the big event. With creativity and determination, they managed to arrange seating for 68!*

## **VOLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS \***

May 2016-May 2017

Patti Abernethy, President  
410-227-7388

Fran Bifano, Vice President  
302-832-7908

Ken Smith, Vice President  
302-838-2804

Ray Krout, Treasurer  
302-738-3468

Pam Smith, Secretary  
302-838-2804

\* These Board members will serve from  
October 2016—October 2017:  
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Susan Brubaker

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Susan Brubaker  
Brook Kortvelesy  
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Joe Strasser

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Wanda Search, Co-Chair  
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Mary Ohara  
Jane Crowe  
Barb Doto  
Odette Haight  
Paul Wellborn  
Guy Werner—Data

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### **Grounds Committee**

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Nancy Ferrara  
Gene and Loretta Fitch  
Joe and Sonja Lemanski  
Jean Roberts  
Maria Tricarico  
Nancy Weldin



***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](mailto:mrlegried@gmail.com)***

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

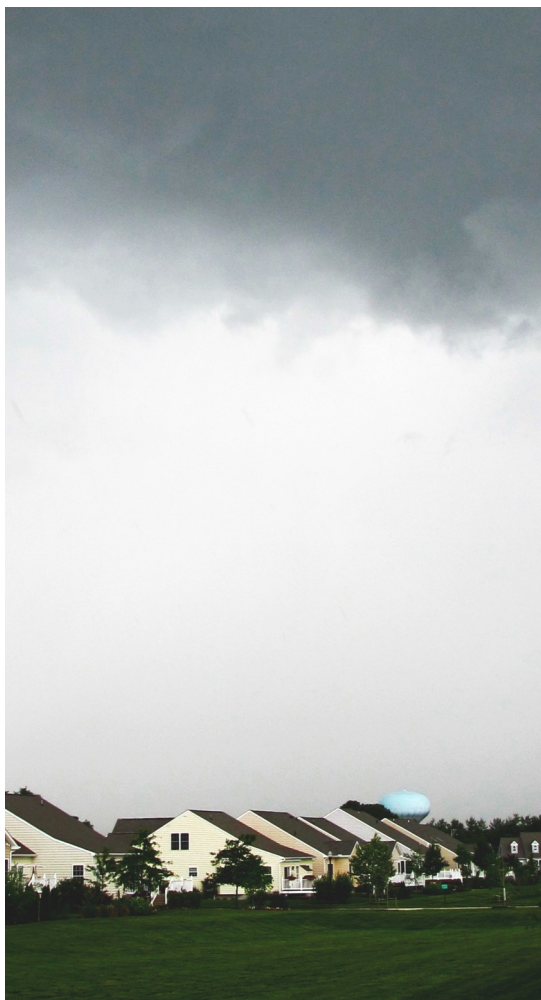
***Contact Cheryl Werner, Editor, with suggestions or comments.***

***302-834-1473 or [cherylwerner@verizon.net](mailto:cherylwerner@verizon.net)***





## AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



*Rainclouds made many an appearance in the spring and early summer.*



*While leaving the clubhouse after the May Board meeting, VOLCers were surprised to find this hot air balloon flying lazily overhead. Friendly folks in the gondola waved as they headed out to Glasgow Ave.*



*Garden Club coordinator, Don Doto, continued to tend the plantings at the clubhouse.*



*A beautiful cardinal visited VOLC after one of the many heavy thunderstorms in June.*

# From the Board

## Dear Friends,

As of this Newsletter, there is only one more home to be sold in the VOLC. Our newest neighbors are welcomed to our warm and caring community: Susan Anderson (#83), Lee Morris (#91), Rossana Palermo (#111), and Judy and Bob Anderson in #119. We are glad you have joined our world here at the VOLC!

The developer and builder are ALMOST onto their next project, but there is still a little more to be done here for them to get final approval from DelDOT and the Department of Land Use. There is some basin information below, and more detailed information will be on the website under DOCUMENTS. <http://volcde.wix.com/volc> As we continue to obtain information from our New Castle County (NCCo) and State agencies, we have put them there for you to read. Call any Board Member if you have questions or have suggestions.

In other news:

***VOLC MC meeting dates:*** We heard from you verbally, and also in the survey, that Monday is not the best day for meetings. In line with your recommendations, we are moving our VOLC MC meetings to Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. There will be no meetings in June or July. Here are the upcoming dates through December so that you can put them on your calendar:

August	11	-- New management company (IPS) in attendance
September	8	-- Identification of future needs of the VOLC MC (planning)
October	13	-- Explanation of contracts being considered
November	10	-- Detailed budget explanation; question and answer time
December	1	-- Budget 2017 vote

***Basin Information/Common Area:*** Working with the Department of Land Use (DLU), there is progress to report. Basin #7 and Basin #5 will have river rock in them rather than just the large overgrown weeds that have flourished because they are so wet. There is no date yet for this to start, but expect many, many dump trucks. (See 6/21/16 memo on the website.) Depending on what shrubs need to be replaced, the VOLC MC will help decide which ones will be used in the replacement process.

Tom Skelly, Lois Inglisa, and Eric Dean, and Cheryl Werner and Maria Tricarico personally counted each tree and shrub that is either dead or missing in the basins and in the entire common area. There are approximately 40 trees and > 10K shrubs in these areas!! Their report was given to the DLU. The VOLC will work with the DLU to determine which ones to replace and where to replace them.

***DelDOT Updates:*** The semi-final inspection has been completed and activity is in full swing. Look to the website for a summary of the latest DelDOT meeting (6/22/16). In short, 8 homes will have new sidewalks added thru their driveways; others will have some of their driveways ground a bit to reduce the rise between sidewalk and asphalt if over  $\frac{3}{4}$  ". More repairs will be inspected by DelDOT



### ***From the Board (cont.)***

to ensure the white sealer on the curbs meets standards; that the tree lawn areas in front of the Clubhouse and Basin #9 have grass and are flat; that driveways are appropriately repaired that were cracked when curbs were replaced last fall, etc.

**Recent Legislation** has been passed in favor of corporations like ours. It allows civic groups and maintenance corporations to record their important records for free. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdV1HRwwxwY>. This will ensure that as any of our documents need to be changed and registered with NCCo, it will not cost us. (Previous charge was \$30 and also \$15/page.)

The **Governing Documents Committee** (GDC) has been meeting at least every Wednesday night and on many Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays as well. They're putting in hundreds of hours, organizing what residents shared in the "Voice of the Community" home-by-home interviews last summer and the workshops they conducted. They're working to create a revised Deed Restriction document to reflect what Residents actually want. Hopefully, it won't be too long before you get a look at it all. Remember, there is a vote on each element to be changed in any way--one vote per LOT. The GDC will provide information to Residents as soon as it is ready for review.

**Join in and add your perspective:** It's a great time to join any of the committees so active in the VOLC. Lots of good happens here, but if you are not on a committee, your voice is missing and your voice is important so that everyone's perspective and ideas can be included. Your background can add so much to what we do and how we do it. Please join one of these committees: Grounds, Governing Documents, Finance, Communications, Architectural Review, Clubhouse, and the Garden Club. Some of you might want to change committees--do that and be part of another one for a few months or the next year. Thanks for all of you sharing time and effort so that the work being done is shared by all. (Check out Committee News on page 12.)

**Special Thank You to our own:** While we will continue to thank those who help so much at each of our meetings, we take this time to thank some of our residents here in this space:

Joe Doto--Thanks for being a Board member for this past year and serving as Treasurer. Lots was accomplished and our work as a VOLC MC was clearer for your insight and detailed work behind the scenes.

MaryTheresa Lednum--Thanks for agreeing to be on the Board for five months and Chairing the ARC as well once you were no longer on the Board.

Jim Haefner--Thanks for serving on the Board for seven months and organizing the ARC so that it was more easily continued by MaryTheresa and the ARC.

The Garden Club--Thanks for sprucing up the Clubhouse for us all. It looks so nice!!

The Clubhouse/Activities Committee--Thanks for an exceptional Memorial Day celebration!

***Have a safe and happy summer with family and friends!***

*Sincerely,*

*Ken Smith, Ray Krout, Fran Bifano, Pam Smith, and Patti Abernethy*

# At Home

With Jackie and Eric Dean

## *A Passion for Books and Travels*

When you enter Jackie and Eric Dean's home, you notice two things immediately: the many books lining the wall in the great room and the many objects from around the world gracing the walls and furnishings. A large collection of blue Danish Christmas plates dominates the walls of the kitchen and eating area, demanding attention. Everywhere you look, you find rubbings, paintings and mementos. It's clear that these are people devoted to travel and information. When we visited the Deans recently, the couple shared stories about both.

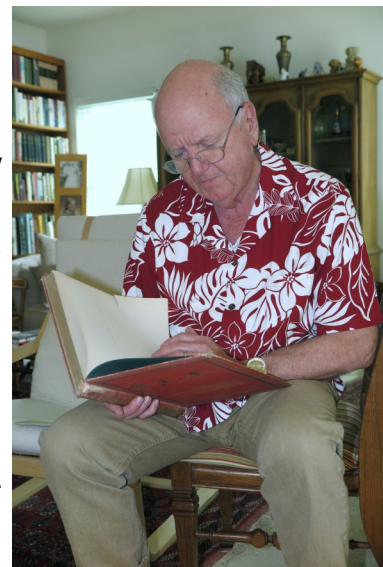
First, the books: Eric relates that he was raised to value books. As he grew, his collection grew too, forged by his desire for information in a time when the printed word was the medium of choice. We asked how many books he has. Who could count? Eric has estimated their weight at seven to eight tons. Often, when hearing about or seeing something in current books or news items, Eric can reach for a book on his shelf to learn more about the subject, make a connection to history, or enhance the story. The collection includes his first book, now around 140 years old, *The Arctic World Revisited*, an Illustrated volume left to him by his great-grandfather, who won it as a school prize in mathematics. There are also books written by, and about, his stepmother, Ebba Lund, a heroic figure of World War II, noted for having arranged the escape of hundreds of Jews from Denmark to Sweden. However, the book he seemed most proud of is *Cooking Around the World* by Jackie Coss Dean.

As to the artifacts, they are the bounty of a career that took Eric and Jackie around the world. After graduation from Cornell University, Eric was hired by Westinghouse as a nuclear engineer and moved to Pittsburgh. There, he met Jackie Coss, also an employee of Westinghouse and a Pittsburgh native. They married in 1965. After four years with the company, however, and after completing work on a nuclear rocket for a proposed NASA Mars mission, there came the first of many layoffs, the result of a downturn in the industry caused by the political controversy surrounding nuclear energy.

Eric took a job with GE that would require relocation to San Jose, CA, and they were off on the first of many adventures. GE proved to be the catalyst that changed their lives forever and led to their world odyssey. In the next ten years, Eric worked on nuclear

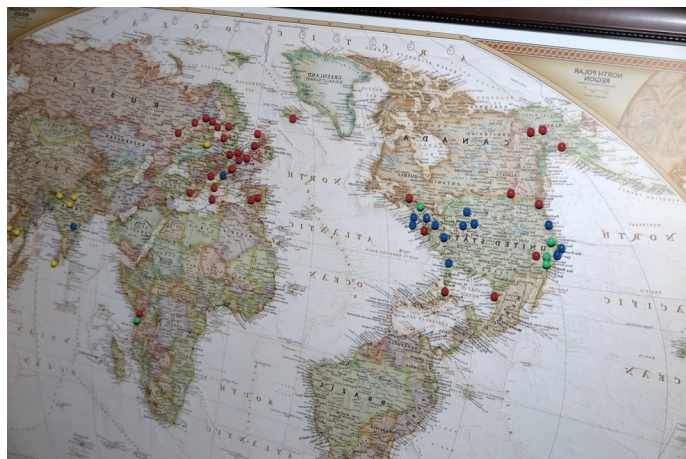
plant start-ups in India, Japan, Illinois, Iowa, Georgia and Italy, and eventually back to San Jose. And Jackie became the moving champ - organizing their relocations in Eric's absence as he went ahead to start the job. Eric chuckles as he remembers some early advice he received, "Rent and save your boxes." (This eventually ran to twenty-one rentals and, on the last move alone, over 600 boxes!)

Jackie and Eric both wanted to see all they could of the world, but soon realized that Eric's time for travel would be limited. While living in India in 1969, Jackie would have to see some of the sights for both of them, including well-known landmarks like the Taj Mahal and Angkor Wat (which Jackie Kennedy had just visited.) And then, with Eric's encouragement, the young wife and mother embarked on a three week tour of Southeast Asia that included Ceylon (also known as Sri Lanka), Indonesia,





Cambodia, Thailand, Nepal, and the Indonesian island of Bali. It was the trip of a lifetime for the 25 year old Jackie, who carried with her so much camera equipment that people often mistook her for a professional photographer! She had already traveled much of the United States and Western Europe, but this was different, and she was thrilled. Jackie wrote a journal of her adventures which Eric is still proud to share.



Jackie filled her journal with tales of zoos housing exotic animals (including two offspring of the first breeding white tiger,) of colorful country sides and exquisite flowers, and of the friendly people in the many shops, hotels and restaurants she visited. She told of the

Grand Palace of Bangkok, "a model of majesty and lordly grandeur...one of the most beautiful places in Thailand. It is a landmark which covers an area of nearly a square mile and includes the temple of the Emerald Buddha." Of Bali, she wrote, it is "a place where tourists have not yet invaded, a place where people dream of going. The white sand, smooth and glistening, the blue waves rolling in and quietly crawling over the beach. The palm trees were leaning out to sea, and behind them stood quaint native grass huts. It was everybody's dream of a South Pacific Island." (At the time, the airport runway was being lengthened to accommodate Boeing 747s!)

One time in Nepal, a tour bus broke down, and folks panicked, worried they'd likely run out of gas so far from Katmandu. Not Jackie! "I wasn't very upset because this gave me a chance to take more pictures. Our driver found out what the trouble was, and after a short while, we were on our way again."

Eric says, "Jackie never tired of telling these stories and I never tired of hearing them. If one is to make a 'trip of a lifetime,' one should do it early in life, so you can share the stories for a long time." They made many trips together following that most exotic one, as the map's pins testify, and their keepsakes evoke treasured memories and stories.

After a five year stint in Ohio (having actually purchased a home in 1979), work on the nuclear power plant was stopped, and it was eventually converted to coal. From there, they moved to Long Island, where the Shoreham Power Plant faced considerable public opposition following the Three Mile Island accident and the Chernobyl disaster. It was closed by Governor Mario Cuomo in 1989. Eventually, Eric came to the Salem Power Plant in NJ, and settled his family in Delaware. He



became an instructor with the plant, and along the way, completed Master's degrees in Nuclear Engineering and Education. Meanwhile, with children grown, Jackie fulfilled a lifelong dream to become a teacher, completing her Bachelor's Degree at UD, while working full-time as a school aide and then acquiring a Master's Degree in Special Education as well.

Eric has been retired for six years now, and he and Jackie agree that Delaware is their favorite place among all the places they've lived. Two sons live nearby with their families, three grandchildren between them. Last year, they, along with Eric's siblings from California, Ohio, and

Finland joined them in Lewes to celebrate their 50 years of marriage. Asked what he considered to be his most cherished treasure, he looked to his wife and said simply, "Jackie."

*(PS—Check the postscript on page 24.)*

Story by Cheryl Wemer

Photos by Bob Greenblatt



# FAMILY!



*Fran Bifano is shown with his grandson, Paxton Francis Bifano, who will be a year old on August 4th.*



*Nancy Halbedl's three year old granddaughter, Annie, (daughter of son James and wife, Kerry) is holding the basketball given to her at the end of the game when the Chicago Sky played at University of Delaware. Local hero, Elena Delle Donne, has played for the Sky since her graduation from UD.*

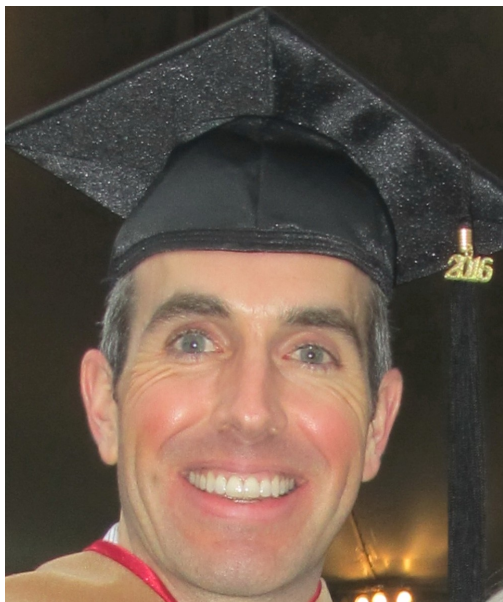


*Janet Sanders' family recently celebrated their parents' 65th wedding anniversary! This photo shows Janet with her parents and four brothers.*



*Tom and Jean Skelly traveled to South Carolina for the high school graduation of their oldest grandchild, Caroline. While proud of her accomplishments in music and art, they are just a little sad that she is so grown up already. Caroline will attend Greenville Community College in the fall.*





**Tom Werner, son of Cheryl and Guy, graduated in May with an MBA from the Erivan K. Haub School of Business at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia. His proud family, including new bride, Chelsey, were happy to share in the moment.**

**Bob and Sharon Dickol recently spent 10 days traveling the California Coast from San Francisco to Los Angeles. In addition to the popular California attractions such as Alcatraz, The Hearst Estate at San Simeon, and the Golden Gate Bridge, they got to experience many other fascinating sights, including a trip to Muir Woods to see the giant redwoods and navigating Monterey Bay to observe whales and other sea life.**



**Odette Haight recently spent three weeks in Maryland with her granddaughter, Hadley, who was ten months old. Odette reports that Hadley was very well-behaved!**







Team VOLC raised over \$850 at the MS Walk at the Wilmington Riverfront on Saturday, April 9th!!! The rainy weather kept the crowd small but the energy level high. The Team also plans to participate in the Moving for Melanoma Walk in September and the Breast Cancer Walk in October.

For information about joining the team for either of those fall walks, contact Cheryl Werner at 302-834-1473. Thanks to all who lent moral and financial support.



*Cheryl Werner, Dennis Sabato, and Maria Tricarico walked for Team VOLC at the Wilmington Riverfront.*



The Spring Brunch was also held on April 9th. Our creative Activities Committee did their best to banish the gloom of ice and snow that prevailed outside. The Omelet King cooked up fresh and varied omelets to go with sausages and goodies. The ladies did their best to brighten the clubhouse with butterflies, flowers, and smiles. It all worked, and, suddenly, spring felt possible!



*Omelet King, Jim Spicer, is shown with his lovely "assistant," JoanMarie Powers.*



The Kentucky Derby Happy Hour/Birthday Celebration on May 7, brought a bevy of hatted beauties to the clubhouse. Long-stemmed red roses were awarded in such categories as Best Garden Hat and Best Hat Overall, won by Joan-Marie Powers. Guests sipped mint juleps and munched on Happy Hour dishes, before watching Nyquist win the Run for the Roses.



*Back row: Cathy Brindle, Joan-Marie Powers, Jean Skelly, Loretta Fitch and Joan Holstein. Front row: Mary Legreid, Cheryl Ford, and Janet Sanders. Paul Wellborn on the right provided a welcome bit of cowboy flavor.*



*Jo Skidmore and Nancy Ferrara enjoy a chat at the June event, "Subs, Salads, and Sundaes."*



# Memorial Day 2016

Traditionally, the Memorial Day cook-out is one of the biggest VOLC events, and this year was the most well-attended yet! Burgers, dogs, and fried chicken were accompanied by potluck sides.

In keeping with another VOLC tradition, the event focused on military service—that of our residents and their families. Board President, Patti Abernethy, conducted the flag salute and set the tone and the stage for the activities that followed: a VOLC vet picture matching game created by Jane and Pat Crowe (see it on page 24), a video featuring our vets and/or their families produced by Cheryl Werner, and a packet of further information on our vets and how to find military records, compiled and distributed by Patti. This information can be found on the community website.

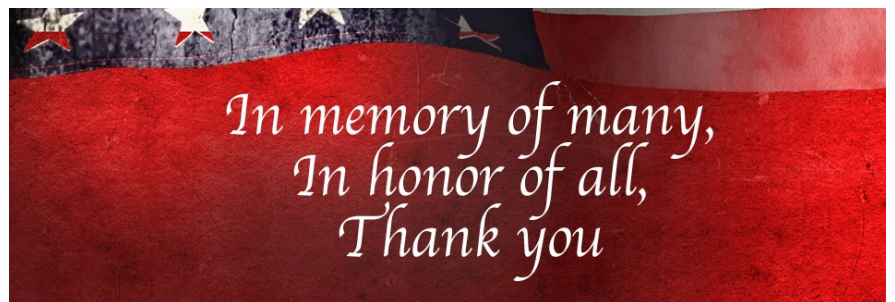
<http://volcde.wix.com/volc>



*Patti Abernethy is shown with her framed photos and mementos of family service.*



*Dennis Sabato once again served as Grill Master, dishing up dozens of hot dogs and burgers.*



## Committee News

The minutes of all committee meetings can be found on the VOLC website. <http://volcde.wix.com/volc>

Click the Documents button on the upper bar.

You can also find the Mission and Procedures of each group.

Please keep in mind that all residents are invited to join these committees which contribute to the management of the Maintenance Corporation and the benefit of all.



**Governing Documents Committee:** Having successfully combined the Service Corporation and the Maintenance Corporation, the Executive Board appointed a Governing Documents Committee to revise the Maintenance Corporation's governing documents, consisting of the bylaws and the MDRs (deed restrictions, also known as covenants) by which all residents are bound.

The completed bylaws were approved by residents in April by a vote of 79-1.

The Governing Documents Committee, having input from the community, continues to work on finalizing the VOLC MDRs to present for a community vote later this year.

**Nominations Committee:** This committee successfully recruited a slate of candidates for the Executive Board of the VOLC Maintenance Corporation and oversaw their election. The new Board, along with each member's position, is listed on page 2 of this newsletter and on the website. In order to maintain continuity, members' terms will be staggered; therefore, two of the seven will begin their tenure in October.

**Communications:** The committee formalized the phone chain which will be used to contact all residents in case of an emergency. Each household will receive a copy of the list once all new residents are in, and it will also be posted on the VOLC website under Documents.



**Clubhouse Committee:** The Activities members of the Clubhouse Committee announce that the community's annual Pajama Party will take place in August. The admission fee will be a pair of children's pajamas and an accompanying book. The pjs and books will be donated to the Delaware chapter of the Pajama Program, benefitting needy and foster children. The head of the chapter reports that her inventory is very low and she is in dire need of pajamas in all sizes for boys and girls. In particular, teen and infant sizes are in big demand. School supplies will also be accepted and appreciated. Watch for details about the party, but start shopping now!



# Laughter is the best medicine...

**As I age, I realize that...**

*(Submitted by Cathy Brindle)*

1. I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.
2. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
3. I don't need anger management, I need people to stop pi\*\*ing me off.
4. My people skills are just fine, it's my tolerance of idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
6. When I was a child I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini vacation.
7. The day the world runs out of wine is just too terrible to think about.
8. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.
9. Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
10. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.



Here's a cat who doesn't live here, but we wish he did!  
Check out the ones who do on pages 20-22.

*(Submitted by Mary Legreid)*



Geez, Grandma! It's not that hard! Go into Settings, select Wi-Fi. Tap it with your finger. OMG! Any finger! Grrrr....

*(Submitted by Nancy Halbedl)*

# *At Home*

With Colleen and Jim Haefner

## *A Life at Sea*

Neither Jim nor Colleen Haefner grew up near the ocean. In fact, they grew up in Pennsylvania coal country, where Jim remembers a Tom Sawyer-like childhood, playing in the woods and swimming in the closest body of water, the "crick." Although they attended the same high school and both went to Penn State, they didn't date until they were both working. And their work didn't involve the ocean either. But, well into their marriage, Jim developed a burning desire to sail, and Colleen considered the idea a tempting challenge. Jim jumped in first with both feet, and when the children were old enough to be independent, Colleen followed. Now, married close to forty eight years, the couple enjoys reminiscing about their years on-board an ocean-going cruiser.

The sea story begins in Baltimore, where Jim worked for Lucent Technologies. He started attending Annapolis boat shows, met some boaters who became friends, and began crewing friends' boats on the Chesapeake Bay. Eventually, he took sailing lessons and celestial navigation classes to prepare for his biggest early challenge: crewing for the Annapolis to Bermuda Ocean Race. His first experience with that race nearly spelled the end of Jim's racing career. After five days at sea, a tropical depression provided a "knock down" and severely damaged the boat. The navigation equipment unusable, and dead reckoning impossible with the stormy skies, they sailed right past Bermuda. It took two days to get back on course and make their target, with Colleen all the while anxiously waiting on the rocks at the yacht club. (Nine people ended up using her room at the local bed and breakfast, since those folks were unexpectedly waiting too, and there were no more rooms to be had.) The experience was truly baptism by water, but Jim was not deterred. Instead, it fueled his desire to captain a vessel of his own.



They bought their first boat, a 38-footer, in 1988, and made its home the Patapsco River by Sparrow's Point and the Key Bridge. They immediately set off to take the children, (then ages 18, 16 and 10) on a northward excursion to New England. Jim sailed from Baltimore. Colleen and the kids joined him in Cape May NJ. It took 53 hours to get to NE. Not surprisingly, the kids were not impressed, and none has caught the bug!

In 1999, the year before they both retired, Jim and Colleen bought their dream vessel: A 40 foot cruiser they renamed The SVLongtayle, after the first sailboat built on the Chesapeake Bay by John Smith's brother, Thomas, and the longtail, the national bird of Bermuda. Colleen took a coastal navigation course and became particularly adept at reading plot charts. They formed a true partnership. The two of them, sharing watch and chores, sailed the Intracoastal Waterway, a 3,000-mile inland water highway along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts of the United States. With convoys of other cruisers,



they followed the sometimes-elusive wind from Baltimore to the Bahamas. For twelve years, they lived onboard their beloved sailboat, from October to May, going home to Baltimore only at Christmas to be with family.

They competed in the Annapolis to Bermuda race 3 times with Jim as captain. Carrying a crew of six (four other men and Colleen), they eventually placed third, with a time of 7 days, 22 hours, 25 minutes, and 6 seconds. (Colleen has the numbers memorized.) But, of course, winning the plaque and silver bowl wasn't easy! A "knock-down" caused big problems for Jim on deck and sent the birthday cake Colleen had baked for a crew member sailing to the ceiling and beyond. Jim considered motoring into Bermuda, but one of his European crew members convinced him to stick to the sail.



Their memories remain clear. They agree that their favorite port is in the Bahamas. They chuckle as they say Georgetown is called a "geriatric summer camp," due to the 700 boats that dock there with mostly retired sailors aboard. They speak of being stuck in Vero Beach, Florida, nicknamed "Velcro Beach," for the winter weeks boaters spend there, waiting for favorable sailing conditions. One winter after stocking the vessel, they waited for six weeks! They delight in remembering the beauty of dolphins, stunning ocean reefs, and the company of good friends in the cruising community. And they also remember the sadness of witnessing abject poverty on Andros Island, where people live in grass huts with no access to medical care.



When asked why they sold the boat, Jim and Colleen cite the never-ending maintenance that seems to get harder with every passing year. And their grandchildren! They have three now, two boys and a girl, and they are the joyous focus of the couple's on-land life. Time spent with them is more precious than those blissful days at sea. One of their favorite family get-togethers is in Florida, where they do plenty of looking at the sea and swimming in it.

When asked if they ever do any sailing now, Colleen replies, "No, haven't set foot on a boat since we sold ours." Jim says they don't want to destroy the sweet memories. That's not to say they don't still have the interest though! In the dry comfort of their beautiful home, they watch "Distant Shores, the Sailing Adventure TV series," about a Canadian couple who sail the world. For Jim and Colleen, watching it is like going home.

*Story by Cheryl Werner  
Photos by Bob Greenblatt*

# Did you know?



... that Jean Skelly dispenses Sunshine for the Activities Committee? If you know of a resident who is in need of a little cheering up, let Jean know. She'll send a get-well or sympathy card from the community.

[twirler64@comcast.net](mailto:twirler64@comcast.net)

...that you can make a donation to your favorite charitable organization every time you buy something on Amazon? Instead of going to Amazon.com, go instead to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

You can choose your own favorite organization from the list of nearly 1 million that are registered. (If your favorite nonprofit isn't registered, you might suggest that they sign up.) Once you choose your charity, they will automatically make a donation of .5% every time you make an eligible purchase. Read more about the program at the link above.

... that you can see how well your charities spend your money? "Charity Navigator, Your Guide to Intelligent Giving" researches and rates thousands of charitable organizations both in the United States and around the world. Using criteria based on "Financial status, Accountability and Transparency," they'll let you know the best organizations for your hard-earned dollar. The amount of information they've gathered, their warnings, and charity news are impressive. You can find it at <http://www.charitynavigator.org/>

...that in addition to airport transportation, Delaware Express offers single-day and multi-day trips, sometimes in partnership with Four Seasons Travel? These include trips to Broadway plays, Newport mansions, and many more. Check them out at <http://delexpress.com/> or call (302) 454-7800.

...that the Newark Senior Center also sponsors trips, along with all of the other services they offer, including Meals on Wheels, facility rental, educational classes, and social events? It is one busy place, full of opportunities for those over 50! You can find out more at <http://newarkseniorcenter.com> or (302)737-2336.

...that your AARP membership card earns you a 15% discount at Outback, Bonefish Grill, and other restaurants? It will also net you savings at hotels, stores and online services. And with your card, you can buy coupons for local businesses and restaurants like Klondike Kate's. Find out more at <http://www.aarp.org/benefits-discounts/>



**... that it's actually healthier for you to live in an age-restricted community with friendships and activities? These excerpts are from an article by Jon Gorey in the Boston Globe, "Why living in a 55-plus community may be better for your health", and sent to us by Mary Ohara.**

"Social contact is vital to people's welfare throughout their lives and especially when they're older and perhaps more prone to being socially isolated," said Sharona Hoffman, a professor at Case Western Reserve University's School of Law and author of "Aging With a Plan: How a Little Thought Today Can Vastly Improve Your Tomorrow."

"An active social schedule can provide real psychological and physical benefits. There are a lot of studies showing a clear correlation between social interaction and longevity, mental health, and physical health," Hoffman said. "By contrast, people who are lonely do much worse. They have more heart problems, higher blood pressure, more insomnia, and so on.

**And this, regarding attitude, from Marilyn Abrams... Excerpted from "Thriving at Age 70 and Beyond" by Jane E. Brody**

"A recently published book, "70 Candles! Women Thriving in Their 8th Decade," by Jane Giddan and Ellen Cole inspired me to take a closer look at how I'm doing as I approach 75 and how I might make the most of the years to come. It would be a good idea for women in my age cohort to do likewise. With a quarter of American women age 65 expected to live into their 90s, there could be quite a few years to think about.

If I have one fear as the years climb, it's that I won't be able to fit in all I want to see and do before my time is up, so I always plan activities while I can still do them

Of course, advancing age has taken — and will continue to take — its incremental toll. I often wake up wobbly, my back hates rainy days, and I no longer walk, cycle or swim as fast as I used to. I wear sensible shoes and hold the handrail going up and down stairs.

Adjusting to physical changes that accompany advancing years is often tough. Grandchildren, though a great joy to many, can be exhausting, necessitating a restorative nap. Adjustments are needed to reduce the risk of falls and fractures. Better lighting, hearing assists, a reliance on Post-it notes and lists as well as canes and walkers can become essential for safe and effective functioning.

Also important as women age are social connections, especially with other women. Whether married, single, widowed or divorced, participants (for the book) reported that women friends were their greatest source of support and comfort.

**Perhaps most important, for men as well as women, is to think positively about aging. A 2002 study by epidemiologists at Yale found that "individuals with more positive self-perceptions of aging, measured up to 23 years earlier, lived 7.5 years longer than those with less positive perceptions."**



**Good advice!!!!**

# Secrets of Stitch 'n Bitch

They're not quite the "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," but these ladies each have their own! We'll never tell who knit the tight yellow chemise, or the socks with beer mugs, or the itsy-bitsy teeny-weenie flesh-colored bikini that was worn many times before being relegated to the drawer where it remains!

Several times a month, a group meets in the clubhouse to work on their knitting or crocheting projects. They share stories, advice, and yes, secrets. The group varies in size - from around 5-10 on any given day. (To this point, only women have joined the group, but a few good men would be welcome as well! ) Those with more experience help those with less. Beginner lessons are offered. A project snafu becomes a group problem to solve. Sisterhood indeed!



*From left: Sue Bifano, Christine Killian, Linda Watson, Joan Dreibelbis, Odette Haight*

On a recent evening, we dropped in on the group and found five women who, among them, have over 250 years of knitting and/or crocheting experience! Sue Bifano, Christine Killian, and Linda Watson have been at it without pause since they started. Joan Dreibelbis is more into quilting, but enjoys her dalliance with crocheting and her participation in the group. Odette Haight is looking to get back to knitting after having put it aside in recent years. Linda also meets with a chapter of the Knitting Guild, and Christine works with a group at the Newark Senior Center.

All of the ladies have produced their items for charity—booties for handicapped children, stump covers for veterans who've lost a limb, scarves and gloves for homeless shelters. Most have made donations to the Newark Senior Center for sale at the Gift Shop and have sold their wares at craft shows.

When asked if they had a specialty item, Sue burst out her answer—a baby duck sweater she has knit more times than she can count!!! Christine loves knitting infant hats—using no pattern—with each creation a new and free-style design. Joan professes her love for quilting centerpieces,







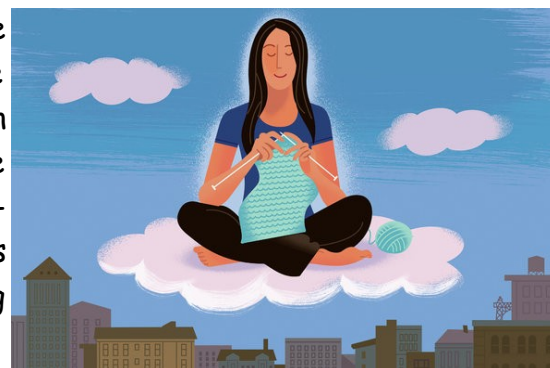
*A beautiful example of Linda's artwork—an afghan she donated to the VOLC fundraiser for cancer research*

some of which she has donated to the VOLC clubhouse as well as to charities. Linda just loves a challenge and looks forward to new ones, so rarely makes the same thing twice. Odette recalled making real clothing pieces before her "pause" and hopes to get back to that with the help of the group.

Who taught them to knit? Most cited their mother or grandmother. Christine said all children learned these crafts when she was a child in Germany, and some said they'd also learned in the home economics classes they were sorry to see discontinued. Are they teaching children and grandchildren? Christine is, and they all agreed that the special pieces they've given to family members have been treated with great care and respect—

much to their satisfaction.

We asked about a recent NY Times blog written by Jane Brody entitled, "[The Health Benefits of Knitting.](#)" In the article, Brody cites a number of studies that have proven the health benefits of such handwork. It turns out the benefits are similar to meditation, except that with knitting, you have cool products to show for your time! It's been proven to be helpful for quitting smoking, losing weight, and keeping folks calm!



So we asked, "VOLC Ladies, do you find this to be true?"



*Sue's fingers are constant motion.*

They overwhelmingly agreed "yes." It keeps you focused, calm and alert. And your hands out of the chips bag! As Odette said, practically speaking, "You can't eat and knit at the same time—you wouldn't want to get anything on your yarn!" It's also proven to help with arthritis. To sum it up, Sue said, "Knitting has been my salvation more times than I can count!!! Plus I make some pretty neat stuff!!"

Brody also points to studies that show this type of handiwork can cut down on pain since the brain can only process so much at any one time. Get it busy on knit and purl and it squeezes out the signals for your aching feet. Memory? That's covered too. It's thought that craft activities promote the development of neural pathways that help to maintain cognition and memory, a benefit that watching TV or even reading newspapers and magazines does not.

It was clear we were in the presence of some seriously talented crafters who know the secret to better health without chemicals. It was also clear they're willing to share the secret with any VOLCers. You just might want to join the group and get in on it!. Watch the monthly calendar for their meeting dates. <http://volcde.wix.com/volc> Click "Activities" to see the calendar.

## *Some of the other "people" of the VOLC*



**Pumpkin (1994-2011)**  
**Bob Greenblatt's cat**



**Norm Petterson's dog, Linsi, had leg surgery, so he made her a handicap sign. Linsi was with Norm before he moved to VOLC.**



**Sadie Brubaker, a 9 year-old peeka-poo, loves to take walks around the VOLC. (Seems she likes to drive too!) Here, she's waiting impatiently with Dad for her shopping Mommy, Susan.**

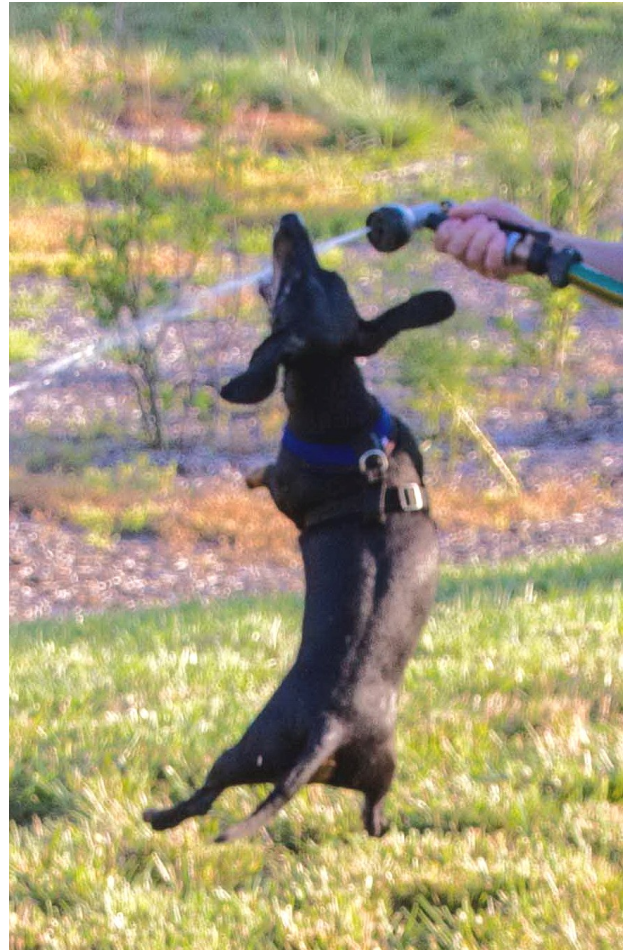


**Debbie and Jerry Carr's dogs, Patches and Dexter, can be seen walking the neighborhood daily.**





*Tess Ford is 16 months old and has been with Cheryl since she was old enough to leave her mother.*



*Cody Trach loves to jump at watering hoses. He has perfected his technique. Mom, Linda, says he sniffs them out wherever he goes.*



*Lil Garayoa's shipoo, Timmy, has the best seat in town riding around the neighborhood on Lil's bike.*



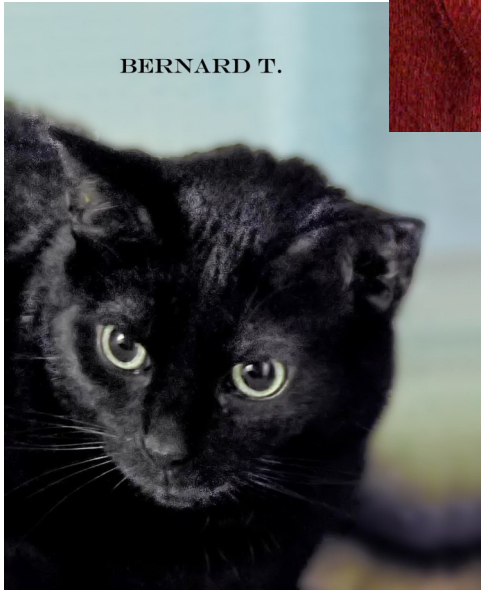
*This is Lily, Paul Wellborn's cat. Paul jokes that Lily has a serious sweet tooth. Can you tell? (Check out her temporary "pillow.")*



## The other "people" of the VOLC (cont.)

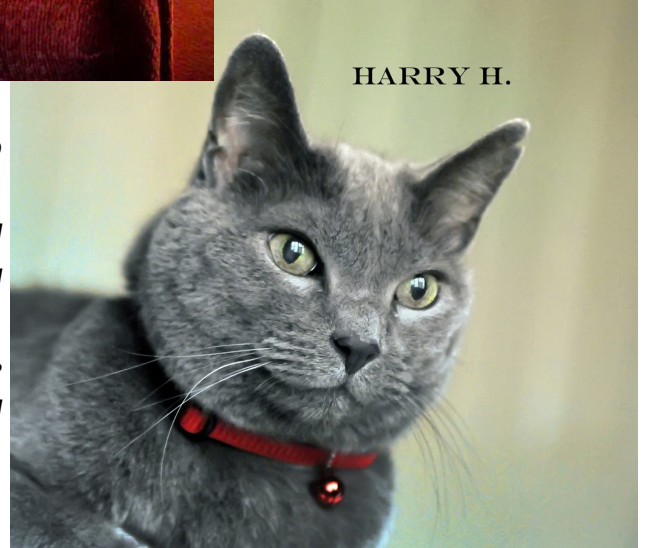


RILEY P.



BERNARD T.

*Meet the Crowe Boys who live with Pat and Jane. They are all rescues and were all about 5 years old when they became family. Pat reports that they are a very happy bunch, and get along like loving, playful brothers.*



HARRY H.



*Patti Abernethy's cat, JoJo, is becoming blind and requires help with simple tasks.*

*Patti doesn't mind. He's family!*

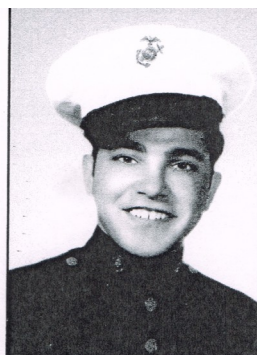


*Living near the entrance to VOLC is perfect for Mugsie Tricarico. He gets to do his favorite things—see and talk to people and get petted!*

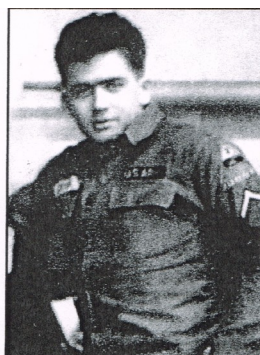




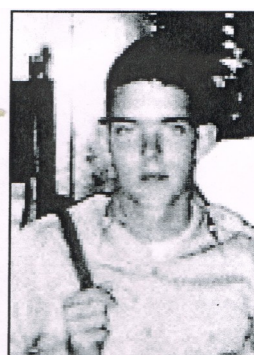
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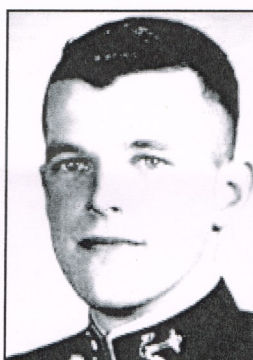
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Joe Strasser  
Stan Sanders  
Ray Search  
Paul Wellborn  
Nick Inglisa  
Pat Crowe  
Donnie Thompson  
Bob Greenblatt  
Jim Powers  
Tom Skelly

Can you match these VOLC veterans with their names? Thanks to Pat and Jane Crowe for this stumper.

Answers: 1. Tom Skelly, 2. Nick Inglisa, 3. Pat Crowe, 4. Paul Wellborn, 5. Bob Greenblatt, 6. Jim Powers, 7. Joe Strasser, 8. Ray Search, 9. Donnie Thompson, 10. Stan Sanders.



## *Postscript to the Deans' story...*

Eric has many more stories to tell (as most of us probably do,) and at a recent VOLC book club meeting, he shared one. He told members about living in Hawaii as a child and illustrated his memories with home movies from the 1940's of his family frolicking barefoot on Waikiki Beach with Diamond Head in full view.

He has family who still live there, and for this evening and theme, he made the most of that connection. The June book for group reading was The Last Aloha by Gaellen Quinn. Told through the eyes of a young woman from San Francisco, the novel accurately documents the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and the annexation of the country by the United States. In its pages, there are numerous details about the lives and culture of the island, and the book club members all enjoyed it.

Early arrivals to the meeting strung beautiful live orchids for leis which each attendee received as a gift, a sign of "aloha." The ladies also got hair clips with plumeria attached, a flower that figured prominently in the book. Hawaiian treats such as pineapple, coconut and macadamia nuts abounded, served at a table bedecked with palm fronds and surrounded by bouquets of exotic flowers. It was a very special evening. Thank you, Eric and Jackie!



*Photo to the right, back row—Eric Dean and Janet Sanders. Front row: Jackie Dean and Cheryl Ford.*

*Below, the exotic atmosphere achieved with flowers and fronds, including Sharon Dickol with her beautiful lei.*





# Barb Carter's

## Summer Movie Review

### *The Nice Guys*

Russell Crowe, Ryan Gosling

Director: Shane Black

I don't often see funny movies because most of them aren't. Funny, I mean. Director Shane Black is best known for snappy-dialogue screenplays like "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang" and "Iron Man 3", so I wanted to see what these two actors with 4 Academy Award nominations and 1 Oscar between them could do with his work. Turns out they're pretty funny. This one is a nice break from the usual summer fare.

It's 1977 in Los Angeles and every human being in the city is wearing polyester. There is also disco music—feel free to cover your ears when "The Pina Colada Song" is heard. But it's fun to see gas guzzling muscle cars and over the top parties. In fact, the muscle cars are part of the plot. There's a big car exhibition scheduled and some questions about how The Big Three are handling an environmental issue.

We don't see Russell Crowe often these days, and he doesn't seem to care about matinee idol looks anymore. His character, Jackson Healey, is a low-rent private investigator who is only marginally legitimate. He's overweight, scruffy, and smokes and drinks too much. It seems he has some anger issues because he tells us in his cigarette-marinated voiceover: "Marriage is buying a house for someone you hate." He's pretty good with a gun but he'd just as soon punch your lights out with his brass knuckles. I thought it was a funny touch that he carries reading glasses with him everywhere—and uses them.

Ryan Gosling as Holland March actually has a PI license and he tries hard—mostly for the sake of his 13 year old daughter. But Harry could screw up a two-car funeral. He *really* drinks too much, is kind of a dim bulb, and takes cases from little old ladies that haven't seen their husbands "since the funeral". He also wears terrible leisure suits.

There is a dead porn star and a young woman who thinks someone is following her. Per form, the two are working these cases that may be connected. At first glance they sniff around a lot and distrust each other but something like a buddy comedy develops. A buddy comedy with the usual gun battles, pratfalls, and car chases (think Jim Rockford in his Firebird). I've never thought of Russell Crowe as a particularly generous actor, but he and Gosling play off each other well here. Crowe is actually funny, and both actors get a few moments to be introspective and build character.

The young actor (Angourie Rice) playing Holland's daughter is great, but I wasn't happy about having her in dangerous situations. It felt a little strained to me and I wasn't comfortable with it.

After a lot of car chases, punch-outs, and one-liners, the two finish in a bar talking about how Detroit will never be made accountable for its ways and The Big Three will always win. Holland muses that in a few years we'll all be driving battery operated cars from Japan anyway. These two may go into business together or maybe Holland can just use his psychic powers to solve cases.

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

## July

Kathy Brindle	7th
George Lulli	11th
Guy Werner	17th
Nancy Ferrara	18th
Jackie Dean	30th
Cheryl Ford	31st

## August

Katie Whiteoak	1st
Tom Novak	3rd
Ron Dreibelbis	4th
Gary Legreid	14th
Mary Ohara	28th
Mabel Chadwick	29th
Tom Skelly	31st

## September

Joe Strasser	3rd
Cheryl Werner	6th
Nancy Halbedl	12th
Mim Krout	12th
Christine Killian	18th
Brook Kortvelesy	21st
John Johnson	23rd
Grace Hobson	25th



*Dennis Sabato, Jean Skelly, Don Doto, and Richard Cutone enjoyed their May birthday "do."*



*Our June birthday babies are Joe Doto, Sue Bifano, Dot Dube, Sharon Dickol, and Norm Petterson.*



*This really is a birthday cupcake! It just looks like a cheeseburger, thanks to Jean Skelly.*



*Dot Dube receives her sweet birthday burger from Joan-Marie Powers. Dot was 94 on June 12.*