

Village of Long Creek

# Neighborhood Newsletter

*January 1, 2025*

Volume 16, Number 6



**2025**  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Here's to making more  
VLC memories in 2025!*

## **VOLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**May 2024- May 2025**

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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](http://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](mailto:cherylwerner@verizon.net)***

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Snow people at  
the VOLC



After years of hard work and dedication as Chair of the Garden Club, **Ruth Leaming** recently stepped down. Many thanks to Ruth for her service and commitment to the beautification of the community!

**Mim Krout** agreed to return as Chair, a position she has previously held. **Chandrika Than-kappan, Judy Pannucci, and Ken White** stayed on. They were joined by **Tom Novak, Karl Markiewicz (also on the Clubhouse Committee), and Linda Trach (honorary Clubhouse Committee member.)**

Above—The entrance sign is all done up for winter, as is a festive-looking clubhouse.

Linda Trach's granddaughter, Gianna, examined the early version of the pumpkin snow family, designed by Chandrika. (Like real snow, the pumpkin family did not last forever...)

The efforts of all of these individuals help to make a welcoming and attractive community. Kudos!



# Neighbors

*Linda Trach and Janet Sanders stopped for a picture while walking with their granddaughters.*

*The little ladies, from left to right, are Anna, Gianna, and Haven.*

*"Grandchildren are the dots that connect the lines from generation to generation"*  
— Lois Wyse.



*The December Monthly Luncheon was held at Trattoria Di Napoli on Rte. 40 in Bear.*

*Organized by **Christine Killian**, these monthly gatherings are a great way to get out to a restaurant that may be new to you and to enjoy getting to know your neighbors.*

*The next gathering will be on Monday, 1/6, 12PM at Los Machados Mexican Restaurant, 600 N Broad Street, Middletown. RSVP to [Christine Killian](#) by email or call at (302) 454-1098.*

**start the new year with friends..**





*A group of VOLC neighbors recently visited Grounds for Sculpture in Mercerville, NJ. The day was perfect, with bright sun, mild temps and beautiful surroundings.*

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

*Below—**Ken Francis** sent this picture of a vanilla cake made to look like a gingerbread house. It's from Sweet Melissa's Bakery in Middletown, and Ken said it was delicious!*



***JoanMarie Powers** was able to help her granddaughter, Olivia, celebrate her birthday in her adopted state of Massachusetts.*

*From left: Olivia's boyfriend, Danny, birthday girl, Olivia, JoanMarie and Olivia's mom, **Janice Losito**.*





*Three new residents, along with several longer-term residents, were part of a holiday “get to know you” gathering at the home of Cheryl Werner. From left: **Maryann Fagan, Carol Thompson, Loretta Dougherty, Judy Anderson, and Maureen Graham.***



***Left—Cheryl Ford and Christine Killian** made sure that every bench in the VOLC was decorated for the holidays.*

**Yikes!**



***Odette Haight’s** beautiful granddaughters were sure creepy at Halloween! Hadley, at left, was a doll to give you nightmares. Harper, on right, was a zombie.*

***Right—Carolyn Aresu** sent along this picture of her and Bernard’s grandchild, Carolena, with both of her adoring grandfathers. (**Bernard** is on the right.)*

*Carolyn and Bernard make a concerted effort to travel to DC to see their now-fifteen month old granddaughter at least once a month.*

*Carolena will welcome a baby sister in the summer of ‘25.*





# Birthday Babies



*At left—**Jean Pokropski** was serenaded at the November Happy Hour.*

*Those with December birthdays—from left, **Joan Dreibelbis, Martyanne Grabusky, Maryann Fagan, and Mike Ostroski**— were feted at the Holiday Party.*

*Holiday Party.*

## Upcoming Birthdays

### January

Justine Gilbert	1st
JoanMarie Powers	2nd
Sharon Mutschler	3rd
Ken White	3rd
Chandrika Thankappan	12th
Loretta Fitch	12th
Ray Jenkins	14th
Cindy Jenkins	21st
John Dean	27th
Ruth Leaming	28th
Bob Greenblatt	30 <sup>th</sup>

### February

Maria deArmas	2nd
Ray Krout	8th
Barbara Medio	9th
George Middleton	9th
Loretta Fitch	12th
Ken Francis	16th
Joe Lemanski	27th
Tom Sutor	29 <sup>th</sup>



*Need a vacation? In today's confusing and crowded travel market, it's good to have expert help. VOLC neighbor, **Carol Thompson**, is a travel agent with many years of experience. Carol notes, "We are a full service travel agency with no service fees. I'm in the office by appointment only"*



***Marilyn Abrams and her family** celebrated Chanukah with traditional foods and the ritual lighting of the Menorah.*



*Left—**Bear Skelly** sat with Santa at the Peoples Plaza Christmas party.*

*Right—Mama **Jean** visited with him at Deerhead Hot Dogs.*

*Both went dressed for the occasion and with wish lists.*







## Jean Talks Movies

*“I have been a movie fan since childhood.*

*Since I see at least one movie a week at Regal Cinema in People’s Plaza, I thought you might like to hear which movies my friends and I like best. I hope you get to see them at the theater or on whatever streaming service you get.*

*“**Wicked**” - The music and the special effects were amazing. The story shows the “good witch,” Glinda, to be not as nice as we thought. We gave it a 3.5 out of 5. (This was Part I. Part II is set to release in November 2025.)*

*“**Gladiator II**” - Denzel (Washington) is wicked in this one, which is hard for me to wrap my head around. The story was better than we thought it would be. We rated it 3.5.*

*Regal Cinema offers **Monday Mystery Movies**, which are usually early screenings of new movies. We’ve seen quite a few really good movies for \$5!*

*“**September 5**” - was the Mystery Movie on December 9. It was about the 1972 Munich Olympics when the Israeli athletes were taken hostage. Major nail biting took place in our group! Our rating—3.5 I recommend you see it when it comes out on Jan.5th.”*

*See ya at the movies,*

**Jean Skelly**

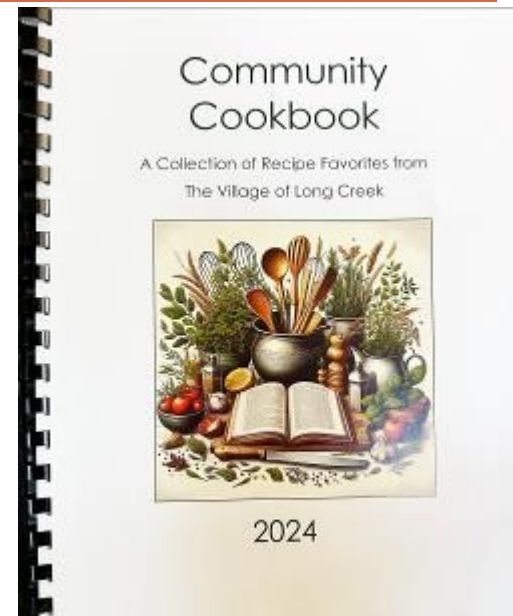




*The second VOLC cookbook was published just in time for the holidays! Its 181 pages contain yummy recipes, all tried and true from community cooks, complete with photos and tips!*

*If you didn't purchase the print copy, you can browse the contents on the community website [myvolc.org](http://myvolc.org). Click on the "Current Homeowners" section, and then "Resident Publications."*

***Sharon Dickol** spearheaded the project, assisted by **Susie White** who collected and proofread. **Dorene Grant** and **Cheryl Werner** also helped them with proofing.*



*Left—**Bob and Ruth Leaming** once again conducted a community Food Drive to benefit the Food Bank of Delaware. They delivered over 425 pounds of food and checks in December! The Leamings have now collected and delivered more than 5,000 pounds of food and cash donations over the last six holiday seasons! They thank the residents of the Village of Long Creek for their generosity—and in turn, we thank them for organizing!*



*The whimsical display at the home of **Melody DeVoe** and her sister, **Christine**, continued all the way around the side of the house. It's always fun!*



Around the



*Jean Skelly and  
Martyanne Grabusky,  
Bingo Regulars*



*There's always something going on at the Clubhouse!*

*Monthly activities include **Happy Hour/Birthday Celebrations, Coffee Klatch, Stitch 'n Bitch, Book Club, and Pizza/Bingo!***

*Weekly events include **Billiards, Cards, and Friday Meetup.***

***Special events**, such as speakers and art classes, are held periodically.*

*And—off-site—there is the monthly **Monday Luncheon and IHOP Breakfast Club!***

*There is truly something for everyone! You can check the online calendar [here](#). Click “Current Homeowners,” then “Clubhouse and Activities.” (If you need the password, just ask.)*



## ***Special Event***

*Lorrie Williams, the NCC\*EMS*

*Community Outreach Coordinator, made a return visit to the clubhouse with her Hands-Only CPR and AED presentation and workshop. And, just like when she came earlier in the year, folks left impressed with her knowledge and comfortable with the process.*

*With her assistant, McKenzie, Lorrie peppered a slide presentation with her own stories and tips. She answered questions in simple language and instilled confidence in attendees that they could help in the event of a cardiac arrest.*

*Read more about Lorrie on page 17.*

*The VOLC Clubhouse is the place to be!*



The Activities Committee held their annual community **Holiday Collection** of new toys and used goods for Glasgow Lions Club member Al O'Neill's Appalachian area deliveries.

From left—**Christine Killian, Bonnie Anderson**, co-chairs **Janet Sanders** and **Cheryl Ford**. Al is toward the back.



Dozens of bags filled with toys, books, and clothing lined the streets on the day of pickup.



## IPS Workshop

Top left—**Mike Ostroski**, Tech Team Chair, stood by to provide tech help as Dino Peronti of IPS Management conducted a workshop explaining how to migrate to the new billing software.

Above—**Bob Greenblatt** attended the workshop with other residents.





(Clubhouse cont.)

## ***Patio Friday***

*attracts a lively group of friendly, fun-loving neighbors who like to share stories and laughter.*

## ***Friday Meetup***

*Once the weather cooled, the group moved inside. Stop by anytime between 3 and “5-ish.” You’ll find a warm welcome and a seat at the table. There’s always food and drink and lively conversation.*



*Right—During a December Friday Meetup, **Chandrika Thankappan** offered guidance for creating orange and clove pomanders for the holidays. They smelled so good!*

*Left—**Lester Watson**, a pool-playing “regular,” is shown near some of the holiday decorations adorning the pool room. Prompted by **Linda Trach**, regulars got the pool room looking festive.*



# Annual VOLC Holiday Party

*The twelfth annual VOLC Holiday Party was held at the Deerfield Golf Club for the second consecutive year. Sixty folks attended.*



*Harvey Wilson and Stephanie Nealy*



*Cheryl Ford, Activities Committee Co-Chair, served as MC and announced that new resident, **Maryann Fagan**, was the winner of the Super 50/50 pot. **Christine Killian**, on right, former co-chair, serves as Committee Treasurer and was happy to present Maryann with her winnings.*



*Maureen Graham and Sharon  
and Bob Dickol*



*Susie and Ken White*



*Dorene and Dick Grant*





*Long-time Activities Committee member, **Jean Skelly** with son, Jeremy.*

## HOLIDAY PARTY 2024



***Pam Smith and Paul Wellborn***



***Mim and Ray Krout***



***Cheryl Dean***



***Carol Thompson, Donnie Thompson, Sandra Georgiu, and Ken Riley***



***Chandrikamma Thankappan and Maria deArmas.***



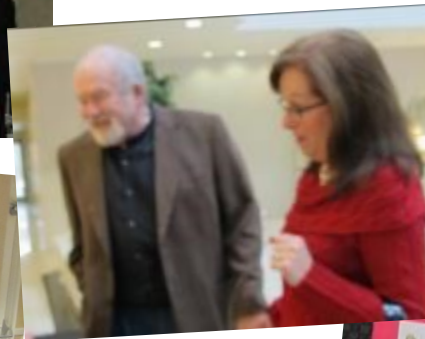
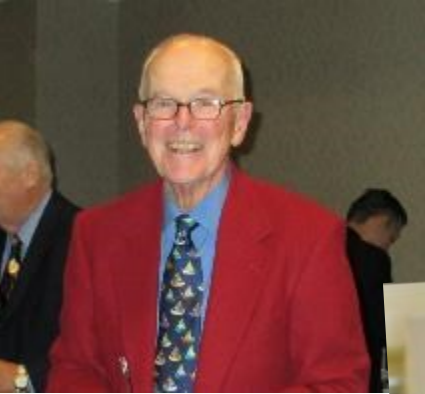
***Mother/daughter duo, JoanMarie Powers and Janice Losito***



# THE VOLC WAYBACK MACHINE

Sunday, December 14 , 2014

Village of Long Creek  
Holiday Party  
3:00 P.M-8:00 P.M  
Lord De La Warr





*This article appeared in Delaware Online on December 20th. Lorrie conducted the CPR/AED course at our clubhouse twice this year.*



Isabel Hughes

Delaware News Journal

Lorrie Williams knew little about life in the emergency services field when she and her husband married about four decades ago. A volunteer firefighter, he quickly introduced her to the fire service. While it "was certainly a learning experience," Williams said, she soon became interested in supporting the fire company in her own way.

First, she joined the Five Points Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary. Then, she turned her attention to emergency services.



*Left—Lorrie is shown at the Awards of Valor program hosted by Philadelphia's National Liberty Museum.*

*It highlights first responders in the tri-state area for their "remarkable acts of heroism and for serving as role models in their communities."*

Williams, now 63, initially became an emergency medical technician-basic. This meant she could perform basic life support functions such as CPR or aid if a person was choking. After eight years as an EMT-B, she was hired by New Castle County as a paramedic. In July 2021, after 21 years of providing the highest level of emergency medical care offered outside of a hospital setting, she retired.



Retirement was short-lived, however. Now, Williams serves as coordinator for New Castle County Paramedics' Community Outreach Unit, which offers CPR trainings, among other functions. The trainings have had real-world implications, and in at least one case, may have meant the difference between life and death for a local woman.

**CPR CLASS SAVES A LIFE:** She was clinically dead for 10 minutes. On Tuesday, this Hockessin woman met those who saved her life.

Delaware Online/The News Journal recently caught up with Williams to learn more about her life in emergency services, and what her role is now.



**Question: What led you to join New Castle County Paramedics more than two decades ago?**

Answer: (After) eight years of riding as an EMT-B, I had the opportunity to apply for the New Castle County Paramedic academy. I was older than the average hire – 39 – had a family that I was raising and I couldn't afford to go to school, and didn't have the time to give in the evenings and weekends to continue my education. Without New Castle County, I wouldn't have had a chance. I was fortunate to be picked for the first Delaware Technical Community College/New Castle County Paramedic academy. I ended my home daycare and was blessed to learn from the best. A year and a half from hire to clear – what a time. Studying, riding, learning. Some of the hardest times of my life, but also the most rewarding.

**What about the field of emergency medicine kept you in it for so long?**

I learned every day while providing service to the county. I spent nearly all of my career in the city of Wilmington at Medic 1, one of the busiest stations during that time. Our shifts were long and involved, but there wasn't a day that I didn't learn something or feel something. Sometimes good feelings while helping someone with their "worst day" and sometimes hurtful feelings when things were sad. Partners and platoons were our work family. For that I will always be grateful. Once a team, you are always family.

**If you had to impart any wisdom on those just beginning their paramedic career or anyone toying with becoming a medic, what would you say?**

I hope that as new medics begin their career and older medics continue theirs, they remember that we are practicing medicine and a large part of our job is to be kind, considerate and caring. Some of my best calls were just being kind to a lonely person or helping a person in need find their way. Of course, saving a life is the pinnacle of our career and those special calls will forever be in my heart.



**You retired a few years ago, but came back to serve as coordinator for the community outreach unit. What about the position lured you out of retirement?**

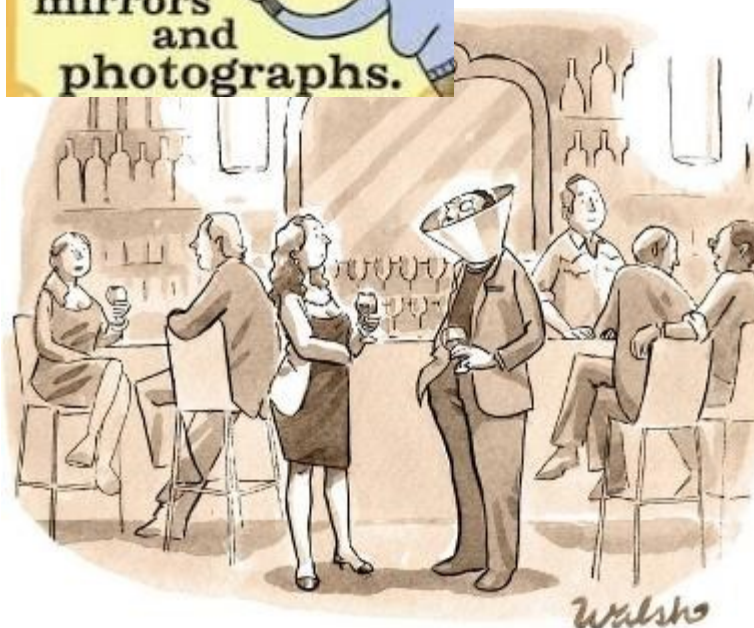
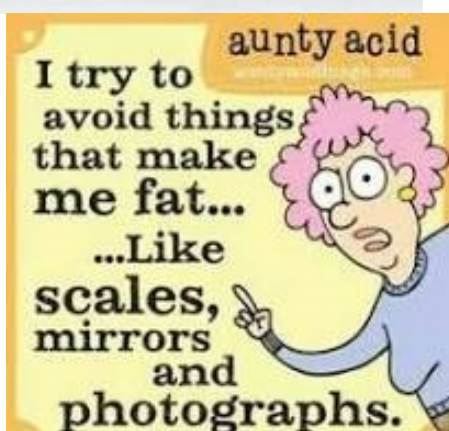
I mentioned that I started my career later in my life and as I obtained 21 years of service, I found this job takes a toll on your body and mind that is often overlooked. I knew it was in my best interest for myself and my family to finish my career in a good, healthy moment.

My love for the job didn't end and I can say the day-to-day calls were greatly missed. During my career, I did many outreach groups as well and Critical Incident Stress Management to help my co-workers and other first responders. When the opportunity to rejoin the paramedics as the coordinator for community outreach, I didn't hesitate to know that was where I belonged.





"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."



"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."



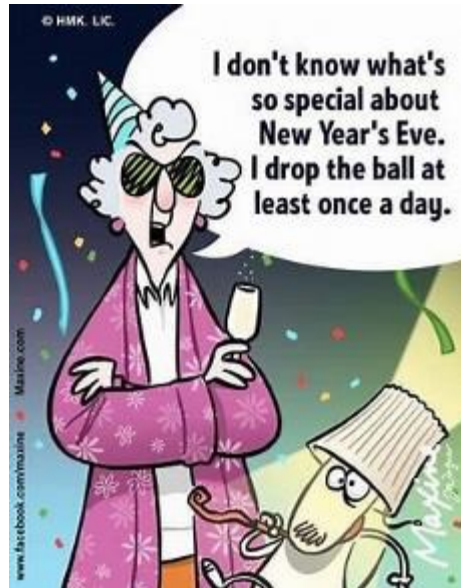
"Well, last year I kicked gambling ... the odds are 3 to 1 the New Year will be a good one."





Phil Witte

"You keep giving me advice when what I need is herbal tea and lemon bars."



I don't know what's so special about New Year's Eve. I drop the ball at least once a day.

www.facebook.com/markmckinnon



ZIGGY  
TOM WILSON & TOM II

C'MON! IT'S THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS! QUIT STIRRING AND GO TO BED!

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Delegation is important.



"I'm sorry, the stock market got to me first."



Dave Coverly

"WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP READING OVER MY SHOULDER?"



Here are my New Year's resolutions. Start keeping them."



A. Bacall

"I'm really serious about keeping my New Year's resolutions. In the past, my resolutions were always in one year and out the other."



Ann Hudson

"Got anything else? I gave up carbs."



Honey, our lawyer wishes us, but in no way guarantees, a Happy New Year.