

Neighborhood Newsletter

Winter

2022

Volume 13, Number 4

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From your window...

What do you see?

The homes in the VOLC all have different views from their windows.

Which is your favorite?

We'd like to feature those different views in every issue of the Neighborhood Newsletter for one year starting with the March 1 issue.

Start snapping now! And send us your photos!

Breaking News

All Activities' Committee-sponsored clubhouse events for January have been cancelled due to the Delaware State of Emergency.

Hopefully, monthly activities can return in February.



Coming soon...

Stay tuned for more info regarding **Block Watch**. The program was introduced to VOLC residents during a Zoom presentation held on December 28th, and organized by **Bob Leaming**.

(Photo above by Bob Greenblatt)



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May 2021- May 2022

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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.

Contact Cheryl Werner, Editor, with suggestions or comments.

302-834-1473 or cherylwerner@verizon.net

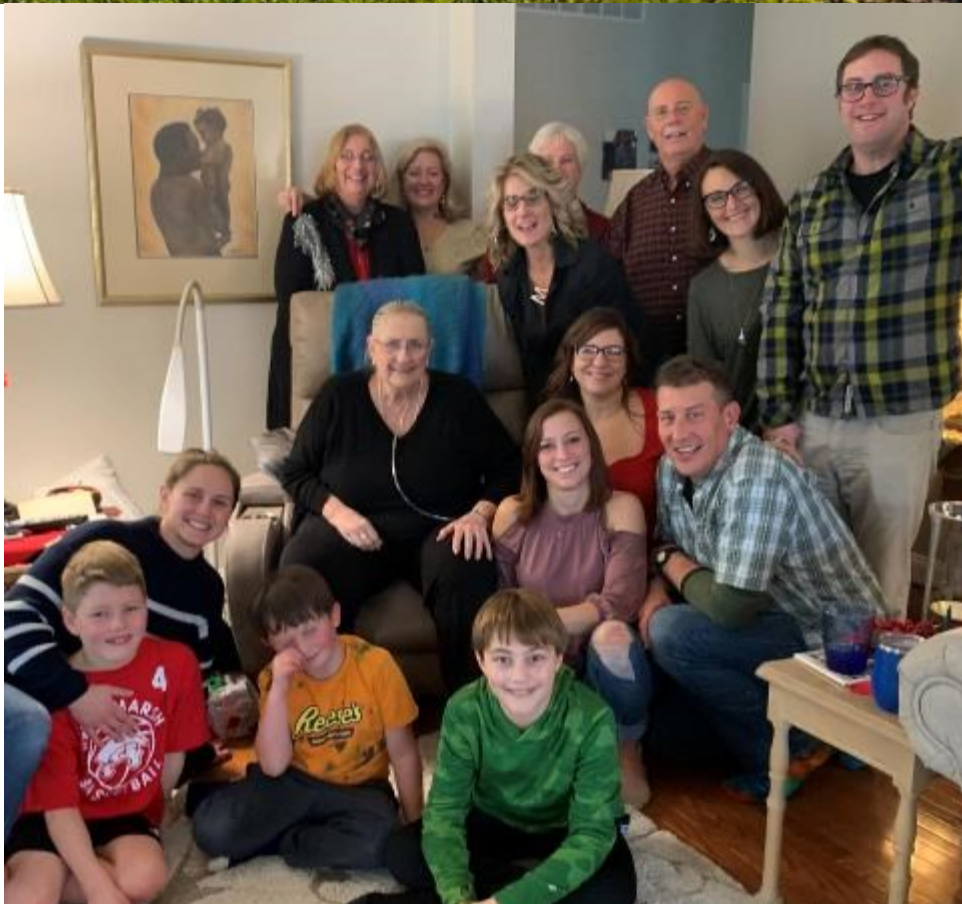
Neighbors

Veterans Day was November 11

On the morning of November 6, **Donnie and Carol Thompson** joined a group of volunteers putting American flags on headstones at the Veterans Cemetery.

Carol says that although the weather was great, the task was made a bit more complicated because they were not allowed to walk where the frost hadn't yet melted on the grass. They went through once with the flags, and then went back to the missed areas.

No one complained, considering the activity a privilege!



Christmas came early to **Sue Bifano**, in the form of family gatherings.

Above—Grandson, Paxton, came all the way from Colorado with his Dad, Craig.

At right—The happy visitors from several other states

(Neighbors cont.)



Tom Skelly was able to come home from his rehab facility for Thanksgiving dinner with family. Jean said the time went by way too quickly. The clock chimed 6 o'clock, and, like Cinderella, Tom had to leave!

Above right—Tom with wife, Jean, and their daughters, son, and spouses. And Bear, of course!

At left, The grandchildren, looking all grown up.

Bear Skelly has kept very busy amusing Tom. **At right**, he shows him how PT is done!



Christmas Parade



Chesapeake City



Church



Right—Talk about efficient elves!!!

Nancy Halbedl wrote “The day after Thanksgiving, my son James, his wife Kerry, and grandchildren Annie (age 8) and Daniel (age 6) came to my house to decorate for Christmas. They put up and decorated the tree, placed the wreath on the door, set up the Nativity, unpacked Santa’s train, hung stockings by the fireplace, and set out numerous other decorations in less than 2 hours!”

(Neighbors cont.)

Dr. Kunjathan and Chandrika Thankappan enjoyed their first Christmas as residents of Delaware, with a beautiful Christmas tree and lots of new friends. Dr. and Mrs. T, as they're known, sent holiday wishes to neighbors in the VOLC, with thanks for the warm "welcome to the neighborhood" they received.



Right—the first Delaware Thankappan Christmas tree

Left—The proud grandparents sent this picture of grandson Nikil's performance in the Holiday concert at MOT HS (Middletown, Odessa, Townsend,) where he's a freshman.



Below—**George and Linda Middleton** enjoyed the 50th anniversary celebration of Linda's cousin in New Jersey.

At right—**JoanMarie Powers**, with granddaughter, Olivia, at dinner in Olivia's Dad's restaurant in Macon, Georgia.



(Neighbors cont.)

Kids at Christmas-time...



Patti Abernethy's grandnephews kept busy this holiday season.

Above, right—Rowan, son of niece Jenn, got a batting lesson from his Uncle Carlos, a professional baseball player.

Above left—Cameron, son of Carlos and niece, Kristen, was the cutest wise man in the Nativity at Christ Community Church that meets in McKean HS.

Right—Sue and Roger Getty enjoy the beauty of Longwood Gardens with grandchildren, Aubrey and Nathan.



(Neighbors cont.)

Christmas Nostalgia



Left—Remember cottony snow and tiny figures? **Nancy Weldin** arranged these scenes with figurines that have been in her family for generations.

At Right—How about “Bubble lights?”

Barb Doto sent these photos.

“When I was a child, my grandfather always had bubble lights on their tree. A few years ago someone resurrected them and I just had to have them!”



(Neighbors cont.)



Above—Bob and Ruth Leaming stuffed 550 pounds of food into their car for their annual delivery to the Delaware Food Bank. That makes over 2500 pounds of VOLC food collected and delivered by the Leamings in three years!



Amy Leickel sent this photo of her first Christmas Eve as a Newark, Delaware resident. Amy attended the service at the Evangelical Christian church in Wilmington.



Janet and Stan Sanders' grandchildren posed for a Christmas photo.

David, holding three month-old cousin, Anna, is six. Cousin, Haven, is two.



Cheryl and John Dean's first great grandchild, eight month old Edward John, enjoyed his first Christmas!

(Neighbors cont.)



Above— Camila and Ria, **Mike and Greta Ostroski's** granddaughters having fun outside

At left - Greta attended the White House Holiday Open House as guest of her sister, who was invited by the DE Lieutenant Governor.



The white House was decorated in a traditional holiday style that the sisters thought was beautiful!



(Neighbors cont.)



Welcome—Photo by Susan Brubaker



Christmas Lights—Photo by Amy Leickel



Dusk—Photo by Cheryl Werner



Morning—Photo by Kay Bennett



Night—Photo by Lenny Tricarico

(Neighbors cont.)



“Operation Pedro Pan: The Cuban Children’s Exodus 60th Anniversary,”
An exhibit at Miami’s American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora.



Our own *Maria deArmas* was one of the more than 14,000 children flown from Cuba to safety in the United States during the Pedro Pan airlift in the early 60’s. The operation was a unique effort for Cuban children to escape the Castro regime’s forced reeducation and to find care within Catholic institutions or with relatives.

Maria was able to attend the 60th year reunion of the group in Miami, and to view a special exhibit at the American Museum of the Cuban Diaspora. The exhibit paints a picture of what life was like for a child in Cuba, where the world revolved around family, school and religion.

Maria’s children and two grandchildren attended as well, and they were able to see her name and photo in the files, part of the artifacts on display. The trip was filled with memories as Maria met with old friends and relatives, and she delighted in relating the old stories to her family. Many of the children are now prominent members of the South Florida community including former Miami City mayors, and United States Senator Mel Martinez, Yale University Professor and bestselling author of memoir “Waiting for Snow in Havana” , and Miguel Bezos, adoptive father of technology company Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos.

Thanks to Linda Trach for inspiring and collaborating on this poem
and for the photos on the next page...

*'Twas the Month Before Christmas...
...In the Village of Long Creek!*

*'Twas the month before Christmas, when all through Long Creek
Homeowners were working to give us a peek
At the wreaths and decorations they'd hung with such care
In the spirit of giving they wanted to share.*

*It started out slowly, but soon gained great steam
'Till the whole of the neighborhood started to gleam.
The Santas how merry! Mailboxes so bright!
The lights were a'twinkling. Some stayed lit all night.*

*As the big day approached, all snug in their beds,
Villagers were dreaming of snowfall and sleds.
And grandchildren visits, with cookies and such,
With plowed streets, no Covid, to worry them much.*

*No naughty, just nice, as you ride round the block.
The weather so warm, you might even walk!
And Santa was good, since they had been too.
And he shouted to All - HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU!*

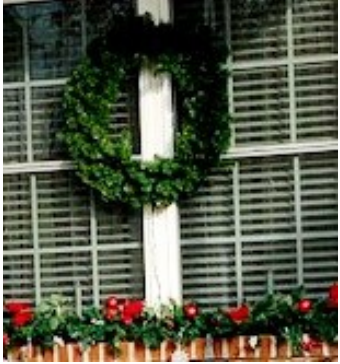
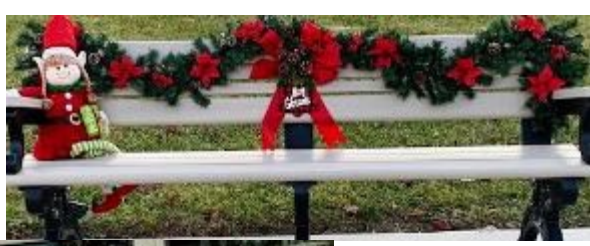


(Neighborhood cont.)

Linda said, It started slowly, but soon it began to “look a lot like Christmas...”



She snapped these photos on her daily walks with Cody.



And then it was over...

Annual VOLC Holiday Party

Sponsored by the Activities Committee, the annual VOLC Holiday Party was held on December 5th at the White Clay Creek Country Club at Delaware Park. After enjoying a buffet luncheon, yummy dessert, and holiday music provided by George Fox, partiers tripped the light fantastic.....

Below—**George Fox** entertained party-goers with light patter, and kept the requests coming.



December Birthday Babies



Above—**Odette Haight**, with **Len Krygowski** on left, and **Nick Inglisa**, on right, with wife, **Lois**, were serenaded by their neighbors. After reciting his Marine Prayer, Nick was proud to announce he was 90 on December 8th. Odette—well, she’s not saying which birthday was hers!...



Above—**Jean Skelly** and **Wanda Search** greeted party-goers

Christmas PARTY



Right- **Nancy and Sam Ferrara** showed off their dance moves.

(Holiday Party cont.)



Guy Werner



Sonja and Joe Lemanski



Steve and Susan Brubaker



Cheryl and John Dean



Nancy Weldin



Sharon and Bob Dickol



Marty Lyon



The VOLC Dancers!



Above—**Maria and Lenny Tricarico's** daughter, Maria, attended the party and captured some of the fun.



Committees at Work and Play

Garden Club members work at the community entrance.

From right—Christine Killian, Bob Leaming (behind sign), Chandrika Thankappan, Ruth Leaming, and Susan Brubaker.



Activities Committee Toy Drive

Left, from left: Fran Rapp, Cheryl Werner, Christine Killian, Janet Sanders, Maria Tricarico, and Nancy Halbedl. Cheryl Ford spearheaded the project and took the picture.

The Activities Committee hosted the first VOLC Race Night in November.

Charlie Pinchot, on right, conducted the event using his handmade seahorses and well-used dice. Charlie has conducted these races for community events for years, wherever he's lived.

A good time was had by all! And a lucky few made a dollar or two!

Look for the event to be held again in 2022.

At right—The racers —**Stan Sanders, Grandson David, Nancy Halbedl, Stan and Janet's daughter, April, Loretta Dougherty, and Jean Skelly.**



Birthdays!

December birthday babies,
*Nick Inglisa and
Odette Haight* were
honored at the Com-
munity Holiday Party.



November birthday honorees:
From left- *Wanda Search, Nancy
Weldin and Jean Pokropski.*

January

- Justine Gilbert* 1st
- JoanMarie Powers* 2nd
- Sharon Mutschler* 3rd
- Lois Inglisa* 17th
- John Dean* 27th
- Ruth Leaming* 28th
- Bob Greenblatt* 30th



February

- Maria deArmas* 2nd
- Ray Krout* 8th
- Barbara Medio* 9th
- George Middleton* 9th
- Loretta Fitch* 12th
- Valerie Landon* 18th
- Joe Lemanski* 27th

Keeping up with the latest?

With the creativity and technical expertise of new Communications Chair, **Sharon Dickol**, our neighborhood news network definitely received an upgrade. Starting in September, Sharon has been sending weekly news updates to all inboxes. Each weekly message contains news about community events or issues affecting us all. Make sure to check every Monday for an email from **VOLC Communications Committee**.



Sharon has also upgraded the community website that she designed several years ago. The address remains the same—myvolc.org. When there, take a look around. There's a lot to see!!

The items that are specific to residents, requiring private access, can be found in the Current Residents section. For this area, you'll need a password. (Can't remember it? Just ask!) Here, you'll find Resident Directories, Grounds info (like Know the Snow), and current clubhouse policy. Clicking on an event in the calendar gives more details. Neat!

If you need help navigating the website, any member of the Communications Committee would be happy to help! Members are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Message from Patti Abernethy—

"After the unexpected November fireworks conducted by Reach Church (on the corner of 896 and Glasgow Ave), Representative Eric Morrison and Senator Stephanie Hansen worked with the county Fire Marshall to see that communities are notified regarding organizations obtaining permits for use of fireworks

Initial contacts were attempted multiple times to reps at Reach Church to give them the idea that elected officials could advise communities regarding upcoming permits for fireworks. Lots of neighbors were surprised, upset (some even awakened out of sleep), and concerned (thinking there might be explosions close by) when the fireworks sponsored by the church occurred. The local website, NextDoor, was replete with negative comments.

Our officials worked out a protocol with the Fire Marshall that will mean they will be notified when permits have been approved, so that constituents can be made aware.

The Fire Marshall's Office generally requires a permit thirty days before a fireworks display, although that does not always happen. Often, permits are issued one or two weeks before the event once the display site has been inspected and deemed appropriate. Still, this notice should give elected officials an opportunity to notify constituent via various methods beforehand.

Thanks to Senator Hansen and Representative Eric Morrison for resolving this issue."

Helpful Neighborly Info

Jane Masterson was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease (PD) in 1997. Jane and her 25-year partner, Edmund H. Smith, Jr., have not let this disease stop them from enjoying life. They have learned how to cope and how to thrive. They have found solutions to many of the problems this disease presents. In this book, they offer the benefit of their experiences.

Topics covered in this book include:

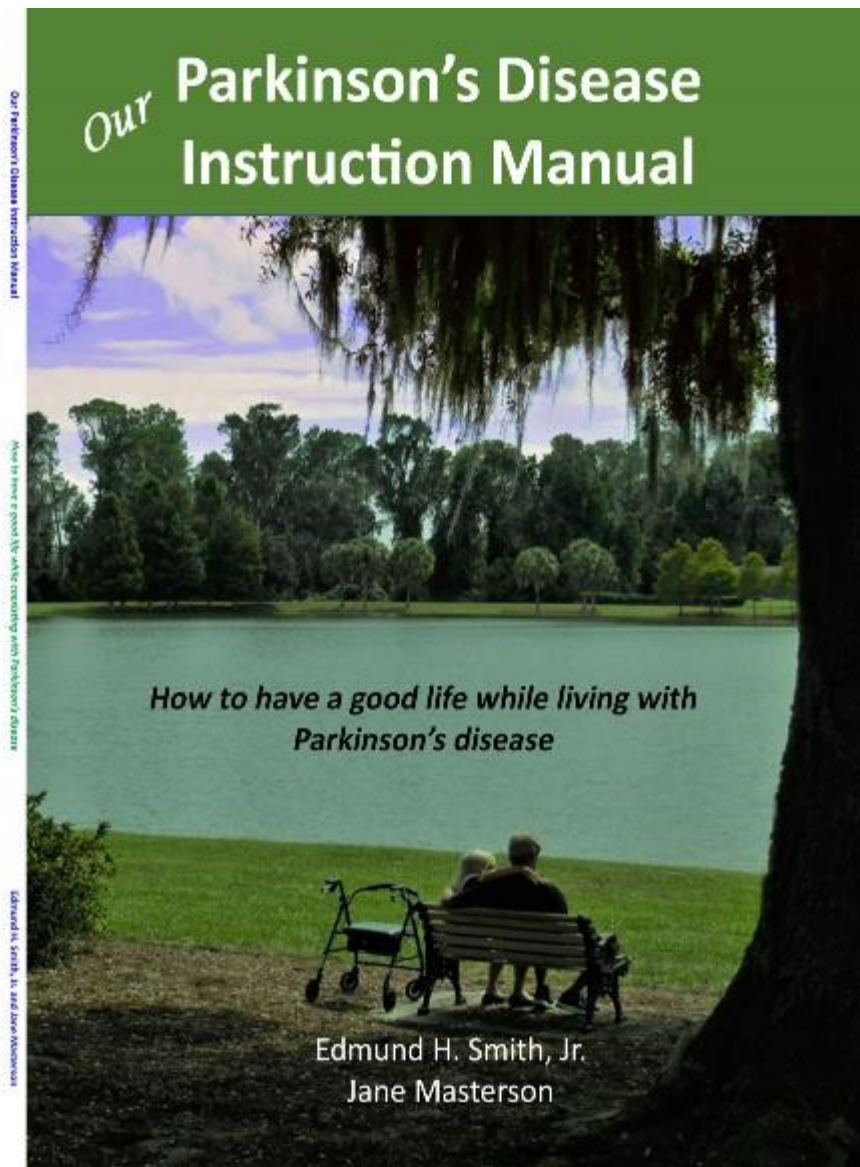
- ✓ How to Get Great Medical Care
- ✓ Learning from Others
- ✓ Exercise
- ✓ Drugs
- ✓ Electronic Gadgets
- ✓ Tricks to Unfreeze
- ✓ Speaking Loudly and Clearly
- ✓ Making the Home PD Friendly
- ✓ The Bathroom
- ✓ The Bedroom
- ✓ Urinary Incontinence
- ✓ Keeping the Caregiver Healthy
- ✓ Assist Devices
- ✓ Increasing Your Mobility
- ✓ Lift Assist
- ✓ Preparing for a Visit to the Hospital
- ✓ Inpatient Rehabilitation
- ✓ Driving
- ✓ Flying
- ✓ Vacationing
- ✓ Parkinson's and Pets

If you or a loved one has Parkinson's disease, you will find information of value in this book. Read Ed and Jane's story. Learn from them. They live with PD while enjoying life. You can too!



Jane Masterson graduated from college with a degree in retail merchandising. During her 30-year career, she was a buyer for three large department stores, and later, worked in information technology (IT) at the corporate level for a chain of women's clothing retailers.

Edmund H. Smith, Jr. is a scientist, engineer, and inventor. He has multiple degrees in electrical engineering. While in graduate school, as a National Defense Fellow, he pioneered coherent parallel optical processing and laser physics. When he left academia, he joined the prestigious Engineering Physics Laboratory of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company where he continued to pioneer laser physics, earning more than a half dozen patents, mostly in medical diagnostic imaging. Ed has a thirst for knowledge, and for sharing that knowledge. Jane's Parkinson's disease has given him focus to learn more about the human body and to use what he learns to help Jane and others.



From Cheryl Dean

“My brother, Edmund H. Smith, Jr., just published a book, “Our Parkinson’s Disease Instruction Manual”. It tells how to have a good life while living with Parkinson’s disease.

Ed, and his co-author, Jane Masterson, each have 25 years of experience with the disease. Jane was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease in 1997.

Even though the book is written about Parkinson’s disease, anyone with a movement disorder may benefit from its contents.

The book is available on Amazon, as a printed book, or as an electronic download that can be read on a Kindle, tablet/laptop computer, or on a smartphone.

The book published in November and has already gone international.”

(Neighborly info cont.)

From **Nancy Weldin**—Info from a friend at UD

These **virtual** workshops are **FREE** to all and consist of six two-and-a-half-hour sessions, held once a week for six weeks, and provide important skills to those with these diseases and/or conditions. The programs are evidence based, were developed by Stanford University and provide Delawareans access to a structured, formal education.

Participants will have workbooks mailed to them so they will need to register for the workshop.

<https://www.healthydelaware.org/Individuals/Self-Management-Programs#program-types>



Free Chronic Pain Workshop

The Delaware Chronic Pain Self-Management Program

More knowledge about chronic pain management can:

Help prevent and/or delay health complications

Identify techniques to help diminish chronic pain

Help people with chronic pain understand the importance of an action plan for chronic pain control

Improve chronic pain self-management

Tuesdays:

2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/15, 3/22

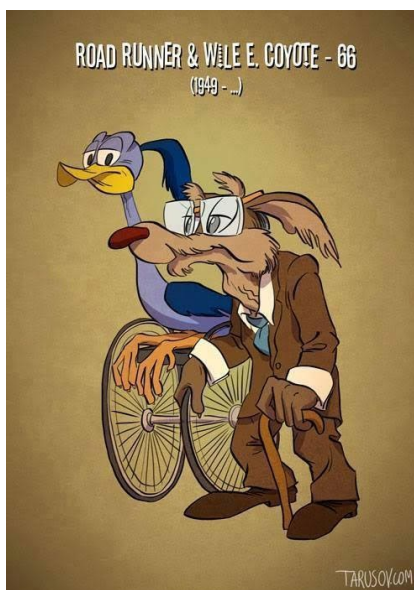
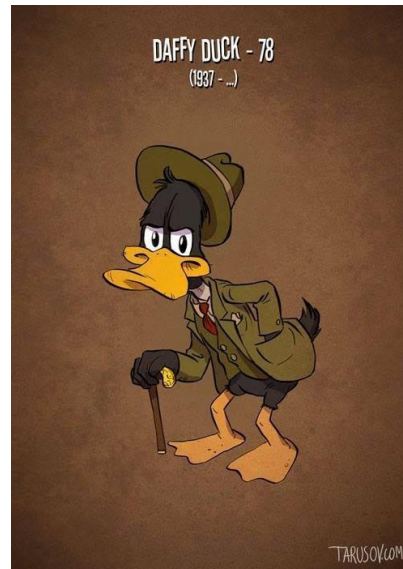
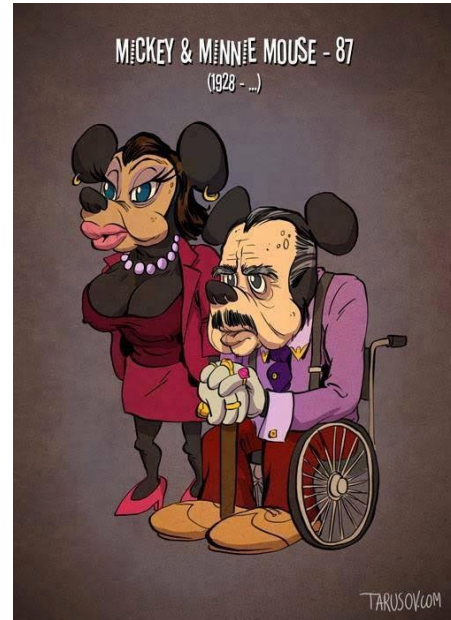
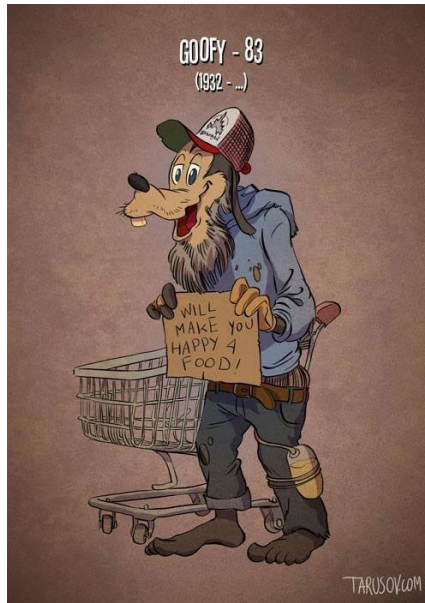
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www.HealthyDelaware.org/SelfManagement

DPHSMP@Delaware.gov

302-990-0522

**Feeling older this morning? You're not alone.
Our favorite cartoon characters are also now seniors ... Say it ain't so!
Submitted by Charlie Pinchot**



When I was young, I was poor. But after years of hard work, I am no longer young.



I've come to the conclusion that I'm a reasonably intelligent person who does moderately stupid things on a semi regular basis.

Spice of Life
www.facebook.com/SpiceofLife

Whoop-Hoo!



YOU'RE ONLY AS OLD AS YOU REMEMBER YOU ARE

Crabby Road 3-26-08

You're never too old to really hurt yourself trying something new.

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HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF MEDICAL PROGRESS, AND ALL YOU CAN TELL ME TO DO IS EAT LESS?

©2007 Universal Uclick

As I have grown older, I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake.

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU DRIVE A MILE TO THE GYM TO WALK A MILE ON A TREADMILL?

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How true

Single	Married
Divorced	

The closest I ever got to a 4.0 in High School was my blood alcohol content.

If stupid could fly, you'd be a jet

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