Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 5

November 1 2026



Photo by **Judy Pannucci**—- How beautiful the colors to welcome us home! Thank you, Garden Club!

COMING UP!





Medication Matters with Sharon Dickol

November 12, 6 PM

Clubhouse

VOLC Board of Directors

May 2026- May 2027

Ruth Leaming, President

Dorene Grant, Vice President

Susie White, Secretary/Treasurer

Eric Dean, At-large

Charlie Pinchot, At-large

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Janet Sanders, Co-chair
Cheryl Ford, Co-chair
Bonnie Anderson
Judy Anderson
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Maryann Fagan, Treasurer
Loretta Fitch
Debbie Fry
Sue Gandy
Nancy Halbedl
JoanMarie Powers
Sharon Mutschler
Dorene Grant, Board Liaison

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Marion Bowman, Chair
Odette Haight
Linda Trach
Ruth Leaming, Board Laison

Clubhouse Committee
Cheryl Werner, Chair/Librarian
Bill Anderson
Judy Anderson
Jean Skelly
Linda Trach

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Sharon Dickol, Chair
Mary Ohara
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Tom Sutor
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Governing Documents Committee
Mary Ohara, Chair
Melody DeVoe
Clara Zawistowski
Ruth Leaming, Board Liaison

Finance Committee
Ken White, Chair
Loretta Dougherty
Mary Ohara
Susie White, Board Liaison

Grounds Team
Dick Grant, Co-chair
Bob Leaming, Co-chair
Eric Dean
Carol Renna

Garden Club
Judy Pannucci, Co-chair
Linda Trach
Bill Anderson
Judy Anderson
Chandrika Thankappan
Linda Trach
Eric Dean, Board Liaison

Welcoming Committee
Susie White, Chair
Odette Haight
Sharon Mutschler
Chandrika Thankappan
Charlie Pinchot, Board Liaison

Contact information for these volunteers 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

Focus on Committees



Welcoming Committee

As its name suggests, this committee is dedicated to greeting new residents and helping them become familiar with the neighborhood. Chaired by Susie White, the committee includes Odette Haight, Sharon Mutschler, and Chandrikamma Thankappan. Charlie Pinchot serves as the Board Liaison.

Once the contact information for new homeowners is received, the committee arranges a welcome visit—armed with a welcome letter from the Board, printouts of essential resources such as our MDRs, trash collection schedules, and login details for the community website, where answers to nearly all common questions can be found.

Most importantly, the committee strives to greet each new neighbor with the warm, friendly spirit that the VOLC is known for.

Finance Committee

This committee is responsible for overseeing the community's financial affairs. Ken White currently serves as Chair, with Loretta Dougherty and Mary Ohara as committee members. Susie White, the Board Treasurer, acts as the Board Liaison. Working alongside IPS Management's Dino Peronti, the committee ensures that the community's needs align with the budget, in accordance with the overarching Delaware Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act (DUCOIA), our bylaws, and the guidance of our professional financial consultants, Miller-Dodson Associates.

In addition to reviewing monthly financial reports, the committee meets each Fall to gather contract details and budget requests from all committees. Using this information, they develop a proposed community budget for the upcoming year. With Board approval, this draft budget is presented at an Open Board/Community meeting in October, where committee members explain anticipated expenditures and answer questions.

Homeowners then vote to approve or reject the final proposed budget. This year's budget vote meeting will be on **November 18 at 6 p.m.**

Neighbors



Left - **Cheryl and Guy Werner's** grandson, Garrett with Dad Guy III, had lots of space to see how far his plane could climb after takeoff on the runway. At right, a Flying Club member prepares his plane for a "meet."



Lum's Pond State Park

Lum's Pond State Park, exactly 4 minutes from the VOLC, has a lot to offer for a nominal fee! Just $5 a carful gets you swimming, boating, hiking, picnic areas, soccer and football fields, basketball courts, playgrounds, tennis, pickleball, volleyball, horseshoes, and a nature center. Then, there's the Go Ape Zip-line and Treetop Adventure. Just outside the main park, covered by the same admission, is the Remote Control flying field, which is where the Werner family found themselves on Labor Day weekend.



Jean Skelly and Odette Haight celebrated **Cheryl Werner's** birthday with dinner at Firebirds.



This Cooper Hawk took a break on the bench at the community entrance after flying from the back common. Cooper hawks are native to Delaware.



Paulette and Ken Francis's home is protected by a mighty frog.



Photo at right - **Janet Sanders** (left) and **Maryann Fagan** (center) attended the exhibition of the Gilded Age held at Lynnwood Hall in Elkins Park, PA.







Below—**Odette Haight, Cheryl Werner and Christine Killian** traveled with the Newark Senior Center to New Hope and Peddlers Village. They first enjoyed a train ride on the New Hope line and then the annual scarecrow contest at the Village. The weather was great, the food was good, and the over 100 contest scarecrows were beyond creative!











Linda Trach couldn't resist snapping a picture of the 12 foot skeleton at Home Depot, nicknamed "Skelly Bones." The close-up view reminded her of a certain VOLC resident with the same name!



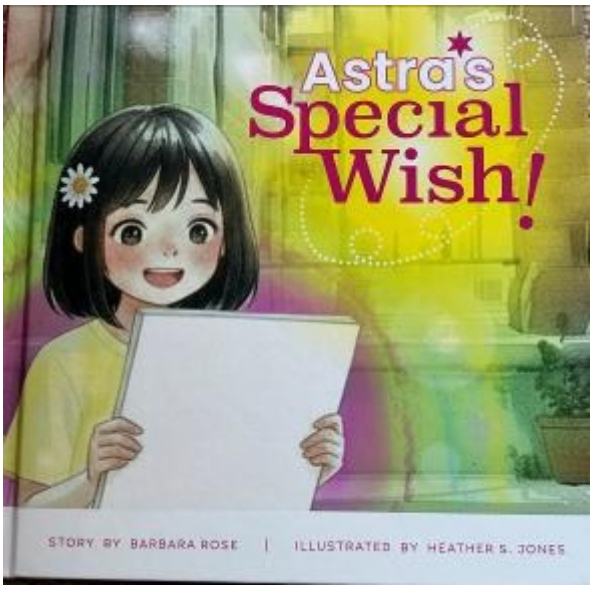
Could **Slim Dickol** be related to Home Depot's Skelly?



Cheryl and Guy Werner (center) cruised the Hudson River with friends, enjoying the views and brunch along the way.

You can't miss the **STOP** sign in the dark now! No excuse—Stop means Stop!

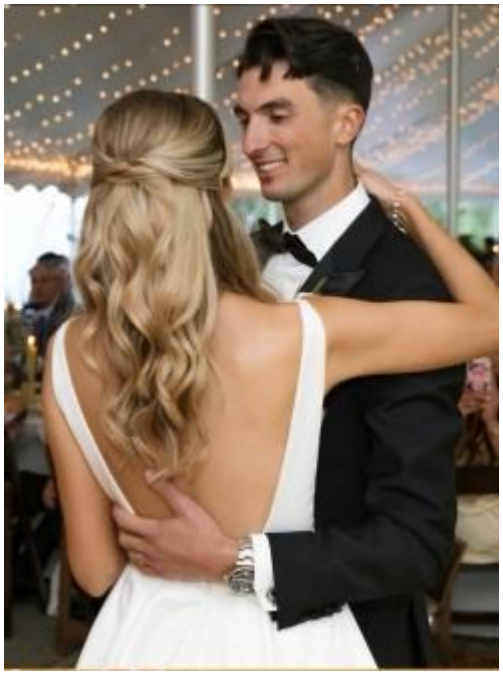




Bob Greenblatt's sister Barbara Rose's children's picture book (geared to ages 4-7) was just published in upstate New York.







JoanMarie Powers' granddaughter, Olivia, was married on a sunny October day in Concord, Massachusetts. Olivia and Danny will make their home in Danvers, MA.

♥♥♥

Autumn in the VOLC







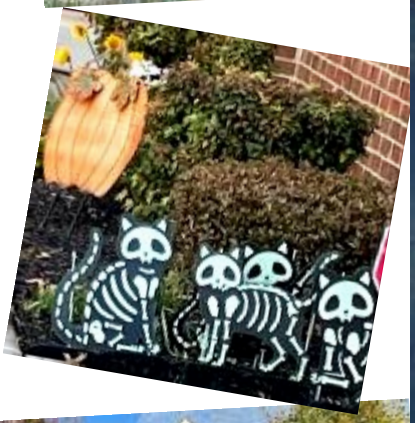








Photo by Donnie Thompson





































Halloween 2026!

Above—The **DeVoe** house had its usual smile-inducing, elaborate holiday display, including the interactive element of inviting guests to help themselves to candy!

It looks like a couple of trick or treaters got into some mischief! Wonder who they were?

Below—**Guy** and **Cheryl Werner's** grandson, 10 year old Garrett, worked with his dad to create a Halloween spectacular, including an animatronic scarecrow complete with a smoke machine! They won first place in the town's scarecrow competition.







Birthdays!



November

Ginny Pelachick	*1st*
Wanda Seach	*3rd*
Susan Basquill	*11th*
Brenda Simmons	*12th*
Matthew Jenkins	*18th*
Clara Zawistowski	*19th*
Judy Anderson	*25th*
Bill Anderson	*27th*



December

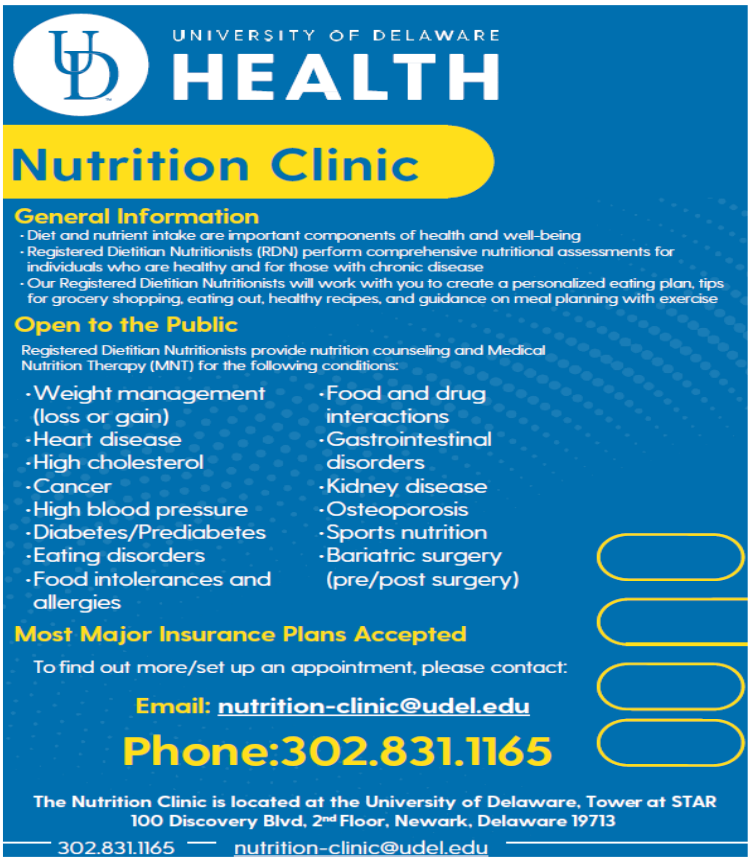
Odette Haight	*3rd*
Janet Sanders	*3rd*
Karl Markiewicz	*4th*
Chip Basquill	*5th*
Nick Inglisa	*8th*
Mike Ostroski	*8th*
Sam Cosby	*9th*
Maryann Fagan	*11th*
Martyanne Grabusky	*17th*
Debora Johnson	*18th*
Joan Dreibelbis	*21st*
Linda Watson	*23rd*
Hank Bole	*26th*
Melanie Cosby	*29th*



Local Resources

Research groups at the **University of Delaware** are always looking for study participants for their work regarding aging. If you sign up for the Community Participant Registry, you will be offered spots in trials and studies that might be of interest to you. Most require your presence at the Star Campus on South College Ave, about 15-20 minutes from the VOLC.





The Star Health Sciences Complex

Physical Therapy for the following conditions

- Stroke
- Parkinson's Disease
- Dizziness/vertigo, vestibular
- Balance/falls
- Concussions
- Total joint replacement
- Arthritis Pain
- Spine (neck and back pain)
- Other neurologic conditions

(Local resources cont.)

The Newark Senior Center

The Newark Senior Center is one of the most active in the nation! Yearly membership is only $35 and that entitles you to quite a lot! There's always something going on!

Take a look online or check it out yourself at:

200 Whitechapel Dr, about 20 minutes from the VOLC. https://www.newarkseniorcenter.com/



Individual Take Home Thanksgiving Dinners

Meals must be ordered by Monday, November 16th & are to be picked up on Wednesday, November 25th, 10am - 11:30am



Roast Turkey Breast, Cornbread Stuffing, Whipped Red Skinned Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Green Beans & Dessert

Cost: $15/meal

Order online at www.newarkseniorcenter.com, by phone at 302-737-2336 or at the Reception Desk by Monday, November 16th

NSC Caregiver Resource Fair

Resources for Those Navigating Busy Lives and Caregiving Responsibilities

Thursday, November 5, 2026

3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

SPECIAL PRESENTATION at 6PM

THE EXIT PLAN - Presented by Carla Grygiel,
former Newark Senior Center Executive Director

The Exit Plan is a practical and informative class designed to help you prepare your family for the future by organizing important documents, financial information, legal plans, and personal wishes before you pass away. Participants will learn how to create a clear roadmap that eases stress for loved ones and ensures their affairs are managed according to their intentions.

Explore resources, ask questions, and gain practical information to help you navigate caregiving while balancing work, family, and everyday responsibilities.

Vendors will be available to answer your questions about:

- Health & Insurance Essentials
- Care Options & Planning
- Brain Health & Dementia Support
- Legal & Financial Basics
- Caregiver Well-Being
- Community Resources & Support

Enter our Caregiver Raffle for a chance to win one of more than 10 prizes donated by our vendors and let us know you are coming.

Click Here to Register

No need to stop at home before you visit us. Snack boxes prepared by the NSC Food Services Staff will be available for you to enjoy! (First come, First Serve)

Free & Open to the Public

No sales. No pressure. Just trusted information, support, and community connection.

FITNESS & EXERCISE PROGRAMS

ARTS & CREATIVE ENRICHMENT

GAMES & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

TRIPS & COMMUNITY OUTINGS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & TALKS

WELLNESS & SUPPORT PROGRAMS

(More resources)



Bear-Glasgow Family YMCA

https://www.ymcade.org/locations/bear-glasgow-ymca

Just down Rte. 40E, about 10 minutes from us, the Y offers a multitude of programs designed for fun and fitness. Many of our residents are members .

Click here to see a short video showcasing the facility's features.

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www.DelExpress.com
GO DELAWARE EXPRESS
Driven By Excellence Since 1984

The Delaware Express Bus Company offers single-day and multi-day trips in addition to private transportation services, such as airport pickup. VOLC residents have traveled with Delaware Express over many years.

Check out what's coming up at: https://www.delexpress.com/

FREE HOME ENERGY CHECK-UP & COUNSELING PROGRAM
An initiative from the State and Delmarva Power

The Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU), operating publicly as **Energize Delaware,** has launched an initiative that will help Delawareans increase the energy efficiency of their home. The program comes with free energy check-ups, home walkthroughs, and energy saving items. There is currently no income requirement.

For more information, you can visit the website here.

Around the clubhouse



The End of Summer cookout featured burgers, dogs, and sloppy joes, along with all the fixings and sides. Dessert and ice cream followed. Bob Leaming was again the Grill Master.

The cookout was organized by the Activities Committee.

Above—September birthdays were celebrated at the party. From left—**Grace Hobson, Christine Killian, Nancy Halbedl, Sue Gandy, and Debbie Fry.**





September's Get Artsy session was dedicated to decorating the clubhouse. Participants put together fabric pumpkins which serve as table centerpieces, lending a seasonal flair.

Left—**Nancy Halbedl, Judy Anderson and Maureen Graham.**













Bingo is played every second Tuesday of the month. Pizza first at 6! Call Bonnie Anderson to get your share.

*Above, left—***Rena Jackson and Jean Skelly ,** *Center—Ball caller* **Linda Trach,**

*Right—***Sharon Mutschler and Justine Gilbert,** *foreground, and* **Martyanne Grabusky and Sue Gandy** *in background.*



Participants in October's Get Artsy class turned out personalized beverage coasters. Each crafter used photos of her own choice. Starting with blank ceramic tiles, they covered the surface with paste, applied the photo, and brushed on another coat of paste. When dry, they finished by spraying with a sealant.

*Left to right—***Chandrikamma Thankappan** *chose photos of elaborate flower arrangements from a an Indian festival. She's still designing more and giving them as well-received gifts!*

Nancy Halbedl's *coasters feature closeups of her grandchildren.*

Linda Trach *chose colorful photos of granddaughter, Gianna, enjoying the beach.*

Maureen Graham's *photos-made-coasters were black and white snapshots from her childhood.*

The coasters are all different and unique, and they will make great conversation starters!







At the Friday Meetup, Three Wise Women illustrated the old adage, "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil..."

From left—**Grace Hobson, Linda Trach, and Paulette Francis.**



Wednesday Cards!

Calling all card payers or card-player wannabes...

A lively group of residents gathers each Wednesday at 6:30 to play the card game Sevens. The beauty of this game is that it's easy to learn and fun to play. No too-serious, brooding players here! There's some strategy of course, but mostly fun! Bring some pennies for the bets! Even if you lose—you win!

For questions or to let the group know you're coming and/or want to learn, contact Mary Ohara.

Friday Meetup—every week at 3 PM. Join us!



Left—Friends celebrated **Grace Hobson's** birthday at a Friday Meetup and again later at Baker's Restaurant.

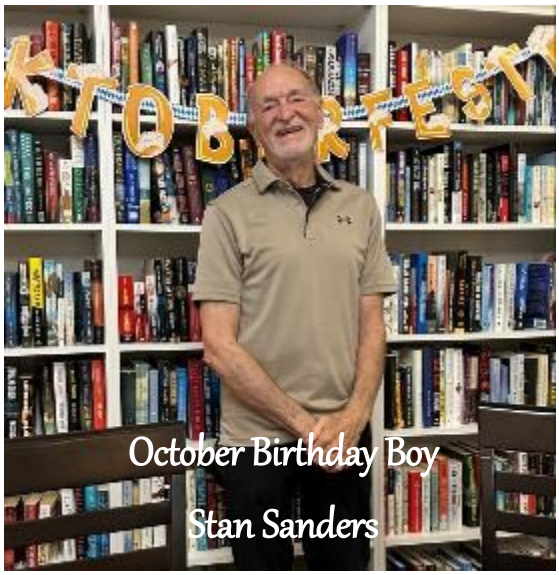
Grace was crowned the birthday queen!



Garden Committee members, **Mim Krout and Judy Anderson** got their hands dirty dressing the commons' gardens for Fall!

Scenes from Oktoberfest

The annual Oktoberfest celebration was an energetic affair under the guidance of Christine Killian, working with the Activities Committee.



October Birthday Boy

Stan Sanders



Janet Sanders, Chandrika Thankappan, Bonnie Anderson, and Christine Killian









(Oktoberfest cont.)









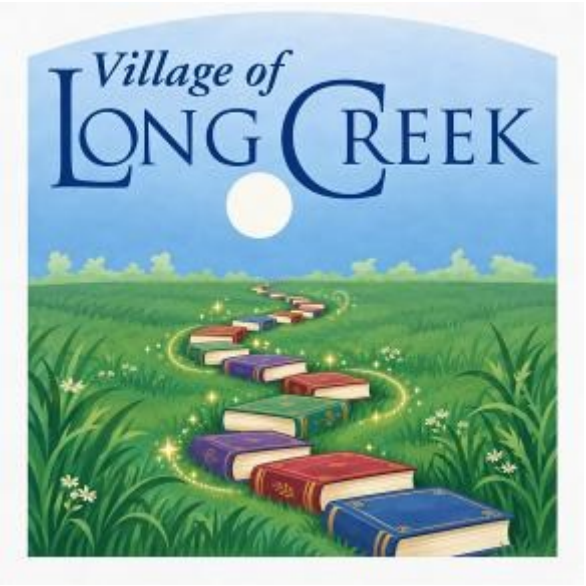








Did you know?



That all of the books in the VOLC Library are donated?

That there is no checkout or due date?

That you may take as many as you want at one time?

That new books are constantly being added , while others are weeded and passed on?

That the fiction books of the collection are on the main library wall, shelved in alphabetical order by the author's last name?

That nonfiction books are housed in the bookcase to left of the fireplace?

Featured books new to the collection

J.P. Beaumont series by J.A. Jance featuring homicide detective J.P. Beaumont, a series of 24 books filled with unexpected twists and turns. (Found on the fiction shelf next to the fireplace. Recently donated by Barb Doto, former resident):

Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear—The bestselling Book 1 of 18 in a series about a WWI nurse turned private investigator .

The Five Star Weekend by Elin Hildebrand—Hildebrand is one of the most prolific living writers and one of the most popular authors in our collection. Her Summer Books about Nantucket are often made into streaming TV series, including this one , recently made into a Peacock series starring Jennifer Garner.

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict—A novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune

Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon—a gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

It ends with Us by Colleen Hoover— a "brave and heartbreaking novel that digs its claws into you and doesn't let go, long after you've finished it"

Love Me Back by Merritt Tierce—A defiant story about a young woman choosing the life and mother-hood that is best for her, without apology."

A Gambling Man by David Baldacci—Aloysius Archer, the straight-talking World War II veteran fresh out of prison, returns in this riveting #1 *New York Times* bestselling thriller from David Baldacci.



Library continued...

Did you know?

That the big file cabinet in the meeting room holds jigsaw puzzles.

That the same rules apply:

No checkout

No restricted number or due date

Please keep pieces in sealed plastic bags.

There's more ...

You'll find a CD/DVR rack in the workout room for borrowing.

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Beyond the VOLC—Do you know about Libby?

Libby is a free app which allows you to search for books, audiobooks, and e-books by author, title, or subject, just like you would if physically in a library.

When you download Libby, and register your local library card, the whole of Delaware's public library collections are open to you in one networked database. If the book is available in any DE library, you can pick it up locally or download it immediately in e-book format. You can even put a book on hold, and Libby will let you know when it's your turn to take it or defer to a later time.

Check it out!

At right—Administrators from **the Kennett Underground Railroad Center** spoke in the clubhouse in September. Their presentation included stories of those abolitionists who conducted freedom seekers on their way north using the eastern route, passing through Wilmington.

Pictured from left to right: Adrian Burston, Crystal Crampton Center President, and Debbie Burston, speaker.

The VOLC Speaker Series is hosted by the Clubhouse Committee.





Loretta Dougherty, Christine Killian, and Loretta Fitch attended the event.

Below—**Jean Skelly** checks the tasting table at the **Tastefully Simple Party** that she hosted in the clubhouse.





Above—Gus Mercante the TS associate made last minute preparations of a Chai beverage toast.



Bonnie Anderson, Wanda Search, and Maryann Fagan enjoyed the tastings.



The event netted $500 for the Food Bank of Delaware.

From left—Volunteer Coordinator, Taylor Momot, **Jean**, State Representative Eric Morrison, and **Cheryl Werner**

Ah—those OXYMORONS!

The English language is truly a masterpiece. It can put two completely opposite words together and somehow convince us they make perfect sense.

Submitted by : **Chandrikamma Thankappan**

1.Found Missing

2.Open Secret

3. Small Crowd

4. Act Naturally

5. Clearly Misunderstood

6. Fully Empty

7.Pretty Ugly

8. Seriously Funny

9. Only Choice

10.Original Copies

11.Exact Estimate

12.Tragic Comedy

13.Foolish Wisdom

14.Liquid Gas

15. Working Holidays

Then came the modern classic.:

Social Distancing

