

# Neighborhood Newsletter

**Winter  
2017**

Volume 7, Number 4

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*Calendars, courtesy of Blue Mountain eCards*

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

May 2016-May 2017

Patti Abernethy, President  
302-836-8447

Ray Krout, Treasurer  
302-738-3468

Pam Smith, Secretary  
302-838-2804

Jane Crowe  
302-365-6846

Susan Brubaker  
302-834-1671

## **VOLC STANDING COMMITTEES**

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Steve Brubaker, Co- Chair  
Eric Dean, Co-Chair  
Jane Crowe  
Gene Fitch  
Lois Inglisa  
George Lulli

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Barb Doto  
Bob Greenblatt  
Mary Legreid  
Tom Skelly

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Len Krygowski  
Dennis Sabato  
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Maria Tricarico

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Linda Trach, Co-Chair  
Susan Brubaker  
Melody DeVoe  
Barb Doto  
Odette Haight  
Mary Ohara

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Wanda Search, Co-Chair  
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Loretta Fitch, Activities  
Cheryl Ford, Activities  
Mary Ohara, Treasurer  
JoanMarie Powers, Activities  
Janet Sanders, Activities  
Jean Skelly, Activities  
Cheryl Werner, Librarian

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Brook Kortvelesy  
Ron Peeples  
Brenda Simmons  
Nancy Weldin  
Guy Werner—Data

### **Clubhouse Garden Club**

Don Doto, Coordinator  
Judy Davis  
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)***

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# From the Board

Dear Residents,

Best wishes to you and yours in 2017! God bless you each one! Much has happened during the holiday season for us all--family, friends, decorations, great food--and now we go forward into the New Year with some upcoming issues taking shape close to us. This is a good time and place to remind us all of what we know to date, and we continue to welcome your ongoing support and involvement.

1. **Holiday Wishes were sent to our elected officials and to the NCCo Department Staff** (Sen. Bethany Hall-Long, Rep. Earl Jaques, Councilman Dave Tackett, Valerie George, Myron Marshall, Tanner Polce, Dave Hokuf, Janice Catherman, Chuck Leary, Matt Lichtenstein, and George Haggerty) We sent our personal thanks of behalf of all residents as only befitting the time and efforts they have put out on our behalf and their availability to us at a moment's notice. "Thanks so much for your continued help and guidance to us here in the Village of Long Creek. We remember you in our churches, in prayers, and ask for what it is you need the most--between you and your God. We are blessed to have you in our lives and wish the best for you and those you love in 2017! If there is any way we can help you as well, feel free to call on us to extend our hands in friendship and support. With gratitude and with sincere wishes for a blessed season! The Village of Long Creek Residents"
2. **Basins and their surrounds--An update on where we are and what to expect**
  - a. **Basin #7** (the one by KinderCare off Glasgow Avenue): This one is to start ASAP.
  - b. **Basin #5**: No final word on the kind of basin or when the work will start. We keep asking.
  - c. **Basin #4**: Duffield Associates has met with a team here and will begin its forensic analysis of this basin in early January. The focus will be on how well the basin is functioning--water removed within 48 hours, soil sufficient to grow plants (as that bad compost was in #5, #7, and #4), etc.
  - d. **Other basins**: Some need mulch fluffing (spreading out evenly) and others need mulch replacement, especially Basin #2. (Note: Our capital reserves provide for this kind of task).
  - e. **Trees and shrubs missing or dead**: NCCo has advised us that the landscape architect will come in the late summer to "verify" that the plants/trees planted in late 2014 are still alive. Then, an agreement will be made about what has to be replaced or if the VOLC wants/agrees to fewer replacements. If we want fewer trees around the basins (as some residents have clearly expressed), this entire community would have to vote approval of any landscape changes from the original landscape design--66% approval. When we were asked about this at a recent meeting, we replied that we would gladly ask our community for this vote. Details will come your way, and know that, as in the past, you will be FULLY INFORMED prior to a vote being taken. We might also decide that based on the findings, we want another firm to do this work for us and we can ask the developer to give us the money and we follow through on the plantings ourselves. These are options for us to consider. Our disappointment is that we all thought we would have replacements this spring as per previous conversations with NCCo. Now we have it confirmed that we must wait until the full three years are over--well, almost.

### 3. Glasgow Commons Shopping Center

You have seen the letter sent to our elected officials and to DelDOT about the fact that getting out of Paxson Lane will be a problem when 12K more cars traverse Old Glasgow Avenue when this new center is complete. The response from DelDOT explains that it is the developer's financial responsibility "up to three (3) streets from the shopping center itself." The traffic study for the developer includes egresses from Peoples Plaza, Glasgow Medical Center, and Cann Road. This means that "fixes" are what the developer must include in his budget. What happens for Paxson Lane, Marlin Drive, and Old County Road, is what DelDOT has to consider. If there were a light at Old County Road, it could be timed with Glasgow Medical

Center and we would be in good shape to egress. However, that is not the proposal YET. We have to ask for more attention to this aspect of our own safety. For more immediate safety, we also asked if the speed on Old Glasgow Avenue could be reduced for 45 mph to 35 mph. They said it is not possible at this time, but maybe we can ask for one of those speed signs that indicate actual driving speed to the driver. Know that when DelDOT clocked the speed of drivers on Old Glasgow Avenue, it was an average of 53 mph by Paxson Lane. **Yes, 53 mph!** More work needs to be done on this aspect for our safety. A few volunteers are needed to take this under their wings and send the letters needed, get the signatures needed (or whatever we find would work well), and get that speed sign as a reminder in the interim. Then, we continue to work on getting that light at Old County Road. Please contact a board member--help is needed, please volunteer.

#### **ADA driveway/sidewalk update**

Nothing new to share at this time since our letter was sent to the Secretary of Transportation asking why she “threw us under the bus” and signed off on NO RESPONSIBILITY for the builder and no safety for the 30 homeowners who fall in this category. New information should be coming our way in January about the DOJ taking our case. We will tell you as soon as we know.

#### **Maintenance Declaration of Restrictions**

The committee is close to finalization of the revisions. The intent is to have them reviewed by the attorney before the end of January. Once the attorney approves the revisions, the committee will present the changes to the community for voting. This is a huge project and this Governing Documents Committee has been working tirelessly to complete this work for us all. THANK YOU to each and every one!

#### **VOLC Meeting Dates**

January /February -- Planning meetings of the board and all will be invited to attend

March 9 -- Asking for volunteers to run for the board

April 6 -- Sharing the cross-functional calendar of Board and Committee responsibilities and activities (This provides the “HOW TO” for planning short-and long-term.)

May 11 -- Voting for the Executive Board for 2017-2018

#### **Board Members needed for 2017-2018**

Board members have helped make the progress we see here in the VOLC MC. Some of the harder details are behind us and only a few elements remain. IPS continues to do more of the details that board members assumed previously. This will continue and make it even easier for residents to volunteer. Remember that this is a volunteer board and volunteer committees and we need to take turns in our volunteer work. Please balance your personal needs responsibilities and see if this year is good for taking your turn at volunteering for 2017-2018. Your help, your perspective, your ideas are always welcome.

#### **THANKS--we always end with that, don't we?**

THANKS is a word that never grows old (although we do a little bit each year, don't we?). THANKS for all you do for any individual here or for many of us through the committees and their works and services. Our elected officials, IPS staff, NCCo department staff, and other communities speak of our stellar involvement as unlike what they have ever experienced--we are the most active community with whom they have dealt, our involvement with one another and on important issues, is salutary--a model for others. Our residents have made this the community of mention for all that is good. We are blessed and say THANK YOU to each and every one, each and every day!

Best to you all in 2017--for health and what you want and need most!

Fondly,  
*Ray Krout, Patti Abernethy, Susan Brubaker, Pam Smith, and Jane Crowe*



## 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.

**Activities:** Another successful year of VOLC activities has passed, and plans are well-underway for 2017. Look for your favorite ongoing events as well as some new ones. We'll have a *Chinese New Year Celebration* on January 28 and a *Chili Cook-off* in February. And, you won't want to miss this one—*Back To The Hop with The Big Bopper* on March 25. The clubhouse will be rocking to the tunes of the 50's, 60's, and 70's, as sung by Gary Baker, Maryland's own Big Bopper.

Mark your calendars now for next year's *Holiday Party*. We'll be trying a new venue and a new time—December 3rd, from 1-5 PM at the Executive Banquet & Conference Center, a stone's throw from here on Executive Drive, off of 896-N.

Stay tuned for details on these events, and in the meantime, check the Activities Calendar on the community website for all dates and times. Just click the Activities button at the top of the home page.

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

See you there!

**Communications:** The emergency phone chain test has been completed and the lists updated. Please keep your copy handy in case of an emergency. The lists can also be found on the VOLC website under Resident Directories.

Let Barb Doto know if you'd like to have your VOLC contact published in the directory. This is the person you designate to have such things as your family's contact information, the key to your house, and/or instructions as to what to do with your pet. Make sure to read Sharon Dickol's detailed article, page 23, on the need for emergency planning.

**Grounds:** Tom Skelly has turned over the reins of this busy committee to Steve Brubaker and Eric Dean. With winter upon us, make sure to read "Know the Snow," on page 6, and keep the information handy for your reference. Pertinent phone numbers are listed there.

**Governing Documents:** The committee working on revising the deed restrictions according to the wishes of the residents is nearly finished with its work. The resulting will be reviewed by our attorney and will then be presented to the community for a vote.

## KNOW THE SNOW (2016-2017)

*From Steve Brubaker and Eric Dean - Grounds Co-Chairs*

Here is how the current snow removal program works:

This winter, Altra, Inc., will be providing our snow removal services. The snow contract will expire on 10/31/18 (2 year contract). VOLC will become responsible for snow removal for the roads once they are accepted by New Castle County and turned over to VOLC.

For Lot Services: no snow removal is authorized for accumulations of less than 1 inch. No snow removal will be performed without the consent of the VOLC Board. Altra, Inc. will be notified by either a Board member, the Grounds Chairman, or IPS (our management company). Snow measurement is official as found on the State of Delaware DOT website. The total cost of snow removal is determined by the depth of the snow, multiplied by the number of lots, plus the common area and the roads (when turned over).  
For the Streets: snow removal starts when the accumulation is 3” or more.

Our snow removal company typically provides 6 - 8 workers, including the bobcat driver, who arrive within 60 minutes after it stops snowing. No salt/ice melt is used.

The use of the bobcat greatly increases the speed of snow removal, thus reducing cost. However, the bobcat also may, on occasion, cause some damage to surrounding lawns and other areas. Bobcats will only be used on the driveways and never on sidewalks. On sidewalks, hand shoveling only is done. Trucks with plows will not be used on driveways.

Damage to walkways/sidewalks/driveways/other should be reported, when observed, to Steve Brubaker or his backup Eric Dean at the VOLC Snow number - (302) 455-8428. This number also receives text messages and takes voice messages. Alternately email: [volc.rocks@gmail.com](mailto:volc.rocks@gmail.com)

Damage to the grass should be reported immediately when it is noticed. At the end of the snow season a full list will be provided to the snow removal company. Grass repair will take place at the same time as spring clean-up.

The snow removal company will be provided with guidelines for snow removal before the snow season begins, addressing such issues as snow removal by the mail boxes, at the handicapped sidewalk ramps, and other issues raised by the residents.

We ask that all vehicles parked on the street or in the driveway be removed (if possible) when it snows to facilitate snow removal.

Snow Team Committee: Steve Brubaker, Eric Dean, Gene Fitch, Patti Abernethy, Jane Crowe.

**PLEASE RETAIN THIS INFORMATION**  
**FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

## VOLC—Then and Now

Thanks go to Alice Clabaugh and her son, Scott, who took these aerial shots of the community, both as it was being built, and just this past November, upon completion.

The photos are from 2009, 2014, and November 2016, respectively.

Thanks, Alice and Scott, for sending them on!



# VOLC Autumn





*Jean and Tom Skelly's grandchildren were all dressed for Halloween. Above—Natalie; Center, Kyle; and at left, Joshua, Jojo, and Dad, Joey.*



*This row—Meghan models her candy corn outfit, courtesy of Grandma Jean. At right, bookend sisters are Elizabeth at left and Caroline, on the right.*



*(Halloween Cont.)*



*Marilyn Abrams' grandchildren celebrated Halloween in Maryland.*



*MT Lednum's grandchildren are ready for Halloween. At left, Addy and Reece are stylin' and lookin' happy. At right, Chase and John are ready!*

*(Halloween Cont.)*



*At 14 months old, Janet and Stan Sanders' grandson, David, used Halloween to let everyone know what he wants to be when he grows up.*



*Nancy Halbedl's granddaughter, Annie, makes a fine Little Bo Peep, watching over her sheep, brother Daniel.*



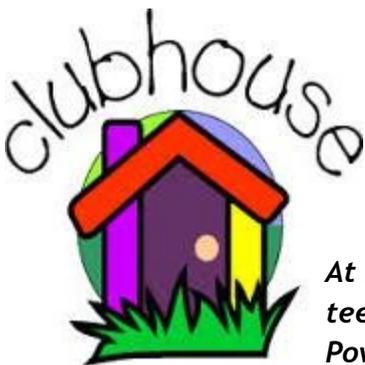
*Patti Abernethy's grand nephew, Rowan, a young Spider Man, is delighted to get his share of Halloween candy.*



*Above are the Krouts' grandchildren - Frances as Pippi Longstocking in Philadelphia, and Graham, as a dinosaur in Arlington VA.*



around the



Soup and Salad Night was held on October 8, a cold and rainy night. The variety of soups served with salad and crusty bread offered up just the right amount of comfort.

*At right—Activities Committee members, JoanMarie Powers and Jean Skelly, chat with Jean Roberts, Judy Davis and Nancy Halbedl.*



*Pizza/Bingo Night is held once a month, and residents are invited to partake of one or both. Pizza is ordered from Dominick's on Route 40, and \$5 buys 2-3 slices and a soft drink. The cover charge for Bingo is \$5 and that includes one card. Any additional cards are priced at \$1 each.*

*Above at left, part of the loyal group who gather each month. At right—Mary Legreid, co-chair of the Activities Committee, handles the calls.*



*Halloween Happy Hour - At left, Joan Holstein and Don Doto; Center, Nancy Halbedl, Wanda Search and Mary Legreid; at right, Cathy Brindle.*

*(Clubhouse cont.)*



*October brought Happy Birthday wishes to five VOLC residents. From left—Stan Sanders, Susan Brubaker, Jo Skidmore, Barb Doto, and Ken Smith.*



*November birthday babies included from right— Gene Fitch, Wanda Search and Jim Eaton.*



*A group of VOLC residents gathered on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to decorate the clubhouse Christmas tree and hang wreaths and garland.*

*At left— Some of those with the VOLC Christmas spirit—left—Wanda Search, Lee Morris, Loretta Fitch; right— Jean Skelly, Paul Wellborn, and JoanMarie Powers.*



*This year's New Year's Eve Party was combined with Happy Hour and Birthdays. A few hearty residents stayed to celebrate the official start of 2017 and toasted with appropriate gusto. At right, December's birthday babies — Janet Sanders, Jim Powers, Joan Dreibelbis, and JoanMarie Powers' guest, Carolyn Harris.*



# At Home

With Mim and Ray Krout

## *Life as Journey*

When they moved into the VOLC, Ray and Mim Krout liked to joke that their house was the only one that all the neighbors had been in. Benchmark used their corner Dickinson as its model and sales location, so most of us chose our flooring, countertops and cabinets in what is now the Krouts' garage. Yes, we do know this house!



Today, the home retains some of the Benchmark furniture, draperies, and artwork, but the couple has made it uniquely their own. Beautiful hand-made items and special artwork, many from their travels, are displayed on walls, in lighted curio cabinets, and in Mim's great-grandmother's china closet. A standing giraffe, named Ellie, from St. Augustine FL, holds a special place near the great-room stairway, a mobile given as a house-warming gift hangs in the sun room, and the chess set from Mexico is always ready for grandchildren's play. A full-size flannel quilt, made by Mim in her upstairs sewing room, brightens the sofa. Ray's hand-made "grandmother" clock stands in the dining room. The furnishings reflect the couple's love of travel and handcrafts.



Travel for the Krouts has come in many forms. Mim saw a good part of the world as a trade show operator for Dow Chemical, working in such far-flung places as Japan, China, Taiwan, Germany, and Korea. She was always sure to schedule time before the shows for touring and met people in other countries whose friendship she retains. As a technical rep for DuPont, Ray's work took him to China, Japan, and nearly every state. After serving in the Marine Corps for three years of active duty, he continued in the Reserves for twenty six years, retiring as a Sgt. Major. After successful careers, both Mim and Ray are now retired.

More recently, their travels have been of the missionary/service type. As congregants at Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church, they have traveled extensively as part of the Appalachia Service Project, working to make homes "Warmer. Safer. Drier." They have done everything from installing dry wall, removing tree limb supports and replacing them with secure cement foundations, to painting, ripping out and installing floors, and building wheelchair ramps.

Ray remembers how grateful people were when he was helping in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina and helping a family in Appalachia whose roof had blown off. He also travels to Maine yearly, where the group stays in the dormitories at the state university.

(At Home cont.)

Over this past Columbus Day, Mim traveled with a group of eight to Costa Rica, bringing fabric and sewing lessons to help the women make clothing for their children. In November, they both went to Indiana, and on a regular basis, they volunteer for Meals on Wheels, the Food Bank of Delaware, and church-related activities, such as Friendship Loves At Night. When the temperature dips below zero, a Code Purple is declared by this group, and Ray and Mim join in making vegetable beef soup and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless. Mim works with the Faith, Hope, and Love quilters, who provide quilts to newborns, the ill, and shut-ins at their church. Both Mim and Ray expressed how appreciative people are for their help and how gratifying it is to be able to give it.



The couple also loves to travel just for fun and leisure, most recently visiting friends in Indiana and Ohio.

Cruising has taken them to the Caribbean, South America, the Baltic States, and Alaska. They've climbed a thousand stairs in Austria to an ice cave with a skating rink and marveled at an amazing French river lock working sideways on a hill on the Napoleon Waterway. Closer to home, they own a timeshare in Massanutten Resort in Virginia, where they love to golf. While there, they can also visit Mim's daughter and husband, who recently bought a winery. Helping them harvest grapes was a recent highlight. They reciprocate visits with friends they've made over the years and have even customized their home to provide maximum privacy for family and visitors from Taiwan and Germany.



Both are avid golfers at Back Creek. Ray plays on two leagues, Mim on one. During the winter months, Ray enjoys his time with a bowling league.

On November 16, the couple celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary. They married on St. Thomas, cementing their commitment to a shared love of adventure. Between them, they have five children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grands. Moving to VOLC from Gray Acres, just six miles down the road, helped Ray and Mim settle in easily. Ray brings his past experience in civic associations to serve as Treasurer on the VOLC Board. When not exercising in her basement gym, Mim can be seen power-walking around the neighborhood, and both participate in community social events. They agree that there's still a lot to see and do, and that the Village of Long Creek is the right spot from which to continue their journey.



Story by Cheryl Wemer

Photos by Bob Greenblatt

# Christmas In VOLC



## Annual Holiday Party



Enjoying dinner at the VOLC Embassy Suites annual Holiday Party are, at left— Len Krygowski and Odette Haight. At right—Cathy Brindle, Norm Petterson , Jo Anne Skidmore and Richard Cutone.



This year's party featured a talent show, and several VOLCers showed their best. Above from left—Mary Legreid, who told the audience what happens on the Twelve Days After Christmas, Mary Ohara and Jean Skelly, who performed to the song "Sisters" from the movie White Christmas, Stan Sanders, "The Great Sandini," who offered a magic act, and Jean Skelly who twirled. At right, Paul Wellborn played the banjo and led the audience in a sing-along.



At left, performers and magician's assistants take one last bow. Assistants: Second from left, JoanMarie Powers, second from right, Sonja Lemanski, and extreme right, Judy Davis.

## Holiday Open House/Tour

Weather forced a rain date for the second Annual VOLC House Tour/Open House. However, hosts were in high spirits and "Tourists" were treated to goodies, toasts, and unique holiday decorations. Variety and personal tradition were the hallmarks of the day.



*Patti Abernethy's house is trimmed in red and green everywhere you look. Top left—a feast of sweet and salty goodies, at right—a glimpse of the overall scene. Center left—The DR crèche scene is surrounded by angels. Center right—Patti's Christmas cactus amazed visitors with the size and profusion of blossoms.*



*Above—Decorations in white and blue adorn every room of Jim and JoanMarie Powers' home. At right, JoanMarie stands with the main tree in her great room. The snowman greets visitors in the front room and even the staircase is glammed up.*



*Traditional red and green trimmings are seen at the Werner residence. The nine foot tree dominates the great room, and Cheryl displays her caroler collection and Christmas village. The dining room table is set for the family Christmas dinner.*



*Jean and Tom Skelly cheerfully opened their home for a second year. At right—the main tree in the great room, is pretty in silver and white. Above—Jean's Santa collection greets visitors as they enter. At right— cabinets filled with Santas and memories. Every room is dressed for Christmas.*





*It's a country Christmas at Loretta and Gene Fitch's house. The main tree, shown at left, is adorned with hand-made items, including the star topper that Loretta made from milkweed pods. At top, right—A country Santa welcomes you at the front door; clockwise - an angel tree and antique Santas both in sleigh and lined up above await. There's so much to see!*



*At left—a Christmas village sits beneath Joe and Barbara Strasser's tree. Above—the crèche is lovingly arranged. At right—the "Navy Tree," reflecting Joe's long career, with the Libertad (Joe's first ship) ornament given a prominent spot.*



# VOLC Travels



*Cathy Brindle recently visited Texas with 120 friends for her late husband's USS Albany Reunion. The event is held in a different state every year, and this was their 27th yearly meet-up.*

*At left, Cathy is shown atop a longhorn steer at the Fort Worth Stockyard Historic District. Yes, it's real! At right, a peek at the gardens of Joe T. Garcia's Mexican Restaurant, which seats over a thousand people and serves delicious food in a beautiful setting.*



*When Ray and Mim Krout recently visited high school friends in Ohio they visited Veterans Memorial park in Clinton. They report that, "It is a wonderful tribute to our Armed forces and those whose sacrifice their lives for us from the Korean War up until now."*



(Travel cont.)

During Linda and George Middleton's recent trip south, they stopped in at the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, an attraction that features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible.



They also traveled to Hendersonville, NC, where they attended Linda's family reunion. There, Linda met up with some first cousins she hadn't seen in over 50 years. Each one of her mother's siblings was represented. In this photo, Aunt Margaret is in the center, George and Linda on each end.



**JANUARY**

Justine Gilbert	1st
JoanMarie Powers	2nd
Jane Crowe	16th
Lois Inglisa	17th
John Dean	27th

**FEBRUARY**

Maria De Armas	2nd
Ray Krout	8th
George Middleton	9th
Loretta Fitch	12th
Alice Clabaugh	27th
Joe Lemanski	27th
Bob Kortvelesy	27th

**MARCH**

Ray Whiteoak	8th
Bob Dickol	10th
Steve Brubaker	20th
Pat Crowe	25th
Rossana Palermo	26th

## Are You Prepared For a Medical Emergency?

By Sharon Dickol #62

Owner of AgeWise Solutions

<http://www.agewisesolutions.com/>



You go outside to get the mail and BAM—you slip and fall. While the bruises and broken bones hurt, getting injured—or suddenly taking ill—is worse when you are not prepared. Getting the right information into the right hands is critical. Follow these tips to be ready for unexpected health emergencies:

**Establish an emergency contact.** Keep the person’s name and numbers in your cell phone and wallet and on your refrigerator. Give the contact information to a trusted neighbor (or two), as a neighbor is often first on the scene.

**Keep a list of your medications** in your wallet or purse, and post it on your refrigerator. Include the dosages and frequency. Emergency responders will relay this information if you are transported to the hospital. Also give the list to a relative.

**Use a service to store your medical information.** There are several good options:

Smart 911 - This free service stores your health and medication information in a secure database. First responders have access, which can prove life-saving during an emergency. Visit [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com) to sign up.

Vial of Life and File of Life - These kits provide what you need to store essential medical information on your fridge, where first responders can readily see it. Visit [www.vialoflife.com](http://www.vialoflife.com) and [www.folife.org](http://www.folife.org) for details.

**Get a personal emergency response system.** These devices, activated by the push of a button, summon help when you are hurt. Some offer fall detection, sending help even when you can’t call for it. [Research options](#) before you buy. Contact me for a list of questions to ask as you decide.

You can’t prevent medical emergencies. However, you can soften their blow by preparing ahead. Take the time now to organize your medical information; it saves time when every second counts.





# STOP

## flushing your old medications!

Drugs that are flushed down the toilet, or otherwise improperly disposed of, can contaminate groundwater.

**Safely dispose of unused, expired, or unwanted medications at collection sites across Delaware.**

Visit [www.DelawareHealthyHomes.org](http://www.DelawareHealthyHomes.org)  
for the location nearest you!

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### Collection Site Locations

#### New Castle County

Newark Police Department  
220 S. Main St.  
Newark, DE 19711  
302-366-7111

New Castle County Police  
Department  
3601 N. DuPont Hwy.  
New Castle, DE 19720  
302-573-2800

#### Kent County

Dover Police Department  
400 S. Queen St.  
Dover, DE 19904  
302-736-7111

Smyrna Police Department  
325 W. Glenwood Ave.  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
302-653-9217

Camden Police Department  
1783 Friends Way  
Camden, DE 19934  
302-698-9232

Harrington Police Department  
20 Mechanic St.  
Harrington, DE 19952  
302-398-4493

#### Sussex County

Selbyville Police Department  
68 W. Church St.  
Selbyville, DE 19975  
302-436-5085

Greenwood Police Department  
100 W. Market St.  
Greenwood, DE 19950  
302-349-4822



***Thanks to Nancy Weldin*** for suggesting this Drop off location for electronic goods as being convenient for VOLC residents:

Pine Tree Corners Transfer Station

276 Pine Tree Corner Road

Townsend, DE 19734

Hours: Monday - Saturday 7 to 5

Located on RT. 25 between Rt. 13 and Rt. 71

## Guidelines from The State of Delaware

### Acceptable electronic goods for recycling:

#### Computer components and/or parts

Personal computers	Monitors
Main frame computers	Keyboards
Mini computers	Mice
Terminals	Cables
Printers	Laptop computers
Notepad computers	Copying equipment
Notebook computers	Calculators Electronic typewriters

#### Telecommunications equipment

Telephone systems	Terminals
Telephones	Telex
Facsimile	Pay telephones
Cordless telephones	Cellular telephones Answering machines

#### Radio, television, electro acoustic radios

Televisions	Video cameras
Video recorders	Tape recorders
Audio amplifiers	VCRS
Cassette players	Record players
Radios	DVD players

#### Small household appliances

# Families...



Odette Haight's granddaughters, Harper and Hadley, form a pretty threesome with their dog, Sadie, who thinks she's just one of the "kids."



Meet Donnie and Carol Thompson's grandchildren, Noah, Ava, and Colin, shown at the Thompson Disney Family Vacation, held at the end of November.



Sue and Fran Bifano's grandson, Paxton, shown here with Bart the Bear, made a sweet Christmas visit. Bifanos from three states gathered together to celebrate a family holiday.



Thanksgiving brought family from near and far to Guy and Cheryl Werner's home. They were all especially thankful for newest family members: Chelsey, married to son Tom in March (PA), and Garrett Michael, born in September, to Guy III and Sarah (WV.) Cheryl's brother, Bob, was also able to come from FL to enjoy the holiday and a visit.

## Did you know?

...that in the state of Delaware the speed limit is 25 mph in a residential area, even where there is no posted speed limit? And that STOP signs require a complete stop, not a rolling one? Several walkers have expressed concerns about their own and others' safety.

...that it's legal in Delaware to display a front license plate as long as it's not an active plate (i.e. Eagles plate)? Bob Greenblatt found a company that does novelty plates for all 50 states - and had a VOLC plate made. Cool!

... that the state of DE, through its state utility commission, requires that a water company must maintain a pressure of 25 PSI? Here's one resident's water pressure saga—

*Since moving to the VOLC in 2009, we have been frustrated with the lack of water pressure. From speaking with others through the years, we know we're not alone.*

*When I first called Artesian to inquire, years ago, I was told that the line installed from the street to the house is too small. I*

*ran some tests at my faucets. I collected data over several months and at different times of the day, only to find that the pressure fluctuated from just below 30 PSI up to a high of 41 PSI. My background as an engineer told me that their assertion that the line size was too small was not correct. With my tests I proved to them that this was not the case.*

*I am now retired (and that can that be dangerous!) I started my new search for answers by contacting our representative, Earl Jaques. He did a nice job in getting information out of Artesian which demonstrated that the average pressure runs around 33-35 PSI.*

*After trading several emails with Earl, I found he was unable to answer my biggest question - "What does the county or state require a utility to deliver?" I was looking for contracts or documents which I assumed exist. With this question, Earl referred me to Dave Tackett who told me that we have a state Utility Board which governs issues of this type. Their web page contains the documents which provided me the answer.*

*Unfortunately, that answer was not the one I was hoping for. Clearly spelled out in the governing documents is the requirement that the water utility (whoever that might be) is required to maintain a minimum water pressure of 25 PSI for any new services or developments.*

*Might we then advocate raising this very low minimum requirement? There are two problems with that which are by no means small. First, it would require changing the governing document which would be similar to changing the law. The bigger problem is that the actual raising of pressure is not so easy. The pressure comes from the height of the water tanks like the one at Peoples Plaza. These are fixed structures and not practical to modify.*

*So the bad news is that as home owners and customers of Artesian, we don't have any leverage to convince them to raise the pressure. So, if you really wish to have more pressure, you can look into installing a booster pump to raise the pressure as much as you wish. This is no small investment as I understand, since the equipment alone would run around \$1000 on average. But it is a solution.*

*If anyone would like more information on my investigation, feel free to contact me.*

Bob Dickol # 62



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## VOLC Happenings...



*Conrad High School (now known as Conrad Schools of Science) alumna, Jean Skelly, is shown with Joan Dreibelbis at Conrad's annual Craft Fair, held on October 29. The event brings hundreds to the school to peruse and purchase home-made items of all kinds. Jean helped to coordinate the event, and Joan sold her beautiful knitted and quilted products.*



*Several members of the Activities Committee recently scouted talent for the clubhouse at the Hollywood Casino in Perryville, MD. They enjoyed the evening and booked performer Gary Baker for Saturday, March 25. Watch for details of "Back to the Hop with The Big Bopper." From left—Janet Sanders, Jean Skelly, Mary Legreid.*



*Members of the VOLC Book Clubs held their annual Christmas luncheon at Michael's Restaurant in Newark. Top row, from left—Eric Dean, Cheryl Werner, Betty Schinzel, Jean Skelly, Barbara Strasser, Cheryl Ford, and Janet Sanders. Seated, from left—Debbie Carr, Marilyn Abrams, and Odette Haight.*

## Barb Carter's Winter Movie Review

**“Loving”**

**Joel Edgerton, Ruth Negga**

**Directed by Jeff Nichols**

**Rating: A-**

It might be just a coincidence that in this year of lies and bigotry and hatred, one of the better movies we've received has to do with the one thing that can beat all of those things.

Richard Loving was a white construction worker living in Caroline County in Virginia in 1957. The racial lines weren't as clearly drawn in this rural area near Richmond, and Richard was in a relationship with Mildred Jeter, a black woman. When she became pregnant, they drove to Washington D.C. where interracial marriage was legal. Virginia's Racial Integrity Act of 1924—and similar acts in 16 other states—made interracial marriage a crime. They returned to Caroline County and their families, where they hoped to live without interference. They were almost immediately arrested for the crime of miscegenation. They received a 1-year suspended sentence on the condition that they leave Virginia and not return for 25 years.

The film is the story of their fight for the right to marry legally and the Supreme Court decision that upheld it. It's very quiet and very focused on the 2 main characters—both of whom have received Golden Globe nominations. I don't know much about Joel Edgerton as an actor, but as Richard Loving he is very interior. He keeps his emotions to himself except in the presence of his wife and children. Ruth Negga plays Mildred Loving with a quiet dignity and determination. I would like to have seen a bit more of their extended families and their daily lives but the story instead follows the 5 years they spend in Washington after their sentence. They stayed with friends and other families while Richard made a living, but there was no money for a lawyer to continue their plea to return to Caroline County.

The Civil Rights movement was being born, and in 1964 Mildred Loving sent a handwritten letter to Attorney General Robert Kennedy. The letter found its way to the ACLU, who took the Loving case pro bono. After years of denial by the State of Virginia, the case was heard before the Supreme Court in 1967. In a unanimous decision led by Chief Justice Earl Warren, the court overturned the initial conviction on the grounds that Virginia's ant-miscegenation laws were unconstitutional.

The couple's reaction is shown as restrained and quiet, much as they lived their lives. They returned to live in Caroline County and raise their 3 children. Richard Loving died in a car accident about eight year after the court's decision. Mildred Loving died in 2008. In an interview shortly before her death, she said she still missed her husband and that “He took care of me.”

We may face difficult times ahead. I hope we all think of Mildred Loving's words from time to time and take care of each other.

## Before You're Too Damned Old

Submitted by Joan Dreibelbis



Another year has passed  
and we're all a little older.

Last summer felt hotter  
and winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago  
when life was quite a blast.  
Now I fully understand  
about 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings,  
football games and lunches.  
Now we go to funeral homes,  
and after-funeral brunches.

We used to have hangovers,  
from parties that were gay.

Now we suffer body aches  
and while the night away.

We used to go out dining,  
and couldn't get our fill.  
Now we ask for doggie bags,  
come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel  
to places near and far.  
Now we get sore fannies  
from riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs  
and drink a little booze.  
Now we stay home at night  
and watch the evening news.



That, my friend is how life is and now my tale is told.  
So, enjoy each day and live it up...

**before you're too damned old!**