

Village of Long Creek

Neighborhood Newsletter

May 1

2025

Volume 17, Number 2



Ray and Katie Whiteoak's sea of daffodils - a sure sign of Spring

Don't miss...

- Neighbors' happenings* p. 3
- Wayback machine* p. 9
- Clubhouse events* p. 10
- Committee news* p.17
- Funnies* p. 22

All The World's Alive Again

by Jennifer Gunner

The rabbit hops its gentle step
The lark sings lyric songs
All the world's alive again
Spring rights the winter wrongs.

May Highlights!

Mother's Day, May 11

Container Gardening, May 12

Memorial Day Picnic, May 25 (See page 14.)

*VOLC Board election—May 28
(Watch for email from IPS.)*

VOLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 2024- May 2025

Ken White, President/Treasurer

Eric Dean, Vice President

Ruth Leaming, Secretary

Dorene Grant, At-Large

Activities Committee

Janet Sanders, Co-chair

Cheryl Ford, Co-chair

Bonnie Anderson

Maria de Armas

Maryann Fagan

Loretta Fitch

Nancy Halbedl

Christine Killian, Treasurer

JoanMarie Powers

Wanda Search

Dorene Grant, Board Liaison

Architectural Review Committee

Marion Bowman, Chair

Odette Haight

Nancy Weldin

Ruth Leaming, Board Liaison

Clubhouse Committee

Cheryl Werner, Chair, Chair/Librarian

Joe Lemanski

Karl Markiewicz

Jean Skelly

Ken White, Board Liaison

Communications Committee

Sharon Dickol, Chair

Mary Ohara

Cheryl Werner

Ruth Leaming, Board Liaison

Technology

Mike Ostroski, Chair

Gary Legreid

Tom Sutor

Ken White, Board Liaison

Governing Documents Committee

Marion Bowman

Linda Trach, Chair

Eric Dean

Ruth Leaming, Board Liaison

Finance Committee

Ray Krout, Chair

Sam Cosby

Loretta Dougherty

Mary Ohara

Ken White, Board Liaison

Grounds Team

Eric Dean, Chair/Liaison

Sam Cosby

Garden Club Subcommittee

Mim Krout, Chair,

Karl Markiewicz

Tom Novak

Judy Pannucci

Chandrika Thankappan

Linda Trach

Ken White, Board Liaison

Welcoming Committee

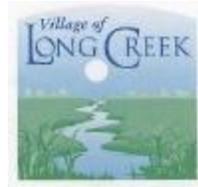
Susie White, Chair

Odette Haight

Sharon Mutschler

Chandrika Thankappan

Dorene Grant, Liaison



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, 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

Around the Neighborhood



Sunrise

Donnie Thompson took these stunning photos on his morning walk on March 1.

***Nancy Halbedl's** granddaughter Liz, received her "white coat" on April 4th along with 120 other veterinary students at Virginia Tech Veterinary College. Nancy reported that "Liz is completing her sophomore year and has been selected for a significant scholarship for the remaining 2 years, awarded by the college to an out-of-state student with a concentration in animals that provide us with food. Some of our neighbors know Liz as she has worked at the Limestone Veterinary Hospital as a vet tech in high school and a nurse while at Univ of Delaware. Liz gave us a great tour of the hospital. A garden reception preceded the ceremony."*



Proud dad, Mark, presented Liz with her white coat.



Nancy, her daughter Grace, son-in-law Mark, Liz and boyfriend Dom.



(Neighbors, cont.)



Chandrika Thankappan painted an intricate wooden flower, designed and constructed by **Maureen Graham**, and hung it on her front door. Wow!



Jean Skelly hosts an Oscar Night Party every year, complete with decorations, lots of food, prediction sheets and games.

This year, even Bear was ready for the winners in his Oscar-themed clothes and golden glasses.

And the winner is...

Natalie Chan



Above -**Monica Chan's** granddaughter, Natalie, recently brought home first place trophies in international piano competitions. Her winning piece was "Liebestraum no. 3 in a flat major" by Liszt, which she performed at Carnegie Hall. She was even invited to perform in Vienna, but that date overlapped with a trip to London already planned.

Natalie has also published a children's picture book. She lives in California and is a sophomore in high school.

Monica is one proud grandmother!



Upcoming Birthdays

May

Dorene Grant	3rd
Bill Smallbrook	6th
Brenda Durrett-Jones	7th
Jean Skelly	14th



June

Marion Bowman	2 nd
Yau Lang	2 nd
Norm Petterson	7 th
Paulette Francis	11 th
Greta Ostroski	14 th
Bernard Aresu	15 th
Judy Anderson	21 st
Cheryl Dean	23 rd
Paula Kendrick	25 th
Anthony Martin	26 th
Ken Riley	27 th
Sharon Dickol	28 th



Taurus Babies, (May-20) are said to be both optimistic and lucky, smart, ambitious and trustworthy.

Gemini (May 22 – June 21) These children are always fun to be around and are good entertainers. Gemini children are very intelligent and love to learn.

(Neighbors cont.)



Melody Devoe's house was all dressed up for Easter fun, complete with an invitation to an egg hunt. The entrance to this wonderland included baskets for little ones to gather their treasures.



Left—Janice Losito enjoyed Easter dinner at home with daughter Olivia and her boyfriend Danny.

*(Not pictured—Janice's Mom **JoanMarie Powers** and brother John.)*

Right—Olivia's three-year old niece, Mackenzie, had great fun at the egg hunt!





Susie White was surprised by family and friends on her 75th birthday! Son Max and his wife Sandy (shown above with Susie) decorated the house after the birthday girl went to bed. A friend sent the “cake,” made completely of flowers. Susie says it was a great surprise.

Odette Haight and family have made a tradition of going to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster County every year.

This year, they saw “Noah,” and Odette says, “It didn’t disappoint!”

From left, Odette, granddaughters Harper and Hadley, daughter Odette and her fiancé, Charlie.



Jean Talks Movies



Hi, Movie Lovers,

My movie group and I continue to see movies every Tuesday at the Regal Cinema in Peoples Plaza.

Here are my thoughts about what we've seen recently...

We thought the latest was a really good one - "The Accountant 2" with Ben Affleck. One member didn't think it was better than the first, but, overall, we gave it a 4 out of 5.

"Drop" was a Monday Mystery Movie (a \$5 weekly event at Regal that offers early screenings of movies before their general release.) The more we thought about it, the better it was! The movie was tense. A game turns deadly, and you don't find out until the end who the bad guy is. I didn't guess.

"Amateur" was a different kind of revenge movie. An IT nerd finds different ways to kill the men who killed his wife. Very clever.

That's it for now. See ya at the movies!

Jean Skelly



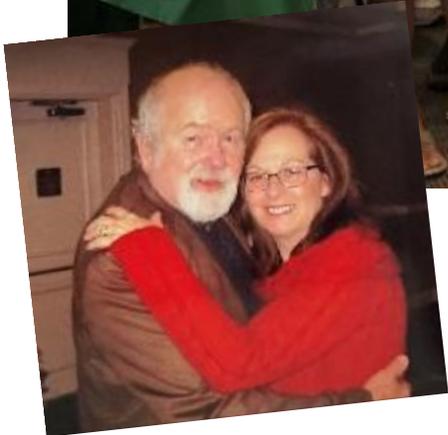
Regal Club Loyalty points:

Join Regal Crown Club for free, and get discounted movie tickets to any standard movie on Tuesday at Peoples Plaza.

Regal Crown Club members also get 50% off on popcorn every Tuesday!

Build up points for extra perks.

<https://www.regmovies.com/promotions>



*The
VOLC
Wayback machine*





*With glass painting... They say that engaging in art activities extends your life, and the Clubhouse Committee is doing what it can to help with that goal. Below, from left, **Cheryl Werner, Jean Skelly, Chandrikamma Thankappan, Debbie Happold, Judy Anderson, Loretta Dougherty, Susie White, Maureen Graham and Grace Hobson.***



Does engaging in art projects really help extend our lives?

Numerous studies have suggested that such activities help to reduce stress, bring feelings of satisfaction, and engage the brain in different ways—all leading to better outcomes for living longer.



More Get Artsy!

With fabric plates...



Loretta Dougherty, Bonnie Anderson and Susie White followed the process.



Judy Anderson with her completed plate

Do

It

Yourself

DIY



Jean Skelly's first plate came out so well, she made 2 more!



Janet Sanders' lemon plate was bright and sunny for Spring. Her granddaughters joined in the DIYing.



Christine Killian's cat plate was a favorite.

DIY



Cheryl Werner brought some plates as samples.

Do you have an art or craft project that you could share? We'd be happy to support a workshop!

(Clubhouse cont.)



Maryann Fagan, Christine Killian and JoanMarie Powers



Debbie Carr and Grace Hobson

COFFE KLATCH

Held on the last Thursday of every month, the VOLC Coffee Klatch is based on the very civil ritual of a leisurely gathering with friends for coffee (or tea or other light beverage) and a sweet baked treat.

Christine Killian borrowed the idea from her native Germany and, as an Activities Committee member, entered it into the fabric of our community.

Join Christine and neighbors at the next Coffee Klatch on May 29th at 2 PM



Katie and Ray whiteoak



Nick Inglisa and Norm Petterson



Ray Search, Bonnie Anderson, Wanda Search and Jean Skelly

(Clubhouse cont.)



The March Happy Hour, hosted by the VOLC Activities Committee, had a decidedly Spanish flair as attendees enjoyed Tex-Mex food from Moe's Southwest Grill. The evening, billed as Moe's Fajita Bar, allowed folks to make up their own fajitas and to sample other dishes in a buffet format.



Loretta Dougherty



Stan Sanders

Grace Hobson and Paula Kendrick

Ken White



Maryann Fagan

**Activities Committee Co-Chairs,
Janet Sanders and Cheryl Ford
with Christine Killian, Committee Treasurer**

**Chandrika
Thankappan**

April Hapy Hour—Board Candidates Meet & Greet and Sing Along

The Activities Committee enhanced the monthly gathering with two special features: a Board Candidate Meet & Greet and a Sing-Along!

*Mike Ostroski, representing the Nominating Committee, introduced the candidates for the 2025-2026 Board term. The nominees include current board members—**Eric Dean, Dorene Grant, and Ruth Leaming**—and new candidates **Bob Leaming and Susie White**.*

*Activities Committee Co-Chair **Janet Sanders** introduced musical duo **Stephanie and Turner**, a talented married couple performing on guitar and keyboard. Their lively set turned into an enthusiastic sing-along, featuring timeless hits from the fifties, sixties, seventies, and eighties, adding a joyful energy to the evening.*



*Left—**Janet and Stan Sanders** enjoyed the entertainment.*

*Right—**Jean Skelly and Mim Krout** got up and danced!*





VOLC Memorial Day Weekend Picnic
Sunday, May 25th

Menu

Hamburgers, hot dogs, boneless BBQ chicken breasts, potato salad, pasta salad, corn on the cob, coleslaw, green salad, desserts and beverages

Cost: \$23 per person

RSVP with money by Monday, May 19th

To Joan Marie Powers - House #86

We will be honoring our veterans here in VOLC!
Catered by The Omelette King

“What’s Next?”

Sharon started with, “Aging is a privilege..”.

Long-time resident and Certified Geriatric Care Manager Sharon Dickol served up plenty of food for thought in her talk at the clubhouse on April 29th. Using a slide show for emphasis, Sharon began by suggesting some initial things to look for when considering whether it might be time to think about moving to a more assistive environment. She then guided her audience in completing a self-assessment tool that provided them with an objective score pointing to the need for a move or providing assurance that an active adult community is still a safe choice.

Following the assessment, Sharon described various options, including at-home assistance, Assisted Living facilities, CCRCs (Continuing Care Retirement Communities) and nursing homes, with the projected costs of each.



What kind of support do you require?

How much support do you need?

How much support is available?

Displaying lists she had prepared of Assisted Living and Continuing Care communities in New Castle County and the surrounding area, Sharon polled attendees about possible visits to sample facilities. The poll indicated there was interest in a series of VOLC group tours, likely featuring two AL facilities and two CCRCs. More information will be forthcoming about these outings.

Sharon’s talk was sponsored by the VOLC Clubhouse Committee.

From the VOLC Clubhouse Committee

The community clubhouse, opened in December 2012, was designed by Benchmark Builders to accommodate up to one-third of the residents at any given time, following standard planning guidelines. Over the years, demand has often exceeded that capacity, leading to the addition of a patio pavilion in 2023 to expand the usable space of the community's sole amenity. Today, both the indoor and outdoor areas remain well-utilized by residents for a variety of pursuits..

***Q** Must our group - a committee or club - reserve the clubhouse for meetings or get-togethers?*

***A.** Since our clubhouse has only one meeting room, you are advised to do this so that two different groups are not meeting at the same time. Scheduling is done through a committee member, currently Cheryl Werner.*

***Q.** Can I use the clubhouse for a family event or private party?*

***A.** No. The community voted on this issue, and it was made policy. If any resident seeks to change the policy, he/she would need to request another community vote.*

***Q.** What is the difference between the Clubhouse Committee and the Activities Committee?*

***A.** The Clubhouse Committee is responsible for the building's maintenance and often schedules one-time activities and speakers. The Activities Committee is responsible for planning and carrying out various monthly social events.*

***Q.** Do I have to pay for beverages when I'm in the clubhouse?*

***A.** If you are at a meeting of a VOLC committee in service to the community, the answer is No. Otherwise, we request a donation. Containers can be found near the two refrigerators.*

***Q.** Is there Wi-Fi in the clubhouse? How do I access it?*

***A.** Yes. The network name and password are posted on the mantel over the fireplace.*

Clubhouse Q & A cont.)

Q. *Does the TV work, and can I use it?*

A. *Yes. Directions on how to control the TV through the Roku remote are on the mantel above the fireplace.*

Q. *Can I adjust the temperature settings?*

A. *Yes, but please restore them to the setting you found when you entered. Click Cancel in the lower right screen to return to the Scheduled temp.*

Q. *Is there a checkout system for library books or DVDs and puzzles?*

A. *No. Take as many as you want and return them when you're finished.*

Q. *If I find something broken or needing attention, whom should I contact?*

A. *One of the Clubhouse Committee members listed below or on the Committee List, page 2.*

The Clubhouse Committee is always happy to welcome new members!

Our responsibilities are varied and interesting, from keeping the furnace filters clean to scheduling safe driver classes! It's never boring!

The clubhouse is the hub of community activity, and it is well-used! To maintain the space, we work closely with other committees, Grounds, Activities, and Technology.

If you think you'd like to join us, contact any member of the Committee: Joe Lemanski, Karl Markiewicz, Jean Skelly or Cheryl Werner, Chair.

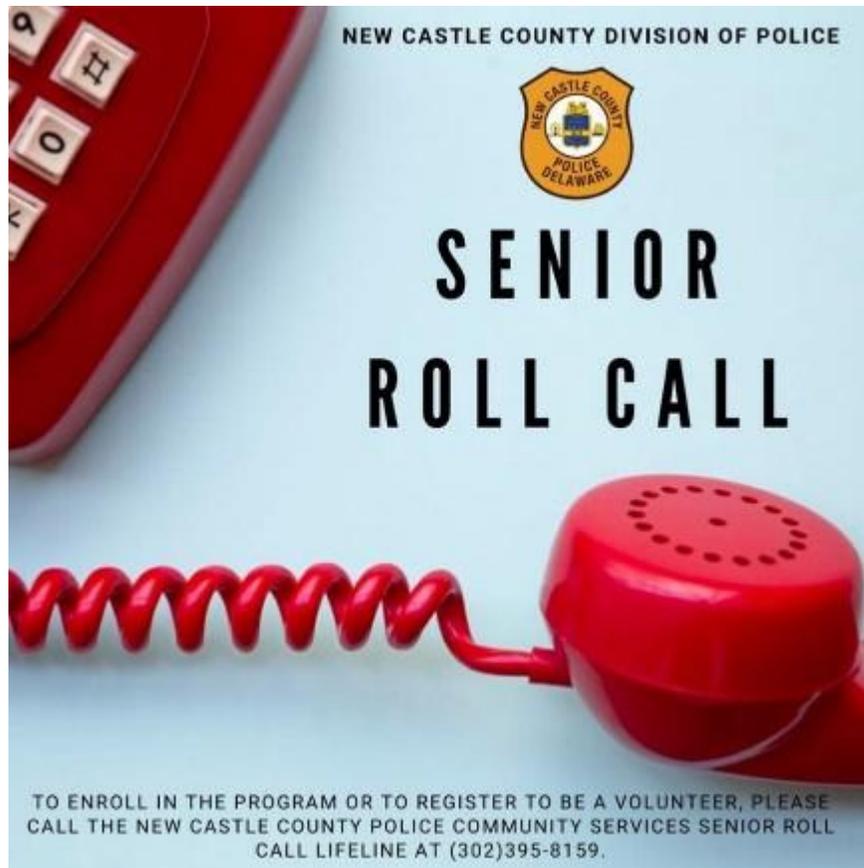
*At right—**Karl Markiewicz** washed all the windows. Thanks, Karl!*



More Committee News—

From the Communications Committee

- *At right—A telephone program which calls senior citizens or home-bound residents on a daily basis with a prerecorded safety message. The program is monitored to ensure the Senior Roll Call member answers the telephone and is "Okay."*
- *The Committee requests that you send any changes in your contact information to [Mary Ohara](#) who updates the directory periodically, and that you report any missed Monday Updates to [Sharon Dickol](#).*



As part of a speaker series, the Clubhouse Committee is excited to announce the appearance of Master Gardener JW Wistermayer on May 12. Mr. Wistermayer will speak on best practices for successful Container Gardening, using Native Plants and Attracting Hummingbirds.

The Committee is always looking for entertaining and informative speakers. If you have a suggestion, please let them know.

*The **Governing Documents Committee** announced at the April Board Meeting that they would soon be conducting Voice of the Community sessions to collect feedback on proposed changes to the MDRs (Maintenance Deed Restrictions). Watch for information regarding times and topics. You'll want to attend in order to make sure that your voice is heard!*

Basic HOA Rules Cover



House Color



Landscaping



Pets



Parking

*Recent reminders from the **VOLC Governing Documents Committee***

Trash/Recycle Containers Placement -

Containers must be placed at least three (3) feet away from the mailbox post to prevent damage when the recycling truck's automated arms lift the cans. Additionally, containers should be spaced at least 18 inches apart to allow for the automated arm's efficient collection.

Maintaining lawns, shrubs, and trees -

Residents are responsible for maintaining the overall condition of their lawns, shrubs, and trees (excluding mowing and fertilizing).

If you have removed trees and replaced them with sod, soil, or seed, you must ensure those areas are restored to a grassy appearance. Dead landscaping—including grass, shrubs, and trees—should be promptly removed or replaced. Additionally, diseased landscaping must be assessed and either treated or removed in a timely manner. The definition of "timely" will be clarified as part of our ongoing GDC work.

Siding and shutters -

With spring's arrival, many of us are stepping outside for the first time in a while. As you enjoy the season, please take a moment to check a few things around your home:

- ***Inspect your shutters*** for any sun fading and have them repainted if needed.
- ***Look over your siding***, especially on the north side, for any signs of mold or mildew. If you spot any, it's a good time for a pressure wash.
- ***If you have white ornamental trim*** above your garage door or front windows, check for peeling paint. These should be repainted - or removed if you prefer.

Drainage Improvement, Village of Long Creek

Proposal from the Grounds Committee

West Buffer Zone Improvement Proposal

At the April 23 Board meeting, the Grounds Committee proposed an improvement to the community's West Buffer Zone—a 12-foot-wide strip of common area behind houses #35 to #69. This area frequently remains wet due to poor drainage.

Currently, four drains feed into a buried concrete pipe system that carries water away. However, uneven ground prevents proper water flow, leading to persistent pooling and marsh-like conditions. To address this, the project will involve grading the soil to ensure water reaches the drains freely.

Soil movement will range from 0 to 4 inches in depth and 1 to 2 feet in width.

Once grading is complete, the disturbed area will be covered with one inch of topsoil and seeded to restore vegetation.

If you have any concerns about this proposed work, please call me, or write.

Eric Dean, 302-585-6003

[*DelawareDeans@gmail.com*](mailto:DelawareDeans@gmail.com)

Maintaining our lots and common areas is the largest expense in our annual budget. The Grounds Committee is responsible for essential services such as grass cutting, tree and shrub care, and snow removal during the winter months—a significant undertaking for a small team! At present, just two individuals manage these tasks, working closely with the Board to ensure our community remains well-kept.

*If you're able to lend a hand, please reach out to [*Eric Dean*](#) or [*Sam Cosby*](#). Your help would make a meaningful difference.*



Alternative Medical Definitions

Match the words to the meanings.



<i>Artery</i>	_____ <i>A small table</i>
<i>Bacteria</i>	_____ <i>Getting hurt at work</i>
<i>Dilate</i>	_____ <i>Cheaper than day rates</i>
<i>Fibula</i>	_____ <i>A small lie</i>
<i>Hang Nail</i>	_____ <i>More than one</i>
<i>Labor pain</i>	_____ <i>The back door of the cafeteria</i>
<i>Morbid</i>	_____ <i>Was aware of</i>
<i>Nitrates</i>	_____ <i>To live long</i>
<i>Node</i>	_____ <i>A higher offer</i>
<i>Recovery room</i>	_____ <i>A place to do upholstery</i>
<i>Rectum</i>	_____ <i>Close by</i>
<i>Tablet</i>	_____ <i>The study of painting</i>
<i>Terminal illness</i>	_____ <i>Opposite of "you're out"</i>
<i>Tumor</i>	_____ <i>Coat hook</i>
<i>Varicose</i>	_____ <i>Dang near killed 'em</i>
<i>Urine</i>	_____ <i>Sick at the airport</i>

Thanks to Jean Skelly



A college class was told they had to write a short story in as few words as possible. The instructions were: The short story had to contain the following three things:

- (1) Religion
- (2) Sexuality
- (3) Mystery

Below is the only A+ short story in the entire class.

"Good God, I'm pregnant; I wonder who did it."



Special shout out to people at the laundromat using their new iPhone 15.



You could've bought a washer & dryer for the same price.

To be completely honest, I'm not sure if the museum is open or not.



The official sports drink when I was a kid



MY ABILITY TO REMEMBER SONG LYRICS FROM THE 80S FAR EXCEEDS MY ABILITY TO REMEMBER WHY I WALKED INTO THE KITCHEN.



That Moment When You Go To Costco For A Rotisserie Chicken

I finally realized it!



People are prisoners of their phones. That's Why they are called cell phones!

OH, YOU HAVE YOUR CHOICE OF 20 MOVIES FOR THE CAR?



WHEN I WAS A KID, I WATCHED THE SAME THING EVERY TRIP. IT WAS CALLED THE WINDOW.

The people who make fitted sheets need to sit down with the people who make mattresses and get on the same page.

Making the bed shouldn't be like putting a swimming cap over a fridge.



Checking your balance on a Sunday morning

