



# Neighborhood Newsletter

Summer 2012

Volume 3, Number 2

## Building Communities through Volunteerism: Older Adults Making a Difference

Volunteering by adults 65 plus has been on an upward path in recent years. A report of The Corporation for National and Community Service notes that the number of older adults 65 plus who volunteer has risen from 7.7 million in 2002 to 9.1 million in 2009. The volunteer rate for older adults over 65 increased by 64 percent between 1974 and 2005. In 2010, 9.2 million older adults dedicated 1.7 billion hours of service to communities across the country.

Why has the number of older volunteers continued to increase over the past decades? Generational changes, connections between health and volunteering, and improved education and income levels among older adults may be factors that explain the increase of volunteering by older adults. Research also indicates that volunteering can improve physical and mental health.

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Today's older adults have more resources than in the past. They are more educated and financially secure as well. Research shows that the proportion of adults age 65 and older without a high school diploma has dropped almost 40 percentage points since 1974. Moreover, older Americans with college degrees are volunteering at a higher rate than in the



past.

Older adults volunteer for many different types of organizations. Religious institutions are the most popular organizations through which they volunteer their time and skills. They volunteer at social service organizations, hospitals, educational organizations, and civic and arts organizations.

Older adults also engage in a variety of activities as volunteers. These activities include collecting and distributing food, fundraising for organizations, professional/management work and general labor activities.

Since volunteering helps older adults stay active and connected to their communities, it's a win-win outcome for both older volunteers and the organizations that reap the benefits of their service.

Volunteer trends in Delaware tend to follow the national average in terms of the overall numbers of volunteers, and the hours they volunteer each year. Since 2008, these figures have diminished somewhat, possibly due to the downturn in the economy. Nonetheless, in 2010,

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A HUGE Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition. Your photos, family news, and volunteer experiences have truly made this a community effort!

Send comments and suggestions to Sharon at [sdickol@verizon.net](mailto:sdickol@verizon.net) OR 836-8575

## Volunteerism *(continued from page 1)*

166,900 Delawareans volunteered 21.9 million hours of service with community organizations. Volunteer service also takes place informally when people work with neighbors to address or fix a community issue. In 2010, 6% , or 41,796 Delaware residents volunteered in an informal capacity.

Formal and informal volunteerism in the Village of Long Creek is abundant. For a community with fewer than 60 households, there appears to be greater than average interest in serving the community among our residents, many of whom have been volunteers for a very long time. Some examples:

**Don Hobson** has been a volunteer for most of his life, offering his talents and skills where they meet others' greatest needs. In addition to the time he devotes at the Al DuPont Hospital for Children, the PMD Foundation, the Delaware Ecu-menical Council, and the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, Don gives his time at church, sings in the choir, leads worship and has served on various church committees.

**Maria de Armos** devotes every Wednesday during the school year at Christ the Teacher School, where she assists at lunchtime. Not only does this service benefit the school, it provides Maria with the opportunity to engage with others and to see her grandchildren each week.

**Sam Ferrara** has volunteered his time for nearly 3 decades in several community concert bands. Sam says he and the other retirees in his bands thoroughly enjoy playing music together; they build fellowship, hone their musical skills, and relish in the joy of bringing music to communities across the state.

As a CASA volunteer, **Patti Abernethy** serves as a special advocate for foster children. She works closely with the court system, DFS, and the child's school system. Patti says, "I have had to learn a lot of "process" issues that are new to me, but I am in it to help protect and help children. It can be frustrating at times, but satisfying as well."



**Melody Devoe** provides income tax assistance at her church in Camden, DE. For more than 25 years, she has assisted others each Saturday from February through April, often seeing the same folks and catching up on their lives while she provides a necessary service. According to Melody, "It's my way of saying thanks."

**Don Doto** is a relative newcomer to volunteerism. Two or more days each week, Don works at the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington and at the Botanical Gardens on the University of Delaware campus. He started volunteering about 9 months ago and feels it has had a positive impact on his health and overall well-being.

"I started (volunteering) because I needed social contacts to keep me from dwelling on my wife's condition and because I wanted to give back something for all the good things in my life." Don adds, "Volunteering has given me the opportunity to get outside myself and realize there are many people in the world who need assistance more than I do."

For those of you new to VOLC, there is an informal network of support called "**Neighbors Helping Neighbors.**" **Barb Carter** maintains this list of residents who have offered their time to help other residents when they are sick, hospitalized, or need any type of temporary assistance. Residents are encouraged to use this volunteer corps whenever they need it. The Neighbors Helping Neighbors volunteer list is published in each quarterly newsletter on the last page. If you would like to volunteer your time, be sure to call Barb at 836-3023.

If you are thinking of becoming a community volunteer but aren't sure where to start, **Don Hobson** offers the following advice: "There are thousands of volunteer opportunities in the area, any one of which can use your talents and skills, when and how often you are available. Check with your church or other organization or start investigating opportunities by exploring the following websites: [www.delawareonline.com/getinvolved](http://www.delawareonline.com/getinvolved), or [www.volunteerdelaaware.org](http://www.volunteerdelaaware.org)."





# Celebrations

Congratulations to **Peg and Paul Wellborn**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 16th. Four generations of Wellborns gathered, including 6 children, 6 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and many others. This magnificent cake was made by a 16 year-old niece. Beautiful!!



Congratulations to **Carol and Donnie Thompson** (58), who will celebrate their 40th anniversary on August 26th. . . **Barbara and Joe Strasser** are the proud grandparents of a new baby girl! Charlotte Ryan Long was born to their daughter, Mary and her husband, Matt. Little Charlotte was born on June 13th -- the Strasser's 48th wedding anniversary! Wonderful news! . . . **Don and Grace Hobson** celebrated their 46th anniversary on June 25th, 52 years since meeting in high school and 5 years since moving into VOLC. Woo-hoo!! . . . Congratulations to **Laura Dickol**, daughter of **Bob and Sharon** (62), who graduated from the University of Maryland in May. Laura earned her B. A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and is now working in Washington, D.C. for the Federal Aviation Administration. Needless to say, mom and dad are overjoyed!

# Village Scenes



George Fox isn't the only fox in VOLC! **Joe Doto** took this photo from his back deck. The storm drain between their house and Valerie Landon's seems to be a place he likes to hang out.



From **Kay Bennett**: "Pictures of baby bluebirds in my bluebird box in May. The one of the bluebird in the tree is the proud father. I now have 4 new Bluebird eggs in my Bluebird box again. Should be hatching any day soon."

Pictures by **Bob Greenblatt**. .





**Bob Greenblatt** got some terrific pics of the recent construction on Paxson Lane. Note the “NO CONSTRUCTION” sign in the photo below!! Bottom right: **Villager Escapes Construction Carnage** -- Villager **Don Doto** makes right turn onto Glasgow Avenue to avoid accident.



# Welcome!

To our newest and soon-to-be neighbors in VOLC:

The Chapyrtinovs  
 Salle Midash  
 Tom Novak  
 The Werners  
 Mary O’Hara

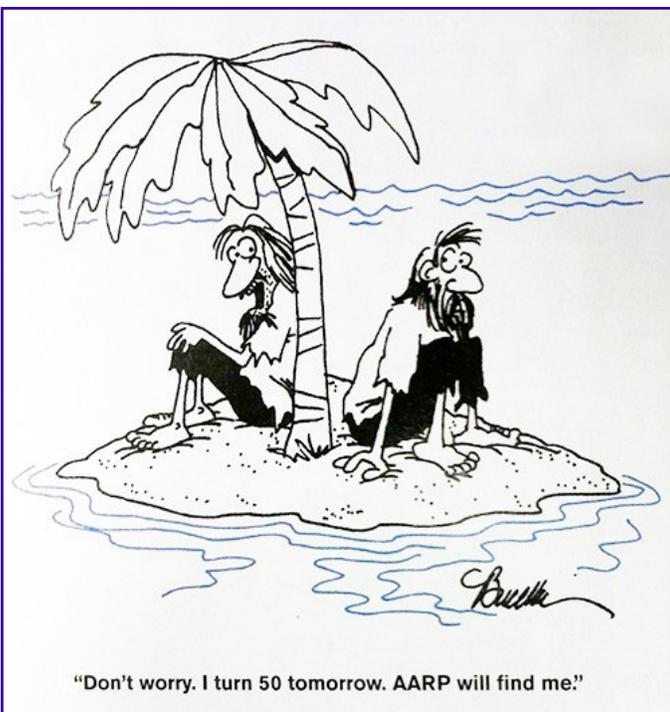
The Paskevicious’  
 The Pollards  
 The Rileys  
 The Searches  
 Linda Trach

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

### Volunteer List

Patti Abernethy	(31)	836-8447
Barb Carter	(49)	836-3023
Sharon & Bob Dickol	(62)	836-8575
Barb & Joe Doto	(37)	836-3362
Nancy Ferrara	(25)	834-3205
Kathy Karthaeuser	(119)	365-6067
Kitty Heston	(73)	595-2902
Don & Grace Hobson	(24)	838-1771
Dennis & Joann Sabato	(43)	365-6713
Peg & Paul Wellborn	(55)	836-8524
Dick & Lois Hallett	(50)	838-0652
Ginny Pelachick	(59)	834-8504
Carol & Donnie Thompson	(58)	595-2717
Lenny & Maria Tricarico	(9)	595-2712
Richard Cutone & Joanne Skidmore	(18)	595-4348

For more information, contact  
Barb Carter at 836-3023 or  
[bcarter19720@aol.com](mailto:bcarter19720@aol.com)



"Don't worry. I turn 50 tomorrow. AARP will find me!"

## This 'n That

Thinking of taking a trip? **Carol Thompson** wants you to know she can book it for you! Whether you want to cruise, travel the U.S. or tour Europe, Carol can arrange it! Call 547-5483 (cell) or 595-2717 (home office).

The next VOLC Happy Hour will be hosted by **Peg and Paul Wellborn** in early August. More details coming soon!

**Sam Ferrara** wants you to know that the **Chesapeake Brass Band** and the **First State Symphonic Band** are performing at Battery Park in New Castle in July. Concerts are **FREE** and open to the public -- just bring a lawn chair. Food and drinks are sold during intermission, with proceeds benefitting the concert series. Performances are on Wednesday evenings, July 18th and the 25th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For directions or more information, contact Sam at [ferrarasamnancy@aol.com](mailto:ferrarasamnancy@aol.com) or 834-3205.

No one is saying for sure, but rumor has it that the clubhouse will be completed by early fall. Christmas in the clubhouse? I like the sound of it! And, if you haven't noticed, there's been quite an upturn in building going on. According to **Ginger Murani**, there are only 33 lots remaining for sale. We're getting there!

-- Sharon



This publication is written by and for the residents of the Village of Long Creek, and in no way is intended to represent the interests or concerns of Benchmark Builders, Inc.