



ORONOQUE

1971
TO
2011

ORONOQUE
Village

40th
Anniversary



The Beginning of Oronoque Village...



From an early New York Times

There must be a reason.



To see the activity at Oronoque Village, you'd never know there was a doldrums in the real estate business. People aren't just looking at our lovely adult condominium community — they're buying and loving it! They say the reasons are . . .

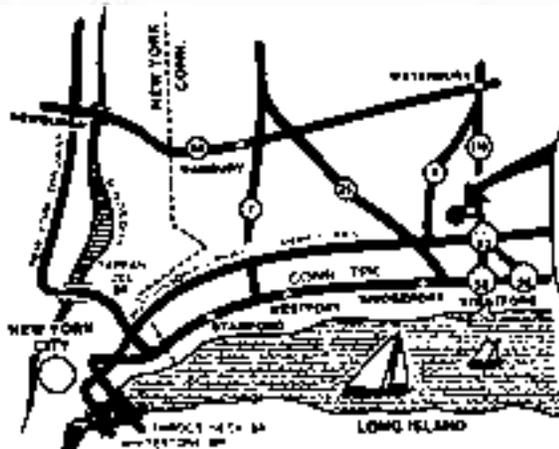
Our homes are so private. Every one with a full basement of its own for storage (or to finish as work or playroom at extra cost). Every one with a garage underneath. And no one above or below you.

Our golf course is so exceptional. An 18-hole championship course* with clubhouse* just a stroll from your front door.

Our location is so choice. Rolling, tree-clustered countryside in the heart of Fairfield County, central to many corporate headquarters, cultural attractions, shopping complexes, transportation connections and boating facilities.

Our community is so lively. Round-the-year community center activities . . . magnificent swimming pools . . . congenial company if you want it — privacy if you prefer.

*membership fee required



Oronoque Village, Stratford, Ct.
Priced from \$47,500 to \$60,900.
Model homes open daily 9 to 6 or by appointment.

Take Merritt Parkway to Exit 53N, go north on Rte. 110 one block to . . . Oronoque Lane, Stratford, Ct. For information call 203-377-1820.

Oronoque Village is a Connecticut Joint Venture. This advertisement is not an offering which can be made only by formal prospectus. N.Y. 500

Agent: Leonard J. Riccio Associates



North Community Building under construction

The Beginning . . .

When residents began moving into Oronoque Village in 1971, most of the 304-acre development was still on a drawing board. The concept was to combine the comforts of town with the convenience of country-club living. It was a \$60-million dollar project. How did it begin?

The Oronoque area had begun changing from apple orchards and farms to suburban dwellings during the preceding twenty years. The new Sikorsky plant on Route 110 was built in 1955 and residential homes were appearing on Prayer Spring Road and Peace Acre Lane. In the late '60s, Oronoque Hills, a corporate partnership headed by Bridgeport native Chris Bargas, began assembling acreage that would become the condominium development. Some of the land had originally belonged to families that shaped the growth of the area since 1685.

Bargas and his partners adopted the new "cluster concept" – "better living on less land." Cluster houses, built on smaller lots than conventional housing, mean that more land can be turned into common open space. Bargas engaged the San Francisco architectural firm of Walz & McLeod to design the development, with the Stratford firm of Antinozzi Associates acting as local consulting architects. The developers and the architects agreed on a

basic style that would mix the New England salt box, the Swiss chalet and San Francisco modern – with gable roofs of various pitches and siding stained in a half dozen or more hues.

About 130 acres was retained by the Bargas group to develop an 18-hole championship golf course which would encircle the Village. Its slopes, hollows and still-water hazards throughout a 6,850-yard course were designed by the renowned golf-course architect Desmond Muirhead of Newport Beach, California. The famed golfer Gene Sarazen, a Connecticut native, served as the consultant.

Preliminary plans were filed with the Stratford Planning Commission in December, 1969, and approved a month later. Oronoque Hills began doing business in the "round house" at the corner of Surrey Lane, which was built by Bargas as the development office. The construction of the golf course began in March, 1971. The first models and condominiums on Algonquin Lane started in June, 1970 and were ready for inspection in November of that year.

From the early planning stages, the Village was designed for environmental conservation. The four-acre lake that now forms an integral part of the back nine was once



Oops! That first speed bump in Oronoque was a surprise

a swamp. Several minor branches of the streams which criss-cross the property were diverted into mainstream channels to make the best use of the land. Utilities were placed underground and original trees preserved as much as possible. Oak, maple, beech, hemlock, tulip and dog-wood trees were saved.

In time, two community buildings, three swimming pools and four all-weather tennis courts were added to the development. But the central theme of Oronoque Village remains natural beauty. The surroundings of rolling hillocks, wooded glens, tranquil ponds and towering trees still provide a haven for wildlife. A quiet walk on a summer's evening will discover busy chipmunks, a family of

cottontails foraging on clover, gray squirrels everywhere. Overhead there is a chorus of tree toads and the mimicry of mockingbirds or the song of cardinals.

Ponds have their own life – the steady harrumph of the bullfrog and the graceful landings of mallards, wood ducks and Canada geese. From time to time, one catches a glimpse of deer, a passing red fox or a flock of wild turkeys making their way around the periphery of Oronoque Village.¹

¹ Adapted from an article by Lee Marie Garman, Tom Dougherty and Marjorie Morgan in Oronoque Village: Fifth Anniversary, 1971-1976.

Security Vehicle – Then



Security Vehicle – Now



The Village Organization

It was inevitable and desirable that a Village of this size would change and adapt as it grew. The original concept called for 26 "clusters" which were called "condominiums." Often at Village meetings there would be 25 different opinions. In 1978 with 929 Village units and approximately 1,500 residents, this cumbersome arrangement was reorganized into the present 11 districts with approximately 85 units in each. The reorganization gave birth to Oronoque Village Condominium Association, Inc., commonly known as OVCA.

OVCA, the governing Board of Directors in Oronoque Village, is legally responsible for the daily operations of the Village. It provides for the maintenance of residences and for community affairs in the Village. The residents of each of the 11 districts elect a representative to serve on the OVCA governing board as well as representatives to serve on the various OVCA committees. Everyone serves voluntarily except for our Executive Manager and Director of Maintenance, who are salaried employees, and our office and maintenance staff, who are hourly employees.

The OVCA Board is comprised of 4 Executive Officers, serving one year terms as President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as the 11 elected representatives from each Village district. OVCA meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the North Community Building. Meetings are open to all residents who may observe the business proceedings and speak at the Open Forums before and after the meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend meetings.

In 1979, the Oronoque Village Tax District ("OVTD") was formed under the statutes of the State of Connecticut and is a Municipality with all the powers and responsibilities of any municipality in the state. It consists of 9 directors each serving three year rotating terms. The directors are elected by the voters of the Village. The President, Vice-President,

Marge Boutilier

Marge, an Associate Corporate GE Secretary for 19 years in Manhattan, learned that the company was relocating to the "wilds of Fairfield, Connecticut." After searching the area, she chose a unit at 578 North Trail, still under construction and not ready for occupancy. Since Marge had no need for a car, she commuted to Stratford, until finally in August she moved into her new home. There was no construction beyond Arapaho Lane, although the road was built to the NCB site. One contractor stored trees and shrubs for future planting but, when they began to disappear, security guards were hired at night. One of the funniest things that Marge remembers is one of the workmen asking her why she was moving to "Menopause Hill?" Thanks for the memories, Marge.

COST OF LIVING 1971 VS 2011

	1971	2011	
Whittier Unit - Oronoque	\$50,400	\$359,900	614%
Average Annual Income	\$10,600	\$105,300	893%
Gasoline - One gallon	\$0.40	\$3.89	873%
Dodge Charger	\$3,579	\$25,170	603%
U.S. Postage Stamp	\$0.08	\$0.44	450%
Movie Ticket	\$1.50	\$7.00	367%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	\$890	\$10,913	1,126%

Oronoque used satellites for TV until 2008



The Post Office came to the Villagers in early days





Early directors meeting – all 25 Oronoque Village “condo associations”

Esther Voitul

Esther’s parents lived in Stratford and, as she first drove into the Village, she knew that was where she wanted to live. Her unit on North Trail had recently been completed, was ready for occupancy, and had common charges of \$71 a month. At that time, landscaping was not provided, so she did her own. Since District 10 surrounds the NCB, many residents became involved in the many events. Esther remembers early days in the district as being “special.” Esther volunteered for many of these activities, and had a commendation from OVCA and OVTD for “time and effort you expended toward the Betterment of our Community. It is people like you who have made our Village what it is today.”

Treasurer and Secretary are then elected by the directors.

OVTD is responsible for Village security, roads, community buildings, maintenance building, trucks and other vehicles used by the Village. The pools, tennis courts, mini-farms and parts of the Village infrastructure are also OVTD’s responsibility.

Over the years, OVTD has saved the Village hundreds of thousands of dollars through its tax status and buying power as a municipality. Due to its eligibility for FEMA disaster relief reimbursement, OVTD has received hundreds of thousands in reimbursements.

OVTD meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the North Community Building. All Villagers are welcome to attend and may voice their concerns at the Open Forums, before and after the meeting.

OVCA and OVTD have worked well in keeping the Village legal, solvent and a pleasant place to live. Much of the work in the Village is done by committees comprised of resident volunteers. These committees are crucial to the operation of the Village and resident participation is encouraged. This is your Village, so get involved.

As the Village developed, it became obvious that a full-time professional manager was needed to handle the myriad of questions and problems that arose. Everything from . . . my chimney smokes to my neighbor smokes, my roof leaks, my floors squeak, my deck’s too small, can I install a new door, will you put in a larger window? Countless

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1971?

- **Firsts . . .**

- Microprocessor which began the digital age
- E-mail was sent
- Pocket calculator introduced by Texas Instruments

- **Soft Contact Lens became available in the U.S.**

- **Richard Nixon was President of the United States**

- **Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali in the fight of the century**

- **Popular TV Programs...**

All My Children, The Partridge Family, and All in the Family

- **Popular Musicians and Songs . . .**

Go Away Little Girl by Donny Osmond, *You've Got a Friend* by James Taylor, and *Joy to the World* by Three Dog Night

- **Popular Movies...**

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, Fiddler on the Roof, and A Clockwork Orange

details from a Village point of view perhaps, but important to the individual resident.

Therefore, in 1975, James Pall was appointed the first Executive Manager. Three years later, Vincent Rotundo was his replacement. In 1982 Anthony Carbone assumed this position. When he retired in 2004, John Staley, former Maintenance Director, stepped in and continues as Executive Manager today.



Karin Douglas

It was a long journey for Karin Douglas from Germany and Switzerland to Oronoque. The Douglasses purchased an unfinished unit on Seminole Lane in 1973. Every unit had a "bayberry green" bathtub that could not be changed. On moving day, the van had to come through Midwood and across the dirt, as the street was not built. With no mailbox, they had to pick up mail at the developer's office on Dakota Lane. Only the small heated pool was completed, and you had to go early to get a chair. Karin remembers many social activities: "Happy Hours," monthly show buses into NYC and lots of private parties. Karin and her husband hosted an annual Kentucky Derby Party, complete with betting parlor and many mint juleps.

Snow plowing by our great Maintenance crew





Snow Plowers Ready for the Storm

OV Maintenance and Office Staff

Oronoque Village would not be as successful a community as it is without a dedicated maintenance and office staff to keep things running smoothly.

The Maintenance Staff is headed by our Director of Maintenance, Frank Forte. He is ably assisted on the front lines by his office staff of Donna Booker, Marisol Ribas and Kelly Bretan. These workers are the patient voices on the phone when Villagers call the Maintenance Office. The actual maintenance crew varies in size as the seasons pass. Many workers have been on the crew for many years. They keep the Village looking as great as it does.

The Office Staff makes sure that the day-to-day business of the Village runs smoothly. John Staley, our Execu-

tive Manager, heads a staff of four workers. John oversees all the workings of the Village. Susan Gorman, Administrative Assistant, is the front line for the North Building Office. She works closely with John Staley. Carol King, Communication Coordinator, helps keep the community informed through her work on the *Bulletin*, eBlasts and other publications. Diane Roche, Head Accountant and our resident CPA, and Liz Choma, Accounting Assistant, make sure that the financial end of the Village is in proper order.

These two departments are vital to the success of our Village. We have been fortunate to have such a staff of dedicated workers to make Oronoque Village such a wonderful place to live.

Our terrific office staff – Frank, Carol, Donna, Marisol, Diane, Sue, Liz, and John



Commemorative Events in 2011

Paying tribute to the forty years of its existence, encompassing hundreds of social events and meetings and thousands of volunteer hours . . . 2011 brought forth a profusion of special events to celebrate Oronoque Village's unique condominium history and engaging lifestyle.

SAC'S New Year's Eve Celebration 2010 – The ballroom at Oronoque Country Club was a vision of a winter wonderland with the tiny lights and twinkling snowflakes encompassing the room. Table centerpieces held gold and red balloons indicative of the upcoming 40th Ruby Anniversary of the Village which would start at the stroke of midnight. The Social Activities Committee ("SAC") initiated the anniversary plans with the Frank Porto Orchestra that played "oldies but goodies" favorites, and had a vocalist who sang Sinatra ballads to a captive audience that filled the dance floor. The "count down" approaching midnight resulted in lots of hugging and kissing to extend best wishes to old and new friends to welcome 2011.

Up goes the first anniversary banner!



Paul and Elfrieda Zangas

Uprooted from their Long Island home in 1973, Paul and Elfrieda searched for a Connecticut home and found Oronoque. Elfrieda says she missed her family and friends and was lonely the first year. But they quickly became involved in Village affairs. The artist Paul gave freely of his talent. He hand-painted posters and flyers for the Village. He designed the Oronoque logo, the flag for our flagpole and the Garden Club notecards. Paul was art director for the Villager for many years. Elfrieda and a group of seven ladies wanted to beautify the grounds. They took landscaping lessons and formed the Oronoque Village Garden Club. They designed and planted the Oriental garden at the South Community Building. "Hat Lady" Elfrieda always wears a lovely hat to frame her beautiful face.

Madeline Rapp Conti

Madeline never expected to live in Oronoque Village. A fire in their Shelton home changed all that. She and her husband bought a unit on unpaved Bison Lane. "I came with the dirt," Madeline recalls. Her husband, who was a meat cutter, brought a gift of lamb chops to their roommates, Elfrieda and Paul Zangas, and that, as they say, "was the start of a beautiful friendship" that endured for 38 years. Madeline wonders if any other building has two original owners.



New Year's Eve 2011 at Oronoque Country Club



Dressy ladies at the 2011 New Year's Eve Party

The 2011 House & Garden Tour showcased Village beauty



Southwestern flavor on the House & Garden Tour



The House & Garden Club – A house and garden tour was hosted in May, featuring eight homes in the Village. Amazingly, the 929 units in Oronoque not only differ by the sixteen different types but also by the residents' creativity, which makes every unit unique. The eight homes that were opened to the public for the tour showcased the way residents have modified their units, with both physical alterations and decorating, to complement their tastes and interests. With more than 175 people attending, the club raised \$2,115 which will be used on beautification projects in the Village. Originally started by fifteen residents in 1974 as the Garden Club, the Oronoque Village House and Garden Club (as it was renamed in 1987) now has approximately 200 members.

Village Voices – June 3, 2011 was a momentous occasion for the Oronoque Village Voices with the debut of conductor Deana Saunders' original song entitled, "Oronoque Village, We Call It Home." It was written in honor of the Oronoque Village 40th Anniversary Celebration. The song is a warm testimonial of Deana's love, commitment and understanding of the Village and what it means to all of us.

The concert brought back favorite songs presented in concerts over the twelve years that the Chorus has been in existence. Songs such as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," "Young at Heart," "Sunrise Sunset," "This is My Country," "Let Me Entertain You," "When You're Smiling" and "I'll Be Seeing You" were sung with gusto and verve. Featured songs were "O' What a Beautiful Morning" and "I Got Rhythm," and Deana Saunders' rendition of "June is Busting Out All Over" got a standing ovation. "In the Still of the Night," sung by the Low Tones - the men in the chorus- snapping their fingers and rocking to the music got the audience "in the mood."

The packed house showed its appreciation for the hard

Our 40th GALA Celebration

40th Anniversary Gala Celebration

Oronoque Village

requests the pleasure of your company

as we celebrate our

40th Ruby Anniversary

Sunday, the twenty-third of October

half-past four in the afternoon

Oronoque Country Club

*Semi-Formal Attire
(Jackets Required)*

The overwhelming response to the Oronoque Village 40th Anniversary Gala was a surprise to everyone. Reservations filled the Social Activities Box on the very first day, and the committee scrambled to duplicate the event on a second night.

But, who would have thought we would have to worry about snow for Gala II on October 30th? All the stars were aligned to reproduce the Gala a second time, when the response for the original night turned out to be overwhelming. The Country Club was available, the pianist could come, and most important, the star entertainer for the evening was available. No problem to decorate again, and to set tables for Gala II.

Well, Mother Nature threw us a curve. As the volunteers were decorating the Country Club, the snow started to fall. With the snow wet and heavy on the autumn leaves, there was concern the power would go out. Luckily that didn't happen, so, as the saying goes, "The show must go on." And on both dates, over 200 Villagers, decked out in their finery, appeared at the Oronoque Country Club ready to party, and party they did.

Gala I and II guests were greeted, and given their food and drink tickets and table assignments. The

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The Gala decorations shimmered











Our 40th GALA Celebration

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cocktail hour offered tasty hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, a champagne fountain, and delightful piano music by Roger Young. As the dinner hour approached, the guests were led into the ballroom and were treated to a wonderland of ruby decorations and white fairy lights. The room looked spectacular. On both evenings, Cheryl Dwyer welcomed everyone. Then, our own Percy DiBlasi and Marilyn Phillips, entertained us with a rendition of "Ode to Oronoque," written specially for the 40th anniversary. Opening remarks were presented by Karen Hahn at Gala I and Barbara Minoff at Gala II. At Gala I, John Staley, Executive Manager, and at Gala II former manager Tony Carbone were asked to say a few words. Both recognized how special Oronoque is.

After dinner, the Broadway star attraction, Frank Mastrone, performed with his accompanist, also named Frank, and a wonderful operatic soprano, Krista Adams Santilli. Mr. Mastrone wowed the crowd with Broadway melodies, Sinatra and Bennett tunes, and an assortment of 70's pop and rock hits. His duets with Ms. Santilli were lovely. Her solos were beautifully sung. She was quite expressive.

Between Act I and II of the show, dessert was served. With a flourish, two torch-carrying chefs were followed into the ballroom by white-gloved servers carrying trays of delicious Italian pastries. It was a wonderful presentation for such a tasty dessert.

Mr. Mastrone returned for Act II and continued to wow the audience with song and story. As he ended his show with "What a Wonderful World," he was given a standing ovation. It was a truly wonderful evening.

None of this event could have happened without the amazing talents of **Karen Hahn as 40th Anniversary Chair and Cheryl Dwyer as the Gala Chair**. The Gala committee members were **Marilyn Coffey, Rose Marie Delessio, Jane Finkelstein, Jackie Freeman, Debbie Grosso, Irene Keating, Betty Mulholland, Pat Spodick, Bonnie Usinger, and Dee Varholak**. Kudos, ladies! How can this event ever be topped?!



Original resident Mo Grom with pianist Roger Young

Maureen "Mo" Grom

Mo moved into her unit on Black Hawk Lane in August of 1971. Back then she described the South Side as a "mud hole with no street lights and unpaved roads." The back nine was a big swamp. Mo remembers that a group of about 40 residents became friendly and made the Country Club the focus of their social life. Mo was one of six Oronoquettes who sang and danced in black net stockings in several Oronoque productions. She recalled her weekends were often spent with golf in the morning, then swimming in the heated pool, cocktails around the pool (imagine that), and later out to the grills for barbeque. There were times when residents had trouble finding their way home because all the units looked alike and there were no street lights. Did cocktails play a part in this adventure? Mo also recalls in her early days of teaching a bright young fellow by the name of John Staley. Talk about a small world.

Commemorative Events in 2011

SAC's Annual Pool Party – The Social Activities Committee began in Oronoque in 1972, with the first Happy Hour. Since then, it has been comprised of elected members from the Village and has planned Village-wide social

events for each year. The popular Pool Party was held on August 20th at the South Community Building with after-dinner dancing pool side. This year, 2011, Oronoque's fortieth anniversary year, the theme was "Saturday Night Fever," and more than 130 Villagers gathered to socialize, dance, and to enjoy cocktails and a wonderful buffet dinner. The rooms and pool area were decorated with memorabilia "circa John Travolta" with brilliant balloons and neon fedora hats on the walls and stage, and twinkling white lights around the pools and patios. The DJ saw to it that the dancers were entertained with popular music of that decade. The pool party was a wonderful evening of dining and dancing under the stars and for enjoying life in the Village.

Talented Villagers at the 2011 Arts & Crafts Show



Arts & Crafts Show 2011



Happy residents at the 2011 Pool Party



The "Gala" Golf Tournament – Since 2005, the Golf Tournament Committee and SAC have sponsored a fundraising Resident/Guest Golf Tournament to benefit SAC and House & Garden Club's village beautification projects.

Over the years, funds have been donated to several beautification projects. In conjunction with the House and Garden Club, the four corners at Oronoque Lane were landscaped and updated to make an inviting entrance to our Village. The signage and plantings at the bottom of Oronoque Lane were added partly from this annual fundraiser. Working closely with SAC and House & Garden, the Tournament Committee ensures that the funds go to projects that benefit the entire community. Part of this year's funds supported the "Ruby Red" Anniversary Gala.

The tournament itself provided a fun-filled day for residents and their guests. The reasonable fee enabled golfers to enjoy an eighteen-hole round of golf, a hearty breakfast, cocktails and dinner. Putting and pitching contests were held before the start of play. Once on the course, several holes offered prizes for the players. This year's "Green" Raffle provided the winner with \$335. An-

Dancing by the pool after supper



other lucky golfer won a \$300 gift certificate to Sam's Liquors. Three money raffle prizes were awarded. The Chinese raffle offered prize baskets with an average value of \$100. Trophies and cash prizes were awarded to the winning foursomes.

Non-golfing residents or guests joined the golfers for dinner at a minimal charge. Overall, it was a day of fun and golf for many Villagers and their guests. The Village benefited from the profits – so it was a win-win operation.

Oronoque Village Arts and Crafts Show – As the kick-off event for Oronoque Village's Gala I Weekend, the Oronoque Arts and Crafts Show was held on Saturday, October 22nd. Fourteen artisans gathered in the South Community Building to display their talented work. Organized by the industrious committee of Elisabeth Breslav, Marilyn Cocking, Janet Drummond, Michael Lucas, Barbara Stewart and Virginia Ware, the event brought many curious Villagers. The crafters seemed to create most of the interest for shoppers looking for unique holiday gifts. An assortment of beautiful handcrafted jewelry, lovely knitted articles, hand-painted hats and visors, handmade quilts, and unique children's clothing provided shoppers with a variety of gift possibilities.

The Dollcrafters' table displayed the beautiful dolls they create. These special creations are not only adorable, but they are given to children in distress. What a great community service our Dollcrafters have been providing for many, many years.

The photography displays were quite diverse. Photographs of a snowbound Oronoque drew quite a bit of attention. The sculptures and pottery displays were of the finest quality. Oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings displayed showed

Pauline Piazza

Pauline was a widow when she moved to Hammerstone Lane. The social activities held in the Community Building were an easy way for her to become involved. She said there were some events every weekend, and she would help distribute invitations to residents. One of her fondest memories is of a holiday formal dinner dance, where men wore tuxedos and women wore long gowns. "It was beautiful!" Pauline just celebrated her 97th birthday and has never regretted her decision to move to Oronoque. "I love it here."

a wide variety of styles and subjects, not to mention talent.

During the day, it was wonderful to watch the artisans chat with Villagers and each other, sharing their artistic passions. Oronoque Village certainly can be proud of its very talented Artisans. What a wonderful way to kick off the Gala weekend!

An amazing shot in the putting contest



Tournament players await the signal to GO



The beautiful Oronoque course



Oronoque Village Activities And Clubs 2011

The **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE ("SAC")** is the only official Oronoque Village Condominium Association ("OVCA") group. It plans events and activities for all residents throughout the year. Comprised of representatives elected from each of the 11 districts, SAC reps greet newcomers to their districts and welcome them to all social activities. In addition, they arrange meetings and special functions, including holiday parties and summer picnics open to every Villager. The New Year's Eve Party and the August Pool Party are two of the Village favorites!

SAC members host the July 4th Party



Helping other Villagers – the goal of the Monitors



Maury Johnson & Team – Making a difference for ALS



VOLUNTEERISM IN THE VILLAGE The **ORONOQUE MONITOR PROGRAM** is run by Village volunteers who donate two hours a week and work from an office at the South Community Building, monitoring the comings and goings of residents and visitors. The most important role is to run the Call-In Program. Villagers who live alone may place themselves on a Call-In list and then call the monitor on duty each morning. If the Call-In resident hasn't called by 10:00 a.m. and can't be reached by telephone, the monitor follows a procedure to get in touch with the resident. If necessary Village personnel will go to the person's home to check on his or her safety.

The **LIBRARY** is another volunteer-run program. Best-sellers, fiction and nonfiction, and old time favorite books, as well as videos and audiotapes, are available to all Villagers from the Village Library in the North Community Building. There are no library cards, check-out fees, or time constraints on returns. Many residents donate their gently used recent books to this popular resource.

BOARD AND CARD GAMES are popular at Oronoque. Residents are avid **BRIDGE** players with two duplicate bridge games held on a weekly basis and social games are also scheduled twice a week, but occur even more frequently with small, informal groups. **CANASTA** has become popular on an informal basis, and **MAHJONG** games occur regularly in the clubhouses. **POKER** also is a strong favorite among men and women residents.

THOSE MORE CEREBRAL PURSUITS:

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION GROUP, formed in 2011, meets monthly at SCB to discuss happenings in the news from various media sources. Meetings take place at 10:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Irma and Jerry Hoffer

Moving from New York to Oronoque was only to be a "temporary" move, while their only daughter went to college in Bridgeport. Thirty-seven years later they are still here. Irma remembers getting involved quickly in Village politics, recalling lively discussions concerning the leasing of the Community buildings. She says they only have positive things to say about Village life. They've had a "good run."

Formed in 2011 **THE MOVIE CLUB** brings new entertainment and social opportunities to Village residents by showing one recently-released film twice each month. The Club also offers residents a loan program in which DVDs of previously featured films can be borrowed for home viewing.

Getting together to read is the purpose for **THE ORONOQUE VILLAGE BOOK CLUB** which discusses selections chosen by its members. The group gets together once a month to share their thoughts.

Funded with donations from former residents, the **PLET-MAN CONCERTS** offer an outstanding opportunity for Villagers to enjoy live performers right here in the Village.

THE VILLAGER is a bi-monthly magazine by, and for, the residents of Oronoque Village which has been printed and provided free to each unit owner going back to 1975. Aimed at the interests and values of its 55+ year-old readers, the articles and columns are informative, useful, intellectually stimulating and entertaining. A labor of love by resident volunteers, they write, photograph, edit and provide preparation and production assistance.

ARTS AND CRAFTS:

Residents can even learn **OIL PAINTING** or improve their current skills. Classes are held weekly. New students are always welcome and everyone brings his/her own materials.

ORONOQUE DOLLCRAFTERS began many years ago with a group of dedicated women who wanted to help children in crisis. Membership runs about 15 and about 200 dolls are made each year. In addition, for boys the group sews rabbits and crochets soft balls. Cutting out and stuffing the body, painting faces on each doll, making and attaching hair to the head is the first step. Finally, dresses are sewn, and sweaters and blankets are knitted. The completed dolls are beautiful and are donated through Ronald McDonald House, Silver Wings, Bridgeport Hospital and both fire and police departments.

TEA, TALK & CRAFTS is in its 39th year . . . one of the oldest groups in the Village. From October through May the group meets weekly. Each person brings his/her own projects or mending and enjoys talking, laughing and refreshments. Members take turns bringing dessert for everyone's enjoyment.

PURELY SOCIAL:

FUNSEEKERS: Open to all Villagers, Funseekers offers a diverse choice of social activities both in the Village and away. Meeting once a month, members gather to socialize and to enjoy programs and refreshments.

The WEEKENDERS provides a variety of fun-filled events for all Villagers. You can enjoy a delicious dinner and an evening of fun or get together for Sunday brunch. The group offers a pleasant atmosphere for singles and couples to mingle.

Talent reigns in the Pletman Concerts



Funseekers hit it big at Saratoga



Weekenders keeping busy



MULTI PURPOSE CLUBS:

THE ORONOQUE VILLAGE HOUSE & GARDEN CLUB is a large club focusing on gardening and includes monthly programs such as flower arranging and food related topics. This active group raises funds to beautify Oronoque Village, presents an interesting program at every meeting, and provides a social outlet for mem-

House & Garden's Annual Plant Sale



Hadassah enjoys a card party



Men's Club Bingo is a perennial



bers. Meeting almost every month, programs range from flower arranging to everything about tea to fashion shows.

HADASSAH is a national Zionist organization open to all women. It is dedicated to raising money for genetic and medical research and supports Hadassah Hospital in Israel, a non-sectarian medical center. It is also an advocate for women's rights in the U.S. and around the world. Local chapter meetings are held several times a year, in addition to card parties, luncheons, holiday events, and bus trips to New York City and the casinos.

THE MEN'S CLUB provides an opportunity for men to gather for fellowship, education, entertainment, and participation in activities of interest and benefit to all Villagers. Women are invited to most functions, which include an annual pancake breakfast and St. Patrick's Day party, the flu shot program, plus regular Bingo games, speaker programs, golf outings, AARP Driver Safety Programs and casino trips. They also help direct traffic at times for Village functions.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

BRAVO PLAYERS . . . Bravo being an acronym for Best Readers-Actors in the Village of Oronoque . . . is a community-theater group, putting on one or two productions each year. Residents can participate as either cast or crew members.

Marge Goss

Marge came from Pennsylvania with her "minister husband" whose job as hospital administrator had him searching for suitable locations for nursing homes. The Gosses settled on Prayer Spring Road, just a stone's throw from this new concept of living – condominiums. After many trips up the hill, they decided to buy on North Trail. Marge recalls the fun of selecting the Formica-covered cabinets, the wall colors, and the ever-exciting choice of harvest gold or avocado green for the appliances, definitely not red. Marge recalls having a beautiful golf course view that quickly disappeared as more units were built. What a price to pay for moving in so early!

BULLS AND BEARS members get together to invest money in the stock market. Members present stocks they find interesting and the club decides whether it's a wise investment to pursue. What a profitable way to socialize and make money at the same time . . . we hope.

How the Villagers love to garden . . . the **MINI FARMS** group has use of a tract of land across from the Maintenance Building. Villagers reserve individual 6' x 11' garden plots in which they grow vegetables, fruits and flowers. Contributing a minimal fee, each gardener is supplied with garden supplies (compost, fertilizers, water, lime, and weed killer), equipment and tools. Chairs and umbrellas are provided so gardeners can relax to discuss and compare gardening techniques.

VILLAGE VOICES, a choral group composed of Village residents, performs twice a year—in June (light and familiar old favorites) and December (seasonal selections). The chorus currently is directed by a music teacher from the Trumbull School system and what a great time everyone has blending their voices.

PHYSICAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES:

The women bowlers have an organized **BOWLING** league meeting weekly at the Milford Lanes. The ladies have a great time and every level of expertise is seen. Luncheons mark the end of fall and the spring. There are a myriad of opportunities to win some money at the end of the year, from the winning team to an individual best 3-game series. The men with keen competition (and maybe a dollar or two trades hands!) also meet on Monday with informal play.

Larry Munley

When Larry Munley moved into the first unit completed on Bison Lane, it was to be only for four seasons, while his wife Alice house hunted. The road was built, but not paved. It was a "mud hole" according to Larry. Alice didn't find a house to buy; instead she worked as a sales agent for Oronoque condos. Thirty-eight years later, Larry still lives on Bison Lane. He recalls having a window installed on the lower level so they'd have a panoramic golf course view. Cost \$85.00. Would you like to venture a guess at today's cost?

Bravo entertains year after year



The Jam Lady and Oronoque residents at the Farmer's Market



Ladies Bowling Team – the cellar was promised a trip to Hawaii



LINE DANCING: Fun and camaraderie await you at this weekly activity which embraces all levels of dancing ability and provides excellent exercise for everyone. Currently all women in numbers, the group meets weekly most months of the year.

Our very active tennis players form the **ORONOQUE VILLAGE TENNIS ASSOCIATION** playing fast and furiously every morning of the week during the season. The group helps with the daily maintenance of the tennis courts and also contributes money to a reserve for major repairs.

The Men's Bowling Team has lots of laughs



Our active Tennis Club



The ever popular Water Aerobics



Members also provide complimentary tennis lessons and host round robins and many great social events.

And then there are the **PING PONG** players! Getting together weekly, they play at the South Community Building in the second floor table tennis room. Residents come with their paddles and play a few games with their neighbors.

Last but not least, there are all the **EXERCISE GROUPS**. . . Yoga, Water Aerobics, Zumba, Aqua Zumba. Or you can get a group together and play a game of Bocce. We Villagers want to keep active and fit!

Louise and Lou Trapasso

After visiting friends in Oronoque, the Trapassos fell in love with the place and decided to move. Downsizing in February 1977, they purchased a unit still under construction on Pontiac Lane. They had a window relocated for a golf course view. However, that view didn't last as the woods disappeared and more units were built. Shortly after their December 1977 move, the blizzard of 1978 hit. Governor Grasso closed state roads and everyone was snowed in. Louise and Lou were considered the "young couple" in the neighborhood. Louise remembers annual "themed" dances hosted by District 11, cocktail parties and block parties. Both have worked on various Village committees.

1972 **Oronoque Owners Association** (ad hoc) Carl Pfannkuch (Chairman)

1973 **Central Committee:** 1973 Alan Martin, Pres., 1974-1975 Max Juni, Pres.

1975 **Central Committee and Owners' Assoc.** dissolved and replaced by **OVCA**

1976-1977 Bob Holmes, Pres. 1978 Harry Seegal, Pres.

Oronoque Village Condominium Assoc. Pres. (OVCA)

1978-79Robert Buesche
1980-81Else Sandom
1982-83.....Evelyn Conley
1984.....Herb Ott
1985Eleanor Clancy
1986..... Jerry Freeland
1987-89.....John Thompson
1990..... Charles Snell
1991-94.....Harry Davis
1995Valerie Friedman/Robert Blake
1996-99 Robert Blake
2000-04.....Joseph Vecsey
2005-06.....Robert Macaluso
2007-09 Linda Libertino
2010Karen Hahn
2010-presentBarbara Minoff

Oronoque Village Tax District Pres. (OVTD)

1978(OVTD established 1979)
1979Nelson Downs
1980 Gene Franklin
1981 Harry Seegal
1982-84.....Jerry Freedland
1985 Stanley Reider
1986George Nash
1987-95Roy Dietrich
1996..... Roy Dietrich/Harold Gannon
1996-99 Harold Gannon
2000..... Joseph Sylvester
2001-04..... Sanford Lunt
2005-06Daniel Dunn
2007-10Richard DiVecchio
2010-presentEugene Boone

Professional Executive Managers

1975-77James Pall
1981-2004Anthony Carbone

1978-81 Vincent Rotundo
2004-present..... John Staley



OVCA Board 2011-12 Fr. Row - Robert Friedman (Sec.), Judy Waldeyer, Maggie Dunigan (Treas.), Barbara Minoff (Pres.), Judy Rabkin (VP), Marilyn Coffey, Carole Golden, Fred Hyatt, Jim Manzolli; Bk Row - Lind Libertino, Karen Hahn, Connie Shaw, Jackie Freeman, Jim Orlowe (alt), Jerry Brown; Missing - Robert Lundquist



OVTD Board 2011-12 Len Learner, Dick DiVecchio (Treas.), Mel Holson, Gene Boone (Pres.), Richard Keating (VP), Bob Grosso, Diane Fried (Sec.), Jim Irwin, Steve Brieger

Reflections on the 40th Anniversary of Oronoque Village

By Karen Hahn

The question was raised months ago, "Why are we celebrating Oronoque's 40th Anniversary? Why not wait until the 50th?" Anniversaries and commemorating milestones are an important part of our human experience. Celebrating 40 years of existence is truly an important milestone, as are the 25th, the 50th, and so on. Anniversaries help us relive events. Within this commemorative book, you've read some stories and residents' "memory boxes" that speak to what the Village was when it was first being built in 1971 and in its early years. You probably laughed at some of the pictures. Our 40th anniversary year reminds us to look back at the vision of the people who built the Village, using the concept of cluster homes with people living together for community and for shared maintenance of their homes and grounds. We have come a long way with the efforts of the early residents and the contributions they, and countless volunteers since then, have made to the Village. Consider how much has been accomplished with the diverse talents so many have contributed. Because of this we all can enjoy our beautiful Oronoque Village and can feel comfortable about our wisely-run government and finances. So, let's say thank you to everyone who contributed along the way. Happy Anniversary Oronoque!

The Ruby Anniversary Commemorative Book was written and prepared by a committee chaired by Karen Hahn and members Do Irwin, Betty Mulholland, Dee Varholak and Judy Waldeyer. Some writings were adapted from the Silver Commemorative Book prepared by Jim Orlowe, Bob Blake and Roger Damio, from a Fifth Anniversary Publication writing by Lee Garman, Tom Dougherty, and Marjorie Morgan, and contributions from Doris Emerick and Mose Richards. Photographers include John DiBella, Bob Katz, Marcia Klein, Mike Lucas, Mose Richards, John Staley, Dick Steele, and Judy Waldeyer. Thanks to all those who contributed and those whose names may have been overlooked. Thanks also to Carol King, OVCA Communications Coordinator. Thanks also to the 40th Anniversary Committee chaired by Karen Hahn and members Rosemarie Delessio, Deb Grosso, Irene Keating, Betty Mulholland, and Dee Varholak. And special thanks to John Staley who did so much to make the 40th Anniversary Year a success.

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CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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Congratulations on Oronoque Village's 40th Year!

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Bouvier Insurance congratulates Oronoque Village as you Celebrate your 40th Anniversary!

Bouvier Insurance, your agent for Oronoque Village's master policy, and the OVCA Board of Directors have arranged for special discounted group rates for Oronoque Village residents!

A benefit of this program is that you have access to a team of insurance professionals with an understanding of your master insurance policy, who will take the time to review your insurance for possible coverage gaps or overlaps.

As an added benefit, our agency has been authorized to write automobile and homeowner's insurance through the Hartford's AARP program.

There is no obligation to participate. First and foremost, the goal of our agency is to help educate you to ensure that you are properly protected in the event of the unexpected.

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