



THE VILLAGER



FEATURE

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FEATURE

12 Pletman Concert



FEATURE

13 Artist of the Month



VILLAGE SNAPSHOT



Thanks to our contributing photographers. Left: Irene Sanzone captured a House & Garden Club presentation featuring Kim Larkin, a chocolatier and owner of Klassic Kreations Gourmet. Kim presented a workshop on pairing chocolates with tea, cheese and other foods. Right: Bob Krakovich took the photo of Peter McKiernan and Buddy Connolly, who presented a musical tribute to St. Patrick's Day during the March Funseekers Meeting.

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The cover image is a photograph of Jeff Sells' painting, titled "Bridge to Derby." The painting was the People's Choice Award winner in the first-ever SCB gallery show. (Please see story on page 15.) *The Villager* welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Submissions must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronoquevillage.com

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OUR TOWN

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

By Fred Hyatt

On March 22, Mayor John A. Harkins gave a State of the Town Address at Oronoque Country Club. During the speech, the mayor said, "Despite ongoing state budget woes and a sluggish national economy, the state of our town is strong."

He noted that his administration has seen significant growth in the tax base as well as addressed the town's long-underfunded pension plan. "We have improved our EMS department, streamlined the delivery of other municipal government services and effectively made across-the-board adjustments in operations for the benefit of our residents; we have addressed and continue to address contaminated super fund sites; we have sustained jobs and employers in town while attracting new businesses to our



Mayor John A. Harkins

community; and our streets and neighborhoods have never looked better."

He added, however, there is still work to do:

To ensure that today's youths will be better prepared and educated than any previous generation, he has proposed historic support and assistance for our school system by sending a budget to the Town Council with a 7.4 percent increase in education spending.

Under the proposed plan, students will have access to 28 new educators, from teachers to tutors, spread across several academic disciplines in an effort to address performance concerns, maintain and decrease the student-teacher ratio, and address an increasing special education student population.

This investment will have both immediate and long-term impacts due to its social and economic benefits, the mayor said. "Providing quality education will result in a more informed citizenry, lower crime, gainful employment and a better future for our children. Investing in our schools will also help to attract families who will move to Stratford and maintain our community for years to come."

Despite a slow economic recovery in the Northeast and the state of Connecticut's budget woes, Mayor Harkins stated that our town continues to experience an economic renaissance. "Stratford is one of the top towns in the state



THE VILLAGER

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Please direct all questions regarding The Villager publication, and submit any proposed notices and event listings, to Carol King. Unsolicited manuscripts, which we invite from all residents, should be discussed first with Carol King. We also welcome unsolicited photographs of Oronoque scenes and events, which should be submitted to Marcia Klein.

The VILLAGER is published by the Communications Committee of The Oronoque Village Condominium Association. Disclaimer: All advertisers are paid submissions and The VILLAGER makes no representation of their credibility. Neither OVCA nor OVTD discriminate in the use of facilities by resident groups.

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in terms of new jobs created and jobs retained. The unemployment rate in Stratford is at 5.4 percent, down from 9.2 percent in 2012," he said.

During the past three years, 38 new businesses have moved to Stratford, creating more than 590 jobs; and 14 businesses have expanded resulting in 708 retained jobs and an additional 350 new jobs. "This activity has been the primary driving force of continued growth in our Grand List of taxable property, resulting in growth of nearly \$38 million this past year alone. Growing our tax base continues to be a priority of my administration," Mayor Harkins said.

Among the pending projects that will provide additional revenues is the build-out of a new substation by the United Illuminating Co. The new facility, located next to an older substation that will come off-line, will be located on Stratford Avenue. In the first year it is brought on-line, the new substation is expected to generate an additional \$775,000 in tax revenue to our town.

A Transit Oriented District (TOD) has already been approved by the town. "Proposed parking and development plans in Stratford Center could lead to an additional \$1 million in annual revenue," the mayor stated. "Also, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management has announced that Stratford has been awarded a \$200,000 Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant for a Complete Streets Improvement Plan." This will allow the Town to further develop transportation choices within a half-mile radius around the Stratford train station and town center.

By working with state and federal partners, the mayor said that his administration has secured significant funding for additional projects that will help bolster our local economy.

"Through the regional Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, we have secured \$24 million in funding for the installation of a full Exit 33 interchange off of I-95," he said. "Working with the state DOT, this project will create additional commerce opportunities here in Stratford, and ease traffic congestion issues in the area."

Demolition and remediation of the former Contract Plating site is well under way. The state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) awarded the town of Stratford a \$2.85 million grant to remediate and demolish the 10.5-acre site, which lies within Stratford's TOD and holds potential for a significant mixed use / TOD development project.

Further, the State of Connecticut has awarded Point Stratford Renewal grants totaling \$900,000 for use in developing the Stratford Army Engine Plant project.

"My administration has been working with the developers, the U.S. Army, and CT DEEP in an effort to continue advocating for the remediation of the property, the Housatonic River mudflats, and the transfer of the property so the development can move forward," the mayor said.

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REMINDER: CHANGE IN THE VILLAGER FLYER POLICY TO BEGIN NEXT ISSUE

During the March 15 OVCA Board meeting, the following changes were approved regarding flyer insertions in *The Villager* magazine:

Flyers will no longer be regularly inserted into *The Villager*. In lieu of flyers, half-page, color advertisements announcing club or group events will be incorporated into the magazine.

These ads will take the place of the same event being published under "Announcements" or "Activities." All events will continue to be listed in "Calendar" section.

Ads promoting one particular event can be included in *The Villager* a maximum of two times.

However, clubs that are holding overnight trips are allowed a maximum of three ads for their events.

Any exceptions to the above policy must be approved through the Communications Committee or its assigned designee.

The new flyer policy will begin with the May 2 issue of *The Villager*.

Reminders: All events and activities that are published in *The Villager* must first be scheduled through the Oronoque Village Business Office.

Submissions to *The Villager* must be typed and sent by email to cking@oronoquevillage.com

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MAY 14 CLEANUP DAY TO OFFER DUMPSTERS, DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

During the May 14 Spring Cleanup Day, Villagers will have multiple opportunities to get rid of unwanted goods. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., dumpsters will be placed in the rear parking lot of SCB for the disposal of household items, including furniture, appliances and metal objects that are less than 8 feet in size. Members of the Maintenance staff will be on hand to assist residents.

There will be a dumpster for metal and another for bulk items. All metal items must be separated from other materials.

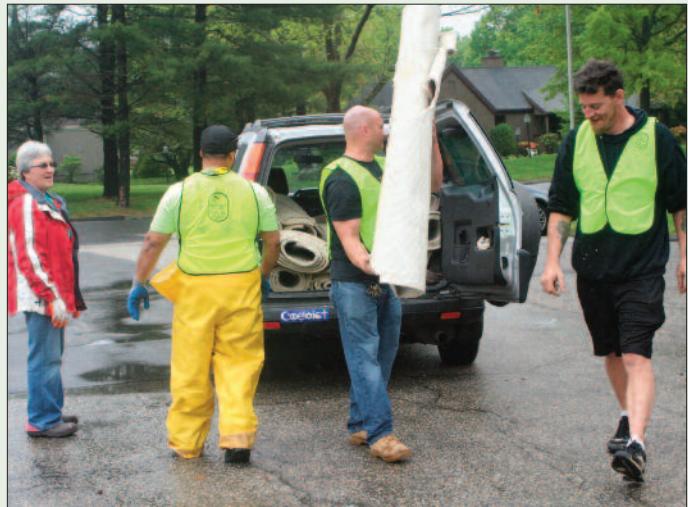
Bulk collection items include the following:

- Furniture
- Mattresses and box springs
- Carpeting
- Large metal items (8' maximum)
- Fencing

The following items will not be allowed:

(These items must be taken directly to the Town of Stratford Transfer Station)

- Household garbage and trash
- Small items that would normally fit into the trash container for weekly pickup, including cardboard
- Brush, leaves, branches, stumps
- Hazardous materials, paint
- Recyclable materials
- Demolition material (i.e. asphalt, shingles, sheetrock, concrete, tile, brick or any other masonry debris)
- Freon-containing appliances (i.e. refrigerators)
- Printers, televisions or electronics of any kind
- Tires, vehicles, oil tanks



Shredding Truck at NCB

Bouvier Insurance will, once again, sponsor a shredding truck that will be parked at NCB during Cleanup Day.

City Confidential Shredding Service will be parked at NCB from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Villagers are encouraged to use this service to destroy outdated confidential documents, such as bank statements, credit card receipts, invoices, insurance forms and cancelled checks.

Charitable Donations at SCB

Representatives from Vietnam Veterans of American will be on hand to accept donations. The organization will gladly accept clothes, toys, shoes, books, electronics, small furniture, household items, tools, jewelry, bedding and more.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHONE DIRECTORY UPDATES ARE NEEDED BY MAY 2ND

Residents whose names were omitted from the recently published *Oronoque Village Telephone Directory* as well as those who have incorrect listings in the publication should report the errors to the Business Office in writing by May 2. Please drop off your updated information or email the details to larvers@oronoquevillage.com

ORONOQUE VILLAGE AD IS IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF CT MAGAZINE

A 1/3 page advertisement featuring Oronoque Village Condominium Association appears on page 31 of the current

issue of *Connecticut Magazine*. The ad is designed by Communications Committee volunteer Emilio Ruiz. More information on the ad will be included in the May 2 *Villager*.

To see an electronic version of the *Connecticut Magazine* publication, visit <http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/?i=295157>

SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

Residents are invited to join the fun and express their creativity by working in clay. A five-week sculpture class (for beginners and continuing students) will start on Wednesday, May 11, and run weekly through June 8. Classes are held from 10 a.m. to noon in the Arts and Crafts Room of the South Clubhouse.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRATFORD'S FIRE RATING MAY RESULT IN SAVINGS TO RESIDENTS

An evaluation of Stratford's structural fire suppression capabilities resulted in an upgrade of the town's rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). The improved rating could mean reduced insurance costs paid by town residents and businesses.

Stratford's new Public Protection Classification (PPC) has been upgraded to Class 2, effective April 1, 2015.

"Stratford is the only municipality in Fairfield County to achieve a rating of this caliber," notes Stratford Fire Department Deputy Chief Jonathan Gottfried.

Residents are encouraged to contact their insurance representative to determine whether the improvement to

the town's ISO fire rating will benefit them, Gottfried said. "If a homeowners insurance company subscribes to the ISO, they can request a lower rate."

According to Dominic Santana, manager of the ISO national processing center, the ISO PPC plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies.

While the ISO rating does not guarantee a savings to every homeowner, the new rating could mean savings for residents on their homeowner's insurance policies.

A savings of approximately \$50 per year is not unrealistic, Gottfried said. OV

The cost is \$50 plus \$5 for supplies. Contact instructor Wendy Swain at 203-386-9125 or wendysw10s@gmail.com. Class size is limited. Please sign up by May 4.

may be obtained by contacting Nancy Blagys (203-375-1135) or Gery Cuccaro, (203-283-4399).

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST AT THE SCB GALLERY SHOW

The second art show at SCB, which has the theme of "People and Animals," is under way. The show will conclude at the end of June. Residents are urged to cast votes for their favorite work of art in this show. The artist who receives the most votes will be named the "People's Choice Award" winner. (Please see the article on page 15 to learn about the People's Choice Award winner for the premier SCB gallery show.)

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 7 will meet on April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at NCB. *(Please note time change)*

District 10 will meet on April 21 at 5:30 p.m. at NCB.

PICKLEBALL CLUB MEET & GREET, OPENING DAY ROUND ROBIN

The OV Pickleball Club cordially invites you to "A Meet & Greet," Tuesday, May 3, at 7 p.m. at the NCB Library. Please attend and discover the joys of pickleball play. Light refreshments will be served.

An Opening Day Round Robin is scheduled Saturday, May 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the OV Racquet Sports Facility. All residents are welcome to stop by to watch or play. Equipment is available.

Pickleball is a sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Additional information

NOTICE OF TENNIS CLUB MEETING

On Monday, May 2, the Tennis Club will hold its spring meeting at 7 p.m. at the NCB. All Villagers who enjoy tennis are invited to attend and learn about the club.

Club President Tom Torpey will conduct the meeting, which will include the adoption of the new club guidelines.

Membership dues are \$35 per person and should be paid before June 1. Dues will be collected on-site.

Upcoming events include breakfast round robins on May 14 and May 21, tournaments on June 4 and Sept. 10, a party on July 9, a Wimbledon party on July 10, a pizza party on Aug. 18 and a party on Sept. 17. Additional round robins will take place during the season.

SAVE THE DATE: H & G PLANT SALE IS MAY 14

The annual House & Garden Plant Sale will take place on May 14 at NCB. See the next issue of *The Villager* for details.



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ACTIVITIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: To ensure accuracy, information must be submitted, via email, to Carol King at coking@oronoquevilage.com. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on May 2, is April 19 at noon.

BINGO

- Bingo, presented by the Men's Club, occurs at 7 p.m. at SCB on Thursday, April 21. The cost is \$2.50 per card.

BOCCE

- Bocce games are played weekly on Thursdays at 10 a.m. The games are informal and all are welcome. Questions? Call Ralph or Sue at 203-916-7156.

BOOK CLUB

- The Book Club meets at the NCB Library at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. On May 4, *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah will be discussed. This is an epic novel of love and war, spanning from the 1940s to the present day, and the secret lives of those who live in a small French town. The novel also tells the story of two courageous sisters who come together to join forces in a time when hope, faith and unity are lost.
- *Of Human Bondage* by Somerset Maugham is the selection for June.

CURRENT EVENTS

- The Current Events Discussion Group will meet in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on April 20, May 4 and May 18.

DOLLCRAFTERS

- Dollcrafters meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays at NCB.

FUNSEEKERS

- Funseekers will present soprano Rebecca (Becky) Craig, a talented and accomplished actor and singer on Tuesday, May 10, at 7 p.m. at NCB. (Please note location change.) Becky has performed leading roles with Stamford's Curtain Call Theater in *Titanic*, *Les Miserables*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Merchant of Venice* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*, to name just a few. John Michniewicz, Becky's accompanist, received his doctor of musical arts and master of music degrees from the Manhattan School of Music. Admission is \$2 for members, \$5 for guests. Cabaret-style seating. BYOB and snacks. Desserts and beverages will be served after the program.

- Funseekers invites residents and guests to an all-new show featuring John Timpanelli on Thursday, June 16, at St. Clements Castle in Portland, Conn. John is a long-time Oronoque favorite and will pay tribute to some of the great songwriters and singers of our time, including Neil Sedaka, Paul Anka, Barry Manilow, Peter Allen and Elton John.

Lunch will be served in the Prince Edward Ballroom and include either Chicken Francaise with lemon and capers or Mahi Mahi with mango-pepper relish. The bus will depart SCB at 10:15 a.m. and return at 4:45 p.m. The cost of \$82 per person is due by May 8. Make check to Funseekers and place in the mailbox in NCB. Include your choice of entrée(s) on memo line.

- The May 6 trip to see the Corvettes Doo-Wop show has been cancelled.

HADASSAH

- All are invited to attend the Hadassah Annual Spring Luncheon and Card Party at noon on May 11 at Mill River Country Club. The cost is \$27. Please remit payment by May 6. For information, call Gladys at 203-380-8866, Barbara at 203-378-7781 or Arlene at 203-345-1196. Please see the flyer for a sign-up sheet.

HOUSE & GARDEN CLUB

- Milan Bull, senior director of science and conservation at the Connecticut Audubon Society, will be the guest speaker at the May 9 meeting of the House & Garden Club. His presentation, titled "Fifty Years Behind the Binoculars," will document the changes in our bird population. If you like observing and listening to the wide variety of birds who make their homes in and around Oronoque Village, you will enjoy this program. Milan will be available for questions after his presentation. Refreshments will be served. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the South Clubhouse. Guests are always welcome.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

- Resident women are invited to attend a Bible study class on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium at SCB.

LINE DANCING

- Weekly line dancing classes are offered on Wednesdays at NCB. Beginner classes are at 9:30 a.m. Classes for all levels take place at 10 a.m. Classes will not be held May 4 and 18.

ACTIVITIES

SAC TO HOST 3RD ANNUAL MINI WALK TO SUPPORT ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

By Barbara Minoff ~ Photo by Cathy Fiveson Rappaport

On your mark, get set, and go! Please join us on Saturday, June 4, at 9 a.m. for a mini walk to support the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter.

Every 67 seconds someone in America develops Alzheimer's. Families dealing with the affects of this disease need our support more than ever! The money raised will be used to provide services for people living with Alzheimer's disease, as well as to fund valuable research.

The walk is a short route around South Trail, commencing at 9 a.m. at the back parking lot of the South Clubhouse, and circling around back to the South Clubhouse for the finish.

The recommended entry donation is \$10 per walker, but contributions above the entry are very much appreciated. You can get sponsorships from family and friends for your walk, adding support and helping to raise more funds. We encourage you to bring family members, friends and children to walk with you!

We ask that you also bring your sponsors' donations on



Last year, the SAC Alzheimer Mini Walk attracted 50-plus participants.

the day of the walk. Let's work together to exceed last year's goal! Refreshments will be provided and it will be a great day for camaraderie, exercise and giving back to the community.

This year, in addition to our mini walk, SAC will host a Classic Car Show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the South Clubhouse front and back parking lots. Reserve your car space now for an entry donation of just \$10. All proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter.

For further information, please contact Barbara at 203-386-0533, or Dave at 203-502-0131.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

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MEN'S CLUB

- The Men's Club casino trip to Mohegan Sun on May 16 will leave from the rear parking lot of the South Clubhouse at 1 p.m. and depart the casino at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person. Please make checks out to Oronoque Village Men's Club and place in the Men's Club box at NCB. Your check is your reservation. Call Sandy Lunt at 203-377-5833 or Jerry Brown at 203-378-7781 with questions.

MOVIE CLUB

- Films are shown at NCB at 7 p.m. on the second Friday of each month and the following Wednesday at 2 p.m. The \$1 admission includes popcorn. (**Note: Movie Club showings return to NCB in May.**)
- The film for May 13 and 18 is *Trumbo*, starring Bryan Cranston. In 1947, Dalton Trumbo was Hollywood's top screenwriter until he and other artists were jailed and black-listed for their political beliefs. Helen Mirren portrays Trumbo's nemesis, Hedda Hopper.
- The film for June is *The Big Short*.

PICKLEBALL

- Pickleball season is under way. Please email Gery Cuccaro at cleeker@optonline.net to find out dates of scheduled play as well as to request that you be added to the club's mailing list.
- The pickleball courts are open to all Villagers. Equipment is stored in the shed by the tennis courts. Tennis/court shoes with nonmarking soles must be worn.

WEEKENDERS

- Mark your calendars for May 14 when Weekenders presents the talents of pianist Dr. Joe Utterback accompanied by vocalist Michael Jovovich. The event takes place at NCB beginning at 6 p.m. Dr. Joe has been a featured jazz artist in the U.S. and overseas for more than 50 years. Michael has sung with some of the most talented individuals on Broadway. Sam Levinson will again prepare a delicious feast. The cost is \$17 per person. To ensure a seat, please put checks made out to Weekenders in the box at the at NCB. The event is limited to 150 guests. Questions? Carol: 375-2101, Sharon and Sam: 380-8240, Arlene and Ken: 870-9561.

CALENDAR

For the latest on OV news and events, go to www.oronoquevillage.com or OVT. OVT is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Adult Coloring, SCB, C/R (C)

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

- 9:00 a.m. – House & Garden Tag Sale, SCB (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – SAC Cabaret Night, NCB (O)

SUNDAY, APRIL 17: No events scheduled

MONDAY, APRIL 18

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bridge, NCB, C/R (O)
- 7:30 p.m. – Poker, SCB, C/R2 (C)

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

- 9:00 a.m. – Yoga for Seniors, SCB C/R 2(O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba Gold, NCB, Aud (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 12:30 p.m. – Cards, SCB, Back Rm (C)
- 2:00 p.m. – Rummikub, SCB, Lounge (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – OVCA Board Mtg, NCB, (O)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

- 9:30 a.m. – Beginner Line Dancing, NCB, Aud (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB, Aud (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Blood Pressure Screening, NCB, C/R
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *Bridge of Spies*, SCB (O)
- 5:00 p.m. – Poker, NCB, C/R (C)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Men's Poker, SCB, C/R2 (C)

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

- 10:00 a.m. – Oil Painting Class, SCB, Arts & Crafts Rm(C)
- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba Gold, NCB, Aud (O)
- 12:30 p.m. – Card Game, SCB, C/R1 (C)
- 1:00 p.m. – Dominoes, SCB, C/R2 (C)
- 1:30 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB, C/R (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Rummikub, SCB, Lounge (C)
- 5:30 p.m. – District 10 Meeting, NCB (C)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Bingo, SCB, Aud (O))

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Colorist, SCB, C/R (C)

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

- 9:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, SCB, Aud (O)

SUNDAY, APRIL 24: No events scheduled

MONDAY, APRIL 25

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – District 7 Meeting, NCB (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bridge, NCB, C/R (O)
- 7:30 p.m. – Poker, SCB, C/R2 (C)

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

- 9:00 a.m. – Yoga for Seniors, SCB C/R 2(O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba Gold, NCB, Aud (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 12:30 p.m. – Cards, SCB, Back Rm (C)
- 2:00 p.m. – Rummikub, SCB, Lounge (C)
- 7:30 p.m. – OVTD Meeting, NCB (O)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

- 9:30 a.m. – Beginner Line Dancing, NCB, Aud (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB, Aud (O)
- 5:00 p.m. – Poker, NCB, C/R (C)

- 6:00 p.m. – Men's Poker, SCB, C/R2 (C)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba Gold, NCB, Aud (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB (O)
- 12:30 p.m. – Card Game, SCB, C/R1 (C)
- 1:00 p.m. – Dominoes, SCB, C/R2 (C)
- 1:30 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB, C/R (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Rummikub, SCB, Lounge (C)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Colorist, SCB, C/R (C)

SATURDAY, APRIL 30: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, MAY 1: No events scheduled

MONDAY, MAY 2

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 4:00 p.m. – Pickleball, Racquet Sports Facility (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Tennis Club Board Meeting, NCB (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bridge, NCB, C/R (O)
- 7:30 p.m. – Poker, SCB, C/R2 (C)
- 7:30 p.m. – SAC Meeting, NCB, B/R (O)

O= Open Event / C= Closed Event

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ACTIVITIES

PLETMAN CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS PIANIST CHELSEA GUO ON MAY 16 AT 3 P.M. AT NCB



When Chelsea Guo performs at the May 16 Pletman Concert at NCB, it will mark the third time that residents have enjoyed her award-winning talents.

Now 15, Chelsea has showed true passion and great promise for classical music since early childhood.

At age 8, her performance was broadcast on WQXR's "Young Artists Showcase" hosted by

Robert Sherman.

Before turning 11, she made a big impression at the 2012 Gina Bachauer International Junior Piano Competition, becoming one of the youngest semifinalists.

At age 11, she was awarded "Special Commendation for Young Talents" in the 13th Ettlingen International Competition for Young Pianists in Germany.

At age 13, Chelsea won the "Junior Eppan Prize" in Eppan Junior Academy in Italy. She is the 2015 winner of the Nordemann Scholarship at the Juilliard Pre-college. Also, she was featured as a soloist in National Public Radio (NPR) "From the Top."

Chelsea has participated in Todi International Music Masters (Italy), Paderewski Piano Academy (Poland), Schlerm International Music Festival (Italy), Ishikawa Music Academy (Japan), Aspen Music Festival and School (U.S.), Eppan Junior Piano Academy (Italy) and Talent Music Masters (Italy).

During the May 16 Pletman Concert, Chelsea will perform Bach *Partita No. 2 1st movement Sinfonia*, Beethoven *Sonata No. 13 in E major, Op. 27, No. 1 "Quasi una fantasia"*, Chopin *Nocturne Op. 62 No. 2*, Chopin *Ballade No. 3 in A flat major Op. 47*, Ravel *Mirroirs: Alborada del gracioso* and Barber *Sonata 4th movement*.

The performance begins at 3 p.m. Admission is \$5. Refreshments will be served following the performance. **ov**



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A RUNNER'S VIEW OF ORONOQUE



By Bill Tanski

William Shakespeare said, "Full many a glorious morning I have seen." He must have been an Oronoque Village resident. I start each morning with a 3-5 mile run and I never grow tired of seeing our Village as it awakens to a new day.

Running is an integral part of my life. I am fortunate to have the right DNA, which has allowed me to continue running into my sixth decade. I took up the sport in 1979 and have pretty much been injury-free. For me, running is a gift and I am lucky to do it on a regular basis.

Running in and around Oronoque is very special. In fact, having a good running course was one of the criteria for becoming a resident of this community.

Usually, I start my run around dawn ... just as the sun peaks over the horizon. My wife, Dorothy, and I live on the far end of North Trail, not far from the 18th tee of the golf course. I jump on the golf cart paths and start my running circumnavigation of Oronoque Village.

Early morning is a special time for many Oronoque Village residents as they, too, are out and about on the course prior to the arrival of the golfers. We respect all posted times to be off the course.

As the weather improves, I see more walkers, some with

their dogs, as our paths literally cross. It's always "Good morning" or a "Have a great day" as we meet and greet each other. And, coupled with seeing the sunrise over a fog-shrouded Housatonic River on a spring morning ... well, now you know what gave Shakespeare the inspiration for his quote.

One of my favorite morning views is the memorial fountain that stands on the pond towards the end of my run. I never grow tired of seeing it. It's like a lighthouse beacon insuring me that I'm almost home. And, it symbolizes all that's good and sweet about living at Oronoque.

But Mother Nature is not always kind. During a winter like we had in 2014-2015, snow and ice can cover the golf course paths for months. But, barring very bad weather, I still manage a daily run around the roads of our Village. I commence at my home, run through a labyrinth of side streets and eventually make it back onto North and South Trails.

We are most fortunate to have well-maintained roads as it makes winter running quite safe. Only blizzards and black ice force me onto the "Iron Maiden," which is my name for the treadmills at our Fitness Center. Running indoors, for me, is a torturous experience. I love outdoor running!

We've all heard the saying, "The loneliness of a long-distance runner," but the opposite is what rings true to me. Running can be a very social sport and you meet many great people along the way. I am never alone. The Village surrounds me or I surround it. We're a perfect fit.

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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: BENSON SNAIDER



Story and photo by Carol King

Although he has been painting for more than five decades, this month marks Benson Snaider's first-ever art show. Ben, who is the April Artist of the Month, is showing his work at NCB.

He first picked up a brush in 1963 during a stint in the army. "I was stationed in Germany where I served in the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps," he explains. "I tried court-martial cases and traveled to a variety of exotic places. I wanted to capture their essence on canvas."

During his time overseas, Ben traveled throughout Europe. He was inspired by sights that "were unusual and beautiful," he recounts. "Paris was especially breathtaking and inspiring."

Ben has continued to enjoy painting as a hobby. "I sketch out the scenes that I see and then I paint them in either watercolors or oils," he says. "Mostly, I work in bold, vibrant colors."

His passion is painting landscapes, such as mountains and deserts. "I love working with a palette knife and I am enthralled with the beauty of the Southwest," he states. "I particularly like the red rocks and the mountain views of Sedona, Ariz." On occasion, he also dabbles in portraiture.

Although he has been painting for more than five decades, Ben has never taken an art course. "I enjoy reading about painting techniques and I am an avid museum and gallery patron. I travel to exhibitions in New York City and I regularly visit the Yale Art Gallery and British Center for the Arts. I find myself inspired by the works on the display."

Before retiring, Ben practiced law in New Haven, specializing in condemnation law and eminent domain cases. He and his wife, Marsha, moved to Oronoque Village about three years ago. "We visited this community and saw it as a good fit," Ben says. "I love playing tennis and have become socially and athletically involved here."

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PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER: JEFFREY A. SELLS



Story and photo by Carol King

Congratulations to Jeffrey Sells, who is the recipient of the first-ever Oronoque Village People's Choice Award. Jeff's painting, "Bridge to Derby," was rated as the favorite work of art in the SCB Art Gallery's premier show, which took place from January through March. The theme of the exhibit was "Urban or Rural Landscapes and Seascapes."

A self-taught painter, Jeff has pursued the art form of hyper-realism, a genre that produces paintings that resemble high-resolution photographs. (Please take a look at this issue's cover.)

"In my paintings, my intention is to freeze time and make unremarkable scenes worthy of a second look," he explains. "While many artists focus on timeless subjects, such as still life and pastoral settings, I generally look for the opposite: a scene that is 'here

and now' and clearly specific to our time and place."

He adds, "Hopefully, with this type of painting, people will sometimes look again at a familiar scene that would not normally command their attention."

This is not Jeff's first artistic recognition. He has won Best in Show at the 2015 Pomperaug Woods Art Show in Southbury as well as several awards at the Firehouse Gallery in Milford. He has presented one-man shows at the DaSilva Gallery in New Haven and the town library in Woodbridge.

A retired architect, Jeff and his wife, Sharon, have been residents of Oronoque Village since November 2015. "We were drawn to this community partly because of its landscape, layout and design, as well as the unusual accessibility to major roads and convenient shopping," he says.

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OVCA BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Special Bylaws Meeting, Jan. 14

During a special Board meeting to discuss proposed changes in the Oronoque Village Condominium Association Bylaws, the following motions were approved:

Article III, Board of Directors, Section 2: The OVCA Officers shall serve a maximum of two consecutive 2-year terms in their current elected position but this shall not affect their eligibility to run for a different office. The motion passed with 12 in favor and two opposed.

District Representatives shall be elected for a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms except that, at the end of the four-year period, if no one comes forth to fill the District Representative position, the then current District Representative may serve continuing one year terms until a new candidate comes forward to serve. The vote was 13 in favor and one opposed.

Article III, Section 6, Vacancies: The Bylaws Revision Committee shall be instructed to determine a specific process to fill vacancies that would include requiring a letter be sent to district residents regarding the vacancy (or vacancies) and of the need to hold a special district election to fill a vacant position. The motion passed unanimously.

Article III - Board of Directors, Section 7(C), Executive Sessions: When an Executive Session is on the agenda, the order of business will be changed so that the Executive Session takes place after the roll call and before the Open Forum. The motion was amended to state that the president is given the authorization to change the order of business in an Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Article III - Board of Directors, Section 7(D), Notice: The Bylaws Revision Committee will be instructed to pursue and include all legal means of providing notices to unit owners to be included in the Bylaws passed unanimously.

Article IV – Standing Committees, Section 2(A)(3), Nominating Committee: A candidates' night shall be held no later than seven days prior to the annual meeting be changed "to at least 10 days before the annual meeting." The motion was approved unanimously.

Article IV – Standing Committees, Section 2(G), Social Activities Committee: The sentence "In addition, it shall coordinate, arrange, and schedule with the Recreational Facilities Committee the use of community facilities for all social activities presented by any other social and cultural groups from time to time within Oronoque Village" be eliminated re-

garding the description of SAC's function, since it no longer has that responsibility. The motion passed unanimously.

Article IV – Standing Committees, Section 2(J), Recreational Facilities Committee: (1) The "Racquet Sports Facility Committee shall be responsible for proposing rules and regulations for the use and enjoyment of racquet sports at Oronoque Village; reviewing and recommending, in cooperation with the Finance Committee, to the Board of Directors of all budgets related to Racquet Facilities, and supervision of the activities on or about the Racquet Sports Facilities in accordance with proposed rules and regulations; (2) the House Committee shall be responsible for proposing rules and regulations for the care, improvement, use and enjoyment of the two clubhouses, bocce courts, barbecuing outdoor areas and any future common areas. The House Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and approving applications for use of facilities by residents or clubs with the assistance of the office staff; and, (3) the Pool Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and proposing rules and regulations in the interest of water safety and enjoyment for our residents. The Pool Committee shall work in an advisory capacity in the training of pool staff. The motion passed with 11 in favor and 3 opposed.

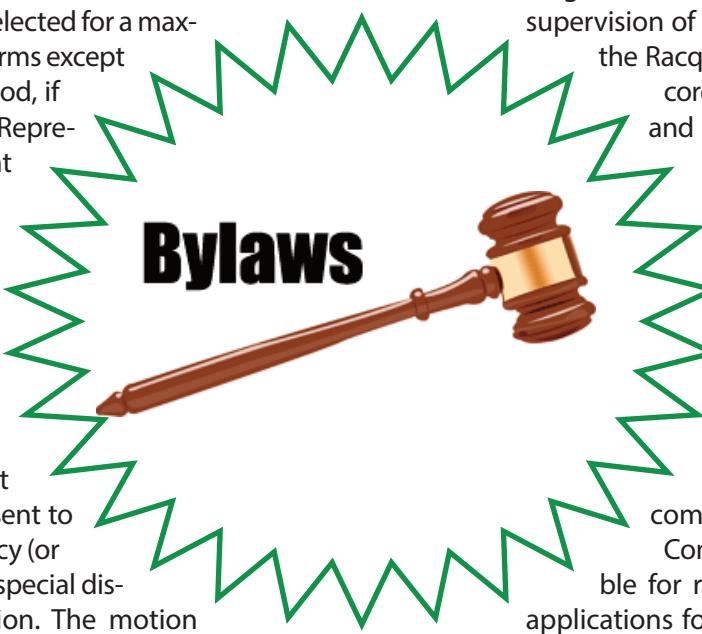
Special Bylaws Meeting, Meeting, Jan. 26

During a special Board meeting to discuss proposed changes in the Oronoque Village Condominium Association Bylaws, the following motions were approved:

Article III - Board of Directors. Section 2. Officers: Terms. This section will be changed to conform to new term limits on directors. The motion passed unanimously.

Article IV- Standing Committees. Section 2. Committees. (A) Nominating Committee: The Ad Hoc Election/Voting Committee shall investigate all possible avenues of revising the nominating process as currently described in this section. The motion was approved unanimously.

Article V - Unit Owners. Section 3. Notice of Meetings: The Bylaws Revisions Committee shall pursue and include all legal means of providing Notices of Meetings to Unit Owners



and include it in this section. The motion passed unanimously.

Article VII - Use and Enforcement. Section 9. Maintenance and Repair: Liability for Excess Common Expenses
(A) 1. and 2: The words "sliding glass windows and frames" occurring in the phrase "(excluding frames and sliding glass windows and frames)" shall be stricken in both subsections 1 and 2. The motion passed unanimously.

Article VII - Use and Enforcement. Section 9. Maintenance and Repair: Liability for Excess Common Expenses.
(E): The sentence "In the event that the repair event is not covered by the insurance then restoration of the removed, relocated or damaged betterments and improvements installed in the unit shall be at the cost and responsibility of the unit owners" shall be removed, as well as the following paragraph of Section 9, beginning "By way of example..." The motion passed with two opposed.

Article XII, Miscellaneous. Section 1. Notices. **(A):** The Bylaws Revision Committee shall be instructed to pursue and include all legal means of providing Notices to unit owners and include all such means in this section. The motion was approved unanimously.

General Board Meeting, Jan. 19

O VCA President Bob Grosso announced the appointment of an ad hoc pool committee. Members are Cheryl Dwyer, Betty Mulholland, Jackie Freeman, Bob Drummond and Jamie Torregiani.

Cheryl Dwyer reported that bulletin boards are up in both buildings. They may be used to display outside community events and personal ads/requests. No retail or company ads will be allowed. Specific rules are posted near each board. The boards will be monitored regularly by members of the House Committee.

Plans are under way to complete the grill area in the south and resident ID cards for pool access and entry into other facilities are being looked into.

On behalf of the Communications Committee, Cheryl Dwyer reported that the Committee is in the process of improving OVCA's website.

Oronoque Village pamphlets and printed materials are in the process of being updated.

Motions Approved During the Jan. 19 OVCA Meeting:

- A motion that the reference of the North and South Community Buildings be changed to North and South Clubhouses passed with nine in favor, four opposed and one absence.
- A motion to approve a Maintenance Standard allowing clear glass doors on the upper-level entrances of the units passed unanimously with one absence.
- A motion to increase the refundable deposit for private parties at the North and South Clubhouses from \$200 to \$500 to assist in covering potential damages to our newly renovated spaces passed unanimously with one absence.
- A motion to establish four scholarships at \$500 each for two students at Stratford High School and two students at Bunnell High School was approved unanimously with one absence.
- A motion to approve spending of up to \$17,000 of the \$23,000 in the communications reserve to be used for updates to the OVCA website was approved unanimously with one absence.

Editor's Note: OVCA and OVTD meeting minutes, in their entirety, can be found on www.oronoquevillage.com ov



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BEYOND THE VILLAGE

TASTE OF NEW HAVEN TOURS OFFER FOOD, THEATER AND MORE

Taste of New Haven provides leisure activities that connect people with local food, culture and history. The events below are among the tours being offered during the month of April.

Latin American Tapas Tour: Participants will take a culinary tour around downtown New Haven sampling small plates of food from a variety of nationalities. The events begins with a Latin wine tasting at The Wine Thief, then to Jake's Diggity Dogs for a Tex-Mex hot dog and Hawaiian mochi ice cream, then to Oaxaca Kitchen for guacamole, salsa and margaritas. Participants will cross the gulf to Cuba at Soul de Cuba for a Cubano sandwich and mojito, spice it up with Nuevo Latino cuisine and a caipirinha at Pacifico and finish a trip back to the motherland of Spain at Barcelona for tapas and wine.

New Haven Symphony Tour: This event combines food, drinks, history, architecture, culture and music. Participants will dine at a number of restaurants before attending a New Haven Symphony concert at Woolsey Hall.

On 9 Tour: Held in and around the Ninth Square, the tour starts at the Elm City Market, where participants will sample, smell and see local foods and produce. The tour then heads to Tikkaway Grill for Indian fare, Skappo Italian Restaurant for a pasta dish and wine and onto Skappo Merkato to sample Italian imports, then over to Thali for regional Indian food paired with beer. The tour concludes at Fornarelli's Ristorante with savory and sweet tastings along with wine.

Theater District Tour:

On Sundays, the tours begin at Temple Grill for a small sandwich and cocktail, then to Orange-side for a famous square doughnut, then to Bar for pizza and locally brewed beer, The Green



Teahouse for Asian noodles and tea (for groups under 12 people only), then head to Oaxaca Kitchen for guacamole and margaritas, Kelly's Bistro for a an Irish twist and beer, and finish off the trip with the unique ice cream Jake's Diggity Dogs.

Canal Quarter Tour: Tour participants will stop at Koffee? for fresh-brewed coffee and homemade pastries, Odd Bins Bottle Shop for a wine tasting, then to Katalina's Kupcakes for cake, Caseus Cheese Shop for a paired cheese tasting, Zafra Cuban Restaurant & Rum Bar for Cuban fare and mojitos, Kumo for traditional Japanese food, sushi and saki and finally Anna Liffey's for Irish food and beer.

A Pizza Lovers Tour, A Wooster Square Tour, a Sweet and Savory Tour, A Goatville Tour and cooking classes also are available. Tickets, on average, are \$55 per person. For more information, visit [www.tasteofnewhaven.com](http://tasteofnewhaven.com) or call 203-710-3710.

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TONY AWARD-WINNER TERRENCE MCNALLY TO SPEAK IN BRIDGEPORT

Broadway comes to Bridgeport on May 16 when playwright Terrence McNally will take the stage on the Bijou Theatre for conversation, followed by a book signing.

He also will be in the audience for the reading of the two finalists in the theater's first annual short play festival, offering comments and awarding the top prize.

McNally has received Tony Awards for Best Play for *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Master Class*, as well as the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Ragtime*.

Additional accolades include an Emmy Award, two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Rockefeller Grant, four

Drama Desk Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards, two Obie Awards, three Hull-Warriner Awards, and a citation from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

McNally was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame in 1996. Several of his plays have been turned into successful movies.

Admission is \$35 for theater seats and \$75 for table seats. Table seats include a post-event dessert reception and meet and greet with McNally.

Doors open at 6 p.m. The event starts at 7 p.m.

For more details, call the box office at 203-332-3228 or buy online at www.thebijoutheatre.com.

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**SAC Hosts for Friday, May 6:
Kathy, Mary and Sonya**

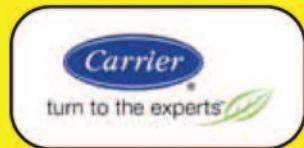


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I (we) hereby authorize Oronoque Village Condominium Association (OVCA) to initiate debt entries to my (our) - **(CIRCLE ONE)** checking account / savings account - at the depository financial institution named below, for my (our) monthly assessment charges on the fifth (5th) day of the month for each month of the year.

SIGNATURE: _____

I (we) hereby authorize Oronoque Village Tax District to initiate debit entries to my (our) - **(CIRCLE ONE)** checking account / savings account - at the depository financial institution named below, for my quarterly district tax payment on the fifth (5th) of July, October, January and April.

SIGNATURE: _____

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until OVTD or OVCA has received **WRITTEN NOTIFICATION** from any of the above persons of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford OVCA or OVTD and depository institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Unit Owner Name(s)_____

Unit Owner Address: _____ Stratford, CT 06614

Telephone number: _____ Email address: _____

Enclose a voided check for verification of all financial institution information. If you are unable to attach a voided check, please provide us with your account number and your routing number.

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