



THE VILLAGER



ANNOUNCEMENT

6 Coppola to Perform



FEATURE

8 Beyond the Village



FEATURE

9 Stratford's History





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First course

Baby greens and Belgian endive salad with tricolor heirloom tomatoes,
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Second course

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Third course

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Fourth course

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Thank you to Marcia Klein for submitting the cover photo, which was taken during the Men's Club Super Bowl Party, held on Feb. 2 at NCB. Pictured are Men's Club members Barry Wells, Tom Becker, Jerry Brown, John Fratarcangeli, Barry Wilensky and Sam Levinson. *The Villager* welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Submissions must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronoquevillage.com



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REPORT ON THE OVTD TAX DISTRICT MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2020

By Bill Tanski, OVTD President



Hello everyone: Given the new year and the new decade, today I'd like to talk to you about the future. Now, that's a pretty wide subject: it can be 100 days or 100 years. My focus is on both the short-term, less than 100 days, and the longer-term, perhaps several years away. Both are important to Village life and to our enjoyment of life here in Oronoque Village.

I will first discuss the longer term. I believe that -- as leaders of OV -- we should resist the need to meddle too much in the day-to-day operational stuff. It is time-consuming and it can undermine the work of our employees. We have a great team! A great team of staff and management! Let's let them

do their jobs and let us, as leaders, spend more time focusing on strategies where we can find opportunities for larger cost-savings for our community.

Longer-Term Objective: Researching Cost-Savings Via Energy Independence for OV

It is my conviction that, as a leader in this community, my first and foremost concern is how anything I propose enhances the entire community. Whether the Tax District, the Condo Association (OVCA) or some other party takes credit for improvement is of no concern to me, for we are one Village with one mission. Today I will propose something which may fall under the purview of OVCA or the Tax District or both. That can be determined at a later date.

I believe that if we intend to produce significant cost-savings for our residents, we need to think nontraditionally and "out of the box" ... but very carefully as well. Making Oronoque Village less expensive to live requires research into alternative methods of operations, the willingness to question the status quo and to think boldly but prudently.

We should focus on the future by using innovations that are cost-effective and have been proven successful. I am proposing research into an option that has been implemented in smaller towns along with institutions, such as colleges and universities.

I want us to examine the feasibility of changing/modernizing/upgrading the electric service supply for our residents. I propose that we conduct research into the potential cost-savings of having our own microgrid, our own electric grid to service our residents. This can reduce our dependence on United Illuminating by creating an independent electric power source here in Oronoque Village. The ultimate goal is to lessen the overall costs of living in our Village.

I have had conversations with our Executive Director, Fred Rodriguez, about this project. This is a process and by no means an overnight event. If we pursue it, creating a microgrid may take several years to implement. Once all the facts are gathered, we need to share the information with you and weigh the pros and cons. We are only at the research stage at this point.

Please be assured that any microgrid must also blend in with our landscape and be non-intrusive to our residents. It will not be tall windmills or rows upon rows of solar panels on our grounds, nor too noisy. For this system, if adopted, must also be appealing to the eye and ear and ultimately add value to our homes. As a fellow resident, these requirements are as important to me as they are to you.

As part of our commitment to being fiscally responsible to each of you, individually and to OV as a whole, our first order of business would be for this board to conduct a feasibility study in the coming fiscal year and, thereby, gauge



THE VILLAGER

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Please direct all questions regarding *The Villager* to Editor Carol King. Resident submissions of 500 words or less are welcome and will be considered for publication. Articles will be published as space allows. Submissions pertaining to OVCA-, OVTD- and resident-related matters are given priority. Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of the Associated Press Stylebook.

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.

whether this concept has merit for further consideration.

Now, some may say that we tried innovation by adding solar panels to our North Clubhouse. The jury is still out on whether that initiative was profitable, and they may state: "Let's not change anything for a while." I respect that view, but I also feel we shouldn't stop looking into the future for cost-savings as long as we're smart, careful and open about it. As John Kennedy said, "Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."

No matter who is your OVTD president or serves on its board in the coming months and years, I am hopeful that they will be as open as I am today. While it may be argued that this announcement is premature, I am fulfilling my promise to be transparent to the community and to let you all know of this vision for our Village. When the time comes, our management will publicly present its findings on whether there is a cost-benefit savings for our community and if it brings an advantage in the electric services provided. And, nothing will happen without resident input, without your input.

Again, this may be several years in the future. However, as the saying goes, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." Today we are taking that first step.

Shorter Term: OVTD 2020 Elections

While it has not happened during my five years on this board, eventually it will happen when we have at least two residents vying for the same officer position. In that case, I believe the candidates should face the community and answer residents' questions. This is how democracy works.

At our meeting, the board voted unanimously to have an OVTD Candidates' Night if we have a contested officer election. The board would also select a moderator from the community should we have such an event.

During our meeting, I noted the timelines and milestones for the coming OVTD election. All officer positions are open as they have one-year terms expiring in June. Each OVTD director has a three-year term. There will be three open director spots for election as the terms are expiring for Ray Vermette, Linda Liberto and me.

Here are the timelines and milestones:

- First week of March: OVTD Nominating Committee meets.
- On or about March 10, sending an e-blast informing residents about open spots and how to submit resumes by the March 25 deadline, if interested.
- Same message to appear in the March 16 Villager.
- On or about April 1, Nominating Committee starts interviewing of candidates
- At the April 28 OVTD meeting, the chair of the Nominating Committee submits recommendations for the open spots. .
- At our Jan. 28 meeting, per our Tax Charter, I submitted the dates for the next four OVTD meetings, in addition to our annual May election meeting. The OVTD meetings will continue to be held quarterly on the fourth Tuesday of the

month. Those dates are April 28, July 28, Oct. 27 and Jan. 26, 2021. Our annual election meeting will be held on May 26.

Committee Reports (Summaries)

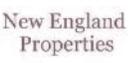
Road Committee: Pete Penny Chair

- Google Maps, TomTom, Garmin, Uber and MapQuest have been notified that North Trail is not a through street. This was done to limit the amount of unnecessary vehicle traffic.
- The committee voted to not install blinking stops signs on North and South Trails at the intersection of Oronoque Lane. Decision to have blinking signs just on Oronoque Lane lies with the Town of Stratford. Mark Rhatigan is our point person with the town on this matter.
- Road paving for 2020 will include Quinipiatic, Pequot, Oneida and Sioux Lanes.

Treasurer Report/Finance Committee: Tom Becker

- OVTD revenue for six months ending Dec. 31, 2019 totaled \$984,009, of which \$935,373 were district taxes.
- Year-to-date expenses exceeded the budget by \$5,289. However, we expect to be within budget by year-end. The larger expenses have already occurred.
- Monies in reserve total \$193,868.

Continued on page 8

Liz Moretti - Oronoque Village Resident

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

VILLAGER CONTRIBUTORS WANTED!

Would you like to share your expertise with Village residents? The Villager welcomes articles submitted by residents who have knowledge of respective fields. Perhaps you are an interior decorator. Would you care to share with residents what colors and patterns are best suited for an OV unit? Or, are you a healthcare professional who can guide residents on the best way to avoid colds and flus during the winter months? Are you a travel professional? Residents may very well like to read about economical tours or hidden gems to visit and how to get there. Do you have an outstanding garden? Readers may be interested in learning about the flowers and houseplants that bloom best in this area and when and how to best plant them. Do you dine out often? Perhaps you can tell us about your favorite restaurant and why you enjoy eating there.

If you have an idea for an article, we'd love to hear about it. Please contact Carol King, Villager editor, at 203-377-5313, ext. 3, or email cking@oronoquevillage.com.

PRESIDENTS' DAY SCHEDULE

The Business and Maintenance Offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17, in honor of Presidents' Day. The clubhouses will be open.

The trash and recycling pickup schedule will not be affected by the holiday.

OV ARTS GUILD PRESENTS MICHAEL COPPOLA & MARIA TISCIA

Residents are invited to enjoy a return performance by guitarist Michael Coppola and songstress Maria Tiscia on Tuesday, March 24, at 7 p.m. at NCB. It was just a year ago that this talented duo wowed the audience during their first performance at OV.

Michael, who is our OV neighbor, plays a unique instrument that he invented: a nine-string guitar known as The Hydra. He has studied guitar since he was 11 years old and is both internationally and nationally acclaimed for his "inventive" and "magical" musical style.

Maria is as comfortable singing from the Great American Songbook as she is singing Brazilian jazz. She has a very busy schedule performing at venues throughout Connecticut.

This performance will be a cabaret-style setting, so feel free to bring beverages and snacks. Soft drinks will be provided. During a post-show reception, residents will have the opportunity to meet the performers and enjoy desserts and coffee/tea. Admission for Art Guild members is free, all others pay \$5.

OIL PAINTING WITH ANITA KARASU

The OV Arts Guild is now sponsoring the oil painting classes offered by Anita Karasu on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon in the SCB arts and crafts room.

Anita has been teaching oil painting classes at Oronoque for four years. She graduated from Cornell University with a major in fine arts and taught art in the public schools for 20 years. Students of all levels are invited to attend these classes. Beginners are welcome. All students bring their own materials.

The cost is \$50 for a five-week session. The classes are ongoing. Make your check out to Anita Karasu and bring it to the first class that you attend. Questions? Call Anita at 744-238-2233. (Beginners should contact Anita for a suggested supply list.)

LAMP SHADE-MAKING CLASS

On Monday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. in the Arts and Crafts Room at SCB, Ulla Adema will give a free presentation on how to make a lampshade from scratch. Using a pattern design to cut, paint and decorate art-quality paper, Ulla will demonstrate the process in easy-to-follow steps. She will bring some of her creations to show the end result. The presentation is sponsored by the OV Arts Guild. All are welcome.

Depending on interest, a workshop on creating an attention-drawing art piece for your own home will be scheduled at a later date.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SEEKS DONATIONS FOR BOOK SALE

The Stratford Library Annual Book Sale will be held Thursday, June 4, through Monday, June 8, in conjunction with the annual Stratford Main Street Festival. The library is currently accepting gently used adult and children's books, fiction and nonfiction, hardcover and soft, as well as CDs, DVDs and LP records. (No magazines, Readers Digest condensed books, encyclopedias or textbooks will be accepted.)

Patrons are asked to drop off donations in the bin located in the library lobby during normal business hours. Please do not leave donated items in the outside book deposit bin or anywhere outdoors. If help is needed, call 203-385-4166 before arriving and the library will provide assistance. Donations will be accepted through Saturday, May 30. The library is located at 2203 Main St.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Security/Grounds Committee: Dennis Caffrey

- Stratford Police continue to report that Oronoque Village is the safest community in Stratford.
- Alarms and cameras in both buildings were checked and serviced to be in working condition. The key system in the South Clubhouse was updated.
- Over 30 new trees were planted along with 16 new shrubs.
- Installation of new gutters and gutter guards were completed at the end of October.

OVRTD Town of Stratford Liaison Report: John Staley

- Town of Stratford contracted with Weston & Sampson to document all drainage issues relating to Oronoque Village, Oronoque Country Club and North Stratford. Their report is scheduled for presentation this spring and all involved parties will meet and consider the options.
- Sikorsky/Oronoque Lane project is in the final stages and has improved the traffic flow and safety of the intersection. The state has plans to pave Main Street after completion of

the project, which is scheduled for the first part of 2020.

- Shakespeare Property Update: After many outreach public meetings and assembling the information, the town is considering three options. One is a requirement for open-space (to be calculated), the second is recreation/park, and the third is a combination of the first two. Our mayor has created a committee to review options and move forward with the development plan.

Let me close with an example of how we all work together at OV. Last July, OVRTD provided about \$2,000 towards a sound system in the South Clubhouse. The House Committee, Bob Grosso, and Ray Vermette all worked together in this project. The sound system is now up and operating, thanks to their efforts!

Thanks to all.

-- Bill



BEYOND THE VILLAGE

Frank Bruckmann will paint a landscape in oil using a photo for subject matter at 1 p.m. on Feb. 24 at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church St. Frank studied at art schools in New York City, before moving to Paris, where he painted after the style of masters found in French and Spanish museums. He relocated to Connecticut in 1990 where he produced landscapes, portraits and still life paintings. He has won numerous awards and his paintings are in many American museums and international collections. He has instructed classes at the Bruce Museum, Silvermine School of Art and the Rowayton Art Center.

The event is sponsored by the Shelton Art League. The league's general meeting starts at noon. For more information, visit <http://www.sheltonartleague.org>.

~

"Sylvia," by A.R. Gurney, will be performed through Feb. 23 at Music Theater of Connecticut, 509 Westport Ave., in Norwalk

Greg and Kate have entered the empty-nest time in life and have moved to Manhattan after 20 years in the suburbs. Greg is struggling with being dissatisfied with his job while Kate is excited about her new teaching opportunities and newfound freedom. However, life has a way of giving you what you think you don't want. Greg finds Sylvia, a street-smart lab/poodle mix, and brings her home. She promptly becomes a bone of contention between Greg and Kate, testing their marriage to a hilarious and touching effect.

For information, visit www.musictheaterofct.com or call 203-454-3883.

The WPKN Environmental Film Series presents "How to Let Go of the World and Love All Things That Climate Can't Change," a documentary by Oscar-nominated director Josh Fox. The film will be shown at 7 p.m. at the Bijou Theatre, 275 Fairfield Ave., in Bridgeport.

Traveling to 12 countries on six continents, the film acknowledges that it may be too late to stop some of the worst consequences and asks, "What is it that climate change can't destroy? What is so deep within us that no calamity can take it away?"

This film, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2016, was awarded the 2016 Documentary Award for Environment Advocacy at the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital.

Tickets are \$12. To purchase, visit www.bijoutheatre.net or call 203-296-9605.

~

Curtain Call Theatre presents "Something Rotten" through Feb. 22. This show tells of two brothers as they set out to write the world's first musical in this hilarious mash-up of 16th-century Shakespeare and 21st-century Broadway.

The show will take place at the Kveskin Theatre, located in Sterling Farms Theatre Complex at 1349 Newfield Ave in Stamford.

For information, visit www.curtaincallinc.com or call 203-461-6358.



THE LADIES ROARED, PART 2

By David Wright

Notice: David Wright, editor of the Stratford Historical Society's "The Cupheag Corner," has agreed to contribute articles on Stratford history for Villager readers to enjoy.

1920 will forever be remembered in Stratford's history as the year the ladies of the town made their presence known in the town's politics. In January of 1920, several of Stratford's most influential male leaders gathered at Town Hall to consider Charter changes which would make it much more difficult for Stratford to be absorbed into Bridgeport. Bridgeport needed more land for building housing for its many factory workers. Merging Stratford into Bridgeport appeared to be the logical solution to Bridgeport leaders.

Two factions locked horns at Town Hall on the evening of Jan. 7, 1920 over a proposal to form a Charter Committee. The meeting ended with a vote to do nothing. This vote set the stage for a "near riot" at Town Hall on March 12 as the two opposing sides met, yet again, to consider changing Stratford's form of government to a town manager-council form of government. The ladies of town were not enfranchised to vote until the 19th amendment was ratified in August. Once that occurred, things moved swiftly in Stratford and the manager-council government form was overwhelmingly adopted.

**The Bridgeport Evening Farmer, March 12, 1920
G.O.P. Caucus in Stratford is Near Riot
(Special to The Times)**

Stratford, March 12—(continued from January) *Town Chairman Lovell stated today that all motions were regu-*

larly put, both the yea and nay vote geing [sic] called for, but that owing to the uproar it was impossible to hear.

This morning's Hartford Courant has the following to say: An attempt to stampede the Republican caucus in Stratford failed.

A gang from Bridgeport called several legal voters of the town robbers, thieves [sic] and other things when they insisted on voting by check list, so that only those entitled to vote could do so.

The Bridgeport crowd, decided to hold a little caucus all by themselves, which they did, after the regular caucus had named delegates said to be against John T. King. The delegates elected were: Robert C. Silliman, Frederick S. Beardsley, Reinhold Persson, Louis R. Snyder.

When the caucus opened it was discovered that several men not voters of the town were in the room, and they insisted upon voting. They insisted, too, that voting by check list be dispensed with, but the officers of the caucus refused to do away with the check list. Several verbal brick-bats were hurled back and forth, and it looked at one time as though the invaders would be successful in their attempt to oust the regular voters from the hall, and take possession.

The Stratford voters, however, held their ground and carried on the business of the caucus, notwithstanding the fact that the outsiders kept up a continuous racket.



(Old) Stratford Town Hall was located next to the Lovell Building in Stratford Center where I-95 crosses Main Street. The Town Hall was built in 1870 and served Stratford until 1936. The Town Hall was demolished in the mid-1950s when I-95 was constructed.



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ACTIVITIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To ensure accuracy, information must be submitted, via email, to Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the March 2 edition of The Villager, is Feb. 17 at noon.*

CORNHOLE

• Cornhole is played at 10 a.m. at SCB. All are welcome. Questions? Call Sue or Ralph Trapasso at 203-916-7156.

CURRENT EVENTS

• The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, Feb, 19, March 4 and March 18.,

DOLLCRAFTERS

• Dollcrafters meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays in the NCB Library.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

• The Ladies Bible study group meets at 10:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the NCB Library. All ladies are welcome. We will be studying the Book of Genesis. Questions? Call Angie McKelvey (227-3222) or Tina Vermette (375-0291).

LINE DANCING

• Classes take place Wednesdays at NCB. A beginner class is held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all levels at 10 a.m. Call Sonya at 203-377-1515 for more information.

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

• Healthy Lifestyle Discussion Group will meet in the SCB Back Card Room at 10 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month. Upcoming meetings will take place Feb. 25, March 31 and April 28. For information, call Lucy Clifford, 203-644-7710.

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MEN'S BOWLING CLUB

• Games are played at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at Nutmeg Bowling Center in Fairfield. Questions? Call Paul at 203-339-1111.

POOL SOCIAL GROUP

• Anyone who enjoys socializing in and around the pools during the summer is invited to attend a get-together from 4-6 p.m. at SCB on the second Thursday of each month. Come with your favorite appetizer and or beverage (or nothing) for reunions and conversations. Call Sonya at 203-375-1515 for more information.

TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

• Tea, Talk, and Craft meets Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. next to the kitchen at SCB. Questions? Call Cynthia Harms at 203-402-9083.

WOMEN'S BOWLING CLUB

• Games are played at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at Bowlero Bowling, 1717 Boston Post Road, Milford. Everyone is welcome ... bowlers or nonbowlers, permanent or substitutes. Questions? Call Kathy at 203-371-7543.

WRITER'S GROUP

• The Oronoque Village Writer's Group (OVWG) is a group of writers who enjoy the challenges of writing and of sharing their work in a trusted environment. Members include published authors and hobbyists committed to attending workshops twice a month in a respectful, supportive and professional environment. If interested, please email or call Mary von Ziegesar (MvonZ@optonline.net – 203-767-9760) or Elisabeth Breslav (tulpenbol@att.net – 203-385-8505).

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**Note: You must have a Facebook account to
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CALENDAR

For the latest on OV news and events, go to www.oronoquevillage.com or OVTV. OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box. O=Open / C=Closed

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, Library (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *Downton Abbey*, NCB (O)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 12:00 p.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Business & Maintenance Offices Closed

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 11:00 a.m. – Chair Yoga, NCB, Aud (O)
- 5:15 p.m. – Tai Chi With Jonathan, NCB (O)
- 6:45 p.m. – Open Bridge, NCB, Lounge (O)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 9:00 a.m. – Yoga for Seniors, SCB, C/R2 (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB (O)
- 1:30 p.m. – Tennis Club Meeting, NCB (C)
- 2:00 p.m. – Men's Club Cards, SCB, C/R (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Kundalini Yoga, NCB, Library (O)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginners, NCB (O)
- 9:30 a.m. – Women's Bowling, Bowlero Lanes, Milford (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB, C/R (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Free Blood Pressure Screening, NCB, C/R (O)
- 10:30 a.m. – Men's Bowling, Nutmeg Lanes, Fairfield (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie Club: *Downton Abby*, SCB (O)
- 5:00 p.m. – Poker, NCB, C/R (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)
- 6:30 p.m. – Men's Poker, SCB, C/R (O)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Beginner Oil Painting, SCB, A/C Rm (C)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB, C/R (O)
- 11:00 a.m. – Tai Chi With Jonathan, NCB, Aud (O)
- 12:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm (O)
- 1:30 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Club Bingo, SCB (O)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)
- 6:30 p.m. – Karaoke, SCB (O)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 6:15 p.m. – SAC Trivia Night, NCB (O)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23: No events scheduled

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 11:00 a.m. – Chair Yoga, NCB, Aud (O)
- 3:00 p.m. – Lampshade-Making Class, SCB, A/C Rm (O)
- 5:15 p.m. – Tai Chi with Jonathan, NCB, Aud (O)
- 6:45 p.m. – Open Bridge, NCB, Lounge (O)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 9:00 a.m. – Yoga for Seniors, SCB, C/R2 (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle, SCB, C/R (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Kundalini Yoga, NCB, C/R (O)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginners, NCB (O)
- 9:30 a.m. – Women's Bowling, Bowlero Lanes, Milford (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm (O)
- 10:30 a.m. – Men's Bowling, Nutmeg Lanes, Fairfield (O)
- 5:00 p.m. – Poker, NCB, C/R (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)
- 6:30 p.m. – Men's Poker, SCB, C/R (O)

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Beginner Oil Painting, SCB, A/C Rm (C)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB (O)
- 11:00 a.m. – Tai Chi With Jonathan, NCB, Aud (O)
- 12:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm (O)
- 1:30 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, NCB, Library (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, Library (O)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

- 1:30 p.m. – Private Party, SCB (C)

SUNDAY, MARCH 1: No events scheduled

MONDAY, MARCH 2

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 11:00 a.m. – Chair Yoga, NCB, Aud (O)
- 5:15 p.m. – Tai Chi With Jonathan, NCB (O)
- 6:45 p.m. – Open Bridge, NCB, Lounge (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB, C/R (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – SAC Meeting, NCB, B/R (O)

THINGS TO DO IN STRATFORD

Boothe Memorial Park & Museum,
5800 Main St.

Lordship Seawall, Beach Drive

Short Beach, 1 Dorne Drive

Roosevelt Forest, 700 Peters Lane

Perry House, 1128 W. Broad St.

Stratford Historical Society /
Capt David Judson House,
967 Academy Hill

Source: *Stratfordpatch.com*

SAVE THE DATES

March 6 ... SAC hosts "It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere" on the first Friday of the month at NCB at 5 p.m. All are welcome to drop by with an appetizer to share. BYOB.

March 13 & 18 ... The Movie Club will present "Judy," starring Academy Award-winner Renee Zellweger, at 7 p.m. at NCB on March 13 and at 2 p.m. at SCB on March 18. Admission of \$1 includes popcorn.

April 22 ... The OV Arts Guild presents Emery Roth, photographer, who will speak on "Finding Brass Valley: A Place in Time That has Almost Vanished" at 7 p.m. at NCB.

May 5 ... The Justin Wood Circus will perform during the Funseekers meeting at 7 p.m. at SCB. This is a comedic, multitalented circus arts variety act. Justin, along with his assistant, will perform different circus routines, which include audience participation.

FEATURE

COLEEN BLANCHARD LAUDED FOR INSPIRING STEW LEONARD'S CAMPAIGN

Story by Carol King

Visitors to the Stew Leonard's Norwalk location may spot a familiar face during checkout: OV resident Coleen Blanchard is pictured on a poster-sized photograph that hangs on the store's wall.

The photo -- which captures Coleen holding a Stew Leonard's shopping bag while standing in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow -- credits her with launching a long-term (and very well-received) marketing campaign for the retailer.

"In 1974, we were in Russia and I had Stew Leonard's bag with me," says Coleen. "My husband, Bruce, took a picture and we thought it would be fun to share it with Stew Leonard Sr."

The elder Leonard got a kick out of the image and hung it up in the store. Before long, other shoppers began submitting photos of themselves holding Stew Leonard's shopping bags during their travels. The trend became known as the Stew Leonard's "Bags Around the World" program.

"Soon after Coleen submitted her picture, it became a game and photos began to arrive from all over the world," reports Meghan Bell, director of public relations for Stew Leonard's. "We have received more than 60,000 photos from happy customers at the White House, the Statue of Liberty, Paris, Australia, Antarctica and more!"

For many years, a multitude of these images were displayed on a wall in the Stew Leonard's Norwalk store. Contributors were rewarded with a gift certificate for an ice cream cone or other merchandise. Coleen, throughout the program and to this day, is credited as its catalyst.

In fact, her contribution to the store's photo campaign was outlined in "Stew Leonard: My Story," an autobiography published in 2009. Also, last summer she was mentioned in The Hour newspaper's article detailing the retailer's compliance with the newly launched plastic bag ban.

As part of the ban, the retailer ceased distributing plastic bags in July 2019. The Stew Leonard's plastic bag in Norwalk was placed in a time capsule to symbolize the city's transition from single use plastic to reusable bags. "This is an iconic day," Stew Leonard Jr., president and chief executive officer of Stew Leonard's, told The Hour. "Our family is kissing goodbye to the iconic Stew Leonard's bag."

Though the store no longer posts the individual photos taken by customers, the sharing of pictures is still encouraged, notes Bell. "Customers are welcome to bring their 'Bags Around the World' photos to the customer service desk of



Coleen Blanchard in the 1974 photo that inspired the Stew Leonard's "Bags Around the World" program.

their local Stew Leonard's and they will get a \$3 gift certificate as a thank you."

Notes Coleen, "Submitting the picture was a silly, fun thing to do. We came up with the idea out of the blue. Stew gave us coupons for 20 free ice cream cones, which cost 25 cents at that time. He also sent me a copy of his book and a few other items."

She adds, "I was very surprised at how the bag idea escalated."

The "Bags Around the World" program has its own Instagram account (https://www.instagram.com/stewsbags_aroundtheworld/) and continues to thrive in cyberspace.

Bell notes that all seven Stew Leonard's locations feature a tribute to Coleen's role in launching the program.

In addition to the headquarters store in Norwalk, Stew Leonard's has stores in Danbury and Newington; Yonkers, Farmingdale and East Meadow, N.Y. and Paramus, N.J. **OV**

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: ELECTRONIC FILING OF WORK ORDERS IS ENCOURAGED

The Maintenance Dept. would very much appreciate – when possible – receiving work orders electronically rather than on paper.

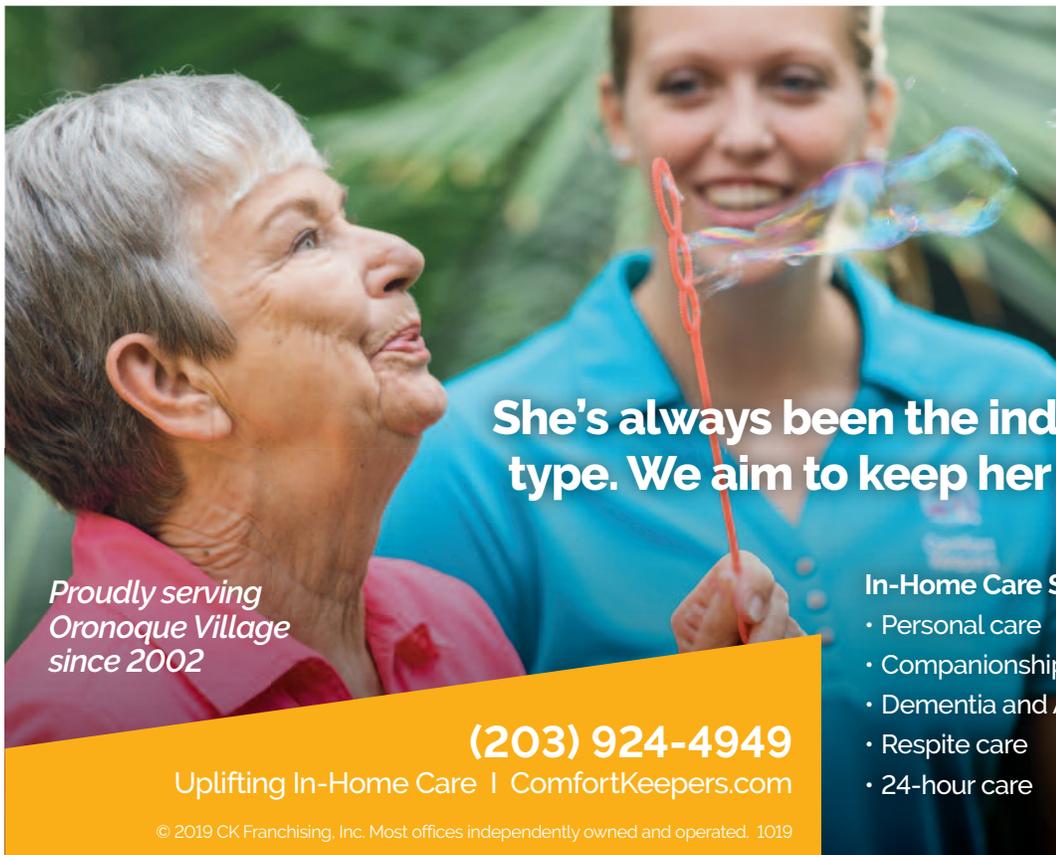
Electronic work orders can be accessed on the OV website (www.oronoquevillage.com) by clicking on the Maintenance tab at the top of the page.

When work orders are filed electronically, you will receive an emailed acknowledgment within 24 hours that confirms receipt of your work order.

If you have questions about how to submit an electronic work order, please contact the Maintenance Dept. (203-375-8853) or website coordinator Carol King (203-377-5313, ext. 3) and they will walk you through the process. You may find this procedure is both simple and efficient.

Thank you for your consideration.

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STRATFORD'S REFUSE & RECYCLING REGULATIONS

The Town of Stratford no longer sells recycle bins. Residents may use a regulation 32-gallon container for recycling. The can or container must be clearly marked "RECYCLING."

ALL MATERIAL MUST BE CONTAINED IN REGULATION CANS OR BAGS AND PLACED CURBSIDE PRIOR TO 6:30 A.M. ON THE DAY OF COLLECTION.

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE:

Garbage must be contained in standard 32-gallon cans with handles and covers, or in plastic garbage bags with ties. Refuse contained in 45-gallon cans will not be collected.

The combined weight of the container and the refuse shall not exceed 75 pounds.

Collection is made on a weekly basis.

RECYCLABLES:

What can I recycle through the single-stream system?

Paper (newspaper, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, envelopes) - no bundling required!

Clean cardboard and boxboard (cracker boxes, pasta boxes, shoe boxes and other similar materials) - no bundling required!

Paper egg cartons

Paper bags

Office and school papers

Empty glass jars and bottles

Aluminum cans and clean foil

Empty tin and steel cans, including aerosol cans (no paint, pesticide or herbicide cans, please)

All plastic containers labeled #1 and #2

All other plastic food, beverage, soap and shampoo containers labeled #3, #4, #5, #6, and #7

BE GREEN - ALL containers should be empty and clean!

What is not recyclable through the single-stream system?

Garbage

Plastic bags

Plastic utensils

Food waste

Food-tainted items (used paper plates or boxes, paper towels or paper napkins)

Polystyrene or Styrofoam

Motor oil bottles

Hazardous chemical containers

Plastic toys or sporting goods

Electronics or batteries

Compact discs or DVDs

Lightbulbs

Yard waste or garden tools

Pots and pans

Plastic toys or sporting goods

Wax or plastic-coated cardboard

Medicine or medication bottles

Tyvek or similar envelopes

THE TOWN WILL NOT PICK UP THE FOLLOWING:

Household garbage or recycling contained in paper or cardboard boxes

Loose garbage

Liquid waste

Human or animal waste

Ashes

Paint in cans

Drained oil or hazardous material

Any item too large to be contained in a regulation garbage can or bag

Yard waste contained in plastic bags

TRANSFER STATION:

The Transfer Station is located on Watson Boulevard (off Lordship Boulevard) and is open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Saturday, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Residents can bring up to 250 pounds of household refuse per month, free of charge.

For more information, call the Transfer Station at 203-385-4080.



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FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

By Kees Adema

Sometimes I hold the pendants in my hand and admire the delicate touch of the man who made them. They will not stand out in Tiffany's display window on Fifth Avenue nor will they ever compete with the jewelry Richard Burton gave to Elizabeth Taylor. Their age, about 80 years, is insignificant as heirlooms go, but to me their value cannot be measured in material terms. Two silver pendants that are the only direct connection to my father, Jan. My mother wore either one of them every day to her last.

He was a dental technician and expert craftsman of superbly fitted, natural-looking porcelain inlays or dentures. At that time they were the only options to replace missing parts. Jan's reputation extended beyond our hometown of Franeker in the Dutch Province of Friesland. Just before war broke out in 1940 he accepted an attractive job offer in Arnhem where we then moved.

After the Germans invaded and occupied Holland, people working in the medical field were exempt from Nazi labor duty so my father could continue to work, but now in a German laboratory. In secret he also worked on his hobby, creating jewelry, for which he used silver "acquired" from supplies intended to be used for Nazi dental fixtures. He never felt guilty taking from the regime that robbed Holland blind.

Jan surprised my mother on birthdays with whimsical silver pendants, of which only the leaf with garnets and the holly with berry flowers remain. When she died in her eighties, younger family members were unaware of their significance.

By 1944 the war had turned into the Allies' favor and living conditions deteriorated rapidly. Food became scarce. My father, a proud man, was often reduced to stealing handfuls of beans from the laboratory's kitchen to feed his



family which was about to expand as my mother was pregnant. Life became even more difficult after my brother was born in the dirt cellar below our house during the Battle of Arnhem of a Bridge Too Far fame. Now refugees, our little family was forced to leave all possessions behind. All except for my mother's pendants, which she held onto even later when others were swapping jewelry for anything edible.

The German occupation that had been expected to end in September 1944, still lasted another 8 months in what became known as the Hunger Winter. My father had always ignored his own health to protect his family, but eventually it caught up with him. He suffered from severe malnutrition and various other serious ailments when the country was liberated in May 1945.

In January 1949 he was going to start his own laboratory and then, suddenly, at the age of 33, he was gone. The war's hardships had caught up with him. The pendants that Jan Adema crafted for my mother are my most treasured family heirlooms. My mother never desired any other jewelry.

Alone in my office, I hold the pendants in my hand, then gently run my fingers over the details. I close my eyes and almost feel my father's presence. OV

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323-470-1911 / lmassaro@oronoquevillage.com

2020

By Elisabeth Breslav

The end of the year is often depicted as a worn-out old man shuffling out the door, and the arrival of the New Year as a new-born infant crawling in. I feel sorry for both. The grey-beard is leaving behind a map of our globe splotted all over with wars and wild fires. How is the babe going to find its way?

My favorite cartoon in The Post, “For Better or for Worse” by Lynn Johnston, earlier this week showed the young daughter in the family looking at the empty squares in the new calendar, dreaming of all the exciting appointments that would be filled in over time and ex-

claiming “It’s History that Hasn’t Happened Yet.”

It made me look at my calendar and I found three squares already filled in. On January 15 the last installment of the Stratford taxes is due. On the 17th I see my orthopedist, followed by the dentist on the 22nd. I quickly pencil in OVWG, the Oronoque Village Writers Group, on the 16th and the 30th, just to even things out a bit, but decide I won’t look any further.

Maybe that baby will surprise us – one can always hope!



OV

GIGGLES

By Mitchell Fink

Jeff and I met in the third grade, declared ourselves best friends three years later, but were never in a class together until our senior year of high school. I walked into Miss Johnson’s English class on Day 1 that September, and there was Jeff seated in the back of the classroom, a mischievous smile overtaking his perfectly round face, a realization, perhaps, that this would be a semester like no other.

We lived to make each other laugh, a habit that was severely tested one day when Miss Johnson went around the room and had us each read aloud from Shakespeare’s “Hamlet.” By the time we got to Act III, Scene III, with someone uttering the line, “O wretched state. O bosom black of death,” Jeff and I knew that to even shoot each other a glance anywhere close to the word “bosom,” would result in the kind of out-of-control giggles sure to lead one or both of us to the principal’s office. We were that infantile – sex-starved teenagers with raging hormones, trying to keep a lid on, embarrassingly afraid to let anyone else in on the joke.

There was another reading on another day in Miss Johnson’s class, and it was Larry’s turn to read. Larry, who sat directly in front of Jeff, had to wear coke-bottle glasses because he was nearly blind in one eye, and had terrible vision in the other. As Larry struggled with his assigned passage, the book ever so close to his nose, Jeff reached around and covered Larry’s good eye. This time everyone in the class laughed, even Miss Johnson.

It went on like that for years. Jeff became a criminal attorney, and I became a journalist. We talked every day on the phone, sometimes multiple times a day, especially during Yankee games. We functioned as each other’s comic relief. It mattered not at all who he was trying to keep out of jail, or what story I was working on. If Jeff was calling, I stopped

whatever I was doing. The silly giggling always came first.

We counseled each other’s children, and always stepped up whenever a subject called for seriousness, like the passing of our parents and the untimely death of Neth a few days after the Beatles appeared on Ed Sullivan, then George in Vietnam, Michael before 9/11, and Bruce a little while after. But mostly Jeff and I just laughed. “Nobody dies,” we would say to each other, recalling the phrase John Ireland’s character Windy utters repeatedly in the 1945 black-and-white war film classic, “A Walk in the Sun.”

And you know, Windy wasn’t so wrong. Lost loved ones – and the list keeps getting longer and longer – are forever locked in that special place inside all of us, communicating with us, listening to what we have to say, and maybe even laughing at our jokes. They are relationships frozen in time, but kept eternally safe and warm in our hearts.

The day Jeff found out he had cancer was no laughing matter, and while we steadfastly kept to our daily routine of phone calls and laughter, if he felt for one second that my thinking had drifted off too far off into the future, he’d reel me back in with the reminder that “nobody dies,” and suddenly we’d be quoting other lines from “A Walk in the Sun,” uncomfortably numb to his predicament, back to our shared past, before the real world interrupted our good cheer.

I kissed Jeff’s forehead on the last night of his life. It’s been five years since his passing, and not a day goes by that I don’t think about him. But I’ve developed an extraordinary relationship with his son, Aaron, whose sense of humor is very much like his father’s, only funnier. We talk almost every day, sometimes multiple times a day, especially during the NFL season. But mostly we make each other laugh.

I’m sure the day will come when I enter that occupied territory in Aaron’s heart, frozen in time like his father and all the others. I’d like to think, however, that this particular vital statistic won’t present itself for many years and many, many more Super Bowls.

OV



Bingo:

Presented by the Men's Club

Thursday, Feb. 20
at 7:00 pm at SCB

Come and bring your friends.
Cost: \$2.50/card

Refreshments will be served
Open to all



SCB GALLERY WINTER SHOW

The Winter Oronoque Art Show,
titled "From Toddler to Teen,"
is on view at SCB.

Join the Contest!
Match the teen/toddler picture with
the current photo of the resident.

Prize awarded for the
most correct matches



The Book Club meets at 7 p.m. on the first
Wednesday of the month at NCB.

All Villagers are welcome.

Need a ride or information?

Call Hinda at 203-385-3855.

The book for March 4 is *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris. In a tiny village in France, where nothing much has changed in 100 years, a beautiful newcomer and her exquisite chocolate shop arrive and instantly begin to play havoc with residents. Each box of luscious bonbons comes with a free gift: Vianne's uncanny perception of its buyer's private discontents and a clever, caring cure for them. Is she a witch? Soon the parish no longer cares, as it abandons itself to temptation, happiness, and a drama.

OV Karaoke Club

No fees or dues

No commitments

Just fun!

Join us for our next
event on Friday,
Feb. 21, in the South
Clubhouse Auditorium
from 6:30-9pm.

(We usually go a bit longer than 9pm for
your singing and dancing pleasure.)

Come sing or just listen to your friends and
neighbors showing off their talents. No
need to RSVP...just come on over, grab a
seat, and either watch or join the fun by
putting in a song or two!

BYOB, food and refreshments!



SAC TRIVIA NIGHT

Put on Your Thinking Cap for A Night of Fun and Friendly Competition!

Saturday, February 22nd - Doors Open at 6:15 pm – Games Start at 7:00 pm NCB



PRIZES FOR WINNING TEAMS

Admission \$8.00

Soft Drinks, Coffee and Dessert

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Reserve a Team Table of up to 8 People or Join a Table with Others

Include all team member names with checks made out to SAC. Drop your check and this form in SAC mailbox at NCB before Tuesday 2/18. Questions Contact Mary Ann 203-530-9962 or Kathy 540-729-1789



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Monday,

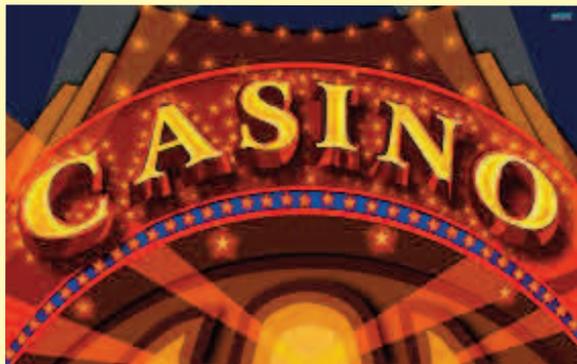
March 9, 2020

1:30 SCB



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**MEN'S CLUB TRIP TO MOHEGAN SUN
MONDAY, MARCH 16
DEPARTING REAR OF SCB AT 1 P.M.
LEAVING CASINO AT 8:30 P.M.
COST PER PERSON: \$25**

A check made out to Oronoque Village Men's Club is your reservation. Please place check in the Men's Club box in the North Clubhouse. Questions? Call Sandy Lunt: 203 377-5833 or Jerry Brown: 203 378-7781



Call-In Program Is Available To Oronoque Residents

If you live alone, you might want to consider signing up for the ***Call-In Program***. To participate, you need to call the South Clubhouse (203-377-5435) every morning between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.

A Volunteer Monitor on duty will check on you. That's all there is to it!

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please call Kathy Lykens at 203-612-6685.



FUNSEEKERS

PRESENTS



Raggle Taggle Gypsy O's

Tuesday March 10, 2020 7pm

SCB • Doors Open At 6:15 No reservations required

Come enjoy this trio from Brooklyn, NY!
They will do a mix of traditional Irish fiddle tunes plus ballads, pub songs, folk songs, rebel songs and popular irish music from the 60's to today.



Admission is \$4 for members (\$15 annual dues) and \$7 for guests.
BYOB/wine/food/snacks!

Coffee, tea, beverages and dessert to follow the program.

Questions? Call John Fratarcangeli at 203.503.4364

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