

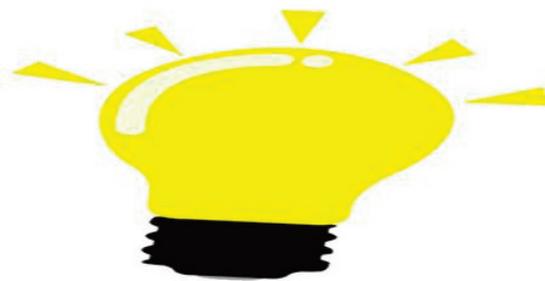
May 15, 2020



# THE VILLAGER



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Thank you to Richard Steinfeld for submitting the cover photo. *The Villager* welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Submissions must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com)



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE OVTD PRESIDENT

## REPORT ON THE OVTD TAX DISTRICT MEETING OF APRIL 28, 2020



**By Bill Tanski, OVTD President**

Hello Again,  
We had our first teleconference/  
Video OVTD meeting on April 28.  
Despite some "bumps in the road"  
with the technology, we got the meeting done.

The agenda included: OVTD Nominating Committee slate, the status of our annual elections, the Town of Stratford/OVTD Deferred-Tax Program and where we stand with the OVTD budget.

Here's a recap:



**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.

### OVTD Nominating Committee

The OVTD Nominating Committee announced its slate of recommended candidates for our next election. Here they are:

#### Officers

- Linda Libertino - President
- Ray Vermette - Vice President
- Tom Becker - Treasurer
- Pete Penny - Clerk

#### Directors

- Tom Aubin
- Linda Libertino
- Ray Vermette

### OVTD Annual Election Status

The OV Tax District is similar to other tax districts in the state of Connecticut. We are a government entity, a sort of town within a town, but with some exceptions. One of those exceptions is how we conduct our elections.

By Connecticut state law, tax districts can only hold in-person elections. They cannot offer absentee/mail-in or electronic voting. Unlike the OV Condo Association, we don't have the legal flexibility of using proxies as a form of absentee balloting.

The Governor has not, as of yet, issued a proclamation waiving in-person voting for tax districts during this emergency. So we must adhere to the current state regulations. Our attorney is in close contact with the Governor's office. If or when the Governor decides to change those restrictions, we will adapt accordingly.

Simply put, we cannot have a safe in-person election on May 26 (which was the scheduled date of our annual election meeting). We must postpone that date, but we're not certain what date will be a safe date. The Governor moved the CT Primary date from June 2 to Aug. 11. Perhaps that's a safe date, but no one really knows for sure.

Since we're a senior community, we need to be extra careful about fixing a date for an in-person election. In con-

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junction with our attorney, we will continuously monitor this situation.

The terms of three directors and all of our officers will expire on June 30. If our elections are held beyond that date, per our attorney, those terms would be extended until the next election occurs. Hopefully, that will be some-time soon.

### **Town of Stratford/OVTD Tax-Deferral Program**

On April 14, the Town of Stratford passed a resolution for tax relief in conjunction with one of the Governor's proclamations. Under this program, qualified residents can defer their Town of Stratford taxes for 90 days, free of interest. You qualify if you've experienced at least a 20 percent decline in income since April 1 under these scenarios:

1. Furloughed without pay
2. Reduction in hours
3. Becoming unemployed

Businesses and nonprofits can also qualify if they expect a 30 percent decline in revenue in the April to June period. Stratford taxes are collected twice a year, in January and July. The town's deferral program is for Stratford taxes due July 1.

There is an application process that is sent to the Town for review. OVTD can offer similar tax-relief under this program. But, you must apply to both the Town and OVTD to obtain relief.

Our Executive Director has reached out to the Town to advise us if any residents of our community have applied

and qualified for this program. We would then contact them and offer the same deferred tax relief under OVTD.

Here is the online address to download an application: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/IGPP-Data-Grants-Mgmt/COVID19-IGPP-Documents/Municipal-Tax-Relief-Deferral-Form-M-COVID19.pdf?la=en>

### **OVRTD Budget Status**

Typically, the OVTD Board votes on the next fiscal year's budget at the April meeting. Then the residents vote on it at the annual meeting.

As you know, the OVCA budget for next year hasn't been approved yet by its board. Because we share common accounts, the OVTD Board deferred its vote until after OVCA approves its budget. This is an unprecedented occurrence and we ask for your patience during this process.

One of the budget areas of great concern for OVTD is the level of our reserves, such as road, major capital and infrastructure. We're a "senior" community, but Oronoque Village is also approaching the same status as it nears its 50th anniversary. Like anything that is aging, more maintenance may be necessary to keep everything operating smoothly. Our infrastructure is a case in point. The water and sewer lines are vulnerable to breaks.

We need the right level of reserves in case we experience significant unexpected expenses. To not fund these reserves adequately would be to take a gamble that nothing goes seriously wrong in 12 months. That's a short-sighted risk that can have long-term consequences. Our goal is to be fiscally responsible to the community.

I would like to conclude this recap with a personal note: During these times, with many hours spent indoors, my thoughts turn to the future. I optimistically think of our 50th-anniversary celebration in 2021. I imagine returning to "normal times" where we can shake hands and embrace each once again. It will be a celebratory experience.

Until then, stay well, stay safe and stay in touch with one another.

-- Bill

## **NO CALENDAR OR ACTIVITIES SECTIONS IN THIS ISSUE OF THE VILLAGER**

Due to the uncertainty of events during the pandemic, the Calendar and Activity sections have been intentionally omitted from this issue.

At presstime (May 8), the North and South Clubhouses continue to be closed to the public until further notice.

Updates will be conveyed to residents via robo-calls, eblasts and posts on OVTV (Channel 591 with a cable box and Channel 121-591) without a box.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RESIDENT PHONE DIRECTORIES

The 2020 Resident Phone Directories are now available. A directory can be downloaded from the home page of our website ([www.oroquevillage.com](http://www.oroquevillage.com)). Directories also will be delivered to those who request a copy via email ([office@oroquevillage.com](mailto:office@oroquevillage.com)) or call the Business Office at 203-377-5313. Deliveries will take place once per week.

## MAINTENANCE & BUSINESS OFFICES REMAIN CLOSED TO RESIDENTS

During this COVID-19 pandemic, we are asking all Villagers to refrain from entering the Maintenance Building, Business Office or South Clubhouse to engage or contact staff.

We are following regulatory guidelines of social distancing and contact and expect that residents will also adhere to these CDC protocols, for your own protection and the protection of OV employees.

## LOCAL RESTAURANTS OFFERING CURBSIDE AND DELIVERY SERVICES

The Town of Stratford has compiled a comprehensive list of the services offered by local restaurants during the pandemic. Purchasing a gift card to use at a later date is another way to show your support for local businesses.

For more details, visit <http://www.townofstratford.com/restaurantweek>.

## FOOD DELIVERY SERVICES ARE OFFERED TO THOSE IN NEED

Services are available for those who are in need of meal deliveries. Meals on Wheels (203-332-3264) provides two meals per day for persons who are homebound, elderly or recuperating from an illness. Weekend meals are also available.

Sterling House Mobile Food Pantry Delivery is available to Stratford residents age 60 and older. For a referral or more information, call Stratford Senior Services at 203-385-4055. Those under the age of 60 -- or those who need to be put in contact with a food pantry -- should call Stratford Community Services at 203-385-4095.

## FREE GROCERIES TO THOSE AT-RISK

Stratford Senior Services is providing free groceries to those 60 and older who are deemed by the CDC to be at greater risk of serious complications from the COVID-19 virus if they leave their home to shop. Each prepackaged grocery

## MULCH ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN

The Maintenance Department is now taking orders for mulch deliveries. The first half-yard is free to residents.

The cost for an additional half-yard is \$23.50. The cost of an additional full yard is \$47. A full price sheet appears below. Checks for additional mulch should be made out to OVCA and delivered to NCB via the outside dropbox. Deliveries will take place on Fridays through July.

### OV MULCH PRICING 2020

1st ½ yard	Free
additional ½ yard	\$23.50
additional 1 yard	\$47
additional 1 ½ yards	\$70.50
additional 2 yards	\$94
additional 2 ½ yards	\$117.70
additional 3 yards	\$141
additional 3 ½ yards	\$164.50
additional 4 yards	\$188
additional 4 ½ yards	\$211.50
additional 5 yards	\$235.50
additional 5 ½ yards	\$259
additional 6 yards	\$282.50
additional 6 ½ yards	\$306
additional 7 yards	\$329.50

bag provides a one-week supply of shelf-stable items as well as fresh produce, eggs, butter, bread and toilet paper.

To sign up for this program, please call 203-385-4055 and leave a message. Someone will return your call.

## SAVE THE DATE: ARTS GUILD EVENT

The OV Arts Guild will present Jim Sullivan on June 15 at 7 p.m. in the South Clubhouse. He will speak on the art treasures found in New York City and their European influences.

*Announcements continue on page 20*

# RESIDENTS SHARE QUARANTINE ACTIVITIES

## HEALTH-CARE WORKERS APPLAUD VIRGINIA WARE

Story by Carol King

Photos by Carol King and Marcia Klein



Passersby on Bison Lane may notice a well-deserved sign outside of Virginia Ware's unit. The banner, which is from the Intensive Care Unit at Yale New Haven Hospital, thanks Virginia for her donation of hand-sewn face masks.

Virginia estimates that she has made about 70

masks, which are custom-cut to conform to a person's face, covering nose to chin. "I have a friend who is a nurse at Yale and I give all of the face masks I make to her to distribute at the hospital," explains Virginia. "I am using patterned fabric to give the masks some pizzazz."

The process of making the masks is not simple. "First I cut out a pattern on printed fabric, usually two at a time, and sew together from top (nose) to bottom (chin)," she explains. "My next step is to trace a lining, which is usually plain white cotton. After sewing the lining together, I stitch the lining and the patterned piece together, turn the pieces inside out and press, topstitch and sew a placket at each end for the elastic that goes around the ears."

The end result? Applause and appreciation from grateful health-care workers at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Virginia is a dedicated seamstress and quilter with many years of practice. For the last 20 years, she has been running a retail outlet at Wesley Village in Shelton. "I sew crumb catchers and walker bags that are sold in the store," she says. "Now that the store is closed during the pandemic, I am pleased to be able focus on making face masks while I am at home."



All of her sewing projects are done on a White rotary sewing machine that was built during the 1930s. "The machine belonged to my mother," she reports. **OV**

*Resident stories continue on next page*

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# RESIDENTS SHARE QUARANTINE ACTIVITIES

## DOLLCRAFTERS CONTINUE THEIR WORK DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

Story by Merrilees Leemhuis ~ Photos by Carol King

Members of the OV Dollcrafters have not allowed the pandemic to deter them from their mission of making dolls for children in distress. During this period of social distancing, the ladies don the required face masks and meet at the South Clubhouse parking lot on Tuesday mornings to exchange their works-in-progress.

"A few of us bring various projects and pass them along to so that the next phase of doll-making can be completed," explains Merrilees Leemhuis. "The work helps us to keep our idle hands busy and fills the doll closet with finished product to be distributed to our chosen charities when the time comes."

The phases of doll-making include knitting and sewing the apparel, stuffing the dolls, painting their faces and manipulating the thick yarn that is used for the doll's "hair."

### About Dollcrafters

Oronoque Dollcrafters began more than 20 years ago with a group of dedicated women who wanted to help children in crisis. Presently the group has approximately 15 members who make about 200 dolls each year.

In addition, for boys, they crochet soft balls.

Once completed, the dolls are ready to find a child in need. The Dollcrafters Club has donation liaisons to: Bridgeport Hospital "Toy Closet," Shriner's Hospital, Center for Family Justice, St Vincent de Paul and Sister Theresa of Bridgeport.

"It is very rewarding and touching to receive a letter from a child who owns one of our dolls," says Merrilees.

### Donations/New Members Are Welcome

The Dollcrafters gladly accept fabrics, yarn and monetary donations.

If you are interested in learning more about the club or would like to volunteer, call Merrilees at 203-378-8753.

Once the clubhouses re-open, the group will continue to meet at the NCB library on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. 



Top: Merrilees Leemhuis shows off recently finished dolls. Middle: Dollcrafter Club members Dorothy Tanski, Georgette Hamel, Tina Vermette and Mary Scully. Bottom: Dolls ready for donations to children in distress come complete with a mandated face mask.

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## CAROLE GUGLIELMO TAKES ON AN ARTISTIC CHALLENGE

By Mary W. von Ziegesar ~ Photos by Carole Guglielmino

COVID-19 has presented challenges to most of us, but one Oronoque Village resident has met the challenges with more challenges ... 30 to be exact.

Carole Guglielmino joined an art group motivated by Alain Picard, a Southbury-based artist. The group is required to create 30 paintings in 30 days, a daunting task.

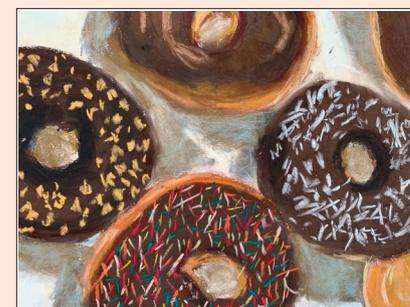
The hashtag on Instagram is #CREATE30CHALLENGE. On Facebook, search for "30 Day Creative Challenge." Carole posts her works on Instagram with at least 1,000 other participating artists.

Carole picks the daily subjects with inspiration from all around her. She has drawn her cat, geese on the golf course, doughnuts, flowers, neighbors' dogs, a coastline, a golfer and more. Her medium is pastel, drawn on UART sand pastel paper; the sizes vary but most are 8 by 12 inches.

"Besides keeping me busy during this social isolation, part of the fun has been seeing the range of subjects and learning where the artists are from," says Carole.

"I've also enjoyed 'meeting' other people online. There is a lot of talent out there!"

There is also a lot of talent right here in Oronoque.



OV

## RUSS CINGARI'S 'HOME SWEET HOMES'

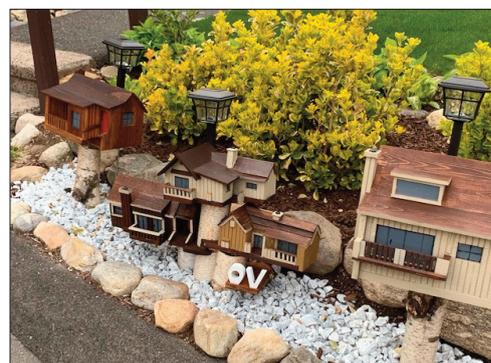
By Mary W. von Ziegesar ~ Photos by Carole Guglielmino

As sweet as home may be, many of us are quite tired of being at home because of COVID-19. Many of us have cleaned, painted, repositioned and repurposed furniture, but what OV resident Russ Cingari has done is very special.

When not hitting a pickleball on a string to keep in practice, or making tables, chairs, shelves and frames for inside his home, Russ builds houses, miniature houses.

Set among his lovely gardens and along the walkway around his Cherokee Lane condo unit, he has created chalets, contemporaries and colonials -- for birds and for fun.

His favorites include a treehouse with birchbark siding, and he recently completed replicas of five OV condos.



For nighttime enchantment, he has added solar lamps.

Cheers to Russ for his talent and ingenuity, and for displaying his homes, sweet homes, for all of us to enjoy.

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# LEGAL EXPERTISE FROM RAYMOND B. DRAKE

**Editor's Note:** This is the first in a new series of articles in which OV resident Raymond B. Drake will share his legal knowhow with Villager readers. Raymond received a juris doctor degree from Rutgers School of Law in 1957. He was admitted to practice law before the Courts of New Jersey and the United States Supreme Court. He practiced in Hunterdon County, N.J., for 47 years specializing in municipal law, land use planning, real estate and estate planning and probate. Has been legal counsel to the Hunterdon County Board of Social Services for 33 years.

## ADVANCED MEDICAL DIRECTIVES

More than ever, the need for a written document to express a person's view about how medical care and end-of-life issues should be rendered on their behalf has come to the forefront of family concerns during the current pandemic.

Several studies reveal that one-third to two-thirds of adults have not executed advanced directives, which are the documents that outline which medical treatments they will accept or refuse as well as designate a person to act on their behalf if they are incapacitated.

As part of advanced-care planning, adults and their families should focus on the do-not-resuscitate (DNR) portion of the directives and recognize whether their loved ones do, or do not, want to be resuscitated after a cardiac arrest.

In today's climate, equally important is whether or not a hospitalized patient is willing to accept intubation and ventilation for treatment of a respiratory disease. The Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that almost "80 percent of early coronavirus deaths occur among those over 65."

In the aging process, adults develop high blood pressure, diabetes, lung or heart issues ... all of which are known to intensify the effects of the virus.

Families with seniors should not put off discussion and plans to address the practical need of a written Advanced Medical Directive so that the senior's wishes will be honored when the need arises.

There are two other matters that should be addressed: Durable Power of Attorney to designate a person to act on behalf of the senior adult who is incapacitated and a Last Will and Testament to direct what is to be done with the patient's worldly possessions and assets and who shall be the executor. (These will be addressed in upcoming columns.)

Did you plan on taking care of this in the future? Well, the future is here and now.



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## WELL-BEING SUPPORT IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY



By Catherine Hogan

Our Village community had grown silent during March, and April, with all its rain and wind, put a dent in the amount of relief we so hoped for. We watched the slow budding of trees and longed for their new life. The lawnmowers became a

more welcomed sound than they had ever been before.

Now that May has come, we see more walking and hear more talking. People are active. As I walked up South Trail, I saw a man sitting with his dog on a bench. He was so involved that he didn't see me turn the corner. I called over a "hi" and he instantly smiled and said "hello." His dog, content on the bench, just observed quietly.

Yes, there is still a quiet in the Village—rooted in uncertainty. Our separation from others, and the awkwardness of social distancing, is not easy. By now, many of us may know someone who has suffered or been lost to the corona virus. Some Villagers may be alone without easy access to walking or chatting about how they are coping with all the change.

This is a sudden and abrupt change in our lives; something we have never experienced before. We know we are vulnerable and many of us have taken the recommended precautions. Some of us have updated our estate plans.

Yet, despite these changes, there is hope, too. We see people caring for others all around the globe. At some moment, the corona disruption will pass. So it is important to eat and move in ways that keep our immune sys-

tems strong. And when you do this, your mental well-being becomes automatically focused on hope.

Open your window as soon as you can so you can hear the birds and just listen. Nature is still alive and beauty is still with us.

If you would like to chat or need support moving to hope, please don't hesitate to call.

I work from home and am generally available for phone calls between the hours of 4-8 p.m.

Time on the phone may be particularly helpful if you sense that you are becoming lonely and don't want to worry those close to you.

My offer is well-being support, not therapy. However, to ensure the professional and confidential nature of our communications, I will provide you with my public health license.

Please feel free to contact me any day between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. by phone or email. (Email: hoganca@mac.com / phone: 203-605-8727.)

If I don't answer the phone, please leave a message with your name, phone number and best time to reach you. OV

*Catherine Hogan is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) who obtained her bachelor of arts degree in clinical psychology from Smith College in Northampton, Mass., and her master's degree in clinical social work from the Smith School for Social Work. She has 30 years of experience working with couples, families, and children. Catherine began her career in home health-care agencies for older adults. She was a supervisor at the Yale Child Study in New Haven for 10 years. A member of the Ethics Committee for the National Association of Social Work since 2008, Catherine maintains a private practice in Milford.*

## BEYOND THE VILLAGE

Curtain Call, Inc., Stamford's longest-running nonprofit theater company, has launched two streaming video channels for patrons to enjoy: One channel (<https://vimeo.com/channels/CCSOG>) is dedicated to productions from its Shakespeare on the Green program.

The other (<https://vimeo.com/channels/CCSOG>) features musicals and comedies.

These full productions are available for free. If you'd like to make a contribution to the theater, please use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yd2or9ms>

BroadwayWorld's Broken Records podcast co-hosts, Ben Rimalower and Daniel Nolen, are broadcasting "Tuesday, Thursday, April, August," a twice-weekly half-hour livestream show, on [www.broadwayworld.com](http://www.broadwayworld.com). The pair offer their takes on the music and video content they've been enjoying to get through the days of the pandemic.

New England Christmas Craft Festival, a weekly series featuring crafters and their works, can be found at <https://nechristmasfestival.com>. Items are available for purchase online. OV



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# CT FOOD ORGANIZATIONS STRUGGLE TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND

*This article was published in the Connecticut Post on April 20, 2020*

By Julia Perkins

With many businesses closed and unemployment applications exceeding 350,000 in the state, putting food on the table has become one of the biggest challenges for families.

The coronavirus pandemic has strained the stock in pantries and other organizations across Connecticut, sometimes forcing families to drive home from a distribution empty-handed.

"Food has certainly been the greatest need identified by those who are calling for assistance," said Isabel Almeida, interim president for United Way of Western Connecticut. "Our local food pantries have seen a doubling and even tripling for those who need food."

United Way, which is among the organizations and companies involved in distributions to low-income housing facilities in Danbury, has not run out of food, Almeida said.

But the Connecticut Food Bank had to turn away about 150 cars when it ran out of goods to distribute in Danbury on Thursday morning, while other organizations said they have given out all their food or ended their events early when supplies go quickly.

"Food distributions are one of the most, I think, visible and emotional proofs of this pandemic," said Paul Shipman, spokesman for the Connecticut Food Bank, which provides commodities to pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and more. "We are working hard to meet (the increased need) and, clearly, it's a challenge."

The issue at Rogers Park Middle School in Danbury, where 300 cars were still served, attracted the attention of Gov. Ned Lamont, who described the "sense of fear" the situation represented.

He said the number of calls to the 211 hotline about food reflect the "anxiety" people feel in trying to feed their families. While he said fewer items have been voluntarily donated, resources are still available for organizations to purchase food.

"Our food supply in this state, in this country and in our food banks is strong," Lamont said in his press briefing on Friday.

Meanwhile, the number of applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program has roughly quadrupled since February, said Dan Giacomi, program administration manager for the state Department of Social Services.

"We are seeing a major increase in SNAP applications, as expected in times when more people qualify for help in making ends meet," he said.

About 360,000 individuals in 212,000 households were

enrolled in the program at the end of March. That could rise to 400,000 individuals, levels last seen during the Great Recession, he said.

**Increased need:** The Connecticut Food Bank has run out of commodities at its mobile pantries before, but the organization has never seen this level of demand statewide, making it harder to plan, Shipman said.

Recently, a mobile food distribution in Hamden saw 176 cars one week; the following week, they served 490 cars before turning away many more, he said.

"It's a terrible feeling to have to turn someone away from a food distribution," Shipman said.

Requiring individuals to sign up would not work because word of the pantries spreads quickly, and families would show up without registering, he said.

Often, these families have not needed these services before. "These are families who typically would be fine if all things were normal in the world," Almeida said. "But they've lost wages or they've lost their jobs because of COVID (19), and all of a sudden are facing a need and don't know where to turn."

Food pantries and organizations in Bridgeport, Greenwich, Stamford, Stratford and Hamden said they have seen significantly more clients and served more food than average.

The crisis could have long-lasting effects on pantries, said Chris Dina, manager of South End Community Center's food pantry in Stratford. "As this goes on longer and longer, there's some folks who won't have a job to go back to," she said. "Until they can figure out what to do, they may for awhile depend upon our type of resource in order to provide food for their household."

Demand is coming not only from those who cannot afford food, but those who are unable to leave their homes because they are elderly, have underlying medical conditions or are quarantine, said Kathleen Purdy, executive director of Hillside Food Outreach, which is delivering free items to homebound people in Fairfield County and Westchester and Putnam counties in neighboring New York.

A greater spike in demand could occur once the state's ban on evictions ends and families are under pressure to pay rent, said Kate Lombardo, executive director of the Stamford-based Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County, which serves food pantries from Greenwich to Wilton.

"When they pay that rent, that is when the crisis of food shortage should kick in," she said. "That's when it's really going to be a crisis."

**Slow to restock:** The biggest challenge for Greenwich's Neighbor to Neighbor is the growing wait time for access to popular foods, including pasta, rice, tuna and cereal, said director of operations Duncan Lawson.

### How to reach Stratford-based food pantries:

South End Community Center, 19 Bates St., phone: 203-377-0689,  
website: [www.townofstratford.com/secc](http://www.townofstratford.com/secc)

Sterling House Community Center, 2283 Main St., phone: 203-378-2606,  
website: [www.sterlinghousecc.org](http://www.sterlinghousecc.org)

The pantry's supply remains "adequate," he said, but he's worried about the weeks ahead.

"While I have enough to support what we do in the moment, it is a constant concern, and it changes daily," he said.

Shelf-stable milk is not available, so the organization is buying nondairy milks, such as almond and coconut milk. It would take six to eight weeks to acquire the nonperishable version, he said.

Pancake mix, fresh vegetables, eggs, meat, fish and canned goods are in short supply at other pantries.

Y'Isiah Lopes, Hamden's Community Services coordinator, said his team worried last week the pantry would run out of food, since they were running dangerously low on dry goods and items in high demand, including milk.

The pantry relies on the Connecticut Food Bank for about 96 percent of its goods, but was told this week more food would be available in three to six weeks, Lopes said. Still, he expects supply being strained until October.

Typical donations from the food industry to the Connecticut Food Bank have declined because grocery stores have been "shopped bare," Shipman said. The organization and congregational delegation have been pushing for more products at the federal level from the Emergency Food Assistance Program, he said, while financial donations have helped the organization order food.

But even that can prove difficult.

"You're in a very competitive marketplace, and those orders stretch beyond Connecticut borders," he said. "You're looking at everyone across the country who are dealing with these same challenges."

A new shipment was delayed to New Milford's Faith Church, which allocated \$20,000 from its general fund to purchase groceries and meals from local restaurants to distribute on Wednesday evenings, the Rev. Frank Santora said. So, only restaurant meals — not groceries — were distributed last week.

He hopes the new food arrives by the next distribution.

"As we've spoken with our normal suppliers, they said things are basically running dry and they're having to wait for it," Santora said.

**Social distancing challenges:** Social distancing has forced some pantries to move operations outdoors and hand out items to people in cars.

Bridgeport Rescue Mission suspended its mobile kitchen, which served sites in Bridgeport and Norwalk, because the quarters were too tight for volunteers.

Instead, the mission launched a grocery delivery service to some of the low-income housing developments in both of those cities, spokeswoman Donna Romano said.

Some smaller, scattered food sites run by individual churches and other groups that are often operated by senior volunteers have been forced to close, said Mike Donoghue, executive director of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County.

This has put more pressure on his organization, which operates soup kitchens and food pantries at the Thomas Meriton Center in Bridgeport and the New Covenant Center in Stamford. He has noticed an influx of younger volunteers, including college students.

The Connecticut Food Bank reduced the number of people working in its warehouse at one time, but has adjusted priorities to increase the number of pounds going out on trucks, Shipman said.

**Donations key:** Meanwhile, other organizations said they have seen an increase in community support.

"This community always surprises me, but right now it's amazing," said Amanda Meeson, executive director of the Sterling House Community Center in Stratford. "Without saying a word, we've had financial donations. We arrive every day with a bin full of food people have left."

Donations have been flowing into Hillside Food Outreach, too, Purdy said. This includes money from Boehringer Ingelheim and volunteers from Sodexo, which operates BI's cafeterias, sending volunteers.

"If it wasn't for them in any county, we never would have been able to keep up with this," Purdy said.

The companies are working with United Way and Food Rescue, as well, delivering 4,780 meals across five sites, said Linda Ruckel, spokeswoman for Boehringer-Ingelheim.

United Way is collecting donations for a fund to enhance its healthy food program, where families receive \$20 each week for six weeks to purchase healthy food. This is double the benefit normally given.

"It really does help families week-to-week as they buy groceries," Almeida said.

The nonprofit also offers a digital rewards card to purchase necessities, such as food and gas.

"It gives them the flexibility to identify their most critical need and put those funds toward that," Almeida said.

*Connecticut Post staff writers Tatiana Flowers, Katrina Koerting, Ethan Fry, Michael Mayko, Clare Dignan, Brian Lockhart and Erin Kayata contributed to this report.*

# KITCHEN SWAPS & SUBSTITUTIONS

## ALTERNATIVES FOR BUTTER

The flavor of butter is incomparable. Smear it on toast and you have a meal; use it to make cake and you have a rich, decadent confection. So, what to do if you don't have butter? Much of butter's flavor comes from its unique combination of fat, milk solid and water, which means it can be tricky to replace or replicate in recipes calling for it.

Luckily, your kitchen is packed with alternative fats (and fruits!) that can replace butter — in whole or in part. Here's every substitute for butter you can use in baking.

**How to Substitute Oil for Butter:** Canola, vegetable and olive oils are pure fats and can be wondrous substitutes for butter in baking. What they may lack in flavor, they make up for in moisture. If you can, use a 50/50 combination of butter and oil in recipes calling for butter — this way you get some butter flavor and the moisture from the oil. But, if you need to replace the butter for oil completely, use 7/8 cup oil for every cup of butter called for.

The exception to the rule is coconut oil. Like butter, coconut oil can be soft and pliable at room temperature and melts to a beautiful consistency. Many bakers love coconut oil for its light, sweet flavor that makes it an ideal 1:1 substitution for butter. Coconut oil has slightly more fat and less water than butter, so to prevent dry baked goods, up the liquid called for in cakes, muffins and quick breads by just a few tablespoons to compensate.

As for flaky pastries like biscuits and pie crust, make sure your coconut oil is super cold before mixing and give the dough extra time to chill before baking to ensure the tender, crackly texture you crave.

**How to Substitute Applesauce for Butter:** While applesauce is the most ubiquitous of the bunch, fruit purées of all kinds (think: bananas, baby food or mashed avocado) can all be used to replace butter. Fruit purées are best for baking when used in tandem with butter. Swap half of the butter in your baked goods for smooth fruit purées to get the best flavor, moisture, and texture.

Skip this swap, though, for baked goods where a crispness is key, like shortbread cookies. And keep in mind that you'll want to use smooth, unsweetened varieties of applesauce, mashed banana or sweet potato when substituting it for butter in baked goods.

**How to Substitute Yogurt for Butter:** Yogurt is rich in fat and flavor, but also has more moisture than butter which gives it some limitations as a butter substitute. Plain, unsweetened yogurt can be used as a 1:1 swap for butter in recipes calling for less than 1 cup of butter. Greek yogurt can also be used as a butter substitute, although it will create breads and muffins with a more dense texture. OV

Source: [www.kitchn.com](http://www.kitchn.com)

## ALTERNATIVES FOR EGGS

Eggs serve several purposes in baking. They contribute to the structure, color, flavor and consistency of baked goods in the following ways: binding, leavening, adding moisture and enhancing flavor and appearance. Eggs help carry the flavors of other ingredients and brown when exposed to heat. They help improve the taste of baked goods and contribute to their golden-brown appearance.

Without them, baked goods might be dry, flat or flavorless. Fortunately, there are plenty of egg alternatives.

**Agar-Agar or Gelatin:** Gelatin makes a great substitute for eggs. However, it's an animal protein that is typically derived from the collagen of pigs and cows. If you avoid animal products, agar-agar is a vegan alternative obtained from a type of seaweed or algae. Both can be found as unflavored powders in most supermarkets and health food stores or online. To replace one egg, dissolve 1 tablespoon of unflavored gelatin in 1 tablespoon of cold water. Then, mix in 2 tablespoons of boiling water until frothy.

Alternatively, you can use 1 tablespoon of agar-agar powder mixed with 1 tablespoon of water to replace one egg.

**Applesauce, Mashed Banana or Other Pureed Fruits:** Using one-fourth cup of applesauce (or other pureed fruits) can replace one egg in most recipes. It's best to use unsweetened products. If you're using a sweetened variety, you should reduce the amount of sugar or sweetener in the recipe itself.

The only downside to baking with bananas is that your finished product may have a mild banana flavor. (Other pureed fruits like pumpkin and avocado work, too, and may not affect the flavor as much.)

Baked goods made with pureed fruits may not brown as deeply, but they will be very dense and moist.

**Aquafaba:** Aquafaba is the liquid left over from cooking beans or legumes. It's the same liquid that is found in canned chickpeas or beans. You can use 3 tablespoons of aquafaba to replace one egg. Aquafaba works especially well in recipes that call for just egg whites, such as meringues, marshmallows, macaroons or nougat.

**Arrowroot Powder:** Arrowroot is a South American tuber plant that is high in starch. The starch is extracted from the roots of the plant and sold as a powder, starch or flour.

It resembles corn starch and is used in cooking, baking and a variety of personal and household products. You can find it at many health food stores and online. A mixture of 2 tablespoons of arrowroot powder and 3 tablespoons of water can be used to replace one egg.

**Carbonated Water:** Carbonated water can add moisture to a recipe, but it also acts as a great leavening agent.

## OV SNAPSHOTS: "FOR THE BIRDS!"



Thanks to our contributing photographers:

Harriett Liss (far left)

Sue Schettini (above)

Dick Steinfeld (left)

The carbonation traps air bubbles, which help make the finished product light and fluffy.

You can replace each egg with one-fourth cup (60 grams) of carbonated water. This substitution works great for cakes, cupcakes and quick breads.

**Commercial Egg Replacer:** There are a variety of commercial egg replacers on the market. These are typically made from potato starch, tapioca starch and leavening agents. Egg replacers are suitable for all baked goods and should not affect the flavor of the finished product.

**Ground Flaxseeds or Chia Seeds:** Flaxseeds and chia seeds are both tiny seeds that are highly nutritious. You can grind the seeds yourself at home or buy ready-made seed meal from the store. To replace one egg, whisk together 1 tablespoon of ground chia or flaxseeds with 3 tablespoons of water until fully absorbed and thickened.

Doing so may cause baked goods to become heavy and dense. Also, it may result in a nuttier flavor, so it works best in products like pancakes, waffles, muffins, breads and cookies.

**Nut Butter:** Nut butters like peanut, cashew or almond butter can also be used to substitute eggs in most recipes.

To replace one egg, use 3 tablespoons (60 grams) of nut butter.

**Silken Tofu:** Tofu is condensed soy milk that has been processed and pressed into solid blocks. The texture of tofu varies based on its water content. The more water that is

pressed out, the firmer the tofu gets. To replace one egg, substitute one-fourth cup (about 60 grams) of puréed, silken tofu.

Silken tofu is relatively flavorless, but it can make baked goods dense and heavy, so it's best used in brownies, cookies, quick breads and cakes.

**Vinegar and Baking Soda:** Mixing 1 teaspoon (7 grams) of baking soda with 1 tablespoon (15 grams) of vinegar can replace one egg in most recipes.

Apple cider vinegar or white distilled vinegar are the most popular choices. When mixed together, vinegar and baking soda start a chemical reaction that produces carbon dioxide and water, which makes baked goods light and airy.

This substitution works best for cakes, cupcakes and quick breads.

**Yogurt or Buttermilk:** It's best to use plain yogurt, as flavored and sweetened varieties may alter the flavor of your recipe. You can use one-fourth cup of yogurt or buttermilk for each egg that needs to be replaced. This substitution works best for muffins, cakes and cupcakes.

This may affect the flavor of your finished product, and it's best used in brownies, pancakes and cookies. You should also make sure to use creamy nut butters, rather than chunky varieties, so that everything mixes properly.

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Source: [www.healthline.com](http://www.healthline.com)

# FEATURE: STRATFORD HISTORY

## MEMORIALS AND MARKERS

By David Wright

Fifty years ago, the first “blue sign” ever installed in the State of Connecticut was installed at Mac’s Harbor on Shore Road. These blue signs may be found all over Connecticut and always denote some historic feature in a town. The Stratford Historical Society was very instrumental in the birth of the “blue sign” throughout the state. Stratford, unlike some other towns, only has the one “blue sign,” and many people living in town have never seen it.

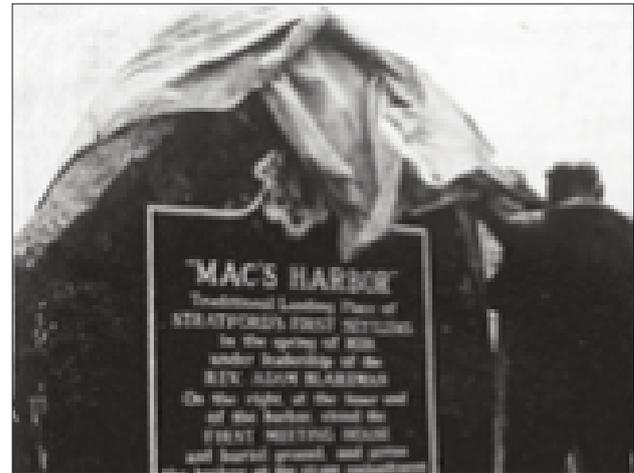
Stratford’s blue sign is attached to a huge rock. Legend has it that the shape of the rock, replete with the smooth rock face, was taken, as is, from Roosevelt Forest. The rock was unearthed by the Iroquois Natural Gas Company when they were constructing the pipeline through Roosevelt Forest.

Like the blue sign marker at Mac’s Harbor, Stratford has many memorials and markers throughout town of which most residents are unaware.

For instance, did you know that Benjamin Franklin was postmaster for the British in 1750? He marked the postal route along the Connecticut coast with stone markers every mile. Two of these markers may be found in Stratford. One is near Rockwell Avenue on West Board Street, and the other is along Ferry Boulevard in an island across from the Blue Goose Restaurant.

The Daughters of the American Revolution also placed markers commemorating Ben Franklin’s postal route in 1918. One of these markers may be found on West Broad near Rockwell Avenue, and the other may be found in the center of Elm Street where Elm connects to East Broadway.

There is a small monument to the one-time famous Stiles Judson in the middle of West Broad Street across from the Perry House. There are three little-known markers at Academy Hill. One, near the Christ Church Burying Ground, not far from Elm Street, is a marker remembering Theodore Roosevelt’s aunt, who is buried in the Christ Church burying



*The Historical Marker denoting traditional site of the land of the first settlers who came to Stratford was unveiled at Mac's Harbor. The monument was erected through the efforts of the Stratford Historical Society and the Connecticut Historical Commission. (Photo from The Stratford News, May 14, 1970.)*

Ground. Another sits across from the Judson House, very near Academy Hill Road, which honors Edith Hastings, Stratford’s most well-known suffragette. A third rests near Edith Hasting’s marker in memory of Captain John Carpenter who settled in Stratford prior to 1646.

During these COVID social-distancing times, you may want to take the opportunity to examine some, or all, of these markers. Donning a face mask, you may easily find any of these markers while not straying far from your car.

**OV**

**Editor’s Note:** 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.



## TUNE IN TO OVTV!

*For the latest updates on OV news and events, visit OVTV!*

*(OVTV is on Channel 591 for those with a cable box or Channel 121-591 for those without a cable box.)*

## WORKS BY THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

### SORRY

By Peter Geltner

Zareen was born in India in the mid-20th century. When she was a little girl, she asked her mother why the women were wearing strange garments. She was told that these clothes had been in the Indian tradition for thousands of years, and were considered to be a cultural icon.

As she was growing up, she had many opportunities to wear a sari. But it was not until she was in her teens that she was told that the sari was used to hide monetary items. If a burglar were to enter their home, it was unlikely that this monstrous person would search among their clothes.

This procedure worked for a while, but over time the thieves became smarter, and were able to figure out this trick. Zareen was always worried about the possibility of their families losing a lot of their money.

Zareen was a smart girl, and upon researching better ways to hide their money, she came upon the concept of a safe, and after further investigation, developed the opinion that a combination safe would be very useful, considering their circumstances.

She told her parents about this, and not long afterwards, they had a secure safe in their home.

Zareen told her friends and neighbors about this, and came up with the famous statement "Better safe than sari."

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### THE PROMISE

By Hinda Wolf

I made a promise to myself. Its purpose was to help me tolerate the often very unpleasant daily walks with our dog, Shadow. Please don't misunderstand me. I love our dog, a seven-year-old Bichon Poodle, deeply. We consider him the perfect dog: unbelievably smart, extremely patient while we struggle with his and our winter clothing, and a dispenser of a never-ending supply of love. But I do not relish the often-below-freezing temps, the howling winds and the all-too-frequent soaking rains that we face on our walks.

Out of desperation, the promise was born: I would find something of beauty to highlight each walk which would alleviate my distress and, hopefully, substitute joy. I had no idea if the promise would rise to the challenge, but I was determined to do my best to make it work. I suspected it might be very difficult to erase my discomfort.

But on the very first frigid night, the moon was an astounding source of beauty, particularly when it played peek-a-boo with the clouds surrounding it. I can hear you scoffing as you read this: "Of course, the moon would be your first choice. But the moon will not be available every night and you just can't rely on it again and again." Well aware of the challenge facing me, I broadened my search.

Soon, beauty emerged from what I had previously missed. A huge tree stripped of its leaves was like an etching against the backdrop of the sky. A grouping of massive boulders looked like an abstract painting. I realized that rain had transformative powers. Streetlights glowed with an eerie mist. Rocks shimmered with a glistening coat. The variety of bare tree limbs—some broad and sturdy; others thin and fragile—made elegant patterns against the sky.

As winter ebbed and daylight expanded, beauty abounded. Green lichen made mosaic patterns on tree trunks. A clump of white birch was highlighted against the

deep hues of the evergreens; a brook, swollen by recent rains, bubbled happily. I examined the infinite variety of the stone walls so common in our community. Thousands of small stones were used to construct some. Others used large stones as well as the small flat ones.

And the sunsets! The blush of pinks and purples along the skyline were watercolor masterpieces. Even the prickly nettles that covered many lawns had beauty as they marched in what seemed to be formation. And I feasted on the infinite variety of trees and their protective coverings. Some were smooth; others deeply wizened and peeling. Even deadened tree trunks, black with long decay and twisted in a kind of agony, held a grotesque beauty.

I am delighted to announce that I was able to easily keep my promise. My eyes have opened, finding surprising beauty in unexpected places. Even foul weather has not dampened the joy that beauty brings. If I were to advise anyone on how to achieve a happy life, my message would be: OPEN YOUR EYES AND FIND BEAUTY.

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**Don't forget to visit our**

**Facebook Page:**

***OV Connections***

**Note: You must have a Facebook account to join the OV Connections Facebook page.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

## BELL RINGING SHOWS SOLIDARITY

The Stratford Interfaith Clergy Association (SICA) reports that, during WWII, it is believed that churches in Stratford rang their bells in unison each night to show solidarity with those who were on the frontlines. During the pandemic, there are so many who are doing the same thing and there are those who have lost the fight with this virus.

In solidarity, the churches in Stratford are ringing their bells at 7 p.m. nightly for two minutes. SICA invites Stratford residents to join in the bell ringing and to place a lit candle in their front windows. By lighting a candle and ringing the bells, the community will affirm that we are all in this together and that we will get through this together, just as our nation did during WWII.

**Important:** The use of battery-operated or electric flameless candles is advised for safety purposes. Keep burning candles away from drapes, paper, pets, flammable decorations, etc. Never leave a burning candle unattended or place a lit candle on or near anything that can catch fire.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AT OV AND THE TOWN OF STRATFORD

If you are available to run errands for your OV neighbors during the pandemic, please email [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com) with your name, phone number and email address. Your name will be added to a list that can be found on OVTV (Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a cable box).

Also, the Town of Stratford is one of seven Medical Reserve Corps units in the area looking for medical and non-medical volunteers, including retirees and students, to help support COVID-19 activities in the area.

To register, visit [www.ctresponds.ct.gov](http://www.ctresponds.ct.gov).

## STRATFORD LIBRARY OFFERS ONLINE MUSIC AND MORE



The Stratford Library Reference Department continues to offer stimulating programs for area adults. The department would like residents to know there are a variety of music sources they can download from the library.

**Freegal Music:** "Freegal Music is a free music service that offers five downloads per week and now offers 24 hours a day streaming through September 2020. The catalog includes over 16 million songs, millions of albums, hundreds of curated playlists, the ability to create your own

## SOUTH CLUBHOUSE MONITOR WANTED

**Day:** Tuesday

**Time:** 3-5 p.m.

Volunteers help cover SCB Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is a great way to help out while working with a wonderful team of resident volunteers.

There are substitute monitors for any time that you cannot make it in on your scheduled day.

### Basic tasks include:

- Greeting guests and visitors while in the reception office.
- Taking a brief walk through the building to ensure that all is secure.
- Monitoring camera displays of the building.

For information, please call Kathy Lukens at 203-612-6685.

playlists, thousands of audio books and thousands of music videos. In total the collection is comprised of music from over 40,000+ labels with music that originates in over 100 countries. Free apps are available at the App Store and Google Play.

**Hoopla:** Download the Hoopla app and instantly borrow free digital music, books, movies or television episodes using your Stratford Library card.

**Music from the Birds:** Learn more about birds using eBird, just in time for "Global Big Day", an annual celebration of birds around you. Join the effort and be a part of a global birding community by sharing what birds you see around you with eBird. eBird is the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science project, with more than 100 million bird sightings contributed each year by eBirders around the world. A collaborative enterprise with hundreds of partner organizations, thousands of regional experts and hundreds of thousands of users, eBird is managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

**Please note:** The library's summer reading program will begin in June.

To reach the Stratford Library call 203-385-4164, Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. or email [slaask@stratfordlibrary.org](mailto:slaask@stratfordlibrary.org). Online Chat Reference is also available from 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. on Monday-Thursday and 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday-Saturday.

## OV Karaoke Club

No fees or dues - No commitments  
Just fun!

Join us for our next event on Friday,  
May 22, at SCB  
from 6:30-9 p.m.



(We usually go a bit longer than 9 p.m. 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!**



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 June 3 is *City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert.

From the # 1 New York Times bestselling author of *Eat Pray Love* and *The Signature of All Things*, this is a novel of glamour, sex and adventure ... a young woman discovering that you don't have to be a good girl to be a good person. A moving novel about one woman's coming-of-empowerment... A perfect COVID-19 time read.



# Plant Sale

**POTTED GERANIUMS 4-inch - \$3.00 per geranium / \$32 per doz. plants**

**HANGING BASKETS-10-INCH ASSORTED \$12.00 per basket**

**BEGONIAS 8 pack (red, pink or white flowers; -\$4 per 8-pack**

**BEGONIAS FLAT \$15 per flat (32 plants)**

**NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS 4-inch pot-\$3.00 per pot**

ALL PLANTS SUPPLIED  
BY GLENDALE FARMS

### New Pick Up Info:

Pickup orders on May 30, 9-10:30 am at NCB  
Prepaid orders only

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVER THIS FORM TO NCB H&G WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO OV H&G  
Contact: Merrilees Leemhuis 203.378.8753

#### Geraniums 4 inch pot

\_\_\_ Red \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Pink \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Salmon \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ White \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Begonias 8 pack

\_\_\_ Red: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Pink: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ White: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### New Guinea Impatiens 4 inch pot

\_\_\_ Bright Red \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Pink \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ White \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Begonias Flat

\_\_\_ Red: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Pink: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ White: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Hanging Basket \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Order cut-off date is May 25.  
Deliver checks to NCB Dropbox**

# Oronoque Village House & Garden Club

**SPRING**  
*Luncheon & Card Party*  
**Thursday, June 18, 2020**  
**Mill River CC**  
**Doors open 11:30 am**  
**Lunch served 12:15**  
**\$28.00 PP**

Spring Luncheon:  
Cash Bar Wine \$6.00  
Tossed Salad/House Dressing  
*Luncheon Choices*  
• **Pan Seared Salmon with Salsa**  
• **Chicken Piccata**  
• **Sliced Sirloin with Marsala Sauce**  
Sides: Roasted New Reds  
Mixed Vegetables

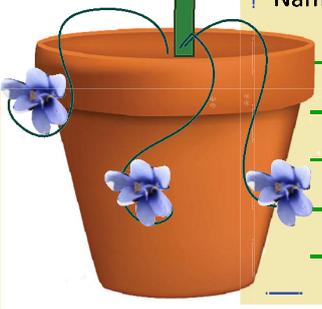
Questions:  
call  
Irene Keating  
203.377.3980

COFFEE -TEA  
SOFT DRINKS  
DESSERT  
**Raffle Prizes**

Please indicate  
entree choice on  
your check

**Return form by June 11, 2020**

Your name \_\_\_\_\_  
and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Card Tables needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Game Played \_\_\_\_\_  
Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





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## ***An Open Letter To My Neighbors***

Dear Oronoque Neighbor:

In tough times like these, and in normal times for more than 13 years, my company has been supporting the residents of Oronoque Village by providing care and assistance that helps them continue to live independently in their own homes.

Our caregivers work every day providing personal care, homemaking, and companionship to members of our community **and** beyond, throughout Fairfield and New Haven counties. I take special pride as a resident of Oronoque in knowing that my staff is helping my OV neighbors. It's a commitment that's important to me.

If we can be of service now or at any point, please give us a call at 203-870-9850. We will stand with you to help achieve your goal of remaining independent in your own home.

Together, we will get through this challenging time to return to a better day.



Chris Pederson, Owner and Oronoque Village Resident



## **STRATFORD EMS NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH COVID-19 DONATION REQUESTS**

Due to the national shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), the following donations are needed (NEW-not used):

- N95 masks, surgical masks, medical face shields or goggles, isolation gowns, rubber gloves
  - Temporal thermometers
  - Purell hand sanitizer or equivalent
  - Brown paper lunch bags and ziploc bags
    - Labels

Please leave the items in their original packaging, when possible, and place items in bag. Place bag in the cardboard box next to the side door of the Stratford EMS, 2712 Main St., anytime Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Call Stratford EMS at 203-385-4060 to let them know you have dropped off the bag.