

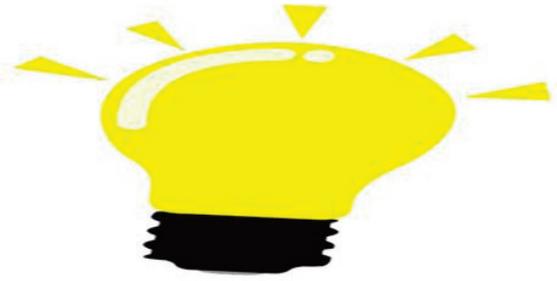
August 17, 2020



# THE VILLAGER



# DID YOU KNOW?



## ALL ORONOQUE VILLAGE RESIDENTS RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING AT THE **ORONOQUE COUNTRY CLUB**

- VILLAGE RESIDENTS RECEIVE A DISCOUNT ON FULL GOLF MEMBERSHIPS.
- VILLAGE RESIDENTS CAN UTILIZE TRADITIONS GRILL ROOM.
- VILLAGE RESIDENTS CAN ATTEND THE CLUB'S SOCIAL EVENTS.
- VILLAGE RESIDENTS CAN ESTABLISH A HOUSE CHARGING MEMBER ACCOUNT.
- VILLAGE RESIDENTS CAN PLAY THE COURSE ONCE A MONTH AT A GUEST FEE (BASED ON AVAILABILITY).

To learn more, contact Liz Shaw Membership Director at (203)375-4293 Ext. 112 or [lshaw@oronoquecc.com](mailto:lshaw@oronoquecc.com)



## LAW OFFICES OF **CHARLES KURMAY**

- **Probate & Estate Planning**
- **Elder Law**
- **Personal Injury**
- **80 years of combined experience**



Attorney Chuck Kurmay, with  
Probate Judge F. Paul Kurmay (ret.),  
Of Counsel to the Firm

**We now make Oronoque Village house calls!**

Call (203) 380-1743 or email [diana@charleskurmay.com](mailto:diana@charleskurmay.com) to arrange yours.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## FEATURES:

- 4 A Message From the OVTD President
- 6 Maintenance Team Tackles Isaia
- 8 Preparing for Mosquito Season
- 10 Humor During the Pandemic
- 11 OVCA Election Process
- 11 Scam Alert: Covid-19 Cure Claims
- 12 Resident Essay: Travels With Children
- 14 Household Tips
- 15 Roadway Reminders to Residents
- 15 "Resilient Stratford" T-Shirts
- 16 Works by the OV Writer's Group
- 18 Beyond the Village
- 18 OV Book Club Meeting Instructions



Thanks to Kees Adema for submitting the photo of trumpet flowers that flourish on his deck. The Villager welcomes photo contributions for cover consideration. Submissions must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com)

	<b>BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY</b>   New England Properties HomeServices	
<b>SPECIALIZING IN ORONOQUE VILLAGE</b>		
<b>Lisa Glazer</b> Chairman's Circle Gold Winner Top 2% Nationally (203) 305-4092 <a href="mailto:lisaglazer@bhhsNE.com">lisaglazer@bhhsNE.com</a>	As <b>local market experts</b> , backed by a global network, and over <b>25 years of experience</b> we have the resources and knowledge for all your real estate needs.	<b>Scott Glazer</b> (203) 305-9752 <a href="mailto:scottglazer@bhhsne.com">scottglazer@bhhsne.com</a>

# A MESSAGE FROM THE OVTD PRESIDENT

## REPORT ON THE JULY 28 OVTD BOARD MEETING



*This column was originally distributed to residents via an eblast on July 31.*

**By Linda Libertino**

I want to thank the many residents who called and sent emails acknowledging my being elected as the new TD president. I greatly appreciated the positive response. I have been elected to serve three years as a director and one year as the president.

In addition, Ray Vermette will serve three years as a director and one year as vice president. New to the Tax District

Board is Tom Aubin, and I welcome him as the newly elected director who will serve a three-year term.

Bill Tanski served five years on the Tax Board and, during his last term, he was the president. I would like to mention a few accomplishments that occurred during his term:

- Cayuga Lane barrier resolution, Osage Road repair
- Two-year paving schedule announced to the Village
- Code of Ethics passed
- Snow removal Villager article, which highlighted the community priorities
- Ended the year with a \$120,000 surplus in the budget

Bill, many thanks to you for your service to our Tax District and the community!

July 28 marked our second teleconference/video OVTD meeting due to the Coronavirus. The agenda included: committee reports, a new business motion and updates on roads and infrastructure. I reviewed my goals for this year.

Long-range infrastructure planning is among my priorities. In a community the size of Oronoque Village, a reliable infrastructure is of paramount importance. We have been fortunate that our experiences with breaks and service interruptions over almost 50 years of use have been minor and manageable. We prefer to see this trend continue with the help of proper planning and oversight with Fred Rodriguez, Mark Rhatigan and the Roads Committee.

An Oronoque Lane Clean-Up is among my proposed goals for 2020-2021. I plan to meet with the Town officials to request improvements in curb appeal and safety, starting from Route. 110, going up the hill to Oronoque Village. The Aquarian Pump Building and its grounds are in disrepair. In addition, there are trees on the Atria property that are growing into the roadway, causing safety concerns and aesthetic issues at the bottom of the hill.



**THE VILLAGER**  
A PUBLICATION OF ORONOQUE VILLAGE  
STRATFORD, CT  
[WWW.ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM](http://WWW.ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM)

**EDITOR**  
Carol King – [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com) / 203-377-5313

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
Marcia Klein – [marcia.klein@att.net](mailto:marcia.klein@att.net) / 203-380-6886

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.

**BOOK CLUB MEETINGS RESUME**

The OV Book Club announced it will hold virtual meetings via [www.GoToMeeting.com](http://www.GoToMeeting.com). On Sept. 2, the book to be discussed is "Agent Running in the Field" by John Le Carre. Please see the flyer-ad on page 18 of this magazine for information about the book and how to access the meeting.

The book for the Oct. 7 virtual meeting is "American Princess" by Stephen Marie Thornton.

"American Princess" is a compelling and poignant tribute to one of America's most colorful, unconventional and trend-setting women: Alice Roosevelt Longworth.

The July 28 meeting was succinct and productive. The OVTD Treasurer's Report was presented as well as the following committee reports:

- Road Committee Report by Pete Penny
- Security Committee Report by Dennis Caffrey
- Ornamental Trees Report by Dennis Caffrey

Ray Vermette made the following motion, which was approved unanimously: "I move that from the amount of 2019-2020 unspent revenue, totaling approximately \$123,000, the amount of \$35,000 be applied to the 2020-2021 surplus revenue line and the remaining amount, determined after the year-end audit, be applied to the 2020-2021 Road Reserve Account. These considerations are included in this fiscal year's budget."

The Tax District continues to have sound financial statements and we will work hard to even improve on those records in the upcoming year. I feel that if we all work as a team to guide the Village with sincere respect for every concern, then, in the end, we will accomplish our goals to continue to keep Oronoque as the premier condominium it is.

In closing, I want to extend special thanks to our Business Office and Maintenance Office staff members. These great employees are that team that makes Oronoque Village the special community that we all enjoy.

## NOTICE OF DISTRICT 7 ELECTION

District 7 announced that its election will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24. Residents are asked to please check their black boxes in late August when full details will be communicated via the delivery of flyers.

Our wish to you is that you continue to be safe and healthy.

To the community, I encourage you to join us at our quarterly OVTD meetings, which are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 27.

I would like to end with a personal remark: My husband, Dan, and I moved into Oronoque Village in November of 1985. The last 35 years have been the best we have experienced due to the wonderful lifestyle Oronoque has afforded us. Memories abound with the social activities and sports and friendships that we have enjoyed.

To quote Walt Disney: "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." I will do this now.

Thank you for the opportunity to, once again, serve our community!

OV

## LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE MOVING



The PROFESSIONALS  
**Joyce**  
JOYCE VAN LINES, INC.

**MOVING AND NEED HELP?**  
Call us today for a **FREE**  
Phone or Virtual Estimate

We can help you move and settle into your new beginnings even during these uncertain times. Whether you are moving around the corner or across country we are here to help.

**STRUGGLING FOR SPACE?**  
Full service moving and storage solution throughout the U.S.A. Call us today for a **FREE** estimate with a live and local contact.

195 Christian Street • Oxford, CT

**(203) 881-1687**

[www.joycevanlines.com](http://www.joycevanlines.com)

Independently Owned & Operated

## MAINTENANCE MATTERS

### OVMD STAFF RECEIVES KUDOS FOR HANDLING OF STORM ISAIAS



*Lonte Ramalho patches a rooftop damaged by the storm.*



*Pat Krause noted that the Maintenance team arrived at her condo shortly after this tree was uprooted.*



*This tree, which fell outside of Bill and Dorothy Tanski's unit, was chopped and cleared away within an hour.*

When Tropical Storm Isaias landed in our Village on Aug. 4, it brought 60 mile-per-hour wind gusts that wreaked havoc on our grounds. Approximately 60 trees were uprooted and storm-related debris was strewn throughout the North and South sides.

However, the damages were minimized by the mighty presence of our Maintenance crews; their work during the storm took them from roadways to rooftops.

Before, during and after the storm, staff members were at the ready. Prior to the wind and rainfall, the team executed Disaster Preparedness Protocol, ensuring that all required items (i.e. chainsaws, ropes, water, flashlights, portable generators, sandbags, communication back-up equipment, etc.) were at-hand and in working order.

In addition, there was a review of the specific areas that require additional attention, including clubhouses and pool facilities, catch basin and drains. Particular attention was paid to the racquet sports facility. A canopy and the

wind screen ties were removed to mitigate damages to the courts.

The entire team (carpenters, mechanics and attendants) worked in tandem during the clean-up process to ensure resumption of normal Village operations as soon as possible.

During and after the storm, crews were at on-site, chopping fallen trees, removing debris from roofs, reshingling roofs, repairing buildings and clearing walkways, driveways and roads.

Some residents took to the OV Connections Facebook page to voice their gratitude to the OVMD staff members for their hard work and dedication.

Pat Krause noted that, after a tree fell outside of her unit, crews appeared immediately. "They were here very quickly and they very professionally determined the risk and safety of our condo. I am very grateful."

Marge Heffel posted photos of a splintered tree before



Trees throughout the North and South sides were splintered by Tropical Storm Isaias. Marge Heffel posted before and after shots of a tree that came down outside of her Nyack Lane unit.

The Maintenance Department, she said, arrived minutes after the tree came down.

and after the Maintenance Department staff arrived to cut it down. She posted the following: "Hazard avoided. Thank you OV Maintenance."

Marge noted that she is particularly impressed that the maintenance team were on the job before she contacted them about the incident. "My phones were not working when the tree fell," she notes. "But they heard the noise and came right over to see how they could help!"

In her Facebook post, Catherine Auger had this to say: "Maintenance guys out in the center of the storm with

manpower and heavy trucks. Great job!"

Bill and Dorothy Tanski posted the following: "The Tanskis are also immensely grateful for the outstanding work of our Maintenance crew. We, too, had a tree down during the storm. Within 10 minutes an OV truck arrived to take photos. Within 20 minutes, a crew arrived and commenced to cut the wood to make us all safe. Within an hour, the task was completed. Another 'finest hour' brought to us by 'OV's finest.' Thanks so very much."



# WE MOVED!

Come visit us at our new office located at 865 River Road in Shelton

**\$99 cleaning, x-ray, exam, and oral cancer screening\***

\*New patients only.

Must be paid in full at time of visit.

1 per person.

Not applicable for senior citizen discount.

48 hours cancellation required.

Call us at: 203-375-1932  
865 River Road, Shelton, CT 06484  
[www.rabinefamilydentistry.com](http://www.rabinefamilydentistry.com)

**Proud to offer  
10% discount for seniors**

## PLEASE PREPARE FOR MOSQUITO SEASON

The mosquito species that carries Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) has been spotted in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and a top Connecticut entomologist says it's a matter of "when," not "if" the pest shows up here.

Virologist and medical entomologist Philip Armstrong runs the statewide mosquito trapping and testing program. His team at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has already increased the number of trap sites this year from 92 to 108. The 16 additional locations are all in the eastern part of the state, which Armstrong said has been a "problem" area for the EEE virus.

So far? So good.

"Overall, mosquito trap collections are below average and the abundance of *Culiseta melanura* mosquitoes — the main carrier of EEE virus — is about average but this could change depending on the weather conditions during the rest of the summer," Armstrong said.

Historically EEE doesn't emerge until early to mid-August in the Nutmeg State. When the infected bugs do arrive, hopefully it won't be as big a population as last season's swarm. Armstrong called the 2019 mosquito season a "perfect storm of events that led to very high levels of virus activity."

"Last year was a very unusual year," Armstrong said. "We had one of the biggest outbreaks of EEE virus nationally in some 50 years." Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts were particularly hard-hit.

The primary carriers of the EEE virus are birds, according to the entomologist. But birds don't typically swarm and bite you in your backyard. The mosquitoes who pick up the virus from the birds do, however, and so it's upon these creatures the virologists focus their efforts.

"We think that since there was a long period of quiescence, there wasn't much immunity in the bird population, so the birds were susceptible to the virus, and that created the conditions that allowed for high virus activity last year."

"We don't see EEE every year in Connecticut. It fluctuates quite a bit from year to year," Armstrong said. The first human case of EEE reported in Connecticut occurred in the fall of 2013.

Mosquitoes are very sensitive to weather, Armstrong explained. When the water table is high in the freshwater swamps where the bugs live and breed, mosquitoes — and the EEE carrier in particular — start breeding in overdrive. We

had a lot of rainfall during the previous fall and winter leading up to mosquito season last year, which made for ideal conditions for mosquitoes in those swamp habitats.

"When the virus gets seeded into our area, it will persist for a few years before it dies out," Armstrong said. "We know that the virus has already reemerged in Massachusetts and New Jersey, and it's only a matter of time before we see it in Connecticut."

The incubation period for EEE (the time from infected mosquito bite to onset of illness) ranges from 4 to 10 days, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The infection can result in a systemic febrile illness or neurologic disease, including meningitis or encephalitis. Some people

who become infected with EEE may be asymptomatic.

The illness lasts one to two weeks, and most people recover completely when there is no central nervous system involvement. Systemic infection is characterized by fever, chills, malaise, arthralgia and myalgia. Signs and symptoms of neurologic disease include fever, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, behavioral changes, drowsiness and coma. In infants, neurologic disease often occurs soon after onset; in older children and adults, encephalitis may occur after several days of sys-

temic illness.

Armstrong notes that now is the time to take protective measures. There's no special trick to that: It all comes down to reducing your exposure to mosquito bites. That means wearing long pants and long sleeve shirts whenever possible when working or sitting in your yard. Armstrong also recommends using an insect repellent that has been approved by the Environmental Protection Association, and being inside when the bugs are most active.

"The mosquitoes that transmit EEE tend to be most active at dusk, dawn and into the evening hours. They're not 'day biting' mosquitoes," Armstrong said.

Homeowners should also make a point of eliminating standing pools of water around their property, such as bird baths. "That water needs to be thrown out at least once a week to eliminate mosquito reproduction," Armstrong said.



### "Fight the Bite"

How to stop mosquitoes:

- 1. Apply the Right Stuff**  
Only use EPA-approved insect repellents.  
Always follow directions carefully.
- 2. Dress for Defense**  
Wear light colors, long sleeves and long pants.
- 3. Bite-Proof your Property**  
Check regularly for standing water.
- 4. Avoid Peak Hours**  
When possible, stay indoors at dawn and dusk.

Source: <https://patch.com/connecticut>

# WE ARE YOUR HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING AND WATER HEATING EXPERTS!

Give us a call 24/7 for Fast, Same-day Service  
and Honest, Upfront Pricing.

**203-378-4700**

Over 150 of your fellow neighbors  
used Tyler last year alone!



## WHY CHOOSE TYLER?

- BBB Accredited
- BBB A Rating
- Angie's List A Rating
- Angie's List Super Service Award
- Carrier Factory Authorized Dealer
- 3 Time Carrier President's Award Winner

**\$0 DOWN**  
**0% INTEREST**  
**FINANCING AVAILABLE**

\*with approved credit

**CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE – 203-378-4700**

**ORONOQUE VILLAGE RESIDENTS RECEIVE A SPECIAL DISCOUNT.**  
Refer to our website for monthly specials.



turn to the experts™ 

**ASK ABOUT  
OUR CARRIER  
COOL CASH REBATES**



**203-378-4700**

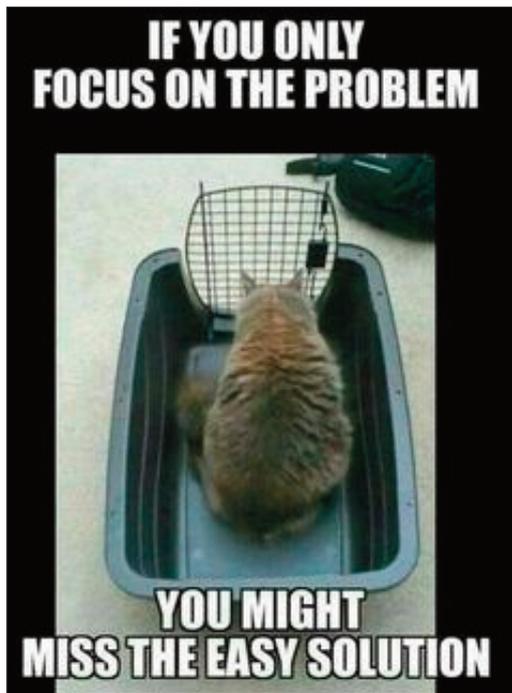
**www.tylerair.com**

LIC S1-0391807 • Fully Bonded & Insured.



## HUMOR DURING THE PANDEMIC

*Thanks to Ray Drake for submitting the humorous anecdotes below.*



So let me get this straight, there's no cure for a virus that can be KILLED by sanitizer and hand soap?

I'm deeply disturbed by how many people seem to see washing their hands as a new thing.

**I DON'T LIKE THE  
FACT THAT MY  
CHANCES OF  
SURVIVAL SEEM  
TO BE LINKED TO  
THE COMMON  
SENSE OF OTHERS**

**MY BODY HAS ABSORBED  
SO MUCH SOAP AND  
DISINFECTANT LATELY,  
THAT WHEN I PEE IT  
CLEANS THE TOILET.**

The dumbest thing I've ever purchased was a 2020 planner.

## OVCA VOTING PROCESS

We have had several inquiries related to the voting process for the OVCA executive board and for the respective district elections.

Voting for all the elections for the Village this year will be conducted via mail. To avoid confusion, please note that the By-Laws of the Association require the use of proxies for the elections, which should be treated as absentee ballots.

The "Directed Proxies" will be mailed to each registered unit owner in the Village, listing the candidates for each of the respective officer positions on the OVCA Board. Instructions on the procedures will be included in the voting packet and the proxy should be returned via the self-addressed postage-paid envelope. These return envelopes have been addressed to the auditing firm of Nanavaty, Nanavaty & Davenport, LLP, which will tabulate the votes.

The proxies for the Executive Board will be distributed to the Village by Aug. 25. The required deadline for receipt of these items by our auditor is Sept. 15.

The respective districts will mirror the same process, commencing after the OVCA election (in accordance with our By-Laws). The votes will be tabulated by our auditors.

It should be noted that Villagers should follow the procedure of mailing their documents to the auditor to ensure the integrity of the process for both the OVCA Board and districts.

Information on the candidates running for the officer positions will be inserted in the Sept. 1 Villager. A Candidates Forum will also be conducted approximately one week prior to Election Day, which is scheduled for Sept. 15.

OV

## SCAM ALERT: CRACKING DOWN ON FAKE COVID-19 CURES

**By Jabari Cook**  
Intern, Division of Consumer & Business Education, FTC

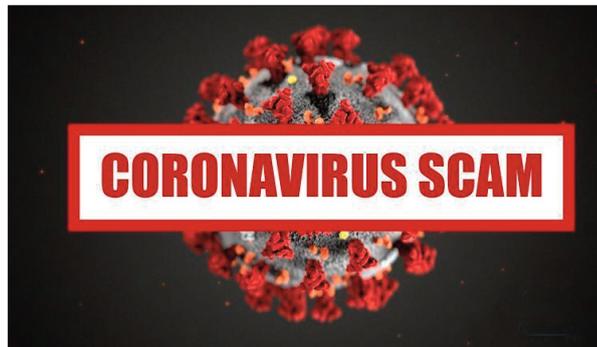
If you or a loved one has COVID-19, you might feel hopeful about products that guarantee you the treatment or cure you're looking for. But if those products don't work as advertised, then you could end up paying lots of money for false promises. Recently, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced a new case against two companies, — Golden Sunrise Nutraceutical, Inc., Golden Sunrise Pharmaceutical, Inc. — and members of their leadership — Huu Tieu and Stephen Meis — for allegedly making promises like these.

Golden Sunrise advertised that the dietary supplements in its Emergency D-virus treatment plan could cure COVID-19. Even after the FTC sent Golden Sunrise Pharmaceutical a warning letter in April 2020, it continued to claim that its products were "uniquely qualified to treat and modify the course of the virus epidemic," including through billboards it posted in California.

Golden Sunrise also claimed that its products had been "reviewed and accepted" by the FDA.

According to the FTC, all these claims are deceptive. The FTC's complaint says that Golden Sunrise misled people by

claiming that its products could cure COVID-19. The FTC also says that none of the claims the company made about curing the Coronavirus — or any other serious conditions mentioned in their ads, such as cancer and Parkinson's — are backed by science. On top of this, the FTC also says that the FDA never approved the companies' products.



When it comes to the fight against the Coronavirus, knowing the facts will help. Here are tips to follow and share with others:

Always talk with your doctor or another healthcare professional before you try any product claiming to treat or cure COVID-19.

Visit [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov) for clear and concise information on COVID-19. In addition, visit the FDA's Resources page (<https://www.fda.gov/patients/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-resources-patients>) to find out about treatments in development.

Learn more about scams related to COVID-19 by visiting [ftc.gov/coronavirus](http://ftc.gov/coronavirus) and subscribing to Consumer Alerts from the FTC.

If you find a product that claims to prevent, treat, or cure COVID-19, report it to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint).

OV

## TRAVELS WITH CHILDREN

By Elisabeth Breslav

Whether traveling by plane, by car, dog sled or on mule back, parents all over the globe are only too familiar with the challenge presented by their offspring during trips. My own two were not much different from their peers, although, in retrospect, our travels were often made memorable by their rather creative misbehavior. As a toddler Claudia collected daddies, while her older brother, Marc, went looking for birds in the strangest places.

As a European, I periodically used to take the children for long family visits abroad. My husband, the breadwinner, would join us in the middle or towards the end of our stay, which meant that I crossed the Atlantic alone with the children on at least one leg of each trip.

By the time she was three years old, Claudia had been imprinted with the concept of family as a four-member unit. When one of the four was missing, she immediately set about finding a replacement in the form of a doll or a stuffed animal, or even an upside-down chair or a large pillow. At times she just adopted an imaginary sibling, who would conveniently live under the sole of her foot, or she might select a random live bystander, who was of course totally unaware of this new kinship.

Once, on a flight to Amsterdam, overtired because of a delayed evening departure and a meal served at midnight, Claudia was unable to sleep. In an effort to prevent her from disturbing other passengers, I put her on my lap and was whispering a story to her about a little girl that was flying in an airplane to go visit her grandmother, when she suddenly jumped up and, at the top of her lungs, yelled "Daddy! There is Daddy! I see my Daddy!" before I could stop her, she had slid off my lap and was tearing down the aisle.

By the time I caught up with her, she was climbing on the knees of a bronze-skinned man dressed in a beautifully embroidered robe and turban. He might have been from India or Pakistan and he made no effort to stop the child, or to give her a boost onto his lap. As a matter of fact, he remained completely motionless except for a slight widening of the pupils, perhaps due to desert survival training to remain totally still while a scorpion is crawling on one's face. Meanwhile Claudia continued to loudly declare her delight in finding Daddy and, after settling herself in the man's lap, snuggled close to the stony face.

I told her that this gentleman was not our Daddy and

that we should not disturb his sleep. I tried to pull her away, but she kept a firm grip on the voluminous folds in the robe and since I could not tell where the cloth ended and the skin underneath began, it seemed inappropriate for me to go fumbling with my daughter's tightly clasped little fists. It took two cabin attendants to distract her and get both of us back to our seats where she finally fell asleep.

Getting ready to deplane a few hours later was hectic. Marc, who had slept through the night's excitement and who was barely awake yet, walked in front of me in the aisle toting the bag with toys and books. I followed, carrying Claudia on one arm and clutching our hand luggage with the other.

Suddenly, above the din, her little voice rang out "Are you my Daddy?" I instinctively tightened my hold. Not again. Not now, I thought, but then a friendly voice right behind me said, "I'd be proud to be your daddy for a little while, princess." I turned around and found myself face to face with Mr. Middle America himself – tall, good-looking and with a broad smile. "It sure looks like you could use an extra set of arms. Why don't I carry the little princess here and walk you out to the gate. You take care of the boy and your bag, and we will be right behind you."

As he spoke, he reached out to my daughter, who happily leaned towards him and folded her arms around his neck. I was too tired to protest and the four of us proceeded to the exit. But I made a mental note to myself as soon as we got back to the States to check Dr. Spock's chapter on talking to strangers.

...

Marc's interest in birds came later and had started when I enrolled him in the junior staff program at the Connecticut Audubon Society. He must have been about 10 and I was trying to provide some structure for the long summer vacation. He helped maintain paths in the sanctuary, put down wood chips, weeded, fed live mice to injured owls and over time became an enthusiastic and knowledgeable birdwatcher. Blessed with excellent eyesight and good binoculars, he became the darling of older birders, who vied with each other to include him in bird counts where they happily provided the transportation and, during the Christmas count, hot home-made soup, in exchange for his ability to quickly spot rare feathered friends.

Marc's American bird list became quite extensive and included many regional species, which he observed on trips to other parts of the country. Some people research the history, the sights, museums and restaurants of the

places they plan to visit. My son would collect books that dealt with the local birds.

It therefore surprised nobody in the family that in preparation for a trip to England, France and the Netherlands, Marc, who by then was 13 years old, spent several months gathering information about the birds and their specific habitats in those countries. I recall that he was extremely frustrated that a particular British guidebook was not available in the States and I naively promised that we would try to get it once we were in London. As a result, looking for bookstores became part of our sight-seeing, together with the Tower of London, Kew Gardens and Windsor Castle.

One Sunday morning, when many places were closed, I decided to take the kids to Petticoat Lane, the well-known White Chapel flea market. They loved the atmosphere with vendors hawking their merchandise with typical outlandish Cockney humor. A trader in rough earthenware offered for our inspection what he termed a genuine porcelain chamber pot, straight from Buckingham Palace "You mean to say that your queen actually peed in this?" my son asked incredulously.

"No, Yank, Prince Philip did." "This one belongs to her majesty," he continued, and with a flourish he brought out a second, much larger vessel.

As is customary in England, the Sunday morning drizzle turned into a steady downpour and I finally decided

that we had to call it a day. Fortunately, we were not too far from a subway entrance and just as we were about to descend the stairs, Marc spotted a little bookstore diagonally across the wide avenue and begged me to make one more stop. The heavy rain had made my glasses useless and I more or less blindly followed my son through the traffic holding on to 9 year-old Claudia, who loudly complained that she was sick of her brother's birds and would he please take note that she was not a duck and was getting sopped.

We soon came to what turned out to be a kind of basement store, down a few steps from the sidewalk. It was very warm inside, which steamed up my blurry glasses even more and I had to take a minute to wipe them before I could see anything at all.

Meanwhile, impatient Marc had approached the counter where a small, middle-aged man responded to his inquiry with a quizzical "Birds did you say?" Something in the man's tone of voice and the way he stared at us struck me as peculiar and made me look around me. All along the walls were shelves with books displaying illustrations of naked women with huge bosoms or bottoms and of men and women in grotesquely contorted positions. There also were stands with leather whips, metal handcuffs and other instruments not unlike those we had seen in the Tower of London. I had brought my children into a porn shop. No wonder the creep behind the counter looked at us in that funny way. What must he think? How could I get us out of the place fast?

Oblivious to his surroundings and increasingly frustrated by the salesman's repeated "I'm so sorry," Marc had unstrapped his backpack and was now showing the American edition of the book he was looking for. "Honey, you are wasting everybody's time. This is not a regular bookstore – it's a specialty store. We really have to leave," I told him, not daring to look at the clerk.

My son finally allowed himself to be persuaded. "What kind of a bookstore does not carry bird guides? No wonder they lost the colonies," he fumed as he stomped blindly out the door, past the strangest birds this mother had ever seen.

OV

#### PLEASE, CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOGS!



Please be courteous to your neighbors and clean up after your pets.

Dog waste is unsightly and it is full of bacteria, attracts flies and can wash into waterways during rain.

Residents must take responsibility for their dogs and clean up after them.

### Hartley's Antiques

"40 Years of Serving Connecticut"

Buy • Consign • Sell • Estates

Furniture, Art, Jewelry, Gold  
Silver, Antiques & Anything Unique

*Oronoque Resident*  
**Larry Hartley 203-887-5833**

# HOUSEHOLD TIPS

## THE BEST USES FOR BAKING SODA

**B**aking soda is amazing! This versatile substance can be used to remove stains, keep your sneakers smelling fresh, and even get rid of your sweet tooth. Here are some of the best uses for baking soda.

Bicarbonate of soda—commonly known as “baking soda”—is a wonderful household product used in baking, cleaning, and many more household activities. What’s your favorite use? Let us know in the comments!

**For Health:** Add baking soda to your bath water to relieve sunburned or itchy skin.

Make a paste of baking soda and water, and apply to a burn or an insect bite for relief.

If you crave sweets, rinse your mouth with one-teaspoon baking soda dissolved in a glass of warm water. Don’t swallow the mixture; spit it out. Your craving should disappear instantly.

To remove pesticides, dirt, and wax from fresh fruits and vegetables, wash them in a large bowl of cool water to which you’ve added two to three tablespoons of baking soda.

**In the Kitchen:** Clean your refrigerator with a solution of one-teaspoon baking soda to one quart of warm water.

Pour a cup of baking soda into the opening of your clogged drain and then add a cup of hot vinegar. After a few minutes, flush the drain with a quart of boiling water.

To remove stains from your coffee and tea cups, wipe them with a damp sponge dipped in baking soda paste.

Boil two inches of water in a pan with a burned bottom, turn off the heat, then add half a cup of baking soda. Let it sit overnight. In the morning it will be easy to clean. (Please see an alternative option in the article below.)



Sprinkle a teaspoon of baking soda on the bottom of your toaster oven to eliminate the burned smell from drippings and crumbs.

**In the Bathroom:** Soak toothbrushes in baking soda and warm water overnight to clean bristles.

Keep your rubber gloves dry and smelling good by sprinkling baking soda inside them. They’ll slip on more easily too!

**On Clothing:** To remove perspiration stains, make a thick paste of baking soda and water. Rub paste into the stain, let it sit for an hour, and then launder as usual. Find out how to remove other common stains.

Gasoline and oil odors can be removed by putting clothes in a trashbag with baking soda for a few days before washing them.

**Miscellaneous Uses:** Add a pinch of baking soda to boiled syrup to prevent it from crystallizing.

Lay down a barrier of baking soda under sink-pipe openings and along basement windows to keep carpenter ants, silverfish, and roaches from invading. Roaches eat the baking soda, dehydrate, and die.

A light baking soda paste on a damp cloth will remove bugs and tar from cars without damaging the paint. Let paste sit for a few minutes before wiping and rinsing clean.

Sprinkling baking soda on your front steps will provide traction and melt the ice. Unlike rock salt, kitty litter, or sand, it won’t damage outdoor or indoor surfaces or shoes.

A paste of baking soda removes red sauce stains from plastic.



**Source:** [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)

## THE BEST WAY TO CLEAN A BURNT PAN

**The method:** Cover the burnt area with 2-3 tablespoons of baking soda and add a bit of water to make a paste. Crumple up some aluminum foil and begin scrubbing it all around until all food bits and stained areas are clean. Rinse pan with warm soapy water.

**The results:** Plain and simple, this method worked in hardly any time with the tiniest amount of effort. Yes, you’re going to “scrub” the pan, but you don’t have to use the same amount of effort you might use with a scouring pad. Just work the foil ball around in circles or back and forth — whatever works for you. You may need to repeat the process because the baking soda gets really dirty and makes it difficult

to see the areas that still need attention, but this is, by far, the best and easiest method to use when cleaning a scorched or burnt pan.

**Tip:** This is a great way to put a random extra piece of foil to good use. Let’s say you used some to cover a casserole dish while you were baking something in the oven. Instead of recycling that foil right away, ball it up and save it for this cleaning hack! Also: You can use the same ball of foil to clean a few pans.

This method relies completely on your scrubbing with the baking soda paste and the foil, but you don’t need to press hard at all — just scrub as you would with a washcloth. Use this method often because it leaves your stainless pots and pans looking like they just came off the assembly line.



**Source:** [www.thekitchen.com](http://www.thekitchen.com)

# FEATURES

## ROADWAY REMINDERS TO RESIDENTS

1. The maximum speed limit is 20 MPH
2. All stop signs and other street signs must be obeyed
3. Approach intersections at a speed that allows you to give way to other vehicles approaching or in the intersection.
4. Be conscious of walkers and dog walkers on the roadways.
5. Remember the speed bumps; excessive speed will damage your vehicle.
6. Pay attention to people crossing the roads near the clubhouses, racquet sports facilities and mailboxes.
7. Please be aware of speed when rounding a blind corner.



*Submitted by Catherine Auger*

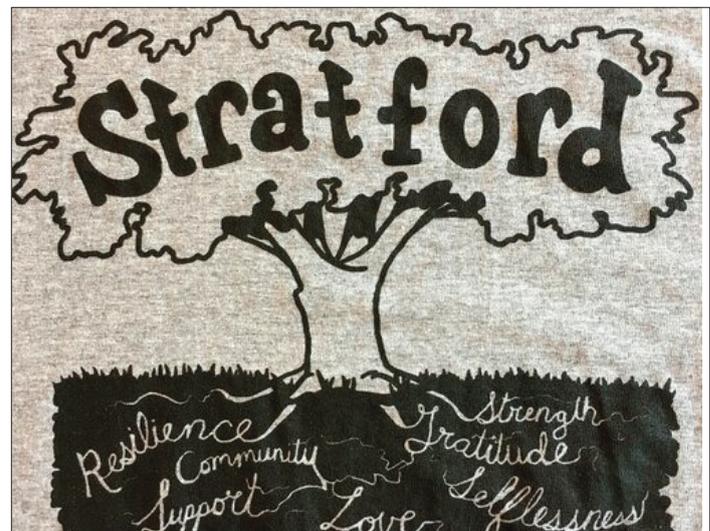
## 'RESILIENT STRATFORD' T-SHIRT RAISES FUNDS FOR STERLING HOUSE

Sterling House Community Center is offering a t-shirt that raises funds for its food pantry as well as embodies all of the characteristics of Resilience, Support, Strength, Gratitude, Selflessness, Community and Love.

Stratford-based artist Emily Barksdale created the design that can now be purchased for \$15 per shirt. The shirts are a gray cotton t-shirt available in sizes from youth small to adult 4XL.

Shirts can be ordered at the Sterling House website, <https://www.sterlinghousecc.org>. All proceeds of these shirt sales will go to Sterling House's Food Pantry in order to continue to serve our community's needs.

The shirts were printed by Stratford-owned and -operated, My T Graphics. 



### Oronoque Village Specialist

29+ years as a REALTOR in Stratford. I started my career in Oronoque Village in 1972 in the construction. Whether you are buying or selling I'm your expert at Oronoque Village.

**Cash buyers available for quick sales.**

**Top Selling agent in Oronoque Village for 2017 and 2018.**

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran SEMPER FI



**Call me anytime on my cell phone 203-257-2288**

**Rich Patterson**

## WORKS BY THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

### MY FRIEND'S FRIEND

By Mary W. von Ziegesar

I had stopped to admire his gardens and I left with a sense of how modern technology, more than tending roses, hydrangea and hosta, helps provide companionship during our Coronavirus isolation.

"Come inside, you have to see my house, Mary!" He insisted, pride in his voice, a smile behind the mask on his handsome eighty-plus year old face, his electric blue eyes twinkling.

I walked into his lower level, where he practiced hitting a pickleball on a string and displayed his woodworking - a coffee table and chairs, shelves, wall-hangings, frames.

"Since my wife died, I've been the one taking care of the house and I do try to keep it up. Come upstairs."

"This is a lovely home." I said. "I am sure your wife would be pleased."

"She would probably laugh, but yes, she would tell me I am doing an okay job!" He chuckled. "But you know, it's lonely here."

We walked into the living room. "Come sit down, Mary, I

want to show you something." I sat in what was obviously his chair. "Ready?" he asked.

"Okay" I answered noticing an enormous TV screen.

"Alexa" he said, "Turn on the TV. CBS News."

"OK" Alexa replied.

"Alexa, turn on the table lamp. Alexa, turn on the blue light, then the red light, then the white light again," he continued. The lamp turned on, the lamp changed colors.

"OK, I'll turn on the TV, CBS News, the table lamp . . .," she responded.

"Alexa, I am hot," said my friend. "Set the AC to 68 degrees, and I'm getting hungry, turn the oven to 350 degrees."

I marveled at each feat. Then I whispered, "A-L-E-X-A is amazing!"

"She certainly is" said my friend. "And, she talks to me. I don't get as lonely with her around . . . Now, Alexa, turn on the outside stair lights for our guest."

I left my friend's house, his smiling eyes, and the lights now spotting his roses, hydrangea and hosta.

I left wondering if Alexa was not only keeping my friend company, but also listening, watching, recording, reporting ...

OV

### INTIMACY

By Hinda Wolf

I hate to be alone. I need people. I need to see them, hear them, and feel them. I'm happiest when I'm snuggled next to a person I love. That explains why I've been so happy since the pandemic arrived. Now I'm not left alone for most of the day. My owners are home with me. I get unlimited amounts of affection and attention. All I have to do is roll over on my back and I get my tummy scratched. But there's another advantage—I'm also learning so much about my owners that I never knew before. I'll share some of this new-found knowledge with you, but not all. I have to respect my owners' privacy. I'm sure you'll agree.

My mistress is the primary provider of food. She's exceptionally inventive when it comes to varying my meals. My master—let's call him Guy—relies on the old standby of kibble and some canned meat. Here's the new knowledge that I've learned about the Woman: She loves cheeses of all kinds and if I stand near her when she's having some and look especially hungry, I usually get some too. She's a very soft touch. I must admit I'm gaining weight, but so far my cheese treats are still available.

Bedtime provides a lot of insight into my owners differing personalities. They both have been very generous about sharing their bed with me. Initially, I start off sleeping next to the Guy as he gets into bed first. He's very nice to lie next to, especially in the winter as he provides a lot of body

heat. But I eventually slide next to the Woman. She's much softer. I often position myself in such a way that I impede their ability to get in and out of the bed. I've perfected making myself a dead weight so that it's hard to move me. They both have become very adept at clinging to the side of the mattress.

I love to go for rides in the car. I make myself a nuisance when I'm in the front seat so I'm relegated to the back seat. The Woman is so soft-hearted that she sits in back with me and I reward her by sitting as close to her as possible. She seems happy with the arrangement.

When we go for our twice-daily walks, there is a definite difference in styles. The Woman enjoys longer walks in wide open spaces and often lets me run free off the leash. She is more adventuresome. The Guy worries more about my getting lost and will keep the leash on. I try to discourage this by running ahead and tugging on the leash, but he is a very determined sort and does not set me free. I do appreciate his concern for my safety, however.

Our sleeping patterns are different also. I love to lie abed and so does the Woman. We can spend delicious minutes just savoring the ability to not get up and start the day. The Guy is immediately on the move as soon as his eyes open. He's very thoughtful about being quiet so as not to wake us.

I'm sure that as the pandemic continues and we are confined to home that I will gain more insights into my owners' personalities, I do want to apologize to all of you who are suffering because of Covid-19. But it's not often a dog gets a treat that's more than a dog bone.

OV

## ALLEVIATING STRESS IN AN ELEVATOR

By Peter Geltner



I was in an elevator alone when the door began to close and I saw a beautiful woman running toward me, so I held the door open for her. She thanked me. The doors closed, and the elevator

began to rise. After about ten seconds, the lights went off and the elevator stopped.

The woman took out her phone and moved the light around to check for an emergency button, but there was no electricity, so nothing worked. She was unable to get a signal on her phone. She sighed and looked at me, and said, "I guess we will just have to wait and hope that somebody notices that we are not moving." I nodded at her. She turned her phone off, and it was pitch black.

Then I started thinking devious thoughts. "Oh no," I thought to myself. "I cannot possibly do that. If I do, what will she tell other people when we get out of the elevator? The shock of this might upset her greatly. There is no way that I can explore standard deviations with her."

Suddenly, I had an epiphany. I turned to her and asked, "Are you good at calculus?" Although I could not see her, I had the impression that she looked at me with bewilderment. She said, "I am not even good at algebra."

I told her that calculus is much more fun than algebra. I explained to her that the derivative of  $x$  squared is  $2x$ , the derivative of  $x$  cubed is  $3x$  squared, the derivative of ... she stopped me. She said that she understood, and that the derivative of  $x$  to the fourth power is  $4x$  cubed. We both laughed.

I then told her about integration. I said that the integral of  $2x$  is  $x$  squared, the integral of  $3x$  squared, is  $x$  cubed. This time I sensed a very strange look from her. She said that I was wrong. Now I was bewildered. I said, "I thought that you were not good at mathematics, how can you say that I was wrong?" She explained to me that I forgot to add a constant to each integration. The integral of  $2x$  is  $x$  squared plus a constant, the integral of  $3x$  squared is  $x$  cubed plus a constant, etc.

She was right, of course. Then she told me that she was fooling with me, that she had a BS in computer science. I said, "That's good BS!" The lights came back on, the elevator moved, and we both got off the elevator at the 13th floor, chuckling.

OV



**JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS**  
*Come, where everyone already  
knows your name!*

**AWARD-WINNING  
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY**

### Enjoy Carefree Living...

- Gourmet Restaurant-Style Dining
- Housekeeping and Laundry Service
- On-site Fitness Center & Beauty Salon
- On-site Medical Offices
- Fun Group Outings
- Engaging Indoor/Outdoor Activities
- Extensive Walking Paths
- Neighborhood Community
- 40-Acre Manicured Campus

SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR TODAY!

**203-225-5024**

**CROSBY COMMONS**  
at

**Wesley 50 Village**  
*years of inspired senior living*

BISHOP WICKE | CROSBY COMMONS | LIFESTYLE TRANSITIONS | WESLEY HEIGHTS

SCAN TO



VISIT US



580 Long Hill Avenue  
Shelton, CT 06484

## BEYOND THE VILLAGE

Jazz Fridays are back at the Fairfield Museum, located at 370 Beach Road. Free performances will be held every Friday through Aug. 28 from 6:30-8 p.m. on the rear patio. Bring your chairs, blanket and a picnic to enjoy while social distancing during the event. In case of inclement weather, visit [www.fairfieldhistory.com](http://www.fairfieldhistory.com) or call 203-259-1598 for updates prior to the performances.

Upcoming performances are as follows:

**Aug. 21:** Richard "Cookie" Thomas, a versatile jazz vocalist from Stamford, whose career began in Philadelphia in 1960 when he had the opportunity, at age 14, to open for B.B. King. Richard's smooth, elegant tone is especially suited to the jazz classics. He draws his inspiration from the likes of Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Johnny Hartman.

**Aug. 28:** Chris Coogan, called "a masterful pianist" by the New York Times, is a composer, performer, teacher, choir director and producer, rooted in the jazz and gospel traditions. A Weston native, Chris leads the Chris Coogan Quartet, a jazz ensemble whose repertoire includes



Pianist/vocalist Chris Coogan will perform a free jazz concert at Fairfield Museum on Aug. 28.

straight-ahead jazz, fusion jazz and boogie-woogie. Chris was the winner of the top jazz prize in the 1997 John Lennon Songwriting Competition for his song, "Cranberry Isle."

OV



The OV Book Club will resume its meetings on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 2 p.m. via [GoToMeeting.com](https://gotomeeting.com).

The book to be discussed on Sept. 2 is *Agent Running in the Field* by John Le Carre. *Agent Running in the Field* is a chilling portrait of our time, heartbreaking and darkly humorous, told to us with unflinching tension by the greatest chronicler of our age. An excellent tale of an aging British intelligence agent tasked with facing down Moscow and her sleeper agents and a wife who disapproves of his role. The story takes readers across the expanse of modern Europe and deep into the vexing political landscape that is a staple of our current times.

To access the meeting, visit <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/374668101>

Enter the Access Code:374-668-101

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (872) 240-3412

- One-touch: tel:+18722403412,,374668101#

Access Code: 374-668-101

Questions? Email Bahin Samimy at [bahinb@yahoo.com](mailto:bahinb@yahoo.com).

The book for Oct. 7 is "American Princess" by Stephen Marie Thornton.

## Can't tolerate CPAP?



**ASK US ABOUT AN ORAL APPLIANCE!**



**BRUSH & FLOSS**  
DENTAL CENTER

**GEMMA G. KWOLEK, DDS**  
Diplomate

American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine

4949 North Main Street • Stratford, CT 06614  
Tel: (203) 378-9500 • [www.betttersmile.com](http://www.betttersmile.com)

**MEDICARE APPROVED PROVIDER**

After Refacing



**REFRESH YOUR KITCHEN**

**IN ONLY 2-5 DAYS!**

**kitchentune·up®**

Refacing • Cabinet Painting • Redooring  
Custom Cabinets • 1 Day Tune-Up • Much More!

**PROJECTS STARTING FROM \$99-\$249 A MONTH!**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**203.751.1364 | [kitchentuneup.com](http://kitchentuneup.com)**

Locally owned & operated by Michael Murphy.

# SHOPRITE OF SHELTON

ShopRite of Shelton • 875 Bridgeport Ave. • Shelton CT. Store #203-225-9224

Transferring a prescription is **SO EASY!**



Speak with your ShopRite Pharmacist and we'll take care of the rest. ShopRite Pharmacy accepts all major prescription plans.

Get your **FLU SHOT** today!

**NO COST with most insurance plans.**

Speak with your Pharmacist for more information.

Log onto [ShopRite.com](http://ShopRite.com) or download our Pharmacy App to find a pharmacy near you.

**Join the ShopRite Pharmacy Auto Refill PROGRAM**

**Never Run Out of Your Medication...Again!**

Your ShopRite Pharmacy will automatically refill your prescription several days before your supply runs out. No need to contact your pharmacy for a prescription refill – your medication will be ready for you to pick up.

- **CONVENIENT • FAST & EASY SIGN UP**
- **NO NEED TO CALL IN REFILLS**



**Order Groceries Online at [shoprite.com](http://shoprite.com)**



**Save Time and Money...**  
You get the same variety, promotions, and prices in-store and online. You never have to sacrifice savings for convenience.



**You Click...We Pick!**  
Our well-trained personal shoppers will select the freshest meat, produce, seafood and more, just the way you would.



**When You're on the Go, Your Order Will Be Ready to Go!**  
Your order will be ready for pick up or delivery at a convenient time for you.

Pick Up Hours: 7 Days a Week 10am to 8pm Delivery Hours: Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri. & Sat. • 11am to 7pm  
We're all about food. We're all about savings. We're all about you.™ In Store and Online.

**Home Is Safe . . .  
And we can help keep you there!**

Caregiver's Home Solutions can help keep you safe, independent, and comfortable in your own home. That's what everyone wants in the current environment.

Our family owned and operated caregiving agency has been honored to help seniors maintain their independence by providing loving, compassionate, dignified care in their own homes for more than 13 years. Let us do the same for you or your loved one.

Call today for a no obligation in-home assessment. We are ready to discuss care options and provide you with a personalized care plan that meets your needs and wishes.

**+ Special discount for Oronoque Village residents +**

**+ Owned by an OV Resident +**



# Exclusive Offer for Oronoque Village Residents

**\$150 off any NEW Stairlift Purchase\***

Call 833-202-4710 (toll free) to redeem this offer.

\*Includes lifetime warranty on motor and drive train. Offer expires December 31, 2020.



CT LIC #425001