

September 1, 2020



# THE VILLAGER



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BOARD CANDIDATES"  
SUPPLEMENT INSERTED  
IN THIS ISSUE.**

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Thanks to Peter Feick for contributing the cover photograph. The Villager welcomes photo submissions for cover consideration. Images must be emailed as high-resolution jpegs to [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com).

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT

*This information was originally sent out as an eblast on Aug. 21.*



**August 18, 2020**  
**By Bob Grosso**

Dear Residents, From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for your overwhelming support during my tenure as President of the Oronoque Village Condominium Association.

Working together as a community, we have accomplished so much! I was blessed to have a network of very talented residents with whom to work side-by-side, a very knowledgeable Executive Director and Maintenance Director and a strong staff.

Together we built our Village into a stronger and more vibrant community.

I would also like to thank my Executive Board: Cheryl Dwyer, Lee Shlafer and Bob Romatzick for their leadership, synergy and hard work.

On the business side, we implemented a more competitive bidding process for contracted work, updated our By-Laws and Rules & Regulations.

We rolled out a Compliance Committee to handle resident issues. Our Human Resources Committee helped develop job descriptions, an updated employee handbook and facilitated valuable employee feedback sessions.

Additionally, we provided ongoing communication to our residents through Eblasts and monthly Villager reports.

Finally, one topic that we know resonates with every Villager is the OVCA budget. Over the last five-year period we were able to keep the average condo unit cost increase to \$81 per year.

This year has certainly had its fair share of difficulties. Yet, as I prepare to end my tenure as OV's President, I am filled with nothing but pride in what I have seen of our community. Residents buying groceries or picking up medication for each other, checking in on their neighbors, delivering food.

The concern people continue to show for their fellow residents is so heartwarming and that spirit will continue long after the COVID crisis is gone.

In looking towards the future, I see our community only getting stronger as all of our amazing residents find new ways to help and support each other.

Let us continue to put the needs of others ahead of our own and strengthen this community together. Thank you for having allowed me to serve you these past five years. It has been an incredible honor.

P.S. I want to also thank the Village's First Lady, my beautiful wife Debbie Grosso, for being the rock she was these past five years!

**The OVCA Board voted on the following motions:**

A motion to adopt the Rule on Signs.

**Passed** 14-0

A motion to open the (2) South Clubhouse Pools when the Oronoque Maintenance Dept. is able to schedule their opening in a timely manner.


**Rejected** 13-1 (District 4)

A motion to open the Racquet Sports Facilities when the Oronoque Maintenance Dept. is able to schedule their opening in a timely manner.

**Rejected** 11-3 Districts (2, 4 & 5)

A motion to open the Bocce Facility when the Oronoque Maintenance Dept. is able to schedule its opening in a timely manner.

**Rejected** 11-3 Districts (2, 4 & 5)

**THE VILLAGER**  
A PUBLICATION OF ORONOQUE VILLAGE  
STRATFORD, CT  
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Please direct all questions regarding *The Villager* publication, to Carol King. Unsolicited manuscripts, which we invite from all residents, should be discussed first with Carol King. We also welcome unsolicited photographs of Oronoque scenes and events, which should be submitted to Marcia Klein.

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

# NOTICE

## MAINTENANCE STAFF PREPARES TO RESUME INDOOR WORK

Our Maintenance staff is preparing to fulfill requests for indoor work, while simultaneously taking precautionary measures.

A "Covid-19 Self-Assessment Survey Form" has been designed to assist our community, while providing protection and reducing the risks of the spread and exposure to Covid-19 for our employees as well as residents.

Prior to a staff member entering a unit for maintenance projects, each person living in the home must complete and submit the Self-Assessment Survey (shown below).

If the answers indicate that you pose no health risk to our staff, an employee will be allowed to access your unit.

***This form must be completed on the day that service is to be rendered.***

By completing the Covid-19 Self Assessment form (with answers that indicate you pose no risk to the staff) and signing below, you are certifying your responses are true and accurate. If you are unable or unwilling to complete the form, our employee will not be able to access your home for the repairs requested.

If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office at 203-377-5313, ext. 1, or email office@oronoquevillage.com

### COVID-19 SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:**

- 1.) Did you take your temperature reading today ?  
Yes            No
- 2.) Was your temperature reading today 100 degree F or higher?  
Yes            No
- 3.) In the past 14 days, have you experienced any new or worsening respiratory symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?  
Yes            No
- 4.) In the past 14 days, have you, any member of your household or person for whom you provide care, been diagnosed with Covid 19?  
Yes            No

5) In the past 14 days, have you or any member of your household been tested for Covid-19 for reasons related to exposure to someone with Covid-19 or having symptoms consistent with Covid-19?  
Yes            No

6) In the past 14 days, have you returned from a state that is currently on a travel restriction or advisory list?  
Yes            No

7) In the past 14 days, have you traveled outside the United States?  
Yes            No

I confirm all my responses to the above questions are true for me on this date:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

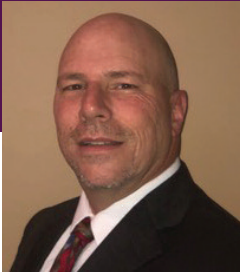


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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## A MESSAGE REGARDING HOUSE & GARDEN CLUB DUES

The House & Garden dues for 2020-2021 will be collected starting this month. You will receive your notice shortly by mail.

Because of the virus, we will not start our monthly programs in the fall, but hope to do so in the coming months.

As you know, we were unable to have our two major spring fundraisers (the tag sale and the luncheon/card party). Because of this we will not have the operating funds needed should we be able to resume the monthly programs in the very near future. If we are not able to do so, an adjustment to your dues will be reevaluated next fall.

In the interim, please stay well and be safe. Hope to see all of you soon. Thanks for your consideration to this request and for your continued support.

*OV House & Garden Board Members*

## NEW LOOK FOR OVTV

OVTV is getting an upgrade. Once complete, the channel will have more pizzazz as well as the ability to incorporate videos in its programming. Keep a lookout for the work to be complete ... it is hoped that the channel can be a tool for the candidates in the upcoming OVCA election. OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a cable box.)

## PAPER SHREDDING/ ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FUNDRAISING EVENT

The Baldwin Center presents a Paper Shredding & Electronics Recycling event on Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Funds raised will assist in providing Stratford students with educational programs and services.

The costs for paper shredding are \$5 for a small container, \$10 for a medium container and fee to be decided for larger containers.

The fee for electronics recycling is \$5 per item.

The fundraiser is presented by the Stratford Rotary Club with the support of Sikorsky Credit Union and William B. Meyer Inc.

Participants should pull into the back parking lot of the Baldwin Center at 1000 W. Broad St. Please wear masks and remain in your car. A volunteer will be on-hand to provide assistance.

Questions? Call John Corb at 203-377-0693.

## DISTRICT ELECTION DATES\*

**District 1 – Sept. 24**

**District 2 – Sept. 21**

**District 3 – Sept. 16**

**District 4 – Sept. 23**

**District 5 – Sept. 22**

**District 6 – Sept. 25**

**District 7 – Sept. 24**

**District 8 – Sept. 22**

**District 9 – Sept. 25**

**District 10 – Sept. 17**

**District 11 – Sept. 22**

*\*All residents -- in every district -- will receive complete details about their district elections via flyers distributed in the black boxes.*

*There will be no on-site elections held this year. Absentee ballots for voting will be mailed to the respective members of the Districts with a return, postage-paid envelope addressed to the auditing firm Nanavaty, Davenport, Studley & White, LLP.*

*The results for all the District elections will be announced on September 29, 2020.*

## HELICOPTER MUSEUM OFFERING WEEKEND DOCENT-LED VISITS

Due to the extenuating conditions of 2020, Stratford's National Helicopter Museum (NHM), located at the train station, has been forced to limit its hours for this season.

Using scheduled visits, a docent can be available to Connecticut residents on Fridays or Saturdays, during the hours of 1-4 p.m., through mid-October.

To schedule a visit, please phone the museum (203-375-8857), leave a message with your desired date, time and the number of visitors and a return call confirmation will be provided. In addition to a pictorial and model focus on helicopters, the NHM features a model of the first helicopter flight in Stratford in 1939, an actual Sikorsky S-76 cockpit and a computer-based helicopter flight simulator.

The NHM members are in search of others interested in becoming docents. Its charter is to interest the young in aviation and to highlight Stratford and Connecticut's contributions to aviation.

# MAINTENANCE MATTERS

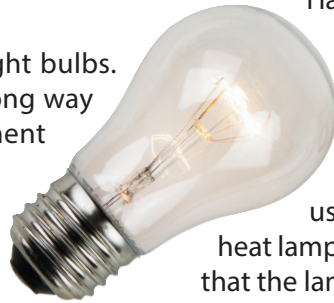
## LIGHT BULB DO'S AND DON'TS

By Mark Rhatigan

Let's be honest: We can't live without light bulbs. However, there is a right way and a wrong way to use a light bulb and an error in judgement may lead to a catastrophic fire.

To prevent a fire from being started by a light bulb, it is imperative that you follow the safety tips below:

- Never use a light bulb that exceeds the recommended wattage for your light fixture. A lamp that calls for a 60 watt bulb cannot handle a 120 watt bulb; that's twice the recommended wattage! It's a major fire hazard. Stay within the lamp manufacturer's recommended wattage limits.
- Always screw in your light bulbs completely. Screwing in a light bulb too loosely may seem inconsequential, but it can be a big fire hazard if the bulb overheats – which



loose bulbs have been known to do quite often.

- Use common sense when it comes to leaving lamps on. Having your lamp on for a couple of hours as you watch television is fine; leaving it on all night while you sleep is not. An overheated bulb can catch fire very quickly, especially if it is a bulb that is near the end of its life.
- If your lamp requires a specialty bulb, then use what is required. For instance, if you have a heat lamp for a pet, you should purchase the special bulb that the lamp calls for.

An ordinary household bulb may not be able to handle the wattage of the lamp, which could cause a fire if you are required to leave the heat lamp on all the time.

Simply put, you won't go wrong by following the instructions on your lamp or light fixture.

Don't surpass the recommended watts limit, and everything will be illuminated ... safely.

OV

## CLOTHES DRYER SAFETY TIPS

By Mark Rhatigan

A clothes dryer doesn't look scary or appear to be too dangerous. However, over time, lint builds up in the dryer vent system, blocking air flow and creating a fire hazard.

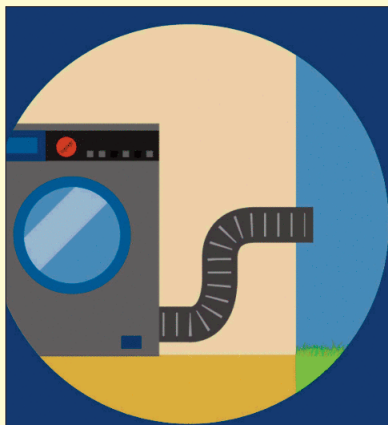
Regular cleaning and maintenance are required safety precautions that will keep your dryer lint-free.

If you are unaware of the signs that it may be time to have your dryer vent cleaned, here are a few things to

look for: your electric bills are rising, your dryer is giving off more heat than normal or it takes longer than one 50-minute cycle in the dryer to dry your laundry.

Fortunately, removing lint is simple. The first area to clean is the lint trap. It should be cleaned after every load by removing the lint from the screen and wiping the edges.

Dryer sheets can clog a lint trap with residue. If the



### Prevent clothes dryer fires.

Clean your lint trap after every load.

Schedule a professional cleaning every one to two years.

screen seems clogged, submerge the lint screen in a sink of hot water and then scrub with a bristle brush to remove all the built-up fabric softener.

Sometimes the softener sheets get stuck in the lint filter or over the vents on the inside of the dryer, so check to be sure the softener sheets come out of the dryer with the load of clothes.

Every one to two years, it is advisable to schedule a professional dryer vent cleaning session. If your dryer vent is clogged, you'll recoup your money in energy savings. In addition, your dryer will be less likely to overheat.

Licensed and insured dryer vent cleaners are listed in the Oronoque Village Vendor list, which is available on our website

([www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com)) under the Maintenance heading. The Vendor List also is available for pick up in the Business Office.

If you have a question regarding vendor selection, please contact the Maintenance Department at 203-375-8853.

OV

**HELPING THE HUNGRY THROUGH LOCAL FOOD DONATIONS**

**By Harriet Liss**

**L**ike me, you have probably made donations to food programs, such as Feeding America, during these extraordinary times. They need the money and are serving the public well. However, there is hunger right here in Stratford and there are several food pantries to serve the people who live here.

Recently, I got a first-hand (and very touching) glimpse of a young patron who benefits from a local food pantry.

I had driven to the South End Community Center to drop off some groceries. As I was putting on my mask while sitting in the car, I noticed a boy of about 11 ride up on his bicycle to the door of this site. He rang the bell and was admitted. Shortly thereafter he exited with four small brown bags.

I later learned from the office manager that he was picking up free lunches for himself and his three siblings.

I watched as he struggled to rearrange the meager contents of each bag so that he could get back on his bike. Since I had an empty Trader Joe's paper bag with handles, I decided to offer it to him. As I approached him with the bag, he looked up at me.

I was stricken by the look of despair I saw on his face. That look broke my heart. So, it is because of him and for him that I decided to share this story. Please consider helping out the needy families right in our own back yard.

These are Stratford-based food pantries that welcome your donations:

**Friendship Baptist Church**, 235 Albert Ave., Stratford, (203) 375-9911.

**First Baptist Church of Stratford**, 1301 Stratford Ave., (203) 377-1441.

**St. James Roman Catholic Church**, 2070 Main St., (203) 375-5887.

**Sterling House Community Center**, 2283 Main St., (203) 378-2606.

**South End Community Center**, 19 Bates St., (203) 377-0689.

**Stratford Baptist Church**, 131 Huntington Road, (203) 375-7768.

As Mother Theresa said, "If you can't feed 100 people, then just feed one."



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## 8 CLEANING PRODUCTS YOU CAN MAKE AT HOME

By Joy Manning

When her toddler picked up a spray bottle of household cleaner and spritzed it all over herself like a perfume, Becky Rapinchuk's life changed. "I turned the bottle over and saw all those poison control warnings," she recalls. Her child was fine after following the advice from poison control, but it changed the way she looked at cleaning her home.

"I started really researching what's actually in these products, and I didn't like what I was learning," she says. She started making her own cleaning supplies and blogging about cleaning at her website, Clean Mama (<https://cleanmama.com/>). She's written a series of books on DIY cleaning products, including "Clean Mama's Guide to a Healthy Home."

"Really, the same things our grandmothers used for cleaning still work today," says Rapinchuk. And it's much easier than you might think to make safe, effective cleaning products yourself. In the process, you'll be saving money and becoming more eco-friendly at the same time. Here are eight cleaning products you should stop buying and DIY instead.

**Window and Glass Cleaner:** If you've never made a cleaning product yourself, start here. "It's the gateway cleaner," says Rapinchuk. To make it, you start with 2 cups of water and add 2 tablespoons each of white vinegar and rubbing alcohol. That's it! You can add a few drops of your favorite essential oil, if you like. Most people find it works better than the blue stuff, according to Rapinchuk. For easy spraying, stock up on a few glass bottles from Amazon (\$20 for two bottles).

**Disinfectant:** "The easy DIY disinfectant is to put a spray top on your bottle of hydrogen peroxide," says Rapinchuk. "It's great for killing germs and ideal for making white sinks, tile and toilets bright white. You want to use it on nonporous surfaces only, though. Just as hydrogen peroxide can bleach your hair, it can discolor other things around the house."

Another way to make a sanitizing solution at home is to mix bleach and water in a spray bottle (1 cup bleach per gallon of water or 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water.)

The Center for Disease Control says it can help kill viruses, which is helpful for sanitizing surfaces in your

home during the coronavirus pandemic.

**Sink Scrub:** The kitchen sink is one of the dirtiest places in your home, according to Rapinchuk. "If you don't believe me, wipe it with a paper towel and take a look," she says. That's why she scrubs down hers every night with a homemade scrub. It's nothing more than a cup of baking soda mixed with 10 drops of an essential oil, like lemon. To use it, she sprinkles it all over the sink, adds a drop of dish soap or Castile soap, and scrubs until everything sparkles. Tip: Buy baking soda in bulk to cut down on cost.

**All-Purpose Cleaner:** These versatile products are expensive at the store, especially if you are opting for one of the popular green brands. But making your own is so inexpensive, it's practically free. You'll need to combine 2 tablespoons rubbing alcohol, 1½ cups water, and a mere ¼ teaspoon of dish soap in a spray bottle and give it a shake. Now clean everything!

**Fabric Softener:** "Laundry products are a great thing to start making because you have those chemicals on your clothes next to your body and in your bedding," says Rapinchuk. The absolute easiest of all DIY cleaning prod-

ucts is fabric softener. There's nothing to it—just add ¼ cup of white vinegar to your fabric softener dispenser in your washing machine and prepare for soft, fluffy towels and sheets that don't even have a whiff of pickles. "The smell completely dissipates," says Rapinchuk.

**Floor Cleaner:** A hardwood floor cleaner is another product that is dead simple to mix up yourself. On floor-mopping day, pour a gallon of hot water into a bucket and add 1/2 cup of white vinegar plus a few drops of lemon essential oil. (Rapinchuk recommends using eucalyptus essential oil for a spa-like scent.) This solution gets your floors just as clean and fresh as the commercial stuff, with no toxic chemicals. Remember: Use it on sealed wood floors only, and test a small area to make sure you can clean up without damaging your wood.

**Daily Shower Spray:** Everyone wants to maintain a fresh shower in between more vigorous cleanings. That's why those commercial daily shower sprays are so popu-



lar! You don't need to buy one, though, if you have vodka and water handy. Just combine ½ cup of vodka with 1 cup of water and a few drops of an essential oil that will help you relax in the shower. Lavender or peppermint essential oil work nicely.

**Fabric Freshener:** It's convenient to have a great-smelling spray to freshen up textiles around your home, like pillows and throw rugs. But many store-bought kinds contain chemicals you may not want your family breathing in every time they're relaxing on the sofa. To make a completely nontoxic version, mix up a solution that's two parts water to one part vodka and add a dash of your favorite essential oil. Spray away! **OV**

Source: *Eatingwell.com*



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## FEATURE: HAND-SANITIZING STRATEGIES

When it comes to preventing the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19, nothing beats good old-fashioned handwashing.

But if water and soap aren't available, your next best option, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is to use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol. Making your own hand sanitizer is easy to do and only requires a few ingredients:

- Isopropyl or rubbing alcohol (99 percent alcohol volume)
- Aloe vera gel

An essential oil, such as tea tree oil or lavender oil, or you can use lemon juice

The key to making an effective, germ-busting hand sanitizer is to stick to a 2:1 proportion of alcohol to aloe vera. This keeps the alcohol content around 60 percent. This is the minimum amount needed to kill most germs, according to the CDC.

How do you make your own hand sanitizer? Jagdish Khubchandani, PhD, associate professor of health science at Ball State University, Muncie, Ind., shared this formula:

- 2 parts isopropyl alcohol or ethanol (91–99 percent alcohol)

- 1 part aloe vera gel

- a few drops of clove, eucalyptus, peppermint, or other essential oil

If you're making hand sanitizer at home, Khubchandani says to adhere to these tips:

Make the hand sanitizer in a clean space. Wipe down countertops with a diluted bleach solution beforehand.

Wash your hands thoroughly before making the hand sanitizer.

To mix, use a clean spoon and whisk. Wash these items thoroughly before using them.

Make sure the alcohol used for the hand sanitizer is not diluted.

Mix all the ingredients thoroughly until they're well blended.

Don't touch the mixture with your hands until it's ready for use.

Homemade hand sanitizer is only recommended in extreme situations when you're unable to wash your hands for the foreseeable future.

### How to Use Hand Sanitizer

Two things to be aware of when using hand sanitizer:

You need to rub it into your skin until your hands are dry.

If your hands are greasy or dirty, you should wash them first with soap and water.

With that in mind, here are some tips for using hand sanitizer effectively:

Spray or apply the sanitizer to the palm of one hand.

Thoroughly rub your hands together. Make sure you cover the entire surface of your hands and all your fingers.

Continue rubbing for 30 to 60 seconds or until your hands are dry. It can take at least 60 seconds, and sometimes longer, for hand sanitizer to kill most germs.

### What Germs Can Hand Sanitizer Kill?

According to the CDC, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that meets the alcohol volume requirement can quickly reduce the number of microbes on your hands.

It can also help destroy a wide range of disease-causing agents or pathogens on your hands, including the new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2.

However, even the best alcohol-based hand sanitizers have limitations and don't eliminate all types of germs.

According to the CDC, hand sanitizers won't get rid of potentially harmful chemicals. It's also not effective at killing the following germs:

- Norovirus

- Cryptosporidium, which causes cryptosporidiosis

- Clostridium difficile, also known as C. diff

Also, a hand sanitizer may not work well if your hands are visibly dirty or greasy. This may happen after working with food, doing yard work, gardening or playing a sport.

If your hands look dirty or slimy, opt for handwashing instead of a hand sanitizer.

### Handwashing vs. Hand Sanitizer

Knowing when it's best to wash your hands, and when hand sanitizers can be helpful, is key to protecting yourself from the new coronavirus as well as other illnesses, like the common cold and seasonal flu.

While both serve a purpose, washing your hands with soap and water should always be a priority, according to the CDC. Only use hand sanitizer if soap and water isn't available in a given situation.

It's also important to always wash your hands:

- After going to the bathroom

- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing

- Before eating

- After touching surfaces that could be contaminated

The CDC lists specific instructions on the most effective way to wash your hands. They recommend the following steps:

- Always use clean, running water. (It can be warm or cold.)

- Wet your hands first, then turn the water off, and lather your hands with soap.

- Rub your hands together with the soap for at least 20 seconds. Make sure to scrub the back of your hands, between your fingers and under your nails.

- Turn the water on and rinse your hands. Use a clean towel or air dry.

OV

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

Important notice for preventing COVID-19 outbreaks.

# Avoid the “Three Cs”!

- 1. Closed spaces** with poor ventilation.
- 2. Crowded places** with many people nearby.
- 3. Close-contact settings** such as close-range conversations.



One of the key measures against COVID-19 is to prevent occurrence of clusters.

Keep these “Three Cs” from overlapping in daily life.



The risk of occurrence of clusters is particularly high when the “Three Cs” overlap!

In addition to the “Three Cs,” items used by multiple people should be cleaned with disinfectant.

## BEYOND THE VILLAGE

The Milford Performance Center has designed a drive-in concert series that "uniquely allows for a live concert stage, with a backup FM transmission to provide a safe environment in this pandemic time we are all enduring," said Steve Cooper, who is the executive director of the center.

Events will be held both in Milford at the Connecticut Post Mall (in front of the old Sears building) and in Orange at the Orange Fairgrounds.

"As the largest year-round concert venue in the Milford, Orange and surrounding communities, the Center has been receiving calls and emails about renewing shows as people crave safe community events," Cooper said.

He said he was tasked with rescheduling every show booked since March through the end of 2020. "Booking into 2021 has been like putting a jigsaw puzzle together while competing with other national venues for prime acts" Cooper said. "Since our patrons have been craving shows and everyone else around have rescheduled their events too I decided to go 'Back to the Future' with the drive-in concept."

Keeping each car socially distant will allow for up to four people to sit outside the car with a barrier of a car and distance between vehicles for a safe and enjoyable concert experience, Cooper said.

"As with all of our shows, donations will be made to non-profits in the area," Cooper said. "The two Orange shows will benefit the Orange Volunteer Fireman to try to help since there will be no carnival this year. A donation from the Milford shows will go to Beth El Center."

Tickets for all shows are based on a per-car basis with up to four people in a car.

There also will be food trucks at the events. To buy tickets go to [www.MilfordPerformanceCenter.org](http://www.MilfordPerformanceCenter.org). For information or if you hold tickets for the indoor rescheduled shows, please call 203-723-3672.

Here is a lineup of upcoming performances:

Sept. 12 - Southern Charms, a seven-piece tribute celebrating the music of Carrie Underwood, Miranda Lambert and Kacey Musgraves / Milford

Sept. 26 - Frontiers (Journey tribute band) / Milford

Sept. 27 - Eggy (rock and jam band fusion) / Milford

Oct. 3 - Back to the Garden (Summer of 69 Woodstock Show) / Milford

Oct. 9 - No Quarter (Zeppelin tribute) / Orange

Oct. 10 - B Street (Springsteen tribute) / Orange

Oct. 11 - Destination Motown / Orange

Oct. 17 - Grateful Mountain (Mat Helm Grateful Dead Experience & Corke Lang's Mountain) / Milford

~

The Westport Library presents "Short Cuts Film Festival," a virtual program of outstanding short films curated from the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival. The event -- which will take



The B Street Band will perform in Orange on Oct. 10.

place on Thursday, Oct. 8 -- features the screenings of five short films live from the Trefz Forum at the library.

Curated by Westport's JIB Productions, and now in its 10th year, "Short Cuts" presents award-winning short films followed by a talk back with a film's director. The films and talk back will be live-streamed to patrons' homes due to COVID-19.

Among the featured films is the Narrative Short Winner at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival, the British production titled "No More Wings." Directed by first-timer Abraham Adeyemi, the film is "a rapturous feast for eyes and ears, capturing brilliantly the... bitter-sweet fates of... promising youth in South London." (Medium.com)


Tickets are \$25. For information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com>. A second program will be screened on Thursday, Nov. 12.

~

Each week, The SoNo Collection in Norwalk showcases a selected artist who paints on-site. The completed paintings are then displayed through Oct. 3. All of the artists' paintings will be made available for sale through an online auction.

The proceeds from the auction will benefit the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County in support of their programs and services that strengthen the arts and cultural infrastructure.

Upcoming painters to appear are Naomi Clark, Sept. 11 - 13; Kristin Schnitzler, Sept. 18 - 20 and Duvian Montoya, Sept. 25 - 27. The artists will work on-site from 1-4 p.m.

The SoNo Collection, located at 100 Water St., is a shopping center that is home to dozens of upscale retailers as well as art exhibits and restaurants. For more information, visit [www.the-sonocollection.com](http://www.the-sonocollection.com) or call 203-299-0701. 

# WORKS BY THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

## AN OBITUARY

By Peter Geltner

I am sad to announce the imminent death of a very important entity before me. Although the disappearance from this world is not a big surprise, it is still a sad occurrence. You may not agree with me, and you might think that I am being an idiot, but it is a serious situation for me.

I am sure that many such events have occurred in the lives of those of you fortunate to be here to be able to read this article, and perhaps you have gotten used to such events in your life, but these are still exceptionally traumatic for me. I know that many other similar entities have suffered the same fate, but that does not make this situation any easier for me to bear.

This quiddity before me that is about to disappear has always been available when I needed it, and has been involved in many different aspects of life that come from the spectacle and fruitfulness of nature. In addition, many people have been employed because of the quintessence of this beauty.

Here I sit, brokenhearted  
Even though I've barely started  
The big event is coming now  
And to face it, I must bow

I touch my friend with tenderness  
And now I sadly acquiesce  
My mouth is open and I cry  
I smack my lips before I try

Finally, the end must come  
And the deed is nearly done  
I finish it with a flair  
There is moisture in the air

Wow, that was a very tasty sandwich. I will need to make a similar one in the future. I should be able to find those same ingredients at Costco, though recently I have been unable to find thin breads there. OV

## TRAPPED

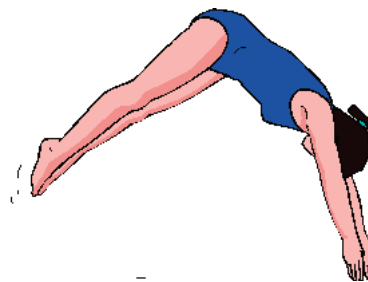
By Elisabeth Breslav

There were ten of us, skinny pre-teeners in not very flattering bathing suits of different solid colors, lined up on the wooden platform that jutted out into the lake. We were "intermediate" swimmers and about to receive our first lesson in diving.

It was a beautiful Dutch summer day. Large, fluffy white clouds sailed across a perfectly blue sky and a gentle wind guided the sailboats and canoes that dotted the water. Our instructor was Jan, young and devastatingly handsome, with a deep tan enhanced by his white shorts, who set our young hearts aflutter.

Jan demonstrated the proper posture for a simple dive: Bend the knees slightly. Arch the back while leaning forward. Lengthen the curve of the back by stretching out both arms. Keep head bent down midway between shoulders. Then straighten the knees and dive in.

One by one, members of the class plunged in and, smiling triumphantly, came up a couple of feet in front of the platform. I happened to be last and, with Jan giving the go-ahead sign, bent my knees, arched my back, extended my arms and let myself fall down.



BIG MISTAKE! I did not straighten my knees and spring forward. The result was a very hard blow to my head as I came up under the floating platform. When I let out a shriek of pain, I inhaled what seemed like fully one half of the lake water and I panicked. I thrashed around,

unable to breathe, convinced that my short life was coming to an end. I do not recall the amount of time I was trapped, certainly no more than a few minutes. But I do remember being encircled from behind by two arms dragging me down from under the platform and then to the surface. More arms reached out and pulled me onto the wooden deck, where I was unceremoniously rolled on my

side like a sack of potatoes and gave back a good bit of the misappropriated lake water. I also sprouted a jumbo egg-size lump on my head.

"No swimming for three weeks," our doctor ordered after determining I had not sustained any other damage beside my poor hurting head. I did go back to swimming before the season ended and, in time, wound up being a competent swimmer, actually winning a few 100 meter races.

But I never, ever tried to take another dive. OV

## PHONE SCAM ALERT FROM THE FTC

People lose a lot of money to phone scams — sometimes their life savings. Scammers have figured out countless ways to cheat you out of your money over the phone. In some scams, they act friendly and helpful. In others, they might threaten or try to scare you.

One thing you can count on is that a phone scammer will try to get your money or your personal information to commit identity theft. Don't give it to them. Here's what the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) wants you to know:

**How to Recognize a Phone Scam:** Phone scams come in many forms, but they tend to make similar promises and threats, or ask you to pay certain ways. Here's how to recognize a phone scam: there is no prize.

The caller might say you were "selected" for an offer or that you've won a lottery. But if you have to pay to get the prize, it's not a prize.

**You won't be arrested:** Scammers might pretend to be law enforcement or a federal agency. They might say you'll be arrested, fined or deported if you don't pay taxes or some other debt right away. The goal is to scare you into paying. But real law enforcement and federal agencies won't call and threaten you.

**You don't need to decide now:** Most legitimate businesses will give you time to think their offer over and get written information about it before asking you to commit. Take your time. Don't get pressured into making a decision on the spot.

**There's never a good reason to send cash or pay with a gift card:** Scammers will often ask you to pay in a way that makes it hard for you to get your money back — by wiring money, putting money on a gift card, prepaid card or cash reload card, or using a money transfer app. Anyone who asks you to pay that way is a scammer.

**Government agencies aren't calling to confirm your sensitive information:** It's never a good idea to give out sensitive information like your Social Security number to someone who calls you unexpectedly, even if they say they're with the Social Security Administration or IRS.

**You shouldn't be getting all those calls:** If a company is selling something, it needs your written permission to call you with a robocall. And if you're on the National Do Not Call Registry, you shouldn't get live sales calls from companies you haven't done business with before. Those calls are illegal. If someone is already breaking the law by calling you, there's a good chance it's a scam. At the very least, it's a company you don't want to do business with.

**Examples of Common Phone Scams:** Any scam can happen over the phone. But here are some common angles phone scammers like to use:

*Imposter scams* - A scammer pretends to be someone you trust — a government agency like the Social Security Admin-

istration or the IRS, a family member, a love interest, or someone claiming there's a problem with your computer. The scammer can even have a fake name or number show up on your caller ID to convince you.

*Debt relief and credit repair scams* - Scammers will offer to lower your credit card interest rates, fix your credit, or get your student loans forgiven if you pay their company a fee first. But you could end up losing your money and ruining your credit.

*Business and investment scams* - Callers might promise to help you start your own business and give you business coaching, or guarantee big profits from an investment. Don't take their word for it. Learn about the FTC's Business Opportunity Rule, and check out investment opportunities with your state securities regulator.

*Charity scams* - Scammers like to pose as charities. Scams requesting donations for disaster relief efforts are especially common on the phone. Always check out a charity before you give, and don't feel pressured to give immediately over the phone before you do.

*Extended car warranties* - Scammers find out what kind of car you drive and when you bought it so they can urge you to buy overpriced — or worthless — service contracts.

*"Free" trials* - A caller might promise a free trial but then sign you up for products — sometimes lots of products — that you're billed for every month until you cancel.

*Loan scams* - Loan scams include advance fee loan scams, where scammers target people with a poor credit history and guarantee loans or credit cards for an up-front fee. Legitimate lenders don't make guarantees like that, especially if you have bad credit, no credit or a bankruptcy.

*Prize and lottery scams* - In a typical prize scam, the caller will say you've won a prize, but then say you need to pay a registration or shipping fee to get it. But after you pay, you find out there is no prize.

*Travel scams and timeshare scams* - Scammers promise free or low-cost vacations that can end up costing you a lot in hidden costs. And sometimes, after you pay, you find out there is no vacation. In timeshare resale scams, scammers lie and tell you they'll sell your timeshare — and may even have a buyer lined up — if you pay them first.

### How to Stop Calls from Scammers

*Hang up.* Even if it's not a scammer calling, if a company is calling you illegally, it's not a company you want to do business with. When you get a robocall, don't press any numbers. Instead of letting you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, it might lead to more robocalls.

*Consider call blocking or call labeling.* Scammers can use the Internet to make calls from all over the world. They don't care if you're on the National Do Not Call Registry. That's why



your best defense against unwanted calls is call blocking. Which type of call-blocking (or call-labeling) technology you use will depend on the phone — whether it's a mobile phone, a traditional landline, or a home phone that makes calls over the internet (VoIP). See what services your phone carrier offers, and look online for expert reviews.

*Don't trust your caller ID.* Scammers can make any name or number show up on your caller ID. That's called spoofing. So even if it looks like it's a government agency like the Social Security Administration calling, or like the call is from a local number, it could be a scammer calling from anywhere in the world.

Learn more about unwanted calls and what to do about them at [www.ftc.gov/calls](http://www.ftc.gov/calls).

If you've lost money to a phone scam or have information about the company or scammer who called you, report it at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint).

If you didn't lose money and just want to report a call, you can use our streamlined reporting form at [donotcall.gov](http://donotcall.gov).

**What to Do If You Already Paid a Scammer:** Scammers often ask you to pay in ways that make it tough to get your money back. If you've paid a scammer, the sooner you act, the better.

If you paid a scammer with a credit or debit card, contact your credit card company or bank right away. Tell them what happened, and ask for a "chargeback" to reverse the charges.

If you paid with a gift card, prepaid card, or cash reload card, contact the company that issued the card. Tell them you paid a scammer with the card, and ask if they can refund your money.

If you paid a scammer with a wire transfer, call the money transfer company immediately to report the fraud and file a complaint. Call the complaint department:

- MoneyGram at 1-800-MONEYGRAM (1-800-666-3947) or
- Western Union at 1-800-325-6000.

Ask for the money transfer to be reversed. It's unlikely to happen, but it's important to ask.

If you gave a scammer remote access to your computer, update your computer's security software. Then run a scan and delete anything it identifies as a problem.

If you gave your username and password to a scammer, change your password right away. If you use the same password for other accounts or sites, change it there, too. Create a new password that is strong.

If you gave a scammer your Social Security number, visit [identitytheft.gov](http://identitytheft.gov) to learn how to monitor your credit report to see if your SSN is being misused.

If someone calls and offers to "help" you recover money you have already lost, don't give them money or personal information. You're probably dealing with a fake refund scam.

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## Call-In Program Is Available To Oronoque Residents

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

A Volunteer Monitor on duty will check on you. That's all there is to it! *(While the clubhouse is closed, a volunteer monitor will check to make sure you have called in and are okay.)*

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



The OV Book Club will resume its meetings on  
Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m.  
via [GoToMeeting.com](https://www.gotomeeting.com).

The book to be discussed 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.

Presidential darling, America's sweetheart, national rebel: Teddy Roosevelt's swash-buckling daughter, Alice, springs to life in this raucous anthem to a remarkable woman.

A fascinating account of the life of the daring and adventurous Alice Roosevelt Longworth. Brimming with political history, scandal, and insight into some of America's most influential figures.

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

Details on how to access the meeting will be published in the October 1 edition of *The Villager*.

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