

December 1, 2020



THE VILLAGER



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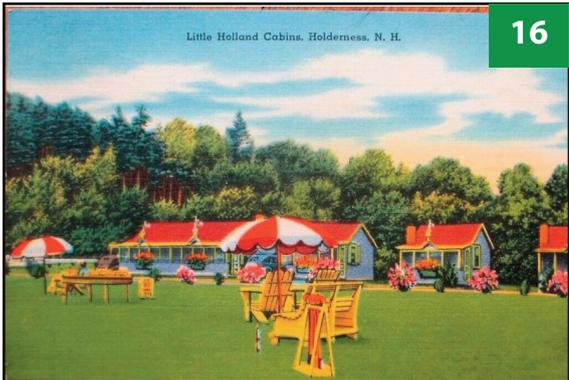
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Thanks to Abbie Kanner for contributing the cover photograph. The Villager welcomes photo submissions for cover consideration. Images must be emailed as high-resolution jpegs to cking@oronoquevillage.com.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES OF OPENING THE FACILITIES

During the past several months, there have been significant discussions throughout the Village related to pandemic's impact on the opening of our recreational facilities; some individuals have expressed their needs and desires to reopen our facilities, while others feel that these areas should remain closed.



FRED
RODRIGUEZ

This has been one of the most significant challenges that the administrations of Oronoque Village have faced.

There are residents who feel that communitywide communications related to this subject have been inadequate. The following is an attempt to provide some understanding and clarity of the challenges that the Boards have grappled with regarding our operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The information contained in this Q&A message has been compiled by a team of professionals who provide guidance to our community, including our legal counsel and insurance underwriters and brokers. Also, I have included data obtained from seminars that have been presented on a national platform.

The intent of this message is not to change any beliefs or opinions on the topic, but to provide some understanding and insight as to "why" the administrations maintain their positions pertaining to facility utilization:

- **What is the rationale in not having the recreational facilities open? Why?**

The major reason for this decision is because there is no insurance protection under the Associations' liability policy for either the Association or its Board Members for any lawsuits brought against them because someone contracted the virus at Oronoque Village. The liability policy does not cover a deliberate/intentional act; a decision to open the facilities would be considered an intentional act. In addition to this exclusion, there is no coverage under the liability for any communicable disease, which includes COVID-19. Exclusions wording below is taken from the liability policy:

This insurance does not apply to: communicable disease, "bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of the actual or alleged transmission of a communicable disease.

Also, the Directors & Officers (D&O) policy does not provide any coverage or defense for any claim for injuries related to any airborne disease, sickness, disease, etc. The following is a copy of the exclusion taken from the D&O Policy.

III. EXCLUSIONS

1. Exclusions Applicable to all Loss

The Insurer shall not be liable to pay any Loss in connection

with any Claim: a. based upon, directly or indirectly arising out of, or in any way involving any: (1) actual or alleged bodily injury, sickness, disease, emotional distress, mental anguish or death of any person (except employment-related wrongful employment practice)

- **What policy would cover the community for COVID-19?**

At this time there is no policy available to cover the community for COVID-19-related injuries.

- **What exactly is covered under the D&O Policy?**

The D&O policy provides defense and indemnification for any Board Member for any alleged wrongful act such as: decisions, misleading statements, misstatements, omission, neglect or breach of contract etc., where committed or attempted all while acting within and conducting the business of the Association.

- **Do other Associations have insurance that would cover them for these deliberate acts? If not, why would they open?**

Because there is currently no coverage available in the insurance market; those associations who have opened either don't understand the ramifications for doing so or have decided to self-insure.

- **If the community decided to open its facilities, what risk does the Association assume?**

Since there is no insurance protection for either the defense or the injuries (and sometimes death), the Association would need to set aside special funds for any future defense and claims. An assessment would need to determine as to the amount needed.

- **Can residents have their personal insurance cover this?**

Residents have their own personal insurance that protects them against trips and fall of visitors inside their own home but not for any incident outside in the general common areas.

- **Can the community self-insure for this pandemic?**

Yes, but who will determine how much to set aside. How much is enough?

- **Are employees covered for COVID claims under Workmen's Compensation?**

The Worker's Compensation Commissioner has determined that all essential workers will be covered under Workmen's Compensation for COVID-related injuries. So, not all employees are covered only those considered essential.

Continued on page 12

A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT

Good evening and welcome to the November OVCA Board of Directors meeting. To begin, I want to mention changes to two standing committees. Jackie Freeman has been elected chair of the Maintenance Committee and Larry Hartley is vice chair. Ken Block, who had been the elected chair, found it necessary to step down from that position. Thank you to Jackie and Larry for your willingness to head up this important group and enormous thanks to Ken Block for his years providing steady and wise leadership of the Maintenance Committee. Mary Ann Weaver has been elected chair of the Social Activities Committee. This is a very challenging time for that organization given our current situation, however, any efforts that committee members can make to develop “pandemic-possible” social activities will be appreciated. A very big thank you from the entire board to Barbara Minoff, who has done an outstanding job leading SAC these last few years.

There will be updates this evening from some committee chairs about their activity on matters of importance to all residents. We are in the early stages of some of these issues, however, I want to mention how impressed and encouraged I am by the enthusiasm and genuine interest displayed by the committee members who are tackling these projects.

There are two people I would like to acknowledge tonight: Ray Vermette and Barbara Stewart for their efforts to help this community be engaged and entertained by the art world. At a time when diversions are eagerly sought, their creative solution to holding an art exhibit by making it available on Channel 591 was brilliant. It is a way for all of us to enjoy the talents of our neighbors in a safe and comfortable manner. Also thanks to Peter Feick for his photographic assistance and to Carol King for making it happen on 591. If you haven't watched the virtual exhibit, grab a cup of coffee, tea or whatever, sit down and enjoy. It is lovely. Thank you to all the artists who participated.

This year I hope all residents will choose to donate to the Employee Appreciation Fund. I was struck by the thoughtfulness of a couple who are longtime residents of the Village and have been beset with some serious health issues these last several months. They asked me if I could I stop by and pick up a check to be dropped off in the payment slot at the North Clubhouse. With all the concerns they have had, they did not forget about their once-a-year opportunity to say “thank you” to our staff. This is the way that we can all say “thank you”; a contribution to this fund, one time a year, recognizes all of the people dedicated to helping us, and who keep our Village safe and beautiful. Please consider giving if you have not already done so.

On the subject of giving, the Sterling House Toy Drive is actively seeking donations of toys. The collection box is at the North Clubhouse. Your contribution will help brighten a child's Christmas.

Our Executive Director, Fred Rodriguez, confirmed in his comments that the Altice contract has been signed and is effective Dec. 1, 2020. The rate currently in our OVCA monthly fee of \$64.36 will remain in effect until Dec. 1, 2022. The Internet speed will increase from 100Mps to 200Mps as of December 1, 2020. Should a resident be paying for increased Internet speed, Optimum should be contacted to have the charge canceled.

Fred also reported that air-quality testing for both clubhouses has been completed. Those results are being evaluated by Fred and Mark Rhatigan to determine what modifications need to be made to air distribution systems.

Maintenance Director Mark Rhatigan stated that the leaf removal process is underway and is close to being on schedule. He also mentioned that UI expects to complete Section 7 (Agawam area) by Nov. 30. Sections 8 and 9, weather permitting, are targeted to be done by the end of December. Beginning in April 2021, UI will start the next phase, which is the line changeover.

In his Architectural Committee report, Jim Manzolli stated the subject of propane heaters had been reviewed. Based on information from our insurance carrier and the fire marshal, these heaters may not be used on decks. The Architectural Committee will develop a standard for these heaters to be considered at the January meeting.

Mary W. von Ziegesar announced that the following people have joined the Communications Committee: Peter Marcato, Jerry Reece, Sarah Bodenheimer and Bruce Pollock. Tina Vermette and Judy Waldeyer remain on the committee. Mary thanked Jeanette Caron, Judith Lessler and Wendy Swain for their contributions to the previous committee. The focus of the group's work is the Villager, the web portal and communications with new residents.

Insurance Committee Chair Bob Grosso stated there have been no property or general liability claims through the first four months of the fiscal year. He thanked Villagers for their continued diligence. He also reported that People's United Bank finalized the sale of the insurance company and our broker is now Assured Partners. The same team that serviced our account for People's Insurance continues to service our account under this new firm.

In her report, Jackie Freeman said Maintenance Reps have been asked to contact their District Reps prior to scheduled Maintenance Meetings to learn if there are any issues that need to be addressed. Each Maintenance Rep has the opportunity to bring forward any matters of concern from their district.



LEE
SHLAFER

Continued on page 15

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL ART SHOW ON OVTV

Are you missing the Galerie OV art shows? The Arts Guild has good news! After missing two quarterly art exhibits due to the pandemic, we are very excited to offer a new exhibit to be shown on OVTV (Channel 591).

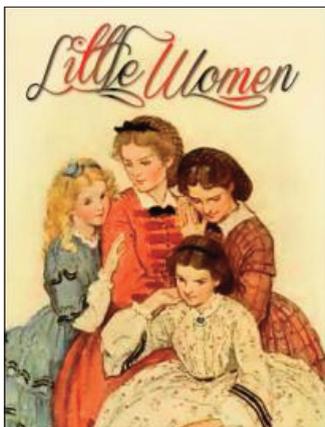
This show, titled "Home Alone Together," is comprised of artwork done by residents during the pandemic shut down. All mediums were welcomed and 30 pieces of beautiful art were submitted, including paintings, fabric art, metal work, sculptures, cut paper and photographs.

On Oct. 7, OV artists brought their works to the NCB front entrance where it was photographed by Peter Feick. It was then organized into a video presentation by Ray Vermette and given to Carol King, who uploaded the video to the Oronoque TV channel 591 for everyone to enjoy. To view the show, you can tune in daily either at 10:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. The video will be shown twice in succession during each time frame. The exhibit ends on Jan. 31, 2021.

Hopefully, we will all be able to gather together again in-person next year, but for now enjoy our virtual show.

Participants in the show are: Lynette Steinfeldt, Peter Feick, Carole Guglielmino, Ulla Adema, Barbara Rosner, Kathleen Wells, Mary W. von Ziegesar, Patty Buchina, Karen Zimmerman, Jeanette Caron, Annie Smith, Ed Stabile, Jerry Reece, Ginny Brown, Fred Bridschge, Bonnie Usinger, Mirtha de la Reza, Bob Collins, Anita Cody, Pearl Spodick, Kathleen Toombs, Cheryl Comen, Jeffrey Sells, Kitty Olsen, Ray Vermette, Barbara Stewart, Ivy Tencer, Barbara Dierolf, Betty Mulholland and Wendy Swain.

HOW TO ATTEND THE DEC. 2 BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION



Those who would like to join in the Book Club's virtual discussion of "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott at 2 p.m. on Dec. 2 should follow these instructions:

Log on to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/129079653>

You can also dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch

number below to join instantly.)

United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

One-touch: tel:+13127573121,,129079653#

Access Code: 129-079-653

TOY DRIVE UNDERWAY AT NCB

The Sterling House 2020 Holiday Toy Drive is underway with plans to make hundreds of children happy this holiday season. This project -- coordinated by the Stratford Junior Woman's Club and Sterling House Community Center -- supports Stratford families in the low- to moderate-income bracket who need assistance with toys/gifts during the holiday season.



Oronoque Village residents have donated generously in the past and Sterling House is hopeful that our community will continue to support this charitable cause.

To participate, please drop off new, unwrapped toys at the North Clubhouse. Look for the festively decorated blue bin that stands in the building's entryway. The deadline for toy donations is Thursday, Dec. 10.

The most-requested gift items (for all ages) are as follows:

Star Wars Toys	Hair Accessories & Hair Products
Board Games	Hats/Gloves
Arts and Crafts	Superheroes Dress Up Clothes
Books and Puzzles	Action Figures
Sports Equipment	Anything Legos
Hatchimals and LOL Surprise Dolls	Interactive Educational Toys (for toddlers and pre-school age)
Barbies and Accessories	Gift Cards/ Monetary Donations
Slime	
Make-Up/Nail Polish	
Costume Jewelry	
Watches	

If you would like to learn more about the toy drive or the Sterling House Adopt-a-Family Program, please call 203-378-2606, ext. 350, or email toydrive@sterlinghousecc.org.



**Calling ALL OV Residents,
Districts and Clubs:**

**The deadline for
Employee Appreciation Fund Contributions
is Dec. 18!**

***NOW* is the time ... This is the *PLACE*
Please **CONTRIBUTE** to the
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION FUND
*It's not too late!***

***Your contribution is very
much appreciated.***

**This is the only Holiday bonus that our
dedicated Employees receive.**

Let's give them a joyous HOLIDAY!

**Checks payable to OVCA, with
Employee Appreciation Fund written in the
memo line, should be delivered to the
Business Office via the outside dropbox.**



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FEATURES

MEET THE NEW SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON



Hi I would like to introduce myself. I am Mary Ann Weaver, the new SAC chairperson.

SAC wants everyone to know that our activities will be up and running as soon as the clubhouses are allowed to host on-site events. Its been a hard eight months for us all and most of our social activities have been put on the back shelf.

We want all OV residents to know that you are in our

thoughts. After all, the Village has long been known as a place to socialize and attend fun events. We have the pleasure of seeing our friends without having to drive more than 5 minutes!

Please know that the SAC members are busy thinking of new ideas for upcoming events that we can all enjoy.

Until then, stay safe and keep looking ahead.

Thank you,
Mary Ann

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROPANE PATIO HEATERS

We have had an increasing number of inquiries regarding the use of portable propane patio heaters in the Village. However, please be forewarned that the Stratford Fire Department and the Village insurance carrier has provided documentation that bans their use on wood decks and balconies.

However, when taking proper precautions, there are areas where the propane patio heaters can be used safely.

Patio heaters have been designed with a range of safety features to prevent fire hazards and accidental injuries. Before you buy a patio heater, check for the safety features shown in the image at right.

Safe Use of

Patio Heaters: First and foremost, follow the manufacturer's directions.

For safety's sake, it is imperative that the instructions below are followed:

To prevent possible fires, keep heaters away from combustible/flammable material, including planters, outdoor textiles, wood decking, wood siding, grass/shrubs and propane tanks used for grills. Do not use under awnings or roofs. Manufacturer's operating manuals should identify recommended clearances.

Because the heaters utilize propane as fuel, they

should be used –exclusively – in outdoor areas with adequate ventilation and air circulation to prevent carbon monoxide build up.

Keep heaters covered when not in use to prevent entry by water, bugs, dust and debris, which can cause the pilot light, the burner or other elements of the heater to malfunction.

Patio heaters are constructed to be tall to disperse heat better; however, this design can also make them top-heavy and put them at risk of tilting and toppling over. Ensure the heaters are on stable ground and secure the heater so that it will not tip over during windy weather.

It is imperative that you purchase

a heater with the CSA safety rating, which is a seal of approval for the patio heater. The CSA safety rating means that the unit has been tested and approved by a third-party evaluator to meet a rigorous set of standards, and it has been deemed safe for use in North America.

The Architectural Committee has begun the process of preparing guidelines for the use of propane patio heaters in the Village. These guidelines will be submitted to the OVCA Board for review during the Jan. 19, 2021, Board meeting.

SAFETY FEATURES OF PATIO HEATERS

Patio heaters have been designed with consumer safety in mind and offer a range of safety features to prevent fire hazards and accidental injuries. Before you buy, check for the following features.

- NO NAKED FLAMES**
Have the flames safely contained
- THERMOCOUPLE**
Prevents gas leaks if the flame is extinguished
- CSA SAFETY RATING**
This means the unit has been tested and approved by a third-party evaluator
- ANTI-TILT DEVICE**
A weighted base minimizes the risk of the heater toppling over

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INFORMATION FROM THE FTC

WHY REPORT FRAUD?

By Traci Armani

Consumer Education Specialist, Division of Consumer & Business Education, FTC

Scams come in many forms: texts, emails, letters and lots of calls. Scammers plot schemes from tech support scams to fake check scams to try to knock us off balance just long enough to take advantage. They want to get our money and personal information, like account numbers and our Social Security numbers.

How can we fight back? By sharing your story and reporting what happened to the Federal Trade Commission.

Telling your story can help your friends, your family and your community avoid those scams. That keeps money in their pockets and their information out of the hands of criminals. Reporting those scams to the FTC at www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov helps investigators use your information to build cases against scammers – and helps stop them.

For more information, visit www.ftc.gov/exploredata to check out what people have been reporting.

To stay up to date on scams that could affect your community, sign up for the FTC's Consumer Alerts by visiting ftc.gov/scams.

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO AVOID FRAUD

Crooks use clever schemes to defraud millions of people every year. They often combine new technology with old tricks to get people to send money or give out personal information.

Here are some practical tips to help you stay a step ahead.

Spot imposters. Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity or a company you do business with. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request — whether it comes as a text, a phone call or an email.

Do online searches. Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like "review," "complaint" or "scam." Or search for a phrase that describes your situation, like "IRS call." You can even search for phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.

Don't believe your caller ID. Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.

Don't pay upfront for a promise. Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, or a job. They might even say you've won a prize, but first you have to pay taxes or fees. If you do, they will probably take the money and disappear.

Consider how you pay. Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods

don't. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. That's also true for reloadable cards (like MoneyPak or Reloadit) and gift cards (like iTunes or Google Play). Government offices and honest companies won't require you to use these payment methods.

Talk to someone you trust. Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you.

Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert — or just tell a friend.

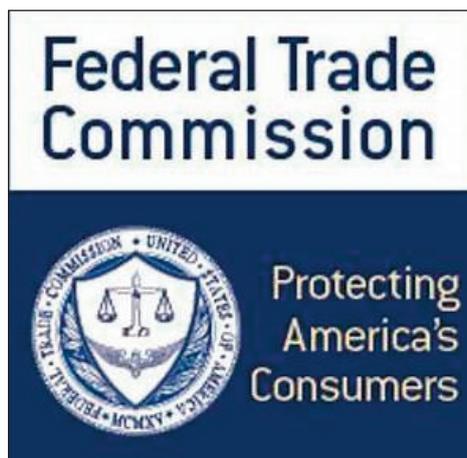
Hang up on robo sales calls. If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up and report it to the FTC. These calls are illegal, and often the products are bogus. Don't press 1 to speak to a person or to be taken off the list. That could lead to more calls.

Be skeptical about free trial offers. Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel. Before you agree to a free trial, research the company and read the cancellation policy. And always review your monthly statements for charges you don't recognize.

Don't deposit a check and wire money back. By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be a fake, you're responsible for repaying the bank.

If you spot a scam, report it at ftc.gov/complaint. Your reports help the FTC and other law enforcement investigate scams and bring crooks to justice.

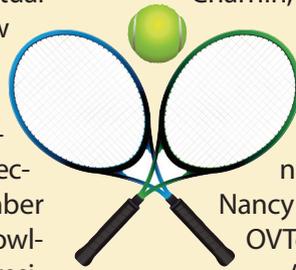
OV



OV TENNIS CLUB NAMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Oronoque Village Tennis Club (OVTC) held a virtual annual meeting in October during which the new OVTC Board was elected and By-Laws updated to include term limits for officers.

The new Board members -- Nancy Blagys, president; Mary W. von Ziegesar, vice president; Bob Kilton, secretary; Peter Feick, treasurer and Eileen Cain, member services director -- reconvened in November to acknowledge their appreciation of the work done by former president, Ben Snaider, and former secretary, Carolyn



Charnin, and to express their hopes that the courts will reopen this spring and the many social events will resume.

For now, OVTC invites those who are interested in playing doubles tennis indoors this winter to please contact

Nancy Blagys at 203-249-4148 or email OVTennisClub@gmail.com.

All player levels are invited to participate.

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Rich Patterson

Executive Director's Report, Cont'd From Page 4

- **Are Insurance Companies doing anything to address this issue? Is the legislature?**

The legislature is currently not in session, but I understand that there isn't anything on the current docket to address these issues.

- **What are the recommendations from the insurance marketplace as to best address the issue?**

Continue to follow CDC guidelines, maintain social distancing, limited capacity, etc.

- **Is the condominium different than other businesses that are opening? If so, what are the differences?**

The condominium association, like other businesses, may elect to either open or close its facilities. Many for-profit businesses are electing to open due to the fact that continued closures would likely result in layoffs, insolvency and a complete loss of the business. They are not electing to open because it is safe or risk-free to do so. Rather they are assuming those risks in order to avoid economic hardship. The condominium association is different in that it is not a for-profit entity facing those same economic hardships. For the association, the health and safety of unit owners, residents and employees is paramount.

- **Aren't the Directors covered for their acts under the Declaration & By-Laws of the community?**

Directors, per our governing documents, are covered by insurance for acts that our insurance coverage deems insurable. Claims related to contracting an airborne disease, coronavirus as an example, is not an insurable risk. Should the Board vote to open the facilities, knowing there is no insurance for the virus, this could be viewed as a deliberate act by the Board. Should an individual contract the virus and claim that was a consequence of using one of our facilities, the Association and the Board members could be held personally liable. Even if the Association is successful in defending such a claim, the costs of litigation without insurance coverage will be substantial.

- **In your opinion, what could occur if the Board decides to open the facilities?**

If the Board voted to open the facilities, the unknown is what risk does that present to Board members and the Association. Should a lawsuit be filed as a result of using the facilities and contracting the virus there would be legal fees, expert fees and potential damages without any insurance to cover those costs. The Board is in the position of having to evaluate the risk to themselves, the Association and to all unit owners. When a majority of the Board is of the opinion that the risk is at an acceptable level, that is when a vote to open the facilities will occur.

- **Can the membership vote to open the facilities? If so, why, or why not?**

Per the bylaws and state statutes, the Board of Directors has the authority and responsibility for the management of the common elements which includes all of our facilities. That

responsibility cannot be transferred to unit owners.

- **It has been stated that Directors can be personally liable for opening the facilities, however, is there any risk to the Association if the facilities open?**

Yes, the Association can be sued as well as the Directors.

- **Can the community vote to indemnify the Directors for this specific issue? Why or why not?**

No. Insurance policies held by individual unit owners will not cover claims against the Association related to air-borne illnesses.

- **If individuals are sued, can the community pass a special assessment to cover the costs?**

Yes, if there was a special assessment it would have to go before the unit owners for a vote and there is no guarantee that it would pass.

- **If Directors do not follow the recommendations provided, are they in breach of their fiduciary obligations to the association?**

Recommendations to open or not to open are not being provided to the Board. The Board has information about the consequences that could occur if a lawsuit is filed with regard to contracting the virus given that the Association has no insurance to cover such a suit. The Directors are considering their fiduciary responsibility when they determine how they vote

- **Can waivers or hold harmless agreements be signed by residents to protect the association?**

Waivers can be signed and one has been prepared. Courts do not treat waivers as guarantees against claims. Therefore a signed waiver does not mean that the exposure to the Association or the Board members is eliminated. Waivers are not always held to be enforceable, and a waiver will not be binding on anyone else who may contract the virus from someone who signed a waiver.

- **Can the Directors be sued for failure to open the recreational facilities because they are not providing the services that residents pay for?**

Directors are covered by insurance for suits brought against them for specific acts, which would include a claim for failure to open the facilities.

- **Do you have any knowledge of the legislature (local or national) working on anything to address this issue with Community Associations?**

Our contacts with the Connecticut community association do not indicate that there is any legislation that has been proposed. We will continue to monitor this as steps are taken to make a vaccine available and gain more control over the virus.

- **Can the membership change the Declaration & By-Laws to include provisions for Pandemics?**

Changing the governing documents would not solve the issue of no insurance being available. That is the critical factor which makes the evaluation of how much risk to take so difficult.

OV

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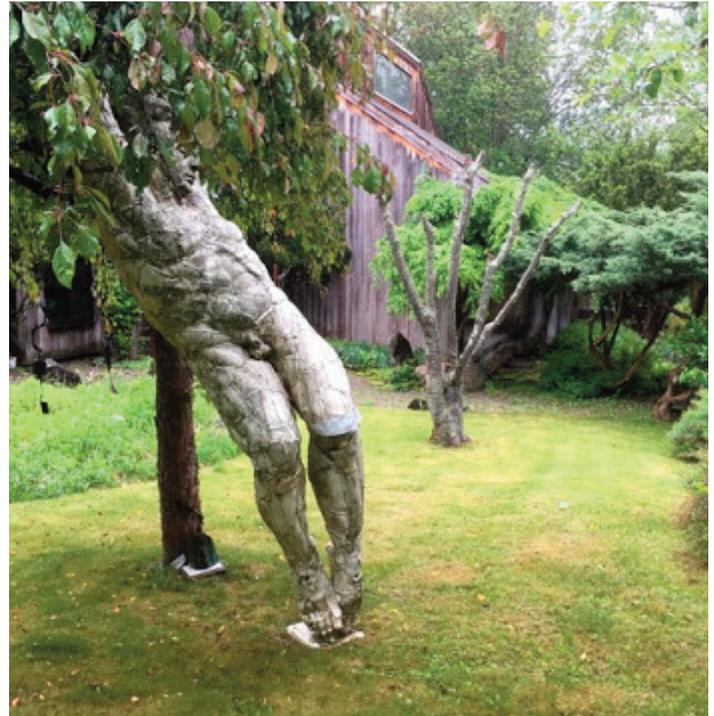
BEYOND THE VILLAGE: SCULPTURE GARDENS

Despite its status as the third smallest state in America, Connecticut is home to a multitude of cultural venues. Many of its sculpture parks are just as astonishing and intriguing in design and complexity as those found out of state, so please consider visiting these four nearby locations for an experience of art amid nature.

The Cornish Family Sculpture Garden, 258 Main St., Ridgefield, 203-438-4519: Located within the grand and famed Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art – one of the few large museums that gather and display contemporary art in the United States – the Cornish Family Sculpture Garden is a 2-acre outdoor section of the museum consisting of a striking assembly of modernized sculptures open to the public. Most of the artworks are by some of the most accomplished and acclaimed sculptors in Connecticut; others are prized masterpieces by renowned artists throughout America. Though a significant contributor to the museum's mission to present exhibitions of cutting-edge art for the public to view, that is not the garden's only role. After its remodeling and immense improvement in appearance and size, the garden now also serves as a space for facility rental for private gatherings and parties. As a result, the Cornish Sculpture Garden attracts many from both the public as well as private organizations who wish to appreciate the outdoor exhibitions and enjoy each other's company.

Kouros Gallery Sculpture Garden, 50 Mopus Bridge Road, Ridgefield, 203-438-7636: An unusual garden, full of stunning and mystifying sculptures rather than bright colored, aromatic plants and flowers, the Kouros Gallery welcomes visitors to a small courtyard reserved specifically for majestic artworks that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Open to the public, the garden presents a vast range of the sculptural styles; each masterpiece displaying a different type of form, material and texture from the others, creating a concentrated area of diversity and individuality. The garden includes work from 50 different emerging artists who have recently become significant leaders in the evolution of sculptural art. To accentuate its full beauty and potential, each piece is placed to complement its rural environment. Some artworks are intentionally slipped into corners and under branches of trees to reveal their perfect setting. Additionally, the different time of day and lighting adds to the artwork's magnificence by casting different types of shadow and light, revealing different forms of beauty for each sculpture throughout the day.

Margaret and C. Angus Wurtele Sculpture Garden, 1111 Chapel St., New Haven, 203-432-0600 : One of the main features of the Yale University Art Gallery, the oldest college art museum in the United States, the Margaret and C. Angus Wurtele Sculpture Garden attracts many students, professors and visitors of New Haven to its prized collection of



A view of the Kouros Sculpture Garden in Ridgefield.

valuable sculptures. Its open space with several works of renowned artists makes it a peaceful area where guests can appreciate their surroundings, both the sculptures and the nature. The name of the garden was established in 2001 to honor one of Yale University's greatest donors, Margaret and C. Angus Wurtele. For years the Wurteles have contributed to the development of the new facility study center, where the public has more open access to artworks, as well as the Wurtele Gallery Teacher Program, through which Yale graduate students are hired and guided to educate schoolchildren between kindergarten and 12th grade in high school. To this day, many of the Yale Art Gallery's improvements and developments are possible thanks to the Wurtele's gift.

Susan Morse Hilles Sculpture Courtyard, 1111 Chapel Street, New Haven, 203-432-0600: A recent addition to the Yale University Art Gallery, Susan Morse Hilles Sculpture Courtyard is a small outdoor space made of concrete and stone. The courtyard was one of several new features of Yale University's Master Plan—a renovation that was conducted to maintain the original art gallery's integrity and to expand its collection space—for the Yale arts program. The maintenance and extension were successful, and now the courtyard functions to provide students, professors, and the general public an open area outside the gallery where they can view a few featured sculptures of famed artists. OV

Source: <https://theculturetrip.com>

President's Message, Cont'd From Page 5

Peter Feick, speaking for the Racquet Sports Committee, said all of the winterizing of the courts has been completed and windscreens will be removed shortly.

SAC chair Mary Ann Weaver announced that SAC held a virtual meeting so representatives could meet one another. Due to the pandemic, activities have been at a standstill but they are looking for possible virtual events that would provide entertainment for the Village.

The Oronoque Country Club (OCC) liaison, Mim Schreck, said the golf course plans to remain open as long as there is no snow. They are closed on Monday for maintenance. The resurgence of golf across the country is benefiting OCC. The Grill Room is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is suggested that Villagers call ahead to be sure the schedule has not changed. Announcements about OCC will appear on OVTV Channel 591 and by Eblast if appropriate.

A report from the OCC Ad Hoc Committee was given by

Bill Tanski. The first meeting of that committee was held on Nov. 13. All members, as well as Fred Rodriguez and OCC General Manager Tommy Miller, attended. The purpose of the committee is to ensure that the golf course surrounds our community for years to come. Different options, which are in a concept stage, to ensure the viability of the country club were discussed. Tommy Miller indicated that the parent company, CBIGG, is open to hearing all reasonable proposals.

Finally, this year is not your typical Thanksgiving. It is easy to bemoan what we don't have. There may be fewer guests at our table, no Macy's Parade to watch while the turkey roasts, or no trip to the family member who usually hosts the feast. Let's not let that be our focus, rather, possibly more than ever, we need to be grateful for what we do have. The effort by so many people to care for those who have become ill, neighbors who have helped neighbors, right here at Oronoque Village, and all those who are working so hard to find a way to beat this virus. I am appreciative of being part of this community and for my family and friends and that is my wish for all residents and employees. Please have a very safe, happy and healthy Thanksgiving. OV

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RESIDENT ESSAY

1958

By Patricia Rowe

There was Uncle driving his black Ford with an oversized ashtray where an air conditioner should have been. Aunt, his wife, sat next to him. Backseat passengers were Grandma and the girl child. Suitcases bursting they said their family goodbyes.

Destination: New Hampshire, Lake Winnepesaukee

Route: Boston Post Road

Travel time: 5 hours, give or take

The car ride was long, hot and boring. Uncle decided to occupy the girl's time. He taught her how to read road signs and maps. She became in that instant his undesignated driver. After what seemed like an eternity he pulled off the road. A large tattered sign stood up proudly as red neon letters flashed ... WELCOME TO LITTLE HOLLAND.

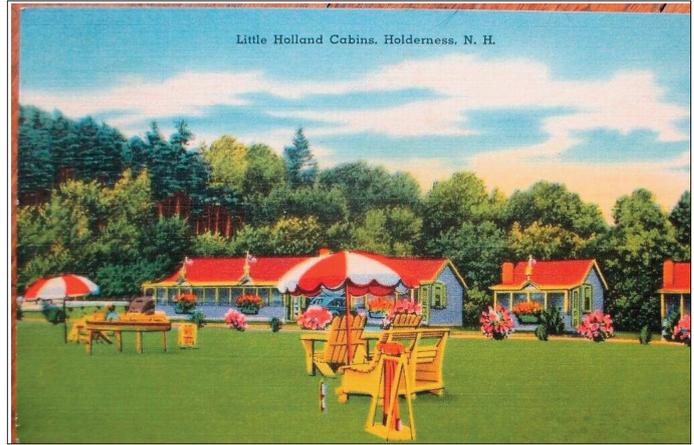
The weary travelers left the Ford like birds in flight. As suitcases were unpacked, Uncle managed to find a few pints of ice cream at a local dairy. Flavors didn't matter. This treat was cold, sweet and delicious.

Days were spent on the cottage porch playing cards, reading, laughing, chatting, snacking and napping. Aunt and Grandma were born in England. They held on tightly to their Cockney accent. Girl was used to their unique communication skills. She called it "sister talk." Conversations usually turned into who's right who's wrong contests with few breaths in between.

Slow walks to the lake were a daily event they all enjoyed.

Rain was not allowed. Uncle rested under a giant willow tree pretending to read. He snoozed into early afternoon. Sisters, hand in hand, tiptoed cautiously into the lake water. Their skirts were hiked way above their knees. Why? To this day that reasoning remains a mystery. Girl was splashing about trying to catch minnows. They managed to slip through her quick fingers like mercury.

Dinner and dessert was celebrated each night in a boxcar



cafe across the road. Early bedtime was an occasion that just happened.

Girl would get under her covers listening to the absolute quiet of the night. She had never experienced a stillness like this. Her entire body tuned into the sounds of crickets chirping and frogs burping.

That old jelly jar she hid on the porch was in a perfect spot. Tomorrow evening it would be rumbling with a miniature fireworks display of lightening bugs.

As their summer visit to Lake Winnepesaukee came to an end, the caravan prepared to leave.

This girl thought Little Holland was a magical place.

One final walk to the lake. Standing barefoot in the cool, clear water a teaspoon of the lake became hers. What would it be like to wake up every day and just exist ... here? Imagining a life without chores, school, homework and nuns. She would willingly let her mind drift for hours in her private world.

Everyone seemed refreshed and renewed as they waved goodbye to their one-week home away from home.

The innocent girl whispered, "I'll be back next summer... will you miss me as much as I'll miss you?"

A sudden gust of hot summer wind rushed through the car windows. To this day she fondly remembers hearing a soft "yesssssssss."

OV

The OVCA & OVTD Boards will not meet in December.

- The next OVCA meeting is Jan. 19, 2021, at 7 p.m.
- OVTD will next meet on Jan. 26, 2021, at 4 p.m.

The meetings will take place virtually via the Zoom platform.

Pickleball
Club's

Holiday Food Drive

Benefiting
South End
Community
Center

"We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others,

when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for?"

With that quote, from Dickens' immortal "A Christmas Carol," a request was made to help those in need over 160 years ago. That timeless classic, and that timeless quote, are as relevant now as they were then.

Stratford's South End Community Center Food Pantry needs our help. The pantry is asking for nonperishables items, such as Canned Tuna, Pasta, Cold and Hot Cereals, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Canned Vegetables, Soups (Dry and Condensed), Rice, Coffee, Teas, Juices.

OV's Pickleball Club has arranged for a food pantry drop-off site outside of the North Clubhouse. Can you please help this cause and contribute a food donation? The drop-off period is Dec. 1st - 13th.

Of course, monetary donations to the Community Center also are accepted. The contact for financial donations is Debbie Patrick, Office Manager, (203) 377-0689, dpatrik@townofstratford.com
Mailing address is South End CC, 19 Bates St., Stratford, CT 06614

*We hope you will generously support this endeavor. We also wish you and yours the best of the holiday season.
-- The OV Pickleball Club*



The OV Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at 2 p.m.
via [GoToMeeting.com](https://www.gotomeeting.com) to discuss
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.

The book is a fresh exploration of isolation and nature from a female perspective along with a compelling love story. The story is set in the 1950s and revolves around a young woman who is from extremely rural North Carolina. Known by others as the Marsh Girl, she lives alone in nature but draws others in. *Crawdads* is a story lovingly told—one that takes its time in developing its characters and setting, and in developing the story. You'll want to relax and take your time as well, and when you're done you will want to talk about it with another reader.

The meeting will be held virtually. For information, email Bahin Samimy at bahinb@yahoo.com

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VILLAGER MAGAZINE
2021 ISSUE & DEADLINE DATES

ISSUE DATES	DEADLINE DATES (Deadlines are at noon)	ISSUE DATES	DEADLINE DATES (Deadlines are at noon)
Jan. 4	Dec. 17	July 1	June 18
Jan. 15	Jan 4	July 15	July 2
Feb 1	Jan 19	Aug. 2	July 20
Feb. 16	Feb 2	Aug. 16	Aug. 3
March 1	Feb16	Sept. 1	Aug. 19
March 15	March 2	Sept. 15	Sept. 2
April 1	March 19	Oct. 1	Sept. 20
April 15	April 1	Oct. 15	Oct. 1
May 3	April 20	Nov. 1	Oct. 19
May 17	May 4	Nov. 15	Nov. 2
June 1	May 18	Dec. 1	Nov. 16
June 15	June 1	Dec. 15	Dec. 2



This schedule is subject to change ... For information on making a submission to the magazine, please contact Villager Editor Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com or call 203-377-5313, ext. 3

The Gift of Holiday Safety For Older Adults

Current circumstances are causing confusion and uncertainty, coupled with loneliness and isolation. Scam artists are taking advantage of fears and solitude, particularly among older adults. COVID-19 scams have already cost Americans more than \$13.7 million*. These include:

Healthcare Scams	Pet Scams	Banking & Investment Scams
Charity Scams	Grandparent Scams	COVID-19 related scams
Email Scams	Romance Scams	



Join People's United Bank, Stratford Police Department and Senior Services to learn how to protect yourself from fraud and scam.



For more information call 203.385.4050

Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
This is a virtual presentation.
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enter meeting number 833-1381-7821#.

**Source: Federal Trade Commission 8/31/20

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the season be yours*

*May the spirit of love and goodwill that fills the
holiday season be with you and your family
now and through the new year*

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