

December 15, 2021



# THE VILLAGER



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On the cover: A festive gingerbread village, titled "Holiday By the Sea," is on display in the South Clubhouse foyer. The village was created by OV residents Karen and Nick Harding and their daughter, Annie McHugh. The building of gingerbread villages is a long-standing holiday tradition for the Harding family and they are happy to share their work with Village residents.

The Villager welcomes photo contributions for cover consideration as well as articles for editorial consideration. Photo submissions must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com). Villager articles should be emailed as either text attachments or with text pasted into the body of an email. All Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of The Associated Press Stylebook.



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## SNOW REMOVAL IN THE VILLAGE

By Tom Aubin, OVTD Vice President, and Mark Rhatigan, Director of Maintenance Operations

Winter weather is quickly arriving, making it the ideal time to review the procedures associated with snow removal. While this article provides fresh insight for the new residents of the Village, it also addresses the challenges and realities experienced by the Maintenance Department as they “dig us out” during the winter months. All snow removal in the Village is the responsibility of the Maintenance Department, including roads, driveways, parking lots and walkways. The Oronoque Village Tax District (OVTD) is responsible for overseeing and budgeting the related expenses.

**Prior to a Storm:** Prior to a storm, road surfaces will be sprayed with an environmentally friendly mixture of treated rock salt to lower the freezing point of water. The same mixture may be used after a storm as a preventative measure against the formation of glazes and black ice.

**Priorities:** Safety is our highest priority along with

the need to provide access to our primary roads for emergency vehicles. The order of roads and areas to be plowed when snowfall accumulates to about two inches is: (1) primary roads (North and South Trails, Agawam and Midwood) (2) secondary roads and lanes (3) clubhouse parking lots (4) driveways (5) extra parking areas and (6) if snowfall is heavy, the primary roads will receive the highest priority before plowing secondary roads and lanes.

**Driveways:** After the roads and lanes are plowed, driveways are cleared, even if overtime must be incurred. We understand the need for residents to have access to their units and vehicles. If possible, move any parked vehicles from the driveway and please open your garage door, permitting the plow blade to remove the ridge of snow nearest to the garage door.

**Walkways:** Walkways are shoveled by hand during normal working hours. Since there are over 900 walkways in the Village, the work is labor-intensive. It may take a few days to have your walkway cleared. If the same snow removal priority were given to walkways as to roads, your OV taxes would be significantly higher. Most people can exit their homes through their garage, except for some units on the southside (Algonquin, Buckskin). These units are identified and given priority consideration. The objective is to clear walkways of snow as soon as possible without adding a significant burden on OV taxpayers.

**Emergency Vehicles:** Since secondary roads have a lower snow removal priority than those listed as primary roads, residents living on secondary roads may have concerns about the response capability of emergency vehicles. In our experience, we have found that EMT and Fire Department personnel can access a home in extreme weather conditions. Stratford’s first responders are equipped to deal with such difficulties. If conditions are such that emergency personnel need additional support, our Maintenance personnel will assist with their plows and shovels.

**Outside Contractors:** If additional help is needed, then outside contractors are available and will be called by the Director of Maintenance Operations to relieve appropriate Maintenance personnel. During a snowstorm, some of our personnel may work throughout the night and into the next day. It can be an exhausting experience for some, and we are concerned with their safety as well as their ability to remain effective in performing their tasks.



### THE VILLAGER

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

The Villager is published by the Communications Committee of The Oronoque Village Condominium Association.

**Disclaimer:** All advertisers are paid submissions and The Villager makes no representation of their credibility. Neither OVCA nor OVTD discriminate in the use of facilities by resident groups.

**Special Consideration(s):** If you have a health-related emergency, please call 911. Priority snow removal can be granted in special cases if the resident provides the Business Office with a doctor's explanation that lists the reasons why snow removal is urgent for the resident. A need to go to work is not considered an emergency or a reason for priority status. If traveling to work is important, then other arrangements should be made prior to a snowstorm. This may be an inconvenience for the resident, but the same practice applies in many other municipalities.

It should be noted that, at the present time, there are close to 35 existing prioritizations for "first in line" with new requests each year. Given that there are a total of 22 workers devoted to the task of snow removal it should be obvious to anyone that managing these priorities is difficult, to say the least. The most efficient way to clear the roads and provide access to the unit garages is to work in stages. Having to divert any personnel away from the staged methodology slows down the entire process.



**In Summary:** Our OV Maintenance employees are equipped with trucks, snowplows, blowers, spreaders and other essential items to deal with winter storms. Their work schedules can be long and fatiguing. Their efforts are to accommodate our needs in a timely manner and keep all of us and our property safe during winter's worst conditions. It is impossible to satisfy everyone's time schedule, and your understanding and patience are appreciated.

For the most part, our roads are cleared before the Town of Stratford provides the same outside the Village. It is important to note that Oronoque Village maintains the lowest ratio of Maintenance employees/number of units

than any similar community in the state. This enables us to keep our taxes down.

Please be careful when walking on snow or ice. If you need Ice Melt, it is available outside the entrances to the clubhouses. Please take only the amount you need. Please remove any vehicles parked in your driveway to a community parking area before a snowstorm. Open the garage door when the driver arrives so the ridge of snow at the base of the door can be removed. Do not ask the driver for extra service around your unit. He is directed

to open all driveways in a timely manner in his sector of responsibility.

Please do not call the Business or Maintenance Offices to ask when your driveway will be plowed. These calls take time and attention away from other required work. Please do not call your own private plow contractor to have your driveway plowed.

Our roads, lanes, driveways and walkways are privately owned by OVCA. Private contractors may not be adequately insured or familiar with the property. **OV**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MONTHLY JEWELRY-MAKING CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 10

OV resident Ivy Tencer will teach jewelry-making classes on the second Monday of each month, starting Jan. 10 from 7-9 p.m. in the arts and crafts room at SCB.

The sessions, themed "Everything Old is New Again," will enable students to work with existing jewelry or create brand new pieces.

Students may bring old or broken beaded jewelry and learn how to restring it or take the beads and make something entirely different.

"If beads are lost, not to worry, there are plenty to add and if you have all the beads, embellish them with addition beads or spacers," says Ivy.



She adds, "If you prefer, you may also make a brand new necklace, bracelet or earrings from scratch. Learn the essentials of jewelry-making with memory wire or basic stringing.

"Have fun and learn something new while creating one-of-a-kind pieces for yourself or as a gift," she says. "The memory wire pieces are easy to wear as there is no clasp required to close them."

Wine and cheese will be served during the sessions. Each class costs \$25 per person and includes all supplies. Fees are payable by check or credit card at the time of the class.

Questions? Call or text Ivy at 732-995-2840 or email [itencer@icloud.com](mailto:itencer@icloud.com)

### BRAVO PLANNING MEETING JANUARY 11, 6 P.M., AT SCB

The long COVID lockdown last year forced the cancellation of BRAVO's (Best Readers Actors in the Village of Oronoque) planned production. Director Bob Krakovich is seeking talented (and some not-so-talented) Villagers who may be interested in joining our troupe of performers.

The name of the show is "Burlesque – Oronoque Style" and consists of vaudeville-type songs, skits and slapstick comedy from yesteryear. The lineup of songs/skits/jokes has already been determined, however new thoughts and material will be reviewed for inclusion in the production.

Please come to a planning meeting on Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at SCB if you have secretly wanted to be part of a theatrical production, but felt intimidated. Oronoque's BRAVO "family" is a fun group. Call Bob Krakovich at 203-752-6105 with questions.

### CALL FOR ART ON JANUARY 4

The OV Arts Guild's winter art show will be installed on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022. The theme is "The Eyes Have It." Be as creative as you wish with the theme...we're flexible! A portrait would be perfect, but if you don't have one, how about a cockeyed painting or something in nature that looks like eyes (think peacock feathers). Name your artwork to make it fit....birdseye view, a sight for sore eyes or an eyeeful of something. You get the idea.



Bring one or two pieces of artwork to the SCB front card room on Jan. 4 between 10 and 11 a.m. Be sure your work is securely wired across the back. This show is open to all mediums; there are pedestals available for three-dimensional artwork.

If you have questions or need a special arrangement for getting your artwork to SCB, contact Barbara Stewart at 203-612-1373 or [barbsmt@yahoo.com](mailto:barbsmt@yahoo.com).

The reception for this show is on Sunday, Jan. 16, 4 p.m. at SCB.

### CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Residents who would like to dispose of their Christmas trees can place them outside on Sunday evening for curbside pickup by the Maintenance Department on Monday. Trees should be free of all wrappings, lights and decorations. Artificial trees are not included in this pickup and may be disposed of during Oronoque Village Clean Up Day, which will take place in the spring.

### FIREWOOD & ICE MELT AVAILABLE

Firewood and Ice Melt are available to at both club-houses. Residents will need to use their own containers or carriers for transporting these items.

Please take only what you need for personal use. These items are intended for resident-use only.

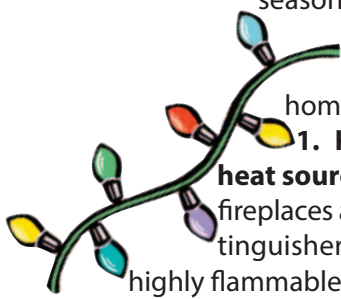
**Important:** Do not store large amounts of firewood on or underneath your deck as this is an invitation for termites.

# MAINTENANCE MATTERS

## 11 DECORATING TIPS FOR CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY SAFELY

The holiday season is here! No matter if you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or all three, we're excited to share in the holiday spirit. It's easy to get caught up in the festivities, and while you're busy decorating the house, safety may be one of the last things on your mind.

To ensure you have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season with your friends and family, here are 11 tips to keep in mind as you deck out your home:



**1. Keep live trees away from heat sources.** Place your tree away from fireplaces and heaters, and keep a fire extinguisher near your tree. Live trees are highly flammable, due to needles and sap.

**2. Hydrate your tree.** A dried-out tree can catch fire faster than one that has been properly watered. Check the water level every other day to ensure proper hydration. Starting with a green tree is one way to keep it from drying out so quickly.

**3. Fake it!** If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it's labeled "fire resistant." Fire-resistant trees are less susceptible to catching fire.

**4. Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.** Paper can catch fire very quickly and can cause flash fires. Instead, recycle (or better yet, reuse!) your wrapping paper.

**5. Work as a team.** When stringing lights and decorations above your normal reach, make sure you use a proper ladder with someone supporting the base.

**6. Double-check your lights for safety.** Replace any lights with frayed wires, broken sockets, and loose connections.

**7. Power down before you turn in.** Turn off all lights when you go to bed and before leaving the house to avoid a short that could start an electrical fire.

**8. Prevent electrical cord damage.** Don't mount lights in a way that might damage the cords, and avoid using nails or tacks. Use hooks or insulated staples instead.

**9. Secure candles.** Keep candles on a sturdy base to prevent tipping. Never leave a lit candle unattended.

**10. Use unbreakable ornaments.** If you have fragile ornament, place them out of reach from pets and kids.

**11. Beware of poisonous plants.** While festive, poinsettias are poisonous when eaten, so keep them out of reach of kids and pets.

Happy holidays!

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



## PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES

It is important to remember that when winter temperatures drop to as low as 11 to 12 degrees, there is an increased potential for damages caused by frozen pipes.

When frozen pipes burst, water spreads from the burst pipe and saturates everything in its path, causing damages to walls, ceilings, floors and irreplaceable personal items such as photographs, journals, yearbooks and other paper-based mementos.

Ultimately, these damages will be the cause of a higher cost for insurance premiums.

With proper precautions, frozen pipes—and the resulting damages—are avoidable. Please take the following measures to keep your pipes from freezing when the temperatures become frigid:

Make sure your lower level thermostat is set at a minimum of 65 degrees.

Make sure all outside faucets are turned off and your hoses have been stored.

Please be reminded that, in preparation for the winter weather, you should turn off the water feeding your outdoor spigot. This process will help prevent freezing and pipe bursts. It is a good idea to first turn off the water from inside your unit and then open your outside spigot to allow excess water to escape from your water line.

Trickle water through your faucets that are against outside walls. Let cold water drip overnight.

Keep your thermostat set at the same temperature during both day and night. You might be in the habit of turning down the heat when you're asleep, but further drops in the temperature may freeze your pipes.

Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.

Remove ceiling tiles in the lower level to allow warm air to ventilate pipes.

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## ACTIVITIES

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent via email, to Carol King at [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com). (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on Jan. 3, 2022, is Dec. 20, 2021 at noon.*

### CORNHOLE

- Cornhole is played on Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon, at SCB.

### CURRENT EVENTS

- The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays Jan. 5 and 19, Feb. 2 and 16, March 2, 16 and 30.

### DOLLCRAFTERS

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

### DROP-IN BRIDGE

- Drop-in Bridge takes place on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the NCB Lounge. All levels of bridge players are encouraged to attend; no need to bring a partner. There is no fee to participate. For information, please contact Wendy Swain at 203-386-9125. Proof of vaccination required.

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

- The Ladies Bible Study welcomes all resident women. Proof of vaccination is not required, but nonvaccinated ladies must wear masks. There are no fees to join. Purchasing study materials is optional. Meetings are on the second and fourth Fridays in the NCB Board Room from 10:30 to noon (excluding July and August.) Questions? Call Angie McKelvey (203-227-3222) or Tina Vermette (203-375-0291).

### LINE DANCING

- Line dancing classes are held on Wednesdays at NCB. Beginner classes are held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all levels at 10 a.m. No masking is required for anyone who has received the booster or third shot. All others must wear masks.

### LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS

- Low-impact exercise classes, taught by Renee Zinn, are held at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays at NCB. Bring weights and water. Proof of vaccination and masks are required.

### PING PONG GROUP

- Players of all levels are invited to join this group on the second floor of the South Clubhouse Fridays at 10 a.m. and Mondays at 6 p.m. For information, email Wayne Cotter at [wcotter999@gmail.com](mailto:wcotter999@gmail.com).

### POOL SOCIAL GROUP

- Anyone who enjoys socializing in and around the pools during the summer is invited to attend a get-together from 4-6 p.m. at SCB on the first Tuesday of each month. Come with your favorite appetizer and or beverage (or nothing) for reunions and conversations. Call Sonya at 203-377-1515 for more information.

### QUILTING GROUP

- Village quilters meet at the NCB Card Room on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

### TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

- Tea, Talk, and Crafts meets at 1 p.m. on Thursdays next to the kitchen at SCB Annual dues are \$10. Questions? Call Irene Sanzone at 203-378-2010. Vaccinated members only. Please show proof.

### WRITER'S GROUP

- The Oronoque Village Writer's Group (OVWG) is a group of writers who enjoy the challenges of writing and of sharing their work in a trusted environment. Members commit to attending workshops twice a month in a respectful, supportive and professional environment with hopes of expanding their writing and publishing horizons. Our members include published authors and hobbyists. Our works include essays, memoirs, poems, short stories, treatises, humorous tales, heart-wrenching histories. The group meets on alternate Thursdays at 2 p.m. in the Card Room at SCB. For information about joining, contact Mary von Ziegesar at [MvonZ@optonline.net](mailto:MvonZ@optonline.net) or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.



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## FEATURE: PLETMAN SEASON FINALE

### GLORIOUS WORLD TOUR ENDS PLETMAN CONCERTS FALL SERIES



Left, Pletman Concert performers Adam Graboic and Margarita Nuller. Right, Renee Zinn (left) and Barbara Brown assisted with vaccine card checking and ticket sales.



#### Story by Elisabeth Breslav ~ Photos by Arline Walton

During this extended time of limited ability to go on trips by most of us, cellist Adam Graboic and pianist Margarita Nuller offered the audience a musical voyage from Germany to France, Russia, Spain and America. On Sunday, Nov. 21, some 50 residents marveled at a program that spoke to something in the national character of the land in which it was written and that excelled both in technical mastery of the instruments and musical sensitivity.

Germany was represented by Beethoven with a set of variations on a theme by Handel, and Schumann with the third of his “Fantasy” pieces. In his introduction, Adam drew the audience’s attention to Beethoven’s tendency to “create mood through detailed and painstaking examination, whereas Schumann’s approach feels like it springs directly from his id.”

From 20th-century America, we heard the “Romanza, Op.22” by Arthur Foote, who deserves to be better known for the many wonderful chamber works he has crafted in addition to a handful of beautiful works for cello and piano.

Next came a short, very sweet lullaby – “Berceuse” — by Hartford-born Charles Ives, who was originally better known in the insurance industry for founding what became the Ives & Myrick Company, but was later recog-

nized as a hugely creative and iconoclastic composer.

Frenchman Claude Debussy, like the Impressionist painters, was able to capture a world of light, mystery or, perhaps, even theater, as we heard in the innovative and playful transcription for cello and piano of his “Minstrels,” from book 1 of the Piano Preludes. From another French Impressionist, Maurice Ravel, we heard “Habanera,” a dance with a highly characteristic Spanish rhythm.

The next stop on the tour was Russia, to sample movements from two large-scale sonatas. The sonata for cello and piano by Rachmaninov, completed in 1901, is one of his relatively few chamber works. It is sometimes melancholy, sometimes exuberant and soaring, and always filled with profound feeling. It was followed by Prokofiev’s “Sonata in C Major” for cello and piano which contains lots of special effects including pizzicato, ricochet and harmonics.

Having previously been presented with a Spanish piece by a French composer, the program ended with two Italian pieces by a Spanish composer, Gaspar Casado. Both the “Toccata” and the “Requiebros” (flirtations) have the rhythms, the push-and-pull of the tempo, the extremes of color and mood of Spanish music.

It was impossible not to be moved by the lovely encore, “The Swan” by Saint-Saëns, and there was unanimous agreement: We want them to come back!

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## WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL THE OV SECURITY NUMBER?

Oronoque Village has a security phone number (203-377-5502) that is manned by a 24-hour-a-day answering service. This number is meant for residents who experience maintenance-related emergencies, such as a water main break, sewage backup or roof leak.

The security phone number should never be called when you are in need of a first-responder.

### It is imperative that you call 911 to report:

- Medical-related emergencies
- Fire or a possible fire
- Suspicious-looking activity in your neighborhood
- Traffic accidents
- Any crime involving bodily assault.



- Domestic violence incidents
- Theft or intentional damage to property
- Bomb, terrorist or hate-bias threats or acts
- Burglary (entering a structure with the intent to commit a crime, e.g. theft, damage to property)

*If you have a power outage, please contact United Illuminating at 800-722-5584.*

*Gas leaks should be reported to Southern Connecticut Gas company at 800-513-8898.*

*Routine police calls should go to 203-385-4100. **OV***

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*Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Linda Arvers at [larvers@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:larvers@oronoquevillage.com)*

*For the latest on OV news & events, go to [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com) or OVTV. OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box.*

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15**

- 9:00 a.m. – Drop-in Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginner, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie Club: *Queen Bees*, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16**

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilting Group, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- 

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17**

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

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18: No scheduled events**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19: No events scheduled**

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 20**

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:00 P.m. – Ping Pong, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21**

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

- 9:00 a.m. – Drop-in Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginner, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23**

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

### Business & Maintenance Offices Closed

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25: No events scheduled

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26: No events scheduled

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 9:00 a.m. – Drop-in Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginner, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

### Business & Maintenance Offices Closed

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 1: No events scheduled

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 2: No events scheduled

## MONDAY, JANUARY 3

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB

**SIMPLE STEPS FOR**

# SAFELY WALKING AT NIGHT

**1 REFLECTIVE GEAR**  
Many athletic jackets, shoes, and pants are made with reflectors. Reflective bands or tape can also be used to be seen.



**2 LIGHT THE WAY**  
Use a headlamp or flashlight to light up your route.



**3 BE CAUTIOUS OF TRAFFIC**  
Be aware of traffic around you. Face oncoming traffic to see approaching headlights.



**4 BRING A FRIEND**  
Drivers are more likely to see two walkers than one. Walking with a friend is also more enjoyable.



**5 LAYER UP**  
Stay warm and layer up. You can wrap jackets around your waist if you get warm. Mittens and hats can fit into pockets.



**Have fun and stay safe!**

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – SAC Meeting, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB

## FEATURE

### 9 TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR THE FRIGID TEMPERATURES

Frigid air can impact your vehicle's performance. Battery failures are the primary reason for emergency calls to AAA Northeast in winter months.

"A vehicle's battery loses 30 of its power when the temperature drops to freezing, and 60 percent of its power when the temperature is near zero," said Robert Sinclair Jr., senior manager of media relations for AAA Northeast.

Here are some recommendations for preparing your vehicle for cold weather conditions:

**1. Emergency Roadside Kit:** Always carry an emergency kit that includes basic tools, a traction aid (like sand or non-clumping kitty litter), jumper cables, gloves, flashlight and a charged cellphone.

**2. Battery & Charging System:** If it is more than three years old, consider having the battery tested. To start up during a cold snap, your car needs a fully charged battery.

**3. Tires:** Proper inflation is critical. Tires lose one PSI of pressure for every 10 degrees the air temperature drops. Tires also lose about one PSI per month through normal aspiration. Underinflated tires can overheat and blow out. Examine tires for tread depth and uneven wear. Increased tread depth increases traction with the road surface in poor weather conditions and can prevent skids on icy or wet surfaces.

**4. Coolant:** Check the coolant level in the overflow tank when the engine is cold. Also, inspect the cooling system hoses for leaks, cracks or loose clamps.

**5. Oil:** Oil should be changed based on the manufacturer's recommendations. Synthetic oil can be an advantage



in cold weather because it will allow for faster starts.

**6. Wipers:** Replace any wiper blade that does not adequately clean the windshield. Wrap wipers in plastic bags before a snowstorm or ice storm to prevent them from becoming stuck to the windshield and damaged.

**7. Snow/Ice:** In snow or ice, it is best to not drive. If driving is necessary, drive slowly, refrain from using cruise control, allow for increased following distances between vehicles, and use the accelerator and brake gently. Before you start driving, remove all snow and ice, including the top of your vehicle.

**8. Before Driving:** Check tire tread. Fill the gas tank. Clear/clean all lights and windows. Ensure the vehicle's heater and defroster are working properly.

**9. Supplies:** Keep these supplies handy during the winter: Snow shovel, broom and ice scraper and abrasive material (such as sand or kitty litter) in case the vehicle gets stuck in the snow.

OV

## OV SNAPSHOTS: FAREWELL TO FALL



Thanks to photographers Sue Schettini (left) and Barbara Stewart (below) for capturing the colorful foliage that abounds in this community during autumn.





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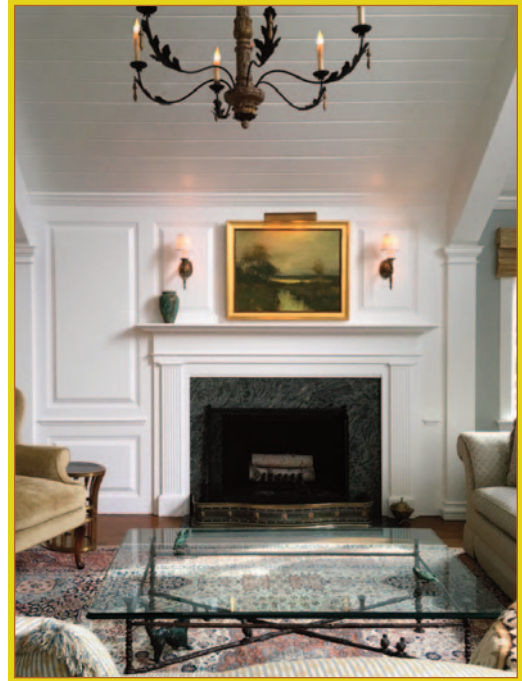
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## ARTIST OF THE MONTH: CAROLE GUGLIELMINO

**Editor's Note:** Due to a production error, the Artist of the Month article about Carole Guglielmino, published in the Dec. 1 issue of *The Villager*, was dated. Below is the current article.

This month, visitors at NCB will enjoy the second showing of works by Carole Guglielmino. Since her past show in 2019, Carole retired from a long career as a software professional. Although the timing was just prior to the COVID lockdown, this proved to be an opportunity to further both her art and golf game.


She started painting in the mid-90s when she was in-between jobs and took a drawing class at the Art Student League in New York City. Not only did she love creating images with charcoal on paper, but she also met a lot of artists.

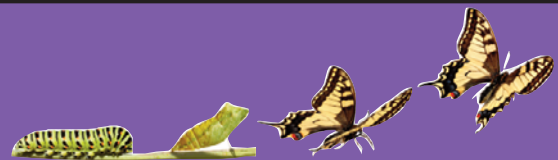
She was delighted to tap into a previously unrealized talent. "The drawing class was the push I needed," she says. "We are so fortunate to be in a community with so many activities. It really helped me survive the isolation of COVID".

She joined other artists online for weekly sculpture classes. "The classes, led by Wendy Swain, were challenging due to the new online tools we had to use but also productive with the group having two outside sculpture shows," says Carole.

In addition to sculpting, she was also involved with two art "challenges" online that were started by Southbury-based artist Alain Picard. The first challenge was to create a painting each day for the month of January 2020. Carole admits it was daunting to find subjects and the energy to paint each day. But, after prevailing with the daily task, she found the next challenge — 30 paintings in the first three months of 2021 — to be easier. These exercises pushed her so much and she saw huge progress in her work.

As the world opened up a bit, she has gone outside to paint with her instructor, Karen Israel. But as the cold comes in, she is looking to get back online with workshops from various artists in the world. "The one benefit of online painting is not having to leave home and get some of the best instructions from artists around the world!" she notes.

Along with continuing her art, Carole hopes to be able to get in some warm weather trips to keep up her golf game in the winter months. 



The Fall Galerie OV show,  
"Transitions ~ From Autumn  
to Winter and Beyond,"

is on view at the  
South Clubhouse

through Dec. 31.



# RESIDENT POETRY

## SIGNS

Our first hunt!  
My brother and I joined  
our father and the dogs,  
shook sleep into the autumn chill  
and marched through snow  
on a stranger's land,  
ignoring a "No Hunting!" sign  
nailed to an Ivory alder.

We licked the bright air,  
delicious on our lips  
and waited for the dogs  
to flush a quail  
from the cover of tangled bushes.  
Expectant, I clicked on the safety  
and pulled the oiled trigger.  
Off - on - pull; off - on - pull...

The air exploded!  
Inches from my brother's boots  
steam issued from the shotgunned ground

like vapor rising from a man-hole cover  
as terror infiltrated our adolescent eyes.  
Just then a hare, its whole  
hind legs, the next best thing  
to wings, flew across the crust  
of snow, a natural contraction  
of muscle, skin and bone.

That was my last hunt, but  
my brother was to hunt again—  
in rice fields  
halfway around the world,  
to return with purple heart  
and graveyard eyes  
full of soldiers gone to seed,  
to return with hands  
that move like startled doves  
when he suddenly begins to sign  
his admonitions in the street,  
though the impatient world  
turns a deaf ear.

— Richard Bittner



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## NOT THAT AGAIN!

By Elisabeth Breslav

How many times a day do I vent my exasperation using those words? Let me count the ways:

1. On television: When the little blue baby bear wiggles its butt at me and exhorts me to "Stop the itch and enjoy the go." (toilet paper commercial)

2. Or when a strapping football hero all but faints as he sniffs his socks and t-shirt before dropping them disgustedly in the washing machine. (This laundry additive commercial also offers the other side of the olfactory spectrum via an orgasmic smile on the face of a woman smelling a blouse just retrieved from the dryer.)

3. Or how about the benevolent doctor, recommending a medication for exactly your various ailments that would do wonders for you as long you don't have side

effects that could cause blindness, hearing loss, stroke or death, among others?

4. On the phone: When a gloomy voice announces that your credit card has been compromised – and you must press 1 to get help. Variations on this theme include misused Social Security accounts, subscriptions to your favorite magazines about to expire, or the imminent cancellation of your overdue car insurance. Not all of them spell gloom and doom. You might be the lucky one selected to receive a fabulous gift. There appears to be no end to what pressing 1 can get you, or get you into.

5. On the computer – when it swallows a file you are positive you saved.

6. To the friend who tells you how well you look, when a consultation with the mirror that morning had shown you that your widow's "peak" is turning into a massive mesa.

7. To ...but no – Not THAT Again!

*A collection of responses to a 5-minute challenge: "My Favorite Body Part"*

My favorite body part is definitely my mouth. Why is my mouth my favorite body part? Because I love to eat. I like to talk – well, not as much as to eat – and to whistle – well, not as much as to eat, and I can't whistle as well as I could before Bell's Palsy. My mouth kisses, sips wine, savors steak, turns up, down and sideways with my moods, lets my tongue stick out on command, and it occasionally likes to get dressed up with a pale rose lipstick. What my mouth sometimes does, without a command and quite uncontrollably, is to drool, especially when I see something delicious to eat. What my mouth also sometimes does is – NOT know when to shut. Like now.

—Mary W. von Ziegesar

My favorite body part is my brain. It has been the most useful part of my body. Think of the uses: with it I can see, hear, talk and sense other people's responses. Without it I would not taste, laugh and be a participating part of the world.

—Janet Clayman

My favorite body parts are those that do not hurt. There are fewer and fewer of them as time marches on. Right now I favor my right pinkie.

—Elisabeth Breslav

My favorite body part is my mouth. Without it I would be unable to eat my favorite vegetable, namely

chocolate. Also, there are many other things that I would be unable to do. I won't mention all of them, but speaking in front of people at the Writer's Group is lots of fun, and breathing through my mouth, and not just my nose, is also a great advantage. Without a mouth I would not be able to stick my tongue out, but maybe that would be a good thing.

—Peter Geltner

My favorite body part is ... well let me see ... I've finally come to an age where I don't want to see

So, I don't look in the mirror, at least I try  
Not to look or I'll have a good long cry

But the other day just by chance  
I slipped a bit and took a glance

And low and behold what a delight  
I did not scream, it was not that much of a fright

I saw not only a darling friend  
My other me who writes with this pen

But also a surprise stuck to the mirror  
A Post-It-Note from my husband asking me out to dinner.

—Maddy Lapidés


**Continued on next page**

## WORKS FROM THE OV WRITER'S GROUP


The part of my body that I most favor is actually a space. Some say that it centers in the brain or the heart or the eyes, or even the solar plexus. All I know is that an invisible X marks my spot where this treasure is comfortably situated, the blessing of the divine light and energy of my soul. Here dwell§ my truth, the intangible and ethereal source of love, healing and every other power with the potential to affect my choices, my relationships, thereby transforming my world and other's. Life's map toward my discovery has often been a confusing maze through jungles and deserts, sometimes, a seemingly insurmountable climb to snowy peaks, or even facing unpredictable precarious cliffs, daring me to hang on with bloody fingers until a bridge across the chasm suddenly rises toward my feet, to be accessed by a leap of faith.

—Anne R. Z. Schulman

OV




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# FROM THE COMMUNITY

Compiled by Bruce Pollock, Communications Committee

If you would like to contribute articles to this section, please contact Bruce at BAP203@yahoo.com or 203-520-3896 or Villager Editor Carol King at 203-377-5313, ext. 3, or cking@oronoquevillage.com

## THANKSGIVING LEFTOVERS NOVEMBER 2021

By Bob Macaluso

We had two different Thanksgivings when there wasn't a leftover shred of turkey, spoon of stuffing or sliver of homemade pie. There were no evening raids on the refrigerator, no turkey sandwiches, no chunky pot pies, no hearty turkey soup and no recycled desserts. All that remained was a lime green puddle from Aunt Theresa's luminescent Jell-O mold.

Aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws shared our feast and, along with late-arriving friends, celebrate "Happy Birthday!" for a son and daughter born years apart on Thanksgiving. There were two candlelit cakes — one chocolate with butter crême, the other lemon frosted with chocolate. And homemade pumpkin, apple, berry, lemon meringue and cream pies, brownies, cookies, cupcakes and Aunt Theresa's dreaded lime green Jell-O mold.

At dinner we'd attack the butter-basted roasted turkey with chubby legs and thighs that begged to be gnawed to their drumsticks and savory stuffing spilling from under the plump, moist white breast. Platters of roasted, mashed, baked and scalloped potatoes, candied yams, buttered corn, succotash, peas and carrots, green beans, baked beans, creamed onions, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, applesauce, garden salad, Caesar salad, three-bean salad, hot cornbread and fragrant light-brown gravy complete the banquet.

Many Thanksgivings ago a surprise ice storm stranded our guests until noon the next day. Air mattresses, sleeping bags, couches, recliners, quilts, blankets, and pillows made

cozy sleeping places and dinner leftovers disappeared before everyone fell asleep. Desserts accompanied breakfasts of French toast, pancakes, bacon and eggs, and cereal. The lime green Jell-O had melted-away long before the frosted windshields and slippery roads.

Years later, our son — the birthday boy — had mentioned that a few of his college friends might be stopping by. As we were finishing dinner, we were awed to see most of UConn's basketball team at the front door. They had chosen to drive rather than ride the team bus to Madison Square Garden to compete in the weekend's invitational tournament. After morning practice in Storrs they "were starved!" Just enough of the turkey skeleton survived to flavor a mostly-vegetable noodle soup. A thawing mold of lime green Jell-O sat shimmering by itself at the dessert table.

That highly energized UConn team performed well in the weekend tournament and months later went on to an NCAA "March Madness" Final Four playoff round.

For the past decade our son — the birthday boy — and his family host Thanksgiving and we celebrate the birthday of one of his sons, our youngest grandchild. There is a third candle-lit cake with crunchy chocolate crumbles on vanilla ice cream. We are all thankful that there is no Jell-O!

New generations of family and friends enjoy sharing the traditions and stories and laugh remembering Aunt Theresa's fluorescent contribution. We always sleep over with or without a surprise ice storm.

OV

**KNOCK, KNOCK.**

*Who's there?*

**Nobel.**

*Nobel who?*

**Nobel...that's why I  
knocked.**

**KNOCK, KNOCK**

*Who's there?*

**A little old lady.**

*A little old lady who?*

**Hey, you can yodel!**



## HANDCRAFTED DOLLS FOR SALE

OV Dollcrafters is selling dolls for those looking for a wonderful gift for a grandchild or child of a friend. Suggested donation: \$20 minimum.

Dollcrafters began more than 20 years ago with a group of dedicated women who wanted to help children in crisis. The Dollcrafters Club has donation liaisons to Ronald McDonald House, Silver Wings, Center for Family Justice, St. Vincent's Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital and fire and police departments.

For more information, contact: Merrilees at 203-378-8753.

**OV Karaoke Club:  
No fees or dues -  
No commitments - Just fun!**

Join us for Karaoke on  
Friday, Dec. 17, in the South Clubhouse  
Auditorium from 6:30-9 p.m.



Come sing or just listen to  
your friends and neighbors  
showing off their talents.

A good time is guaranteed for all.

Proof of vaccination is required if you have  
not already provided at a previous  
Dance/Karaoke event.

Only vaccinated residents will be admitted.

BYOB, food, and refreshments!



**Presents Our New Art Show**

*The Eyes  
Have It*



*OPENING RECEPTION* **Sunday , January 16, 2022 4pm SCB**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

*The Oronoque Village 50th Anniversary Gala celebration will be on Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th, 2022.*



**Mark your calendars.**

*Details will be announced in the coming months.*

Clip and save



## VILLAGER DEADLINES FOR 2022

The Villager magazine is published on the 1st and 15th of each month, when possible. At right are the scheduled dates of publication and the tentative deadlines for 2022. (These dates are subject to change.) **All submissions must be received no later than noon on the deadline date.**



Jan. 3 Villager has a deadline of Dec. 20.  
Jan. 15 Villager has a deadline of Jan. 4.  
Feb 1 Villager has a deadline of Jan.19  
Feb. 15 Villager has a deadline of Feb. 2  
March 1 Villager has a deadline of Feb. 16  
March 15 Villager has a deadline of March 2  
April 1 Villager has a deadline of March 21  
April 15 Villager has a deadline of April 4  
May 1 Villager has a deadline of April 19  
May 16 Villager has a deadline of May 3  
June 1 Villager has a deadline of May 19  
June 15 Villager has a deadline of June 2  
July 1 Villager has a deadline of June 20  
July 15 Villager has a deadline of July 5  
Aug. 1 Villager has a deadline of July 19  
Aug. 15 Villager has a deadline of Aug. 2  
Sept. 1 Villager has a deadline of Aug. 19  
Sept. 15 Villager has a deadline of Sept. 6  
Oct. 3 Villager has a deadline of Sept. 20  
Oct. 17 Villager has a deadline of Oct. 4  
Nov. 1 Villager has a deadline of Oct. 12  
Nov. 15 Villager has a deadline of Nov.r 2  
Dec. 1 Villager has a deadline of Nov. 18  
Dec. 15 Villager has a deadline of Dec. 5

**Don't forget to contribute to  
the Employee Appreciation Fund  
this holiday season!**



## ***TIS THE GIVING SEASON!***

Let's show our appreciation to our Maintenance crews and Office staff members this season! Our community is fortunate to have employees who are dedicated to our daily needs .....spring, summer fall and winter in all weather conditions. Residents, Districts, and Clubs use our facilities throughout the year. Our generous gifts will bring holiday cheer, so please contribute to the Employee Appreciation Fund NOW!

Please make checks payable to "OVCA" and write Employee Appreciation Fund on the memo line. Then place in the outside dropbox at NCB before Dec. 16.

**THANK YOU** on behalf of our Employees!



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