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The Oronoque Village toy drive on behalf of Sterling House Community Center was a tremendous success. Approximately 10 large-size bags of donations -- generously contributed by OV residents -- were delivered to Sterling House prior to the gift-giving holidays. Pictured on the cover are, from left, Donna Kelly and Emily Shufrin of Sterling House with Maintenance Department staff members Harris Bonfiglio, Mike Caplinger and Liza Disisto. The Villager welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Photos must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronoquevillage.com.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA & OVTD PRESIDENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We extend to all the residents of Oronoque Village and employees our warmest wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. Our hope is that during 2022, our community continues to thrive and prosper.

Wishing you 12 months of success, 52 weeks of laughter, 365 days of fun, 8,760 hours of joy and 525,600 minutes of good luck. Happy New Year!

Linda Libertino, OVTD President Lee Schlafer, OVCA President



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.

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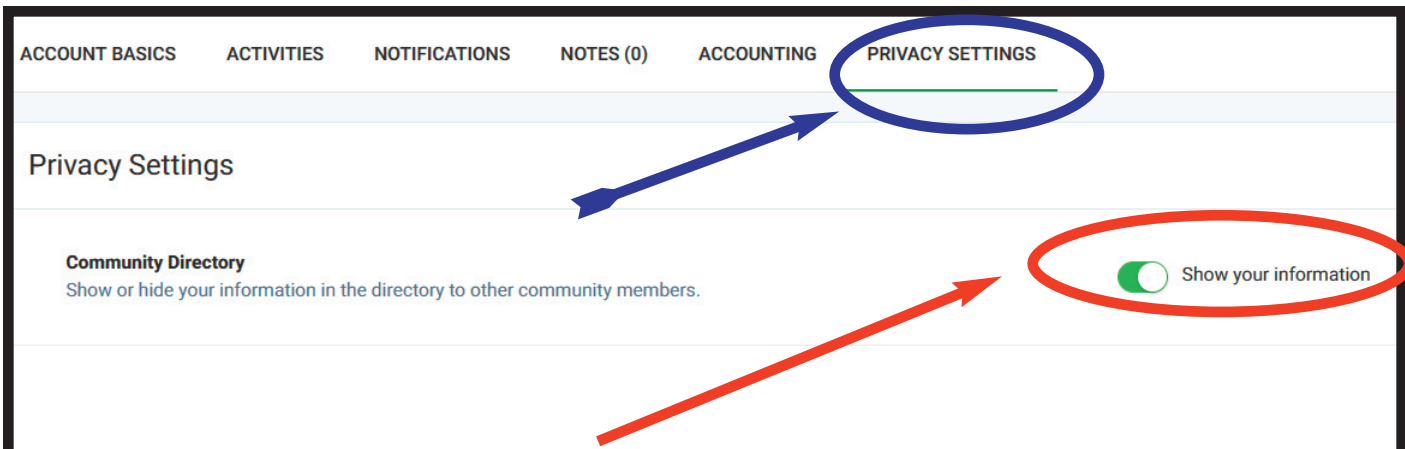
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

JEWELRY-MAKING CLASSES

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."

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

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 clubhouses. 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.

KARAOKE/DANCE PARTIES ON HOLD

The monthly Saturday Night Dance Party events and Karaoke are suspended, temporarily. The events will resume in April at the South Clubhouse.

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MAINTENANCE MATTERS: FIREPLACE SAFETY

Your fireplace is primarily decorative and is not intended as a heating or cooking source. These pre-fabricated metal fireplaces were not designed for those purposes.

However, when used with care, your fireplace will provide wonderful ambience and some heat on a cold winter's day.

To ensure they can do their job, wood-burning and gas fireplaces require maintenance and proper operation. To keep fires under control, a few important fireplace safety tips must be followed:

Wood-Burning Fireplaces

- Make small fires. Use only one artificial log at a time or one or two wood logs. Build the fire toward the back of the firebox.
- Always be certain the damper is open before you start your fire, while it is burning and until all embers are extinguished.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby. Be certain to have a screen or glass doors to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Be sure nothing flammable is near the fireplace.
- Never burn scraps of wood, lumber, charcoal, magazines, garbage or plastics.
- Make sure that the fire is out — completely extinguished and cool — and that ashes and residue are cool to the touch before attempting to clean out the fireplace.
- Use metal containers to hold anything you remove from the fireplace; bring that container outside, at least three feet from any building or bush, to store it.
- Never place fireplace residue in bags or boxes or non-metallic containers and never place removed material on a deck or porch or inside a garage or unit while awaiting final disposal.
- If you burn wood once a week, have your fireplace professionally cleaned every other year. If you burn more than once a week, have it cleaned professionally once a year.
- Never leave a fire burning when you are not at home.

Gas Fireplaces and Heaters

All inserts, gas fireplaces, heaters, etc. must be from an approved manufacturer, must meet Oronoque Village's and other codes, must be installed by a licensed contractor and must be approved by the Architectural Committee.

Provide adequate protection and or alarms from oxygen depletion and carbon monoxide poisoning. Purchase a unit that will disconnect the gas flow when the pilot light is not lit. Fireplace shut-offs must be easily accessible from the unit.



Firewood

Small quantities of firewood are available at both community buildings.

Do not store large amounts on or underneath your deck as this is an invitation for termites.

OV

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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. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on Jan. 17, is Jan. 4 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 is required. Those without proof of booster shots must wear masks.

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. Proof of vaccination required.

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 second 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 or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.

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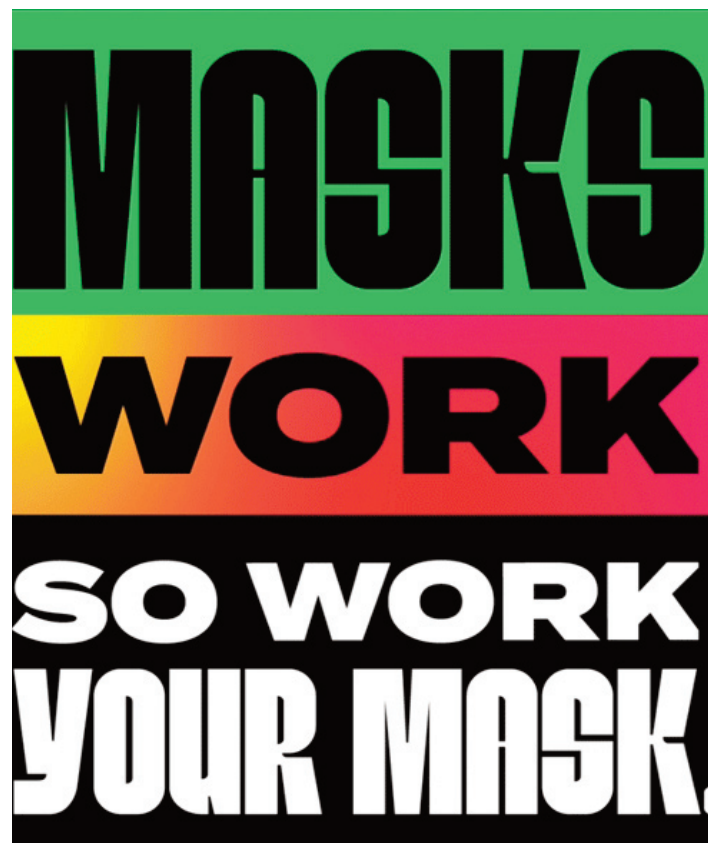
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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: CAROLE SANETTI

Story by Carol King



Carole Sanetti's skill at oil painting came to her as a serendipitous surprise.

"About 5 years ago, just for fun, I attended a 'Paint & Sip' event at the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyo.," she explains. "The participants were asked to paint a buffalo and, at the end of the session, I realized that my painting was really good. When my husband, who was on the board of the museum,

came to get me, he said, "Holy mackerel! Did you know you could do that?"

She didn't. "The last time I painted was in junior high, so this was a complete surprise to both of us!" she says.

Since then, Carole has painted voraciously. She began taking classes online and painting pictures of family keepsakes. "I painted stuffed animals that belong to my grandchildren and my 2-year-old grandson's favorite pacifier. I painted a giant cherry that my daughter has hanging in her home. For my daughter-in-law, who is a professor at the University of Connecticut, I painted a large-size image of the UConn Husky mascot."

She adds, "A few years back I painted a portrait of my granddaughter's favorite stuffed toy, a bunny, that she later lost. The painting of the bunny she still has, which makes her treasure the piece even more."

Recently, Carole ventured into painting small-size "kitchen" artwork, featuring renderings of fruits and vegetables. As a resident of New Hampshire (where the Sanettis own a second home), she was able to place her works in a local giftshop. In just a few weeks, her works garnered interest and sales. Also, she has been commissioned to paint pet portraits.

Another fortuitous coincidence for Carole is that she and her husband, Steve, who met in Virginia, are both natives of Long Island. "I grew up in Sayville, Suffolk County, and he was raised in Hicksville. We both went away to college at 18, and never looked back!" The couple met while Steve was a third-year student at Washington & Lee University School of Law in Lexington.

"I was working at a local junior college nearby as a guidance counselor," says Carole. "We met when we both signed-up to participate in a mock trial event."

Once together, the couple married and traveled from



Left, Carole Sanetti. Above, a still life painting shown with the actual model.

Virginia to Fort Hood, Texas, and, eventually, they moved to Main Street in Stratford where they resided for 35 years and raised a family.

"We lived next door to our very dear friends, John and Mary Maco, who later moved to Oronoque Village," says Carole.

While raising two kids, Carole went back to school, earning a master's degree in early childhood education and taught at Grace Lutheran Church Nursery School in Stratford for 15 years. She then moved to the other end of the educational spectrum, and taught child development at Eastern Connecticut State University for about 10 years.

When the Sanettis decided to retire and downsize, they came to Oronoque Village based on the Macos' recommendation. "We arrived here two years ago, the day before the governor shut down the state," Carole says with a wry smile. "During 2020, we moved three times; we went from Main Street to a Thoreau on Narragansett and then to a Peabody on Comanche next to Dave and Sherry Bearse, who are wonderful neighbors."

During the pandemic, she spent time focusing on painting. Now that the community has reopened, Carole is enjoying her membership in the OV Arts Guild and has participated in two member shows. She also attends exercise classes and spends time on the pickleball courts.

Residents are encouraged to visit the North Clubhouse during the month of January and enjoy the showings of Carole's still life paintings, which are on view in the front and rear hallways.

OV

REMINDER FOR RESIDENTS

PET OWNERSHIP

Oronoque Village allows its residents to own pets, with a limit of one pet per unit. However, there are specific guidelines that pet owners must follow.

1. One pet is permitted per unit.
2. Pets must be leashed when outside.
3. Pet waste must be picked up.
4. Pets may not be left unattended when outside.
5. Pet owners must maintain control of their pets.
6. Pets are not permitted to cause an ongoing disturbance.
7. Pets (excluding properly identified service dogs) are not permitted in the clubhouses, swimming pools, gym, racquet sports courts or other facilities.
8. Pets (animals) may not be raised or bred in or out of any unit in the Village.
9. Cats may not be let out to roam.
10. Dog owners must not permit their pet to walk on plants and should be mindful of other residents' privacy when walking near units.

Information

1. Residents who have issues with a pet's behavior or with animal cruelty should contact the Town of Stratford Animal Control Department at 203-385-4068. Residents should also alert the Business Office that this action has been taken.
2. Dog owners who use expandable leashes should ensure that their pet does not cause a problem to an oncoming vehicle or pedestrian.

BIRD FEEDER RULES

1. Bird feeders may be used seasonally. Seed and suet feeders are permitted from Oct. 15 through May 15. Hummingbird feeders may be used from May 1 through Oct. 30.

2. Seed bird feeders can only be tube type, squirrel resistant and must include a seed tray. They must be mounted on a pole at least six feet above the ground.

3. Bird feeders may only be placed in the foundation planting area.

4. Only one type of each bird feeder is permitted per unit.

5. Individuals having bird feeders are responsible for cleaning up fallen seed to prevent it from accumulating and attracting rodents.

Information

1. Hummingbird feeders are most effective when hung in the deck area.

2. Bread or other types of food should not be tossed on the ground for the birds. This practice encourages other wildlife (skunks, raccoons, etc.) to be present.

Source: *Handbook of Rules & Regulations*



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CALENDAR

Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Linda Arvers at larvers@oronoquevillage.com. For the latest on OV news & events, go to www.oronoquevillage.com or OVTV. OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Arts Guild Gallery Installation, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Pool Social Group, SCB

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing (beginners), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing (all levels), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilters, NCB, C/R
- 10:00 a.m. – House Committee, NCB, B/R
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

- 10:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – It's 5 O'clock Somewhere, NCB

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9: No events scheduled

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee Mtg, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Jewelry-Making Class, SCB, A/C Rm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

- 9:30 a.m. – Architectural Committee Mtg, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB

STRATFORD LIBRARY INSTITUTES FINE-FREE POLICIES

As of Dec. 15, 2021, the Stratford Library is fine-free and no longer charge fees for the late return of materials.

According to Library Director Sheri Szymanski, "The Stratford Library is happy to join the growing national movement of fine-free libraries. We at the Stratford Library want to let you know how grateful we are to serve this special town. The library's mission is to empower and enrich our diverse community by providing access to innovative services, information and ideas. Fines restrict access for people who are struggling economically and have proven ineffective in encouraging the timely return of materials. We want people to use the library and fines prevent people from doing that."

In an effort to provide equal access to books, informa-

tion, knowledge and learning, the Stratford Library is joining a forward trend in Connecticut along with libraries in Stamford, New Haven, West Haven, Hartford and Middletown, which currently have fine-free policies. This means that all outstanding fines at the Stratford Library will be wiped out. Library cards will no longer be blocked due to overdue fees and all library users will have access to both physical and virtual resources. The library will continue to send out reminders and encourages patrons to return materials by their due dates. Patrons will still be responsible for the cost of any lost or damaged items.

For further information about the fine-free policy, check the library website at: www.stratfordlibrary.org/fine-free-faq or call 203-385-4160.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing (beginners), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing (all levels), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
-

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

- 10:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, B/R
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *Respect*, NCB

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

- 4:00 p.m. – Art Show Opening Reception, SCB
-

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

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



Thank you to Letitia Laberee for submitting this seasonal photo of a snowfall.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS

During the early morning and evening hours, when visibility is limited, it is imperative that drivers and walkers take precautionary measures while traveling through the Village to guarantee their safety.

Safety Tips for Pedestrians

- Wear brightly colored clothing or reflective gear that is easily illuminated by a vehicle's headlights.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Face oncoming traffic while traveling.

Safety Tips for Dog Owners

- To ensure your pet is visible, invest in reflective

dog clothing or dog collar or a reflective leash.

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Check all vehicle lights to ensure they work properly. This includes headlights, parking lights, turn signals/emergency, flashers, brake lights, tail and marker lights and instrumentation lighting.
- Use the night setting on your rearview mirror to avoid glare from oncoming headlights.
- Drive cautiously. Be alert and watchful for bicyclists and pedestrians on the roads, as well as at crosswalks. They may not see or hear you coming.
- Come to a full stop at all stop signs.

OV

OV ARTS GUILD SPONSORS FILM FESTIVAL



OV Arts Guild President Barbara Stewart interviews Chris Orrell about his exciting idea for an OV Film Festival.

What made you decide to start the Oronoque Village International and Independent Film Festival?

I want to bring together film enthusiasts here in the Village for a communal experience focusing on artists who use the language of film to tell a story. The curated program of six films features a diverse slate of high-caliber screenings, from indie productions to genre standouts not easily available on DVD or live streaming.

What are you looking for when deciding which films to include?

I wanted films that inspire, engage and inform. The movies are meant to stir emotions and sometimes challenge. Many will have subtitles. The festival is geared towards those who are looking to be culturally “fed” and to share the emotional ride with a group of like-minded Villagers. I know, a bit lofty but we’ll see how it goes!

In what ways is the Film Festival different from other movie nights we’ve had here at the Village?

First, we are asking for people to commit to purchasing the Festival Pass for all six shows (cost is \$30); no single movie tickets will be sold. This will further promote the collective experience we’re hoping to achieve. We need at least 10 people to subscribe to the festival to go forward. However, we are limiting the festival to 20 paid packages to keep the group size manageable.

Secondly, it will be a more immersive experience. Each movie will be accompanied by a particular libation and savory treat that “speaks” to the film.

For example, on Feb. 6, the festival kicks off with “Next Stop Wonderland,” which is set in Boston. Sam Adams Lager will be provided along with a savory Irish tidbit.

During our second film, “Babette’s Feast,” showing on Feb. 27, the action centers around a “real French dinner” where 1845 Louis Latour Clos Vougeot wine is served. Well, we’ll have our own Oronoque version on ice paired with an exotic French cheese. And, of course, we will always have a non-alcoholic option available.

That sounds very interesting; what are the other films in the lineup?

On March 6, the funny but sensitive Swedish Film, “My Life as A Dog” will be shown followed by the powerful 1981 Australian war drama “Gallipoli” on March 20. The emotional and astonishingly visual Chinese movie, “The Wooden Man’s Bride” screens on March 27 and, finally, we end the festival on April 3 with the joyous, “The Story of the Weeping Camel from Mongolia’s Gobi Desert.”

You mentioned that single tickets won’t be sold, just the entire six-film Festival Pass. What if someone can’t make one or more of the films?

All the films will be owned by the Arts Guild so anyone who has subscribed to the festival but misses one or more of the films, can request a loan of the film so that they can view it at home and not miss out on any of the movies.

Any other details you wanted to share about the festival?

The festival is scheduled to run from Feb. 6 through April 3 (see all dates below). All the screenings will be on a Sunday in the afternoon/early evening. At 3 p.m., people will gather at the North Clubhouse, 3:15 p.m. a brief introduction of the film with associated victuals will begin and then 3:30 p.m the movie will start. After the film ends, folks can leave or hang around a bit to discuss the film informally. During the first three months of each year, it’s often a dark and frigid time. Having an event like this will hopefully give folks something to look forward to and the encouragement to face the winter head on!

You are relatively new to Oronoque Village, aren’t you?

My husband, Dr. Dennis Pardo, and I lived in downtown Boston for the past 33 years just several blocks from the Prudential Tower and Copley Square. We decided to move to Connecticut and officially moved into our unit this past October. As a bonus, my dad, Fred Orrell, lives two doors away! The transition from Boston has been an easy one because a lot of people have welcomed us to the Village. We also appreciate how so many people volunteer their time to keep Oronoque a vibrant, well-run and active community. Yes ... we have certainly found our forever home.

Film Festival passes are on sale now. Only 20 festival passes will be sold. To secure a festival pass, place a check for \$30 made out to OVAG along with your contact information (phone or email) and leave it the Arts Guild mailbox located in NCB. Dates for the festival are: Feb. 6 & 27, March 6, 20 & 27 and April 3.

OV

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FEATURE

THE OV WINE CLUB RETURNS

Story by Bill Tanski ~ Photo by Charlie DiGiovanni

It seems like years have passed since the OV Wine Club met. That's probably because it has been years ... over two ... since our last meeting. After putting the event on hold due to COVID, the OV Wine Club resumed with another sold-out event.

On the evening of Dec. 2, 40 residents gathered at the North Clubhouse to enjoy the wines of the Pacific Northwest. It was rewarding to see many familiar faces as well as many first-time attendees. Our trusted wine tutor, Len Gulino, worked his magic by sharing his expertise with the group.

After a celebratory welcoming toast, we sampled a series of six wines, divided equally between whites and reds. In addition, each table had significant trays of antipasto and bread to accompany these fine wines. No one was left



wanting and everyone enjoyed the wines and accompaniments.

Keeping with tradition, we ended the evening with an array of Dorothy Tanski's homemade cookies and sipping the wines were sampled. All in all, a wonderful return to a community institution, the OV Wine Club.

See you again in the spring!

OV

BEYOND THE VILLAGE

Join three Broadway favorites for "Stars on Stage from Westport Country Playhouse," three new concert specials headlined by Tony and Olivier Award-winner Gavin Creel, Billboard #1 recording artist Shoshana Bean and Tony, Emmy and Grammy Award-nominee Brandon Victor Dixon. Filmed live at the historic Westport Country Playhouse, these concerts feature three of Broadway's most versatile and virtuosic artists performing iconic showstoppers, telling intimate stories and dazzling audiences with an extraordinary repertoire of classic and contemporary songs. The productions will air on consecutive Fridays, Jan. 7-21, 9-10 p.m. (check local listings) on PBS, PBS.org and the PBS Video app.

Gavin Creel (Jan. 7 performance) blazed onto Broadway in "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and instantly became one of the theater's favorite leading men, with starring roles in "Hello, Dolly!," "She Loves Me," "Hair" and more.

Shoshana Bean (Jan. 14) starred in Broadway's "Wicked" and "Waitress." She has had chart-topping Billboard recordings.

Brandon Victor Dixon (Jan. 21) has electrified television audiences with his performances in "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Rent: Live." He also starred in numerous Broadway shows including "Hamilton," "The Color Purple" and "Mousetown: The Musical."

Upcoming events at the Curtain Call Theatre in Stamford include Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express," Jan. 7-23.

Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. An American tycoon lies dead in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times, his door locked from the inside. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, the passengers rely on detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer – in case he or she decides to strike again.

"Murder Mysteries will take place on Feb. 12. This is a popular interactive "whodunit," which take place at 8 p.m. throughout The Dressing Room Theatre. Meet the characters, witness the murder, question the suspects and then, solve the mystery. Winners receive tickets to an upcoming show of their choice.

Frank Mastrone and Family will perform on March 12 at 8 p.m. Mastrone explores the works of composers Sondheim and Gershwin, familiar songs from Broadway, and the best of today's hits, all pulled together with musical theater history, "show-biz" stories and personal reflections.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit www.curtaincallinc.com or call 203-461-6358. The theater is located at 1349 Newfield Ave.

OV

DISTRICT 2 HOLIDAY PARTY

Story by Catherine Hogan ~ Photos by Peter Feick



Our District Party, held on Dec. 7, was a great success and extraordinarily fun! Everyone was smiling the entire evening.

Our District Board members put a great deal of time into making our event one to remember and one to motivate us to come out again when we are free of viral worries.

We also appreciate Peter Feick, of District 9, who took pictures for us.

We hope to meet more District 2 members as our board works to create safe and fun business meetings throughout the year. We are currently exploring local lane meetings, outdoors, starting in the spring. We will keep you posted. **OV**

Top photo, from left, Dianne Binford, Ray Vermette (seated), Joan Capron, Tina Vermette, Connie Shaw, Catherine Hogan and Evelyn and Ken Janello.

Right, Dianne Binford, Bahin Samimy and Moni Barrett.



FUNSEEKERS RECAP

Story by Marie Orlowe ~ Photo by Arline Walton

Johnny Paolillo, guitarist/vocalist, gave a splendid performance at the Funseekers December 2021 gathering. His style is relaxed and his enthusiasm captivates his audience.

He gave his guitar to Don Mott while he meandered among the guests, stopping by several tables to serenade while dancing with the ladies. Ninety-years young Francesca Camerino as well as Barbara Mayer, Marie Orlowe, Bridget Matthews and Lucy Clifford were a few of the selected partners. A conga line formed and snaked around the room. Impromptu dancing added to the jovial atmosphere.

Johnny's finale was a tribute to veterans, "Proud to Be an American." Sandy Lunt volunteered to hold the American flag while those present joined Johnny in song. It was a fun night we will all remember.

Johnny is very popular with the Funseekers. This was his third appearance with the club. I am sure we will see him again.

Refreshments were ably provided by Andy Vena. Coffee, tea, soda and a special punch were served. A variety of cookies and delicious Italian pastries from Del Prete Bakery also were offered.

Unfortunately, Andy has resigned from his board position as hospitality coordinator, along with treasurer, John Fratarcangelli. John has done an exemplary job despite the pandemic stipulations. A heartfelt thank you to both gentlemen from the Funseekers for their efforts. **OV**





Don't Fall Victim to the Grandparent Scam

According to the Federal Trade Commission, between 2012 and 2014, consumers reported more than \$42 million in losses from scams involving the impersonation of family members and friends. This scam, commonly known as the “grandparent scam,” is a form of financial abuse that deliberately targets older Americans.

To commit this crime, fraudsters call claiming to be a family member in serious trouble and in need of money immediately. The scammer might say he’s stranded or has been mugged, and call in the middle of the night to add to the urgency and confusion. Once the money is wired, the victim later finds out that it wasn’t their grandchild they were helping, it was a criminal.

- **Confirm the caller.** Fraudsters are using social networking sites to gain the personal information of friends and relatives to carry out their crimes. Verify the caller by calling them back on a known number or consult a trusted family member before acting on any request.
- **Don’t be afraid to ask questions.** Fraudsters want to execute their crimes quickly. In this type of scam, they count on fear and your concern for your loved one to make you act before you think. The more questions you ask the more inclined they will be to ditch the scam if they suspect you’re on to them.
- **Never give personal information to anyone over the phone** unless you initiated the call and the other party is trusted.
- **Never rush into a financial decision and trust your instincts.** Don’t be fooled—if something doesn’t feel right, it may not be right. Feel free to say no and get more information before you send money to someone.

For more information, visit [aba.com/Seniors](https://www.aba.com/Seniors)



WELCOME 2022 WITH SAC ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 22ND

LOCATION: NCB

TIME: 6-10 PM

PRICE: \$38 PER PERSON



BYOB

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DESSERT, SODA, COFFEE/TEA**

ENTERTAINMENT & RAFFLE

CHAMPAGNE TOAST

NAME(S) _____ NUMBER ATTENDING _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ (Check or Cash)

Checks made out to SAC...drop off in SAC box at NCB - No Later than Jan 18th.

Questions? Call Sonya DeBiase 203-377-1515 or Mary Ann 203-530-9962



**General Meeting & Entertainment by
Michael Coppola and Maria Tiscia
Thursday, January 27, 2022 7pm SCB**

A true virtuoso, Michael Coppola has recorded seven CDs and played at major music venues, including The Classic American Guitar show, The Philly Guitar Show, The Montreal Jazz Festival and The Chet Atkins Festival in Nashville.

Michael will perform with vocalist Maria Tiscia, who worked in TV and radio doing commercials with the late jazz musician Don Elliot. Through her association with Elliot, she worked on movie scores and projects for Quincy Jones.



General Meeting

We will begin with a brief business meeting and to welcome all our members, new and existing.

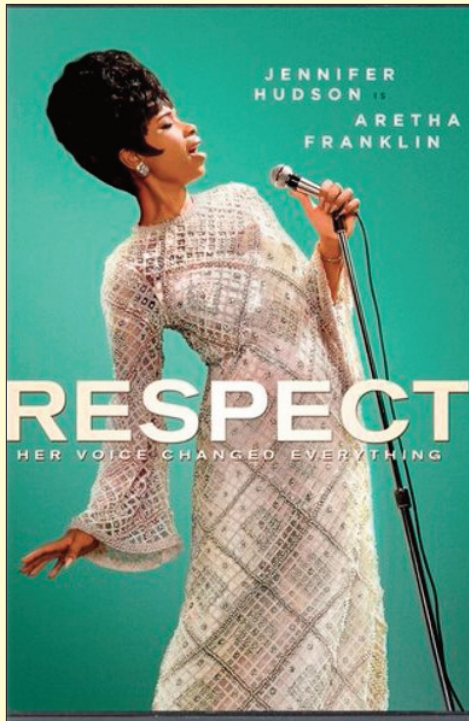
It's also time to pay your annual dues. We are collecting dues of \$15 at the door, or you can put a check in our mailbox in the NCB made out to OVAG.

Members attend our meetings free of charge and guests pay \$8 at the door.

Vaccination Cards Required

Cabaret Style Seating - BYOB and snacks

Questions? Call Barbara Stewart 203.612.1373



The Movie Club Presents
Respect
January 14 - 7 pm - NCB
January 19 - 2 pm - SCB

\$1 admission includes popcorn- proof of vaccine required

Covering Aretha Franklin's life from 1952 to 1972, we watch the rise of Aretha Franklin (played by Jennifer Hudson), at one time simply known as C. L. Franklin's daughter, to a global star with multiple enduring hits and a legacy like no other.

But, to get to superstar status, she had to deal with a father who was as much a saint as he was a sinner who was careless in raising his child. Also, there were multiple men in Aretha's life, from the Reverend Dr. James Cleveland to Ted White and, of course, Martin Luther King Jr.

But through it all, the young and talented Queen of Soul may have had her demons, but in the face of liquor and unappreciative men, she never lost her soul or her faith.



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

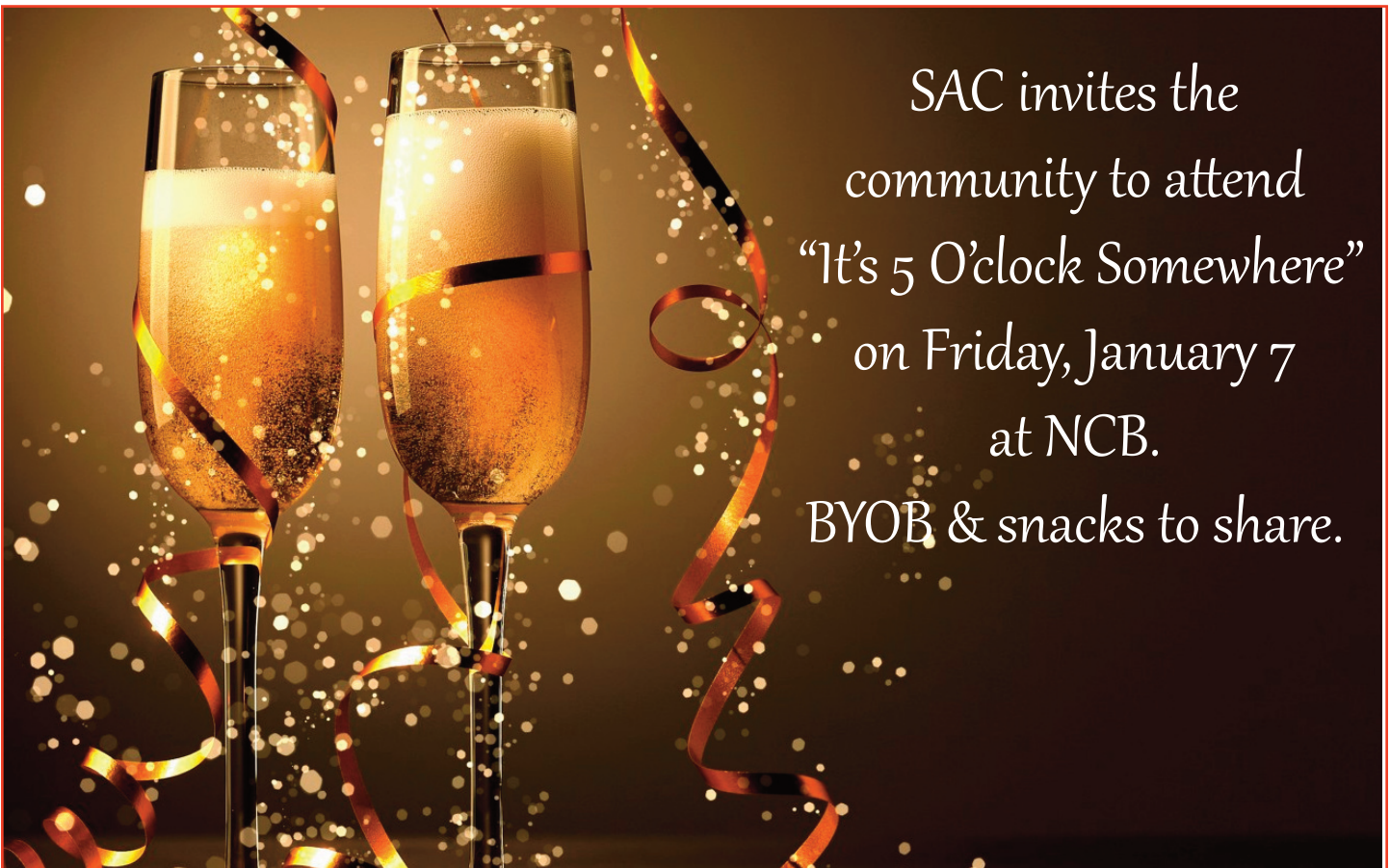


Presents Our New Art Show

The Eyes Have It



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



SAC invites the community to attend
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on Friday, January 7
at NCB.
BYOB & snacks to share.

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 20**



**Bingo — presented by the
OV Men's Club — is held at SCB
on the third Thursday of each month
(excluding December).**

**Note new start time:
Games now begin at 7 p.m.**

The cost is \$2.50 per card.

**Questions?
Call Sandy Lunt at 203-377-5833 or
Jerry Brown at 203-378-7781.**



**The OV Book Club meets on the
first Wednesday of each month
at 7 p.m. in the NCB Library.**

There is no meeting in January 2022.

The book for Feb. 2 is *The Great Unexpected*, by Dan Moony, a poignant tale of two elderly gentleman seeing out their days in a retirement home. The book is filled with colorful characters, sparkling humor and deep emotion, it is the story of friendship, finding oneself later in life and experiencing new-found joy in the most unexpected places. The book illustrates the impact one person can have over a community and how one positive attitude can change the lives of others.

PLEASE, CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOGS!



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

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

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



**Don't forget to visit our
Facebook Page:
*OV Connections***

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

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