

February 1, 2022



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On the cover: Sue Schettini (left) and Mim Schrek enjoyed the great outdoors following the Jan. 7 snowstorm. Thanks to Sue for submitting the photo.

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 PRESIDENT



Lee Schlafer

JANUARY 2022

Good evening and happy new year. I hope your holiday season was a happy one and that you and your family are safe and well.

We start out this calendar year back on Zoom. I am grateful that this platform allows us to meet until we can feel comfortable gathering in-person once again. As a reminder, please be sure to keep yourselves muted unless you have been recognized to speak and, if at all possible, please keep background noise to a minimum.

Last evening, we had the opportunity to hear a very comprehensive explanation by the Executive Director about what I call “the Country Club Saga.” The meeting consolidated — in one presentation — many of the remarks that have been made by Fred and me in our respective messages at OVCA meetings over the past 15 months. It was extremely informative for Villagers to have the entire process summarized in chronological order. Thank you, Fred, for providing this report. I am sure that we are all hopeful that the

new ownership will have great success and we look forward to experiencing a new restaurant at our doorstep.

As a reminder, especially for newer residents, a social membership at the club is available to all Oronoque residents. This membership allows charging privileges for meals. If you are not enrolled as a member, I encourage you to sign up once the new owners are in an operational mode. If you have any questions about this, you may contact Mim Shreck, who is the Oronoque liaison with the golf club.

Many people, including myself, have commented on the outstanding job done by Maintenance handling the snow removal during the early January storm. What added to the top-notch job performance was the excellence of the communications that were provided to residents as the removal process was underway. A very sincere thank you to Mark Rhatigan and his Maintenance team.

As I have mentioned previously, an ad hoc committee is studying the Preventative Maintenance, known as PM, program. The committee is meeting later this week to examine some potential new materials. Concurrent with the task of evaluating alternatives to the materials now in use, the committee is considering ways to make the current program more effective.

This is a perfect segue to mention other important annual activities that start up in the February and March time frame. The budget process will be underway in the not-too-distant future and the work of the PM committee will be important as numbers are developed for that program. Also, the very lengthy procedure for securing bids for our insurance renewal starts in February and, remarkably, does not conclude until the end of June. Our insurance provider and the Insurance Committee are meeting in February to begin the process.

There is news about the OV website. The Address Book, which was removed from the OV site in October, is being reinstated on that site. This is targeted to be completed not later than Feb. 15. When the exact date is known, it will be announced. The Address Book will be populated with the name, address and phone number of all residents residing in Oronoque Village as of early January 2022. The names of residents who no longer reside in the Village have been eliminated. The Address Book will be maintained by the Business Office on a monthly basis, adding new residents and deleting residents who have left. Residents registered on the OV site can access the Address Book and have the ability to edit the information that is there, such as adding an email address, deleting a phone number, etc. A complete explanation of this revision to the OV site will be included as an insert in The Villager.

I am happy to report that the Employee Appreciation Fund had its most successful year ever. Approximately \$37,000 was collected and distributed to staff in December.



THE VILLAGER
A PUBLICATION OF ORONOQUE VILLAGE
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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.

Thank you to all participating residents, clubs and districts for your generosity.

On the subject of COVID, in March of 2020 the clubhouses were closed to comply with State of Connecticut guidelines. In June of 2020, the OVCA Board voted to continue the closures. At two meetings between June 2020 and May 2021, the subject of opening the buildings was brought before the Board. In each instance, the Board voted to keep the buildings closed. In May 2021, the Board voted to open the clubhouses in June.

Since that vote, the Board voted one additional time to close the buildings for one month and they have also separately voted to require that masks be worn in the clubhouses by those not vaccinated, consistent with State of Connecticut guidelines. Once again, this evening, the Board will consider measures due to the current pandemic situation.

Regrettably, I doubt that it will be the last time an OVCA Board has to deal with this topic. I summarize all this to make the point that OVCA Boards have acted responsibly, recognizing their fiduciary role while trying to maintain an atmosphere in this community where social interaction is possible. How easy it would be to simply keep everything closed until some unknown point in the future when lawyers and insurance providers say it is safe to open. Two OVCA Boards have listened carefully to experts and also listened to residents and weighed risks. They are aware this is

a residential community of adults — each one of us having our own personal responsibility. Board members — during the course of many, many months — have made what I believe are well-considered and thoughtful decisions. I am confident that same thought and care will be evident in the deliberations this evening.

In his remarks, Executive Director Fred Rodriguez said that the Alliance Management Group, the new owners of Oronoque Country Club, are planning an introductory meeting with Oronoque Village in the next few weeks. The restaurant, run by the Chabot Group, is targeting May as an opening date. Fred also mentioned that his conversations with the Town of Stratford indicated that they will have a report on the traffic analysis at the four corners available in the spring. He also said Town of Stratford officials have said that the safest way to ensure that traffic on Oronoque Lane makes a full stop is to install a traffic light.

The Board considered three motions during the New Business portion of the meeting. The first motion called for the implementation of a policy for Oronoque Village employees, requiring them to be fully vaccinated by March 1, 2022 and receive a booster by Sept. 1, 2022. COVID-19 vaccination, with boosters, will be a condition of employment for new employees. This motion passed by a vote of 11 in favor, 2 opposed (Dist. 4 and 11) and 1 abstention (Dist.1).

The second motion requires that all residents show evidence of an up-to-date, full-vaccination status (including booster) or visual proof of a negative COVID test result taken within 24 hours in advance of attending an official OVCA activity to include OVCA meetings, district meetings/events and SAC events. All other clubs/organizations may require different restrictions at their discretion. This motion was for a period of 30 days. The motion passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 6 opposed (Dist. 2,4,7,11,Sec.,Treas.) and 1 abstention (VP).

The third motion requires that, effective immediately, masks must be worn inside the clubhouses for the next 30 days. During this time, the serving of food and beverages in the clubhouses is not allowed. The motion passed by a vote of 10 in favor and 4 opposed (Dist. 4, 8, 10, Treas.). **OV**



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SURVEY/NEW DOCUMENTS ARE POSTED ON THE OV WEBSITE

Three documents have been added to the OV website: Survey of Residents – October 2021 (which contains results from the survey inserted in the Sept. 15, 2021 Villager), Guide to District Reps' Responsibilities & Best Practices (which details the duties and best practices of District officers) and a governance chart (which is an organizational chart of OVCA and OVTD).

These documents, made available by the Communications Committee, are presently on the Home Page of www.oroquevillage.com. The documents will be removed from the Home Page in approximately two weeks, but will remain on the website and can be accessed as follows:

Survey: The Survey of Residents - October 2021 is under the "Documents" heading.

District Reps' Responsibilities: This information is posted under two headings, "Gov't Organizations" and "Documents."

Governance Chart: This information is posted under two headings, "Gov't Organizations" and "Documents."

Printed copies of these materials can be provided by the OV Business Office upon request.

WEEKENDERS PLANS FOR MUSICAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Weekenders will hold a "St. Paddy's Day Celebration" on Saturday, March 12, at 6 p.m. in the North Clubhouse.

The event will feature a musical performance by Dr. Joe Utterback, who has been a featured jazz artist in the United States and overseas for more than 45 years, and Michael Jovovich, a gifted singer who has performed worldwide and with some of the most talented entertainers on Broadway. They will perform a range of songs, from traditional Irish ballads to American songbook standards.

The evening will include a dinner of corned beef sandwiches on rye, coleslaw, potato chips, soda, coffee and dessert.

The price for this event is \$25 per person. To ensure a seat, please deposit your checks made out to "Weekenders" (with any special seating arrangements attached) in the Weekenders box at NCB by March 3. (Vaccination cards must be shown upon admittance to the event.)

Questions? Call Carol at 203-375-2101.

ARTS GUILD FILM FEST IS SOLD OUT

The OV Arts Guild Film Festival is sold out. Ticket holders will meet on Sundays Feb. 6 and 27, March 6, 20 and 27 and April 3 at 3 p.m. at the South Clubhouse for film showings and discussion.

Proof of vaccination and masks are required to attend.

PRESIDENTS' DAY CLOSURE DOES NOT IMPACT TRASH PICKUP

The Business & Maintenance Offices will be closed on Feb. 21 in observance of Presidents' Day.

The holiday does not affect the trash and recycling pickup schedule. Pickup will occur on Wednesday, Feb. 23.



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WHEN TO REPLACE A WATER HEATER

For most homeowners, hot, running water is a luxury they don't think twice about. The average person uses warm water up to 20 times per day in their home. However, homeowners should always be proactive in maintaining their water heaters. But when to replace the water heater altogether?

The manufacturer's average suggested lifespan for a traditional water heater is between eight to 10 years. A tankless water heater can last up to 20 years before it needs to be replaced. Regardless of what type of water heater is installed, over time, it will corrode with age, and it's essential to monitor it for any of the below issues, especially if it's in the second half of its lifespan.

If you are not aware of the age of your water heater, it can be traced. The serial number on the water heater typically includes a manufacturing date. In most cases, the first letter of the serial number will indicate the month it was manufactured, starting with "A" for January, leading all the way to "L" for December. The next two numbers will indicate the year it was made. For example, if a serial number starts with "C19" the water heater was manufactured in March 2019.

Troubleshooting

Discolored Water: One common issue older water heaters have is producing discolored water. There are many reasons why this could occur, and it may not mean the water heater needs to be replaced.

When corrosion happens, rust builds and can leak into the water supply. This leads to discolored water coming out of the faucets. Before jumping to conclusions about the water heater, homeowners should run cold tap water for a few minutes. If that water is also rusty, it may mean the issue is within the pipes, not the heater. If it is not rusty, it may be time for a new water heater.

Sometimes water may be cloudy or sandy, caused by a buildup of sediment in the heater tank. Homeowners can rectify this issue by draining the contents of the tank and clearing out the sediment. However, if the water continues to run sandy or cloudy, the heater must be replaced.

Lack of Warm Water: The most obvious reason to get a new hot water heater is a lack of warm water getting to the house. This can mean the water isn't as hot, the periods of hot water don't last as long or there is no hot water altogether. The issue worsens if the heating bill is going up at the same time.

There may be no or less hot water because there is an issue with the electrical thermostat. On average, a home should have the thermostat set between 120 and 140 de-

grees. If the thermostat is readjusted and the hot water returns, then there's no reason to replace the heater.

The lack of hot water could also result from a broken heating element within the water heater. A plumber can easily fix this issue, get the parts needed and restore heating functions within a few hours. However, the components required for older water heaters may not be as readily available and, in some cases, it may be just better to replace the system overall.

Strange noises: As water heaters get older, the rumbling noises they make to heat up water might get louder. This can be due to various reasons, which may be more significant signs the heater needs to be replaced.

As mentioned previously, sediment can build up over time at the bottom of the tank. The noise caused by sediment buildup is the sound of the hardened sediment banging against the tank. If not flushed out, the sediment will grow harder and thicker along the floor and start to wear the water heater down. This will make the heater more inefficient and accelerate the damage to the tank.

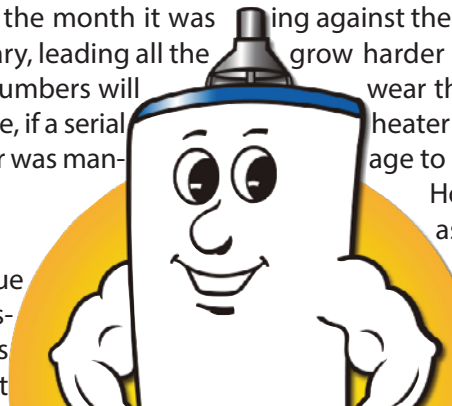
Homeowners should check for this problem as soon as they hear any unusual noise from their water heater. Taking early action can prevent long-term damage and extend the heater's life if it's not yet time for a water heater replacement.

Leaks: At the end of their life span, hot water heaters tend to leak around the floor of the tank. This could potentially lead to minor to significant property damage for the homeowner. A leak in a water heater tank could mean it's time to replace it.

Leaks are usually caused as the result of expansions to metal in the tank. These expansions occur over the multiple heating cycles of the tank's life. Fractures may occur because of this expansion, leaking water at the height of each heating cycle. Sometimes, the leak may be minor enough to fix, but this is only delaying the inevitable replacement.

Ongoing repairs: Water heaters can be sensitive and may need to be repaired frequently. If homeowners find themselves calling in a plumber on multiple occasions for a hot water heater repair, it may be worth it to replace it altogether.

Water heaters are getting more sophisticated every year. Depending on which heater is purchased, it could last longer and even provide some efficiency for electricity bills.



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 Feb. 15, is Feb. 2 at noon.*

CORNHOLE

Cornhole is played on Thursdays, 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 Feb. 2 and 16 and 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 9 a.m. and Mondays at 6 p.m. For information, email Wayne Cotter at wcotter999@gmail.com. Proof of vaccination required.

POOL SOCIAL GROUP

• **New schedule:** 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 Monday 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.

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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The OV Arts Guild's winter show, "The Eyes Have It," is on view at Galerie OV at SCB.



IN TRIBUTE

REMEMBERING JERRY BROWN

By Sanford Lunt

We recently lost a strong and powerful voice in the Village with Jerry Brown's passing. He lived in this community for 28 years and his accomplishments during that time are monumental.

Jerry served as District 6 Representative for 11 years and he was the voice for the Village for many of us. He was vice president of the Men's Club for a number of years and, in 2003, he was the third recipient of the Men's Club "Man of the Year" Award.

His many activities in the Men's Club (to name just a few) included working the annual Flu Clinic, running monthly Bingo games, setting up bus trips to Mohegan Sun and running many holiday parties.

Also, — back in the days of video rentals and the prevalence of Blockbuster franchises — Jerry started the Friday night and Wednesday matinee movie showings.

Jerry helped start bocce playing behind the North Clubhouse, weather permitting, and bean bag throwing games inside during the winter. He even arranged for the golf driving range at NCB and helped raise money for the television sets in the clubhouses.

One of his major accomplishments was learning magic after he retired. Jerry had a unique ability to add his own pater to the fabulous tricks that he performed, a feat that was his own and distinguished him from other magicians. He did special shows for seniors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He also spent many an hour in hospitals entertaining sick children. He even spent some evenings entertaining and baffling residents in the Village.

Jerry's phone never stopped ringing, and he was always available to answer questions about the Village from many different callers.

His was an unusual ability to be there when needed and his strong voice will be missed by all of us still living here. **OV**



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WORKFORCE SHORTAGE IS IMPACTING ORONOQUE'S TRASH PICKUP

Editor's Note: The article and photo below are reprinted from a Connecticut Post article, published on Nov. 24, 2021. The article — titled "Staff Shortage Cited as Recycling Pickup Delayed at New Canaan Transfer Station Before Thanksgiving" and written by Grace Duffield — is being shared here to alert residents that our garbage pickup provider, Oak Ridge Waste and Recycling, is among the many business experiencing COVID-related workforce shortage.

In early January 2022, NBCConnecticut.com reported that — from manufacturing to retail, restaurants to child-care centers — industries of all kinds are feeling the effects of a workforce limited by the COVID surge.

"There's a lot of anxiety out there right now and certainly businesses are feeling strained," said Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) President Chris DiPentima.

The CBIA says this situation is impacting businesses of all sizes but, more so, ones that have a customer-facing staff or businesses whose employees do not have the ability to do their jobs while working remotely, according to the NBC report.

NEW CANAAN — While residents were ridding the recyclables from their bins Tuesday as they tidied up for Thanksgiving company, a line of recycling bins at the Transfer Station were filled and awaiting pickup and residents were throwing their boxes into binless tipping areas.

Oak Ridge Waste and Recycling, the town's waste management partner, was seen loading up the recycling



bins to take them away on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, though, the large recycling bins lining the area were not being tended to by the waste management company.

"Our hauler had staffing issues," Department of Public Works Director Tiger Mann told Hearst Wednesday. "Due to their being shorthanded, we were forced to use all of our bins to handle the materials."

Since the bins were filled, "we had to utilize the tipping areas to handle additional material for a short time period as we moved and transported the bins back to their yard — which is a round trip of an hour," Mann said.

Oak Ridge "were at the Transfer Station yesterday and today and the situation has been resolved," Mann said.

Mann said that this was the first time Oak Ridge has communicated staffing issues to the town where a delay in collection was seen.

Oak Ridge Waste and Recycling has not yet responded to requests for comments.

OV

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

As of Jan. 19, a 30-day ruling was put into effect by the OVCA Board requiring that masks be worn inside of the clubhouses (despite your vaccination status) and that the serving of food and beverages in the clubhouses is not allowed.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 8:30 a.m. – Communications Meeting, NCB, B/R
- 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
- 3:00 p.m. – Book Club (Zoom meeting)
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB

CALENDAR

- 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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 3:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Film Festival, SCB (Sold Out)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 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, FEBRUARY 10

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 9:00 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: *Queen Bees*, NCB

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13: No events scheduled

•

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee, NCB, B/R
- 4:00 p.m. – Winter Pool Social Group, SCB
- 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, FEBRUARY 15

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB



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ALARMS FOR THE HEARING-IMPAIRED OFFERED BY THE FIRE MARSHAL

The Stratford Fire Marshal's Office won approval for a 2020 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant of \$60,891.43 from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security.

The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant award will fund a hearing-impaired smoke alarm program for the citizens of Stratford.

The "Flash, Shake and Awake" program allows the Fire Marshal's office to install special bed-shaker smoke-alarm devices specifically designed to wake and alert deaf and hearing-impaired individuals of smoke and fire inside the home.

Villagers who are interested in this device should contact the Stratford Fire Marshal's Office at 203-385-4073.

SPACE HEATER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Heating equipment is one of the major causes of a home fire in the United States of America, and more than 65,000 home fires are caused by heating equipment per year.

"It is important to recognize that space heaters are meant to supplement the heat in your home and should never be used as the sole source of heat," states Stratford Fire Marshal Robert Daniel.

Please take the following precautionary measures when using an indoor space heater:

Unplug and keep an electric heater in a safe place when it's not being used.

Always ensure that any space heater you get has a label showing that it has been tested in a laboratory, i.e., make sure it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.

Always make sure the space heaters are placed on a leveled surface. Never put it on a chair, table or a carpet to avoid overheating. Overheating can cause a fire outbreak.

Always read the instruction manual written by the manufacturer before you make use of your space heater so that everything would be done accordingly and correctly.

Don't allow kids or pets to play close to the heater. Always ensure that there is an adult figure in a room that has a switched-on heater if children or pets are nearby.

Before you use your space heater, always check for broken plugs, cut wires, cracks or loose connections, and if you notice any of these, do not use the heater. Make sure proper repairs are made before using the heater.

Make sure you plug your space heater directly to the wall outlet and never in an extension cord or power strip. Do not connect any other electrical device to the same outlet as that of the space heater, which may result in a fire outbreak.

Never leave a space heater switched on overnight or un-

attended. Turn it off if you are not using it or whenever you want to sleep.

It is essential to position your space heater properly. It should always be a few feet from things like clothing, papers, rugs or anything that is easily combustible.

Space heaters should only be used to provide heat in the home. They shouldn't be used for drying clothes, making a meal, etc.

Make sure the space heaters aren't placed in locations where a lot of traffic goes on in the house ... heaters should never be placed close to the doorway to avoid tripping hazards.

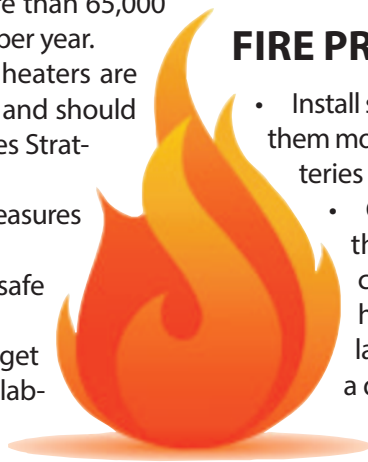
Make sure to keep your space heater away from water or damp spaces unless it is specially designed for that. Do not operate the heater with wet hands.

Never use a fuel-burning heater inside the home.

Do not use the heater if it's hot to the touch or if the cord is hot to the touch. Make sure it's checked out by an expert before use.

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly to make sure they work. Change the batteries every 6 months.
 - Create multiple escape plans and practice them with your family. Your plans should include escape routes from different areas of the house, tools for exiting the building (escape ladders, items to open, break out windows) and a designated meeting place.
 - Keep outdoor grills, cookers and fryers at least 3 feet away from your house and shrubs or bushes.
 - Have your chimneys, fireplaces and central furnace serviced once a year.
 - Store gasoline in a garage in a container that is approved for gasoline storage.
 - Close the lid on all flammable products and put them away after using them.
 - Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) in all electrical receptacles (outlets) in kitchens, bathrooms and other wet areas.
 - Never leave burning candles unattended
 - Store a fire extinguisher on every level of your home. They should have an ABC rating, making them usable for all types of fires.
- When cooking, you should always:**
- Keep cooking appliances clear of combustible materials, such as rags, towels and packaging materials.
 - Keep children away from all cooking areas.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH: ANITA KARASU



The artist of the month for February is Anita Karasu, a multi-talented artist who works in clay, paint and photography. "I majored in sculpture while attending the Fine Art Department at the School of Architecture at Cornell University," says Anita. "Later, I migrated to other media, including painting in oils and taking and developing my own photographs. At one time I had a dark room, but I now concentrate on painting in oils. I have a painting studio here at my unit at Oronoque."

In 2016, Anita had a very successful foray into the world of abstract art. Her painting, titled "Abstract Landscape," was the winner of the People's Choice Award for a Galerie OV summer exhibition.

"I painted that piece particularly to be entered into the summer show, which had the theme of abstract art," she explains. "I rarely paint in a completely abstract style, therefore this was a new direction for me. I think, however, that all works attempting to portray a three-dimensional object realistically on a two-dimensional surface must automatically become somewhat abstract."

She adds, "When I painted that piece, I envisioned a landscape that does not include trees, leaves or anything 'realistic,' but — at the same time — still reads as a landscape to the

viewer. This was a challenge, but I like challenges."

Anita, a former art teacher in the New Rochelle, N.Y., public school system, has taught at art classes at OV. Previously, she held an oil painting class on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, at SCB. These sessions lasted five weeks and cost \$50 per session. "I am willing to offer these classes again, for those who are interested," she says.

Before moving to Oronoque Village, Anita lived in Cape Cod, Mass., where she was able to pursue her passion for painting and taking photographs. She had successful exhibitions of her art at the Falmouth Art Gallery in Cape Cod as well as other venues. Also, she mentored high school art students and started a group of artists who met monthly to critique each other's work.

She arrived in Oronoque Village during the spring of 2013, moving to Stratford to be closer to her children and grandchildren. "My grandchildren, in particular, enjoy getting painting instruction from 'Nana,'" says Anita.

"I like it here," she adds. "It's a friendly place to live and work. You can see me walking my dog, Charley, on the various southside streets, Stop and say 'hello.' I would love your views on my paintings."

OV



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14 FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY

February is the shortest month of the year (even in leap years, when it has 29 days instead of 28), but there's no shortage of interesting facts about it. From weird holidays to astronomical oddities, this month has a bit of everything.

Here are a few things we bet you didn't know about the second month of the year.

February (do you see that extra "r"?) is one of the most frequently misspelled words in the English language. In 2015, even the White House press office got it wrong—several times over the course of the month.

For more than 40 years, February has been Black History Month. The precursor to Black History Month, however, is a lot older. Black leaders in 1926 dedicated the second week in February to the recognizing the history of African-Americans — a week chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14).

It's the month for a lot of other causes, too. February

also marks American Heart Month, along with some other "months" you might not recognize: Canned Food Month, Grapefruit Month, Hot Breakfast Month and, our favorite, Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month.

February got its start as a spring-cleaning festival. Well, kind of. It's named after one: "Februa" was an early Roman festival and cleansing ritual held on Feb. 15.

It's the only month that can pass without having a full moon. That doesn't mean February never has a full moon — it usually does, as a matter of fact. The last time it didn't was 1999. The next time it won't have a full moon? 2037!

Groundhog Day — Feb. 2 — is based on a German superstition. In Germany, though, it's not a groundhog that forecasts either an early spring or a longer winter: It's a badger.



Source: www.Safeco.com

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS, OBSERVANCES AND EVENTS

- Feb. 1 - Chinese New Year**
- Feb. 2: Groundhog Day**
- Feb. 4- 10 - Winter Olympics in Beijing, China**
- Feb. 4 - World Cancer Day**
- Feb. 5 - World Nutella Day**
- Feb. 8: National Kite Flying Day**
- Feb. 9 - National Pizza Day**
- Feb. 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science**
- Feb. 13: Galentine's Day**
- Feb. 14: Valentine's Day**
- Feb. 15: Susan B. Anthony Day**



- Feb. 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day**
- Feb. 18: National Drink Wine Day**
- Feb. 20 - Love Your Pet Day**
- Feb. 21 - Presidents' Day**
- Feb. 22 - George Washington's Birthday**
- Feb. 27: International Polar Bear Day**
- Feb. 29: Leap Day (every four years)**

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Oscar winner Ellen Burstyn plays a reluctant new arrival at a retirement home in the new comedy "Queen Bees," and – as the title suggest - she comes face to face with a gang of "mean girls."

But Burstyn's character (Helen) eventually forms a bond with the women -- who include co-stars Ann-Margret, Jane Curtin and Loretta Devine — while also finding romance in the process. James Caan also stars.

The Movie Club Presents
Queen Bees
February 11- 7 pm - NCB
February 16, 2 pm - SCB

\$1 admission - proof of vaccine & masks required



General Meeting & Entertainment by
Michael Coppola and Maria Tiscia
Friday, February 25, 2022 7pm NCB

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.

We are still collecting annual dues of \$15 pp 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



FUNSEEKERS

EXCITING PLANS FROM YOUR FUNSEEKERS CLUB!

WE INVITE ALL RESIDENTS OF ORONOQUE VILLAGE TO JOIN OR REJOIN FUNSEEKERS AS WE BEGIN OUR 2022 SEASON ON TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH.

- We meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month at the South Clubhouse and provide a lovely evening of socialization and top notch entertainment. We have a great line-up of entertainers for this season.
- Meet new friends, socialize and enjoy fabulous entertainment each month. Dessert, soft drinks, coffee and tea are always provided.
- We are now collecting membership dues. Annual dues are only \$15 per person. Cost per event is \$4.00 collected with each event reservation.
If you already paid your 2022 dues you are all set!

Kindly fill out the form below. Return with check made out to Funseekers Club and deposit in the Funseekers Mailbox, NCB lobby.

Questions? Call Lucy Clifford,
203-6447710 or
lmclifford@yahoo.com.



We are working on a new database of members' emails so that we may correspond with you efficiently and expediently. Please include your email address below. Thank you. We are anxious to develop this avenue of communication as soon as possible.



NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

FUNSEEKERS

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17**



**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**



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

The book for the March 2 meeting will be *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano ... a “dazzling” novel that “will break your heart and put it back together again.” This is a story about a young boy who must learn to go on after surviving a devastating tragedy and how he makes an unexpected discovery - one that will lead him to the answers of some of life’s most profound questions: When you’ve lost everything, how do you find the strength to put one foot in front of the other? How do you learn to feel safe again? How do you find meaning in your life?

The book for April 6 will be *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet, which is about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds.

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.

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**Don’t forget to visit our
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**Note: You must have a Facebook account to
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