

March 15, 2022



THE VILLAGER



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On the cover: A shot of the handcrafted dolls and apparel created by the OV Dollcrafters, who meet weekly at NCB. An article about the club, and how you can support its efforts, appears on page 9.

The Villager welcomes photo submissions, which must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronoquevillage.com

Villager article submissions 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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MAINTENANCE MATTERS



POST-SNOWSTORM UPDATE FROM THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

By Jackie Freeman
Maintenance Committee Chair



As the weather reports were coming in about the significant snowfall that we were expecting during January and February, I am sure Villagers were busy with last-minute errands and grocery shopping.

Meanwhile — as residents prepared to batten down the hatches and stay safe and sound indoors — our Maintenance Department crews were already making plans and checking equipment in preparation for the accumulation of snow.

When the storms finally arrived, the Maintenance staff was at the ready. During the storms, our Maintenance workers were on-site all night to respond to any emergency and to be on the road early the next morning.

The February storm started on Friday, Feb. 4, and — by 6 p.m. — plows were attacking the main arteries and secondary roads. Our Maintenance crews worked until near midnight to keep things open for residents.


The 17 staff members then retired to the North Clubhouse to catch a bit of sleep on air mattresses before being

up and out on the roads by 6 a.m. on Saturday.

Their day was full with primary and secondary road clearing and the beginning of attention to driveways. It was another late night before the men were finally told to go home. A couple of our Maintenance workers stayed Saturday night as well and joined the rest of the staff at 6 a.m. Sunday for additional cleanup.

These dedicated employees spent 32 hours dealing with 8.5 inches of snow, bitter cold temperatures, strong winds and equipment issues. Cars left in driveways added to the challenges that the men faced. There were still driveways that required final cleanup, auxiliary parking spaces to clear, parking lots to plow, fire hydrants to free up, mailboxes to make accessible, sidewalks to shovel and sanding and salting to be done.

Unlike a town's Department of Public Works, which — after a 10- to 12- hour shift, a new group takes over — our 17 men were on the job for the duration of the 30-plus hour cleanup. Job well done!

Also, thank you to the Maintenance Office and the Business Office staff members for the communications sent to the Villagers to keep them updated. 

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Dear Friends,

Our long awaited *50th Oronoque Village Gala Celebration* is fast approaching. We are working diligently to provide a lovely evening of friendship, delicious cuisine, and fabulous entertainment. You should have received your invitation in your OVCA mailbox on February 28th. Detailed information with the reservation form is in the March 1st and March 15th editions of *The Villager*.

A bit of history... For those of you who were not here when we celebrated our 40th Anniversary, here's what occurred. We planned on a one evening event, but due to the amazing interest of the Villagers, many more residents signed up to attend than occupancy could hold. So, we held two exact duplicate events so everyone could celebrate. Both evenings were spectacular!

Back to now... In anticipation of many Villagers again wanting to attend this special half-century celebration, we will be planning for one or two events, depending on the number of reservations. Gala I will be on Saturday, May 14th and Gala II will be on Sunday, May 15th (if 2nd date is needed).

We welcome reservations from singles, couples, or small groups of no more than 10 people. If you are forming your own group, all RSVPs MUST be included with checks and names in one envelope in order to be processed together. All guests will be assigned to reserved tables. No reservation will be held without accompanying check. Residents only may attend with the exception of a single resident who wishes to include one non-resident guest.

Because we do not know how many reservations to expect, the first reservations received until occupancy for that night is reached will be assigned to Gala I - May 14th, the second set of reservations received will be assigned to Gala II - May 15th. Please do not ask for a specific date to attend. (Note: Once capacities are reached, reservations will be closed.) Proof of COVID vaccination and booster must be shown in Business Office starting March 3rd but no later than April 14 . **Reservations will be open starting on Thursday, March 3rd.**

We know you understand how complex planning for this Gala celebration is. Our strict deadlines are necessary so that we can meet our contractual obligations with our caterer and entertainers. Please be assured that Gala I and Gala II will be duplicate events in every aspect!

Per person cost is \$79.50, check made out to OVCA.

Reservation forms with checks must be returned to North Clubhouse mailbox in lobby marked "50th Gala" no later than April 5, 2022.

Questions: Contact Cheryl Dwyer, Gala Chair, 203-375-4961, cheryl.dwyer@sbcglobal.net



Celebrate Our Milestone At An Elegant Event

Please Note: If you have had 2 vaccinations but not the booster, you may present a negative test result (written report from an official testing site) taken within 48 hours of the Gala. It must be presented at the door for admittance (no exceptions).



*The Gala
To Be held At Oronoque Village
May 14 & 15, 2022
Half past four in the afternoon*

Signature Jubilee Cocktail Upon Entrance

Keyboard and Vocalist Elizabeth Ashkins

*Pasta Stations
Antipasto Table with Assorted European Meats and Cheeses
Marinated Vegetables
Sliced Rustic Baguettes & Assorted Crackers*

Specialty Salad

Buffet Dinner Served by Staff

*Carved to Order Filet Mignon
Lemon Tarragon Chicken Breast with Braised Mushrooms
Apricot Glazed Salmon Filet
Eggplant Rollatini
Risotto with Peas & Onions
Baked Stuffed Three Cheese Potatoes
Seasonal Roasted Vegetables*

*Homemade Specialty Dessert
Tea / Coffee*

BUOB (Wine Glasses Provided)

*Cabaret Concert Performed by Frank Mastrone,
Special Guest Jessie Janet Richards McGarty with Frank Spitznagel on piano
Frank and Jessie have performed on Broadway, nationally and internationally.
Frank is coming back to Oronoque following a standing ovation at
our 40th Gala Event*



Semi-Formal Attire (Jackets Required)



Our Premier Performer

Introducing Frank Mastrone



This wonderful Broadway singer & actor will entertain at the Gala



*Special Guest
Jessie Janet Richards McGarty*
Jessie performed on Broadway with Frank and has numerous theater credits both nationally and internationally.

Frank Spitznagel on piano

Frank Mastrone grew up in Monroe, CT and earned a BFA from Central CT State University. He began singing professionally at JP's Good Time Emporium in Hartford as a "Singing Waiter." (really...)

A few years after moving to NY (and becoming a heck of a waiter) Frank was asked to join the first national tour of CATS, traveling from San Francisco to Boston. Two years later he was the last person hired for the original cast of THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, making his Broadway debut in what would turn out to be the longest running show in Broadway history.

Frank soon took to the road again in the role of Jean Val Jean in Les Miserables, eventually joining the NY Company. Off-Broadway was next with TAPESTRY: The Music of Carol King; but the show was short lived and Frank joined a tour of the pop-opera EVITA, as the Tango singer Augustine Magaldi, performing in sixty one cities in forty-nine weeks! Frank again landed in New York in BIG: The Musical, based on the hit film. Then, JEKYLL & HYDE for a nearly four year run and the chance to understudy and perform the title role dozens of times!

One fascinating experience was touring in the hit show MAMMA MIA from coast to coast for over a year "in a mini-van with his wife and infant triplet daughters!"

Other Broadway performances include SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, CATS, and then another six year run in PHANTOM.

Frank has performed in London where he made his Royal Albert Hall debut in the concert version of the Benny Anderson/Blorn Ulvaeus (the ABBA guys) musical KRISTINA (live CD available on DECCA). Other concert appearances include SOUTH PACIFIC (Great Performances) and SHOWBOAT at Carnegie Hall, CAMELOT with the NY Philharmonic (Live from Lincoln Center), The Ballroom, Sam's, The Sands Hotel (Atlantic City), and with the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra.



"From Rodgers and Hammerstein to Dear Evan Hansen, from Sinatra to Adele, Frank just loves making music!"



50 & Fabulous Gala

Reservation Form

Reservations Open on March 3, 2022

You may sign up as an individual, couple or small table group up to 10 people.
All guests will be assigned to reserved tables of 10.

All checks for groups **MUST** be included at the time of the reservation.

Reservations will be honored in the order they are received.
You will receive notification of which Gala you will attend.

Checks should be made out to **OVC**. Per person cost is **\$79.50**.

Please return reservation form with check(s) in a sealed envelope to the
North Clubhouse mailbox marked **GALA**.

| Name of Each Guest | Email | Phone Number (Required) |
|--------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 9. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 10. _____ | _____ | _____ |



A step-by-step view of Dollcrafters' doll-making process, which (from left) includes cutting out traced patterns; painting eyes, noses and smiles onto the faces and making "hair" with yarn and sewing/crocheting the dolls' apparel.

THE OV DOLLCRAFTERS NEED YOUR HELP

Story by **Bill Tanski** ~ Photos by **Mary Scully**

It was noted in the Jan. 15 issue of *The Villager* that OV's "Dollcrafters" donated 320 dolls to local children in need during 2021. Children in shelters and hospitals are the prime beneficiaries.

These few words sum up a year's worth of effort by residents of our Village who meet weekly to gather and assemble these dolls. Their mission is to bring joy and happiness to children who need something to hold on to, often during a stressful period in their lives. Over the years, this mission has been accomplished in spades, but Dollcrafters needs your support to continue. (More on that later.) One of the principals of the Dollcrafters is that their dolls are not for sale; they're given only to children in need.

I had the opportunity to visit the Dollcrafters on the morning of Feb. 1. They meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the NCB Library. (Full disclosure, my wife, Dorothy, is a Dollcrafter.)

I was invited to observe how Dollcrafters assembles its dolls. Each person has a task as it builds to a conclusion. But to call it an "assembly line" process would be an injustice. For a child in need, you're creating a companion, something to hug during a time of crises. I'd rather say I observed the "creation" of dolls. For who can tell a child that their doll is not a living thing possessing a heart and soul?

It starts with the piece of fabric that is then traced into the outline of a doll as it now begins to take shape and form. The form becomes a body as the fabrics are sewn together. The shape of the doll is in the next step, as a Dollcrafter fills the bodies with soft stuffing. (It's soft because it's better to hug.)

Next in the creation process is developing the personality of the doll. That's done by painting the faces with eyes, noses, smiles and sometimes freckles. The hair is given special treatment as it is woven with braids and ribboned to match the doll's outfits.

The outfit of the doll is crafted by a team who make dresses or overalls (for boys). Each doll looks different as the outfits come in an array of colors adding to its attractiveness. Then the doll is wrapped in a specially made crocheted blanket, keeping it both stylish and warm.

From this loving work, the hands of our OV Dollcrafters create these dolls that lighten the hearts of our children in need. The Dollcrafters have been performing this service over many decades. They don't have fundraisers, parties or any social events to raise contributions for materials. All they do is work quietly and deliver mightily. They rely on the time and generosity of others to keep on going, notably people and organizations in OV.

They need your help in two ways: One is to be a volunteer for Dollcrafters. You don't need a special skill, just the willingness to help our local children for a mere hour a week. But if you have a sewing machine you love to use, crochet hooks that can't sit still or, maybe, you always wanted to create personalities on dolls faces, Dollcrafters is the place to put your talents to use. The second is your donations to help offset the cost of materials.

If you wish to volunteer, simply show up any Tuesday at 10 a.m. You will get a warm welcome and an overview of the operations. You can decide where you have the best fit within Dollcrafters. If you wish to donate, please contact Merrilees Leemhuis at 203-378-8753.

Thanks in advance for your support!

OV

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OVTD IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

The Oronoque Village Tax District (OVTD) Nominating Committee is accepting resumes for three Director and four Officer positions.


Qualifications to serve as an OVTD Director include: service to the community, legislative experience and professional background.

Directors are expected to attend all OVTD quarterly meetings, if possible. In addition, candidates for certain officer positions should have



appropriate skills, qualities and experience.

The deadline for submitting the resumes is March 25 at 3 p.m. Resumes should be submitted to the Business Office, attention Linda Arvers, or emailed to office@oronoquevillage.com.

The slate will be announced during the April 26 OVTD Board meeting. 

DISTRICT 2 MEETING

District 2 will hold its first Business Meeting of the year on Monday, April 18, at 6 p.m. at SCB. Food and drink will be served. Please BYOB, if desired.

This meeting will have a new format: First, attendees will be updated on progress and our finances. Attendees will then be asked to voice concerns. District Rep Catherine Hogan will write each concern on a board and will respond to each resident personally. Catherine will send all District 2 residents an email to confirm the questions raised and the answers she obtains.

Finally, the meeting will close with fun activity that is bound to make you laugh.

Please deposit the \$15 per person dues for the 2021-2022 year in the District 2 box at the South Clubhouse. All food provided during Business Meetings is covered by dues payments.

The District 2 Board is updating its contact list and requests that District 2 residents provide their email addresses to Diane Binford, SAC representative, via email at ddbinford@gmail.com.

DISTRICT 3 MEETING

District 3 will have a Spring Gathering on March 22 at 6 p.m. at SCB. The meeting will begin with a welcome to new residents followed by a catered hot dinner buffet and the district meeting. Residents of District 3 should look for the RSVP flyer in their black boxes, which will be delivered soon.

DISTRICT 4 AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM PRESENTATION

On Wednesday, March 30, at 6 p.m. at SCB, District 4 will hold its Spring Neighborhood Gathering. District Rep Bob Krakovich will welcome attendees, followed by summary

reports from Board members.

The featured guest speaker will be from Stratford's newly opened Ruby and Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum; the speaker will provide an interesting discussion and display memorabilia of African Americans related to the early history of Connecticut and the Town of Stratford.

Following the talk, pizza, salad, beverages and dessert will be served. All Villagers are welcome to attend. The cost for District 4 residents is \$5 per person (if dues are current), \$10 per person for all other attendees. Place payments, with names, in the District 4 mailbox at SCB by Sunday, March 27. Questions? Call Bob Krakovich 203-752-6105.

'CALL FOR ART' FOR SPRING SHOW

The theme for the Galerie OV spring art show is "Spring Fever." The Arts Guild invites residents to submit works for the show. Put a spring in your step and use your imagination ... spring flowers, April showers, geese, gardening or whatever comes to mind. This show is open to all styles and mediums and will run from April 1 through June 30.

Installation will take place at SCB on Friday, April 1 (no fooling), from 10 to 11 a.m. All artwork must be securely wired across the back in order to hang on our system. Three-dimensional art can be placed on pedestals.

The reception for this show is Sunday, April 10, at 4 p.m. All residents are invited to attend, free of charge.

Artists who are exhibiting in the current show can pick up their artwork on Thursday, March 31, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Questions? Contact Barb Stewart at 203-612-1373 or barbsmt@yahoo.com.



TOWN OF STRATFORD TO HOLD FOCUS GROUP ON NEEDS OF AGING

The Stratford Commission on Aging is implementing a community-needs assessment, which will be the foundation for the development of a strategic plan. The assessment is being coordinated by the director of community and senior services at the Baldwin Center in Stratford.

The evaluation consultant would like to hold a focus group with 12 residents to understand their perception of the needs of aging people in the community. This focus group will consider issues that are actionable by the Town of Stratford; it is not an assessment of needs in Oronoque Village, specifically. The focus group session will be approximately one-hour long and will be held in Oronoque Village in early April.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Linda Arvers at 203-377-5313 by March 25,

MINI FARMS DUES PAYMENTS ARE REQUESTED BY APRIL 1

It is time to collect Mini Farms dues for 2022. If you were assigned a garden previously, the dues are \$18 (if paid by April 1). After April 1, dues are \$20.

Please make checks payable to "OV Mini Farm" and in-

clude your plot number. Place checks in the outside drop-box at NCB. Call Debbie Grosso at 203-380-2468 if you have questions or have a plot that you no longer want.

SHELTON ART LEAGUE MEETING

Shelton Art League presents Lorraine Skelskey Chapin, who will demonstrate water reflections in acrylic at 1 p.m. on March 21 at the Shelton Community Center (lower level), 41 Church St. Shelton. The league's general meeting starts at 11:45 a.m. Lorraine, a Southbury resident, has a bachelor of science degree in graphic design and an associate degree in fine art. She is a member of local and state art societies and exhibits at many area galleries. Using oils and acrylics, she paints primarily impressionistic landscapes, gardens, animals and still life.

Visit <http://www.sheltonartleague.org> for information. Guests are always welcome.

FREE, AT-HOME COVID TESTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

There are online resources that allow residential households to order up to four individual rapid antigen tests at no cost. To order, visit <https://special.usps.com/testkits> or covidtests.gov and fill out the online form. The kits will be delivered to you.

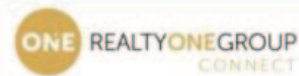
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SAVE THE DATE: SAC'S ROARING '20'S PARTY IS ON APRIL 23

Reserve Saturday, April 23, for an evening event being held at the NCB. SAC has a "Roaring Twenties Party" in the planning stages.

Join us for a flashback to the "speakeasy time of flappers and prohibition." Be sure to wear your dancing shoes!

More details will be published in the April 1 edition of The Villager. 



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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – OVCA Board Meeting, NCB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginner, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *King Richard*, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Event, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilting Group, NCB, C/R
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. – Bingo, SCB

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 19: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

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

MONDAY, MARCH 21

- 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, MARCH 22

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – District 3 Meeting, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Card Game, SCB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginner, 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
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

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

OV SNAPSHOT: BREAKFAST BRIGADE WINNERS!



The OV Maintenance Department was the winner of a Breakfast Brigade contest sponsored by WICC Radio Station. Thanks to Marcia Klein for entering the Maintenance Department in the contest; a tray of pastries was delivered to the Maintenance Office during the month of February.

- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer’s Group, SCB
-

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, B/R
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Karaoke/Dance Party, SCB

SATURDAY, MARCH 26: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

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

MONDAY, MARCH 28

- 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, MARCH 29

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginner, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry’s Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 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, APRIL 1

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – OV Arts Guild Gallery Installation, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – SAC’s “It’s 5 O’clock Somewhere,” NCB

ACTIVITIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent via email, to Carol King at cking@onoquevillage.com. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on April 1, 2022, is March 16 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 March 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).

PLUMBING

FRANK'S

AND REMODELING

- Plumbing Repairs
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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. 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.

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 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.

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 OV Writer's Group is comprised of participants 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, contact Mary von Ziegesar at MvonZ@optonline.net or call 203-767-9760.



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IDENTITY THEFT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

By Jim Kreidler, Consumer Education Specialist
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Below are some steps that can help reduce your risk of identity theft.

Many of us access our online accounts — credit cards, investments, insurance or checking and savings accounts — nearly every day. In our digital world, bits of our personal information are everywhere. Identity thieves know this and look for ways — both high-tech, like lifting our passwords, or low-tech, like stealing our mail — to get their hands on our money and personal information.

Since identity theft can happen to anyone, here are some ways to keep your money and personal information safe.

- Protect documents that have personal information. Keep things with personal information — think financial records or Social Security and Medicare cards — in a safe



place. Shred them before you throw them away. If you get statements with personal information in the mail, take your mail out of the mailbox as soon as you can.

- Don't share your Social Security number with someone who contacts you. While some organizations might need your Social Security number to identify you, they won't call, email or text you to ask for it. So, if someone contacts you, asks you for your Social Security number, and says they're from the IRS, your bank or your employer — it's a scam.
- Protect your information online and on your phone. If you're logging in to an online account, use a strong password.

Add multi-factor authentication for accounts that offer it. Multi-factor authentication makes it harder for scammers to log in to your accounts if they do get your username and password.

- Review your bills. Charges for things you didn't buy, or an unexpected bill, could be a sign of identity theft. **OV**

HOW TO TELL IF SOMEONE IS USING YOUR IDENTITY

By Alvaro Puig, Consumer Education Specialist,
Federal Trade Commission

Taking steps to protect your personal information can help you minimize the risks of identity theft. But what if a thief gets your information anyway? Here are some of the ways thieves might use your stolen information and signs you can look out for.

An identity thief could use your information to get credit or service in your name.

- *How to spot it:* Get your free credit report at www.AnnualCreditReport.com. Review it for accounts you didn't open or inquiries you don't recognize. A new credit card, a personal loan or a car loan will appear as a new account. A new cell phone plan or utility service — like water, gas, or electric — will show up as an inquiry.

An identity thief could use your credit card or take money out of your bank account.

- *How to spot it:* Check your credit card or bank statement when you get it. Look for purchases or withdrawals you didn't make.
- *Bonus advice:* Sign up to get text or email alerts from

your credit card or bank whenever there's a new transaction. This could help you spot unauthorized or fraudulent activity on your account.

An identity thief could steal your tax refund or use your Social Security number to work.

- *How to spot it:* A notice from the IRS that there's more than one tax return filed in your name could be a sign of tax identity theft. So could a notice that you have income from an employer you don't work for.

An identity thief could use your health insurance to get medical care.

- *How to spot it:* Review your medical bills and Explanation of Benefits statements for services you didn't get. They could be a sign of medical identity theft.

An identity thief could use your information to file a claim for unemployment benefits.

- *How to spot it:* A notice from your state unemployment office or employer about unemployment benefits that you didn't apply for could be a sign of fraud.

If you discover any signs that someone is misusing your personal information, find out what to do at www.IdentityTheft.gov. **OV**



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BEYOND THE VILLAGE

The Waterbury Symphony Orchestra and the Palace Theater in Waterbury are delighted to present one of the most beloved films of all time, "The Wizard of Oz," with live orchestration.

Watching the film on the big screen while hearing Judy Garland's original 1939 studio recordings backed by a full orchestra will transport moviegoers of all ages down the Yellow Brick Road and into the whimsical world of Oz.

In this classic musical fantasy, Judy Garland stars as Dorothy Gale, a young Kansas farm girl who dreams of a land "somewhere over the rainbow." Dorothy's dream comes true when she, her dog, Toto, and her family's house are transported by a tornado to a bright and magical world unlike anything she has seen before.

Unfortunately, she makes a mortal enemy of a wicked witch when the house falls on the hag's sister. Now, befriended by a scarecrow without a brain, a tin man with no heart and a cowardly lion—and protected by a pair of enchanted ruby slippers—Dorothy sets off along a yellow brick road for the Emerald City to beseech the all-powerful Wizard of Oz for his help to return home.

A post-show reception will take place at the Palace Theater Poli Club. There will be a buffet and carving station from Verbena Catering and a "meet and greet" with Waterbury Symphony Orchestra conductor, Leif Bjaland.

Reception tickets are \$55 (in addition to your show ticket). Reception proceeds benefit the Palace Theater and Waterbury Symphony Orchestra Annual Funds.

For information, visit www.palacetheaterct.org or call 203-346-2000.

The Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum — located at 295 West Ave., Norwalk — will feature a new exhibition titled, "Fragments of Light, Impressions of Color," April 7 through Aug. 28.

An opening reception will be held on Thursday, April 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Admission will be included with the purchase of a guided tour ticket and available online at www.lockwoodmathewsmansion.com. The exhibition will feature emerging and established artists working in the style of contemporary impressionism and focusing on the effects of light and color, whether through portraiture, painting nature, or depicting the urban landscape.

The exhibition was juried by Artist and Trustee Gail Ingis, who selected approximately 33 works from digital submissions. "I am excited by the array of talent and sub-

missions we received," said Ingis, "and look forward to introducing their diverse interpretations and techniques, optical effects and luxuriant color palettes offering unique visual experiences to LMMM's viewers."

Featured artists include: Elizabeth Hasegawa Agresta, Huey-Min Chuang, Joseph Dermody, Katharine Draper, Yuko Ike, Richard Koleszar, Anni Lorenzini, Jean Marcellino, Kathie Milligan, Peter Millward, Judith Patterson-Lanyi, Jason Pritchard, Alex Ranniello, Malina Schneider, Clarice Shirvell and Dmitri Wright.

For more information, visit www.lockwoodmathewsmansion.com or call 203-838-9799.



Topping the Charts: The Rise of Bridgeport's Columbia Records exhibit at the Fairfield Museum & History Center concludes on April 3.

Serving as a powerhouse in an already industrial city, Columbia Records successfully brought affordable and accessible recorded music into American homes.

Columbia Records was also an innovative laboratory where local engineers and scientists changed the sound of music—literally.

The history of Columbia Records is a story of innovation, interwoven with that of a burgeoning city and a nation exulting in its emerging industrial prowess.

In less than a century, the American Graphophone Company and its successor, Columbia Records, transformed recorded sound, first by introducing gramophones into the American household. But this accomplishment was only the starting point—they continued to experiment with sound until they eventually became the first to create the lateral-cut record, LPs, and stereophonic sound.

As Columbia Records improved and invented new products, the inner-workings of the company changed as well. With thousands of employees, many of whom were recent immigrants or first-generation Americans, Columbia Records saw dynamic changes in its first 50 years, many of which revolved around worker's rights and unionization.

Columbia Record's impact is still seen (or rather, heard) today. Any recorded audio—from songs to podcasts to videos to audiobooks—are enjoyed thanks to their tremendous work in expanding the technology of sound.

For information, visit <https://www.fairfieldhistory.org> or call 203-259-1598. The museum is located at 370 Beach Road.

OV

DINING IN

FOR PURISTS, A CLASSIC VERSION OF IRISH SODA BREAD

While soda bread with add-ins like currants and caraway can be delicious, it's not at all authentic. In Ireland, soda bread tends to be plainer and more restrained. Here is a classic recipe adapted from Darina Allen, an Irish television personality and the owner of the Ballymaloe Cookery School in Shanagarry. This soda bread is best eaten still steaming from the oven, slathered with good salted Irish butter that melts on contact with your slice. It's a fine accompaniment to corned beef and cabbage, should you be making that dish this St. Paddy's Day. Or make this recipe all year long. That's how they do it in Ireland.

—Melissa Clark

Yield: 1 loaf, 8 to 12 servings

Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients

- 450 grams all-purpose flour (about 3 1/2 cups)
- 3 grams fine sea salt (about 1/2 teaspoon)
- 4 grams baking soda (about 3/4 teaspoon)
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk, more as needed

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 450 degrees. In a large bowl, sift together the flour, salt and baking soda. Make a well in the center and pour in the milk. Using your hand, mix in the flour from the sides of the bowl. The dough should be soft but not wet and sticky.

2. Turn the dough out onto a well-floured work surface. Wash and dry your hands. Knead the dough lightly for a few seconds, then pat the dough into a round about 1 1/2 inches thick. Place it on a buttered baking sheet and using a sharp knife, cut a deep cross in the center of the dough reaching out all the way to the sides.

3. Bake for 15 minutes, then reduce the oven temperature to 400 degrees and continue to bake until the top is golden brown and the bottom of the bread sounds hollow when tapped, about 30 minutes longer. Serve warm.

OV

Source: www.cooking.nytimes.com



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

The book for April 6 is *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet, a stunning new novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white.

The author offers an engrossing page-turner about family and relationships that is immersive and provocative, compassionate and wise.

The book for May 4 is *Chances Are* by Richard Russo.



Bingo — presented by the OV Men’s Club — takes place on the third Thursday of each month (excluding December).

The cost is \$2.50 per card.

Games are open to all.

The next game is March 17 at 7 p.m. at SCB

Questions?

Call Sandy Lunt at 203-377-5833



FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS

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Reservations required and payments will be accepted from March 17th until date of event unless maximum capacity is reached. Open to resident Funseekers' members and one guest per unit. Please put \$4.00 check per person into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB (\$7.00 for guest).

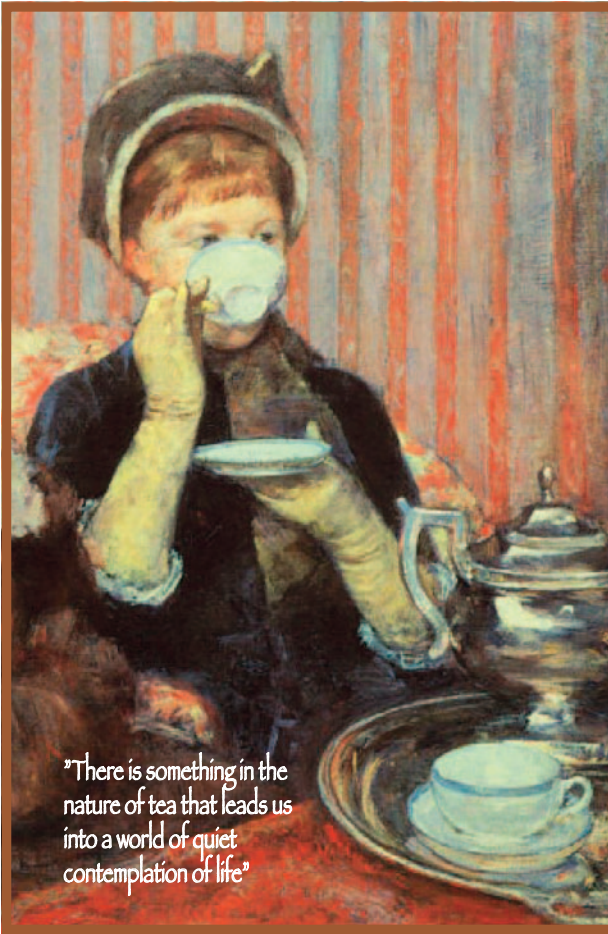
Not a 2022 member? - Join for \$15 per person.

Proof of vaccination and one booster required

Questions? Call Lucy Clifford
203-644-7710

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House & Garden Presents

Bigelow Tea 's Betty Johnson



Monday, April 11-2022

1:00 pm - SCB Note-NEW time for event start. 1/2 hour earlier than previous programs!

Members: Free - Guests \$3

Betty Johnson will present an interesting and informative program including the history of tea and how tea is processed. Her vast knowledge and expertise in the "tea" field comes from working with **The Bigelow Tea Company** for almost 25 years and her program should be a wonderful event. So wear your tea party frocks and get ready to raise a pinkie finger as you take a dainty sip!



Coffee, Tea & Treats served following the program

A "Bigelow" door prize for each attendee

Raffle Prizes

Vaccination card required

They're Back! Karaoke & Dance Party Will Now Be Combined!



Together - Under one roof

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March 25, 6:30 p.m., at SCB



Come join D.J. Chris Albino for Karaoke and Dancing on Friday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at SCB. Hear and dance to your favorite songs Both Karaoke and Dance Party are being combined into one show each month, so this is your chance to get up and get moving again! Never a charge or dues to pay.

Events will be held on Fridays ... Upcoming dates are April 29, May 27 and June 24.

Proof of vaccination is required to attend. BYOB, food and snacks..

Looking to provide his daughters, Venus (Saniyya Sidney) and Serena (Demi Singleton), with the opportunity to harness their talents and become professional tennis players, Richard Williams (Will Smith) tunnels his visions on helping them improve, and with his limited resources, takes it upon himself to train them both.

After realizing he is looking out for himself, Richard begins to learn to put his daughter's priorities over his own and let them choose their own path, as they grow to become the champions he knows they are destined to be.

**The Movie Club Presents
"King Richard"
March 16, 2 pm - SCB**

***\$1 admission includes popcorn -
proof of vaccine required***



BUTTONS: Works of Art In Miniature

**Wednesday, March 16,
4 pm SCB Lounge/TV Area**

Anita Cody invites you to "come and experience the world of buttons from the humble to the fancy, rare and valuable, each one like a tiny work of art".

In her power point presentation, Anita will share her passion for button collecting and she will also have a display of buttons from her own extensive collection. Anita is past president of the Connecticut State Button Society and member of the National Button Society. She is an Oronoque resident and serves on the Board of Directors of the Arts Guild.

This event is open to all residents. Arts Guild Members attend free of charge, Guests pay **\$8** at the door. Annual membership in the Arts Guild is **\$15**. It's not too late to join!



Appetizers will be served after the program

Proof of vaccination is required to attend.

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