

May 16, 2022



# THE VILLAGER



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On the cover: A photo taken at Boothe Park in Stratford submitted by John Matia, who sits on the Friends of Boothe Park board of directors. Boothe Park opened for the season on Sunday, May 15. The 32-acre estate, located at 5800 Main St., maintains a collection of buildings including a carriage house, Americana Museum, miniature lighthouse and windmill, a clocktower museum, a trolley station, a chapel and a blacksmith shop.

The Villager welcomes photo submissions, which must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to [cking@oronovillage.com](mailto:cking@oronovillage.com)



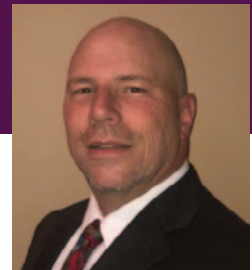
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# A MESSAGE FROM THE OVTD PRESIDENT



Linda Libertino

**APRIL 26, 2022**

The Tax District held its quarterly meeting at 7 p.m. in the North Clubhouse. The agenda included committee reports, the report of the Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee recommended budget for 2022-2023 to be considered for submission to the residents.

On behalf of the Tax District, I wish the two outgoing directors well. I would particularly like to thank Maria Szalontay for her dedicated three-year service on the Tax District Finance Committee.

We thank Mark Rhatigan and his team for their ongoing work making our Village extremely attractive and safe. The snow removal by the Maintenance staff for this winter's storms was exceptional. The Tax District wants to report that the 2022 Street Maintenance Budget line item will use its remaining funds for driveway 493 A-B and various damaged curbing, which is mostly on the North. The South will receive new curbing with road replacement. Also, this work will include three or four high-priority walkways and restriping of yellow divider lines, white stop bars and repainting of the Village speed bumps. This will occur in late April and May.

The Maintenance staff is in the process of straightening various road signage/street posts on Oronoque Village roads due to leaning issues caused by the winter weather. This project should be completed by May 15.

Jonathan Towle, Roads Committee chairperson, gave a report on the status of the road project. Mark Rhatigan is waiting for Falcon Engineering Group to complete its preliminary findings so we are in the project preplanning phase. Management is expecting to receive the first draft of the bid specifications and the advised scope of work within a week. Once finalized, the request for proposal (RFP) will be discussed with the Roads Committee ... Falcon is the engineering company that we have used for reserve studies and they will serve as the engineers for the Milford Bank Line of Credit for the accelerated road replacement project.

Fred and Mark are waiting on John Casey, the Town of Stratford's engineer, to share the report from Weston and Sampson, which will define the study on the stormwater system for various areas surrounding the Village. We have received information that there are recommendations coming that will create additional retention pond areas up the line from the Village. Weston and Sampson is the company contracted in 2019 to perform a study on the entire stormwater system for areas encompassing the golf course, Peace Acre Lane and Prayer Springs.

The Tax District continues to address sewer main backups as they occur. It was determined by Falcon Engineering

Group a few years ago that there is no simple method to predict these occurrences. Maintenance and our contractors can only repair the failures – when they occur – as rapidly as possible. It is the Town of Stratford's responsibility only when there are backups in the larger 12-inch sewer lines that run down North and South Trails.

Ray Vermette made this motion: "I move that the 2022-2023 OVTD Budget recommended by the Finance Committee in which tax revenues to be raised are \$2,148,623 be favorably voted by the Board of Directors and recommended to the Voters of the Tax District for their approval at the May Annual Meeting." Tom Becker seconded this motion. Then Ray Vermette made a few comments on why this increase was necessary. The motion was approved unanimously.

The difference in revenues to be raised next year are \$155,000 higher because of the following: **A.** OVTD's portion of the accounts shared with OVCA are up \$71,000 principally because of added costs of labor. **B.** Motor vehicle and equipment repair costs are budgeted \$15,000 higher because of the age of equipment and increased cost of repairs. **C.** The gas and oil line item is budgeted \$10,000 more because of economic factors. **D.** In this year's budget there are no unspent revenues because of the greater-than-expected breakdowns and blockages in our sewer lines. Last year we were able to budget a \$55,000 surplus.

Tom Becker, OVTD treasurer, stated that his budget report was very similar to Ray Vermette's comments; therefore, he would instead submit his full report to be read online.

OVTD Director Bill Tanski commented on the following at the end of the meeting: He stated that the Executive Director should investigate the feasibility of transferring our buildings and amenities from OVCA to OVTD. The community could save \$95,000 annually on property taxes. The Tax District is exempt. The infrastructure is the responsibility of the Tax District, and this includes all sewer and water lines. That would not be covered by the proposed OVCA \$2,000 Capital Contribution Fee. The OVTD budget covers those repairs.

The mission statement for the Tax District was developed under Ray Vermette's presidency in 2018 and it reads: "Support Oronoque Village residents property values and lifestyles by maintaining and improving the Village's roads, underground utilities, trees, pest control, safety, street lighting and security with prudent planning and management, and acquire all vehicles and related equipment while providing residents with tax-savings and other benefits available to a Tax District municipal government."

The Executive Director and Maintenance Director and the OVTD Directors are fully aware of the need throughout the year to control expenses. We will continue to do our best to accomplish this goal and provide a safe and beautiful Village for you to enjoy.

Our next meeting on May 24 will be our Annual Election

# MAINTENANCE MATTERS: GRASS SEEDING IS ON HOLD

By Mark Rhatigan, Director of Maintenance Operations

The OV Maintenance Department is no longer planting grass seed during the spring or summer months.

According to horticultural experts, grass seeding during these seasons is counterproductive as the high temperatures and dry weather conditions don't work in favor of proper lawn growth; meanwhile, the application of crabgrass control will prevent the grass seed from flourishing.

While the Maintenance Departments realizes you want to improve your lawn's appearance, we don't want to seed your lawn if it's not going to work. (The last thing that we want to do is waste association funds.)

Instead, we will begin grass seeding in mid-August through mid-October when the conditions are truly ideal for your lawn to thrive. The nighttime air is cool, the ground is moist and the soil is still warm. These are the best growing conditions for your grass seed to germinate and form strong and healthy roots.

This will allow 8 to 10 months for your lawn to mature before next summer, when it will have to battle drought and heat (versus the 1 to 2 months you would have had if you seeded in the spring).

By choosing to wait until the fall, you will also give your new grass seed plenty of time to mature so that come next spring, you can apply crabgrass control with no concerns.

OV

meeting. We look forward to your participation.

Fred commented that the May 24 meeting will be conducted virtually via the Zoom platform. The decision was based on revisions to the Connecticut General Assembly provisions for Municipalities and Districts throughout the state as it relates to Districts/Towns/City meeting protocols. It also is under the advisement of our legal counsel, Pullman & Comley.

The reasoning for the revision to follow a Zoom format is as follows: a virtual meeting provides a greater measure of safety for the participants, particularly during inclement weather conditions. Further, there is a greater flexibility in scheduling and a higher level of participation by constituents

as well as ease of use for hearing-impaired individuals since virtual applications provide close-captioning in real time rather than engaging a translator as would be required for in-person venue.

Additionally, it is a cost-saving measure that spares us the expenses of ballot printing and auditor costs. And, as the frequency of COVID cases continue to rise and the requirement for the in-person venue requires a validation of taxpayer identities by the respective District Representatives, a virtual meeting is the most prudent course of action.

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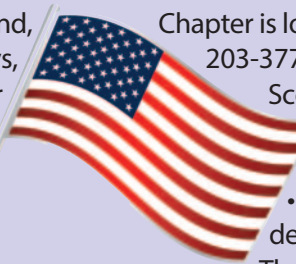
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## FLAG FLYING AT ORONOQUE VILLAGE

By Lee Schlafer

American flags are flown throughout the Village and, as we approach some special flag-flying holidays, there will be more fluttering in the breeze to honor loved ones or simply to show love of country. It is a good time to remember flag etiquette and the rules for flag flying that have been established by the Architectural Committee.

- Let the light shine! The American flag should be displayed from sunrise to sunset. If flown at night, it is to be illuminated. This represents that the light will never go out in the country.
- Flags should not be flown in inclement weather unless they are all-weather material.
- Flags are intended to be flown every day and especially on certain holidays.
- Flags that are tattered, faded or in poor condition should not be flown, they should be retired.



- The Veterans of Foreign War chapters can be contacted to learn how to dispose of the flag. (The VFW Stratford Chapter is located at 100 Veterans Boulevard, phone: 203-377-9112, website: vfw.org.) Also, local Boy Scout troops can provide assistance.

- Flags are not to be draped or treated as bunting.

- Flags may not be hung over the sides of decks at OV.

- The OV Architectural Standard is that a flag may be flown from a six-foot pole attached to the unit.

It is wonderful that so many residents make the effort to fly the American flag. The flag represents a long legacy of people who fought and died to defend America. It deserves to be treated with respect. These pointers are to help all of us do it correctly

Thank you to everyone who takes the time to put out our flag.

OV

## POOL OPENING CELEBRATION

The Oronoque pools are scheduled to open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 28. Villagers are welcome to join a celebratory toast with the Pool Social Group at 3 p.m. at the South heated pool.

Following an optional dip in the pool, we will meet in the South Clubhouse back card room for BYOB beverages and snacks.

All are welcome whether you get in the pool or not. Just come and have fun.

**Please note:** Wet bathing suits are not allowed in the clubhouses. Bathrooms will be open for those who need to change into dry clothing before entering the South Clubhouse.

## BRAVO PLANNING MEETING ON FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 6 PM AT SCB

The upswing of COVID cases in January forced BRAVO (Best Reader Actors in the Village of Oronoque) to temporarily postpone its planned summer production of "Burlesque – Oronoque Style". However, "the show must go on" and that is what we plan on doing.

Providing we have enough Villagers to put on the show, consisting of vaudeville-type songs, skits and slapstick comedy from yesteryear, it will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8, 6 p.m. at SCB. Rehearsals would be held once a week for July and August (songs one week, skits the next), then

twice weekly (combined songs/skits) for September through the date of the performance.

Interested in joining our troupe of performers? Then come to the planning meeting on June 17 at 6 p.m. at SCB. We are seeking talented (and some not-so-talented) Villagers. Have you ever secretly wanted to be part of a theatrical production and have fun doing it? Now's your chance. Call Bob Krakovich, BRAVO director, at 203-752-6105 with questions.

## DON'T MISS THE VENDOR LIST INSERTED IN THIS ISSUE

The Spring Vendor List, inserted in this issue, contains small-size paid advertisements from local businesses, including a computer specialist and financial advisor as well as plumbers and homecare service providers.

Before hiring a contractor or any service personnel, it is imperative that residents review the following guidelines:

1. Always get references.
2. Always get written estimates and specifications.
3. Establish a payment schedule. Never pay it all up front.
4. Always watch out for deals that are "too good to be true."
5. Get more than one bid for your project.
6. Check with the Connecticut Dept. of Consumer Protection (860-713-6100) to see if there are any negative reports regarding a vendor.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## A SOMBER NOTE: PLETMAN CONCERTS SEEK NEW ORGANIZER

By Elisabeth Breslav

The Pletman Classical Concert series is the oldest continuing musical program offered in Oronoque Village. When the South Community Building opened in January 1972, a group of residents organized a recorder ensemble that, three years later, expanded into The Music Appreciation Group headed by Dr. Max Pletman and his wife, Rose.

By the early 1990s, diminishing health forced the Pletmans to leave Oronoque and the Music Appreciation Group changed its name to Pletman Concerts. In 1995 Milly Cohen took over the responsibility of arranging for classical music concerts for the community, a task she performed single-handedly and extremely successfully, until her death in the spring of 2010.


But Milly had no successor lined up, and the Pletman Concerts program was heading for extinction. As an appreciative audience member of many years I could not let that happen. I am not a musician; I have no particular background in musicology. But I love good music and, in those days, had moxie. In October 2010 I ran my first Pletman Concert. It celebrated the life of Milly Cohen, with all performers from Oronoque and proceeds donated to her fa-

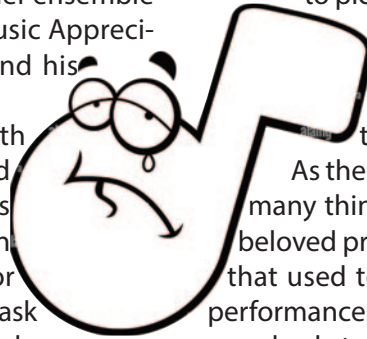
vorite charity. Since then, it has been my pleasure, for nine years, to find promising young performers and watch them develop during repeat performances over the years.

And I am still here. With the exception of the year and a half closing of the clubhouse because of Covid, I was able to pick up again and run a full three concerts program in the fall of 2021. But personal circumstances have prevented a spring '22 series and – in all honesty— I can't promise to do much better in the fall.

As the walrus said, "The time has come to speak of many things." Oronoque Village has already lost one beloved program, The Village Voices, a delightful choir that used to draw a huge audience at their seasonal performances. When Director Marilyn Phillips left, there was nobody to take her place.

Let's not let this happen to Pletman Concerts. Granted, its classical music is not everyone's cup of tea. But it is a vital component of the cultural offerings that attract future residents to Oronoque.

I'll be happy to work with anyone interested in gradually taking over the Pletman leadership. Please leave a message at 203-385-8505 or email [tulpenbol@att.net](mailto:tulpenbol@att.net). 



### MAY 21 IS SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Villagers will have multiple opportunities to get rid of unwanted goods from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 21. Dumpsters will be placed in the rear parking lot of SCB for the disposal of household items, including furniture, appliances and metal objects that are less than 8 feet in size. Members of the Maintenance staff will be on hand to assist residents.

There will be a dumpster for metal and another for bulk items. All metal items must be separated from other materials.

#### **Bulk collection items include the following:**

- Furniture
- Mattresses and box springs
- Carpeting
- Large metal items (8' maximum)
- Fencing

#### **Shredding Truck at NCB**

A shredding truck will be parked at NCB from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Villagers are encouraged to use this service to de-

stroy outdated confidential documents, such as bank statements, credit card receipts, invoices, insurance forms and cancelled checks.

#### **The following items are not allowed for disposal in the dumpsters provided on Cleanup Day.**

#### **These items must be taken directly to the Town of Stratford Transfer Station:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Household trash  | Demolition material (i.e. asphalt, shingles, sheet-rock, concrete, tile, brick or any other masonry debris) |
| Items that would normally fit into the trash container for weekly pickup, including cardboard. | Freon-containing appliances (i.e. refrigerators)  |
| Leaves, branches, stumps   | Electronics of any kind   |
| Hazardous materials, paint   | Tires, vehicles, oil tanks  |
| Recyclable materials   |   |

## ACTIVITIES

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent via email, to Carol King at [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com). (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on June 1, 2022, is May 19 at noon.*

### BOCCE

- Bocce is played on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon, at NCB.

### CURRENT EVENTS

- The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays May 25, June 8 and 22 and July 6 and 20.

### 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).



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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.

### MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

- Healthy Lifestyle Discussion Group meets in the SCB Back Card Room at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24.

### 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](mailto:wcotter999@gmail.com). (Games will be on hold beginning June 10 and will resume in September.)

### 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 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 Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the Card Room at SCB. For information, contact Mary von Ziegesar at [MvonZ@optonline.net](mailto:MvonZ@optonline.net) or call 203-767-9760.



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# FEATURES

## POOLS OPEN MAY 28, CHILDREN'S POOL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Pool season at Oronoque Village begins on Saturday, May 28. The pools are open daily from 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Outside gates to the pools are locked at 6 p.m. Access to the pools after 6 p.m. is through the main entrances of the North and South Clubhouses.

The North pool closes immediately following the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 5.

A full set of pool rules is posted on the OV website: [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com).

The Children's Pool schedule rotates each week. Tentative dates to be observed during the summer months are as follows.

### Children's Pool Schedule, Summer 2022:

May 28 – June 3	.....South
June 4 – June 10	.....North
June 11 – June 17	.....South
June 18 – June 24	.....North
June 25 – July 1	.....South
July 2 – July 8	.....North
July 9 – July 15	.....South
July 16 – July 22	.....North
July 23 – July 29	.....South
July 30 – Aug. 5	.....North
Aug. 6 – Aug. 12	.....South
Aug. 13 – Aug. 19	.....North
Aug. 20 – Aug. 26	.....South
Aug. 27 – Sept. 2	.....North

**Notice:** *These dates are subject to change.*

## ANNUAL OV WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S IS JUNE 25

On your mark, get set, and go! Please join us on Saturday morning, June 25, for a mini walk to support the Alzheimer's Association. Registration begins at 9. The walk is a short route around South Trail, commencing at 10 at the front parking lot of the South Clubhouse and circling around back to the front of the South Clubhouse for the finish. We encourage you to join us for support, even if you cannot walk!

This year, we are walking in support of OV residents who are currently struggling with Alzheimer's disease. We are walking to raise funds for the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and there are 80,000 people right here in Connecticut. Our Connecticut families dealing with the effects of this disease need our support now more than ever!

These funds will be used within Fairfield County to provide research and services for people with Alzheimer's disease.

We are offering three ways to donate: Put your donation check (made out to Alzheimer's Association CT) in the Pickleball mailbox at NCB, use this OV Team link to donate online: <http://act.alz.org/goto/OronoqueVillage> or bring your check our walk.

### Interesting Facts

- Women in their 60s are more than twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease over the rest of their lives as they are to develop breast cancer.

- Almost two-thirds of Americans living with Alzheimer's are women.

### Here Is the Direct Impact of Your Dollars in Connecticut:

- In 2020 over 1,450 calls to our 24/7 Helpline were answered.
  - Over \$2.2M was invested in Alzheimer's and dementia research right here in Connecticut.
  - Over 2,700 individuals attended our education programs and support groups.



The minimum entry donation is \$10 per walker, but donations above the entry are very much appreciated. You can also get your own sponsors from family and friends for your walk, adding support and helping to raise more funds.

Please also bring your sponsors' donations on the day of the walk. We encourage you to bring family members, friends and grandchildren to walk with you! Together, we can exceed last year's donations and make an even greater impact! Water will be provided and it will be a great day for camaraderie, exercise and giving back to the community!

We look forward to seeing you on June 25! For information, contact Barbara at 203-386-0533 or Pat at 203-375-1788.

We thank you in advance for your participation in this OV Pickleball special event!

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48 hours cancellation required.



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203-375-1932

# CALENDAR

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

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

## MONDAY, MAY 16

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:30 p.m. – Tai Chi, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

## TUESDAY, MAY 17

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – OVCA Board Meeting, NCB

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. – Hadassah Luncheon & Games, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *West Side Story*, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

## THURSDAY, MAY 19

- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB, C/R
- 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, MAY 20

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB

## SAVE THE DATE

SAC invites the community to join in the celebration of Patriotic Day on Saturday, July 9 (time and location to be announced). Please look for details in upcoming issues of The Villager.

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Arts Guild event, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – District 11 Meeting, NCB

## SATURDAY, MAY 21

- 9:00 a.m. – OV Cleanup Day, NCB (dumpsters), SCB (paper shredding truck)
- 9:00 a.m. – H&G Plant Sale Pickup, NCB

## SUNDAY, MAY 22: No events scheduled

## MONDAY, MAY 23

- 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, MAY 24

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 A.m. – Healthy Lifestyle Discussion Group, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Cards, Brosowsky, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – OVTD Annual Meeting (Zoom Meeting)

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

- 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, MAY 26

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

## THE CAT'S MEOW: SAC'S ROARING '20S PARTY



Oronoque residents were filled with enthusiasm as they entered the SAC Roaring '20s Speakeasy event on April 23 at NCB. Many ladies came dressed for the era with flapper dresses and feathered headbands. The guys came with their suspenders and vintage hats. Our D.J, Earl Cruthfield, also was dressed in 1920s attire.

Dedications were played and everyone enjoyed dancing to music that ranged from the Big Band era through the 1980s. The event was a success and attendees are anticipating more fun times — which have been long overdue — here at Oronoque.

Look for details about all upcoming SAC events in The Villager and on Channel 591.

—Mary Ann Weaver/SAC Chair

- 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, MAY 27

#### **Business & Maintenance Offices Close at 3 p.m.**

- 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, MAY 28

- 9:00 a.m. – Pools open for the season
- 3:00 p.m. – Pool Social Group Event, SCB

### SUNDAY, MAY 29: No events scheduled

### MONDAY, MAY 30

#### **Business & Maintenance Offices Closed**

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

### TUESDAY, MAY 31

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- 

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

- 8:30 a.m. – Communications Committee Mtg, NCB
- 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

## TOWN-RUN FOCUS GROUPS CENTER ON NEEDS OF 55-PLUS COMMUNITY

By Stephanie Fians

In late March, I was among six Oronoque Village residents who sat with representatives from the Town of Stratford to address needs of the 55-and-over age group, which is the common denominator in Oronoque.

The Stratford Commission on Aging is implementing this needs assessment to make a foundation of ideas for a strategic 5-year plan for the Town.

It is common for towns and organizations, in fact, to perform this task on a scheduled basis so that the mission, values and vision of the 55-and-over group remain front and center. It is important to note that Stratford has taken the time to consider the needs of its 55-and-over residents.

The Stratford Commission on Aging is a volunteer group that studies the needs of older adults in Stratford, helps coordinate programs and advocates for the benefit of older adults.

The Commission, which is chaired by Carl Glad, a local attorney, consists of the mayor as ex-officio and 12 members of the community, appointed by the mayor, two of whom represent the private, voluntary agencies of the Town, one who represents the educational community, one who represents the clergy and at least one who represents the age group concerned.

Nina Chanana, consultant, and her assistant, Emily Melnick, both of Positive Directions in Fairfield, directed the meeting and presented various questions of concern for us to answer.

During the Focus Group, participants kept in mind that Oronoque Village is an active over-55 community and is not to be confused with an assisted living arrangement.

We gave examples to support our thoughts and contributed ideas that would eventually fold into other sessions held in the Town.

### The mission of the Commission is to:

- Study the conditions and needs of elderly persons in the community in relation to housing, economic, employment, health, recreation and other matters.
- Analyze the services for the aged provided by the community, both by public and private agencies.

- Make recommendations to the Town Council regarding the development and integration of public and private agencies, in cooperation with state and other services to the extent possible.

### Issues that were raised by the OV group included:

- Legal documents associated with the end of life: Currently, Medicare offers a one-hour consultation with a doctor for this concern. Addressing this topic is often postponed by individuals who feel that they will deal with these issues at a later date.
  - Medication compliance support: An immediate family member should have access to the MyChart site of a patient. This is not something just for the Power of Attorney as other family members may be assisting in home care.
  - Transportation needs: More coordination in this area is required. All vans should be handicap accessible and able to travel between towns to serve our residents.
  - Food needs: For those who cannot get out and shop/prepare meals, perhaps a food service entity could be put in place. An update to the government-supported Meals on Wheels program is needed.

Services for dementia patients: Suggestion: Will the Town consider getting these patients connected with animals for comfort?

- Provide residents opportunities to volunteer.
- Offer Baldwin Senior Center services here at Oronoque Village. (Perhaps a two day/week schedule?)
- Put an ad in The Villager highlighting the services of the Baldwin Senior Center.
- Add to the list of calendar events (such as Blues on the Beach and the Latin Festival) sponsored annually by the town. (Suggestion: A day set aside to tour historic sites such as Boothe Park, Black History Museum and hopefully, the Shakespeare facility.)

Once the meetings of all the groups are complete, a report on the findings will be made available to the Commission on Aging. This document will be one part of the strategic plan developed for the Town of Stratford.

The various outcomes will be shared with our OV residents as the work schedule develops.

OV



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**TOWN OF STRATFORD TO HOST VETERANS BREAKFAST ON MAY 25**

Mayor Laura R. Hoydick has announced that the Town of Stratford will host a Veterans Breakfast on Wednesday, May 25. The annual event, which has provided breakfast for more than 1,000 veterans since 2012, is scheduled to start at 9 a.m., and will be held at Vazzano's Four Seasons, 337 Kenyon St. There is no charge for veterans or their guest, who will receive a full traditional breakfast.

The Stratford Veterans Museum will be scanning pictures of veterans, preferably in uniform, to display at the museum. Veterans are encouraged to bring a photo. All photos will be returned.

The deadline to register for the breakfast is Wednesday, May 18. Veterans and nonveterans may register by calling the Mayor's Office at 203-385-4001 or by visiting [www.townofstratford.com/veterans](http://www.townofstratford.com/veterans). **OV**

**GALERIE OV SPRING SHOW IS ON VIEW IN SCB FOYER**

**By Barbara Stewart**

Don't miss the beautiful artwork by talented Oronoque Villager residents in the spring Galerie OV show, which opened on April 1. The theme of this show is "Spring Fever" and we have 30 pieces of art in many diverse mediums, including paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor and pastel, pottery, sculpture, paper art, dyed fabric, colored pencil, collage, photography and digital art.

We have reinstated the People's Choice Award for this show, so be sure to vote for your favorite work of art. You can now bring your friends and family to enjoy the art show, and they can vote, too!

Artists exhibiting in this show are Sandy Lunt, Bob Collins, Jean Ahlberg, Ulla Adema, Carey Harmon, Ray Vermette, Karen Zimmerman, Peter Feick, Kirsten Olsen, Virginia Brown, Barbara Stewart, Fred Brideschge, Patricia Hadden, Jerry Reece, Wendy Swain, Stephanie Weaver, Kathy Wells, Carole Sanetti,

Cheryl Comen, Carole Guglielmino, Deb Aubin, Barbara Dierolf, Barbara Rosner, Jeffrey Sells, Pearl Spodick, Arline Walton, Anna May Jerusavage, Wendy Hower and Jane Wolfertz



The artists were honored during an opening reception held on April 10. We all enjoyed hearing them speak about their work and their creative processes. Afterwards, we had time to socialize while enjoying wine and a wonderful spread of appetizers prepared by the OV Arts Guild board members.

This show will run until June 29. The next show, themed "Food for Thought," will be installed on July 1. All forms of media will be welcome. A "Call for Art" will be published in The Villager later this spring. **OV**

**'WELCOME TO PICKLEBALL' CLINIC WAS WELL-ATTENDED**

**Story by Bill Tanski ~ Photo by Joanne Sutphen**

During a perfect afternoon on Saturday, April 23, the OV Pickleball Club hosted a "Welcome to Pickleball" clinic on our courts. This event was geared to all residents interested in learning pickleball, whether or not they had ever played the sport.

Much to our pleasant surprise, we had a great turnout of 20 interested residents. The officers of the Pickleball Club covered the basics of pickleball along with a demonstration game. Enthusiasm was high on both sides and, by the end of an hour, new players were able to volley back and forth.

We're a welcoming club and have members at various levels of play. And, we have great fun on and off the courts. Come and join us! For information, contact our



*The Pickleball Club's April 23 clinic attracted 20 participants.*

club president, Regina Archazki, at [rarchazki@hotmail.com](mailto:rarchazki@hotmail.com) or 203-915-0781. **OV**





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## WORK FROM THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

### SIGNS AND SIGNALS

By Elisabeth Breslav

From the slap on our bottom leading us to cry out, "Waah" when we are born until the solemn pronouncement, "the heart has stopped," by a doctor removing the stethoscope from our chest, we are governed, taught and disciplined by a multitude of signs and signals.

Some are imposed by a higher authority, similar to the Ten Commandments. Thou shalt stop at the red light, behind a flashing school bus and at the sound of an ambulance, or face the consequences. Others are more personal, like hunger pangs, yawns when tired or sleepy, or a cry of pain when stubbing a toe.

We use signs in every-day communication. We might frown, shake a hand or our head, give a thumbs-up or wag a finger. We might wave a friendly hello, send a conspiratorial wink of the eye or a glare of dismay; some people "flip a bird" at the driver of a car that cuts them off.

I have always been interested in invisible, unspoken signs that I assume travel via ESP. As a young girl, I was waiting for a call from a friend. But when the phone rang, I told my mother to answer it because, "Something is wrong with Oma." Within an hour, Mom was on a bus to the city; my grandmother had suffered a stroke.

I like to think that this secret signaling may be passed on from mother to daughter. At an early age, my mother lost her favorite brother in a tragic fire and was devastated. She could not get the sight of his charred remains out of her mind until he appeared to her in a beautiful vi-

sion, smiling, happy, unharmed, and she found peace.

My own mysterious signal to my daughter occurred when she was only three years old, during a routine checkup by our very young pediatrician. At this visit he was accompanied by two female students he tried very hard to impress. I had placed my child on the examination table and removed her outer clothing. As the doctor approached her, she lifted up her little shirt and began taking deep breaths in anticipation of the familiar examination.

The doctor lost no time pontificating and bragging to the students about this demonstration of the atmosphere of trust he had established with his young patients. Indignant about his taking all the credit for her cute cooperation, I found myself thinking, "I wish my baby would do something to prick that balloon of self-importance." Apparently she received my signal. With an angelic smile, she looked up at the doctor and sweetly asked, "Doctor Jerry, do you have a penie?"

The effect was hilarious, and much better than I could have hoped for. The students collapsed, howling with laughter. The stethoscope clattered on the floor. The doctor's face went scarlet and he turned to me in bewilderment. "Mrs. Breslav, what do you ...eh ...I mean how is it - um ...mm." He obviously needed help. "Doctor," I said gently, "my daughter has a brother and she has discovered that the world is apparently divided between those who have one and those who have not. She is just trying to find out where you belong, with a simple yes-or-no question."

I hope for his sake that the doctor took my daughter's signal to heart and learned to deal with small children's natural curiosity and often embarrassing questions. Meanwhile, I'd love to know a lot more about the mystery of those thought signals. ov

### RESIDENT POETRY

#### BENEVOLENCE

By Patricia A. Rowe

People go and come into our lives  
Just like the seasons change  
Some arrive with ice cold hearts  
Some leave with just the same  
Then there are those people  
Who come from the lost and found  
They're always there  
Through thick and thin  
They'll never let you down  
My dearest friends, they are not friends  
They're angels sent to earth  
To help you get from here to there  
When life seems at its worst

### BEYOND THE VILLAGE

Connecticut Symphonic Winds presents a John Williams tribute concert on May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Roger Ludlowe Middle School, 689 Unquowa Road, Fairfield. There is no admission fee for the performance.

Music to be played includes: "Jurassic Park Highlights," selections from "E.T. Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind," "Harry's Wondrous World," "Flight to Neverland," "Overture to the Cowboys," "Summon the Heroes," "The Star Wars Saga" and more.

For information, email [CTSymphonic@yahoo.com](mailto:CTSymphonic@yahoo.com) or call 203-386-1625.



## Karaoke & Dance Party May 27 at SCB at 6:30 p.m.

*Come join us for our first theme night: the 1960s.*

*Feel free to dress in '60s-type attire and come dance to your favorite '60s tunes...with a few other favorites thrown in too!*

*Karaoke will also be songs from that era.*

*Break out your hippy clothes, granny glasses and Nehru jackets!*

**Both Karaoke and Dance Party are now combined into one show each month!**

**Never a charge or dues to pay. *BYOB, food and snacks.*  
*Proof of vaccination is required to attend.***

**The next event will occur Friday, June 24.**



**JOIN SAC FOR  
"IT'S 5 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE"  
ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
AT NCB**

**BYOB \* RELAX AND MINGLE**

**BRING SNACKS FOR YOURSELF  
OR TO SHARE**

**NEXT EVENT IS JUNE 3**



# House & Garden Luncheon & Card Party

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

OV SOUTH CLUB BLDG

11:30 am

## Fabulous Hot Buffet Lunch

- Lemon Chicken Picatta w/ mushrooms and capors
- Eggplant Parmigiana
- Cold Orzo Salad
- Green Bean Almondine
- Baby Green Salad w/ Walnuts, Strawberries & Gorgonzola
- Rolls & Butter
- Dessert

Really Nice Raffle Prizes

COFFEE -TEA  
SOFT DRINKS  
DESSERT

\$28.00 pp

ALL RESERVATIONS  
MUST BE IN BY  
Tuesday JUNE 7th

Bring Your Own Wine

Tables of 8  
All attendees wanting to sit together at one table must put all 8 of these forms and checks together in one envelope in the House & Garden Club mailbox NCB.

Vaccination card required

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed

and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

# of people: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Card Tables needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Game Played \_\_\_\_\_



Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? \_\_\_\_\_

Irene Keating

203 377-3980

Enjoy a lovely meal, play your game of choice, maybe win a wonderful raffle prize and and mingle with friends.



## Weekenders Presents Jazz Vocalist Richard (Cookie) Thomas On June 18 at 6 p.m. at NCB

Cookie is a treasure who began his career in Philadelphia in 1960 when, at 14 years old, he opened for BB King. His voice is especially suited to well-known classic standards; he draws his inspiration from the likes of Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Johnny Hartman.

He has performed in many casinos, jazz festivals and other venues throughout the tri-state area. He continues to sing at area restaurants and clubs.

To enjoy this event and a delicious Italian dinner, make your checks out to Weekenders for \$25 per person and deposit them into the Weekenders box at the North Clubhouse no later than June 11.

*If you have a table of friends that you prefer to sit with, please send all the names and checks in at the same time.*

An Italian dinner with salads, soda, dessert and coffee will be served.  
Questions? Call Carol Tepper at 203-375-2101.



OV Arts Guild presents:

## Celebrating The Bicentennial of the Birthday of Fredrick Law Olmsted

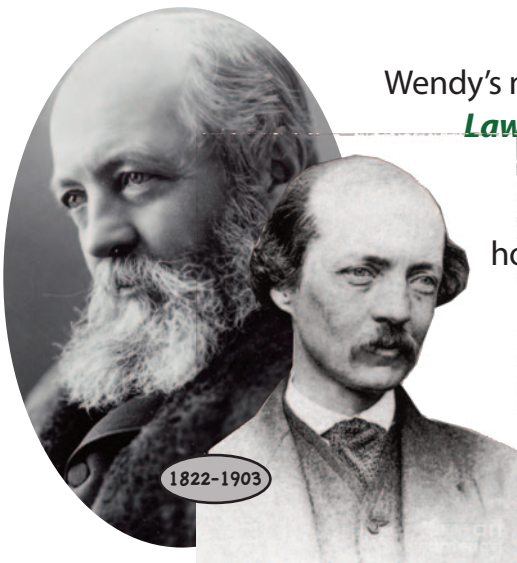
A Wendy Swain Powerpoint Program

**Friday, May 20, 4pm in the SCB**

Wendy's newest program celebrates the **200th Birthday Of Fredrick Law Olmsted Who Was Born In Hartford Connecticut In 1822 And Designed Central Park In Nyc.**

He was a journalist, abolitionist, horticulturist and public administrator.

**MR. OLMSTED IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE "FATHER OF AMERICAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE."**



The Arts Guild is very pleased to sponsor this new program on **Friday, May 20 at 4pm in the SCB Lounge.** We will have time after the program for questions and to socialize with wine and appetizers. We hope you will join us for this interesting talk by Wendy.

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.  
ON THURSDAY, MAY 19**



**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 Movie Club Presents  
West Side Story  
Wednesday, May 18, 2 pm - SCB**

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

An adaptation of the 1957 musical, *West Side Story* explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds.



**FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS**



“Steve says-  
be prepared for a few  
“cheesy dad jokes” mixed  
into the evening!!!”

**OVER-EASY  
POP-ROCK TRIO  
Tuesday, June 14 SCB • Doors Open At 6:15**

**OVER EASY is a pop-rock trio founded by our own  
OV resident, Steve Cinque.** The band features bass  
guitar, harmonica, guitar, keyboard, drums and vocals.  
Enjoy songs by the Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel,  
America, Bill Withers, Monkees, Lovin’ Spoonful,  
Brooks & Dunn, Paul Anka, Frank Sinatra, Herman’s  
Hermits and many many more. **These guys have 350  
songs in their repertoire!** Over EASY is truly a  
talented FUN band! Come join us for a lively  
performance of your favorite tunes!

*Reservations required and payments will be accepted from May 17th  
until date of event unless maximum capacity is reached. **Open to  
Funseekers members and one non-resident guest per single  
resident (OVCA Rules and Regulations, Article II) Please put \$4.00  
check per person into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB (\$7.00 for guest).  
Not a 2022 member? - Join for \$15 per person.***

**Questions? Call Lucy Clifford 203-644-7710 Vaccination cards required.**

**COFFEE, TEA ,SOFT DRINKS & DESSERT TO BE SERVED**

**BYOB AND SNACKS!**

We Are Back!



# Giant TAG & BAKE Sale

**SATURDAY, June 4, 2022 9-2 SCB**

**RESERVE A TABLE -\$22 Per Table (OV residents only)**

Fill out form below to reserve your table



## We Need Your Donations!

*Proceeds help beautify the village*

If you don't have enough items to reserve a table, PLEASE consider donating your goods to the HOUSE & GARDEN CLUB tag sale area by the stage. Your items may be dropped off at the SCB Stage on **June 3rd at 3pm**



\*Silver, pottery, china, crystal, boutique accessories: (jewelry, purses, scarves, perfume, etc) housewares, small appliances, small furniture, paintings, lamps etc.

*Please bring small and multiple items in a box*

➔ **\*NO computers, clothing, odds and ends glassware, chipped or damaged items, books, CDs, DVD's or videos.**

➔ **We need volunteers to help with the tag and bake sale areas**

**Call Irene Keating 203-377-3980**

*Please make sure all used donated appliances are cleaned, such as toaster ovens etc*

## BAKE SALE:

**Donations of baked goods are needed. Please drop off on June 3rd & 4th**



**Doors Open At 7:30 A.M On June 4th To Set Up Your Table. ALL Unsold Items Must Be Taken With You When You Leave!**

Fill out form and drop in House & Garden Box

Reservations and Questions:  
Merriless Leemhuis  
203-378-8753

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tables ( per table) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check out to House & Garden Club

**Table reservation cut off is noon-June 1**

**Vaccination card required**

## Be Safe. Be Well. Be Home.

The Oronoque community is our sanctuary. It is our home.  
Our friends are here. Our memories are here.

As the world around us changes and challenges us,  
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while maintaining your sense of dignity and independence.

+ Special discount for OV residents +



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