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Thank you to Gary Griswold for submitting this issue's cover photo, which was taken on South Trail.

The Villager welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Photos must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to Villager Editor Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. Villager editorial 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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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT

NOVEMBER 15, 2022



Bob Grosso

Good evening, everyone. On behalf of the entire OVCA Board, I would like to recognize all veterans and thank them for their service to our country. I wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving and I hope you will be surrounded by the warmth and love of

family and friends. We all have so much to be thankful for in our lives and, in the spirit of the season, let's offer kindness, respect and caring for others every day!

The resident response to applying to become a Standing Committee member was amazing, resulting in over 40 percent of our volunteers being new Standing Committee members, who will join us and work side by side with our amazing staff. I appreciate the time and service of the longtime committee members who were asked to step aside to provide an opportunity for those residents who have not served in the past and want to contribute to -- and make a difference in -- this community.

A well-attended Finance Town Hall Meeting -- led by OVCA Treasurer Ken Colman and supported by Diane Roche, the Village's chief accountant -- took place on Oct. 27. Ken explained the monthly OVCA financial documents, which include the balance sheet, income statement and reserves. Throughout the meeting, there were insightful questions from residents, which Ken and Diane answered.

Overall feedback has been very good, especially from those with a financial interest. The success of the Finance Town Hall Meeting is directly attributed to Ken and Diane.

The Executive Director succession plan is a high priority ... which is why, tonight, the OVCA Board of Directors will go into Executive Session to discuss a plan.

Preventive Maintenance (PM) Program: The PM program started several years ago (around 2014). The main goal was to replace rotted unit boards and repaint the units on a nine-year cycle. At that time, there were a few goals and assumptions, 90-100 units annually, 1k linear feet per unit and an annual estimated cost of approximately \$650,000.

Essentially, these goals were being met early on, but a combination of more boards needing to be replaced and material cost increases have made this more of a challenge. Earlier this year, a PM Ad Hoc Committee was established to assess options to be presented to the community in a January 2023 Town Hall Meeting.

We have since decided that this is far too important,

as some may have already headed south or may not be able to attend, so we will be providing some background, history, and the results of the PM Ad Hoc Committee, in an upcoming Villager article.

Blackhawk Country Club Update: The sand trap work has been completed with some traps being eliminated and some made a little more challenging. All this work is intended to make play quicker, but still interesting.

The beautification program is ongoing with numerous trees taken down to widen the course and give more light to the fairways, greens and tee boxes.

New fertilizers are being used to help promote the growth of grass in all areas.

Currently, the club is targeting Dec. 5 as its closing day. If the weather allows for an extra week, the close date will be postponed until Dec. 11. The driving range closed on Sunday, Nov. 13.

The club is hosting a holiday party on Nov. 22. There will be an open bar from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. with cheese, crudit  and hors d'oeuvres. It is complimentary for members and \$35 for spouses and guests.

Maintenance Department: The staff recently launched one of their most challenging annual tasks, leaf removal. They have entered our neighborhoods in teams, armed with various pieces of equipment operating as a methodical well-oiled machine, removing leaves and cleaning the grounds. This is a very tedious, grueling task that is important because it also helps reduce the risk caused by wet slippery leaves.

Employee Appreciation Fund: Throughout the year, residents are neither permitted to tip employees nor are employees permitted to accept gratuities. The primary reason is that not all employees have direct access to residents with the opportunity to be individually recognized, yet each employee performs his or her respective role contributing to the overall success of Oronoque Village.

To honor the employees' hard work and dedication throughout the year, and in the spirit of the holiday season, let's show our staff members our sincere appreciation and gratitude by significantly increasing resident participation. Please consider a contribution in appreciation of our employees during this holiday season and submit your contribution to the Business Office. Checks should be made out to The Employee Appreciation Fund.

Holiday Wishes: As 2022 winds down, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the OVCA and OVTD Boards, all of the committee members from both boards, and all of the volunteers and residents who have contributed to making OV the "community" that it is today.

We thank our dedicated and loyal staff for all their efforts throughout the year. I wish you a safe, joyous, loving and festive holiday season. I pray that the new year will bring a more peaceful world, blessings and prosperity to all.

During the Nov. 15 meeting, the OVCA Board returned from Executive Session and made the following motion in public:

Recommendation: Hiring the new Executive Direc-

tor from within the Association is the optimal approach for OV residents.

Motion Made: Implement the onboarding of Mark Rhatigan into the role of Executive Director as of Dec. 1, 2022.

His current title and salary would remain the same during this training period.

An office will be made available to him in the North Clubhouse.

The status of his onboarding progress will be provided no later than the March 2023 OVCA Board meeting.

The motion passed unanimously with 14 votes in favor.

As a community, let's give Mark Rhatigan all our support during this process!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PICKLEBALL CLUB'S NEW OFFICERS

During the OV Pickleball Club's annual election meeting on Nov. 3, the following members were elected for one-year officer terms: President Bill Tanski, Vice President Liz Kedan, Treasurer Ray Compagna, Secretary Karen Hahn and Director of Memberships Regina Archazki.

BRAVO'S RECENT PRODUCTION CAN BE VIEWED ON YOUTUBE

For those Oronoque residents who were unable to attend BRAVO's production of "Burlesque - Oronoque Style," you are in luck! Thanks to resident and performer Letitia Laberee, a complete video of the show is available on YouTube for viewing.

You can find it by one of these following methods:

1. Do an Internet search for: BRAVO presents Burlesque Oronoque Style - YouTube
2. Type in the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MF6ISf8e3E4

CALL FOR ART, JAN. 4, AT SCB



Residents are invited to submit artwork for the winter Galerie OV show, titled "Happy Places." This could be your special happy place or a happy place that anyone could enjoy. We are counting on this show to keep our spirits up during the colder winter months ahead.

Please bring one or two pieces of original artwork to the front cardroom in the South Clubhouse on Wednesday, Jan. 4, between 10 and 11 a.m. Each piece of hanging art must be wired securely across the back. Three-dimensional art will be displayed on a pedestal. All mediums are welcome. Organizers of the show will strive to accept at least one submission from each artist.

If you have questions, need assistance or want to make a special arrangement, please contact Barbara Stewart at barbsmt@yahoo.com or 203-612-1373. The reception for this show will be on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 4 p.m. The People's Choice Award for the fall show, "See the Beauty in Ordinary Things," will be presented. Then, each artist in the winter show will have a chance to speak briefly about their art. Wine and appetizers will be served.

The spring 2023 show will be titled "Reflections." "Winter in July" is the theme of the summer exhibit.



STERLING HOUSE TOY DRIVE ENDS DECEMBER 8

Oronoque Village residents are invited to support the Sterling House Community Center 2022 Toy Drive. The drive is on behalf of families in the low- to moderate income bracket.

A collection box is located in the front foyer of the North Clubhouse. Toys will be collected through Dec. 8 at 5 p.m.

Gift cards and monetary donations are welcome. The most requested toy items are as follows:

- Disney Toys & Games
- All Age Board Games
- All Age Arts & Crafts
- Books and Puzzles
- Baby Dolls and Barbies
- Bluetooth Speaker
- Headphones
- Hats & Gloves
- Play Food
- Karaoke Microphone
- Bluey/Baby Shark Toys
- Musical Toys
- Magna-tiles
- Kinetic Sand
- Vtech Go Go Wheels
- Legos
- Rainbow Loom
- Action Figures

NEW CLUB LAUNCHED

The Good Times Club has officially formed. Please look for details about planned events for 2023 in upcoming issues of The Villager.

For information, call Mary Ann Weaver at 203-530-9962.



DISTRICT 4 HOLIDAY PARTY

District 4 will hold its annual holiday party on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at SCB from 6-8:30 p.m. All Oronoque residents are invited to attend. A buffet dinner with three hot entrees will be served, followed by dancing with music provided by DJ Chris Albino.

Cost is \$15 for District 4 residents who have paid dues, \$25 for all others. Put checks (payable to District 4) in the District 4 mailbox by Saturday, Dec. 3.

Questions? Call Bob Krakovich at 203-752-6105.

DISTRICT 7 HOLIDAY GATHERING

District 7 will host its holiday gathering on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. at NCB. A flyer outlining details was placed in residents' black boxes.

DISTRICT 10 HOLIDAY DINNER

District 10 residents are invited to join friends and neighbors at holiday gathering, catered by Andini's Restaurant of Orange, at NCB on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. Flyers with details were previously distributed.

Questions? Contact District Rep Regina Archazki at 203-915-0781.

POKER PLAYERS WANTED

Resident poker players are invited to join a weekly group that meets Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m., at the South Clubhouse. For details, call Ken Block at 203-870-9561.

LIBRARY AT NORTH CLUBHOUSE SEEKS LARGE-PRINT BOOKS

The OV Library is seeking donations of large-print books, published in 2010 or after, in all genres. Please leave the donations in the contribution box at the library at NCB.

UPDATE ON TRASH & RECYCLING WEEKLY PICKUP SCHEDULE

Oronoque Village's new service provider, Country Disposal, will collect trash and recycling weekly on Wednesdays. The pickup schedule will no longer be interrupted by Monday holidays.

Pickup day will always be Wednesdays, barring unforeseen circumstances.

If an unexpected schedule change does occur, residents will be notified via eblasts and robocalls.



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WHEN TO REPLACE A WATER HEATER, EXPLAINED

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 8 to 12 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 degrees. If the thermostat is readjusted and the hot water re-

turns, 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.

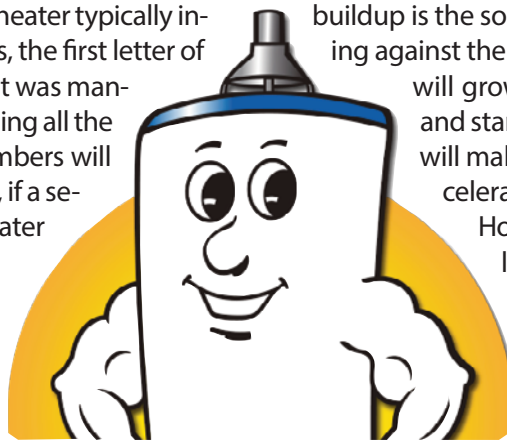
Homeowners should check for this problem as soon as they hear any unusual noise from their water heater. Taking early action can prevent long-term damage and extend the heater's life if it's not yet time for a water heater replacement.

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. **ov**



Source: www.bobvilla.com

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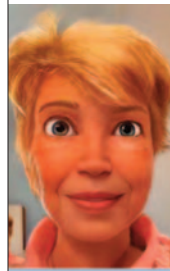


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ACTIVITIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent via email, to Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on Dec. 15, is Dec. 2 at noon.*

CORNHOLE

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

DOLLCRAFTERS

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

CURRENT EVENTS

- The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays Dec. 14, Jan. 4 and Jan. 18.

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 a.m. 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 lev-

els at 10 a.m. No masking is required for anyone who has received the booster or third shot. All others must wear masks. Call Sonya DeBiase at 202-377-1515 for information.

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.

POOL SOCIAL GROUP

- Anyone who enjoys socializing in and around the pools during the summer is invited to attend a get-together from 4-6 p.m. at SCB on the second Monday of each month (beginning Oct. 10). Come with your favorite appetizer and or beverage (or nothing) for reunions and conversations. Call Sonya at 203-377-1515 for more information.

PING PONG GROUP

- Ping Pong is played at SCB on Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. For information, contact Dina Glantz: dinabob7@comcast.net / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapidés: mslapid@gmail.com / 203-927-8577. Play is scheduled via the TeamReach app.

QUILTING GROUP

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

TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

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

WRITER'S GROUP

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

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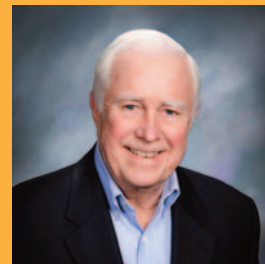
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OVTV: WE ARE BUILDING IT ... WILL YOU COME?

By Bruce Pollock, Communications Committee

You've heard the phrase "If you build it, they will come." It's from the movie "Field of Dreams." The movie is about a baseball field. In this case, the field is Oronoque Village, the ballfield Channel 591. In short, we are building a new TV station.

We hope you will come and see it. We hope you and your neighbors will contribute to it.

Lots of folks have already shown interest in being part of the launch, since this idea started floating around last year. The details of our programming schedule are still being worked out, dependent on supply and demand. Do you want to see a program featuring our own Joyce Saltman, performing her favorite inspirational stories and jokes? More important, does Joyce want to find an appropriate segment for us from her archives?

The Book Club and the Movie Club support the idea of presenting author interviews and movie trailers. You can expect some onstage and backstage hijinks from the folks at karaoke, but only if they agree to it. Groups like Funseekers may want to promote upcoming programs with creative (and more than 10- second) videos.



Watch for the Sports Page with up-to-the-minute schedules, standings, highlights, injury reports and quotable quotes from the Tennis, Ping Pong and Pickleball Clubs as well as bocce, golf and cornhole players. Are there any fantasy sports fanatics out there who want to form a league? Shout your message to the community.

The 50th Anniversary Gala is already on tape. And there's a lot of wonderful content suitable for family viewing in the 50th Anniversary issue of the Villager.

Don't expect Hollywood hunks in slick suits and spokesmodels in string bikinis blandly reciting the weather report in high-def 3-D (unless they want to). It'll be more like two fuzzy and, maybe, out-of-focus guys in baseball caps discussing the life and times of Dion and playing his music during and after his stint with the Belmonts (that would be me and Wayne Cotter).

The Village is home to dozens of musicians, artists, writers and sculptors. Some will want to show their wares to the rest of the community every evening, three hours at a time for a week. Or maybe you'd like to give your pets their 15-minutes of fame.

Send your comments and ideas to Bruce Pollock at bap203@yahoo.com.

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.

Bold-faced listings = OVCA events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

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

- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, B/R
- 5:00 p.m. – SAC: It's 5 O'clock Somewhere, NCB

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3: No scheduled events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4: No scheduled events

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **11:00 p.m. – Communications Committee, NCB**
- 4:00 p.m. – Mahjong Lessons, NCB

SNOW REMOVAL IN THE VILLAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



sist with their plows and shovels.

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

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

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


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

impossible to satisfy everyone's time schedule, and your understanding and patience are appreciated.

For the most part, our roads are cleared before the Town of Stratford provides the same outside the Village. It is important to note that Oronoque Village maintains the lowest ratio of Maintenance employees/number of units than any similar community in the state. This enables us to keep our taxes down.

Please be careful when walking on snow or ice. If you need Ice Melt, it is available outside the entrances to the clubhouses. Please take only the amount you need. Please remove any vehicles parked in your driveway to a community parking

area before a snowstorm. Open the garage door when the driver arrives so the ridge of snow at the base of the door can be removed. Do not ask the driver for extra service around your unit. He is directed to open all driveways in a timely manner in his sector of responsibility.

Please do not call the Business or Maintenance Offices to ask when your driveway will be plowed. These calls take time and attention away from other required work. Please do not call your own private plow contractor to have your driveway plowed. Our roads, lanes, driveways and walkways are privately owned by OVCA. Private contractors may not be adequately insured or familiar with the property. 

TIPS AND CHECKLIST FOR WINTERIZING YOUR UNIT WHILE AWAY

- ___ 1. Turn off water main.
- ___ 2. Turn off outside faucets.
- ___ 3. Turn off thermostat on water heater, some have the vacation setting.
- ___ 4. Install a freeze alarm. It will indicate a low or no heat problem.
- ___ 5. Do not turn your thermostats lower than 55 degrees.
- ___ 6. Make sure your fireplace damper is closed.
- ___ 7. Make sure all windows and exterior doors are securely closed.
- ___ 8. Make sure all interior doors are left open to allow the heat to circulate through the unit.
- ___ 9. Remove several basement ceiling tiles near outside walls to allow some heat to get to the water pipes.
- ___ 10. If you have someone watching your unit during your absence, please inform the Business Office. It is important to give an emergency contact name and phone number to the Business Office and leave a key that will be kept in our safe.
- ___ 11. Leave an address and phone number where you will be staying and details about how long you will be away with the Business Office.
- ___ 12. Unplug electronics, such as televisions, VCR, DVD, computers etc. (Do not unplug your cable box or it will no longer work when you return home.)
- ___ 13. If you have a high-efficiency furnace, please alert the Business or Maintenance Office before you leave.

PLEASE NOTE: *Unforeseen problems do occur. This list was created to help snowbirds minimize any damages to the unit and your personal property while you are away.*

• **5:00 p.m. – SAC Committee Meeting, NCB**

• 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB

• 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

• 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong, SCB

• 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library

• 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB

• 6:00 p.m. – District 4 Holiday Event, SCB

• 6:00 p.m. – Districts 8, 9 & 11 Holiday Event, Blackhawk Country Club

• 7:00 p.m. – Men's Cards, Brosowsky, SCB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

• 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

• 12:30 p.m. – Hadassah Hanukkah Party, NCB

• 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R

• 6:00 p.m. – District 7 Holiday Event, NCB

• 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

• 7:00 p.m. – Book Club, NCB (Book Pick: *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

• 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

• 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB

• 6:00 p.m. – District 10 Holiday Event, NCB

• 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

• 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

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

• 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB

• 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris*, NCB

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10: No scheduled events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

• 5:00 p.m. – Districts 5 & 6 Holiday Event, SCB

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

• 1:00 p.m. – House & Garden event, SCB

• 4:00 p.m. – Mahjong Lessons, NCB

• **4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee Meeting, NCB**

• 4:00 p.m. – Pool Social Group, SCB

• 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB

• 7:00 p.m. – Holiday Jewelry-Making Class, SCB

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

• 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong, SCB

• **9:30 a.m. – Architectural Committee, NCB**

• 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library

• 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB

• 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB

• **4:00 p.m. – By-Laws Meeting, NCB**

• 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers Event, SCB

• 6:30 p.m. – OVCA Standing Committee Orientation, NCB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

• 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

• 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris*, SCB

• 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R

• 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

• 6:00 p.m. – Districts 1, 2 & 3 Holiday Event, SCB

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

• 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB

• 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilters, NCB

• 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB

• 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB

• 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm

• 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB

• 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

• 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: ARLINE WALTON

Arline Walton has always been an artist. “My creative and artistic vision showed up very early in my life and has continued, thankfully, into my 70s,” she says.

She adds, “When I was in kindergarten, the teacher wanted the children to do different activities every day. I only wanted to draw and paint; this is a true story my parents told me!”

Her creative path took Arline to the University of Oregon, where she spent three years majoring in painting. She then went to Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and received a bachelor of fine arts degree in advertising illustration. “My Art Center advisor encouraged me to remain in school and get a master’s in painting, but my father said, ‘No. It’s time to get a job!’”

Thus began a career in advertising. Arline worked as an illustrator and then a fashion art director in Los Angeles for many years. Her job entailed laying out catalogs, hiring models and photographers, finding locations, budgeting everything from film costs to talent and location fees, scheduling multiday photo shoots, art directing on-set and supervising the project to printed completion. “Everything was done manually then,” she notes. “There were no computers in those days.”

Her career continued after a marriage, a move to Oregon and a move back to Los Angeles (Studio City). “I continued to work as a single mother while raising a young daughter,” she says.

Ultimately, Arline relocated to Connecticut and, 10 years ago, became a resident of Oronoque Village. “I met my partner, Tom Becker, who lives here,” she reports. “He was working in the financial area for Blick Art Materials, which is the biggest art supply operation in the U.S. We met at the Shelton T.J. Maxx store while looking for pillowcases on a Sunday!”

Since her arrival, Arline has embraced the OV community and all that it has to offer. She is a member of the OV Arts Guild and sits on its board as well as being an active member of Funseekers and the House & Garden Club. “I designed the



Photo taken by Tom Becker

logos for the Arts Guild, Funseekers and House & Garden Club,” she notes. “These activities are my way of using my talents to help but also to stay creative as a senior.”

Further, her handiwork was seen in the flyer-ad for the recent BRAVO production, “Burlesque Oronoque-Style” and her photos of the show graced the cover of the Nov. 1 issue of The Villager.

Arline’s passion is visiting galleries and museums around the world to enjoy works created by her favorite artists. “I have admired masterpieces at incredible museums; Klimt and Schiele in Vienna, Gaudi buildings in Barcelona, Frieda Khalo in Mexico, The Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, The Tate Gallery in England, which houses a collection of pre-Raphaelite artists and many more.”

She concludes with her favorite expression from Stella Adler: “Life beats down and crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one.”



Lisa Glazer

Chairman’s Circle Gold Winner
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OV FILM FESTIVAL ... AN INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR CHRIS ORRELL

By Barbara Stewart

OV Arts Guild is, once again, sponsoring the OV International and Independent Film Festival. Arts Guild President Barbara Stewart sat down with Chris Orrell, film festival director and OV resident, to learn how he has approached this year's lineup of films as well as what to expect at this year's festival

This is your second year as director of the film festival. How did last year's festival go?

It was wonderful to see the group evolve over the course of the six films. From the initial forming stage, with its politeness/tentative joining, the group eventually became confident with a sense of belonging and freedom to express and contribute. It was transformative!

In addition to the screenings, pre-film talks and moderated post-film Q&A sessions, festival passes provided entry to our super-fun Festival Lounge. It's here where amiable bartender, Dr. Dennis, serves up drinks/food directly tied to each film. For a movie that took place in Turkey, he served traditional raki and, using his special alchemy, created "lion's milk." For our Mongolian film, he served up authentic aaruul (fermented cow's milk cheese curds imported from Mongolia) along with a shot of 100 percent milk vodka. He will be presenting this year's group with a new batch of adventurous offerings with his own, unique, "Dr. D" twist!

What do you think people should expect from this year's festival?

I think what I love about the festival is the sense that it is a festival of discovery, so I don't want to be prescriptive. But I will say that, in the spirit of discovery, attendees are in for a great ride! Stay open to experiencing a film that you haven't heard of or that you don't think is for you. And I think you will discover something remarkable. You'll laugh, you'll cry, it will be better than "Cats."

Tell us a little about the six films that will be screened.

The festival kicks off on Jan. 22 with the comedy-drama, "Peggy Sue Got Married." Then on to the powerful Ukrainian film, "The Guide," screening on Jan. 29. From there, we move to Iran with "Persepolis" on Feb. 5; a beautiful movie told through skillful animation. On Feb. 26, the sad and funny German relationship film, "Zuckerbaby," is followed by the joyful and poignant U.K. entry, "An Education," on March 5. The festival closes on March 19 with the glorious Italian masterpiece, "Cinema Paradiso." What a journey it is going to be!

Tell us about a gem you think that people might especially look forward to at this year's festival.

It has to be the 2014 Ukrainian film, "The Guide." This was Ukraine's entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards. It is set in the 1930s as the Soviet regime pursues agricultural and other repressive policies causing the death of millions of Ukrainians. In 2022, a group of U.S. theater owners from giants such as Regal, National Amusements and Bow Tie, along with over 100 independent cinemas, signed on to screen the film to stand in solidarity with Ukraine, with many giving the proceeds for relief efforts for the war-ravaged country. It was extremely difficult to find, but I was determined to procure the film and found a source in the U.K. so that we can view it here in Oronoque Village.

Were there any unique challenges for the festival?

With such high interest in the festival, my aims in the future are to grow us so that more people can attend. I'd love to have twice the number of attendees than we do but because all films are shown with subtitles, we must limit attendance. Most of the films are in a foreign language and, again, all movies are shown with subtitles so people should be aware of that going in. Most importantly, I believe that it will sell out very quickly so people will need to submit



Film Festival Director Chris Orrell and OVAG President Barbara Stewart

their checks ASAP.

What needs to happen this year for you to consider this experience a success?

Oronoque Village has people with such diverse backgrounds and experiences; it's a vortex of creativity. I hope that the festival is a truly inclusive place; that it provides a meaningful welcome. It's not simply opening the doors. It's extending a genuine and specific invitation to come into a place where everybody -- from casual moviegoer to hardcore cinephile and everything in between -- wants to be a part of this incredible film community.

Film Festival passes are on sale now on a first-come first-serve basis. Only 35 passes (for all six films) are being sold (no single tickets). Drop off a check for \$35 (\$45 for non-Arts Guild members) made out to OVAG along with your contact info (phone and email) in the OVAG mailbox at NCB.

Questions? Contact Barbara Stewart at 203-612-1373.



THE BEST EXERCISES FOR WARMUPS



By Ed Genga, M.A., CSCS

Tailor a warm-up exercise to the type of physical activity you will be doing. A warmup is essential before a workout. Sometimes, just marching in place and moving your arms around for a few minutes is enough to prepare your body for what it's about to endure. At other times, it takes more work to get your body ready for activity. Many people think that a warm-up before playing golf, pickleball or tennis means taking a couple of practice swings with the club or racquet. In reality, it should include 5 to 10 minutes of warm-up activities.

What Does the Warmup Do?

Warm-up activities accomplish several tasks:

They get blood pumping, which sends oxygen and energy to your tissues and muscles, so they are ready for activity.

They put muscles and joints through their range of motion, gently stretching them so they can accommodate broad movements.

They prepare the joints for forward and backward movement, side-to-side movement and rotation.

For Moderate-Intensity Activity

The type of warmup you need depends on your activity. For a strengthening routine or moderate-intensity activity (such as brisk walking or riding a bike on level ground), marching in place for a few minutes makes an effective warm-up. Swing your arms as you march.

Alternating leg activity can quickly raise the heart rate, which is important in a warmup. Marching also works your leg and buttock muscles. The leg you lift works the hip flexor. Your stationary leg works the gluteal muscles (in the buttocks) and the quadriceps (in the thighs).

For More Intense Activity

For vigorous physical activity, such as swimming or playing tennis, or for activity involving strenuous physical movements, such as golf, you will need a more extensive warmup. For example, golf requires that you swing your arms and turn your trunk. Tennis and pickleball require those movements and lateral shuffles. Therefore, you will want to prepare the muscles for that type of movement.

One way to warm up is by practicing moves you will perform later. Do the movement repeatedly, in a slow and con-

trolled manner, to allow the body to adjust to the activity. For example, for tennis, stand in place and slowly perform a backhand swing to warm up the shoulder and core muscles.

Other warm-up activities you can perform before vigorous exercise include marching in place, arm sweeps (sweeping your arms overhead), torso rotations (turning your torso left and then right) and the following moves:

Step ups: Facing the lowest step in a staircase, take one full step up and then step back down. Repeat the exercise 10 times, take a break, then do another 10 step ups. This targets your quadriceps muscles when you step up, and your gluteal muscles when you step down. When you step up with one leg at a time, you also activate your core and back muscles to help keep your body upright.

Arm circles: Put your arms out to the sides and move them in circles of varying size (small, medium and, then, large). Move them in forward circles for 30 seconds, then backward circles for 30 seconds. This helps the shoulder muscles and the rotator cuff, a group of muscles and tendons at the shoulder. The shoulder is the most mobile joint in the body, and these circles allow for the full range of shoulder movement.

Air punches: Punch the air in front of you, alternating right and left arms, for 30 seconds. Then do 30 seconds of cross-body punches: punch your right hand to the left, and then your left hand to the right. Try some uppercuts, too (punching upward). Punches increase your heart rate and get more blood flowing through the arm.

Stretching After Activity

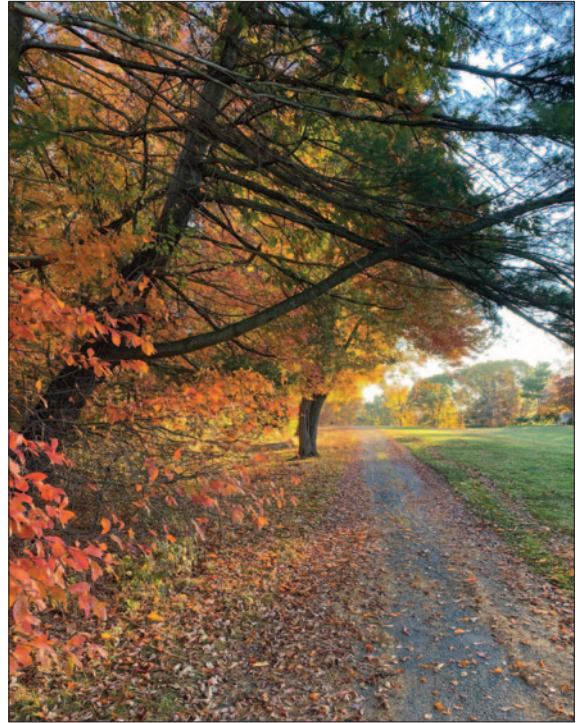
After the warmup, do your workout. Finish the activity with stretches — gently holding each stretch for about 30 to 60 seconds. I recommend stretching the shoulders, buttocks and hip muscles, upper leg muscles (the hamstrings and quadriceps) and calves. This will keep muscles long and supple, and ready to respond the next time you call on them for a workout or everyday activity. **OV**

Ed Genga is an OV resident and a fitness professional with more than 35 years of experience in a wide variety of industry disciplines including club management, corporate wellness, group fitness, college-level athletic coaching, personal training, phase 3 cardiac rehabilitation and exercise for cancer patients. You may submit questions about exercise to Ed at eegenga@gmail.com.

Boothe Homestead Christmas Celebration, Dec 2-5

The Historic Boothe Homestead at Boothe Memorial Park, 5800 Main St., will be decked out in a Victorian holiday theme, Dec. 2-5, for tours. The cost is \$5 for those over the age of 12. The proceeds will benefit the organization's school program. Many of the park's buildings will be decorated for the holidays. There will be 3-foot decorated trees available for auction. To purchase tickets visit: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofbootheparkinc/789252>

OV SNAPSHOTS



The Villager extends a heartfelt “thank you” to those residents who submitted scenic photos of this community taken during the autumn months.

Here are a few of the colorful submissions. Top left, Dina Glantz. Top right, Joanne Loftus. Above left, Karen Zimmerman. Above, Mary Ann Weaver. Left, Barbara Stewart.

AAA ADVISES DRIVERS, PEDESTRIANS ON SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

With daylight saving time now over, motorists are presented with challenges that could impact safety.

AAA Northern New England recommends motorists prepare for potential problems associated with changes in sleep patterns, brighter morning commutes and darker evening commutes.

When combined with an earlier dusk, disturbed sleep patterns can become a formula for fatigue-related crashes.

AAA provides the following tips to help reduce your risk of a night driving collision:

Adjust your speed to the reach of your headlights. Do not “overdrive” your headlights by driving at a speed that wouldn’t allow you to stop for an obstacle at the far reaches of your headlights.

Visit your optometrist annually.

Inspect headlights for deterioration and have them serviced if they appear hazy or yellowing. 80 percent of your headlight illumination can be blocked by aged headlight lens.

Inspect and replace pitted windshields and worn windshield wiper blades.

Regularly clean headlights and windshield – Make sure to clean both the inside and outside of your windshield.

Avoid being blinded by oncoming high beams. If the driver of an oncoming vehicle fails to dim the lights, look down toward the right side of the road to avoid being blinded. You should be able to see the edge of the lane or the painted edge line and stay on course until the vehicle passes.

Adjust mirrors to reduce glare. Properly adjusted mirrors not only reduce blind spots, they also reduce glare from vehicles behind you.

Cabin illumination. Many newer vehicles come with brightly lit infotainment screens and dashboard clusters that can be dimmed improving your vision for the road.

Be responsible — Wear your safety belt every trip and drive distraction and impairment free.

In 2021, AAA noted that, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s National Center for

Statistics and Analysis, 32 percent of all pedestrian fatalities occur between 8 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. If you are a pedestrian make sure you’re visible to drivers at all times and make eye contact with them whenever possible. This is especially important at night, in low-light conditions such as dusk or dawn or in inclement weather.

Here are a few additional tips from AAA.

Tips for Motorists

Driving: Always watch out for pedestrians when backing up in parking lots or driveways. Turn on your headlights to make yourself more visible.

Leave more following room. In the morning, when the sun is in your eyes it can be hard to see what the car ahead is doing. Use sunglasses and your sun visor.

Be mindful of children and others who are outdoors in the afternoon and evening as it gets dark earlier.

Remember to yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. Do not pass vehicles stopped at crosswalks.

Pay attention and eliminate all distractions including cell phones and car clocks that are off by an hour.

Scan the road for wild animals, mainly deer. There were 34,064 animal-related crashes in New York in 2021, often outside of daylight hours.

Tips for Pedestrians

Cross only at intersections or crosswalks. Look left, right and left again, and only cross when it is clear. Do not jaywalk or cross between parked cars.

Evaluate the distance and speed of oncoming traffic before you step out into the street.

Avoid walking in traffic where there are no sidewalks or crosswalks. If you have to walk on a road that does not have sidewalks, walk facing traffic.

See and be seen. Carry a flashlight and wear reflective clothing and/or accessories.

While walking, pocket the cell phone and avoid listening to headphones at a volume that prohibits you from hearing approaching danger.



**Calling ALL OV Residents,
Districts and Clubs:**

**The deadline for Employee Appreciation
Fund Contributions is Dec. 16!**

NOW is the time ... This is the **PLACE**
Please **CONTRIBUTE** to the
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION FUND
It's not too late!

**Your contribution is very much appreciated.
This is the only Holiday bonus that our
dedicated Employees receive.**

Let's give them a joyous HOLIDAY!

**Checks payable to OVCA, with
Appreciation Fund written in the memo line,
should be delivered to the Business Office.**

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Karaoke Dance Party

Friday, December 23, 6:30 p.m. at SCB



All your favorite Christmas and Hanukkah songs will be played, so come sing and dance the night away!

Santa Claus may even pay a visit!

BYOB, drinks and snacks ... and dancing shoes, of course!



The Movie Club Presents
Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris
Dec. 9, 7 p.m., NCB
Dec. 14, 2 p.m., SCB

In 1957 London, Mrs. Ada Harris (Lesley Manville), a widowed cleaning lady, becomes obsessed with one client's haute couture Dior dress; it inspires her to buy her own Dior dress.

After suddenly receiving a war-widow's pension, she travels to Paris to do so. She stumbles into a showing of Dior's 10th anniversary collection and is befriended by André, the Dior accountant, and Natasha, a Dior model. However, the Dior director, Claudine, resents Ada's intrusion into the exclusive world of haute couture.

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



Holiday Concert

Presents Suzanne Sheridan & Bob Cooper

Monday, December 12, 2022

1:00 pm SCB Members - Free

Others \$5 at the door

Suzanne

Suzanne is a singer-songwriter, guitarist, professional portrait photographer and long-time resident of Westport, CT. Her first jingle as a singer was "Join the Pepsi People" for Pepsi Cola Company, which won the coveted Clio Award. She also sang on many jingles for companies such as Hasbro Toys' "Weebles," Hardees, and Texaco.

Bob

Bob played with many different bands including The Basics, Blues Food, Groove Authority, Soul Casters, Hipsocket, Southern Revelation, Slo' Burn, and the Boston Soul Revue 'Urban Renewal.' He played 10 years for all concerts with the Doo Wop Hall of Fame of America and has backed up many famous musicians.



Happy Holidays

All Ladies & Gentlemen are Welcome



Dessert, Coffee & Tea will be served following the program



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FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS

**Back By
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Johnny Paolillo

one Man Band

**COME
JOIN
THE
FUN!**

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 -7pm

SCB • Doors Open At 6:15

Special Holiday Dessert After The Show

Advance reservations required and payments will be accepted from **November 16th through December 8th** unless maximum capacity is reached. Open to resident Funseekers' members and one guest per single resident until November 26th. Starting on November 27th, if there is space availability, member residents may sign up non-resident guests. Please put \$4.00 check per person into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB (\$7.00 non-resident guest). Wish to pay your dues for 2023? Drop your dues check of \$15 anytime in the Funseekers mailbox.

Questions? Call Lynn Collins **203.260.4644**



We welcome back Johnny Paolillo, a one-man band, for an evening of great music and fun! Johnny utilizes back tracking to sound like a 4-5 piece band. Motown, standards, beach, oldies, jazz and blues are just some of the genres that he performs.

He is a fabulous guitarist and an amazing singer!

★ Johnny is a 5 star performer; you won't want to miss this event!

COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS & DESSERT TO BE SERVED

BYOB AND MUNCHIES!

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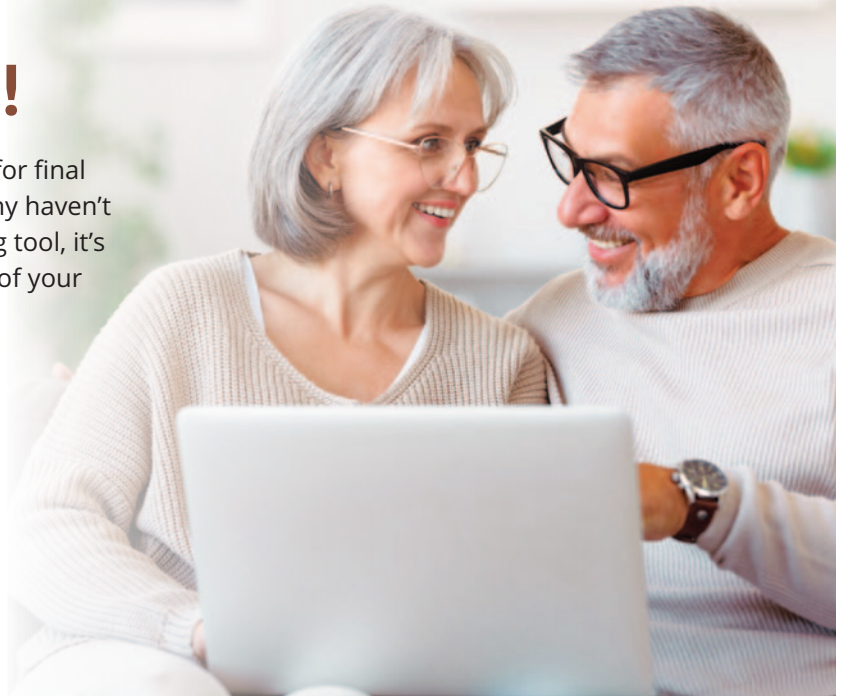
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