

December 15, 2022



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Thank you to Arline Walton for submitting the cover photo, taken during the Nov. 13 Pletman Concert at NCB. At the conclusion of the performance, Elisabeth Breslav — who has been overseeing the concert series since 2010 — officially stepped down from her duties and introduced the new program coordinators, Amy Plapp and Tom Ward (far left). OVCA President Bob Grosso was on hand to wish Elisabeth well and bestow her with a bouquet of flowers. Please see the article on page 4 for more details. The Villager welcomes photo submissions, which must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronoquevillage.com.



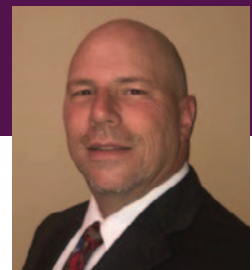
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PLETMAN CONCERTS WILL CONTINUE WITH NEW LEADERSHIP

Since the earliest years of Oronoque Village, regular classical music performances have been a feature of Village life. Beginning with Max and Rose Pletman, who lived in Oronoque until 1993, a series of dedicated volunteers have worked to present regular concerts with professional performers ranging from young piano and violin prodigies to classical guitarists, gifted choral artists and many more.

Until recently, Elisabeth Breslav — for more than a decade — has been the impresario behind dozens of concerts by renown artists, professionally presented and well-attended by enthusiastic audiences of Village residents.

This year, Elisabeth is passing the torch to two new OV residents, Tom Ward and Amy Plapp, who moved from Colorado to Connecticut in 2022. As amateur classical and jazz musicians who have performed in and volunteered for both community and professional musical groups for many years, Tom and Amy are delighted to take over stewardship of the concert series and eager to maintain the high standards set by their predecessors. They hope to continue to present repeat performances by artists known and loved by Villagers, as well as expand the circle to include additional talented professionals from throughout the region.

Concerts will continue to take place at the NCB, utilizing the beautiful Baldwin piano when needed, on Sunday afternoons in the fall and spring. Save the dates for the first



Amy Plapp and Tom Ward will take the reins of the Pletman Concerts starting in 2023. They are pictured with longtime Pletman Concert coordinator Elisabeth Breslav (seated).

three concerts of 2023: March 26, April 23 and May 21.

If you've never attended a Pletman concert, mark your calendar and prepare for an afternoon of pure enjoyment. And if you're a series regular, you can rest easy, knowing that this wonderful OV tradition will continue!



HOLIDAY CAROLERS TO PERFORM AT CLUBHOUSES ON DEC. 18

In the holiday spirit, a group of carolers from the Fathers' Club at St. Mark School and Church of Stratford will regale Villagers outside of the North and South Clubhouses on Sunday, Dec. 18. Please join your neighbors for some holiday cheer!

Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the North Clubhouse parking lot/garden area, and at 6:50 p.m. at the South Clubhouse front parking lot/garden area by the bridge.

This event is sponsored by the Communications Committee. Refreshments will be served.



**PROCEDURES FOR SCHEDULING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS
IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH CLUBHOUSE BUILDINGS**

Residents are reminded that an Activity Request Form must be filled out before scheduling an event, activity or meeting to take place in the North or South Clubhouse.

This rule is in place for clubs/groups/activities as well as those who want to schedule private events.

The filled-out forms must then be submitted to the Business Office for confirmation or approval.

Forms can be picked up in the Business Office or downloaded from the OV website (www.oronoquevillage.com) under the Documents/General heading. **OV**

OV CALL-IN PROGRAM OFFERS INDEPENDENCE AND 'PEACE OF MIND'

By Carol King

Several years ago, Elisabeth Breslav signed up for the Oronoque Village Call-In Program, which provides her with the opportunity to live independently while assuring her children that she is in capable hands.

"When a medical issue landed me in the hospital, I overheard my children discussing with the doctor whether 'Mom should go back to living alone,'" Elisabeth recalls. "Having no desire to leave Oronoque Village, I hastened to find ways to put their minds at ease and enrolled in the Call-In Program.

"Now, with the Call-In Program, somebody will come looking for me if I don't call in between 9 and 10 a.m.," she says. "The kids are satisfied and, frankly, when you live alone, this service provides personal assurance, as well, regardless of your age."

Residents who value their independence, but have apprehensions about living alone, are encouraged to take advantage of the Oronoque Village Call-In Program, notes Kathy Lukens, program coordinator.

"By signing up for the Call-In Program, residents are asked to 'check-in' each day — via a phone call — with a volunteer monitor on duty. If your call is not received between 9-10 a.m., a welfare check will occur to make sure the residents is okay."

Adds Kathy, "From early in the Call-In Program history, it became apparent that some of residents would be living alone for the first time without close contact with their families. To ensure peace of mind for all involved, we instituted the Call-In Program for those residents who wish to take advantage of this service."

If you desire this service for yourself, or perhaps your loved ones want to make sure your best interests are being looked after, it is advised that you investigate this opportunity.

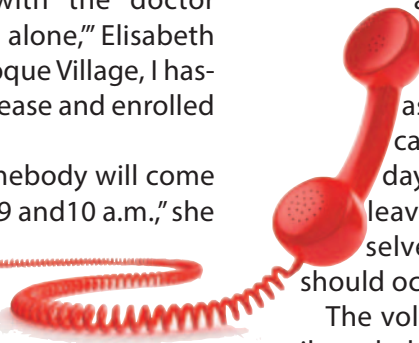
"To participate in the program, we ask that residents provide the following: a copy of their house key to our Business Office at the North Clubhouse," says Kathy. "We also request a listing of nearby neighbors, family or friends as contacts if the resident can't be reached and, most important of all, assurance from the residents that they will call a designated phone number each week-day. The residents simply call the number and leave a message in which they identify themselves and report that they are alright. This should occur about 9 a.m."

The volunteer monitor on-duty checks the voice-mails each day and, if no message is left, will call the resident to do a phone check. If the resident doesn't answer after several tries, the monitor will reach out to the family and/or nearby neighbors or friends who have agreed to be a secondary contact.

If the monitor is unsuccessful in reaching anyone, the Maintenance Department is asked to do a welfare check.

On weekends, monitors call and check in with each of the residents who have signed up for the Call-In Program.

Volunteer monitors and substitute monitors also are needed. For information on participating or volunteering, contact Kathy Lukens at wklukens@comcast.net or 203-612-6685. **OV**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BILLIARDS ROOM IS OCCUPIED ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

The Billiards Room at the North Clubhouse is now reserved by a closed group on the second Friday of each month, from 6-8 p.m., beginning Jan. 13.

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.

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.

OVAG FILM FEST IS SOLD-OUT

The 2023 Film Festival presented by the OV Arts Guild is filled to capacity. No additional tickets are available.

HOLIDAY DECORATION REMOVAL SCHEDULED AT CLUBHOUSES

The House & Garden Club will remove all holiday decorations at SCB at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 4 and at NCB at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 5. Those who are available to help are welcome to join the group and pitch in. If you have questions, please call Debbie Grosso at 203-380-2468.

BUSINESS/MAINTENANCE OFFICES ANNOUNCE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Business & Maintenance offices will close at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23, and will reopen on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

The offices also will close at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 30, and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023.

STRATFORD PD REMINDS RESIDENTS TO LOCK YOUR CARS

The Stratford Police Department (SPD) reminds residents to lock their vehicles when they are parked outdoors.

"The greatest deterrent to car theft is locking your car," states Stratford Police Chief Joe McNeil.

Chief McNeil strongly advises residents practice due diligence and follow the recommendations below:

1. Keep your vehicle locked at all times.
2. When parked, do not leave your keys in the car. Close all the windows and the sunroof.
3. Never leave your car running and unattended.

4. Never leave valuables inside your vehicle where passersby can see them.

Chief McNeil urges residents to contact that SPD if they see any suspicious persons in this community. "Suspicious activity can refer to an individual or activity that seems unusual or out of place," he said. "If we are notified, we will come out and investigate. That's what we are here for."

The Stratford PD can be reached at the following numbers: Routine Calls: (203) 385-4100, Confidential T.I.P.S.: (203) 375-8477, Emergency Calls: 911.

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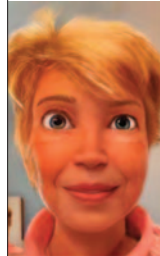
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NEW RESIDENTS WELCOMED AT SAC'S COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Nearly 140 residents — half of them new arrivals in the last year — enjoyed a lively afternoon of conversation and making new friends at the annual New Residents Reception hosted by the Social Activities Committee (SAC).

Co-chairs Ivy Tencer and Pat Spodick, together with SAC committee members, put together an enjoyable gathering in the North Clubhouse to welcome the all the new residents who moved into Oronoque during the past 12 months.

During the afternoon event, SAC volunteers acted as greeters and staff, passing hot hors d'oeuvres through the crowd. Wine and soft drinks were served at the bar. Cheese and crackers and crudite platters, as well as a chafing dish of Swedish meatballs,

rounded out the food offerings for the guests.

"We were thrilled with the turnout; we think it may have been a record-breaker," said Elaine Ficarra, SAC chair.

She added, "Ivy and Pat, along with our dedicated SAC committee members, did a fabulous job promoting the event, encouraging attendance and directing the flow of the afternoon."

Many thanks as well to our office staff and building monitors who always go above and beyond to assist the many various OV clubs and social groups in making

their activities a success.



Story and photos submitted by SAC



SAC committee members, from left, Pat Spodick, Ivy Tencer, Pam Schwanke, Lynn Shafer, Liz Moretti, Elaine Ficarra, Patrice Lundgren and Ginette Courtney



ACTIVITIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent via email, to Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on Jan. 3, 2023, is Dec. 16 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. 28, Jan. 11 and Jan 25.

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 levels 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.

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.

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. Come with your favorite appetizer and or beverage (or nothing) for reunions and conversations. Call Sonya at 203-377-1515 for more information.

QUILTING GROUP

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

TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

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

WRITER'S GROUP

- The Oronoque Village Writer's Group (OVWG) is a group of writers who enjoy the challenges of writing and of sharing their work in a trusted environment. Members commit to attending workshops twice a month in a respectful, supportive and professional environment with hopes of expanding their writing and publishing horizons. Our members include published authors and hobbyists. Our works include essays, memoirs, poems, short stories, treatises, humorous tales, heart-wrenching histories. The group meets on alternate 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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OV SNAPSHOTS: GINGERBREAD HOUSE AT SCB



A festive, and intricate gingerbread village, titled "The North Pole," is on display in the South Clubhouse foyer. The village was created by OV residents Karen and Nick Harding and their daughter, Annie McHugh. The building of gingerbread villages is a longstanding holiday tradition for the Harding family and they are happy to share their work with Village residents. This is the second year that the Hardings have shared their gingerbread creations at SCB.

The display comes with a short story that sets the scene for the display and also includes a key that invites viewers to find specific objects in the creation, including a parrot, a dove, Santa's boots and a few beachballs.

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, visit www.oronoquevillage.com or OVTV (Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box).

Bold-faced listings = OVCA / OVTD events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB
- 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
- **4:00 p.m. – Racquet Sports Facility Comm., NCB, B/R**
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18: No events scheduled

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginners, 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
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB

- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Business & Maintenance Offices Close at 2 p.m.

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Karaoke/Dance Party, SCB

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25: Clubhouses are closed

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, ***Business & Maintenance Offices Closed***

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- **4:00 p.m. – Bylaws Committee, NCB**
- 7:00 p.m. – Card Game, Brosowsky, SCB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong, SCB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Business & Maintenance Offices Close at 2 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1: Clubhouses are closed

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Business & Maintenance Offices Closed

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Card Game, Brosowsky, SCB



Thank you to Kathy Wells for submitting a photo of her Christmas tree, which is decorated with ornaments that are dated, beginning with 1971 (the year she and her husband Barry were married) to 2022.

WARNING: FROZEN PIPES CAN CAUSE COLLATERAL DAMAGE

By Mark Rhatigan, Director of Maintenance Operations

As the temperatures drop, we see an increase in the number of damages caused by frozen pipes.

When frozen pipes burst, water spreads from the burst pipe and saturates everything in its path, causing damages to walls, ceilings, floors and irreplaceable personal items such as photographs, journals, yearbooks and other paper-based mementos.

Ultimately, these damages will be the cause of a higher cost for insurance premiums.

With proper precautions, frozen pipes—and the resulting damages—are avoidable.

Please take the following measures to keep your pipes from freezing:

- ✓ Make sure your lower level thermostat is set at a minimum of 65 degrees.
- ✓ Make sure all outside faucets are turned off and your hoses have been stored.
- ✓ Please be reminded that, in preparation for the winter weather, you should turn off the water feeding your out-

door spigot. This process will help prevent freezing and pipe bursts. It is a good idea to first turn off the water from inside your unit and then open your outside spigot to allow excess water to escape from your water line.

- ✓ Trickle water through your faucets that are against outside walls. Let cold water drip overnight.
- ✓ Keep your thermostat set at the same temperature during both day and night. You might be in the habit of turning down the heat when you're asleep, but further drops in the temperature may freeze your pipes.
- ✓ Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- ✓ Remove ceiling tiles in the lower level to allow warm air to ventilate pipes.

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS: It is essential that you share this information with the people responsible for watching your units while you are away. New England winters can bring bitterly cold weather with temperatures that drop significantly during the night.

ov



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE WORK OF ART AT THE SCB GALLERY SHOW

The Fall Oronoque Art Show, which has the theme of “See Beauty in the Ordinary,” is on view through the end of the month.

Please stop by and vote for your favorite piece of artwork.

The person who gets the most votes will receive a People’s Choice Award, to be presented at the Jan. 15 opening reception for the Winter Show.

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OV WINE CLUB HOLDS HOLIDAY TASTING EVENT

Story by Bill Tanski ~ Photo by Dorothy Tanski

The OV Wine Club has become the hottest ticket in town. We experienced another sold-out event on the evening of Nov. 18 at NCB. It was our annual "Wine for the Holidays" experience.

Our new wine tutor, Michelle DeWyngaert, greeted guests with glasses of Gruet, an excellent sparkling wine from, of all places, New Mexico. Even James Bond would appreciate this American-style "champagne." It's crisp and easy taste would accompany any celebration or adventure. Each guest enjoyed this bubbly accompanied by home-baked gingerbread boys and girls.

Each table was laden with hefty plates of antipasto. The assortment complemented our palates for the white and red wines to follow.

We got down to business with a dry Riesling from New York State. Peachy, with a relatively low alcohol level (12 percent), it'd be the perfect accompaniment for a holiday brunch, lunch or dinner; sort of a 24/7 type of wine.

Two other outstanding whites followed, a Château Le Payral from France and a Herdade Do Esporao from Portugal. Served chilled, they'd be perfect pairings for any seafood or an excellent alternative for the Pinot Noir typically served with turkey. And, if you left a cup of either wine for Santa, I don't think he'd mind.

As the evening commenced, we experienced our first snowflakes of the season, just enough to whiten the ground. While some may dream of a white Christmas, we say: "If the white runs out, drink the red!" Thus we began the samplings of our red wines.

Reds are typically a bit robust and more associated with meats and dinner versus eggs benedict and brunch. That may be true for the hearty Chateau Massiac, a solid red from France. On a winter's night, with a roast on the table,



this would be the dinner wine to share with friends and family. (Just make sure to buy enough!)

The other reds were a bit milder and would be fine with fowl, even a partridge (sans the pear tree). One was a Terres Dores, a Beaujolais. The other a Pinot Noir from the California vineyards of San Luis Obispo. These wines had an all-season hint to them, something to drink at any occasion on any day with anyone.

Outdoors the snow was coming to an end. But indoors the Wine Club was still in session. We traditionally end our events with Dorothy Tanski's home-baked cookies. Then, we linger over more wine as we talk with friends and neighbors into the night. Like many of our blended wines, our joy stems from the perfect chemistry with our attendees sharing space and time combined with our love of wine.

See you in the spring!



NOTICES

The Oronoque Village Condominium Association financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 are on file for public inspection, during normal business hours, in the Oronoque Village Condominium Association Office, 600 North Trail, Stratford, Conn.

Kenneth Colman, Treasurer

The Oronoque Village Tax District financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 are on file for public inspection, during normal business hours, in the Oronoque Village Tax District Office, 600 North Trail, Stratford, Conn.

Thomas Becker, Treasurer

SCHOOLGIRL SAMPLERS: RECAP OF OV ARTS GUILD EVENT

Story by Lee Shlafer ~ Photo by Kathy Wells

Last month, the Oronoque Village Arts Guild (OVAG), once again, demonstrated the breadth and diversity of creative offerings available to residents of this community.

On Thursday, Nov. 10, the intriguing world of antique schoolgirl samplers was discussed by Barbara Dierolf, a resident and OVAG member, who shared her passion for these precious treasures. Using a beautifully executed slide presentation, which Anita Cody and Arline Walton helped create, examples of museum-quality antique samplers were shown as Barbara explained their histories. Barbara, who has been collecting samplers for many years, also displayed items from her personal collection.

She spoke about the careful needlework required by the young girls who created these samplers and explained the interesting histories gleaned from the stitchery. Family connections, allegorical messages and English usage are examples of just some of the details that can be found by carefully examining the wording sewn on each sampler.

The audience was absorbed by the presentation and, at its conclusion, actively engaged in a question-and-answer period.

Clearly, participants enjoyed the depth of knowledge



Barbara Dierolf stands with a display of schoolgirl samplers from her personal collection.

about samplers that Barbara so willingly shared. Conversation about the topic continued as attendees noshed on the savory treats and beverages that are standard fare at an OVAG event. It was a wonderful way to spend an afternoon with friends while catching a glimpse of a unique piece of our history.

OVAG has previously hosted events focusing on painting, sculpture, photography, film, dance, theater, button-collecting, humor and writing. Membership, which is \$15, includes no-charge attendance at most OVAG events. For information, contact Barbara Stewart at barbsmt@yahoo.com or 203-612-

1373.





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WINTER EVENTS IN CONNECTICUT

There are so many ways to celebrate the winter holidays in Connecticut. Festivities occur at a variety of times throughout winter, so you'll have plenty of opportunities to attend them all.

Here are some upcoming winter events that will take place in the Nutmeg State.

Holiday Stroll, Stamford: The all-new Holiday Stroll at Mill Park in Stamford is a gorgeous, illuminated showcase that captures the magic of the season in the most brilliant way. The spectacular walk-through experience is interactive and captivating, featuring a 30-foot Christmas tree, synchronized music, 3D ornaments and incredible light displays. For the adults: a Winter Beer Garden awaits! Plus food vendors serving up flavorful and fun eats for the whole family. For the kids: carnival rides and some of their favorite holiday treats, including cider doughnuts and hot chocolate with marshmallows.

This event typically runs Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve. Learn more about the Stamford Holiday Stroll at <https://theholidaystroll.com/>

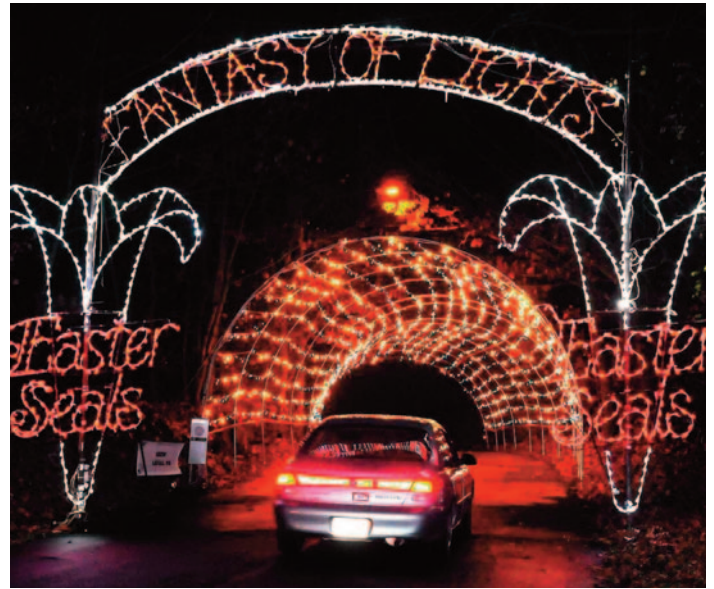
Winterfest and the Tunnel of Light, East Windsor: Start a new holiday tradition aboard a historic trolley car at the Winterfest and the Tunnel of Lights in East Windsor. The trolley will pass through a tunnel of sparkling lights as your ride along singing Christmas carols. Afterwards you can head into the visitors center which has beautiful holiday decorations and model trains to view. Meet up with Santa and he will have a small gift for each child. The festival is at the Connecticut Trolley Museum and typically run every weekend from Thanksgiving through the end of the year.

For more information, visit <https://www.ct-trolley.org/events/winterfest-and-the-tunnel-of-lights/>

Fire and Ice Festival, Putnam: The Fire and Ice Festival is a unique way to warm up on a chilly day. The only one of the Connecticut winter festivals to offer both a fire bar and a sculpted ice bar, this is one unique way to celebrate the cold weather. There will be plenty of local food, beer and wine offered along with demonstrations of ice sculpting and woodworking. There will also be opportunities to take that classical winter carriage ride. The Fire and Ice Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023.

For more details, visit <https://www.discoverputnam.com/fireandicefestival-getinvolved>

Fantasy of Lights at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven: The Fantasy of Lights has been a holiday tradition for thousands of families in Southern New England for over



25 years. The dazzling nighttime drive-through display supports employment, educational, social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and other challenges.

The illuminated Lighthouse Point Park looks simply magical with over 60 animated displays and 100,000 lights. Most displays have eco-friendly LED bulbs.

To take the experience to the next level, you can rent a pair of 3D glasses.

Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven is famous for its historical lighthouse and carousels. Back in the 1920s, there were some 10,000 carousels operating across the country, the Lighthouse Park carousel is one of the fewer than 100 in use today. The New Haven Harbor Lighthouse, also called the Five Mile Point Light, dates back to 1804. A 70-foot tower was built from local sandstone with a solid brick interior and spiral granite staircase up to the lantern loft. The Lighthouse Point Park is beautiful at any time of the year, but during the holidays it's especially impressive thanks to the dazzling light displays. The event concludes on Dec. 31

Winterfest at Mystic Aquarium, Stonington: Durin the last week of December, Mystic Aquarium comes alive with holiday cheer. There are different events scheduled every day to celebrate the season. Watch as artists create amazing sculptures out of ice, elves frolic in the water with the animals and enjoy local entertainment. You can take a piece of Winterfest home with you by crafting a snowflake masterpiece of your very own.

To learn more about Winterfest, visit <https://www.mysticaquarium.org>

Source: www.onlyinyourstate.com/connecticut

AVOIDING SENIOR SCAMS: TIPS FROM THE FTC

Every year millions of people report fraud, scams and bad business practices to the Federal Trade Commission. Your stories help the FTC to better understand how fraud affects every community.

Scammers are using social media for investment, romance and online shopping scams. More than one in four people who reported losing money to fraud from 2020 - 2021 said it started on social media with an ad, a post or a message. The most money was lost to investment and romance scams.

Romance scammers pursue people on dating apps and social media with fake tales of love, then demand payments with gift cards, wire transfers and cryptocurrency. The median reported loss across all romance scam reports was \$2,400 last year, but the amount was higher among older adults. People 70 and over reported the highest median losses at \$9,000.

Imposters posing as Amazon workers tricked people with messages about suspicious activity or unauthorized purchases on their accounts. Among people age 60 and over who reported the calls in 2020-2021, the median reported loss was \$1,500, compared to \$814 for people under age 60.

If you spot one of these scams (or another), please tell us at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. It's easy to report and the information you give helps protect your community.

Four Signs of a Scam

1. *Scammers pretend to be from an organization you know.* Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the Social Security Administration, the IRS or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company or even a charity asking for donations.

They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

2. *Scammers say there's a problem or a prize.* They might say you're in trouble with the government or you owe money or someone in your family had an emergency or that there's a virus on your computer.

Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information.

Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

3. *Scammers pressure you to act immediately.* Scammers

want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story.

They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

4. *Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way.* They often insist that you pay by sending money through a money transfer company or by putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back.

Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), tell you to deposit it and then send them money.



What You Can Do to Avoid a Scam

Block unwanted calls and text messages. Take steps to filter unwanted text messages.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect. Legitimate organizations won't call, email or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately. Legitimate businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Report Scams to the FTC

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov or call the Consumer Help Line, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The line is staffed by counselors from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

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

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

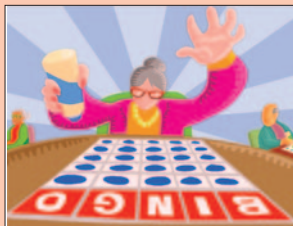
**NOW is the time ... This is the *PLACE*
Please **CONTRIBUTE** to the
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION FUND
*It's not too late!***

**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.**

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



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

Games begin at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$2.50 per card.

**Questions?
Call Sandy Lunt at 203-377-5833**



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

Book discussion will not take place during January.

The book for Feb. 1 is *The Night Watchman* by National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich.

The book is based on the extraordinary life of the author's grandfather, who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C.

This powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

COME HELP US CELEBRATE OUR NEW CLUB: GOOD TIMES!
JOIN US SATURDAY, JAN 14TH, IN WELCOMING 2023
ENJOY DINNER (CATERED BY LASSE'S), DANCING & SINGING BY MICHAEL REA



TIME: 6:00 -10:00 PM * **LOCATION:** NORTH CLUBHOUSE * **COST:** \$45PP

APPETIZERS: Coconut Shrimp, Fresh Tomato & Mozzarella Skewers, Franks in Pastry

BUFFET: Chicken Piccata, Salmon, Eggplant, Salad, Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Soda

BYOB (SETUPS PROVIDED)* 50/50 RAFFLE & BASKET DOOR PRIZES
QUESTIONS? CALL MARY ANN WEAVER: 203-530-9962

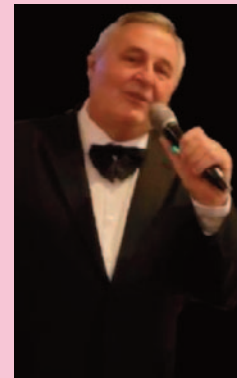
If you have a seating preference: Please include all names with checks (made out to **GOOD TIMES CLUB**) & drop off with form to **GOOD TIMES CLUB** box at NCB before Jan. 7.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____



The Movie Club Presents
Jerry & Marge Go Large
Jan. 13, 7 p.m., NCB
Jan. 18, 2 p.m., SCB

Based on the true story about long-married couple Jerry and Marge Selbee, who win the lottery and use the money to revive their small town.

Starring Bryan Cranston, Annette Bening, Rainn Wilson and Michael McKean.

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

2023 VILLAGER DEADLINE DATES FOR EDITORIAL CONTENT*

The Villager is published twice-monthly, on the 1st and the 15th, when possible.

**The dates below are subject to change. Deadline dates are updated on the website, www.oronoquevillage.com*

Jan. 3 Villager has a deadline of Dec. 16
 Jan. 16 Villager has a deadline of Jan. 4
 Feb. 1 Villager has a deadline of Jan. 19
 Feb. 15 Villager has a deadline of Feb. 2
 March 1 Villager has a deadline of Feb. 16
 March 15 Villager has a deadline of March 2
 April 3 Villager has a deadline of March 21
 April 17 Villager has a deadline of April 4
 May 1 Villager has a deadline of April 18
 May 15 Villager has a deadline of May 2
 June 1 Villager has a deadline of May 18
 June 15 Villager has a deadline of June 2
 July 3 Villager has a deadline of June 18
 July 17 Villager has a deadline of July 3
 Aug. 1 Villager has a deadline of July 19



Aug. 15 Villager has a deadline of Aug. 2
 Sept. 1 Villager has a deadline of Aug. 18
 Sept. 15 Villager has a deadline of Sept. 4
 Oct. 2 Villager has a deadline of Sept. 17
 Oct. 16 Villager has a deadline of Oct. 3
 Nov. 1 Villager has a deadline of Oct. 17
 Nov. 15 Villager Nov. 2
 Dec. 1 Villager has a deadline of Nov. 16
 Dec. 15 Villager has a deadline of Dec. 3

For information on The Villager, please contact Editor Carol King at 203-377-5313, ext. 3/ cking@oronoquevillage.com

Baldwin Breakfast Club!

1000 West Broad Street, Stratford



Monday - Friday @ 9:00 am



The Baldwin Center is now serving breakfast **EVERY WEEKDAY MORNING** in The Baldwin Center Cafe!!!

Must be at least 60 years of age to register. Registration and Reservations are required.
 Please call (203) 385-4050 to learn more about the program, or call (203) 377-4991 directly to make a reservation!

See you for breakfast!!!

Donations of \$3 are welcome, but no one will be turned away if unable to donate.

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 Oronoque Village Monitor program needs volunteers as monitors and substitutes. The monitors maintain a presence at the South Clubhouse, spending two hours a week in the office.

Special duties are:

1. Check visitors in and out.
2. Patrol the building, checking thermostats and locked doors.
3. Participate in the Call-In Program, which enables residents who live alone to check in daily or have monitors check up on them.

Feel free to bring a book, knitting, needlepoint or any other hobby with you to pass the time. There is a television in the office if you'd like to watch.

This is an easy and pleasant way to volunteer your time and help with the safety and security of our Village. Also, it is an opportunity to meet fellow residents.

To learn more, contact Kathy Lukens at wklukens@comcast.net / 203-612-6685.

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,
Caregiver's Home Solutions can bring you peace of mind.

When illness, injury or age make home life more difficult,
our family owned and operated caregiving agency can
help keep you safe and independent in your own home.
The way it should be. Always.

Proudly owned by an OV resident, our agency has been
honored to serve the Oronoque community for over 14 years.

Call us today for a no-obligation in-home assessment.
It would be our pleasure to show you how we can
help with a care plan that meets your individual needs
while maintaining your sense of dignity and independence.

+ Special discount for OV residents +



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Benchmark creates connections and meaningful experiences for individuals with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. We cultivate a sense of community and deliver personalized care with passion.



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DELIVERING PERSONALIZED CARE



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TO ENGAGE MIND AND BODY



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