

March 15, 2023



# THE VILLAGER





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Thank you to Joanne Loftus for submitting the cover photo, which was taken of the North Clubhouse at sunset. The Villager welcomes photo submissions, which must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to [cking@oroquoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oroquoquevillage.com).

Villager article submissions should be emailed as either text attachments or with text pasted into the body of an email. All Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of The Associated Press Stylebook.



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# OVTD REPORT: UPDATE ON ROAD PAVING PROJECT

By Jonathan Towle, OVTD Roads Committee Chairman



Road paving has always been a major issue here in Oronoque Village. We typically pave all our roads during a 20-year cycle. At the end of 2021, we were 12 years into that cycle. During the first six years of the current cycle, we were only paving one road a year. Since 2015, however, the Oronoque Village Tax District (OVTD) budget has been al-

locating \$200,000-\$300,000 annually toward road paving, allowing us to pave three to four roads a year.

In January of 2022, due to low interest rates, the Tax District directors recommended — and the taxpayers then approved — a line of credit to accelerate the paving of the remaining roads from eight years down to three years. We can state that, as of the end of 2022, approximately 80 percent of repaving was completed cumulatively throughout

the Village. The Tax District expended \$960,000 in the initial part of the first phase in 2022. The remaining balance of phase 1 is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2023 at a projected cost of \$500,000, which will encompass an additional seven roadway areas. Those seven roads are: Ottawa, Sequoia, Dakota, Montauk, Creek, 103 cul-de-sac and 86 ABCD cul-de-sac (driveway).

However, the events of this past year — particularly the highest inflation rate in 40 years — has increased costs in all goods, services, labor and materials. These expenses have required a reassessment of the project as the overall costs have increased 23.6 percent. As of January 2024, the road cost projections for the remaining 11 roads are approximately \$1,032,000. Two of those roads, Bison and Algonquin, comprise about 40 percent of the expense.

In reviewing the various scenarios, it is evident that the project timeline needs to be extended. Should economic factors become favorable, we will — most certainly — work to expedite the project timeline. OV

## MEET MARK RHATIGAN: OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Please tell us about your background.

I graduated from Guilford High School in 2001. When the Sept. 11 attacks occurred, I was inspired to join the military. As a volunteer with a Bucket Brigade in New York City, I was part of the team that cleared away what was left of the World Trade Center buildings. Shortly thereafter, at the age of 18, I enlisted and became a paratrooper in the U.S. Army — serving in Airborne Infantry, Mechanized Infantry and Calvary units. My seven years of service included tours in South Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan.



After leaving the service, I attended Gateway Community College in New Haven. While taking classes I simultaneously worked in the construction business while bartending full-time, which is why my studies focused on mechanical engineering and food/beverage hospitality. The jobs took more of my time as my responsibilities grew and I ended up leaving college two courses shy of earning my associate's degree. It was my intention to return to school, but life happens, and work, largely construction -- from home improvement to new construction -- became a full-time commitment. I ran framing crews and managed roofing and siding projects for several construction outfits, which prepared me well for my role at Oronoque Village.

Over the past eight-plus years, I have often applied my technical skills in my work performance as well as devel-

oped the management skills needed to supervise — and motivate — the Maintenance staff.

Since arriving at Oronoque, I have aspired to a career in association management. In 2017, I completed the required coursework and was designated as a Certified Manager Community Association (CMCA). To maintain that credential, it is required that continuing education units be taken every two years, which I have also completed. Further, I was certified as an Association Management Specialist (AMS), which is not required to receive a Certified Association Manager (CAM) license, but provides an additional depth of knowledge in community management.

I am a single dad. My 8-year-old son, Landon, is the Number 1 person in my life. We live in Shelton and, whenever we can, we love to go fishing and hiking. Those times are even better if we can take our border collie/terrier mix, Rocco, with us. He has a huge personality.

**When did you first come to Oronoque Village?**

I came to OV as child and have many fond memories of being here with my family. My grandmother lived on Cherokee Lane from 1989-1998. Summers were spent at Oronoque, swimming in the NCB pool, learning to ride a bike and collecting golf balls from the golf course. One of my aunts was even married here.

It is easy for me to remember the day I was hired: July 1, 2014. I started as the Carpentry Supervisor. It was a busy time, but soon John Staley promoted me to Operations

Manager. In October 2016, I became the Director of Maintenance Operations and, after that, Fred Rodriguez guided me to the position of Executive Director.

**Please describe your role and accomplishments here.**

In my role as Maintenance Director, I've been second in command to the last three Executive Directors, so I have worked with a variety of management styles. Both the OVCA and OVTD maintenance operating budgets, including labor, as well as staffing of the Maintenance Department and handling insurance claims, are jobs I undertake, collaborating with my team. Projects involving roads, the new security/FOB system, pool relining and the resurfacing of some of our tennis facilities to pickleball courts are under my supervision. The extensive Renaissance Project, which involved the complete renovation of both clubhouses, was a major effort that was streamlined by my experience in construction. Having a background in the general contracting business has been a plus -- knowing how contractors operate, work, bid on jobs, etc. During my time as Maintenance Director, we have negotiated contracts for infrastructure repairs, roads, siding, painting and roofing in the best interests of the Village, while also saving the community funds.

Apart from overseeing various projects, staff management has been an ongoing and challenging effort. Ensuring that an annual performance review process was established was critical. I was instrumental in defeating the employee efforts at unionization. Leading the staff through the worst of the pandemic was a new experience. From April through September, keeping morale and motivation high was a daily test. Now, we continue to face labor shortages and inflation. This has required being strategic with staff and maintaining high-service levels while at the same time retaining staff tempted by bonuses offered elsewhere.

When I became Maintenance Director, it was necessary to make some changes. There were several employees who were not as productive as they could have been. Some management adjustments were made, and skilled employees were brought in to support the programs that needed to be undertaken. A Work Order-Special Request System was introduced, which offers better tracking of work orders

and makes it easier for residents to submit those orders. We also began using a Community Maintenance Management System (CMMS), which provides reporting on maintenance operations and has proved beneficial for the budget process.

**How do you define your management style?**

I believe in a team approach. That may be a lesson learned while collecting golf balls with my grandmother. Four eyes are better than two. The importance of teams and training were never more critical than during my highly stressful combat situations. That is a lesson that has certainly stayed with me.

Input from my team is welcome, even invited, during the weekly meetings held with team leaders and the monthly and seasonal meetings held with larger groups. I listen and I hold myself and my team accountable for our jobs and for the responsibilities given to each of us.

**What would you like to accomplish in your new role? What do you see as your mission?**

My specific goals include improving curb appeal, expanding the Preventative Maintenance Program while keeping costs from increasing and strengthening communications with residents about budgets, seasonal and other projects and issues that arise in the community. I plan to work closely with the management of Black Hawk Country Club and the Lodge Restaurant (formerly Oronoque Country Club) to understand their plans, as well as the Town of Stratford, with whom we have an excellent relationship.

Also, we are part of what is known as "the Big Three:" Oronoque Village, Heritage Village and Farmington Woods. I have well-established relationships with the directors and management of those communities, and I look forward to working with them to share insights and ideas; for example, possibly reducing costs by doing bulk purchases.

My mission, my determination, is to ensure that Oronoque Village continues to be one of the premier condominium communities in Connecticut that only gets better with age. OV

*-- Submitted by Mary W. von Ziegesar*



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MARCH 18 SOCK HOP IS POSTPONED

The Good Times Club has announced that the Sock Hop scheduled for March 18 has been postponed until a later date.

## CURRENT EVENTS CLUB INVITES RESIDENTS TO ATTEND MEETINGS

Many Village residents may have noticed meetings of the Current Events Club on the calendar. The club was initiated by Angela McKelvey, who served as chair until recently. The intent of the club is for members to share articles and insight on current events taking place in the U.S. and around the world. We encourage all Village residents who are interested in current events to attend. Members bring articles about many pressing issues taking place. The group has lively discussions and shares insight.

We discuss a wide range of topics. During a recent meeting, topics addressed included state politics, climate change, the impact of artificial intelligence; just about anything going on in world. Members share articles, sources of information and, of course, opinions. The group represents a variety of viewpoints. Most importantly, all opinions are welcome and everyone is treated with respect.

Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10-11 a.m. in the Card Room at SCB. For information, contact Bob Sabo at rsabo11@att.net.

## CALL FOR ART: 'REFLECTIONS'

The theme for the spring Galerie OV show is "Reflections." This could be something reflected in a mirror or a landscape with reflections in water or a personal reflection on life. It will be fun to see what your entries will be for this theme!

All mediums are welcome. Please bring one or two pieces of original artwork to the front card room at SCB on Friday, March 31, 10-11 a.m. Organizers will strive to accept at least one submission from each artist. Hanging art must be wired securely across the back; three-dimensional pieces will be displayed on a pedestal.

During the opening reception for this show, on Sunday, April 16, at 4 p.m., the People's Choice Award will be presented for our winter show, "Happy Places," which concludes at the end of this month. Additionally, artists participating in the newly installed spring show will be invited to speak briefly about their submissions.

The summer show, which begins in June, has the theme "Winter in July."

## OVTD IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR OFFICES & DIRECTORS

The Oronoque Village Tax District (OVTD) Nominating Committee is accepting resumes for three Director and four Officer positions. Qualifications to serve as an OVTD Director include: service to the community, legislative experience and professional background.



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

The deadline for submitting the resumes is Tuesday, March 28, at 5 p.m. Resumes should be submitted to the Business Office, attention Linda Arvers, or emailed to office@oronoquevillage.com.

The slate will be announced during the April 25 OVTD Board meeting.

## DISTRICT 3 REMINDER

The District Spring Dinner Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 6 p.m., at SCB. See the flyer in your black box for the details. The RSVP is March 18.

## DISTRICT 4 GATHERING

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

The featured guest speaker will be Doreen Jaekle from the Friends of Boothe Memorial Park. She will give a video presentation about the historic homestead, clock tower, lighthouse, rose garden, windmill and blacksmith shop — just to name a few of the 18 buildings located there.

Following her talk, pizza, salad, beverages and dessert will be served. All Villagers are welcome to attend. The cost for District 4 residents is \$5 per person (if dues are current), \$10 per person for all other attendees. Place payments, with names attending, in the District 4 mailbox located in the SCB lobby by Sunday, March 26. Call Bob Krakovich 203-752-6105 should you have any questions.

Jeanette "Jackie" Caron, Realtor  
Oronoque Village Resident



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PLETMAN CONCERT FEATURES GUITAR-MANDOLIN DUO MARCH 26

By Amy Plapp and Tom Ward

The outstanding guitar-mandolin duo of Judy Handler and Mark Levesque returns to Oronoque Village on Sunday, March 26, at 3 p.m. at NCB.

This charming husband-and-wife pair have performed more than 2,500 concerts over the past 28 years throughout the United States and Europe. They will present an exciting program of music called "International Café," comprising their own inspiring arrangements that will take you on a musical journey through many countries.

They will feature music from Spain, France, Italy, Eastern Europe, Brazil, Latin America and, of course, the United States. You will delight in their extraordinary sound, amusing anecdotes and the joyful spirit of their music. Refreshments will be offered following the concert and give you an opportunity to chat with Judy and Mark. As expenses have increased, we are suggesting a donation of \$8 per person for the concert, but will understand if the previous amount of \$5 is your preference.

As music critic Owen McNally of the Hartford Courant



reports, "It's a perfect musical marriage. A rich, zesty guitar gumbo, Handler and Levesque crackle with tasty elements of classical, swing, Gypsy, Brazilian and a dizzying array of world-music flavorings."

We hope to see you there!

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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](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com). (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on April 3, 2023, is March 21 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 the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

## 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.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

- The Ladies Bible Study welcomes all resident women. There are no fees to join. Purchasing study materials is optional. Meetings are on the second and fourth Fridays in the NCB Card 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. 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 first Wednesday 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.

## TABLE TENNIS GROUP

- Table Tennis is played at SCB on Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. For information, contact Dina Glantz: [dinabob7@comcast.net](mailto:dinabob7@comcast.net) / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapides: [mrlapid@gmail.com](mailto:mrlapid@gmail.com) / 203-927-8577. Play is scheduled via the TeamReach app.

## 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](mailto:MvonZ@optonline.net) or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.

# WEB INSIGHTS

## PUBLIC VERSUS PRIVATE SIDE

Do you know that OronoqueVillage.com has a public side and a private side? The public side offers general information about our Village, including floor plans, by-laws, rules and regulations. The private side is a secure site accessible only by our residents and administrative staff and requires you to log in with a user name and password.

Need help with [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com)? Call the OV Business Office (203-377-5313) for assistance from a staff member or contact a member of the Oronoque Village Geek Group for help with signing on or navigating from a resident volunteer.



—Submitted by the Communications Committee

## OV GEEK GROUP MEMBERS

<b>Chris Albino</b>	203-520-3931	<a href="mailto:chralb2015@gmail.com">chralb2015@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Mary von Ziegesar</b>	203-767-9760	<a href="mailto:MvonZ@optonline.net">MvonZ@optonline.net</a>



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# CALENDAR

*Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Linda Arvers at [larvers@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:larvers@oronoquevillage.com). For the latest on OV news & events, visit [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com) or OVTV (Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box).*

**Bold-faced listings = OVCA / OVTD events**  
**(C) = Closed event**

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *Angry Neighbors*, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB

## THURSDAY, MARCH 16

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilting Group, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Ladies Mahjonnig & Cards, NCB C/R **(C)**
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Club Bingo, SCB

## FRIDAY, MARCH 17

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

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18:** No events scheduled

## SUNDAY, MARCH 19

- 11:00 a.m. – Private Party, NCB **(C)**
- 3:00 p.m. – OVAG Film Festival, SCB (Sold Out)

## MONDAY, MARCH 20

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

## TUESDAY, MARCH 21

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- **7:00 p.m. – OVCA Board Meeting, NCB**

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

- 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, C/R
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – District 3 Meeting, SCB

## THURSDAY, MARCH 23

- 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, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB

## FRIDAY, MARCH 24

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

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25

- 5:00 p.m. – Private Party, NCB **(C)**

## SUNDAY, MARCH 26

- 3:00 p.m. – Pletman Concert, NCB

## MONDAY, MARCH 27

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **4:00 p.m. – Bylaws Committee, NCB, B/R**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

The winter Galerie OV show, which has the theme, "Happy Places," is on view through March 29. 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, which will be presented during an opening reception on on April 16 at 4 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 28

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Cards, Dombrowsky, SCB, C/R

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

- 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
- 10:30 a.m. – Hadassah Board Meeting, NCB (C)
- 12:00 p.m. – Hadassah Seder, NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 5:30 p.m. – District 6 Meeting, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB

### THURSDAY, MARCH 30

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Ladies Mahjong & Cards, NCB, C/R (C)

- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – District 4 Meeting, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB

### FRIDAY, MARCH 31

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

- 10:00 a.m. – Call for Art, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1:** No events scheduled

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2:** No events scheduled

### MONDAY, APRIL 3

- **9:00 a.m. – House Committee, NCB, B/R**
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **11:00 a.m. – Communications Committee, NCB, B/R**
- 1:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Planning Committee, NCB, B/R (C)
- **6:00 p.m. – SAC Meeting, NCB, B/R**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers Board Meeting, SCB, C/R (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB, C/R

### QUICK CONTACT LIST

Police, Fire, Medical Emergency.....	911
Routine Police Call.....	203-385-4100
OV Security .....	203-377-5502
Maintenance Emergency .....	203-377-5502
Gas Leak (So.Ct.GasCo.) .....	800-513-8898
Elec. Emergency (U.I.) .....	800-722-5584
Business Office .....	203-377-5313
Maintenance Dept.....	203-375-8853
South Comm. Bldg .....	203-377-5435
Cablevision Service .....	203-336-2225

## WORK FROM THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

### WHAT – ME FISHING?

By Elisabeth Breslav

When I was little, my dad would sometimes rent a little rowboat and we'd spend a Sunday afternoon fishing on a nearby pond, which was not as simple as it may sound to a fan of the sport.

Dad insisted that I have my own little rod, complete with fly and sinker, and he instructed me to keep my eyes on the spot where the line hit the water. With nothing happening out there, to me, that soon became boring. I was much more interested in peering over the side of our boat and studying life way below on the pond bottom. I watched teeny critters scurrying back and forth and miniature snails slowly creeping through dark green, almost black, vegetation.

Just then, Dad would holler "bait – grab the rod and pull it in slowly." But by the time I brought the line in, the fish was gone, as was the fly. "We'll try again but you really must pay more attention," he scolded me gently. I did not tell him I had actually been fascinated, just not by the fish.

Many years later, I was on another fishing expedition on that same pond. This time I was with my boyfriend, who brought the equipment and rented a small sailboat. Somehow, our attention must have been distracted until we heard a loud splash in the water and saw one of the rods being pulled away

by what must have been a big fish. Instinctively, we both leaned far over the side hoping to grab the rod but capsizing the boat in the process. A passing fisherman had the two of us cling to each side of his rowboat and brought us back to the wharf, where a furious owner took every penny we could dig up in our soggy coats and told us to "get the h... out of there and never come back." My mother's reaction on seeing me, shivering and dripping, was less colorful although painfully disapproving.

And, again, many years later, I am diagnosed with osteo arthritis. Treatment consists of water exercises in Oronoque's blissfully heated South pool. Day after day, at 5 p.m. when many of the noodle-floating regulars have gone home for cocktails and to start evening dinner preparations, I gingerly lower my aching body in the warm water and commence the prescribed knee bends, pelvic tilts and heel/toe back and forth motions that are supposed to bring healing. And like a fish darting away, my pains disappear in the water. While they return the next day, knowing that there will be relief at night helps me through.

I am too wobbly now to exercise safely in the pool. And I never did learn to enjoy the sport of fishing. But I wish scientists would hurry up their research in species transmutation. I think I would enjoy the remainder of my days as a fish, getting away with a provocative swish of my tail and leaving all pains behind. OV

## HUMOR

Submitted by Tom Fuchs

I got myself a new senior's GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, but it tells me why I wanted to go there!

I am starting to think I will never be old enough to know better.

I asked a supermarket worker where they kept the tinned peaches. He said, "I'll see," and walked away. I then asked another and he said, "I'll see," and walked away. In the end, I gave up and found them myself in Aisle C.

So a burglar broke into the house... I put the red dot on his chest and let the cat do the rest.

You wanna see social distancing? Loan somebody some money.

For most people, when you lose your "khakis" you've lost your pants. When you're from Boston and lose your "khakis," you can't start your car.

Have you ever noticed all instruments searching for intelligent life ... are all pointed away from earth?

My wife crashed the car again today. She told the police the man she collided with was on his mobile phone and drinking a can of beer. Police said he can do whatever he likes in his own living room.

I'm watching this show for like 10 minutes and the lady is listing all these really great things to do. Then I realized it was the religious channel and she was listing sins!

A car's weakest part is the nut holding the steering wheel.

It's been a bit of a strange day. First I found a hat full of money. Then I was chased by an angry man with a guitar.

I went line dancing last night. Well, it was a roadside sobriety test...same thing.

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

## OV ARTS GUILD PRESENTS A JAZZ TRIO ON APRIL 27

You won't want to miss the OV Arts Guild event on April 27, featuring the Sutton Place Trio. This group, which includes Oronoque resident Al Gafa, has a New York-sensibility reminiscent of the combos that filled the nightlife, clubs and hotels of the Manhattan skyline. Performances include jazz and original music influenced by well-known artists such as Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Nat "King" Cole, Duke Ellington, The Modern Jazz Quartet and Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Al Gafa, a virtuoso guitarist, has performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Sammy Davis Jr., Sarah Vaughan and Johnny Hartman. He was musical director for the legendary jazz vocalist Carmen McRae. He performed at the Playboy Club in the late '60s and has participated in studio work with everyone from The Monkees to Paul Simon. He can be heard on the soundtrack of the film "The Bridges of Madison County." He recorded "Lebion Beach: The Al Gafa Quinteto" on the jazz label Pablo Records.

Pianist/vocalist Alex Leonard has appeared in venues from Manhattan to Las Vegas, Europe and Japan. He has performed on Manhattan stages such as Carnegie Recital Hall, Joe's Pub, Below 54, The Cutting Room and in the 25th annual Cabaret Convention at Lincoln Center. His recent projects include the presentation of "L-O-V-E: A Celebration of Nat King Cole," "A Tribute to Songwriter Harry Warren" and "Colonna Sonora: Film Music, Italian Style." All Music Guide writes, "Leonard is an important mainstay of the Big Apple"

A superior bassist and songwriter, Jay Leonhart has



toured worldwide for more than 40 years. He has performed and recorded with notables such as Peggy Lee, Mel Torme, Tony Bennett, Carly Simon, Steely Dan and Sting. He was thrice named the Most Valuable Bassist in the recording industry by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He has recorded 15 solo albums and is also performing a one-man show, titled "The Bass Lesson," about his life in the music business.

This event will be cabaret-style seating. BYOB/snacks. Soft drinks, coffee, tea and desserts will be provided.

Reservations are required. Please see the advertisement in the April 1 Villager for the reservation form. Members of the Arts Guild attend at no charge, guests pay \$10. This event is open seating and the doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and takes place at NCB.



## FIND IT ON [ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM](http://ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM)

*To look at the current and the past Villager issues:*

*Click on the Home Page Navigation Tab:*

**COMMUNICATIONS.**

*Click on "The Villager." Click on "Issues." You can print off any page/s you want by choosing to "custom print" those pages using the page numbers of the document.*

**Editor's Note: The information below is gleaned from a Town of Orange Police Department report from last month. In an effort to keep residents aware of the Parking Lot Scams that are occurring locally and across the country, The Villager is including in this issue an article about Parking Lot Scams and how to avoid them.**

Today — February 05, 2023 — I, Officer Kurt Correia, was working a 0800-1600 patrol shift in my full-duty uniform assigned to fully marked cruiser number 24. At approximately 14:06 I was called to Orange Police Dept. headquarters to speak with a female complainant who informed me that — while attempting to leave the parking lot of Trader Joe's, 560 Boston Post Road — her wallet was stolen.

In the lobby I met with the complainant who explained that, after loading her groceries and getting into her vehicle, she placed her purse on the front passenger seat. She then stated that a Spanish-speaking woman

began frantically knocking on the driver-side window. The complainant stated that she exited her vehicle and the woman directed her to the bumper, pointing to an unknown liquid on the bumper. It is believed that the woman poured the liquid on the bumper as a distraction to get the female out of the vehicle.

While the complainant was looking at the bumper of her vehicle, she believes another person entered her vehicle through the passenger side door and took her wallet from her purse. She stated that when she arrived home, she realized that her wallet was missing and, when she called her bank to report the stolen debit card, she was informed that the card was used at Best Buy in Orange for purchases totaling \$1,903 and Walmart for a total of \$500.

She also informed me that the wallet was a Kate Spade wallet valued at \$100. Inside the wallet she had \$50 cash as well as a driver's license, healthcare cards and check were in the wallet.

OV

## POLICE: BE AWARE OF PARKING LOT SCAMS

By Zachary Mack

Parking lots can be surprisingly hectic places. Between all the people making their way to or from their vehicles, there's also plenty of chaotic traffic as cars come in and out of spaces. But they can also be home to other hazards besides an unattended shopping cart in your blind spot. And now, police are warning that you should never get out of your car if this one thing happens in a parking lot. Read on to see how you can keep yourself safe the next time you run errands.

Being safe in the car has always involved paying attention to your surroundings and following the rules of the road. But besides accidents, your vehicle could also endanger you to scammers and other criminals who might be looking to take advantage of you—especially in parking lots.

This past summer, officials in Virginia and Georgia, said they had received reports of bogus parking tickets left on people's cars. Even though they were designed to appear authentic and used official-sounding language similar to local citations, the slips actually contained a QR code that sent drivers to a phony fines collection website where they would unwittingly enter their payment information.

Other fraudsters have taken to using the same technology in a different way. Late last year, the San Antonio Police Department warned of a scam where QR codes were stuck to parking meters encouraging drivers to pay for their

space via a website. In reality, the bogus page collected users' personal financial data to commit identity fraud.

Even more recent scams have relied on more traditional methods to trick unsuspecting victims. Earlier this year, police in Wilkes-Barre Township, Pa., issued a warning about fraudsters attempting to sell counterfeit jewelry and watches to people making their way back to their cars. But now, police are warning of another potential scam making the rounds.

The importance of being aware of your surroundings when you make your way back to your car is a well-known safety tip. But in some cases, even people who appear to be offering help might be targeting you for a crime. Police in Framingham, Mass., said they received a call from a woman who said she was robbed after coming out from a shopping run to Target.

"As I go to turn, they were knocking on the window. One gentleman was [on the driver's side] telling me there was something wrong with my tire," a shopper reported. "So I rolled down my window and said: 'What do you mean something's wrong with my tire?'"

She explains that the man then told her it appeared her rear tire appeared to be leaking a substance. However, she soon learned that the person was far from a good samaritan.

"They sprayed my tires with—I believe it was balsamic vinegar—that made it look like it was brake grease. Just to distract me," she said. "While he was distracting me to get



out of the car to look at the tire, there was another guy on the right side of my car. He must have went in and grabbed my wallet out of my purse without me even knowing."

Unfortunately, this isn't the first version of a parking lot tire scam reported by victims. In 2019, residents in El Segundo, Calif., reported a wave of similar crimes in which pairs of criminals would wait in parking lots after flattening the rear tire of a vehicle.

Once the car's owner returned, one fraudster would alert the driver to the problem before offering to assist them. But while they were distracted, the second scammer would take the opportunity to steal items from inside the vehicle, with one person reporting to have lost \$1,000.

Police say you should stay alert and report any potential scammers immediately.

After the ordeal, scammers attempted unsuccessfully to use her debit card to take out cash but could not access the money without her PIN.

Authorities are also alerting the public that they should keep their eyes peeled for any similar parking lot tire scams in their area and report any incidents. "Someone may have seen these two individuals in this parking lot ... Call us. Let us know. What you think may not be a lot of information may actually help break a crime," Framingham Deputy Police Chief Sean Riley stated. "They move around. So this isn't targeted just towards Framingham."

The El Segundo Police Department issued its own



**if a stranger tries to get your attention to tell you one of your tires is flat, be aware you may be targeted for a scam.**

warning in response to the rash of incidents in 2019, reminding residents "to be aware of your surroundings when going to a bank or any other retail location," the department said in an alert. "If a stranger tries to get your attention to tell you one of your tires is flat, be aware you may be targeted for a scam.

"This is an old scam used by thieves, and it appears to be making a comeback, so be aware!" the department added.

**OV**

**Source:** [www.bestlifeonline.com](http://www.bestlifeonline.com)

**Nobody knows the Village...**



**...like another Villager!**



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203.258.7415

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2023

**The Shakespeare Market**

The 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month

**Restaurant Week**

March 19 - 25

**Main Street Festival**

June 3

**Summer Concert Series**

Tues (rain date Thurs) June 27 - August 29

**Fireworks**

June 30 (rain date July 5)

**Blues on the Beach**

July 22

**Latin Music Festival**

September 10 (rain date September 17)

**The Great Pumpkin Festival**

October 21

**Holiday Tree Lighting**

November 30

**Holiday Menorah Lighting**

December 12

[www.CelebrateStratford.com](http://www.CelebrateStratford.com)



**All Villagers are invited to attend  
Hadassah's modern Passover seder.**

**Learn about the meaning of Passover:  
it is a holiday celebrating freedom,  
justice and peace for all.**

**When: Wed., March 29**

**Time & Place: 12 p.m. at NCB**

**Admission: A Passover Dish**

**RSVP by March 24**

**Arlene: 203-870-9561**

**Lillian: 203-380-8387**



**PRESENTS...**

# Spring Wildflowers

## Connecticut's Wild Beauty

*Connecticut has a myriad of native spring wildflowers. Discover why they bloom in the spring, where to find them, how they got their names, and what makes these plants so fascinating.*

*House & Garden's April event will be an informative and interesting talk by Margery Winters, Assistant Director and instructor at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, CT. She manages the Nature Center's native plant gardens.*

**Monday, April 10, 2023  
1:00 pm SCB**

**Dessert & Coffee/Tea served after the program**

**Members free-guests pay \$5**



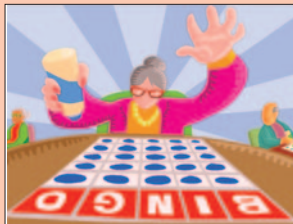
**OV Karaoke Club: No fees or dues \* No commitments \* Just fun!**

**Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on March 24 in SCB at 6:30pm.**

**All you need is your wine and dancing shoes. A good time is guaranteed for all! No need to RSVP...just come on over, grab a seat, and either watch or join the fun by putting in a song or two!**

**Hope to see you all then. Oh... and tell a friend!**

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.  
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 16 & APRIL 20**



**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.**



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

The book for April 5 will be *The Common Good* by Robert Reich - a powerful, urgent and utterly vital book from one of our foremost political thinkers.

The author makes a powerful case for the expansion of America's moral imagination. Rooting his argument in common sense, he demonstrates that a common good constitutes the very essence of any society. Societies undergo virtuous cycles that reinforce the common good as well as vicious cycles that undermine it, one of which America has been experiencing for the past five decades.

This process can and must be reversed. But first we need to weigh the moral obligations of citizenship and carefully consider how we relate to honor, shame, patriotism, truth, and the meaning of leadership.

The book for May is *Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.



# FUNSEEKERS

PRESENTS

## GLEN ROETHEL



AWARD-WINNING SINGER-SONGWRITER GUITARIST, RETURNS FOR ANOTHER 5 STAR PERFORMANCE!

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 SCB • Doors Open At 6:15

Be surprised by the unique sound of vocalist/guitarist, Glen Roethel, as he captures the essence of favorite songs spanning the decades. Glen is a one-of-a-kind artist, gifted vocalist, and wonderful musical acoustic guitarist. He is an award-winning songwriter and a real crowd pleaser! Glen has performed at venues such as Rockefeller Center and the Jacob Javits Center. He delights audiences with soaring vocals, infectious energy and accomplished guitar playing. Among others, hear songs by *the Righteous Brothers, Elton John, Eagles, America, Simon & Garfunkel, Billy Joel, Ed Sheeran, Everly Brothers*. Don't miss this fabulous performance!



Advance reservations required. Payment will be accepted from March 16th through April 7th. (No late reservations). Open to resident Funseekers' members and **one non-resident guest per single resident** through March 25th. Starting on March 26th, member residents may sign up non-resident guests. Please put \$4.00 check per person (\$7.00 non-resident) into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB. You must be a Funseekers Member to attend. Join for \$15 for the 2023 year. Please include your email address and phone number with your membership dues. Questions: Call Lynn Collins 203-260-4644

COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS & DESSERT TO BE SERVED

BYOB AND MUNCHIES!



The Movie Club Presents

*A Man Called Otto*

April 7, 7 p.m., NCB

April 12, 2 p.m., SCB

When a lively young family moves in next door, grumpy widower Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks) meets his match in a quick-witted, pregnant woman named Marisol, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world upside down.

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



# Giant TAG & BAKE Sale

**SATURDAY April 15, 2023 9-2 SCB**

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

Fill out form below to reserve your table

## We Need Your Donations!

*Proceeds help beautify the village*

If you don't have enough items to reserve a table, PLEASE consider donating your goods to the HOUSE & GARDEN CLUB tag sale area by the stage. Your items may be dropped off at the SCB Stage on **Friday April 14 at 3pm**

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

*Please bring small and multiple items in a box*



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

➔ **We need volunteers to help with the tag and bake sale areas**  
Call Irene Keating 203-377-3980

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

**BAKE SALE:** Donations of baked goods are needed. Please drop off on **April 14 & 15**



**Doors Open At 7:30 A.M On April 15, To Set Up Your Table. ALL Unsold Items Must Be Taken With You When You Leave!**



Fill out form and drop in House & Garden Box

Table reservation questions call: **Merriless Leemhuis 203-378-8753**

General Questions: Call **Debbie Grosso 203-380-2468**

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

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

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

Please make check out to House & Garden Club

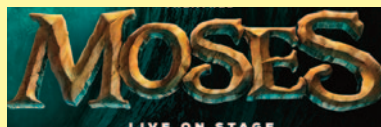
**Table reservation cut off is noon-Friday March 31, 2023**



## GOOD TIMES CLUB PRESENTS ... LANCASTER, PA, SHOW TRIP & DUTCH COUNTRY TOUR

A 2-night, 3-day trip (June 19-21) includes motorcoach transportation and driver tip, lodging, 4 meals (2 breakfasts and 2 dinners), tickets to see *Moses* at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre, admission to a show at the Magic & Wonder Theater, a visit to charming and admission to *The Amish Experience* & *Jacob's Choice* at the F/X Theater. The cost is \$425 per person based on 2-person, double-occupancy.

*(Add \$75 for single occupancy.)*



\$75 payment is due to RSVP. Please make checks out to "Good Times Club" and place in the box at NCB.

***Final/Full Payments Due: 4/9/2023***

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



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](mailto:wklukens@comcast.net) / 203-612-6685.

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The Oronoque community is our sanctuary. It is our home.  
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