

May 1, 2023



THE VILLAGER



IMPORTANT:

**PLEASE REVIEW THE 2023-2024 BUDGET INFORMATION
THAT IS INSERTED IN THIS ISSUE**

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On the cover: A partial view of "Still Waters," a sculpture, created by OV resident Jerry Reece. Jerry's works are on exhibit at the Ruby & Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum in Stratford. For more information, please read the article on page 8.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT

APRIL 18, 2023



Bob Grosso

I am confident that I am echoing the overall sentiment of the Village when I say I am enormously impressed by the seamless transition our new Executive Director Mark Rhatigan and new Director of Maintenance Operations Ryan Hankey have made into their respective positions. The Village has

continued to run without missing a beat; the energy level is high, projects are underway and tasks are being completed as scheduled. This is testimony to the knowledge and skill both individuals bring to their jobs.

Mark and Diane Roche have been working diligently over the last few months to develop the 2023-2024 budget. It has been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committees of both OVCA and the Tax District. On Tuesday, April 11, the Finance Committees and Boards of both OVCA and OVTD met to review the budget in a presentation led by Mark and Diane.

A key issue in this budget is that the insurance premium for the new budget year is as yet not known. The budget reflects a 10 percent increase for insurance based on a what our brokers are estimating. Weather disasters that have arisen over the last few years are impacting insurance rates on a nationwide basis and the recent issue of a condominium collapse in Florida has reduced the number of companies interested in offering insurance to large condominium developments.

Later in this meeting, Ken Colman, OVCA treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, will be making a motion to adopt the 2023-2024 budget, which the OVCA Finance Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the OVCA Board. This motion will be followed by Board discussion

and a vote on the motion. As president, I feel this budget has been thoughtfully constructed and deals with the challenges we face.

OVCA: 3.22% OVTD: 7.33%
OVCA/OVTD COMBINED: 4.39%

Monthly Charges by Unit/Model:	Increase	Total OVCA
Emerson, Alcott, Lowell, Melville, Longfellow, Fenimore	\$13.38	\$429.07
Hawthorne, Revere	\$14.49	\$464.64
Thoreau, Cooper, Walcott, Dickinson, Winthrop, Peabody	\$16.10	\$516.01
Whittier, Miley, Whitman	\$17.00	\$544.94

The Unit Owner budget meeting for this budget is scheduled for May 9 at 4 p.m. in the North Clubhouse. The Unit Owner rejection vote of the budget is scheduled for May 11, at 6 p.m.

Payroll and Human Resources: One of the key changes in this budget is the inclusion of funds for a third-party service to administer the payroll and human resource functions. These have been handled by the Association's accountant; however, the demands of this responsibility have significantly increased in the last couple of years and are impacting the time available to do the important financial work of the Association.

The third-party service will be able to efficiently handle and process the inquiries and onboarding of new employees and ensure that the Association is always compliant with state statutes. The added benefit is that more time will

Continued on page 6

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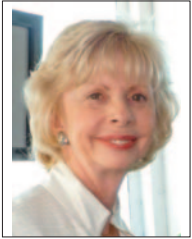
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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVTD PRESIDENT

ROAD PAVING PROJECT FOLLOW UP



Linda Libertino

Recently there has been considerable discussion about the Tax District Road Paving Project. I hope this message adds more clarity to it.

OVTD's accelerated road paving project was created out of concern over the plight of the roads in our "South." Over the years, United Illuminating was replacing underground cables in that area. When that happens, you cannot pave because the newly paved roads would be dug up. As a result, our road paving had no choice but to focus first in the "North."

Through no fault of their own, residents in the South were justified in their complaints about their roads being neglected. The condition of their roads became not only an aesthetic issue but some had drainage problems as well. The TD Directors heard their complaints.

When UI's work finished we had two options:

1. Tell the residents they may have to wait until up to 2029 for their roads to be repaired per our normal schedule.
2. Take action and accelerate the paving and repairs.

OVTD decided on option #2.

With interest rates being low at the time, we decided to negotiate a line of credit to repair and pave 25 roads within 3- 4 years versus at least 7 years.

OVTD then procured a credit line of \$1.25 million with Milford Bank for this roadway project, which was approved by taxpayers in February 2022.

Please keep in mind that we would not draw on the Line of Credit until we started paying the contractor, Burns Construction. We planned to start paying Burns in April, and will draw down \$850,000 from the Line. That leaves about \$400,000 remaining which will go towards the paving scheduled later this calendar year.

One of the unknowns in any road-paving project is anticipating the cost of asphalt. Asphalt is a byproduct of the crude oil refining process; therefore, it is subject to the fluctuations of oil prices and inflation. Predicting its costs, even a year in advance, is a challenge.

Of the 25 roads in this multiyear project, we have paved seven so far with another seven scheduled this fall. Those next seven roads will be in the South.

After those roads are completed, we will revise the schedule factoring in cost of materials, principal and interest payments, cash flow and reserve levels. The objective is to balance all those factors without significant increases to the taxpayers.

Within the coming months, we should be able to be more specific about the final roads in the project. In addition, be assured that the road-paving project will continue to be prioritized with the remaining roads that need to be done first.

We will need to stretch the project beyond its original timeline, as inflation, material costs and higher interest rates have impacted it.

To do nothing would have meant ignoring the complaints of our residents, especially in the South, who endured years without any road paving.



Please see page 7 for more updates from the OV Tax District



Lisa Glazer

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be available for analysis of the ever-changing financial landscape of OVCA.

As most residents are aware, there are two governing bodies in Oronoque Village, the Condo Association, which is meeting tonight, and the Tax District, which will meet next week.

It can sometimes be confusing for residents to understand the difference, both in terms of the responsibilities of the governing bodies and how they are elected. The OV website has a very good writeup under the Government Organization tab that explains how the Tax District was formed and how it relates to OVCA. It is a very worthwhile read for anyone who is not familiar with the governing structure of the Village.

There is also a difference in how the boards of each governing body are elected. The OVCA election is very much like a state or national election; there are candidates, they receive votes and whoever gets the most votes is elected. In an OVCA election, there is one vote per unit.

The TD election is different. Taxpayers vote in that election, so if there are two taxpayers in a unit, two people can vote. There is also a difference in the terms that officers and directors have. Anyone wishing to acquire a better understanding of the Tax District election should contact our Executive Director, who will direct you to the proper person to answer your question. There is a Tax District election scheduled for May 23, so it is good to be as informed as possible.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to talk about transparency and communication. I sometimes think that transparency has become the most overused word in government, at all levels, including our Association. I fully support transparency. I make every effort to provide as much information to the board and residents as is possible.

Occasionally a matter arises that needs to be dealt with in Executive Session and that is where state statute and our

DISTRICT 9 MEETING

The District 9 Spring meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, at NCB. The program and dinner begins at 6 p.m. Please plan to attend.


own Board Code of Ethics require that confidentiality be maintained. Board members have the important responsibility of communicating with their residents and are required to exercise discretion about what they know they are not free to share and also the responsibility to accurately communicate what they are free and are encouraged to share.

My message to all residents is if a communication is not clear to you, ask for clarification. Don't rely on rumor, ask the originator of the message, ask someone on the Board, ask one of the Officers, ask me or ask Mark. We strive to be honest and complete, if something does not make sense, ask one of us about it.

Budget Motions: A motion was made by Ken Colman and seconded by Dick Steinfeld that the OVCA Board of Directors adopt the Oronoque Village Condominium Budget for 2023-2024 as recommended by the OVCA Finance Committee. The motion passed by a vote of 13 Yes and 1 No (D4).

The following motion was made by Myrna Mills Albino and seconded by Bobby McDonald. Costs for new initiatives to which the OVCA Board is expected to contribute shall be presented to the Finance Committee, who will determine whether they should then be presented to the OVCA Board for approval. This must be done before such costs are presented as part of the Annual Budget. The criteria in making that determination should include whether the initiative is one that the Board has discussed and the budget impact and whether or not it will have recurring impact. The motion passed unanimously.

Architecture Motions: A motion was made by Lee Schlafer and seconded by Helen Moser to approve a reasonable accommodation request and allow an exception to the Architecture Committee (AC) standards to permit a wood screened-in slider deck constructed with an asphalt roof at 731B North Trail. The addition must be removed when the unit owner moves and the cost for removing that installation will be prepaid by the unit owner. A full set of architectural diagrams must be approved by the AC before work begins. The motion passed by a vote of 10 Yes to 4 No (D3, D4, D7, D10).

A motion was made by Myrna Mills Albino, seconded by Bob Krakovich, to approve an expanded deck at 661B North Trail. The motion passed unanimously. 

Jeanette "Jackie" Caron, Realtor
Oronoque Village Resident



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KEYLESS ACCESS SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Residents who have not yet acquired a keyless entry device should email Harris Bonfiglio at hbonfiglio@oronoquevillage.com or Chrissy Smith at csmith@oronoquevillage.com or call the Business Office at 203-377-5313 to make arrangements to pickup a keycard or fob or obtain a download link for their smartphones.

The keyless access implementation schedule is as follows:

Keyless access to the SCB exercise facility from the parking lot began April 12.

Keyless access will be required to enter the South Clubhouse and pool area as of May 1.

Keyless access will be required to enter the North Clubhouse and pool area as of May 15.

The exercise facility will be accessible 24 hours a day / seven days a week. The operational hours of the clubhouses will be 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily. The pool area hours will be announced soon.

Please note, residents are entitled to one method of keyless entry. There will be a fee of \$13 to replace keycards

and fobs that are misplaced or damaged.

The advantages of an Access Control System for OV include:

1. Less reliance on "human" monitoring of our facilities and amenities
2. Manage after-hours resident visits to buildings.
3. Availability of reliable facilities usage data to potentially reduce utility costs.
4. The system has the ability for residents checking the capacity of the amenities (i.e. pools and fitness center) before their visits.
5. Availability of reliable data on who is entering and using our facilities. We will be able to determine, at any time, who's in our facilities.
6. We will know that anyone accessing facilities has legitimate credentials. In the words of our Stratford Police liaison, Captain Brian Budd: "Any measures that restrict unauthorized access to your community is always a positive decision."

OV

OVRTD ELECTION UPDATE

OV TAX DISTRICT'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS ON MAY 23

By Linda Libertino, OVRTD President

Qualified residents of the OV Tax District have an opportunity to vote on May 23 to accept the annual budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 and to fill three director and all four officer positions on the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is the governing body and manages the Tax District's responsibilities through the efforts of the Executive Director. The Board consists of nine directors elected to staggered three-year terms. Four of the nine directors also are elected to serve one-year terms as officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Clerk.

According to our charter, each officer candidate has to have been elected as a director. If a director's term is ending and the person wishes to be a candidate for an officer's position, then the individual has to be elected to a director's position and an officer's position. The same requirement applies to an individual who at the time of the elections is not a board member and wishes to be a candidate for an officer's position.

The Tax District is a political subdivision of the state, a special purpose municipality, independent of the local town within which it is organized. It has many of the same powers granted to the 169 towns and cities in Connecticut,

and it is exempt from paying sales taxes on goods and services that it purchases. This benefit has saved Village residents substantial money over the past 40-plus years. The Board prepares its own budget, establishes its priorities, levies the required tax revenues, maintains its own financial accounts, provides oversight for programs and projects under its responsibility, and conducts its meetings in a similar manner as any town of city council meeting in Connecticut.

Because OVRTD is a municipal government, the voting requirements for residents are different than for OVCA. By law, any resident who is 18 years or older, a citizen of the United States, registered to vote in Stratford's elections and either a bona fide resident of the Tax District or owns real property in the Tax District that is assessed for at least \$1,000, even though not residing in the district, is qualified to vote in electing board members, approving the budget and acting on any related matters. All voters must appear in person and no absentee or proxy vote is permitted. More information on ballot questions to be considered and the voting process to be followed will be provided to residents before election day.

OV

JERRY REECE SCULPTURES TO BE FEATURED AT MUSEUM RECEPTION

Story & photos by Carol King

A collection of sculptures created by OV resident Jerry Reece is on exhibit at the Ruby & Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum in Stratford. The exhibition is a showcase of Jerry's artistic talents and includes emotionally moving renderings of the black experience, encompassing slavery, emancipation, resilience and personal triumphs. The display also includes tributes to the power of the family spirit and the glorification of longlasting love.

To be included in a museum exhibit is, for sure, impressive ... but what makes this exhibition particularly unique is that Jerry took up sculpting a mere 3 years ago.

"While quarantining during the pandemic, I purchased painting and sculpting supplies to bide the time and challenge my creativity," says Jerry. "What I discovered was that I had a knack for creating 3-dimensional pieces. I really loved the process of letting my hands guide me and molding random pieces of clay into recognizable figures. It became very gratifying."



Above, a piece titled "Oba The Ruler." (Oba is a common title for kings in West Africa.)

At right is "Upward Onward," inspired by Jerry's grandmothers. "This is an acknowledgment of their sacrifices that propelled my family to where we are today," says Jerry. "Together we aspire, together we achieve."

Ultimately, Jerry became a member of the weekly OV sculpture class taught by Wendy Swain.

"Jerry is the most enthusiastic and talented sculpture student I have ever seen," says Wendy. "I feel so fortunate to have had him join my class. He loves to work out problems in the clay and come up with his own solutions. And the results are great! I am so happy he has been 'discovered' by the Ruby & Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum so our community can appreciate his talent."

Jerry's introduction to the museum started — of all places — on an OV pickleball court. "As a member of the Pickleball Club I played against another member, John Staley, who enjoys painting and has shown his works in galleries at Oronoque Village and elsewhere," says Jerry. "When John saw my work, he arranged a meeting between me and Jeffrey Fletcher, who is the executive director of the Ruby and Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum."

The meeting was serendipitous for both. Jeffrey immediately embraced the depth of work that Jerry had created,



Artist/OV resident Jerry Reece and Jeffrey Fletcher, of the Ruby & Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum discuss plans for the May 21 artist reception that will feature Jerry's sculptures. Jerry's sculpture, titled "Statesman," also is pictured.

while Jerry was moved by the museum's dedication to recalling the disturbing history of the global slave trade and its long-lingering impact on black society.

Originally from Barbados, Jerry is well-acquainted with the horrors that families faced at the hands of slave traders. It is estimated that between 1627 and 1807, approximately 387,000 enslaved Africans were sent to Barbados. Barbados (Bridgetown, in particular), re-exported many slaves to North America, other Caribbean islands and the Captaincy General of Venezuela.

"I have sat on the shore and looked at the Atlantic and contemplated what my ancestors faced on the slave ships," notes Jerry. "It is very important to me that in my artwork I try to convey segments of the black experience; even though the languages and cultures differ among the many islands, we are all one people and we have great respect for each other."



His words struck a chord with Jeffrey Fletcher. "When Jerry told me his story and showed me photographs of his sculptures, it was like we were kindred spirits," says Jeffrey. "We are both telling our stories, me through the museum and Jerry through his art."

The museum will host an artist reception on May 21, 2-5 p.m., during which attendees can view the collection of Jerry's work. The museum is located at 925 E. Broadway.

A large parking lot is located a few doors past the museum's entrance. For information on the exhibit or museum hours, visit www.africanamericanmuseumct.org or call 203-506-9035.



WELCOME TO BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB & THE RESTAURANT AT BCC!

By Mary W. von Ziegesar

For those OV residents who haven't yet been to The Restaurant at Blackhawk Country Club (BCC), you are in for a treat. The restaurant is open. The welcome mat is out. Take a stroll or a drive over and enjoy the updated atmosphere and the brand-new menu. If you missed one of the recent Pickleball or Tennis Club events (open to all residents) stay tuned: the drinks are generous and specially priced and the appetizers have been their welcoming to us.

The restaurant is one of the Chabot Family's restaurants. Started in 2009 with the creation of Farmington Gardens, their reputation quickly spread throughout the state and the Chabot Hospitality Group became known as one of the premiere food service hospitality venues in the state. According to Acting General Manager Xavier Corbett, "We have expanded our foodservice footprint by opening The North House in Avon and by teaming up with the Alliance Golf Management Group to offer food and beverage programs as well as special event services at their country club properties in Southbury and here in Stratford at the former Oronoque Country Club. We re-

cently took over the former Mahan Lakeview property in Wolcott where we have just completed an outstanding restoration."

The restaurant and banquet space at BCC overlooks the 9th green; it invites natural light for a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The space includes 5,200 square feet to accommodate 250 guests with a dance floor. There is also a spacious bar area with four LCDTV screens for those who want to watch sports games with friends. The restaurant is ready to host a variety of events including weddings, showers, bar/bas mitzvahs, proms, school awards dinners, corporate luncheons, holiday parties, fundraisers and Oronoque Village residents and events!

According to Chef Jeff Greenwood, the menu offers a wide range of options, with an emphasis on fresh-quality ingredients and an appeal to everyone's taste for lunch, brunch, dinner, special events and social gatherings. The restaurant is open daily for a la carte food and beverage service. Stay tuned for upcoming offerings for Oronoque Village residents and friends! As Xavier noted, "Our properties have in-house event coordinators who are available to walk you through hosting your next party. They take the stress out of planning so you can enjoy your event."

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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 May 15, is May 2 at noon.*

BOCCE

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

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. Proof of vaccination required.

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 at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all levels at 10 a.m. Call Sonya DeBiase at 202-377-1515.



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.

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 / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapidés: mrlapid@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 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.

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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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: VALERIE PINTO

Story by Carol King

Visitors to the North Clubhouse will be treated to an array of renderings created by Artist of the Month Valerie Pinto. Valerie is showcasing a variety of images, including pastel animal portraits, acrylic landscapes and abstract paintings.

A native of Trumbull, Valerie has had a passion for art throughout her school years and into her professional career. She has a bachelor of science degree in art education from the University of Hartford and Southern Connecticut College and has been employed as a manager of Koenig Art Emporium in Danbury, a graphic artist for Bargain News in Stratford and Kia Graphics in Bridgeport and has designed and typeset magazines, flyers and packaging for General Electric and Black and Decker.

The crown jewels of her career, though, are the positions in which she combined her passion for art with her compassion for Alzheimer patients.

"My mother had early onset Alzheimer's and my sister and I took care of her, at home, for 20 years," Val explains. "I was the therapeutic recreation director at Grasmere Eldercare in Fairfield for five years. My specialty is in helping caregivers recognize how to understand and interact with humans with dementia."

She also held positions at the Alzheimer's Resource Center of Connecticut (AARC) in Plantsville. (The organization has been renamed Livewell.) "I was able to engage dementia patients in drawing and hold exhibits of their works," says Valerie. "At AARC I was the art director, then the massage therapist and they allowed me to do qigong hands on and distance healing of residents. I picked the end of life/behavioral unit to work in and never got bored."

Presently, she is illustrating a children's book written by her sister, Lisa Tobey. "The book is about Alzheimer's and our mom," says Valerie. "I did the art work in a Fresco art program on my computer."

Valerie has interests in a variety of artistic mediums. "I have played with all types of art, stained glass, ceramics, jewelry, oils, acrylics, silkscreen, woodcuts ... I love pastels and have fun with acrylics since both are easy clean up!"

Valerie and her sister operate a home-based business, Ewenique Vallee Creations, creating "ewe-themed" products, including humorous cards and note pads.

"Lisa comes up with the puns and I create the artwork and print the cards," says Valerie. "We just got a heat press so now I can make mugs and soon we are going to try a flat press for the bags. It will be nice to draw a picture and have it on a mug minutes later." The products are sold online as well as at fairs and festivals.

For the past 30 years, Valerie has drawn commissioned pastel pet portraits, which were given as gifts. "Now I do commissions of many pets, including some sheep!" she says.



Above, pet portraits created by Artist of the Month Valerie Pinto, pictured at right.



Prior to her move to Oronoque in 2022, Valerie resided in Grafton, N.H., and maintains ties to the area's arts association.

"I am the vice president of the Cardigan Mountain Art Association in New Hampshire," she says. "We are a nonprofit group of local artists and crafters. Through grants we are able to offer diverse art classes to our rural community at not cost.

"We work with adults and children and aim to expose people to art that they may never have an opportunity to see outside of this area," she continues. "It has been very exciting to see people who discover that they have exceptional artistic talent."

Outside of the arts, Valerie has interests in Asian-based disciplines. "I studied martial arts and taught women's self-defense for 25 years," she says. "I'm a third-degree black belt in Korean hapkido, second degree in Okinawan karate and first degree in Japanese aikido, (studied the art of laido, live sword), and won a gold medal at an international tai chi competition as a member of a six-women synchronized double fan form."

She has used her martial arts skills to offer free women's self-defense and rape prevention classes at the YWCA in Bridgeport as well as hands-on training seminars on rape prevention techniques to freshman women at Fairfield University.

Further, she has studied hands-on healing qigong, distance healing tong ren and tui nai massage with Dr. Thomas Tam at the Oriental Institute of Chinese Medicine in Boston.

She is a member of the OV Arts Guild and has a work included in the current art show at Galerie OV exhibit, titled "Reflections."

OV

BASS-BARITONE CHRISTOPHER GRUNDY TO PERFORM MAY 21

Story by Amy Plapp and Tom Ward

Save the date for the third concert in the 2023 Pletman series on Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m. The guest artist will be the dynamic and charismatic classical vocalist Christopher Grundy.

Hailed by Opera News as “the likeable baritone,” Christopher is equally at home in opera, oratorio and song recital. His opera credits include title roles in Rachmaninoff’s “Aleko” and Mozart’s “Don Giovanni,” where he “made an impact in the role, vocally and dramatically” (Herald Tribune), as well as such diverse roles as Baron Ochs (“Der Rosenkavalier”); Count Danilo (“The Merry Widow”); Vicar Gedge (“Albert Herring”); Mr. Alfieri (“View from the Bridge”); and Dr. Falke (“Die Fledermaus”).

Christopher received his doctor of music degree from Indiana University, studying with the celebrated German baritone Wolfgang Brendel. He completed his bachelor of arts degree at Yale University, where he was the assistant conductor of the Yale Glee Club and the Yale Russian Chorus.

A champion of new music, Christopher has premiered numerous works in collaboration with contemporary composers. He sang the role of Dr. Gachet in the original production of Bernard Rands’ “Vincent.” On one week’s notice, he learned the lead baritone role for the world premiere of “Decameron” with the International Opera Theatre of Philadelphia, to critical acclaim.

In his home state of Connecticut, Christopher has often performed as a soloist with ensembles such as Orchestra New England, Connecticut Lyric Opera, Fairfield County Chorale, Stamford Chorale, Con Brio, Cappella Cantorum, Wall Street Chamber Players, Hartford Women Composers Festival, Cuatro Puntos Ensemble, Opera Theatre of Yale College and others.

Christopher is director of choral programs at Sacred Heart University, where he leads the university’s Concert Choir, as well as 4 Heart Harmony, the select SATB Chamber Choir. (SATB is an initialism that describes the scoring of compositions for choirs. The initials are for the voice types: S for soprano, A for alto, T for tenor and B for bass.)

He is the director of music at the Unitarian Society of New Haven. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Stamford. Recently, he was honored to become a founding board member of the Neely Bruce Music Foundation. Apart from his many musical endeavors, Christopher is a commercially licensed helicopter pilot and flight instructor.

Refreshments will be offered following the concert. We look forward to seeing you there.



OV

NOTICE:
PLEASE OBSERVE THE GOLF COURSE WALKING HOURS
RESIDENTS MAY USE THE CART PATH BEFORE 7 A.M. & AFTER 8 P.M.

OTHERWISE, WALKERS RISK BEING HIT BY A HIGH-VELOCITY GOLF BALL AS PEOPLE USE THE COURSE FOR PLAY.

CALENDAR

Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Chrissy Smith at csmith@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/OVTD events

C = Closed event RSF = Racquet Sports Facility

MONDAY, MAY 1

- 10:00 a.m. – House & Garden Board Mtg, NCB C/R (C)
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **11:00 a.m. – Communications Committee, NCB**
- 1:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Planning Committee, NCB B/R (C)
- 4:00 p.m. – Tennis Club event, NCB
- **6:00 p.m. – SAC Committee Mtg, NCB B/R**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers Brd Mtg, SCB C/R (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB

TUESDAY, MAY 2

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Cards, Dombrowsky, SCB

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

- 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 Brd Mtg, NCB, B/R (C)



- 4:00 p.m. – Pool Social Group, SCB, C/R
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Book Club, NCB, Library

THURSDAY, MAY 4

- **10:00 a.m. – House Committee, NCB, B/R**
- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, 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. – District 10 Meeting, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB

FRIDAY, MAY 5

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

SATURDAY, MAY 6

- 9:30 a.m. – Tennis Club Round Robin, RSF

SUNDAY, MAY 7

- 12:00 p.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

MONDAY, MAY 8

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. – House & Garden Club Meeting SCB
- **4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee, NCB**
- **4:00 p.m. – Bylaws Committee, SCB**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB

TUESDAY, MAY 9

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- **9:30 a.m. – Architectural Committee Mtg, NCB**
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- **4:00 p.m. – Budget Overview/General Meeting of Unit Owners, NCB**
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers event, SCB



Oronoque Village Condominium Association

Oronoque Village Tax District

2023-2024 Proposed Budget



May 1, 2023

Dear Residents,

The following pages are the Board-approved budgets for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as well as the schedule of monthly common charges and the Tax District mill rate.

The proposed budgets call for a 3.22% increase for Oronoque Village Condominium Association, Inc. (OVCA) and a 7.33% increase for Oronoque Village Tax District (OVTD) for a combined increase of 4.39%.

Below are the expenses that were the major contributing factors in this year's increase:

- **Salary increases** - which are essential – the cost of living is the highest it's ever been in the state of Connecticut -- - retention and high morale are an absolute necessity while we tread through these times.
- **Subcontracted labor** - we are increasing services with subcontracted labor for routine grounds maintenance. Subcontracted labor has reduced the amount of time it takes for grass trimming from 5 to 7 days, down to 2 to 3 days, and it will help expedite leaf removal. (Subsidized labor also eliminates the need to hire seasonal workers)
- **Insurance** - premiums are expected to increase 10% because of nationwide losses.
- **Program Maintenance** - this year includes an increased number of units from 75 units to 80 units. We started an 11-year cycle in July 2014. We currently have 160 units remaining on this 11-year cycle. With the planned 80 units in 2023-2024 and another 80 units in 2024-2025 we can complete this cycle. This will allow us to explore other options come 2025-2026, such as accelerating the application of a second coat of paint to extend the life of the siding on the units, introducing new synthetic materials or making some alternate exterior changes.
- **Cable** - Our current cable contract commenced on December 1, 2020, and expires December 1, 2026. The contract stipulated no increase for the first two years and a 4% annual increase for the remainder years.

Other components of the budget increases are for community enhancements such as:

- Utilizing a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) to assume the HR responsibilities, while reducing the associations' liability and allowing for potential employee benefit cost savings to the community.
- The access control system: This system will increase the security of the clubhouses and provide a system that may afford future cost-savings, in either utility or labor costs by offering off-site/ real-time monitoring.

There will be a general overview of the budget for all residents on Tuesday, May 9th, at 4 p.m. at NCB. During this meeting we will cover any questions or concerns residents may have.

The OVCA Budget Rejection Vote will be held on Thursday, May 11th, at 6 p.m. in the North Clubhouse.

The OVTD Annual Meeting and Taxpayer Vote on the Budget will be held Tuesday, May 23rd, 5-8 p.m. in the North Clubhouse.

Mark Rhatigan
Executive Director

ORONOQUE VILLAGE OVCA BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

DESCRIPTION	2022-2023 BUDGETS	2022-2023 PROJECTED YEAR END	VARIANCE	FOOTNOTE	2023-2024 BUDGETS	VARIANCE FROM 2022-2023		
						SHARED % ALLOC.	UP/DOWN	Percent UP/ -DOWN
REVENUES								
COMMON CHARGES BILLED	5,409,326	5,409,773	447		5,583,490		174,164	3.22%
INTEREST INCOME	7,500	7,000	(500)		10,000		2,500	33.33%
OTHER INCOME	15,000	26,500	11,500		26,500		11,500	76.67%
COMMUNICATION INCOME	21,864	21,500	364		21,739		(125)	-0.57%
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	40,000	40,000	0	(E)			(40,000)	-100.00%
TOTAL REVENUE	5,493,690	5,504,773	11,811		5,641,729		148,039	2.69%
EXPENSES								
PAYROLL	1,141,652	1,128,000	13,652		1,149,937	58/42	8,286	0.73%
PAYROLL TAXES	99,783	93,600	6,183		94,339	58/42	(5,444)	-5.46%
HEALTH CARE INSURANCE	116,693	123,000	(6,307)		132,480	58/42	15,787	13.53%
WORKERS' COMP	27,461	27,600	(139)		31,188	58/42	3,727	13.57%
RETIREMENT FUND	39,397	31,500	7,897		32,787	58/42	(6,610)	-16.78%
SUBCONTRACTED LABOR	58,002	73,040	(15,038)		75,854	88/12	17,852	30.78%
LABOR	1,482,988	1,476,740	6,248	(A)	1,516,585		33,597	2.3%
PAYROLL PROCESSING	0	0	0		10,528		10,528	#DIV/0!
HR SOLUTIONS	0	0	0		29,245		29,245	#DIV/0!
INSURANCE	892,556	872,202	20,354		958,422	Mixed %	65,866	7.38%
TELEPHONE	10,800	11,450	(650)		11,723	45/55	923	8.55%
OFFICE SUPPLIES	9,250	9,250	0		9,246	50/50	(4)	-0.05%
GROUNDS	79,200	83,820	(4,620)		79,327	87/13	127	0.16%
MISC/CONTRACTS 50%/50%	31,000	31,250	(250)		41,995	50/50	10,995	35.47%
COMMUNICATION EXPENSES	24,495	27,500	(3,005)		27,511	50/50	3,016	12.31%
WEBSITE	3,460	4,250	(790)		1,616	50/50	(1,844)	-53.29%
TOTAL SHARED ACCOUNTS	2,533,749	2,516,462	17,287	(B)	2,686,198		152,449	6.0%
CONTINGENCY	10,000	0	10,000		5,000		(5,000)	-50.00%
AUDIT	19,275	19,025	250		19,250		(25)	-0.13%
LEGAL	25,000	40,000	(15,000)		25,000		-	0.00%
CONSULTING	5,000	18,000	(13,000)		10,000		5,000	100.00%
CA MISCELLANEOUS/CONTRACTS 100%	27,500	32,500	(5,000)		17,088		(10,412)	-37.86%
CA ELECTRICITY	43,000	48,000	(5,000)		48,000		5,000	11.63%
CA WATER	7,500	8,000	(500)		3,500		(4,000)	-53.33%
CA GAS HEATING	38,000	41,000	(3,000)		39,000		1,000	2.63%
CLEANING SUPPLIES	10,000	7,500	2,500		7,500		(2,500)	-25.00%
COMMUNITY BUILDINGS (FACILITIES 22-23)	68,500	73,500	(5,000)		31,500		(37,000)	-54.01%
PROPERTY TAX	94,500	92,305	2,195		94,500		-	0.00%
REPAYMENT OF TD NOTE	45,603	45,603	0		45,603		-	0.00%
RENOVATION LOAN--12/7/25 NIRA	128,714	128,714	0		128,714		(0)	0.00%
COMM BLDG MORTGAGE PAYMENTS--8/12/24 NIRA	310,528	310,528	0		310,528		(0)	0.00%
SOLAR PANEL LOAN--EXPIRES 6/30/37	8,120	8,150	(30)		8,079		(41)	-0.50%
BUILDING REPAIRS	105,000	110,000	(5,000)		108,000		3,000	2.86%
PM SIDING	700,000	740,000	(40,000)		750,000		50,000	7.14%
OFF CYCLE UNIT PAINTING (30/\$2000 plus cc)	38,700	36,660	2,040		70,000		31,300	
DECK/FRONT ENTRANCE PAINTING (200 UNITS)	67,500	51,000	16,500		50,000		(17,500)	-25.93%
GLASS REPLACEMENT	36,000	36,000	0		37,000		1,000	2.78%
CA DRAINAGE	15,000	10,000	5,000		10,000		(5,000)	-33.33%
SLIDER/DOOR REPLACEMENT	38,500	38,500	0		35,500		(3,000)	-7.79%
ROOF REPAIRS/GUTTERS	60,000	45,000	15,000		50,000		(10,000)	-16.67%
CABLE/INTERNET--CONTRACT EXPIRES 12/1/26	798,000	792,975	5,025		826,768		28,768	3.61%
TOTAL MAINTENANCE/SERVICES	2,699,941	2,732,960	-33,020	(C)	2,730,531		30,590	1.1%
ALL RESERVE ACCOUNTS								
ROOF RESERVE FUNDED	60,000	60,000	0		60,000		-	0.00%
PM RESERVE FUNDED	55,000	55,000	0		15,000		(40,000)	-72.73%
CA MAJOR CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDED	25,000	25,000	0		25,000		-	0.00%
INSURANCE RESERVE FUNDED	60,000	60,000	0		65,000		5,000	8.33%
BUILDINGS AND POOLS RESERVE FUNDED	40,000	40,000	0		40,000		-	0.00%
RACQUET SPORTS RESERVE FUNDED	10,000	10,000	0		10,000		-	0.00%
GENERAL RESERVE FUNDED	10,000	10,000	0		10,000		-	0.00%
TOTAL RESERVES FUNDED	260,000	260,000	0	(D)	225,000		-35,000	-13.5%
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,493,689	5,509,422	(15,733)		5,641,729		148,039	2.69%

ORONOQUE VILLAGE OVTD BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

DESCRIPTION	2022-2023 BUDGETS	2022-2023 PROJECTED YEAR END	VARIANCE	TAX DISTRICT	VARIANCE	
					FROM 2022-2023 UP/DOWN	Percent UP/ -DOWN
REVENUES						
TAXES BILLED	2,148,623	2,148,933	310	2,306,181	157,558	7.33%
INTEREST INCOME	2,500	1,500	(1,000)	1,500	(1,000)	-40.00%
COMMUNICATION INCOME	21,864	21,500	364	21,739	(125)	-0.57%
REPAYMENT OF TD NOTE	45,603	45,603	0	45,603	-	0.00%
TOTAL REVENUE	2,218,590	2,217,536	-326	2,375,023	156,433	7.05%
EXPENSES						
PAYROLL	761,101	752,000	9,101	816,104	55,002	7.23%
PAYROLL TAXES	66,522	62,400	4,122	66,952	430	0.65%
HEALTH CARE INSURANCE	77,795	82,000	(4,205)	94,020	16,225	20.86%
WORKERS' COMP	18,307	18,400	(93)	22,134	3,827	20.90%
RETIREMENT FUND	26,265	21,000	5,265	23,269	(2,996)	-11.41%
SUBCONTRACTED LABOR	38,668	48,693	(10,025)	10,846	(27,822)	-71.95%
LABOR	988,659	984,493	4,165	1,033,325	44,666	4.5%
PAYROLL PROCESSING	0	0	0	7,472	7,472	#DIV/0!
HR SOLUTIONS	0	0	0	20,755	20,755	#DIV/0!
INSURANCE	113,827	105,936	7,891	117,528	3,701	3.25%
TELEPHONE	13,200	13,995	(795)	14,328	1,128	8.55%
OFFICE SUPPLIES	9,250	9,250	0	9,246	(4)	-0.05%
GROUNDS	10,800	11,430	(630)	11,343	543	5.03%
MISC/CONTRACTS 50%/50%	31,000	31,250	(250)	41,995	10,995	35.47%
COMMUNICATION EXPENSES	24,495	27,500	(3,005)	27,511	3,016	12.31%
WEBSITE	3,460	4,250	(790)	1,616	(1,844)	-53.28%
TOTAL SHARED ACCOUNTS	1,194,690	1,188,104	6,586	1,285,118	90,427	7.6%
AUDIT	12,150	12,000	150	12,250	100	0.82%
LEGAL	5,000	7,500	(2,500)	7,500	2,500	50.00%
CONSULTING	5,000	12,000	(7,000)	5,000	-	0.00%
TD MISCELLANEOUS/CONTRACTS 100%	3,250	3,750	(500)	5,600	2,350	72.30%
TD ELECTRICITY	55,000	55,000	0	55,000	-	0.00%
TD WATER	0	0	0	4,500	4,500	#DIV/0!
TD GAS HEATING	0	0	0	3,500	3,500	#DIV/0!
OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	0	0	0	32,500	32,500	#DIV/0!
EQUIPMENT LOAN REPAYMENTS	79,000	76,882	2,118	54,086	(24,914)	-31.54%
TD DRAINAGE	7,500	10,000	(2,500)	8,500	1,000	0.82%
REFUSE	60,000	70,000	(10,000)	65,000	5,000	8.33%
SECURITY	61,000	60,500	500	62,000	1,000	1.64%
UNDERGROUND/INFRASTRUCTURE	35,000	35,000	0	35,000	-	0.00%
MOTOR VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	75,000	65,000	10,000	65,000	(10,000)	-13.33%
GASOLINE AND OIL	65,000	61,250	3,750	61,000	(4,000)	-6.15%
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES	10,000	12,000	(2,000)	12,000	2,000	20.00%
STREET MAINTENANCE	76,000	75,830	170	60,000	(16,000)	-21.05%
ROAD LOAN PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST	12,000	15,500	(3,500)	255,470	243,470	2028.92%
SHADE & ORNAMENTAL TREES	48,000	54,000	(6,000)	46,000	(2,000)	-4.17%
PEST CONTROL	30,000	30,000	0	30,000	-	0.00%
STORM EXPENSES	40,000	13,124	26,876	40,000	-	0.00%
TOTAL MAINTENANCE/SERVICES	678,900	669,336	9,564	919,905	241,005	35.5%
ALL RESERVE ACCOUNTS						
INFRASTRUCTURE RESERVE FUNDED	115,000	115,000	0	100,000	(15,000)	-13.04%
ROAD RESERVE FUNDED	200,000	200,000	0	40,000	(160,000)	-80.00%
TD MAJOR CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDED	30,000	30,000	0	30,000	-	0.00%
TOTAL RESERVES FUNDED	345,000	345,000	0	170,000	-175,000	-50.7%
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,218,590	2,202,440	16,150	2,375,023	156,433	7.05%

Oronoque Village Condominium Association
Monthly Common Charges
Current vs. Proposed
July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Class/Unit Model	% Ownership	# of Units	2022-2023 Current Common Charges	2023-2024 Proposed Common Charges
I Emerson, Alcott, Lowell, Melville, Longfellow, Fenimore	.0922	176	415.69	429.07 increase 13.38
II Hawthorne, Revere	.0999	72	450.15	464.64 increase 14.49
III Thoreau, Cooper, Wolcott, Dickinson, Winthrop, Peabody	.1109	511	499.91	516.01 increase 16.10
IV Whittier, Milay, Whitman	.1171	170	527.94	544.94 increase 17.00

**PROPOSED
ORONOQUE VILLAGE TAX DISTRICT
(OVRTD)**

**Mill Rate
2023-2024**

**Town of Stratford
Total Oronoque Village
Grand List Assessment:**

\$142,919,000

(based on October 2022 Grand List)

2023/24 Tax District Budget:

\$2,306,181

2022/23 Mill Rate

16.14

Revaluation is mandated by law every 5 years and the purpose is to fairly distribute the equitable values of property throughout the municipality. The last revaluation was done October 2019.

The Tax District Mill Rate is determined by dividing the OVRTD Budget by the Oronoque Village Grand List provided by the Town of Stratford.

Mill Rates 2014-2015 to 2023-2024

<u>14-15</u>	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>	<u>18-19</u>	<u>19-20</u>	<u>20-21</u>	<u>21-22</u>	<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>
19.63	12.78	12.93	13.10	12.41	12.95	13.57	14.10	15.17	16.14

**ORONOQUE VILLAGE CONDO.
ESTIMATED
RESERVES**

	INSURANCE	MAJOR CAPITAL	HOUSE & GARDEN	ROOF	PM/PAINTING	BUILDINGS/POOLS	RACQUET SPORTS RESERVES	GENERAL RESERVES
BALANCE AS OF 7/1/22	63,038.91	151,875.54	7,047.22	707,778.85	19,214.14	17,897.63	32,945.70	13,090.55
INCOME	223,005.19	16,666.64	2,500.00	40,000.00	36,666.64	26,666.64	6,666.72	6,666.72
EXPENSES	(181,056.96)	(4,359.39)		(52,297.00)		(13,003.15)		
BALANCE BEFORE INTEREST	104,987.14	164,182.79	9,547.22	695,481.85	55,880.78	31,561.12	39,612.42	19,757.27
INTEREST	300.76	491.37	27.95	2,115.38	149.50	84.93	116.00	56.12
BALANCE AS OF 2/28/23	\$ 105,287.90	\$ 164,674.16	\$ 9,575.17	\$ 697,597.23	\$ 56,030.28	\$ 31,646.05	\$ 39,728.42	\$ 19,813.39
INCOME	52,810.06	8,333.32	0.00	20,000.00	18,333.32	13,333.32	3,333.36	3,333.36
EXPENSES	(11,000.00)							
	412A REMEDIATION							
	(117,351.36)	(12,806.00)	0.00	(30,000.00)	0.00	(15,000.00)	(35,000.00)	0.00
	587A	CAMERAS		ON ORDER		POOL MOTOR-SCB	PICKLEBALL	
BALANCE AS OF 6/30/23	\$ 29,746.60	\$ 160,201.48	\$ 9,575.17	\$ 687,597.23	\$ 74,363.60	\$ 29,979.37	\$ 8,061.78	\$ 23,146.75

**ORONOQUE VILLAGE TAX DISTRICT
ESTIMATED
RESERVES**

	MAJOR CAPITAL RESERVE	ROAD RESERVE	ENHANCEMENT RESERVE	INFRASTRUCTURE RESERVE
BEGINNING BALANCE 7/1/22	5,663.12	37,891.26	354.67	(41,053.49)
INCOME	20,000.00	133,333.36	-	76,666.64
EXPENSES	(537.17)			(57,055.78)
BALANCE BEFORE INTEREST	25,125.95	171,224.62	354.67	(21,442.63)
INTEREST	(1.19)	(8.02)	(0.01)	0.82
ENDING BALANCE 2/28/23	25,124.76	171,216.60	354.66	(21,441.81)
INCOME	10,000.00	66,666.68		38,333.32
EXPENSES	(29,806.00)	(177,300.00)		
ENDING BALANCE 6/30/23	5,318.76	60,583.28	354.66	16,891.51
INCOME	30,000.00	40,000.00		100,000.00
EXPENSES				
ENDING BALANCE 6/30/23	35,318.76	100,583.28	354.66	116,891.51

Calling All OV Connections Facebook Users And Interested Others

We need your help! We invite your input!

The Communications Committee is asking you to join a Focus Group to study OV Connections.



Our plan: Review our Facebook policies regarding our general guidelines, advertising and content.

Our process: Several small groups of different residents will meet 2-3 times each. Same agenda. Same process.

Our results: Recommendations will be forwarded to management.

Interested? Please contact Mary W. von Ziegesar: 203-767-9760 or MvonZ@optonline.net.

Thank you!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

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

THURSDAY, MAY 11

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, 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
- 1:00 p.m. – Ladies Mahjongg and Cards, NCB, C/R (C)
- **6:00 p.m. – Unit Owners Budget Rejection Vote, NCB**
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB

FRIDAY, MAY 12

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Friday Night Pool, NCB Billiards Room (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *The Fabelmans*, NCB

SATURDAY, MAY 13

- 1:00 p.m. – Private Party, SCB (C)

SUNDAY, MAY 14

- 3:00 p.m. – Private Party, SCB (C)

MONDAY, MAY 15

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **3:00 p.m. – OVCA Finance Committee, NCB**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB

TUESDAY, MAY 16

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY 20 IS SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Villagers will have multiple opportunities to get rid of unwanted goods from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 20. Dumpsters will be placed in the rear parking lot of SCB for the disposal of household items, including furniture, appliances and metal objects that are less than 8 feet in size. Members of the Maintenance staff will be on hand to assist residents.

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

Bulk collection items include the following:

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

Shredding Truck at NCB

A shredding truck will be parked at NCB from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m. Villagers are encouraged to use this service to destroy outdated confidential documents, such as bank statements, credit card receipts, invoices, insurance forms and cancelled checks.

The following items are **not** allowed for disposal in the dumpsters provided on Cleanup Day. These items must be taken directly to the Town of Stratford Transfer Station:

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

OVAG PRESENTS A BOOK READING/SIGNING WITH MARTHA TALBURT

Story by Barbara Stewart

Some of you may remember Martha Talburt, artist, poet, writer and former resident of Oronoque Village. She taught drawing lessons for the OV Arts Guild (OVAG) and inspired us not only as artists but as human beings.

During the two years of isolation during the Covid pandemic, what did Martha do? She wrote a book, titled "A Bridge Not a Wall." Becoming a bridge, not a wall, has been her lifelong pursuit. With deep commitment, humor, irreverence and pluck she shares her quest with us.

On June 8 at 3 p.m., Martha will present a book reading and signing at the SCB Lounge. She will share reflections and poetry from her book.

Refreshments will be served after the reading. OVAG members attend at no charge, guests pay \$8 at the door. Martha's book will be on sale and the proceeds are all donated to the Johnny Mac Soldiers Fund.

She says of her book, "Before I check out, I want to share this life, take you along on a ride through it, the vehicles being my poetry, journal essays and artwork, all of which have helped me immeasurably to make it through".

Author Pamela Hart writes, "Talburt leads us around

the world, from the suburban landscapes of family to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, with much wonder and joy in between."

Martha is a well-known artist and teacher who has taught art and poetry for many years. Trained at the Art Students League in New York, where she specialized in portraiture, Martha has created portrait drawings and paintings of subjects all over the world.

In addition to visual art, poetry is her passion; she has been writing poems for as long as she can remember. With the phrase, "A face is a poem the soul writes," she blends her two passions. Martha and her dog, Zoey, now live in Ridgefield, where she is close to some of her large family. "A Bridge Not a Wall" is her second book.



OV



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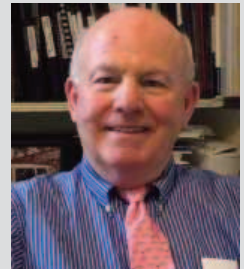
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOGETHER, WE CAN END
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.



ANNUAL OV WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S IS JUNE 3

By Barbara Minoff

Alzheimer's isn't stopping -- and neither are we! Oronoque Village Pickleball Club is excited to sponsor, for our Village's ninth year, a walk to support the Alzheimer's Association in Connecticut.

Date: Saturday, June 3 (Rain date: Sunday, June 4)

Location: OV South Clubhouse front parking lot

Time: 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. walk

The walk is a short route around South Trail, commencing at the front parking lot of the South Clubhouse, and circling around back to the front of the South Clubhouse for the finish. We encourage you to join us for support, even if you cannot walk!

This year, we are walking in support of OV residents who are struggling with this challenging disease. We are raising funds for the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and there are 80,000 people right here in Connecticut. Our Connecticut families dealing with the effects of this disease need our support now more than ever! These funds will be used within Fairfield County to provide research and services for people with Alzheimer's disease.

We are offering three ways to donate: Put your donation check (made out to Alzheimer's Association CT) in the Pickleball Club mailbox at NCB, use this OV Team link (<http://act.alz.org/goto/OronoqueVillage>) to donate online or bring your check on June 3 to our walk.

Interesting Facts:

The lifetime risk for Alzheimer's at age 45 is 1 in 5 for women and 1 in 10 for men.

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

Every Year Alzheimer's kills more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

Here is the direct impact of your dollars in Connecticut:

- In 2022 over 1,450 calls to our 24/7 Helpline were answered.
- Over \$1.7 M was invested in Alzheimer's and dementia research right here in Connecticut.
- Over 2,700 individuals attended our education programs and support groups.

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

Please bring your sponsor's donations on the day of the walk. We encourage you to bring family members, friends and grandchildren to walk with you! Together, we can exceed last year's donations and make an even greater impact.

Water will be provided and it will be a great day for camaraderie, exercise and giving back to the community. We look forward to seeing you on June 3.

For further information please contact Barbara at 203-386-0533 or Pat at 203-375-1788. We thank you in advance for your participation in this OV Pickleball Club special event!

OV

"I had one typewriter for 50 years, but I have bought seven computers in six years. I suppose that's why Bill Gates is rich, and Underwood is out of business."

— Andy Rooney

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NAVAL VETERANS

Opening Day Sunday
May 21, 2023
9 am - 4 pm

Flag Raising at Noon,
Free Park events
start at 1 pm

Food,
Music,
Goody Bags,
Dash Plaques
Special Awards
and Field Trophies

All Show Vehicles Welcome,
\$15 per vehicle, No Cutoff year!

For information: portfiveusa.com, ctseaportcarclub.com or call John Buehler at 203-650-2009
Car Show Presented by Port 5 Naval Veterans, 69 Brewster St, Bpt, CT 06605

SO YOU THINK YOU ARE FINISHED WITH YOUR RENOVATION?

By Janice Nachbar, OVCA Architectural Committee

You have gone through all the paperwork and mess to have your home upgraded: a new kitchen, bathroom, deck, heating unit replacement or any of the dozens of improvement projects you may consider for your Oronoque Village condo.

Proper steps need to be taken—from start to finish—to ensure that you have followed the necessary steps in planning, implementing and completing your home upgrades.

The first step is to visit the Oronoque Village Business Office and submit an Application for Change to the Architectural Committee for approval. With the application, you will need to include the names of the contractors you will be working with, certificates of their insurance and state registration, and a schematic/description of work to be done. A \$50 payment is required to submit the paperwork, which will be returned to you when the project is complete. But how do you know when it's time for reimbursement?



Here are checklists that need to be followed for both the Town of Stratford and Oronoque Village:

For the Town (as per Jay Habansky, Planning and Zoning Administrator):

Be sure to call the Building Department for an inspection of the completed project. Usually, your contractor will do it ... but you should be sure the inspection is scheduled. (I was told an inspection would be scheduled within days.)

“Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese.

“Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.”

—Jack Benny

An inspection of exterior work does not require a homeowner to be present. Interior inspections need to be coordinated with access to the construction project.

A certificate of completion is issued by the Town if all is correct. This certificate is accessible to the one who pulled the permit, usually your contractor. You can, however, add your email to the permit to have access to the certificate of completion online.

Please note: If you do not have an inspection by the Town and approval, you will be considered to have an open permit. This will prevent any financial activity concerning your unit, including resale, refinance or an equity loan until this permit is closed.

For Oronoque Village

Following a staff inspection of the completed project, you will receive a Notice of Final Inspection and Approval of Change Form. At that point you may request a refund of the \$50 bond that accompanied the Application for Change.

If you follow the outlined steps, construction paperwork will be simple. These standards are intended to keep Oronoque Village as safe and as beautiful as it has always been.

Please note, however, some permit-closing standards are different for the Town of Stratford and for Oronoque Village. An example of this is a new deck that has not yet been painted.

The Town is interested in the correctness of the construction, not the aesthetics. You can get this deck inspected by the Town before it is painted, but it is not considered complete according to Oronoque standards. OV

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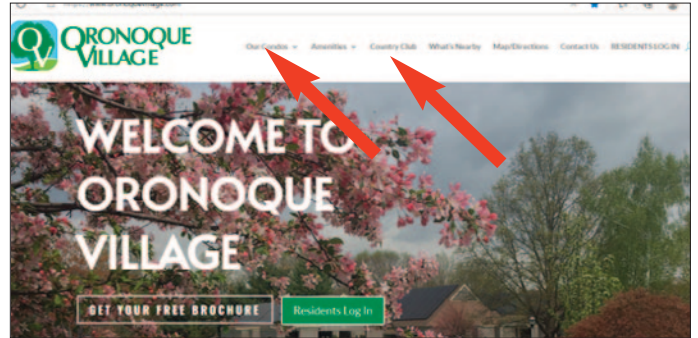
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WEB INSIGHTS

We are always driving you to the residents-only/private side of our website, but check out the public side of www.OronoqueVillage.com. Under OUR CONDOS you can find your floor plans and link to Realtor.com to find out what's for sale. You can look at our amenities, link to the Blackhawk Country Club and The Restaurant at Blackhawk and find out what's going on nearby.

OV



FIND IT ON WWW.OROONOQUEVILLAGE

Want to know more about our new keyless entry system? Go to the Home Page/Condo News & Notifications and scroll down. "A Message from the Executive Director" and "read more" will link you to detailed information.

OV



OVTV DAILY PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE (AS OF APRIL 21, 2023)

The following is a schedule of programs that run daily on OVTV (Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box).

For more information on OVTV programming, contact Bruce Pollock at bap203@yahoo.com

11 a.m. - Donna Martire Miller: "The Science of Happiness"

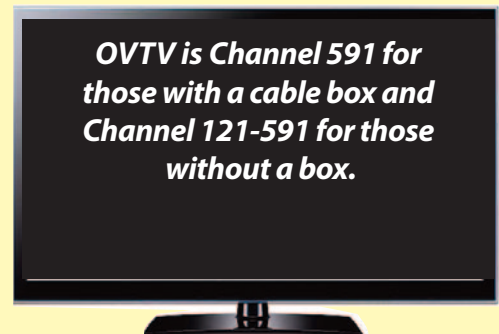
Noon - CPR/AED Instruction

4 p.m. - Karaoke Recaps From Chris Albino

7 p.m. - Pickleball Tips

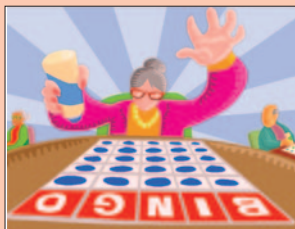
7:10 p.m. - Bruce Pollock Talks About The Beatles

12 a.m. - "Two Guys Talking About Dion" with Bruce Pollock and Wayne Cotter



Items on the page are submitted by the Communications Committee

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, MAY 18**



**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.

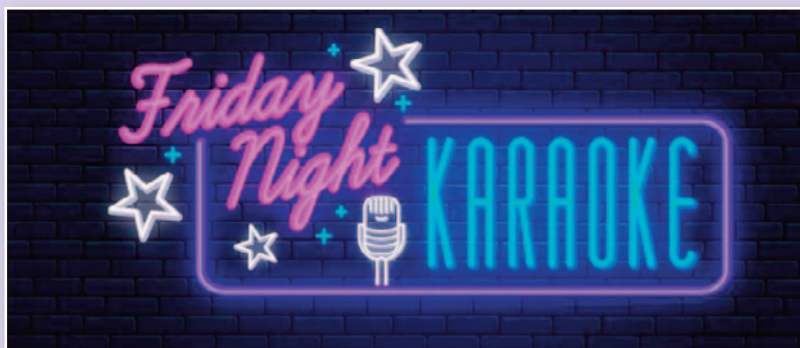


**The OV Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of
each month at 7 p.m. in the NCB Library.**

The book for May 3 meeting is *The Personal Librarian*
by Marie Benedict.

The book for June 7 is *This Tender Land* by William
Krueger . A powerful novel about a life-changing ad-
venture traveling down America's great rivers during
the Great Depression.

In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's
Gilead River, an orphan confined to the Lincoln Indian
Training School, a pitiless place where his lively nature
earns him the superintendent's wrath, is forced to flee
after committing a terrible crime, he and his brother,
their best friend and a brokenhearted little girl steal
away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi
and a place to call their own.



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

**Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on May 26 at 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!

"Flowers are like friends-They bring beauty into your world"



A "Last All Spring & Summer" Container Garden Presentation!

**Monday, May 8, 2023
1:00 pm - SCB**

*Welcome back Danny Quinn,
General Manager of Wells
Hollow Farm in Shelton.*

*Danny will create an exciting trio of
"LAST ALL SPRING & SUMMER
CONTAINER GARDENS" to be raffled off
after his presentation.*

Danny has been at Wells Hollow for over 12 years starting there when he was in high school and plants and garden knowledge have become his passion and profession!

Pictured: Danny Quinn

***Don't Miss
This
Wonderful
House &
Garden
Event!***



**Members:
Free -
Guests \$5**

**Raffle tickets
are \$3
each or 3 for
\$5**

Coffee, Tea & Treats served following the program





FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS

DUELING PIANOS "SHAKE RATTLE AND ROLL"

TUESDAY MAY 9, 2023

7pm SCB • Doors Open At 6:15



A SPECIAL EVENT

Not a 2023 member? Join for \$15 per person.

All new live show from New York!
The show is an all-request party where YOU pick the playlist.

Our two dueling piano entertainers play THOUSANDS of songs, so anything goes! Come sing-along, laugh-along and PARTY along!

Advance reservations required and payments will be accepted from **April 18th through May 5th** unless maximum capacity is reached. **Open to resident Funseekers' members and one non-resident guest per single resident until April 26th.** Starting on April 27th, if

there is space availability, member residents may sign up any amount of non-resident guests. Please put **\$8.00** check (special event) per person into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB (**\$11.00 non-resident guest**).

Questions? Call Lynn Collins 203-260-4644

COFFEE, TEA, SOFT DRINKS & DESSERT TO BE SERVED

BYOB AND SNACKS!

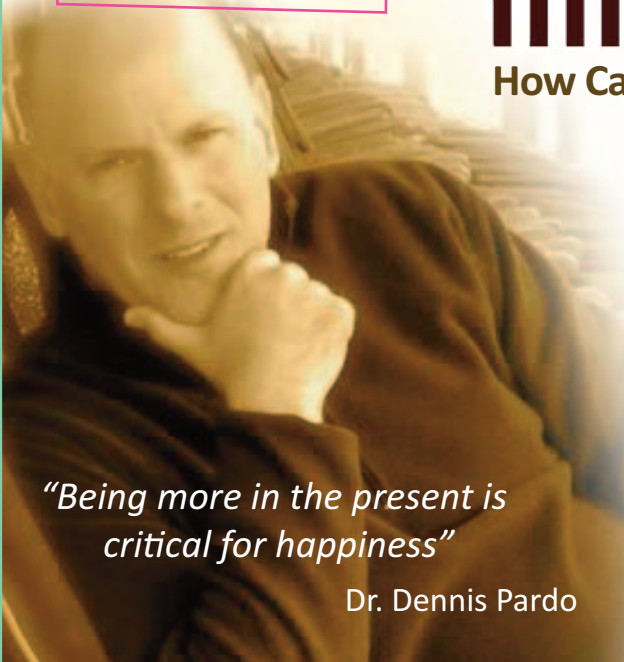


Presents A Unique Talk By **Dr. Dennis Pardo**

mindfulness



How Can We Use It To Enhance Our Daily Lives!



"Being more in the present is critical for happiness"

Dr. Dennis Pardo

The **OV Arts Guild (OVAG)** is excited to offer a unique presentation by our own Oronoque resident Dr. Dennis Pardo.

Most people have heard of **Mindfulness** and we hear that it can help us handle stress, anxiety, and enhance our health. But what exactly is it and how can we use it in our daily lives? Here is your chance to find out. **Dr. Dennis Pardo will help us learn the basics of Mindfulness, a practice that helps us stay focused on the present rather than thinking excessively of the past and worrying about the future.** **Mindfulness** is evidence-based and this program focuses on the mental health benefits of **Mindfulness**.

Friday, May 19 at 3pm SCB Lounge

Reception to follow

Members Free-Guests Pay \$8

Questions? Call Barbara Stewart
203-612-1373



SAC presents...

Join in the ***SPIRIT***

Welcome Summer and Salute Those Who Served!

Saturday May 20th, 1-3pm

North Clubhouse

Come together with old friends and new neighbors to celebrate and honor **Veterans** in our community who have served our country!

Music, food and fun!

Enjoy grilled hot dogs, a selection of tasty toppings, cold salads, baked beans, lemonade and iced tea. Ice cream will be served for a sweet treat!!

Cost: \$12 per person

*****Veterans will be our guests at no charge*****

If you would like to show your support for Veterans in need, please bring a new pair of men's socks to be donated to Homes for the Brave.



Please fill out this form and place it in the North Clubhouse SAC mailbox by **May 10**

Name of Veteran: _____ **Branch of Service:** _____

Questions? Call Kathy Lukens (203-612-6685) or Lynne Shafer (914-714-4198)

Please fill out the form below and return to the SAC mailbox with your payment.

Attendee(s) Names: _____

Total # Attending (Veterans +Non-Veterans): _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Contact PhonNumber: _____

Save the Dates

Pool Party ~ Saturday, August 19

Dog Parade Fundraiser ~ Saturday, September 23 (rain date September 24)

**JOIN US FOR
"IT'S 5'OCLOCK SOMEWHERE"
ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**

AT NCB at 5 P.M.

**BYOB * Relax and Mingle *
Drop By With An Appetizer to Share**

Hosted by SAC

See You on May 5!



The Movie Club Presents
The Fabelmans
May 12, 7 p.m., NCB
May 17, 2 p.m., SCB

Young Sammy Fabelman falls in love with movies after his parents take him to see "The Greatest Show on Earth." Armed with a camera, Sammy starts to make his own films at home, much to the delight of his supportive mother.

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

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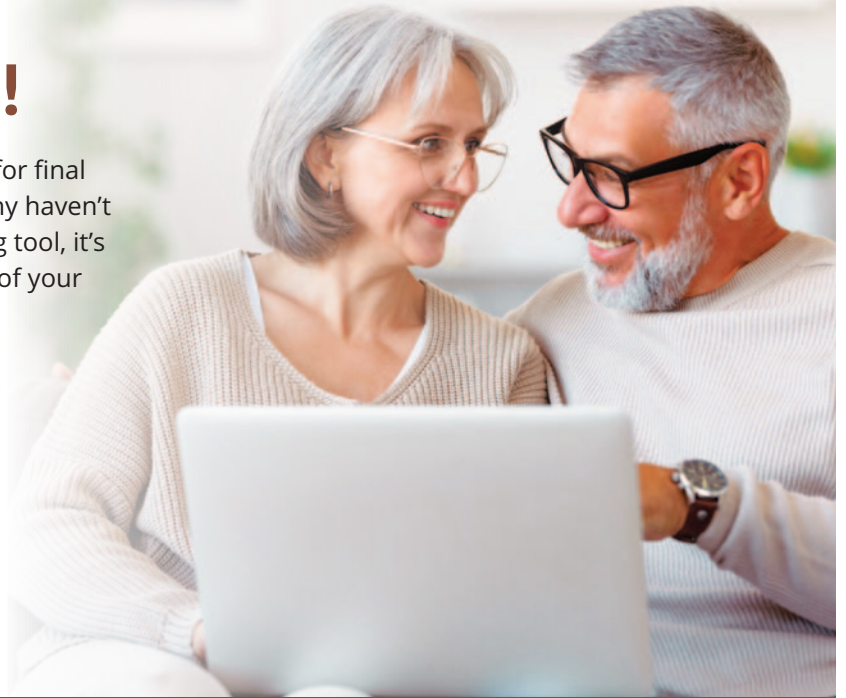
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