

April 17, 2023



THE VILLAGER





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Thank you to Fred Cantor for submitting the cover photo of a star magnolia tree in bloom in the yard of his North Trail unit. The Villager welcomes photo submissions, which must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronoquevillage.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 UPDATE: ENERGY IN THE VILLAGE

By Tom Aubin, OVTD Vice President,
Chair, Energy Solutions Committee



Several months ago, I wrote in this publication of a plan for introducing alternate energy (solar) here in the Village. At that time we were trying to understand our limitations and define what a program might look like, i.e, space required, approval gates to pass

through, funding, etc.

It was then decided to form an ad hoc committee, Energy Solutions, and kick off the program. This initiative had been in discussions for some time with no movement forward to speak of.

We're taking this initiative because we want to make OV energy-independent by creating an efficient means of delivering it to our facilities and, perhaps (someday), our homes. Furthermore, we wish to limit our costs towards these objectives. In short, we want cheaper energy for our Village, but without a hefty investment.

During the last quarter of 2019, Bill Tanski established an initiative for the OV Tax District (OVTD) to consider a micro-grid for the Village. We met with United Illuminating (UI) representatives to establish a range of the power consumption requirements.

Falcon Engineering, our civil engineering consultants, and UI representatives met in January 2020 to explore the various alternatives in moving forward with a feasibility study. Unfortunately, in March of 2020, Covid struck and all activity ceased.

Now that we have restarted this initiative, I can update you on the activity to keep you current with ongoing plans.

In addition to me, members of the Energy Solutions Committee are the Executive Director (ED) and Diane Pivrotto. Diane's previous professional relationship with UI facilitated the project discussion and provided some general guidance.

Planning this project involves the following steps:

- Enlist the assistance of a certified energy service company (ESCO).
- Submit utility bills and accomplish and coordinate and energy audit.



The installation of electric vehicle charging stations is a point of discussion for the OVTD Energy Solutions Committee.

- System design.
- Define multiple approaches to funding.
- Plan construction timeline.
- Procure and install all necessary equipment.
- Monitor performance through metering and verification.

The ED enlisted a solar developer after consulting with CT Green Bank, the financier for the solar panels on the NCB. CSW Energy was recommended, based on projects they are engaged in with the Town of Stratford.

To date, they have done a site visit and assessed the land available, NCB/SCB parking areas as well as the land around the Maintenance Department building. The project could involve (2) carports areas and a ground mount field near Maintenance.

In addition, the ED enlisted counsel (Pullman & Comley) to obtain a ruling by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) for acceptance of the Oronoque Village Tax District as a municipality identified as an entity for renewable power generation. This application was approved for Virtual Net Metering, allowing for a solar installation to offset the aggregated usage profiles of all the OVTD accounts. The project can now move forward with planning and application to UI in August 2023.

As part of the due diligence for this project, we will be determining whether this will be strictly an OV project

(on-site) or whether we might join the Town of Stratford in something they may be planning in order to achieve some economy-of-scale opportunity (off-site).

One area we are discussing is the inclusion of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations as part of the installation. Presently OVT D carries six accounts providing power for road lights and Maintenance. While a commercial solar installation can help offset much of those costs, installing EV chargers can help to further increase net operating in-

come, as well as make for very happy clubhouse visitors. This would be a great way to add value to the project and is one of the many discussions on going in our definition of such.

This is one of three significant projects led by OVT D at this moment and you can expect periodic updates (at least every quarter) keeping you informed of our progress as well as where we are in the decision(s) matrix.

OV

MEET RYAN HANKEY: OUR NEW MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR

Tell us about your background.



Ryan Hankey

I was born in Naugatuck and attended elementary school at St. Frances, followed by public middle school.

I earned a carpentry trade degree at the Emmett O'Brien Technical High School in Ansonia and started out as a general carpenter for a remodeler in upper Fairfield county.

I had a variety of carpentry jobs before coming to Oronoque Village. I worked for a pool company in Torrington where I built customized decks. I worked in Branford, framing out buildings for Dunkin' Donuts franchises and then I got into both rough and finish carpentry work, constructing and installing lots of cabinetry.

Ultimately, I realized that it is the finish work I enjoy the most and this has become a niche for me. I like the attention to detail and am proud of what I build.

When did you start working at Oronoque Village?

I first started my first job at Oronoque Village in October 2016. I was Mark Rhatigan's first hire.

Looking back, working here has been a wonderful fit for me. I knew that good things would come to me while working here and they have. I couldn't have a better mentor than Mark Rhatigan, and we all appreciate the many positive changes he has made within the Maintenance Department and throughout Oronoque Village.

What strengths do you bring to your new position?

I think one of my definite strengths is that I started at the bottom and have worked my way up. I am a person who wants to know everything from A to Z, including the inner workings of an operation and how all the moving parts fit together.

I was hired as a carpenter and my previous experiences helped me with the different jobs I did here. Mark recog-

nized my abilities and I was soon promoted to carpenter supervisor. In that role, I learned what on-the-job tactics work best and how to streamline the process of completing the projects at hand.

One of the most important aspects of my role, and I believe a strength, is my bonded relationship with my co-workers. We have mutual trust and respect.

I feel very, very honored to work with these men and women on staff here, especially during the recent labor shortages. The staff here is fantastic; we work as a team. They know that I have their backs, but it also is understood that we need to do our jobs and do our jobs well.

My biggest learning curve, at the moment, is getting accustomed to being behind the desk versus out in the field, but I am adjusting well and I am confident I will do a good job as Maintenance Director.

Tell us about you home life.

I live in Seymour with my wife, Tina. She and I were high school classmates. We have two children: my son, Greyson, is 5 and my daughter, Ryleigh, is almost 2.

My family is everything to me. I have never been one to sit on the sofa and watch TV so I spend a lot of time working in and around our house. I enjoy landscaping, with the "help" of the kids. I am a big University of Connecticut men's and women's basketball fan. I also enjoy baseball and root for the Yankees.

I consider Oronoque my home away from home. I am very grateful for the support and appreciation I have received from the residents here. The relationships I have with many of the residents make me feel like a valued member of this community.

To me, these relationships are worth their weight in gold.

OV

—Submitted by Mary W. von Ziegesar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OVRTD PROPOSED BUDGET

By Tom Becker, Treasurer, OV Tax District



On April 5, the OV Tax District Finance Committee reviewed their 2023-2024 Budget. After the review, the Finance Committee approved a budget. It will be submitted to the entire OVRTD Board at their April 25 meeting. If approved, the taxpayers will then vote on the budget at the annual OVRTD meeting on May 23. This budget has a unique item, which impacted the totals. I want to take this opportunity to explain it to the community.

In July 2022, both the OVCA and OVRTD Board approved a new "Modus Operandi Agreement." This agreement shifted certain maintenance expenses from OVCA to OVRTD; the purpose was to save the Village sales taxes on those purchases. OVRTD is a municipality and is exempt from sales taxes. These expenses include those to maintain our outdoor facilities such as chemicals for the pools and nets for racquet sports and maintenance repairs.

The new MO Agreement took effect on Sept. 1 2022. We are only in the early stages of the agreement, so the

full impact of the savings has yet to be realized. While the savings may not seem large, compared to our joint \$8 million budget, there is no downside to the agreement. As they say, "every little bit helps."

In the coming year's budget, these expenses totaled about \$50,000. Prior to the agreement, those expenses would appear under the OVCA budget, but now they are with OVRTD. That shift increased the TD budget by nearly 2.5 percent. Instead of a 4.8 percent increase, the OVRTD budget increase is approx. 7.33 percent.

On a larger scale, this happened about 10 years ago. Ownership of the buildings shifted from OVRTD to OVCA. The first budget afterwards showed OVCA with a major increase, but OVRTD experienced the opposite as expenses were exchanged between the entities. Subsequently budgets were normalized. We are experiencing a similar scenario this year, but on a smaller scale.

Because of the uniqueness of the OVRTD budget for 2023-2024, I wanted to be proactive and explain this budget difference.

OV

ONBOARDING OF KEYLESS ENTRY DEVICES IS UNDERWAY BY DISTRICT

The onboarding of our new keyless, security system is underway. As previously announced, residents will need to use an app on their smartphones or a keycard or fob to enter the North and South Clubhouses, the South Clubhouse exercise facility and the north and south pool areas.

Residents in Districts 1-6 can pick up keyless devices through April 19. Residents in Districts 7-11 can pick up keyless devices April 20-28. Staff members dedicated to providing keyless access sources are on-site at the Business Office from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. during the work week.

On Saturday, April 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., staff members will be on-site to serve those residents who are unable to get to the Business Office on weekdays.

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 prior to the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO-COST SMOKE ALARMS FOR THE HEARING-IMPAIRED



The SafeAwake is a fire safety device that awakens the deaf/hard-of-hearing to fire emergencies. The device is designed to work in partnership with a properly installed and working smoke alarm. Once a smoke alarm is activated, the SafeAwake identifies the alarm and activates a bed shaker, a loud audible alarm, and a visual flashing light to alert a sleeping person who may not be able to hear the smoke alarm to the fire emergency.

Features include an intermittent bed shaker, low-frequency 520 Hz sounding alarm, flashing white light visual alarm, operational indicator lights and a plug-in power supply with battery backup

The alarms are available at no cost. Contact the Stratford Fire Marshal's Office at 203-385-4073.

FREE TAI CHI DEMONSTRATIONS

Free one-hour demonstrations of traditional Chinese healing movements from a Western approach of tai chi, dao-yin, qigong and nei-gong, led by Jonathan Davis, will be held at the SCB Card Room on Monday, April 24, 5-6 p.m., for participants who will be challenged physically with sequences of graceful, slow movements of the body and breath. Participants must have the abilities to stand, walk and perform movements for an hour. On Wednesday, April 26, 10-11 a.m., there will be a demo for participants in a seated position, wheelchair or walker while performing therapeutic exercises and self-cultivating/healing pressure points and massages.

Please contact Lucy Clifford for additional information at lmclifford@yahoo.com or 203-644-7710.

AARP SAFE DRIVING CLASSES

AARP Safe Driving classes will resume at Oronoque Village. Please sign up with the Business office at 600 North Trail. Class dates are April 21, June 7, Aug. 9, and Oct 11. The fee for AARP members is \$20, nonmembers pay \$25.

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OV TENNIS CLUB TO HOLD ANNUAL SPRING MEETING/PARTY

Oronoque Village Tennis Club (OVTC) members and OV residents (tennis players and nonplayers) interested in learning about OVTC and the benefits of membership are invited to our first general meeting of the season.

The meeting will take place at NCB on Monday, May 1, at 4 p.m. Immediately following the meeting, OVTC will serve hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and soda.

Club dues, for both players and social members, are \$35. Please make checks payable to "OVTC." The deadline for dues payment is May 15. Peter Geltner, OVTC treasurer, will be at the May 1 meeting to collect payments.

The first social event of the season is a round robin, open to all OV residents, which will be held at the courts on Saturday, May 6, at 9:30 a.m. Sign-ups can be made during the May 1 meeting or via the bulletin board at the courts.



Please join us to sign up for membership, meet other residents and hear the schedule of events for the season.

Questions? Email OVCA.tennis@gmail.com or call Peter Feick, OVTC president, at 203-856-0246.



PICKLEBALL CLUB ANNOUNCES UPCOMING EVENTS

Story by Karen Hahn ~ Photo by John Staley

Pickleball Clinic Scheduled for April 29

Residents interested in learning about pickleball or new residents who play pickleball and want to try the OV courts are invited to the racquet sports facility on Saturday, April 29, at 11:30 a.m. for a pickleball demonstration by the OV Pickleball Club (OVPC) officers. You can also try out your skills. Proper court shoes and athletic attire required. No denim is allowed.

Mark Your Caendars

Our opening meeting is Monday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the NCB auditorium. New and current members are encouraged to attend. The TeamReach sign-up site for play and other helpful club information will be available. A happy hour will follow.

Regular Club Round Robin Play

On May 1, the club's official 2023-24 season begins. Scheduling and sign ups will be done via the TeamReach app.

Information on upcoming social and game play activities will be available at the OVPC opening meeting. Social events will be held during the season and through the end of the year. Our more competitive members can look forward to the annual tournament in September.



A well-attended Pickleball Club happy hour took place in February at Blackhawk Country Club.

We anticipate the conversion of one former tennis court to two pickleball courts. Weather permitting, they will be ready for play by June 1. Everyone keep their fingers crossed!

For more information, contact Bill Tanski, club president, at (609)876-3520 or email at cwdtans@gmail.com.



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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 1, 2023, is April 18 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 the 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 Board Room from 10:30 a.m. to noon (excluding July and August). Questions? Call Angie McKelvey (203-227-3222) or Tina Vermette (203-375-0291).

LINE DANCING

- Line dancing classes are held on Wednesdays at NCB. Beginner classes are held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all levels at 10 a.m. No masking is required for anyone who has received the booster or third shot. All others must wear masks. Call Sonya DeBiase at 202-377-1515 for information.

LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS

- Low-impact exercise classes, taught by Renee Zinn, are held at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays at NCB. Bring weights

and water. Proof of vaccination is required. Those without proof of booster shots must wear masks.

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 / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapid: mslapid@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 or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.

**FOR INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING IN THE BIMONTHLY VILLAGER,
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OVTV DAILY PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE (AS OF APRIL 11, 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"

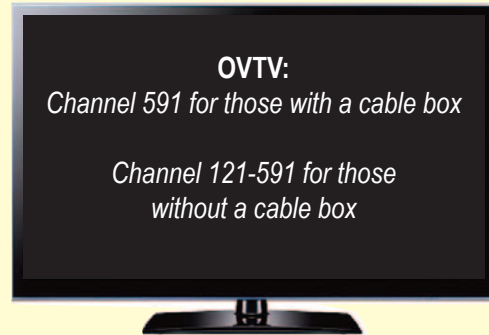
Noon - CPR/AED Instruction

4 p.m. - Karaoke Recaps From Chris Albino

5 p.m. - Talk with Marie Benedict (author of "The Personal Librarian," the Book Club Selection for May 3)

7 p.m. - Pickleball Tips

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



9 p.m. - Interview with Al Gafa, who will perform at an OV Arts Guild event on April 27

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



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SAVE THE DATES:

Good Times Club Events

Join us for Good Times Sock Hop Saturday, July 1, with D.J. Peter Z. Dance the night away with '50s - '60s music, dedications and more. Apps, 50/50 raffle and door prizes.



Bus Trip: Saturday, Sept 16, "Taste of Italian". Visit Arthur Avenue in the Bronx and then take an excursion to the upper west side of Manhattan to visit Zabar's, followed by lunch at Carmine's.

Bus Trip: Tuesday, Dec. 5, to Aqua Turf Club in Plainsville, featuring The Diamonds "Little Darlin." Lunch included.

Full details with pricing will be published in upcoming Villagers. Questions? Call Mary Ann Weaver at 203-530-9962.

Hadassah Movie Night

Hadassah will present dinner and a movie (to be announced) on Sunday, June 4, at the South Clubhouse at 4 p.m. Full details will be published in an upcoming edition of The Villager.

CALENDAR

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

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

MONDAY, APRIL 17

SCB Card Rooms are closed for cleaning

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. – Tennis Club Board Mtg, NCB **(C)**
- **7:00 p.m. – OVCA Board Meeting, NCB**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, Beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, All Levels, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm

- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – District 11 Meeting, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- **4:00 p.m. – District 9 Board Mtg, NCB**
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Club Bingo, SCB

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

- 9:00 a.m. – AARP Safe Driving Class, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, C/R

SATURDAY, APRIL 22: No events scheduled

DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 7 will hold a district meeting on April 26 at NCB. As the time nears, details on the meeting will be in a flyer to D7 residents. Watch your black box!

District 10 will hold a Spring Dinner Meeting on Thursday, May 4, at 6 p.m. at NCB. The District 10 Board encourages all District 10 residents to attend. More details to follow soon. Watch for a flyer in your black box in mid-April. Questions? Please call District 10 Rep Regina Archazki at 203-915-0781.

District 11 will hold its spring meeting on Wednesday, April 19, at 6 p.m. at NCB. OV Executive Director Mark Rhatigan will be the guest speaker.

The business meeting will be followed by pizza, salad and desserts. The cost to attend is \$5 per person; payment is needed by April 14. Please deposit your check, made out to "OV District 11," in the District 11 mailbox at NCB.

Additionally, District 11 is collecting dues for fiscal year 2023. The cost is \$10 per resident. Please make the check out to "OV District 11" and deposit the check in the mailbox at NCB.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

- 3:00 p.m. – Pletman Concert, NCB

MONDAY, APRIL 24

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **4:00 p.m. – Bylaws Committee, NCB**
- 5:00p.m. – Tai Chi, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Pickleball Club Meeting, NCB

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Brosowsky, Men's Cards, SCB
- **7:00 p.m. – OVTD Board Meeting, NCB**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. – Tai Chi, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – District 7 Meeting, NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

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

- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Ladies Majong & 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. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – OV Arts Guild Event, NCB

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

- 11:30 a.m. – Pickleball Demo, Racquet Sports Facility
- 5:00 p.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

SUNDAY, APRIL 30: No events scheduled

MONDAY, MAY 1

- 10:00 a.m. – House & Garden Board Mtg, NCB (C)
- 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 (C)
- 4:00 p.m. – Tennis Club Meeting, NCB
- **6:00 p.m. – SAC Committee Mtg, NCB**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers Board Mtg, SCB (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB, C/R

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

MULCHING TIPS

This is the time of year when gardeners apply mulch to conserve water, shield plants' roots from temperature extremes and discourage the growth of weeds.

Mulches are an asset to the garden. Mulch helps to maintain a uniform soil temperature. Further, adding a 3- to 4-inch layer of mulch can enhance the aesthetic value of a garden while protecting the base of trees from being injured by equipment, such as lawn mowers.

However, when applying mulch, please remember that moderation is key. Spread the mulch out in a layer that is 2 to 4 inches in depth, and don't pile it up on the trunks of trees and stems of shrubs. This can lead to problems.

Here are few tips for applying mulch:


Too much mulch can create a moist environment in which opportunistic decay fungi attack the tree trunk and

roots, causing root rots, crown dieback, a decline in health and tree failures.

Before you add and spread new mulch, last year's mulch should be removed.

Do not pile mulch so high that it comes in contact with wood siding. This causes the siding to rot and is an invitation to termites.

The best time to apply mulch in established bed areas is mid-spring to early summer. If applied earlier, the mulch will keep the soil temperature lower and root growth could be delayed.

Bark mulch, colored brown, is the only mulch allowed in Oronoque Village and we do provide mulch to residents, when available, via work orders. 

WEB INSIGHTS

Every District has a Maintenance Committee representative and an alternate representative. For questions, find your representative on www.oroquevillage.com, sign in to the private/resident-only side, then click on the naviga-

tion tab: GOV'T ORGANIZATION. Next, click on STANDING COMMITTEES and scroll down to the MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE to find your representative.

FIND IT ON OROQUEVILLAGE.COM

With the Tax District Elections coming up, do you want to learn more about the Tax District?

Go to www.oroquevillage.com, sign in to the private/residents-only side, then click on the navigation tab: GOV'T ORGANIZATION. Next, scroll down the opening page of Government Association, scroll down OV Community Association Board to OV Tax District Board, then click on OVTD History, then click on "OVTD: Its History, Purpose and Relationship to OVCA (PDF)."

Submitted by the Communications Committee

"Anyone can get old. All you have to do is live long enough."
— Groucho Marx

OVAG PRESENTS PROGRAM ON 'MINDFULNESS' ON MAY 19



Dr. Dennis Pardo

Most people have heard of mindfulness, but what exactly is it and how can we use it in our daily lives? Here is your chance to find out.

On May 19 at 3 p.m. at SCB, Dr. Dennis Pardo will help us learn the basics of "mindfulness," a practice that helps us to focus on the present rather than dwell on the past or worry about the future. Mindfulness is evidence-based and this program concentrates on its mental health benefits. The event is presented by the OV Arts Guild (OVAG). OVAG members attend free of charge, guests pay \$8 at the door.

Dennis holds a master's degree in social work in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy from Smith College in Northampton, Mass., and completed internship training at Harvard University. Currently, he runs a solo psychotherapy practice, Tranquil Waves Psychotherapy, PLLC, and sees patients with a wide variety of mental health issues.

Prior to becoming a therapist, Dennis was an op-

tometrists who practiced, taught and lectured in Boston. Dennis also spent 14 years in Medical Affairs, lecturing all over the world working for eye care pharmaceutical/medical device companies including Johnson & Johnson.

Dennis holds a master's degree in public health in Health Care Management from Yale University. He moved to Oronoque two years ago and is thrilled to be close to his special alma mater. Dennis is a proud alum of University of New York at Stony Brook, where he received his bachelor of science degree in biological sciences.


Combining all of these experiences, Dennis frequently lectures on the intersections of mental health and medicine and presents workshops on how to use mindfulness to reduce anxiety, cycle thoughts and enjoy life more fully.

At Oronoque, you may see Dennis performing during karaoke nights, enjoying time on the pickleball courts or tending bar during the OV International/Independent Film Festival.


Refreshments will be served following the program. Questions? Call Barbara Stewart at 203-612-1373 or email barbsmt@yahoo.com.



Nobody knows the Village...



...like another Villager!



Mary Kelleher
Mary.Kelleher@raveis.com
 203.496.1399

Christine Mahoney
Christine.Mahoney@raveis.com
 203.258.7415

When it comes to Real Estate, we cover every angle
Specializing in Oronoque Village

- Complimentary home price evaluation
- Raveis Refresh program - a premium service designed to present your home in the best possible light, from carpentry to staging
- Professional FREE photography of your home
- In-house mortgage broker & insurance agent

William Raveis is the #1 independent family-owned Real Estate Company in the country.

WILLIAM RAVEIS

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A CLEANER **GREENER** PLACE TO LIVE.



April 22nd

8:00AM TO 2:00 PM

STRATFORD: Birdseye St. Boat Ramp | **SHELTON:** Sunnyside Boat Ramp

Please contact us with questions or to Register your Group

Phone: 203-233-1134 | **Email:** HRCUteam@gmail.com

WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS.

Any age. Groups and organizations welcome.

Students this is a great way to get your Community Service Hours



- ✓ Coffee, Refreshments and Lunch provided by our Local Sponsors
- ✓ We will provide garbage bags & work gloves .
- ✓ Help for an hour or two or stay all day .
- ✓ All participants **MUST SIGN IN** at the Birdseye St. Boat Ramp in Stratford or the Sunnyside Boat Ramp in Shelton.
- ✓ Please dress for the outdoors (water resistant footwear, work gloves, etc.)
- ✓ Got a boat or pick up truck? Bring it!
- ✓ Check us out on Facebook www.facebook.com/Housatonic-River-Clean-Up-Inc

PLETMAN CONCERTS RETURN TO NORTH CLUBHOUSE

Story by Amy Plapp & Tom Ward ~ Photos by Peter Feick

The 2023 Pletman concert season got off to a delightful start on March 26 with the guitar/mandolin duo of Judy Handler and Mark Levesque. Always a Pletman favorite, these artists again outdid themselves with a performance that was by turns rousing, lyrical and moving...and always beautiful.

The enthusiastic crowd was treated to a delicious coffee and dessert reception following the concert.

You may have noticed the Pletman Concerts have a new look, thanks to the artistry of OV resident Joe McKenna, who has created a logo and prepared the program and related materials.

In addition, a group of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to make the day of the event seamless and fun, including Mary Ellen Boyd, who organized the reception, and Barbara Brown and Virginia Ware, who coordinated the entrance table. Peter Feick contributed numerous photos. As always the OV staff, both in the office ahead of time and on concert day, worked hard and cheerfully to make this event a success.

The next Pletman concert will be Sunday afternoon, April 23 at 3 p.m. Enjoy the lyrical tones of violinist Patrick Doane and join your neighbors for a reception following the concert. An ad for the program appears on page 19.



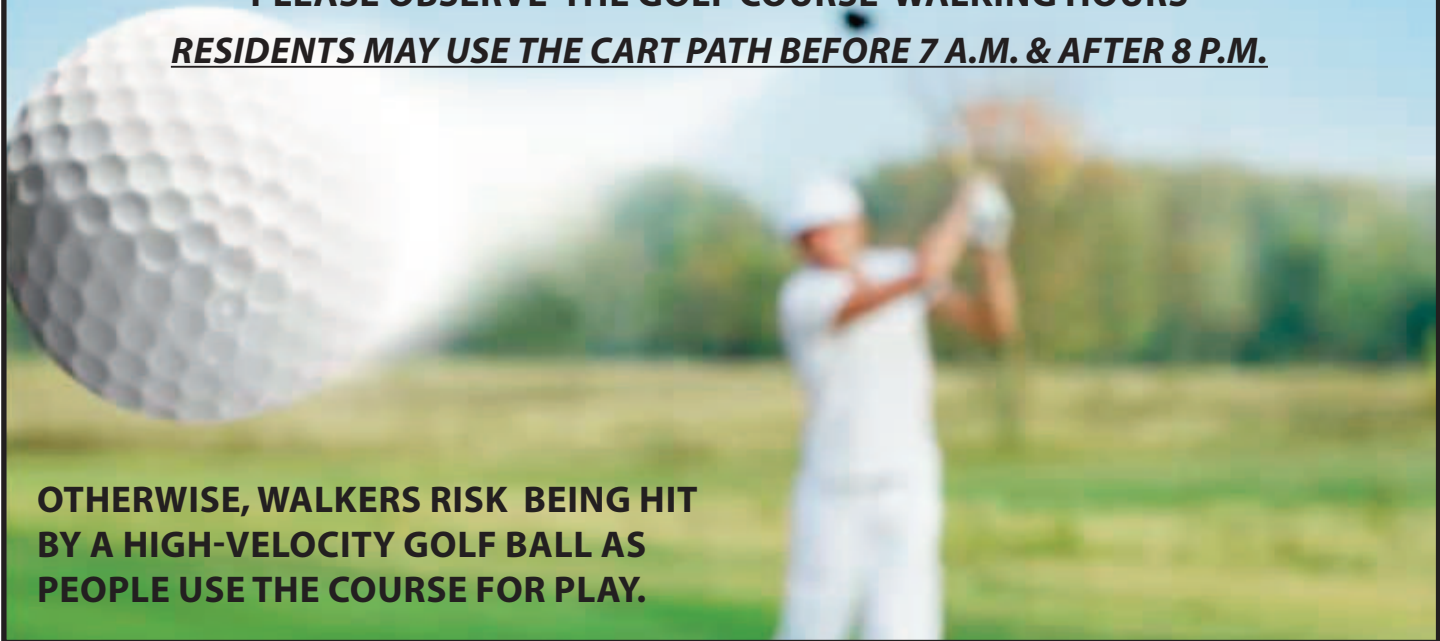
Top: Husband-and-wife duo Judy Handler and Mark Levesque delighted the crowd during the March 26 Pletman Concert.

Above: Volunteers helped make the concert happen: left to right, Sheila Muscot, Lynne Shafer, Amy Plapp, Barbara Brown, Tom Ward, Virginia Ware and Mary Ellen Boyd.

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.

BEYOND THE VILLAGE

Shelton Art League presents Jack Conti, who will talk about his 3D art sculpting on April 17 at 1 p.m. at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church St.

A Shelton resident, he started oil painting upon retiring as an engineer in 2005. He attended Fairfield University, taking studio and art history classes, but is mostly self-taught. While exploring many styles, from realism to abstract, he brings a traditional foundation to his work acquired through his past training. He works in oils, acrylics, watercolor, charcoal and plastic sculpture, an area he is now exploring. His work has been exhibited in local galleries and he entertains private commissions.

Town Players of Newtown presents "Twelve Angry Men" through April 29. This is a play by Reginald Rose adapted from his 1954 teleplay of the same title for the CBS Studio One anthology television series. Staged first in San Francisco in 1955, the Broadway debut came 50 years after CBS aired the play, on Oct. 28, 2004, by the Roundabout Theatre Company at the American Airlines Theatre, where it ran for 328 performances.

The production explores the deliberations of a jury of a homicide trial, in which a dozen "men with ties and a coat" decide the fate of a teenager accused of murdering his abusive father. At the beginning, they are nearly unanimous in concluding the youth is guilty. One man dissents, declaring him "not guilty," and he sows a seed of reason-

able doubt. Eventually he convinces the other jurors to support a unanimous "not guilty" verdict.

The theater is located at 18 Orchard Hill Road, Newtown. Email: info@newtownplayers.org / phone: 203-270-9144.

The Milford Arts Council invites the community to attend the exhibit "Color: Blue" at the Firehouse Gallery, 81 Naugatuck Ave., in the Walnut Beach section of Milford. The opening reception takes place Thursday, April 20, at 6 p.m. This juried exhibit welcomed artists to be inspired by the color "blue." The gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays, 12-4 p.m.

The New Works Initiative (NWI) will present a play reading of "Bad Accents" at the Westport Country Playhouse on April 24 at 7 p.m.

The play is written by Matthew Greene and directed by Liam Lonagan.

What starts out as a light-hearted murder mystery dinner party among old friends quickly turns into a whodunnit in its own right, as crimes from the past resurface in deadly and outrageous ways.

The running time, with one intermission, is approximately 2 hours. For information, visit www.westportplayhouse.org or call 203-227-4177.

OV



Antique & Classic Car Show
5744 MAIN STREET PUTNEY, STRATFORD, CT
Opening Day Sunday, May 21, 2023
9 am - 4 pm

Boothe Park & Memorial Museum

AN OFFICIAL Connecticut Cruise NEWS 10 RING EVENT

Food, Music, Goody Bags, Dash Plaques
Special Awards and Field Trophies
Flag Raising at Noon, Free Park events start at 1 pm
All Show Vehicles Welcome, \$15 per vehicle, No Cutoff year!

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

PLETMEN CONCERTS
PRESENTS

Patrick Doane
Violinist

"Compelling Violinist"
NEW YORK TIMES

Beethoven
Sonata No.9 Op.47 "Kreutzer"
and More

April 23, 2023 3 P.M.
Oronoque Village, North Community Building

 PLETMAN
CONCERTS



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

Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on April 28 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!



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!

OV Wine Club: Grape Expectations, May 19



Come join us for the first wine-tasting event of 2023. This event will be a bit of a departure from the more traditional wine-tasting regions of the world. We will taste white, red and rose wines from various Mediterranean island regions such as Sicily, Sardinia & beyond. Taste the salty air and sandy soils. Here are perfect wines to pair with backyard bbqs and spring dishes, As in the past, Michelle DeWyngaert will be our wine tutor as we travel to these Mediterranean island regions.

When: Friday, May 19, 7-9 p.m. at NCB

Cost: \$30 per person. Attendance is limited to 40 respondents.

Your check to OV Wine Club is your reservation.

Deposit checks in OV Wine Club mailbox in NCB no later than May 13th



The event will include:

- Entrance wine
- Expert Commentary by Michelle
- Tasting 6 wines (mix of white, red and rose)
- Snacks to complement the wine tasting
- Post wine-tasting treats by Dorothy Tanski

Please: no checks before April 18th

Questions: Contact Charlie DiGiovanni 203-258-8063 or Dorothy Tanski 203-540-5389



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: _____

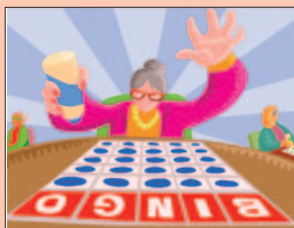
Total # Attending (Veterans +Non-Veterans): _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Contact PhonNumber: _____

Save the Dates! Pool Party ~ Saturday August 19

Dog Parade Fundraiser ~ Saturday Sept 23 (rain date Sept 24)

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 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 assigned book for May 3 is *Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict.

A remarkable novel about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black-American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation.

The Personal Librarian tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths she must go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

An extraordinary tale that is both brilliant historical fiction and an important and timely commentary on racism.

The book for June is *This Tender Land* by William Krueger.

**JOIN US FOR
"IT'S 5'OCLOCK SOMEWHERE"
ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
AT NCB at 5 P.M.**

Hosted by the Social Activities Committee

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

Hope to see you on May 5!





The Sutton Place Trio

THURSDAY
April 27 2023
7:00 PM NCB

Doors open at 6:30

Arts Guild Members FREE

GUESTS pay \$10

Reservations Required (Open seating)

"The Sutton Place Trio has a New York sensibility reminiscent of the combos that filled the nightlife, clubs and hotels of the Manhattan skyline"



Featuring "Our very own" Oronoque resident **AL Gafa**

Performances include jazz and original music influenced in the classic style by composers and performers such as Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Nat "King" Cole, Duke Ellington, The Modern Jazz Quartet and Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Pictured: Bassist and songwriter **Jay Leonhart**, guitarist **Al Gafa** and Pianist/vocalist **Alex Leonard**

Cabaret style seating-sit back and enjoy this very special event brought to you by The Arts Guild!

BYOB and snacks!
Dessert reception following the program.

Reservations Are Required For This Special Event (Open seating)

Fill out this form and put in Arts Guild Mailbox by Friday April 21, 2023



Name(s) _____

E- Mail and phone _____

Amount of Check \$ _____ # of persons attending _____

I (we) are current Arts Guild member(s) _____ Questions: Call Barbara Stewart
203.612.1373

The Sutton Place Trio



203-870-9850

Be Safe. Be Well. Be Home.

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

As the world around us changes and challenges us,
Caregiver's Home Solutions can bring you peace of mind.

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

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

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

+ Special discount for OV residents +



Take time to unwind...

It's healthy to relax,
renew, and rejuvenate

Stress happens. Sometimes it's unavoidable;
at times it's unbearable. That's why taking
time for yourself is a necessity.

April is National Stress
Awareness Month

More information and resources
are available online at:

www.FOH.hhs.gov/calendar



Fedstrive
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

