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Thank you to Peter Feick for submitting the cover photo of OV resident and OVCA golf club liaison Bruce Blanchard, who was given the honor of hitting the ceremonial first ball during the official start of the Blackhawk Country Club's golf season on April 22. Please see the article on page 13.

The Villager welcomes photo submissions, which must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronoquevillage.com.



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### A MESSAGE FROM THE OVTD PRESIDENT

#### **APRIL 25, 2023**



Linda Libertino

want to thank all the Directors for their hard work this past year in accomplishing our goals. Those goals were to install the Access Control System, providing more safety for the Village, investigate energy solutions for possible additional savings and major paving in the Village. Seven roads were completed last November, and an-

other seven roads will be paved starting in late August.

Tax District Director Ray Vermette will not be running for re-election. His three-year term ends May 31. We will indeed miss Ray's wealth of knowledge and dedication to the Village. He has truly been an exceptional Director. Ray has served as President and Vice President of the Tax District in addition to serving as a Director for six years. When Ray was TD President, he updated and rewrote the OVTD charter to accurately reflect state law in layman's language. Prior to that Ray served on the OVTD Finance Committee for three years. Ray has served on municipal government boards for over 25 years, and he served as a corporate senior executive on a Wall Street-listed public company for 18 years. On a personal note, I do not think I would have accomplished as many goals over the last three years without the counsel of Ray. Ray, on behalf of the Tax District, please know that you will be greatly missed!

The Oronoque Village Tax District Ad Hoc Nominating Committee (Jackie Freeman, Nick Harding, Chair Barbara Minoff and Mark Rhatigan) gave their report to the TD Board. It was stated that all candidates met the basic qualifications to serve; the Nominating Committee recommended the following:

Most qualified candidates to serve on the TD Board: Tom Aubin – President/Director Linda Libertino – Vice President/Director Jonathan Towle – Clerk/currently already serves as a Director

Tom Becker – Treasurer Frank Spodnick – Director

#### Additional candidates:

Sabine Curry – President/Director Ronald Ciecko – Vice President/Director Janice Nachbar – Clerk/Director

In addition, the Nominating Committee recommended to the Tax District Board that they consider a new director to serve at least one year as a Director before applying for an officer position on the TD Board.

I want to emphasize the main advantage of the Tax Dis-

trict. Because we are a municipality, we do not pay Connecticut sales tax. This budget year we have more maintenance expenses of \$50,000 in the current proposed budget transferred from OVCA because we can save the Village thousands of dollars in the years ahead by not paying sales tax on these items. The Tax District will now pay those \$50,000 expenses, relieving the Village of additional sales tax expenses. When taking into account major expenses, such as roads, we have saved the community approximately \$450,000 in the past five-plus years. Without the Tax District, those sales tax expenses would have been added to the Village budget.

The Tax District congratulates Mark Rhatigan in his new role as Executive Director. We will continue to work closely with him on all the Tax District major projects, and the Directors feel we are most fortunate to have Mark in this position. In addition, congratulations to new Maintenance Director Ryan Hankey; we look forward to working with Ryan. Mark, Ryan, and the OVTD Directors are fully aware of the need throughout the year to control expenses. We will continue to do our best to accomplish this goal and provide a safe and beautiful Village for you to enjoy.

We want to thank the entire maintenance staff and both office staffs for all their excellent assistance in making our projects be extremely successful.

Jonathan Towle, Roads Committee Chairperson, gave his report on the roads. In addition, he gave us a report on the status of our line of credit with Milford Bank and projected costs for the future in repaving additional roads. In the history of Oronoque Village, we have never completed 14 roads in 12 months. As of September of this year, we will have paved the 14 roads. During the first week of September, these roads will be paved: Ottawa, Sequoia, Dakota, Montauk, Creek, 103 cul-de-sac and 86 ABCD cul-de-sac (driveway).

Bill Tanski, Security Chairperson, gave a detailed report on the Access Control System. He thanked the residents for their time to obtain their devices. He thanked Cheryl Dwyer, House Committee Chair, for doing its job to setup parameters for this system. Under the split responsibilities of the Tax District and OVCA, OVTD owns the system, but OVCA regulates its usage.

Tom Aubin, Energy Solutions Chairperson, gave a report similar to his recent article in the Village. He mentioned that it was extremely positive that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) accepted the Oronoque Tax District as a municipality identified as an entity for renewable power generation.

Tom Becker made this motion: "I move that the 2023-24 budget recommended by the Finance Committee in which tax revenues to be raised are \$2,306,181 be approved by the Board of Directors and recommended to the voters of the Tax District for their approval at the May Annual Meeting." Ray Vermette seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ray Vermette made a few remarks on why this budget increase was necessary. The difference in revenues to be raised next year is \$157,000 because of the following:

A. \$40,000 of expenses were transferred from the OVCA budget to the OVTD budget for Outdoor Recreational Facility Supplies because both Boards voted last summer that the responsibility should be assigned to OVTD

B. \$90,500 in additional expenses are assigned to OVTD by OVCA because of the increased expenses incurred by OVCA mainly in employee labor and fringe benefits and for an anticipated increase in insurance premiums

C. \$27,000 is a result of anticipated changes in all other expense categories under OVTD's responsibilities representing in the aggregate a budget of \$1,050,000. The Directors feel that a combined budget increase of 4.39 percent is a pos-

itive budget given that we are experiencing the highest inflation in 40 years.

Bill Tanski made this motion "I move the scheduling of a Candidates Night meeting of the voters by the Executive Director before the annual meeting of the OV Tax District on May 23 and that the meeting be announced to the voters and properly moderated to provide an opportunity for voters to ask questions of qualified candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors who have been interviewed by the Nominating Committee." Jonathan Towle seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. The date and time of Candidates Night will be confirmed in our public announcements.

Our next meeting on May 23 will be our Annual Election meeting. We hope you will take the time to vote in person.



### **OVTD REPORT**

#### FINANCING THE TAX DISTRICT ROAD REPAVING PROJECT

By Jonathan Towle, Tax District Roads Committee Chair



The current 20-year road repaving cycle began in 2009. During the first eight years, we paved one road a year, without curbs and driveways. Beginning in 2017, the project accelerated, and we began paving two or three

roads a year. Curbs and driveways were now included. The repaving was interrupted by the UI project to replace the electrical system, which forced us to work around UI's schedule. All during this period, we budgeted the money for paving every year out of current income.

In the fourth quarter of 2021, our Executive Director presented a plan to accelerate the road-repaving project by borrowing additional money from The Milford Bank. The plan called to borrow \$1.25 million and use it over three years to pave the remaining 25 roads. About \$300,000 of taxpayer money would have been added each year, for a total of around \$2.1 million. The interest rate during the credit drawdown period was expected to be 3-4 percent.

By drawing about one-third of the loan in each year, we expected that the interest-only payments would total no more than around \$50,000-\$60,000 during the three-year drawdown period. Once the project was complete, the loan would convert to a 3.5 percent fixed-rate loan and would be paid off over five years.

We engaged Falcon Engineering to rate the remaining 25 roads in order to complete the project as efficiently as possible. They identified the 14 roads in the worst condition to be paved in Phase 1. The remaining 11 roads were deferred to Phase 2.

The original plan was rendered infeasible by the 25 percent increase in paving costs, and the increase of short-term

interest rates from 3.2 percent to 8 percent between January and November of 2022. We would have had to increase taxpayer money needed for the paving by about \$150,000 a year. The short-term interest over the three-year project would have increased from about \$50,000 to about \$125,000.

Anticipated that costs and interest rates might continue to rise, our Executive Director proposed accelerating the paving. This avoids the short-term interest-rate hit, but forces us to start paying principal and interest on the loan sooner than we had planned. The Tax District agreed that this was the best way to proceed.

The current status is that we have paved seven roads in 2022 at a cost of about \$962,000, and will pave the remaining seven roads in Phase 1 in the fall of 2023 at a cost of about \$500,000. We will draw the remaining funds in the loan in July, and start making principal and interest payments at 3.5 percent on a five-year schedule in August.

As a result of these efforts, by the end of the 2023 calendar year we will have paved an unprecedented number of roads in a span of less than two years. That is about four times the pace of our recent activity, making this truly an accelerated paving project. Furthermore, the 14 roads we will have paved in this period were the ones in the worst condition which were rightly given priority.

At the beginning of 2024, after we will have completed the paving of the worst roads, there will be 11 roads remaining. We will have a better handle on the timing of those 11 roads towards the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year. We plan to balance the principal payments of the loan with our cash flow and reserves, and create a schedule for paving these roads.

Continued on page 8

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### NOTICE OF POOL SEASON START & CHILDREN'S POOL SCHEDULE

s The first day to swim in the lap pools or relax in the temperature-controlled heated pool will be Saturday, May 27, at 9 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. for the North and South Pools, respectively.

The season runs through Sept. 4 for the North pool and Sept. 30 for the South pools. Pools close each day at 8:30 p.m. Use of a Security Access Device (fob, card, phone app) will be required to gain entrance into the Clubhouses, as well as through each gate surrounding the pool areas.

The Children's Designated Pool will begin at the South Pool, running from Saturday, May 27, through Sunday, June 4. It will then switch weekly (Monday through Sunday) between the North and South Pools. A Pool Monitor at the Children's Designated Pool will be on duty from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. each week.

North Pool closes 8:30 P.M. Labor Day (Sept. 4). South Pools close on Sept. 30.

#### Children's Pool Schedule - 2023

May 27-June 4 - South June 5 - June 11 - North June 12 - June 18 - South June 19-June 25- North June 26- July 2 - South July 3 - July 9-North July 10- July 16 - South July 17 - July 23- North

July 24-July 30 - South July 31-August 6 - North

August 7- August 13 - South August 14-August 20-North

August 21 - August 27 - South

August 28 - Sept. 4 - North

Reminders: Keyless access devices are needed to enter the pool areas.

Residents are required to bring their Oronoque Village photo identifications to the pools.

# KEYLESS ACCESS HAS BEGUN/ CORRECTION TO CLUBHOUSE HOURS

The onboarding of our new keyless, security system is underway. As previously announced, residents now 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 who have not yet acquired a keyless entry device should email Harris Bonfiglio at hbonfiglio@oronoquevil lage.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.

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 exercise facility is accessible at all hours. The club-houses are accessible between the hours at 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. (Please note that the building times were listed incorrectly in the May 1 edition of the Villager.)

#### **POOL OPENING PARTY ON MAY 27**

The Oronoque pools are scheduled to be opened on Saturday, May 27. Villagers are welcome to join in a dip at the South heated pool at 2 p.m., followed by a toast to summer in the South Clubhouse back cardroom. Bring your favorite

beverage and a snack. Celebration will continue until 4 p.m.

Please keep in mind that wet bathing suits are not allowed in the clubhouses. The bathrooms will be open for changing into dry clothing. The event is scheduled rain or shine, warm or cold weather. Anyone may come for a good time and is not required to go into the pool.

Questions? Contact Sonya DeBiase at 203-377-1515.

# CURRENT EVENTS CLUB INVITES RESIDENTS TO ATTEND MEETINGS

The Current Events Club meets on second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 10-11 a.m. in the Card Room at SCB. The club was initiated by Angela McKelvey, who served as chair until recently. The intent of the club is for members to share articles and insight on current events taking place in the U.S. and around the world. We encourage all residents who are interested in current events to attend. Members bring articles about many pressing issues taking place. The group has lively discussions and shares insight.

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

For information, contact Bob Sabo at rsabo11@att.net.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### SPRING CLEANUP DAY: TIME CHANGE FOR SHREDDING TRUCK AT NCB

Villagers will have multiple opportunities to get rid of unwanted goods on Saturday, May 20. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 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** 

#### **Time Change:**

#### Shredding Truck at NCB From 8 a.m. to Noon

A shredding truck will be parked at NCB from 8 a.m. to 12 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 <u>not</u> 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

Items that would normally fit into the trash container for weekly pickup, including cardboard.

Leaves, branches, stumps

Hazardous materials, paint

Recyclable materials

Demolition material (i.e. asphalt, shingles, sheet-rock, concrete, tile, brick or any other masonry debris)

Freon-containing appliances (i.e. refrigerators)

Electronics of any kind

Tires, vehicles, oil tanks

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#### OVTD ROAD REPORT: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Over the past few years OVTD has prioritized road paving in our community. We believe our roads are now in the much better condition than those of the other senior communities in the Connecticut. If we had remained with our conservative plan of paving roads yearly with available funds, we would not be able to the make this claim. While long-term planning does have risks, the al-

ternative would have been to ignore the poor condition of many of our roads and the feedback from our residents. While the project may be difficult, and unexpected changes in costs and interest rates have forced us to make adjustments, the Directors of OVTD believe we have done what is necessary to move forward and get this vital work done.

#### **FEATURE**



House & Garden Club volunteers: Front row, from left, Irene Keating, Merrilees Leemhuis, Deb Aubin, Debbie Grosso, Irene Sanzone, Tina Vermette and Bridget Matthews. Back row, Barbara Mayer, Renata Krakovich, Jackie Freeman, Patricia Meyers, Eileen Duhig and Ulla Adema. Missing from photo: Judy DeLelle, Arline Walton, Dima Thompson, Wendy Steinfeld, Celeste Jardim, Fran Roth, Joan Ziff and Sue Pfannkuch.

#### **HOUSE & GARDEN TAG SALE: IT TAKES A VILLAGE**

#### Story by Merrilees Leemhuis ~ Photo by Bob Grosso

The OV House & Garden club would like to thank all of the Villagers who generously contributed items to our annual Tag & Bake sale as well as those who came to browse and buy.

Thank you to the bakers, who stood in an extra hot (weather) kitchen. Some of you aren't even club members. We had many delicious cakes, cookies and pastries.

A shout out to those who collected, stored and lugged to display, tag, and sell the "stuff."

We have a dedicated group that takes the time every year to help make the day a success. They set up the kitchen, sell the baked goods, work the stage and floor. And then they pack up the unsold items to take to various shops and charities.

And, of course, a big thanks to our Vllage staff for setting up the floor plan with the tables needed.

This year we raised \$3,655 from the sale. This is the best we have ever done. The money is used for our monthly programs. We also gift a portion to the Village for various beautification projects. It truly does take a village.

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#### **ACTIVITIES**

EDITOR'S NOTE: To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent <u>via email</u>, 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 June 1, 2023, is May 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.

#### **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 Lapides: 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@opton line.net or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.

FOR INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING IN THE BIMONTHLY VILLAGER, CONTACT CAROL KING AT CKING@ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM / 203-377-5313, EXT. 3









#### **APRIL PLETMAN CONCERT BRINGS AUDIENCE TO ITS FEET**

Story by Amy Plapp & Tom Ward ~ Photo by Arline Walton

Violinist Patrick Doane, with pianist William Braun, delighted an enthusiastic audience at the second Pletman concert of the spring series on April 23.

The duo opened their performance with African-American composer Florence Price's "Fantasy for Violin and Piano", which Patrick described as a sort of "stream of consciousness" sequence of tuneful melodies. Next, Patrick performed Bach's "Andante" from the "Sonata for Solo Violin in A minor," a piece in which, as Patrick explained, the composer blended a bass part on the lower strings with a treble melody on the upper strings of the instrument.

Lastly came the tour de force with William Braun back on stage — Beethoven's famous "Kreutzer" sonata for violin and piano, Sonata No. 9, Opus 47. Both musicians performed brilliantly throughout the longest of Beethoven's 10 violin sonatas and brought the audience to its feet at the conclusion of the fiery third movement.

Light refreshments were offered following the concert, providing plentiful opportunities for audience members to



chat with Patrick and William. As always, thanks go out to many who helped make this event a re-"sound"-ing success! Special appreciation goes to Joe Mackenna, who uses his extensive background in graphic arts and design to prepare our program and publicity materials, to Virginia Ware, who manages the box office, and to Mary Ellen Boyd, who organizes the reception.

The next Pletman concert will feature bass-baritone Christopher Grundy accompanied by our now old friend, William Braun, on Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m.

#### PICKLEBALL CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

#### Story by Karen Hahn ~ Phot by Gery Cuccaro

aunching the playing season, the Pickleball Club met at NCB for its spring members' meeting on April 24. President Bill Tanski welcomed everyone, especially the new members, who were asked to stand. Wow, the club is growing ... over 130 members. Several people were reminiscing about how, just 4 or 5 years ago, we met around several tables in the library! At this Monday meeting, there were over 85 members and guests.

Our treasurer, Ray Compagna, announced the club is starting off the year with a healthy \$500 balance, and that before the meeting started he had already collected an additional \$1,280 in dues. That should set us up for some new pickleballs and, just as important, for some social occasions during the season and into the winter.

With a modest budget, Liz Kedan, our vice president who oversees social events, pulled together a terrific happy hour after the meeting. She took crackers and cheese to a new level.

Uncooperative weather forced a postponement of our court side get together for new and prospective members. The demo and practice play was moved to Saturday, May 6.

The two new pickleball courts are still on course for a June 1 completion. A celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony with a champagne (or prosecco?) toast is planned for court-side. When all five courts are playable, times will be set for dif-



Patty Buchina, Karen Epstein and Pam McBride at the Pickleball Club's after-meeting happy hour.

ferent skill levels to play. This will include soft, intermediate and advanced intermediate play, and a challenge court. Regina Archazki, director of membership, sends emails giving players a "heads up" about basic scheduling times. Members then use the TeamReach app to sign up for play. To bring guests during nonclub play times, members should also sign in through TeamReach.

The current members look forward to welcoming new members into play. There is a level for everyone, as well as some member-run basic lessons. Come join us for this sport that is so much fun ... choose your level to be as competitive as you want. And as always, this is a great sport for socializing and making new friends. Hope to see you at the courts!

#### **FEATURE**





Left, from left, Bryan Barrington, co-founder and vice president of Agronomy; Bruce Blanchard, OVCA liaison, and Josh McKim, co-founder and managing partner of Alliance Management, owners of BCC.

Right, Bruce Blanchard stands amid participants during the opening of BCC's golf season last month.

#### BRAVO TO BRUCE BLANCHARD AND BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB

#### Story by Mary W. von Ziegesar ~ Photos by Peter Feick

Saturday, April 22, was a perfect day for the opening of The Blackhawk Country Club's (BCC) new golf season, and who better than Oronoque Village's own Bruce Blanchard to be given the honor of hitting the ceremonial first ball! About 120 members enjoyed temperatures reaching into the 60s and an almost-cloudless blue sky to cheer on Bruce.

Bruce has been a golf club member since he moved to Oronoque Village 22 years ago. He has witnessed many changes, including the vast improvements recently implemented by the new golf club owner, Alliance Management. Oronoque is now one of Alliance's five courses – Silo Point, Oxford Greens, Red Tail, Tunxis and Blackhawk. Inside renovations at Blackhawk include the entire first floor - men's and women's locker rooms, the pro shop, bag room, offices, and an instruction room. Outside upgrades include the removal of 200-plus trees, the elimination or makeover of all 59 sand traps, the redoing of cart paths, the reconditioning of the golf carts, the installation of a new chipping area next to the driving range and several areas of sod/landscaping attention. Future plans include a focus on the maintenance building.

What hasn't changed a lot is Bruce Blanchard's golf game. He started playing at age 51, just after taking an early retirement. He is happy to be playing this season, at the age of 87! In an article featured a few years ago in The Connecticut State Golf Association (CSGO) Magazine, some of Bruce's special achievements include breaking 80, which only represents 2 percent of all golfers, and, shooting your age, which only 9 per one-million golfers achieve and which is known as the Holy Grail of scoring. Bruce first shot his age when he was 68; he now shoots it with some frequency in order to maintain a 10 handicap. Also of note, Bruce has recorded 8 holes-in-one, 3 at Blackhawk and one on a Par 4 at Silvermine in Norwalk.

Off of the golf course, Bruce has served Oronoque Village in many ways, including sitting on the OVCA Board, the Human Resources Committee, the Executive Director Search Committee and, for those thespians among you, you may remember Bruce's participation in many Bravo shows. Currently, he serves the OVCA Board as Liaison to the golf club. He will tell you that he thinks of Blackhawk as a new roofmate, providing 365413 a big improvement in our neighborhood. If you see Bruce on the course, or in the new Restaurant at Blackhawk (new menu, inviting happy hours, numerous events for members as well as for Oronoque residents) congratulate him for the honor of hitting the first ceremonial ball of season!

Cheers to you, Bruce Blanchard.



#### **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, 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, MAY 15**

- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 3:00 p.m. OVCA Finance Meeting, Executive Office
- 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi, SCB Ballroom (C)
- 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 Meeting, NCB

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 17**

- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing, Beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Line Dancing, All Levels, NCB

- 10:00 a.m. Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 2:00 p.m. Movie: The Fabelmans, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. District 9 Meeting, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB

#### **THURSDAY, MAY 18**

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. OVTD Candidates Night, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. Bingo, SCB

#### FRIDAY, MAY 19

- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study, NCB, C/R
- 3:00 p.m. Arts Guild Presentation, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. Wine Club, NCB (sold-out)

### **HUMOR**

#### **Submitted by Bob Grosso**

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, "Close enough."

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo".

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad

and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5 and it's past his bedtime.

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.





#### **ORONOQUE VILLAGE TAX DISTRICT**

600 North Trail Stratford, CT 06614 Phone: 203-377-5313

Fax: 203-380-6156

Office@oronoquevillage.com

### **OVTD Candidates Information Pack & Voting Instructions**

(Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name)

### **Important Dates:**

May 18, 7 p.m. - Meet the OVTD Candidates Night at NCB

May 23, 4:30 p.m. - OVTD Annual Meeting at NCB

May 23, 5-8 p.m. - OVTD Election & Budget Vote at NCB

#### **Notice:**

A sample Election Ballot appears on the opposite side of this page.

Please vote for one candidate under the columns with the headings of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Clerk & Director.

The elected Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer & Clerk) will automatically assume the additional role of OVTD Director.

#### There are two scenarios regarding the outcome of the election of OVTD Director:

- **A.** If Jonathan Towle is elected Clerk, he will remain a Director and Frank Spodnick also will be named a Director.
- **B.** If Janice Nachbar is elected Clerk, she also will assume the role of Director. However, Jonathan Towle will remain a Director until his term ends in 2025 and Frank Spodnick will not be named a Director.

#### -

### A sample OVTD Election Ballot is shown below:

Voters are asked to select <u>one</u> candidate under the headings of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Clerk & Director.

State of Connecticut Official Ballot **Oronoque Village Tax District** 

**Tax District Annual Meeting** 

May 23, 2023



OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5
	President Vote for One	Vice President Vote for One	Treasurer Vote for One	Clerk Vote for One	Directors Vote for One
	1A	<b>2</b> A	<b>3</b> A	<b>4</b> A	<b>5</b> A
	Tom Aubin	Ronald Ciecko	Thomas Becker	Janice Nachbar	Frank Spodnick
	1B	<b>2</b> B	3B	<b>4</b> B	5B
	Sabine Curry	Linda Libertino		Jonathan Towle	
WRITE-IN VOTES	<b>1</b> C	<b>2</b> C	<b>3</b> C	<b>4</b> C	<b>5</b> C
VOTE ON THE QUESTION		•		nmended by t	
	Board for 2023-2024 fiscal year \$2,306,181 and proposed mill rate 16.14, Grand List Assessed Value \$142,919,000.				





### OVTD President – Thomas Aubin

274B Running Brook Lane • (203)577-9857 • aubintom46@gmail.com

#### » Profile

Talented professional with an extensive background in Product Development specializing in the area of Interconnect and Power Protection/Distribution products. Strong background in customer engagement and Program/Project Coordination.

#### » Education – Mechanical Engineer

**Bridgeport Engineering Institute** – Bridgeport, Ct **Norwalk State Technical College** – Norwalk, Ct

#### » Skills

- Exceptional interpersonal communication
- Effective Leader
- Budget development
- Staff training/development

- Product design/development
- Creative problem solving
- Presentation delivery
- Deadline-oriented

#### » Work History

#### **Director of Engineering,** 8/2013 to 12/2019

#### Amphenol Interconnect Products Inc. - Endicott, NY

As a member of the Management Team I led a worldwide technical team of design and test engineers engaged in the design/development of power protection and distribution products. While initially these products were in support of the Datacenter Market the effort here was a turnaround to grow the company through market extension into the Industrial and Mil-Aero space.

#### Director, Global Technology, 8/2006 to 12/2012

Volex plc – London, UK

Reporting to the CEO, I was a key contributor in the reinvention of the company from a contract manufacturing model to a technical solutions provider. I was responsible for building an Applications/Development Engineering team in multiple regions of the world to support key customers in these industrialized regions. I participated in a restructuring of the company into (4) key business sectors, Medical, Telecom/Datacom, Industrial and Consumer.

#### **Director of Engineering,** 1/1996 to 08/2006

Amphenol RF Group - Danbury, CT

Reporting to the General Manager (GM) I was tasked with upgrading the engineering team into one possessing the skill sets necessary to support a rapidly improving telecommunications market. I also played a key role in the acquisition and integration of an Asian operation into our division. My activity at Amphenol RF resulted in a very successful turnaround as we moved the division from a place of poor standing within the corporation to one the highest performing divisions in terms of both growth and profitability.

ORONOQUE ACTIVITIES: District IV Treasurer, OVTD Director/VP

PERSONAL: Married, two children, three grandchildren. US Army Viet Nam Veteran







# Thomas J. Becker, CPA - CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION AS OVTD TREASURER

Stratford, CT | (609) 658-7873 tom.tbecker@gmail.com

#### **Director of FP&A / Controller Profile**

#### Financial Planning | Accounting & Controllership | Business Modeling

Results-oriented leader with extensive experience in corporate accounting, public auditing, financial management, and controllership within high-profile retail, catalog, and web industries. Highly experienced in linking strategy to actual operations and requirements. Possess superior communication, leadership, strategic decision-making, and executive-level presentation skills. Strong collaborator with experience spanning all levels. Technical proficiency in MS Office Suite, pivot tables, ERP, and US GAAP.

- Financial Forecasting & Analysis
- Business Case Development
- Trend Analysis & Auditing
- Cost Accounting
- Process Improvement
- Financial Reporting
- Cash Management
- Capital Budgeting
- Inventory Performance
- Revenue Growth & Profitability
- Business Operations
- Financial Systems Upgrade

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### Oronoque Village Tax District, Stratford, CT

2019 - 2023

- For the past 4 years I have been the Treasurer of the Tax District of Oronoque Village.
- UTRECHT MANUFACTURING LLC, Monroe Township, NJ

1998 – 2018

#### VP Finance / Manager / Controller

- Managed the finance and accounting departments for \$65M retailer and web and mail order seller of fine art supplies. Supervised all accounting departments including A/R, A/P, payroll, sales audit, inventory control, human resources, payroll, credit, collection, and cash management.
- Managed yearly budgeting process including sales and expenses for all 40 retail locations, mail orders, online, and corporate departments. Examined and reported on departments functioning within their budgets.
- Oversaw the banking relations for short-term borrowing. Arranged and forwarded the borrowing bases for assetbased loans. Delivered ACHs and wires to all domestic and foreign vendors.
- Prepared annual audits and various tax returns, including monthly sales and yearly income tax returns for all retail stores. Negotiated with auditors and on bank audits, 401(k), and state escheatment audits. Ensured tax professionals at auditing firm properly prepared federal and state income tax returns.
- Managed all internal reporting duties, including reporting to owners, private equity investment firms, and bankers on a monthly basis. Served as interface between the company and all retail locations in 20 states.
- Learned all accounting program functions and taught newly hired employees all accounting processes.
- Promoted as VP of Finance for the company. Assisted in integrating Utrecht with another similar business when company was sold to larger competitor, Blick Art Supplies.
- Successfully grew the company from less than 30 stores to 40 stores.
- Responded to IRS audit that resulted in saving the company from paying additional taxes.
- Collaborated with cost accountant on improving standard costs and maintaining paint formulas for a NY paint factory.

----EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

#### Certified Public Accountant (CPA) License

Master's in Business Admin. (MBA) in Accounting, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT (near completion)





# RON CIECKO – 641B North Trail Candidate for OVTD Vice-President/Director



A sales and marketing professional working with OEM (Original Electronic Manufacturer) accounts, distributors, Federal Government procurement offices, state and local municipalities and major regional utilities. Experienced in marketing and sales, manufacturing, cost-control, pricing and contract negotiations. A strategic planner and hands-on problem solver.

#### WINCHESTER ELECTRONICS, Wallingford, CT August 1991 – October 2008

Eastern Regional Sales Manager 1/01 – 2/06 and interim Global Sales Manager 3/06 – 7/07.

- Global Sales Manager Coordinated the sales activities of 8 Direct Sales Personnel, 12 Manufacturers Representatives, and a Nationwide Distribution Network of 25 companies.
- Implemented annual sales forecasts and maintained monthly and year-to-date detailed updates, as well as quarterly reviews for a \$100 million sales budget.
- Eliminated non-performing representatives, distributors and direct sales people; interviewed and hired replacement personnel and firms.
- Developed and administered commission programs for direct sales and representatives.
- Conducted Product Training Programs and Sales Presentations to as many as 100+ sales personnel, distributors and customers.
- Responsible for the profitable pricing of competitive quotations and annual contracts, with protection clauses for non-performance.
- National Distributor Sales Manager 8/91 12/00 and 8/07 10/08.
- Responsible for Product Marketing and Pricing 3/06 7/08.

#### **BURNDY CORPORATION** March 1967 – July 1991

Various positions in Sales and Marketing as well as Manufacturing Foreman, Cost Accountant and Industrial Engineer.

EDUCATION - University of New Haven - M.B.A. 1979 Quinnipiac College - B.S. 1965

#### **ORONOQUE VILLAGE ACTIVITIES**

- Currently serving as a representative on the OVCA Insurance Committee
- Served as the District 10 Maintenance Representative
- Treasurer of the Pickleball Club
- Designed, built and donated the SCB display cabinet for OV Archives
- Created the scoring/ bracket display for the Pickleball Tournament for the past 3 years
- Designed, built and donated the cornhole boards to the Cornhole Club
- Actively involved in numerous clubs over the past 8 years such as Pickleball, Tennis, Table Tennis, Bowling, Golf, Bingo, Cornhole, Bocce, Karaoke, Funseekers and SAC.





#### SABINE CURRY

Hello! My name is Sabine Curry. I am your candidate for President and Director of the Oronoque Village Tax District (OVTD.)

#### 1997-2013

For 20 years, I served as Mayor for the Village of Milford, New York, and was re-elected 9 times. During my tenure, my responsibilities included the handling of major budgets, both operating and capital, including road infrastructure and new water supply. The creation of a strategic plan and establishment of zoning regulations also fell within my purview. BTW: Upon my retirement, the incoming board honored me by creation of "HON. SABINE CURRY OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL PARK."

Overlapping my service as Mayor ...

#### 1997-2017

As School Nutritionist serving the Milford Central and Cooperstown Central school districts, I created and implemented menu plans that exceeded State requirements, despite budget limitations.

#### 2006-2012

As an independent contractor, supplied coding services to major hospitals, including Columbia Presbyterian, Johns Hopkins, NYU Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente.

#### 1990-2009

I owned and operated (with a partner) a florist shop (Little House of Flowers) and operated (as sole proprietor) a pizza parlor (Pizza-To-Go) and video rental shop (Main Street Video).

**(** 





#### CONTACT

203-556-1989 libertino481@yahoo.com

#### **SUMMARY OF QUALITIES**

- Task oriented
- Well organized
- People person
- Over 45 yrs. experience in property management business

#### **LICENSES**

Real Estate Broker License, State of CT

Certified Property Manager (CPM)

#### **EDUCATION**

Purdue University West Lafayette, IN

B.S. Psychology/Business Management

### LINDA L. LIBERTINO

481A Commanche Lane | Stratford, CT | 06614

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To be considered for the position of Oronoque Village Tax District Vice President.

#### **ORONOQUE VILLAGE EXPERIENCE**

OVTD President 2020 – Present
OVTD Vice President 2019 – 2020
OVTD Director 2018 – Present
OVCA President 2006 – 2007, 2013 – 2015
OVCA District 9 Representative 2004 – 2006, 2009 – 2012

#### **EXPERIENCE**

Director of Leasing | C.A. White, Inc. New Haven, CT

#### 1996 to 2022

Responsible for leasing Schaffer properties with emphasis on interfacing with apartment construction projects.

International Relocation | Turkey, Korea & Australia 1989 to 1996

Property Management & Marketing for new condominium developments

#### 1983 to 1989

President & General Manager | Libertino Associates, Inc. Stratford, CT

I launched my own business specializing in condominium management.

#### **HONORS & RECOGNITION**

**1982** President of Connecticut Chapter 51 Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM)

**2019** Property Manager of the Year for Connecticut Awarded by Connecticut Chapter 51 of IREM

2011 - 2021 Served on the Executive Council of IREM





#### **Janice Nachbar**

775 B Pootatuck Lane Stratford, CT 06614

#### **Oronoque Village**

 Architectural Committee, Funseekers, Hadassah, Arts Guild, Light Impact Exercise, Karaoke

#### **Community Service**

- Connecticut Beardsley Zoo volunteer
- Member Board of Directors and Fundraising Director of Harmony On The Sound Chorus, CT
- President, Sunrise Optimist Club of Freehold, NJ, division of Optimist International Friend of Youth
- Co-leader, Central Jersey, Philadelphia and Greater Philadelphia dystonia support groups
- Created "Dogs for Dystonia", DBS (Deep Brain Stimulation) Reunion, Philadelphia Zoo Day for dystonia,
   NYC Dystonia Marathon team, Dystonia Zoo Day at the Beardsley Zoo

#### **Relevant Business Experience**

- Over 30 years in the building trades industry lumber, building materials, masonry products, paint and sundries
- Trained and managed regional and national sales organizations
- Involved in developing and marketing new products, including costing and budgeting
- Interacted with management and purchasing personnel at corporate offices of major distributors and retail chains including Sherwin-Williams and The Home Depot, government fulfillment purchasers and other government entities
- Worked with Environmental Impact departments of Disney and Universal for product certifications
- Visited job sites to test products and inspect and advise on installations
- Read blueprints and created material lists
- National Sales Manager, Back to Nature Products Co., Freehold, NJ
- National Director of Sales, Roman Adhesives, Calumet City, IL
- VP Sales Key Accounts, Mr. Longarm, Greenwood, MO
- Guest presenter on QVC for nine years, The Shopping Channel of Canada, and QVC Great Britain

#### **Government Experience**

- Lobbying in Washington D. C. for over twenty years, working with Senators and Representatives, for NIH dystonia research funding and dystonia inclusion in the Dept. of Defense medical research budget
- Testified at D.C. Congressional Briefing, testimony is in the Congressional Record
- 20 year interaction with the elected officials of Freehold Township, NJ and of Monmouth County, NJ
- Dystonia Awareness Month Proclamation from Stratford Mayor Hoydick

#### **Education**

- BA, Political Science, Hunter College, City University of NY
- MA, Early Childhood Education, Brooklyn College, City University of N









#### **CONTACT**

203-581-2402 fspodnick@gmail.com

#### **SUMMARY**

- For several years now, familiar with a range of Village issues and operations
- Experienced in expense management and cost reduction
- Focused on the needs of all the Village residents

#### **EDUCATION**

Fairfield University Fairfield, CT

B.S. Business
Administration, Finance

### FRANK SPODNICK

71B Dakota Lane | Stratford, CT | 06614

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To be considered for the position of Oronoque Village Tax District Director.

#### **OV EXPERIENCE**

- Experience with OV issues, concerns, and activities as a Maintenance Committee Alternate Rep for District 2 for two years. These include roads, drainage, plowing, facilities, maintenance equipment, manpower, and groundskeeping.
- Regularly attend both OVTD and OVCA meetings for past 5 years

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Proven professional leadership of day-to-day operations including Purchasing, Finance, Facilities, Roads, Lighting, Drainage, Snowplowing and Groundskeeping.
- Collaborative, consensus-focused management approach. Strong identification with the needs of differing customers.
   20+ years General Management experience with P&L responsibilities in multi-facility environments in diverse environments.
- As an Executive Director of Cemeteries, prepare, submit, and manage finance, expense budgets and controls. Monitor Master Schedule of capital projects and major initiatives. Responsible for staff running daily operations.
- General management experience across diverse settings, including Cemeteries, Health & Beauty, Women's Healthcare, roads construction, electronic services, and high tech defense – generally focused in Procurement, Finance, Operations, and Personnel.





597D Sioux Lane

#### Candidate for re-election as OVTD Clerk

#### **Oronoque Experience**

District 7 Treasurer

OVTD Director – Led Signage Sub-committee of the Roads Committee

OVTD Clerk and Roads Committee Chair - Worked to move forward on the road repaving project, with focus on financing.

Bulls and Bears Investment Club President – Responsible for the monthly meeting agenda, buying and selling stock for the club portfolio based on the members' votes.

#### **Business Experience**

Insurance Services Office. Progammer and team leader, MIS budgeting and project management systems and operations

JP Morgan Chase. Programmer and analyst, bank financial systems including product profitability, departmental profitability, and general ledger.

Swift Response. Early investor in internet startup, officer and member of the Board of Directors. Helped raise capital and organize US operations.

#### Other Experience

Manager of TimesForTheTimes.co.uk, a crossword puzzle blog with approximately 25 bloggers. Led the move from LiveJournal to a completely independent WordPress web site in May of 2022. Responsible for recruiting and training new bloggers.

#### Education

BA, Kenyon College MA, M.Phil, Yale University



#### **SATURDAY, MAY 20**

- 8:00 a.m. Shredding Truck at NCB until noon
- 9:00 a.m. Cleanup Day: Dumpsters at SCB. (Event ends at 1 p.m.)
- 1:00 p.m. SAC Salute to Veterans, NCB

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 21**

• 3:00 p.m. – Pletman Concert, NCB

#### **MONDAY, MAY 22**

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

#### **TUESDAY, MAY 23**

- 9:00 a.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 4:30 p.m. OVTD Annual Meeting, NCB
- 5:00 p.m. OVTD Election / Budget Vote, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. Brosowsky, Men's Cards, SCB

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 24**

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB

#### **THURSDAY, MAY 25**

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. District 5 Meeting, SCB

#### FRIDAY, MAY 26

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

#### **SATURDAY, MAY 27**

- 8:30 a.m. South pool opens for the season
- 9:00 a.m. North pool opens for the season
- 2:00 p.m. Pool opening celebration, SCB

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 28:** No events scheduled

### MONDAY, MAY 29: Memorial Day Business & Maintenance Offices Closed

- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi, SCB (C)
- 6:30 p.m. Drop-in Bridge, NCB

#### **TUESDAY, MAY 30**

- 9:00 a.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. Writer's Group, SCB

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 31**

- 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. District 2 Meeting, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB

#### **THURSDAY, JUNE 1**

- 10:00 a.m. Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Quilting Group, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. House Committee, NCB, B/R
- 10:30 a.m. Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. Table Tennis, SCB

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#### **FEATURE**

#### A HAPPY HOUR OVERVIEW

#### By Sue Sapia

Who doesn't love a good happy hour? I sure do. And it's not just because I'm older and can be home by 7:30 p.m. (I know you all get me.) I have been going for years. It's always a great value, not crowded and happy hour people at the bar are always a lot more friendly than the late-night crowd.

So, after moving here, I immediately began researching the best happy hour and prixe fixe menus within a 10-mile radius. And I am happy to share this information with all of you.

Just make sure to call before you go since things can change depending on the season. I'm hoping to try them all eventually.

P.S. if anyone has suggestions for happy hours or dinner specials that can benefit our community, please email me at suesapia@ outlook.com

#### **STRATFORD**

The Lodge at BlackHawk, Oronoque Country Club/385 Oronoque Lane/www.blackhawkct.com/4-6 p.m. as of April 12. \$3 beer, \$5 wine and cocktail specials. Discounted bar food including tacos, beef sliders, wings.

**Joeys C's Boathouse**/955 Ferry Blvd./www.joeycs boathouse.com/ 3-6 p.m. Mon-Fri. \$5 wine, select beers and cocktails. \$7 margaritas, \$6 appetizers. Prime rib Thursday (\$19.99 all-day) includes scalloped potatoes and salad.

**La Fortuna,** Oronoque Shopping Plaza/Daily 2-6 p.m. half-price on all drinks, including top-shelf liquors. Mon-Fri lunch specials 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$25 includes app, lunch, dessert and wine or sangria. Portions are big enough for two.

**The Whiskey Barrel**/251 Main St./203-375-6800/ www.whiskeybarrelct.com/Mon-Fri, 2-6 p.m., \$6 margaritas and wine. \$5 bar bites

#### **SHELTON**

**Center Street Social**/ 127 Center St./www.Center streetsocial. com/203-513-8005/ Mon-Sat, 4-7 p.m., half-price beer and well drinks. Cocktail specials \$4 off. Food specials include boneless wings, nachos, chips and guacamole. Tuesdays: \$4 beer and \$4 SoCo lime shots. \$3 tacos and chicken sliders all day and night.

Caloruso Eatery & Bar/100 Center St./203-924-2220/www.calorusoshelton.com/Tues-Wed, 3-6 p.m. Thurs-Sun 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Wine, beer and Tito's drinks \$3-\$5. \$8 Tito's martinis, \$5 food includes meatballs, personal cheese pizzas, Italian tater tots, bowl o'caesar, soup of the week.

**The Spotted Horse**/100 Commerce Drive/475-269-2648/www.spottedhorsect.com/ Daily 2:30-5:30 p.m. Draft beers \$5, well drinks \$5, house wines \$5, half-off apps. Live music every Wednesday and Saturday.

Stormy's Gastropub/350 Bridgeport Ave./203-285-8001/www.stormysct.com/Daily 3-6 p.m./cheap apps and drinks from \$3-\$5 including well drinks. Two huge outdoor patios with heaters and fire pit. Bocce/cornhole, axe throwing, pool tables, darts, skee ball and giant jenga.

Marketplace Kitchen & Bar/811 Bridgeport Ave./203-538-5524/www.markethospitality group.com/Mon-Fri, 3-6 p.m., bar-top only. \$5 beer and wine, \$7-\$8 specialty cocktails. Tapas \$7-\$8 can include nachos, wings, calamari,truffle fries and more. Very nice bar.

**Pier 131**/9 Riverside Drive/203-513-2935/www. pierBl. com/Mon-Fri 3-6 p.m. Select wine, draft beer, mixed drinks, margaritas \$5. Reduced-price happy hour food.

**Baingan Indian Cuisine**/94 River Road/203-924-2626/www.bainganindiancuisine.com/Mon-Fri, 4:30-6 p.m. Regular-priced drinks but free order of wings. Saturday/Sunday \$20 buffet from 11:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. River views.

#### **MILFORD**

**Citrus**/56 Broad St./203-877-1138/www.citrus milford. com/\$1 off drinks Mon-Fri and cheap

apps

**Bridge House**/49 Bridgeport Ave., Milford/ 203-878-2800/www.milfordbridgehouse.com/Mon-Fri, 3-6 p.m., \$4-\$5 well drinks, \$5 wine and cheap bar bites: sliders, flatbread,tacos,mussels, humus and chips. Monday: \$2 well drinks. Friday: \$7 martinis

**Village Bistro**/141 Merwin Ave./ 203-882-0022/www.villagebistromilford.com/Mon-Fri, 4-6:30 p.m., \$5-\$6 drafts, house drinks, house wines. \$8 martinis, cheap apps 5-8 p.m. Monday/Tuesday 15 percent off food

**Stonebridge Restaurant**/50 Daniel St./203-874-7947/ www.stonebridgerestaurant.com. Early bird prixe fixe dinner 3-6 p.m. Sun-Fri. \$30 includes appetizer, entree, dessert.



#### CAPTION CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The Communications Committee invites residents to participate in a monthly caption contest, beginning with this issue. Please submit a one-line caption for the image at right and email your submission(s) to office@oronoquevillage.com or deliver submissions, in writing, to Villager Editor Carol King at the Business Office in the North Clubhouse.

The deadline for entries is May 30. The winning submission will be published in the June 15 Villager. A new image for the next caption contest will be published simultaneously.

Judging will be conducted by members of the Communications Committee No political or negative content will be considered. There is no limit to the number of captions a resident may submit.

Questions? Call Mary von Ziegesar at 203-767-9760.



Sample caption: "Hum, a contest in The Villager to drive me nuts!"

### **WEBSITE INSIGHTS / FIND IT ON ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM**

#### Find It On www.oronoquevillage.com Financials/ Proposed Dues

Want to know more about the 2023-24 proposed budget's impact on your dues and more? On the private side, go to the opening page/HOME. Scroll down under CONDO NEWS & NOTIFICATIONS to A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT. Click on "read more." If you have questions, call your district representative or search OVCA/OVTD Proposed 2023-24 Budget & Financial Statements.

Budget information also can be found on the Home Page under the heading of 2023-24 BUDGET INFORMATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. heading.

#### **Website Insights: Financial Documents**



#### **Important Date**

The OVTD Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Vote on the Budget will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 4:30-7 p.m. in the NCB. You must attend in person in order to vote for the OVTD Board and OVTD Budget.

#### **OVTV DAILY PROGRAM SCHEDULE (AS OF MAY 7, 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

4 p.m. - Karaoke Recaps From Chris Albino

7 p.m. - Pickleball Tips

10 p.m. - Donna Martire Miller: The Science of Happiness

11 p.m. - House Concert with Dina Glantz & Bob Ruff

Midnight to 8 a.m. - Relaxing Jazz Music

Items on this page are submitted by the Communications Committee

#### **FEATURE**

#### WHY EAT WELL?

**By Linda Kolton** 



Eating well or healthy eating means different things to different people. To me, it means eating natural, plant foods that nourish me. It's about celebrating simple foods and making them taste great.

It's about making choices that emphasize kindness toward the earth and its inhabitants. It's never about what I can't eat. It's about what I choose to eat or choose to avoid. Choices are empowering.

Why does the idea of healthy eating feel over-whelming? There are so many approaches, diets, and philosophies related to eating. If you tune into all of the options, it can easily feel overwhelming. Paleo, keto, intermittent fasting, low carb, Mediterranean, vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, low-fat...it's enough to make you lose your appetite completely! If you're searching, I always recommend getting back to basics. Real food. Start there. The entry door to most grocery stores leads you right into the produce aisle. There's a good reason for that! Our plates should be mostly filled with vegetables. And with so many to choose from, you'll never get bored!

We're overthinking it. Consider this...most diets promoted for health–that come from reputable sources–include some good advice about what to eat. While there are points of differentiation, most of them do recommend eating more fruits, vegetables, and fiber. Many recommend less meat and dairy. And some recommend limiting sugar and salt. That's all good advice. But eating has become so overly prescriptive that we're forced to overthink and analyze. And when we overthink, we become paralyzed. When we're paralyzed, we avoid making decisions. If we avoid making decisions, we can stay right where we are, in our

 comfort zone where things feel easy and familiar. Change doesn't have to be complicated, but it does mean facing some resistance.

Change can be hard...at first. And then it's not! Changes that stick become habits. Habits that take hold become lifestyles. Lifestyles become a way of life. So eating well can become a way of life if you give yourself a chance to work through the natural resistance we all have to change. This is where your "why" comes in to motivate you. Why are you seeking change? The desire to feel as good as you can for as long as you can is a big one. Maybe you want to reduce or avoid medications. Healthy eating can mean having more energy and being more active. Eating well can improve the odds that you'll be around to see the grandkids grow up or that you'll fulfill your purpose. Could be that the connection between compassion for animals and the planet is why you want to eat a healthier, plant-based diet. Your "why" is your lifeline. Identifying it means you can use it to pull you through the resistance to changes you might be trying to make.

Think more, not less. If you've thought about changing your diet, you've probably felt the fear of deprivation. Our minds immediately turn to the things we think we can't have instead of what we can have. That's a deprivation mindset and it keeps us from our goal. Try considering a "more" philosophy if this fear is holding you back. If you want to eat well, you'll need to eat more foods that are good for you. Simple, right? Imagine your plate. Imagine crowding out portions of refined or processed foods to make room for more fruits and vegetables. Using an abundance mindset sets the stage for positive feelings which then leads to success.

**Don't forget the secret ingredient...grace!** Our eating habits are rife with long-held beliefs, associations, and traditions. Few people see long-term success by making drastic changes all at once. Give yourself the grace to proceed at your own pace, to explore, evolve, and yes, to have setbacks. No one is coming to judge you. There are no "plant police" surveilling your shopping cart or dinner table. Don't make perfect the enemy of the good.

**So how do you start?** Consider your "why". Be curious. Try new things. Make mistakes. Involve your family or friends. But keep at it, one day and one bite at a time! **ov** 

Linda Soper Kolton is an Oronoque Village resident, a professional chef, instructor and wellness expert certified in plant-based nutrition. She offers a free online cooking club that meets monthly. For information, visit www.LindaKolton.com or email cheflinda@lindakolton.com.

### **INTRODUCING: OV N2N NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR**

Call or text us at 203-479-0107 Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or leave a message.



We are neighbors offering a helping hand to fellow residents who would like assistance with daily tasks and/or would benefit from increased social interaction with fellow Villagers.

Would you like a friendly visit just to chat or hang out?

Could you benefit from a helping hand in finding services?

Would you like a sounding board in solving problems?

Could you use help with light shopping and other errands?



## The Men's Club Has Evolved!

### The Oronoque Village Men's Club is now called GUYS & DOLLS!

We invite all OV residents to join for only \$5 a year and get involved! Look foward to filling your calendar with activities like Bingo, Super Bowl Party, Pancake breakfast,

Service projects, Informative speakers, Fun filled bus trips and so much more!

**Questions:** Call Nick Harding, Guys and Dolls President, 860.549.6479 or Email - Nicholas.Harding.2@gmail.com



May 15, 2023 • THE VILLAGER



The Pickleball Club Presents the OV Alzheimer's Mini Walk at SCB Saturday, June 3, Registration: 9 AM \* Walk: 10 AM around South Trail



Suggested donation of \$10 per walker. Additional donations are welcome!

#### There are 3 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 to donate online: http://act.alz.org/goto/OronoqueVillage
   Bring your check to SCB on June 3

Please bring friends & family and help us raise funds to fight this disease and/or ask friends and family to sponsor you by donating to help us raise funds.

The funds we raise will be used within Fairfield County to provide research and services for people with Alzheimer's disease, which affects more than 6 million people, with 800,000 people in Connecticut

The end of Alzheimer's starts with YOU!

For further information, please contact Barbara: 203-386-0533 or Pat: 203-375-1788

Rain date is June 4



Hadassah Invites You to "Dinner & A Movie"
June 4 at 4 p.m. at SCB
All Are Welcome!

Billy Crystal (Tony-Award nominee for Best Actor in a Musical) directed and stars in *Mr. Saturday Night,* a stage musical that follows comedian Buddy Young, Jr., decades past his prime, as he attempts a second chance at fame and his family.

A Sunday Supper follows the film.

Cost is \$20 per person. Please deposit checks
— made out to Hadassah —
in the Hadassah box at NCB by May 28.

Questions? Call Ellie Taylor at 203-377-4500.

#### GOOD TIMES SOCK HOP SATURDAY, JULY 1ST - 6:00 - 10 PM NCB

MUSIC & DEDICATIONS PROVIDED BY: "PETER Z"
TRIVIA, DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLES - COSTUMES OPTIONAL

APPETIZERS: MINI BEEF SLIDERS, MINI TURKEY SLIDERS, FRANKS, PIZZA BITES,

SWEDISH MEATBALLS & STUFFED MUSHROOMS, SNACKS, SODA &





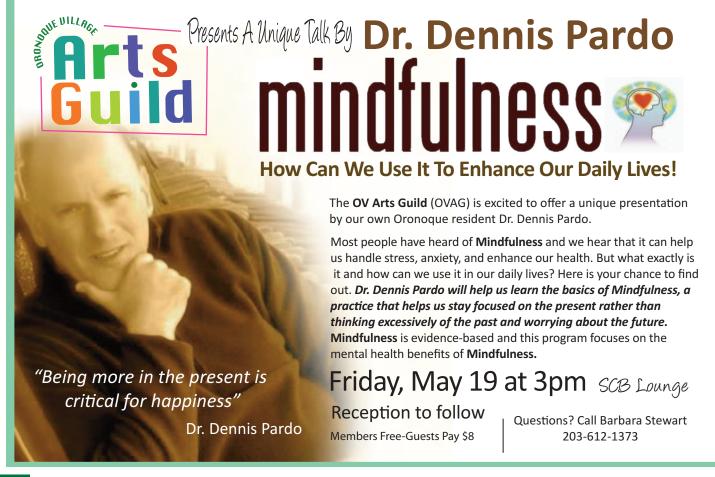
ADMISSION: \$27.00 -

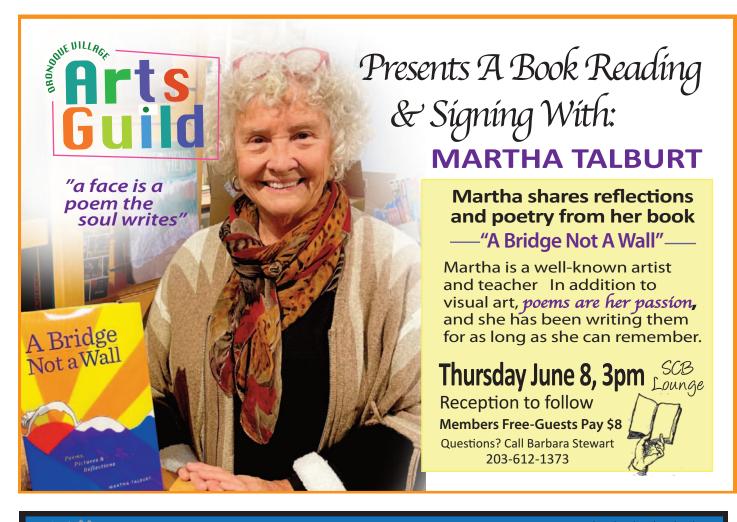
QUESTIONS CALL: MARY ANN WEAVER - 203-530-9962

PHONE: AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

INCLUDE ALL NAMES WITH CHECKS PAYABLE TO GOOD TIMES. DROP CHECK(S) & THIS FORM INTO GOOD TIMES MAILBOX AT NCB BEFORE MONDAY, JUNE 19TH.













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





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

The book for June 7 is *This Tender Land* by William Krueger.

A powerful novel about an orphan's life-changing adventure traveling down America's great rivers during the Great Depression, seeking both a place to call home and a sense of purpose in a world sinking into despair.

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.

This Tender Land is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all.

The book for July is *The Woman Who Smashed the Codes* by Jason Fagone.





# 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 6:30 pm.

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!







Michelle and Allen are in a relationship. They decide to invite their parents to finally meet about marriage. Turns out, the parents already know one another well, which leads to some differing opinions about marriage.

Stars include Diane Keaton, Susan Sarandon, William H. Macy, Richard Gere & Emma Roberts.

\$1 admission includes popcorn proof of vaccine required

# The Restaurant at Blackhawk Country Club

Join us in our newly renovated restaurant & banquet facilities.

Our venue is suited to host up to 250 guests.







385 Oronoque Lane, Stratford, CT 475-273-4121

> blackhawkct.com Hours: Wed.-Sat. 11 AM - 9 PM

Sun. 10 AM - 8 PM • Brunch 10 AM - 2PM

Conveniently located between NYC and Boston.



**Lunch • Dinner** 

Let us host your next party!





### 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 +

203-870-9850





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

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

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