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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES:

- 4 A Message From the OVCA President
- 5 A Message From the OVTD President
- **6** A Message From the Executive Director
- 8 9th Annual OV Alzheimer Walk: A Success
- 12 Artist of the Month: Kathleen Toombs
- 12 Find It On oronoguevillage.com
- 16 Bruce Pollock Publishes 20th Book
- 16 Website Insights
- 18 Pletman's Season Finale
- 18 Stratford's African-American History Museum
- 19 OVTV Program Schedule
- 20 Pickeball Club's 'Almost Summer' Party
- 21 Club & Group Advertisements

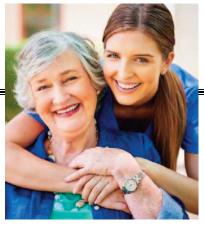
NEWS DEPARTMENTS:

- 6 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- **10 ACTIVITIES**
- **14 CALENDAR**





Thank you to OV resident Peter Feick and Cheryl Podob and Bobbi Tar of the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, for submitting the cover photos of the 9th annual OV Walk to Benefit the Alzheimer's Association, which took place on June 3. Please see the article on page 8.





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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT



Bob Grosso

June 20, 2023

oping that all the fathers and grandfathers of our Village had a very special Father's Day!

Congratulations to you, the residents, for coming out and voting in the OVTD elections. A record-setting 582 residents

cast their votes in this important election. I am looking forward to working with the OVTD Board for the betterment and best interests of our Village.

2023 / 2024 Budget Update: Last month, Mark and I discussed budgeting with a third-party service that will provide both payroll processing and HR solutions. Aside from operational efficiencies there were also potential financial benefits that include better workers compensation rates, as well as pension, 401K, and payroll processing cost savings. As of late May, a contract was initiated with Insperity PEO (Professional Employer Organization) Services which will be the start of the transition process for these services. Our target to complete the transition, including the migration of data, is to "go live" on Aug. 1, 2023.

Earlier this month, our Assured Partners broker presented to the Insurance Committee and management our annual renewal insurance policy proposals for Oronoque Village. Thanks to the hard work of our broker, we reviewed two very competitive bids. One was submitted from the incumbent, Great New York Insurance Companies, and the other from Philadelphia Insurance Companies. In the end Philadelphia provided a bit more coverage with better pricing and, as of July 1, 2023, they will be our providers for our upcoming fiscal year.

This also comes with some good financial news. Insperity proposed a very competitive workers compensation package and improved payroll and benefits processing fees. Both our Insperity and our insurance increase came in slightly under our projected budget. This was the result of the many committee members, our insurance broker and the outstanding leadership and efforts of our Executive Director Mark Rhatigan and our Chief Accountant Diane Roche.

Meeting with Mayor Laura Hoydick: A Town Hall Meeting with the mayor and some of her team has been scheduled that will include Town updates and a resident Q&A forum.

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 / **Time:** 2 p.m. / **Place:** NCB Please submit your questions to the Business Office by Wednesday, July 5, and/or to the meeting.

OV Strategic Plan: I am pleased to announce that the OVCA officers, the four newly elected OVTD officers and the Executive Director recently met to begin a collaborative effort

to develop a strategic plan for our Village. Our Executive Director, Mark Rhatigan, will be leading this initiative. There will be a brief discussion on this topic after the Town Hall meeting with the Mayor. I encourage all residents to attend to learn more about strategic planning for OV and how resident participation will be a vital part of this process.

Special shout out to the House & Garden Club: which recently had their annual luncheon at the BHCC and presented Mark and Ryan with a beautification check for \$5,000. Over the years, H&G has donated over \$175,000 and have taken on projects that included the NCB and SCB entrances, flowers and shrubs at the north entrance wall and the bottom of the hill at the intersection of Oronoque Lane and Route 110, just to name a few.

Opportunity to Appeal the Clubhouses Property Taxes: When Oronoque Village was built, the clubhouses (formerly known as community buildings) were owned by the developer and leased back to the Village. In the years that followed, efforts were made to acquire the buildings, but they were not pursued due to the legal costs involved. The developer collected rent, payment for utilities and property taxes until 2013. At that time, the two boards of the Village, working together and with the Executive Director, were able to take advantage of a change in the law regarding developer's ownership of condominium facilities and with the assistance of our law firm, Cohen and Wolf, the buildings were acquired on Aug. 13, 2014.

Having acquired the buildings, our attorneys were asked to investigate the possibility of obtaining relief from property taxes on the clubhouses. The Town of Stratford attorney and Tax Assessor's office were not open to considering this request. Given the costs the Village had incurred for the Renaissance Project (the updating of the clubhouses), there was not an appetite to incur what could have been significant legal costs to pursue this issue with the Town.

In early May of this year, I asked Ray Vermette, who has significant experience and knowledge in municipal governance as well as the intestinal fortitude to research and read the "fine print" on documents, to present his findings and perspective to Dick Steinfeld, Mark Rhatigan and myself. A review of Ray's work presented us with a compelling set of facts that led us to conclude that this issue was worthy of being pursued to remove the burden of the clubhouse taxes, an expense which is currently \$94,500 a year.

A meeting was held with Cohen and Wolf on May 19, 2023, attended by Mark Rhatigan, Dick Steinfeld, Ray Vermette and me. There was an excellent discussion on the topic and a healthy exchange of possibilities and ideas. The meeting concluded with a request to Cohen and Wolf that they provide OV with a written proposal that included the activities, milestones and cost to pursue this issue with the Town

A MESSAGE FROM THE OVTD PRESIDENT



Sabine Curry

Dear Residents,

First of all, thank you for your overwhelming vote of confidence in me as president, in Ron Ciecko as Vice president, in Janice Nachbar as clerk, and in Tom Becker, the re-elected treasurer, as officers of your new leadership team. We will do our best to work dili-

gently on your behalf.

Since the election, we have met with current and past members of the OV Tax District Board and with Executive Director Mark Rhatigan. Our goal is to be well-informed about the current activities and the accepted processes by the former Board. In most cases, we have

been met with warm greetings and cooperation. We are hopeful that all Directors will support our activities.

One of our first acts will be to assemble committees. We are planning to expand our committees to include residents. I am specifically looking for those of you with experience and interest in finance, roads, utilities/solar energy, security/safety, trees and the nominating process. We have a wealth of knowledgeable residents in our community and I believe we need more input, different perspectives, fresh idea and your help.

I invite you to join our team. Please contact me if you are interested in any committee.

Thank you.

Sabine Curry, President OVTD

Contact info – 607-287-2460

of Stratford.

The estimated cost of \$66,675 covers four phases: Phase I Initial Appeal & Discussions, Phase II Second Appeal re Value to Pretrial, Phase III Summary Judgement and Phase IV Discovery, culminating in September 2024, of the legal steps that may be needed to achieve the tax relief we seek. It is important to understand that this does not include the cost of a full trial. These are expenses to, hopefully, resolve this matter without having to go to trial. OV will receive status reports on each phase of this process providing us with the ability to terminate the effort before proceeding to the next phase. We are, of course, hopeful that this effort will be successful and that the savings we will realize, approximately \$1,000,000 in 10 years, will make this investment of \$66,675 a very worthwhile expenditure.

Given the possibility of these significant savings, I am making a motion that the OVCA Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to proceed with the effort to appeal the clubhouse property taxes with the Town of Stratford. Oversight of this expenditure will be the responsibility of the OVCA Treasurer and Finance Committee, and monthly updates will be provided to the board by the Treasurer, Executive Director or the OVCA President. Cost in this fiscal year will be \$15,000. Cost in future years will be approved as part of the annual budget cycle.

Happy Fourth of July and I believe that all our hearts beat red, white and blue. We should never take our freedom for granted. God bless America!

The following decisions were made at the June 20 OVCA Board Meeting.

• A motion was made by Tom Fuchs and seconded by Lee Shlafer to approve the following Communication's Committee rules change allowing District Representatives use of robocalls and eblasts. The motion passed unanimously.

The OVCA President's Message continues on page 15



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ORONOQUE VILLAGE STRATEGIC PLAN — OVERVIEW

By Mark Rhatigan



Mark Rhatigan

All condominium associations have similar goals which include providing services and amenities to residents, maximizing what is returned to residents for the HOA fees paid, protecting property values and satisfying the expectations of the unit owners.

The most competitive and successful homeowner's associations all have a clear vision supported by a strong strategic plan to achieve those goals. One of my first priorities as Executive Director is to lead a collaborative effort with the officers of the OVCA and OVTD Boards to create such a plan for OV. They are as enthusiastic as I in documenting multi-year strategies, goals and policies to guide future operational decisions. It will be a dynamic document that is reviewed annually and updated to ensure that we stay focused on the important tasks and goals. Active unit owner participation is critical to its success.

A Strategic Plan...

- creates a shared vision for the future of Oronoque Village (OV).
- provides a roadmap for how OV will realize a shared vision.
- documents a prioritized set of strategic goals and objectives and supports continuity as members of the OVCA and OVTD Boards change.
- unites community members around common goals and objectives, increasing engagement and volunteerism.

The creation of an Oronoque Village Strategic Plan is the best way to ensure that our association plans and prepares for inevitable change. In March, 2022 a resident committee kicked off a strategic planning effort for OV. The foundational deliverables for the plan are complete and include:

- Mission Statement a concise explanation of our organization's reason for existence that communicates our purpose and direction.
- Core Values the standards that are to govern our behavior. This is similar to a code of ethics.
- Guiding Principles the basic principles to be used in making decisions.
- Vision Statement defines a shared vision of what Oronoque Village will look like in 5-10 years. It is an aspirational statement intended to inspire.

- Strategic Focus Areas key areas of the long-term strategy
- Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunity/Threats (SWOT) Analysis an assessment of internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as its external opportunities and threats.

These deliverables provide us the foundation needed to identify our strategic goals and objectives and create the action plans to achieve them. That next phase requires participation by unit owners with various viewpoints and perspectives on teams that focus on each of the strategic priorities. To learn more about the strategic planning effort and how you can participate, I hope you will join us at the

Town Hall Meeting on July 11 at 2 p.m. at NCB.

Mission: "Our mission is to provide an outstanding resident experience while protecting and enhancing the OV brand, being fiscally responsible and ensuring a stable and safe environment."

Vision: "Our vision is to become the finest 55+ condominium association in Connecticut where residents work cooperatively and employ best practices to sustain an economically, environmentally and socially strong community."

Core Values: "In fulfilling our mission and achieving our vision we value civility, quality, transparency, resident satisfaction, security, adherence to process, sustainability, the OV image, fairness and ethical principles in all our actions."

Guiding Principles:

- Employ established management practices and sound business principles to make "best judgement" decisions with respect to enhancing the value of our properties and managing the affairs of our community.
- Take a fair, transparent and ethical approach to upholding the Charter, Declaration, By-laws and Rules and Regulations of our community. Work in a professional and objective manner to resolve issues.
- Practice solution-based communications and present resolutions in a clear and timely manner.
- Engage in sound financial planning with transparency.
- Actively seek out initiatives and activities that will cultivate a true sense of community with informed and active unit owner engagement and a culture of building consensus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOWN HALL MEETING / STRATEGIC PLAN AND STRATFORD UPDATE

Executive Director Mark Rhatigan, is leading an initiative to create an Oronoque Village Strategic Plan, a collaborative effort by the officers of OVCA and OVTD and volunteers interested in making Oronoque Village an even better place to live. It takes planning and it takes residents' input. You are invited to a Town Hall meeting to learn about a Strategic Plan for OV. At this meeting, we will also be given an update by the Town of Stratford officials. The meeting takes place Tuesday, July 11, at 2 p.m. at NCB.

SUMMER SCULPTURE SHOW

The community is invited to enjoy an indoor art show featuring the lovely works of Wendy Swain's sculpture students.

The exhibit will take place at SCB on July 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come talk to the artists and see their works.

Wendy will present a demonstration and explanation of the lost wax process for casting sculptures in bronze at noon.

SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 27, HADASSAH CARD PARTY

Hadassah invites the community to enjoy a delicious catered lunch and then play the game of your choice (canasta, mahjong, bridge, dominos) on Sept. 27 at NCB.

BRAVO TO HOLD A MEETING TO PLAN FOR AN OCTOBER EVENT

BRAVO ("Best Readers Actors in the Village of Oronoque"), under the leadership of Donna Martire Miller, is planning to present a show in October.

Performers are needed and rehearsal dates need to be set. If you are interested in participating in the production, please attend a meeting on July 10 at SCB from 7-8:30 p.m.

Questions? Text your name and number to Donna at 203-520-5796 and she will contact you.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Districts 7 and 10 will have a combined barbecue on Thursday, Aug. 3, in the North Clubhouse. Please check your black boxes for details as the time nears.

District 11's second meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, July 12, at 6 p.m. in the North Clubhouse. The theme will be "Flavors of Italy," featuring delicious Italian dishes, salad, bread, coffee and dessert, along with some fabulous door prizes. We'll catch up on the latest in the Village and discuss our upcoming elections in September. Cost is \$9 per person.

Please submit the name(s) of those attending and your check no later than Friday, July 7, at 5 p.m., in the District 11 mailbox in the North Clubhouse so that we can ensure that we will have enough food for everyone. If you have not yet submitted your annual dues of \$10 per person, please do so. Checks should be made out "OV District 11."

Jeanette "Jackie" Caron, Realtor Oronoque Village Resident



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FEATURE



MONEY RAISED DURING 9TH OV ALZHEIMER WALK SURPASSES PREVIOUS EVENTS

By Barbara Minoff

Saturday morning, June 3, the SCB front parking lot was full of activity! The weather was cool and dreary, but the atmosphere was bright and cheerful! Walkers filled the parking lot with chatter and donations to support the Ninth OV Walk to Benefit the Alzheimer's Association, which was sponsored by the Pickleball Club. The purple balloons were waving and our volunteers were in their places, ready to welcome and register the many OV walkers,, as well as direct traffic and answer questions.

A big "thank you" from the Pickleball Club and the Alzheimer's Association to Oronoque Village residents, family and friends for their support! Once again the efforts of our volunteer team (Abbie Kanner, Jill Bachman, Dave Bingham, Linda Eastwood, Peter Feick, Dave Hedman, Celeste Jardim, Angel Lorch, Melinda Maiorano, Janice Nachbar, Pat Spodick and Dorothy Tanski), organized by Barbara Minoff, led to an extremely successful fundraiser. Generous dona-

tions came by check, cash and from the online link. We are thrilled to share the good news! This year, we raised over \$4,200 in donations — our best year ever! All proceeds go directly to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter.

It was gratifying to have participation from the Alzheimer's Association with Cheryl Podob (development manager, Fairfield County) and Bobbi Tar (logistics chair for the Walk to End Alzheimer's) coming to our fundraiser. They brought a display of Alzheimer's information, signs and t-shirts proudly worn by our volunteers and walkers. The short program was very enlightening with factual Alzheimer updates from Cheryl. We appreciate the contributions of bottled water from ShopRite in Shelton and purple balloons from Hansen's Flowers in Fairfield.

This annual OV event is all about Alzheimer awareness and raising funds to beat this disease. We are already looking forward to our return next June 2024 for our 10th annual Walk to Support the Alzheimer's Association in Connecticut. See you next year!





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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 July 17, is July 3 at noon.

BOCCE

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

DOLLCRAFTERS

• Dollcrafters meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays in the NCB Library.

CURRENT EVENTS

• The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

DROP-IN BRIDGE

• Drop-in Bridge takes place on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the NCB Lounge. All levels of bridge players are encouraged to attend; no need to bring a partner. There is no fee to participate. For information, please contact Wendy Swain at 203-386-9125. Proof of vaccination required.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

• The Ladies Bible Study welcomes all resident women. There are no fees to join. Purchasing study materials is optional. Meetings are on the second and fourth Fridays in the NCB Card Room from 10:30 a.m. to noon (excluding July and August). Questions? Call Angie McKelvey (203-227-3222) or Tina Vermette (203-375-0291).

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.

RACQUET SPORTS

• OV's Racquet Sports Facility is comprised of three tennis courts and five pickleball courts. Both sports have clubs that offer court play times as well as a social memberships for off-court gatherings. For information on joining, contact Peter Feick for tennis at 203-856-0246 or Bill Tanski for pickleball at 609-876-3520.

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.



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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: KATHLEEN TOOMBS



Kathleen Toombs

During the month of July, residents will be treated to a showing of acrylic paintings by Kathleen Toombs.

Though Kathleen has only been painting for five years, her passion for the arts was piqued during her childhood in the Philadelphia area.

"My mother was very creative and an inspiration," says Kathleen. "She worked as a model and later as a draftsman during World War II. At home, she used newspapers to make patterns for apparel and for

home decor. Working together, we made dresses, including my prom gowns and wedding dress, as well as fashionable slipcovers for our furniture."

She adds, "My mother wasn't a seamstress, per se, but she had ingenuity and knew how to put her creativity to work and get things done."

Her father, a metallurgical engineer, encouraged Kathleen to get an education and pursue a career. "My father was ahead of his time and thought women should have a way of earning a living," says Kathleen. "He wanted me to be a nurse or a teacher, but I talked him into allowing me to enter pre-med studies. I lasted about one year; I couldn't do all the microscope work because all of my cell drawings looked like hearts and flowers."

After her graduation, Kathleen's career choices benefited from her artistic knowhow. "I loved teaching and taught a variety of grades in different places," she says. "The students loved my classes as we used a lot of creativity. We had fun while they learned."

She later earned a second degree as a learning specialist. "Working with art and play, I was able to help students work in a different way," she reports.

Kathleen and her husband, Scott, moved to Connecticut when Shott opened his own firm. "Scott worked at the Rouse Company at South Street Seaport in New York as well as Faneuil Hall in Boston before opening Toombs Develop-

ment Company in New Canaan," says Kathleen "He developed Princeton Forrestal Village as well as several office buildings."

Kathleen became a stay-at-home mom, taking care of the family's three daughters and was volunteering as a Girl Scout and Daisy leader.

After raising her family, Kathleen returned to school and earned a master's degree in family therapy. "I then went further into education and studied hypnotherapy and Chinese medicine. Liking working on subconscious levels, I became certified in EMDR, a form of trauma work."

Currently, she has an office in New Canaan as well as a strong online presence. "I deal with all forms of trauma," she notes. "Many post-traumas affect people today – bullying, abuse, health issues, accidents, loss, etc. As people release their traumas, they feel lighter thus many people feel less anxious and depressed."

Painting is a hobby that she enjoys during her down time. "I like mixing my colors and painting landscapes that I conjure up in my imagination," she says. "Often, I pick up a paintbrush, start a project and later find that hours have gone by. It is a very serene way to spend my time."

This coming fall, she plans to teach a class. "It will be a personal sketchbook journaling class using all mediums," she says. "The sketchbook may contain a favorite thought, card, wonky sketch of your morning coffee ... but above all it will be what you love. The purpose is relaxation, social, nonjudgmental and above all fun."

Kathleen arrived in Oronoque Village in 2014 after downsizing and leaving her home in New Canaan. She enjoys the pastimes that the community has to offer and has taken painting classes offered by the OV Arts Guild as well as pursued courses online.

"I love Oronoque Village," she says. "It is home to me. The people who live here and the activities offered are a gift. I am so happy to be here."

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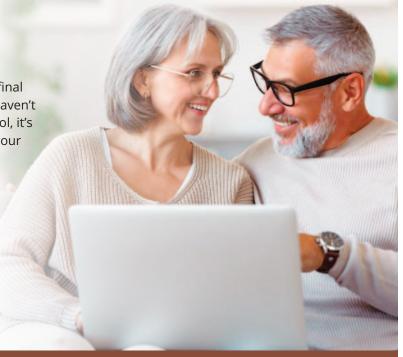
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CALENDAR

Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Chrissy Smith at csmith@oronoquevillage.com. For the latest on OV news & events, go to www.oronoquevillage.com or OVTV. OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box.

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

MONDAY, JULY 3

- 10:00 a.m. Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 11:00 a.m. Communications Committee, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. SAC Committee Meeting, NCB
- 6:30 p.m. Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. Funseekers Board Mtg, SCB C/R (C)
- 7:00 p.m. Bulls & Bears, SCB

TUESDAY, JULY 4

Business & Maintenance Offices Closed

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

- 10:00 a.m. Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. Current Events, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Water Aerobics, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club, NCB Library

THURSDAY, JULY 6

- 10:00 a.m. Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Aqua Zumba, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Village Quilters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. House Committee, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm
- 1:00 p.m. Ladies Mahjong & Cards, NCB, C/R (C)
- 1:00 p.m. Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. Table Tennis, SCB

FRIDAY, JULY 7

- 10:00 a.m. Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:00 p.m. It's 5 O'clock Somewhere, NCB

SATURDAY, JULY 8

10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Show, SCB

SUNDAY, JULY 9: No events scheduled

MONDAY, JULY 10

- 10:00 a.m. Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NC
- 1:00 p.m. Arts Guild Board Meeting, NCB, B/R (C)
- 3:30 p.m. Bylaws Committee, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. Maintenance Committee, NCB
- 6:30 p.m. Drop-In Bridge, NCB

TUESDAY, JULY 11

- 9:00 a.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 9:30 a.m. Architectural Committee Mtg, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. Writer's Group, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. Town Hall Meeting for Residents, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. Arts Guild Event, SCB

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

- 10:00 a.m. Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. Water Aerobics, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. District 11 Meeting, NCB

THURSDAY, JULY 13

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

•

THE OVCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

- Robocalls and eblasts may be initiated by the Executive Director, the Maintenance Director and OVCA and OVTD Board members (including District Representatives for their respective Districts). Robocalls are intended to be used to provide residents with timely information about emergency situations (i.e., maintenance issues, significant weather, power outages, water-main breaks, roadwork, and/or delay or cancellation of any OVCA, OVTD, Standing/Board Committee, Club, OV, or District event.) Robocalls and eblasts may be used to provide residents with timely information about important upcoming events (i.e., OVCA and OVTD Board and District meetings regarding time, date, place and subject of meetings).
- Both robocalls and eblasts are issued by the Office and will be subject to review and approval by the Executive Director or his delegate. Requests must be sent via email, with the exact message to be delivered to the Business Office no later than 2:00 p.m. Exceptions are made for emergency notifications.
- A motion was made by Myrna Mills Albino and seconded by Dick Steinfeld to authorize the Executive Director to proceed with the effort to appeal the clubhouse property taxes with the Town of Stratford. Oversight of costs as-

sociated with this appeal will be the responsibility of the

OVCA Treasurer and Finance Committee and monthly updates will be provided to the Board by the Treasurer, Executive Director or the OVCA President. Cost in this fiscal year will be \$15,000. Costs in future years will be approved as part of the annual budget cycle.

The motion passed 13 - 1.

- o **Yes (**D1, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10, D11, Sec, Treas, VP).
- o **No** (D2)
- A motion was made by Myrna Mills Albino and seconded by Joanne Sutphen to authorize the Executive Director to remove bird feeders that are not in compliance with OV Rules and Regulations. Bird feeders, except for hummingbird feeders, may not be placed outside between May 15 and October 15. Over the next few months, we will monitor the effectiveness of rodent control measures to determine whether we need to revise the rules about bird feeders. There will be a status update at the August meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

FRIDAY, JULY 14

- 10:00 a.m. Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 7:00 p.m. Movie: 80 For Brady, NCB

SATURDAY, JULY 15

5:15 p.m. – Funseekers Event, SCB

SUNDAY, JULY 16

- 9:00 a.m. Tennis Club Wimbledon Event, NCB (C)
- 4:00 p.m. Galerie OV Art Show Reception, SCB

MONDAY, JULY 17

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





Tax-Exemption for Stratford Veterans & Active-Duty Service Members

Veterans who have 90 days of wartime service, including merchant marines who served during WWII, are eligible for a \$1,500 exemption for property tax purposes (e.g., real estate property or automobiles.)

Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption for active-duty service members of the armed forces: To receive the exemption, service members must file an application with the Town Tax Assessor by December 31 each year.

Please call the Tax Assessor's Office for more information: 203-385-4025

FEATURE

OV'S BRUCE POLLOCK CELEBRATES PUBLICATION OF HIS 20TH BOOK

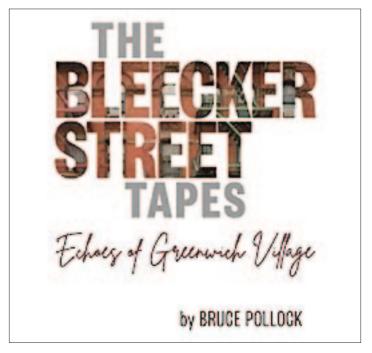
By Bruce Pollock

I'm proud to announce the publication of my 20th book, "The Bleeker Street Tapes: Echoes of Greenwich Village," published by Trouser Press. This is a memoir/interview collection based on my years living at four different addresses in Greenwich Village, coinciding with my graduation from college, staff writing job at Rock Magazine, winning the Dejur Award for fiction (at City College of New York) and a Deems Taylor Award for journalism, culminating with the publication of my first book.

Here's an excerpt from the introduction to "The Bleeker Street Tapes": "I'd been frequenting Greenwich Village since 1964, when I had a job as copyboy at Fairchild Publications on 12th Street and 5th Avenue and often took my lunch in Washington Square Park, surrounded by like-minded individuals. At the fashion trade magazine W, I spent much of my time typing short stories for the delight and edification of whoever happened to be looking over my shoulder — if not my boss. This was similar to my first experience in the newspaper trade, at the New York Post, where I made the acquaintance of the advice-to-teens columnist, "Ask Suzy," who gave me my first assignment as a freelance writer, when she became editor of the Hearst Magazine Eye.

"By then, or soon after, my friend Richie and I were fixtures at the Tuesday night hoots at the Gaslight Café on MacDougal Street, as well frequent drop-ins at the Night Owl (down the block and around the corner on West 3rd) and the Au-Go-Go (down the block the other way and around the corner on Bleecker Street) and the Garrick below it (or above it) where Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention held the fort for an entire summer. (It was where we saw Bob Dylan, close enough to stare into his eyes as he spat out "Mr. Tambourine Man" on an otherwise ordinary Tuesday night at the Gaslight).

"Hosted by the formidable bearded folksinger Dave Van Ronk, those nights at the Gaslight were our introduc-



tion to the music that would dominate the period, at least as far as the friendly confines of the Greenwich Village that would soon become our home, courtesy of another Gaslight regular who sublet us his apartment on West 10th Street. It was at the Gaslight, through 1969, where I first saw many of the artists I would later interview in books, magazine articles and newspaper columns, starting in 1972.

"The interviews, columns, and articles collected here speak for themselves, about the highs and lows of the era as experienced by those on the ground, just as the music they gave us still speaks to a dimming memory of a period as frustrating as a dream lost to the daylight."

Here's the chance to relive it all, courtesy of some friendly voices from the past. The book can be purchased online at Amazon.com as well as at your favorite bookstores.

WEBSITE INSIGHTS

The DIRECTORY/ADDRESS BOOK update is keeping the staff and our volunteers busy. Having a large exchange of frequently changing data is no easy task and we apologize to those of you who have experienced problems.

We are diligently working to correct these issues. Please review your information in the DIRECTORY, and make changes under MY PROFILE. Remember to click on "update" when you make any change.

Also, for any change to your email address, call Chrissy Smith (extension 1) or Carol King (extension 3) at 203-377-5313 or email csmith@oronoquevillage.com or cking @oronoquevillage.com.

Questions? Get help contacting a member of the Geek Group. Find the Geek Group under GOV'T ORGANIZATION/OVCA/STANDING COMMITTEES/COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE. Click on "Geek Group."







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FEATURES

SONGS FILLED THE STAGE DURING PLETMAN SEASON FINALE

Story by Amy Plapp & Tom Ward Photo by Minna Barrett

Christopher Grundy was in top form as he performed an exciting array of vocal selections at the third 2023 Pletman Series concert on May 21 in the North Clubhouse. Accompanied by William Braun, Christopher began with a suite of five English folk songs arranged by Benjamin Britten, one of Britain's foremost vocal composers, that included "The Minstrel Boy" and "The Foggy, Foggy Dew."

He followed with three lieder by Franz Schubert, sung in German, having the pleasant themes of fishing, spring-time and brookside. More German followed with the famous "Abendstern (evening star)" solo from Richard Wagner's opera "Tannhäuser."

Christopher concluded with three solos from the Broadway stage known to all: "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," "The Impossible Dream" and "Some Enchanted Evening."

The enthusiastic audience came to its feet in appreciation of Christopher's performance, and compliments



flowed freely during the reception that followed.

This concert completed the spring 2023 series. The fall series will begin on Sept. 10 with clarinetist Ellie Bond followed by additional performances on Oct. 22 and Nov. 19. Save the dates!

THE RUBY & CALVIN FLETCHER AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM

By Carole Plotnick & Mary W. von Ziegesar

How poignant and fitting are these words, which express the mission of Stratford's African American History Museum located at 952 East Broadway. If you haven't visited this museum, there are many reasons to do so.

One reason is to celebrate our own Oronoque Village resident, Jerry Reece, whose sculptures and paintings are featured in a recently opened exhibit. His works join the museum's permanent collection which illustrates aspects of African American lives in the past and the present in the United States.

From slavery, the Civil Rights movement and up to today, the museum offers a variety of stark reminders. See slave shackles, collars and whips, see uniforms and equipment from the Tuskegee Airmen. Appreciate an entire room highlighting the lives of many African American "pioneers and trailblazers" made famous for their impact on history, entertainment, politics, education, the sciences, sports, religion ...



The photos and life-size sculptures make the experience informative, vivid and very personal. "Embracing the teachings of tolerance, diversity, unity and educating" are another part of the Museum's mission, which provides an opportunity "to begin honest conversations regarding a rich and strong history which has historically been maligned." For more information, call 203.375.1102 or visit: www.Africanamericanmuseumct.org.

QUICK CONTACT LIST

Police, Fire, Medical Emergency911		
Routine Police.Call203-385-4100		
OV Security203-377-5502		
Maintenance Emergency203-377-5502		
Gas Leak (So.Ct.GasCo.)800-513-8898		
Elec. Emergency (U.I.)800-722-5584		
Business Office203-377-5313		
Maintenance Dept203-375-8853		
South Clubhouse203-377-5435		
Optimum Cablevision Service203-336-2225		

OVTV Program Schedule (As of June 27)

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

12:30 p.m. - Beginning Mindfulness

2 p.m. - Music From the '50s and '60s

4 p.m. - Karaoke Recaps From Chris Albino

5 p.m. - Interview with Jason Fagone: Featured

Author for July Book Club

7 p.m. - Pickleball Tips

8 p.m. - Tribute to Classic Cars

9 p.m. - Beginning Tai Chi

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

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

12 a.m. to 6:10 a.m. - Relaxing Music



Mary Kelleher Mary.Kelleher@raveis.com

203.496.1399

Christine Mahoney

Christine.Mahoney@raveis.com 203.258.7415

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FEATURE



Above: John and Kim Moore, Russ Cingari, Valerie and Bob Petrosini. Below: Dina Glantz and Nancy and Herlan Pedron.



Above: Carl Stahnke and Liz Kedan. Below: Marilyn Coffey, Gery Cuccaro and Carole Plotnick.





PICKLEBALL CLUB'S ENJOYABLE EVENING

Story by Karen Hahn Photos by Gery Cuccaro and John Staley

The Pickleball Club held its "Almost Summer" party on Friday, June 16, at the NCB Auditorium with over 100 members in attendance. The club held a similar event in 2016 with 40 members attending! The growth of the club has presented challenges for our VP Social, Liz Kedan, as she pulled together appetizers and refreshments for such a big group.

With the help of a caterer and other club members, delicious appetizers were provided and a surprise ending was an assortment of fruit sorbets in their original fruit shells. Several young women were hired to help.

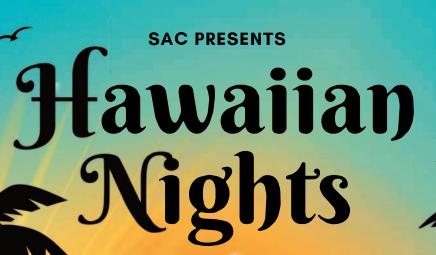
Club members who also helped Liz were Kim Moore,

Maddy Lapides, Kathy Malski and Dorothy Tanski.

Club president Bill Tanski welcomed everyone, thanking all the members who worked to create this great evening. He especially thanked Liz with a line from the movie Casablanca: "We all try, you succeed." He also gave a shoutout to the board members Liz Kedan, Regina Archazki, Karen Hahn and Ray Compagna.

Adding to the enjoyment of the evening was music performed by Dina Glantz and Bob Ruff, who put together a playlist that appealed to everyone. Members socialized and listened to, or danced to, the great music. All in all, another fun evening for the "pickleballers."

For more information about the Pickleball Club, contact Bill Tanski at 609-876-3520 or email at cwdtans@gmail.com



ORONOQUE VILLAGE'S ANNUAL POOL PARTY

Come join us for a fun-filled evening by the South pool!

- At 6:30 PM, hot and cold hors d'ouevres will be served on the pool deck.
- A scrumptious buffet dinner with a Hawaiian flare will be served indoors.
- Wine, soda and set-ups provided.
 (No glass allowed on the Pool Deck)

FEATURING

Enjoy dessert and dancing poolside after the sun sets to music by Oronoque's own Chris Albino!

August 19, 2023 * 6:30pm

TICKETS: \$50 PER PERSON | RESERVATIONS DUE: JULY 27TH

If you are coming as a group, please include all checks in one envelope with a list of attendees. Questions? Call Ivy Tencer at (732) 995-2840 or Patrice Lundgren at (203) 520-1489

Include all names with checks enclosed if you wish to be seated together.

Drop check(s) and this form in SAC mailbox by July 27.

NAME(S):		
PHONE:	TOTAL ENCLOSED:	

Upcoming events: SAC presents the first-ever Dog Parade Fundraiser for STARS (Stratford Animal Rescue Society), Sat. Sept. 23 in the SCB parking lot. Rain date: Sun. Sept. 24.



Don't forget to visit our Facebook Page: OV Connections

Note: You must have a Facebook account to join the OV Connections Facebook page.



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

The book for July 5 is *The Woman Who Smashed the Codes* by Jason Fagone.

The book for Aug. 2 is *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. This is a mischievous, wise and wildly entertaining novel. Not only is it beautifully written, it's a story about hope, friendship and companionship in a time when we need it so much. The author brilliantly captures the inner reality of each character with profound and poetic prose. All of them are incredible forces in literature. He draws a line between the social maladies of then and now, connecting the yearnings of his characters with our own volatile era. He does it with stylish, sophisticated storytelling. Set over the course of 10 riveting days, the story of these boys unfolds, refolds, tears, and is taped back together. When you aren't actually reading the book, you'll be worrying about the characters, so you might as well stay in your chair and keep reading.



SQUARE
ONE
THEATRE
COMPANY

Members attend this event at no charge, guests pay \$8 at the door. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

Questions? Call Barbara Stewart 203-612-1373





DOORS OPEN AT 5:15 PM.
DINNER SERVED AT 5:45 PM.

Cost is \$35 per person (covers dinner). Entertainment is being subsidized by your dues for this event.

Cost for non-resident guests is \$45 per person.

Buffet Dinner Includes:

Salad
Flank Steak
Chicken Marsala
Penne Alla Vodka
Roasted Red Potatoes
Green Beans
Dessert/Coffee/Tea/Soft Drinks



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Tables will be for 10 guests. PLEASE PLACE LIST OF NAMES/PHONE NUMBERS OF ALL GUESTS SITTING TOGETHER WITH ENCLOSED CHECKS IN ONE ENVELOPE. (Checks made out to Funseekers) Don't have a table? We invite singles, couples and small groups to attend; everyone will be placed at reserved tables. Please note: Funseekers members will have first opportunity to sign up including one non-resident guest per single resident.

Reservations will be open to members and one guest per single resident starting June 16th through June 26th. Starting on June 27th, if there is space availability, member residents may sign up any amount of non-resident guests.

ALL RESERVATIONS WILL CLOSE ON JULY 7TH. Please note, an official waitlist will be made. All reservations, table assignments and cancellations must go through Funseekers.

Questions? Call Lynn Collins, 203-260-4644

GOOD TIMES CLUB PRESENTS: A TASTE OF ITALIAN NEW YORK - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 - DEPART SCB AT 9.A.M. /ESTIMATED RETURN 6:30 P.M.

Here is a chance to visit 3 New York food "hot spots" via a motorcoach!

Zabar's Gourmet Market (Upper West Side) for international food shopping.

Carmine's Restaurant (Upper West Side) for an Italian lunch served family-style. Menu includes rigatoni, broccoli and sausage in marinara, chicken in lemon butter, ravioli marinara green salad, zucchini fries and chocolate canolli with pistachios.

Arthur Avenue (The Bronx) - considered by many as New York's "real" Little Italy for bread, pasta, pastries and sausage.



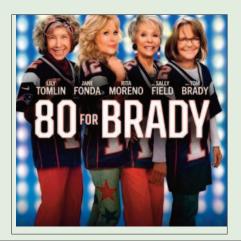
Bring a cooler!

This trip will require a moderate level of walking.

Cost is \$135 per person.

To RSVP, drop off check in Good Times box at NCB by August 1. Questions? Call Mary Ann Weaver at 203-530-9962

The Movie Club Presents
80 For Brady
July 14, 7 p.m., NCB
July 19, 2 p.m., SCB



80 for Brady is a 2023 American sports comedy film directed by Kyle Marvin, written by Sarah Haskins and Emily Halpern, and produced by former NFL quarterback Tom Brady.

The film follows four lifelong friends (Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field) who travel to watch Brady and his New England Patriots play in Super Bowl LI in 2017.

\$1 admission includes popcorn proof of vaccine required







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

Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on July 28 at SCB at 6:30pm.

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

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

TTS Presents Our New Art Show





Opening Reception · Sunday, July 16th
4 pm SCB

Baldwin Breakfast Club!

1000 West Broad Street, Stratford



Monday - Friday @ 9:00 am









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

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

See you for breakfast!!!

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

The Restaurant at Blackhawk Country Club

Join us in our newly renovated restaurant & banquet facilities.

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

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