

August 1, 2023



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Thank you to Peter Feick for submitting the cover photos, taken during the July 11 Town Hall meeting held at the North Clubhouse. Additional photos and a short article appear on page 7.

The Villager welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Photos must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to Villager Editor Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. Villager editorial submissions should be emailed as either text attachments or with text pasted into the body of an email. All Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of The Associated Press Stylebook.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT



Bob Grosso

July 18, 2023

2022/2023 Budget: Oronoque Village ended the fiscal year on June 30, 2023, with an unaudited under variance of approximately \$58K.

2022/2023 Annual Audit will commence in mid-August, led by Glenn J. Nanavaty from Nanavaty Davenport Studley White LLP Certified Public Accountants.

Stratford Town Officials & Strategic Planning Committee Kick-off: Oronoque Village conducted its annual Town Hall meeting last Tuesday, July 11. The following attended in support of the meeting: Mayor Laura R. Hoydick, Chief of Staff Sarah Mathews, Chief Administrative Officer Chris Tymniak, Tax Assessor Donna Calicchio, Fire Chief Jermaine Atkinson, Deputy Fire Chief Jim Buck, Fire Marshal Robert Daniel and Director of Economic Development Mary Dean.

Thank you, Mayor Hoydick and your staff, for providing meaningful updates on several topics ranging from taxes, the Ryder's Landing development, Shakespeare Theatre proposed 900 seat open air plans, Sikorsky Airport, safety and the Oronoque Lane four-way stop sign improvement.

A special thanks to Carol King, Tom Fuchs and Mary von Ziegesar for taking copious notes, complemented by photos taken by Peter Feick. The well-written article summarized the Town Hall meeting, as well as Oronoque Village's plans to create a Strategic Plan captained by our Executive Director Mark Rhatigan and the Executive Boards of OVCA and OVTD to solicit and encourage resident participation.

Strategic Planning Committee was launched and there was discussion around the nine strategic priority focus areas. They are:

- Create an Outstanding Employee Experience
- Develop Strong Relationships with State & Local Governments

- Safeguard OV's Dependency on Blackhawk Country Club
- Develop a Compliance Program to Address the Need to Enforce the OV Declaration, By-Laws, Rules & Regulations
- Strengthen Financial Reserves/Seize Opportunities to Control Costs
- Maintain & Improve OV Infrastructure & Appearance
- Establish Practices/Adopt Technologies for Environmental Sustainability
- Promote the Health & Well-Being of OV Residents
- Implement a Strategic Communications Plan

If you have not already, I encourage you to complete a volunteer form and leverage your passion and expertise in the interest of benefiting our Village. Forms are available in the Business Office

Save the date: There will be a Town Hall meeting in the fall, (date TBD) with the mayor and her staff enabling those who could not make the July meeting because of a conflict or their work schedule.

Tax Appeal: Cohen and Wolf were not granted a waiver by the Town of Stratford to represent Oronoque Village. Cohen and Wolf highly recommended Murtha-Cullina possessing extensive related experience providing tax advice, appeals and land use. After discussions and exchanging documents related to the appeal, we executed an engagement letter to proceed. A legal complaint based on Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 12-119 essentially claiming that the Town assessment is illegal, is being drafted and will be sent to the Town of Stratford attorneys.

Declaration: Declaration and has been completed by the committee and reviewed by the Executive staff and legal and will be presented and reviewed the OVCA Board at the Aug. 15, 2023, Board meeting.

By-Laws schedule will be forthcoming.

There is a special Board Meeting planned for Aug. 9 to review the recommended Declaration revisions submitted by the By-laws Committee. The document will be distributed to the Board no later than Aug. 4. The recommendation includes



Lisa Glazer

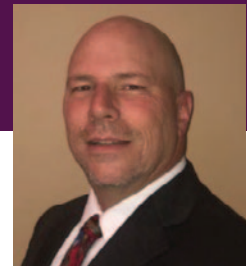
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revisions around the organization of information in the Declaration, its clarity, and the introduction of a community contribution fee to be paid by the transferee (buyer). There will then be a motion on the Aug. 15 OVCA Board Meeting agenda on whether the recommendation should be distributed to the unit owners for their vote.

Roof Reserve: Mark and his team received three bids and have selected Becht Engineering BT, Inc. to perform the roof reserve assessment this summer. Once the results are received and compared to our roof reserve this fall, next steps will be determined.

Insperity PEO (Professional Employer Organization): We are on target to complete the transition, including the migration of data and to “go live” on Aug. 1, 2023.

Resident Phonebook: Scheduled to be delivered to the printer NLT Aug. 15 and is targeted to be available in early September.

New Resident Meeting: After a bit of a hiatus due to

COVID the Communications Committee — led by Mary von Ziegesar and Mark Rhatigan — have completed a business presentation for a New Resident Orientation Meeting. Many of your questions will be answered either in the presentation or on-the-spot when raised by you. Please save the date for Thursday, Aug. 17, at 7 p.m.

Blackhawk Country Club: Mark has been informed that this fall the BHCC will be drenching and cleaning up the third hole.

Motion Approved: There was a review and approval of the notification to the unit owners of the proposed revision to House Facilities Rules and Regulations in Article II, Section B. The motion passed 13 - 0. (Secretary was absent.) The Board will vote on the motion during the Sept. 19, 2023, OVCA Board meeting.

The full motion will be published as a Notice to Unit Owners and inserted in the Aug. 1 issue of The Villager. **OV**

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mark Rhatigan

Annual Audit: Good evening, as Bob previously mentioned, our annual audit for both the Association and the Tax District will commence Aug. 14. That week, the front card room will be closed off during the day to allow management to work with the auditors uninterrupted. The initial inventory for all Association and Tax

District assets, equipment and materials was completed on June 30 at the Maintenance shop. We expect to have the complete report on all accounting records and procedural recommendations by Sept. 30.

Risk Management: This morning, Diane Roche, Ryan Hankey, David Hobson and I met with the Risk Consultant Representatives from Philadelphia Insurance. The intent of the meeting was to cover our current risk assessment programs and ongoing initiatives, which includes our current maintenance standards. I am happy to report, based on our discussion, Philadelphia feels OV exceeds the standards. Even though our risk management programs have been long in place, our consistency in creating thorough loss prevention measures and awareness, places the Village above the rest.

Now, to add to that, Philadelphia is currently partnered with a third-party monitoring service for temperature and water leak devices. Oronoque Village will now become part of that program and those services. The devices are designed to detect temperature fluctuations and water leaks, ensuring early detection and prompt response to potential risks or losses. The devices and monitoring services will be offered free of charge.

While this is very preliminary, our plan is to tie all the monitoring devices in one single account that will have a main point of contact – the emergency after-hours answering service – which would then contact management. The residents would then be contacted and alerted of any significant temperature changes or water is found present in the location of the device and a staff member would be dispatched if necessary.

Philadelphia would like to begin a rollout with 80 to 100 units. The devices would then be installed and activated by the Maintenance Department. Once I have more information and definitive specifications, I will disseminate an installation plan to the community.

Continued on page 18

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING E-BIKES & E-SCOOTERS

Please review the National Fire and Protection Association’s safety information regarding e-bikes and e-scooters on the following page. A significant number of Villagers use e-bikes and e-scooters. It is imperative that these residents recognize that e-bike and e-scooter battery fires have been associated with faulty charging equipment, improper charging practices and overloaded electrical circuits.

Concerns about e-bike/e-scooter safety were reviewed by the Maintenance Committee and will be discussed during the Aug. 15, 2023 OVCA Board meeting.

E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety

The popularity of electric bikes and electric scooters (e-bikes and e-scooters) has taken off over the past few years. Lithium-ion batteries are usually the source of power for both, and if not used correctly, or if damaged, those batteries can catch on fire or explode. Whether you use e-bikes or e-scooters as your main way of getting around, or just for fun, there are important safety tips to keep in mind when charging or storing these devices.

The Problem

- Damaged or defective batteries can overheat, catch fire, or explode.
- Lithium-ion battery fires give off toxic gases and they burn extremely hot.

Safety Tips

- Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.
- Always follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- Only use the battery and the charger that were designed for, and came with, the device.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Only charge one device or device battery at a time to prevent overloading the circuit.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Do not store batteries in direct sunlight or inside hot vehicles, and keep them away from children and liquids.

- Store e-bikes, e-scooters, and batteries away from exit doors and anything that can get hot or catch fire.
- Only have device repairs performed by a qualified professional.
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take the batteries to a battery recycling location or contact your local waste department for disposal instructions.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the e-bike or e-scooter if you notice any of these problems with the battery: unusual odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, smoking, or not keeping a charge.



If you see a fire ...



Leave the building immediately.



Don't try to fight the fire.



Call 911.

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Photos provided by Peter Feick

RECAP OF JULY 11 TOWN HALL MEETING AT THE NORTH CLUBHOUSE

On Tuesday, July 11, Oronoque Village welcomed Stratford Mayor Laura Hoydick and additional Town officials, including Chief of Staff Sarah Matthews, Chief Administrative Officer Chris Tymniak, Tax Assessor Donna Calicchio, Fire Marshal Rob Engel, Director of Economic Development Mary Dean, Chief of Police Joseph McNeil and Deputy Fire Chief James Buck. More than 100 residents were in attendance.

The panel discussed a wide range of topics, including the Town budget, the status of Sikorsky, plans for Shakespeare Park, the building of Parkway Plaza on Route 110 and planned improvements for the downtown area.

During the meeting Police Chief McNeil noted that lighted, four-way stop signs have been approved to be placed at the corners of Oronoque Lane and

North and South Trails. Installation is slated to occur in the near future.

Residents were able to submit questions in advance as well as ask questions directly to the officials. Topics covered included security and safety concerns as well as traffic issues on Route 110 and upgrades to buildings at Booth Memorial Park.

After a brief intermission, Myrna Mills Albino and Executive Director Mark Rhatigan presented a Strategic Planning Update. The goal is to develop a more meaningful sense of community that enhances the lives of residents and encourages resident participation in the development of the plan.

Residents are encouraged to get involved with the strategic planning efforts. Volunteer forms are available for pickup in the North Clubhouse.





Funseekers Board members

FUNSEEKERS' CONCERT & DINNER STARRING MARIEANN MERINGOLO

Story by Mary von Ziegesar

The Funseekers group of volunteers has, again, brought us a Broadway-worthy concert with a July 15 performance by Marieann Meringolo, a singer and recording artist whose original song -- "I Am Blessed" -- earned her a "Grammy List Consideration." About 125 residents and guests, who were in attendance at the South Clubhouse, also were blessed.

Meringolo, with her musical director and pianist Doyle Newmyer, sometimes singing with her, performed a variety of songs that tugged at the hearts of many of us. Her medleys included works by Dionne Warwick, Barbara Streisand and Billy Joel, among others. Her voice beautifully resonated with such hits as "Over the Rainbow," "The Way We Were," "Don't Rain on My Parade" and a specially adapted

"Alfie." The appreciative audience, some with wet eyes, rose several times with enthusiastic rounds of applause.

A delicious buffet dinner featuring steak, chicken, pasta, potatoes, green beans and a garden salad was provided by David Grant Catering. The desserts were each decadent, especially a very chocolatey chocolate cake.

For her last song, Meringolo treated us to "I Am Blessed," leaving many of us feeling as if we were the ones blessed to have enjoyed a special Funseekers evening here in Oronoque.

A hearty cheer goes to the Funseekers Board members Lucy Clifford, Cheryl Dwyer, Sabine Curry, Letitia Laberee, Lynn Collins, Linda Eastwood, Barbara Anton, Arline Walton, Marie Orlowe and Ann Gallo, along with residents Joanne Mahoney and Kathy Wells and Christian Davin, building attendant. OV

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ACTIVITIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent via email, to Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on Aug. 15, is Aug. 2 at noon.*

BOCCE

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

DOLLCRAFTERS

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

CURRENT EVENTS

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

DROP-IN BRIDGE

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

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.

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

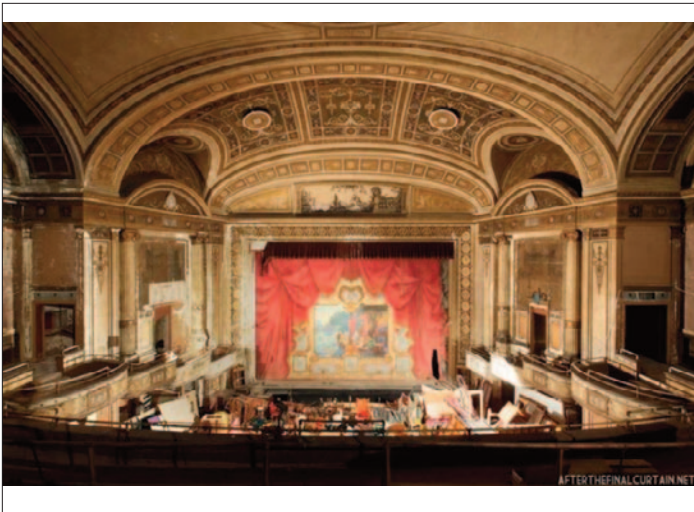
- Tea, Talk, and Crafts meets at 1 p.m. on Thursdays next to the kitchen at SCB. Annual dues are \$10. Questions? Call Irene Sanzone at 203-378-2010. Vaccinated members only. Please show proof.

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@optonline.net or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.

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'POLI'S PALACE / MAJESTIC THEATRES MEMORIES PROJECT' TO BE ADDRESSED DURING OVAG MEETING

By Barbara Stewart

On Thursday, Sept. 14, the OV Arts Guild will hold its annual meeting, marking OVAG's ninth year. The event takes place at 7 p.m. at the North Clubhouse.

The evening's presentation will be a very interesting talk and video on a cultural heritage project: "Poli's Palace and Majestic Theatres Memories Project."

The creators of this project are Jay Misencik and Geraldene Valentine, who were given access to these now-boarded-up theaters in Bridgeport. They will relive the days when the theaters were in full swing, and also show the buildings as they are today. Some of the original photography from this project will be exhibited for attendees to enjoy.

Jay and Geraldene created a beautiful coffee-table book about this project in which they remind us that theater was the center of community life during the years before radio, television and the Internet provided in-home entertainment. Theaters were truly democratic places that cut across all social, ethnic and economic classes and were gathering places for everyone to enjoy.

Bridgeport, in its heyday, was a hotbed of theater activity. Between 1870 and 1928 there were many venues presenting a wide range of entertainment from legitimate theater to vaudeville, minstrels, burlesque, operetta and, the newest turn-of-the-century attraction, moving pictures. Take a step back in time with Jay and Geraldene and enjoy this creative project, which preserves the history of two important theater in our area.

Everyone is welcome at Arts Guild events. Members attend free of charge, guests pay \$8 at the door. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.



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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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:15 a.m. – Hadassah Board Meeting, NCB (C)
- 4:00 p.m. – District 9 Board Meeting, NCB (C)
- 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, AUGUST 3

- 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
- 5:00 p.m. – District 7 and District 10 meeting, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

- 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, AUGUST 5

- 1:00 p.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

- 9:00 a.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **11:00 a.m. – Communications Committee, NCB**
- 1:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Board Meeting, NCB, B/R (C)
- **6:00 p.m. – SAC Meeting, NCB**
- 6:00 p.m. – BRAVO Rehearsal, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers Board Meeting, SCB (C)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. – Funseekers Event, SCB

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

- 9:00 a.m. – AARP Safe Driving Class, SCB
- 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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. – Tennis Club Round Robin, RSF (C)
- 6:00 p.m. – Tennis Club Event, NCB (C)
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
-

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *Spoiler Alert*, NCB



ORONOQUE VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.
600 North Trail
Stratford, CT 06614
Phone: 203-377-5313
Fax: 203-380-6156
Office@oronoquevillage.com

NOTICE TO UNIT OWNERS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Oronoque Village Condominium Association, Inc. intends to amend the Rules of the Association by adopting the House Committee proposals below.

The Board will act on this proposed amendment to the Rules after considering comments from Unit Owners at its next meeting which will be held on August 15, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the North Clubhouse.

Unit Owners may comment on the proposed amendments at the meeting or may submit comments on the proposed amendment for consideration by the Board by sending comments by mail to Christine Smith, OVCA, 600 North Trail, Stratford, CT 06614 or emailing csmith@oronoquevillage.com

Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 14 to be considered by the Board prior to its vote.

New Rule: Article II, Section B:

Rationale: To formalize use of clubhouses for funeral events. To give special consideration for residents who pass away without over utilization of the clubhouses during prime weekday times when the clubhouses are heavily used and there are no attendants available.

20. If a current resident passes away, the executor/family will have the ability to book the post-funeral gathering at a clubhouse if it is available. If the reception is on the same day as the funeral, the reception may be booked for that specific day. If the reception is not held on the same day as the funeral, it must be held on a Saturday or Sunday only as are all private events. A security deposit will be held. However, in honor of the resident, no per person fee will be charged.

Funeral receptions for deceased nonresident family members of current residents may be held on Saturday or Sunday only. All charges for private parties apply.

Revised Rule:

Replacement of Article II, Section B: Rule #4:

Note: These changes will expand the number of dates available for Oronoque events and allow district meetings to occur simultaneously in both clubhouses:

No two Oronoque Events, (one at each clubhouse), may be scheduled in the lounge/ballroom of both clubhouses at the same time on the same date. **(NO CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS RULE)**

No resident private party may be scheduled in the lounge/ballroom in the second clubhouse at the same time on the same date as an Oronoque event is scheduled in the other clubhouse
(NO CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS RULE)

No two private parties may be scheduled in the lounge/ballroom in both clubhouses at the same time on the same date and if an Oronoque event is scheduled in one clubhouse, a private party may NOT be scheduled in the other lounge/ballroom. **(NO CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS RULE)**

However, if there is a private party in one clubhouse, Oronoque events MAY be scheduled at the second clubhouse at the same time on the same date. ***Rationale: this will expand calendar date openings for Oronoque events. There is increasing OV use and we need additional dates to become available for OV events. There will still be some occasions when the clubhouses can be used for general use of the residents.***

Oronoque events and district meetings may NOT be scheduled at the same time/date in different clubhouses. **(NO CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS RULE)** However, two district meetings MAY be scheduled at the same time/date in different clubhouses. ***Rationale: to provide more calendar opportunities for district meetings especially after annual OVCA meeting when all districts must meet within 2 weeks.***

It is understood that organizations/clubs that have a regularly scheduled date/time for their events each month (example: Bingo, third Thursday of the month; Funseekers Club, second Tuesday of each month; Karaoke, fourth Friday of each month; etc.), will be given priority for those dates/times. ***Rationale: this has been the practice for many years; it is now formalized***

Additional sentence to Rule #6:

Annually, during the fall, the House Committee will facilitate a meeting for all clubs and organizations that book events on the calendar. The purpose of this meeting will be to collaborate to find acceptable calendar dates for events. One representative from each organization is asked to attend the meeting with proposed event dates for the next calendar year. The decisions made at that meeting will be used as a starting point for scheduling on November 1st by the office staff. ***Rationale: to provide an opportunity for all OV groups to work collaboratively to schedule dates for the calendar year without having everyone rushing in on Nov. 1st in competition with each other.***



SAVE THE DATE FOR SAC'S DOG IN COSTUME PARADE ON SEPT. 23 BENEFITING STRATFORD ANIMAL RESCUE SOCIETY

On Saturday, Sept. 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the South Clubhouse front parking lot, SAC will present a "Dog in Costume Parade," benefiting the Stratford Animal Rescue Society. (Rain date is Sept. 24.)

A minimum donation of \$10 is required to participate in the parade. (Additional donations will be graciously accepted.)

Members of the community — and their families — are encouraged to attend the event and join in the fun. (Your voices will count in the "Best in Show" contest, which will be selected by popular vote!)

STARS pets available for adoption, a dog training specialist and veterinary experts also will be on-site.

(Only 1 dog per handler allowed. All dogs must be leashed. Dogs must be vaccinated & licensed. No puppies under 4 months of age. Additional rules will apply.) Please see the Aug. 15 & Sept. 1 Villagers for more details and a sign-up sheet.

Questions? Call or text George Zmary at 203-913-7312 or Pam Schwanke at 203-856-4194.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13: No events scheduled

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

NCB Card Room is Unavailable

- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **3:30 p.m. – By-Laws Committee, SCB**
- **4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee, NCB**
- 6:00 p.m. – BRAVO Rehearsal, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

NCB Card Room is Unavailable

- 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
- **7:00 p.m. – OVCA Board Meeting, 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

ALL FIRED UP AND READY TO SHOW ...

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ORONOQUE SCULPTURE CLASS SHOW

Story & photos by Maddy Lapides

On Saturday, July 8, if you happened to visit the South Clubhouse, you would have entered a world brimming with talent and imagination.

The Oronoque Sculpture Class, taught by resident sculptor Wendy Swain, held its fourth annual show during which 70-plus pieces of work were on display.

Where else could you encounter in one room: Winnie the Pooh, a school of dolphins, a bear feeding a fish to its cub, a headless woman in a flowing gown, a parade of ducklings, the head of Medusa, an island beach vendor balancing a huge basket on her head and a young girl with generous curls reading her favorite book to her cat.

The room was filled with community spirit as residents

stopped by the display tables and talked with each of the 10 students (artists!) about their work and what inspires them. At noon, Eileen Weaver, one of the students, demonstrated a newly learned sculpting technique using a mixture of resin and clay. Eileen showed the audience how to mix the compounds, explained the process and different tools, then sculpted a bowl using this fast drying, no fire method.

Not only was the demonstration fascinating and informative, but the bowl she made with its curves and folds, dusted with blue, green and gold leaf powders, was breathtaking ... it looked like the ocean with the movement of waves glistening in the sun.

It was a great show. Wendy and her students are all fired up for next year!

OV



Exhibiting artists at the July 8 sculpture show included, left, John Maher (pictured with his wife, Joanne) and right, Eileen Weaver.

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FIND IT ON ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM

Looking for a Club or Group to join? Click on the navigation tab ORGANIZATIONS and you will find a list, from A to Z, of our varied organizations. Click again for more information. If your club or group information needs updating, please contact Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com or 203-377-5313, extension 3.

WEBSITE INSIGHTS

Looking for the telephone number of Optimum/Altice or how to reach Southern Connecticut Gas or United Illuminating, or a Town of Stratford office, or the Stratford Police non-emergency number?

Open our oronoquevillage.com residents-only site, click on the navigation tab DIRECTORY and scroll down to HELPFUL CONTACTS.



OVTV Program Schedule (As of July 24)

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

7:30 – 10 a.m. - Public Notices
10 a.m. - Tribute to Classic Cars
11 a.m. - Donna Martire Lecture on "The Science of Happiness"
12:30 p.m. - Beginning Mindfulness
2 p.m. - The Best of '50s & '60s Rock 'n' Roll
4 p.m. - Karaoke Recaps from Chris Albino
5 p.m. - Interview with Amor Towles, Book Club Author for August
6 p.m. - Beginning Tai Chi
7 p.m. - Pickleball Tips
8 p.m. - "An Evening with Frank Mastrone and Friends - Highlights from the OV 50th Anniversary Gala"
9 p.m. - Beginning Mindfulness
10 p.m. - House Concert by Dina & Bob
11 p.m. - Donna Martire Lecture on "The Science of Happiness"
12 a.m. - Tribute to Classic Cars
1:30 a.m. - Interview with Amor Towles, Book Club Author for August
2:30 a.m. - "An evening with Frank Mastrone and Friends - Highlights from the OV 50th Anniversary Gala"
3 a.m. - Karaoke Recaps from Chris Albino
4 -7:30 a.m. - Relaxing Music



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Blackhawk Country Club: We recently met with Blackhawk's owner and management to discuss various operational improvements and the open-ended drainage and flooding concerns — specifically along Freeman Brook, in the vicinity of Algonquin Lane. Years of uncontrolled erosion has affected the stream banks and the third hole pond.

Blackhawk was already aware of situation and reports that quotes for equipment and maintenance plans are currently in the works. The next step is to schedule a meeting with Town officials, Blackhawk and OV management to discuss the engineering study and create a definitive remediation plan. We hope to get all three parties together in the coming weeks.

Blackhawk also shared some groundbreaking news: to not only combat the staffing shortage, but to also become the first fully autonomous mowing golf course in America.

Blackhawk has contracted for 35 EPOS Husqvarna Robotic mowers. It was explained the autonomous capabilities will not only help reduce their carbon footprint and eliminate noise pollution, but also qualify the golf course for the Audubon Certification by being an environmentally sound operation.

However, the devices will require various charging stations that will encompass a singular solar panel with one to two docking stations that will be located behind the t-boxes. We were told only two to three charging stations may be visible by Oronoque residents, but those exact locations have not been finalized.

A more in-depth layout will be given to management come mid- to late-August when reps from Husqvarna are on-site for the initial roll-out, which is expected to take 18

months to complete. I should have more details on the project at the August Board meeting.

Reserve/Roof Study: Next week we have the kick-off project meeting with Becht Engineering – which is tasked to complete an updated reserve study and provide a more in-depth analysis of our current roof conditions, reserve funding plan and the current roof replacement practices. We hope to have both completed and data collected by the annual meeting this upcoming September. The Maintenance Department will contact all units that may require roof or attic access during the inspection process.

AED for RSF: Not to take away from the Racquet Sports report, but I would just like to mention the AED (automated external defibrillator) has finally arrived and has been installed in the bleacher area along with AED notices in various areas of the facility. We will post an in-depth “how to use” video on Channel 591 so residents can learn how to manipulate the device in case of a cardiac emergency. The devices in both clubhouses are the same with voice activated instructions.

Strategic Management Teams: Lastly as a reminder, we are still taking requests for residents who wish to be a part of the strategic planning initiative.

As of today, we have 16 individuals who have signed up for one or more strategic priority areas. In the coming weeks, anyone interested in contributing will be contacted for our first workshop and discussion.

There are sign-up sheets in the Business Office and North Clubhouse foyer. Hopefully, we can gain a few more volunteers before our next meeting.

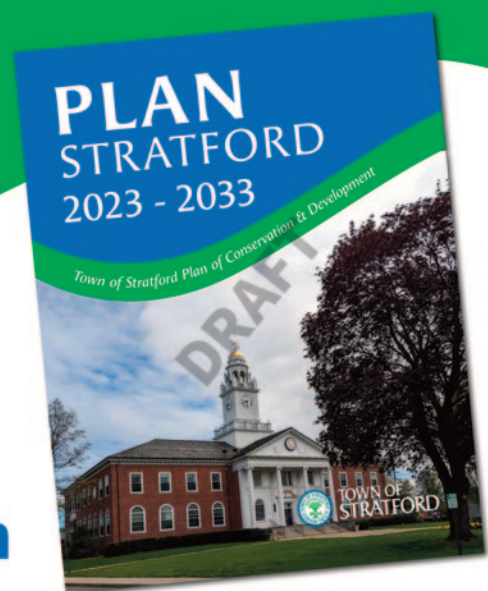
Thank you.

OV

The 2023 - 2033 Stratford
Plan of Conservation &
Development is available
for public review!

View it online at:

www.PlanStratford.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAPER BAGS ARE REQUIRED FOR MONDAY YARD WASTE PICKUP

Please be mindful that yard debris -- placed for Monday morning pickup -- must be in paper yard bags. (The current collection site for OV yard waste refuses to accept any nonbiodegradable material in its dumpsters.)

Paper yard bags are available for purchase at multiple retail locations, including Home Depot, Lowe's, Ace Hardware., Stop and Shop, Walmart and Target.

Loose sticks and branches left by the roadside will continue to be picked up as usual.

Reminder: Items for pickup should be placed curbside no earlier than 5 p.m. Sunday evening for Monday morning pickup.

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.

STRATFORD TAX BILL REMINDER

The first installment of tax bills from the Town of Stratford was due July 1. The last day to pay without interest is Aug. 1.

*Online payment options are available at www.stratfordct.gov

There is a Dropbox (located in Town Hall, outside of the Tax Collector's Office) for those paying by check only. Include a copy of each tax bill being paid and place in a sealed envelope.

In-person payments (cash or check) at the Tax Collector's Office, located at 2725 Main Street. The Tax Collector's office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NCB CARD ROOM IS UNAVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 14 TO AUGUST 18

Oronoque Village auditors will be on-site at NCB Aug. 14-18. They will be working in the NCB front Card Room, making the room unavailable to residents.

It is anticipated that the room will be available to residents after 6 p.m.

Nobody knows the Village...



...like another Villager!



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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: KATIE NOVOTNY

By Carol King

During the month of August, OV residents will have the opportunity to see the world that Katie Novotny views through the lens of her camera. For this show she focused on photographs of people, animals, places and things she has photographed recently.

Katie, with her keen eye, has a lifelong passion for taking photographs. A native of Savannah, Ga., she received a journalism degree from the University of Georgia. After graduating, she moved to New York City where she was able to supplement her income as a working photographer. "I was employed as a photojournalist as well hired to take headshots and portraits," she says. "I also did a fair amount of wedding photography."

Additionally, she cultivated her photography skills by continuing her education. "While I was living in Manhattan, I achieved a master's degree in media studies at The New School and took courses at the International Center of Photography," she says.

During the 1970s and 1980s, her work for a real estate company took her around the country. "I photographed investment properties. This was before the Internet existed," she explains. "Views of investment properties were not as accessible as they are today."

During her time in New York (1974-1989), she also took photos for trade magazines, local newspapers, and did niche work in which she took photographs of surgical procedures that were used in publications geared to medical professionals.

Katie admires the photography of Diane Arbus, an American photographer who photographed a wide range of subjects including strippers, carnival performers, nudists, people with dwarfism, children, mothers, couples, elderly people and middle-class families.

Her focus as a photographer is to capture imagery that many people don't have the opportunity to see. "I have an affinity for taking photographs of drag performers ... on stage during their acts or backstage while they prepare for a performance," Katie says, laughing. "My recent passion is to take photos of the shows during the drag brunch at the Standard Hotel in New York." Recently, one of her photographs was on the cover of "A Night at The Sweet Gum Head: Drag, Drugs, Disco and Atlanta's Gay Revolution," published by W.



W. Norton & Company, Inc.

She also enjoys photographing people candidly and capturing their unique qualities. During the 1970s, she photographed residents of Effingham County, Ga., in an isolated, rural community near where she grew up in Savannah. "My dream is to return to area and do a second series that depicts life there now," she says.

Katie is married to Wolfgang Novotny, who has also presented Artist of the Month exhibitions at Oronoque Village. "After we got married in 1981, we lived in New York City until 1989. We then moved to Fairfield, where we raised our three children.

"When my youngest daughter graduated from high school in 2013, we decided to downsize and eventually, in 2016, moved to Oronoque Village," she says. "I like living here. I enjoy the swimming pools and we like the proximity to New York. For certain, I don't miss mowing the lawn on our Fairfield property during the summer or shoveling snow during the winter!"

Katie's current project is digitizing her slide images. "I want to pass these photos on to my family," she says. "I have at least 30,000 digital pictures to sort through." OV

For information on joining the OV Strategic Planning Committee, please visit the Home Page of our website, www.oronoquevillage.com

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SWEET TREATS



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

The book for the Aug. 2 meeting will be *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.

The book for Sept. 4 is *Empire of Pain* by Patrick Radden Keef. A grand, devastating portrait of three generations of the Sackler family, famed for their philanthropy, whose fortune was built by Valium and whose reputation was destroyed by OxyContin.

The history of the Sackler dynasty is rife with drama—baroque personal lives; bitter disputes over estates; fist-fights in boardrooms; glittering art collections; courtroom maneuvers; and the calculated use of money to burnish reputations and crush the less powerful. This book follows the family's early success with Valium to the much more potent OxyContin, marketed with a ruthless technique of co-opting doctors, influencing the FDA, downplaying the drug's addictiveness.

A masterpiece of narrative reporting, *Empire of Pain* is a compelling portrait of America's second Gilded Age, a study of impunity among the super-elite and a relentless investigation of the naked greed that built one of the world's great fortunes.

OV Wine Club: Grape Expectations!

Join us for our "Summer" wine-tasting event. Our sommelier, Michelle DeWyngaert, has returned from a tour of the Loire Valley and is convinced that it's the most underappreciated wine region of France. That said, come join us and your fellow wine-tasting friends as we "appreciate" and taste a wide variety of wines from this region. Sample the crisp mineral whites Nantes and the rich, savory Cabernet Francs of Saumur and many styles in between.



When: Thursday, August 24, 7-9 p.m. at NCB

Cost: \$30 per person. Your check to OV Wine Club is your reservation.

Deposit checks in Wine Club (Grape Expectations) mailbox at NCB no later than Aug. 18.

(No checks before August 2, please.)

Attendance is limited to the first 40 persons responding.



The event will include:

Entrance wine

Expert commentary by Michelle

Tasting 6 wines (3 red & 3 white)

Light fare to accompany the wine tasting

Post wine-tasting cookies by Dorothy Tanski

Questions? Contact Charlie DiGiovanni 203-375-0054 or Dorothy Tanski 203-540-5389

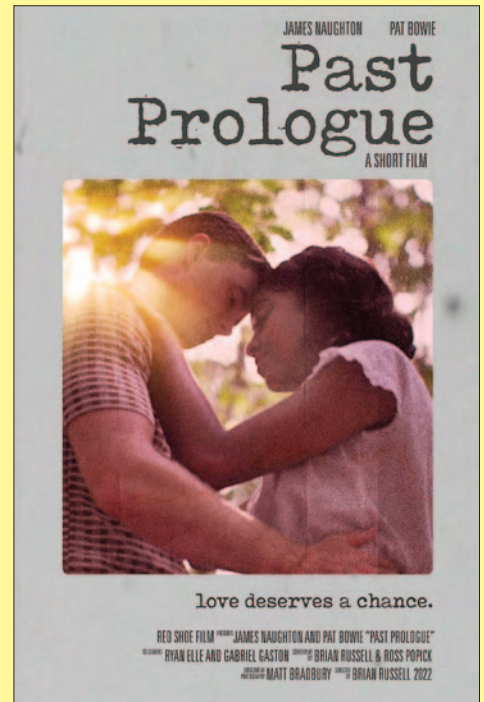
Hadassah invites all Villagers to join us on Wed., Sept 6, at 10:30 a.m. for our open meeting in the South Clubhouse Lobby

A new program "View and Review," will be presented, which is a short 15-minute film, followed by a question- and-answer discussion, along with coffee and cookies.

The film stars James Naughton. The writer and producer will be on-hand to lead us.

Past Prologue : Robert and Claudette have a chance encounter in a coffee shop, their first meeting since they dated over 60 years ago. A re-connection to memory and discovery of feelings long buried, takes them on a journey through their past.

Call Ellie Taylor 203-377-4500 with questions.



The Movie Club Presents
Spoiler Alert
August 11, 7 p.m., NCB
August 16, 2 p.m., SCB

The story of Michael Ausiello and Kit Cowan's relationship, which takes a tragic turn when Cowan is diagnosed with terminal cancer. The story of Michael Ausiello and Kit Cowan's relationship, which takes a tragic turn when Cowan is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Jim Parsons and Sally Field star.

A movie poster for the film "Spoiler Alert" featuring Jim Parsons and Sally Field. The poster shows a man and a woman on a balcony, looking at each other. The title "Spoiler Alert" is written in a large, bold font. The tagline "Love never stops surprising you." is at the bottom. Credits for the film, including the director Brian Russell and other cast members, are listed in small text at the bottom.

\$1 admission includes popcorn -



FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS

COMEDY NIGHT WITH FRANK VIGNOLA



Tuesday, August 8, 2023 7pm
SCB Doors Open at 6:15

Frank Vignola is known amongst his peers as a "comic's comic!" His humor is clean, the laughs are fast paced. Frank has been on Comedy Central, Amazon Prime and Sirius XM. He has performed many times at Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook, Ct. You won't want to miss this evening of laughter!



Advance reservations required and payments will be accepted from July 18th through August 4th unless maximum capacity is reached. Open to resident Funseekers' members and one non-resident guest per single resident through July 26th. Starting on July 27th, if there is space availability, member residents may sign up any amount of non-resident guests. Please put \$5.00 check per person into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB (\$9.00 non-resident guest).

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

Questions? Call Lynn Collins 203-260-4644

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BYOB AND MUNCHIES!



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

Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on August 25 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!

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

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