

December 1, 2023



# THE VILLAGER





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Thank you to Elaine Ficarra for submitting the cover photo. Elaine notes, "The Japanese maple tree on the corner of North Trail and Pequot Lane is a showy specimen that arcs over the street swathed in paprika-hued foliage just as the season turns cold in November." 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](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com).



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT

November 21, 2023



Bob Grosso

Good evening, everyone. On behalf of the entire OVCA Board, I would like to recognize all veterans and thank them for their service to our country. I also wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving and I hope you will be surrounded by the warmth and love of family and friends. We all have so much to be thankful for in our lives and, in the spirit of the

season, let's offer kindness, respect and caring for others every day!

**Communications Committee Updates:** Dianne Binford took on a major project: the updating, coordination and validating of our online directory of residents' contact information and then did a spectacular job with the printed phone book. We cannot thank you enough. Dianne has decided to step away from the Communications Committee, for now, and has informed us that we could approach her for support on special projects in the future.

I would also like to thank Bruce Pollock, who has also stepped down — but not away — from the Communications Committee. Bruce will continue to sit on the subcommittee working on OTV. We appreciate your efforts and your contributions, Bruce.

## OV CARD/GAME PLAYERS MAY NOW BOOK CLUBHOUSE SPACE FOR 2024

Dear Residents:

Beginning Dec. 1, card and game players may reserve space in a clubhouse for specified days and times for 2024.

Games having 12 or more players may reserve a room; games with fewer than 12 players may reserve tables, not a room. Lounges cannot be reserved for games but may be used when no other activity is scheduled. The library may be used for card playing only if there is no other space available.

Please check the OV online calendar (at [www.oronovillage.com](http://www.oronovillage.com)) to make sure that the times/locations are available before filling out a request.

Activity Request forms are available in the Business Office. All requests must be made in writing by filling out the Activity Request Form and returning it to the Business Office.

Thank you.  
*The House Committee*

Moving forward, I am pleased to announce that Chris Orrell will be joining the Communication Committee. Recently retired from McGraw-Hill Publishing after 37-plus years holding a wide range of managing positions, he will bring his experience, passion and energy to the committee. Chris is the founder and director of the Oronoque Village International and Independent Film Festival that is celebrating its third season this January. In addition, he is a charter member of OV Neighbor2Neighbor (N2N), a service organization that assists Village residents with basic tasks and connects residents to build a stronger community.

**The Clubhouses Tax Appeal Phase I Summons:** Our complaint was delivered to the Town of Stratford August 2023 and was responded to by the Town September 2023, with a request to revise. Our attorneys, Murtha-Cullina, prepared a response that was delivered in October. Earlier this month the Court issued an order in which it sustained our objection to the Town's Request to Revise. In short, this means that we are not required to revise our complaint at this point, which is a good result. That said, the Town now will have to either file an answer or a Motion to Dismiss/Motion to Strike. The Town will have to file something no later than 30 days from the date of the Order, which means its deadline is Dec. 6.

The Strategic Planning Initiative is off and running. There are nine strategic priority teams that are meeting over the next couple of months with the deliverable being a white paper documenting research, analysis and objectives culminating in a proposed plan of action delivered to the SMT by the end of January 2024.

**The Community Contribution Fee (CCF) Update:** The decision to delay the deadline for the unit owner vote on the Declaration Amendment was done in response to feedback from numerous unit owners who did not want to vote until they understood the results of the Becht Engineering Reserve Study. We assured those who felt they could not make an informed vote without that data that they would have it because we expected the study and analysis would be completed by mid-October. That is what determined the original Nov. 8 date.

Unfortunately, the engineering firm preparing the study was unable to meet its schedule commitment due to a personal hardship impacting a key individual on this project. The revised delivery date was projected to be no later than mid-November. We received a draft of the study on Nov. 7. Mark, Ryan and Diane have reviewed and are getting clarifications on a variety of points from the engineering firm. The final summary of the report will be available during a presentation to unit owners on Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. at NCB.

**Flooding Issue Update:** Mark and Ryan have been working with our surveyor, soil engineer and BCC, who co-signed an application that was submitted and presented at

## STERLING HOUSE TOY DRIVE UNDERWAY



Oronoque Village residents are invited to support the Sterling House Community Center 2023 Toy Drive. The drive is on behalf of families in the low- to moderate-income bracket.

A collection box is located in the front foyer of the North Clubhouse. Toys will be collected through Dec. 14 at 5 p.m.

Gift cards and monetary donations are welcome. The most requested toy items are as follows:

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Arts & Crafts Kits  | Baseball mitts           |
| Jewelry-Making Kits | Barbie dolls             |
| Lego sets           | Barbie accessories       |
| Paw Patrol toys     | Picasso Tiles            |
| Blippi toys         | Magna Tiles              |
| Basketballs         | Superhero Action Figures |
| Footballs           | Remote Control Cars      |
| Baseballs           |                          |

For information on adopting a family, call Emily Shufrin at 203-378-2606, ext. 107, or email [eshufrin@sterlinghousecc.org](mailto:eshufrin@sterlinghousecc.org)

the Nov. 15 Town of Stratford Inland Wetlands meeting. The next step is to receive a formal Inland Wetlands approval prior to securing contractor estimates. Our proposed plan of implementation includes staff participation and budget approval. The plan of execution will more than likely straddle the 2023-24 and the 2024-25 budgets.

**Maintenance Department:** The staff recently launched one of their most challenging annual tasks: leaf removal. They have entered our neighborhoods in teams armed with various pieces of equipment operating as a methodical well-oiled machine removing leaves and cleaning our neighborhoods. This is a very tedious grueling task that is important because it also helps reduce the risk of wet slippery leaves.

**Employee Appreciation Fund:** Throughout the year, residents are neither permitted to tip employees nor are employees permitted to accept gratuities. The primary reason is that not all employees have direct access to residents and the opportunity to be individually recognized, yet each em-

ployee performs his or her respective role contributing to the overall success of Oronoque Village.

To honor the employees' hard work and dedication throughout the year and in the spirit of the holiday season, let's show our employees our sincere appreciation and gratitude by significantly increasing resident participation. Please consider a contribution in appreciation of our employees during this holiday season and submit your contribution to the Business Office by Dec. 15. Checks should be made out to The Employee Appreciation Fund.

**Holiday Wishes:** As 2023 winds down, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the OVCA and OVTD Boards, and all of the committee members from both boards, and all of the volunteers and residents who have contributed to make OV the "community" that it is today. We are grateful to our dedicated and loyal staff for all their efforts throughout the year. I wish you a safe, joyous, loving, and festive holiday season. I pray that the New Year will bring a more peaceful world, blessings, and prosperity to all.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NOTICE: CHANGE OF DISTRIBUTION FOR JAN.15 & FEB. 15 VILLAGERS

During the October OVCA Board Meeting, a motion was passed to allow a pilot program/test of The Villager's printing frequency. The test will occur for the Jan. 15, 2024, and the Feb. 15, 2024, issues.

These issues will not be printed in the usual quantity, nor will they be distributed in the Black Boxes.

For those Villagers who want a printed copy, the Business Office will have printed copies available. The issues will be posted on [oronoquevillage.com](http://oronoquevillage.com), as usual. They may be accessed at: [www.oronoquevillage.com/communications/villager/Villager issues](http://www.oronoquevillage.com/communications/villager/Villager%20issues).

If you need help with delivery, please call N2N for assistance: 203-479-0107, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.- 4. p.m.

## OVTV IS TEMPORARILY DISABLED

OVTV (Channel 591 with a cable box and Channel 121-591 without a cable box) is temporarily unavailable for viewing.

## LWV POST-ELECTION WRAP UP & HOLIDAY PARTY

The League of Women Voters (LWV) Oronoque Study Group will be joined by members of the LWV Bridgeport area for a combined post-election wrap up/holiday celebration. The event, which is open to LWV members and prospective members, takes place on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the front card room of the South Clubhouse. A light lunch will be served.

LWV is a nonpartisan organization (of women and men) that encourages informed and active participation in government. Questions? Contact Marge Heffel, Oronoque resident and treasurer, LWV of Connecticut, at 203-913-5695 or [mcheffel@gmail.com](mailto:mcheffel@gmail.com).

## CALL FOR ART: JANUARY 3, 2024



The OV Arts Guild will install a new Galerie OV show at SCB on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 10 to 11 a.m. This show, titled "Artist's Choice," features photography, fiber art and crafts, such as pottery or other three-dimensional works, which will be displayed on pedestals. Paintings, drawings or sculptures will not be accepted. Bring one to

three pieces for this show.

All hanging art must be securely wired across the back to

## SAVE THE DATES:

### GOOD TIMES' NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Join Good Times Club for its celebration of the new year, 2024, at NCB on Saturday, Jan. 13, at NCB. Entertainment will be provided by Lisa Aranci, who is a vocalist and the DJ for the night. Lasses's will provide appetizers followed by a scrumptious dinner and dessert. More information will follow in the next Villager.

**Upcoming Bus Trips:** May 14, Neil Diamond at Aqua Turf and Aug. 21, Beach Boys at Aqua Turf.

A Sock Hop is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 12. Questions? Please contact: Mary Ann Weaver at 203-530-9962.

### OV FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS IN JANUARY

Tickets for the OV Film Festival go on sale Jan. 6 at 9 a.m. at NCB. The festival will consist of six films being shown at 3 p.m. at SCB on the following dates: Jan. 21 and 28, Feb. 4 and 25, March 3 and 10. The cost is \$35 for OV Arts Guild members and \$40 for all others. Only 40 passes will be available. Complete details were published in the Nov. 15 Villager. Additional information will be included in the Dec. 15 and Jan. 3 issues.

hang on our system (no alligator hooks, loops, etc.). Entries must be your own original art.

Each submission requires two informational forms: one on the art (back of hanging art) and one to provide to the committee. An artist waiver also is required. To obtain forms in advance, contact Barbara Stewart at [barbsmt@yahoo.com](mailto:barbsmt@yahoo.com) or 203-612-1373. The opening reception for this show is Sunday, Jan. 14, at 4 p.m. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served after the artists' presentations.

## SKETCHING/JOURNALING CLASS

A six-week artist sketching and journaling class, led by Kathy Toombs, will meet at the SCB art room from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 9. There is no cost to attend.

Materials needed are an 8- by 10-inch multimedia sketchbook and sketching materials, such as pencils, pens, markers, pastel oil based water crayons, watercolors etc. Please no oil, acrylic paints or soft pastels (no mess). There will be a short lesson. Please bring your own references.

Limited to 15. RSVP by Dec. 20. Email your name, phone number and address to [KathyT1014@aol.com](mailto:KathyT1014@aol.com).

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## PICKLEBALL CLUB'S SECOND ANNUAL FRIENDSGIVING DINNER

Story by Karen Hahn ~ Photo by Gery Cuccaro

On Friday, Oct. 20, the Pickleball Club held its second annual Friendsgiving Dinner at the North Clubhouse. Started in Oronoque Village last year by Regina Archazki and Joanne Sutphen, this event is a popular way to bring our club members together at Thanksgiving time. A little history ... this event started about 2007 and became popularized from the TV show "Friends."

After an array of hors d'oeuvres, presented by volunteer club members, a traditional dinner of turkey and all the trimmings, catered by 123 Pronto, was enjoyed by almost 100 residents. Liz Kedan and a host of volunteers worked hard to provide a perfect social event. Dina Glantz and Bob Ruff, once again, graciously provided a great playlist for listening and dancing

Bill Tanski, president of OV Pickleball Club, took the occasion to thank Liz for her work on the board as vice president/social as she leaves the board. She and her crew of helpers had a busy year with all the special events that were held.



Tom Courtney, Joan Burke and John Moore at the Pickleball Club's Friendsgiving Dinner.

**Club news:** The annual election of board members was held on Nov. 2 at the North Clubhouse. Elected by acclamation were Bill Tanski, president; Gery Cuccaro, vice president; Ray Compagna, treasurer; Karen Hahn, secretary; and, Maddy Lapides, director of membership.

Following the election and meeting, there was a social time with refreshments, including delicious cookies graciously baked by Dorothy Tanski. She always shrugs off the thanks because she loves to bake. However, we all love to look at and eat her creations!



## CHERYL COMEN NAMED PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER


Story by Amanda Cody ~ Photo by Arline Walton



The winner of the Arts Guild Summer show, "Winter in July," was Cheryl Comen. Cheryl is a talented visual artist who is comfortable working in a variety of media, including watercolors, ink and several different types of textiles.

Her watercolor — "Central Park, NYC" — won the popular vote. The painting depicts the peacefulness of Central Park on a winter's day with golden sunlight

shimmering on the snow cover. "This is one of my most favorite paintings," said Cheryl.

"I was happy with the execution of the bridge and the way the softness of the snow merged at the end of the bridge. I had never done anything like it before and I don't know whether I could do it again." 

## REMINDER TO DOG OWNERS: PETS MUST BE LEASHED

The Business Office has received multiple complaints about dogs running loose on OV grounds. Please keep in mind the following mandates per the OV Handbook of Rules & Regulations:

- Pets must be leashed when outside.
- Pets may not be left unattended when outside.
- Pet owners must maintain control of their pets.
- Pets are not permitted to cause an ongoing disturbance.
- Pet owners must not permit dogs to walk on plants and should be mindful of other residents' privacy when walking near units.
- Pet waste must be picked up.

The complete Handbook of Rules & Regulations can be found on the OV website, [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com), under the Documents & Forms heading.



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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](mailto: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 Dec. 15, is Dec. 3 at noon.*

## CORNHOLE

- Cornhole is played on Thursdays, 10 a.m., at SCB.

## 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).

## LINE DANCING

- Line Dance classes are held on Wednesdays at the NCB weekly. Beginner classes start at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all levels at 10 a.m. There is no charge. Call Sonya DeBiase at 203-377-1515 for information.

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## 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.

## POOL SOCIAL GROUP

- Anyone who enjoys socializing in and around the pools during the summer is invited to attend a get-together from 4-6 p.m. at SCB on the first Wednesday of each month while the pools are closed. Come with your favorite appetizer and/or beverage (or nothing) for reunions and conversations. Call Sonya at 203-377-1515 for more information.

## QUILTING GROUP

- Village quilters meet at the NCB Card Room on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

## 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 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](mailto:dinabob7@comcast.net) / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapid: [mslapid@gmail.com](mailto: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 sharing their work in a trusted environment. Members commit to twice-monthly workshops held on alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the SCB Card Room. Members include published authors and hobbyists. Works include essays, memoirs, poems, short stories, humorous tales, heart-wrenching histories. Contact Mary von Ziegesar at [MvonZ@optonline.net](mailto:MvonZ@optonline.net) or call 203-767-9760 with questions.

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## ARTIST OF THE MONTH: CAROLE SANETTI

Carole Sanetti's skill at oil painting came to her as a serendipitous surprise.

"About 9 years ago, just for fun, I attended a 'Paint & Sip' event at the Center for the West in Cody, Wyo.," she explains. "The participants were asked to paint a buffalo and, at the end of the session, I realized that my painting was really good. When my husband, who was on the board of the museum, came to get me, he said, 'Holy mackerel! Did you know you could do that?'"

She didn't. "The last time I painted was in junior high, so this was a complete surprise to both of us!" she says.

Since then, Carole has painted voraciously. She began taking classes online and painting pictures of family keepsakes. "It's taken a while, but I'm finally getting good enough to hang my work in my own place!" Carole has been juried into a Connecticut Women Artists Show and a few Center for the Arts Shows in New Hampshire.

Recently, Carole ventured into painting small-size "kitchen" artwork, featuring renderings of fruits and vegetables. As a resident of New Hampshire (where the Sanettis own a second home), she was able to place her works in a local gift shop. In just a few weeks, her works garnered interest and sales. Also, she has been commissioned to paint pet portraits.

Another fortuitous coincidence for Carole is that she and her husband, Steve, who met in Virginia, are both natives of Long Island. "I grew up in Sayville, which is on the south shore of Suffolk County, and he was raised in Hicksville. We both went away to college at 18, and never looked back!"

The couple met while Steve was a third-year student at Washington & Lee University School of Law in Lexington. "I had already finished grad school and was working at a local junior college nearby as a guidance counselor," says Carole. "We met when we both signed-up to participate in a mock trial event."

Once together, the couple married and traveled from Virginia to Fort Hood, Texas, and, eventually, they moved to Main Street in Stratford where they resided for 35 years and raised a family.

"We lived next door to our very dear friends, John and Mary Maco, who later moved to OV," says Carole.



While raising two kids, Carole went back to school, earning another master's degree in early childhood education and taught at Grace Lutheran Church Nursery School in Stratford for 15 years. She then moved to the other end of the educational spectrum, and taught child development at Eastern Connecticut State University for about 10 years.

When the Sanettis decided to retire and downsize, they came to Oronoque Village based on the Macos' recommendation. "We arrived here four years ago, the day before the governor shut down the state," Carole says with a wry smile. "During 2020, we moved three times; we went from Main Street to a Thoreau on Narragansett and then to a Peabody on Commanche next to Dave and Sherry Barse, who are wonderful neighbors."

During the pandemic, she spent time focusing on painting. Now that the community has reopened, Carole is enjoying her membership in the OV Arts Guild and has participated in many of the member shows.

Residents are encouraged to visit the North Clubhouse this month and enjoy the showings of Carole's paintings, which are on view in the front and rear hallways.

Her works are simultaneously on view during a month-long exhibit taking place at Frenchie's Coffee Bar, 2420 Main St, Stratford, beginning Dec. 1.

OV

### WANTED: ARTISTS OF THE MONTH

The 2024 Artist of the Month program at NCB is seeking participants. All resident artists who have hanging art can participate. Artists show their work for one month in the front and back hallways. These spaces will accommodate one large piece or two smaller pieces of artwork

Artists can change the work as often as they wish. Se-

lected artists will be the focus of a feature article in The Villager during the month of their exhibit. This is your chance to shine!

The artwork must be wired across the back of the piece in order to hang on our system. All mediums are welcome: drawings, paintings, photography and fiber art, and it must be your own original work. Contact Barbara Stewart at 203-612-1373 or email to barbsmt@yahoo.com.

**BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB NEWS BITES**

**By Carole Guglielmino**

In an effort to encourage more communications with our neighbors at Blackhawk Country Club (BCC), I was asked to be the OV liaison to the restaurant. I recently met with the pro, Alex Bardani, and the restaurant manager, Xavier Corbett. I've posted some of this information on our OV Connections Facebook page. Those who are not members will be able to read the details here.

Below is a summary of discussion points with BCC.

**From the golf side:**

Develop a clinic specific to Oronoque Village. All levels would be welcome and it would be a nice opportunity for beginners to start.

We are looking at dates for a 2024 Oronoque Village golf tournament. This would be on a Monday when the course is normally closed. The event would be open to residents and their guests. We'll need to get an idea of how much interest there is on this as there will be a minimum to reserve a Monday. We would also look to form a committee to run the tournament.

**From the restaurant side:**

The restaurant at BCC is excited to offer catering to OV

residents for meetings, socials events, etc. Coordinators can reach out to Xavier Corbett at [xavier@chabothg.com](mailto:xavier@chabothg.com) or call 475-273-4121.

To receive a 10 percent discount on all your food and drinks, open up an account with the restaurant, which acts as an "easy-pass." To open the account, charge \$250 on a credit card; this will pay for purchases going forward. If you frequent the restaurant often, this would be a good deal as everything is discounted.

Takeout is always available from the restaurant. However, we are discussing possible delivery options. More to come on this.

Starting Dec. 4, the restaurant will be on winter hours: Monday and Tuesday, closed; Wednesday through Friday, 4 p.m.-9 p.m. (with happy hour options available); Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (with brunch available until 2 p.m.).

The restaurant will be closed Jan. 1-21 to make improvements in reducing the noise level in the dining areas. Upcoming events open to the public: Dec. 16 Singles Dance Party. For details, visit [www.ctcontacts.com](http://www.ctcontacts.com) and, on the left-hand column, look for Stratford. **OV**

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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](mailto:csmith@oronoquevillage.com). For the latest on OV news & events, go to [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com).*

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

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1130 a.m. – Library closed for staff meeting
- 4:30 p.m. – It's 5 O'clock Somewhere, NCB

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 11:00 a.m. – Private Party, SCB (C)
- 2:00 p.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 1100 a.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 6:00 pm. – Districts 7, 9 & 10 meeting, Blackhawk CC

- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Card Game-Dobrowsky, SCB

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:30 a.m. – Hadassah Board Meeting, NCB (C)
- 12:30 p.m. – Hadassah Hanukkah Party, NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Pool Social Group, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Districts 3 & 4 holiday party, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Book Club, NCB Library

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – House Committee, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Ladies Mahjongg & Cards, NCB (C)
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Seminar on Aiding Stratford Schools, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Friday Night Billiards, NCB (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *Barbie*, NCB

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9: No events scheduled

### HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT N2N: NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR CLUB?

We are neighbors offering a helping hand to fellow residents who would like assistance with daily tasks and/or would benefit from increased social interaction with fellow Villagers. Would you like a friendly visit just to chat or hang out? Could you benefit from a helping hand in finding services? Would you like a sounding board in solving problems? Could you use help with light shopping and other errands? Call or text us at 203-479-0107, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m, or leave a message.

# THE STRATFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEER TUTORS, MENTORS & CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS



***Please attend an informational session on Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. at the North Clubhouse presented by Stratford Volunteer Corps.***

During the session, Dr. Uyi Osunde (the superintendent of Stratford Public Schools), Dr. David Chess & Mike Suntag (a former educator and co-owner of Breakthrough Education Strategies LLC) will describe how OV residents can make a difference in children's lives by volunteering in public school classrooms.

***Stratford Public Schools have dramatically changed over time, and teachers/students are in need of support***

- Over 71% of Stratford school population identify as minority
- 47% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 26% are chronically absent

***Learn How You Can Help! Please attend the session on Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.***

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

- 4:00 p.m. – Private party, NCB (C)
- 5:00 p.m. – Districts 5 & 6 holiday party, Blackhawk CC

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 11**

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

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- 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
- 6:15 p.m. – Funseekers event, SCB

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB

- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *Barbie*, 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, Blackhawk CC
- 6:00 p.m. – District 8 meeting, NCB

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14**

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – 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

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15**

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Pickleball Club event, NCB (C)

## LIFE IN OV: A DOG'S TALE

By Mary von Ziegesar

Rudy is his name, but some might change it to "Runaway Rudy!" Village residents Dina Glantz and Bob Ruff were recently enjoying their daily walk around the Village when the Maintenance Department's drainage supervisor, Dave Steeves, drove by in one of our white trucks and signaled to them. In the truck with Dave was a very cute, young schnauzer with a collar and a long leash, but no identification tag.

Dave told them he found the dog running around on Otawa Lane, which was being asphalted at the time.

They didn't recognize the dog, but Dina offered to take him on their walk with hopes of finding the owner. They walked the South side. They walked the North side. No owner. They stopped and asked the mailman, Danny, who replied, "I know all the dogs on the south side of the community, but not this one." They called the Business Office and asked about any inquiries for a lost dog and requested that an email be sent out to residents hoping to find the owner. They called Stratford Police with hopes that the owners reported their lost dog. Another resident, whom Dina and Bob stopped to talk to, called the Town of Stratford dog warden and left a message.

Dina and Bob took the dog home for treats and water and posted his picture on OV Connections. Meanwhile, Bob was thinking he'd found a buddy for life when Dina realized



that the Oronoque Animal Hospital (OAH) might have a chip reader. Dina called, they did, and they took the dog to Ryder's Landing; a chip was detected! The OAH called the Milford Animal Hospital and the owner's contact information was relayed. Within a short time, and additional treats for a happy and well-behaved dog, a grandfather and his granddaughter arrived to pick up their "Rudy." Rudy's excitement was proof that he'd been found.

One lesson: get tags for your dogs as soon as you move into OV. The best lesson: OV has the best neighbors and staff ever. Kudos to Dina and Bob.

OV

## E-BIKE SAFETY

By Mike Anderson, David Bingham and Larry Hartley  
Members of the OV Maintenance Committee

Currently there are very few regulations in the State of Connecticut or the Town of Stratford regarding E-Bikes and their safety. As E-Bikes become more prevalent, it will become increasingly important to be aware of specific safety issues of E-Bikes.

Manufacturers of E-Bikes have very specific safety requirements. It is essential that these requirements be followed to prevent fires. E-Bike fires can ignite instantly and they are difficult to extinguish. Traditional fire extinguishers are not effective extinguishing this type of fire.

Here are some safety considerations when purchas-

ing and maintaining an E-Bike

- UL Rated Batteries (UL Standard 2271) and UL Rated Electrical Systems (UL2489) are important to look for.
  - Replacement batteries should meet the manufacturer's specifications and have UL approved standard 2271.
  - Batteries should not be left to charge overnight.
  - When storing an E-Bike for more than 30 days the battery should not be fully charged and should only be at 50 percent to 70 percent charged.
  - E-Bikes should be stored away from flammable items and should not block an exit doorway.
  - Any maintenance should be performed by certified professionals.
- E-Bikes sold in the U.S. with UL certification include: Aventon, Radio Flyer, Velotric, Juiced Bikes (Batteries UL Certified), Buzz Bicycles, Ecotric, Tesgo, and BeeCool, and Bikes with Bosch Motors.

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## SIKORSKY ARCHIVES 'LAND' AT SHU UNDER DAN LIBERTINO'S WATCH

When the Igor I. Sikorsky Historical Archives formally opened its new home at Sacred Heart University (SHU) in Fairfield, it was a career highlight for OV resident Dan Libertino.

Dan, who has been president of the Sikorsky Archives for 19 years, was honored to speak at the exhibition's opening. During his remarks, Dan noted: "Today gives the Igor I. Sikorsky Historical Archives a new home. It gives Sacred Heart University powerful teaching resources, and Lockheed Martin a clear picture of Sikorsky's technical and corporate history."

The opening of the archives at SHU took place in late fall and coincided with the 100th anniversary of Sikorsky Aircraft, today a Lockheed Martin company.

The modern office, research and meeting space is collocated with the SHU School of Computer Science and Engineering on the university's west campus.

During the opening ceremonies, Sergei Sikorsky, son of the helicopter pioneer, told the SHU audience, "The Archives are the history not only of Sikorsky Aircraft, but the history of aviation as seen from 1909-1910 to the present time."

Dan has served as president of the Igor I. Sikorsky Historical Archives since 2004. His 70-year association with Sikorsky helicopters began in 1951 as a U.S. Air Force mechanic on Sikorsky S-51 and S-55 rescue aircraft. On active duty during the Korean War, he was assigned to French Indochina as a technical advisor to the French Air Force on the then-new S-55/H-19D utility helicopter.

Following his military service, Dan joined Petroleum Helicopters Inc. in 1954 during the earliest phase of offshore helicopter support operations with the S-55. He was hired by Sikorsky Aircraft in 1956 and, during a 41-year career, provided expertise to introduce six Sikorsky helicopter models in the U.S. military and nine foreign countries.

He later was deployed as a field service representative, overseeing logistics management and, ultimately, managed assembly, test, delivery and support of S-70 Black Hawk and Seahawk helicopters in Australia, Korea and Turkey.

Although Dan retired in 1997, he has actively continued his relationship with Sikorsky, giving factory tours to customers and community organizations and, dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of the Igor Sikorsky legacy, he also gives presentations on the life achievements of the aviation pioneer.



OV resident Dan Libertino, right, and John Cerreta, Lockheed Martin vice president of quality and aviation safety, during the opening of the Igor I. Sikorsky Historical Archives at Sacred Heart University. Dan has a 70-year association with Sikorsky helicopters and has served as president of the Sikorsky Archives since 2004.

In his role with the Sikorsky Archives, Dan has used his encyclopedic knowledge of Sikorsky products to lead a team of archivists cataloging and preserving historic materials that document the genius of Igor Sikorsky and his enduring contribution to vertical flight.

Dan could not be more pleased that the Sikorsky Archives are now on view at SHU. "This new location gives the archives the secure space and information architecture to preserve, catalog and access the documents and memorabilia of Igor Sikorsky and the company that bears his name," says Dan. "These materials are in very good hands."

Dan – who hails from Westchester, N.Y. -- and his wife, Linda, have been OV residents since 1985.

OV

— Compiled by Carol King

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## DISTRICT 2 MEET & GREET



Story & photos by Letitia Laberee

Halloween eve began with the “District 2 Meet and Greet” in the South Clubhouse.

Thirty-five residents joined the District 2 Board members for wine and scrumptious appetizers.

Frank Spodnick, recently elected District Representa-

tive, introduced himself along with Lucy Clifford (Alternate Rep), JoAnn Mahoney (Treasurer), Al Comen (Maintenance Rep) and Letitia Laberee (SAC Rep) to the community.

Great food (Sabine Curry, caterer), great wine and great neighbors. It was wonderful to see so many newcomers attending. **OV**



## RECAP: OV ARTS GUILD PRESENTATION, ‘IT’S NOT JUST A DREAM’

Story by Barbara Rosner ~ Photo by Arline Walton

On Nov. 9, a large Thursday afternoon crowd welcomed Adelita Chirino — a certified dream therapist, educator and counselor — to Oronoque for a presentation, titled “It’s Not Just A Dream.”

With her engaging, enthusiastic and, at times humorous speaking style (enhanced by a PowerPoint program), our residents were equally enthusiastic and engaged.

Historical and scientific references were included in Adelita’s presentation, but the main focus was how dreams can be a tool for enhancing your waking life.

A Q&A session followed and, when time ran out, Adelita generously stayed and spoke, individually, with many others. The evening ended with residents mingling happily, dis-



cussing Adelita’s enlightening presentation, and enjoying the beautifully decorated table of delicious appetizers (a foodie’s dream) and the wine and soft drinks at the bar. **OV**

## DISTRICT HOLIDAY PARTIES

### Districts 3 & 4 Holiday Party

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 6–9 p.m., Districts 3 and 4 will hold a festive holiday party at SCB. A sumptuous buffet dinner, provided by a local caterer, will run from 6–7:30 p.m. Following dinner, Oronoque’s DJ Chris Albino will provide a unique blend of tunes guaranteed to have everyone up on the floor “rockin’, boppin’ and slidin’ the night away.” Beverages and desserts will be provided. You may BYOB if you wish.

Look for flyers in your OVCA boxes, specific to each district, which will provide cost and other attendee information. Chances to win raffle items are included in the fee. District 3 residents should contact SAC Rep

Stephanie Fians with questions. Should District 4 residents have questions, they should contact SAC Rep Patrice Lu.

### District 2, 8 and 11 Holiday Dinner Gathering

A holiday party for Districts 2, 8 and 11 will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Blackhawk Country Club. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour followed by a buffet dinner. There will be music, a 50/50 raffle benefiting the Sterling House Food Pantry and a fun evening spent with your neighbors. The cost is \$35 per person.

RSVP by Dec. 1 using the form on the flyer delivered Nov. 8. Call your District Representative with questions.

# MAINTENANCE MATTERS: SNOW REMOVAL

All snow removal in the Village is the responsibility of the Maintenance Department, including roads, driveways, parking lots and walkways. The Oronoque Village Tax District (OVRTD) is responsible for overseeing and budgeting the related expenses.

**Prior to a Storm:** Road surfaces will be sprayed with an environmentally friendly mixture of treated rock salt to lower the freezing point of water. The same mixture may be used after a storm as a preventative measure against the formation of glazes and black ice.

**Priorities:** Safety is our highest priority along with the need to provide access to our primary roads for emergency vehicles. The order of roads and areas to be plowed when snowfall accumulates to about two inches is: (1) primary roads (North and South Trails, Agawam and Midwood) (2) secondary roads and lanes (3) clubhouse parking lots (4) driveways; (5) extra parking areas and (6) if snowfall is heavy, the primary roads will receive the highest priority before plowing secondary roads and lanes.

**Driveways:** After the roads and lanes are plowed, driveways are cleared, even if overtime must be incurred. We understand the need for residents to have access to their units and vehicles. If possible, move any parked vehicles from the driveway and please open your garage door, permitting the plow blade to remove the ridge of snow nearest to the garage door.

**Walkways:** Walkways are shoveled by hand during normal working hours. Since there are over 900 walkways in the Village, the work is labor-intensive. It may take a few days to have your walkway cleared. If the same snow removal priority were given to walkways as to roads, your OV taxes would be significantly higher. Most people can exit their homes through their garage, except for some units on the southside (Algonquin, Buckskin). These units are identified and given priority consideration. The objective is to clear walkways of snow as soon as possible without adding a significant burden on OV taxpayers.

**Emergency Vehicles:** Since secondary roads have a lower snow removal priority than those listed as primary roads, residents living on secondary roads may have concerns about the response capability of emergency vehicles. In our experience, we have found that EMT and Fire Department personnel can access a home in extreme weather conditions. Stratford's first responders are equipped to deal with such difficulties. If conditions are such that emergency personnel need additional support, our Maintenance personnel will assist with their plows and shovels.

**Outside Contractors:** If additional help is needed, then outside contractors are available and will be called by the Maintenance Director to relieve appropriate Maintenance personnel. During a snowstorm, some of our personnel may work throughout the night and into the next day. It can be

an exhausting experience for some, and we are concerned with their safety as well as their ability to remain effective in performing their tasks.

**Special Consideration(s):** If you have a health-related emergency, please call 911. Priority snow removal can be granted in special cases if the resident provides the Business Office with a doctor's explanation that lists the reasons why snow removal is urgent for the resident. A need to go to work is NOT considered an emergency or a reason for priority status. If traveling to work is important, then other arrangements should be made prior to a snowstorm. This may be an inconvenience for the resident, but the same practice applies in many other municipalities.

It should be noted that, at the present time, there are 31 existing prioritizations for "first in line" with new requests each year. Given that there are a total of 16 workers devoted to the task of snow removal it should be obvious to anyone that managing these priorities is difficult, to say the least. The most efficient way to clear the roads and provide access to the unit garages is to work in stages. Having to divert any personnel away from the staged methodology slows down the entire process.

**In Summary:** Our OV Maintenance employees are equipped with trucks, snowplows, blowers, spreaders and other essential items to deal with winter storms. Their work schedules can be long and fatiguing. Their efforts are to accommodate our needs in a timely manner and keep all of us and our property safe during winter's worst conditions. It is impossible to satisfy everyone's time schedule, and your understanding and patience are appreciated.

For the most part, our roads are cleared before the Town of Stratford provides the same outside the Village. It is important to note that OV maintains the lowest ratio of Maintenance employees/number of units than any similar community in the state. This enables us to keep our taxes down.

Please be careful when walking on snow or ice. If you need Ice Melt, it is available outside the entrances to the clubhouses. Please take only the amount you need. Please remove any vehicles parked in your driveway to a community parking area before a snowstorm. Open the garage door when the driver arrives so the ridge of snow at the base of the door can be removed. Do not ask the driver for extra service around your unit. He is directed to open all driveways in a timely manner in his sector of responsibility.

Please do not call the Business or Maintenance Offices to ask when your driveway will be plowed. These calls take time and attention away from other required work. Please do not call your own private plow contractor to have your driveway plowed. Our roads, lanes, driveways and walkways are privately owned by OVCA. Private contractors may not be adequately insured or familiar with the property.



## OV SNAPSHOT

Thank you to Paul Maglione who submitted this photo of the OV Tuesday “golf crew,” which started out as three or four players and now consists of 15 golfers. Completion of a morning’s round of golf is usually followed by lunch at the Windsock Grill.

Foreground, Dan Hreachmach. Left to right, Ken Bonetti, Tom Ward, Cal Blagys, Ken Hoyt, Paul Maglione, Ron Ciecko, and Bill Spigener. Not present, Peter Feick, Peter De Luca, Gary Griswold, Mike Anderson, Dick Steinfeld and Jim Weaver.



## ELVIS PRESLEY CELEBRATED AT FUNSEEKERS EVENT

Story by Marie Orlowe ~ Photo by Arline Walton

Here’s the scoop! Elvis was in the house. Yes, you read correctly. Elvis, in the guise of Robert Black, entertained at the Funseekers event on Saturday, Nov. 11. Robert is a popular tribute impersonator of Elvis. His charisma captivated the crowd and his vocal talent is dynamic.

He kept the audience spellbound. Robert’s costume was typical Elvis. His opening number was “The Wonder of You,” followed by “Rollin on the River,” “Let It Be Me,” “Blueberry Hill” and his most noted song, “Hound Dog.” Many were dancing and also clapped and sang along with him. He ended his pro-

gram with a tribute to the veterans and his finale number was “Falling in Love With You.” It was an electrifying evening.

Robert joined us for dessert and graciously took pictures with those who asked.

The evening had a patriotic theme. The veterans attending were asked to stand and were recognized by the audience’s applause. The balloon centerpieces had red, white and blue colors with a unique top, two pictures of local veterans. The dessert parfaits were patriotic also. The atmosphere in the room was merry.



Marie Orlowe with Elvis impersonator Robert Black.



## Holiday at the Homestead

Boothe Memorial Park & Museum

Friday, Dec. 1 6:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 2 2pm-5pm

Sunday, Dec. 3 2pm-5pm

Monday, Dec. 4 6:30pm-8pm



Time to get in the spirit of the season with every room beautifully decorated!  
Plus over twenty 3 foot decorated trees for silent auction.  
Stop by the Visitor’s Center to see Santa - Take your holiday photos!  
Admission: \$5.00 children free

## WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Kelsey and Fred Powell are our new Oronoque Village neighbors, having moved from Fairfield to Sequoia Lane in August of last year.

Natives of Queens, N.Y., and educated in New York City, they have fallen in love with OV’s lifestyle; the beautiful, natural, wooded setting, and the many social activities the Village offers.

Before retirement, Fred enjoyed a career as a manufacturer’s representative in the footwear industry. Kelsey was an occupational therapist specializing in the mental health field. They describe themselves as “socially active and outgoing,” enjoying attending concerts, playing mahjong and reading. Most of all, they enjoy spending time with their grandkids.

Please welcome our new neighbors, Kelsey and Fred.”

—Submitted by Tom Fuchs

# SCAM ALERT: PHISHING SCHEMES

Phishing scams are a pervasive issue that can have severe financial and emotional consequences. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), there were 300,497 victims reporting over \$52 million in losses due to phishing scams in 2022 alone. This underscores the importance of understanding what phishing is and how to protect yourself from falling victim to these scams.

**What is Phishing?** Phishing is a fraudulent practice where scammers send emails, texts or messages that appear to be from reputable individuals or organizations. The goal is to trick individuals into revealing personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

Phishing can be attempted in many ways:

*General Phishing:* Unsolicited messages that appear to be from a trusted source, asking for personal information.

*Spear Phishing:* Targeted attacks that appear to be from someone the victim knows.

*Phishing with malware:* These scams encourage the victim to click on a link or download an attachment that installs malicious software on their device.

**How to Protect Yourself:** There are several proactive strategies you can use to avoid falling victim to a phishing scam.

*Be skeptical of unexpected messages and sharing personal information:* Always verify the authenticity of unsolicited messages by independently logging on to the official website or calling a verified telephone number.

Never provide personal information unless you are absolutely sure of the recipient's identity and the necessity of sharing such information.

*Enable multi-factor authentication:* multi-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security by requiring two or more verification methods—a password, a smart card or a fingerprint, for example. Consider using this feature on apps used to obtain secure information, like credit card and banking account information.

*Regularly review your accounts:* Check your financial statements on a regular basis for unauthorized transactions. If you spot any, report them immediately to your financial institution.

*Use secure networks:* Public Wi-Fi networks are often unsecure. Avoid conducting sensitive transactions when using this type of connection.

*Change passwords regularly:* Aim to update your passwords every three months. Consider using a secure app designed to store passwords rather than keeping them in a document on your phone or personal computer.

**Financial and Emotional Impact:** Victims of phishing scams can suffer from a range of financial setbacks, including unauthorized transactions, identity theft and the loss of personal savings. These losses can be devastating, often requiring months or even years to fully recover, financially.

The repercussions extend beyond monetary loss, affecting credit scores and potentially leading to legal complications.

The emotional toll can be equally severe. Victims often experience stress and anxiety as they navigate the complexities of reclaiming their identity and financial standing. The experience can be isolating, causing individuals

to withdraw from social activities and become overly cautious in their interactions, both online and offline.

It may also make some hesitant to engage in online activities that are now essential in our digital age, such as online banking and shopping. It's important to remember that an instance of any financial fraud can be overcome, with the right mindset and by making the right decisions, with the guidance and support of your trusted financial institution.

Phishing scams are a growing threat, but understanding their complexities and how they operate can go a long way in protecting yourself. Always exercise caution when dealing with unsolicited messages and keep your personal information secure. By taking these precautions, you can significantly reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a phishing scam.

OV

**Source:** Affinity Federal Credit Union (<https://www.affinityfcu.com/financial-wellbeing/blog/fraud-security/from-click-to-consequence-understanding-phishing-scams-and-how-to-protect-your-personal-information>)




# WEBSITE INSIGHTS

## NEWSFLASH: OV VIDEOS ARE AVAILABLE!

Oronoque Village has established a YouTube account for viewing our Village's videos. Get your popcorn ready, we are in the process of adding lots of old and new videos – starting with the recent BRAVO event, "The Oronoque Live Radio Show!" See a variety of videos – from the 50th Anniversary Gala to Arts Guild events to

clips of speakers' presentations.

Go to [oronoquevillage.com/Communications/Links/Village Videos](https://oronoquevillage.com/Communications/Links/Village%20Videos).

Are you interested in helping to record events? Please contact Mary von Ziegesar to learn more: [MvonZ@optonline](mailto:MvonZ@optonline) or 203-767-9760. 

## 2023 VILLAGER SURVEY TOPLINE STATISTICS

### RESPONSE RATES


- 312, or 34% of all OV units, submitted a response.
- The survey represented an estimated 500 residents' responses.

### DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- Average length of residency is under 9+ years.
- 89% live here full time (unchanged from 2021 survey).
- The average age of a resident is estimated to be 75.6 (same as 2019).
- 16% of residents are 85 or older. 59% are over 75. 12% are 55 to 64 years.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Visit OV website – 75% (up from 47% in 2019).

- Use OV Connections (Facebook) – 39% (same as 2019).
- View OVTV – 33% (and use less than once per week).
- 94% prefer cable vs. streaming.
- 69% prefer printing The Villager once per month during the winter months.
- 73% of Villagers are active – socially, physically or both.
- 57% do not see a need for another amenity. (no clearcut wishes).
- Over 8 in 10 are very satisfied/satisfied with maintenance efforts (PM program, pruning, work orders, overall physical appearance of the Village).
- Just 40% wish for a stronger compliance process.
- 11% are likely to request help from Stratford Senior Services. 

# WORK FROM THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

## A HOLIDAY POEM

By Joe Epstein

Time to write before Christmas  
and all through this stead  
Not a poetic thought can be found in my head  
No need to fear it, and no need to fight it.  
Yes I can! Just sit down and endeavor to write it.

Prose are fun, but po--ems are funner.  
Be romantic, a sage or only a punner.  
Round this table sit artists who all are good writers,  
Helpers, critics and none cranky spitters.  
Mary's prompt helps us to set up the pace  
Five minutes. Go! Write on with grace!

'lisbeth, Becky, [Maddy, Joe E. and Bob],  
Quicken the words and finish the job.

On Donna, on Joe B, Peter and Joyce  
All finish on time, a time to rejoice.  
Heartfelt words do flow just like wine  
Giving thoughts to us all, on which we all dine.  
So this year is gone, it's now only the past  
The new one looms scary, it's coming on fast.

Let's hope for good health, and good eatings too  
And friendship and love to add on a few



So keep keeping on and just don't get yourselves tired  
Keep laughing or crying whatever's required  
Christmas and Hanukkah keep us in cheer  
Diwali and Kwanzaa both welcomed here.

Gifts are the norm please accept this quaint ode  
It weighs just two grams and wont burden your load  
Now I slacken my pen, I have no more to write!  
God bless to you all! And to all a good night

**2024 VILLAGER DEADLINE DATES FOR EDITORIAL CONTENT\***

*The Villager is published twice-monthly, on the 1st and the 15th, when possible.*

*\*The dates below are subject to change. Deadline dates are updated on the website, [www.oroquevillage.com](http://www.oroquevillage.com).*


*All submissions must be received by noon on the deadline date*

Jan. 2 has a deadline of Dec. 18, 2023  
 Jan. 15 has a deadline of Jan. 3  
 Feb.1 Villager has a deadline of Jan. 19  
 Feb.15 Villager has a deadline of Feb. 2  
 March 1 Villager has a deadline of Feb. 18  
 March 15 Villager has a deadline of March 4  
 April 1 Villager has a deadline of March 19  
 May 1 Villager has a deadline of April 18  
 May 15 Villager has a deadline of May 2  
 June 3 Villager has a deadline of May 21  
 June 17 Villager has a deadline of June 4  
 July 1 Villager has a deadline of June 18  
 July 15 Villager has a deadline of July 2



Aug. 1 Villager has a deadline of July 19  
 Aug. 15 Villager has a deadline of Aug. 2  
 Sept. 3 Villager has a deadline of Aug. 19  
 Sept. 16 Villager has a deadline of Sept. 4  
 Oct. 1 Villager has a deadline of Sept.17  
 Oct. 15 Villager has a deadline of Oct. 2  
 Nov.1 Villager has a deadline of Oct. 20  
 Nov. 15 Villager has a deadline of Nov. 4  
 Dec. 2 Villager has a deadline of Nov.18  
 Dec. 16 Villager has a deadline of Dec. 3

**For information on The Villager, please contact Editor Carol King at 203-377-5313, ext. 3 / [cking@oroquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oroquevillage.com)**



# FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS


## DUELING PIANOS

### “Shake Rattle And Roll ,Take 2!”


**TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2023**

**7 PM. SCB. DOORS OPEN AT 6:15**

**All new live show from New York!**



YOU Pick The Play List!



The show is an all-request party where YOU pick the playlist. Our two dueling piano entertainers play thousands of songs, so anything goes! **Come sing-along, laugh-along and PARTY along!**

Advance reservations required and payment will be accepted from November 16th through December 8th unless maximum capacity is reached. Open to resident Funseekers' members and one non-resident guest per single resident until Nov. 26th. Starting on Nov. 27th, if there is space availability, member residents may sign up any amount of non-resident guests. Please put \$9.00 check per person into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB (\$13.00 non-resident guest).

Not a member? Join for \$15 per person. Your membership will be good through 2024. Questions? Call Lynn Collins 203-260-4644.

COFFEE, TEA ,SOFT DRINKS & DESSERT TO BE SERVED
BYOB AND SNACKS!



# It's Party Time!

*Holiday Karaoke & Dance Party at SCB*

*Friday, Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m.*

*Bring your dancing shoes, beverages of choice and snacks!*

*No fee to attend.*



## The Movie Club Presents *Barbie*



**Friday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m. at NCB**  
**Wed., Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. at SCB**  
**\$1 admission includes popcorn**

Barbie (Margot Robbie), the most popular of all the Barbies in Barbieland, begins experiencing an existential crisis. She must travel to the human world in order to understand herself and discover her true purpose.

Her kinda-sorta boyfriend, Ken (Ryan Gosling), comes along for the ride because his own existence depends on Barbie acknowledging him.



2023

Presents

# Our Holiday Program

A Melody of Musical Numbers  
By Songstress

Maggie Walsh



Maggie Walsh is a singer with a unique sound blending classical, jazz, and pop. Come celebrate the winter holidays with a delightful program sure to please all!

Maggie has been singing publicly since she was 11, and went on to study music education at Western Connecticut State University with a concentration in classical voice, and is a music educator.

Monday, December 11, 2023

1:00 pm SCB

Members: Free - Guests \$5

Coffee, Tea & Treats served following the program



## OV Employee Appreciation Fund



# ***TIS THE GIVING SEASON!***

Let's show our appreciation to all our hourly workers this season!

Our community is fortunate to have staff members who are dedicated to our daily needs ... spring, summer, fall and winter in all weather conditions. Our generous gifts will bring holiday cheer, so please contribute to the Employee Appreciation Fund before December 15.

Please make checks payable to "OVCA" and write "Employee Appreciation Fund" on the memo line. Checks can be delivered to the Business Office or placed in the outside drop box at NCB.

**THANK YOU** on behalf of our Hourly Workers!

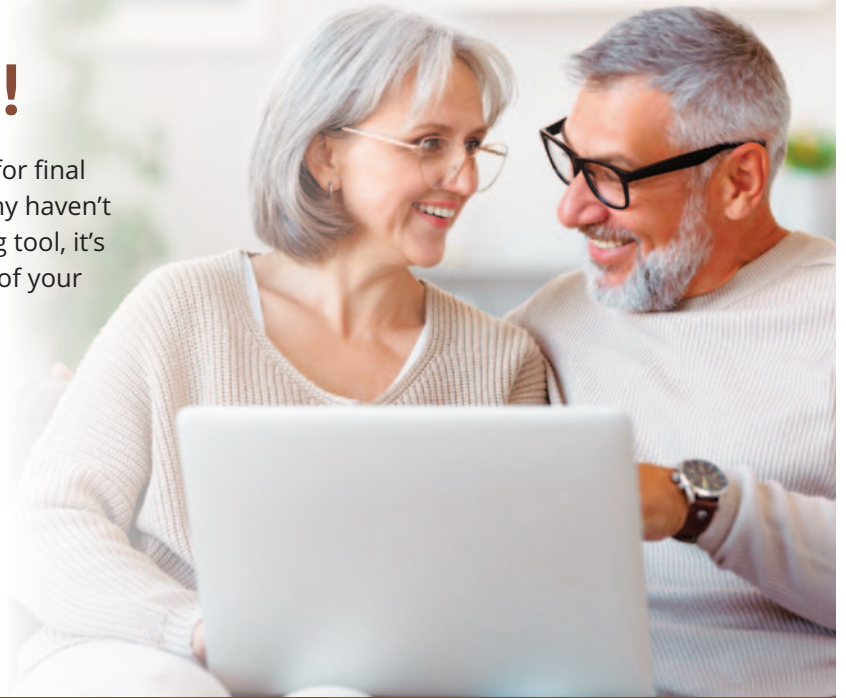
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In a few simple steps, you can eliminate confusion, protect your family from financial worry, and give everyone peace of mind for the future.



Scan the QR code to go to our online planning tool and get started today!



## Adzima Funeral Home

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