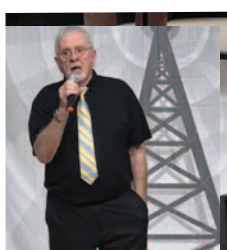


November 15, 2023



THE VILLAGER





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Thank you to Arline Walton for providing this issue's cover, which is comprised of photos from the BRAVO performance on Oct. 29. A recap of the event appears on page 16. The Villager welcomes photo submissions, which must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to Villager Editor Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. Villager article submissions should be emailed to cking@oronoquevillage.com 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.

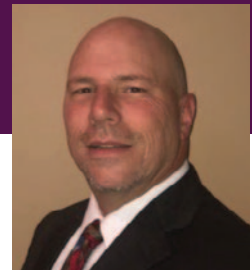


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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVTD PRESIDENT

October 24, 2023



Sabine Curry

I would like to thank all of you for your participation this evening. Several busy months have transpired since our last meeting, so I would like to review the status of our first 100 days campaign promise.

On July 7 we had our OVTD Orientation Meeting to review the charter, ordinances and OV rules and regulations.

The OVTD meeting minutes, along with the various committee reports, are now posted on www.oroquevillage.com

We have added several non-OVTD Board members to committees to take advantage of their experience and expertise. Patrick Hurley, Nick Harding, Tom Aubin, Mina Barrett, Shelly Shapiro, Bob Sabo and Manny Campisi have joined several of our OVTD Committees.

We have initiated our monthly meetings with the Executive Director and Maintenance Director to discuss and prioritize issues of concern.

We further addressed the creation of an OV Strategic Plan. This plan is in full force and its kick off meeting was held Oct. 11. The facilitators of each group are members of both boards, OVCA and OVTD. This is especially significant and good because it marks the first time that OVCA and OVTD are working in cooperation and harmony. The breakout groups are working on specific objectives and action plans. It was very exciting to see so many of our OV residents volunteer to be on these Strategic Plan Committees.

Our inception of the Roundtable Town Hall Meetings came to fruition on Sept. 7. Approximately 80-85 residents attended, and the feedback was very positive. We received many supportive emails from residents who enjoyed the roundtable discussions and plan on attending the next one, which will be on March 7, 2024. Moreover, we have cause to

expect a much larger turnout next time.

Regarding processes for OVTD elections, we are still in communication with our senators in Hartford regarding the requirements mandated for our OVTD elections to be able to offer absentee ballots. We are also working on a new format for the election process that would be fair and unbiased, rather than the pre-existing three-member nominating committee.

Best of all, OVTD and OVCA are working together on many issues that will benefit all our residents.

Community Contribution Fee

I would hope that everyone is aware of the Community Contribution Fee (CCF) that has been discussed for the past few months.

A change to the Declaration would have to be made to take advantage of this program and the vote for this change is Jan. 9, 2024.

There has been much discussion, meetings, flyers and Facebook entries regarding the CCF. There are meetings every Tuesday at 3 p.m. and every Thursday at 7 p.m. for the remainder of this month. There will be someone with the answers at each meeting, so if there are any questions or concerns regarding the particulars of the CCF, please attend for some one-on-one discussion and other opportunities.

This plan has garnered a great deal of support. Why? The fee for which buyers would be responsible will help OV build up our necessary reserves in order to financially protect and improve our community.

The Oronoque Village Tax District stands strongly behind this change to the Declaration. Please vote yes on Jan. 9.

On a personal note, I assumed the position of President back in July, with guarded optimism. I now have cause to feel very optimistic. And so should you.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED: ARTISTS OF THE MONTH FOR 2024

The OV Arts Guild is now scheduling artists for its 2024 Artist of the Month program in the North Clubhouse. All Oronoque artists who have hanging art can participate in this program. Artists show their artwork for one month in the front and back hallways. These spaces will accommodate one large piece or two smaller pieces of artwork



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.

If you are interested, call Barbara Stewart at 203-612-1373 or email to barbsmt@yahoo.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR HOLIDAY DECORATING AT CLUBHOUSES

All are invited to join the OV House & Garden Club during the annual decorating of the clubhouses for Christmas and Hanukkah.

On Thursday, Nov. 16, the club will need help shaping the trees at SCB from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and at NCB from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please bring gloves.

On Friday, Nov. 17, trees will be decorated at both clubhouses. Decorating will take place at SCB from 1:30-3 p.m. and at NCB from 3-4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Please join us in ringing in the holiday season!

LWV PRESENTS '10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING IN CT'

The League of Women Voters (LWV) will present a guest speaker, Stratford Registrar of Voters Jim Simon, on Nov. 16 at 4 p.m. at NCB. He will discuss "10 Things To Know About Voting in Connecticut." All members of the community are invited to attend this no-cost event.

Questions? Contact Marge Heffel, Oronoque resident and treasurer, LWV of Connecticut, at 203-913-5695 or mcheffel@gmail.com.

LWV is a nonpartisan organization (of women and men) that encourages informed and active participation in government.

OV WRITER'S GROUP IS EXPANDING

Do you like to express yourself creatively through the art of writing? Would you like to discuss your writing with other resident writers while having fun and meaningful conversation? The OV Writer's Group invites members of our community to visit for a session and consider joining. We are a group of Villagers who share a love of writing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, memoirs, essays, plays.... We foster a creative space at the South Clubhouse where, every other Tuesday afternoon, members share a piece of their writing and engage in discussion to inspire, support and celebrate each other in a comfortable, informal and non-academic setting.

We'd love to meet you. If you are interested in attending a session, and hopefully joining the group, please email or call Mary von Ziegesar (MvonZ@optonline.net – 203-767-9760).



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

FUNSEEKERS' OPEN BOARD POSITION

Funseekers has an open position on its Board of Directors.

Trips Coordinator: Contact different venues for entertainment opportunities outside the Village, negotiate pricing and seating blocks of tickets for members, collect fees for reservations, distribute tickets in a timely manner and place advertisements in The Villager, if appropriate.

If you have interest in this position, please contact Lucy Clifford at 203-644-7710 or at lmclifford@yahoo.com.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR STAFF AT THE HOLIDAYS ...

THE EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION FUND IS NOW ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS

By Jackie Freeman, Maintenance Committee Chair

As a longstanding member of the Maintenance Committee, I am constantly impressed by the depth of services that our Maintenance team provides residents, daily. No matter the season or the tasks required, residents of Oronoque Village are treated to top-notch service by a resolute team of hard-working staff members.

Throughout the past several months, our Maintenance staff has work tirelessly to keep the grounds at Oronoque Village looking pristine and well-manicured during one of the worst staff shortages we have experienced.

Crews have adjusted so well to being shorthanded that most residents are unaware of our staffing struggles.

Aside from the general maintenance, crews did a great job in handling a large amount of water intrusion into units during some of our many torrential rainstorms this summer. Their response was prompt, and their repairs were effective. Several additions were implemented into the Village this year, including Access Control at both clubhouses and a pickleball court conversion. Maintenance crews worked seamlessly with outside contractors — from start to finish — to address any issues that popped up along the way.

And let's, please, keep in mind the constant tasks of our carpentry department. This team oversees door/slider/window replacement and roof and foundation repairs, which are chronically impacted by New England's weather conditions.

Oronoque residents are fortunate to have a Maintenance



Department that works hand in hand with the needs of each district. Each district has a Maintenance Rep and an Alternate Maintenance Rep — who collaborate closely with Director of Maintenance Ryan Hankey — to ensure that the voices of the community members are heard.

The Maintenance Committee is a liaison group that serves as a conduit between the residents and Maintenance Department to make sure that residents' concerns are addressed. In working with the Maintenance team as a committee member and committee chair, I know our community is in very good hands.

Please remember our hard-working staff during the holiday season with a contribution to the Employee Appreciation Fund. This is a one-time-a-year opportunity to reward the staff members for jobs well done. **OV**

WEBSITE INSIGHTS

OV has neighbors who are ready to help you. The Call-In/Monitor Program consists of 20 monitors and 15 substitutes ready to ensure you are safe and comfortable. They sit in the SCB office from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays, welcoming visitors, answering questions and managing call-in checks on residents. Contact Kathy Lukens at 203-612-6685 for more information or to volunteer your time as a monitor or a substitute monitor.

Another program is N2N – Neighbor to Neighbor, a group of Villagers who are available to help residents around the house with daily tasks, with light shopping and socializing.

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 errands? Call or text 203-479-0107, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., or leave a message any time.

More information on these service groups may be found on the Residents' Only side of www.oronoquevillage.com under ORGANIZATIONS. See CALL-IN PROGRAM and see N2N: NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR.

Finally, we have the Geek Group for help with your access and use of our website. Find members on www.oronoquevillage.com under GOVERNMENT, OVCA, STANDING COMMITTEES, COMMUNICATIONS and scroll down to GEEK GROUP.



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SWEET SUCCESS: GUYS & DOLLS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST IS A HIT

Story by Kathy Grogan ~ Photos by Arline Walton

Though rainy skies were, once again, settled over Oronoque Village on Saturday, Oct. 21, it didn't dampen either the attendance nor the lively conversations at the Guys and Dolls Club Pancake Breakfast.

Approximately 90 people enjoyed the pancakes, the surprise addition of scrambled eggs, plus bacon and sausage -- all donated by The Plaza Diner on Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton -- along with fresh fruit, apple and orange juice, syrup, butter and regular and decaf coffee or tea.

We also, for the first time ever, offered gluten-free pancakes for those who would normally not get to participate in such an event. All who attended left with contented tummies by the end of the meal.

Chris Albino provided us with wonderful background music so that those not chatting away with family or friends could linger over their meal and coffee while being serenaded.

As with any event here, it takes a village of volunteers to make it run smoothly. Thanks to my superb volunteers of Andy Vena (in charge of the kitchen), Tom Becker, Andrea and Tom Ippolito, Kathy and Barry Wells, Bridget and Joe Matthews, Arline Walton, Karen and Nick Harding, Shirley Cardea, Mary Scully, Mary Lee Prussel, Gary Griswold, Mary Kelleher, Linda Eastwood, Joan Carroll, Cindy and Gary Katz plus my greatest supporter, Co-chair Lucy Andrade.

A big shout-out to Christian Davin, our OV building attendant, who not only does the set-up of tangible fixture requirements needed for events but also assists with info and insider expertise (from years of working here) to make sure that all events have the best possible outcome ... and he does it with a pleasant manner. Thanks so much, Christian!

A final thank you to all who attended and enjoyed the day with us. See you at our next breakfast. OV

OV SNAPSHOT



On Oct. 31, the Zumba Class added some fun to their Tuesday morning workout by dressing up for Halloween.

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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, on Dec. 1, 2023, is Nov. 16 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 the month.

DROP-IN BRIDGE

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

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

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

LINE DANCING

• Line dancing classes are held on Wednesdays at NCB. Beginner classes are held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all levels at 10 a.m. Call Sonya DeBiase at 202-377-1515 for information.

LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS

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

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 / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapidès: 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.

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.

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ATTENTION ORONOQUE VILLAGE CARD AND GAME PLAYERS

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.oronoquevillage.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

CALENDAR

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

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre*, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. – League of Women Voters Meeting, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Bingo, SCB

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:30 p.m. – Holiday decorating, SCB
- 3:00 p.m. – Holiday decorating, NCB

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- 3:00 p.m. – Private Party, SCB (C)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- 3:00 p.m. – Pletman Concert, NCB

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **3:00 p.m. – OVCA Finance Committee, NCB**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- **7:00 p.m. – OVCA Board Meeting, NCB**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB, A/C Rm
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Staff holiday / Buildings are Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB B/R

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.***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- 1:00 p.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- 12:00 p.m. – Private Party, SCB (C)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **3:30 p.m. – Bylaws Committee Meeting, NCB**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Cards, Brosowsky, SCB

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing, beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, all levels, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB
-

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 4:30 p.m. – SAC's "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere"

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

HOLIDAY DECORATING TIPS

By Ryan Hankey

Seasonal decorations -- including lights, trees and wreaths -- can help put your household in the holiday spirit. However, when not used properly, decorations (particularly lights) can create safety hazards or cause fires.

Keep your home safe during the holidays by following these best practices to ensure your holiday lights and decorations are installed correctly:

- Double check lights for frayed wires or cracks, and be sure there is a bulb in each socket. Discard and replace damaged strands.
- Lights should be approved by Underwriters Laboratory. "UL" will be clearly displayed on the tag, signifying the product has been inspected for potential safety hazards. Red UL marks indicate the lights are safe for indoor/outdoor use, and green UL marks indicate the lights are only safe for indoor use.
- Do not hammer tacks or nails into the electrical cord when hanging lights. Instead, use clips to safely attach lights to the house.
- Use heavy-duty extension cords, and only use cords outdoors if they are designated for outdoor use. Avoid overloading extension cords by using no more than three sets of standard lights per cord.
- Use a timer or turn off lights before going to bed, or if you will be away from home.
- For special ornaments that plug into a bulb receptacle, use no more than two per strand or check the manufacturer's directions.



•Indoor lights should not touch drapes, furniture or carpeting. Keep lit candles away from flammable items, too.

•Prevent tripping by placing cords and decorations in low-traffic areas where they won't be walked on. Avoid twisting, kinking or crushing cords.

Following, are a few safety tips provided by the Stratford Fire Department:

- Smoke alarms should be placed on each level of a unit. Batteries should be changed twice yearly; it is advised to change the batteries at the same times that you change the clocks.
 - Carbon-monoxide detection should be located near the sleeping areas.
 - Christmas trees, if natural, should have a fresh cut at the base and maintained by being submerged in fresh water. Fresh cut trees can drink up to a gallon of water a day.
 - Never use real candles on or near a Christmas tree.
 - If there is a need to use portable-type heaters, they should be placed on a level and nonflammable surface and kept away from any loose hanging materials, especially bedding and drapes.
 - Never use cooking appliances, such as the kitchen stove, for the purpose of heating an occupied space.
- By taking the proper precautions both inside and outside of your home, you can prevent hazards and focus on friends and family during the holidays.
- Don't forget to periodically check lights and decorations throughout the season to ensure they continue to operate safely.

Happy holidays.

OV

NOTICE FROM OVCA

The Oronoque Village Condominium Association financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are on file for public inspection, during normal business hours, in the Oronoque Village Condominium Association Office, 600 North Trail, Stratford, CT.

Kenneth Colman, Treasurer

NOTICE FROM OVTD

The Oronoque Village Tax District financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are on file for public inspection, during normal business hours, in the Oronoque Village Tax District Office, 600 North Trail, Stratford, CT.

Thomas Becker, Treasurer

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

FIREPLACE SAFETY

Your fireplace is primarily decorative and should not be used for heat or cooking. Used conscientiously, your fireplace will provide wonderful ambience on a cold winter's day.

When using your fireplace, we urge you to keep in mind the following safety tips:

Wood-Burning Fireplaces

Always be sure that the damper is open before you start your fire, while it is burning and until all embers are extinguished.

Never leave your unit while a fire is burning. Keep a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.

Be sure to have a screen or glass doors to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Be sure nothing flammable is near the fireplace.

Never burn scraps of wood or lumber, charcoal, magazines, garbage or plastics.

Make small fires: use only one artificial log or one or two wood logs. Build your fire toward the back of the firebox.

Make sure that the fire is out -- completely extinguished and cool -- and that ashes and residue are cool to the touch before attempting to clean out the fireplace.

Use metal containers to hold anything you remove from the fireplace; bring that container outside, at least three feet from any building or bush, to store it.



Never place fireplace residue in bags or boxes or nonmetallic containers and never place removed material on a deck or porch or inside a garage or unit while awaiting final disposal.

If you burn wood once per week, have your fireplace professionally cleaned every other year.

If you burn wood more than once per week, the fireplace should be professionally cleaned once each year.

Gas Fireplaces and Heaters

Direct vent gas fireplaces and heaters must be from an approved manufacturer, must meet Oronoque Village's and other codes, and must be installed by a licensed contractor.

Through-the-wall gas fireplaces and heaters must be approved by the Architectural Committee and must meet Oronoque Village's codes, and must be installed by a licensed contractor.

Through-the-roof venting is not allowed.

Provide adequate protection and/or alarms from oxygen depletion and carbon-monoxide poisoning. Purchase a unit that will disconnect the gas flow when the pilot light is not lit. Fireplace shut-offs must be easily accessible from the unit.

Important: Never leave a fire burning when you are not at home.

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 7, 9 and 10 Holiday Dinner Gathering

Residents of Districts 7, 9 and 10 should have received flyers for the Dec. 5 holiday dinner gathering to take place at Blackhawk Country Club. We hope you are planning to attend! Anyone with questions or needing a flyer, please contact your district rep. The deadline to sign up is Nov. 27.

BRAVO TO BRAVO (BEST READERS ACTORS IN THE VILLAGE OF ORONOQUE)

By Donna Martire Miller

On Sunday night, Oct. 29, the curtain went up on BRAVO's "First Live Radio Show on WOVP" to a full house.

With a cast of 20 actors, singers and dancers, the production showcased an original script featuring commercials, jokes, sketches enhanced by special effects and a wonderful selection of songs performed by OV's talented vocalists.



The cast and crew are grateful to those who came out and participated in the live radio show. The audience's enthusiasm, laughter and excitement energized the ensemble so much that planning for next year's production has already begun.

The BRAVO Players look forward to seeing you there!

OV

WEEKENDERS' DINNER & DOO WOP SHOW WAS A SELL-OUT

By Carol Tepper

On Saturday night, Oct. 21, at the North Clubhouse, Weekenders presented an unforgettable event. A sold-out crowd eagerly anticipated the ultimate evening of good food, good company, and timeless music ... and, boy, did we deliver.

First a culinary buffet of fresh salad, succulent chicken florentine, mouthwatering meatballs, al dente pasta and perfectly cooked green beans. Of course, it was completed by fresh rolls and butter.

Then, the main event; the sensational sounds of the '50s and '60s performed by Silk City. This group, consisting of five doo-wop singers from New York, took us back to the golden era. As the first note struck, cherished memories flooded the room. The vocals were captivating with timeless classics like "A Sunday Kind of Love", "Teardrops", "Why Do Fools Fall in Love" and "Church Bells May Ring," then ending the night with a powerful rendition of "Gloria".

The atmosphere became electric when some of our enthusiastic audience members couldn't resist joining in! Jackie Freeman, Barbara Meyer, Merrilees Leemhuis, Ed Noble, Donna Martire-Miller and Roberta DeCore took to the



Silk City

stage belting out an unforgettable rendition of "In the Still Of the Night."

Coffee and a delicious array of freshly baked goods were then served. Despite the satisfying meal they had just enjoyed, our guests couldn't resist indulging in these delectable sweet treats.

Thank you to all those who helped to make this a successful event: Sharon Levinson, Nan Schwartz, Arlene and Ken Block, Carol Plotnick, Barbara Brown, Marie Orlowe, Arline Walton and Marilyn and Jim Ganis.

Join Weekenders next year ... they will, again, bring you nights of timeless music and scrumptious cuisine.

OV



OV SNAPSHOT

Cornhole players recently enjoyed a delicious breakfast to celebrate the opening of the season.

The group meets at 10 a.m. on Thursdays at the South Clubhouse.

Cornhole is played during the cooler months. From spring to late fall, the group meets at 10 a.m. at the North Clubhouse to participate in bocce matches.

New players are always welcome.

ENTER THE VILLAGER'S CAPTION CONTEST!



A monthly Villager caption contest appears in the second issue of each month. Residents are invited to view the image at left and submit one-line captions by emailing office@oronoquevillage.com or delivering submissions, in writing, to the Business Office at NCB.

Deadline for entries Dec. 1.

Judging is conducted by members of the Communications Committee. No political or negative content will be considered.

There is no limit to the number of captions residents may submit.

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



OVTV SCHEDULE (AS OF NOV. 7)

(OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box)

A.M.			
7:00	Notices	1:52	Mahjongg Lesson
7:30	Morning Stretch	1:55	Home Safety Tips
7:47	Water Workout	2:00	E-Bike Tips
7:53	Balance	2:15	Driving Tips
7:56	Notices	2:35	Scooter Tips
8:00	Yoga	2:55	Silver Bells & Diamonds performance
8:36	Seated Cardio		
8:45	Tai Chi	3:00	'50s Rock 'n' Roll
9:00	Mindfulness Lecture	5:00	Notices
9:30	Pilates	5:30	Dog Parade
9:41	Notices	6:10	Ellie Bond Clarinet Performance
10:00	CPR Instructions		
10:15	Walking	6:20	Author T.C. Boyle on his book, "The Women"
10:24	Back Pain		
10:30	Zumba	6:45	Braeden Shizume Piano Performance
11:00	Pickleball Tips	8:00	OV 50th Anniversary Gala Highlights
11:15	Bocce	8:30	Adelita Chirono on "Dreams"
11:17	Bridge	9:30	Dog Parade
11:23	Shuffleboard	10:10	Donna Martire Miller Lecture
11:25	Notices	11:00	Doll Crafting
		11:15	Gardening
		11:30	Adelita Chirono on "Dreams"
		12:30	OV 50th Anniversary Gala Highlights
		1:00	Relaxing Music
P.M.			
12:00	Donna Martire Miller Lecture		
12:40	Square One performance of "Rabbit Hole"		
12:48	Over Easy performance		
1:00	Doll Crafting		
1:15	Gardening Tips		

OCT.15 CAPTION CONTEST WINNERS



1st: "Hey, who spiked the construction site water cooler?"

2nd: "High school class completes first unsupervised house construction project."

Both submitted by Alex Rodriguez

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

FOR INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING
IN THE VILLAGER,
CONTACT EDITOR CAROL KING:

203-377-5313, EXT. 3

CKING@ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM



OV TENNIS CLUB'S GOLDEN EVENING

Story by Betty Mulholland ~ Photos by Peter Feick

On the cool autumn evening of Sunday, Oct. 15, 100 OV Tennis Club (OVTC) members and guests arrived at the Blackhawk Country Club for OVTC's 50th Anniversary Party.

The guests were checked in at a table with two lovely tennis ball decorations. As people entered the tennis-themed ballroom, they were greeted by music from our own DJ, Chris Albino. The table centerpieces were reflective of the sport of tennis. A pyramid of tennis balls strewn with flowers and ribbons topped with the golden number "50" was the centerpiece of each table.

It was a dressy affair. Everyone looked so wonderful and hardly recognizable in something other than tennis togs. At every big event, the Tennis Club sponsors a signature drink. Margaritas were selected for this party. A big hit. Guests were able to socialize and snack on crudites before

settling down at their tables and enjoying a tasty buffet dinner.

Peter Feick, president of the club, created a slideshow of vintage photographs that ran continuously during the evening. This was a highlight as people reminisced about the good old days and laughed at all the photos taken at our many dressup events. So nostalgic to see so many pictures of our most senior members.

After dinner, Peter gave a presentation that detailed the history of the club and he recognized many of the past presidents and contributing members. Once the presentation was over our DJ, Chris, turned up the music and had the dance floor hopping. He certainly knows what music to play for our crowd.

As the evening ended, everyone seemed to be smiling. It was a wonderful, golden evening to celebrate 50 years of tennis. Here's to another 50.

OV

OV FILM FESTIVAL: SEASON 3 TO OPEN IN JANUARY 2024

Cineastes and casual film fans are once again getting ready for the Oronoque Village Independent & International Film Festival celebrating its third season. OV Arts Guild President Barbara Stewart sat down with Festival Director, OV resident Chris Orrell, to discuss what to expect from this year's offering.

Let's talk about the lineup for the quickly-approaching festival. What themes or topics have piqued your interest among this year's crop? What guides me is that I want to play films that are really emotionally engaging, that make me sit up and take notice. That's the main focus. I work to present a lineup that is as diverse as possible for the six-film slate. We kick-off Season 3 on Jan. 21 with the poignant and literate movie about life, love and death, "Prelude To a Kiss," based on the 1988 play by Craig Lucas.

On Jan. 28, we move to Japan, the setting for Sophia Copola's insouciant triumph, "Lost in Translation." From there, we go to a remote Greek island for director Werner Herzog's debut film about isolation and madness, "Signs of Life," being shown on Feb. 4. Next up, the festival's most challenging film, "The anchoress," is on Feb. 25. This time we're in 14th-century England with a film of great stillness and, at times, near silence. Moving from the middle ages to 1950s Sweden, on March 3, we'll watch one of Ingmar Bergman's best films, "Summer with Monika." Finally, the festival closes on March 10 with the truly beautiful and uplifting Italian film, "Il Postino," which transports us to the island of Procida in the gulf of Naples. What an epic journey we'll be taking in Season 3!

That's quite an eclectic mix of films. Absolutely! However, I do want to caution potential attendees that before purchasing a festival pass, know that subjects portrayed and ideas presented may be challenging to one's own personal beliefs. Moral, religious, sexual identity, a whole number of polarizing issues may potentially appear in these films. Being open to and respectful of this is an important part of the festival experience.

In what ways has the film festival evolved? The festival has become more interactive and immersive. For example, when one attendee heard we were showing the Ukrainian film "The Guide," featuring a bandura, a lute-like Ukrainian folk string instrument, she brought an authentic bandura from her home to the screening. She provided some history and even played it for the group so we could all hear what it actually sounds like.

During our Iranian film, a festivalgoer made Persian-style baklava and recalled her time living through the country's initial rise of the Islamic revolution. As for some of the film related treats, we had a special cake frosted with the Ukrainian flag, a fantastic bratwurst dish and a sticky toffee pudding to



Chris Orrell, left, and Barbara Stewart discuss the upcoming Film Festival.

ie for. All of this contributed to a more enriching experience and heightened the expectation for each film ... very special, indeed.

What, if any, unique challenges were part of the festival? Because we show all films on the television screen in the South Clubhouse, we must limit capacity to 40 festival passes. Also, most movies are in a foreign language and subtitled requiring seats to be placed relatively close to the wall-mounted TV. The good news, I am working with folks so that someday we can show the films on a large screen which will open the festival up to significantly more attendees. Tickets go on sale on Jan. 6, and will sell out quickly. My best advice for securing a festival pass is to go first thing that morning to drop off your check.

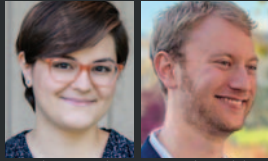
Were there any surprises from Season 2? Yes, the Festival Lounge that opens a half hour before each film has become wildly popular. It can be a surefire way to stave off any feelings of isolation that may come with the cold and dark days of winter. It's also here that small bites related to each film are served and where convivial bartender, Dr. Dennis, pours movie-themed drinks with a quick wit and gentle humor. It's a joy to share good cheer and camaraderie with fellow attendees who are anticipating each film and sharing stories and laughs. I think that the Festival Lounge may be more popular than the watching the films themselves!

Film Festival passes (six films) go on sale at the North Clubhouse on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 9 a.m. (no checks will be accepted before the sign-up date). Only 40 passes will be sold (no single tickets). Bring a check for \$35 (\$40 for non-Arts Guild members) made out to OVAG along with your contact info (phone and email). Dates for the festival are Jan. 21 and 28, Feb. 4 and 25 and March 3 and 10. All movies are shown in the SCB with the Festival Lounge opening at 2:30 p.m. and film introductions starting at 3 p.m.



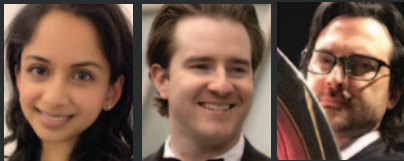


AMPLITUDO BRASS QUINTET



Olivia Pidi
Trumpet

Mitch Gibbs
Trumpet



Hanan Rahman
French Horn

Andrew Hill
Trombone

Chris Carbone
Tuba

PLETMAN CONCERTS
PRESENTS

Amplitudo Brass Quintet

Classical Gems & Holiday Favorites

November 19, 2023 3 P.M.

Oronoque Village,
North Community Building



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.

**OUR FABULOUS MONTHLY...
BINGO**

**PRESENTED BY THE
GUYS & DOLLS CLUB**

NOVEMBER 16 AT 7 P.M. AT SCB



\$2.50 A CARD

**RAFFLE PRIZES
(INCLUDING A BIG 50/50)**

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 Dec. 6 is "Chasing to My Grave" by Winfred Rembert, which presents the late artist Winfred Rembert's breathtaking body of work alongside his story.

Rembert grew up in a family of Georgia field laborers, joined the Civil Rights movement as a teenager, survived a near-lynching at the hands of law enforcement and spent seven years on chain gangs.

There he learned the leather-tooling skills that became the bedrock of his autobiographical paintings. Years later, encouraged by his wife, Patsy, Rembert brought his past to vibrant life in scenes of joy and terror, from the promise of joy and terror, from the promise of southern Black commerce to the brutality of chain gang labor.

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.oroquoquevillage.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@oroquoquevillage.com**




HADASSAH HANUKKAH PARTY!!
DECEMBER 6, 12:30 P.M., NCB
\$10 PER PERSON
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Potato pancakes (latkes), sour cream, applesauce, salad and dessert will be served.

Please put your reservation for this program in the Hadassah box at the North Clubhouse by December 1.

Questions? Call Arlene Block at 203-870-9561 or Lillian Schlager at 203-380-8387



WOW! **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!

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.

YOU Pick The Playlist!

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



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



Be Safe. Be Well. Be Home.

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

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

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

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

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



+ Special discount for OV residents +

Nobody knows the Village...



...like another Villager!



Mary Kelleher

Mary.Kelleher@cbrealty.com
203.496.1399

Christine Mahoney

Christine.Mahoney@cbrealty.com
203.258.7415

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

- Complimentary home price evaluation
- Professional FREE photography of your home
- In-house mortgage broker & insurance agent
- Working with buyers, sellers and Midland Development & Contracting getting CASH offers, quick closings with NO inspections.



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY