January 2, 2024





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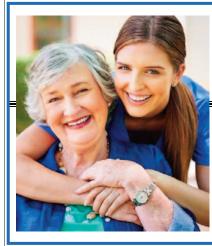
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On the cover: OV Maintenance staff members, from left, Chris Renneman, Rory Gallagher and Lonte Ramalho with Sterling House Program and Outreach Director LeAnne Reynolds. The trio delivered two truckloads of toys — generously donated by OV residents — to Sterling House, which were then distributed to Stratford families in need. The Villager welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Photos must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronoquevillage.com.





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Your vote is needed on the proposed Community Contribution Fee (CCF). This proposed fee requires an amendment to the Declaration and is the most important unit owner vote we've ever held.

By law, it requires that 68% of unit owners approve it. **What is the proposed CCF?**

The CCF is a fee of 3.5 times the monthly common charge that would be assessed on a unit at the time of a sale. It averages \$1,750 per unit. The buyer would be solely responsible for paying it.

Why do we need a CCF?

The recently completed Reserve Study for our 50+year-old community shows that we need to be ready for the financial challenges of an aging infrastructure during a period of rapidly rising costs. A buyer's fee is one way to help us meet those challenges without burdening the current unit owners. It is imposed by many associations across the country, including in Connecticut. Assuming the turnover rate of the last few years, the fee would contribute approximately \$10,000 per month to our community for a cumulative benefit of \$125,000 annually or \$600,000 over five years. We can't afford not to do this.

Why do people oppose the CCF?

A small number have expressed concern that these funds will be placed into a reserve account that isn't dedicated to one specific type of capital expense. We have received almost no feedback opposing a buyer's fee.

Why wasn't it recommended that the fees collected go into one of the current Capital Reserves?

The funding of each of our Capital Reserves ebbs and flows over time, depending on need. Decisions are made at the start of each budget cycle about how much funding should be contributed to each. We don't have that ability with the CCF because whatever we collect must be deposited in the fund identified in the Declaration.

The advice from the engineering firm that prepared the Reserve Study and from our own legal counsel was to avoid narrowly defining the reserve it goes into because that would limit the application of those funds in fulfilling the needs of our community.

By a vote of 11–3, the OVCA Board decided to follow the guidance of those experts. By declaring that the CCF fees will go into a Community Contribution Reserve, we leave the association with the flexibility to use the fees for whatever the greatest community need is at the time.

Why is it so important that I vote?

Your elected directors need clear direction from you on this proposal. Every unit owner needs to weigh in on this critical vote. Those who haven't submitted a ballot will be contacted to understand what additional information they may need to vote. We don't normally take such action, but this is too important not to do so. The deadline to submit your vote is Jan. 9. A Unit Owners Meeting will be held at 4 p.m. in the North Clubhouse.

Thank you.

PLEASE VOTE YES FOR THE CCF AND HELP STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

Bob Grosso, OVCA President *Myrna Mills Albino,* OVCA Secretary *Dick Steinfeld,* OVCA Vice President *Ken Colman,* OVCA Treasurer

STRATFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEED MENTORS AND TUTORS

By Cheryl Dwyer

On Dec 7, Stratford's superintendent of schools, Dr. Uyi Osunde, along with Dr. David Chess and Mike Suntag, presented an informational session at NCB.

They explained how Stratford's public school system has dramatically changed over time and noted that teachers/students are in need of support from the community.

Stratford Volunteer Corps, a nonprofit volunteer or-

ganization, has been formed to connect volunteers with students.

Please consider becoming a mentor or tutor to work with the students, one hour a week, in partnership with Stratford Public Schools.

If you are interested, please visit the website, www.StratfordVolunteerCorps.com, for more details.

Questions? Text David Chess at 203-521-4730 or email david.chess1@gmail.com.

'THANK YOU & HAPPY NEW YEAR' FROM THE OV STAFF



During the annual OV Employee Holiday Celebration last month, staff members were presented with checks and enjoyed a buffet luncheon. The staff extends its gratitude to residents for their generous contributions to the Employee Appreciation Fund.



January 2, 2024 • THE VILLAGER 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

During the October 2023 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, as usual. They may be accessed at: www.oronoquevillage.com/communications /villager/Villager issues.

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

LWV MEETING ON JAN. 18

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan organization (of women and men) that encourages active participation in government.

Our next meeting at Oronoque will be Thursday, Jan. 18, at 4 p.m. at NCB.

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

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 emailing your name, phone number and address to KathyT1014@aol.com.

HOLIDAY DECORATION REMOVAL AT NORTH AND SOUTH CLUBHOUSES

The House & Garden Club will remove all holiday decorations at SCB on Jan. 4 at 9:30 a.m. and at NCB on Jan. 5 at 9:30 a.m. Those who are available to help are welcome to join the group and pitch in. If you have questions, please call Debbie Grosso at 203-380-2468.

NOTICE FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Residents who encounter mechanical problems when using the North or South Clubhouses are asked to report the issues to the Maintenance Department by emailing ovmd@oronoquevillage.com

Examples of issues that should be reported include a nonworking oven, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher or sink.

Emailing a comprehensive note that outlines the issue is essential for proper follow-through and repair.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The OVCA Board will next meet on Jan. 16, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the North Clubhouse.

The OVTD Board will meet on Jan. 23, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the North Clubhouse.

Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings and are invited to ask questions or share comments during the opening and closing forums.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION DURING MONDAY CURBSIDE PICK UP

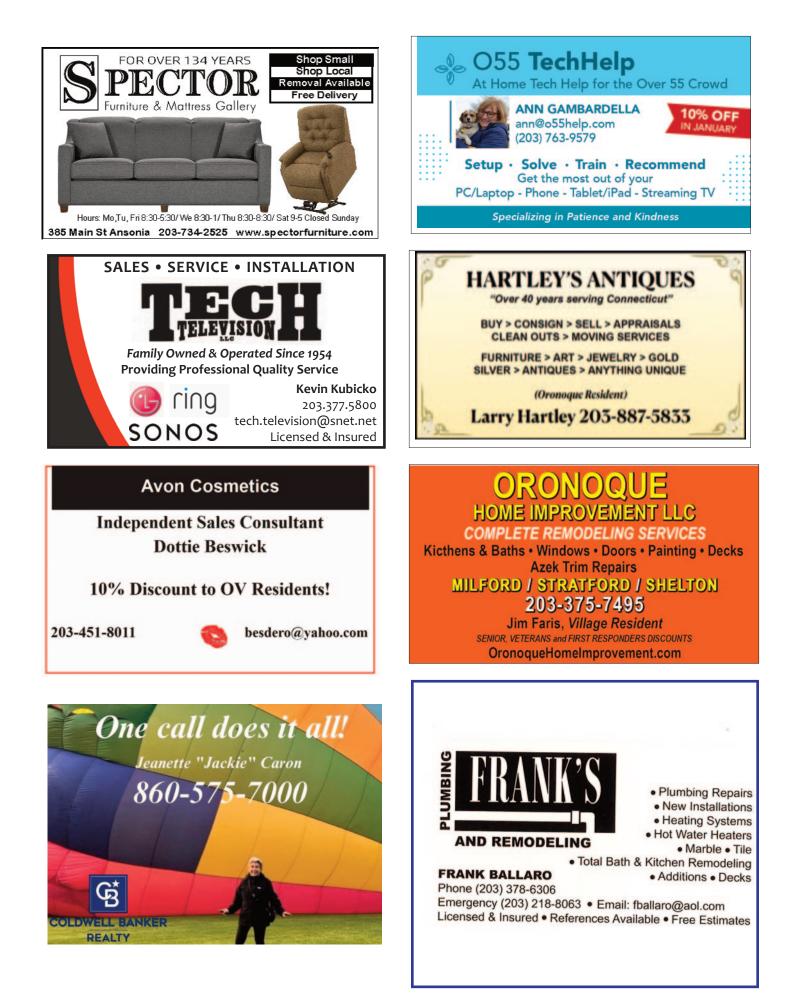
Residents who would like to dispose of their Christmas trees can place them outside on Sunday evening for curbside pickup by the Maintenance Department on Monday.

Trees should be free of all wrappings, lights and decorations. Artificial trees are not included in this pickup and may be disposed of during Oronoque Village Clean Up Day, which will take place in the spring.

Please remember that curbside pickup occurs every Monday. Residents may put bags out for pickup beginning Sunday evening.

Plastic bags will not be accepted as the use of plastic bags raises the cost of disposal.







DISTRICT 3 AND DISTRICT 4 HOLD COMBINED HOLIDAY PARTY

Story and photo by Dina Glantz

On Dec 6, District 3 and District 4 kicked off the winter season with a combined holiday party at the South Clubhouse. Delicious food, catered by David Grant, was served. Additionally, there was yummy homemade flan, cookies, fruit pie and rice pudding along with a scrumptious carrot cake with cream cheese frosting.

After dinner and during dessert, the party got in full swing with free raffles that included gift cards, wine, cham-

pagne and other goodies. Then, Chris Albino, our very own in-house resident DJ, kicked off the remainder of the evening with an array of line dances and awesome dance music.

It was a fantastic event that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. A big shout-out to our SAC Reps Stephanie Fians, Tricia Baglio, Patrice Lundgren and Celeste Jardim and to District Rep Bob Krakovich for donating their time and talents in planning and putting together such a fantastic and successful holiday party! Season's greetings to all!

Please Be A Responsible Dog Owner

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, under the Documents & Forms heading.

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ACTIVITIES

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

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 a social memberships for off-court gatherings. For information on joining, contact Peter Feick for tennis at 203-856-0246 or Bill Tanski for pickleball at 609-876-3520.

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

• Table Tennis is played at SCB on Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. For information, contact Dina Glantz: dinabob7@comcast.net / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapides: mslapid@gmail.com / 203-927-8577. Play is scheduled via the TeamReach app.

TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

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

WRITER'S GROUP

• The Oronoque Village Writer's Group (OVWG) is a group of writers who enjoy 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, heartwrenching histories. Contact Mary von Ziegesar at MvonZ@optonline.net or call 203-767-9760 with questions.



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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: RAY VERMETTE



Ray Vermette is able to tap into his creativity by combining a keen eye with an analytical mind. His background and education are in the biological sciences, business, finance and personnel management.

"When I paint, it is a mental process," he explains. "I work in watercolors, which is not a flexible medium. The process requires visualizing a composition that is pleasing to me and then focusing

on bringing that scene to life with limited brushstrokes and good composition."

Ray has been painting in watercolors for over 18 years. "I started by taking adult education classes in East Haven and then I continued to study and practice on my own," he says. "I enjoy testing my capabilities and building my skills. I see progress and growth with every work. The key to my improvement is to persevere, work hard, paint often and learn from mistakes."

Although painting is a hobby, Ray is dedicated to creating a minimum of one image per week. New England landscapes and waterscapes are his preferred subjects. "I like to paint scenery with colorful atmosphere and good perspective," he notes. "In my artwork, I try to convey a sense of calmness and serenity. I also enjoy the challenge of adding people to my paintings to help tell a story."

His inspirations range from capturing sights he has seen to emulating works he has appreciated while touring museums and art shows. "Andrew Wyeth and JWM Turner are among the many artists I admire," states Ray. "I'm interested in a variety of styles and try to bring various techniques into my own artwork."

Ray spent much of his working career as a senior vice president for operations of national healthcare companies with responsibility for the activities of many hundreds of employees. He also spent over 25 years serving on various town government boards and committees as an elected or appointed official. Now retired, he and his wife, Tina, arrived in Oronoque Village 12 years ago. "While we were looking at homes and visiting various communities, we drove up James Farm Road and came to Oronoque Lane. We really liked what we saw here in the Village," he reports.

Quickly, he became an integral member of the community. An accomplished pianist, Ray entertained residents as the accompanist for the BRAVO players in productions held in 2014 and 2015. He also sang with the Village Voices. He is a past director on the OVTD Board and was president of OVTD from 2018-2019.

Ray, Betty Mulholland and Barbara Stewart organized and started the OV Arts Guild (OVAG) in 2016, He previously served as OVAG president.

He is a frequent speaker at various community group meetings in the greater New Haven area. "My subjects include the process of drafting our U.S. Constitution in 1787, and the lives and history of people who were born and lived in Stratford, such as General David Wooster and the Honorable William Samuel Johnson, who made important contributions to the founding of our state and nation," says Ray.

Oronoque residents are invited to enjoy Ray's renderings, which will grace the front and back hallways of NCB throughout the month of January.

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. Selected 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.

For more information, contact Barbara Stewart at 203-612-1373 or barbsmt@yahoo.com.







GOOD TIMES CLUB SETS THE STAGE FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Story by Mary Ann Weaver

Good Times Club's bus trip to Aqua Turf in Plantsville on Dec. 5 was so much fun. The food and, of course, the entertainment by The Diamonds were excellent. We danced and sang along with not just the Diamonds hits, but also the holiday music that they sang.

It truly was a fun-packed day with great food, company and entertainment. Please look for upcoming bus trips by Good Times in 2024: On Saturday, May 14, we will see a Neil Diamond tribute and on Dec 3 a Motown performance -both will be at Aqua Turf. Nothing to do but come and enjoy. Everything is taken care of. Bus trips sell out fast so look in The Villager for our next offering.

We also have our second annual new year's event, "Celebration of 2024," on Saturday, Jan. 13, and our annual Sock Hop on Saturday, Oct. 21. Please join us!

For information, call Mary Ann Weaver at 203-530-9962.



Mary Kelleher Mary.Kelleher@raveis.com 203.496.1399

Christine Mahoney Christine.Mahoney@raveis.com 203.258.7415

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CALENDAR

Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Chrissy Smith at csmith@oronoquevillage.com. For the latest on OV news & events, go to www.oronoquevillage.com.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

- 9:00 a.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 4:00 pm. Funseekers Board Meeting, SCB (C)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing, beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Galerie OV Installation, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. –Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm (C)
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club, NCB Library

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

- 9:30 a.m. Holiday Decoration Removal, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. House Committee, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Village Quilters, NCB
- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, NCB (C)
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Ballroom Dance Lessons, NCB
- •

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

- 9:30 a.m. Holiday Decoration Removal, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:00 p.m. 5 O'clock Somewhere

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7: No events scheduled

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 11:00 a.m. Communications Committee, NCB
- 1:00 p.m. Mahjong, SCB (C)
- 1:00 p.m. Arts Guild Meeting, NCB (C)
- 3:30 p.m. Bylaws Committee, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. Maintenance Committee Mtg, NCB
- 6:30 p.m. Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 6:30 p.m. BRAVO meeting, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. Bulls & Bears, SCB

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

- 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
- 10:30 a.m. OVCA Agenda Meeting, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. Sketching Class, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. Writer's Group, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. OVCA Unit Owners Meeting, NCB

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

- 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 (C)
- 5:00 p.m. Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB

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.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

- 10:00 a.m. Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, 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. Strategic Planning Mtg/Marketing, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. Ballroom Dance Lessons, NCB

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB 1
- 10:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Night Billiards, NCB (C)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

• 6:00 p.m. – Good Times Club Celebrates 2024, NCB

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

• 4:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Opening Reception, SCB

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

- 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, JANUARY 16

- 9:00 a.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. Sketching Class, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. OVCA Board Meeting, NCB

OV SNAPSHOT



Jackie Freeman, House and Garden Club board member, always adds a touch of beauty to the club's events with her outstanding centerpieces. This gorgeous holiday greenery, from a recent holiday program, shows Jackie's talents. She also serves elegant and delicious desserts that have become a tradition for House and Garden Club tea parties.

— Submitted by Arline Walton

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

- 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 (C)
- 5:00 p.m. Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB

HUMOR

Ask your doctor if a drug with 32 side effects is right for you.

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife or a good husband, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. (Socrates)

Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch!

Do you know that awesome feeling when you get into bed, fall right asleep, stay asleep all night, and wake up refreshed, waiting to take on the day? Yeah, me neither.

—Submitted by Tom Fuchs

1

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ELECTIONS: A QUIZ FROM THE LWV

The League of Women Voters (LWV) Oronoque Village Study Group recently hosted Stratford Town Registrar James Simon for a question-and-answer session about elections and voting in Connecticut. He brought a quiz that we all took, which will appear one question at a time in The Villager.

How well can you do?

True or False: Once you register to vote, your registration is good for your lifetime.

Answer: In general, you must vote at least once every

four years in Connecticut to maintain your status as an active voter. If you don't, you are moved to inactive status and then, after four more inactive years, you are moved off the voting rolls and you need to reregister in order to vote.

But ... if you take any action with the Department of Motor Vehicles, it can help reset your clock. And, if you respond to the Registrars' annual canvass that you are still an eligible voter in Stratford (even though you have not voted), you will remain an active voter.

So, the answer is "false."

OV

WEBSITE INSIGHTS

Did you know that you can always find The Villager on our website? Go to the oronoquevillage.com home page, click COMMUNICATIONS, then click on VILLAGER, then click again on VILLAGER for not only the current issue but past issues as well! This may be helpful when the Jan. 15 and Feb. 15 issues are printed in limited quantities as a test to address the waste we see in copies being left in our black boxes. We will not be delivering these two issues there.

If you need a printed copy, you may pick one up at the Business Office. If you can't make it to the office, please call or text a resident volunteer at Neighbor to Neighbor at 203-479-0107 to arrange for a delivery.

N eed more info on the By-Laws Declarations or on the Capital Reserve Fund and the Capital Reserve Study? Find these documents and find answers to your ques-

tions: oronoquevillage.com/Home Page/Condo News & Notifications. Scroll down and find a variety of helpful documents. The Declaration Proxies are due at the Business Office by Jan. 9 or may be delivered in-person at the Special Unit Owners Meeting at 4 p.m. on Jan. 9.

Looking for the time and date of an upcoming social event? You can look in The Villager online, but the best place to look is on the online calendar. This is where you will find the latest updates of events – from meetings to parties to sports to games and music.

uestions about the website? Call Mary von Ziegesar at 203-767-9760 or email MvonZ@optonline.net. ov

BEYOND THE VILLAGE

Misty Copeland & Open World Dance Foundation present "Cinderella" at 7:30 p.m. on March 15 at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. In a performance uniting American Ballet Theatre stars, local talent and performers from all over the world, "Cinderella" promises to be an experience that brings together the community and provides a unique platform for children to showcase their budding artistic prowess.

While Misty Copeland will not be performing, this presentation features a special live pre-show conversation with her. "I had the privilege of being the first Cinderella to perform in the community production of 'Cinderella' with Open World Dance," she states. "This year I'm honored to support and pass on the opportunity to the next generation!" Visit https://www.palacetheaterct.org for details.

A watercolor painting demonstration will be presented by the Shelton Art League following a general meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 8, at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church St. At 1 p.m. Liz Rosiello will demonstrate the use of watercolors in floral subjects. She graduated from the School of Visual Arts with degrees in fine arts and art education. She has a steady flow of inspiration using subjects from her gardens. Visit http://www.sheltonartleague.org for additional information. Guests are always welcome.

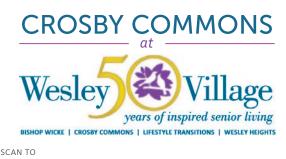


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FUNSEEKERS WELCOMES DUELING PIANOS

Story by Marie Orlowe ~ Photos by Letitia Labaree

The Funseekers held their last gathering of 2023 on Tuesday, Dec. 12. Lucy Clifford introduced Board members, stating their responsibilities. Arline Walton was acknowledged for her excellence in producing ads for The Villager. Sabine Curry received kudos for her home-baked, packaged cookies for members to enjoy.

The Board surprised those attending by offering trays of appetizers, dip and crackers. They were the centerpieces, which were encircled by candy canes provided by Letitia Labaree. Letitia greeted everyone wearing her Christmas tree dress, which sporadically lit up with tiny bulbs. Entertaining the Funseekers, for their third time, and back by popular vote, were the two gentlemen playing Dueling Pianos. They honored the many requests, opening with "I'm a Believer," then performed hits by Neil Diamond, The Beach Boys, Tina Turner and Meatloaf. A Billy Joel trilogy was exciting, especially with a harmonica performance during "Piano Man."

A special country music song by Garth Brooks pleased the crowd. The mood was upbeat and everyone participated, interacting with the pianists. The event was very festive.

Funseekers does not meet in January. We look forward to seeing you in February 2024.

FOR THE LATEST COMMUNITY NEWS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

WHEN TO REPLACE A WATER HEATER, EXPLAINED

For most homeowners, hot, running water is a luxury they don't think twice about. The average person uses warm water up to 20 times per day in their home. However, homeowners should always be proactive in maintaining their water heaters. But when to replace the water heater altogether?

The manufacturer's average suggested lifespan for a traditional water heater is between 8 to 12 years. A tankless water heater can last up to 20 years before it needs to be replaced. Regardless of what type of water heater is installed, over time, it will corrode with age, and it's essential to monitor it for any of the below issues, especially if it's in the second half of its lifespan.

If you are not aware of the age of your water heater, it can be traced. The serial number on the water heater typically includes a manufacturing date. In most cases, the first letter of the serial number will indicate the month it was manufactured, starting with "A" for January, leading all the way to "L" for December. The next two numbers will indicate the year it was made. For example, if a serial number starts with "C19" the water heater was manufactured in March 2019.

Troubleshooting

Discolored Water: One common issue older water heaters have is producing discolored water. There are many reasons why this could occur, and it may not mean the water heater needs to be replaced.

When corrosion happens, rust builds and can leak into the water supply. This leads to discolored water coming out of the faucets. Before jumping to conclusions about the water heater, homeowners should run cold tap water for a few minutes. If that water is also rusty, it may mean the issue is within the pipes, not the heater. If it is not rusty, it may be time for a new water heater.

Sometimes water may be cloudy or sandy, caused by a buildup of sediment in the heater tank. Homeowners can rectify this issue by draining the contents of the tank and clearing out the sediment. However, if the water continues to run sandy or cloudy, the heater must be replaced.

Lack of Warm Water: The most obvious reason to get a new hot water heater is a lack of warm water getting to the house. This can mean the water isn't as hot, the periods of hot water don't last as long, or there is no hot water altogether. The issue worsens if the heating bill is going up at the same time.

There may be no or less hot water because there is an issue with the electrical thermostat. On average, a home should have the thermostat set between 120 and 140 degrees. If the thermostat is readjusted and the hot water re-

turns, then there's no reason to replace the heater. The lack of hot water could also result from a broken heating element within the water heater. A plumber can easily fix this issue, get the parts needed, and restore heating functions within a few hours. However, the components required for older water heaters may not be as readily available, and in some cases, it may be just better to replace the system overall.

Strange noises: As water heaters get older, the rumbling noises they make to heat up water might get louder. This can be due to various reasons, which may be more significant signs the heater needs to be replaced.

As mentioned previously, sediment can build up over time at the bottom of the tank. The noise caused by sediment buildup is the sound of the hardened sediment banging

against the tank. If not flushed out, the sediment will grow harder and thicker along the floor and start to

wear the water heater down. This will make the heater more inefficient and accelerate the damage to the tank.

> Homeowners should check for this problem as soon as they hear any unusual noise from their water heater. Taking early action can prevent long-term damage and extend the heater's life if it's not yet time for a water heater replacement.

Leaks: At the end of their life span, hot

water heaters tend to leak around the floor of the tank. This could potentially lead to minor to significant property damage for the homeowner. A leak in a water heater tank could mean it's time to replace it.

Leaks are usually caused as the result of expansions to metal in the tank. These expansions occur over the multiple heating cycles of the tank's life. Fractures may occur because of this expansion, leaking water at the height of each heating cycle. Sometimes, the leak may be minor enough to fix, but this is only delaying the inevitable replacement.

Ongoing repairs: Water heaters can be sensitive and may need to be repaired frequently. If homeowners find themselves calling in a plumber on multiple occasions for a hot water heater repair, it may be worth it to replace it altogether.

Water heaters are getting more sophisticated every year. Depending on which heater is purchased, it could last longer and even provide some efficiency for electricity bills.

Source: www.bobvilla.com

AVOIDING SENIOR SCAMS: TIPS FROM THE FTC

UNITED

SSION

ATT WCMX

Every year millions of people report fraud, scams and bad business practices to the Federal Trade Commission. Your stories help the FTC to better understand how fraud affects every community.

Scammers are using social media for investment, romance and online shopping scams. More than one in four people who reported losing money to fraud from 2020 -2021 said it started on social media with an ad, a post or a message. The most money was lost to investment and romance scams.

Romance scammers pursue people on dating apps and social media with fake tales of love, then demand payments with gift cards, wire transfers and cryptocurrency.

The median reported loss across all romance scam reports was \$2,400 last year, but the amount was higher among older adults. People 70 and over reported the highest median losses at \$9,000.

Imposters posing as Amazon workers tricked people with messages about suspicious activity or unauthorized purchases on their accounts. Among people age 60 and over who reported the calls in 2020-2021, the median reported loss was \$1,500, compared to \$814 for people under age 60.

If you spot one of these scams (or another), please tell us at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. It's easy to report and the information you give helps protect your community.

Four Signs of a Scam

1. Scammers pretend to be from an organization you know. Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the Social Security Administration, the IRS or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company or even a charity asking for donations.

They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

2. Scammers say there's a problem or a prize. They might say you're in trouble with the government or you owe money or someone in your family had an emergency or that there's a virus on your computer.

Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information.

Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

3. Scammers pressure you to act immediately. Scammers

want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story.

They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

4. Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way. They often insist that you pay by sending money through a money transfer company or by putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back.

Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), tell you to deposit it and then send them money.

What You Can Do to Avoid a Scam

Block unwanted calls and text messages. Take steps to filter unwanted text messages.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect. Legitimate organizations won't call, email or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately. Legitimate businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Report Scams to the FTC

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www. ReportFraud.ftc.gov or call the Consumer Help Line, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The line is staffed by counselors from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

AAA ADVISES DRIVERS, PEDESTRIANS ON SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

With daylight saving time now over, motorists are presented with challenges that could impact safety. AAA Northern New England recommends motorists

prepare for potential problems associated with changes in sleep patterns, brighter morning commutes and darker evening commutes.

When combined with an earlier dusk, disturbed sleep patterns can become a formula for fatigue-related crashes.

AAA provides the following tips to help reduce your risk of a night driving collision:

Adjust your speed to the reach of your headlights. Do not "overdrive" your headlights by driving at a speed that wouldn't allow you to stop for an obstacle at the far reaches of your headlights.

Visit your optometrist annually.

Inspect headlights for deterioration and have them serviced if they appear hazy or yellowing. 80 percent of your headlight illumination can be blocked by aged headlight lens.

Inspect and replace pitted windshields and worn windshield wiper blades.

Regularly clean headlights and windshield – Make sure to clean both the inside and outside of your windshield.

Avoid being blinded by oncoming high beams. If the driver of an oncoming vehicle fails to dim the lights, look down toward the right side of the road to avoid being blinded. You should be able to see the edge of the lane or the painted edge line and stay on course until the vehicle passes.

Adjust mirrors to reduce glare. Properly adjusted mirrors not only reduce blind spots, they also reduce glare from vehicles behind you.

Cabin illumination. Many newer vehicles come with brightly lit infotainment screens and dashboard clusters that can be dimmed improving your vision for the road.

Be responsible — Wear your safety belt every trip and drive distraction and impairment free.

In 2021, AAA noted that, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Center for Statistics and Analysis, 32 percent of all pedestrian fatalities occur between 8 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. If you are a pedestrian make sure you're visible to drivers at all times and make eye contact with them whenever possible. This is especially important at night, in low-light conditions such as dusk or dawn or in inclement weather.

Here are a few additional tips from AAA.

Tips for Motorists

Driving: Always watch out for pedestrians when backing up in parking lots or driveways. Turn on your headlights to make yourself more visible.



Leave more following room. In the morning, when the sun is in your eyes it can be hard to see what the car ahead is doing. Use sunglasses and your sun visor.

Be mindful of children and others who are outdoors in the afternoon and evening as it gets dark earlier.

Remember to yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. Do not pass vehicles stopped at

crosswalks.

Pay attention and eliminate all distractions including cell phones and car clocks that are off by an hour.

Scan the road for wild animals, mainly deer. There were 34,064 animal-related crashes in New York in 2021, often outside of daylight hours.

Tips for Pedestrians

Cross only at intersections or crosswalks. Look left, right and left again, and only cross when it is clear. Do not jaywalk or cross between parked cars.

Evaluate the distance and speed of oncoming traffic before you step out into the street.

Avoid walking in traffic where there are no sidewalks or crosswalks. If you have to walk on a road that does not have sidewalks, walk facing traffic.

See and be seen. Carry a flashlight and wear reflective clothing and/or accessories.

While walking, pocket the cell phone and avoid listening to headphones at a volume that prohibits you from hearing approaching danger.

ARTS GUILD PRESENTS 'ADVENTURES IN NEPAL'

Story by Barbara Stewart ~ Photo by Letitia Laberee

Residents are encouraged to attend an inspiring presentation by Oronoque resident Letitia Laberee on Friday, Feb. 16, at 4 p.m., at SCB.

Letitia traveled to Nepal as a volunteer with "Forgotten Sherpas of Nepal Trust," an organization that supports health clinics in remote villages in. Nepal. She also visited village schools that are supported by the Himalayan Trust and the Forgotten Sherpas Trust, where pencils, erasers and notebooks were delivered to the children. Letitia says, "As an educator, the schools I visited were startling. Some schools have no electricity. The walls are bare, there are benches and wooden slab tables for desks. However, the students were so beautiful and so grateful."

You will also hear about her physically demanding trek up Pikey Point with her amazing Sherpa guide, Lhakpa, and be treated to her photographs of breathtaking mountain vistas, and heartwarming pictures of the Nepalese people.

Letitia grew up on a farm southeast of Montreal near the U.S./Canadian border. Her love of travel stems from childhood when her parents made car trips across North America an annual summertime event. Letitia graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in history and a minor in biology from Concordia University in Montreal. After graduation, she moved to California and worked in finance and banking.

Her next adventure was as a missionary, which gave her the opportunity to travel in the U.S. and abroad. She later moved to Bridgeport and pursued a master's degree in education from the University of Bridgeport. For 17 years she taught English as a Second Language (ESL) iin the south Bronx and was an ESL department head in New York City. She retired in 2018 and moved to Oronoque in 2021.



Boudha Stupa in Katmandu.

Bring your wallet because, after the presentation, Letitia will be selling some beautiful pashmina shawls and yak scarves. There will be raffle for a floral applique razor cut winter jacket as well as embroidered hand clutches in addition to a few novelty items. All proceeds will go to The Himalayan Trust Nepal to be used to benefit the students in the Mali and Goli schools in the Middle Hills of Nepal.

2024 EMPLOYEE HOLIDAYS

President's Day, Monday, Feb. 19

Good Friday, March 29

Memorial Day, Monday, May 27

Independence Day, Thursday, July 4

Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2

Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 14

Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 28 (Clubhouses closed) and Friday, Nov. 29

Christmas, Wednesday, Dec. 25 (Clubhouses closed)

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EVENT TO BEGINS AT 5:30PM

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Attendee Names:

Address: ______Telephone______

I would like to game table reserved.

____ # of attendee x \$ 20 P.P. – Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Any questions, please call Lucy Andrade at 203-258-4519



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

Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on January 26 at SCB at 6:30pm.

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

ORONOQUE VILLAGE (************************************	 6 Films For \$35 (Arts Guild members) - \$40 non members 6 Film Package Purchase Required Limited to first 40 film lovers to sign up Light food & drink relating to the film will be served prior to the viewing in The Festival Lounge Discussion of the film after each event
Film Festival Season 3 2024	List of Films To Be Shown January 21st Prelude To A Kiss January 28th Lost In Translation February 4th
Sundays 3pm • SCB TV lounge No Checks Accepted Before Saturday January 6TH-!!!!	Signs Of Life Germany February 25th
Please include this form & a check for \$35 or \$40 made out to OVAG and drop into the Arts Guild Mailbox NCB Name: Phone:	The AnchoressGreat BritainMarch 3rdSummer With MonikaMarch 10thSweden
Image: Contact: Phone? Image: Contact: Image: Co	Il Postino Chris Orrell, Film Festival organizer will introduce each film giving relevant information

GOOD TIMES CLUB: JOIN US SATURDAY, JAN 13TH
IN WELCOMING 2024 FEATURING LISA ARANCI, VOCALIST AND DJ
FEATORING LISA ARANCI, VOCALIST AND DS
TIME: 6:00 -10:00 PM * LOCATION: NORTH CLUBHOUSE * COST:
\$45 pp
Appetizers: Coconut Shrimp, Stuffed Mushrooms, Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Spring Rolls
Buffet: Chicken Piccata, Salmon, Eggplant, Pasta & Salad
Dessert, Coffee & Tea - Soda & Setups Provided - BYOB
50/50 RAFFLE & BASKET DOOR PRIZES
Seating preference: Include all names with checks payable to
"Good Times" & drop off with form in Good Times box at NCB before Jan. 6.
Name: Phone:
Number Attending: Amount Enclosed:
Questions? Contact Mary Ann Weaver: 203-530-9962
SULL PILL PICK
FITS Presents Our New Art Show
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Reception
Sunday, Photography Fiber Arts & Crafts

January 14, 2024 4 pm SCB

Refreshments To Follow





Hands Only **CPR** Program Tuesday, January 30th – 6:30pm North Club House

Presented by John (Jack) Rodican, BS, EMS-I, NREMT-Paramedic Paramedic Supervisor Stratford Emergency Medical Service

Coffee and cookies to be served

\$7.00 Per Person Registered by Friday, January 24th Check Payable to Guys & Dolls Memo: CPR

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JANUARY 18, 7 P.M. AT SCB



\$2.50 A CARD

RAFFLE PRIZES (INCLUDING A BIG 50/50)

SWEET TREATS

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.oronoquevillage.com. All submissions must be received by noon on the deadline date

Jan. 15 has a deadline of Jan. 3 (no delivery of issues)

Feb.1 Villager has a deadline of Jan. 19 Feb.15 Villager has a deadline of Feb. 2 (no delivery of issues)

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 June 18



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. 15 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@oronoquevillage.com

FUNSEEKERS	
EXCITING PLANS FROM YOUR FUNSEEKERS CLUB! WE INVITE ALL RESIDENTS OF ORONOQUE VILLAGE TO JOIN OR REJOIN FUNSEEKERS AS WE BEGIN OUR 2024 SEASON ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024	
We meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month at the South Clubhouse and provide a lovely evening of socialization and top notch entertainment. We have a great line-up of entertainers for this season.	
Meet new friends, socialize and enjoy fabulous entertainment each month. Dessert, soft drinks, coffee and tea are always provided.	
We are now collecting membership dues. Annual dues are only \$15 per person. An event fee is collected with each event reservation. If you already paid your 2024 dues you are all set!	
Kindly fill out the form below. Return with check made out to Funseekers Club and deposit in the Funseekers Mailbox, NCB lobby. Questions? Call Lucy Clifford, 203-6447710 or Imclifford@yahoo.com.	
We are working on a new database of members' emails so that we may correspond with you efficient- ly and expediently. Please include your email address below. Thank you. We are anxious to develop this avenue of communication as soon as possible.	
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