

February 1, 2024



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Thank you to Carol Hamilton for submitting the cover photo, taken from her deck on Algonquin Lane during the Jan. 6 snow-storm. The Villager welcomes photos submissions, which must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to cking@oronovillage.com. Villager editorial submissions should be emailed as either text attachments or with text pasted into the body of an email. All Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of The Associated Press Stylebook.



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Oronoque Village Condominium Association President's Message

January 17, 2024



To all residents: I sincerely hope that you, your families, and friends had a joyful, loving holiday season!

Employee Appreciation Fund:

On Friday, Dec. 15, Mark Rhatigan and Ryan Hankey hosted a staff holiday party. The staff departed happily with their holiday checks in hand that were distributed by Mark and Ryan. A big thank you to the 363 residents (39 percent), Districts and Clubs who contributed to the Employee Appreciation Fund, enabling us to show our dedicated hard-working employees the appreciation of OV residents, which resulted in bonuses exceeding \$36,000.

The Clubhouses Tax Appeal Phase I Summons: We last reported that the Town had a deadline of Dec. 6, 2023, to respond to our correspondence. The response could either be to provide an answer or a motion to dismiss or to strike.

On Dec. 2, 2023, the Town did not file a motion to dismiss or a motion to strike, but rather "an answer and special defenses," which is good. We were then obligated to respond within 30 days by (Jan. 2, 2024), we complied and responded on Dec. 29, 2023. The Court requires us now to confer with the Town counsel to have a pretrial conference and availability dates are currently being worked out.

The Community Contribution Fee (CCF) Update:

Thank you to all the unit owners who participated in the proxy voting for the Proposed Declaration Community Contribution Fee. We are pleased to announce that, as of Jan. 16, 67 percent of the units have voted in favor of the proposal and 16 percent have voted in opposition while 17 percent did not vote. The Unit Owner meeting is scheduled for Jan. 31, 2024. After that meeting, all the required documentation to file the updated declaration with the Town of Stratford land records as well as updating the Oronoque Village resale packets will be completed shortly thereafter. Effective in February 2024 the Community Contribution Fee will be imposed on sales.

The OVCA monthly financial reserve report will have a separate line item indicating fees collected for the month as well as cumulative to date.

Flooding Issue Update: Mark and Barry Hammonds presented at the Dec. 15, 2023, Town of Stratford Inland Wetlands meeting and received unanimous approval of the Oronoque Village application from the Wetlands Board. Our proposed plan of implementation includes staff participation and budget approval. The plan of execution will more than likely straddle the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 budgets.

Blackhawk Country Club: Significant investments into the golf course have been made over the past several months and more are happening as we speak. We can all see the efforts on the driving range and the maintenance building repairs just to mention a couple. We are also working to finalize a date for our 2024 Golf Tournament.

Ad Hoc Golf Tournament Committee Volunteers:

I would like to announce that Nick Harding will be this year's OV Golf Tournament Committee chair. This is a great opportunity, especially for new residents, to volunteer. The tournament has been a very successful fundraiser for our Village and charitable organizations that receive a significant portion of the proceeds. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the committee chair, Nick Harding, Mark or me.

Strategic Planning Initiative: Focus groups have met and have submitted white papers to the Strategic Management Team. The next step is a formal presentation to the Village in early February.

2023/2024 Budget Preview: Mark and his team will be putting together and releasing a brief message with a YouTube video discussing and explaining the 2024/2025 budget cycle, process challenges and opportunities. This is targeted to be released in mid to late February. Stay tuned!

Whether you attended the OVCA Board meeting or were unable to, please feel free to contact me directly with any comments, clarifications and/or questions.

The "best" news in the state this week is that our UCONN Huskies men's basketball team moved up to Number 1 in the nation, while the women's basketball team is back in the top 10 at Number 9 in the nation.

Thank you,
Bob Grosso,
OVCA President

(203) 449-3157 / sfgiants_24@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FROM MARK RHATIGAN



Here are some updates on what is occurring within our community.

Watercourse Mitigation: The proposed engineer recommendations and planting plans for Freeman Brook watercourse mitigation were approved by the Town of Stratford Inlands Wetlands

Committee unanimously. This is in effort to control the erosion of the stream banks along Units 21 A/B and 22 A/B in District 1 area of Algonquin Lane. The plans include the installation of gabion retaining walls or also known as rock baskets – comprised of wire meshed baskets filled with various size stones which will : a) provide protection against further erosion and b) allow the watercourse to naturally flow without making any environmental impacts. Also, there is an extensive planting plan included for the embankments. The intention is to not only restore the area to a natural setting but will also help reinforce the gabion walls and allow for plant growth to fill any voids within the retained stone.

Our next step is implementing the plan. Ryan and I will be meeting with the engineering team and the soil scientists to determine what initial preparations can be

completed with our own Maintenance staff and equipment without making a large impact on the budget. We hope to begin preliminary work this early spring.

Leaf Removal: Annually, leaf removal timing has been a matter of resident concern. We are understaffed in our grounds department and, as a result, we are looking for solutions to attack this issue while respecting the limitations of the budget.

For sure, our augmented help from Lemos Landscaping made a huge impact when they were on-site with our crews. Unfortunately, due to budget restrictions, we were only able to utilize their help for the first two sections, while sections 3 and 4 were managed solely by Maintenance staff.

We now see the need to adjust the budget to allow for contracted labor continuously in November and December. This spring we will be going out to bid to secure grounds maintenance proposals and we will include our recommendations in the budget planning for the finance committee and board's consideration.

These outsourcing solutions are becoming essential in this current labor market, and we just want to make

Continued on page 22

A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT 8 REPRESENTATIVE

The process for the vote on the Declaration change has been a long one, but it is a very important vote. It's not just for today, but for 10, 15, 20 years in the future.

I was one of those people who went door to door, talking with my neighbors in District 8 who had not yet voted. Tom Fuchs and I did this together.

I know our experience was not unique. So, I want to take this time now to say "thank you."

Thank you to my neighbors, who graciously invited us into their homes. Thank you for your genuine interest in wanting to learn the specifics as written in the Community

Contribution Fee so you could vote with full understanding.

Thank you for your frank questions that lead to honest but pleasant conversations.

Thank you for making the effort to feel comfortable with your voting decisions and to then take the time to vote.

It was very gratifying to meet with you and have these conversations because it is only through open and honest discussion of our concerns, and possible solutions, that we can continue to thrive as a community. So, again, my Oronoque neighbors, thank you.

Sherry Bearse



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CT STUDY GROUP ON FEB. 15

League of Women Voters of Connecticut (LWVCT) Oronoque Study Group's next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m. at NCB. LWV is a nonpartisan organization (of women and men) that encourages active participation in government.

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

SAVE THE DATE: SAC TRIVIA NIGHT

A SAC Trivia Night is scheduled for March 9, 7-9 p.m., at the South Clubhouse. More details to follow.

BUSINESS/MAINTENANCE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON FEB. 19

The Business and Maintenance Offices will be closed on Feb. 19 due to the Presidents' Day holiday.

TRASH/RECYCLING PICKUP IS NOT AFFECTED BY MONDAY HOLIDAYS

Garbage and recycling pickup occurs weekly on Wednesdays. The pickup schedule is not interrupted by

A REQUEST FOR TAG SALE ITEMS FROM THE HOUSE & GARDEN CLUB

Last year, the club donated \$5,000 to the Village for the beautification of designated landscape project areas. This was largely due to the success of our annual estate/tag sale, which is held every April, and all of the donations that were made by our residents.

If you have donations of household items, framed pictures, small appliances or small furniture, and women's accessories, etc., we will gladly accept them.

It's not too early to start cleaning cabinets, closets and other parts of your homes. This is the perfect time of the year to tackle these projects.

If you need packing up or picking up, please call Debbie Grosso at 203-380-2468 or Wendy Steinfeld at 203-610-3395.

Thanks for your continued support.

Monday holidays.

If a change to the recycling or trash pickup schedule does occur, residents will be notified via robocalls and emails.

E-BIKE SAFETY

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

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

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

Here are some safety considerations when purchas-

ing and maintaining an E-Bike

- UL Rated Batteries (UL Standard 2271) and UL Rated Electrical Systems (UL2489) are important to look for.
- Replacement batteries should meet the manufacturer's specifications and have UL approved standard 2271.
- Batteries should not be left to charge overnight.
- When storing an E-Bike for more than 30 days the battery should not be fully charged and should only be at 50 percent to 70 percent charged.
- E-Bikes should be stored away from flammable items and should not block an exit doorway.
- Any maintenance should be performed by certified professionals.

E-Bikes sold in the U.S. with UL certification include: Aventon, Radio Flyer, Velotric, Juiced Bikes (Batteries UL Certified), Buzz Bicycles, Ecotric, Tesgo, and BeeCool, and Bikes with Bosch Motors.



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ORONOQUE'S 'SPEAKER SERIES' TO LAUNCH MARCH 8 AT 3 P.M. AT SCB

By Chris Orrell

Oronoque Village's newest club, OV Speakers Series, will sponsor its first free program open to all Village residents at 3 p.m. on March 8 in the South Clubhouse.

Members of the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) will talk about ILR's wide range of adult-learning courses presented throughout the year and also have two premier study group leaders give mini-presentations.

A meet-and-greet reception will be held immediately following the program with complimentary wine and treats.

OV resident and club host, Chris Orrell, recently sat down with ILR Board member, Ann Griffin, to discuss ILR and the upcoming program.

Thank you for arranging a program specifically for OV residents on March 8. Tell us a little about the Institute For Learning In Retirement and its mission.

ILR is a nonprofit, New Haven area-based group of adults interested in continuing their education. Members have the opportunity to enjoy college-level academic courses, as well as get involved in social gatherings and cultural experiences. We are an all-volunteer organization. All of our Study Group Leaders (people who lead our classes) are volunteers, as are all of our Board members and our registrar.

What types of courses are offered?

We offer a hugely diverse range of courses for those interested in continuing their journey of lifetime learning. Whether you have an interest in the arts, literature, music, current events, history, science, film, creative writing, gardening, card games (including bridge and mahjong), social lunches, museums or virtual tours, we have courses for you. This past fall semester we offered 60 unique classes!

You'll be coming to the South Clubhouse with a program of speakers. What topics will be presented?

Two of our most popular Study Group Leaders — Dr. Lewis House, a retired professor of American History from Southern Connecticut State University, and Professor Hedda Kopf, a retired Contemporary Literature professor from Quinnipiac University — will join us to present a brief overview of their classes. Last semester, Professor House taught a class titled "Americans At War" and Professor Kopf's fall semester class was titled "Pulitzer Prize Winners in Fiction for 2023". They'll also give residents a preview of their upcoming courses being offered this spring.

That sounds very engaging. What types of backgrounds do ILR instructors typically have?

Many of our courses are taught by active or retired professors from our local universities, such as Quinnipiac, Southern Connecticut State University, Yale University, the

University of New Haven, etc.

Other courses are led by ILR members with an expertise or deep interest in a particular subject. We even have Oronoque Village residents participate as Study Group Leaders. OV resident Wendy Swain presented several courses, including one on Italy and your four-part film appreciation series presented in September received terrific feedback!



Chris Orrell, left, and ILR Board member Ann Griffin discuss the March 8 Speaker Series program, which will take place at SCB.

How close to OV are the ILR classes held?

That's the great news for OV residents; all courses are held in venues only 20 minutes or so away by car. Classes are held at several nearby sites, such as the Woodbridge Library and a few in Hamden. Most courses are only six exits from Oronoque Village.

That is certainly convenient for Oronoque Village residents. How much do classes cost to attend?

Annual membership dues for ILR is \$45. There is a charge for each class. With your membership you will receive a paper catalog for each session, in addition to being able to view it online at <https://www.ilraltbertus.org/website/cmsAdmin/uploads/Winter2024-Catalog.pdf>

Classes that are only one session cost \$10. Classes taking place over two sessions will be \$15, classes lasting three sessions or more will be \$20. That's pretty inexpensive compared to similar organizations in our area.

Also, there are two primary semesters: spring (March-June) and fall (September-December). Occasionally, we do offer a few classes in the winter. The majority of our classes are held during the day and most occur on weekdays. On occasion, a class is held on a Saturday and, at times, in the early evening. Most of our classes are in-person but we do offer a number of Zoom classes as well.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss ILR. Let me conclude by asking you why residents should look forward to attending the ILR program on March 8.

If you are retired or semi-retired and are looking for a meaningful way to fill your newly acquired leisure time and are interested in continuing to learn new things or meeting new people, rest assured, becoming an ILR member is the way to go. Learn something new, impress your children and your grandchildren. We are very much looking forward to meeting Oronoque Village residents in March!



MAINTENANCE MATTERS

SNOW VERSUS ICE REMOVAL

By Ryan Hankey, Maintenance Director

The snowstorm of in mid-January bought us a manageable amount of snow that allowed roads and driveways to be plowed with relative ease.

However, the thick blocks of ice that formed during the frigid temperatures that followed the snowfall were very big challenges to overcome for the Maintenance teams. The ice that formed in parking lots and walkways was several inches thick and very difficult to conquer.

The use of ice melt or rock salt on icy areas may seem like an easy fix to some ... but these products have limitations and, often, create more problems than they solve.

For instance, rock salt will soften ice temporarily ... but on a frigid day, the ice will harden up again within a 45-minute time frame. As the ice melts and then re-freezes, it become more thick and more slippery and more difficult to remove.

During the weekend of Jan. 20, two Maintenance

crews worked throughout the Village. One team poured rock salt as the second team worked behind them to break up the ice as it softened. Crews had to work quickly during very cold temperatures so that they could break up the ice before it rehardened.

We ask residents to recognize that a 2-inch-thick block of ice is far more difficult to remove than 12 inches of fluffy snow. Pickaxes or spaded shovels may seem like helpful tools for removing ice blocks, but these options will damage the walkways and asphalt while tackling the icy buildup.

Please, during the cold and icy weather, remain indoors as much as you can. The ice is dangerous for walking and driving and we want all our residents to remain safe.

If you do leave home, we strongly suggest that you make use of your garage doors — to access your plowed driveways — as you enter and exit your units.

Thank you.



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ACTIVITIES

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

WRITER'S GROUP

- The Oronoque Village Writer's Group (OVWG) is a group of writers who enjoy sharing their work in a trusted environment. Members commit to twice-monthly workshops held on alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the SCB Card Room. Members include published authors and hobbyists. Works include essays, memoirs, poems, short stories, humorous tales, heart-wrenching histories. Contact Mary von Ziegesar at MvonZ@optonline.net or call 203-767-9760 with questions.

Reminder: The Feb. 15 issue of The Villager will not be distributed to residents' black boxes. The issue will be posted on the website, www.oronoquevillage.com. A limited number of hard copies will be printed and will be available for pickup in the Business Office on a first-come, first-served, basis. Residents who need a copy delivered to their homes should contact N2N - Neighbor to Neighbor Club - at 203-479-0107.

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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: JERRY REECE

Story by Carol King

During the month of February, Jerry Reece will hold his second Artist of the Month exhibit at the North Clubhouse.

He plans to feature a variety of acrylic paintings. Though Jerry is relatively new to the world of applying paint to canvas, his artistic talents are innate and he has a very extensive portfolio.

It was during the pandemic that Jerry developed a passion for painting. "During the boring downtime of 2020, I felt it was the right time to express myself artistically," he says. "I produced my first painting in June of 2020 and, before the year ended, I had painted 30 canvases."

His paintings were very well-received during his first NCB exhibit in July 2021 as well as at the art shows presented by the OV Arts Guild. Earlier this year, he was named the People's Choice Award winner for the Galerie OV spring show, titled "Reflections."

His winning work, titled "Harbor Lights," used a combination of black-and-white acrylic paint, resin and crushed glass to create a unique artwork that sparkled in the light and captured the interest of those voting for their favorite work of art. Voters liked the piece for its creativity, texture and dramatic effect.

During the pandemic, he also took an interest in sculpting, which led him to discover additional untapped artistic skills. A collection of sculptures created by Jerry are on exhibit at the Ruby & Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum in Stratford. The exhibition includes emotionally moving renderings of the black experience, encompassing slavery, emancipation, resilience and personal triumphs. The display also includes tributes to the power of the family spirit and the glorification of long-lasting love.

"While quarantining during the pandemic, I purchased sculpting supplies to bide the time and challenge my creativity," says Jerry. "What I discovered was that I had knack for creating 3-dimensional pieces. I really loved the process of letting my hands guide me and molding random pieces of clay into recognizable figures. It became very gratifying." Ultimately, Jerry became a member of the weekly OV sculpture class taught by OV resident Wendy Swain.

"Jerry is the most enthusiastic and talented sculpture student I have ever seen," says Wendy. "I feel so fortunate to have had him join my class. He loves to work out problems in the clay and come up with his own solutions. And the results are great! I am so happy he has been 'discovered' by the Ruby & Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum so our community can appreciate his talent."

Originally from Barbados, Jerry is well-acquainted with the horrors that families faced at the hands of slave traders. It is estimated that between 1627 and 1807, approximately



387,000 enslaved Africans were sent to Barbados. Barbados (Bridgetown, in particular), re-exported many slaves to North America, other Caribbean islands, and the Captainty General of Venezuela.

"I have sat on the shores of the east coast of Barbados and gazed out at the Atlantic's horizon contemplating what my ancestors faced on those slave ships," notes Jerry. "It is very important to me that in my artwork I try to convey segments of the black experience; even though the languages and cultures differ among the many islands, we are all one people and we have great respect for each other."

Jerry moved to New York's Westchester County when he was 11. "When we emigrated to the United States, my younger brother, Roger, and I wrote short stories and created superheroes who resembled our friends in the New Rochelle neighborhood where we grew up," he says. "It was truly the beginning of our assimilation into American society."

Today, Jerry makes his living as a professional writer. He has been a member of the Writers Guild Of America since 2012. His published works run the gamut with stories that are embraced by pre-teens, teens and adults. He also creates characters and intellectual properties for licensing. With this month's art exhibit, Jerry is pleased to share his recent creations. "Around the age of 11, I lost interest in painting and moved on to drawing and creating superheroes," he says. "Strange thing is that I always knew at some point -- when I got older and settled -- I'd paint again."

Jerry and his wife, Avlyn, have been residents of OV for the past four years. "We came across a listing for refurbished condos in Oronoque Village and decided to take a look," he says. "Our visit here was the last stop in a long day of open-house tours. It quickly became apparent to us that this was it! It fits our needs perfectly; our new home!"

In addition to being a member of the OV Arts Guild, Jerry is involved with the Pickleball and Tennis Clubs and is a founding member of the Neighbor to Neighbor Club.

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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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 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
- 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
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Ballroom Dance Lessons, NCB (C)
-

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Bridge Group, NCB (C)
- 3:00 p.m. – Super Bowl Planning, SCB (C)
- 5:00 p.m. – 5 O'clock Somewhere

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 12:00 p.m. – Private Party, SCB (C)
- 4:30 p.m. – Private Party, NCB (C)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 3:00 p.m. – OVAG Film Fest, SCB (Sold-out)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Strategic Management Committee, NCB

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 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)
- 10:30 a.m. – Hadassah Board Mtg, NCB (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, FEBRUARY 8

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

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT N2N: THE 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.

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Bridge, NCB (C)
- 6:00 p.m. – Friday Night Billiards, NCB (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *Love Again*, NCB

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 3:00 p.m. – Guys & Dolls Club Super Bowl Party, SCB

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Bridge, NCB (C)
- 1:00 p.m. – Mahjong, SCB (C)
- **3:30 p.m. – Bylaws Committee, SCB**
- **4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee Mtg, NCB**
- 6:00 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 6:30 p.m. – BRAVO, SCB

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- **9:30 a.m. – Architectural Committee Mtg, NCB**
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Sketching Class, SCB
- 6:15 p.m. – Funseekers event, SCB

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 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)
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *Love Again*, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB

MAGIC CLUB SEEKS MEMBERS



I'm starting a Magic Club in the Village, called "Fun With Magic." There will be several types of magic, such stage, walkaround, standup, close and some magic to show your grandkids.

*Interested parties should email
Magicinthevillage@gmail.com
with name, phone number and email address.*

Dues will cover refreshments and material.

**I need to get a head count before we get started.
Open to all Villagers ... but we are limited to 20
members to start.**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilters, NCB
- 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. – League of Women Voters, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Bingo, SCB

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Bridge, NCB (C)
- 4:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Event, SCB

HARRIS BONFIGLIO ‘RINGS’ IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FIGHTING WIN

By Carol King

Although he may be small in stature, Harris Bonfiglio packs a mighty punch.

During the work week, Harris is the OV Maintenance Operations Coordinator overseeing such tasks as scheduling work orders, getting quotes from contractors, data entry and problem resolution.

But during his off hours, he is a lean, mean fighting machine who competes professionally in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) matches.

MMA matches are comprised of three five-minute rounds during which two opponents vie to win by knockout, decision or submission. Most often, Harris wins by submission. “Usually I win the match during the first round,” he notes.

During MMA matches, contenders use a variety of fighting techniques that incorporate wrestling, kickboxing and submission grappling. In addition, Harris also is skilled in boxing and Muay Thai, a combat sport that uses stand-up striking, sweeps and various clinching techniques.

Harris has been practicing martial arts since the age of 5. “My father is a grand master in Tae Kwon Do and I trained with him for many years,” he says. “Around the age of 18 I branched out and began studying Brazilian jiu jitsu and cross-training and then, in 2015, I ventured into amateur fighting. I realized that I really liked the competition and that I was a decent contender.”

He turned pro in 2019 but was put on the sidelines for two years due to the pandemic and the suspension of professional matches. In 2021 he returned to the ring and he has become a dedicated – and unstoppable – force.

He competes in two weight classes: flyweight and bantam. During his most recent fight, which took place last month, Harris defeated up-and-comer Casey Norton via submission at 2:03 of Round 2 at Mohegan Sun as the main event to end the night.

In the most recently released rankings of the Northeast, Harris placed as Number 6 in the Pro Flyweight category and, out of 453 contenders, he was placed as Number 56 in the United States.

He credits his ability to land a punch or kick as factors in his success. “My striking is top-notch,” he notes. “I can make contact with an opponent, usually without getting hit back.”



Last month, during an MMA competition, Harris Bonfiglio (right) defeated up-and-comer Casey Norton via submission at 2:03 of Round 2 at Mohegan Sun during the main event, which ended the night.

His success does not come easily. Harris trains hard and he trains often. Mondays through Saturdays he can be found working with Andrew Calandrelli, a retired professional MMA fighter, at Ultimate MMA & Jiu Jitsu Training Center in North Haven.

“During the week — from 6-9 p.m. — I take classes in strength and conditioning, wrestling and grappling, striking and boxing,” says Harris.

He expects his next match to take place at Foxwoods Casino this month as part of the Classic Entertainment and Sports (CES) MMA competition. After that, who knows?

“I’m finding that there are fewer people who want to fight me, based on my win record,” Harris notes. “It’s not inconceivable that I may begin fighting beyond venues in the Northeast or pursue international competitions.”

Despite his success in the ring, Harris remains focused on providing quality service to OV residents. He has been a member of the Maintenance team since 2015, starting as a grounds worker and pool attendant. He then worked in the carpentry department before being promoted to an office position in 2017.





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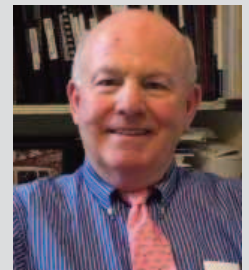
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MIKE KIMBERLY NAMED 'EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER'

Story by Carol King ~ Photo by Christine Smith

Mike Kimberly has been named the Oronoque Village Employee of the Quarter, it was announced by Maintenance Director Ryan Hankey.

"We have a terrific team of Maintenance employees, so it's hard to pick," Ryan noted. "But Mike perpetually goes the extra mile."

Mike has been a valued member of the Maintenance staff since arriving at Oronoque in September 2017. He was hired as Oronoque's first (and only) arborist — a position he still holds — but he also proved himself to be an asset with the ongoing tasks of groundskeeping and snow removal.

Last summer, he was promoted and given the added title of groundskeeping supervisor. "I organize and deploy the guys, perform inspections and work with residents to address their problem areas," he says.

As the resident arborist, Mike has been instrumental in diagnosing and salvaging Oronoque Village's beloved trees. "I assess whether trees have issues and recommend treatments for their issues," he says. "I figure out the best course for treating a tree."

Issues he has encountered on the job include fungal diseases, invasive insects or rotting roots.

When necessary, he also directs in-house staff with tree removals throughout the Village, thus avoiding the need to hire outside contractors to perform the task.

Becoming an arborist takes perseverance. "I took a class at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, then proceeded to take a written test with the state of Connecticut," he explains. "From there, I took an oral test at the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station in New Haven, where I was asked to identify various trees before a three-person panel."

To pass tree identification, one must get an 80 percent score or better. From there, a practical exam is taken on the same day. The practical exam consists of 10 conversational questions each from a different category: licensing/records, safety, general tree work, cabling and bracing, tree physiology, Insects, diseases, abiotic disorders, nutrient management and pesticides.


After successfully completing the testing phases he earned an arborist license from the Connecticut Depart-



ment of Environmental Protection. The license needs to be renewed every 5 years.

Mike worked in the tree business for 15 years before arriving at Oronoque Village. At the time of his hire, he was looking for a job that provided a supportive team environment and a work schedule that allowed him to spend time with his family. He says he has now found both.

"It's nice to be recognized as the Employee of the Quarter," he says. "I like the team camaraderie of the Maintenance Department. The guys work hard, and we have great leaders who are open to suggestions. The best thing is that we all work together to make the Village look as good as it can look."

A native of Milford, Mike lives in Trumbull with his wife, Kelly, and his children DJ, age 17; Lucy, 15 and Ty, 11. 

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FEATURE

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 of False: An advantage of being registered as an Independent in Connecticut is that you can vote in either the Republican or Democratic party primary election.

Answer: Many voters are surprised to learn that if they check "Independent" as their political party choice, they

suddenly have joined the Independent Party of Connecticut! In order for them to vote in a Democratic or Republican party primary in Connecticut, they would have to join that other party three months in advance to take part in its primary election. So, our opening statement is false.

If you don't want to be affiliated with an established party, you must choose "Unaffiliated" when you register to vote. You then have the ability to change your party just one day before a primary and be eligible to vote in a given Republican or Democratic primary, since you must be registered with that party to participate in its primary election.

OV

WEBSITE INSIGHTS

Find any event: The calendar is always on www.oronoquevillage.com/calendar.

Find any club: Look under the heading ORGANIZATIONS and learn who to call for information.

Find your representatives: Look under GOVERNMENT

ORGANIZATION – OVCA and OVTD.

With any questions about signing in on the website, call the Business Office and let's get you aboard!

Questions about the website? Contact Mary von Ziegesar at 203-767-9760 or email MvonZ@optonline.net.

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BOOK REVIEW: 'PARDON ME. MY CAT'S ON FIRE!'

By Mary W. von Ziegesar

"Pardon Me. My Cat's on Fire." is a small book with a big fire. Kees Adema, Oronoque resident, has published his delightfully fun, yet poignantly serious, book of "tales from the Boulder Inn, reflective vignettes and whimsical poetry." Kees' short stories, in varied formats, will make you laugh until you cry, cry with sadness, and smile at the thoughts shared.

The reminiscences center on the years Kees, and his wife and "love of my life," Ulla, owned a lakeside inn in Connecticut. A cat, Oscar, lived at the inn, and he did run through the inn's restaurant on fire. A gathering of impressive, diversified vacationers also frequented the inn, including Jack Gilford, Robert DeNiro, Mick Jagger's parents, Philip Roth, the Henry Kissingers and Jane Fonda.

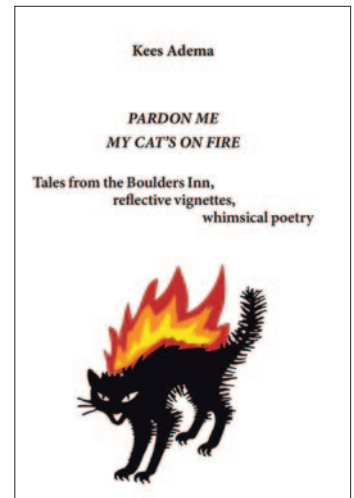
Many of the stories are laugh-out-loud reads, but the soul of the book reaches to Kees' early life in Holland during the German occupation and to later in his life while working as a junior purser on the Dutch passenger ship, the Oranje, and meeting Ulla on a beach in Spain. That romance continues in his writing. The collection glimpses at people, plants, animals, family, photographs, politics, food and celebrations.

His lifelong career collecting letters and stamps and his interest in history resulted in his acquiring important collections of letters and documents; he wrote five prize-win-

ning books on subjects from the 16th century through World War II. In this book's story, "Sign," Kees expresses his respect for the Nachthexen – the unrecognized 588th Night Bombers – women pilots, who became the most successful of all World War II air force units.

Among the most heart-warming reminiscences is that titled "The Sound of Silence," which relates the heroism of a man named Henk but called Oompje, an endearing term meaning "little uncle." In his small apartment, Oompje hid Kees' friend's Jewish family throughout the war.

The epilogue of "Pardon Me. My Cat's on Fire." is a lesson for us all: "Make certain an (photo) album is saved for posterity." In addition to photographs, in his endearing book, Kees has saved for posterity his words, words which tell us much more than his photographs. Words I am honored to have bound in this book in my library. "Pardon Me. My Cat's on Fire." is available for purchase at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com. All royalties will go towards children cancer research at St. Jude's Hospital.



OV

OV SNAPSHOT

WINTER POOL SOCIAL GROUP WELCOMES 2024

Story & Photo by Sonya DeBiase

A group of pool enthusiasts assembled at the South Clubhouse on Jan. 3 and toasted the new year while looking out at the pools.

As usual, we had a lot of laughs and assorted drinks and appetizers.

We are all counting down the days to the opening of the pools. The Pool Social is open to all Villagers. The next gathering will be held on Feb. 7 from 4-6 p.m. in the SCB Cardroom.

OV



FEATURE

'5 YEARS UNDER NAZI OCCUPATION' ... A READING BY ELISABETH BRESLAV

By Barbara Stewart and Mary W. von Ziegesar

You are invited to a reading by — and a celebration of — author and Oronoque Village resident Elisabeth Breslav on Friday, March 15, at 4 p.m. in the South Clubhouse.

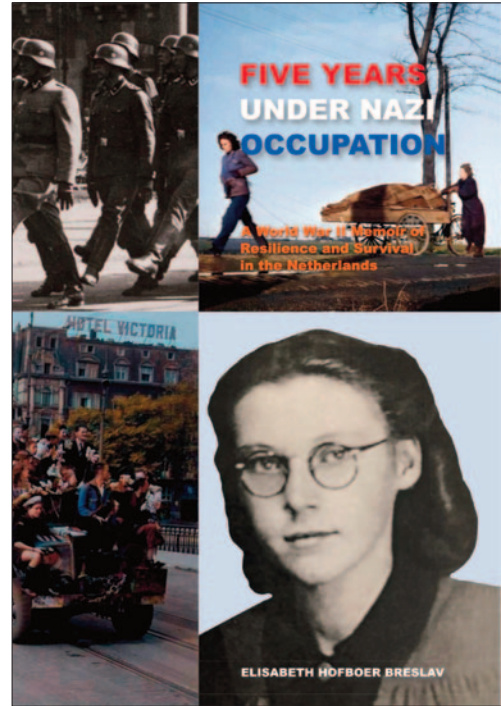
Elisabeth's recently published book, titled "Five Years Under Nazi Occupation — A World War II Memoir of Resilience and Survival in The Netherlands," is the gripping story of her life from ages 12 to 17 during the 1940-1945 Nazi occupation.

Fellow OV resident and author Kees Adema, who is also from the Netherlands, will follow the reading with a discussion of the relevance of Elisabeth's book. With war news hitting closer to home more than ever, and with weapons becoming more widely devastating all the time, there now exists an increased awareness of what wars do to innocent children, as well as adults, around the world.

The book will be available for purchase by credit card at this meeting, with all net proceeds from the sale going to the International Red Cross.

Co-sponsored by the Oronoque Village Writer's Group and the Oronoque Village Arts Guild, all residents are welcome to this event. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Members of the Arts Guild and the Writer's Group may attend free of charge. Guests pay \$8.



For information, contact Mary W. von Ziegesar at 203-767-9760 or MvonZ@optonline.net.

OV

FEATURE

OV PICKLEBALL CLUB CELEBRATES THE NEW YEAR

Story by Bill Tanski ~ Photo is by Gery Cuccaro

The Oronoque Village Pickleball Club celebrated the new year with all five courts in use on the afternoon of Jan. 1. Over 20 club members gathered on a brilliant sunny day to play our favorite sport. We played for nearly two hours, as our club entered 2024 where we left off the prior year...with camaraderie, joy and exercise.

After play was completed, many retreated to the Tanskis' home where beverages and Dorothy's homemade cookies awaited all.

We welcome all residents to join our fun-loving club. For more information, please contact our Director of Membership Maddy Lapides at 203-927-8577 or msslapides@gmail.com.

OV





sure all owners are fully informed when operational and financial adjustments are made in the coming future.

As part of the OV Strategic Planning Cycle, teams comprised of resident volunteers have been working since October to prepare recommendations that address the nine Oronoque Village strategic priorities.

Those teams are nearly finished and will present their recommendations to the Strategic Management Team on Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. at NCB. All residents are welcome to attend and listen to the presentations.


The SMT, which is made up of the officers of OVCA and OVTD, will then work with their respective Boards to incorporate these recommendations into their plans.

As some of you may know, prior to my appointment as Executive Director I had expressed my vision and goal to enhance the social, community relations and communications aspects of our community and, today, I am thrilled to announce that we have found the right individual to lead those efforts.

New Hire For New Position: Kathy Stevens has been hired as our Social Activities Manager. She comes to us with a comprehensive background in events coordinating and planning, making her an ideal fit for this crucial role. Her experience and expertise will undoubtedly contribute to the vibrancy and cohesion of our team and community.

In this newly created position, Kathy will be responsible for planning, coordinating and executing a wide range of social events that cater to the diverse interests of our residents while working closely with the ever-growing number of clubs. Additionally, she will play a key role in enhancing community relations and communications, working with Carol King, our communications coordinator, to ensure that information flows seamlessly within our community while working with the Communications, House and Social Activities Committees and overseeing the community calendar.

I see her role evolving over time, but I need you to know that I have analyzed our current structure and, if there was ever a need for this position to be implemented, that need is now. Our community is quickly changing, the needs and demands of owners have been increasing exponentially and management needs to adapt to those changes.

Kathy will join the OV team in February. I am confident that she will bring a new level of energy and engagement to Oronoque Village. I believe her contributions will significantly enrich the experiences of our residents, creating a more connected and vibrant community. 

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL THE OV SECURITY NUMBER?

Oronoque Village has a security phone number (203-377-5502) that is manned by a 24-hour-a-day answering service. This number is meant for residents who experience maintenance-related emergencies, such as a water main break, sewage backup or roof leak.

The security phone number should never be called when you are in need of a first-responder.

It is imperative that you call 911 to report:

- Medical-related emergencies
- Fire or a possible fire
- Suspicious-looking activity in your neighborhood

- Traffic accidents
- Any crime involving bodily assault.
- Domestic violence incidents
- Theft or intentional damage to property
- Bomb, terrorist or hate-bias threats or acts
- Burglary (entering a structure with the intent to commit a crime, e.g. theft, damage to property)

If you have a power outage, please contact United Illuminating at 800-722-5584.

Gas leaks should be reported to Southern Connecticut Gas company at 800-513-8898.

Routine police calls should go to 203-385-4100.





5 TIPS FOR SHARING THE ROAD WITH SNOW PLOW DRIVERS



1. Start to slow down as soon as you see the snow plow, and stay at least five car lengths (70 feet) back. Staying back will allow you enough time to react if the snow plow needs to stop quickly or avoid a road obstacle.



2. Don't stop too close. Snowplows are usually spreading deicing materials from the back of the truck. The salt, sand or cinders can damage your vehicle.



3. Give the snow plow room to work. The driver's field of vision is restricted around some parts of the plow, so they may not always be able to see you. And, be patient – they're working to help you. If you're not in a hurry, don't pass them. The road behind the snowplow will be safer to drive on anyways.



4. Take extreme caution when passing. Don't drive too close. The front plow may cross the road's centerline and shoulders. Snow plows can also create clouds of snow that can reduce or completely eliminate your visibility.



5. Permit the plow extra room in high risk areas. Areas where drivers are most at risk might include hills, curves, ramps, bridges and interchanges.



FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH.

Do YOU know your numbers?

Give your heart a gift this month and come for a free health screening provided by the **Stratford Health Department!**

STRATFORD LOCATIONS:

2/5, 11:30 AM - 2 PM - HOLY NAME OF JESUS, 1950 BARNUM AVE.

2/14, 11:30 AM - 2 PM - TOWN HALL, 2725 MAIN ST.

2/21, 9 - 11:30 AM - BALDWIN CENTER, 1000 W. BROAD ST.

2/28, 9 - 11:30 AM - SOUTH END COMMUNITY CENTER, 19 BATES ST.

Screening includes blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index, and waist circumference.



Questions? Email: health@townofstratford.com or Call: 203-385-4090



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

Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on February 23 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!



Come hear an inspiring talk from our own OV resident Letitia Llaberee! Letitia traveled to Nepal as a volunteer with "The Forgotten Sherpas Of Nepal Trust". This trust raises funds and builds medical clinics in remote areas. Letitia will share her stories such as a 15 hour car ride over mountain terrain to help deliver medical supplies to these clinics. Her adventure includes not only humanitarian aid but breathtaking mountain vistas, a remarkable guide, a five day hiking adventure, exotic foods, and interacting with a caring and compassionate local population.

**Friday, February 16,
4:00 pm SCB**

**Arts Guild Members Free! -
Guests Pay \$8 at the door**

Refreshments will be served after the presentation.





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

The book for the Feb. 7 meeting will be "Mad Honey" by Judy Picoult and Jennifer Boylan

The book tells the story of two women who have fled abusive pasts to make a new life in the small town of Adams, N.H.

When one is found dead, and the other finds her son accused of the murder, the tense courtroom drama that unfolds shines light on the true cost of secrets kept for love.

The book for March 6 is "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks: A thrilling story about humanity in all its ugliness and beauty. A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, "Horse" is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

OUR FABULOUS MONTHLY...
BINGO

PRESENTED BY THE
GUYS & DOLLS CLUB

FEBRUARY 15, 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

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 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@oronoquevillage.com



FUNSEEKERS

PRESENTS
★★★★★



Nick Fradiani Sr.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
7pm SCB Doors Open 6:15

Composer,
Singer,
Guitar Player

Nick sings both old favorites by Barry White, Neil Diamond, George Strait and songs by new artists such as Ed Sheeran, Cody Johnson and Luke Bryan. Nick has composed original beautiful music as well. He is an accomplished singer and guitar player.

"My passion for music has been passed on to my son, Nick Fradiani Jr., who won American Idol in 2015 and is now appearing in the lead role on Broadway as Neil Diamond in "Beautiful Noise."

Advance reservations required and payment will be accepted from Jan. 16th through Feb. 9th unless maximum capacity is reached. Open to resident Funseekers' members and one non-resident guest per single resident until Jan. 26th. Starting on Jan. 27th, if there is space availability, member residents may sign up any amount of non-resident guests. **Please put \$6.00 check per person into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB (\$10.00 non-resident guest).** If you haven't paid your 2024 membership, please join for \$15 per person. Membership required for residents to attend. Questions? Call Lynn Collins 203-260-4644.

Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks & Dessert To Be Served

BYOB and SNACKS!

The Movie Club Presents *Love Again*



Friday, February 9, 7 p.m. at NCB
Wed., February 14, at 2 p.m. at SCB
\$1 admission includes popcorn

Love Again is a 2023 American romantic comedy-drama film written and directed by James C. Strouse. It is an English-language remake of the 2016 German film *SMS für Dich*, itself based on a novel by Sofie Cramer. The film stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Sam Heughan, and Celine Dion, in her first feature film, portraying a fictionalized version of herself.

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 +



Adzima Funeral Home is proud to offer

online planning!

Most people agree that planning ahead for final arrangements is a good idea, but so many haven't actually done it. With our online planning tool, it's easy, and you can plan from the privacy of your own home!

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



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



Adzima Funeral Home

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Online Planning Tool: plan.passare.com/preplan/AdzimaFH/PlanAhead