‘Now That’s Something to Cheer About’

When Geraldine VonDaacke moved into The Orchards last August, she never expected to see herself in a photo displayed on a wall. It brought back many pleasant memories.

A framed photo of the Lewis High School (now Southington High School) cheerleading team of 11 female and three male cheerleaders hangs featuring Gerry (as she likes to be called) and the rest of her classmates. Gerry, a 1946 graduate of Lewis High School, became a cheerleader in her sophomore year of high school. “I loved cheerleading!” she stated with enthusiasm. Gerry walked to work after school and cheer practice, always staying focused and committed to cheering. At a young age she took tap and toe dance lessons and loved it.

Gerry’s Meriden dance instructor thought she was so good she suggested she should travel to New York City - a suggestion Gerry said her mother thought was unheard of. While in her sophomore year, she along with the other cheerleaders approached three male classmates suggesting they join the cheer team. Since the team was made up of only girls, permission had to be granted by then principal, Marty Phelan. He gave his consent and thus the boys became part of the cheer team practicing and learning the cheers. There were no pyramids or lifts that needed to be performed back then. They all just cheered and had fun.

The passion Gerry had for cheerleading was inherited by two of her three daughters. She was thrilled when her daughters, Laurice and Jacqueline, became Southington High School cheerleaders. “It couldn’t be any other way,” she stated.

Laurice, who graduated in 1970, was one of 12 girl cheerleaders in her junior and senior year. “Everybody wanted to be a cheerleader,” she said. She and her friends would practice cheering together in preparation for tryouts. Each would check the board to see if they made the team. “I went to the office to ask permission to use the telephone to call my mom at work with the news,” Laurice said.

See Cheer on page 4
### Calendar Events

**Sunday(s)**
10:00am CATHOLIC MASS  
Channel 11 TV & Communion
3:00pm SETBACK  
South Living Room
3:15pm COFFEE &  
Conversation-Country Kitchen
6:30pm CARDS  
Country Kitchen

**Monday(s)**
10:00am "GET FIT" w/Chris  
Community Room
1:00pm CHORALEERS  
Practice - Community Room
1:30pm BRIDGE CLUB  
Veranda Dining Room
2:30pm BINGO  
Community Room
3:15pm COFFEE & Conversation  
6:30pm CARDS  
Country Kitchen

**Tuesday(s)**
9:30am Non-Denom SERVICE  
w/ Pastor Victoria Triano  
South Living Room
12:15pm BOWLING  
@ Brunswick
1:00pm "GET FIT" w/  
Christine - Community Room
1:30pm WELLNESS CLINIC  
3rd floor
3:00pm HAPPY HOUR! - Pub
6:30pm CARDS-Country Kit.  
6:30pm BINGO-Comm. Rm.

**Wednesday(s)**
9:30am ROSARY Privy  
10:00am "GET FIT"w/  
Community Rm.
10:30am BIBLE STUDY  
w/Rev. Brown for  
Congregational
Private Dining
6:30pm SETBACK Group - South Living Rm.

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Events listed on the top of the calendar are regularly scheduled weekly functions at The Orchards. Residents will be notified of any changes in schedule or location if necessary. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend out trips.

1. **2:00pm**  
   Make a hat for Kentucky Derby Day with Carol -  
   Community Room

2. **2:00pm**  
   Memory Card Game w/Carol - Country Kit.
   **3:00pm**  
   Resident/Staff Counting  
   Community Room

3. **2:00pm**  
   Music w/ Frank Pezz  
   Community
   **3:00pm**
   Men’s Group Out To  
   Happy Hour at  
   Witch Doctor Brewery-Southington

4. **11:00am-4:00pm**  
   Blood Drive - Community
   **12:00pm**  
   Out Trip Civic

5. **2:00pm**  
   Out Trip to Target  
   **1:30pm**  
   Noodle/Balloon  
   Volleyball  
   Community Room

6. **10:00am**
   Out trip to Target
   **1:30pm**
   Crafts w/Laure-Jo  
   Community Room

7. **1:00pm**  
   The Orchards Choraleers  
   Dress Rehearsal  
   Community Room

8. **6:30pm**  
   The Orchards Choraleers  
   Spring Concert  
   Community Room

9. **2:00pm**
   "Name That Tune" w/  
   Carol - Country Kitchen

10. **2:00pm**
    Goodwill Store and Ocean State  
    Job Lot

11. **1:30pm**
    Crafts w/Laure-Jo  
    Community Room

12. **2:00pm**
    Food Talk w/Claribel  
    Community Room

13. **6:30pm**
    Genealogy Group  
    Community Room

14. **8:30am**
    American Legion  
    Memorial Day Ceremony  
    (in front of The Orchards flagpole)

15. **2:00pm**
    "The Orchards’ Cooks!"  
    Country Kitchen

16. **2:00pm**
    Out Trip - Pizza  
    Zingarelli’s Restor.

17. **6:30pm**  
    Southington Arts &  
    Community

18. **2:00pm**
    "National Senior  
    Health and Fitness

19. **1:30pm**
    Sunshine Day  
    Blankets for Babies  
    S. Living Room

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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| Thursday(s) | 1:00pm “GET FIT” w/Christine South Living Room  
3:00pm HAPPY HOUR - PUB  
6:30pm CARDS Country Kitchen  
6:30pm BINGO Community Room |
| Friday(s) | 1:00pm OUT TRIP - Stop & Shop Community Room  
1:45pm BINGO Community Room  
3:15pm COFFEE & Conversation Country Kitchen  
6:30pm CARDS Country Kitchen  
6:30pm CORDIALS & Conversation South Living Room  
6:30pm POKER South Living Room |
| Saturday(s) | 10:00am “GET FIT” w/Video Community Room  
11:00am ROSARY GROUP Private Dining Room  
3:00pm HAPPY HOUR in PUB Country Kitchen  
3:15pm COFFEE & Conversation Country Kitchen  
6:30pm CARDS Country Kitchen  
6:30pm BINGO Community Room |

3 11:00am-1:00pm Celebrating Cinco De Mayo with lunch in both dining rooms

4 11:00am-1:00pm Leslie Jewelry Sale Purchase fine selections of jewelry, handbags & Access. South Lobby 11:00am Out Trip—Waterbury Palace Theater Tour and lunch

5 10:00am “GET FIT” w/Video Community Room

3 10:00am Special Kentucky Derby Day Happy Hour. Ladies wear your hats! - Pub

10 10:00am—3:00pm Mother’s Day Manicures By Paul Mitchell Salon

11 10:00am Laughter w/LeaAnn South Living Room

12 1:30pm Mother’s Day Tea Outdoors (weather permitting)

19 10:00am “GET FIT” w/Video Community Room

20 1:15pm Movie Matinee Community Room

17 2:00pm May Birthday Party w/ Music by John Desorbo Community Room

18 2:00pm Out Trip—Nelson Hall “Triple Espresso” Comedy Show

1 1:15pm Movie Matinee Community Room

24 10:00am Laughter w/LeaAnn Community Room

25 2:00pm Music w/Brian Gillie Community Room

31 2:00pm Music w/The Fabulous Ashley Cruz Community Room

MAY 2018
Jacqueline graduated in 1972 from Southington High School. She was a talented gymnast spending much of her time at the Southington YMCA. So talented, the “Y” suggested she pursue gymnastics. She became a cheerleader in her junior and senior year serving as co-captain of the team. Gerry remembers when the Southington High cheerleaders were participating in a town parade and the cheerleaders were on a float with a trampoline. Jackie got on the trampoline and proceeded to cheer while jumping. “She mastered the cheers beautifully but it was so dangerous. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing,” Gerry recalled. In 1971, Southington High School’s star quarterback threw the game’s winning pass against their rival Plainville High School. Jackie later married that quarterback.

These women were proud to represent Southington High School spirit! The broad smiles on Gerry, Laurice and Jackie’s faces exemplifies that commitment and love each held for cheering. So if you visit The Orchards, walk down the hall on the first floor and visit the photo of the Lewis High School Class of 1946 cheerleading team that includes our Orchards’ resident, Gerry VonDaacke.