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By Carol Volpe, Activities Director

## '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.



Gerry VonDaacke's daughter, Jacqueline, middle row, far right, poses with her team.

















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

<b>Sunday(s)</b>	<b>Monday(s)</b>	<b>Tuesday(s)</b>	<b>Wednesday(s)</b>
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	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	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.	9:30am ROSARY Priv 10:00am "GET FIT" w Community 10:30am BIBLE STU w/Rev. Brown f Congregationa Private Dining 6:30pm SETBACK C Group - South Living





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 K 3:00pm Resident/Staff Counciling Community Room 	
6 2:00pm Ice Cream Variety Country Kitchen 	7 1:00pm The Orchards Choraleers Dress Rehearsal Community Room 	8 6:30pm The Orchards Choraleers Spring Concert Community Room 	9 2:00pm Music w/ Frank Pe Community 3:00pm Men's Group Out T Happy Hour at Witch Doctor Brewery—Southingt
13 	14 10:00am Out trip to Target 1:30pm Noodle/Balloon Volleyball Community Room  	15 2:00pm "Name That Tune" w/ Carol—Country Kitchen 	16 11:00am-4:00 Blood Drive—Comm  Amer Red 12:00pm Out Trip Cine
20 2:00pm Ice Cream Social Country Kitchen 	21 10:00am Out Trip Goodwill Store and Ocean State Job Lot  1:30pm Crafts w/Laure-Jo Community Room	22 2:00pm Food Talk w/Claribel Community Room 6:30pm Genealogy Group Community Room Bingo in MacIntosh Dining Room tonight	23 12:00pm Out Trip - Pizza L Zingarella's Resto 6:30pm Southington Arts & Communit 
27 	28 8:30am American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony (in front of The Orchards flagpole) 	29 2:00pm "The Orchards' Cooks!" Country Kitchen 	30 "National Senior Health and Fitness 1:30pm Sunshine C 2:00pm Blankets for Babies S. Living Room





	<b>Thursday(s)</b>	<b>Friday(s)</b>	<b>Saturday(s)</b>
Din.Rm. /Chris Room DY rom First l Church Room ard Room	1:00pm "GET FIT" w/Christine South Living Room 3:00pm HAPPY HOUR - PUB 6:30pm CARDS Country Kitchen 6:30pm BINGO Community Room	1:00pm OUT TRIP - Stop & Shop 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	10:00am "GET FIT" w/Video Community Room 11:00am ROSARY GROUP Private Dining Room 3:00pm HAPPY HOUR in PUB 3:15pm COFFEE & Conversation Country Kitchen 6:30pm CARDS Country Kitchen 6:30pm BINGO Community Room

Kitchen cil Meet-	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 3:00pm Special Kentucky Derby Day Happy Hour. Ladies wear your hats! - Pub 
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endola Room rip on 	10 10:00am-3:00pm Mother's Day Manicures By Paul Mitchell Salon 10:00am Laughter w/LeaAnn South Living Room 	11 1:30pm Mother's Day Tea Outdoors (weather permitting) 	12 10:00am "GET FIT" w/Video Community Room  1:15pm Movie Matinee Community Room 
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0pm unity Rm merican Cross ema	17 2:00pm May Birthday Party w/ Music by John DeSorbo Community Room 	18 2:00pm Out Trip—Nelson Hall Cheshire "Triple Espresso" Comedy Show 	19 10:00am "GET FIT" w/Video Community Room  1:15pm Movie Matinee Community Room 
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unch at aurant & Crafts y Room	24 10:00am Laughter w/LeaAnn Community Room 2:00pm Music w/Brian Gillie Community Room 	25 	26 10:00am "GET FIT" w/Video Community Room  1:15pm Movie Matinee Community Room 
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or Day" Club  	31 2:00pm Music w/The Fabulous Ashley Cruz Community Room 		
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# The Orchards at Southington

Connect to healthier.™

34 Hobart St., Southington, CT 06489  
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[southingtonorchards.org](http://southingtonorchards.org)

## Cheer from page 1

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.



Laurice VonDaacke, bottom row, second from left, is part of the base of the pyramid.

The Orchards   
at Southington  
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For more information,  
call Jessica Baillargeon, retirement counselor,  
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