



OLLI E-News

The electronic newsletter for members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University



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FLASH

CLASSROOMS DESTROYED: Freak tornado hits Tallwood; read full story below.

ARTICLES AND NOTICES

- > [TORNADO DESTROYS CLASSROOMS](#). Tallwood classes canceled for rest of week.
- > [ADDITIONAL SPRING CLASSES FOR MEN ONLY](#). Rush registration ends on Fri, Apr 4.
- > [OLLI RE-ORGANIZATION PLANNED](#). Preparations for a new tech-savvy era.
- > [SOCIAL ROOM EXCHANGED FOR EXPANDED LIBRARY](#). Significant savings expected by eliminating coffee and cookies.
- > [SPECIAL COMPUTER CLASS](#). Mouse Control for Seniors.
- > [PHOTO COLLAGE](#). Board members at play in museums.

DEPARTMENTS

- > [EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS ABOUT OLLI](#). Full disclosure.
- > [COMING ATTRACTIONS](#). Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks.

THIS FIRST-EVER MID-WEEK SPECIAL EDITION is being released because of breaking news and other important announcements.

TORNADO DESTROYS CLASSROOMS

Tallwood classes canceled for rest of week

"**IT SOUNDED LIKE A FREIGHT TRAIN,**" reported a local resident. A freak

tornado hit Tallwood and cleared a swath almost as cleanly as a bulldozer would have done for a new road, completely destroying, even blowing away both modular classrooms (TA-3 and TA-2) as well as the Landscaping Committee's new tool shed. Fortunately, TA-1 and the rest of the Tallwood Annex building, including the social room, annex and office, and the Smallwood restrooms building were undamaged. The After image in the banner image at the top of this issue shows what happened.

After holding an emergency meeting, the Board canceled Tallwood classes for this week (Lake Anne classes are unaffected) and voted to authorize the expenditure of all \$50,000 in the Rainy Day Fund and all unobligated Friends of OLLI funds (currently, about \$5,670) to re-build. The executive director will be working closely with Mason to come up with temporary classroom space on the Fairfax campus to accommodate Tallwood classes. We fully expect classes to resume as scheduled starting next week, at Mason locations to be determined.

Good news: After being informed about what had happened, the Osher Foundation responded immediately by pledging a grant of \$350,000 for OLLI to re-build in a manner befitting what the Foundation termed "the best OLLI in the nation." With this large grant, OLLI will not have to use its Rainy Day Fund or Friends of OLLI funds. The \$350,000 grant will allow OLLI to acquire--

- An expanded, limited-access garden shed (*photo at right*) with locker room and showers for Landscaping Committee members to wash their dirty knees;



- Three state-of-the-art modular classrooms, each fully equipped with the latest audiovisual hardware and its own restroom; and
- A larger driveway with double the number of parking spaces, including a reserved covered car port for the executive director's pickup truck, and a replacement "grassy loop" with picnic bench and chairs for after-class Happy Hours.

ADDITIONAL SPRING CLASSES FOR MEN ONLY

Rush registration ends on Fri, Apr 4

DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND, OLLI has scheduled several three one-session classes **FOR MEN ONLY** that will start on Mon, Apr 7. A rush registration period will be held this week, so make sure you register by Fri, Apr 4. If this series is a success, OLLI may consider a similar series for women only.

Following is a brief description of the new classes. Except for class 922, class size will be limited to 20 participants due to the difficulty level and the need to maintain secrecy. Classes will be filled based on the priority you assign to the class and, if a class is over-subscribed, by OLLI's normal computer-generated random method of selection.



920: Loss Of Identity--Losing The Remote To Your Significant Other

Maintaining control of the TV remote helps to reinforce one's masculine identity, allowing a man to hunt for exciting channels while the little woman is gathering (or cooking dinner or taking care of the laundry). How does one deal with an assertive mate who repeatedly tries to take over the remote and will not easily surrender it? This class offers proven strategies for success, with little-known secrets revealed. After class graduation, class members are entitled to Help Line support and membership in a local support group at no charge.



921: The Toilet Paper Roll--How to Ensure Correct Installation

A round-table discussion enhanced by a PowerPoint presentation about the efficiencies involved when the toilet paper roll is properly positioned so it rolls over the top toward you and not away from you, toward the wall (*carefully observe the photo at left*). OLLI's manners expert, Ms. Ollie Ettakit, will make a brief visit to point out the other side of the debate but to assure attendees that the toward-you installation is correct manners for everyone. Learn a fool-proof solution when you discover that your mate has installed the roll incorrectly.

922: A Celebration of Great Country Music

This class will meet at an off-site location where lucky attendees will be served by attractive waitresses in revealing country attire. Attendees will listen to and discuss some of the greatest country songs -- "music that tells a story." Class fee: \$55.00 (includes bottomless glasses of beer and unlimited chips and nuts). A sampling of currently planned discussion music follows.



Garth Brooks, "Friends in Low Places"
(listen and watch on Truveo.com)

- "Here's A Quarter [Call Someone Who Cares]" (listen and watch on [YouTube](#))
- "Put Another Log on the Fire [...and come and tell me why you're leaving me]" (listen and watch on [YouTube](#))
- "Oh Lord It's Hard to be Humble [When You're Perfect in Every Way]" (listen and watch on [YouTube](#))
- "I'm Gonna Hire a Wino to Decorate Our Home [So You'll Feel More at Ease Here, and You Won't Have to Roam]" (listen and watch on [YouTube](#))
- "Don't Squeeze My Sharmon [Don't Hold Her So Tight ... If Sharmon needs squeezing, then leave that to me]" (listen and watch on [YouTube](#))

Note: If there is sufficient interest, the Program Committee is considering a similar on-campus, non-fee class *for women only* that might feature such songs as--



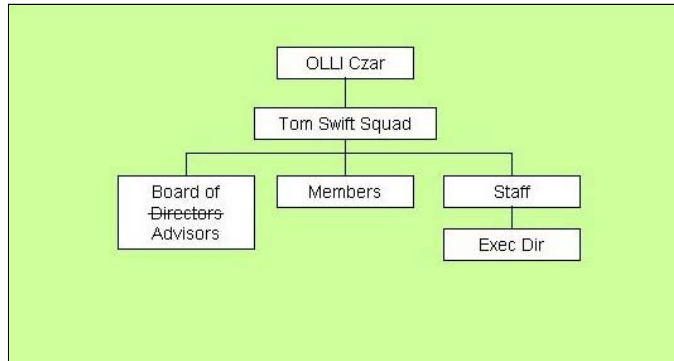
Loretta Lynn, "Don't Come Home a-Drinkin' with Lovin' on Your Mind"
(listen and watch on [YouTube](#))

- "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels [... most every heart that's ever broken was because there always was a man to blame]" (listen and watch on [YouTube](#))

[Back to top](#)

OLLI RE-ORGANIZATION PLANNED

Preparations for a new tech-savvy era



Revised organization chart

OLLI MEMBERS WILL SOON EXPERIENCE a long-overdue reorganization. An OLLI Czar will oversee the organization and operate through a select group of minions known as the Tom Swift Squad. According to the presumptive czar, the purpose of the reorganization is:

- Implement the "OLLI Technology Imperative."
- Enable the Board to be more responsive to technical requirements.
- Free up resources for technology enhancements from the "softer" areas (clubs, special events, etc.). One planned enhancement will be the credit-card swipers that will be needed to obtain a chair in any of the classrooms, thereby removing the complaints about lack of plush cushions from those who have to stand up.
- Enhance the member experience with mandatory courses in engineering and software development in the fall and spring terms.

A recent sampling of members gathered around the A/V cabinet in TA-1 was overwhelmingly positive in support of the reorganization. The proposal will be approved by a special election in the near future. An email to members will announce the procedures for registration and voting at the start of the three-hour window for online balloting.

[Back to top](#)

SOCIAL ROOM EXCHANGED FOR EXPANDED LIBRARY

Significant savings expected by eliminating coffee and cookies



Overflowing bookcases, with books stacked in front of other books, preventing access to the shelved books (a "No, no!" to librarians). *Photo by Gordon Canyock*

RESPONDING TO CRITICISM ABOUT THE DEPLORABLE STATE of the OLLI Book Exchange, the Board decided to buy 15 new bookcases and convert the social room into a wall-to-wall library. Since OLLI members are known to possess large book collections of their own and have demonstrated their willingness to contribute them to the book exchange, the Board expects that the greatly expanded collection will have more than enough reading material to satisfy everyone.



Unfortunately, there will no longer be any room at OLLI for coffee and cookies. Savings in the thousands of dollars per year will result, which will allow OLLI to hire a professional librarian to manage the new OLLI Library and its new

bar-coding check-out system and online library catalog tied into the [Fairfax County library system](#).

A Board spokesman said that the added benefit for OLLI members will be a significant reduction in their weight, waistlines and jitteriness, although the spokesman mentioned the possibility of a staff revolt over lack of coffee.

EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS ABOUT OLLI

New! **FULL DISCLOSURE.** After all, you elected your colleagues to the Board so they would govern OLLI on your behalf. They know what's best for you, and you can rest assured that everything the Board does will be in your best interests. Surely there's no need for you to question any Board decisions or make any negative comments. But if you insist, here is what you can do.

PUBLICLY:

Email your "Letter to the Editor" (see [recent sample](#)) or "Letter to Ms. Ollie Ettakit" (see [recent sample](#)) to the [editor](#). **Anonymous submissions are acceptable if you provide contact information so we can verify that you are an OLLI member.**


Whenever an official response to a letter to the editor is clearly appropriate, the editor will obtain and publish the OLLI response in the same issue so members will have more complete information and a balanced picture of the matter.

PRIVATELY:

- Contact any [Board member](#), [committee or resource group chair](#), or the [executive director](#);
- Send an email to the entire Board (email the [editor](#) or the [office](#) to have your message forwarded to all members of the Board);
- Submit a suggestion [online](#) or in the box in the former Tallwood social room (now OLLI library); or
- Contact the office by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384).

SPECIAL COMPUTER COURSE

Mouse Control for Seniors

Left mouse button  Right mouse button 



A SPECIAL COMPUTER COURSE is being offered on Wed, Apr 16, from 2:00 to 4:30. Highly recommended for members with email, *the course is mandatory for Board members and candidates for the Board* unless special dispensation is given by the president or the Audiovisual Support Committee chair. This is expected to be a megaclass so it will be held in an off-site location with mouse-equipped computers available for all attendees.

You already know how efficient some of your techie colleagues are with email and Web searches; now you can learn their secrets (hint: the secret is *there's no secret*; mouse control is the answer). Course title: "Mouse Control for Seniors." Specific techniques to be taught include the following skills:

- **How to use the "Reply [to] All" button** on to send your email response message to ALL addressees in the original message,
- **How to click the right mouse button** and then make a selection in the pop-up menu,
- **How to select a word, phrase or paragraph so you can "Copy" that selection and then "Paste" the selection into another document or email message, and**
- **How to click an active hypertext Web link** (usually shown in blue and underlined) to directly open that Web page.

ACTUAL RECORDED CALL

OLLI Tech Support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop." Member: "OK."

OLLI Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?" Member: "No."

OLLI Tech Support: "OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?" Member: "No."

OLLI Tech Support: "OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?"

Member: "Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'."

PHOTO COLLAGE

Board members at play in museums



OLLI Secretary Susanne Zumbro and OLLI E-News Editor Rod Zumbro cavorting inappropriately among two priceless works of arts, Leonardo Da

Vinci's *Mona Lisa* at The Louvre and Grant Wood's *American Gothic* at the Art Institute of Chicago

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks

The following list is extracted for your convenience from the master calendar maintained by the office (see the [Forecast of Non-Class Events](#) for more details, including active links to more information on certain events, and to view the actual OLLI online calendar used by the office). *Note: Board, committee, resource-group and 'all hands' events below are **highlighted in bold**. OLLI members are welcome at all Board, committee and resource-group meetings (except during executive sessions).*

Tuesday Apr 1 11am Loudoun Open House - Sterling (No joke)
 Wednesday Apr 2 First Wednesday of April
 1:30pm Bridge Club - 8 No Trump!
 2pm History Club - Long ago, far away
Thursday Apr 3 6:50am Sunrise - Tallwood
 Friday Apr 4 9am 967-Spec Event- Eiffel Tower - Bus Trip - Fair Oaks (Return May 13, 5pm)
 9:30am Drama Club - Bring your egos.
 10am Italian Club - *Ciao!*
 10am Recorder Group - a/k/a Fipple Flutes
 1pm 968-Spec Event-Boring 90 Minutes - TA-1
 Monday Apr 7 Ann Hartmann Day
1pm Lake Anne - Feed ducks
 Wednesday Apr 9 Second Wednesday of April
 2pm 954-Spec Event-Solar System - Even farther away
 Friday Apr 11 9:30am Drama Club - More egos
 10am Italian Club - Ordering pasta
 10am Recorder Group - They do this every week?
10am Finance Comm Mtg - TA-\$\$\$
 1:30pm Dirty Knees Club - Wash jeans
 Monday Apr 14 Ann Hartmann Day - Again
Wednesday Apr 16 Free coffee - Tallwood
 2pm 956-Spec Event-Landscaping - TA-1 (Dirty Knees Club wear clean jeans)
 Thursday Apr 17 11am Fiction Writers Club - Fact-checking seminar
 Friday Apr 18 9:30am Drama Club - Outsize egos
 10am Italian Club - Vino tasting
 10am Recorder Group - Yes, every week.

Credits. Contributors to this special April 1 edition include Rod Zumbro, Gordon Canyock, and John West. The OLLI Re-organization article includes a "credit-card swiper" suggestion from Paul Howard, and the idea for the Expanded Library article came from Ann Hartmann.

The responsible and accountable OLLI official for OLLI E-News is Editor Rod Zumbro. Please send any praise [to him](#), and send any criticism or request for his impeachment to the OLLI president.



Rod Zumbro
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

About OLLI E-News. OLLI E-News, OLLI's weekly newsletter, is emailed to OLLI members with email addresses on Fridays. When classes are in session, printed copies of this newsletter are distributed in classrooms, primarily for members without email. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact Editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee Chair [Gordon Canyock](#).

Submissions. We encourage members to submit news items, articles and photos for this newsletter; deadline to the editor is 7:00 PM Wed (Mon for letters to the editor for which an OLLI response is appropriate) for that week's issue. Please limit articles to about 250 words. Submit material to Editor Rod Zumbro (email rzumbro@gmu.edu, phone 703-569-2750); email strongly preferred.

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