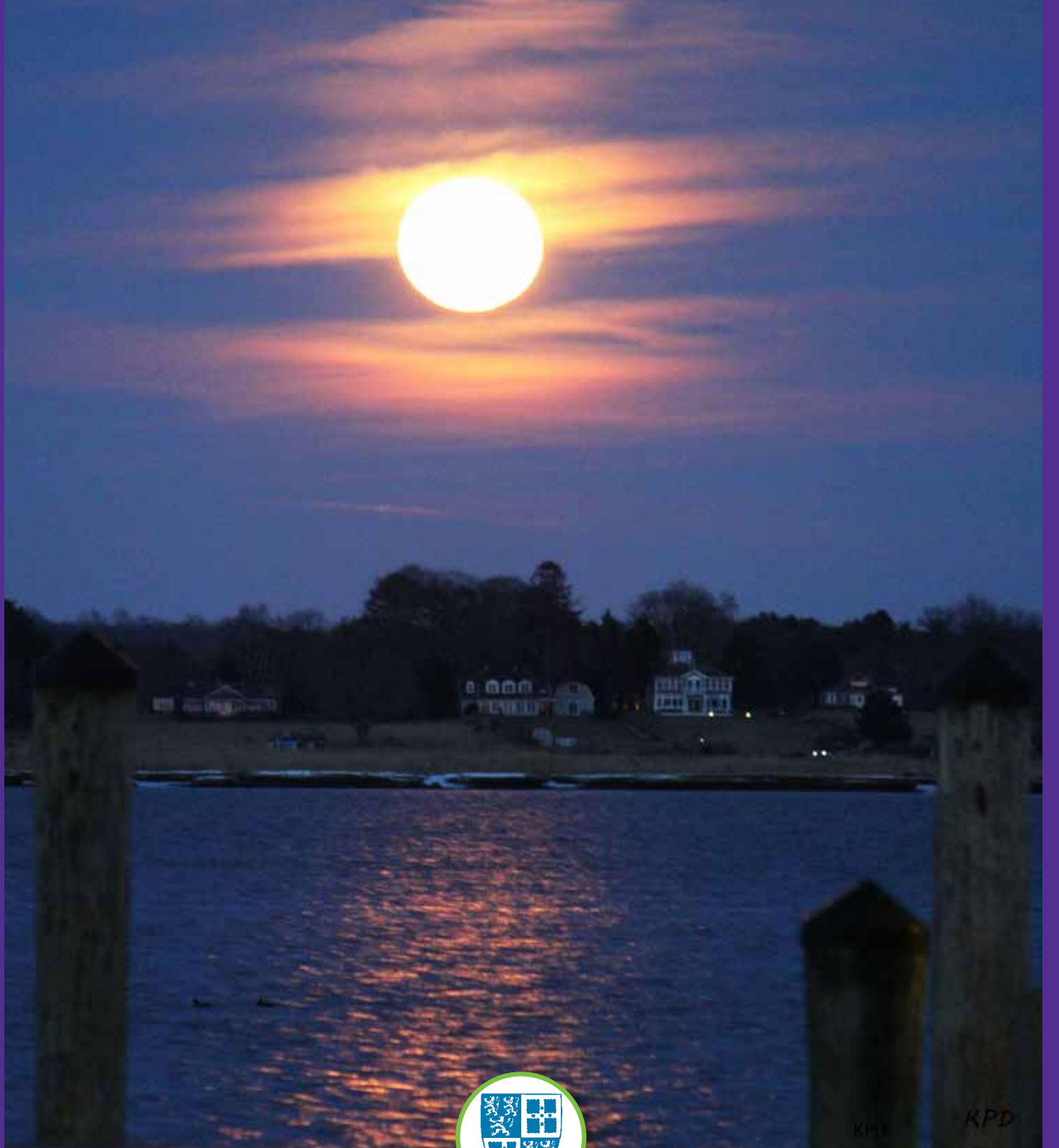


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The Selectmen's Corner

Happy spring from the The Board of Selectmen, which consists of First Selectman Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., and Selectmen Scott Giegerich and Carol Conklin. The spring is a time of anticipation and is a great time to get outdoors. I hope you enjoy the season. We thank you for entrusting us with running your local government.

LOOK CLOSELY

Connecticut State law mandates that every municipality, by December 31 of each year, submit an audit of their finances conducted by a certified public accounting firm. The audit reports on the town's financial statements, and our compliance with laws and regulations, procedures or management practices as well as the strength of our internal controls over financial reporting. Any weaknesses are identified and reported to the town and its governing boards in the form of a "Letter to Management." The City of Hartford recently received its audit report which identified insurance payments made over the years to ineligible dependents of town employees in an amount over one million dollars, money that is unlikely to be recovered. Here in Old Saybrook, previous management letters have identified issues that don't involve the loss of funds but instead concern internal controls, information technology and purchase orders. In my eleven years on the Board of Finance and now seven years as First Selectman, I have participated in 18 town audits and, every year, our auditor has identified several areas that need improvement. This year, the Town of

Old Saybrook municipal audit did not warrant a management letter and received "clean" opinions on all our major funds. This is by no means an easy accomplishment and is entirely due to attention to detail and a constant desire to improve upon the prior year's results. We have made significant, positive changes in how the town does business: we have implemented a purchase order system, installed modern accounting system software, brought payroll in house and, due to attrition of personnel, we have reorganized our accounting office. The transparency of our system means the public has more information available, much of it accessible through the town's new and improved website. The systems and technology available to our team in town hall, and their ability to use it at its highest level, means town funds (your tax dollars) are being managed at the highest level possible. The manual processes of years past, which led to multiple errors across departments, are gone. I want to congratulate our Finance Department, led by Finance Director Lee Ann Palladino, for their exceptional work on behalf of the town.

continued on page 3



First Selectman Carl P. Fortuna, Jr.

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www.essexprinting.com

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Selectmen's Corner... continued from page 1

TAX AND SPEND

Connecticut is one of the few states in the country to have a car tax. No one likes it and for decades, politicians at the state level have discussed how they might get rid of it. The car tax is a nuisance, but it has become a critical source of revenue to most municipalities in the State of Connecticut. There are obvious inequities to it. My 2010 vehicle has a value that can be objectively determined by a professional blue book organization. However, depending on where I register my vehicle, I may be taxed on it quite differently. A higher mill rate in Hartford means I will pay more money on that same vehicle than I do in Old Saybrook with our 19.6 mill rate (one of the lowest in the State). With the Connecticut State Legislature now back in session, there is talk of "reforming" the car tax. State Senator Martin Looney (Democrat-New Haven), who is President of the State Senate, has proposed a bill that would send the car tax money of every vehicle owner in the State to the State of Connecticut (cars would be taxed somewhere between 15-19 mills), and the State of Connecticut will decide how to re-distribute those funds back to the towns, with the prioritization of those funds going into a fund for reimbursing towns and cities that host tax-free institutions such as colleges, state buildings and hospitals (Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport would be big winners). Car tax revenues contribute over 2 million dollars to Old Saybrook government services. Losing those funds would cause Old Saybrook's mill rate to jump from 19.6 to 20.6 before we spend one dollar more than we did last year. Old Saybrook residents would still have the privilege of paying a car tax, but those funds would be re-directed to the State. The revenue decline would leave Old Saybrook, and most towns, little choice but to increase property taxes to make up most of the difference. I am not against tax reform, especially when it comes to the car tax. Here is my suggestion: Eliminate the car tax, but give cities and towns time (three to five years?) for implementation so that we can phase in the loss of revenue. Senator Looney's proposal doesn't sound like tax reform to me. It would take money from Connecticut's towns, which make up the vast majority of the State, and distribute it to Connecticut's cities. Governor Lamont, in his budget address, did not include Senator Looney's proposal but that doesn't mean it will go away. As taxpayers and residents, your voice needs to be heard on this issue and others. Perhaps you are willing to testify in person, or you can submit your testimony into the record with a letter. Contact your local State Representative (Devin Carney repdevincarney@gmail.com) or State Senator (Sen. Paul Formica at Paul.Formica@cga.ct.gov or Senator Norm Needleman at norm.needleman@cga.ct.gov) to let them know your thoughts on new legislative proposals.

ON CLOUD 9

The Town has invested significantly in software advances over
continued on page 4

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Selectmen's Corner... continued from page 3

the past few years. There are many good reasons to do so, but none better than having a resilient infrastructure. Our auditors (see first paragraph above) have had concerns for years about the disaster recovery plan for the Town. In the event of fire, or natural disaster, what would happen to the Town's ability to pay vendors, employees and, yes, to collect taxes so that schools could stay open and roads could be plowed. Over the last three years, we have completed our due diligence on a whole system of cloud-based programs that service government and have implemented a variety of programs. First and foremost, we have new accounting software that provides the detail necessary for transparency to the public with the ability to generate custom reports. With that it is cloud based software, the Town is never more than 24-48 hours away from being back up and running. We have also placed much of our Building Office and Fire Marshal functions on software that is stored in the cloud. Even better, the software implemented makes inspections more efficient and helps our citizens and businesses get to "YES" faster.

Much of the Town Clerk's information is already available online and our Assessor's information will be next. Information with regard to purchases and sales, and improvements

on homes, will be available in real time to the public. Soon, we will be implementing a software program for our Department of Public Works whereby work orders and citizen input and observations can be communicated electronically instead of calling town hall. When emails are received, they will be categorized and a response will be sent to the customer stating the plan of action. Progress can be then be tracked.

Our most recent initiative involves internal controls with employee time and attendance. The Town's system for decades has relied heavily on a system that records an employee's sick, vacation and other accruals in a manual, paper-intensive fashion. This has led to human errors over the years on calculations for sick time, vacation time, pension participation, etc. Our new system will track an employee's time working, and time off, and seamlessly input this information into our payroll system. Once fully rolled out, we expect this system to be a timesaver here in town hall, which will allow us to more efficiently and economically run our local government. The best part of all these upgrades is that we will be storing information offsite, in the cloud, which lowers our risk of losing information or functionality, and increases efficiency and information accessibility.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY

Over the years, I have frequently mentioned how lucky we are as a town to have a community dedicated to volunteerism, from the Fire Department to the Garden Club to all our Boards and Commissions (of which there are quite a few). While there is paid staff, our Town cannot function without a large group of volunteers. Recently, I gathered together a discussion group which included members from about 12 different town committees and commissions. As I looked around the room, I realized how many families are involved as volunteers in our town; Husbands and wives, brothers and sisters and sons and daughters. Siblings Richard, Susan and Janis Esty, the husband and wife teams of Mark and Kate Caldarella, Bob and Susan Missel, Madge and Bob Fish, Paul and Kathy Connolly, Alan Schwarz and Christine Picklo, Pat and John O'Brien, Jan Furman and Mike Osnato, Chuck and Joanne Gadon and, until a short while ago, Phil (deceased) and Joan Broadhurst. There have been many other family teams in past years but recognizing the strong bond of volunteerism in these families is appropriate and unique. I want to thank these committed families and all our volunteers for helping make our town a great place to live, work and play.

There are always exciting and fun events happening in our beautiful town, no matter the season. Have a happy and safe spring.

Carl P. Fortuna, Jr.,
Old Saybrook First Selectman

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Assessor

PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR ELDERLY / DISABLED

State law provides a property tax credit program for Connecticut homeowners who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. This program is sponsored by the State Office of Policy and Management through local towns. The credit amount is calculated by the assessor and applied by the tax collector to the applicant's real property tax bill. Property tax credit can be up to \$1,250 for married couples and \$1,000 for single people. Credits are based on a graduated income scale.

You are eligible for this program if you or your spouse are 65 years of age or older, or if you are 50 years of age or older and the surviving spouse of a homeowner who qualified at the time of his or her death and you were domiciled with the homeowner. Those who are 18 years of age or older and permanently or totally disabled and receiving benefits under a federal, state, or local retirement program which contains requirements comparable to those of the Social Security Administration are also eligible. All applicants must have been town residents for at least 6 months and one day for the program year requirement.

Grants are based on income. For this application year a single person's total 2018 income must be less than \$36,000 and a married person's total 2018 income must be less than \$43,900. There is no asset limit. Applications for this program must be submitted to

the Assessor's Office between February 1 and May 15. Proof of income in the form of a tax return with supporting income (1099/w2) statements and Social Security statement is required.

HOMEOWNERS

Income and Grant Information - 2018 Benefit Year Filing period February 1 to May 15, 2019

Income	Over	To	Tax Credit%		Tax Credit Maximum		Tax Credit Minimum	
			Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried
\$-0		\$18,100	50%	40%	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$400	\$350
18,100		24,200	40	30	1,000	750	350	250
24,200		30,200	30	20	750	500	250	150
30,200		36,000	20	10	500	250	150	150
36,000		43,900	10	0-	250	0-	150	0-

If you have a question for the Office of Policy and Management, please call 860-418-6382.

RENTERS' REBATE

State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are age 65 and older or totally disabled and who meet the prescribed income guidelines. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program. A rebate of up to \$900 **continued on page 8**

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Linda O'Hara
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Peg Serapilia
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Dylan Walter
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Old Saybrook Manager
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Katherine Gauthier
Insurance Sales Director
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Assessor... continued from page 6

may be granted for married couples and \$700 for single persons.

The rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies.

Applications must be submitted to the Assessor's Office

between April 1 and October 1. Proof of income in the form of a tax return with supporting income (1099/w2) statements and Social Security statement as well as proof of utility payments is required.

RENTERS

Income and Grant Information – 2018 Benefit Year Filing period April 1 to October 1, 2019

Income		Maximum Credit		Minimum Credit	
Over	To	Married/Single	Single	Unmarried/Single	Single
\$-0	\$18,100	\$900	\$700	\$400	\$350
36,000	43,900	\$250	0	\$150	0

For additional questions regarding any of the income limits stated above, please call: 860-418-6406 or email: patrick.j.sullivan@ct.gov.

ASSESSOR INFORMATION

The Assessor's Office is located on the first floor of the Old Saybrook Town Hall at 302 Main Street with office hours of M-F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you are unable to come to the office in person, please call 860-395-3137 and alternative arrangements will be made.

The Assessor's Office would like to thank Old Saybrook property owners for their cooperation, patience and support throughout the year. Please feel free to contact our office at any time with questions concerning the assessment process or the application process for exemption programs. You can also find a lot of useful information on the Assessor's webpage at www.oldsaybrookct.gov.

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Assessor, Town of Old Saybrook

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 Raymond Pagan, Jr. & Jessica Leonetti, January 20th
 Michael Riffel & Christine Kosakowski, November 24th

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Economic Development - New Promotional Videos for Old Saybrook & Mariner's Way



Welcome to Old Saybrook promotional video.

Old Saybrook now has two promotional videos! One video provides an overview of the town highlighting some of Old Saybrook's special features. The other specifically focuses on Mariner's Way development opportunities. The videos were created as part of the marketing campaign for the Town in an effort to attract residents, visitors and businesses.

The town overview video focuses on our beautiful shoreline location, thriving Main Street, and safe, supportive community.

The Mariner's Way video focuses on the geographic area and redevelopment opportunities of Mariner's Way in addition to some of the special features of Old Saybrook overall. This video will serve as one component of a targeted marketing effort to attract the interest of investors and developers to this area of town.

SHARE THESE VIDEOS!

You will find them on the Economic Development webpage (<https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/economic-development>) and Facebook page (@SaybrookBiz). Post or link to these videos on your own websites and social media networks. We want as many people as possible to see for themselves that Old Saybrook offers an incredible location and community in which to live, establish a business and enjoy time off.

Both videos are available for businesses to use as well. For example, human resources and real estate offices may use them to help recruit employees or generate more business. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact the Economic Development Office at: 860-395-3139.



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JUNE 16TH

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Written by Paul Portner
SEPTEMBER 18TH -
OCTOBER 6TH

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DINNER**
Written by Todd Kreidler
APRIL 24TH -
MAY 12TH

MAMMA MIA!
Music and Lyrics by
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Bjorn Ulvaeus and some songs
with Stig Anderson, Book by
Catherine Johnson Originally
Conceived by Judy Craymer
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JULY 28TH

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Darcie Deaville,
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Andy Teirstein
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CABARET
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SOLD

100 Sequassen Avenue, Old Saybrook | One of the most highly prized and widely recognized properties at the mouth of the CT River. Offered at \$3,900,000



20 Saltus Drive, Old Saybrook | This unique waterfront home features a tasteful contemporary design and custom finishes. Offered at \$8,500,000



PENDING

11 Pettipaug Avenue, Old Saybrook | Expansive, wide views of the calm Long Island Sound are enjoyed from sunrise to sunset. Offered at \$5,725,000



6 Mohegan Avenue, Old Saybrook | Stunning waterfront property with over 3,800sqft of living space overlooking LI Sound. Offered at \$4,980,000



23 Pettipaug Avenue, Old Saybrook | This beautiful waterfront home with seven bedrooms was built in 2016 with an open floor plan. Offered at \$4,880,000



549 Maple Avenue, Old Saybrook | Overlooking Fenwick golf course enjoying views at the sparkling waters of Long Island Sound. Offered at \$3,575,000



102b Sequassen Avenue, Old Saybrook | Traditional Fenwick cedar shingle home with spectacular views of the CT River and South Cove. Offered at \$3,480,000



25 Pettipaug Avenue, Old Saybrook | This beautiful 5,400sqft waterfront, classic Fenwick cottage has 6 bedrooms, 5 full baths, with an in-law suite. Offered at \$3,375,000



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*Source: SmartMLS closed sales for residential single family homes in Middlesex County 1/1/18-12/31/18


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Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce



Sally Rothenhaus of Old Saybrook displays hand crafted bird houses.
Photo courtesy Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.

56TH ANNUAL OLD SAYBROOK ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Saturday: July 27 & Sunday July 28, 2019 | Old Saybrook Town Green

The Old Saybrook Town Green springs to life during the 2-day annual Arts & Crafts Festival, sponsored by Guilford Savings Bank.

PLOT GROUP ANNOUNCES CHAMBER CARES DAY, MAY 19, 2019

The 2nd Annual Chamber Cares Day, an initiative of Progressive Leaders of Today (PLOT) is planned for Sunday, May 19. PLOT members will be volunteering their time to clean up the Causeway, with ongoing efforts to keep the Causeway clean throughout the spring and summer seasons.

PLOT is the Chamber's young professionals group, bringing together people ages 21-40 who live or work in the Shoreline area. In addition to building professional networks, the group promotes community involvement and is an advocate of local business. Currently PLOT meets twice a month, the first Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am at Penny Lane Pub, and an evening meeting, called Networking with a Purpose, is held at different area businesses at 7:00 pm. Check the Chamber website for more details: www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/plot.

For more information about joining the Chamber's PLOT program, or to submit comments and suggestions, contact PLOT co-chairs Brittini Oxendine with Edward Jones at: 860-388-6266 or brittini.oxendine@edwardjones.com and/or Bartley Damon with Ameriprise Financial at: 877-323-9950 or bartley.damon@ampf.com.



Cleaning up the Causeway in Old Saybrook during "Chamber Cares Day" are (front row, l-r): Kara Ganssle Pachniuk, Brittini Oxendine, Katey Walker, Malley O'Shea, Lauren Drago, Kat Mawdsley; (back row, l-r): Bartley Damon, Colt Taylor, Alex Foulkes, Devin Harris, Greg Foulkes, Charlie McSorley, Julianne Naughton, Mike Mawdsley.

Photo Courtesy Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.



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2019 Residential Flood Insurance Check

Your home is one of your biggest investments and making sure you have adequate insurance will give you peace of mind and allow you to repair or rebuild without facing significant debt.

Most homeowners have homeowner's hazard insurance policies which may seem to be a full and comprehensive plan to protect your home from the worst case scenario. These policies include pages of coverage items for hazards and damages from a tree falling on your house to a fire. Most hazard policies include coverage for water damage which may give a property owner a false sense of security that their home is covered in the event of a flood.

Most hazard insurance policies do not cover flooding. Flood damage is different than water damage. Water damage refers to water entering a structure as a result of damage such as a leaky roof or burst pipes. Flood damage can happen suddenly even in areas that normally do not flood. Flooding is typically a result of water rising or surging over land that is normally dry causing water to enter homes and basements. It is often caused by a hurricane, heavy rain, storm surge or other phenomenon which may result in a nearby water body such as the CT River or Long Island Sound to flood normally dry land.

Flood insurance is an additional form of insurance that can be purchased from any local, licensed insurance agent or broker.

Most flood policies are insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and written by a policy through one of the Write Your Own (WYO) insurance companies or a direct policy through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

NFIP flood insurance is available to all owners of insurable property (a building and/or its contents) in Old Saybrook since the Town participates in the NFIP.

NFIP Building coverage is for the structure only. This includes all things that remain with the building if its ownership changes, including: utility equipment (such as a furnace or water heater), wall-to-wall carpeting, built-in appliances, wallpapering, and paneling. NFIP Contents coverage is for the removable items inside an insurable building. A renter can take out a policy with contents coverage, even if there is no structural coverage. Certain contents are not insurable, including: animals and livestock, licensed motor vehicles, money and valuable papers, jewelry, paintings and artwork, furs and similar items valued at more than \$250, and items in a structure that do not qualify as an "insurable building" (such as garden tools stored in an open carport). The NFIP defines a basement as any area of a building with a floor that is below ground level on all sides. There is limited coverage **continued on page 14**



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Flood Insurance... continued from page 13

in basements. While flood insurance does not cover basement improvements, such as finished walls and floors, or personal belongings, building coverage will cover structural elements and essential equipment normally located in a basement such as furnaces, hot water heaters, oil tanks, electrical boxes, staircases, well water tanks and pumps, and foundation elements. In a basement, clothes washers and dryer, food freezers and the food in them are covered separately under contents coverage.

Middlesex Health: Helping Connecticut Women at Risk for Breast Cancer

Middlesex Health Cancer Center's Comprehensive Breast Center is specifically designed to help identify women who may be at high risk for breast cancer due to family history or benign breast disease, as well as to monitor and treat women who have an established high risk for breast cancer. It also helps patients currently in treatment or in recovery.

For many women, their primary care doctor handles their mammograms, and that is appropriate care. However, those who are at greater risk for breast cancer would benefit from being monitored more closely, and that's where the Comprehensive Breast Center can help.

Dr. Andrea Malon, medical director of the Cancer Center and Comprehensive Breast Program; Dr. Kristen Zarfos, medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Center; and Dr. Chia-Chi Wang, a surgical oncologist, see patients who visit the Compre-

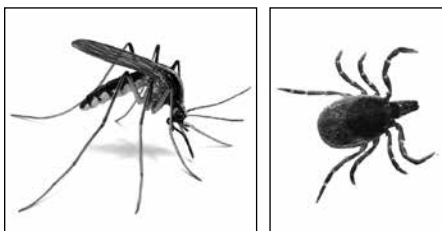
As we approach the spring flooding and hurricane seasons, it's always a good idea to review your insurance policies and coverage amount. You can refer to the FEMA website at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/12179> for a summary of what is covered by the NFIP or contact your insurance agent to make sure that you have adequate insurance in the event of a disaster.

hensive Breast Center. Women who are identified as being high risk, or who think they might be at high risk, are encouraged to either make an appointment directly or discuss their concerns with their primary care physician who can make a referral. Within the center, the scheduling of diagnostic tests and a meeting with one of the breast surgeons can happen on the same day.

Overall, Middlesex's goal is to coordinate care in a way that can reduce anxiety, expedite the process and help patients better navigate a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Middlesex Health Cancer Center is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. The Comprehensive Breast Center is located at 540 Saybrook Road in Middletown.

The same services are also offered at a satellite office at the Middlesex Health Shoreline Medical Center in Westbrook. To contact the center, call 860-358-2780.

Health Department - Mosquitoes & Ticks



Warm weather is quickly approaching, which means beach days, hikes, bike rides, pools, drawing on asphalt with chalk, lemonade stands, and our not-so-favorites; mosquitoes and ticks!

These pests are known to transmit West Nile Virus, Zika Virus, and Lyme Disease, just to name a few. Prevention from bites is the best way to avoid these diseases, so follow these important steps:

1. Use EPA-registered insect repellents, with one of these active ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, Oil of lemon

eucalyptus, or 2-undecanone. Use products that contain permethrin on clothing. Treat clothing and gear, such as boots, pants, socks, and tents with products containing 0.5% permethrin. It remains protective through several washings.

2. Make your yard safe by removing stagnant water, leaf litter, clearing tall grasses and removing brush, mowing the lawn frequently, keep playground equipment away from yard edges and trees, discourage unwelcome animals (such as deer, raccoons, squirrels) from entering your yard by constructing fences, and remove old furniture or trash that may give ticks a place to hide.
3. Avoid traveling through wooded and brushy areas, but if necessary, wear long and bright clothes that cover any

bare skin, as well as walk in the center of the trail if possible.

4. Conduct a full-body tick check upon returning from potential tick-infested areas. Thoroughly check areas such as under the arms, between the legs, in and around the ears, and in hair.
5. Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors to wash off and more easily find ticks that are crawling on you.
6. Put clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on clothing.
7. Check pets for ticks as soon as they come from outside. Ticks can be transported into a home by our pets.

If you have any questions, please contact the CT River Area Health District at: 860-661-3300.

Social Services Help Day

Provided 4th Thursday of Every Month in Old Saybrook

SNAP, HUSKY, MSP, CT FOOD BANK TRUCK,
DENTAL CLINICS

Social Services Help Days are sponsored by Old Saybrook Social Services and held at Grace Church Hall, 336 Main Street in Old Saybrook every 4th Thursday of the month.

We provide help for state applications for SNAP and HUSKY from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and The CT Food Bank truck mobile pantry will come between 1:30 and 2:30 pm to provide food for all who need it; please bring a bag. Dieticians from St. Joseph University will be teaching folks how to eat healthy on a SNAP food stamp budget providing education and recipes.

We offer ongoing health screenings for blood pressure and cholesterol as well as health education with CRAHD, CT River Area Health District, our town RN and Big Y Pharmacy.

Workforce Alliance/American Job Center on site to bring employment job opportunities to our residents in need of a job or training to obtain a job.

The Old Saybrook dates and events are:

March 28,

10:00 am - 3:00 pm, with CT Food Truck 1:30 - 2:30 pm

April 25,

10:00 am - 3:00 pm with CT Food Truck 1:30 - 2:30 pm

May 23, Grow Your Own Food Garden,

10:00 am - 3:00 pm, with CT Food Truck 1:30 - 2:30 pm

June 27, Dental Cleanings and Supplies,

9:00 am - 3:00 pm, with CT Food Truck 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Additional Shoreline CT Food Bank stop is at Clinton Town Hall annex building parking lot on the first Mondays of the month.

Old Saybrook residents welcome:

April 1, CT Food Bank Truck 12:00 - 1:00 pm

May 6, CT Food Bank Truck 12:00 - 1:00 pm

June 3, CT Food Bank Truck 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Appointments should be made for state application processing but walk-ins are also welcome as space is available.

Please contact Susan Consoli, MA, LPC, Social Services

Coordinator at: 860-395-3188 or by email at susan.consoli@oldsaybrookct.gov.

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Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation Department



EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us on Saturday, April 13th for this fun event to find different prizes and candies throughout the green. Three

different fields around the Recreation Center will be used to "hide" the candy for the kids to find, each field will be for a different age group. Age groups will be 2-4 year olds on McMurray Field, 5 year olds-1st graders will be on the Middle School field and 2nd & 3rd graders on the Town Green. Please bring a basket to collect your goodies in and don't forget to bring your camera to take pictures with the Easter Bunny! This event is co-sponsored by Old Saybrook Lions Club. Please sign up online by April 12th.

Hunt Times: 2-4yr olds:	11:00 am
5yr - 1st Grade:	11:15 am
2nd & 3rd Grade:	11:30 am

ANNUAL ROCK HUNT AT TOWN PARK

It's time to go rock hunting! This fun annual event will be held at Clark Community Park (Town Park) on Schoolhouse Road on Good Friday, April 19th at 10:00 am (sharp). This event is for all OS residents in grades 4th-6th. Hunters are invited to search the woods for painted rocks which can be traded in for gift certificates, candy prizes and more. Anyone up for the challenge should

show up on time and bring their own heavy duty bag or bucket to collect all of the colored rocks they find. Please sign up online or in the office for this event to give us an idea of numbers.

RAY DOBRATZ ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

On Saturday, April 27th OSPR will hold its 6th Annual Ray Dobratz Fishing Derby at Crystal Lake in Clark Community Park on Schoolhouse Road. This event is offered to Old Saybrook Residents Only. Let's see who can claim bragging rights, the children or the adults? Who will get the biggest catch of the day? Children age 5-15 can be accompanied by a family member and participants 16 yrs and older must have a valid CT fishing license in this great derby which kicks off the fishing season! The lake will be stocked with trout for all to enjoy. The fishing derby starts bright and early at 7:00 am and will run until 10:00 am. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish caught! Coffee, hot chocolate & donuts will be served in the morning and hot dogs will be available later in the morning. The cost is \$5.00 dollars per person, please register by April 25th.

APRIL VACATION CAMP

Looking for something fun to do during vacation with a bunch of your friends? Look no further, OSPR has you covered with a full week of camp! Camp will meet at the Rec, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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and is for K-5th Graders. Camp is \$105 for the week. For more information please visit our website at: www.oldsaybrookrec.com. Space is limited to, so sign up early!

OSPR T-BALL AND COACH PITCH

Registration will begin in early March for our annual T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues sponsored by The Parthenon Diner. These co-ed leagues are for youth 5 years old or in Kindergarten (T-Ball) or first grade (Coach Pitch). Each team will practice once a week and have one game a week on Saturdays. Registration will end on Thursday, April 18th and practice will begin on Monday, April 29th. Coaches are needed. If you are interested, please contact Jonathan Paradis and make a note during registration. There will be a coaches meeting on Wednesday, April 24th at 5:30 pm at The Rec. Center.

TEEN CENTER NEWS

The Parks and Recreation Department is serving up some wonderful programming for its 4th through 8th grade students to help get through the winter months! On Friday, February 1st we wrapped up our OSPR football league by handing out certificate awards. The awards covered an array of different individual accomplishments that included; defensive player of the year, most valuable player, and coaching award to name a few. We are excited to announce that on February 15th we will have started our 6th

annual Indoor Soccer Tournament. Players participated in a Round Robin Tournament on February 15th to determine seeding for a Single Elimination Bracket Style Tournament the following week. In the end, only one soccer squad will prevail to be our 2019 Co-Ed Indoor Soccer Champions. The champions will continue the annual tradition by signing the trophy ball which is permanently showcased in the teen center. OSPR would like to thank Sweet Luna's for its continuous sponsorship support for the tournament!

After the soccer tournament, we will have had our 3 on 3 Co-Ed Basketball Tournament on Friday, March 22rd. All teams had to be signed up by Wednesday March 20th; no teams were accepted at the door.

Looking ahead into spring we will be offering a Home Run Derby, Dodgeball Redemption Tournament and will finish the year off with our annual 8th Grade Goodbye BBQ. There is something for everyone at the Teen Center, stop in and check it out!

Have an idea or suggestion for an event? Stop in to OSPR and let us know! For more information regarding the Teen Center program, please contact Kyle Bohonowicz at Kyle.Bohonowicz@OldSaybrookCT.gov or by phone at: 860-395-3152.

continued on page 18

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SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman	395-3123	Carl.Fortuna@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Georgiann Neri, Administrative Secretary		Georgiann.Neri@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Lee Ann Palladino, Finance Director	395-3127	leeann.palladino@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Larry Hayden, IT Manager	510-5000	Larry.Hayden@OldSaybrookCT.gov

ACCOUNTING

395-3132

ASSESSOR

Norman Wood, Assessor	395-3137	Norman.Wood@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Bridget Riordan, Administrative Clerk		Bridget.Riordan@OldSaybrookCT.gov

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Tom Makowicki, Building Official	395-3130	Tom.Makowicki@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Susan Beckman, Executive Director	395-3139	Susan.Beckman@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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FIRE MARSHAL

Pete Terenzi	395-3133	Pete.Terenzi@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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LAND USE

Christine Nelson, Town Planner	395-3131	Christine.Nelson@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Christina Costa, Enforcement Officer		Christina.Costa@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Sarah Lyons, Administrative Assistant		Sarah.Lyons@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Environmental Planner		

PARKS AND RECREATION

Ray Allen, Director		Ray.Allen@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Jonathan Paradis, Assistant Director	395-3152	Jonathan.Paradis@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Rick Pine, Office Manager		Rick.Pine@OldSaybrookCT.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

Larry Bonin, Director	395-3123	Larry.Bonin@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Joan Broadhurst	395-3134	Registrar@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Joan Strickland		Registrar@OldSaybrookCT.gov

TAX COLLECTOR

Barry E. Maynard	395-3138	Barry.Maynard@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Wendy Morison		Wendy.Morison@OldSaybrookCT.gov

TOWN CLERK

Sarah Becker, Town Clerk	395-3135	Sarah.Becker@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Christina Antolino, Assistant Town Clerk		Christina.Antolino@OldSaybrookCT.gov

TREASURER

Robert Fish	395-3073	Robert.Fish@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Stephen Mongillo, Program Administrator	510-5001	Stephen.Mongillo@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Robbie Marshall, Coordinator	395-2876	Robbie.Marshall@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Gratia Lewis, Financial Manager	510-5076	Gratia.Lewis@OldSaybrookCT.gov

OTHER TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Acton Public Library - 60 Old Boston Post Road

Amanda Brouwer, Director	395-3184	abrouwer@actonlibrary.org
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Police Department - 6 Custom Drive

Non-emergency	395-3142	
Michael A. Spera, Chief of Police	395-3142	mspera@oldsaybrookpolice.com

Probate Court - 302 Main Street

Jeannine Lewis, Judge of Probate	510-5028	
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Social Services - 322 Main Street

Susan Consoli, Social Services Coordinator	395-3188	Susan.Consoli@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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Transfer Station

499 Middlesex Turnpike	395-3187	
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Youth & Family Services - 322 Main Street

Heather McNeil, Executive Director	395-3190	Heather.McNeil@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Angela Gaidry, Administrative Assistant		Angela.Gaidry@OldSaybrookCT.gov

www.OldSaybrookCT.org

Parks and Recreation... continued from page 17

OSPR SUMMER CAMPS

Summer will be here before you know it and OSPR has some great camps this year. We have our pre-K through kindergarten camp, 1st-5th grade camp and our 6th-8th grade camp. Each week campers will have the chance to spend the day at the splash pad, the beach, play a round of mini golf at the point and go on a weekly special field trip! Each day campers will also participate in fun gym games, art-n-crafts projects and have fun with friends. Camp at OSPR is a great way to spend the summer! For our OS residents entering grades 7th-12th don't forget to check out our Summer Teen Trips!

In addition to our traditional day camps, OSPR has many sport camps we are offering as well. Make sure to check out our Basketball, Tennis, Lacrosse and Adventure Day Camp to name a few. For more information on our summer camps and any programs at OSPR, please visit our website at www.oldsaybrookrec.com or email Jonathan Paradis at Jonathan.Paradis@OldSaybrookCT.gov. Registration for all of our Spring and Summer Programs starts on Tuesday, April 2nd at 9:00 am. You can register online or in person at the Rec. Center.



SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE WITH

OS BASKETBALL CLUB

OSPR has teamed up with Old Saybrook Basketball Club for another year to offer

summer youth basketball leagues on the Vin Baker Courts. This pick up style basketball is a great opportunity to work on your game in the off season and get to know your future coaches and teammates before the start of the season. We will have four age groups for boys and girls and each week teams will change. This league will be offered to 4th-8th graders and games will be played on Thursday nights. The league starts Thursday, June 27th.



CT TRAILS WEEKEND

The first weekend in June has become an outdoor tradition, as OSPR is participating in the CT D.E.E.P and CT

Forrest and Parks Association's CT Trails Weekend. The State of Connecticut has the largest celebration of trails in the nation. This year Old Saybrook will add three more events. On Saturday we will have a Paddle on the Oyster River down to the Sound and back up the Back River in the morning followed by a Sandbar Stroll at Harvey's Beach. On Sunday morning, we will walk downtown Old Saybrook, starting and ending at The Rec. All our events will be led by Jonathan Paradis.

Saturday, bring the family to Paddle Tour of Oyster River. Meet at the Rt. 1 launch across the street from McDonalds. You can bring any paddle water craft. Personal flotation devices are required. Additional parking will be at OS High School after you drop your kayak, canoe, etc. off. We will begin at 11:00 am and head out on a 4 mile paddle through the Oyster River, Long Island Sound, the Back Marsh and River and then return on the Oyster River.

Also on Saturday, we have the 2nd Sandbar Stroll at Harvey's Beach. This year we will meet at 4:45 pm and depart for 5:00 pm on a leisure stroll on the sandbars at low tide. We will meet at Harvey's Beach and walk up to the Town Beach and back. This walk will be roughly 1 mile in distance. Dogs are not allowed on the beaches.

Then on Sunday June 2nd we walk downtown Old Saybrook. The town has made great improvements to the walkability of town and we will take you on a 1.5 mile loop around Main St. We will meet at The Rec. (308 Main St.) at 9:00 am and depart for 9:15 am.

All of these events are free to OS residents. For more information please visit our website or contact Jonathan Paradis at: Jonthan.Paradis@OldSaybrookCT.gov.

2019 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Nothing says summer in Saybrook like our Summer Concert Series brought to you by Guilford Savings Bank! This year we have 11 weeks of music lined up, with 16 shows!

We will have eleven Wednesday shows at 6:30 pm on the Town Green and five shows at Harvey's Beach at 7:00 pm on Friday nights. The season will start on Wednesday, June 12th and will run through August 21st. We have our annual classic shows and added 6 new bands this year to round out the series.

As always, pack a picnic, bring you blanket or chairs and enjoy a great evening of great music!

2019 SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS

Back and bigger than ever, we have our Summer Movie Nights sponsored by Yale New Haven Health. This summer we will show four movies at three different properties including, Saybrook Point, Harvey's Beach and the Town Green.

Our first movie will be *The Peanuts Movie* on the Town Green on June 28th and we will end the series on at Harvey's Beach on August 9th with *Small Foot*. Also showing this summer are *Christopher Robin* and *Marry Poppins Returns*.



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Old Saybrook Education Foundation (OSEF)

The following staff members of the Old Saybrook Public School System were honored as part of OSEF's annual Holiday Giving Program. The Board wishes to congratulate the following on being recognized in such a meaningful way.

Kara Bell	Barbara Dimberg	Jacqueline Hakim	Patricia Marshall	Jennifer Snyder
Richard Bourn	Janette Dodds	Maureen Healy	Jeremy Milton	Ellie Sutton
Shirley Brockway	Kara Donnelly	Kristen Hunter	Shayne Munoz	Jeremy Taylor
Elizabeth Canavan	Dan Driscoll	Karen Jenkins	Michael Riley	Nicholas Yacovou
Karen Carlone	Chris Gallerani	Jermain Johnson	Alexis Schneider	Michelle Zimmerlin
Mark Carroll	Courtney Goodale	Robert Labriola		

The Foundation is also proud to support the following initiatives through our grant program.

- Old Saybrook Middle School STEAM Day
- Old Saybrook Middle School 6th Grade speaker - Geoff Krill speaker
- Old Saybrook High School - Connecticut Drama Club Association Festival
- Old Saybrook High School - Operation Wallacea Honduras Expedition
- Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services – Youth Leadership Forum, Washington, DC

For more information about the Foundation, events or how you can get involved please visit: www.oldsaybrookeducationfoundation.org or email oldsaybrookeducationfoundation@gmail.com.

To download previous issues of Old Saybrook Events visit: www.eventsmagazines.com
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THE OLD SAYBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

It Takes a Village and for Ours, We are Thankful

It takes a village to raise a child. This old proverb is meant to proclaim a simple, but important truth: raising a child into a responsible, productive member of society requires the time, energy, and wisdom of many individuals and groups. Old Saybrook Public Schools is a local institution of learning, which means that a large share of the social, emotional and intellectual growth of the town's youth falls on the school district's shoulders. Day in and day out, the paraeducators, teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, custodial staff, food service staff, nurses, and daily substitutes work together in a perfectly synchronized orchestra of learning. Children seamlessly move from classroom-to-classroom, subject-to-subject, and from lesson-to-lesson, picking up, not only the intended knowledge, but also the social and emotional skills students will need as they prepare for life beyond Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

But learning is not limited to the classroom. The process and people described make up one institution, the school district; but Old Saybrook Public Schools does not operate autonomously. As it has been suggested, raising a child takes an entire village. More specifically, other local institutions create their own programs aimed at protecting and/or educating the children of the village. These institutions are numerous, ranging from the protective groups like local police and fire services to the groups looking to promote safe and healthy lifestyles for children like Youth and Family Services and Parks and Recreation. There are also institutions that look for ways to provide new and exciting opportunities for students like Ram Boosters, the Education Foundation, the Chamber of Commerce through the district's internship program, and the PTO's at each school. These institutions create their own

student centered programming and deliver their services using a variety of mediums. Like the school district, none of the town's institutions work autonomously.

The best and most effective way for local institutions to reach their goals and successfully deploy their services is through collaboration. In much the same way the village comes together to raise the child, the village also comes together to raise itself. For example, did you know that the Old Saybrook Education Foundation donates thousands of dollars in scholarships to graduating seniors each year? Did you know that Youth and Family Services hosts a program at our schools called, "Can We Talk?" for parents and students aimed around creating a dialogue around topics that can be difficult for parents to communicate with their teenagers about? Did you know that the Parks and Recreation Department runs several after school leagues throughout the year for games like flag football and dodgeball for students of all ages? All resources cannot and do not exist in the hands of a single group and so the mission of educating and preparing students to achieve their highest aspirations, care for others and the environment, and contribute to a global society becomes a shared one, with each group breaking off areas of expertise and finding ways to work with other groups to strengthen the message or service being provided. While Old Saybrook Public Schools maintains a focus of educating students and preparing them for the real world, there is also an eye on creating partnerships with groups that can provide opportunities for students that the school district cannot provide. This collaboration is essential, not only for the growth of the villagers, but for the growth of the village itself and for that, we are grateful.



OSMS Swing Dance 2019 Teaches More Than Dance Moves!

During the month of January, all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at Old Saybrook Middle School participate in a swing dance unit. This is the 18th year that this unit has taken place in Old Saybrook. Unlike other dance curriculums in middle schools across

the country, the OSMS unit ends with an event that is held on the last Friday night of the month.

There are many goals of the swing dance unit that are fostered by the school's physical education teachers Katelyn Livingston and James Hespeler. The

biggest being etiquette, which by Livingston and Hespeler's definition is, "the ability for all students to demonstrate good manners and treat each other with respect and kindness." When asked about the unit, Katelyn Livingston responded cheerfully, "Our biggest goal above all is that each of our students

treats one another kindly. We know that dancing and even talking to someone else can be awkward and challenging for middle school students. We know that holding someone else's hand can be uncomfortable for anyone, but James and I do our best to give each student the tools and guidance to do these things with good manners, kindness, and respect. We joke with the students about how it would have been helpful if we were taught as middle schoolers to show good body language and why it's

important to make eye contact when talking to someone or asking them to dance."

The dance is not mandatory for any student but roughly 95% of the entire 6th, 7th and 8th grade student body attends each year. James Hespeler said, "It's amazing what these kids can do. They come into 6th grade afraid of their own shadow and leave in 8th grade being able to hold their own on any dance floor and in new social situations." Both Livingston and

Hespeler mentioned that they even used moves from the swing dance unit during their "first dances" at their own weddings.

The 2019 Swing Dance itself was a huge success. Students not only demonstrated their new dance moves, but were also able to treat their peers with proper etiquette throughout the entire night. OSMS is excited for what next year's swing dance and students have to offer!



Save a Life

OSHS students and staff recently attended a Distracted Driving Assembly held at the school by the "Save a Life Tour" traveling across the state to more than 80 schools. The presentation focused on the dangers of texting while driving and involved speakers, videos and test-driving simulators. The presenters shared a statistic that the average response time to a text is five seconds, and at a traveling speed of 55 miles per hour, the driver would have traveled the distance of a football field with eyes off the road.

Students listened to personal stories from the speakers and through the video, and learned about the tragic impact distracted drivers have made on others' lives as well as their own.

Students then had a chance to experience driving while distracted in simulators made available over the course of the school day. Students sat behind the wheel for three minutes while experiencing what it would be like to text and drive.

Climbing Wall Comes to Goodwin School

If you have ever asked a Goodwin student what is their favorite physical education activity they will proudly respond, "The Whittle!" The Whittle is a jungle gym type apparatus that consists of bridges, ropes, balance challenges, cargo nets, climbing ladders, etc. For the month of January, students engage with every inch of the Whittle, they simply love the challenges and enjoy taking appropriate risks.

When students returned from winter break, they were greeted with a new

physical education challenge; a brand new horizontal climbing wall attached to the gym's east wall. The wall will build on many of the skills students developed on the Whittle; core strength, coordination, balance, and upper/lower body strength. The wall consists of a plywood backboard with hundreds of anchors that accept hand and foot holds. The holds can be placed for high, medium and low challenges. We are certain the students will have years of fun while developing essential physical and mental skills.

The district is excited for students to develop skills that will carry them to the Middle School's Project Adventure Program.

A big thank you to Physical Education Department including Kate Livingston and Chris Kelley for partnering with Julie Pendleton, Director of Finance and Facilities in getting this project completed. A very big thank you to the Endrich Foundation for financing the project. Once again, collaborative efforts benefit the children of Old Saybrook.



Acton Public Library

Amanda Brouwer
Director,
860-395-3184
abrouwer@actonlibrary.org

Children's Programs

SPRING 2019 (April, May, June)

Story Times at Acton Public Library

end Friday, June 7, 2019

Acton Public Library's Summer Reading Program

begins Monday, June 17

WIGGLE BOOK WORMS

Wednesday mornings from 10:30 - 11:00 am

Drop in and share stories, songs and simple rhymes together. A program for children ages birth through age 2 and their families. Stay and socialize immediately following story time for Stay and Play until 11:30 am.

FANTASTIC FRIDAYS

Friday mornings from 10:30 - 11:00 am

A drop-in preschool story time for children ages 3-5; siblings are welcome. Have lots of fun sharing stories, music and a craft together. (*Specials: ABC Amigos on the 1st Friday of every month, and, Music with Miss Martha on the 3rd Friday of every month. See below.*)

ABC AMIGOS

The 1st Friday of every month from 10:30 - 11:00 am

Free and drop-in preschool bilingual story time on the first Friday of every month. Sing songs, play games and listen to stories in both English and Spanish. This series is open to children regardless of Spanish-speaking ability. For children ages 3 to 5; siblings are welcome. This program is sponsored by The Friends of the Acton Public Library.

MUSIC WITH MISS MARTHA

The 3rd Friday of every month from 10:30 - 11:00 am

Join Miss Martha from the Community Music School for a special musical story time! For ages 3-5; siblings are welcome. This program is sponsored by The Friends of the Acton Public Library.

Story times end Friday, June 7

AFTER SCHOOL CREATIVE DANCE CLASS

Wednesday, April 3 and Wednesday, May 8 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm

An introductory dance class with Miss Laura from The Eastern Connecticut School of Ballet is open to children ages 3 through 5. This program is free, but space is limited so please register. This

program is sponsored by The Friends of Acton Public Library.

MAKE AND TAKE TERRARIUM EVENT

Saturday, April 6 from 10:30 - 11:30 am

Kids Grades K-2! Learn about the ecosystem of a terrarium and learn how to make one to take home, along with instructions for how to care for it at home. This program is free and offered by The Old Saybrook Garden Club. Seating is limited; registration is necessary.

READ WITH ELLA

Saturdays, April 20; May 18; & June 15 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Kids! Ella loves to be read to! Call to reserve a



15 minute session to READ with Ella the therapy dog. Bring your own book, or use one of ours. Ella comes to us through the R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) program of Cold Noses, Warm Hearts, Inc, a local affiliate of Intermountain Therapy Animals, a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to sharing well trained, registered, therapy animals in meaningful programs that provide comfort and caring through the human-animal bond. Parents must sign a permission form for child to be alone in room with the dog and the therapy dog supervisor. Children should be of reading age. Please call or stop by in-person to register

CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM

June 17 - August 17, 2019

For infants and children through grade 5

Go to actonlibrary.org to track your reading time and claim prizes. Earn an ACTON READING BUCK for every 20 minutes of reading, to "spend" at the Acton General Store. The Library is participating in the Read to Feed program again this year. Thank you to the Friends of Acton Library for making Family Night programs possible. Please note: All programs are free & drop-in unless otherwise noted. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

IT'S THEATER TIME! WITH JUDY POTTER

Tuesdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 11:00 am - 11:30 am

Listen to a story and learn how to act it out. Best for ages 3 - 7. Please register.



FAMILY NIGHT: NAPPY'S PUPPETS: SING-A-LONG

Thursday, June 20 from 6:30 - 7:15 pm

Nappy's Puppets is dedicated to presenting quality shadow-puppet theater. Jim Napolitano has gathered together the greatest Sing-A-Long songs of all time! Each performance entertains, inspires and educates the audience on the range and scope of

puppetry as an art form. Join in the fun as Nappy's Puppets presents some of the silliest songs around! No registration is required.



**FAMILY NIGHT: SCIENCE
TELLERS: ALIENS, ESCAPE
FROM EARTH**

Thursday, June 27 from 6:30 - 7:15 pm

Science Tellers combines high-energy storytelling with interactive science experiments that bring the story to life. Along the way, the audience is introduced to concepts in physics, chemistry, and energy. Each experiment involves audience participation, with volunteers who help the performer carry out the experiment. The show is geared toward kids in preschool through fifth grade, but it is excellent fun for all ages. Don't miss this action-packed and educational alien adventure. It's totally out of this world! No registration required.

Teen Programs

APRIL

Friday, April 12, 3:00 pm at Acton Public Library

MYTHICAL CREATURES GLITTER TATTOOS

"Z" Face & Body Art will be here with the coolest new thing... glitter tattoos! Stencils of unicorns, dragons, and other
continued on page 26

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Together, we are making a real difference. Thanks to our donors and Funds, critical programs for veterans and seniors continue in Middlesex County. One of our newest Funds, the St. Luke's Home Fund, is providing financial support to nonprofit organizations working to improve the daily lives of seniors and veterans. Grants are awarded to programs offering basic services such as shelter, access to care, and transportation.

Thanks to you, we are able to make even the smallest gift have a big impact - through charitable funds that support animal welfare, arts and culture, health and social services, education, history, the environment, civic improvements, recreation, and economic security and opportunity.

We celebrate all of you who share the same desire to help our local community thrive today, and tomorrow.

We invite you to learn more by calling us or visiting us online.

Acton Library... continued from page 25



creatures are used with special glue that is made for use on the body. Glitter is applied on top and the temporary tattoo can last for 4-10 days! Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event. This program is sponsored by The Friends of the Acton Library

MAY

Friday, May 10, 3:00 pm at Acton Public Library
MARVEL UNIVERSE FELT CHARACTERS



Make one of 10 collectible felt characters from the Marvel Universe. Easy-to-sew (by hand) project! Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

JUNE

Friday, June 7, 3:00 pm at Acton Public Library
SPORT STACKING WITH SPEED STACKS

Stack plastic cups and race against the clock to compete for prizes. A "track meet for your hands" at warp speed! Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.



TEEN SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Monday, June 17 - Saturday, August 17, 2019

For teens in grades 6-12

Welcome to READSquared, the statewide online summer reading log! Follow the link on our website at: www.actonlibrary.org to track books read, write book reviews and claim prizes. Remember, all reading counts, including audiobooks! Earn ACTON TEEN READING BUCKS to "spend" in the Teen Prize Locker while supplies last.

The library is participating in the Read to Feed program again this year, and teaming up with the Valley Shore Animal Welfare League to turn reading into food for rescued pets. You can "spend" your ACTON TEEN READING BUCKS on pet food to help feed the animals.

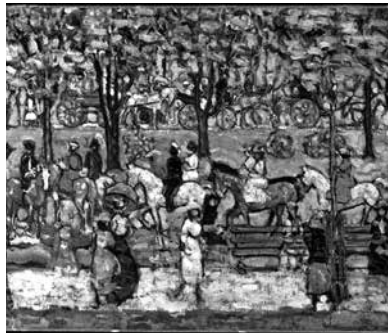
Adult Programs

APRIL

Wednesdays, April 3 - May 8, 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library
ACTIVE AT ACTON: WALKING GROUP

Join us for a 30-minute walk along a route near the library and enjoy each other's company while getting some exercise! Please wear comfortable shoes. This is a 6 week program. You can register for 1 week or all 6 weeks. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as spots are limited and is available one month prior to the event. Go to: [://sect.score.org](http://sect.score.org) or by calling 860-388-9508.

Sunday, April 7, 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library
URBAN REALISM AND "THE EIGHT"



This is a presentation by Barbara Spargo on early twentieth century American painters: Robert Henri, Arthur B. Davies, Maurice Prendergast, William James Glackens, Ernest Lawson, Everett Shinn, John Sloan and George Luks. Light

refreshments will be provided. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library
25TH ANNUAL POETRY NIGHT

Winners from the 25th Annual Poetry Competition will be recognized in the following divisions: Adult, Grades 9-12, Grades 7-8, Grades 4-6 and Grades 1-3. Sponsored by the Friends of Acton Public Library. Light refreshments will be served. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Saturday, April 27, 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library
NEAL FITZPATRICK - CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT



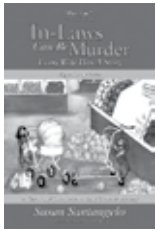
Neal Fitzpatrick, a classical guitarist and composer, is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music and Yale University School of Music. He is a professional event musician with 25 years of experience playing classical and jazz guitar. This concert will include works by Heitor Villa-Lobos, Leo Brouwer, Francis Poulenc, Isaac Albeniz, and more. Free and open to all. Registration

is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

MAY

Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library

Author Visit & Book Signing



Susan Santangelo will discuss: *In-Laws Can Be Murder: Every Wife Has a Story*. The Baby Boomer Mystery series takes a light-hearted look at issues facing the 76 million members of the Baby Boomer generation. In book 8, two grandmothers, Carol & Margo, clash over a long-awaited first grandchild. But, after Margo thinks she's committed a murder (then vanishes), Carol must step in and crack the case before police get involved. Book will be available for purchase. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

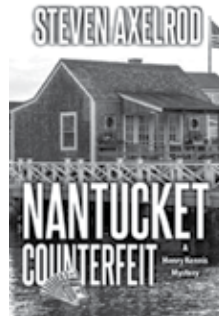
Thursday, May 16, 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library

BLACK BEARS IN CONNECTICUT - PAUL COLBURN, MASTER WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST

This presentation focuses on the natural history of the black bears in Connecticut, an overview of the black bear habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction and current research efforts. It also provides practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our black bear population. Black bear artifacts are shared with the audience. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Saturday, May 18, 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library
SONG AND STORIES FROM THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK WITH THE RICH MORAN QUARTET

Join Rich Moran, vocalist and host of WMNR's One Great Song program, for an afternoon concert of classic tunes from The Great American Songbook backed by Judy Webber on piano, Jeff Webber on saxophone and Noah Golden on drums. Selections will include the timeless works of songwriters such as Porter, Berlin, Rodgers, Van Heusen and many others. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.



Wednesday, May 22, 6:00 pm

at Acton Public Library
AUTHOR VISIT & BOOK SIGNING

Steven Axelrod will discuss *Nantucket Counterfeit*. This is fifth book in the Henry Kennis Mystery series takes you into the closed, gossip-riddled, back-stabbing world of Nantucket's community theater. Books will be available for purchase. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

continued on page 28

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Acton Library... continued from page 27

Thursday, May 23, 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library

AN EVENING WITH THE GILLETTES: PRESENTED BY HAROLD & THEODORA NIVERS.

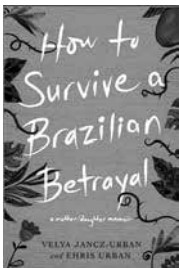


Not only do the Nivers talk about William & Helen Gillette, they also become the Gillettes. Flitting back and forth between being presenters and portrayers, their costuming is authentic and period-correct. Their knowledge of Sherlock Holmes, William Gillette and Gillette Castle is extensive. And, as a plus, since both Harold and Theodora are profession-

al musicians, you will hear several songs from the English Music Hall era. Sponsored by the Friends of the Acton Public Library. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Wednesday, May 29, 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library

AUTHOR VISIT & BOOK SIGNING



How to Survive a Brazilian Betrayal: a mother/daughter memoir. Lightening darkness with humor, Velya Jancz-Urban and her 25-year-old daughter, Ehris, introduce readers to their offbeat Connecticut family. Motivated by an 11-year friendship with a charming Brazilian named Jose Geraldo, they spend four years preparing for their move to rural Brazil, where

they will run a dairy farm and open an English school. When they follow their hearts to Ponte Nova, an explosion of betrayal leaves them dazed and grieving. Broke and broken, they are forced to return to the United States, and navigate their rebirth in a foreclosed 1770 New England farmhouse. An already strong mother/daughter relationship becomes indestructible when no one else is emotionally available for them. Books will be available for purchase. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Thursday, May 30, 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library

MARK HOPKINS - IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

Mark Hopkins was 72 when he acquired his first digital camera. He's now recognized as an award-winning nature photographer, and in this talk, along with showing dozens of his photographs, he'll discuss how it happened, where he's headed and how he works to help others appreciate this important art form. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

JUNE

Saturday, June 1, 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library

MARGARET YAMAMOTO - JUSTICE DENIED: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

This illustrated lecture tells the story of the Japanese incarceration

during World War II as seen through the eyes of a Japanese American family. It follows their passage from immigration in the 1890s through their imprisonment during the war years and documents how they rebuilt their lives thereafter. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Wednesdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:00 pm

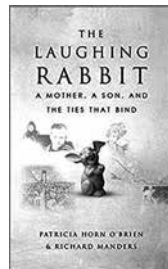
at Acton Public Library

ACTIVE AT ACTON: COUCH TO 5K

You will prepare for a 5K by gradually decreasing walking and increasing running times. Join us for a 30-minute walk/run along a route near the library and enjoy each other's company while getting some exercise! Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as spots are limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Thursday, June 13, 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library

AUTHOR VISIT & BOOK SIGNING



The Laughing Rabbit: A Mother, A Son, and the Ties That Bind by Patricia O'Brien. On Mother's Day of 2017 Richard Manders asked his mother, Pat O'Brien, if she'd like to collaborate with him in writing a book about their journey through adoption, separation, reunion, and the years that followed. Books will be available for purchase. Free and open to all. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Saturday, June 15, 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library

DRUMMING SPIRIT



Mark Zarrillo is a versatile drummer, percussionist, drum circle leader and sound therapy practitioner. He holds an M.A. in Humanities from SUNY at Buffalo, has traveled to Guinea for a drumming and culture intensive, and is a trained Health-RHYTHMS® facilitator. Mark draws upon his rich knowledge of West African music and culture, as well as over forty years of drumming wisdom, when creating com-

munity and helping others express their own individual rhythmic spirit. Free and open to all ages 14+. Registration is suggested as seating is limited and is available one month prior to the event.

Friday June 21 at Acton Public Library

ADULT SUMMER READING - BOOK BINGO

Pick up a "Bingo" card at the library. As you enjoy your summer reading, mark off the appropriate boxes on the bingo board. For each "Bingo" you will receive a raffle ticket for great prizes from local businesses. Submit your bingo card to the library by Aug. 21, 2019 to receive your tickets. The raffle tickets will be drawn on Aug. 24, 2019. Free and open to all.

Friends of Acton Library

Our membership drive marked the beginning of our fund raising season. The mailing was sent to all current members and a few additional folks who became new patrons of the library this year. We hope to raise about a third of our income from members who join Friends of Acton Library for no other reason than that they love what we do to provide extra programming and services that Acton Library's budget does not include. Last year, we had almost 200 members of the Friends, which made an important impact on our ability to give.

This year in our January meeting, we funded a wide variety of requests: About 20 passes for museums and other special places where patrons might find interesting and intriguing activities, programs for people of all ages, the poetry contest, the Passport to Libraries program that will happen again in April, and more. In our April meeting, we will hear and decide on requests for summer programming, especially for children. Summer is an important time for children and programming is especially geared toward encouraging them to continue reading all summer long. We will also hear requests for programs for teens and adults.

The Mini Book Sale will be on March 28-30 in the gallery on the first floor of the library. On Thursday, March 28, the sale will be open from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm. On Friday it will be held from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and on Saturday it will continue from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. It will feature children's books, paperback books, and trade paper books along with many CDs, DVDs, and audio books. We find this fund raiser to be a fun way to connect with library patrons and we also receive an infusion of funds that will help us to meet the needs of the summer programming.

On May 23, we will hold our Annual Meeting to elect new officers, to review the year's activities, and to look ahead. After this short meeting, we are anticipating with delight "An Evening with the Gillettes," a program presented by Harold and Theodora Nivers. As they talk about William and Helen Gillette, they become the famous couple, describing their lives in the famous Gillette Castle and the character, Sherlock Holmes. The Nivers are authentic portrayals and experienced musicians. Expect a genuine Music Hall performance.

The public is invited to join us for the meeting at 5:30 pm and the performance at 6:00 pm. As this will be a popular event, please call the library to reserve a seat. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sheila McPharlin,
President, Friends of Acton Library



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Visit the website for more information:
<http://www.211.org/#>

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The 2019 Legislative Session



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On January 9, 2019, the legislative session began. On that day, we heard from newly-elected Governor Ned Lamont and he outlined his vision for the upcoming session. On February 20th, Governor Lamont proposed his two-year state budget which included

53 tolls, increased sales taxes, a 'debt diet', school regionalization, and other ideas.

This session, I was appointed to serve on three legislative committees: Transportation, Planning & Development, and Finance, Revenue and Bonding where I will serve as the House Ranking Member on the Transportation Bonding Subcommittee. In addition, I was named an Assistant Leader in the House Republican Caucus.

The Transportation Committee has cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Transportation, including highways and bridges, navigation, aeronautics, mass transit and railroads; and to the State Traffic Commission and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Planning & Development Committee has cognizance of all matters relating to local governments, housing, urban renewal, fire, sewer and metropolitan districts, home rule and planning and zoning; regional planning and development activities and the State Plan of Conservation and Development, and economic development programs impacting local governments.

The Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee has jurisdiction over all matters relating to finance, revenue, capital bonding, fees and taxation.

Some of the major topics up for discussion this session include sports betting, tolls, marijuana, and an increase in the minimum wage.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns related to this session, issues of importance to you, or any matters with state government. You can contact me at: 860-240-8700 or devin.carney@housegop.ct.gov. Thank you for electing me to another term and it is an honor serving as your State Representative for the next two years.

Devin Carney, State Representative

Wallpaper Trending - 2019

WALLPAPER IS EXPERIENCING A REVIVAL

Started in 2018 it is making a huge comeback and the trend should continue well into 2019 and beyond... And why not? Wallpaper is an ideal product to cover less than good condition walls. Wallpaper can add life and good design to an otherwise ordinary room. And this time around, it is seriously not your grandmother's wallpaper as the movement in interiors is away from minimalism and a return to maximalism.

Today's wallpapers today are rich with color, bold florals (think botanicals), textures, metallics and geometric patterns... But unlike wallpaper installations of the past where all walls were typically wallpapered, today it is more often used as an accent or feature wall. This is not to say designers are not papering all four walls... Accent or feature walls can be a wall behind a

headboard or a crib in the nursery, in powder rooms, entry foyers and mudrooms, used in panels, on ceilings... the possibilities are endless. There are basically two types of wallpapers and installations. The first is a traditional wallpaper or paste apply. It is a durable, long-term solution that requires applying an external adhesive to the wallpaper with a paste machine or roller. This creates a stronger bond with the wall than a self-adhesive material, making it well suited to more permanent applications. The second type is a self-adhering, removable adhesive. Self-adhesive wall-coverings are available in permanent and removable options, with up to two years' durability.

If you are nervous about making a commitment or require a temporary installation, self-adhering wallpaper can be a great option. It is convenient and easier to install than the traditional glue down papers. Its clean and easy to

apply. There is no need for a paste with adhesives and bonding materials for both the wall and wallpaper. Another advantage of the self-adhering wallpaper is the ease of removal without damaging the wall. This product is ideal for renters allowing them to bring in a bit of their own personality and then leave the space in its original condition. One caution, as the product is designed to release from walls it has been known to come off walls when something rubs up against it or pulls on it. Careful placement and care should help alleviate this issue.

So, if you are looking to add a pop of color, a bold statement, a bit of texture, a little or a lot of personality, wallpaper may very well be what you are looking for... don't be afraid... since you have both permanent and less than permanent options to choose from... design well.

M.J. Martin, Old Saybrook, CT

Old Saybrook Historical Society

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THE WAR AT SAYBROOK FORT

Saybrook Fort was the first military post to be built by Europeans in the Connecticut wilderness and the area became the site for the most prolonged and intensive fighting of the Pequot War.

To increase understanding and appreciation of this important Fort site and its role in the Pequot War, the Historical Society has been engaged in a project supported by the American Battlefield Protection Program to develop materials and programs for educators and the general public.

A report on these developments will be presented for the public program at Saybrook Point Pavilion, on Sunday, May 12, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

Presenting these findings after a multi-year archaeological and historical study will be Dr. Kevin McBride, Univ. of Connecticut archaeologist and David Naumen, military historian at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. In addition, a brief report of work done to provide materials for educators will be presented by James Powers, former educator and now principal of Seeking the Past -Historical Consultants.

Following the program there will be short talking tour of nearby sites related to Saybrook Fort and the Pequot War.

The original Saybrook Fort was constructed in 1636-1637 and located at the highest point on Saybrook Point, not to be confused with Saybrook Fort Monument Park which was the approximate location of the second fort. The first fort was destroyed by fire in 1647.

The Historical Society is currently working to have the Fort listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

Funding for the Saybrook Fort program comes from the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program. For further information about Saybrook Fort or the Society's work, email: contact@saybrookhistory.org or call 860-395-1635.

OLE TIME ANTIQUES & TREASURES AUCTION, JUNE 1, 2019

Going, going, and gone to a new owner will become the cry of the Historical Society's Ole Time Antiques and Treasures Auction at the Gen. Wm. Hart House campus, Saturday, June 1, 2019. The event kicks off the Society's summer celebration with a preview **continued on page 32**

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Historical Society... continued from page 31

of items from 10:00 am to the start of the auction beginning at 1:30 pm. To be held under a large tent, sunny weather or not, highest bidders will walk away with antiques, art, artifacts, object d'art, collectibles and desirable treasures of all kinds. Further details will be available at Saybrook Recycled Furniture, 33 Stage Road or on the Historical Society website: www.saybrookhistory.org.

SEEING THROUGH THE WINDOWS PROJECT

Age has its aches and pains and nowhere is this more evident than in an old house. So, as part of its effort to be a good steward of its resources, the Historical Society sought support for its "replace and repair mission" for maintenance projects at the 1767 Gen. Wm. Hart House.

With summer heat and winter cold, with rising and falling temperatures and humidity, the Hart House and its 33 wood framed windows can take only so much before New England climate takes its toll. One-size-fits-all is definitely not a concept that existed when colonial windows were installed and replacing them calls for specialists with prized, but costly, skills. Funds amounting to \$12,000 were contributed by a generous small group of Society members and a matching grant received from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, 1772 Foundation for restoration of the windows. Restoring the last of these 33 windows is scheduled for completion this month when the most distressed windows are finished in a sealed and air-controlled HAZMAT room created in the Hart House basement.

HERE COMES THE SUN... AND FLOWER NOTE CARDS

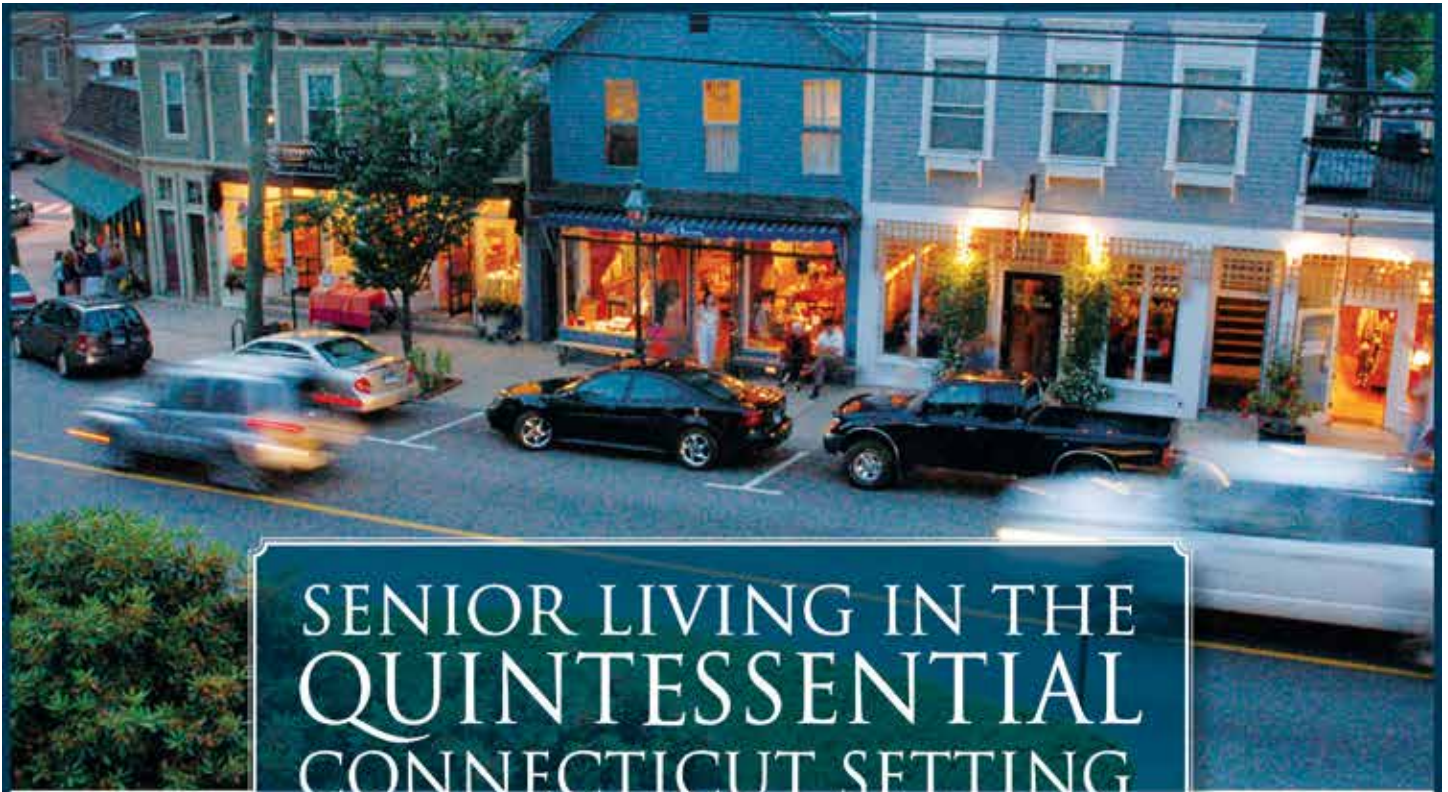
April showers will soon be bringing May flowers to the Hart House gardens where a happy, hard working and garden loving crop of volunteers work to beautify the Historical Society campus. And, they always welcome more happy and hard-working volunteers who don't mind dirty hands and knees. In addition to their well-grounded planting talents, the gardeners are sharing their photography skills with attractive note cards featuring colorful photographs of flowers from the Hart House Gardens. The set of eight notecards and envelopes is available at the Archives or if interested in placing an order by emailing: contact@saybrookhistory.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Several exciting events are planned for residents and visitors for the coming months. So, circle your calendars or click your phones to save these dates:

- May 12 Saybrook Fort and Pequot War Project Report, followed by walking tour of nearby sites, Vicki Duffy Pavilion, 2:00 pm.
- May 19: "Talk from the Hart," featuring Pamela Vittoria, "If I am Dead and Gone: The Story of Oliver Graham and the Legacy of His Powder Horn."
- May 26: Memorial Day Tour of Veteran Burial Sites, Upper Cemetery," conducted by Scott Carson.
- June 1: Antiques and Treasures Ole Time Auction, Gen. Wm. Hart House, 350 Main St., Old Saybrook. Starting 10:00 am.
- August 25: U.S. Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band concert, Gen. Wm. Hart House, 350 Main St., 4:00 pm.
- Sept. 7: Taste of the Town, annual fund raiser, Gen. Wm. Hart House, 350 Main St., 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Fabulous food and fun.

The Old Saybrook Historical Society welcomes volunteers for the above and other programs and activities. For membership and other information, contact the Society at: contact@saybrookhistory.org or call 860-395-1635.



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Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Update

The remaining Wastewater Management District (WWMD) conventional septic system upgrade contracts in Cornfield Point were completed by December 31, 2018.

The WPCA will finish any remaining restorations in the spring. As of January 2019, the WPCA's count of Upgrade Compliant septic systems in the WWMD totaled approximately 1,100.

There are 66 remaining non-compliant septic systems in the 10 areas that have been completed. These properties were originally designated as requiring Advanced Treatment Systems. To date, no Advanced Treatment Systems have been approved by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The WPCA is meeting with the CT DEEP to try to remediate those properties using more conventional means.

Benefit Assessment public hearings continue to be scheduled to address the last Cornfield Point contracts.

Planning is ongoing for Phase III which encompasses: Plum Bank, Great Hammock Beach, Saybrook Manor, Indiantown and Chalker Beach.

The draft report prepared by the engineering firm of Wright-Pierce to address the remaining 5 beach areas is near completion. It is being reviewed by DEEP and is pending acceptance by the WPCA for referral to the Board of Selectmen and release to the public.

The WPCA continues with the mailing of quarterly postcard reminders, requiring residents to pump out their septic tanks every 5 years per Ordinance #75. Although the ordinance mandates 5 year pumpouts, the WPCA and Department of Public Health recommend tanks be cleaned as often as necessary [based on usage and results of prior pumpouts.]

Pumpout service providers must record the information in the online "Carmody"

database. Residents are advised to ensure their service providers input their pumpout data in the Carmody system, to avoid further reminders and enforcement issues.

We would like to thank Elsa Payne for her many years of service to the WPCA, in her capacity as Chairman since 2012, and during the Wastewater Management District referendum and development. Ms. Payne's dedication and attention to detail were instrumental in the planning and implementation of the WWMD and she will be missed.

Included in this issue is an article about grass clippings requested by a resident. We hope you find it informative and helpful.

For further information about any of our programs, we encourage residents to call 395-2876, stop into our office in Town Hall or attend our monthly meetings held on the 2nd Mondays in Town Hall. Or visit our website at www.oswpca.org.



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Grass Clippings: Mulch, Compost & Fertilizer



Yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves and branches, was banned from CT landfills in the 90s. These materials are a valuable landscape resource when composted or used as mulch. Grass clippings do not need to be collected and can actually benefit the turf by returning nutrients and organic matter to the soil.

Mulching does not mean leaving an excessive amount of clippings piled on the surface after mowing. Leaving too many clippings will damage the lawn. Returning clippings to the lawn usually means having to mow more than once a week during the few weeks of rapid growth in spring and early summer. Mowing more frequently is less work than it seems, because lawns mowed at the proper height cut easier and quicker. As lawn growth slows in summer, grass can be mowed less often.

WHAT BENEFITS DO GRASS CLIPPINGS PROVIDE?

Grass clippings returned to the lawn provide up to 25 % of a lawn's total fertilizer needs. They contain about 4% nitrogen, 2% potassium and 1% phosphorus. While decomposing, they also serve as a food source for the bacteria in the soil, which do many beneficial things (such as decomposing thatch).

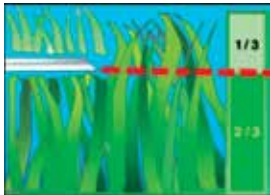


Figure 1: shows recommended cutting height.

Set your mower at a tall setting to produce a healthy lawn and so clippings easily fall into the lawn. Regular mowing with a sharp blade is essential

for reducing the collection of clippings. Grass must be mowed often enough so that no more than 1/3 (about 1 inch) of grass height is removed at each cutting.

WHY RECOMMEND TALLER MOWING HEIGHTS?

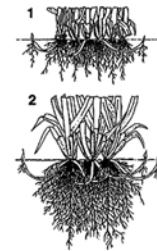


Figure 2: A comparison of turfgrass mowed at 2 heights.

1. The closer-mowed turfgrass has fewer roots and uses water inefficiently.
2. The higher-mowed turfgrass has a deeper, more extensive root system and is more drought resistant.

An efficient root system can reduce the need for watering. Taller mowing also helps to "shade out" many weeds.

DO CLIPPINGS CONTRIBUTE TO THATCH PROBLEMS?

Thatch is a layer of undecomposed grass roots, stems, crowns, runners and lower shoots that accumulate between the soil
continued on page 36



William
Pitt

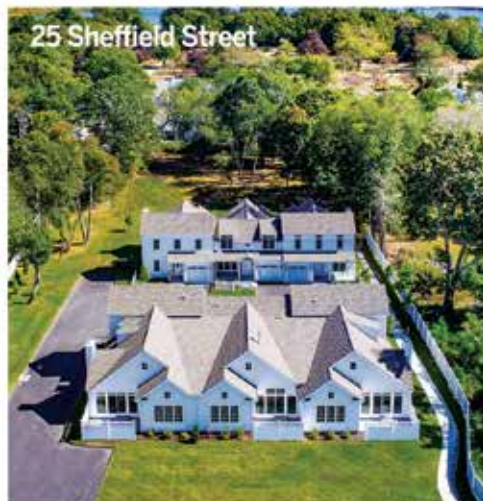
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Grass Clippings... continued from page 35

surface and growing turf. Grass clippings contain 80 to 85% water and decompose much more quickly than other parts. Research indicates that clippings do not contribute to thatch buildup on any grasses. Before you return clippings to your lawn, make sure the thatch layer is no more than 1/2 inch thick. A thicker layer will prevent clippings from coming into contact with soil microorganisms. If thatch is a problem, use a vertical lawn mower or power rake to reduce the thatch layer. Use the thatch as a mulch or add it to your compost pile.

ARE MULCHING MOWERS ANY MORE EFFECTIVE THAN REGULAR LAWN MOWERS?

Mulching mowers are rotary mowers that cut clippings smaller and disperse them uniformly back into the lawn for decomposition. They distribute clippings more evenly than regular lawn mowers.

HOW DOES LAWN FERTILIZING AFFECT CLIPPING PRODUCTION?

Cool-season grasses (Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and perennial ryegrass) should be fertilized primarily in September and October. Nutrients applied at this time encourage root growth and turf thickening. Fall applications also result in early spring green-up without causing excessive leafy top growth. Warm-season grasses (zoysia and Bermuda) should not be fertilized in

September and October. Given proper fall fertilization, spring applications may not be required. High rates of nitrogen (more than 1 pound per 1,000 square feet) in the spring stimulates unnecessary flushes of leaf growth and predisposes the lawn to greater summer damage. No more than 1 spring fertilization should occur. This can be in late March or early April with a weed-and-feed treatment for crabgrass or in May with a slow-release nitrogen source. Warm-season grasses should be fertilized when the grass begins growth in May-June. For slow and even growth, use fertilizer containing slow-release nitrogen.

ARE THERE ANY SITUATIONS WHEN GRASS CLIPPINGS SHOULD BE COLLECTED?

When the lawn is heavily diseased, removing clippings can help to decrease disease organisms. Clippings can still be used for compost. If the lawn is mowed when wet or excessively tall, clippings will mat and may not be evenly distributed. If your mower is unsafe to use without a bagging attachment, clippings can be collected.

IF CLIPPINGS ARE COLLECTED, CAN THEY BE USED FOR MULCH OR IN A COMPOST PILE?

Yes, grass clippings used as a mulch should be built up gradually to a 1-inch layer using dry grass. Greater thickness can inhibit the penetration of moisture and oxygen into the soil. Mulching thick-



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ness can be increased by mixing in a 1:1 or 2:1 ratio of compost, dry leaves or wood chips with fresh grass clippings. Grass clippings also can be used in a compost pile. The additional nitrogen helps speed up the microbial process. However, large amounts of fresh clippings, all at once, can create odors. Temporary odors can be reduced by mixing compost, dry leaves or wood chips in a 1:1 or 2:1 ratio with clippings.

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is the process of breaking down plant materials to a more usable organic soil amendment or mulch. Composting yard, garden, and some food wastes creates a valuable soil amendment. Compost improves the drainage and aeration of heavy clay soils and increases the moisture-holding ability of sandy soils. Adding compost to soil increases earthworm and soil microbial activity that benefits plant growth. With yearly additions of compost, a more desirable, workable soil structure is created. Compost also contains nutrients needed for plant growth. A well-managed compost pile with shredded materials under warm conditions is usually ready in 1 to 4 months. But if a pile or bin is left unattended and material is not shredded, the pile may take a year or longer to decompose.

WHAT DOES MULCH DO?

Mulches such as wood chips, leaves and compost suppress weeds, conserve soil moisture and modify soil temperatures. Mulch

also protects sloping ground from soil erosion and can stop soil compaction caused by driving rain. In addition, mulch provides a good environment for earthworms and other soil organisms necessary for healthy soil. Mulches can reduce maintenance and provide a landscape feature.

HOW DEEP SHOULD MULCH BE APPLIED?

Most mulches should be 2 to 4 inches deep. Air and water exchange are dramatically reduced and the soil becomes an inhospitable environment for roots if the mulch is applied too thickly. Do not apply mulch right up to a tree trunk or shrub as this encourages the development of decay fungi.

The blowing of grass clippings into the street is not only unsightly, but they are considered a pollutant and wind up in stormwater drains and watercourses. It is also an enforceable offense (with possible fines) according to the Town Code. Chapter 183 Stormwater Management references yard waste as a pollutant, and Chapter 144 Littering (specifically §144-20 Blowing of litter onto adjacent property) both restrict practices that contribute to nuisance or pollution. Please be mindful of this when you or your landscaper remove grass clippings on your driveway or walks - make sure they are kept on your lawn. For further information on topics such as: Polluted run-off and Non-point Source Pollution as well as articles on Rain Gardens and Pervious Surface etc., please visit the WPCA website at oswpca.org and view our polluted run-off page.

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Old Saybrook Garden Club

Happy Spring from all the members of the Old Saybrook Garden Club. The weather is warming, and the days are finally longer. Now is the time to start planning your spring and summer gardens. The Club is at its busiest time planning for our upcoming activities.

The biggest activity planned by the Old Saybrook Garden Club is our May Gardeners' Market held every year under the big white tent on the Town Green. Please stop by on Friday, May 10 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm and Saturday, May 11 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm to purchase your summer annuals and perennials, vegetables, member plants, herbs, baked goods, a variety of garden art and much more. This event is held rain or shine! You can pre-order select plants and receive a discount. Pre-order forms can be requested by emailing osgct@gmail.com.

The May Market is the Clubs' only fundraiser. The funds earned at Gardeners' Market support our Old Saybrook beautification programs including planting flowers in the



Main Street Medians, Constitution Garden, Firehouse Garden, Police Department Planters and Acton Library Planters as well as providing floral arrangements for Old Saybrook High School's graduation ceremony and scholarships for eligible senior students.

The Old Saybrook Garden Club hopes every one enjoys the spring and keep your eyes open as our beautification projects unfold. Our Main Street Median Planting Committee is busy planning the color scheme and planting time frames. The Street Gardens Program

will be in full swing again this year which invites businesses to create beautiful gardens in front of their business. Last year, nearly 80 local businesses participated.

Our Membership Drive that was held in February was a huge success, but prospective members are always welcome! If interested in becoming a member of the Old Saybrook Garden Club, call 860-395-1268. Follow all our activities and keep up to date on Facebook, www.facebook.com/oldsaybrookgardenclub and "like" us.



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Conservation Committee: Focus for 2019



Single use plastics is a topic frequently cited in the news these days with Big Y committing to no longer using plastic bags by 2020 and Starbucks eliminating the use of plastic straws. It didn't take much discussion for the Conservation Commission to agree the focus for 2019 will be the decrease of single use plastics and thin film plastics in our community.

A large portion of the effort will be to educate the community on how this can be done and work with local business to find metrics to measure our efforts. The educational efforts include the following: a film series on the impact of plastics on our environment including local waters; presentations or materials to neighborhood organizations and schools; and, a social media page to promote the initiative. It is also worth noting this project will fit very nicely in one of the Sustainable CT action categories and will hopefully garner points.

For anyone reading this article, one simple action you can take, starting today, is to bring your reusable bags on trips to the grocery store, drug store or any other store you frequent. Any effort made to reduce the amount of trash generated and increase recyclables is a win-win for the environment and for Old Saybrook.

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Want a New Workout for Spring? Try Gardening...



Gardening is a great way to get a moderate workout and end up with a bountiful result. Seniors who are able

can get great exercise with bending, lifting, kneeling and squatting. Now is the time to get in shape so those first days in the garden don't cause strained muscles or an aching back. There's no need to rototill or spade a huge part of your lawn if you don't already have a garden bed. Container gardening is the perfect solution. Large pots placed in sunny locations on a patio or in a cluster on a deck can provide a convenient spot for decorative plants or vegetables. Imagine the delight in stepping onto your deck to an overflowing pot of lettuce or fresh herbs. Tomatoes bred for container life can gift you with fresh produce through the summer. Don't forget to add a drip hose or irrigation method to keep those plants hydrated and growing throughout the season.

If you do have a garden bed but getting down on the ground has become a challenge raising the beds to table height and using a stool can extend your time as a gardener. Using mulch such as

straw or shredded paper will help maintain the moisture and keep the dreaded weeds at bay.

STILL RELUCTANT TO TAKE ON THIS NEW HOBBY?

Talk with the helpful folks at your local garden center or garden club. Look for an avid gardener to buddy with and bring another aspect to this adventure-friendship. Most gardeners are delighted to get someone started and will frequently have seedlings to share. Early morning or late afternoon is the best time to take on this activity still remembering to drink water and use a sun screen that is at minimum SPF 30.

You will find that gardening can provide moderate exercise, fresh, vegetables and fruit and lift your spirits all at the same time. Happy Spring!

Mary L. Lenzini, President/CEO
VNA of Southeastern Connecticut

Sustainable CT 2019

Many of you may have heard that Old Saybrook was awarded Sustainable CT's bronze certification in October 2018. Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program that recognizes thriving and resilient CT municipalities. Although certification lasts for 3 years, each com-

munity must submit documentation each year in order to maintain certification. This involves the town demonstrating how it meets specific action(s) within nine action categories. Some of the actions from 2018 will still hold, while others have expired.

Christine Nelson, Town Planner, who led the effort last year, kicked off the 2019 effort in early January. She will work closely with her team to ensure the town submits and meets requirements for 2019 with the hope of attaining silver status next!

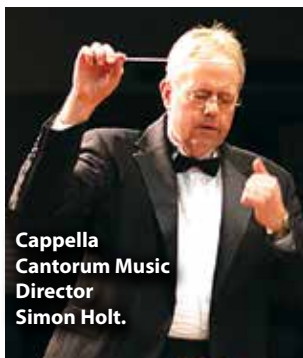
Old Saybrook Youth & Family Services Wilderness Challenge

OS Youth and Family Services will be coordinating the Wilderness Challenge program for Old Saybrook youth transitioning into 8th grade. Over the past 20-plus years, this program has generated great enthusiasm amongst its participants and has provided an excellent learning opportunity with many positive results.

This summer, June 21-25, 10 students will embark on this rewarding 5-day experience at The Wilderness School in East Hartland,

Ct. There are limited available spots, and student/parents may reach out to OSYFS to learn more. There will be an orientation/information event in May for those interested.

Students will experience outdoor challenges, relationship skills-building, self-empowerment, and a lot of fun! We know all students can benefit from the types of experiential learning offered through The Wilderness School, and hope your student will opt to learn more about the program.



Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' to be Performed by Cappella Cantorum

This spring brings a treat to area concert-goers: Cappella Cantorum Masterworks Chorus will perform Felix Mendelssohn's "Elijah" Sunday, April 14, 3 pm at John Winthrop Middle School, 1 Winthrop Road, Deep River. Simon Holt of the Salt Marsh Opera will direct the chorus and professional soloists and orchestra. Audiences will enjoy Mendelssohn's lyricism and use of orchestral color in this Romantic oratorio that depicts the events in the life of the prophet Elijah. Chorus selections include the well-known anthems, "Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains" and "He, Watching Over Israel." A reception will follow the concert.

Spring into Rosé

Spring is finally here and as the days become longer and the weather warms up, the perfect wines to drink are Rosés. The rosé style of wine has become increasingly popular every year, and why not? Aside from being refreshing, rosés pair well with a vast array of foods and are extremely palatable to almost any wine drinker.

Rosés are comprised of mostly red varietals but are occasionally blended with a small amount of white grapes. You might ask, where does the pink color come from? Well, the juice from all grapes is clear, the color of the wine depends on how long the skins stay in contact during the wine making process. The longer the skins stay in contact, the darker the color of the rosé. In my experience, the deeper rosés tend to have dark fruit flavors such as blackberry, cassis and plum, while the pale rosés taste of strawberry, cherry and watermelon. French rosés from Provence, for example, tend to be a pale salmon-like color and are light and

refreshing in body, while Cotes-du-Rhone rosés are brighter pink and weightier in the mouth.

Because of the long run of White Zinfandel in the United States, many people believe that all rosés are sweet. White Zinfandel is made in a different fashion than true rosés. It has lower alcohol and higher residual sugar. Most rosés are in fact drier than one would expect. This makes them easy to pair with many different foods, from appetizers to entrees and desserts.

It is time to invite your friends over, uncover and strike up the barbeque grill, and crack open a refreshing bottle of rosé. It will surely please your entire crowd. Happy Spring!

Art LiPuma
Manager, SeaSide Wine & Spirits

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Common Good Gardens Annual Potluck Brunch



Common Good Gardens name and mission.

The Common Good Gardens (CGG) held its annual volunteer potluck brunch on March 30 at Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook. The event kicked off the garden's 2019 growing season with food, conversation and reflections from two keynote speakers: Ellen Rabin, Director of Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries (SSKP), the garden's main distribution partner; and Suzanne Thompson, gardener, writer, and host, CT Outdoors on WLIS 1420 AM & WMRD 1150 AM, as well as Local Dirt Columnist, The Day. Both are long-term supporters of the garden and its efforts to provide thousands of homeless,



Navy submariners help volunteers open the garden by clearing beds of debris and then refurbishing them with compost and lime.

elderly, disabled, and unemployed people with access to nutritious food. Since 2002, an all-volunteer team at Common Good Gardens has grown pesticide-free produce (in recent years, close to 7000 lb. per year) for those in need throughout the shoreline community. CGG also provides hands-on opportunities for volunteers to learn about organic gardening and has helped other groups start similar ventures. According to Ellen Rabin, there are currently five gardens growing food for the pantries and most have received encouragement and guidance from CGG. Ellen highlighted her part of the process and what having the highest quality



Sugar snap peas are one of the garden's early spring crops.

produce has meant to her pantry guests. Suzanne talked about the joys and perils of Connecticut gardening based on her own experiences and those of fellow gardeners. She also shared fond "memories, mullings and musings" of her favorite CGG interviews and writing assignments, including one with Iowan Navy submariners (helping to open up the garden beds after the last snow) who had never been to the East Coast before. To find out more about the Common Good Gardens' year-round operation, email Barbara Standke at: Common-goodgardens@gmail.com.

Connecticut Cancer Foundation

EAT WELL, LIVE WELL: NUTRITION & WELLNESS SERIES

The Connecticut Cancer Foundation (CCF) along with Val Koif, MS Clinical Nutrition, presents a monthly speaker's series "Eat Well, Live Well: Nutrition & Wellness." The series kick off on April 25th, with "Food: Why You Should Care?" The series explores just what "good" nutrition means, why what you eat matters, and some easy ways to shift toward more healthful eating. Eating well remains challenging not because it's complicated but because the choices are hard even when they're clear. We are inundated with information, with temptation, with growing health concerns. It's more important than ever to eat like your life depends on it!

Each month, with collaboration from Dr. Matthew Castanho, Naturopathic Physician, along with other nutritional experts we'll dive into a specific food-related topic, uncovering the power of good nutrition to help you feel better and be healthier. You'll enjoy practical tips, great recipes, and the satisfaction of knowing your participation supports not only your personal health but the efforts of the Connecticut Cancer Foundation to quickly and compassionately ease the burden of cancer patients and their families with direct financial assistance. For more information, visit: www.ctcancerfoundation.org.

50 Years Sailing at North Cove - Club Celebrates

Since 1969, sailors have called a small clubhouse at the end of Sheffield Street, just past OSMS, home. Perched on the edge of North Cove, a federal safe harbor, North Cove Yacht Club has found a way to not only bridge generations but also to expand the reach of sailing in the community.

"Forget the notion of old folks in blazers having high tea," says Commodore Joe Milke, "our club is a get-your-hands-dirty

where everyone pitches in - whether that's supporting causes like the Leukemia Society, inviting the town to our "Celebrate North Cove Day" or through the scholarships we offer to underprivileged area youth in our summer program.

In fact, each year more than 75 area youth have learned to love the sea through its summer sailing school taught by US Sailing certified instructors. Sailing in dinghies as small as 8ft in the protected

waters of North Cove, students learn tying (and untying) knots, rigging and the finer points of sailing. The Club offers three 2-week sessions. "Our location makes an ideal spot for new sailors to get their sea legs," adds Commodore Milke.

The Club maintains a motorized launch for members and transient boaters alike, offering rides to shore to bring more folks into our town. Besides the fleet of

sailing dinghies, the club offers skiffs, paddleboards and kay-aks; all easily launched from the Club's docks.

Make no mistake about it, the Club is quick to point out it is a home for all those who love the sea, whether they operate sail or powerboats. Its members cruise together to destinations in Long Island Sound and as far away as Nantucket in addition to a weekly Thursday night racing series. To learn more about North Cove Yacht Club's 50th year anniversary, visit northcoveyc.com.

High Hopes Volunteers - Welcome to the family!



High Hopes volunteers participate in all of High Hopes' activities. 96% of our workforce are volunteers. They volunteer as individuals, as members of work groups, families, and participants in community service programs. They give their time, talents and energy to help support High Hopes and the people we serve and we could not run High Hopes without them.

What does it take to run our programs?

25 horses, 13 full-time and 13 part-time staff, 652 volunteers donating 28,635 hours of their time and endless enthusiasm! Luckily, there are enough roles that our volunteers need to fill, to fit every interest and ability such as: feeding horses in the paddocks; cleaning the barn; grooming and tacking; sidewalking or horse-leading. Our volunteers also help with reception, office duties and special events like our annual gala, Horse Show Days, and the High Hopes Holiday Market.

Our volunteers need to be 14 yrs. or older. We encourage anyone who is interested in volunteering to visit our website to learn what it means to be a volunteer. Be sure to take a look at our volunteer stories too! We ask new volunteers to attend a general orientation session. After that you will select the role you would like to perform, and you may need some extra training specific to that role.

Our next training sessions are on:

April 6, 2019 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 April 29, 2019 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 May 13, 2019 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

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Dr. Robert Ballard - The Race to Save the Human Race by Sigrid Kun



Above center, increasing our oceans' productivity can provide the way to human survival.



Above right, each Nautilus expedition includes scientists, student interns, and educators.

Just back from the last leg of a 7 month-long expedition by his Corps of Exploration, Dr. Robert Ballard was at his Lyme, CT home - busy summarizing the 2018 series of expeditions by his 64-meter exploration vessel, the E/V Nautilus. Yes, he discovered the Titanic in 1985 (old news, he says, of what was actually a cover for a top secret naval operation). Yes, his work caused a wholesale change in how science was taught by uncovering the secrets of plate tectonics and hydro thermal vents (a revolutionary revelation evidencing that sunlight wasn't needed to support life). And the 30-year naval veteran and /geologist/undersea robotics developer/explorer has for so many years revealed to the world human history lost beneath the sea - with over 35 National Geographic television specials and countless books. After 150+ expeditions, starting at age 17, retirement isn't in the works for the 76-year old.

Our Oceans - The Last Frontier

Dr. Ballard's unrelenting pursuit of ocean education and exploration through his non-profit organization, the Ocean Exploration Trust ("OET"), is urgent. There are sobering facts: 95% of the Earth's population lives on less than 5% of the Earth's surface; farmland is being replaced with housing tracts; while 95% of all living space is located in largely unexplored international waters. But 90% of all large, predatory fish have been hunted down and killed. The carrying capacity of our planet is already at the brink. By 2050 we will not have enough food to feed everyone.

The Wichita, Kansas-born explorer explains that the Earth's waters, largely unexplored, are the human race's final hope. "I'm worried about the human race," he says. "The big question is, will the human race survive? The Earth will be fine. The planet is a creature. It was born. It evolves. It will die. It just has a long life expectancy. But there's no Plan B for the human race." The key, he says, is to move from hunting/gathering in the ocean to creating productive waters via deep sea farming - just as society thousands of years ago moved away from hunting and gathering on the Earth's lands and into organized food production. Every Ballard/OET/Nautilus expedition provides vital information as to how our Earth's waters can provide for the survival of humanity. The programs run on

multiple tracks; internships, community STEM and STEAM (to include the Arts) programs, and fellowships. Each ocean expedition includes scientists, student interns and educators as part of the Nautilus corps. The OET website is maintained on a 24/7 basis while the Nautilus is at sea to provide for live communication and interaction. During the last expedition, over 24,000 questions were answered live. Each expedition cultivates a new set of students and mentors (both on and off-board). "The key is to do it wave after wave after wave," he says. To make a difference you needed to reach millions of students.

No Boundaries

Dr. Ballard's message, however, is about more than just the ocean. Life's lessons include understanding one's self. Dr. Ballard is dyslexic. For quite a while, he didn't even know it. It took the book "*The Dyslexic Advantage*" to explain me to me. It was a strange but enlightening experience. Those affected (which is 10% of the population) are often loathe to admit it. To him, it is a gift - an interesting advantage. "I created a dyslexic world that I excel in," he explains. Dyslexia has caused him to rely on visualization and memorization. "It's perfect," he says. "In the sea, it's all dark...it's pitch black. But the water goes away and I see everything." He recalls a dive in 1986 to explore the Titanic. Everything went wrong. No sonar. No tracking. Landing 12,000 feet below surface in the mud, there were no signs of the Titanic to the other crew members. "It's over there," pointed Ballard. And, indeed, the Titanic was.

Dr. Ballard is also a keen proponent for empowering women. As he puts it "males as top leaders is by their design." Empowering women, he maintains, is a key to saving the human race. Accordingly, he mandates that 50% of his team be comprised of women.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Dr. Ballard is a problem solver - from 15 years spent restoring an earlier home to jigsaw puzzles (even when the 1,000 pieces are the same shade of blue, with no border pieces, holes in the puzzle, and extra pieces just for kicks.) But he doesn't have the ultimate answer. Will the human race survive? "I am a realist. The Earth is becoming aware of us and deeming us as a threat," he observes. "We still have time but indications are we are going in the wrong direction." What can we do? "Look at the first 12 feet around you. Look at what you are doing," urges the avid recycler. "Leave things better than you found them. That's what my grandmother taught me."

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