

Old Saybrook



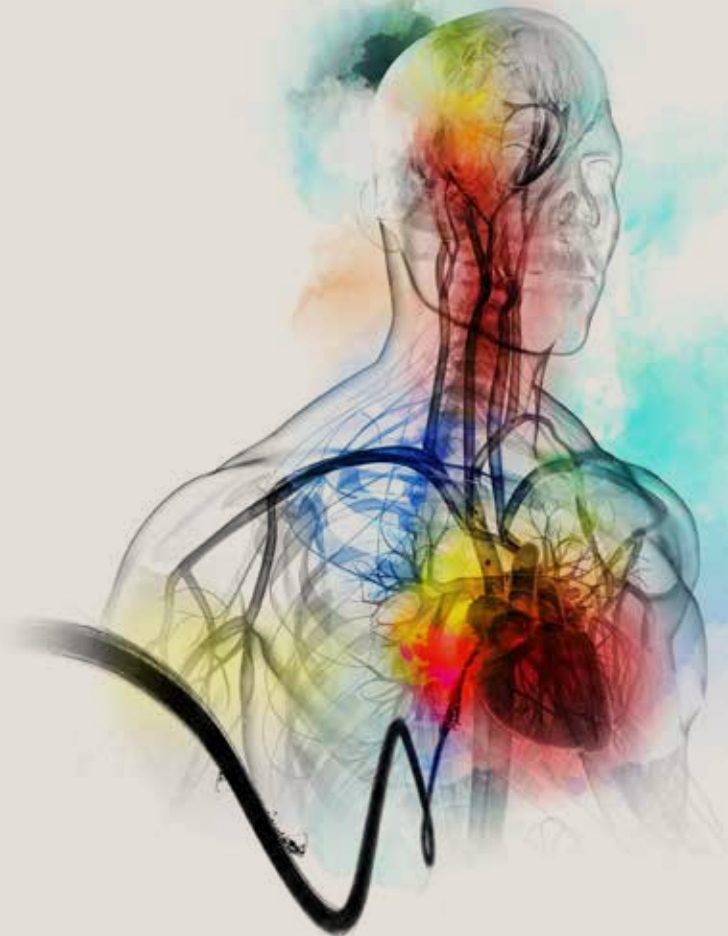
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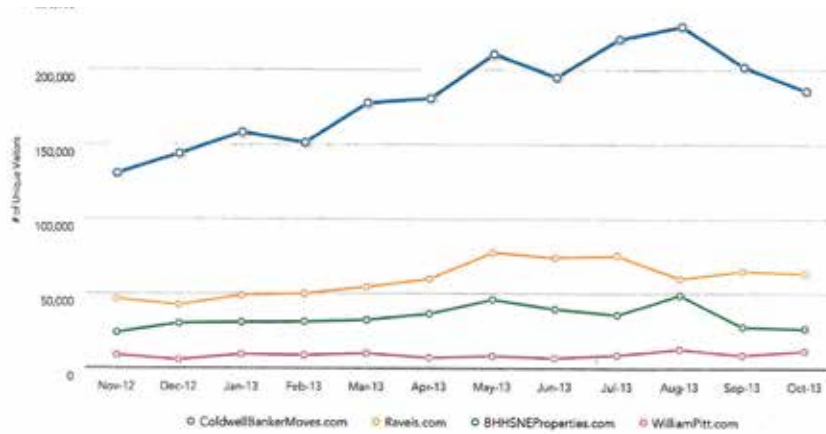
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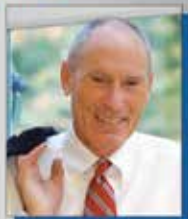
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First Selectman's Corner

Happy holidays from the members of the Old Saybrook Board of Selectmen. Scott Giegerich, Steve Gernhardt, and I are honored to serve another term for the Town of Old Saybrook and we thank you all for your strong support on election day. Below we'd like to share some of the important things happening right now in our town.

Revaluation

We recently completed the state-mandated physical revaluation of all real estate and personal property in town. The purpose of revaluation is to reflect current market values for tax purposes, and all town property owners should have received a letter from the assessor's office regarding the revaluation of their property. We are required to revalue real estate every five years, though physically examining properties, a costly process, is only required every ten years.

Though the state requires us to perform these services, it provides no funding to help us with the process. Whenever you hear me or any other municipal leader speak of "unfunded state mandates," this is what we are talking about. To give you an idea of how some of these unfunded mandates can affect our town budget, the costs for this physical revaluation were approximately \$300,000.

Many of you will find that your property values are generally lower since our last statistical revaluation in 2008-09. Back then, I recall many homeowners were upset because the revaluation hit at a time when property values had peaked before the recent recession. Those homeowners felt that their property was valued too high at a time of rapidly declining prices. Now, five years later, Old Saybrook property owners can generally expect overall values to be down an average of 15% depending on the location of their property.

It is important to note that revaluation by itself does not increase or decrease your taxes; increases to the town budget or decreases to revenue received from sources other than property taxes affect the mill rate and also contribute to changes in property tax bills. Your tax bill next July will be based on the 2014-2015 budget, which the Board of Finance will review and recommend to referendum next spring. Information on revaluation is available at the town hall and I urge you to learn as much as possible about the process.

New Business

New business is booming in Old Saybrook! Shortly after I write this, you will be able to shop at the new Tractor Supply store located on Middlesex Turnpike. In the near future, you will also be able to browse the aisles of Big Y and Kohl's in the new development on Spencer Plain Road. These new businesses should invigorate our local economy in the new year and their establishment here proves that Old Saybrook is a desirable location for businesses to expand.

We are also pleased to announce another exciting new vision for the town's business community - Mariner's Way. As many of you know, a committee was formed to study the stretch of under-utilized, eclectic properties located along Route 1 East. The committee worked hard to craft this mixed-use, long-term vision with a working definition of the "gateway to Connecticut

River recreation," and I thank them for their dedication. If you would like to see the fruits of their labor, which hold the potential for a vibrant addition to our town, please visit www.oldsaybrook.org and click on Town Initiatives.

Referendum

After a successful October referendum, the town will start construction at 36 Lynde Street on a new public safety facility this winter. We expect some interior demolition to be performed in January with new construction starting in March, 2014. The new facility is tentatively scheduled to be completed in April, 2015.

The referendum also focused on needed renovations for the Goodwin and Middle Schools. It is a major undertaking for the town to address the Goodwin School windows and the Middle School roof at the same time as the construction of the new public safety facility, but further delay or deferral of these projects would ultimately have cost the town more money. The Middle School roof, for example, could not be patched much longer without creating health and/or structural problems. Fortunately, interest rates were at near historic lows and the town was able to address these needs by borrowing funds at 3.23%. These buildings will now be able to continue to serve our community for many years with distinction.

New Faces in Town Hall

Three new employees recently joined the team at the town hall: Larry Hayden, IT Manager; Stephen Mongillo, Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Program Administrator; and Susan Beckman, Economic Development Director. All three were hired after extensive searches and competitive processes, including interviews conducted by panels that included professionals in their respective fields. While it takes a lot of time and effort to go through these searches, it is well worth it to ensure that the candidate with the appropriate qualifications and best fit for the position gets the job. This is just one more way that the Board of Selectmen has brought transparency and professionalism to the processes at the town hall.

The IT Manager position was created this year. Previously, the town hall shared information technology resources with the police department. Before that, IT services were performed by an outside contractor. When I took office in 2011, I quickly discovered that the town's increasing reliance on technology, as well as our need to update our technology infrastructure, made it necessary to have an in-house employee managing our IT needs. *Without increasing* the IT budget, the town now has a dedicated IT assistance as opposed to an outside contractor once a week.

Larry Hayden, an Old Saybrook resident who retired from Pfizer in 2012 after a twenty-year career there in information technology, came on board in July. While the position



Carl P. Fortuna, Jr.

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First Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 5

of IT Manager is a part-time job, Larry is putting in a full-time effort tackling such projects as updating the town's website to make it more user friendly, taking an inventory of our computer hardware and software to safeguard our assets, upgrading user PCs to make sure staff have the appropriate and most current technology tools to get their jobs done, and creating a policy to ensure that employees are using technology appropriately and safely. This is all in addition to the daily support he provides to employees which by all accounts is speedy and helpful.

The WPCA Program Administrator is another position created this year. Filling this position was difficult as we were looking for someone with a wide range of technical, administrative, and financial skills to assist the WPCA Board in providing organization and oversight to keep our large wastewater management project on track. We found that person in Stephen Mongillo who started in early November. Stephen has a proven background in project and data management as well as business analysis. In addition, he has served on the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority (most recently as chair) where he has overseen large wastewater projects. Stephen has

jumped right in to get up to speed on Old Saybrook's complex WWMD project—even having a three-hour meeting with officials at the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on his first day.

Susan Beckman, our new Economic Development Director, takes over that position from Wilma Asch who retired in June. Susan brings not only experience in research and public relations, but an engaging personality that will serve the town well in working with existing and potential new businesses. This is another part-time position, but I know Susan will give full-time effort to working with local businesses to create more active and engaged partnerships with town government.

Please join me in welcoming Larry, Stephen, and Susan to Old Saybrook Town Hall. I have every confidence that you will be seeing great contributions from these three professionals in the months and years ahead.

It has been my pleasure to serve our community the past two years and I look forward to many positive changes in the next two years.

Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman

Acton Public Library

Special Event at the library

On Saturday, February 22, we will be celebrating the birthday of Thomas Acton. Watch for details of the observance of our benefactor's 191th birthday!

Art Exhibits at the library

There is a full schedule of art exhibits planned for the library:

Andrew Pezzente: 11/4/2013 - 12/14/2013

Robert Citarell: 12/16/2013 - 1/25/2014

Ann Fitzgerald: 1/27/2014 - 2/28/2014

Ray Fecteau: 3/1/2014 - 3/31/2014

Access the library from your computer

Were you aware of all the ways you can use the library's resources without leaving home? Through the library's webpage, actonlibrary.org, you can access the library catalog, and, using your library card number, your personal account. This enables you to see what you have checked out, when it is due, if there are any fines, and to renew items. You can also place reserve holds on titles that you would like to borrow.

Additionally, on the webpage, you will find links to the many databases that the library subscribes to. Again, using your library card number, you can log into these tools and have instant access to a vast array of information resources. Among the titles you can use remotely, are: Consumer Reports; Chilton Auto Repair manuals; World Book Online Info Finder; and other specialized resources. The Global Road Warrior database will provide information about other countries – the business, culture, city news, climate, country facts, communications, demographics, Embassies and Consulates, food and recipes, holidays and festivals, and other essential

information. A to Z the USA database has information about the history, demographics, climate, geography, and statistics about the USA and each of the 50 states. A to Z Maps Online includes world, continent, country and U. S. State Maps, as well as specialized maps, including historical and scientific maps. This collection contains 145,000 royalty free maps and free downloads.

If you would like to learn a new language, or brush up your language skills, the library offers two options online. The Mango database is an interactive language instruction database, offering a large number of language options. Transparent language offers instruction in 80 languages.

Medical information is available through Consumer Health Complete and Magill's Medical Guide. Access to the Medline database is also available through the library's website.

Legal information and basic forms can be downloaded from the Law Depot database. Job seekers can use the JobNow! link, which also provides live assistance.

If you are interested in learning a new skill, you will want to look at the Universal Class database, which offers over 500 non-credit continuing education courses in topics ranging from computer skills to cooking, gardening, business, psychology, religion, math, history and hundreds of other offerings. These courses are all self-paced and designed for the adult learner.

The library also offers downloadable e-books and audiobooks through the Overdrive service. There is a prominent "button" for Overdrive on the website and the catalog page. Once you set up your own account with Overdrive, you can download directly to your e-reader, tablet or computer. There

are thousands of titles available. The library also offers downloadable magazines through Zinio, which also requires you to set up an account. Once you have an account, you can use the Zinio Reader App to check out new issues of library magazines. The collection of titles available is quite varied. Both Overdrive and Zinio do require a current library card.

In addition to these useful tools, there is also a wonderful assortment of databases available through the Connecticut State Library site, iconn.org. With your library card number, you can access magazine and journal articles, legal information, biographical profiles, a collection of non-fiction books, and historical resources.

If you have any questions about any of these wonderful resources, please contact the reference department of the library for assistance.

Children's Activities - Story Times

Preschool Story Time - Every Friday Morning at 10:30 a.m. For Children Ages 2-5: Stories, songs, hand rhymes, creative activities, and lots of fun! Bring your lunch and stay for even more fun!

Story Time for Wee-Ones - Every Wed. Morning at 10:30 a.m. For Children Ages Birth to 2: Stories, songs, hand rhymes, and time for adults to socialize.

Special Children's Programs

Holiday Story Time - Friday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs, creative activities, refreshments, and a holiday grab bag.

Creative Craft Programs - for children ages 8 and up (younger children must be accompanied by an adult). Every Thursday, from 6:30 - 7:30.

Young Adult Programs

Join us at the Acton Public Library for this free, monthly after school program. This group is recommended for young adults age 11 and older. To register, call the library at 860-395-3184, or email actonref@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 19 - Making paper boxes and ribbon stars

Thursday, January 23 - Fishing swivel bracelets

Thursday, February 27 - Duct tape crafts

Thursday, March 27 - Shambala bracelets

Programs for Job Seekers at the Acton Public Library

Shoreline Works, a collaboration between CT Works, Acton Public Library, and Old Saybrook Social Services, offers programs for job seekers on Monday mornings at the Acton Public Library. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call the Acton Public Library at (860) 395-3184 or email shorelineworks@gmail.com.

December:

Monday, December 9, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: Workshop for jobseekers - "Taking Advantage of Available Resources" with Sue Consoli, MA, LPC, of Old Saybrook Social Services

Monday, December 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.: Job Networking Group: "Keep an Open Mind - be forever teachable"

January:

Monday, January 13, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: "I'm Unemployed: What Services are Available to Me?" with Sue Consoli, MA, LPC, of Old Saybrook Social Services

Monday, January 27, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: Job Networking Group: Facilitated by CTWorks.

February:

Monday, February 10, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: speaker TBA.

Monday, February 24, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: Job Networking Group: Facilitated by CTWorks.

March:

Monday, March 10, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: How to Network the Old Fashioned Way: Face to Face, with Alicia Farrell, PhD

Monday, March 24, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: Job Networking Group: Facilitated by CTWorks.

We hope to see you at the library this winter. The library is grateful to the Friends of the Acton Public Library for making many of these programs possible.

If you have any questions, contact us at 860-395-3184, or by email: actonpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

The library's hours are: Monday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Friends of the Acton Public Library

2014 Annual Membership Drive

The Friends of the Acton Public Library will have their annual membership drive in February. Please join us in supporting library services. The Friends have donated the funding for programs for children, teens, adults and families such as concerts, book discussions, cooking, lectures on various subjects. In addition, provide funding for movies, audio books and tables and chairs for the program room and the teen Space.

2014 Mini Book Sale

The 2014 Mini Book Sale Friday, March 21 and Saturday the 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday the 23, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

2014 Annual Book Sale

The 2014 Annual Book Sale is Thursday, July 17, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday, July 19, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

FRIENDS MEET the 4th Thursday of January through October at 10:30 a.m. in the Grady Thomas Room. The Annual Meeting is May 22.

All Friends are welcome.

For further information, please contact the Library at 860-395-3184 or web page @ actonlibrary.org

*Jan Crozier Co-president
Betty O'Brien Co-president*

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2014 Hidden Treasures: A Community Variety Show is Just Around the Corner..

It's time to dust off those dance shoes, tune up your instruments and stretch out your vocals cords to begin preparing your acts for the fifteenth annual Community Treasures Variety Show, sponsored by Healthy Communities·Healthy Youth and Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services. This year's exciting show will take place on Friday evening, April 25th, 2014 at the Old Saybrook

High School auditorium. The show typically features a multi-generational assortment of Old Saybrook acts including dancers, singers, musicians, skaters, marshal artists, magicians and much, much more.

As in the past, HCHY will schedule two nights in March to preview all acts who wish to be included in this year's show. Participants must also plan to attend a Dress/Technical Rehearsal the week of the show. To accommodate all our 'rising stars', the length of each performance will be limited to 3 minutes and performers will be limited to one individual or small group act.

Family, multi-generational and group acts are greatly encouraged! For those who would like to be part of a group performance but don't currently have a group with whom to perform, please contact HCHY at Youth and Family Services. They may be able to match you up with other likeminded, talented performers.

Details concerning registration and previews will be announced and posted on Youth and Family Services' website in January (www.oldsaybrookct.org/youth). To volunteer your time and talents as part of this year's Community Treasures Planning Committee, please contact Wendy Mill, Program Coordinator at Youth and Family Services (860)510-5050.



Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce

Sailing into Our 75th Year

On a warm summer evening nearly seventy-five years ago, on July 12, 1939 to be exact, a group of businessmen met in the basement of Town Hall and held the very first meeting of the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce. The meeting minutes were rather brief: there was a discussion to form a membership committee; it was agreed to also form a bank committee in order to interest a bank to come to town; and it was decided the next meeting would be a social one.

By 1940, the Chamber had 68 members in a town of 1,966 residents. Today, entering our seventy-fifth year, our membership is at 525 and year-round residents number approximately 10,000. While many concerns have changed over the years, and even a few remain constant, such as the revitalization of Boston Post Road (1987), or a proposal for a 3 man police force and a traffic control plan (1956), one area that has stayed the course is the Chamber's central mission: to improve the economic vitality



and quality of life in Old Saybrook and its surrounding communities.

We are proud of our commitment to Old Saybrook businesses, to our many non-profit groups, and civic organizations. From ribbon cutting ceremonies that celebrate the opening of new stores - we've had 12 this year! - to educational seminars on health care and finance, to networking events, the Chamber helps foster a greater sense of business community. This was in evidence at the Chamber's

annual Showcase of Business & Community Gems, a business expo held at the Valley Shore YMCA in Westbrook in October, and sponsored in part by Lighthouse Home Care (how many sponsors do we want to list?) Nearly fifty area businesses and organizations exhibited at the event offering a unique opportunity for business owners to connect with one another, to market their business, and for the community to meet business leaders and explore local businesses.

In addition to the economic focus, the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce is equally committed to strengthening community bonds. Two of our signature events, the annual Chili Fest in March, and the annual Arts & Crafts Festival in July, are highly anticipated community events that draw upon the support of hundreds of volunteers, police and fire personnel - truly embracing the "it takes a village" philosophy!

As the Chamber sails into its seventy-fifth year, we'd like to acknowledge our business community, civic leaders, and scores of volunteers who have ensured that this organization continues to thrive and to be an advocate for the economic and civic concerns of the community.

Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Achievement Award Winners Business of the Year: Saybrook Point Inn, Non-profit of the Year: Old Saybrook Historical Society, Volunteers of the Year: Bill and Rosemary McLaughlin

The Chamber Staff



QC Homecare staff with Christine Baker, executive director (2nd from right)

Photo courtesy of Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce

Old Saybrook/Westbrook Exchange Club Membership Drive

The Exchange Club, also known as America's service club, is seeking new members. Whether you reside or work in either of the two towns, you are invited to contact us to discuss what activities we are involved with in both communities.

Our national cause is prevention of child abuse. Here in Connecticut, our clubs throughout the state support four safe houses for families in need.

Locally, we strive to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, community services and youth activities. Examples of these programs include the flags on Main Street in Old Saybrook, handing out 2,000 American flags to children at the Old Saybrook Memorial Day Parade, honoring firemen of the year in both towns and policeman of the year in Old Saybrook. Every year, we offer scholarships to a high school senior

in each of the towns. In addition to these activities, we support many other organizations including the Youth and Family Services in both towns.

The club becomes a real team when raising funds to support our many interests. The two principal fund raisers include a wine tasting at the Elks Club in Westbrook and a road race through the North Cove area of Old Saybrook.

Joining the Exchange Club is a great way to "give back" to your communities. It will also enable you to expand your acquaintances throughout our towns.

Our dinner Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays at Luigi's. If you are interested in attending one and learning more about our club, please call our President, Bernadette Jones, at (860)767-4414 or you can email her at bajones@snet.net.



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Old Saybrook's Successful Bond Sale: Minimizing the Cost of Borrowing for Taxpayers

October and November have been busy months for Old Saybrook's financial offices as we prepared for a \$15.676 million General Obligation Bond sale. The proceeds from this bonding will be used to finance the building of a new public safety facility on Lynde Street and various school projects, including the long needed roof for the Middle School and windows for the Goodwin School.

The bond sale took place on October 31st, but it was a treat, not a trick, for Old Saybrook taxpayers. All the financial analysis that took place prior to the sale had assumed a 3.5% interest rate that the Town would need to pay investors. When the bond auction (all done online by the way) was completed, the successful bidder, Raymond James & Associates, Inc., had purchased the bonds at a True Interest Cost (TIC) of 3.23%. This lower rate means that taxpayers will be paying over \$300,000 less for debt service costs over the 20 year life of the bonds.

The lower interest rate is due in large part to the solid financial status of the Town as viewed by bond rating agencies and potential investors. Moody's Investor Service, Inc., the agency that rated the Town's recent bond sale, affirmed the Town's Aa2 rating. At a time when the recession is straining many municipalities' finances, Moody's report cited Old Saybrook's "conservative financial management practices" and "history of structurally balanced operations"

as two positive factors in the Town's financial strength. This was reflected in the active bond auction where eight (8) investment firms competed to be the successful bidder.

The positive outcome of this bond sale would not have happened without a lot of hard work and preparation from town officials and staff, our financial advisors at Independent Bond and Investment Consultants LLC (IBIC) and our bond counsel at Shipman and Goodwin LLP. There are multiple meetings, emails and phone calls that take place to gather all the information that goes in to preparing the documents for the sale, called an "Official Statement (OS)". In addition to the Town's most recent audited financial statements, the OS contains over thirty pages of facts and figures on Town operations. The OS is available on the Town website at: www.oldsaybrookct.org on the Finance Department page in the Financial Documents section.

While strong financial management is not as visible a part of town government as Public Works trucks, Park and Recreation beaches or even our police station, it is an important piece in keeping our essential services running at as low a cost as possible. That importance is clearly seen in the positive outcome from our recent bond sale, which resulted in lower debt service costs.

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Lisa Carver, Finance Director*

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Letter from the Assessor

Revaluation and Your Taxes

The Town has recently completed a revaluation of all real estate which is required every five years in accordance with Connecticut State Statutes. The purpose of revaluation is to reflect current market values for tax purposes. Changes in the market value of a property will also impact the assessed value, which is 70% of the property's market value.

There are several factors that are used in calculating property taxes: the assessed value of property and the mill rate. A town's grand list is the total of all assessed values, less any tax abatements such as those for veterans. A tax mill is a number that when applied to the value of taxable property (grand list) distributes the tax burden among the town's owners of real estate, motor vehicles and business personal property. The mill rate represents the tax levied per \$1,000.00 of assessed property value. Once the annual budget is adopted at referendum, the Board of Finance (BOF) must set the mill rate by dividing the total amount of required taxes (net of other sources of revenue) by the net taxable grand list.

It is important to note that revaluation does not necessarily result in your tax bill going up or going down. It merely changes one piece (the property's assessed value) in the calculation of your property tax. Ultimately, it is the annual budget process that determines what you will be responsible for in taxes.

The revaluation that was just completed resulted in a decrease in the 2013 Grand List of 15% from the previous year. If you assumed that budgeted appropriations and funding from sources remained constant, the BOF would be required to increase the mill rate to \$17.91 in order to generate the same amount of tax

revenue to support the budgeted appropriations. The increased mill rate would apply to all property owners by multiplication with their new assessed value to determine the property owner's individual tax levy.

Below is a calculation that shows that if a property value decreased by 15% (the wide average based on the Grand List), then the property taxes would remain virtually the same. If a property value decreased less than 15% then the taxes would be higher and a property value decrease of more than 15% would result in less tax.

For Example:

Calculation Before Revaluation		Calculation After Revaluation	
Assessed Value	\$276,400	Assessed Value	\$234,600
2012 Mill Rate	15.20	Adjusted Mill Rate	17.91
Tax	\$4,201.28	Tax	\$4,201.69

In summary, revaluation does not increase or decrease your taxes. Your tax bill will only be determined when the mill rate is set by the BOF in May. However, those property owners with property that increased in value or decreased less than 15% can expect higher taxes. Property owners with property that decreased in value more than 15% can expect lower taxes.

All of these tax figures are based on the assumption that the tax revenue needed for town operations remains constant. Increases or decreases to expenditures or non-tax revenue in the town budget may impact the mill rate and property tax bills.

Sparkling Wines for the Holidays

Sparkling wines are a great way to give a little "pop" to your celebrations.

Champagne is the most widely known sparkling wine which is grown and produced in France in the Champagne region. There are many other sparkling wines from all over the world but they are only considered true Champagne if they come from this region. The grapes used to produce these sparkling wines are Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Varieties of champagne are: Blanc de Blanc, which is made of strictly Chardonnay grapes; Blanc de Noir, which is a blend of Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier; and Rose, which is typically one of the driest and best Champagnes. Rose Champagne has a small amount of still Pinot noir added to give the beautiful salmon color to the wine. Some sparkling wines are made in the same method as that of Champagne, and using the same grapes, these wines are labeled 'Methode Champenoise.'

Sparkling wine comes in a wide range of taste from bone-dry to sweet and floral flavors. The finishing process in which the wine is made determines this. As sediment collects on the cork, it is removed by placing the neck of the bottle in a freezing brine solution, which results in the sediment popping out under pressure when the bottle is opened. This 'clears' the wine and in-turn leaves a space in the bottle which is filled with a dose of sugar solution.

The percentage of sugar solution added determines how the bottle will be labeled. From driest to sweetest they are labeled; Natural, Brut, Extra Dry, Sec, Demi Sec and the sweetest is Doux (which is not carried much in the US).

In Italy, Asti and Prosecco are the two most popular sparkling wines. Asti Spumante is sweet and bubbly having been produced using Moscato Bianco grapes. The Prosecco grape produces a sparkling wine that lacks the sweetness of an Asti yet is not as dry as Champagne. Prosecco has quickly become one of the most popular sparkling wines on the market with its shopper friendly price tag and its approachability on the palate. Ranging from Brut to Extra Dry, Prosecco can be enjoyed with a wide variety of dishes or simply as an aperitif, or with dessert.

To jazz up your sparkling wines you can make a range of popular bubbly drinks. Add a touch of peach nectar to your Prosecco for a Bellini, a classic Italian favorite. Or perhaps you are in the mood for a Kir Royal, adding cassis to your Champagne. Orange Juice is a traditional American Brunch favorite to add to your sparkling wine. Or if you just want a kiss of fruit, place a few sliced strawberries in your glass. Whatever the occasion, sparkling wine is always a great addition.

Art Lipuma, Seaside Wine and Spirits

Economic Development Commission Events



Rack Card

“WE’VE GOT WHAT YOU’RE LOOKING FOR” was the catch phrase of a marketing video that the Economic Development Commission produced in early 2000 to promote Old Saybrook as an excellent place to locate and open a business, as well as a great place to live, work, visit or retire. We still believe this and continue to work closely with the BOS and our Land Use Boards and Commissions in attracting quality businesses to the town to provide jobs, tax revenues, as well as a healthy, vibrant business environment and quality of life.

We have continued to work and partner with the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Business Association in supporting the Annual Arts and Crafts Show, Saybrook Strolls, and



New welcome to Old Saybrook sign

the Salt Marsh “Opera in the Park.” All of these events have been well attended by local residents and attract many visitors from neighboring communities and throughout the state.

As reported earlier in the year, the EDC had been developing Rack Cards that promote Old Saybrook as a viable community to locate, or open a business and to encourage potential businesses to use the EDC in helping develop business plans, find funding and help navigate through local and state agencies. The Rack Cards are completed and have been distributed at the Chamber of Commerce Office, local real estate offices, the Town Hall, the I-95 Rest Stop and select high traffic business venues.

The new “Welcome to Old Saybrook” signs are also completed and were installed, replacing the old ones that appeared at our North, East and West gateways. We hope that they brighten these locations, and create a warm greeting to our residents, frequent visitors, and people visiting for the first time.

Wilma Asch, our Executive Director retired in June. We appreciated all the work she had done for the commission and the town over the years and wish her a happy and healthy retirement. We have completed a formal job search and our new Economic Development Director, Susan Beckman, started on November 12. We look forward to working with her and to continuing our mission to attract and retain quality businesses to our community.

Current members of the EDC are: Lauren Ashe, Vice Chairman, James Keating, Secretary, David Cole, John DeCristoforo, Maura Richards, Todd Roberts, and alternates Bruce Greenfield and Carol Conklin.

Elizabeth Swenson, Chairman

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Art Linares' Run to Fight Hunger Nets \$5,155 for The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

Running for a Cause

In an Oct. 23 ceremony outside of Grace Episcopal Church in Old Saybrook, Sen. Art Linares presented a \$5,155 check to The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP). On October 12, Sen. Linares ran in the Hartford Half Marathon to raise money for SSKP.

"After escaping from communist Cuba, my family had to rely temporarily on community soup kitchens to make ends meet," Sen. Linares said. "Those soup kitchens helped to get my family through a difficult period in their lives. I was brought up recognizing the value that our soup kitchens and pantries provide to people in need. That's why I want to do what I can to help fight hunger in our region. Thanks to so many people in our community, we are doing just that. Their support and generosity helped me every step of the way during the race."

"We very much appreciate Sen. Linares' efforts," SSKP Executive Director Patty Dowling said. "These funds will go a long way toward helping vulnerable families in the towns we serve."

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries provides approximately 900,000 meals each year, serving residents of Essex, Chester, Clinton, Madison, Old Saybrook, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Killingworth, Westbrook and Deep River. Call 860-388-1988 to help. On the web: www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org.

"This holiday season and throughout the year, please consider donating either money or time to help The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries," Sen. Linares said. "No one should go hungry. Together, we can stem this growing crisis."



From left to right: Sen. Art Linares, Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP) Executive Director Patty Dowling, and SSKP Board member Ed Lyons.

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Social Services Help

Available this Winter

Connecticut Energy Assistance Programs (CEAP and CHAP): Help with heating is available through March 15 and applications for the State Energy Assistance Program are being taken weekly here at our office. Please call ahead to be pre-qualified, get an appointment time and receive a checklist of needed documents.

Winter Protection Program: Help is available through CL&P with a CRT approved application or with a low budget worksheet through our office to prevent electricity shut off during the winter months when electricity is needed for a furnace to run. We can also help with Nu-Start payment plans any time of year through CL&P for low income families. Please call us to avoid crises as there are payment programs and plans to help you.

Operation Fuel and H.E.A.T. Programs: Additional help with heating is available for those who are in need and may have exhausted their state energy assistance allocations. Applications for Operation Fuel can be taken here as long as funding is available and follows the same income criteria as CEAP. We also can help those in need through our local HEAT program.

Dental and Medical Help: Help is available for families in need who are underinsured or have no insurance coverage to help pay for dental and medical needs. If you do not have insurance or have a financial hardship you can call for assistance. We want everyone to be healthy and safe this season! Please look for our upcoming Dental Clinics.

Employment: If you or a family member needs help with obtaining a job, we have ongoing employment workshops at Acton Library on most Mondays from 10 am - 12 noon. Job

Networking Groups with CT Works are also available monthly. One on one job counseling is provided by appointment through CT Works.

Social Service Help Day: On the fourth Thursday of every month we have additional help for food and other services at Grace Church. The CT Food Bank Truck arrives in the afternoon from 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm on the fourth Thursday, for an additional pantry pick up for those in need and often out of their SNAP (food stamp) allocation by the end of the month. This need has been increased with the recent cut in SNAP. An outreach worker can help applicants apply for SNAP on site. Healthy nutritional information is also provided. No appointment needed.

New Health Care Sign Up: The new marketplace for health care, Access Health Connecticut will continue to be open for new enrollments through March. Applications and insurance options to choose from are available online and we are Certified Assistors for Access Health and can help you sign up right here in our office. Some low income applicants may now be eligible for free healthcare under MEDICAID with the new expanded guidelines our state has! Please call for an appointment and a checklist of documents needed to apply.

Ongoing Social Services Help: If you have a need, financial hardship or crises, please call. There are additional programs and help available. We are here to help those in need to have a happy, healthy, safe and warm start to this New Year!

Please contact:

Susan Consoli, MA, LPC, Social Services Coordinator
860-395-3188, sconsolit@town.old-saybrook.ct.us

Off To a Good Start For Business

A volunteer organization seeking to assist start-up entrepreneurs and non-profits has formed in the Lower River Valley. The Old Lyme-based Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD) provides experienced volunteer "mentors" to aid entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations in start-ups, and turnarounds. The focus of the Mentoring Corps is to improve company operations, efficiency, effectiveness, and performance. The work of this community-minded group is pro bono.

Originally conceived to assist students with their careers and to help victims of natural disasters with economic issues, the Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD) of Old Lyme was formed in 2012. MCCD's roots are grounded in addressing basic needs in the local community.

One of MCCD's first and most challenging efforts was to aid those whose lives were disrupted and whose homes were damaged or destroyed by tropical storm Sandy in the fall of 2012. Focusing on the urgent needs of individuals and families who sustained devastating damage to property during this super storm, MCCD identified the sources of appropriate financial,

technical and social assistance. Since then, the Mentoring Corps has assisted other families and individuals with acute financial needs.

Recently, the International Executive Service Corps (IESC), headquartered in Washington, DC, and the Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD), headquartered in Old Lyme, have announced an agreement to collaborate in assigning volunteer experts to provide consulting services to businesses and other organizations in Connecticut and nearby states.

MCCD's volunteer mentors are available to offer assistance to businesses within the region, and may be contacted by email (rhsusa@gmail.com), or phone: (860-671-1634).

Rep. Marilyn Giuliano serves Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook in the Connecticut General Assembly.



Marilyn Giuliano, State Representative

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 Kathleen Marshall, Administrative Secretary

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 Robbie Marshall, Coordinator 395-2876 admin@oswpc.org

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Michele Van Epps, Director 395-3184 mvanepps@actonlibrary.org

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

Probate Court - 302 Main Street

Terrance Lomme, Judge of Probate 510-5028

Social Services - 322 Main Street

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THE OLD SAYBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

There has been an abundance of activity within the Old Saybrook School System so far this year. The district would like to take this opportunity to share some of the many events from each school.

Old Saybrook High School Prepares for its NEASC Visit

Old Saybrook High School has been busy preparing for its decennial NEASC 2014 fall visit slated for September 21-24. The New England Association of School and Colleges is a regional accrediting association of high schools that uses a peer review model made up of educators from around New England. The accreditation process focuses on the evaluation and implementation of the following seven standards: Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations; Curriculum; Instruction; Assessment; School Culture and Leadership; School Resources; and Community Resources. These standards and their indicators are measured and assessed to determine the level of proficiency to provide a mission driven system, a collaborative culture, the use of school-wide rubrics in relation to student learning and the overall success of our school community.

Last year, OSHS completed the Endicott Survey that provided helpful information and data as a means to determine how well we understand our school vision and mission and to what degree our school aligns with the NEASC standards. Students, teachers, and parents answered questions linked to the indicators within each of the seven standards providing valuable data allowing OSHS to move forward in the accreditation process.

Faculty has collaboratively completed a revision of our new core values and beliefs as well as the revision of our new learning expectations. We are in the process of developing school-wide rubrics to align with the new learning expectations and to provide consistent criteria for evaluating and assessing student work.

Every faculty member has been assigned to a Standards Committee and is collecting information and data to address each indicator with the seven standards. This information will contribute to the Self Study reports to be presented for faculty approval Winter/ Spring 2014. The Self Study engages the entire community in structured analysis, self-reflection, and planning in response to the standards and their indicators.

Faculty and staff are also in the process of collecting student work as evidence of Standards 1-4: Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations; Curriculum; Instruction; and Assessment which will be presented to the Visiting Committee during their visit. The school-wide rubrics presently being piloted will accompany student work to demonstrate and measure the quality of student work in relation to the standards mentioned.

Although a challenging process, the OSHS Faculty and Staff have taken on this educational endeavor with a commitment of fidelity and integrity. They are determined to present school-wide data accurately as a means to verify and confirm effectiveness, public assurance and over school improvement.

Tara Winch

Old Saybrook High School Associate Principal

High School French Students Travel to Quebec

At 6:00 am Friday, October 18th, thirty-five students and four chaperones left the Old Saybrook High School parking lot for Québec Canada! The students enjoyed traveling through New England during peak foliage and arrived at their destination mid-afternoon. A brief ferry ride brought everyone across Lake Champlain to Québec. Before checking into the Hotel Frontenac, the tour guide took the group on a walking tour of the "Old City" (Vieille Ville) of Québec and gave a preview of the events everyone would enjoy over the next forty-eight hours.



*High School French Students
Travel to Quebec*

That evening everyone dined at Les Trois Garçons, a French-Canadian bistro in the heart of the Quartier Latin - where everyone had the chance to taste a Quebecois delicacy known as Poutine. The same night everyone walked to the Maison de la Découverte (a history museum) and learned about the history of Québec from the French Régime through the Second World War. All students enjoyed an interactive lesson about warfare in the time of Generals Wolfe and Montcalm!

THE BEACON

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THE BEACON

THE BEACON

THE BEACON

After a good night's sleep, everyone was up bright and early Saturday morning and enjoyed breakfast at a French-Canadian restaurant. The entire morning was spent exploring Québec on a cultural and historic Treasure Hunt that began at the Statue of Louis IV, wound through the cobblestoned streets of Old Québec and ended at the Assemblée Nationale, Québec's parliament building.

Saturday afternoon included a visit to a copper museum where everyone created their own copper masterpiece to bring back as a souvenir, a visit to Montmorency Waterfalls – where everyone walked across a footbridge above the falls and then walked down 478 steps to get back to the base of the falls and board the bus! The last stop of the day was to an all-you-can-eat dinner at an authentic French-Canadian Sugar shack. Delicious! Participants were taught traditional dances of Québec.

Sunday morning everyone enjoyed a traditional French breakfast (croissants and a bowl - yes - a bowl of hot chocolate!). After breakfast, a visit to the Musée du Fort (another history museum) gave the students an opportunity to learn about The Battle of the Plains of Abraham and ended with a quiz to see how much was learned!

It was a weekend jam-packed with activities that gave everyone the chance to speak French, shop, dine and live in a Francophone culture. It was hard to leave and will be a trip that will be remembered very fondly by all.

Jacquie Hakim

Middle School World Language Teacher

Two OSHS Students Receive Connecticut Superintendents Award

Cameron King and Jenny Sullivan, students at Old Saybrook High School, have been awarded the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' (CAPSS) Superintendent/Student Recognition Award for leadership service to the school, academic prowess relative to ability, and service to others in the community.

Jan Perruccio, Superintendent of Schools in Old Saybrook made the presentation as part of a program designed by school administrators to recognize students who have served their schools and communities while maintaining good scholastic progress.



Cameron King, Jennifer Sullivan and Jan Perruccio

The Superintendent/Student Recognition Program awards a Certificate of Excellence at the discretion of the local superintendent of schools according to a distribution formula set for all state school districts. Awards are generally given during American Education Week in November in order to provide a meaningful focus for each school district and to enhance the quality of the Certificate.

CAPSS, the statewide school superintendents' professional organization, is based in West Hartford and provides professional development, personal support, statewide conferences, legislative information, and educational services to its membership.

From the Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Great Cedars Trail Remediation



Great Cedars Trail Remediation

On October 26th, dedicated members of the Ecology Club headed to Great Cedars East at 10 am to remediate the trail. The team met Ms. Barbara Guenther and Mr. Bob Lorenz, both members of the Land Trust, at the park and headed into the woods. The trail was sorely overgrown and was in need of some TLC. Earlier in the month Mrs. Carlone's Environmental Field Biology class cleared the first part of the trail but did not have time to go deeper into the woods. That's when Grant Patterson, Sarah Kilpatrick, Adam Burkhardt, Megan McNivens, Reggie Walden, and Chris Barrett came in to save the day. The team not only cleared the path but worked hard to yank invasive species like Japanese Barberry and Bittersweet vines. Adam became a tenacious barberry attacker. Reggie set his site on the bittersweet. Reggie also came through with a weed root puller which Megan mastered by the end of the event. Everyone worked really hard and to say that the trail is better is an understatement of epoch proportion. Congratulations, everyone, on making your community and your planet a better place. Be proud!

Karen Carlone

High School Science Teacher

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Submarine Racers Fare Well in International Competition

The Old Saybrook High School's submarine team participated in the International Submarine Races from June 23rd to the 28th, at the Naval Surface Warfare Center's Carderock Division in Bethesda, MD.



Submarine Racers Fare Well in International Competition

This biennial event features races that test the creative design, construction, mechanical, and engineering skills learned in the classroom. Teams wearing scuba gear navigate their submarine-designed vessels along an underwater 100-meter measured course in Carderock's model basin. Besides building the wet sub, OSHS students became scuba certified and designed the propeller with the help of engineers from Rolls Royce Marine Division.

This year, the Jesse III, raced against engineering teams from 29 universities from around the world. Old Saybrook was one of three high schools invited to the event and placed 8th overall in a competition which included design, presentation, preparedness, sportsmanship, speed, and team unity. Teachers, Fred Frese and Gretchen Bushnell, took 12 students to the competition. The team members included, graduated seniors Adam Wysocki, Zach Chupak, and Case Polen, juniors Patrick Coley, Lauren Rhodes, Sara Wengefeld, Jack Bergeron, Joseph Konishesky, Jack Condulis, and Ryan Woolery, sophomore Alexis Bardos, and freshmen Peter Blank and Clay Duffy. Sponsors included LBI, Inc., the Old Saybrook Education Foundation, the Old Saybrook Board of Education, Lou's Custom Paint, Diver's Cove, Jazzercise Fitness Center, Rolls Royce, and the Lion's Club.

The team is currently creating a new design and building a new sub for the races that will be held in 2015.

Increasing Credit Awareness for High School Students

October was "GET SMART ABOUT CREDIT MONTH". Sponsored by the American Bank Association, this program pairs volunteer bankers to work with young people to raise awareness about the importance of using credit wisely. Mike Storiato, eMarketing Manager from Guilford Savings Bank, was a guest speaker in the Accounting and Personal Finance classes at Old Saybrook High School. He spoke with students about several topics including spending habits, credit awareness, and life after college; paying your student loans.

Terri Lynn, High School Business Teacher

Arthur Director Annual Leadership Award Presented to Middle School Students

Several middle school student leaders and their faculty advisor received the Arthur Director Annual Leadership Award at a ceremony held at the middle school in mid-October.

Sophie Alden, Kendall Hartt, Emma Hontz, Grace Nobile, Jack Slimon, Matt Listorti, Billy Sheehan, and Tyler Stillman and seventh grade social studies teacher Tim Wood, were recognized for their superior application of the theme, "A Climate of Acceptance", at this year's Middle Level Student Leadership Training Conference that took place in January at Wesleyan University.

The group was presented with a citation, plaque, and \$250 cash award named for the founder of the Connecticut Lighting Centers.

The award is presented to the middle school that sends a diverse group of student leaders to be trained in bringing about positive change to their school climate. This year students participated in workshops designed to increase their skills in Building a Climate of Acceptance, Making a Difference at School, Taking Risks and Rising to the Occasion, and Social Networking. They participate in a series of team building activities and roundtable discussions with students from other Connecticut schools led by teachers, administrators, youth officers, and counselors. At the end of the day, they were encouraged to begin planning the next steps for improving school climate back home.

In their award application, students cited several programs dedicated to making a safe and happy environment for all students. Over the years, Old Saybrook Middle School has implemented many different activities for students to make them feel comfortable and accepted. These programs include such things as advisor/advisee, the RESPECT initiative, FOCUS classes and class meetings.

Annual Student Walk-a-thon Supports Cancer Research

On a beautiful Friday afternoon, 234 OSMS students took to the track to raise money for cancer research. September 20th marked the 6th annual Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation/Colon Cancer Alliance cancer walk-a-thon at the middle school. As of this printing over \$6,200 has been raised! As usual, many parents and teachers helped check students in as well as supplied them with oranges, bananas, apples, granola bars, raisins, and lots of water. Many thanks to all who helped make the walk-a-thon a success again! Looking forward to next year!

*Shirley Brockway
Middle School Math Teacher*

Missoula Children's Theater visits OSMS

Andrew Coopman and Alex Kowalchik of the Missoula Children's Theater came to OSMS sponsored by the Cultural Arts Program of the PTO. On Thursday, October 31, the 4th grade students of language arts teachers Mrs. Hunnewell, Mrs. Kiessling and Mr. Carroll participated in a workshop called, "The Actor's Tools." Student volunteers did different acting exercises to learn about the 4 actor's tools: concentration, observation, memorization and imagination.

The Missoula Children’s Theater, based in Missoula, Montana, has come to Old Saybrook every year to put on a full-length, hour long musical in one week. This year they are performing, “Treasure Island.” Students audition on Monday, rehearse everyday from 3:30 to 8:00 pm and have two performances on Saturday at The Kate.

Mr. Coopman and Mr. Kowalchik are on the road ten months of the year; driving their big truck with costumes, sets, props, and all the tech they need, including lights and sound equipment. Each week they trade off being the director of the show and acting in the show.

Funded through the Montana Arts Council, grants, towns and local sponsors, the Missoula Children’s Theater performs with 65,000 children and for 750,000 audience members each year. They tour all 50 United States, 4 Canadian provinces and 2 territories, and 17 countries around the world.

Goodwin School Third Graders Delight Audiences with Musical Performances

Preschool through third grade students honored veterans on November 11. Each grade sang a different patriotic song. We had a few students with veterans in the audience, which made the assembly extra special. Some of the students asked the group questions like, “Were you ever afraid?” and “Did you miss your family?”

Third grade students have been hard at work preparing for their annual winter musical, which will have been performed on December 12. The musical is “December Nights, December Lights” which connects four holidays celebrated in December with a variety of candleholders. After an uplifting opening number, children sang about Hanukkah, La Fiesta de la Posada, Kwanzaa and Christmas. The touching closing number, “One Candle Lights the Way,” ties the program together, saying, “One hope, one dream, one world, one theme. One flame, one light, for peace throughout the night.”

*Lois Geer
Goodwin School Music Teacher*

Old Saybrook Nutrition Program a Model for Other Districts

Reprinted Excerpt of Original CEA article appearing in Fall 2013 Publication

Breakfast is critical to learning and health. Yet many children across the state start the school day hungry. That’s why teachers support Breakfast in the Classroom, a program that provides nutritious breakfasts to help students be at their best and ready to learn in school.

Implementing the Breakfast in the Classroom program and enabling students to eat breakfast in their classrooms after the official start of the school day is a great start.

“It’s a win-win for students and education,” said Maureen Nuzzo, director of food services in Old Saybrook, where the

program has been running successfully for several years at Goodwin Elementary School.

Nearly 150 breakfast meals are served at Goodwin every day. The food is put in coolers with ice packs and delivered in brightly colored bins placed outside classroom doors. This ensures teachers are not interrupted and can finish their lessons before starting the students on breakfast.

Students place their own orders using special breakfast cards with bar code identification. They drop the cards into specific meal choice envelopes first thing in the morning. By using the cards, there is no stigma attached to being labeled disadvantaged because no one knows which students are getting free breakfast and which are not.

“Everyone benefits from the program. It’s all just part of their daily routine,” said preschool teacher Michelle Collier.

Teachers don’t collect money, but they facilitate the snack process and place any special orders. Menus are posted online, and parents are enthusiastic about the program.

“Without food, we can’t expect children to reach greater heights of learning,” said preschool teacher Dawn Ranaudo.

Breakfast in the Classroom has made a huge difference at Goodwin Elementary School. “We know all the students are eating. They are not undernourished. They are fed and ready to learn. Not every family has the same resources, and many just don’t have the time to pack nutritious snacks, so this is a perfect way to get the children to eat healthy foods,” said Ranaudo.

The menu varies but always contains a variety of healthy foods and meets federal food requirements.

For some children who struggle with hunger, a meal served at school may be the only food they eat regularly. The Breakfast in the Classroom program addresses that by providing nutritious meals and supporting students’ academic success. Despite these benefits, however, the Old Saybrook program had a rough start.

“Our first year, the students got off the bus and immediately had breakfast in the cafeteria, but we felt like we were on an express train, and when buses were late, meals were delayed, and students were late getting to class. It wasn’t a smooth process,” said Sheila Brown, Goodwin Elementary School principal.

Old Saybrook teachers, administrators, and food services staff collaborated on a plan that works and is now a model for other districts across the state.

“Our biggest hurdle was getting the food from the kitchen to the classroom,” said Nuzzo. “But with coolers, individual bins for each class, delivery changes, and buy-in from the teachers, the new plan is successful and sustainable.”

The startup cost was relatively inexpensive, costing less than \$5 per classroom to purchase coolers, bins, and ice packs. Nuzzo said the school has received numerous grants and federal funding.

“Safe Grad Night 2014” is Underway

Each year, a committee of dedicated Old Saybrook parents join together through an organization known as Graduation Night, Inc. to plan and carry out a fun-filled graduation night event for the Old Saybrook High School graduating class. “Safe Grad Night” has been a tradition in Old Saybrook for thirteen years. Starting in 2000, the graduating seniors of OSHS have had the opportunity to attend an exciting and memorable all-night graduation party in a safe, sober and fun setting. Held at a surprise location each June on the night of graduation, the event provides food, music, games, entertainment, prizes, and fun for our young adults.

All across the country, graduation night and after-prom parties sponsored by parent groups have sprung up in recent years in response to frightening national trends in teen substance abuse and driving. Statistics show that the prom and graduation season (April through June) is the most dangerous time for teens, whose celebrations too often end in tragedy. These three months account for at least one-third of all alcohol-related teen traffic fatalities each year. Since the advent of safe graduation and safe after-prom parties, those disturbing numbers have markedly improved.

The Old Saybrook community has come together and taken steps to enhance our students’ safety at graduation time. “Safe Grad Night” is an inclusive event for all OSHS grads, no matter their financial means. Assuring that all OSHS graduating seniors have a safe, sober and fun graduation night is an expensive proposition. An activity-filled night at a special all-inclusive venue can cost approximately \$150 per student. This past year, the generosity of the community enabled the committee to offer this wonderful night at NO

cost to the students and assured close to 100% attendance. The committee hopes to repeat this effort this coming year.

Fundraising efforts got off to a brisk start this fall with a letter campaign seeking parent donations. Plans are also underway for a new event this year with “Ladies Night at the Kate” on January 24th. Ladies can enjoy food, beverages, and raffles while being pampered and treated to some samplings from some wonderfully supportive local families and businesses. This event promises to be a truly relaxing and enjoyable evening with friends. The signature fundraising event for “Safe Grad Night” is the annual Golf Tournament which will be held in late spring at Fox Hopyard Golf Club.

Throughout all of these fundraising events, the committee depends upon the generosity of Old Saybrook families and the business community. Without the many sponsors and donors, the annual fundraising goal of approximately \$24,000 could not be realized. Each year the parent committee strives to raise sufficient funds for the event as well as seed money to start next year’s effort. The committee extends its heartfelt gratitude to all of those individuals, families, and local businesses that have generously contributed so far.

All funds raised are managed through a non-profit corporation formed by parents several years ago. Graduation Night, Inc. is a registered 501 (c) 3 charitable organization which gladly accepts tax-deductible donations of all amounts. The organization’s mailing address is Graduation Night Inc. c/o Old Saybrook High School, 1111 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Snow and Ice Removal

The Public Works Director would like to remind everyone that it is the property owner’s responsibility to clear the sidewalks of snow and ice as described by Town Ord. No. 25 Removal of Snow and Ice (§ 185-1).

Also, it is crucial that all Main Street business owners **not** use rock salt on the Main Street sidewalks, as the rock salt will damage the sidewalks. Main Street business owners need to use Safe Step Ice Melt or other comparable ice melts that specify “safe for concrete, brick and stone”.

The Public Works Department is responsible to remove snow from approximately seventy-two miles of town roadway. Snow being thrown by the plow blade can be forceful and the weight of the pushed snow can cause damage to a mailbox. If it is determined a mailbox was struck directly by the snowplow, the Town will replace the existing mailbox with a standard mailbox and post. Standard mailbox replacement consists of a black metal mailbox. Post replacement will be a pressure treated post.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL A MAILBOX OR POST BE CONSIDERED FOR REPLACEMENT IF:

- The post shows dry rot, is unstable or placed too close to the roadway.

- If a mailbox is popped off the cross member, shows no damage, and is lying there, the mailbox, most likely, was **not** hit by the plow but the weight of the pushed snow took the box off the support. Mailboxes must be firmly fixed to a durable post anchored in the ground to withstand the impact of thrown snow.

All qualifying mailboxes that were damaged by a Town snowplow need to be reported by March 31, 2014.

Avoid parking on Town roads during snowstorms to allow the plow trucks to clear the snow. Make certain that basketball hoops, sprinkler systems and other items are at least 8 feet from the road to avoid damage by the Town plows. Basketball hoops, sprinkler systems and other items within the Town right of way are not permitted and will not be replaced, repaired or reimbursed by the Town.

Residents and business owners contracting privately for plowing... **DO NOT PUSH SNOW INTO THE ROADWAY, THIS IS ILLEGAL.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Larry Bonin, Director Public Works

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Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut

Caring for you in the Community

Across America, 43.5 million people, nearly one in five adults, are caring for a loved one 50 or older. Most are tending to parents, but the older we get the more likely we are to be caring for a spouse. Are you caring for a loved one at home? If so, the goal should be to make them as comfortable and safe as possible, which will reduce stress for you as well as your loved one. Caregivers frequently suffer exhaustion, depression and anxiety. Talking about your situation can relieve a tremendous amount of stress. Even if a caregiver is blessed with sympathetic family and friends, a support group can be a safe, guilt-free place to vent frustrations and share solutions. If you are taking care of an ailing loved one, there is help out there; you do not have to do it alone. The Old Saybrook Town Nurse, Tina Belmont offers a Caregiver Support Group which meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:00 - 2:00 at the Estuary Council for Seniors. This is a great opportunity for you to get guidance in providing home care, sharing resources and getting caregiver tips.

The Old Saybrook Town Nurse also provides Nurse Managed Wellness Clinics at various locations in Old Saybrook. These clinics give patients the opportunity to meet privately with Tina Belmont, RN to ask medical questions, have lab reports explained and to answer questions related to medications, she can also assist with doctor appointments at that time. At this clinic you can receive information on healthy eating for diabetics, low sodium, low cholesterol diets, as well as home safety evaluations and adult health supervision screenings. This is the perfect opportunity to ask any medical questions you may have. These clinics are free to residents of Old Saybrook.

VNASC's Old Saybrook Town Nurse also offers weekly

Blood Pressure Screenings as well as, Cholesterol & Blood Sugar Clinics at The Estuary Council of Seniors, and the Acton Public Library. For more information and clinic times call Tina Belmont 860-271-5683.

Caring for you at Home

Even the simplest comforts like sleeping in your own bed and eating your favorite meals at home – can contribute to a more successful recovery and quality of life. Fortunately, we live in a time when care that once required hospitalization can now be delivered at home. VNASC has been providing home health care to southeastern Connecticut for over 100 years. From general home care to highly specialized services for managing chronic conditions, VNASC can provide the care you need. Our services are typically covered by Medicare and health insurance.

Our Home Care staff includes some of the most skilled and devoted caregivers who provide a level of expertise and a commitment to their patients' well-being. Our hiring policies, high standards, expert training and careful coordination ensure that they are caregivers you can trust. Our staff of Registered Nurses, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapist, Wound Team, STARR Certified Nurses (trained to care for Cancer patients) and our Chronic Disease Management team are here to care for you.

Ask your doctor to refer you to VNASC and recover in your own home.

For more information on Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut, our services and times and locations of our Free Clinics call 860.444.1111 or visit our website at www.vnasc.org

Parks & Recreation

Winter is coming and The Parks & Recreation Department has many exciting and fun activities available for the upcoming winter months. Whether you like playing a sport, walking, ice skating, shooting a game of pool, enjoying preschool activities or just hanging out with your friends, I'm sure that you'll find something that you will like.

When the weather turns Cold enough, keep a watchful eye out for the "Skating Today". We offer two great venues to show off your ice skating skills. Ice Skating on the Town Green, the rink which is 60' x 100' will be ready for public use once it is in place and the weather stays consistently cold for 4-5 days. The Park & Recreation rink provides safety, location, and a lot of fun. Regular hours of use are from dawn to dusk, (except for hours of special programs). Please respect the skating or no skating signs for your safety and for the continued ice surface conditions. This is a great site for beginner skaters. Hockey at designated times only!

Ice Skating on Exchange Pond Exchange Pond - Located on the corner of Rt 154 and Bokum Rd. will be open for skating this winter as soon as the weather permits. Ice is tested and posted on weekdays. Parents please supervise your children. Department supervision provided on weekend days when ice

is safe, a warm fire and lighted skating times will be noted at the Park Skate Safely!

Looking for something cool and exciting to do after school! Then drop by the Teen Center for an afternoon filled with friends, fun, games. Enjoy our complete games room, equipped with a pool table, bumper pool table, ping pong, and two fooseball tables. Hang out and listen to some music, play the Wii, PS2 or PS3 on our new 60" HD flat screen. Try your skills with a game of chess, maybe it's a game of basketball, floor hockey or flag football. So many things to do in so little time. Monday - Thursday 2:45 - 5:30 p.m. Grades 6 - 8 Only!

Membership not required for after school drop in times. Paper work does need to filled out by parent:

- High Schoolers can come and use the Teen Center from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday.
- Fridays - Are open 2:45 - 4:00 p.m. for 5th graders ONLY!

On Friday Nights the Teen Center is alive with cool activities to do. Each Friday night 6th - 8th graders can enjoy a night in the Teen Center. Play a game of pool, shoot some hoops, or just hang with your friends. The Teen Center offers a wide variety of activities to do in a safe supervised environment. Each month we have a movie night and a special event night. Nov. through

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Dec. is the OSPR flag football league. The league is free and there are 6 teams. Other nights include, Homerun Derby, Talent Show, Game Night, New Years Black and White Party, and a whole lot more!!

Teen's sign in when they arrive and are not allowed to leave unless a parent/guardian picks them up or provides permission for them to leave. Members are free on Fridays. None members pay \$5.00 each Friday. Memberships are encouraged and cost \$20.00 per school year. Friday Ages: 6th- 8th Grade only!

High School Saturday Nights are 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Membership is only \$5 for the year, or \$2 for the night.

Old Saybrook Parks & Recreation Youth Basketball program begins in January with practices and games and runs for (7) weeks. This basketball program is open to boys & girls in grades 3 - 7 of all abilities. All players receive a shirt and loads of fun. Players will be divided up by gender into two different age divisions: Grades 3 & 4, Grades 5 & 7. Teams will have weekly practices and games will be played on Saturday mornings at the Recreation Center. Divisions are subject to change based on registration numbers. Coaches are Needed ! Games begin January 11.

The Recreation Center's indoor walking track is available for all Old Saybrook Residents and is located in the gymnasium of the Recreation Center. The Track offers a great way to walk in a warm comfortable place during the winter months The track is 1/18 of a mile long, meaning it takes 18 laps to complete 1 Mile. Walkers are required to wear non-marking sneakers and must sign in at the front desk. Non residents must be accompanied by a resident and pay a \$2.00 fee. Please stop by to pick up a complete schedule of track hours.

There are also many great afterschool activities that your child can part take in at the Rec Center or at the Goodwin School. Please come down to the Recreation Center to sign up for all of these great programs or sign up on the Web at www.oldsaybrookrec.com As you can see winter plans to be a busy time of year for the Parks & Recreation Department. While you are at the Recreation Center don't forget to pick up a schedule of the Walking Track, Gymnasium, and Games rooms. Anyone who has a talent to share that would be interested in instructing an activity should contact the Recreation office at 860-395-3152.

Mariner's Way

Gateway to Connecticut River Recreation

In anticipation of the region's tri-town Route 1 Corridor Plan (Clinton, Westbrook, Old Saybrook), the Old Saybrook Board of Selectmen created a committee in the summer of 2012, which focused on that area known as Route 1 East - a strip of Route 1 connecting nodes of activity at Saybrook Junction Town Center and the Ferry Point Marina District. Over the course of the past year, the Board of Selectmen's Route 1 East Committee made a study of the area asking simply: "Where are we? Where are we going? How do we get there?"

FUNCTION. As it stands, Route 1 East has a disjointed identity often leaving a negative impression. A series of small, successfully long-running but unrelated businesses occupy most properties. Intense industrial uses expose vulnerable adjacent residential uses, threatening some with blight. Outmoded industrial buildings sit abandoned on untended lots. Architecture is purely functional with little regard for the neighborhood it forms. Zoning for the area does not reflect all existing uses nor does it encourage redevelopment under current market forces. The pavement is unnecessarily wide for its carrying capacity without any consideration for modes of transportation other than the automobile. A partial interchange for I-95 caps either end, one of which the State has slated for closure should Federal funding ever become available. Soils are poor; what little purposeful landscaping exists, is, in fact, thriving; but few trees line the street.

FORM. The strength of Route 1 East lies in its overall potential for redevelopment, especially for connecting two nodes of walkable/bikeable activity within Old Saybrook - its iconic New England town center and its marina district on the Connecticut River. Route 1 East has an ideal configuration to retrofit with the quality of uses, structures, and street improvements that can overcome its image of obsolescence.

In August this year, the Board of Selectmen's Route 1 East Committee compiled its recommendations for improvement to the Board of Selectmen in a report entitled MARINER'S WAY: Gateway to Connecticut River Recreation. The Report addresses the study area in six topics - branding, economics, zoning, transportation, landscaping, and building patterns. Many of the recommendations of the Report have global application for the entirety of Route 1 in Old Saybrook:

CLEAR VISION. Unvoiced opinion serves as a policy of status quo for Mariner's Way threatening not only potential for future revitalization, but, in its current state, detracting from the walkable/bikeable mixed-use neighborhoods at either end. The Town needs to cultivate a new business culture in the corridor to grow beyond its current condition by pulling Mariner's Way out of continued decline. A collective effort, requiring leadership, is necessary to implement a well thought-out plan for improvement, to integrate public infrastructure, to coordinate the energies of owners of underperforming properties, and to encourage economic buy-in by other developers. Revitalization of Mariner's Way is an enterprise that the Town must undertake if market forces are to not just arrive but also thrive.

BOLD RESTATEMENT. Mariner's Way is already so unlike any other part of Old Saybrook that redevelopment can be a bold restatement of the values Old Saybrook already projects as the basis for a distinct image for Mariner's Way - a gateway to Connecticut River recreation.

The full Study Report can be found for reading or download on the "Initiatives" page of the Town's website. Hard copies are available for pick-up from the Land Use Department.

Dr. David M. Shearer, Chairman

Don't Flush "Flushables"

Although this topic is not particularly compelling; the time has come to broach it. There are many products that folks are flushing down the toilet that just do not degrade and are not dispersible despite manufacturers' labels. This subject has been brought to the attention of the wastewater industry, environmental groups, and the media by very high profile situations. Most notably, were the reports of the intensive work required and expense due to the spectacular clogging (15 tons of grease and wet naps) in the London sewer system caused by products like wipes.

However, it isn't just products, like diaper wipes that are causing problems. Public works agencies struggle with improperly flushed feminine hygiene products and paper towels. But the problems are exacerbated by products labeled "flushable" that end up not breaking down easily.

There are entire webpages dedicated to research and education on the dispersibility of bathroom products. One such website belongs to NACWA (The National Association of Clean Water Agencies) which provides in depth information and educational links. http://www.nacwa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1581&Itemid=335.

According to reports from the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District in California 30 percent of its sewage overflows last year were caused by so-called flushable wipes. Residents are generally shocked, because the label says "flushable." Tests

have proven that it's not only the baby wipes, but most of the wipes on the market right now labeled as flushable.

Consumer wipes are a multi-billion-dollar-a-year industry. As the trend continues, wastewater professionals would like to see the industry make changes to the labeling of its products such as adding a big "Do not Flush" logo on top of the package.

That being said, you can imagine what these products do to individual and small community septic systems like we have in Old Saybrook. Same principle; same awful results but on a smaller scale – clogs, backups, overflows. The least problematic is a clogged toilet and back up. But further down the pipe blockage requires a plumber and once they get past the clean out and into the distribution box or septic tank; we're getting expensive. However, the real expense is when non-flushables, grease, oils, paints, septic tank additives, chemicals, insecticides etc. or extreme water usage damage the leaching field.

So proper septic system operation should include minimizing the discharge of paper products. Non-degradable items, such as disposable diapers, feminine hygiene items, facial tissues, kitty litter, grease, and paper towels are especially harmful. Use a good quality approved toilet tissue that breaks up easily when wet.

In summary: Only three products should go into the septic tank: human wastes, toilet paper, and water from toilets, bathing fixtures, kitchen sinks and laundry washers. To make it simple for children - only the 3 p's - pee, poo, and paper go down the potty.

CONVERSATION starter

Q: When is the best time to talk to your parents about the future?

A: There's no time like the present. Today's seniors have more options than ever for retirement living. But the longer families wait to start planning for the future, the greater the risk for a health crisis limiting those options.

Planning ahead benefits the entire family.

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An online guide for exploring senior living options with your parents.

Call **860. 532. 0536**

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www.AConversationStarter.com/CT

For a schedule of our informational events visit our website
www.ChesterVillageWestLCS.com



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WPCA Update

As of November, the WPCA has awarded all of its bid contracts for the original Phase I areas. Fenwood has been added to Phase I in order to take advantage of the excess Clean Water Funds (CWF) that remain. The date for the Fenwood public information session was set for November 21st and that begins the 30-day period for entering the CWF program.

Once the CWF applications return, the WPCA field crew will begin the site investigations for the 4 contracts in Fenwood. This Fall, the WPCA's engineering consultant began investigating sites that may possibly be used to locate a small treatment facility or for dispersal of renovated wastewater effluent.

Next year, site investigation will continue in earnest as well as the effort to begin Phase II. In the meantime, the WPCA has hired a new WWMD Program Manager. His name is Stephen Mongillo and he comes to us with tenure as Chairman of the Greater New Haven WPCA, a Masters Degree in Biology, skills in financial, technical, business, and management of capital projects, and experience working with state and local agencies, residents, and environmental groups. The WPCA is pleased to welcome him to the staff and looks forward to working with him to chart the direction of the WWMD program to meet the objectives required by the State.

We are also happy to announce that the public now has access to our WWMD Database via the Town GIS or mapping program. The database was created in Microsoft SharePoint. Once a user is in the MapGeo application and has searched a property, they can click the link "WWMD Data" directly under the "Property Record Card" link, and see the progress associated with that property. Some information may be limited right now, as we have many fields of data to input for each neighborhood and have

only recently started the process.

To date, the WPCA has installed over 250 systems which for the most part are working well. We say "for the most part" because there have been a few issues with new systems due to owner error and misuse. Two systems experienced difficulties due to extreme water consumption and clogging with "non-flushables." Doing load after load of laundry for example will flood a leaching system and can cause an expensive repair. Nothing should be flushed except human waste and toilet paper and this will be more fully explored in our Non-flushable article.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all residents; some of whom have re-located from a town with sewers and a treatment plant, seasonal property owners, properties with tenants, and some who require a refresher course in Septic System Use 101 – to please be cognizant of and put into practice good septic system use and maintenance.

Conventional Septic Systems are a simple, green, robust technology and will last for many years if owners are careful. This will protect your health, the environment, your home investment and finances. You can refer to our Septic System Guidelines online, pick up a copy, or contact us if you have any questions.

Please feel free to stop into our office on the 1st Floor of Town Hall, call 860-395-2876, or attend our bi-monthly meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in Town Hall. Or for further information please refer to our website at www.osw-pca.org.

That being said, it is approaching the holiday season which is nowhere more charming than in a small town; we hope that everyone enjoys it to the fullest. Happy Holidays!

2013 Christmas Ornaments

Starting in December, the Old Saybrook Historical Society will be selling the 2013 edition of the Old Saybrook Christmas ornament. As in past years, it will be available at the Saybrook Hardware Store on Main Street and at Nyman's Jewelers on Route 1. Also available for those interested in the entire collection will be ornaments made since 2005. The 2013 ornament is adorned with the image of the Historical Society's home - the General

William Hart House. Past ornaments include images of the Outer Lighthouse, the Inner Lighthouse, the Old Saybrook Firehouse, the Monkey Farm, the CT River Bridge, the Castle Inn and the Dock & Dine.

The 2013 Hart House ornament will be \$12 while previous ornaments will be \$10. For information on the ornaments, call the Historical Society at (860) 395-1635, Thursday and Friday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

North Cove Yacht Club

Did you know that the North Cove Yacht Club runs an immensely popular sailing instruction course for beginning and intermediate juniors ages 9-15 during the summer? The six-week program is broken into three two-week sessions from late June through to early August. The Club provides the sailboats, chase boats and four US Sailing certified instructors for each session of twenty-six sailors. Also available for the more experienced sailors are the Monday evening junior sailing races and the opportunity for advanced sailors to compete in local area regattas using Club provided boats. The fee is \$450 per session and the Club does provide scholarships through the Old Saybrook Youth and Family for children in need.

This being a popular program, families need to sign up their

sailors as soon as possible after February 1st, by emailing Cindy Yerman at yermancindy@gmail.com. For those that have questions please feel free to call the Chairman Ed Godfrey at 860-395-5605 or Cindy at 860-388-3896.

The Club also offers adult sailing instruction during the summer. These lessons depend on the ability to coordinate the student's available time with one of the senior instructors. For information on adult sailing please contact Cindy Yerman.

The North Cove Yacht Club is always open to new members and families and if you enjoy boating you should contact the membership chairman Bob Cika at eorcika@gmail.com.

Ed Godfrey, Junior Sailing Chairman

Town Clerk's Office

Sarah V. Becker, Town Clerk
Christina Antolino, Assistant Town Clerk
Cindy Kane, Assistant Town Clerk

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Phone Number (860) 395-3135
Town Website: www.oldsaybrookct.org

Congratulations!!

We congratulate the following on their recent marriage:

Nicholas Lano and Jane Bugbee – August 23
Scott Stransky and Arielle Bensimon – August 25
David Rametta and Karolina Szymanski – August 30
Peter Vallario and Sara Bombalicki – September 1
Philip Ciccone and Amber Lawrie – September 13
Brenden Chace and Kara Paradis – September 14
Randy Shaver and Barbara Wynns – September 14
Rosann Rafala and Kelly Voss – September 14

Erin Denholm and O.C. O'Connell – September 27
Jeffrey Giarratano and Lindsay Berube – September 27
James Gullo, Jr. and Tamara Rajcula – September 28
David Nekonchuk and Ashley Moore – October 5
William Wade, Jr. and Michele Uricchio – October 12
John Bushnell and Allison LeRoy – October 11
Gregory Machinski and Tricia Jacobsen – October 19
Michael LaRussa and Jennifer Carlson – October 26

With Sympathy

Flavie Adams
Cecilia Barrett
Christopher Boyd
Joseph Braiewa
Olga Braiewa
Janet Brown
Allen Clark
Elizabeth David
Barbara Decava

Peter Fisher
Leona Guenther
Sue Johnson
Beverly LeVasseur
William McKenna
Rebecca Merrill
Philip Minore
Amanda Nyland
Marion Racher

Richard Rearick
Marie Rieth
Jennie Russo
Merrill Smith
Pamela Stevens
Ronald Swalina
Marie Tiso
Charles Trine
Mary Welch

Hunting? Fishing?

Sports licenses for 2014 become available December 1, 2013. Great gift idea!!!

Estuary Council Regional Senior Center

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. has been Serving Seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 38 years! Call us to receive our Gazette Newsletter or go to www.ecsenior.org for our on-line newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more!

Meals on Wheels - hot meals for homebound seniors, delivered. Call Peg at 860-388-1611. A donation of \$3.00 is requested for those aged 60+. Meals supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

Café Meal Sites - Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Westbrook (Thursdays). Reservations required - 860-388-1611 by 11 a.m., 24 hours in advance.

Stan Greimann Estuary Medical Outpatient Transportation - For medical appointments to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Call Judy - 860-388-1611. Suggested donation of \$35 for a roundtrip Doctor appointment up to 5 hours and \$70 for appointments over 5 hours.

Benefit Counseling - Old Saybrook - Benefits counselor now

onsite on Thursdays by appointment. Assistance with Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Call 860-388-1611 for appointment.

Classes and Activities - Board Games, Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Exercise Classes, Tai Chi, Mah Jongg, Wii, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Needlecrafters, and Hand and Foot.

Estuary Thrift Shop - Open 10 a.m. - 3:45 p.m., Monday - Friday; 9 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, and crafts. Donations accepted.

The Marshview Gallery at the Estuary - Open daily 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., and from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturdays. The art on exhibit changes monthly and highlights the talents of local artists.

Join us on the second Friday of each month for the Artist Reception from 5 - 7 p.m. Refreshments and door prize. All ages. Info: 860-388-1611.

Donate your car or boat to the Estuary Council: Cars or boats a tax deduction. 1-800-716-5868.

Volunteers: Call Judy - 860-388-1611.

YMCA Names 9 Town Transit Business of Year

9 Town Transit was recently honored with a "Strong Community" award by the Valley-Shore YMCA. The award recognized the transit district for providing low-income families, the elderly and the disabled transportation throughout the region.

"Transportation to the Y is a big barrier for many in our community," said Chris Pallatto, Executive Director of the Valley-Shore YMCA. "9 Town Transit has helped remove that barrier, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to remain healthy and active."

The award was accepted by 9 Town Transit's



Chris Pallatto, YMCA, Joseph Comerford, 9 Town Transit, Noel Bishop, First Selectman Westbrook and Allison Meshnick, 9 Town Transit.

executive director Joseph Comerford and board member Noel Bishop, First Selectman of Westbrook.

9 Town Transit provides service to all parts of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam (west of the river), Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook, with connections to New Haven, New London and Middletown. All services are open to the general public. Additional information, route maps and schedules are available online at www.9towntransit.com or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-510-0429.

Vernal Pool Project

Getting Ready

Although the days have grown shorter and the weather has grown colder, the Old Saybrook Conservation Commission and volunteers have begun preparations for the spring journey into the identification and classification of the Vernal Pools found within our town boundaries. Many of these pools exist on municipal property as well as private property. As we identify areas that may contain a vernal pool - don't be surprised if you receive a letter from the Old Saybrook Conservation Commission requesting an opportunity to speak with you and requesting permission to investigate a potential pool on your property. Your approval is strictly voluntary, but we ask that you give us a few moments of your time to explain in greater detail about the project and its' importance.

What is the extent of the access to your property?

We would arrange a convenient time for a small team of 2-3 members/volunteers to access your property in the area of the

potential pool. The team would be equipped with waders and dip nets to identify the amphibious and aquatic species and vegetation in the area as well as the soil type. In addition they will measure the size and depth of the pool. All of this information will be recorded and a photograph taken to document the area.

What will happen with the data?

The data will be compiled and a determination of vernal pool classification will be made and a roster list of the pools will be created. Once the pools have been documented, then a review can be made to determine how we can best support the vernal pools and their very important ecological niche in our community. It is our goal to provide education to landowners and our town commissions about vernal pools and to provide counsel as to how we can work together as a community to preserve these ecological treasures.

Essex Printing & Events Magazines Supports goPINK Project & Middlesex Hospital

During the month of October you saw a lot of pink. Pink shirts, pink hair, pink flowers, pink ribbons; all promoting breast cancer awareness and treatment. Essex Printing and Events Magazines teamed up with the Middlesex Hospital Comprehensive Breast Center and goPINK Project, a local collaboration among area beauty salons and other local businesses to increase awareness about breast cancer and to support patients in our community.

For every advertisement sold in Events Magazines during the month of October a donation was made to the Middlesex Hospital Comprehensive Breast Center. Essex Printing and Events Magazines are proud to have made a \$900 donation to fight breast cancer. Over \$26,600 was raised by the thirty three participating companies this year and \$63,393 since the goPINK project's inception in 2010.



Left to Right: Suzanne Spires Director of Advertising & Operations, Events Magazines; Kathleen Russo, Community Relations Middlesex Hospital; Sarah Moore, Director of Development Middlesex Hospital; Fred Holloran, Vice President Marketing & Business Development, Essex Printing; Georgi Marion EG Salon, Middletown; Ellie Gagnon EG Salon, Middletown.

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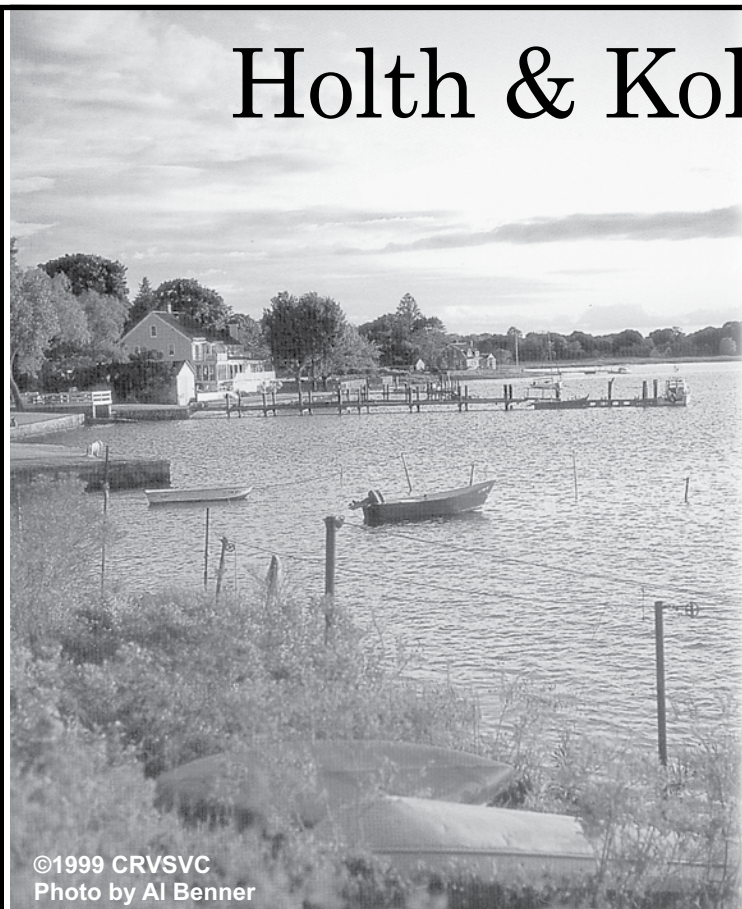
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Photo by Al Benner

The Preserve

On a recent crisp fall Saturday nearly 200 people came out for a public walk on The Preserve, a 1,000 acre forest in Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Essex. Sponsored by The Trust for Public Land, the walk was part of an effort to raise awareness of the opportunity to permanently protect the forest. If protected, the land would be owned by the Town of Old Saybrook and the Essex Land Trust and would be open to the public for hiking, wildlife viewing and other passive recreational uses. The Trust estimated that it would need to raise approximately \$12 million in public and private funds by the middle 2014 to acquire the property for public use.

The event brought out walkers of all ages from Old Saybrook, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, Haddam and beyond. Children and

parents from the Old Saybrook Land Trust's OAK group prepared a unique song for the occasion and had a special tour with Representative Phil Miller of Essex, an educator and naturalist. The children found a tiny frog known as a spring peeper, enjoyed views of the Pequot Swamp and learned about the ecology of the forest. Transportation to the trailhead was provided by M&J Bus Company of Old Saybrook.

A second public walk will be offered on Sunday, December 15th at 10am and 12pm at M&J Bus, 130 Ingham Hill Road, Old Saybrook. For more information contact Kate Brown, Project Manager at The Trust for Public Land. kate.brown@tpl.org or (203) 671-6761.



Walkers gather at M&J Bus in Old Saybrook for a public walk on The Preserve



Chris Cryder of Old Saybrook explains the natural features of The Preserve



State Representative Phil Miller of Essex leads a group from the Old Saybrook Land Trust

Photos by Robert Lorenz

Historical Society

Dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting the history of Old Saybrook

As Yogi Berra explained “you give 100 percent in the first half of the game, and if that isn’t enough in the second half you give what’s left.” That describes the valuable contributions of many Historical Society volunteers during the past year. Here are some of the highlights.

Public programs

Holiday House Tour - featured visits to seven residences. Some 150 volunteers provided information to more than 800 attendees, who visited the historic treasures, shopped and ate in town. Thanks to the generous homeowners and Donna DiBella, chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

Antique Sale and Appraisal Day - featured seven expert appraisers, 30 antique vendors and attracted hundreds. Many visitors found new treasures, purchased plants from our Heritage Garden, visited our Exhibit Gallery and enjoyed the grounds at Gen. William Hart House. Thanks to Karen Emack-Dolson for arranging it. The second annual event is set for May 31.

Archives Appreciation Day - marked the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Frank Stevenson Archive. Several founders and contributors were recognized including: Anne Sweet, Margaret Bock, Martha Davis Soper, Polly Timken, Elaine Staplins and Bill Phillips.

Anniversary Cruise - On The Connecticut River was attended by more than 160 people on board the *Mystique* to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the society. Thanks to several generous sponsors.

Collaboration

Collaboration with archaeologists and researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center and the University of Connecticut in their effort to locate the first Saybrook Fort and learn more about the Pequot War. Artifacts that have been discovered will be displayed in the spring of 2014 in the Hart House Exhibition Gallery.

Sponsored with the Cypress Cemetery Association a tour of the cemetery which was attended by 110 adults plus children. Thanks to tour guide Torrance Downes.

Chapman Lecture Series, held in cooperation with Acton Public Library, offered five free lectures on historic topics. More than 125 people attended the talk by Don Perreault on “Saybrook’s Witchcraft Trial of 1661.”

Education

Genealogy workshops were held throughout the year by Society archivist and professional genealogist Gregory Thompson.

High school student volunteers helped share the history of Saybrook, interact with the public and learn about the functions of a volunteer organization. A college volunteer assisted in the Archives. We also held our first Eagle Scout ceremony.

Publications

A new publications program began with the release of a booklet on the Saybrook witchcraft trial. More titles are under development.



A “New” Painting of General Hart

After many years of walking by the Gen. William Hart House, long time Old Saybrook resident and prominent artist Marek Sarba decided to visit during the June 2013 Open House and was given the “Grand Tour.” He was impressed with the work of the Historical Society and the care of the house. When he saw the portrait of General William Hart hanging in the Parlor he thought there should be a better representation. He was correct, of course, since it was a copy of the only known portrait of the General and was held in the Colt Collection at the

Wadsworth Athenaeum. He wanted to give something to the Society to help preserve Old Saybrook history and decided to visit the Wadsworth Athenaeum to see the original. It is a miniature watercolor on ivory 2 5/8” by 2 1/8” and part of a locket. Marek returned to his studio and painted a new portrait of the General, placed it in an exquisite frame and presented it to the Historical Society at its annual meeting in October 2013.

Historical Society president Marie McFarlin extended the thanks of the organization for his generous and beautiful contribution. The portrait is now fittingly hung in the Parlor of the Hart House. The General is presented as he deserves.

Collections

We have received numerous contributions of documents, photos, and historic material including a significant financial bequest for work in the Hart House, a 19th century Hepplewhite sideboard, a 19th century square piano, and an exceptional portrait of Gen. William Hart expressly prepared by artist Marek Sarba.

Campus

Heritage Garden volunteers maintained the beautiful grounds and gardens to the delight of many visitors. Thanks to Linda Kinsella and a large cast of gardeners.

We welcomed hundreds of visitors from 44 towns, 18 states and five countries with tours of the Hart House, research and workshops in the Archives, visits to gardens and responses to inquiries.

Going forward

We invite you to join our Society to share and learn from the rich history of our town. For further information, call 860-395-1635.

Historical Society Receives Award

Each year the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce recognizes a non-profit organization who “contribute to the economic vitality and quality of life in Old Saybrook” and this year the honor went to the Old Saybrook Historical Society.

In making the announcement, the Chamber’s Executive Director Judy Sullivan said the Historical Society has developed a reputation for organizational excellence and has had a major impact on the lives of individuals within the past year.

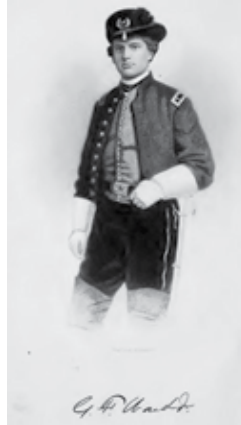
The award was presented December 5 at the Chamber’s Annual Dinner at the Saybrook Point Inn by Chamber President Kristen Roberts and Executive Director Judy Sullivan.

Cypress Cemetery's "Did You Know....?"

Among the veterans of American wars buried in Cypress Cemetery is Civil War veteran Giles F. Ward, Jr. Giles' family lived in Brooklyn, NY but had a home during Giles' boyhood days in Old Saybrook. His paternal ancestors are buried in Cypress. Giles died at the young age of 19 years.

Giles enlisted in the military in the middle of the Civil War and was assigned to the North's "Army of the Potomac". At the young age of 18, he became a leader and was much loved both by his fighting comrades *and* his commanders. So great was his potential that within two short years, he had moved up the ranks to become a Lieutenant of the 12th New York Cavalry. So admired was Giles that even his commander, General I. F. Palmer, was bereft and heartbroken when he learned of Giles' death, by an accidental shooting. He was described by a Major Benjamin as having a "winning and peculiar smile that seldom left his countenance; that cheerful and generous disposition; and that honest, manly deportment."

As described by a Colonel Franke to General Palmer, Giles' troop had stopped at a house in New Bern, North Carolina, just a short distance from where they expected to engage their enemies a short time later. While resting there, Giles "was



Giles F. Ward, Jr.,
Civil War veteran.

almost instantly killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol in the hands of [Troop Commander] Captain Horn. "The ball must have passed through his heart, as he did not speak afterward". Captain Horn was said to be "suffering the most severe mental torture" and was said to deserve the "heartiest sympathy and consolation from all his friends."

His North Carolina funeral procession to the steamship upon which his remains were brought north was escorted by his own company and included a band playing a funeral dirge, his favorite horse and from "fifty to sixty officers" following behind. After a second funeral ceremony in his family's Brooklyn, NY church, he was brought to Old Saybrook for a final goodbye at the Saybrook Congregational Church. Following that ceremony, and amid "tears and sobs", he was brought down Main Street, passed his childhood home and to Cypress Cemetery, where he was buried. "There, the youthful hero was laid gently down; tender and solemn words were spoken; a young army friend scattered sweet violets upon the lifeless form and it was lowered to its final rest."

Call Cypress President James Cahill at (860) 304-4683 or email J. H. Torrance Downes at jhtdownes@gmail.com for information on burial plots. www.cypresscemeteryos.ct.org.

Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD)

November is Family Health History Month:

Your family history holds key information about your past - and clues to your future health. November was National Family Health History Month, and the U.S. Surgeon General has declared Thanksgiving National Family Health History Day! (Even though you're seeing this after Thanksgiving, this is something that could be done anytime family gathers)

Most of us know that we can reduce our risk of disease by eating a healthy diet, getting enough exercise, and not smoking, but your family history might be one of the strongest influences on your risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, or cancer. For example, if one generation of a family has high blood pressure, it is usual for the next generation to have high blood pressure. Tracing and recording illnesses suffered by your parents, grandparents, and other blood relatives can help healthcare providers predict the disorders for which you may be at risk and take action to keep healthy. Your family health history is an essential component of preventive healthcare that can help identify disease risk before symptoms start.

This holiday season, talk with family members about health history, log this information, and update it from time to time. This record will be an invaluable tool for your healthcare provider as well as your child's pediatrician. This way family members will have organized and accurate information ready to share with their health care providers.

Start this holiday season by giving the gift of good health to your loved ones -with your family health history!

To create a family history on-line go to: <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/fhh-web/home.action>

Health District Looking For Water Test Participants

Recently, the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) recommended homeowners test their wells for arsenic and uranium because testing in various parts of the state found high enough levels of the naturally occurring metals to prompt testing state-wide.

The Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) has been asked by DPH to test twenty private residential wells in Old Saybrook, Clinton and Deep River for arsenic and uranium. The aim is to sample wells spread throughout the District to provide a good representation of levels within the three towns. The test sites will be selected with that goal in mind.

The testing is free, and the samples will be taken by the Connecticut River Area Health District and the State lab will analyze the samples.

Those who are interested in having their wells tested for arsenic and uranium are asked to contact CRAHD at 860-661-3300 or by email at ccollier@crahd.net. Please understand that not all who call will be chosen to participate. Please call promptly upon seeing this!

Information about arsenic and uranium in water can be found at the Health District Website: www.crahd.org

Office of the Tax Collector

LEGAL NOTICE

Grand List October 1, 2012, For January 1, 2014 Tax Due
Office of the Tax Collector, Town Hall, 302 Main Street
Office hours: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Telephone (860) 395-3138, FAX (860) 395-5014
Monday through Friday (except holidays or as posted)

The second installment of Town Tax on Grand List of October 1, 2012, and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental list thereto is due and payable January 1, 2014. If not paid on or before February 3, 2014 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at a rate of 18% per annum (1 ½ % for each month or fraction thereof) dating back to the original due date of the bill. A minimum interest charge of \$2.00 is applicable to each delinquent tax bill. Two months of interest (3%) will be due on February 4, 2014.

Payment can be made at the Tax Office, Town Hall, 302 Main Street, or you may pay by mail. Please return payment coupon(s) attached to bill with your payment. Mail postmarked (U S Postal Service postmark only) on or before February 3, 2014 is to be

considered an on time payment. If you would like a receipt returned to you send the entire bill, your payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Tax Office. A receipt will be returned as soon as payment is processed. No self-addressed stamped envelope / no receipt when payment is made via mail.

Please consider making your payment by mail to avoid waiting in line.

As a matter of law, the taxpayer is liable to the Town for the tax installment(s) as they become due and payable. Liability is not created by, nor dependent upon the taxpayer having received a tax bill. Therefore, failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of the requirement to pay statutorily required interest when a late payment is made. Note: Real Estate is not re-billed in December – the original bill was sent in mid June for July and January installment(s) (payment stubs attached).

Payment can now be made using credit/debit card or electronic check by going to: www.oldsaybrookct.org. Click on Tax Bill Lookup and follow options provided. Please note: there is a 2.5% fee for credit/debit card use.

Barry E. Maynard, C.C.M.C., Tax Collector

Saint John School - Celebrating 20th Anniversary

The 2013-2014 academic year marks the twentieth anniversary for Saint John School, educating area students in pre-K to grade 8. Community service projects, alumni gatherings, open houses, and family events will continue throughout the year. Students and their families, teachers and staff, parishioners, alumni and friends of the school are invited to attend. A newly launched website, www.saintjohnschool.org, features an online form for alumni to add their contact information and submit memories about the school. Open houses, tours, and events will be listed on the website's calendar. For more information, please call 860-388-0849 or email principal@saintjohnschool.org.

The re-opening of the school in 1994, after a 22 year shut down, was due to the persistence of Norwich Diocese School Superintendent, Howard E. Bennett, the support of the parish, and parents of area students who were looking for a school with structure and discipline not found in other area schools. The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church have also contributed to the



Saint John School students and teachers gather on the soccer field for a photo in honor of the school's 20th Anniversary. The photo was taken thanks to the help of local photographer, William Rosser, and the Old Saybrook Fire Department.



school's success, sharing the power of prayer, love of educating children, and traditional values. Current school principal, Mother Elaine Moorcroft, SCMC, invites all to visit and participate in the 20th Anniversary celebrations and witness, "the special place where faith, culture, education, and life are brought together in harmony."

Saint John School is fully accredited with certified teachers, and is known for individual student growth, building self-discipline and confidence. A secure, modern facility, close-knit family atmosphere, and adherence to Christian values, provides the ideal environment for "educating the whole child." A comprehensive 6th to 8th grade Middle School program, including science lab and Spanish language instruction, prepares students to excel in high school and beyond. Full day Pre-K and Kindergarten is offered, including structured academics and creative play. In addition, the school offers a before and aftercare program, a successful athletics program, instrument lessons and band, community service projects, and other activities.

R.E.A.C.H. Takes Action Against Social Hosting with Sticker Shock Campaign!

On Wednesday, November 13, the Old Saybrook High School R.E.A.C.H. (Responsible Educated Adolescents Can Help) Team participated in their 5th annual Sticker Shock Campaign, a prevention tool aimed at educating adults about social hosting. This project aims to inform individuals over the age of 21 that purchasing alcohol and providing it to minors is illegal.

The campaign consists of stickers being adhered to multi-packs of alcoholic beverages (large cases of beer). The R.E.A.C.H. members, along with OSYFS clinician Chelsea Graham, worked together with business owners and placed 773 stickers at the following local shops: Gene's Package Store, Old Colony Package Store, The

Wine Cask, Stann's Package Store, The Cordial Shop, Seaside Wine and Spirits and Walt's Food Market. Megan McNivens, a R.E.A.C.H. member and participant in the Sticker Shock campaign stated, "I enjoy this event because it really involves the community in achieving our mission as the R.E.A.C.H Team. Raising the awareness of substance abuse-related issues is one of our goals."

The R.E.A.C.H Team thanks all participating store owners for doing their part in highlighting the concern related to providing alcohol to under-aged youth.

Chelsea Graham, MSW of Youth and Family Services

Old Saybrook Land Trust

The Old Saybrook Land Trust is involved with a number of land acquisition opportunities, assists several Boy Scouts with Eagle projects, shares conservation ideas with children from kindergarten through high school, offers a High School scholarship, and is closely involved with The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) effort to purchase the 1,000 acre Preserve. The purchase of the property is not yet assured. TPL needs to raise \$10 to \$12 million through grants, state, town and private funds to fulfill the agreement. The OSLT will assist in fund-raising and communication efforts to help make the purchase

a reality, and if successful, the OSLT will play a major role in ongoing stewardship work. This effort will not be successful without support from OSLT members. As we move forward into 2014, we invite all who are concerned with preserving open space for the benefit of the general public and its future generations, including the Preserve which is the largest undisturbed tract of coastal forest remaining between New York and Boston, to join us. To find out more, visit oslt.org, or email oslt.org.



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First off let me say, this is not an at home over the counter cream. RT001 combines botulinum toxin with a proprietary carrier peptide that transports it to the muscles under the skin. If this product is approved, it will be a medical treatment that will be applied at doctor's offices. So far the testing has only involved crow's feet.

Two phases of study have been conducted so far. Initially 90 individuals compared the product to placebo and the results were found to be statistically significant.

The second phase involved 180 people and this time various components of the product were tested. Results concluded that the carrier protein is an integral part of the

product, allowing the topical botulinum to be delivered to the underlying muscles.

Wrinkle relaxation is lasting about three months and there do not seem to be any side effects. Phase three testing will involve a much larger sample. Then it has to be approved by the FDA before it can be marketed, so it could still be a few years away.

It is unclear when it will be available or how much it will cost. We do know that if it is approved, even though it will be applied topically it is still a drug and will only be available through a physician. But how exciting to think that you might soon be able to relax your crow's feet without the chance of bruising or those little red dots.

To learn more about procedures that will keep you beautiful without surgery or to sign up to receive more articles like this one, please visit us at www.sonasmedspa.com.

Susan O'Malley, M.D., Sonas Med Spa

Rotary Club

The first Rotary Club was organized in Chicago, IL on February 23, 1905 by Paul C. Harris. A small group of business men in Chicago met regularly at a different place each time, thus the name "Rotary". Since 1905 the ideas of Paul C. Harris and his friends have become ideals for men and women of Rotary around the world. Today there are over 32,000 Rotary Clubs in 190 countries; membership over 1.2 million. The motto, "Service Above Self".

The Rotary Club of Old Saybrook was organized on November 1, 1926. Weekly meetings were at the Pease House on Bridge Street at Saybrook Point. The Charter was presented by the Rotary District Governor, District 7980 on May 18, 1927 and "The Rotary Club of Old Saybrook" was on its way to serve the communities of Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Lyme & Old Lyme.

In 1977 the Club set up the first four year, academic scholarship of \$1,000. Today the Rotary Club of Old Saybrook presents annually in excess of \$24,000 in scholarships.

OS Rotary recognizes the achievements of Old Saybrook High School, Old Lyme High School and Westbrook High School students with its Student of the Month program. For nine months of the school year, a student is chosen by each of the 3 schools to represent a discipline of study. The students, families, teachers, and principals attend our breakfast meeting where the students are presented with a certificate of recognition and a small stipend. On a historical note, our first Old Saybrook High School "Student of the Month" award was given on October 7, 1991 to Brendan Walsh.

In 1997 an "Interact" club was organized in the Old Saybrook High school. Interact is a Rotary program designed for young people 14 - 18 years of age. The program provides an avenue

to serve the local community and be part of Rotary world wide. Today the Old Saybrook High School Interact club is extremely active. The Westbrook High School Interact club organized in 2012 is extremely active as well.

1987 saw the establishment of "The Rotary Club of Old Saybrook Foundation". The foundation has grown over the years and has provided funds to support a wide variety of programs, DARE, RYLA, (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), our local Scholarship program, International World Affairs Seminars, Warm The Children, Community Outreach Program, Meals on Wheels, Student of the Month, and The Dictionary Project to all the towns we serve.

During the past five years programs sponsored by The Rotary Club of Old Saybrook Foundation have distributed more than \$365,000 to benefit residents in the communities served, Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, Lyme, and Westbrook, The Scholarship Program providing students with college tuition, Warm the Children program furnishing winter clothing for 1300 children in 7 local towns, Community Outreach, all made possible by a generous bequest from a former Rotarian.

In 2002 The Rotary Club of Old Saybrook became the first Rotary Club in Connecticut to distribute dictionaries to elementary school children. Since its inception, The Rotary Club of Old Saybrook dictionary project has given over 4500 dictionaries to elementary school children in Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Lyme and Old Lyme.

To learn more about The Rotary Club of Old Saybrook and The Rotary Club of Old Saybrook Foundation visit our web site, www.osrotary.org. New members are always welcome. Please contact Gerri Lewis, President, at gerri_lewis@yahoo.com.

Bill McLaughlin

Upper Cemetery Commission

I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people. It's been a long overdue thank you. Sorry for the delay.

As chairman of the Upper Cemetery Commission, it has been a pleasure working with a group of people who have been very helpful and supportive for the past couple of years. One of the biggest projects that took place this past spring was led by Joshua Scherber. He is a graduated senior from the High School who took on the Upper Cemetery as part of his senior project. He and a fellow classmate, Matt Lyss, with the assistance of Mr. Freche of the Industrial Arts Department built a shed for the property. On a Sunday morning around Memorial Day, he planned a dedication of the shed to the Cemetery. It was a beautiful morning, with quite a few guests. During the ceremony, Matt played taps and Josh gave the following speech:

"To grow up and be patriotic just seems intuitive. We live in the land of the free and the home of the brave, we are taught from an early age to sing the national anthem but what do the words mean? Why do the words and music inspire some to cry and others to stand proud and still others to show nothing? I was told from a young age to show nothing is to do nothing. I have learned from example. If you want to affect change be part of that change. I am not a soldier, I am not the son of a soldier but I am patriot. I am the grandson and great grandson of soldiers. I remember from a young age going to the Memorial Day parade in Old Saybrook and seeing all the men in uniform, I remember waving my flag and holding my grandfather's hand. I remember looking around as they played taps and being amazed at how the town green could be full of people but it would be silent except for the sound of the trumpets echoes. It was truly amazing and I felt stronger just being part of it.

When I was asked last year to start thinking of a senior project I thought about what I should do? I wanted a worthwhile project. I wanted to leave my mark on Old Saybrook and I wanted to make a difference. At a family gathering I heard my grandfather say he was working at the Upper Cemetery in town and that he and a small group of volunteers could use help to clean up and maintain that cemetery. I asked my grandfather how I could help. My grandfather was thrilled when I mentioned my interest. I met with my grandfather and Mr. Tiezzi at town hall to look at the plans and any paperwork referencing this cemetery and who was buried here. It is amazing to see some of the names in this cemetery of so long ago. Some of these names I still hear in my classroom Dibble and Bushnell.

I soon learned that this would become a family affair. Recently we all met at the cemetery for cleanup day, my great grandparents, my grandparents, my parents, my sisters and my aunt, uncle, cousins as well as family friends. All here for a common goal, which was to help give the individuals in

this cemetery the respect, and acknowledgement they so deserve. Whether they are the founding fathers from when Old Saybrook first became an independent colony in 1635 or soldiers who gave their lives to ensure the freedoms of others. The veterans buried in this cemetery established in 1750 deserve to be recognized and that is what my family has done. My aunt and uncle went out and purchased flags that we all put on the graves yesterday, I organized through the Old Saybrook High School Interact club, sponsored by the local Rotary club, to get a tool shed donated for the cemetery so that my grandfather and his friends didn't have to put the tools in their cars to come and care for the cemetery. The local lions club gave me a grant to purchase tools for the shed, my grandmother organized lunches and repainted the sign, and my parents helped me deliver the shed to the cemetery that was built by two other seniors at my school for their senior project. It was a true team effort.

I am not a soldier but I have heard that soldiers create a bond because they share a common goal. I have heard the saying the all give some and some give all used in reference to those that serve in the military. My goal today is to dedicate this shed to this cemetery in honor of the men and women who fought for the freedoms that I enjoy every day. I would also like to thank my grandfather and my family and friends for the bonding and the opportunity to work together on a very worthwhile endeavor. So maybe I do know what the words to the national anthem mean and with my grandfather and my family I am reminded why it is important to be patriotic and how one small deed can make a difference."

Josh, thank you very much. Best Wishes on your college journey. Thank you: Dana and Linda Cosgrove, George and Amber Scherber, Jason and Kelly Renshaw, Ken Stevenson, Colin Asby, Debbie Rich, Old Saybrook Lions Club and the rest of Josh's family members (the list is long). This was a team project and you all made it fun and very well worth the time and energy. If I have forgotten anyone, I am sincerely sorry, but know that I do appreciate your help also.

Members of the Commission are: Loletta Fontes, Dana Cosgrove, Nancy Sullivan, Marty Ladd and Kelly Renshaw.

We would like to invite anyone who would like to visit the cemetery to do so. As you look around, you will see the names of the people who helped build our Town of Old Saybrook.

For any information regarding the Upper Cemetery, I can be reached at 860-388-9631.

Happy Holidays to all!!!

David Tiezzi, Chairman

Happy Holidays

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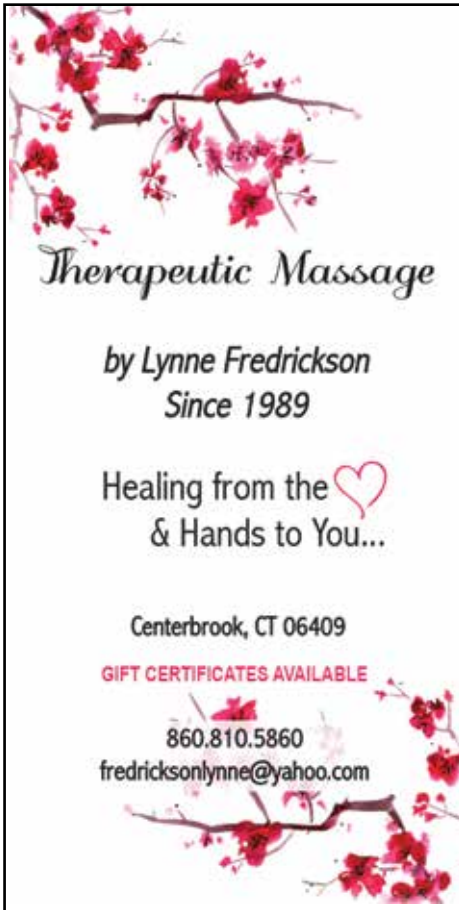


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