

# Old Saybrook



# Events

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Volume 15 • Quarter 1 • 2014



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## First Selectman's Corner

Happy spring. It was indeed a difficult, cold winter but warmer days are ahead.

### Revaluation

We recently completed the state-mandated physical revaluation of all real estate and personal property in town. By now, you should have received the Assessor's informational card which indicates the new value of your home or property. 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.

Many of you will find that your property values are generally lower since our last statistical revaluation in 2008-09. I recall many homeowners were upset at the last revaluation because the revaluation occurred at a time when property values had peaked before the 2008 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 in July will be based on the 2014-2015 budget, which the Board of Finance will review and recommend to referendum in May. Information on revaluation is available at the town hall and I urge you to learn as much as possible about the process.

### Construction

By the time you read this, some construction at 36 Lynde Street on a new public safety facility will have commenced. The new facility is tentatively scheduled to be completed in April, 2015. The facility is located on 2.5 acres of land. 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. While the Town faces the task of budgeting for all this new infrastructure in this coming fiscal year, these infrastructure improvements will be the last major projects for a very long time. While this bonding will have an impact on the mill rate, infrastructure improvements bring value to the community in other ways: businesses and residents see facilities that are well kept. In addition to a reasonable mill rate, this investment keeps business coming in to Old Saybrook. In

the next Old Saybrook Events, I expect to be able to announce more new business coming in to our Town. However, at the time that I write this, negotiations continue.

Adjacent to the new Police facility, an additional 1.3 acres will be combined with the site of the old police station to create a new park with additional downtown parking. The Parks & Recreation Commission is looking at this space and, with public input, will decide what might be the highest, best use. The Town has applied for a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant to help us get the ball rolling. The idea behind this redevelopment is to reinvigorate the south end of Main Street where there is less commercial activity. Thanks to our new Economic Development Director, Susan Beckman for her excellent work on this grant application. It was her first major project and the final product was excellent!



Carl P. Fortuna, Jr.

### Personnel

Since I became First Selectman, there has been some turnover in positions, supervisory and administrative, in Town Hall, while other positions are in flux or held by long time employees. My philosophy since day one has been to only hire the most qualified personnel in every department when an opening occurs. Removing family and friends from the process is critical. Hiring must be objective and must not be based on who we know or like. My administration has continually and consistently hired only after rigorous panel interviews. And I have urged every department, where I am not the hiring authority, to do the same. The jobs in Town Government are good jobs. They offer very good benefits and job security with competitive pay. Installing only those who have been properly vetted is critical. Elected positions come and go. Other permanent positions in Town are held for as long as a generation, sometimes longer. One of my goals for whatever amount of time I hold this seat is to make sure all departments are run by the best people. This is good for the taxpayer and good for business. While it may seem like I am stating the obvious, I am not. As such, the Town is creating a handbook which will highlight the rules of the road. One of the most obvious concerns is family supervising family. Over the years, perhaps when Saybrook was a smaller Town, this occurred with some frequency. With attrition, this problem will go away. Until then, I promise the taxpayers rigorous objectivity in hiring. Our Town deserves only the best.

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





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# Acton Public Library

## Special Events at the library

*Chapman Lecture Series:* Thursday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.

Jerry Roberts will discuss his new book, *The British Raid on Essex: The Forgotten Battle of the War of 1812*. This program is sponsored by The Old Saybrook Historical Society and the Acton Public Library.

*New Horizons Band Concert:* Sunday, April 27, 2:00 p.m.

Come to enjoy music performed by the New Horizons Band, from the Community Music School in Centerbrook. The band members are older adults who are relatively new to their instruments, or haven't played since school. The band is directed by Patricia Hurley.

*Twentieth Annual Poetry:* Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we recognize the winners of our annual poetry contest. Winning poems will be read by the authors in four categories - elementary school; middle school; high school; and adult. Awards will be provided by the Friends of the Acton Library.

*Holocaust Lecture:* Saturday, May 3, 3:00 p.m.

The library will present a lecture on the holocaust, featuring a scholar-lecturer. Dr. Charles Lansing, of the History Department at the University of Connecticut, will give a talk: *A Look at Whom the Perpetrators Were and What Motivated Them to Participate in the Holocaust*. This program is sponsored by The Ernest Bernstein Honor With Books Fund.

*Gardening Lecture:* Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

Native Plants for the Home and Community Garden with Landscape Designer Kathy Connolly

## Films at the library

Books to Movies Series - featuring the Garrett "Movie & Book" Kit Collection. Films shown on the 4th Friday of the month, at 1:00 p.m.

April 25 - "Anna Karenina"

May 23 - "Little Women"

## Art Exhibits at the library

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

Bill Rosser: April 1 - April 30

Al Coyote Weiner: May 1 - May 31

Six Summit Gallery: June 2 - June 29

Daniel Dahlstrom: July 1 - August 2

## In the Display Case

April - Wood Carvings by Ed Gorman

May - Children's Tractor Parts from the collection of Rick Keel

June - Music Memorabilia from the collection of Robert Braunfield

## 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

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

School Vacation Week Event - Come see special guest Neato as he combines books and magic for a fun program. Date/time to be announced.

## 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](mailto:actonref@gmail.com).

## Craft Programs

Organic spray cleaners: Thursday, April 24, 3:00 to 4:45 p.m. -To celebrate Earth Day, we will be mixing up organic spray cleaners.

Flower pens: Thursday, May 22, 3:00 to 4:45 p.m. - As a library beautification project, we will be making flower pens and flower pots for use at the public service desks at the library.

**College Preparation Programs** (For young adults and their parents)

Thursday, April 3, 6:30 to 8 p.m.- College Financial Planning Workshop with College4Less

Thursday, May 15, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.- Navigating the College-Bound Process: 10 Steps to Success with Francine Schwartz of Pathfinder Counseling, LLC

## 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](mailto:shorelineworks@gmail.com).

### April:

Monday, April 7, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: Using Comedy Improvisation techniques for better Job Interviews, with Melanie Szluchal

Monday, April 28, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: Job Networking Group: Facilitated by CTWorks. Interviewing - Why would I Hire You?

### May:

Monday, 12, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: Boomers Back to Work, with Jean Baur

Monday, May 19, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: Job Networking Group: Facilitated by CTWorks. Topic TBA.

### June:

Monday, June 9, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: The Elephant in the Room: Overcoming Your Anger to be a Better Job Candidate, with Dr. Annie B. Wilder of UncommonCounseling.

Monday, June 30, from 10:00 a.m. to noon: Job Networking Group: Facilitated by CTWorks. Topic TBA

We hope to see you at the library this Spring. 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](mailto: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.





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For more information about the "No Bully Zone" program and how to bring it to your community, contact Cynthia Clegg at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, 860.347.0025 or [Cynthia@MiddlesexCountyCF.org](mailto:Cynthia@MiddlesexCountyCF.org).

*The Community Foundation of Middlesex County Council of Business Partners  
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# Events

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## *Friends of the Acton Public Library*

The Friends of the Acton Public Library is an organization dedicated to supporting the Acton Public Library. Through their fundraising efforts, the Friends provide many "extras" for the library. They fund programs for all ages, purchase equipment, furniture and materials for the collection, support our website and promote the library in the community. Their members volunteer countless hours of service to the library, helping with everything from covering books to shelving returned items. Membership is open to anyone who considers themselves a Friend of the Acton Library. Membership forms are available at the library.

**Meetings:** The Friends Board meets on the 4th Thursday of the month (January through October) at 10:30 a.m. in the Grady Thomas Room, upstairs in the library. The Annual Meeting is May 22.

All members are welcome at any meeting.

**Book Sale:** The 2014 Annual Book Sale will be held on Thursday, July 17, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 19, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Cell Phone/Smart Phone Recycling:** The Friends are collecting cell phones and smart phones to be recycled. There is a collection box in the lobby of the library. Phones do not have to be in working order - they will be recycled, and the Friends receive money for each phone turned in. Help the Friends and the Environment!

For further information about the Friends, please contact the Library at 860-395-3184 or check the library's web page: [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org).

*Betty O'Brien, President*

## *Assessor's Office Update*

Tax relief benefits for homeowners over 65 or under 65 and 100% social security disabled.

Residents who own residential property in Old Saybrook (this property must be your primary residence) and who will be 65 years of age by December 31, 2013 or under 65 and totally disabled through Social Security, may be eligible for tax relief benefits if they meet income qualifications. The income limit is \$34,100 for a single person and \$41,600 for a married couple. Your 2013 Federal income tax return, Social Security 1099 Statement for 2013 as well as railroad retirement payments (if applicable) must be submitted. If you will not file an income tax return for 2013 please furnish all other proof(s) of income for 2013 such as wages, bonuses, commissions, taxable portion of annuities and pensions, proceeds from the sale of property, dividends, interest on tax-free bonds, etc.

Applications can be made between February 1, 2014 and May 15, 2014 at the Assessor's Office from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. If you are unable to come to the office

to apply please call the Assessor's Office at 860-395-3137 and alternate arrangements will be made.

This year the renter rebate program will begin on April 1 and runs through October 1. The income limits remain the same as the homeowners program.

The October 1, 2013 Grand List had an overall decrease of 12% after the October 1, 2013 revaluation. Even though we had a 3.5% increase in business personal property assessments and a 3% increase in motor vehicle assessments.

For the October 1, 2013 revaluation the Board of Assessment Appeals will have 75 formal hearings that began March 4, 2014.

*Norman B. Wood CCMA II – Assessor*

*Rick Pine – Assistant Assessor*

*Melanie Roberts – Reval Clerk*

*Luke Parker – Real & Personal Property Appraiser*

*John Ryan – Comm/Ind Appraiser*

## *State Automation for Voters!*

The State has implemented through the local Registrar of Voters offices two new types of voter enhancements to continue to improve the voting process through technology. The November 2013 Election saw the implementation of "E.D.R" - Election Day Voter Registration, giving voters who meet specified criteria the ability to register to vote and cast a ballot the same day. Registrars across the state were all trained with the requirements of the process, including multi-town contact to insure the voter does not vote in two towns, and the ballot handling at the end of the evening. Initial reports after Election Day showed a positive outcome for both the voters and the local offices.

During February, the State rolled out the new Online Voter Registration System, where voters can fill out a voter registration card online, have the information cross checked with

State Department of Motor Vehicle, and have their online card forwarded to the appropriate Registrars Office in the state - all electronically! Once received in the Registrars office, the card goes through another verification process and acceptance with a letter. Registrars had training in January for this system and we encourage residents that have any questions regarding these new processes to contact our office at 860-395-3134.

As a reminder, we encourage residents to contact us for name changes, address changes, and party changes to keep our voter list accurate for referendums and elections.

*Carol Conklin and Joan Broadhurst*

*Registrars of Voters Old Saybrook*



## *Floodplain Focus:* **Substantial Improvement**

Floodplain management regulations are most effective in reducing flood damage to new construction. Buildings built before the adoption of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations are often subject to repeated flood damage, flood insurance claims, and federal disaster assistance. The NFIP regulations address this problem by requiring that substantially improved and substantially damaged buildings be brought up to the same standards as new buildings built in the 100-year floodplain.

Substantial improvement is defined as “any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. The term does not include either: 1) any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions, or 2) any alteration of a ‘historic structure’, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure’s continued designation as a ‘historic structure’.” A substantially improved structure must be brought into compliance with the NFIP regulations. Typically this means the structure must be elevated to or above the base flood elevation (BFE).

For purposes of determining substantial improvement, market value pertains only to the structure in question. It does not pertain to the land, landscaping or detached accessory structures on the property. Acceptable estimates of market value can be obtained from the following sources: 1) An independent appraisal by a professional appraiser; 2) Detailed estimates of the structure’s Actual Cash Value; 3) Property appraisals used for tax assessment purposes (Adjusted Assessed Value); 4) “Qualified estimates” based on the sound professional judgment made by staff of the local building department or local tax assessor’s office; or 5) Replacement cost minus depreciation. Items that should be included in the cost of repairs are all materials, all structural elements, all interior finishing elements, all utility and service equipment, demolition costs, labor (including donated or volunteer labor), overhead and profits. Items that should not be counted toward the cost of repairs include the cost of plans and surveys, permit fees, post-storm debris removal, landscaping, swimming pools, and detached structures.

A single large improvement or repair project is clearly a substantial improvement no matter how many separate permits are issued. However, the NFIP regulations do not require that smaller individual improvements made over a period of years and that add up to 50% be considered a substantial improvement. Theoretically, the property owner could beat the system by applying for a 40% improvement project one year and applying for another 40% project the following year. Communities can eliminate this loophole by strengthening their local floodplain ordinance or regulation above the minimum NFIP standards. Improvement and repair projects can be counted cumulatively so that buildings will be brought into compliance with flood protection standards sooner. Examples would be to have a cumulative substantial improvement requirement over a 5 or 10 year period, or over the life of the structure. Another way to bring more buildings into compliance with the standards for new construction is to use a lower number than 50% in the substantial improvement requirement. A building is more likely to be brought up to code sooner if the threshold is lower, such as 25%, 30% or 40%. In communities with many older buildings that are exposed to flood damage, this is an effective means of speeding up compliance.

Structures are substantially improved in one of four ways: 1) Rehabilitation (improvements that do not affect the external dimensions); 2) Addition (improvements that increase the square footage); 3) Reconstruction (entire structure is destroyed or purposefully razed and a new structure built on the old foundation); 4) Substantial Damage. Substantial damage is defined as “damage of any origin that is sustained by a structure where by the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred”. All structures that are substantially damaged are automatically considered to be substantial improvements, regardless of the actual repair work performed.

FEMA publishes a guide entitled “*Answers to Questions About Substantially Damaged Buildings*” (FEMA 213) that may be helpful to local officials in determining substantial damage or substantial improvement. Contact Diane Ifkovic or Carla Feroni, CTDEP, at (860) 424-3706 to obtain this publication and for any further questions. More information can also be found at the FEMA website, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).



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## *Childhood Lead Poisoning is Preventable!*

The CT River Area Health District offers the following information on lead poisoning prevention for children.

Until lead based paint was banned back in 1978, they were widely used in homes and buildings in Connecticut. The durability and weather resistant qualities of lead based paint made it a desirable product for most homeowners. In addition, much of Connecticut's housing stock was built pre-1978. These three factors are responsible for the continued presence of lead from paint in our environment, and the continued exposure to lead and its effects for generations of children. Much has been accomplished in Connecticut to prevent childhood lead poisoning, but we still have a lot of unfinished work to remove lead from our childrens' environment.

It is not surprising that children are exposed to lead in substandard housing where painted surfaces are allowed to deteriorate because of neglect. However, children in more affluent communities with older neighborhoods may be exposed to lead paint especially when renovation occurs without regard to safe lead practices.

The biggest concern with lead paint is the creation of lead dust when lead paint is subject to deterioration from scraping, sanding, friction and weathering. All of these processes contribute to the creation of lead dust. Why is lead dust the biggest concern? The reason is that it is breathable. A great contributor to lead dust are old windows that have deteriorating lead paint on them. The opening and closing of sashes creates friction which breaks down painted surfaces over time. This could result in a large amount of leaded chips and dust accumulating in window wells that gets easily blown into the interior of the house with wind.

Breathable lead dust is a major and most damaging way that children are exposed to lead. As with nearly any toxin, the most intensive and direct route of exposure to lead is through breathing it in, in the form of dust. There are three main reasons for this: First, children breath at a much more rapid rate than adults and are more susceptible to respiratory exposure. Second, small children are breathing at the same level that the dust gets created and accumulates, near windows and the surrounding floors. Third, inhalation exposure is the most direct form, entering the bloodstream much more proficiently and at higher concentrations than any other method of exposure. It is also worth mentioning that exposure by ingestion in children is much more pronounced than in adults because of the pronounced hand to mouth habits of young children. Whatever lead gets picked up on children's hands gets transferred to his or her mouth. This activity in children is referred to as pica.

How do we prevent or at least minimize lead dust exposure in children?

The first thing to know is that childhood lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Even though lead may persist in our environment, eliminating children's exposure to the lead is the key. Below are some simple, inexpensive, and effective ways to reduce your family exposure to lead.

1. The first thing to know is if lead is present. There are simple

lead test kits that may be purchased in home improvement or hardware stores that will let you know if lead is present on surfaces. You could test window wells and sills, floors, or any other surface where paint is deteriorated. These tests will not tell you how much lead and at what level the concentration is, but it will let you know that it is present and you could proceed with more caution. If you do not want to test for lead, and you live in a pre-1978 home, you may make an assumption that lead paint is present.

2. Clean surfaces using wet methods such as mopping and wet wiping with cleaning solution as opposed to vacuuming or sweeping. This type of cleaning removes the dust instead of moving it around. Unless your vacuum is equipped with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, fine lead dust will pass through a vacuum and get re-circulated into the room. Most household vacuums are not equipped with HEPA filters. Although becoming more difficult to find, phosphate based cleaners will help dissolve lead in solution to allow deeper cleaning, but many phosphate based cleaning compounds have been taken off the market. A powdered dishwashing soap such as Cascade for the dishwasher works well. Remove larger loose chips with the sticky side of tape prior to wet cleaning.

3. Consider replacing older painted windows with newer lead free windows. If this is something you could afford, it is the best way to eliminate a persistent source of lead in the home. If windows are in poor condition, avoid opening and closing them, as this creates and spreads more dust.

4. If you hire a contractor to perform renovation in your home built prior to 1978, insist that the contractor is trained and certified in lead safe techniques. Many homeowners overlook this important step. An untrained home improvement contractor who does not use lead safe methods, can leave behind a major lead contamination problem for you and your family to have to deal with. It would be wise to discuss this and get assurances that lead safe practices will be used before any renovation work starts.

5. Place furniture as barriers to home components where paint is deteriorated and chipping to keep children away from these areas.

6. Get children to wash their hands frequently enough to remove lead dust and residue from their hands. Remember, hands are an important vehicle for lead ingestion. Frequently wash toys that children play with.

7. Many pre-1978 homes may have old plumbing also. Lead was frequently used in connections and linings of water supply piping. To avoid lead exposure through your drinking water, run the tap, especially first thing in the morning, to flush out water that has been sitting in the pipes for hours before using the water for drinking or cooking. A good rule of thumb is to not drink the tap water until it becomes noticeably colder coming out of the faucet.

8. If a parent or household adult works where there might be lead, avoid tracking dust into the home by insisting that the

*continued on page 13*



*continued from page 12*

adult clean up before entering, and change clothing before coming into the home.

9. Avoid suspect cosmetics and home remedies. Many are not regulated and may contain lead in high concentrations.

10. Be on alert for lead recalls. The Consumer Product Safety Commission gives information on lead recalls. Log in at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or call 1-800-638-2772.

If lead is a concern on the inside of the home, it is likely a concern on the outside as well. If flaking or chipped paint is on the exterior of the home, homeowners can take the following precautions:

1. For at least several feet out from the foundation or exterior wall, prevent children from access to the soil by plantings, fencing, or other natural barriers.

2. Plant grass or other ground cover to eliminate bare soil areas.

3. Have children wash their hands upon coming inside after playing outdoors.

If you think your child has been exposed to lead, you should have your child tested by your child's doctor. Your child's doctor should include this blood test as part of a routine check up. Beginning on January, 2009 the law required that the test be performed on children starting at nine months of age. After that, if your child's lead level is not elevated, your child's doctor should do an 8 question risk assessment as part of each well child visit to determine the need for additional testing.

We are available at the health district for any questions you may have about lead in the home, children's blood lead levels or state regulations concerning lead. You may call us if you have concerns about this at 860-661-3300.

*Jim Monopoli, Director of Health  
CT River Area Health District*

*Serving the towns of Deep River, Clinton and Old Saybrook*

## ***Health District Looking for Well Water Test Participants***

Recently, the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) recommended that Connecticut homeowners test their wells for arsenic and uranium. Testing in various parts of the state resulted in high enough levels of these two naturally occurring contaminants to prompt testing state-wide.

The Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) in cooperation with the DPH is offering this testing free to private well owners. If you live in Old Saybrook, Clinton or Deep River and wish to have your well tested for arsenic and uranium, please contact CRAHD at 860-661-3300 or email [ccollier@crahd.net](mailto:ccollier@crahd.net)

The aim is to sample wells spread throughout the District to provide a good representation of arsenic and uranium levels

within the three towns. The test sites will be selected with that goal in mind.

The health district will take the sample, and transport it to the DPH State Lab where the sample will be analyzed. The results will be shared with the homeowner.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring metal that has toxic effects on the body, and has been identified as a cancer causing agent. Uranium is a naturally occurring metal that is radioactive and may affect kidney function with prolonged excess ingestion. Both metals are odorless and tasteless.

More information about arsenic and uranium in drinking water can be found at the Health District Website: [www.crahd.org](http://www.crahd.org).

## ***News From the Economic Development Office***

Whether you've already opened your business in Old Saybrook or are considering it, the Old Saybrook Economic Development Office is here to help you gather information, guide you through permitting processes and support your continued success.

Check out the Economic Development website for information: [http://www.oldsaybrookct.org/Pages/OldSaybrookCT\\_EconomicDev/index](http://www.oldsaybrookct.org/Pages/OldSaybrookCT_EconomicDev/index).

Suggestions are welcome!

Please contact me at (860) 395-3139 or [sbeckman@town.oldsaybrook.ct.us](mailto:sbeckman@town.oldsaybrook.ct.us).

### **Now Online!**

We now have an inventory of Old Saybrook commercial properties available online. We make every effort to keep the list up-to-date. If you have space available for lease or purchase and want it included, send the information to [sbeckman@town.oldsaybrook.ct.us](mailto:sbeckman@town.oldsaybrook.ct.us) and it will be added to the list.

If you are interested in any of the properties in the inventory, use the contact information or contact us in the Economic

Development office at (860) 395-3139 or [sbeckman@town.oldsaybrook.ct.us](mailto:sbeckman@town.oldsaybrook.ct.us).

### **Small Business Funding Opportunity**

The Middlesex County Revitalization Commission (MCRC), a Department of Economic and Community Development lending partner, announces a unique loan opportunity for small business owners. The MCRC is offering loans in amounts from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for a 10 year term, at a fixed 4% interest rate. Applications received before April 30 will be considered and loan decisions will be made by June.

To qualify, businesses must be located in Middlesex County and have been in business for one year or more at the time of the application. Loan proceeds may be used for the purchase of inventory, equipment, building improvements or for employment expansion or working capital.

For more information, contact MCRC Administrator Paul M. Hughes at (860)347-6924. For more information on MCRC, visit the website: <http://www.middlesexchamber.com/pages/MiddlesexCountyRevitalizationCommission/>.

## Social Services Help Days

### Help Address Growing Needs in Old Saybrook - April 24 and May 22

In April of 2012 we held our first Social Services Help Day in conjunction with Shoreline Soup Kitchens, the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), Community Health Center (CHC) and the Community Renewal Team (CRT) along with other social services regional and community providers at the Grace Episcopal Church, 336 Main Street in Old Saybrook. That day DSS took 30 applications with state workers who came down to help process residents needs for food (SNAP) and medical (HUSKY, MEDICARE, MEDICAID). On our most recent Social Service Help Day on February 27 we took 51 applications for SNAP and HUSKY and we had 107 families stand in line on a very cold day for food from the CT Food Bank Truck that now comes every month; a number that is also up approximately 30% from when it started coming a year ago.

Our next upcoming Social Service Help Days are on Thursday, April 24 and Thursday May 22, to be held at Grace Church, 336 Main St. in Old Saybrook and we have added SNAP outreach specialists from First Choice Health Centers and from End Hunger to help sign up families for food help and we are now Certified Assisters with Access Health to be able to provide HUSKY enrollment which DSS is no longer doing since January 1 of this year.

Some statistics that show our need right here in Old Saybrook are that 25% or 1 in every 4 children that you see everyday heading off to school in your neighborhoods is on state assistance through our HUSKY medical insurance program and 18.9% of

our school children are on the free or reduced lunch program for families that are food insecure, most of which are also on SNAP and using our local food pantry and soup kitchen. That number increases to 25.6% of our seniors in town that qualify for food assistance. Seniors also account for a large percentage of our Energy Assistance qualified applicants at 35.8%.

In response to the growing need here in Old Saybrook, which has nearly tripled in the past few years, Old Saybrook Social Services is sponsoring the Social Services Help Days with the idea that we can bring residents needed services on site here in our community. We have also partnered with CT Works and Acton Library to bring ongoing job support services to residents on most Mondays between 10am and 12noon at the library.

Local help is also available for things such as, eye care and glasses, back to school supplies and shoes and clothing for children in need, local food resources, help with utility shut offs, heat, eviction and more. Information and application for local programs here in Old Saybrook will also be available in the Church Hall for residents. We also have an ongoing dental care initiative and have support through our local nursing board to help residents with both medical and dental needs that they can not otherwise afford.

Appointments for applications to programs should be arranged in advance by contacting, Susan Consoli, MA, LPC, Social Services Coordinator, at 860-395-3188 or by email at [sconsoli@town.old-saybrook.ct.us](mailto:sconsoli@town.old-saybrook.ct.us) Walk-ins are welcome on Social Service Help Day for information and to receive food from the CT Food Bank truck.

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## *Chili-Fest 2014:* An Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce Tradition

Sunny skies and temperatures just above freezing made for the perfect Chili Fest, presented by Guilford Savings Bank, on Main Street Saturday March 1. The competition was fierce, yet friendly as twenty-nine chefs competed for the title of "Best Chili". An estimated crowd of three thousand people sampled chili prepared by local chefs, civic organizations, businesses and non-profits. This year's winner was a brand new entrant: Octagon Steakhouse at the Mystic Marriot. Second place went to a perennial favorite, The Monkey Farm, and third place to Angus McDonald and Gary Sharpe Associates,



*Volunteers manning the ballot station. Megan Little, Brianna Moyer, Nicole Bobbi, with Dana Moyer, back row.  
Photo by Bill Barber*

also a previous winner. According to Chef Antone Andrews of the Octagon Steakhouse, whose chili combines thirty-five ingredients including five varieties of meat, the key to their chili "is the combination of the sweet and smoky flavors, while not being overly spicy".

In addition to the title of "best chili" as well as coveted bragging rights, the top three winners earn a donation to their charity. The March of Dimes, Old Saybrook Ambulance, and Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries will each receive donations on behalf of the winning businesses.

This is the 18th year that the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce has hosted the Chili-Fest. Event proceeds benefit the Chamber's C. Wilfred Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund - last year scholarships were awarded to eight area high school seniors. Applications for the 2014 C. Wilfred Hunter Memorial Scholarship may be downloaded from the Chamber website, [www.old-saybrookchamber.com](http://www.old-saybrookchamber.com)

The Chili-Fest, like the annual Arts & Crafts Festival, is an Old Saybrook Chamber tradition, made possible by the help and dedication of numerous volunteers. Thank you to our chili pepper mascots, Aubrey Stangel and Meghan Rubano whose enthusiasm was contagious! Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 51 for your thorough trash detail throughout the afternoon, and to the Old Saybrook Department of Public Works for restoring order to Main Street. A big thank you to the twenty-five volunteers who keep this tradition running smoothly year after year. Finally, a heartfelt thanks to all chefs and hosts who donate their time and talent for this very fun and unique community event - see you in 2015!

*Submitted by Old Saybrook Chamber Staff*

## *Essex Savings Bank Rated Five-Stars Eighteen Consecutive Years*

Essex Savings Bank has once again earned the highest 5-Star rating for strength and stability from BauerFinancial, Inc. of Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's leading independent bank rating and research firm. BauerFinancial has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of U.S. banks since 1983. No institution can pay BauerFinancial to rate it, nor can an institution choose to be excluded. Essex Savings Bank has proven its commitment to superiority by earning this top rating for 71 consecutive quarters. Fewer than 10% of the nation's banks can claim this distinction. In order to do so, the Bank has excelled in areas of capital adequacy, delinquent loan levels and profitability to name just a few. Consistently earning BauerFinancial's highest rating assures customers and the community that Essex

Savings Bank is a strong financial institution that will be able to fulfill their banking needs for years to come.

Essex Savings Bank is a FDIC insured, state chartered, mutual savings bank established in 1851. The Bank serves the Connecticut River Valley and shoreline with six offices in Essex (2), Chester, Madison, Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. Financial, estate, insurance and retirement planning are offered throughout the state by the Bank's Trust Department and subsidiary, Essex Financial Services, Inc, Member FINRA, SIPC. Investments in stocks, bonds, mutual funds and annuities are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not a deposit, have no Bank guarantee and are not insured by any Federal Government Agency.



## *Nightingale Scholarship Press Release*

The Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board is offering a \$2,000.00 scholarship(s) to graduating seniors, residing in Old Saybrook, entering an approved college which prepares the student for professional practice in nursing. Other career pursuits that would be considered are: the therapies, (physical, occupational, respiratory, and speech), medicine, and social work. Because this is a nursing scholarship, the PHNB will consider first the applicants entering the nursing profession.

The criteria for the award are the goal of a career in the health services field, acceptance at an approved school,

academic achievement and motivation. Applications may be obtained from the Guidance Department at St. Bernard's, Mercy, Old Saybrook, Hopkins, and Xavier High Schools. Completed applications must be returned to the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board mailbox in Town Hall by April 18, 2014. The award is made possible from annual contributions to the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board Nightingale Fund Appeal.

*Janet Temple,  
PHNB Scholarship Committee*

**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
Public Health Nursing Board**

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-1741

2014 NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL

*“Save one life, you are a hero. Save 100 lives, you are a nurse.”*

Dear Friend,

Annually, the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board, Nightingale Fund provides scholarships for high school seniors who are planning a career in nursing and/or other medical fields. The scholarship recipients are Old Saybrook residents, who have been accepted into an accredited college program.

We are living in a time when our health care delivery system is challenged in unique and historic ways: Tens of millions of citizens are now eligible to receive health care as a result of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, while at the same time, the aging baby boomer population continues to place additional care requirements on a system already stretched to maximum capacity. While the need for nursing professionals has never been greater, the economic problems of the past few years have imposed severe hardships on young people who are seeking professional education and training, and the families who are helping to finance that education. By giving now, our community will benefit for years to come, as many of our past scholarship recipients hold key nursing positions in our state.

We again appeal to you, our friends, neighbors, and local businesses. We ask that you show your generosity by making a tax-deductible\* donation to the OSPHNB Nightingale Fund. Please return your contribution with the form below, in the pre-addressed envelope. Together we will make a real and meaningful difference in our health care delivery system by supporting our future nurses and caregivers.

We thank you for caring about our community.

Diane Aldi DePaola  
Chairman, Public Health Nursing Board

OSPHNB Members: Diane Aldi DePaola RN, Sharon Craft RN, Don Mill, Mary Kennedy APRN,  
Elizabeth Owen PsyD., Joseph Termine CPA, & Janet Temple LPN

\*Please keep this letter and your cancelled check as a receipt for your Income Taxes.

**Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board *Nightingale Fund*  
Town Hall, 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475**

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$1000 \_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_ \$300 \_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

## Old Saybrook Town Nurse

### Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut - Caring for our Community

The town of Old Saybrook wants to help residents stay healthy and offers free weekly wellness clinics at several locations in town, including the Acton Public Library, Saye Brooke Village and the Estuary Council of Seniors. Blood pressure screenings are held every week, where you can meet with a Registered Nurse (RN) and have your blood pressure checked for free.

High blood pressure is a common condition in which the force of the blood against your artery walls is high enough that it may eventually cause health problems, such as heart disease. Blood pressure is determined by the amount of blood your heart pumps and the amount of resistance to blood flow in your arteries. The more blood your heart pumps and the narrower your arteries, the higher your blood pressure. You can have high blood pressure (hypertension) for years without any symptoms. Uncontrolled high blood pressure increases your risk of serious health problems, including heart attack and stroke.

High blood pressure typically develops over many years, and it affects nearly everyone eventually. Fortunately, high blood pressure can be easily detected, and once you know you have high blood pressure, you can work with your doctor to control it.



Resident Pat Crozier with Tina Belmont, RN

The Old Saybrook Town Nurse also offers Nurse Managed Clinics, Cholesterol & Blood Sugar Clinics and a Caregiver Support Group. At the Nurse Managed Clinics, she gives patients the opportunity to meet privately to ask medical questions, have lab reports explained and to answer questions on medications; she can also assist with doctor appointments. At these clinics, you can receive information on healthy eating for diabetic's and low sodium, low cholesterol diets, as well as, home safety evaluations and adult health supervision screen-

ings. She can also meet with homebound patients in their homes by appointment.

**Blood Pressure Clinics** - Every Thursday, 2:00 - 3:00 - Acton Public Library; Every Monday, 11:30 -12:30 - Estuary Council of Seniors; Every Thursday, 12:30 - 1:30 - Estuary Council of Seniors

**Nurse Managed Clinics** - First Thursday of each month, 11:30 - 12:30 - Estuary Council of Seniors

**Caregiver Support Group** - First Wednesday of each month - 1:00 - 2:00 - Estuary Council for Senior

For additional clinic times and for more information call Tina Belmont 860-271-5683, [www.vnasc.org](http://www.vnasc.org) or 860-444-1111.

## Hope Is Power

### Exercise Group Bonds Cancer Survivors

Westbrook, CT - Laughter. Joy. A lightness of spirit. Comaraderie. These are terms that are not often connected to the word "cancer," but if you spend any time with the Hope is Power class at the Valley Shore YMCA in Westbrook, that's exactly what you'll experience.

Hope is Power is offered in collaboration and with the financial support of Middlesex Hospital. It is a free, 12-week program for adult cancer survivors designed to empower them to overcome the effects of fatigue and deconditioning from cancer and its treatment. The overall goal of the group is to improve participants' functional capacity and quality of life through an organized fitness program in a small group setting. The program was established in 2010 and now has an

advanced level class for those who want to continue in the program after taking the beginner class.

According to Pat O'Brien, survivorship coordinator at the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center, "There is an increasing amount of research pointing toward the benefits patients can receive from exercise, in terms of reducing cancer recurrence and improving survival rates."

The program is taught in a safe, fun, relaxed environment for all ages and fitness levels. Cancer experts from Middlesex Hospital also present to the group on a variety of topics, such as nutrition and personal care.

For more information about the next Hope is Power class, call the Valley-Shore YMCA at (860) 399-9622, ext. 121.

**WANT TO ADVERTISE?**

Call Betty Martelle at (860) 333-7117



## Bicentennial Commemoration of British Raid Begins in 2014

### War of 1812 Celebratory Events are Planned

This year marks the 200-year anniversary of one of the more significant, yet somewhat obscure, events that occurred in the history of Essex – the British attack on the town which took place during the War of 1812.

On April 8, exactly 200 years from the British invasion, a public commemoration, Light Up The Night, will take place on the lawn at the Connecticut River Museum, Essex at 7:30 pm. (For more regarding this event see “Bonfire to Evoke Events of Two Hundred Years Ago” below.)

A full roster of commemorative activities is planned for Saturday, May 10. Reenactments throughout the town, narrated excursions by boat tracing the events along the Connecticut River, historic walking tours, and geocaching, a gps-based scavenger hunt, are being organized. These events will surround the Commemoration Day Parade, also known as the Burning of the Fleet Parade, which is hosted and led by the Essex Sailing Masters of 1812, a fife and drum corps. This year will



*Segment of 23-ft mural installed on the first floor of the Connecticut River Museum. Mural created by noted painter and muralist, Russell Buckingham. In foreground, British Commanding Officer Cooite, brandishing his sword. Image courtesy of Connecticut River Museum*

mark the Parade’s 45th year! Additional commemorative activities will occur over select weekends throughout the summer and fall.

Essex is already recognized by the State Register of Historic Places as a War of 1812 Battle Site District. Designation as a Battle Site by the National Register of Historic Places is anticipated around the actual anniversary date of the conflict. Public recognition will take place as part of the May 10 commemorative event.

Jerry Roberts, battlefield historian for the National Parks Service grant project concerning this 1814 incursion, has brought it to life through storytelling and a dynamic written account which sheds light on this

significant chapter in American maritime history. The release of *The British Raid on Essex: The Forgotten Battle of the War of 1812* is scheduled in the spring, to coincide near the actual anniversary date of the skirmish.

For more information and continual updates of commemoration activities visit [BattleSiteEssex.org](http://BattleSiteEssex.org).

## Bonfires to Evoke Events of Two Hundred Years Ago

Light Up the Night is a public commemoration of the British raid on Connecticut River shipping during the War of 1812. The event invites citizens to “re-enact” events of the evening of April 8, 1814 when the British forces made their escape downriver from Essex harbor where they had burned 27 vessels earlier in the day. As darkness fell, local militia and citizens set bonfires on both sides of the River in an effort to locate the boats carrying the retreating sailors and marines.

Light Up the Night activities will begin at 7:30 on April 8, two-hundred years to the day after the actual event. Sponsored by the Connecticut River Museum and co-sponsored by the historical societies of Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, and Essex, the event is

one of a series of activities coordinated by the 1814 Bicentennial Committee. Currently bonfires are planned to take place at Gardiner’s Landing in Old Saybrook, at the dinghy dock in Old Lyme and on the water-side green at the Museum in Essex.

On-site storytellers will relate how the British Squadron blockading the Sound targeted River privateers and merchant shipping for destruction in a daring nighttime raid on an undefended and unprepared citizenry. These evocative events will inspire area residents to imagine the emotions of fear, frustration and desperation experienced by the people who lived here in 1814. For more information go to [www.ctrivermuseum.org](http://www.ctrivermuseum.org) or [www.battlesitesessex.org](http://www.battlesitesessex.org).

## Green Up Old Saybrook

2nd Annual Green Up Day! Building off the success of our inaugural event in 2013, Green Up Day is pleased to announce that on Saturday April 26 beginning at 8:00 am, community members will head-out to all parts of town to clean up the roadside litter they find. You can simply walk your neighborhood, head to a desired location or meet up with others to help “green up” our town. Residents can pick up free garbage bags at designated locations and then return their full bags to dumpsters found at one of these same locations. The designated drop off locations include: the Town Hall Parking Lot, Town Park on Schoolhouse Rd., and Town Beach Parking Lot. There will be a “Green Up-Meet Up” send off celebration on Saturday at 8:00 am from the town green and anyone interested in gathering

with fellow volunteers is encouraged to come meet, join with neighbors and disperse from there. Please join us as we take on this critical step in preventing roadside litter from becoming, not only a blight on our town, but a threat to our waterways and the sound. By simply walking your neighborhood, you could have a significant impact on the litter on our streets, which may eventually find its way to our beaches, rivers, and estuaries. If you are interested in volunteering or just simply want more information about how and where you can help green up, please check us out on Facebook at Old Saybrook Green Up Day, our website, [www.osgreenup.weebly.com](http://www.osgreenup.weebly.com), or email me at [bcasertano@comcast.net](mailto:bcasertano@comcast.net).

*Bill Casertano, Old Saybrook Resident*





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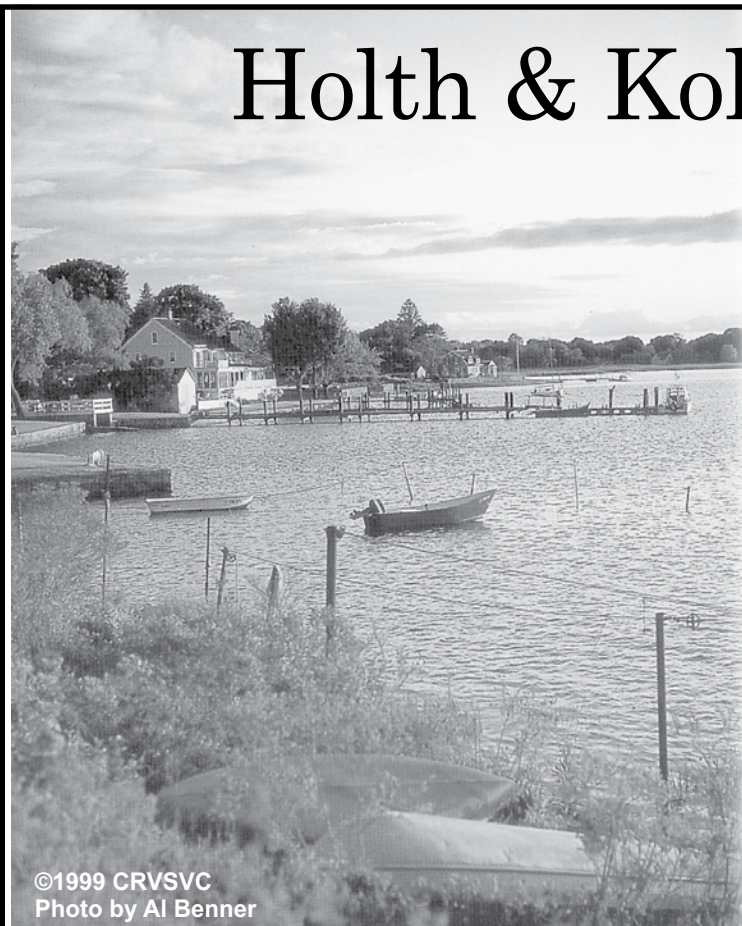
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## SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Carl P Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman	395-3123	cfortuna@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Georgiann Neri, Administrative Secretary		gneri@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Elaine Seaforth, Administrative Clerk		eseaforth@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Lisa Carver, Finance Director	395-3127	lcarver@town.old-saybrook.ct.us

## ACCOUNTING

Sharon Migliaccio, Accounting Supervisor	395-3132	smigliaccio@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
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## ASSESSOR

Norman Wood, Assessor	395-3137	nwood@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Rick Pine, Assistant to Assessor		rpine@town.old-saybrook.ct.us

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Don Lucas, Building Official	395-3130	dluca@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Kathleen Marshall, Administrative Secretary		

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Susan Beckman, Executive Director	395-3139	sbeckman@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
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## FIRE MARSHAL

Donn Dobson, Fire Marshal	395-3133	ddobson@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
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## LAND USE

Christine Nelson, Town Planner	395-3131	cnelson@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Christina Costa, Enforcement Officer		ccosta@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Sarah Lyons, Administrative Assistant		slyons@town.old-saybrook.ct.us

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Vicki Duffy, Director	395-3152	vduffy@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Ray Allen, Assistant Director		rallen@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Judy Sherman, Office Manager		jsherman@town.old-saybrook.ct.us

## PUBLIC WORKS

Larry Bonin, Director	395-3123	lbonin@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
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## REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Carol Conklin	395-3134	vr.oldsaybrook@po.state.ct.us
Joan Broadhurst		vr.oldsaybrook@po.state.ct.us

## TAX COLLECTOR

Barry E. Maynard	395-3138	bmaynard@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Wendy Morison		wmorison@town.old-saybrook.ct.us

## TOWN CLERK

Sarah Becker, Town Clerk	395-3135	sbecker@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Christina Antolino, Assistant Town Clerk		cantolino@town.old-saybrook.ct.us

## TREASURER

Robert Fish	395-3070	rfish@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
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## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Stephen Mongillo, Program Administrator	510-5001	smongillo@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Robbie Marshall, Coordinator	395-2876	admin@oswpc.org

## OTHER TOWN DEPARTMENTS

### Acton Public Library - 60 Old Boston Post Road

Michele Van Epps, Director	395-3184	mvanep@actonlibrary.org
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### Police Department - 6 Custom Drive

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

### Probate Court - 302 Main Street

Terrance Lomme, Judge of Probate	510-5028	
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### Social Services - 322 Main Street

Susan Consoli, Social Services Coordinator	395-3188	sconsoli@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
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### Transfer Station

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

Heather McNeil, Executive Director	395-3190	hmcneil@town.old-saybrook.ct.us
Linda McCall, Administrative Assistant		lmccall@town.old-saybrook.ct.us

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## THE OLD SAYBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

### Broadway Comes To OSHS

The Old Saybrook High School's production of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* (school edition) was performed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 13, 14 and 15. A heroic tale of Jean Valjean's transformation set in 1800 France, this musical adaptation of Victor Hugo's timeless novel has been thrilling and inspiring its audiences - from London to Broadway, from Asia to Australia - for over twenty-five years. *Les Mis* has won over 70 major theatre awards including an Olivier, Tony, and Grammy.

The cast of over sixty students presented this opera-like musical story with junior, Joey Genga starring as Jean Valjean and junior, Dylan Lyons as Javert. Senior, Dan Rehberg stars as the infamous Thenardier, with Izzy Tisdale as his wife. Senior, Nina Dicker stars as Fantine, senior, Kristy Ledwith as Cosette, and junior, Kara Newell as Eponine. Stage Manager senior, Madison Fogg lead the technical crew. Known for excellent musicianship, technical mastery, and strong student leadership, Old Saybrook High did not disappoint their audience.

Thank you for the community and school support who provide the resources our students need to produce such a memorable show.

*Jean Proctor*



*Les Mis Photo by Andrew Thorpe*

### High School Students Participate in American Mathematics Competition

38 students from OSHS participated in the 65th annual American Mathematics.

Competition contest was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at Old Saybrook High School. The AMC Contests are sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. Over 220,000 students took one of these exams and found

it fun and exciting. Top 10, well known U.S. universities and colleges ask for AMC scores on their application forms. The AMC contest provides challenging mathematics that is new, different, and "outside the box".

The top scorers on the AMC10 (for grades 10 and below) were Joshua Chang, Grade 9 (82.5 points), Jeffrey Dicker, Grade 10 (78.0), and Kiwon-Paul Dionne Jee, Grade 9 (66.0). Josh is a Bronze Medal winner, as he was the top scorer for the AMC10 last year as well, as an 8th grader! Congratulations Josh, Jeff, and Kiwon.

The top scorers on the AMC12 (for grades 11 and 12) were Heather Kuang, Grade 11 (90.0 points), Keanna Chang, Grade 12 (87.0), and Jamie DeAntonis, Grade 12 (82.5).

Congratulations to our upperclassmen!

Mathematics continues to be increasingly important in our technological and scientific age. Taking enough mathematics in high school is the gateway to jobs and careers of all kinds even those that are not explicitly mathematical, scientific, or technological.

We hope that by offering these contests, we can challenge and inspire students to learn more mathematics.

*Barbara Dimberg*

### Winter Hike At The 1,000 Acre Preserve

On February 23, 11 brave souls from the OSHS Ecology Club (Keanna Chang, Amy Robinson, Adam Burkhardt, Chelsea Wieland, Sophia D'Ambrosi, Ashley Bright, Ashley Gibbs, Alana Comey, Cameron King, Sara Wengefeld, Julia DePalermo) headed into the 1,000 acre preserve for a hike through the snow. Chris Cryder of Save the Sound, graciously and enthusiastically hosted the hike. He knows the woods intimately and therefore the group had the benefit of hitting a couple of very cool and fun spots.



*Ecology Club Students Enjoy a Winter Hike*

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When members of the club met at the trailhead Chris shared with them how the Pequot Indians bequeathed the land to the Inghams. The first stop of the hike was Pequot swamp. It is the largest swamp in Old Saybrook and fed by ground water only-no streams flowing in, just a stream flowing out. The group then headed around the pond and Chris pointed out the steepest "cliff" in Old Saybrook. There are caves in the face and a coyote's den there as well. From that point the hike started up hill and the next stop was a dam. Afterwards the group walked through the woods and spent the remainder of the morning at the Preserve.

Mr. Cryder promised to take the group out again in the spring. Hopefully once the ice thaws, students will have the opportunity to see many interesting specimens in one of the 38 vernal pools in the preserve. The pools are some of the most studied and productive pools in the state.

*Karen Carlone*

**Poetry Reading at the Florence Griswold Museum**

On Sunday, January 19 students from Old Saybrook High School read their poetry at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme as part of a program featuring poets from the Connecticut River Poets and the Guilford Poets Guild. "Paintings and Poetry: A Tour in Verse" features original works written in response to the current exhibit by the abstract artist Harry Holtzman. A reception followed the reading.

The student poets were Kaila Mahon, Heidi Thomas, Cassie Martin, Cesca Vinciguerra, Tetiana Winiarskyj, Adina Ripin, and Mackenzie Marien. Creative Writing teacher Susan Murphy and Old Saybrook poets Pat O'Brien and Nan Meneely worked with the students.

*Susan Murphy*

**OSHS Students Give Back to the Community**

This year, Old Saybrook High School has thirteen students participating in the WISE senior project program. WISE, a wise individualized senior experience, is an extended senior project that students can choose as a senior project option. The WISE requirements include documentation of 80-160 hours in a comprehensive journal, biweekly meetings with a mentor of the senior's own choice from the certified faculty, and a formal presentation to their English classes. Students can earn credit towards graduation based upon time spent on the project.

This year's projects include an acapela men's chorus, a personal fitness program, an architectural drawing, EMT training, illustrating a children's sign language book, a fundraiser for Haiti, a clean-up Old Saybrook event, a clarinet group, and writing a classical piece of music. Students traditionally begin working on their projects in January and complete them in the spring.

The Old Saybrook submarine team is readying their new squad for the races in June of 2015 at the Carderock Naval facility in Bethesda, MD. Under the direction of teachers

Fred Frese and Gretchen Bushnell, students will be scuba certified, design a new propeller and rebuild their submarine. The team participated in the races this past June and placed 8th overall in a field of 28 international teams.

*Gretchen Bushnell*

**Old Saybrook Public Schools Prepare For Student Success Plans**

The Connecticut State Department of Education in conjunction with the Secondary School Reform has required that all schools grades 6-12 implement Student Success Plans for all students. Old Saybrook Public Schools has been invested in the creation and implementation of Student Success Plans since 2011 when SSP's were identified as a major component of the Old Saybrook Public Schools Strategic Plan. The SSP is also the one district initiative that addresses and incorporates all other district initiatives in its implementation: Program Effectiveness, Internal/ External Communication, Data and Differentiated Instruction, Social and Emotional Needs, Character Education, and Critical Thinking.

Student Success Plans are individualized student driven plans that are created to address, develop, and document students' strengths, talents and interests. The goal of the SSP is to create an environment where students feel connected to the curricula in meaningful ways that are relevant to their educational, post secondary and career goals. By aligning rigorous course work and experiential learning opportunities with career exploration and a broadened awareness of oneself, the SSP allows students ownership in their pursuit of an educational plan that meets their needs. The SSP also allows for differentiation of instruction to address individual learning styles and educational needs of our students.

The Student Success Plans are comprised of three core components: academic development; career development; and social, emotional, personal, and physical development. The exposure and participation in goal setting within these components supports the acquisition and enhancement of students' 21st Century and Professional skills to foster success in an ever-changing global society.

Tara Winch, Associate Principal of Old Saybrook High School, and Carina Using, School to Career Coordinator, respectively presented The Student Success Planning Model to the Board of Education Tuesday night, February 5, that addressed the following topics:

- \*Core Components of Effective Students Success Plans
- \*Benefits of the Student Success Plan
- \*Keys to Student Engagement
- \*Scope and Sequence Matrix (Pre K-Grade 3, Grades 4-8, and Grades 9-12)
- \*Naviance© -the student data system that warehouses the SSP artifacts
- \*Timeline and Implementation

Students have been participating in SSP activities through

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Advisory, grade level assemblies, and classroom activities and presentations. Many of the SSP components and indicators are already embedded within the philosophy and methodology of our educational structures. The main objective of the committee this year has been to identify when, where, and how the SSP is to be accomplished and how to formally document and house the SSP in a way that is helpful to each student in their pursuit of individual success.

To view the Student Success Planning Model, please go to [www.oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us](http://www.oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us)

*Tara Winch*

**Neas Hits 1000 Point Milestone**

Senior Mia Neas has been named to the All Shoreline Conference 1st Team for girls Basketball. Mia also reached the 1000 Point milestone in her career recently becoming only the 10th OSHS student-athlete in OS history to reach that point plateau and the 6th girl. Mia is the daughter of Mike and Carol Neas. She has led the Lady Rams to a 12-8 season record and berths in the Shoreline and Class M State Tournaments. Mia has scored 463 points in her senior season to date and leads the Shoreline and Class M in scoring and steals. She was also selected to play in the Connecticut Senior All Star Game on March 24 in North Branford. "Mia is a joy to coach and the epitome of the total team player and the embodiment of being an outstanding student-athlete. She is adored by all her teammates and her opponents as well" according to Coach Steve Woods.

Senior, Paige Trabucchi was named to the Honorable Mention All Shoreline Basketball team for her fine season for the Lady Rams! Paige has battled back from setbacks over the past two years to have this excellent senior season. Senior, Elizabeth Marshall is currently leading the state of Connecticut in 3 Point shots made with 48 to date and is the 2-time Shoreline Champion in that category over the past two seasons. Elizabeth has an amazing 115 in her career to date and holds the school record for season, career, and 3 pointers in a game at OSHS.

*Steve Woods*

**National Honor Society Update**

Commitment to community service is a hallmark of the Old Saybrook High School National Honor Society. During the 2013 holiday season, students volunteered at Breakfast with Santa, entertained nursing home residents with holiday carols, made and sent holiday cards for veterans at the CT Veterans' Home, and assisted Youth and Family with gift donations and shopping. A recent fundraiser collected funds to help the police buy teddy bears for children in crisis. Following up a very successful fall food drive, which collected 1150 pounds of food for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens, the honor society's upcoming project is a spring food drive to again benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens. On Saturday, March 22, National Honor Society

members will collect food donations throughout Old Saybrook. We encourage your donations to this worthy cause!

*Mary Jane Peterson*

**Senior Project Fundraiser Exceeds Expectations**

On Saturday, March 1st, the Old Saybrook High School participated in the annual Connecticut Sports Foundation fundraiser at Shoreline Fitness. Under the direction of seniors, Lauren Rhodes and Jack Rothman, teachers and students rode stationary bikes to raise money to help local cancer patients. The event raised over \$53,000. "Teachers Rock" team captain, Gretchen Bushnell, reported that her team included Brian Donohue, Tim Woods, Kristen Hunter, Bob Labriola, Nancy Wengefeld, Sarah Fawcett, Christine Bairos, and Margie Rice. The high school seniors also fielded a large team. Each team was challenged to raise \$1000. This was Rhodes' and Rothman's senior project.

*Gretchen Bushnell*

**Local Dignitaries Participate in Goodwin School's Celebration of Reading Week**

Each February the Goodwin Community embarks on a school-wide celebration of reading. Committee Co-Chairs, Nicole Pauloski and Leigh Morant, planned a variety of activities to encourage reading and to bring the community together. One of the goals is to have every child in the school read with a caring adult. Throughout the week readers from the community at large read their favorite books to the students during their library time. Noted celebrities also shared their gifts with individual grade levels. They included Channel 3 meteorologist, Mark Dixon, songwriter Laura Clapp Davidson, and children's author Mark O'Brien. On Friday morning Len Cabral, a nationally recognized storyteller, brought the week to a close with an interactive program of songs and stories.

*Sheila Brown*



*Celebration of Reading*

**Annual Goodwin Fun Fair Has Another Successful Year**

On February 1 families and volunteer students from the middle and high school worked together to create one of the most successful Goodwin Fun Fairs ever!! For over

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four hours, hundreds of children tried their luck and tested their skills at multiple games, stopping only to have a hot dog, a piece of pizza or a baked treat. Everyone was a winner and chose just the right reward from the prize tables. Area businesses that contributed to the success of the day are: Paesan's Pizza, Fiore's Pizza, Pizza Palace, Paperback Café, Taylor Rental, Adam Stillman and Engineered Specialties Corp.

*Shelia Brown*



*Fun Fair*

**Kindergarten Orientation for Parents**

Kindergarten orientation will be held on Thursday, April 24, from 6:45 - 8:00 pm at the Kathleen E. Goodwin School. Please call Goodwin School should you need further information (860-395-3165); [www.oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us](http://www.oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us); Principal's wiki; [www.oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us/groups/skb/](http://www.oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us/groups/skb/).

**Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Each year the second grade at Goodwin School celebrates the life of Martin Luther King in an all school assembly. Each class prepared a special tribute in song and story.

**School Leaders Host Community Conversation**

The Old Saybrook Public Schools hosted its first Community Conversation on February 27 at the Middle School on Sheffield Street. The event, attended by more than 60 citizens, was a vehicle for two-way communication with the community-at-large about educational issues. The topics discussed included: Common Core State Standards, The Smarter Balanced Assessment Test, school security, and the field, track and tennis court projects at The High School. The district's administrators, director of operations, facilities and finance and The Superintendent teamed with local officials and committee chairs in facilitating discussion about the topics. Attendees asked questions, offered suggestions and provided feedback.

Because the evening was so successful, plans for more of these events and other informational sessions are being discussed. Feedback is always welcome.

*Jan Perruccio*

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***The New Middlesex Hospital Shoreline Medical Center to Host Open House***

The public is invited to a free community open house to mark the opening of the new Middlesex Hospital Shoreline Medical Center on Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 250 Flat Rock Place, Westbrook. The event will feature tours of the new Medical Center; and a health fair that will offer blood pressure screenings, child fingerprint I.D.s, emergency services vehicles; in addition to information about water safety,

medication management, diabetes, asthma and weight management for children and families, and the Lifeline service. A roving magician will entertain and create balloon sculptures. There will also be several food truck vendors offering a variety of cuisines for purchase, including Taco Pacifico (Mexican), Hog Wild (barbecue), High Tide (seafood), The Whey Station (gourmet grilled cheese) and the NoRa Cupcake Company.

***DUB4U***

DUB4U is a non-profit charitable organization. This is a free program formed to support those in need of obtaining incontinence wear. [www.dub4u.org](http://www.dub4u.org) 860.383.2290

## Estuary Council Regional Senior Center

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. has been Serving Seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 40 years! Call us to receive our Gazette Newsletter or go to [www.ecsenior.org](http://www.ecsenior.org) for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more!

**Meals on Wheels** - hot meals for homebound seniors, delivered to your home. Call Peg at 860-388-1611. A donation of \$3.00 is requested for those aged 60+. Meals are 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 by calling 860-388-1611 by 11:00 am, 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 at 860-388-1611. Suggested donation of \$35 for a roundtrip Doctor appointment up to 5 hours. Suggested donation of \$70 for appointments over 5 hours.

**Classes and Activities** - Board Games, Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot, and more! Check the Gazette for all of our programs.

**Estuary Thrift Shop** - Open 10:00 am - 3:45 pm, Monday - Friday; and from 9:00 am - 12:45 pm on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available! Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed!

**The Gym at the Estuary** - Hours expanding-stop in for more

information. There are seven different pieces of weight equipment and four cardio machines, including a NuStep. Member packages include a fitness assessment and three (3) training sessions on all machines (required).

**Gym Membership Options** - Three months -\$50, Six months-\$90, Full year-\$150

To schedule an appointment with our Fitness Trainer, Skylar Miers, ATC, call 860-388-1611


The gym is available for use only after payment of membership fees and completion of the required fitness assessment and training sessions. Gym Hours are posted at the Estuary.

**The Marshview Gallery at the Estuary** - Open daily 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. The art on exhibit changes monthly and highlights the talents of local artists from along the shoreline. Join us on the second Friday of each month for the Artist Reception from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Refreshments are served, and a door prize is drawn. All ages are welcome. Call 860-388-1611 for information.

**Donate Your Car or Boat to the Estuary Council!** Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling: 1-800-716-5868. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide for seniors in the nine-town Estuary Region.


**Volunteer Opportunities** - Call Judy at 860-388-1611.

**Save the Date** - The M. Monica Eggert Senior Center turns 40 this year. Save the date and join us at The Kate to celebrate on September 20.



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## 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](http://www.oldsaybrookct.org)

### **Congratulations!!**

We congratulate the following on their recent marriage:

Jimmy Audet and Juliana Wilcox - November 16  
John Hutchison and Janice Boucher - November 22  
Thomas Holohan and Diane Ray - February 14

### **With Sympathy**

Gretchen Baron  
Barbara Bessoni  
John Bosnak, Jr.  
Stephen Campbell  
John Carcio  
Maureen Cook  
David Dunn  
Wanda Ellis  
Giuseppa Frese  
Phillip Gildersleeve, Jr.  
John Guadagno  
Roberta Griffith

John Hickey, Jr.  
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Doris Kelsey  
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## *Probate Court Update*

The last 36 months have been very busy for the Probate Court. As most of you know, in 2011, the individual town courts were merged into a regional court, serving nine towns. This merger was part of a statewide effort that reduced the number of Probate Courts from 117 to 54. The Saybrook District Court serves the towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. The total population of these towns is over 62,000 citizens. As you can imagine, merging nine courts into one was not a simple matter, but with the help and cooperation of the former Judges and the significant effort of the clerks, we were successful in completing the task. The Court is now a full time court and is open week days from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. It is located on the second floor of the Old Saybrook Town Hall, at 302 Main Street.

The statewide consolidations have been a financial success in that it has saved the taxpayers \$8.5 million dollars, over the past two fiscal years and those savings will continue. Despite the increase in files, the Saybrook Court has been able to keep its budget the same over the last three and a half years.

Most people understand that we handle all aspects of decedent's estates, however the Court also handles a variety of other matters including determining the necessity to appoint conservators, reviewing the conservator's accountings and restoring conserved persons. We also appoint guardians both for minors, if they are going to inherit, and for adults with intellectual disabilities. We oversee testamentary trusts and trust accountings, we determine custody matters including termination of parental rights and visitation. We also handle name changes and adoptions. We do not process passports, as they are handled at the Old Saybrook Post Office which is just up the street from the Court.

We open and process approximately one thousand new matters, of all types, per year. Some of these matters require hearings and some do not. As a result I hold, on average, 15 to 20 hearings per week.

Last year the legislature adopted extensive new rules for probate court proceedings which went into effect on July 1, 2013. The purpose of these new rules is to simplify the probate process and to make it more consistent with other court procedures. Additionally, new forms, consistent with these rules, are available online at [www.ctprobate.gov](http://www.ctprobate.gov). Most of these new forms are fillable for the convenience of the public. The Court has been busy learning and implementing these new rules and forms. I will write an article about these changes shortly.

In addition to the normal duties of a Probate Judge, I was fortunate to be the only new judge elected to the Executive Committee of the Probate Court Assembly. The Executive Committee meets monthly to discuss the rules and policies of the Connecticut Probate Courts. I also joined the National College of Probate Judges, so that I can stay current with the national probate trends and procedures. In addition to attending state seminars regularly, I also attend national seminars annually.

Thanks to the efforts of the chief clerk Valerie Shickel, and the other clerks and assistant clerks, Sharon Tiezzi, Marjorie Calltharp, Stella Beaudoin, Helene Yates, Peggy Schroeder, Jackie Craco and Heather Graves, I am pleased to say the Court continues to operate smoothly and efficiently.

*Terrance D. Lomme, Judge, Saybrook Probate Court*

## *Buyer Beware*

It's one of the oldest adages and certainly one of the truest "Caveat Emptor" - Buyer Beware. We have all seen the commercials on TV about winning a lottery that you never entered. We have all heard tales from our families, our friends, and our neighbors about how they "got taken" by a shady character. We have all been disappointed by the quality of work we paid to have done. How does this continue to happen?

In this article, we will take a quick look at home improvement contractors and licensed tradesmen. First off, homeowners need to be aware that, under the State Building Code, the homeowner is ultimately responsible to assure that a building permit has been issued for work that requires a permit.

Usually, once a homeowner hires a contractor, he assumes that the contractor will apply for and work under the permit. As a licensed contractor, he is obligated under his Home Improvement Contractor or trade license to make sure that a permit has been issued for the work he is about to perform. To do work without a permit is a violation not only of the consumer protection statutes but it is also a violation of the State Building Code

Second, you, as a homeowner, have rights under the consumer protection statutes that you should be careful to protect and not surrender. You should insist upon a written contract which clearly states the scope of the work, the estimated cost, and an estimated time frame. You can get details on your rights from the State Department of Consumer Protection ([www.ct.gov/dcp](http://www.ct.gov/dcp) or 860-713-6100).

While you are on that phone or website, you can check upon the credentials of any contractor you may be considering for the work. Insist upon license numbers, company names, and individual names from any person you are discussing the work with. With this information, you can verify if their license is current and if there are any outstanding disciplinary actions against them.

For your protection and peace of mind, you should always get at least three estimates for the proposed work. When you do, make sure you are comparing apples to apples. One contractor may see something that needs attention and makes sense to include in the work at this time - make sure his competition is providing you with the same scope of work.

Any contractor that you are considering should be anxious

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to supply you with a list of at least three references. If he is a really good contractor, his customers will readily give you an honest appraisal of their dealings with him. Owners who have had good work done are proud of it and usually will share their positive experiences with you. Beware if the references give guarded recommendations. Don't be shy about calling.

One more thing, make sure that whoever you hire has the appropriate insurance to cover not only injuries that he may

incur but also insurance for any damages he may inflict upon your property. You could be responsible for injuries that happen on your property. Make sure you have the right protection.

So, in summary, 1) use only licensed contractors; 2) know your rights as a consumer, 3) get three estimates for the same scope of work (be fair), 4) check references, and 5) make sure your contractor has insurance coverages.

*Don Lucas, Building Official*

## WPCA Update

The first quarter of the New Year has brought some challenging weather for everyone, especially the WPCA. The snow and ice has made it difficult for the 2 installers working in Oyster River East to adhere to their contract schedules. The same is true for the WPCA Field Crew. Remarkably, the construction has managed to continue, and the soil testing for Fenwood, being conducted by our inspectors and excavator operators and the CT River Area Health District, will actually be completed in the middle of Winter!

This means that the 2 Fenwood contracts will go out to bid in the Spring and construction will be on target for the Fall completion date.

In the meantime, the WPCA will begin site investigations for Phase II. Phase II includes: Ingham Hill, Meadowood, Great Hammock Beach, Indiantown, and Maple Avenue North. Maple Avenue North was moved up in the timetable to keep the conventional system installation going forward, as some of the other areas in Phase II will present challenges that may require a different approach. So, the WPCA will continue to install the gravity-fed conventional systems, while investigating sites and evaluating solutions to wastewater treatment and groundwater renovation in areas with high groundwater and tight lots.

As sitework goes on outside, inside the office some financial matters have culminated. The first benefit assessments were levied, in February, for properties in Saybrook Acres, Cornfield Park, Saybrook Point, Thompson, Oyster River East, and those completed on an emergency basis. The first bills will be sent out in May and the Town will begin to collect the funds that

were advanced for the residents to pay for their systems. When a construction invoice is presented by an installer the WPCA pays it. Then the homeowner is obligated to pay the amount - less 25% grant from the Clean Water Fund and 25% matching grant from the Town. Thus the homeowner is responsible for 50% of the construction costs which they can finance over 20 years at 2%. At this time, the construction management costs have not been levied. The WPCA is working with the Selectman's Office to develop an equitable approach to allocating these costs.

Along with the 20-year financing, the WPCA also offers a Benefit Assessment Relief option for eligible elderly and disabled homeowners. The 2014 updated guidelines are in this issue. Residents who feel they may be eligible for this program should contact WPCA Financial Manager, Gratia Lewis, in the WPCA office for an application.

We have had reports of septic odors that were not due to system failure. This may be related to the operation of the house vent stack, on which we have included a paragraph. However, a call to our office, the Health District, or a plumber to determine the cause is a good idea. Finally, an important topic in this issue is the impacts of vehicle idling on air and water quality.

For further information, please feel free to stop into our office, call 860-395-2876, or attend our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in Town Hall. You can also visit [www.oswpca.org](http://www.oswpca.org) or our pages on the Town website.

## House Vent Stacks

Septic-type odors outside, close to the house may indicate a problem with the roof vent stack. It may be plugged, which involves a trip to the roof to inspect. If the cover is gone, squirrels or birds may nest.

One-story or houses in low, hilly and/or wooded areas may have problems with air currents. The air currents should pick up the sewer gas coming out and dissipate in the air well above the house. But, in low, hilly or wooded areas, the air currents may actually push the odors down to the ground. A good solution is to raise the vent stack, making it taller. Add additional metal pipe or flashing to do this; make sure the screen cover is also raised.

In the winter, frozen vent stacks can cause problems.

Condensation freezes in the pipe, plugging it. A plumber may be needed to thaw the pipes. One suggestion, to help prevent freezing, is to paint the pipe black to absorb heat from the winter sun.

Occasionally, these remedies do not solve the problem. Then, add a charcoal or carbon filter to the stack. Note: these filters can freeze when damp, causing more difficulties. In our cold climate, consider the filters to be seasonal - they generally only last about 1 year.

Odors caused by wastewater outbreak on the grounds surface or back up into the house require a call to the CT River Area Health District. They will determine if the septic system is failing and advise further.

## Wastewater Management District

### Benefit Assessment Relief for Certain Elderly and Disabled Homeowners

#### Eligibility for Benefits

- Owner of residential dwelling used as homeowner's primary residence
- Attained age sixty-five or over at the close of the preceding calendar year
- Fifty years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a homeowner who at the time of his/her death had qualified and was entitled to benefit relief
- Either owner and/or spouse shall have resided within this state for at least one year before filing claim for benefit relief
- Has not attained age sixty-five and is eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security

#### Income Eligibility for Benefits for 2014

- Not in excess of \$34,600 for Unmarried Homeowners
- Not in excess of \$42,700 for Married, Filing Jointly, Homeowners

#### Application Requirements

- Previous Year Income Tax Return
- Past Two Months Bank Statements
- Verification of Any Other Income Sources (Includes, but not limited to)

Child Support

Alimony Received

Taxable Pensions, IRAs, Dividends

Taxable and Non-Taxable Interest

Social Security or Railroad Retirement Income

\*Residents who feel they may be eligible for this program should contact WPCA Financial Manager, Gratia Lewis, in the WPCA office at 860-395-2876 for an application.

## Vernal Pool Project

### Spring is on it's way! Will you be Listening?

You may not believe this now, with snow still on the ground and temperatures hovering below freezing, but spring is on its way. In another few weeks, when you step outside your door you are sure to hear the harbingers of spring - the spring 'peepers'. Every spring, these wondrous creatures awaken and fill our ears with nature's symphony. The spring 'peepers' are a group of amphibians which includes our common American Toad and the Eastern Gray Tree Frog - who are the most harmonious of the group. Having these fellows around means you have a vernal pool in the neighborhood - and that is a good thing. It indicates a thriving bio-diverse ecology in the area.

Very shortly, members of the Old Saybrook Conservation Commission, along with local students and volunteers, will be putting on our waders and brandishing dip nets and clipboards, and going out into the field to identify and examine Vernal Pools. We will start this process with our local municipal owned properties and then branch out to our residential neighborhoods. When we are ready to visit your area, you

will receive a letter or call, requesting permission to identify and examine any potential Vernal Pools on your property. All of our staff will have identification with them when access is given to your property at a date and time that is convenient to you. All of the data that is gathered will be collated and notations as to exact locations of the Vernal Pools will be registered with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. It is our expressed hope that the information gathered will help us determine the extent and health of our Vernal Pools and guide us with any processes that would be needed to ensure their continued existence and enjoyment for our community. After all, what would be spring without our 'peepers'? If you know of a potential Vernal Pool in your area - please email us at the email address listed below.

#### Volunteers Wanted!

Anyone wishing to help on this project and enjoy the great outdoors and get some fresh air, please contact us at: [sprisloe@town.old-saybrook.ct.us](mailto:sprisloe@town.old-saybrook.ct.us).

## Preserve the Vernal Pools

The decades-long debate of preserve vs develop the 1,000 acre Preserve has included discussion of Vernal Pools, their importance to individual species, and the ecosystem as a whole.

Each spring, after a heavy rainfall, spotted salamanders cross roads at night in large numbers to enter the pools in which they hatched.

For many years the Boy Scouts of Troop 51 went out in their raincoats, carrying flashlights, to help hundreds of spotted salamanders cross safely to start the next generation. Many creatures are not so lucky, and are killed by passing cars.

The Preserve contains 38 Vernal Pools which support a variety of life; one was determined to contain the most egg masses



Child holding a wood frog found in the Preserve.  
Photo by Bob Lorenz

per unit of area in the entire state.

The nature of Vernal Pools cannot support fish, a primary predator of creatures that spawn in Vernal Pools such as wood frogs, salamanders and turtles.

Join the Old Saybrook Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land April 12 for a hike in the Preserve and see firsthand the abundance of life found in these vital, yet small, bodies of water.

For information about Vernal Pools, Preserve purchase fundraising efforts, and upcoming hike dates, visit [oslt.org](http://oslt.org), or [preserve1000acres.com](http://preserve1000acres.com).

# Air Pollution and Water Quality: Impacts of Vehicle Idling

According to the EPA: Airborne pollutants from human and natural sources can deposit back onto land and water bodies, sometimes at great distances from the source, and can be an important contributor to declining water quality. Pollutants in water bodies that may originate from atmospheric sources include nitrogen compounds, sulfur compounds, mercury, pesticides, and other toxics.

Human sources include the combustion of fossil fuels for power generation and transportation, the release of chemical byproducts from industrial and agricultural processes, and the incineration of waste. Natural processes that can release substantial amounts of pollutants into the air include volcanoes and forest fires.

Airborne pollution can fall to the ground in precipitation, in dust, or simply due to gravity. This type of pollution is called "atmospheric deposition" or "air deposition." Pollution deposited from the air can reach water bodies in two ways. It can either be deposited directly onto the surface of the water (direct deposition) or be deposited onto land and be carried to water bodies through run off (indirect deposition). Once these pollutants are in the water, they can have undesirable health and environmental impacts, such as contaminated fish, harmful algal blooms, and unsafe drinking water.

## Vehicle idling and its effect on air quality

The recent period of cold weather has caused many of us to alter our vehicle routines. Many people fire up their cars 15 or 20 minutes in advance so it will be warm for their drive.

Warming up a vehicle is the most common reason for idling. But many drivers also idle their cars while sitting in the fast food or bank drive-through or while waiting for someone.

While getting into a warm car or truck makes winter a little more pleasant, the practice of idling contributes to poor air quality and global warming, damages a vehicle's engine, and wastes money and natural resources.

Many areas in CT experience poor air quality particularly in the winter. Inversions often trap bad air in valleys for days and weeks on end.

Car exhaust contains nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO2). Idling vehicles needlessly emits these dangerous pollutants into our air where they affect our environment and our health. In winter conditions, emissions from idling vehicles are more than double the normal level immediately after a cold start.

An hour of automobile idling releases nearly 4 pounds of CO2 into the air. Excessive amounts of CO2 in the atmosphere can contribute to global warming. An idling car or truck emits 20 times more pollution than one traveling at 30 miles per hour.

## Health Impacts

- Vehicle related air pollution can cause asthma, other respiratory problems, and allergies.
- Particulate matter can aggravate asthma, cause coughing and difficulty in breathing, decrease lung function, exacerbate cardiovascular problems and lead to chronic bronchitis.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution because

they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per pound of body weight. Air toxics also contribute to heart disease and attacks, as well as higher cancer rates in high traffic areas.

- Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15 (Source: American Lung Association).
- Diesel vehicles emit numerous cancer causing chemicals, including benzene and formaldehyde; all vehicle gas emissions account for 1/2 of all cancers attributed to air pollution.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) slows delivery of oxygen to the body's organs and tissues. Exposure to CO aggravates heart disease and can cause headaches and visual impairment.

## Idling Facts

- Modern vehicles don't require any idling to warm up, and idling is not an effective way of warming up your engine, as your vehicle is made up of many moving parts. To properly warm your vehicle's transmission, tires, suspension, steering and wheel bearings, you need to slowly drive-off.

- Tests show no more than 30 seconds is needed to circulate engine oil.

- Myth: Shutting off and restarting your vehicle uses more gas than leaving it running. Over 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine. If you are going to stop for 10 seconds or more -- except in traffic -- turn off the engine.

- Myth: Shutting off and restarting your vehicle is hard on the engine. Actually, frequent restarting has little impact on engine components like the battery and starter motor. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving; money likely to be saved many times over in fuel consumption.

- Idling can actually damage an engine because it is not operating at its peak temperature, which means that fuel does not undergo complete combustion. This leaves fuel residues that can condense on cylinder walls, where they can contaminate the oil and damage parts of the engine. Fuel residues are also often deposited on spark plugs. As you spend more time idling, the average temperature of the spark plug drops. This makes the plug dirty, more quickly, which increases fuel consumption by 4-5%. Excessive idling also lets water condense in the vehicle's exhaust, leading to corrosion, and can reduce the life of the exhaust system.

## Economic effects of idling

- Eliminating or reducing your car's idling time is a good way to save money. Excessive idling wastes an enormous amount of fuel and money.

- For each hour spent idling, a typical truck burns approximately 1 gallon of diesel fuel, and a typical car wastes 1/5 of a gallon of gasoline.

- Combine the fuel savings with the money you'll save in repair bills, because of less wear and tear on your engine, and there's a strong economic argument against idling.

## Tips for cold-weather driving

- It's important to drive away as soon as possible after a cold start. But avoid high speeds and rapid acceleration for the first 3 to 5 miles. This lets the whole vehicle reach peak operating temperature as quickly as possible without paying a fuel penalty.

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- A poorly tuned engine uses up to 15% more energy when idling than a well-tuned vehicle. Keeping your vehicle in good condition is a key to fuel efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

- If your vehicle has a diesel engine, idling actually lowers the coolant temperature faster than shutting off the engine. In other words, switching off the engine keeps the engine warm longer.

**CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection's Anti-Idling Efforts and Enforcement**

The CTDEEP's goal is to reduce idling through voluntary compliance. However, there is a law in effect and violations are subject to enforcement action.

CT DEEP's Air Management Field Staff ensure compliance with Connecticut's idling restriction by monitoring vehicle

behavior at rest areas, schools, truck stops and at commercial delivery points, and pursuing enforcement when idling violations are observed. Field staff also respond to complaints of idling vehicles that citizens report to the DEEP's complaint line. DEEP Air Quality Complaint Line: (860) 424-3436.

**What's the Law in Connecticut?**

Connecticut law prohibits vehicles of all kinds from unnecessary idling for more than 3 minutes. Provisions are made for weather extremes, certain service vehicles and health-related conditions. For information on CT DEEP's anti-idling initiatives and text on Anti-Idling Regulations visit:

- <http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&q=322086>
- <http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/air/regulations/mainregs/sec18.pdf>.

## ***New Recreation Parking Pass Policy for 2014***

The Parks & Recreation Commission issues Recreation Parking Passes to residents and property owners for parking privileges at town facilities under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Listed are regulations relative to the issuance of these passes.

**Permanent Resident Passes**

A maximum of two (2) Recreation Passes may be issued to each household. A fee of \$20.00 will be charged for the first pass and \$30.00 for the second pass. Seniors (62 years+) pay \$10.00 for the first and \$20.00 for the second pass. A \$50.00 fee applies for Lost or Stolen Passes. Recreation Parking Passes are valid for one (1) summer season.

**Renters Passes**

Permanent Renter = Rents year round  
 Seasonal Renter = Person who rents a dwelling for 5 or more weeks

Part-Time Renter = Person who rents for 1 to 4 weeks

- Permanent renters may apply for Recreation Parking passes. Must have proper proof of residency .i.e proper driver's license, any bills, etc.

- Seasonal Renters (5 or more weeks) may NOT apply for a season pass. Owner of property must purchase Recreation Parking Passes. Owner will then allow renter access to pass. Pass is honored at both beaches.

- Part-Time renter's pass will be valid for a two (2) week period. A fee of \$20.00 for the two (2) weeks will be charged. Two (2) two weeks period maximum: Pass honored at Harvey's Beach only. The renter's car registration is required along with rental verification (lease, agreement, etc.). Must be provided to be granted pass.

**Business Owner Pass**

Business owners who own the property where the business is located may apply for one (1) Recreation Parking Pass. MUST PROVIDE VERIFICATION OF BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.

**Dockominium Owners**

Owners of a dockominium on Ferry Road may apply for one (1) Recreation Parking Pass. Pass is honored at both beaches. MUST PROVIDE PROPER VERIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP.

**Innkeeper Passes**

Innkeeper may purchase Innkeeper's Recreation Parking Passes upon presentation of their letterhead. A maximum of ten (10) passes will be issued. Additional passes will not be issued during the season. A FEE OF \$15.00 WILL BE CHARGED FOR EACH PASS. PASSES GOOD ONLY AT HARVEY'S BEACH. (Room key must be shown with pass). (Establishments with less than 10 rooms may purchase passes for that number.)

**Visitor's Pass**

A season visitor (friend-house sitting, etc. or family visitor) is NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A RESIDENT/PROPERTY OWNER PARKING PASS). They may use the resident's pass they are visiting to access the properties.

**Application Procedures**

Provide current driver's license displaying Old Saybrook Address. If driver's license does not include Old Saybrook address, a suitable proof of residency such as tax bills or utility bills must be presented. Office will then check address and name against current Old Saybrook Grand List.

Note: Registered motorbikes require a Rec. Parking Pass.

Make checks payable to the Town of Old Saybrook Parks & Recreation Department (O.S.P.R.)

Recreation Parking Passes may be obtained in person at the Parks & Recreation Office (entrance on Sheffield St.) backside of the Town Hall.

**Passes**

1. Passes are Transferable
2. Must be affixed to Rearview Mirror while on premise.



## *Parks & Recreation Newsletter*

Now that winter has finally ended the Parks & Recreation department is planning some great spring programs for all to enjoy. What better way to start out spring then to have a fishing derby? The Family Fishing Derby at Crystal Lake - Clark Community Park on Schoolhouse Road, Saturday April 26 from 7:00 am - 10:00 am. The lake will be stocked with lots of trout! Hot chocolate, coffee, donuts and hotdogs will be available to all who fish. Prizes will also be awarded for those who catch a fish. Join us for this great family event. Cost is \$5.00 per person; Register at the Parks & Recreation office.

Join us on April 12 for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Find all the candy the Easter Bunny left behind. A great way to kick off the Spring season. Hunt starts at 11:00 am for 2-4 year olds, 11:15 am for 5 year olds to First graders, and 11:30 am for 2nd & 3rd graders. Event is co-sponsored by the Old Saybrook Lions Club and is free and open to the public.

The Annual Old Folks Rock Hunt will take place on Friday April 18. The Rock hunt is designed for 4th-6th grades. Different colored rocks will be hidden in the trails at Town Park on Schoolhouse Road. Kids find a rock and turns them in for Candy.

On April 5 at The Rec. Center, OSPR will offer Major League Baseball's Pitch, Hit & Run competition. This event is one of the MLB's premier youth baseball programs. Boys and girls ages 7-14 will compete in three skills competition. In each division (Boys and Girls) there will be four age groups; 7 & 8 year olds, 9 & 10 year olds, 11 & 12 year olds and 13 & 14 year olds. This local event is the first of a four part national competition with winners advancing to a sectional, Team Championship, and a National Championship. The last two legs of the program take place at a major league ball park. OSPR would like to thank the OS Little League for all of their volunteer work to help make this event special for the entire community. For more information or to register for this event, please visit [www.oldsaybrookrec.com](http://www.oldsaybrookrec.com) or contact Jonathan Paradis at 860-395-3152.

There is a Tee-ball program for children in grades K-2 beginning in May. Old Saybrook Parks & Recreation Tee-Ball program is designed to teach skills, encourage team work, provide fun, and to build self esteem. Tee ball is an excellent intro to baseball and softball. Participants in kindergarten to second grade will play games on Saturdays beginning May 3 and ending June 7. Program lasts for six weeks. First and second grade teams will be primarily coach pitch and practice once a week. All players receive a shirt & hat. Coaches are needed!!!

Summer is not to far off and registration for the popular and action packed summer camps will begin April 1. Summer

camp runs Monday - Friday for 1st - 5th graders from 9:00 - 4:00 pm, with Before and After care hours available. Camp will feature lots of games, arts-n-crafts, beach days, bowling, special out of town trips, and water days.

Children age 4 - 1st grade can participate in the Junior Playground program that meets Monday - Thursday at the Goodwin School from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Children will play tag games, listen to stories, arts-n-crafts projects, water activities, free time, and more. Class size will have a 1 to 5 ratio

We will also be offering a Camp for 6th - 8th graders that will run on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays with hours from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and will meet at the Recreation Center in the Teen Center. Each Friday we will go on a Trip with a water theme. Games, mini-golf, bowling, and more will also be enjoyed. Space is limited so sign up early.

Saybrook Point Mini Golf will be open from May 23 - June 12 Mondays through Thursdays & Sundays from 11:00 am - 8:00 pm, Fridays & Saturdays from 11:00 am - 10:00 pm with a \$5.00 rate. We will be open full time for the season starting June 14 - Sept. 7 from 11:00 am - 10:00 pm. Birthday party rates available Mon-Fri. before 4:30 pm; Senior Day (60-over) Wednesdays 11:00 am - 4:30 pm, cost is \$2.00; Kids Day (16 years old and younger) Monday 11:00 am - 4:30 pm, cost is \$2.00. Ice cream, soda & water available for purchase. All Hours Weather Permitting. For more info call 860-388-2407.

Town Beach is open for the season starting Memorial Day weekend running thru Labor Day Weekend. Lifeguards will be on duty weekends only until June 14 , then daily thru Labor Day weekend. Town beach requires that you have a Recreation Parking Pass to park at the beach. Recreation Parking passes are available to Old Saybrook Residents/Property Owners and may be purchased at the Parks & Recreation Office. Beach Parking passes go on sale May .

Harvey's Beach is open for the season starting Memorial Day weekend running thru Labor Day Weekend. Lifeguards will be on duty weekends only until June 14, then daily thru Labor Day. Harvey's Beach is open to the public with a daily parking fee of \$10.00 during the week and \$15.00 on Weekends and Holidays Season passes are available at the Parks & Recreation Office. Harvey's Beach has a shower tower and Men's and Women's changing room/bathrooms.

It is this Department's hope that everyone will enjoy these programs, and the many diverse facilities this spring & summer. Registration is required for all Parks & Recreation activities please stop by the office or visit our website at [oldsaybrookrec.com](http://oldsaybrookrec.com). Registration for all Spring/summer programs begins Tuesday April 1. For program questions call 860-395-3152.

## *Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut*

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut is Connecticut's leading source of information for the thousands of people who have epilepsy. Founded in 1982, the Foundation works to ensure that people with epilepsy are able to participate in all life experiences through information, education, recreation, advocacy and support.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut has many programs to

offer those living with epilepsy. In particular, we offer 7 support groups throughout the state. Those interested in attending meetings are asked to please RSVP, to the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut by calling 800-899-3745 or emailing Allison at [Allison@epilepsyct.com](mailto:Allison@epilepsyct.com). For more information visit <http://www.epilepsyct.com> or call 800-899-3745.

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## Middle School Clubs - Fostering Fun and Building Skills

Old Saybrook has a long tradition of fostering the best in the youth of our community.

The Old Saybrook Middle School After School Club Program, sponsored by Youth and Family Services, is one part of this tradition. We are very fortunate to have a generous community of volunteers and businesses that make this program work. Kids at the middle school are able to sign up for a variety of different "clubs" that begin when the school day ends. Because of our outstanding volunteers we are able to offer many different clubs to meet a students' interest.

The After School Program allows the students to pursue activities like knitting, bowling, hip hop, zentangle, juggling, archery and much more. Clubs offer physical, mental and artistic outlets for a



*Lenny DiBella, serving up food and fun at Luigi's, with the Culture Club.*

large part of the Old Saybrook Middle School population. Students enrolled in the program have lots of fun while learning a new skill in a safe environment.

One popular club is the Culture Club. Students are taken to restaurants in town to learn about different cultures. Through the generosity of the restaurant owners, the kids are taught about each culture. Their favorite part however is undoubtedly getting to sample the food itself!

Archery on the field, hip hop in the fitness room or eating pasta during culture club, the After School Program is the place to be!

*Julie Moskowitz*

*Program Coordinator, Youth and Family Services*

## Healthy Community - Healthy Youth Launches Neighborhood Block Party Day



Old Saybrook Healthy Communities Healthy Youth (HCHY) has declared Sunday, May 4 as NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY DAY and is encouraging all neighborhoods throughout Old Saybrook to gather together from 1:00 to 3:00 in celebration. HCHY has respectfully requested

that ALL community organizations and businesses refrain from scheduling any activities/practices/recitals during this two-hour block so that all citizens - young and old - can get to know their neighbors in their immediate neighborhood. To date, over 60 distinct neighborhoods have been identified throughout town and HCHY has been actively recruiting neighborhood volunteers to help coordinate a healthy fun-filled celebration for each block. If you would like to help plan your neighborhood block party, please

contact a member of the HCHY Block Party Committee.

With the ongoing support of our community, we look forward to continuing this as a fabulous annual tradition for many years to come. In addition we will strive to develop new and exciting initiatives that will promote positive activities and intergenerational fun for all ages to enjoy together!

Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Neighborhood Block Party Committee:

Mike Rafferty (Chairman) [paparaff17@gmail.com](mailto:paparaff17@gmail.com)  
 Bill and Rosemary McLaughlin [billrosemarymcl@aol.com](mailto:billrosemarymcl@aol.com)  
 Phyllis DaCorte [pdacorte66@gmail.com](mailto:pdacorte66@gmail.com)  
 Wendy Mill [wmill@town.old-saybrook.ct.us](mailto:wmill@town.old-saybrook.ct.us)  
 Gretchen Bushnell [gbushnell@earthlink.net](mailto:gbushnell@earthlink.net)

## The Largest "Tag Sale" in Southeastern CT

### Child & Family Agency's Annual Sale

For 60 years Child & Family Agency of Southeastern, CT, has held the largest tag sale in its region - its "Annual Sale." Proceeds from this fundraiser support the many services and programs offered by Child & Family Agency to children and families.

This year the Annual Sale will be at the New London Armory, 249 Bayonet St., New London, Thursday, May 1, Friday, May 2, both from 9:00 - 5:00 and Sat., May 3 from 9:00 - 3:00. First sale day will be "Premium Day" - cost plus 25% and last sale day everything will be half price.

Furniture, household items, books, toys, clothing, jewelry and such can be dropped off at designated locations on "Intake Day".



*If you are looking for great finds in everything from furniture to clothing to household items, come to Child & Family Agency's 60th Annual Sale at the New London Armory, May 1, 2 and 3.*

These items will be received by Child & Family Auxiliary Volunteers and transported to the New London Armory.

"Intake Day" for Old Saybrook residents will be on Tuesday, April 22, at the Old Lyme Congregation Church between 10:00 and 4:00 and on Wednesday, April 23, at the Essex Town Hall between 9:00 and 5:00. Tax donation letters will be available when items are dropped off.

Last year 17,000 children and their families, from 79 towns, were helped by Child & Family Agency's staff of 175 dedicated professionals through their many services and programs. To learn more about Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT visit: [www.childandfamilyagency.org](http://www.childandfamilyagency.org)



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## Support Group for Grandparents

A group of grandparents who are raising grandchildren, or sharing their home with adult children and grandchildren, gather for coffee and lively discussion at Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month from 6:30 - 8:00pm.

Although their reasons for becoming grandfamilies are varied, the challenges unique to their situation are universal.

Members of the group find relief and frequent humor in sharing experiences, and frustrations with people who understand their situation.

The group is facilitated by Linda Knightly, MS, LPC and is open to new members.

For more information please call Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services, 860-395-3190.

*Linda Knightly, MS, LPC*  
Group Facilitator at Youth and Family Services

## Community Treasures Variety Show

### An Asset-Rich Tradition in Old Saybrook

Spring is certainly in the air and warmer weather is just around the corner. And what does spring mean in Old Saybrook? Why, it means it's time for friends and neighbors of all ages to dust off their dancing shoes, tune up their instruments and warm up those vocal chords in preparation for the Annual Community Treasures Variety Show, of course!

Old Saybrook Healthy Communities Healthy Youth (HCHY) initiated the first town-wide variety show in 1999 as part of their efforts to "fulfill a vision of Old Saybrook as an 'asset building' community". The first variety show playbill went on to explain their vision thusly, "The assets we speak about are not financial or physical attributes. Rather they are opportunities, skills, relationships, values and self-perceptions that all young people need in their lives". This vision is alive and well today and continues to inspire HCHY and Youth and Family Services to offer our community a myriad of multi-generational asset building opportunities through their family programs throughout the year.

So put on your dancing shoes and prepare to celebrate at Old Saybrook's 15th Annual Community Treasures Variety Show brought to you once again by Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services through the Healthy Communities Healthy Youth initiative. Come witness for yourself all the hot talent right here in our community as this year's performers set us on fire. Curtain call for this year's event will be at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25 at the Old Saybrook High School auditorium. Tickets will be available at Youth and Family Services and at the door. For more information please contact Wendy Mill, Program Coordinator at Youth and Family Services at 860-510-5050 or [wmill@town.old-saybrook.ct.us](mailto:wmill@town.old-saybrook.ct.us) or visit the agency's website at [www.oldsaybrookct.org/youth](http://www.oldsaybrookct.org/youth).

## Call for Youth Artists



Youth artist Liam Welsh drew and sold caricatures of patrons at the 2013 Youth Booth. Here he is pictured with patron of the arts Peter McNeil.

Since 2005 Healthy Communities Healthy Youth and Youth and Family Services have sponsored a booth for Old Saybrook youth artists to display their work at the Chamber of Commerce's annual Arts and Crafts Festival. Youth artists aged 7 and up, working in a wide range of media,

are invited to display their work, help "staff" the booth for a couple of hours, and have the opportunity to talk with the public and other artists about their art. They will also be able to offer their artwork for sale (if they and their families can stand to part with it!) at the event.

Youth artists from Old Saybrook who are interested in participating in this year's event may contact booth 'curator' Linda McCall at Youth and Family Services, 860-395-3190 for more information.

Some things parents and artists need to know:

- The show is on Saturday, July 26, 10:00 - 5:00 pm and Sunday, July 27, from 10:00 - 4:00 pm.
- Paintings, sculpture, photography, pottery, pen and ink, beadwork, fabric design, paper mache, ceramics, poetry, etc. must be 'display-ready'.
- Youth artists are encouraged to bring along a portfolio or a piece in progress that they would like to work on while at the booth.
- Parents/guardians are invited to help staff the booth and should plan on accompanying artists 13 and under.
- Parents/guardians will need to complete a Registration and Permission form for each child's participation at the booth. The form may be downloaded from Youth and Family Services' website: [www.oldsaybrookct.org/youth](http://www.oldsaybrookct.org/youth) via the News and Announcements links. (On this form parents/guardians may also grant permission for their child to have a business card created and provided by us for display alongside the artwork.)
- Completed forms should be forwarded to Youth and Family Services, 322 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Volunteers are also welcome to help with setup or to staff the booth. Please call Linda McCall at Youth and Family Services, 860-395-3190 if you wish to volunteer.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Old Saybrook youth to share their artistic abilities with their community! It's also a great opportunity for patrons of the annual festival to support local youth by stopping by the booth and chatting with and encouraging our youth artists.

*Linda McCall, Administrative Assistant  
Youth and Family Services*

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## Garden Club's Spring Agenda

The first time I noticed that Old Saybrook had a garden club was in April 2010. We had just moved up from New Jersey and all we saw was snow, that was the year we had storm after storm. In the beginning of April, we saw the bikes displayed on Main Street with signs on them. Not sure what they were for, I said to my husband 'look they put bikes out with flower baskets to welcome spring - how nice and quaint'. As I made my way around town, I noticed them on Route 1 and eventually was able to read the sign announcing the Flower Market. On the way to seeing what was to be our new home, the realtor drove us thru the town business section, and advised 'wait until spring, you will see how beautiful Main Street becomes', and she was right.

As with a successful event, there is a lot of behind the scenes planning, and the Old Saybrook Garden Club is no exception. While the snow and cold was upon us, we met in members homes to start the winter beautification program. We gathered our mini Christmas trees and wreaths from storage and made sure we fluffed and buffed each one. We checked to make sure the lights were in working order, and if not, replaced as needed. It was a fun time with most of our members participating and enjoying refreshments and conversation.

Larry Bonin and his Public Works team put up the wreaths on the median for us, while members placed 2 trees in each of the island medians around the poles that hold the wreaths. Besides welcoming the holiday season, they give a warm and inviting place for shoppers from all over to enjoy. I have heard from a particular friend in Florida who works in retail, that when she mentions she has a friend in Old Saybrook, people say what a beautiful quaint town we live in and how well we take care of our gardens. Speaking of our meridian gardens,



*Looking east on Main Street at one of our magnificent meridian garden planters planted by members of the Old Saybrook Garden Club.*

we decided to try something new this year. We have added crocus & daffodil bulbs to every other planter to start the flowering season a little earlier. We hope you and families will see some results as you walk or drive by.

In addition to our Major town fundraiser, we have a number of exciting events open to the public. We start on April 7 at St Paul Lutheran Church, 56 Great Hammock Road at 2:00 pm with an open invitation for all to join us for the exciting presentation of "Learning to Play with Flowers" by Barbara J. Bruce. Barbara is an NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge and has won numerous blue ribbons at the state flower show in Hartford. Refreshments will be served at 3:00 pm. We hope the community can join us.

Our GARDENERS' MARKET opens Friday May 9 between the hours of 3:00 - 6:00 pm, and Saturday, May 10, between 9:00 am and 2:00

pm. It is the event everyone looks forward to. People from the shoreline and beyond gather and wait for our Market to open. We have added a few new items: an excellent selection of Ornamental Grasses, Perennials (sun, shade, and deer resistant), fresh herbs, heirloom tomatoes. Successful potted plants from member's gardens, hanging baskets, Stunning annuals, a Kinder Korner for children 8 and under, to make their moms a unique original gift. Last, but not least don't forget our fresh bake sale straight from members' kitchens to enjoy as you wander about or to take home to give as gifts. Proceeds from our Gardener's Market support our annual median garden and other beautification projects in town.

*Sylvia Engelman, Publicity Chairman  
Old Saybrook Garden Club*

## Safe Grad Night Announces The Marshall Law, LLC. Golf Tournament

Planning and fundraising are well underway for the Safe Grad Night festivities for Old Saybrook High School's upcoming Class of 2014. After the great success of Ladies Night Out @ The Kate, we are looking forward to our signature event of the year and the one that brings in the most funding for Safe Grad Night, The Marshall Law, LLC. OSHS Safe Grad Night Golf Tournament, to be held on May 1 at 11:30 am at the Fox Hopyard Golf Club in East Haddam, CT.

The committee is thrilled to announce our new title sponsor Marshall Law, LLC. Attorney Segar has generously stepped up to take on the Title Sponsorship. Attorney Marshall T. Segar, Esq. is a 25-year law enforcement professional,



*Owner of Marshall Law LLC, Atty. Marshall Segar (right) presents the \$3,000 Title Sponsorship check to Safe Grad Night Chairperson Millissa Brigante (left), OSHS Seniors Nate Corrado, Nolan Reid, Devonse Thomas and Chris Prast look on.*

as well as being a U.S. Army veteran, with service in Europe and Operation Desert Storm. As a life-long Connecticut resident, Attorney Segar understands the issues that impact you and is dedicated to providing the highest degree of service and personalized attention to your legal needs.

There is more good news in the area of business sponsorships for the Safe Grad Night Golf Tournament. As a result of a letter sent by the committee to over 400 area businesses in January many local business sponsors have come forward, with B&L Construction, OSPD Local COPS #106 and Child and Adult Orthodontics, becoming Gold Sponsors this

*continued on page 39*



*continued from page 38*

year. Supreme Industries and Apple Rehabilitation are Platinum Sponsors and Root Auto Repair, LLC and Mohegan Sun are Silver Sponsors. Saybrook Hardware is a Friends & Family Sponsor and donated goods for our raffles. Many other local businesses have donated goods and services for tournament prizes, like Staples and Westbrook Cinema and several golf foursomes from outstanding local golf courses. Sponsorships and donations are still needed, and information about sponsorship levels can be found on the tournament Facebook page (Marshall Law, LLC. - Safe Grad Night Golf Tournament) or by emailing [ossafegrad@yahoo.com](mailto:ossafegrad@yahoo.com).

The tournament promises to be great fun this year, with golfers expected not just from Old Saybrook but throughout southeastern CT and from outside New England as well! Marshall Law, LLC. OSHS Safe Grad Night Golf Tournament is popular among golfers far and wide because it offers great value at a superb venue. Fox Hopyard is one of CT's premier

golf courses and the tournament fee of \$150 per golfer includes driving range, 18-holes, cart, prizes, barbeque lunch, soft drinks, post-golf dinner including pasta and carving stations. Cash bar and raffle tickets will be available, and there will be golf competitions including a putting contest, hole-in-one, and longest/accurate drive. For golfer registration, pick up one of our tournament brochures around town or find it on our Facebook page. You can also email [ossafegrad@yahoo.com](mailto:ossafegrad@yahoo.com) or call Chairperson Milissa Brigante at 860-304-6248.

The committee is grateful to Marshall Law, LLC. and all of the local businesses that have generously contributed. All funds are managed through the non-profit corporation Graduation Night, Inc., which is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization 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.

## *Resolutions You Can Keep*

Have you already abandoned your new year's resolutions? We are all familiar with the usual declarations about this being the year to lose weight or to get organized. But did you ever think of New Year's beauty resolutions?

Little changes in your routine can have a big impact. As in any modification of your routine, simple is the key to success. Looking your best is no exception. Let's start with three basic steps.

The first step is the most complicated as you have to do it TWICE A DAY. Wash your face. Over the last ten years, I've heard many stories. Some of you only wash at night; some fall asleep with make-up; some only use water; some use grains excessively. I'm a fan of the one step process, so here's my recommendation. Find a cleanser that you like. It should be effective enough to clean your skin and gentle enough not to burn your eyes. Look for something that will remove eye make-up, as well as foundation. One step ... no washcloth, no grains, no rubbing or scrubbing. If you feel dry, tight or like you have a film on your face shortly after washing, the cleanser you are using is not for you.

The second step is not as complicated since you only have to do it ONCE A DAY. Wear sunscreen. Many of you think that the SPF in your moisturizer is protecting you. It is not. SPF numbers measure protection against UVB, but not UVA. Higher numbers don't mean more protection. The lifeguards put white stuff on their noses. It's zinc, a mineral that protects against UVA and UVB. Look for a separate sunscreen that contains micronized zinc or titanium dioxide (another mineral) and wear it every day.

If you still believe that you don't go out in the sun and therefore this step is not for you, look in the mirror. I guarantee you that the left side of your face is aging differently than your right. Think of that the next time you get behind the wheel of the car and then put on the sunscreen.

The third step is really simple since you can do it ONCE A MONTH, once every three months or just once. Try something new. If the crease in-between your eyebrows is making

you look angry or tired, try Botox. If the bottom half of your face has lost its plumpness, try Juvederm. If you wish you were tighter and brighter, think about Viora Radiofrequency to tighten up. Or if you just need a boost, a change of products and quick microdermabrasion could be the answer.

Resolve to do something, you'll be glad you did!

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

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## Historical Society

### Antique Sale and Appraisal Day, Saturday, May 31

Following its highly successful show last year, the Old Saybrook Historical Society is sponsoring its second annual Antique Sale and Appraisal Day at the historic Gen. William Hart House, 350 Main Street, Old Saybrook, Saturday, May 31 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The event is expected to again attract hundreds of residents and visitors in search of new gently aged objects to display, collect, or give to others. There will be more than 30 high quality dealers to help satisfy that need for “must have” merchandise.

In addition, several expert appraisers will offer verbal estimates of the value for old documents, stuffed animals, Civil War artifacts, nautical memorabilia, old photos, stamps and coins, artistic glassware, paintings, and other items brought down from the attic or dug up from the backyard.

These appraisals often bring happy surprises - and sometimes shock - to owners when they learn the value of their unexpected treasures. Among last year's surprises was a department store lamp valued at \$3000 to \$5000, another lamp originally bought for \$42 and valued at \$4200, and a painting found on the side of the road that was appraised and later sold at auction for \$13,000.

Refreshments and baked goods will be available along with plants from the Hart House heritage gardens. Merchants and patrons were unanimous in praising the event set on the beautiful Hart House campus.

For further information, contact general chairperson Karen Emack-Dolson of Saybrook Recycled Furniture at 860-388-6180 or call the Historical Society at: 860-395-1635.

### Two for Tea

For the past four years, Old Saybrook High School seniors Kristi Ledwith and Keanna Chang have served as student volunteers with the Old Saybrook Historical Society. For their required high school senior project, they have decided to host a benefit tea in the historic Gen. William Hart house.

They will plan the menu, prepare the food, advertise, sell tickets, and gather other students to help prepare, serve, and clean-up. They will be assisted by other high school volunteers Alexander Nucci, Hayley Ganslaw and Jamie DeAntonis.

Old Saybrook Historical Society president Marie McFarlin says “this is a huge undertaking but they are hard workers and we are thrilled that they will be doing this for the Historical Society”.



“Kristi and Keanna are part of a group of five seniors that have helped with all major events,” Ms. McFarlin said. “They have worked to do whatever was needed to get the job done. Their level of commitment is a great example of thoughtful young people who deserve credit for the good they do”.

The tea is scheduled for May 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Gen. William Hart House, 350 Main Street, Old Saybrook.

Tickets will be available beginning April 15 and are \$20 for members and their guests and \$25 for non-members.

Seating is limited and reservations are required. For further information or to purchase, contact the Historical Society at 860-395-1635 or by email at: [contact@saybrookhistory.org](mailto:contact@saybrookhistory.org)

### British Raid on Essex

Sometimes called “the forgotten battle of the forgotten war,” the burning of more than two dozen ships in Essex harbor during the War of 1812 was one of the most destructive maritime actions in Connecticut and U.S. history.

This long neglected maritime loss is the subject of a talk by author and historian Jerry Roberts at the Acton Public Library, 60 Old Boston post Road, Old Saybrook, on Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Author of *The British Raid on Essex: The Forgotten Battle of the War of 1812*, just released by Wesleyan University Press, Jerry Roberts will discuss this event along with sharing new information drawn from recent research and archaeological finds.

Jerry Roberts is the battlefield historian for a National Parks Service grant project charged with researching the British raid on Essex shipping in 1814. From 2006 to 2013, he was executive director of the Connecticut River Museum.

Sponsored by the Old Saybrook Historical Society, in cooperation with Acton Public Library, the talk is open to the public without charge. For further information, contact the Historical Society at 860-395-1635 or email: [contact@saybrookhistory.org](mailto:contact@saybrookhistory.org).

### Looking for High School School Publications

The Historical Society is seeking copies of Old Saybrook High School yearbooks published before 1940 plus yearbooks for 1948-1955, and 1961 to date. Contributions of any good condition publications from those dates would be appreciated. Call 860-395-1635.

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## Local Support for Historic Preservation

Local officials have been notified that Old Saybrook has been designated a “certified local government,” a program operated by the National Parks Service in cooperation with state preservation offices, that will provide access to State and federal grants for historic preservation projects. The designation creates a local, state and federal partnership that seeks to develop and maintain local historic preservation programs. It provides access to expert technical advice and an opportunity to tap into the resources of several state and national preservation organizations. In addition, the program provides access to funding from the State historic preservation office for the exclusive use of certified local governments to identify and keep what is significant from the past for future generations. The types of activities that can be funded include

architectural, historical, archeological surveys; nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; staff work for historic preservation commissions; design guidelines and preservation plans; public outreach materials such as publications, videos, exhibits, and brochures; training for commission members and staff; and rehabilitation or restoration of National Register listed properties. The application was submitted by the Historic District Commission, chaired by former Historical Society president Randi Bradbury Childress, with support from Town Planner Christine Nelson, and endorsed by First Selectman Carl Fortuna. Members of the Historical Society Board contributed to the preparation of the proposal as did Andrew Heckler, Old Saybrook High School Intern with the Board of Selectmen.

## Common Core: A Good Fit for Connecticut



Across Connecticut and across the United States, this is a school year of significant educational reform. The Common Core State Standards and new curricula aligned with them, a new teacher evaluation model, the frequent progress monitoring of student learning, and a changeover from Connecticut Mastery testing to

computer-based Smarter Balanced assessment have confronted students and teachers returning to class.

Common Core is a high-impact national initiative in public education designed to prepare students in grades K-12 for higher education and the workplace. The Connecticut State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 without critical input from parents, educators, experts and community stakeholders. Initially, 45 states including Connecticut adopted the Common Core State Standards. However, at least

*continued on page 43*

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*Thank you!*  
*David Genovali*

*continued from page 42*

15 legislatures are now reconsidering and either delaying or prohibiting implementation of the Common Core out of concern the standards are not properly crafted to adequately benefit students.

I have introduced a bill to the legislature's Education Committee that would delay Common Core implementation in Connecticut pending public hearings with parents, education experts, teachers, school administrators and community stakeholders.

While education reform is serious, Connecticut must embark

on a path that balances rigor with creativity; high standards with individual needs; and gets it right for our students, their learning, and their future.

State Rep. Marilyn Giuliano represents Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook in the Connecticut General Assembly and is a member of the legislature's Education Committee.

*Marilyn Giuliano, State Representative*

## Spring Into Rosé

Spring is finally here and I am sure everyone will agree that it has been a long cold winter. As the days become longer and the weather warms up, the perfect wines to drink are Rosés. The rosé style of wine has become increasingly popular every year, and why not? Aside from being refreshing, rosés pair well with a vast array of foods and are extremely palatable to almost any wine drinker.

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

strawberry, cherry and watermelon. French rosés from Provence, for example, tend to be a pale salmon-like color and are light and refreshing in body, while Cotes-du-Rhone rosés are brighter pink and weightier in the mouth.

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

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

*Art LiPuma, Manager, SeaSide Wine & Spirits*

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Old Saybrook: Superbly designed and constructed, this 2554 SF home exudes casual comfort with elegant style. Stunning kitchen with marble countertops, magnificent great room, gorgeous master suite. Views and all the fabulous Fenwick amenities.

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Old Saybrook: Home is like new with custom chef's kitchen, island and pantry...open to LR with beautiful stone fpl. This fantastic home is on cul-de-sac and very close to CT River and marinas. Private yard with large deck, stone patio and outside shower.

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Mariette Woolfson 860.883.3667



Old Saybrook: An immaculate home in a premier cul-de-sac setting. Oak floors, high ceilings, oversized windows. First floor master suite with adjacent office. Kitchen/great room with fireplace, sunroom. Low-maintenance indoor resistance pool!

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MLS: M9143306 \$599,000  
Ellen Henderson 860.961.9643



Old Saybrook: Spectacular water view home built 2008. Two-car garage, shingle siding, outbuilding. Gorgeous new kitchen w/granite counter tops. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, first floor laundry. Enjoy Indian Town beaches, clubhouse.

MLS: M9145460 \$499,900  
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



Old Saybrook: Open concept floor plan with three bedrooms and two full baths. Very well built and maintained, lots of closet and storage space. The basement has tall ceilings and is dry, could be finished to provide additional living space. MLS: M9144216 \$389,000 Randi Bradbury 860.510.2478  
Joyce DeFord 860.625.7576



Old Saybrook: Classic sea cottage in elegant condition! Propane fire heats entire cottage, loads of light and view of ocean! Also overlooks huge marsh. A lovely find and a FANTASTIC cottage. Two car parking in drive, wood deck, outdoor shower. MLS: M9144259 \$299,000  
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