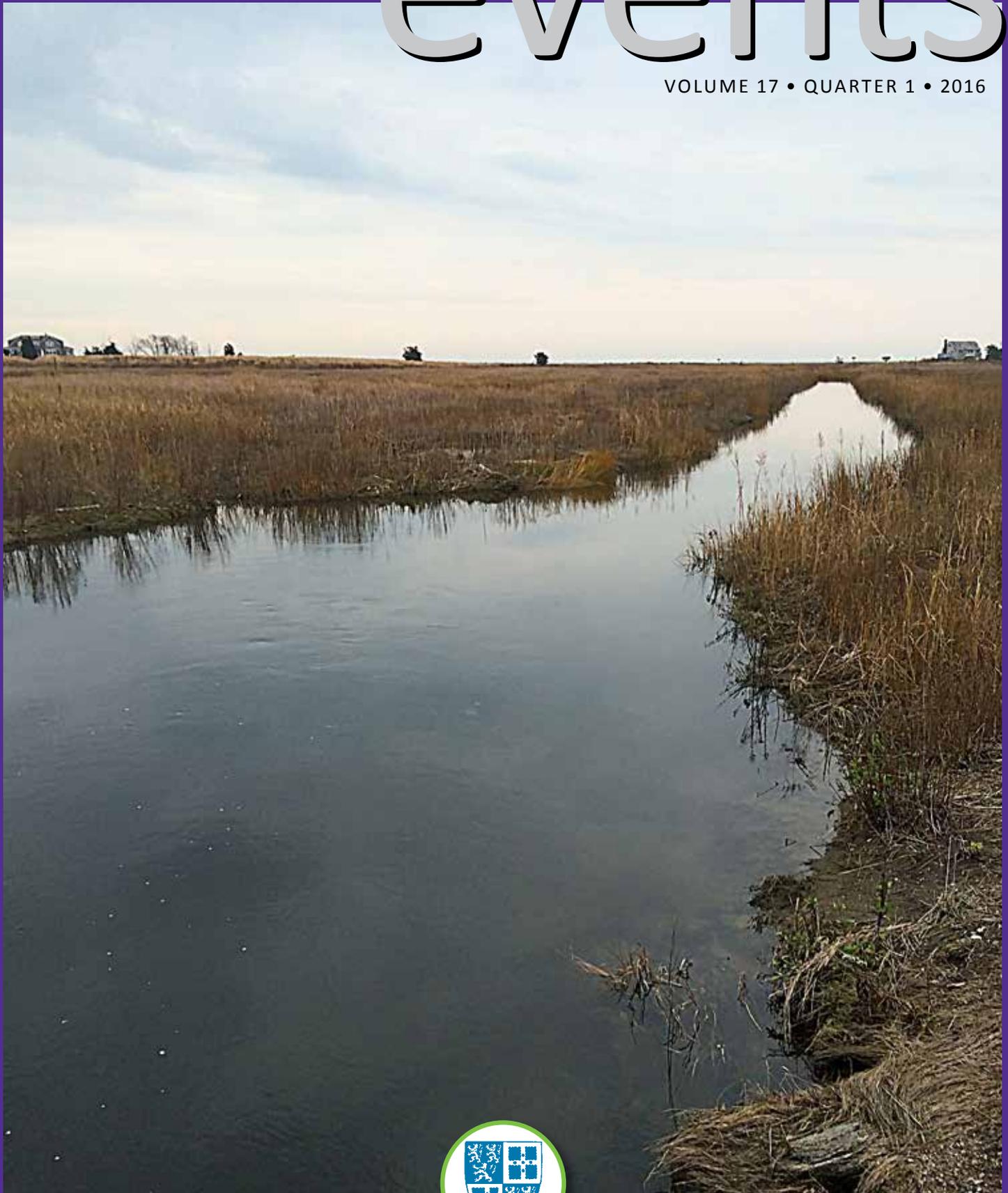


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First Selectman's Corner

Welcome to spring in Old Saybrook. The Board of Selectmen, consisting of First Selectman Carl P. Fortuna, Jr. and Selectpersons Scott Giegerich and Carol Conklin, hope you are able to get out and enjoy the longer days and warmer weather. We thank you for entrusting us with running your local government.

On February 10, 2016, Old Saybrook lost a great friend. Lisa Carver, the town's first Finance Director, succumbed to a long illness. Her funeral occurred on February 20, 2016. Lisa was hired in July, 2012 after a lengthy search. And while she battled illness almost from day one of her hire, the quality of her work never suffered. After major surgery in December, 2012 Lisa, while recuperating, produced the town's most detailed, comprehensive and transparent budget ever. Gone were the days of producing budgets not based on actual spending, and other "rounding errors." She transformed the Old Saybrook budgeting process into a science and saved taxpayer dollars by uncovering errors and inaccuracies in town hall. Lisa was smart, funny, generous, politically astute, warm and an absolute workhorse. She did not suffer fools. While she had three professional degrees (Certified Public Accountant, Masters in Public Administration and Chartered Financial Advisor), and was usually the smartest person in the room, she never boasted or bragged. Lisa was a behind the scenes professional

who wanted nothing more than to make Old Saybrook function better. New Britain was her home when she first started as the finance director but she fell in love with Old Saybrook shortly after commencing work here. She and her husband Paul bought a home in town in 2013. We will all miss Lisa very much but her presence will remain in our hearts and in our town government for years to come. Rest in peace my friend.



First Selectman
Carl Fortuna Jr.

In the last issue, I addressed the administration's multi-year effort to move forward with the redevelopment of the stretch of land now known as Mariner's Way (Route 1 East from Mystic Market to Ferry Point). In a continuing effort to always improve and diversify our local economy, we continue to be hard at work on this area of town without losing focus on our Main Street and Route 1 economy. As previously stated, the town did apply for a Brownfield Area Revitalization (BAR) Grant. This was a statewide competitive grant with one million total dollars in funds available statewide. Many towns competed. Old Saybrook's team (consisting of Susan

Continued on page 4

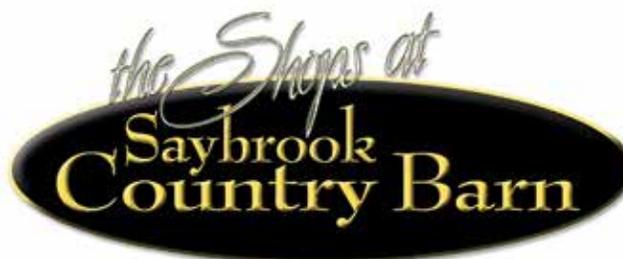
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SELECTMAN'S CORNER...continued from page 3

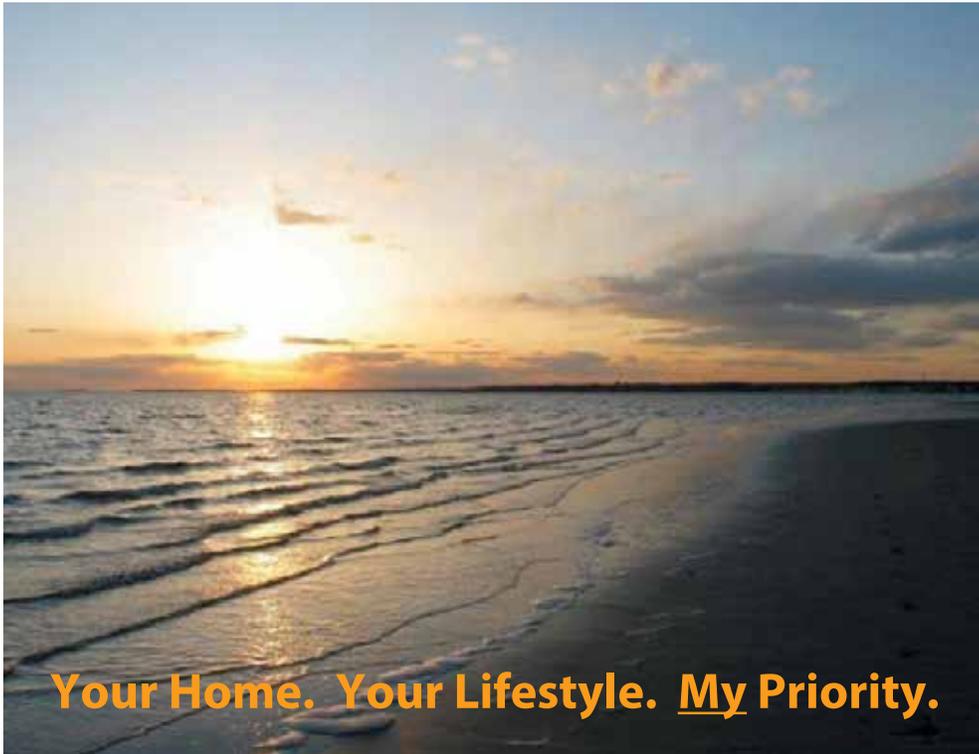
Beckman, our economic development director, Christine Nelson, our town planner, a consultant and me) travelled to the offices of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for a 20 minute presentation (limited to 20 minutes due to the number of communities applying). I am happy to say that Old Saybrook received the maximum amount available (\$200,000), again validating the town's hard work for the last 4 years. The State of Connecticut sees real value in the plan that Old Saybrook has developed. Not only am I pleased that we received these funds to further this project along, it continues to enforce the good work that came out of the original volunteer committee. Volunteers are always appreciated but it is important that the end product is valued by the town. The vision and hard work of the Route 1 East committee is paying off with real follow through by the town. The Planning Commission and Economic Development Commission have reviewed and commented on the plan proposed and now the Zoning Commission will weigh in. There has been and will continue to be significant community involvement on this project and I encourage our readers to come up to speed on these plans.

Similarly, the Board of Selectmen appointed a Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation Committee (SLRCAC) some two years ago. With tropical storms Irene and Sandy wreaking havoc, and

increased complaints of higher than normal water levels in our low lying areas, the town formed this committee to take a look at how we might adapt given what is, by most accounts, a rising sea. The committee met monthly for 18 months (again, so many excellent volunteers willing to donate their time and talent) and generated a report that has been presented in various forums. As part of the town's follow through on comments from the SLRCAC, we have installed a tide gage at Saybrook Point that is on our Land Use website. You can access the gage link and view lots of interesting information. More importantly, the gage can help you plan during a severe storm. The SLRCAC report had several other important recommendations. One of them was for the town to consult with a marine engineer. As a result the town applied for a grant to hire a consultant to make suggestions to improve shoreline infrastructure and increase resiliency for future weather events. I am pleased to say that through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of Connecticut received a \$54.2 million grant, one of only 13 recipients nationwide. From these funds, Old Saybrook will receive \$125,000 to conduct a coastal engineering survey.

Lastly, and importantly, Saye Brooke Village, our lower income elderly housing on Sheffield Street, received a \$2 million grant-in-aid to assist with the construction of fifteen new units of affordable elderly rental housing. As I have written before, this type of

Continued on page 6



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SELECTMAN'S CORNER...continued from page 4

housing may be one of the town's most pressing needs and there remains a long wait list. 15 more units will be wonderful, but the town and the State must continue to invest in this important housing component.

Grants are investments in our community. They frequently allow the town to accomplish projects that would otherwise be difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish with strictly local tax dollars. Grants usually consist of State or Federal dollars, which are tax dollars that belong to you and me. When we pursue grants, we carefully examine if they will have additional costs to the town outside of the grant funds and, if so, a decision

must be made whether to leverage town funds to obtain the grant funds. Not all grants are worth pursuing for our community and we carefully consider these programs prior to bringing them to a public forum.

As we turn the page to a new year, let us all reflect on the great place we live. There are problems everywhere; locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. But all in all, our town maintains civility, offers superior services and maintains financial good sense. The Board of Selectmen wishes you a happy and safe spring.

Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman

Know Your Farmer

More and more, people are becoming interested in where their food comes from and how to support their local farmers. And more and more, they seek to find the freshest food around for their families.

Did you know that there are almost 75 farms in Middlesex County alone!? Ever wonder if there was an easier way to find the farms, learn about what products they sell and find the best times to visit?

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments Regional Agriculture Council – the first formed in the state – has taken a step that will make it easier to find where to buy such fresh food!

Using an “Ag Viability” grant provided by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, the Regional Ag Council has launched a website titled “Know Your Farmers” in an effort to introduce many of the farms and farmers from Middlesex County to the public. The public will be able search for fresh food by town, by farm and by product. The website will also provide notices of

events occurring at our local farms and will include a page sharing recipes. The Ag Council, whose members are all local farmers themselves, will include a “Farm of the Month” which will tell the story of a farm and the people who pour their blood, sweat and tears into the land.

The mobile-friendly website will allow you to search out just the right farm and products to support your efforts to support your local farmers. Go to <http://www.ctrivervalleyfarmers.org> at your desktop, on your tablet or on your Smartphone and start exploring. To learn more about the RiverCOG Regional Ag Council, go to <http://www.rivercog.org/agriculturecouncil>.




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20th Annual Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce Chili Fest

The 20th Annual Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce Chili Fest drew record crowds to Main Street Old Saybrook as thousands of people participated in this highly anticipated winter event. Attendance was record-breaking – more than 1,600 ballots were sold, representing a fifty percent increase over last year. At 12 pm sharp, the chili stations opened and twenty chefs began serving up their carefully prepared chili recipes. Sidewalks were jammed from The Monkey Farm to Paperback Café and from Essex Savings Bank to Starbucks as people patiently waited to begin taste testing.

Three hours and approximately 300 gallons of chili later, the votes were tallied and the 2016 winners were determined. First Place: Angus McDonald/Gary Sharpe & Associates, Second Place: Fresh Salt, and Third Place: The Monkey Farm. The Judge's Choice Award, determined by a panel of three independent judges was unanimously awarded to the Old Saybrook Police Department. The judges were Tim Geelan, President of Guilford Savings Bank, who was once again the presenting sponsor of Chili Fest, Mike Rafferty, President, Old Saybrook Education Foundation, and Chris Pallatto, Executive Director of the Valley Shore YMCA.

This is the third 1st place win for the engineering firm of Angus McDonald/Gary Sharpe & Associates. When asked



Serving up Golden In-Fern-O proved to be the golden recipe for 1st place winner Angus McDonald/Gary Sharpe & Associates. Left to right: Todd Noti, Morgan Noti, and Fern Tremblay. Photo courtesy Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.

what sets their chili apart from the rest, president of the firm Angus McDonald somewhat jokingly stated “it’s engineered. It’s an old family recipe that we’ve tweaked, using lots of peppers

Continued on page 9




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CHILI FEST...continued from page 8

and a variety of spices. More than anything, it's fun! It's an opportunity for us to be together in a non-work setting." The recipe was originally a recipe for sloppy joes belonging to the great aunt of Fern Tremblay, an employee and professional engineer. Tremblay said that he'd often thought it'd make a great chili recipe so he began experimenting and modifying it over the years.

His namesake chili, the "In-Fern-O" was renamed the Golden In-Fern-O as a way of recognizing the firm's 50th anniversary. Their designated charity, Shoreline Soup Kitchen, will receive a donation as part of Angus McDonald/Gary Sharpe's 1st place recognition.

The Old Saybrook Police Department was thrilled with receiving the Judge's Choice Award. Police Chief Mike Spera shared "I am once again impressed with the Chamber and its ability to coordinate a significant successful community event that highlights area businesses and a large sense of community spirit in our small special town."

Supporting sponsors were Cuckoo's Nest, Gladeview Rehabilitation and Health Care, Kiwanis Club of Old Saybrook and Old Lyme, and Primary Residential Mortgage.



The Old Saybrook Police Department's chili had the right stuff, winning the Judge's Choice Award. Photo courtesy Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce awards scholarships to local graduating senior high school students who will be pursuing their education beyond high school. The scholarship is named in memory of C. Wilfred Hunter, an educator and past executive director of the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds from the Chili Fest help to fund these awards.



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Social Services Help Days

DSS Mobile Office Applications

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CT Food Bank Truck Food Delivery

This spring we continue having Social Services Help Days at Grace Church Hall, 336 Main Street in Old Saybrook with the DSS Bus coming down from Hartford as well as sponsoring Access Health on site to provide health care enrollments. CT Food Bank will also be coming here between 1:30 and 2:30 with their mobile pantry truck to provide food. The Old Saybrook dates are:

April 28: Thursday, Grace Church, 10 am – 3pm

May 26: Thursday, Grace Church, 10 am – 3pm

Social Services Help Day is also being hosted in Clinton and Old Saybrook residents are welcome at Clinton Town Hall annex building on the first Mondays of the month. The CT Food Bank truck stops there at 12 – 1 pm. Dates are:

April 4: Monday, Clinton Town Hall Annex, 10 am – 3pm

May 2: Monday, Clinton Town Hall Annex, 10 am – 3pm

June 6: Monday, Clinton Town Hall Annex, 10 am – 3pm

Appointments should be made for both the DSS bus for state application processing and for the HUSKY and AHCT



Health Insurance Enrolments so that you may have proper documentation with you to process your application that day but Walk-ins are also welcome. Please contact Susan Consoli, MA, LPC, Social Services Coordinator at 860-395-3188 or by email at susan.consoli@oldsaybrookct.gov

Help Preventing Electric Shut Off

Additional Heating Help: Furnance and Chimney Cleaning

Applications can be taken through May 2016 for electric heat help. If you fall under the following income guidelines you may be eligible to apply for help:

Continued on page 11



OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR

The Old Lyme Country Club is celebrating 100 years of sport, family & friendship! Special membership opportunities will be available throughout 2016 which will allow full use of all our amenities: golf, tennis, pool, paddle tennis, fine dining and much more.

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SOCIAL SERVICES HELP DAYS... continued from page 10

- Household size 1, under \$33,132
- Household size 2, under \$43,327
- Household Size 3, under \$53,521
- Household size 4, under \$63,716
- Household size 5, under \$73,910
- Household Size 6, under \$84,105

There is an asset limit of \$10,000 for homeowners and \$7,000 for renters after which assets are added to income for total income qualification. Residents must fall below the income/asset limits to apply.

Appointments need to be scheduled in advance and information on what documentation you should bring will be provided. Appointments are available here in Old Saybrook at the Social Services office.

Additional heating help: Qualified applicants who have exhausted their state allocation or with extenuating circumstances can also still apply in the office for Operation Fuel and local H.E.A.T. programs for additional help with any type of heating or electric issues.

Furnace and Chimney Cleaning: Also available this year, are furnace cleaning and chimney cleaning programs for qualified families fitting the above income guidelines or with an extenuating circumstance. If you have not done this within the last 12 months, please call for help.

Please contact Susan Consoli, MA, LPC, Social Services Coordinator, at 860-395-3188 or by email to sconsoli@town.old-saybrook.ct.us.

Vista Starlight Benefit 2016



Enjoy live and silent auctions, dinner and entertainment on April 16 at the Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook to benefit Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center. Event carries a "Welcome Ashore" theme – come dressed as a shipwrecked castaway from the 1960s! Tickets start at \$100. Visit www.vistavocational.org to purchase tickets or for more information.



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Bikes For Kids Receives Non-Profit of the Year Award

The Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce recently awarded Bikes For Kids as the 2015 Non-Profit Organization. The award was presented at the Chamber's Annual Meeting. The award was accepted by Dave Fowler, President of Bikes For Kids. This award is presented to the organization which has had a major impact on the lives of individuals within the last year.

Founded in 1989, Bikes For Kids has given away more than 18,000 bikes. During the past year, Bikes For Kids has had an impact on more than 1400 individuals in need by giving away refurbished bikes and new helmets.

Ninety percent of donated bikes are given to young people living right here in Connecticut. The organization is contacted by churches, schools, local and state social service agencies and individuals who have identified people in need and the bikes are distributed.

BFK's generosity enables people to play, get to work and school and have a better chance at finding employment. They enable individuals to step up, be social and build their self esteem. Bikes For Kids prides itself on supplying bikes to those in need and putting smiles on the faces of individuals one bike at a



The award was presented to Dave Fowler by Judy Sullivan, Executive Director and Lori Woll, Board of Directors, Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Kelley Fryer/Harbor News.

time. Volunteers and donations are always welcomed! Visit the website at bikesforkidsct.org or call 860-388-bike (2453).

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CT River Area Health District (CRAHD)

Zika Virus Information

The Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) will be monitoring the Zika virus with State Health Officials and is preparing to be part of a statewide response if needed. CRAHD offers the following information and CDC links regarding the virus:

Areas with Zika: The first confirmed cases of Zika virus were reported in Brazil in 2015. Local transmission of the virus has been reported as close as Puerto Rico and the Virgins Islands. Although there have been cases within the US, there haven't been any reports of locally transmitted cases in the continental USA. As of this writing, the only cases seen in the US are those returning from affected areas of the world. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>

Transmission: Zika virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. (CT is home to Aedes species mosquitoes) Mosquitoes become infected when they bite a person infected with the virus, and then the mosquito could spread the virus to other people through bites. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/transmission/index.html>

Prevention: As with other advice with mosquito transmitted diseases such as west nile virus, avoid mosquito bites by

protecting yourself. Aedes mosquitoes are very aggressive biters, and routinely bite during daylight hours, so protection from mosquito bites is required throughout the day. There currently is no vaccine or medicine to treat Zika virus. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/index.html>

For Pregnant Women: Researchers are studying a possible link between Zika virus infection and birth defects, particularly microcephaly in newborns. Because of this, CDC recommends that pregnant women and women attempting to become pregnant take special precautions and follow travel restrictions to areas where Zika transmission is ongoing. It has been found that mother to fetus transmission could occur. If travel to Zika active areas cannot be avoided, strict adherence to mosquito bite prevention is warranted. It is also recommended that women in this category discuss risks with their physician prior to travel. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html>

Symptoms, Diagnosis And Treatment: About 1 in 5 people infected with Zika virus become ill, with most illnesses mild. Common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis, muscle pain and headache. If you are sick enough to seek medical attention, and have traveled to an area where Zika virus is active, you should let your Doctor know. Zika virus can be identified

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Old Saybrook Town Nurse

Your Personal Health Record – Don't Leave Home without It!

Have you ever arrived at an appointment with a new doctor only to realize you are missing a vital piece of information? Healthcare advances continually improve our lives, but sometimes it's a challenge to keep track of all the details, especially when we receive care from more than one physician.

If you have found yourself in this predicament, you might be interested in a recommendation from Old Saybrook's VNASC Town Nurse, Tina Belmont, RN: Compile a **Personal Health Record** and make sure to take it to all health-related appointments. Whether you are seeing your primary care doctor or a specialist, going to the dentist or eye doctor, or being screened, tested, or treated for some health-related condition, it's important to have all your essential personal health information at your fingertips.

A **Personal Health Record (PHR)** should start with the basics: Your name, birth date, phones; your emergency contacts (next-of-kin/caregiver's name and phone number); names and phone numbers of your primary care physician, any specialists, and your pharmacy.

Your medical history comes next: List all allergies, chronic conditions, major illnesses, surgeries and hospitalizations. Update this history regularly with dates and results of pertinent tests, procedures and screenings. Include your immunization records (names and dates) if possible.

The medication section of your PHR is the place to list every prescription, over-the-counter medication, and supplement (vitamins, herbal remedies) you take. Note the name, dose, reason for each; if you

know how long you've been on it, add that too. Make sure to inform all your doctors of any changes in medications.

"Keeping a Personal Health Record is one of the most important things we can do to ensure the safety and quality of the care we receive," Tina stresses. She adds that a PHR can be a lifesaver if you need medical care while traveling, or if you move and encounter a delay in receiving records from your previous physician's office. You can design your own PHR document, or use VNASC's version which also includes space to write questions for your doctor and tips on managing your health and medications.

To get your free copy of VNASC's Personal Health Record, visit the Estuary Council of Seniors during Clinic hours, or call the Old Saybrook Town Nurse at 860-510-0035.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut is a nonprofit organization offering full-service home healthcare. VNASC and its affiliates have provided home healthcare to the communities of southeastern Connecticut for more than 100 years. For more information on VNASC services or clinics, call 860-510-0035 or visit www.vnasc.org.

Old Saybrook Town Nurse Free Health Screenings at Estuary Council of Seniors

Blood Pressure: Mondays 11:30-12:30 and Thursdays 12:30-1:30.

Diabetes: 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30-9:00 am, followed by Diabetes Support Group, 9:00-10:00 am.

Cholesterol: 3rd Thursday of each month, 10:00-noon. Fasting is not required, but please call to schedule an appointment. 860-388-1611, ext. 202.

Free Tax Help Available for Households Earning \$53k or Less; Free Online Filing Available for Households Earning up to \$62k

Low-and moderate-income families can receive free tax preparation in Middlesex County. Households with income up to \$53,000 are eligible for free tax preparation assistance now through April 12 at local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites, and households with income of up to \$62,000 can prepare their taxes free online at myfreetaxes.com.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is an official IRS program, and all tax preparers are trained and certified to ensure that low-to moderate-income families receive the refunds and credits that they have earned, including the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.

Appointments are required and are being offered during the evenings and on Saturdays in downtown Middletown. To make an appointment, dial 2-1-1 from any phone or visit 211ct.org. 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Individuals should bring a check or bank statement for direct deposit of their refund. Direct deposit is the quickest way to receive the refund, usually within 7 to 14 days. When attending their pre-scheduled appointment, individuals should bring: valid photo ID for yourself and your spouse; social security

cards or ITIN for everyone in the household; birth dates for everyone in the family; documentation for all income; interest and dividend statements; documentation for deductible education expenses and student loan payments; total amount paid for child care as well as day care provider's tax identification number and address; property taxes paid, including automobile taxes; evidence of health care coverage in 2015; a copy of last year's federal and state income tax returns, if available; and the current year's tax package if available.

Middletown VITA sites are coordinated by the Middlesex VITA Coalition, a partnership of Middlesex United Way and the North End Action Team. The Middlesex VITA Coalition receives support from the Connecticut Association of Human Services.

Households with income up to \$62,000 last year can prepare their state and federal taxes for free at myfreetaxes.com. MyFreeTaxes tax filing software is provided by H&R Block, which uses the highest industry standards to safeguard taxpayer information. It is the first free online tax preparation and filing product available in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. MyFreeTaxes is sponsored by United Way, with a grant from the Walmart Foundation. Visit www.myfreetaxes.com to get started.

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Acton Public Library Events

Children's Programs at Acton Public Library, Spring 2016 (April – June)

Story Times run continuously through May 27.

Wiggle Bookworms. Wednesday mornings from 10:30 - 11:00 am. Drop in and share stories, songs and simple rhymes together. A program for children ages birth through age 2 and their families. Stay and socialize after the story time with our special toddler toys.

Stay and Play. Wednesday mornings from 11:00 - 11:30 am. Expand your baby's story time experience with a 1/2 hour of social time immediately following Wiggle Bookworms. Parents and caregivers can mingle as babies enjoy social play with toys provided by the Library. Feel free to drop in.

Fantastic Fridays. Friday mornings from 10:00 – 10:30 am. A drop-in preschool story time for children ages 3-5. Have lots of fun sharing stories, music and a craft together.

Our Story Time Goals:

- To foster a love of language and books.
- To develop early literacy with stories, movement, and music.
- To provide young children with an early group experience.

- To foster parent connections through shared story and play experiences.

All story times are drop-in and free and open to all. No registration is required. Although each program is designed for the specific developmental needs of its intended age group, siblings are welcome to attend with their parent or caregiver.

Music with Miss Martha. The 3rd Friday of every month: April 15 and May 20 from 10:00 - 10:45 am. Join Miss Martha from the Community Music School for a wonderful musical story time. For ages 3-5 and siblings. Free. No registration required.

On Your Mark, Get Set, Read! Join us for another great Summer Reading Program for children at Acton Public Library. Make your summer sizzle with our 2016 summer reading program "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" for children birth to grade 5. Track 20 minute blocks of time reading or being read to and earn Acton Reading Bucks to "spend" on prizes at the Acton General Store. Then log on to Summer Reader, the statewide online summer reading log by following the link on our website. Sign up at home or in the Library to track your minutes...write and share reviews...and earn prizes!

Join in on the summer reading program weekly fun to include the following popular programs: Crafternoons, Picnic Story Times, Pajama Power Story Times, Family Nights, Story Time with Rocky

Continued on page 19

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ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY...continued from page 18

the Rock Cat, and "It's Theater Time!" drama workshops with Judy Potter. Look for more details in the upcoming summer issue of Saybrook Events.

Children's Display Case. Kids, showcase YOUR collection in our children's display case. Schedule an available month by dropping in or calling the Library to sign up. Some past collections have included LEGOs, Matchboxes, student artwork, Beanie Babies, student photography, dinosaurs, and My Little Pony to name a few. We would love to hear from you!

Adult Programs at Acton Public Library

Healthy You Speaker Series. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month for an hour-long presentation on a health topic. Speakers so far have included an ophthalmologist, an exercise physiologist, a nutritionist, and a naturopathic doctor. Upcoming programs will be announced on the library's web site, in the newspaper, and through our email list.

Technology Classes. "How do you know What You Don't Know?" – a series of computer instruction classes will be taught by Nancy Meinke. Classes will run for 90 minutes, and a half-hour after class will provide time for individual questions.
March 28: Cyber Security – A serious discussion on privacy

and staying safe on the internet. **April 4:** You've Got Mail – What is the difference between correspondence, spam, junk, and trash? Learn how to forward pictures and articles the right way. **April 11:** Let's Have Fun! – Shop, play games, socialize.

After Hours Spring Concert Series. Join us in the downstairs Petry reading room for an evening of music! **April 22:** T Chord Attitude, Larry Kaplan. **May 20:** Frank Critelli, Ear Candy for the Soul. Concerts are free, registration encouraged.

Book Discussion Groups. The Wednesday Morning Book Discussion Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am. All are welcome to join. **April 6:** *The Blue Thread*, by Anne Tyler. **May 4:** *Colony*, by Anne Rivers Siddons. **June 1:** *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr.

The Mystery Lovers Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm. Join us as we explore a variety of mystery authors and the many variations found in this intriguing genre. **April 27:** *The Last Detective*, by Peter Lovesey. **May 25:** *The Quiet Dell*, by Jayne Ann Phillips. **June 23:** Title to be determined.

Lecture: An Afternoon of Ragtime. April 3, 2:00 pm. Join Ragtime aficionado Paul Nelson and enjoy musical samplings and an enlightened discussion around the origins and history of this

Continued on page 20

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ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY...continued from page 19

highly underrated musical genre. Paul will share his extensive knowledge of this uniquely American musical format, with recorded examples to listen to.

Lights, Camera, ACTON! Film series. Second Friday of the month, at 1:00 pm. **April 8:** *12 Angry Men* (NR; 1957). **May 14:** *Erin Brockovich* (R; 2000).

The Chapman Lectures – A collaboration with the Old Saybrook Historical Society. Lectures begin at 7:00 pm. **April 28:** Carolyn Ivanoff, author and educational presenter will discuss the “Fame and Infamy of Issac Hull.”

The Shoreline Civil War Round Table Discussion Series. A collaboration with the Acton Public Library. Discussions start at 6:30 pm. **April 5:** Dr. Richard Young will discuss *Leadership at Gettysburg*. **May 3:** Linda Negrelli’s presentation is *Surgeon to Stonewall Jackson – Hunter McGuire*. **June 7:** Jim Ryan will discuss *Financing the Civil War*.

Poetry night. April 27, 7:00 pm. Join us for the 22nd Poetry night, where we celebrate the creative talents of the winners of the Acton Public Library’s poetry contest. Poets will read their poems, and be presented with their prizes. An added bonus this year will be the introduction of Old Saybrook’s first Poet

Laureate. There will be light refreshments. All are welcome.

Money Smart Week. Created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 2002, Money Smart Week® is a public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. This is achieved through the collaboration and coordinated effort of hundreds of organizations across the country. Programming is offered to all demographics and income levels and covers all facets of personal finance. The American Library Association has been a partner in this educational effort for several years, encouraging local libraries to host programs promoting financial literacy. The Acton Library will present programs on different financial topics during the week of April 23 - 30. Look for details at the library, or on the website.

Holocaust lecture. April 30, 3:00 pm. Join us for our third annual lecture on the holocaust, featuring a scholar-lecturer. Dr. Charles Lansing, of the Modern European History Department at the University of Connecticut, will give a talk. This program is sponsored by The Ernest Bernstein Honor With Books Fund. Refreshments will be served.

Passport to Libraries. This year the Acton Public Library is proud to participate in the Connecticut Library Association’s second

Continued on page 21

PASSION

We are fortunate and grateful for the great work being done by our neighbors, those who are giving of their time, talent and resources to support a passion or area of interest that is special to them and benefits our communities. At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, we connect these valued donors with worthy causes to address the important work of helping others.

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annual Passport to Connecticut Libraries program during the month of April. 124 libraries from all over Connecticut are participating in this exciting program to make people of all ages aware of the power of their library card. Take your library card and passport to at least five libraries on the list to be eligible to win a \$150 gift card for adults or a \$100 gift card for children. Each library visited will stamp their visitors' passports and give each visitor a token gift. The gift giveaways at the Acton Public Library are sponsored by the Friends of Acton. This program is open to adults, teens and children, and the hope is that it encourages residents to explore the amazing diversity of our public libraries. Ask for your Passport today and begin participating on April 1st!

Friends of Acton Public Library

The Friends of Acton Library are seeking residents who would like to become members. If you are interested, please call one of the co-presidents for further information, or you can pick up an envelope at the library's circulation desk. Membership is an on-going item with the Friends. We would enjoy having you become a part of our organization!

Recently the Friends made several purchases to improve the services for patrons at Acton Library. They have purchased a LAT-Stena disc retrieval system, a device for storing and retrieving music discs. In the children's room there will be a preschool writing desk & chairs, a new coat rack, new games, puzzles and manipulatives, and several packaged multimedia learning kits for teaching preschool children. We have also purchased 3 NIX Advance Digital Displays that can be programmed with multiple messages eliminating the need for many paper signs.

We would like to remind you that our annual book & bake sale will be held July 14, 15 & 16, 2016. Please note the dates on your calendar and check for times later on. Many people have asked us what happens with books not sold after our book sales. Some of them may be put away for future sales, but the majority are "recycled." We have one group that sends children's books to an elementary school in the Philippines, another group takes books to Veterans' associations and hospitals, another who takes them for an impoverished school in the Hartford area, and the rest are given to Big-Hearted Books who, in turn, donate them to other charities. If your group/club would like to be a part of this, please call either of the co-presidents with your information.

Please consider becoming a member of the Friends of Acton Public Library!

Pat Flanagan and Joe Breindel, Co-Presidents

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Office Of The Assessor

Qualifying Income Program for Grand List Year October 1, 2015

Commonly referred to as the Elderly Homeowners Program, residents who own residential property in Old Saybrook (this property must be your primary residence) and who will be 65 years of age by October 1, 2015 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 \$35,200 for a single persons and \$42,900 for a married couple. Your 2015 Federal income tax return, Social Security 1099 Statement for 2015 as well as railroad retirement payments (if applicable) must be submitted. If you will not file an income tax return for 2015 please furnish all other proof(s) of income for 2015 such as wages, bonuses, commissions, taxable portion of annuities and pensions, proceeds from the sale of property, dividends, or interest on tax-free bonds, etc.

Applications can be made between February 1, 2016 and May 15, 2016 at the Assessor's Office from 9am to 4pm, 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.

For elderly renters, the Renters Rebate application period is from April 1st – October 1st and has the same income limits as the Homeowners Program.

Now Out In Print

Report of Findings from a Study of the Effects of Sea Level Rise and Climate Change on Old Saybrook, Connecticut

In December 2015, the ad hoc Sea Level Rise Climate Adaptation Committee concluded its study and reported its findings to the Old Saybrook Board of Selectmen. This Report is a series of discussions on how sea level rise is affecting Old Saybrook's environment, its culture, and its economy, as well as recommendations for action.

Find the full Report on www.oldsaybrookct.gov or in hard copy at Town Hall.

Submitted by Christine Nelson

The October 1, 2015 Grand List had an overall decrease of less than 1% . We had an increase in real estate assessments of more than 6,000,000, however the resolution of several tax appeals and the purchase of "The Preserve" produced a loss in real estate assessments of 3,713,248.

Some businesses moved out of town as well as added industrial exemptions for machinery and equipment resulted in a loss to business personal property assessments of more than 4,000,000. We were able to reduce that to a net loss of 807,788 with the help of some new businesses coming to town.

Due to problems with the DMV programing this year as well as a loss of many leased vehicles we had a net loss in motor vehicles assessment of 6,419,620. Our Supplemental Motor Vehicle list provided additional motor vehicle assessments of 6,369,970 that reduced our motor vehicle losses to 49,650.

The overall loss in the 2015 Grand List is 4,570,686. The impact of this loss at the current mill rate of \$18.81 would be \$85,975.00.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold their annual assessment hearings beginning in early March of 2016. Chairman, Ruth FitzGerald, and the board members Cornelius Macrudden and Peter Gallagher will hold formal hearings.

Norman B. Wood CCMA II, Assessor

New Coastal General Permits Will Save You Time and Money

By Susan Bailey,
Senior Environmental Analyst

Office of Long Island Sound Programs, CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regulates work in tidal wetlands and coastal waters below the coastal jurisdiction line elevation of 2.9' NGVD in Old Saybrook. This includes the shores of Long Island Sound, the Connecticut River, North and South Cove, and the many tidal rivers and creeks in town. This includes constructing or repairing in-water structures such as seawalls, revetments or docks.

The historical approach of one-size-fits-all permitting at DEEP has evolved over the years and now to handle various types of work there are a variety of regulatory approaches including permits, certificates of permission (COP), or general permits (GPs).

Recently, DEEP reexamined the existing suite of GPs and has made substantial improvements to the list of minor activities now covered by this program. In 2015, DEEP consolidated 25 activities and issued three GPs – Coastal Structures, Coastal Maintenance, and Coastal Storm Response. A number of

changes were also made to previously covered activities which now require little or no regulatory paperwork!

For example, a waterfront homeowner looking to reconstruct a permitted dock was previously required to get authorization by submitting a COP application, but the new Maintenance GP will allow in-kind reconstruction of the dock with a simple registration and fee.

The fact sheets, registration forms, and instructions for all the GP-eligible categories can be found on the DEEP website at www.ct.gov/deep.

If you are considering coastal work at your property, we strongly encourage you to contact DEEP ahead of time to discuss the project. Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That is, it is better to be working under proper authorization instead of restoring environmental damage and suffering financial penalties from a potential violation. Most often, a pre-application meeting is the best way to determine if your project is approvable and what type of authorization covers the activity.

The DEEP coastal permitting liaison for Old Saybrook is Susan Bailey who may be reached at sue.bailey@ct.gov or (860) 424-3625. Remember, we're from the state and we're here to help.



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THE OLD SAYBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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Jan Perruccio
Superintendent of Schools

“Where do you see yourself in five years?” This question is often asked as the starting point for a hypothetical planning exercise. The goal is to see beyond the scope of present circumstances and look into the future. But rather than simply projecting what your life looks like five years later, this exercise allows you to envision your ideal future. You have the opportunity to set new goals for yourself, dream big and envision the best. The caveat is that once you’ve set your five-year goals, you must then work backwards to develop the strategies, milestones and action steps necessary to turn your hypothetical future into a plausible reality. At that point, it is best to ask what should be the focus given the finite time, resources and energy any one person has. This five-year planning process is not only useful to individuals but also to businesses and municipal organizations such as Old Saybrook Public Schools. Believe it or not, the time has come, once again, for the district to come together and begin planning for the next five years, and the hard work has already begun.

In October 2015, the Board of Education began a search to find firms to interview

to help lead Old Saybrook Public Schools through the Strategic Planning Process. Two organizations with backgrounds in education and strategic planning prepared presentations for the Board and were interviewed about their experience, plan of action, cost to the district, and any other services they provided to help us develop our next five-year Strategic Plan. On December 7, 2015, the Board of Education unanimously voted to enter into a contract with the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) for the purpose of facilitating Old Saybrook Public Schools’ Strategic Planning Process.

NESDEC representative, Dr. Betty Osga, a long-time resident of southeastern Connecticut, presented to the Board emphasizing that a strong strategic plan is collaborative, focused on important and durable goals, sufficiently flexible, and inspires internal accountability while delivering external accountability. Dr. Osga also emphasized the trend of focusing on fewer goals through a process of prioritizing district needs.

Currently, the Board of Education and the District Administrative Team is working with NESDEC through the beginning stages of the Strategic Planning process. To date, there have already been

meetings held with Board Members and Administrators regarding perceived district strengths and challenges, and an inventory of current assets was taken. In addition, focus group meetings were held with parents and staff on March 9th and with students and community members on March 14th. Beyond focus groups, surveys will be sent to a larger percentage of the same stakeholder groups in an effort to broaden the data collected to inform the plan. The results of the focus group meetings and surveys will be used to identify and refine district goals and will ultimately lead to the creation of our five-year action plan.

As we continue moving forward with this process, we welcome the input of our Old Saybrook families, faculty, staff, and any other citizens of our town. The goals we set for our schools don’t only impact our students, but impact our entire community as a whole. The entire district is committed to creating the best possible learning environment for our students so that they will be well equipped to be positive contributors to society when they venture out into the world. The work we do together to create this Strategic Plan will set the stage for our students’

High School Happenings

Joseph Anastasio
OSHS Associate Principal

In mid-January, upperclassmen volunteered time to work with freshmen during the 2nd Annual PJ’s & Prep held just prior to mid-term exams. The night kicked off with a Yoga session to mentally and physically prepare students for their studying.

In addition, a dietetic intern, working with the Food Services department, created a table in the study area offering suggestions and tips for “Brain Food”, and stressing the importance of water for hydration (with reusable water bottles). While studying, students enjoyed hot cocoa, vegetable crudite, yogurt parfait samples, dried raisins and granola bars.

More recently, Juniors from Old Saybrook High School recently spent three days in Washington D.C. (the trip was rescheduled

Continued on page 25

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS...continued from page 24

from last November). Points of interest included a riverboat cruise on the Potomac, Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Changing of the Guard, Kennedy Gravesite, Smithsonian Museums, Kennedy Center Show

(Shear Madness), Tour of the Monuments on the National Mall, and a visit to the Holocaust Museum. During the visit to Arlington National Cemetery, students witnessed a very moving wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Giant Map of Africa Invades OSMS

Gabe Karr

OSMS 7th Grade Student

Recently at OSMS, a large map of the continent of Africa was borrowed from the National Geographic Society and brought to our school as a great learning tool. This map, covering nearly the entire foyer, was used by the seventh grade social studies classes as a fun, hands-on way to learn about Africa.

For starters, the students got to see Africa on a much larger scale than what they are used to. It helped a lot of kids understand just how big Africa and its countries are. The map was very detailed, with all countries, oceans, and cities labeled in bold print. It provided a view of Africa different than those in the textbooks and the classrooms. The size of the map made

a big impact on the learning experience associated with it.

Several interactive and educational games could be played across the large map. Students would take their shoes off and be able to "travel" across Africa with their own feet. There would be situations where we would have to quickly spot a country or capitol city. Another activity was to mimic a certain animal as we traveled across the map to find a certain area. Some of the games were team-based, and others were based around personal knowledge. Overall, all of the possible activities on the map provided great ways to learn about Africa.

Whether the class was reading topic questions related to Africa while sitting on the huge map, or doing hands-on activities



with Mr. Wood and other classmates, it was a great learning experience. It really benefited kids with hands-on learning styles, giving them a break from taking notes or listening to lectures. I'm glad the 7th grade got the opportunity to use the map and with support from the Old Saybrook Educational Foundation we were able to enjoy this amazing map.

OSMS Geography Bee

Laura Carabelaian

OSMS 7th Grade Student

Not everybody wins the place in the Geography Bee, but everybody wins knowledge!

What is the Geography Bee? The Geography Bee is a competition which focuses on questions asked about geography. The Bee competition gathers students who are intrigued about bodies of water, land masses, and interesting cultures from all over the world! The Bee was designed in 1989 and sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The competitions were designed to strengthen student's knowledge in geography and to help them acquire general knowledge of our world. It is held every year and is open for students in

Continued on page 26

Lights, Cameras, Action



twist on the Brothers Grimm fairy tales in a musical format. Student performances received rave reviews. Congratulations to the cast and crew!

On March 10, 11, and 12 the Old Saybrook High School Music and Drama Departments presented the performance *Into The Woods*. The story is a modern

OSMS GEOGRAPHY BEE...continued from page 25

the fourth through eighth grades in the participating schools around the United States.

Old Saybrook Middle School is one of the numerous participating schools in the Geography Bee that takes place in the month of January. For each grade, there are two finalists and one alternate. In the school wide bee, there are ten finalists which compete on stage. Mr. Tim Wood, social studies teacher and moderator for the bee with a great passion for geography, asked interesting and mind-turning questions selected by National Geographic. From Venice, Italy, to Trinidad and Tobago and then to the Great Lakes, the students had to write down or explain their answers. For example, "In which state did the Wizard of Oz take place that has Topeka as its capital?" "What is the nearest country to Trinidad?" "What is the name of the berries grown in Cape Cod?" were some examples of questions that students had to answer. The students were also challenged with interpreting and reading maps.

Davis Brown, in the 8th grade was the 2nd place winner and Teo Bortan, in the 4th grade, was the 1st place winner. Teo, the school winner felt "Great! Surprised!... I thought I was going to get eliminated." All of his hard work is going to pay off when he gets the results of the online testing.



Geography Bee winner
Teo Bortan.



Geography Bee winner
Davis Brown.

Many thanks to Old Saybrook Middle School and its social studies teachers who keep the students motivated, enthusiastic, and willing to learn new things.

As former president John F. Kennedy said, "Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies." A fulfilled student acquires awareness to the world around us and the Geo Bee is definitely helping with this!

OSMS Student Council Raises Money And School Spirit

Jacqueline Hakim and Mary Looney OSMS Middle School Teachers

The Old Saybrook Middle School Student Council has been busy supporting local fund-raisers. In mid-October, signs were posted throughout the Middle School promoting "October 23rd - Pink Day." Students and staff were asked to pay one dollar and wear pink. The Student Council collected money as students entered school, and a check for the full amount was sent to the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Almost \$400 was collected in less than half an hour!

Soon after Pink Day, The High School's Interact Club approached the middle

school and asked if it would like to join their Thanksgiving fundraiser sponsored by Liberty Bank. Liberty Bank pledged that for every dollar raised, it would contribute twenty-five cents. Money raised would help provide Thanksgiving food to local families. The Middle School Student Council linked that fund-raiser to a "Hat Day" on November 20th for \$1 per student. \$534 dollars was collected and with Liberty's contribution, the total reached \$637.

In early December, students were allowed to wear pajamas to school for a \$1. Over one hundred dollars was raised and donated to the annual toy drive sponsored by the Old Saybrook Police Department and Youth & Family Services.

When veterans visited us for panel discussions in November, we learned that one thing that means a lot to people in the military is receiving notes and letters from civilians. When the Big Y asked us to join them and make Valentines for those serving in the military, we made it a school-wide project. Hundreds of valentines were delivered to our military!

That was followed by another Pajama Day to help support the PTO's "Stuff the Shelves" food drive for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. Students brought in over 1,900 pounds of food and \$130 to stock the shelves of the Soup Kitchen.

What's next on the Student Council's agenda? Stay tuned!

Goodwin Students Benefit From Cultural Arts Activities

The Parent Teachers Organization (PTO) at Goodwin School continues to support the cultural growth of all students. Each year, students enjoy scheduled events ranging from a harvest fair to a magic show to family trips at Fenway Park. The PTO, in partnership with Goodwin Teachers, believes that these experiences add to the development of children. Exposing children to all kinds of opportunities helps them grow in ways that are not always possible within the classroom. The staff at Goodwin School is most appreciative of the opportunities the PTO creates for students and the willingness of parents to participate.

Third Graders Celebrate Martin Luther King

Under the leadership of the third grade team and music teachers, Lois Geer and Joyce Cole, the third grade students entertained fellow students in a Martin Luther King performance. Students sang songs and read poems to share the ideals of Martin Luther King. It was a great opportunity for third graders to put their learning into action and a chance for our younger students to learn from their peers.

New Goodwin Principal Is Thankful

Heston Sutman, Kathleen E. Goodwin Principal

I was afforded an opportunity to sit as Interim Principal to begin the academic school year. Throughout the interim period I was quickly enveloped by the positive, student centered culture that exists at Goodwin School. From parents to teachers and their students, it is nearly impossible not to feel the love for children, and the children themselves ooze with excitement for learning. I was also intrigued by the needs of the building and became determined to be part of the team to meet those needs.

From the beginning, I was aware that the application/interview process would be necessary if I were to pursue this as a permanent position. Although the process was daunting, the journey was well worth it, and I can now call Goodwin School my professional home. I am most appreciative and thankful for this opportunity and look forward to learning and sharing with the Goodwin Community.

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Old Saybrook Lions Club

The Old Saybrook Lions Club joins you in welcoming spring to our beautiful town. The early spring flowers are already showing their colors and it won't be long before we welcome back our summer residents and visitors for another season of fun-filled activities in the sun and in/on our Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River.

We're in the final stages of editing and publishing **The Lions Club of Old Saybrook 2016 Phone Book**, our 12th edition, which is expected to be mailed soon to nearly 6000 residences and businesses throughout Old Saybrook. Additional copies will be available at our Chamber of Commerce, Town Hall, Acton Public Library and other public locations throughout town. We are grateful to our long-time advertisers and our first-time advertisers for making it possible to provide this telephone book to you. We encourage you to use the services of these local businesses and restaurants. Browse through your new telephone book and read about the many activities and new endeavors of Lions of our community, region, state, national and international levels.

March 19th was a busy day for us. We sponsored and assisted with the Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation's 9th Annual

Easter Egg Hunt, which began at 11:00 am and was "all said and done" by noon, including "photo ops" with Mr. and Mrs. Easter Bunny and a friendly spring lion. Then, we were off to Haddam Landing for a 3:00 pm departure aboard the RiverQuest for an Eagle Watch along the Connecticut River. The RiverQuest was nearly filled to its 44-passenger capacity. A good time was had by all.

Now that the warmer weather is here, look for us at various times and locations throughout town as we sell our Old Saybrook Outer Lighthouse pins for \$5 each. Every hat, cap and lapel should have an Old Saybrook lighthouse pin.

We're still collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids at various locations throughout town, including the Acton Public Library, The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. and several eye doctors' offices and (for hearing aids) County Hearing and Balance at 900 Boston Post Road.

We are proud sponsors of one of the teams in the Old Saybrook Little League again this year. We are looking forward to attending upcoming games as soon as the season begins.

Continued on page 29

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LIONS CLUB...continued from page 28

Our two newest programs, the "Homeless Initiative" and the KidsSight Program (formerly known as Pediavision) are being organized.

For more information about any of our activities and services, please call 860-924-5459 or write to: Old Saybrook Lions Club, P.O. Box 21, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. Would you like to become a member of the club? Contact Kate at cornfieldkate@comcast.net or by phone: 860-388-6454.

A Fun Filled Fair For The Whole Family – Especially The Dog!

Old Saybrook High School seniors are organizing a new event called **The Barking Market** – a fun, outdoor marketplace for "dogs and their humans" to play, eat and enjoy the many activities and vendors on site. The first annual Barking Market will be held on May 7th from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Fireman's Field in Old Saybrook, CT.

Saturday is stacking up to be a great event for "dogs and their humans" starting with the "Doggie Fun Zone" – "an amazing, thrilling and entertaining fun and run multi-dimensional lure motivated obstacle course for dogs of all sizes and talents" plus many vendors, family friendly activities, food trucks, guest speakers and workshops, give-aways and more!

Project leaders Owen Greene and Rob Gadon, seniors at Old Saybrook High School, have been working for months planning the event as part of their senior class project. Gadon and Greene say they're motivated to tell people about the prevalence of animal cancers because many of the cancers could be prevented. Just like humans, animals are diagnosed with cancer at the alarming rate of one in every four.

"If we're more careful about the use of pesticides or smoking indoors around pets we could prevent more human AND animal cancers" said Greene. Proceeds from this event will be given to the Riedel and Cody Fund, a CT non-profit dedicated to helping animals receive the life-saving treatments they need to beat cancer. Please feel free to bring your whole family including your well-socialized, leashed dog and enjoy the day with dog lovers from all over Connecticut. This event is rain or shine. For more information and a list of vendors and speakers visit www.riedelcody.org or email info@riedelcody.org. Sign up as a vendor online as well!

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Old Saybrook Parks & Recreation

**Spring and Summer
Registration Will Take Place
Tuesday, April 5th at 9:00 am**

Visit www.OldSaybrookRec.com

Annual Spring Events

As we look ahead to spring, the Old Saybrook Parks & Recreation Department is gearing up for some fun, annual events for the entire family to enjoy.

On March 19th we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Recreation Center and on Town Green. This annual event was sponsored by the Lions Club of Old Saybrook. Children ages 2-3rd grade were able to enjoy an Easter egg hunt for candy and the three eggs with special tickets that lead to special prize baskets. There was also face painting, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and friendly spring lion, and much more.

On Friday, March 25th we will meet at Clark Community Park on Schoolhouse Road for our Annual Rock Hunt event. On this day, 4th-6th graders will have the opportunity to search the woods and trails for special painted rocks. These rocks can then be traded in for prizes such as candy, toys and gift certificates. There is no charge for the event, but participants are encouraged to sign up prior to the 25th. Those wishing to participate should also be prepared with a bag or bucket to collect rocks and be prepared to start at 10:00 am sharp.

Finally, we kick off the fishing season and little league season with our annual Ray Dobratz Fishing Derby. On Saturday, April 30th we'll start bright and early at 7:00 am at Clark Community Park to see who can catch the biggest fish of the day. Children 5-15 can be accompanied by a family member, with those 16 & older needing a valid CT fishing license. Donuts along with hot chocolate and coffee will be provided in the early hours, with hot dogs available later in the morning. Prizes will be given out to those who catch the biggest fish! Admission is \$5.00/person



and we ask that participants register prior to April 28th.

For more information on any of these great events, please stop into the Recreation Center on 308 Main Street or give us a call at (860) 395-3152. You can also visit our website at www.oldsaybrookrec.com.

Basketball Events

Basketball season with OSPR wrapped up in February after a great 7 week season. This



season we had 18 teams in 5 leagues with 136 participants. This year has been the largest season in quite some time and OSPR would like to thank not only the players, but all of the coaches who have volunteered their time each week for practice and games. We would also like to thank our volunteer middle school and high school refs and score keepers. The basketball season was followed by the local Hot Shots Contest on Saturday, March 5th. This annual event is part of the larger, CRPA State competition in which participants have three, one minute rounds to shot from 5 "hotspots" on the court to get the most points possible. This year's state competition will be held here in Old Saybrook at the Rec. Center on Saturday, April 2nd. The HotShots competition is a free event to all residents' ages 9-15 years old.

Friday Night Teen Center

It's hard to believe we are already looking ahead to spring! With the warmer weather, we have some great returning programs to our Friday Night Teen Center, as well as some new programs to get excited about. We will hold our annual

Continued on page 31

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PARKS & RECREATION...continued from page 30

Homerun Derby on Friday, April 1st during our Friday Night Teen Center hours. 6th-8th grade girls & boys will compete in 3 rounds to try and rack up the best score possible. Winners will be awarded in each grade.

On April 29th, its redemption time as our ever popular Dodgeball Tournament returns for the Spring Edition. Teams of 4 will compete to be crowned champion. Teens can put together teams from any grade as long as it is a co-ed team. Extra points for creative names & team uniforms.

May brings us a new event, as we gear up for summer with a Teen Center Luau. Participants are encouraged to wear their favorite Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts as we provide music, friends and fun! We will also be holding limbo & hula contests for participants to further join in on the fun.

Finally, we will round out the Teen Center year with our annual 8th Grade Barbeque on Friday, June 3rd. Open to all in grades 6th-8th, the night is a chance for us to say goodbye to our 8th graders, as we celebrate our incoming 8th grade class. The Teen Center will even be open an entire hour early for participants to enjoy food, a photo booth and DJ.

As with any Friday Night Teen Center event, all of the fun is free with an annual Teen Center Membership. Those without a membership will be required to pay the \$5/nightly fee. For more information on any of these great events, please see Samantha Wilson in the Teen Center.

Teen Trips

Just because schools are off during April 18th-22nd, doesn't mean that OSPR is taking a break! During April Vacation we will offer not one but THREE teen trips so that teens can still see friends, all while experiencing a fun and exciting day trip.

On Monday, we will be heading to a favorite teen trip location as we visit Laserquest in Newington, CT. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in three exciting games, and compete to be the Laserquest Ultimate Champion. Our Wednesday Trip will be to the new IT adventure course in New Haven, CT. Dubbed as the world's largest ropes course, participants will spend their day exploring this new facility and testing their limits. Our final trip on Friday will include a visit to nearby Westbrook movie theatre. As time gets closer, participants will have a chance to vote for the movie they'd like to see.

Old Lyme Country Club Celebrates Its 100 Year Anniversary

The Old Lyme Country Club is celebrating its founding in 1916 with a season long schedule of events. The club, organized in 1916 as a 6 hole golf course and incorporated in the 1920's with an expansion to 9 holes, continues as a key shoreline institution to this day. Throughout its long history it has served its member's social and athletic needs as well as hosting many community events. The club's membership has included such well known

All OSPR Teen Trips are open to students in grades 7-12. Registration includes admission to trip, as well as round trip bus transportation. To register, get more information or give us an idea for an upcoming trip, please stop by the Recreation Center or visit www.oldsaybrookrec.com for more information.

MLB Pitch, Hit & Run

On Saturday, May 7th at 10:00 am OSPR will hold our 3rd Annual Major League Baseball's Pitch, Hit & Run competition. This event is free to all residents and registration will start on Tuesday, April 5th. There are 4 age groups in two divisions that will compete in the skills of pitching, hitting and throwing. Winners from each division will move on to the state competition and will have the chance to compete in a Major League ballfield. This year's championship will take place in San Diego during All-star Weekend. This event is a partnership with Old Saybrook Little League, who each year send their coaches, who volunteers to run each station and guide the participants through the competition. Registration and information can be found on our website.



Life in Motion

OSPR is proud to announce a great new program coming to town this spring, *Life in Motion: Healthy Living in Old Saybrook*. This event, will be a partnership with SoundRunner of Old Saybrook, MidCoast CrossFit, Pop Weightloss, Get Real with Marie, Terri Cain of OSPR Yoga and Select PT. All of whom are leaders in the health and wellness industry. This event will take place on Saturday, May 21st at Clark Community Park at 9:00 am. The event will feature a variety of large group exercise, 4-45 minute stations including hikes in the trails, yoga, and a whole lot more. There will also be staff from each company around to talk the importance of exercise, nutrition, how to prepare and recoup from exercise, and what other programs to look forward to throughout the summer season. This event is free and registration will take place via www.OldSaybrookRec.com. You can also visit our website for more information or contact Jonathan Paradis at Jonathan.Paradis@OldSaybrookCT.gov.

Town Clerk's Office

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

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

Congratulations

Tristan Scott and Ashley Criscuolo – December 6th
Jennifer Choquette and Carrie-Anne Hall – December 12th
Darren Eller and Laureen Pompilli – January 1st
Charles Burke and Andrea Kettle – January 17th
John Hill and Jillian Murphy – February 14th

With Sympathy

Clark Averill	Sean Dent	Roberta Hasian	Harry Randall, III
Richard Bastian	Lois DuBois	Erwin Horton	Robert Ritter
Otto Boos	Robert Ellal, Sr.	Beverly Landry	Reginald Rutty, Jr.
Lisa Carver	Edward Francis	Barbara LeRiche	Carl Smith
George Catrambone	Joanne Godfrey	Betty Mounsey	Martha Soper
Robert Caulfield	Roland Goodhue	Harry Neilsen	Joan Uricchio
Mary Ann Civitello	Santina Giuliano	Gerda Plinck	Nicolaas Van Yperen
George Crute Sr.	Frank Grief	Liliana Poletto	Elizabeth Weldon

Reminder: Be sure your dogs are current with their rabies vaccine. We will be mailing notices of registration at the end of May for June payment.

Elections: Presidential Primaries will be held April 26th at your regular polling places. You can register to vote online at the Secretary of State website or go to the Registrar of Voters office or Town Clerk's office.

Estuary Council Regional Senior Center

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a community resource for the nine-town Estuary region's residents over 50 years old providing nutrition, transportation, health support services, education opportunities and socialization. We have been serving Seniors and promoting healthy and active lifestyles for adults 50 and better through quality programs and services in the nine-town Estuary region for over 40 years. Please visit our website at www.ecsenior.org for additional information or call us at (860) 388-1611.

Junk In The Trunk, Saturday, May 14 from 9 am - 1 pm. Vendors and artisans will showcase their one of a kind treasures, antiques, vintage pieces, arts and crafts and other assorted bric-a-brac during this one day shopping event. This market will be held rain or shine. Food will be available for purchase, music, information, as well as tours of our wonderful Senior Center, a gift drawing and much, much more.

The Estuary Council offers social & educational programs, health screenings, exercise classes for many levels, a variety of trips, and much more. View our newsletter on our website or sign up to receive it monthly.

Newly retired or looking to help your community? The Estuary Council has volunteer opportunities to fit your busy schedule. The time and talents of our many volunteers are an integral part of our organization. Find out how you can make a difference.

Our Thrift Shop offers the best bargains on the shoreline. Clothing, furniture housewares, decorations, and jewelry are just a few of the things you will find. Every day is different. All ages are welcome to come in and shop.

The Estuary Council relies on donations and fundraisers throughout the year to raise the funds needed to provide the vital services such as Meals on Wheels and medical transportation. Thank you to everyone who continue to support us with a donation or attend a fundraiser.

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Request For Letters of Interest To Serve On A Town Agency

The Old Saybrook Board of Selectmen invites electors of the town interested in serving as members of the following agencies to submit a letter with a brief description of your interest and any experience you have to share in filling any of the following vacancies:

- Economic Development Commission representative to Inland Wetlands Commission
- Historic District Commission alternate member
- Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission representative from Econ. Dev. Comm.
- Lower Connecticut River Valley Regional Agriculture Council representative
- Tree Committee regular member
- Zoning Commission alternate member
- Zoning Commission alternate member

Please clearly address your Letter of Interest to:
Office of the First Selectman
Town Hall
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Cappella Cantorum

Mozart Celebration

Cappella Cantorum will present the Mozart's *Requiem*, *Regina Coeli*, *Ave Verum*, April 10, 3 pm, in John Winthrop Middle School, 1 Winthrop Road, Deep River. Cappella Cantorum, with professional orchestra and soloists: Soprano-Patricia Schuman, Alto-Heather Petrie, Tenor-Daniel Juarez, and Baritone-Christopher Grundy. Tickets \$30, at CappellaCantorum.org or 860-388-2871. Children 18 and under Free. Reception follows performance.

Cappella Cantorum Men's Chorus

Cappella Cantorum Men's Chorus non-auditioned Registration/Rehearsal starts on Monday, April 11, 7 pm at John Winthrop Middle School, 1 Winthrop Road, Route 80, (exit 5, CT 9) Deep River. The male chorus is conducted by Barry Asch and accompanied by Deborah Lyon. Rehearsals are on Monday nights at 7:30 pm at John Winthrop Middle School. Late registration will take place on Monday, April 18, 7 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 56 Great Hammock Road, Old Saybrook. Music includes: Spirituals, Gospel Classical and Broadway Selections. Membership, including music, is \$50.00 www.CappellaCantorum.org or at rehearsal. Contact Barry at (860) 388-2871 for information. The first concert is Sunday, June 12 at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

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Old Saybrook Historical Society

Dedicated to Preserving, Protecting, and Promoting the History of Old Saybrook

April – Almost Here

Chapman Lectures normally held at the Acton Public Library, 60 Old Boston Post Road, on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm. These talks are free and attended by friendly neighbors interested in learning more about the life and times of Connecticut and the shoreline area. **April 28. Carolyn Ivanoff, Author and Educator, Housemaster at Shelton Intermediate School.** Carolyn Ivanoff will discuss the “Fame and Infamy for the Hulls.” Ms. Ivanoff will present information about Commodore Isaac Hull, commander of the USS Constitution and his family, including his wife Ann Hart of Old Saybrook.

May and June – Very Near

May 26. Will Siss, History of Beer in Connecticut (with beer tasting). To be held at Firemen’s Field Banquet Hall. Admission \$5. Must be 21 years old. Will Siss will discuss the long history of making beer in Connecticut. There will be sample tastings. Mr. Siss is a columnist for the *Waterbury Republican-American*, has appeared on numerous radio and television programs and recently wrote *Connecticut Beers: A History of Nutmeg State Brewing*.

June 4. 4th Annual Antiques Show and Appraisal Day. To be held at the Gen. William Hart House campus, 350 Main Street, from 9:00-4:00, with appraisals from 10:00-1:00. This popular attraction will feature more than 75 quality merchants who will offer distinctive antique and collectible items. This show has quickly become a widely anticipated event. Garden items from the Society’s heritage gardens and refreshments will be available. Free admission. Several notable experts will provide verbal appraisals of antiques, art work, primitive items, jewelry, books and manuscripts, and other items for which there is a modest charge. Sponsors are Saybrook Recycled Furniture and Lorensen Auto Group.

June 12. Songs and Stories of World War II. To be held at the Grace Episcopal Church, Main Street at 3:00 pm. Back by popular demand, singer and story-teller Rick Spencer will present an enjoyable and educational program that will tell of the often challenging times at home and abroad during World War II. During the Second World War American popular music reflected patriotism, military service, love and separation – the cultural soul of our nation at war. Rick Spencer was a presenter of traditional maritime music at Mystic Seaport for twenty years and for the last several years has been a full time developer and presenter of theme-based

historic music programs. He has performed throughout the U.S. and Canada.

June 12. Grand Opening, “World War II Remembered.” Hart House Exhibit Gallery, 350 Main Street. Immediately following performance by Rick Spencer. Free admission and refreshments. This exhibit will feature military items and life on the home front, including items from local families. [Loans and contributions are still being accepted.]

September – Out There

September 10. Hosting for History: A Showcase of Homes, from 10:00 – 4:00 pm. Rain or shine. Join us for a tour of homes spanning four centuries that grace this special town. You are also invited to visit local crafters at the General William Hart House Boutique for specialty items, September 10, 9:30 - 4:30 pm. Tour tickets are \$25 or if purchased on the day of the tour, \$30. Tickets are available at the Frank Stevenson Archives, 350 Main Street, Thursday mornings from 9:00 - noon or by mail. Tickets will be mailed if orders are received by September 1. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope. After that date, they will be held at the Archives for pick up September 10th. Checks should be made payable and sent to OSHS, P.O. Box 4, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. For more information, please visit our website: saybrookhistory.org or call 860-395-1635.

In Other News

In response to requests from many visitors seeking more information, the Society applied for, and received, a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County to prepare and install two interpretative signs. One sign will feature the Gen. William Hart House and Exhibit Gallery, the other will feature the Frank Stevenson Archives and the heritage gardens. Work is being done by Joseph Matteis, an expert restorer of art works with a shop in Clinton, on the 1823 portraits by Waldo & Jewett of Elizabeth Hart Allen. Funds for this important work come from the legacy of Marge Anderson who directed that they be used for the care of furnishings and collections at the Gen. Hart House.

Researchers and archaeologists from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, with a grant from the National Park Service, have been conducting site work to better understand the war and locate Saybrook Fort. They have concluded their efforts and have prepared a report on the Pequot War and the battles that occurred in the Saybrook area. David Naumec and Kevin McBride, leading researchers, will be presenting artifacts that they uncovered to the Historical Society and making public presentations this summer to share their findings with Saybrook residents.

Finding Your New Best Friend

Local Group To Hold Dog Adoption Event April 30 - May 1 in Old Saybrook

After five years of successfully matching over 1500 deserving dogs with new homes, **Dog Days Adoption Events** is doing it again. On Saturday April 30 and Sunday, May 1 Old Saybrook Shopping Plaza will once again become a dog lover's paradise when small and large puppies and dogs in a variety of breeds and mixes will have the chance to meet and greet their perfect human family.

The unique Dog Days Adoption Events format coordinates with rescue agencies and high kill shelters in the southern U.S. and Connecticut municipal shelters to bring 50 to 90 healthy and adoptable dogs to Old Saybrook for a single two day adoption event. Event organizers work hard to promote and manage event details to make sure local residents have the opportunity to give deserving dogs a chance to meet their forever families.

It's Time to Renew Your Fire Pit Permit

The Office of the Fire Marshal reminds you that it is time to renew your fire pit permit. Town of Old Saybrook and CT General Statutes require Fire Pit Permits to ensure certain safety guidelines are met. These statutes include rules about distances of fire pits from other structures, no burning of leaves or garbage, no burning on days when air pollution levels are high and that there be a reliable water source nearby.

Fire pits that require permits include pre-built, portable, metal fire pits purchased from local retailers.

Glaucoma National Awareness Month

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma affects 60 million people worldwide and more than 3 million people in the United States. Glaucoma is often called the "thief of sight" since often there are no symptoms and glaucoma related vision loss is permanent. As much as 40% of vision can be lost without a person noticing. If not diagnosed and treated, 1 in 10 people go blind from glaucoma. Glaucoma affects people of all ages, even infants.

There are two main types of glaucoma: Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma and Angle-Closure Glaucoma. Open-angle glaucoma is dangerous because most of the time a person affected will not notice any symptoms until vision is severely damaged. The vision loss isn't noticed because it often starts with your peripheral vision and the brain makes up for what you don't see. The inner eye pressure (IOP- intraocular pressure) rises because the correct amount of fluid can't drain out of the eye, this occurs usually deep into the drainage canals. Closed-angle

According to Lorin Greene, founder and event organizer, "Connecticut is full of dog lovers and our events provide a wide selection of dogs to attract a diverse crowd of adopters. We're like matchmakers – we try to help people find the best dog to match their lifestyle."

Dogs are provided by established rescue organizations and have been spayed/neutered, immunized and microchipped as well as temperament tested. All potential adopters are screened and interviewed and must agree to a home visit, a simple process that ensures long term success. Once the process is complete, the adoption bell rings, the new collar is snapped on, dozens of community volunteers applaud and cheer and a happy pooch marches out the storefront door en route to a new and wonderful life. It's a powerful and magical moment!

The Spring 2016 event will feature more than 50 great dogs available for adoption. They can be viewed at www.godogdays.org. along with event information. Pre-event applications are encouraged and can be completed online.

Fire pit permits are free, and they are valid from April 1st through December 1st.

Permits are also required for the burning of brush on residential property. These permits are also free, and they are valid for 30 days. Please call the Office of the Fire Marshal at 860-395-3133 to request a fire pit permit or if you have any questions.

glaucoma occurs when the drainage canals get blocked or covered. Angle-closure glaucoma is dangerous because, while there are often symptoms of pain including headaches, nausea, and eye pain they happen rapidly and without warning.

It is very important to get an annual dilated eye exam. As you age or if you have a family history of glaucoma you may have the visual field test performed. This test checks your peripheral vision and the loss of your side vision is one of the first signs of glaucoma. If you are diagnosed with glaucoma there are ways to manage it. In the early stages you might be prescribed eye drops or have laser surgery performed. Other ways to manage glaucoma are done by performing filtering surgery or a drainage implant.

Dr. Mascarenhas at Middlesex Eye Physicians is our Glaucoma Specialist. She is Yale educated specialist and trained in Trabectome glaucoma surgery.

Middlesex Eye Physicians, Offices in Westbrook and Middletown

Nightingale Scholarship Fund

The Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board Thanks The Community for Their Generous Donations

The generous donations made by local residents and businesses to the Nursing Board's **Nightingale Fund** enabled the board to give four scholarships totaling \$11,000 in 2015/16. The scholarship recipients were: Megan Sullivan, Erin Featherstone, Ashley Savino, Christine Gosselin all Old Saybrook residents. The Public Health Nursing Board responding to the ever worsening shortage of trained nurses established the Nightingale Fund in 2005 to help fund annual nursing scholarships for Old Saybrook residents.

Marie McFarlin	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Connolly
Virginia Robinson	Cynthia Godfrey
Barbara & Neal Slobin	John & Deborah DeCristoforo
Margaret Samela	Robert & Madeleine Fish
Lorraine Splain	Carol & Tedd Levy
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Mary Kennedy	Lincoln & Elisabeth Thompson
Tara Winch	William & Janet Temple
Kevin & Gail Farrell	Joseph & Deborah Desautel
Rita Jackson	Richard & Margaret Lantz
Patricia Walker	Saybrook Point Inn
Mary N Fasulo	Robert & Patricia Cosgrove
Jeannette Cushman	William & Julia Ann Walton
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Marilyn Magnano	Westbrook Concrete Block Co.
Robert Boody	Scott & Joanne Giegerich
Matthew & Hadass Rubin	Robert & Jean Hester
Cordial Shoppe	Robert & Deborah Shaw
Richard Goldfeder, D.M.D.	OldSaybrookAmbulance Assoc.

Many of our past scholarship recipients are currently working in key professional nursing positions in our state which is both gratifying and a testament to the success of this program.

The community response to the nursing scholarship appeal was inspiring and the Nursing Board would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generosity:

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Landing	Lindas Demas
Mark & Donna Konarski	Kathleen Cobb
Carol Manning	Eleanor H. Bishop
Shirley Brockway	Pasta Vita, INC.
John & Patricia O'Brien	Sara Keaney
Andrew & Kathleen Balosie	Cartier Optical
Robert & Joan Wendler	Virginia Robinson
Dr. Elizabeth Owen	David Hoey
Luigi's Restaurant	Sheila Brown
Craig Wilson, DDS	Carl Fortuna
Frank & Agnes Landrey	Michael & Renee Pavlovich
Dr. & Mrs. David Frankel	Paul & Susan Tracey
Diane Aldi DePaola	Donna & Robert Burke
William & Carole Diffley	Margaret & Mark Smith
Robert & Michelle Dechemin	William & Lauren Brazicki
Kenneth & Patricia Funck	Grant & Joanne Westerson
Nancy & Joseph Termine	George & Meghan Whelen
Nicholas & Kathryn Condulis	John & Alice Schofield
Jack & Cynthia Rehm	Karen & Michael Beebe
Randal & Jeanne Clampett	Donald and Julie Pendleton
Mitchell & Regina Strand	Vincent & Leslie Scaramella
Daniel & Barbara Aube	Lafayette Keeney
Fay & Peter Bisson	Richard Bourn, Jr.
Charles & Suzanne Milspaugh	Karen & Adam Stuart

Nightingale Scholarship

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, Williams and Xavier High Schools. Completed applications must be returned to the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board mailbox in the Old Saybrook Town Hall, Administration Office by April 18, 2016. The award is made possible from annual contributions to the Old Saybrook Public Health Nursing Board Nightingale Fund Appeal.

Elizabeth Owen, OSPHNB Scholarship Committee

Kick the Invasive Exotic Gardening Habit with Great Native Plant Alternatives

It's time to eradicate those unruly invasives from your garden and add some new choices to your plant inventory. Famous for stepping beyond garden boundaries, invasive exotics wreak havoc on natural areas. English ivy smothers wildflowers and topples shade trees and Japanese honeysuckle strangles shrubs and small trees. Leaving old garden standards behind is difficult but necessary if our parks, forests, and fields are to have a future.

Invasive plants turn into landscape thugs by out-competing the surrounding natives. They put their leaves out earlier in the spring and lose them later in the fall than native plants. This extended growth period gives them a significant advantage over natives. In addition, these plants have no natural enemy and quickly produce abundant offspring. Many invasive plants are unpalatable to deer and quickly take over where deer are abundant.

What is an Invasive Plant?

An invasive plant has the ability to thrive and spread aggressively outside its natural range. A naturally aggressive plant may be especially invasive when introduced to a new habitat. An invasive species that colonizes a new area may gain an ecological edge since the insects, diseases, and foraging animals that naturally keep its growth in check in its native range are not present in its new habitat. Some invasive plants are worse than others. Many continue to be admired by gardeners unaware of their weedy nature. Others are recognized as weeds, but property owners fail to prevent their spread. Some do not become invasive until they are neglected for a long time, while others only colonize small areas and not aggressively. And some may spread and dominate large areas in just a few years. In many cases, plants from other parts of the world are welcome, manageable additions to our gardens. However, in some situations these non-native species cause serious ecological disturbances. In the worst cases, invasive plants like purple loosestrife and kudzu ruthlessly choke out other plant life. This puts extreme pressure on native plants and animals, and threatened species may succumb. Ultimately, invasive plants alter habitats and reduce biodiversity.

Where do they come from?

Invasive plants may arrive purely by accident, as seed in agricultural products, or on shipments from overseas. In other cases, invasives are selected for their horticultural attributes. Beautiful, unusual, exceptionally hardy, drought-tolerant, or fast-growing plants are in demand by gardeners. Unfortunately, plants selected for their resilience may be invasive because of their adaptable nature. Plants selected for their aesthetic value may be hard to banish from gardens even after their invasive tendencies are revealed.

The following are 3 illustrations of degree of invasiveness.

1. **Danger! Don't plant it...**

Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, has long been a prized perennial. Its pinkish-purple flowers appear over a long period in summer. Its seeds wash into waterways, and can be carried on the feet of waterfowl. Stands of loosestrife spread exponentially in wetlands and along stream beds. This plant should be removed by hand only if it is very young. Attempts to dig it out backfire because purple loosestrife resprouts from root fragments; disturbing the soil just provides more room for it to spread. Cut established plants to the ground periodically to prevent flowering. Other invasive plants such as Tartarian honeysuckle, *Lonicera tatarica*; Russian olive, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*; and Siberian elm, *Ulmus pumila*, are still available for planting even though they have become invasive over large areas. This category is threatening because gardeners who are unaware of problems with these plants may still be planting them in areas that have not yet been colonized.

2. **Warning: If you see it, remove it**

Tree-of-heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, is one of the few trees that can grow in alleys, gutters, and broken sidewalks. It grows very quickly, and competes aggressively for sunlight in newly developing forests. Disturbed sites are dominated by tree-of-heaven. Pull these seedlings whenever you see them; once they have grown for a few years they are extremely difficult to get rid of. Reducing the number of trees will reduce the output of seeds. Other common weeds which are invasive plants are multiflora rose, *Rosa multiflora*; garlic mustard, *Allaria petiolata*; and lesser celandine, *Ranunculus ficaria*. Although these plants are not often planted intentionally or sold, they have the ability to spread if not controlled.

3. **Caution: It's not a problem if you manage it wisely...**

English ivy, *Hedera helix*, is one of the most popular ground covers in North America. However, its potential for escape is notorious. English ivy invades forest floors. Its evergreen leaves smother native forest plants by denying them light. However, English ivy only reaches maturity and goes to seed after it has grown up a vertical surface. If you prune it regularly, it does not pose a threat. English ivy is not a good choice, though, if you want a low maintenance garden. You may want to replace it with native plants such as lowbush blueberry, *Vaccinium angustifolium*; alum root, *Heuchera americana*; or partridge berry, *Mitchella repens*. Some other invasive exotics in this category are common daylily, *Hemerocallis fulva*; butterfly bush, *Buddleia* spp.; wintercreeper, *Euonymus fortunei*; and lilyturf, *Liriope muscari*. Although these plants are invasive, they can still be enjoyed if gardeners devote the effort to prevent their spread.

Continued on page 38

OLD SAYBROOK TOWN HALL

302 MAIN STREET

HOURS 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. / MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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

ACCOUNTING

Sharon Migliaccio, Accounting Supervisor	395-3132	Sharon.Migliaccio@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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ASSESSOR

Norman Wood, Assessor	395-3137	Norman.Wood@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Rick Pine, Assistant to Assessor		Rick.Pine@OldSaybrookCT.gov

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Don Lucas, Building Official	395-3130	Don.Lucas@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Kathleen Marshall, Administrative Secretary		Kathleen.Marshall@OldSaybrookCT.gov

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

Donn Dobson, Fire Marshal	395-3133	Donn.Dobson@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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LAND USE

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

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

PUBLIC WORKS

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

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

TAX COLLECTOR

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

TOWN CLERK

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

TREASURER

Robert Fish	395-3070	Robert.Fish@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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

OTHER TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Acton Public Library - 60 Old Boston Post Road

Michele Van Epps, Director	395-3184	mvanepps@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	Susan.Consoli@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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Transfer Station

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

Heather McNeil, Executive Director	395-3190	Heather.McNeil@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Linda McCall, Administrative Assistant		Linda.McCall@OldSaybrookCT.gov

www.OldSaybrookCT.org

NATIVE PLANT ALTERNATIVES...continued from page 37

What Can You Do?

- Contact your local native plant society or state Department of Natural Resources to find out which plants are invasive in your area.
- Learn to identify locally important invasive plants.
- Remove invasive plants on your property or prevent their spread.
- Only use non-invasive plants or native alternatives when landscaping your property.
- Use systemic herbicides carefully as a last resort to remove invasive plants.
- Make others in your neighborhood aware of invasive plants.

Native Plant Alternatives

When choosing a native plant alternative, think about the characteristics of the invasive plant you are replacing. Using Japanese honeysuckle as an example, its sweet fragrance or vining habit might be the desired characteristics. Replace the honeysuckle with fragrant summer bloomers like sweetbay magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*, a tree, and add the summer-blooming leatherflower vine, *Clematis viorna*, if you like the vine habit. The new combination provides honeysuckle-like qualities without its devastating weediness.

To view great native plants in a garden setting, visit the **Fern Valley Native Plant Collection** at www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/fern.html

Note: This list is based upon invasive plants in the mid-Atlantic region. For more information on invasive plants in CT, please access: U.S. National Arboretum, Invasive Plants Article: www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html, The National Invasive Species Information Center at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/ct.shtml>, UConn's Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at http://cipwg.uconn.edu/early_detection/, and to find a native plant list; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: www.wildflower.org.

What is 2-1-1? It is Connecticut's free information and referral service. By dialing 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.

New Buses Arrive for 9 Town Transit



9 Town Transit welcomed four new buses into its fleet this December. The new buses feature the bright blue and green design and offer the latest in passenger comforts. These buses will expand the district's fleet to accommodate its tremendous growth in ridership over the past several years. The total cost of \$337,708 was paid for by the Federal Transit Administration and Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Additional information, route maps and schedules are available online at www.9towntransit.com or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-510-0429.

Photo by Estuary Transit District: 9 Town Transit board members Leslie Strauss and John Forbis show off the agencies newest buses.

Easter Bunny Returns to Westfarms

With spring just around the corner, Westfarms is preparing for the anticipated arrival of the Easter Bunny. On March 4th the Easter Bunny began greeting visitors in Bunnyville – a three-dimensional town for kids to explore. Located on the lower level in Center Court, Bunnyville features many

places to visit including Hoppin' Fresh Bakery, Hare Salon and 24 Carrot Bank. The last stop along the adventure is an opportunity to visit with the Easter Bunny and have photos taken. Those who visit the Easter Bunny will receive a complimentary gift. This special family-friendly holiday

experience is being offered exclusively at Westfarms from **March 4 through March 26** on Mondays through Saturdays 10 am to 8 pm and Sundays 11 am to 6 pm. For more information visit www.shopwestfarms.com.



Mother, daughter, wife, sister... friend.

As a woman, you play many roles for the people who are most important to you and, by choice or circumstance, wealth manager may be in your repertoire. In fact, in one out of four U.S. households with a net worth of \$1 million or more, a woman is calling the shots when it comes to investing and spending money.¹



Maureen Zavatone
Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor

64 South Main Street
Essex, CT 06426
860-447-4860

maureen.zavatone@morganstanley.com
<http://www.morganstanley.com/>

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Morgan Stanley

¹ Phoenix High Net Worth Market Insights, August 2010
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Old Saybrook Garden Club

Can you feel it? Spring feels so much closer this year while writing this article than it did last year. All that cold and snow of Winter 2015 was nowhere to be found this winter with minor, minor exception. Gardening actually seems doable! The Old Saybrook Garden Club wants to help inspire the public with ideas abstract and concrete and is in the midst of planning its biggest public events of the year which occur from early spring through the summer. Year-round planning and public and private participation help make these events successful and enjoyable for all.

As mentioned in the Winter 2015 edition of Old Saybrook Events, Maureen Haseley-Jones, aka "The English Lady" will be the Club's guest lecturer at its April meeting at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 56 Great Hammock Road. Open to the public, all are invited to hear Ms. Haseley's lecture "Garden Earth." In her naturally humorous and upbeat manner, The English Lady will

teach how each of us can oxygenate our environment and feed our souls in a co-creative and symbiotic relationship with the Earth. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door and light refreshments will follow the lecture.

Rain or shine and under the big, white tent on the Town Green, the Gardeners' May Market will take place this year on May 6 and 7. Every club member participates in this wonderful event to ensure its success as it is the Club's only fundraiser of the year. The Club depends on the funds raised to continue the beautification of the Main Street medians, Constitution Garden, Acton Library, and the Firehouse as well as to provide floral arrangements for Old Saybrook High School's graduation ceremony and scholarships for eligible senior students. Please plan to stop by on the 6th between 3 pm and 6 pm and on the 7th between 9 am and 2 pm to purchase annuals, perennials, and herbs for your



gardens. Whimsical flower arrangements, baked goods, a gardener's section of gently used tools and decorations, and preying mantis egg cases will also be available for sale. As an added attraction, pre-order forms for plants can be emailed to the public for those customers who would like a discount! Please email osgct@gmail.com for a copy of the order form to be sent to you.

Continued on page 41

"We are Making a Difference at The Saybrook at Haddam!"

The Safe Harbor Memory Care team includes (left to right): Shannon Bengston, LPN; Brooke Conley, LCSW, staff social worker; Mary Goldsmith, RN, director of wellness; Ann Bertini, director of recreation for Safe Harbor; Meredith Inkel, personal care assistant.

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GARDEN CLUB...continued from page 40

While the public plans and plants gardens at home, the Street Gardens Recognition Program and the Main Street Medians Planting Committees have begun planning this year's color schemes and planting time frames. The Street Gardens Program will reach out again to invite past business participants as well as new ones to create beautiful gardens at their businesses whether they are in-ground, in window boxes, in hanging baskets or around trees in front of their shops. The Median Planters and businesses work together along with the Constitution Garden Committee members to create a cohesive, beautiful, Old Saybrook along Main Street and the Post Road for citizens and visitors alike.

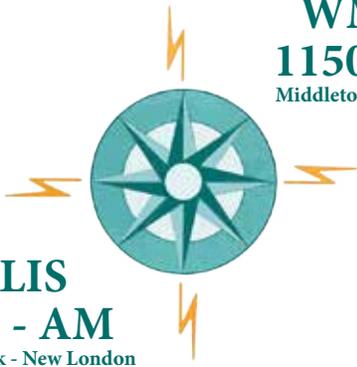
To follow the Club, please visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/oldsaybrookgardenclub) and "like" us. Prospective members are welcome to call 860-395-1268 for more information about membership.

Coastal Landscaping Guide

Do you live on the coast or along a tidal estuary? Have you ever planted ground covers, flowers, shrubs or trees only to see them die? Obviously, coastal environments are very different from inland areas. On the coast plants have to deal with increased amounts of salt and not all plants are equipped to do so. If you need some guidance selecting plants well suited for coastal areas, there is a great website developed by the University of Connecticut that can help. The Coastal Landscaping Guide for Long Island Sound can be accessed at <http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/crlg>. The site includes the Coastal Landscaping Tool that asks three simple questions about your property – is there a seawall, how much salt spray occurs and how steep is the land. Based on your answers, it displays a conceptualized cross section of your property and breaks it into planting zones. The site includes plant lists with a variety of plant types from grasses and sedges to trees that are suitable for each zone. There's also information on site preparation and plant care. So if you are a coastal property owner and you're considering adding or replacing some plants, check out the site for some ideas on what will do well and where. An important benefit of using the "right" plants is that they will enhance your landscaping while creating a natural riparian buffer that can help protect both your property and Long Island Sound.

The Coastal Landscaping Guide for Long Island Sound is a collaboration of UConn's Connecticut Sea Grant, CLEAR and the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources.

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Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services

Old Saybrook's 17th Annual Community Treasures Variety Show

"Feelin' Good In Old Saybrook" - Call For Acts. 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 Old Saybrook's Annual Community Treasures Variety Show, of course!

Come share the excitement of this year's show brought to you once again by Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services through the Healthy Communities · Healthy Youth initiative. This year's show theme, "Feelin' Good in Old Saybrook" celebrates the many rich treasures of our community. Curtain call will be at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 6th at the Old Saybrook High School auditorium. All Old Saybrook residents are invited to take center stage to share your special talents with friends and neighbors alike. Family, multi-generational and group acts are greatly encouraged! For those who would like to be part of a group performance but don't currently have a group with whom to perform, please contact HCHY at Youth and Family Services. They may be able to match you up with other likeminded, talented performers.

All acts to be included in this year's show must register with Youth and Family Services no later than Monday, April 4th and schedule a 10 minute performance preview appointment. The Variety Show Committee is now scheduling previews from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, April 5th and Wednesday, April 6th at the Old Saybrook High School Auditorium. Please contact Youth and Family Services (860-395-3190) to schedule your 10 minute preview appointment. Participants must also plan to attend one Dress/Technical Rehearsal the week of the show. To accommodate all our 'rising stars', the length of each performance will be limited to 3 minutes and performers will be limited to one individual or small group act.

Tickets will be available at Youth and Family Services and at the door. Adult tickets will be on sale for \$8, seniors \$6 and students

Continued on page 43



Singer/guitarist Zane Bauer shares his talents at the 2015 Community Treasures Variety Show.



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YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES...continued from page 42

\$5. 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 or visit the agency's website at www.oldsaybrookct.org/youth.

The ABCs of LGBTQ

On Monday March 7th, Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services hosted a discussion on the ABC's of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer/questioning) youth as part of their "Can We Talk?" special topics series. The OSYFS "Can we Talk?" series is offered throughout the year as an interactive parent-education/discussion forum that highlights current trends or issues in the community. The event was designed for parents and caregivers to help inspire the many ways they can support their loved ones who identify as or are an ally of the LGBTQ community.

Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services unveiled a newly created Safe Space sticker. This sticker can be placed prominently and nearly anywhere so LGBTQ youth and allies can identify specific locations where they are accepted and where they can find support. Some other location suggestions



for the stickers include a classroom, churches, stores, or even a family's fridge. These stickers were handed out during the discussion to attendees. If you are interested in obtaining a Safe Space sticker, please contact Youth and Family Services at 860-395-3190.

Youth and Family Services is planning future events supporting LGBTQ youth. If you have an idea or topic you would like to see covered for a specific discussion please let us know.

Invention Convention Comes to Old Saybrook

Do you have a million dollar idea? Something that will change the world as we know it today? Do you have what it takes to be an inventor?

This is the challenge we posed to our students in Invention Club, an afterschool program held at Old Saybrook Middle School and offered through Youth and Family Services.

In the fall, our students experimented with how problems were solved with simple adjustments to already created objects. We used weekly challenges to expand our minds and start seeing the world as a cluster of experiments and inventions. We visited Bushnell Farm and studied the farming inventions from the turn of the century, and then took a trip to see David Bushnell's submarine "the Turtle" at the Essex River Museum.

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In January, students started creating their own projects and the models to help demonstrate them. Each week, students include their success and adjustments into their Inventors Log. At the end of March, each inventor will present their project to a small panel of Old Saybrook dignitaries. They will decide which of our students will proceed onto representing Old Saybrook at the Annual Invention Convention held in Storrs in April.

We are thrilled to start this program and watch our students thrive as they create the inventions that we all may be using in the future. Special thanks to our Invention Convention volunteers Roger Rose, George Gesner, and Eric Jacobson. If you would like to help an inventor follow his or her dreams, please contact Jodi Kelly at jodi.kelly@oldsaybrookct.gov or 860-510-5051.

Summer Community Service Camps

Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services is once again running its summer community service camps. This program offers students entering 7-12th. grade the opportunity to volunteer in a variety of capacities in the area of food security or environmental stewardship.

Students involved in the Hunger Awareness Week learn about why hunger is a community problem, not an individual problem. They will volunteer at the Soup Kitchen, the community garden and the food pantry. They will spend a day in the grocery store learning how to read labels and make smart choices with minimal money. They will organize a food drive and collect needed items for the food pantry. They also spend time with a nutritionist who helps to teach ways of using fresh produce to create healthy meals.



Pictured are Liam Welsh, Rachel Vigorita and William Smelser of the 2015 Environmental Stewardship Community Service Project.

Students involved in the Environmental Stewardship Week learn why every citizen has a responsibility to help take care of the world around them. Students will volunteer at the Preserve, the Maritime Education Network and clean up parks and beaches for the Department of Parks and Recreations. They will visit Town Hall and learn about how Old Saybrook's ecosystem works as well as how to help prevent erosion and protect the marsh areas. And they will spend a day at the Trash Museum learning how to recycle and reinvent the garbage that they throw out.

Each camp runs for one week from 10am-2pm and costs \$50, which covers transportation and t-shirts. There is a limit of 11 campers per week. Students receive 12 hours of community service for each week of camp. For more information and dates of

Continued on page 45

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YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES...continued from page 44

camp, please contact Jodi Kelly at 860-510-5051 or email jodi.kelly@oldsaybrookct.gov.

OS Youth Summer Stock Theater to present Disney's Peter Pan Jr.

OS Youth and Family Services/Healthy Communities Healthy Youth is now accepting registrations for Youth Summer Stock Theater's production of Disney's PETER PAN JR. All Old Saybrook students entering 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades in the fall of 2016 are invited to participate in this year's 60-minute musical, based on the play by J.M. Barrie and the 1953 Disney film. The company will once again be led by veteran Director, Lorra Webb, Musical Director, Joni Gage, Choreographer, Debra Mals and Production Manager, Wendy Mill, Program Coordinator at Youth and Family Services.

PETER PAN JR. is the story of the boy who wouldn't grow up and the girl who has to. After finding his shadow in the Darling family nursery, Peter teaches Wendy, Michael and John how to fly and sweeps them off to Never Land, where they meet the Lost Boys, mermaids, indians and, of course, pirates. If the children are ever to return home, Peter must defeat Captain Hook with the help of Tinker Bell and her fairy friends. PETER PAN JR. features classic songs from the 1953 film such as, "You Can Fly!," "Following the Leader" and "The Second Star to the Right" as well as songs from the Pirates of the Caribbean ride and the 2008 Disney film Tinker Bell.

OS Youth Summer Stock Theater is scheduled to meet weekdays from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm beginning Tuesday, July 5th through Friday, July 17th and will share their show with the community at 7:00 pm on Friday, July 17th and Saturday, July 18th. There will be an additional 2:00 matinee performance on Saturday, July 18th. For more information and to register your student, please visit the OS Youth and Family Services website, www.oldsaybrookct.org/youth and follow the Summer Stock Theater link found in the News and Announcements section or call 860-395-3190.

Camp CONNRI for the Younger Set

Youth and Family Services is once again coordinating registration for Old Saybrook children for Camp CONNRI, The Salvation Army's Summer Youth Program sleep-away camp for children ages 7-12. Through scholarship funds from The Salvation Army the cost for eligible families is minimal, enabling many youngsters a campership opportunity they might otherwise miss. Registration for this popular camp program is on a first-come, first-served basis upon completion of all paperwork including medical forms.

Camp CONNRI is situated on 247 acres of rolling hills, overlooking a 50-acre lake in the northeast corner of the state in

Continued on page 46

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YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES...continued from page 45

Ashford, Connecticut. Campers enjoy a wide variety of activities including: swimming, hiking, fishing, boating, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, nature studies, arts and crafts and much more. The camp offers a safe, environment that nourishes your child's physical growth, mental maturity, and spiritual enthusiasm. While it is a Christian environment, the camp is open to children regardless of religious affiliation. Activities are under the supervision of certified, experienced personnel, where the safety and welfare of all campers is a primary concern of every staff member. The Camp is accredited by The American Camping Association, the state of Connecticut, and The Salvation Army.

Session dates for Old Saybrook residents were not yet published when Saybrook Events went to print but should be announced by the time you read this. To obtain applications for camp please contact Linda McCall mid- March at Youth and Family Services, (860) 510-5040 or via email: Linda.McCall@OldSaybrookCT.gov. To read more about the camp visit the camp's website at <http://ctri.salvationarmy.org/SNE/CONNRI>.

Calling all new babies in Old Saybrook

The Old Saybrook Early Childhood Council would like to invite any parent of a newborn to pick up their courtesy Baby Bundle at Acton Library.

Included in each "bundle" is information about town resources, neighborhood school and day care centers, local pediatricians and health care providers as well as a schedule of upcoming events geared towards babies and children. And don't forget the specially designed onesie and early literacy board book! It's a great way to welcome our newest residents to Old Saybrook!

OSYFS Sponsored Youth Crafters Tables at Estuary Council of Seniors Event

Many thanks to the good people at the Estuary Council of Seniors for extending an invitation to the younger set of Old Saybrook to participate in their Craft Fair this past November. Eight crafters took advantage of the opportunity to sell their original work at the fair this year! And a great big heart-felt thank you to the patrons for their encouragement.



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The Young Legislators Caucus

By State Representative Devin Carney

Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Westbrook

At the end of last session, my peers elected me to be the first House Republican Chair of the newly formed, bipartisan Young Legislators Caucus. The Caucus is made up of Senators and Representatives who are aged 40 and under. It was formed to focus on issues affecting younger Connecticut residents and to come up with proposals that encourage economic growth for this demographic. Our caucus includes about 25 legislators from all walks of life – from lawyers to businesspeople to those in the nonprofit sector. It includes members from bigger cities like Hartford and Stamford, midsized communities like Shelton and Bristol, and smaller towns like Old Saybrook and Ellington.

The need for the Caucus became clear due to the fact that Connecticut is near the bottom in terms of youth retention (20-34 year-olds). Many young people are fleeing for big cities like Boston, states with healthier economies and job security, and more affordable communities. We believe we need to bridge the political divide and work towards positive ways to solve this exodus that is affecting all of our towns and the future of our state.

Our major initiative this session has been to speak with college students and young professional organizations to find out more about what they believe state government can do to make Connecticut more desirable. Issues I have heard include taxes, regulations, housing, the overall cost of living, transportation, job opportunities, employment readiness, and technology.



In addition, the Young Legislators Caucus will be tackling issues such as texting and driving, student loans, and the ever-increasing heroin epidemic within our state and nation.

If you have any questions, comments, or recommendations on this or any other state-related issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at devin.carney@housegop.ct.gov or (860) 240-8700.

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Annual Golf Tournament to Benefit Safe Grad Night

Old Saybrook High School's Safe Grad Night committee is pleased to announce the annual golf tournament will be held May 5th at Fox Hopyard Golf Club in East Haddam CT. This popular tournament draws as many as 100 golfers each year and features driving range privileges, balls, lunch, evening hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, contests and prizes, plus silent auction, all in addition to 18 holes and cart on one of the shoreline's premier courses. The registration price remains \$150/golfer and more details can be obtained from the tournament chair Mark Smith at mark.smith@eversource.com or ossafegrad@yahoo.com.

Tournament sponsorships from local businesses and families of students are a crucial part of fundraising. Sponsorships range in price for every budget and feature the donor's logo on tournament banners, greens flags, or tee signs. Families can give a "shout-out" to their graduating senior on a commemorative tee sign that is theirs to keep after tournament day.

The silent auction accounts for significant fundraising on tournament day. Auction gifts and tournament prizes are donated by area businesses and families, and the committee actively is seeking goods and services donations to help make the auction a success. Donors may contact parent Patrice Stangel at stangelfamily@comcast.net or ossafegrad@yahoo.com.

Keeping the young adults of OSHS safe and substance-free on graduation night is the committee's goal and the contributions of the community ensure this success. Now in it's 16th year, Safe Grad Night is an important part of the Old Saybrook community. All funds are managed through Graduation Night, Inc., a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization which gladly accepts tax-deductible donations of all amounts. The organization's mailing address is Safe Grad Night c/o Old Saybrook High School, 1111 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook CT 06475.

SmartER Appointments Now Available at Shoreline Medical Center

Why spend your time in the ER waiting room when you could be waiting in the comfort of your own home instead?

The new, innovative SmartER appointment system provides easier access to the Shoreline Medical Center Emergency Department — letting you schedule your ER visit for non-life threatening emergencies up to eight hours in advance.

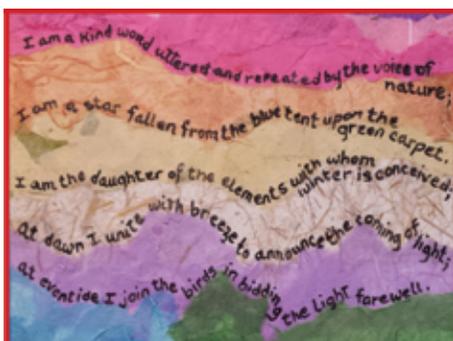
According to Michael Saxe, M.D., Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Middlesex Hospital, "With people's often hectic schedules, making an appointment on the SmartER website can improve convenience, help reduce waiting time in the Emergency Department, and

allow patients quicker access to medical care for non-emergency injuries or illnesses, once they arrive."

Some examples of non-life threatening emergencies include sore throat, earaches, minor cuts, minor strains or sprains, mild diarrhea, or sports injuries. For any medical problem that is life threatening, dial 911 immediately.

To schedule a SmartER appointment, go to www.middlesexhospital.org/smartER.

The Middlesex Hospital Shoreline Medical Center Emergency Department is located at 250 Flat Rock Place in Westbrook and provides care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Kahlil's Song, mixed media by Eva Dykas

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WPCA Update

We left off in the last issue, with the Wastewater Management District (WWMD) program bid releases for the five Maple Avenue North contracts and soil testing of three beach areas.

As of February: Three of the contracts for Maple Avenue North have been awarded with two remaining in the bid process. Therefore, all of the 130 septic systems in this area will be installed by the end of 2016. This does not include some “emergency” situations or properties that were in limbo due to turnover or other status. We typically add a few extra installations to each contract.

Due to the relatively mild winter, our field crew and the Connecticut River Area Health District made tremendous progress on the soil testing for Cornfield Point, Saybrook Manor, and Indiantown. By the spring, Great Hammock Beach residents will have received their voluntary soil test mailers inviting them to take advantage of a free soil test (the WPCA field crew does the digging as opposed to the homeowner hiring an outside contractor.)

Soil tests are required by the Department of Public Health’s “On-site Sewage Regulations and Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems” to characterize the soils

and determine the distance to groundwater or other conditions, for leaching system criteria and the general approach to treatment. Hence, whether or not residents in the WWMD choose to accept Clean Water Fund money and participate in the WPCA program, the Health Department requires the property to be tested.

Note: The WPCA also provides test hole digging for residents outside of the WWMD (as the schedule allows.)

The first two contracts for Indiantown are slated to be released for bidding around spring, followed by four contracts for Saybrook Manor. Cornfield Point residents can anticipate an information session in the summer.

It will soon be gardening season. So, as a follow up to the “Asking More of the Landscape” article last spring – included in this issue is an article titled, “Kick the Invasive Exotic Gardening Habit with Great Native Plant Alternatives.”

For further information, please feel free to visit our office, call 860-395-2876, or attend our Board meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in Town Hall. You can also visit www.oswpc.org or our pages on the Town website.



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Office of the Fire Marshal Announces CT Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winners

The Office of the Fire Marshal administered the CT Fire Prevention Poster Contest for the State of CT in Old Saybrook for the 4th and 5th graders at the Old Saybrook Middle School and the 4th graders at St. John's School.

Last year, approximately 30,000 fourth and fifth graders from more than 130 CT towns submitted posters for this statewide contest.

Children are a very valuable link in the chain of communication; taking the lessons of fire safety home and promoting fire prevention measures to the entire family.

There were first and second prize winners for the OSMS 4th and 5th grade and the St. John's School 4th grade in Old Saybrook. Each first place winner received a \$100.00 check,



and each 2nd place winner received a \$50.00 check. The top posters were then submitted for the County level competition.

The Office of the Fire Marshal received generous donations in prize money from the Old Saybrook Fire Department, the Old Saybrook Lions Club and the Old Saybrook Rotary Club.

The posters had to include fire prevention tips and the phrase "Fire Prevention Every One Every Day."

Fire Marshal Donn Dobson and his Administrative Assistant Kathy King who coordinated the contest went to both schools to surprise the winners and present the checks and certificates.

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Spring Into Oregon Wines

Spring into warmer weather with light, bright and savory wines from Oregon. Oregon produces several different styles of light and refreshing whites. Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Riesling and Pinot Gris are the most widely grown varieties. One of the most sought after, Pinot Gris, is the same as the Italian Pinot Grigio grape, however from Oregon it tends to have more body with the same great acidity. The Rieslings are fruity with a slightly sweet edge to them. Due to the cooler climate, most of them tend to have a bit more acidity in the finish which makes them pair nicely with spicy dishes.

The top producing red varietal from Oregon is by far Pinot Noir, followed by Gamay Noir. The cool climate is the ideal condition to grow Pinot Noir, much like its birthplace in Burgundy, France. This varietal brought notoriety to Oregon in the mid-seventies from wine lovers all over the world, though they have been producing other varieties since the mid-late 19th century. Pinot Noir has complex flavors while showing a light body and occasionally an earthy finish. The flavors most often noted are cherry/black cherry and blackberry. Due to its complexity Pinot Noir can be enjoyed with a wide variety of food choices spanning from light appetizers to heavier fare and meat dishes.

Prepare your palate for the warmer days ahead by venturing out and trying a few of these savory, mouth-watering wines from the west coast. They will be sure to please both you and your guests!

Art LiPuma, Manager, SeaSide Wine & Spirits & Spirits of Madison

The Connecticut River Area Health District

The Connecticut River Area Health District is resuming flu clinics on Thursdays from 3 pm to 6 pm starting on February 25 at the CRAHD office, 455 Boston Post Road, Saybrook (next to train station). If you cannot make the open clinic at the Thursday times, call CRAHD to make an appointment at another time. 860-661-3300, option 4.

The following insurances will be accepted: Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Connecticare, Medicare - Part B, and Medicaid. There will be no co-payment necessary when using accepted insurances unless otherwise indicated. Please bring your insurance card with you. A reduced cost of \$20 for those who do not have insurance coverage or one of the accepted insurances. We will accept cash or checks.

Children must be at least 4 years of age to receive the vaccine. Anyone under 18 MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. No Exceptions. Please Remember to wear a short-sleeve shirt. Please call Chris at the Connecticut River Area Health District @860-661-3300 or email ccollier@crahd.net if you have any questions.



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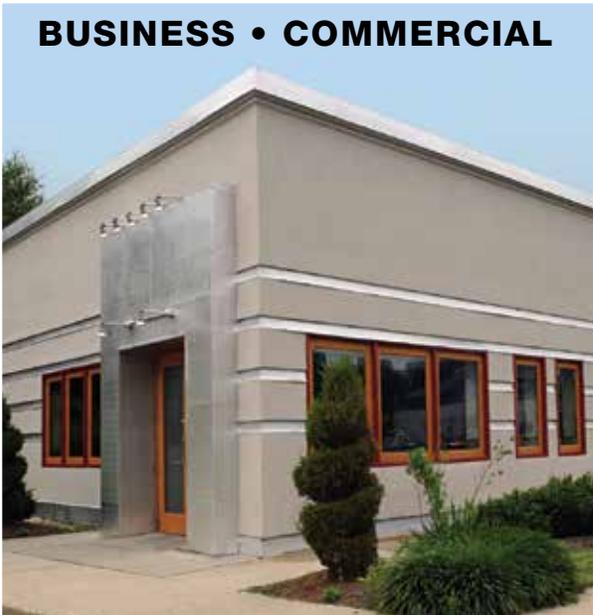
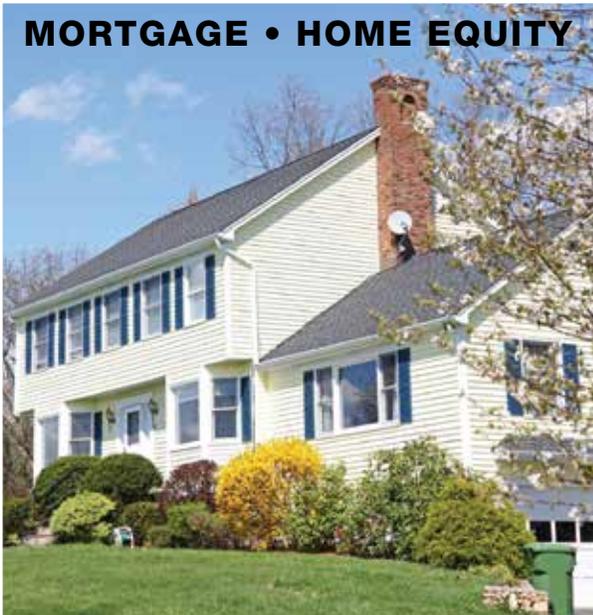


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