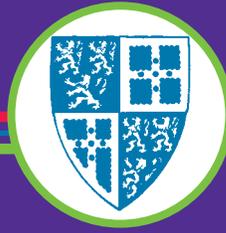


# Old Saybrook



# Events

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Volume 15 • Quarter 4 • 2014



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## First Selectman's Corner

Happy Holidays to all from the Old Saybrook Board of Selectmen, which is comprised of Scott Giegerich and Steve Gernhardt, Selectmen, and Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman. This is a joyous time of year. We wish everyone good cheer during the season and a happy and prosperous new year.

Each year all municipalities in the State of Connecticut are required to be audited. After 11 years on the Board of Finance and now three years as First Selectman, I have learned that the Town can always improve on its record keeping and management practices. With the addition of a Finance Director, Old Saybrook has continued to perform well on our audits under the current Board of Selectmen. The auditors are usually here in Town Hall for the months of September and October as they study the Town's books. In January, the Town will receive its "report card" and we fully expect a high grade. A special thanks to the Town's Treasurer, Robert Fish, and the Town's Finance Director, Lisa Carver. With the 2013-2014 fiscal year under our belt, the Town will have posted three straight years of surpluses. The Town's management has demanded accountability across all departments and we will continue to get better. Surpluses sound good to me and probably to most everyone. However, as a fiscal conservative, I think it is important that we not overtax our residents to get to a positive number. In other words, the Town's budgeted expenditures should not be inflated to get to a surplus. Relying on excess revenues that are the result of a healthy local, regional and State economy is

far preferable. Though I do not believe we are in a robust recovery, there does appear to be more activity than a few years ago. That results in more local revenue which contributed, along with careful management of the budget, to the Town's \$228,000 surplus. Surplus funds go to the Town's "rainy day" fund or, as it is more officially titled, the Town's undesignated fund balance. It is preferred by credit rating agencies that a town's fund balance be 8-15% of its operating budget. At the end of the fiscal year 2012-2013, the Town of Old Saybrook, for the first time in approximately ten years, achieved a fund balance of over 8%. This was beneficial to us as we went out to bid for major infrastructure projects in October of 2013. We fully expect to maintain or build on that 8% level in the years ahead.



Carl P. Fortuna, Jr.

The Town's Annual Report was delivered to the Annual Town Meeting on November 24, 2014 (always the 4th Monday in November). On the inside cover of the report, we traditionally honor those community members who have given back to our community. This past November, we honored former Selectwoman Velma Thomas. She leaves behind a legacy of service and dedication that will be remembered long into the future.

*continued on page 2*

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*Resident Doris Whitmore with daughter Beryl enjoying a cup of tea in the country kitchen.*

## Mom has Blossomed!

"Mom's memory loss meant her way of life was changing, but we did not want her quality of life to change as well. We are so happy at how quickly she settled into her new home and routine at Safe Harbor, which is different from other memory care communities. She really has blossomed by making new friends," says Beryl Thorpe, Doris Whitmore's daughter.

Let your loved one "experience the difference" at the Safe Harbor Memory Care Neighborhood in The Saybrook at Haddam.



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*First Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 1*

Velma lived to the fullest in all aspects of her life. She played many roles in Old Saybrook public service: Five-term selectman, Planning Commission member for eight years and an active mentor at the middle school. An interior designer by trade, Velma frequently lent her talents to public and community buildings.

Many people running for public office have campaign slogans. Some are better than others at keeping the promises made with these slogans. Velma had a simple slogan for her campaigns: Integrity – Positive Results - Commitment. Whether it was her family, her job, her church or her work in public service, Velma Thomas stayed true to those words every day.

Many of Velma's most remembered contributions will be lending her extraordinary design talents to the renovation and beautification of many Old Saybrook municipal buildings. Velma was a leader in the movement to transform the former Town Hall into the Katharine Hepburn Community Arts Center. She then worked with the building committee on the interior design of the Town Hall and Recreation Center. She assisted the Library with the interior design of the Acton Public Library. She supported and assisted with the remodeling of the Pashbeshaukee Pavilion and the beautification of the entire Saybrook Point area. Velma Thomas was truly a shining example of commitment to community and we remember her with great fondness.

The Annual Town Meeting has at least one mandated

function every year: to receive the Town's Annual Report. This will be the third consecutive year where the Town has produced its annual report in a timely manner. The cover of this year's report features The Preserve. The Annual Report contains articles from all the Town departments about their accomplishments during the year as well as future goals. The report contains lots of demographic information about the Town as well as a list of Town employees and their salaries. It is a font of information about your local government. This year, in addition to receiving the Annual Report, the Town Meeting was requested to approve three grants: \$1,000,000 to rebuild North Main Street, \$500,000 to redevelop the site of the old police station and a \$155,000 brownfields assessment grant with a goal of redeveloping and reinvigorating the Town's commercial tax base on Route 1 East. Further community discussion will follow as we implement these important investments in our community.

The Board of Selectmen continues to re-think Old Saybrook's Town government in an effort to provide efficiency and consistency and to promote policies of responsible growth to ease the tax burden on property owners in our community. We value citizen involvement and ideas as we strive to maintain and build upon Old Saybrook as a leader in the State of Connecticut.

*Carl P. Fortuna, Jr.,  
First Selectman*

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# Public Works - Snow Removal



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

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

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

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

- The post shows dry rot, is unstable or placed too close to the roadway.
- If a mailbox is popped off the cross member, shows

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

All qualifying mailboxes that were damaged by a Town snowplow need to be reported by March 31, 2015.

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Larry Bonin  
Director Public Works



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Current Listings, Pending Sales, Sold Properties



Overlooking North Cove, a full service permitted dock and nearly 5000 SF of custom appointments, all within easy walking distance to town. Offered at \$3,950,000



Breathtaking beach front home features the best of everything! Spectacular Great Room measures nearly 1000 SF. Come splash in the waves! Offered at \$2,295,000



**SOLD**

Breathtaking view of LIS. Point One Architects completely renovated this shingle style home creating an open floor plan. Separate carriage barn. Offered at \$1,675,000



**SALE PENDING**

This Knollwood Beach home is ready for any weather. Set on South Cove, this wonderful seaside home was superbly built and is nearly maintenance free. Offered at \$1,225,000



This historic *Asa Kirtland House* c1805 melds many original architectural details with modern amenities. Offers grand North Cove views. Offered at \$998,000



**SALE PENDING**

Designed by Point One Architects, this sun-filled home has an open floor plan, dramatic master suite and all the amenities of a beach community. Offered at \$975,000



**SOLD**

Year round waterfront Cape set on the Oyster River with views of LI Sound. Enjoy a swim in the pool and fishing and boating from your own dock! Offered at \$869,000



Unique property with multiple uses. Main house with new family room, attached 2 BR in-law apartment & 2 story heated barn. Opportunities galore! Offered at \$590,000



**SOLD**

Charming cottage with beautiful views of Great Hammock Beach Association. Fully permitted for a year round 3 BR house--plans available. Offered at \$250,000

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## Social Services Help - Available This Winter

**AHCT Health Care Open Enrollment and Renewal Help:** Access Health Connecticut open enrollment is November 15 - February 15. We are Certified Application Counselors for Access Health and can help you sign up at Social Service Help Days or right here in our office. Some low income applicants may be eligible for free HUSKY healthcare. Please call for an appointment and a checklist of documents needed to apply.

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

**Winter Protection Program:** Help is available through CL&P to prevent electricity shut off during the winter months. We can also help with Nu-Start payment plans any time of year through CL&P for low income families. Please call us to avoid a crisis as there are payment programs and plans to help you.

**Operation Fuel and H.E.A.T. Programs:** Additional help with heating is available for those who are in need and have exhausted their state energy assistance allocations. Applications for Operation Fuel can be taken here starting January 1 and follows the same income criteria as CEAP. We also can help those in emergency need through our local HEAT program.

**Employment:** If you need help with obtaining a job, we have employment workshops at Acton Library on the last Monday

of the month with CT Works from 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Jan. 26, Feb. 23 and March 30. One on one job counseling is also provided by appointment with CT Works.

**Social Service Help Day:** On the fourth Thursday of every month we have additional help for food and other services at Grace Church. The CT Food Bank Truck arrives in the afternoon from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., DSS and outreach workers can help applicants apply for SNAP and HUSKY on site. Healthy nutritional information is also provided. No appointment is needed. Our date in lieu of Christmas holiday on Thursday, will be on Tuesday, Dec. 30 with the DSS mobile office, AHCT for health insurance and the CT Food Bank Truck. The same help is now also available to Old Saybrook residents in Clinton on the first Mondays. The schedule is as follows: In Old Saybrook, Dec. 30, Jan. 22, Feb. 26 and March 26 and in Clinton on Jan. 5, Feb. 2 and March 2.

**Dental and Medical Help:** Help is available for families in need who are underinsured or have no insurance coverage to help pay for dental and medical needs. If you do not have insurance or have a financial hardship you can call for assistance.

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

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

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## Solar “Groupon”

In August, First Selectman Carl Fortuna and the Sustainable Saybrook Committee launched “Old Saybrook Solar Challenge”, a six-month group purchasing discount program for homeowners in Old Saybrook. The program was designed for homeowners who want to harness the power - and affordability - of the sun in their homes.

“Solar has never been as easy or affordable as it is now,” said Maggie Treichel, Director of CT Solar Challenge. “Through CT Solar Challenge, Old Saybrook homeowners can take advantage of group purchasing for lower costs. We walk you through all of the technical and financial details of going solar with the goal of reducing your electricity bills immediately.”

CT Solar Challenge is a group purchasing discount program for homeowners in Connecticut who want to go solar. The program was kicked off October 9 with an early bird solar workshop offered at the Acton Library. An additional workshop was held November 12 at the OS Middle School.

Old Saybrook Solar Challenge aims to:

- Reduce the costs of solar and offer better discounts.
- Simplify contractor selection process.
- Ensure quality.
- Increase the amount of renewable energy in Old Saybrook.

In order to participate, Old Saybrook Solar Challenge participants must:

- Reside in Old Saybrook
- Own a home that is suitable for solar installation.
- Sign a contract with CT Solar Challenge’s pre-qualified installer by June 2015.

In addition to getting a discounted price for solar power, Old Saybrook Solar Challenge participants will be helping to support the Clean Energy Communities Pledge the town made back in 2008. Through “Old Saybrook Solar”, Sustainable Saybrook’s goal is to have 20 new “Sun at Work” homes in Old Saybrook. Homeowners can get more information by going to: [CTSolarChallenge.com](http://CTSolarChallenge.com) or by calling 800-505-7419.

### About the Sustainable Saybrook

[SustainableSaybrook.org](http://SustainableSaybrook.org) is a community partnership. It began as an outreach program for the Old Saybrook Conservation Commission and quickly evolved into a partnership between many citizens and community-based organizations.

Our mission is to foster collaboration among people and organizations, such as the CT Solar Challenge, in their efforts to make Saybrook Sustainable. Town-wide energy efficiency has been a long standing goal of the organization. To learn more visit our webpage at [www.sustainableSaybrook.org](http://www.sustainableSaybrook.org).



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## Economic Development in the 21st Century

### Walkable Town Centers, Transportation Alternatives

The demands of Baby Boomers and Millennials, the two largest generational groups in the country, are driving development trends in our communities. They seek relief from the expense and maintenance of cars and are moving to “walkable” communities desiring homes within walking distance to town centers and transportation alternatives such as railways, buses, bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Old Saybrook’s strollable Main Street, lined with local businesses, restaurants and cultural attractions, is proving to be an ideal location for those wanting to live in or within walking distance of such a setting. Economic development projects planned for the next couple of years will make Old Saybrook’s in-town locale even more desirable.

### North Main Street Streetscape Project

The Town recently received a \$1.5 million grant to extend the look and feel of Main Street to Saybrook Junction with its North Main Street Streetscape Project. The project improves the Route 1 intersection to the train station with sidewalks, an improved road and safer vehicle access, and on-street parking. The plan also includes safer pedestrian and vehicle access on Stage

Road and the intervening stretch of Route 1.

### Saybrook Junction Parking Lot Project

Improvements to North Main Street coincide with a Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) project to expand the available parking for rail riders at the Saybrook Junction train station. The State plans parking for an additional 199 cars along the rail track west of Saybrook Junction station. Demand for rail service continues to increase, and additional trains are being added to the Shoreline East service. Improving parking access for commuters who want to park their vehicles and utilize the train as an alternative to driving is an important component of serving our community in the 21st Century.

According to a press release from Governor Malloy’s office, “[projects such as these] bring our transportation infrastructure into the 21st Century, create jobs for residents and stimulate our state and local economies right now.”

The CT DOT Parking Lot project is scheduled for construction between April and November of next year. North Main Street construction is scheduled to begin in April 2016 and be completed in November 2016.

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**Publisher**  
 William E. McMinn

**VP Marketing & Business Development**  
 Fred Holloran

**Director of Advertising/Operations**  
 Suzanne Spires  
[suzanne@essexprinting.com](mailto:suzanne@essexprinting.com) 860-391-5534

**Coordinator/Art Director**  
 Kathy Alsop  
[kathy@eventsmagazines.com](mailto:kathy@eventsmagazines.com) 860-391-4372

**Finance Manager**  
 Donna Everts

**Cover Editor**  
 AC Proctor 860-767-9087

**Sales Representatives**  
 Ward Feirer  
[wfeirer@gmail.com](mailto:wfeirer@gmail.com) 914-806-5500  
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[betty@eventsmagazines.com](mailto:betty@eventsmagazines.com) 860-333-7117

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[brad@essexprinting.com](mailto:brad@essexprinting.com) 860-581-0577

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 Amy Bransfield & Patricia Stenbeck

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## WPCA Update

The WPCA has closed out Phase I of the Wastewater Management District (WWMD) Program and begun the preparations and planning for Phase II. As of November 1, a total of 314 Conventional Systems were installed by the WPCA using Clean Water Funds.

The 314 WWMD, Small Cities Grant, Emergency, and Owner-funded Phase I installations make up one-quarter of the systems in the 1800+ property WWMD and are now "Upgrade Compliant," [according to the Upgrade Standards in the 2009 Wastewater Management District Ordinance].

While the Clean Water Fund application for the next phase is being processed by the State, the WPCA has been conducting site investigations and preparing bid packages for Ingham Hill, Meadowood, and Maple Avenue North, researching approaches to wastewater treatment and assessing the characteristics of the remaining neighborhoods and their needs.

The staff has been reviewing flow and groundwater data reports as well as procuring water usage data from Connecticut Water to ascertain more accurately the volume and seasonal flows for the last 6 areas.

Research includes visiting installations and demonstrations of different systems; from small onsite treatment and dispersal components to larger advanced treatment systems that will treat more than one home.

Over the winter, the WPCA will finalize the scope of work for Phase II as well as develop a more comprehensive upgrade plan for the areas in the last 2 phases.

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](http://www.oswpc.org) or our pages on the Town website.

## Friends of the Acton Library

The Friends of the Acton Library will continue to place newer books for sale on our new book cart. Please check it regularly for gift giving ideas or to add to your own collection.

We also have purchased museum passes for you and your family's enjoyment, take a friend to the New Britain Museum of Art, the Pequot Museum, and the Peabody Museum or check out the other passes available to you at the library. Most passes allow for lower admissions for up to 4 people.

MARCH MADDNESS BOOK SALE mark your calendars! Warm up to a good paperback book, children's books or audio visual materials. Sale dates are on Friday 3/13/15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 3/14/15 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday 3/15/15 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Acton Public Library.

Consider becoming a member of the Friends of the Acton Library and have the pleasure of knowing that you are helping support the library in many ways including the museum passes and special programming available to the community and our town of Old Saybrook.

## Legal Notice for Tax Installment Due

**Grand List October 1, 2013**

**Second Installment Tax Due - January 1, 2015**

The second installment of Town Tax on Grand List of October 1, 2013, and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental list thereto is due and payable January 1, 2015. If not paid on or before February 2, 2015 the installment becomes delinquent and subject to interest at a rate of 18% per annum (1 1/2% for each month or fraction thereof) dating back to the original due date of the bill. A minimum interest charge of \$2.00 is applicable to each delinquent tax bill. Two months of interest (3%) will be due on February 3, 2015.

Payment can be made at the Tax Office, Town Hall, 302 Main Street, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday (except holidays or as posted) or you may pay by mail. Please return payment coupon(s) attached to bill with your payment. Mail postmarked (U S Postal Service postmark only) on or before February 2, 2015 is to be considered an on time payment. If you would like a receipt returned to you send the entire bill, your payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Tax Office. A receipt will be returned as soon as payment is processed. No self-addressed stamped

envelope / no receipt when payment is made via mail. Payment may also be made electronically from the Town's web-site: [www.oldsaybrookct.org](http://www.oldsaybrookct.org) - scroll down to bottom of page click on 'Look Up or Pay Tax Bill.' Using a Credit Card or Debit there is a 2.5% fee - electronic check flat fee of \$2.50.

No credit cards or electronic checks processed at Tax Collector's Office. Please consider making your payment by mail to avoid waiting/standing in-line.

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

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



# THE SHORELINE SLIMDOWN CHALLENGE

**Team Up To Slim Down.**

**JANUARY 25 – APRIL 12**

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## Parks and Recreation

### Beach Passes

This past summer the Parks & Recreation Department decided to use a hanging pass for residents to park at Town Beach and Harvey's Beach. We would like to know what your thoughts are on the pass system to give us some insight on how to improve the system to make it better for all residents to use the beach. There is a short 5 minute survey posted on oldsaybrookrec.com

Please go onto the site log survey to give us some valuable information to help us make the right decision on the upcoming summer season.

### New Faces at OSPR

This past fall OSPR welcomed Samantha Wilson to our staff as the new Program and Facility Assistant and Teen Center Coordinator. Samantha comes to OSPR from her last position with Boston Sports Clubs in Lynnfield, MA. where she was the program manager for the Sports Club for Kids. She has also worked for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts in Lake Buena Vista, FL. as a Recreation Auditor and as a Character Performer. Samantha also holds a M.S. in Recreation and



Samantha Wilson - New OSPR Program and Facility Assistant

Leisure Studies from Southern Connecticut State University and B.A. from the School of Dance from Dean College. You can find Samantha each afternoon and Friday nights in the Teen Center implementing some great programs for the teens of Old Saybrook. Some of her upcoming projects include a Flag Football League for 6th-8th graders as well as a Dodgeball Tournament for 9th -12th grade students. OSPR is looking forward to some new and exciting programs for which Samantha is energized and ready to bring to the table. With the help of our Old Saybrook teens, this year is already shaping up to be a great one!

### 3rd Annual OSPR CRPA's HotShot Contest

On Saturday, January 3 the Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation Department will hold its 3rd annual Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association's (CRPA) HotShots tournament. The event in which each participant has Three (3) one minute rounds to make as many baskets from five specific "HotSpots" on the court. Each spot is worth a different amount of points and each player must get their own rebounds and dribble from spot to spot. At the end of all three rounds their scores are totaled and the participant with the highest total score wins for their age group and division. The 1st place



*continued on page 13*

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*Parks and Recreation ... continued from page 12*

winners from each division then move on to the State Championship Tournament. This year will mark the 22nd year of the CRPA's HotShots Contest.

Last year Abby Bergeron placed 2nd in the State for the 9-10 year old girls division. In 2013, OSPR had three participants place in the statewide competition: Anthony Karg placed 2nd in the state for the 13-15 year olds, and Kameryn King and Victor Pascoe both placed 3rd in the state for the 11-12 year old division.

For more information regarding this year's contest, please contact Jonathan Paradis via email at [jparadis@town.old-saybrook.ct.us](mailto:jparadis@town.old-saybrook.ct.us) or please visit OSPR's website at [www.oldsaybrookrec.com](http://www.oldsaybrookrec.com).

OSPR would like to thank the Old Saybrook Little League Board & the CT River Basketball organization for volunteering to help run this event.

**OSPR Winter Basketball**

OSPR's youth basketball league will begin next month on Saturday, January 10th, 2015. OSPR will be offering 2 leagues with 2 divisions (boys & girls) each. The first league is for anyone in grades 3rd-4th and the second league is for 5th-8th graders. All games will be played on Saturdays with practices during the week. This has always been a great league for the town. Registration has already started and participants can

register online at [www.oldsaybrookrec.com](http://www.oldsaybrookrec.com). Coaches are always needed for this fun winter league and any parent interested in coaching can contact Jonathan Paradis at the Rec. Center. The league will run for 7 weeks this year and will focus on learning the fundamentals of basketball all the while having a fun time doing so.

**Teen Center News**

Coming off our biggest Halloween Party to date, the OSPR Teen Center will continue to host a variety of activities as we transition into the New Year. Don't let your teen miss out on the chance to kick off the New Year by attending our annual Black & White Party - Friday, January 2 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. A DJ will help ring in the New Year all while your teen shows off his/her best moves! In February, the OSPR Teen Center is host to its second annual Indoor Soccer Tournament. Start forming teams now to try your chance at the big prize! Of course, what would March be without a little March Madness? OSPR will host its very own 3 on 3 basketball tournament. Who will be the champion?

As always, teen center events are completely FREE with a teen center membership or just \$5 at the door!

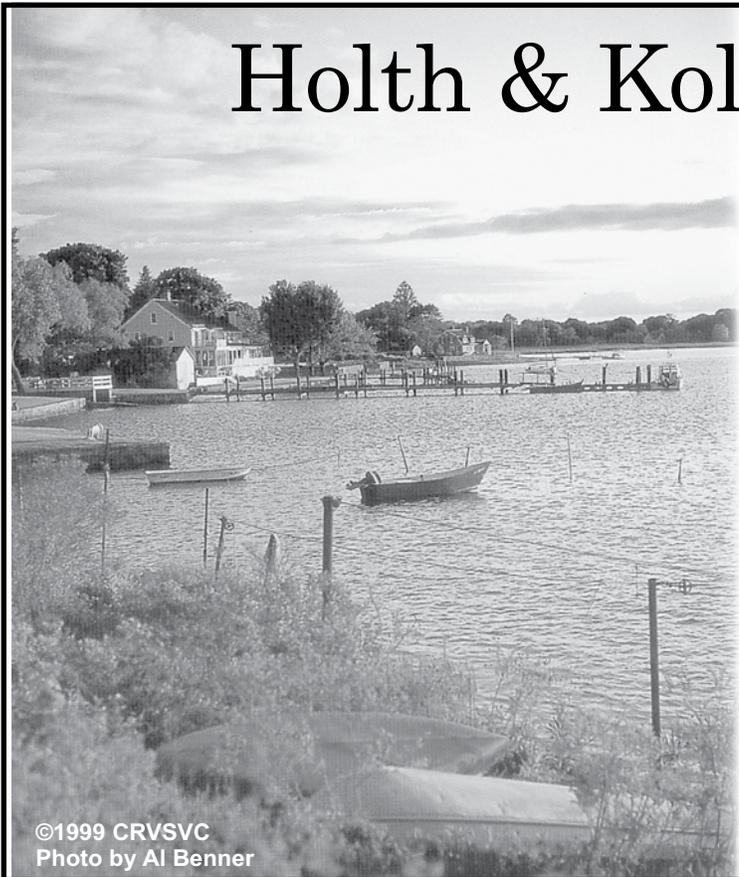
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## Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014

On March 21, 2014, President Obama signed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA) into law. This law repeals and modifies certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW12) and makes additional program changes.

The new law requires gradual flood insurance rate increases to properties receiving subsidized rates, with increases between 5-15% per year, with a per property cap of no more than 18%, until full-risk rates are achieved. Subsidized non-primary residences, businesses and severe repetitive loss properties will continue to receive a 25% annual rate increase until full actuarial rates are achieved. Immediate full risk rating for new policy purchases (sale of a property) was repealed. Refunds will be provided to these property owners. FEMA is required to restore pre-FIRM rates to these policyholders.

Grandfathering rules were also reinstated. However, grandfathering was replaced with a new grandfathering section that establishes a slower path to full-risk rates. For flood insurance policies purchased after March 21, 2014 and newly mapped into a floodplain, grandfathering will not be an option. The first year premium would be equivalent to a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) and then premiums will be gradually increased by 5-15% annually until full-risk rates are achieved. All policies will receive an annual surcharge (\$25 for a primary residence, \$250 all other properties) which will be deposited into the NFIP reserve fund. The residential deductible limit was also raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

*Article reprinted courtesy of the CT DEEP  
Torrent Newsletter, October 2014.*

## Shore Up Connecticut State Loan Program

On July 28, 2014, Governor Dannel Malloy announced the availability of Shore Up Connecticut, a new state low-interest loan program which provides financial assistance to homeowners and businesses to elevate structures subject to coastal flooding.

The terms of the loan are:

- 2.75% (3.027% APR) fixed interest rate;

- 1% origination fee;
- Borrow \$10,000 to \$300,000 with 15 year term;
- No monthly principal or interest payments for the first 12 months;
- Borrower must maintain property, hazard and flood insurance for the life of the loan.

Eligible properties include:

*continued on page 15*



*"Help me do it myself"*

### A Nurturing Community for Young Children

new toddler program for ages 1 to 3



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*Shore Up Connecticut State Loan Program ... continued from page 14*

- Primary and secondary single family homes, or 1-4 unit owner-occupied rentals. Single-family homeowners must live in the property at least 14 days per year.
- Businesses with fewer than 100 employees and in good standing with all state agencies.
- Those subject to coastal flooding and located in either a Zone VE or Zone AE in coastal communities as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- These coastal communities are: Greenwich, Stamford, Darien, Norwalk, Westport, Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, West Haven, New Haven, East Haven, Branford, Guilford, Madison, Clinton, Westbrook, Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, East

- Lyme, Waterford, New London, Groton, and Stonington.
  - Must be up-to-date with all local, state, and federal taxes.
- For new home elevation projects, properties must be elevated at least one foot above the 500-year flood elevation. Commercial structures must be elevated at least one foot above the 100-year flood elevation. Shore Up CT is managed by the Housing Development Fund and funded by the Connecticut Department of Housing (CTDOH). It has received \$2 million in state bonding for start-up costs and an initial \$3 million in bonding for the program. Earlier this year, the state legislature approved authorizing up to \$25 million in bonding for the program. The program was formerly known as the Shoreline Resiliency Fund.

## Public Transit Options Continue Expanding

Though small towns generally are not known for having good public transportation, Old Saybrook certainly is an exception. The town, a founding member of the Estuary Transit District which operates under the 9 Town Transit name, offers transit service throughout the entire town.

Town residents have access to both fixed bus routes and door-to-door transportation. Both services are open to the general public and provide access throughout the valley-shore region and beyond. Service is now provided to anywhere within the towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Durham, Essex, East

Haddam, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. In addition, service is available from the Old Saybrook train station to Middletown, Middlesex Community College, Madison and New London. Free connections can be made to New Haven, Hartford, Waterford and Norwich.

Fares are \$1.50 on any fixed route and \$3.00 for door-to-door service. Trips can be made for any trip purpose. Additional information, route maps and schedules are available online at [www.9towntransit.com](http://www.9towntransit.com) or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-510-0429.

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9 Town Transit is Operated by the  
Estuary Transit District

## Have You Noticed?



Have you noticed that there's been more frequent problematic flooding? That down pours are more intense sometimes resulting in 13.57" over a 24-hour period? (This occurred on August 12-13 this year in Islip, N.Y.) That, if you live in a flood zone, then your flood insurance premium has gone up by 4-500% in the past two years? That the tides are getting constantly higher? That the sea level is projected to rise between 1' - 4' feet over the next 50 years?

Well, town officials have noticed. So, our First Selectman has taken action by appointing local volunteers to a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission - the Sea Level Rise Climate Adaptation Committee - with the following mission:

"The Sea Level Rise Climate Adaptation Committee (SLRCAC)

will provide recommended policies and actions for the town to adapt to and mitigate against the effects of climate change and the impacts of sea level rise on Old Saybrook in the near and long term. The Committee will educate the townspeople about its findings."

The Committee will study the effects of sea level rise on 3 major components of life in Old Saybrook - our Economy, our Community and our Environment.

The Economy task force will focus on: (a) Transportation & Public Infrastructure, (b) Commerce & Industry, (c) Marine Commerce & Industry, & (d) Residences.

The Community task force will focus on (a) Demographics, (b) Public Health & Safety, & (c) Water Dependent Related Recreation.

Finally, the Environmental task force will focus on (a) Coastal Plant Communities, (b) Aquatic & Terrestrial Animal Populations, & (c) Shoreline Geology & Climate Precipitation.

The SLRCAC meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 3:30-5 p.m. A series of public forums is planned as a means of educating the community on the prevailing issues and to address any questions or concerns. All meetings are open to the public and those interested are encouraged to attend. The committee will complete its study by June 2015 and will submit its final report and recommendations by December, 2015.

*Michael Momparler, Secretary, SLRCAC*



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

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

### Congratulations!!

We congratulate the following on their recent marriage:

Craig Staunton and Jennifer Somers - June 8  
Darrell D'Amico and Miranda Mercer - June 21  
Darrell Smith and Abigail Taylor - June 22  
Michael Evans and Ariel Lewellyn - June 28  
Dr. William Culviner and Jennifer Gabinetti - June 28  
Michael Montovani and Andrea Ferreira - July 5  
Hector Morales and Wendy Lenkiewicz - July 8  
Gregory Baribault and Lauren Sadloski - July 12  
Andrew Packard and Sarah Tiedge - July 13  
James Vallieres and Kimberly Oliver - July 11  
Eric Hart and Debra Larm - July 26  
Joshua Cohen and Allison Rose - July 27  
James Furino and Kathleen Riordan - Aug 8  
William Farrell and Suzanne Arcuni - Aug 14  
Timothy Glew and Caroline Olivetti - Aug 16  
Trevor Ladd and Brittany Smith - Aug 16  
Nicholas Grodin and Aubrey Andersen - Aug 16

Joseph Johnson and Mairin Finnegan - Aug 16  
Bairon Cruz and Maria Toro-Vinces - Aug 21  
Michael Kuchera and Joanna Slisz - Aug 23  
Daniel Steindler and Natalie Cascino - Aug 29  
Evan Jensen and Kerriane Dugan - Aug 30  
Michael Finnegan and Patricia Pendergrast - Sept 13  
Jonathan Ingalls and Kellyanne Walsh - Sept 19  
Andrew Gallagher and Catherine Cole - Sept 27  
Michael Halperin and Angela D'Amico - October 4  
Phillip Kukta and Samantha Grass - October 11  
Stephen Siegel and Lauren DeLisa - October 18  
Justin Block and Christina Freeman - October 19  
Joseph Thibeault and Anastasia Wishka - October 18  
Jason Muchnick and Lesley Quayle - November 8  
Michael King and Sara Panucci - November 15  
Sudeep Das and Jamie Noack - November 15

### With Sympathy

Agostino Agostinelli  
Anthony Alfano  
Marion Bereza  
Gay Blair  
Robert Bowker, Sr.  
Norma Bradford  
Judith Brewster  
Raymond Briere, Jr.  
Donald Brooks, Sr.  
Steven Burguiere  
Raymond Cairns, Jr.  
Margaret Cooke  
Roma Coshun  
Anne Daly  
Jason Davenport  
James Davis

Evelyn Gagliardi  
Barry Gedney  
Rachel Gioia  
Carole Girnius  
Frances Giugno  
Edith Gould  
Robert Green  
Florence Heck  
Virginia Henaghan  
Francis Herel  
Johanna Horadan  
Carolyn Honer  
Bernard Johnson  
Carl Johnson, Sr.  
Bertha Kinne  
Gerald Knowlton

Irene Kokai  
William Konecky  
John Leahy  
John Leary, Jr.  
Thomas Lee, Jr.  
Jeanne Loubier  
Anne Lunny  
Walter Macher  
Judy Merola  
Wallace Mierzejewski  
John Peppas  
Gertrude Peterson  
Francis Piacente  
Marie Ross  
Joseph Salustro, III  
Lois Saunders

Christine Shaw  
Lillian Smith  
Trina Solecki  
Manuel Sordo  
Mark Southard  
Carmela Svrcek  
Giustino Ucci, Jr.  
Lillian Velhage  
Rose Walsh  
Thadeus Waselewski  
Dorothy Willis  
Ruth Wolff  
Emily Wollschleager  
Mary Yonaskas

## Therapeutic Research Foundation, Inc.

Therapeutic Research Foundation, Inc., (TRF) Old Saybrook, CT 501(c)3 is one of the only non-profit biotechnology companies in the US and is 'Doing Science for the Right Reasons'. We are unique in our platform and streamlined approach to research and development making access to otherwise untouchable therapies. On July 19, three men participated in an 'Extreme Swim' event. David M Shearer, MD from TRF, Paul Kwasniewski from Veteran's in America and John Gavin Jr., a sprint triathlete began the swim at Rocky Neck State Beach proceeding around the Black Point and ending in Niantic

State Beach at the 'Hole in the Wall'. The GPS distance measured 4.73 miles. On September 20, a 'TRF Dare to Care' Biathlon occurred involving a turbulent 1 mile open water swim at Hammonasset Beach State Park, followed by a 3 mile run. TRF's 2 core projects involve a comprehensive navigation system for the blind and visually impaired, in addition to solving the preliminary research behind much needed antibiotic resistance. Your support and donations are very much appreciated to improve quality of life and necessary research and development. Please visit us at [www.tr-f.org](http://www.tr-f.org)

## Fire Marshal's Office



When the Fire Marshal's Office needed a large cabinet to store all of the fire safety plans for the commercial businesses and industrial sites in town, they contacted Gerald Carlone to see if he and his students would be interested in building it.

Gerald Carlone, Technical Education Teacher at the Old Saybrook High School, and a group of his students, Jack Oliveri, Kyle Sheehan, Jake Tully and Conor Bush built a biscuited red oak shelving cabinet with red oak veneered edging and a red oak stain for the Old Saybrook Fire Marshal's Office.

The students did 100% of the joining, cutting and fastening with teacher guidance. The students then transported the large shelf system to the Fire Marshal's Office.

The completed cabinet has already been filled with plans, and the Fire Marshal's Office will be using the beautiful cabinet for many years to come.

Donn Dobson, Fire Marshal and Kathy Noyes, Assistant to the Fire Marshal, gave out free combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to residents at Social Services Day held at Grace Episcopal Church on September 18 and October 23.

The Office of the Fire Marshal applied for and received a Wal-Mart Community grant to pay for the 66 detectors.

Many folks in Old Saybrook cannot afford proper smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for their homes and apartments, and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are critical in reducing fatalities and in some cases even catastrophic property damage from house fires.

The Office of the Fire Marshal plans to apply for more grants to continue this work in the community.

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As the holiday season is upon us, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers, our friends, family and the shoreline community for their continued business and support.

We value the relationships we have grown over the years and look forward to working with you all again in 2015.

May your New Year be filled with joy, peace, health, happiness & much success.

**Seasons Greetings  
and a Happy New Year!**

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Georgiann Neri, Administrative Secretary		<a href="mailto:Georgiann.Neri@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Georgiann.Neri@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Elaine Seaforth, Administrative Clerk		<a href="mailto:Elaine.Seaforth@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Elaine.Seaforth@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Lisa Carver, Finance Director	395-3127	<a href="mailto:Lisa.Carver@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Lisa.Carver@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Larry Hayden, IT Manager	510-5000	<a href="mailto:Larry.Hayden@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Larry.Hayden@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**ACCOUNTING**

Sharon Migliaccio, Accounting Supervisor	395-3132	<a href="mailto:Sharon.Migliaccio@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Sharon.Migliaccio@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
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**ASSESSOR**

Norman Wood, Assessor	395-3137	<a href="mailto:Norman.Wood@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Norman.Wood@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Rick Pine, Assistant to Assessor		<a href="mailto:Rick.Pine@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Rick.Pine@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Don Lucas, Building Official	395-3130	<a href="mailto:Don.Lucas@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Don.Lucas@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Kathleen Marshall, Administrative Secretary		<a href="mailto:Kathleen.Marshall@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Kathleen.Marshall@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Susan Beckman, Executive Director	395-3139	<a href="mailto:Susan.Beckman@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Susan.Beckman@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
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**FIRE MARSHAL**

Donn Dobson, Fire Marshal	395-3133	<a href="mailto:Donn.Dobson@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Donn.Dobson@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
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**LAND USE**

Christine Nelson, Town Planner	395-3131	<a href="mailto:Christine.Nelson@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Christine.Nelson@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Christina Costa, Enforcement Officer		<a href="mailto:Christina.Costa@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Christina.Costa@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Sarah Lyons, Administrative Assistant		<a href="mailto:Sarah.Lyons@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Sarah.Lyons@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Sandy Prisløe, Environmental Planner & GIS		<a href="mailto:Sandy.Prisløe@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Sandy.Prisløe@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Ray Allen, Director		<a href="mailto:Ray.Allen@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Ray.Allen@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Jonathan Paradis, Assistant Director	395-3152	<a href="mailto:Jonathan.Paradis@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Jonathan.Paradis@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Judy Sherman, Office Manager		<a href="mailto:Judy.Sherman@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Judy.Sherman@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Larry Bonin, Director	395-3123	<a href="mailto:Larry.Bonin@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Larry.Bonin@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
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**REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Carol Conklin	395-3134	<a href="mailto:Registrar@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Registrar@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Joan Broadhurst		<a href="mailto:Registrar@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Registrar@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Barry E. Maynard	395-3138	<a href="mailto:Barry.Maynard@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Barry.Maynard@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Wendy Morison		<a href="mailto:Wendy.Morison@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Wendy.Morison@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**TOWN CLERK**

Sarah Becker, Town Clerk	395-3135	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Becker@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Sarah.Becker@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Christina Antolino, Assistant Town Clerk		<a href="mailto:Christina.Antolino@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Christina.Antolino@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**TREASURER**

Robert Fish	395-3070	<a href="mailto:Robert.Fish@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Robert.Fish@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
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**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Stephen Mongillo, Program Administrator	510-5001	<a href="mailto:Stephen.Mongillo@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Stephen.Mongillo@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>
Robbie Marshall, Coordinator	395-2876	<a href="mailto:admin@oswpc.org">admin@oswpc.org</a>
Gratia Lewis, Financial Manager	510-5076	<a href="mailto:Gratia.Lewis@OldSaybrookCT.gov">Gratia.Lewis@OldSaybrookCT.gov</a>

**OTHER TOWN DEPARTMENTS**

**Acton Public Library - 60 Old Boston Post Road**  
 Michele Van Epps, Director 395-3184 [mvanepps@actonlibrary.org](mailto:mvanepps@actonlibrary.org)

**Police Department - 6 Custom Drive**  
 Non-emergency 395-3142  
 Michael A. Spera, Chief of Police 395-3142 [mspera@oldsaybrookpolice.com](mailto:mspera@oldsaybrookpolice.com)

**Probate Court - 302 Main Street**  
 Terrance Lomme, Judge of Probate 510-5028

**Social Services - 322 Main Street**  
 Susan Consoli, Social Services Coordinator 395-3188 [Susan.Consoli@OldSaybrookCT.gov](mailto:Susan.Consoli@OldSaybrookCT.gov)

**Transfer Station**  
**499 Middlesex Turnpike** 395-3187

**Youth & Family Services - 322 Main Street**  
 Heather McNeil, Executive Director 395-3190 [Heather.McNeil@OldSaybrookCT.gov](mailto:Heather.McNeil@OldSaybrookCT.gov)  
 Linda McCall, Administrative Assistant [Linda.McCall@OldSaybrookCT.gov](mailto:Linda.McCall@OldSaybrookCT.gov)

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## Chamber of Commerce Announces Annual Award Winners

The Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce each year presents awards in three categories to businesses and individuals who have made an outstanding commitment to the Community and to the Chamber. The 2014 Annual Awards recognize Liberty Bank, Business of the Year; SARAH, Inc., Non-Profit of the Year; and Mark Appellof, Volunteer of the Year.

For its positive influence in the community, Liberty Bank



*Liberty Bank, Business of the Year. L-R, Yvette Badalamenti, Samantha Demoss, Cheryl Meadows, Lyanne Sanford and Leigh-Bette Maynard.*

was selected as Business of the Year. Through its Foundation, Liberty Bank continues to invest in programs that help low- and moderate-income families overcome obstacles and reach their potential. They have given over \$8 million dollars to local nonprofits, helping to educate, mentor, house, counsel and empower thousands of children and families. Liberty Bank has been a strong supporter of the Chamber of Commerce, and the primary sponsor of the annual summer Arts & Crafts Festival. Added Leigh-Bette Maynard, Vice President and Branch Manager, "Liberty Bank's roots go deep in Old Saybrook. Just as we do our best to demonstrate our care for Old Saybrook in many visible ways, we're deeply honored to be so recognized by the Chamber. Thank you to our many loyal customers, local businesses and Chamber members who have made us feel right at home for more than 50 years."

Non-Profit of the Year was awarded to SARAH, Inc. for its dedication to enriching the lives of children and adults with differing abilities across the Connecticut shoreline, including the Old Saybrook community. Of particular benefit is the SARAH Recycles Program, an innovative work program designed to have supported workers collect and process donated refundable bottles and cans. Through a grant from Alcoa (see photo), SARAH has been able to purchase more recycling bins, expand into more businesses, thereby expanding the program's reach. As Manager of Business Development and Employment Services Jim Lamb stated, "this is a Win, Win, and Win opportunity! Everyone benefits!" For more information about SARAH and its programs visit [www.sarah-inc.org](http://www.sarah-inc.org)



*Volunteer of the Year, Mark Appellof*

Mark Appellof is a familiar face to many Chamber of Commerce members and Old Saybrook businesses alike. He has demonstrated leadership as moderator of the Chamber's popular Monthly Membership Meetings, has donated many hours at the Arts & Crafts Festival and will continue to volunteer at the Chamber as a member of the 2015 Board of Directors. Mark holds a Master's Degree in Human Services Administration

from Antioch University and has worked in health care for more than sixteen years. He currently is Director of Sales & Marketing for Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley located in Centerbrook. Mark lives in Middletown with wife Sandee, children Kyle and Carrie, and dog Macey.

Congratulations to the 2014 winners. Recipients were recognized at the December 4th Annual Meeting of the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce. "We are extremely proud of the efforts of these recipients and very fortunate to have them as members of our community," stated Judy Sullivan, Executive Director of the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce.

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## Did you know...

...that some of your friends, neighbors, co-workers, town boards, agencies and local groups have been helping to support, empower, provide boundaries and set high expectations for Old Saybrook young people? These are the “asset-builders” -- those who help build developmental assets such as a commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies and a positive identity for our town’s youth.

Many of these asset builders have been part of Old Saybrook’s Healthy Communities Healthy Youth (HCHY) initiative, begun in response to studies involving hundreds of thousands of young people across the country. Everyone has the potential to offer meaningful support to our youth.

Here are just a few examples of asset-building in Old Saybrook:

- The Historical Society’s Junior Docent Program provides a meaningful role for kids who in turn become valuable advocates for the Society.
- The Fire Company’s Junior Firefighters and Police Department’s Explorers programs empower young people with concrete skills to make meaningful safety contributions in their community.
- The Rotary’s Interact Club at Saybrook High School and several Faith Community groups engage our young people in service to the local and national/international communities.
- Several Town Boards have active youth members who are directly involved in planning and decision-making.
- Parents who hold regular family meetings where every family member’s voice is heard.
- Caring neighbors who talk with kids on their block and ask about their interests.

All of us, in many different situations, can have a positive impact on a young person’s life. We want to hear from you about those efforts in Old Saybrook.

If you know someone or some group that is supporting, empowering or contributing to a constructive program for our youth, please let us know about it. Send an email to the HCHY Communication Sub-Committee c/o lmcalls@town.old-saybrook.ct.us or drop a line to the committee c/o Youth and Family Services, 322 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

## Community Summit Update

In 2013 OS Healthy Communities Healthy Youth and Youth and Family Services convened a Community Summit to identify and sustain efforts to help youth thrive. Four sub-committees were created, each with a distinct goal and action plan. They have been working hard ever since!

The Town/Communication Sub-Committee worked with the Chamber of Commerce to promote a Community Calendar, in which local organizations may post upcoming events. A powerful resource for planning purposes, it is available on the Chamber website for everyone to view. Contact Judy Sullivan at the OS Chamber for more information. The sub-committee also gathered links to this calendar and others (Youth and Family Services, Parks and Recreation, the Board of Education, Acton Library, and Sustainable Saybrook) onto one page of the Town’s website for ease of accessibility. Recently, committee advocacy for student-produced podcasts at OSHS resulted in the schools’ pursuing a grant for same.

The Parent Networking sub-committee helped launched the first annual

*continued on page 22*



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*Community Summit Update ... continued from page 21*

Neighborhood Block Parties event in May 2014. Neighborhood contacts were enlisted as 'captains' to coordinate their respective parties and organizations were asked to avoid scheduling activities during the event. All feedback was very positive. It is hoped Neighborhood Block Parties will continue as an annual Old Saybrook tradition. Anyone who would like to be involved in planning next year's event please contact the HCHY Chairperson, Gretchen Bushnell at OSHS.

Finding places to complete community service requirements can prove difficult for high and middle schoolers. That is why the Volunteer Opportunities sub-committee created an online database for organizations such as libraries, schools, soup kitchens, etc. to post opportunities for volunteers. The site was recently launched; for information, contact Heston Sutmán at the Board of Education.

The Job Networking/Career Expo sub-committee's focus is helping students obtain skills they need to prepare for future employment. They plan to host opportunities for students to talk with local businesses about what employers are looking for in future employees. The purpose of this is not the same as a job fair, but rather so students can build relationships with people who can aid them. For information contact Matt Walton at OS Middle School.

It's not too late to get involved with ongoing efforts!

*Bill Sheahan and Sophie Alden  
 Student Representatives, Communication Sub-Committee*

## Save These 2015 Dates!



Mihae Lee, Artistic Director

### January 11, 2015

Valley Regional High School, Deep River  
**Fenton Brown Emerging Artist Concert** —  
 "StringFest 2"  
**The Attacca Quartet**, with violinist  
**Erin Keefe** and members of the  
**Amphion String Quartet**

### February 8, 2015

Valley Regional High School, Deep River  
**Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert**  
**Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks**

### March 1, 2015

Old Saybrook High School, Deep River  
**Chanticleer – An Orchestra of Voices**  
 "The world's reigning male chorus"  
 — *The New Yorker*

### March 29, 2015

Valley Regional High School, Deep River  
**Mihae Lee and Friends**  
 Piano Trio program with **Mihae Lee**,  
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# THE BEACON

## THE OLD SAYBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

### TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS TO BENEFIT TEACHING AND LEARNING

In today's ever-changing world of technology it is essential to keep up with up-to-date technology. Students will benefit from the technology enhancements that are provided by staying current and getting the most out of the tools they are provided.

Old Saybrook Public Schools is working hard to improve the infrastructure so that many of the up to date technology tools can be provided to students to create an optimum learning environment.

This year the district is undergoing many growing pains to build an infrastructure that will support technology that is necessary for student learning in today's technological world.

A new web filter was installed to improve the quality of the content that is received and to provide students with appropriate web sites for research and instructional uses. The district is upgrading switches throughout the buildings to allow for newer technology requirements. For example all of the heating, cooling, and lighting is now controlled through web based controls to maximize heating and lighting efficiency. Although this is more efficient and will bring many years of cost effective service it does require the support of technology to work properly. As we continue to move forward with our current initiatives for technology, including safety and security the demands on the current infrastructure are increasing making the need for more robust equipment and wiring throughout the district.

We are also increasing our wireless network capability as the need for individuals to bring their own devices to work and school continues to grow. Over the next few months we should have this project completed.

Through the district Strategic Plan a committee was formed to determine what the needs of the community, staff and students were when designing a website for the district. Members research sites that they preferred and developed the criteria that were used to begin building a new site. The main outcome of the committee was to ensure that the new website was consistent among schools and easy to use for anyone trying to obtain information. Sometime in February or March we will be announcing the new site. The goal of this project is to provide members of the entire community an easy and helpful tool using the model of "two clicks" to accomplish this.

We know that technology can be a great resource. Keeping up with all of the advancements can be a huge challenge. We are continuing to work hard to improve the essential equipment needed to make these tools efficient and effective. Throughout the next several months we will have many challenges to face with the ultimate goal of improved technology educational resources and tools.

*Old Saybrook Public Schools Central Office*

### BRANDING WITH THE BIG BOYS

We have so much to be proud of in Old Saybrook and we want the community to share in everything we have to offer.

It is becoming apparent that in this day even public schools need a public relations identity. Typically, public relations work is

done by a major corporation with seemingly endless resources, but today public schools need to be able to convey what makes them unique and special. Fortunately for us, there are more communication tools being developed each year and most communities seem ready to embrace and adopt these tools. However, the constant flow of information can be overwhelming. To some, Social Media seems like a godsend, capable of connecting to an endless number of participants and organizing a never-ending flow of messages. To others, Social Media is a double-edged sword that leaves a school district to unfair and anonymous criticism or over exposure. Likewise, branding opportunities, which are easily recognized as important, are difficult to initiate because the school district can't afford a misstep and certainly can't afford a rebranding scenario. There are enough potential drawbacks to scare smaller districts into an eternal cycle of committees, subcommittees, and procedures meant to effectively table the issue until it either solves itself or goes away. But communication and the constant need for more effective modes of communication are here to stay.

There are dozens of social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Vine, etc.), and making a deliberate choice about what to use and when to use it is an important and complex decision. This is the job of the newly created Old Saybrook Schools Public Relations Committee. This group of certified and non-certified staff, parents, community leaders, and board members is meeting on a monthly basis to engage in this decision making process in order to promote our district's identity and to choose the tools we will use to convey it to all stakeholders. Once the committee determines the tools to use, the next goal is to match the message with the medium. This is the area that deserves the highest level of scrutiny. To use a metaphor, the message being sent is a gift to the selected recipients and the mode of communication used to send that gift it is the wrapping. Both need to be appealing. Nobody would be excited about opening a gift wrapped up in wet newspaper. We would be disappointed or confused to receive a pair of socks in a box large enough to fit a flat screen television. Both the message and the mode need to be appropriate and appealing for the situation and they need to work together.

The goal of the Public Relations Committee is to have a draft of the OSPS Public Relations Plan, which includes a statement of how we will use various media and means of messaging in an agile and flexible way to share good news and important information. In addition, we will seek ways to compliment the resources inherent in our new website, which will be rolled out in February.

Communication is not going away. The need for communication will only increase. In today's world people demand, not only the most up to date information, but also a mode of communication through which they can join the conversation and engaging them in that conversation is a goal worth pursuing. The students that go through our school system are going to become adults no matter what. Whether or not we engage them and make them feel connected to this community beyond graduation is up to us. The same goes for the parents of those students. One day their child

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will graduate, but they will remain and their support for the entire district is still essential to our continued growth. We have many options. All of those options deserve the highest level of scrutiny and due diligence. The messages we send must be carefully crafted so that our words and meaning are not wasted. The only option we cannot afford to choose is nothing.

*Old Saybrook Public Schools Central Office*

**HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FAIR FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

Seventy students from Old Saybrook High School visited 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Old Saybrook Middle School on Monday, November 17 to share about all the fun and exciting opportunities available through extra-curricular activities. Eighth grade students heard “transition to high school” stories in the auditorium before going to an “Activities Fair” set up in the eighth grade hallway. The students created displays to showcase more than thirty clubs and sports teams that are available to students in high school. The Science Club facilitated a “Lava Lamp” demo, while the Theater Tech Crew displayed their activities through a looping PowerPoint. Students from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade also spent time in small groups with 2-3 high school students for a Q & A session about Old Saybrook High School. The event was a first between Old Saybrook High School and Middle School and both schools intend to continue and improve the program in future years.

*Sheila Riffle, OSHS Principal*

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CARVING FOR A CAUSE**

Students at Old Saybrook High School got into the Halloween spirit by carving more than 200 pumpkins for the Saybrook Point Inn’s 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Pumpkins on the Point.” The Saybrook Point purchased the pumpkins and delivered them so that students could carve their unique and innovative ideas through their Advisories. The pumpkins were displayed all around the outside of the Inn for their weekend event. Students had the option of entering their pumpkins into the Saybrook Point’s Pumpkin Carving contest and first, second and third place trophies were handed out. The Old Saybrook High School Advisory Program creates an opportunity for students to form supportive relationships with faculty and staff over the course of their four years in high school. Students are assigned by grade level in groups of 10-12 and begin with an advisor in their freshmen year, remaining with that same adult through graduation. The Advisories meet every other week throughout the school year and participate in a variety of activities such as team building, goal setting, discussions on teen issues, student success planning, and many more. Now, we can add pumpkin carving to the list!

*Sheila Riffle, Principal, Old Saybrook High School*

**COMMUNITY CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO OLD SAYBROOK HIGH SCHOOL**

The businesses and organizations of Old Saybrook and surrounding communities continue to support the students of Old Saybrook High School School’s School to Career Internship Program. This school year, sixty-four interns are reporting to various sites where they spend at least five hours per week. This authentic experience provides them with a unique opportunity to further their knowledge of a career area of their choosing. Each intern is also required to set goals and write a goal-related journal each week, collaborate with other interns in a weekly meeting,

keep a professional portfolio of their experience, and create summative PowerPoint presentations.

Since 2006 approximately three hundred students have been enrolled in the internship program and by January, we will have over fifty thousand intern hours in the field. The community mentors and their businesses, organizations and practices are vital to this program and their investment in the future of our students is indicative of their commitment. The following businesses are currently hosting our 2014-15 interns (This list does not include partners of the program that do not have interns this year but continue to offer their mentorships as student interest occurs.

Child & Adult Orthodontics, Connecticut Sports Foundation, EverList, Fan Lab at Yale University, Goodwin School Occupational Therapists Diane Scully and Karen Cole, Teachers Judy Ayers, Katy Eley, Joan Eley, Heather Gage, Jennifer Holecz, Sue McElhone, Lori Polito, Dawn Ranaudo and Jennifer Roberts, and Speech & Language Pathologists, Jennifer Coogan & Danielle King, Julia Balfour Creative Agency, Law Firm of Sean E. Donlan, Middlesex Hospital Physical Rehabilitation Center, Shoreline Medical Center ER, Shoreline Medical Center’s Radiology and Laboratory Departments, National Alliance on Mental Illness (N.A.M.I.), Old Lyme Veterinary Hospital, Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce, Old Saybrook Town Hall Office of Economic Development, Old Saybrook High School’s Athletic Trainer Sky Miers, and teachers Kellie Brady, Pam Briddle, Karen Carlone, Gary St. Germain, and Jeremy Taylor, Old Saybrook Middle School Teacher Tom Conti, Saybrook Wealth Group, Select Physical Therapy, Sennheiser Corporation, Town of Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services and the Tributary Mill Conservancy in cooperation with Mystic Aquarium and the Department of Environmental Protection.

The 2014-2015 interns would like to say “THANK YOU” and wish all of our community mentors a happy holiday and a wonderful year in 2015!

If you are interested in learning more about the program please contact the internship program coordinator Cariña Using at 860-395-3175, X 604 or email [cusing@oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us](mailto:cusing@oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us).

**CHAMBER MUSIC SINGERS UPDATE**

Would you like some special entertainment for your holiday party?

Invite students from Old Saybrook High School select chamber singers to sing holiday music at your home or holiday party. Students dressed in formal wear will come and perform at your request. Four students will arrive within half an hour of the scheduled time and sing several carols and holiday selections for a fifteen-minute program. Contact [jproctor@oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us](mailto:jproctor@oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us) to arrange for your carolers. Money raised will go to our music program.

**LINCOLN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE CLASSES**

On November 5, Lincoln Technical Institute came into the Accounting and Finance classes at Old Saybrook High School and played The Interview Success Game. Using the popular TV game show, Jeopardy, students worked in teams to answer questions about resumes, interviewing, proper dress and other interview basics. Skills in these areas were learned and

THE BEACON

reinforced. The interactive nature of this workshop keeps students engaged and working together in order to earn points and win the game.

*Terri Lynn, OSHS Business Teacher*

**GET SMART ABOUT CREDIT**

October was “GET SMART ABOUT CREDIT” month. This program is sponsored by the American Bank Association and is a national campaign of volunteer bankers who work with young people to raise awareness about the importance of using credit wisely. On October 20 the Finance class at Old Saybrook High School partnered with Guilford Savings Bank Representative Mike Storiato to teach students financial skills through activities, interactive scenarios and sharing real-life experiences. Topics covered were paying for college, credit cards and loans, budgeting, understanding a credit report, identity protection and life after college.

*Terri Lynn, OSHS Business Teacher*

**LITTLE SCIENTISTS VISIT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

On November 20 Mrs. Collier’s preschool class returned to the Old Saybrook Middle School to continue the long-standing relationship between OSMS and the Goodwin School scientists.

This endeavor, that was created from a collegial conversation some seven years ago, has blossomed into a meaningful opportunity to connect our seventh grade science students with our “little scientists” from preschool. The older students assume the role of teacher as they partner with a little scientist to conduct problem solving activities and science labs. This enrichment opportunity that is focused on relationship building and peer role modeling allows for the younger students to experience our school and work in a “one on one” learning environment with our middle school mentors.

There is some preteaching that is done by Mrs. Collier so that the little scientists know what they will be learning about and what they can expect to see during their visit. When the kids are together, all you can see are smiles on everyone’s faces.

Recent learning included a lab that looked at leaves and culminated with a leaf rubbing activity, and another had students testing the conductivity of magnets on certain tested materials. One mentor teacher asked their little scientist, “What material was used that allowed the magnet to be attracted to it?” The little scientist replied, “It is attracted because the material contains metal.” Mrs. Looney was asked about the program and what makes it so meaningful to both populations of students. She answered, “I realized the power of these interactions when an incoming fourth grader saw me in the hallway and knew that I was that science lady they visited four years ago and did an experiment learning about the separation of colors.” Mrs. Looney explained the importance of the relationships that are formed and how science provides that link for positive interactions for our younger and older student populations. “The kids are totally engaged in what they are learning,” states Looney.

*Mary Looney, OSMS Science Teacher*

**CHINESE ACROBATS PERFORM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

On October 24 the Fabulous Chinese Acrobats brought to us by The Bureau of Lectures & Concert Artists entertained our school.

The Old Saybrook Middle School PTO coordinated the event and provided us with this amazing cultural arts experience.

The talented performers showcased to our students their strength, focus and athleticism as they performed acts that seemed almost impossible. Every student and staff member commented on how captivating the assembly was and how it brought all in attendance a glimpse into the culture of China. The narrator of the show would share with the audience her knowledge of Chinese customs, language, and history in between each amazing act. It was even more amazing to hear that the age of the acrobats ranged from thirteen to nineteen.

These talented athletes tumbled and flipped around the stage and told the audience how practice, concentration, and a lot of hard work allow them to perform at such a high level. The acts included hula hooping with over one hundred hoops at the same time, balancing tables and chairs over their heads, spinning silk umbrellas on their hands and feet, juggling large porcelain jars and balancing and contorting their bodies into positions that seemed unimaginable.

*Mandy Ryan, OSMS Principal*



**MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS MILITARY VETERANS**

Veterans Day is a special day at Old Saybrook Middle School. We are fortunate that school is in session, which allows for valuable learning experiences about the history of the day to take place for our students.

The day began with our sixth through eighth grade students participating in an open panel discussion with veterans that span generations ranging from WWII to the present day. These veterans were all family members of children and faculty from the OSMS community. The dialogue provides a lens to our students that showcase the myriad of experiences that these men and women had during their time serving in the military. Because the panel consisted of veterans from different branches that represented service from 1953 to the present, the manner in which the questions were answered allowed for the students to see how our country and its military have changed over time.

The students worked with their social studies teachers to prepare questions that are aimed at gaining a better understanding of the daily expectations that someone serving may have to fulfill. During the conversation the students were actively engaged, listening to every word and eagerly participated in the discussion. Mr. Wood, a 7th grade social studies teacher said, “The panel discussion was very informational and touching. I look

forward to this every year; this is such a valuable day for teachers and students. I was really proud of the OSMS students and felt their questions showed their appreciation of the veterans and the experiences that they have had.”

The fifth graders participated in a program to honor and respect our veterans. The Color Guard walked our veterans down to the front of the auditorium and they all received a standing ovation. The program was filled with songs that represented all the branches of the military and had students reading poetry that was relevant to the occasion. Each veteran later was able to introduce himself or herself and gave the branch and years of service they had in the military. As they exited the program students handed them cards that were created by our student council and members of Mrs. Fillion’s fifth grade class.

The day culminated with a town wide celebration on the green. Students at OSMS participated in an essay-writing contest. Our local VFW sponsored the Patriot’s Pen contest that was themed, “Why I Appreciate America’s Veterans.” The two student winners that were picked from over eighty submissions read their essays to the crowd of veterans, community leaders, townspeople, and students that gathered at the green. Tim Jacoboski, an eighth grader and Abby Bergeron, from grade six read their emotional essays that touched all the veterans in attendance.

Many veterans commented on how thankful they were to have an opportunity to come and spend the day with our students and faculty. They appreciate the Old Saybrook School District for holding school on November 11 and for the respect that the OSMS community gives to those who served and are actively serving our country.

*Matt Walton, OSMS Associate Principal*



**STEVESONGS ENTERTAINS GOODWIN FIRST GRADERS AND THEIR GROTON FRIENDS**

Steve Roslonek of *SteveSongs* performed recently for 3 first grade classrooms and their “We Are The World” partner classes from Groton. The program was an entertaining, interactive and educational experience for everyone in attendance. The students moved about, sang and did a lot of smiling throughout the performance. Steve’s bio lists the many venues he has played throughout the

country, including The Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, Symphony Space in New York City, Fenway Park in Boston, Wolf Trap in Vienna, VA, and the Kennedy Center and the White House in Washington, D.C. A role that many families recognize Steve for is “Mr. Steve” on PBS KIDS. He has won numerous prestigious awards including two Parents’ Choice Gold Awards, a NAPPA Honor, two iParenting Media Awards, and a Kidscreen nomination for Best Children’s TV Host. Steve and his family moved to Old Saybrook last year and his son, Josh, entered kindergarten at Goodwin School. He has been an active member of the school community and donated over \$1000 to the PTA’s cultural arts program from the proceeds of a concert at the Old Saybrook Middle School. He also gifted every student in attendance at the November 19<sup>th</sup> performance with one of his famous CDs of science related songs, laugh out loud songs, and catchy melodies.

*Sheila Brown, OSGS Principal*

**GOODWIN STUDENTS CELEBRATE VETERANS AND CURRENT SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN ON VETERAN’S DAY**

Students celebrated and gave thanks to over 20 veterans who joined them at a special assembly on Veteran’s Day. Each grade performed a patriotic song that they had been practicing in music class for several weeks. They also made cards of thanks in art classes and presented them to the individual guests. Pre-school students also presented them with paper poppies that they had made in class. Students were given the opportunity to ask the Veterans questions such as, “Were you ever afraid?” “What was your favorite part of being in the service?” “How was the food?” “Where did you travel?” The veterans answered honestly and thoughtfully and shared interesting information about their experiences. The assembly concluded with the Peace Song, “Oh what a goodly thing, if the children of all lands could live together in peace.”

*Sheila Brown, OSGS Principal*



**GOODWIN’S ANNUAL COSTUME PARADE CONTINUES TO BE A COMMUNITY EVENT**

Perfect fall weather encouraged hundreds of fans to gather in the morning and the afternoon of October 31 to catch a glimpse of the creative and delightful costumes of Goodwin students and staff. Children danced along the walkway in princess dresses and storybook character outfits as well as soldiers and firemen. Staff members in several grades chose group outfits that reflected curricular themes such as sea animals and dominoes.

*Sheila Brown, OSGS Principal*

**KINDERGARTEN ARBORISTS**

Over two years ago, the third graders planted tree seedlings that Goodwin received from the Arbor Day Organization when they were in Kindergarten. They planted over seven different kinds of trees in a small garden bed after observing their growth in the classroom. In October, the current Kindergarteners helped to transplant four of those same trees into new homes around the school campus. In the future, we will be putting up signage that will tell the kind of tree and other interesting information about it to create a nature trail around the campus. The hope of Ms. Kaliszewski’s students is that all students and community members, present and future, will be able to wonder about and learn about these beautiful trees. Lisa Tisdale, a Kindergarten parent, donated her knowledge, time and labor to help the students decide where to put the trees and get them ready to move and plant.

*Sheila Brown, OSGS Principal*

## Youth and Family Services

### Mentoring Students in Afterschool Programs

Youth and Family Services of Old Saybrook would like to acknowledge some of the recent community members who have instructed or chaperoned in our afterschool clubs at the Middle School.

- Tracey Morin - Hip Hop Instructor
- Peter Russo - Archery Instructor (From the YMCA)
- Elizabeth, Herb and Megan Weiland - Fitness Fun Instructors from Anytime Fitness
- Dave Fowler - Bike Club Instructor from Bikes for Kids
- Corey Lopez - Art Instructor
- Alex Ruth - Chess Club Instructor
- Phil Bjorkman - Chaperone for the Chess Club
- Sharon Cook - Knitting Club Instructor
- Diana Rosen - Knitting Club Instructor
- Roger Rosen - Game Club Instructor from Stay and Play
- Carol Schneider - Game Club Instructor from Stay and Play
- Anna Carey - Drama Club Instructor
- Lucy Marinelli - Drama Club Instructor
- Sarah Dowd - Drama Club Instructor
- Chelsea Graham - Tween Tribe Instructor from Youth and Family Services
- Danielle Tischer - Tween Tribe Instructor from Youth and Family Services
- Jewel Robinson - Tween Tribe Instructor from Youth and Family Services

Thank you for sharing your time and amazing talents!

Do you have a hidden talent or skill? Can you fix the motor of a car? Join the Auto Club! Do you speak a second language? Or know the basic moves in ballet? Can you sing, do sign language, or play Lacrosse? We are always looking for new ideas for clubs and have a huge need for chaperones.

Help us give our students opportunities to grow, learn, and socialize after school. Volunteer today! Call Jodi Kelly at 860-510-5051 or email [jkelly@town.old-saybrook.ct.us](mailto:jkelly@town.old-saybrook.ct.us).



Students learn how to maintain bikes, fix up older bikes and assemble new bikes that are given to children in the community. Students also have a chance to ride their bikes as we tour Old Saybrook and learn proper bike safety rules.

Owen Mitchell, an Old Saybrook eighth grade student, signed up for the fall session of the Bike Club and quickly became a leader and mentor for the younger students. Owen will work with Dave Fowler and Jodi Kelly, Program Coordinator at Youth and Family Services to help design the spring curriculum.

The Bike Club will take a break during the winter months, but will be offered again for the spring session starting on March 31-May 14, 2015. For more information, please contact Jodi Kelly, at 860-510-5051.

*Jodi Kelly, Program Coordinator at Youth and Family Services*



### Old Saybrook Youth Action Council "Assets in Action"!

Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services is involved in Positive Youth Development programming with youth and students of all ages. Fall 2014 marked the beginning of the Youth Action Council, an open group of students in 9-12th grades. This group originated as a means of organizing students for community service, advocacy, socialization and prevention education in the school and community. The meetings are approximately two times a month, on Thursday evenings at The Point, 6-8 p.m., and include dinner.

The group averages 40 attendees each time, and the students have been busy coming up with a mission statement and 'group identity', plans for future projects, and ways to get more students & families involved. The YAC group hosted a fun family evening in October, attended by over

*continued on page 28*

### The Bike Club

Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services has partnered with Bikes for Kids to create an afterschool club at the Old Saybrook Middle School.

The Bike Club connects real world learning with fun and community service. Students meet once a week after school to board the YFS bus heading towards Dave Fowler and the Bike for Kids headquarters.

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*YSF continued from page 27*

100 community members, where Bingo games were called by Principal Sheila Riffle and Police Chief Michael Spera. The evening included a pasta dinner and wonderful prizes donated by local individuals and businesses, and everyone went home happy!

The group also visited Mystic right before Halloween for a guided tour around some historically 'haunted' sites, and enjoyed eating pizza at Mystic Pizza! Many have not seen the movie of the same name, and that may be a future event. Other students from YAC were involved in the Walk like MADD challenge in Branford, and even though it was a rainy day, made their mark in this annual event.

Sticker Shock is an annual campaign, typically during the holiday months. Staff and students encourage local liquor stores to allow Public Awareness stickers to be placed on cases of beer and racks of other alcoholic beverages, to raise awareness about the legal issues related to providing underaged youth with alcohol. Almost 20 of our YAC students were involved and there was 100% participation from local package stores. If you have a chance, ask store owners about the campaign!

*Heather McNeil, LMFT, LADC,  
Director Youth and Family Services*

**Support Group for Parents/Grandparents of Children Diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome/High-Functioning Autism**

An Individual with Asperger Syndrome:

- Misses/Misreads Social Cues
- Hobbies and Interests Border on Obsessions
- May Have Emotional "Meltdowns"
- Speech Patterns May Be Odd
- Verbal Processing Can be a Little "Different"
- May Be Physically Awkward
- Intelligence levels range from Average to Superior

The impact of these differences on the child's social interactions of all kinds (neighborhood, extended family, school, house of worship, even a simple shopping trip) can multiply stress in every aspect of a parent's/grandparent's life.

Offering camaraderie, encouragement and hope for these parents and grandparents, a support group meets monthly at Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services, 322 Main Street, Old Saybrook. Each month's meeting addresses specific, timely topics. Topic-specific handouts with insights from experts are available at every meeting.

Winter 2015 meeting topics include:

- January 21 (Back to Routines; Winter Doldrums: AS and Often-Coexisting Depression; Finals are Coming: AS and Often-Coexisting Anxiety)
- February 18 (Social Struggles: Your AS Child's Preference for Adults over Peers; helping our AS Children Develop "Small Talk" and Telephone Skills; Listening and Responding Appropriately)
- March 18 (PPTs & IEPs: Communicating your AS Child's Needs to School Personnel)
- April 14 (Sibling Stresses: Resulting from AS Child's Behavior in School or Community; Balancing Parental Time Between AS Child and the Neurotypical Sibling)

To accommodate work schedules and childcare needs, meeting times are 12:30-2 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. The group is facilitated by Joanne Deal, M.A., Professional Counseling. For more information or to pre-register for a meeting, please call 860-388-3190.

**WANT TO ADVERTISE?**

Call Betty Martelle at (860) 333-7117

## *How Could You Help With the Ebola Response*

The Connecticut River Area Health District shares information regarding the Ebola virus and local response.

Jim Monopoli, Director of Health, offers the following information:

### **Quarantine vs. Isolation:**

We've heard these words used quite frequently lately, but more accurately, I've heard these words MIS-USED quite frequently lately!

Quarantine should be used in reference to people who are NOT ILL with a disease. These people for the moment are healthy. However, a quarantined person is either infected with a disease causing organism or we think they may have been infected because they were exposed to a degree that we think they may have become infected. An infected person will remain healthy for some time, and then when that organism overtakes their immune response, he/she becomes ill. This time period between being infected and becoming ill is referred to as an incubation period. Each disease has a fairly distinct incubation period. Someone infected with Ebola may "incubate" on average for 8 to 11 days, but the range is from 2 to 21 days. Hence, the quarantine period for Ebola is at the highest duration of incubation: 21 days.

To confuse things further, the CDC has started to shy away from using the word "quarantine". In its place you may hear that a person is being "actively monitored with or without movement restrictions" which may sound less intimidating, but the terms are nearly interchangeable.

Isolation should be referred to someone whom has gone beyond an incubation period and has become actively ILL with a disease, and needs to be "isolated" from others to prevent him/her from infecting others. This is a period of time when someone is readily infectious to others. You may have heard about someone being in isolation at a hospital because they are seriously infectious and should not be around other people without the proper precautions.

Based on evidence to date, the experts are all in agreement that someone infected with the Ebola virus is not infectious to others UNTIL they become ill. This is good news for control purposes, because unlike with Ebola, with a few other diseases, the person may become infectious DURING the incubation period. As you could imagine, this would add challenges to control of that disease.

### **Self-Monitoring and Ebola**

Remove yourself from circulation!

For example, say someone has been notified by a health authority that he/she has been potentially exposed to the Ebola virus, and are being told to be actively monitored daily. The person has been given instructions with that notification.

The instructions include monitoring body temperature twice a day for onset of fever. Fever is commonly the first symptom. The person must keep him/herself removed to the extent possible from the rest of the family and may be required to refrain from using public transportation. (There are few better ways to expose large numbers of people than getting on a crowded

bus, train or plane.)

The local health department will be in daily contact to monitor body temperature, health status and adherence to restrictions. Movement restrictions are important with Ebola to limit potential exposure in the community. Remember, there is no vaccine or therapy to minimize the illness, i.e. there is no medication to prevent one from getting Ebola or minimizing its ravaging effects; we could only care for symptoms. Therefore, health authorities have to revert to basic public health measures we use in the absence of vaccines and therapies. We have to "BREAK THE CHAIN OF TRANSMISSION!" In other words, we have to stop exposed people from getting sick and exposing other people and stop healthy people from getting exposed in the first place.

To break the chain is one of the old tools in our public health toolbox that we occasionally have to pull out and use to control spread of disease, and there is no more important use of this than now with Ebola. Compliance with monitoring and movement restrictions is needed for control of this disease.

If someone is told to self-monitor, it is understood that he/she may have daily needs that need to be met. The restricted person will be asked to be as independent as possible during the 21 day period, but if he/she has unmet specific needs, those should be communicated so arrangements may be made to fulfill those needs.

### **Communication with Doctors and Emergency Responders**

If one becomes ill and has risk factors (link below) for Ebola, it is extremely important that be communicated to any medical person, facility, responder or public health person who is contacted.

To understand risk factors for Ebola, please refer to the following CDC link: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>

In addition, symptoms of Ebola typically include: rapid onset of fever followed by headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and/or unexplained bleeding.

Do the symptoms sound similar to other diseases? YES! This is why it is so important that the symptoms of Ebola must be linked with the risk factors for Ebola, with travel to the affected countries being a key one. The symptoms and risk factors MUST go together when considering Ebola.

Based on the above, if someone thinks they may have Ebola, virus, that person should:

Immediately self-isolate by staying in a separate room away from other people.

Communicate the symptoms and risk factors to the medical provider or emergency responder by PHONE, so they could respond and plan accordingly.

Lastly, control of a disease like Ebola, without benefit of a quick fix, requires a lot of work and dedication by the public, medical professionals, public health and emergency responders. You could help by considering the above, if you have to be a part of that response.

## January is National Radon Action Month

The CT River Area Health District wants to remind you that January is National Radon Action Month.

The US EPA reports that radon in the home continues to be responsible for an estimated 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year. Conversely, reducing home radon levels is a relatively simple and inexpensive thing to do.

First, a few facts about radon:

1. Radon is a radioactive gas that has been found in homes all over the United States.
2. Radon comes from the natural decay of radioactive uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe.
3. Radon is the only element in the decay chain of uranium that is a gas. All other decay products are solids. This is the reason that radon is a health concern. Radon, because it is a gas, exposes humans because it can enter into our lungs when we breathe.
4. Of the billions of years it takes uranium 238 to decay into a stable lead 206 form, radon gas, a step in that decay chain, has a very short half-life of just under 4 days!
5. Since radon is a gas, what gets breathed into the lungs also gets breathed out and radon itself is not a health concern. However, if the radon gas you breathed in decays into a solid product while it's in your lungs, then it gets trapped there and becomes a health concern.
6. Radon typically moves up through the ground to the air

above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home can act as a radon trap inside.

7. Radon can also enter your home through well water.

You and your family are most likely to receive your greatest radon exposure at home because that is where you spend most of your time. Radon levels in your home cannot be predicted based on state, local, and neighborhood radon measurements. Homes which are next to each other can have very different radon levels. The only reliable way to know what the radon level is in your home is to test your home.

Most people will test their home for radon using a passive testing device. The most common of these passive devices are charcoal canisters and alpha-track detectors. Both tests, once completed at home, need to be sent to a lab to determine the radon level detected.

Radon-resistant techniques work. When installed properly and completely, these simple and inexpensive passive techniques can help to reduce radon levels. Installing them at the time of construction makes it easier to reduce radon levels, however there are also effective radon reducing techniques for existing homes.

The CT River Area Health District has some passive, short term radon testing kits available. If you are interested in testing your home for radon, you may pick up one of these kits at the district office free of charge.

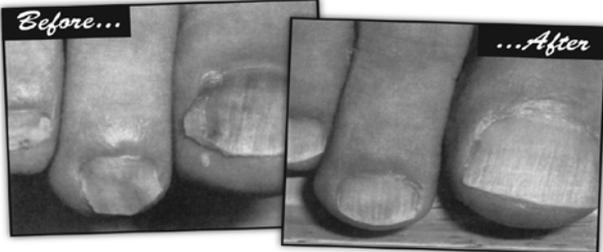
## Celebrating Kindness of Strangers

Spectrum Art Gallery and Store of Centerbrook, presents Kindness of Strangers, to celebrate the winter season, at 61 Main Street. Running through January 11, this show presents work of local and regional fine artists and artisans who illustrate the "kindness of strangers" among people and between people and our animal friends. The Gallery exhibit includes work by a number of figurative painters, photographers, sculptors, and crafters new to Spectrum Gallery. The Spectrum store is filled with new and unique pottery, jewelry, art glass and just in time for the holidays shimmery knitwear, decorative ornaments and notecards.

The Gallery is an expansion of the non-profit arts organization Arts Center Killingworth, which offers classes, workshops, camps, and musical events for all ages. In collaboration with Spectrum, the Arts Center's mission is to provide opportunities for emerging and established artists to display and sell their work. For information about Spectrum visit [www.spectrumartgallery.org](http://www.spectrumartgallery.org). For information about the Arts Center Killingworth, visit [www.artscenterkillingworth.org](http://www.artscenterkillingworth.org).

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## *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 three scholarships totaling \$10,000.00 in 2014/15. The scholarship recipients were: Keanna Chang, Micheala Efinger and Nicole Valente 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.

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:

Ethel Davis  
 Andre Prost Inc.  
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 Cartier Optical, Inc.  
 Susan McGrath & John Drozd  
 Marilyn Magnano  
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 Patricia Walker  
 The Children's Tree Montessori  
 Dr. Elizabeth Owen  
 Robert & Jean Hester  
 Robert & Lisa Dean  
 Wilfred Rondeau

It is not too late to donate to the Nightingale Fund; please use the form below.  
 Thank you. Diane Aldi DePaola, Chairman OSPHNB

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed donation: \$1000 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$400 \_\_\_ \$300 \_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Caring for our Community



Tina Belmont, RN

As we enter the winter months and the temperatures begin to drop, we all know that extra caution needs to be taken on icy steps and sidewalks. Another important, less obvious danger for older people is hypothermia, which can be deadly if not treated quickly. Hypothermia occurs when an individual's temperature drops below normal and stays low for a long period of time. Seniors are at risk for hypothermia because their body's response to

cold is diminished by certain illnesses such as diabetes, some medications and over-the-counter cold remedies. In addition, some seniors are less active and generate less body heat and they can develop hypothermia after just a short exposure to cold weather or a small drop in temperature.

The signs of someone with hypothermia are confusion and sleepiness, slowed or slurred speech, shivering or stiffness in the arms and legs, weak pulse, poor control over body movements and slowed reactions. If you think someone is suffering from hypothermia, take their temperature, if it's 96 degrees or lower call 911 for emergency help.

Tips from the National Institute on Aging on how to prevent hypothermia:

- Wear layers of loose clothing when it is cold, the layers will trap warm air between them. Tight clothing can keep blood from flowing freely and lead to loss of body heat.
- Wear a hat, scarf, gloves or mittens and warm clothes when you go outside in the cold weather. A significant amount of your body heat can be lost through your head, and hands and feet are the first body parts to get cold.

- To keep warm at home, wear long underwear under your clothes, along with socks and slippers. Use a blanket or afghan to keep legs and shoulders warm and wear a hat or cap indoors.
- Make sure your home is warm enough; set your thermostat to at least 68 to 70 degrees. Even mildly cool homes with temperatures from 60-65 degrees can trigger hypothermia in older people.
- Check with your doctor to see if any medications (prescription or over the counter) you are taking may increase your risk of hypothermia.

During the winter, always remember to check in with family and friends especially the elderly who may need assistance being safe at home.

Heating costs are high and if you are a low-income family having trouble paying your heating bills you can contact Old Saybrook Social Services at 860-395-3188 or the Home Energy Assistance Program at 860-674-6327.

The Old Saybrook Town Nurse wants to help residents stay healthy and offers free weekly screenings for blood pressure at the Estuary Council for Seniors. Also available are monthly screenings for fasting blood sugar and cholesterol; as well as medication reviews, diet, exercise and lifestyle teaching to help prevent and control your numbers. Clinics are also available at the Acton Public Library and Saye Brook Village. Need a quick screening for memory loss vs. dementia? Do you have other health concerns? Are you homebound and need a home visit? Call 860-271-5683 and schedule an appointment with the Old Saybrook Town Nurse. [www.vnasc.org](http://www.vnasc.org) or 860-444-1111.

*Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut*

## Safe Grad Night Launches Fundraising for 2015

Planning is underway for Safe Grad Night 2015 to be held on the night of graduation for Old Saybrook High School seniors. A parent committee convenes annually to plan and carry out the event. Two main fundraisers are hoped to generate sufficient monies to sponsor the activity-filled night for students.

Ladies Night at The Kate will take place January 23 from 7-10 p.m. Over forty area merchants will feature products, demonstrations, and samples aimed at pampering women, who will enjoy delicious samplings from local eateries and specialty shops. Tickets are on sale at The Kate Box Office. The Marshall Law Golf Tournament will be held May 7. A field of about 100 golfers from the shoreline and beyond compete annually in the popular outing at Fox Hopyard Golf Club.

2015 marks the 15th anniversary of Safe Grad Night. It was back in 2000 when graduates first had the opportunity to attend an exciting and memorable all-night party in a safe and fun setting, and it's been held each year since then at a surprise location that features food, music, games, entertainment, prizes, and fun for young adults.

Safe graduation and after-prom parties have gained popularity across the USA in the past two decades for good reason. According to the CDC, teens aged 16-19 are nearly three times more likely than older drivers to be involved in a fatal crash, and use of illegal substances by teens is one of several factors that contribute to this frightening statistic. Community-sponsored parties help keep young people safe so celebrations don't end in tragedy. Along with other strategies such as graduated licenses, safe grad parties have helped reduce teen fatalities.

Safe Grad Night depends on the generosity of the Old Saybrook community. Without sponsors and donors the annual fundraising goal could not be realized. All funds are managed by Graduation Night, Inc., a registered 501 (c) 3 charitable organization that accepts tax-deductible donations of all amounts. The organization's mailing address is Graduation Night Inc. c/o Old Saybrook High School, 1111 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

## *Estuary Council Regional Senior Center*

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

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

**Café Meal Sites** - Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook. Reservations required by calling 860-388-1611 by 11 a.m., 24 hours in advance. Lunch is served at Noon. Meals are served to those with reservations first; if meals remain those without a reservation are then served.

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

**Benefits Counseling** - We have a C.H.O.I.C.E.S. Counselor onsite Monday and Friday mornings by appointment. Call 860-388-1611. C.H.O.I.C.E.S. is an acronym for: Connecticut's programs for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling, and Eligibility Screening.

**Classes and Activities** - Zumba Gold, Tai Chi, Scrabble & Board Games, Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Stretch and Strength Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot. Instructional classes for Mah Jongg and Bridge. Check in the

monthly Gazette for all of our programs. It is available online by following the link at <http://www.ecsenior.org/news-gazette/>

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

**The Marshview Fitness Center at the Estuary** - Stop in for more information. There are seven different pieces of weight equipment and four cardio machines, including a NuStep. Hours are posted at the Estuary. Membership Options: Three months - \$50.00, Six months - \$90, Full year - \$150. Membership Includes: Mandatory fitness assessment. Three training sessions on each piece of equipment (required) and a one-hour individualized program consultation. To schedule an appointment with Fitness Trainer, Skylar Miers, ATC, call 860-388-1611.

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

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

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

## *Volunteers Needed for Tax Preparation Assistance*

Volunteers are needed for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to help low- to moderate-income households prepare and file their taxes to ensure they get back the money they have earned.

VITA is a national program of the IRS, and volunteers are trained and certified to ensure that working families and individuals are filing for all of the appropriate tax credits. The program also helps people avoid costly fees associated with tax preparation and rapid refund loans.

The program is looking for volunteers for two VITA sites located in downtown Middletown to provide free tax preparation assistance for eligible taxpayers. Tax preparation assistance is offered January 24 - April 11, at the offices of Middlesex United Way and the North End Action Team.

No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers complete training and are certified by the IRS. Training will be held from January 5-8 or January 12-15 in the evening. Volunteers must attend consecutive evening sessions. You will be trained to let filers know if they qualify for additional tax credits, such as the federal and the state Earned Income Tax Credits and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. VITA volunteers must complete a minimum of one 4-hour shift per week during tax

season in the late afternoons and evenings or on Saturdays; maintain confidentiality of all client information; and interact with the public in a helpful and supportive manner. Opportunities to become certified as an advanced tax preparer for the VITA program are also available.

In 2014, the two VITA sites in Middletown helped more than 530 Middlesex County area residents file their taxes for free and returned \$767,781 back to taxpayers. Those who filed with Middletown VITA sites had an average Adjusted Gross Income of \$19,676 and received an average refund of \$1,706, money they have earned. This impacts not only those who filed their taxes, but also their families and the local economy.

For more information about volunteering, contact David Morgan at [dmorgan@wesleyan.edu](mailto:dmorgan@wesleyan.edu) or (860) 346-1522.

VITA is a free program offered by the federal government. Local 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.

## The Upcoming Legislative Session



As the new State Representative-elect for the 23rd District, I want to give you a preview of what's to come in Hartford. The upcoming legislative session will bring many challenges but also many opportunities to steer Connecticut's economy in the right direction.

The 2015 legislative session begins on January 7 and ends June 3. This is what's known as the 'long session' as it is longer since it focuses on all types of legislation (the 2016 short session focuses solely on fiscal matters).

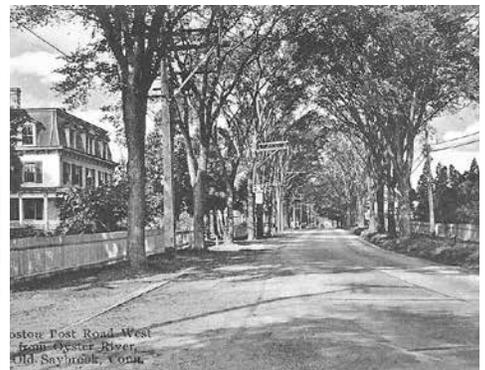
Recent rescissions by Governor Dan Malloy to tackle a \$100 million deficit include cuts to the Department of Children and Families, the University of Connecticut, the Department of Developmental Services, and vocational-technical high schools. In total, the Governor has proposed cuts that meet slightly more than half the deficit – which means more belt-tightening is to come.

This is a preview of what will be the major issue of the 2015 session: a \$1.1 billion deficit in the next budget's first year, which starts July 1. The 2015 session will focus on budget-making for the next two-fiscal years. Other potential issues include the enactment of tolls along Connecticut's borders, tackling unfunded pension liabilities, increasing the casino presence in Connecticut, and reducing the burden of unfunded mandates on our small towns. Goals will be to make Connecticut more inviting to private-sector investment and more conducive to growing our economy by creating more opportunities for everyone.

I look forward to partnering with you throughout my tenure as your State Representative and will keep you posted of all Capitol-related news. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (860) 388-7612 or email me at repdevincarney@gmail.com. Thank you.

*Representative-Elect Devin Carney*

## Historic Architecture Study Underway



The Historic District Commission has embarked on an important project to document and encourage the preservation of the Town's historic architecture. A grant was received from the State Historic Preservation Office to carry out an inventory of historic architecture within the Town and an award-winning historic preservation consulting firm is carrying out the project that will involve the documentation of more than 200 significant local properties.

The firm of Taylor & Taylor Associates is undertaking the initiative, led by the firm's principal, David Taylor, and Senior Historian Mary Anne Reeves. Beginning in September, Taylor and Reeves have conducted extensive fieldwork throughout the Town, gathering hundreds of digital images of historic buildings. They have spent considerable time at the Old Saybrook Historical Society Archives researching previous survey data, and public documents. In the end, the project will result in the recording of each property on inventory forms that will include a photo or photos of each property, architectural data, a physical description of each, and a statement of significance.

The firm's practitioners are very enthused about the array of architecture within the community. Taylor noted, "Old Saybrook is so very fortunate to have retained such a fabulous repertoire of historic buildings spanning several centuries,

including private residences, commercial properties, and some commemorative structures."

Reeves echoed these sentiments, "This community has a marvelously rich legacy of historic architecture representing many of the formal styles that were popular in America from the eighteenth century to the present. Intermingled with these are locally distinctive examples of vernacular buildings and house types that represent the growth and development of Old Saybrook over the generations."

In addition to the inventory forms, the final report will include a written report on the findings, along with recommendations for additional historic preservation-related initiatives for the Town and the Society to consider. A public meeting will be held at the conclusion of the project in the Spring of 2015.

Anyone with questions or specific information on historic buildings in Old Saybrook is urged to contact the Historic District Commission chairperson Diane DePaola or Project Coordinator Tedd Levy at the Old Saybrook Historical Society, 860-395-1635.

Residents are also invited to attend meetings of the Historic District Commission, which are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except when holidays occur, in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Town Hall, 302 Main Street.

## Students Harvest for Food Pantry



left to right: Raquel Farray, Kobe Cokas, Evan Butler  
foreground: Aiden Wilson background: Julian DeMille



left to right: Julian DeMille, Evan Butler, Aiden Wilson,  
Raquel Farray.

This fall, the elementary students at the Children's Tree Montessori School delivered fresh arugula to the food pantry at the First Church of Christ in Old Saybrook. Students had seeded arugula and lettuce in September and helped with harvesting, washing and bagging.

They proudly delivered their harvest and were given a tour by pantry manager Laura Dean-Frazier, who explained the importance of giving to the community and the need for food donations, not just around the holidays.

The Children's Tree Montessori School of Old Saybrook

offers Montessori education for children from infancy through 6th grade. Students go on frequent field trips and like to be active in the community.

### Holiday Clothes and Toy Swap

Bring lightly used clothing (children's or adult) and toys to swap in time for the holidays. Or just come by and pick up some gently used items. Kids are welcome at the Children's Tree Montessori School, 96 Essex Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

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## Acton Public Library

### SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

#### Old Saybrook Historical Society

**Thursday, Feb. 26, 7-8 p.m.** - *The Logbooks: Connecticut's Slave Ships and the Human Memory*. Author Anne Farrow will present this talk, hosted by The Old Saybrook Historical Society, in cooperation with the Acton Public Library.

**Thursday, March 26, 7-8 p.m.** - *Prudence Crandal's Legacy: The Fight for Equality in the 1830's, Dred Scott, and Brown v. Board of Education*. Presented by The Old Saybrook Historical Society in cooperation with the Acton Public Library, author Donald Williams discusses his book, and the long struggle for black equality in America.

**Thursday, April 16, 7-8 p.m.** - *A Connecticut Yankee in Lincoln's Cabinet: Navy Secretary Gideon Welles Chronicles the Civil War*. J. Ronald Spencer comes to the library to discuss his book, which has been described as "a candid insider's view of the Civil War as it unfolded." Presented by The Old Saybrook Historical Society in cooperation with the Acton Public Library.

All Historical Society events are free and open to the public. Programs are hosted in the library's Grady Thomas room upstairs.

#### Civil War Discussion Group

**Tuesday, Jan. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** - "*I Must Have Kentucky*,"

Abraham Lincoln, Dave Smith

**Tuesday, Feb. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** - *Civil War Pathways*, Illustrated by Kelvin W. Cole

**Tuesday, March 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** - *William Seward, Secretary of State Lincoln Administration*, Carol Horvath

**Tuesday, April 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** - *A Hard Road to Travel, From Connecticut to Gettysburg*, Carolyn Ivanoff

**Tuesday May 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** - *The Assassination of Lincoln and the Chase for Booth*, John Proctor

All events presented by the Civil War Discussion Group are free, open to the public, and presented in our Grady Thomas room from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The group meets the first Wednesday of the month, in the upstairs conference room, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7** - *The Master* by Colm Toibin

**Wednesday, Feb. 4** - *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

**Wednesday, March 4** - *Cutting for Stone*, Abraham Verghese

**Wednesday, April 1** - *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

**Wednesday, May 6** - *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini

*continued on page 37*

*Thank You to All of my Clients.*  
- Betty Martelle



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Acton Public Library ... continued from page 36

**Wednesday, June 3** - *The Astronauts Wives Club: A True Story*  
by Lily Koppel

**ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY**

December 2014 - Jennifer Holmes & Bernie McTeague – Grady Thomas Room and Gallery  
January 2015 - Dominic Massa  
February 2015 - Gloria Nilsson

**IN THE DISPLAY CASE**

January - February: Penny Banks  
March - April: Key chains

**FILMS AT THE LIBRARY - LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTON! KIDS**

The third Friday of the month, kid-friendly movies are shown in the Grady Thomas room from 3:30 -5 p.m.

Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 15: titles TBA.

The library also shows a film each month for more mature audiences. Call for dates, titles and times. All movies are free, and open to the public. Popcorn is served.

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

Preschool Story Time every Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. For children Ages 2-5: Stories, songs, hand rhymes, creative activities, and lots of fun! Registration is not required.

Story Time for Wee-Ones every Wednesday morning at 10:30

a.m. For Children Ages Birth to 2: Stories, songs, hand rhymes, and time for adults to socialize. Registration is not required. Special Activities: TBA

**YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS**

Events: TBA  
March 4, 2:30-5:30 p.m.: Youth Advisory Meeting

**PROGRAMS FOR JOB SEEKERS AT THE ACTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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

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

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

The library's hours are:

Monday-Thursday, 10am-8:30 pm  
Friday and Saturday, 9am-5:00 pm  
Sunday 1-5 p.m. (October - May)

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## Liberty Bank Foundation



(l-r) Leigh-Bette Maynard, manager of Liberty Bank's Essex and Old Saybrook offices, Patty Dowling, Executive Director of The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, and Skip Marquardt, Raymond James Financial Services and SSKP Board of Trustee member.

### Donates \$5,000 to Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

"SSKP is so grateful for the generous support we receive from The Liberty Bank Foundation. This donation helps assure that people in need on the shoreline have a place to turn to for food and fellowship. With these funds specifically we will be able to distribute enough food at our pantries for over 13,150 meals. On behalf of all those we serve, I thank The Liberty Bank Foundation for supporting our local neighbors in need," said Patty Dowling, executive director of SSKP.

"The need for services continues to be more critical than ever during the current economic conditions," said Leigh-Bette Maynard, manager of Liberty Bank's Essex and Old Saybrook offices. "A need exists in every community including the Shoreline. Liberty is proud to be a long-time supporter of Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries."

Since its inception in 1997, the Liberty Bank Foundation has awarded almost \$7.9 million in grants to nonprofit organizations within Liberty Bank's market area. The foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for people of low or moderate income by investing in three areas: education to promote economic success for children and families; affordable housing; and nonprofit capacity building. Along with its grantmaking, the foundation strives to foster the convening and collaboration of nonprofits, funders, business, and government to address community issues.

Founded in 1989, The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries provides food and fellowship to people in need and educates the community about hunger and poverty, serving the Connecticut shoreline towns of Essex, Chester, Clinton, Madison, Old Saybrook, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Killingworth, Westbrook and Deep River.

Established in 1825, Liberty Bank is Connecticut's oldest mutual bank, with almost \$3.5 billion in assets and 48 banking offices throughout the central, eastern, and shoreline areas of the state. As a full-service financial institution, it offers consumer and commercial banking, home mortgages, insurance, and investment services. Rated outstanding by federal regulators on its community reinvestment efforts, Liberty maintains a longstanding commitment to superior personal service and unparalleled community involvement.



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# Events *presents...* The Saybrook at Haddam

The Saybrook at Haddam is the region's premier independent and assisted living retirement community, which includes Safe Harbor, a specialized memory care neighborhood. Located in a gracious colonial-style manor, the community offers individualized care and an engaging lifestyle for senior citizens. Business Highlights: The Saybrook at Haddam has enjoyed occupancy rates close to 100 percent in recent years (up from 18 percent in 2009). This is the result of a professional and dedicated staff that has built a culture of kindness and caring; treating each resident with dignity and respect. We offer high-quality wellness programs, chef-prepared meals, countless social, cultural and physical activities, a 24-hour emergency call system, weekly housekeeping, building maintenance, and scheduled transportation. Our state-licensed Assisted Living Services Agency provides daily medication monitoring (if needed) and assistance with personal and household tasks.

Our newly expanded Safe Harbor memory care neighborhood is an engaging environment designed specifically for those with Alzheimer's, dementia and other memory-related disorders. Residents thrive in a neighborhood-like setting



that includes a lovely great room, cheerful activity room, library and attractive dining room.

Looking Forward: with the completion of a 15,000 square-foot expansion, The Saybrook at Haddam now includes 106 private apartments for independent seniors, those needing assisted living services, and those requiring specialized memory care. We will continue to meet the needs of seniors - while helping define quality retirement, assisted living and memory care as it should be.

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## Garden Club Fall Happenings



Barbara Maynard accepting her award with June Getchius, Club President, accepting an award on behalf of Betty Harris.

Autumn has arrived and winter is close by! One can see it everywhere, however, instead of slowing down, the Old Saybrook Garden Club is just beginning its new year of meetings and activities culminating in May with the May Market.

Since the beginning of autumn, the Old Saybrook Garden Club has been busy with end-of-the-planting-season chores.

Constitution Garden has been put to bed for the year by Chair Susan Vitro and her committee. The Club hopes that all who enjoyed Constitution Garden this summer recognized that Susan's vision of creating a garden reminiscent of a Monet painting was realized. The median planters, planted using a blue and yellow theme, helped tie everything together from the top to the bottom for a beautiful summer on Main Street. They, too, have been put to bed for the season.

In October, at a sold-out luncheon at the Aqua Turf in Southington, the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut recognized the Club's contribution to conservation, beautification, and its mission to The Pauline B. Tyler Award, which recognizes excellence in promoting conservation or legislation was presented to Barbara Maynard, a past Club President and current Club Historian. Barbara worked tirelessly, helping to make the acquisition of the property known as "The Preserve" a reality. The Joyce P. Harris Award, which recognizes outstanding horticultural achievement within the individual's club and community, was presented to Betty Harris, a past Club president and the Club's long-time chair of the Civics Concerns Committee. The Club also received an award for its Club yearbook and a special citation for its planting of native trees in town, especially the elm tree, once abundant in Old Saybrook.

Late November means bringing the sleeping Main Street medians back to life just in time for the Saybrook Stoll, the Torchlight Parade, and Christmas holiday season. Club members spent a full-of-laughter morning "fluffing the wreaths" for the gaslight lamps. The little Christmas trees, placed on either side of each lamp, are in place and ready for the season. The Club hopes that all will watch for and enjoy the beauty of Main Street in December.

In between these special activities, meetings continue to discuss and work on the Club's "Open to the Public" meeting in April featuring Bill Graham, owner and operator of "Beautiful Things" in Salem, MA as well as the Club's May Market, the event which funds the Club's work in town.

Prospective members are welcome to learn more about the Old Saybrook Garden Club and its activities. For more information, please call 860-388-3213.



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Constitution Garden

## Historical Society

### Society Seeking WW I Items

This coming June the Old Saybrook Historical Society will be exhibiting a selection of its outstanding World War I propaganda posters. To further illustrate aspects of this "war to end all wars," including life on the home-front, the Society is seeking short term loans or gifts of objects and memorabilia that could accompany this exhibit. If you have suitable World War I items and would consider including them in this exhibit, or would like to discuss this further, please contact the Society at 860-395-1635. We particularly welcome material related to Old Saybrook.

### Saybrook Family to be Featured by Film Company

Among Old Saybrook's most distinguished 20th century residents was best-selling African-American author Ann Petry. Many area residents are more familiar with Petry's more locally famous aunt, Miss James who operated her pharmacy for many years. Ann Petry also trained as a pharmacist but made major contributions to American culture through her compelling novels, short stories, and works for children.

Searchlight Films, a small but highly accomplished film company that specializes in making documentary films for television, has approached the Historical Society for support in producing an hour-long documentary about the James family, an African-American family that rose from slavery, triumphed over racism, and produced a number of "firsts" for

women and African-Americans.

The film will be designed for broadcast television and for distribution through libraries, museums, community organizations, and digital Internet streams.

The core of the film is presented via letters, historical documents, and archival photographs handed down through five generations of the James family and preserved by Ann Petry in old cookie tins and boxes. Interviews with prominent historians and scholars will provide context and evaluation of the themes presented.

And while the film profiles one family, it is a prism through which we can view Connecticut life, community, and race relations from the post-Civil War era through the early 20th century.

Much of this family story can be found in "Can Anything Beat White: A Black Family's Letters" by former Saybrook resident and author Elizabeth Petry, Ann Petry's daughter.

Searchlight Films was founded by Kathryn Golden and Ashley James and specializes in making documentary films for television. Their films are designed to illuminate America's diverse communities and their clients have included PBS, CBS, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and BBC. Additional information is available on their website: [www.SearchlightFilms.org](http://www.SearchlightFilms.org).

### Home, Again, for the Holidays

A small group of gaily dressed long time Saybrook residents

*continued on page 42*

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**RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE**



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06475

Historical Society ... continued from page 41



Mannequins originally from the G. Fox Department Store, Hartford were recently returned after "living" a dozen years with the Old Saybrook Historical Society. Many of the figures resided with former Society President Donna DiBella who arranged for their return. They will be displayed this holiday season in the windows of the old G. Fox Department Store building.

are leaving town to return to Hartford where they will once again fulfill their traditional seasonable responsibilities. They are going with their many trees, a small sled, the horse drawn sleigh, the fireplace with stockings hung with care, assorted mice, and several snowballs.... going back to the place of their early years where they decorated the windows of G. Fox department store, the once thriving Hartford institution that

closed its doors more than a dozen years ago.

After William DiBella and Anthony Autorino purchased the building and its contents, Donna DiBella persuaded her husband to save the two dozen holiday characters and supporting objects. Then, with a host of volunteers from the old Saybrook Historical Society, they were lovingly transported from Hartford to the Gen. William Hart House in the summer

continued on page 43

*Historical Society ... continued from page 42*

of 2000. The newcomers were dusted off, given new identities and taped stories, and starred in the Society's holiday exhibit, "Animated Memories of Holidays Past."

It wasn't the G. Fox 11th floor fairyland but they were warmly received and over time forgotten. Relegated to the Hart House attic, the Historical Society shed and the DiBella garage, they waited patiently with their mechanized minds dreaming of being home for the holidays in Hartford.

Now, their time has come. An organization known as "1 Quilt Partnership" is working to revitalize downtown Hartford by, among other things, "patching together" several cultural and historic destinations within walking distance of each other. Their centerpiece is the GreenWalk, a one-mile chain

of parks and plazas connecting the Capitol in Bushnell Park to the waterfront of the Connecticut River. In addition, they have developed Envisionfest, Connecticut's Capital City Festival, which they hope will change perceptions of Hartford by stimulating the senses through culture, innovation, imagination and ingenuity.

The "1 Quilt Partnership" also produces Winterfest, where our merry mannequins will be featured along with never-melting snow, ever-green trees, the mice, skaters and carolers, horse and sleigh, assorted elves, Mr. and Mrs. Claus and all the other velveteen beings.

Once again, they will enliven Hartford's holiday spirit and be home for the holidays to greet a new generation of admirers.

## Cappella Cantorum

### Cappella Cantorum Men's Chorus 2015

Cappella Cantorum 30 voice Men's Chorus non-auditioned Registration/Rehearsal will take place Monday, March 23, 7 p.m., John Winthrop Middle School, 1 Winthrop Rd. Deep River, CT 06417. Rehearsals are Mondays at 7:30 pm. \$30 covers Music and Registration. Spirituals, Gospel, Sea Chanteys, Classical and Broadway Music will be featured. Bring a black 3-ring notebook. Late registration will be the following Monday, March 30, 7 p.m., at JWMS. Contact Barry Asch at 860-388-2871 for more information, or register on CappellaCantorum.org

### Sing the Faure Requiem and Schubert Mass in G

Faure "Requiem," and Schubert "Mass in G," Registration is Jan. 5, 7 p.m., at John Winthrop Middle School, 1 Winthrop Rd. Deep River, CT 06417. Cappella Cantorum MasterWorks Chorus, led by Barry Asch, is a non-auditioned chorus, which meets each Mon. evening to rehearse at 7:30 p.m. Late Registration is Jan. 12, same time & place. All singers are welcome to join us. The Concert is Sun. March 22, 3 p.m.



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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

## The Rising Trend of Grower Champagne

The holidays are a special time of year when we all come together to celebrate. The newest trend in wine to celebrate the holidays with is Grower Champagne. Champagne is the most widely known sparkling wine which is grown and produced in France in the Champagne region. There are many other sparkling wines from all over the world but they are only considered true Champagne if they come from this region.

The most popular, mass produced Champagnes outsource their grapes from many different areas and vineyards in the Champagne region. This enables them to produce a consistent style year after year. Grower Champagne on the other hand, are grown and produced on the estate by which they are owned. With these small production Champagnes it is all about the micro-climate and soil, otherwise known as the 'terroir', upon which it is grown. Grower Champagne may vary year to year because they are sourcing from their estate and are at the mercy of the climate each year. These growers take a lot of pride in their Champagne, many of which are 100% Organic using no pesticides and in some cases no

machines in the field. Their main concern is to produce the absolute best wine that they can, given the small parcel of land they have.

These Grower Champagnes are of excellent quality, and usually far surpass the price you pay for them. The best way to identify a true Grower Champagne is on the label. Look for the letters RM before a series of numbers. RM stands for Récoltant-Manipulant, with Récoltant meaning 'grower/farmer' and Manipulant meaning 'handling/producing'.

Whatever the occasion, sparkling wine is always a great addition to any gathering. So while perusing your local wine shop for a great bottle of bubbly for your holiday party or as a great gift idea, make sure to inquire about Grower Champagnes. Your guest will be pleasantly surprised by the depth and wonderful flavors these Champagnes have to offer. Savor these new-found gems with friends and family and have a sparkling holiday season!!!

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



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