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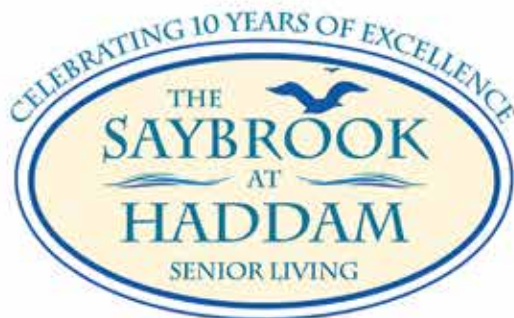
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# The Selectmen's Corner

Happy winter from the Board of Selectmen, which consists of First Selectman Carl P. Fortuna, Jr. and Selectmen Scott Giegerich and Matthew Pugliese. The winter season brings its own special beauty to our shores. Winter is a great time to get outside and enjoy our shoreline and all of our great hiking trails. The Board of Selectmen thanks you for entrusting us with running your local government.

## THE GOLD STANDARD

The Town of Old Saybrook is among seventeen Connecticut municipalities to be recognized this fall for achieving Sustainable CT Silver Certification. Old Saybrook met high standards in a broad range of sustainability accomplishments to qualify for the prestigious silver-level certification which is the highest level of certification currently offered (thus the "gold" standard.)

Sustainable CT is a statewide initiative that inspires and supports communities in becoming more efficient, resilient, and inclusive. As First Selectman, I am proud of our team and the work that has gone into obtaining this certification. This is a major accomplishment-silver certification is awarded to only a handful of towns statewide. We all know sustainability is important to our community at large and many of the programs that helped us achieve silver certification have been priorities for my administration since coming into office in 2011.

**In our application for Sustainable CT certification, we demonstrated significant achievements in actions in nine sustainable impact areas. Here are a few samples:**

The Town has partnered with the Old Saybrook Land Trust and the State of CT to make great progress in **preserving open space** for the benefit of the environment and enjoyment of residents and generations to come; The Town worked with UConn to inventory and prioritize **brownfields** properties to help facilitate their redevelopment; The Town participates in and promotes the **C-PACE program**, and had its first business, Stencil Ease, approved for C-PACE financing from the CT Green Bank to undertake clean energy improvements on their property; The Town continued to **grow sustainable and affordable housing** options with the addition of 59 units over the past 5 years for residents earning less than 80% of the state median income; The Town received credit for continuing to promote **"Complete Streets"** with the construction of sidewalks, roadside lighting and bus shelters; The Town leaders and staff worked cooperatively with the Chamber of Commerce to **help small businesses hit** continued on page 5



First Selectman Carl P. Fortuna, Jr.



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## Selectmen's Corner... continued from page 3

**hard by the Covid pandemic.** Efforts included roundtables to find out what the small business owners needed, dissemination of information about grant and loan programs, providing PPE, help with permitting and land use issues and streamlining the outdoor seating approval process for restaurants, providing business promotion, and establishing a long-term recovery task force and, finally, the Town undertook a **Climate Vulnerability Assessment**, and matched a Storm Sandy CDBG-DR (disaster recovery) grant from the CT-Department of Housing to thoroughly study how to make Old Saybrook's coastal areas more resilient. (The Town gave special consideration to economic risk and vulnerable populations in the Town Center (low and moderate income residents,) the Chalker Beach community (geographically vulnerable to the impact of extreme weather events) and owners of historic homes in need for technical and financial assistance by older, moderate-income property owners.)

Old Saybrook's Land Use Department coordinates the Town's Sustainable CT efforts. Lynette Wacker is our Team Leader and knows that using the Sustainable CT program as a guide for our efforts will help to ensure that Old Saybrook continues to be a wonderful place to live and visit well into the future. Despite these unusual times, Old Saybrook keeps moving in the right direction.

COVID-19 continues to be the dominant issue in all of our lives on a daily basis. For a period of time in the spring, town hall was closed. Since mid-June, Old Saybrook town hall has been fully open with all necessary safety precautions in place. There is little doubt our community will continue to be affected by this virus in significant ways over the course of the winter and headed to spring: Our local businesses will struggle without your support so please do everything you can to shop local; If you know friends and neighbors who may become unemployed or underemployed, they should know that our social services department is there to assist them; Our students have had to survive this pandemic with on again, off again in-school learning and social isolation has become the norm for too many of our citizens. While I understand this is a public health crisis, the actual numbers of COVID cases in our community since the start of the pandemic has been manageable. In Old Saybrook, COVID-19 has more been an economic and educational crisis, no different than the rest of the country. And while we will be coming out of this pandemic in the new year, probably as the weather gets warmer, we need to support our fellow businesspersons and residents until then. One way to help local residents is by supporting an organization called Old Saybrook Cares (OS Cares.) This non-profit has been set up to assist COVID-19 affected residents in our town. Grants of up to \$1500 help residents with food, utilities and other everyday expenses. 100% of the raised funds assists Old

continued on page 6



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## Selectmen's Corner... continued from page 5

Saybrook residents who can demonstrate they have been economically affected by this pandemic and we have a committee that applies a qualifying review process to make certain of this. The distributed funds are meant to help these residents bridge the gap until they can return to their normal employment in 2021. If you would like to donate, you may donate on the OS Cares page on the Middlesex United Way website or drop a check payable to OS Cares at the First Selectman's office in town hall. Thank you.

Early in November of 2020, my staff and I commenced preparing the fiscal year '22 budget, which runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30th, 2022. The process is lengthy and begins with a review of town benefits (health and life insurance, as well as pension review) and moves to a salary review of our employees. We move on from there to short term and long-term capital projects. The budget is a planning document for the town, one that must respect every dollar spent and make certain that value is returned for taxpayer money. Building the budget takes a solid five months, usually culminating in a budget referendum early in May. Last year, no referendum took place due to the pandemic. We can only wonder what May of 2021 will look like. As for the financial impact that COVID-19 will have on the town budget, my team here in town hall will watch our numbers closely and will take corrective action if need be. We have contingency plans but we are hopeful that our town can manage through what promises to be an interesting time.

In the past you may have noticed that I have written several times about garbage. Yep, the stuff you bring to the curb which magically disappears, or maybe the bags you bring to the transfer station to gleefully toss into the bin, never thinking what happens next. Well, trash disposal is getting and will get a lot more expensive. Connecticut is facing a waste crisis, as traditional options for disposing of municipal solid waste are slowly diminishing. Five waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities in the state handle the majority of the 2.4 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) that is disposed each year. One of these facilities, the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) waste-to-energy facility in Hartford, is an aging facility and is likely to shut down in coming years. This is the facility where Old Saybrook's trash goes.

Connecticut and its municipalities are increasingly turning to export of their MSW to out-of-state landfills as an alternative. In 2013, the state exported 63,457 tons to out-of-state landfills, compared to 302,866 tons in 2018, a disturbing trend. With fewer and rapidly aging disposal options in the state, residents and municipal leaders can expect tipping fees to increase at the remaining in-state waste-to-energy facilities, along with rates for out-of-state landfilling. Available space in northeast landfills may decline 40% by 2026. Landfilling also exposes business and towns to unpredictable cost increases as they compete for transportation and landfill capacity as well as potential long-term liability if a landfill has a release or is otherwise a source of pollution in the future. "This is a silent crisis, a quiet crisis, but a crisis nonetheless," DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes said. "Many towns are struggling with increased tip fees and all of the indicators are telling us that the situation will get worse. The good news is that if we act now, we can rethink our waste system and invest in sustainable materials management solutions that will help us limit our reliance on landfills and waste-to-energy facilities in the future."

continued on page 8

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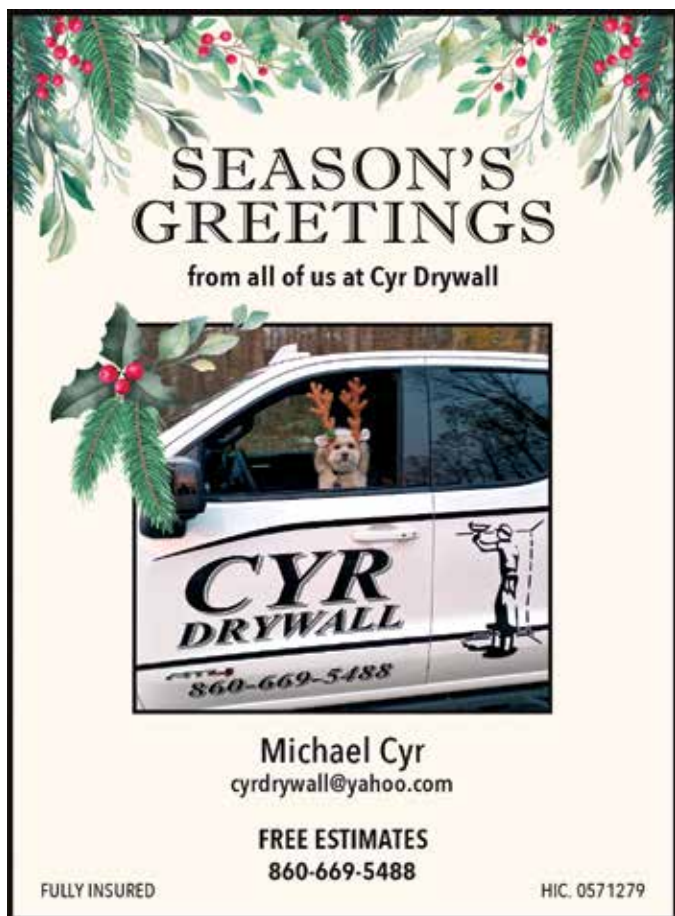
According to a 2015 study, nearly 40% of what residents throw away is material that could be recycled. Another 35% is organic material—food scraps and yard waste—that can be donated, composted, and processed into animal feed. In August, DEEP launched the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) in partnership with 74 Connecticut municipalities, to identify sustainable materials management solutions for Connecticut's waste crisis. The CCSMM has convened four working groups that are hard at work coming up with solutions around reducing the waste stream, reusing materials and increasing recycling while seeking to innovate and learn from waste professionals and other environmental agencies across the country.

Over the next several months, DEEP seeks to continue the conversation around this crisis, and plans to share resources on our social media channels via the hashtag #RethinkWasteCT. We hope it is a thought process you decide to engage in, whether it is individual action, or learning about strategies that could be scaled up here in Old Saybrook. These actions taken together can transform Connecticut's waste system. DEEP has many resources available on its website for community and household leaders alike to educate and assist with disposing of your trash. DEEP is encouraging residents, businesses, and community leaders to reduce, reuse, recycle and add a fourth "R" to the equation: Rethink.

"All across the state, there are examples of municipal leaders, entrepreneurs, and community advocates launching innovative programs and businesses that are helping our state recycle, compost, and reuse valuable materials in our waste stream," Commissioner Dykes said. "With the waste crisis looming, we all have a role to play in building on and supporting those examples, and it all starts when we rethink."

Just before the Thanksgiving holiday, Old Saybrook lost a great man, its Town Treasurer, Robert W. Fish. Bob was a friend and colleague to many but he will be most remembered for his love and service to the Town old Old Saybrook for 58 years (that is not a typo.) From volunteering on land use commissions and the Board of Education to an interim run as First Selectman, and finally the last 20 years as Town Treasurer, Bob made an indelible impact on this town. He has been wise counsel to me, the prior administration and countless others and he will be missed. Thank you, Bob. May you rest in peace.

The pandemic has tested all of us and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Here in Old Saybrook and all across the world, we are likely going to have to learn to live with this virus until vaccines are widely distributed and available. Even then, there will still be cases and outbreaks. But we must make something good come from all this whether it is a greater



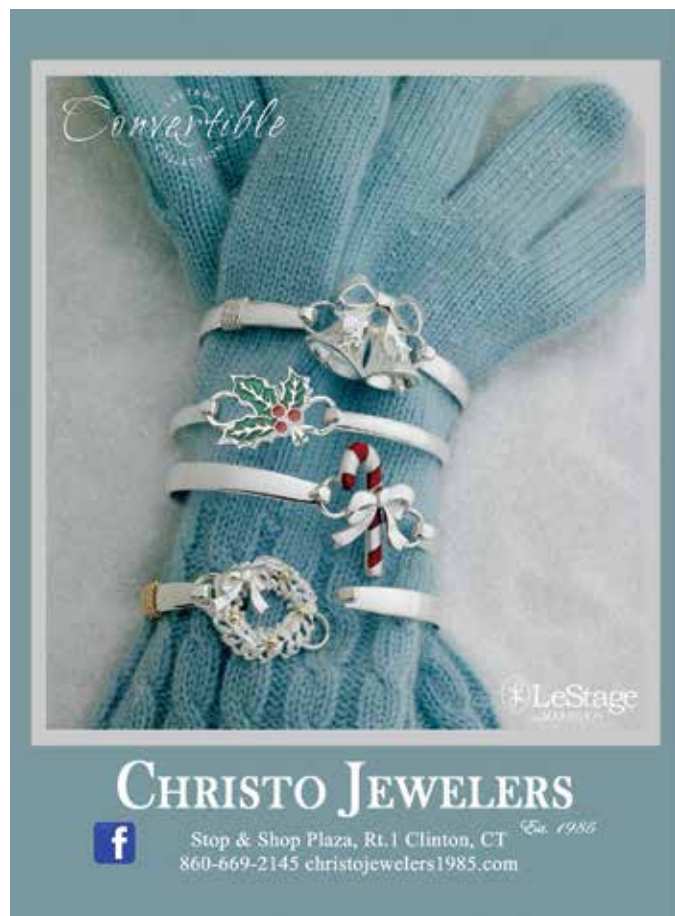
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appreciation of spending time with the ones we love, making positive personal changes, developing new friendships, or just being able to operate town government more efficiently. This pandemic will change lives forever but we will persevere and we

must commit to be better when the new normal takes shape.

With that, stay safe.

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

## Office of the Assessor

### UPDATE ON OCTOBER 1, 2020 GRAND LIST

The October 1, 2020 Grand List for the July 1, 2021 tax bill is about to be updated. First, all business personal property declarations that were returned by November 1st are in the process of review and will be entered into the business personal property tax computer system. Any declarations that have not been properly filled out or signed and dated or any declarations that were not returned or were returned late will, by state statute, have a 25% penalty added to their assessment.

Also, in late November the Assessor's Office received a list of motor vehicles that have been sold or traded between

October 1, 2018 and October 1, 2019. This list from CT DMV is known as the Supplements List. This list contains approximately 3,000 vehicles and about half of those vehicles have to be priced manually by the assessor and assistant assessor from NADA price guides.

In addition, there are other changes that have to be considered by the Assessor such as court case settlements completed from the October 1, 2018 revaluation – some of these cases have yet to be done because they have been put on hold as a result of COVID-19.

Beginning in late July and through the summer, the Assessor and staff will be

following up on building permits that have been issued since October 1, 2019. Any property that is currently under construction will be assessed and prorated based on the date of completion or the completion date on the certificate of occupancy.

Any property under renovation or construction since October 1, 2019 will be prorated based on percent complete as of that date. If there is a certificate of occupancy, the assessment will be prorated based on the date of the certificate of occupancy.

Norman B. Wood, CCMA II, Assessor

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## Economic Development Commission

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION UPDATE

The Old Saybrook Economic Development Commission (EDC) continued its work to support local businesses through the pandemic with two projects: the first invited Old Saybrook businesses to participate in the EDC's geofencing marketing campaign to encourage local shopping during the holidays; and the second was the Gingerbread House Decorating Contest that runs through January 2.

### GEOFENCING "SHOP LOCAL" MARKETING CAMPAIGN

The Old Saybrook EDC has been using geofencing marketing for the past three years. This year, the EDC extended geofencing advertising options to Old Saybrook businesses at a subsidized rate. "Given the challenges for our local small businesses this year, the Economic Development Commission wants to support them by providing them with the opportunity to use this tool at a subsidized rate," said Matt Pugliese, Old Saybrook EDC Chair. "Increasing the use of digital marketing strategies is one of the most frequently requested needs - and a big challenge for businesses with small staffs and small marketing budgets. Our goal as the commission is to help local small businesses remain viable through the pandemic." Three Old Saybrook businesses partnered with the EDC to include their business advertisements within the larger campaign.

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

To bring visitors into Old Saybrook during the holiday shopping season to support small businesses, the EDC sponsored the Gingerbread House Decorating Contest. The contest created an opportunity for anyone of any age or ability to enter a gingerbread creation into the contest at no cost. The gingerbread creations will be displayed in the windows of local bakeries Pursuit of Pastry and Dagmar's Desserts through January 2, 2021. Local pastry chefs, Jill Peterson at Pursuit of Pastry and Dagmar Ratensperger of Dagmar's Desserts were

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EDC Gingerbread House Decorating Contest Entry: Gingerbread Town Hall.

joined by Foxwoods Executive Pastry Chef Franck Iglesias of Cake by Franck to judge the entries in three categories on December 18. Winners are listed at [osgingerbread.com](http://osgingerbread.com).

But the fun didn't end there! The public has an opportunity to vote for a "Fan Favorite" entry in all three categories. "Fan Favorite" votes can be cast online by making donations to Old Saybrook C.A.R.E.S. at [cbo.io/d/oschamber](http://cbo.io/d/oschamber) through January 2, 2021. Every \$1 donated equals 1 Fan Favorite vote. Funds raised will support the Old Saybrook C.A.R.E.S. mission to assist Old Saybrook residents negatively impacted by the pandemic. Fan Favorite winners will be announced the first week of January 2021.

## Conservation Commission

The Old Saybrook Conservation Commission organized a coastal cleanup effort on September 26. Other groups that participated included the OSHS Ecology Club, Girl Scout Troop 60485, the Chamber of Commerce PLOT group, Chalker Beach Association and Great Hammock Beach Association. Many other town beach and neighborhood

associations have annual cleanups throughout the year.

As part of the planning, the Conservation Commission awarded a prize for the most amount of trash collected. This year's award went to Girl Scout Troop 60485 whose trash collection included a couple of old tires (see photo on page 12.)

While local cleanups have been ongoing in Old Saybrook for many years, the Conservation Commission found inspiration with the resources provided by The Ocean Conservancy which began organizing and encouraging coastal cleanups globally in 1986 (see: <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas>).

**continued on page 12**




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Old Saybrook Girl Scout Troop 60485 participating in coastal cleanup.

## Conservation... continued from page 11

The Ocean Conservancy has developed an app called Clean Swell which is available for free at the app store. The app quantifies the types of trash collected and identifies the most frequently found items. This data is used to focus efforts on what can be done to decrease the most common trash items. An example is the recognition of the large number of discarded plastic straws which has resulted in an awareness and education around the value in using fewer plastic straws. Not surprisingly, new items have been added to the app this year including personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks. Several masks and gloves were found during the local cleanup.

Cleanups are a great way to get involved locally with a global issue of ocean pollution. It also has the benefit of allowing people to become familiar with our local coastline and appreciate how fortunate we are to have over 20 miles of coastline to enjoy in Old Saybrook. Please mark your calendars now for the next global coastline cleanup in September 2021.

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# Fall Home Projects To Boost Your Comfort and Energy Efficiency

By: Enoch Lenge

Fall is a great time to tackle those home improvement projects that have been put off because of the summer heat. In addition to landscaping, gutter cleaning, power washing, and deck repair, here are some home improvement projects to add to your list to boost your comfort while helping save you money and energy this winter:

- Upgrade Your Lighting – Did you know that the average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting? Now that it's getting darker earlier and your lights are on longer, consider switching your current light bulbs with LEDs. According to Energy.gov, ENERGY STAR-certified residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.
- Insulate Doors and Windows – Air sealing, especially in an old, drafty house, can save homeowners more than 20% on their heating and cooling costs. Installing weatherstripping around your doors and windows is an easy and low-cost way to improve your home's energy efficiency and keep the cold winter wind at bay.
- Check Your Attic for Air Leaks – An unfinished, poorly insulated attic is another common area where homeowners experience significant heat loss. Adding insulation to the attic floor and sealing any air leaks can help stabilize the temperature inside your home, prevent ice dams, and save on energy costs.
- Maintain Your Heating and Cooling Systems – Be sure to add scheduling a preventative tune-up with your local



- HVAC company to your list to keep that system running efficiently and preserving air flow. A clean system that is free of dirt and debris will run more efficiently and preserve airflow.
- Install Programmable Thermostats – You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its typical setting. Programmable thermostats allow you to easily set your home's temperature in advance to avoid coming home to a freezing house. A smart thermostat takes that a step further by allowing you to set your temperature from your smart phone or tablet. Some even learn your habits and adjust accordingly – saving you even more.
- Window Replacement – While this may not be at the top of your list, replacing old windows, especially with high performance ones like triple-pane windows, can improve a home's energy efficiency and overall comfort.

Before researching various contractors or DIY-ing these improvements, take advantage of the limited time only, no-cost Home Energy Solutions<sup>sm</sup> program offered by Eversource. To get started, you can schedule an appointment with an Eversource-authorized energy expert to evaluate your home's energy efficiency needs. During in-person visits, energy experts, while following COVID-19 safety requirements, will also conduct important safety tests and install weatherization measures and energy-saving improvements, such as air sealing, LED lighting, and advanced power strips.

To help make these improvements more affordable, program participants can take advantage of 0% financing on approved energy-saving improvements, and up to 100% off of eligible insulation projects. Eversource has you covered with a wide range of energy-saving rebates and discounts, including a new triple-pane window rebate.

From now through December 31, Eversource is offering a \$100 rebate per window for each window replaced with an ENERGY STAR-certified triple-pane window.

Whether you're looking to improve the comfort of your home, save on your energy bill, or help save the environment, Eversource has several budget-friendly solutions to help you get started. To schedule your energy assessment, call 1-877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873), or visit Eversource.com to learn more about Eversource's residential offerings and additional ways to save.

**Enoch Lenge** is Eversource's energy efficiency spokesman and provides energy saving tips on the company's blog.

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# Old Saybrook Architectural Review Board

302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-1741 | 860-395-3131 | FAX 860-395-1216 | [www.oldsaybrookct.org](http://www.oldsaybrookct.org)

## BOARD ANNOUNCES DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Old Saybrook, CT, December 4, 2020:

The Architectural Review Board is pleased to announce the recipients of the Design Excellence Awards, which recognize buildings in the Town of Old Saybrook that preserve and cultivate the existing and long-standing character of the town. Established in 1998, the Architectural Review Board defines two categories in which to recognize architectural design: new construction and renovation.

### The ARB is pleased to announce the recipients for the next round of awards:

**Max's Place**, Spencer Plain Road, for New Construction, 2010 - 2014;

**North Cove Shops**, 75 Main Street, for Renovation, 2010 - 2014;

**The Shops at Oyster River**, 923 Boston Post Road, for New Construction, 2015 - 2019;

**Little Pub**, 1231 Boston Post Road, for Renovation, 2015 - 2019.

Emily Grochowski, Chairman of the ARB, explained that several projects were worthy candidates of a Design Excellence Award, however these recipients displayed unique qualities that set them apart. "For example," explained Grochowski, "the North Cove Shops are notable for bringing cohesion to the entire property and also for the patio which encourages interaction among patrons and

passers by." The Shops at Oyster River is notable for bringing a large warehouse style building to human scale; Little Pub is a wonderful renovation notable for incorporating high quality materials and whimsical design features, while Max's Place enhances the intersection of Spencer Plain Road and Boston Post Road, in part by using smaller liner buildings to screen the larger buildings and parking area behind. These projects comply with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development's vision of Old Saybrook in terms of appropriate scale, design and use, creating an overall "sense of place."

The ARB is grateful to these recipients who carry on this tradition of design and architectural excellence. Framed certificates will be presented February 8, 2021 at a virtual Design Excellence Awards ceremony.

### About the Architectural Review Board

The ARB works to provide guidance to owners, designers and developers in order to maintain the town's unique character and to foster the gradual improvement of its appearance. The ARB challenges the applicant to consider and articulate the transformations they propose and to view their project in the larger context of their surrounding environment. The ARB provides a forum for positive feedback that impacts the common good of both individual residents and the entire community.

## 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 2020 Nursing Board's annual Nightingale Fund Appeal enabled the board to give three scholarships totaling \$6,000. Recipients are Mackenzie Cart, Cassidy Hallowell and Julia Sultini.

The Public Health Nursing Board responding to the 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  
The Nursing Board would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their generosity

Virginia Robinson	Christopher & Leanne Antonino	Rick Morant	Grant & Joanne Westerson	William & Janet Temple	Leigh Bonney
Wexford Farm	Richard Bourne Jr.	Judith Peritz	Henri David	Joseph & Nancy Termine	Kathryn Chiat
Andre Prost Inc	Lauren & William Brazicki	Margaret Samela	Lisa & Bobby Kehayias	Marie McFarlin	R.E. Leighton & Associates
Robert Shaw	Barbara Browne	Michael Schneider	Karen Beebe	Woodward Boynton	Westbrook Concrete Block Co.
Mary Fasulo	Patricia & Eugene Creighton	Lorraine Splain	Earla Frisbie	Ian Featherstone & Mary Briscoe	Paul Corcina
John & Janet Latino	Jeannette Cushman	Victoria Graboys	Alfred & Laura Tiezzi	David & Kathryn De Antonis	Jeff & Sarah Canavan
William Dunne	Anne Czepiel	Margaret Abraham	Diane Aldi DePaola	Saybrook Point Inn	Ken Lewis
Peter & Christine Vanliet	Deborah DeCristoforo	Daniel & Barbara Aube	Dr. Elizabeth Owen	Thomas Stevenson	Rosanne Farrell
Kathleen & Andrew Baloise	Lindas & John Dillon	Edson Bourn	Jeannie Abrahamson & Susan Duquette	Wayne & Susan Mountz	David & Eunice Royston
Peter Campanaro	Leonard & Joann Dongweck	Jean Cowles	Suzanne Millsbaugh	Paul & Kathy Connolly	Paul & Susan Tracey
Sharon Craft	Martin & Elizabeth Drobiarz	Mary & Carmine DeVito	Michael & Ellen Urban	John & Irene Listorti	Robert & Donna Cucinell
Jane Ellis	Wayne & Barbara Harms	Maryann Iadarola	Mary Peterson & Dorothy Dreisbach	Barry Maynard	Keith & Maureen Schlosser
Marilyn Magnano	Mary Kennedy	Charles & Debra Landrey	Linda Frigon	Barbara & Neal Slobin	Dorothy O'Neil
George & Barbara Maynard	Dave & Danielle King	Ken & Nanette Navarro	John & Mary Eileen Galiette	Craig Wilson DDS	Michael & Lawrence Rafferty
Neal McCrudden	Stephen & Kathlene Mizerek	Michael & Renee Pavlovich	Patricia Hagberg	John & Judith Threfall	John Gallo
Donna & Robert Burke	Margaret Abraham	Eugene Raunikar	Carl & Tara Spadola	Sonia & Robert Varley	Mary Bohan
Sara Kearney	Frank & Elisabet Landrey	Pasta Vita	Shirley Brockway	Kenneth & Priscilla Funck	Robert & Myriam Ulrich

# Sustainable CT Silver Certification - What's Next?



Now that Old Saybrook has earned the distinction of being a silver-certified\* community under the Sustainable CT program through 2023, we are not finished. The Town is committed to building on this progress by continuing to work toward the goals outlined in the program in preparation for the next certification round.

Some of these goals (or "actions") are new, because as the Sustainable CT program gains momentum throughout the State it is also changing in response to feedback from participating communities. These changes reflect requests for actions that make communities even more equitable for people and for wildlife too.

While the program's wide-ranging menu of best practices has addressed housing and equity since it began certifying communities in 2018, participants felt that even more was

needed. There will now be an action to promote more diverse housing options and an entire section has been added to address homelessness prevention. Other new actions to protect pollinators, prevent light pollution, and create community gardening spaces have also been added. An even greater emphasis will be placed on inclusion and collaboration; municipalities will be challenged to recognize and address system-wide inequities in the governmental process, to create a shared vision for equality, and to work in cooperation with other communities. Sustainable CT offers equity training and coaching to help with this. The final revised action list will be released on January 1, 2021.

To learn more about the Sustainable CT program and to view Old Saybrook's certification report, visit [SustainableCT.org](http://SustainableCT.org). To get involved, email [lwacker@oldsaybrookct.gov](mailto:lwacker@oldsaybrookct.gov).

*\*To achieve silver status, Old Saybrook needed to complete actions totaling at least 400 points (our previous two bronze awards required 200 points) and prove that at least three actions were implemented with an "equity toolkit" to ensure that marginalized voices were included in the decision-making process (bronze required one equity action.)*

## Your Support Matters...Now More Than Ever.

Now is the time for us to give thanks for all the good people making great things happen in Middlesex County.

*Thank you* for stepping up to support our frontline workers with critical supplies and services.

*Thank you* for helping our local nonprofits meet the increasing and changing needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

*Thank you* for working together for a better today and a brighter tomorrow for all.



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of Middlesex County



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# OLD SAYBROOK TOWN HALL

302 MAIN STREET

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

## SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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

## ACCOUNTING

Julie Mardjekaj, Assistant Finance Officer	395-3132	Julie.Mardjekaj@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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## ASSESSOR

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

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

Christina Costa, Enforcement Officer	395-3131	Christina.Costa@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Sarah Lyons, Administrative Assistant		Sarah.Lyons@OldSaybrookCT.gov
Patrick Hegge, Environmental Planner		Patrick.Hegge@OldSaybrookCT.gov

## PARKS AND RECREATION

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

## PUBLIC WORKS

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

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

## TAX COLLECTOR

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

## TOWN CLERK

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

## TREASURER

Lee Ann Palladino, Interim	395-3123	Leeann.Palladino@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Gratia Lewis, Financial Manager	510-5076	Gratia.Lewis@OldSaybrookCT.gov
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## OTHER TOWN DEPARTMENTS

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

Amanda Brouwer, Director	395-3184	abrouwer@actonlibrary.org
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### Police Department - 36 Lynde Street

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

### Probate Court - 302 Main Street

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

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

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

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

[www.OldSaybrookCT.org](http://www.OldSaybrookCT.org)

## Social Services & COVID-19 Help 2020 January - March

### EVERSOURCE, SCG, UTILITIES

You may be offered up to 24 months to pay off your outstanding balances due to COVID-19. You should call the utility companies now to sign up. You will not be charged interest, fees and or be required to give a down payment. There will not be an income determination needed to qualify. Please do this before the moratorium ends on February 9, 2021. Please call the number on your utility bill now, before shut off can occur. If you set up and keep to the 24 month payment arrangement made now, you will not be shut off during that entire 24 month period, not just through the winter hardship coding ending May 1. This is why it is important to set up the 24 month payment plan now.

### EVICCTIONS AND FORECLOSURES

As moratoriums are lifted this new year, legal actions can commence. Evictions can start with a Notice to Quit followed by Appearance paperwork served and a court date to be decided by a judge and eviction cannot occur without this due legal process. Help is offered by applying to the state for the rental TRHAP program and foreclosure T-MAP assistance due to COVID by going on line to Connecticut Department of Housing at [portal.ct.gov/doh](http://portal.ct.gov/doh)



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## UNEMPLOYMENT

State of CT DOL can be backed up 4-5 weeks especially with code 108, where you may need to wait for a review. Follow instructions to apply for each week by Sunday. Do not miss a week. Payments will be retroactive if approved. If you are issued a denial you can appeal and if you run out of unemployment benefits you can apply for federal PUA Pandemic Unemployment Insurance to see if you can get extended benefits. Go to the CT DOL web site at: <https://portal.ct.gov/dolui>.

## EMPLOYMENT HELP

Employment help and job training opportunities are available from Workforce Alliance/American Job Center. There are now links off of the DOL website to connect to these services offered during COVID-19. Or go online directly to: <https://www.workforcealliance.biz/>

## HEALTH INSURANCE

If you lose your health insurance or are presented with a COBRA plan that is too high, you can go on the Access Health website, [Accesshealth.com](http://Accesshealth.com), and apply for a lower cost health care plan. If you are qualified for HUSKY (from this same application) for all or some household members, you may receive state health care coverage at little to no cost. You may apply for HUSKY in any month in which you are eligible. Access Health plans are enrolled

in during open enrollment (which has passed) but can also be applied for anytime you lose coverage or there is another qualifying change anytime during the year.

## SNAP APPLICATION AND FOOD HELP

Applications for SNAP can be made on [connect.ct.gov](http://connect.ct.gov) website. Payments are made on an EBT card mailed usually within the week of online application. Payments are issued on the first three days of the month according to first initial of last name. Payments are on a sliding scale within a qualified income range. You will be given the amount you will receive at the end of the approved online application.

The Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen Meal sites are on the SSKP website with current info and instructions. Currently you will continue to pick up curbside on Tuesday's from 1-4 at First Church. The Grace Church meal site is also open on Wednesday's for a grab and go lunch from 12-1. You can call SSKP at: 860-388-1988 or get more information for more pantry site and meal locations in area towns at: <https://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org/>

Currently due to COVID the Old Saybrook Social Services Help Day on the fourth Thursday of the month with Food Truck is suspended until further notice. The CT Food Bank is available in **continued on page 18**

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## Social Services... continued from page 17

our area on the first Friday of the month between 9:00 - 10:00 am for a drive through bag pick up in the parking lot adjacent to Clinton town hall. For more CT Food Bank truck locations and information go to: <https://www.ctfoodbank.org/get-help/connecticut-food-banks-mobile-pantry-schedule/>.

### MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Medical taxi transportation can be arranged by those over 60 or disabled with taxi vouchers through 9Town Transit and Curtin. All information is available at: <https://estuarytransit.org/>.

HUSKY card holders can request medical transportation covered by HUSKY. Please call the number on the back of your card.

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND HEAT

Energy Assistance is available from the state by calling 860-347-4465 for a phone application this year. Please see the article in this issue of Events for more information on this program. If you are running out of oil and are in an emergency need during freezing temperatures this winter please call us for possible additional local help through our HEAT program.

### CHILD CARE

You may be eligible for child care help. Help may also be available if you pay a family member that lives in another household. Care4Kids is a program available through the state. Information and applications are available on line at: <https://www.ctcare4kids.com/forms/>

For more information on these and other programs available in the state please call 211, go online to: <https://www.211ct.org/> or contact Susan Consoli, MA, LPC, Social Services Coordinator at: 860-395-3188 or [susan.consoli@oldsaybrookct.gov](mailto:susan.consoli@oldsaybrookct.gov).

## Connecticut Energy Assistance Program

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program helps households pay for primary heating bills. If the household's primary heating costs are included in your rent, you may also apply for assistance.

Benefits are available to households with incomes up to sixty percent of the state median income.

### ELIGIBILITY

#### Household Income Guidelines by Household Size:

1	Up To \$37,645	5	Up To \$83,977
2	Up To \$49,228	6	Up To \$95,560
3	Up To \$60,811	7	Up To \$97,732
4	Up To \$72,394	8	Up To \$99,904

**\*\*A liquid assets test is an additional basic eligibility requirement.\*\***

Liquid assets include: checking, savings, CD's, stocks/shares, bonds, annuities, certificates of deposit and individual retirement accounts. Individual Retirement Accounts are considered to be liquid assets if the accounts are in the name of a household member who is 59-and-one-half years old or more. The purpose of the liquid assets test is to try to ensure that winter heating assistance dollars go to households most in need; that is, to people without the financial means to heat their home.

For homeowners, the first \$15,000 in liquid assets, and for other households, the first \$12,000 in liquid assets, is disregarded. Any amount over that limit, when added to the annual gross income must be below the income guidelines.

**Winter Heating Assistance** - program date began 11/2/2020 and runs through 3/31/2021, the last day for fuel authorizations.

Basic benefits for homeowners and renters who pay separately for heat range from a minimum of \$340 to \$725 with additional benefits through the heating season for those who qualify.

Benefits for renters whose heat is included in their rent range from \$150 to \$190.

To Apply for Energy Assistance this year you can call our state Community Action Agency in Middletown at: 860-347-4465 for a phone application or apply online at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Economic-Security/Winter-Heating-Assistance/Energy-Assistance---Winter-Heating/Apply>.

For more information contact Susan Consoli, MA, LPC, Social Services Coordinator at: 860-395-3188 or [susan.consoli@oldsaybrookct.gov](mailto:susan.consoli@oldsaybrookct.gov).

## Free Cooking Demonstrations

The Estuary Council of Seniors will be offering free cooking demonstrations throughout the year. They will be conducted via Zoom and will be interactive so that you can cook along if you like and ask questions. ECSI's Food Service Manager will walk you through how to make various dishes as well as tips and tricks you can use in your own kitchen.

Join in on February 12th at 6:30 pm for a

Couple's Cooking Class. On April 16th at 6:30 pm the demonstration will feature a dessert item. So mark your calendars now! Keep an eye on the Estuary Council of Seniors website at: [www.ecsenior.org](http://www.ecsenior.org) for more information, including exact menu items.

These demonstrations are free and open to the public. Registration is required so please email your full name and the month



you would like to attend to: [events@ecsenior.org](mailto:events@ecsenior.org) and include "Cooking Demonstrations" in the subject line. The recipe and Zoom link will be sent to you in advance.



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## THE OLD SAYBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

### ***War of the Worlds* in the Age of COVID!**

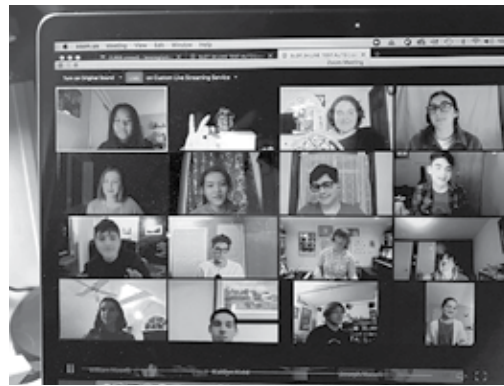
When I joined the Drama Club in the fall of 2019 as a sophomore, I was immediately struck by the kind community we had. Not only was our director, Lenore Grunko, fantastic in all her many ways, but the student community was inspiring. I was immediately brought into the family, and traditions were passed on to us. Even when I didn't understand past references, they were immediately explained. There were many new members throughout the productions, including transfer students, as well as the incoming freshman group, and yet the upperclassmen were full of kind, responsible, welcoming, and talented students.

Through the next two shows, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, I came to know that our cast could conquer almost any challenge. With the strange set and lighting needs for *Curious Incident*, and the complicated choreography, set pieces, and musical numbers in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, I was sure that we were a resilient bunch. This was proven to me over and over again when we got the news in March, two days from our opening night of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, that we would not be able to perform for the time being. At that moment we were postponed but had the hopes of being able to perform again in a few weeks. Obviously, that was just a dream because we were never able to perform the show. COVID not only impacted our show but also changed theater drastically all over the world. Not only can people not go to support shows, but the casts also cannot rehearse together or perform. Being someone who loves, not only performing in the theater, but also going to other shows and seeing fellow cast members thrive, it was very hard for me to lose that aspect of my life.

As the months progressed, many of us were unsure what the future for the Drama Club would be this year. There were many emails and Google meet conferences to decide the future of the Drama Club for this fall. At first, there were discussions about doing virtual workshops to improve our skills since we couldn't put together an in-person show. A few weeks later, however, Ms. Grunko announced that she had the idea to do a radio production. I'd never heard of *War of the Worlds* before, but my parents had, and I thought it was a brilliant idea. It was shocking to me that none of us had thought of it previously. The idea of being given a script and having this creative outlet as a part of my life once again was exciting.

When we finally started working on the show, it suddenly

became very difficult. We faced many challenges for which there were no easy answers. For our cast, a virtual production was a totally different ballgame. We were each assigned a large number of roles, and many of the roles required very different acting styles. The cast also had to learn a lot about the history of the production and the real-life characters within it. Since our production not only encompassed the original play but also had background information on the panic that ensued, it became more complicated to perform. Moreover, there were issues that came with the technical side of this virtual theater production.



Many of us were new to doing presentations over Zoom.

Being on a Google meet or a Zoom call, it was extremely difficult to communicate well. There were so many delays in audio or visuals, and at first, it was very daunting to think about overcoming these issues. There were many technical delays, feedback, and echoes, plus having to learn how to stream to an audience. Many of us were new to doing presentations over Zoom, and learning how to act in a radio play was very different from what we had experienced. Not being able to see the other actors, doing it in your own home, and having to change the way you communicate became a cast-wide challenge. For the technical crew, learning how to make the sound effects work and conquering the never-ending list of technical issues was exhausting. It also didn't help that the play was set in the 1930s, so some of the dialogue was different from today's speech and could be difficult to learn. Since we had such a small cast and the play itself had a wide array of roles, each member had numerous and varied roles. Rehearsals could sometimes be emotionally draining, especially when you felt like you weren't progressing. Whether you were stumbling through your long speeches, or not being able to hear the cues, the trials were endless.

A week out from opening night I honestly started to get a little nervous. There were so many technical issues that hadn't been

resolved, and I was worried that our message wouldn't be conveyed clearly because the performance was virtual. As we got closer and closer to the show, my anxieties grew. In our final dress rehearsal, a new problem arose. We suddenly had a large feedback issue, and an echo was consistent throughout the night. Thankfully, one of the cast members was able to resolve the issue promptly. On Wednesday night, at our final dress rehearsal, our show finally came together. Everyone knew their lines and spoke clearly and smoothly, and every cue was perfect. We finally got in a rhythm and could take a deep breath.

On opening night, we were ready to go, and I am so impressed with each and every one of the cast members and technical

crew for putting together something so complicated under such circumstances.

Though it was very hard on everyone involved, I am so proud to have worked with the cast and technical crew of the *War of the Worlds* broadcast. I'm also very grateful for our director, Lenore Grunko, and everyone who assisted us to make this production happen. Even though it was very different from what we normally perform, I learned so much, and I'm so lucky to have had this experience. I can walk away from it having new skills and confidence that will take me further in my theater journey.

McKenna Roberts, OSHS student, class of 2022

## Fall Spirit Day at OSMS

Early in the school year, students approached the Middle School Building Administration with concern that many of the school's holiday traditions would not be able to be celebrated as they have in years past. Recognizing the need for students to experience a day of fun amidst all of the craziness, administrators worked with students on a variety of creative, socially distanced ideas and activities aimed at bringing the students and staff together in a meaningful way. On November 6, 2020, the Old Saybrook

Middle School held a Fall Spirit Day.

Students in each grade rotated through five-game stations outside on the soccer fields. The weather could not have been any nicer, and students were able to have an egg toss, shake it off game, balloon relay, gourd race, and a musical circle station. At each station, they got a little prize to put in their goodie bag. Additionally, each student was given a pumpkin to decorate. Students also came up with

many costume contest categories; including best overall costume, best home-made costume, best costume to represent 2020, best class themed costume, and best staff costume. The winners were announced to the school and received little medals. It was a much-needed day of fun for students and staff during this very different fall.

Thank you to the Old Saybrook Middle School PTO for funding a large portion of the day.

## Gazebo Glee

After a long bout of distance learning this past spring, Goodwin School spent the summer preparing to open its doors to students for the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year. Music teacher Lois Geer was determined to keep music alive at Goodwin School. After learning that state guidelines would limit indoor singing and the use of musical instruments, such as playing recorders, Ms. Geer marched into the principal's office and said, "We have to find a way!"

After some determined planning, Goodwin's music program moved outdoors. The school's gazebo became the stage and Ms. Geer and her student teacher, Christopher Marsala, became the conductors. It was a team effort, to be sure. The PTA also pitched in by purchasing a tent so all students in a class could sit socially distanced. Craig Stone, Head Custodian, made sure the tent was put up every morning. Amity Goss, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, provided a wireless WiFi connector so

the Distance Learners would not be left out. Every day throughout September, October, and the first part of November, the traveling troubadours took each class to the Gazebo, where they were able to sing gleefully. Being outdoors was great for everyone! "It was really quite a sight to see," chuckled Christopher Marsala. "Lois would kick off teaching the lessons for music students, and I would have the laptop set up for Google Meet and continually check to ensure the WiFi connection was live. We really made a great team!"



Although Jack Frost has started to nip at the nose and toes of Old Saybrook natives, spring is just around the corner, and Ms. Geer intends to resume music classes outdoors when the weather is more favorable.

# OLD SAYBROOK OSPR PARKS AND RECREATION

## TEEN CENTER

As we head into the New Year, the Teen Center will be holding a Home Run Derby contest on Friday, January 15th at the Rec. On January 29th & February 5th, we will be having a kickball tournament. The first night will kick-off the competition with a single elimination style tournament. The following week will consist of the remaining teams to compete in a best of three to determine our winner. Participants can put together co-ed teams of 4 and construct creative names and costumes! It's important that all Teen Center members wear a mask anytime they walk into our Recreation facility. As we head into March, we'll gather up some March Madness brackets from our members and will be hosting a three point competition on March 19th. For more information about the Teen Center, see Kyle Bohonowicz at the Rec!

## E-SPORTS LEAGUE

We are excited to launch our new E-Sports program for anyone in grades 5-12th. Starting on Monday, January 11th gamers will play 5 competitive weeks of Rocket League that will help determine our league champion. Gamers will need to own the game, console, and have internet connection. We hope that this program will be one that creates new friendships while gamers play from the comfort of their home. We take care of the scheduling and stat keeping while you have some fun! If you interested, check the program page on our website [www.oldsaybrookrec.com](http://www.oldsaybrookrec.com).

## WINTER BASKETBALL - Skill Clinics

This winter and due to COVID-19, OSPR will not be running our traditional basketball league. Instead we will be running basketball clinics for 6 weeks beginning in January. We will have a 45 minute clinic, once a week for each grade, 2nd - 8th. There will be limited spaces available and all participants and coaches will be required to wear a mask while participating. We will be looking for volunteer coaches for this program if you are interested, please reach out to Jonathan Paradis. All program information can be found online at: [www.oldsaybrookrec.com](http://www.oldsaybrookrec.com).

## SNOWMAN BUILDING CHAMPIONSHIP

Back for a 3rd year, the Championship is planned for Saturday, January 16th on the Town Green. If Mother Nature does not provide the snow, Eric Lintelman of Maximum Snowmaking Co. will! We will have up to 16 teams this year compete for Best in Snow. Thank you to the OSFD for their help and support of the program. To register your team of snow engineers, please visit [oldsaybrookrec.com](http://oldsaybrookrec.com). Only one person per team needs to register.

## FEBRUARY VACATION CAMP

Looking for something fun and exciting for your child to do during our mid-winter break? OSPR will be offering a three day camp starting on Monday, February 15th through Wednesday the 17th. Camp will start at 9:00 am and go until 4:00 pm. Campers will play games in the gym, hang out in the teen center and enjoy crafts and other games throughout the week. OSPR will air a movie during the week on the large projector screen! Camp is just \$90.00 for the three days.

Vacation camp is open for those in K-5th Grade. Registration starts on Tuesday, January 2nd. Space is limited, so make sure to sign up early! Masks and daily temperature checks will be required. To register, please visit our website.

## OSLL SPRING TRAINING W/ OSPR

Every March, OSPR teams up with Old Saybrook Little League to offer a four week spring training program. This year we are offering two programs. The first program is for ages 6 & 7 starting at 5:00 pm for one hour. Our second program is for 8 & 9 year olds and starts at 6:15 pm. Both programs run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both of these programs are just \$5.00! OSPR would like to thank all of the volunteers from OSLL who make these programs possible!

## NATURE TALKS - A Lecture Series

After taking a few months off our popular lecture series returns in March on the 9th at 6:00 pm with a presentation on the American Woodcock. This 45 minute seminar will include a PowerPoint presentation, some artifacts and other items as well as a Q&A opportunity at the end. Our lecture series takes place at the Vicki Duffy Pavilion at Saybrook Point and is led by Patricia Laudano who is a Master Wildlife Conservationists for CT Department of Energy and Environment Protection. There is limited seating and registration is required and online at: [www.oldsaybrookrec.com](http://www.oldsaybrookrec.com). The program is \$5.00 for residents and \$8.00 for nonresidents.

## T-BALL & COACH PITCH WITH OSPR & OSLL

For the 2021 baseball and softball season, OSPR is working with OSLL to make minor changes and clarify the question of "where and when do I play T-ball or Coach Pitch." For years, OSPR has handled both leagues, but age and skill was always a question. It left some kids playing up and some kids playing down.

Moving forward, any child who 6 and under who has not yet played a full season of T-Ball, must play T-ball with OSPR. Our T-ball League is for any child 5 yrs old or in Kindergarten and will begin in April. If your child has participated in our pre-k "T-Ball for Beginners" program, that does NOT count to a year of T-ball.

This year, if any 1st grader who missed out on Kindergarten T-Ball last season would like to play this year, they may do so and should contact Jonathan Paradis at OSPR to register. If your child is in 1st

grade or HAS played a full season of T-Ball, they need to register for Coach Pitch with OSLL. Registration for both programs will open in December. OSPR would like to thank our T-Ball sponsor, The Parthenon Diner, for their continued support of our program.

### CRPA HOTSHOTS CONTEST

During April vacation this year, Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation will be holding our annual HotShots Contest. This event is offered to boys/girls, ages 9-15. Each player will have one minute to shoot from "hotspots" placed on one half of the court. Starting at the center of half-court, the player dribbles into shooting range. The contest challenges a player's speed, shooting, dribbling and rebounding ability. Three one-minute rounds constitute the duration of play for each player. The top scorer in each division will move on to the next level of the contest. The HotShots Contest is a recreational program designed to promote basketball enthusiasm as much as basketball skill, fun, physical fitness, friendship and good sportsmanship. This event will take place outside at the Rec. on Tuesday, April 13th and Wednesday April 14th. To register, please visit our website.

### SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Beginning in February, OSPR will begin to collect applications for summer employment. We offer a variety of jobs at our beaches, mini golf and Rec. Center. We look for responsible, outgoing and dedicated individuals to join our team each summer. If you are interested in becoming a member of our team, please stop by the Rec. to pick up an application or download online. Summer positions include - Lifeguard, Camp Counselor, Parking Attendant, Concessions Stand, Mini Golf Attendant and others.

For more information regarding these articles, registration or programs with OSPR, please visit our website, [www.OldSaybrookRec.com](http://www.OldSaybrookRec.com) or contact Jonathan Paradis via email at: [Jonathan.Paradis@oldsaybrookct.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Paradis@oldsaybrookct.gov).

## Youth & Family Services Commission

The OSYFS Commission, an adjunct to Old Saybrook Youth and Family Services, strives to help the agency advance its crucial mission: promoting a positive, healthy community for all of our residents, from young children and families to senior citizens.

The commission supports the agency in a variety of ways. Monthly meetings review its work, celebrate successes, assess the ever-changing needs of our residents, and explore new avenues for advancing the efforts of Youth & Family Services.

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## Youth & Family Services... continued from page 23

Throughout the year, the commission provides support for the signature events like CommUNITY Day.

The Commission's membership draws from a range of perspectives within Old Saybrook as determined by town government. As of December 2020, the group includes former school principal Michael Rafferty (chairperson), Chief Michael A. Spera (vice-chair, OSPD rep.), Jonathan Paradis, Assistant Director OSPR (secretary), Lisa Castro (public school system rep.), MaryAnn Iadarola (Public Health Nursing Board rep.), David Plotkin, OSPS educator/OS resident and parent, Jeff Harder, writer/OS resident and parent, and our OSHS student representatives; Joe Bradley, Kyle Wisialowski, and Libby Stuart.

With the coming year expected to bring new and unique challenges, we welcome and encourage members of the community to join our meetings—generally held on the first Tuesday of the month—and offer feedback and ideas on how to use available resources, aiming toward building a better Old Saybrook for all. For more information, please call: 860-510-5042 or email the Director, Heather McNeil at: [heather.mcneil@oldsaybrookct.gov](mailto:heather.mcneil@oldsaybrookct.gov).

## Town Clerk's Office

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

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Phone Number: 860-395-3135 | Town Website: [www.oldsaybrookct.org](http://www.oldsaybrookct.org)

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Steven Matuska and Elisabeth McNivens	August 21st
Corey Dwyer and Katherine Luby	August 22nd
Anthony Dellaripa and Sabrina Dridje	August 29th
Calin Calabrese and Rebecca Orsulak	August 28th
Keith Hoerning and Nicole Elliott	September 2nd
Jeremy White and Rachael Gasperini	October 2nd
Miles Ross and Carolyn Meighan	October 10th
Martin Pugliese and Kelly Andersen	October 10th
Travis Therrien and Michelle Calhoun	October 17th
Nicholas Torres and Lindsay Kmietek	October 24th
William Childress and Vivian Hudson	November 7th

### WITH SYMPATHY

Virginia Ambrosino	Lorraine Klappholz	Kenneth Norton
Donald Benjamin	Janet Latino	Nancie O'Connell
Joan Carlson	Filomena Lucas	John Price
Florence Coffey	Robert Mallon	Johann Schwerts
Marie DiMaria	Margaret Mason	Anthony Silvestri
Mary Dodson	George Maynard	John Torrenti, Jr.
Katherine Dubuc	Sandra McDuell	John Totten
Raymond Gendreau	Brian McMahan	Kristen Woodmannsee
Clarence Gilmore, Jr.	Peter Moore	William Zabel
William Hayden	Dorothy Moran	

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## Acton Public Library

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

### Children's Programs

Please register for all programs at: [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org).  
All programs are free and open to the public.

#### RISE & SHINE STORY TIME, THROUGH ZOOM

Friday mornings from 10:30 am - 11:00 am

Join Miss Karen and Miss Chloe through Zoom, for a fun, interactive Story Time. Best for children ages 2 to 4 years old.

#### ABC AMIGOS BILINGUAL PRESCHOOL STORY TIME, THROUGH ZOOM

First Friday of the month from 10:30 am - 11:00 am

Join Miss Aimee through Zoom on the first Friday of the month for a fun, interactive preschool bilingual story time. This series is open to all children regardless of Spanish-speaking ability. Best for ages 2 to 5.

#### ONGOING

##### Grab 'N Go Crafts

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Register online, or call the library, to pick up a fun craft through our Curbside Service. A new craft will be featured every week. Best for ages 3 and up.

#### ONGOING

##### Grab 'N Go Origami

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Register online, or call the library, to pick up an origami craft through our Curbside Service. A new origami craft will be featured each week. Best for ages 5 and up.

#### EACH MONTH

##### Grab 'N Go Craft of the Month

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Register online, or call the library, to pick up the Grab 'N Go Craft of the Month. Each month a special craft will be featured, available while supplies last. Best for elementary school age children.

#### ONGOING

##### Story Time in a Bag

Check out one of our NEW Baby Story Time Bags! Each bag contains themed board books, fingerplays, and a toy just right for  
continued on page 26



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## Acton Library... continued from page 25

your infant or toddler with themes. All bags go out for three weeks.

### ONGOING

#### Children's Book Bags and Kits

For preschool children, take home a themed picture book kit. For older children, we have fun and interesting kits such as: Power-Clix Magnetic Building; Connecticut, My State; Picasso Tiles Magnetic Building; Lap Loom; Ukulele and more. All kits go out for three weeks.

### ONGOING

#### Children's Puzzles and Games

Check out a children's puzzle or game to bring home.

### ONGOING

#### Family Movie Night Binge Bundles

Check out one of our Family Movie Night Binge Bundles: a portable bag with three to five themed DVDs or series, along with microwave popcorn and individually wrapped candy. Movies bundles go out for one week. See our website at: [www.actonlibrary.org](http://www.actonlibrary.org) to register or for more information, or call the library at: 860-395-3184.

## Young Adult - Teen Programs

### January - March

#### DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

Join us each week for continuing adventures. New/Returning players welcome. Registration is suggested as space in the party is limited. Times subject to change. Register at [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org) for details and Zoom link.

#### Friday, January 15th, 22nd, 29th

at 2:45 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Friday, February 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

at 2:45 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Friday, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

at 2:45 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### GIRLS WHO CODE

Join us for our twice monthly meetings to empower the paths of girls in tech. Please register at [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org) for details and Zoom link.

#### Tuesday, January 5th, 19th

at 2:45 pm or 4:00 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Tuesday, February 9th, 23rd

at 4:00 pm and 3:00 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Tuesday, March 9th, 23rd

at 4:00 pm and 3:00 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### "Y.A.L.L." MEETING

Join the Youth Act(i)on Library League. Earn service hours assisting the library with programs, collection development, programming and philanthropy.

#### Tuesday, January 6th, 26th

at 3:00 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Tuesday, February 8th, 22nd

at 3:00 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Tuesday, March 8th, 22nd

at 3:00 am at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### YA CHECK-IN CHAT & BOOK CLUB

Join us for our twice monthly check-ins to discuss what's hot, what's not, what's new in the library and the world. Monthly book themes will be discussed. Please register at [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org) for details and Zoom link

#### Wednesday, January 6th, 20th

at 3:30 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Wednesday, February 10th, 24th

at 3:30 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Wednesday, March 17th, 31st

at 3:30 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### YA GAME DAY - KAHOOT TRIVIA

Free and open to all ages 12-18. Please register at [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org) for details and Zoom link.

#### Thursday, January 7th, 21st

at 3:15 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Thursday, February 11th, 25th

at 3:15 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### Thursday, March 11th, 25th

at 3:15 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

#### YA EVENT - Monthly Mindfulness Meditation at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM

Join Brian Story for a guided meditation and stress reducing session sharing mindfulness and creative visualization techniques. Please register at [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org) for details and Zoom link

#### Monday, January 25th

#### Monday, February 22nd

#### Monday, March 29th

#### YA GAME DAY - Games TBD

Online games. Hosted by our YA Librarian. Free and open to all ages 11-18. Please register at [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org) for details and Zoom link.

#### Saturday, January 23rd

at 1:00 pm at Acton Public Library

#### Saturday, February 27th \*

at 1:00 pm at Acton Public Library

#### Saturday, March 27th \*

at 1:00 pm at Acton Public Library

#### YA EVENT - Paint Night with Pam of Pam's Picasso's

Please register online as supplies are limited and available on a first come basis. Please share your pics of the completed crafts with us.

**Tuesday, February 9th**

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library/ ZOOM.

**YA GAME DAY - Kahoot Trivia at Acton Public Library/  
ZOOM**

Free and open to all ages 12-18. Please register at [actonlibrary.org](http://actonlibrary.org) for details and Zoom link

**Thursday, January 7th, 21st** at 3:15 pm

**Thursday, February 11th, 25th** at 3:15 pm

**Thursday, March 11th, 25th** at 3:15 pm

*\*Additional Programs and Curbside Crafts may be added.*

*Please see our homepage at: <https://www.actonlibrary.org> for regular updates*

*\*\*All programs, their dates, time and locations are subject to changes related to COVID-19 responses and updates.*

## Adult Programs

### January - March

#### VIRTUAL - COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join Cindy, using Zoom, for a virtual cup of coffee and join in a conversation started with Hygge Game cards. Free and open to all. Registration is required and is available one month prior to the event.

**Mondays, January 4, 11 & 25**

at 3:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Mondays, February 1, 8 & 22**

at 3:00 p.m at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Mondays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

at 3:00 p.m at Acton Public Library Zoom

#### VIRTUAL - GENEALOGY INTEREST GROUP

Join Donna, using Zoom, to 'tune-up' your current research skills or learn something new about family history research. Beginners welcome. Free and open to all. Registration is required and is available one month prior to the event.

**Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28**

at 10:30 am at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25**

at 10:30 am at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Thursdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

at 10:30 am at Acton Public Library Zoom

#### VIRTUAL - WRITING GROUP

Join Fiona in this no pressure virtual writing group for all skill levels through Zoom. This group will work on fiction, non-fiction and essay pieces using writing prompts and will workshop each other's pieces. Free and open to all. Registration is required and is available one month prior to the event.

**Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28**

at 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

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## Acton Library... continued from page 27

**Thursdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25**

at 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Thursdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

at 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - WEDNESDAY BOOK CLUB

This book club meets on the first Wed. of the month through Zoom. January's book is *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. February's book is *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. March's book is *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. Free and open to all. Registration is required and is available one month prior to the event

**Wednesday, January 6**

at 10:30 am at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Wednesday, February 3**

at 10:30 am at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Wednesday, March 3**

at 10:30 am at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - GAME NIGHT

#### Pub Trivia

Join Cindy, through Zoom, to match wits on topics like pop culture, technology and history. Free and open to all ages 14+. Registration is required and is available one month prior to the event.

**Wednesday, January 13**

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Wednesday, February 10**

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Wednesday, March 3**

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - BOOKS ON TAP

Join Lisa, our Head of Circulation, for a virtual version of Books on Tap Book Club. Let's get together on Zoom to discuss *Milkman: a novel* by Anna Burns (January); *City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert (February); *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews (March.) Free and open to all ages 21+. Registration is required and is available one month prior to the event.

**Thursday, January 14**

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Thursday, February 11**

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Thursday, March 11**

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - CRAFT NIGHT:

#### Hygge Slippers, Paint Night

In January, join Cindy, through Zoom, to create felt slippers. Material will need to be picked up at the library starting Jan. 12. In February, Pam Halligan of Pam's Picassos, will teach you, through Zoom, to create a winter painting. Materials will need to be picked up at the library starting February 9. March's project is TBD. Materials will be available for pick-up at the library starting

March 9. Free. Registration is required and available one month prior to the event.

**Tuesday, January 19**

at 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Tuesday, February 16**

at 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Tuesday, March 16**

at 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - ACTON COMPASSION

#### Knits

Through Zoom, Rachel will be leading this group and will be able to share some resources for charity patterns. Free and open to all ages 12+. Registration is required and available one month prior to the event.

**Wednesday, January 20**

at 2:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Wednesday, February 17**

at 2:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Wednesday, March 17**

at 2:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - EAGLES IN CONNECTICUT

Master Wildlife Conservationist, Richard Taylor, will present *Eagles in Connecticut*, through Zoom. Free and open to all. Registration is required and available one month prior to the event.

**Thursday, January 21**

at 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - WORLD OF HARMONICA

The World of Harmonica program is an effort to expand the awareness of the instrument. Free and open to all. Registration is required and available one month prior to the event.

**Saturday, January 23**

at 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - COOKBOOK CLUB

#### Food Explorers

In January, join Katie, Registered Dietitian from Food Explorers, through Zoom to learn how to make two chocolate recipes, perfect for Valentine's Day - Chocolate Bark and Chocolate Avocado Truffles. In February, Join Justyna, through Zoom, while she presents a pierogi making demonstration. In March, join Cindy, through Zoom, for a demonstration on how to make macarons. Free and open to all ages 14+. Registration is required and available one month prior to the event.

**Tuesday, January 26**

at 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Tuesday, February 23**

at 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

**Tuesday, March 23**

at 6:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - GAME DAY

Join Cindy, through Zoom, to play a game virtually. Scattergories, Boggle, Blank Slate - to name a few. Free and open to all ages 14+. Registration required and is available one month prior to the event.

#### Wednesday, January 27

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

#### Wednesday, February 24

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

#### Wednesday, March 24

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### 27TH ANNUAL POETRY COMPETITION

Submissions for the Annual Poetry Competition will be collected during the month of February.

**The divisions are:** Adult, Grades 9-12, Grades 7-8, Grades 4-6 and Grades 1-3. Visit the library website for an entry form and rules. Poetry Night to be held in April.

### VIRTUAL - SHORELINE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

This group meets the first Tuesday of the month and the meetings are held using Zoom. In February, R. Booty will present Great-great-grandfather R. M. Booty 40th NY. In March, Jerry Richard will present U.S. Civil War in the West. Free and open to all. Registration required and is available one month prior to the event.

#### Tuesday, February 2

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

#### Tuesday, March 2

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - CLASSICAL GUITAR: Daniel Corr

Classical guitarist, Daniel Corr welcomes you for a live-streaming tour of rare and romantic early-twentieth century English and German guitar music and majestic baroque transcriptions. Free and open to all. Registration is required and available one month prior to the event.

#### Saturday, February 20

at 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - PIERCE CAMPBELL: Irish Pub Music

Pierce Campbell, the Connecticut State Troubadour for the years 2007/08, will be performing traditional and original Irish pub style songs in The Clancy Brothers tradition. Free and open to all. Registration is required and is available one month prior to the event.

#### Wednesday, March 10

at 6:30 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

### VIRTUAL - GARDENING 101

Kristy Benson, from Bittersweet Farm, will present Gardening 101 through Zoom. Free and open to all. Registration is required and is available one month prior to the event.

#### Saturday, March 20

at 2:00 pm at Acton Public Library Zoom

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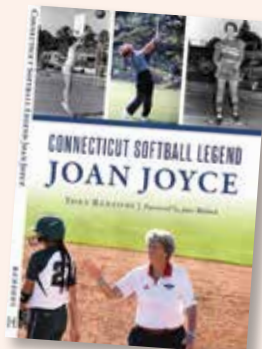
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RJ Julia Bookstore (Madison); Griswold Inn's  
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and Seaside Homes and Gifts (Branford).

## Researching the Salem Witch Trials

According to the Chase’s Calendar of Events on March 1, 1692 the Salem Witch Hysteria began. This period of hysteria lasted a little over a year resulting in 20 deaths and over 150 people imprisoned. There has been a lot of mystery surrounding this time, and much has been researched and written. There are a variety of places you can go to get some more information on this time in America’s history. In a normal year (and hopefully soon after COVID leaves,) the library holds a pass to the Salem Witch Museum. The museum now offers an online tour of all the points that you might want to visit in the future. You can find it at salemwitchmuseum.com

There are also some great magazine articles that discuss the trials. There is one from the Smithsonian and another one from the New Yorker. Both can be accessed through our subscription to digital magazines from RBDigital which you can find on our website on the Online Resources page. There are also a number of academic journals that discuss the Witch Trials which you can find at researchitct.org, the CT State Library digital research platform.

There are also a variety of books you can get right here in the library. One of the most notable books of late is *‘The Witches: Salem 1692’* by Stacy Schiff. This book by a Pulitzer Prize winning author is available in various formats. A variety of fiction books have also been penned, some of the titles include; *‘The Heretic’s Daughter’* by Kathleen Kent, *‘The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane’* by Katherine Howe and the YA novel, *‘Beheld’* by Alex Flinn. If you are interested in exploring the history and stories surrounding the Salem Witch Trials, come check out the resources from the library.

Amanda Brouwer, Director, Acton Public Library

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# Stormwater Management - Rooftop Gutter Systems

Generally, the largest area of impervious coverage at most homes is the rooftop. Most roof structures have gutter systems installed, but if a roof does not have a gutter system, rain will flow off the roof and infiltrate through the ground along the drip line, which can be both good and bad. When heavy rain-fall events occur, the gutter system helps collect rainwater and directs it through the downspouts. The downspouts generally either discharge directly to the surface, such as the lawn or a driveway or they can be connected to a pipe underground where the rainwater is directed to the town's sewer or storm-water system.

## MAINTENANCE

Maintenance is essential to maintain the function of a gutter system on your roof. Over time, when gutter systems are installed on rooftops, they can build up leaf debris, sticks and twigs from overhanging tree branches. General maintenance practices are:

- Inspect your gutter system annually.
- Remove any build-up of leaves.
- Flush gutters with a garden hose and check downspouts by flushing them with the hose.
- Install gutter guards to help prevent leaves and sediment debris from clogging your gutter system.

- Ensure that the rainwater is discharged approximately 10 feet from the foundation, especially if you have a basement to avoid having water seep through.

## BENEFITS FOR ROOFTOP GUTTER SYSTEMS

The long-term goals for installing gutter systems on your rooftop can be beneficial for residents and communities. Some of the potential benefits for gutter systems installed on your rooftop can help:

- Prevent foundation problems
- Avoid flooding of basements
- Soil around the house or foundation can be stabilized
- Prevent erosion of landscaping and turf grasses

The primary purpose of rooftop gutters is to collect rainwater and direct it away from the foundation. Some of the other purposes that gutter systems can help in the long run is that it can maintain your home to prevent structural and property damage. They can also save money from foundation and flooding problems.

## CONTACT

Patrick Hegge at: 860-395-3131  
or [patrick.hegge@oldsaybrookct.gov](mailto:patrick.hegge@oldsaybrookct.gov).



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## Town Ord. No. 25 Removal of Snow and Ice

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 and Boston Post Road business/residential owners not use rock salt on the sidewalks, as the rock salt will damage the sidewalks. A suitable application is 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 April 1, 2021.

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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# Old Saybrook Garden Club

Winter came amidst the darkness but our Garden Club helped to bring more light to Main Street. The festive decorations involved the entire membership as members prepped and hung the wreaths. Thanks for the support from the town of Old Saybrook to help us to continue this tradition. (Pictured left.)

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. held their annual awards meeting via ZOOM in October. We are thrilled to announce our club was recognized with these awards

- \* **Bonnie Penders, OSGC member**, won the Ellen Carder Memorial Award from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut for excellence in horticulture, particularly her achievements at the General Hart House. (Pictured right.)
- \* **OSGC monthly Newsletter** received 1st place recognition by the FGCCT.
- \* **OSGC annual yearbook** received 1st place recognition by the FGCCT
- \* **OSGC Youth Committee** received



recognition for their program creating bird nesting kits with a group of school age children.

Our monthly ZOOM meeting will continue to keep all our members safe. Hopefully, we are turning the corner and will soon be able to meet in person! The meeting programs will be a mix of club talent and community talent. The



December Membership meeting program will focus on "Birds in Connecticut Winter" with guest speaker Jessica Penfield from Wild Birds Unlimited and contributions from club members. We are also looking forward to a future meeting in which Carrie Wilcox will demonstrate, via Zoom, how to create beautiful arrangements with flowers purchased at the local supermarket. Carrie is a Euro-continued on page 34

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## Garden Club... continued from page 33

pean-trained floral designer who studied in Belgium where she earned the European Masters certification in 2012.

Carrie owns and operates Carrie Wilson Floral Design in Fairfield, CT.

The Youth Committee, in collaboration with the Acton Public Library, is planning a program that will focus on the world of toads!

Be sure to check with the library in order to register for this event.

Our annual May Gardeners' Market is scheduled for May Friday, May 7th and Saturday, May 8th, 2021. This year, it may look different. Stay tuned for future announcements. As every gardener knows, planting lifts the spirits!

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

If interested in becoming a member of the Old Saybrook Garden Club, email: velainegilmore@comcast.net. Follow all our activities and keep up to date on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/oldsaybrookgardenclub](http://www.facebook.com/oldsaybrookgardenclub) and "like" us. Check out our newest members on our Facebook page.

## Old Saybrook Rotary Club News

### A VERY BUSY SEASON FOR THE OLD SAYBROOK ROTARY CLUB



Our Rotary Club donated personal protection supplies to Middlesex Health which operates The Shoreline Medical Center in Westbrook, CT. Middlesex Chief Operating Officer Vincent Capece was on hand to receive the much-needed medical supplies.

Rotary's first ever "Macaroni Dinner" take-out was a complete success as the club's 'elves' cooked macaroni, gravy (sauce,) meatballs and garlic bread combined with a salad and homemade cookies. Fireman's field in Old Saybrook was a busy place on Sunday October 18th as over 350 take-out meals were distributed into waiting

vehicles with hungry customers. Plans are already under way for next year's Macaroni Dinner.

With the financial assistance of The Westbrook Foundation and Rotary partner Edd's Place Restaurant, Westbrook, CT, complete take-out Thanksgiving meals were provided and distributed to Westbrook residents who, under normal circumstances, would not be able to enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Mark your 2021 calendars for our Annual Golf Tournament to be held on Thursday May 27th at Fox Hopyard Golf Club in East Haddam, CT - a fun filled day of golf, contests, food & prizes.

### A NEW MEMBER DRIVE IS NOW UNDERWAY.

If you or someone you know would like to know more about Rotary and have an interest in giving back to your local community please contact Pete Zucco @ [PeterZuccoBHHSNE.com](mailto:PeterZuccoBHHSNE.com).

### ROTARY'S COMMITMENT IN HELPING OTHERS IS GOING STRONG!

Rotary continues to support the towns of: Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Old Lyme. Please visit us online at: [www.OSRotary.org](http://www.OSRotary.org).

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# Old Saybrook Historical Society

*Dedicated to Preserving, Protecting & Promoting the History of Old Saybrook*

## LOCAL GARDENER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut held its annual awards ceremony on October 28, 2020 via zoom. Four awards were announced for the Old Saybrook Garden Club. Three first place certificates for excellence were awarded in the categories of Newsletter, Yearbook and Youth Programming. The fourth award, the Ellen Carder Memorial Award for highest achievement in horticulture, was awarded to club member Bonnie Penders for her noteworthy horticultural achievements at the Old Saybrook Hart House Heritage Gardens. (See photo of Bonnie Penders, right, on page 33.)

Bonnie, an avid herbalist, Advanced Master Gardener and certified FGCCT landscape design consultant, has been a member of the Durham and Old Saybrook garden clubs for thirty years. In the past six years, Bonnie has developed three herb gardens in the gardens behind the General William Hart House on Main Street. She encourages volunteers who would like to learn more about horticulture to consider joining either or both of these very special community organizations. For further information, email: [saybrookhistory.org](mailto:saybrookhistory.org).

## TOUR OLD SAYBROOK'S 'ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND'

With pandemic conditions causing many readjustments, the Historical Society was unable to offer its annual tour of Cypress Cemetery but has produced a 27-minute film that will guide you through this "ancient burial ground" from the comfort of your own home. "A Tour of Cypress Cemetery" features Historical Society member Torrance Downes as host and tour guide and is available on the Historical Society's website at: [saybrookhistory.org](http://saybrookhistory.org). You're invited to join Torrance as he shares the stories of a few of the town's historic residents.



## PRESERVATION AWARD TO FIRST CHURCH

The First Church of Christ, Old Saybrook received the Historical Society's "Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation" for their projects, programs and activities that have contributed to the entire town by their preservation of historic items, the church building and property. The Church was honored for its longstanding commitment to historic preservation, conscientious stewardship of its facilities and historic items as well as its care of the South Green. The Church received a plaque and its name will be added to the plaque at the Town Hall.

## THE WRITE PLACE

Around the time that Amelia Hart Hotchkiss married Amos Sheffield, in May 1824, she received a mahogany three-drawer writing desk as a gift. While we don't know who the thoughtful gift-giver was, we know that the rather elegant piece of furniture has now found its rightful home at the Gen. William Hart House.

continued on page 36

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## Historical Society... continued from page 35

A short time ago the Historical Society was contacted by an upstate New York antique dealer who said he had purchased the desk at auction. He noted that the item was inscribed "Amelia Hart Sheffield, May 28, 1824, Saybrook, Conn." In researching his new purchase the dealer offered to sell the desk to the Historical Society.

Amos Sheffield (1789-1868) was a successful merchant who owned a store on Main Street with Elisha Hart, General William Hart's brother. The other portrait is of his wife, Amelia Hotchkiss Sheffield (1783-1869). Amelia was the daughter of Rev. Frederick Hotchkiss, the popular minister of the Congregational Church for over 50 years. Funding the desk purchase was a significant hurdle at a difficult time for the Historical Society but an anonymous benefactor provided the needed funds and the desk was purchased. It now is located in the Gen. William Hart House in the same room where the portraits of Amelia and her husband Amos are housed.

### ARTIST MAREK SARBA PAINTS JOHN WINTHROP, JR.

One of the most treasured possessions of the Old Saybrook Historical Society is a waistcoat owned by John Winthrop, Jr., (1606-1676) the first governor of the Saybrook settlement, later governor of Connecticut colony who (with the help of his friends, the Lord Say and Sele and Lord Brook) obtained a charter uniting Connecticut and New Haven colonies and providing a large degree of self-government.

Accompanying the display of the Winthrop's waistcoat was a rather gloomy and overcast copy of a picture of him based on a 19th century portrait. However, thanks to Marek Sarba, an accomplished artist and active supporter of the Historical Society, a new, sensitive, expressive, thoughtful portrait of Winthrop was created. The final product is a

colorful and captivating image of Winthrop highlighting his attractive waistcoat.

### NEW PUBLICATION A MAIN STREET HISTORY

Main Street remains a place where you can meet your friends and neighbors, get a coffee, shop, worship, vote or volunteer and now a new publication is available to tell some of the many stories found on this wide boulevard.

"*Old Saybrook: A Main Street History*," written by Historical Society member Tedd Levy, briefly describes some of the more prominent structures that line the street from the railroad station and Upper Cemetery south to several historic homes. Main Street is changing, as it always has, and this publication provides a snapshot of what it used to be... and what still is. Copies are available in local shops or from the Historical Society website: [saybrookhistory.org/product-category/books](http://saybrookhistory.org/product-category/books).

## Online Hepburn Museum Exhibit in the Works



Photo by Stephen Fritzer.

The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center (the Kate) is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant from Connecticut Humanities to support the development of an online museum exhibit. Since opening in 2009, the Kate's lobby has been home to a small museum that permanently honors Ms. Hepburn with a display of some of her awards, memorabilia, artwork and photos. The Kate's theater and the museum were closed

for much of 2020 due to the pandemic and the online exhibit offers an alternative to in-person visits with the potential to reach Hepburn fans around the globe. The exhibit will highlight new items in the Kate's collection and items on loan to the museum. Most notably are letters gifted to the Kate from the Grant family of Fenwick, clothing items from Ms. Hepburn's personal wardrobe and career, and photos from the desk of Howard Hughes, a one-time companion of Ms. Hepburn. "It is truly remarkable to read through these letters and learn what Kate was thinking while on a path toward stardom," said the Kate's Executive Director Brett Elliott. "We are privileged to have these letters and several other items from the Grant family in our collection and look forward to sharing this virtual exhibit when it is complete." The online exhibit is projected to launch in early 2021 and will be available for viewing on the Kate's website and YouTube channel. The Connecticut Humanities grant included a matching requirement and the Kate thanks Old Saybrook residents Wayne and Barbara Harms for their generous support toward this. For more information about the museum and the online exhibit, please visit [www.thekate.org/about/museum](http://www.thekate.org/about/museum) or call 860-510-0473.



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## Joan Joyce - Our Finest Athlete by Sigrid Kun

Many fondly remember going to Raybestos Memorial field in Stratford, CT. Amid chants of “Joanie, Joanie,” the softball phenom mowed down the competition. Joan Joyce dominated women’s fast pitch softball for decades - beginning her amateur career at age 13 with the Raybestos Brakettes. The Waterbury, CT native excelled at every sport she tried - a true competitor, a lifelong coach/mentor. Joyce combines an unbridled, remarkable talent with a matter of fact, humble personality. While she readily speaks about her success, there is no bragging.

Many consider her as “The Greatest Woman Athlete of All Time.” Her jaw-dropping achievements/honors take pages to list, including 20 Hall of Fame inductions, Connecticut Athlete of the Year (selected by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance), and a softball field renamed Joan Joyce Field (a part of Municipal Stadium in Waterbury).



Women’s softball coach at Florida Atlantic University.

### A LIFETIME OF ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Joyce’s softball career covered 1954-1963 and 1967-1975 with the Brakettes and 1964-1966 with the Orange Lionettes. The slingshot pitcher notched 150 no-hitters and 50 perfect games with a lifetime earned run average of 0.09. An outstanding hitter, her career batting average is .327. In 1974, her Brakettes were the first American team to win the World Championships.

She co-founded the International Women’s Professional Softball Association, being the star player for

and part-owner of the Connecticut Falcons. The Falcons won every championship of the IWPSA’s existence (1976-1979).

She is a four-time Women’s Basketball Association All-American and three time AAU Basketball All-American. She played on the USA Women’s National Team in 1964 and 1965, setting a national tournament basketball single-game scoring record (67 points) in 1964.

She formed the Connecticut Clippers volleyball team in 1968, and competed as a player/coach. She was named to the All-East United States Volleyball Association Regional Team. Taking up golf at age 35, she spent 19 years on the LPGA tour (1977-1995). She still holds the LPGA and PGA record of just 17 putts in one round of golf.

Now 80, Joyce is the women’s softball coach at Florida Atlantic University. Starting the program from scratch in 1994, she has amassed 12 Conference Championships, participated in 11 NCCA Tournaments, and won 8 Coach-of-the Year Awards.

### THE SECRET TO SUCCESS?

“I don’t know,” she says. “The only thing I can say about me is that I am very competitive. . . . I will beat you at just about everything. If you beat me, I’d shake hands. But I’d say to myself, you are not going to beat me a second time.”



Joan with her biggest fan - Dad (Joe Joyce).

Photo courtesy of Joan Joyce.

Her mother worked days. She, her father (above) and brother played sports all the time. “We would end up going to my father’s softball games,” she recalls. “We had no gloves. We’d run around everywhere while my father was playing. When they came in from the field, they’d put the gloves under the bench. We’d take them and start catching. When they went back in the field, they’d have to come and get the gloves back from us.” When her father played basketball, she and her brother would wait for the halftime buzzer and then fly onto the court to play.

### SPECIAL MOMENTS - JOYCE SHARED A FEW



**Striking Out Ted Williams/Hank Aaron.** She calls striking out Ted Williams (left) and Hank Aaron her favorite moments. “It’s the easiest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” she relates. “They had no chance against a softball pitcher just because of the distance.” She faced Williams as part

of fundraisers in 1961 and 1966; Aaron in 1978 in a West Hartford exhibition. There were no radar guns then. A doctorate study from USC determined her pitching speed to be the equivalent of 119 mph in baseball.

### Invited to China by the All-China Sports Federation (1979).

“It was the first team ever invited to China,” she recalls of the Connecticut Falcons. “When we played our last game sixty thousand people came to the game. I was looking out and it was like a flood of people just coming and coming and coming. And I’m thinking, ‘Oh, my God!’” The American team won all six games. In the final game, Joyce pitched a no-hitter to beat the Chinese all-star team.



### Softball World Championships (1974).

Joyce pitched a no hitter against Australia. “Only one walk. And we picked her off,” notes Joyce. “It would have been a perfect game.” She also stymied Japan, giving up only two hits. No team wore helmets then. Japan showed up wearing them. Was it to distract her or out of fear of her? “It didn’t work,” she laughs. “You did not want to get me focused or to get my attention. Stare at me? Give me looks? I would say to myself,

keep doing that ‘cause you’re never going to beat me. I just didn’t like to lose.”

Photo of Joan coaching (far left) courtesy of FAU Athletics.

Photo of Joan pitching (left) and photo of Joan with Ted Williams (above left) courtesy of Joan Chandler.



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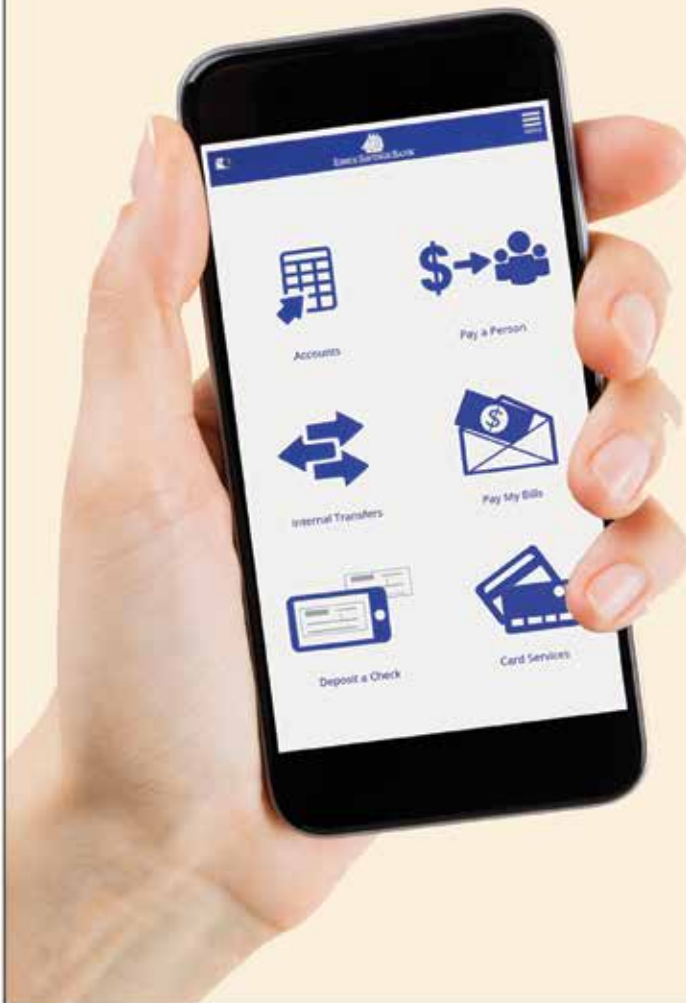
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