



Saybrook Manor Sentinel

Volume 2, Number 4

April, 2025

"Long Island Sound was the backdrop to the story..." *The Great Gatsby*

It's Spring Time, Let the Games Begin



It is finally April, time for our annual letter, which you should receive shortly via email. It will include everything you need to know before the start of the 2025 season. And, as always, there will be a separate sheet outlining trash collection dates along with guidelines.

Here is a 'sneak preview' of a few things that are planned for the season. Since we are still in the developmental stage, dates/times are subject to change.

Beach

The beach will officially open approximately one week prior to the Memorial Day Weekend. Sand will be evenly distributed and thoroughly raked. The benches will be

placed in their usual spots. And we will have brand new buoys on all the beaches!

Clubhouse

The water is back on and the Clubhouse is open for business. ***Clubhouse Cleanup Day is tentatively scheduled for May 17 (rain date May 18) from 10 am – Noon.*** We already have two rentals, so if you are looking to book a date, please check the website for availability, or contact Clubhouse Managers Rich Bowden or Joe Santaniello.

Events

We are working on details for some new and exciting events this Summer, but here are a few things that are already planned:

July 4 Parade and Hot Dog Cookout

It's time to get over to the Dollar Tree and load up on decorations for your golf cart. Parade starts at 10 a.m. on July 4 at the Middletown Avenue Beach. Then join us for a hot dog, topped with Jeanne B's world-famous sauerkraut (fresh, not out of the bag) and Dave P's slow-simmered chili (he might make two versions this year...regular and spicy hot to kick off your day).

B-I-N-G-O

This is a Saybrook Manor tradition, and we have three Bingo events scheduled, with fun and prizes galore. Saturday, July 5, Friday July 11, Saturday, July 16...7 p.m.

We are working on some other events, so stay tuned. And we are always looking for suggestions and volunteers, so feel free to contact us.



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Member Highlight

The Three Amigas – Kathy Bennetto, Francine Kindl & Joanne Breen

SMA Treasurer and Board Member Kathy (Cosgrove) Bennetto, former Board Member Francine Kindl (also Cosgrove, she and Kathy are sisters) and former Middletown Avenue resident Joanne (Nigrelli) Breen reflect on the “good old days” and the good old people of Saybrook Manor. Whether you knew some of these people mentioned below, or if you are just hearing their names for the first time, these are some happy reminiscences of times past. Enjoy.

Parker’s Store on Hartford Avenue (featured in the February 2025 edition of *The Sentinel*) was a favorite hangout for people of all ages. You could buy everything from candy to the Hartford Times from John and Happy, whose parents owned the store.

There was a farm at the corner of Middletown and Old Post Road, and horses could be seen in the woods on the present site of Schenker and Barton Avenues. There were no houses there back then.

Mr. Walker lived by the Wall Beach area, and he used to ceremonially raise the American flag every morning and take it down every evening.

There were so many boats moored off the beaches and the docks were busy on the weekends. And people could sit with friends on the beach listening to their transistor radios.

Speaking of the docks, there were gazebos at the end of the dock and jetties, and the old people used to sit out there and take in the sights.

Getting to and from Hartford and Middletown Avenues was easy back then. Just cut through someone’s yard or walk across the beach. No fences and no one seemed to mind.

For a treat, people would walk up the Post Road to Brock Hall for ice cream. The location is still serving ice cream but it is now known as Dairy Queen.



Brock Hall was originally called The Health Station. Today, it is the very recognizable Dairy Queen. Photo Courtesy of Laura Gray

There were three evening events at the Clubhouse every week during the summer months. Wednesday was Movie Night, Friday was Dance Night and Saturday was Bingo!!! (continued on Page 3)



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Back then, Saybrook Manor had a privately contracted Constable, Mr. Pavaromo, who kept an eye on things in the neighborhood. He was the constable for years, and in Francine's own words "Everyone listened to him - with no questions asked. He would patrol the streets, tell us to be quiet if we were making too much noise and disperse us when we were in the wrong place." (Editor's Observation: Note, she says **when** we were in the wrong place, not **if** we were in the wrong place, which leads me to believe that these three were likely on Mr. Pavaromo's list, so to speak).

Mrs. Pavaromo got into the act too. She rode in the back of Bobby Ziegler's convertible for the Fourth of July Parade, while Mary Foley, dressed as the Statue of Liberty, sang "God Bless America." That is a tradition we should reinstate...any volunteers??

In stormy weather, they took inner tubes to the beach to wait for the waves to pull them off the wall and into the water. Water went over the wall in August, not every month like it does now.

Bonfires on the beach.

Great times and great memories from another era.

In Memoriam – Beverly M. Uricchio

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Beverly M. Uricchio, the mother of Sue Uricchio Borowicz of Middletown Avenue and Cape Coral, Florida. Bev enjoyed many summers in Old Saybrook with family and friends. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Sue and her family.

OSCRC – Help Needed



The Old Saybrook Coastal Resilience Coalition, Inc. was formed to coordinate a response to sea level rise by documenting vulnerabilities of local beachfront and riverfront communities, educating the public, and identifying and implementing immediate and long-term, science-based, mitigation solutions. It is comprised of members from 11 beach associations, including Saybrook Manor.

We are looking for a few people to help with some OSCRC volunteer work.

Grant writing: We are looking for individual(s) who have knowledge/expertise in this area. There are a lot of opportunities for grants to improve our shoreline and our infrastructure.

Representative: We are looking for an individual to represent SMA at OSCRC meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

For further information on any of this, please feel free to contact Dave Pettinicchi at neech1214@gmail.com



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Didja Know??

Back in the days of Prohibition, Old Saybrook was a major player in some of the era's bootlegging operations. But that is a story for another time. This is a story of two totally different Captain Morgans.

Captain Sir Henry Morgan



Speaking (easy) of rum-running, and rum in particular, one thinks of Captain Morgan, the notorious, swashbuckling pirate whose full portrait graces every bottle of his spicy, eggnog spiking libation. He was born in the same year that Olde Saybrook was founded, 1635, but that is the only thing they have in common.

And he was not a pirate in the technical sense of the term. He was a privateer. Basically, a privateer is sanctioned by a government to attack enemy ships while a pirate is not sanctioned and sort of free-lances.

As such, and despite some indiscretions, he very much influenced the history of the Caribbean, and eventually became a Knight Bachelor of the Kingdom of England and received a state funeral when he passed away in 1688, possibly (and somewhat ironically), exacerbated by overindulgence in...you guessed it...RUM.

Captain Elisha Ely Morgan



We have our own Captain Morgan. Our Captain Morgan was born in 1808 in Lyme, Connecticut. He was a prosperous ship captain who lived in a house on the corner of Main Street and Old Post Road in Old Saybrook, where Front Page Sports is currently located. He owned the home from 1843 until his death in 1864, when it was converted into Ye Olde Saybrooke Inn. The Inn was demolished in 1950.

Our Captain Morgan also has a long and interesting story, too long to narrate here. Suffice to say, he worked his way up the rigging to become the head of Black X Line, which managed "packet" ships. Packet ships were a marvel of their day, "swiftly" moving goods between New York and London at the astonishing speed of only 35-40 days.

An affable man, he spent a great deal of time in London, where he met and entertained the likes of Queen Victoria and Napoleon's brother the, King of Spain. One of his closest friends was Charles Dickens, who visited Morgan at his home while on tour of the United States. Perhaps they even got takeout clam strips and a pint of Thimble Island Sea Mist from the 1745 Humphrey Pratt Tavern across the Post Road.