



Saybrook Manor Sentinel

Volume 2, Number 2

February, 2025

"The beach has a special way of smoothing even the most ragged edges" *Avatar, The Last Airbender*

White "Sandy" Beaches in February



Well, the seagull saw his shadow, which means another six weeks of Winter!!! Photo by Alyssa Craparo



Beautiful but cold winter scene at the Hartford Avenue Beach. Photo by Alyssa Craparo

New Addition

Kennedy Lynn Santaniello

Board Member Joe Santaniello and his wife Jamie are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter Kennedy Lynn, on January 28th. At 6 lbs. 1 oz., Kennedy is happy, healthy and ready to take on the world. And here's to happy days and sleepless nights for Joe and Jamie, along with our best wishes.

Contributions

Over the next few months, the Sentinel will publish information relative to the upcoming season. If you have something of general interest, please let us know and we will consider it for publication. This includes birthdays, anniversaries, special events, etc. Email your submissions to Dave P. at neech1214@gmail.com. Material will be published at the discretion of the editor and Board of Governors.



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OSCRC News

LIS Support Planning Program: SMA recently submitted paperwork for a grant proposal with the Long Island Sound Support Planning Program. We sought funds for a permanent fix for our beach wall and infrastructures. Our contractor submitted a long-term plan, but the cost is astronomical. We manage to keep up with maintenance while avoiding member assessments, but we will need funding to get the big job done.

Unfortunately, our project did not qualify under this program, so we are seeking out other available grant opportunities. There are plenty of local, state, and federal options to pursue. As CT Lottery says, "You can't win if you don't play." So, we will continue to study and pursue appropriate grants going forward.

If you are not familiar with the grant writing process, it is like a root canal, or a colonoscopy, or a jellyfish bite. Only longer. The massive paperwork is cumbersome, the documentation is mind boggling and the entire process can be fraught with government "red tape" and delay.

We welcome your support:

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

Grant writing: Does anyone have any experience with grant writing? We could use help from any individual(s) who have knowledge/expertise in this area. There are a lot of opportunities for local, state, and federal grants to improve our shoreline.

Alternate Representative: Dave Pettinicchi is our SMA representative for OSCRC, but we are looking for a backup person to attend some (not necessarily all) meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month. This is especially needed during the Winter off-season months, so a year-round resident would be ideal...but not required.

For further information on any of this, please feel free to get in touch with Dave at neech1214@gmail.com. Thanks.

The Old General Store



Photo courtesy of Bob Sussman

Parkers Store was located on Hartford Avenue. It is now a private home owned by Bob and Diane Dionne. When asked where they live, they say "the old general store", and all the old-time residents know exactly where it is. Many beach neighborhoods had little 'mom and pop' stores. Cornfield Point had one for years, and Chalker Beach still has theirs. Send us your memories.



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Didja Know???



An Old Saybrook Valentine's Day Story With a Halloween Twist

The Jennings family is one of America's oldest, with a long and illustrious history. But they had their 'black sheep' too.

Nicholas and Margaret Jennings were charged with witchcraft in Old Saybrook in 1661. They were acquitted because of a 'hung' jury (no pun intended). Here's the very short version of the story, which reads like a spicy novel, even by today's standards.

Nicholas emigrated from England in 1634, and settled in Hartford. After serving in the Pequot War, he moved to New Haven, where

he met Margaret Bedford, an indentured servant.

After finding the two of them in a compromising position, they were both flogged (as was common back then). And as if that wasn't enough, the court then ordered them to marry each other (also common, apparently).

These two Puritanical Pranksters then bounced between Hartford and New Haven, where a trail of misdeeds followed them, including Nicholas being prosecuted for striking a neighbor's cow!!

In 1647, looking for a fresh new start, the couple moved to...you guessed it...Old Saybrook, where they settled down and raised three children.

Things were quiet until 1659, when a neighbor, George Wood, accused Margaret of being possessed by Satan. They were both charged, and the case was heard in 1661 by a ten-man jury, who disagreed, so they were set free. It was generally thought that the neighbor accused her as a result of a land dispute.

The Jennings' remained in Old Saybrook. Nicholas died in 1673, but there is no record of Margaret after the trial. And no one knows where they are buried.

Suffice to say, witch trials were a dark point in colonial American history.