



# Saybrook Manor Sentinel

Volume 2, Number 1

January, 2025

"Ya we in luck here, under the muck here, under the sea"...Sebastian the Crab from 'The Little Mermaid'

## 2024 The Year in Review



*"The weather outside is frightful, but the water's so delightful"*

*Actually, the weather looks pretty good, but that water is far from delightful, at about 41°. The Hartford Avenue Dock has a bit of snow. Luckily, there are human footprints out and back, so no one was lost at sea or crazy enough to go swimming.*

**And what a great year it was**

### *Events*

We kicked off the season with our traditional Fourth of July Parade and hot dog roast. "Cruise Director" and events coordinator **Jen Cerrito** kept us busy this summer with two Bingo events (another old SMA tradition) and two new traditions: 'Cocktails & Conversation' and a craft fair/tag sale event. Kudos to the Bowden's for their generous bingo prize donations.



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## Cornhole

Our own **Rosario Savastra** planned and coordinated the Third Annual SMA Cornhole Tournament. And for the third consecutive year, the **Hills/Garrison family** (better known as the **Crab Masters**) clinched the championship title. They are a great family, and living proof that nice guys don't always finish last.



## Swag

When she's not doing her work as Clerk/Secretary of the Association, **Keri Jockers** helped develop some new swag shirts, with the help of Abdul our tee shirt guy. We sold these at multiple events...made to order no less, in multiple colors and sizes.

## Clubhouse

Club Cubs **Rich Bowden** and **Joe Santaniello** did a great job with club rentals and maintenance. We have a user-friendly online reservation system and enhanced security, along with a brand-new roof. The kitchen cabinets and walls were repainted by a member at no charge, with paint donated by some board members. We will try to give the main room a coat of paint this year.

## Beach

We have a new dock on the Hartford Avenue beach, along with some significant wall and stair improvements. Beach Boy **Rosario Savastra** worked with teen member **Jon Craparo** to keep the beaches clean and neat all summer. Some of the older benches were refurbished and painted, complete with gold leaf lettering! And we're looking at new buoys in 2025.

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*The new Hartford Avenue Dock.*

## ***Finances***

Despite some big-ticket items, ***Kathy Bennetto*** kept us financially afloat last year, and we successfully passed another budget. Kathy also helped with Bingo nights and just about everything else.

## ***Communication***

Cub reporter ***Dave Pettinicchi*** established the document you are now reading, which will help to keep everyone in the loop going forward. Dave also represents SMA on the OSCRC.

## ***SMA By-Laws***

A committee headed by ***Rich Bowden*** updated the 1933 SMA by-laws for the first time since 1978, and they were accepted by the membership.

## ***Transitions***

After 15 years of service, ***Rich Marino*** retired from the board. He's best known for helping to plan the legendary pasta night events. And the board welcomes its newest member, ***Dennis Dowd***.

## ***And last, but First and Foremost***

We acknowledge our Fearless Leader...the Grand Poobah...Queen ***Jeanne Boggs***, who somehow manages to keep not only the Board but the entire membership moving forward and (mostly) happy.



*New Years Day – Sunrise 7:15 a.m. Sunset 4:31 p.m. By the end of January, sunrise will be at 7:01 a.m. and we will have broken the 5 p.m. barrier by five minutes.*





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*This is not one of the SMA beaches, but was taken at Tod's Point in Greenwich, across Long Island Sound to the Manhattan skyline. The picture will make more sense after you read "Didja Know"*

## Didja Know???

Old Saybrook used to encompass not only the current town of Old Saybrook, but Westbrook, all "The Lymes", Chester, Essex, and Deep River. As these settlements grew in population, it became more difficult to travel to Old Saybrook for services, so they founded their own stores and churches, which ultimately turned into separate towns.

Had they remained a part of Old Saybrook, our town would currently have 60,820 residents, and would be the 14<sup>th</sup> most populated town in the state, just 30 residents shy of Meriden.

Old Saybrook would encompass a whopping 191.1 square miles, more than three times the size of the largest town in Connecticut (New Milford), and just 9 square miles shy of Brooklyn/Manhattan/Queens, with a whopping 6.8 million residents.

## In Memoriam

We acknowledge with deep sympathy the passing of Tim Emrich (Hartford Avenue), Sonny Marcantonio (Old Sea Lane) and Doreen Marino's sister Ann Gawel-Dombrowik.

## The Last Word



If you couldn't find hot dogs on Fourth of July weekend, it might be your own fault. Two board members (who shall remain nameless) were asked to purchase dogs for the July 4 SMA event. Unable to find enough at BJ's, they completely wiped out a local grocery store (which shall also remain nameless). This resulted in a hot dog shortage for the entire weekend. The two unnamed board did purchase paper bags to wear over their heads as they checked out. Laugh....