



Saybrook Manor Sentinel

Volume 2, Number 7

July, 2025

"And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea" ...America the Beautiful, Katharine Lee Bates

Happy Birthday - USA - 2025



Trouping the Color at the start of the Fourth of July parade. Photo by Deb Mager

This year's Fourth of July weekend celebration was filled with sun and fun. The weather was perfect for swimming, hanging at the beach and cooking out. That's the least the weather could do after fifteen consecutive weekends of rain!!!

The parade on the Fourth was one of the largest ever. Although our traditional musket-shooting honor guard did not kick off the event, we had a long line of decked-out golf carts, bikes, wagons and walkers.

The event culminated at the Clubhouse with our traditional hot dog roast. The Board and some volunteers served more than 500 hot dogs, along with Board Chairman Jean Boggs' delicious world-famous homemade

sauerkraut and Dave Pettinicchi's 'sort-of-famous' homemade chili. There was a "spicy hot" variety this year, which was a big hit. Then off to the beach for an afternoon of fun.

Our first Bingo event was held on Saturday night, June 5, with a full-house in attendance. Dennis and Cheryl Dowd coordinated the event, with help from Kathy Bennetto, Keri Jockers, Jean Boggs and others. And there were prizes galore.

It was a great weekend, filled with family, fun and festivities. Thanks to all who helped make it a memorable Fourth of July weekend celebration.

Check out our subsequent pages for more weekend photos of the events taken by some members.



Dennis, Rich and Rosario sizzle up 500+ hot dogs. "Hats off" to Rich Bowden for scraping and seasoning the Blackstone Grill, a formidable task. Photo by Ray Hubbard



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Beach Bling



Cathy and Mike Sforza are ready to soak up some sun in style on the Hartford Avenue beach. "Posh" does not even begin to describe their chic, "Sheik" style. Photo courtesy of Bob Sussman

Tree Donations



We are accepting donations to plant trees along the back of the clubhouse, preferably shade trees that will eventually provide some relief from the heat. Trees can be donated in someone's memory if desired. Send a note to the SMA Gmail if interested.

Events Update

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

Bingo – Friday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for Bingo #2 on Friday July 11 at the Clubhouse. Prizes galore and lots of other treats.

Cornhole – Saturday, July 19, 1:00 p.m.

The Fourth Annual SMA Cornhole Tournament will take place at the Clubhouse. There is no entry fee, but teams must sign up in advance, so we can plan accordingly. Contact Rosario Savastra with your team's name and the names of your team members: rsavastra13@gmail.com

Bingo – Saturday, July 26, 7:00 p.m.

And the fun keeps on rolling along. Come to Bingo #3, for more prizes, candy and treats.



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Fourth of July Festivities

Here is just a small sampling of the many photos provided to the Sentinel from various members. A HUGE "Thank You" to Ray Hubbard, Deb Mager, Cheryl Dowd and Jennifer Pettinicchi for their contributions. At some point, we will get more photos posted on the SMA website, but for now, enjoy!!!





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Renter's Responsibilities

The Board would like to remind people who rent their properties that it is their responsibility to inform their renters of the SMA rules and regulations of the Association. A renter on Evans Lane had a dog on the beach over the Fourth of July weekend. Guests had a very large boat anchored in the swim area. Some young renters from Sea Lane attempted to launch a boat during a restricted time period, and were less than polite when board members pointed out the sign and approached them about the issue.

And, as always, we have underage drivers operating overloaded golf carts, a recipe for disaster. Many of these people are from neighboring associations, but still worth a mention.

The Spring Letter went out on April 16, 2025, which highlights all the rules and regulations. We suggest you make a copy available to your renters. Thank you.

A Big "Thank You"

The Board and event organizers would like to acknowledge the time, work and dedication that many volunteers provided for the parade, hot dog roast and Bingo.

We would particularly like to give a huge thanks to the many members who generously donated prizes, gift cards and cash for the Bingo nights. The first was a huge success and we look forward to the next two events, which will be equally fun.

In Memoriam - Lucius Pandolfini

We regret to inform you of the passing of Lucius Pandolfini of Saybrook Manor Cove. Although he was a Cove resident, he and his brother Anthony grew up in Saybrook Manor Association. Our sympathy goes out to his family during this difficult time.

Hurricane Carol - 1954

Photos and narrative by F. William Abbate

Editor's Note: These pictures are from 1954, just before and after the Hurricane Carol, a Category 3 hurricane with winds gusts as high as 135 mph. Storm surges exceeded 14 feet in some places. Total damages were approximately \$460 million 1954 dollars, (roughly \$5.3 billion dollars in 2025). Thousands of homes, cars and boats were destroyed, and 65 lives were lost.



(above) This was taken a few days before from the front yard of the Dooley/Bonvino cottage. The cottage in the background sits on the left side of Cove Beach. It and all the cottages across the channel in the far background were totally destroyed. Those across the channel were rebuilt essentially as they were only raised and of sturdier construction. Note, in 1954, there were no cottages on the left side of Middletown Ave (from Appleby cottage to the beach).



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The picture above was taken in the eye of the storm. No one, in those days, knew what it was. Everyone thought the hurricane was over. The young boy in the foreground is Charles Nigrelli.

Note that the pier was still intact at that time. The Maynard book has a good picture of the pre-1938 pier. That one had stairs at the end going down on the Hartford Ave side of the pier. The pier after 1938 had the stairs at the end going straight off the end into the channel. Also, large rocks were under the new pier mostly to the Hartford Ave side and under the pilings of the rest area and those rocks were separated from the swimming area by a jetty on the Hartford Ave. side that went the length of the pier. The eye later passed and the greater storm hit.



(above) After the eye passed this is what the beach, looking from Middletown Ave over Cove Beach. The flow from the Oyster and Back Rivers going past the beach was tremendously fast and furious.

The roof to the rest area on the Pier is seen. Where the TV (it is huge for the time) came from is unknown.

The large block of concrete was the pedestal for the fireplace for the cottage that was lost in 1939. To get a feeling on how much the beach changed, the top of that pedestal was nearly even with the ground the day before. Part of the dune, covered with sea grass, shows how much more sand was removed in years since 1954. The wall that was in front of the house and still standing in 1954 was completely gone as well.



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(above) This is the beach front, Harford Ave. side. Here the waves had broken through the windows and doors, damaged and flooded the first floors. The two houses on the end of Middletown Ave had flooding damages but were less damaged overall. The two houses now in the middle of the beach where the inner wall has been removed may have been built post 1954. If they were there, I did not notice any real damage.



The "old" Clubhouse. Actually, it is the existing Clubhouse before they enclosed the front porch area.



Didja Know???

When you hear the word "block," the first thing you probably think of is a building block, a football block, a stumbling block, "New Kids on the Block," or 'a chip off the old block.' Perhaps Block Island. Permit us to introduce Adriaen Block, renowned nautical Dutch explorer.

After hearing about Henry Hudson's exploration of what would eventually be called the Hudson River, the Dutch decided to explore the New World looking for lucrative beaver pelts. Captain Block was considered the first European to enter the Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River in 1614. His maps ultimately established Manhattan and Long Island as actual islands. He explored the Connecticut River up to Enfield. A Dutch settlement was established near Hartford, well before Thomas Hooker and his gang of Puritans came to settle the area. Adriaen also named Block Island (after himself), Rhode Island (after the red clay he encountered) and the Housatonic River (the river of red hills).

But what does all of this have to do with Old Saybrook? Well, in 1623, fearing that the English were going to take over the area, he deposited a small number of men and women settlers at the mouth of the river, near Saybrook Point, in the approximate area of Ye Olde Block & Dine, where they resided for a few months, before they froze their proverbial blocks off and returned from whence they came. And had not Lords Saye and Brooke (refer to past "Didja Know" article) come along to rename the area, we might all be living "Olde Block."