



# Saybrook Manor Sentinel

Volume 2, Number 6

June, 2025

*"The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."... Jacques Cousteau*

## Clubhouse Cleanup Day – May 17th



*The guys get ready to climb the ladder to power wash the peak of the Clubhouse. Photo by Jeanne Boggs*

The annual Clubhouse Cleanup Day was a hugely productive event, despite the questionable weather. A special shoutout to Val and Otis Soule, who single-handedly (or should we say “double-handedly”) spent five hours on May 16th power washing the first floor of the Clubhouse and the entire picket fencing around the grounds...a formidable task for sure.

Kudos to the following people who gave up their Saturday morning to clean up, inside and out: Kathy Bennetto, Rich Bowden, Jeanne Boggs, Jen Cerrito, Bob Duggar, Donna & Santo Finocchiaro, Keri Jockers, Rosario Savastra, Joe Santaniello, Vic Schiavi, Valerie and Otis Soule.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

## Events Update

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

**Fourth of July Parade – Friday, July 4, 10:00 am** The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 4th. If you and your bicycle/golf cart are participating in the parade, please meet at the parade ‘starting point’ at the beach end of Middletown Ave. Children of all ages should decorate themselves and their bikes to join in the fun.

**Hot Dog Cookout – July 4, right after the parade.** The parade ends at the Saybrook Manor Clubhouse where hot dogs will be served.

**Cornhole – 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](mailto:rsavastra13@gmail.com)

**Bingo, Bango, Bongo – July 5, 11, 26**

We have three Bingo Nights scheduled for this season, all commencing at **7:00 p.m.** in the Clubhouse.

**Saturday, July 5**

**Friday, July 11**

**Saturday, July 26**

For all BINGO nights, donations of prizes and/or gift cards are much appreciated. Please contact a Board Member if you wish to donate.



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### *The Buoys of Summer*

No, not the Brooklyn Dodgers or the Don Henley song. We have our own, brand-spanking-new buoys at our three beaches. SMA Beach Manager, Captain Rosario Savastra, and his able-bodied crew (Rich Bowden, Dennis Dowd, Dave Pettinicchi and his highly capable cabin boy grandsons Alexander and Danny) took on the task. This involved stringing the new blue & white buoys, spacing, and securing the outlines of our three beach swimming areas. Cheryl Dowd was on hand to record the historic event on her mobile device.

The event was spread out over three days due to the weather, but the captain and crew got the job done. And, as always, there were plenty of onlookers on hand to provide encouragement. The quote of the day was from an individual who inquired about the strand crossing the Middletown Avenue beach "Are you leaving that rope there?" Yes, we are. It is in the same spot as it always was...it is just a different color!!! Laugh.



*Dave and Rosario have an Italian-style 'friendly' discussion about the length of space between each buoy (using a high-tech piece of plastic PVC piping), while Rich referees, and Dennis just keeps on working!!! Photo by Cheryl Dowd*



*The water temperature was somewhere between 50-54 degrees and it was a cold, cloudy and windy weekend too. But that did not keep Rosario and Dennis out of the water as they set the perfectly spaced buoys on the Wall Beach. Photo by Cheryl Dowd*



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### Swan Song

by Sue Brodersen



*Hartford Avenue beach swans. Photo by Sue Brodersen*

Here is the picture of the swans I saw on May 21 off the Hartford Avenue beach. I am just beginning to learn more about our shoreline birds so I am trying to determine the exact kind of swan. My sister-in-law is an experienced birder and thinks they are immature mute swans due to their size, "S-shaped" neck and knob on the bill. Immature mute swans have not yet developed the typical orange bill seen in adults. She also checked her local internet sightings and mute swans have been seen in South Cove and North Cove. Another birder friend took a quick look and thought they could be trumpeter swans. However, my sister-in-law said trumpeter swans would be a rare sight in our area.

Regardless, they are truly beautiful creatures, and a welcome sight on our beaches.

**Saybrook Manor Association does not sanction or support any fireworks events at any time, location, or venue in the association, public or private.**

We understand that some members have concerns for their personal property. We hear you and understand your concerns. The SMA Board has had multiple conversations with Chief Spera of the Old Saybrook Police Department about fireworks. He advised that members are welcome to call the police at any time to voice any concerns they may have regarding this issue. Although Chief Spera is transitioning out of his role with OSPD, his basic advice on this matter remains intact.

### Beach Blooms



Here's to Valerie Soule, Nancy Wilson and Doreen Freeman! Val and Nancy supplied the beautiful potted blooms by the Hartford and Middletown Avenue beaches. Doreen donated all the rose bushes at the beach end of Hartford Avenue. Not only do they plant them, but they water, weed, fertilize and 'talk nice' to these beautiful arrangements for the whole season. Thanks Val, Nancy, and Doreen for beautifying our beaches.





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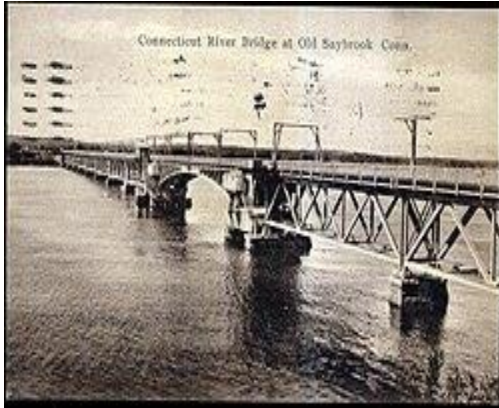
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## Didja Know???



*The first bridge, a double bascule, was opened in 1911.*

The next time you are stuck in traffic on the Baldwin Bridge on your way to Costco or somewhere on "the other side" of the river, be patient. It used to be a lot worse.

In 1662, the General Court of Connecticut authorized the establishment of a ferry across the Connecticut River, in the general vicinity of Ferry Point. That was the only way across the river in this area of the state and it often took four or five hours to cross the river from Old Saybrook to Old Lyme, due to tides, sandbars, obstructions, and other challenges. And the ferry usually ended up at an unplanned location on the other side of the river.

There were numerous ferry crossings up and down the Connecticut River. The Rocky Hill-Glastonbury Ferry is alleged to be the oldest continuously operating ferry in the USA, beginning service in 1655. The more popular Chester-Hadlyme is the second oldest in the nation, established in 1769.

## Golf Carts, Speed Limits and One-Way Street Signs

**Golf carts may ONLY be driven by individuals who have a valid driver's license.** We continue to see multiple instances of underage drivers operating golf carts, sometimes filled with other underage passengers. This is illegal, irresponsible, and very dangerous.

Please be sure to observe posted speed limits on the streets within the Saybrook Manor Association. There are lots of families and small children walking up and down our streets. We ask you to exercise extreme caution when driving a motor vehicle, golf cart, bicycle, scooter, or other means of transportation.

Please note that New Britain Avenue is ONE WAY, going from Hartford Avenue to Old Sea Lane. This is well-marked on both ends of the street, but is frequently disregarded, and can result in serious injury if not observed.

All the above are Connecticut state laws that are enforced by the Old Saybrook Police Department. The board cannot enforce state laws, but as a community, we should all work collectively to adhere to the law to help avoid serious incidents and assure the safety of everyone.

We understand that some of the violators are outside of SMA, and we are working on that. But we can do our part as responsible association members. Thank you for your consideration.



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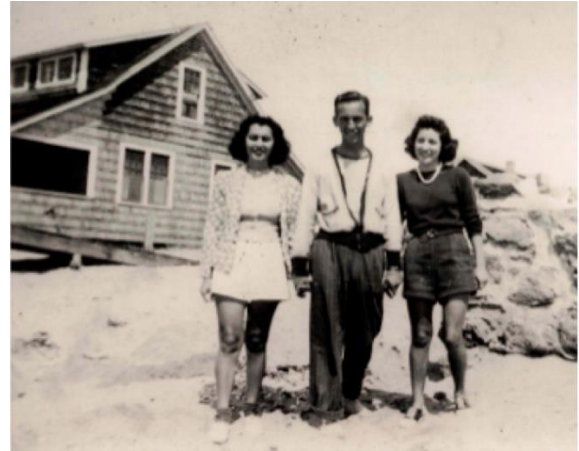
## Saybrook Manor Pictures Through The Years

by William Abbate

Here is the next installment of pictures and narrative from Bill Abbate, our resident Saybrook Manor "historian." Again, all the captions/narrative are directly from Bill.

Apologies for the quality of the photos. They are quite old and we have tried to clean them up as best we can.

Thanks, Bill, for these great pictures. There are more to come. Next up, some photos and stories from Hurricane Carol back in 1954.



*This shows the remaining wall left from the home destroyed in 1938. Note the beach size then versus now when looking at cottage and ramp toward pier. Also, the beach extends down from wall towards the "old" shore line of the time by at least 6 feet!*



*Knowing some of the people in this picture, it has to be mid-1930's. It is on the beach to the right of Middletown Avenue. Note that the wall has been built and the beach looks a decent size.*



*Taken circa 1947. That is me...Bill Abbate. Just to show the full wall at mid-tide, the wall is unbroken. Note also, the small cottage just behind the lady in black. That is the third cottage in from Hartford Avenue.*

Do you have old pictures from Saybrook Manor? How about some memories or stories from the "olden days" that you would like to share with members. Or something new. We welcome contributions. Send them to [saybrookmanorassociation@gmail.com](mailto:saybrookmanorassociation@gmail.com).