



Saybrook Manor Sentinel

Volume 2, Number 8

August, 2025

"One learns that if you don't paddle your own canoe, you don't move" ...Old Saybrook's own Katherine Hepburn

SMA Annual Meeting - 2025

The SMA Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, September 7th at the Clubhouse. Despite the rainy weather, we had a great turnout of 54 members (including the Board). The meeting was very upbeat, with lots of positive energy and a true sense of community and cooperation. The next season is going to be remarkable!!!

Former board member Dave Sacchitella, along with current board members Rich Bowden and Dave Pettinicchi, were elected for three-year terms.



A hit of Autumn is in the air...nice clear days with no humidity. Enjoy them while you can. Comfy sweatshirts below....

Snag Some SMA Swag - We still have swag available for purchase. Tee shirts (\$20) and hoodie sweatshirts (\$30 up to XL, \$35 for 2XL and up). Contact Keri Jockers or the SMA gmail account for further information or to place an order.



July 4, 1776 + July 4, 2026 = 250

Yes, it's only September, so why are we talking about the Fourth of July already?! Because it will be America's 250th Birthday, and SMA wants to celebrate it in style.

We are planning a BLOCK PARTY on July 4, 2026. The festivities will begin right after our traditional parade and hot dog roast, with an afternoon of FUN, FOOD, MUSIC, GAMES, CRAFTS and even a time capsule.

We are looking for volunteers to help plan, brainstorm and contribute to this event. If interested please contact Wendy McGale at Wendymcgale@att.net.





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Beach Buoys - We are still selling the old buoys for \$20 each. They are a great keepsake decoration for your beach home, office or golf cart. We still have lots of available inventory (see photo below).

Contact Rosario Savastra or send a note to the SMA gmail account for further information.

Cash or check only please.



Plenty of old buoys are available. They need a bit of TLC, but they are in great shape otherwise.

Do you provide a service that could be useful to SMA members? Plumbing, heating, HVAC, electrical, landscaping, etc.? Or are you looking to get some things done around the house and can't seem to find someone? We can get the word out via the Sentinel. There is a lot of talent and skill out there, and it allows our local businesses to thrive. Send or request information via the SMA gmail.

Tree Donations



Awesome Fall sunset view of some beautiful trees by the beach.

We are still accepting donations to plant trees and decorative shrubs along the back of the clubhouse. Trees can be donated in someone's memory if desired. To date, we have received more than \$700 in donations. We are still working on vendors for the plants and plaques. Send a note to the SMA gmail if interested in donating.

Stay tuned for a separate email on how you can obtain FREE trees from the Town of Old Saybrook, which can be donated to the Clubhouse or kept for personal use.

Jen Cerrito has "retired" from the SMA Board. Many thanks for your dedication and service to the SMA community. Your bright smile and innovative event ideas were greatly appreciated. We will miss you on the Board, but will still get to see you around the neighborhood.



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Didja Know???



If you spent any time along the shoreline, you have undoubtedly encountered an osprey or two, or at least seen a few of their nesting spots.

In 2024, there were 973 nesting locations in Connecticut alone, producing 1,077 fledglings. They are now considered a "Plentiful" species. But that was not always the case. In the 1970's, the osprey population was almost eradicated, due to the widespread use of the pesticide DDT.

Most osprey migrate to Central or South America for the winter, and like many Old Saybrook summer residents, they usually return to the exact same nesting spot from year to year.

They mate for life, unless mating is unsuccessful. "If you can't produce, we cut you loose" as the old osprey saying goes. But we are not quite sure who gets to keep the

nest for the next year. Check the phone book for osprey lawyers if you want to find out.

Unlike the ubiquitous seagull, ospreys gracefully dive into the water feet first, sometimes submerging completely, before withdrawing with their dinner.

And speaking of dinner, ospreys snag a fish on at least one in every four dives, a feat any human fisherman would envy for sure.

They're raptors...not rappers. RapTORS have feathers and talons, and they eat fish and other vertebrates. RapPERS wear baggy shorts and ten pounds of gold chains, and eat Hot Cheetos, Taki's and Pop Tarts (that last part is true...Google it).

Dad brings home dinner for Mom and the kids every day, until the little ones fly the coop. They are a noble species.

The osprey has been around for 11 million years. They typically live for about 15-20 years and they typically rack up about 160,000 frequent flyers miles in a lifetime.

Lost and Found



Someone left these at the clubhouse after the annual meeting. If they are yours, please notify Dave P. at neech1214@gmail.com.



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Manor Memories

by F. William Abbate

Editor's Note: Here are some memories of Saybrook Manor's past, provided by our resident historian, Bill Abbate. Actually, Bill will be a "remote" resident by the time you read this, because he is heading south. But we still plan to stay in touch with him.

Bill is a wonderful guy. He is witty, remarkably personal, super intelligent and has a 'mind like a steel trap' as grandmother used to say.

As a parting gift, Bill typed out a rather extensive list of memories about the area and its people, which are worth sharing. There is a lot of information, so we will be doing this once again in installments. Enjoy!!!

Just over 100 years have passed from the start of the beach community at Saybrook Manor et al. Our cottage was built in 1910 and our family began residing there in 1920.

I have been around since the summer of 1939. Spent many summers, and weekends in the spring and fall here; and, at least one week every summer since. Thought I would put down as many memories as possible and, along with photos from family archives, give to the new generations what I can.

Memories are those of mine since 1940 up to the present. They include stories from older friends (late 30's); mother, aunts & uncles, and others (20's to 30's) and pictures from those days.

With pictures I enjoy examining them closely, especially the backgrounds to see what memories can be seen.

In the case of the Club House, I know that the one on the Cove Beach area was the 'in place' for the teens of the 30's. A good picture of it is in Maynard's Book. Then it was wiped out in the 1938 hurricane. When was the Hartford Ave Club House built? I have not had the gumption to go to the town hall to find out, but it was there from the early 40's on.

Where were the tennis courts in the 1930's? I am not certain. I have pictures, dated 1938, of the teens there.



Note home in center background that was at the left side of 'Cove' beach and back side of home that was on the beach on the left side (right side of picture) of the end of Middletown Ave. The current cement marker in the beach at the end of Middletown Ave. marks the back right corner of the lot. The marker is near light pole at end of road. Both were destroyed in hurricane of '38 but Cove Beach one rebuilt to be destroyed in hurricane of '54. Photo (above) circa 1938.