



# SAYBROOK GARDEN CLUB

## GARDEN CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

**LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?  
JOIN A SAYBROOK GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE!**

### Happy Spring Neighbors!

Happy Spring! I don't know about you but at our house we're ready to get back to warmer weather, playing outdoors and of course, endless pool days!

Trivia Night was highly successful (and certainly fun!) raising over \$3,000 to support our local schools. On behalf of the Saybrook Garden Club, I would like to recognize our amazing neighbors who helped plan the event: Trish Hutton, Hillary Andrluk, Laura Sujewicz, Becky Stanton, Christin Kacedan and Michele Briscoe. It should make us all feel good to do so much to help the children in our schools.

As always the Christmas Tea is a wonderful evening with friends. We were fortunate to have Eva Haas open her home to all of us one more time before she returns to Germany later this month. Eva, thank you for your hospitality and friendship - we'll miss you! A special thank you to the planning committee Kristin Whitaker, Christina Papa, Mary Kate Watkins, Jennifer Riordan and Jackie McCafferty. I also want to thank everyone for their generosity in purchasing gifts from our wish tree. We were able to provide gifts for so many children in our community.

Let's all keep our fingers crossed for some great weather for our Easter Egg Hunt on March 31st - I hope to see you all there! Thank you in advance to Anna Mulrooney and Laura Gaskill for planning this fun family event!

And of course one of the most fun events of the year, the progressive dinner on June 2nd. If you have time to help plan the event please email Jennifer Riordan. I think all would agree that the planning committees are always fun and great ways to meet others.

Have a wonderful spring break and we'll see you outside soon!  
Stacey

### Annual Saybrook Easter Egg Hunt!

Hippity hop hop! The 2018 Saybrook Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 10:30 am at the Beebe Elementary School playground.

There will be one hunt this year. The playground designed for smaller kids will host the hunt for kids under 4 years of age. The bigger playground will be home to the hunt for kids 4 and older. Those families with 4 year olds can pick which hunt they prefer their child to attend.

Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to sign in. Don't forget to bring your own basket!

Contact [laurahgaskill@gmail.com](mailto:laurahgaskill@gmail.com) with any questions.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
**March 31, 2018**

**GNO - SIS NAILS**  
**March 2018**

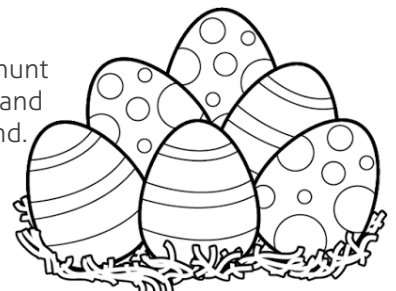
**GNO - SIXTY FOUR  
-A WINE BAR**  
**April, 2018**

**PROGRESSIVE DINNER**  
**June 2, 2018**

**GARDEN WALK**  
**June date TBD**

**FEED MY STARVING  
CHILDREN**  
**SAYBROOK CARES**  
**June 18, 2018**

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
FOR MORE INFO AND EVENTS!**



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## Philanthropy and Holiday Giving

This past December was another wonderful year of giving through the Saybrook Garden Club. As per every year the giving tree was a huge success. We sponsored 3 families with presents ranging from books about bugs and skateboards to athletic clothes and snow boots. On top of that we donated \$650 worth of grocery gift cards to Jefferson Jr. High and made a generous cash donation of \$1,000 to Naperville North

and Families Helping Families. Over the winter season Beebe experienced a shortage in winter clothes, such as snow pants and boots for families in need. We used money raised at the Christmas Tea and our reserves to purchase some additional winter wear as well as clothing donations from generous neighbors so that every kid at Beebe can be warm and safe at recess.

## Trivia Night a Huge Success!

January 26th marked the Saybrook Garden Club's Annual Fundraiser and its 2nd Trivia Night theme.

It was a fun night! The rounds of Trivia brought some heated - yet friendly-competition. Great raffle prizes were won and new members, alumni members and their friends came together to have a good time for a fantastic cause!

We raised over \$3,000 that will go to help kids in need and their families in our Beebe Elementary, Jefferson Junior High and Naperville North community. Last year, the Garden Club donated funds for the Jefferson Boat Trip,

provided monetary support to Beebe Elementary and provided two \$1,500 scholarships to Naperville North High School. Because of your generosity, we are able to continue the tradition!

Thanks to everyone who joined us, brought friends, and donated raffle and prize items. Special thanks also goes to the Saybrook Cares Kids who helped us sell absentee raffle tickets (new this year) and babysitting (for committee members and as a raffle prize).

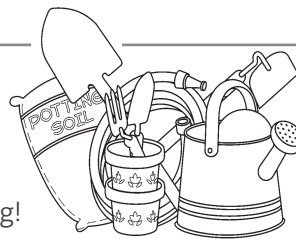
You all made the evening memorable and a new favorite winter event.

## Gardener's Corner

Now is the time to start planning and preparing for spring!

- Watch weather conditions for an appropriate window of time to spray fruit trees or large deciduous trees with dormant oil. Spray if aphids, scale, or mites were a problem in the past. There are many spruce trees in Saybrook showing signs of spidermite damage. Most treatments can only be applied in the spring so check your trees or contact a local tree expert.
- Fertilize woody plants four to six weeks before they begin new growth only if they have shown signs that they could use it. These would include poor leaf color, failure to completely fruit or flower, or stunted growth. Use a slow-release granular fertilizer and water in well. Do not fertilize newly planted trees or shrubs. Wait one year before making this application.
- Prune trees and shrubs. The ideal time to prune is in the dormant season, just prior to new growth. Wait to prune spring-flowering plants to avoid removing this year's flower buds. Cut back to the ground all perennials and ornamental grasses that were left standing for winter interest.
- Order seeds and garden plants to add to you landscape.

*(Gardening information via: Chicago Botanical Gardens & Morton Arboretum)*



Coming Soon...



## Flamingo Fridays

As you drive and walk around Saybrook this spring watch for flamingos in your neighbor's yard. When flamingos are spotted you can expect a casual neighborhood get-together at that residence!

**Just look for the pink flamingo in someone's yard and you'll know where the party is!**

**Want to host?**  
We'd love to have you! Just email us at [SaybrookGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:SaybrookGardenClub@gmail.com).

## WELCOME OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

Scott and Shari Holder and their children Lauren and William, 1032 N. Brainard St., from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

## Progressive Dinner

Save the Date for our Annual Progressive Dinner! This is the event that everyone is waiting for. This year's Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, June 2nd! If you would like to be a part of the committee that plans the menu please email Jennifer Riordan at [jsriordan@live.com](mailto:jsriordan@live.com). Remember this is a members-only event so make sure your dues are current. If you are unsure you can go to the Saybrook Garden Club website and click Membership to see an updated list.

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## Show Your Support For Saybrook Cares!

Have you heard of this amazing group of teenagers living right here in our neighborhood? These days, teens get a bad rap for spending too much time with video games or wrapped up in drama. But after spending 2 years with these young people, I'm more and more impressed by them every day. Many of them are in full time sports, reaching for the highest grades, spending time with friends ... and still they find time to plan our many events. Since the last newsletter Saybrook Cares has organized a collection for, and visited, Hepzibah House (a foster care home in Oak Park), helped label books for Beebe Elementary's library and made & hand-delivered Christmas Cards for neighbors.

You may know these amazing teenagers; some of our most active members are Curran Phillips, Audrey Mendrys, Kate Donaldson, Mia Kurland, Emily Kurland, Colleen Kacedan, Avery Wright, Jenna Norris, Jessie Peyton, Amelia Mendrys, Evie Pendlay, Madeline Cody, Jessica Lowe, Ellen Cody, Grace Carter, Maggie Williams, Jack Reif & Leah Norris. We've even had other teens help us out at events like the blood drive: Boscarino Crew, Liam Mendrys and Tommy Paltzer.

Our upcoming events include: On June 18th all students from 5th grade to college are welcome to join us to work at Feed my Starving Children.

Our MOST IMPORTANT upcoming event is a blood drive on Saturday March 17th. The teens will be working hard to sign up 35 neighbors and friends to donate blood that day. Please contact us through your favorite teen listed above to reserve the best time for you or email [maurahoff@hotmail.com](mailto:maurahoff@hotmail.com).

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## Remembering Dick Legg

Have you ever walked by your neighbor who was sitting on the front porch, and waved to say hello, only to realize you don't know that person as much as well as you might like? We initially had such an experience with our neighbor, Dick Legg. During winter, snow would miraculously shovel itself from Barley Avenue driveways. And garbage cans would find their way back to their rightful places. We, as new neighbors, didn't always know how these miracles occurred, but long-time residents knew it was Dick. Dick was also the person you would call when your HVAC suddenly stopped working, or your sump pump was running. Last spring when Dick became ill, our relationship became closer, as he started spending more time on his front porch. Our children began to eagerly look forward to yelling "hi, Mr. Legg" across the street on our daily walks to Beebe. Each day, as we talked to him after school drop-off, we learned about the exciting life that Dick led. We often commented that his social life seemed busier than ours! He was a family man, avid golfer, traveler, Harley-riding Mr. Fix-it, and home builder for Habitat for Humanity, who took great pride in volunteering with his church family. He devoted much of his time to mission work, rebuilding homes, in places that experienced natural disasters like Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, Southern Illinois after tornados, Detroit, Iowa and even near home. We often discussed his love of sports, and bonded over the success of the Cubs! Each day, Dick became more and more of a "grandpa" to us and our kids. Soon this relationship began to extend to his wonderful wife, Susan. Susan has shared advice and stories with us, and allowed us to become part of her life. Our children have even "adopted" her dog, Mia. These types of relationships can happen in any neighborhood, but Saybrook seems to be a special place where getting to know your neighbors and adopting them as grandparents is easier than most. We are grateful for every moment we had with Dick, and those we continue to share with Susan, and hope that his legacy of doing good deeds for neighbors, will spread to other corners of our unique neighborhood.

Maura Hoff & Christina Papa

*Gerald Richard "Dick" Legg, age 75 passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family after a brief but courageous bout with cancer on August 30, 2017. He was a devoted husband of 54 years to Susan Legg; loving father of Jim (Bea) Legg and Debby Legg Leavenworth; beloved son of the late Alma and Edwin Legg; cherished grandfather of Sara and Susi Legg, and Brandon, Nicholas, and Erin Leavenworth; dear brother of Cathy Wasielewski and Marcia (Charlie) Leggett.*

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## The Great Neighbor, Paul Steiner

I remember the first time I saw Paul. It was during our home inspection last spring. We had purchased the house next to his and would soon be next door neighbors.

While the home inspector went about his business, I peered out the back window of our new home and saw an older

gentleman, nicely dressed in a button down shirt and slacks, spreading fertilizer about his backyard. It was April and it was abundantly clear he took great care of his yard. It was edged, wedded, green and trimmed, and here he was preparing it for summer.

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# The Great Neighbor, Paul Steiner

"Oh boy..." I thought. I began to wonder if we'd have a Dennis The Menace situation on our hands. My husband and I have two very active little boys. And, while they aren't menaces, they aren't very "neat" and "tidy". And everything about this scene outside our new window said "neat" and "tidy".

I was worried we may not be very welcomed by our new neighbors with the chaos we'd surely bring next door. Luckily, I couldn't have been more wrong.

We moved in the following June and over the next few weeks we became very fond of the Steiners. And I believe they became pretty fond of us, too. We would see each other over the fence, tending to our yards and gardens.

Paul gave us tips to keep the bunnies out and Jeanette shared lettuce from her vegetable garden when there was an abundance. It perhaps goes without saying, but she had washed and bagged the lettuce for us. "Just like the grocery store, ready to eat," she noted, passing the Ziplock over the fence.

But our first Saybrook summer wasn't just a blur of casual and friendly "Hello's!" over the fence every now and again. Although, there was that, too. But there was also this genuine care for a neighbor that seemed to come from a forgotten time. The extent to which Paul and Jeanette both wanted to help us was comforting. It reassured us that there are still great people in this world who want to help you without the slightest expectation of anything in return. Inspires you to do the same.

During a storm in July, a portion of our fence blew down. After getting several pricey quotes for repair and then watching a few YouTube videos, my husband, Vijay, and I were convinced we could fix it ourselves. We soon learned that this same "fix it myself" mentality lived in every fiber of Paul's being.

Soon after starting our project, we hit a roadblock in our attempt to extract the deeply laid concrete of the very first fence post we removed. Within MINUTES, Paul (who we suspect had been watching and waiting for this moment) showed up on the scene, tools in hand and ideas in mind.

Paul helped rig a pulley/lever system that was wrapped around a tree at one end and lassoed around the concrete cylinder in the ground at the other end. He left us with a few unique tools we had never seen before, and soon enough, with his ideas (along with a rented jackhammer) the concrete foundation finally gave way.

His kindness, of course, didn't stop there. In August, we had a light switch that wasn't working in our garage and Vijay was determined to fix it himself. Working with electricity scared me so I asked him to go knock on Paul's door for some

wisdom. Moments later, Paul was in our garage unscrewing things, then down in our basement flipping breakers, and all the while telling us stories about how many times he's fixed the lights/electrical in that very garage.

That's not where it ends, either. One morning in September, we heard a loud bang outside. Sounded like a car wreck. Immediately after, our power went out. Eventually city workers arrived and entered our backyard, heading straight for the pole that holds a giant transformer atop it.

I walked out back and there was Paul leaning over the fence. He had called the city, knowing exactly what had happened. It wasn't a car wreck. It was a squirrel that had chewed on some wiring connected to the transformer. Paul knew this, of course, since he had lived in that home longer than I've walked this Earth. This was not his first Squirrel vs. Transformer rodeo. Sure enough, the workers collected the poor rodent in a bucket and power was swiftly restored thanks to Paul.

When Christmas drew near, we saw the beautiful lights on the center island as you enter the neighborhood. We wondered if there was an extension cord running from the pool house out to the island, but we saw nothing. We would later find out that this was because of Paul. When the roads were being dug up and re-paved, he had the idea to run underground wiring in the street gravel before it was poured. Ever since, the residence of Saybrook have been treated to a beautiful light display each Christmas Season.

As it grew colder and Paul's illness progressed, we saw less of our new neighbors. But we started to meet other new neighbors over the holidays. And it was no surprise that they, too, had similar stories of Paul's willingness to lend a hand and a few ideas.

He fixed pool issues within hours and always free of charge. He bailed out the old pool clubhouse basement on numerous occasions and was an integral part of the planning and upkeep of the new pool. He replaced lights that went out on the neighborhood signs. And he would always show up to help spruce up the front of the pool and islands, shovel in-hand.

We missed seeing Paul and Jeanette as often as we had. So we were thrilled when on December 23rd, Jeanette rang our bell. She had a few Christmas gifts for our boys. We couldn't answer the door in time but she called us just a few minutes later to see when she could return with the gift delivery. I offered to come to her home instead so she wouldn't have to brave the cold again. When we arrived, she gave our sons the thoughtful gifts and the boys sang a few Christmas carols. Paul sang right along with them.

# The Great Neighbor, Paul Steiner

On Christmas Eve, I helped Jeanette set out their luminaries, clearing the little bit of snow on the ground before setting the first one down, I looked inside and smiled. Each candle was held up by a sturdy, handmade wooden base that I was sure Paul had devised. As with most of his ideas, it seemed a lot better than my own (bird seed).

We feel very fortunate to have had that time with Paul just a few days before his passing. I only wish I had been able to convey how much he meant to us and the impression he left

on us in such a short period of time.

Of all the people who knew Paul Steiner, I am perhaps the least qualified in writing a tribute to his life and legacy, having only known him for seven months. And yet, maybe that says something about the man he was. The fact that someone who knew him for such a short period of time came to know exactly the kind of person, the kind of Saybrook neighbor he was. The Greatest.

Thank you, Paul. We miss you.



## SEPTEMBER 2017- AUGUST 2018 SAYBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP

RETURN PAYMENT AND FORM TO 112 BARLEY AVENUE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL 1: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL 2: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

MEMBERSHIPS ARE VALID FROM SEPT 2017 - AUG 2018  
CHECKS PAYABLE TO SAYBROOK GARDEN CLUB

- \$25 STANDARD MEMBERSHIP RATE
- \$15 SENIOR RATE (65 AND BETTER)

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

BEING A MEMBER MEANS BEING ACTIVE, OUR CLUB DEPENDS ON IT SO SIGN UP NOW!

- SALAD SUPPER
- HAYRIDE
- FUNDRAISING
- CHRISTMAS TEA
- EASTER EGG HUNT
- GIRLS NIGHT OUT
- BOOK SALE
- BEEBE GARDEN
- PREPARE FOOD
- PROGRESSIVE DINNER
- HELPING HANDS  
(ONE-OFF OPPORTUNITIES TO LEND A HAND)



## The spring market is here!

Looking to buy, sell, or refinance this spring?  
I'm ready to help with all your local financing needs.

**Noelle Gollinger**  
Associate VP of Mortgage Lending

O: (630) 364-7560 C: (847) 217-5089  
noelle.gollinger@rate.com  
Rate.com/noellegollinger

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