

**FREE**

*Our*



# TOWNSALEM

Volume 16 – Issue 2

May 2010

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**SALEM TOWN INFORMATION**

**Salem Town Offices**

270 Hartford Road  
Phone: (860) 859-3873

**Office Hours:** First Selectman,  
Town Clerk, Assessor & Tax Collector  
Mon.-Wed. 8 AM to 5 PM  
Thurs. 8 AM to 6 PM, Fri. Closed for routine business  
(elected officials available for urgent matters).

**Salem Free Public Library**

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200 Hartford Road  
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FAX: (860) 859-2130

**www.salemschools.org**

Salem School - (860) 859-0267  
Special Education Office - (860) 859-3988

**Salem Police Department**

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**EMERGENCY 911**

**Salem Transfer Station**

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**Animal Control Officer**

*Bill Martin* Home: (860) 859-1881 Cell: 319-1306

**State Senator 20th District**

*Andrea Stillman* (860) 443-8568

**State Representative 37th District**

*Ed Jutila* (860) 739-7730  
For additional information regarding U.S. Senators  
and Representatives visit:  
[www.salemct.gov/state\\_fed\\_reps.htm](http://www.salemct.gov/state_fed_reps.htm)

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Please email your articles, ads, or news items to [ecregan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecregan@sbcglobal.net). You may also deliver your submission to the Salem Town Office building in an envelope addressed to Our Town – Salem, or you can mail it to 270 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420, Attention: Our Town – Salem.

**The next deadline is June 1 for the August issue.**

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**OUR TOWN – SALEM**

All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by the writer’s name, address, and phone number so that the submission can be verified. The chairperson and her/his designee must sign articles submitted by town committees.

*Our Town – Salem* reserves the right to edit all articles for grammar, clarity, brevity, and taste. All articles will be checked for factual content, and articles containing unattributable statements will not be accepted. *Our Town – Salem* is published quarterly by volunteer residents of the town of Salem. Your participation is welcomed!

**Volunteer Staff**

Publisher – *Elizabeth C. Regan*, [ecregan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecregan@sbcglobal.net)  
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Layout – *Kerri Salan*

# News and Notes from . . . OUR TOWN

Read about what's new in Salem and learn how to become more involved in shaping the town's future

## From the Office of the First Selectman

Dear Fellow Townspeople,

Here we are in May again! Besides giving your mom a big hug for Mother's Day, please take some time this month and on Memorial Day to think of the sacrifices of the many brave individuals who have given their lives to ensure the freedoms that we enjoy today. We have so very much to be grateful for.



### Let's review what has been going on in our town:

**The Flood of 2010:** Special thanks to our fire departments, public works, fire police, resident state troopers, and civil defense for their tireless efforts blocking roads, detouring, and handling flooding of property and homes. We are fortunate to have so many members of our community to keep us safe.

The library continues to add programs and activities. My family and I attended a wonderful concert in our own library. What a treat! It is nice to see so many people in our community enjoying our library and its many services.

**Town Hall:** We have a new cleaning service for the Town Hall and library for the same price but better cleaning. We are bringing the Town Hall and library up to the professional look that they deserve. With proper regular maintenance on our buildings, we will save the town money.

### Savings continue:

With our phone services now covered by state pricing, we anticipate 15-20% savings.

With our municipal insurance, we will be dealing directly with our insurance company which will save our town approximately \$20,000 per year.

### On the Cover

Photo by Linda Waters

Waters was the first place winner in the "plant" category of the photography contest sponsored by the Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem and East Haddam Land Conservation Trusts. See all of the winning photos at the contest Web site: <http://landtrusts-photos.shutterstock.com>. Any amateur photographer who is interested in entering this year's contest, currently under way, should contact [landtrustphotos@yahoo.com](mailto:landtrustphotos@yahoo.com) for a copy of the rules and entry form.

On top of that, the town of Salem has less liability due to the fact that we are a Resident State Trooper town without a town operated police department. I am working on these additional savings which should be in the range of \$18,000 per year.

Town Aid for Roads (TAR) has been received, all \$96,890. We asked the governor to show us the money and she did! Thank you, Governor Rell.

Our May 5th seminar of "Strategic Planning and Leadership" was a continued effort to offer our local businesses a helping hand to achieve higher levels of success. These seminars are hosted by the town and the Economic Development Commission. They are available at no cost to attendees.

Single Stream Recycling begins in Salem on June 2nd! This will allow many more items to be recycled. It will be easier to recycle as well, since all recyclables can be put in the same bin and are sorted at the recycling facility. [details on back cover].

For our many graduates next month - congratulations! You have accomplished much. There are so many opportunities in front of you. You might not know where your path in life will take you; but never forget where you are from - Salem, Connecticut. You are all sons and daughters of our town and we are proud of you. You have been given a firm foundation by your family and community. Make us proud. Make good decisions. Enjoy your life. Be proud of who you are and where you are from. Congratulations to each and every one of you.

Please drive safely. With summer near, there are so many activities we are all involved in. Please observe the speed limit, drive safely on our town roads (and other roads as well). We will all get where we are going.

In closing, I wish you all a safe and happy summer. I want to thank all of our dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time and talents to make our town of Salem a better place in which to live.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.

Respectfully,

Kevin Lyden



**BROAD-BASED EFFORTS TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

*By Sen. Andrea L. Stillman,  
20th District*



An estimated 50,000 domestic violence assaults per year in Connecticut and three highly publicized fatal attacks in recent months, allegedly by domestic partners, underscore the need to update state policies and reduce the number of these incidents. To this end I joined a special task force on domestic violence last fall; recommended changes to better address the issue were released earlier this year.

The task force suggested policy changes in three areas to help protect potential victims of domestic violence: crisis response and social services, education and awareness, and law enforcement and judicial proceedings. The first group of recommendations is meant to improve public sector response to these incidents; the others are intended to try and recognize, then interrupt, common criteria that all-too-often lead to this abuse.

Contributing to incidents of domestic violence are circumstances that are usually complex and interwoven – factors like financial instability, substance abuse, and mental health, to name just a few – so our efforts to limit domestic violence must be comparably broad-based. Two key recommendations span the expanse of all that must be considered: ensuring 24/7 operation of all domestic violence emergency shelters and creating interstate standards and reciprocity regarding formal protective and restraining orders.

I was particularly pleased to see included in the recommendations an emphasis on outreach and education as agents of prevention. Among other things, the state Department of Education will be asked to expand health curricula to include units on teen dating and domestic violence.

Kids talk and e-mail and ‘text’ one another constantly and we know they’re fully aware of what’s happening to their friends and classmates in unhealthy domestic situations. Going forward I hope we can use the opportunity built into these social media to make kids part of the solution through programs that speak their language.

One obstacle to be overcome when dealing with domestic violence situations is the stigma and shame associated with the issue, when victims, witnesses, and others impacted by the abuse hinder investigations and prosecutions with downcast eyes and silence. But a heightened statewide awareness would help all involved realize they’re not alone with the burden of their secret, and that immediate help, understanding, and long-term support are available.

The task force recommendations are built into legislation under consideration this session. The Human Services Committee had one bill covering emergency shelter and other housing issues to assist victims of domestic violence and abuse. Our system urgently needs a guarantee that the portion of state marriage license fees meant for domestic violence shelters be distributed fully and on time.

The Education Committee has already approved teen dating and domestic violence education as part of the ongoing professional development and training for teachers and administrators.

Remaining recommendations, to address the efficacy of court orders, enforcement of probation and parole provisions with regard to family contact, and greater cooperation among neighboring states, among other things, were considered by the Judiciary Committee, with cognizance over such matters.

In its research efforts, our task force took testimony and suggestions from domestic violence victims, advocacy groups, law enforcement officials and representatives from throughout the judicial system in its work to craft these meaningful and comprehensive proposed reforms.

*Andrea Stillman represents the 20th Senatorial District, which includes New London, Waterford, East Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem and Montville.*

**KEEPING ROUTE 11 IN THE PUBLIC EYE**

*By State Rep. Ed Jutila, 37th District*

The Route 11 Greenway, with its associated bike and pedestrian path, has reached a fork in the road, its fate in the hands of the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission. The Commission is currently in the process of deciding whether to continue to acquire land and construct the bike path, or put the project on hold in light of the Department of Transportation’s recent decision to designate the completion of Route 11 itself as “unfundable” for the foreseeable future.

The key question is whether or not the bike and pedestrian path is viable and desirable as a stand-alone project, independent from the highway completion project. I believe that it is, and, joined by Senator Andrew Maynard of Stonington, I advocated for that position at a recent meeting of the Greenway Commission.

The Route 11 completion project itself is not dead just because the commissioner of the DOT has deemed it unfundable. The fact is that it, as well as many other transportation projects throughout the state, does not have funding. That is

a problem that needs to be addressed by the legislature and governor.

The legislature took an important step in that direction during the current legislative session when the Transportation Committee voted in favor of a bill that would require the DOT to submit a plan to place tolls in certain locations on our highways. The bill includes a provision that I was able to insert that would make tolling for new highways or expansion of existing highways part of the plan. Salem residents Peter Sielman and David Bingham were instrumental in convincing the committee to adopt that amendment to the bill through their testimony at a public hearing in Hartford. This could provide at least a partial solution to the funding dilemma.

While funding for the highway completion project does not presently exist, the commission has available to it right now four million dollars in federal funds, as well as one million dollars in state matching funds to get the bike path project under way. There are an additional six million federal dollars also available, subject to the future appropriation of state matching funds. A consultant has already been selected to perform the preliminary engineering work.

The bike and pedestrian path is a good and viable project that can stand on its own merits whether or not Route 11 itself is ever completed. The legislature and the people we represent have consistently demonstrated their support for bike paths as both a means to promote energy efficient transportation and provide recreation that contributes to health and wellness. The commissioner of the DOT has publicly expressed his support for continuing on with the project whether or not the highway completion project proceeds.

By moving forward with the bike and pedestrian path, we will also continue to build upon the momentum that has been demonstrated in recent years for completion of Route 11, and keep the project in the public eye.

At its last meeting, the Greenway Commission, after much discussion, decided to delay any decision for another month while it obtains additional information from state agencies. The Salem Board of Selectmen has already endorsed continuation of the project. I would encourage the chief elected officials of the towns of Montville, East Lyme and Waterford, key members of the Commission, to vote in favor of continuing the bike and pedestrian path project at its next meeting.

*Ed Jutila represents the 37th Assembly District, which includes Salem and East Lyme.*



### **SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT: BECOME INVOLVED, INFORMED AND CONNECTED**

*By Donna P. Leake, Superintendent of Schools*

**INVOLVED: We want you  
to be involved in what we are doing...**

**T**he Salem administrative team and the Salem Board of Education are committed to fostering the development of a strong community-family-school partnership. We want and need the involvement and support of parents, guardians and community members as we continue to foster a high quality learning environment for all Salem students.

#### **How To Get Involved**

Committee membership is an important and viable means to become involved in the decision making process of the Salem School District. There are opportunities to become involved in committees at all levels of our organization. The District level committees include the: Strategic Goal Committee, Safety Committee, Curriculum Writing Teams, and Curriculum Council. The Strategic Goal Committee plays a role in developing the goals set by the district and schools. The committee usually meets twice during the year and once in the summer. The Safety Committee meets twice a year to review emergency procedures and to do an ongoing assessment of the overall safety and security assessment of the building and grounds. The Curriculum Writing Teams meet twice a year. There is a team for each subject area. Members of these committees have the opportunity to become involved in the development of the curricular programs that are implemented in our classrooms. The Curriculum Council meets twice a year to discuss current and proposed district curriculum programs. It is not too late to join the recently formed District Report Card Committees at the school and district level. These committees will recommend to the BOE the report cards that will be used in our district next year.

The Salem BOE also has an open invitation to community members to become part of the BOE standing subcommittees. These committees are: Policy, Public Relations, Curriculum, and Facilities. If you are interested in serving on any of these

committees/subcommittees, please contact Jennifer Kayser at [jkayser@salem.cen.ct.gov](mailto:jkayser@salem.cen.ct.gov) or 860-892-1223, ext. 3201.

### **INFORMED: We want you to be informed about what we are doing...**

High quality communication with families and community members is a high priority initiative for the Salem School District. We currently communicate information to families and the community in several ways:

**Website:** The Salem School District Web site ([www.salem-schools.org](http://www.salem-schools.org)) is our main communication tool. The Salem School District and school administration use this Web site to provide timely information to families and community members. Registered Web site members will receive "E-Alerts" notifying them of important information. Registered users can also subscribe to specific Web site pages and receive "E-Alerts" when content is updated on that page.

**Wednesday Folder:** This "folder" is a very important communication tool used by the school and district. It contains very important information regarding the school and district policies and procedures. It also contains a timely calendar of community events. The Wednesday folder is available online or as a hard copy (upon request).

**Newletters and Updates:** Donna's Updates are a source of pertinent district information, such as upcoming meetings, the budget process, staff changes, etc. Monthly letters from the principals are a source of important information about school initiatives and activities. Copies of the updates and letters are placed on the Web site. Copies of Donna's Updates are also available at the library and the Town Hall.

**Emails:** The School District will begin to send selected correspondence via e-mail that would be otherwise included in the Wednesday Folder, such as Donna's Updates and letters from the superintendent. The elementary school has already created an e-mail list for such communications. The middle school will be working on creating a list. If you are a parent and wish to be added to the e-mail lists please contact the school office. If you are not a parent, but would like to be added to an e-mail list, please contact Jennifer Kayser. Please remember that you will need to update your e-mail account information if it changes.

**Coffees:** Informal district- and BOE-level "Coffees" are often scheduled when there are new initiatives or important information to be shared at the district level. These Coffees are often related to building and budget items. Grade level Coffees are also scheduled by the elementary and middle school administration. The purpose of these coffees is to promote two-way communication: to provide information and to gather feedback. If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to have discussed at a Coffee, please let me know.

**Board of Education Presentations:** The district and school administration present reports and special presentations about the district and school strategic goals, curriculum, and instructional initiatives at the monthly Board of Education meetings. Recent presentations have been made about our students' performance on the CAPT and CMT state assessment programs as well as about the district and school initiative: differentiation of instruction for all students. Copies of reports and presentations made at these meetings are placed on the Web site.

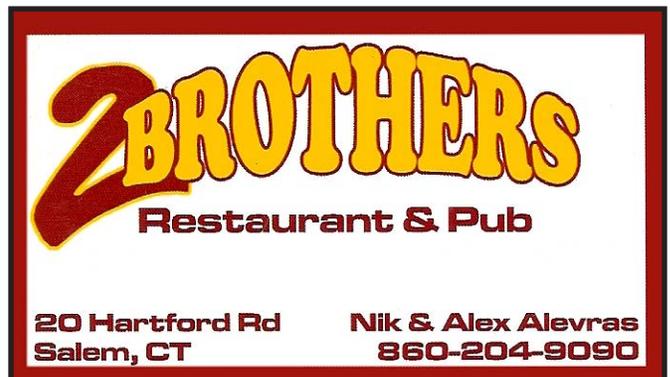
### **CONNECTED: We want to stay connected with the community...**

I am always looking for opportunities to meet members of the school and local community. There are several ways this can happen.

**Appointments:** If you have an idea or a concern you would like to discuss in person, I would be happy to meet with you. To arrange this you can either send me an email at [dleake@salem.cen.ct.gov](mailto:dleake@salem.cen.ct.gov) or contact my executive assistant, Jennifer Kayser. Of course, instead of a meeting, phone conversations and emails are also welcomed and encouraged.

**Community meetings:** I am very interested in meeting with the civic groups and town committees. I have had the opportunity to meet with groups such as the Seniors, Lion's Club, the Scouts, the Salem Land Trust and the Republican and Democratic Town Committees. If there are groups that I have not yet contacted that would like me to attend a meeting, please let me know.

I believe that Salem School provides an outstanding learning environment for our students that will continue to grow and develop with informed involvement and support of families and community members. Please contact me if you have any suggestions for enhancing our efforts to Involve, Inform and Connect with the community of Salem.



## INTRODUCING THE NEW SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

By Jim Moran, Salem Middle School principal

As the new principal of Salem Middle School, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Salem Community. I am coming to Salem Middle School (SMS) from East Lyme where I taught for the past fifteen years. I'm a veteran of nineteen years in the CT Army National Guard. I grew up in North Stonington and currently reside in Preston with my wonderful wife, Kim, of 16 years and my two sons, Patrick in 8th grade and Kevin in 7th grade.

Since my start date 2 weeks ago, I have gotten to know many of the students, teachers and parents. I've seen how wonderful our students are, how talented and hard working the staff

is, and the commitment of parents involved in the school. I value collegiality and collaboration and it is something I see as important to continued growth at SMS.



The best learning occurs when it is done together. The school's current partnership with the community (parents, town officials, business owners, residents) is an extremely valuable resource of collaboration for our students' education. I invite you to be a partner in the education of our future generations. The community-school partnership is critical to the success of our students and a foundation for the strengthening of the Salem community.

As we move forward as a school, I see a professional learning community working together to promote student achievement. Salem is a beautiful town with a rich history. I'm excited to be a part of it and look forward to learning and growing with you.

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**INLAND WETLANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

***What is a Soil Scientist?***

*By Diba Khan-Bureau*

A soil scientist is a person with an education in soils. Course-work may include soil properties, geology, hydrogeology, water resources, limnology, soil morphology, biology, chemistry and other subjects associated with a degree in soils. Soil scientists understand soil systems and soil management. They are involved with restoration and enhancement projects such as those used in landscape design, mine reclamation, and wetland restoration. Soil scientists evaluate and investigate soils as they relate to natural resource management, including forest soils, wetlands, environmental endangerment assessments, ecological evaluations, and archeological sites. They perform suitability studies for a variety of land use issues, including development, soil stability, moisture retention or drainage, sustainability, and environmental impact. Soils scientists evaluate the use of soils for agricultural purposes, forest products, and erosion and sedimentation control. Management includes modification of nutrient and water availability to plants.

Soil scientists have a clear understanding of geomorphology, soil formations, and horizons (which are the different layers of the Earth's crust). They also can differentiate between a wetland and a piece of property with no wetlands. Wetlands, you may ask? If a soil scientist is all about soils, then how, and why, would they know about wetlands? Well, the definition of

a wetland in the state of Connecticut goes like this: "wetlands are defined as land, including submerged land, (excluding tidal wetlands), which consists of any of the soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial and flood plain by the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture....." This is the shortened version but one can clearly see the word "land" and "soil type" in the definition. The only person that can determine if there is a wetland on your property is a certified soil scientist.

**Q. When might you need a soil scientist?**

**A.** When you, the landowner, want to perform any activity (i.e. putting in a pool, deck, addition, barn, etc.) on your property. You must ensure that you take every precaution that the activity is not located in a wetland or in an upland review area (close to a wetland, thus creating a potential impact on the wetland).

**Q. How do you know if you have a wetland on your property?**

**A.** You may know from looking at your property plans. But you should always contact MaryAnn Chinatti, the Wetland Enforcement Officer for the Town of Salem, at 860-859-3873 ext. 260. She will advise you on wetland issues.

For more information, please visit Salem's Web site at [www.salemct.gov](http://www.salemct.gov) or visit the Connecticut DEP Web site at [www.ct.gov/DEP/cwp/view.asp?a=2720&q=325684&depNav\\_GID=1654](http://www.ct.gov/DEP/cwp/view.asp?a=2720&q=325684&depNav_GID=1654). This will describe the soil types and provide you with some of the regulatory information pertaining to wetlands.

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Nineteen children dropped off their stuffed animals for Salem Free Public Library's first "Stuffed Animal Sleepover" on February 19-20. The animals were photographed playing games, reading, eating and having fun at the library. Children were able to see a scrapbook of the night's shenanigans when they picked up their animals in the morning. The event was facilitated by the Salem Library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG).

The Salem Historical Society is hoping for volunteers to help at its annual Strawberry Festival starting at 9 a.m. on Memorial Day at the Salem Green in front of the Historical Society Museum. The Festival is held during and after the Salem Memorial Day Parade, which ends at the Green. Strawberry shortcake and strawberry sundaes, as well as homemade baked goods and coffee, will be sold.



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*Local Voices are the . . .*

# TALK OF THE TOWN

*Residents share their stories in columns related to various aspects of Salem life*

## RESIDENTS SHARE VISION FOR THE FUTURE THROUGH TOWN-WIDE SURVEY

*By the Salem Plan of Conservation and Development Committee, Vision Committee, and the Economic Development Commission*

The townspeople of Salem participated in a town-wide survey from November 11, 2009, through December 31, 2009. The survey was a collaborative effort by representatives from the Plan of Conservation and Development Committee (POCD), Vision Committee, and the Economic Development Commission (EDC).

The purpose of the survey was to obtain the thoughts of the townspeople for input into developing the town vision, updating the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), and for Economic Development planning.

There were 403 taxpayers and voters who took the survey (366 online, 37 paper), 98% of whom reside in Salem. The margin of error is +/- 5% at the 95% confidence level.

### OUR COMMUNITY CHARACTER

The townspeople who participated in the survey found the following characteristics define our character (questions C1, C2):

Rural characteristics (92%)

Volunteerism (80%)

Participation in town affairs (78%)

Sense of community (81%)

History (81%)

“Green” Focus: 79% of respondents believe it is important to have a green focus. Elements considered most important to achieve that focus included (questions C4, C5):

Recycling (92%)

Energy efficient municipal facilities (84%)

Renewable energy sources (79%)

In freeform comments, townspeople also stressed the need to improve the look and feel of Four Corners, which they believe contributes negatively to our community character today.

### FINANCE AND EDUCATION

The majority of respondents said we should neither decrease nor increase our budget spending (questions FE1, FE3):

Maintain services by maintaining general budget (77%)

Maintain capital expenditures by maintaining the budget (73%)

Of respondents who felt they knew enough to respond, the majority said they are satisfied with the quality of education in the elementary school (80%), middle school (78%), and high school (84%). They also said we should maintain our current quality of education by maintaining the education budget (questions FE5, F6).

Maintain quality of education by maintaining the elementary school education budget (68%)

Maintain quality of education by maintaining the middle school education budget (66%)

### GOVERNMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Over half of respondents felt all services were important. The most important services were: fire services (91%), road maintenance (90%), ambulance/EMT (89%), snow removal (86%), police (86%), middle/elementary schools (86%), and the library (82%) (question GIFS3).

Of people who believed they knew enough to comment, the majority were satisfied with most services. They were most satisfied with services provided by the library (87%), fire services (86%), high school (84%), snow removal (81%), and ambulance/EMT (81%) (question GIFS4).

Over half of respondents did not know enough to comment on the quality of youth services (excluding recreation), senior services, health services and visiting nurse (question GIFS4).

### RECREATION

Over a third (36%) of respondents felt it is a priority or high priority to develop multi-user trails to connect different areas of town, and to add bike lanes to existing, designated roads (question R1).

Of those who knew enough to respond, nearly half (47%) believe it is important to increase the number of programs available for 14 – 20 year olds, and slightly fewer (43%) believe it is important to increase the number of programs available to younger children from K – 13 years old (Question R4).

Gadbois Property: Over half of respondents felt the Gadbois property should be used for trails, open-air public events such as festivals, open space, and farmers markets (question R5).

Respondents’ free-form comments emphasized recreation uses (e.g., multi-user trails, community center), and the need to use this property to create a revenue stream or use it for other development, (e.g., senior housing, or village-style shopping/dining with trails and space for open-air events including farmers markets).

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The majority of respondents (85%) said it is important to expand our commercial tax base, presuming compatibility with our community (question ED2).

To achieve this, over half felt many types of businesses could be encouraged in Salem, primarily family restaurants, businesses with a green focus, a grocer, a drug store, and agriculture (question ED4).

If we do not expand our commercial tax base, fewer than a third (28%) said it is acceptable to reduce services and only 24% said it would be acceptable to raise taxes at a rate required to support town expenses (question ED 6).

If we do expand our commercial tax base, 72% of respondents said it would be acceptable to adopt design regulations to create a visually attractive area for businesses (question ED 8).

Also, over half of respondents said it would be acceptable to provide short-term tax incentives (64%), obtain professional assistance to market Salem to attract targeted businesses (61%), and revise zoning to allow more commercial use and mixed use (62%) (question ED8).

## HOUSING

Only 31% of respondents said we should increase the choice of housing in our town (e.g., mixed income, multi-family) (question H2).

However, if Salem were to increase the choice of housing available, the top two types of housing we should encourage would be senior housing (60%) and age-restricted housing (56%) (question H3).

## VILLAGE CENTER

Over half of respondents, 60%, believe it is important to have a village center, while 27% believe it is not important. Others said they have no opinion or were neutral on this topic (Question VC1).

The majority of respondents (82%) said it is acceptable to adopt building appearance standards, as well as adopt regulations that specify permitted uses within the Village Center district (80%) (question VC4).

Over two thirds of respondents (69%) said it would be acceptable to allow selective businesses to operate in areas currently designated as residential only (question VC4).

In freeform comments, people suggested that the village center should have pedestrian and bicycle access for safety and convenience, a drug store, and that it should bring no incremental cost to the townspeople.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The majority of townspeople believe it is important to protect our natural resources (question NR2).

Water resources (92%) • Plants/Animals (83%)  
Soil/Land (79%) • Visual/Recreational Assets (77%)

Almost two thirds of respondents (64%) said it would be acceptable to amend zoning regulations to further protect our

natural resources during the site planning and subdivision process, while 16% said this would be unacceptable (question NR2).

In freeform comments, respondents added we need to balance open space needs with economic development needs, and others suggested the town fund more open space purchases.

## HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

At least half of respondents believe it is important to preserve Historic and Archeological resources, with the most people believing it is important to protect ancient cemeteries (81%), buildings on the historic register (78%), scenic roads (75%), and visible stone walls (74%) (question HAR2).

Over half of respondents (59%) said it would be acceptable to limit activity near these resources to protect them (question HAR 3).

## REGIONALISM

Of various areas where we could partner with nearby towns, respondents felt the following were the most important: Police (85%), High School (85%), Emergency medical Services (84%), and Fire protection (84%) (question RE1).

Over two thirds of respondents said they would agree to partner with another town, depending on the money saved (69%) and amount of control we would share (67%) (question RE2).

## OTHER

Of people who moved to Salem, 59% moved here because of the rural character, 41% said it was because of the local beauty, and 34% said it was because of the school system (question OTH1).

Over half of respondents said they do not plan to leave (54%). The top three reasons for staying are: rural character (72%), beauty of the area (65%), people and sense of community (49%) (question OTH2).

Only 16% said they plan to leave. The top reason for leaving is that taxes are increasing too fast (56%); the next most common reason was that there are not enough local shopping or other conveniences (28%).

Fewer than one third of respondents currently have a child in the Salem elementary, middle, or high school (29%), while about half (52%) have had a child in the Salem school system (question DE4 and DE5).

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## SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Age group	Count (% of total)
No age given	34 (8.3%)
< 34 yrs old	40 (9.9%)
35 - 44	70 (17.4%)
45 - 54	91 (22.6%)
55 - 64	100 (24.8%)
65 - 74	55 (13.6%)
75 - 88	13 (3.2%)
Total	403 (100%)

To access the complete survey results please visit the Town Web site ([www.salemct.gov](http://www.salemct.gov)) where three documents have been posted:

Executive Summary (high level summary of results and free-form comments)

Quantitative results in table format

Quantitative results in chart format

## A REFLECTION OF SOME SALEM VOTERS

By Peter Sielman, [apsielman@comcast.net](mailto:apsielman@comcast.net)

180 of Salem's 2769 registered voters volunteered to respond to a 19-statement questionnaire that was designed to measure their feelings about politics. This was not a random sample, so one should not conclude that the results are reflective of the average Salem voter. However, the results are significant and are summarized here in the hope that you will find them interesting and that (maybe) more people will volunteer to fill out the questionnaire.

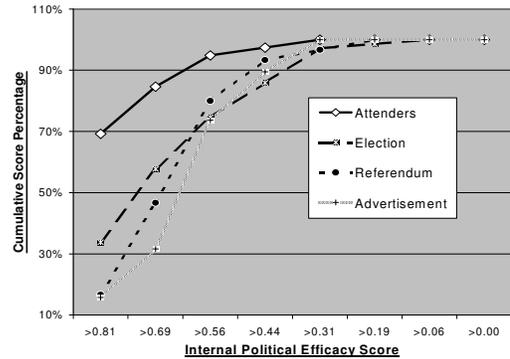
The questionnaire is part of the virtual town meeting initiative in Salem and measured people's feelings about the town meeting (TM), the Salem community (CO), the responsiveness of government (EXT) and their own feelings of political competence (INT). The fancy name for the INT questions is "political efficacy" which aims to measure just how strongly people relate to the statement "I am competent to understand and participate effectively in politics."

Four different groups of voters filled out a questionnaire at different times between October 2008 and January 2010. The first group (Attendees) filled out their questionnaires just after the first virtual town meeting. The second group (Election) saw my sign while lined up to vote in November 2008. The third group (Referendum) saw the signup opportunity while waiting to vote in the 2009 budget referendum. The fourth group (Advertisement) responded to a June 2009 ad in Our Town- Salem.

In order to analyze the results, a scoring system was devised that weighted responses from 0% to 100%, with strong disagreement being weighted 0%, somewhat disagreeing weight-

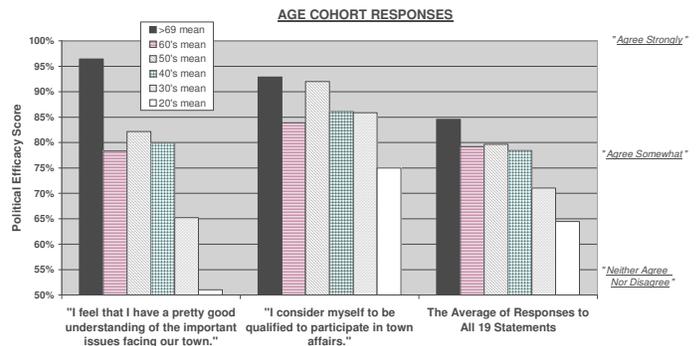
ed at 25%, neither agreeing nor disagreeing weighted at 50%, agreeing somewhat weighted at 75% and strong agreement being weighted 100%. Some of the statements that respondents were asked to respond to were negatively worded, in which case the scoring was reversed.

The first result that struck me (see graph) is that the voters who responded at the first virtual town meeting have significantly higher feelings of Internal Political Efficacy than all of the other groups.



A second result is that there is absolutely no difference in people's feelings about politics based on gender! The average of all the male scores is almost identical with the average of all of the female score for each of the 19 questions.

The third significant result is that there are very substantial variations with age (see bar graph). The oldest among us have the strongest feelings of political efficacy, whereas the youngest voters have the lowest feelings of political efficacy.



It is clear from the data in the earlier graph that people who feel competent to understand and participate in politics do participate - the Attendees group in the graph exemplifies this. The question we are seeking to answer with the virtual town meeting initiative is: If we remove some of the barriers to participation, will that result in an increase in feelings of political efficacy on the part of the additional participants? The data from the January 2010 virtual town meeting is sparse but tends to support the conclusion that making it easier for people to participate has a positive effect on their feelings of political competence.

## SALEM RESIDENTS MAKE GREAT SHOWING AT COLCHESTER HALF MARATHON

By Rick Konon, Race Director

The 19th running of the Colchester Half Marathon took place Saturday, February 27th under mostly cloudy skies, with occasional sun, and temperatures between 32° and 38°F. The snow of the previous days coated the trees and landscape making for a picturesque winter wonderland run, and slower times for everyone. Despite the soggy, wet, and snowy conditions and the notorious hilly course, 23 of the 371 runners completed the course averaging less than seven minutes per mile!

We had a colorful field that included 56 year old Salem resident Joe Balavender, who completed his 19th Colchester Half Marathon as the only runner to have run every one.

Salem residents who competed in the Colchester Half Marathon, listed with their time and pace, were: Jason Anderson (1:32:53, 7:06), Charles Hewes (1:37:56, 7:29), Steven Belandese (1:55:04, 8:47), Joe Balavender (1:58:28, 9:03), and Bruce Grisafe (2:41:40, 12:21).

Twenty-four year old David McKay of Rocky Hill won the race in 1:19:12 averaging a 6.03 mile pace. Capturing first place for the women, for the second straight year, seventeenth

overall, was forty-two-year-old Maureen Terwillinger of Guilford, Connecticut, in a time of 1:28:58. It was an awesome 6.48 pace.

Three hundred seventy-one participants completed the course for a record size field. There were runners from six states other than Connecticut - Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Colchester Half Marathon has become known for its tough, resilient, good humored participants and for its enthusiastic, totally awesome volunteers. Think running 13 hilly miles in cold damp weather is tough, how about those volunteers cheering from a remote corner on the course or handing out water and Gatorade for three hours. We all want to thank our volunteers, including those who volunteered on race day and the runners who helped out after they finished. You all helped make it a really fun time for everyone!



Salem resident Joe Balavender approaches the finish line as the only runner to have participated in all 19 Colchester marathons.

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# Firehouse Friday

## SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. FEATURED ON FOX 61 MORNING NEWS

By Gene Maiorano, Chief, Salem Volunteer  
Fire Company

Every Friday Morning, FOX 61 Morning News has a special called “Firehouse Friday” during which they go to a firehouse somewhere in the state and do four short minute-and-a-half segments on firefighting that begin at 5:20 a.m. and end around 8:50 a.m. On April 2 at the site of the former Bad Boys Toys at Four Corners, reporter Jeff Valin did a segment on the Salem Volunteer Fire Company. The segment featured the FAST Team, which stands for Firefighter Assist & Search Team. The FAST Team is called to other towns to stand by at a structure fire. The sole purpose is to be ready if a firefighter becomes lost, injured, or for any reason cannot get out of the building. In such an emergency, the FAST Team would go into the building to save that firefighter. We did four different demonstrations that simulated going into a building to rescue a downed firefighter during a fire, using several retrieval methods.



The area with equipment.



Crews getting ready.



Fox 61 Morning News reporter Jeff Valin being prepared to be lowered out of the window.



Front row: Deputy Chief Jeff Standish, Firefighter Andy Frausini, and Fox 61 Morning News reporter Jeff Valin. Back row: Safety Officer Ryan Teixeira, Captain Al Wlodarczyk, Asst. Chief Chip Weston, Firefighter Bob Brown, Lt. Brian Ennis, Chief Gene Maiorano, Lt. Jeff Martin, Lt. Rick Martin, and Lt. Ron Przech Jr.

Things to Do . . .  
**AROUND TOWN**  
*Find out what's happening in Salem this winter*



## **The Congregational Church of Salem**

*Pastor Tim Dubeau*

The Congregational Church of Salem is located on the Salem Town Green, Route 85, about 1½ miles north of Salem Four Corners (the intersection of routes 82 and 85). Call 860-859-1211, 860-859-1925, or e-mail us at [salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net) for more information. Visitors are always welcome. Check out our website and newsletter at [www.congregationalchurchsalem.org](http://www.congregationalchurchsalem.org).

### **SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

The public is welcome to attend any of the following activities (for additional info please call 860-859-1925):

Sundays: Winter worship schedule - 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

(Childcare available at the 11:00 A.M. service for children in grades 3 and under.)

Adult Sunday School and Children's Bible Zone for grades 4-12 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Summer worship schedule – go to our Web site or call to get the most up to date service times.

### **UPCOMING 2010 PUBLIC EVENTS AND SPECIAL SERVICES**

(Please go to our Web site for details)

Monday, May 31: MEMORIAL DAY Pre-parade breakfast,  
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – CE Building

Saturday, June 5: ANNUAL TAG & RUMMAGE SALE,  
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – CE Building

Monday, June 28 – Thursday, July 1\*: VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL – High Seas Expedition

\* pending last day of school at the Salem School

July & August: Watch for Summer Movie Nights on the  
Green

Sunday, September 12: Rally Sunday – Sunday School and  
Bible Zone (for Children) registration

We welcome any who desire to come and join us!

September 27 –October 27: Apple Festival preparation,  
Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays

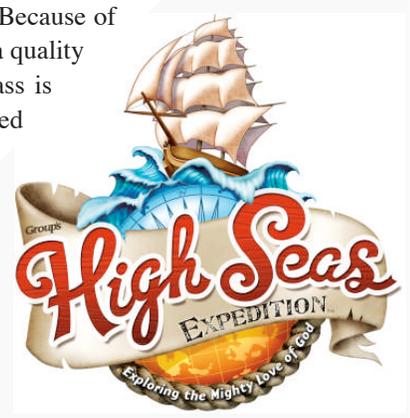
October 30: 41st Annual Apple Festival

### **THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALEM OFFERS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

The High Seas Expedition Vacation Bible School program is free and is floating on waves of fun, as students learn an important Bible Point each day. They will have an exciting swashbuckling adventure each day as we discover God's mighty love found throughout the Scripture.

Unforgettable Bible-learning activities for potty trained, preschool kids age 3 ½ through elementary students who've just completed 5th grade. Because of space and our concern for a quality program, our preschool class is limited to 20 potty trained students who are at least 3 ½ years old. So reserve your preschooler's spot soon!

Each day kids will sing catchy songs at Sing & Play Splash, play teambuilding Ship Rec



Games, nibble on treats from Goodies from the Galley, go on an unforgettable Bible Voyage, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's Word, and create Bible Point crafts at Clipper Ship Crafts to take home. Sail Away Cinema features Chadder Chipmunk returning with a new DVD, Chadder's High Seas Adventure.

High Seas Expedition is an exciting way for kids to learn more about the Bible and learn to look for evidence of God that is all around us. Each day concludes at The Floating Finale – a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've just learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time beginning at 11:35 a.m. We hope that High Seas Expedition will make a big splash for God in our community.

High Seas Expedition begins on Monday, June 28 and continues through Thursday, July 1. Meet at the Congregational Church of Salem on Route 85 on the Salem Green each day from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. For registration and other information, call 859-1925 or send an email to salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net.

## Salem Green Cemetery Association

By the Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton

The Salem Green Cemetery Association is always open to new members. The responsibilities are primarily advisory and our meeting schedule consists of one two-hour meeting every other month (typically at the Salem Town Offices.) New members are welcome to join the Association at any time.



Our garden plans are currently underway and we will be asking for volunteers to assist in the near future.

If interested in membership or gardening, please contact David Wordell, SGCA President, at 860-859-5336.

We'll be installing a new pitcher pump for those who desire to water flowers during the summer months.

APRIL 15 marks the date when all holiday decorations, old flags and plastic flowers are to be removed by plot owners. Those remaining after 4/15 will be removed by the sexton.

Since the last issue of Our Town- Salem, there have been no inurnments/interments.

Contact the cemetery sexton, the Rev. Tim Dubeau, at 860-859-1925 if interested in purchasing one or more plots.

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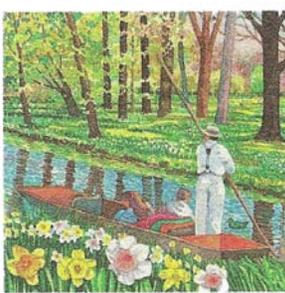
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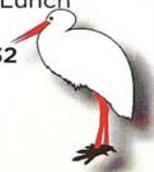
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## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Pat Aldrich, Salem Free Public Library

Salem Free Public Library is proud to announce the 2010 Summer Reading themes: "Make A Splash Read!" for children and "Make Waves at Your Library" for tweens & teens. We will also have a Summer Reading program for adults. Once again with support from The Friends of the Salem Library, we will offer weekly reading incentives, raffles, prizes, programs, and all kinds of things to keep you reading and having fun this summer! For more information on this or any program please call us at 860-859-1130, or visit us at 264 Hartford Rd.

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## SALEM PRESCHOOL IDENTIFICATION

The Salem Public School System is responsible for the location, evaluation and identification of any child with a disability who resides in Salem. The Salem School System will provide screening and, if necessary, a diagnostic evaluation to determine if a child is in need of special education services. A variety of public and private service providers offer programs for children from birth to age three. Salem School provides programs and services for Salem children with disabilities from age 3 to 21 years.

If you know of a child who may have a disability and has not been identified by the Salem School System, please ask the child's parents to contact Maryssa Edele, director of special programs, at 860-859-3988.

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## SALEM PRESCHOOL LOTTERY

The Salem preschool lottery for the 2010-2011 school year will be held on June 1, 2010. The preschool program at Salem School is designed to provide learning activities for eligible special education students, ages three and four, with a balanced number of their regular education peers. Special education students are identified through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process. Regular education students are chosen by lottery from those whose parents have expressed an interest in having their child placed on the lottery list for the program. Regular education students must be three years old by September 1, 2010, and cannot be eligible for kindergarten; that is, cannot reach the age of five on or before January 1, 2011.

Tuition and transportation for regular education children will be the responsibility of the parent. If you are interested in more information or would like your child placed in the lottery pool, please call Salem School at 860-859-3988 by May 21, 2010.

## SALEM RECREATION COMMISSION

By Diane Weston

The summer months will be busy with help from the Salem Recreation Commission!

Programs are planned and there is always something new being added. Are your children interested in science, music or sports? Are you interested in any bus trips?

Music Lessons with Chris Hebert start on June 22 and run through August 5. The ½ hour lessons will be once a week for 6 weeks. Resident Fee: \$120.00 Non-resident Fee: \$125.00

The Mad Science "Young Wizards Science Academy" will be held July 12-16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Become a student of wizardry during this magical science week. Students will create the dreaded "potion of drought," live a day in the life of a wizard's best friend, create some instant "invisibility," and whip up some troll boogers with a magic wand! Resident Fee: \$109.00 Non-resident Fee: \$115.00



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## OUR TOWN - SALEM

Tennis anyone? Camp will run July 19 to July 23. Lessons for ages 5 to 9 will be 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and ages 10 to 16 will be 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Resident Fee: \$55.00 Non-resident Fee: \$60.00.

The US Sports Institute will hold camp on July 26 to July 30. Fifteen different sports from around the world will be tried out during the week. All activities will take place in an atmosphere which promotes good sportsmanship, teamwork, and most of all, FUN! Participants will receive a tee shirt and certificate.

~ Ages 5 to 7 will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Resident Fee: \$149.00 Non-resident Fee: \$155.00.

~ Ages 8 to 14 will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Resident Fee: \$169.00 Non-resident Fee: \$175.00.

~ Sports Squirts Camp, ages 3 to 5, will be from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Resident Fee: \$89.00 Non-resident Fee: \$95.00.

Have you ever been to Gloucester MA? Now is your chance! A bus trip is being planned for the day on July 31 that will include a sail on a schooner, lobster bake, and downtown shopping in Rockport. What a way to spend a summer day!

Watch for a New York City "Day on Your Own" bus trip in October.

# NYC!!!

Please go to [www.salemct.gov/Pages/SalemCT\\_Recreation/programs](http://www.salemct.gov/Pages/SalemCT_Recreation/programs) for more information and sign up for updates.



Program coordinator Diane Weston can be contacted at 860-859-3873 x215 or [Diane.Weston@salemct.gov](mailto:Diane.Weston@salemct.gov).



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*We are pleased to announce that R. Kim Bingham, of Salem, has joined our new, larger law firm as Counsel for immigration matters.*



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## Adopt a Road



**HELP KEEP  
SALEM  
CLEAN  
AND GREEN!**



Any Salem residents interested in helping to keep our roads trash-free please contact **Gale Balavender** at **859-2174** for information regarding bags and dropping off your collection at the transfer station.

**THANKS FOR HELPING TO KEEP SALEM  
BEAUTIFUL!!  
REMEMBER: EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!!!**

- ✓ Please secure your trash and recyclables when taking to the transfer station.
- ✓ Please take advantage of area Hazardous Materials Disposal days and Amnesty days.
- ✓ Please Do Not Litter.



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### Advertisement

## What's Selling In Salem?

**Liz Householder, Realtor**

### YES, you DO need a permit for that!

Too often, when I meet homeowners who want to put their house up for sale, I run into changes they've made that they needed a permit for, but didn't get. Before they sell their house, they will need to call the Building Department (859-3873 X240) and have the work they did checked out for any code violations, and have the changes noted on their records at Town Hall. Why? Aside from the issue of their own safety in the house, if there's work not done properly, it may be discovered during a home inspection, and then the buyers may decide not to buy the house. At best, you're going to have to fix it anyway, and if there's one thing done wrong in a house, in my experience, buyers tend to be suspicious of EVERYTHING.

It can also turn up when an appraiser for your buyer researches the records while checking the value for the bank giving the mortgage. If the town records don't match what you have, it can affect the value the bank puts on your house, and you may lose your buyers.

**Website:** <http://lizhouseholder.prudentialct.com>

**Cell:** 860-705-7373

So, what do you actually need a permit for? Don't be surprised if I tell you that it's not just to put an addition on your house. The town's Web site, [www.salemct.gov](http://www.salemct.gov), says that if you intend to "construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building," you need a permit. For instance, you need one for a new roof, a new above-ground pool, any changes made in a load-bearing wall such as the header over an exterior door, or making any changes to an electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing system.

If you hire a licensed contractor to do the work, they will most likely tell you that you need a permit, and it's up to you to submit the plans, and then schedule the inspection with the town. In the end, it's for your safety as much as that of any future buyer of your home to get the work done according to code, so go ahead and give Vern Vesey a call and get it done!

**E-mail:** [lizhouseholder@prudentialct.com](mailto:lizhouseholder@prudentialct.com)

**Blog:** <http://lizzhouse.activerain.com>



# SALEM RECYCLES

**S**tarting June 2nd, Salem will be going to Single Stream Recycling! This will allow many more items to be recycled. It will be easier to recycle too, since all recyclables can be put in the same bin to be sorted at the recycling facility. As a community we do a good job of recycling; please look at the list below to see how we can do even better.

## SINGLE STREAM RECYCLABLES

### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Newspapers and inserts
- Magazines/brochures
- Cardboard
- Paper bags
- Paperboard boxes (cereal, egg cartons)
- Junk mail
- Phone books/catalogs
- Hard and soft cover books
- White or color paper
- Envelopes (window ok)
- File folders
- School paper
- Shredded paper
- Multi three-ply paper
- Styrofoam or Styrofoam peanuts

- Aluminum cans
- Aluminum foil
- Aluminum pots and pans
- Juice and milk cartons
- Plastic milk jugs
- Plastic soda bottles
- Detergent bottles
- All plastics #1 to #7
- Small metal items
- Empty aerosol cans
- Plastic buckets and crates
- Glass containers
- Tin cans
- Trash or bagged material

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Food waste in any containers
- Hazardous or biohazardous waste

**Note:** Cardboard will still be put into the cardboard compactor.

