

**FREE**

# *Our* TOWNSALEM



**Volume 17 – Issue 4**

**December 2010**

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**Carley & the Sunflower Stalk ... page 13**



# SALEM RECYCLES

Salem has gone to Single Stream Recycling! This allows many more items to be recycled. It is 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

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

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Food waste in any containers  
Hazardous or biohazardous waste  
Styrofoam or Styrofoam peanuts  
Trash or bagged material

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



**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**

264 Hartford Rd. Phone/FAX (860) 859-1130  
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Fri. 10 AM to 6 PM, Sat. 10 AM to 4 PM

**Salem School District**

200 Hartford Road  
Phone: (860) 892-1223  
FAX: (860) 859-2130

[www.salemschools.org](http://www.salemschools.org)

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

**Salem Police Department**

270 Hartford Rd. (860) 859-3873 Ext. 200 or 210

**EMERGENCY 911**

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**Animal Control Officer**

*Van Miller* (860) 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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**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!

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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 March 1 for the April issue.**

On the cover: photo by Cheryl Philopena,

# 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,

I hope you are enjoying this holiday season with friends and family. As the year comes to an end it is nice to reflect on the many blessings we are grateful for: Most notably, our friends and neighbors who make up our wonderful community.

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

### **Community Pavilion**

You asked for it...we got it! We have been awarded a \$150,000 grant for the construction of a community pavilion! The pavilion will be constructed on the town-owned property on Route 82 (better known as the Gadbois property). Many residents have been asking for an outside, three-season pavilion to be used for a host of activities. The pavilion will be a welcome addition to our active community.

### **Solar Update**

Solar systems are now installed and operating on our Town Hall, library, salt shed, and the Gardner Lake Fire House. Due to this clean energy source, we will be saving over \$8000 per year. We now have more reasons to smile on sunny days!

Please log on to our town Web site at [www.salemct.gov](http://www.salemct.gov), then look at the News and Announcements, and you will find a Web address that will enable you to watch real time solar production on our town library! Better yet, while you are on the [www.salemct.gov](http://www.salemct.gov) Web site, click on the scrolling registration so you can receive important news and announcements throughout the year.

### **Building Committee**

The Building Committee has done a fine job of preparing a proposal to upgrade our schools. Their carefully crafted plan upgrades the school facility while also considering the educational needs of our students. Thank you Building Committee members for your time and effort on this important project for our town.

### **Sidewalk to Connect School and Library**

Initial work has begun on our sidewalk. We have plans drawn up for a safe passage between these two important municipal buildings. Drainage issues are addressed and a preliminary path will soon be in place to be used until our grant money is released next year.

### **Encouragement and Enforcement**

We have found that the proper blend of encouragement and enforcement has led to a more presentable Four Corners. We will continue our efforts to maintain and upgrade this highly visible part of our town.

The Rathbun Hill Road abandoned trailer is gone! Thanks to all who participated in getting rid of this unsightly safety concern.

I want to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time and talents to make our town of Salem a better place in which to live.

Enjoy the rest of the year. I hope to see you around town at one of our many activities. Have a safe and joyful holiday season.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.

Respectfully,

Kevin Lyden

## *From the Desk of the Town Clerk*

By Pat Crisanti



The following is a portion of an article in the New York Times, dated December 22, 1895, which describes what our wonderful town, Salem, was like 115 years ago...

*".....There is a quaint bit of country in Eastern Connecticut, rarely heard of in these days, though not more than a dozen miles back from New London, which is recalled by the recent marriage at Edgewood, in New-Haven, of the daughter of Donald G. Mitchell, whose sobriquet of IK Marvel is a pleasant memory to every reader of "Dream Life" and "Reveries of a Bachelor." This is the little township of Salem, which, apart from its charming scenery and countless lakes, lays claim to notice as the home of the musing Marvel, for the old farm and the "Sweet Valley of Elm Grove" are familiar to all who have followed the "Bachelor" in his "Reveries."*

*And Salem boasts another feature that once gave it a celebrity that was more than local. Though few are now aware, it would appear that in these sylvan groves the votaries of Euterpe first found a home in the New World. Certain it is that for*



Ike Marvel

thirty-five years, dating from 1839, there was situated here an academy of music, where, at times, as many as a hundred young women were boarded and drilled in the mysteries of harmony, thoroughbass, and the theory of music. They came from all parts of the country and from the teachers it turned out, Music Vale (for it was so styled) was as familiar a name in the South and West as it was in the County of New London.

A few male pupils there were, too. “Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching” was the stirring production of one in war times; and Dr. Lowell Mason and George F Root of Boston received their technical education in music there.

Inaccessible by rail, to reach Salem one must have a town rig or take a seat in the stage which daily makes the trip from New London with the mail.

It is a picturesque country. There are rugged hills where rocks protrude their nakedness above the scrub which has overgrown neglected pastures; woods where the chestnut, oak, and hickory are of venerable age, and rolling farmland dropping to meadows that are traversed by deep, running brooks. The roadside is filled with brush; maple saplings sprout from the very base of tumbledown walls, and the wild grape mingles its leaves with those of the barbery, sumach, and laurel.

Here the position of some shaggy old apple trees indicates a former orchard, and nearby, the ruins of a farmhouse illustrate the familiar story of New England’s deserted farms and explain a recent State census report which describes the town of Salem as having less population today than it had a hundred years ago. It is the same quaint farming town, no longer, even as then, on the route of the Hartford post, with its lumbering stage coach, which long since gave place to the more dilapidated, if less ancient, equipage which now makes the trip only between Salem and New London.

Salem farmhouses are few and far between; along what is called the street – a portion of the old post road—there are, however, nearly a score of houses within a mile, and there is a common on which are a church, a Town Hall, a school, a pound, and a hearse-house. There is also a store and Post Office, where the country folks are wont to gather at the hour when the stage arrives. Here, too, they congregate of an

evening and discuss the latest news in the county paper, cast a critical eye over Brother Piper’s mare, or render judgment on Farmer Jones’s new harness. But they leave early, to be up betimes and do the morning chores.

The old Mitchell farm lies back two miles from the post road. “A wild stream runs through it, large enough to make a river for an English landscape, winding between rich banks, where in Summertime the swallows build their nests and brood by myriads. Tall elms rise here and there along the margin, and with their uplifted arms and leafy spray, throw great patches of shade upon the meadows. Old lion oaks, too, where the meadow soil hardens into upland, fasten to the ground with their ridgy roots, and with their gray scraggy limbs, make delicious shelter for the panting workers or for the herds of August.”...

(to be continued in the next issue)



This building still stands just off Pratt Road.

## State Continues to Invest In Public Safety Preparedness

By Sen. Andrea L. Stillman, 20th District



With all due respect and an apology to Thomas Jefferson, who famously said, ‘the price of freedom is eternal vigilance,’ I consider the price of public safety and fire prevention to be well-trained and adequately prepared firefighters, so they can suitably protect life and property.

With that in mind, and close on the heels of Fire Prevention Week, I’m pleased to report how this year’s state budget, after considerable effort, retains adequate funding for a program to reimburse towns for volunteer firefighter training and certification.

The state’s Firefighter Training 1 Program reimburses towns for one-half the cost incurred when volunteers complete Firefighter 1 certification and Recruit Firefighter training. With so many eastern Connecticut towns wholly dependent upon volunteer fire departments, I consider this an important demonstration of state support for local efforts to recruit new volunteers and keep veterans current with new firefighting techniques.

The challenge in this instance, as it is so often, is to balance the need for state spending on vitally important programs, like fire safety, with the need to trim the budget. I like to think the negotiations on this relatively small budget item struck that delicate balance: we maintained a minimum level of funding for training and recruitment. In small towns like Salem volunteer firefighters risk dangerous conditions on a moment’s notice at any time of day or night to protect lives and property. I believe the state has an obligation to help towns prepare these volunteers for that considerable public service.

With budget austerity on everyone’s mind, the original proposal was to cut \$490,175 from the program for FY11 but the final version – approved 147 to 1 in the House and unanimously in the Senate – the cut was reduced to only \$210,000. So,

as it stands, the program has just under \$300,000 for the current fiscal year, a figure projected to cover all anticipated reimbursements.

And to complement this important reimbursement commitment, the state has also finalized plans to purchase property in Willimantic, the home of the Eastern Connecticut Fire School. Over the summer Governor Rell made \$500,000 available to secure the 22-acre site and facility the state has been leasing for some 50 years. The death of the landlord and an imminent change in ownership prompted the state’s decision to purchase the parcel.

This additional investment in public safety preparedness will pay for itself in terms of readiness for fire departments throughout the region, and again in terms of a recruitment tool for future firefighters. There is no other fire training facility east of the Connecticut River. To ask volunteers to add statewide travel to their firefighting efforts is both a time consuming and expensive imposition.

The vast majority of these volunteers are already prepared to risk life and limb as first responders to emergency fire calls and traffic accidents. Municipal governments have a legal – and moral – obligation to provide fire fighting services. It just seems to follow that the state must contribute to this effort and help provide a suitable training facility. Given the constantly evolving strategies and techniques in firefighting, it is essential, and consistent with a moral obligation, to properly train and prepare these firefighters.

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

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*Board of Education Budget Input*

*Submitted by Linda Robson*

Developing and managing the Board of Education budget is a year long process.

The proposed 2011-2012 budget is presented in several parts at BOE meetings in the Salem School Media Center. These meetings have time specifically designed for public comment on the budget and other matters relevant to the BOE.

The BOE requests input from the public in the formative stages of the budget.

The next meeting will be held on Jan. 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Salem School Media Center to present the entire BOE budget.

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Drop off Boxes are located conveniently at the school lobby and Salem Free Public Library. Please don't hesitate to contact us at [www.salemschoolpto@yahoo.com](mailto:www.salemschoolpto@yahoo.com) with questions about how to sign up for or participate in these programs.

*For more information on the Salem School PTO and to read our newsletter, visit [www.salemschools.org](http://www.salemschools.org) and click on PTO link.*



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# SALEM AND GARDNER LAKE FIRE COMPANIES

*Salem and Gardner Lake fire companies participated in their annual live burn training on Oct. 3 at the Lebanon Burn House. The Lyme Fire Company had a crew present at the Salem station during the training.*



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## INLAND WETLANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Why is Storm Water Bad?

By Sally Snyder

As development occurs, hard impervious surfaces such as roadways, rooftops, paved driveways and parking lots can increase the amount of pollutants that enter storm water runoff. Many contaminants accumulate on these surfaces until they are washed off, including suspended solids such as road sand, grit, oil, grease, leaking automotive fluids, exhaust residues, particles from vehicle wear from tires and brake linings, dirt, leaves, pet wastes, lawn fertilizers, pesticides, trash and litter, and air borne pollutants.

As rain and snowmelt rolls over the surface, it picks up these pollutants and contaminants which are transported to receiving waters by either the storm water collection system (i.e. drainage pipes and catch basins) or by flowing overland naturally to a wetland, stream or pond at the low point in the landscape. The "first flush," or the first significant amount of precipitation sufficient to generate storm water runoff, has the highest concentration of pollutants because the longer it rains, the more dilute the runoff will become. If the storm water is collected in a conventional, structural conveyance system and discharged directly to a receiving waterbody, the pollutants are delivered with little or no diminution which can cause environmental pollution and may adversely affect water quality and impact fish and wildlife and their habitats. Additionally, the increased volume and velocity, or rate of discharge, of the storm water runoff may exceed the physical capacity of the receiving water to handle such flows, causing flooding, sedi-

mentation, scour and erosion which can physically alter and degrade the aquatic habitat.

However, there is less pollution to enter the receiving water if there is an opportunity for the storm water runoff to be filtered by flowing through vegetation, or to be slowed down as in a pool or swale to allow for settling of suspended sediments or particulates, or, better yet, if it is allowed to infiltrate and percolate through the ground.

Low Impact Development (LID) is a site design strategy for land use planning with a goal of maintaining or replicating the site's hydrology or water regime to pre-development conditions through the use of techniques to minimize storm water runoff and alteration of the natural ground in place. Storm water is dealt with by infiltration to the ground where it is stored and available as ground water recharge, as well as minimizing the amount and frequency of discharges to receiving waters off site through the use of integrated storm water management practices. Examples are: using drainage basins and/or swales to collect and infiltrate storm water runoff; and/or using over land sheet flow to spread out the path and disperse the discharge of storm water runoff. LID techniques may be more cost effective and lower in maintenance than conventional, structural storm water management controls, but not all sites are suitable for LID. Consideration must be given to soil permeability, depth of soil to the water table, and surface slope, in addition to other factors. The use of LID may not completely replace the need for conventional storm water controls, but incorporating such practices where practical and feasible will do much to preserve and protect our water quality and the environment.

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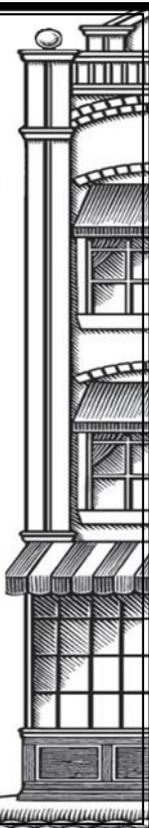
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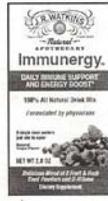
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*Local Voices are the . . .*

# TALK OF THE TOWN

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

## SALEM'S SEALIONESS



Of all the interesting jobs out there, perhaps Deborah Pazzaglia's tops the list. Busy mother of two school-age children and a new baby, Deb is a Marine Mammal Trainer with California Sea Lions at the Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration. Five times a day Deb, second in command of a team of five trainers, officiates at each of the daily shows. Her cast consists of experienced sea lions, Coco, age 24, and Surfer, age 19. Juniors are Jetty, age 2, and Boomerang, age 4.

For the shows, Deb takes the sea lions through a complex series of "behaviors" which include flips, rolls, high jumps, spins, running on four flippers, fish-holds, recognizing shapes and retrieving objects. Before and after the shows, Deb checks over the animals to ensure they are healthy; she trains the animals and she trains apprentice trainers. She prepares the sea lions' food (herring, capelin and squid)—very important in carrying out their behaviors! She also brushes and cleans the pool and stage and, in between shows, she feeds and trains the juvenile sea lions that are housed separately from the show animals.

Unbelievable as it may seem, Deb—whose e-mail address is Sealioness—began developing a passion for her job right here in Salem where, living next door to a farm, she grew into a love for all things natural. Her mother, a teacher at Salem School, introduced Deb to a school guest who told her about an undergraduate program in zoology at SUNY in Oswego, New York. As Deb said, "Ever since I was in the eighth grade I knew what I wanted to do." Part of the SUNY program was earning course credit by spending two years at the Santa Fe Teaching Zoo where she also obtained a Wildlife Technology Degree. After working with primates in the Tulsa Zoo in Oklahoma

and Disney's Animal Kingdom, Deborah returned home to Salem to marry James, her high school sweetheart at St. Bernard's High School, and to start a family. She quickly got the position as Marine Mammal Trainer at the Mystic Aquarium.

Deb carries out her job so well, she makes it look easy. Every show consists of supervising four sea lions on stage, bonding with them, leading them through their behaviors, and all the time talking on the microphone to an audience of as many as 1200 in the middle of summer to as intimate as a single family in the winter.

We asked Deb how she gets the sea lions to perform their behaviors. She uses a method known as "Operant Conditioning" and positive reinforcement. The trainer communicates with the animal by using a "bridge" which links the moment the animal does something correct with its reinforcement (fish). These bridges are tactile—the trainer taps the animal's body; auditory—the trainer uses the word "good" and on rare occasions, a whistle; and visual—hand signals. Basically, the sea lions are rewarded when they accomplish their behaviors by being thrown fish. Deb says the animals have a choice and that they are never punished if they fail to perform. Rather, the trainer waits and introduces the behavior again or selects a simpler, easier-to-accomplish task.

Just like our cats and dogs, sea lions have definite personalities; some are friendly and others are more aloof. She has preferred some sea lions over others. Tabor, who died in 2007, was Deb's favorite. Each sea lion has his own "seat" on the stage where he sits to get his fish. "Every time I'd come out on the stage, all the sea lions anxiously got to their seats to be fed, but Tabor would always greet me first before going to his seat. We'd walk to his seat together and he'd close his eyes and rub his head on me to get some lovin' before the start of the show," Deb said.

Sea lions and seals share some similarities but are quite different. The flippers of sea lions are long; seals have short flippers. Sea lions use front flippers to pull through water; seals use back flippers to push. On land sea lions can run on all four flippers because they have a rotating hip bone; seals just flop on their bellies. Deb says, "Sea lions are great ambassadors for their wild counterparts. Hopefully people will love visiting the Aquarium and then make a bond with the animals, then be inspired to protect the ocean and the whole environment."

Deb gets a few "perks" with her job like last summer when she was at Sea World in San Diego training three sea lion pups that had been stranded and rescued. The Mystic Aquarium offered them a permanent home so, after their training, she and the pups—Jetty, Cali and Sakari—traveled to Connecticut on a Fed Ex plane.

Deb's thinks she has, in her words, "the best life ever. I can give my kids the same upbringing that I got, all the wonderful experiences that our small town has to offer." In addition, "I get to have this amazing job. Who can wake up every morning and say they love their job and actually get paid to work with amazing animals, educate the public on sea lions and animal conservation?"

The next time you're at the Mystic Aquarium, be sure you see Salem's Sealioness, Deborah Pazzaglia, and meet her charming cast of characters—Coco, Surfer, Boomerang and Jetty.

## TEN SALEM RESIDENTS ARE CHOSEN AS UNSUNG HEROES FOR VOLUNTEERISM

*By the Salem Unsung Heroes Awards Committee*

The Salem Unsung Heroes Awards Committee recently announced the selection of ten residents to be honored as Unsung Heroes for their many years of volunteerism. This honor is bestowed on residents who have quietly given extraordinary amounts of time and talent to community service over many years.

Signs at each entrance to the town of Salem proclaim the town is "Proud of its Volunteers." The Unsung Heroes program was established in 1989 to showcase this pride and to encourage future volunteerism, so vitally important to Salem.

Each of these community volunteers will be honored at Salem's eighth Unsung Heroes Awards dinner to be held at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company firehouse on Rt. 354 at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, January 30, 2011. The theme of this event is "Volunteers Can Change the World." Tickets, \$20 per person, can be purchased from George Householder (tel. 860-859-3582) or from any member of the Unsung Heroes Awards Committee.

The following 2010 Unsung Heroes will be added to the roll of extraordinary volunteers who have made the Town of Salem such a great place to live.

**~ Robert Appleby ~**

Robert Appleby is in his second 5-year term on the Salem Recreation Commission. He is a charter member and current president of the Salem Soccer Club. He organized summer soccer camps at various locations in Salem for years, recruiting over 100 volunteers and leading the creation of the Forsyth Road Sports Complex with its two new soccer fields. He has coached soccer at various levels for 10 years. He also served on the Committee on the Municipal Land Use Plan that will shape the town for years to come.

**~ Arthur Christian ~**

Arthur Christian served as a Salem Little League coach for two years and as team manager for five years. For years, he did everything for Salem youth baseball and softball teams

from building or renovating ball field facilities, to ordering and maintaining uniforms, equipment and supplies, and providing transportation for players to away games. He also organized, managed and supervised teen basketball on weekends for several winter seasons.

**~ Salvatore Crisanti ~**

Salvatore Crisanti, who retired from the Navy after 25 years of service, served for two years as commander of the Salem post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 20 years of service with the Salem Volunteer Fire Company, he has served as Fire Police Captain, Medical Response Technician and Board member. He served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for over 12 years and on the Board of Assessment Appeals and the Board of Directors of the Salem Unsung Heroes Awards Committee for four years each.

**~ Carole A. Eckart ~**

Carole Eckart has been volunteering in Salem for over 30 years. She has been vice president of the Friends of the Salem Library for nearly 20 years. She served as a Girl Scout leader for seven years. She serves on the School Curriculum Committee and facilitated Salem School public meetings and the Town Vision Committee. Carole was a member of the 1990 Master Plan Committee, the 2005 Town Charter Committee, and is currently a member of the Board of Finance.

**~ Alfonso Giansanti ~**

Alfonso Giansanti is entering his tenth year as commissioner of the Salem Youth Baseball League. He has been a member of that League for 14 years. He helped plan and build the new dugouts at the Round Hill Road recreational fields, and organizes the spectacular SYBL opening day event each year. He has also served as a member of the Salem Recreation Commission for nearly a decade.

**~ James Krodel ~**

James Krodel was a Cub and Boy Scout leader for six years. He has coached T-ball, softball and baseball since 1983, and started the National Youth Sports Coaching Association (NYSCA) Chapter in Salem. He helped establish the youth basketball program and revitalized it with structured sessions for all age groups. He was instrumental in creating the High School Cooperative Agreement with East Lyme and served as chair of the 1987 Salem School Building Committee. He has been a member of Salem Lions Club for 14 years.

**~ Gloria Fogarty ~**

Gloria Fogarty served six years on the Board of Education and was chair for two years. She has served on the Planning & Zoning Commission eight years, presently as vice-chair. Gloria represented Salem on the Eight Mile River Wild & Scenic Committee for five years. She is an active volunteer on the Multi-purpose Path Committee and with Friends of the Salem Library. She is one of the "Cooler Ladies," providing meals for families in distress, and has sent care packages to service members in Iraq and Afghanistan.

~ James Fogarty ~

James Fogarty has been an active Salem volunteer for over 30 years. He served 10 years on the Board of Finance, two of those years as chair. He served three years on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Including two terms as First Selectman, he has been a Selectman for 12 years. Jim has been involved with almost every major project in Salem for decades. He also serves on the Municipal Land Use Committee and the Plan of Conservation and Development Committee. Jim has been an active member, and a former president, of the Salem Lions Club since 1982.

~ Susan Spang ~

Susan Spang has donated her talent as a master gardener for over 10 years. She beautified recreation fields, the cemetery, Town Hall and other community areas by designing and planting gardens and window boxes. She has served on the Recreation Commission for eight years and has been chair for five years. She envisioned the Salem Multi-purpose Path, is the chair of the Path Committee, and has secured state and federal grants to help fund the project. She devotes her time to a Secret Santa program, distributes donations to needy families, and is Salem's Municipal Agent for the elderly.

~ Helen K. Woronik ~

Helen Woronik lives in the Salem home in which she was born. She is a 1956 Charter member of the Gardner Lake Volunteer Ladies Auxiliary. A 40-year cancer survivor, she dedicated those years to helping other women and received the American Cancer Society Lifetime achievement award. A 30-year member of the Salem Green Cemetery Association, she served as Director, Secretary and Historian. She is a life member of the Salem Historical Society, active in Salem Seniors, and volunteers with Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut.

**AUTUMN ON THE**  
*EIGHTMILE RIVER*  
By Diba Khan-Bureau

October was a busy month for the activities on the Eight-mile River. On October 16th the Eightmile River Watershed committee had their annual Eightmile River celebration. I was there with my students and my children. We had a table set up with posters of Three Rivers Community College students performing the rapid bioassessment (RBV). The three towns—East Haddam, Lyme and Salem—that the Eightmile flows through were well represented with many community folks and neighbors in attendance. A great time was had by all with apple cider, cookies, corn chowder and other goodies; thanks to the many volunteers.

On October 23rd my TRCC students and I did the actual RBV for the 3 towns. It became very apparent that this summer and part of the early fall was fairly dry – not much precipitation. In a couple sampling locations there were very low amounts of water flowing which created difficult conditions in which to perform the RBV, so we had to move downstream. This was the first time in 10 years of going out to do the RBV that we had such a low flow. November helped to reduce the stress of low flow with good rainfall.

It is an honor to live in the watershed of the Eightmile. As one of the towns in the watershed we should be proud of our decision to work with Lyme and East Haddam to protect and conserve this jewel. All watersheds should be treated this way – sustainably. Good stewardship by the three town communities has taken care of a very important natural resource. Kudos to all of us!

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Student Larry Turley with Diba Khan-Bureau's children, Michaela and John.

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# *Carley and the Sunflower Stalk*

By Sue Weber

Take a look at the year in review as seen through the eyes of Carley and her sunflower stalk.



**May 30, 2010:** Carley Weber and her dad are tending the seeds and baby plants. This is the first year Carley has had a plot at the Salem Community Garden, after a couple of years of “influencing” (nagging) mom and dad to get one for her!



**July 25, 2010:** Carley’s garden is growing like crazy, and her Russian Mammoth sunflower plant is already way taller than she is!



**August 13, 2010:** Carley returned from a two-week vacation to find that her sunflower turned into a sunflower-tower!

It measured a mind-blowing 11 feet tall. Since the community garden is organic, the only fertilizer used was some good old-fashioned cow manure that dad put in the garden before planting began!



**August 14, 2010:** The stem of the “sunflower tower” is so thick Carley can’t wrap her hand all the way around it!



**August 14, 2010:** Carley's sunflower seems like it has a face –the eyes are two bees, and the fringed petals give her lots of attitude!



**September 27, 2010:** The sunflower's head, which is about 18 inches wide, hangs very heavy these days. Carley is waiting for it to dry more so that she can harvest the seeds. This sure was a special summer for Carley and her family!

*Salem living is great!*

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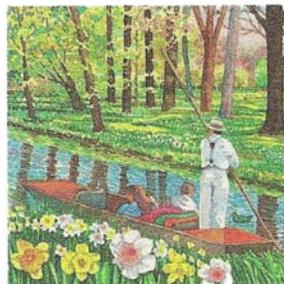
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Things to Do . . .  
**AROUND TOWN**  
Find out what's happening in Salem this winter

## 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 or 860-859-1925 or email us at salemcongregat@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 K-12 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

**Wednesdays:** Adult Bible Study - 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month – 7:00 p.m., Parsonage

**Thursdays:** Women's Bible Study – Beginning Nov. 4 – 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Saturdays:** Men's Discipleship – 7:30 a.m. in the Christian Education building

### Upcoming 2010 Public Events and Special Services

#### *The Congregational Church of Salem's 41st Annual Apple Festival*

Our thanks to the many volunteers who made this year's Apple Festival a success. Thanks also to the many loyal attendees who came to purchase and enjoy the wonderful assortment of apple treats and crafts. We count it a real blessing to host the festival, the profits from which help both our church and the missionaries we support. We also cherish the opportunity the festival affords in bringing the community together. It is always a great place to renew old acquaintances and connect with friends. Thanks also to those donating coats for the MOMS Club and Girl Scouts coat rack at the Salem Free Library and for Care and Share in Niantic.

#### **December 19: Live Nativity**

Come to Maegog Farm at the corner of Routes 82 and 354 in Salem at 5:00 p.m. to join with hundreds of others in a live Nativity celebration. We'll sing carols, enjoy readings from scripture and celebrate the wonder of the birth of Jesus. There is no fee.

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles – 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting House

A basket will be set out for gathering a voluntary Christmas offering to replenish the Church's benevolence fund.



### **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER Progress**

Landscaping around the front of the building will be tackled during the fall.

In August, Daniel Myers of Salem fulfilled his Eagle Scout project by installing a paver walkway on the church portion of the Salem Green. This walkway runs between the two monument stones near the flagpole, connecting the Salem Green driveway to the newly painted crosswalk on Route 85. We wish to publicly thank Dan and the several other Scouts and

friends who volunteered more than 350 hours to complete the project.

As of early October, the installation of a granite post and rail fence on church property was nearly complete. This fence borders the Salem Green driveway and helps direct pedestrians to the cross walk where they are to cross Route 85 safely in order to get to the Christian Community Center. We wish to thank those from the community and Church who volunteered their time, talents, equipment and materials to complete the installation.

Stay tuned for more progress reports! As always, we're excited to think how this building will be used for many different community related events and programs. It will also be available to rent for private functions, including receptions, showers, birthday parties and other family events requiring a large, comfortable space. We look forward to notifying all when the Certificate of Occupancy has been issued.

### LIONS TALE

By Lion George Ziegler

Here we are – at the beginning of a new season. Salem Lions are already hard at work on many winter and spring activities.

At our first meeting this fall, we held our annual picnic, thanks to Lion Joe Duncan, under his big white tent. Following a great cookout, Lion Bill Martin (and his Lion guests) presented an outstanding slide show of their travels to Australia and New Zealand in early July after they had attended the Lions International Convention in Australia.

September 23 brought us to our first business meeting of the fall during which Kevin Lyden became Salem's newest Lion. Congratulations Lion Kevin. Our guest, District Chairperson Lion Lori Dickinson, performed Kevin's induction ceremony.

Work parties are planned and busy preparing firewood for our Firewood For Seniors and bundled Campfire wood projects. We will also have a limited amount of bulk firewood for sale. Contact Lions Bill Martin (859-1881) or Jim Fogarty (859-



0108) for information about firewood purchase or Firewood For Seniors. Campfire wood by the bundle is available for purchase at Maple Shade.

Super Bowl weekend brings bouquets of cut roses. Salem Lions will again sell and deliver cut roses just before Super Bowl weekend. This is a great way to brighten up the day for you and/or spouse. Contact any Salem Lion to place an order and arrange delivery. All proceeds go to our charitable projects.

### Looking Ahead to Spring – Mark Your Calendars

This year the Salem Lions are sponsoring the Salem Road Race on April 9, 2011. There will be races for all age groups. We need lots of help now with advanced planning and support on the day of the race. All volunteers are welcome. Lion Bob Ross (859-9104) is chairing this event and would love to hear from you. Give him a call if you can help us. We want to make this the best ever Salem Road Race.

The Easter Bunny has surfaced, and will be in Salem on April 16, 2011 to lead our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kids! Put on your thinking caps; we need lots of decorated eggs and posters. Prizes are given. More information will be available in early Spring.

### SALEM COMMUNITY GARDEN

By Anne Rowthorn



The second summer of the Salem Community Garden has been even more successful than the first. The garden was expanded from ten to sixteen plots and just about every kind of summer vegetable and fruit was grown along with a few unusual crops. John and Betsy Butts get the prize for the most intriguing plot. They cultivated the first cotton plants to grow successfully this far North along with gorgeous gourds of all shapes and sizes. Also grown in various plots were cucumbers, basil, tomatoes, beans, eggplant, corn, marigolds, sunflowers, mint, dill, squash, lettuce, radishes, collard greens, Swiss chard, garlic, beets, leeks, carrots and more. The two community beds produced plentiful supplies of strawberries and raspberries. This fall some of the plot holders are planting cool weather crops such as leafy greens, sprouts, carrots, leeks and broccoli.

The Salem Community Garden continues to be generously supported by many groups and individuals in the town. Donations of top soil and compost, lawn mower repair and financial contributions have all been invaluable. Of special note are both Salem fire companies that kept the water tank filled, the MOMS Club of Salem that sponsored a tag sale in support of the garden and the Board of the Salem Free Public Library which provided the space for the garden behind the old library. This year a shed was added; for next season a new fence is on the wish list. We are especially proud of the thirty children



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and young people who have worked in the garden doing everything from preparing plots, to planting, watering, picking and maintaining the blog.

Of our children in the garden, the youngest gardeners are Zane Flickinger (1), Jamie Leininger (2), Maya D'Aquila (3) and Samantha Chella (3); the oldest is Emily Casciano, a 21 year old UConn student. Phoebe Yeoh (17) designed and has maintained the excellent blog. Carley Weber (10) has her own plot towered over by a colossal 20-foot sunflower. See the story of Carley and the Sunflower Stalk on page 13 and 14.

Grand children have been there too--Katie Teixeira (5), Thalia and Mikayla Senkewitz (4 and 6), Beckett Zinn-Rowthorn (9) and Nathaniel Rowthorn-Apel (11)--have been gardening

with their grandparents Sandy Teixeira, Ralph Boles and Anne Rowthorn. For a complete list of all the young helpers in the garden, please see the blog: salemgarden.wordpress.com. The blog also contains gardening tips, recipes and news from the garden.

The Salem Community Garden helps children to know the wonder of a single seed that blossoms into a vine of succulent tomatoes; it helps them know where some of their food comes from. It has provided all participants with a harvest of healthy organic food, friendship, exercise and fun. There is a waiting list for those who would like a plot if vacancies occur. If interested, please contact Sandy Teixeira at steix@sbcglobal.net or 860-889-3472.



## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

*By Jackie Hemond, Salem Free Public Library*

### ***In this Season of thanks, I give thanks to...***

Well-attended Programs throughout the year, including concerts by the Sounding Brass, the Eight Mile River Band and Janus; children's programs such as Building Fairy Houses, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Build a Birdhouse, and the concert by Les Julian; and adult programs such as our cooking classes, craft classes, art classes, Book Discussions, Thursday Coffee, and Poetry and Art Reception.

Donations of money, items and time to the Library or the Friends Book Sale, including...

*The Sanders Collection - a wonderful collection of books and films, donated by a loving daughter in memory of her parents*

*New poetry books to honor a husband*

*Salem Library Knitting Club for selling their knitted goods to benefit the library*

*Donations for the Thursday Coffee and Cookies*

*All other donations too numerous to mention*

*2,073+ Hours donated by volunteers May 2009-May 2010*

*Friends Book Sale in October & The Friends of the Salem Library for their help and support*

*Library Murals by Jennifer Wheeler*

*Solar Panels*

*Friendly & Knowledgeable Library Staff*

*The Beautiful Salem Library*

*Kevin Lyden for his help in keeping the library beautiful*

*And good books to read!*

### **Here's a short list of recent notable books which you might consider for gifts:**

[Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship by Gail Caldwell](#)

As Reviewed by Julie Myerson in The New York Times: "This may be a book about death and loss, but Caldwell's greatest achievement is to rise above all that to describe both the very best that women can be together and the precious things they can, if they wish, give back to one another: power, humor, love and self-respect."

[Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void by Mary Roach](#)

From the New York Times review by M.G. Lord: "The book is an often hilarious, sometimes queasy-making catalog of the strange stuff devised to permit people to survive in an environment for which their bodies are stupendously unsuited."

[Hunger Games Trilogy: The Hunger Games, Catching Fire and Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins](#)

Praise for the Hunger Games series: "Collins has joined J.K. Rowling and Stephanie Meyer as a writer of children's books that adults are eager to read." - Bloomberg.com; "Perfect pacing and electrifying world building." - Booklist, starred review

[The Help by Kathryn Stockett](#)

A new classic has been born. It's a story of black maids working for white women in the state of Mississippi during the 60s at the beginning of the civil rights unrest. It gives an insiders' view through laughter and tears of child-rearing, Junior League benefits, town gossip, and the unequal race relations which pervaded the South.

[The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot](#)

Henrietta Lacks was a mother of five in Baltimore, a poor African American migrant from the tobacco farms of Virginia, who died from a cruelly aggressive cancer at the age of 30

in 1951. A sample of her cancerous tissue, taken without her knowledge or consent, as was the custom then, turned out to provide one of the holy grails of mid-century biology: human cells that could survive--even thrive--in the lab. Known as HeLa cells, their stunning potency gave scientists a building block for countless breakthroughs, beginning with the cure for polio. Meanwhile, Henrietta's family continued to live in poverty and frequently poor health, and their discovery decades later of her unknowing contribution--and her cells' strange survival--left them full of pride, anger, and suspicion. Skloot tells a rich and haunting story that asks the questions Who owns our bodies? And who carries our memories?

### Sh\*t My Dad Says by Justin Halpern

Politically correct it is not, but wickedly funny it is. With foul language throughout, it is a touching recount of a son's love for his father.

### Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

A 50-year epic that begins with the birth of conjoined twins to an Indian nun in 1950s Ethiopia. Magnificently written, this brilliant novel revolves around family ties, trust and the process of rebuilding them.

### The Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Telling us why some succeed, but others don't.

### To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Recently celebrating its 50th anniversary, it is one of the best-loved classics of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has earned many distinctions since its original publication in 1960. It won the Pulitzer Prize, was translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, and was made into an enormously popular movie.

### The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Here is another book written for young adults, but also a magnificent book for the adult reader. Narrated by Death, this story follows Liesel as she steals books in Nazi Germany while she and her best friend Rudy discover the power of words, language and friendship. Zusak's writing is mesmerizing; it's sarcastic, emotional, sophisticated and wondrous. If you only read one book this year, read this one.



*Salem's Katie Teixeira, 5, created a fairy house during a children's program at the Salem Free Public Library this fall.*

## *Salem Green Cemetery Association*

*By Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton*

It has come to our attention that some people are under the mistaken impression that the Salem Green Cemetery is owned and operated by the Congregational Church of Salem. This is not the case. The Salem Green Cemetery Association is the non-stock corporation charged with governing and maintaining a cemetery and providing a place of sepulchre in Salem.

Also, there has been some confusion as to who may purchase plots in the cemetery. Article IV of the SGCA bylaws states that to be eligible for plot ownership in the Salem Green Cemetery "a person must be a resident of Salem, former resident or property owner, their families and/or heirs. The Board of Directors may make exceptions to this rule in special circumstances."

Our bylaws specify that the Association is to operate with 11 members. At present, we have less than specified. As such, the Salem Green Cemetery Association is open to receiving new members. The responsibilities are primarily advisory concerning matters of finance, maintenance and regulations. Meetings lasting roughly 2 hours occur every other month at the Salem Town Offices. New members are welcome to join the Association at any time. If interested in membership or assisting with our gardens, please contact David Wordell, SGCA President at 860-859-5336.

The association recently published a revision to their Rules and Regulations. Among the revisions were newer guidelines concerning the decoration of individual plots. If you own one or more plots but did not receive a copy of the new regulations, contact Rev. Tim Dubeau at 860-859-1925 and he'll arrange to get you a copy. That portion of the regulations concerning plot decorations is also posted on the SGCA bulletin board - located at the cemetery entrance. If a plot owner, please comply with the new regulations.

We're preparing a comprehensive list of those interred/interred in the cemetery who served in our armed forces. The cemetery map will be notated to indicate the location of each such grave.

Since the last issue of *Our Town*, there have been three inurnments/interments.

Linda Zitka - IC49 - July 11, 2010

Edward John Turchan - IF49 - July 27, 2010

Ruth Isabelle Fuller - IB11 - August 27, 2010

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

# What's Selling In Salem?

**Liz Householder, Realtor**

*Average sale price of a home in Salem this year: \$279,837*

*Most active price range of single-family homes in Salem: \$200,000 - \$300,000*

In the middle of so much confusion and conflicting information about the state of real estate in Connecticut and the rest of the country, it's worth taking a look at some local trends and numbers in our town of Salem since the first of the year.

Better yet, let's see how we stack up compared to last year.

Two things jump out at me when I start comparing last year to this year. One is that the average listing price of homes sold last year is actually lower than the average listing price of homes sold in Salem since January of this year. It doesn't mean that homes have gained in value, though; it just means that a little more expensive home has been offered for sale this year than last, on average. We have about 47 homes for sale right now in Salem, and last year at the same time we had about 38 homes. Last year, over the same time period, we sold 27 properties at an average price that was about 90 percent of the listed price. This year, however, the sales are running about 95 percent of the asking price, and the average sale price is higher by about \$30,000.

So, what does this mean, really? Are prices actually going up in Salem? Are we experiencing a healthier market this year than last?

Not exactly. While the average sale price was higher, so was the average asking price (as well as the average size of the house being offered). And it took nearly twice as long to

sell most of these homes as it took last year to sell the lower-priced home. On the whole, what I think we're really seeing is sellers who are getting more realistic about their sale price, coupled with the temporary help that the first-time homebuyers' tax credit gave us. Now that the tax credit is gone, sellers especially in the under-\$300K list price range may have a longer wait to sell, or may have to be very negotiable about their bottom line.

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- ✓ Please Do Not Litter.



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