

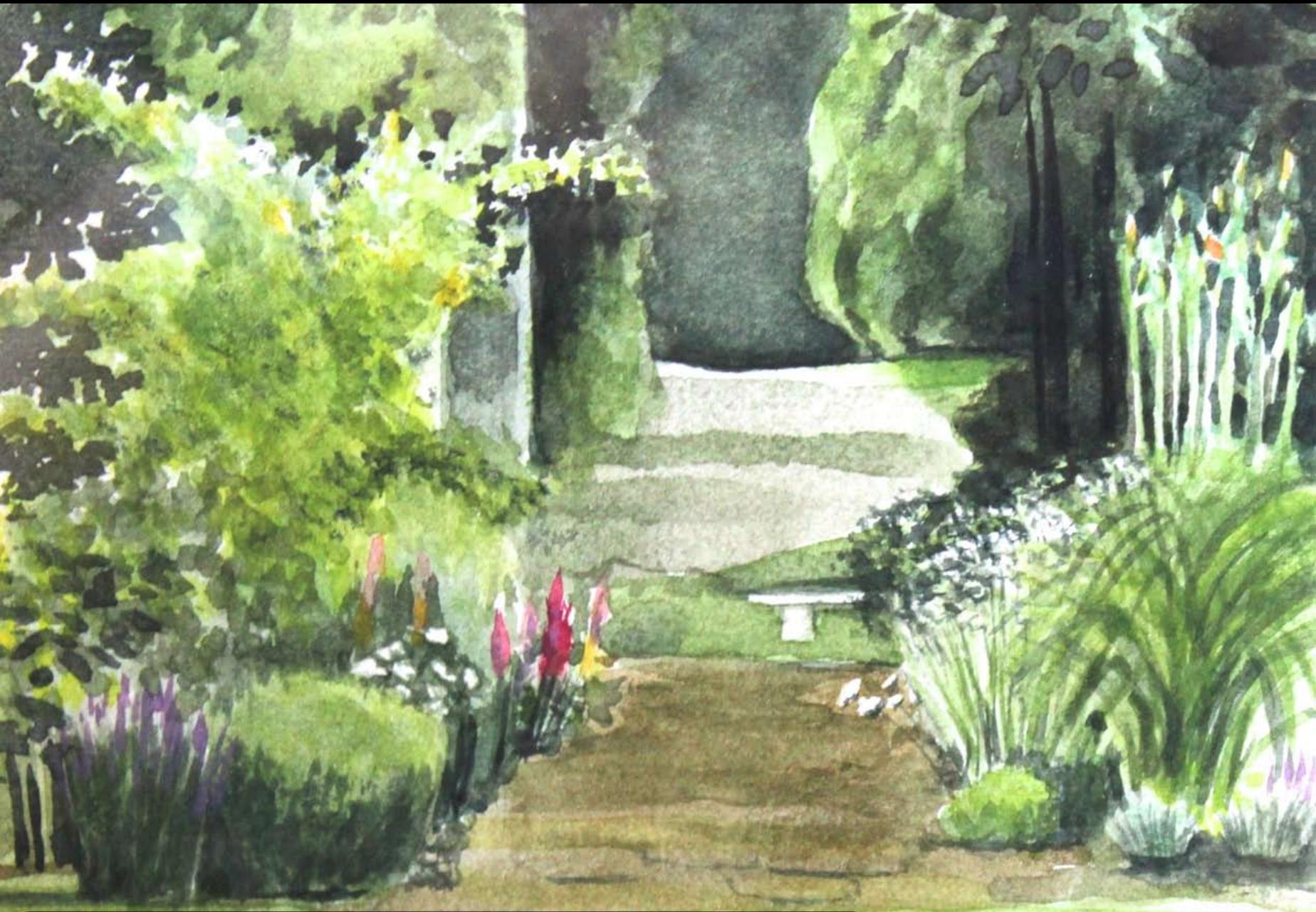
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# OUR TOWN SALEM

Connecticut

SPRING 2015



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*Bosha Smith*

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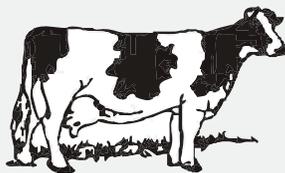
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# OUR TOWN SALEM

Connecticut

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

### Dear Fellow Townspeople,

After a long cold winter it is nice to welcome our season of Spring and the many activities that occur in our warmer season. Let's look at what has been happening in Town:

#### *Grand List Growth*

We are officially growing out of the Great Recession that has gripped our town and our region over the past several years. Our Grand List is moving in the right direction, with an increase of nearly 5 million dollars, representing a one year increase in our Grand List of 1.25%. We had 12 housing starts in 2014. It has been many years since we have had that many housing starts.

Our health department shows our population increased from 4188 in 2013 to 4201 in 2014. New residents tell me they looked at several towns and chose Salem for its rural character, friendly residents and proximity to many larger cities and attractions. Someone recently told me that besides New England being a very desirable place to live, she felt Salem has the charm of a quintessential small town that is very hard to find nowadays.

#### *Change is Constant/Change is Inevitable*

Change can be uncomfortable and worrisome. We get used to how things are and many times resist change for the simple fear of the unknown. Imagine the concerns our residents had some 80 years ago as they contemplated leaving the several one room schoolhouses in Salem to combine and move to a new 6 room building called "Salem School".

#### *Past and Current Changes in our Town*

Look at some of the changes we have implement over the past few years: Single Stream Recycling at our Transfer Station. We now have a more efficient, cleaner Transfer Station with a net savings for our residents of over \$14,000 annually.

Planning services are now provided by the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SECCOG). We now have a well-qualified senior planner provided by SECCOG for our town's planning needs. The net savings is \$40,000 annually. Our 911 dispatch of seven current towns will be joining with Montville at their new dispatch center. By sharing the new regional dispatch center we enhance our economy of scale, avoid \$500,000 in capital upgrades, as well as create a safe and sustainable regional dispatch center for years to come.

#### *Public Safety Service Committee*

The Board of Selectman has appointed a Public Safety Service Committee to review the Public Safety Organizational Analysis prepared by Municipal Resources Inc., October 2014. The committee is made up of a member from each fire department, a board of finance member, two longtime residents, and chaired by Selectman Lew Buckley. The recommendations in the study will enhance the safety of our volunteers and paid staff, as well as provide a more comprehensive approach to Public Safety to benefit our entire Salem community.

#### *Salem School District Efficiency Study*

With education spending compromising some 74% of our town's budget, this is an area that has to be looked at to ensure our town's funds are being used most efficiently to provide a quality education for the children of Salem. Blum Shapiro, is the consulting firm chosen for the study. Their focus is savings and efficiencies for our school district which will maintain and enhance the quality of education we provide our students.

It is anticipated the study will be completed in April 2015, at which time we will share the findings of the study with our fellow townspeople.

#### *Get Involved*

If you have thought of helping your town, please come forward. We need good people to serve on Boards and Commissions as well as Emergency Responders, Friends of Salem Library, PTO, Lions, Historical Society and many more organizations that serve our town. Salem runs on volunteers. Many volunteers comment to me that the rewards they receive from sharing their time and talents are priceless. I want to thank all our dedicated volunteers who give so much to make our town of Salem a better place to live.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.

*Respectfully,*



**Kevin Lyden**  
First Selectman



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Thurs.: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
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## UNCAS HEALTH DISTRICT

The Uncas Health District would like to remind the residents of Salem that private well testing is an important part of ensuring the water you drink is safe and free of harmful chemicals.

Private wells are easy to test and typically easy to treat when a problem is identified. You can find information on the what, when, and why of testing at: [http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental\\_health/eoha/pdf/24\\_residential\\_drinking\\_water\\_well\\_testing.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/eoha/pdf/24_residential_drinking_water_well_testing.pdf)

Developing a regular testing schedule will allow homeowners to detect changes over time and resolve issues on the homeowner's schedule.

If you have additional questions about your well water or how to get it tested, please contact the Uncas Health District at (860) 823-1189 or [www.uncashd.org](http://www.uncashd.org)

## SALEM SENIORS

The opening meeting for 2015 will be held at the Salem Volunteer Fire House on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Since my last report we have had some diverse meetings. Our October pizza party was a great success with a record number attending.

We wish to thank the Salem school for hosting our November meeting on Veteran's Day. The retired and active members of the Armed Forces who joined us for lunch made for a great get together. The Salem Fire House volunteers and members prepared a delicious ham and turkey dinner for our Christmas party at the firehouse. We enjoyed the dinner and we also want to thank them for all they do for use at all our meetings.

We have a speaker at each meeting and have already recruited some for the new year. Our First Selectman, Kevin Lyden takes our meetings as an opportunity to tell us what is going on in town. It is a great chance to catch up on activities and town business as the majority of seniors do not get to nightly meetings. His presence is greatly appreciated.

The Salem Seniors are open to everyone over 50 and meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Salem Volunteer Fire House on Hartford Road at 10:30 AM unless otherwise designated. Lunch is served following the meeting.

Every Tuesday afternoon an informal group meets at the Salem Library from 12:00-4:00 to play cards or Wii bowl. Thanks to the Salem Recreation Commission we have had four years of fun being together, learning new games and engaging in friendly competition every week. Refreshments are also served.

Irene Jarvis

## FROM THE SALEM LAND TRUST

The Salem Land Trust is very pleased to announce that thanks to generous donations totaling over \$9,000 from members and supporters in and around Salem, a grant of \$25,000 from the Bafflin Foundation, Providence RI, and additional SLT monies, the Salem Land Trust was able to purchase the Passero/Rathbun property on Round Hill Rd. The property was purchased from Mr. William Passero, a Rathbun descendant. This adds 7 acres, an additional trail newly named the Rathbun Trail, and a new entrance with additional parking for SLT's Smuggler's Rock Preserve.

From Smuggler's one may hike north to SLT's Zemko Sawmill Preserve, or south to Round Hill Rd. with access to the State of CT's Zemko Pond Wildlife Management Area, the Salem recreational facilities and Recreational Trail, and to Town Hall.

Thank you Salem so very much for your continued support of land conservation and public recreational hiking trails in Salem!

Linda K. Schroeder  
President, Salem Land Trust

## FROM YOUR RESIDENT STATE TROOPER

### Identity Theft and Scams

Over 10 million people are victims of identity theft and telephone or on-line scams every year, costing people billions of dollars. Several times each month the Resident Trooper's office receives complaints from citizens who have had their identity compromised or sent money to someone claiming to represent the IRS or other official agency.

In order to avoid, as much as possible, falling victim to identity theft or a "scam," follow these guidelines:

- Never respond to an on-line or telephone request for personal information of any type. If you receive a request to "verify" your personal information, kindly tell the requestor they already have the information and end the conversation.
- The IRS, Police Departments, or any other legitimate organization will never contact you by phone or email and state you have to immediately send them money or you will risk arrest. These organizations will contact you by U.S. mail, or come to your house if there is a problem, and they never state the problem can be resolved by paying a specified amount immediately.
- Never give out passwords to your accounts, ever. No legitimate company will ever ask for your account password. If you have an account with a company, they already have access to your account without the need for your password. Also, change account passwords quarterly on all accounts.
- Minimize the personal information you post on social media sites, such as Facebook. If you post your date of birth, place of birth, where you work and reside, and the names of all your family members for everyone to see, you have provided an immense amount of information for someone who is interested in stealing your identity. While on this subject, do not post your itinerary on social media sites. If you are advertising when you are going shopping and out to dinner, you might be letting the wrong people know your house will be empty for a while.
- Check your credit report at least quarterly. That is the best way to ensure your identity is safe.

TFC Kevin Seery,  
Resident Trooper

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## FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY

### Friends Indeed

The Holiday Season brings out the best in people. This season saw several groups who frequent our library donate \$1863.95 through their fundraising efforts.

The Salem Knitters, who meet at the library Thursday mornings every week, created beautiful items including scarfs, mittens, hats and more. The knitted items sold very well and Salem Knitters made \$1462 which they donated to the Friends to support the library. I believe our First Selectman did all his Christmas shopping at the knitters' table.

The Charity Committee of the Clamshell Quilt Guild meet monthly at the library to make baby quilts for the Neonatal ICU at L& M Hospital and Waterford Country School. The quilters decided to contribute to the library by providing baby quilts and other quilted items to knitter's table. The sales of quilted items resulted in a \$303.50 donation.

An ad hoc group of students, volunteers and off-duty library staff got together and held a gift wrapping weekend. Their efforts resulted in a donation of \$98.45

Thank you to all who raised funds for our library and to all who took advantage of the goods and services offered. Salem Library is more than books and DVD's. It is a place where our community meets to learn, grow, and enjoy each other's company.

### Friends Birthday Present

In May of this year, the Friends of the Salem Library will celebrate 25 years of support for our library. In addition to having a birthday cake and other festivities, the Friends are planning to give our library and the community a present. In cooperation with Library Director and the Library Board, the Friends are planning to support the library's addition of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Literacy to the current services. The Friends feel that STEM Literacy will greatly benefit our youth and help the underemployed be better prepared for the jobs of the future.

You can help. The Friends intend to form a STEM Literacy Advisory Committee to help plan and introduce STEM Literacy to the library. If you have a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics background and are interested in programs like a Robotics Club, or 3-D Printing, we need you. Please contact Carl Nawrocki at carlybilly@aol.com or call 860 859-1641 or leave your contact information at the Circulation Desk.

### Spring Plant and Book Sale

Salem Seniors and the Friends are planning to hold their Annual Plant and Book Sale starting Thursday, May 14th and running through Saturday, May 16th at the library. Used books for sale will include gardening books, children's books, and a selection of paperbacks, all at bargain prices.

Last year, the plant sale was great success and we are looking for people to donate plants or to grow them from seed. We will provide the seeds. Those interested in either donating plants in May or in growing plants from seed, should contact Elizabeth Lane at 860 859-1125.

Carl Nawrocki, President

## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### April / May Events Calendar

#### Saturday, March 28, 2015 Animal Embassy.

Animal Embassy will bring the scientific study of Zoology to life with incredible live Animal Ambassadors! Free! Please register.

#### Saturday, April 18, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Teddy Bear Tea Party!

Bring your favorite teddy bear and join us at the Salem Free Public Library for "tea" and cookies, story time, and a "beary" special craft project. 3-8. Free! Please register.

#### Money Smart Week @ Salem Free Public Library (April 18-25)

##### Chelsea Groton Bank Community Education Officer, Pamela Days Luketich will present:

Tuesday, April 21, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m. Identity Theft.

Thursday, April 23, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m. First Time Home Buyer.

Free! Please register.

#### Saturday, May 2, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fairy Garden Workshop for Kids. Ages 3 & up. All materials will be provided. \$5 material charge. Please register.

#### Spring Plant & Book Sale at the Salem Library!

##### By The Friends of the Salem Public Library

##### Open to All!

Thursday	May 14	10:00 am - 7:30 pm
Friday	May 15	10:00 am - 6 pm
Saturday	May 16	10:00 am - 4 pm

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Salem Library Knitters

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# ANOTHER WHITTLESEY WHO BROUGHT FAME AND CULTURE TO OUR TOWN

By David H. Wordell President, Salem Historical Society

He was the grandson of Orramel Whittlesey, founder and Principal of Music Vale Seminary, the first music school in the United States to confer degrees. His name was Bela Lyon Pratt, son of George Pratt, a Norwich lawyer and Sarah Victoria Whittlesey Pratt, Orramel's second daughter.

Bela was born in Norwich, Connecticut on December 11, 1867. One day after his 5th birthday, a family physician was at their house and noted some very small models of a cat, a horse, deer and other animals that were on a stand. He picked them up and asked who had made them. Bela's mother explained that, "Bela pinches them out of beeswax and I can't keep a bit of wax in my work basket, he always plays with it." "Why, Don't you realize the child is a genius? He is a born sculptor!" Thereafter Bela was allowed to play with beeswax to his great delight. As soon as he could use a knife he began to carve various objects which were much admired by his playmates. There happened to be a neighbor on the next street who heard of Bela's talent. She had taken some lessons in modeling with clay and sent word to him that she would give him some clay if he would come to see her. Bela visited her and received the promised clay and at once modeled a lion's head! Would anyone have dreamt at this point, that Bela Lyon Pratt would be considered one of the most esteemed and prolific American sculptors of the 20th century?

As he grew, Bela gained a love of music which led him to play cello, guitar and oboe much to his grandfather Orramel's pleasure. When Bela was nine years old, Orramel died in 1876. At 16, Bela began studying at the Yale University School of Fine Arts. His teachers included John Henry Niemeyer and John Ferguson Weir. After graduating he enrolled at the Art Students League of New York where he took classes from William Merritt Chase and others. Most importantly Augustus Saint-Gaudens who became his mentor and after a short stint in Saint-Gaudens' private studio, Pratt traveled to Paris where he trained with important sculptors at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

In 1892 he returned to the United States to create two large sculptural groups representing "The Genius of Navigation" for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. He also produced sculptures for the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901. In 1893, he began a 25 year career as an influential teacher of modeling at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. One of Pratt's most famous students at the School was John Wilson. Bela became an associate of the National Academy in 1900. When Saint-Gaudens' uncompleted group for the entrance to the Boston Public Library was rejected, Pratt was awarded a commission to complete his project with modifications in Saint-Gaudens' style for Personifications of Art and Science.

In 1895, Bela sculptured "Literature, Science, Art" at the Thomas Jefferson Building for the Library of Congress and again in 1896 for the same building the plaques "Four Seasons". In 1894, a relief of William Slater's children of Norwich, CT. and in 1900, a bronze statue of John Winthrop the Younger (New London, CT.) and Whaleman Bronze (New Bedford, Massachusetts) in 1913. At Yale College, New Haven, CT., in 1914 the Nathan Hale Bronze. These are only a fraction of the one hundred seventy seven sculptures that Bela Lyon Pratt completed during his lifetime.

Last year, the Salem Historical Society was fortunate enough to receive a gift of a marble bust titled "My Mother" sculpted by Bela Lyon Pratt in 1911. The bust was the gift of Jean Whittlesey Bodman of New Jersey and given in memory of her father John Whittlesey Pratt and represents the image of Bela's mother, Sarah, who was 82 years old.

At the same time we received a gift of a gold Indian Head Eagle known as "Pratt Coins", from Harriet Gaynor of New London. These coins were the only U.S. mint coins using a recessed design placed in circulation.

Later in the Fall our society received a four inch diameter Pratt relief of his father, George Pratt, donated by a descendant of Bela,

Cynthia Kennedy Sam, who gave an illustrated talk about her grandfather, Bela, during August 2014.

On August 11, 1896, Bela married Helen L. Pray, also a fine sculptor, in Boston and they returned to his home in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

During this past Fall I received a packet of papers and photographs that had been collected by Susan Hansen, a former owner of the Reverend John Whittlesey house which the Salem Historical Society recently purchased and is currently restoring to become the new Whittlesey Museum at Music Vale. Eliza Whittlesey Maginnis, Orramel's eldest daughter purchased this house in 1864 for \$500.00 when the Rev. died. Letters indicated that Eliza was busy helping her father keep the Seminary going during his last years. She kept a room at the seminary during his time of poor health and was leasing her newly acquired home across the road. She continued her residence in the newly built second Music Vale after the fire of the first building in 1868. The old school finally closed its door in 1873 due to poor attendance largely from the Southern Plantation patrons and from Orramel's poor health. When Orramel died three years later in 1876, two of his daughters, Bela Pratt's mother, Sarah and Kate made an attempt to re-open it but it never reached its prior glory and it closed for good after 1878. The building and grounds changed ownership and Eliza with others, leased space in the derelict building. On Tuesday evening, March 16, 1897 the old building caught fire and burned to the ground. Four months later on August 4, 1897, Eliza passed away in her 70th year. The old Rev. John Whittlesey House passed to one of Eliza's two daughters and it appears she also continued to lease the old house. One old photograph shows Sarah Pratt sitting in a rocking chair on the porch of the Rev. John's house along with Bela's wife, Helen Pray and Dudley, their oldest son who appears to be about three. It places the picture to be around 1900-01. I believe the picture was taken by Bela. The deeds show that the Pratts never owned the oldest house but they do appear to be living there in the picture.

In 1910, Bela Lyon Pratt bought the 100 acre Music Vale Seminary property. He enjoyed farming and raised chickens, cows and planted acres of apple and pear trees and potatoes. On May 18, 1917, Bela Lyon Pratt died at the early age of 49. It was then that Pratt Road was permanently named.

#### Bibliography:

**The Day, August 26, 2014 "Pratt's Mother Returns to Salem"**  
**Jamaica Plain Historical Society "A Biography of Bela Lyon Pratt" 2011**  
**Shoner, Sarah Augustus, Karolyn Bradford Whittlesey, 1843-1928, 1962**



*Sarah Victoria Whittlesey Pratt at the age of 82*



*Front of a coin designed by Bela Pratt (opposite side above) of same coin gifted by Harriet Gaynor. (Bela Pratt's initials (BLP) are just above coin's date of 1813)*

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**Healthy, Organic, Delicious!**

Forget about the deep chill of 2015. It's almost over. It's time to think about spring and summer—soft breezes, sun, the color green, nature's cornucopia of juicy tomatoes, fragrant flowers, herbs and vegetables of all kinds. All these are abundantly available in the Salem Community Garden.

Since 2009 Salem residents have been growing all manners of produce in the community garden. From the exotic to the ordinary, last year's offerings included tomatoes of many varieties, cucumbers, gorgeous gourdes, pumpkins, eggplant, corn, lettuce, Swiss chard, spinach, potatoes, garlic, beets, radishes, carrots, leeks, beans, basil, mint, and a rainbow selection of flowers. Our town attorney, John Butts, grows cotton from heirloom seeds he obtains from Colonial Williamsburg; Phil Teixeira planted a peach tree in 2013. The Yeoh family plants Japanese eggplant. Three generations of the Aldrich family, Judy, Pat and Megan, all hold plots. Megan grows only flowers.

Now located on the former Zemko property, beside the town cemetery, Salem Community Garden, affords residents the opportunity to grow their own produce on ten foot square plots. Participants save money on their food bills as well as partaking in the freshness, flavor and wholesomeness of nature's bounty. It is all organic. Many of the vegetables are heirloom varieties and residents readily share seeds and gardening tips with each other. Gardeners tend their own plots and work communally to maintain the common areas of the garden on designated work days (usually one morning in the spring to prepare the beds and paths for the season and another in the fall for garden clean-up). For one evening in summer, the Salem Community Garden's Annual Pot Luck Supper is the best restaurant in town!

Our antidote to Arctic chill is thinking of delicious, juicy tomatoes along with everything else we'll plant this spring. If you are a resident of Salem, and would like to join Salem Community Garden, one plot is currently available. When it is assigned, a waiting list will be kept for those who would like to join as plots become available. The rental fee is \$20 for the season. To sign up, please contact Thean Yeoh at [yeoh@yahoo.com](mailto:yeoh@yahoo.com).

~Anne Rowthorn, with Thean Yeoh, is Co-chair Salem Community Garden



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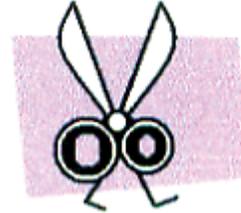


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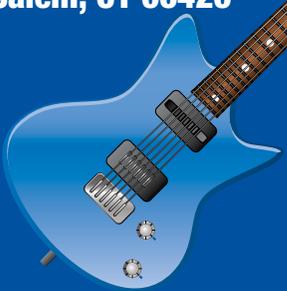


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SALEM LIONS CLUB HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR 2015



Photo by Lion Frank Rowe, Ledyard Lions

**L to R: Lions District 23C Governor Nanette E. BURDICK, Salem Lions Humanitarian Sandy Teixeira, State Senator Paul Formica, Lions District 23C LCIF representative Millie Burke, State Rep. Mellisa Ziobron, Salem Lion William Martin Zone 9 chairman. Photo by Lion Frank Rowe, Ledyard Lions.**

SALEM LION TALES

Congratulations to Sandra Teixeira as Salem Lions Humanitarian of the Year. Annually, each Lions Club has the opportunity to select their humanitarian (must be a non-Lion). Sandy received her award on January 17 at the Lions District Humanitarian Dinner held at the Norwich Holiday Inn. Over 200 guests and Lions attended as a total of 12 humanitarians received their awards.

In spite of the cold weather, our Super Bowl Roses arrived on time on January 29. Many thanks to all who purchased their dozen roses, and to Lion Dan Holle for coordinating this project.

On January 22, Salem Lions hosted our District 23-C Governor, Lion Nanette Burdick, at our monthly dinner meeting. Governor Lion Nanette presented an inspiring overview of her goals for the district, and Lions International projects.

The Easter Bunny is coming on Saturday, March 28. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt and games will be held at Salem School. Visit the Easter Bunny, have your face painted, decorate your favorite eggs and pictures. Lots of candy to be found and prizes for all age groups (pre-K/K; grades 1 - 2; grades 3 - 4). Watch for our flyers.

Attention- All Runners - The 22nd Annual Salem Road Race will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2015. All ages are welcome. A1-mile Children Fun Run/Walk will start at 9:00am on Morgan Road, to be followed at 10:00am by the main event, the 5K Run starting/finishing in front of Salem School. Food and Awards will follow the race starting at 10:45am in the multipurpose room at the school. Both age-graded and order of finish results will be posted. Visit our website salemctroadrace.org for all race details and registration forms. Preregistration on-line before March 25; at the door, April 10 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm and April 11 from 7:00am to 8:30am.

To All Salem students who will graduate from high school this year (home school, public, and private)! The Salem Lions will award two Scholarships again this year. Look for application forms at your schools by May 1, or call Lion George Ziegler at 860-859-0609.

It's Salem Lions Tag Sale time – One Saturday, June 27, we will hold our annual Giant Tag/Yard Sale at the usual location, Ziegler residence on Rte 82. Donations are welcome. Watch for our Flyers and more information.

Thank You all for supporting our projects and fundraisers; 100% of all donations and all the profits from our fundraisers are returned to our community charitable projects. Salem Lions are proud to be of service to Salem.

For more information/photo's on what the Lions of District 23 C are doing go to <http://www.lionsdistrict23c.org>.

Submitted by, Lion George Ziegler



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## SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In the near future, you'll see much activity around the yellow garage on the former Zemko property. Our town firefighters will once again be working there to make this building into our permanent training facility. After the inside is completed to accommodate our different interior fire fighting training, we will start working on the exterior of the building. Feel free to stop in and watch our progress.

With the snowy, cold winter hopefully behind us, let's start thinking of warm weather and delicious food! The Salem Volunteer Fire Company is once again holding its Annual Chicken and Rib Bar-B-Que dinner on August 22, 2015 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the firehouse on Rt. 85 (Hartford Road).

There will be chicken, ribs, baked potatoes, corn on the cob, rolls, desserts and non-alcoholic drinks provided. This dinner is a members' effort, with all participating in the prep, cooking, and clean up. So please mark your calendar with the date and time and remember that all tickets are advance sales only.

If you would like to receive a reminder call, please call 860-859-0942 to have your name added to the already growing list of those wishing to receive a call. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Gene Mariano



## SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT REVIEW

### Salem School District Wins the CABE 2014 Award of Excellence for Educational Communications for Newsletters

In recognition of the good work that is being done on a daily basis, CABE established the Awards of Excellence for Educational Communications in 1975. Effective communications with parents and taxpayers in a school district is a very significant part of the district's operation. It is important for the community to be aware of the exciting activities and events taking place in our schools each day.

We are pleased and honored to announce that the Salem School District won the award for the Newsletters category. Additionally, the District won honorable mention awards in the following categories: Budget, Computer Generated Projects (PowerPoint Presentation "Salem School: A Year in Review") and Website. We would like to thank the talented staff members who helped obtain these awards and showcase our District.

### SY2015-2016 Budget Update

A Budget Coffee was held at the school on January 20, 2015. The School/District Administration and Board of Education would like to thank the parents/community members that came out to discuss the budget that evening. The proposed budget presentation, booklet and the "Q&A" presentation (discussed on 1/20/15 at the Board meeting) are all available for review on our website.

The Public Hearing on the Budget is scheduled for April 8, 2015 at Salem School (7:00 pm), the Town Meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2015 at Salem School (7:00 pm) and the Referendum is scheduled for May 13, 2015 at Town Hall.

*Submitted by, Superintendent Joe Onofrio, Salem School District*



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## SALEM SCHOOL NEWS

**MATH COUNTS COMPETITION**

Our Math Counts Team, coached by Mrs. Carlone participated in the Eastern Chapter Competition at the US Coast Guard on Saturday, February 7th. Over 30 schools competed in three sessions (Sprint, Target and Team Round). Connie Tang, grade 8, came in 1st place overall and 1st in the Sprint round. Our Salem Team (Ian Aldrich, Connie Tang, Josh Mukherjee and Michael Wei) came in 3rd place for the Team competition. Michael Wong, grade 7, came in 4th place as an alternate. Students participating in the competition were Ian Aldrich, Katie Durkee, Sonja Govertsen, Josh Mukherjee, Saiyoen Pathman, Rebecca Pierce, Aleisha Price, Sophia Rogers, Connie Tang, and Michael Wei. Alternate competitors were Cameron McGurer and Michael Wong.

Math Counts is a program that combines coaching and competition in math achievement. This is a program where students compete similar to athletes. Students are called "mathletes", and they compete at the school, area, state, and national levels. The students at Salem School have been preparing for this competition since the fall. The students compete individually and as teams. The competition includes algebra, probability, statistics, and geometry.

**SCIENCE OLYMPIADS**

On Saturday, March 21, a team of Salem School students in grades 6-8 will participate in the Connecticut State Science Olympiads tournament at Irving Robbins Middle School in Farmington.

Science Olympiads is a nationwide organization dedicated to promoting science education through conducting competitive science tournaments. An SO tournament is much different than a traditional science fair. A science fair is intense, individual, and quiet. A Science Olympiad tournament is full of yells, cheers, and enthusiasm.

In SO, teams from throughout the state meet and compete in 23 different science events that cover many different areas of science and technology. Some events require construction of a project ahead of time (some examples this year are bridge building, air trajectory, and robocross). Others involve "on the spot" application of skills to a given problem (examples this year include "identifying mystery powders" and "crime solving"). Most events involve teams of two students, and individual students will be entered in three or four different events. Individual students win medals for placing in an event, with cumulative scores yielding overall team placement at a tournament. The best team in each of the divisions – High School and Middle School - advances to the National Tournament. The Salem Science Olympiads Team meets on Friday mornings at 7:30-8:30 AM in and on some Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30. This year we have a sizable team with 26 students!

**SALEM BASKETBALL 2014/2015**

The Salem School basketball teams (boys and girls) have enjoyed another successful season and have qualified for the postseason tournament. The Salem boys' team is presently 7-5 and is led by the strong trio of Dalton Franco, Reamark Harris and Alex Smith. Although the boys have suffered 2 heartbreaking losses, they have managed to persevere and become a very strong team in the conference. Coach Traylor's boys' team will certainly be a team to be reckoned with in the upcoming postseason tournament.

**SALEM BASKETBALL 2014/2015 (cont.)**

The Salem girls are presently 12-0 and playing with a great deal of confidence. They are led by their marquis 8th grade group of Katie Durkee, Jalen Thompson and Caitlyn Sievers. Despite being undersized physically, the girls have used their exceptional defensive skills and quickness along with the prolific scoring ability of Katie Durkee and Jalen Thompson to be successful this season. Although anything is possible in the tournament, they are clearly on the path to a perfect season. Coach Pugliese has never been prouder of a group of players in his 31 year tenure as a coach.

**REFLECTIONS OF****INTERIM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JOAN PHILLIPS**

At Salem School our students are always our first priority. As a teacher I have always encouraged students to be a voice in our school. My first year at Salem School three fifth grade students came to me asking if I would help them put together a Talent Show for Salem School. With the help of students we have hosted a Talent Show every year since. The Talent Show will be on Thursday, April 2, at 6:30. I hope to see you all there.

This year, as Interim Assistant Principal, I received a letter from a second grade student, Jack Jensen. He stated in the letter that we have a Reading Hall of Fame, where students get recognized for the books that they have read. He asked, "Why doesn't our school have a Math Hall of Fame?" I met with Jack and we came up with a plan. With the support of all of the math teachers from 2nd to 8th grade we instituted the Math Hall of Fame in February. The next time you visit our school please check out some of our students responses displayed in our elementary hallways.

We feel strongly that the students know what they want for their school, so shortly after we began our new positions in October, Mr. Rafferty and I implemented a student government. For grades 6, 7, and 8 we have instituted a student council. The students meet during their lunch period on Fridays with Mr. Rafferty and me to discuss concerns and ideas the students have for their school.

We started an activity program afterschool. These activities are sponsored by parents and teachers. Most of the activities take place after school at Salem School. We are now in our second session for activities which typically last four weeks, each activity meeting one day a week. Some of the activities students are participating in: Basic French, Chess, Yoga for Kids, Board Games, Musical Skit Performance, Invention Club, Painting, Nutrition Awareness/Healthy Snack Preparation, Bring a Book Alive, Exploring Google/iPads, Cool Crafts, Painting, Edible Art, Basic Sign Language, and Science Olympiads. One of my favorite activities was the ski club which met Thursday after school at Mount Southington. Mr. Mark Hanney did an incredible job of organizing this activity. We had 40 students participate and nine staff members volunteered along with many parents to support this activity.

The third session for the activity clubs will be starting in March. If you are interested in leading one of our activity groups, please contact the school. We look forward to our second scheduled parent conferences on Monday, March 2nd. Mr. Rafferty and I are available to meet with you at any time.

*Submitted by,*  
**Assistant Principal, Joan Phillips, Salem School**

### SALEM RECREATION NEWS

#### Salem Recreation has been active in the town!

The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting was held the first Sunday in December. The event was quite a success! Residents that attended were treated to the singing of Fred Marion. Holidays songs were enjoyed by all along with a visit from Santa! It was wonderful to see the tree on the town green lit up during the holiday season.

There have been after school programs for the students to enjoy. We have offered art/drawing classes by instructor Holly Alligood for grades 5 to 8; and a LEGO engineering program for grades 3 to 5.

Planning is underway for Spring/Summer programs. We will offer Performing Arts, ages 6 to 12 the week of July 13-17; LEGO Engineering, ages 5 to 10 July 20-24; Outdoor Hockey, and Music Lessons.

Tentative programs that may be held are 10 & Under Tennis, Saturday Art Program and a Saturday Multi-Purpose Path Exercise Class.

Don't forget about our bus excursions! In February there was a Vermont Sleigh Ride and in March a trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum and a Maple Sugar Demonstration. For May, October and December a "Day on Your Own" to New York City will be offered.

The best way to find out information on all programs is to sign up on the website for email blasts. Go to [http://www.salemct.gov/Pages/SalemCT\\_Recreation/index](http://www.salemct.gov/Pages/SalemCT_Recreation/index) to register.

Please register early for programs or bus trips to ensure that they will take place! The success of our programs is up to you!

If you know of someone that would like to offer a program, please contact me at 860-859-3873x252 or email [Diane.Weston@salemct.gov](mailto:Diane.Weston@salemct.gov).

*Diane Weston*

Salem Recreation



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## Mobile Food Pantry



The mobile pantry, pictured above, provides fresh fruits and vegetables, proteins, and other healthy foods for FREE distribution to individuals and families in need. All are welcome.

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 200 Hartford Rd. Salem CT  
**Date(s):** First Wednesday of the Month  
**Time:** 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm



# ANOTHER FRIGID WINTER PAST

By Edyta Wolk

April is a month highly enjoyed by Salem residents; holidays, breaks from school, and most importantly, the start of spring! Yes, spring has finally arrived, but only after a long, bitter winter. Salem is lucky to have lush, beautiful landscape to gaze at just about everywhere in town. In the months of December, January, and February, this opens up fantastic opportunities for sledding and snowball fights. Sadly, it also means more shoveling!

Salem residents spent the majority of these few months indoors due to piles of snow that led to cancellations at work and school. Transportation was just a hassle; waking up at 6 a.m. in the morning to turn on the news and hear about a record cold. But just exactly how cold did it get? Did we really get it worse than other states like many summer-reminiscent residents believe?

According to City-Data.com, average winter temperatures in Salem are already very low. Data over the past few years concludes that while the average temperature in the U.S. during these winter months is between 30-40°F, the average temperature in Salem is just below 30°F, with a daily low of 20°F. Salem has highs in precipitation and snowfall as well. The US average in winter is about 3 inches in rain and below 10 inches in snow, while Salem expects almost 5 inches in rain and over 11 inches in snow.

What about this winter? Thankfully it wasn't too bad, but we were more bundled up than usual. According to data collected by AccuWeather, the month of January had an average temperature of about 24°F, lower than previous years. I don't think that any statistics are needed to express the amount of snowfall we received; I'm sure that any resident that was tasked with shoveling the driveway would agree that the answer was simply "too much" and it wasn't really fair when East Lyme students had school delays and Salem didn't!



Edyta Wolk

*This icicle grew above my porch; its height is actually bigger than I!*

Hopes of warmer days didn't necessarily rise after six more weeks of winter were predicted on Groundhog's Day (CBSNews). Apparently, that even upset the groundhog; his frustration was shown when he bit the mayor!

Luckily, Salem residents know how to make the best of snowy days. Kids have tons of fun outside on snow days and have sampled the best brands of hot chocolate! Connecticut offers ski resorts in nearby towns like Middlefield, New Hartford, and Litchfield (ctvisit.com). Salem's rural landscape becomes a whimsical wonderland for artists and photographers when the blankets of snow start sprinkling down.

I have definitely learned about many ways to beat the winter blues while I've been snowed in. Reading a good book or watching a Netflix marathon under your sheets is cozy and warm. I personally found the time useful for studying and calling up my friends who I might not normally have much time to talk to and being stuck at home is a great opportunity for some quality family time, even for the busy bodies.

So what can we expect for next winter? Hopefully nothing too extreme! According to MyForecast.com, Salem has some extreme winter temperatures. Our record cold in the month of January is -26°F! The record 24-hour snowfall is 14 inches, with a monthly total of 37 inches. We even have a record wind speed of 66 mph; that's above the speed limits in the town!

On February 17, 1958, the northeastern US was hit with one of the worst snow storms of the century. New England states received an average of 30 inches in the 24 hours, as well as millions of dollars in damage (myforecast.com). But it's been a while since we've experienced anything like that, so I'm hopeful that we will probably be able to have relatively calm winters in the near future.

But honestly, nobody's thinking about next winter right now. Salem residents are at the start of a beautiful spring that will hopefully bring perfect weather for family picnics and Easter egg hunts. As people say, "April showers bring May flowers". So get out your umbrellas and galoshes and hope that we have more luck with an early summer than we did with spring!

Bored on a spring day? Camping, hiking, getting ice cream, or simply going for a walk and smelling the flowers are great options in Salem. Residents can expect temperatures to jump back up to the 60's!

We can finally pack away our winter coats, because sunny days are here again!

**Story submitted by Edyta Wolk  
who is a sophomore at East Lyme high school.**

## GET BACK IN THE GAME

By Jane Grilley

Do you know that old baseball song which starts "Take me out to the ballgame..." If you change the lyrics to "Get back into the ballgame..." you might be talking to me, Jane Grilley. I am looking for a few good women, aged fifty years and older, to get back into the game this spring. The game is Senior Women's Softball. I am the Eastern Connecticut representative for Senior Women's Softball, which is affiliated with the National Senior Games Association (NSGA). Several team practices take place in Salem.

The games are competitive and lots of fun. They provide an opportunity for exercise, sportsmanship, teamwork, friendship, and entertainment for those who are athletic and eager to play. The safety of the members is paramount. Seniors get rule advantages such as courtesy runners, extra players, and safe at home plate, a rule that eliminates collisions. In this rule, catchers are not allowed to block the home plate when a run is coming in. Teams play in five-year

increment age groups. Older members can play on younger teams, but younger members cannot play in the higher age brackets.

There are many chances to play softball from late spring through the fall. Regional senior tournaments are offered four to six times each season. When state senior softball teams win at the regional level, they compete at the national level. Connecticut senior teams have often brought home the gold from these national events. Other states and groups also organize tournaments in the summer and fall.

If you are interested in playing other sports, the Connecticut Masters Games organizes senior multi-sport events. They offer team championships for senior women in softball, basketball and volleyball, as well as many individual sports. I have been playing with the Masters Softball for six years and the Masters Basketball for ten years. In addition,

every two years, the NSGA sponsors games for nineteen different sports on the national level. Again, Connecticut teams have won medals at many of these events.

Do not be afraid to come back to the game. Once you throw the ball, it will be as if you never stopped. Just as you cannot forget how to ride a bike, you cannot forget softball. I am proof. Dust off that old glove, stretch that arm, be in touch, and join me this spring. Email me at [mommag222@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mommag222@sbcglobal.net) for more information about Senior Women's Softball.

**Information about the National Seniors Game Association is at [www.nsga.com](http://www.nsga.com)**

**Information about the Connecticut Masters' Games is at <http://ctmastersgames.org>**

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Much time has elapsed since our last report was published. Now that winter is upon us, we ask for your patience as our Town crew seeks to clear the narrow cemetery roadways of snow and ice. Please do not attempt to enter the cemetery when it is apparent that plowing is needed.

We're pleased to report that the Salem Green Cemetery Association contracted Linda Turner to tear out and replant the memory garden with new deer resistant and less water dependent varieties. Linda also replanted the sign structure at the cemetery entrance and continues to maintain both. We're very pleased with the results.

As mentioned in our last report, in the Spring, we hope to install a garden hydrant on cemetery property directly behind the Historic Society Town House. Funding is approved for equipment and installation. This hydrant will be piped directly from the water system feeding both the Center School and Historic Society buildings. We will leave the hand pump in place for the time being, but expect to eventually remove it as the garden hydrant receives greater usage.

The SGCA is still developing plans for tree replacement and is working with the Town crew to improve the unsightly soil storage area adjacent to Section IV in order to make it more attractive. We're hoping to install a small utility/storage shed near Section IV in the Spring.

Please remember that holiday decorations will be removed at the sexton's discretion once thirty (30) days have elapsed. Tattered flags, rotting containers, artificial flowers, other containers which are no longer functional will be discarded. All such items will be removed around April 15 by members of the Cemetery Association during their annual Spring cleanup.

For the period 04/30/2014 – 01/31/2015 there have been five (5) interments/inurnments.

Date:	Name:	Section:	Row:	Plot:
07/11/2014	Philip James Jr.	I	D	29
07/18/2014	Frank Cunningham	I	F	24+
01/03/2015	Della Zahacefski	I	D	25
01/09/2015	Linda McKaughen	I	B	50
01/23/2015	Todd Dorsey	I	C	50

Plot availability: As of 01/31/2015 there are eight (8) full sized plots remaining in Section I priced at \$550/plot. They consist of two (2) doubles and four (4) singles. Section IV has 101 full sized plots available for \$700 each.

Contact the SGCA sexton, Rev. Tim Dubeau at 860-859-1925 with questions or if interested in purchasing full sized or smaller cremation plots. Maps of the cemetery sections by plot, interment/inurnment records by name/plot, plot pricing and contact information are all posted on the information board located near the first row of plots.

Lastly, the SGCA has authorized the training of another sexton. Any person interested in receiving training is encouraged to contact Rev. Tim Dubeau at 860-859-1925 or at [tbubeau@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbubeau@sbcglobal.net).

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OTS may occasionally provide an opportunity for residents to contribute to the content of OTS.

Such contributions are limited to photos and/or stories to inform, encourage and celebrate the people, activities, businesses and organizations in the Town of Salem."

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