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Our Town Salem Connecticut

WINTER 2015

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From The Office of the First Selectman

Dear Fellow Townspeople,

The Holiday season is upon us. I hope you and your families are enjoying the many festivities of the season.

Let's look at what has been going on in our Town.

Good Audit Review

Our auditors O'Conner Davies have finished their audit of the fiscal year 2014/2015. They have again confirmed that our Town is in good financial shape, with sound management procedures in place. The General Government returned $225,000 to the Town's General Fund and the school returned $151,000. Thank you to all departments for their fiscal responsibility with our Townspeople's money.

Salem School District Efficiency Study

The Salem School District Efficiency Study is now in the hands of the Board of Education. It is also available online on Salemct.gov under news and announcements. Everyone wants a good school for our Salem students. What the study has found are ways to enhance efficiencies, and in many cases save money while still offering an excellent education for our children.

This is important to our residents as our school represents some 72 percent of our Town's Budget. In addition, declining enrollment makes this an area we must look at seriously over the next several years.

Resident State Troopers

Trooper Chris Pariseau, has been active as our daytime Trooper and is doing a fine job. Trooper Luke Larue, our evening Trooper is also busy and providing security for our residents. We are fortunate to have two fine State Troopers assigned to our Town. Both Troopers have been involved in school safety, traffic enforcement and civic responsibilities; along with their many other duties.

I want to thank all of our dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time and talents to making the Town of Salem a very special place to live.

Enjoy your holiday season. Mele Kalikimaka and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou from the Lyden family to your family.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.
Respectfully,

Kevin Lyden

Salem Lions Tales

WELCOME TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

Our Lions have started the Fall season with our annual stocking of our Fire Wood bank. We now have a nice stockpile of cut, split, and piled mixed hard woods in 16" and 18" lengths. This wood, including free local delivery, is offered free to seniors and others in need, and for sale at $185 per cord to all other residents. Call Lions Bill Martin (860-859-1881) or Jim Fogarty (869-859-0108) for ordering.

The new baseball field should sport its new Scoreboard next spring. Our Lions contributed $5,000.00 to the purchase and delivery of the scoreboard, and are currently assisting in the fabrication of the foundation columns which should be installed before winter sets in. The scoreboard should be installed and operating by the beginning of baseball season.

Our Secret Santa committee will again be coordinating our resources with the Town program to provide a little more Holiday cheer to some of Salem's less fortunate youngsters.

Make plans on Super Bowl Weekend to surprise your spouse or significant other with a dozen cut roses. As a fundraiser, all Salem Lions will again be selling cut roses by the dozen to be delivered on late Thursday, or Friday before the Super Bowl Sunday. Contact any Salem Lion to place your order.

Mark Your Calendars:

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt — Saturday, March 19 at Salem School for all youngsters through Grade 4. Egg decorating and picture coloring contests, free face painting, Easter Bunny, Egg and candy hunt. Watch for flyers.

**23rd Annual Salem Road Race – Saturday, April 9 — Watch for more details. Visit our website at Salemctroadrace.com

Are you interested in good friendship and service in Salem? The Salem Lions are looking for men and women of all ages and talents to help provide our charitable services in Salem. Contact Lion Jim Fogarty (859-0108), our membership chairman, for more information about Lions (Salem Lions and Lions International).

Remember that the Salem Lions collect and recycle used eyeglasses. Drop off your glasses at the collection box located at the Salem Library, or give them to any Lion.

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.

by Lion George Ziegra

OUR TOWN SALEM Connecticut

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Next ad deadline: March 1, 2016

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SALEM TOWN INFORMATION

www.salemct.gov

Salem Town Hall
270 Hartford Road
Phone: (860) 859-3873
Office Hours:
Mon.–Wed.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thurs.: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Fri.: Closed

Animal Control Officer
(860) 917-0567

Salem Free Public Library
264 Hartford Road
Phone: (860) 859-1130

Salem School
200 Hartford Road
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www.salemschools.org

EMERGENCY CALLS - 911

Salem Transfer Station
189 Rattlesnake Ledge Rd.
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Permits required – can be obtained by Salem residents at transfer station only

SALEM SENIORS

Many people do not know we have a Salem Senior Club. It holds its meetings on the second Tuesday during the months of March through December at the Salem Volunteer Fire House, unless otherwise designated, at 10:30 a.m. Anyone 50 years old or older are eligible to join. Lunch is served after the meeting.

Nancy Dytko, President, has done a great job this year by providing us with interesting guest speakers each month. Every month, First Selectman Kevin Lyden keeps us informed about what is happening in our town. We hear about the budget, the school and especially about future plans and activities happening in the town. Since many seniors are unable to attend town meetings, we are fortunate to have him keep us up to date.

Our speaker in September was Connie Capacchione from the Uncas Health District who enlightened us on all they are involved in. She mentioned a living health class and 12 of our members attended the six-week course.

Our October meeting offered flu shots for those who needed them followed by our annual pizza party.

We were able to enjoy our November meeting which was held at the school. We were also invited to attend their program before our meeting which is performed by the students honoring our veterans.

We are looking forward to our Christmas party at the firehouse. We thank the fire department for the use of their building and the kitchen for our meetings.

A big thank you also to the Salem Free Public Library for allowing an informal group to meet there every Tuesday afternoon from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. This group is open to any senior who would like to participate in playing cards or bowling WII. Our card games include cribbage, setback (pitch), and a newly introduced game called Golf. We have a lot of friendly competition especially bowling WII.

This group is also thankful to member Elizabeth Lane by growing plants and working the plant and book sale which occurs in May at the Library. All money raised at this sale is donated to the Library.

A variety of refreshments are also served during the afternoon while playing the games.

Irene Jarvis

SALEM GREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

As we prepare to enter into our Winter season, please be certain to stop by and neaten your plots by removing tattered flags, rotting and unused flower containers/pots and any plants/flowers that completely conceal monuments or are wild/unruly in appearance. Cemetery regulations allow the use of artificial/plastic flowers from Nov. 16 – April 14. If you are a plot owner, please do your part to follow the posted regulations.

For the period 08/19/2015 – 11/08/2015 there have been two (2) interments/inurnments:

Date	Name	Section	Row	Plot
09/21/2015	Donald W. Bourdeau	I	A	37
09/22/2015	John A. DeVore	I	D	53W

Plot availability: As of 11/08//2015 there are two (2) full sized plots remaining in Section I priced at $550/plot. Section IV has two rows with 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 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 tbdubeau@sbcglobal.net.

Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton

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Each family member fills out his or her own Vial of Life with the pertinent medical information, current medication and any medical history. The Vial of Life is then placed on your refrigerator with each family member's name on it.

During an Emergency:

The information is documented between our emergency responders, Ambulance and the Medical Facility where the family member is transported. Due to the HIPPA laws in place your information is protected.

If you have any questions about the Vial of Life please stop in at the station, call us or send us an e-mail at command27@ymail.com.

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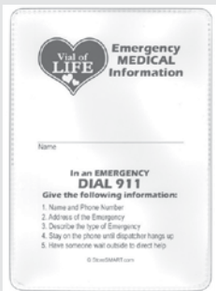
Chief Jim Savalle



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Resident State Troopers

Greetings from the Salem Resident Troopers Office

According to the Farmer's Almanac the upcoming winter looks to be a repeat of the last. They're projecting this winter to be bitter, cold and snowy. With this in mind, here are a few travel tips to keep in mind before and during your commute that will help you stay safe and be prepared.

Perform regular maintenance checks on your vehicle: check your car battery, tire tread (If you have winter tires, put them on your vehicle before winter begins), check your windshield wipers, put non-freezing windshield wiper fluid in your vehicle's fluid reservoir and check your antifreeze level. One can always go to one's local automotive repair facility to have these preventative checks done.

It is always good to have jumper cables, a compact/collapsible shovel, snow/ice scrapper, emergency reflective triangles in the event you breakdown on the side of the road, pack blankets and wear warm clothing. Always ensure that before departing from home that your cell phone is fully charged. If you plan on being on the road for a longer period of time, taking bottles of water and ensuring you have the proper amount of needed medication should be done. Ensuring that your vehicle's gas tank is at least half full during inclement weather is always a good practice.

If you find yourself stuck in the snow, experiencing issues with your vehicle or if your vehicle stalled during cold/snowy weather the best thing to do is stay in your vehicle, don't overexert yourself, activate your emergency flashers and call for help. If you keep your vehicle running make sure that your vehicle's exhaust pipe is clear and not blocked by snow, etc. Don't idle your vehicle for a long period of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space such as a garage.

If you absolutely need to go out during inclement weather it's always important to plan your route. It's wishful thinking that all of the roadways you plan on traveling will be plowed and clear during a snow storm, so allow yourself plenty of time and let others (family members, places of employment, those at the destination you intend to travel to and friends) know the route you plan to take and the estimated travel time.

Remember to steer into a skid and that stopping distances are longer on water-covered, icy/snowy roadways. Don't use cruise control while driving on a slippery surface. Please be mindful that just because your vehicle may be all-wheel drive, it doesn't mean that it won't lose control on icy/snowy roadways.

As this isn't an all-inclusive list on how to prepare yourself for travel during inclement weather, please be safe and enjoy the holiday season.

Tpr. Chris Pariseau and Tpr. Luke Larue
Salem Resident Troopers

The Salem Land Trust

Partnering with UCONN's Natural Resources Conservation Academy on ELHS Student's Conservation Research Project

The Salem Land Trust (SLT) is partnering with The Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) at UCONN, supporting a Salem sophomore at East Lyme High School on a conservation research project. The research is taking place at SLT's Zemko Sawmill Preserve on Rattlesnake Ledge Road.

UCONN's NRCA provides opportunities for high school students to learn about land-use planning, natural resources science and conservation biology from UCONN professors, graduate students, and naturalists from local conservation organizations. Expertise and resources available at UCONN and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment support this mission. Laura Cisneros is the NRCA Program Coordinator and may be reached at 860-486-491 or laura.cisneros@uconn.edu.

The program is described on UCONN's NRCA web site, www.nrca.uconn.edu: "Students participating in the NRCA will learn about a wide range of topics related to natural resources and the environment, including units on water, forestry, soil, fish and wildlife, landscape ecology, and habitat protection. Students will actively engage in each of these units in both classroom and field activities during a weeklong field experience at the University of Connecticut (UCONN). The classroom portion of each of these units will be illustrated and reinforced via field visits and fieldwork. Upon completing the field experience each student will then work on a seven-month conservation project in his or her community."

Members of the Salem Land Trust introduced the Zemko Sawmill Preserve to the student researcher and NRCA Program Coordinator Laura Cisneros to familiarize them with the habitats and flora and fauna found there. Salem Naturalists David Bingham and Rich Chyinski were very impressed with the young student's enthusiasm for the research project, and Dr. Bingham has assisted with tree identification.

SLT receives bi-weekly updates on the progress of the project from the student-researcher. This Salem student and 23 others from around the state will present their work at the annual Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources in March.

Submitted by,
Linda K. Schroeder, President, Salem Land Trust

Uncas Health District

As local public health departments evolve over time, we must be aware of the environment in which we operate. I am going to share with you some relatively new areas of focus for local public health and how it impacts our work.

Accreditation: Local health departments are now being held to the same standard as many other industries. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is working to promote and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of all public health departments in the United States through national public health department accreditation. PHAB's vision is a high-performing governmental public health system that will make the United States a healthier nation. To that end, the Director of Health for the Uncas Health District became a trained PHAB Site Visitor and the District engaged a consultant to begin the process of accreditation. By going through the accreditation process, we hope to develop quality measures for the department that will guide our work for many years to come.

Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health: Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to "attain his or her full health potential" and no one is "disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances." Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life; rates of disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment.

The good news is that these two areas of focus for local health departments are working in unison. As the Uncas Health District moves toward accreditation, we will be looking more critically at qualitative and quantitative data that will drive our work. We will develop quality measures that align with the needs of the community that we service. Finally, we will integrate these processes into our staff evaluations, Board agendas, and daily policies and procedures to assure that the impact will affect the entire culture of the agency.

If you have additional questions about the work of the Uncas Health District, please contact us at (860) 823-1189 or www.uncashd.org

THE SALEM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Cultural Years

During the period of formation, Salem was a thriving agricultural community. By the time of the Industrial Revolution, before the Civil War, Salem could boast of seven sawmills, two gristmills, six schools, four churches, a pianoforte factory run by the three Whittlesey brothers and an ink factory run by Lowell Wilcox. Capt. Jess Maynard owned and operated a cotton mill at Mill Pond Dam, just below Fairy Lake, where they made lamp wicks.

Between the years 1835 and 1876, Salem rose to national prominence as a cultural center for music under the genius of Oramel Whittlesey and Music Vale Seminary. With his two brothers, John and Henry, they began the manufacture of pianofortes, which were made of rosewood and mahogany. All the finer workmanship, such as the sawing of ivories and the inlaying of mother-of-pearl letters and ornamentation, was done entirely by the hands of the three brothers. Later, Henry built a small factory next to his residence on the east side of the Governor's Road, where the Salem Firehouse is now located. Oramel's reputation as a musician and composer was becoming widely known.

In 1835, he established Mr. Whittlesey's Music School, later known as Music Vale Seminary and Normal Academy of Music. It was the first normal school of music in the United States authorized to confer degrees. In those days when colleges for women were unknown, every gentlewoman was expected to give a creditable performance on the harp, pianoforte or guitar.

Young ladies came to Salem from all parts of the United States, Canada and even the West Indies. Special Concord coaches were ordered. Horses were perfectly matched, while the coachmen and footmen were all six-footers. Elaborate musicals and operas (some composed by Whittlesey) were staged in the great auditorium of Music Vale.

The hall itself, designed by a New York architect, with its frescoed walls and ceilings, elaborate boxes at the sides of the stage and a gallery at the rear, far exceeded in detail and appointments any concert hall of the prosperous cities of New London or Norwich. During the performance of an opera in 1868, some blasting powder got out of control and caused a fire at the opera house.

A larger, more luxurious building was immediately erected with a tower at the center, topped with a harp as a weathervane. Oramel Whittlesey died in 1876.

Submitted by,
David Wordell, President, Salem Historical Society

Music Vale Seminary, circa 1840

THE SALEM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History of the Roadway Between New London and Hartford

The first road was an old Indian trail. After 1645, it led from the north to the new settlement at New London and was used for trading purposes. In 1706 this country path was called "**New London New Road**".

In 1707, the Governors would normally travel to the Capitol in Hartford by boat along the Connecticut River, but during the winter they would travel overland through Salem on this path. By 1708 the path was known as "**The Governor's Road**".

In 1724, Captain Samuel Gilbert applied to the County Court to have it improved. The court appointed a committee to "*inquire into the conveniency and necessity thereof*". Nothing was done for seven years, and in 1731 the inhabitants complained to the Court of "*the difficulty of passing in ye Country Road*". In November 1733, a highway committee was again appointed with the same result. In October 1739, Colonel Samuel Browne was visiting the influential Winthrops in New London. Something was said about the deplorable condition of the Governor's Road;…within a month the road was improved to a highway.

The road was again straightened in 1800 and became known as the "**Hartford and New London Turnpike**". It was a toll road with stage coach service until 1895. It remained a dirt road until 1919, when it was paved with concrete. The State of Connecticut renamed the road "**Route 85**"…And now, history is repeating itself!

Submitted by,
David Wordell, President, Salem Historical Society

SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Winter Events Calendar

Saturday, November 21, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Clay Cartoon Creations. Debi Hamuka-Falkenham presents a fun packed cartoon program. You will get to make a 3-D Clay Super Villain or Alien Character to take home with you! Free! Limit 16. Ages 7 & up. Please register

Saturday, December 5, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Ginger Bread House Craft. Join Ms. Sharon to decorate a pre-assembled graham cracker "gingerbread house," to take home. All supplies provided. Free! Limit 10. Ages 4 & up. Please register.

Saturday, December 5, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m. Happy Birthday to Salem Free Public Library! Please join us for cake and coffee/hot cocoa.

Saturday, December 5, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 8 Mile River Band. Please join us for our Annual 8MRB concert. Salem's favorite Blue Grass band! Free!

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Puppets: Storytelling of the Polar Express & other Christmas stories. Told by Cherie Bonnardi, Storyteller/Puppeteer…and a special appearance by Milton the Monkey. Refreshments will be served after program. Come in your pajamas! Free! Limit 25. Ages 4 & up. Please register.

Saturday, January 23, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Edwardian Era: Downton Abbey Style. Presented by Caitlin Augusta. Enjoy tea, scones and pastries while joining us for a presentation on the characters of the first seasons of Downton Abbey connecting them to aspects of the Edwardian Era including class, etiquette and history. Free! Limit 25. Ages 18 & up. Please register.

WE LOVE OUR FRIENDS! Congratulations on another Successful Book Sale! The Salem Free Public Library would like to thank everyone involved in the Annual Fall Book Sale,$7800 was raised to be used for library programs and additions to the collection. THANK YOU!

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The winter season is slowly approaching. We would like to share a couple of Safety Tips that may make it easier for all.

Please insure that you have changed your Smoke Detector Batteries and the Batteries in your Carbon Monoxide Detector.

Please clear the Bushes, debris and snow from the exhaust vents for your Dryer, Pellet Stove and Propane Stoves. These vents exhaust out the side of your house. If the vent is clogged or blocked it may cause a buildup of Carbon Monoxide in the house. You cannot see, smell or taste Carbon Monoxide.

Please keep your sidewalk and steps clear of Bushes, Debris and Snow. Apply PET SAFE salt and sand to the sidewalk surface to prevent slips and falls.

Please Remember that Pets are family also. The inclement weather affects our Pets as well. Keep them warm, provide fresh water and keep them well fed.

When we are dispatched to an Emergency, we have a general idea where we are going. However, if you can follow The Town of Salem Ordinance for Identification of your Mail Box and House with Contrasting Numbers it will greatly expedite Emergency Services to locate you. Insure that the numbers are visible and free of bushes, debris and snow. Need Numbers? Contact 860-859-1122.

REMEMBER: YOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER 911

Respectfully,
Chief Jim Savalle

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On a Chilly Morning

On a chilly October morning, in the woods of Salem, a small but mighty group of Salem & East Lyme Drama Club teens woke up early to support a project they knew nothing about. These faithful students and their parents received a unique front row experience. BCTR (Bingham Camp Theatre Retreat) and Director Devanand Janki had invited local Drama Clubs to preview a workshop of *Call It Courage*, written by Adam Overett. Janki, hoping to make this a Broadway musical, brought in a diverse group of NYC actors to work on this production. The kids sat glued to their seats as an amazing story, set to original music, unfolded literally right in front of them. The kids all agreed that *Call It Courage* is bound to be a Broadway Smash! Our local kids may have witnessed the process of a Broadway Show in the making!

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REALLY KNOWING SALEM'S ROADS

My story began 19 years ago when I answered an ad in *The Day* for a job with "mother's hours." It seemed the woman wanted someone to sub on a paper route that started in Salem wound down thru Montville and Waterford to end back in Salem. Well I was not her first choice but I did get the job. I worked for her, another Salem resident you might have the good fortune to know, Karen Aube, for 9 years subbing for 3 or 4 days a week, sometimes whole weeks. In 2006 I was offered the *Hartford Courant* route in Salem, now we're talking a route of my own that overlapped enough on Karen's that I could continue to sub for her. Sometimes we weird creatures of the night meet up with others working for rivals and form bonds that enable us to trade off papers so that we are not running into each other all night long. Karen and I had done just this with the *Courant* driver so were already doing part of the route. Since the *Courant* got delivered to its drivers earlier it was a win-win for me. I could get my northern (north of Route 82) Salem customers done before picking up *The Day* papers. About seven months later, I heard thru the rumor mill (what job doesn't have one), that *The Day* route in northern Salem might be available. Since this was also my *Courant* route I called and let the powers that be know I would be interested.

Well, that began my 3,100 nights of interrupted sleep. I already had 1,800 under my belt from working for Karen. Everyone of those 3,100 nights, I traveled down and sometimes back up Norwich Road, Lakeview Avenue, Old Colchester Road, Forest Drive, Witter Road, Lakeview Heights, Brainard Road, Buckley Terrace, Scott Hill (1 & 2 LOL) Harris Road, Harris Road Ext, Forsyth Road, Cedar Lane, Syleo Lane, Horse Pond Road, Reservoir, Courtney Terrace, Way Road, Rathbun Hill Road, Rattlesnake Ledge Road, Salem Hollow Lane, Maynard Road, Fairy Lake Road, Emerald Glen Lane, Diamond Hill Road, Salem Hollow Lane, Beckwith Hill Drive, Chester Court, Skyline Drive, Valley Drive, Corrina Lane, New London Road, Woodland Drive, Hagen Road, East Haddam Road, Shingle Mill Road, Music Vale Road, Pratt Road, Morgan Road, Round Hill Road, Salem Ridge Drive, Salem Ridge North, Cockle Hill Road, Hartford Road, Sullivan Road, Pleasant View Road, Pheasant Run, Witch Meadow Road, Alexander Road, Mill Lane Road, Brookside Drive, Meadow Lane, West Road, Dolbia Hill, Woodbridge Road, Fawn Run, Old New London Road, Laurelwood Drive, White Birch Road, Darling Road, Gungy Road, and let's not forget Hilltop Trail. I often asked my customers in my yearly missive how did our forefathers come up with some of those names? (No one answered . . . ha ha!).

By my guesstimate, I have driven over 500,000 miles in those 4,900 sleepless nights. I am presently driving my 9th car and that's not counting my husband's cars I've driven or rentals. I was hit by three deer and totaled by one truck. I have turned a corner and come front end of the car to face a cow. I have had three horses run out in front of me on dark roads. I used to see many more deer than my father-in-law saw when he was hunting in Vermont as well as fisher cats in different parts of town along with coyotes just walking down the road. I even saw what I think was a mountain lion on Round Hill Road. I have burned somewhere near 32,000 gallons of gasoline (I told my kids I really needed another fuel source). I have gone thru at least 50 pairs of brake pads – it's no wonder the boys all hate changing them, although they did get very fast at it. The other dreaded words were, "I think I need an oil change," somewhere in the vicinity of 420 quarts of oil with 84 filters. Then there were 22 sets of tires at last count and probably 2 sets of windshield wipers a year. Wheel bearings, wheel hubs, catalytic converters, heat shields are all common repairs. I even wore out steering wheel covers! A couple of years ago I was so tired of listening to the radio, they loop the tracks and some play every night (or at least they seem to) and I found that I could listen to my kindle thru the radio (of course I had to update the radio first), so add a couple of hundred books to the list. I figured that I bagged and tossed somewhere in the vicinity of 260,000 papers. When you include the ones put in tubes, I would guess I delivered around TWO AND A HALF MILLION PAPERS!!! So now you see why I was so tired. ha ha.

This doesn't even begin to address the dreaded WEATHER. You deliver no matter what it is doing (unless the Governor closes the roads, though, we still have to call in to check since our companies consider us essential personnel). When I first started we went out no matter what per the main office directive but, as time went on, they loosened up a little and although we still must pick up the papers from the drop we could wait until the bad weather stopped to deliver. This was great because as everyone who lives in Salem knows there are only about 5 flat roads in town and most of those you have to go up a hill to get to them. And although we have awesome snow plowers in town they often don't start their rounds until after 5 a.m. I actually preferred driving in the snow to driving in pea soup fog or even some of the driving rain. Don't forget you have a window open all night, snow doesn't make you wet like rain.

Well it's been 2 months since I tossed a paper and sleeping through the night like a "normal" person is awesome. My three boys have opened a restaurant (*Claw & Rib* on Pequot Avenue in New London), and I am honored to be their baker and filler-in person. So, another chapter begins! But I still can't wait for the first snowstorm when I can roll over and sleep.

by Debbie James, Newspaper Delivery person for The Day and The Hartford Courant, 1996-2015

SALEM SCHOOL NEWS

As the 2015 – 2016 school year at Salem School has begun, I am enjoying my new role as Principal at Salem School. Although I have been an educator here in Salem since 1997 it still amazes me how the whole community comes together to support our students, teachers, and school which helps us provide such a positive educational experience for all of our students. We received our students' state standardized test scores, for the 2014 — 2015 school year, early this fall. If you follow the link http://salemschools.org/Page/1081 on our website you can see how well our students performed compared to other students in the state. I will share some of the students' accomplishments and experiences that have transpired so far this school year.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Kindergarten is a very busy place! Since the beginning of the year, the main focus has been on building community by learning each other's names, developing class rules, and learning how to be a good citizen. As they transition into academics, the focus has been on the parts of a book, how to handle one, and turn the pages. Letters Mm, Ss, Tt, Aa and Pp have been taught and practiced. Numbers, counting and quantifying to 10, with counting to 20, and learning to write their first and last names with correct upper and lower case letters and good formation have all been worked on. The students enjoyed apple week where the focus was Aa and they incorporated their five senses through writing, art and math, and then a pumpkin week for Pp. Pumpkin week also involved measuring, counting, planning, writing, drawing and reading.

In first grade, October also brought Apple Day! Students celebrated the harvesting of apples with many activities that incorporated literacy, math, science and social studies. The first graders spent the morning rotating between the three classrooms in which they completed different activities with apples. Mrs. St. Pierre conducted a math activity in which students graphed the colors of apples. Mrs. Puhlick instructed the students in a science activity in which they created posters that labeled the parts of an apple. Mrs. Mainville's literacy lesson was designed to teach sequencing the life cycle of an apple. Students learned about the different types of apples, read about Johnny Appleseed, made poem books in which they read and wrote poems about apples, and completed an arts and crafts activity by making an apple headband. The students enjoyed their time learning about apples in all content areas.

For November it's Gobble Up a Good Book! In conjunction with, and in support of, the Readers Hall of Fame program; first graders created a November reading incentive bulletin board in the hallway. After a student reads a book at home or is read to by an adult, the student will write the title and author of the book on a piece of paper. Students will bring the book title and author to school and transfer the information to a feather which will then be added to their bulletin board turkey. At the end of the month, they will count and see how many books they have read. Happy Reading!

Social studies and science are high-interest topics in second grade. The classes were fortunate to be able to take advantage of the proximity of the town offices and the friendliness of the staff there. To support the second graders' first social studies unit "My Community, My Country," both classes walked to the town hall. They met the staff and saw where different services are provided and taxes are paid. Also, they participated in a mock town meeting with First Selectman Kevin Lyden. The students were excited to put the democratic process they had been reading about into action. In science, second graders are studying nutrition. They are learning about the five food groups, reading labels, and making healthy choices about what they eat. It has been a busy autumn!

Third grade is working hard in all subject areas. They are currently working on a collage project in language arts, cutting out pictures and words to describe themselves. The students are very excited to share the things they like with the teachers and each other. In science, they are wrapping up their unit about how solids, liquids, and gases change. They have done so many cool experiments on evaporation, condensation, melting, and dissolving. They have separated solids from liquids and observed the changes and even separated colors in a process called chromatography. Ask your child about that experiment, they were very amazed to see the different colors in the color black! They have ended their addition and subtraction unit, although they will continue to practice what they have learned, and moved onto multiplication and division. Each month they will focus on one table, but please practice them all!

In fourth grade science, students have created stream tables in which they first simulated a rainstorm. They collected and observed runoff water, and used their measurement skills to measure erosion and the resulting deposition from this "rain." They also tested the properties of soil components, especially in regards to pore space. Then, students conducted an inquiry to observe how terrain affects the velocity of the stream and how velocity affects the way in which water erodes and deposits soil. They modeled tributary development and how nature changes the direction and flow of water with hills, slopes, and rocks. By far, the favorite inquiry was designing, constructing, and testing dams in our stream tables. In their final investigation, they will plant vegetation to see its effects on erosion. Fourth grade students are true scientists—analyzing, testing, collecting data, comparing, designing, creating, and communicating.

Fourth graders presented their first book report of the year! All students read a fantasy book, created a poster, and gave an oral presentation that included a succinct summary and their critique of their book. Students were able to practice not only their critical thinking skills, but they honed their public speaking skills in a fun and familiar way. From *The Titan's Curse* to *I, Corriander*, there were so many great novels presented that many fourth graders are now reading new titles based on their classmates' recommendations! To see all the hard work our students have shown during this project, come by the fourth grade wing and take a look at all the colorful posters hung on our bulletin boards. You just might find a new title for yourself to enjoy!

Grade five students are continuing their explorations in history with a field trip to visit the Mayflower II, a Wampanoag Homesite, and Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This unique opportunity to interact with history and hear different perspectives on a time period will help the curriculum come alive for students. Students are bringing field journals and cameras to record their thinking about information they are gathering. This will transfer into a cross curricular project that showcases their historical knowledge and their creative writing skills. They are excited to take their inquiry based learning skills and tools on the road!

The sixth grade students of Salem School have recently crossed the Connecticut River to Camp Hazen YMCA in Chester, Connecticut. The students spent the day outdoors with their peers and teachers along with the counselors from the camp. The students were presented with challenges in a small group setting. The idea is for the students to work together as a team. Each challenge required 100% participation from everyone in the group. The challenges were presented in a manner to stimulate dialogue and develop strategies as a team to solve the problem or succeed in the challenge. The Camp Hazen counselors do a great job to encourage the students, but not to intervene with the process of self-discovery. Each group of students was given an opportunity to reflect on the challenge as to what was successful and what caused the group to not achieve the desired outcome.

In the afternoon the six graders traveled to the top of a hill to the High Ropes Adventure course. The Adventure Course is designed to individual challenges that push the students out of their comfort zone. The look of concern as the students look high into the tree tops bring them together as they reassured and supported their peers. This experience is like no other and to share it amongst students and teachers creates a closer bond and friendship that carries over into the classroom. The philosophy behind the field trip is that the Salem students will take these newly acquired strategies and apply them in the classroom. The teachers continually refer to sixth grade as a "family." Each student leaves Camp Hazen with a grin from ear to ear.

Both seven and eighth grade students have recently been involved in some very exciting projects. Both grades worked on scary stories or pictures that have the opportunity to be published in a special Halloween section of the Norwich

(Continued on Page 15)

SALEM SCHOOL NEWS

(Continued from Page 14)

Bulletin. Eighth grade students took this project a step further by working in small groups to turn some of their scary stories into short horror clips.

Seventh grade has been busy using their extended homeroom time to create a middle school newspaper. Students are responsible for researching, creating, editing, and helping with the layout for the final paper. The enthusiasm shown while working on these projects has been overwhelming; which is exactly what we have come to expect from Salem students!

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

If you visit Salem School early, 7:30 a.m. on any Friday morning, you will find sixth through eighth grade science enthusiasts applying their science and engineering skills with other like-minded students. Mrs. Runkle and Mr. Swan lead our Science Olympiad group to promote science education. The emphasis is on active, hands-on group participation in events that range from building the strongest bridge to conducting an original experiment.

On Wednesday during their lunch many sixth through eighth grade students can be found meeting with Mrs. Carlone for Math Counts. Math Counts is a program where students have an opportunity to be mathematically challenged. This program combines coaching and competition in math achievement, where students compete similar to athletes. Students are called "mathletes", and they will have the opportunity compete at the school, area, state, and national levels.

We are continuing our Student Activity Program. Our first session was supported mostly from our staff here at Salem School with activities such as chess, hiking club, French club and homework club. We hope to see more members of the Salem community volunteer to provide their expertise with our students. If you are interested in volunteering to lead an activity for any of the sessions please contact the school.

In October, we celebrated our first whole school event!!! In recognition of the students' Respectful, Responsible, Safe and Honest behaviors, we had our Fall Festival on Friday, October 16th. It was a great success thanks to Mrs. Bennett and the eighth grade students. The eighth grade students helped plan, organize and host the events; and they cheered and encouraged the younger students as they participated in the activities and competitions. It was great to see all of the smiles on the students and adults' faces. We were so fortunate to have perfect weather for the afternoon.

SPORTS

CROSS COUNTRY

The 2015 Salem School Cross Country team just completed a fun and rewarding season. Salem's team, comprised of 38 middle school runners, was quite a bit larger than last year's team, as we welcomed a large group of talented 5th grade runners. This young group of boys and girls added excitement and a healthy competitiveness to an already cohesive group.

Throughout the season all runners experienced a level of improvement; many personal goals were realized and personal records were surpassed. The season highlight was Salem's participation at the Franklin Invitational where they competed against five other teams. Medals were presented to the top 15 runners, and plaques were awarded to the top three teams. Our Salem boys, led by their team captain Evan Tower acquired four medals (Evan Tower, 2nd; Sam Bennett, 4th; Josh Fresco-Hawes, 13th; and Aiden Maiolo, 14th). The boys were presented with a second place plaque! A very young girls' team achieved four medals (Izzy Pazzaglia, 2nd; Cailyn Maiolo, 6th; Julia Geigel, 8th; and Mary Haburay, 13th), and they too were awarded a second place plaque!

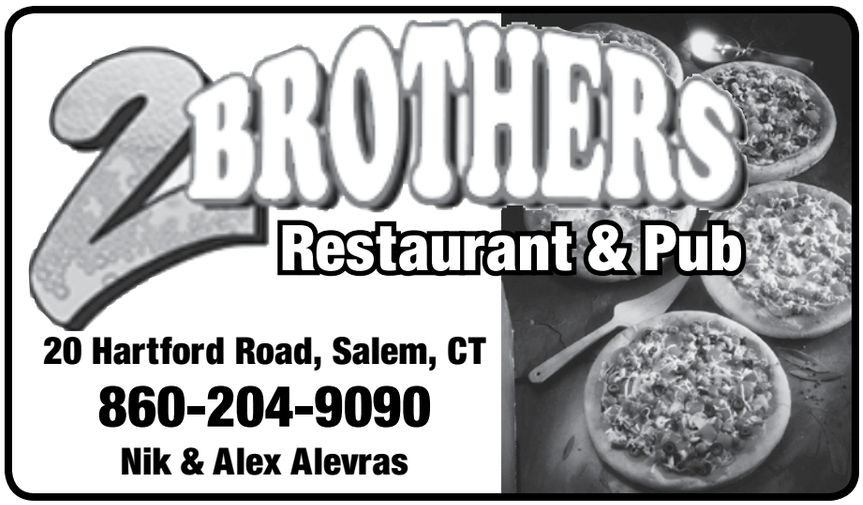
The 2015 Salem Cross Country Team made great strides throughout the season. It's a tough sport for these young athletes; the medals and plaques were well deserved.

SOCCER

The Salem Soccer team played their best in the championship game, but fell short at Wheeler Middle School losing by a score of 2-1. Cooper Pazzaglia redirected a missed penalty shot for the only Salem goal with minutes left. Despite the score, Salem did not give up and gave it their all.

The Salem Soccer team consisted of both boys and girls from grades 5 - 8. They had a very successful season; the team was 9-2-1 going into the playoffs, and has played very hard from beginning until end. The team was led by five eighth grade captains: Jacqui Silviera, Avery Owen, Riley Morrow, Nick Oloski and Emma Belleville. These players were great role models for the rest of the players on the team and displayed great leadership qualities. The remainder of the team worked very hard in practice and it showed in a game setting. Other notable players that contributed to the team's success are Cooper Pazzaglia, Owen Brown, Zach Bourgeois, Morgan Vane, Mason Dupuis and Christian Rianhard.

Submitted by: Joan Philips, Principal



Gemma E. Moran
United Way/Labor Food Center

AFL-CIO Community Services and *United Way* **Partnership**

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.

Please bring your own bags

Location: Town of Salem - Salem School (gravel lot)
200 Hartford Rd. Salem CT
Date(s): First Wednesday of the Month
Time: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

SALEM RECREATION PROGRAM

Hello citizens of Salem! My name is Alex Mercier and I am extremely excited to be working as the new Recreation Program Director for your town. I am coming in with some fresh new ideas but would also love to hear from all of you. My office hours at the Town Hall are Mondays from 11 AM — 6 PM and Thursdays from 11 AM — 5 PM. I strongly encourage any and all of you to come on down during those times to introduce yourselves and to ask any questions/voice your concerns or ideas to me. I am very open to new ideas and would love for anyone who is considering the idea of running a program in the town to get in contact with me as soon as possible.

Town recreation exists to serve the people of the town and offer programs that will better enrich their lives in any number of ways. Whether you like sports, various forms of art, exercise, baking/cooking, etc. I think there should be something for everyone. I hope to be able to bring a full array of programs to the town for both young and old participants to get as many people involved as possible. In order to accomplish this goal I have sent activity interest surveys home with students that can be filled out and returned to me for a coupon worth $10 off your next program registration. Surveys can also be picked up at the office at any time during my office hours or printed from our website but coupons will be limited to one per household.

After a couple weeks of working I have set up a few programs/events that are listed and described below but they will certainly not be all that is offered this winter. Just recently created were the Salem Recreation Facebook page (facebook.com/salemctrec) and Twitter account (Salem Recreation @salemctrec) so you can keep up to date with all of our current/upcoming events and activities! Any and all information you could possibly need about programs and events in the town will be posted through these social media outlets so like and follow them today!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

After the festivities have died down and you get back from your winter vacations, sign up for the after-school Arts Alive Theater Class for children in kindergarten to 4th grade. This class will teach students about all areas of theater including music, acting, and dance while also focusing on public speaking, collaboration, self-esteem boosting, and most of all fun! No experience is necessary and the class will be held once a week after school on Wednesdays from 3:30 — 5:00 starting January 13th. This is a continuously running program throughout the school year and costs $60 for residents, $65 for non-residents, or $55 each for siblings for every four class session.

On Thursday, January 21st, the AARP is coming to town and hosting a Driver Safety Training Course from 11-3PM. Learn about defensive driving during these harsh winter months and get a minimum 5% discount on your car insurance if you are 60 or older! Costs $15 for AARP members and $20 for non-members.

Winter is coming and we all know what that means…SNOW! I think we should put that snow to good use, so all winter long we are going to have a town-wide Snowman/Sculpture Contest! Build the best snowman/sculpture you can, take a picture with it, and send that picture in to Salem Recreation for a chance to win one of many amazing prizes! Contest will be broken down into age groups — check out the Salem Recreation website, Facebook, or Twitter for more information. FREE to enter!

By Alex Mercier — Recreation Program Director

@salemctrec facebook.com/salemctrec

SALEM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISION

To Salem Business Owners: Salem EDC Wants YOU!

One of the major priorities of the Salem Economic Development Commission (EDC) is to actively promote businesses within the town of Salem. We would like to inform town residents of the great businesses that are in town to serve them, as well as encourage local commerce. There are a lot of businesses well known in town, as well as many home businesses that are discrete or web-based.

To help publicize the businesses in town, the EDC plans to put together the first ever "Salem Business Directory" to be distributed throughout the Town. The Salem Business Directory would list all businesses in town with information provided by the business for FREE! Businesses would need to provide basic information including a brief description of products or services, location and contact information, logo (if applicable) and business hours.

Home-based businesses which would like to be known without the foot traffic can list a telephone number or website as the method of contact, with their description of products or services and logo.

If a business is interested in having a formal commercial advertisement in the Directory in addition to their information listing, there will be an option to have one placed for a modest fee.

Information to be included in the Directory can be mailed in using the form below, or you can fax it to Town Hall (860-859-1184). Alternatively, a business card that provides the above information could be submitted and will be printed as is.

Any questions on this project can be directed to the First Selectman's office at Town Hall, 860-859-3873, x 110. Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to receiving your information soon

Frank Sroka, Chair

INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION WILL BE USED TO DEVELOP THE LISTING TO BE PRINTED FOR YOUR BUSINESS:

Business Name: _____

Business Description (Products or Services):

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_____

Business Address (can omit if home business): _____

Business Phone Number: _____

Business Hours: _____

Website Address: _____

Business Contact Person Name: _____

Business Contact Person's Phone Number and/or Email: _____

Interested in having a formal ad for modest fee? YES or **NO** (Please circle one)

(Circle "Yes" and you will be contacted by someone on behalf of EDC)

FOR FREE DIRECTORY LISTING, please mail* your completed form to:

Salem Economic Development Commission
Salem Town Hall
270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06420

*Or you can **fax** it to Town Hall at **860-859-1184**

Salem Volunteer Fire Company

Fire Prevention Week at the Salem School

Fire Prevention Week occurs every October to commemorate the Great Fire of Chicago in 1871 that killed over 250 people and left 100,000 people homeless. Firefighters ever since have sought to educate the public about the dangers of fire and how to prevent it, beginning with school children.

Here in Salem on October 13th, Salem Volunteer Fire Company and Gardner Lake Fire Company participated in educating Salem School's Pre-K through 4th grades in fire prevention. Chief Richard Martin from Salem Fire Company played a short video in the gym for the children to demonstrate the importance of smoke detectors, to stay low and go if there is a fire, and how to plan a common meeting place for their family if they need to get out of a burning house. They practiced the childhood favorite known as Stop, Drop and Roll. The children were also able to climb into the fire trucks and ambulance outside as volunteer fire fighters from Salem demonstrated tools and equipment on the truck. They had the opportunity to ask questions of the firefighters, and many of them were insightful.

On the 15th, both fire companies returned to demonstrate a vehicle extrication drill for students in the 5th through 8th grades. With the assistance from Life Star, the critical care helicopter service, the simulated drill began at 9 a.m. under the instruction of Chiefs James Savalle from Gardner Lake and Richard Martin from Salem Volunteer Fire Company. In this exercise firefighters showed how they would extricate a potential victim from a damaged vehicle. Moments later, Life Star, which was piloted by Mike Kwas, emerged from the tree tops and landed in the field at the school. Life Star nurse, Heather Priest, who attended Salem School when she was a child, and Respiratory therapist, Burt Cox, exited the helicopter with their stretcher to recover the injured victim. The Life Star team demonstrated how they would prepare the victim for transport and the steps they would take to treat the victim's injuries. The drill ended once they returned to the helicopter with the patient. The students were then allowed to look inside the helicopter as the Life Star professionals answered their questions. They then watched as the Life Star heroes fired up their helicopter and flew off into the sky to prepare themselves for their next emergency.

Robert Oloski, Captain

Friends of Salem Library

Friends Fall Used Book Sale is a Community Event

On Halloween weekend, the Friends of Salem Library held their Fall Used Book Sale at the Salem School Gym. The sale netted the Friends and Salem Library over $7800. Monies from the sale help fund popular library programs like Candy Sushi Academy, Fun with Rhythm, and Polar Express. The Friends also use the earnings to sponsor the Summer Reading program which had 511 participants who read 597 books.

Library programs and collections purchases are dependent on the success of our used book sale. Lucky for us, our sale is led by Judy and Norm Rabe and they have a great supporting cast. For example, you have probably seen George Ziegra sorting donated books nearly every day in Friends Room in the library. Norm has recruited a cadre of pickup truck owners who collect large donations from locations around southeastern Connecticut. In the spring, Judy leads a team of volunteers who sort the books into 50 categories. Sorting continues all summer and into early fall. The books are packed into boxes provided by Salem Liquors. Without our dedicated volunteers, the book sale could not take place.

In September, activity for the actual sale starts in earnest. The sale is too big for the library so it is held in the Salem School Gym. The Friends very much appreciate the support they receive from the Salem School administration, teachers, and the maintenance and janitorial staff. As the book sale date approaches, Norm and Carole Eckart recruit volunteers to work on the sale. This year, we had over 60 volunteers who provided 450 hours of work over Friday and Saturday. On Friday, they set up 90 tables and moved over 20,000 books into the gym only to reverse the process on Saturday afternoon. It is an amazing sight. During the sale, they kept the books neat and organized, and collected for each purchase.

Our volunteers mirror the spectrum of Salem's population. They include Friends, friends of Friends, spouses, children, and seniors. Groups who volunteer include Girls Scouts, Lions, East Lyme H.S. Key Club, teens needing Community Service hours, Library Board members, and off duty Library Staff including our Library Director, Rachel Gaither, who gave up her day off to move books. Working the book sale has become a tradition for Dave and Greg Cikatz, who grew up in Salem but now live out of town. They each take a day off from work to help us with the sale.

We must recognize all the people who donated or purchased books. It takes a community to make the book sale a success and the Friends are grateful that we reside in a community that gives us their support.

This is the last Used Book Sale that Judy and Norm Rabe will chair. They have taken a small book sale earning a profit of $1500 to one of largest book sales in southeastern Connecticut earning eight thousand dollars. Their attention to detail, persistence, and dedication as Chairpersons is truly admired by all who have worked on the book sale over the years.

It would be impossible to replace Judy and Norm but the book sale must go on. Over the last couple of months, the Rabes have developed a list of tasks they perform and have agreed to train those who follow them. Some of the tasks take place throughout the year. For example, a weekly task involves moving 10 or so boxes of books from the library to the Zemko garage. In the Spring, we will need help sorting books. Every hour someone volunteers helps run the sale so if you are in a position to volunteer we would love to hear from you. Contact Carl Nawrocki at 860.859.1641 or email Carlybilly@aol.com and we will get back to you.

Carl Nawrocki, President

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Our Town Salem-(OTS) is a magazine published quarterly to provide the Town or its key staff with an opportunity to publish information regarding governmental and community items of public interest.

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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