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Connecticut

SPRING 2016



Spring Seating by Bopha Smith

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Dear Fellow Townspeople,

After a mild winter it is exciting to see all the activities our spring season brings.

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

Senior Housing

With our Town's demographics showing an 82% increase in the next ten years of residents ages 65 and over, we have begun discussions on Senior Housing. Expect to hear more about this subject as we look into creating needed Senior Housing for our community. Early ideas include one story cottages or a duplex concept designed around a small community center.

Recycling News

Good News! Several items are now being recycled and; therefore, we have eliminated the fee for these items. Items include mattress and box springs; electronics including televisions, computer monitors, stereo, etc. and metals of all kinds. Please bring these items all year long to the Transfer Station at no charge. There is no need to wait for Amnesty Days.

School Renovation

The punch list items and additional security items have been completed at our Salem School. I want to thank past Selectman, Elbert Burr, and his committee for doing such a fine job for our students and community. They "Fixed what needed to be fixed", which included new roofing and insulation, window replacement, electrical and plumbing upgrades, HVAC upgrades, code compliance issues and more. They delivered all these upgrades below the referendum approved 6.2 million dollars. After reimbursement from the state the cost is less than 4.5 million dollars.

It was a sensible renovation that will serve our children for years to come. We have several neighboring towns that are struggling with proposed renovations of 30-40 million dollars. Our Town followed a very sensible approach.

Economic Development Commission

Our business landscape looks much better than a decade ago: Treasure Hill Farm replaced a dilapidated meat market/restaurant; R & W Heating, Salem Auto and Gardner Lake Package Store repurposed the long vacant Congdon properties; Todd Burnett has brought Salem Country Gardens back to a profitable attractive business; Dunkin' Donuts replaced a no name donut shop; Fox Farm Brewery will repurpose a many decade vacant farm building; the addition of Zito Buildings house our much needed successful pharmacy, renowned Dynamic Enterprise Solutions and new apartments.

Besides cleaning up our Town and offering our residents more services; the businesses in our Town are now responsible for 5.2% of the Grand List-up from 4.8% some 6-years ago. This is no small feat when you consider the Town of East Lyme, which appears to have much more business, but has 8% of their Grand List represented by businesses.

Thank you Chairman Frank Sroka for your fine leadership. Thank you EDC members for your positive influences on our Town.

I hope to see you at the Salem 5K Road Race and Memorial Day Parade.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.

Respectfully,



Kevin Lyden, First Selectman



UNCAS HEALTH DISTRICT

Lead in Water

The Flint, Michigan water crisis is a drinking water contamination issue that started in April 2014. After the city changed its water source from treated Detroit Water and Sewerage Department water (which was sourced from Lake Huron as well as the Detroit River) to the Flint River, which lacked appropriate treatment to prevent the water from being corrosive, its drinking water had a series of problems that culminated with lead contamination, creating a serious public health emergency. The corrosive Flint River water caused lead from aging pipes to leach into the water supply, causing extremely elevated levels of lead. In Flint, between 6,000 and 12,000 children have been exposed to drinking water with high levels of lead and they may experience a range of serious health problems.

You may ask... could my water be contaminated with lead? Homes in the Town of Salem are served by private on-site wells. Since lead rarely occurs naturally in water; it usually gets into the water from the delivery system. Lead pipes, such as those in Flint, Michigan, are the main contributor to high lead levels in tap water. Other sources include parts of the water delivery system such as lead solder used to join copper pipes, brass in faucets, coolers, and valves. Although brass usually contains low lead levels, the lead can still dissolve into the water, especially when the fixtures are new. Private wells, more than 20 years old, may contain lead in the "packer" element that is used to help seal the well above the well screen. Some brands of older submersible pumps used in wells may also contain leaded-brass components. Corrosion of the pipes and fixture parts can cause the lead to get into tap water.

So, what can a homeowner do to prevent high lead levels in the home's drinking water? If you suspect a problem and your drinking water comes from a private well, you can have your water tested at a state licensed laboratory. If you do have lead in the water, there are ways to address the problem. First, try to identify and remove the lead source. If you have a private well, check both the well and the pump for potential lead sources. A licensed well water contractor can help you determine if any of the well components are a source of lead. Heating or boiling your water will not remove lead. Because some of the water evaporates during the boiling process, the lead concentration of the water can actually increase slightly as the water is boiled. If it is not possible or cost-effective to remove the lead source, flushing the water system before using the water for drinking or cooking may be an option. Any time a particular faucet has not been used for several hours (approximately 6 or more), you can flush the system by running the water for about 1-2 minutes or until the water becomes as cold as it will get. Flush each faucet individually before using the water for drinking or cooking. You can use the water flushed from the tap to water plants, wash dishes or clothing, or clean. Avoid cooking with or drinking hot tap water because hot water dissolves lead more readily than cold water does. Do not use hot tap water to make cereals, drinks or mix baby formula. You may draw cold water after flushing the tap and then heat it if needed. You may also wish to consider water treatment methods such as reverse osmosis, distillation, and carbon filters specially designed to remove lead.

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

Submitted by: Patrick McCormack, Director of Health

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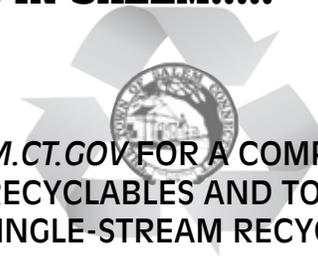
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SALEM LIONS TALES

IT'S SPRING AGAIN!

Congratulations to Bob Cikatze who received the 2016 Salem Lions Humanitarian Award at Lions District 23C Humanitarian Recognition Dinner on January 16th. District Governor Nancy Tucker presented awards and citations to Bob and 14 citizens of other towns in eastern Connecticut. For many years, Bob has quietly volunteered his time supporting many projects and events in Salem. He works with the Friends of the Library during the Fall Book Sale and throughout the year; he donates time to Habitat for Humanity Restore both in Salem and now in Waterford. He provides valuable help to the Lions for their annual Tag Sale, and any other projects, as requested. Congratulations to Bob.

Salem Lions proudly welcomes our newest Lion, Larry Stevens. Larry was inducted into Salem Lions by District Governor Nancy Tucker at our January monthly meeting. Welcome to Lions, Larry.

Our annual Super Bowl Rose fundraiser was a large success. Ninety dozen beautiful cut roses were sold. Thank you all for your support to the Lions. For all who saw and admired these roses, watch for our 2017 sale beginning in January. Roses will be available just prior to 51st Super Bowl Weekend.

ATTENTION ALL RUNNERS - The 23rd Annual Salem Road Race is on Saturday, April 9. Registration is now open. Visit our website at Salemctroadrace.org. Preregistration online prior to March 23 is \$25 (includes shirt) for 5K race; \$15 kids (includes shirt) for 1 mile. After March 23, \$25/\$15 with shirts to be purchased separately. Registrations can also be made at Salem School on Friday night from 6:30-8:00pm, and race day from 7:00-9:00am. Results will be published for "age graded" finishes, and in "order of finish" for the 5K race. Post race refreshments will be served in the School cafeteria. Prizes will be awarded at this time.

Our Annual Salem Lions Tag Sale is set for Saturday, June 25 on corner of Rte. 82 and Shingle Mill Road. You Name it, we probably have it! Something for everyone. For donations, contact Lion Norm Rabe (859-0165).

To all high school seniors from Salem: Salem Lions will award two scholarships to two graduating Salem seniors. Awards will be announced at our June 23rd dinner meeting where the recipients and their parents will be our guests. Application forms and information will be available in early May from your high school guidance counselors. Contact person for the Lions is Lion George Householder.

It seems early, but we have started assembling our 2016 — 2017 Community Calendar. Important dates will be included: Salem and East Lyme H.S. school calendar dates; Salem Town Commissions and Committee dates; Town Events. Birthdays/anniversaries/memorials may be purchased @ \$0.50 per listing. Contact Lion Gordon Gillaspie (859-3336) for info, or visit the Lions Booth on Memorial Day.

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).

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.

Submitted by: Lion George Ziegler



SALEM GREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Now that winter is over, we remind all plot owners to come by and clear their plots of tattered flags, spent holiday decorations, all artificial flowers, empty flower pots and other items. Please do not deposit waste items anywhere on cemetery grounds. Remove them entirely. What is not removed by owners will be removed by Salem Green Cemetery Association members by the end of April at their annual spring cleanup.

Both the garden hydrant and pitcher (hand) pumps will be available around early May for those who need water for flowers.

We've installed a small utility shed to store supplies and tools and are expecting our Town Maintenance crew to open the stone wall between the cemetery and old Zemko property for the placement of a gate. Once the gate is in, the unsightly pile of soil near our shed will find a new home (out of sight) on the other side of the wall. We are also developing plans to install a new roadway. Once complete, it will afford us access to another 300+ plots that will serve us well into the future.

For the period 11/09/2015 — 03/07/2016 there have been three (3) interments/inurnments.

Date:	Section:	Row:	Plot:	Name:
12/23/2015	IV	G	22	Jacob Annello
02/06/2016	I	A	07	Thomas M. Clancy
03/01/2016	I	A	36	Anne J. Bourdeau

Plot availability: As of 03/07/2016 there is one (1) full sized plot remaining in Section I priced at \$550. Section IV has 98 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.

Submitted by Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton

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Friends Fall Used Book Sale is a Community Event

On Halloween weekend, the Friends of Salem Library held their annual 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 that 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 Ziegler, sorting donated books nearly every day in the Friends Room in the library. There is a cadre of pickup truck owners who gather large donations from locations in southeastern CT. In the spring, Judy Rabe leads a team of volunteers who sort the books into 50 categories. This process takes place all summer into early fall. The books are in boxes provided by Salem Liquors. Without our dedicated volunteers, the book sale would not take place.

In September, planning starts, in earnest, for the actual sale. 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, maintenance and the janitorial staff. As the book sale date approaches, Carole Eckart recruits the volunteers. This year, we had over 60 volunteers that provided 450 hours of work over Friday and Saturday. They set up 90 tables and moved over 20,000 books to the gym. Then on Saturday afternoon, they reverse the process. It is an amazing sight.

Our volunteers are a spectrum of Salem's population. They include Friends, friends of Friends, spouses, their children and seniors. Groups that volunteer include Girls Scouts, Lions, East Lyme H.S. Key Club, teens needing Community Service hours, Library Board members, off duty library Staff, including our Library Director,

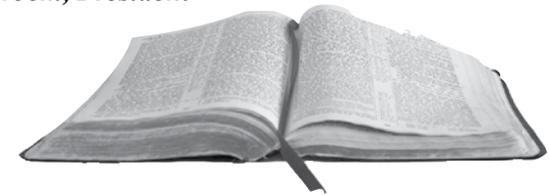
Rachel Gaither who gave up her day off to move books. Working the book sale has become a tradition for Dave and Greg Cikatz, who grew up in Salem and live out of town. They each take a day off from work to help us with the sale.

We must recognize all the people who donated books 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 CT earning eight thousand dollars. Their attention to detail, persistence and dedication as Chairpersons is truly admired to all who have worked on the book sale over the years.

It will be impossible to replace Judy and Norm but the book sale must go on. Over the last couple of months, the Rabes have been providing 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 involving the moving of 10 or so boxes of books from the library to the Zemko garage. In the Spring, we will need help sorting books, usually one morning a week. Every hour helps, so if you 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.

Submitted by: Carl Nawrocki, President



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Salem Free Public Library Spring Events Calendar

Saturday, April 2, 2016, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Live Owl Program- Presented by A Place Called Hope. This one hour program includes four different owl species found in CT. Meet each nocturnal species and learn about special adaptations that help these creatures of the night survive in the wild. Understand how owls take advantage of their unique hunting styles and special characteristics designed specifically for these night time hunters. All ages, limit 40. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

Saturday, April 9, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.

Bubbleology: the secret world of bubbles with Keith Michael Johnson. The program will enchant all ages with the art and science of soap bubbles! Limit 40. (Program is for children & adults). Call 860-859-1130 to register.

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

Tractor Mac- Presented by children's book author, Billy Steers. Interactive drawing presentation, book signing and a visit from Tractor Mac! Program is limited to 40 participants. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

Saturday, May 7, 2016, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Miniature Fairy Gardens- Come make a miniature fairy garden in a teacup sized porcelain planter. All supplies provided. For ages 8 to adult! Limit 15. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

Call 860-859-1130 to register for any program.

All programs sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library

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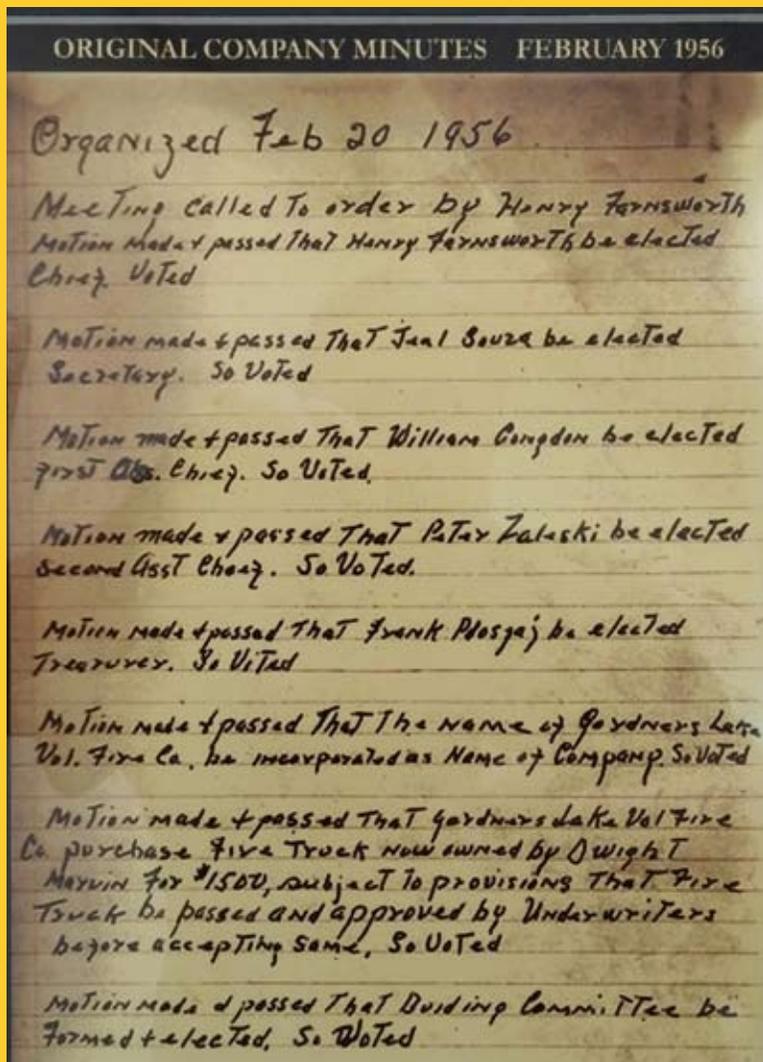


photo of original company minutes, February 20, 1956



In 1956 a group of citizens banded together to form a second fire department in the Town of Salem. The first fire department was located on the west side of town. It was felt by the residents on the eastern side of town that there was a need for a second fire department due to the length of time it takes to get from one side of town to the other in the case of a fire or other emergency.

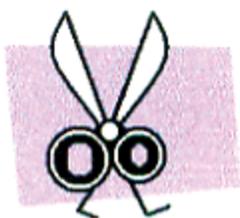
On February 20, 1956 the GARDNER LAKE VOLUNTEER

FIRE COMPANY was formed and held their first organizational meeting at Congdon's garage. They had neither a fire truck nor a place to house a fire truck. Nevertheless, at that very first meeting they elected a Chief, 1st Assistant Chief, 2nd Assistant Chief, Secretary and Treasurer. They also voted on the official name of the company and to purchase a fire truck for \$1,500. That same evening, they appointed a Building Committee to make plans to build a firehouse to house this first fire truck.

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Snarski donated the land on which the firehouse was to be built, and with \$2,000 from the town, they were on the way to purchasing the first fire truck and breaking ground for the firehouse. In March of 1956, ground was broken for the firehouse. With much volunteer work by the founding fathers, on January 3, 1957, 11 months after the organizational meeting, the first company meeting was held in the new firehouse. The firehouse consisted of two apparatus bays and a large recreation hall. Dances were held each week in the new hall. Proceeds were used to pay off the mortgage that had been taken out for the building. The \$10,000 mortgage was paid off in four years and two months. In November 1960, The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company was debt free and in full operation.

In December 1960, the Company purchased an ambulance. A tanker holding 1500 gallons of water was added to the department in 1961. The founders of the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company were a group of dedicated and determined individuals who never lost sight of the reason for their existence: the protection and preservation of the life and property of the citizens of Salem.

It is the dedication of our founding fathers that has guided us through the last half century of existence and it is that same dedication and determination of our current membership that will serve us well into the future.



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Taken by Lion Bill Martin

Humanitarian Award Presentation to Bob Cikatz I-r: State Senator Paul Formica, Bob Cikatz, District 23C Governor Lion Nancy Tucker, Lion Skip Stangeland

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SALEM SCHOOL NEWS

I would like you all to welcome Mrs. Kim Fentress, our new assistant principal, to Salem. Kim joined us at the beginning of January. Already we feel like she has been here forever. She has jumped in with both feet and has been a great addition to Salem School. She graduated from Saint Joseph College in 1993 with a BS in Special Education/General Education. She earned her Master's Degree in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University. She began her teaching career at Elmcrest Psychiatric hospital — in a satellite day school here in Salem and then moved on to begin their programs in two subsequent locations: Norwich and Southington. In 1999 she took a job with the Middletown Public School District as a special education teacher for three years in a variety of roles; alternative education teacher and teacher in a self-contained classroom for students with a variety of learning and behavior challenges. After three years of teaching special education, she took over the role of 7th grade world cultures teacher for over 10 years. During that time, she took on many roles in addition to teaching. She was the National Junior Honor Society faculty advisor, the team leader for her 7th grade team, an administrative assistant (responsible for assisting the Principal and Assistant Principal with building/student and staff issues). During the 2013-2014 school year, she accepted a position as Dean of Students at CREC John J. Allison Polaris Center. As such, she was responsible for the same duties and obligations as an Assistant Principal. She received her Administrative Leadership certification from Sacred Heart University. She resides in East Hampton with her family and is very happy to be a part of our Salem Family.

LIFE AT SALEM SCHOOL

Preschool

Preschool is off to a great new year! They have jumped right back into learning, playing and growing. They have been learning about Jan Brett stories and talking about the different kinds of animals in *The Hat* and *The Mitten*. The students have a classroom clothesline full of winter woolens so they can talk about characters and role play. The children focused on vocabulary words such as bulge, stretch, commotion, burrow, drowsy and admire. They made winter hats and mittens to hang around their classroom. The class loved making their very own Hedgeie by adding toothpick prickles and a warm sock hat!

They are moving forward with our Handwriting Without Tears program. The children started by building letters with big and little lines, such as "T", "F", "M" and "H." After they built them with sticks they practice them in their workbooks. They sang catchy songs to help us to remember where to start each letter and how to follow it along. They are now starting letters with big and little curves, such as "B", "P", "D", and "R." Everyone is doing really great through this exposure and practice with letters.

The students are VERY excited to move forward in Music with Mr. Hebert! They have picked out some really awesome new songs for their spring performance. They are learning songs about robots,

cloud watching and monkeys! They are learning to boogie like a bunny and walk with rigid movements like a robot. They will add songs about farms, frogs and fish! And, of course, the children are still movin' and groovin' with their rhythm sticks. Soon it will be time to add in their kick line! It will be a show you won't want to miss!

Kindergarten

*"I am a cidgrdin cid ritr. Salim Skl is grit."**

This is one of ways that writing might look like in our kindergarten classrooms. Young children are writers as soon as they draw or put symbols/letters on paper and tell what it means to them. Writing is an important focus in our kindergarten curriculum. Our kindergartners are learning that what they can say, they can write and what they can write, they can read. They are making connections between letters and sounds. They are learning to read and spell sight vocabulary and apply this knowledge in writing. The kindergartners are writing opinion pieces, composing informative/explanatory text, developing story sequence and sharing their writing with others. In the classroom, activities such as journal writing, writing prompts, letter writing and shared writing experiences promote the process of writing. It is exciting to witness the growth of a writer!

*Could you read the kindergarten story?

It said; "I am a kindergarten kid writer. Salem School is great."

Grade One

First graders are doing RESEARCH! They are focusing on the common core goal where students will become more independent in choosing topics for research, and more confident in reporting information to their peers. Students are researching many different kinds of animals from penguins, walrus and monkeys to tigers and pandas. The students are focusing on the skills associated with reading non-fiction; using text features such as a glossary and index to help in data collection, note taking, using graphic organizers to organize information and facts, report writing and information presentation. They have begun this with choosing one animal for the whole class to focus on together, and will finish with students choosing an independent project. The first graders are enjoying this exciting challenge and looking forward to presenting their reports. Later in the year they hope to research dinosaurs and maybe even famous people!

Grade Two

In Language Arts, second graders are currently reading biographies and working on reports using the information from their text. Students are also learning about the power of persuasion as they continue to practice writing persuasive letters and essays.

Linear measurement is the focus in math for February. Students will estimate, measure, and compare lengths of objects. They will also solve story problems that involve length.

The recently-completed Social Studies unit emphasized producers and consumers and their relationship with one another. Topics included needs,

wants, trading, and supply and demand.

In science, the study of solids and liquids has begun. Have you ever been to a Liquid Museum? Soon, the second grade classrooms will display bottles of various liquids with student-written museum cards noting the properties and other interesting details about each liquid.

To celebrate the 100th day of school, the second graders made a 100-word poster! Students cut out and arranged 100 of their favorite words in their own creative ways. The second grade teachers are looking forward to seeing what this year's students will come up with!

Grade Three

What do books and K-9 officers have in common? A lot! Third graders have been reading all about animal helpers as part of a unit on Reading for Information. One book, *Aero and Officer Mike*, tells about the special relationship between a police officer and his highly trained K-9, Aero. Students also gained information on the topic when Mrs. Phillips shared her experiences raising a FIDELCO puppy. They learned that FIDELCO puppies are primarily trained as Seeing Eye dogs, but may also go into the state police K-9 program.

Third graders viewed a demonstration from one of our local troopers, Trooper Pete and his K-9, Hugo. Hugo happened to be a FIDELCO trained dog! Trooper Chris also joined in. Students had a firsthand look at how a highly trained police dog follows signals and commands and performs a search. They also heard about the intense training both a state trooper and his dog go through. Hugo impressed the crowd and brought to life the many interesting facts students read about. The students asked thoughtful questions and were very excited to "interview" these primary sources!

Grade Four

What a winter! With very little snow, the fourth graders have been hired by their math teacher to start their own snowman construction companies. Their task is to build a snowman that weighs 50 pounds or less and costs \$25 or less. Each student has a materials list and needs to make wise choices to control construction costs and to adhere to the weight limit. Snowballs weigh between 5 and 30 pounds, and the prices for snowmen clothing can get expensive! They have had to work on conversions of ounces to pounds (To quote a fourth grader, "You can use a lot of buttons and stay under a pound!"). This has been an exciting seasonal learning experience for all! They have had some good discussions about judicious use of money and the responsibilities involved in owning a business. As work orders are completed and checked for approval, students are "building" their snowmen. Though our snowmen are made out of paper, we have some hopeful 9- and 10-year-olds who are sure winter still has some snowflakes in store for us.

In fourth grade language arts class, it is all about character! We have been studying famous people and their lives in our fourth graders' latest unit on biographies. Specifically, they have learned about many famous American artists from collage artist,

SALEM SCHOOL NEWS

(Continued from Page 14)

Romare Bearden, to the “father of modern dance”, Jose Limon. For their independent study, fourth graders read two biographies and created poster-sized Venn diagrams to compare and contrast two famous people within the same industry. Their discussions have centered on not only their accomplishments, but also the character traits that these successful leaders-in-industry may share and what makes them different. Fourth graders have learned that early life experiences often shape the character of a person later in life. These projects are quite creative and are proudly displayed in the Grade 4 corridor. You are most welcome to swing by to take a look at all the wonderful and colorful people hanging out in our hallway. Our students would be happy to talk to you about them!

Grade Five

During December and January, fifth grade students have set sail and are exploring new and exciting subjects! In Social Studies while they have been busy with their own academic exploration, the fifth graders have learned about the first European explorations of the world! They connected their own motivations to explore those of explorers centuries ago, and used that background to discover the purposes and results of “discovering” the New World! Most importantly, students were able to see those results (the exchange of goods, labor, and culture) and shed light on how that directly affects our lives today!

In mathematics, students are diving into the world of geometry and discussing the properties of two-dimensional shapes. They will be working in groups to create a map using two dimensional shapes along with some of the skills they have learned about in their Social Studies explorations! They will then begin their long journey into the world of fractions!

In Language Arts they wrapped up their unit on human rights with student written and produced Reader’s Theater, and now they have begun to ‘Journey’ into environmental issues. Students are now using resources from our Journeys Reading Program, Time for Kids, as well as other news sources to participate in the informational text unit “Wild Encounters”. In writing, students will begin to work on supporting an opinion and will present speeches on the environment during February.

In science, they explored the physics of sound. Their journey included dozens of hands-on activities, which allowed students to independently discover properties of sound. They concluded this adventure using their knowledge of problem solving to construct their own unique musical instruments made from recycled everyday objects. A big thank you to families, who played a huge role in making this voyage a fulfilling one for the 5th graders!

Grade Six

Our grade six students have been combining their language arts’ skills with their social studies’ knowledge to learn about mythology and the ancient world. Students use their knowledge of the myths as

a foundation for writing. To facilitate the composing process, group, peer and teacher conferences are used. They have been independently researching a topic of their choice and are gearing up to create a model, dress in costume, and make a PowerPoint presentation. Their enthusiasm is contagious!

Grade Seven

Seventh grade has changed their focus during their Enrichment time from working on a newspaper to creating a “newscast.” Students are working in small groups to research a topic, write a script, and film a short clip that they will then edit into a show. Some students have focused on school sports, student art, fashion, and even a comedy skit! They are in the early stages at this point, and they don’t even have a name yet. The students are diligently working and hope to have the entire show ready to share in a few weeks.

Grade Eight

In January we began the Connecticut Bar Association’s Civics Education Committee’s advisory program where some of our seventh and eighth grade students are participating. The program is centered on the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Bill of Rights, Civics, separation of power, etc. This advisory program is being led by Kristi A. Hanney, Esq. The students are excited to learn and prepare for the mock trial and the final class with a trip on April 1st to a local courthouse.

TECHNOLOGY

This is the third year that Salem School has participated in The Hour of Code. Every December, during Computer Science Education Week, the non-profit group, Code.org, has organized a movement to introduce students of all ages across the globe to Computer programming.

The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. The actual Hour of Code tutorials are usually based on a current popular movie or cultural event such as Star Wars or Minecraft. Students work through several puzzles using a block structured programming language. This year, older students were also given the opportunity to use JavaScript instead of the block language.

All Salem students from Kindergarten through 8th grade participated in the Hour of Code. The younger students played Kodable and Tynker which teaches programming basics, sequencing and strategy. The older students each finished at least one ‘Hour of Code’ tutorial. Most of these classes went beyond the “Hour of Code” and spent the month of December investigating the other tutorials that are offered including Made with Code, learning Java Script in Khan Academy, creating their own games or programs with Scratch and playing other games that teach programming.

The students look forward to the challenge of this activity. Several students report that they continue to work on programming at home. The tutori-

als in Code.org stay up year round so students are encouraged to visit them during free time or even at home!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

We are very proud of the students who participated in the Patriot’s Pen Youth Essay Contest this year. Veterans of Foreign Wars District 4 had over 400 participants from its 24 Posts. Salem had the first place winner, Morgan Vane and the fifth place winner, Dean Palermo. Morgan Vane’s essay was then sent to the Department of Connecticut VFW for judging with the other five District First Place Winners. All of the First Place Winners and their families were invited to the Department of Connecticut VFW Awards Banquet on January 17, 2016 and the Winners were announced. Morgan Vane finished in FIRST PLACE in the STATE, of over more than 1,000 participants at the various Posts. Congratulations Morgan!! Morgan Vane’s essay is now being sent to VFW National Headquarters for judging at the National level, to compete with the other 53 winners (all 50 States and the 3 regions around the world with VFW affiliations). The VFW would like students to know that they can get a jump on their work anytime for next year’s contest. The rules are the same as last year. For students entering into Grades 6, 7, and 8 (next year) the theme is “My Responsibility to America”.

In the fall, students in grade five participated in the 2015-2016 Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest and Jacob Hatt was Salem School’s winner. His poster was forwarded to the county competition, and we are very excited to announce that Jacob’s poster took FIRST PLACE in New London County. Jacob will now be competing in the state competition. The state winner will be announced on March 31st. Congratulations and good luck Jacob!

At the Annual Elementary Arts Banquet held at the Aqua Turf in Southington in February, two fourth grade students were honored; Julianna Kenyon was recognized for her achievements in art and Neva Flickinger for her achievements in music. It was a wonderful event and we were so happy to celebrate their great accomplishments with their families.

Congratulations to our Math Counts participants: Karena Kung, Sonja Govertsen, Michael Wong, Emma Robson, Grace Vlaun, Sophia Rogers, Connor Barrett, Dean Palermo, and Tyler McShane. Our Math Counts Club competed at the Coast Guard Academy on February 6, 2016 for the regional competition. The Salem Math Counts team ranked fifth in the competition. Karena Kung ranked with a score high enough to move her on to the state competition at the University of Hartford in March. All of our Math Counts members did a fabulous job representing Salem. They have been practicing for this event since the fall of the school year. This club meets once a week with Mrs. Carlone during their lunch time.

Submitted by Joan Phillips

SALEM HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM



Dear Salem Resident,

I am writing you this letter today to tell you about a program currently available to qualified residents of the Town of Salem.

The Town of Salem has been awarded funds from the Connecticut Department of Housing for financial assistance in making needed health and safety improvements to the homes of qualified low and moderate income Salem residents. The program provides eligible low and moderate income Salem residents with interest-free home improvement loans. The loans are interest free and are not due and payable until change of title to the home. Loans can be used for such activities as: replacing failed furnaces, siding, roofs, windows, electrical systems, plumbing, carpentry, septic systems, and ADA modifications (entrance ramps; bathrooms etc).

To qualify for a loan, property owners must satisfy the following criteria: have at least 10% equity in their homes; be tax current; and have an annual income consistent with HUD income limits. (e.g., For a household of one, an income that does not exceed \$46,100; for a household of two, \$52,650, and so forth. For households of 3 persons or more, please refer to the 2015 HUD Income Limits).

At this time, the town has enough remaining funds to serve approximately five further households. If you think you may qualify and may be interested in participating in the program, please call our grant consultants Lisa Low & Associates at 203-888-5624 for further information.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Lyden
First Selectman

SALEM HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANT 0% INTEREST HOUSING REPAIR LOAN PROGRAM

Do you need to make repairs to your home but don't have the money to do it? The Town of Salem has grant money available to homeowners to make needed repairs to their homes with no out of pocket costs. The grant from the Connecticut Department of Housing allows for 0% indefinitely deferred interest loans to qualified low and moderate income homeowners. The grant expires in July of 2016 so time is of the essence.

"This is a great program for Salem residents who wish to stay in their homes but do not have the funds to make needed repairs," says First Selectman Kevin Lyden. "We have funds remaining but the grant expires in July. I hope we can serve the folks who need it most."

To be eligible, property owners must have the following: 1) an annual income that does not exceed HUD income limits of \$46,100 for a 1 person household or \$65,800 for a 4 person household (income limits vary by household size, please contact us for more information); 2) up to date municipal taxes; 3) 10% equity in home. Loans are at 0% interest and are not due and payable until property is sold or homeowner is deceased.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to: replacing failed furnaces, roofs, windows, doors, electrical, and septic system repairs. These funds can also provide for Americans with Disabilities (ADA) modifications to homes as well, such as entrance ramps and bathroom modifications.

Applications may be obtained by calling municipal CDBG consultants Lisa Low & Associates at 203-888-5624 or email info@lisalowassociates.com. Please share this information with any family, friends or neighbors who may be interested or able to benefit from the program.

Lisa Low & Associates
293 Riggs Street
Oxford, CT 06478
203-888-5624 (office)
203-888-8800 (fax)
info@lisalowassociates.com

MUNICIPAL HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Your municipality offers a Housing Rehabilitation Program on a first come, first served basis to qualified low- and moderate-income residents. Funds for this program come in the form of 0% interest loans from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Loans are administered through the State of Connecticut's Department of Housing (DOH); the municipality, and the municipality's Small Cities Consultant. Homeowners qualify if they are within HUD income limits (see application), have a minimum of 10% equity in the property, and if all municipal taxes are current. The focus of the program is on code compliance and safety concerns rather than home remodeling.

Homeowners/landlords who believe they may qualify for assistance are encouraged to apply to the program by filling out the application form and submitting the required documents, including the most recent, signed Federal tax return of the tenants/homeowners and pay stubs documenting six consecutive weeks of wages of all working household members, including tenants (as separate household) aged 18 or over. (Please note: Absentee landlords are required to pay at least 50% of project costs up front; other conditions may apply.) Loans are secured with a mortgage deed, promissory note, and memorandum of agreement. Program participants are not required to pay back the loan until transfer of title to home. Costs applied to the loan may include: original contract price; change orders; lead testing; title search, but there is no out-of-pocket cost to the homeowner (except in the case of absentee landlords or non-income qualifying tenants) and municipal Town Clerk filing fee (if applicable).

(Continued on Page 17)

SALEM HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 16)

Please note the following: the mission of the housing rehab program is two-fold: to serve as many candidates as we can with limited resources and to focus on health and safety improvements to the homes of low and moderate income residents. To fulfill our mission we require homeowner cooperation.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program objectives and standards, typical deficiencies, ineligible improvements and technical procedures in the Rehabilitation Process. This handbook will be used by the municipality, owner, consultant and contractor in administering and servicing the rehabilitation assistance program.

Program Objectives:

- To prevent hazardous health conditions and code violations
- To prevent blighting influences and deterioration of property and neighborhoods
- To improve the quality of the municipality's housing stock for low-moderate income persons
- To provide financial assistance to low-moderate income property owners for housing rehabilitation activities
- To provide financial assistance to low-moderate income property owners for the purpose of septic repair or replacement, sewer and water hookups
- To stimulate public and private investment within the target area neighborhoods

Program Standards:

The program will meet the minimum standards set forth by the HUD Section 8, HQS, IPMC International Property Maintenance Code and the IEBC International Existing Building Code:

- If funds are available, the program will review the HUD universal design standard and meet the further needs of owners or occupants

Typical Deficiencies:

- Lead Based Paint Hazards
- Smoke, Carbon Monoxide & Heat Detectors
- GFCI Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter devices
- Electrical Hazards, loose or faulty wiring, open or missing junction boxes
- Lighting Fixtures that are non-compliant, broken, or have poor efficiency
- Fuse or Circuit Breaker Panel, including Service and Grounding
- Plumbing Leaks: gas, water or waste
- Plumbing Fixtures: faucets, sinks, shower/tub & controls, toilets
- Heating System: boilers, furnaces and conversions, to include components
- Ventilation: kitchen, bath, roof and attic, crawlspace
- Septic Systems, Sewer Connections
- Exterior Property Maintenance; overgrowth, excess material, household debris
- ADA/504 Compliance or Upgrades
- Stairs; Interior Guard and Graspable Railings, and the following modifications as needed for health, safety, and affordability:
 - Roofing and Gutters
 - Windows and Doors
 - Deck and Porch Repair
 - Siding and Facade Repair
 - Exterior Painting
 - Driveway and Drainage

Ineligible Improvements:

- Portable Items: furniture, garden or home improvement tools, wall hangings, area carpets, draperies, or shades
- Appliances: stoves, refrigerators or freezers, washing machines and dryers etc.
- Swimming pools: any repair, modification or removal
- Excessive landscaping: extensive shrubbery, sod, trees, garden materials, fixtures, equipment or landscaping of a type or quality which exceeds that customarily used in the locality for properties of the same general type as the property to be rehabilitated
- Ceramic tile, excluding shower or bathing units
- Counter tops, excluding plastic laminate
- Remodeling, including bathrooms, kitchens and living spaces that currently meet Section 8 HUD HQS.

RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS

Dear Salem Residents,

The Salem School Kindergarten classes recently graduated from an eight week DARE curriculum. These classes involved the Kindergarten students being introduced to age and developmentally appropriate lessons relative to personal safety concepts. Life skill strategies regarding decision-making, assertiveness, anger management and conflict resolution are woven into lessons wherein students learn to recognize and exhibit good choices and behaviors regarding potentially dangerous situations.

I am also glad to announce the 5th grade classes have completed the ten week DARE Elementary "Keeping it REAL" (KIR) curriculum.

The new D.A.R.E. (KIR) elementary curriculum was developed using the most advanced prevention science principles based on over 30 years teaching and research. The curriculum enhances the development of safe and responsible citizens who lead successful, drug free lives. The lessons teach young children the skills they need to accomplish these goals, including how to assess the risks and consequences of their behaviors and make safe and responsible choices. They also are taught about communicating, as well as giving and getting help. The lessons in the curriculum address the many challenges facing our elementary school-aged youth, including relationships, school work, and drugs.

Starting March 18, 2016 I will begin to teach the Salem School 8th Grade Classes the DARE "Keeping it Real" curriculum to get them ready for the challenges that await them in high school. This culturally grounded prevention curriculum has been proven effective in reducing student drug use and establishing anti-drug attitudes and beliefs. The (KIR) program teaches and enhances life skills such as decision-making, refusal skills, communication and drug-resistant strategies. A distinctive feature of this curriculum is that lessons are accompanied by a set of video learning centers, each specifically developed for use with students in urban, suburban, rural or frontier environments. The (KIR) curriculum is cited on the SAMHSA National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.

Submitted by: Salem Resident State Trooper Luke LaRue

SALEM SENIOR CITIZENS

Salem Seniors meet at 10:30 a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse 424, Hartford Rd. (Rt. 85) and conclude with a potluck luncheon. We'd like to have you join us. The next meeting is April 12 at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse. The May 10 meeting will be held at Salem School. The June meeting returns to our regular location at the Salem Firehouse.

Each monthly meeting, the Salem Seniors participate in Mind Aerobics. This is a really fun way to use our brains with thoughtful word games, including casual conversation and observational references.

Register now for the 6 week informative Diabetes & Nutrition workshop, "Live Well With Diabetes" - join us at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse 10 am to noon (March 29, April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 17). You do not have to have diabetes and may bring a guest. This workshop is FREE. Register today, contact Connie Capacchione, Public Health Program Coordinator at UNCAS Health District (860)823-1189, ext. 122.

Upcoming speakers:

April 12, 2016

Shayla Del Giudice from Access Independence will give a presentation on the Medicare Savings Program that will help Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries make the most of their benefits and save money. It could potentially:

1. add \$104.90 back into your Social Security check each month
2. help pay your Medicare Part "D" monthly premium
3. help with your Medicare Part "D" deductibles

Louis Severino, a Housing Rehabilitation Specialist will present information about the Housing Rehabilitation Program 0% Interest Loans with reference to the Small Cities Grant for the Town of Salem.

Salem Resident Trooper *Chris Pariseau* will speak about identity theft and explain how seniors can be specific targets.

Submitted by: Pamela T. Henry, Agent for the Elderly

PRESS RELEASE - REVALUATION TO START IN SALEM

Verification of sales and building permits will begin Monday, February 22, 2016 for the October 1, 2016 Grand List.

The Revaluation will be ongoing throughout the year. Field personnel of Vision Government Solutions, the firm hired to conduct the revaluation, will carry photo identification and their vehicle information. This information is also on file with the office of the Assessor, Resident State Trooper, and the First Selectman.

Please contact the Assessor's office with questions at 860-859-3873 ext. 130



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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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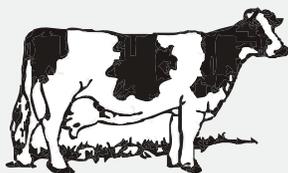
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