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# OUR TOWN SALEM

Connecticut

**SPRING 2017**



Photo by Bopha Smith

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

First Selectman .....4  
Did You Know?.....4  
Salem Lions Tales ..... 5  
Uncas Health .....5  
Resident State Trooper .....6

Salem Seniors ..... 6-7  
East Lyme High School .....8  
Gardner Lake Vol. Fire Co. ....9  
Salem Cemetery.....9  
Salem Recreation .....10-11

Salem Fire Company..... 11  
Salem School News.....12-13  
Salem Free Public Library.....14  
Friends of Salem Library .....15

**Next Issue: Summer 2017**



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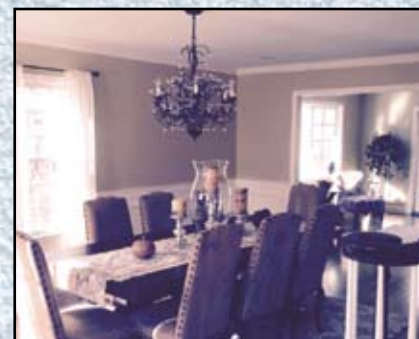
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## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Dear Fellow Townspeople,

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

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

### Safety Improvements on Rte. 85

The Route 85 Safety Improvements from Shady Brook Picnic Area to Skyline Drive, Department of Transportation project 0120-0092, has been successfully bid. This area of Route 85 has had several serious accidents, including one death. The Department of Transportation is on schedule to have this project completed this summer, 2017. The work includes: drainage, sightline improvements, wider shoulders, Center Line Rumble Strips (CLRS), and other safety improvements. The funds have already been secured for this project, and we look forward to these needed safety improvements.

### Center Line Rumble Strips on State Highways in Salem

All new and recently paved State Highways in Salem are receiving the installation of Center Line Rumble Strips. CLRS are a cost-effective, proven safety countermeasure that reduces the risk of head-on and sideswipe opposite direction crashes.

CLRS are a series of milled elements in the centerline of a paved road intended to alert distracted, drowsy or inattentive drivers (through vibration and sound) that they have crossed the center line. The auditory and vibratory warning provided by the CLRS greatly improves the chances of a quick and safe return to the correct lane. CLRS also assists drivers in difficult driving conditions such as fog, rain or snow.

It is my hope that the State Department of Transportation continues to implement this important, cost-effective safety measure to all new and recently paved State Roads.

### State Budget Cuts — Ouch!

As I have reported to you in the past, the Town of Salem is in very good financial shape. In fact, our Auditors from PKF O'Connor Davies, CPA, LLP, have commented that "Salem is one of the most Financially Stable Towns in our State".

Unfortunately, the State of Connecticut is facing serious financial issues with substantial budget deficits. The Governor's budget proposes a \$703,000 funding cut to Salem. We are submitting testimony, working closely with our legislators and municipal organizations to mitigate the State Funding cuts to our Town. We are fortunate to have a very competent Board of Finance to steer us through this difficult budget cycle.

In closing, with the warmer weather, be sure to enjoy the beautiful spring season. I hope to see you at the Salem 5K Road Race and our Memorial Day Parade.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.



Kevin Lyden, First Selectman



## Did You Know...

**...the Salem Resident State Troopers and Troop K Troopers have responded to an average of approximately 304 Calls for Service every month in the Town of Salem?**

Salem Resident State Troopers Pariseau and LaRue have also hosted such events as: "Coffee With a Cop" at the Salem Marketplace's *Corner Cupboard*, the Annual Toy Drive, and have assisted with luncheons for the Salem Seniors. Trooper LaRue also teaches the D.A.R.E. Program to Salem School students.

**...the Salem Volunteer Fire Company has responded to 137 Calls for Service so far this year?** The Fire Company also responded to 568 Calls for Service last year – that's a 16% increase in calls for help or emergencies since 2011! These calls do not include well-being checks, calls to assist the State Police, or other non-emergency calls.

The Fire Company also spends hundreds of hours training throughout the year to prepare themselves for any emergency situation and are involved in public education programs, including offering safety tips and prevention methods at Salem School, local daycare centers, and open house events. Their certified technician also installed 18 car seats last year!

**...that on an annual basis the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company** sponsors many organizations throughout the town, including the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts Troop 123, Venture Group, and Eagle Scout meetings and activities.

We also sponsor a Little League team in Salem. On a monthly basis, the Hall is used for Training for many different organizations like the OEDM (Office of Education & Data Management) which consists of Building Officials and Fire Marshals throughout the State of Connecticut. The Hall is also used for continuing education training for the Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians for seminars and practical training.

Connecticut DEEP (Department of Environmental and Energy Protection) trains in the Hall two times a year for the Boaters Safety Class.

The Hall and kitchen are used during winter and tropical storms to house and feed emergency workers and emergency staff.

The Hall is used by the Salem Recreation Commission for the overflow of their activities.

The Hall and kitchen are open, when available, to Our Townspeople for use for a reception during the loss of a family member at no cost to the family.

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## SALEM LIONS TALES

Our Lions Super Bowl Rose fundraiser was again a great success thanks to Lion Dave Kennedy who chaired the project. Over 100 dozen beautiful, multicolored, cut roses were sold to raise funds for our Civic projects. Many thanks, Lion Dave.

As part of our service to Salem, our Club funded the Salem D.A.R.E. program to support our Resident Troopers during a celebration party for the most recent class of young graduates. We again plan to provide support for our other two groups graduating in the very near future. We extend much gratitude to Trooper LaRue and offer our congratulations to all graduates.

Saturday, April 8 is a BIG day in Salem – Two great events for all ages will be held!

First, the Salem Lions Annual Road Race kicks off with a one mile Kids (and parents) Fun Run at 9 am followed at 10 am by the 5-K Run for all ages. Prizes will be awarded and food (pancakes, fruit, beverages, and pizza) will be served in the school cafeteria following the completion on the 5-K Run.

Advance registrations can be made online at: [saalemctroadrace.org](http://saalemctroadrace.org). Registrations may be made prior to race time and in-person Friday evening before the race in the Salem School lobby.

Second, for our younger youth, the annual Easter Egg Hunt will start in the School gymnasium at 1:00 p.m. with the decorated egg and picture contests, a visit from the Easter Bunny, and face painting. Shortly thereafter, the egg hunt will take place followed by jelly bean races and the awarding of prizes. There is no charge. Join us for a fun time with the kids. The event is co-sponsored by the Salem Lions and the Salem Recreation Commission.

Attention all Graduating Salem High School Seniors! The Salem Lions Club is again awarding scholarships to two Salem Senior graduates (both home schooled and graduating from the local high schools). Applications are available at your school. Winners and their parents will be guests at our June dinner meeting.

Remember, our Annual Lions Tag Sale will be held on the last Saturday of June and there will be something for everyone! Donations are currently being accepted. Contact any of the Lions for more information and watch for signs and flyers, around town.

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*



## UNCAS HEALTH DISTRICT

### Maintaining Your Swimming Pool

Thoughts of Spring include Spring cleaning, raking the thatch out of the grass, putting away the Winter coats, and opening the pool in the backyard. Believe it or not, the Uncas Health District spends a great deal of time from late-Spring to late-Summer following up on complaints about residential swimming pools. There are several reasons for resident calls about pools.

The most common complaint is mosquitoes. An unmaintained swimming pool can be the source of thousands of mosquitoes each week, increasing the risk of spreading diseases. Mosquitoes need water to grow. It only takes about 1 week for a mosquito to grow from an egg to a flying adult. How do you prevent mosquito breeding and the spread of disease? There are three easy ways.

1. Chlorinate and maintain your pool by skimming off debris and maintaining the pH level between 7.2 and 7.8.
2. Cover your pool with a tight cover that does not allow rain water to accumulate.
3. If you don't intend to use the pool, monitor it to be sure the cover stays secure and maintain it in a clean and sanitary condition.

Other complaints to the Uncas Health District include pools installed without permits, lack of fencing around the pool, and improper draining of the pool. Some of these issues are addressed by the Uncas Health District, while others may be referred to the Building Department for assistance. As always, feel free to ask us any questions. We want you to enjoy the warmer weather and be safe in your yards. By monitoring and maintaining the pool area on your property, you will be protecting your family and friends throughout the season.

To learn more about the work of the Uncas Health District, please contact us at (860) 823-1189 or [www.uncashd.org](http://www.uncashd.org). The links to access us on Twitter and Facebook can be found on our website.

*Submitted by: Patrick McCormack, Director of Health*



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*Greetings from your Resident State Troopers,*

On Saturday, February 18, the Salem Resident Troopers hosted "Coffee with a Cop" at the local coffee shop, Corner Cupboard. Citizens were able to meet Trooper Chris Pariseau and Trooper Luke LaRue and engage in conversation while enjoying a complimentary coffee. The event was a success, and we plan to have another in the future. On January 19, Trooper LaRue performed a graduation of a Salem School DARE Kindergarten class of 46 students. Parents and family members attended the graduation ceremony which was held in the Salem School Library. Trooper LaRue has also completed 10 DARE lessons with the Salem School 5th graders. The 5th grade students will graduate with the 8th grade, and a graduation ceremony will be held in May/June.

In order to continue to keep Salem safe and limit the opportunity for crime, we ask that residents lock their car doors, refrain from keeping items of value inside vehicles when unattended, and secure/lock doors and windows to your home. If you have any questions regarding vehicle/home security, please contact the Resident Trooper office at (860) 859-2507. In the event the Resident Troopers are out of the office, please contact Troop K at (860) 465-5400 for all non-emergency questions and/or concerns. We are proud to serve the citizens of Salem and thank you for your continued support.

*Submitted by: Troopers LaRue and Pariseau*

The Salem Seniors held their first meeting of the year on March 14 at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse on Route 85. They meet the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at the Firehouse unless otherwise designated. As a rule, they normally don't get together in January and February but this year Kathy Civardi from Harbor Village conducted brain fitness games in February for them, which were a lot of fun. Thank you Kathy for challenging us and for coffee and doughnuts, too.

The last three meetings of 2016 were very busy. Our October meeting was honored with the presence of State Representative Holly Cheeseman speaking about the coming election. She also answered questions from the floor. Following this discussion we held our annual pizza party. The November meeting was held at Salem School where we were pleasantly serenaded by the students. We were then served a delicious turkey lunch. Thank you all for a great day. Our Christmas party was held at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse with a delicious turkey and ham dinner provided by volunteers. As always you surpassed our expectations with your thoughtfulness.

We urge all seniors to join us for learning more about our town, making new friends, and partaking in our lunches. For more information you may contact Pam Henry, our Senior Liaison, at Town Hall.

In addition, there is another Senior group that meets every Tuesday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Salem Free Public Library, sponsored by the Recreation Department. Come enjoy an afternoon of card playing, Wii bowling, and socializing. Card games include setback (pitch), cribbage, golf and numerous others.

This group is now getting ready to assist with the annual plant and book sale which will be held on May 11, 12, and 13 at the Salem Library. Elizabeth Lane is already busy organizing volunteer schedules and products. For sale are: plants, cookbooks, romance paperbacks, puzzles, games, and many children's books. All proceeds from this sale are donated to the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library.

Come join us at one or both meetings to make new friends, learn about our town, and enjoy some refreshments

*Submitted by: Irene Jarvis*

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## HAPPY 2017!

Please join us the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:30am for a monthly meeting. We are always looking for new members to join the group and your ideas are welcome. Let's plan a few fun outings this year. What would you like to do? Let me know! We meet at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse on Rt. 85. Each meeting ends with a luncheon.

We wound up our final 2016 meeting in December with our annual Holiday Dinner provided by Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Thank you to everyone from SVFC who volunteered their time by preparing, cooking and serving this delicious meal.

I have received inquiries this past year regarding proper diabetic and/or senior nutrition. Uncas Health will be offering a 6-week workshop here in Salem later this summer or fall. Detailed information will be forthcoming. If you would like to reserve a spot early, email [pam.henry@salemct.gov](mailto:pam.henry@salemct.gov) or leave a message for me (860) 859-3873 ext. 125. You do not need to be a Salem resident or Senior Citizen to attend, so if you know of a friend or relative who may benefit, please spread the word.

Here are a few suggestions for making **SPRING CLEANING** a bit more enjoyable:

### 1. Make it fun

Cleaning does not have to be a chore--keep it fun! Put on some music and turn it into a daily exercise. Sweeping and wiping counters and tables do not require much bending or reaching, so they are safe tasks for seniors to do.

### 2. De-clutter

As you go through each room, remove dangerous clutter that could be lying around. Keep a donation box and a trash bag with you as you make your way through a room to get rid of any unused items, such as magazines, newspapers, books and old knick-knacks. It's so easy and habit-forming to want to save everything, but once you start to de-clutter, you will find this is your new habit.

### 3. Invite friends or family to help

If your cleaning requires any heavy lifting, be sure to have friends or family members give you a hand. Do not do the heavy cleaning and lifting yourself. You can end the day with a homemade snack or meal for your helper if you'd like. And remember...the idea here is to clean with a friend or relative when possible, so don't feel the need to "clean before you have someone over to help you clean".

*Submitted by: Pam Henry*

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### Two Salem Seniors take the high school stage together for the last time in "Urinetown: the Musical"

Graduates of Salem School, Megan Aldrich and Matt Bernier, have long been involved with the drama club and choir at East Lyme High School. Since they were freshmen they have been in both the fall play and spring musical, as well as countless community theatre productions. In middle school the two starred alongside each other in "Alice in Wonderland", "Beauty and the Beast", "Thoroughly Modern Millie", and "Cinderella". I have been fortunate enough to watch many of the productions the two have performed in and can honestly say the love they have for what they do comes through in their acting and singing.

March 2-4 marked the last time the pair would take the high school stage in a high school production. The show they performed in, however, was nothing like they had ever done before. The musical, "Urinetown", has a unique plot that caught both the drama club and the audience by surprise.

"Urinetown" is about the large UGC corporation that has a monopoly over public restrooms. The company is owned and run by Mr. Caldwell, played by Matt Bernier. Mr. Caldwell has a daughter named Hope Caldwell, played by Megan Aldrich, who falls in love with Bobby Strong, a worker at the public amenity. Bobby Strong does not like the way the people of the town have to pay to use the public restrooms, and with Hope telling him to follow his heart, he rebels against Mr. Caldwell and kidnaps Hope. After losing his beloved daughter to Bobby, Mr. Caldwell calls a meeting with the rebels and ends up killing Bobby. The murder of Bobby breaks Hope's heart and she leads the rebels in his place. She kills her father allowing everyone to use the public restrooms for free. However, in the longterm, the murder of Mr. Caldwell leads to the demise of the town because they use up all of the water and die.

Throughout their years of drama club and choir together, Megan and Matt have developed a friendship that many can see provides a level of comfort when acting. The two approach acting unreservedly and play off each other well, enabling them to put on an entertaining show while also providing a depth to their characters, allowing the audience to become deeply connected. Their acting and singing will truly be missed in the years to come at the high school.

Megan plans to study Theater in college, and Matt is going to pursue Engineering. As a community, we cannot wait to see what these two shining stars will accomplish in the years to come.

*Submitted by: Hannah Belleville, East Lyme Senior*



Photos submitted by: Megan Aldrich



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The Fire Service is a unique and complex business. In addition to being local heroes, today's firefighters also serve as our nation's first responders. Firefighters are well equipped and tasked to be highly trained and capable of responding to all types of emergencies.

Your local Fire Department needs volunteers with various types of knowledge, skills and abilities. Besides the men and women who respond to emergencies, other types of volunteers are also needed. Fire Departments need the services of volunteers with experience in business, accounting, marketing, medicine, law enforcement, mechanics, construction, computers and fundraising.

Please Consider Joining The Volunteer Fire Service.

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

An OPEN HOUSE will be held  
Sunday, April 23, 2017 from 10 am to 2 pm  
@ the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company  
429 Old Colchester Road, Salem CT  
Come on down and see what we have to offer.  
This is a family event.

## Wellness Fair

The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company  
Saturday, May 13, 2017  
10 am to 4 pm

at the Fire Station at  
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Events will include:

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## Tonya Harris Benefit Pasta Dinner & Raffle



Saturday, April 29, 2017  
4:00-7:00 (raffle to follow)  
Gardner Lake Fire Co.  
429 Old Colchester Rd., Salem

Tickets \$10, Available from:  
Gardner Lake Fire Co. (860) 859-1743  
Joan Phillips: jphillips@salem.cen.ct.gov  
Salem Fire Company (860) 859-0942  
Pam Maziarz (860) 908-0290


Salem mother of three, Tonya Harris and her family were involved in an automobile accident on January 13, 2017.


The accident has left her family, coworkers and Salem community stunned and in search of ways to help.

Tonya is still in the hospital and will have a long road to recovery. A GoFundMe page has also been started to share the community's love and support for Tonya.

At the Door • Drive Thru Available!

## Salem Green Cemetery Association Annual Meeting April 18, 2017 2:00 p.m. Salem Town Hall



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## Proud To "Du it" Youth Duathlon

Join Salem Recreation as we partner with surrounding Recreation Departments to help host the Youth Duathlon

**Located at:** New London High School  
**Start time:** 9:00 am, Sunday, April 30  
**Registration deadline:** April 13, 2017



### Can you run and ride a bike? Are you looking for a new challenge?

We have different distances for each age group. This is a family friendly event where we encourage all abilities to enter and complete the course. Timing splits will be recorded for all 5 areas, and medals will be awarded to every finisher. Music and food will follow. Everyone will run and bike on closed roads/trails. Training wheels can be used. Helmets are required for all. This is one of three events to earn a special "Triple Crown" prize if you compete in all three this summer! \*Trophies for the top three male and female participants in each age group: ages 5-6; 7-8; 9-10; 11-12; 13-14; 15-17. RFID timing by Time to TRI. Register by April 13 to guarantee race t-shirt and personalized bib.

**Register at:** <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/NewLondon/ProudtoDUI>

**Registration Form:** salemct.gov

#### Distances

Ages 5-6	Run .5 miles	Bike 1 mile	Run .5 miles
Ages 7-8	Run .7 miles	Bike 1 mile	Run .7 miles
Ages 9-10	Run .7 miles	Bike 2 mile	Run .7 miles
Ages 11-17	Run 1 miles	Bike 4 mile	Run 1 miles

**\*Triple Crown registration:** \$55 + \$10 USA Triathlon Membership, if necessary  
**Other events are:** Norwich Splash and Dash 6/17; Proud to TRI 9/9

## FUNDamentals Lego Engineering



**Dates:** July 24 - July 28  
**Ages 5-7:** (9 am-12 pm)  
**Ages 8-10:** (1 pm-4 pm)  
**Location:** Salem School MPR

### Check our website for updates on more great programs:

Music Lessons with Chris Hebert  
Rising Tide Cross Country  
Spring Tennis with Anne Santoro



### Darrell Len Bus Trips

**May 6, 2017:** New York City Bus Trip  
**Bus Trip Link for Information:**  
[http://saletest.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/SalemCT\\_Recreation/programs](http://saletest.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/SalemCT_Recreation/programs)

## SkyHawks Camps



### Flag Football & Capture the Flag

**Dates:** July 5 - July 7  
**Time:** 9 am-3 pm; W, Th, F  
**Ages:** 7-12

**Location:** Salem Elementary School  
**Information:** Boys and girls learn skills, including core components of passing, catching and defense - all in a fun and positive environment.

### Mini-Hawk®

**Dates:** July 17 - July 21  
**Time:** 9 am-12 pm; M-F  
**Ages:** 4-7

**Location:** Salem Elementary School  
**Information:** This multi-sport program gives children a positive first step into athletics. The essentials of each sport are taught in a safe, structured environment with lots of encouragement and a focus on fun. All games and activities are designed to allow campers to explore balance, movement, hand/eye coordination and skill development at their own pace.

### Multi Sport

**Dates:** July 17 - July 21  
**Time:** 9 am-3 pm; M-F  
**Ages:** 7-12

**Location:** Salem Elementary School  
**Information:** Our multi-sport camp is designed to introduce young athletes to a variety of different sports in one setting. Athletes will learn the rules and essentials of each sport through skill-based games and scrimmages. By the end of the week, your child will walk away with knowledge of multiple sports along with vital life lessons such as respect, teamwork, and self-discipline.



"Through the Keyhole" painting class,  
Salem Recreation



Submitted by: Vanessa Bunnell, Recreation Coordinator

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Spring is upon us, and with that will come the sound of excitement on the Salem recreational fields.

Some early fall improvements to the fields included a new cement walkway from the parking lot to the ball field. The fields, playscape and grounds are thoughtfully and carefully maintained by the Public Works Department, and they did a great job getting them ready for the winter.

Another improvement this fall, was the building of a bridge across Harris Brook, completing another phase of the Salem Recreational Path. Harris Brook is a tributary to the Federally recognized wild and scenic Eight Mile River. The over 70-foot span and connecting trails needed Army Corp of Engineer approval, an archeological forensic survey, 2 grants and support from the town to come to fruition. The trail committee has met for over 10 years, but the bridge project was by far its largest undertaking! Chaired by Sue Spang, the committee worked on the planning, funding and ultimately the construction of the bridge. A terrific and dedicated crew of volunteers worked several October weekends to assemble and build the structure. It was exciting to see the project come together. The path is meant for walkers, runners, bikes, horses and all who wish to enjoy a unique beautiful part of our town. It will be awesome to see many new and familiar users of the trail enjoy the new bridge!

As a newcomer to the Recreation Committee, I am hoping to bring my energy and enthusiasm to continue the trail project while finding ways to support current ones. Salem's beautiful fields and facilities represent a collective town focus towards health, wellness, sports and community.

*Submitted by: Teri Natoli, Recreation Commission*

## Where Did the Year Go?

The Salem Volunteer Fire Company had an extremely busy year. I blinked and it was over. The Salem Fire Company responded to 568 emergencies or calls for help in 2016, which does not include the wellbeing checks, the calls to assist the State Police, the smell of something strange in the area, or "my cat is in a tree and won't come down" calls that our Fire Officers responded to. This number has risen steadily over the past 5 years, up 16% from 2011. Combined training time for the members of the Salem Fire Company totaled 1684 hours this year. The training ranged from our annual hazardous material and blood borne pathogen refreshers, to cold water rescue, live fire, and active shooter training. Unfortunately, these are something we need to train for and be prepared to handle. In addition, we utilized the town training facility and spent a combined 448 hours working on the location, preparing it for full time use. We conducted 26 hours of public education offering fire safety tips and prevention methods to all of the students at Salem School, the daycare centers, and through open house events. Eighteen car seats were installed by our certified technician. We welcomed 8 new members and sadly said goodbye to 3 others.

The Salem Fire Company has a junior department that is thriving with 15 members who conduct training every Monday night. This also gives newer members an opportunity to learn some of the basics, from the location of equipment to how to refill air pack bottles. Our Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) was activated 21 times from neighboring towns to assist at structure fires. We congratulated 3 new Emergency Medical Technicians, 2 new Firefighter I candidates, a Firefighter II, a Fire Instructor and 2 new Fire Officers. We saved the town \$2200 in training costs by hosting a variety of training classes and received a \$2500 Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) grant for equipment and training. We applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to replace our aging piece of apparatus. The members of the Salem Fire Company wish to thank all of the townspeople for a wonderful 2016, and we appreciate all of your continued support.

*Submitted by: Richard W. Martin, Chief*

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### SALEM SCHOOL NEWS

As we are approaching our third trimester and the year is winding down, I begin to reflect on the school year. What stands out to me besides our students' obvious growth as individuals and in their academics is the closeness and caring of the Salem community. I have never previously worked with or alongside such incredibly caring and giving people. As principal of Salem School, I have had the privilege of working with so many community members who I have come to realize truly support the students and staff of Salem School and our community. I would like to thank all of the members of the community, parents, the Board of Education, our Selectmen, Board of Finance, our Resident Troopers, our Fire Departments, our PTO members, Salem School Staff and our students for your continued support.

#### KINDERGARTEN



*Trooper Luke LaRue and Darren the lion visit Kindergartners.*

The Salem School kindergartners recently graduated from the D.A.R.E. program, taught by Trooper Luke LaRue. D.A.R.E. stands for: Drug Abuse Resistance Education. The kindergarten D.A.R.E. program focuses on age-appropriate safety skills. During each lesson, Trooper LaRue helped the kindergartners practice how to call 911 in an emergency and reviewed the importance of knowing their full names, addresses and phone numbers. At a special graduation ceremony, each child received his/her own Darren mascot stuffed animal, sticker, and safety coloring book. The children met a "real life" Darren mascot at the program. One of the special highlights was when the resident troopers took the classes outside to see a police car.

#### GRADE 1

First graders are hard at work conducting research about animals. Students are participating in shared research by learning and writing about walruses and penguins. They will then pick an animal of their choice to supply some facts and provide a closure. Students use a graphic organizer to record facts as they read for information and produce a visual image that includes labels to strengthen their writing. Also, this writing unit allows students to learn how to read nonfiction texts. This is one of the first

essential steps towards becoming informed writers!

#### GRADE 2

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 was the focus in math for February. Students had to estimate, measure, and compare lengths of objects. They also solved 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, in addition to 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.

#### GRADE 3

Students in third grade have been moving away from fiction texts and are exploring informational texts. Our first selections revolved around paleontologists and dinosaurs. Students read several books and did research on dinosaurs. They integrated writing with the writing of dinosaur diamante poems. Understanding text and graphic features as well as drawing conclusions were the strategies students applied as they read these selections.

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 I shared my 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.

#### GRADE 4

Fourth grade scientists are hard at work in a unit about magnetism and electricity. They were challenged with a problem that required them to use their knowledge about circuits. The lab groups were presented with the following scenario: the town likes to decorate the streets and storefronts with small lights each year during the winter holidays; however, the long strings of lights they currently own are no good once one light bulb burns out. Fourth graders were charged with the task of recommending to the town a solution for the manufacturing of the lights that would eliminate this problem. After they simulated a broken filament in a series circuit, students quickly started using the inquiry approach to build what we later identified as parallel circuits. To their delight, they could simulate a broken bulb in this design, and

the rest of the lights in the string would still work! Groups worked together to draw schematics, write letters to the Board, and determine that the lights in our own classroom operate on a parallel circuit.

Students in fourth grade are also studying the Northeast Region of the United States. They are learning how to take notes in a flip book. Their flip book includes investigations in the areas of geography, historical events, landmarks, climate, Industry, resources and other interesting facts. Next, the students will also be researching individual states in the region. Last, students will be put into small groups to create a bus tour of the region. They will present their bus tour on Tacky Tourist Day.

#### GRADE 5

The 5th Grade students participated in a field trip to Project Oceanology at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point. Students engaged in hands-on science activities, such as observing plankton under microscopes, dissecting squid, and preparing fried squid for a snack! Following their off-campus field trip, the instructors from Project Oceanology brought a field trip to our classrooms. Students engaged in several hands-on activities, such as a touch tank lab with a lobster, spider crab, green crab, clam and horseshoe crab. They touched the sea creatures, made observations, and recorded information. Additionally, students participated in a water investigation where they tested buoyancy of objects, insulation, water run-off, and other adaptations that animals in Long Island Sound experience. All-in-all, it was an exhilarating, tactile encounter.

#### GRADE 6

In January, sixth graders became opinionated and learned how to argue! In Language Arts, sixth graders explored the art of arguing respectfully and persuasively through writing. The most recent topic under examination was: should the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services remove grizzly bears from the threatened species list?

In science, they have begun a unit on weather, with a focus on meteorology! This is a pilot unit written by Next-Gen Earth and Space Science Literacy and Instruction Expertise (NESSLIE), a grant-funded cohort of middle school teachers and scientists across Connecticut. They began the unit by studying the layers of the atmosphere, have studied various weather forecast videos online, and are currently arguing which weather factor is the most important when analyzing and forecasting weather!

In social studies, the students just wrapped up their study of Ancient Rome by writing newspapers reporting on geography, politics, and mythology! Students used various sources, including Google Earth, to do their reporting. They will now move rather rapidly through European history, using the backdrop of the collapse of the Roman Empire and how that informed political and cultural differences on the continent. The class took a field trip to the Slater Museum to complete their reading unit on Greek Mythology!



## SALEM SCHOOL NEWS

(Continued from Page 12)

## GRADES 7 &amp; 8

In Mathematics, students have been mastering the art of equation solving and solving systems of equations! Our seventh graders are being introduced to solving two-step equations and will be applying them to everyday situations. The eighth grade math class has been exploring solving systems of equations (the point at which two lines cross). Comparing energy company rates, oil rates, and cell phone plans are just a few real world examples of how we can apply these new skills. The algebra class just wrapped up their mid-term exam and has moved on to scatter plots and line trends.

Our Math Counts team headed to the Coast Guard academy to compete against over 275 students in the 2017 Eastern Chapter Competition. Karennia Kung, Grace Vlaun, Wes Williamson, and Dean Palermo represented Salem School proudly. Karennia competed in the final competition round against the top seven competitors in a head to head series of challenging math questions and came in second place in the whole competition! Both Karennia and Wes will be competing in the state competition in March!



In Science, students are delving into topics related to earth and space science. Seventh grade is creating models to explore how geological features are formed by seafloor spreading and the movement of tectonic plates. Seventh graders continue to learn about the Atlantic salmon and are monitoring their health and development. Eighth grade science class has finished their study of astronomy - modeling scale distances between planets and hypothesizing about the fate of our sun and other stars based on current knowledge from telescope images. Students in 8th grade are now examining bridge design and will be using what they've learned to construct their own model bridge.

Science Olympiads (Grades 6 - 8) is gearing up for competition at the Irving Robbins Middle School in Farmington, CT on Saturday March 18th. Students will be competing in 23 different events that test their lab skills, engineering talents, and content knowledge. The building events are open to the public and are a real crowd pleaser.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

CNN... "Cougar News Network" is now up and running! The technology department was excited to be awarded a grant from Frontier Communications. This grant enabled us to purchase all the necessary equipment to implement a student broadcast for the school. Several 7th and 8th graders have dedicated their Personalized Learning period to produce a Morning News Show which is aired in the mornings in place of the school announcements. The group is currently airing a recorded show once a week. Our goal, however, is to eventually air a live broadcast every morning! Stay tuned for more news about the Cougar News Network!

Computer Science Education Week introduced Salem students to the Hour of Code. Students in grades K through 8 all participated in learning about computer programming during the month of December. Students in grades K-3 were introduced to computer programming basics including sequencing, loops, and events. The older students were introduced to more algorithmic problem solving. Some stepped outside of the Blockly language and ventured into actual JavaScript or HTML. Currently, Grade 8 students are creating their own websites about Bridges, their next unit in science. Students in Grade 7 are now learning how to layer in

Photoshop Elements. Sixth graders have created surveys in Google Forms and will use the collected data to create spreadsheets and graphs. Grade 5 students are showcasing what they learned in their Digital Citizenship unit through a presentation tool called Prezi. Grades 1-4 are working on projects that will enhance their keyboarding and Word Skills, while Kindergarteners continue to work on technology operations and concepts such as mouse skills and navigating.

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

If you know of a child who may have a disability and has not been identified by the Salem School District, please ask the child's parents to contact the Special Services office, at 860-859-3988.

Salem will conduct a preschool screening in the spring for Salem residents who will be 3 years old by September 1, 2017 and not eligible for kindergarten. More details are available on the school website ([www.salemschools.org](http://www.salemschools.org)). If you have questions, please call Patti Wenrich at 860-859-3988.

*Submitted by Salem Principal Joan Phillips*



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## Events Calendar

### **Faberge Eggs: From Fine Art to Fine Craft**

*Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.* Presentation by Marina Forbes on the life and work of Peter Carl Faberge. There is an optional workshop, where participants will decorate wooden eggs using floral & berry designs and Russian painting techniques. There is a \$10 material fee per person for the workshop supplies, payable to the instructor. The program is suitable for families with children ages 6 and up. Limit 30. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

### **Salem Knitters**

*Meets on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon*, in the reading area of the Salem Free Public Library. The group meets weekly to work on their own projects or to contribute to the annual knitted goods sale to benefit the Friends of the Salem Library. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, they can teach you! Refreshments are served. Just drop in, no registration required.

### **Story Time**

*Held the first Friday of the month at 11:00 a.m. for ages 2-5, limit 10.* The dates for winter/spring 2017 are: April 7 and May 5. Storytime is not held during the summer. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

### **Salem Library Book Group**

*A library-sponsored book group for adults meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.*, facilitated by staff member, Sam Harfenist. The spring dates are: March 28, April 25 & May 23. Registration is suggested but walk-ins are welcome if you wish to join. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

### **Art in the Library**

*The group meets monthly at the library from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.* The group will meet on the following Thursdays: April 13 & May 11. This is not a class, but a supportive art group. Please bring your own supplies. Just drop in, no registration required.

### **Celebrating 300 Years of Connecticut's Remarkable Women**

*Wednesday, April 19, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.* Presented by the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. This is a multi-media presentation about some of our state's most remarkable women. Limit 40. The program is suitable for teens and adults. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

### **Miniature Fairy Gardens**

*Saturday, May 6, 2017 @ 11:00 a.m.* The program is presented by staff member, Sharon Geer. Come plant a miniature fairy garden in a small, porcelain pot, using live plants & fairy garden decor. All supplies will be provided. The program is suitable for ages 8 to adult. Limit 15. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

### **Friends of the Salem Library spring book and plant sale!**

Come support the Friends of the Salem Library at the sale on Thursday, May 11, 2017 to Saturday, May 13, 2017, during library hours.

### **Nature Sketchbook Journaling**

*Saturday, May 20, 2017 and Saturday, June 10, 2017, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*, presented by Roxanne Steed. In this class, you will spend time outdoors sketching and painting from nature, using pencil, pen and watercolor. Roxanne will show you how to simplify what you see and teach basic drawing and quick, intuitive watercolor techniques. Enroll in one or both classes. If it rains, the class will be held indoors. A materials list will be available prior to the class. The program is suitable for teens and adults. Limit 10. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

### **Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: History, Memories & Legacy of the CCC**

*Wednesday, June 7, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.* PowerPoint presentation and book signing by historian and author, Marty Podskoch. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

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## Giving Back

The spirit of giving back to our local public library was evident over the winter months. Groups who use the Salem Library for their activities generously showed their appreciation with donations to the Friends. The Friends of Salem Library wish to thank all of these groups, as well as the patrons of our Fall sales.

Starting in late October and lasting through the Christmas holidays, the Salem Library Knitters offered scarves, mittens, hats and many other hand-crafted items for sale. The items are very popular and many end up as Christmas presents. This year the sale raised over \$1,335.00 for the library. The knitters meet at the Library on Thursday mornings and welcome anyone who would like to join them to knit or just stop by for a chat.

In addition to the knitters, the Charity Committee of the Clamshell Quilt Guild provided beautiful quilted items for the sale. The Charity Committee meets monthly at the library to make baby quilts for the Neonatal ICU at L& M Hospital and Waterford Country School. This year, the group raised nearly \$400.00 for the Friends of the Library.

Additional donations were made by groups who meet at the Salem Library on a regular basis, including: Propbusters, the Crystal Lake Condo Association, and the Mah Jongg players.

During our Fall Used Book Sale, children's books were so popular that we sold out of them. Through word-of-mouth, the sixth grade student council at Salem School discovered what had happened, and with the help of school administrators, the students held a used book drive at the school to collect children's books. Principal Joan Phillips was very supportive of the idea, and the sixth grade student council got to work bringing in boxes, designing flyers, and making morning announcements to spread the word. The school was abuzz with excitement as the boxes filled up with donations. It was a great way for the students of Salem School and their families to come together to give back to their community.

## Fast Facts

The Friends of the Salem Free Public Library provide funding for all programs, museum passes and Summer Reading. In addition, the Friends have paid for approximately one-quarter of the circulating items in the library today. Join the Friends of the Salem Library to further support this effort. Membership forms are on-line at [Salemct.gov](http://Salemct.gov). Go to the Library link and then to the Friends of Salem Library.

## You Can Help

Salem Seniors and the Friends are planning to hold their Annual Plant and Book Sale starting Thursday, May 11th and running through Saturday, May 13th at the library. Traditionally, the plant sale has been a great success, and we are currently looking for people to donate plants for this year's sale. Those interested in donating plants in May should contact Elizabeth Lane at 860-859-1125. In addition, gently used gardening books, children's books, and a selection of paperbacks, will all be for sale at bargain prices. Set-up will take place on Wednesday afternoon, May 10th.

In other news, our long-serving Membership Chairperson will be retiring this summer, and we are hoping to recruit a new volunteer for this position. It is an important task that you can do at home, a few hours a month. It involves keeping track of our current membership database, so some computer and database skills would be helpful. You will also send out renewal letters to our membership. Stamps, envelopes and paper are provided, and we will provide you with all training necessary. If you have any interest, please contact Carl Nawrocki at: 860-859-1641 or via email at: [carlybilly@aol.com](mailto:carlybilly@aol.com).

*Submitted by: Carl Nawrocki, President*

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

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

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