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Connecticut

WINTER 2017-18



Cover Photo by Bopha Smith

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FROM YOUR RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS

Greetings from your Salem Resident Troopers!

The Salem Resident Troopers have teamed up with Troop K and AFSCME Local 610 to bring cheer to the community this holiday season. TFC. Pariseau and Tpr. LaRue collected new, unwrapped toys to contribute to those less fortunate in the Salem Community and the local area within Troop K's territory. This year's Christmas Toy Drive was held on Saturday, December 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Salem Marketplace located at 20 Hartford Rd. Gift cards and monetary donations may be brought to Troop K, 15-A Old Hartford Road in Colchester.

Please remember in an effort to mitigate any potential crime of opportunity, we ask that residents always lock their vehicles, never keep valuables such as pocketbooks, GPS, jewelry and electronics visible within your vehicle while it is unattended. Locking doors to your residence and sheds as well as keeping exterior lights on during night-time hours serve as simple yet effective ways to deter criminals.

Tpr. LaRue recently began teaching D.A.R.E. to the Salem school students. The D.A.R.E. program addresses drugs, violence, bullying, internet safety, and other circumstances that students may experience. Please have a safe and happy holiday season, and always remember to give yourself enough time to travel during inclement weather conditions.

Submitted by Troopers LaRue and Pariseau

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Dear Fellow Townspeople,

As the Holiday Season approaches, Kathleen and I wish you a safe and joyful time at your many holiday activities. Let's look at what has been going on in town.

Municipal Elections

It is an honor to be elected to serve as your First Selectman for another term. I want to thank all of our residents who ran for the many Boards and Commissions in our Town. Your willingness to serve our Town makes all of you winners in my book.

State Budget

After many stressful months, the State of Connecticut has adopted a biennial budget. The State has reduced funding to our Town for both the current Fiscal Year, as well as next Fiscal Year. We are fortunate that the reductions are less than originally planned; however, if the State's Projected Revenues decrease, we will be looking at more reductions to our municipalities. With that in mind, all Boards and Commissions will be reviewing their budgets for further efficiencies and cost savings in the current year, as well as very prudent budget requests for next Fiscal Year.

Route 85 Safety Upgrades

The Route 85 Safety Upgrades by the Skyline curve have been finished. This is a significant safety improvement. In the past few

years, there has been one death and several critical accidents in this area. Needed safety improvements included: significant drainage upgrades to keep the water and ice off of the travel lanes, wider shoulders to the road in each direction, increasing sightlines from a mere 200 feet to more than 550 feet, as well as correcting the pitch of the road bed. Thank you for your patience during this important safety improvement in our Town.

Happy Birthday Salem!

Salem turns 200 years old in 2019! We have had some responses and are asking for a few more good people to step forward to join a Bicentennial Committee. Please contact Louise at (860) 859-3873 ext. 100.

Enjoy your holiday season. *Mele Kelikimaka* and *Hau'oli Makahiki Hou*, from the Lyden Family to your Family.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.

Respectfully,



Kevin Lyden



Congratulations to our elected Townspeople



photo by: Bopha Smith

SALEM TOWN INFORMATION

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Smoking Cessation Program

Quitting tobacco is the best thing you can do to improve your health. Here are three ways we can help you quit:

1. The American Lung Association Freedom from Smoking Classes are offered for seven weeks through the Uncas Health District or Backus Hospital. Introduced 35 years ago, this program has helped thousands end their addiction to nicotine and begin tobacco-free lives.
2. Nicotine Replacement Therapy (patch, gum, lozenge) or other quit medications are available for FREE over 12 weeks through the Uncas Health District if your insurance does not provide coverage.
3. Connecticut QuitLINE at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

The Uncas Health District is committed to helping our residents improve their health. Funding for our tobacco cessation program is provided through the Tobacco and Health Trust by the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

For more information about Uncas Health District classes, including individual counseling, contact Connie Capacchione at (860) 823-1189 x122 or c-capacchione@uncashd.org. To register for smoking cessation classes at Backus Hospital, call 855.HHC.HERE or go to hartfordhealthcare.org/events.

Submitted by: Patrick McCormack, Director of Health

The Recreation Commission has had a busy fall with activities and planning for future events. In addition, the commission itself has experienced several membership changes. In September, Sue Spang, Chair of the Recreation Commission and member for over 15 years, announced that she was stepping down. Her legacy of contributions to the commission and town of Salem is extensive. Working to provide outstanding recreational programs and facilities was at the core of Sue's leadership. Sue's dedication to developing the incredible athletic fields, grounds and playing surfaces we all enjoy today is a testament to her vision of quality recreation for Salem. Good luck, Sue, and thank you for all of your contributions!

Dave Kennedy, a very busy town volunteer, resigned in October. He served as Vice-Chair and was active for many years with the Salem Youth Baseball League (SYBL). Thank you, Dave!

The commission is extremely excited to welcome Alan Maziarz! Alan currently organizes the Salem Youth Basketball Program and the commission is excited for the energy, enthusiasm and ideas that he brings.

Please check the website and Facebook for upcoming winter programs.

Submitted by: Teri Natoli, Recreation Commission

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SALEM SENIORS



Salem residents 55 and above...you are encouraged to come to the Salem Seniors meetings. We meet March through December at 10:30 a.m. at the Salem Volunteer Fire Company on Rt. 85. Each meeting adjourns with a free luncheon for attendees. These meetings are quite informative regarding current or upcoming happenings with the town. In addition to occasional guests presenting information to the residents, we also receive specific Salem Town information from First Selectman Kevin Lyden and often get updates and useful information from our Resident State Trooper, Chris Pariseau.

We wish to thank Salem School and Superintendent Joseph Onofrio for hosting our Annual November 2017 Seniors Meeting. We look forward to the wonderful luncheon provided by Salem School and the Thanksgiving song presentation of Mr. Christopher Hebert's Pre-K class each year. In addition to the children's beautiful voices, they act out the songs for the enjoyment of all.

Our December 12, 2017 Christmas and Holiday Celebration meeting was held at Salem Volunteer Fire Company at 10:30 a.m. They provide a "Holiday Dinner" to the Salem Senior Citizens & Veterans. Even if you have not been before...you are welcome to attend. Many heartfelt thanks to the Salem Volunteer Fire Company for their ongoing effort and support to Salem's Seniors throughout the year.

Reminder: Salem Seniors do not meet during the months of January or February at the firehouse but do not forget that each Tuesday, from 12:00-4:00 p.m., the Salem Free Public Library has the side room open for seniors. This group, sponsored by the Salem Recreation Commission, plays different card games, bowls using the WiiU video game system, and socializes. The most popular card games played are Set Back (Pitch), Cribbage, and a card game called Golf. A new WiiU System has just been installed, and in addition to ten pin bowling, there is a 100 pin bowling game which is starting some more friendly competition. Each person's score is added week to week. New players are always welcome. Refreshments are also served.

Also, although not from Salem, we have to acknowledge Harbor Village from New London. Every month a staff member entertains us with mind games and surprised us one month by providing our lunch. Thank you for all you do for us.

If you would like to sign up to receive emails from the Town of Salem regarding town news or events, visit: www.salemct.gov. About half-way down the page, you will see a box with an envelope to "Subscribe to News". Click the box and follow the easy instructions.

Separately, the Town of Salem has a Mass Notification Information alert system which is intended for more urgent matters such as weather emergencies, closings, etc. You can register for these notifications by visiting: www.salemct.gov. Click on "Emergency Notification" on the left-hand side of the screen. Please print the form and return it to the Town Hall front desk. Any questions, please contact Christina Martin at 860-859-3873 or Christine.martin@salemct.gov.

We look forward to seeing you all in March 2018!

*Submitted by Pam Henry, Salem Town Municipal Agent for the Aging,
and Irene Jarvis*



First Selectman Lyden thanking Selectman Ross for 10 years of service to the Town of Salem on the Board of Selectmen.

RESIDENT TROOPERS RECEIVE ZOLL DEFIBRILLATORS

In November, our Resident Troopers, Chris Pariseau and Luke Larue, received ZOLL Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

from the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company. The Resident Troopers, with permission from their State Police Command, will carry the ZOLL Defibrillator in their issued cruisers.

"This is a valuable resource to the Town of Salem and the Heart Saver Program. Troopers who are trained as First Responders at the Emergency Medical Responder Level will have a quicker response to an injured party. Each Resident Trooper monitors a pager that activates when the Fire Company personnel are dispatched to an emergency.



Resident Troopers Luke Larue (L) and Chris Pariseau (R) with their donated defibrillators at Gardner Lake Firehouse.

Continued In-Service Training for The Heart Saver Program CRP/AED is offered throughout Salem for residents and the staff of Town Hall, Salem Library, the Public Works Department, Salem School, and the Fire Company."

Funding and maintenance for the ZOLL Defibrillators was made possible by the Gardner Lake Ambulance Fund: Christine Lindo, Treasurer and Cheryl Philopena, President.

To date, since 2007, 858 residents and students have been trained in CPR / AED. Residents interested in CPR / AED training may contact: Amie Hoinski by e-mail damummis@gmail.com

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Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company Fire Officers Sponsor and Participate in Two Leadership Training Events.

The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company located in Salem, CT, has at least 25 active members serving the Town of Salem and surrounding communities with fire suppression, water supply, heavy rescue, and ambulance services. Among the active members are four chief fire officers who possess numerous national and state level certifications. The most interesting statistic for these four senior leaders is that they possess a combined 163 years of experience. On average, that is more than 40 years of experience apiece. Still, with all of this experience and education behind them, they are renewing their devotion to serve others the best they can by participating in senior executive level training with their fellow and future chief level officers from Southeastern Connecticut.

There are standards to meet that require this training. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires a fire department to provide training and education commensurate with expected duties and functions. It further requires leaders and training instructors be provided with training and education which is more comprehensive than that provided to the general membership. After delivering the second officer training seminar this is now more than just meeting a standard.

On October 18, 2017, the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company sponsored its 2nd Senior Officer Training Seminar. This seminar capitalized on the success of the first by focusing on a higher level of leadership. Its title: *Leading Change: It's Not Just Numbers*, pointed towards today's challenging leadership environment. In attendance were 20 fire/EMS leaders and future leaders representing departments from: Salem, Oakdale, Chesterfield, Noank, and Eastern Region Incident Management Team #4. The seminar used a panel format to discuss personal leadership style and what to do and not do as a senior leader driving organizational change. Each panel member serves or served at the executive level of their respective organizations, all had overseas military experience, and three commanded units in combat situations in the Global War on Terrorism.

Dave Swinburne, a newly assigned Assistant Chief at the Oakdale Volunteer Fire Company, reflectively stated: "I absolutely loved sitting there last night listening to the passion they portrayed from personal experience...it makes such a difference when you care for yourself and others (by) continually practicing kindness and knowing it's not a weakness" as a senior leader.

The two seminars provided by the Gardner Lake Fire Company hit the mark, and moreover, provided advice to attendees that was unique in time and place. "Having executive level professionals share civilian best practices along with direct combat recollections to our members and fellow department members was to me priceless...asking questions and gaining insight from these accomplished panelists was truly extraordinary," said Joe Danao, an Assistant Chief with the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, who organized both senior officer training seminars.

The first seminar, held in June, was delivered by CDR (retired) Bill Moeller who provided extraordinary insight into leadership, creative thinking and networking through his experiences on a fateful day and since as a successful aerospace executive. CDR (retired) Moeller led the rescue team aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Tamaroa in a historic event now known as The Perfect Storm on October 30, 1991. He was an exceptional speaker and was gracious in volunteering his time to help area fire/EMS officers.

To prepare current and future fire service leaders for executive level positions is paramount to the success of a fire department in today's changing and challenging operating environment. It is not just meeting an OSHA standard or to get trained or to sit back and wait for operational success.

To be effective today, a senior leader must be engaged and continuously learning about new concepts such as: values held by new team members, post-traumatic stress, evolving regulations, and constrained fiscal resources. What current senior leaders know of the past is at best a good baseline. This baseline is not enough; senior leaders must learn to recognize and act on changing patterns directly from subject matter experts from outside the fire/EMS services. Additionally, they must acquire this education alongside each other to form a common operating leadership picture. This training event's purpose was to provide current and relevant best practices from senior executives who are literally battle tested. We did indeed learn that leading change truly is not just about numbers.

A third Senior Officer Training event is planned for the March 2018 timeframe. The focus of this delivery will come directly from chief executives from the military and civilian organizations.

Submitted by Joe Danao II who is the Assistant Chief and Public Information Officer at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company and a member of the fire/EMS service since 1983. He is also a military veteran with 34 years of experience including a tour in Afghanistan. Assistant Chief Danao possesses numerous military fire and EMS certifications and is an alumnus of the former Mohegan Community College, Eastern CT State University, and University of Hartford with a Masters in Taxation, University of New Haven with a Masters in Fire Science, and the United States Army Command and General Staff College.

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Winter Safety Messages from Your Friends at The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company:

With the cooler temperatures expected, some may want to use their small space heaters. If so, DO NOT plug them into a power strip. These devices are not designed to handle the energy load of a space heater and can overheat, causing a fire hazard.



Result of a powerstrip being overloaded

Power Outage: If you connect a generator to your house when the power goes out, please remember to abide by the following:

- Disconnect your power at the main breaker to the street. This will ensure that you are not back-feeding the power lines.
- Place your generator outside of your house and chain it to a tree. The exhaust can emit carbon monoxide gas, also known as The Silent Killer, into your house. This gas can cause headaches and possibly death. Check your carbon monoxide (CO) detector batteries often to ensure that it is active. The detector should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation, generally every 5 to 10 years.
- Consult a Licensed Electrician on the wiring of your generator. All generators are different. Proper amperage, plugs and outlets may make a difference to your risk of a fire. Do not cut the end off of a plug and stick it into the generator as this will cause an electrical shock.
- When the snow builds up outside, please clean around all exterior vents associated with gas appliances, wood stoves and dryers. This will help eliminate CO buildup in your home.
- Assist first responders by clearing your walkways. Apply a pet safe non skid material to the surface. Please remember, pets are our friends too.

911 Your Emergency Number

Submitted by: Chief Jim Savalle

Fall has rushed in on us. Please come by to clear older decorations off plots that you own or maintain. The SGCA now allows for the placement of plastic/fabric flowers into April, 2018. Now that plot markers and meers stones are in place in the newly expanded section of Section IV, sales requests for plots in rows J, K and M can proceed.

Next up on our project list is the installation of a fence consisting of granite posts and chains (similar to that bordering town property and Route 85) delineating the boundary between the Cemetery and Church Parsonage property. We are targeting a December completion.

The SGCA is reviewing the current bylaws. Once the review is complete and any revisions are implemented, we will mail the updated bylaws to plot owners and post any portions that directly affect current plot owners on the board located near Section I.

For the period of 08/17/2017 – 11/20/2017 there have been four interments/inurnments:

Date	Section	Row	Plot	Name
09/29/17	I	E	24+	Robert Tarnowski
09/30/17	I	C	53	Robyn McKenney
11/18/17	I	A	3	Gertrude Miller
11/21/17	I	B	29	Athena Grey

Plot availability: As of 11/20/2017 all full sized plots in Section I have been purchased/deeded. Section IV has 274 full sized plots available for \$725 each. Regulations allow for one vault or a maximum of three (3) cremation containers per full sized plot. The cemetery receives only human remains – no animal remains are allowed.

Pastor Tim Dubeau is finishing out his ministry here in Salem on December 31, 2017. This leaves a vacancy in the Sexton position. This is a low intensity, easily manageable position for anyone who has some freedom in their schedule. It is not an hourly or salaried position although certain fees are payable to the Sexton for various functions. The Sexton's primary responsibilities are to oversee plot sales/fee collections and to mark out locations for grave openings and monument installation. If interested in learning more about this position, please contact Catherine Teel at 860-859-1142.

Questions regarding plot purchases, monument placement and/or regulations may be directed to Catherine Teel after December 19, 2017 (Pastor Dubeau's last day serving as Sexton). The information board located near the first row of plots displays maps of the cemetery sections showing plot locations, interment/inurnment records by name/plot, plot pricing and contact information.

Submitted by: Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton

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Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The Salem Lions Club held its second annual Golf Tournament at the Shennecosset Golf Course in Groton. The support that the Lions received from the many Salem and local business sponsors and individuals was overwhelming. We would also like to thank the many volunteers who provided their support to help make the event a success. Finally, we would like to thank the golfers who participated in what turned out to be a sun-filled and fun-filled afternoon of golf.

Through this and other such fundraising efforts, the Salem Lions Club is able to provide funding for scholarships to two deserving Salem students, support Hearing & Speech research, sponsor the Salem School's D.A.R.E. program, and donate to Camp Rising Sun, which provides summer camp experiences to children with cancer.



Happy Holidays to everyone. Another year is nearly gone as we look to the coming holidays and to 2018! Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Salem Lions have had a busy fall with the 2nd Annual Salem Golf Classic on October 2, 2017. Forty-four golfers made it a very successful event at Shennecosset Golf Club; thanks to Lion Ed Lezon and his committee for their great organization and execution of details to make this event happen. Hope to see you all on October 1, 2018 for our 3rd Annual Salem Golf Classic. Get your groups of four together early. Watch for details.

Each year Lions District 23-C honors a non-lion citizen from each Lions Club as its Humanitarian of the Year. Salem Lions is proud to select Bobbie Ziegler as its Humanitarian for 2017. She and the other Clubs' selections will be honored by the District at a dinner and ceremony on January 20, 2018 at Groton Motor Inn. For tickets and reservations, contact Lion Bill Martin (860-859-1881), or Lion George Ziegler (860-859-0609).

Our Salem Lions Wood Bank has had a very successful year; we have sold and delivered nearly all of our available dry wood and cannot take any more orders this year. Thank you all for your purchases. We are already starting to cut and split so that we can again have a good supply next fall. Be sure to get your orders in early.

Each year, Salem Lions holds a Super Bowl Roses fundraiser. Dozens of cut roses will arrive either Thursday, February 1, 2018 or Friday, February 2, 2018. Surprise your spouse, or enjoy a dozen for yourself. Order yours early by contacting Lion Dave Kennedy (860-889-5179) or Lion George Ziegler (860-859-0609).

Thank You all for supporting our projects and fundraisers; 100% of all donations and all of the profits from our fundraisers are returned to our community charitable projects. Salem Lions are proud to be of service to Salem. If you are interested in becoming a Salem Lion, or need more information about our organization, please contact Lion Bill Martin (860-859-1881) or any other Lion.

Submitted by: Lion George Ziegler



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Annual Trunk or Treat - Fun had by all!

On Sunday afternoon, October 29, 2017, from 3:00–5:00 p.m., The Salem Volunteer Fire Company, Inc., along with Witch Meadow Campground, Two Brothers Restaurant and Pizza, the Salem Mom's Club, and Salem PTO converged at the Campground to host Trunk or Treat for the families here in Salem.

Despite the rain, the trick-or-treaters were treated to homemade soup, sandwiches and baked goods before starting their celebration. Along with a parade of costumed participants, for which awards were given out, the families enjoyed a display of decorated trunks or tables set up by the 21 "trunkers" at the Pavilion.

The children then went through and received their candy, stickers and toys. Not only were all of the displays incredible, but the costumes that the adults wore were so creative, and in some cases, "scary". Everyone had a great time.

The "Trunk or Treat" is a fun and safe activity for the trick-or-treaters, and we plan on expanding this activity again next year. Thanks again to all those involved and for all those that attended.

Submitted by: Richard W. Martin, Chief



The Salem Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. once again held a Holiday Luncheon for the Senior Citizens and the military veterans on Tuesday, December 12th at Noon. A Turkey and Ham Lunch was served with all the trimmings. All Seniors and any Military Veterans living in the Town of Salem were invited to attend.

This annual event is always held on the second Tuesday in December. Please mark your calendar for 2018 and plan to attend. If you have any questions, please call 860-859-0942. If we are out on an emergency, please leave your phone number and we will get back to you. Looking forward to seeing our Seniors and honoring our Veterans with this delicious Luncheon on December 11, 2018. The Fire Station is located at 424 Hartford Road (Rte. 85). Bring your appetite!

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Since the last Board of Finance article in the Fall issue of *Our Town Salem* was released, a lot has changed in both our Connecticut and Salem budgets. What the Board of Finance previously thought was beginning to clear up, has once again gotten murky. First, let's discuss the State's budget; after failing to pass a budget by the July 1, 2017 deadline, Governor Malloy opted to run the State using his executive powers. Towns like Salem suffered greatly under that decision, especially in the area of Education Cost Sharing (ECS).

What Salem received (ECS) in 2016-17	What Salem budgeted for (ECS) for 2017-18	Gov. Malloy's executive budget (we recieved \$228,699 as a 25% share for 2017-18)
\$3,049,314	\$2,602,541	\$914,796

The Board of Finance went so far as to freeze Capital spending, and direct both the General Government and Board of Education to come up with plans for a Tier 1 and Tier 2 reduction of spending, depending on how deep the cuts would be in the final budget. When the bipartisan leadership of both the House and Senate got together and worked out a compromise, we thought we were in a pretty good place. The budget was passed by the members of both the House and Senate by a "veto-proof" margin, and was signed by Governor Malloy. The budget that passed had some changes (both positive and negative) for Salem, and for the State, in general. Salem's ECS funding, although still a decrease from the 2016-2017 level was a definite improvement over Governor Malloy's draconian budget.

The passed budget, which was signed into law by Governor Malloy in early November, did not raise income taxes or sales taxes but in part relies on some fairly ambitious revenue that the State is expecting in the future. In fact, The *New London Day* reported on November 14, 2017, that the State was already at least \$200 million

behind its revenue goals. This has already resulted in a \$200 million deficit for this year and a \$300 million deficit for next year.

On November 17, 2017, the Governor (citing the \$200,000,000 shortfall in revenue), slashed the funds that Salem was slated to receive in the budget that was signed into law just two weeks earlier. Salem was slated to receive \$2,896,848 (a cut of \$150,000), the Governor's new cuts dropped ECS funding to \$2,654,289 (a cut of nearly \$400,000). The original budget had Salem losing approximately \$150,000 additional in funding in 2018-2019 over 2017-2018. But with the State deficit continuing to grow, it would be foolish to hazard a guess where funding will be next year. The new funding estimate looks like:

What the Legislature approved and was signed into law Nov. 1, 2017	What Gov. Malloy changed it to on November 17, 2017	What we should expect in 2018-2019
\$2,896,848	\$2,654,289	?

The State sent a letter to all municipalities on November 2, 2017, stating that they would try to get each town funded to where they should be by the end of November. Once that funding is in place, the Board of Finance will probably re-address the freeze on Capital spending. The current freeze is only in place until our December meeting.

It took Connecticut many years to get into the financial problems it is in, and it will not be fixed overnight. The General Government and the Board of Education need to continue to look at ways to do the work of the town and school in an efficient manner. The Board of Finance will continue to write articles for *Our Town Salem* to keep the public apprised of what is going on in a non-biased manner.

Mobile Food Pantry



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

Please bring your own bags

Location: Town of Salem - Salem School
200 Hartford Rd., Salem CT
Date: First Wednesday of the Month
Time: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

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christine.martin@salemct.gov

or

visit Salem Town Hall



We have enjoyed a very successful beginning to the 2017-2018 school year at Salem School. With the support of the community, teachers, and staff we are able to provide a very positive educational experience for all of our students. I would like to share some of our students' accomplishments and experiences that have transpired so far this school year.

In September, Mobile Ed Productions presented The Earth Dome which is a gigantic inflatable earth balloon standing 19-feet high and 22-feet in diameter. It's made of 24 huge panels silkscreened with photographs shot from satellites of the surface of the world on cloud free days. It was used to educate students about geography as well as environmental issues. The presenter helped the students better understand the scale of concepts such as continents, time zones, latitude, longitude, and more. These topics were presented to each class at the appropriate grade level. Seeing and understanding the Earth as it appears from space, as opposed to painted globes or drawings, was an experience not soon forgotten.

In October, Salem School participated in Unity Day. Unity Day is a national campaign to prevent bullying in our schools and communities. We asked all students and staff to wear orange the day of the national celebration to stand in unity against bullying and then green the next day (Salem School color) for Salem School to unite against bullying. At the end of the day the students and staff came together for an assembly to join together in unity against bullying.

To support the second graders' first social studies unit "My Community, My Country," both classes walked to the Salem Town Hall. They met the staff and saw where different services are provided and taxes are paid. Also, they participated in a mock town meeting with our First Selectman, Mr. Lyden. The students were excited to put the democratic process they had been reading about into action.

On Veterans Day, we celebrated our Veterans with an all-school assembly. Our students shared poems, videos, songs and more in honor of our Veterans. In addition, immediately following the assembly, a reception was hosted by our 7th and 8th grade Student Council members in our Library for the Veterans. Salem School was in session on Veterans Day, giving us an opportunity to show our appreciation to our Veterans for serving our country.

7th and 8th grade students honor our Veterans.



We invited our local Senior Citizens for lunch and entertainment for their November meeting. The Salem School Preschool performed for the Senior Citizens. The students were all dressed up in turkey costumes that they made themselves. They sang songs about being thankful, November, and turkeys.

CNN..."Cougar News Network" has been providing live broadcast daily this school year! The grant awarded to us from Frontier Communications has enabled us to purchase all of the necessary equipment to implement a student broadcast for the school. Several 7th and 8th graders begin every morning in our broadcast room with Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Dugger to air our daily news in place of the school announcements.

Athletics - Soccer

The Salem coed Middle School soccer team comprising of athletes in grades 5-8 have had a productive and positive experience this fall season. Along with working on being effective team players and helping other athletes improve their skills, the team held an undefeated record until the end of the season. They were looking forward to defending their championship title on November 1st. Captains of the team include 8th graders: Zach Bourgeois, Delanie Fresco-Hawes, Abby Hanney, Jesse Oloski, Margaret Dunne and Lilly Gendron.

The Salem soccer team competed against North Stonington for the conference championship. During the regular season, Salem tied Wheeler twice so this was a very important match for the Cougars. The Salem Cougars lost two to one to Wheeler in the championship. They finished their season with a record of 8 wins, 2 losses and 2 ties. We would like to offer a special thanks to our 8th graders who played a huge role in this team's success: Greg Morgan, Sara Gilman, Abby Hanney, Lilly Gendron, Tristan Blais, Margaret Dunne, Delanie Fresco-Hawes, Zach Bourgeois and Jesse Oloski. Coaches Dan Pagnataro and Chris Pugliese wish you the best of luck in your future soccer experiences!

Athletics - Cross Country

Our Captains Ted Bergman, David Stankoski, and Julia Geigel guided the Salem Cross Country team to a very successful 2017 season. Our seasoned runners were wonderful mentors to the large number of new runners this year. Within our league, the boys and girls had an undefeated season! Ted Bergman and Izzy Pazzaglia currently hold the 1.9 mile home course record as well as being our lead runners throughout the year.

At the League Championship, our varsity girls and boys brought home first place plaques for the Cougars with our JV boys and girls earning second place plaques (out of 6 teams). Our girls dominated the course with Izzy Pazzaglia, Izzy Paggioli, Julia Giegel, Sydney Arustei, Gracie Lloyd, Rosie Barba and Mary Haburay. Ted Bergman, John Bureau, Jack Mauri, Nate Bergman, Colin Bunkley, Maddox Grillo-Smith and Calvin Kilgore controlled the course for our boys' team also taking first place in our league. All of our JV girls performed their personal best for the race as did several of our JV boy competitors. It was an incredible day for the entire Cross Country team. Coaches Mary Sturgeon and Dan Wilson could not be more proud of this team.

Here at Salem School we believe it is important to give our students every opportunity to learn and grow and to develop a healthy positive attitude that supports community involvement and good citizenship. I am honored to serve the students, staff, and families of Salem as Principal. If you have any questions or concerns, at any time, please contact me.

Submitted by: Joan Phillips, Principal of Salem School

Volunteers Make the Used Book Sale a Success

Volunteers are the key to success for The Friends of the Salem Library Used Book Sale. The sale netted a little over \$6300 and will account for a substantial portion of the \$16,000 the Friends plan to donate to the library for programs, museum passes, books, audiovisual materials, and The Summer Reading Program. The two-day sale was supported by 98 volunteers. Some worked the entire sale while others worked several hours; a few individuals even took a day off from work to volunteer!

Teens played a big part in this year's sale. These young volunteers came from the East Lyme High School Key Club, three Girl Scout Troops, a Boy Scout Troop, Our Lady of the Lakes Confirmation Class, as well as students and parents from Salem School. Most teens were fulfilling their community service hour needs. We wish to heartily thank Salem School for the great support.

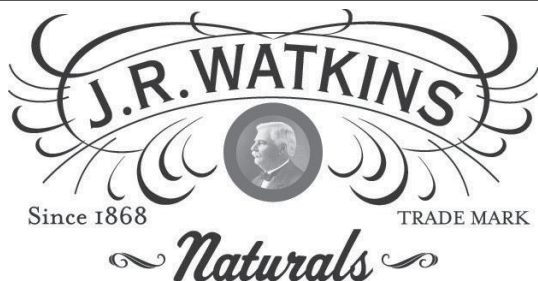
Lastly, one cannot thank enough those volunteers who collect and sort the donated books throughout the year. These tasks are performed nearly every day the library is open and lead to the creation and organization of 75 categories of books and other materials that take place from June to the end of September. This effort is what makes a big difference to our customers who say: "Salem has one of the best Used Book Sales in the State". People travel to the sale from up-state New York, Massachusetts and all over Connecticut from places like Putnam and West Hartford.

Publicity and Awareness

The Friends of the Salem Library is looking for volunteers with marketing or public relations skills to help put together a plan to better promote our library and The Friends of the Library. Those of us who appreciate the tremendous asset we have in Salem Library are amazed that there are townspeople who do not know all of the services and programs the library offers in addition to the extensive print and electronic materials available to borrow. Some have never been to the library and are not members of the Friends of the Salem Library. We would like to create a plan that capitalizes on what the library and Friends provide, especially utilizing electronic media.

If you are interested, please contact Carl Nawrocki at: carlybilly@aol.com or call: 860-859-1641.

Submitted by: Carl Nawrocki, President



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Schedule of Events

Salem Knitters - The knitting group 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. Refreshments are served. You may just drop in, no registration required!

Salem Library Book Group - The library's adult book group, moderated by staff member, Sam Harfenist, will meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Registration is suggested by calling 860-859-1130, but walk-ins are welcome!

Mahjong Group - Meets every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in the library's program room. New players welcome! Just drop in!

Senior Cinema - Afternoon at the movies for adults/seniors held monthly on Fridays at 2:00 p.m. Scheduled dates for 2018 are: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 18 and June 8. Due to the guidelines of our public performance license, the movie title can only be advertised within the library or on our website. Just drop in!

LEGO Nights - Held monthly on Mondays on the following 2018 dates: January 8, February 5, March 5, April 9, May 7 and June 4. Free play with LEGOS, for ages 5 and up, with a parent. 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Just drop in!

Game Night - Come to the library to play board games on the following Thursdays, from 5-7 p.m.: December 14, 21 and 28, 2017. Use our games or bring your own. Beginning in January 2018, game night will be held monthly with several different game choices each date. The dates are: January 18, February 15, March 22, April 19 and May 24. This program is for ages 12 to adult. Just drop in!

The Benefits of Massage Therapy - Saturday, January 6, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Got stress? Chronic stress can be detrimental to your health. Dawn Shumbo, a licensed massage therapist, will explain how massage therapy can help reduce the negative effects of stress, and also promote better health for both your mind and body. Following the discussion, she will demonstrate using chair massage for anyone interested. Call 860-859-1130 to register. Limit 20.

Storytime for 3's & 4's - This is a five week session held on Thursdays, from January 18, 2018 through February 15, 2018, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

Drop-in Crafts - Held monthly on Mondays from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. on the following dates: January 29, 2018, February 26, March 26, April 23 and May 21. This program is for ages 3 & up, with a parent.

Introduction to Reiki - Wednesday, January 24, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. Presented by Reiki Master, Tracy Kohl. Tracy will discuss what Reiki is, its origins and what to expect from a Reiki session. After the discussion, Tracy will offer three 10 minute mini Reiki sessions to those interested. Limit 30. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

Noah's Ark Stuffed Animal Workshop - Wednesday, January 31, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. Come listen to a story and then hand-stuff your own furry friend. The type of furry friend will be a surprise for now! Limit 12 children, ages 3 & up, with a parent. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

Family Movies @ the Library - Come to the library to watch a family-friendly movie complete with popcorn! Movies are shown once a month on Saturdays @ 1:00 p.m. on the following 2018 dates: January 20, February 24, March 24, April 21 and May 19. Due to the guidelines of our public performance license, the movie title can only be advertised within the library or on our website. Just drop in!

Take your Child to the Library Day-Magic Show with Mr. Magic - Saturday, February 3, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m. Suggested ages, 4 & up, with a parent. Limit 40. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

Winter Reading for Teens (13+) and Adults - Tuesday, February 6, 2018 to Tuesday, March 20, 2018, the first day of spring! Register at the circulation desk anytime during those dates, read whatever you want, and get a raffle ticket for each book read. Drawing will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018.

Daymark Irish Music Concert - Thursday, March 15, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. Daymark is an international trio, fusing the talents of Will Woodson (flute, border pipes), Dan Foster (fiddle) and Eric McDonald (guitar and vocals), performing traditional Irish music. Call 860-859-1130 to register. Limit 40.

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Call 860-859-1130 to register for any program



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