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# OUR TOWN SALEM

Connecticut

WINTER 2018 -19



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Cover Photo of *Silas the Snowman* by Bopha Smith Photography

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Dear Fellow Townspeople,

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

## Open Government/Transparent Government

To provide transparency to our fellow townspeople in the Municipal Government, our town website, SalemCT.gov, provides easy access to meetings and agendas, years of town budgets, years of annual audits, municipal contact information, the Town Charter, and all Ordinances of the Town. Salem is your town and the information is readily available to you.

## Fiscal Year 2018

The Town of Salem continues to be in Strong Financial Condition in Fiscal Year 2018. Our Rainy Day Fund remains healthy and our Bond Rating was upgraded. We are fortunate for the strong fiscal management by the Board of Finance and our team at Town Hall.

## Thank you Frank Sroka

After several decades of service to our Salem community, Frank and Linda will be departing to Delaware to be closer to family members. Frank has served as Chairman of the Board of Education, the Board of Selectmen, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, and countless other committees for our community. Frank's strong leadership and many years of service truly helped shape our Town of Salem into what it is today. A huge thank you to Frank and Linda from all of your fellow townspeople. We wish you the very best and hope you return to Salem often.

## Thank you George Householder and Welcome Skip Dickson

Serving two decades on our Board of Finance, Chairman George Householder has stepped aside to handle the many other commitments he has to our Salem community. The torch has been passed to Chairman Skip Dickson. We are thankful to George for his wisdom and steady leadership while on the Board of Finance. We are fortunate that Skip, with his years of municipal and community service, has stepped forward to serve in this important position.

**Salem will soon be 200 years old!**

As we approach 2019 the Bicentennial momentum is building. The Bicentennial Committee is a very active committee and has many activities planned for our Bicentennial Year 2019.

## Age Restricted Development

With the work of our Planning & Zoning Commission we now have a clear and concise regulation for Age Restricted Developments. This is an important regulation to Salem as our 55 and over age group is one of our larger demographics. The First 6 units using this new regulation are available now behind the Salem Pharmacy.

There were NO financial incentives given to the developer; instead a clear and concise regulation was all that was needed to encourage this project. We hope this is the first of many Age Restricted Developments in our community.

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

I am honored to be your First Selectman.

Respectfully,



Kevin Lyden, First Selectman



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## SALEM TOWN INFORMATION

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## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 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!

**Seniors Drop-in** - The seniors meet every Tuesday, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the program room. Come to the library to play Wii Sports games, such as baseball, boxing, bowling, golf and tennis, as well as card and board games. Potluck refreshments are served. Sponsored by the Salem Recreation Department.

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

**Senior Cinema** - A movie will be shown on the second Friday of every month at 2:00 p.m. Free popcorn!

**Bald Eagles in CT** - Wednesday, January 16, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. Richard Taylor, Master Wildlife Conservationist from the CT DEEP Wildlife team, will present a program on Bald Eagles in Connecticut including its history, range, habitat, diet, nesting, breeding and recovery. Please join us and learn how you can contribute to the continued successful recovery of the Bald Eagle in Connecticut. Limit 40. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

**Take Your Child to the Library Day - Story Time & Craft** - Saturday, February 2, 2019. Story time @ 11:00 a.m. followed by a craft. Local author, Sue Sullivan, RN, will read from her book, *The Chicken and the Avocado Tree*. Books will be available for sale and signing. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

**Winter Reading Program** - February 4, 2019 to March 20, 2019. This is our winter reading program for teens (13+) and adults. You may register beginning Monday, February 4, 2019. Read whatever you want and receive a raffle ticket for every book read! The raffle drawing will be held on Friday, March 22, 2019.

**A Passeggiata (Stroll) Through Italy: Past, Present & Future** - Saturday, March 23, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m. Mariann Millard will present a program on Italian geography, history, language, culture, cuisine and politics. Experience Italy through stunning photographs, explanations and stories portrayed in a lively and engaging manner, based on her work experience as a certified tour director in Italy. Limit 30. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

**African Kora Harp with Sean Gaskell** - Saturday, April 6, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m. Sean Gaskell will give a performance and educational demonstration on the kora, an ancient 21-stringed harp from West Africa. He will feature traditional songs that are the heart and soul of the kora's musical repertoire in addition to some of his own personal compositions. Great for families! All ages welcome. Limit 40. Call 860-859-1130 to register.

All programs sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library

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## Used book sale rain or shine

The prospect of gale force winds and heavy rain did little to dampen the enthusiasm of patrons who were shopping the Used Book Sale.

The sale netted about \$5,900 and will account for a substantial portion of the money the Friends (FOSL) plan to donate to the Salem Library.

The money will be used for programs, passes, books, DVD's and the Summer Reading Program.

The two-day sale was supported by 98 volunteers, some who worked a few hours, and others who worked the entire day; a few took a day off from work to volunteer. Many tweens and teens, along with their parents, fulfilled their service hour requirement when the rain cancelled their outdoor games.

One cannot thank enough those volunteers who collect and sort the books. These tasks are performed nearly every day the library is open from June to the end of September.

The sorters organize the books into 75 categories making a big difference to our customers who repeatedly say, "Salem has one of the best

Used Book Sales in the State". A special thank you to the great support of Salem School and the Town's Public Works Department.

## Frequently asked question: Where do books go after the sale?

Every year, the leftover books go to different places. We usually donate some books to other non-profits and this year we donated to the Salvation Army.

The remaining books were loaded on a semi-trailer and sent to *Thrift Books* in Baltimore, MD. FOSL has entered into a partnership with *Thrift Books* who sells used books online.

Chances are that if you have purchased a used book online, the book originated from the *Thrift Books* warehouse.

*Thrift Books* and FOSL split the shipping costs and if any of our books are sold, we will split the profit and generate some additional revenue for the library.



## Famous Tamil poet shops at Salem Friends used book sale

The acclaimed Tamil poet and critic, Alandur Mohana Rangan, was among the hundreds of customers at the Friends of the Salem Library Used Book Sale held during the last weekend in October. He purchased poetry and classic books without leaving India.

It just so happens that one of Mr. Mohana Rangan's friends, and a native of India, is Govar Kuruchi.

Mr. Kuruchi is a volunteer who helped sort the books this summer and worked at the Used Book Sale.

Knowing of Mr. Mohana Rangan's interest in poetry, Mr. Kuruchi used his smartphone to make a video of the books in the poetry section of the sale.

He sent the video to Mr. Mohana Rangan who reviewed the video and texted the titles of the poetry books he was interested in purchasing.

Mr. Kuruchi purchased the books and will deliver them to his friend on his next trip to India.

While technology made selecting the books efficient and inexpensive, long distance delivery can be costly, unless you have a friend with room in their suitcase.

The Salem Friends, plan to stick with on-site purchase and pick-up until the long distance delivery problem is solved.



## FOSL is Looking for a Treasurer

As we reported in the last issue, our treasurer, George Ziegra, is retiring in May 2019 and we are looking for a replacement. Over the years, the Friends have developed tried and true financial procedures that work well with the Friends and Library staff. The treasurer works with the President of the Friends and the Library Director to help manage the Friends substantial donations to the library and keep tabs on our accounts at Chelsea-Groton Bank. The treasurer makes financial reports four times a year, helps produce the annual budget, pays bills incurred by the library staff and makes very simple annual reports to the I.R.S. and the State. You do not have to be a C.P.A., but understanding how to use an Excel spread sheet, would be helpful. All of these are important tasks that can be accomplished in a couple hours each week, on your own schedule, and at home. You will probably need to visit the library weekly.

If you are interested in making a difference in our community but cannot commit a large amount of your time, becoming the treasurer of the Friends of the Salem Library just might be your answer. If you are interested, email me at: Carlybilly@aol.com or call me at: 860 859-1641.

*Submitted by: Carl Nawrocki, President*

## Mobile Food Pantry

The mobile pantry, pictured below, 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**



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Do you have young children at home or at school? The MOMS Club of Salem® connects Salem moms with one another, providing support and activities to connect you and your family to each other and the Salem community.

The MOMS Club is an international non-profit group, and Salem has its own local chapter. It is centered around moms with kids aged 0-4, but there are activities for school-aged children and many of us with older kids are still an active part of the club.

We have a calendar each month listing events our members dream up such as: play groups, field trips, moms' nights out, an annual toy and clothing swap, community service events, and more. The club is what we make of it!

#### PLAYGROUPS

The MOMS Club is presently gauging interest in Spring playgroups for age groups from newborn to age 4. If interested, please contact us!

**For more information:**  
contact the MOMS Club of Salem  
Katie, Membership Vice-President:  
Email: kes0718@msn.com  
Annual Dues: \$15/year

The dedicated members at Gardner Lake have been very busy training. Six members have enrolled in a Bridge Class hosted by Gardner Lake. The Class includes 90 hours of class time training and honing their cognitive and psychomotor skills. In addition, each student must perform On the Job (OTJ) training by serving a 12-hour shift with AETNA or ASM Ambulance in Manchester and/or Hartford, Connecticut. The Bridge Class is the next step for our dedicated EMR's to EMT. Class will be complete by Christmas 2018.

**Firefighter Training:** Members have enrolled in Core Rescue, Pump Operator and Firefighter 2 Training. The many hours for this training is indicative of their drive to learn and serve our community.

**Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** training is held each month as an In-service Training. Collectively, with the Salem Volunteer Fire Company, we have been conducting this training since 1991. In October, we hosted the State of Connecticut Medical Examiner's Office with "Anatomy of an Overdose." This seminar was instrumental in recognizing and identifying the scene of an overdose. No town is immune, including ours. This class opens our eyes and allows us to understand what happens within the family and the opioid dependent person.

**Our Future:** Members have enrolled in the State of Connecticut, Commission of Fire Prevention and Control (Fire Academy), Fire Service Instructor 1 Program in January. This program will take the Firefighter 2 to the next level of responsibility and certification. This will also allow our Firefighters to teach and convey their skills and training to our future members. In April, the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company will host the Fire Academy's Fire Officer 1 Class. As our members grow from the Fire Instructor 1 Class, this is the next step into the leadership roles of the Company. We thank our community and the Town of Salem Leadership, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for allowing us to provide this training and build on the future of Our Town of Salem.

"NEVER LET OUR TRAINING FAIL US"

*Submitted by: Chief Jim Savalle*

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Walking is very important. Whether you are a *fast-paced speed walker* or more of a *take your own sweet time* person — walking is good for your body. Salem Senior Citizens now have a safe & warm place for walking during these colder months — *Salem School*. The school will be open for Seniors on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 7am to 8am (now thru May 31<sup>st</sup>) as well as Saturday mornings from 8am to 10am (now thru Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>). Monday, Wednesday and Friday you can access the school via the front doors — ring the bell for entry — and on Saturdays, the rear gymnasium entrance will be accessible. The school will not be available for walking on days with school delays, holidays, special events and inclement weather. Thanks to Marie Trawczynski for pointing out the need for a safe & warm place for seniors to be able to walk.

The Salem Seniors would like to thank Salem Health Mart for hosting the Annual Flu Shot Clinic in October. If you have not yet received your flu shot — it's not too late.

Fall is a great time of year to have your lawn equipment winterized and your tires and oil checked, appropriate cold weather washing fluid and other routine maintenance.

November was our annual Thanksgiving luncheon held at Salem School. The songs & entertainment of Mr. Hebert's pre-k class brightened every face in the room. Newly elected Senior's President, Ed Chmielewski, gave a nice PowerPoint presentation for Salem's upcoming Bicentennial. Look for celebration events beginning December 2018 through December 2019 in honor of Salem's Bicentennial.

*Submitted by: Pam Henry, Agent for the Aging*

The Uncas Health District's mission is "to promote and protect the public's health in order to prevent illness, death and disability among its residents." This work could not be done without our community partners.

On many occasions, we refer residents to *Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.* (TVCCA) for heating assistance, *Meals on Wheels*, childcare or other community services utilizing their "no wrong door" approach. Residents needing healthcare, whether they be insured, underinsured or uninsured are referred to *United Community and Family Services* (UCFS) where they will find a patient-centered medical home. Community benefits through *Backus Hospital* can prevent a patient from unnecessary and costly use of the emergency room or hospital. *Senior Resources Agency on Aging* provides information and services to the aging population, individuals with disabilities, their families and care providers to maintain or improve their independence and quality of life. *Madonna Place* provides services which strengthen families, promote health, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

These are just a few examples of our dependence on many agencies and municipal partners to close the gaps in the community. We realize the needs of residents can be incredibly complex. Often, knowing who to call is the first step in giving help.

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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We have enjoyed a very successful beginning to the 2018 - 2019 school year at Salem School. With the support of the community, teachers, and staff we are able to provide such a positive educational experience for all of our students. I would like to share some of the students' accomplishments and experiences that have transpired so far this school year.

Salem School celebrated National Unity Day on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. The theme of the day was *Together Against Bullying: United for Kindness, Acceptance, and Inclusion*. We started the day off with a school wide assembly learning about what those words mean and celebrating our community. We all wore orange to demonstrate that we are all one team united. Throughout the day, students in all grade levels participated in team building activities organized by our eighth graders. The day was fun filled and well received by the entire school community. Be sure to talk to your children about what they learned and how they can stand united everyday with their peers.

On Fire Prevention Day, students in Preschool through fourth grade went through different stations outside with our local fire departments. The fire department members led presentations with the different trucks, raised the tall ladder, and had all students experience a bus evacuation from one of our school buses. We would like to thank our local fire companies for the many ways they prepare our students for fire emergencies each year.

On Monday, November 12 we celebrated our Veterans with an all school assembly. Our students shared poems, videos, songs and more in honor of our Veterans. Our seventh and eighth grade Student Council members in our Library hosted a reception for the Veterans immediately following the assembly. Salem School was in session on Veterans Day, giving us an opportunity to show our appreciation to our Veterans for serving our country.

We invited our local Senior Citizens into the school 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, leaves, and turkeys.

In November, Bureau of Lectures, Inc. (a company that puts on a variety of school assemblies) presented to our entire school, Forward Motion BMX. Their professional BMX riders highlighted extreme athleticism, years of disciplined practice, and a positive attitude to help guide our students to find their passion in life. By performing such tricks as backflips and "supermans", they presented inspirational messages from topics that can influence students to think about their own future and how they can become positive role models for their community. The message was when you put your heart and effort into something you will have a positive outcome. The professional riders lead by example, and ignited the desire in our students to do the same.

## Sports

This year our XC team was a young team fueled with drive, focus and heart! Salem went undefeated within our league this season. To challenge ourselves we also competed against teams three times our size (East Lyme Middle School and Tyl Middle School) and won! Our eighth grade captains Ted Bergman, John Bureau, Izzy Pazzaglia, and Mary Haburay led our team to the *Southeastern Middle School Athletic Conference (SEMSAC)* Conference League Championship where our team dominated the course – tak-



ing home first place plaques for our girls and boys! Members of our team competed in the Connecticut Middle School State Invitational at Wickham Park. Out of 25 teams in the East Division Race, our girls Izzy Pazzaglia, Gracie Lloyd, Sofia Mauri, Izzy Paggioli, Julia Morcos, Keira Richter, and Maya D'Aquila

fought hard and earned second place overall on the muddy 1.7-mile course. Ted Bergman, Nate Bergman, Maddox Grillo-Smith, and Topher Regan all earned medals finishing in the top 50 runners. Very proud to announce that upon completion of our season, three of our runners have joined the Junior Olympics where Topher Regan, Izzy Pazzaglia and Maddox Grillo-Smith earned spots to compete in Regionals in New York in November. Go Cougars!



The Salem Middle School Coed Soccer team just wrapped up a memorable season. Finishing with an overall record of five wins, three

losses and two ties, they reached the Championship game yet again. Despite the result of the Championship, losing to an undefeated Sterling team in the last minutes of the second overtime, a team led by captains Cameron Pearl, Abigail Belleville and Johnny Limburg played their hearts out until the final whistle. The team focused their goals for the season on playing as a team, communication among teammates, sportsmanship and skill building. Other eighth graders that will be moving on from the team after this season and showed a lot of compassion and pride for wearing the Salem jersey were Kevin Filewich, Cameron Cunningham, Kayleigh Jensen, Jack Mauri, Tenley Douglass and Jason Jiao. Congratulations team. Job well done!

*Submitted by Joan Phillips, Principal of Salem School*

"Salem inspires learning, creativity, critical thinking, personal integrity, and citizenship."

On Monday, November 12, Salem School welcomed Salem residents to their annual Veterans Day Celebration.

Salem First Selectman Kevin Lyden, Superintendent Joseph Onofrio, and Principal Joan Phillips greeted students and community members. Local veterans educated students and guests on the meaning of Veterans Day. Salem students from pre-school to the 8th grade participated.

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served, standing united in respect for our veterans.

This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on November 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars.

On Veterans Day, Salem celebrated and honored America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



photo: Sally Buller



## From Representative Holly Cheeseman & Senator Paul Formica

### Rep. Cheeseman Updates

I am honored and humbled by the support Salem has shown me over the past year. Thank you for allowing me to serve you and represent your best interests in state government. Now that my first term is coming to an end, I find myself reflecting on all that we were able to accomplish in terms of supporting local businesses and tourism, jobs, schools and senior citizens. I am excited to get back to work in January, seeking to further improve the quality of life for Connecticut residents of all ages and ensure that the hard work we have done thus far is seen through.

Some new laws that I supported became effective this October, including policies to improve access to sports safety helmets, protect patients from unexpected costs and fees at outpatient clinics and urgent care centers, strengthen bans on the sale of e-cigarettes to minors, enhance the state's energy efficiency programs, limit pesticides, and create tax exemptions and improved healthcare benefits for veterans.

Over the past few months, I have truly enjoyed getting to participate in wonderful community events such as the Niantic Bay Oyster Festival benefiting the Miracle League of Southeastern Connecticut, Salem School PTO's Basket Raffle, Niantic's "Paint the Town Pink" event to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month, East Lyme's Bike & BBQ event to support open space and historical preservation, Salem's Trunk or Treat, and the Downtown Merchant's Halloween Parade.

I am proud to support Safe Futures, who are the real, every day heroes dedicated to protecting and guiding anyone who asks for their help when suffering under domestic violence. It is a privilege to have received a 2018 "First 100 Plus" leadership award for my work in raising awareness for and assisting survivors of domestic violence — thanks to my nomination from Safe Futures.

I was also flattered to be invited to speak at UConn's Annual "Successful Women Making a Difference" event in October. This magnificent networking event drew hardworking women from all across the state to discuss the importance of embracing change and taking risks as young women in the workforce.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!



### Sen. Formica Updates

I first want to thank Salem voters for their continued support. I will never take that support for granted, and I will continue to work tirelessly to be your voice in Hartford.

Being that voice means continuing to be a voice for our most vulnerable residents. On Nov. 13, I was honored to receive the Elevating Youth Voices award from Connecticut Voices for Children for my advocacy on behalf of a new state law to help children in the foster care system better prepare for transitions. The law, which had the support of Democrats and Republicans, enhanced notification for foster care youth prior to being transferred out of their homes. I will continue to be a strong advocate at the State Capitol for Connecticut's most vulnerable children.

I will also continue to be a voice for fiscal responsibility. Our state finances must be our top priority. We must stabilize the state by passing bipartisan budgets and passing policies which improve the job climate and the economy. I think we will find bipartisan agreement on measures to improve job training, particularly in manufacturing.

I pride myself in my constituent service. If you have a question or a problem that you feel I can help with, please don't hesitate to contact me. I work for you. I will do everything I can to get you a quick and accurate answer.

Finally, I hope you all have a joyous holiday season. The spirit of giving is strong in Salem and throughout our region, with neighbors helping neighbors in ways large and small. Let's carry that community spirit into 2019. Simple acts of kindness could mean holding open a door for a frail or elderly person, saying thank you to a veteran, donating food or money to charities or leaving a gift card on someone's windshield. I plan to just try to be a better person. I will hug my children a lot harder and a lot longer. When you spread love and good cheer, good things come back. I know that in Salem there are certainly many people who are doing good deeds very quietly. For that, I say, "thank you".

May your 2019 – and every year after 2019 – be filled with random acts of kindness.

Stay in Touch.



**Have questions about these bills or other legislation?**

**Always feel free to contact us directly to discuss.**

**Senator Formica:** [Paul.Formica@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Paul.Formica@cga.ct.gov)

**Office:** 1-800-842-1421 **Cell Phone:** 860-235-1869.

Sign up for his e-newsletters at: [www.senatorformica.com](http://www.senatorformica.com)

Follow him on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/senatorformica](http://www.facebook.com/senatorformica)

Follow him on Twitter and Instagram at: @SenatorFormica

**Representative Cheeseman:** [Holly.Cheeseman@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Holly.Cheeseman@housegop.ct.gov)

**Office:** 1-800-842-1423

Sign-up for her e-newsletter at: [www.repcheeseman.com](http://www.repcheeseman.com)

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## SALEM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SALEM ALERTS

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[christine.martin@salemct.gov](mailto:christine.martin@salemct.gov)

or

visit Salem Town Hall



## Reminder for the upcoming winter season for prevention of chimney fires

According to the latest statistics available, there are over 25,000 chimney fires per year in the U.S. that are responsible for over \$125 million in property damage. These sobering statistics relate to several deaths and injuries when these chimney fires spread into house fires. The dangers of chimney fires also caught the attention of one of the United States' Founding Fathers, inventor Benjamin Franklin, who in 1742 invented the Pennsylvania Fireplace which later became the Franklin Stove. He did this because he recognized the dangers of chimney fires in his time.

### How often should your chimney be cleaned?

The Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) recommends that chimneys should be cleaned when there is approximately 1/8" of creosote or soot buildup.

There isn't a simple rule of thumb on how often to clean your chimney, such as cleaning after 50 uses or once a year. The problem is, creosote can form when wood is burned incompletely. A smoky fire without enough oxygen emits lots of unburned tar vapors that can condense inside the fireplace flue and stick to it, possibly leading to a chimney fire. You can reduce creosote buildup

in your fireplace flue by providing adequate combustion air, which will encourage a hot, clean-burning fire. To check for creosote yourself, first make sure there's no downdraft from the chimney. If you feel an airflow, open a door or window on the same floor as the fireplace until the downdraft stops or reverses and air flows up (tape tissue to the fireplace opening and watch its movement). Then, while wearing goggles and a basic disposable dust mask, take a strong flashlight and your fireplace poker and scratch the black surface above the damper (smoke chamber). If the groove you scratch in the creosote is paper thin, no cleaning is needed. If it's 1/8 inches thick, schedule a cleaning soon. If you have 1/4 inches of creosote, do not use the fireplace again until it is cleaned — a chimney fire could occur at any time.

### How does a homeowner know if there is 1/8" of built-up soot in their chimney?

It is very difficult for a homeowner to know if there is built-up soot in their chimney. A professional chimney sweep technician can examine the chimney and determine if the chimney should be cleaned. The chimney sweep technician will also be able to examine the chimney liner for any cracks or damages. This is important as the repairs can be done at the same time the chimney liner is cleaned. A chimney should be cleaned at least once a year by

a trained professional. The best time of year to have your chimney cleaned is summer or before fall begins. This will have your chimney cleaned, maintained and repaired before the heating season begins. A homeowner should never neglect having the chimney cleaned. Removing creosote, soot and debris from the chimney will keep your chimney safe and performing properly.

### How do you know if you are experiencing a chimney fire?

Chimney fires begin with snaps and pops as loud as gunshots, eventually turning into a deep, rumbling sound like a train. Oily, black flaming creosote rains down into the firebox. When the fire starts, it's like an explosion. Flames blast out of the top of the chimney and back down into the firebox. Due to thermal expansion, the chimney liner may crack at an unreachable mid-point and shoot flames into the walls from the inside. This may spread further into the walls causing a house fire. Chimney fires typically cannot be controlled by the homeowner. What should you do? Evacuate the house and call 911. Trained firefighters with special equipment will be needed to extinguish the fire and check for potential fire expansion into the walls.

*Submitted By Rob Oloski, Captain Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Inc.*

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\*Dr. Zase is Eastern CT's only Dentist Accredited in Cosmetics by the AACD and served as their President.

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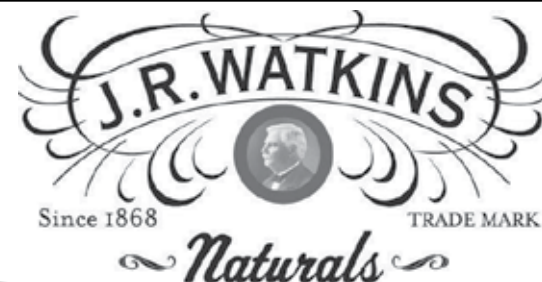
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The Salem Land Trust (SLT) was busy in 2018 acquiring new lands to add to our existing Preserves — and, the biggest news is that SLT is working to acquire the land for an all new 255-acre Preserve in 2019! Full information on that news below.

But first, those Medallions! Did you have fun searching for the beautiful hand-crafted medallions hidden along the public trails in Town during “Walktober?” Many were hidden on Salem Land Trust properties, and this writer and other land trust members had a blast hiding them! Thank you to the Salem Recreation Commission, Chairperson Teri Natoli, and The Red House for making it all possible.

This past August, the SLT Board gratefully accepted The Nature Conservancy’s [TNC] offer to transfer ownership of their 33.5-acre Winslow Preserve to the Salem Land Trust; this parcel is now part of SLT’s Darling Road Preserve. This Preserve is right on the Salem-East Haddam town line, borders the Eightmile River, and now has grown to 142.6 acres! If you have never walked this Preserve it is the perfect walk in the woods. Sarah Pellegrino from TNC said, “Winslow Preserve is a wonderful place, and the Salem Land Trust is a great organization with which The Nature Conservancy has a strong relationship. This is an excellent fit, and we know Winslow Preserve is going to be in good hands.” With the addition of these 33.5 acres from TNC, there are now three entrances and three parking areas for the Darling Road Preserve. Please check the SLT web site, [www.salemlandtrust.org](http://www.salemlandtrust.org), for the DRP trail map, and for all the trail maps of our Preserves. Maps are also posted at each parking area.

Recently, a generous donor gave SLT land for a new 5-acre Preserve, also on Darling Road. This parcel is just west of the intersection of Darling Road and the west end of White Birch Road. What is special about this property is that there are short trails leading from the road to the banks of the Eightmile River. This Preserve does not yet have a name and our signs are not up, but it will be marked soon. People walking, running or biking along Darling Road will want to stop at this preserve to visit a quiet place

by the river.

Once again Eagle Scouts and Boy Scouts have helped the Salem Land Trust blaze and mark new trails, this year on the Zemko Sawmill Preserve on Rattlesnake Ledge Road. In addition to a new White Trail at the rear of the Preserve, the Scouts were responsible for clearing and marking a whole new trail system on the 20-acre expansion parcel to the east of Whittlesley Swamp. This beautiful swamp is across the road from the entrance to the Salem Transfer Station. Thank you to all the Scouts and their parents who spent weekends making these new trails for all of Salem to enjoy!

### For 2019, The Salem Land Trust is embarking on its most ambitious project ever!

We have the opportunity to acquire 255-acres, partly through donation and the rest at a bargain sale, on West Road. These acres are some of the most beautiful and natural resources in the region. Crossed by old logging roads, this new Preserve will be suitable for hiking, biking or horseback riding, and offers access to water features and scenic views. All within the Eight Mile River Watershed and Audubon’s “Lyme Important Bird Area,” these lands are home to Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, Saw Whet Owls and at least 192 additional bird species. Gray Fox, White-tailed Deer, Coyote, Bobcat and Fisher cats are just some of the animals found there.

How you can help! SLT has already secured two large and one small grant toward the purchase, and is awaiting to hear from other granting organizations. These grants



cover about 85% of the project cost. However, we still need to raise additional funds from private donations. Our public appeal has just begun. If you would like to contribute toward this new Preserve and increase public recreation opportunities in Salem, you may send donations to: Salem Land Trust, P.O. Box 2133, Salem, CT 06420!

The Salem Land Trust is an all-volunteer, private 501(c)(3) non-profit; we are not part of your town government. We own 370 acres of permanently conserved land in Salem,

and manage the 400-acre Walden Preserve, owned by The Nature Conservancy. Some of our land was donated to SLT by private landowners; other acreage was purchased with private individual donations, grants from state and federal agencies and grants from private foundations.

Use of the marked hiking trails on our land is always free and open to the public, dawn to dusk, every day of the year. Volunteers do all the work maintaining the trails and volunteers administer the organization. We are always looking for committed people to act as stewards for the properties, help with trail maintenance, serve on one of our Committees or on the SLT Board of Directors.

Want to join in? Please contact us! Linda Schroeder, President, 860-859-3520 or [Lschroeder@snet.net](mailto:Lschroeder@snet.net)

Follow the Salem Land Trust on Facebook!

Find more info and the Preserve Trail maps at [www.salemlandtrust.org](http://www.salemlandtrust.org)

*Submitted by: Linda Schroeder*

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY SALEM!

Our town will turn 200 years old in 2019



## Salem Bicentennial Committee Members

**Kevin Lyden**

*ex-officio member, First Selectman*

**Elby Burr**

*Co Chair*

**Ed Chmielewski**

*Co Chair, Selectman Representative*

**John Cooke**

**David Kennedy**

*Selectman Representative*

**Ryan Little**

**Bruce Rodgers**

**Shelley Rodgers**

**Marilyn Vaché**

The Salem Bicentennial Committee – SalemCT200, invites you to join us in a yearlong celebration in 2019 with parades, music, sporting events, outdoor activities, nature hikes and presentations that showcase Salem's rich history.

The Bicentennial celebration commenced with the **Holiday Tree lighting on December 1, 2018 at 4:00 pm on the Town Green** and end at the Holiday Tree Lighting celebration in December 2019.

Together, we will celebrate our past, present and future by recalling our heritage and remembering the citizens that helped shape Salem into the beautiful town we live in today.

Members of the Bicentennial Committee are in the process of contacting Salem community groups and organizations to provide an overview.

To register your community group or organization for an overview presentation, or for more information, please email: [SalemCT200@gmail.com](mailto:SalemCT200@gmail.com).

The Salem Bicentennial Committee is an official town committee having been appointed by the Salem Board of Selectmen. All Salem residents, community groups and organizations are encouraged and welcome to contribute ideas, volunteer and participate.

A calendar of Bicentennial community events and activities will be available to Salem residents in early 2019.







Selectman and Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman Ed Chmielewski gave a Salem Bicentennial Celebration presentation to members of the Salem Seniors during their December meeting at Salem School.

- Photo Sally Buller



First Selectman Kevin Lyden invited members of the Salem Seniors Group to volunteer and participate in the 2019 Salem Bicentennial celebration.

- Photo Sally Buller



First Selectman Kevin Lyden (far right), and Selectman and Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman Ed Chmielewski (right of banner) kicking off Salem's Bicentennial celebrations with Santa Claus at Salem's Annual Tree Lighting event held on December 1 at Center School on the Town Green.

- Photo John Houchin

## Salem Bicentennial Coin

The Salem Historical Society is planning to start production on a Salem Bicentennial Coin. The design is in the process of being officially approved by the Town and will be released for production very soon. We hope to have these beautiful commemorative coins to celebrate Salem's Bicentennial Birthday ready for sale before year-end. The coins will be numbered on the back side and a drawing for gifts will be held next Fall. No one should be without one of these souvenir coins commemorating Salem's 200th birthday to have as a keepsake for years to come. The coin will be sold for \$10.00 and be available through clubs and organizations throughout the Town. For more information, e-mail [urby39@sbcglobal.net](mailto:urby39@sbcglobal.net).



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Fee: \$150.00



## 2019 Parks & Recreation Camp Day

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

12:00 p.m.

Dunkin' Donuts Park

1214 Main Street, Hartford CT, 06103

Field Box – \$7

Lunch pack (Hot Dogs, Chips, Water) – \$12

Right Field Porch – \$6

Lunch Pack (Hot Dogs, Chips, Water) – \$11

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## Mom Bod Bliss Workshop

30 minutes of a prenatal yoga flow

30 minutes of a prenatal Pilates flow

60 minutes for exhibit exploration,  
Q/A, and meeting with instructors

Snacks

**Saturday, January 12, 2019**

**1:00 to 3:00 pm**

**Residents: \$45.00**

**Non-Residents: \$50.00**

Hosted by

**Alisha Bliss**

Certified Pilates Instructor  
&



**Michelle Little**

Certified Yoga Instructor (RYT 200, RPYT)



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## Adult Men's Recreation Basketball

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## Southeastern Connecticut Regional Bike & Pedestrian Plan

Help Planners make transportation recommendations aimed at improving quality of life, mobility, access, healthy opportunities, and economic vitality by taking a few moments to complete a survey regarding your bike/pedestrian usage and desires!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCCOGBikePedSurvey>

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Program Information & Registration Forms available at:  
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## Thanks to everyone who attended Trunk or Treat and the Salem Holiday Tree Lighting & Bicentennial "Kick-Off" events!

Over 200 residents dressed up in costumes and enjoyed Halloween fun, games, and treats at this year's Trunk or Treat event! Special thanks to the Witch Meadow Campground, Salem Volunteer Fire Company, MOMS Club, and Salem School PTO, without whom the event would not have been possible.

Children and adults, alike, enjoyed singing to their favorite holiday songs with Fred Marion and visiting with Santa and his elves at our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting. We were also happy to have Santa and the First Selectman help us kick-off our Town's Bicentennial Celebration as we lit our holiday tree. Special thanks to the MOMS Club and Girl Scouts for making and providing cookies.

## Thanks to all who took part in our Find Your Footprint campaign!

It was great to see adults, kids, and animals, alike, exploring and enjoying the rural landscape of our town as they sought to find one of 25 medallions that were hidden along four of our trails. Photographs of the found/registered medallions can be viewed online at [saalemct.gov](http://saalemct.gov) via the Find Your Footprint button. We would like to extend our gratitude to local artists Barry and Kim Ford of *The Red House Cultural Arts Center* for designing and creating these one-of-a-kind handmade glazed pottery keepsakes, *The Salem Land Trust*, and volunteers who hiked and helped us hide the medallions. As of the end of November, there were five unreported medallions: two at Zemko Sawmill Preserve, two along the Salem Multipurpose Trail, and one at Smuggler's Rock Preserve. Be sure to go out and find one while they're still out there or if you have found a medallion and have not yet reported it, please do so! We look forward to expanding the search next year as part of the town's Bicentennial celebrations.

Stay tuned for information regarding upcoming programs, including **FIT4MOMS, Spin, Yoga, Barre, and Mat Pilates** classes, **Adult Tennis** workshops with Anne Santoro, **Salem Gardening Club**, and more!



## 2018 in Review

The Salem Cemetery has gone through a couple of changes this year. At the end of December 2017, our previous Sexton, Pastor Tim Dubeau, retired to Pennsylvania. A town-wide search was made for a new Sexton, and I answered the call. I have previous experience as a monument dealer and thought I could do a good job for the town as Sexton.

Another task was accomplished by the town workers in that the fence consisting of granite posts and chains has been installed to delineate the cemetery from the church property. This gives a definitive boundary for the properties and is a nice addition to the grounds. Also the new road behind Section IV is complete, allowing access to an additional 180 plots. Several plots have been sold in Section IV already as you will note in the report below.

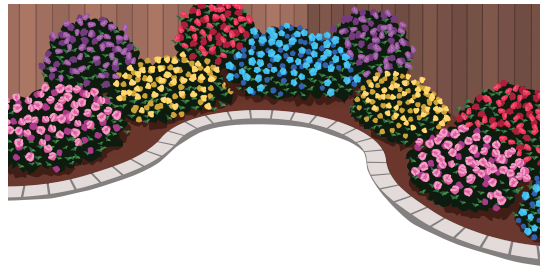
At the April 2018 annual meeting of the SGCA, the current slate of officers was ratified to serve from 4/2018 - 4/2019.

They are: Catherine Teel, President, Nancy Dytko, Vice President, Helen Woronik, Historian, Monica McIntyre, Treasurer, Kathleen Lyden, Secretary.

Installed as Sexton: Mrs. Cathy Benedict, renewed, Michael Teel, Asst. Sexton.

## For the period 1/1/2018 to 11/30/2018 there have been ten interments/inurnments.

Name	Date	Sec	Row	Plot(s)
Gertrude Knaus Miller....	11/18/17	I.....	A.....	3
Athena C. Grey .....	11/21/17	I.....	B.....	29
Robert A. Lecce, III.....	3/17/18	I.....	F.....	28
Renay Pietrowski .....	4/26/18	I.....	D.....	1
Eleanor Lyden .....	6/29/18	I.....	A.....	5
Diane Miller.....	7/13/18	I.....	D.....	8
Kathleen Stodolski.....	7/31/18	IV.....	G.....	28
Bertha Todd.....	8/01/18	IV.....	G.....	5
Cynthia McGowan .....	10/11/18	IV.....	G.....	18
Donna Taylor.....	11/1/18	I.....	D.....	53E
Helen Lecce .....	11/19/18	I.....	F.....	38



## Plot availability

As of November 30, 2018 there are only plots available in the cremation area of Section I priced at \$350, that allows 2 cremations per plot.

Section IV has 262 full-sized plots available for \$725 each, these allow for one full-vault burial or a maximum of three (3) cremation containers.

The cemetery receives only human remains - no animal remains are allowed.

Contact the SGCA Sexton, Mrs. Cathy Benedict: at 860-869-8891, with questions or if interested in purchasing full-sized or smaller cremation plots.

The information board, located near the first row of plots in the cemetery, displays maps of the cemetery sections showing plot locations, interment/inurnment records by name/plot, plot pricing and contact information.

*Submitted by: Cathy Benedict, Sexton*

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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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