

# OUR TOWN OF SALEM CONNECTICUT

Photo by Mandie Lee Photography

Fall  
2023



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## *A Message from our First Selectman*

**Dear Fellow Townspeople,**

### **Teamwork – Salem Remains Fiscally Strong and Sound**

Salem remains fiscally strong and sound. We have successfully passed yet another comprehensive town hall audit, revealing that our business practices are fiscally sound and our rainy-day fund is healthy and strong.

### **Salem School Second Graders Visit Town Hall**

Each year, Salem School Second Grade students and their teachers spent time touring the Salem Town Hall and learn how Town Hall functions. The day culminates in a student run Town Meeting.

Town Clerk Linda Flugrad, Executive Assistant Alesha Brothers, and I gave a brief lesson on the workings of a Town Meeting.

The children took part in a lively town meeting by debating and voting for or against having to do homework on the weekends. As in years past, the children voted that they should have only a small amount of homework on the weekends.

### **Collaboration - Fire Marshal Regionalization**

Thanks to the leadership and collaborative efforts of Salem Fire Marshal Tom Main, Salem is now sharing Fire Marshal services with neighboring towns. I recently signed a Regional Fire Marshal Regionalization agreement with the towns of Bozrah, Lebanon, Franklin, and Colchester on behalf of Salem. The new agreement allows us to partner and share scarce Fire Marshal services and personnel. It has become an increasing challenge to properly staff emergency services. Regionalization is a good way to bridge the gap in a fiscally responsible way.

### **Salem Public Safety Firsts - Fire Marshal**

Salem Resident CT State Trooper Kevin Crosby and Salem Firefighter / EMT Travis Roberts recently became certified as Deputy Fire Marshals. They will maintain their primary duties and responsibilities, but the town will have additional flexibility and resources.

FF / EMT Roberts is the first full-time Salem Firefighter / EMT to hold the added certification of Deputy Fire Marshal. Trooper Crosby is the only Resident Trooper in the State of Connecticut to hold a certification as a Deputy Fire Marshal. Cross training staff is a good way to enhance town services in a fiscally responsible way.

### **Salem Public Safety – Report & Video on the Town Web page**

<https://www.salemct.gov/board-selectmen/news/special-meeting-public-safety-analysis>

Municipal Resources, Inc. presented Salem residents with the comprehensive and impartial town-wide Public Safety Services Organizational Study and Analysis at a special Board of Selectman Meeting. This analysis provides the town with short range, mid-range, and long-range strategies, goals and professional assessments, as well as recommendations to enhance public safety.

Our Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, Resident State Police Troopers, Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Fire Marshals, Volunteer Fire Company Chiefs, and Emergency Management

*continued page 3*

**270 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420 • Phone: 860-859-3873**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.SALEMCT.GOV](http://WWW.SALEMCT.GOV)**

# **BALLESTRINI'S** Child Care Centers

Now Accepting Enrollments For Our Grand Reopening!

## **AGE APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS**

**Infant and Toddler:** 6 Weeks- 3 Years

**Preschool:** 3-5 Years of age

**Before and After Care:**

Busing available from Salem Elementary School.

Care available on snow days, Holidays, professional days and school vacations.

All programs follow a curriculum inline with CT education standards for early childhood education.



*To Register Or For More Information Visit Our Web Site :*  
**[www.Ballestrinis.com](http://www.Ballestrinis.com)**

### **WATERFORD**

90 Rope Ferry Rd.  
Waterford, CT  
860-442-CARE (2273)

### **SALEM**

11 Center St.  
Salem, CT  
860-859-CARE (2273)

### **NIANTIC**

161 West Main St.  
Niantic, CT  
860-691-1300



## Town of Salem Department Phone Listing

Agent for the Elderly	(860) 859-3873, x275
Assessor	(860) 859-3873, x140
Building Department	(860) 859-3873, x250
Fire Marshal	(860) 859-3873, x270
First Selectman's Office	(860) 859-3873, x100
Public Works	(860) 859-3873, x451
Recreation	(860) 859-3873, x275
Registrar of Voters	(860) 859-3873, x230
Tax Collector	(860) 859-3873, x150
Town Clerk	(860) 859-3873, x170

Zoning/Inland Wetlands Dept	(860) 859-3873, x260
Animal Control Officer	(860) 848-3529
Uncas Health District	(860) 823-1189
Salem Free Public Library	(860) 859-1130
Salem School FVW	(860) 859-0267
Transfer Station	(860) 859-2964
Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co	(860) 859-1743
Salem Volunteer Fire Company	(860) 859-0942
Resident State Troopers	(860) 859-2507
CT State Police, Troop K	(860) 465-5400

**ALL EMERGENCIES, CALL 9-1-1**

### FIRST SELECTMAN MESSAGE *continued*

Officials are already actively reviewing the report and are partnering, collaborating, and communicating together to implement the suggestions that Salem needs. We will always be mindful to use our limited available resources and your taxpayer dollars in the most cost effective and fiscally responsible way possible.

**Thank you for your support** as I continue to make decisions that keep our town and our residents safe, stable, and secure. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Salem First Selectman.

May God bless you and May God Bless Our Town of Salem.

**Respectfully,**

*Ed Chmielewski*, Salem First Selectman

### TOWN CLERK UPDATE

*Dear Fellow Townspeople,*

As I write this, we are still enjoying the very warm days of summer.

As of this time, we have registered over 350 dogs. Just a reminder that all dogs 6 months of age or older must be registered. If you obtain your dog when they are older than 6 months, they must be registered within 30 days of them joining your family.

We are excited to report that our Historic Document Preservation Grant amount was increased to \$6,000 this year. We have contracted with Adkins Printing to recreate our oldest indices and some of our older land record books to make them more user-friendly. The majority of our records are available digitally and can be found online.

This November's municipal election season was busy with party endorsements and absentee ballots. Absentee ballots were available to registered voters who requested one from early October. For future reference, information regarding Absentee voting can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Absentee-Voting> or on our website in both the Town Clerk and Registrars of Voters departments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Town Clerk's office. Also please contact me if you have difficulty appearing at the Town Hall for voting, and we can discuss your options. Best wishes to you for a happy healthy autumn season.

Linda Flugrad, CCTC

Town Clerk

## SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. 80TH ANNIVERSARY



On July 23, 2023, the Salem Volunteer Fire Co., Inc. celebrated their 80th Anniversary at The Salem Herb Farm. Here are some of the highlights from the afternoon.

The Salem Volunteer Fire Company was established in 1943 by a group of Salem Townspeople who saw the need for a Town Fire Company. The Fire Company, which was made up of mostly farmers, local businessmen and housewives, was incorporated in 1946 and became a 501(c)(3) in 1991.

The following is from the minutes of one of the first meetings:

"Mr. Donald Fraser introduced Mr. Thomas Martin who told the meeting something of the organizing of volunteer fire companies in Waterford, Cohanzie and Groton. He pointed out that if there is no apparatus in a town, it costs \$50 an hour to hire apparatus from another town; while if there is apparatus in the town, the other companies are bound to come for no charge."

This is now known as Mutual Aid!

Reports from the committees were heard.

1. Truck Committee: Mr. Max Bloom said that in his opinion, \$400 was the least that could be considered as the purchase price of a truck. Mr. Charles Dimmock, Sr. mentioned a 1938 Chevrolet truck for \$550. Mr. Calvin McCall suggested that it was first necessary to find out the weight of the pumping unit, tank, wet hose, etc. before settling on a truck.

With no money from the Town, only donations, they purchased the first truck – A 1938 Chevrolet with a wooden tank – for the newly organized Salem Volunteer Fire Company. The members used a small barn owned by the first Fire Chief Charles Dimmock, Sr. to keep the truck inside. The Smuckler Family donated a piece of property, approximately one acre on Rt 85/Hartford Road for the building of the fire station. The building was a 2-bay concrete block building, used to house one fire truck, while the other side of the building served as a meeting place.

In 1974 the need had grown for a bigger building so an addition was built to keep more fire apparatus and a meeting room large enough to hold fundraising dinners and dances. The size of the lot was not wide enough so the only way the addition could be built was to make the building longer. Because of that, the trucks had been driven in and backed out!

In 1989, the current facility was approved by taxpayers at a cost of \$335,000. The cost was kept down with, once

again, the volunteers doing most of the work. The Town supplied their dump trucks and payloader. Along with excavation and driveway equipment donated by Larry Getty and Everett Daniels. Morton Builders constructed the new building with 6 bays and a kitchen area, office spaces and a meeting room at the rear of the building. Upon completion of the current building, the Fire Company and the Town signed a 99-year lease for the property, the building and all the contents for the cost of \$1.00 payable on September 1st each year.

Through our many years of fundraising efforts which have included Ham and Bean Dinners, Turkey dinners, breakfasts, craft fairs, selling cookbooks, Salem monopoly games, grocery bags, car washes, dances, house number road signs, candles, BBQs, and our annual appeal, we have been able to help the Town by purchasing over \$120K of needed items without causing the taxpayers any additional tax burden. The Fire Company has also supported Town organizations throughout the years such as the Salem Youth League, Salem Seniors, Lions Clubs, and the Secret Santa program. Our largest purchase was the building in the rear of the current station in 2018 for \$50K with the Town putting in an additional \$45K. Without the generous donation of the parcel of land on which the garage stands from the Wlodarczyk family this building would not exist. The Wlodarczyk family has a long history of volunteering in our Fire Company and when the property was needed, they did not hesitate to help once again.

It's the men and women who walked through the doors that are the strength and longevity of our Volunteer Fire Company.

The following members were recognized for their years of service: Under 5 years: Hailey Blais, Shane Elliot, Axel Frausini, Bill Hahnel, Daniel Kung, Ron Nadeau, Brian Reynolds, Katie Teixeira.

5 years or more: John Atkinson, Jesse Oloski, Ethan Rybak, Kevin Walton, Mitch Williams.

10 years or more: Paul Blais, Tanner Martin, Tyler Martin, Jennifer Oloski, Robert Oloski, Warren Wright.

15 years or more: Alex Blais, Chris Cinea, Lisa Martin, Emily Weston.

Life Members, with the year they joined: Robert Brown (2002), Deborah Cadwell (1986), Andrew Frausini (1977), Gene Maiorano (1977), Marcella Maiorano (1985), Jeff Martin (1985), Richard Martin (1989), Robert Pokrinchak (1999), Jeffrey Standish (1991), Ryan Teixeira (1995), Cheryl Walker (2000), Chip Weston (1988), and Alfred Wlodarczyk (1972).

We would like to thank The Salem Herb Farm, Matthew's Catering of Plainfield, and Paxini DJ for our music for the afternoon.





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Owners

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Salem, CT 06420**

## THE FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY SET PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

The Friends of Salem Library held a successful Annual Used Book Sale, which was at full capacity this year with your donations and donations from Mystic and Old Lyme. We occupied all of the Salem School Gym along with Salem Knitters, Quilters, and the PTO Basket Raffle. The Sale started on Friday, October 27th, opening for Friends of the Library at 6 p.m. and the general public at 7 p.m. On Saturday, October 28th, the sale ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. giving everyone plenty of time to attend both the Salem Apple Festival and the book sale. The bag sale started at noon. It takes a lot of volunteers to conduct the sale, so if you would like to help out, contact Carl Nawrocki at [carlybilly@aol.com](mailto:carlybilly@aol.com)

### Summer Reading Success

Congratulations to the staff at Salem Library for having over 100 children participating in their Summer Reading Program, "Find Your Voice". This is the largest number of children we ever had participating in this wonderful program sponsored by the Carole Eckart Memorial Summer Reading Fund and the Friends.

The Friends of the Salem Library have been funding Summer Reading for over 30 years. We started with reading at picnic tables behind the old library and graduated to the robust program we have today. We are very proud. If you would like to become an active member or contribute to the Friends of the Salem Library, you can find forms on the Salem Library web page.



## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ~ HIGHLIGHTING OUR WONDERFUL STAFF



**Tristan Mioduszewski** has been working at the SFPL since September of 2022. Tristan works at the circulation desk and runs story times. She has 26 years of public library experience, and holds three Associate degrees and a Bachelor of Fine Arts. She hopes one day to write and illustrate children's books. One of her favorite things about working at SFPL is meeting all of the families of Salem. There is a special environment at the Salem Library. Between the community, my coworkers, and our Director, Shannon Henson, it is always a pleasure to come to work.

Tristan loves embellishing the library's glass doors with drawings that pertain to a season or an upcoming program. The SFPL Logo was redesigned, including the tag line, by Tristan.

The art wall at SFPL is such a great way to display local artists work. Tristan had the privilege to display her artwork on the art wall at SFPL for the Summer of 2023.

The function of the library in communities has morphed into a place to meet, educate, entertain, connect, and engage the community. It is truly a jewel in every town, especially in Salem.

**Veronique Chechile** has been working at the SFPL since July of 2022. Veronique worked for nearly 10 years in a public library before her family relocated here for her husband's job as Salem's pastor. She found working in a library was such a special place to get to know the community and is thrilled to be able to be a part of the Salem Library. There are many aspects she loves about working at the library, but one of the best is helping a patron (of any age) find just the right item (whether it's a book, movie, magazine, etc.) that they want, and to hear what they thought of it when they return it. The employees of the Salem Library, especially director Shannon Henson, are so wonderful, it is a joy to come to work. Veronique loves continuing to learn all aspects of collection management and is always willing to take on any task.



Veronique holds a degree in History and is fascinated how the things in a culture will adapt and change based on what is happening in the world. Libraries are no exception. It is wonderful how they can grow and change to be an invaluable resource to the community. While books are the heart of the library, those resources extend in so many ways to meet virtually any need of a member of the community. One of her favorite moments at the SFPL was when someone called to ask if the tennis court nets were up in early Spring. He said "I haven't been able to get in touch with anyone else, and I knew a librarian would be nice and do whatever they could to help get me an answer."

*Written by: Tristan Mioduszewski*

## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ~ ART WALL



Are you an artist, or know someone with a small collection of works? Come and display them at the SFPL. Our Art Wall was graciously funded by The Friends of the Salem Free Public Library. Koitz Woodworks donated his labor and installed this wonderful Art Wall. The art shows are ongoing and are open during our business hours in our study room. Please contact the library for more information on how to display your artwork!

## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 2023 WINTER EVENTS LIST

**Holiday Concert** – Saturday, December 2, 2023 @ 2:30 p.m. Performed by Debbie Vinick, harpist. Come to the library to celebrate its 19th anniversary! Light refreshments will be served. Please call 860-859-1130 to register.

**Mrs. Claus** – Saturday, December 9, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m. Visit with Mrs. Claus for stories, activities and more! Limited to 30 children ages 3 & up. Please call 860-859-1130 to register.

**Holiday Centerpieces** – Monday, December 18, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m. Create a centerpiece with greens for your holiday table; all supplies provided. Presented by Kim Hargrave of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. Limited to 10 adult participants. Please register by calling 860-859-1130.

**Take & Make Kits-Wine Cork Crafts!** Using wine corks, December's craft will be a holiday theme. Watch our website, Facebook & Instagram pages for when they will be available. Suitable for teens and adults, as they require a hot glue gun.

**STEM Kits** – STEM kits, prepared by the UCONN/4-H Extension Center, will be available in the fall. Watch our website, Facebook and Instagram pages for when they will be available.

**The Carroll Sisters Holiday Music Concert** – Wednesday, December 27, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. Join us for a holiday concert with Emilie and Nora Carroll as they share Christmas music with a Celtic flare. Limited to 40 participants.

**Read to a Therapy Dog** – Saturday, January 6, 2024, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Presented by Denise Bolduc, a certified R.E.A.D. instructor, with her therapy dog, Boston. Reading to pets is important for children who feel insecure about their capacity to do things like reading, and therapy pets bolster their self-confidence. Please call to register for a 10 minute time slot.

**January Take & Make Kit** – Mini marshmallow snowman paper craft. Available while supplies last.

**Garden Party** – Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please Join us as we kick off the seed library restock! Light refreshments will be served. Call to register.

**Story Time with Heidi Rocha, RDH** – Wednesday, February 7, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m. Family story time with local author and dental hygienist, Heidi Rocha. She will be reading from her book, Toothbrushing with Maggie and Mommy and showing participants how to brush their teeth, and more! Suitable for ages 4 & up.

**February Take & Make Kit** – "I love you berry much" strawberry Valentine's Day card. Available while supplies last.



## SALEM GREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION - Linda Parker, President

The Salem Green Cemetery Association was established by Town Ordinance on March 12, 1980. The 5.2-acre parcel of land lies behind the Salem Congregational Church, Salem Grange and Salem Town House. The parcel of land is owned by the Town of Salem, but the management of affairs is governed by an association made up of Salem residents and plot owners. The Association has adopted a set of by-laws containing, but not limited to, provisions dealing with fees, maintenance, size and location of plots, restrictions on plot ownership and grave marker size and design.

The current Board of Directors and Officers are:

Linda Parker, President; Cathy Benedict, Vice President; Kathleen Lyden, Secretary; Monica Lord McIntyre, Treasurer; Cathy Benedict, Sexton; Pastor Jonathan Chechile, Assistant Sexton; Hugh McKenney.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December in the Town Office Building at 2:00 p.m.

We are currently looking for additional members for the Board. If you are interested, please contact President Linda Parker at 860-859-1541, or Sexton Cathy Benedict at 860-869-8891. You must be a resident of Salem and/or have plot ownership to be a member.

We would like to send special thanks to Burnett's Landscaping for the plantings and maintenance of the flower beds beneath the cemetery signage, and the Memory Gardens and to the Town workers for keeping the grass mowed and trimmed. It all looks great.

# LIONS CLUB OF SALEM

## Hello from the Lions Club of Salem

Celebrating 50 years of Service to the Salem Community

### Annual Salem Lions Club Dinner

Salem Lions Club Inaugural Vo-Tech Grant Award Winner:

Edward Chopp recently graduated from Salem K-8 and received the first Vo-Tech grant from the Salem Lions. The \$1,000.00 grant can be used to cover his expenses at school for such items as tools, uniforms, and work boots. Ed is attending Norwich Tech this fall and is hoping to study either HVAC, Electrical or Electronics Technology. In addition to his outstanding essay, his teacher wrote a glowing letter of recommendation. In the letter, the teacher said "with over 30 years of experience as an educator, it has been refreshing to be able to work with a student who has such ambition and clearly defined goals for his future self. Kudos to Edward for all his hard work!" Edward lives on Morgan Road. This is the first award of its type by any Lions Club in our District.



### Salem Lions Annual Scholarship Awards

Each year (in late February), Scholarship Chairperson George Householder sends out scholarship applications to the local high schools providing Salem resident Seniors. The applications are received and reviewed (anonymously) by the Scholarship committee. These scholarships are totally based on merit and service to the community.

Our two Salem Lions Club Scholarship winners this year were Xander Lopez and Theodore Bergman.



Theodore Bergman is an outstanding student. Throughout his four years at ELHS, Ted took 22 Honors or Advanced Placement courses. Ted's strong leadership traits are well demonstrated in all of his High School activities. A member of the ELHS varsity Track and Field team, he has a personal best of a 4:52 mile, Ted also ran Cross Country and was named Captain. Ted was elected to the ELHS Senate, and this past year served as Co-President of the Senior Class. Additionally, he served as the Salem Board of Education student representative, an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts, and a LEO in the East Lyme LEOs where he was awarded the 2021 Lions International Young Leader in Service Silver Award. He was accepted to and will be attending Georgetown University in the Fall.

Xander Lopez is another outstanding student. Xander is also an Eagle Boy Scout. For his Eagle Scout project, he installed georeferenced safety markers on Walden Preserve. This enables injured or lost hikers to inform emergency services where exactly they are on the trail allowing them to be found quickly and efficiently. Xander has also volunteered for Wings of Freedom, a local dog rescue, Salem Library and Salem School Book Sales. Xander was also on the ELHS Track and Field team where he competed in Shot Put and Discus.

### Induction of Officers for 2023-2024

At the Annual Dinner, the 2023-2024 newly-elected Salem Lions Club officers were installed by Lee Anderson, the District Zone Chair.

The Officers new Officers inducted were:

President:	William Martin
1st Vice-President:	Skip Dickson
2nd Vice-President :	Paul Roswell
Treasurer:	George Ziegra
Secretary:	John Houchin, Sr.
Director:	Gordon Gillaspie
Past President:	Len Giambra





### Old Cell Phone Collection Fund Raiser

The Club is working with Wireless Alliance to recycle old cell phones. It is a way to get rid of your old phones, keeping them out of a landfill. The Wireless Alliance utilizes industry technologies to ensure 100% of any information on the phone is destroyed. Based on the value of the phone and its condition, the Salem Lions Club will receive a stipend for each phone.

If you have any old phones and wish to keep them out of a landfill, there is a big green box in the Town Hall Foyer and the Salem Library where you can drop them off.

### Annual Lions Club Tag Sale

On August 19th and 20th the Salem Lions Club hosted its Annual Tag Sale. It was held at the Town's Zemko property from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday the 29th, and 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday the 20th. Many buyers had fun finding their treasures!

### Salem Lions Club Membership Drive

So, what does the Lions Club provide?

The Lions Club International is a global service organization with over 1.4 million men and women in over 200 countries who believe that "Kindness Matters."

Through our various fundraisers (a big thank you for your support of these events) we are able to support the following Salem causes: the Salem Town Benevolent fund, Secret Santa, the Easter Egg Hunt event, provide eye screening through KidSight to kindergarten through the 5th grade at the Salem school, supported the D.A.R.E project in the Salem School, Salem Youth Baseball, and annual scholarships to two Graduating Salem High School Seniors. On a larger level, we support such charities as Care and Share, Diabetes, Camp Rising Sun, FIDELCO guide dogs, and Hearing and Speech, just to name a few.

To support the above organizations, the Club holds fundraisers, with 100% of the money raised going to these groups.

The Salem Lions Club meets every fourth Thursday of the month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM, at the Salem Center School. (If need be because of Covid or another event, we do hold meetings through ZOOM.)

**If you are interested in further information on the Lions Club, please contact Lion Bill Martin at 860-705-6062.**

We would love to have you join us.

**p.s. If you wish to give a donation to help our efforts,  
please send it to George Ziegra at 9 Shingle Road, Salem, CT 06420.**



## SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

We hope this Fall Edition of Our Town Salem finds everyone healthy and safe. We are excited to be starting another successful school year. We will continue to work hard to maintain high expectations for academics and good citizenship and will work diligently to enhance communications between the school and the Salem community.

As always, to learn more about what's happening in the Salem School District, please feel free to visit our website, read our online Cougar Tales and Weekly Snapshot, and visit and like our Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we start a new school year.

Sincerely,  
Brian Hendrickson  
Superintendent, Salem School District

Scan the QR code to view a snapshot of the highlights since the Summer Our Town publication.



## THE SALEM SENIORS GROUP

### The Salem Seniors Group been busy the first half of 2023

We started 2023 with 97 members, we currently have 130 members as of the end of April, an increase of 33.

#### REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS



**Art Classes** – After most of our monthly meetings, an art class is provided to the Salem Seniors by *Salem ArtSpace*.



**BINGO** - Held every Thursday at the Salem Volunteer Fire Company. Cards are on sale from 12:30 to 12:55 PM. Game starts promptly at 1:00 PM.

#### ACTIVITIES AT THE SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

##### Busy Bee Quilters

2nd Wednesday of the month,  
10:00 – 4:00 PM

##### Charity/Community Quilters,

1st and 3rd Fridays of the month,  
10:00 – 3:30 PM

##### Knitting and Crocheting Circle

Thursdays, 10:00 AM – Noon

##### Seniors' Board/Card Game Day

Tuesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 PM



#### SUCCESSFUL EVENTS/PROJECTS

**Hillard Cemetery Clean-Up** – April 15

**Attorney General Willian Tong attends Seniors' Potluck Dinner & Talent Show** – April 28

**Paugwonk Baptist #1 Cemetery Clean-Up** – May 5 & July 22

**Seniors Build New Planters for the Memorials on the Town Green**

The Seniors June meeting was held at Salem's historic **Bingham Camp**

**Seniors Hikes** at Harris Brook Trail (June) and Walden Preserve (July)

Seniors attended a production of **Gypsy at the Goodspeed** – June 15

**Seniors Light and Sights Cruise** – July

Seniors decorate their **Memorial Day Parade Float** and march in the parade

**Nature Walks/Hikes** – 3rd Wednesday of every month from June through September, 9 AM

**Ice Cream Social**

**Salem Volunteer Fire Company's Summer BBQ for the Seniors** – August 8

**Mitchell Farm Fall Festival Bake Sale** – October 28th. Proceeds benefitted Mitchell Farm.

**Seniors' sponsored an entry in the GLFD Trunk or Treat event** – October 29th.

#### Garden Team Refurbishes the Salem School Gardens

After successfully restoring the garden by the track at Salem School, Joan Gaynor and her team set their sights on restoring the Court Yard Gardens in the back of the school.

After hearing of Joan's efforts and plans to clean and revive the Court Yard Gardens, fellow members Robin and Andy Pelletier told Joan about a memorial in the Garden dedicated to their son, Ethan, who had passed away. Joan found it and cleaned up the area around the marker so it could be seen again. Robin works for Sprigs and Twigs, a landscaping company, and they graciously offered to supply labor, plants, and materials totaling more than \$11,000 to help clean up and restore the Garden. On April 13, they removed the juniper shrubs, laid down straw, and returned in the summer to plant new shrubs and complete the refurbishment. The renovations on the Court Yard Gardens continued on July 31 when Sprigs and Twigs dug out weeds and overgrown grass and planted low-maintenance plantings to revitalize the Court Yard for years to come.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS AND THINGS-IN-THE-WORKS

**Salem School Thanksgiving Luncheon** – November 14th

**Salem Volunteer Fire Co Luncheon** – December 2nd

**A Christmas Carole at the Niantic Playhouse** – December 10th

**Dreamgirls at the Goodspeed** – December 9th

Anyone 50 years old or older interested in joining the Salem Seniors Group or receiving the newsletter can contact [gclosius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net), or Salem's Agent for the Elderly at (860) 859-3873, x275.

## SALEM CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS IN JULY

### Townpeople working together for the betterment of Salem

*By Ed Chmielewski, Salem First Selectman*



It was a hot, sticky summer weekend in Salem, but that didn't stop over 600 participants from flocking to the town pavilion to celebrate our first annual "Christmas in July" event.

Christmas in July was co-sponsored by the dedicated volunteer members of the Salem Economic Development Commission and the Salem Recreation Commission.

The Salem based food vendors were busy serving up their tasty treats. It was a perfect day for an icy treat from Momma's Ice Cream. Niki J's had thirst quenching lemonade to wash down their signature hot dogs with and Wicked Southern Coffee's iced beverages were spot on! Music lovers were entertained and got their groove on to the local band Sidetracked.

25 Salem based vendors participated. Vendors were creative with the way they helped visitors stay cool and think a snowy Christmas. Gardner Lake Liquors was kind enough to supply water to our patrons. Mandie Lee Photography had a Christmas themed backdrop for their mini photo sessions. There were so many unique items, and one patron noted "I did most of my Christmas shopping today". Kim Kreft Custom Designs (resin specialist) noted that this was one of her most successful vendor events. Kathleen Roderick of Brimstone Candles located at 1 New London Plaza had a wide array of candles available and sold out her most popular scents. Salem Pharmacy featured many "Salem CT" exclusive items, and offered them at discounted prices. Witter Woods Tie Dye was a hit with their unique fashions and stickers. R&W Heating provided everyone with insulated reusable bags – what a great idea this time of year. We were lucky enough to have a local author, Judy Alldrich, and her partner, a master craftsman there as well. One of the young entrepreneurs present sold out of their inventory and had to start taking special orders!

The Crafters were a big hit. WJ Creations offered a diverse selection of crafts to choose from. Apple Country Supply was on hand with small animal cages and accessories. We also featured a vendor that did clay bracelets. Floras Naturales had a wonderful array of goat soaps. There was a wide variety of artisanal products – who knew Salem, CT had so many treasures!

Several vendors participated to raise awareness and showcase their businesses. Room to Spare demonstrated their organizational expertise. Marissa's Dance, a brand Salem business was there to advertise their new dance school.

Overall, the event was a huge success that wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous support that townspeople provided along with the collaboration of commission members, town staff and emergency services members.

Christmas in July was the brainchild of Economic Development Commission (EDC) Chair Melissa Beers, who along with EDC member Michael Smith did the majority of the legwork to create the event. Recreation Commission Chair Mary Durkee and Recreation Coordinator Agnes Miyuki were invaluable in helping with coordination. This is the first time that the Economic Development and Recreation Commission collaborated on a community event and the results were spectacular. The Recreation Department ran their "passport to Christmas" which was an instant hit! The kids loved getting their passports stamped, and the vendors loved that it drove traffic to their booths. The arts and crafts kept the kids entertained, allowing for parents to browse and shop.

Special thanks to our Public Works Department for making sure that the Pavilion grounds were in pristine condition. Thank you to our Fire Companies for assisting with parking and for being present. Attendance by our full time Fire Fighters / EMT's ensured we were all safe. Thank you to all who brought donations to Care & Share – it goes to show what can be accomplished when a community comes together.

It was great to see a presence of our town organizations – The Lions Club, Salem Land Trust, Mitchell Farms – who graciously donated a ticket to their upcoming event.

Many of our brick-and-mortar businesses didn't have the staffing to be in two places at once, so they were eager to donate and still have a presence. The prizes donated were more than generous. Door Prizes were donated by Getty Granite, The Plum Tomato, 2 Sisters trading post, Chelsea Groton Bank, Salem Prime Cuts, Salem Valley Farms, Hair Power, 2 Brothers Pizza, Fox Farm Brewery, Gina Nails, The New London Historical Society, The Children's Museum Niantic (Holly Cheeseman), Burnett's Country Gardens, Maegog Farms, and The Body Works Studio.

On a hot, sticky summer afternoon in July, some 600 local people and Salem Business owners enjoyed each other's company, ate good local food, listened to great music and celebrated an early Christmas. Hopefully, all of us will be on Santas "Nice List" for next year's "Christmas in July" event!



# Small Business

SATURDAY

SALEM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION IN COLLABORATION WITH  
BURNETT'S COUNTRY GARDENS FOR SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY!



## Saturday after Thanksgiving

**BURNETT'S COUNTRY GARDENS**

**380 NEW LONDON RD, SALEM, CT 06420**

**10-4 (FREE ENTRY)**



**NOW OPEN!**



**BOB APPLEBY FIELDS @ VOLUNTEER PARK  
24 FORSYTH ROAD**



The Disc Golf Course team of volunteers worked diligently over the past two years to redesign, plan, organize, and construct the Disc Golf Course. The Course was re-designed to improve its overall safety and included discussions and/or site walks with the relevant entities.

While the original Course was based at the Salem Community Park Pavilion, the new Course begins and ends at Bob Appleby Fields at Volunteer Park. Seven (7) of the 18 (eighteen) holes were changed and two (2) crossings were eliminated while another was added. Future plans include the installation of beginner tee pads. Discs are available for loan for those who would like to try out the sport.

Special thanks to former Recreation Commission Chairperson Teri Natoli, the brainchild of the Course; Shawn Callaghan for spearheading the original Course; Rob LeMire, for sticking with us; the volunteers who dedicated countless hours and energy, and; Recreation Commission Liaison Steve Wlodarczyk, who helped bring it to fruition.

## SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT

**@ THE SALEM COMMUNITY PARK PAVILION  
89 NORWICH ROAD/ROUTE 82**



Grab a ball and meet your friends & family for a friendly game of volleyball at Salem's NEW sand volleyball court at the Pavilion!

Special thanks to Tim Bell of Eastside Home Improvements and Bob Gagnon of Colchester Construction for constructing/installing the court!

**Santa Claus is coming to  
Salem Recreation's**

## Holiday Tree Lighting

**Saturday, December 2**

**Salem Town Green/Center School**

**Join us for Holiday Fun & Games at 3 pm  
Sing-a-long with Freddie Marion at 4 pm  
Santa arrives at 4:45 pm**



**Donations for the Care & Share Pantry are welcome!**

**Sponsored in partnership with the  
Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company,  
Girl Scouts and Salem Student Volunteers!**

## Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company Food Drive

**Dec 01<sup>st</sup> 2023 – January 19<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**\*Bin located outside the Fire Dept\***

**\*We will also be collecting during the Santa Run\*  
429 Old Colchester Rd. Salem, CT 06420**

Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company is having a Can food/Non Perishable food drive benefiting the residents of East Lyme, Salem, and Niantic. Items will be delivered to Care and Share of East Lyme, INC which has been providing food, financial and emergency support to local residents since 1989. Please stop by and place your items in the labeled bin located outside the fire dept at anytime. Your donation is greatly appreciated. Any questions please call (860) 373-4826 or email [info@glvfc.com](mailto:info@glvfc.com) THANK YOU

**Sponsored by Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company  
Neighbors helping neighbors since 1954**



## Meditation...Chi Kung...Tai Chi Chuan

Instructor: Ted La Femina, Bow Sim Mark Tai Chi Arts Association

**Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 pm**  
**November 15, 2023 to January 3, 2024**  
**Salem Volunteer Fire Company**

**Residents: \$45 | Non-Residents: \$50**

Minimum: 6 students; Maximum: 12 students

**Register at: [salemct.gov/recreation](http://salemct.gov/recreation)**



RAFAEL ALEXANDRINO DE MATTOS | PEXELS

## Adult Rec Co-Ed Open Gym Pick-up Games

to May 31

**Salem School Gymnasium**

Open to Salem & East Lyme Residents, ages 18 & up

*Sign in upon arrival*

### PICKLEBALL



**Tuesdays, 5:15-7:00 pm**

### VOLLEYBALL



**Tuesdays, 7-9 pm**

### BASKETBALL



**Thursdays, 7-9 pm**

PICKLEBALL: COURTNEY SCHROEDEL, UNSPLASH. VOLLEYBALL: COTTONBRO STUDIO, PEXELS. BASKETBALL: RICHARD BAGAN, UNSPLASH.

#### VISIT



Visit our webpage!

#### SUBSCRIBE



Sign up for our mailing list!

#### REGISTER



Register for a class!

Registration forms available at [salemct.gov/recreation](http://salemct.gov/recreation) & Salem Town Hall

Fees may be paid in person, dropped off in the white dropbox, or paid online\*

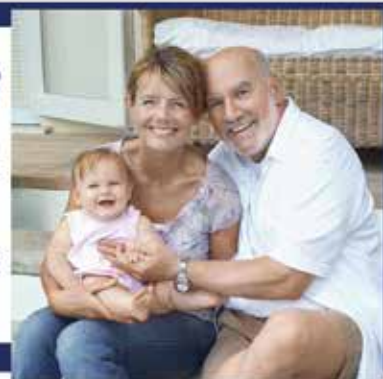
\*non-refundable convenience fee applies for all credit/debit/online payments

All health & safety protocols followed for all classes, programs & events. Program details subject to change.

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They will also learn the latest information on how to safely care for infants and children and how to manage the behavior of children of all ages, in addition to life-saving skills such as choking rescue, first aid, and injury management.



**Monday, November 13, 2023 from 1 to 4 PM**  
**Presented by Town of Salem Recreation Dept. & CPR Training Professionals**

Salem Fire Department  
 424 Hartford Road, Salem, CT

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Residents: \$125 per person  
 Non-Residents: \$130 per person



Register at [www.salemct.gov/recreation](http://www.salemct.gov/recreation) or  
 for more information 800-806-2473 ext 275  
[recreation@salemct.gov](mailto:recreation@salemct.gov)



Salem Recreation

## REC SESSION

6 wks Online

**REGISTER AT:**

[salemct.gov/recreation](http://salemct.gov/recreation)

## ROBLOX



11/15 - 12/20

4, 5 or 6 PM



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helps make the places we all  
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