

# NEWSLETTER

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## How Do I Get A Copy Of The Newsletter?

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send your request along with your e-mail address to: **Gary Closius:** [gclosius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net)

## NEW SDTC MEMBERS TAKE OFFICE

Effective March 1<sup>st</sup> the newly elected officers of the SDTC took office for the 2024-2025 term. The newly elected officers are:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Gary Closius	<b>Secretary:</b>	Leslie Hotary*
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	Kay Zak*	<b>Treasurer:</b>	MaryAnne Sabowski*
		<b>Deputy Treasurer:</b>	Janet Griggs*
	* re-elected		** new officer

## SDTC IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

1. The Town of Salem has 3 delegates that will represent Salem at the upcoming nominating conventions as follows:
    - 3 delegates representing Salem in the Congressional District 2 convention.
    - 3 delegates representing Salem in the State Senate District 20 convention.
    - 3 delegates representing Salem in the State House convention (House 34th District [Salem voting district 1] 1 delegate, and House District 37th, [Salem voting district 2] 2 delegates)

To that end, the Salem Democratic Town Committee is soliciting volunteers who are interested in being a delegate representing Salem at these conventions.

**We need a minimum of 3 but can have as many as 9 volunteers.**
  2. The SDTC is seeking volunteers interested in serving Salem on various Boards and Commissions as vacancies arise. Currently there are three vacancies, one on the Planning and Zoning Commission and two on the Inland Wetlands and Conservations Commission.
- If you are interested in volunteering please contact Gary Closius, e-mail: [gclosius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net), or call: 860-961-9173.

## SALEM BOARD OF FINANCE (BOF) SCHEDULE FOR 2024-2025 BUDGET MEETINGS

March 14<sup>th</sup>

1. **Agenda**
2. **Act on Proposed Appropriations for 2024-2025**

A. #100 Selectman's Department	B. #157 Regional Services
C. #126 Town Counsel	D. #310 Public Works
E. #134 Town Office Building	F. #410 Transfer Station
G. #135 Municipal Building Maintenance	H. #105 Salaries
I. #138 Employee Benefits	J. #925 Capital Reserve
K. #140 Utilities	L. #926 Open Space Land
M. #152 Town Services	

**SALEM BOF SCHEDULE FOR 2024-2025 BUDGET MEETINGS** *(continued from p 1)***March 21<sup>st</sup>****1. Act on Proposed Appropriations for 2024-2025**

A. Tabled Items

B. Finalize Budget for Public Hearing

**April 10<sup>th</sup> – Public Hearing for 2024-2025 Budget @ Salem School****April 11<sup>th</sup>**

1. Agenda

2. Finalize Budget for Public Hearing

**May 1<sup>st</sup> – Town Meeting to Consider 2024-2025 Budget****May 8<sup>th</sup> – Referendum On 2024-2025 Budget****May 9<sup>th</sup>**

1. Agenda

2. Discuss Referendum Results and Set Mil Rate

**BOE APPROVES SY2024-25 BUDGET – PRESS RELEASE** <sup>1</sup>**SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT**

200 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420

Salem Board of Education Press Release for Immediate Release

February 14, 2024

Contact: Sean Reith, Board of Education Chair

**SALEM BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS SY2024-25 BUDGET**

**Salem, CT:** On February 5, 2024, the Salem Board of Education unanimously adopted the SY2024-25 Budget in the amount of \$12,017,835, which is a 6.31% increase over the current operating budget. This year's budget represented a -0.20% decrease from the previous year.

The recently approved SY2024-25 school budget includes an additional School Psychologist and a Registered Behavior Technician. These additions create an opportunity for the Salem School District to provide a resource room, under the direction of a Special Education Teacher, for students whose disabilities require both academic and social emotional support. Creating this specialized program promotes student success within Salem School, as opposed to potential outplacement to alternative programs (at a significant cost) which are required by law in the event that the Salem School District is unable to meet the needs of Special Education students at Salem School.

These two new positions represent only 1% of the total budget increase; the remainder allows Salem School to continue to provide its existing programming.

Sean Reith, Board of Education Chair, "Similar to last year's budget process, the Board anchored itself to our core values and was driven by our strategic priorities, and committed to act as fiscally responsible as our town deserves. As the Salem school district operated SY2023-24 at -0.20% less than the prior SY2022-23 operating budget, it is important to note that a roll up of existing programming represents an increase of 5.31%. Reflecting on the national inflation trends and the budget increases in school districts across the state, the Salem BOE is proud that our district is managing these economic times in a balanced manner. The additional 1% increase for the implementation of a behavior program does have built in cost avoidance rationale that must be noted as we are coming off of a -.20% budget decrease for this year's budget. The Board would like to thank and commend the Superintendent, Business Manager, Administrative team, and staff members who provided feedback throughout the budgeting process".

Brian Hendrickson, Superintendent, "We are very proud to produce a student-centered budget that maintains our commitment to class size, honors all teacher requests, and increases access and resources for students as required by law.

**BOE APPROVES SY2024-25 BUDGET – PRESS RELEASE** (continued from p 2)

Kim Gadaree, Business Manager, “Budget development is always a challenge with variables including special education and enrollment that are outside of our control. Fortunately, our zero-based budgeting approach along with proactive budgeting strategies has put us in a position to shift resources in order to be as efficient as possible while managing unavoidable increases that are required to maintain the quality of programming that Salem has long prided itself on and is reflected in local home values.”

The Board of Education will present their budget to the Board of Finance on March 7, 2024.

<sup>1</sup> Salem Board of Education press release, February 14, 2024 – reprinted.

The Salem School District BOE Approved Budget for SY2024-25 can be viewed by clicking on the following link: [salemschools.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=1640&dataid=5114&FileName=BOE\\_Appd\\_BudgetBook\\_Feb\\_5\\_24.pdf](https://salemschools.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=1640&dataid=5114&FileName=BOE_Appd_BudgetBook_Feb_5_24.pdf)

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**TOWN OF SALEM  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Salem Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7PM at the Salem Town Hall, 270 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420. The following application will be heard:

**ZRA 24-01 – Zoning Regulation Text Amendment to Sec. 3.26.2 for Temporary & Limited moratorium on Cannabis Establishments – Applicant, Salem Planning & Zoning Commission**

At this hearing, interested persons may appear & be heard and written correspondence received. The application with full proposed text is available viewing at:

<https://www.salem.gov/planning-and-zoning-commission/pages/pending-applications> and is on file in the Office of the Salem Town Clerk.

**FOR THE COMMISSION**

Vernon Smith, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

\*\*\*\*\*

This legal notice shall be published in The Day newspaper on March 1, 2024 and March 8, 2024.



**OPINION – IT'S TIME TO END THE ELECTION WISHCASTING** <sup>2</sup>*The Atlantic*

DAILY

***It's Time To End The Election Wishcasting******Trump versus Biden is inevitable, and everything is at stake.*****Facing the World as It Is**By: Tom Nichols – Staff Writer ***“The Atlantic”***

After Super Tuesday, all of the pointless wishing for a lightning strike to change the 2024 race should end: The contest is once again an existential test of American democracy.

In previous and more normal elections, Super Tuesday was a big deal. With so many states holding primaries and caucuses, the results would clarify who would likely advance to the general election in the fall. Sometimes, front-runners fell behind, underdogs raced to the front of the pack, or a surprise changed the course of the race. Fluke results from one-off contests in Iowa or New Hampshire were quickly swept away in a broader test of popularity.

Such clarity was the whole point of Super Tuesday. As dramatic and fascinating as it was to have messy floor fights and multiple ballots at the conventions, by the 1980s, both parties wanted less drama and smoother, glossier coronations of a beloved nominee. The primaries soon took the place of arm-wrestling matches in classic, smoke-filled rooms. (As an occasional cigar smoker who thinks primaries are now dysfunctional, I would like to go back to those rooms, but that's a discussion for another day.)

Tonight, there will be almost no tension at all. Donald Trump will emerge as the numerically prohibitive front-runner for the Republican nomination; President Joe Biden will cruise to a Democratic renomination, as incumbents almost always do. We know the result already: 2024 will feature Biden versus Trump, an ordinary career politician facing off, one more time, against a would-be dictator.

No one needed Super Tuesday to predict the shape of the fall general election. Biden is an incumbent running on a good record—despite what Republicans think, Biden's had as consequential and solid a first term as any president since Ronald Reagan—and there was virtually no chance his party was going to deny him renomination, because no sensible party would do that with a successful first-term president. (Even Jimmy Carter eventually swatted away the supposedly indestructible Ted Kennedy in 1980.) Trump was the Republican favorite from the moment former Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy went to Mar-a-Lago in 2021 to rehabilitate Trump's standing in the GOP. His nomination was inevitable the night most of his primary opponents raised their hand on a debate stage—one from which he was absent—and said they'd vote for him if he beat them, *even if he was convicted in a court of law*. Even Nikki Haley is still dithering to this very moment about whether she'd support a man who calls her “Birdbrain” and whom she has passionately argued is unfit for office. And yet, for months now, many voters, including both Democrats and dissident Republicans, have engaged in childlike wishcasting about how the 2024 election might be different.

Some of them put their hopes in the courts, longing in vain for Trump to be disqualified from the ballot or for Special Counsel Jack Smith to clap Trump in irons before Election Day. The idea that Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas—who are now behaving as right-wing activists from the bench—would join hands with three Trump appointees to stop Trump was always some industrial-strength psychedelia.

The decision to leave Trump on state ballots seems (at least to me, as a non-lawyer) sensible enough, which is probably why all nine justices affirmed it. But the Court's conservative majority is clearly playing games. If hurrying helps Trump, they move with alacrity: They decided the Colorado ballot case in 25 days. If dawdling helps Trump, they slow down: The presidential-immunity case (a crackpot theory they should not have even taken up) won't be heard until late April. The conservative effort to seize the Court by hook or by crook—one of Mitch McConnell's greatest and most shameful legacies—has paid off just when Trump needed it most.

Others entertained the fantasy that a Republican could knock out Trump in a primary. You may remember Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who was supposed to arrive in the primaries in a flash of light that would turn Trump's campaign to ash and leave nothing of the former president's candidacy but a chalk outline on a sidewalk. Instead, DeSantis folded early, and I assume it is only a matter of time before he appears on a stage shaking Trump's hand in the name of “supporting the nominee.”

Meanwhile, Democrats have been panicking for at least a year about Joe Biden, because Biden is old. As a former Republican, I find this astonishing; if you stripped Biden's name off his record and handed it to a voter, he'd be as formidable a candidate as either party could field. But we live in a time of vibes and optics: Biden *sounds* old, he walks like an older man, and his occasional gaffes and mistakes are more numerous than they used to be. (Trump seems younger because he bellows and gyrates as he howls red-faced into microphones at rallies; despite the fact that much of what he says is slurred nonsense and autocratic threats, he seems more vital and active.)

## **OPINION – IT’S TIME TO END THE ELECTION WISHCASTING (continued from p 4)**

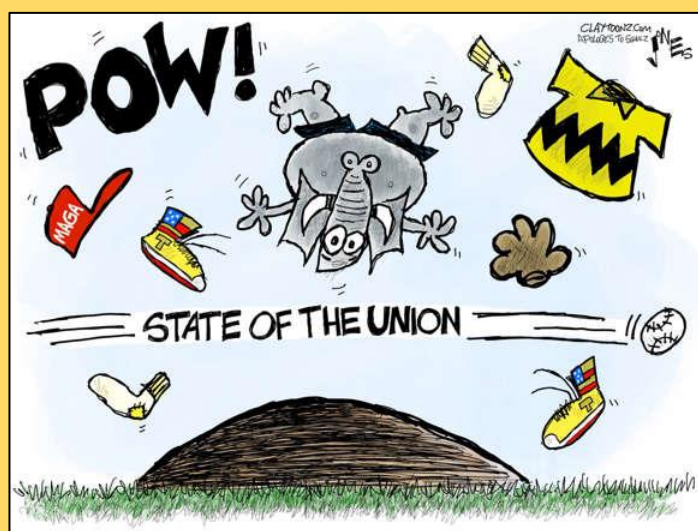
Democrats have therefore plunged into their own silly wishcasting. *Perhaps some magical third-party centrist will emerge from the clouds and unite the country. Why, it could be ... Joe Manchin! Or a Democratic candidate will emerge to push both Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris out of the picture—maybe someone like Dean Phillips!* (Phillips was outperformed in the Michigan primary by the self-help writer Marianne Williamson, who at the time had already suspended her campaign.) Perhaps a reenergized left could offer a new face—how about Cornel West? What if we change the Electoral College? (This last one is a perennial favorite on social media). And of course, there’s always Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who initially ran as a Democrat but whose heart is with conspiracy theorists everywhere.

Much of this eyes-squeezed-tight wishing is linked to the peculiar American belief that presidents are godlike creatures who can make things better by fiat. Too many voters, when they encounter difficulties, create in their mind a superhero president who, if elected, will bring down the price of eggs, make the Russians go home, and end the war and suffering in Gaza. And if the current candidates are too flawed to fit that bill, Americans design one in their head.

All of this wishcasting has to end. The past year has birthed a lot of political nonsense—have I mentioned Cornel West?—but the time for such foolishness is over. Barring an act of God, or the Fickle Finger of Fate coming to rest on one of the candidates, the contest is now between Trump and Biden.

American democracy is on the ballot. Individual freedom, including reproductive rights and civil liberties, is on the ballot. The security of Europe, of the United States, of the world ... all of it is on the ballot. It is time for voters to take a deep breath, deal with the world as it is, and decide what they really want when they make one of the most fateful decisions in American history.

<sup>2</sup> Article – *It’s Time to End the Election Wishcasting* appearing in *“The Atlantic Daily”* on March 5, 2024, by: Tom Nichols, appearing in *“The Atlantic Daily”*.



## **OPINION – WHAT A DOCTOR SEES WHEN JOE BIDEN HESITATES <sup>3</sup>**

**Opinion: What a doctor sees when Joe Biden hesitates –Opinion by Daniel J. Stone MD**

As a geriatrician, I discuss the effects of aging with patients every day. I wish I had a chance to give my usual talk to everyone who chortles or tears their hair out about President Biden’s fitness for his job. First, memory. I explain to patients that there are three components to consider. One is formation. Then storage. And finally, recall. The most common issue among seniors is slow recall. This is the familiar “tip of the tongue” phenomenon, when a word seems to hide or a name won’t come to mind. You know the name, it’s in your bank of memories, it just can’t be accessed quickly. Given time, it usually arrives.

This problem, called age-associated memory impairment, often starts for people in their 30s and gradually progresses. It’s a nuisance but not disabling. If, like me, you find yourself using the term “whatchamacallit,” you probably have it. Don’t worry, you’ll be fine.

Alzheimer’s disease, the most common cause of dementia, is a different story. Those affected lose the ability to store new memories. They can still access old memories in their memory bank and may recount events that occurred decades ago.

**OPINION – WHAT A DOCTOR SEES WHEN JOE BIDEN HESITATES** *(continued from p 5)*

But they can't tell you what they had for breakfast because that never entered the memory bank. (I reassure my patients with age-associated memory impairment by asking whether they remember their breakfast. They do.)

Alzheimer's is cognitively crippling. Losing the ability to form new memories freezes one in time. Those affected can't make new friends or address new situations without fresh memories. Additionally, the disease progressively impairs other domains, including behavior and ultimately physical skills.

Fortunately, President Biden shows no signs of Alzheimer's disease. At news conferences, he references new events and obviously creates new memories efficiently. He speaks slowly and pauses to find words like others with benign age-associated memory impairment. These issues are exacerbated by a chronic speech impediment. Biden has struggled with stuttering since childhood, and remnants of the condition have long been apparent in his speech.

Unfortunately, word hesitations coupled with the mild stutter can't help but affect his public speaking. Biden's political opponents and the uninformed exploit it, along with stereotypes about older people, to create a false narrative about intellectual impairment.

I take care of many high-functioning seniors like President Biden in my practice. One that I know, who is not a patient of mine, has been my family's lawyer for five decades. Melvin Spears, at 96, recently responded to an emailed legal question with succinct and well-targeted advice, as he always has. When I spoke to him, he acknowledged some concessions to his age. He speaks more slowly, and transportation is a challenge because he's stopped driving. (He considers Uber and Lyft "a hassle.") Like Biden, Spears focuses on his work and lets others worry about his age if they choose.

Studies show that high-functioning seniors like Mel Spears and the president compensate for slower reaction time by applying superior knowledge and judgment. The presidency is not a job that requires lightning-quick reflexes. First-hand experience with the successes and failures of U.S. foreign policy over decades, for example, combined with time-tested judgment offers far more than speed in speech or decision-making.

Actuarial tables show that the 81-year-old president's life expectancy extends nearly eight years, well beyond a second term. He gets excellent healthcare, has no major chronic illnesses, and at his recent physical at Walter Reed Military Medical Center, he was declared "healthy, active" and "fit for duty." All that means that Biden is likely to beat the actuarial estimate. Given his overall health and the absence of current cognitive impairment, he would likely complete a second term with stable cognition.

All candidates for political office in the United States deserve to be evaluated on their accomplishments and capabilities rather than by their age. Seniors may be the last minority whose natural traits are singled out for ridicule and stereotyping. If the American people disagree with President Biden's policies and prefer change, they should support his opponent. But in the absence of valid evidence of true cognitive impairment, their judgment should not be influenced by ageist social stereotypes. Biden and the American political process deserve better.

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<sup>3</sup> This story originally appeared in Los Angeles Times, by: Dr. Daniel J. Stone on March 7, 2024.

Dr. Daniel J. Stone is an internist and geriatrician in Beverly Hills.

**THE SDTC MEETING SCHEDULE**

**The SDTC 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> <li>● <b>Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> <li>● <b>Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse</li> <li>● <b>Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> <li>● <b>Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> <li>● <b>Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> <li>● <b>Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse</li> <li>● <b>Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> <li>● <b>January 8<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse</li> <li>● <b>Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup></b><br/>Center School</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

**GUN VIOLENCE – 2024 STATISTICS AND DATA**

2024	Mass Shootings	Deaths	Injuries
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>244</b>
January	36	62	110
February	26	37	134

\* Data current through February 29<sup>th</sup>

Shootings By State					
State	# Current Month	# Year To Date	State	# Current Month	# Year To Date
Alabama	2	4	Louisiana	0	5
Alaska	1	1	Maryland	1	2
Arkansas	1	1	Minnesota	2	2
California	2	7	Mississippi	0	3
Colorado	1	1	Missouri	2	5
District of Columbia	1	1	Nevada	0	1
Florida	1	4	New York	1	2
Georgia	2	2	North Carolina	0	1
Illinois	3	5	Pennsylvania	2	5
Indiana	1	1	Tennessee	1	2
Iowa	0	1	Texas	1	4
Kentucky	1	2	Virginia	0	1

The 10 States With The:	
Strictest Gun Laws	Most Lenient Gun Laws
California	Mississippi
Illinois	Wyoming
New York	Montana
Connecticut	Idaho
Hawaii	Georgia
New Jersey	Arkansas
Maryland	South Dakota
Massachusetts	Oklahoma
Washington	New Hampshire
Colorado	Kentucky

<b>DARK BLUE:</b>	Democrats won the majority 4 times
<b>LIGHT BLUE:</b>	Democrats won the 3 times
<b>PURPLE:</b>	Democrats and Republicans each won twice
<b>LIGHT RED:</b>	Republicans won the 3 times
<b>DARK RED:</b>	Republicans won the 4 times

**PUBLIC TOWN MEETINGS FOR MARCH**

- **Board of Education Long Range Edu Planning**  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM
- **Board of Education Personnel/Contract Negotiations**  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM
- **Board of Education,**  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- **Board of Selectmen,**  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- **Board of Finance,**  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- **Library Board of Directors,**  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM
- **Planning and Zoning Commission,**  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- **Emergency Preparedness Agency,**  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- **Board of Finance,**  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- **Recreation Commission**  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- **Board of Finance,**  
March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM
- **Board of Education Policy**  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM
- **Board of Education Curriculum**  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM
- **Planning & Zoning Commission**  
March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

To view the Town Public Meeting Calendar, click on: [saalemct.gov/calendar-by-event-type/16/month/2024-03](http://saalemct.gov/calendar-by-event-type/16/month/2024-03)

**COMMUNITY HELP / ASSISTANCE**

**CARE & SHARE**

Care & Share of East Lyme, Inc. provides food, financial and emergency support to individuals and families in East Lyme, Niantic, and Salem. ***If you are interested in receiving assistance, contact them at 860-739-8502.*** Leave a message with your name, telephone number and the type of assistance you are looking for, as well as the best time you can be reached. A responder will confidentially return your call. **To see what other services they provide visit their website by clicking on: [careandshareofel.org/](http://careandshareofel.org/).**

**COMMUNITY HELP / ASSISTANCE** *(continued from p 7)*

**THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION (TVCCA)**



**CONNECTION = Volunteering & Veterans Coffeehouses**

Now more than ever community support is so important and impactful! AmeriCorps Seniors offers the support someone needs to remain living at home. Our volunteers lend a hand with grocery shopping needs, visiting, phone reassurance or local medical rides. If you are 55+ contact us to hear how your help may improve the quality of life of an elderly or disabled person by volunteering to help a neighbor in your community.

Our volunteers are here for the community! Our services are available free of charge to seniors or disabled people that are homebound and need help with grocery shopping, medical rides, and visiting.



**Contact: Renee LaBonte, Program Coordinator of Senior Volunteer Services at 860-425-6608 or e-mail: [rlabonte@tvcca.org](mailto:rlabonte@tvcca.org).**

Visit our website by clicking on: [tvcca.org](http://tvcca.org) or [facebook.com/TVCCArsvp/](https://facebook.com/TVCCArsvp/).

**CONNECT WITH VETERANS!** TVCCA hosts monthly veteran coffeehouses to meet and socialize with other veterans and their spouses and receive information about veteran benefits and services. We host coffeehouses in Groton, Mystic, New London, Pawcatuck, Norwich, and Montville.

**Contact James Hodge, Veterans Coffeehouse Coordinator at 860-425-6615 or e-mail: [jhodge@tvcca.org](mailto:jhodge@tvcca.org).**

**ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FROM THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC. (TVCCA)**

TVCCA provides energy assistance among other community assistance services. Visit the TVCCA website by clicking on: [tvcca.org/energy-assistance/](http://tvcca.org/energy-assistance/) for more information and a direct link to the application. If you have any questions or need help completing the application form, contact TVCCA at 860-889-1365. Note that not only does TVCCA provide funding for oil, but also for wood. TVCCA also has a Senior Nutrition Program for seniors 60 and over & Volunteer programs for seniors age 55 or over.

**EVERSOURCE Connecticut Electric Discount Rate**

**Connecticut Electric Discount Rate**

A bill discount will be available for residential electric customers starting in December 2023.

You must have financial hardship status on your electric account. If you do, there are two tiers of discount depending on your annual household income or receipt of a public assistance benefit.

**Eligible income for 10% Discount Rate**

To qualify, your household annual income for all adults over 18 must be at or below 60% of the state median income, or you can show receipt of a public assistance benefit for at least one household member.

**Eligible income for the 50% Discount Rate**

To qualify, your household annual income for all adults over 18 must be at or below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines, or you can show receipt of a public assistance benefit for at least one household member.

**To apply for the 10% or 50% Connecticut electric discount rate visit the EVERSOURCE webpage click on the following link: [eversource.com/content/residential/account-billing/payment-assistance/discount-rate](http://eversource.com/content/residential/account-billing/payment-assistance/discount-rate), or call EVERSOURCE at 800-286-2828, or call TVCCA at 860-889-1365.**

**211 INFOLINE HELP STARTS HERE**

**Call 2-1-1 for your connection to:**

- |   |                        |                      |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| - Alzheimer's resources                 | - Emergency shelter    | - Pre-natal care     |
| - Basic needs – food, clothing, shelter | - Emergency assistance | - Senior services    |
| - Child care services                   | - Financial assistance | - Suicide prevention |



**COMMUNITY HELP / ASSISTANCE** *(continued from p 8)*

**211 INFOLINE HELP** *(continued)*

- Child health care
- Consumer health
- Crisis intervention
- Disability services
- Drug & alcohol programs
- Health care
- HIV/AIDS
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Parenting programs
- Transportation
- Veteran's services
- Volunteering
- And much more

**COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE**

**SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**News & Events**

- **BOOKS IN THE AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB.** Meetings are normally held on the last Thursday of the month at 1.00 PM.
- **MUSEUM PASSES AND DISCOUNTED ADMISSION PASSES** to many of the museums in our state are available at the Salem Library. Visit the library, or go to the library website by clicking on: [salemct.gov/library/pages/museum-passes](http://salemct.gov/library/pages/museum-passes) to view the library website and view what they have to offer and pass availability.

- **IRISH MUSIC CONCERT**

Irish music concert with Kip & Mic,  
Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, @ 11:00 AM.  
**To register call: 860-859-1130.**



*(Sponsored by Friends of the Salem Library & The Bobbie Ziegra Memorial Fund.)*

- **BALD EAGLES**

**Saturday, March 23<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 AM**



Presented by Ginny Apple  
Master Wildlife Conservationist with the CT DEEP

**To register call: 860-859-1130.**

*(Sponsored by Friends of the Salem Library)*

- **SOLAR ECLIPSES**

Presented by: Geoff McLean, NASA Solar System Ambassador.

Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, @ 6:00 PM



Ahead of the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 join us to learn about solar eclipses, some brief historical looks at previous eclipses and as well as safety precautions you should take while viewing.

**To register call: 860-859-1130.**

*(Sponsored by NASA Solar System Ambassador)*

- **CANDY SUSHI**

**Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:00 PM**

Come make candy sushi with Rice Krispies Treata and assorted candies. Includes a sushi container and chopsticks! **For Ages 10+**



**To register call: 860-859-1130.**

*(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library)*

- **BOOKS IN THE AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB**

The meetings are normally held on the last Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM

February 29, 2024: **"The Other Einstein"**, [Fiction], by: Marie Benedict. In the tradition of Beatriz Williams and Paula McClain, Marie Benedict's **"The Other Einstein"** offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow. This novel resurrects Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated.

All adults over 18 are welcome. **To join the group, e-mail Christine Murtha at:**

[\*\*murthachristine@yahoo.com\*\*](mailto:murthachristine@yahoo.com).

- **THE SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY:**

- Will be closing @ 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> for a staff meeting.
- Will be closed on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> for the Easter holiday. It will reopen on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00 AM.

**COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE** (continued from p 9)

**SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

There are many activities for Salem residents of all ages:

- **ADULT CO-ED REC PICK-UP GAMES**  
Open gym for Salem & East Lyme residents age 18 & over in the Salem School gymnasium.

**Sign In Upon Arrival**

- Pickleball:** Tuesdays 5:30- 7:30 PM  
Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>
- Volleyball:** Fridays 7:00-9:00 PM  
Oct 6<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Basketball:** Thursdays 7:00-9:00 PM  
Oct 5<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>

- **SALEM LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY**

Let's Play Ball!! Opening Day!!!

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, @ 10:00 AM

Lou Ulfers Sports Complex,  
47 Round Hill Rd.



- **LIVE CLASSES ONLINE**

There are dozens of on-line classes for adults and children are available through Salem's Recreation Commission.

To explore what courses are available and sign up, click on the following link:

[saalemct.gov/recreation/pages/live-classes-online](http://saalemct.gov/recreation/pages/live-classes-online)



**LIVE ONLINE COURSES  
ARE GOING ON RIGHT NOW!**

Live Classes Online is partnered with Town of Salem, so a portion of every purchase you make supports your community!

**HURRY UP!** Limited classes!  
Reserve your place now!

- **INDOOR WALKING AT THE SALEM SCHOOL**

The Recreation Commission will be starting an indoor walking program for the winter at the Salem School.

**They need a person to sign people in at the school for each session.**

Please contact Salem's Recreation Commission by clicking on: [recreation@saalemct.gov](mailto:recreation@saalemct.gov) if you are interested in helping. Stay tuned, for more info.

- **WE'RE BLAZN' TRAILS**

The Recreation Commission has started blazing the Multi-Purpose/Harris Brook Trails!



If you see the colored flagging on the trees, **please leave them be** as they mark our first run of where the safety/trail markers will be located.

- **VIRTUAL FITNESS CLASSES – KEEP MOVING**

**Winter Fitness Schedule:**

- ▶ **Mondays:** Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Mar 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:45 – 6:30 PM (9 wks.)  
(No class 1/15 or 2/19)  
**BARRE PILATES FUSION**, Instructor: Allison – \$65.
- ▶ **Tuesdays:** Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – Mar 26<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 6:45 PM (12 wks.)  
**PILATES**, Instructor: Rob – \$85.
- ▶ **Wednesdays:** Jan 10<sup>th</sup> – Mar 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 9:15 AM (12 wks.)  
**CARDIO STRENGTH**, Instructor: Maggie – \$85.
- ▶ **Thursdays:** Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Mar 28<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 6:45 PM 12 wks.)  
**CORE STRENGTH**, Instructor: Rob – \$85.

**Spring Fitness Schedule**

- ▶ **Tuesdays:** Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – Jun 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 6:45 PM (10 wks.)  
**Pilates**, Instructor: Rob \$70.
- ▶ **Wednesday Apr 17<sup>th</sup> – Jun 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 9:15 AM (10 wks.)**  
**CARDIO STRENGTH**, Instructor: Maggie – \$70.
- ▶ **Thursday Apr 18<sup>th</sup> – Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 6:45 PM (10 wks.)**  
**CORE STRENGTH**, Instructor: Rob \$70.

For Details visit recreations website by clicking on:

[saalemct.gov/recreation/personaleuphoria](http://saalemct.gov/recreation/personaleuphoria)

**COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE** (continued from p 10)**SALEM LION'S CLUB 31ST ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM @ the Salem School Gymnasium and Bingham Field.**

**AGES:**    Group 1        Toddlers to Kindergarten  
                  Group 2        Grades 1 & 2  
                  Group 3        Grades 3 & 4

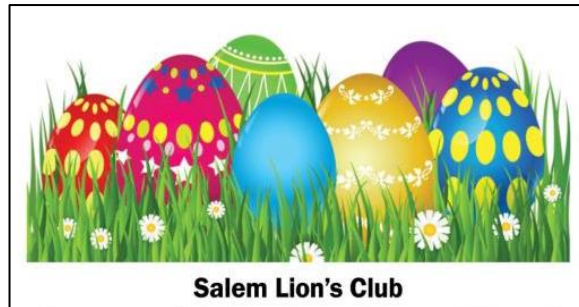
*(Free for Salem youth; toddlers up to and including grade 4)*

**EVENTS**

- **Egg Decoration Contest.** Bring your decorated egg to be judged.  
(1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes for all three age groups)
- **Easter Art/Picture Contest.** Bring your Easter artwork to be judged.  
(1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prizes for all three age groups)
- **Jelly Bean Race.** Run with a jelly bean on a spoon.  
(1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prizes for all three age groups)

**Salem Families Welcome, bring your Easter Baskets, & bring your camera in case the Easter Bunny hops by.**

*(Sponsored by the Salem Recreation Commission and provided by the Salem Lion's Club)*



Salem Lion's Club

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES****GARDNER LAKE AND SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES**

Both the Salem and Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Companies are looking for volunteers of **ALL AGES**.

- **Salem Volunteer Fire Company – NON-EMERGENCY PHONE:** 860-859-0942. To visit their website, click on: <https://www.salemfireco.com/>.
- **Gardner Lake Fire Company – NON-EMERGENCY PHONE:** 860- 859-1743. To visit their website, click on: [gardnerlakevolunteerfirecompany.com/home](http://gardnerlakevolunteerfirecompany.com/home).

**MITCHELL FARM EQUINE RETIREMENT**

The Horse Retirement, Horse Sanctuary is looking for help. **Contact Dee Doolittle 860 303-8705, or e-mail:** [dee@mitchellfarm.org](mailto:dee@mitchellfarm.org).

**LION'S CLUB**

The Lions are looking for volunteers. **Contact Bill Martin 860-705-6062 (home) or 860-705-1227 (mobile), or Hugh McKenney at 860-303-0042 (mobile).**

**FRIENDS OF THE SALEM THE LIBRARY (FOSL)**

The Friends of The Salem Library could always use help sorting books for the book sale, and at the book sales.

The FOSL will be sorting books Wednesdays, February 28<sup>th</sup>, and March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Salem Free Public Library, 264 Hartford Road from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. For future book sorting dates, stay tuned and watch for notifications on Facebook.

**If you would like to help, contact Carl Nawrocki at 860-608-9970, or Bart Drennen at 860-235-5889.**

**SALEM SCHOOL**

Volunteers are always welcome at **Salem School**. Anyone interested in volunteering can **to go to the Salem School website by clicking on: [salemschools.org](http://salemschools.org). Put the cursor over the "Our School" tab, & click on the "Forms tab" to access the form, OR visit the school and fill out the form at the front desk of the school. Make sure you bring a picture ID with you.**

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** (continued from p 11)

### **CARE & SHARE**

Care & Share of East Lyme, Inc. provides food, financial and emergency support to individuals and families in East Lyme, Niantic, and Salem. ***If you are interested in volunteering your time, contact them at 860-739-8502.***

### **THE SALEM LAND TRUST**

The Salem Land Trust (SLT) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization permanently conserving land in Salem for wildlife, their habitats, and for people to enjoy nature. Many volunteers begin by helping to keep our miles of hiking trails clear. Each of our 9 Preserves have experienced land Stewards assigned to them, so new volunteers start learning the job from them and other SLT members experienced with being "in the woods." Out in the field, experienced hikers and wildlife lovers cannot help but pass on their knowledge of nature on to all new volunteers. We also have volunteer opportunities in our Membership and Events Committee as we are always looking for new ways to bring the wonder of nature to more people.

***For more information or if you are interested in volunteering contact Linda Schroeder: e-mail: [lschroeder@snet.net](mailto:lschroeder@snet.net) or call 860-908-9553.***

### **HOME REPAIR AND HANDY-MAN SKILLS**

Would you like to volunteer, or do you need help?

Please let us know:

- **What your skills are and / or what you can help with?**
- **What your needs are?** (i.e., pull a pool cover on in summer; reset a knocked down mailbox; change the oil in a lawn mower; etc.).

**Contact Kay Zak at: 860-889-3989 / e-mail at: [kayzak@hotmail.com](mailto:kayzak@hotmail.com), or**

**Gary Closius at: 860-961-9173 / e-mail at: [gclosius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net). **CEMETERY CLEAN-UP****

The Salem VFW is always looking for help to clean up the cemeteries. Bring your gloves, weedwhacker, mower, rakes and tarps. ***Watch the Facebook website for future dates on other cemetery clean up opportunities.***

**If you are interested in helping or have a need contact Kay Zak at: 860-889-3989 or e-mail at: [kayzak@hotmail.com](mailto:kayzak@hotmail.com).**

## **SENIOR NEWS**

- **Salem Senior Citizens Group**

The **Salem Senior Citizen's Group** boasts a current enrolment of over 150 members. Membership has almost tripled since the beginning of 2022.

- **Salem (or surrounding town) residents age 50 years or older are welcome to join the Salem Senior Citizen's Group!**

Meetings are held at 10:30 AM on the second Tuesday every month at Salem Volunteer Fire Company Firehouse, 424 Hartford Rd. (Rt. 85) in the rear meeting room. A yearly membership dues of \$10 is collected every March. Meetings include town discussions, news, and updates, and interesting guest speakers. After the meeting noon lunch is provided. Trips, events, activities, and classes, throughout the year, are developed by our members.

**For more information, please contact Gary Closius (President): [gclosius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net), or call 860-961-9173, or Mary Cikatz (Vice President): [mcikatz@yahoo.com](mailto:mcikatz@yahoo.com), or call 860-287-7275.**

Use the following link to view our monthly newsletter:

**[salemct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4966/f/uploads/august\\_newsletter\\_2023\\_final.pdf](http://salemct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4966/f/uploads/august_newsletter_2023_final.pdf)**

## **SDTC Contact Information**

Gary Closius – Chairman – [gclosius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net)\*

Kay Zak – Vice Chairperson – [kayzak@hotmail.com](mailto:kayzak@hotmail.com)

Leslie Hotary – Secretary – [hotaryleslie@gmail.com](mailto:hotaryleslie@gmail.com)

Gary Closius – Newsletter Editor – [gclosius@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net)

\* Effective March 1st Gary Closius is the new chairman of the SDTC.