Salem Democratic Town Committee

Follow us at: http://salemctdems.org

NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE

Salem School Budget

Salem BOE Adopts School Year 2023-24 Budget, see page 2

Town Of Salem Legal Notice

Planning & Zoning Commission
Public Hearing Notice, see page 3

Get Help, Stay Warm

Eversource Assistance Plans, see page 3

Winter Heating & Other Assistance Available TVCCA, see page 4

Community Help / Assistance

Care & Share Services & Website Link, see page 4

211 Infoline Help Starts Here, see page 4

Community News You Can Use

Town Budget Season Is Here, – Mark Your Calendars see pp 4

Salem Free Public Library – News & Events, see pp 4 & 5

Volunteer Opportunities

Gardner Lake & Salem Volunteer Fire Companies – need volunteers, see pp 5

Lions Club – Various Volunteer Opportunities, see pp 5 & 6

Home Repair & Handy-Man Skills – Help a senior, see pp 6

Cemetery Clean-up - seep 6

Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement – needs volunteers, see pp 6

Salem School News

News & Events – See pp 6 & 7

East Lyme High School News

News & Events – See pp 7

SALEM AND THE SDTC NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are asking anyone who is interested in serving Salem in an elected or appointed position to please contact T. J. Bucher at <u>t.j.butcher@att.net</u> or attend the next meeting of the SDTC on March 29th at 7:00 PM at the Center School on the Town Green.

There are only eight months until the election in November!! Below are the thirteen open seats on the various Town Boards and Commissions that we the have no potential candidates identified to run. All other open seats on the Town's Boards and Commissions candidates, seven in all, have a candidate that has indicated their intention to run for election or reelection.

Office/Position	#	Office/Position	#
First Selectman	1	Board of Assessment Appeals	1
Selectmen	2	Zoning Board of Appeals (Full)	2
Planning & Zoning Commission (Alternate)	1	Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate)	1
Board of Education (Full)	2	Library Board of Directors	2
Board of Education (Alternate)	1		

IMPORTANT BILLS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BECOME INFORMED – There are several bills currently under consideration in the CT General assembly dealing with affordable housing mandates among other things. These bills could have great and long-lasting impact on Salem. They have the potential to change the face of Salem. (* see page 2 for links to CT Mirror articles related to affordable housing)

 HOUSE BILL 6633—An Act Concerning A Needs Assessment And Fair Share Plans For Municipalities To Increase Affordable Housing.

Statement of Purpose: To (1) require an assessment of the state-wide need for affordable housing and an allocation of such need to planning regions and municipalities, (2) require the creation of fair share plans for each municipality, and (3) establish penalties for municipalities that fail to submit fair share plans.

The bill can be viewed using the following link: www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06633-R00-HB.PDF

• HOUSE BILL 6593-An Act Concerning Housing Authority Jurisdiction.

Statement of Purpose: To allow a housing authority to expand its jurisdiction to include other municipalities.

The bill can be viewed using the following link: www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06593-R00-HB.PDF

Page 1

WHAT'S INSIDE

(continued from page 1)

Public Town Meetings

Calendar - See pp 7 & 8

Salem Recreation Department Activities

Activities – See pp 8.

Senior News

Activities – See pp 8.

SDTC CONTACT INFORMATION

T. J. Butcher – Chairman t.j.butcher@att.net

Kay Zak – Vice Chairperson kayzak@hotmail.com

Leslie Hotary – Secretary hotaryleslie@gmail.com

Gary Closius – Newsletter Editor gclosius@sbcglobal.net

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

BILLS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (continued from page 1)

 HOUSE BILL 6781—An Act Addressing Housing Affordability For Residents In The State.

Statement of Purpose: To improve the access to adequate housing for all residents of the state.

The bill can be viewed using the following link: www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06781-R00-HB.PDF

• HOUSE BILL 6777—An Act Concerning Property Tax Abatements For Certain Senior-Owned Deed-Restricted Properties.

Statement of Purpose: To provide tax abatements for senior citizens who voluntarily deed restrict certain properties and to allow municipalities to count such deed-restricted properties toward affordable housing appeals moratoriums.

The bill can be viewed using the following link: www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-06777-R00-HB.PDF

* links to CT Mirror articles related to affordable housing:

https://ctmirror.org/2023/03/03/ct-affordable-housing-town-zoning-bill/, https://ctmirror.org/2022/12/13/ct-housing-advocacy-legislative-zoning-eviction-affordable-housing/,

https://ctmirror.org/2022/03/11/advocates-fair-share-law-would-increase-affordable-housing-in-ct/

SALEM BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTS SY2023-24 BUDGET

Salem Board of Education Press Release, February 7, 2023

On February 6, 2023, the Salem Board of Education unanimously adopted the SY2023-24 Budget in the amount of \$11,392,501 which is a 0.58% increase over the current operating budget. This budget includes an additional Kindergarten teacher, the creation of a Talent and Gifted

Teacher, and a Safety Advocate position. Sean Reith, Salem Board of Education Chair, "We have produced the best budget to date during my 6 ½ year tenure on the Board. This year's budget process was anchored in the Board of Education's core values and driven by our draft strategic priorities, resulting in a budget that delivers more resources and opportunities for students, while honoring the priorities of Salem's taxpayers. 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, "Given the current economic and fiscal pressures on school districts all across the state, we are very proud to produce a student-centered budget that maintains our commitment to class size, includes all teacher requests developed through school administration's zero-based budgeting process, and increases access and resources for professional learning and curriculum development for teachers." 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 combined with strategic initiatives have allowed us to be in a unique position to shift resources creating more opportunities for students."

The Board of Education will present their budget to the Board of Finance on March 9, 2023.

TOWN OF SALEM LEGAL NOTICE

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 14, 2023, ROOM 1

POSTED ON: MARCH 1, 2023 - 9:38AM

TOWN OF SALEM

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION TOWN HALL, 270 HARTFORD ROAD SALEM, CONNECTICUT 06420

Notice of Public Hearing

The Salem Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall, 270 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420. The following applications will be heard:

SE 23-01 American Property Group Salem, Inc.: Application for a special exception and associate site plan at 496 New London Road for a multi-family residential development proposing 24 – two-bedroom, residential units. Each unit has one garage.

SE 23-02 Sean Smith: Application for a special exception and associated site plan for firewood materials processing at 630 West Road.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written correspondence received. The applications with full proposed text are available for viewing on the Salem Town Website at: https://www.salemct.gov/planning-and-zoning-commission/pages/pending-app, and are also 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 3, 2023 and March 9, 2023.

GET HELP, STAY WARM

Eversource Assistance Plans

Check our January newsletter for detailed information on Eversource payment plans and assistance, or use the following link: https://www.eversource.com/content/residential/account-billing/payment-assistance. Be sure click on Connecticut in the upper right corner of the page. The webpage has information on the following programs:

- Programs To Help Webinar
- Programs For Income-Eligible Customers:
 - Extended Payment Plan
 - New Start Program
- > State And Federal Assistance:
 - Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)
 - Operation Fuel

- Service Protection:
 - Winter Protection Plan
 - Medical Protection Plan
- Take Control of Your Energy Bill:
 - Budget Billing
 - Home Energy Solutions

GET HELP, STAY WARM (continued from page 3)

 WINTER HEATING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, INC. (TVCCS)

TVCCS provides winter heating assistance among other community assistance services. **Use the following link to visit the TVCCA website:** https://www.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.

COMMUNITY HELP / ASSISTANCE

CARE & SHARE – Website link: http://www.careandshareofel.org/

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.

211 INFOLINE HELP STARTS HERE

Call 2-1-1 for your connection to:

- Alzheimer's resources
- Basic needs food, clothing, shelter
- Child care services
- Child health care
- Consumer health
- Crisis intervention
- Disability services
- Drug & alcohol programs

- Emergency shelter
- Emergency assistance
- Financial assistance
- Health care
- HIV/AIDS
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Parenting programs

- Pre-natal care
- Senior services
- Suicide prevention
- Transportation
- Veteran's services
- Volunteering
- And much more

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

- TOWN BUDGET SEASON IS HERE MARK YOUR CALENDARS
 - Public Hearing 2023/2024 Budget Wednesday April 12th 7:00 PM at the Salem School
 - > Town Meeting to Consider 2023/2024 Budget Wednesday May 3rd 7:00 PM at the Salem School
 - ➤ Referendum for 2023/2024 Budget Wednesday May 10th 6:00 AM 8:00 PM at the Town Hall.
- SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWS & EVENTS

The Carroll Sisters, Saturday, March 11th at 11:00 AM. Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library
Traditional Celtic Fiddle Music accompanied by Cello. (limited to 30 participants)

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued from page 4)

- SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY (continued from page 4)
 - ▶ Iditarod Program, Tuesday, March 21st at 6:00 PM. Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library Presented by Karen Land. The program will include a talk and a PowerPoint presentation. Karen will bring her Iditarod dog sled, her gear and arctic clothing, as well as her two dogs, Chloe and Noggin. (limited to 40 attendees) Energy in Action Bus, Tuesday April 18th. Available time slots: 4:00 4:30 PM, 4:30 5:00 PM, and 5:00 5:30 PM. Call the number below to register for a time slot. Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library.

Step inside the interactive exhibit for a full experience of learning and exploration. Interactive exhibits include: The Energy Grid, Plasma Tube, Thermal Tunnel, Generation Station, Wind Power, and Light Wall.

- ➤ Thicker Than Water, Wednesday, April 19th at 6:00 PM.

 Presentation by author, Erica Cirino, Erics recounts her personal journey of sailing with Danish scientists on their journey to study the impact of plastic pollution on the oceans and ocean life. (Books will be available for sale and signing).
- ➤ Growing Mushrooms Outdoors, Saturday, June 3rd 11:00 AM 12:30 PM Intensive workshop
 Presented by Mark Gostkiewicz of Tri Lea Gable Farm. Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library.

 Among the things you will learn will learn are: How to grow Shitake, Oyster, and Wine Cap mushrooms,
 The lifecycle and needs of fungi, Tools needed, Safety issues, and more. (limited to 10 adults)

TO REGISTER CALL THE LIBRARY AT 860- 859-1130 (some events may be filled or will have Limited Participation).

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
- ➤ Gardner Lake Fire Company NON-EMERGENCY PHONE: 860-859-1743

Website: https://www.gardnerlakevolunteerfirecompany.com/home.

LION'S CLUB

The Lions are looking for volunteers. *Contact John Houchin at 860-887-2518 (home) or 860-705-1227 (mobile), or Hugh McKenney at 860-303-0042 (mobile).* The items below noted with a ★ are some of the volunteer opportunities available.

> SALEM ROAD RACE

The Salem Road Race takes place within the small historical CT town of Salem. Come check out this beautiful but challenging 5K course that is closed to traffic and frequented by local families, running enthusiasts, upcoming local talent, as well as top level local runners. Route 85 will be closed at 9:45 AM to 11:00 AM.

- **Thursday, March 30th** Pre-registration deadline. Mailed forms should be postmarked by March 23rd.
- **Friday, April 7th, 6:00 7:30 PM –** Friday Night Registration @ Salem School lobby. Preregistered runners can pick up their shirts and BIBs. ★

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (continued from page 5)

LION'S CLUB (continued from page X

SALEM LIONS EASTER EGG HUNT *

April 1st, 1:00 PM @ the Bingham Field behind the Salem School. In the event of inclement weather, it will be held inside the school gym.

➤ SALEM LIONS 50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER ★

May 7th, 1:00 PM @ the Gardner Lake Fire House. Cost \$30 see a member of the Lions for details.

- SALEM LIONS EYE GLASS EXTRAVAGANZA *
 - May 6th, 9:00 11:00 AM, Recycle Eyeglass Extravaganza. Bring your recycled eyeglasses to McCook Point Park, 8, Atlantic St., Niantic, CT. "Walk for your favorite charity"
 - May 6th, 8:30 AM 2:00 PM. 28th Annual Lions District 23-C Lions Journey for Sight 5K Walkathon, McCook Point Park, 8 Atlantic St, Niantic, CT. Come walk on behalf of the Lions Club for a split of the proceeds. Contact John Houchin at 860-887-2518 (home) or 860-705-1227 (mobile) for more information and pledge forms. Come join the fun. See the Lions flyer at the end of the newsletter (page 10).

HOME REPAIR AND HANDY-MAN SKILLS.

Would you like to volunteer to help a Senior or someone in need, 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 fall;
- reset a knocked down mailbox; change the oil in a lawn mower; etc.).

Contact Kay Zak: 860-889-3989 or e-mail: <u>kayzak@hotmail.com</u>, or Gary Closius: 860-889-3989 or 860-961-9173, or e-mail: <u>gclosius@sbcglobal.net</u>.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

The Cemetery Clean-up Team will resume in the spring. Watch for notices from Kay Zak. Watch the Facebook website for future dates.

• MITCHELL FARM EQUINE RETIREMENT

The Horse Retirement, Horse Sanctuary is looking for help. Contact Dee Doolittle 860 303-8705, or email <u>dee@mitchellfarm.org</u>.

SALEM SCHOOL NEWS

Salem School website link: To view the Salem School website use the following link:

https://www.salemschools.org/

- Staff Professional Day (regional) March 10th.
- March Parent Conferences Spring conferences will be held on Friday, March 10th from 8:30-3:30 pm.
- Staff Professional Day (regional) March 10th.
- March Parent Conferences Spring conferences will be held on Friday, March 10th from 8:30-3:30 pm.
- Annual Salem Preschool Screening preschool screenings will be held March 22 & March 29, 2023, and must be completed if you are interested in enrolling your student in Salem's preschool program. Use the following link for more information: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-ch7-1UNKhhXRLa9AcUkVdRdtmSJkjw3/view. See the flyer, page 10.

SALEM SCHOOL NEWS (continued from page 6)

- Salem School Now Accepting Kindergarten Pre-Registration Use the following link for more information: www.salemschools.org/cms/lib/CT01000057/Centricity/Domain/279/2324preregflyer.pdf
- Budget Calendar for SY2023-2024 Budget:
 - ➤ BOE Budget/Finance Subcommittee Meeting February 6, 2023
 - ➤ BOE Regular Meeting (BOE Approves Budget) February 6, 2023
 - BOE Budget/Finance Subcommittee Meeting February 27, 2023
 - **BOE Regular Meeting March 6, 2023**
 - > Public Hearing April 2023
 - > Town Meeting May 2023
 - ➤ Referendum May 2023

EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

East Lyme High School website link: https://www.eastlymeschools.org/high-school. To view the East Lyme High School website, use the link above:

- Professional Day no school.
- ELHS Production of The Little Mermaid, 7:00 PM March 10th-12th, East Lyme High School Auditorium.
- Parent-teacher conferences, March 20th-21st ½ day of school.
- SATs, March 22nd ½ day for students
- Spring Fling, Saturday, March 25th, 7:00 PM 10:00 PM, Commons.
- For all sports ELHS requires online registration through partner company, FamilyID (www.familyid.com).
 EVERYONE PLAYING A ELHS SPORT MUST REGISTER USING ONLINE REGISTRATION. In order for a student to be approved and included on coach's roster, registration must be completed including an up to date physical on file.
 - > SPRING Registration is now open and will close on March 18, 2023.
 - SPRING sports conditioning, tryout and first practice information COMING SOON!

PUBLIC TOWN MEETINGS

- BOE Long-Range Educational Planning, March 6, 5:00 PM
- BOE Personnel/Contract Negotiations, March 6, 6:00 PM
- Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission,
 March 6, 7:00 PM
- Board of Education,
 March 6, 7:00 PM
- Board of Selectmen, March 7, 7:00 PM

- Emergency Preparedness Agency, March 14, 7:00 PM
- Board of Finance, March 16, 7:00 PM
- Recreation Commission, March 20, 7:00 PM
- Economic Development Commission, March 21, 7:00 PM
- Board of Finance, March 23, 7:00 PM

PUBLIC TOWN MEETINGS (continued from page 7)

- Gardner Lake Authority, March 9, 7:00 PM
- Board of Finance, March 9, 7:00 PM
- Library Board of Directors, CANCELLED
 March 14, 6:00 PM
- Planning & Zoning Commission,
 March 14, 7:00 PM

- Zoning Board of Appeals, March 23, 7:00 PM
- BOE Policy, March 27, 4:00 PM
- Planning & Zoning Commission, March 28, 7:00 PM

<u>Use the following link to go the Town Public Meeting Calendar: https://www.salemct.gov/calendar-by-event-type/16/month/2023-03</u>

SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

There are many activities for Salem residents of all ages:

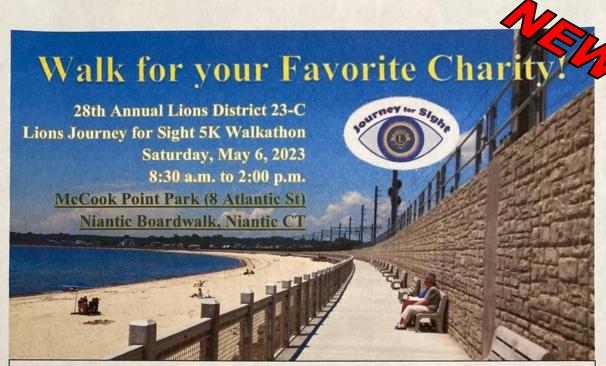
- Adult Recreation Co-ed Pick-up Pickleball Games. Open Gym Games for Salem & East Lyme Residents Ages 18 & over in the Salem Recreation Salem School Multi-Purpose Room Saturdays, 8:00 – 10:00AM January 21st to April 1st. Sign in upon arrival.
- Adult Rec Co-Ed Pick-up Basketball. Open Gym Pick-Up Games for Salem & East Lyme Residents Age 18 & over in the Salem School Gymnasium Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7-9PM November 1st thru March 30th.
- Adult Rec Co-Ed Pick-up Volleyball. Open Gym Games for Salem & East Lyme Residents Age 18 & over in the Salem School Gymnasium Fridays, 7:00 – 9:00PM January 13th to March 31st. Sign in upon arrival.
- Meditation...Chi Kung...Tai Chi Chuan with Instructor Ted LaFemina Tuesdays, 6:00 7:00PM February 14th to April 18th (8 classes, no class on February 21st & April 11th), I the Salem School Multi-Purpose Room.
 Residents: \$40, Non-Residents: \$45.

Seniors & Strollers Walking at Salem School. Please sign in/out at the front desk on the visitor log-in clipboard. Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 7:00 to 8:00AM. November 7th, 2022 to May 26th, 2023.

SENIOR NEWS

- The *Salem Senior Citizen's Group* boasts a current enrolment of over 107 members, an increase of more than 40 from the beginning of 2022.
- A bowling outing is planned for Sunday February 19th at 1:00 PM.
- **BINGO** The next game is held for Thursday March 23rd at the Salem Volunteer Fire Co. firehouse.
- A Pot Luck Dinner/Talent Show is scheduled for April 1st.
- Dawn Schumbo of Salem ArtSpace provides art classes after every monthly meeting.

28th ANNUAL Lions District 23-C Lions Journey for Sight 5K Walkathon



All Lions and Leo Clubs (individually or as a club), their families, friends, and anyone else can join in the fun! Lions Clubs can invite groups such as Project Graduation, Scouts, sports groups, senior centers or ANY other groups who would like to walk on behalf of a Lions Club for a SPLIT of the proceeds! Contact your Local Lions Club or email: Journey4Sight@LionsDistrict23C.org.

50% of pledges collected by each club are donated to ANY charity of their choice! Each club will donate the other 50% of pledge proceeds to THEIR CHOICE of these great district projects: Camp Rising Sun, Childhood Cancer Research, Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation (CLERF), CT Radio Information System (CRIS), Diabetes, Hearing Preservation, Homeless & Hunger, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions Low Vision Center, and Service dog programs.



