

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TOWN OF SALEM BOARD OF FINANCE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salem Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at Salem School, 200 Hartford Road, and beginning at 7:00 pm, for discussion concerning the following:

Town of Salem Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Proposed Budget:

General Government	\$5,282,043
Salem Board of Education	\$11,927,833
Capital Expenditures	\$1,332,688
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET:	\$18,542,564

Copy of the proposed budget is available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk. At the hearing, interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received.

William "Skip" Dickson
Chairman, Board of Finance

Come out, participate in the budget process, listen to the presentation, ask questions, let the Board of Finance (BOF) know your feelings.

SALEM BOF SCHEDULE FOR 2024-2025 BUDGET MEETINGS

April 10th – Public Hearing for 2024-2025 Budget @ Salem School

April 11th – Finalize Budget for Public Hearing

May 1st – Town Meeting to Consider 2024-2025 Budget

May 8th – Referendum On 2024-2025 Budget

May 9th – Discuss Referendum Results and Set Mil Rate

KEY OBSERVATIONS ON THE PROPOSED F/Y 24/25 BUDGET

- Budget line item 5-105-121, EMT/Maintenance, increased \$68,293 (23.5%) over the current F/Y budget. The reasons cited are Union contract 2% (\$5,800) and the balance (\$60,000) for a MRI initiative. QUESTION, what is the initiative/recommendation from the MRI Management Letter: Public Safety Analysis Town of Salem, CT that is being implemented?

KEY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED F/Y 24/25 BUDGET (continued from p 1)

- How much of the increase in budget lines for Department 105 (Salaries), 138 (Employee Benefits, total of \$114, 325) as well as other departments that are the result of implementing MRI recommendations/initiatives? What are the MRI initiatives/recommendations that are being implemented?
- What items in the Capital Budget are implementing MRI initiatives/recommendations?
- At the last Board of Selectman meeting the Chairman of the Library Board of Directors requested additional funding be added to budget line item 5-105.123 (Assistant Library Staff salaries) to cover the state mandated pay increases bringing the Library Staff up to minimum wage. Instead in the current proposed budget the line was cut by \$4000. If this cut stands the Library will have to decrease the hours of operation and or eliminate popular programs such as “Summer Reading”.
- Over the last eight years the Government budget has been increasing at a faster rate than the BOE (school) budget. It has increased from 24.2%* in the F/Y 16/17 budget to 28.5%* in the proposed F/Y 24/25 budget. (see the chart below)

Budget Year	F/Y 16/17	F/Y 17/18	F/Y 18/19	F/Y 19/20	F/Y 20/21	F/Y 21/22	F/Y 22/23	F/Y 23/24	F/Y 24/25
Total Capital	\$864,890	\$848,242	\$895,974	\$1,010,210	\$1,111,143	\$1,130,972	\$998,830	\$1,086,302	\$1,330,688
Total BOE	\$10,698,225	\$10,548,225	\$10,324,295	\$10,425,292	\$10,975,886	\$11,050,886	\$11,327,158	\$11,304,501	\$11,927,833
BOE % of Total Budget*	70.1%	69.9%	68.8%	67.8%	68.1%	67.5%	67.6%	65.7%	64.3%
Total Government	\$3,701,017	\$3,693,384	\$3,782,574	\$3,941,004	\$4,032,859	\$4,191,824	\$4,431,841	\$4,824,731	\$5,282,043
Government % of Total Budget*	24.2%	24.5%	25.2%	25.6%	25.0%	25.6%	26.4%	28.0%	28.5%
Total Budget	\$15,264,132	\$15,089,851	\$15,002,843	\$15,376,506	\$16,119,888	\$16,373,682	\$16,757,829	\$17,215,534	\$18,540,564

* The percentage was calculated not including capital.

THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY IN SALEM*

The following are the “unofficial” results of the presidential preference primary election results:

DEMOCRAT

REPUBLICAN

NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ([Click here for full race results](#))

CANDIDATE PARTY / NAME	VOTES	VOTES %
D Marianne Williamson	3	3.23%
D Dean Phillips	1	1.08%
D Cenk Uygur	0	0.00%
D Joe Biden	76	81.72%
D Uncommitted	13	13.98%

NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ([Click here for full race results](#))

CANDIDATE PARTY / NAME	VOTES	VOTES %
R Ron DeSantis	3	2.34%
R Nikki Haley	29	22.66%
R Donald J. Trump	89	69.53%
R Ryan Binkley	0	0.00%
R Uncommitted	7	5.47%

VOTER TURNOUT

	# OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS	# OF VOTERS VOTED	# OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS RECEIVED	# OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS COUNTED	# OF EARLY BALLOTS RECEIVED	# OF EARLY BALLOTS COUNTED	TURNOUT
D	839	103	7	7	23	23	12.28%
R	839	128	4	4	19	19	15.26%
STATE TOTAL	448,907	42,707	1,997	1,962	5,261	5,228	9.51%

* Results obtained from the Secretary of the State of CT website.

NOTE the number of Democratic and Republican eligible voters was the same.

THE SDTC ELECTS DELEGATES

The Town of Salem has 3 delegates that will represent Salem at the upcoming nominating conventions as follows:

- 3 delegates representing Salem in the State convention, May 11th,
- 3 delegates representing Salem in the Congressional District 2 convention, May 13th,
- 3 delegates representing Salem in the State Senate District 20 convention, May 14th,
- 3 delegates representing Salem in the State House conventions (House 34th District [Salem Voting District 1] 1 delegate, and House District 37th, [Salem Voting District 2] 2 delegates), May 15th.

A special SDTC meeting was held on Saturday, March 30th to elect Democratic delegates to represent Salem at the various nominating conventions. The table below lists the delegates elected at this meeting.

State Convention 3 Delegates	2 nd Congressional District 3 Delegates	20 th CT State Senate 3 Delegates	34 th CT House District (SVD 1) 1 Delegate	37 th CT House District (SVD 2) 2 Delegates
Lee Cole-Chu SVD1	Linda Schroeder SVD1	High McKenny SVD2	Linda Schroeder SVD1	Hugh McKenny SVD2
Kay Zak SVD1	Alfreda (Elfy) Shapere SVD1	David Bingham SVD1		Len Giambra SVD2
Gary Closius SVD1	Lisa Newell SVD1	Janet Griggs SVD2		

SVD = Salem Voting District

THE SDTC MEETING SCHEDULE

The SDTC 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule

- **Wednesday, May 8th**
Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse
- **Wednesday, August 7th**
Center School
- **Wednesday, November 13th**
Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse
- **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**
Center School
- **Wednesday, June 5th**
Center School
- **Wednesday, September 4th**
Center School
- **Wednesday, December 4th**
Center School
- **Wednesday, July 3rd**
Center School
- **Wednesday, October 2nd**
Center School
- **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**
Center School

GUN VIOLENCE – 2024 STATISTICS AND DATA

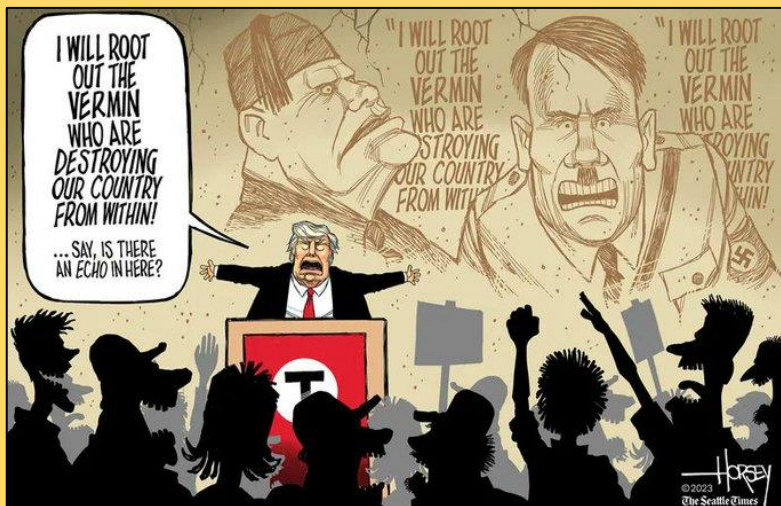
2024	Mass Shootings	Deaths	Injuries
TOTALS	94	134	435
January	36	62	110
February	26	45	176
March	32	27	149

* Data current through March 31st

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

Shootings By State					
State	# Current Month	# Year To Date	State	# Current Month	# Year To Date
Texas	4	8	District of Colum	1	2
California	0	7	Kentucky	0	2
Florida	3	7	Maryland	0	2
Illinois	2	7	Minnesota	2	2
Louisiana	2	7	New York	0	2
Pennsylvania	2	7	North Carolina	1	2
Alabama	2	6	Alaska	0	1
Mississippi	3	6	Colorado	0	1
Missouri	0	5	Connecticut	1	1
Indiana	3	4	Iowa	0	1
Tennessee	2	4	Nevada	0	1
Georgia	1	3	Ohio	1	1
Arkansas	1	2	Virginia	0	1

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



OPINION

“GOOD SCHOOL SYSTEMS MEAN HIGHER PROPERTY VALUES” By: G. Closius Dec. 29, 2022

In an article written by Angela Colley, she lays out the basis for the statement “As school test scores rise, so do home values. A sale inside a good school district will likely reap dividends.”

While the old real estate adage may have been, “location, location, location,” perhaps today’s real estate motto should be, “schools, schools, schools,” as high-ranking school districts have been increasingly hitting home buyer’s wish lists. The majority of the respondents to last two Salem town wide surveys (2012 and 2021) indicated one of the most important reasons they chose the move to or remain in Salem was the good school system.

A 2017 study by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) found 26% of home buyers considered the quality of schools when looking for a new home. Schools aren’t the only determinant of home prices—safety, commute times, jobs, and housing inventory all play a part in any market. But a good home in a good school district can fetch a higher price, and also hold a better resale value than a similar home in a less-stellar district.

“Economists have estimated that within suburban neighborhoods, a 5 percent improvement in test scores can raise prices by 2.5%,” reports the New York Times.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, there is a strong correlation between school expenditures and home values. A report titled “School Spending Raises Property Values”, found that for every dollar spent on public schools in an area, home values increased \$20. These findings indicate that additional school expenditures have a beneficial impact on all homeowners, whether those residents have children in the public school system or not.

And the emphasis on school districts looks to only increase as more families enter the housing market or upgrade to second homes. The under-36 crowd forms the largest new-home-buying cohort, according to a 2017 NAR study, and 49% of that age group has at least one kid under the age of 18 at home. And almost half of them say school districts play a big role in buying decisions.

Home values inside top-rated school districts were 49% higher than the national median home price, according to a 2016 study by Realtor.com, which analyzed data from the residential listing database and school district ratings from GreatSchools.org. (reprinted from December-2022/January 2023 edition of the SDTC Newsletter)

Sources:

- 1). <https://raleighrealtyhomes.com/blog/how-schools-impact-home-values/>
- 2). <https://www.opendoor.com/articles/how-school-ratings-impact-home-prices>

OPINION – Don’t let Trump Exhaust You¹



Don’t let Trump Exhaust You

By: Tom Nichols, Staff Writer, Thursday, April 4, 2024

The Trump campaign is trying to turn the electoral process into a moral swamp. Voters are going to have to pace themselves to get to November.

OPINION – DON'T LET TRUMP EXHAUST YOU (continued from p 4)

The 2024 election has become a kind of waking nightmare in which many of us stare at Donald Trump as he unleashes some new attack on any number of targets: a judge's daughter, immigrants, the rule of law, American national security, the Constitution. And we blink and shake our heads, stunned to think that many of our fellow citizens are eager to put this autocratic ignoramus back in the White House.

In a more normal time in American life, people had to leave politics for having a nanogram of Trump's baggage. Think of the late Senator Thomas Eagleton, the 1972 Democratic vice-presidential pick who had to drop out of the race because he'd been treated for depression. The idea—how old-fashioned it seems now—was that America could not risk any possible mental-health issues not only in the president, but even in the person next in the line of succession. Today, however, we have a former president who exhibits all kinds of signs of a disordered personality—and yet the big worry among many voters (and too much of the media) is whether his opponent is missing a step because he's roughly 42 months older than Trump.

All of this is enervating and exhausting. But that's the point: Trump is succeeding because he is, to use Steve Bannon's infamous expression, seeking to "flood the zone with shit." Trump's opponents are flummoxed by how he provokes one new outrage on top of another, and each time they believe he's finally—finally—gone too far. Bombarding the public space with deranged statements and dangerous threats, however, is not a mistake; it's a strategy.

By overwhelming people with the sheer volume and vulgarity of his antics, Trump and his team are trying to burn out the part of our brains that can discern truth from fiction, right from wrong, good from evil. His campaign's goal is to turn voters into moral zombies who can no longer tell the difference between Stormy and Hunter or classified documents and personal laptops, who cannot parse what a "bloodbath" means, who no longer have the ability to be shocked when a political leader calls other human beings "animals" and "vermin."

Trump isn't worried that all of this will cause voters to have a kind of mental meltdown: He's counting on it. He needs ordinary citizens to become so mired in moral chaos and so cognitively paralyzed that they are unable to comprehend the disasters that would ensue if he returns to the White House.

So far, the Trump strategy is working. Every few weeks, polls indicate that the race between Trump and President Joe Biden is a toss-up. And millions of Americans are in that political fugue state called "undecided," immobilized as if the events of the past eight years never happened.

So what can an ordinary voter do to maintain engagement with the election while not turning their cerebral cortex into a wet, steaming mess of fused wiring? The way to withstand Trump's daily assaults on our senses is to regard them with fortitude, and even some stoicism. He's trying to shake our confidence in democracy and basic decency; remaining engaged in civic life, calmly and without stooping to such tactics and rhetoric, is the superpower of every citizen in a democracy.

I understand why people might flinch at this advice. My wife, like so many of our friends, now reflexively changes the channel whenever Trump appears. Human beings can endure only so much of his disjointed affect and singsongy taunts, especially while knowing that the voters might roll the dice again and give this offensive man direct control of hundreds of nuclear weapons along with one more chance to destroy the Constitution.

But to ignore Trump is a mistake. To dismiss him as an incompetent clown is dangerous. Voters who care about democracy, who care about the future of freedom in America and around the world, must steel themselves to stay in the political process. We do not need to explode over every attempt to bait and troll us. Instead, we can let every one of his manic outbursts increase our resolve to speak clearly and plainly in defense of our system of government and our democratic culture—especially to family and friends who might be treading water in the ever-filling Trump septic pool.

Some of you are probably saying that this is pretty easy advice for me to give, since my professional obligations require me to watch Trump, day in and day out. I am not telling you to glue your eyes to the TV. (Indeed, I have some advice about balancing your news diet in today's PS.) Think of how previous generations engaged with politics: by reading a newspaper, watching an hour of news, and talking with friends and neighbors and other citizens in their community. When I was a boy, Americans managed to confront immense questions of national importance without withdrawing into comfort zones and information silos.

Now we face an existential threat to our democracy. Perhaps we might think about how to revive the civic practices and sensibilities—especially staying informed without becoming overwhelmed or falling into despair—that got us through those earlier crises.

You'll probably be even more chagrined that I'm giving this advice even as I'm ducking out of writing the Daily for the rest of the month. I promise, however, that I'm not going on hiatus or giving up and heading to the beach—especially since it's been so damn cold here on the East Coast. Instead, I've been put on some writing assignments that are going to take me away from the weekly rigor of this newsletter, and I need to do some research and travel. I think you'll be pleased with the folks who are coming in to temporarily replace me. (Let me just say that at least one of them will help supply your regular servings of curmudgeonly grousing.)

OPINION – DON'T LET TRUMP EXHAUST YOU (continued from p 5)

I'll be back in May, at which point we'll still have six months to go before Election Day. If we care about democracy, we need to be examples to our fellow citizens about staying focused and engaged in our political process. We must also think about how to serve as assured opponents—and maybe as just the smallest spur to the conscience—to those around us who have decided that cruelty, autocracy, and cultish tribalism are more important than our constitutional order.

¹ Article – “*Don’t let Trump Exhaust You*” appearing in “*The Atlantic Daily*” on April 4, 2024, by: Tom Nichols, appearing in “*The Atlantic Daily*”.

PUBLIC TOWN MEETINGS FOR APRIL

Board of Education Long Range Edu Planning

April 1st, 5:00 PM

Board of Education,

April 1st, 7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen,

April 2nd, 7:00 PM

Emergency Preparedness Agency,

April 9th, 7:00 PM

Board of Finance,

April 11th 7:00 PM

Economic Development Commission

April 16th, 6:00 PM

Board of Education Policy

April 22nd, 5:00 PM

Planning & Zoning Commission

April 23rd, 7:00 PM

BOE Personnel/Contract Negotiations

April 1st, 6:00 PM

Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission,

April 1st, 7:00 PM

Planning and Zoning Commission,

April 9th, 7:00 PM

Board of Finance,

April 10th, 7:00 PM

Salem Green Cemetery Association

April 16th, 2:00 PM

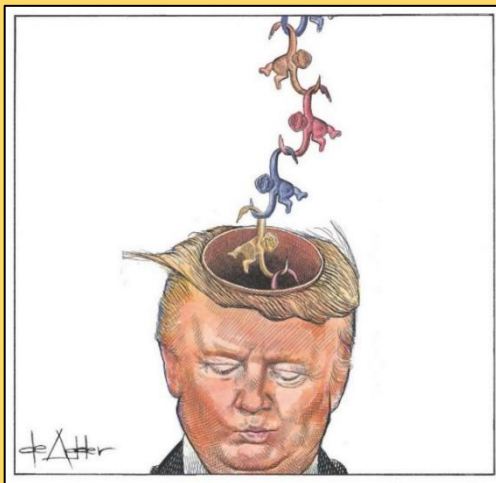
Library Board of Directors

April 16th, 6:00 PM

Board of Education Curriculum

April 22nd, 6:00 PM

To view the Town Public Meeting Calendar, click on: salemct.gov/calendar-by-event-type/16



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/.**

COMMUNITY HELP / ASSISTANCE *(continued from p 6)*

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.

Visit our website by clicking on: tvcca.org or 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.

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/ 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, 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 to view the library website and view what they have to offer and pass availability.

• **CANDY SUSHI**

Wednesday, April 3rd @ 4:00 PM

Come make candy sushi with Rice Krispies Treats 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)

• **FAIRY HOUSES**

Sat April 13th, at 11:00 AM

Suitable for ages 6-12+

Come paint and decorate a tiny wooden house fit for fairies. All supplies provided.



To register call: 860-859-1130.

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library)

• **POPSICLE SNAIL**

Take & make a Popsicle Snail **Available, April 15th** while supplies last.



(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem)

• **OWLS A NATURAL HISTORY**

Wednesday, April 24th at 6:00 PM.

Presented by Ginny Apple Master Wildlife Conservationist with CT DEEP.



To register call: 860-859-1130.

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library)

• **PROTECTING POLLINATORS**

Saturday, April 20th at 11:00 AM



Join Majorie Meekhoff of Pollinator Pathway East Lyme, Inc. as she discusses the importance of pollinators and what we can do to protect them.



Attendees will receive a **FREE** packet of mountain mint seeds, so you can start your very own pollinator garden!

To register call: 860-859-1130.

(Sponsored by the new England Grass Roots Environment Fund)

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued from p 9)

SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY (continued)

News & Events (continued)

• **MEDICARE 101**

Saturday April 27th, at 11:00 AM.

Making Medicare uncomplicated, presented by Robert Pisani from Turning Point Insurance.

(Educational seminar about Medicare to help you to choose the right plan for you. Bring your questions)

(Please NOTE: This is an educational seminar only with no selling or marketing of plans.)

To register call: 860-859-1130.



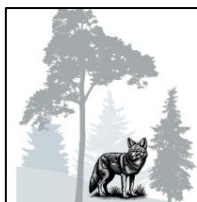
• **EASTERN COYOTES A NATURAL HISTORY**

Saturday, May 4th, at 11:00 AM

Presented by Master Wildlife Conversationist Ginny Apple, with the CT DEEP/Coyotes were not originally found in CT but have extended their range eastward.

To register call: 860-859-1130.

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library)



• **FAMILY STORY TIME**

Music, Crafts, & Books Oh My!!

Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

April 3rd & 17th

To register call: 860-859-1130.



• **MEET YOUR LOCAL FARMER**

Wednesday, May 1st, at 6:00PM.

Get to know Hannah Tripp of Salem's Provider Farm and learn about the business of farming.



To register call: 860-859-1130.

(Sponsored by the new England Grass Roots Environment Fund)

• **FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY PLANT SALE**

The annual FOSL Plant sale!!!!

Thursday, May 9th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM,
Friday, May 10th 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, and
Saturday, May 11th, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.



The plants for sale are most locally grown perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, house plants, trees, and shrubs.

The Salem Senior Citizen's Group will also be selling Donated Christmas Ornaments.

FOSL will also be selling the FOSL Apron, come get yours before they are gone.

All proceeds go to go the FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY.



• **SALEM COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOT RAFFLE**

Come into the Library between March 15th – April 13th to enter to win your very own plot in the Salem Community Garden!!

Winner will be announced April 15th.

(Sponsored by the new England Grass Roots Environment Fund)



• **BOOKS IN THE AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB**

April 25th: ***In Sunlight in, a Beautiful Garden*** – Kathleen Cambor

The story of a bittersweet romance set against the backdrop of the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, flood – a tragedy that cost some 2,200 lives when the South Fork Dam burst on Memorial Day weekend, 1889. The dam was the site of a gentlemen's club that attracted some of the wealthiest industrialists of the day – Henry Clay Frick, Andrew Mellon, and Andrew Carnegie – and served as a summertime idyll for the families of the rich. ***"In Sunlight, in a Beautiful Garden"*** imagines the lives that were lived, lost, and irreparably changed by a tragedy that could have been averted.

The meetings are normally held on the last Thursday of the month @ 1:00 PM. All adults over 18 are welcome. To join the group, e-mail Christine Murtha at: murthachristine@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued from p 10)

SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

There are many activities for Salem residents of all ages:

• **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.



• **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 5:15- 7:00 PM
Oct 3rd to May 28th
- Volleyball:** Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 PM
Oct 6th to May 28th
- Basketball:** Thursdays 7:00-9:00 PM
Oct 5th to May 30th

• **SALEM WOODS DISC GOLF COURSE**

The Salem Woods Disc Golf Course is open for play.



Located at Bob Appleby Field at Volunteer Park, 24 Forsyth Road.

Discs available for loan contact us.

• **SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT**

The volleyball court is located at the Salem Community Park Pavilion 89 Norwich Road/Route 82.

• **VIRTUAL FITNESS CLASSES – KEEP MOVING**

Spring Fitness Schedule:

- Tuesdays: April 16 – Jun 18 – 6:00 -6:45 PM (10 wks.) \$70.00
Pilates, Instructor: Rob – \$70.
- Wednesdays: Apr 17th – Jun 19th, 8:30 – 9:15 AM (10 wks.)
Cardio Strength, Instructor: Maggie – \$70.
- Thursdays: April 18th – June 20th, 6 – 6:45 PM (10 wks.)
Core Strength, Instructor: Rob – \$85.

• **LIVE CLASSES ONLINE**

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



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!

explore what courses are available and sign up, click on the following link:
salemct.gov/recreation/pages/live-classes-online.

• **SALEM LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY**

*Let's Play Ball!!! Opening Day!!!
Saturday, April 20th, at 10:00 AM
At the Lou Uffers Sports Complex,*



47 Round Hill Rd.

For additional information on activities provided by the Salem Recreation Commission please visit their website by clicking on: salemct.gov/recreation, or call 860-859-3873, x275

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.

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.**

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 28th, and March 27th 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. 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.**

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 or call 860-908-9553.

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.**

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

The Salem VFW is always looking for help to clean up the cemeteries. The first "cemetery clean-up party" is scheduled for Saturday, May 4th at the Hillard Cemetery, bring your gloves, weed-whacker, mower, rakes, and tarps.

Watch the Facebook website for future dates for 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.

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: [*saalemct.gov/salem-senior-citizens/pages/salem-seniors-group-newsletters*](http://saalemct.gov/salem-senior-citizens/pages/salem-seniors-group-newsletters) and click on the one you want.

SDTC Contact Information

Gary Closius – Chairman – [*gclosius@sbcglobal.net*](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net)*
Leslie Hotary – Secretary – [*hotaryleslie@gmail.com*](mailto:hotaryleslie@gmail.com)

Kay Zak – Vice Chairperson – [*kayzak@hotmail.com*](mailto:kayzak@hotmail.com)
Gary Closius – Newsletter Editor – [*gclosius@sbcglobal.net*](mailto:gclosius@sbcglobal.net)

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