

NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- ***SDTC Is Seeking Volunteers***
See pp 1.
- ***Trump Isn't Bluffing***
See pps 1 & 2.
- ***Opinion – President or Dictator?***
See pp 2.
- ***Boiler Issue At Salem School***
See pp 3
- ***Opinion – Pay Now Or Pay More Later***
See pp 4.
- ***SDTC Meeting Schedule***
See pp 4.
- ***Gun Violence – 2024 Statistics And Data***
See pp 4.
- ***Public Town Meetings***
See pp 5.
- ***Community Help / Assistance***
See pps 5 & 6.
- ***Community News You Can Use***
See pps 6-8.
- ***Volunteer Opportunities***
See pps 8 & 9.
- ***Senior News***
see pp 9.

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

*** BREAKING NEWS ***

THE SALEM DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE (SDTC) ELECTS NEW MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

On January 10th the SDTC caucused to elect members for the 2024-2025 term. They also held a meeting to elect SDTC Officers**. The results of the election are:

Chairman:	Gary Closius	Secretary	Leslie Hotary*
Vice-Chairman:	Kay Zak*	Treasurer:	MaryAnne Sabowski*
		Deputy Treasurer:	Janet Griggs*

* re-elected

** new officers to take office in March

SDTC IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

- In the next month or so the SDTC will need to select delegates (3) to represent Salem in the various upcoming political conventions.
- 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, or call: 860-961-9173.

TRUMP ISN'T BLUFFING¹

We've become inured to his rhetoric, but his message has grown darker.

Editor's Note: This article is part of "[*If Trump Wins*](#)", by David A. Graham a project considering what Donald Trump might do if reelected in 2024.

"We pledge to you that we will root out the Communists, Marxists, fascists, and the radical-left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country, that lie and steal and cheat on elections," Donald Trump said this past November, in a campaign speech that was ostensibly honoring Veterans Day. "The real threat is not from the radical right; the real threat is from the radical left ... The threat from outside forces is far less sinister, dangerous, and grave than the threat from within. Our threat is from within."

What immediately leaps out here is the word **vermin**, with its echoes of Hitler and Mussolini. But Trump's inflammatory language can overshadow and distract from the substance of what he's saying—in this case, appearing to promise a purge or repression of those who disagree with him politically.

This sort of language isn't entirely new. Trump spoke in Manichaeian terms throughout his first campaign and term, encouraging chants to lock up Hillary Clinton in 2016, and in 2018 referring to undocumented immigrants as "**animals**" who would "**infest our country.**" Over time, the shock of Trump's rhetoric has worn off, making it easy to miss the fact that his message has grown even darker.

TRUMP ISN'T BLUFFING¹ *(continued from pp 1)*

Trump himself has changed, too—the old Trump seemed to be running for office partly for fun and partly in service of his signature views, such as opposition to immigration and support for protectionism. Today's Trump is different. His fury over his 2020 election defeat, the legal cases against him, and a desire for revenge against political opponents have come to eclipse everything else.

In the past few months, the former president has described himself as a **“very proud election denier.”** He has repeatedly threatened and intimidated judges, witnesses, prosecutors, and even the family of prosecutors involved in the cases against him, going so far as to say that his legal opponents will be consigned to mental asylums if he's reelected. He has suggested that the man he picked for chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff deserves to be executed on grounds of treason. He's called for investigating NBC and possibly yanking the network off the air, also on grounds of treason—one of his most direct attacks on the First Amendment. And he's vowed to arrest and indict President Joe Biden and other political opponents for no apparent reason other than that they oppose him.

The fact that Trump's ideas have become more authoritarian is not yet fully appreciated. One reason is people have heard Trump say outlandish things for so long that they can't identify what's new, or they've become numb. Another is venue: Once Trump left the White House and stopped tweeting, his vitriol became less noticeable to anyone who didn't attend his rallies, seek out videos of them, or join Trump's own Truth Social network.

Even when a comment is so extreme that it does break into the mainstream, what happens next is predictable. The first time Trump says something, people react with shock and compare him to Hitler. The second time, people say Trump is at it again. By the third time, it becomes background noise—an appalling but familiar part of the Trump shtick.

This is just the sort of “normalization” that Trump's critics warned against from the start, but it's also a natural human response to repeated exposure. The result is that Trump has been able to acclimate the nation to authoritarianism by introducing it early and often. When a second-term President Trump directs the Justice Department to lock up Democratic politicians or generals or reporters or activists on flimsy or no grounds at all, people will wring their hands, but they'll also shrug and wonder why he didn't do it sooner. After all, he's been promising to do it forever, right?

¹ This article appears in the **January/February 2024** print edition with the headline **“Trump Isn't Bluffing”** by: David A. Graham; staff writer at **“The Atlantic”**.

OPINION – PRESIDENT OR DICTATOR**Do We, As Americans, Want A President Or A Dictator? By G. Closius, February 11, 2023**

Do we, as Americans want to have a president who:

- Mr. Trump denigrated his domestic opponents and critics during a Veterans Day speech, calling those on the other side of the aisle “vermin”.
- Mr. Trump said undocumented immigrants were “poisoning the blood of our country.” Reminiscent of Hitler's manifesto.
- Mr. Trump pledged “to root out the communists, Marxists, fascists and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country that lie and steal and cheat on elections.”
- Mr. Trump said at the beginning his 2024 presidential campaign, the “termination” of the Constitution would have been justified to overturn the 2020 election.
- Mr. Trump said he would use the Justice Department to have his adversaries investigated and charged with crimes, including saying in June that he would appoint “a real special prosecutor to go after” President Biden and his family.
- Mr. Trump charged in December 2022, that the fraud he insists took place in the 2020 election “allows for the termination of all rules, regulations and articles, even those found in the constitution.”
- Mr. Trump told supporters: “I am your retribution.” Mr. Trump suggested he would use FBI to go after political rivals if elected in 2024.
- Mr. Trump promised to pardon January 6 insurrectionists.
- Mr. Trump responded “Only on day one.” When asked by Sean Hannity in December 2023, if he intended to act like a dictator.
- Mr. Trump said in a campaign speech on February 10, 2024, he would “encourage” Russia to attack any of the US's NATO allies whom he considers to have not met their financial obligations.

We must not let ourselves become desensitized, deaf to, or ignore the outrageous, anti-democratic, and dangerous things Mr. Trump is saying in his campaign speeches. We cannot just chalk up what he says as “that's just Trump being Trump” or that it is just bluster. If it walks like a duck, and talks like a duck, it's a duck.

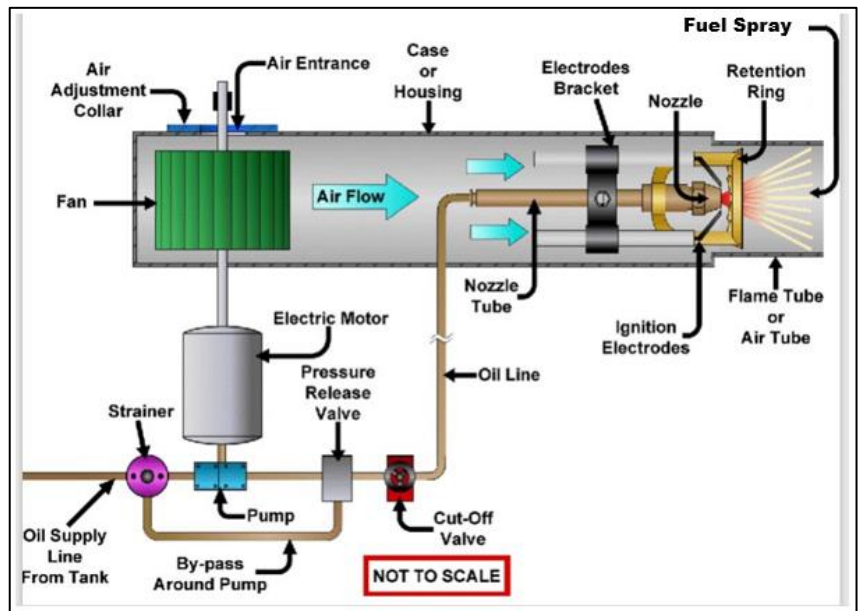
RECENT HEATING BOILER & FIRE ALARM SYSTEM ISSUE AT THE SALEM SCHOOL

The following is the description of the Salem Middle School boiler event that occurred on Sunday January 21, 2024. The text and diagram are directly from a letter To: *Brian Hendrickson, Superintendent*, from: *Chris Lund, Director of Facilities*, dated February 2, 2024.

Review of Boiler Incident

As everyone knows, on Sunday 1/21, local responders, school administrative and facilities staff, and repair contractors responded to the school in response to a neighbor calling EMS after seeing black smoke billowing from the chimney. The overarching cause of the black smoke was a malfunction of the old boiler burner unit. As a reminder, this boiler was installed when the MS [Middle School] wing was built **and is past due for replacement based on industry accepted standards.**

Please **click here** [see diagram to the right] for a cut away diagram that shows the interior of the burner and its operation. In simplest terms, the boiler creates heat by burning oil. The oil is pumped through a nozzle assembly under pressure which turns it into a fine spray. The fuel spray is ignited as it exits the nozzle by two electrodes that create an electrical arc. This is similar to how a spark plug works in a car engine. The spray burns in the combustion chamber where its energy is captured and used to create hot water which is pumped through the building to provide heat. The exhaust exits through the chimney assembly and to the outside. When operating properly and at peak efficiency, the exhaust is nearly invisible. On the day of interest upon arrival, the repair technician removed the nozzle assembly, and found that one of the two electrodes was not in the correct position to provide its arc to ignite the fuel. As a result, a portion of the fuel, possibly as high as 50%, was not burning efficiently. This ultimately led to the creation of the black smoke reported as well as a large amount of soot on the interior. It is unknown why the electrode was displaced. It is an old unit, and wear and tear of parts may have resulted in the electrode slipping out of tolerance. Regardless, the technician repaired the assembly, drilled and installed new fasteners to ensure all components are as tight and properly spaced as when originally installed, and returned the unit to operation. It has been operating correctly since it was repaired.



It should be noted that the typical service life of a boiler in this application is approximately 20 years. The Middle School boilers went into service in 1994 so, they have been in service approximately 29 years.

The funding to replace the boilers (\$75K) was first included in the fiscal year (F/Y) 2014/2015 10-year capital plan. They were scheduled to be replaced in F/Y 2016/2017. In the F/Y 2017/2018 10-year capital plan, funding to replace the boilers was moved to F/Y 2019/2020. In the F/Y 2019/2020 10-year capital plan the funding to replace boilers (\$114.4) was moved to F/Y 2023/2024. They were approved this year for replacement in F/Y 2023/2024. However, it is a prevailing wage project, so there are not enough funds to do the project. The Salem School Facility Director requested an additional \$50,000 for the F/Y 2024/2025 budget for the project. If approved, the boilers can be replaced this summer.

The first year the funds to upgraded alarm system was requested was F/Y 2020/2021. It was not approved for the 10-year capital plan that F/Y. The funding was requested again for the F/Y 2021/2022 budget year and it was included in year F/Y 2022/2023 of the capital plan. In the F/Y 2022/2023 capital plan, the funding to upgraded alarm system was moved to F/Y 2024/2025. It remains on the schedule for replacement in F/Y 2024/2025 per the 10-year capital plan approved for F/Y 2023/2024.

Editor's Notes:

1. The budget and 10-Year capital Pan information was sourced from the Town of Salem Website (saalemct.gov/town-government/pages/budgets-financial)
2. Highlighted text is done for emphasis.
3. Text included within brackets, [], was done for reader clarity purposes.

OPINION – PAY NOW OR PAY MORE LATER

Why Was The Capital Funding For The Salem Middle School Boiler Replacement Project Postponed Several Times? By G. Closius, February 9, 2023

The Salem Middle School Boilers were installed when the newest school addition was completed in 1994. The boilers are almost 30 years old. According to NTT Training (a division of ECPI University) and several equipment suppliers and maintenance companies including MDM Mechanical, most industrial boilers tend to last between 15 to 25 years, on average, with 25 years being on the high end if they are well maintained and serviced regularly. If the boilers had been replaced in F/Y 2017/2018 for \$75K as originally planned the boilers would have been in service for 23 years near the upper limit of its expected lifespan. The funds for replacement of the boilers were deferred 3 times with the funds (\$114.4K) currently in F/Y 2023/2024. The boilers still haven't been replaced and now there are issues. Should the boilers fail and need replacement during the winter when there is a need for heat and school is in session, as a minimum additional funds would be needed to cover leasing an alternate location to conduct classes as well as transportation to and from that location.

In the run-up to the last two Salem municipal elections the current administration has made it a point to note that they have managed the Town's budget and expenditures so as to keep "taxes flat." So now the question is, did the quest to keep taxes "flat" go too far and cost the Town more to replace the boiler and potentially more if the replacement needs to be done while school is in session?

The next question is, are there other examples of deferring project funds potentially costing the Town more? Could the deferring the funding the replacement project for replacing 1994 Roof Top A/C Units (\$175K) in F/Y 2017/2018 to F/Y 2018/2019, and then to F/Ys 2022/2023 through 2026/2027 (\$100K each year) be another example?

THE SDTC MEETING SCHEDULE

The SDTC 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 Center School	Wednesday, July 3, 2024 Center School	Wednesday, November 13, 2024 Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 Center School	Wednesday, August 7, 2024 Center School	Wednesday, December 4, 2024 Center School
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse	Wednesday, September 4, 2024 Center School	January 8, 2025 Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse
Wednesday, June 5, 2024 Center School	Wednesday, October 2, 2024 Center School	Wednesday, February 5, 2025 Center School

GUN VIOLENCE – 2024 STATISTICS AND DATA

2024	Mass Shootings	Deaths	Injuries
TOTALS	36	67	110
January	36	67	110

* Data current through January 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
Alabama	2	2	Missouri	3	3
California	5	5	Nevada	1	1
Florida	3	3	New York	1	1
Illinois	2	2	North Carolina	1	1
Iowa	1	1	Pennsylvania	3	3
Kentucky	1	1	Tennessee	1	1
Louisiana	4	4	Texas	3	3
Maryland	1	1	Virginia	1	1
Mississippi	3	3			

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

PUBLIC TOWN MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Board of Education Budget/Finance

February 5th, 5:30 PM

BOE Personnel/Contract Negotiations

February 5th, 6:30 PM

Board of Education,

February 5th, 7:00 PM

Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission,

February 5th, 7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen,

February 6th, 7:00 PM

Board of Finance,

February 8th, 7:00 PM

Library Board of Directors,

February 13th, 6:00 PM

Planning and Zoning Commission,

February 13th, 7:00 PM

Emergency preparedness Agency,

February 13th, 7:00 PM

Salem Green Cemetery Association

February 20th, 2:00 PM

Economic Development Commission,

February 20th, 7:00 PM

Board of Finance,

February 22nd, 7:00 PM

Board of Education Policy

February 26th, 5:00 PM

Board of Education Budget/Finance

February 26th, 6:00 PM

Planning & Zoning Commission

February 27th, 7:00 PM

To view the Town Public Meeting Calendar, click on: saalemct.gov/calendar-by-event-type/16/month/2024-02

COMMUNITY HELP / ASSISTANCE

- **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.

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

- **EVERSOURCE 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.

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income Level	Up to \$41,553	Up to \$54,338	Up to \$67,124	Up to \$79,910	Up to \$92,695	Up to \$105,481	Up to \$107,878	Up to \$110,275

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.

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income Level	Up to \$23,328	Up to \$31,552	Up to \$39,776	Up to \$48,000	Up to \$56,224	Up to \$64,448	Up to \$72,672	Up to \$80,896

To apply for the 10% or 50% Connecticut electric discount rate visit the **EVERSOURCE** webpage by clicking on: eversource.com/content/residential/account-billing/payment-assistance/discount-rate, or call **EVERSOURCE** at 800-286-2828, or call TVCCA at 860-889-1365.

- **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/.**

- **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

- **SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

News & Events

- **FEBRARY IS LOVE YOUR LIBRARY MONTH.** Complete the scavenger hunt then come to the desk for a prize!!
- **BOOKS IN THE AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB.** Meetings are normally held on the last Thursday of the month at 1.00 PM.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued from pp 6)

• **SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY** (continued)

News & Events (continued)

- **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.

- **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.**

- **STILL LIFE WORKSHOP**



Saturday, March 9th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Bring your own materials.

To register call: 860-859-1130.

- **WIND POWER: PINWHEELS & PUFF MOBILES**



Presented by Kimberly McLean, **Saturday, February 24th @11:00 AM**

Participants will start by making a pinwheel to see how air moves things, then see if they can make a toy car move using the same principles.

Limited to 12 participants, ages 7-12.

To register call: 860-859-1130.

- **IRISH MUSIC CONCERT**

Irish music concert with Kip & Mic, **Saturday, March 16th, @ 11:00 AM.**

To register call: 860-859-1130.



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

- **SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

There are many activities for Salem residents of all ages:

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@salemct.gov if you are interested in helping. Stay tuned, for more info.**

- **PASTA DINNER**

Help Support The Salem Little League
Saturday, March 9th

Gardner Lake Firehouse,
429 Old Colchester Rd.

TAKE OUT ONLY
PICKUP 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Includes pasts, meatballs, & bread



- **MEDITATION...CHI KUNG...TAI CHI CHUAN**

Winter classes end February 28th.

Watch for the announcement of spring classes on the Salem Recreation Commission page on the Salem Town website.

salemct.gov/recreation.



COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued from pp 7)

• SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT (continued)

- 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 3rd to May 28th

Volleyball: Fridays 7:00-9:00 PM
Oct 6th to May 31st

Basketball: Thursdays 7:00-9:00 PM
Oct 5th to May 30th

- 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.



- VIRTUAL FITNESS CLASSES – KEEP MOVING

Winter Fitness Schedule:

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

Spring Fitness Schedule

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

For Details visit recreations website by clicking on:

saalemct.gov/recreation/personaleuphoria

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).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (continued from pp 8)

- **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.

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, or call 860-961-9173, or Mary Cikatz (Vice President): 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.

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

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

Changes/Corrections From Revision 0

1. Changed January to February in the header for each page.
2. Consolidated the editor's notes in the *Salem School Heating Boiler & Fire Alarm System Issue* article on page 3.
3. In the *Volunteer Opportunities* section on page 9, corrected the FOSL February book sorting date to Wednesday the 28th.