

NEWSLETTER

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Wish To Donate?

Please click on the button to the right



SDTC To Caucus To Nominate 2026-2028 SDTC Members

On January 7th the Salem Democratic Town Committee (SDTC) held a Caucus for the purpose of nominating and electing members for the 2026-2028 SDTC. The new SDTC's term begins March 4th. The SDTC will elect new officers at the next SDTC meeting scheduled for February 4th at 7:00 PM at the Center School.

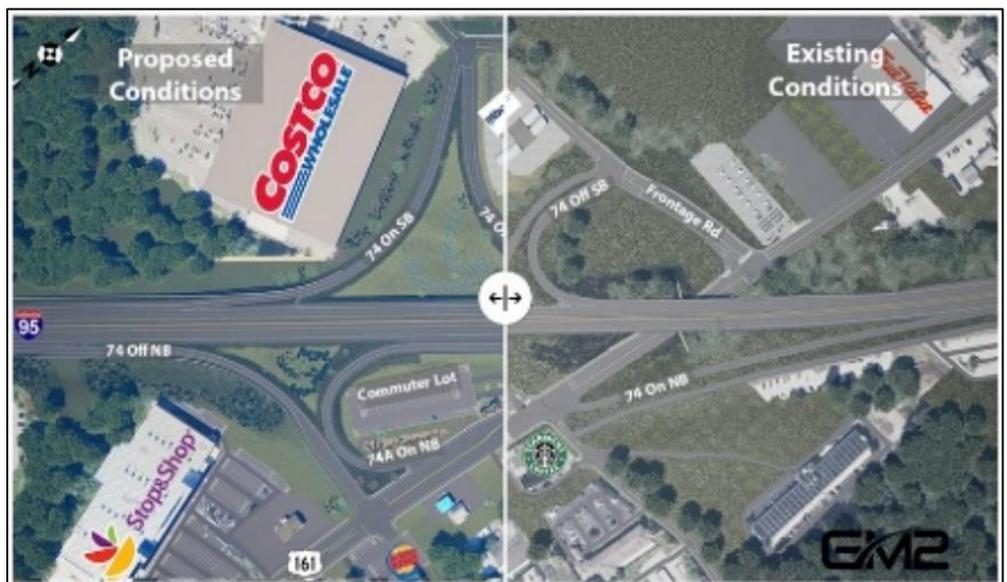
I-95 Blasting at the Route 161 and Exit 74 Project

Beginning January 12th, the reshaping of Interstate 95 in Flanders will enter the final stages of its current phase with blasting along the southbound side of the highway. (note the the change in the scheduled start date) The blasting is expected to take around six weeks to complete, but could require up to eight weeks to finish.

The blasting will result in 5-10-minute road closures of both Northbound and Southbound lanes, Monday through Friday, from the hours of 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Please note that weather conditions play a key role in determining whether blasting can safely take place. Blasts may be postponed if conditions are not suitable.

Motorists are encouraged to remain on the highway as the closures are anticipated to be short in duration, however detour routes will be posted.

This is the final piece of work before the project enters its fifth phase.



People can text "BLAST" to 860-404-9995 to receive text alerts of blasting operations, or visit <https://i-95eastlyme.com> for more information.

[Salem DTC Thank You For Your Support And Victory Celebration Planned](#)

The Salem DTC is planning a party to celebrate the election of the first Democrat in twenty-two years and the first ever woman ever to the office of First selectman, the democratic sweep of the selectman’s seats, and winning 10 of the 17 contested races. The celebration will be held at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. fire house on February 7th beginning at 6:00 PM

[Message From State Senator Martha Marx \(D 20th District\)](#)

Dear Neighbor,

I want to share a serious and troubling development out of Washington. The Trump administration’s Department of Homeland Security recently revised a U.S. Coast Guard policy to remove the explicit designation of swastikas and nooses as hate symbols, instead labeling them as “potentially divisive.”



These symbols are unmistakable representations of hatred, violence, and historical terror. At a time when antisemitism and racially motivated violence are on the rise, this kind of dangerous minimization is unacceptable. Connecticut leaders have been clear and united in rejecting this change and reaffirming that there must be no ambiguity when it comes to condemning hate and standing up for our service members and our communities.

[Connecting with Eastern Connecticut EMS](#)

It was great to spend time with EMS professionals from across Eastern Connecticut to talk about what’s working, what’s challenging, and how we can better support emergency responders and the communities they serve.

We had a productive, honest conversation about issues like supporting volunteer EMS crews, Mobile Integrated Health, insurance coverage for non-transport care, licensing fees, public safety, and Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement rates. We also talked about how bigger community issues like transportation and housing affect emergency response.



I’m grateful to everyone who came out, shared their experiences, and showed up for their communities every day. These conversations help guide my work at the Capitol and keep our focus on real, practical solutions.

[40,000 Connecticut Residents Have Medical Debt Erased](#)

In addition to two previous rounds of medical debt elimination that have benefitted 120,000 Connecticut residents, Governor Lamont announced that another 40,000 residents are having a collective \$63 million of medical debt forgiven and eliminated. Since 2024, Governor Lamont and the nonprofit Undue Medical Debt have worked to erase nearly \$200 million of medical debt for state residents. This initiative sees the state provide investments to Undue Medical Debt, which negotiates with health providers to eliminate large bundles of medical debt. Residents with income at or under 400% the federal poverty level, or with debt more than 5% of their income, are eligible for relief. Debt relief letters will automatically be sent to those receiving relief through the next weeks.



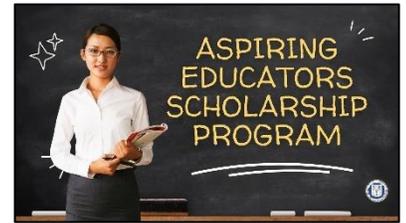
[Grocery Relief After SNAP Changes](#)

The United Way of Connecticut is offering grocery assistance to people who have lost qualification for SNAP benefits under new federal changes to benefit programs, according to CT Public. Families in need who reach out to the United Way will be able to access grocery cards, with a minimum value of \$25. Thanks to efforts led by State Representatives Jaime Foster and Jen Leeper, the United Way has raised more than \$50,000 for the effort so far this year.



[Message From State Senator Martha Marx \(D 20th District, continued\)](#)**Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program**

The state Department of Education's Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program is accepting applications through February 6, 2026, supporting diverse students who graduate from public high schools in priority school districts and enroll in teacher preparation programs, offering up to \$10,000 annually for tuition. This effort continues the state's work to diversify the educator workforce and address the teacher shortage. Press Ctrl + Click [HERE](#) to apply, or visit:



<https://senatedems.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d71bd19fdbe20f487488c3f4b&id=541efa6400&e=9e5069c037>.

Waterford Blood Drive

Schedule ahead – Waterford Town Hall will host a blood drive on January 9th from noon to 5:30 PM. Donors can enter for a chance to go to the Super Bowl! **Call 1-800-Red Cross or visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter WaterfordCT to schedule an appointment.**

Contact My Office

If you have a direct question about legislation or an issue, you're seeking help with, please reach out to my office. My staff and I are dedicated to representing you and assisting you with any issues you may be experiencing. Please contact me at **860-240-0436** or by email at martha.marx@cga.ct.gov.

All the best,

Martha Marx, State Senator 20th District

[Message From State Representative Nick Menapace \(D 37th District\)](#)**Dear Neighbor,**

As we gather with loved ones and reflect on the year behind us, I want to thank you — truly — for your trust, your engagement, and your steadfast support.

The past year has not been easy. We've faced turbulent times marked by uncertainty, injustice, and challenges that tested our resilience as a community and as a state. Yet, through it all, I have been inspired by the compassion, courage, and determination of the people I am honored to represent.

This season reminds us that progress is possible when we stand together, even in the face of unthinkable cruelty. It renews our responsibility to care for one another and to ensure that opportunity, dignity, and safety are not privileges for a few, but rights for all.

As we look ahead to the new year, please know this: I will continue to fight tirelessly for equity, to stand up to injustice wherever it appears, and to work toward a Connecticut where every family can thrive. I remain committed to listening, learning, and leading with integrity on your behalf.

I want to wish you peace, warmth, and hope this holiday season, and strength and solidarity in the year to come. I'm looking forward to a productive 2026 representing the 37th District at the State Capitol.

Letter to The Day

The holiday season is a time for warmth, reflection, and looking out for one another. It's also a moment to remember our neighbors who are struggling, especially those without stable housing.



Message From State Representative Nick Menapace (D 37th District, continued)**Letter to The Day (continued)**

Along the lines of my opening, in my letter to The Day, I reflect on why dignity, compassion, and evidence-based solutions must guide how we address homelessness — and why Connecticut has a responsibility to lead.

I hope you'll take a moment to read and reflect this season. To read the letter **press Ctrl + Click [HERE](https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=aa85048759&e=52b625a5ef)**, or visit: <https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=aa85048759&e=52b625a5ef>.

Letter to The Mirror

also submitted this letter to the CT Mirror on how to rebuild and buttress democracy by having real, face-to-face conversations with people on issues like affordability, taxes and health care.

Please take a moment to read it by pressing **Ctrl + Click [HERE](https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=c0e4b6c30a&e=52b625a5ef)**, or visit: .

<https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=c0e4b6c30a&e=52b625a5ef>.

Press Conference on Aspiring Teachers

Last week, I spoke at a press conference about paying aspiring educators. I remember what it was like to be a student teacher — working full time, paying tuition, and trying to make it all work. If we want great teachers in our classrooms, we have to start by treating them like professionals. (**Press Ctrl + Click [HERE](https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=c092c86243&e=52b625a5ef)** to view the video of the press conference, or visit:

<https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=c092c86243&e=52b625a5ef>

New Laws Taking Effect Jan. 1st

As we welcome a new year, several laws passed in the last legislative session will take effect on Jan. 1st.

These new measures address key issues impacting our state and its residents, including expanded incentives for farmers, strengthened protections for workers in sensitive professions, and improved reporting requirements to better track higher education enrollment, post-secondary credits, and student opportunities.

Preventative health care continues to be a priority because early detection saves both lives and long-term costs. To support this, we now require health insurers to cover certain high-priority biomarker tests that aid in early detection, prevention, and treatment. Additionally, we have prohibited the substitution of lower-priced drugs for higher-priced medications for individuals living with multiple sclerosis and arthritis, and we have made this ban permanent for medications used to treat mental health.

You can **Press Ctrl + Click [HERE](https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=c4272d409b&e=52b625a5ef)** to see the full list of new laws taking effect on Jan. 1st, or visit:

<https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=c4272d409b&e=52b625a5ef>.

And, while it's not a new law, I want to note that the minimum wage will increase on Jan. 1st. It will increase from the current rate of \$16.35 per hour to \$16.94 per hour.

The change is required under a state law Governor Lamont signed in 2019 (Public Act 19-4) that connects the state's minimum wage to economic indicators, specifically the percentage change in the federal employment cost index.

Continuing forward under this law, Connecticut workers and employers can anticipate that announcements will be made by Oct. 15 of each year declaring the change in the minimum wage that will become effective on Jan. 1st of the approaching year.

Feel free to reach out to my office if you have any questions.

As always, if you have any comments, questions or concerns, please reach out to my office.

Sincerely,



Nick Menapace

State Representative 37th District

[Year-End Message From Senator Chris Murphy](#)

I received an e-mail from U.S. Senator Chris Murphy's office sharing his **2025 End of Year Report**. This report highlights the measures Senator Murphy took to hold the Trump administration accountable and deliver for Connecticut families.

In 2025, Senator Murphy and his office:

- Introduced or co-sponsored 270 pieces of legislation and amendments, including 91 bills, resolutions, or amendments as the lead sponsor;
- Completed his ninth Walk Across Connecticut: four days, 67 miles, 11 towns, and hundreds of conversations with Connecticut residents along the way;
- Engaged with over 436,800 calls, emails, and letters;
- Returned more than \$7 million to constituents, including owed Social Security payments, veterans' benefits, tax refunds, and other savings from federal agencies;
- Helped over 3,233 constituents work through federal issues and get their owed benefits

Press Ctrl+ Click [HERE](#) to download **U.S. Senator Murphy's 2025 End of Year Report**, or visit:
https://www.murphy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2025_end_of_year_report.pdf

[Letter From CT Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas](#)

Dear Friends,

I originally wrote this after one of the No Kings protests earlier this year. Many have told me that they find my story of engagement inspiring and have asked me to resend for those who missed it.

Resending with best wishes to all for a happy and healthy new year!

(If you're short on time, skip to the underlined section.)

I'm not sure who needs to hear this right now, but this is what I've been led to write about today. The other evening, a woman approached me, as so many do, and said something along the lines of, "Everything is so awful, can you tell the audience what to do?!" I'm sure you've heard something similar or maybe even though it – this wish for some leader somewhere to give us a list of precise actions we can take to right what's wrong.

What sage advice did I give? I said, "I don't need to tell them, there is a magical invention called the internet." Now, I know this woman and I said it with a laugh, but it is no less true. You can simply crank up your computer or smartphone and type in, "how can I help save America" or just "how can I help" and the device will spit out a plethora of sites to get you started.

Civic engagement isn't magic, it's elbow grease. *You have to care more about the outcome you're seeking than something else that would pull your time away from researching what you can do and acting on it. From time to time, you may get guidance about where to apply the pressure, but the motivation has to come from within.*

If you need a bit of inspiration to believe, perhaps my own story will do the trick. *When Trump was elected in 2016, I had never heard of a Democratic Town Committee, only knew a half dozen people in Connecticut, was working 80 hours a week in New York City, could not name any of my local elected officials, and had never done anything of consequence in the political space other than volunteering a couple of times for Obama.*

My path from there to Secretary of the State in six years wasn't easy, but it wasn't rocket-science either.

- ***It began with a simple question. What could I do to get Democrats elected in the midterms?*** *After some googling about who represented me, I learned that Senator Murphy offered volunteer opportunities and I signed up via the website. When they contacted me about volunteering with Fight Back Connecticut, I followed through.*
- *At the same time, it seemed all I did was commiserate with friends. One good friend in New York had learned from her dentist (through commiserating) about a group of community activists in Westport. She passed along their meeting time since I lived nearby and I reached out. Although I couldn't attend the weekday meetings for two years due to work, I knew they were there. This proved to be a powerful and educational network once I was able to free up one weekday morning to attend the meetings.*

Letter From CT Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas (continued)

- I emailed my town committee, hoping to learn more about what they did, but when no one responded to my multiple emails, I just showed up and introduced myself at an event I saw on their Facebook page.
- I joined many email lists and when I learned of events hosted by groups I respected, I signed up and attended. Each time, meeting more like-minded people.
- I decided to take on a couple fewer clients in my work to free up just a little more time because the extra income wasn't worth it to me if Democrats didn't win the midterms.
- I googled something new every once in a while in 2017 and learned more each time. Who my representatives were and how they were voting, how I could get elected to the town committee, which races had a shot in the midterms, how to write postcards to officials, how the General Assembly works, how to be a delegate in the state conventions and caucuses, how boards and commissions worked.
- **The more I learned, the more I learned I could do.** That path eventually led me to run for office, learning every step of the process as I did it. I learned how to door knock, how to make calls, how to text message, how to write a letter to the editor, how to help other candidates, how to talk about "politics" socially, and most importantly, I always met others who knew more than I did who pushed me further.

I'm still learning new things every day and it is only action that has made me feel better in times of darkness. Even now, I sign up to do things under a pseudonym and if no one gets back to me, I move on to the next thing. But I never stop.

There is no magic formula that will lead to success overnight - ask those who worked on suffrage or the civil rights movement. There doesn't need to be nationwide or even statewide coordination to move the needle - ask those who had to make change before the telephone, automobile, or internet were invented. There is no magic leader who will tell us the one thing to do that will make it all work out. It takes consistent action by many, many people to move the needle.

We all know how to find out what to do. We just have to do it.

Onwards together!



(letter reprinted with permission)

Opinion

Get Involved In Your Community

I have heard several people say "everything is Washington and the country is crazy but I don't know what I can I do". When I read Secretary of the State Thomas' letter it struck me. So, as she did I "Googled" "**How can I help save America**" and **found several websites offering ideas.**

On the **Foundation for Economic Education (FEE)** website an article by Lawrence W. Reed ("**16 Things Individuals Can Do to Help Bring America Together**") details 16 things a person can do on a personal level to help address the polarization problem in society. The article can be found by **pressing Ctrl + Click [HERE](#)** or by visiting:

https://fee.org/articles/16-things-individuals-can-do-to-help-bring-america-together/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21607921915&qbraid=0AAAAADkIVmewYRRYodvH5D56quINA2JjQ&qclid=CjwKCAiA09jKBhB9EiwAqB8l-AOnrUwYTP9YNT-MxW7uFyuuVZ4Eysp31ZiY1vbUNLjfc2-u-1CJ4RoC1moQAvD_BwE

The Brookings Institute website has an article entitled "**The bucket list for involved citizens: 76 things you can do to boost civic engagement**" provides some ideas on what we the people can do. The article states that it is not that complicated. It goes on to say "**Civic engagement is the glue that holds self-government together. Yet civic participation and engagement have been on the decline for several decades. Therefore, each and every one of us must be as active and involved in our community and country as possible. Self-government is hard work and requires effort. Action is essential to maintaining the foundations of our democracy, no matter which political party happens to be in power.**" It goes on to say

Opinion (continued)

“To be a truly involved citizen, we must reconnect with our founding documents. We must learn and practice the skills of civic participation beginning with voting and moving onto legislating, speaking out, and building coalitions to solve problems on the local, state, and federal levels.”

A list called the **“Democracy 76”** provides specific and practical actions that we all can take to be an involved citizen. It is expressly free from politics and partisanship and should be undertaken by all of us—regardless of political perspectives or affiliation. It is broken into five actions that are essential components for engagement; which are, **Stay Informed, Vote, Participate, Build Community, and Get Social**.

Listed below are some key items from the **“Democracy 76”** Checklist.

STAY INFORMED

1. **Read and subscribe to daily local, regional, or national newspapers.** Check out **Allsides.com** for news from conservative, liberal, and centrist points of view.
2. **Facts matter: Is your news source trustworthy?** Check out these non-partisan, nonprofits: **factcheck.org** and University of Virginia’s Center for Politics’ **Youth Leadership Initiative’s media literacy** tips.
3. **Fill your pocket with democracy.** Pick up **pocket-sized constitutions** for as little as \$1. A copy can be found by **pressing Ctrl + Click HERE** or by visiting: **https://www.amazon.com/Constitution-United-Delegates-Constitutional-Convention/dp/0880801441**.
4. **Get the facts on any politician or political candidate** at the nonpartisan **Votesmart.org**.

VOTE

12. **Vote: Local, state, and national elections matter!** Find out when elections are happening from **U.S. Vote Foundation**.
13. **Make sure you’re registered to vote** at **Vote.gov** or use **Turbovote.org** for quick and easy registration.
15. **Volunteer to register voters.** **League of Women Voters** in your area is a great resource for running voter registration drives.
17. **Volunteer to work at a polling place.** To find out how, go to **the Election Assistance Commission’s website** or contact your local registrar.
- 18 **Offer to drive elderly voters or those without transportation to the polls.**

PARTICIPATE

23. **Communicate with your elected officials** to share your views on issues you care about. A **letter**, **phone call**, or visit are still the best ways to contact them.
24. **Write an op-ed or letter to an editor.**
25. **Attend a city council or community board meeting.** The **National League of Cities** can help describe its function.
27. **Join a political campaign.** Volunteer for your preferred candidate.

BUILD COMMUNITY

33. **Identify a problem in your community and work with your neighbors to fix it.** Neighborhood street sweeps and playground refurbishment are just two examples.
36. **Volunteer to serve as an officer or member of a group in your community.** **Volunteer Match** can help you connect to groups in your area.
53. **Shop local and support small businesses.**
56. – 64. **Volunteer: at a museum, at a public library, at a pantry, soup kitchen, or food bank, at a community garden, to coach a youth sports team, to lead a youth group, at a community center, to help veterans, and to help teachers.** Chaperone school trips to the local city hall and share your experiences engaging with your community and government.

GET SOCIAL

72. **Use your consumer power** to support companies whose values you believe in.
73. **Go out and talk to people,** use your hands, and your time.

Opinion (continued)

Get Involved In Your Community (continued)

This is our neighborhood, our community, our town, our state, and our country. Take a stand or take a position, on an issue or policy and get active in the appropriate group or organization. Support your local, state or national candidates and join their campaign organizations and do canvassing and phone banking. Run for local offices or volunteer to serve on Boards and Commissions. Volunteer on your local Volunteer Fire Department or Ambulance Corps, civic organizations like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts/Venturing, food pantries, etc., the opportunities are unlimited.

GET INVOLVED!!!

By: Gary Closius – Chairman – Salem DTC – January 1, 2026

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz Fundraiser

Please Join Host Committee (in formation) & Norwich Mayor Swarnjit Singh in support of Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz,

WHEN: Saturday January 24, 2025 from 1:00 PM-3 :00PM

WHERE: The Home of Mayor Singh, 162 Scotland Road, Norwich, CT



The deadline is January 31st, so we kindly ask that any contributions you raise be submitted as soon as possible. Suggested Contribution Levels: \$50 | \$100 | \$320 | \$500 | \$1,000 | \$2,000 (maximum per individual).

Contributions can be made through the secure online donation link below:

<https://secure.anedot.com/bysiewicz-for-ct/donate> , or



You can donate by using the QR Code to the right.

If a contribution is made by personal check please complete — in its entirety — the “Bysiewicz for CT Certification Form” that can be found at the end of this newsletter and include it with the donation. Please send the donation and form to: **Bysiewicz for Connecticut**

**P.O. Box 91
Middletown, CT 06457**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Susan Bysiewicz at 860-301-1994 or my finance assistant Thomas Peters at 860-575-0548. <https://secure.anedot.com/bysiewicz-for-ct/donate>

Around Town

• **Planning and Zoning Commission Public Hearing**

The public hearing regarding subdivision SUB 25-02 – Salvatore V, Sena Jr. 2-lot re-subdivision at 596 Hartford Road (map10, block 69, lot 00) has been continued to the Planning and Zoning Commission January 13, 2026 meeting.

• **Fire Marshal’s Office**

- **Fire Safety Inspections**

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| › R & W Heating | › Another Man’s Treasures |
| › Salem Liquors | › PhysioCare Physical Therapy |
| › Rhasida House | › Residential Apartments – 11 Center Street |
| › Balestrini’s Daycare | |

- **Calls For The Month of October**

- | | | | |
|----------------|----|------------------------|----|
| › Fire | 4 | › Hazardous Conditions | 7 |
| › Rescue & EMS | 45 | › Good Intent Calls | 12 |
| › Service Call | 1 | › False Alarm | 4 |

Total: 73

Around Town (continued)

• **Fire Marshal’s Office (continued)**

- **Mutual Aid Given**

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| › Bozrah Volunteer Fire Co, | 3 | › Lebanon Volunteer Fire Dept. | 1 |
| › Colchester Hayward Fire Dept. | 7 | › Lyme Volunteer Fire Dept. | 2 |
| › East Haddam Fire Dept. | 4 | › Oakdale Volunteer Fire Dept. | 3 |
| › Lyme Volunteer Fire Dept. | 2 | › Montville Fire Company | 2 |

Total: 24

- **Mutual Aid Received**

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| › Colchester Hayward Fire Dept. | 2 | › Oakdale Volunteer Fire Dept. | 4 |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|

Total: 6

• **Emergency Management**

- Readied the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to a “*monitoring*” status for the two wind events and one snow storm. One event downed trees and closed roads overnight.
- Attended Region 4 annual meeting.
- Attended a quarterly virtual meeting with Eversource “Blue Sky” liaison.
- Successfully conducted a mandatory high band and 800 radio tests with Region 4.

• **Public Works**

- Multiple call for snow and ice events for December 2025.
- Christmas lights installed around Town Hall complex. The Old Library Cupola light in Christmas mode with variations of light color display.
- Town Hall reinforcement beams installed in Town Hall basement in accordance with engineer’s drawings and instructions.
- The Public Works oil/water separator was pumped out.
- Responded to fallen trees and power line issues as the result of the December 19th wind storm.
- Made various minor repairs around Town Hall.
- Repaired overhead leak and replaced damaged ceiling tiles at the Center School.
- Placed salt stations around the Town Hall complex in preparation for the winter season.

Important Message from the Salem & Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Companies

The Salem Fire Co. is selling **Emergency “911” Reflective Address Signs** that will have your street number on it. These signs make it easier for emergency responders to find your home or property at any time of the day or night. ***If emergency response workers can’t find you, they can’t help you! Minutes and seconds count in emergencies.*** They are 6” x 18” in size and come in green or blue.



Cost: \$15.00 (see the order form at the end of the newsletter)

The Salem DTC Meeting Schedule – 2026

The Salem DTC 2025/2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| • Wednesday, Jan. 7th, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School | • Wednesday, Feb. 4th, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School | • Wednesday, Mar. 4th, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School |
| • Wednesday, Apr. 1st, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School | • Wednesday, May 6th, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School | • Wednesday, Jun. 3rd, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School |
| • Wednesday, Jul. 1st, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School | • Wednesday, Aug. 5th, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School | • Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School |
| • Wednesday, Oct. 7th at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School | • Wednesday, Nov. 4th at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School | • Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, at 7:00 PM,
at the Center School |

Gun Violence – 2025 Statistics and Data

2025	Mass Shootings	Deaths	Injuries
TOTALS	398	373	1,845
January	23	27	103
February	17	26	59
March	27	24	133
April	23	26	105
May	34	25	180
June	62	39	290
July	61	60	277
August	34	28	178
September	34	36	145
October	31	34	157
November	23	21	108
December	29	27	110

* Data current through December 31st

Shootings By State					
State	# Current Month	# Year To Date	State	# Current Month	# Year To Date
Alabama	1	11	Montana	1	2
Alaska	0	0	Nebraska	0	3
Arizona	1	6	Nevada	0	3
Arkansas	0	2	New Hampshire	0	0
California	5	33	New Jersey	0	5
Colorado	1	3	New Mexico	0	2
Connecticut	0	4	New York	1	11
Delaware	0	3	North Carolina	0	12
District of Colum	1	5	North Dakota	1	1
Florida	3	16	Ohio	1	22
Georgia	1	19	Oklahoma	0	8
Hawaii	0	2	Oregon	0	2
Idaho	0	1	Pennsylvania	0	17
Illinois	2	28	Rhode Island	1	1
Indiana	0	10	South Carolina	2	13
Iowa	0	1	South Dakota	0	0
Kansas	0	2	Tennessee	0	10
Kentucky	0	2	Texas	3	36
Louisiana	0	16	Utah	0	1
Maine	0	1	Vermont	0	0
Maryland	2	10	Virginia	0	9
Massachusetts	0	1	Washington	0	6
Michigan	1	12	West Virginia	0	1
Minnesota	0	9	Wisconsin	0	4
Mississippi	1	16	Wyoming	0	1
Missouri	0	10			

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

Total deaths (all causes) in the U.S. due to gun violence* 14,665**

Total injuries (all causes) in the U.S. due to gun violence* 26,249

* Data through January 6th

** Totals not including suicide

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

Community News You Can Use

New USPS Rule Changes

Effective December 24, 2025, a new USPS rule changes postmarks to reflect the date mail is first processed by an automated machine, not when dropped off, potentially causing delays for time-sensitive items like tax returns or ballots. This impacts deadlines, so people should mail important documents several days early or get a manual postmark at a post office counter for the current date. The change stems from mail processing consolidation under the **“Delivering for America”** plan.

What's Changing:

- **Old System:** Postmark generally showed when you mailed the item (dropped in mailbox/at counter).
- **New System:** The date on the postmark will be when it's first processed at a regional facility, which could be days later.

Why It Matters:

- **Deadlines:** Items like tax forms, legal documents, or mail-in ballots relying on a specific postmark date could be marked late, leading to penalties or missed deadlines.
- **Processing Consolidation:** The USPS is streamlining operations by centralizing processing, reducing trips between local offices and regional hubs, causing delays.

USPS POSTMARK CHANGE
STARTING DEC 24, 2025

OLD WAY (Before Dec 24, 2025)
Mail is dropped in a mailbox on Dec 27. The postmark is the day of drop-off (e.g., Dec 27).

NEW WAY (Starting Dec 24, 2025)
Mail is processed by an automated machine on Dec 28. The postmark is the day of processing (e.g., Dec 28, 29... +1-2 Days Delay).

CRITICAL FOR DEADLINES (Taxes, Ballots, etc.)

IF YOU NEED SAME-DAY POSTMARK:
Go to the USPS Counter & Request a Manual Postmark!

PSA Shared on December 27, 2025. Stay Informed!

Community News You Can Use (continued)

New USPS Rule Changes (continued)

What To Do:

- **Mail Early:** Send important documents days before the deadline.
- **Get a Manual Postmark:** Bring time-sensitive mail inside the post office and ask for a hand-stamped, same-day postmark.
- **Use Certified Mail:** This provides proof of mailing.

Impact:

- This affects deadlines for IRS filings, ballots, government notices, and more.

It's part of a larger USPS modernization effort that also includes rate increases in January 2026.

Salem School Fundraiser

The Salem PTO has many fundraisers during the year. Are you looking for an **EASY** way to support Salem School and help us reach our goal? One you can help with is the **Box Tops For Education** fundraiser.

For over 29 years, **Box Tops for Education** has given families an easy way to earn cash for schools with products they already buy! Today, you can find hundreds of participating products throughout the store. Scan or submit your receipt with the Box Tops app within 14 days of purchase, or shop with your Walmart connected account, and you'll earn for your school with every Box Tops product you buy.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR SCHOOLS
AMERICA'S SCHOOLS HAVE EARNED \$958,015,672 WITH BOX TOPS...AND COUNTING**

It's so simple:

- ✓ Download the Box Tops for Education app on your device (phone, tablet, computer, etc.), here is the link to the Box Tops for Education website: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/>
- ✓ Select **Salem School** (or your school)
- ✓ Submit your receipts by:
 - 🛒 Linking your Walmart account (yep, even for grocery delivery!)
 - 📄 Uploading/emailing a digital receipt (ShopRite, Stop n Shop, Target, Amazon, and more!)
 - 📷 Snapping a pic of your paper receipt

No clipping. No scanning items. Just shop like you normally do — and help us earn cash for PTO programs that benefit our school and students!

Examples of Box Top products:



Here is the link to download the complete list of participating brands:
<https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/box-tops-products>

Salem Free Public Library (SFPL)

Library Report – December

- On Tuesday, December 2nd, the Library hosted an event to craft a Tea Bag Tree craft. Shannon Henson, Library Director, ran the program and participants were able to select from various tea bags and create a holiday-themed tree to keep or give as a gift. Tea and cookies were provided. There were 13 participants.
- The Library hosted 3 storytimes and 3 drop-in play groups for the month of December. There was a total of 29 attendees for the 3 storytimes and a total of 39 attendees for the drop-in playgroups.

Community News You Can Use *(continued)***Salem Free Public Library (SFPL)** *(continued)***Library Report – December** *(continued)*

- On Saturday, December 6th, the Library held our Colonial Christmas event. During the day there were various crafts and events for attendees. There was a gingerbread craft for children, a pomander craft for teens and adults, beeswax candle craft for all ages, and an evergreen centerpiece craft for adults. Robert Lecce from Pewter Pot Chocolates presented on the importance of chocolate during the Colonial Era. Finally, the Library held a concert featuring Isabel Oliart on Celtic fiddle and Elias Carduso on acoustic guitar. Throughout the day there 172 attendees for the various events and programs. The library also distributed over 50 mulled cider spice bags for attendees to take and try making mulled cider at home.
- On December 10th, the Library held a reindeer themed cocoa jar craft. Participants were able to make a jar filled with cocoa mix and decorate the jar like a reindeer. There were 21 participants.
- During the month of December, the Library put a mail box in the Children's Reading Room where library patrons could write a letter to Santa. There were 49 letters written!
- The Library also held an Elf Scavenger Hunt for the month of December. There were 73 patrons that participated in this.

LIBRARY BUILDING AND COLLECTION:

- The Library staff are preparing for our Winter Reading Program. This program will begin on January 12th and run until February 28th. The participants will be given a bingo sheet, and for every bingo they complete, the participant will receive a raffle ticket for one of our Winter Reading prizes.
- The *Knitters Group* that meets at the library weekly, have their items on display at the library to fundraise for the Library.

For the month of December, the SFPL served 1,462 patrons and provided 56 patrons with technical help.

SFPL Year In Review

- In 2025 the SFPL served an average of 1,600 patrons per month for a total of 19,368 for the year. The SFPL provided technical help for an average of 80 patrons per month for a total of 965 patrons for the year.
- For the Fiscal Year (F/Y) 2024/2025 the SFPL delivered 244 programs attended by 3988 patrons. For F/Y 2025/2026 the SFPL has delivered 185 programs attended by 3129 patrons, and we are only approximately half way through the F/Y.

News & Events

- ***Museum Passes and Discounted Admission Passes***

The Library offers Museum Passes And Discounted Admission Passes to many of the museums in our state, 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. (see pp 24-25 of the *Information and Services* section of the newsletter).

- ***Books in the Afternoon Book Club; Thursday, January 29th, at 1:00 PM.***

"Once Upon a Wardrobe" – by Patti Callahan: 1950: Margaret Devonshire (Megs) is a seventeen-year-old student of mathematics and physics at Oxford University. When her beloved eight-year-old brother asks Megs if Narnia is real, logical Megs tells him it's just a book for children, and certainly not true. Homebound due to his illness, and remaining fixated on his favorite books, George presses her to ask the author of the recently released novel "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" a question: "Where did Narnia come from?"

Despite her fear about approaching the famous author, who is a professor at her school, Megs soon finds herself taking tea with C. S. Lewis and his own brother Warnie, begging them for answers.

Adults over 18 are welcome. **To join the group, e-mail Christine Murtha at:** murthachristine@yahoo.com.

Community News You Can Use *(continued)*

• **Programs & Events At The Library**

- **Winter Storytime**

Every Wednesday at 10:30 AM
Beginning December 3rd
 (no storytime on December 24th & 31st)



Register at the Circulation Desk
 Or call 860 859-1130

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library)

- **Sock Drive**

The Salem Free Public Library will be collecting new socks for all ages for Care & Share of East Lyme.



Donation Period: Nov. 10th, to Jan. 31st

Drop off Location: Salem Library, 264 Hartford Rd, at the Circulation desk.

- **2026 Winter Reading Program For All Ages**

January 12th thru February 28th

Register at the circulation desk to receive your BINGO reading log. Receive a raffle ticket for each BINGO completed when you turn in your completed reading log by **March 7th**.



The prize raffle will be drawn on March 9th.

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library)

- **The Show & Tell Book Club**

Monday, January 12th, 5:00 PM

Let's talk about your favorite books over Coffee!



Ages: 18 & Up

Call 860 859-1130 to register

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library)

- **Color a Quilt**

Wednesday, January 21st at 4:00 PM

Each child will color a quilt block that will then be turned into a quilt and displayed in the library!



Program is limited to 24 participants ages 5 & up

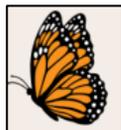
Call 860 859-1130 to register

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library)

- **Garden Party**

January 31st, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Beat your winter blues and join us as we prepare for the upcoming gardening season. Learn how you can support your community, save seeds, and protect our pollinators



No registration required

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library)

- **LEGOS at The Library**

1st Wednesday, for the month,
December 3rd, January 7th, &
February 4th, 4:00-5:00 PM



Recommended for ages 5+, little LEGOS will be used.

- **American Girl Doll Tea Party**

Saturday, January 3rd
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM



Bring your favorite doll. It does not have to be an American Girl Doll.

Join us for a delightful morning tea. Bring your doll and indulge in a relaxing morning with treats, a selection of beverages and a fun craft activity designed for your doll. Ages 6-14

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library)

- **Clever Corvids**

Saturday, January 10th, at 11:00 AM



Corvids a family of birds including crows, ravens, and Jays are renowned for their intelligence.

Explore with us the specific, and often amusing behaviors that illustrate their complex cognitive abilities. This 1-hour program features a crow, raven, owl, and hawk.

Call 860 859-1130 to register

(Funds for this project were provided by the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee & the National Park Service under CFDA: 15-692-Eightmile Wild and Scenic River Assistance)

- **Simmer Pots**

Saturday, January 24th at 11:00 AM
Spice up you home with a cozy simmer pot!



This program is limited to 35 participants

Call 860 859-1130 to register

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library)

- **Basic Sewing Skills**

Saturday, January 24th
from 11:00 to 12:30 PM.

Presented by Deb Drennen

Basic sewing skills such as threading a needle, sewing a button on, pathing a hole, repairing ripped seams, and hemming will be covered.

Limited to 6 participants, ages 12 and & up.

Call 860 859-1130 to register

(Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library)



Community News You Can Use (continued)

Salem Recreation Department

• **Pilates – In-Person Classes**

WHEN: Monday evenings,
5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
January xxth to March xxnd (6 weeks)
WHERE: Old Library, 216 Hartford Rd
\$60 Residents, \$65 Non-Resident
Please wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat, and water. Extra mats are available if needed.
Register Early, limit 6 participants:
or call 860-859-3873 x275, or
visit: <https://www.salemct.gov/recreation/register>



WINTER SCHEDULE HAS NOT BEEN SET YET
STAY TUNED FOR WINTER SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

• **In-Person Yoga Classes**

WHEN: Tuesday evenings,
5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
January xxth to March xx
(6 Classes)
WHERE: At the Salem Volunteer Fire
Co. fire house, 424 Hartford Rd.
Thursday Mornings,
10:00AM to 11:00 AM
January xx to March xx
(6 Classes)



WINTER SCHEDULE HAS NOT BEEN SET YET
STAY TUNED FOR WINTER SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

WHERE: Old Library 216 Hartford Rd.
\$60 Residents, \$65 Non-Resident
Register Early Limit 6 participants
Please wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat, and water. Extra mats are available if needed.
To Register call 860-859-3873 x275 or
visit: <https://www.salemct.gov/recreation/register>

• **Personal Euphoria Virtual Fitness Classes**

Winter Classes

Pilates

Tuesday January 6th – March 31st
6:00 PM to 6:45 PM
Instructor: Rob, Cost: \$111

15 Min. HIIT

Wednesday January 7th – April 1st
8:10 AM to 8:25 AM
Instructor: Maggie, Cost: \$52

Cardio Strength

8:50 AM to 9:15 AM
Instructor: Maggie, Cost: \$111

Skill-Based Strength:

unlock your push-up & deep squat

Thursday January 8th – February 5th
12:10 PM to 12:50 PM
Instructor: Maggie, Cost: \$42

Core Strength

January 6th – April 2nd
6:00 PM to 6:45 PM
Instructor: Rob, Cost: \$111

• **Salem Woods Disc Golf Course**

Where: Bob Appleby Fields
At Volunteer Park
24 Forsyth Road



Come and try it out!!

Discs available for loan.

Call: 860-859-3873 x275, or

Contact Us:e-mail: recreation@salemct.gov

• **Adult Co-Ed Pickleball Pick-Up Games**

WHEN: Saturday mornings
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, &
Tuesday evenings,
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM



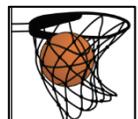
WHERE: Salem School, Multi Purpose Room
October 4th – April 7th

For Salem & East Lyme Residents, age 18 and up.
Sign in upon arrival

• **Adult Co Ed Basketball Pick-up Games**

WHEN: Tuesday & Thursday evenings
From 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

WHERE: Salem School, Gymnasium
October 7th thru April 7th



For Salem & East Lyme Residents, age 18 and up.
Sign in upon arrival

[Community News You Can Use \(continued\)](#)

Salem Recreation Department (continued)



• **Find Your Footprint -Medallion Project**

Let us know when you've found your 2025 Medallion & submit a photo!

Find a medallion in the following preserves:

Salem Connector Trail (aka Salem Woods Disk Golf Course), Walden Preserve, Zemko Sawmill Preserve, Multi-Purpose Path/Harris Brook Trail, Darling Road Preserve, Smuggler's Rock Preserve, & Salem Riverside Preserve.

View/Report your Find at: www.salemct.gov/recreation/footprintproject.

Special Thanks to Kim Ford, The Salem Land Trust, Teri Natoli, and our Volunteers

• **Salem Recreation 2026 Calendar**

MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER
28 Salem Lions Club 32nd ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT for Toddlers to Grade 4 Salem School Gym & Field, 1 to 3 pm	6 TOUCH-A-TRUCK Salem Community Park Pavilion, 10 am to 1 pm	26 COMMUNITY TAG SALEM DAY Rain date: Sunday, September 27 Salem Community Park Pavilion, 9 am to 12 pm Pavilion spots open to all. Residence listings for Residents only.
APRIL	5 FIND YOUR FOOTPRINT! MEDALLION PROJECT <i>in cooperation with the Salem Land Trust</i> Start hunting for this year's Footprint hidden along select trails	OCTOBER
16 SPRING CONCERT (Rain date: Saturday, April 18) Salem Community Park Pavilion, 6 to 8 pm	25 SUMMER CONCERT Salem Community Park Pavilion, 6 to 8 pm	7 NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY Bingham Field, Salem School, 8 am
TBD Salem Little League OPENING DAY Lou Ulffer's Sports Complex, 10 am	JULY	25 Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company MONSTER MASH + TRICK OR TRUNK Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company 2:00 to 5:00 pm
25 COMMUNITY TAG SALEM DAY (Rain date: Sunday, April 26) Salem Community Park Pavilion, 9 am to 12 pm Pavilion spots open to all. Residence listings for Residents only.	TBD Economic Development Commission 4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN JULY Salem Community Park Pavilion, 9 am to 2 pm	DECEMBER
MAY	28 SUMMER CONCERT Salem Community Park Pavilion, 6 to 8 pm	5 ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING Center School/Town Green, 3 to 5 pm
6 NATIONAL BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY Bingham Field, Salem School, 8 am	AUGUST	STAY TUNED FOR MORE EVENTS!
25 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & BIKE DECORATING CONTEST Salem Town Green, following Ceremony	20 SUMMER CONCERT Salem Community Park Pavilion, 6:00 to 8:00 pm	STARGAZING NIGHTS @ THE PAVILION Salem School PTO COUGARPALOOZA Salem School PTO BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.		
salemct.gov/recreation 860-859-3873, x275 recreation@salemct.gov		

[Senior News](#)

The Salem Seniors Group (SSG) boasts a current enrolment of over 190 members. Membership has 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!*

Our monthly meetings are held at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse at 429 Old Colchester Road, Salem the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM, lunch is provided.

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, 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/salem-senior-citizens/pages/salem-seniors-group-newsletters and click on the one you want.

INFORMATION & SERVICES

Public Town Meetings for January

Board of Selectmen, Tuesday, January 6 th , 7:00 PM	Board of Finance, Thursday, January 8 th , 7:00 PM
Long Range Educational Planning, Monday, January 12 th , 5:00 PM	Library Board of Directors, Tuesday, January 13 th , 6:00 PM
Emergency Preparedness Agency, Tuesday, January 13 th , 7:00 PM	Planning and Zoning Commission, Tuesday, January 13 th , 7:00 PM
Recreation Commission, Monday, January 19 th , 7:00 PM	Economic Development Commission, Tuesday, January, 20 th , 6:00 PM

To view the Town Public Meeting Calendar, press Ctrl + Click on:
<https://www.salemct.gov/calendar-by-event-type/16>

Help And Assistance

Connecticut Electric Discount Rate

Five discount tiers are available

Step 1: See If You Qualify

To qualify for the 5%, 15%, 20%, 40% or 50% discount rate, you need to:

- Meet household income requirements in **Table One** (below) **or**
- Receive a public assistance benefit for at least one household member in **Table Two** (below).

Table One: Household Annual Income By Family Size

How much can you make to qualify for the electric discount rate? Your annual household income is for all adults 18 and over.

	5%	15%	20%	40%	50%
1	\$47,764	\$33,022	\$25,040	\$19,563	\$15,650
2	\$62,460	\$44,627	\$33,840	\$26,438	\$21,150
3	\$77,157	\$56,232	\$42,640	\$33,313	\$26,650
4	\$91,854	\$67,837	\$51,440	\$40,188	\$32,150
5	\$106,550	\$79,442	\$60,240	\$47,063	\$37,650
6	\$121,247	\$91,047	\$69,040	\$53,938	\$43,150
7	\$124,002	\$102,652	\$77,840	\$60,813	\$48,650
8	\$126,758	\$114,257	\$86,640	\$67,688	\$54,150

[Help And Assistance \(continued\)](#)

Connecticut Electric Discount Rate (continued)

Table Two: Public Assistance Benefits That Qualify You

5%	15%	20%	40%	50%
Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) - Additional Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (ALMB) - Special Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) HUSKY A, B, C - HUSKY (B and 1, Prenatal) - HUSKY A Pregnant Women and Postpartum - HUSKY C Long-Term Services and Supports Special/Limited Medical Benefit Connecticut Energy Assistance Program CEAP Level 3 Section 8 Housing/ Rental Assistance Program (RAP)	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Connecticut Energy Assistance Program CEAP Level 2 Husky A children under 19 Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB) Women Infants and Children (WIC) Connecticut Free or Reduced Lunch*	Medicaid or Access Health - Husky D, Husky A Parents and Caretakers	Connecticut Energy Assistance Programs (CEAP Level 1)	Temporary Family Assistance (TFA or TNFA) Refugee Cash or Medical Assistance Medicaid/HUSKY C (non-LTSS) State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) State Cash Assistance or State Supplement Head Start

* Citywide free school meal program participants are not eligible for the discount rate, unless income is certified by the school food service manager.

Step 1 (continued):

Your total discount is determined by your household income, or the type of public assistance benefit you receive. This information will need to be verified annually to continue to have your service protected from shut off during the winter months and to receive a discount on your electric bill.

If the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) certifies on your behalf that you receive a DSS benefit, your enrollment will be automatically renewed with us.

Your discount will apply to a limited amount of electricity used monthly. Any usage above that amount will not be discounted.

Step 2: Provide Proof of Income or Benefits

You may submit your proof of income for all adults 18 or older in the household, or benefit documents securely in several ways.

- Contact your local **Community Action Agency**. Your local agency can also help you apply for other assistance, including the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). (see *CEAP F/Y 2025-2026 Benefit Matrix pp 16 -17*)
- Sign in to your account to **upload your documents**.
- Send them via U.S.P.S. mail at *Eversource*, Attn: Credit Dept., P.O. Box 270, Hartford, CT 06141.
- Submit documents via fax at 866-438-6476.
- Call *Eversource* at **800-286-2828**.

[Help And Assistance \(continued\)](#)

Connecticut Electric Discount Rate (continued)

How the Discount Rate Is Applied to Your Bill

Heating customers

If you qualify, your next electric bill will have a discount applied to the first 1,200 kWh of your monthly electric usage.

On the monthly electric bill example below, if a customer uses 1,450 kWh of electricity in August, the first 1,200 kWh will be discounted, but the remaining 250 kWh will not.

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a unit that tells Eversource how much electricity something uses over time. It's like measuring how much water you use with gallons or how far you travel with miles.

You can see how many kWh of electricity you use each month in the "Monthly kWh Use" table typically shown on page two of your bill.

Non-heating customers

If you qualify, your next electric bill will have a discount applied to the first 800 kWh of your monthly electric usage.

On the monthly electric bill example below, if a customer uses 1,450 kWh of electricity in August, the first 800 kWh will be discounted, but the remaining 650 kWh will not.

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a unit that tells Eversource how much electricity something uses over time. It's like measuring how much water you use with gallons or how far you travel with miles.

You can see how many kWh of electricity you use each month in the "Monthly kWh Use" table typically shown on page two of your bill.



[Thames Valley Council for Community Action \(TVCCA\)](#)

TVCCA Energy Assistance Program

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program serves low-income households in need of assistance with their home energy bills. Program services include: financial assistance toward a household's energy bill; emergency assistance if a household's home energy service is shut-off, about to be shut off, or out of fuel; and a range of other energy related services including heating system repair and replacement, budget counseling, and referrals for weatherization improvements.

[Help And Assistance \(continued\)](#)

[TVCCA \(continued\)](#)

TVCCA Energy Assistance Program (continued)

- Call to schedule an appointment: (860) 425-6681
- Schedule Your Appointment On-line: <https://tvcca-portal.communityappointments.com/>
- Apply On-line: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Economic-Security/Winter-Heating-Assistance/Energy-Assistance---Winter-Heating/How-To-Apply>.
- Or download the application, email it to ESS@tvcca.org, mail it to our Uncas (Norwich) Office, or drop it off in person.
 - https://www.tvcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/W-1104-CEAP-Application-Only_FFY26-EN-Fillable.pdf (English).
 - https://www.tvcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/W-1104-CEAP-Application-Only_FFY26-SP-Fillable.pdf (Spanish).

The 2025-26 Energy Season started September 1st! Schedule your appointment online by pressing Ctrl + Click [HERE](#): or by visiting <https://tvcca-portal.communityappointments.com/>.

If you are driving or a walk-in, our program offices are located in NORWICH at 401 West Thames St. (Uncas on Thames complex), Unit 201 and in NEW LONDON at 83 Huntington St.

Important Dates to Remember for the 2025/26 Season

- September 1, 2025:** First day for a household to apply for the program
- November 3, 2025:** First day for fuel deliveries that can be paid for by the program
- April 1, 2026:** Deadline for fuel authorizations or deliveries
- May 29, 2026:** The last day that a household can apply to establish eligibility for benefits
- June 17, 2026:** Last day to submit deliverable fuel bills

Categorical Eligibility:

Any household that makes direct to vendor payments for heat and in which a household member is participating in one or more of the following benefit programs is considered categorically eligible and will automatically be considered income eligible for energy assistance at a benefit level not less than that provided for a household with income between 201% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) and or below 60% of the state median income (SMI):

1. Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)
2. State Supplement to the Aged, Blind and Disabled
3. Refugee Cash Assistance Program
4. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
5. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

View the Benefit Matrix below:

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Benefit Matrix

MAXIMUM INCOME ELIGIBILITY								
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Annual Income	\$47,764	\$62,460	\$77,157	\$91,854	\$106,550	\$121,247	\$124,002	\$126,758

[Help And Assistance \(continued\)](#)

TVCCA Energy Assistance Program (continued)

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Benefit Matrix (continued)

BASIC BENEFITS			
(Available for both Deliverable Fuel and Utility - Heated Households)			
Benefit Level	Income Level	Vulnerable	Non-Vulnerable
1	Up to 125% Federal Poverty Guidelines	\$645	\$595
2	126% Federal Poverty Guidelines – 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines	\$495	\$445
3	201% Federal Poverty Guidelines – 60% State Median Income	\$345	\$295

NOTE: Households that are categorically eligible but exceed the income limit are not denied benefit; instead, they qualify for a Level 3 benefit.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE BENEFITS				
(Available for Deliverable Fuel-Heated Households Only)				
Benefit Level	Income Level	1st Benefit	2nd Benefit	3rd Benefit
1	Up to 125% Federal Poverty Guidelines	\$425	\$425	\$425
2	126% Federal Poverty Guidelines – 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines	\$425	\$425	\$425
3	201% Federal Poverty Guidelines – 60% State Median Income	\$425	\$425	\$425

RENTAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS		
(This benefit is available to households that have heating cost included in their rent)		
Benefit Level	Income Level	Amount
1	Up to 125% Federal Poverty Guidelines	\$425
2	126% Federal Poverty Guidelines – 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines	\$425
3	201% Federal Poverty Guidelines – 60% State Median Income	\$425

Rental Assistance:

- Rental Assistance Benefits are available to those households who do not make direct-to-vendor payments for their primary source of heat and have annual gross incomes up to 60% of state median income. Boarders are not eligible to receive Rental Assistance Benefits.

Liquid Assets/ Bank Statements:

- TVCCA no longer requires bank statements to be submitted as part of the Energy Assistance Application.

Income:

- Applicants may establish their income eligibility by providing income verification from a period of 4 consecutive weeks within the 3 months prior to their application date.

Benefits:

- **Please note: CEAP benefit amounts are determined based upon the funding provided by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Block Grant, and are not determined by TVCCA.**

For more information press Ctrl + Click [HERE](https://portal.ct.gov/dss/Economic-Security/Winter-Heating-Assistance/Energy-Assistance—Winter-Heating) or visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/dss/Economic-Security/Winter-Heating-Assistance/Energy-Assistance—Winter-Heating>.

TVCCA serves residents in the following communities: Bozrah, Colchester, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Jewett City, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, Voluntown, & Waterford.

[Help And Assistance \(continued\)](#)**Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA)**

Senior volunteer programs, often part of AmeriCorps Seniors, provide opportunities for individuals aged 55 and older to contribute their skills and experience to their communities. These programs, such as RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), connect volunteers with various organizations to address local needs, often in areas like education, health, and social services. Due cuts in federal and state government funding for the AmeriCorps Seniors the RSVP/Senior Volunteer Program is no longer available. However, assistance for things like food and nutrition, energy, housing, and more is still available through TVCCA. **Please visit the website by pressing Ctrl + Click on TVCCA.org or call our main receptionist number 860-444-6600.**

The CTALERT – Emergency Notification System**Overview:**

The State of Connecticut has a state-of-the-art emergency notification system to alert residents about emergencies in your area. **(State of CT Emergency Notification System (CTALERT))**

To sign-up for CTALERT go to the website by **pressing Ctrl + Click** on:
member.everbridge.net/index/892807736721724#/signup

Municipal Medical Transportation Service

The Caregiver Mileage Reimbursement and Medical Transportation program is for adults 60+ and persons with disabilities who are unable to drive and need transportation medical appointments.

To access this service contact: **Agnes Miyuki, Salem's Agent for the Elderly at 860-859-3873 X 125.** Agnes can provide all program and eligibility information.

Use the following link to view the **Guidelines for the Municipal Medical Transportation Service:**
saalemct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4966/f/uploads/transportation_fy22_packet_0.pdf

Connecticut Prescription Drug Discount Card Program**All Connecticut Residents Can Sign Up for the Free Discount Card to Receive Savings on Medication**

A prescription drug discount card program was launched in Connecticut on October 2, 2023, enabling all residents of the state to receive savings on certain prescription drugs. The program was established by a provision of Governor Lamont's health care affordability bill (Public Act 23-171), which was approved by the General Assembly and signed into law in June. It is administered by the Office of the State Comptroller.

For more information on how the **ArrayRx discount card works**, including a list of frequently asked questions and a drug price lookup tool, **press Ctrl + Click** on **arrayrxcard.com/** or review our **February 2024 Newsletter**.

211 Infoline Help

Follow the link **<https://www.211ct.org/>** to the webpage for more information on how 211 can assist you or someone you know that needs help.

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 need, 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 pressing Ctrl + Click on: careandshareofel.org/**

[Help And Assistance \(continued\)](#)

Food Pantries

Below are a few of the local food pantries available in our area. Please contact them directly to get on their list and for more information as to when they are open for pick up. If you need assistance with pick up let the agency know and they can arrange for delivery.

Name	Locations	Contact	Phone Number
Care and Share	12 Roxbury Road	Niantic	860-739-8502
United Way Mobile Food Pantry	Three Rivers Community College	Norwich	860-464-3327
Rosalyn Allen Food Pantry	Mobile Pantry	Norwich	860-822-4146

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

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.

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, press **Ctrl + Click** on: <https://www.salemfireco.com/>.
- Gardner Lake Fire Company – NON-EMERGENCY PHONE: 860- 859-1743. To visit their website, press **Ctrl + Click** on: gardnerlakevolunteerfirecompany.com/home.

FRIENDS OF THE SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY (FOSFPL)

The *Friends of The Salem Library* could always use help sorting books for the book sale, and at the book sales. For future book sorting and book pick-up and work dates, stay tuned and watch for notifications on Facebook. Check out the FOSFPL new webpage at www.friends-of-the-salem-free-public-library.org.

If you would like to help, contact Bart Drennen at 860-235-5889.

SALEM SCHOOL

Volunteers are always welcome at **Salem School**. Anyone interested in volunteering can go to the Salem School website by **pressing Ctrl + Click** on: salemsschools.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.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

The Salem VFW is always looking for help to clean up the cemeteries. **Watch the Facebook website for future dates for cemetery clean up opportunities.**

Please bring your gloves, weed-whacker, mower, rakes, and tarps. If you are interested in helping or have a need contact **Kay Zak** at: 860-889-3989 or e-mail at: kayzak@hotmail.com.

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.**

Volunteer Opportunities *(continued)***SALEM LIONS CLUB**

The Lions are looking for volunteers. **Contact Dan Holle at 860-300-7570, or Hugh McKenney at 860-303-0042.**

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.

Activities In Our Region**Goodspeed Opera House**

Upcoming Events at The Goodspeed Opera House (6 Main Street, East Haddam)

2026 Season

- **"Jesus Christ Superstar"** – April 17th – June 7th
- **"Crazy For You"** – June 19th – Aug 9th
- **"The Snow Goose"** – August 28th – October 18th
- **"Annie"** – October 30th - December 27th

For details on the shows check out our May Newsletter or go to **Goodspeed website** at: <https://www.goodspeed.org/>

Niantic Bay Playhouse

Upcoming Events at The Niantic Bay Playhouse (279 Main Street, Niantic)

2025 Season

- **"Legally Blonde Jr"** – March 13th – 15th, and March 20th – 22nd
- **"Little Shop Of Horrors"** – April 25th – 26th, April 30th – May 3rd, and May 7th – May 10th
- **"Barefoot In The Park"** – May 29 – 31st, June 5th – 7th, and June 11th – 14th
- **"Anastasia"** – July 16th – 19th, July 23rd – 26th, and July 30th – August 1st
- **"To Kill A Mockingbird"** – October 9th – 11th, October 15th – 18th, and October 23rd – October 25th
- **"A Christmas Carol The Musical"** – December 4th – 6th, December 10th – 13th, and December 17th – 20th,

Check the theatre's website for show times & tickets by **pressing Ctrl + Click** on: nianticbayplayhouse.org/.

Ivoryton Playhouse

Upcoming Events at The Ivoryton Playhouse (103 Main Street, Ivoryton)

Join the Salem Seniors at the Ivoryton Playhouse for any of the following shows.

- **"I'm Connecticut"** – March 26th – April 19th

Activities In Our Region *(continued)*

Upcoming Events at The Ivoryton Playhouse (103 Main Street, Ivoryton) (continued)

- **“Lady Day At Emerson’s Bar And Grill”** – May 7th – 31st
- **“1776”** – June 25th July 26th
- **“Come From Away”** – August 6th – September 6th
- **“A Piece Of My Heart”** – October 1st – 25th
- **“Playhouse Holiday Jamboree”** – November 19th – December 20th

For details on the shows check out our May Newsletter or go to *Ivoryton Playhouse* website at:

<https://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org/>

Museum Passes Available at the Salem Free Public Library.

Library Hours: Mononday-Thursday – 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Friday – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM,
Saturday – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Closed Sunday (hrs subject to change)



Discounted Admission Passes

- ***Blithewold Manor, Gardens & Arboretum, Bristol RI***
Admits up to 6 people: Adults \$8.50, Youth (6-17) \$3.00. Open in April through October, Tuesday – Sunday.
- ***Connecticut Science Center Hartford CT***
Library pass provides 20% off general admission for up to four people.
- ***Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic CT***
One Library pass for each day of the week, 50% off full price admission for up to 2 Adults and 3 Children ages 4-17, on the day of the week printed on the pass. Children under 4 are free.
- ***Niantic Children Museum, Niantic CT***
Admits up to 4 people ½ price.
- ***Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence RI***
Pass valid from March – December
\$4 off each paid admission ticket for up to 4 tickets. Redeemable in-person or online. To purchase timed entry tickets online: www.rwpzoo.org/tickets.

Free Admission Passes

- ***Connecticut’s Old State House Hartford CT***
Free admission for up to four visitors
- ***Connecticut River Museum, Essex, CT***
Free Admission for 2 adults and their children or grandchildren under the age of 18.
- ***Connecticut State Parks Pass***
The pass covers the entrance fees to the historic buildings at **Dinosaur State Park, Rocky Hill, Gillette Castle State Park East Haddam & Fort Trumbull State Park in New London**. Pass waives fees for 2 adults and 4 children, 12 and under.

Tickets are required for all visitors entering the castle, regardless of age. Tours can accommodate a maximum of 12 visitors at a time and tour tickets often sell out in advance. Please reserve tickets for tours online: www.connecticutstateparks.reserveamerica.com
- ***Denision Pequotsepos Nature Center Mystic, CT***
Allows free admission for up to five people.
- ***Custom House Maritime Museum, New London CT***
Pass allows two free admissions. Open year-around, Wednesday – Sunday 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Closed Monday & Tuesday.
- ***Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme CT***
Admits 2 adults and 2 children (18 & under) into the museum.

Activities In Our Region (continued)

Museum Passes (continued)

Free Admission Passes (continued)

- **Lyman Allyn Art Museum New London, CT**
Admits 2 Adults & 2 Children 12 and up. Children under 12 are always free.
- **New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT**
Free admission for 4 people Closed Monday and Tuesday.
- **Slater Memorial Museum, Norwich CT**
Each pass will allow free admission for one group of up to 5 people.
- **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford CT**
Free general museum admission for 2 adults, age 18 & up Youth 17 & under are free.
- **New Membership discount Mystic Aquarium Membership Discount coupon Mystic CT**
Borrow the library coupon for 15% off a Mystic Aquarium Membership Not valid for admission discount.

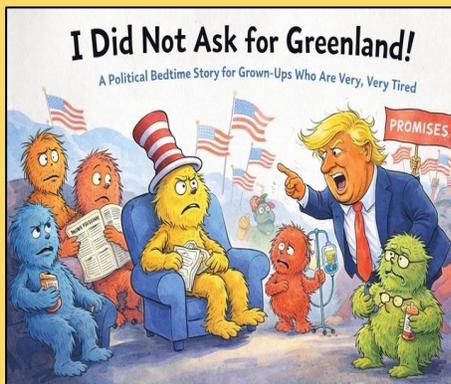
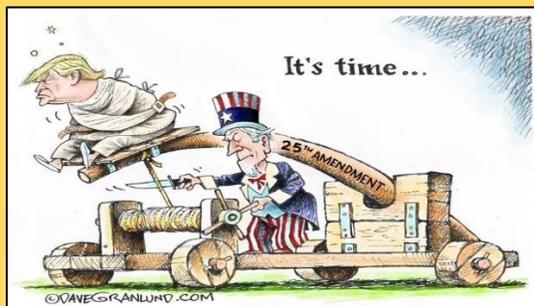
Museum Pass Rules

- Passes are available on a first come, first serve basis.
- Passes circulate for 3 days Overdue fines on passes are \$1.00 per day.
- No holds, reserves or renewals allowed.
- Only one pass at a time per family.
- Passes must be returned directly to the circulation desk. **Please do not place in the book drop**

Please check each museum's website for more information & current hours of operation before visiting. Hours subject to change.



Trump said he spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday ... "I just had a good and very productive telephone call with President Putin," he posted on Truth Social. The Kremlin confirmed the call without giving details. PBS.org Dec28/2025



News And Opportunity

Environmental Seminars Available

You may register to be in class to audit the seminar(s) or simply attend, or you may choose to view the seminars virtually. The QR code and link to the right, allow you to view the seminar live online, **but attending in person is highly recommended.**

There is no cost and no homework unless you choose to take the course for credit. If you would like to attend in person, the seminars will be held at: **CT State Community College – Three Rivers Campus, Room C101. Wednesday seminars begin at 5:30 PM, and the guest speaker starts at 6:00 PM.**

If you are not currently a student, you may arrive at **5:55 PM**. Each seminar will be followed by a Q&A session.

You are welcome to register to audit or simply come in person. There are so many reasons to come to the class, including the chance to meet the speakers personally, engage in meaningful conversations, build connections with others who care about environmental issues, and experience the seminar in a more interactive and dynamic setting.

For more details or questions contact Professor Diba Khan-Bureau at: diba.khanbureau@ctstate.edu or call her office -860-215-9443.

The QR code to the right or the link below will allow you to view the seminar live online: <https://tinyurl.com/EnvironmentalSeminarSpring2026> however, attending in person is highly recommended.

SPRING 2026

Environmental Issues Seminars

Rm C101 or <https://tinyurl.com/EnvironmentalSeminarSpring2026>

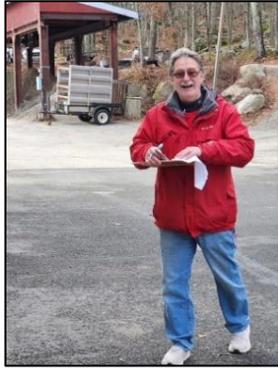
Wednesday classes start at 5:30 PM. Guest speaker at 6 PM and will be followed with Q&A. Noncredit students/guests are also invited. Free to everyone unless you want credit!

<p>For more info, email Professor Diba Khan-Bureau diba.khanbureau@ctstate.edu office: 1-860-215-9443</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>JANUARY</p> <p>Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Director Bird Conservation, and Jack Matthias, Coastal Resilience Manager of Audubon CT, Coastal Resilience at Hammonasset Beach State Park.</p>		<p>4</p> <p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>Dr. Christian Bruckner, Professor of Chemistry, UConn – A whirlwind tour through the periodic table of elements from an environmental perspective.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Brittney Izbicki, Supervisory Hydrologic Technician, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Coastal monitoring to support nutrient management in Long Island Sound.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Judy Preston, MS., Ecologist and Naturalist – Riparian buffers; protecting water with plants!</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Dr. Gary Robbins, Emeritus Professor Geology & Hydrology UConn – Geologic Secrets of Southeastern Connecticut.</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>MARCH</p> <p>Kim Hargrave, Executive Director Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center – Habitat management and conservation of birds of prey.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Bill Yule, mycological educator, forager, North American Mycological Association –fungal ecology, symbiotic relationships, and the interconnectedness of forest ecosystems.</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>SPRING BREAK</p> <p>Dr. Mike Dietz, Professor of Water Resources, UConn, – National and global concerns of stormwater pollution: stormwater and low impact design.</p>		<p>1</p> <p>APRIL</p> <p>Dr. Tom Meyer, Professor of Geomatics, UConn – Using GPS to reveal the secret lives of mountain lions and humpback whales!</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Greg Bugbee and Summer Weidman, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station – Invasive aquatic plants in Connecticut's lakes, rivers, and ponds.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Dr. James O'Donnell, Professor of Marine Science UConn, Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). Global climate change abroad and in Connecticut.</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Beth Timpe Merow, MS., Education Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association– Conserving the green heart of Connecticut: The future of our forests.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Dr. John Lane, United States Geological Survey (USGS) – Water resources in the developing world: volunteering to help supply water for those without.</p>
<p>MAY</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Dr. William Ouimet, Associate Professor of Earth Sciences, UConn – Using sediment cores to study environmental change in Connecticut.</p>		<p>13</p> <p>Kevin Franklin, MS., Licensed Land Surveyor, Professor TRCC – Surveying the Earth! Using GIS and drones for surveying.</p>



Salem Democrats in Action Helping the Community

Salem Democrats Helping Care & Share Distribute Christmas Dinner Baskets



To 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)

Salem DTC 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)



Cut Here

911 REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGN ORDER FORM

Please mail the completed order form along with a check for \$15.00 to:

Salem Volunteer Fire Company
424 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06420

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Best Contact Time _____

E-mail Address _____

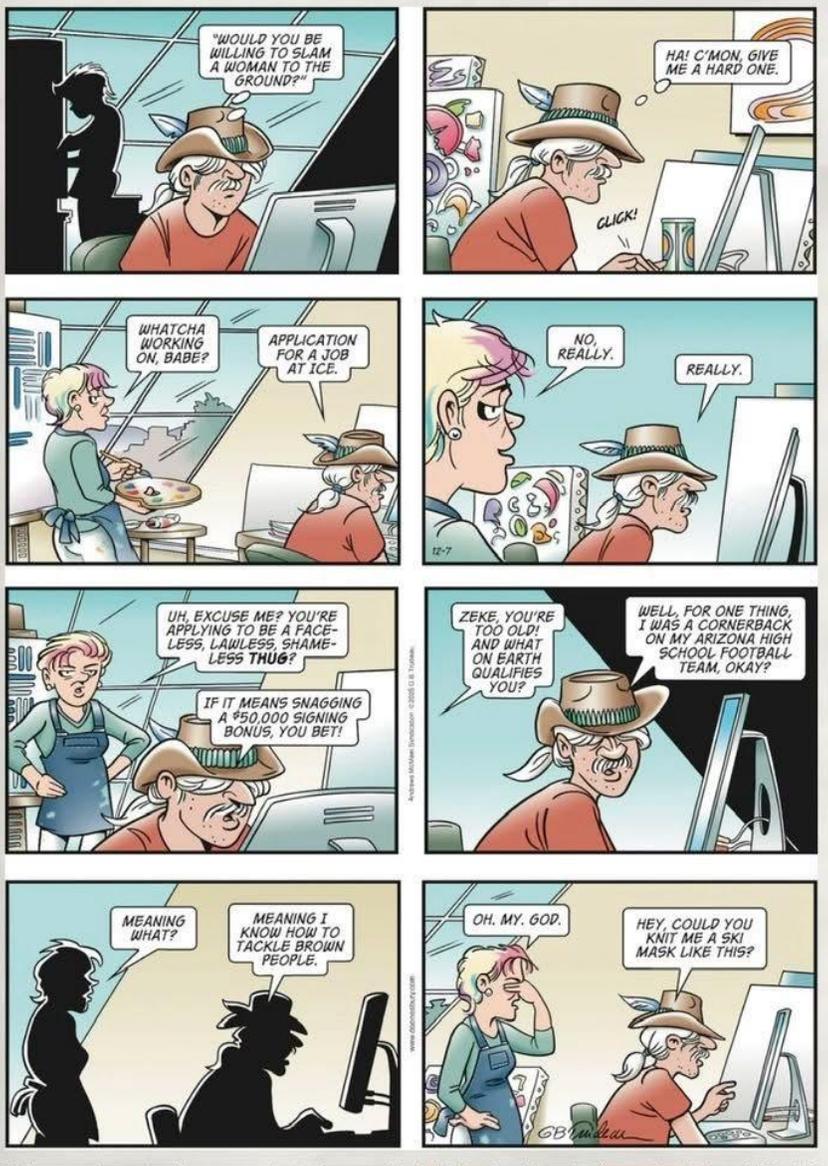
ADDRESS #:

SIGN ORIENTATION: Horizontal \longleftrightarrow Vertical \updownarrow

COLOR PREFERENCE: **GREEN** **BLUE**

Questions? Please call the Salem Volunteer Fire Company at 860 859 0942

 Cut here and mail the completed form to the address above.



For Campaign Use Only
Solicitor's Initials

For Treasurer Use Only
Contribution ID #

Individual Contribution Certification Form

Bysiewicz for CT

P.O. Box 91, Middletown, CT 06457

PLEASE PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW:

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTOR (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)			
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS*		PHONE NUMBER / EMAIL ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	Please check if you are UNDER 18:
			<input type="checkbox"/> If under 18, please list age: ____
NAME OF EMPLOYER <i>(If multiple employers and one is a state contractor, list the state contractor. If self-employed, provide Name of Business. Example: Dave's Painting; Other Examples: Retired, Unemployed, Student, Homemaker)</i>		PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION <i>(If self-employed, provide Job Description. Example: Painter; Other Examples: Retired, Unemployed, Student, Homemaker)</i>	
CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT	METHOD OF CONTRIBUTION		
\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Check # _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card/Debit Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind Contribution (Provide the value in the Contribution Amount field and a description here):			
Please review the definitions on the reverse of this form and answer each of the following:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you a communicator lobbyist?*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you the spouse or dependent child of a communicator lobbyist? If yes, are you an elected public official? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you a principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor? If yes, please indicate which branch or branches of government the contract(s) is with: <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Executive	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	If you answered "yes" to the previous question, are you an elected public official?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you a principal of a holder of a valid prequalification issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services?	
CERTIFICATION			
<p>I hereby certify and state that all the information disclosed by me and set forth above on this contributor card is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I certify that I am either a United States citizen, a national of the United States, or a lawful permanent resident in the United States, in compliance with Public Act 24-28. I certify that this contribution is being made from my personal funds, is not being reimbursed in any manner, is not being made as a loan, and is not an otherwise prohibited contribution.</p>			
SIGNATURE OF CONTRIBUTOR			DATE (mm/dd/yyyy)

* You may enter an alternate address in lieu of your residential address **only** if you are admitted into the Address Confidentiality Program pursuant to General Statutes § 54-240 (a) or if you are one of the individuals with protected address status articulated in General Statutes § 1-217.

** Note that under Public Act 10-1, communicator lobbyists and their immediate family members are permitted to give contributions of up to one hundred dollars in the aggregate to statewide candidates.

State Contractor and Investment Services Firm Contribution Bans

Connecticut General Statutes § 9-612 (f) (2) (A) provides in part that no *state contractor, prospective state contractor, principal of a state contractor or principal of a prospective state contractor*, with regard to a state contract or a state contract solicitation with or from a state agency in the *executive branch or a quasi-public agency or a holder, or principal of a holder of a valid prequalification certificate*, shall make a contribution to an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the office of **Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer**.

Connecticut General Statutes § 9-612 (e) (2) and (4) provide that no *principal of an investment services firm or member of the Investment Advisory Council* shall make a contribution to an exploratory committee or candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the office of **State Treasurer** during the term of office of the State Treasurer who pays compensation, expenses or fees or issues a contract to such firm. General Statutes § 1-84 (n) (2) provides that the State Treasurer shall not pay any compensation, expenses or fees or issue any contract to any firm which provides investment services when a principal of the investment services firm has made a contribution to **any exploratory committee or candidate committee** established by the **State Treasurer** as a candidate for nomination or election to the office of State Treasurer. The **State Treasurer** shall not pay any compensation, expenses or fees or issue any contract to such firms or principals during the term of office as State Treasurer, including, for an incumbent State Treasurer seeking reelection, any remainder of the current term of office.

\$100 Lobbyist Contribution Limit

Connecticut General Statutes § 9-610 (g) provides in part that no *communicator lobbyist or member of the immediate family of a communicator lobbyist* shall make a contribution or contributions to, or for the benefit of an exploratory committee or a candidate committee established by a candidate for nomination or election to the office of **Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller, Secretary of the State or State Treasurer in excess of \$100**.

"Public Official" Exemption

Please Note: The state contractor contribution bans do not apply to a *principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor* who is an **elected public official**. See General Statutes § 9-612 (f) (4). Likewise, the communicator lobbyist contribution limit does not apply to a *spouse or dependent child* of a communicator lobbyist who is an **elected public official**. See General Statutes § 9-610 (j).

Definition of Terms

"Individual contributor": a human being, a sole proprietorship, or a professional service corporation organized under chapter 594a and owned by a single human being. A sole proprietorship is a business in which one human being owns all the assets, owes all the liabilities, and operates in his or her personal capacity. Any other type of business is not permitted to make a contribution, including LLCs. See General Statutes § 9-601 (9).

"State contract": an agreement or contract with the state or any state agency or any quasi-public agency, let through a procurement process or otherwise, having a value of \$50,000 or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a value of \$100,000 or more in a calendar year, for (i) the rendition of services, (ii) the furnishing of any goods, material, supplies, equipment or any items of any kind, (iii) the construction, a iteration or repair of any public building or public work, (iv) the acquisition, sale or lease of any land or building, (v) a licensing arrangement, or (vi) a grant, loan or loan guarantee. "State contract" does not include any agreement or contract with the state, any state agency or any quasi-public agency that is exclusively federally funded, an education loan, a loan to an individual for other than commercial purposes or any agreement or contract between the state or any state agency and the United States Department of the Navy or the United States Department of Defense. See General Statutes § 9-612 (f) (1) (C).

"State contractor": a person, business entity or nonprofit organization that enters into a state contract. Such person, business entity or nonprofit organization shall be deemed to be a state contractor until December 31 of the year in which such contract terminates. "State contractor" does not include a municipality or any other political subdivision of the state, including any entities or associations duly created by the municipality or political subdivision exclusively amongst themselves to further any purpose authorized by statute or charter, or an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee. See General Statutes § 9-612 (f) (1) (D).

"Prospective state contractor": a person, business entity or nonprofit organization that (i) submits a response to a state contract solicitation by the state, a state agency or a quasi-public agency, or a proposal in response to a request for proposals by the state, a state agency or a quasi-public agency, until the contract has been entered into, or (ii) holds a valid prequalification certificate issued by the Commissioner of Administrative Services under section 4a-100. "Prospective state contractor" does not include a municipality or any other political subdivision of the state, including any entities or associations duly created by the municipality or political subdivision exclusively amongst themselves to further any purpose authorized by statute or charter, or an employee in the executive or legislative branch of state government or a quasi-public agency, whether in the classified or unclassified service and full or part-time, and only in such person's capacity as a state or quasi-public agency employee. See General Statutes § 9-612 (f) (1) (E).

"Principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor": (i) an individual who is a member of the board of directors of, or has an ownership interest of five per cent or more in a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, except for an individual who is a member of the board of directors of a nonprofit organization, (ii) an individual who is employed by a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is a business entity, as president, treasurer or executive vice president, (iii) an individual who is the chief executive officer of a state contractor or prospective state contractor, which is not a business entity, or if a state contractor or prospective state contractor has no such officer, then the officer who duly possesses comparable powers and duties, (iv) an officer or an employee of any state contractor or prospective state contractor who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to a state contract, or (v) the spouse or a dependent child who is eighteen years of age or older of an individual described in (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv). See General Statutes § 9-612 (f) (1) (F).

"Communicator lobbyist": a lobbyist who communicates directly or solicits others to communicate with an official or his staff in the legislative or executive branch of government or in a quasi-public agency for the purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action. A lobbyist, in turn, is generally defined as a person who, in lobbying and in furtherance of lobbying, makes or agrees to make expenditures, or receives or agrees to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, and such compensation, reimbursement or expenditures are \$3,000 or more in any calendar year or the combined amount thereof is \$3,000 or more in any such calendar year. See General Statutes § 1-91 (12) & (22) (as amended by Public Act 15-15).

"Immediate family": the spouse or a dependent child of an individual. See General Statutes § 9-601 (24).

"Dependent child": a child residing in an individual's household who may legally be claimed as a dependent on the federal income tax return of such individual. See General Statutes § 9-612 (f) (1) (G).

"Investment services": investment legal services, investment banking services, investment advisory services, underwriting services, financial advisory services or brokerage firm services. See General Statutes § 9-612 (e) (1).

"Principal of an investment services firm": (i) an individual who is a director of or has an ownership interest in an investment services firm, except for an individual who owns less than five per cent of the shares of an investment services firm which is a publicly traded corporation; (ii) an individual who is employed by an investment services firm as president, treasurer, or executive or senior vice president; (iii) an employee of such an investment services firm who has managerial or discretionary responsibilities with respect to any investment services; or (iv) the spouse or dependent child of an individual described in (i), (ii), or (iii). See General Statutes § 9-612 (e) (1).