

NEWSLETTER

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Wish To Donate?

Please click on the button to the right



2026-2028 Salem DTC Is Seated And Elects Officers

On January 7th the Salem DTC held a Caucus to elect members for the Salem DTC for the 2026-2028 term. On the March 4th the 2026-2028 Salem DTC term begins.

Below is the New Salem DTC for 2026-2028

Sophie Arustei	Kristy Fresco-Hawes	Jennifer Rucci
Kate Belleville	Jeanette Girard	Matt Rucci
David Bingham	Dennis Girard	MaryAnne Sabowski
Thomas Butcher	Janet Griggs	Linda Schroeder
Mary Cikatz	Leslie Hotary	Elfy Shapere
Gary Closius	Diba Kahn-Bureau	Sue Spang
Tiffany Cunningham	Jen Lindo	Alonso Vargas
Phillip Day	Art Nagel	Denise Weinschenker
Dee Doolittle	Rebecca Nrotz	Kay Zak
Flora Drapeau		

At the March monthly meeting the 2026-2028 Salem DTC elected the following officers.

- Chairperson Gary Closius*
- Vice-Chairperson Kay Zak*
- Secretary Leslie Hotary*
- Assistant Secretary Kristy Fresco-Hawes
- Treasurer MaryAnne Sabowski*
- Deputy treasurer Janet Griggs*
- * Re-elected

Salem DTC Endorsements

The Salem DTC proudly endorses:

Martha Marx – State Senator for the 20th Senet District representing the towns of: Bozrah, East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem, and Waterford.

Meghan Rosenfeld – State Representative for the 34th Assembly District representing East Haddam, East Hampton and part of Salem.

Nick Menapace – State Representative for the 37th Assembly District representing East Lyme, Montville and part of Salem.

Democratic Nomination Convention Delegates

The Salem DTC will be electing delegates to represent Salem at the various Democratic nominating conventions. The table below details the

Convention	Convention Location	Convention Date	# Of Delegates
Congressional 2 nd District	TBD	May 11 th	3
State Offices	Hartford	May 16 th	3
CT Senate 20 th District	Location TBD	May 18 th	3
CT Assembly 34 th District	Location TBD	May 20 th	1
CT Assembly 37 th District	Location TBD	May 20 th	2
Judge of Probate Niantic Region PD 32	Location TBD	May 21 st	3

Office	Declared/Incumbent Candidates	Nominating Convention
Congressman, (2 nd Congressional District)	Joe Courtney (D) ★ Kyle Gauck (D) ★	2 nd Congressional District
Governor	Ned Lamont (D) ★ Josh Elliot (D) ★	State Convention
Lt. Governor	Susan Bysiewicz (D) ♦	
Attorney General	William Tong (D) ♦	
Secretary of State	Stephanie Thomas (D) ★	
Comptroller	Sean Scanlon (D) ★	
Treasurer	Erick Russell (D) ★	
CT State Senator, (20 th CT District)	Martha Marx (D) ★	20 th CT Senate District
CT State Rep. 34 th District	Meghan Rosenfeld (D) ★	34 th CT State Representative District
CT State Rep. 37 th District	Nick Menapace (D) ★	37 th CT State Representative District
Judge of Probate Niantic Region PD 32	Unknown	Judge of Probate Niantic Region PD 32

★ Declared candidate ♦ Incumbent candidate

Message From State Senator Martha Marx (D 20th District)

Dear Neighbor,

Senate Democrats have been busy advancing legislation on several fronts. To protect Connecticut voters, we passed measures restricting the release of personal voter data and strengthening election integrity standards. We also moved forward protections for warehouse workers, requiring employers to provide clear, written quota descriptions that cannot interfere with basic worker rights like meal breaks and bathroom access.



On the environmental front, we advanced updates to Connecticut's Bottle Bill to crack down on out-of-state fraud and strengthen oversight of redemption centers. And recognizing the critical need for youth mental health services, the Senate acted to ensure the Solnit Children's Center can continue providing vital support to Connecticut's children and teenagers without interruption.

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

Marathon Housing Public Hearing

Things are busy in Hartford! In addition to a special session, the Housing Committee held a marathon public hearing on important issues including just-cause evictions, limiting private equity purchase of residential property, keeping security deposits affordable, protecting renters from rent increases and updates to the Rental Assistance Program. Over the course of the day, nearly 140 people spoke up regarding these bills, just some of many we’re considering this year.



Funding Secured for New London VFW

I’m pleased to share that the Senate has advanced a reallocation of \$174,000 to support our New London VFW Post 189. This funding corrects a technical error in the state budget to ensure previously promised dollars reach the Post, supporting its ongoing upkeep and ability to continue serving our regional veterans and hosting community events that bring people together. I’m encouraged to see the state investing in our region, and I look forward to seeing the Post thrive for years to come.



Constituent Survey

The 2026 legislative session began on February 4. While Connecticut has made meaningful progress, there is still more work to do—and I want to hear from you. If you live in Bozrah, East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem, or Waterford, I invite you to share the issues that matter most to you as we continue working together to move Connecticut forward. To take the constituent survey **[Click HERE](#)** or visit the following website:

<https://senatedems.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d71bd19fdbe20f487488c3f4b&id=fb0a8d5ef1&e=9e5069c037>



What Comes Next After Tariff Ruling?

The recent 6-3 Supreme Court decision ruling many of the Trump administration’s tariffs to be unlawfully imposed is only the start of figuring out what’s next regarding the global policy. According to CT News Junkie, tariffs had a negative impact on the state and national economy in the last year, and while the ruling seemed to clarify some things, the president’s decision to announce new global tariffs at a value of 10-15% opened up new confusion. Tariffs have cost Americans up to \$175 billion in extra costs, with the average household seeing costs increase by \$1,000 last year, but those funds won’t be returned to households any time soon. There is no immediate mechanism to return funds to Americans, businesses are suing for the right to receive restitution and Trump administration officials said they don’t plan on returning funds to the public – meaning there are still more questions than answers as of now.

Access Health CT Enrollment Breaks Records

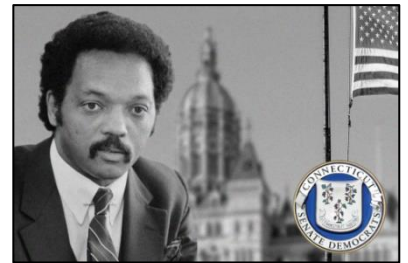
Access Health CT saw record-breaking enrollment for the third year in a row during its Open Enrollment Period, with more than 157,000 people enrolling in health plans, up 4% from last year, and just over 19,000 residents purchasing dental coverage, up 9% from 2025. More than 51,000 residents entered Covered CT, which offers free coverage to eligible residents. This is especially important as the end of tax credits and financial assistance from the federal government caused overall health care enrollment to drop nationally by more than a million people. Individuals who signed up for Access Health CT will likely see temporary premium assistance from the state activate in March.



Message From State Senator Martha Marx (D 20th District, continued)

Senate Democrats Focused On Relief For Taxpayers

Among a number of key priorities over the 2026 legislative session, Senate Democrats this week explained their primary legislation to help taxpayers. Senate Bill 1 proposes significant tax relief for Connecticut working families, including the elimination of sales taxes on school supplies, prepared food at grocery stores and clothing under \$100; elimination of income tax on Social Security benefits; the creation of a tax credit to help renters; a tax credit for family members caring for elderly or disabled relatives; and a sales tax exemption on major appliances, among many others. The bill, representing as much as \$1 billion in tax relief, seeks to respond to growing costs and the impact of tariffs, helping claw back funds residents need.



Flags To Fly Half-Staff March 7 Honoring Rev. Jesse Jackson

On Saturday, March 7, Connecticut will lower flags to half-staff in honor of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, a United States civil rights leader who was a constant force working to bring people together, find a more equal America and provide a voice to the voiceless. Rev. Jackson died on February 17.

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

As you know I am running for re-election for the 20th CT Senate District. In order to meet the qualification threshold for the CT Citizen's Election Program funds I need to get at least 60 more in-district donors to contribute to my campaign. If you're able to help, contributions can be anywhere from \$5 to \$340, and anyone age 12 or older is eligible to contribute.

For Your convenience you can use the secure QR code above.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Message From State Representative Nick Menapace (D 37th District)

Dear Neighbor,

On Thursday, the House was in session and passed two important bills: Senate Bill 298 and Senate Bill 299.

Senate Bill 298 is a comprehensive measure that advances several key priorities for our communities. The bill strengthens education by extending the moratorium on measures addressing racial imbalance in schools.



It and increases reimbursement rates for intermediate care facilities and updates child support enforcement, behavioral health regulations, and freedom of information and election laws to improve efficiency and transparency.

For workers, SB 298 establishes stronger, worker-friendly standards for warehouse operations, including a clear private right of action so employees can seek damages if workplace standards are violated. It revises police training standards for interactions with individuals with disabilities, adjusts municipal pension calculations, and repeals a prior building code change to ensure responsible development standards. It also includes a certificate-of-need change designed to support UConn Health.

Senate Bill 299 addresses bottle redemption fraud following the increase in Connecticut's beverage container deposit. The bill increases penalties for fraudulently redeeming out-of-state containers and lowers the threshold

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

from 2,500 to 1,000 containers before identification is required at redemption centers. These changes protect the integrity of the system while maintaining the 10-cent deposit.

Together, these measures invest in education, workers, healthcare, public safety, and consumer protection — delivering support and clear standards that benefit residents, businesses, and communities across Connecticut.

[Committee Work Continues](#)

I am a member of the Education Committee. On February 23rd, educator Meghan Rosenfeld testified before the committee on a bill to better support science-backed literacy interventions. Please take some time to watch her testimony and the questions I presented to her. The video can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#) or visiting the following website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWWatoZ03k>.

[Recognizing Our Scholastic Athletes](#)

I had the honor of recognizing some incredible East Lyme Viking student athletes on the House floor recently. These kids have been absolutely crushing it:

- 🏆 ECC Division 1 Cheerleading + Overall Champions
- 🏃‍♀️ ECC Girls Division 1 Indoor Track
- 🏃‍♂️ ECC Boys Division 1 Indoor Track + Class M State Champions
- 🏐 East Lyme Girls Volleyball – Class L State Champions (from the fall!)
- 🏅 Sam Leone – Cross Country State Champion + outstanding individual performance at Indoor Track States
- 🏅 Teagan Czaja – State Pole Vault Champion



Also learned that after 8 hours on the House floor, the word "pole vaulting" becomes very difficult to say. 🙄
So proud of all of you. Keep making East Lyme proud.

[Committee Testimony](#)

I testified last week before the Environment and Planning and Development committees in support of the creation of a statewide superfund and on a proposal to hold out-of-state landlords accountable.

Please take the time to watch clips of my testimony by clicking [HERE](#) & [HERE](#), or by visiting the following websites:
<https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=0ea1b8f85c&e=52b625a5ef>
<https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=6171b090f3&e=52b625a5ef>

[Letter to the Editor in The Day](#)

Private equity is reshaping our housing market — and not in a way that helps working families.

I shared some thoughts in [The Day](#) about how Connecticut can respond. See Nick's the letter to the editor that appeared in the Day below:

Published: March 02nd

Connecticut residents agree on one thing: housing costs are out of control. Yet when we talk about solutions, too often the conversation stops at frustration instead of moving toward action. One concern raised during the housing debate — by Republicans, Democrats and even the President — is the growing role of private equity and large corporate investors in our housing market.

Families are being priced out, rents are rising and communities are losing stability. That concern is real. What's missing is the urgency to act. Connecticut can limit harmful housing consolidation through smart tax policy, stronger tenant protections, greater transparency for landlords, and tools that empower municipalities and residents. We can support community land trusts, give tenants and nonprofits a fair chance to buy properties and prevent public dollars from fueling the very problem we're trying to solve. These ideas aren't theoretical. They're being developed right now, and they're working in other states.

Message From State Representative Nick Menapace (D 37th District, continued)

If we're serious about affordability, we can't treat private equity's impact on housing as just another talking point. This is a solvable problem — and Connecticut has the chance to lead. It's time to move from outrage to solutions.

**Nick Menapace
East Lyme**

Coldest Night Walk

Very happy to take part in the second annual Coldest Night of the Year walk.

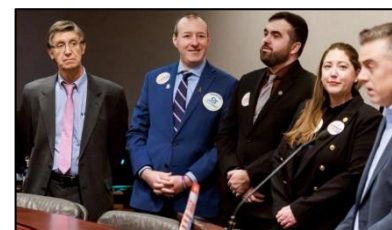
As a proud member of the *End Homelessness Caucus*, I was honored to walk and help raise funds to support individuals and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in our community.

Grateful to join Senator Anwar and Representatives Sweet and Kavros-DeGraw in showing up for this important cause.

**Tax Equity Press Conference**

The Tax Equity Caucus held a press conference Friday focused on one simple idea: if we want to make Connecticut more affordable, we have to stop balancing the system on the backs of regular people.

Affordability starts with fairness.



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

Sincerely,

Nick Menapace

State Representative 37th District

Message From U.S. Senator Chris Murphy

Donald Trump's refusal to pursue an authorization from Congress for his reckless, illegal war in Iran – as required by the Constitution – is perhaps his most grievous assault on our democracy.

Here is the truth:

Secretary Hegseth says the president has all the latitude he needs to carry out a war with no end.

There is no coherent explanation or goals for what Iran is supposed to look like at the end of this.

The region is spiraling out of control.

American casualties are mounting and according to the administration will continue to rise.

Billions of dollars of taxpayer money is being misspent, and the cost of everything is going up because of this war.

No more business as usual in the Senate.

We shouldn't be voting to proceed to normal legislation until Republicans schedule a debate and a vote on a declaration of war against Iran.

This is a war of choice that no one in this country wants. And if Senators all actually represented the way the majority of their constituents truly feel, the votes wouldn't be there.

The disdain this President and his party have for the Constitution – for the idea that it is only The People who can consent to war – is absolutely shocking.

Thank you for reading,
Chris Murphy



Trivia Night Fundraiser

Hello friends, the Salem Democratic Town Committee is holding our first fundraiser of the year "Trivia Night" on Saturday, May 16th at 7PM at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, 429 Old Colchester Rd, Salem. The Flyer for the trivia night will be available on our website (<https://www.salemctdems.org/>) shortly for you to buy tickets.

Our Trivia Master Matt Rucci has put together another intriguing night of questions and answers. So, bring your team, up to 8 people per team. The cost is \$35 per person. It's truly a lot of fun.

For this event to be a success, we need your help:

First, we need your attendance so please come!

Second, we need donated items for auction at our Silent Auction. Any item you wish to donate is appreciated. We were very successful last year with Gift Baskets. Examples of gift baskets: Easter Basket, Coffee Basket, Movie Basket (popcorn and candy Garden Basket, Lotto Tickets, gift cards, Fruit Basket, BBQ (grilling tools and sauces), Wine and Dine (wine, cheese and crackers), Art Basket, Summer Basket, Sports, Kids games, etc. We also had Yard Goats tickets, massage certificates, tickets to the Mitchell Farm Fall Concert for auction, and the list goes on. Be creative.

Third, we could use appetizers or desserts to share with our players.

If you can't make the event and can't donate something for the Silent Auction, please consider making a donation to the SDTC at <https://www.salemctdems.org/>

I know I am pushing the envelope but I am asking everyone to baring one nonperishable food item for Care and Share of East Lyme.

Please RSVP to me, kayzak@hotmail.com, if you can donate an item for the Silent Auction and or a food item or both. We truly appreciate and need your support.

Thank you so very much in advance for your support.

Kay Zak

SALEM TOWN DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

TRIVIA NIGHT

TEAM PRIZES

1st: \$250 ◦ 2nd: \$150
3rd: Canned Fox Farm Beer (12 pack)

SATURDAY, MAY 16th

7PM
Doors open at 6:30PM

GARDNER LAKE FIRE HOUSE
429 Old Colchester Rd ◦ Salem, CT

ENTRY FEE: \$35/PERSON
Build a team of up to 8 players

SILENT AUCTION

SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS APPRECIATED

@SALEMCTDEMS SALEMCTDEMS.ORG

Salem DTC Webpage Improvements

There have been several additions and improvements made to the Salem DTC webpage. The additions and improvements include:

1. A brief bio and a photo for each Democrat currently serving on a Salem Board or Commission.
2. Upon opening the webpage a "Donation Page" will pop up with information on how to make a donation and some examples of what those donations paid for.

Opinion***The Constitution Is Not Optional: The President Alone Cannot and Should Not Take America to War With Iran***

When a president pushes the United States toward war without congressional approval, the issue is far bigger than foreign policy. It goes to the core of constitutional governance. The framers of the Constitution did not design a system where one person—regardless of how powerful they were—could unilaterally plunge the nation into war. Yet that is exactly the danger when the President initiated military action against Iran without first obtaining Congressional approval.

The supporters of unilateral action will often point to the President's role as Commander in Chief, however, that title was never intended to grant the President a blank check. Article I of the Constitution gives Congress—not the President or the executive branch—the power “to declare war.” The framers of the Constitution had just escaped a monarchy and they were not about to create a new one. They wanted deliberation, debate, and democratic accountability before the nation committed blood, tax dollars, and resources to a conflict.

In recent decades, presidents of both parties have pushed the boundaries of the Executive's war powers. They have relied on outdated Authorizations for Use of Military Force, invoked vague notions of “self-defense,” and relied on the speed of modern warfare to justify bypassing Congress. But none of those rationales apply cleanly to conflict with Iran. There is no standing authorization that covers a full-scale confrontation with a sovereign nation. There is no imminent attack that cannot be addressed through existing defensive authorities and there is no constitutional theory that transforms impatience with Congress into legal authority.

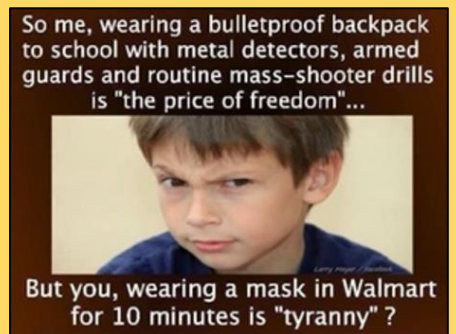
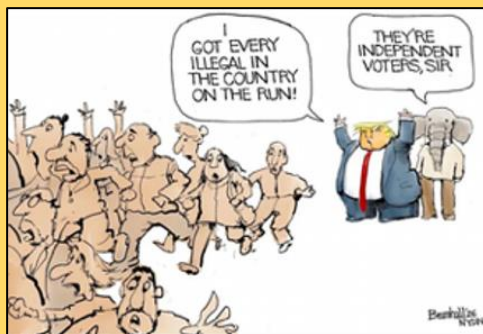
The consequences of sidestepping Congress are not abstract. War with Iran could and most likely would be catastrophic—economically, diplomatically, and in human terms. It could and would most likely destabilize the Middle East, threaten global energy markets, and risk drawing the United States into another prolonged conflict with no clear exit especially since there doesn't appear the administration has clear objectives and a plan for what would come after. If they do it certainly hasn't been effectively communicated with the American people. Decisions and actions of this magnitude demand the legitimacy that only congressional debate and approval can provide.

Some would argue that Congress is too slow, too divided, or too political to act, however, Congressional dysfunction is not an excuse to ignore the Constitution. If anything, it is a reminder that the people's representatives must be forced to confront the gravity of war rather than allowing the executive to act alone. The framers of the Constitution understood that war is the most consequential decision any government can make. That is exactly why they placed the power to initiate war in the hands of the branch of government closest to the people—the Congress.

If the President believes military action against Iran is necessary, he should make his case to Congress. He should present the intelligence, outline the objectives, and seek authorization. Anything less is not leadership—it is an evasion of his constitutional responsibility and a violation of his oath of office. We the people cannot and should not stand quietly by and let this stand. We the people need to contact our elected officials in Congress know what our feelings regarding the war with Iran are and push them to take whatever actions are necessary to ensure the proper deliberations and debate take place before the war.

We the people, the United States, cannot afford to let unilateral war-making by the President or the Executive Branch become normalized. The Constitution is not a suggestion. The Constitution is the foundation of our system of government and no president, regardless of party or circumstance, has the authority to ignore it.

By: *Gary Closius – Chairman – Salem DTC – March 5 2026*



*Opinion****The SAVE AMERICA Act Solves Nothing and Risks Everything***

Across the country, Americans are being told that the SAVE America Act is a necessary defense against a wave of non-citizens voting in federal elections. On the surface it's a compelling narrative—simple, dramatic, and politically useful. But it is not supported by facts. There is ***no evidence*** of widespread non-citizen voting in federal elections.

The SAVE America Act doesn't protect our elections. It threatens them.

The bill would require documentary proof of citizenship—such as a passport or certified birth certificate—before a voter can register. On paper, that may sound reasonable. In practice, however, it is a sweeping federal mandate that would disenfranchise millions of eligible American citizens, according to analyses from organizations like the Brennan Center for Justice, which warns the bill “would stop millions of American citizens from voting.” That is not election security, it is voter suppression on a national scale.

A National Solution in Search of a National Problem

The premise of the SAVE America Act is that non-citizen voting is widespread, however, decades of investigations, audits, and prosecutions across Republican and Democratic led states alike have consistently shown the opposite. Non-citizen voting is exceedingly rare—so rare as to be statistically negligible. States already have systems in place to verify eligibility, and federal law already prohibits non-citizens from voting in federal elections.

The SAVE America Act does not fix a real problem, instead it manufactures one.

Millions of Americans Lack the Required Documents

It is estimated that one in ten U.S. citizens lacks immediate access to the documents the SAVE America Act would require. That includes:

- Elderly Americans born at home in the Jim Crow South
- Low-income citizens who cannot afford the fees for certified documents
- Natural-born citizens who never obtained a passport
- Students and young adults who have never needed these documents
- Veterans whose paperwork has been lost or destroyed
- These are not fringe cases. They are our neighbors, coworkers, and family members. They are citizens who have voted for decades without issue. Under the SAVE America Act, they would be forced to navigate bureaucratic hurdles, pay for new documents, or risk losing their right to vote entirely.

A Federal Overreach Masquerading as Security

- Supporters of the SAVE America Act often frame it as a matter of states' rights. Yet the bill itself imposes a one-size-fits-all federal mandate on every state's voter-registration system. States that have successfully run secure elections for generations would be forced to overhaul their processes, retrain staff, and build new verification systems at taxpayer expense—all to address a problem that does not exist at scale.
- This is not federalism. It is federal intrusion and as stated above voter suppression.

The Real Impact: A National Voter Roll Purge

The most dangerous provision of the SAVE America Act is its requirement that states purge voter rolls of anyone who cannot produce documentary proof of citizenship. That means long-time voters—people who have cast ballots in election after election—could be removed simply because they lack a passport or certified birth certificate.

Proponents insist that “if you're a citizen, you have nothing to worry about.” however, history tells a different story. It shows what happens when states conduct aggressive voter-roll purges: eligible voters are wrongly removed. It happened in Florida. It happened in Georgia. It happened in Texas. Every time new identification requirements have been imposed, eligible voters have been wrongly flagged, delayed, or turned away. Kansas tried a similar proof-of-citizenship law a decade ago. It blocked more than 30,000 eligible voters before courts struck it down. The SAVE America Act would replicate that failure on a national scale.

All credible analyses agree the bill would block **millions** of eligible U.S. voters nationally from registering or voting due to documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements. Here in Connecticut, the impact would be especially severe. Estimates based on census data and document-access research suggest that **tens of thousands of eligible Connecticut voters—likely between 40,000 and 80,000—could face new barriers** to registering or casting a ballot. That is not election integrity. That is mass disenfranchisement.

*Opinion (continued)****The SAVE America Act Solves Nothing and Risks Everything (continued)***

The SAVE America Act also ignores the real-world consequences of its own bureaucracy. Obtaining a certified birth certificate can take weeks. Getting a passport can take months. Many Americans—especially those working multiple jobs or living paycheck to paycheck—cannot afford the fees, the time off work, or the transportation required to navigate these hurdles. Nationwide data shows most U.S. birth certificates cost between \$10 and \$30 for a certified copy. Some states charge more with \$25–\$31 being common in places like California, Colorado, Connecticut, and Delaware. Online or expedited orders can add \$5–\$40 in service or shipping fees resulting in a realistic average total cost of \$30–\$60 (including state fee + processing + shipping). A new adult passport book costs \$165 (application + execution fee) with processing or expedited service adding more resulting in a total cost of \$165–\$225 (much higher than a birth certificate).

A voting system that demands a passport to participate is not a system designed for ordinary citizens.

Election Integrity Requires Precision, Not Panic

Americans deserve secure elections, but security must be grounded in evidence, not fear. The SAVE Act is not a scalpel; it is a sledgehammer. It targets millions of legitimate voters to prevent a handful of hypothetical illegal ballots.

True election integrity means strengthening systems that work, improving transparency, and investing in modernized voter-registration technology. It does not mean erecting barriers that disproportionately harm the elderly, the poor, and the young.

A Democracy Worth Defending

The most troubling part is that the bill reframes voting not as a right, but as a privilege—one that must be earned through paperwork, fees, and bureaucratic endurance. That is not how democracy should work.

The right to vote is the foundation of American self-government. It should not be contingent on whether a citizen can locate a decades-old document or afford a new one. Rights are not conditional. They are not reserved for those with the right documents in the right drawer at the right moment. The SAVE America Act threatens to turn the most fundamental right in our democracy into a paperwork and bureaucratic endurance test.

America does not need another manufactured crisis. ***It needs a commitment to the principle that every eligible citizen—regardless of income, age, or background—should be able to cast a ballot without unnecessary obstacles.***

The SAVE America Act fails that test and the country should reject it.

By: Gary Closius – Chairman – Salem DTC – March 6, 2026

Around Town

- ***Planning and Zoning Commission***

The PZC did not meet in February.

- ***Fire Marshal's Office***

- ***Fire Safety Inspections***

- › 1 New London Rd. rescheduled to 03/09/26 due to snow storm

- ***Calls For The Month of October***

- › ★

★ Information not available due to on-going issues with the switch over between the NFNIRS, NERIS and ESO systems.

- ***Mutual Aid Given***

- › ★

- ***Mutual Aid Received***

- › ★

Around Town (continued)

• **Emergency Management**

- Attended the Region 4 monthly meeting (virtual)
- Chaired the Emergency Management Quarterly meeting (hybrid).
- Attended two briefings with DEHMS & Region 4 concerning the impending Blizzard Calvin (virtual)
- Attended two virtual preplan meetings with the Emergency Management team, Public Works, Fire Departments and the 1st Selectwoman regarding Blizzard Calvin.
- Readied the Emergency Operations center to a partial in person status for status for Blizzard Calvin. Deputy Director Rick Martin manned the radios. Approximately 18-22 inches of snow fell.
- Completed post storm reports for Winter Storm Benjamin including collecting cost numbers should state/federal reimbursement funds be made available.

• **Public Works**

- **Snow Events:**
 - 02/07-02/08 snow event 6 inches, trucks dispatched.
 - 02/11 snow/ice event, trucks dispatched.
 - 02/19 ice on the roads, trucks dispatched.
 - 02/22-02/23 major snow event, 21 inches & blizzard conditions, trucks dispatched.
 - 02/26 snow clean-up.
 - 02/27 snow clean-up, pushed snow banks back on Salem roads & sightlines, relocate snow piles at the school, Town Hall, and the Library.
- **Salt shortage state-wide** – purchased 80 tons of road sand to mix with Town of Salem’s small salt inventory in early February.
- **Tough Month on Public Works Equipment** – the month of February has been very tough on Town snow removal equipment; sanders, conveyor chains, tire chains, tire snow covers, snow-blowers, and trucks.
- **Contained** – Library roof water leaks from ice dams.
- **Completed** – yearly boiler inspections at the Town Hall, Library, and Public Works.
- **Attended Grass School** – Had two people attend Grass School at Dunkin Park in Hartford.
- **Replaced** – leaking water filter housing at the Library.
- **Replaced** – a roof deicer in the Town Hall.

The Salem DTC Regular Meeting Schedule – 2026

• 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

Blood Drive

Blood Drive

The **American Red Cross** blood drive sponsored by the Salem Lions Club

WHEN: *Thursday April 16th, from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM.*

WHERE: *Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Fire House, 424 Hartford Road, Meeting Room*

Schedule your appointment at: 1-800-Red Cross (1-800 733-2767) or visit www.RedCross.org and enter SalemCT to register.

Register for the blood drive and receive a \$20.00 e-gift card to the merchant of your choice.

Gun Violence – 2025 Statistics and Data

2025	Mass Shootings	Deaths	Injuries
TOTALS	63	86	221
January	30	38	96
February	33	48	125
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			

* Data current through February 28th

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

Total deaths (all causes) in the U.S. due to gun violence* 1,215**

Total injuries (all causes) in the U.S. due to gun violence* 2,014

* Data through March 3rd ** Totals not including suicide

Shootings By State					
State	# Current Month	# Year To Date	State	# Current Month	# Year To Date
Alabama	1	2	Montana	0	0
Alaska	0	0	Nebraska	0	0
Arizona	0	0	Nevada	0	0
Arkansas	0	0	New Hampshire	0	0
California	3	5	New Jersey	0	0
Colorado	0	2	New Mexico	0	0
Connecticut	0	0	New York	0	0
Delaware	0	0	North Carolina	2	4
District of Colum	0	1	North Dakota	0	0
Florida	6	7	Ohio	2	2
Georgia	1	2	Oklahoma	0	0
Hawaii	0	0	Oregon	0	0
Idaho	0	0	Pennsylvania	0	1
Illinois	1	1	Rhode Island	0	0
Indiana	1	3	South Carolina	1	1
Iowa	1	1	South Dakota	0	0
Kansas	0	0	Tennessee	0	2
Kentucky	0	1	Texas	3	8
Louisiana	2	5	Utah	0	1
Maine	0	0	Vermont	0	0
Maryland	0	0	Virginia	1	1
Massachusetts	0	1	Washington	2	4
Michigan	3	3	West Virginia	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	Wisconsin	0	0
Mississippi	0	2	Wyoming	0	0
Missouri	3	3			

Summary of statewide results of the 2012, 2016, 2020, and 2024 presidential elections.

DARK BLUE:	Won by the Democrats in all 4 elections
LIGHT BLUE:	Won by the Democrats in 3 of the 4 elections
PURPLE:	Won by each party twice in the four elections
LIGHT RED:	Won by the Republicans in 3 of the 4 elections
DARK RED:	Won by the Republicans in all 4 elections

Community News You Can Use

Cell Phone Or Home Computer Charger Safety

Is leaving a cell phone or home or computer charger plugged in when not in use dangerous?

Short Answer

Yes—leaving chargers plugged in can pose small but real risks, including fire hazards, heat buildup, and unnecessary wear. The danger is **higher with cheap or generic chargers** and lower with high-quality, certified ones.

What Actually Happens When a Charger Stays Plugged In

It still draws power. Even with no device attached, chargers consume a small amount of electricity (“vampire load”). This wastes energy and adds up over time.

It can overheat. Internal components stay energized, which can cause heat buildup. Over time, this **shortens the charger’s lifespan** and increases the chance of failure.

Fire risk—especially with cheap chargers. Generic or off-brand chargers are more prone to overheating and catching fire. Electrical Safety First found that **cheap chargers left plugged in are significantly more likely to overheat.**

Modern chargers are safer—but not risk-free. Better-quality chargers have built-in safety circuits. Still, they can fail due to dust buildup, damaged cables, loose outlets, and voltage spikes. Even reputable chargers can get warm and degrade over time.

When It Becomes Dangerous

You should **never** leave a charger plugged in if it feels hot to the touch, it’s a cheap or uncertified charger, the outlet is loose, the charger is old, cracked, or frayed, it’s near flammable materials (curtains, bedding, paper).

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

Cell Phone Or Home Computer Charger Safety (continued)

Best Practices (Simple & Effective)

Unplug chargers when not in use—especially overnight or when leaving home. Use **UL-listed** or manufacturer-provided chargers. Replace any charger that gets unusually warm. Avoid plugging chargers into **power strips overloaded with other devices**. Consider a **smart power strip** that automatically cuts power when devices are unplugged.

Risk Comparison Table

Charger Type	Fire Risk	Energy Waste	Notes
OEM (Apple, Samsung, Dell, etc.)	Low	Low	Safest option; still warms slightly when idle.
Certified third-party (UL/ETL listed)	Low-Moderate	Low	Generally safe if properly certified.
Cheap generic/no-name	High	Very High	Most likely to overheat or fail.
Damaged or frayed charger	Very High	Variable	Should be replaced immediately.

Bottom Line

Leaving a charger plugged in isn't the most dangerous thing in your home, but it **does carry avoidable risks**—especially with cheap chargers. The safest habit is simply to **unplug when not charging**.

References:

- **Better Homes And Gardens:** <https://www.bhg.com/should-you-unplug-chargers-when-not-in-use-11857912>
- **ConsumerAffairs:** <https://www.consumeraffairs.com/news/leaving-your-device-charger-plugged-in-could-create-a-fire-hazard-012225.html>
- **MSN:** <https://www.msn.com/en-in/technology/consumer-electronics/what-happens-if-you-leave-your-charger-plugged-in-all-the-time-experts-explain/ar-AA1XPghG>

Salem School Fundraiser

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>

Community News You Can Use *(continued)*

Salem Free Public Library (SFPL)

Library Report – February

- The library hosted 3 storytimes and 3 drop-in play groups for the month of February. There were a total of 59 attendees for the storytimes and a total of 35 attendees for the drop-in playgroups. The library had to cancel 1 storytime and play group this month due to inclement weather.
- The library distributed 72 take-and-make craft kits in February.
- On February 2nd, Library Assistant Hannah Lynch led a craft to create a Sailor’s Valentine. There were 7 attendees.
- On February 5th, Library Assistant Hannah Lynch held our first Cookbook Club. There were 13 participants and quite a bit of delicious dishes to try!
- On February 18th, Library Assistant Hannah Lynch held a basket weaving class. Participants were provided yarn and a skeleton frame to weave a small basket. There were 10 attendees.
- On February 21st, Xen’s Critters presented an event for participants to learn about and meet a variety of adorable animals. This event was very popular with a wait list that was as long as the allowed number of participants. There were 47 attendees!
- On February 28th, Thyme for Tea presented a program on different types of chai and pairing the tea with chocolate. This was a very popular program with a waitlist of 20. There were 20 participants.

Library Building And Collection:

- The Winter Reading Program began on January 12th and will run until February 28th. The participants can pick up a bingo sheet, and for every bingo they complete, the participant will receive a raffle ticket for one of our Winter Reading prizes. There are several prizes to win! The program ends on Monday, March 9th!

For the month of January, the SFPL served 1,621 patrons and provided 56 patrons with technical help.

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 for the details on the passes available and pass availability. (see pp 26-27 of the Information and Services section of the newsletter).

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

“A Council of Dolls” by: Mona Susan Power: From the mid-century metropolis of Chicago to the windswept ancestral lands of the Dakota people, to the bleak and brutal Indian boarding schools, **“A Council of Dolls”** is the story of three women, told in part through the stories of the dolls they carried.

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

Programs & Events At The Library

- Drop-in Play Group

Wednesdays after Storytime, from 11:00 AM – Noon.

Stop by for a drop-in playgroup for children and their caregivers! Our playroom offers a welcoming space to have fun, explore, and learn together. Have the chance to make new friends, learn through play, and build early literary skills.



- Spring Storytime

Every Wednesday at 10:30 AM
Beginning in March

Register at the Circulation Desk
Or call 860 859-1130

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



- LEGOS at The Library

1st Wednesday, of the month,
April 1st, May 6th, & June 3rd,
from 4:00-5:00 PM

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



Community News You Can Use *(continued)*

Salem Free Public Library (SFPL) *(continued)*

• **Programs & Events At The Library**

- **Leprechaun Trap Kit**

Available beginning Tuesday, March 10th

While supplies last. (one kit per family)

Suitable for grades 1-5

Call 860 859-1130 to reserve a kit

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



- **Newfoundland Dog Storytime and Cart Rides**

Saturday, March 21st at 11:00 AM

Join The Land & Sea Newfoundland Training Group for a fun filled storytime followed by cart rides pulled by the beautiful Newfoundlands!

Limited to 24 participants, ages 5 and up

Parents must sign waiver to have children participate in cart ride.

Call 860 859-1130 to register

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



- **Still Life Drawing Workshop**

Saturday, March 28th
from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Bring your own materials! All Materials welcome!

Call 860 859-1130 to register



- **“The Web They Wove”**

Saturday, March 14th, at 11:00 AM

Women & their wardrobes during New England’s Revolution

Presented by Dirty Blue Shirts

This program is presented by costumed historians and includes reproduction clothing pieces & fabric samples as well as a PowerPoint presentation with images of extant originals.

Call 860 859-1130 to register

(Sponsored by a grant from the Chelsea Groton Foundation)



- **The American Woodcock**

Wednesday, March 25th, at 6:00 PM

Presented by the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center.

Join us for a presentation on this unique bird, the American Woodcock.

In this slide show & presentation, learn about the American Woodcock’s strange physical features, spiraling aerial courtship display and much more.

Suitable for teens and adults.

Call 860 859-1130 to register

(Sponsored by a grant from the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed)



Salem Recreation Department

For the complete Salem Recreation 2026 Calendar see **p 17** in the Salem Recreation section of the Information and Services section of the newsletter.

• **33rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

WHEN: Saturday, March 28th, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

WHERE: Salem School Gymnasium and Bingham Field

Events: Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Art/Pictures Contest, Chocolate Egg Race, Easter Children’s Games & More. Bring your Easter Baskets and camera in case the Easter Bunny hops by.

(Sponsored by the Salem Recreation Commission and the Salem Lions Club)



• **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



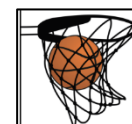
• **Adult Co Ed Basketball Pick-up Games**

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

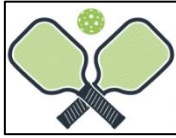


Community News You Can Use *(continued)*

Salem Recreation Department *(continued)*

• **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

• **Winter Walk to School Day**

WHEN: Wednesday March 4th at 8:00 AM
From 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

WHERE: Salem School, Ingham Field.

Come out for a brisk walk and warm up with some hot cocoa, coffee, a juice pack, a morning snack, and giveaways!



Sign up at: www.salemct.gov/recreation/2026wwsd

• **In-Person Yoga Classes**

WHEN: Tuesday evenings,
5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Date To Be Determined
(6 Classes)

WHERE: At the Salem Volunteer Fire
Co. fire house, 424 Hartford Rd.
OR

Thursday Mornings,
10:00AM to 11:00 AM
Date To Be Determined
(6 Classes)

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>



• **Pilates – In-Person Classes**

WHEN: Monday evenings,
5:30 PM to 6:30 PM



Date To Be Determined (6 wks)

WHERE: Old Library, 216 Hartford Road
\$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>

• **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
January 6th – March 31st
12:10 PM to 12:50 PM

Thursday Instructor: Maggie, Cost: \$42

Core Strength

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

• **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

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

Protests And Rallies

- **[Visibility Brigade Southeast CT](#)**

WHEN: Saturday, March 21st from 10:00 AM – 1200 PM

WHERE: 122 Cross Rd., Waterford

NOTE: Nothing can be attached to the bridge. For safety reasons, **ONLY CROSS** the bridge at the light on the south end of the bridge (intersection with Waterford Pkwy, where the parking is noted below).

If you bring signs, we recommend having fewer words with larger letters so they can be read. For those facing the highway, try to use letters 15 inches or larger

Parking Details: Meet at 10:45 AM at the parking lot at Yale Health facility, Crossroads Professional Building, 196 Waterford Pkwy South, Waterford. Parkway South runs parallel to the highway on the south side. The parking lot is about 1/10 of a mile from the bridge.

We will walk over MAP of protest location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/DwRrxsZHJuJnyrTT9>.

If you have any questions, contact us at VisibilityBrigadeSECT@Proton.ME.

A core principle behind all Indivisible events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values.



- **[No Thrones, No Crowns No Kings Rally](#)**

WHEN: Saturday, March 28th from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

WHERE: Liberty Green, 231 Main St., East Lyme

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events.



- **[No Thrones, No Crowns No Kings Rally](#)**

WHEN: Saturday, March 28th from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

WHERE: Parade Plaza, South Water St., New London

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events.



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

INFORMATION & SERVICES

Public Town Meetings for March/April

Planning and Zoning Commission, <i>CANCELLED</i> Tuesday, March 10 th , 7:00 PM	Library Board Of Directors, Tuesday, February 10 th , 7:00 PM
Board of Finance, T hursday, March 12 th , 7:00 PM	Recreation Commission, Monday, Monday March 16 th , 7:00 PM
Economic Development Commission, Tuesday, March 17 th , 6:00 PM	Board of Finance, Thursday, March 19 th , 7:00 PM
BOE Policy Meeting, Monday, March 23 rd , 5:00 PM	BOE Curriculum Meeting, Monday, March 23 rd , 5:00 PM
BOE Special Meeting, Monday, March 23 rd , 7:00 PM	Planning and Zoning Commission, Tuesday March 24 th , 7:00 PM
Long-Range Educational Meeting, Monday, April 6 th , 5:00 PM	BOE Personnel/Contract Negotiations Meeting, Monday, April 6 th , 5:00 PM
Inlands Wetlands & Conservation Commission Mtg., Monday April, 6 th , 7:00 PM	Board Of Selectmen, Tuesday, April 7 th , 7:00 PM
BOF Budget Public Hearing, Wednesday, April 8 th 7:00 PM	Board of Finance, Thursday, April 9 th , 7:00 PM

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

2026 Salem Recreation Calendar

<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>4 NATIONAL WINTER WALK TO SCHOOL DAY Bingham Field, Salem School, 8 am</p> <p>7 REGIONAL UNIFIED NIGHT New London Community Recreation Center 1 Recreation Way, New London 6 to 9 pm</p> <p>MARCH</p> <p>28 Salem Lions Club 32nd ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT for Toddlers to Grade 4 Salem School Gym & Field, 1 to 3 pm</p> <p>APRIL</p> <p>16 SPRING CONCERT (Rain date: Saturday, April 18) with WICKED PEACH Salem Community Park Pavilion, 6 to 8 pm</p> <p>TBD STARGAZING NIGHT Salem Community Park Pavilion, Time TBD Sponsored with Three Rivers United Environmentalists & the Environmental Engineering Technology Program</p> <p>TBD Salem Little League OPENING DAY Lou Ulfner's Sports Complex, 10 am</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>6 NATIONAL BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY Bingham Field, Salem School, 8 am</p> <p>25 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & BIKE DECORATING CONTEST Salem Town Green, following Ceremony</p> <p>JUNE</p> <p>6 TOUCH-A-TRUCK Salem Community Park Pavilion, 10 am to 1 pm</p> <p>5 FIND YOUR FOOTPRINT! MEDALLION PROJECT In cooperation with the Salem Land Trust Start hunting for this year's Footprint hidden along select trails</p> <p>25 SUMMER CONCERT Salem Community Park Pavilion, 6 to 8 pm</p> <p>JUNE TO EARLY FALL</p> <p>FREE VEGGIE SATURDAYS Salem Community Park Pavilion, 9 am Bring Proof of Salem Residency, your own Bag, and Respect for the needs of others. No Early Birds, please.</p> <p>JULY</p> <p>TBD Economic Development Commission 4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN JULY Salem Community Park Pavilion, 9 am to 2 pm</p> <p>30 SUMMER CONCERT Salem Community Park Pavilion, 6 to 8 pm</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>20 SUMMER CONCERT Salem Community Park Pavilion, 6:00 to 8:00 pm</p> <p>JULY TO AUGUST</p> <p>7 SUMMER FUN RUN (Event is Rain or Shine) Bingham Field, Salem School Every Tuesday for Six Weeks (final date: August 11) 5:30 pm: 1-mile Walk/Run/Stroll. 6:00 pm: 3-mile Run.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>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.</p> <p>OCTOBER</p> <p>7 NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY Bingham Field, Salem School, 8 am</p> <p>TBD STARGAZING NIGHT Salem Community Park Pavilion, Time TBD Sponsored with Three Rivers United Environmentalists & the Environmental Engineering Technology Program</p> <p>25 Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company MONSTER MASH + TRICK OR TRUNK Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company 2:00 to 5:00 pm</p> <p>DECEMBER</p> <p>5 ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING Center School/Town Green, 3 to 5 pm</p>
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STAY TUNED FOR MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES!

EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES or SIGN UP FOR E-BLASTS!
salemct.gov/recreation | 860-859-3873, x275 | recreation@salemct.gov

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>



[Help And Assistance](#)

Senior Resources Agency On Aging

Senior Resources is a private non-profit organization established in 1976 and authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and state statute. They serve as the Area Agency on Aging in Eastern Connecticut. Their service area covers 56 towns located in New London County, Middlesex County and Windham County as well as a small portion of Tolland County.



Senior Resources is a strong voice for the region's elderly citizens. Through their involvement at the federal, state and local level they work to enhance the quality of life for older persons. In addition to advocating legislatively, their continuing work with volunteers and citizen groups enables us to spread the word about benefits and services.

They work with a strong, diversified network of community-based agencies to offer a wide range of services and supports. Their community partnerships allow them to meet the needs of their consumers.

Their mission is to provide access to information and services to empower adults to live with dignity.

For more info visit their website click on <https://seniorresourcesec.org/>.

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 clicking 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 clicking 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: salemct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4966/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, **click on arrayrxcard.com/ or review our **February 2024 Newsletter**.**

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

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 clicking on: careandshareofel.org/.**

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

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 **clicking** 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.

Volunteer Opportunities *(continued)*

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.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 **clicking on: nianticbayplayhouse.org/.**

Activities In Our Region *(continued)*

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

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



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

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