

Salem Democratic Town Committee

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NEWSLETTER

PUBLIC TOWN MEETINGS:

February 2023

- **BOE Budget/Finance**
February 6, 5:30PM
- **Board of Education,**
February 6, 7:00pm
- **Inland Wetlands & Conservation
Commission,**
February 6, 7:00pm
- **BOE Personnel/Contract
Negotiations,**
February 6, 8:30 pm
- **Board of Selectmen,**
February 7, 7:00pm
- **Board of Finance,**
February 9, 7:00pm
- **Library Board of Directors,**
February 14, 6:00pm
- **Planning & Zoning Commission**
February 14, 7:00pm
- **Emergency Preparedness Agency**
February 14, 7:00pm
- **Salem Green Cemetery Assoc**
February 21, 2:00 pm
- **Economic Development
Commission**
February 21, 7:00pm
- **Board of Finance,**
February 23, 7:00pm
- **BOE Policy**
February 27, 4:00pm
- **BOE Budget/Finance**
February 27, 5:30pm
- **Recreation Commission**
February 27, 7:00pm
- **Planning & Zoning Commission**
Feb 28, 7:00pm

THE SDTC NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are asking anyone who is interested in serving Salem in an elected or appointed position to please contact T. J. Bucher at t.j.butcher@att.net or attend the next meeting of the SDTC on **March 1st at 7:00 PM at the Center School on the Town Green.**

Expiring Terms on Elected Boards and Commissions Filled by non – Republicans

There are several seats on various Boards and Commissions that will be contested in Salem's municipal elections in November. The following is a list that details of the Board or Commission seats currently filled by non-Republicans whose terms expire in November 2023:

Kay Zak	Full Member	D	Board of Assessment Appeals
Matt Rucci	Full Member	D	Board of Finance
Kate Belleville	Alternate	D	Board of Finance
Jennifer Lindo	Full Member	D	Planning and Zoning Commission
Gary Closius	Alternate	D	Planning and Zoning Commission
Sue Spang	Full Member	D	Board of Education
Kelly Francis	Full Member	U	Board of Education

All have indicated their intention to run for re-election with Gary Closius running for the full member seat.

Expiring Terms on Elected Boards and Commissions Filled by non – Democrats

In addition to the seats discussed above, there are a number of non-Democratic held seats that will appear on the ballot in November. The following is a list of those seats:

Member	R	Board of Assessment Appeals
Member	R	Board of Finance
Member (2 seats)	R	Library Board of Directors
Member	R	Planning and Zoning Commission
Member (3 seats)	R	Zoning Board of Appeals
Member (3 seats)	R	Board of Education

Expiring Selectman Terms Filled by non – Democrats

Finally, three Selectman seats including the First Selectman (all currently Republican held) will be on the ballot in November.

The Salem Democratic Town Committee (SDTC) is putting together a list of people interested in filling seats on the various Boards, Commissions, Agencies, and Committees as they come open, as well as those seats coming up in the November 2023 election.

[SALEM SCHOOL NEWS](#)

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

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

- **President's Day Recess** – February 20-21
- **The Superintendent's SY2023-2024 Budget Presentation January 9, 2023** can be found by using the following link: [BOE Initial Superintendent's Budget Presentation Jan23 \(salemschools.org\)](#)
- **Budget Calendar for SY2023-2024 Budget:**
 - **BOE Budget/Finance Subcommittee Meeting** – February 6, 2023
 - **BOE Regular Meeting (BOE Approves Budget)** – February 6, 2023
 - **BOE Budget/Finance Subcommittee Meeting** – February 27, 2023
 - **BOE Regular Meeting** – March 6, 2023
 - **Public Hearing** – April 2023
 - **Town Meeting** – May 2023
 - **Referendum** – May 2023

[EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL NEWS](#)

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

- **President's Day Recess** – February 20-21
- **Athletic News**
 - SPRING Registration is now open and will close on March 18, 2023.
 - SPRING sports conditioning, tryout and first practice information COMING SOON!

[TOWN OF SALEM LEGAL NOTICES](#)

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION JANUARY 10, 2023

POSTED ON: JANUARY 19, 2023 - 2:43PM

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

Notice of Decision

At their regular meeting of January 10, 2023, the Salem Planning and Zoning Commission rendered the following decision:

Salem Planning and Zoning Commission – Adoption of the 2022 Plan of Conservation and Development. Per Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) requires each municipality to prepare or amend and adopt a plan of conservation and development (POCD) at least once every ten years.

Approved.

FOR THE COMMISSION
Vernon Smith, Chairman

Planning & Zoning Commission

This legal notice shall be published in The Day newspaper on January 17, 2023.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION JANUARY 24, 2023

POSTED ON: JANUARY 26, 2023 - 1:12PM

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

Notice of Decision

At their regular meeting of January 24, 2023, the Salem Planning and Zoning Commission rendered the following decision:

SE 22-03 Getty Granite, 120 East Haddam Road – Application for a special exception and associated site plan to expand existing stone processing areas at 120 East Haddam Road. Site plan modifications also include expanding outdoor retail and storage areas, and the construction of a 300 square foot sales showroom building. **Approved.**

Salem Planning and Zoning Commission – Application requesting to amend Salem Zoning Regulations to add new Section 4.2.22, to allow firewood materials processing by Special Exception in Rural Zone A. **Approved, effective February 23, 2023.**

FOR THE COMMISSION
Vernon Smith, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

This legal notice shall be published in The Day newspaper on January 31, 2023.

EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL NEWS (continued)

➤ **ELHS TICKET SALES ARE NOW DIGITAL**

ELHS will be charging admission to all JV & V sports on the Dick North Turf Field & In the North Gym. We have made the decision to go cashless and will be using the www.gofan.co platform at our home games. There are no cash sales at the gate. Senior Citizens (65+) and under 5 are free. ELPS employees + 1 guest are admitted free to home regular season games with their employee badge. Game tickets will go on sale through GoFan prior to each home game. The GoFan FAQ page has information on how to purchase tickets, manage your tickets, and event changes. Access the GoFan page by using the following link:

<https://gofan.co/app/school/CT17384>

COMMUNITY HELP / ASSISTANCE

- **CARE & SHARE Website link:**
<http://www.careandshareofel.org/>

Care & Share of East Lyme, Inc. provides food, financial and emergency support to individuals and families in East Lyme, Niantic and Salem. ***If you are interested in receiving assistance, contact them at 860-739-8502.*** Leave a message with your name, telephone number and the type of assistance you are looking for, as well as the best time you can be reached. A responder will confidentially return your call.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TOWN BUDGET SEASON IS HERE

- **Public Hearing 2023/2024 Budget** – Wednesday April 12th 7:00 PM at the Salem School
- **Town Meeting to Consider 2023/2024 Budget** – Wednesday May 3rd 7:00 PM at the Salem School
- **Referendum for 2023/2024 Budget** – Wednesday May 10th 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM at the Town Hall.

GET HELP, STAY WARM

Check our January newsletter for detailed information on Eversource payment plans and assistance, or use the following link:

<https://www.eversource.com/content/residential/account-billing/payment-assistance>. ***Be sure click on Connecticut in the upper right corner of the page.*** The webpage has information on the following programs:

programs:

- **Programs To Help Webinar**
- **Programs For Income-Eligible Customers:**
 - Extended Payment Plan
 - New Start Program
- **State And Federal Assistance:**
 - Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)
 - Operation Fuel
- **Service Protection:**
 - Winter Protection Plan
 - Medical Protection Plan
- **Take Control of Your Energy Bill:**
 - Budget Billing
 - Home Energy Solutions

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

TVCCS provides winter heating assistance among other community assistance services. **Use the following link to visit the TVCCA website:** <https://www.tvcca.org/energy-assistance/> for more information and a direct link to the application. If you have any questions or need help completing the application form, contact TVCCA at 860-889-1365. Note that not only does TVCCA provide funding for oil, but also for wood. TVCCA also has a Senior Nutrition Program for seniors 60 and over & Volunteer programs for seniors age 55 or over.

COMMUNITY HELP / ASSISTANCE (continued)

- TVCCA – (Thames Valley Council for Community Action Inc. **website link:** <https://www.tvcca.org/>.
Get connected to the people and services that can benefit you. TVCCA Navigators can also assist with referrals to other community resources including but not limited to food banks, furniture banks, and housing authorities. Client Assistance Funds are also available.

SALEM LIONS CLUB SELECT THEIR HUMANITERIAN OF THE YEAR



COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued)

SALEM RESIDENT RECEIVES LIONS CLUB'S HIGHEST AWARD

By John Houchin – Secretary, and Hugh McKenny of the Salem Lions Club,

It gives us great pleasure to inform Salem that Gary Closius was selected by the Salem Lions Club as Salem's Humanitarian of the Year for 2023. The Salem Lions recognized his volunteering that supports the Town of Salem.

Gary has served as a leader of youth through Boy Scouts of America and martial arts instructor, teaching valuable life skills to literally hundreds of the area's young people over the last 20+ years. His efforts helped build good citizens and leaders in our communities.

Gary recognized that the area's young women were not as well served; they wanted the opportunity to participate in the same adventures as their brothers. Gary, and others, founded Boy Scouts of America Venture Crew 123 designed for both young men and woman. Not only has it been a great place for youth to develop life skills, it also is very much service organization itself with service provided to, for example, CT Special Olympics (annual help with Stonington Regatta), Salem Library (annual help with book fairs), the local cemetery association and Rediscovering History, LLC, (cemetery clean up), Bride Brook Health and Rehabilitation Center (staff appreciation during pandemic, outreach to residents), and even the Salem Unsung Heroes as the Crew helped with multiple banquet preparations. Gary has remained Advisor of Venture Crew 123, even though his own children aged out nearly a decade ago.

Gary has been a tireless volunteer for Care and Share food pantry and regularly makes deliveries to families in need. During the first two years of the Covid 19 Pandemic, he worked with a small group of citizens delivering food the needy in Salem, when the local United Way suspended their mobile food pantry service to our town.

Gary has been a regular supporter for the annual library book fair, and recently became the president of the Salem Senior Citizen's group. Within four months, the club's population doubled under Gary's leadership and effort.

Gary has been recognized with the J. Michael Leahy Memorial Volunteerism Award for Service to the CT Special Olympics Sailing Regatta. He recently was inducted into the Salem Unsung Heroes for his outstanding volunteerism shown over his lifetime.

The District 23C Lions Club held a banquet dinner on January 22nd at the St. Clements Castle in Portland, CT., to celebrate the selected recipients of the Humanitarian Award from local Lions Clubs.

At the banquet, the district then recognized one of the Humanitarians for outstanding voluntarism. The person is selected at the international level to receive recognition and receive a Melvin Jones Award, the highest honor from the Lions International Club. Gary was recognized for this honor.

If you see Gary Closius around town, take a moment to congratulate him, and thank him for his many unselfish, unpaid efforts for our town.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **LION'S CLUB**
The Lions are looking for volunteers. *Contact John Houchin at 860-887-2518 or cell 860-705-1227.*
- **MITCHELL FARMS EQUINE:**
The retirement Horse farm is looking for volunteers to help. *Contact Dee Doolittle: 860-303-8705, or e-mail: dee@mitchellfarm.org.*
- **FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY (FOSL)**
The FOSL are always looking for help sorting books for the used book sale. *Contact Carl Nawrocki: 860-608-9970, or e-mail: carlybilly@aol.com.*
- **CEMETERY CLEAN-UP – VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED**
Cemetery clean-up activities are shut down for the winter but if you are interested in helping when we start up in the spring contact Kay Zak: 860-889-3989 (home), or e-mail: kayzak@hotmail.com or watch the FB website for future dates.
- **HOME REPAIR AND HANDY-MAN SKILLS.**
Would you like to volunteer to help a Senior or someone in need, or do you need help? Please let us know:
 - what your skills are and/or what you can help with?
 - what your needs are? (i.e., pull a pool cover on in fall;
 - reset a knocked down mailbox; change the oil in a lawn mower; etc.).
 Contact Kay Zak: 860-889-3989 or e-mail: kayzak@hotmail.com, or Gary Closius: 860-889-3989 or 860-961-9173, or e-mail: gclosius@sbcglobal.net.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued)

SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWS & EVENTS

- ***Hygge Workshop, February 15th @ 4:00PM.***
Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library.
Program is full! Waiting list only!
Make a pair of rolled beeswax taper candles & a large 3D paper snowflake. Includes cookies and hot cocoa bar.
- ***Backyard birding, Saturday, February 25th 12:00 p.m. to 1:00PM.***
Presented by the CT Audubon Society.
Participants will learn what birds you can expect to see in your backyard this time of year, how to make your yard a bird-friendly habitat, plus tips, tricks, and everything you need for making the most of your backyard birding.
- ***The Carroll Sisters Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 11:00AM.***
Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library
Traditional Celtic Fiddle Music accompanied by Cello
- ***Iditarod Program, Tuesday, March 21, 2023 @ 6:00PM***
Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Library
Presented by Karen Land. The program will include a talk and a PowerPoint presentation. Karen will bring her Iditarod dog sled, her gear and arctic clothing, as well as her two dogs, Chloe and Noggin.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Garde Arts Center New London 2023 Breezeline Winter Cinema Series:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Everything Everywhere All At Once, February 2nd 7:30 PM ➤ Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, February 3rd 7:30 PM ➤ She Said, February 4th 3:00 PM ➤ Top Gun: Maverick, February 4th 7:30 PM ➤ Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris, February 5th 3:00 PM ➤ Decision to Leave, February 9th 7:30 PM ➤ Triangle of Sadness, February 11th 3:00 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Till, February 11th 7:30 PM ➤ Empire of Light, February 12th 3:00 PM ➤ The Whale, February 23rd 7:30 PM ➤ The Woman King, February 24th 7:30 PM ➤ Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio, February 25th 3:00 PM ➤ TBD, February 25th 7:30 PM ➤ Women Talking, February 26th 3:00 PM
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- **Mandy Patinkin in Concert: BEING ALIVE** with Adam Ben-David on piano, Sat, April 29th, 8 PM. Garde Arts Center New London, tickets go on sale Friday, Feb 3rd at 10 AM.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
(continued)

• **GARDNER LAKE AND SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENTS:**

Both the Salem and Gardner Lake Fire Departments are looking for volunteers of ALL AGES.

➤ **Salem Volunteer Fire Company:**

NON-EMERGENCY PHONE:
860-859-0942

➤ **Gardner Lake Fire Company:**

NON-EMERGENCY PHONE:
860-859-1743

Website link:

<https://www.gardnerlakevolunteerfirecompany.com/home>

SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

There are many activities for Salem residents of all ages:

- Adult Rec Co-Ed Pick-up Basketball
- Adult Rec Co-Ed Pick-up Volleyball...Meditation...Chi Kung...Tai Chi Chuan
- Seniors & Strollers Walking at Salem School
- Find Your Footprint! Medallion Project.
- Salem Surge Soccer Club. Use the following link for more information:
<https://www.salemct.gov/recreation/links/salem-surge-soccer-club>.
- Salem Youth Softball and Little League. Use the following link for more information:
<https://www.salemct.gov/recreation/links/salem-youth-baseballsoftball-league>.

Just to name a few. Go to the Salem Recreation Commission page (link: **<https://www.salemct.gov/recreation>**) for the details.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued)

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

- **CT Garden and Flower Show, February 23rd – 26th** at the Connecticut Convention Center 100 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT. See website at: **<https://ctflowershow.com/>** for hours and ticket prices.
- **Mystic Seaport Museum:**
 - The exhibition Sargent, Whistler, and Venetian Glass through February 27th: American Artists and the Magic of Murano brings together more than 115 artworks, including rare etchings by James McNeill Whistler and major oil paintings by John Singer Sargent.
 - Through the Lens of a Commercial Fishermom now on exhibit. Corey Wheeler Forrest is a third generation commercial fishermom & fishdealer working out of Sakonnet Point, Rhode Island.
 - **And so much more.**

SALEM RECREATION COMMISSION

FIND YOUR FOOTPRINT! MEDALLION PROJECT

The Salem Recreation Commission invites you to Find Your Footprint! Salem Recreation Medallions, one-of-a-kind pottery keepsakes have been hidden this year along our Town's hiking trails for you to find and keep!

2022 Medallion



***Darling Road Preserve
Harris Brook/Multi-Purpose Path
Zemko Sawmill Preserve
Walden Preserve***

2020 Medallions



***Darling Road Preserve
Smugglers Rock Preserve
Woodland Warbler Preserve
Zemko Sawmill Preserve
Alf & Sylvia Bingham Preserve
Walden Preserve***

2021 Medallions



***Darling Road Preserve
Harris Brook/Multi-Purpose Path
Smuggler's Rock
Alf & Sylvia Bingham Preserve
Zemko Sawmill Preserve***

Fall 2019 Medallions



***12 Footprints still out there!
Zemko Sawmill Preserve (3)
Smugglers Rock Preserve (2)
Harris Brook/Multi-Purpose Path (2)
Walden Preserve (1)
Darling Road Preserve (4)***

SENIOR NEWS

- The *Salem Senior Citizen’s Group* boasts a current enrolment of over 100 members, an increase of more than 40 from the beginning of 2022.
- A bowling outing is planned for Sunday February 5th at 1:00 PM.
- The first Senior Night/Day movie outing – *80 For Brady* – is planned for Tuesday February 7th at 3:30 PM.
- BINGO – The first game is scheduled for Thursday February 23rd at the Salem Volunteer Fire Co. firehouse.
- A Pot Luck Dinner/Talent Show is scheduled for April 1st.
- Dawn Schumbo of Salem ArtSpace provides art classes after every monthly meeting. Some of the recent creations:



COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued)

SALEM RECREATION COMMISSION

FIND YOUR FOOTPRINT! MEDALLION PROJECT (continued)

Summer 2019 Medallions



6 Footprints waiting to be found!

- Big Brook Gorge Preserve*
- Zemko Pond*
- Zemko Sawmill Preserve (2)*
- Salem Riverside Preserve*
- Harris Brook/Multi-Purpose Path (1)*
- Darling Road Preserve (3)*

2018 Medallions



5 Footprints still waiting to be found!

- Zemko Sawmill Preserve (2)*
- Smugglers Rock Preserve (1)*
- Harris Brook/Multi-Purpose Path (2)*
- Darling Road Preserve*

SALEM FIRE CO. IS SELLING EMERGENCY “911” REFLECTIV E ADDRESS SIGNS

An Emergency “911” Reflective Address Sign may save your life or that of a loved one. There are many mailboxes and driveways that are not marked with the proper street #.



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.***

The signs are 6” x 18” in size and come in green or blue. These signs will mount to your existing mailbox either in a horizontal or vertical position. If you do not have a mailbox, it can be mounted to a post at the end of your driveway.



If you wish to purchase a sign, please go the Salem Fir Co. (link: <http://www.salemfireco.com/img/911-Reflective-Sign-Order-Form.pdf>) to download a fillable form and send the completed form with a \$15.00 check to the Salem Fire Company.

If you have any questions, please call us at 860-859-0942.

Important Features

- Highly visible day or night Reflective on both sides of the sign
- Reflective numbers – the numbers are 4” white Avery engineer grade reflective vinyl
- Fade resistant
- Lasts for years – signs are 6” x 18” 0.063-gauge U.S. Aluminum, double-sided laminated with Avery engineer grade reflective vinyl
- Pre-drilled holes. If you are elderly or have a physical limitation and are unable to install your own sign, someone from the Fire Department will be happy to come to your home and install the sign for you.

211 INFOLINE HELP STARTS HERE

Call 2-1-1 for your connection to:

- Alzheimer's resources
- Basic needs – food, clothing, shelter
- Child care services
- Child health care
- Consumer health
- Crisis intervention
- Disability services
- Drug & alcohol programs
- Emergency shelter
- Emergency assistance
- Financial assistance
- Health care
- HIV/AIDS
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Parenting programs
- Pre-natal care
- Senior services
- Suicide prevention
- Transportation
- Veteran's services
- Volunteering
- And much more

SDTC CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Kay Zak – Vice Chairperson
kayzak@hotmail.com

Leslie Hotary – Secretary
hotaryleslie@gmail.com

Gary Closius – Newsletter Editor
gclosius@sbcglobal.net

HOW DO I GET A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send your request along with your e-mail address to: Gary Closius:
gclosius@sbcglobal.net

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE (continued)

THE SALEM FIRE CO. IS SELLING THE KNOXBOX®

The Residential KnoxBox® is a high-security key safe designed for single-family homes that only local emergency responders can access. With a Residential KnoxBox® installed, emergency responders can respond quickly, without forcing entry. They simply remove your entrance key stored inside, provide medical assistance and re-lock your door when they leave.

- Benefits of installing a Residential KnoxBox®
- One-time purchase, no monthly monitoring fee
- Key locked in KnoxBox®; not hidden for a burglar to find
- Key readily available to responders; no relying on a neighbor to be home to let first responders inside
- Reduces forced entry property damage by first responders trying to access your home
- Makes re-securing property easier and faster
- Weather Resistant
- Security is a top priority — KnoxBox® is UL® listed against physical attack
- Available in 3 colors: Aluminum, Dark Bronze, Black

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS NEW OFFICE HOURS

Effective January 16, 2023, the Registrars of Voters offices will be open Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

SNOW REMOVAL

Street safety is the Town of Salem Public Works Department's primary concern during the winter months. Public Works treats the pavement and removes snow whenever road conditions call for these services. Residents should remember that all snow removal operations are performed under emergency conditions. Our drivers work extended hours to ensure safe and effective snow removal. Please help the Public Works Department by following the Snow Emergency Tips and Reminders detailed in the town's mailbox damage policy see our December – January Newsletter or the Snow Emergency Tips and Reminders can be found on the Town of Salem website using the following link: <https://www.salemct.gov/public-works/pages/snow-removal>.

TOWN MAILBOX DAMAGE POLICY

For detailed information on the town's mailbox damage policy see our December – January Newsletter or the policy can be found on the Town of Salem website using the following link: <https://www.salemct.gov/public-works/pages/mailbox-damage-policy>.