

## P2 TREASURE'S UPDATE

Salem Township's own Dale Converse presents the latest updates to keep you informed!

## P3 CLERK'S COMMENTARY

Important and helpful voter updates and information from Del Wensley.

## P5 SALEM TWP. CALENDAR

Get involved! Meeting dates from March through May.

# SALEM TOWNSHIP MESSENGER



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

- + Letter From The Supervisor
- + Treasurer's Update
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# SPRING 2016

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERVISOR

DEAR SALEM RESIDENTS,

I hope this edition of the Messenger finds you and your family having a great start to the New Year.

Not much has changed since our last newsletter, but here is a quick update concerning the USD. When it comes to the utilities for the Urban Service District, Plymouth Township is not interested in providing water and sewer. The township and the property owners in the USD are continuing to explore the best means by which to provide public water and sewer to the properties. In January there was a public hearing and the board considered and passed a one year extension of the PUD (planned unit development) ordinance. This area includes the 356 acres in the southeast portion of the USD. This parcel of land is commonly referred to as the Johnson Controls Property (JCI). We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

I have been receiving many calls and questions about a possible landfill expansion. As you may recall, Advanced Disposal approached the township several months ago to consider expanding the landfill to the north side of 6 Mile Rd. At that time we formed a committee to be ready for discussions with Advanced Disposal. However, they have not yet approached us and have informed us it could be a year or more until they do. In the meantime, I encourage you to contact me to express your opinion on a landfill expansion. Unfortunately there are many rumors being spread about this issue. Some of you may be familiar with a flyer that is being circulated with false information about it. You may have read or been told:

1. It is already a done deal.
2. Six Mile Rd will be closed.
3. I am already in favor of the expansion.

These statements are simply not true. Please feel free to email or call me with any questions or concerns you have. I am grateful that many of you have reached out to me for clarification on this matter.

The Land Preservation and Conservation Board have been working hard and are excited about the opening of the Salem Farm Preserve. The signs are almost completed and trails have been designated. The opening should be in the spring. We are grateful to the Land Preservation and Conservation Board for all of their hard work on this project.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 →



# LETTER FROM THE SUPERVISOR

CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE...

In closing I can't believe that it has already been three years and this is the final year of my term. One thing I can tell you for sure is I have learned a lot, and I'm still learning. I can't thank you enough for the kindness and encouragement that you have given me during these past three years. I am so blessed that I have a board that loves our town and has brought respect back to our local government.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me by calling my direct line with any questions or concerns that you might have.

Take care,



248-909-3200

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

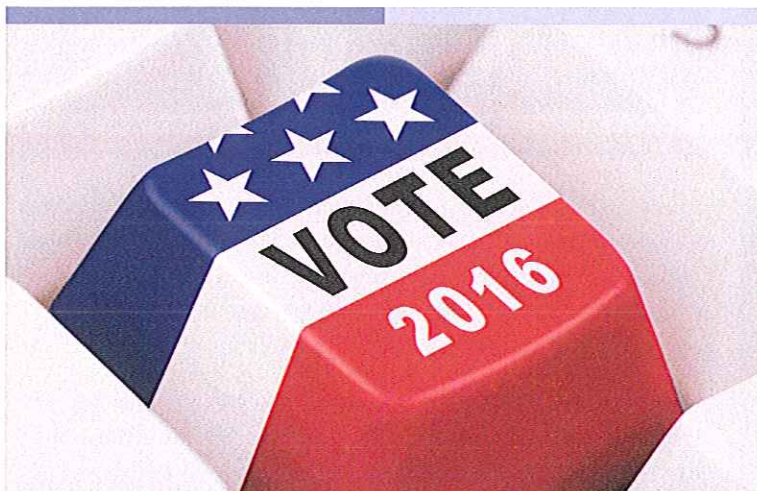
### FROM THE DESK OF DALE CONVERSE

The Treasurer's office is in the process of rewriting the Township's Investment Policy as a result of information learned at the Michigan Township Association (MTA) and Michigan Government Finance Officers Association (MGFOA) conferences. The speakers presented information that needs to be included in an investment policy and suggested several example investment policies that could be used as references. I contacted several Townships, obtained their investment policies and am using their policies as a model for the new policy. The new Salem Township investment policy is near completion and includes practices that are utilized by larger Townships. It is necessary to include those practices in the new investment policy as Salem Township will grow due to the expansion of the Urban Service District.

This past year, \$475,000 was added to the Townships investments so far. I questioned and it was confirmed by both Township investment brokers that we need to invest in one-year CD's to reduce the risk of locking in long term bonds rates that are presently yielding low interest rates in the current increasing interest rate environment. It is our policy to acquire Township investment rates of return that exceed those of comparable US Government Treasury rates. It is the object of Salem Township to diversify its investment portfolio by investing in CD's, government and agency bonds, municipal bonds, and asset backed securities. Municipal bonds are included in the Township's asset based securities below:







MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> 2016'S  
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

## CLERK'S COMMENTARY: DEL WENSLEY

### REQUESTING AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT

Your request for an absent voter ballot must be in writing and can be submitted at the Clerk's Office. For more information see <http://www.Michigan.gov/vote>. Your request must include one of the six statutory reasons stated and your signature. You must request an absent voter ballot by mailing the application form obtained from the State's website listed above or from my office. Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to you must be received by my office no later than 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election.

Once your request is received by my office, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record before a ballot is issued. You must be a registered voter to receive an absent voter ballot. Absent voter ballots may be issued to you at your home address or any other address outside of Salem Township.

After receiving your absent voter ballot, you have until 8 p.m. on Election Day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office. Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file. If you received assistance voting the ballot, then the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope. Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to your clerk's office.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: STRAIGHT-TICKET VOTING

As you may have heard, in January Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill 13 into law (now PA 268 of 2015), eliminating Straight – Ticket voting. While this law has immediate effect, the change will not be an issue until the November 8, 2016 election. This new law includes an appropriation to the Department of State to 'purchase a portion of the voting equipment to implement the elimination of a straight party ticket voting'. However, local Clerk offices will still need to appropriate funds to purchase all necessary voting equipment. The state of Michigan does not expect to have new voting machines for local election offices until after the November 8, 2016 General Election.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

**AS A REGISTERED VOTER, YOU MAY  
OBTAIN AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT IF  
YOU ARE:**

- *age 60 years old or older*
- *unable to vote without assistance at the polls*
- *expecting to be out of town on election day*
- *in jail awaiting arraignment or trial*
- *unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons*
- *appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct of residence.*

Absent voter ballots are available for all elections. They provide voters with a convenient method for casting a ballot when they are unable to attend the polls on Election Day.

A person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates. The restriction does not apply to overseas voters, voters who are disabled or voters who are 60 years of age or older.

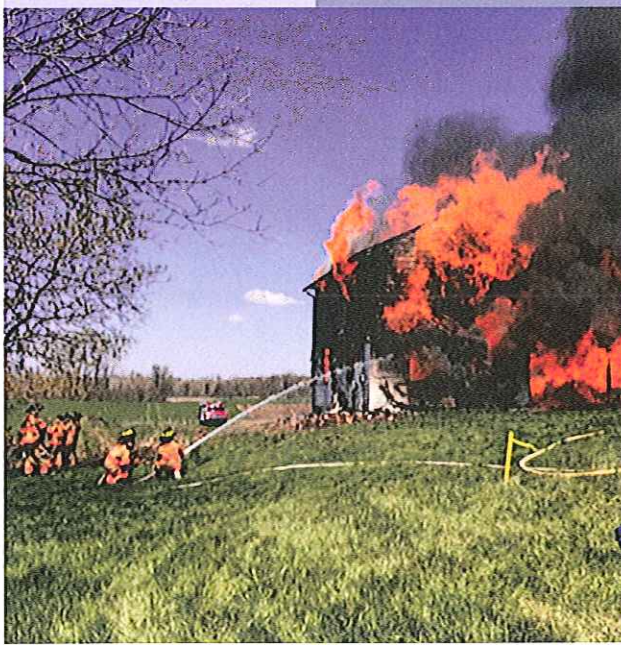
### JUST A REMINDER "TO GET OUT TO VOTE"

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016 –**  
The Presidential Primary Election

**Tuesday, August 2, 2016 –**  
The State of Michigan's Primary Election

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016 –**  
The State of Michigan's General Election





Salem Township undergoing a training burn with neighboring fire departments.

## SALEM TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT... WORKING HARD TO SAVE YOU

BY: FIRE CHIEF JIM RACHWAL — FIRECHIEF@SALEM-MI.ORG

Salem Township Fire Department recently has undergone an Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), Public Protection Classification (PPC) review. As part of the review, ISO sent a representative to review all aspects of the township's fire department. I am happy to announce that the company has upgraded the department to a rating of 10/8B.

What does the new ISO PPC rating mean? Potentially a lower fire insurance rate for your homeowners insurance, thereby saving you money. It is up to your individual insurance company as to how much, if any, they will lower your rate. The challenge for Salem Township is that we do not have fire hydrants within the township. This lack of adequate water supply raises the PPC number.

The Salem Township Board has helped our department to further pursue a lower rate with the approval and purchase of a new Tanker/ Pumper Fire Apparatus. We expect to take delivery of the new fire apparatus shortly. This new truck will be a huge improvement with pump capacity and will replace our 30-year old tanker. We will also

attempt to demonstrate an effective tanker shuttle, which could bring down the ISO PPC score even lower. The lower score will take help from our neighbors, in-house training on the new truck and additional review of Salem Township's fire policies and practices.

The last point I wish to make is that we have responded to a number of fires recently. I would ask that all homeowners who have a wood burning fireplace to ensure that the fireplace is clean and inspected on an annual basis. We have seen way too many fires related to the fireplace/flue. As always, please ensure you have at least one working smoke detector on each floor and that you check its batteries at least every six months.

## TIPS FROM WASHTENAW COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

### THE WASHTENAW CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF A NEW SCAM IN OUR AREA.

Over the last several weeks residents have received calls from a number that shows Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office on the caller I.D. Once answered the person pretends to be a Sheriff's Office deputy and claims that the resident is past due on their taxes. The resident is asked for personal information and asked to pay their overdue taxes via the phone. If they refuse to give the information or make a payment residents are threatened that a deputy will be sent out to their home.

Please know that the Sheriff's Office does not make calls on behalf of the IRS and that these calls are scams.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do:

-If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue, if there really is such an issue.

-If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1.800.366.4484.

-You can file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant; choose "Other" and then "Imposter Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes. Access the FTC Complaint Assistant here: [https://apps.irs.gov/app/scripts/exit.jsp?dest=https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/FTC\\_Wizard.aspx?Lang=en&OrgCode=IRS](https://apps.irs.gov/app/scripts/exit.jsp?dest=https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/FTC_Wizard.aspx?Lang=en&OrgCode=IRS)

*"An educated and engaged community is our best partner." — Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton*



## SALEM SOUTH LYON LIBRARY SPRING NEWS

### BOOK'N TRILOGY: THE FINAL CHAPTER — MAY 21, 2016

Join our very last annual 5K Run/Walk and fun run for kids! Sign up today at the library or online: [www.bookntrilogy.com](http://www.bookntrilogy.com)

### GET MONTHLY LIBRARY UPDATES:

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. You'll get an email on the 1st of every month with the latest Library updates, programs and information.

<http://go.ssldl.info/signup>

### CAROUSEL ACRES MOBILE PETTING FARM AT THE LIBRARY SATURDAY, MAY 7TH AT 11 AM--NOON

Here is a chance for kids to get up close and personal with farm animals such as a miniature horse, donkey, goat, sheep, alpaca, bunny, duck, and baby cow. When you're done, browse our collection of books to learn more about them. We will be outside on the front lawn for this program.

## SALEM BIBLE CHURCH

9481 West Six Mile Road

Salem, Michigan

"We preach Christ"

[SBC4christ.org](http://SBC4christ.org)

Pastor Lance Rubringer

248-924-5311

Koinonia Coffee Cafe-9:30 & 10:30

Sunday Morning Service-11:00 AM

Sunday Evening Service-6:00 PM

Mid-Week Recharge-Wednesday 7:00 PM

March 12-Adult Family Grand Prix&Chili Dinner

Call 248-349-0674 for details

March 25-Good Friday Service-1:00

March 27- Easter Sunday Service

## SALEM TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

### MARCH

8<sup>th</sup> BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 7:00PM

21<sup>st</sup> PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING 7:30PM

22<sup>nd</sup> LAND PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION MEETING 7:00PM

25<sup>th</sup> GOOD FRIDAY – TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSE AT 12:00PM

### APRIL

12<sup>th</sup> BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 7:00PM

18<sup>th</sup> PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING 7:30PM

19<sup>th</sup> LAND PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION MEETING 7:00PM

### MAY

10<sup>th</sup> BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 7:00PM

16<sup>th</sup> PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING 7:30PM

17<sup>th</sup> LAND PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION MEETING 7:00PM

30<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

\*ALL RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ABOVE MEETINGS AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL.

## SALEM COMMUNITY EVENTS

### PLAN TO JOIN THE FUN JUNE 4TH AND CELEBRATE FLAG DAY

This community oriented event is run by Salem Community Events (SCE) and many local volunteers. Donations should be mailed to SCE, PO Box 75041, Salem, MI 48175. Planning meetings for Flag Day are usually the 3rd Saturday each month, at 11:00 am at the Salem Township Hall.

The "longest parade on the shortest route" begins in downtown Salem at 11:00 am. This is followed by a selection of songs played by the South Lyon Middle School bands. There will be a brief ceremony honoring this year's Grand Marshal Megan Braun. Megan is an exceptional young person and was elected in 2015, by her peers, as South Lyon East's Homecoming Queen.

Crafters, nonprofits, or individuals with a product or service to sell, including such things as a garage sale are encouraged to participate. Space will be available on the township site for no charge. If a table is needed, please bring your own. Canopies are also welcome. Set up time starts at 9:00 am with space placement being on a first come basis. Join us, watch the parade, sell your products and take part in the fun and excitement of Flag Day!

Hotdog, sausage and pulled pork meals will be available for purchase. Inflatables will be provided for the children's enjoyment.

Live music will be provided by the Flat Rockers at Salem Elementary School beginning at 7:00 pm. The Flat Rockers hail from the communities of Flat Rock, Dearborn, Plymouth and Salem. Their musical repertoire includes good old time Rock with a twang, classic country, danceable blues, 50's Rock, British Invasion and more. They are capable of playing any party or venue that requires an easy to assimilate set of music which is well known to the ears and has toe tapping spontaneity.

At dusk there will be fireworks. Viewing is best from behind Salem Elementary School. The fireworks are entirely supported by the people and businesses of Salem through generous donations. (Fireworks rain date is June 11, 2016.) To check on the status of the fireworks should there be inclement weather please call **248.380.7017**

### TO HELP SALEM COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- Click on Sign In/Register ([krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com))
- Click on SIGN UP TODAY in the "New Customer" box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions.
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter the number, **63534** or name of organization, Salem Community Events.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see our organization's name on the right side of your information page.



# SALEM AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Salem Area Historical Society annual Memberships expire on March 31st. If you are not a member or you want to renew your membership, please send in your membership dues. Use the form below or the one on the "Membership" page of the Salem Area Historical Society's web site [www.sahshistory.org](http://www.sahshistory.org).

## APRIL 2016 EVENTS:

Tickets are now available for the **Salem Area Historical Society's 2016 Annual Dinner and Auction** on Saturday, **April 2nd**, at 6 PM at Fox Hills' Classic Log Cabin Fox Club House. Cost of this pre-paid event is \$33.00 per SAHS Member and \$38 per non-SAHS Member. Everyone is invited. This will include a buffet dinner, a silent auction, a live auction and **Fun** for all. Auction items will include tickets to area attractions (i.e. Tipping Point Theatre, The Henry Ford, Purple Rose Theatre), national attractions (i.e. Disney World), historical items and restaurant gift certificates. All proceeds will be used to maintain the Jarvis-Stone School and the Dickenson Barn. Tickets can be purchased using the form below, via our Website's "SAHS Dinner/Auction" Webpage (<http://www.sahshistory.org>) or via an email to [Salem\\_Area\\_HS@yahoo.com](mailto:Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com).

The SAHS Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **April 27th**, at 7:30 PM in the Jarvis Stone School. A short SAHS Business agenda will be followed by a presentation on **Beauty of Native Plants** by Drew Lathin of Creating Sustainable Landscapes. Admission Fee: \$2 for non-SAHS Members.

The SAHS hopes that we can capture your interest in our goal of preserving the past for the future and to see you at our events. More information can be found at the Salem Area Historical Society's Website ([www.sahshistory.org](http://www.sahshistory.org)) or on our Facebook page. You can become a member or renew your membership for 2016 at any of our events or via our Website.

**FOR SAHS MEMBERSHIPS AND/OR DINNER/AUCTION TICKETS MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SALEM AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MAIL TO: SAHS, P. O. BOX 75011, SALEM, MI 48175**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
# OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$38 EACH NON-MEMBER = \_\_\_\_\_  
# OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$33 EACH SAHS MEMBER = \_\_\_\_\_  
SAHS MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 - SENIOR; \$15 - INDIVIDUAL; \$25 - FAMILY) \_\_\_\_\_

## SALEM ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR 2016

The Equalization process is underway for 2016. This process starts with the Assessor, who is determining individual property values as of December 31, 2015 and will notify the property owner of the tentative value by the first week in March. In the State of Michigan, you will be taxed in July based on the value of your property as of December 31, 2015. The first Monday in March, the Assessor turns these values over to the Township's Board of Review. The Board reviews the assessments and hears appeals by property owners who feel that their assessments should be adjusted. When the Board of Review has made all the adjustments they feel are warranted, they direct the assessor to incorporate the changes into the 2015 Assessment Roll.

The Assessment Roll will then be turned over to the County Equalization Department for their review. Equalization insures that the State rules regarding assessment practices are being followed, and that the average of the Township's assessments does not exceed 50% of market value.

The Township's Taxable value increase for this year will be due to the 0.3% increase in the cost of living, newly constructed improvements that occurred during 2015, and the value captured by the "uncapping" of those properties that transferred in ownership during 2015. As the Township does not levy a millage to operate, the increase in revenue from this increase in Taxable value will be realized by the schools, County, Community College, and other taxing authorities in Salem Township.

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# SALEM TOWNSHIP'S TOP TEN TAXPAYERS DURING 2015 ARE LISTED BELOW:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX...

ITC TRANSMISSION has 10,182,050 Taxable Value in 6 Parcels  
SUN NORTHVILLE CROSSINGS has 8,478,900 Taxable Value in 2 Parcels  
DETROIT EDISON has 7,527,550 Taxable Value in 6 Parcels  
VEOLIA ES ARBOR HILLS LANDFILL, INC has 5,923,444 Taxable Value in 16 Parcels  
GAS RECOVERY SYSTEMS has 4,108,450 Taxable Value in 1 Parcel  
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY has 3,882,900 Taxable Value in 5 Parcels  
DTE GAS COMPANY has 3,157,300 Taxable Value in 4 Parcels  
SARLEN LLC has 2,647,763 Taxable Value in 13 Parcels  
FOX HILLS COUNTRY CLUB has 2,594,554 Taxable Value in 5 Parcels  
SALEM SPRINGS OWNER LLC has 2,024,127 Taxable Value in 17 Parcels

Respectfully submitted,

William Guenther, MAO  
Assessor for Salem Township

## SALEM TOWNSHIP PROMISE

### GREAT NEWS

We are pleased to announce that The Salem Township Promise has been accepted by Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice® program to participate in their charitable Choice Dollars® grant program.

By directing Choice Dollars®, eligible Thrivent members can recommend which nonprofit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you are an eligible member, please consider us when directing your Choice Dollars. All Thrivent Choice grant funding will go directly toward supporting our scholarship program. We will provide you with updates in the coming weeks.

If you want to learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836, and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

1) The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and chapters in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent Financial's mission and its purposes under state law. All grants are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

The 2016 applications will be at the high schools in early March. As in the past, all applications must be submitted by May 1, 2016. As you may know, the Awards committee will meet early May to review the applications and make a selection. And, hopefully we can make the announcement at the Salem Flag Day Parade.

Financially, 2015 was a good year. We were just \$175.00 short of reaching a sustaining level of contributions. Maybe 2016 will be the banner year. We'll keep working hard and the successes will come.

Thank you all for your continued support.



Pat Curley

The Salem Township Promise





## SALEM TOWNSHIP

9600 SIX MILE  
PO BOX 75002  
SALEM, MI 48175

A -01-31-210-021

### SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Supervisor, Gary Whittaker	<a href="mailto:gary@saalem-mi.org">gary@saalem-mi.org</a>
Clerk, Del Wensley	<a href="mailto:dwensley@saalem-mi.org">dwensley@saalem-mi.org</a>
Treasurer, Dale Converse	<a href="mailto:dconverse@saalem-mi.org">dconverse@saalem-mi.org</a>
Trustee, TJ McLaughlin	<a href="mailto:tj@saalem-mi.org">tj@saalem-mi.org</a>
Trustee, Reggie DeLuca	<a href="mailto:reggie@saalem-mi.org">reggie@saalem-mi.org</a>
Trustee, David Trent	<a href="mailto:david@saalem-mi.org">david@saalem-mi.org</a>

### TOWNSHIP CONTACT INFO

**Fire Chief, Jim Rachwal**  
[Firechief@saalem-mi.org](mailto:Firechief@saalem-mi.org)

**Deputy Treasurer, Jance Radatz**  
[jradatz@saalem-mi.org](mailto:jradatz@saalem-mi.org)

**Deputy Clerk, Kim Taggart**  
[deputyclerk@saalem-mi.org](mailto:deputyclerk@saalem-mi.org)

**Building Department, Anne Alexander**  
[aalexander@saalem-mi.org](mailto:aalexander@saalem-mi.org)

**Zoning Administrator, Donna Krips**  
[donnak@saalem-mi.org](mailto:donnak@saalem-mi.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
9:00am – 4:30pm

WEBSITE:  
[www.salem-mi.org](http://www.salem-mi.org)

Phone: 248-349-1690

Fax: 248-349-9350

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 734-994-2911

### LANDFILL

888-443-1717

Hours Oper.

Mon – Fri 6:00am – 5:00pm

Sat 7:00am – 12:00pm

Closed Sunday