

SALEM TOWNSHIP MESSENGER



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Letter from the Supervisor
- Clerk's Commentary
- Treasurer's Update
- News from the Assessor's Desk
- Salem Township Fire Department
- Salem Community Events
- Salem-South Lyon Library
- Historical Society News
- Salem Township Calendar
- Recipe: Hearty White Bean Chicken Chili
- The Salem Promise



Dear Salem neighbors,

I hope all is well and that you and your family have enjoyed our beautiful fall season here in Michigan. The holidays are upon us and another year is coming to a close. I hope you have had a great 2017 and have a safe and Happy New year. The Salem Township Board and our employees have enjoyed serving you this year and are thankful for your support.

The Board of Trustees has been working on three projects and I would like to share the recent updates on these projects with you. They are the Chubb Road Project, the Hamlet Project and the Urban Service District project (USD).

Chubb Road Project

Engineers have been working on this project and should have it completed by the first of the year. Chubb Road between 5 Mile Rd and 6 Mile Rd and Five Mile Rd between Chubb and Napier will be impacted by this project. This is part of our Heavy Industrial area that needs to be paved. This will help to drastically cut down the dirt and dust problems coming out onto Six Mile Rd. This is part of Salem's infrastructure that needs to be fixed.

Hamlet Project

In August of this year, the Planning Commission recommended to the Board of Trustees, a plan to beautify the Salem Hamlet. Both the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees have recommended steps to improve the physical characteristics of the Hamlet while maintaining and enhancing the Hamlet's focal points. These improvements include street lights, sidewalks and landscaping. Look for these updates coming in 2018.

Urban Service District (USD)

On October 23rd, the Township received an email from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) that Salem Township is eligible for a \$10 million grant for infrastructure for the USD. (Sewer & Water). At the time of writing this newsletter, we have not pursued this grant until the Board of Trustees has the opportunity to review it in our November meeting. Keep in mind, the total cost for the infrastructure will be in the vicinity of 25 million, therefore it's very important to understand where the rest of the money will

be coming from. The Township's position is that no development will be started until the developers can show how they are going to finance the project. Once again, to be very clear, this will not be paid for by the taxpayers of Salem Township.

As always, I would encourage you to reach out to me anytime to discuss any issues you might have at 248-909-3200 or by email at Gary@Salem-mi.org. We would love to have you join us at our monthly Board of Trustees meetings which are held at the Township hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. As the holidays approach, I can't help but be thankful to be able to serve you as a resident of this great town. Sherry and I would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy & prosperous New Year.

Take care,



Gary
248-909-3200

CLERK'S COMMENTARY: FROM THE DESK OF DEL WENSLEY

November 7 Special Election Results – Salem Township

A "huge thank you" to all of our election workers for a job well-done! It is a lot of work, but it is a great learning experience. Thank you again for making Salem Township's election process run so smoothly.

The "Un-official" results of the election on November 7 were that only 645 residents voted out of a possible 5,197 total voting residents. The Washtenaw County Mental Health millage was defeated in Salem Township with 60% of the total votes cast. The Northville Public School millage increase was defeated overwhelmingly with 90% of the votes cast. However, the Washtenaw ISD School District millage won by a narrow margin with 53% of the votes cast.

Remember that 2018 will be another important voting season with both a Governor's & U.S. Senator's race, along with many other state & local issues. Anyone, 16 years or older, who desires to learn more about the voting process and would like to work at an upcoming election, please call the Clerk's office at (248) 912-6725 or email me at dwensley@salem-mi.org.

Del Wensley
Salem Township Clerk



TREASURER'S UPDATE: FROM THE DESK OF DALE CONVERSE

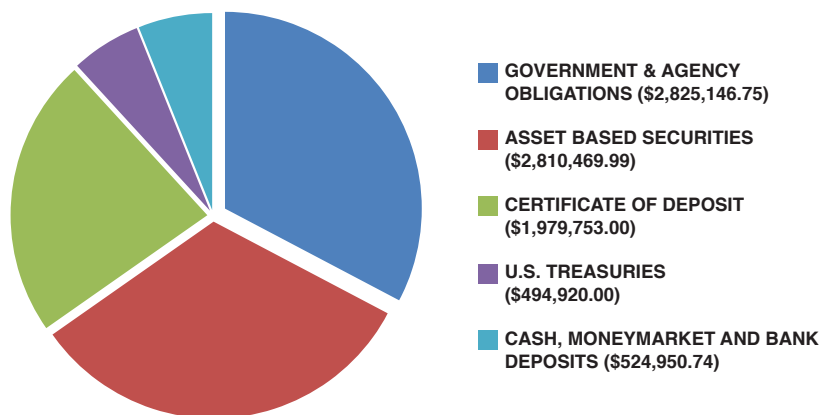
I want to begin with wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year.

The Treasurer's office is in the process of issuing, collecting and distributing the annual winter taxes. This year will be no different than in the past. The taxes will be mailed and you should receive them by the first of December. The taxes are due by February 14, 2018. Those taxes that are delinquent after the February 14 due date will receive a yellow postcard stating that there are delinquent taxes due. All delinquent taxes that are not paid by February 28 will be turned over to Washtenaw County on March 1. All delinquent taxes that are turned over to the county will be assessed a 4% penalty and accumulate another 1% per month penalty until paid. The Township office will be open until 5:00 PM December 29 and February 28 to assist those that are not able to stop by the Township office during normal business hours. Residents who pay their taxes through an escrow service and need a paid receipt can request a stamped paid receipt and we would be happy to provide it.

The inspection of the Hamlet sewer system that I mentioned in past communications has been completed. We are awaiting the results to start planning on what needs to be accomplished to address future renovations if needed. This study will be beneficial in addressing the issue of excessive flow rates during and after a heavy rain. Much work still remains to fully understand the future needs for the system.

The Board approved an unusual large amount of road projects this past summer. I am pleased to report that the projects were funded without the need to use our investments. We did need to use our short-term savings account, but at this time those funds have been replaced.

SALEM TOWNSHIP INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2017



NET ASSETS IN INVESTMENTS ACCOUNT	\$8,605,757.90*
MI CLASS SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$764,747.77**
TOTAL INVESTMENT AND RESERVE FUNDS	\$9,370,505.67
TOTAL ACCRUED INTEREST & DIVIDENDS 1/1/17-10/31/17	\$185,167.22
TOTAL ACCRUED INTEREST & DIVIDENDS 4/1/17-10/31/17	\$94,346.22

* Total assets are dependent on the Bond Market. If left to maturity the bonds will sell at PAR.

** The Michigan CLASS Savings Account currently yields a greater interest rate than can be obtained in the bond market. The funds are 100% liquid and can be transferred to the investment portfolio after any major anticipated budget expenses are funded.

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

I just received the inflation multiplier from the State Tax Commission. They have calculated a 2.1% increase in your Taxable Value for 2018. You can take last year's value and multiply it by 1.021 to get an estimate of the amount you will pay taxes on for 2018. This is assuming that you didn't make any changes on your property during 2017. You can get more information on how the State calculations are made on line at this link: [Bulletin+16+of+2017+-+Inflation+Rate+Multiplier+for+2018.pdf](#)

I will be sending out your assessment notices by the end of February. Please watch for it and if you don't agree with my value, please call and make an appointment to visit the Board of Review. In 2018 they will be in session on March 14, 15, & 16. I will be driving throughout the Township during December, January, and February to look at new construction, so if you see a black Ford Escape driving around in your neighborhood please come out and ask any question you might have.

To anyone in the Township that is operating a business, if you have less than \$80,000 in personal business property, please don't forget to file the **"Affidavit to Claim Small Business Tax Exemption"** with my office by February 10, 2018. You must file this form every year. If you are no longer in business as of December 31, 2017 let me know by returning the form with **"No longer in Business"** written on it and I'll take you off the Tax Roll. If you didn't receive your form by February, either come and get one at the office, or on line at michigan.gov, the State Treasury Department.

Washtenaw County will be completing their studies that determine the increase or decrease in assessed values for 2018. They will be looking at property sales in Salem Township during the last two years and comparing the sale prices with my 2017 assessments. The ratio of sale prices to assessed values must be at 50% by State Law. This is done by adding all the sale prices and dividing it into the total of the assessments of all those properties that sold. So, if you purchased your house recently, the 2018 assessed value may not be exactly half of the sale price. I hope you will all have a joyful holiday season.

Respectfully,
Bill Guenther, Assessor

SALEM TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLEASE HELP THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HELP YOU!

For some of our fire and rescue responses within the township we have a hard time reading the house address. You can help us by installing a "Green Address" sign. Small address numbers or missing numbers delay our responses. Remember, some of our roads have speed limits over 50 mph which make small address especially difficult to read at night or under poor weather conditions such as rain and fog. The address sign can be purchased at the Township Hall for a nominal cost.

Another issue we encounter is driveways that do not have the trees and/or bushes trimmed back away from the road. Driveways that offer easy access to a car may not allow ambulances or fire apparatus to enter. We suggest a minimum of 15 feet across the driveway and 15 above the driveway be cleared of all obstructions to allow us to quickly get to your house.



Please feel free to contact your fire department if you have any questions at 248.349.1690, extension 2.

SALEM COMMUNITY EVENTS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Do you have young children or grandchildren? Plan to attend Salem Community Events Annual Children's Christmas party December 3rd, 1-3:00 pm at Salem Hills Golf Course. Santa will arrive at 1:15 pm and depart at 2:00 pm. Children will also enjoy games, crafts and balloon sculptures. Cookies and cider will also be available. If you would like to help, set-up begins at 11:30 am or have dinner with us at the township hall November 30th at 6:30 pm and help us stuff stockings for the children. To RSVP please call Linda at 248.380.7017.

YEAR-ROUND SUPPORT

Did you know you can help support Salem Community Events year-round? Kroger has a Community Rewards Program and if you do not currently support a local organization please consider signing up and supporting Salem Community Events. Our organization I.D. is 63534. This program does not impact any other savings, such as fuel points that you are already earning.

To sign up to help Salem Community Events you can register online at krogercommunityrewards.com

AMAZON SMILE

1. Visit smile.amazon.com

2. Sign in and Choose **Salem Community Events Association**

The screen will look slightly different depending on whether or not you're already signed into Amazon. If you're already signed in search for "Salem Community Events Association". If you're not signed, enter your email and password. Then proceed to step 3.

3. Select **"Salem Community Events Association."**

After signing in, search for "Salem Community Events Association" you will be given a list of possible matches. Select Salem Community Events Association to continue. Once selected, you will receive an email confirmation and you can begin shopping.

4. Begin shopping!

Once you've selected your charity everything else functions the same. Most products are eligible on Amazon Smile-if not, you'll be notified. You can checkout normally as well. No extra cost is passed onto you-Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Salem Community Events Association!

Salem Community Events has joined the social media phenomenon. Check out our updated website www.salemflagday.com or find us on Facebook under Salem Community Events. We are using these methods to update the community about our events. You will also find a list of the many Flag Day supporters as well as pictures from this year's Flag Day.

The members of Salem Community Events wish each one of you a happy and joyous holiday season!

SALEM-SOUTH LYON LIBRARY

WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA (ALL AGES)

Monday, December 4; 6:30PM – 8:00PM Please RSVP!

Dress for the weather and join us at the library for a winter party! There will be Holiday Tubas, a hot chocolate bar and a winter craft for the kids. Santa and one of his reindeer will be here, so bring your camera!



SAT PRACTICE TEST (GRADES 7-12)

Saturday, December 9; 10:00-3:00pm

Michigan now requires students to take the SAT in order to graduate. Set yourself up for success with an SAT practice test presented by Sylvan Learning of Brighton. Teens can attend this session to partake in a full-length SAT practice test, free of cost! Participants must bring their own calculator and pencil, and are encouraged to bring a snack.



HAVE A JAZZY HOLIDAY – LIVE JAZZ AT THE LIBRARY:

Limit 75, Please enroll

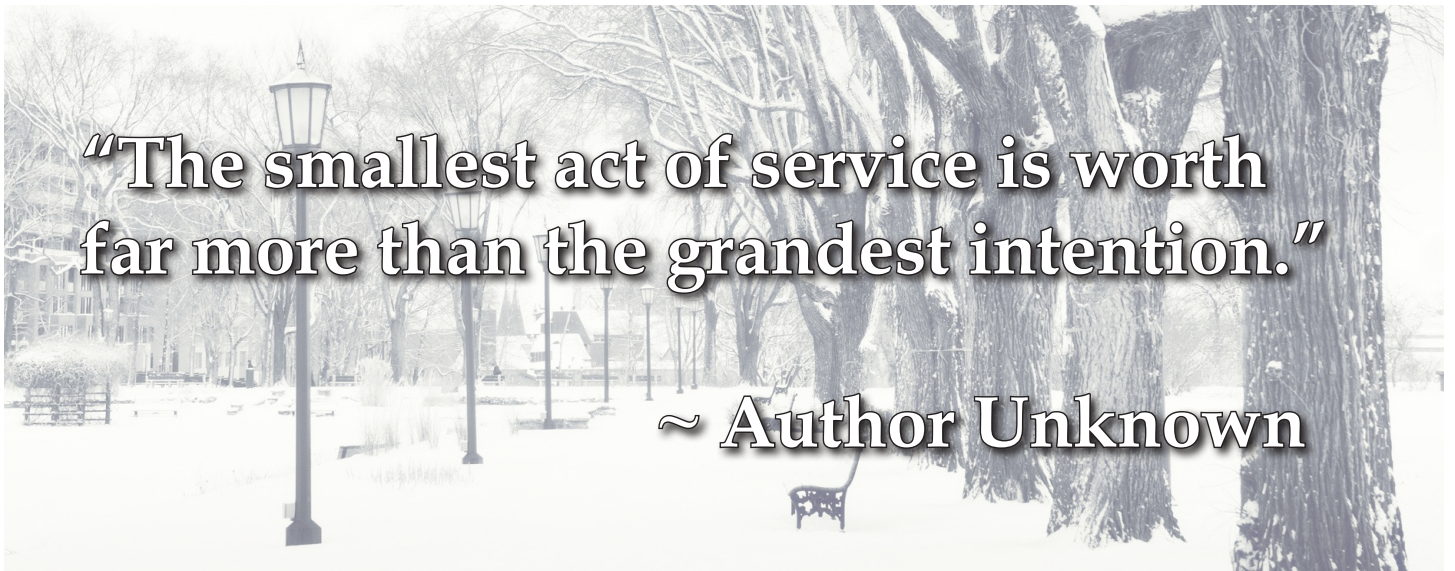
Sunday December 10; 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Deck the Halls! Attention all music lovers, dreamers, musicians and wannabees! Back by popular demand! Join us for an afternoon of live festive Detroit Holiday Jazz, Blues, and history with Detroit's own James O'Donnell on trumpet/vocal, Michael Zavorski on keys, John Barron on string bass, RJ Spangler on percussion. Light refreshments provided.



**“The smallest act of service is worth
far more than the grandest intention.”**

~ Author Unknown



SALEM AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

DECEMBER 2017 EVENT:

The annual SAHS Christmas Party for members, will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 1 to 4 PM. For details, see the November edition of SAHS's Spirit of Salem newsletter.

2018 MEETING TOPICS:

- January 24, Wednesday, 6:00 PM, Potluck Dinner and An Uncommon Education: 200 Years of the University of Michigan.
- February 28, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Legacy Land Conservancy's Creekshead Preserve
- March 24, Saturday, 6:00 PM, Fox Hills - Classic Log Cabin, Annual Dinner/ Auction
- April 25, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Local Area Native American - Pre-1600
- May 23, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Local Area Native American - 1600 and Later
- June 27, Wednesday, 7:00 PM, Native American Tribal History
- September 26, Wednesday, 1:00 PM, Florence Nightingale
- October 24, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Detroit Prohibition
- December 2, Sunday, 1 PM, Annual Christmas Party

SALEM FARMING (1825-1900) HISTORY PROJECT

Salem Area Historical Society has started a project to capture and preserve the farming history of Salem Township from 1825 to 1900. SAHS will be working with an Eastern Michigan University graduate student to collect, review and organize items to describe all aspects of farming in Salem during this time period. The long-term goal is to create a series of displays that can be exhibited in the Dickerson Barn in the Jarvis Stone School Historic District. If you have items (such as photos, family history, personal correspondence, newspaper articles, advertisements, etc.) or personal recollections that you would like to share with SAHS, please contact us at Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com or (248) 486-0669. We can copy the material and return the originals to you if desired.

SOUTH SALEM STONE SCHOOL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Salem Area Historical Society has started an oral history project to capture the history of the South Salem Stone School. SAHS will be working with a Historic Preservation student to interview former students, teachers and school board members of the South Salem Stone School. The interviews will be conducted at the convenience of the interviewee. The interviewer will be trained in the oral history process and will assist the interviewee in capturing the memories of the school. If you would like to be part of this project or if you can refer us to someone who attended, taught, or was a board member of the school, please contact us at Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com or (248) 486-0669.

SAHS MEMBERSHIPS

The Salem Area Historical Society is offering a special membership period for those who join now. An annual membership paid in the remainder of 2017 will last through March 31, 2019. SAHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions to it may be tax deductible.

SALEM TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 12 Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Planning Commission Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Land Preservation/Conservation Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Office Closed – Christmas Holiday
- 25 Office Closed – Christmas Holiday

JANUARY

- 1 Happy New Year – Office Closed
- 9 Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Office Closed
- 16 Land Preservation/Conservation Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Planning Commission Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(date changed because office closed on the 15th)

FEBRUARY

- 13 Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Presidents' Day – Office Closed
- 20 Land Preservation/Conservation Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Planning Commission Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
(date changed because office closed on the 15th)



Hearty White Bean Chicken Chili Recipe

Ingredients

- 4 cups shredded chicken (I use a Costco rotisserie chicken)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (15.5) ounce cans Great North Beans, rinse & drained
- 1 (14.5) ounce can chicken broth
- 2 (4 ounce) cans chopped green chilies
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions

1. Heat olive oil in sauce pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and sauté for about 10 minutes. Add chicken to mixture.
2. Mix Great Northern Beans, chicken broth, green chilies, salt, cumin, oregano, black pepper and cayenne pepper into chicken mixture. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes.
3. Remove from heat. Stir in sour cream, whipping cream and cheese. Enjoy!

THE SALEM PROMISE

"Success will be within your reach only when you start reaching out for it."

– Stephen Richards, Think Your way to Success: Let Your Dreams Run Free

The Salem Township Promise 2017 Scholarship Recipient



Alexis Marschall

This is what Alexis has to say about our scholarship:

"I am Alexis, the South Lyon East High School 2017 Recipient of the \$5000 Salem Promise scholarship. I honestly don't even know where to begin because this award has given me an infinite number of opportunities and experiences I never would have encountered. I currently attend the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. I am a Sociology and Women's Studies major looking to pursue my PhD and continue field research on society and normality."

"Prior to this award, I had planned to attend Washtenaw Community College and slowly earn enough money to afford a Michigan 4-year University. Luckily, because of your generosity, I am able to truly shoot for the stars and earn degrees I never thought possible. I did receive another scholarship from the University of Michigan as well. Both the Hail [a U of M scholarship] and Salem Promise has left me with a semester balance of approximately \$100.00. I would like to say thank you to all donors... for making my dreams truly become a reality."

To all our donors, past, present, and future; we are making a difference so if you haven't made a contribution please consider making one now. Send your check to:

The Salem Township Promise, P.O. Box 75319, Salem, Michigan 48175

MEMENTO MORI

June 6, 1917 was an extreme weather day spawning many weather-related events that wreaked havoc and devastation on Southern Michigan. This storm began out in Lake Michigan. Several tornadoes were spawned by the storm, but one in particular traveled from Climax, Kalamazoo County, to Cass Lake, in Oakland County. This twister passed through Salem Township. First it hit the village of Worden near Five Mile Road and Pontiac Trail, where it destroyed the Worden Church and damaged many other buildings. Continuing on an easterly path it touched down again near the intersection of Angle and Six Mile Roads. The Walker schoolhouse, and numerous barns were destroyed in this area. Also, the cyclone took on a particularly devastating feature for the community here. The Rentchler family, upon hearing the unmistakable sound of the approaching tornado, fled for their lives to the storm cellar. Unfortunately, the cellar did not provide the protection needed by the Rentchlers. Mrs. Thelma Rentchler used her body to shield her little 7-month-old son, Warren. The tornado tore the home to pieces. Mrs. Rentchler was struck by the debris which broke her back and took the life of her son. Thelma would linger on for nearly 2 months before she succumbed to her tornado inflicted injuries. Both Warren and Thelma are interred at the Salem-Walker Cemetery.

Grave sites are available at:

Lapham Cemetery

Corner of Brooksville & Gotfredson Roads

Contact: Elaine McIntyre

Phone: 810-231-2930

Worden Cemetery

Five Mile Road, East of Pontiac Trail

Contact: Steve Roberts

Phone: 248-437-5360

Presented by: *The Historical Community Cemeteries of Salem Township* – **remembering** those who have gone before.

Salem Township
9600 Six Mile
P.O. Box 75002
Salem, MI 48175



PRESORTED
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SALINE, MI
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Salem Township Board of Trustees

Supervisor, Gary Whittaker	gary@saalem-mi.org
Clerk, Del Wensley	dwensley@saalem-mi.org
Treasurer, Dale Converse	dconverse@saalem-mi.org
Trustee, TJ McLaughlin	tj@saalem-mi.org
Trustee, Reggie DeLuca	reggie@saalem-mi.org
Trustee, David Trent	david@saalem-mi.org
Trustee, John Daniel	john@saalem-mi.org

Township Contact Info

Fire Chief, Jim Rachwal
firechief@saalem-mi.org

Deputy Treasurer, Janice Radatz
jradatz@saalem-mi.org

Deputy Clerk, Lori Copland
deputyclerk@saalem-mi.org

Building Department, Anne Alexander
aalexander@saalem-mi.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Website: www.salem-mi.org

Township phone: 248-349-1690
Fax: 248-349-9350

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 734-994-2911

Landfill

Phone: 248-412-0691

Hours Open

Monday - Friday 6 am - 5 pm
Saturday 7 am - 12 pm
Closed Sunday and Holidays