

SALEM TOWNSHIP MESSENGER



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Letter from the Supervisor
- Clerk's Commentary
- Treasurer's Update
- Assessor's Update
- A Message from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department
- Salem Township Calendar
- Salem Bible Church
- Recipe: Irish Soda Bread
- Salem-South Lyon Library
- Salem Community Events
- Salem Historical Society



Hello Salem Neighbors,

With the election year behind us, I would like to start by thanking you for the opportunity to serve once again as Supervisor here in Salem Township. I am grateful for the opportunity I have to continue serve with our Salem Township Board of Trustees. This is our 9th year serving together and I could not ask for a better group of people to work with. We sincerely appreciate your continued support as we move forward.

You may have noticed some new faces if you have visited the landfill recently. GLF Environmental Inc acquired Arbor Hills from Advanced Disposal on October 30th and we look forward to working with them. The new management team have been asking for ID when using the resident drop off, so please have your landfill pass and ID with you for your convenience.

USD UPDATE: SALEM TOWNSHIP'S 2020 MEDC REPORT BELOW

Project Progress

Wastewater System Design (pump station and ten miles of force main)

- Joy Road Pump Station. Bidding TBD
 - Force Main- Regulatory Permitting. In progress
- Next design steps include but are not limited to:
- Pump Station Bidding and Contract Award TBD
 - Force Main Bidding and Contract Award TBD

Water System Design and construction (Meter Pit, Booster Station, and Transmission Main):

- **Water system.**
 - Construction started July 8, 2020.
 - All water main related to phase 1 has been installed and pressure tested (except for the connection to GLWA)
 - Connection to GLWA postponed to the spring due to valve procurement delay
 - Booster Station construction initiated and is ongoing
- **Next design steps include but are not limited to:**
 - Booster station construction-In progress
 - GLWA Meter vault
 - GLWA connection and related piping
 - Construction completion October 2021

Additional Phase 2 and 3 Design Water

- Final Design. Complete
- Bulletin issued to water system contractor to quote as amendment to water contract above . Quotes received and construction contract

amended to include Phase 2 and 3 water with time extension to October 2021

- Permits: Secured
- Construction: Complete-Force main under M14
- Next steps include but are not limited to:
 - Construction of open cut Phase 3: Postponed till Spring/Summer 2021

Additional Phase 2 and 3 Design and WW Systems

- Survey Complete
- Preliminary design. Complete
- Geotechnical work. Complete
- Wetland Delineation. Complete
- Pursue permitting/approvals from regulatory agencies and utilities. In progress
- Final Design. Secured
- Bulletin issued to water system contractor to quote the force main only under M14 as amendment to water contract above. Quotes received and construction contract amended to include Phase 2 and 3 water with time extension to October 2021
- Construction: Complete force main under M14
- **Next steps include but are not limited to:**
 - Complete sewer design once design permits are secured
 - Bid the gravity sewer system and M14 pump station when the Township is ready

As always, I would like to let you know that all fees paid toward this project have been 100% paid for by the MEDC grant Salem Township was awarded.

I am looking forward to the spring after this cold winter. While I know this past year has been a difficult one for many, it also has been amazing to see the goodness of others as they reach out to help each other. I would like to thank our fire department and police officers for continuing to serve and protect our community in the extraordinary time of this pandemic. I would also like to thank the good citizens of Salem Township who have gone above and beyond to help those who need it in these trying times. Difficult times provide unique opportunities to serve and lift others and I am grateful for so many who have led by example. I pray you and your families will have safety and good health in the days ahead.

As always, I welcome you to reach out to me anytime. The best part of my job as Supervisor is hearing from the residents of Salem Township. Whether you have feedback, questions, concerns or even complaints, I invite you to reach out and share them. You can reach me on my cell phone at 248-909-3200.

Take good care,

Gary



*“In the middle of every
difficulty lies opportunity.”*

~Albert Einstein

CLERK'S COMMENTARY: FROM THE DESK OF DEL WENSLEY

Legislative Agenda from the State Capitol for 2021: Secretary of State – Jocelyn Benson

As you may have read from other news outlets, our MI Secretary of State and the Democratic party support this new agenda – Advancing the Vote. Please call your state legislators to let them know what you think of the details.

Voting Access

- Require absentee ballot applications are mailed to registered voters every federal election cycle
- Require counting of ballots postmarked by election day and received shortly after
- Establish early in-person voting at clerk offices and satellite offices prior to Election Day
- Make Election Day a state holiday
- Allow overseas service members and their spouses to return their ballots electronically
- Require translated election materials where a significant non-English-speaking community lives
- Provide funds to ensure voting locations are ADA compliant and establish curbside voting
- Allow transportation assistance to the polls

Election Infrastructure

- Allow processing of absentee ballots two weeks prior to Election Day
- Provide an additional week for the county canvass
- Allow recounts of precincts with clerical errors
- Consolidate May and August elections into one June election
- Provide dependable funding for local election officials
- Update language on absentee ballots and applications

Elections Details

- Prohibit open carry of firearms within 100 feet of a voting location
- Provide election officials additional tools to maintain the registration list
- Require election challenger and election worker training
- Update security requirements for election vendors
- Require a statewide risk-limiting audit prior to state election certification

Join the New Permanent Absent Voter List

Salem Township will be starting up a new Permanent AV List for 2021. The new list allows you to receive an Absent Voter Ballot Application automatically prior to every election in your precinct. You will still have to sign & return the application to us before each election so we can send you a ballot. Please email Barb Thompson at barb@saalem-mi.org or the Clerk's office at dwensley@saalem-mi.org to request to be on the new Permanent AV list for 2021.



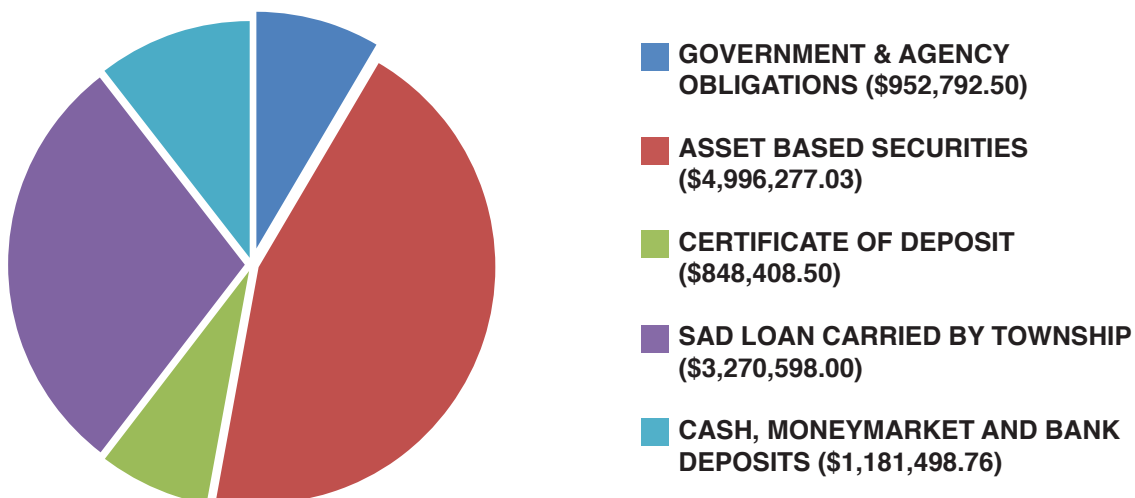
TREASURER'S UPDATE: FROM THE DESK OF DALE CONVERSE

This issue of the Messenger is the first since our reelection this past November. I would like to express my gratitude for the confidence the residents granted me to serve another term as the Township Treasurer. It has been my pleasure to not only to perform the duties of the Treasurer's office, but to get involved and lead in other Township business. As in the past, I welcome questions, concerns and comments on anything relating to the Treasurer's Office and other responsibilities that I have or will be involved with in the future.

The preparation for the winter tax season was challenging as this was the first time the township would be billing those residents that are a part of the Chubb/Five Mile SAD. Legal issues were discovered when the SAD was being loaded into the BS&A software. It took a considerable amount of time and effort to resolve those issues, and we are happy to report that everything is now in agreement and going smoothly. We have accomplished some long overdue updates the Township Office and Hall to better serve the public and staff. We have new front doors, remodeled bathrooms, a wall mounted audio, visual monitor in the Town Hall, new tile in the foyer, new lighting in the office and parking lot, and a computer/break room completely gutted and remodeled. The final issue I am addressing is our security camera system. I looked into a new camera system years ago, but was prevented from acquiring a new system as all new systems required Windows 10 and the Township at that time only had Windows 7. We now have Windows 10 available, so we are requesting bids for an updated and more enhanced camera system.

Progress is moving forward in developing the USD. So far, the Treasurer's Office has been involved by submitting quarterly reports to the state and managing the funding from the MEDC grants. In the future, the Treasurer's Office will be responsible to make financial arrangements with developer to make sure the Township is not at risk for any construction costs.

SALEM TOWNSHIP INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020



NET ASSETS IN INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS **\$11,907,203.68**

TOTAL ACCRUED INCOME JAN 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020 **\$113,930.03**

TOTAL ACCRUED INCOME APR 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020 **\$57,032.91**

ACCRUED INTEREST ON SAD LOAN JAN 1, 2020 - DEC 31, 2020 **\$19,867.29**

THIS INVESTMENT REPORT INCLUDES LOANS TO THE RESIDENTS AND ADVANCE DISPOSAL'S \$1,129,406 COMMITMENT FOR THE FIVE MILE AND CHUBB ROAD SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS.

NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

I received the inflation multiplier from the State Tax Commission. They have calculated a 1.4% increase in your Taxable Value for 2021. You can take last year's taxes and multiply it by 1.014 to get an estimate of the amount you will pay taxes on for 2021. This is assuming that you didn't make any changes on your property during 2020. You can get more information on how the State calculations are made on line at this link:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/Bulletin_16_of_2020_-_Inflation_Rate_Multiplier_for_2021_705827_7.pdf

You should have received your property assessment notices. To minimize your epidemic exposure, letter appeals are highly recommended. If you intend to appeal in person, please call and make an appointment for the Board of Review. Appointments will be available Wednesday March 10th, Thursday, March 11th and Friday, March 12th. Please call the office for appointment times available.

A letter of authorization is required for a personal representative to go before the Board of Review and it must be signed by the property owner. You can also appeal by letter, but please be sure it will be in our office by Friday, the 12th of March.

Respectfully,
Bill Guenther
Salem Township Assessor

WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

IRS Phone Scams

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office would like to remind you to be aware of potential IRS Phone Scams and to be prepared. As tax season approaches many will soon be awaiting a refund or paying off a tax bill. Beware that IRS impostors may attempt to take advantage. Criminals are looking for ways to steal your money or your identity. Don't fall victim to an IRS scam.

Your first contact with the IRS will not be an unexpected call from an IRS agent but through official correspondence sent through the mail. A red flag for an IRS scam is threatening, angry calls from people who say they are from the IRS or your local police agency and they demand immediate payment. Please know that the Sheriff's Office does not make calls on behalf of the IRS and that these calls are scams. Even if the caller ID shows as the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, remember we do not call on behalf of the IRS.

THE IRS WILL NOT:

- Call you to demand immediate payment.
- Call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail.
- Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe.
- Require that you pay your taxes a certain way. For instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.

Also beware of scammers calling under the guise of verifying your tax return information over the phone. Scam artists call saying they have your tax return, and they just need to verify a few details to process your return. The scam tries to get you to give up personal information such as a Social Security number or personal financial information.

If you receive a phone call or voicemail from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here is what you should do:

- If you think you do owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. They can help you with a payment issue if there is one.
- If you don't believe you owe any taxes, then call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax administration at 1-800-366-4484.

There are numerous variations of scams out there. Remember to beware if someone calls asking for personal financial information or payment over the phone.



Public Safety – Quality Service – Strong Communities
Serving Washtenaw County since 1823

SALEM TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

March

- 9 Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm
- 15 Planning Commission Meeting - 7:30 pm
- 16 Land Preservation/Conservation Meeting - 7:00 pm

April

- 2 Good Friday - Office Closes at 12:00 pm
- 13 Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting - 7:30 pm
- 20 Land Preservation/Conservation Meeting - 7:00 pm

May

- 1 Compost Day - 8:30 am to NOON
- 11 Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 pm
- 17 Planning Commission Meeting - 7:30 pm
- 18 Land Preservation/Conservation Meeting - 7:00 pm
- 31 Happy Memorial Day - Office Closed

SALEM COMPOST DAY

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 1st. Compost will be available to Salem Township residents for pick up on Six Mile Road between Chubb and the railroad tracks. It will be available from 8:30 am until it is gone.

SALEM BIBLE CHURCH

Koinonia Coffee Cafe, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

*Weekly Sunday Service, 11:00 a.m.
Available in person and online*

*Mid-Week Prayer Service
Wednesday 7:00 online only*

*Salem Bible Church is small and perfect for
maintaining social distancing, while still
worshiping God.*

*Come join us for one, or all activities.
All are welcome!*

9481 West Six Mile Road
Pastor Lance Rubringer 248-349-0674
We preach Christ. sbc4christ.org

Irish Soda Bread

Ingredients

- 4 cups all-purpose flour plus more for dusting the work surface
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups raisins
- 1/4 cup butter cold, cut into small pieces
- 1 3/4 cups buttermilk
- 1 egg
- cooking spray

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Coat a 9-inch round pan with cooking spray.

1. Put the flour, sugar, baking soda and salt in a bowl. Stir to combine.
2. Add the butter to the bowl.
3. Use a pastry two forks to cut the butter into the flour mixture until coarse crumbs form.
4. Stir the raisins into the flour mixture.
5. Add the buttermilk and egg to the flour mixture and stir until a stiff dough form.
6. Place the dough on a floured flat surface.
7. Coat your hands in flour and shape the dough into a ball. The dough will be sticky.
8. Transfer the ball of dough to the prepared pan.
9. Use a sharp knife to cut an X into the top of the loaf.
10. Bake for 45 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean.
11. Cool on a wire rack for at least 10 minutes, then slice and serve. **ENJOY!**



SALEM-SOUTH LYON LIBRARY EVENTS

For updates, news and programs check our website at ssldl.info, or check our Facebook page!

Did you know we have Homebound Delivery Service?

Monthly doorstep delivery is available for those unable to drive to the Library due to health or disability restrictions.

YOUTH AND TEEN

Brain fuse- (available on our website at ssldl.info)

HelpNow

Students communicate with live, online tutors using an interactive, virtual whiteboard to chat, write, draw, copy/paste text or images, & graph homework problems. **HelpNow** also offers skill-building & test preparation. All live tutoring sessions are saved and can be replayed as well as shared with friends & teachers.

Teen Gothic Valentine Take-Home Program:

Friday, February 12 for 6th - 12th grades-registration required. Craft kits will be available for pickup beginning February 12.

Hygge Take-Home Program

Friday, February 19 for 4th - 8th grades-registration required. This take-home program will be available for pickup beginning February 19.

Lift Every Voice Poetry Programs

Friday, April 9

*This program is part of **Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters**, a national public humanities initiative of Library of America presented in partnership with The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture with generous support from The National Endowment for the Humanities, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Emerson Collective. Kits will be available for pickup beginning April 9. Registration required.*

"PoeTREES" Take-Home Program

K - 2nd grades. Spark creativity and create your own poems on a "PoeTree"

Blackout Poetry Take-Home Program

3rd - 12th grades. Using a marker and repurposed book pages create visual poetry.

ADULTS

One on one virtual appointments available for Genealogy research, veteran's benefits assistance, and Medicare/Medicaid information. Sign up online to schedule an appointment.

VetNow -available on our website @ ssldl.info

Helps veterans' transition to civilian life through live, interactive career assistance, academic tutoring, and much more.

Homestead Series:

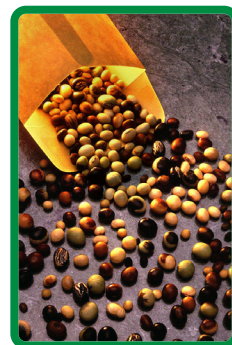
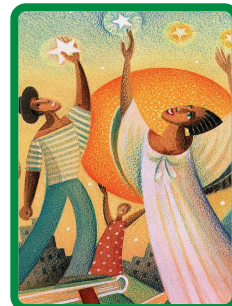
Seed Starting-Feb. 10th, Miracle of Seed Saving-Mar. 10th, Beginner's Gardening April 21st.

Jazz Mardi Gras Concert - Sunday, February 14th- check our website or Facebook page!

DIY Tutorials:

Sewing Machine Basics-Feb 10th, Hand Sewing Basics-May 5th- registration required.

Mark your calendars for our Shredding Event on May 1st!!



SALEM COMMUNITY EVENTS

Planning has begun for the 2021 Flag Day Celebration. We are tentatively planning to hold a parade, picnic lunch, inflatables for the kids and evening fireworks, June 5, 2021. Our rain date for the fireworks is June 12, 2021. The alternate date the event will be August 28, 2021 should there still be statewide restrictions for community events. We are raising funds for the fireworks, submitting paperwork, ordering the large bounce house and slide as well as seeking volunteers. If you would like to help by giving a donation or working as a volunteer please call Theresa at 248.808.0870 or Linda at 248.380.7017. Please leave a message and your call will be returned. Listed more towards the bottom of this article are other ways you can financially help Salem Community Events.

Our 2020 Grand Marshals, Jim and Nancy Quigly will be honored this year. Jim and Nancy have assisted in the food tent at Flag Day and helped at our annual children's Christmas party for years. Jim and Nancy moved to Salem, in 1991 in pursuit of property to build on away from the bustle of the big city and to enjoy their gardening passions. Soon after they participated in the "Focus Salem" work group. Jim served on the Planning Commission 5 years before being elected Township Trustee for 4 years. Nancy and Jim pursued their love of books as members of the Friends of the Library where they collected books left from book sales to hospitals and Hawthorne Center for Children and COTS. They estimate that several thousand books were given a second life.

Jim is especially proud of the Library's pursuit of policies that promote services that provide for the entertainment and business information in the rapidly changing information world. The many wonderful volunteers ensure that the library, from its beautiful gardens to its book collections, will be first class. Currently, Jim serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Nancy demonstrates her love of animals supporting organizations such as the Humane Society.

To help Salem Community Events financially:

By shopping at **Kroger**:

- Click on Sign In/Register ([krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.krogercommunityrewards.com))
- 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.
- Follow Kroger's instructions entering the number, 63534 or name of organization, Salem Community Events.

By shopping at **Amazon Smile**:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com.
2. Sign in and Choose **Salem Community Events Association**
3. Select "**Salem Community Events Association**."

After signing in, search for "Salem Community Events Association" select Salem Community Events Association to continue. Once selected, you will receive an email confirmation and you can begin shopping.

We still accept donations by check which should be mailed to Salem Community Events, PO Box 75041, Salem, MI 48175. Flag Day and the annual Christmas party would not be a reality without the generous support of the people and businesses of Salem Township.

Check out our Facebook page under Salem Community Events. We use Facebook to update the community about our events.

SALEM AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 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.

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, which we hope can be held. Up-to-date information can be found at the Salem Area Historical Society's Website or on our Facebook page.

March Event:

The SAHS Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **March 24th**, at 7:30 PM in the Salem Township Hall. SAHS meeting and Elections will be followed by a **Lincoln Presentation - Presidential Trivia** by Ron Carley. Ron will start the trivia night impersonating President Lincoln for those questions on the presidents from Washington to Lincoln. After a short break, Ron will complete the night with questions on the remaining presidents. This will be an event to be enjoyed by the entire family.

April Events:

The SAHS Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **April 28th**, at 7:30 PM in the South Salem Stone School. A short SAHS Business agenda will be followed by a presentation that was originally scheduled for 2020, but was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The presentation is **Dangerous Experiment** by Susan Nenadic. It covers the changes in education for 19th century women including Emma Willard's school in Troy, New York, which influenced many women to begin similar schools. In 1837 in Ann Arbor, the Clark sisters established such a school which lasted forty years. The development of public high schools, Michigan State Normal School and Michigan Female College were part of the educational changes which ultimately led to women's entrance and success at the University of Michigan. Admission Fee: \$2 for non-SAHS Members.

May Events:

The **Salem Area Historical Society Trinkets to Treasures Community Yard Sale** will be held on Saturday, May 15th, from 9 AM to 2 PM. This will be a community wide yard sale featuring flea market and resale items. You can buy a space to sell your items or you can donate items to SAHS with all proceeds from their sale going to SAHS General Fund. Clean out your attic, your garage, your house! It's time to sell your unwanted treasures or donate them to SAHS to sell. Vendors welcome. For more information and to reserve your spot go to the SAHS Website.

The SAHS Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, **May 26th**, at 7:30 PM in the South Salem Stone School. A short SAHS Business agenda will be followed by a presentation on **Houses of Salem Michigan** by Terry Cwik. Terry will show photos and explain some of the history of a few unique houses in Salem Township. Admission Fee: \$2 for non-SAHS Members.

FOR MEMBERSHIPS OR DINNER/AUCTION TICKETS MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SALEM AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY; MAIL TO: SAHS, PO BOX 75011, SALEM, MI 48175 (\$10 Senior; \$15 Individual; \$25 family)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

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



PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS
MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SALINE, MI
PERMIT NO. 11



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: 248-504-2527

Hours Open

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