



Town Hall Times

Salem, New Hampshire

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 17, 2017

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Demolition Begins at Former Wastewater Treatment Facility

Demolition of the former wastewater treatment facility is underway with the dismantling of the first sedimentation tank and clarifier building. S&R Construction was awarded the demolition project this past year and work began in March. The plant was built in 1963-1964 and in its peak days handled over 1.2 million gallons per day of sewerage for treatment and return to the Spicket River. As the Town of Salem grew in the early '80s the peak demand for the plant was more than it could handle so the plant was reviewed for sustainability by an engineering firm who concluded it would be more feasible for the plant to be shut down and connect the sewer system to the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD) Treatment Plant in North Andover. Salem joined the GLSD in 1982 and construction of the Spicket River Interceptor sewer main was completed and the plant was closed in 1986.

During construction of the interceptor, workers discovered what appeared to be a buried disposal pit with black sludge and noxious fumes. After notifying the NH Department of Environmental Services, soil and water samples were collected and found to contain high concentrations of trichloroethene and various other volatile organic compounds



Demolition of the clarifier building

(VOCs). The environmental engineering firm GZA was retained by the Town in 1987 to conduct a hydrogeologic study to determine the extent of the contamination, or hot spot. It is believed that illegal dumping of septic and industrial wastes over a series of years led to the contamination but this cannot be confirmed. GZA has been sampling and monitoring the hot spot as well as the area to which the groundwater may have spread including injecting treatment into the soils to break down the VOCs. The contamination to this point is limited to the property and has not moved to the other side of the river.

The structures have remained dormant on the site since 1986 and have deteriorated greatly and become overgrown by trees and inhabited by wild animals. In addition, the operations main building basement over three stories deep has flooded with over 500,000 gallons of groundwater that became contaminated with PCBs due to the electrical equipment.

Fast forward to 2017 and Municipal Services has begun the physical clean-up of the site with the demolition of the structures first, and final assessment for the soil contamination and remediation to be determined later this year. The plan is to have the property completely cleaned up by the end of next year at which point it could be marketed for sale as part of a new Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) in Salem.



Demolition of the first sedimentation tank

APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	1
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Schedule of Meetings

- } April 4—Zoning Board, 7 PM
- } April 5—Conservation Commission, 7 PM
- } April 10—Board of Selectmen, 7 PM
- } April 11—Planning Board, 7 PM
- } April 12—Budget Committee, 7 PM
- } April 18—Planning Board, 7 PM
- } April 24—Board of Selectmen, 7 PM
- } April 25—Planning Board, 7 PM

Inspectional Services

The Inspectional Services Division was created in February of 2016 when the Building Department and Health Officer along with the staff were merged into the Salem Fire Department creating the new division. Over the past year there have been many changes including the movement of the Fire Prevention Bureau to Town Hall along with the Fire Inspector and Records Clerk. This move was done to streamline the processes to obtain permits and speak with the inspectors of the prospective trades and offer a one stop shop system for our customers.

One of the many accomplishments we have seen over the past year is the improvement in the time of application to the issuance of a building permit for the applicant. The average time for an applicant who has submitted a complete application package for review has dropped from 6.14 days

in July of 2016 to 4.20 days for the first quarter of 2017. This is due in large part to the quality of the application packages we are receiving from the builders and residents and our staff working hard on turning around the reviews in a timely manner. This metric includes both residential and commercial work combined. Many of the less involved permits such as decks and pools and small additions are done while the applicant waits at the counter. This is because each of our inspectors is in the office daily from 8:30 – 9:30 am and from 4:00 – 5:00 pm for counter hours to issue permits and speak with homeowners and contractors.

If you have any questions regarding the permitting process or Fire Prevention and Building Safety please visit the web site at www.townofsalemnh.org or call us at: 890-2020.



Type of Permit	Number issued
Building	357
Electrical	146
Plumbing/ Mechanical	49

Number of permits issued for the period 1/1/17-4/11/17

Department	Building	DPW	Engineering	Fire	Health	Planning
Average time to review a permit	4.17 days	0.00 days	1.38 days	1.86 days	2.24 days	0.90 days

Review time for permits issued during the period 1/1/17-4/11/17

Finance Department

- The Finance Department has changed the format of the Town's purchase orders. This change allows the Town to print purchase orders on standard colored copy paper as opposed to preprinted triplicate paper forms. This is a cost savings to the town and provides an updated look to the old purchase orders.
- This is a reminder that water and sewer demand and benefit annual bills will be sent out by the utility department by the end of April.
- The Town is undergoing a single audit for the Rail Trail project. The auditors Plodzik and Sanderson were in Town Hall on Thursday, April 6th to review this project. The threshold for an OMB A-133 compliance audit is \$750,000. The Town received over \$900,000 in federal funds (passed through the state) for the Rail Trail project in calendar year 2016 alone.
- Payroll Coordinator Paula Ciarla had her one year anniversary with the Town on March 21st. Paula previously worked for the Town of Merrimack, NH. We are happy she is now with the Town of Salem and is an asset to the Finance Department.
- The Finance Department is hard at work processing payroll, paying vendor invoices, answering utility billing questions, ensuring departmental purchases comply with the town's purchasing and procurement policy, and providing support for other departments in town.

Piano Donation

A piano was generously donated to the Ingram Senior Center by Annamarie & Jim Nicosia. Many family members were in attendance and the piano was played beautifully by Choral Director Ellen Bosch. The dedication was covered by SCTV 17 and can be viewed [here](#).



Lancaster Fund

The Board of Selectmen is now accepting applications for grants from the Lancaster Fund. The trust was established in 1964 in the will of William E. Lancaster, "to be used by the Selectmen of the Town of Salem in any way they see fitting and proper to make Salem a better place to live in." Organizations with a mission which aligns with that of the Lancaster Fund are invited to apply for funds to be used for a project which enhances quality of life in Salem. In their decision, the Board of Selectmen will determine which funding request provides the greatest benefit to Salem residents. A key eligibility factor is

that the request must not fall within normal operating expenses for the organization and must instead represent a discrete and named project and purpose. In 2014, the Board of Selectmen approved a request of \$ 2,500 by the American Legion Post 63 to be used to assist in bringing the Vietnam Travelling Wall to Salem.

The deadline for this year's application round is May 12, 2017. The complete guidelines and application information are available [here](#).

Community Services

Senior Services

- The Senior Center will no longer accept new non-residents as members of the center. Previously there was a cap of 350 non-residents. All current members will be able to continue with their membership.
- Registrations for our Golden Eagles Golf Leagues will be May 1st – 3rd. There are golf opportunities Monday through Friday.
- The Salem High School HOSA Club will hold a Senior Prom for our seniors on May 12th from 7 to 10:30pm. Canobie Lake Park is holding a Senior/Big Band Day on Sunday June 11th. Seniors 60+ receive free admission.
- Our Beginner Tap lessons were moved to 11 – noon on Mondays in the multi-purpose room. If you are interested and need tap shoes, please talk to the instructor. She has loaners available.

Recreation

- Hedgehog Park gate is now opened. The skate park will be worked on the week of April 16th and should open sometime during the week of the 23rd.
- If you are interested in using a facility, please contact the Community Services Department.
- The Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, April 29th.
- Our Dodgeball program for 8 to 12 year olds filled, but we still have space available for the dodgeball tournament on Friday, April 28th.
- The Field of Dreams will hold their annual cleanup day on Saturday, May 6th from 8:30 to 1:00pm.
- Our Summer Brochure is available [online](#) and will go out through the schools shortly.

Doug Cole, Recreation Program coordinator (left) accepts a donation from George Fredette (center) and Rich Parow (right), officers in St. Matthew Knights of Columbus Council #7572 in Windham. These funds were raised by Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities aka the Tootsie Roll Drive. The funds will be going to Special Olympics New Hampshire where they will cover the costs of some of the athletes that participate on the Salem Olympic Devils team. The Salem Olympic Devils has athletes from Salem, Windham, Atkinson, and Derry on their team. The Salem team participates in Special Olympics New Hampshire's soccer, basketball, and bowling tournaments along with their Track and Field events during summer games.



Health Division

The Mosquito Control program begins the week of April 17, 2017 in the Town of Salem. Crews from Dragon Mosquito Control will be checking swamps, marshes, woodland pools, ditches, storm drains and other shallow, stagnant water for mosquito larvae.

Residents who do not want their wetlands treated may use our No-Spray Registry online at www.dragonmosquito.com/no-spray-registry or write to Dragon Mosquito Control, P.O. Box 46, Stratham, NH 03885. Be sure to include your

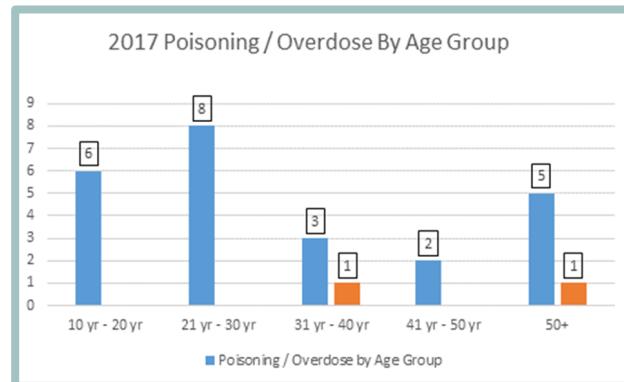
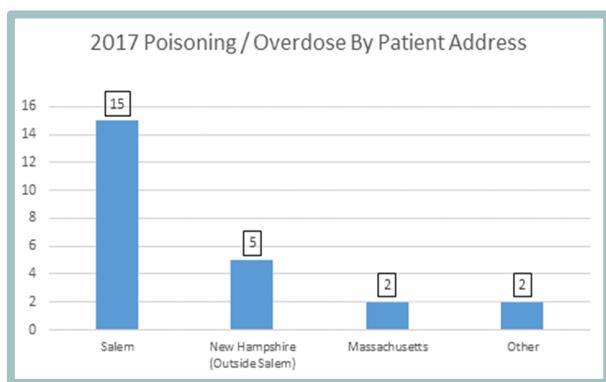
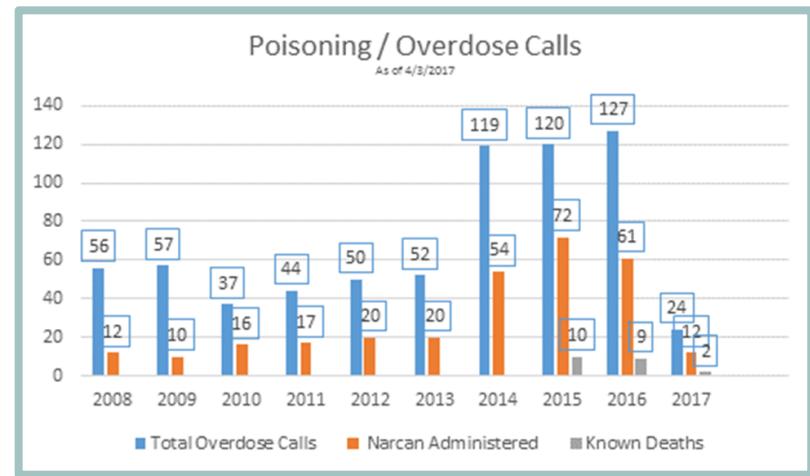
name, physical address, phone number, and a description of your property with boundaries. Residents who would like to have their stagnant water checked for mosquitoes may call our office at **734-4144** or email Help@DragonMosquito.com. There is no charge for this service. Please click [here](#) to view the full public notice. Questions may also be directed to the Salem Health Officer at 890-2050 and additional information is available in the [Health section of the town website](#).



SFD- Substance Misuse Crisis



The substance misuse crisis has continued to hit Salem hard. While it appears that the numbers might be slightly down compared to last year, we feel it's too early to tell. As can be seen by the charts, the epidemic strikes all ages and demographics. What's interesting to note is that while some patients are from out of town, the majority are from Salem. Community groups such as Stand Up Salem, a community coalition for a drug-free Salem, are working hard to implement their four tenants of Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, and Recovery. Efforts such as this are strongly supported by Salem Fire.



Town Clerk's Office

New transfer station stickers are in! The cost is \$15 per sticker, and residents age 65 or older get the first transfer sticker free. Please bring in your current 2017 registration or a copy for each vehicle you would like to have a transfer station sticker on. Three bulky coupons will be issued with the first purchase of a Transfer Station Sticker per household. These bulkies are used to throw away large items such as a couch or mattress. Bulkies are only issued once and will not be replaced if lost or stolen, so make sure to keep them in a safe, easy to remember place.

It is also time to renew your dog license. Please make sure your canine friend's rabies vaccination is up to date before renewing. If your dog has recently received a new vaccination bring the documentation your vet gave you with the rabies tag number and expiration date on it. The price is \$9 for non-neutered/spayed dogs, \$6.50 for Dogs/Pups, \$25 for a kennel license (which is 5 or more dogs) and if you are age 65 or older the first dog you register is \$2.

If you have any questions regarding obtaining either a transfer station sticker or dog license renewal please feel free to [e-mail](mailto:email) or call the Town Clerk's office at 603-890-2116.

SFD Critical Incidents

Several critical incidents in our community stretched our resources thin in the past couple of weeks. An incendiary house fire with a barricaded subject committed resources for over 24 hours on April 3-4. There was also a house fire at 60 Wheeler Avenue on April 5 that consumed a two-car garage. Estimated damage is \$50,000. While 60 Wheeler Avenue is in District 3 (South Salem), the firefighters from Station 3 were already on a medical call. Therefore, the first arriving fire units were from District 1 (Main Street). These are the kinds of indicators that we are at capacity, and additional resources are necessary. We helped out our mutual aid partners in Haverhill on Saturday afternoon as they battled a 2 alarm house fire. Later in the weekend, a serious motorcycle accident caused one patient in critical condition to be flown to Boston by Med Flight.



Salem Bike-Ped Corridor Parking



With the warm spring weather, we have been receiving some questions about where to park while enjoying a walk or bike ride on the Salem Bike-Ped Corridor. A lot is available on Route 28 just north of the Range Road intersection. It's just a short walk along the sidewalk (green dotted route on map) to reach the trail entrance at Range Road. The Municipal Lot on Main Street is also available for parking and will provide access to the Phase II section (scheduled for Spring 2018 construction). The Friends of Salem Bike-Ped Corridor have already started their trail clean-up activities and will continue to beautify the corridor for all to enjoy this season.

SALEM MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Roy E. Sorenson - *Director*

ENGINEERING DIVISION

The 2017 Road Program is underway, with over 6 miles of roadway to be improved this year. Pre-construction meetings were held with Busby Construction Co. who will be completing the Haverhill Road and Klein Drive construction and with E. J. Paving Company who will be completing mill and overlay paving, as well as neighborhood roads rehabilitation. James Danis of Engineering is overseeing Haverhill Road, Klein Drive, and the neighborhood roads projects and Dave Wholley of Public Works is overseeing mill and overlay work. Please be alert when driving through work zones and contact James or Dave if you have any questions about the work. Demolition of the former Wastewater Treatment Facility on SARL Drive is ongoing. S&R Corporation is the demolition contractor and is razing abandoned structures after removal of hazardous materials. Permitting activity is ramping up now that spring is here. See Jim Brown for street opening, sewer connection, grease interceptor, water connection, driveway, and gas permits. Jim also assists Planning with engineering review of site and subdivision plans. Project updates are periodically posted on Engineering's [webpage](#) and Twitter feed ([@SalemNHEngDiv](#)).



PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION



March certainly came in like a lion and left like a lion with a spring snowstorm into April Fools Day—No Joke! Staff was busy repairing winter equipment in preparation to put everything away until next year but had to fire up the arsenal one more time to clear the streets of 5" of late spring snow. Things have been busy as crews continue to repair winter damage along with some of the potholes that have opened up throughout the town. Transition is ongoing as the division switches gears for the spring season with routine maintenance of street sweeping and property clean-up to begin in the early weeks of April. Blue trash bags line the streets where snow was as little as a week ago as Litter Week is underway. The mill and overlay program is ready to get underway with preconstruction meetings being held with the contractor as well as internal meetings with staff to identify any potential additional work that may be done this year thanks to favorable bid pricing.



*Say it ain't
SNOW!*

UTILITIES DIVISION

Canobie Lake continues to rise as it hit the 219' mark thanks to some well needed precipitation including snow. The potential to top out at 220' seems more realistic as signs of coming out of the drought are beginning to take shape. However Mandatory Water Restrictions still remain in effect until such time that precipitation recovers. Arlington Pond will continue to be the primary water source through April as the pond began filling to its summer seasonal level. Water production for the first three months of the year have been below average to date and a comprehensive report will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at the end of April. The past month has been a busy planning month as engineering projects for design including water and sewer along South Broadway have been underway including field survey and geotechnical work. Sewer manholes have been inventoried and identified for repair along North Broadway with work to begin next week. Staff has been busy entering information and assets in the Vueworks management system that will help maintain an accurate database for the infrastructure. In addition various forms have been formatted and created so routine maintenance records can be kept electronically.



Salem Bike-Ped Corridor: Phase 2

Last October, Salem enjoyed the grand opening of Phase 1 of its new Bike-Ped Corridor. The corridor begins at the Salem/ Windham town line and extends 1.1 miles along the old railroad ROW to the Old Rockingham Road/ Rt. 28 intersection. Salem is currently working on Phase 2 of the Bike-Ped Corridor which will pick up where Phase 1 ended and add an additional 3,000 feet (.57 mi.) ending at Willow Street. The combined length of Phase 1 and 2 will bring the total length of the paved section of the corridor in Salem to 1.67 miles. The map below, shown in yellow, is where the completed section of the Bike-Ped Corridor will tie into the new section which is represented by the red dotted line. Phase 2 of the plan was presented to the Board of Selectmen on April 10, 2017 and gained their support to move forward with Alternative 1. Alternative 1 is to build a 10 foot wide paved bike-ped corridor on the existing rail corridor. Salem was successful

in obtaining a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant which pays 80% of the total cost of the project. In accordance with the grant requirements, Salem must explore other bike-ped corridor alternatives to ensure that the main project (Alternative 1) is the best, most cost effective alternative. CMA Engineers is Salem's consultant on this project. They are responsible for providing the town with data, testing, engineering and supporting material to properly construct the corridor which meets all local, state and federal requirements. Friends of Salem Bike-Ped Corridor have been very instrumental in providing technical and financial support for the development and implementation of this project.

There is still much work to be done before the project can move to construction, but we are making good progress. The project is still on track towards meeting our spring of 2018 construction timeline.





Town Hall Times will be published biweekly and will be available on the [Town website](#). Please subscribe to receive notification of each new issue!

Town of Salem, NH

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INDUSTRY - COMMERCE - RECREATION



Episode 2 of “Ask Us”

The Salem Police Department welcomes questions from Salem residents to help them understand why we do what we do. This program was created by our Community Services Unit in an effort to educate Salem residents of our operations, procedures, and to demonstrate our transparency.

If you have a question you would like to ask, please submit it one of the following three ways:

1. Email your question to Sergeant Chad Clark at cclark@salempd.com or Officer Matthew Norcross at mnorcross@salempd.com
2. Mail a letter to Sergeant Chad Clark or Officer Matthew Norcross at Salem Police Department, 9 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Salem, NH 03079
3. Drop off a letter at the Salem Police Department addressed to the attention of Sergeant Chad Clark or Officer Matthew Norcross

Please note that we cannot legally respond to questions involving personnel matters, juvenile names, or in regard to an on-going criminal investigation.



Click on the image to watch Sergeant Chad Clark and Officer Matthew Norcross in their second video in the Ask Us series