

To: Salem Town Council
From: Joseph Devine, Town Manager
Date: October 20, 2025
Re: Town Manager's Report



MEMORANDUM



News and Noteworthy:

Town Council Approves FY2026 Budget

On Wednesday, October 15, the Town Council voted to approve the FY2026 Budget, completing its portion of the annual budget process. The approved budget will now move to the Budget Committee for further review and recommendation.

The Council held several public meetings to review, refine, and discuss the proposed budget before reaching this decision. I want to thank the Council, staff, and residents who participated in the process and offered thoughtful feedback along the way.

At the start of the process, the Budget Committee established a goal of keeping the overall increase below 2.5%—and I'm pleased to report that we met that target. In fact, the budget being referred to the Budget Committee reflects a 0.04% decrease from the current year, resulting in no impact on the tax rate. *(Note: The 2026 budget figure does not include warrant articles or collective bargaining agreements.)*

As the Budget Committee begins its review, I encourage residents to stay involved and continue submitting questions or comments by emailing budget@salemnh.gov. All budget documents, presentations, and meeting recordings are available online at salemnh.gov/2026budget for anyone wishing to follow along.


Introducing Salem's Community Choice Aggregation Program

The Town of Salem is pleased to announce the launch of its first electricity supply program — Salem Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). This initiative is designed to help reduce electricity costs and provide greater budget stability for Salem ratepayers. Through this program, the Town will purchase electricity in bulk on behalf of residents and businesses, offering more stable and competitive rates compared to Liberty's default service. Liberty will continue to handle delivery, maintenance, billing, and outage response, ensuring no change in service reliability.

How it Works:

- The Town of Salem has selected First Point Power as its electricity supplier.
- Liberty will continue to deliver and bill for electricity service.
- All current Liberty default service customers will be automatically enrolled in the program unless they choose to opt out by October 31, 2025.
- Participation is voluntary — customers may opt out at any time with no fee, effective at their next meter read.

The Town recently hosted a public informational meeting about the CCA program, which was very well attended. For residents who were unable to attend, both the full recording and the presentation portion are now available online:

- Full meeting recording: <https://saleam.cablecast.tv/internetchannel/show/19144?site=1>
-  Presentation only: <https://saleam.cablecast.tv/internetchannel/show/19225?site=1>

The Salem CCA program represents another step toward providing residents and businesses with reliable, cost-effective, and transparent utility options.

Halloween “Tour of Lights” – Salem Frights Edition



This October, we're excited to introduce the Halloween version of our popular "Tour of Lights"! Each year, residents go all out decorating their homes, and this season we're bringing those spooky and creative displays together in a self-guided community tour.

Residents are invited to submit their decorated homes using our online form, which will be featured on a map for everyone to enjoy. You can submit your spooky lights and learn more at SalemFrights.com or directly through our Google Form [here](#).

This is a fun, family-friendly way to celebrate Halloween, show community spirit, and highlight the creativity of Salem residents. We encourage everyone to spread the word and take part in this seasonal tradition!

Recreation – Trunk or Treat

The Recreation Department will be hosting Salem's Annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 5:30–7:30 PM at the Ingram Senior Center. Parking will be available at the Courthouse and Town Hall, with a "Haunted Forest Path" guiding families to the event entrance.

This year's event will also feature a costume contest for participants, in addition to decorated vehicles, candy, and plenty of family fun. Many local businesses and organizations have partnered with us to make this event possible—special thanks to all our community sponsors for their support.



More information and registration details are available at www.salemnh.mvrec.com

🎃 Join the Salem Police Department and ABA Centers of America for a Sensory-Friendly Trunk or Treat! 🧛



We're excited to host a fun, inclusive evening for the Autism community — complete with decorated trunks, treats, and a welcoming environment for all!

📅 Tuesday, October 28

🕒 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

📍 Salem High School – Lower Parking Lot

If you'd like to host a sensory-friendly trunk, please contact Officer Lawrence at blawrence@salemnh.gov or call 603-890-2387.

🚫 Please remember: no flashing lights or loud sounds — let's keep it fun and friendly for

Halloween Trick-or-Treat

Trick-or-treat in Salem is scheduled for Friday, October 31, 2025, from 6:00–8:00 PM. Public Safety will have additional patrols during this time. Please use extra caution on neighborhood streets and consider reflective gear/flashlights.



Salem Area Women's Club Beautifies Town Hall

Over the past few months, the Salem Area Women's Club (SAWC) gardeners have brought their green thumbs to Town Hall, adding vibrant color and curb appeal to our community's centerpiece. Their efforts have resulted in beautiful, eye-catching gardens around the building and entrance, creating a warm and welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.

In addition to their ongoing care of the Rail Trail gardens throughout the summer, the SAWC made a generous \$1,000 donation to support the Town Hall plantings.

The Town extends its sincere appreciation to the Salem Area Women's Club for their continued dedication to community beautification and for helping to make Salem an even more welcoming place to live, work, and visit.



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – October 25

The Salem Police Department reminds residents that National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will take place on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This event provides a safe, convenient, and responsible way for residents to dispose of unused or expired prescription medications. Proper disposal helps prevent drug misuse and protects the environment by keeping medications out of landfills and waterways.

Residents can bring their unwanted prescription drugs to the temporary Salem Police Station, located at 21 Cross Street (at the Department of Public Works site), during the event hours.

The Town encourages all residents to take advantage of this opportunity to safely clear out their medicine cabinets and help keep our community safe.

Items Signed on Behalf of the Town Council Since Last Update:

- Payroll Register No. 41 (10-06-25) - \$373,246.98
- Payment Check Register (10-07-25) - \$5,264,472.24
- Payment Check Register (10-14-25) - \$3,689,300.67
- Payroll Register No. 42 (10-14-25) - \$354,207.22
- Payroll Register No. 42 No. 2 (10-15-25) - \$6,852.48