

DISCOVER

Salisbury

OCTOBER 2021

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The view from Lions Head in Salisbury

PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

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On the Cover: Salisbury from the sky by James H. Clark

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Discover Salisbury

The COVID-19 pandemic has had impacts that it may take us decades to realize and understand. But one immediate and unmistakable impact was the increase in real estate sales and rentals since March 2020, as city residents sought a quieter, safer place to live and work.

For many reasons, some of which we'll explore in our interview with Realtors Elyse Harney and Elyse Harney Morris (see Page 5), Salisbury was one of the big magnets for newcomers.

For that reason, this year's Discover Salisbury is even-more-than-normal dedicated to people who are just "discovering" this wonderful New England town, either as new property

Every year we dedicate a special issue to "discovering" one of our area towns. This year we focus on Salisbury. And what a time it is to take a look at this Northwest Corner town.

owners, new renters or as prospective purchasers of homes here.

There's a lot to learn and love about Salisbury, more than can ever be included in one small publication. If you want to learn more, there is of course a weekly dose of news and information in the regular Lakeville Journal newspaper and Compass Arts and Entertainment section.

But there is also a wealth of information from our online newspaper archive, which is offered thanks to our partnership with the Scoville Memorial Library (you can find it at scoville.advantage-preservation.com).

And another invaluable resource

of information is the Salisbury Association Historical Society, based in the Academy Building on Main Street, across the street from Town Hall. Much of the information and many of the images in this issue were put together with help from the association.

And if you're interested in a deeper armchair exploration, visit the town website at www.salisburyct.us.

However you choose to learn about Salisbury, we feel confident you will like what you see. Welcome to town.

Cynthia Hochswender

Editor, Discover Salisbury

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BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Why We All Love Salisbury

Change normally comes slowly to Salisbury, but the past year or so has seen the pace accelerate with the advent of many new homeowners, due in part to fears of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many city dwellers, who were suddenly able to work remotely, chose to give up their apartments and move to “the country.”

Salisbury in particular seemed to attract new home buyers, who seemed to hold this village of about 5,000 people in almost mythic regard.

Home sales are very closely tracked by numerous organizations. The data showed that the median home price here doubled (and Salisbury was already one of the higher-priced towns in the region). The inventory of homes for sale was almost depleted. And the homes that were available sold very quickly.

What is it that makes Salisbury so attractive? At first glance, it might seem like exactly the kind of place that city dwellers would want to avoid: Small, old-fashioned, dedicated to tradition. Full of people who want to converse with you in public spaces such as the post office and the grocery store — such a change from the freedom of big city anonymity.

According to Elyse Harney and her daughter and business partner, Elyse Harney Morris, it is in fact exactly those qualities that make Salisbury so attractive. And they should know: Elyse Harney Morris grew up here in Salisbury, a child of parents who were deeply involved in the community (Elyse Harney and John Harney Sr.) and contributed to the life of Salisbury in countless ways.

continued on page 7



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Elyse Harney, second from right in photo, has always been a strong supporter of area organizations, including Sharon’s Audubon Center.

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...Loving Salisbury

continued from page 5

When the Harneys show homes to prospective new arrivals to Salisbury, they stress that what makes the town so attractive is that so many people pitch in and help out, by volunteering for some of the area nonprofits, by supporting organizations through philanthropy, by being good neighbors.


And when they show homes to prospective buyers of Salisbury property, Morris said, "We tell them that, 'We expect you to continue to support the town as a volunteer or through donations.'

"It's an honor and a privilege to live in this town and with that comes a responsibility."

Most people who come here, she and her mother agree, actually want to get involved. They come here specifically because they want to be part of a community, to have traditions, to know their neighbors.

Salisbury has almost endless opportunities to get involved on boards and commissions. Elyse Harney was on the town's Board of Selectmen in the 1970s. Elyse Morris is on the board of a local private school (Indian Mountain, in Lakeville). There are medical nonprofits, housing nonprofits, education nonprofits. There are the

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... Loving Salisbury

continued from page 7

volunteer ambulance and the volunteer fire department (known as the Lakeville Hose Company).

“The spirit of volunteerism is what will keep the community the way it is,” Harney said. “I’ve always felt that if you have a worthwhile cause and a group of people willing to work, the town will be extremely supportive.”

But community, of course, is not unique to Salisbury; it is an important part of life in many of the Northwest Corner towns. So what is it that makes people want to live in Salisbury more than even other adjoining towns?

Harney mother and daughter are quick to rattle off a list of exceptional attractions to this town.

“It’s the warmth that Salisbury has created with all its traditions,” Morris said.

“We are so blessed by nature,” Harney said. “The most pure iron ore,” which helped create a thriving Salisbury back in the 1700s and 1800s, until the iron industry migrated south to the blast furnaces in Pennsylvania — leaving the Northwest Corner with clean water, clear night skies and endless areas of research for history buffs.

But while there is no industry here, Harney said, “There are the private schools. Hotchkiss sets the tone.”

“There is beautiful water,” she continued. “The



PHOTO BY ANNE DAY

Elyse Harney Morris, at left, and her mother, Elyse Harney, consider themselves, above all, to be ambassadors to the region.

Housatonic River, the lakes.” Salisbury has several large lakes, including Lake Wononscopomuc in the village of Lakeville. It is the deepest natural lake in the state — and also home to the town’s popular beach area, known as the Grove.

“The beautiful Grove was donated to the town by the Belcher family for the children,” Harney said. There is still a fund for the maintenance of the Grove.

“There are swimming lessons at the Grove. You have to be able to swim to the raft and then swim to the rock. The lifeguards had to be able to swim across the lake. It’s an honor to become a Lakeville lifeguard. Stacey Dodge grew up here and now runs the Grove.

“There is the Berkshire Mountain range. It’s a really beautiful natural setting.”

All that beauty is enhanced, Morris said, by strong zoning regulations in town. While one might expect a real estate broker to be in favor of looser regulations, the opposite is true for the Harneys, who feel that the strong regulations create a handsome town that will (and does) attract newcomers.

The school system is also mentioned by newcomers as an attraction to the region. Although Salisbury Central School is part of a regional school district, there is something particularly attractive about the large campus in the Lakeville village center and about the student body, teachers and administration that seem to be particularly appealing to newcomers.

And that works both ways.

“All the new families coming to town will benefit the school,” Morris said, “as well as the businesses, restaurants, people who work in the trades.”

It’s a virtuous cycle, one that makes Salisbury stand out.

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BY RICH REIFSNYDER

The Churches of Salisbury

The churches of Salisbury provide a significant visual presence in the town and add to the community's social and cultural fabric.

Salisbury has had a rich religious history that continues until this day. This article focuses on the founding of the six religious communities, all Christian, that currently worship in buildings within the bounds of Salisbury.

There are, of course, other religious traditions, whose adherents meet within homes or with communities located within the broader region. These six are presented in chronological order of their founding.

Rich Reifsnyder is chair of the Salisbury Association History Society.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Salisbury Congregational Church

In early New England, a town was not considered settled until a church was established.

Jonathan Lee, a recent graduate of Yale, was called to be pastor in 1744, several years after the town of Salisbury was founded.

As was the custom at that time, he spent his entire ministry serving this church, until he died in 1788.

The Congregational Church was the established church of Connecticut (a status that lasted until 1818), supported by public funds. The town supplied acreage for Lee to farm, and a lot for his home. Initially the congregation worshiped in his home. A meeting house was built in 1749, which formed the core of the original Town Hall and was a hub for political, social and religious gatherings.

The current meeting house, on Main Street in Salisbury, was built in 1800. The church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ and has played a central role in the community and maintained a robust program of worship, Christian education, fellowship and social outreach for more than 275 years. The current minister, The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson, is the 17th installed pastor, called to that position by the congregation in September 2021.

The congregation meets for worship on Sundays at 10 a.m.

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Lakeville United Methodist Church

Followers of John Wesley were known by what was originally a derogatory term, “methodism,” because of their devotion to a certain “method” of spiritual discipline.

Methodism in Lakeville began officially in June 1789, with the organization of the Lakeville Methodist circuit.

Methodist ministers traveled preaching circuits in the early years rather than being settled in parishes.

The Lakeville church, originally known as Rehoboth Methodist (meaning “the Lord has made room for us”), is the oldest continuous Methodist congregation in New England.

Adherents were organized initially into Methodist societies rather than churches, and formed “classes” with rules for mutual support and accountability.

The original church building was constructed in 1816, with major renovations to it in 1869 to provide the current shape. Consistent with United Methodism’s motto, “open hearts, open minds, open hands,” the church has had a long record of community outreach, including an annual community Christmas breakfast.

The part-time pastor is Joy Veronesi. Sunday worship is at 9:30 a.m.

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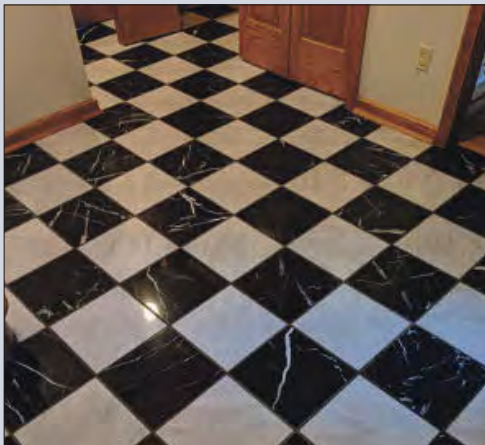
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St. John's Episcopal Church

Missionaries from the Church of England's Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG) led Episcopal services in the Salisbury area in the 1750s.

A small "timber church" was built in 1756, although its location is unknown.

The Revolutionary War period was rough for Episcopalians as the SPG's support was cut off and many clergy were identified with the Loyalists. Lay leaders like Capt. Timothy Chittenden, who fought in the War but remained loyal to the Episcopal Church, maintained worship during this time.

There were occasional clergy-led services during the post-Revolutionary period, often in homes. The Rev. George Andrews began to work in the area in 1819 and by 1823 a red brick church was erected for 55 families and dedicated by the bishop.

A bell tower was added in 1852, educational facilities in 1931, and a vestibule in 1959.

St. John's has had a vigorous outreach program and is noted for the beauty of its interior, especially its stained-glass windows.

The Rev. Paul "Chris" Christopherson is priest in charge, assisted by the Rev. Canon Lance Beizer.

The congregation meets for worship Sundays at 10 a.m. There is a healing service and Eucharist each Wednesday at noon.

*12 Main St., Salisbury • 860-435-9290
www.stjohnssalisbury.org*

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Church was founded in 1873, during the heyday of industrial life in Lime Rock, when the Barnam and Richardson families decided the village needed an Episcopal Church of its own.

To design the church, Sen. William H. Barnum, the CEO of Barnum and Richardson, secured Henry Martyn Congdon, noted for his work in the transition from late Gothic revival to Romanesque in church architecture.

Stone for the church was quarried on Sharon Mountain. The building was finished before the church was formally organized.

Originally a mission of St. John's in Salisbury, the church quickly became independent.

Openness to welcoming everyone, from company managers to laborers, was a key value from the beginning to the current day.

When the local iron industry collapsed in the early 20th century, the church went into a period of decline and its survival was in doubt.

But since 1950 there has been a renewal, and today the church has a significant music and outreach ministry.

The rector since 2009 has been the Rev. Heidi Truax. Worship services are held on Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

*484 Lime Rock Road, Lime Rock • 860-435-2627
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PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

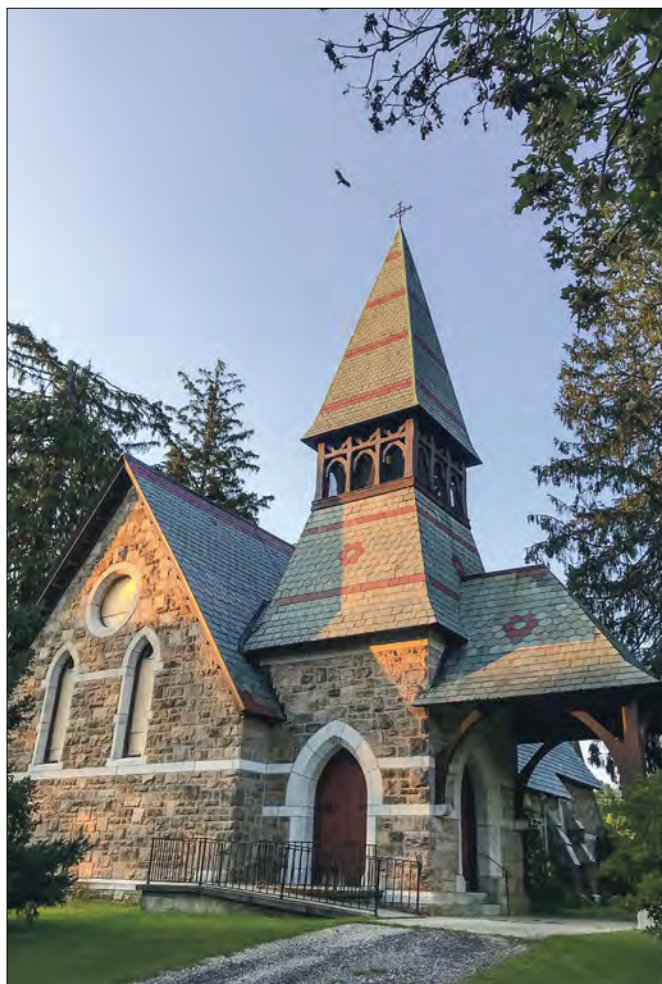


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St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

The early history of St. Mary's was closely connected with the influx of Irish immigrants to work in the iron industry.

The first Mass was held outdoors, near the Davis ore mine where the Inn at the IronMasters is currently located.

St. Patrick's church was built in 1854 in Falls Village, which also served the Salisbury community.

As the population of mine workers shifted, Father Henry Lynch oversaw the building of St. Mary's Church in Lakeville, on land secured with the help of a Congregationalist. Dedicated in 1876, it was built almost entirely from money donated by miners and ironworkers.

Within a decade a rectory, school, convent and cemetery were added.

The mission chapel in Taconic, built in 1932 by the O'Hara family to serve their summer guests, became part of the parish in 1977.

In 2017 St. Mary's became part of the Parish of St. Martin of Tours, which includes churches in North Canaan and Norfolk.

The Corner Food Pantry, with the important mission of helping to feed the hungry, is housed at St. Mary's.

Father M. David Dawson is the pastor of the parish, serving all three churches.

Mass is held on Sundays at 9 a.m. and Friday at 8 a.m.

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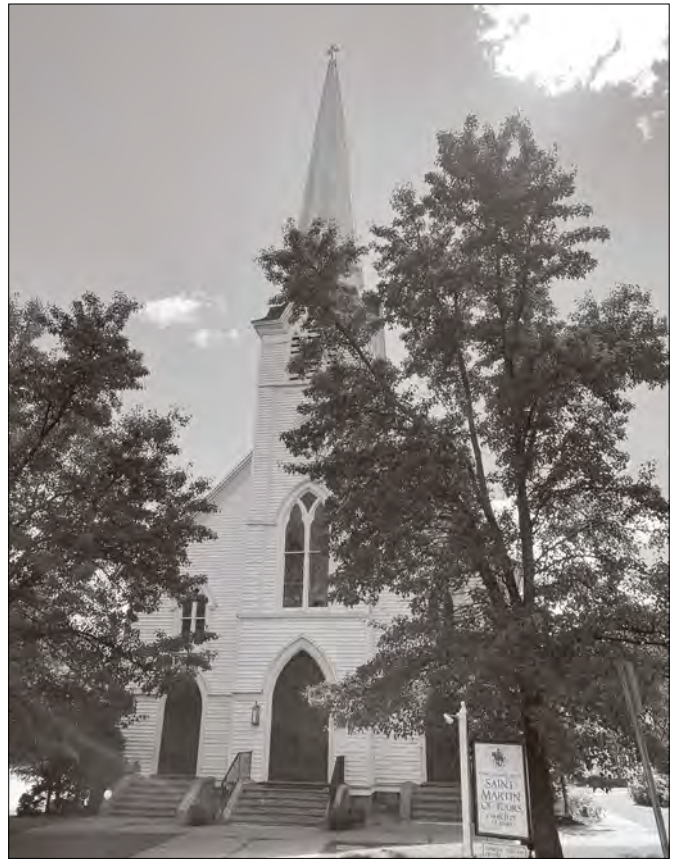


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PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

All Saints of America church is associated with the Orthodox Church in America, which has its roots in the Russian Orthodox stream of Christianity, although members come from a variety of national backgrounds.

A small congregation began meeting in 1989, under the leadership of the Rev. John Pawelchak, and for the next five years met in Congregational churches.

John Kreta was ordained in the parish in 1994 and has served the church ever since.

The congregation purchased the mission chapel of St. Francis in Taconic from the Roman Catholic diocese in 1993. Because the building had been used only in the summer, the congregation added a furnace and, eventually, plumbing to make it suitable for year-round worship.

Volunteers helped paint the church and create an altar area. The sanctuary was adorned with numerous icons, an important means of prayer and devotion in Orthodoxy. Icons may represent Christ, various saints and feasts of the church. Worship in Orthodoxy intends to incorporate all the senses.

Archpriest John Kreta is priest in charge, serving the church part time. He is the longest-serving of the clergy in town.

Divine Liturgy is on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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Remembering Ted Davis

Who Helped Bring The Ambulance Service To Life

This year is the 50th anniversary of the creation of Salisbury's volunteer ambulance service, back in 1971 by Rees Harris, John Harney Sr. and other dedicated and inventive volunteers (including Dr. Peter Reyelt, who trained the first ambulance volunteers).



PHOTO COURTESY SVAS

Ted Davis, at right in this photo, trained countless volunteers.

Before the volunteer service was created, town residents had to wait for professional services to make their way through the many miles of rural roads to get to accident sites. Sometimes they arrived too late. A fatal car crash was the catalyst for creating the local ambulance, one of the first in the state.

Many extraordinary people have helped make the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service one of the treasured institutions in this town. You can learn more about them through the end of October at the 50th anniversary exhibition at the Salisbury Association Historical Society's show in Salisbury village, at the Academy Building.

One of those extraordinary characters, who appears in nearly every photograph of the history of the service is Edward R. "Ted" Davis, who died on Dec. 27, 2020, at the age of 77.

Davis was a big burly man with a gentle soul. A teacher at The Hotchkiss School, he embodied the Democratic Ideal: It didn't matter who you were or what you did in life, you were just the same as everyone else.

Davis lived by this philosophy as a teacher, an ambulance volunteer and as the instructor of the Salisbury EMT class.

Jared Zelman, a longtime volunteer as well as a former head of the emergency department at Sharon Hospital and doctor for Hotchkiss, recalled that Davis had extraordinary leadership skills: "People would do anything for Ted."

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Hylton Hundt

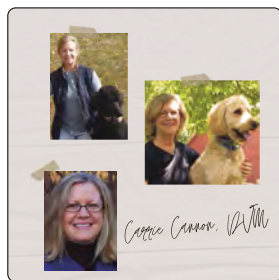
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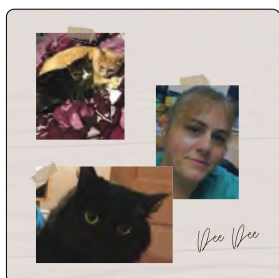


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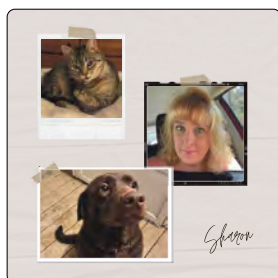
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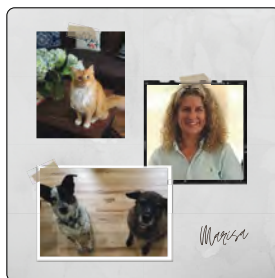
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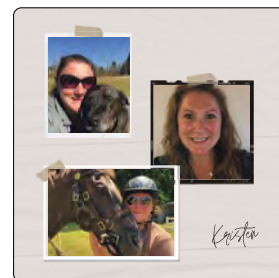
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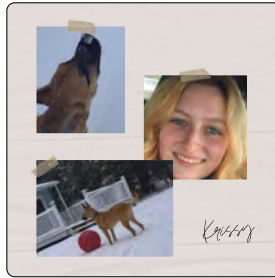
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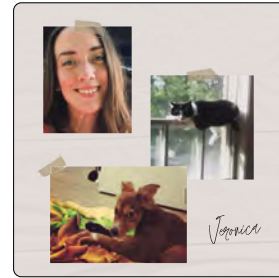
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... remembering Ted Davis

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“He had a rare ability to be a scene captain — to stand back, assess the situation and simultaneously have the vision of knowing what to do. Ted was just one of the people who others instantly look to for guidance at any scene. People wanted to work alongside him. He was the person who made stuff happen and we wanted to be in his midst.”

Ford von Weise, who was a Hotchkiss student in 1980, did an independent study taking photos of the volunteer ambulance. He recalls that Davis “was like a battalion commander in the Marines — he knew how to inspire people in an organization. He was truly a leader and everyone respected him. I attribute a lot of the success of SVAS in the early years to Ted’s tenacity, leadership and his sheer desire to make things happen.”

Zelman calls Ted Davis “truly one of a kind” and comments in the history exhibit at the Salisbury Association that his retirement was a great loss to the town and the ambulance.

The same can be said of the losses of John Harney Sr. and Rees Harris. But extraordinary people remain, and keep the service vital.

Learn about some of them by visiting the exhibit at the Salisbury Association Academy Building (open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).



PHOTO COURTESY SVAS

Ted Davis, at right, with Rees Harris, a SVAS founder, at left.

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Salisbury Central School

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In 1949, Salisbury resident Elodie Osborn did what many readers of The Lakeville Journal do: She wrote a letter to the editor.

In that letter, she laid out her well-conceived and orderly objections to a plan that was circulating at that time to erect a second school building on the Salisbury Central School campus.

The project could be done better, and for less money, she essentially said in her letter.

Then Osborn did something that not all writers of letters to the editors do: She took action, signed up for the school building committee and then, largely, directed the creation of the very modern, very flexible upper building at Salisbury Central School, which is home to the preschool and grades kindergarten through five as well as the gym, library, cafeteria and

administration offices.

Often in the Northwest Corner there are people who live quiet lives locally but who are famous internationally. Elodie Osborn was one such person. Locally she might have been known mainly as the wife of artist and Hotchkiss School art teacher Robert Osborn; and the mother of Eliot and Nic Osborn. Some might also have known her as the founder of the Salisbury Film Society.

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especially to those involved in the arts, Osborn was the director and a founding organizer of the Museum of Modern Art's department devoted to traveling exhibitions. She was a board member and president (1975 to 1977) of the famed MacDowell Colony for artists in New Hampshire (and helped ensure that filmmakers could be eligible for fellowships).

Based on her museum career, it can be inferred that three things that were important to Osborn were Modernism, education and efficiency.

All three came together in the upper building at Salisbury Central. Osborn recruited two of America's most famous practitioners to design the building.

Architect Eliot Noyes was a Harvard-trained architect and industrial designer who worked with Modernist pioneers Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer. He also was appointed the first director of the Industrial Design Department at the Museum of Modern Art in 1940 (Elodie Osborn was at the museum from 1933 to 1947).

The landscaping around the building was designed by another Modernist icon, the landscape designer Dan Kiley.

It boggles the mind to think that two such important designers and their firms were intimately involved in the upper building for an elementary school that serves the needs of a few hundred families in rural Connecticut.

But proof exists, in the thoughtful explanations of their work that Kiley and Noyes provided for a special eight-page supplement issue of *The Lakeville Journal*, published in 1954. There isn't space in this issue of *Discover Salisbury* to fully explore all the thought, love and care that went into the new



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The upper building at Salisbury Central School, completed in 1954, is home to the preschool and grades kindergarten through five as well as the gym, library, cafeteria and administration offices.

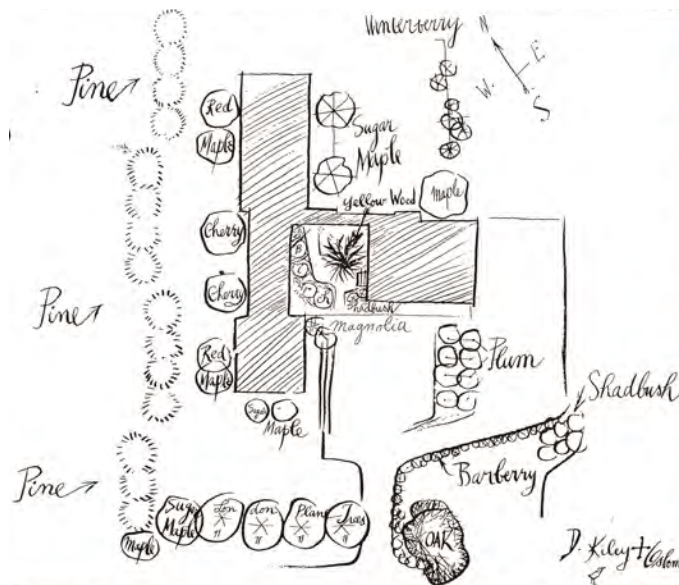


ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT OSBORN

The landscape design for the upper building at Salisbury Central School was planned out by Dan Kiley — and captured in this friendly illustration by Salisbury's Robert Osborn.

school building, by school community members, by Salisbury community members and even by two leading lights of American design and architecture.

Without question, Salisbury Central School is one of the big attractions that brings families to this town in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. Many factors are involved, from the excellence of the faculty to the diversity of the student body. But certainly the beauty of the campus is important.

To read the entire special section

dedicated to the upper building at Salisbury Central School — including the essays by Noyes and Kiley as well as to see charming cartoon/illustrations by Robert Osborn — go to *The Lakeville Journal's* online archive through the Scoville Memorial Library at scoville.advantage-preservation.com. Click on *The Lakeville Journal* (1897 to 2018); click on 1954; and then click on the issue of Feb. 25. The school supplement is the last eight pages of that issue.

Salisbury Association

Visitors to the Academy Building on Main Street, home of the Salisbury Association, are greeted by the beaming visage of Lou Bucciari: historian, educator, raconteur — and Heman Allen reenactor.

Bucciari's been in Salisbury since 1983, teaching social studies and history at Indian Mountain School and then Salisbury Central School. He is now the friendly face (and booming voice) that is at the Salisbury Association Historical Society offices on Main Street every weekday, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. He can answer almost any question about almost any history topic off the top of his head; what he can't answer, he can look up.

Best of all, when he explains it, he does so with the booming voice of an experienced educator. He instinctively pauses (to be sure his students of any age, in or out of the classroom, can take notes) and he watches your eyes to be sure you're fully engaged with the tale he's telling.

Bucciari got involved with local history in the early 1990s, when there was a move to energize the historical program associated with what was then the Holley-Williams House Museum in Lakeville (it is now a private residence).

Bucciari said that process in turn inspired the idea of "living history," with an emphasis on Salisbury's role in the American Revolution.

He said fellow Salisbury Central teacher Jennifer Law first recruited him to don the costume and persona of Heman Allen, brother of Ethan Allen, in 1994.

Bucciari, in costume, now reads the entire Declaration of Independence each year at the Fourth of July celebration at the town Grove.

He is on his third costume, by the way. The first was commissioned from a local seamstress.

When that wore out, he found another person to make one.

That uniform eventually gave way, and the current model was obtained



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Lou Bucciari welcomes visitors to the history of Salisbury and our region.

from a commercial vendor that specializes in historic replicas.

Asked if he ever considered editing the Declaration to exclude certain parts that make for awkward reading in a time when much of the country seems eager to take offense at anything, Bucciari said yes, he tried it once.

"I didn't make it three steps from the mike" before he heard complaints.

And the brevity didn't impress anyone either.

"I heard no one who expressed gratitude that I kept it short."

That was 10 years ago, give or take. Nobody has brought it up since.

"It's not my job to sanitize history," Bucciari said. "Nor, frankly, is it anybody's job."

Asked if local historians have run out of new material to delve into, Bucciari said absolutely not.

"We're still uncovering things regularly."

For instance, the cannon that is on display in the Academy Building.

Bill Morrill, Dick Paddock and others did extensive research to find a cannon "and definitively connect it to Salisbury" and to the once-thriving iron industry in town.

"We still don't know for sure," whether the cannon was made at one of the area forges or with local iron ore. But they're working on it.

Bucciari said the National Park Service personnel at the Saratoga, N.Y., battlefield site, after not being particularly enthusiastic about Salisbury cannons, have changed their minds.

And there might be a way to match the crystalline structure of the cannon that would positively identify it as being made from Salisbury iron.

"So things like that happen fairly regularly."

In the meantime, there are walks and talks and exhibits and students. This year Bucciari was able to do his historic walk of the Amesville site of the Horatio Ames iron works, after not being able to during COVID. The walk is offered annually as part of the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area's Heritage Hikes.

The current exhibit by the Salisbury Association Historical Society commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance service. It was relatively easy to put together, Bucciari said, with ambulance members past and present contributing

materials and writing up the story of the volunteer service.

Other exhibits take longer. Bucceri said he was advised by town historian (and his mother-in-law) Katherine Chilcoat that “it really takes one and a half to two years to put together a quality exhibit.”

And there is always an emphasis on getting young people interested in history. Bucceri said he is especially focused on teaching about sources.

He recalled illustrating the perils of superficial online research with topics such as the Northwest Tree Octopus, or the California Velcro crop.

“Velcro is not a plant,” he said — definitively.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Bucceri, in the guise of Heman Allen, recites the Declaration of Independence each year during the Fourth of July celebration at the Grove in Lakeville.

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PHOTO COURTESY SALISBURY ASSOCIATION

The Salisbury Association has a large collection of old photos of the Salisbury Grove through the years. Most of the images are from decades before it became a town-owned beach and of course many decades before the invention of the bikini swimsuit.

BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Grove Is Much More Than a Beach

It seems obvious that there should be a public beach and recreation area in a town such as Salisbury, with a large beautiful lake. But the Grove is a relatively new addition to the many wonderful services provided by the town.

Lake Wononscopomuc is considered the crown jewel of Salisbury's lakes. It is the deepest natural lake in the state at 102 feet (the mean depth is 36 feet according to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station) and its surface area is 348 acres.

There is a large variety of fish and plants living in the water, some natural and some invasive. But of greatest interest to most Salisbury residents, of course, are the

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PHOTO COURTESY SARAH MORRISON



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

human inhabitants of the water who come out in summer to either swim across the lake or, if they're younger, to paddle around in the enclosed children's swim area and to compete in regional swim races in the multi-lane competition area.

The Grove (named for the many oak trees near the shore and the recreation buildings) only became a town beach and recreation center in 1950.

Benjamin Moore Belcher recalls in a 1987 living history interview done by the Salisbury Association (www.salisburyassociation.org/archives/oral-history/belcher-benjamin) that he and his mother, Ella Belcher (identified in *The Lakeville Journal* in those days as Mrs. Ward Belcher), wanted to do something for the town.

The Belchers had been area residents for many years; Ben Belcher recalled that his "maternal grandfather had started a company called Benjamin Moore & Company."

And so the Belchers were able to put some funds behind their benevolent impulse. Ben Belcher recalled that he approached the town's longtime first selectman, Bill Barnett, in the late 1940s and asked what kind of project would enhance and improve town life.

Barnett sketched out his plan for a town-owned beach where people could swim and fish and boat. The lakefront area was known for many years as Timmins Grove. The Timmins family had rented the waterfront area from Frances Cantine DeSabra and in the 1950s it was David Timmins who ran the boating and fishing concession there.

After many town meetings and much discussion (not about the need for the town beach, only about the price that should be paid for it), in 1950 the town bought 825 feet of lake frontage and 5.5 acres of land for \$65,000.

Most of the funds were provided by the Belcher family.

The beach area was completed in 1953. The buildings

The landscape looks more or less the same. But if you look carefully at the vintage photo at left of the entry to the Grove, it's clear how much it has changed over the years, from a rickety shack hard on the edge of the pond, to a sturdy building with everything from fishing lures to ice cream. Factory Pond, above, remains a favorite place for youngsters to hang out and, maybe, catch some fish.



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... the grove

continued from page 25

were designed by architect Norton Miner.

In 1965, an additional 4 acres and 300 feet of frontage were purchased from Frances DeSabra. The full Grove area also includes Frederick Bauer's 1947 donation to the town of Factory Pond and the land around it.

There is no question that the Grove is one of the great attractions to the town of Salisbury.

It is one of three town-owned lakefront swim areas in the region (Sharon and Cornwall also have public beaches) but it certainly attracts the most visitors. For decades town residents have discussed health and safety issues that can arise from overcrowding. Of particular concern are the areas where youngsters swim and play; use of the space inside the docks needs to be kept low so the water can cleanse itself and so the lifeguards can keep an eye on all the swimmers.



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH MORRISON

The Grove crew includes manager Stacey Dodge, the lifeguards, the swim coaches and, of course, the children who come daily to swim and play.

The Grove has been managed for many years by the firm but benevolent Stacey Dodge. She keeps track not only of swimming in the town-monitored sections of the lake but also rentals of boats and boat docks, swim lessons, swim team, fishing, the paddle ball courts, the little snack shack and the Grove Recreation Building, which is the site of senior lunches and can be rented for parties and other gatherings.

One of the signature Salisbury annual events is the Fourth of July celebration, when all the outdoor grills are in use and the water is full of swimmers

The Salisbury Band plays old-time tunes and Lou Bucceri, dressed in Colonial garb invokes the spirit of Heman Allen (an important figure in the Revolution) as he reads the Declaration of Independence (see Page 22).

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Settling Salisbury, and the Iron Industry's Role

One obvious question people ask about any New England town is, "What brought people here?"

Many were driven by the opportunity to own land and create a new home for themselves.

Some were simply looking for a safe place to live in peace.

The Connecticut colony was created in 1636 by people from Rhode Island seeking religious freedom.

Originally, settlement of the new colony occurred along the coast and navigable rivers, because they provided a means of transportation.

At first not much thought was given to the inland boundaries. The borders between Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts were vague for decades.

The land upon which Salisbury stands became part of Connecticut in 1695 as a result of one of a number of border revisions that continued into the 19th century.

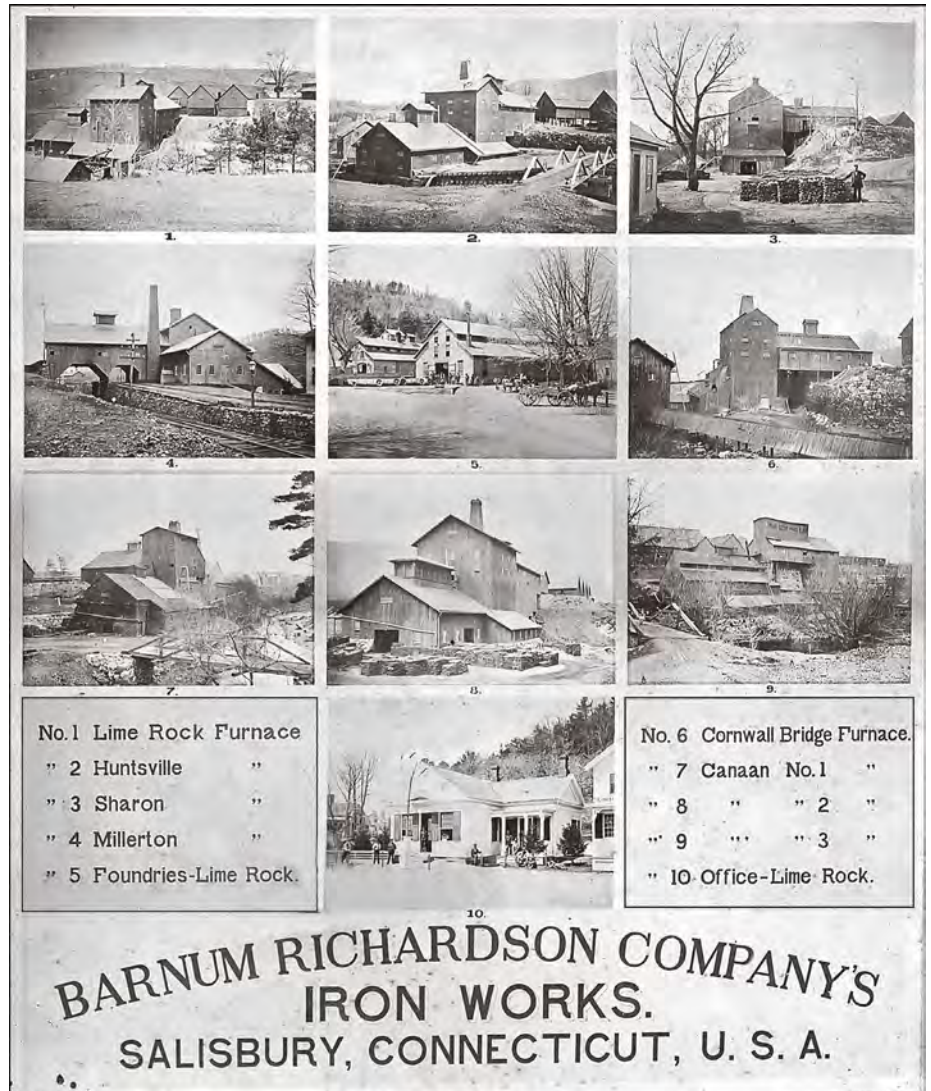
Not fertile, but rich in minerals

Settlement was not immediate. Salisbury is very remote from both the coast and navigable rivers. The Hudson is more than 20 miles distant and in 1636 was part of a Dutch colony.

The trip east to the Connecticut River is not only much longer, but also much more daunting.

There is no abundant fertile land in Salisbury for crops and cattle. Harvesting timber was impractical because of the long trip to market. The only thing left was minerals — and that is what would change things.

Salisbury sat unoccupied into the 18th century simply because no one had



a reason to come here. The change came in 1728 when a group of surveyors found rusty rocks in what is now Lakeville. Those rocks were iron ore — a valuable mineral.

A perfect place to make ore

Iron is not a precious metal but it is a useful one and is used to make everyday things like nails, knives, shovels,

horseshoes, frying pans.

But ore is not iron.

It must be processed in order to be useful.

Iron ore is also heavy. Transporting the Salisbury ore any distance in 1728 was an impossibility.

The only option was to process the ore locally into end products that were

continued on page 29



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Historical Society celebrates and preserves Salisbury's history through the centuries. Visit our upcoming exhibit "In Her Own Words," listen to oral histories, and view our collections of portraits, historical artifacts, documents, and photos.



Community Events organizes events that bring us together and add beauty to our community. Enjoy the 4th of July at Town Grove and Fall Festival, pick up a free copy of *Volunteer Opportunities in Our Community*, and admire new trees and flowers.

*Stop by the Academy Building to view our ever-changing exhibits.
Visit our website for upcoming events and programs.
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... iron industry

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easier to transport and higher in value. That local processing began in 1734 when Thomas Lamb, a land speculator, had a bloomery forge built on the Salmon Kill in Lime Rock.

Salisbury had a number of advantages that supported local iron processing: water power, fuel and a key additional mineral: Salisbury has deposits of Stockbridge marble containing calcium, which is needed to smelt iron.

The forests provided charcoal, a low-sulfur fuel to drive the smelting process.

The abundant waterfalls provided the energy to power the machinery of production.

They built it, and the people came

All of the ingredients for a successful iron industry were there; the only missing element was the people to

conduct the industry.

The people came.

By 1741 there were enough people to incorporate a real town.

The industry and the town grew, eventually opening six mines, six blast furnaces, a foundry and two major factories.

And many of the people who came to run the industry were extraordinary, including Samuel Forbes, known as “The Iron Prince,” John Adam, whose descendants now run the Land of Nod winery where iron was once hammered. Hezekiah Camp built a forge at the outlet of Twin Lakes. Samuel Forbes and his brother partnered with Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen and John Hazeltine of Lakeville to build a blast furnace before Allen went north to Vermont.

Lakeville’s blast furnace turned out more than 850 cannon for Washington’s

army.

After the Revolution, Salisbury provided iron products for the Industrial Revolution.

Other blast furnaces were added at Mount Riga, Lime Rock, Chapinville (Taconic), Falls Village (owned by Horatio Ames) and Joyceville.

Despite the efforts of all these talented people the industry waned in the late 19th century as the making of steel and iron moved to other parts of the country.

Local mining activity ceased in 1923 and local manufacturing was gone by the middle of the 20th century. And the night skies, which were once orange from the manufacturing of iron, are now filled with stars.

Historian Richard Paddock, a retired engineer for IBM, grew up in Salisbury on the Scoville estate.



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The Joy of Jumping and Jumping for Joy

Ski jumping started in Salisbury nearly a century ago — and there are still people here who remember the small group of Norwegian men who got things started here.

Almost any member of the Harney family will be happy to share memories of wintry days on the slopes with the Satre brothers and Ole Hegge and of course Birger Torrissen (who was a designer of the ski jumps for the Squaw Valley Olympics).

Back in 2002 I interviewed John Harney Jr., a multi-sport athlete who was a member of the 1980 U.S. Biathlon National team. He remembers being thrilled to learn skiing from Torrissen and Hegge (who Harney said was known in Norway as the King of Skiing; after his death, the Norwegian royal family asked for Hegge's medals and trophies, to put on display in his home country). Hegge competed in the 1928 and 1932 Olympics and, once, was named Best Ski Jumper in the World.

And these men would sit on the slopes and shout encouragement as the children whizzed by them, Harney recalled.

"These men were living legends," he said.

They all moved up here as workmen, employed by Donald Warner. The first to jump was John Satre, according to Jimmy Dubois, who was 91 when I interviewed him in 2002.

He recalled that when he was 15, he and a group of teens had piled up some snow in front of St. John's Episcopal Church on Main Street.

"We were going up about 15 feet but



PHOTO BY RANDY O'ROURKE, LAKEVILLE JOURNAL ARCHIVES

Competitors in the annual ski jumps in Salisbury get a unique view of the town and its inhabitants as they leave the top of the jump tower.

we felt like we were going up 100," he said.

And then, "This man came up to us with a big grin on his face and asked if we'd let him 'yump.' It was the first time we'd ever heard the word 'yump.' So we said, 'Yeah, you can yump!'"

That man was John Satre and he and the boys had so much fun that, eventually, a competition-size jump was built farther down Main Street, near the intersection with Salmon Kill Road. Eventually a 65-meter wooden tower was constructed on what was named Satre Hill, in honor of John and his brothers, Ottar and Magnus (who both competed on the U.S. cross-country ski team in the 1936 Olympics in Germany).

Nowadays there are three jump towers: 20 meter, 30 meter and 65 meter. There is an active training program for local youngsters who want to try "yumping." And there is an

annual Jumpfest weekend every year in early February, with top jumpers from, mainly, Maine and New Hampshire and upstate New York. There are also some local jumpers.

The festival is put on by the Salisbury Winter Sports Association or SWSA (which is pronounced *Swa-suh* with the accent on the first syllable).

The jumps in Salisbury are not merely a quaint local event; one of the two competition days is the Eastern U.S. Jumping Championship. The other day is the Salisbury Invitational Ski Jumping Competition.

The two days are equally exciting. There are also, in non COVID-19 years, ancillary entertainments. Most recently, on Friday nights there has been target jumping under the lights: During the regular competitions the jumpers compete for points based on distance and technique; for the Friday night

jumps, a target is painted onto the snow and jumpers do their best to land right on the target.

Admission fees for the Jumpfest weekend help teach youngsters to ski and jump. Cross-country skiing has long been taught (thanks to SWSA) at Salisbury Central School ; there is also an introductory training weekend for young jumpers in December.

Jumpfest is also a big social event. Yes, it's cold, but ... this is New England, after all. There are bonfires and a snack shack. Everyone wears warm boots (there is a mix of fur coats, fleece jackets and down). And, anyway, you want it to be cold, because that's how you create the proper conditions for ski jumping. Too warm? Mushy snow.



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN, LAKEVILLE JOURNAL ARCHIVES

Ski jumpers today make a slight V shape with their skis.

Years ago, SWSA had to rely on the local independent schools to get enough snow onto the jump. Nature had to provide cold weather; the independent schools donated ice shavings from their indoor skating rinks to fill in the gaps.

The shavings were trucked up to Satre Hill (pronounced *say-tree* with the accent on the first syllable). Volunteers

would work day and night packing the shavings and snow onto the runway.

The ski jumps have been significantly upgraded since those days, with a new tower and with snowmaking machines that help make the quality of the snow for Jumpfest more of a sure thing.

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... ski jumping in Salisbury

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But the jump weekend retains its old-fashioned charm. The new tower doesn't look that different from the old tower (although of course it's sturdier and taller — strong enough to meet the standards for the ski jump Junior Olympics, held here on a rotating basis).

The weather still impacts the jumping, so those who like a thrill can spend the weeks before the Jumpfest weekend breathlessly checking the weather to be sure it will be cold enough but not too cold, windy enough but not so much so that it's dangerous for the jumpers.

For the most part, the jumps go on no matter the weather; and those who are hardy enough to come out and watch, never regret it.

Learn about Jumpfest at the SWSA website, www.salisburyisjumping.com.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The ski jumps are as much a social event as an athletic contest.



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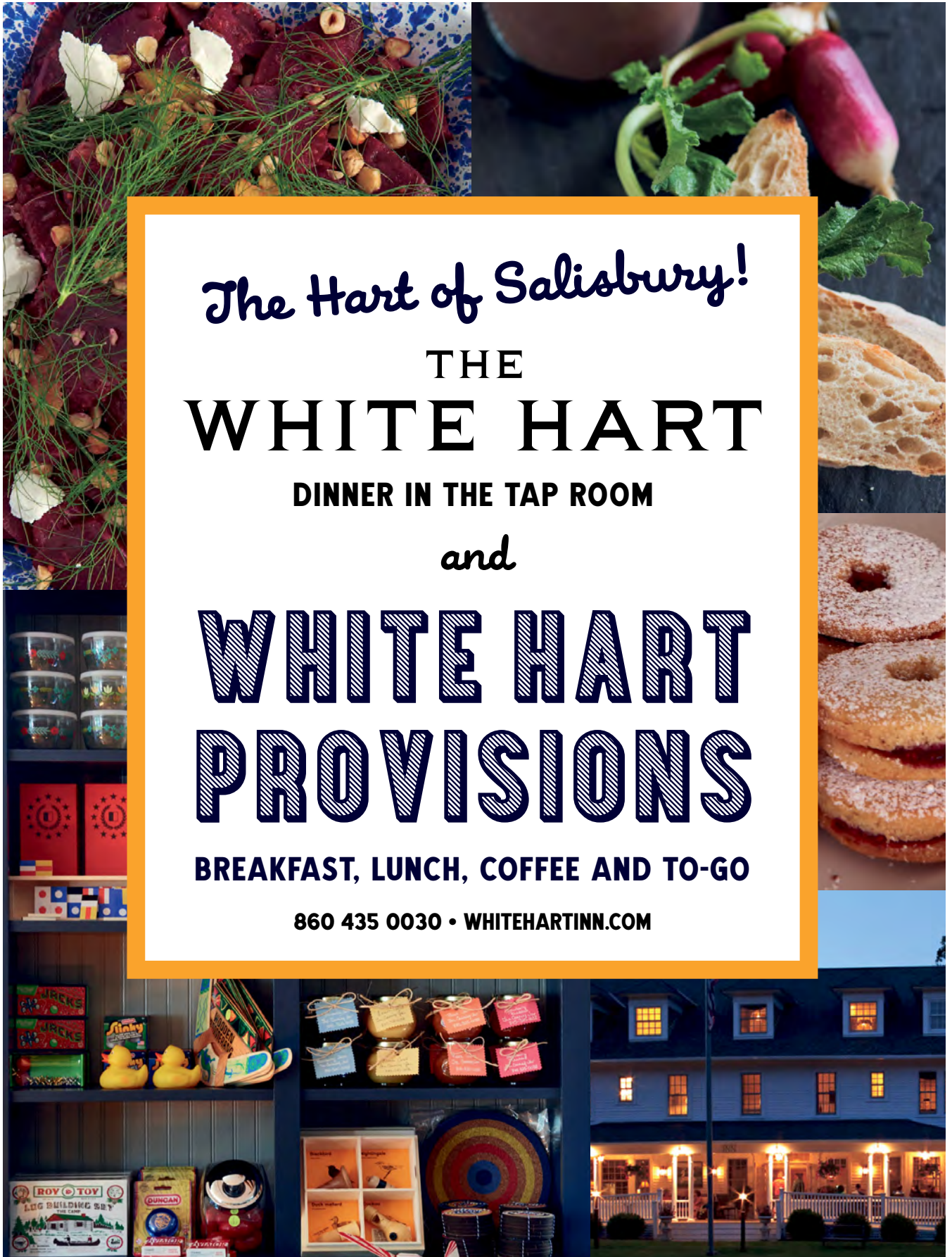
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Salisbury Buildings, Then and Now

The Town of Salisbury, incorporated in 1741, has a rich and fascinating architectural history. Stroll down Main Street from Salisbury through Lakeville and you will see the evolution of architectural styles, beginning with the 18th century and moving into the 21st century.

continued on page 37



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY SALISBURY ASSN. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Salisbury's Town Hall

Salisbury town meetings were first held in the Salisbury Meeting House on Main Street, until a Victorian-style Town Hall was built across the street. It was

replaced by a building in the Colonial Revival style, which burned down in 1985. The current Town Hall building, pictured, is in the Post-Modern style.

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6

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7

Digital access to Oral History Project transcripts and recordings by town citizens from 1981 - present

8

Access to the Lakeville Journal and other local news archives from 1871 - present

9

FREE lamination for vaccine cards

10

Small fees for technological services such as color copies, oversized copies, fax sending/receiving and scanning

11

NO OVERDUE FINES

12

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38 MAIN STREET, SALISBURY, CT

Town Resources

www.salisburyct.us • Amesville – Lakeville – Lime Rock – Salisbury – Taconic

KEY TOWN SERVICES

Animal Control Officer	860-248-5637
Assessor (Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-4)	860-435-5176
Building Official (Mon.-Fri., 8-3)	860-435-5177
Fire Marshal	860-435-5196
First Selectman (Mon.-Fri., 8:30-4)	860-435-5170
Litchfield Hills Probate District #24	www.litchfieldprobate.org
Recreation Director	860-435-5186
Registrars of Voters (Wed., 9-noon)	860-435-5175
Senior Services (Mon.-Thurs., 9-11 at Town Grove)	860-435-5191
Social Services (Mon., Tues., Thurs., 9:30-4:30 p.m. and Wed., 9:30-3 p.m.)	860-435-5187
Tax Collector (Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-4)	860-435-5189
Town Clerk (Mon.-Fri., 9-12:30, 1:30-3:30)	860-435-5182
Town Grove Recreation Building	860-435-5185
Transfer Station (Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 8-4; Sun., 9-1)	860-435-5178
Zoning Administrator (Mon.-Fri., 8-noon)	860-435-5190

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

For emergencies	911 Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance
	860-435-0058
	www.salisburyambulance.org
Lakeville Hose Co.	860-435-9981
Resident State Trooper	860-435-2938
State Police Troop B, North Canaan	860-626-1820
Sanitarian (Torrington Area Health District)	860-489-0436 or www.tahd.org
Sharon Hospital	860-364-4000

OTHER SERVICES

Corner Food Pantry	860-435-9886
Housatonic Child Care Center	860-435-9694
Noble Horizons	860-435-9851
Salisbury Association	860-435-0566
Salisbury Family Services	860-435-5187
Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association	860-435-0816
Salisbury Historic District Commission	866-245-1276

www.historicsalisburyct.org	
Scoville Memorial Library	860-435-2838

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Explorations Charter School, Winsted	860-738-9070
Housatonic Valley Regional High School Falls Village	860-824-5123
Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Winsted	860-738-6300
Oliver Wolcott Technical School Torrington	860-496-5300
Salisbury Central School	860-435-9871

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Indian Mountain School, Lakeville	860-435-0871
Salisbury School	860-435-5700
The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville	860-435-2591

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

All Saints of America, Orthodox Christian	860-824-1340
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Congregational Church of Salisbury	860-435-2442
St. John's, Episcopal	860-435-9290
St. Mary's, Catholic	860-435-2659
Trinity Episcopal Church, Lime Rock	860-435-2627
Lakeville United Methodist	860-435-9496

ELECTED OFFICERS

First Selectman	
Curtis Rand	860-435-5170
Representatives in Connecticut General Assembly	
Sen. Craig Miner (30th District)	800-842-1421
Rep. Maria Horn (64th District)	800-842-8267
Representative in Congress	
Jahana Hayes (5th District)	Waterbury 860-223-8412 Washington 202-225-4476
United States Senators	
Richard Blumenthal	Hartford 860-258-6940 Washington 202-224-2823
Chris Murphy	Hartford 860-549-8463 Washington 202-224-4041
Governor	
Ned Lamont	800-406-1527

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... architecture in Salisbury

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Queen Anne

The Queen Anne Style, circa 1880, was an asymmetrical Victorian style with steeply pitched roofs and multiple gables, dormers, towers and turrets. The homes are usually large and imposing with lots of decorative trim.



Romanesque Revival

The Scoville Memorial Library is in the Romanesque Revival style. It features roughly finished stone, arched windows and doorway and a bell tower.

continued on page 38

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... architecture in Salisbury

continued from page 37



Bushnell Tavern
built in 1741

18th-century taverns

The 18th-century Colonial buildings were built primarily of wood in a simple rectangular shape with side gables, steep roof and a center doorway, following the English tradition. The Bushnell Tavern in Salisbury and the Farnum Tavern in Lakeville were built in the Colonial era as taverns and feature second-story porches. Both had ballrooms on the second floor.



Farnum Tavern built in 1730



The Greek Revival

The Greek Revival style was popular from 1825 to 1860. It featured a symmetrical shape, a window in the pediment, decorated cornices and friezes, and corner columns. Many homes in Salisbury and Lakeville are in the Greek Revival style.

Chore Service

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Canaan-Cornwall-Falls Village
Kent-Lakeville-Norfolk-Salisbury-Sharon



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Chore is partially funded by a grant from the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging. These funds subsidize all clients aged sixty and over regardless of income. Donations and client contributions supplement the grant so that the program can remain affordable for everyone.

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860-435-9177 • choreservice.org



Holley Williams House built in 1768
and added onto in 1808

Federal Style

In the late 1700s, the Federal style became popular. Inspired by Robert Adams and Thomas Jefferson, this style is characterized by grandeur of scale, symmetrical design, a gabled portico with a fan light, and tall columns. The Holley Williams House in Lakeville's Historic District and the Ragamont Inn on Salisbury's Main Street are fine examples.

The Salisbury Association welcomes all to stop in the Academy Building on Main Street to learn more about the history of Salisbury and its historic buildings. This information was compiled by Chris Brennan.



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KENT, CT

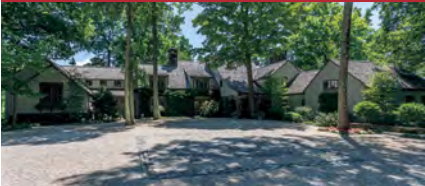
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