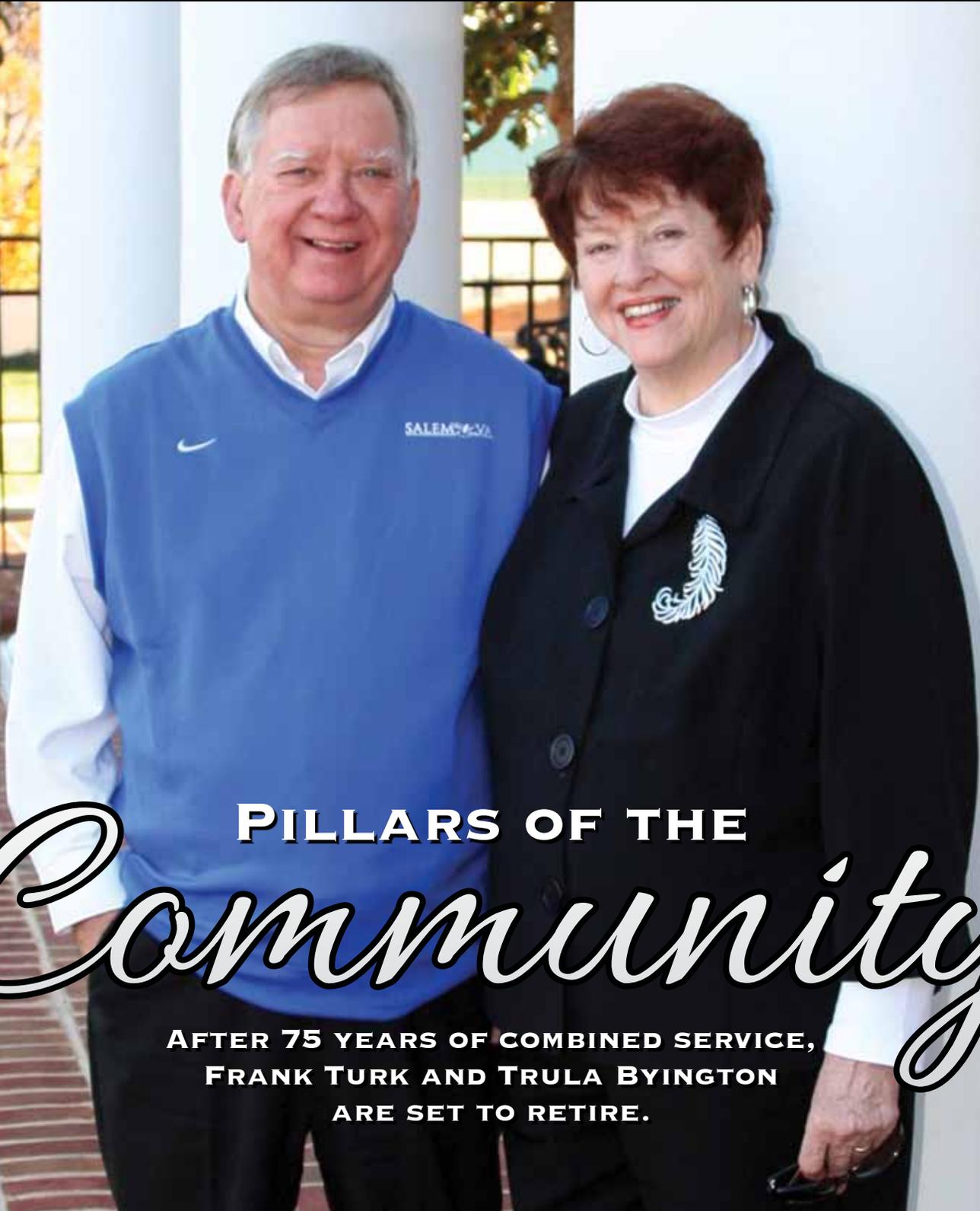


ISSUE 25 • WINTER 12

SALEM



A MAGAZINE FOR THE PEOPLE OF VIRGINIA



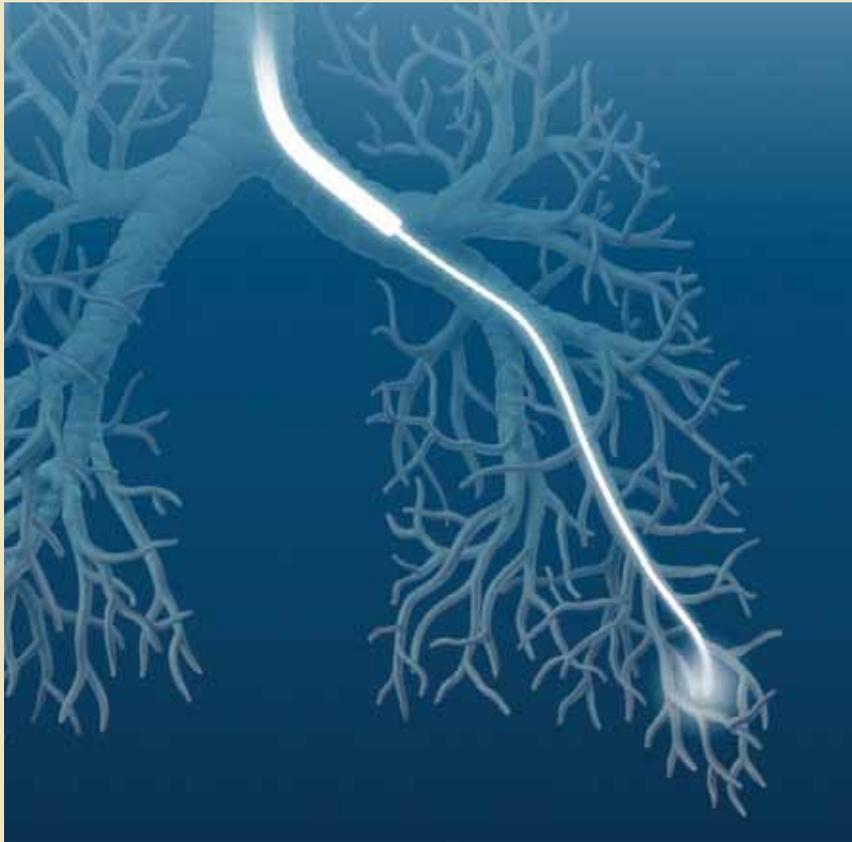
PILLARS OF THE

Community

**AFTER 75 YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE,
FRANK TURK AND TRULA BYINGTON
ARE SET TO RETIRE.**

Main Street Music • More Than Just a Game • Growth Project

ALSO INSIDE: HOW TO GET FREE STAGG BOWL TICKETS



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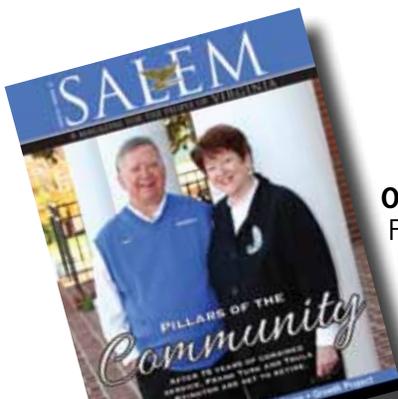


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On the cover Finance Director Frank Turk and West Salem Principal Trula Byington have enjoyed long careers in Salem.



SALEM VA

2012 - 2013
HOLIDAY
TRASH COLLECTION
SCHEDULE

Christmas Week - December 24 & 25 2012

MONDAY - DEC. 24 - ROUTE COLLECTED WEDNESDAY (12/26)

TUESDAY - DEC. 25 - ROUTE COLLECTED THURSDAY (12/27)

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY ROUTES UNCHANGED

New Year's Week 2013

MONDAY- DEC. 31 - ROUTE COLLECTED WEDNESDAY (1/2)

TUESDAY - JAN. 1 - ROUTE COLLECTED THURSDAY (1/3)

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY ROUTES UNCHANGED

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 21, 2013

MONDAY- JAN. 21 - ROUTE COLLECTED TUESDAY (1/22)

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY ROUTES UNCHANGED

Memorial Day - May 27, 2013

MONDAY- MAY 27 - ROUTE COLLECTED TUESDAY (5/28)

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY ROUTES UNCHANGED

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Salem City Hall is located at 114 North Broad Street. Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers located on the main level of the building.

CITY DEPARTMENTS DIRECTORY

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Engineering Department	(540)375-3032	Social Services - Welfare	(540)387-6087
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REMOVAL REMINDERS

LEAVES

THE CITY OF SALEM STREET DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE COLLECTING LEAVES CURBSIDE THROUGH THE END OF DECEMBER.

BEGINNING JANUARY 3 AND CONTINUING THROUGH MARCH 22, THESE CREWS WILL ONLY COLLECT LEAVES ON AN "AS NEEDED" BASIS. AFTER JANUARY 3, RESIDENTS MUST NOTIFY THE STREET DEPARTMENT AT 375-3039 TO SCHEDULE A LOOSE LEAF PICK-UP TIME.

LOOSE LEAVES WILL NOT BE COLLECTED AFTER MARCH 22. AFTER THAT TIME, THEY MUST BE BAGGED OR BOXED IN ORDER TO BE PICKED-UP.

SALEM PRIDES ITSELF ON HAVING THE BEST SNOW REMOVAL OPERATION IN THE STATE, BUT CITIZENS ALSO NEED TO DO THEIR PART TO HELP GET STREETS AND SIDEWALKS CLEARED.

- WHEN POSSIBLE, PARK YOUR VEHICLES IN YOUR DRIVEWAY. THIS WILL ALLOW THE SNOWPLOWS TO NOT ONLY CLEAR MORE OF THE STREET, BUT ALSO THE AREA IN FRONT OF YOUR ROADSIDE MAILBOX.
- REMEMBER, ALL RESIDENTIAL, RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS, WHO HAVE SIDEWALKS, ARE REQUIRED TO CLEAR THESE WALKWAYS NO LATER THAN SIX HOURS AFTER A SNOWFALL ENDS.

HELP US KEEP OUR STREETS AND SIDEWALKS CLEAR AND OUR CITIZENS SAFE!

SNOW



KEVIN'S CORNER

Kevin Boggess - City Manager kboggess@salemva.gov 375-3016



Since January of this year, the Commissioner of the Revenue's office has registered nearly 120 new businesses in Salem. Many of these are small ventures that begin in someone's home, but we also have new restaurants, retail shops, medical facilities and even a brewery located on Kesler Mill Road.

It is refreshing to see that the entrepreneurial spirit is not only alive and well in Salem, but that it is also making a comeback in some non-traditional forms. Parkway Brewing has turned an old warehouse into a state-of-the-art craft beer operation, the Gypsy Palooza clothing boutique has replaced a tattoo parlor on Broad Street and Med Express is now caring for customers on West Main in a space formerly used for video rentals.



Salem Mayor Randy Foley led the recent City Council Business Breakfast.

One thing all of these businesses have in common is their importance to Salem's economic well-being. While there are as many reasons businesses open and close as there are people, there are two objectives City Hall focuses on - retaining existing businesses and attracting new ones.

Fortunately, there are a number of ways we are able to keep our existing businesses happy here in Salem. We have great schools, roads, utilities, public safety, parks and recreation, and other public services.

We also try to earn their trust and respect by valuing their input. Periodically, we reach out to local businesses through the City Council Business Breakfast. About every three months City Council and staff invite a group of business owners to the Salem Civic Center for a discussion about issues affecting the business environment in Salem. We get great ideas and information from these meetings that, hopefully, help us do a better job serving the business community down the line.



Salem's General Electric Plant Manager Steve Roy talks with council members Jane Johnson and Bill Jones.

These meetings have led to a great deal of productive discussion about how to attract new business to Salem. After all, who better to tell us what will bring people to Salem than those who are already here running successful ventures.

This year we were fortunate to obtain even more valuable feedback as we welcomed the manufacturing sector of businesses in Salem to the table to discuss their needs. We were pleased to find out that most love doing business here, and would consider expansion if they could have easier access to a ready-made and well-trained work force. Working with the high school, Virginia Western and some of the valley's technology-based institutions to ensure that students with interests in these areas hit the job market fully trained is something Council definitely has an interest in pursuing.

The economy continues to come back a little bit at a time, and as I expected, it's the people who own and manage these ventures who continue to drive Salem's economic rally.

"Since January of this year, the Commissioner of the Revenue's office has registered nearly 120 new businesses in Salem."



Chick-fil-A restaurant on West Main Street



Gypsy Palooza boutique on South Broad Street



Parkway Brewing Company on Kesler Mill Road



MedExpress Urgent Care on West Main Street

S@LEM



NEWSMAKERS

History Comes Alive

Veterans Day for students at East Salem Elementary meant a chance to get up close and personal with an actual World War II veteran in their own classroom. **Walt Armstrong**, who served in the Navy from 1944-45 in the Pacific Theatre, visited **Amy Nester's** first grade students to give them an idea of what it was like to live underwater in a submarine.

The Tazewell native who now lives in Salem served on the SS Tirante with Medal of Honor winner **George Street** and highly decorated naval officer and award winning author **Ed Beech**. Armstrong spent 20 years in the Navy before retiring in 1965 as Chief Yeoman.

He was joined during the Veterans Day celebration by Mrs. Nester's father, **Jerry Davis**, who himself was an Army Military Policeman in the Vietnam War from 1968-1969.

Both men encouraged the students to always value their education and freedom.



Nurturing Young Nutrition

The "Chef and Child" program spent time at G.W. Carver and East Salem elementary schools this fall during "National Nutrition Month" teaching students about healthy eating. The program works with students in Salem and Roanoke to expose them to nutrition habits through experience and modeled routines, as well as patterned exercises and activities. The hope is that these lessons will sink-in and encourage the development of long lasting, healthy eating practices.

The Salem visit featured a number of chefs including former Salem High School Culinary Director **Bev Allman** and Hotel Roanoke Executive Chef, **Billie Raper**. Both are officers in the Southwestern Virginia Chapter of the American Culinary Federation.

The organization's motto is for each child to develop into a "lean, mean, running machine." With the help of Mr. and Mrs. Eat Right, Nutrition Natalie and Nutrition Ned each student's interest is peaked to learn and experience each of the food groups through the "Chef and Child" program.





Breaking Bread and Mending Fences

In most college towns, off-campus students always seem to end up living in rental property that borders not only the college, but established neighborhoods. That is definitely the case in Salem where Roanoke College students occupy dwellings on streets like Craig Avenue, Hawthorne, North Market and Red Lane.

Teenagers and senior citizens can often be like oil and vinegar, but in recent years the two have not only learned to co-exist and respect one another, but also help each other. The college's national award winning Salem

Ambassadors program not only performs community service projects in these areas, but also uses positive peer pressure to make sure students hold each other accountable.

At the start of each school year, the "Town and Gown" committee, comprised of government, college and student leaders hosts a cookout for off-campus students and neighborhood residents. The meal gives the two groups a chance to get to know one another and put a name with a face.

"As a liaison, I can speak with residents and students about being good neighbors

and the college and city can provide written material and reminders about being good neighbors, but the cookout makes it personal," says **Carla Spencer**, Salem Senior Police Officer. "Making it personal elevates the importance of being good neighbors, and enhances the understanding between the two groups."

In 2009, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators recognized the college's Student Ambassador Program by awarding it one of its Excellence Awards.



Record Crowd Decides to Unwind

The Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce hosts a number of community events in conjunction with the Salem Civic Center each year, but nothing has grown in popularity in recent years like the annual Wine and Unwind event.

"This has really come into its own in four years," says **Debbie Kavitz**, the Chamber's Executive Director. "People really seemed to enjoy themselves and we've had some great feedback."

This year a record 850 people turned out for the one day event at the Taliaferro Complex along with 15 vineyards, a number of food vendors and a live band. Much of the proceeds from the event help further the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber Foundation which features a scholarship awards program for high school graduates. This past June, two Salem and two Roanoke County students each received \$1,000 grants.

"Our chamber has always had a great tie to education, and right now the challenge is

to find people with the proper skills to fit the jobs that are out there," she says.

Long term, the Chamber hopes to increase the scholarship program and research avenues for other business scholarships. The target population will be adults wishing to make a mid-life career change due to job loss or adults wishing to seek training for new skills.



Young Architects Look to Improve West Main



A group of young architects in the area is working in conjunction with Salem. The collaboration is with the Young Architects Forum, a subgroup of the American Institute of Architects, a program that is focused on developing young professionals.

“The program works to get professionals involved in helping our communities,” says **J.B. Anderson**, Chairman of the Young Architects Forum. “We wanted to go out as a group and get involved on the civic level.”

The architects explored several avenues, looking for a design project to improve an area both with landscape and building. They met with City Manager **Kevin Boggess** and Assistant City Manager **Jay Taliaferro** and Roanoke City officials. It was the new 2012 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Salem that caught one member’s eye.

“We all sat around a table in the spring and there was a discussion of what we wanted to do this year,” said young architect and Salem resident **James Ruhland**. “I brought up the comprehensive plan and things went from there.”

After a meeting in September with the Planning and Engineering Departments, the group decided to focus on the area of West Main Street, just west of the Wildwood Rd. intersection. Salem officials have struggled in recent years to bring in new businesses to extend the boom of Main Street.

“Several of us enter Salem through that area and it really strikes us from a designing perspective,” Anderson said. “There is more that can be done to improve that area. As architects, we get attracted to things like that.”

The project is in initial stages with the architects working on a design plan for the area. The group reconvened again in November. A meeting highlighted by a proposal presentation will take place in early 2013.

“Ultimately, after the presentation at the end of January, we will have a document that will assist the City of Salem in redeveloping the area,” Anderson explained. “It’s possible that eight or nine months down the road that this could be adopted in the comprehensive plan in some capacity.”



Fitness comes first at Salem High

Thanks to the three-year, \$800,000 PEP grant the city’s school division received for physical education, Salem High School students are getting physically fit inside a brand new fitness center. Located on the second floor of the high school, the \$80,000 center features 18 pieces of cardio equipment, eight precision weight machines, two sets of medicine balls and dumbbells, as well as TRX resistance band training stations.

However, the most intriguing piece of technology in the room is a crank machine that is designed for all students, but especially those with

Board Additions

The two newest members of the Salem School Board both have doctorate degrees to go along with their passion for children and education. During their final meeting in October, Salem City Council appointed **Nancy Bradley** to the board effective January 1. The mother of three children in the Salem School Division will take the spot that is being vacated by retiring member **Cindy Neathawk**, a board member for the past 15 years. Council also reappointed clinical psychologist **Michael Chiglinsky** to the board for his second term.

Bradley is the director of the pre-educational placement program at Virginia Tech and an adjunct faculty member at Roanoke College. Bradley's addition to the board means that chairman **Sally Southard** is the only holdover from the board that existed in January 2008. Since then, long time members **Wayne Adkins**, **William Sinkler** and now Neathawk have retired from the board.



Target Practice

The City of Salem School Division is pleased to announce that East Salem Elementary School has hit the bull's-eye with Target. This fall, the retail giant announced that it is giving the library at East Salem \$500 worth of books for its students.

Target stores in each community around the country select schools that deserve this award, and the Valley View Target made East Salem its choice to receive this honor. Local Target representative, **Rita Black**, officially presented the honor to school Principal **Diane Rose** and the entire East Salem staff during this week's faculty meeting.

"I am so appreciative of Target's commitment to education," says Rose. "I am thrilled that through their generosity, East Salem can add new books to its library."

Target, in cooperation with the non-profit First Book organization, is on track to reach \$1 billion in giving to education and reading by the end of 2015. To date, First Book has distributed more than 90 million books and educational resources to programs and schools serving low-income families throughout the United States and Canada.



physical limitations. The seat can be removed from the machine and the height can be adjusted in seconds to allow students who are confined to a wheelchair to take part in the class. The machine provides an upper body workout and increases the students' cardiorespiratory health.

All students in PE classes at SHS use this facility at least twice a week during class time. In addition, the faculty and staff also have the opportunity to use this state of the art facility before and after school hours.

"The fitness center has really changed the way in which the teachers approach physical education and I truly believe the students understanding of physical fitness has greatly improved," says **Thomas Barber**, Salem's PEP Grant coordinator. "The students are constantly in motion and they now have to set personal goals and focus on individual gain. They are buying in to what it takes to live an active and healthy lifestyle."



STAY CONNECTED

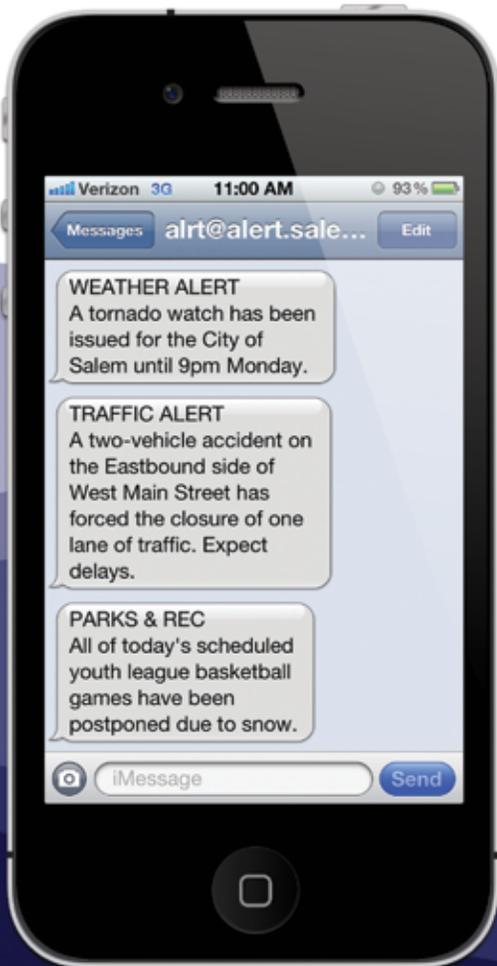
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Providing Relief from Sandy

The Northeast devastation left behind from Hurricane Sandy in October hit home here in Salem.

P.J. Nagel (right in photo), a paramedic with the Salem Fire & EMS department grew up in Breezy Point, Queens, New York. Much of the neighborhood was destroyed by a fire on October 29, destroying 111 homes and damaging 20 more. Along with the fire, many homes, businesses and the fire departments have been lost or condemned due to the massive flooding. "In talking to all of my friends up in

New York, the two fire departments are volunteer, not affiliated with FDNY," Nagel explained. "They lost their buildings, all their trucks and gear. When I heard that, I made a call to the chiefs here in Salem and asked if they had any surplus and anything to donate to take with me."

Salem Chief **Pat Counts**, Deputy Chief **John Prillaman** and the entire department collected uniforms, medical equipment & supplies, bunker gear, helmets & fire supply hoses to send with Nagel on his trip to New York.

"They stepped up," Nagel said. "Other departments have as well from Roanoke, Botetourt and Franklin Counties. Kroger stepped up and has donated a palette of bottled water."

The brotherhood of Fire & EMS departments around the country is a bond that never is broken. That bond once again showed its strength with departments from Salem and the surrounding area.

"I had no idea it was going to accumulate so quickly," Nagel said. "It's gone far beyond what I expected."

Focus on Fire Safety

Salem Firemen once again visited each of Salem's four elementary schools during Fire Prevention month to spread their important message about fire safety. During their presentations, the children learned about everything from smoke detector batteries to the importance of having two exit plans at their homes.

The students also understand, with the help of their teachers who dress up in a complete fire suit, that the person under all that equipment really is their friend and not some "scary monster". This year, the presentations were enhanced by a brand new portable backdrop that was designed and painted by art students at Salem High School.





Salem Streets Superintendent David Breeden fires up a chainsaw for his class.

A CUT ABOVE

Salem employees participate in cooperative valley-wide training to prevent serious future injuries.

BY MIKE STEVENS

For those of you who think regional cooperation in the Roanoke Valley is lacking, let me tell you that nothing brings localities together like a wide-open chainsaw.

Recently, men and women from all over the area gathered at the Western Virginia Water Authority offices on Hollins Road to take part in two extremely valuable days of chainsaw safety training. Salem, Roanoke, and Roanoke County each had representatives from their jurisdictions and organizations working side-by-side in the field and the classroom.

“I think the valley as a whole thinks we really operate independently, but that’s just not the case when it comes to public works,” says Mike Tyler, Salem Director of Streets and Maintenance. “We share ideas all the time and work together to make this type of training accessible and affordable for all of us.”

In fact, the Roanoke Regional Public Works Academy is one of the best kept secrets in southwest Virginia when it comes to skilled municipal workers proving that there is strength in numbers. The unified group that was created in 2008 by Roanoke City Public Works Director, Bob Bengston, consists of representatives from 13 different entities stretching from Clifton Forge to Bedford to Blacksburg.

“Each of us has a need for different types of training, including this type of chainsaw training we just completed,” says Tyler. “By working together in the academy we are able to accomplish these things by sharing the costs and ideas.”

The Virginia Beach Fire Department conducted the chainsaw training sessions and actually has a traveling team that



Salem Streets and Maintenance Department employees (Left to Right) Jonathan Hess, Corey Williams and Tim Melton listen intently to chainsaw safety instructor Gary Umphlett.

is comprised of city workers from a variety of departments along the Virginia coast. Virginia Beach became the torch bearer for this type of training through both good fortune and some unfortunate circumstances.

“Some 18 years ago we had some pretty significant chainsaw injuries in the city of Virginia Beach and the assistant director of occupational safety made it a priority to address them and create a team to stop them in the future,” says Captain Gary Umphlett, Virginia Beach Fire Department.

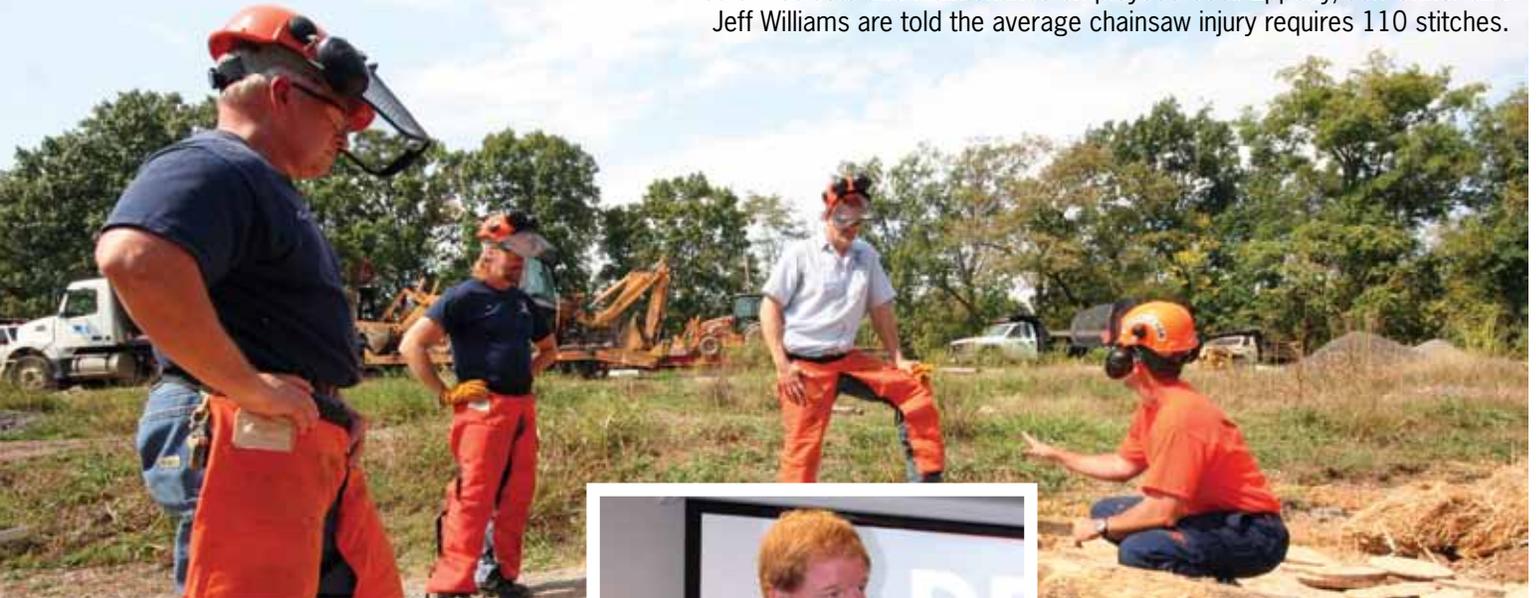
Those injuries, coupled with the fact that Stihl’s North American headquarters is located in Virginia Beach, made the coastal community a natural fit for establishing a safety team. Stihl’s one million square foot facility covers 90 acres and employs nearly 2,000 people in Virginia Beach.

“We’re extremely fortunate that Stihl Incorporated is based in Virginia Beach and that they are so supportive of this type of training,” he says. “They are very dialed-in on the safety side of things, so this has turned into a win-win for us.”

This is the third year the Roanoke Regional Public Works Academy has conducted this type of training, and this year 20



Salem Streets and Maintenance employees Cecil Epperly, Jeff Criner and Jeff Williams are told the average chainsaw injury requires 110 stitches.



Salem employees of all skill levels learned some valuable lessons in how to properly handle a saw.

“It wasn’t so much that the experienced guys learned that they were doing things wrong, but all of us definitely learned the consequences of what can happen if you don’t operate the saw correctly,” says David Breeden, Salem Streets Superintendent. “Now, knowing the right way of doing this makes you feel more comfortable.”

“Whenever anyone is injured you have to answer to the risk manager and the insurance company and one of the first things they want to know is are you providing the employees with the safety training they need,” says Tyler.

Those types of outcomes are what make the program satisfying for Umphlett and the others on his team. In his 28 years with the Virginia Beach Fire Department he’s seen it all and then some when it comes to chainsaws.

“I get to see the end result when safety measures are not carried out and something goes wrong,” he says. “I’ve unfortunately seen



“When a chainsaw hits you, it can be catastrophic. You just cannot afford to ever drop your guard.”

Captain Gary Umphlett

everything from severe cuts to amputations to fatalities, so it’s nice to be able to make a difference.”

Umphlett also has responded to major disasters around the country ranging from Hurricanes Opal to Katrina and he’s seen what can happen when individuals try to make a difference with a chainsaw, but have no idea what they’re doing.

“When a chainsaw hits you, it can be catastrophic. You just cannot afford to ever drop your guard,” he says.

When hurricanes hit Virginia Beach the response is much like it was here in the valley when the now infamous “Derecho” rolled through the state on June 29 of this year.

“When catastrophes happen you need all hands on deck and when you’re working 12 to 14 hours shifts, you need to have people from other departments who can provide back-up,” Umphlett says. “Who would have thought that a policeman would be there with a chainsaw in his hands, but that’s the case at the beach and it’s proven to be good for everyone.” 



CHAPS AREN'T JUST FOR COWBOYS

Umphlett says the most important thing he can tell a municipal worker who uses a chainsaw every day or a homeowner who occasionally cuts firewood is invest in the proper safety equipment. He recommends safety glasses, gloves, ear protection, steel toe boots and a pair of chaps.

MEDICAL COSTS FOR CHAINSAW INJURIES EXCEED \$350 MILLION ANNUALLY

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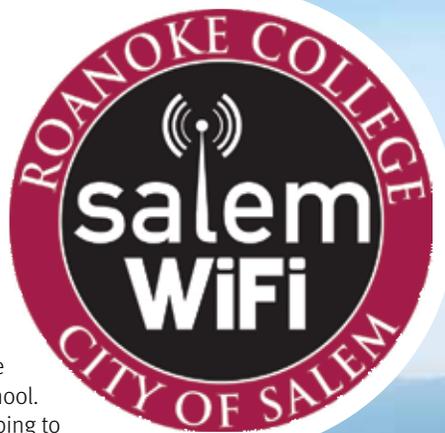
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MAIN STREET MUSIC

Salem's little-known recording studio located in the heart of downtown celebrates a major milestone.

and get things done, and I couldn't be happier here."

Ohmsen and Flat Five are celebrating their 30th anniversary of making music this year. What began as a part-time venture for the Roanoke County resident went full-time in 1991 when he moved the studio into its current second floor space in the Library Square building on Main Street. In three decades he's recorded everything from gospel to heavy metal.

"In a small town recording studio you have to do all types of music," he says. "Louis Armstrong once said that there are only two kinds of music – good and bad - and you have to decide which one is good."

Ohmsen has produced more than 500 different CD projects that have been released for sale. Local artists like Freda, Richard Kizer and Beckon Call, to mention a few, rely on him to give their projects a big city feel.

"It is great to have a recording studio right in our back yard that has such outstanding

equipment and personnel," says Mark Waldron, Beckon Call lead singer and bass player. "In the past, I've driven to Tennessee and tried to cram ten songs into two days of studio time and by the end of that you're not at your best and it's reflected in the recording. With Flat 5 being local and so accessible it goes much smoother."

Ohmsen deals with many musicians who are just getting started and in reality spends a lot of time coaching them and correcting their mistakes. That wasn't the case back in 1993 when a group of musicians drove down from Charlottesville and spent over 200 hours in the Flat 5 studios.



Tom Ohmsen has produced over 500 retail albums and projects at his Flat Five Press and Recording company on Main Street in Salem.



BY MIKE STEVENS

You can barely see it and only occasionally will you even hear it, but the Flat Five Press and Recording Company is a mainstay in downtown Salem. Located right in the heart of Main Street, everyone from the Dave Matthews Band to Ralph Stanley has had music recorded or mixed inside its acoustically pleasing walls.

"Salem has been great for our business and it is one of the best places you can have a business," says Flat Five owner, Tom Ohmsen. "Salem is small enough to take care of your individual needs, but they think in a big way





The Dave Matthews band drove down from Charlottesville and spent many hours in the Flat Five studio in the early 1990s.

“We helped Dave Matthews when he was just getting started, and even though he’s gone way beyond us, we’re still in the loop with his management company, and they think of us once in awhile to help with projects for new artists he’s discovered on the road,” says Ohmsen. “They were really good guys to work with back then.”

Ohmsen’s rise to recording studio owner may not be as fascinating as Matthews’ ascent from bar tender to world renowned band leader, but his journey has no doubt been fascinating in its own way. After graduating from Cave Spring and attending Virginia Western, he transferred to James Madison University where he shared radio space with current WDBJ-7 meteorologist Robin Reed.

“Robin and I saw each other every day at WMRA and he produced jazz programming while I produced the bluegrass shows,” he says.

That was back in the mid-1970s when the majority of college students were wrapped up in Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones rather than Flatt and Scruggs. Ohmsen had gotten his first taste of bluegrass music while he was at Western working for WVWR, but his link to the genre was sealed once he arrived at Madison.

“Before I went to JMU I was in the broadcast program at Virginia Western and the internship I had really forced me to get involved with bluegrass by necessity,” he says. “Then I had a roommate at JMU who had a mandolin, but never played it, so I picked it up and learned how to play.”

He now showcases his talents in the bluegrass group Blue Mule and plays mandolin



as a studio musician for any local group or artist who might need his talents. He also has mixed many of Ralph Stanley’s recordings inside Flat Five, interviewed the Clinch Valley icon and even done live sound for him and his band when they used to play at the old Iroquois Club in Roanoke. However, Ohmsen’s musical interests are as diverse as his clientele.

“We actually get a lot of business from musicians doing home recordings who still need our help,” he says. “You can make a nice demo, but if you need to get to the next level and get something on the radio you need our help. We’re a facilitator to get people to the next level.”

His studio has gone from reel-to-reel tape players to digital hard drives and managed to stay relevant because Ohmsen hasn’t been afraid to embrace technology. Each recording room has a slightly different design at Flat 5 and the drum room has 300 pounds of lead sheeting in the sub flooring that cuts down on the amount of sound that escapes it.

“That keeps the pictures from vibrating off the walls in the salon underneath us,” he says. “In addition, the walls in the drum room don’t actually touch the floor. Instead, they rest on a foam gasket where they meet the floor to create an expansion area which keeps the room from vibrating and eliminates any echoes. Everything is designed to even out the sound and control the sound more than it is about sound proofing.”

The name Flat 5 comes from the notes played on a jazz or blues scale and that moniker was chosen back in 1982 because Ohmsen thought it was catchy. Now, 30 years later, it’s also indelible in the music community.

“I’m very fortunate to be allowed to do something I love to do and be able to pay some bills with it,” he says. 

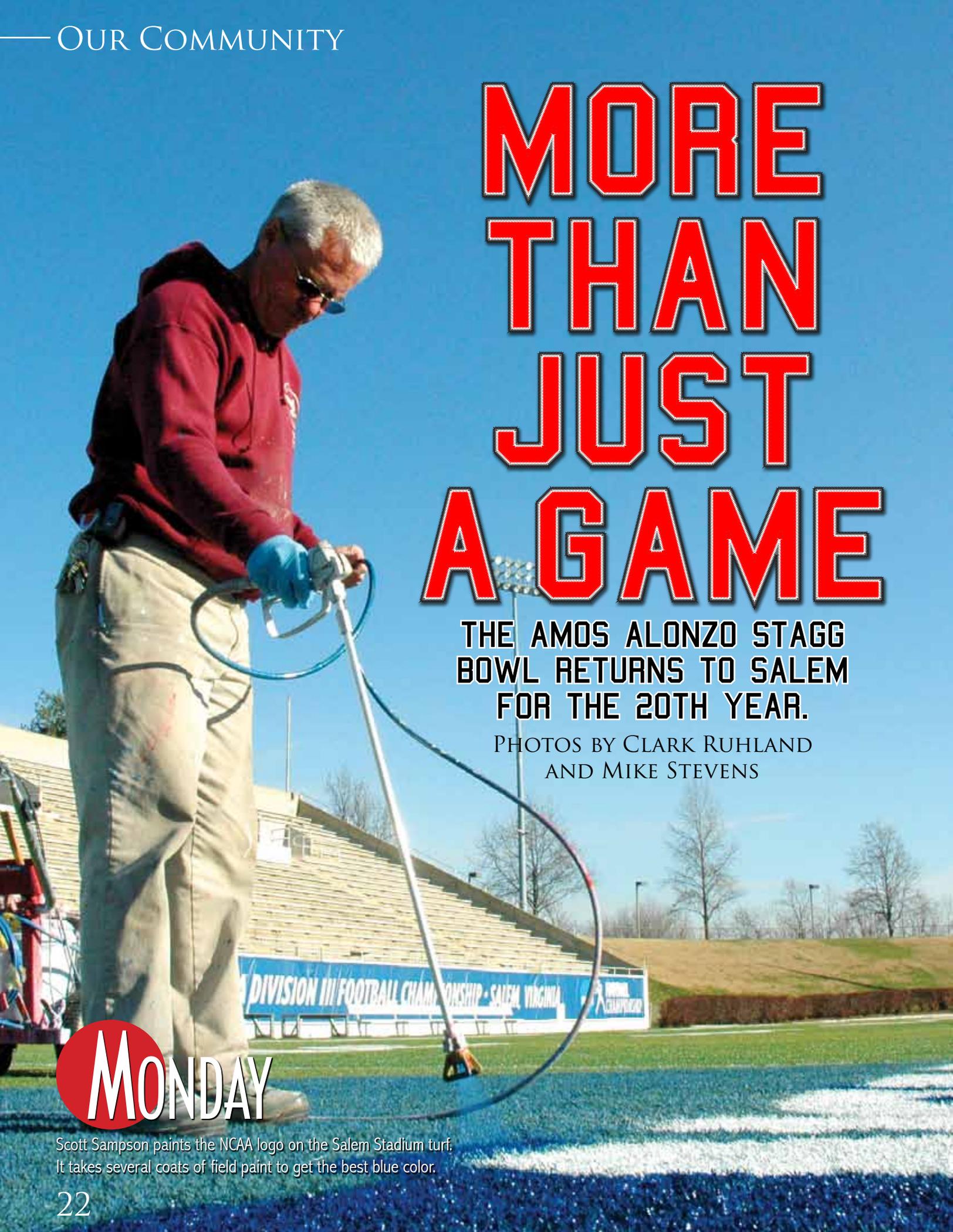


ABOVE: One of the many rooms in the studio features a floor with 300 pounds of lead to help reduce noise below. **LEFT:** Gospel singer Mark Waldron cuts a voice track.

MORE THAN JUST A GAME

THE AMOS ALONZO STAGG
BOWL RETURNS TO SALEM
FOR THE 20TH YEAR.

PHOTOS BY CLARK RUHLAND
AND MIKE STEVENS



MONDAY

Scott Sampson paints the NCAA logo on the Salem Stadium turf. It takes several coats of field paint to get the best blue color.

The Stagg Bowl game held every December gets the bright lights and a national audience on ESPNU. However, the Stagg Bowl events last all week from the arrival of the teams on Tuesday all the way to the climactic game on Friday night.

As Salem prepares to host a record 20th straight Stagg bowl, we chronicle the week of the two NCAA Division III football programs along with Salem's role in making the game a great success.

TUESDAY

1 Mount Union's football team takes several charter buses for the 400-mile trip from Alliance, Ohio to the Hotel Roanoke on Tuesday afternoon. They will stay at the hotel until they head back home on Saturday morning.

2 Wisconsin-Whitewater's team charts a plane for the 730-mile flight from Whitewater to the Roanoke Regional Airport. Salem Civic Center director Carey Harvey cutter welcomes the players, coaches and families when they arrive at the airport on Tuesday night.



WEDNESDAY

1 Wisconsin-Whitewater senior tailback Levell Coppage talks to a television reporter during media day at the Salem Civic Center. Four or five players and each head coach talk with members of print and electronic media about their road to Salem and what to expect for Friday night's game.



2 Mount Union head coach Larry Kehres talks with a WSLs reporter about Salem becoming a second home for his program with their 15th appearance in the game in a 19-year span.

3 Mount Union's football team hits the field at Salem Stadium at 1:30pm for a two-hour practice session.

4 Players from Wisconsin-Whitewater arrive at Salem Stadium at 3:45 to line up for the team photo before practice.

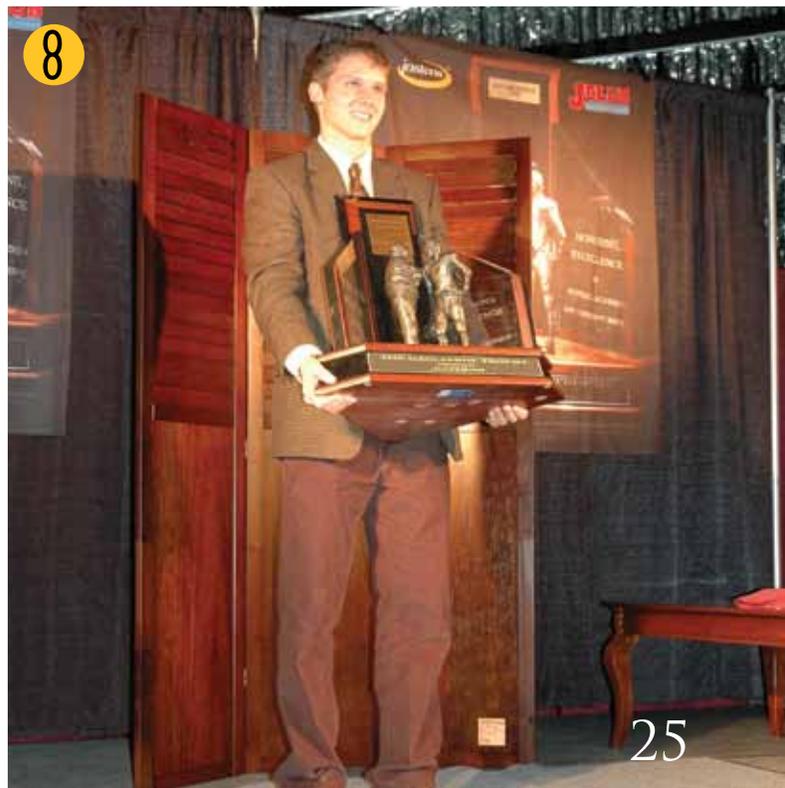
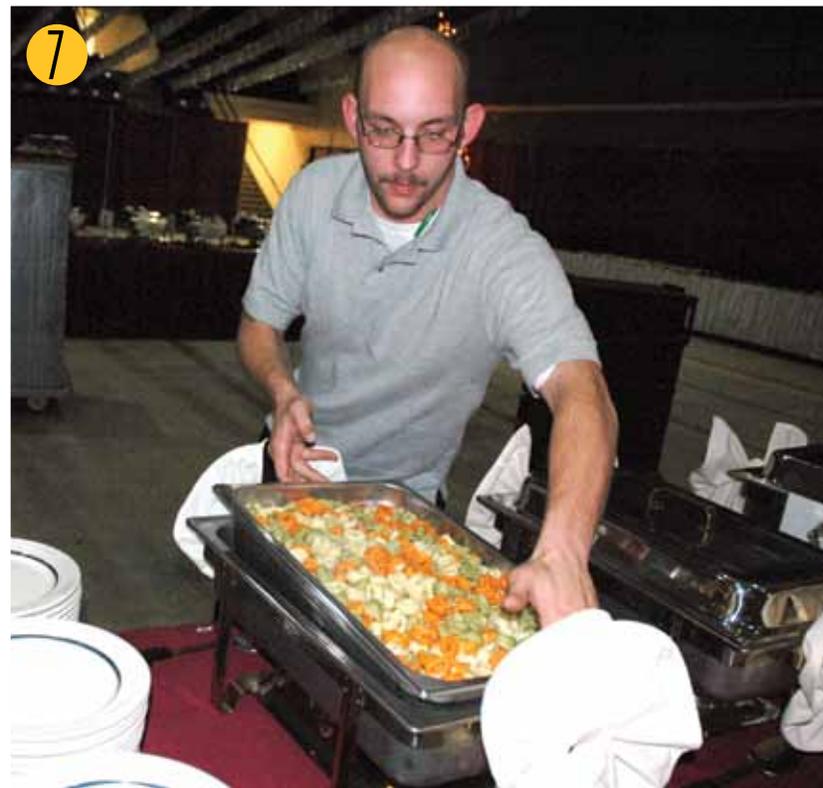
5 Offensive linemen from Wisconsin-Whitewater work on an early drill. Each program is given equal time on the field for their practice session.

6 Mount Union head coach Larry Kehres talks with Salem host family Mike Akers and his wife Vicki. The host family does everything from meeting the team at the hotel to washing uniforms to delivering box lunches after a practice.

7 The Stag Bowl week is one of the busiest of the year for the food service staff, with three major meal events.

8 Michael Zweifel from the University of Dubuque holds the Gagliardi Trophy as the Division III football player of the year (similar to the Heisman Trophy). The award is named after Saint John's University head football coach John Gagliardi, the winningest coach in college football history with over 480 wins in 60 seasons as the head coach.







THURSDAY

1 Mount Union quarterback Roman Namdar reads a story to students at South Salem Elementary School. The teams send several players to reach out to the community by visiting schools early on Thursday morning.

2 Wisconsin-Whitewater defensive back Ernest James greets students at West Salem Elementary.

3 Mount Union hits the practice field in an afternoon closed session. This is the last practice before the bright lights are turned on at Salem Stadium for the Stag Bowl.

4 Wisconsin-Whitewater senior quarterback Matt Blanchard makes a few throws in his final collegiate practice.





5 Salem Civic Center Head Chef John McCrady works on food preparation for the Stagg Bowl banquet. In a week, the staff prepares 36 pounds of broccoli, 14 pounds of tortellini, 235.2 pounds of top round, 144 pounds of pork loin, 31 pounds potato salad, 1920 meatballs and 1200 dinner rolls along with using 1200 napkins and 250 table cloths.

6 Salem Catering's Sam Terry prepares a food display for the Stagg Bowl banquet. Some staff members arrive as early as 2 a.m. to begin food preparation for the events.

7 One of the centerpieces is the ice sculpture featuring the NCAA logo.

8 Miss Virginia Elizabeth Crot from Chesapeake welcomes both teams and their families to Virginia and the Salem area to open the Stagg Bowl banquet.

9 Wisconsin-Whitewater head coach Lance Leipold thanks the Salem area for their hospitality. A video is then shown featuring both teams and their road to the Stagg Bowl.





FRIDAY



5

1 Country group Gloriana plays to the crowd in a pre-game concert held in the parking lot at Salem Stadium. Each year, the tailgating scene becomes larger and larger.

2 Mount Union students dressed in purple cheer on their team as the Stagg Bowl gets underway in the stadium.

3 One of the Mount Union cheerleaders tries to stay warm when the game kicks off on a Friday night.

4 The chain gang used during Salem's high school games makes a late-season appearance for the Division III National Championship game.

5 Both teams square off to win the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl.

6 Wisconsin-Whitewater defensive lineman Loussaint Minett celebrates winning the NCAA championship trophy after helping his team prevail.

7 Wisconsin-Whitewater senior quarterback Matt Blanchard and head coach Lance Leipold talk to the ESPN sideline reporter after winning the big game. When the celebration is done, another Stagg Bowl week is in the books.



4



6



7

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 7:00 P.M.

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Maximum of two free tickets for 4 items. Subject to capacity controls.



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SALEM NEWS WINTER MEAN

Frank Turk has seen every dollar the city has ever spent since the Town of Salem became a city in 1968.

BY VICKI STEVENS

Perhaps the greatest compliment Frank Turk has ever received is the one he gets each time a new person is hired by the City of Salem. After the stacks of new employee paperwork are signed and the required instructions have been delivered from Human Resources, two vital words of wisdom are prescribed to these new hires should they ever have a problem or a question they just can't solve.

See Frank.

"Well, that has certainly been used quite a bit," he says. "I'm not sure it's a mantra, but it is a compliment that people think that I can help them find a way out of a certain problem."

The unofficial policy of checking-in with the Director of Finance is universal throughout each of the city's departments from the ground floor of City Hall to the top.

"In fact, sometimes when things came up and we had to make a quick decision and we couldn't get in touch with Frank to make sure we had the correct account number we would just write 'See Frank' on the purchase order," says Forest Jones, former City Manager.

In a few weeks, Frank and that slogan will be officially retired as he steps down after 45 years of distinguished service to the city and its citizens. He was hired just a few days before Salem flipped the switch and became a full-fledged city on January 1, 1968. In his four and a half decades of service in the accounting and finance offices, he literally has seen every dollar the city has ever spent.

"Not many people remember when Salem was a town, but Frank Turk does, and I am going to miss the depth of understanding he has when it comes to what makes Salem special," says Kevin Boggess, Salem City Manager. "He has been a tremendous help to

me and I'm definitely going to miss having him around."

"I have always enjoyed the job and there has always been another challenge that needed to be met," he says. "Since becoming a city there has often been dynamic change in that we've built stadiums, taken over the Civic Center from Roanoke County and created a school system."

And it's that creation of the Salem School Division in 1983 that gives Turk his greatest sense of pride.

"I had a part in doing the financial analysis for that back then and it was pretty scary," he says. "A lot of people said we would fail and that with just 3,000 plus students we would never be able to have a top notch school system, but with the right amount of commitment we proved them wrong."

Turk credits the efforts of former Mayor Jim Taliaferro and other Council members from the early 1980s for making some decisions that really solidified

that success. In essence, they took a simple lesson about sharing that one learns in kindergarten and applied it to a multi-million dollar proposition.

"Jim Taliaferro was one of the prime movers as far as the development of a school division, and he always kept a keen eye on the in-fighting and battling that took place in other localities," he says. "He and that particular Council made the determination that certain things were going to be done in common and that we weren't going to battle over resources and build two competing empires in Salem."

To this day, there is one building maintenance department, one city garage that takes care of city vehicles and school buses alike, as well as one finance director.



Frank Turk, with his wife Lynn, has financed it all in 45 years from new stadiums to the creation of a new school system.



Turk moved to Salem from Roanoke when he was hired by the town in December 1967. In 1979 he became Finance Director.

“I have been fortunate to have the confidence of the school superintendents and the confidence of the city managers over the years,” he says. “That has allowed me to hold conversations back-and-forth between the two and I think that has been very beneficial.”

“From helping establish an independent school division to advocating for the resources necessary each and every year since, Frank has consistently backed up his words with actions, high goals and sufficient resources,” says Dr. Alan Seibert, Salem School Superintendent. “He has always fulfilled the will of his fellow citizens by demonstrating that in Salem, our children are our first priority.”

BLUE COLLAR JOE

Turk was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1948 and spent two years there before the family moved to Roanoke in 1950. His father and uncle were heavily involved in the textile industry and came to the Star City to work for both the old Kenrose and Halmode Apparel factories for most of their lives.

Turk grew up in northwest Roanoke along with his three younger brothers and attended Roanoke Catholic for all 12 years of his formal schooling before graduating in 1966. During those formative years, neither his Mom nor the teachers at school put up with a lot of foolishness.

“My graduating class only had about 35 people in it and back then our teachers were mostly nuns,” he says. “Some of my fondest

“I have been fortunate to have the confidence of the school superintendents and the confidence of the city managers over the years. That has allowed me to hold conversations back-and-forth between the two and I think that has been very beneficial.”

memories of school are of the nuns, who would often times be out there playing basketball with us still wearing their habit.”

Once he was finished at Roanoke Catholic, Turk attended National Business College and later graduated from Virginia Western with a degree in accounting. He was hired as an accounting clerk by the city in December of 1967. As he climbed the financial ladder he was offered several attractive jobs outside of the city including one in Myrtle Beach and another in Denver, but for a variety of reasons he decided to keep his roots in Salem.

“The city has had its trials and tribulations and growing pains along the way as it’s strived to be that first class entity that does things the ‘Salem Way,’” he says. “There is a perception that Salem is a wealthy white collar community, but we’re not. While we do have some resources, we’re really just a blue collar Joe community.”

KNACK FOR NUMBERS

Fortunately for Salem, Turk’s number crunching abilities won out over his first career choice.

“I always wanted to be an archeologist and decided to do this until I grew up and figured out what I could do for a living,” he says. “I’ve always had a good memory and could always do certain computations in my head without a calculator, so in the end this was a good thing to do.”

You won’t find anyone in City Hall or around the state willing to dispute that claim. When he was in his early 30s he became the youngest president of the Virginia Government Finance Officers Association and was the state’s representative on a national level for a number of years. And whether it’s been during the economic good times or the recent recession, he has managed to keep an even keel and steer Salem into the black each and every year.

“I remember my first year as City Manager we were able to bring the budget in under what it was the previous year and everybody said ‘Wow, what a great job,’ but it wasn’t anything that I did, it was all Frank,” says Randy Smith, former Salem City Manager.

Turk has worked for each of the five City Managers Salem has had since it became a city in 1968, and whether it’s been Frank Chapman, Bill Paxton, Randy Smith, Forest Jones or Kevin Boggess he’s always drawn high marks for his trustworthiness and professionalism.

“He helped me tremendously during the time I was city manager,” says Jones. “He was always conservative in his projections as far as the revenue is concerned and I never

recommended any project to Council until Frank and I had discussed how we were going to pay for it.”

“I’m very thankful to those people who have been my boss over the years,” says Turk. “They have given me the opportunity and latitude to do my job the way I thought was best for the citizens.”

CATHOLIC INFLUENCE

Turk has been a member of St. Andrew’s Catholic Church since the 1950s. His family and his friends at church and school basically guaranteed that he would grow up a Notre Dame fan. If the Irish are on TV, you can bet he’s watching.

“Notre Dame has always been my team and like a lot of people back then when there wasn’t that much TV coverage, we would even listen to a little of Lindsey Nelson’s highlights before we headed to church every Sunday,” he says.

Turk also was quite an athlete at Roanoke Catholic, playing football from 1963-1965. He earned a varsity letter each year, as well as the nickname “The Flea” for his quickness. In his senior year, the Celtics went 9-1 with their only loss coming to powerful Jefferson High at Victory Stadium in the pouring rain.

They lost that game 7-to-0 as Turk played wide receiver and defensive back and had the challenge of covering Jefferson tight end Rich McGeorge, who later went on to become a first round NFL draft pick and play nine years with the Green Bay Packers during the Lombardi years.

“He didn’t catch a touchdown pass and caught very few passes that day,” says Turk.



Turk could almost always be found in his office inside City Hall even on weekends and holidays.

Nowadays, Turk’s athletic endeavors are limited to the golf course and tennis courts. Each week he and a group consisting of Salem and Roanoke City officials play tennis a couple of nights a week. The players have changed over the years, but the tennis itself has served as a great diversion from the office.

“Frank is a solid player and he really has a good poker face for tennis,” says Smith.

REALITY

As he transitions into retirement, Turk plans to enjoy life with his wife, Lynn, children Missy, Sean and Mandy, his eight grandchildren and without the day to day pressures of keeping a city of 25,000 solvent. At one point not too long ago, that would have been difficult

to imagine for a man who is often in his office on weekends and holidays, but life has a way of getting our attention.

In March of 2010, Frank’s daughter Angie died at the age of 42 leaving five young children behind.

“I would have never thought my daughter Angie would have a major heart attack and be gone just like that,” he says. “Knowing that we’re not guaranteed any real length of time it makes you reevaluate things. I would like to have as many good years of enjoyment as possible without the pressures of being responsible for the city and I figure 45 years is enough.”

If the nuns at Roanoke Catholic who taught him everything from the Gospel of Mark to the methods of Mathematics were still alive today, I’m sure they would join all of us in saying, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” 🕊

Former Salem City Managers Randy Smith (left) and Forest Jones (right) play tennis with Turk every week.



COMING FULL CIRCLE



Trula Byington is passing on her years of teaching experience to her son, Mark, who is now a basketball coach at Virginia Tech.

BY MIKE STEVENS

Not that a student would ever do so, but if a child ever told Principal Trula Byington that she was older than the school division itself, technically, he or she would be correct.

Byington has been an integral part of the Salem School Division since its formation in 1983, and during those nearly 30 years of service as a teacher and principal, she has given out over a million hugs, found countless ways to put clothes and shoes on kids in need and even cooked Thanksgiving dinners for families in her school.

Recently the veteran educator was honored with a “Woman

of Achievement Award” by DePaul Family Resources. It was a well deserved, yet humbling moment for the West Salem Elementary School Principal.

“I have always held this organization in the highest regard and I am fully cognizant of the vital contributions it makes in improving the quality of life for so many in the Roanoke Valley,” she says. “As I looked around the room at the awards luncheon, I was indeed humbled by the impressive group of nominees and their outstanding contributions.”

“She is so modest about how she’s changed and impacted lives for the better that she never wants awards or recognition pointed at her,” says her son, Mark Byington. “She says she feels like she was born to help people and I’m very happy she received this well-deserved honor.”

ON THE MARK

Besides molding the thousands of students who have passed through her classrooms and halls in the past three decades, Byington also is a hard core basketball fan who's put an indelible stamp on her youngest son Mark, who is now in his first year as a Virginia Tech assistant basketball coach.

"Mark and I have talked a lot about the similarities of teaching and coaching and we agree that both are really about patience, working with people and understanding their talents," she says. "You have to know people and form a relationship with them before you can teach them and see that success."

"One thing that separates her from others moms is that there were countless times when she was out there in the driveway rebounding for me whether it was 25 degrees or nine o'clock at night," he says. "I don't know too many moms who will chase a basketball down the driveway and throw a pretty good chest pass back to you."

Mark has had that kind of care and support from his parents and two older brothers ever since he began playing Recreation League sports as a four-year-old. No matter the sport, mom and dad were there, though often not in adjacent seats. During games, mom is demonstrative, while dad is stoic. They are approaches that have



"I don't know too many moms who will chase a basketball down the driveway and throw a pretty good chest pass back to you."

Mark Byington

resulted in a "divide and conquer" mentality when it comes to their support for Mark.

"I think it's tougher to watch him as a coach than it was when he was playing," she says. "If he got on the foul line with the game tied and four seconds left, I would feel like he could do it, but as a coach you're dependent on your players, and there are so many other variables."

Like how hard you practice even when practice is over. Mark's dad marked off the family driveway when the boys were growing up and every day from middle school through high school – no matter the weather – Mark would shoot at least 100 foul shots and 100 three pointers after he returned home from practice.

"When he was 12-years-old, he came in from shooting basketball one day and told us that we didn't have to worry about paying for him to go to college because he was going to get a scholarship," she says. "He told us he hadn't decided on what sport just yet, but that he would let us know."

Like most parents, Trula and Dale rolled their eyes and got a good chuckle out of Mark's big announcement, but six years later he made good on his promise when he accepted a full scholarship to play basketball at UNC-Wilmington.

"He was so mature in his overall decision making that we often let him decide



Mark Byington is in his first season as an assistant coach at Virginia Tech. He spent the last nine seasons at the College of Charleston.

Photo courtesy of Dave Knachel

things,” she says.

Byington is probably the only male in the history of Salem High School to stop playing football the summer before he was penciled-in to start on defense and serve as the backup quarterback of the varsity, yet that is exactly what he did.

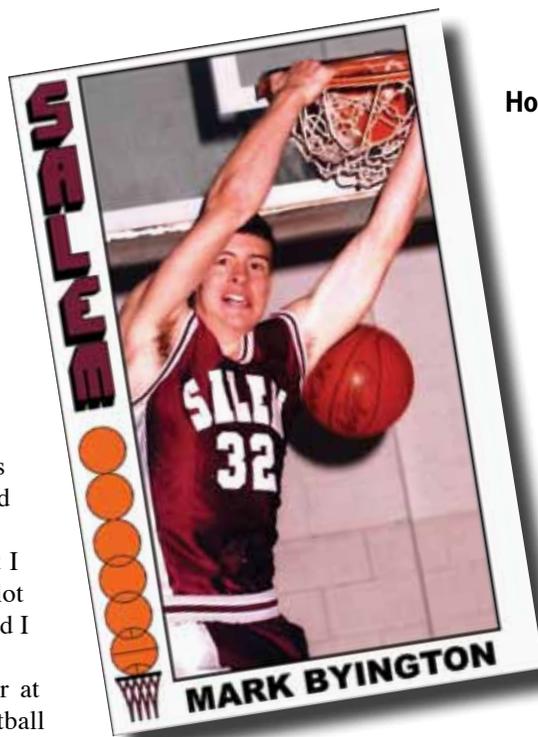
“His Dad was really disappointed when he decided to quit football, but Mark knew he had to concentrate on one sport if he was going to be as good as he wanted to be,” she says.

The summer before his junior year of high school he was playing for Joe Gaither’s Roanoke Hawks AAU basketball team that had just won a state title by beating Allen Iverson and the heralded Boo Williams program in the championship. The team then played in the nationals in Louisiana, and it was then and there that Mark decided to concentrate on hoops.

“It was eye opening to me because I found out that I wasn’t as good as I thought I was and that there were a lot of good players out there nationwide,” he says. “I realized I had a lot of work to do to catch up.”

He caught up and then some. After his senior year at Salem High, he was named the state’s Group AA Basketball Player of the Year, the Most Valuable Player of the Virginia High School Coaches Association all-star game and an honorable mention All-American. He then went on to become a three-year starter at UNC-Wilmington and score over 1,000 points in his career.

The Byingtons always thought that Mark would be a coach one day after he finished playing. Whether he’s been an assistant at Hargrave Military, the director of basketball operations at the University of Virginia or the head coach at the College of



Hometown: Salem, Virginia

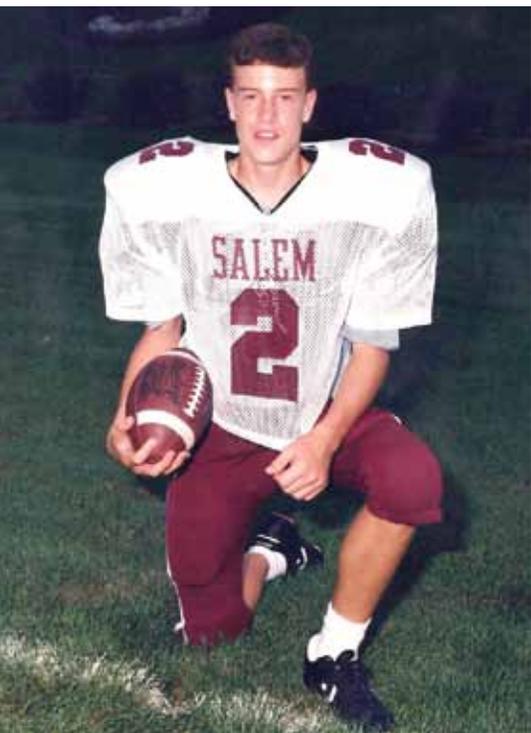
Education:
Bachelor’s
UNC-Wilmington,
Physical Education
Master’s
University of Virginia,
Psychology

Did You Know?: Mark and Richard Morgan are the only two players to have their basketball jersey numbers retired at Salem High School.

Charleston, he’s managed to implement the same basic methods that his mom has used for years as an educator – Show the kids you care about them and they will respond to what you have to say.

“One of the things that I talk to her about all the time is the importance of being able to communicate with people of

A major sports fan, Trula Byington greeted members of the Wisconsin-Whitewater football team during their community service visit to West Salem Elementary in 2011.



Mark Byington was a defensive back and quarterback before giving up football prior to his junior year.



Hometown:

LaFollette, Tennessee

Education:

Bachelor's
Radford University,
Elementary Education,
Master's
Radford University,
Administration &
Supervision

Did You Know?: Trula was 30 years old with three young boys when she went back to college to complete her Bachelor's degree and then earn her Master's.



different ages at different stages in their lives," he says. "She and I really appreciate and understand the importance of good communication skills."

In past years, the Byingtons have run the road ragged to watch Mark play or coach in the Carolinas. Now they're just 30 minutes away from all of the Hokies' home games in Blacksburg and more importantly, their grandson Chase.

"She would never give her opinion, but I knew deep in her heart that she wanted me and my family close by," he says. "She always taught us to be independent when making our decisions and this time I think it just turned out perfectly for both of us."

Trula has always been kidded about the long hours she spends on the job, but since Mark, wife Christy and Chase settled in Blacksburg she's allowed herself to take in things she would have otherwise missed.

Their arrival also has made her transition into retirement this Spring a much smoother process.

"At this stage I am looking at the buckets to fill and this opens up so many more opportunities for us," she says. "If I get plaudits for having success as a principal along the way, it's not about me - it's about the team, and if I leave anything when I retire I hope it's the importance of relationships, how we treat others and how that comes back to the common goal of what's best for the child."

PARENTING 101

As the youngest child in the Byington family Mark never lacked for attention even though some might have wondered about that very thing. When his mom was the principal at G.W. Carver, she often fed and clothed nearly as many students as she mentored. In fact, one year Trula and her staff delivered so many turkeys to families leading up to Thanksgiving that she forgot to buy one for her own family.

"I never felt like we were secondary," says Mark. "Instead, it always felt like we were one big extended family with her teachers and staff and she was always able to give us great attention."

Trula's selfless attitude and tireless work ethic have rubbed off on Mark and helped make him a successful coach, but being a dad is the one thing that has made him the man he is today.

"When I call on a recruit or talk to parents, I now relate to them on a whole different level because I understand that they are looking at their son the same way I view mine," he says. "They've raised this young man, they love this person and they've put a lot of hard work into getting him to this point, so I think being a dad has helped me be a better recruiter and a better coach."

Many find it hard to believe that a young child could have such an impact on one's life, but clearly those are the people who have never taught or coached.

"There's a whole different responsibility level once you start thinking more about others than you do yourself, and I really think I look at our players differently on a day-to-day basis. I know that I can be more of a positive influence on these players since their parents aren't here. Some of them may be from far away and some may be from single parent homes and I know that I'm capable of doing more for them off the court now that I'm a parent."

And that is music to any parent's ears.

"I think the biggest thing for me right now is just a sense of pride," Trula says. "As a parent you always want your children to reach a point in life where they are successful, and I think Mark has done it the right way. We just hope we can sit back and enjoy things this season." 🦅



Mark recently moved to Blacksburg with his wife Christy and young son Chase from South Carolina, much to the delight of his family in Salem.

Over 100 of Salem's school teachers and leaders have developed a new way to measure student and teacher success in the classroom.

RAISING THE BAR

BY MIKE STEVENS

Imagine the State of Virginia adopting new guidelines for student assessment and teacher pay all because of an initiative that began right here in Salem last year. It may sound a little farfetched, but Salem is leading the way amongst Virginia's 132 school divisions when it comes to this type of research.

Recently, Salem played host to what the Governor's office called "A Policy Venture to Salem City Schools" that featured 21 educational and political leaders from across the Commonwealth, including State Secretary of Education Laura Fornash, State Senator Bill Stanley and State Delegates Kirk Cox, and Dickie Bell.

"The purpose of their visit was to learn about some of the innovations that have stemmed from The Growth Project initiative here in Salem and to consider possible implications for the 2013 General Assembly," says Dr. Alan Seibert, Salem Superintendent.

The Growth Project is an ambitious venture involving over 100 teachers and school leaders who have volunteered to research and develop more effective ways of measuring student progress and academic growth, as well as cutting edge benchmarks for better rewarding teachers who excel at this very growth.



"It was a very satisfying experience to have all of these individuals from across the Commonwealth listening to our innovative ideas."

Amanda Gibson

"I am so impressed with the Growth Project," says Delegate Bell. "As a former teacher I am committed to improving student progress and teacher professionalism, and the Growth Project is the most positive step I have seen yet in that direction."

Bell represents Virginia's 20th district in the General Assembly, but his background as a special education teacher and coach in the Staunton-Augusta County area makes him even more in tune with issues affecting education.

"We must move public education out of the status quo and the 'one size fits all' mindset in order to improve it and better serve students and the Growth Project is doing that," says Bell. "I commend Salem City Schools, Dr. Seibert, his team, and the teachers who have bought into the program. They are all truly leaders in positive education reform."

Seibert and Growth Project Coordinator, Amanda Gibson, spoke to the group and later facilitated an informative panel discussion that featured eight Salem School Division teachers and administrators. Each of the employees has spent a great deal of time researching different compensation models and each one shared his or her findings with the guest delegation. The panel fielded several questions from Governor Bob McDonnell's Senior Policy Advisor, Jasen Eige.



A panel consisting of Salem teachers and administrators discussed the growth project and answered questions from the statewide delegation that traveled to Salem at the end of October. The panelists shared their research findings with the guests.

SALEM REPRESENTATIVES

BETH COOK	SALEM HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHER
NATALIE DIFUSCO-FUNK	WEST SALEM FIFTH GRADE TEACHER
JAMES FORESTER	SALEM HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICS TEACHER
WES LESTER	SALEM HIGH SCHOOL EARTH SCIENCE TEACHER
REGINA MEREDITH	SALEM HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
BOB PENN	ANDREW LEWIS MIDDLE SCHOOL 7 TH GRADE CIVICS
SONNYA PRESTON	ANDREW LEWIS MIDDLE SCHOOL BUSINESS EDUCATION
JACKIE OSTER	WEST SALEM FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

“Our teachers on the panel that represented our school division did an amazing job sharing our Strategic Compensation Study Group’s research,” says Gibson. “It is a privilege serving in a school division where teachers are valued as leaders, and it was a very satisfying experience to have all of these individuals from across the Commonwealth listening to our innovative ideas.”

Perhaps some of the most valuable interaction took place after the program as teachers, policy makers and politicians broke bread together and shared ideas during a most unique school lunch.

“Being at the table with these individuals lets us know that we will have made every effort to represent the interests of our students and staff,” Seibert says. “It will be interesting to see how our efforts, beliefs and philosophies may or may not merge with those of policy-makers at some point.”



Salem Superintendent Dr. Alan Seibert spoke about the project.

VIRGINIA ATTENDEES

CAROL BAUER	YORK COUNTY
DICKIE BELL	HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RYAN CONWAY	HENRICO COUNTY
KIRK COX	HOUSE OF DELEGATES
STERLING DANIEL	VA. DEPT. OF PLANNING & BUDGET
JASEN EIGE	COUNSELOR & SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR
LAURA FORNASH	SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
JULIA HAMMOND	GOVERNOR’S OFFICE
SUSAN HOGGE	HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS STAFF
DAVE INMAN	VIRGINIA CENTER FOR EXCELLENT SCHOOLS
CHRISTY MORTON	GOVERNOR’S OFFICE
JAMIE MULLENAUX	HANOVER COUNTY
LAUREN MURRAY	CHESTERFIELD COUNTY
AUTUMN NABORS	CHESTERFIELD COUNTY
GENERRA PECK	GOVERNOR’S OFFICE
JAVAID SIDDIQI	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
BILL STANLEY	SENATE OF VIRGINIA
PAIGE TUCKER	CHESTERFIELD COUNTY
ROBERT VAUGHAN	HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS STAFF
LATONYA WALLER	RICHMOND CITY
EMILY WEBB	OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION



Virginia State Senator Bill Stanley (left) and Virginia Delegate Dickie Bell talked with teachers about the project and education in Virginia.



Virginia Secretary of Education Laura Fornash greeted West Salem Fifth Grade Teacher Natale DiFusco-Funk before the meeting started.





Salem's annual Star B-Q bash turned out to be a hot ticket for country music fans this year. The sixth annual concert on the Salem Farmers Market completely sold-out the day before the event.

More than 1,100 fans, including some who waited hours to get a front row seat, were treated to the music of Salem's own **Rutledge, Wilson Fairchild** and Nashville recording artist **Lauren Alaina**. Much of the proceeds from the event help fund the charitable endeavors of the Salem Rotary Club.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

SALEM FARMERS MARKET



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CITY HALL
SENIOR CENTER

SALEM VA
2013 CALENDAR

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Our new Cremation & Scatter Garden at Sherwood Memorial Park blends a beautiful site with the experience of quiet reflection. Water, plant, wood, stone. Koi fish and butterflies. It's a beautiful place of stillness. That moves.

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Salem, VA 24153-4455
(540) 389-1049

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EVENTS

AROUND SALEM



adult programs

BALLROOM DANCING: BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE (ADULT & TEEN)

Class is on-going. This class offers a complete introduction to ballroom dancing. The class is perfect for beginners and those looking to polish their ballroom technique. You will learn the techniques necessary for moving with style and grace. No previous dance experience or partner is necessary.

CERAMICS: (INTERMEDIATE)

This class is designed for the student who has prior experience with ceramics. Painting on resin, dry brushing, and other techniques will be introduced

CREATIVE AND FUN CRAFT PROJECTS (ages 12 – 99)

Join Bev for a class filled with different creative projects each week where an assortment of colors, shapes, and themes are used. Learn how to make paper gift items that are personalized and can be a keepsake for you or someone special.

Manager: Kathy Murphy
kmurphy@salemva.gov
Supervisor: Vickie Sword
vsword@salemva.gov
110 Union Street
Phone: (540) 375-3054

*REGISTER AND PAY FEES ON SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION WEB SITE OR MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CITY OF SALEM AND MAIL TO 110 UNION STREET, SALEM, VA 24153 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



Anybody for chess?

CHESS For all levels of playing strength. All ages welcome.

CROCHETING & KNITTING

Learn the basics of crocheting and complete a couple of different projects in class.

GUITAR FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS (AGES 13+)

Students will acquire a basic foundation in guitar including tuning, playing cords, reading tablature, flat picking, and simple folk and blues songs. No previous musical experience required.

HANDBUILT CERAMICS

Come stretch your creative muscles as you learn how to form original works of art in clay. The basic skills of hand-built ceramics will be taught through the pinch, coil, and slab methods using low fire clays and glazes.

health & fitness

TOTAL SCULPTING

This class is designed to reduce body fat and sculpt muscles through a series of strength training exercises using bands, free weights and more. Great program for a beginner level participant.

YOGA (BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE)

Yoga is a great way to increase joint mobility, improve muscle tone and flexibility, and build balance. It also improves memory, focus, and attention, as well as promote an overall sense of well being.

TENNIS

To register or get more information call Scott Gibson at 397-1257 or gibson@roanoke.edu

youth/teens

GUITAR FOR KIDS (AGES 8 - 12)

Be a real life guitar hero! Build a basic foundation in guitar including tuning, playing "EZ" chords and riffs, and reading tablature.

KNIT AND CROCHET (AGES 8 - 14)

Learn basic knitting and crocheting stitches and how to read patterns.

TENNIS

To register or get more information call Scott Gibson at 397-1257 or gibson@roanoke.edu

special events

Manager: Kathy Murphy
kmurphy@salemva.gov
Supervisor: Kristen Finley
kfinley@salemva.gov
620 Florida Street
Phone: (540) 375-3057

WINTERFEST BEACH BASH

Friday, February 1st, Salem Civic Center, 5:00 p.m. "Band of Oz" Tickets go on sale Dec.12th and can be purchased at Salem Parks & Recreation, \$10/\$12 at the door. Cash or check only.

EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday

March 23rd, (1 – 3 p.m.) 1 p.m. (ages 3 – 6 years hunt for eggs); 1:30 p.m. (ages 7 – 12 hunt for eggs) Longwood Park, Come visit the Easter Bunny, hunt for Easter Eggs with lots of prizes and candy.

62ND ANNUAL ERNEST "PIG" ROBERTSON FISHING

RODEOS April 27th Children ages 3–8, 9a.m.–Noon. **April 29th** Children with Disabilities Day, 10a.m.–Noon. **May 1st** Nursing Home Patient's Day, 10a.m.–Noon. **May 4th** Children ages 9–12, 9a.m.–Noon. Lake Spring Pond.

MOVIES AT LONGWOOD

May 26th, June 29th, August 24th, September 14th. Sponsored by Salem P&R and Kiwanis Club of Salem. Bring a blanket and chairs and enjoy a movie under the stars! Admission is free!

RELAY FOR LIFE Friday & Saturday June 14th - 15th

Salem High School Track.

For more info, new class listings and to sign up for these programs, head to www.salemva.gov and click on "Parks & Recreation"



The Salem Senior Center is located at 110 Union Street near downtown Salem.

THE BEST KEPT SECRET FOR SENIORS

BY VICKIE SWORD
SENIOR CENTER SUPERVISOR

In 1972, the Senior Division was formed in the City of Salem under the Salem Parks and Recreation Department. Who knew the Salem Senior Center, as it is now known, would do so much for so many in the past four decades.

This year the center is celebrating its 40th anniversary and that milestone seemed like the perfect opportunity to give each of you some history and simple facts about the city's Best Kept Secret for Senior Citizens.

In 1974, the Senior Center house on Union Street was purchased for use and in 1978 and 1979 the addition was added to the back of the house to accommodate classes and activities that were too large for the original building.

Full-time staff members through the years included Patricia Hubbard, Gertrude Harris -Supervisor from 1976 to 1987, Anne Fisher Andrews -Supervisor from 1987 – 2008, Gloria Chapman, Kathy Murphy, Jane Pendleton and Glenn Byrd. Harris' dedicated service was recognized when she retired as the building's addition was named the "Gertrude Harris Activities Hall" in her honor.

The "49ers Plus Club" has been a part of the Center since the beginning. Harris



The Senior Center's versatile activity hall is named in honor of former supervisor Gertrude Harris.

and Ethel Crosswhite helped form the club to get ideas from seniors and to encourage their participation. The Club still meets weekly and presides over the monthly potluck luncheon, which is held on the last Thursday of every month. There is always entertainment held after the luncheon.

While the design of the Center has essentially stayed the same throughout the years, the variety of programs has constantly changed to keep up with the times. There is truly something for every senior to enjoy at the center. Weekly activities include exercise,

Zumba, painting, ceramics, Tai Chi, crafts, line dancing, tap dancing, ballroom dancing, needlework, chair caning, basket weaving, quilting and bridge. Special events include bingo, movies, holiday parties and dances, shopping trips to area malls, restaurants, and shows. Day trips to places such as Swinging Bridge or Appomattox are taken on a regular basis, as well as, longer trips to places such as Myrtle Beach, New York and Pigeon Forge.

Music has always been a big part of the Center with the Salem Senior Singers, led by Wilton Coleman. They practice at the Center and sing on several occasions during each month at various places in the Valley. The Senior Mountain Pickers have been meeting at the Center on Mondays and Fridays since 2008 and attract a number of talented musicians from the area, as well as a sizable audience.

Current staff and instructors at the Center include me, Vickie Sword - Supervisor, Jane Pendleton, Glenn Byrd, Ben Metheney, Lois Hurdle, Amy Light, Pam Butler, Robbin Walker, Gene & Judy Bennett, Bill Ewing, Ski Shelton, Phyl Fralin, Norma Harris, Leiven Verkruijsen, Anne Andrews, & Sharon Dickerson. Kathy Murphy is our manager, but is housed at the Parks and Recreation department's Florida Street office. 🦅

senior center 110 UNION STREET

MONDAYS

9 am - 12 noon – Bridge
12:30 pm – Senior Mtn. Pickers
12:30 pm – Painting with Phyl (second Monday of the month)
7 – 9 pm – Cole Bluegrass Show (First Monday every month)

TUESDAYS

9 am – Exercise
10:15 am – Tai-Chi at College Lutheran Church
10:30 am – Chair Caning and Basket Weaving
2 pm – Ballroom dance, the first and third Tuesdays (second and fourth Tuesdays – Tea Dance)

WEDNESDAYS

9 am – Tap dance
10 am - 12 noon – Ceramics
10 am – Needlework
1 pm – Line Dance

THURSDAYS

9 am – Exercise
10 am – Quilting
10 am – Art & Bridge on your own
11 am – 49er's Plus Club Meeting
12:30 pm – Sr. Singers Practice (first Thursday w/appts other days)
12:30 pm – Canasta (hand & foot)

FRIDAYS

9 am – Exercise
10:30 am – Tai-Chi
10:30 am – Senior Mtn. Pickers
7 - 9 pm – Ballroom Dance

THE BOB ROSS METHOD OF OIL PAINTING CLASSES

with Phyl Fralin are held the second Monday each month. The picture for the month is on display at the Senior Center. Cost is \$40 Sign up in the office to attend.

“49ERS PLUS” CLUB

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 11 am, and eat lunch out on the 2nd week. This group makes donations to organizations such as the Salem Rescue Squad and the Red Cross.

MONTHLY POT LUCK LUNCHEONS

These are fun, well-attended events with entertainment after the meal. They are held on the last Thursday of each month.

SENIOR MTN. PICKERS

A excellent group of stringed instrument musicians who play informally on Mondays at 12:30 pm and Fridays at 10:30 am at the Senior Center. You may join with an instrument if you play or you may attend as part of the audience.

BALLROOM DANCE CLASS

meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays for class and then in the form of a TEA DANCE the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 2 - 4 pm. Music is provided and there is no fee but each person is asked to bring a snack food to share.

SALEM SENIOR SINGERS

Practice on the 1st Thursday at 12:30 pm and sing on a regular basis for Snyder Nursing Home and other places in the Valley.

SPECIAL TRIPS

Planned for the year such as the Wytheville's Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre, Myrtle Beach, SC, Martin Luther King Performing Arts Center, Charlottesville, VA, and the Barn Dinner Theatre, Greensboro, NC. Stop by the Center to pick up a trip list and to make your reservations to travel with us.

SPECIAL FRIDAY EVENTS

We frequently make outings in our van or bus to local malls, shops and restaurants, or day trips to Swinging Bridge, Peaks of Otter, etc. Other Friday events include bingo, ice cream sundae day, movie day, crafts, parties, etc. A small fee may apply.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A calendar with news of our activities and outings is distributed at the Monthly Luncheons.

James I. Moyer Sports Complex

Manager : Eric O'Brien,
eobrien@salemva.gov
Supervisor: Scott Scharnus,
sscharnus@salemva.gov,
1000 Union Street, Salem
(540) 375-4021

APRIL 19-21

33rd Annual Chance Crawford Benefit Adult Slow Pitch Tournament

APRIL 26-28

ODAC Women's Softball Conference Championship

MAY 23-28

NCAA Division II Softball Championship

JUNE 7-8

VHSL Division 1 Softball Championship

JUNE 21-23

ISF Senior World Cup Slow Pitch National Championship

JULY 28-AUG. 4

ASA/USA 18U Girls Class "A" National Championship

AUG. 31-SEPT 2

ASA Men's D Eastern Slow Pitch National Championship

Salem Kiwanis Baseball Field

JUNE 7-8

VHSL Division 1 Baseball Championship

JULY 4-7

Commonwealth High School All Star Baseball Showcase

youth and adult athletics

Manager: Scott Hall,
shall@salemva.gov
Supervisor: Jed Roberts,
jroberts@salemva.gov
925 Union Street, Salem
(540) 375-4094

YOUTH SPORTS MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of youth recreational athletic leagues is to provide an enjoyable experience for each youth participant, while developing character, skills, sportsmanship and promoting good will among all teams and individuals. Although sports are competitive by nature, the City of Salem Parks and Recreation Department's intentions are to place less emphasis on winning, while promoting the building of lifetime physical activity and health for each participant.

YOUTH REGISTRATION DATES AT ACTIVENET

Boys Soccer: Jan. 7 - Feb. 18
Baseball: Jan. 7 - Feb. 18
Softball: Jan. 7 - Feb. 18
Boys Soccer(Fall): May 13 - Jun.17
Girls Soccer: May 13 - Jun. 17
Football: May 13 - Jun. 17
Cheerleading: May 13 - Jun. 17
Basketball: Sept. 16 - Oct. 21

GREAT BEGINNINGS WITH ED GREEN & STAFF

Make checks payable to Ed Green, Great Beginnings, and get application online at www.salemva.gov/depts/parks_rec. For more info, call Ed at 387-9516.

Ways to register for Athletics

- Online – http://www.salemva.gov/depts/parks_rec/youthsports.html
- In Person – Sports Office located at 925 Union Street between the hours of 8:00a-5:00p, Monday through Friday
- By Phone – (540) 375-4094

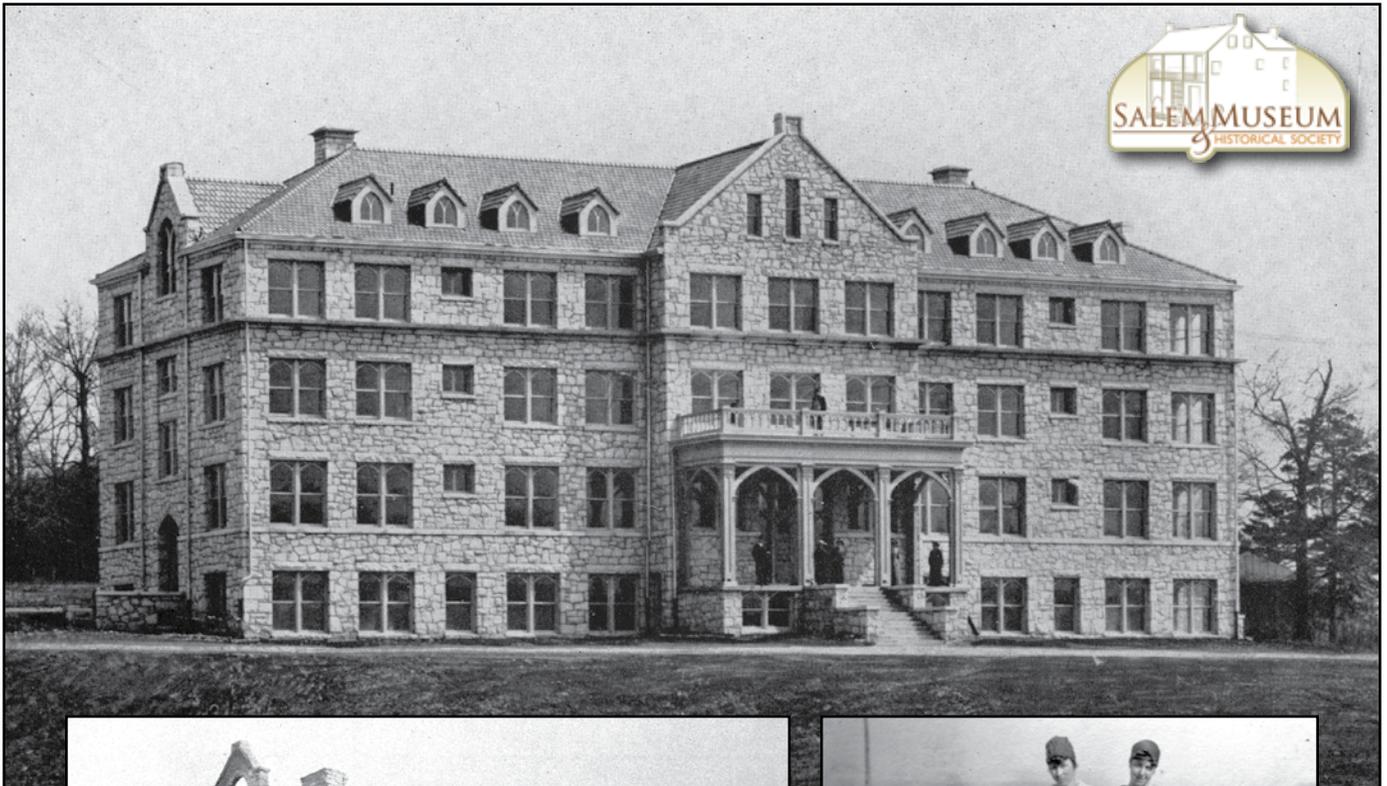
\$35 Salem Residents, \$85 Tuition Paying Students enrolled in a Salem School. Uniforms are included with paid registration.

A LONG TIME AGO

John Long - Salem Museum Executive Director info@salemmuseum.org 389-6760



100 YEARS AGO



Elizabeth College, the genteel school originally called Oakmont and then Roanoke Women's College, opened in the fall of 1912. Once upon a time on a hill east of town was an idyllic place where the Lizzies learned and played, flirted and studied, made enchanting music and danced around Maypoles in cultured elegance. It provided an exemplary Lutheran education, centered on music and refinement, to young ladies for whom the all-male Roanoke College was not an option. Sherwood, the old farm of the Burwell /Logan families, served as the campus. In 1915, the school merged with Elizabeth College in Charlotte, NC, keeping its campus but bringing the faculty, students, library, pianos, and the name Elizabeth all to Salem. The short life of Elizabeth ended in tragedy, however, when a fire destroyed the Main Building on Dec. 22, 1921. The students finished their academic year in various locations around Salem, but the trustees decided not to reopen for the 1922-23 session. The campus later was home to the Lutheran Orphanage before being acquired by Roanoke College. 🐦



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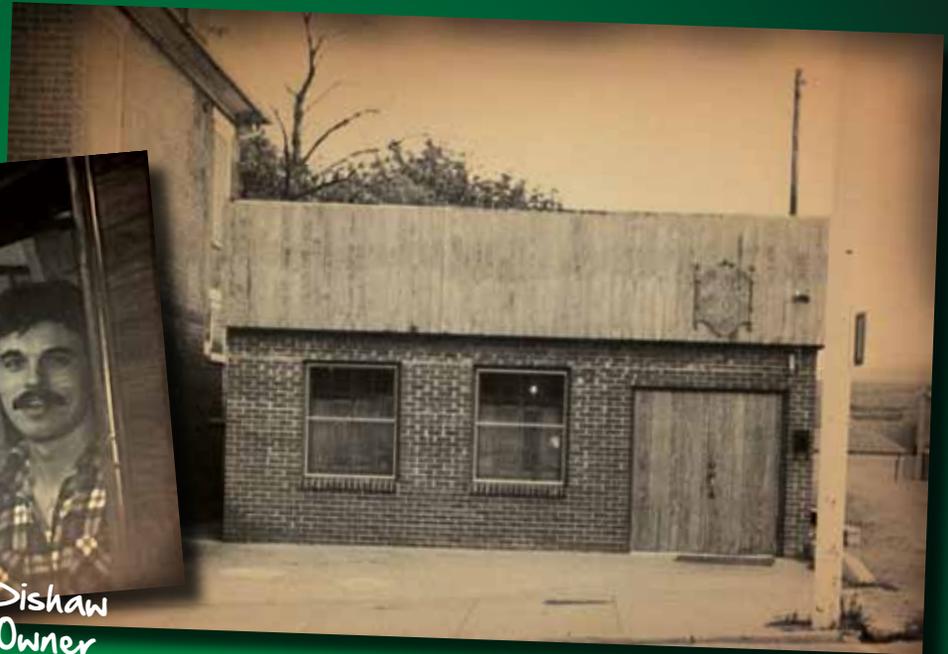
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General Manager

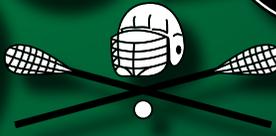
Bob Rotanz
Co-Owner

Joe Dishaw
Co-Owner

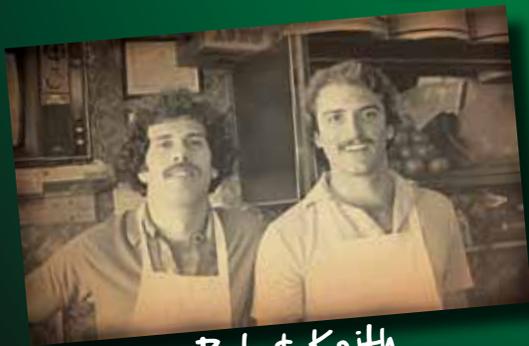


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