

Salem Lamplighter

Vol. 18 No. 2 April 2024



Monthly Cleanup Events Build Community and Beauty

by Heather Odenweller

The Salem Civic Association is proud to spotlight two major cleanup events that brought together community members dedicated to enhancing their neighborhood. Both events highlighted the ongoing efforts to maintain and beautify our shared spaces.

April 6 Cleanup: Superhero Day at Salem
Kicking off the month, the Salem community embraced their inner superheroes on April 6, gathering behind Tim Horton's for a spirited cleanup event. Donned in safety vests and equipped with pickers and bags, volunteers arrived early at 9:00 a.m. to tackle litter and debris. Holly Rast, our beautification advocate, led the enthusiastic group. Participants were encouraged to bring their can-do attitudes and wear weather-appropriate gear and sturdy footwear.

The event focused on more than just cleaning; it was a celebration of community bonds. Volunteers, including seven adults and four children, gathered to make a significant impact, picking up ten bags of trash. Gratitude is extended to Tim Horton's for providing space to dispose of the collected waste and to Scott from Fire & Ice for his support. He not only brought staff to help but also provided safety vests, ensuring everyone's safety during the cleanup.




■ Holly Rast (photographer) and crew cleaned up the north end of Salem.



■ 161 Task Force Cleanup crew: Heather Odenweller (foreground), Leslie Baab, Tina Jacobs, Hannah Jacobs, Allison Hibler.

April 13 Cleanup: 161 Task Force
The following week, on April 13, the community's effort continued at the Space Shop Self-Storage site, previously known as Giant Eagle. Five dedicated volunteers collected eleven bags of trash, a full box of debris, and a tire, making significant strides in cleaning up the 161 ramp area. This event also served as a platform to introduce the "Cleaner Columbus Pledge," an initiative to foster a sustained commitment to cleanliness and sustainability.

Another cleanup day will be announced on the Salem Civic Association Facebook page and in an email to our members for May with the 161 Task Force. The Salem Civic Association extends its gratitude to all who participated and contributed to these events. Each volunteer's effort helps ensure Salem remains a beautiful, vibrant place to call home.

Together, let's keep the momentum going and continue to pledge our commitment to keeping Columbus—and Salem—beautiful. Stay tuned for the upcoming May cleanup and more details at our next general meeting on Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Baptist Church, 5862 Sinclair Road. 

Salem Civic Association Meetings

The next Civic Association meetings are Tuesday, April 23 and Tuesday, May 28. Meetings are held at Salem Baptist Church on Sinclair Road at 7:00 p.m. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Salem Civic Association Meeting Minutes: February 27, 2024

by Charlene Combs, SCA Secretary

President Jake Wheeler started the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance. Jake released the attendees to get food. Dinner was Italian themed. Lasagna, Spaghetti Bolognese, Focaccia Bread, Salad and desserts.

Meeting was reconvened at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Columbus Police Liaison - Dan Yandrich—not in attendance. Let Jake know if you have any questions for Officer Yandrich.

Secretary Report - Charlene Combs
Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report - Allison Hibler

SCA Treasurer's Report January 2024 (1/7/24 - 2/7/24)

	2024 Budget	Actual as of 2/7/24
INCOME	\$8,263.00	\$1,650.00
EXPENSES	\$8,263.00	\$1,612.78
Net Income or (Loss)	\$ 0.00	\$37.22
Checking Account Balance as of 2/7/24		\$4,405.59
(-) Remaining Budget Obligations as of 2/7/24		\$6,650.22
(-) "Outside" Donations (Food Bank; Feral Cats)		\$25.00
(-) Annual Cash Reserve		\$2,335.00
CASH AVAILABLE AS OF 2/7/24		(\$4,604.63)

Northland Community Council Report - Pat Hammel

NCC Report February 2024

- The Maude Hill Growing Homeownership Fund provides up to \$15,000 to first-time black and minority home buyers. The program includes connection to resources, advisors and tools to impact sustainable home ownership. For information see: <https://bloom614.org/>
- The city's Department of Recreation and Parks seasonal Hiring Fair is March 9 at Wolfe Park. For information see: <https://columbusrecparks.com/connect/employment/hiring-fair/>
- The Linden Green Line is an innovative project that will transform a 7-mile corridor of abandoned railway into a vibrant 58-acre linear park and trail, accessible to over 131,000 people who live within minutes of walking and cycling distance. The Linden Green Line bisects the heart of South Linden, North Linden, and Northland communities, starting from Windsor Place, near downtown, to Cooper Park on the city's north side. The city bought the land and secured right-of-way and is applying for a \$12 million federal grant to assist with engineering/design. For information see: <https://columbusrecparks.com/connect/about/capital-improvement-projects/linden-green-line/>
- The Columbus Urban Forestry Master Plan has released the 2023 Progress Report, including completion of the street tree inventory. For information see: <https://www.columbusufmp.org/>
- The annual NCC Volunteer Awards Banquet will be held on April 16 at 6 p.m. at Villa Milano. The volunteers from Salem to be recognized this year are Laurel Hobden and Rae Kirkbride.

Safety Officer - Pat Hammel

- Officer-involved shooting at 161 and Sinclair. Stolen car out of Lancaster. Driver in stolen car hit an officer. Officer opened fire; suspect died later at the hospital.
- Packages stolen off porches in our area. Per Officer Dan, make a police report every time!
- Large homeless camp by RR tracks at Poste Lake has been cleared! Took a total of thirty dump truck loads to clear.
- CPD reports 19 total: car thefts (cars being warmed up, left running) fraud, robbery.

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Salem Lamplighter

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Articles for the *Lamplighter* and Letters to the Editor are welcome and encouraged.

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Social Media

www.salemcivicassociation.org
www.facebook.com/groups/223502895108/

February Minutes con't. on page 3

Membership in the Salem Civic Association: A Good Investment

by Laurel Hobden

The Salem Civic Association (SCA) is a major benefit for our neighborhood. It has protected and supported our neighborhood's well-being in many ways. An individual membership—\$15 (Seniors \$10), basically \$1.25 a month—supports a connected neighborhood that takes action when our interests are threatened. (For couples we'd appreciate it if you got a membership for each adult.)

The SCA's most recent success was stopping Preferred Living from building an apartment complex on Sinclair Rd. It would have changed zoning (a slippery slope opening us up for more commercial development), cut down mature trees, and created more traffic and other local issues.

Salem neighbors also spoke out against widening Sinclair Rd. to five lanes from Morse Rd. to Huntley Rd. When the neighborhood association made city planners aware of the damage it would do, the plan was scrapped.

The SCA brought the drug dealing and illegal activities taking place at nearby hotels to the attention of city leaders. The city took action by closing down five crime-ridden hotels, and overseeing their rehabilitation for renewing permits.

When National Church Residences wanted to build a senior housing facility up against the backyards of Crawford homes, the neighborhood spoke up and instead they chose the north end of Roche Dr. with the SCA's approval.

The SCA brought concerns regarding the condition of Chaseland Park to the attention of the

Columbus Department of Recreations and Parks when a hard-hitting windstorm damaged the park.

As a result, a new playground was built and Chaseland Park is now well maintained.


This is simply a list of the structural issues that have been addressed.

A variety of activities have also been sponsored by the SCA including National Night Out, an Easter egg hunt, the neighborhood garage sale, a block party, and the Christmas party.

We have our monthly meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Salem Baptist Church. Charlene Combs, our hostess chair, provides yummy dinners (for a small donation of \$5(+)) every other meeting starting in February.

We also have Police Officer Yandrich come to some meetings to give us the local lowdown and answer questions.

The SCA has addressed issues of public safety, zoning, and development, and provided a platform for community building and advocacy. This is some powerhouse action you will want to support for the continued benefit of our neighborhood. Unfortunately, the SCA has had to cut our budget due to lack of funds and the decrease in memberships since COVID.

Please join now, use the QR code or fill out the membership form in this issue and send it with your check. **Thank you for supporting Salem Civic Association!** 



February Minutes con't. from page 2

- 311 reports, 39 total: trash can repair and replace being the top report.

NCC Development - Sam Shy

Sam was not at the meeting. Per Pat only three cases, none in our area.

Communications - Heather Odenweller

Heather submitted our *Lamplighter* for NCC Publication award.

Membership - Laurel Hobden

We have about fifty memberships so far. We need to at least triple that number! Can sign up tonight or on the website.

Hospitality - Charlene Combs


Request for vegetarian options at dinner meetings. Charlene cannot accommodate due to being the only one making the meals. If anyone would like to provide a vegetarian dish it would be greatly appreciated.

Guest Speaker - Stephanie Wheeler - Salem Garden Collaborative

Grants and donations have given the garden almost \$40,000!! Need to raise about \$10,000 to build the Pavilion. Still waiting for approval from Columbus City School Board to begin. Stephanie shared a drawing of the potential final layout. Hoping to break ground in April 2024. Veggies can begin to be planted after Mother's Day. Volunteers needed to start seeds and build benches.

Old Business - none

New Business - Salem 3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on March 23 at 11a.m. Donations and help with set up/cleanup are needed: Plastic eggs, candy, stickers, door prizes; filled eggs, fill empty eggs with provided candy and treats. Contact Caitlyn if you can help. caitlyntsmith@gmql.com

Adjourn 



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Salem Civic Association Meeting Minutes: March 26, 2024

by Charlene Combs, SCA Secretary

President Jake Wheeler started the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Report – Charlene Combs
Minutes approved.

Columbus Police Liaison – Dan Yandrich

- Homeless camp on the railroad tracks along Poste Lake has been cleared!
- Polaris Mall has had multiple vehicle break-ins. Lock your vehicle and leave nothing of value in it.
- Robbery at Roche and Covington. 13-year-old beat up and robbed a couple of kids.
- Multiple issues at the apartments built on the old Al Rosa site. CPD is going to get involved with the owners/managers.
- Neighbor reported almost being hit a couple of times by cars coming out of Hot Spot Tavern during the day. Was advised to call 311 and ask for the motorcycle unit to be involved. Neighbor reported North Meadows needs parking signs replaced. Advised to call 311.

Treasurer Report – Allison Hibler

SCA Treasurer's Report February 2024 (2/7/24-3/7/24)

	2024 Budget	Actual 3/7/24
INCOME	\$8,263.00	\$4,428.00 (54%)
EXPENSES	\$8,263.00	\$2,629.78 (32%)
Net Income or (Loss)	\$ 0.00	\$1,798.22
Checking Account Balance 3/7/24		\$6,964.59
(-) Remaining Budget Obligations as of 3/7/24		\$5,633.22

(-) "Outside" Donations **\$745.00**
 (-) Annual Cash Reserve **\$2,335.00**
CASH AVAILABLE 11/7/23 (1,748.63)

Northland Community Council Report - Pat Hammel

- Eclipse glasses are being passed out at libraries and metro parks. Do not use glasses from previous eclipse. There is an expiration date for safety.
- If you want to dispute your property value you have until April 1 to do so.
- 161 Task Force cleanup is the second Saturday of each month. Contact Allison if you have any questions.
- Report from the Quarterly Good Neighbor meeting with Community Shelter Board (CSB) and YMCA and Homefull 3/7/24:
 - **1111 Mediterranean Ave.** Crisis Intervention Specialist on-site 3 days/week, working well to resolve conflicts before escalation. Worthington Food Pantry delivering food boxes twice/month. Blessed Be Ministries delivering personal care boxes regularly.
 - **888 Dublin-Granville Rd.** All YMCA clients moved out to other YMCA permanent supported housing sites.
 - **1289 E. Dublin-Granville Rd.** CSB has submitted the Rooming House License application, including all additional documents requested by the city,

March Minutes con't. on page 8




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Curious Salem

by Grace Freeman

The filling station at the corner of Sinclair and Lincoln, now known as Silver Smiles Station, has been part of the Salem community since the early major development of the area. A handful of houses lined Sinclair and a few of the streets in the southern portion of Salem, but in the 1950s and 60s, Salem as we know it sprang up around this busy corner, with the gas station built in 1956 to support the growing community.

The land was first owned by the local developers, including Walter Shapter and James Sweeting, for whom local landmarks and roads are named. The building itself was built when the property was owned by Elizabeth "Betty" Saeger, wife of local car dealer James Saeger. The Saegers owned Saeger Buick on West Broad Street, as well as other dealerships, later. The Saegers owned the filling station until 1984, when it



MARTY BARANEK: READY TO RETREAT
Dropping Prices Left Him Down And Out

Gasoline Price War Claims a Casualty

By RON ISHOY
Of The Dispatch Staff

Marty Baranek will pump his last gallon of gas Saturday morning, a victim of the gas war that has raged sporadically in Columbus for the last 10 months.

Baranek, manager of the Lincoln-Sinclair Union 76 Station, 5346 Sinclair Rd., for nearly four years, will start work Monday as a mechanic with a local auto dealership "because I've got no money and a family to support."

THE SINCLAIR Rd. station is currently selling regular gas at 27.9 cents a gallon.

The 39-year-old father of two, who spent four years as a mechanic in the U.S. Army and has operated several stations in North Columbus since 1955, said he had no regrets about his years as manager.

"I've enjoyed my work, but I'm glad to get rid of the headaches and the fight with the other dealers for customers," he said.

BARANEK, WHO with his children and wife Doris live in Sunbury, has developed a loyal following of customers during his 16 years in Columbus.

"He's a damn good mechanic . . . I really hate to see this happen to him," said one customer who has

known Baranek since he came to Columbus.

The manager said during "good times" he was selling about 21,000 gallons of gas a month.

"SINCE THIS (price war)," Baranek said, "I'm selling between 8,000 and 10,000 gallons a month . . . I just can't make it on that."

"Prices at other stations kept going down, down, down and I couldn't go down with it," he explained.

Just how bad is the price war that has closed other stations around Columbus? Baranek answered:

"Bad enough for me to get out."

Drug Dosage Blamed For Student's Death

Franklin County Coroner Robert A. Evans has ruled a drug overdose killed a 20-year-old Ohio State University student Jan. 10, but says it is undetermined whether the youth committed suicide or died accidentally.

The body of Donald Ashley was found in his apartment at 2117 Summit St. Police were told he had been taking Nembutal and smoking marijuana over a long period of time.

Ashley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ashley, reside in Little Silver, N.J.

■ Courtesy Columbus Dispatch March 11, 1971



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was sold to the Giesecks, and was run by Dick Gieseck, whose daughter Terri ran the garage next door, servicing cars and specializing in air conditioning. The Giesecks had been in the filling station business for many years at other locations in central Ohio.

In 1994, the Giesecks sold to Ronald Kinnaman, who operated it as Kinnaman's Marathon station, and it's had several other names over the years.

The current owners continue to support Salem by providing snacks for civic association meetings, sponsoring the *Lamplighter*, being active members of the community, and providing a convenient place to grab gas, snacks, and other necessities. 

Gas Station Manager Fashions New Career

By Melissa Widmer
Of The Dispatch Staff

In some ways, she is an enigma. She wears eye shadow and mascara, earrings and two gold chains slightly visible at the opening of her sweat shirt. She sports a stylish short haircut and her stylish large glasses have a fashionably small initial near the edge of one lens.

SHE ALSO wears greasy trousers, heavy socks and sturdy shoes for work on the racks. She is a garage mechanic—automotive air conditioning is her specialty, thank you—and she is the manager of her own filling station.

But talk to Terri Gieseck, 26, manager of the Exxon station at 5346 Sinclair Rd., about why she chose to operate a gas station and the enigma dissipates.

"WHEN I was little (back home in San Francisco), if any lights or toasters went wrong, I'd fix them myself. I guess I've always been interested in mechanics. I was always going to friends' garages to tinker on my car," said Miss Gieseck during an interview Tuesday, as she worked under the hood of a car with a faulty air conditioning system.

She had been on vacation for two weeks, so there was only a faint residue of grease under the fingernails.

Between interruptions of customers asking questions about fuel pumps, tire repair and directions on locations, Miss Gieseck talked about how she chose the mechanics profession.

IT ALL started when she was working as a telephone operator in San Francisco. She felt she was "stagnating and had more to offer the world and had more ambition than sitting."

Society
Today

When she decided to give mechanics a full-time chance, her father, a gas station owner on Sinclair Rd, offered to show her the ropes. "I owe everything to my father," she says bluntly.

"He gave me a chance. He helped me learn I can do something. How many fathers would do that?"

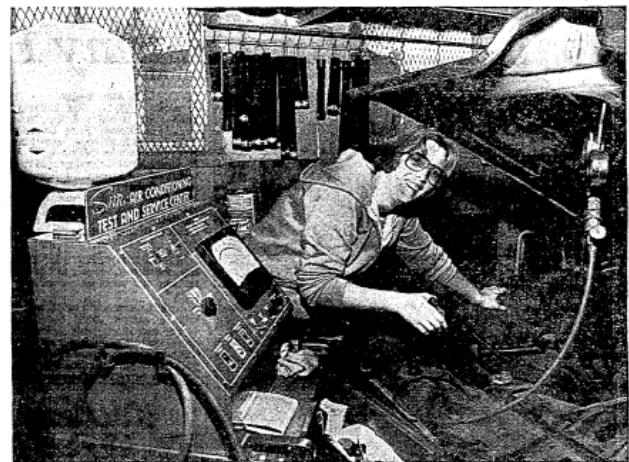
Her father purchased the adjacent station on Sinclair Rd. and put his daughter in business. That was two years ago, and today, he flatly says he only expected her to stay two months, at most.

"I'LL ADMIT I had mixed emotions," said Dick Gieseck. "It's a rough life, physically and mentally. But Terri has amazed me. She has weathered two bad winters. I thought for sure after the first month, she would want to go back to California. But she has stuck it out. I'm glad to see she's capable of doing things for herself."

Her mother saw the situation a little differently. Although she lives in California, she was in Columbus for a visit and recounted her initial reactions to her daughter's news about managing a station:

"She called one day and said, 'Guess what, Dad bought me a filling station.' I want to tell you, I've waited all my life for my only girl to tell me that! After I got used to the idea, I did feel it was humorous. Of course, I worried about her fingernails..."

IN THE final analysis, her mother concedes it has been "a great way for



TERRI GIESECK

Terri to learn about the business world."

"Most people think it's great that I'm doing this," Miss Gieseck said, pensively smoking a cigarette through a filter. "This is a challenge—to take a car and figure out what's wrong and see it run again."

"Mentally, you learn something everyday. You never get stifled and you always have to be on the ball. I love mechanics."

"I KNOW my father thought I wouldn't last this long. He probably thought 'let her scratch and scrape her knuckles and she'll be out in two months.' I've been here two years."

There are drawbacks, she admits. Long hours, bad weather and an obligation to "serve the public" and wait on customers at all hours are

not particularly beneficial to a social life.

"When I am seriously into this business, I can't really plan anything," she says, explaining she can't just close up and go home at 5 p.m. "If a customer comes, I can't say, sorry, I can't help you, I'm going to the opera!"

ALTHOUGH SHE is completely in charge of her station, she concedes there are some jobs she can't do alone. "I have done some timing change jobs. And I've done some water pump jobs, but I sometimes have to ask some guys to help. Transmission and clutch work I can't do," she says.

"It's been an experience. I've learned about mechanics and it's given me a taste of what it's like to own my own business," she says. After this I could go to any garage and get a job!"

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March Minutes con't. from page 5

and are awaiting approval. No additional plumbing or electrical asked for by city.

- Hotels on Quarterhorse Dr. being used for temporary shelter for former Colonial Village residents has been extended through April. Will consolidate to fewer hotel rooms as permanent housing is found.
- Additional Emergency Shelter Winter Capacity will end March 31. Utilization was lower than last year due to fairly mild winter.
- Eight to ten people chose to access shelter resources when homeless camp at RR tracks was cleared out.
- The number to call if you see someone who is unhoused and in need of help is 614-512-2483. The Mt. Carmel Outreach Team will respond and assist the person to access services they need and desire, including immediate shelter.

Safety Officer - Pat Hammel

27 total CPD reports; 63 total 311 reports. Resident questioned responsibility for sidewalks. States he fell in front of house on Crawford Dr.

NCC Development - Sam Shy - Not in attendance. Pat Hammel reported no cases in the Salem area.

Communications - Heather Odenweller - Not at the meeting. Articles due April 6.

Membership - Laurel Hobden

34 Individual, 40 Senior, 4 Business

Hospitality - Charlene Combs


April is a dinner meeting. Menu: Ratatouille (vegan) · Chicken Fricassee · Potatoes Au Gratin · Stuffed Mushrooms · Cream Puffs

Guest Speaker - Worthington Resource Pantry Nick Linkenhoker

Those at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline qualify to shop. Allowed full shop 2x per month. Delivery available for homebound. Open six days per week. Can always use volunteers, sign up on their website. Also provide pet food.

Old Business - None

New business - None

Adjourn - Motion made and passed. 

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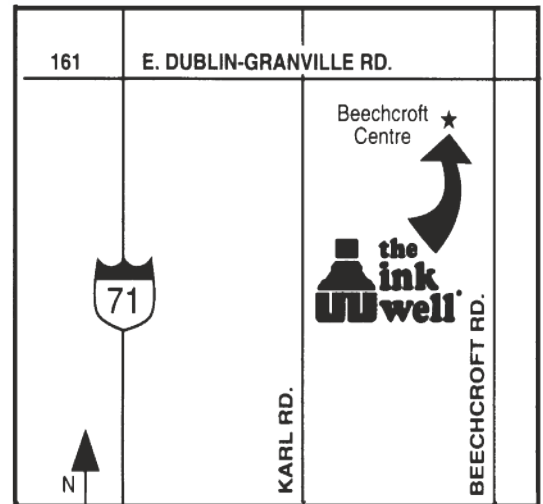
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Community House

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Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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Contact Bill Owens at 614-639-0493 or bill@northlandcommunityhouse.org

Northland Community House: Pioneering Community Well-being and Safety

by Heather Odenweller

The Northland Community House (NCH) partners with individuals, families, and groups to best assure they meet their basic needs and lead the best quality of life as defined by them. Established by Bill Owens, a native of the Northland area, in October of 2022, and recognized as a 501c3 charitable organization in November 2023, NCH has been a hub of vibrant community activities. A standout initiative is the collaboration with the Salem Garden Collaborative. This project not only benefits the students and their families, but also the broader Salem neighborhood, including its older adult residents.

Highlighting NCH's commitment to safety and independence, the organization proudly introduces its first program, the "Stepping On" workshop. This free, 7-week workshop is designed to empower individuals aged 65 and older with the knowledge and skills to prevent falls—a common but

preventable issue that can significantly impact one's quality of life. Participants will learn how to identify fall hazards, understand the influence of vision, hearing, medication, and footwear on fall risk, and practice strength and balance exercises tailored to their level. Importantly, "Stepping On" has been proven to reduce falls by 30%.

Join us via Zoom on Tuesdays from May 7 to June 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m., to take part in this life-changing program. Under the guidance of our dedicated team, learn how to safeguard your independence and continue enjoying the activities you love.

For more information and to register for the "Stepping On" workshop, please contact Bill Owens at bill@northlandcommunityhouse.org or visit our website at www.northlandcommunityhouse.org. Together, let's step into a safer and more fulfilling future.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

SALEM CIVIC ASSOCIATION



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name (Print) _____

Full Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Mail Check to: **SALEM CIVIC ASSOCIATION**
PO BOX 26632
COLUMBUS, OH 43226-0632
OR SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN ONLINE



TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

\$15 Individual \$10 Senior 62+ \$20 Business/Organization

ADDITIONAL DONATION

Our Civic Association relies heavily on community donations to support operational expenses and local initiatives. Kindly specify the amount you wish to additionally donate. *Thank You!*

Feral Cat Program Food Bank Lamplighter Newsletter
 Neighborhood Events: Annual Garage Sale, Block Party, National Night Out
 Operating Costs Thanksgiving Dinners

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Annual Garage Sale Block Party National Night Out

Term & Condition

Membership is per individual.

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More Info

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SalemCivicAssociation.Org

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Doors	Chimney Flashing
Top Soil	Steel Beams
Windows	Sky Lights
Siding	Mulch
Gravel	Concrete
Painting	Build a Garage
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