

Salem Lamplighter

Vol. 19 No. 3 July 2025



Vibrant Communities Start with Volunteers

Volunteering in the Salem community is a wonderful way to build connections, strengthen neighborhood spirit, and make a real difference. No matter your skills or schedule, there's a place for you to contribute and be part of something meaningful. Join us and help make Salem an even more welcoming and vibrant community!

■ National Night Out – Volunteers Needed!

Monday, August 5th | 6:00 PM Chaseland Park

Join us in celebrating community, safety, and neighborhood spirit at **National Night Out**—and lend a hand behind the scenes!

We're looking for volunteers to help Rae Kirkbride with:

- Set-up (starting at 4:30 p.m.)
- Tear-down (after the event ends)

Whether you can assist before or after the festivities, your support makes a big difference!

Want to help? Contact Rae at: rk@sregroup.com

Let's make this event full of neighborhood cheer!

■ Come Grow With Us! Salem Garden

Collaborative – Volunteers Welcome! Salem Elementary School Garden

Volunteer Hours: Wednesdays | 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Sundays | 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Join your neighbors in tending our beautiful community garden! No experience needed—just a willingness to dig in and enjoy the outdoors.

Tasks include weeding, watering, planting, harvesting, and enjoying good company.

Just show up at Salem Elementary School—we'll be in the garden space and happy to welcome you!

Bring a friend, your favorite gloves, and a love for community and green spaces.

Join the Monthly 161 Corridor Clean-Up! Dates:
July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11

Jiffy Lube, 1800 E Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43229

Show your community pride by helping tidy up the 161 corridor! Whether you're a longtime neighbor or new to Salem, this is a fantastic way to meet others and make a visible impact.

Schedule: 9:00–9:30 a.m. — Meet behind Jiffy Lube for gloves, bags, and supplies 9:30 a.m. — Cleanup begins (choose your area or join a group!) 12:00–12:30 p.m. — Return supplies behind Jiffy Lube

What to bring:

- Water to stay hydrated
- Sun protection (hat, sunscreen)
- Work gloves (if you have them; extras provided)

Email Holly Rast at yspring@gmail.com to let her know your commitment.

Let's work together to keep our neighborhood clean and beautiful. Every hand helps — hope to see you there!

■ Block Party Volunteers Needed!

We need *you* to help make the Salem Block Party a success on Saturday, September 28 from 1–4 p.m.

Ready to join the fun and lend a hand? Let's make this event unforgettable!

Be part of the fun behind the scenes and help make this neighborhood celebration unforgettable! Whether it's setting up, welcoming guests, assisting with activities, or helping things run smoothly, there's a role for everyone.

Many hands make light (and joyful!) work.

Interested? Contact Laurel Hobden at LaurelsBlends@gmail.com

Thank you for helping bring our community together! 

Salem Civic Association Meetings

The next Civic Association meetings is **Tuesday, July 22**. Meetings are held at Salem Baptist Church on Sinclair Road at 7:00 p.m. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Planting Seeds, Planting Trees

Plant trees whose branches will never bring you shade and whose fruit you will never taste. It could be an African proverb, or a verse from the Tao. Buddha could have said it, but today I wrote it. In this time of our life, when neighbors can become enemies when someone makes a continuous right turn at the stop sign on Lincoln and Stock and an opposing car doesn't realize the stop sign is only for cars going straight or left, it can be hard to contemplate such philosophical ideas of leaving something behind that will not benefit you. And it can be an intimidating idea, too.

Maybe you want to do something selfless, but you don't feel that you have any "trees to plant," so to speak. I know some days I don't have the emotional bandwidth to volunteer, much less the money to donate. Times are tough, money is tight, and patience comes at a premium. Sometimes it is easier to pull up a camp chair, take out your pointy stick, and melt marshmallows while watching the warm glow of the burning world. I have been there. In fact I am there. But when I'm not throwing myself a pity party, sometimes I like to get out my tools and start to garden. Sometimes the tree I'm planting, whose branches will never shade me, is the important issue that passed that I voted 'yes' on. Sometimes the tree is the kid whose lemonade stand I visited and the fruit is how she will learn to manage money. Sometimes the tree is a real tree and I do actually get to see it grow in the community garden. Every action you take in your life has the potential to plant a seed. Every kind word you speak (even if those kind words are to yourself when you are learning you need to love you, too), every small gesture of hope you make can be a seed. You may not see it today, you may never see what you did, but others will.

Think about a time when you got help from a neighbor, or when a lady at Aldi gave you her shopping cart and didn't ask for a quarter in exchange. Even when the world seems to be one more world catastrophe



away from ending, you can plant a seed. What you leave behind may be something people talk about for hundreds of years, but even if no one remembers your name, the tree will remain. 

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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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Franklin County Dog Shelter & Animal Control: Caring for Canines and Community Safety

by Heather Odenweller

At a recent Salem Civic Association meeting, neighbors had the pleasure of hearing from Corporal Lizbeth Quiroz and Corporal Niki Sampson of the Franklin County Dog Shelter & Animal Control. Their informative presentation highlighted not only the shelter's compassion-driven adoption and care efforts, but also their vital role in keeping the public safe and enforcing Ohio's dog laws.

Franklin County Animal Care & Control operates under the Sheriff's Office and is tasked with enforcing state and local dog laws. They respond to complaints involving nuisance or dangerous dogs, investigate dog bites, and can impound stray or aggressive animals. In serious cases, they're empowered to file charges and make court appearances.

Residents are encouraged to report incidents, especially loose, injured, or aggressive dogs, *immediately* by calling Franklin County Animal Control. This allows them to open a case and respond quickly. Their message was clear: *never chase, touch, or place a stray dog in your car*. Protect your family and pets by contacting the proper authorities. If you're unsure whether a dog is a stray, check for ID tags, have them scanned for a microchip, or post on PetFBI.org or local Facebook groups.

Beyond law enforcement, the shelter serves as a haven for lost, abandoned, or neglected dogs. Their goal is always to reunite lost dogs with their families or find loving forever homes through adoption. They also operate a foster program for dogs in need of temporary care.

Franklin County Dog Shelter is deeply invested in supporting pet owners with resources such as:

- A Community Pet Pantry for pet food and supplies.

- A free spay/neuter program for low-income families.
- A behavior helpline and educational materials for responsible pet ownership.
- Assistance in navigating housing issues related to dogs.

They accept donations to keep these services going and offer dog licenses, which are legally required.

During the Q&A, Corporals Quiroz and Sampson shared a few important reminders:

- Spay and neuter your pets and help with strays when possible—it prevents overpopulation and reduces aggression.
- If you're having issues with a neighbor's dog, try having a calm conversation before escalating to authorities.
- Remember: even the friendliest dog can and will bite under stress or fear. Stay alert and teach children how to safely interact with animals.

*If you're dealing with excessive or disruptive dog barking, the City Prosecutor's Office handles these cases. **To file a complaint:** email Andres Olivari Rodriguez at AMOlivariRodriguez@columbus.gov*

Include:

- Times/duration/frequency of barking
- How long the issue has persisted
- Dog's address (and owner's name, if known)
- Audio or video proof of prolonged barking

More Information

Visit dogs.franklincountyohio.gov for shelter services, adoption info, and the full Human-Animal Support Services guide.

We're grateful to Franklin County Animal Care & Control for their tireless work in our community, protecting both people and pets through education, compassion, and law enforcement. 



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Rat Poison Kills More Than Rats

by Leslie Baab

Are rats a problem in Salem? No more than anywhere else as far as I'm aware, but since the Columbus Department of Health brought them up (see April Guest Speaker on page 9)...

I was very surprised to hear the Dept. of Health sets out poison for rats. The following article from City Wildlife, a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center in Washington, DC, explains why rat poison is dangerous and inhumane—not just for rats, but for more animals than you may think.

It can start at the bird feeder, or maybe a public garbage can. Discarded food waste and garbage offer a smorgasbord for small rodents, who scavenge for a living. From there, it only makes sense that the animals who feed on those smaller animals, wild ones and feral or outdoor cats, are attracted secondarily. It's a whole food chain, right in your neighborhood!

In a city, rodent infestations are nearly guaranteed as populations grow out of control. Where there's one rat or mouse, there are usually more. Unfortunately, most pest control companies get rid of a rodent problem by the easiest means possible,

and that most often means placing bait boxes, full of rodenticide poison, to lure these mice and rats to a slow and painful death. It may be effective, but it's inhumane. It's also incredibly short-sighted. As those poisoned animals die, they're an easy meal for a hawk or a scavenger like a crow, raccoon, or opossum. Even your "indoor-outdoor" cat is at risk. When these animals eat the victims of poison, they are poisoned right along with the rodents.

The poisons most frequently used for rats these days are known as second-generation anticoagulants (warfarin, another anticoagulant, is the first generation of this type of poison). They are considered preferable to other faster-acting poisons because the rats do not die immediately; although ill and disoriented, they can move around for days. This means that the rats do not die in the property owners' houses or yards, which is considered a plus. But it also makes them easy targets for raptors, crows, ravens, and other wild predators, who eat them and poison themselves or feed them to their offspring and poison the babies they are working hard to raise.

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■ A Red-Shouldered Hawk chick who could not be saved from rodenticide poisoning.

Additionally, bioaccumulation is the process where toxins from the rodenticide builds up in the tissues of these predators, leading to illness and death.

And it is not a humane way to go — for either the intended or unintended victim. Internal bleeding does not coagulate, but puddles in the organs, and the victims often lose copious amounts of blood through the mouth.

At City Wildlife, we are getting poisoned baby hawks and crows every week, and we hear of many more who

have died and are not brought to the center. Our colleagues at the Tufts Wildlife Clinic in Massachusetts discovered that 86 percent of hawks and owls tested for rat poisoning between 2006 and 2010 were positive. At our center, every single raptor we have tested has been positive for rat poison, although we do not test every one we get. Sometimes we can treat them and turn them around, but often they are simply too far gone to survive despite our best efforts.

And then there are squirrels, who are also unintended victims of rat poisoning. This summer, people have reported large die-offs of poisoned urban squirrels from disparate neighborhoods in the District. The culprit appears to be improperly administered rodenticide that squirrels ingest along with the rats.

There is now a new, safe, and humane option on the market that is available from some pest control companies. Called Contrapest, it's essentially birth control for rodents. And there are other many other safe and effective solutions — too many to describe in this article — to be found at saferodentcontrol.org.

The simplest and most effective way to control unwanted rodents is to look for the source of food that is attracting them in the first place. That may mean taking down a beloved bird feeder or being more careful with dog feces—which rats consume avidly—and trash.

For the sake of all the animals, please do reconsider using rodenticide. Ultimately, it's a short-sighted response to what is essentially a man-made problem. And if you see a bait box in use, consider speaking with your neighbor, or building management, and urge them to reconsider. In the long run, you'll be helping more animals than you even know. 

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Curious Salem

by Grace Freeman

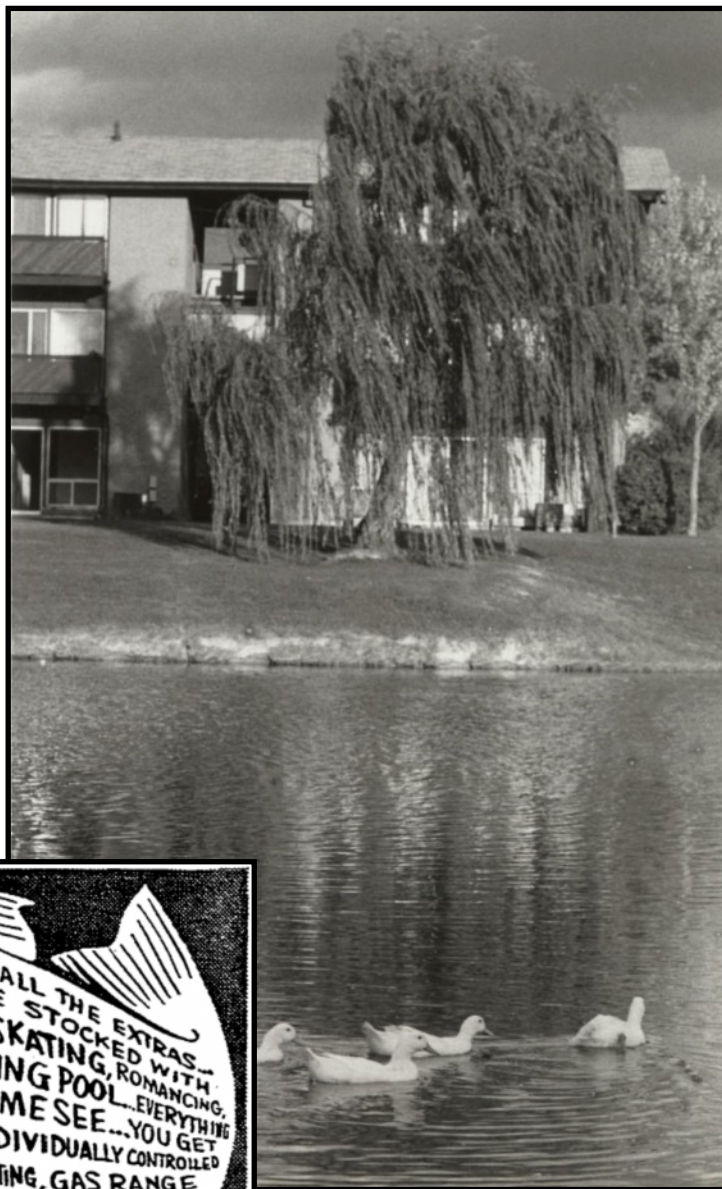
Lakeview Estates

The largest apartment complex in Salem is today known as "Lakeside Villas," but originally opened in the 1960s as the similarly named "Lakeview Estates" and has also been known as "Laurel Lake."

At the time, Northland was growing rapidly. There was a great deal of development, particularly along the Morse Road corridor, as a result of overall development and due to I-71 connecting the north side to other parts of Columbus. The earliest advertisements for the apartments noted they were only "12 minutes to downtown via freeway" and noted how close they were to Northland mall and Graceland.

As one might guess, the complex's name came from the large lake around which the buildings are placed. At opening, the lake was a primary attraction, allowing for fishing and boating, and even skating in winter months.

Other amenities included private outdoor space, with patios and balconies, as well as the



View of the lake in 1981. Courtesy Columbus Metropolitan Library.

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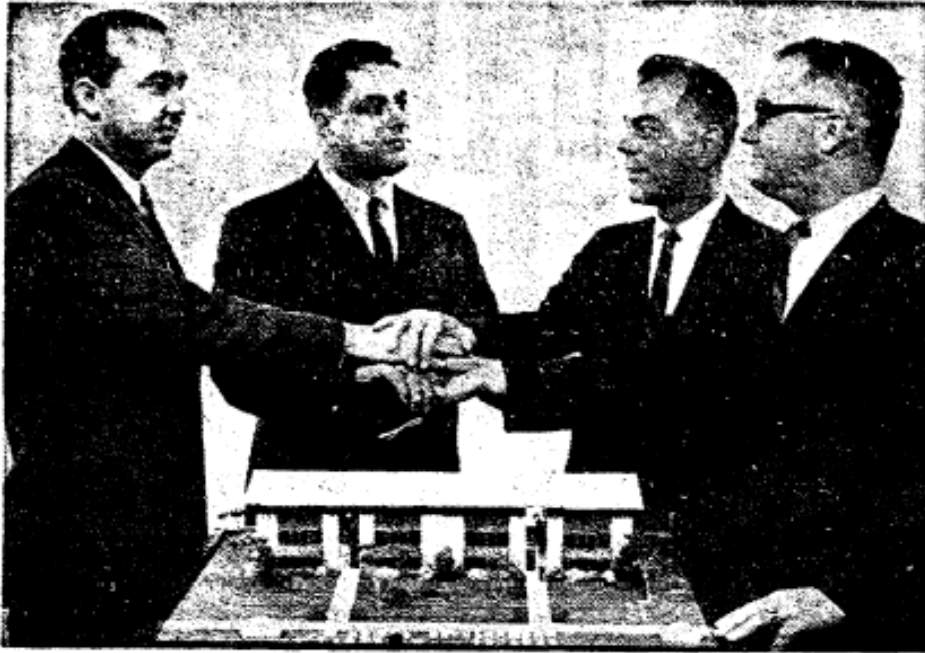
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Courtesy Columbus Dispatch July 6, 1964.



APARTMENT MODEL—A scale model of one of 31 buildings of Lakeview Estates Apartments southwest of the North Freeway and Rt. 161 is displayed by, left to right, Dale Armstrong, vice president

and manager of the Jay F. Zook, Inc., Mortgage Co.; Julius J. Cohen, president of Jewel Builders, builder and developer, and Jack Titus and Ted Prindle, project architects.

Garden Apartment Project Is Planned for North Side

A \$6-million North Side garden apartment project was announced Wednesday by Julius J. Cohen, president of Jewel Builders. It will be known as Lakeview Estates Apartments.

Conventional financing has been arranged by the Jay F. Zook, Inc., Mortgage Co. of Cleveland through Dale Armstrong, local manager and vice president.

Lakeview Estates Apartments will occupy a 31-acre tract west of the North Freeway and south of Rt. 161. It will feature a 7½-acre spring-fed lake.

THIRTY-ONE RUSTIC contemporary buildings will house 472 one, two and three-bedroom apartments renting for an average of \$105 a month, Cohen said.

He said the general area is the first in the city that has been planned as a complex for orderly growth by the City Planning Commission in cooperation with the Franklin

County Regional Planning Commission.

Cohen pointed out schools, churches, shopping facilities, parks and recreation facilities are in the immediate area. Nearby will be the Lazarus-Sears Northland Shopping Center.

THE LAKE WILL be surrounded by apartment buildings, offering either a 6 by 12-foot terrace or a 6 by 12-foot balcony. Off-street parking adjacent to the units and play areas is planned.

The landscaped lake will be for exclusive use of tenants and will be stocked for fishing. Boating and ice skating will be available. A community pool with concession facilities is planned.

All apartments will have a range, refrigerator, disposer and built-in dishwasher. Apartments will be centrally air conditioned. Each apartment will have its own heat and air-conditioning control.

Titus and Prindle of Columbus are the project archi-

itects. Mort Rieser of Jewel Builders was coordinating architect. Thomas Elliott is project manager. Robert Nieman has been appointed project superintendent.

pool. School bus stops for older grades and the nearby (and newly opened) Salem Elementary School within walking distance made the location appealing to families. Other ads noted special offers for school teachers and OSU graduate students, appealing to the young professional crowd.

Westinghouse appliances and Johns-Manville materials, as well as A/C and furnishings by Star Furniture sealed the deal for many. Johns-Manville is still in business today, manufacturing insulation, roofing materials, and other building products. At one time, they were the biggest manufacturer of asbestos-related materials throughout the twentieth century, eventually going bankrupt after the dangers of the materials were realized. They later pivoted to create non-asbestos materials. Star Furniture is also still in business today, based in

Texas, and Westinghouse remains a staple in many homes.

Today, the complex still promotes itself for affordable and convenient residences, "just 10 miles north of vibrant Downtown Columbus," just as it did upon its opening more than sixty years ago. They now describe the body of water around which the apartments are situated as a "pond," and there's no mention of fishing, boating, or skating. Other amenities like an in-ground swimming pool, playground, and communal gathering spaces provide residents with conveniences within their residential community. 🏡

Courtesy Columbus Dispatch September 26, 1962.

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More Info

SalemCivicAssn@gmail.com

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April Guest Speaker Department of Health Addresses Association

by Renee Sammet

In April, the Salem Civic Association, at its monthly business meeting, hosted guest speaker Melissa McArthur, with the Columbus Department of Health, to talk all things tick and pest.

Following are some highlights from her talk:

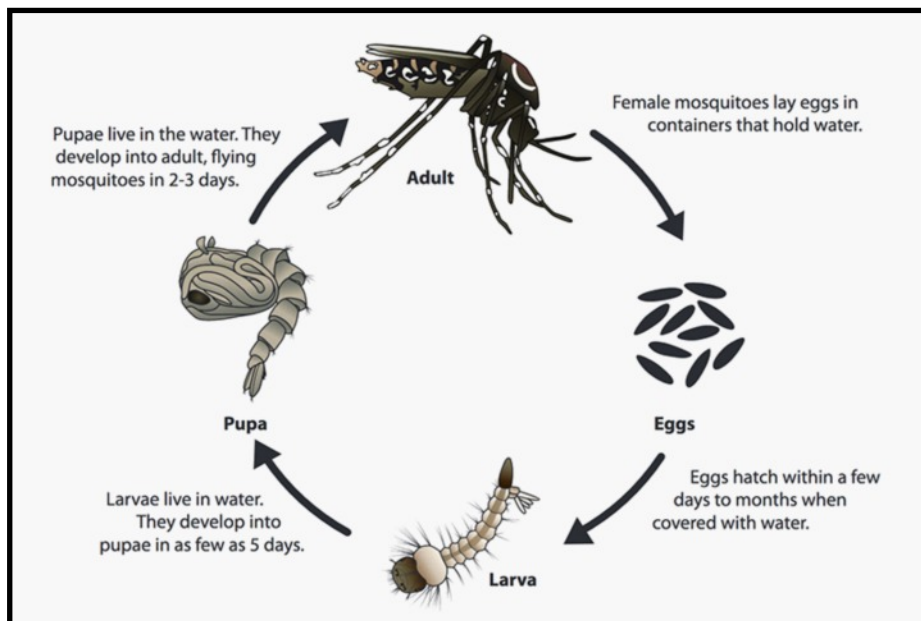
Ticks

All those in attendance received a little white business card with a built-in tick remover. It was learned that ticks can be present in winter and tend to be brought in on deer from successful hunters. Ticks are known carriers of lyme disease, but often deer ticks (the much smaller cousin to the dog tick) can be hard to spot. Keep flea and tick preventative on your pets all year to prevent these creatures from taking a bite out of your family. How else to prevent these critters from making homes in your yard? Keep your grass cut and wear long pants when bushwhacking.

Not something she mentioned, but chickens love to eat ticks! Possums are also voracious tick-eaters.

Rats

McArthur had some helpful hints about rats and the patterns they follow. They will not go for bait if there is a more attractive and easy-to-access food source elsewhere. If rats are eating bird food, for example, they will likely not take the bait at rat poison stations. When a concerned neighbor asked if the department of health would be able to help in the case of one neighbor feeding corn to the wild deer and accidentally attracting a veritable army of rats, McArthur said if there is a food source available to the rats that is not eliminated, the Department of Health will not place bait stations, as the rats are not likely to be interested. If the city is called to mitigate a rat infestation, they provide a temporary reaction to correct the problem. They will come every three weeks to check bait stations. If they find the bait is not being consumed, they will take them back up because the rats have been consuming a different food source.



Picture credit: Knox County Public Health

Mosquitoes

Standing water is a friend, nursery, and nanny to the mosquito. Their eggs hatch between twenty-four and forty-eight hours of being laid in standing or stagnant water. If the source where they hatch is emptied and dried out, the larvae will die. The best source for these little creature nurseries are old tires, poorly drained playground equipment, rain barrels, clogged gutters, or neglected bird baths. The city has a free rain barrel treatment program that will treat for mosquitoes, but keep your water safe to use for gardening purposes. For a treatment appointment, email rainbarrel@columbus.gov with name, address, phone number, and number of rain barrels. 



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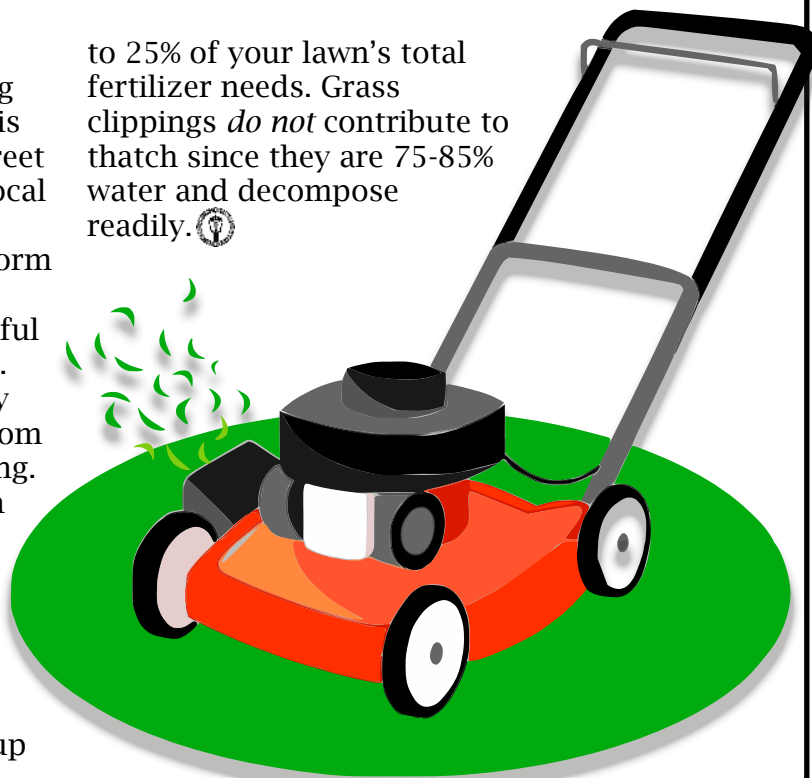
Lawn Care is Street Care

In Columbus, **IT IS ILLEGAL** and a public nuisance to blow or rake yard waste, including grass clippings and leaves, into the street. This practice can clog storm drains—leading to street flooding—and cause water quality issues in local waterways.

- Water pollution: When yard waste enters storm drains, and thereby, waterways, it can introduce excess nutrients, leading to harmful algal blooms and suffocation of aquatic life.
- Clogged storm drains: Yard waste can easily block storm drains, preventing rainwater from draining properly and causing street flooding.
- Safety hazard: Grass clippings and leaves in the street can create slippery conditions, especially for motorcycles and bicycles.

When mowing the lawn, use the mulching feature rather than bagging clippings. Returning grass clippings to the yard keeps your lawn healthy. In fact, the clippings contain valuable nutrients that can generate up

to 25% of your lawn's total fertilizer needs. Grass clippings *do not* contribute to thatch since they are 75-85% water and decompose readily. 



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Salem Book Club

by Angie VanHulle

If you like to read, get to know your neighbors, and enjoy some interesting snack foods, you should consider visiting one of the Salem Book Club's monthly meetings.

Since its beginning in early 2023, the book club members have collectively read and discussed twenty-one books covering half as many genres. Each month's book is decided by a vote of recommended books of an agreed upon genre. There are currently twenty-four members, with twelve-to-fourteen participating in each month's discussion.

Discussions are often quite lively and the meetings include snack items either referenced in the book or representative of the book's setting or culture. The book, "Anxious People," by Fredrik Backman, is set in Sweden. This was a book that participants seemed to either love or hate but it was a lot of fun hearing the different, sometimes

passionate, opinions. The host provided Swedish meatballs for the occasion.

The book, "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle," by Barbara Kingsolver, told of her family's one-year experiment vowing that they'd only buy food raised in their own neighborhood, grown themselves, or they'd learn to live without it. This book had quite an impact on our members and their views of corporate food production. Many of us committed to shopping locally and regularly supporting local farmers' markets.

While we normally meet in someone's home, when weather is permitting, we meet at the Salem Garden Collaborative Pavilion at Salem Elementary School.

The book club was started by Emelia Sheeley and is open to all women living in Salem. If you are interested in visiting or have questions, you can email Emelia at ohemelia@gmail.com or me, Angie VanHulle, at angie.vanhulle@att.net. 



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Your ad in the *Salem Lamplighter* will be delivered to 1,000 residences and businesses in the Salem Civic Association area. The 2025 ad rate per issue for copy-ready ads is as follows: Business card size \$35; quarter-page size \$55; half-page size \$70; full page size \$90; full page copy-ready insert \$75. For further details or questions, contact Leslie Baab: lesliebaab@yahoo.com.