

## **Our view: Lots happening in Salem**

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Nelson Benton, Salem News

Chamber of Commerce executive director Rinus Oosthoek says he'd like people to think of Salem as a place where there's something happening all the time — day or night, winter or summer.

It's getting there. Fresh off what local business people describe as a very successful "Salem's So Sweet" event over the Valentine's Day weekend, comes Salem Film Fest 2009.

Opening tonight with a talent show, the film festival runs through March 5 and features some two dozen documentaries from around the world. All the events take place at CinemaSalem (some are already sold out). More details are available at [www.SalemFilmFest.com](http://www.SalemFilmFest.com).

Salem's second annual film festival will be followed at the end of March by its second annual literary festival, Literally Salem, which will take place over two days (March 27 and 29). Events will include a reading by local author Hannah Tinti, whose "The Good Thief" recently received the prestigious Sargent Prize for best first novel; and a tribute to literary legend John Updike. (See [www.salemlitfest.com](http://www.salemlitfest.com) for more details.)

Of course, this is all before the warmer weather brings visitors flocking back to Salem to visit its wealth of historic and cultural attractions and bask along its bustling waterfront. But June also brings yet another blockbuster exhibit to the Peabody Essex Museum called "The Golden Age of Dutch Seascapes."

Then comes Halloween, followed by Christmas in downtown Salem and before you know it, the third editions of the film and literary festivals. Seems like the city doesn't have far to go for Oosthoek's dream to be realized.

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