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FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

I recently had the opportunity to join Ms. Perlack's kindergarten class at the Carlton School for a special pizza party, after the students won the city-wide kindergarten scavenger hunt designed by Beth White at the ECC and funded thanks to a grant from the Salem Education Foundation.

Just prior we convened another meeting of the Pre-K strategic planning committee, bringing together education professionals, teachers, community leaders, subject matter experts, and other stakeholders as we continue to develop an approach to expand and strengthen high quality early education options in Salem.

the privilege of attending the Salem Rotary Club's annual scholarship awards luncheon, honoring the achievements of some of graduating High School seniors who are moving on to higher education next year.

From early ed to early college, Pre-K to post-secondary pathways, Salem's commitment to our schools and our kids is broad, strong, and community-wide.

Part of that also means safe schools, though.

While Massachusetts has among the strongest gun laws in the country, we—rightly and not rhetorically—ask, as parents, school leaders, and elected officials who care about our kids: what more can we do?

Earlier this week Superintendent Stephen Zrike and Police Chief Lucas Miller held a public meeting for members of our school community to gather, learn about the projects and policies in place or in development here in Salem to keep our schools and classrooms safe, and to ask their questions.

and, as always, you can reach out to the Superintendent or Chief directly with your questions.

We also, however, need meaningful federal action to curb the proliferation of deadly guns in our communities.

As a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, an organization of over 1,000 Mayors from around the United States, I believe it past time for Congressional leaders to take action on this growing crisis. No community is immune from gun violence. For the sake of our neighborhoods and our children, I encourage and plead with members of both parties in Congress to put aside their differences, come together, do the right thing, and act.

The end of the school year should be a time of celebration and joyfulness, but for families who have lost children to gun violence, it's a time of sorrow and grief. Let's each of us pledge to do what we each can to work to undo this awful reality for as many future end-of-school-years as possible.

Kim Driscoll

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Offshore Wind Meeting

Crowley and Avangrid, in association with AECOM and the City of Salem, will host a public meeting on the Salem Offshore Wind Terminal project. The Salem Offshore Wind Terminal will be built adjacent to the Salem Harbor Power Station, and will store, assemble, and distribute wind turbine components. The project is anticipated to create hundreds of clean energy jobs, improve Salem's historic port, and lead the way in the fight to reduce the Commonwealth's carbon footprint.



Salem Offshore Wind Terminal

Public Meeting
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Hosted via Zoom

Please pre-register for this meeting using the following link: www.salem.com/oswmeeting. For inquiries and comments related to the project, please email Info@salemoffshorewind.com.



COVID Testing

The City of Salem continues to provide free rapid antigen COVID-19 tests for at-home use. Any Salem resident or individual who works in Salem is eligible to pick up three boxes of tests from the Health Department, 98 Washington St 3rd floor, Mondays-Wednesdays 9am-4pm and Thursdays 9am-7pm while supplies last.

You can also request free rapid at-home tests be sent to you directly, free of charge, from the federal government at www.covidtests.gov. Individuals with health insurance are also able to purchase a limited quantity of qualifying rapid at-home tests and then seek reimbursement from their insurance.

The free walk-up testing site in Riley Plaza will also be available through the end of December 2022. This is a self-administered test; results are returned in 24-48 hours. The site is open Mondays-Fridays, 8:30am-4pm and Saturdays 8:30am-1pm. Walk-up testing is offered at this location; no appointment is required, but you can pre-register at <https://curative.com/sites/33988> if you would like. If you have insurance, please bring your insurance card.

ARPA for Economic Recovery

As part of Salem's first round of American Rescue Plan Act funding allocations, close to \$1 million has been directed toward economic recovery and small business and worker support initiatives, and over \$750,000 in other federal relief funds have been likewise committed to this purpose.

"Salem will continue to target relief funds to support a full and strong economic recovery," said Mayor Driscoll. "The allocations announced today build on previous direct, targeted business and worker supports during the pandemic, bringing our total investment in business and worker assistance to more than \$1.7 million. Throughout the pandemic Salem had no net loss of businesses and today our local unemployment rate is

below the pre-pandemic level. This kind of success is only possible through thoughtful planning, intentional and strategic actions, and close, constructive partnerships with our businesses, workers, and those who support them."

Program	ARPA Funds
Worker Retention program	\$458,515
Outdoor Dining sites capital costs	\$270,000
Festivals & Special Events Grant program	\$150,000
Culinary and Hospitality Workforce Development program	\$63,100
Outdoor Dining Grant program	\$35,000
Total	\$976,615

Salem 311



This month Mayor Kimberley Driscoll announced the launch of Salem 311, a service that allows anyone in the community to dial 3-1-1 from any phone and, during City business hours, get connected to a live operator who can take service requests, answer questions, and connect callers to additional information and assistance regarding City programs and services. City business hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

"Salem has consistently strived to find new and more effective ways to connect residents with City services," said Mayor Driscoll. "Salem 311 will offer another tool by which Salem residents can share reports about issues with City departments and ask questions about municipal services and programs. I'm grateful to the City staff who have worked diligently over the past several months to get this new program into place and I hope residents will make use of this new option for connecting with their City government."

Salem 311 builds on the City's existing channels of taking in resident requests and inquiries, including [SeeClickFix](#), an online tool launched in 2014 that has fixed 27,000 issues reported by community members, the online [Salem Chatbot](#) launched in 2021 that has responded to almost 1,800 submitted questions, and the [Salem Knowledge-base](#) wiki of frequently asked questions that has answered 515 questions since it launched in 2014.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Salem currently has multiple openings for positions in a variety of fields. Some positions include a sign-on bonus. For descriptions of any of these positions and more information about how to apply, please visit www.salemma.gov/jobs.



- Wire Inspector - Electrical Department - Sign on Bonus \$1,500
- Communication Center - Public Safety Dispatcher - Salem Police Department
- Heavy Equipment Operator - Department of Public Services
- Maintenance Craftsperson - Department of Public Services
- Part-Time Van Driver - Park, Recreation, and Community Services (Community Life Center)
- Community Energy Coach - Sustainability & Resiliency
- Part-time Building Custodian - Salem Public Library
- Fire Alarm Operator - Salem Fire Department
- Administrative/Advocacy Coordinator - Salem Police Department
- Signature Parks Project Manager
- Assistant Building Inspector - Building Department
- Business Manager - Water Registrar - Department of Public Services/Engineering Dept.
- Part-time Bi-lingual Elections Clerk - Elections
- Plumbing and Gas Inspector - Building Department
- Heavy Motor Equipment Operator (second shift) - Department of Public Services
- Tree Climber - Department of Public Services
- Motor Equipment Repair - DPS Motor Pool - TWO positions!
- Public Health Regional Nurse - Health Department

Forest River Park

The new Forest River Park Outdoor Recreation and Nature Center will officially open to the public on Saturday June 18, 2022 for two special Opening Weekends, June 18-19 and June 25-26, which will be open for free to Salem residents from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Salem residents are invited to come discover the new Center and all the amenities it has to offer. Following that the Center will open for the season from July 2 to September 2. Full details about hours, rates, private rentals, swim lessons, and more can be found at www.salemma.gov/forestriver.



The new Forest River Park Outdoor Recreation and Nature Center consists of two new pools, one shallower for children and those taking swim lessons and a deeper pool for recreation and periodic lane swimming, with expanded versatility for programming, zero depth entry points, and a fully accessible chair lift. The Center also features a new splash pad with built-in public art reflecting the natural history of the park, a state-of-the-art pump house, first-aid station, bathrooms, showers, lockers, and a community room. The facility also features a full concession stand, which will offer a lunch menu, ice cream, snacks, and beverages, as well as expanded accessible natural trails through the park. The City of Salem has contracted with the Salem Y to manage the facility.



“Forest River Park is one of the jewels of our community,” said Mayor Kim Driscoll. “As a public green space, an athletics facility, and as a destination for fun and recreation, this park has been part of the lives and memories of countless Salem residents. With this new facility at this signature park, Forest River will continue to be a treasured and special place for future generations of Salem residents for decades to come.”

The Center is extremely sustainable and built to be climate change resilient. The facility is zero net energy, powered by onsite solar, and includes energy efficient equipment throughout. The pool itself was moved out of the flood hazard zone as part of the project, even above climate projections, protecting it for future generations while also providing an opportunity for coastal wetland restoration in the adjacent parts of the park. The facility additionally incorporates porous paving, native vegetation, and state of the art stormwater management.

Forest River Park is one of Salem’s largest and busiest public parks and includes playground amenities, a baseball field and basketball court, public bathrooms, beach area, open green space, Pioneer Village, and the new Outdoor Recreation and Nature Center. The park opened in 1904 and, over the years, has included athletics fields, a plant nursery, and the City’s first automobile campground. In 1919 a salt-water pool was added to the park, and it was eventually replaced in the 1970s by a freshwater pool, which closed in 2017 so the new facility could be constructed.

This project was made possible by funding from the City of Salem’s Signature Park Bond and other City capital funds, a Commonwealth of Massachusetts and National Park Service’s Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, a grant from the Salem Community Preservation Act, and a grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council.



Independence Day

Salem will hold its Independence Day celebration at the Salem Maritime National Historic Site on Derby Wharf on Saturday, July 2nd.

"It has been two years since Salem has really been able to celebrate the 4th of July, so I am excited that we will once again gather for America's birthday," said Mayor Driscoll. "This year we will pay tribute to those lost to the COVID-19 pandemic and celebrate our first responders, medical professionals, and frontline workers whose dedication and commitment never wavered during these difficult times."

This event is possible thanks to the support of Skyrocket Sponsors: Amazon, Footprint Power - Salem Harbor Station, Salem Five, and Tropical Products, as well as our Star Spangled Sponsors: Aggregate Industries, Eastern Bank, Market Basket, Tache Real Estate, Thermal Circuits, and another new sponsor, Witch City Walking Tours.

Live entertainment on the Main Stage begins at 5:00 p.m. featuring Dis-N-Dat, a reggae and steel drum band. Formed in 1999 by four-time Grammy nominated Black Uhuru drummer 'Rangotan and 6 time steel pan champion Sista D, Dis-N-Dat has a unique sound. Dis-N-Dat incorporates Roots Reggae, Dance Hall and R&B into a sound all their own by combining the sounds of Jamaica and Trinidad with foundation reggae and the steel pan, moving audiences all over the U.S. for 20 years. The Salem Jazz and Soul Festival is the sponsor of this opening act, with the good news that the Jazz and Soul Festival will return this summer to the Salem Common on August 6th as part of the City's annual Heritage Days celebration.

Also at 5:00 p.m. The Kids' Space tent, sponsored by Amazon, will open. This year, little ones will be able to pick-up individually wrapped crafts to take back to their seats. Food tents will be open on site selling hot dogs, French fries, fried dough, kettle corn, and other fair favorites.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 7:15 p.m. when Mayor Driscoll and other local dignitaries will lead a parade down historic Derby Wharf accompanied by Salem veterans and the Salem Boy Scouts Color Guards. The National Anthem will be sung by members of the Salem High School's a cappella group Witch Pitch?.

Immediately following opening ceremonies Maestro Dirk Hillyer and the Hillyer Festival Orchestra (HFO) will take center stage and perform a program packed with Broadway show tunes, famous movie themes, and patriotic music. This year's featured performer is Helen Hassinger, a very talented soprano and classically trained violinist. She is a graduate of St. Olaf College (BA Music, Women's Studies) in Northfield, Minnesota and Boston University (MM Vocal Performance). In 2018 Ms. Hassinger received her Certificate in Opera Performance from the Boston University Opera Institute. A native of Wisconsin, Ms. Hassinger currently resides in Boston, Massachusetts. Intermission entertainment will showcase the talented singers from Salem High School's Witch Pitch? a cappella group.

At 9:15 p.m., Salem ends its Independence Day celebration with a fireworks extravaganza, accompanied live by the Hillyer Festival Orchestra playing the *1812 Overture* and other patriotic tunes throughout the entire fireworks display.

List of road closures, safety notices, and much more for this event at www.salemma.gov/independenceday.

