

# SALEM COMPASS

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October 13th, 2023



## Mayor's Message



Dear resident,

We're halfway through October and it's been a busy month so far!

While I know the traffic and other challenges presented by October in Salem can be tough at times, the economic activity is critical to keeping many of our small businesses vibrant and successful. As a City, we work hard to manage the public safety, traffic, and public works aspects of this month-long special event. Thanks to regional, state, and federal partners, dedicated City workers, and many local volunteers, we can manage the impacts of October in Salem.

To stay informed this Halloween season, please visit [www.parksalem.com](http://www.parksalem.com) for updates about parking in Salem in October. You can also download the [My Sa-](#)

[lem MA](#) app for your mobile device and turn on notifications to receive real-time updates whenever there is a road closure or similar announcement. Lastly, Subscribe to CodeRED, City News & Announcements, and Urgent Alerts at [www.salemma.gov/subscribe](http://www.salemma.gov/subscribe).

I hope you also get to come out to Haunted Happenings to enjoy the festivities in your own town! The City's complimentary October weekend shuttle to downtown runs from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and you can park for free at any one of the three satellite parking lots – Salem State University's O'Keefe Center parking lot (225 Canal Street), Salem High School (77 Willson Street), and 108 Jefferson Avenue behind Salem Hospital.

Remember, if you are downtown on Halloween or the weekend prior, if you see anything suspicious, help us keep the festivities safe for all by reporting it to the Salem Police at 978-744-1212. Thank you, as always, for your patience as this bustling season continues.

**Dominick Pangallo**  
Mayor  
City of Salem

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# Commuter Rail Adding More October Service than Ever to and from Salem for Haunted Happenings



The MBTA and Keolis Commuter Services (Keolis), the agency's operating partner for Commuter Rail, announced last week that train frequency will increase to two trains an hour to and from Salem during the month of October, which is the most weekend Commuter Rail service ever. This increase in service is to accommodate visitors to Salem during Haunted Happenings. The schedule is available online at [MBTA.com/CR](https://www.mbta.com/CR).

Last year during Haunted Happenings, weekend ridership on the Newburyport Rockport Line was the highest it has ever been, exceeding more than 400% of the pre-COVID ridership.

For Haunted Happenings, there will be 10 more inbound trains from Salem to North Station, with at least 10 trains after 6:00PM. There will also be 8 additional outbound trains from North Station to Salem, and 7 more outbound trains from Salem to Beverly.

In the temporary Haunted Happenings schedule, passengers will have more flexibility with trains arriving in Salem from North Station about every 40 minutes throughout the day.

This year, in addition to the existing all-day service, the 2023 Fall/Winter schedule also saw the return of late-night service. This has been by far the most requested change among riders on all Commuter Rail lines. Passengers looking to attend evening events in Salem can benefit from late weekday and weekend trains. In the Fall/Winter schedule, the last weekday outbound train to Salem departs North Station at 11:50PM – 50 minutes later than in the current Spring/Summer schedule.

The last weekend outbound train to Salem departs North Station at 11:50PM – 50 minutes later than in the current weekend schedule. The last weekend inbound train to North Station departs Salem at 12:35AM – nearly two hours later than in the current weekend schedule.

Passengers can utilize the [\\$10 Weekend Commuter Rail Pass](#) for their journey to and from Salem. For Indigenous People's Day (Monday, October 9), we will operate regular Monday weekday service.

Passengers can stay connected with Commuter Rail by calling customer service at 617-222-3200, following @MBTA\_CR on X (formerly known as Twitter) or signing up for T-Alerts at [mbta.com/alerts](https://www.mbta.com/alerts).

*For more information, contact Lisa Peterson at (978) 619-5600 or [lpeterson@salem.com](mailto:lpeterson@salem.com)*

*Read the full press release at <https://www.salemma.gov/home/news/commuter-rail-adding-more-october-service-ever-and-salem-haunted-happenings>*

# City of Salem Invites Community to Contribute to Banned Book Little Library at City Hall

Now that the City of Salem has concluded our celebration of National Banned Book Week, we extend an open invitation to the community to share their own books. Contributions can be made by dropping off books directly within our Banned Book Little Library situated directly in front of City Hall.

In a climate where books dealing with themes of gender, sexuality, and racism are often challenged, it's important to note the alarming statistics. According to Pen America, the previous school year witnessed a staggering 1,477 instances of book bans across the United States. Furthermore, across the country, there have been over 147 bills introduced this year aimed at restricting access to books.

"In communities nationwide, books face challenges and bans," said Mayor Dominick Pangallo. "Salem stands firm in our commitment to intellectual freedom and the right to read. The City of Salem Banned Book Little Library is yet another small way we can come together as a community to support that freedom and right. I hope that everyone will consider contributing a book they are no longer reading, or choose a new one to take home."

While all books are welcome at this little library, books that have been banned or challenged are especially welcome and in keeping with the spirit of this project. Unsure if the books in your home library are on the list of banned titles? Numerous online resources provide comprehensive lists of challenged books.



Whether it's classics like Fahrenheit 451 and The Great Gatsby or more contemporary works such as Looking for Alaska and Gender Queer, you can verify the status of your personal collection.

Remember, these contributions can be placed right inside our Banned Book Little Library right in front of City Hall. Let us unite in celebrating the freedom to read and stand resolute against book bans. For more information on frequently challenged books, explore the following resources:

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/classics>

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/decade2019>.

*For more information, contact Lisa Peterson at (978) 619-5600 or [lpeterson@salem.com](mailto:lpeterson@salem.com)*

## SalemRecycles Hosts Repair Café

Don't throw away your broken item – bring it to the Repair Café! Mayor Dominick Pangallo announced Thursday that SalemRecycles is hosting an upcoming Repair Café. Repair volunteers will be available to mend clothing, sew buttons, sharpen knives, tinker with or rewire electronics and lamps, computer diagnostics, glue wooden furniture and ceramics and more. Please keep in mind these services may change as we confirm volunteers.

This Repair Café is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Community Life Center at 401 Bridge Street in Salem. Appointments are required, and walk-ins will not be accepted. Appointments are free to Salem residents. To request an appointment, [please complete this form](#). If you cannot access the form, please email [greensalem.recycling@gmail.com](mailto:greensalem.recycling@gmail.com).



This Repair Café and Terracycle Collection is a free event designed to help attendees repair broken items so that they do not end up in the waste stream. In addition to repairing broken items, attendees will also be able to recycle six terracycle brigades of otherwise hard-to-recycle items. Swiffers, razors, dental care items, deoderant containers and caps, Rubbermaid and other brands of plastic or glass containers and lids, and Brita brand dispensers, pitchers and filters are being collected.

"As a certified Green Community, Salem has worked hard to protect our local environment, lessen our contributions to the climate crisis, and reduce the amount of waste we send to landfills," Mayor Dominick Pangallo said, "I am proud of our community's ongoing commitment to addressing the challenges before us and view this as another important step in that ongoing work. I'm grateful to the volunteers and city staff who are making this creative and fun community-building solution possible."

We hope to see you at this fun event where you can learn how to fix things and reduce your waste! *For more information, contact Janelle Rolke at 978-619-5672 x46204 or [jrolke@salem.com](mailto:jrolke@salem.com)*

### Signature Parks Podcast, Episode #3 - Forest River Park



The 3rd episode of the Signature Parks Podcast, Forest River Park, is now live! It's linked below, and can be found on Apple podcasts and other platforms.

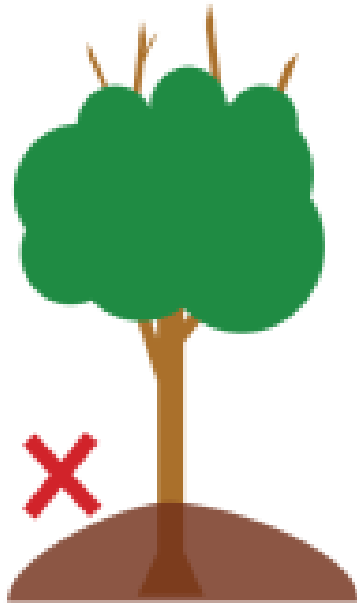
All Signature Parks Podcast episodes can be found here: <https://www.salemma.gov/recreation/pages/signature-parks-podcast>

and the direct link to the host page for today's episode is here: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2163020/13703468-forest-river-park>.

# Don't Mulch Your Trees to Death!

## Tree Mulching Tips from the Salem Tree Commission

### Don't Mulch Your Trees to Death!



#### Too Much Mulch

- Rots the Bark
- Strangles Trees



#### Just Right Mulch

- Protects Roots
- Lets Trees Breathe

#### FREE TREE!

To request a tree or learn more about tree care, visit:  
**Salem Tree Commission**  
[www.salemma.gov/tree-commission](http://www.salemma.gov/tree-commission)

Touch the Future  
Plant a Tree



Tree City USA

The City of Salem Tree Commission is sharing an easy tree care tip today that can go a long way toward sustaining the health of trees here in Salem. It is possible to use too much mulch around the base of the tree, which can rot the bark, and strangle the tree. This can happen when the mulch takes on the appearance of a mound at the tree base. Instead, a healthier approach for a tree is to aim for a smaller amount of mulch that shows the tree root flare. This will protect the roots and let the tree breathe, helping ensure a longer, healthier life for the tree.

To request a free tree for your property, or to learn more about tree care, visit: Salem Tree Commission [www.salemma.gov/tree-commission](http://www.salemma.gov/tree-commission).

## Coming Up Oct. 13 – Oct. 29

For more details about items on this calendar and the most up to date calendar of City meetings and events, please visit [www.salemna.gov/calendar](http://www.salemna.gov/calendar).

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><a href="#">State Rep. Manny Cruz Public Office Hours-CLC</a> <b>9:30-11am</b></p> <p><a href="#">Salem School Committee - Building &amp; Grounds Subcommittee Meeting</a> <b>5:30pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Salem School Committee - Regular Meeting</a> <b>7pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Tree Commission Meeting</a> <b>7pm</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><a href="#">Commission on Disabilities Meeting</a> <b>4:30pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Public Art Commission Monthly Meeting</a> <b>6:30pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Cemetery Commission Meeting</a> <b>6:30pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting</a> 6:30pm</p> <p><a href="#">Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting</a> <b>6:45pm</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><a href="#">Council on Aging Meeting</a> <b>5:15pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Historical Commission Meeting</a> <b>6pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Traffic and Parking Commission Meeting</a> <b>6:30pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting</a> 6:30-10pm</p> <p><a href="#">Veterans Council Monthly Meeting</a> <b>7pm</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><a href="#">Housing Stability Housing Services - Espacio Drop-in Hours; Información y recursos de vivienda gratuitos para propietarios e inquilinos de Salem - Espacio</a> <b>4-7pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Salem Harbor Port Authority Meeting</a> <b>6pm</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><a href="#">Salem School Committee - Policy Subcommittee Meeting</a> <b>9:00am</b></p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p><a href="#">Licensing Board Meeting</a> <b>6pm</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><a href="#">Salem Cultural Council Meeting</a> <b>7pm</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><a href="#">Housing Stability Housing Services - CLC Drop-in Hours; Información y recursos de vivienda gratuitos para propietarios e inquilinos de Salem - Centro de Vida Comunitaria</a> <b>9am-12pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Design Review Board Meeting</a> <b>6pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Sustainability, Energy and Resiliency Committee (SERC) Regular Meeting</a> <b>6:30-8pm</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><a href="#">Public Notice-Proposed Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal</a> <b>4pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Salem City Council Regular Meeting</a> <b>7pm</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><a href="#">Last Day to Register to Vote/ Ultimo Dia Para Registrar Votantes</a> <b>8am-5pm</b></p>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>