

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll's FYI SALEM

Volume 2, Issue 1

A Quarterly Newsletter for the Citizens of Salem

October 2008



Highlights Inside this Issue:

Salem High School Renovation Complete	2
Mad Vac Unit Hits the Streets	3
Waterfront Development Moving Forward	4
Haunted Happenings is Underway	4
Salem Recycles Campaign in Full Gear	6
Improved Signage Installed in Downtown	7
City-Wide Street Paving Begins	9

To contact Mayor Driscoll write to Salem City Hall 93 Washington Street Salem, MA 01970, call (978) 745-9595 ext. 5600 or email at mayor@salem.com.

If you are not part of our Connect-CTY automated phone notification system, please register on our home page www.salem.com.

Message from Mayor Kimberley Driscoll

Welcome to another edition of FYI Salem. Wow ... it's only the beginning of October and there's already a lot going on in Salem!

Recently, the City of Salem has been in the news and on television. ABC's new game show *Opportunity Knocks* visited the Witchcraft Heights neighborhood, the television show *Chronicle* shot an entire episode in Salem, Billy Costa's *TV Diner* with Billy Costa filmed a segment on Salem at the Salem Waterfront Hotel and, most recently Destination Salem put together a prize package for *Wheel of Fortune* which will be airing a Salem get-away during the shows that run the week of October 27th. The package is primarily sponsored by The Hawthorne Hotel, which contributed a 6 night stay but the package also includes tickets to the City's major attractions and

museums.

Destination Salem has also organized Arts & Antiques month in Salem during the month of November. As part of that effort, WCRB Radio is hosting a "Buried Treasure Appraisal Event" on Sunday, November 23rd at the Salem Waterfront Hotel with WCRB's Boston Morning Program Host Laura Carlo. The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and tickets are being sold on the Destination Salem website, www.salem.org.

During these nationwide uncertain financial times, it is nice to know that Salem is still thriving. The City continues to attract visitors, residents and quality businesses. Development interest still exists and both private and public projects are taking place at the former Salem News building and with the

construction of the new J. Michael Ruane Courthouse Complex

In this month's edition you can read more about Haunted Happenings. Now that the Haunted Happenings Parade has taken place, October festivities are in full swing. More structured activities throughout the month are planned as well as a new and improved closing ceremony on Halloween night to signal the end of the evening. Also, in this edition you will find stories about positive updates related to developing the waterfront, Salem High School's renovation project, and the designation of Downtown Salem as one of the top ten neighborhoods in the entire nation.

I hope you enjoy the information inside!

Kimberley Driscoll

Downtown Salem Designated Great Neighborhood

The American Planning Association (APA) announced that Downtown Salem has been designated one of 10 Great Neighborhoods for 2008 through APA's *Great Places in America* program. APA Great Places exemplify exceptional character and communities of lasting value. APA singled out Downtown Salem for its historical character; redevelopment as a compact neighborhood with residential, retail, and commercial uses; and for helping boost

Salem's local economy.

To celebrate, the City hosted a neighborhood block party celebration for downtown residents, workers and visitors to attend on Wednesday, October 8th at Noon at Derby Square in front of Old Town Hall. Mayor Kimberley Driscoll along with U.S. Senator John Kerry, U.S. Representative John Tierney, State Representative John Keenan, Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and

Economic Development Daniel O'Connell, and other City Officials were on hand to participate as we celebrated this very special announcement in downtown Salem!

The City of Salem is extremely excited and honored by this designation. Over the last few years, the downtown has been transformed with a lively mix of retail and residential uses, beautiful architecture, a rich and intriguing history and a

Continued to Page 8

Salem High School \$67 Million Renovation Complete

The renovation of Salem High School (SHS) is finally complete and people are ready to celebrate.

On Sunday, September 21, 2008 city and state officials, SHS students and parents, School Department employees and invited guests gathered in the SHS Auditorium to

celebrate the transformation of Salem High School. As part of the speaking program, Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Superintendent of Schools William Cameron, SHS Principal David Angeramo and Darleen Melis, Chair of the

School Building Committee presented their thoughts on the importance of the renovations and the impacts they will have in the future and on SHS students. At the ceremony, city and school officials delivered a first-ever State of the Schools Address. A film produced by Salem-based MultiMediaPros was also unveiled highlighting the building renovations and the Salem High School experience. The film features SHS alumni including State Representative John Keenan. Following the speaking program, guests were given tours of the renovated building by SHS students.

Salem High School was originally constructed in 1976 and designed by architectural firm Haldenman and Goranson, Inc. At that time, it was considered

to be one of the best equipped secondary schools in the state, on the cutting edge of architectural design as well as one of the largest, at 428,976 square feet. The building was designed with Academic Wings and a Unified Arts wing connected by a multi-story lobby and Instructional Media Center. The Academic

Wing consists of three floors, each designed to operate as an independent "house" to facilitate smaller learning communities. The Unified Arts wing contains the Administration Offices, Vocational Education, Visual Arts, Music, Performing Arts, Consumer Sciences,

Auditorium, and Gymnasium.

Since being constructed in 1976, the building has suffered from problems caused by lack of proper maintenance and normal wear-and-tear. Water penetration caused damage in the interior of the building in the form of stained ceiling tiles, floor tiles delaminating along exterior walls, and paint on the interior surface of these walls was stained and peeling. In addition, the steel window frames were rusted and corroded; the Lexan glazing in the windows was yellowed, fogged, and scratched, resulting in minimal visibility and increased glare, and the windows were missing cranks and latches, making opening or securing the windows problematic at best. To correct these problems, the renovations included the replacement of the exterior

bricks and windows, the existing roof was replaced as well as the membrane under the walking surface of the south plaza. The interior courtyard and minor balconies have been converted to limited access roofs.

Technological upgrades have been made as part of the renovations. The process of how students, faculty, and visitors enter, use and circulate throughout the facility has been addressed by a new security system. In addition, significant classroom technology upgrades have been made including state-of-the-art computer equipment and smart boards to allow SHS students to benefit from a first-class learning experience. For instance, each classroom teacher is now equipped with a computer workstation and projector.

Energy consumption has also been a problem and upgrades have been made to help control energy costs and consumption in the future. The building's HVAC systems have been upgraded and/or replaced based on their conditions to ensure that a majority of the building is properly ventilated and air conditioned.

In short, building renovations included site work upgrades, exterior façade repairs, new windows and exterior doors, HVAC upgrades with utility changeovers, new cafeteria serveries, new technology infrastructure, and many finish upgrades within the academic wing. These renovations were necessary and will truly transform the learning experience at Salem High School.



Registration for Recreational Programming Now Available Online

The new Fall/Winter 2008-2009 Recreation Brochure is now available. It is jam-packed with recreational programs for residents young and old to enjoy. Old stand-bys like the Wild Turkey Run and the Youth Basketball League are back in full gear joined by our newly expanded art programs and the road race series started last year.

New this year, for the first time residents will now be able to register online for recreational programs offered by the City of Salem Park, Recreation & Community Services Department. Please visit the Recreation Department page at http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_Recreation/index to register. As of now, residents are able to create a log-in and register for

programs then mail in the payment to 5 Broad Street. In the near future the City expects to add credit card as a payment option.

The City is excited to offer this new service to make it more convenient for our residents to participate in our amazing array of recreational programming.

Mad Vac Unit Hits the Downtown

The City of Salem’s Department of Public Services has welcomed a new addition. A Madvac vehicle has hit the streets and will now be a regular presence in Salem’s downtown district.

The Madvac vehicle is an all-wheel drive vacuum collector that cleans litter and debris from paved and grass surfaces. In other cities and towns, the Madvac has been utilized and proven to be extremely effective in maintaining the cleanliness of busy urban cities. The Mad Vac Unit is able to collect



not only paper and cigarette butts but also awkward litter such as bottles, broken glass and aluminum cans.

The City has also assigned public works personnel specifically to the downtown to ensure that litter is picked-up and disposed of on a more frequent basis; trash barrels and big bellies are picked-up in a timely manner and cleaned on a regular basis; tree lawns and grates are maintained and free of debris; cigarette butts are not littered throughout the Pedes-

trian Mall; and kiosks and bollards are painted and maintained. Given the increase in visitor and pedestrian traffic and night life in the downtown, the need for increased attention is necessary.

The Mad Vac Unit provides an effective and efficient way for the City to ensure the cleanliness of sidewalks and other surfaces. It is a high performance piece of equipment that has dramatically improved staff productivity. Best of all, the City was able to make this purchase with revenues generated from the City’s paper recycling efforts.

The new Mad Vac Unit and more focused cleaning and maintenance efforts in our downtown will help make sure the City is clean and welcoming to residents and visitors alike.

Salem High School Ranked Top 50 by Boston Magazine

In the September edition of *Boston Magazine*, Salem High School was ranked in the top 50 for cost efficiency.

Salem High School ranked 47th in cost efficiency and 64th in academic performance when compared to all 325+ public high schools in the Commonwealth. The goal of Boston Magazine’s list of the areas best public high schools was “not to identify only those schools that are performing well, but also those doing so while operating efficiently, too.” It is a good sign that Salem High School is not only operating financially efficient but also ranking well in academic performance.

Other relevant information on the list includes a teacher-to-student ratio of 1:10.7 which is 4th best overall and per pupil spending of \$13,665 which is 27th overall.

Boston Magazine Rankings

<u>Community</u>	<u>Cost Efficiency</u>	<u>Academic Performance</u>
Salem	47	64
Beverly	43	65
Gloucester	63	90
Peabody	40	33
Danvers	119	104
Marblehead	27	24
Swampscott	60	36
Lynn English	113	138
Lynn Classical	89	115
Revere	105	101

Rankings listed are a collection of comparable communities on the North Shore. A full listing can be found in the September edition of *Boston Magazine*.

City Moving Forward with Plans to Transform Waterfront

This month, the City of Salem has received \$2.3 million from the Seaport Advisory Council to fund the final engineering and construction documents related to the development of Salem Wharf, as well as the acquisition of the Blaney Street ferry terminal owned by Dominion Energy.

\$1.3 million is planned to be

used for the development of the final engineering and construction documents related to the build-out of Salem Wharf. Plans for Salem Wharf call for the construction of a concrete and steel pier with utilities and amenities for docked cruise ships, berthing facilities for fishing, transient and charter vessels and a multi-use terminal building for the City's commercial fishing fleet. In 2006, the City installed a new floating dock and gangway system, purchased a 149-passenger catamaran and hired Water Transportation Alternatives, Inc. of Quincy, MA to operate a seasonal, Salem-to-Boston ferry service.

The remaining \$1 million is planned to be used to purchase 10 Blaney Street, the site of the ferry landing. The City hopes to negotiate the sale of this property with Dominion Energy. The

Seaport Advisory Council has already committed \$750,000 toward its acquisition, making \$1.75 million available to purchase the land.

Successful development of this facility will provide an economic boost for Salem and the region by creating broader markets and by

establishing innovative marine-related industry. The anticipated total cost of the Salem Wharf project is \$19.5 million and approximately \$5 million has been raised/expanded to date. This includes site acquisition, project planning, design and engineering, and build-out of port facility.

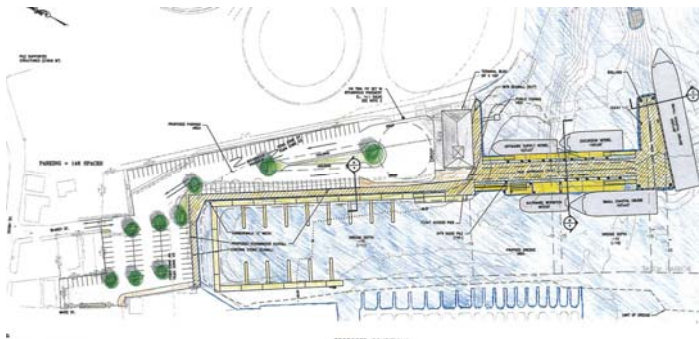
The development of South River Harbor Walk is also moving along briskly. The construction of the Harbor Walk,

an 1100 foot long walkway, will provide access to the South River Basin along its western and southern banks connecting Derby Street to Congress Street Bridge – essentially making an important link from Pickering Wharf to the downtown. It will also directly link to an exciting new waterfront park at 15 Peabody Street which will be constructed concurrently with the Harbor Walk. The park will include a colorful, rubber-surfaced playground area, game tables, grass gathering mound, and canopy wall for potential outdoor entertainment.

The Harbor Walk work also includes a "Boat Plaza" gateway at the Derby Street Entrance, as well as repairs to the existing granite seawall and installation of a new steel sheetpile wall along the western end of the South River Basin. In the future, the City is also planning to dredge the South River

Basin to activate the watershed and fully realize the potential of the area. The City anticipates starting construction in early November 2008, subject to agreements with National Grid, and completing the projects by May 2009.

Upon their completion, these two projects will completely transform the City's waterfront, enhancing both economics and quality of life in the City.



Haunted Happenings Festivities Underway

As the City continues to work to better manage the impacts associated with increased visitors during the month of October, in particular the Halloween holiday, a number of new initiatives are underway. To improve the overall management of October, the City is encouraging higher-quality, family-friendly events throughout the month to give visitors something constructive to participate in while in Salem and to help spread large crowds. In addition,

new parking options are planned for Halloween to give downtown residents more parking alternatives. Last year, some of these events included the carnival on Derby Street, games on the Salem Common, etc. This year, the City is bringing back the carnival on Derby Street, hosting a Pumpkin/Harvest Festival on the Salem Common (hay bale maze, pumpkin decorating, food vendors, scarecrow building station, etc.) and Moon Haven Productions is

organizing an Oktoberfest on Front Street.

On Halloween, a closing ceremony is being organized by the City. With Halloween falling on a Friday this year, there is a need for enhanced police presence and more structured activities including a closing finale that will signal the end of the evening for the thousands of visitors expected that night.

Continued to Page 8

City Receives Financial Excellence Award

The City of Salem has been awarded our third Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) submission.

The CAFR certificate is the highest form of recognition that can be bestowed on a community in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The City's CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel and the award of this certificate of excellence represents a

significant accomplishment.

This is another example of the City's continued effort to professionalize operations aimed at increasing the efficiency of municipal operations. Salem has received this award every year over the last three years under the Driscoll Administration. It is one of only twenty communities in the Commonwealth to receive this distinction. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,000 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL and Washington, D.C.

City Connects Bike Path to Point Neighborhood

The bike path/walkway that starts at the end of Leach Street just got a bit longer.

At the urging of the City's Bike Path Committee, the City extended the walkway/bike path along the ocean at the end of Leach Street through Palmer's Cove Park to Congress Street. This is just another example of the City encouraging and supporting alternative modes of transportation. This newest addition to the City's off road path network goes through Palmer's Cove Park behind the baseball field, from Pioneer Terrace to Congress Street.

Lafayette Street Traffic Safety Improvements Coming Soon

On Monday, September 22, 2008, City officials held a meeting with residents on and around Lafayette Street to discuss proposed safety improvements to Lafayette Street between Raymond Avenue and the Marblehead line. Over the years, this stretch of roadway has been the site of several tragic traffic accidents and the City has made making safety improvements in the area a priority.

A little over a year ago, the City hired the engineering firm of Fay, Spoffard and Thorndike, Inc. (FST) to evaluate this stretch of Lafayette Street and recommend improvements to the roadway that would increase traffic safety. Recently, the City received a final report from FST which included a short- and long-term strategy to deal with this problem. At the meeting, members of the public were presented with the plan and were given the opportunity

to ask questions and provide input.

The report defined improvements in 2 phases – an Immediate Action Plan and a longer-term proposal, if additional work is deemed necessary once initial improvements are made. The Immediate Action Plan, makes recommendations to better identify the curve in the roadway and visually narrow the street, all in an attempt to slow traffic. With these goals in mind, the report recommends enhancing the signage in the area (most of which has already been temporarily installed), installing a stationary variable message radar speed sign, improving pavement markings with cross-hatch painting along the edge of the street and installing raised plowable reflectorized markers. The pavement markings will also provide accom-



modation for bike traffic in this area. The longer-term plan includes a recommendation to physically extend the sidewalks on Lafayette Street to narrow the roadway. To implement the recommendations of the Immediate Action Plan, the City plans to utilize funding from Chapter 90 monies as well as dollars from the Capital Improvement Plan earmarked for speed limit radar signs. In all, these improvements have been estimated to cost \$32,000 to execute.

Ward 7 City Councillor Joseph O'Keefe was instrumental in making these improvements a priority and also participated in the neighborhood meeting.

To view the final report and presentation given at the neighborhood meeting please visit the City's website: www.salem.com under the Engineering Department's webpage. Residents should direct any questions or concerns to the Engineering Department at (978) 619-5673.

Salem Recycles Campaign in Full Gear

This time last fall, Salem's visitors and residents would not have found a single recycling bin in a public park or downtown. Much has changed over the last year due to the City's focus on making Salem more

"Green".

Now, as you walk through the Essex Street Pedestrian Mall you will encounter

several Big Belly solar trash compactors AND separate recycling bins for co-mingled bottles/cans and paper. You will also find these containers at the Salem Ferry and the Willows. During any special event you are now able to recycle your beverage containers in bright blue Canables®, received as part of a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection grant. These recycling containers are filled to the brim at each pick-up; and the City recently applied for more of them as part of this year's DEP grant application.

Earlier this year, the City of Salem bid our solid waste and recycling contract. Under Massachusetts public procurement laws, the City was not required to go out to bid, but local officials felt in order to get the best services and cost, a public and transparent procurement process was important. In the end, the City awarded the contract to the current vendor, Northside Carting but the new contract is \$700,000 less expensive and increased recycling services from bi-weekly to weekly. Terms of the new contract specify a three-barrel trash limit coupled with mandatory cardboard recycling.

Under a separate recycling processing contract, the City is receiving \$65 per ton for all paper and cardboard up from \$50 per ton paid in FY08. During Fiscal Year 2008, Salem received \$75,000 for its recycled paper. With the new collection contract in place and anticipated increase in recycling tonnage (weekly recycling, mandatory cardboard recycling, enforced trash limit and recycling available throughout the City) and an increased per ton paper revenue rate; the City is hoping to at least double that number this Fiscal Year.

For the first six months of the contract, residents have a grace period while the public is educated about the new trash and recycling regulations. While recycling of paper and bottles/cans will not be mandatory, cardboard recycling will, as of January 1, 2009.

Recognizing new trash regulations would soon be in place, this Spring the Mayor appointed a Recycling Committee which consists of Salem citizens with a variety of backgrounds. In conjunction with the City and Northside Carting, this committee has helped frame the education program for the new contract; and participated in several City events to promote recycling, including Earth Day and Salem's Living Green Fair held last June. Many other education efforts are currently underway including a direct mailing to citizens, SATV bulletin board, filming of the "do's and don'ts" of recycling, and handing out flyers in the recycling bins on trash pick up days. The City's Recycling Committee also

entered a float in the Haunted Happenings parade, in conjunction with the Phoenix School, highlighting recycling. Lastly, the Committee plans to submit articles to local media outlets promoting different aspects of recycling.

Part of the new solid waste contract includes placing paper recycling totes or dumpsters at each school, and the revenue generated from the paper are credited back to the schools. During the first two weeks of the program, the contractor picked up over 5 tons of paper from the Salem Schools. Last fall, the City in collaboration with the Salem Chamber of Commerce and Salem Main Streets, produced a recycling tote bag still for sale throughout City retail establishments. Over 10,000 of these bags have been sold. The idea of this effort is to encourage people to use these bags when shopping instead of using plastic and paper bags at the stores.

Other initiatives that support the City's green efforts, are mobile. Walking through the Essex Street Mall, you will see the new Mad Vac Unit, which cleans up waste and cigarette butts in parks and caught between bricks. Additionally, Northside Carting was required to purchase new trucks for the new solid waste contract. The new trucks are fitted with state of the art air pollution devices - catalytic converters that filter the exhaust - ensuring fumes are not polluting the air; and are also protecting the safety of the solid waste contractors.

What's next? The Recycling Committee is beginning to work with the schools to determine how we can promote recycling through the student population. The City is continually updating and improving our website with up to the minute recycling information. We also have a recycling film production scheduled for the spring, and will offer two shredding days this year sponsored by North Shore Recycled Fibers.

For further information, contact (978) 619-5679 or go to Salem.com/recycling.



Attorney General Hosts Winter Heating Roundtable in Salem

Attorney General Martha Coakley held a regional Winter Heating and Energy Roundtable in Salem on Friday October 3, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. as part of a regional series she organized throughout the state. The Winter Heating Roundtables are part of a comprehensive effort by the Attorney General's Office to preemptively address staggering energy cost increases this winter, anticipated to be 40 to 50 percent higher than last year. The goal of each roundtable was to bring together local government officials, public safety personnel, community action programs, faith communities, and social service agencies to share creative ideas and best practices

for addressing the financial, public safety and public health implications of rising energy costs, as well as practical solutions to help consumers get through the upcoming heating season.

Participants included Attorney General Martha Coakley, Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, State Representative John Keenan and representatives from the Salem Fire and School Departments, the City's Renewable Energy Task Force, North

Shore Elder Services, North Shore Community Action Program, North Shore Chamber of Commerce and the

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

The Salem Roundtable was the last of a series of four similar events in Fitchburg, Plymouth and Holyoke. Information gathered at each roundtable will aid the Attorney General's

Office in representing energy customers around the state in future rate proceedings.



New Parking Signs and Pedestrian Maps Come to Downtown

Finding a place to park just became easier for residents and tourists with new parking signs that are being installed to direct people to both short and long-term parking. New pedestrian kiosk maps will help people navigate their way to cultural heritage sites, attractions, shopping, and accommodations downtown. These maps even give information on walking distances.



The new parking signs will help visitors find the more than 1,700 off-street public parking spaces downtown, and the new kiosk displays provide a wealth of information on great downtown destinations once people get out of their cars.

The installation of 32 new parking

signs was recently completed as part of the City's comprehensive signage program. The design is consistent with the historic image of Salem and the signs are easy to see both during the day and at night. Fifteen (15) of these signs are in new locations; the other 17 replace older signs. The four pedestrian map displays at the Essex Street mall/Washington Street, Front Street, Hawthorne

Blvd/Derby Street, and the commuter rail station were also refurbished with attractive, updated maps.

Future phases of the signage program include the installation of additional pedestrian

kiosk map displays and pedestrian way finding signage. The comprehensive signage program is guided by a committee made up of representatives from the City of Salem, Destination Salem, Essex National Heritage Area, Historic Salem, Inc., the National Park Service, the Peabody Essex Museum, the Salem Chamber of Commerce, Salem Main Streets, the Salem Partnership, the Salem Redevelopment Authority, and Salem State College.



Funding for the current phase of the signage program comes from a combination of sources including federal grant dollars and RCG LLC developers. Working closely with the National Park Service in Salem, the City just received a \$50,000 Centennial Grant to continue implementation of the signage program.

Council on Aging Newsletter Now Available en Espanol

The Council on Aging's monthly newsletter, *Senior Power* is now available in Spanish.

Over the last few months, the newsletter has been distributed on a monthly basis to areas in the Point Neighborhood, the Salem Harbor

Community Development Corporation, markets and stores in the Point Neighborhood and other locations.

The newsletter advertises and promotes programs and services provided by the Council on Aging to ensure that all residents - including

bilingual seniors - are aware of these vital services.

Residents who have any questions or would like to receive the newsletter in Spanish should contact Bill Woolley at the Council on Aging at (978) 744-0924.

Closing Ceremony Planned for Halloween

Continued from Page 4

Destination Salem has contracted with VDA Productions to add an element to the closing ceremony on Halloween night. In addition to the fireworks display, the Halloween Finale will incorporate music, light and movement across a broad spectrum with enormous helium-filled orbs. These orbs will be playfully decorated as jack-o-lanterns, ghosts, etc. and will be able to rise nearly 50 feet in the air. Concert-quality music will

play in the background and a light show will accompany the orbs as they “dance” in the air.

This closing ceremony, along with the many other activities on Halloween will hopefully help control crowds and effectively signal the end of Halloween night. This effort has been furthered with extensive dialogue with the MBTA to coordinate train schedules to make sure that visitors can leave the City in an orderly manner and get on a train departing the City

as efficiently as possible.



Downtown Salem: Top Ten Neighborhood in Nation

Continued from Page 1

pedestrian friendly environment. These attributes have come together to make Salem’s downtown an active and vibrant place for residents and visitors to live, work and shop. This award is a wonderful recognition of all that Salem has to offer.

APA’s designation would not have been possible without the involvement of Salem’s strong leaders – past and present. Beginning in the 1970s when urban renewal threatened demolition of historic downtown architecture, local leaders shifted redevelopment policies to address preservation concerns. By 1996, the city had updated its master plan, refocusing its mission on improving the business climate, capitalizing on maritime and cultural heritage, and redeveloping vacant building sites and the neglected waterfront. Today three separate plans address specific neighborhood goals to make the downtown business district a premier retail destination; transform vacant waterfront land into a neighborhood park; and construct a wharf and harbor walk.

Salem’s downtown neighborhood is roughly a half-mile square and orbits around the Salem Common, the cobble Essex Street pedestrian mall, and a cross-hatch of commercial streets lined with two-to-six story buildings, generous sidewalks, and trees. Juxtaposed against these period buildings, is the contemporary addition to the Peabody Essex Museum -- the nation’s oldest continu-

ously operating museum. The adjoining residential streets contain mostly freestanding, single-family homes with close-by churches and pocket green spaces. The neighborhood boasts dozens of retail stores, more than 50 restaurants, and 400 newly built residences.

The nine other APA 2008 Great Neighborhoods are: Echo Park, Los Angeles, CA; Greater Park Hill, Denver, CO; North End, Boise, ID; Old Town Wichita, Wichita, KS; Charles Village, Baltimore, MD; Greater University Hill, Syracuse, NY; Village of Mariemont, Mariemont, OH; Society Hill, Philadelphia, PA; and Downtown Sheridan, Sheridan, WY.



City Works to Improve Accessibility in the Downtown

Last month, the City of Salem's Department of Public Services started work to improve the accessibility in and around the downtown for disabled individuals who live in or visit the City.

The Department of Public Services hired Marchese and Sons Construction to make sidewalk and ramp improvements in several areas within the City's extended downtown area. Close to 20 curb

cuts that have been identified as problematic for individuals with disabilities are being completely reconstructed to make it easier for people to traverse.

While many improvements still remain, this round of construction is a great start to ensure that all individuals feel welcome in our City and can safely navigate in our downtown.

New ramp curb cuts are being installed at the Public Library crosswalk where no curb cut had existed before; Essex Street at Hamilton, Beckford, Cambridge and Barton Square; Washington Street at Church and Lynde Streets; the crosswalk at 27 Charter Street (Salem Housing Authority senior housing complex); 60 Washington Square and several locations on Highland Avenue.

City's Downtown Siphons Being Cleaned

Over the last month, the City's sanitary and storm water sewer siphons are being cleaned for the first time in more than a dozen years. This work is being performed by Podgurski Corporation of Canton, Massachusetts and is expected to dramatically improve both sewer flows and drainage in the City's extended downtown district.

The maintenance of our water and sewer infrastructure is long overdue. This maintenance work is part of our continued efforts to take better care of our aging infrastructure which we hope will minimize the impacts of future flooding in low-lying areas

throughout the City.

Siphons exist in Salem's downtown due to the MBTA's underground railroad tracks and tunnel. When tracks were buried under Washington Street and Riley Plaza, the siphons became necessary to carry sewerage and water runoff underneath the tunnel which otherwise would have disrupted the sewer and drainage flows. The siphons travel under the tunnel and then come up on the other side and tie back into the sewer and drainage infrastructure at the same elevation where it began the dip. The siphons are powered by the gravity pull of the waste and storm water on its downstream side.

When cleaning the siphons, workers were astonished with what was found. Everything from street signs to steel ladders to sludge has been found and pulled out. And that's only in the first one that was cleaned!

Podgurski Corporation won the contract, at a price of \$94,600.00, to clean 6 siphons in the downtown area, which should be completed in 6 weeks, weather depending. The siphons are located at Washington Street and Front Street; in Riley Plaza; two at Mill Street; at railroad tracks and Canal Street; and Canal Street at St. Paul Street.

Citywide Paving Project Begins

The City has begun a city-wide roadway pavement rehabilitation project on various streets throughout the City. Based on recent bids by the City, D&R Corporation of Stoneham, Massachusetts was selected to complete the work with a bid of \$1.59 million.

The City has made improving the overall roadway conditions in the City a priority and this project will be the first of many annual construction projects that will, overtime, improve conditions city-wide. Our recently completed pavement management system has given us a city-wide condition assessment of our roads, and along with our available budget,

has helped the City identify the streets to reconstruct/repave first. It will be important to continue with this annual improvement approach, so we can see the long term benefits of roadway improvements.

The construction work will consist primarily of two pavement treatments 1.) grinding out of the existing pavement and replacement with new; and 2.) pulverizing of existing pavement and regrading to create a new improved base with overlay pavement. Notices will be distributed to residents on affected streets prior to work starting by the Engineering Department, who is managing the project for the City. There may be a short period

of time between construction activities that the road is left with a rough surface or manhole structures are raised, prior to final paving. Residents and drivers on such streets are urged to use caution as it is an active construction site.

Hours that construction is taking place is 7 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday, completing by early December. There shall be no work allowed on holidays or weekends, except on Wilson Street, which is scheduled for Saturday construction due to school traffic concerns.

A list of the streets to be improved can be found on the city web site at www.salem.com.



www.salem.com