

**MAYOR KIM  
DRISCOLL'S  
BIMONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER**

# FYI SALEM

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**CONTACT  
THE  
MAYOR'S  
OFFICE:**

**Phone:**  
(978) 619-5600

**Fax:**  
(978) 744-9327

**Email:**  
[Mayor@  
Salem.com](mailto:Mayor@Salem.com)

**Web:**  
[Salem.com/Mayor](http://Salem.com/Mayor)

**Facebook:**   
Kim Driscoll

**Twitter:**   
[@MayorDriscoll](https://twitter.com/MayorDriscoll)

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Friends,

The City of Salem is in full spring cleanup mode now that the weather has turned warm. This past week the Department of Public Services began its intensive street sweeping of the downtown and the work continues on to entrance corridors and neighborhoods later this month.

Director of Public Services John Tomasz and his crew are tasked with maintaining the over 130 miles of roadways, 35-plus parks and playgrounds, cemeteries and other infrastructure that we call home.

This year the city imple-

mented a plan for a more rigorous cleaning this spring, similar to the one we undertake each fall after our Halloween festivities.

In addition, the city is excited about two upcoming annual events organized by the Salem Beautification Committee to get residents in the mood for the warmer weather.

Salem's annual Clean Sweeps is May 2, when schools and neighborhood groups volunteer their time, sprucing up areas around the city.

May 16 is the annual Plant Sale on the Salem Common. Annuals, hanging baskets, house plants and home grown perennials will be available for purchase.

The parks, including Salem Willows, are now up and running for the Summer months. Most ven-

dors are open for business as are the public facilities at our city's parks.

Sunday is opening day for Little League at Forrest River Park. It is always a great time and a right of passage for many youngsters in our community.

Springtime has also brought about many important developments for the future of our great city.

The National Grid Cable Replacement Project is underway. The RFP soliciting proposals for the former District Court building is out and the Footprint Power project is moving forward. We also expect the long awaited Community Life Center to proceed as a stand alone facility.

I hope everyone is excited as I am for the warmer weather and ready to take advantage of Spring in Salem.

I look forward to seeing you out and about!

**CONTACT:**

Department of  
Public Services

**Phone:**  
(978) 744-3302

**Fax:**  
(978) 744-6820

**Website:**

[www.salem.com/  
pages/SalemMA\\_DPW/  
index](http://www.salem.com/pages/SalemMA_DPW/index)

## Busy Times at DPS

When most people think about the Department of Public Services, snow removal usually comes to the forefront.

However, the spring cleanup is equally as busy a time of year for the 45-person team that works out of the building down at 5 Jefferson Avenue.

Snow removal is an important, albeit not glorious, aspect of the DPS.

However, spring and summer months give DPS an opportunity to make the city a beautiful and greener place through cleanup and other special initiatives.

The first order of business is to complete the street sweeping that started last week in the downtown area, and continues city-wide through mid-May.

The high snowfall totals caused DPS to re-examine and intensify its cleanup tactics for this spring.

“We’re going to do a Haunted Happenings-type cleanup,” said DPS Director John Tomasz. “It’s the first spring we will be using blowers in addition to the street sweepers.”

The feedback from the work in the downtown business area has been extremely positive from both residents and business owners.

“I think it worked out great. It looks really nice down there,” said Tomasz.

The street sweeping will continue over the next few weeks.

“It’s a three to four week project usually, but it can vary depending on rain,” Tomasz explained.

The sweeping format is also slightly different this spring. Residents will notice the sweepers, one city-owned and two contracted vehicles, moving up the odd side of streets one day and followed up by the even sides a day or two later. Street sweeping isn’t the only project on the forefront of the spring agenda for DPS.

“We also have to get to parks, cemeteries, sports fields and other property owned by the city,” Tomasz reported.

The cleaning up of the Salem Willows is a major priority of the department after the site was used for two of the

three snow farms this winter.

“It will be a big job going down there and cleaning up the snow farms. We have to pick up the litter, repair bike racks, benches and signs broken in the winter,” Tomasz said.

He reiterated that his staff will do the best it can to refurbish the landscape at the Willows to return it to its natural beauty.

“Some of that stuff, we won’t really be able to assess until June, but we’re working on it.”

DPS has already filled many of the city’s potholes that were exacerbated by the terrible winter weather.

“We’ve knocked off a lot of the potholes on our list,” Tomasz reported.

Potholes, damaged city-owned trees and other complaints can be reported via SeeClickFix at [www.seeclickfix.com/salem\\_ma/](http://www.seeclickfix.com/salem_ma/).

The full street sweeping schedule can be found at [http://salem.com/Pages/Salem-MA\\_WebDocs/2015weep.pdf](http://salem.com/Pages/Salem-MA_WebDocs/2015weep.pdf).



## For The City: Beautification Committee

The Salem Beautification Committee assists the city in developing and pursuing initiatives that promote a more beautiful city to call home.

The committee, chaired by Lisa Lyons, is active all year long, but is in overdrive as the city looks to recover from a long and snowy winter.

The committee's goal is to create civic pride as it identifies areas of

need around the city.

The Beautification Committee has two big events upcoming, Clean Sweeps and the Plant Sale.

Lafayette Park will be the committee's area of focus for Clean Sweeps, according to chair Lisa Lyons.

The Beautification Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room at 120 Washington St, the City Hall Annex Building.

### Committee Members:

**Lisa Lyons (Chair), Barbara Sirois, Barbara Swartz, Bev Moustakis, Judith Wolfe, Marc Berube, Marcia Lambert, Mary-Ellen Halliwell, Sandra Power, Sara Fiore**

### Website:

[http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA\\_BComm/beautification](http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_BComm/beautification)

## Working for You: John Tomasz



Photo Credit: Salem News

**#1) Position:** Director of Public Services

**#2) Time at DPS:**  
3 Years

**#3) Responsibilities:** Oversees the 45-person Department of Public Services, the department tasked with maintaining the city's infrastructure.

**#4) When did John begin his**

**career in Public Services?** 18 years ago he transitioned to the public sector after working as a residential engineer

**#5) Most Rewarding part of job:** "Completing tasks, it feels good to look back and see clean projects that make the city a better place to live and work," Tomasz said.

**#6) Most memorable moment in Salem:** "Involvement in the blizzard and snow storms this winter.

[Employees] were working 35-40 hours straight with very little breaks. Lots of coffee. It was impressive to see our staff's dedication to the city," said Tomasz.

**#7) Outside DPS:** John lives with his wife Laurie and their four dogs. He has a son Danny and two daughters, Leah and Lindsey. He likes to hike, golf, ski and go to the gym in his free time.

## Plant Sale Coming Up May 16, 2015

The Salem Beautification Committee is holding its annual Plant Sale May 16, 2015 on the Salem Common.

The event, started in 2008, is a fundraiser by the committee. Annuals, hanging baskets, house plants and home grown perennials will all be for sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event showcases the pride the committee has for the city, but it is far from the only notable activity the group is spearheading this spring.

According to committee chair Lisa Lyons, the group is actively cleaning over 40 traffic islands throughout the city.



Mayor Driscoll with Beautification Committee at 2013 Plant Sale.

## Yard Waste

The first yard waste collection of 2015 will take place from April 27 through May 1 in Salem. During that week, residents should place leaves and grass clippings in brown paper yard waste bags or uncovered garbage cans curbside on the same morning as their regular trash/recycling collection day.

Only the following items are accepted: lawn clippings, leaves, brush, plants, and bundled branches no longer than four feet or wider than four inches. Tree stumps and logs will not be collected.

Salem residents with proper

identification can always drop off yard waste at the Salem Transfer Station on 9 Swampscott Road during normal business hours (7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Saturdays). More information about the transfer station is available at [http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA\\_Recycling/transfer](http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_Recycling/transfer).

The next yard waste curbside collection will take place the week of June 22 through June 26. For additional information about yard waste collection in Salem please visit [http://salem.com/Pages/SalemMA\\_Recycling/](http://salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_Recycling/)

regardwaste or call the Trash and Recycling Office at 978-619-5673.



## Clean Sweeps

With everyone finally starting to thaw out and fully dig out from a long and snowy winter, next month's Clean Sweeps couldn't be coming at a better time to help spruce up the city. Salem's *Annual Clean Salem Green Salem Day* is Saturday, May 2, 2015.

Led by the Beautification Committee, cleanup activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. Schools and neighborhood groups will be targeting areas throughout the city that could benefit from spring cleanup. The Beautification Committee encourages volunteers to help in the group's effort to clean Lafayette Park and areas along Lafayette Street.

Any resident wishing to show up and lend a hand would be greatly appreciated by the Beautification Committee. Chairperson Lisa Lyons reports the committee will invite volunteers to a thank you pizza party at noon in the Salem Common.

For more information or to register a group for a cleanup area, please contact Ellen Talkowsky by email at [eltalkowsky@salem.com](mailto:eltalkowsky@salem.com) or by telephone at (978) 619-5679.

**Spring  
Cleaning**