



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Like no doubt many of you I was deeply saddened to hear of former Salem Mayor Tony Salvo's passing earlier this week. It was under his administration that I took my first steps into the world of municipal government, as an intern in the Salem Planning Department. He was a gentleman, a public servant, and a champion of Salem and all its residents. Flags at Salem City buildings have been lowered to half-staff in his memory and we are all extending our condolences to his wife and family in this time of sorrow.

The end of May brings Memorial Day Week-end to Salem and our Veterans Council and Office of Veterans Services has been busy preparing for the commemorations. A full schedule is inside this issue. My thanks also go out to Salem Veterans Agent Kim Emerling, who puts together the Memorial Day Ceremony and works tirelessly on behalf of our veterans every day. I am also grateful to our Public Works crews who work diligently to prepare Greenlawn Cemetery and the parade route for this important annual gathering.

Speaking of cemeteries, we've included details in this issue of the newsletter about a significant Massachusetts Cultural Council grant the City received last week to undertake a historic preservation project in the Charter Street Cemetery. This

funding is part of a major endeavor to protect this important cultural asset and to expand public access to it in a respectful and thoughtful manner.

The arrival of June also means the arrival of the FREE Salem Trolley rides season for Salem residents! Bring your proof of residency to the Salem Trolley offices to get your pass. Residents can ride free June 1 through September 30.

June, of course, is also budget season. Today we submitted the proposed FY2018 City budget to the City Council, which will begin their hearings on it next week. We'll have our Visual Budget website—<http://salem.visgov.com/>—updated to reflect the FY2018 numbers very soon, so keep an eye out for that.

Thanks for taking the time to read FYI Salem!

Kim Driscoll, Mayor

Memorial Day Events

Sunday, May 28

9:00 - Wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans Section of St. Mary's cemetery, off of North Street.

10:00 - Mass at St. John's on St. Peter Street.

11:30 - Following Mass will be a naval cannon salute to those lost at sea at Winter Island.

12:00 - Collation at the Polish League of American Veterans (PLAV) club on Daniels Street. All are welcome to attend.

Monday, May 29

10:30 - Parade departs from Commercial Street. Free Trolley ride for any veteran unable to march.

11:00 - Memorial Day ceremony at Green Lawn cemetery. Guest speaker is USMC SGT Russ Felt, Vietnam veteran.

12:30 - Collation at the VFW, 95 Derby Street. All are welcome to attend.



Free Trolley Rides

Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll, in partnership with the Salem Trolley, is pleased to once again offer free rides on the Salem Trolley for Salem residents starting June 1st and lasting until September 30th. Residents can receive a Resident Ticket by providing proof of residency at the Salem Trolley office (8 Central Street). This year marks the sixth year for the popular program.



"I want to thank the Salem Trolley for their generosity in once again making this terrific program possible for the people of Salem," said Mayor Driscoll. "They are a true asset to Salem and our business community. I hope residents will make use of this great opportunity to take an enjoyable ride out to the Willows or to Salem Wharf, where they can catch the Salem Ferry to Boston, this summer."

The Trolley runs 7 days a week, 10am-5pm. The route includes much of downtown Salem and also the Salem Willows. The complete route map is available at <http://saletrolley.com/map-of-tour-3.html>.

Mayor Tony Salvo



Statement from Mayor Kim Driscoll on the passing of former Salem Mayor Anthony V. Salvo (Mayor, 1984-1989)

"I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former Salem Mayor Tony Salvo. Always a gentleman, Mayor Salvo loved Salem with a spirit of dedication that few could match. His tireless efforts, both in public service and as a volunteer in numerous capacities, and his profound commitment to our city have left this community a better place as a result.

"I owe my start in municipal government to my time working as an intern in the City's Planning Department during Mayor Salvo's tenure. I recall his passion for the preservation of Salem Woods and his early support for building senior housing downtown.

"On behalf of the residents of Salem, I offer Tony's wife, Lillian, and the entire Salvo family our City's deepest condolences."

Charter Street Cemetery Grant

The City of Salem has received a \$125,000 Cultural Facilities Fund grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which will be used to help complete a substantial historic preservation project planned for the Charter Street Cemetery. The grant will be matched up with a separate \$260,000 Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant, also awarded this month, and other funding in order to carry out a multi-phase preservation and restoration project in the City's oldest burial ground.

"I am so pleased that the City was able to earn this grant funding so this project can continue to move forward," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "My thanks go to the Mass Cultural Council and the Governor for their recognition of how important this project is and the need to preserve and improve access for all to sites of cultural and historical significance such as this. I also want to thank our City staff who worked to secure these funds and to keep this project on track. Finally, I want to acknowledge the many volunteers and community historians who are dedicated to protecting this important site and sharing the stories and legacies that it has to tell."

The restoration work commenced last year with the preservation of historically significant headstones in the cemetery through a separate \$90,000 CPA grant. The remainder of the project includes a variety of elements that will improve the cemetery's historic integrity and public accessibility. Cemetery pathways will be stabilized and upgraded, in-ground lighting will be installed, historically appropriate fencing will be restored and installed around the cemetery perimeter, and major landscaping improvements will be carried out.



Established in 1637 and located in the heart of the Charter Street National Historic District, the 1.47-acre cemetery is the City's oldest burial ground and a location that is visited by approximately 600,000 people every year. Notable Salem figures from the City's history are buried in the cemetery, including Salem Witch Trial judges Jonathan Corwin and John Hathorne, woodcarver and architect Samuel McIntire, and Mayflower passenger Captain Richard More.

FY18 City Budget

The text below is from Mayor Driscoll's letter to the City Council submitting her proposed FY18 Budget. The proposed budget will be available at <http://www.salem.com/auditor-director-finance> later this week.

The FY18 budget reflects a balanced and responsible spending plan for our community that continues to invest in critical quality of life, public infrastructure, and education needs that help make Salem the hub of the North Shore and such an attractive place to live, visit, do business, and raise a family. I believe this budget will continue to lead this great City forward and recommend its adoption for the coming fiscal year.

Our general City budget has increased by 3.2% this year, which includes adjustments to fixed costs that are largely not in our control, as well as enhancements in school and public safety operating budgets. For instance, our schools' budget will increase by \$1.28 million dollars, representing our continued commitment to giving our schools and our teachers the resources they need to help our children succeed.

The enterprise fund budgets (water, sewer and trash) will increase by 4.6% due to increases in assessments for these services; however, given current enterprise funds, we will not require a change in current water, sewer or trash rates this year. I am proud that we instituted a practice of including a forward-looking capital plan in our budget each year, as a responsible and transparent way of planning for future obligations while meeting present-day needs to best serve Salem residents.

From having nothing in our rainy-day stabilization fund when we took office, we today have almost \$6 million in that fund thanks to permanent, prudent finance policies that we have worked

collectively with the Council to put in place. From having a dismal bond rating, today we have the highest bond rating in our City's history, for three years running. As you may know, three years ago, Salem's bond rating was upgraded by Standard & Poor's to AA. We have maintained that rating since then.

We have received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) highest accolades for fiscal transparency for the last nine years.

We've been able to be respectful of taxpayers, while also investing in critical local needs. The FY2018 budget maintains our dedication to fiscal responsibility while also leading Salem forward. In FY2018 we will continue to strive to exceed the service level expectations of our constituents, while simultaneously ensuring fiscal prudence in all expenditures.

I believe the proposed FY2018 budget represents a strong commitment to the integrity of the people we have been elected to serve. It continues our balanced and responsible approach to city finances and budgets. It invests in continuing to make Salem a forward-looking city, a safe city, a welcoming city, a city with schools that we can be proud of – in short, a great city.

