



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Thanks to all of the sponsors, City and Park Service personnel, performers, and volunteers who helped make this year's July 4th celebration so remarkable and so special. This year's fireworks were especially memorable, as was the live music. It was great to be able to share the celebration with what appeared, to me at least, to be a record crowd! I think everyone left the celebration with a smile on their face and pride in the hearts. My thanks to all who helped organize the festivities.

In this issue of FYI Salem you'll find a notice about work starting next week to renovate and rebuild

the public restrooms at Mack Park. Mack Park is a real jewel of a green space, home to a wonderful playground, community gardens, and a Salem Little League/Softball field. This new amenity is being constructed thanks to funding from a CPA Grant the City received.

You'll also find an update from me about how we're working closely with community partners to try to tackle the homelessness problem in Salem through access to housing, supportive services and social work, police presence, and public education.

In the world of transportation, we have two major updates in this issue: first, we're doubling the size of our bike share program with Zagster, adding three new hubs and eighteen more bikes. The new stations will be at the Willows, in the Point, and on the Salem/Marblehead bike trail. Second, we have an important update about how we'll be working to manage impacts from the

MBTA's summer shut down of the commuter rail on our line. If you're a commuter, an occasional transit rider or someone who travels in and around the commuter station, you'll want to be aware of these impacts and check out this important update.

Relatedly, tune in to the latest FYI Salem Podcast on iTunes or online at <http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast>. I'm joined by Jessica Casey, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Service Planning for the MBTA, and Matt Smith, Salem's Director of Traffic and Parking to discuss the upcoming commuter rail project, which will result in train service being shut down from July 8 through September 30 on weekends and north of Salem 7 days a week from July 17 through August 13, and how Salem is preparing to manage the temporary changes in commuter traffic as a result.

Kim Driscoll

Mayor, City of Salem

Homelessness in Salem

Over the last few months, City and police officials, in collaboration with Lifebridge, North Shore Community Health Center, North Shore Community Action Program, and the regional Workforce Investment Board, have been exploring strategies to address the growing homeless population in Salem. While Salem is a leader in providing supportive housing for the homeless, there is still a shortage of available units, as well as services needed to keep people off the streets long term.



Some people who are homeless struggle with serious health, mental health, or addiction issues that interfere with their ability to hold employment. In addition, many homeless people have education deficits, limited job skills, or gaps in their work history that make it difficult for them to obtain living wage employment. Thus, most people who are homeless not only need housing, but access to services to foster ongoing housing stability, improved health and maximum self-sufficiency.

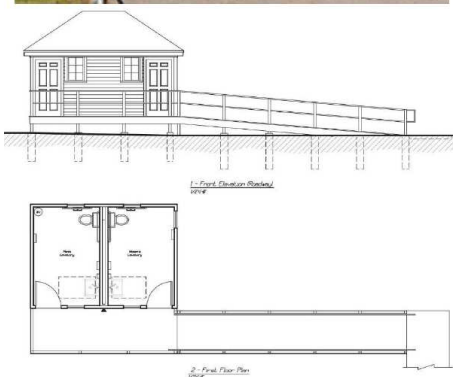
We will not abandon one of our most vulnerable populations, however nor can we ignore some of the nuisance like behavior of homeless individuals in and around public spaces in Salem. We are working on building opportunities to connect our homeless population to services, while also enforcing local laws and increasing police visibility and walking beats in areas where the homeless congregate. We will be providing additional case workers and community outreach services to the homeless population. And we are implementing a job component that will connect members of our transient population to work.

Salem is a compassionate community and transient panhandlers report bringing in upwards of \$200+ per day. Unfortunately, too often these dollars are used to support behaviors that lead to nuisances in public spaces. The City will be launching a public education campaign about this concern and identify alternative giving options to help provide support services. It's important to involve residents, business owners, community groups, as well as homeless individuals and families in a conversation about what we can do collectively to address the issue of homelessness and we'll be hosting a citywide public meeting on this topic later in July. Once the date and location are confirmed it will be posted at www.salem.com/news.

Mack Park Restrooms



The City's contractor, Baystate Building & Remodeling, will be commencing with the mobilization and interior demolition of the existing inoperable public restrooms at Mack Park during the week of July 10. The renovation for new accessible public restrooms will follow immediately after. The entire project is anticipated to be complete by mid-August, weather permitting. Work hours for this project are 8am to 5pm.



While there are currently two buildings, when the work is finished there will be two sets of restrooms in one building. Parking may be limited or unavailable near the work site during the demolition and construction. Access to the public playground adjacent to the restrooms should always be available during construction, however parents should use caution with children near the work site.

This project is made possible through a grant from the Salem Community Preservation Act Fund.

Bike Share Expansion

On July 17 the City of Salem, in partnership with Zagster, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, and Salem State University, will launch three new Zagster-Salem bike share stations. The new stations will be located at the intersection of Fort Avenue and Restaurant Row at the Salem Willows, at the intersection of Ward Street and Congress Street in the Point neighborhood, and at Salem State University's central campus at the intersection of the Salem/Marblehead bike trail and Loring Avenue.

"I am very excited to announce that we are able to expand our bike sharing network," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "With new hubs at the Willows, the Point, and South Salem near the bike trail, we're adding connections to neighborhoods and public parks that can benefit residents and visitors alike. If you're looking for a way to get around Salem, I hope you'll consider leaving the car at home and using a Zagster-Salem bike instead!"

The three stations will offer 18 additional bicycles, adding to the City's existing network with stations at Federal and Washington Streets, Front and Washington Streets, and the Salem Wharf on Blaney Street. The opening of the new stations will coincide with a major technology upgrade to the entire Zagster-Salem system. All bikes and stations will be updated to Zagster's new Bluetooth ring lock, a pioneering technology that replaces the manual U-lock system with one that unlocks the bicycles directly via the smartphone app.

Offering connections with other forms of transit, including the MBTA multi-modal station and Salem Ferry, the Zagster-Salem Bike Share promises to both ease commutes to work and offer a fun recreational activity for residents and visitors. Unlike big-city bike shares where riders must drop off bikes at designated stations for every stop, Zagster bikes have a built-in bike lock which allows users to ride the bike as long as they want and stop wherever they want along the way and lock the bike. Bikes only need to return to a Zagster-Salem station at the end of a ride.

Using the Zagster-Salem Bike Share is easy. Bikes are accessible at any station via the Zagster Mobile App – available for iPhone and Android – or online at [Zagster.com/Salem](https://zagster.com/Salem). Use the Zagster app to unlock a bike at a station, enjoy your ride, and, when you are ready to end your trip, bring the bike back to any Zagster station and press the lock button to end the ride.

Ridership is possible through two options:

- Option 1: Hourly Rate (\$3.00/hour).
- Option 2: Annual Membership (\$25/year or \$10 with promotional code BIKESALEM through August 2017). Annual memberships provide unlimited rides with the first hour free. Additional hourly fees apply for longer rides.

Zagster-Salem bikes include a spacious front basket that's perfect for carrying shopping bags or personal belongings. As rider safety is a priority, every bike includes automatic lights, a bell, and full reflectors. Riders must be 18 years or older. Please obey traffic laws, wear a helmet, and be a safe rider.



Managing MBTA Shutdown

As the MBTA shuts down commuter rail service north of Salem July 17-August 13 to repair the railroad bridge between Salem and Beverly, the City will be making the following changes in anticipation of additional commuter vehicle traffic.

Temporary taxi stand: Taxi cabs and other ride service vehicles will not be permitted into the garage during this time period. A temporary stand will be posted on Washington Street southbound from Bridge Street to Federal Street.

Salem resident-only lot: The City of Salem's surface parking lot adjacent to the MBTA garage will be available on these dates for Salem residents only July 17-August 13. Cars parked in the lot must be registered to a Salem address, and license plate lookup will be used by enforcement personnel. The lot will continue to be \$4/day.

Overflow parking: Additional parking is available at the Universal Steel lot on Bridge Street. Parking will continue to be \$4/day. Parkers are encouraged to pay using the Passport parking app (<https://ppprk.com/park/>) – available on iOS and Android devices – as the lot only has one payment kiosk and lines may form. Day-long parking will also be available, as always, in the Church Street surface lot and the Museum Place garage. For more information about parking options in Salem, please visit <http://www.salem.com/traffic-and-parking-department>.

Pick-up/Drop-off: The MBTA pick-up and drop-off location on these dates will be relocated to the northbound on-ramp to Route 114 West/North Street off of Bridge Street. Pick-up and drop-off, also called "kiss and ride", will not be permitted in the MBTA garage property from July 17-August 13.

Residential parking enforcement: Additional parking enforcement personnel will be monitoring neighborhoods around the MBTA station from July 17-August 13 to provide additional parking enforcement of no parking, resident parking only, and other regulations. To report an illegally parked vehicle, call the Salem Police at 978-744-1212.

Police details: Police details will be present in key downtown intersections on some dates and times during the July 17-August 13 period. Please follow directions from any details present, as they will be working to help ensure traffic moves through intersections in as orderly a manner as possible.

Expanded bike share: Zagster bike share stations will be added July 17 at Ward St. & Congress St., Salem Willows, and Loring Ave. near the bike trail. Use the promotional code BIKESALEM through August to get discounted Zagster membership. Bike to the Federal St. Zagster station for easy access to commuter rail. Visit www.zagster.com/salem for details.

Expanded weekend ferry service: The City of Salem and Boston Harbor Cruises will be expanding ferry service to and from Long Wharf in Boston on weekends July 15-September 30. These new trips will be on a different vessel from the Bowditch, Salem's regular ferry, and trip times will be approximately 75 minutes. The added ferry service departs Long Wharf, Boston, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and departs Salem Wharf at noon and 3 p.m.

From July 17-August 13 increased ferry ridership is anticipated, especially during commuting hours, so ferry passengers are advised to plan accordingly, purchase tickets in advance online at www.salemferry.com, and arrive early if possible. Parking availability is limited at the Blaney Street lot, so commuters are encouraged to walk or bike to the ferry. Bike racks are next to the ferry office, bikes are allowed on the ferry, and there is Zagster Bike Share hub at Blaney Wharf.



South Salem residents who typically drive to the commuter rail station are encouraged during this time to utilize a station south of Salem on the commuter rail line or to consider the Lynn to Boston Ferry (7:45am departure from Lynn, 6:00pm return from Boston, \$7 each way) or taking the Blue Line.

In addition to the July 17-August 13 closure of the commuter rail line north of Salem, commuter rail service will shut down along the entire Newburyport/Rockport line every weekend from July 8-September 30 so that the MBTA can install federally-mandated Positive Train Control infrastructure. During this time period, the MBTA will run shuttle bus service to and from North Station from all stations on the line. Thirteen inbound and eleven outbound shuttles will service the Salem MBTA station. Total travel time for trips between Salem and North Station are estimated to be 1 hour. (See <http://bit.ly/WeekendShuttle> for full shuttle schedule).