

FYI SALEM

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Peas for Fees	2
Discounted Overflow Bags	2
McGlew Park Update	3
Transfer Station Closing	3
Mayor's Shoe- box Drive	3
Courts Presentation	4
New Veterans Fund	4



I hope you and your loved ones had a wonder Thanksaiving. The start of December brings the start of a busy holiday season in Salem. In the last issue of FYI Salem we shared information about Small Business Saturday, but our local small retailers and restaurants have all manner of specials and discounts available this month. As your taking care of that gift list, please shop local first!

In this issue of FYI Salem, we have some updates about what to do with the trash and recycling that always seems to accumulate this time of year. Please help us by recycling as much as you can. When you absolutely must throw it away, however, we're pleased to offer discounted overflow trash bags during the holiday season. The Salem Transfer Station will be open through later this month for weekend yard waste drop off, as well.

From the Mayor's Desk

Read more in this issue about the return of our always popular "Peas for Fees" discount: donate two canned aoods for those in need, and we'll waive up to \$30 in late fees on unpaid parking tickets. We also have information inside about the annual Mayor's Shoebox Drive, organized by the Salem Youth Commission. Last year the commission collected around 200 shoeboxes full of donated toiletries for Salem kids and families in need. Find out where you can drop off a donation for this year's drive!

Details are in this issue about a new Salem Veterans Fund that we're hoping the City Council will agree to establish this week. If approved, you'll see a line on your property tax bill where you can donate to the fund to provide assistance to Salem veterans in need and their families.

Lastly, there are updates in this issue about two ongoing projects. First, the work at McGlew Park where we're carrying out some exciting improvements. And, second, about an upcoming meeting about the redevelopment of the vacant courthouses on Federal Street.

Thanks again for reading FYI Salem!

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Kim Driscoll Mayor

PAGE I

PAGE 2

Peas for Fees



The City of Salem's annual "Peas for Fees" ticket amnesty program will run December 1 through December 21. The program allows for the waiver of late fees on parking violations in exchange for a donation of canned goods and non-perishable items. All food will go to local Salem food pantries.

Up to \$30 in late fees will be waived in exchange for the donation of at least two canned goods or non-perishable items at the City Collector's Office

at Salem City Hall, 93 Washington Street.

The "Peas for Fees" program has become an annual tradition in Salem and has successfully brought in donations of food for those in need and also additional receipts for the City. In the spirit of the holidays, this program will once again give individuals who owe late fees an incentive to pay their tickets, providing additional food supplies to needy food pantries and hopefully resulting in an extra infusion of funds for the City.

Discounted Overflow Bags

Salem residents may purchase official Orange Overflow trash bags for \$1 per bag for any holiday overflow. Each household may purchase up to five bags, from Monday December 18, 2017 through Monday January 8, 2018, during regular City office hours. These discounted bags may **only** be purchased at the Collector's Office, 93 Washington Street, and the Council on Aging, 5 Broad Street.

For excess recycling, you may either wait until the next recycling collection day to put it out curbside or bring it to Caraustar at 53 Jefferson Avenue (for more information, call 978-744-4330). Recycling brought to Caraustar must be sorted before it is dropped off. Regular business hours for Caraustar are 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., with the following holi-



day hours: CLOSED December 23, December 31, December 25, and January 1. OPEN December 22 from 7:00 a.m. to noon.

For collection of bulky items, please call Waste Management at 800-972-4545 to schedule an appointment for pick-up at least 48 hours in advance of the intended collection. The Waste Management customer service line is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Up to two bulky items will be collected on your regular recycling collection day if you have made an appointment in advance. For more information about recycling and trash in Salem, please visit <u>http://www.salem.com/recycling-and-trash</u>.

FYI SALEM

McGlew Park Update



Great progress has been made on the renovation of McGlew Park, located at 201 ½ North Street. Construction activities will slow down during the winter; however, the park will continue to be a construction zone. As a safety precaution, the park will remain closed to all public access until work is completed in the spring of 2018.

Upon reopening, the park will have a variety of new play equipment, irrigation to support a healthy new lawn, renovations to the softball backstop, a resurfaced basketball court with new equipment, a new walking path, and an accessible entrance with a new prominent memorial wall. The \$600,000 project is funded by a

\$400,000 State Park Grant, in addition to Community Development Block Grant funding, and local Community Preservation Act and Capital Improvement funds. JJ Phelan and Sons Construction is performing the work.

Transfer Station Closing

The Salem Transfer Station on Swampscott Road will close for the season after Sunday, December 17. Salem residents with proof of residency or property ownership will be able to continue dropping off their yard waste at the Transfer Station on weekends through Sunday December 17. Drop off hours are Saturdays 7am to 3pm,



and Sundays 9am to 5pm. The Transfer Station will re-open in the spring.

Yard waste should be dropped off in a paper yard waste bag or dumped loose at the designated area on the site. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be accepted and stumps and branches greater than 2" in diameter will also not be accepted. The next curbside yard waste collection will take place the week of April 23, 2018. Residential trash and construction and demolition debris are <u>not</u> be accepted at the Transfer Station.



PAGE 3

FYI SALEM

Courts Presentation

The Boston chapter of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) has selected Salem as a location for a Strategic Assistance Panel (SAP). The SAP is part of ULI's Technical Assistance Program to provide objective, expert advice to municipalities on the feasibility, design, or implementation of development initiatives. This pro bono program brings expertise in real estate, design, and finance to bear on local land use planning and development projects. The SRA worked with the ULI in 2008 on a study of the Church Street lots.



This year, the SRA asked the ULI to assist with determining the best approach to development in the downtown. Of particular interest

to the SRA is the adaptive reuse of the Salem Superior Court and County Commissioners buildings. A recently completed study found only residential reuse would be feasible. However, the feasibility was dependent upon the use of federal and state historic tax credits and \$1 million in other tax credits. Therefore, the SRA is considering options to increase the odds for success for these buildings, including an idea to bundle the historic court buildings with one or more other properties, while looking at the approach to downtown as a whole.

The ULI SAP will be held on December 11. At 6pm, there will be a public presentation and discussion of the panel's recommendations on the pros and cons of different approaches to development. The presentation will be held on the third floor of the City Hall Annex at 120 Washington St.

New Veterans Fund

Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll has filed a request with the City Council to establish a new Veterans Assistance Fund for Salem veterans.

If approved by the City Council, Salem taxpayers will see an option to donate to the fund on future property tax bills. All donations will be utilized to provide Salem veterans and their dependents with aid for food, transportation, and heat and oil expenses. The application process, eligibility standards, and management of the fund will fall to the City's Veterans Agent.

"I hope the City Council will adopt the proposed measure to establish this fund and add this donation option to Salem tax bills," said Mayor Driscoll. "The state allows municipalities to set up these special funds to help our deserving veterans and their families with critical essentials such as food and heating expenses. These men and women have given so much to our community, this is an appropriate way to continue our efforts to give back to them. If approved, I hope Salem residents will consider filling in the line on their next tax bill and giving, even a small amount if that's all they afford, to this worthwhile new fund."

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VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND As provided in Chapter 60, Section 3C, The City of Salem has established a voluntary City scholarship fund, a voluntary education fund and a Veterans fund. If you wish to contribute to either of these funds, please fill in the nec- essary information below and return with your bill and tax payment. Please note that any contribution is over and above the amount of the tax due.		\$0.00	
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