



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



This issue marks our final installment of FYI Salem for 2017. As we wrap up this year, I would like to thank everyone who has subscribed, shared, and contributed to the newsletter. I also want to thank the more than fifty guests who have appeared on the FYI Salem podcast.

If you haven't checked the podcast out yet, you can find it at <http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or on iTunes or your preferred podcast service. Just search for "FYI Salem" and subscribe!

Read in this issue for important information from Footprint, the new natural gas power plant be-

ing built on Derby Street. This \$1 billion project is wrapping up and as they near completion there will be some tests of the equipment that may temporarily create noise and steam. Find out more inside.

We also have an update on the improvements underway at Lafayette Park and information about the next round of CPA grant applications. The first phase, eligibility applications, are due on January 4th for funding in FY18. We're looking for your great ideas about how this important local grant resource can be leveraged for affordable housing, parks and recreation, and historic preservation in our community!

On January 1st our "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance goes into effect. Businesses in Salem will no longer be able to provide thin, disposable plastic bags. Please help us cut down on harmful and obnoxious plastic litter by bringing your own reusable bags when shopping in Salem!

Finally, please join us as we celebrate the inauguration of the 2018 City government on January 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the Atrium at PEM. Following the ceremony, come by the new Hotel Salem, 203 Essex Street, for an open house, to tour the new building, and a chance to meet your local elected officials.

2017 was quite a year, but I'm more confident than ever that even greater accomplishments are ahead for our City in 2018.

I hope you'll continue to be involved in our community, follow our newsletter and podcast for important updates and information about what's going on, and be a part of the civically engaged and aware citizenry that makes Salem so special!

Happy New Year!

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Footprint Commissioning



From Footprint Salem Harbor Station:

We are excited to share with you that Salem Harbor Station is now in its commissioning phase. As we begin this phase of the project, the first activity to occur will be to blow high pressure steam (water vapor) through the pipe systems to ensure that all construction and welding debris is removed prior to putting the plant into operation. You may have already heard some of these “steam blows” from our auxiliary boiler over the course of the past few weeks.

Over the course of the next week or so, you will likely hear louder noises coming from steam blows of the main piping system for Gas Turbine Number 6. Although our contractor has placed silencers and baffles at the end of the pipe where the steam will exit, this is an inherently noisy activity. Our contractor reports that they are approaching the point where they are prepared to conduct this louder steam blow, perhaps within the next week. When it is conducted, it will last for 6 to 8 hours between 7 am and 8 pm. There are traps and filters installed on the pipes so no debris is blown into the air.

We appreciate your understanding this necessary step and assure you that the noise you will hear is not an indication that there is anything wrong. Believe it or not, it is the sound of progress! These steam blows and the noise associated with them will NOT be a part of normal plant operations. Steam blows will continue on other systems, but will not be as noisy as the first one. A similar schedule will follow for Gas Turbine Number 5 later. As we mentioned previously, there will be periodic testing of the emergency steam release valves during the commissioning process that will be noisy as well. Rest assured that our contractor has committed that it will continue to work closely with the Salem Police and Fire Departments to keep them abreast of these tests. Once the steam blows are complete, Gas Turbine Number 6 will go into testing and, in the process of that testing, will synchronize to the grid and once more begin supplying power to the North Shore.

We cannot begin to express how thankful we are for your patience and understanding as the construction effort has continued beyond its initial schedule. As systems are completed and turned over to the commissioning team, labor on the site continues to decrease. We hope you are seeing an improvement in the traffic situation as a result.

Lafayette Park Update

Substantial progress has been made on the renovation of Lafayette Park. As construction winds down for the winter in the coming weeks, the contractor will remove the perimeter fencing and the park will be open. However, select areas of the park may be cordoned off during completion of final work.

Work completed to date includes new walkways, benches, trees, and lawn irrigation, as well as relocation of the Great Salem Fire plaque to a more prominent location within the park. Lighting will be installed in the coming weeks. Final work for the spring includes installation of historical interpretive signs, lawn seeding and final landscaping, and restoration of the veterans monument. This work is supported by funding from the City's Capital Improvement Program, the Community Preservation Committee, and the US Department of Housing & Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program.



CPA Eligibility Applications



The Community Preservation Committee has announced that, in order to be considered for the FY18 funding round, applicants for CPA grants are encouraged to submit their Eligibility Applications no later than January 4th. For projects that are determined eligible, applicants will be invited to submit a Funding Application. The tentative deadline for the receipt of Funding Applications is March 23rd. Submitted applications will be reviewed with the goal of submitting funding recommendations to the City Council in May.

The CPA establishes a local dedicated fund for the purpose of undertaking open space, historic preservation, outdoor recreation, and community housing projects. It is financed by a voter-approved property tax surcharge along with annual matching funds from the statewide CPA Trust Fund. CPA

grants can be awarded for housing, historic, and open space/recreation projects. Application forms and additional information can be found at <http://www.salem.com/community-preservation-committee>.

Bring Your Own Bag

Salem's new initiative promoting the use of reusable bags in all forms – paper, heavy plastic, canvas, and net mesh, goes into effect on Monday, January 1st. Thin plastic bags (those less than four millimeters thick) will no longer be offered at Salem businesses, as they create significant problems for the City and for our environment, clogging storm drains, getting caught in trees, and finding their way into our waterways.

Spearheaded by a group of Salem High School students working with Salem Sound Coastwatch, the Salem City Council passed the plastic bag ordinance in the Fall of 2016. The ordinance restricts the use of single use plastic checkout bags provided at the point of sale by retail and food establishments in Salem. Salem will join 60 other cities and towns in Massachusetts in restricting the use of these bags. Boston recently announced approval of a similar ordinance to go into effect in 2019.



The new bag ordinance is designed to encourage the use of reusable bags. Paper bags, which are reusable and compostable, will continue to be available at Salem retail outlets. SalemRecycles started educational outreach in early 2017 to provide resources to Salem businesses and to help residents make the transition. Their efforts included the distribution of free reusable bags at SalemRecycles events around the community.

For further information about the reusable bags initiative, please visit www.salem.com/recycling-and-trash/pages/plastic-bag-reduction-information 619-5679. Follow SalemRecycles at GreenSalem.com or on Facebook for updates on green initiatives in Salem.

2018 City Inauguration



The honor of your presence is requested at the ceremonies for the inauguration of

Mayor

Kimberley Driscoll

City Council

Domingo J. Dominguez, At-Large

Thomas H. Furey, At-Large

Elaine F. Milo, At-Large

Arthur C. Sargent III, At-Large

Robert K. McCarthy, Ward 1

Christine Madore, Ward 2

Lisa JB Peterson, Ward 3

Timothy G. Flynn, Ward 4

Josh H. Turiel, Ward 5

Beth Gerard, Ward 6

Stephen G. Dibble, Ward 7

School Committee

Amanda C. Campbell

Manny Cruz

Ana M. Nuncio

Monday, January 1, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Peabody Essex Museum, 161 Essex Street, Salem

RSVP to mayor@saalem.com or (978) 619-5600

*Please join us for a post-inaugural open house celebration at
Hotel Salem, 203 Essex Street, following the ceremony.*