



# FYI SALEM

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 17 NOVEMBER 29, 2016

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## From the Mayor's Desk



It's a festive time of year in Salem. Holiday lights are up in the Common, wreaths are on our light posts, and the Christmas Tree and Hanukkah Menorah are being set up in Lappin Park. The celebrations kicked off on Friday when Santa made his annual arrival to Salem, descending from the roof of the Hawthorne Hotel with help from the Salem Fire Department.

The Winter Market at Old Town Hall, Festive Fridays, and all the other elements of the holidays in Salem make it such a special time of year in our historic city. You can read more about what's on the schedule inside this issue.

In the latest episode of the FYI Salem podcast, I am joined by Simeen Brown and Stefanie Howlett from Historic Salem Inc. We talk about the upcoming 37th annual

holiday house tour that HSI organizes. You can listen to the interview at <http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or subscribe on iTunes or your preferred podcast service. Simply search for "FYI Salem" and sign up. This year's tour takes place this weekend and you won't want to miss it!

This issue of FYI Salem also brings some exciting news and updates about major improvement projects taking place or being planned for three of our public parks: McGlew, Mary Jane Lee, and Lafayette Park.

You can find out about our annual Peas for Fees initiative, which starts December 1st, and about how you can get discounted trash overflow bags for the busy holiday season. As always, we hope you'll recycle as much as possible before resorting to adding to your trash. Recycling is not only good for the planet, it also helps the City save money, since we pay less for each ton of recycling collected compared to each ton of regular trash collected.

Finally, I am excited to join our COA Board and staff, our seniors, and our state

legislators as we gather to mark the 50th birthday of Salem's Council on Aging. The party, *Past | Present | Future*, takes place December 12th at 10:30 a.m. at 5 Broad Street. We'll look back on the last five decades of service to our seniors and share our vision for the new Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center, where site preparation work began this month in anticipation of construction beginning in the spring.

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of giving an address at the National League of Cities conference in Pittsburgh. I shared how Salem had worked together to develop a forward-looking Age-Friendly action plan, *Salem For All Ages*. This report offers a strategic vision and recommended action steps that we can take to help make sure Salem only strengthens our position as a livable community for people of all ages. I encourage you to read the action plan, available now at <http://www.salem.com/council-aging/pages/salem-all-ages>, and, if you are able to, stop by our COA gathering on December 12th so we can celebrate these achievements and our future possibilities together.

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor

# Holiday Happenings



## Fall under the Spell of Salem's Holiday Happenings!

The calendar is full of events celebrating the holidays in Salem. Events include the annual Christmas in Salem historic home tour to the Winter Market, Salem Holiday Market, the Trolley Christmas Carol (which is almost sold out), and Treats & Trimmings Walking Tours with Salem Food Tours.

Find all of the holiday events on the calendar at [Salem.org](http://Salem.org).

# COA's 50th Birthday

Mayor Kim Driscoll and the Council on Aging Board invite the public to a celebration marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Salem's Council on Aging. *Past | Present | Future* will commemorate the 50 years of dedicated service to Salem's seniors that the department has provided and also offer an opportunity to learn more about the Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center on Bridge Street. The 20,000-square foot, two-story Levesque Center will house the Council on Aging, along with Parks and Recreation and the Veterans' Services office. Site work began this month in anticipation of vertical construction commencing this spring.

***Past | Present | Future* will take place on Monday, December 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the current COA facility at 5 Broad Street.** In addition to remarks from Mayor Driscoll, State Representative Paul Tucker, and State Senator Joan Lovely, those attending can enjoy music, cake, and a slide show presentation about the history of the COA. If you have a photograph from the Salem Council on Aging that you would like to submit for inclusion in the slide show, please email it to [rdonahue@salem.com](mailto:rdonahue@salem.com) by December 8<sup>th</sup>.



“This month we formally submitted *Salem For All Ages*, our age-friendly Salem action plan, to the AARP and the World Health Organization,” said Mayor Driscoll. “We also saw the start of work for the long-awaited Levesque Center. This gathering on December 12 offers an opportunity for us to come together to celebrate all that we have accomplished in support of Salem's seniors, not just over the last few years, but over the COA's last fifty years. And it also provides us an opportunity to look forward to the future and the opening of the Levesque Center, a new, state-of-the-art facility that our seniors and families so greatly deserve.”

## FYI SALEM

The City's annual "Peas for Fees" ticket amnesty program will run December 1 through December 23. 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.



## Peas for Fees

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.

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 amnesty 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 Trash 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 5 bags, from Monday December 19 through Monday January 9, 2017, 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 7am-4pm, with the following holiday hours: December 23 and December 31, 7:00 a.m. - noon; December 24, 25, 26 and January 1, closed.

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. Your bulky item 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 <http://www.salem.com/recycling-and-trash>.



# Parks Updates

The City of Salem has submitted a grant application to the Commonwealth to complete the design and implementation of significant improvements to **McGlew Park**. If received, the grant award will be combined with CPA and CDBG awards to carry out the planned upgrades. The project would make a vast improvement to this important neighborhood park. In addition to upgrading the entry on North Street to make it more welcoming and ADA-compliant, the project plans call for new trees, an irrigation system for the softball field, resurfacing of the basketball court, walking trails around the park, and the installation of new playground equipment. Work would begin this spring.

**Mary Jane Lee Park** will be closed beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> as the City’s contractor, Empire Design & Construction, begins its renovation. Public parking will be unavailable within the park during this time, with the exception of five to seven spaces that will be available only for the duration of an on-street parking ban during snow emergencies.

The project was designed with input from the neighborhood and is funded in part with CPA funds and a PARC grant from the Commonwealth. Improvements will include upgraded play equipment, new rubber play surfacing, an expanded lawn area, a reconfigured basketball court, a new shade pavilion, and new pipe-rail fencing. This project will complete renovation of the park that began with the construction of a new splash pad that opened in June 2015.

The park will reopen in July 2017 upon completion of park improvements. From that point on, approximately 23 parking spaces will be available at the park during winter snow parking bans.

This project is the latest in a series of major investments in Salem’s parks and recreation facilities. In recent years the City has renovated Furlong Park, McGrath Park, Splaine Park, and Bertram Field. Improvements are currently planned for McGlew and Lafayette Parks.

There will be a public visioning session for the **Lafayette Park** improvements on December 6th from 5-8pm in the Community Room at 135 Lafayette Street and a survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GYGQ2LW>.

## Lafayette Park Open House Visioning Session



**Tuesday, December 6, 5 to 8pm**

**Community Room,  
135 Lafayette St., Salem, MA**

**Drop in anytime between  
5 and 8pm to let us know what your  
vision is for Lafayette Park**

You can also provide us with feedback by taking this brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GYGQ2LW>

*For more information, please contact Tom Devine with the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development at (978) 619-5685 or [tdevine@salem.com](mailto:tdevine@salem.com)*