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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Friends,

I hope all had a joyful holiday season! With the New Year approaching, please join us at several exciting community celebrations as we ring in 2016.

Our friends at Salem Main Streets will once again hold LAUNCH! at Old Town Hall on December 31 from 4-6pm. Rock along with local musical favorites, as well as a number of "rising star" teen musicians. There will be New Year's Eve related activities and crafts for kids of all ages. This event is free to all and family-friendly, with a \$5 suggested donation. There will be an early countdown at 6 pm. Then, join us at Salem

Common for our First Day Hike, in partnership with the National Park Service, on Friday, January 1, from noon to 2pm. This free community walk feature routes around the Common and down along Derby Wharf.

On Wednesday, January 6 at 6pm, the City holds the 13th annual Christmas Tree bonfire on Dead Horse Beach. Curbside tree pick-up will take place the week of January 4 or you can bring your tree to the beach before the 6th. Additional curbside tree pick-up will happen the week of January 11.

The end of 2015 brought much good news for the City of Salem. Two of our schools—Salem High School and the Carlton elementary school—were upgraded to Level I status by the state, and our others showed considerable improvements, as well.

The Commonwealth's Seaport Economic Advisory Council awarded the City \$930,000 for the next phase of the Salem Wharf project and the state also

awarded the City a \$400,000 grant for major improvements at Mary Jane Lee Playground. The \$10 million state-funded roadway improvement project on Canal Street has gone out to bid and construction is expected to begin this spring.

There is a lot of exciting progress happening in Salem and on January 4 I look forward to sharing more about what is happening and my vision for the year ahead as I deliver my eleventh State of the City address with the inauguration of the new City Council and School Committee.

2015 was a great year for Salem, but I believe that the year ahead promises even greater accomplishments and progress. Happy New Year to you and your family!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor, City of Salem

**MAYOR KIM DRISCOLL'S NEWSLETTER**

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# Board Vacancies

As 2016 begins, the City is looking to fill vacancies on a number of important City boards and commissions.

Those interested in being considered for a seat should fill out application form available at <http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/files/application-board-or-commission-appointment> and return it with an up-to-date resume to [mayor@salem.com](mailto:mayor@salem.com), by

fax to 978-744-9327, or by mail to Office of the Mayor, Salem City Hall, 93 Washington Street, Salem MA 01970. Additional details about these and all City boards are available online at <http://www.salem.com/boards>.

**Current Vacancies:**

All 3 year terms.

- Beautification Committee (4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm).

- Bicycle Advisory Committee (2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm).
- Board of Health (2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm).
- Conservation Commission (2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm).
- Council on Aging Board (3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm).

City boards, commissions, task forces, working groups, and committees all play an important role in a wide variety of projects, issues, and programs happening in Salem.



If you have questions about a particular board, please call the Mayor's office at 978-619-5600 or visit [www.salem.com/boards](http://www.salem.com/boards).

## FYI SALEM



Salem PowerChoice is a municipal electrical aggregation program developed to save residents and businesses on electric bills while also reducing the City’s carbon footprint.

In an aggregation, the City uses the bulk purchasing power of all rate-payer’s electrical supply to get a supply contract at a better rate than National Grid’s Basic Service, which most people already have.

Unlike all other supply contracts, the City’s program is one locked rate for the next twelve months

and there are no penalties or fees to opt-out or to opt-in.

Starting on your first meter read after January 1, all eligible electricity customers in Salem will automatically receive their electricity supply from the PowerChoice vendor (ConEdison Solutions). Your bill will still come from National Grid and you will still call National Grid if you have an issue with your electricity.

But, on the bill, the “supply” line will now say “ConEdison Solutions.”

You can opt out of PowerChoice and return to National Grid as your supplier at any time by calling 1-866-469-8361 or using the form at [www.salem.com/powerchoice](http://www.salem.com/powerchoice).

For more details, visit [www.salem.com/powerchoice](http://www.salem.com/powerchoice).

### Salem PowerChoice Options and Prices

Salem PowerChoice is the standard offering that all program participants will automatically receive. To receive Salem PowerChoice, you do not need to do anything. As a National Grid Basic Service customer, you will be automatically enrolled.

To choose the Salem PowerChoice Plus or Salem PowerChoice Basic options, contact ConEdison Solutions at 1-866-469-8361.

	<b>Standard: Salem PowerChoice</b>	<b>Optional: Salem PowerChoice Plus</b>	<b>Optional: Salem PowerChoice Basic</b>	<b>National Grid Basic Service</b>
<b>Renewable Energy Content</b>	100% green energy: - 5% from <i>new</i> New England wind projects - 74% from hydroelectric projects in Maine - 21% from a mix of clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, and landfill gas, in compliance with the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS) <i>Exceeds Massachusetts requirements for energy from new renewable energy projects* by 5%.</i>	<b>100% green energy:</b> - <b>20% from <i>new</i> New England wind projects</b> - 59% from hydroelectric projects in Maine - 21% from a mix of clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, and landfill gas, in compliance with the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS) <i>Exceeds Massachusetts requirements for energy from new renewable energy projects* by 20%.</i>	Meets Massachusetts renewable energy requirements. - 21% from a mix of clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, and landfill gas, in compliance with the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS)	Meets Massachusetts renewable energy requirements. - 21% from a mix of clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, and landfill gas, in compliance with the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS)
<b>Rate &amp; Term</b>	January 2016 meter read – January 2017 meter read	January 2016 meter read – January 2017 meter read	January 2016 meter read – January 2017 meter read	November 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016 **
Residential	<b>10.39 ¢/kWh</b>	11.18 ¢/kWh	10.08 ¢/kWh	13.038 ¢/kWh
Small business	<b>10.39 ¢/kWh</b>	11.18 ¢/kWh	10.08 ¢/kWh	12.619 ¢/kWh
Medium and large business	<b>10.39 ¢/kWh</b>	11.18 ¢/kWh	10.08 ¢/kWh	14.6 ¢/kWh (January 1, 2016 - January 31, 2016) **
<b>Exit Terms</b>	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge. (Except for some medium and large business accounts.)

\* New renewable energy projects are those projects that came into commercial operation after January 1, 1998. The additional new renewable projects incorporated into Salem PowerChoice and Salem PowerChoice Plus are from New England wind projects.

\*\* National Grid’s fixed Basic Service rates change every six (6) months for residential and small business accounts and every month for medium and large business accounts.

# Toter Tips

The City recently launched a new program for collection recycling and trash curbside. The automated system uses uniform toters to make pick-up quicker and neater. The lidded toters also significantly help reduce wind-blown litter, broken glass in the street, and vermin.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Write your address on your toters.
- Place toters at least 18 inches apart and away from trees or telephone poles where possible.
- Make sure the arrows on the lid are pointing toward the

street.

- Removed the toters from the street after pick-up.

Other important changes to the new collection contract with Waste Management include bulky item collection. Pick-up of bulky items must be scheduled 48 hours in advance by calling 1-800-972-4545 and then #4. Bulky item-pick up will take place on your recycling collection week.

More details about the new curbside collection program, including a pick-up calendar, collection day map, and more are available at <http://saalem.com/recycling-and-trash>.

Remember:

- If your toter lid does not close, it will not be emptied.
- If you have extra trash, purchase an official trash overflow bag at Ace Hardware, Crosby's, City Hall, or DPW (normally \$2.50 each, currently \$1 each—limit 5 per household—at City Hall and DPW through January 11).
- If you have extra recycling, bring sorted materials to North Shore Recycled Fiber at 53 Jefferson Avenue.

For more information, visit <http://www.salem.com/recycling-and-trash>.



Old curbside collection on pick-up day.



New curbside collection on pick-up day.



# Bicycling in Salem

I and many others in Salem share a vision for our community to become an even more bicycling-friendly City.

I believe having a dedicated voice for bicycling is important for Salem, which is why I was proud to establish the Bicycle Advisory Committee in 2006, shortly after first being elected. In 2010 we created the first Bicycle Master Plan and, over the past five years, we've successfully completed many of the action items identified in that plan.



Not only did we write and complete much of that first plan, we instituted the popular SalemSpins bike share program, with hubs at the Hawthorne Hotel, Salem Ferry, and SSU. In 2016 we hope to add a fourth hub downtown and upgrade the system to a self-checkout to make it even easier to borrow a free bike to get around Salem. We striped bike lanes on Lafayette Street and advanced the design of on-street bike lanes and the off-street bike path along Canal Street, which, when complete, will allow a cyclist to get from downtown Salem to downtown Marblehead entirely off-street. We created the South Salem bike path, another part of the off-street bike trail connection, which runs from Marblehead past SSU's Central Campus.

When the Commonwealth was developing the Bridge Street Bypass Road, it was our advocacy that pushed the design and construction of the adjacent off-street bike path along the Bypass Road, as well as the construction of a connection to the path on Bridge Street and along Collins Cove. When major roadway projects have arisen, whether it was Goodhue Street or Bridge Street or the forthcoming surface improvements on Canal Street, we've included bike lanes, even prior to the adoption of our nationally-recognized Complete Streets policy last year.

Through our permitting process, we require private developers to incorporate bike-friendly design into their projects, like with the off-street paved bike path along the North River Luxury Apartments, which will, hopefully, tie into similar paths at the other Blubber Hollow developments, encouraging residents to bike from their front door to the commuter rail station in safety and with ease.



Finally, we've set aside \$25,000 each year for the last five years for our off-street bike path, for design and maintenance costs associated with the South Salem bike trail and the Canal Street off-street bike path.

The Bicycle Advisory Committee has an important role to play in the update planned for the new Bicycle Master Plan, which happens next year, therefore I hope those who may be interested in serving on the committee apply by completing the form at [www.salem.com/mayor](http://www.salem.com/mayor). We've already received several applications and inquiries and I continue to be encouraged by the enthusiasm that exists in our cycling community.

My vision for the Bicycling Advisory Committee extends beyond just bike lanes. It includes a role in planning, policy development, and new programs and initiatives. I am proud of what has been accomplished in Salem for bicyclists over the last decade and am mindful of the need to do more.

The dialogue around how we make Salem a bicycling community will continue in 2016. As we hope to hire our first Director of Traffic and Parking, improve the implementation of our Complete Streets policy, and launch a residential traffic calming program, all in 2016, the voice of bicyclists must be part of that conversation. *-Kim Driscoll*