



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



This week marks the official start of autumn and, with October right around the corner, Salem is heading into one of our busiest, most bustling seasons.

In this issue of FYI Salem you'll find information about October traffic and parking plans, with the full details online at www.salem.com. Traffic impacts and challenges are something we contend with every October, but we try our best to alert folks know in advance when and where we anticipate the most difficulties. In addition, we have set aside additional resident only parking at the T station on the weekends to help make it easier for Salem residents to park during Haunted Happenings.

Also in this issue of FYI Salem, you can read more about upcoming upgrades to our two City garages. Starting

Nov. 7th, both the Museum Place Garage and the South Harbor Garage will be switching to automated payment kiosk systems. That means more convenience and security for those who park in these facilities. But it also means that your current garage pass won't work after Nov. 6! Read more inside about how to exchange your current pass for a new garage pass before Nov. 7. Between the Passport Parking App for city lots and meters and the new automated garage kiosks, we are hoping to try to make it easier for residents and visitors to manage parking.

In the latest episode of the FYI Salem podcast, I talk with Kate Fox, the Executive Director of Destination Salem, our City's destination marketing organization. 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! During the interview Kate and I talk about the how Destination Salem got started, new events on tap for this year's Haunted Happenings festival, and the many hundreds of local jobs that

our visitor and tourist industry generates.

I'm most excited to share some terrific news out of the Commonwealth's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), about the positive gains we have achieved in Salem Public Schools based on last year's assessments and accountability data. Salem has officially moved out of Level 4 standing! We are especially thrilled with the improvements at Bentley, our only Level 4 school, that is now moving up to Level 1.

Overall, Salem schools are on the rise with 7 out of 9 schools making gains and we continue to see positive growth in many areas. The announcement from DESE is certainly worth celebrating. But we also know our work is far from over. As the new school year continues onward, I look forward to doing what I can to help keep the momentum going and expand the progress we have seen to date. Thank you to all our teachers, school staff, students and school district leaders for their hard work and dedication. This is great news for our City and our kids!

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

October Parking & Traffic

The City has announced the planned and anticipated road closures for October in Salem, including lot closures and traffic impacts from planned special events. The complete list is available at: <http://www.salem.com/home/news/city-salem-announces-planned-road-closures-october>. The Salem Police will close roadways at any point if they determine it should be closed for public safety reasons.

Note that while there are currently road closures planned downtown for Monday, October 31, starting no later than 4:00 p.m., there is a high likelihood that some closures will be made on Friday, October 28 through Sunday, October 30, as well. In addition, there may be periodic weekend closures of Essex Street east-bound at Washington Street, with traffic on Essex Street being detoured via Barton Square or Crombie Street.

Any closures or changes will be announced and posted at www.salem.com and www.salempd.org. For real-time traffic and road closure notices, visit <https://twitter.com/SalemMAPolice> and <https://twitter.com/GetThruOctober>. You do not need a Twitter account to follow these pages; if you do have a Twitter account, you can subscribe to both feeds at @SalemMAPolice and @GetThruOctober.

For all weekends in October, Essex Street from Hawthorne Boulevard to New Liberty Street will be closed to all through traffic with limited exception. Access to the Museum Place Garage will only be available via Brown Street onto New Liberty Street (see map below). Businesses and residents of the street will be allowed limited access to receive deliveries or access rear parking lots. No on-street parking on this portion of Essex Street will be permitted during October weekends. A Salem Police officer will be assigned to the area from approximately 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to assist residents and businesses with permitted vehicles entering and exiting the street. Residents of the street may call the Salem Parking Department at 978-745-8120 to learn how they may access alternative parking locations during the month of October, if they require it.

Residents who live on an October Resident-Only Parking street can pick up their yellow hang-tags from the Collector's Office at City Hall, 93 Washington Street during regular business hours. Note that the year-round resident parking sticker does not automatically permit one to park on an October Resident-Only Parking street; to do so, you must have the yellow hang tag. The fine for parking in a resident-only zone illegally increases to \$40 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in October.

A list of October Resident-Only Parking streets can be found online at <http://www.salem.com/collectors-office/pages/resident-sticker-parking-information> or by calling the Collector's Office at 978-619-5620.



New Garage Payment Kiosks

Starting Nov. 7, both municipal parking garages in Salem – the Museum Place garage and the South Harbor garage – will be converted to automated payment kiosks. Those who park in the garages will take a ticket at the entry gates and should bring the ticket and their payment to one of the conveniently located payment kiosks before they return to their car to depart. After paying, simply bring the ticket

to the exit gate as you drive out. Those with automatic garage passes will no longer be able to use the old passes after Nov. 6. Starting on Nov. 7 only the new garage passes will work with the updated gates. To get your automatic garage pass before Nov. 7, visit the Parking Department offices at the Museum Place Garage on New Liberty Street beginning on Oct. 3 on Mondays-Thursdays from 7am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm, and Fridays from 7am to 9am. Please bring your vehicle license plate number and old pass in order to get your new garage pass.

ly outside the elevators on the first level of the garage. Payment kiosks for South Harbor will be located outside the elevator on the ground floor level of the garage.

All kiosks will accept payment by most major credit cards and most will accept payment by cash. Payment using the City’s mobile parking app, Passport Parking, will also be possible, though not immediately on November 7. A separate announcement will be made when payment is officially possible using the mobile parking app.

There are no changes to garage parking rates, however hours of operation will be extended in both garages starting Nov. 7 to run 24 hours per day. For additional information, call the Salem Parking Department at 978-745-8120.



Payment kiosks for Museum Place will be located outside the Parking Department office at the garage entrance, on the walkway of the exit ramp from the garage on the first level, and immediate-

Levesque Center Update

On September 12 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued its approval for site work to begin at 401 Bridge Street, the location of the City’s new Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center. The Levesque Center, when complete, will house the City’s Council on Aging, Parks and Recreation offices, and Veterans’ Services offices.

With Mass DEP’s approval of this permit, the developer construction the facility can begin a process called soil surcharging. Because of the nature of the site, the footprint of the center must be compacted for construction. To do this in a

manner that is minimally disruptive to neighbors, clean fill will be placed on the footprint for a period of six months. After that

time, it will be removed and vertical construction will commence. Construction is estimated to take 10 to 12 months and soil surcharging will begin around November 1.



Salem Schools Are On The Rise



On September 26, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) announced that the Salem Public Schools have officially moved out of Level 4 and will no longer be subject to state monitoring, effective immediately.

The district as a whole has made steady, positive progress through teacher supports, the use of data to inform policy, enhanced utilization of technology and tutoring, expanded learning time, leveraging of outside partnerships, more rigorous curricula, and differentiated instruction models. These tactics have led to positive student performance, better learning outcomes, and overall progress for the district.



Highlights from the DESE Report on Salem Schools:

- Bentley Academy moves from Level 4 to Level 1.
- Horace Mann moves from Level 3 to Level 2.
- 7 out of 9 schools improved their statewide ranking.
- All school improved their performance index in English Language Arts (ELA).
- 6 out of 9 schools improved their performance index in mathematics.
- Statistically significant improvement in ELA among English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities.

