

MAYOR KIM DRISCOLL'S BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Photo Courtesy: Dina Rudick, *The Boston Globe, Bostonians of the Year: Honorable Mentions*

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed the recent spate of warm, unseasonable weather over the weekend. We're still not completely out of the woods for winter weather, but this February sure beats last year's record-setting month.

Here at City Hall, we are busy working on several very important initiatives and looking towards the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget.

There remains three vacancies for Boards and Commissions. There is an opening on the Beautification Committee, the Board of Health and the Conservation Committee.

To fill out an application to serve on a board or commission, please complete the form at [www.salem.com/mayors-](http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/files/application-board-or-commission-appointment)

[office/files/application-board-or-commission-appointment](http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/files/application-board-or-commission-appointment). For more information, visit www.salem.com/boards.

The McGlew Park Project has begun with initial soil testing completed by our Licensed Site Professional. A neighborhood meeting is planned for Feb. 29 at which time residents can ask questions of the landscape architect and LSP.

There will be a public meeting regarding the Proctor's Ledge Memorial scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 6 p.m. in the third floor room of City Hall Annex at 120 Washington Street. The landscape architect for the project, Martha Lyon, will guide the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to collect feedback and input as we begin the design and planning stage.

We are also working with Veteran's Agent Kim Emerging to organize a rededication of the Desert Storm Plaque to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of the operation in the Middle East.

Good luck to the 18-2 Salem High School boy's basketball team as it looks to make a deep run into the post-season!

As Spring approaches, remember there are many great locations in Salem to have outdoor parties and family gatherings, including the Salem Common, the Willows and Winter Island. Visit www.salem.com/recreation to find out how you can book one of these sites for your function or event this spring.

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McGlew Park Project Underway

The City of Salem has begun preparing a conceptual plan for a project to renovate McGlew Park.

The project will improve the use of McGlew Park and will offer many benefits to the neighborhood and our community overall.

The initial stages of this project include a meeting that is scheduled to for Feb. 29th to understand what the neighborhood vision is for the park, in addition to an assessment of the soil conditions by a Licensed Site

Professional (LSP).

While there is no imminent hazard, during January soil samples, the City's LSP found the site contains quantities of contaminants that are reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The LSP has recommended further soil assessment take place, which is expected to be in March.

The meeting on Feb. 29 will take place at City Hall Annex, 120 Washington Street, 3rd Floor from 6-7 p.m.

During the meeting, neighborhood residents will have the opportunity to talk to the landscape architect and city staff about the vision for the park. In addition, the LSP will be available for questions regarding the site assessment.

Those with additional questions pertaining to the McGlew Park Project can contact Amanda Chiancola in the City's Department of Planning and Community Development at (978) 619-5691.

South Salem MBTA Station

South Salem commuters and those heading to and from Salem Hospital and Salem State University might have an easier way of getting to and from Boston if a proposed MBTA Commuter Rail stop goes forward.

A neighborhood meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Salem High School.

Frank Astone, an engineer from AECOM, will present the preliminary findings of the Feasibility Study to locate a train stop in South Salem. The proposed stop would be located off Ocean Avenue, near Broadway. It would have limited parking spots, but include a drop-off and pick-up area. A possible connection to Salem State via a platform on the Jefferson Avenue side is being considered.

The Salem Partnership has taken the lead on the project and is partnering with the City of Salem and Salem State University, according to the organization's Executive Director, Beth Debski.

Dickson Memorial Chapel Restoration

Call for 'Love Letters'

Dickson Memorial Chapel, constructed in 1892, is a small, but very meaningful piece of High Victorian Gothic architecture.

The stone church, located at Greenlawn Cemetery, was built and donated to the City of Salem by resident Walter Scott Dickson. He originally built it to honor his late wife.

The City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development and the Department of Public Services are working together with

the Friends of Greenlawn Cemetery to undertake a major restoration project.

The goal is to stop water and weather infiltration and to restore some of the building's deteriorated historical fabric. Repairs may include partial masonry repointing, copper flashing roof repair and stained glass window restoration.

The City has received over \$100,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund and will be applying for matching grant funds from the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund through the

Massachusetts Historic Commission.

If you would like to express your support for this restoration project, the Massachusetts Historic Commission has advised that grant applicants seek "love letters" from residents.

Letters addressed to Ms. Brona Simon, State Historic Preservation Officer, should be emailed to Staff Planner Erin Schaeffer at eschaeffer@salem.com by March 9, 2016.

Working for You: Erin Schaeffer



#1) Position: Staff Planner

#2) Time at Planning Dept:
2 Years

#3) Responsibilities: Provide technical assistance to the Zoning Board of Appeals, write grants and manage projects for Community Preservation Act initiatives

#4) Where are you from? Los

Angeles, California

#5) Where did you go to school? Mt. Holyoke

College for undergrad and UMass Amherst for Master's Degree in Regional Planning

#6) Most Rewarding part of job: Working across City Departments and with a wide variety of people to make the City a better place

#7) Most memorable accomplishment as Planner: Proud to have completed restora-

tion of Choate Memorial Statue at Essex Street, Boston Street and Highland Avenue.

#8) Important initiative: Looking forward to working on the restoration of the Dickson Memorial Chapel, the Charter Street Cemetery and the Salem Common Fence.

For The City: Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is responsible for reviewing petitions for variances and special permits.

Chaired by Rebecca Curran and staffed by Erin Schaeffer, the Zoning Board of Appeals

meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Inspectional Services Director Thomas St. Pierre is the Zoning Enforcement Officer. All questions regarding allowed uses and dimensional requirements can be directed to St. Pierre at (978) 619-5641.

To apply for a variance or special permit, to find meeting dates and agendas or to obtain minutes of Zoning meetings, contact Schaeffer at (978) 619-5690 or visit <http://www.salem.com/zoning-board-appeals>.

Board Members:

Rebecca Curran

Peter Copelas

Mike Duffy

Thomas Watkins

James Tsitsinos

James Hacker

Paul Viccia

Salem Selected to Join Harvard By All Means Consortium

The City of Salem is one of six cities selected to be a participant in a multi-year initiative by the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE).

The initiative, By All Means: Redesigning Education to Restore Opportunity, is aimed at developing comprehensive child well-being and education systems that help eliminate the link between children's socioeconomic status and achievement.

By All Means will be operated by HGSE's Education Redesign Lab. In addition to Salem, other participating cities include Oakland, Calif., Louisville, Ky., Providence, RI, Somerville, Mass., and Newton, Mass.

"While our recent efforts at education reform have yielded some great successes in certain places, overall, we have failed to achieve

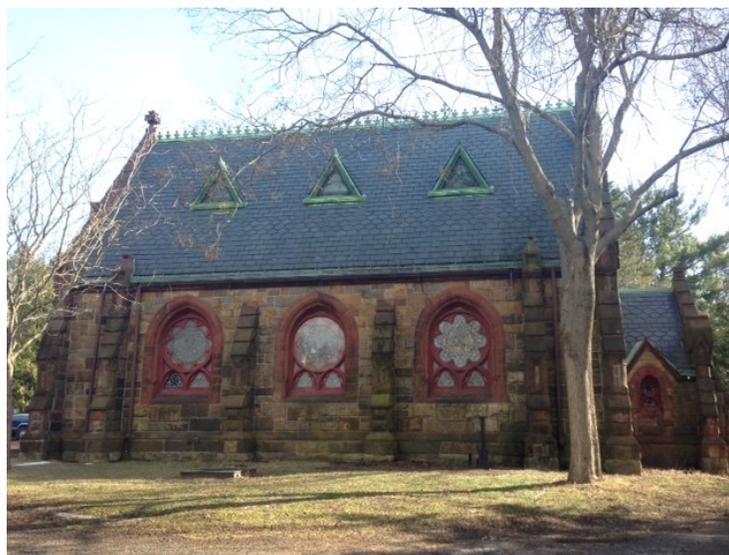
equity, we have failed to eliminate persistent achievement and success gaps," said Paul Reville, founding director of the Education Redesign Lab and former Massachusetts Secretary of Education.

The cities chosen to be part of the By All Means consortium demonstrate a distinguished record and a broad conception of their roles in ensuring children's success. Working with the Education Redesign Lab, mayors of each city will create and lead "Children's Cabinets" composed of superintendents, heads of health and social services, recreation, cultural and arts activists, and other key community leaders.

"I am extremely excited and pleased that Salem has been selected to participate as one of the first school districts to partner with Harvard's Education Redesign Lab and Graduate School of Education as part of the By All Means initiative," said Salem Mayor Kimberley Driscoll.

"I'm proud of how far our schools have come in the last few years. We're closing the achievement gap and giving our students the support and resources they need to succeed," Driscoll added.

"This is an incredible opportunity for the City of Salem to leverage city resources to support the learning and welfare of every student in the City. We are excited to partner with other cities in the nation and with Harvard University in ensuring success for all in the Salem Public Schools," said Salem Public School Superintendent Margarita Ruiz.



Dickson Memorial Chapel at Greenlawn Cemetery (Photo Credit: Erin Schaeffer)