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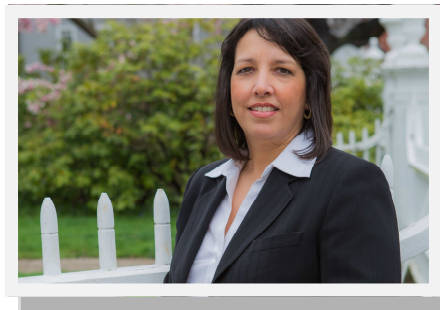
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FYI SALEM

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

JUNE 5, 2015

From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Friends,

Despite the rainy weather the past few days in Salem, this is an exciting and bright time of year for many members of our great community.

There are many outstanding younger residents of the City of Salem who are graduating high school. Salem High School seniors will be attending 139 different colleges and universities. No matter where the post-graduation destination is, Salem High seniors will surely make a profound impact on the world as they venture into the future. As a proud parent of a recent high school graduate, I know what an

exciting time it is for families.

This week also was the beginning of a new era in trash and recycle collection in Salem. After sev-

eral very frustrating months of dealing with missed trash pickups and other issues, the city welcomed aboard a new contractor, Waste Management.

WM is an internationally renowned hauler that will bring consistency and professionalism to our city.

The new contractor will be in Salem for the foreseeable future as we enter into a long-term contract that will be effective July 1, 2015 for the start of the new fiscal year.

Speaking of the new fiscal year, we have been working diligently to come up with a balanced budget proposal for FY16.

It is a challenging time for municipal government, but our team did a terrific job of coming up with a fair proposal that will benefit the city while keeping costs down.

The total budget of \$144,169,914 represents just a 2.1% increase over the previous fiscal year budget and includes a 2.4% increase in school funding.

In addition to the budget there are several other exciting and positive developments around the city.

Footprint Power broke ground on the \$1 billion state-of-the-art Salem Harbor Station on Tuesday.

Splaine Park has been rejuvenated and there will be a special rededication ceremony on June 16th to honor John Splaine's legacy and the hard work by many that helped complete the project.

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FY16 Budget

Last week Mayor Kimberley Driscoll submitted a proposed budget for the City and for the Salem Public Schools for the upcoming fiscal year.

The total budget of \$144,169,914 represents just a 2.1% increase over the previous fiscal year budget and includes a 2.4% increase in school funding.

Most of the cost increases were due to increases in fixed costs, over which the city has no discretion.

“Each budget has its own unique challenges and opportunities,” said Driscoll. “The FY16 budget maintains our dedication to fiscal responsibility, while also continuing to lead

Salem forward in a progressive manner.”

A key to the city’s ability to keep the budget in check was past cost-saving practices and various public and private investments in our community.

Energy efficiency improvements are helping to drive down electrical costs, including a 19% reduction in electricity for street lighting.

Another significant aspect of the budget is the reductions in the South Essex Sewerage District assessment by 15%, which translates into a savings of \$853,541 and worker’ compensation charges by 28%, or \$124,827.

An additional \$900,000 reduction was made in discretionary spending.

Several other related budgetary measures include, pending council approval, 25 parking spaces in each of the two city-owned parking garages reserved on an annual basis for at a rate of \$1,500.

Local lodging room taxes, slip fees and trash, sewer and water rates will also be increased to help balance the budget.

The proposed FY2016 City budget is available online in its entirety at http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_Finance/Proposed16.

Splaine Park Rededication

Generations of Salem youth have come to know Splaine Park as a little league venue and place to play with friends.

In 1953 the park, previously known as May Street Playground, was named after John Splaine.

A World War I Veteran born in 1898, Splaine helped form the first American Legion baseball team in Salem as well as partaking in organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans, Holy Name Society of St. James Parish and the

Salem Lions Club.

The project to renovate the field and rededicate it in Splaine’s honor was initiated in 2011.

Area residents, led by Dan Ricciarelli and Stan Szwartz, came to the city with the idea.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ranked the grant proposal high due to the diverse user group of the park.

There is a new design to the park, an irrigation sys-

tem and a new flag pole.

The rededication ceremony will be Saturday, June 13 at 10 a.m.

The City’s Planning Department, including Tom Devine, was integral in seeing this project to completion.

For more information on the City of Salem Parks and Recreation Department, visit http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_Recreation/index and to see a map of all parks and playgrounds in Salem, check out the map here at <http://www.mimsalem.org/#!/gallery/c1ghi>.

Working for You: Sarah Stanton



Sarah Stanton serves as the Chief Financial Officer and Auditor for the City of Salem.

Stanton, a Massachusetts native, is responsible for overseeing the Finance Department, Collector's Office, Assessor's Office, Treasurer, Purchasing, Parking Department and Information Technology Department.

Stanton's biggest role within the city is planning the budget each and every year. It is a year-long process that involves countless hours of crunching numbers, communicating with department heads and making determinations of what needs to be in a balanced budget proposal to make the city run as effectively as possible while staying fiscally responsible.

Q & A

#1) Position: Chief Financial Officer

#2) Time in Salem:
2.5 years

#3) Responsibilities: Oversee and manage all the financial functions of the city

#4) What brought you to work in the public sector?
I believe deeply in public service and the value of contributing back to the community.

#5) Where did you work prior to Salem? Purchasing Director for the City of Woburn

#6) Important initiative:
The biggest project, all day, every day, is the budget. It is rewarding to be able to

enact the vision of the Mayor and deliver city services in an effective manner.

#7) Talk a little bit about your staff: I oversee seven departments within the city and I think they are the hardest working staff a person could ask for.

#8) What do you do when you're not working for the City of Salem? I like to run, spend time at the beach, go surfing and teach graduate classes at Northeastern University.

For The City: Board of Trust Fund Commissioners

Throughout the past few centuries many people and organizations have generously donated and bequeathed money to the City of Salem.

The money has been left for students in the way

of scholarships, to parks, to the poor and for other needs.

The funds have been generally consolidated. The Board of Trust Fund Commissioners oversee the funds and solicits applications for scholarships and grants for charitable foundations.

For more information on the Trust Fund, visit http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_BComm/trust or to learn how to submit an application for a grant or scholarship visit http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_Council/forms/index.

Members:

Judge Thaddeus Buczko

William Goreham

Sumner Jones

Raymond Vaillancourt

F. Kay Fouhey

Footprint Power Ground Breaking

Mayor Driscoll and several dignitaries from across the state attended Tuesday's groundbreaking of Footprint Powers' Salem Harbor Station, a \$1 billion state-of-the-art natural gas-fired generating facility slated to open in January of 2017.

Hundreds of people celebrated the celebratory event.

"As we begin a new era of cleaner energy and economic development in the region, we feel fortunate to be rooted in Salem," said Footprint Power CEO Peter Furniss. "We have always done our best to honor Salem and the North Shore by being transparent and engaged throughout this process. We want to thank Salem's elected leaders

past and present who worked to protect the interests of the city, and made this project better."

"This groundbreaking is a momentous and historic event for our city. Footprint Power will ensure the reliability of our electrical supply and also significantly reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions for the area," said Driscoll.



Photo Credit: Dominick Pangallo

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Photo Credit: Jeff Cox

Mayor Driscoll and members of the Salem Police Department and Fire Department teach Saltonstall School Kindergarten students about city government and public safety.