



# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Welcome to the latest issue of the FYI Salem newsletter!

As the summer months come to a close, I know many will begin to think about the start of the school year. In the latest episode of the FYI Salem podcast, the Superintendent of Salem Public Schools, Margarita Ruiz, came in to discuss the school year ahead and what's new in the district. You can listen to the interview at <http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or by subscribing on iTunes or whatever podcast app you prefer. Simply search for "FYI Salem" and subscribe! Whether you're a parent of a Salem student or not, I hope you

will tune in and listen to the interview.

Inside this edition of the FYI Salem newsletter you can read more about a coastal resiliency grant the City received last week from the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Relatedly, there is also information about an important upcoming meeting where there will be a presentation of proposed revised flood zone maps that the City will be submitting to FEMA shortly. Hopefully, if FEMA approves the new maps, hundreds of Salem homeowners will see some degree of relief from the exceedingly high flood insurance premiums they have had to pay following the zone changes FEMA originally announced in 2014.

All of these projects and efforts reflect Salem's commitment to being a Green Community and our adherence to the tenets of the Compact of Mayors to address climate change.

Whether it's through electrical aggregation, LED streetlights, rooftop solar on schools and City buildings, or flood mitigation and mapping projects, we must remain focused on simultaneously trying to lessen our impact on the climate, while also planning for whatever the future may bring.

There's a great new playground at the Bates School, thanks to the City's Community Preservation Committee for helping to fund it and to the numerous volunteers, including the Bates PTO, who donated funds, time, and labor to see it built in time for the school year to start.

Finally, ring out the summer season with another installment of our extremely popular Winter Island drive-in. Screening on August 25th, don't miss the classic "The Princess Bride." Vehicle passes are sold out, but anyone arriving on foot or by bike can enter the ground for free. Don't forget your lawn chair!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor

## Coastal Resiliency Grant

The City of Salem recently received a nearly \$55,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to design and permit a bioengineering project to provide enhanced erosion controls along part of Collins Cove. By installing coir rolls and sea grass in a strategic manner, the goal is to create a natural buffer to protect the area against storm surge and wave forces.



The funding marks the second award for Salem from the Office of Coastal Zone Management's Coastal Resilience Grant Program in as many years, coming on the heels of a \$125,000 grant last year that helped fund storm-



water run-off control and mitigation along the North River near Commercial Street. Both projects and grants have been undertaken in collaboration and partnership with Salem Sound Coastwatch, a non-profit coastal watershed organization that works with government agencies, businesses, other non-profit organizations and citizens, through municipal partnering, scientific investigation, education, and stewardship. You can learn more about Salem Sound Coastwatch at <http://www.salemsound.org/> and read the City's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan at [http://www.salem.com/planning-and-](http://www.salem.com/planning-and-community-development/files/vulnerability-assessment-action-plan)

[community-development/files/vulnerability-assessment-action-plan](http://www.salem.com/planning-and-community-development/files/vulnerability-assessment-action-plan).



**Salem Sound**  
COASTWATCH

## Bates School Playground

Thanks to private donations and a nearly \$50,000 Community Preservation Act grant, the Bates Elementary School in North Salem has a brand new playground, just in time for the start of the new school year.

The installation work was completed over the course of the summer by a team of dedicated volunteers and parents. There will be a ribbon cutting event on Sunday, August 28th, at 4:00 p.m at the new playground. The event is free and open to all.





# FEMA Flood Map Presentation

City of Salem is hoping to bring some relief to homeowners who pay flood insurance. FEMA's 2014 update to Essex County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps raised projected flood elevations and expanded the flood zone within Salem by nearly one square mile. This resulted in many additional homeowners being required to carry flood insurance and higher premiums for those who already had it.

Earlier this year the City contracted with Applied Coastal Research and Engineering to complete a new comprehensive flood study and to propose revisions to the 2014 flood maps. Their findings will be presented at an informational public meeting on **Monday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. at in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at the City Hall Annex at 120 Washington Street.**

Following the public meeting, the City will submit a Letter of Map Revision to FEMA requesting that the maps be revised based on the new flood study.

Proposed map changes would remove some properties from the flood zone altogether, eliminating the requirement for those owners to carry flood insurance. Additional revisions, such as reductions in base flood elevation and changes to flood zone designations, may potentially reduce insurance premiums for others.

“Coastal communities like Salem rely on the National Flood Insurance Program to help protect homeowners' investments against flood losses,” said Mayor Kim Driscoll. “But it is critical that the program be based on accurate maps so that no homeowner is unfairly required to take on the burden of flood insurance or pay premiums out of line with their actual flood risk.”

This initiative is part of the City's ongoing effort to address the impacts of flooding in Salem. Engineering projects are planned to reduce recurring flooding in the Rosie's Pond and Canal Street neighborhoods.

In addition, the City has completed an assessment of opportunities to mitigate the impacts of climate change through green infrastructure, such as strengthening shorelines with natural vegetation and placing shellfish beds in coastal waters to absorb wave action. The City is currently seeking grant

funding for a pilot project.

Current flood maps can be viewed online at [msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov). The proposed map revisions are posted on the City's website at <http://www.salem.com/conservation-commission/pages/proposed-flood-map-revisions>.

Those seeking additional information should contact Tom Devine in the Department of Planning & Community Development at 978-619-5685 or [tdevine@salem.com](mailto:tdevine@salem.com).



FEMA's original Flood Insurance Rate Map for the City of Salem. Proposed revisions to certain areas are available for viewing at <http://www.salem.com/conservation-commission/pages/proposed-flood-map-revisions>.




Salem's Pop-up Drive In Presents

# THE PRINCESS BRIDE

**Vehicle Passes sold out!  
Bicycle and walk-in  
admission only!**

*As You Wish*

Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> · Winter Island Hangar · 8:30pm

This event is free for anyone attending on bike, foot, boat, kayak, or any other non-motorized method of transport. Tickets for vehicles are available at [CreativeSalem.com/drive-in](http://CreativeSalem.com/drive-in).