



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Welcome to the final FYI Salem newsletter of 2016!

In the latest two episodes of the FYI Salem podcast, I was joined by Kylie Sullivan of Salem Main Streets and Jill Thompson of the Salem Chamber to talk about holiday shopping and doing business in Salem, and then by City Councilor Josh Turiel, who is wrapping up his year as the City Council President. You can listen to both interviews 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.

It's been an exciting year for the City of Salem. The National Grid underground cable project wrapped up, site work has got underway for the long-awaited Community Life Center, a major upgrade to the Canal Street corridor began con-

struction, and work continues on the Footprint power plant project which is expected to be completed this coming June. We received millions in state and federal grants to upgrade the Boston and Bridge Street intersection, help improve McGlew and Mary Jane Lee parks, and assist with the hiring of four more community police officers. We committed to one of the most extensive road repaving programs ever, tackling three times as many roadway overhauls as we normally pave in a fiscal year.

Salem's Public Schools rose out of Level 4 status and all of schools showed remarkable improvements in student achievement and learning. I'm proud of the progressive partnership with the Salem Teachers Union reflected in a new contract that supports professional development and teacher leadership opportunities.

2016 also brought improvements in how local government operates. Our new automated trash and recycling collection has resulted in dramatically reduced complaints of missed pick-ups and loose litter, while single-stream recycling has increased our recycling overall. Efficiencies from our new LED street lights and from the Salem PowerChoice program helped keep Salem residents' dollars in their own

wallets, while boosting our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.

Our record-high bond rating was affirmed and we received yet another award from the leading nation-wide government finance watchdog association for transparency and accountability in our budgeting. The City's stabilization funds are stronger than they've ever been, we launched City Hall to Go to improve access to public services, formed a new Traffic and Parking Commission to begin to take on traffic issues in an objective and professional manner, and we debuted the Visual Budget website, to make it even easier for taxpayers to see where their dollars are going to fund local services. I'm especially proud that the City remains substantially under its levy limit and that we have maintained the second lowest average tax increase over the past decade among all North Shore communities.

2017 will bring its own challenges and its own opportunities. I remain optimistic about all the possibilities in front of us as a community, however. In Salem we will continue to build bridges—not walls. We will continue to be a diverse and welcoming City—one that looks to the future with nothing but confidence and optimism about what we can achieve together. Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Kim Driscoll, Mayor

McGlew Park grant

The City of Salem has received its eighth Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant from the Commonwealth, a \$400,000 award that will go toward the upgrade of McGlew Park in North Salem. The balance of funds for the \$622,000 project have come from a combination of City capital funds, Community Development Block Grant dollars, and a Community Preservation Act grant.

Over the last decade the City has applied for and received a total of just over \$3.4 million in PARC grants to carry out improvements at Peabody Street Park, Furlong Park, Splaine Park, Bertram Field, the Lead Mills Conservation Area,

Winter Island, and Mary Jane Lee Park.

This award for McGlew will enable the City to make a vast improvement to this important neighborhood park. In addition to upgrading the entry on North Street to make it more welcoming and ADA-compliant, the plans call for new trees, an irrigation system for the softball field, resurfacing of the basketball court, walking trails around the park, and the installation of new playground equipment.



Museum Place Garage upgrades

The City of Salem has commenced a major capital improvement project, as it begins the reconstruction of the four stairwells in the Museum Place parking garage in downtown Salem. The work will improve both the safety and appearance of the heavily utilized stairways and comes shortly after the City completed a separate parking garage systems upgrade to the payment kiosks.

In order to carry out the work, temporary stairway closures will be necessary to accommodate the construction activities. Closures will commence as early as this weekend; however, at least one stairwell and the two elevators will always be available for public use. The elevators' hours of operations were recently changed to run 24 hours a day, for additional convenience. During the project, which is anticipated to last several months, signage will be posted directing those parking in the garage to the open stairwell.

"I want to thank in advance those who make use of the garage for their patience during this important project," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "By making these upgrades now we will help ensure the continued safety of those who park at the garage and also be able to make an improvement to the aesthetics of these busy stairways."



Launch! 4-6pm • **FREE**
Family Friendly • Crafts • Music
Countdown for the Kids!
\$5 Suggested Donation

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31, 2016

NEW YEAR'S EVE
OLD TOWN HALL • SALEM, MA

Late Night 9-12:30am • **\$20**
Full Bar • Live Music • 21+
Countdown at Midnight!
Tickets Available at Creative-salem.ticketleap.com

In Partnership with the City of Salem, Creative Salem, Salem Main Streets, Retonica, Figsbury Creative Group, Dandrew, & Northshore Bartending Service

Salem MAINSTREETS CREATIVE SALEM FIGSBURY RETONICA DANDREW

State of the City 2017

Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll will deliver her 12th annual State of the City update at the City Council's organizational meeting for the 2017 calendar year. The event takes place on Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Salem City Hall, 93 Washington Street. It is free and open to the public, and will also be broadcast on SATV Channel 22. The audio of her remarks will be in the first January episode of the FYI Salem podcast and the full text will be available online at <http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/mayors-speeches>.



Mayor Kimberley Driscoll cordially invites you to the annual

State of the City Address

Thursday, January 5, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Salem City Hall

93 Washington Street, Salem MA

First Day Hikes



The City of Salem is partnering with the National Park Service to participate in First Day Hikes, a national initiative established by America's State Parks.

Salem's First Day Hikes will begin at the Salem Common Playground at 10:00 a.m. on January 1st.

Participants can choose to walk around the Salem Common and then to the Derby Wharf Lighthouse, or a shorter route that begins at Derby Wharf and goes to the lighthouse. The map below has more details on the hike routes.

This is the second year the City, its Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department, Salem Mass in Motion office, and National Park Service have participated together in the First Day Hikes programs, which offers residents and visitors an opportunity to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature, and celebrate the New Year with family and friends.

"I invite all Salem residents to join us in using this New Year's Day event as the first step to start their new year with exercise and enjoying the outdoors and our historic sites with their friends and neighbors," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll.

"Salem's outstanding quality of life is built around its history, its open spaces and its people. Come out on New Year's Day to enjoy all three and put your best foot forward," said National Parks Superintendent Paul DePrey.

The Derby Wharf lighthouse will be open for viewing and local historian Jim McAllister will be on hand to discuss the history of the lighthouse and the maritime site itself.

At the end of the walk, participants are invited to gather for cookies and hot chocolate at the Waite & Peirce Store at the Historic Site.

