



FYI SALEM

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CLC Ground-breaking	2
Fiber Optic RFP	2
September Salem Days	3
Universal Design Symposium	3
Park Water Fountains	3
McGlew Park Upgrades	4
Lafayette Park Upgrades	4

From the Mayor's Desk



move in and class sessions resume.

It's also a time to celebrate all that makes Salem special. I invite you to check out Salem Celebrates on Facebook, a new social media initiative dedicated to promoting all the great cultural and special events and incredible small businesses that make Salem so vibrant and unique.

Our parks and playgrounds are another component of what makes Salem so special. I'm very excited to share three updates in this newsletter with you about major upgrades getting underway at McGlew Park and Lafayette Park, and the installation of new water fountains in parks across the City.

Details about September Salem Days are also included here, as well as a reminder about the groundbreaking ceremony for our new Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center (CLC) on September 7. The CLC will provide a new facility for our Council on Aging, Parks and Recreation, and Veterans Services offices, not to mention public meeting and activity rooms. We also have information about an upcoming public presentation on the topic of universal design in housing,

being hosted by the Salem for All Ages initiative.

Finally, read up on our recently issued Request for Proposals, as we look for proposals from companies that are interested in bringing high-speed fiber optic internet to Salem. Rather than install and provide the service ourselves as a municipality, we're looking for an enterprising company to partner with us to help Salem residents and businesses get access to high speed internet. We know it can be a game changer for economic growth, education, and so much more. We've had an expression of interest from one company so far, but are always open to hearing from others!

On the latest episode of the FYI Salem podcast I was joined by Salem Police Chief Mary Butler and Jason Etheridge, the Executive Director of Lifebridge. We talk about the new collaborative effort hoping to address issues of homelessness and improve quality of life. You can find the episode at <http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> and on iTunes and most other podcast services.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor, City of Salem

Salem stands with Texas! We are partnering with the City of Boston's Help for Houston effort and invite Salem residents to bring their donations of diapers and non-perishable baby food for those children and families impacted by Hurricane Harvey to drop off in the Mayor's Office in City Hall, at any Salem Fire station, or the Salem Police Department before noon on Thursday August 31. All collected items will be added to the items going to Houston out of Boston this week.

Here in Salem summer is coming to a close and many families, my own included, are preparing for the start of the school year. Next week brings the return of students at Salem State University, so be aware of traffic impacts as students

CLC Groundbreaking

Save the Date!

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Mayor Jean A. Levesque

Community Life Center

401 Bridge Street, Salem

September 7, 2017, 11am



Mayor Jean A. Levesque
Community Life Center
Salem, MA



Fiber Optic RFP

The City of Salem has issued a request for proposals from companies interested in creating a city-wide fiber to the premises network capable of supplying at least 1 gigabyte high-speed internet to all residences and businesses. The proposal seeks companies with experience and capacity to install the infrastructure and maintain it, as well as prospective internet service providers ready to offer the service to customers. The proposal spells out the requirements for installation of the network, including construction protocols and road restoration requirements. Installation methods that utilize existing infrastructure or micro-trenching are preferred.

The City also is seeking "digital city" connection points that would enable Salem to install such components as smart street light and traffic signal controls, storm drain and catch basin flooding sensors, variable parking capacity signage, and more. Respondents are also asked to provide discounted or free wireless internet access at the home for Salem public school students who live in Salem.

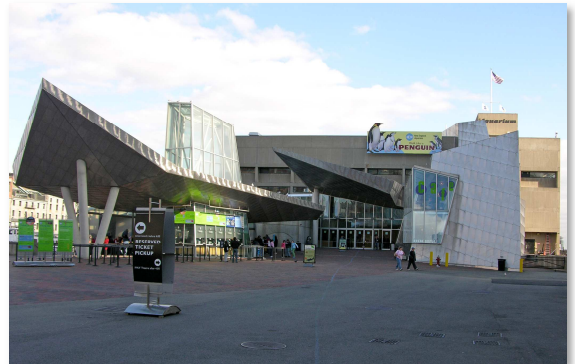
"For the last several years we have asked Verizon to consider expanding their FiOS service into Salem," explained Mayor Kim Driscoll. "They've consistently declined, but we regularly hear from residents who want an alternative to existing internet service provider choices. As more companies are beginning to offer alternatives and they are reaching out about possibly coming to Salem, we thought it would be worthwhile to seek out a potential partner to install a high-speed fiber network. In addition to offering high-speed internet, fiber would also enable the City to carry out a number of innovative initiatives, thanks to the availability of connections throughout the community. We've designed this RFP to try to leverage that network to the greatest benefit for residents, businesses, and City operations."

The full RFP is at <http://www.salem.com/purchasing/pages/open-procurements-ifb-rfp-rfq>. Responses are due back to the City by September 8.

September Salem Days

Once again, Salem residents get free admission to the New England Aquarium in September.

Explore the beauty and biodiversity of the oceans at the Caribbean coral reef exhibit, see more than 80 penguins, and see the newest exhibit, Science of Sharks. Salem residents also get a discount on the Salem Ferry. This program is made possible by the Norman H. Read Program for Excellence in the Sciences.



This discount is for use by Salem residents only. This offer is valid during September 2017 only. Not available for phone or online orders, or for school or other group reservations. May not be combined with other offers and not valid on the New England Aquarium Whale Watch or in the Simons IMAX® Theatre. All adult visitors in your group will be asked to present proof of residency at the Aquarium Box Office, such as a valid driver's license with a Salem address or a valid state-issued ID card with a Salem address.

Universal Design Symposium

The City of Salem and the Salem for All Ages Task Force will welcome Valerie Fletcher, Executive Director of the Institute for Human Centered Design, for two public presentations on the topic of universal design on September 26. Fletcher will share the story of universal design globally with an emphasis on homes. The concept of universal design was born in 1997 in response to the same facts as the Age-Friendly City movement: in the 21st century, we live longer and survive more than at any time in history. Design is a necessary tool to tackle the practical tasks that make our good fortune work at the personal and community level.

"Housing is an important component of the Salem for All Ages action plan," said Mayor Kim Driscoll, "And a key piece of that is ensuring that our housing stock, whether it is being refurbished or constructed new, incorporates the elements of universal design. A universally designed home is one in which one can live and grow older with ease. It enables seniors who have lived in Salem all their lives, who grew up here, to be better able to stay in the community that they love."

The same presentation will be offered at 3pm and 6pm and both take place in the third floor conference room at City Hall Annex, 120 Washington St. RSVP to dpangallo@salem.com if you plan to attend and identify which time you plan to attend. Both presentations are free and open to all.

Park Water Fountains



The City of Salem will be installing the first of many new park water fountains over the next few weeks. The highly durable fountains are hand-capped accessible and, in some parks, will also include water bottle fillers and fillable dog bowls.

The first round of parks to get the new fountains include Winter Island, Mack Park, Palmer Cove playground, and Memorial Park. Additional fountains will be going in at other City parks later in the fall and in the spring.

McGlew Park Upgrades

McGlew Park, located in North Salem, will close for renovation on August 28. Construction is anticipated to be largely complete by December with final work to be finished in the spring. McGlew Park is named in honor of US Army Corporal Robert McGlew, a Salem native who was tragically killed in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Corporal McGlew was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and his remains are buried in the Punch Bowl Military Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii.



In April of this year, the Salem Park & Recreation Commission approved a new park design that was developed through a public process led by the City and its landscape architecture firm, Michelle Crowley Landscape Architecture. Visibility to the park will be enhanced through a prominent line of trees planted along the entrance to guide visitors to the park. The veterans' monument will be relocated into a commemorative masonry wall at the entrance. Improvements to the existing softball field include irrigation to support a healthy lawn and renovations to the backstop to increase visibility and safety. The existing basketball court will be resurfaced and receive new equipment. The street hockey court will be replaced with a variety of modern accessible play equipment for children of all ages and abilities. A new accessible walking path will create a loop around the lower, flatter areas of the park, connecting areas of passive and active recreation and providing opportunities for walking, bicycling and jogging. Trees throughout the park will be selectively removed and added to achieve an appropriate mix of sun and shade.

The project is made possible through the support of the Community Preservation Committee, the Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Program, the Community Development Block Grant, and the City's regular capital improvement funds.

Lafayette Park Upgrades

Upgrades are now underway at Lafayette Park. Construction is anticipated to be complete by December, with final work to be finished in the spring. The Lafayette Street bus stop and nearby crosswalk over Washington and Lafayette Streets will remain open during construction.

Lafayette Park was constructed by the Salem Rebuilding Commission after the Great Salem Fire of 1914 destroyed the city block that existed where the park stands today. A City firehouse was among the buildings that were leveled at the site. In 2014 the City marked the Great Fire centennial with the rededication of a plaque commemorating the community's recovery from the conflagration. A 35-foot Art Deco obelisk installed in 1947 honors the service of veterans of St. Joseph's Parish, which formerly stood across the street.



In April the Park and Recreation Commission approved a design developed through a public input process. The renovated park will maintain the veterans' monument as its centerpiece, while adding lighting to highlight the monument and illuminate new pedestrian walkways. It also includes new benches and trash/recycling barrels. The Great Fire plaque will be moved within the park to a more prominent location, and interpretive signage will be added to spotlight the history of the park. Trees will be selectively removed and planted to achieve an appropriate mix of sun and shade, and an irrigation system will be installed to support a healthy lawn.

The project is made possible through a \$100,000 Community Preservation Act grant and an additional \$25,000 in City capital funds.