



# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Thank you for your patience as Salem got through another successful October season and Halloween! I want to extend a special thanks to all of our police, fire, and ambulance workers, as well as our law enforcement partners from around the region, for helping to keep this year's festivities safe for all.

And another special thank you is due to our public works crews, who put in countless hours to make sure our community can manage this world-famous event and then clean it up quickly after it's over! With the major wind storm that hit our city on Sunday night, our crews were all put to the test over the course

of this week. Everyone did a remarkable job and we are so grateful that they are part of City's team of public servants.

Check in this issue of FYI Salem for more information and a link to our annual post-Halloween residents survey. This survey is a great way for us to gather your feedback about how things went and where we can improve. We've added some new questions this year, so be sure to check it out!

I'm so proud that Salem earned our ninth Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. This national public finance watchdog group sets high standards for budgets and finance reports. Since we started measuring ourselves against their standards about a decade ago, Salem has consistently demonstrated the strength of our municipal finances and the transparency of our annual budget.

On Saturday, SalemRecycles is hosting our second "Repair Café" - check inside for more details. This is a great opportunity to get something mended or fixed, rather than throwing it out. Help us divert from the waste stream and bring your electronics, clothing, furniture, or other damaged items over to the Café!

Lastly, Salem will hold our municipal elections on Tuesday, November 7. Voting takes place from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and, if you're not in town on Election Day, and you head into the Clerk's Office to get an absentee ballot until noon on Monday, November 6. Robert Kennedy once said, "Elections remind us not only of the rights but the responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy." I hope everyone who is registered to vote is able to participate in the election on November 7. For more information about voting in Salem, call the City Clerk's office at 978-619-5611 or visit <http://www.salem.com/city-clerk>.

Kim Driscoll, Mayor

# Election Day 2017

The 2017 municipal election will be held in Salem on Tuesday, November 7. Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. The election ballot includes contests for Mayor, City Councillor-at-Large, Ward Councillor, School Committee, and one ballot question.

In order to vote, you must be registered. Check your voter registration status at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx> and look up your polling place by address at [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com).

To see a list of the candidates appearing on the November 7 ballot and to read the text of the only ballot question that appears on the November 7 ballot, please visit [http://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/uploads/municipal\\_election\\_ballot\\_for\\_november\\_7\\_2017.pdf](http://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/uploads/municipal_election_ballot_for_november_7_2017.pdf).

Absentee ballots may be requested up until noon on Monday, November 6 from the Salem City Clerk's office. More information about requesting an absentee ballot is available at <http://www.salem.com/city-clerk/pages/absentee-voting>.



**City of Salem - 2017 Election**  
**Tuesday, November 7**  
**7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Ward 1, Precinct 1 - Bentley School, Memorial Drive  
Ward 1, Precinct 2 - Community Room, 135 Lafayette Street  
Ward 2 - St. Peter's Hall, 24 St. Peter's Street  
Ward 3 - Salem High School auditorium, 77 Willson Street  
Ward 4 - Witchcraft Heights Elementary School gymnasium, 1 Frederick Street  
Ward 5 - Saltonstall School auditorium, 211 Lafayette Street  
Ward 6, Precinct 1 - Bates Elementary School, Liberty Hill Avenue  
Ward 6, Precinct 2 - Park & Recreation Department, Mack Park  
Ward 7 - Salem State University Enterprise Center, 121 Loring Avenue

# Budget Award for Salem



Salem has received its ninth Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), a nation-wide nonprofit organization. The award is the only national awards program for governmental budgets. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA reflects the City's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the award, the City had to meet or exceed nationally recognized guidelines for an effective budget presentation.

"I'm very pleased that we have once again earned this recognition and distinction from the GFOA," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "We have consistently delivered transparent and informative budgets, based on real costs, carefully developed financial forecasts, and best practices in municipal governance. I'm proud that we've managed to turn multi-million-dollar deficits into record stabilization funds, achieve the highest bond rating in the City's history, and secure grant and other outside dollars to lessen the need to rely on taxpayers.

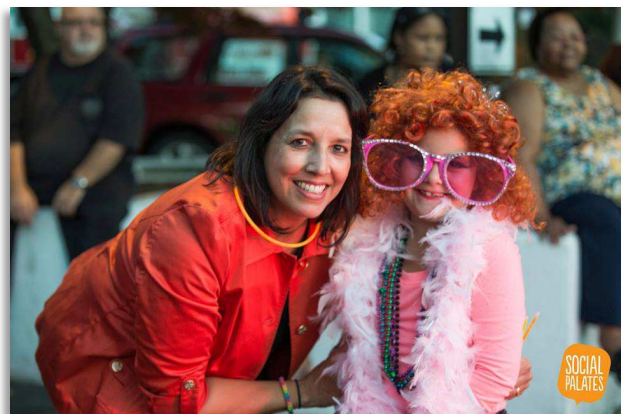
This award is reflective of the diligent work that goes into Salem's budget and our financial practices, and it is a credit to the professional staff in our Finance Department."

The GFOA guidelines are designed to assess how well a municipality's budget serve as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated proficient in all four categories and in fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories in order to receive the award.

## Halloween Residents Survey

The 2017 Salem residents' Haunted Happenings and Halloween survey is now online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SalemHalloween2017>. The survey seeks to gauge resident feedback on the events, public safety response, public information distribution, potential City policies, and more, all related to both Haunted Happenings and Halloween in Salem.

2017 marks the eighth year that the City has collected this feedback. It will online until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 10.



"We worked hard to incorporate public input and feedback from our residents into our Halloween and October planning every year," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "New for this year we added event staff personnel at key street crossings and public gathering points, launched a satellite parking and shuttle service that helped remove thousands of visitor cars from our roads, and made modifications to improve our public safety responsiveness in a pro-active and strategic fashion. In all, Halloween 2017 went extremely well and that was in large part due to the input – and patience – of Salem residents. I hope all residents will take a couple of minutes to complete the survey so we can continue to improve how we manage October in the years ahead."



# Repair Café Returns

After a highly successful “inaugural” event this summer, SalemRecycles will hold a second Repair Café on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon at The Bridge at 211 (211 Bridge Street in Salem).

Salem residents are invited to participate in the North Shore's second Repair Café. Organized jointly by SalemRecycles and The Bridge at 211, this event takes place on **Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, at The Bridge at 211.** Repair vol-

unteers will be available to mend clothing, sew buttons, sharpen scissors and knives, tinker with or rewire electronics and lamps, and glue wooden furniture and ceramics.



Salem's Repair Café combines the old time feeling of neighbor helping neighbor with the practicality and sustainability of the modern recycler's mantra: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle -- and now, Refresh, Refurbish, and Repair. The event is a community barn raising on a smaller scale, with a modern twist of slowing down our consumer-based society, and seeing what we might be able to patch up and appreciate anew. In choosing to glue a broken chair or rewire a beloved old lamp, residents are minimizing the draw on the earth's limited resources, reducing what enters our waste stream, while saving money.



“We were so pleased with the response to our first Salem Repair Café in August. We weren't sure what to expect, but had an excellent turnout and many happy ‘customers.’ We are excited to host a second repair event,” states Flora Tonthat, SalemRecycles Chair.

The Repair Café is free to the public (donations are accepted toward supplies for future repair events). A limited number of pre-registration slots are available and light refreshments will be served. Limited parking is available in the small lot at 211 Bridge St., or park on nearby streets and walk on over.

For further information, or to volunteer to repair items please contact Julie Rose at [jrose@salem.com](mailto:jrose@salem.com) or 978-619-5679. You may also follow SalemRecycles at [GreenSalem.com](http://GreenSalem.com) or on Facebook to receive updates on this and other sustainable events.

