



# FYI SALEM

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 11

JUNE 5, 2018

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Palmer Cove Open House     | 2 |
| Climate Change Grant       | 2 |
| Parking Rates Reviewed     | 2 |
| FY2019 City Budget         | 3 |
| Short Term Rentals Meeting | 4 |

## From the Mayor's Desk



Thanks for reading FYI Salem! Please feel free to share it with friends or neighbors. If they want to get the newsletter by email, they can fill out the form at [www.salem.com/](http://www.salem.com/) subscribe.

Tonight we're holding an open house for residents who would like to share their hopes and visions for Palmer Cove park, one of our larger City parks. We are about to begin the design phase for improvements to this centrally located park and are eager to hear from park users, neighbors, and others about what they think can be made better at Palmer Cove. If you cannot make the meeting,

please fill out the online survey to share your feedback.

Speaking of sharing feedback, on June 26th we'll hold a public "listening session" to get your input about a proposed draft ordinance to regulate short term rentals like Airbnb here in Salem. You can find a link to draft ordinance at [www.salem.com/rentals](http://www.salem.com/rentals) down at the bottom of the page. If you can't make the meeting, email your feedback to [mayor@salem.com](mailto:mayor@salem.com) before June 29.

Last week we received notice that Salem would be receiving a \$345,000 state grant to start engineering work on a critical infrastructure project. A sewer line off of the Willow Avenue beach is highly vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge. This grant will enable us to get started on a plan to eventually relocate this line so it is not in the harbor.

Finally, we have some information about the FY2019 proposed City budget. I am so proud

that our budgets routinely receive the highest accolades from the nation's government finance watchdog organization, the GFOA. In this issue you can find a link to the complete budget, as well as more information about the ongoing budget hearings and how you can watch them or participate.

Tune into the latest FYI Salem podcast, available at [www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast](http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast) or search for it on iTunes or wherever you listen to podcasts. On the latest episode I chat with Linda Saris of the Salem education non-profit LEAP for Education about her organization's efforts to help Salem kids prepare for success after High School.

Please share this newsletter with friends, family, and neighbors to help keep everyone informed about what's going on in our great city!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

## Palmer Cove Open House



The City will host an Open House Tuesday, June 5 at Espacio, the community room at 105 Congress Street from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to discuss the Palmer Cove Park Renovation project. Drop in any time between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to talk about your ideas for the park with designers and other members of the community.

You can also provide us with feedback by taking this brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/36NHTZ7>

## Climate Change Grant

The City of Salem has received a \$345,000 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to start engineering and design phase work for the relocation of a sanitary sewer trunk pipe that currently runs through Salem Harbor off of the Willow Avenue beach. The pipe is a significant hazard and its relocation is in alignment with the City's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan.



"This funding will help address a critical sewer trunk line impacted by rising tides in South Salem," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "We are very excited about putting our climate change and resiliency planning efforts into action and are grateful to the Baker/Polito Administration for their help funding this important initiative and greatly appreciate the support of Representative Tucker and Senator Lovely advocating for this project."

## Parking Rates Reviewed

On June 7 at 6:30pm at 98 Washington Street, the Traffic and Parking Commission will begin a discussion on proposed parking rate restructuring for downtown Salem. It has been nearly 10 years since the City's last comprehensive review of parking rates, and in that time the parking issues in Salem have changed dramatically. In 2010, the goal was to restructure rates in order to move cars into underutilized locations.

Today, those locations have, in some cases, become over-utilized as the City has seen continued economic growth and commercial activity throughout downtown and along the waterfront. Salem garages routinely hit 85% capacity on weekdays and weekends, and on-street parking is equally scarce. In addition, parking rates have been unchanged in this time, over the same period the cost for maintenance and upgrades to these parking facilities has only grown. By restructuring rates the City can both better manage parking utilization and also fund these costs through revenues paid by those who use the parking, without needing to overly rely on taxpayers.

More details: [https://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/uploads/2018\\_proposed\\_parking\\_rate\\_restructuring.pdf](https://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/uploads/2018_proposed_parking_rate_restructuring.pdf)

# FY2019 City Budget

In May, Mayor Kim Driscoll filed her proposed FY2019 City budget. The City Council's Committee on Administration and Finance is currently holding their routine budget meetings to review the various departments' budgets.

You can read the budget online here: <https://www.salem.com/auditor-director-finance/pages/fy2019-proposed-budget-0> and find the schedule of budget meetings here: <https://www.salem.com/node/1101/agenda/2018>. You can also catch the budget meetings on Salem Access TV Channel 22—find the schedule for SATV here: <http://satvonline.org/channels/>.

The following is from Mayor Driscoll's cover letter to the City Council submitting the budget for their consideration and review.

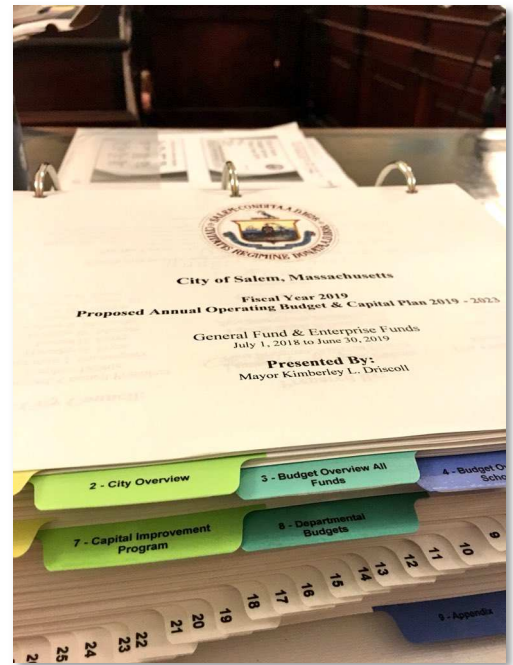
"The proposed budgets reflect a balanced and responsible spending plan for our community that continues to invest in the critical quality of life, public infrastructure, and education needs that help make Salem the hub of the North Shore and such an attractive place to live, visit, do business, and raise a family. I believe this budget will continue to strengthen our community and recommend its adoption for the coming fiscal year.

Not only do our sound fiscal practices ensure public funds are being managed to the highest standards, they also allow us to realize financial gains. Better bond ratings mean we can refinance existing debt at the lower interest rates accessible to us, saving money. We were also able to save taxpayers' dollars through innovations like LED street light conversions, leveraging state grants for rooftop solar to lower electric bills at our schools, electrical aggregation to bring down electricity rates for consumers, and more.

In our budgeting practices, the taxpayers of Salem have always been foremost in mind, and FY2019 is no different. This budget both recognizes the impact of property taxes on residents and meets their demands for investments in the local services they need and rely upon every day. We have received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) highest accolades for fiscal transparency for the last decade. We are one of only a handful of Massachusetts communities who annually qualify for both a Certificate of Excellence for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting (CAFR) and a Distinguished Budget Award from the GFOA.

In FY2019 we will continue to strive to exceed the service level expectations of our constituents, while simultaneously ensuring fiscal prudence in all expenditures. The mission of City government in Salem is to provide open, honest, and pro-active services effectively and efficiently, focusing on the needs of today, with a vision for the future. In order to accomplish this, the proposed budget aligns operations with short-term and long-term strategic goals and objectives, while maintaining necessary fiscal controls and a careful attention to our financial forecasts in our budgeting. This is a challenging balance to strike, but I believe the proposed budget accomplishes just that.

I believe the proposed FY2019 budget before you today represents a strong commitment to the people we are all fortunate enough to have been elected to serve. It continues our balanced and responsible approach to city finances and budgets. It invests in continuing to make Salem a safe city, a welcoming city, a city with schools in which we can all take pride – in short, a forward-looking and livable city for all."







# **Proposed Short Term Rentals Ordinance Public Information & Listening Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 7:00 p.m.  
City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street, Salem**



Come listen to a brief presentation on the draft ordinance being developed regarding short term rentals (i.e. Airbnb, VRBO, etc.) in Salem, ask questions, and share your feedback and comments!

Read the draft ordinance at [www.salem.com/rentals](http://www.salem.com/rentals) (scroll to the bottom of the page for the PDF file “Draft Short Term Rentals Ordinance”).

Unable to attend in person? Submit your feedback to [mayor@salem.com](mailto:mayor@salem.com) with the subject line “Short Term Rentals” by Friday, June 29.