



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Thanks for reading the newest issue of our FYI Salem newsletter!

We're very pleased to share the news that the City's bonding rating, independently assessed by the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, has been reaffirmed at AA, the highest rating in the Salem's history.

Having a strong bond rating is not only a great validation of our financial practices—it also enables us to borrow funds for critical infrastructure and capital needs at a very competitive interest rate, saving taxpayers' dol-

lars on these investments in our community.

We're also excited to launch a new participatory budgeting program to promote alternative transportation here in Salem. The City received funding from the state to put toward this effort and we're encouraging Salem residents to check out www.salem.com/shift to submit their ideas and then to vote at that site between August 1-31.

Stop by for an open house on June 27th at 6pm at Witchcraft Heights Elementary School, as we start the design process for upgrades to Gallows Hill Park.

Read more inside about the details of this year's July 4th celebrations, with a concert, activities, and fireworks at historic Derby Wharf on our beautiful waterfront. July 4th is always a special occasion here in Salem, with one of the largest and most festive Independence

Day celebrations on the North Shore. We do impose the maximum fines for illegal fireworks, so please leave the pyrotechnics to the professionals and come down to Derby Wharf to be part of the celebration!

Tune into the latest FYI Salem podcast, available at 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 Ben Bawtree-Jobson of SiFi Networks, the company planning to install a high-speed fiber internet network here in Salem over the course of the next two years.

Thanks again for reading this issue of FYI Salem! Please share it with friends and neighbors, and encourage them to subscribe to receive it directly by signing up at www.salem.com/

Kim Driscoll
Mayor

S&P Global Ratings

Bond Rating Affirmed

Standard and Poor's has once again affirmed the City of Salem's AA bond rating, which was first issued in 2013 and continues to be the City's highest bond rating in its history. The agency's credit rating is influenced by the City's financial policies and positions, which remain, in S&P's analysis, very strong.

"I am very proud that we have maintained our AA rating from S&P and recognize that maintaining a high bond rating such as this requires constant effort and vigilance on the part of our Salem team," said Mayor Driscoll. "I would like to acknowledge the hard work that goes into maintaining a high caliber and professionally managed municipal finance operation. I also would like to acknowledge the partnership we have with our City Council in enacting prudent budgets and strong financial policies, ensuring we hold ourselves to these high standards, and reviewing with care the fiscal matters that come before us. We are cognizant to develop budgets that are carefully balanced, responsible in their use of tax dollars, while also striving to meet the level of service delivery that our constituents expect and deserve. I believe this ratings affirmation is a reflection of these diligent efforts.

Mode Shift Salem

Mayor Kim Driscoll has announced that the City of Salem has launched a "mode shift" participatory budgeting program, where residents propose projects to encourage alternative transportation and then vote on those projects. The projects with the most votes will be advanced to implementation this fall.

Mode Shift SALEM

Imagine > Vote > Shift

www.salem.com/shift

The program is funded by \$30,000 that the City received from the Commonwealth through a state charge assessed on ride-share services like Uber and Lyft in 2017. Per the state law, ten cents from each

such ride is being distributed proportionately to each city and town based on the number of rides that originated in that community.

Residents are encouraged to submit their proposed ideas to shift@salem.com before the deadline of July 16. Only one proposal will be accepted per person. Once all proposals are submitted, the City will review them, combining similar proposals and eliminating those that do not match the program or statutory requirements.

The final proposals will appear on a ballot and every Salem resident will be invited to vote for the proposal of their choice. Residents will only be able to vote once per person and will be able to do so either online at www.salem.com/shift or in person during City business hours in the Mayor's Office at City Hall, 93 Washington Street. Voting will last from August 1 until August 31, after which point the proposals will be sorted by the most number of votes and awarded funding in that order until the full \$30,000 is utilized. Full program details are available at www.salem.com/shift.

"In the future we may opt to put these dollars to specific programs like a shuttle service or bike share," said Mayor Driscoll. "This year, however, we thought it would be great to galvanize some public engagement and enthusiasm around alternative transit options. I hope anyone with a concept or idea about how to encourage mode shift in transportation here in Salem – whether it's a capital project, an educational effort, or a new program – will submit their proposal to go onto the ballot. And I encourage all residents to vote for the project of their choice."

Gallows Hill Park

Open House Visioning Session

June 27th 6-7pm

**Witchcraft Heights Elementary School
1 Frederick St.**



**Drop in anytime between 6 and 7pm to
let us know what your vision is for
Gallows Hill Park**

For more information, please contact Tom Devine with the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development at (978) 619-5685 or tdevine@salem.com



Fourth of July CELEBRATION!

AT
**DERBY
WHARF**
JULY 4, 2018

7:15 PM

Opening Ceremonies
The Hillyer Festival Orchestra Concert

9:15 PM

Fireworks Extravaganza
from Derby Wharf

PRE-CONCERT ACTIVITIES:

5:00 PM

Kids' Space Opens
Free Activities, Games, Prizes & Face Painting
LUX on Main Stage

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City of Salem, Kimberley Driscoll, Mayor
for more information check the Events Calendar on www.salem.com

<https://www.salem.com/home/news/salem-celebrates-july-4th-1>