

FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Thanks for reading the latest issue of FYI Salem. Be sure to sign up for updates and news from the City of Salem by subscribing at www.salem.com/subscribe.

On the latest episode of the FYI Salem podcast I chat with Superintendent of Salem Public Schools Maraarita Ruiz. We had an informative conversation about her recent recommendation to the Salem School Committee to dissolve the Nathaniel Bowditch School and relocate the Horace Mann Laboratory School to the building on Willson Street. You can find the podcast at http:// www.salem.com/mayors -office/pages/fyi-salempodcast

or search for it on iTunes or your preferred podcast app.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts and feedback about this recommendation, or to ask a question about it, you can reach the Superintendent at superintendent as superintendent as superintendent as superintendent will be held in the School Committee chambers at the Collins Middle School on Monday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m.

In this issue of FYI Salem you'll find information about two new public information efforts the City is taking to help better inform and notify the public about critical City updates. The first is the placement of a widget on our website that shows you the latest CodeRED emergency notifications you can read or listen to them again, see what parts of the City received the alert, and sign up to get notifications if you're not already enrolled. The second update has information about our new official City Twitter account— @CityofSalemMA.

Also inside this issue is information about major upcoming historic restoration work and upgrades planned for the Charter Street Cemetery. During this work the cemetery will likely be partially or entirely closed to the public, so be sure to check it out.

Finally, there are details about an upcoming public meeting on our shuttle service feasibility study, as well as a link to a survey where you can share your input on this innovative transportation project. We also have information about the always popular Salem's So Sweet Festival, which takes place this weekend!

As always, thank you for reading FYI Salem and please share this newsletter with your Salem friends, family, and neighbors to help keep everyone informed about what's going on in our great city!

Lin Small

Kim Driscoll Mayor, City of Salem

CodeRED on the Web



If you missed a CodeRED reverse notification from the City of Salem, visit www.salem.com and click on the CodeRED logo to read the latest alert messages and to subscribe if you are not already enrolled.

CodeRED is the reverse notification system that the City uses to alert anyone who wishes to sign up to emergencies, planned road closures or traffic issues, utility work, trash and recycling collection delays, snow emergencies, and other critical alerts. You can sign up to receive messages by phone call, text message, or email, and messages are available in both English and Spanish.

CodeRED Emergency Alerts



Salem's So Sweet

Salem Main Streets, the Salem Chamber of Commerce, Destination Salem, and local retailers, restaurants, and businesses invite you to the 16th annual Salem's So Sweet Chocolate & Ice Sculpture Festival. A decadent tradition of delectable chocolate, sparkling ice sculptures, and Valentine's Day shopping, it's Salem's sweetest event of the year!



Ice Sculptures around Town – Starting Feb. 10. Last year, 25 beautiful ice sculptures graced downtown Salem. Details about this year's sculptures will be posted at the website above. Be sure to make plans for a special evening stroll on Saturday, Feb. 10, when the sculptures will be illuminated between by Retonica!

Golden Ticket & Additional Events – Feb. 10-11. Many downtown businesses will offer chocolate samplings and sweet discounts around downtown Salem all weekend in celebration of Valentine's Day. Check to see who is participating in the "Golden Ticket" – make a full-price purchase at one participating downtown business and get 10% off your purchase at the next participating business! Offer is good Feb. 10-11 only, some restrictions may apply. In addition, many of Salem restaurants and retailers will be offering their own luscious chocolate and love-inspired specials and events.



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Charter Street Cemetery



The City of Salem will begin landscape restoration at the Charter Street Cemetery, Salem's oldest burial ground, this spring. This project is funded in part with a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and matched by a Community Preservation Act grant and Capital Improvement Project funds. In advance of the restoration work, City staff, the project landscape architect, Martha Lyon of Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture LLC, and a representative from the Massachusetts Historical Commission met to review the state requirements for historic burial ground restorations.

The planned landscape restoration at the cemetery includes some site disturbance and the City will therefore hire an archaeologist to prepare an avoidance and protection plan and to conduct limited locational archaeo-

logical field work where the plan proposes restoration of existing pathways, installation of lighting, and new plantings. This archaeological field work needs to occur prior to any restoration work in the cemetery. The City will issue a Request for Proposals for qualified archaeologists on January 31 and expects to bid the restoration project out to a qualified general contractor in the spring.

Due to both the archaeological work and the restoration project the City anticipates that the site will have limited public access or be closed in its entirety for a significant portion of the year, particularly from March through November, including the October season. The City will work with Destination Salem and associated businesses to communicate with the public about status of the project and any anticipated closures. The City plans to identify alternative gathering locations outside of the cemetery that will still allow tour groups and the general public to see into the site as work is occurring, to the greatest extent feasible.

Updates will be shared throughout the project on <u>www.buildingsalem.com</u>, the Building-Salem social media accounts, and for major updates, City News and Announcements at <u>www.salem.com</u>.

City Twitter Account

The City has launched an official Twitter account, @CityofSalemMA, which can also be read by individuals without Twitter accounts by visiting www.twitter.com/CityofSalemMA. The account will distribute City news, public notices, and information.

"Social media is another tool available to us in our ongoing efforts to share public information about all that is happening in our city," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "I encourage residents to also sign up to receive City News & Announcements, CodeRED reverse notifications, and other updates by visiting www.salem.com/subscribe."



Shuttle Meeting

Salem Shuttle Study

We know it can be tough getting around Salem. Help the City explore a possible shuttle system by attending a community discussion on:

Monday, February 12, 2018 6:30 - 8:00pm

At the City Hall Annex, Room 314 120 Washington St., Salem, MA

The City and its consultant, TransAction, are seeking input on your **experiences**,

challenges and ideas about the transportation services in Salem.

For more information, contact the City of Salem
Department of Planning and Community Development at

(978) 619-5685 or achiancola@salem.com





