



FYI SALEM

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

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CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE:

Phone:
(978) 619-5600

Fax:
(978) 744-9327

Email:
mayor@salem.com

Web:
salem.com/mayor

Facebook:
Kim Driscoll

Twitter:
@MayorDriscoll



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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Happy New Year!

My thanks to all of the volunteers with Salem Main Streets and the National Park Service who helped make our two New Years' celebrations—LAUNCH! and First Hike—both such an enormous success once again. These two family-friendly events have quickly become annual traditions for ringing out the old year and welcoming the new one here in Salem. I hope you were able to make it to one or both of these great events.

We have some important updates in this

issue of FYI Salem to kick off of 2019, including a list of informational coffee hours being hosted throughout the year for Salem veterans, exciting news about the expansion of our popular bike share program, and more.

We also have a notice about the temporary closure of the athletics field and playground at Gallows Hill Park. Before we get underway in 2019 with some upgrades to this park, soil testing found elevated arsenic levels in some places. Part of the park work will need to include remediating that contamination, but until then we've closed those areas out of an abundance of caution.

With the arrival of winter we are also anticipating the arrival of snowfall in the near future. Now is a good time to check out the important information at www.salem.com/ snow. That's your one-stop source for all kinds of

critical snowstorm related information, answers, and resources.

Finally, tune into the latest FYI Salem podcast for my conversation with City Councillor Beth Gerard, last year's City Council President. We reflect on all that happened in 2018 and look forward to the work to be done in 2019. You can find the podcast on iTunes or at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast>.

Thank you again for taking the time to read the FYI Salem newsletter. If you know someone who might enjoy receiving the newsletter, please send them to www.salem.com/ subscribe where they can sign up to get it by email, as well as many other important notices, news bulletins, and emergency notifications from the City of Salem.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem



City of Salem's 16th Annual Christmas Tree Bonfire



Thursday, January 3, 2019 - Dead Horse Beach at Salem Willows - 6:00 p.m.

(Rain/Snow/Wind Reschedule Date: Friday, January 4th)

check www.salem.com for rescheduling information

Bring your Christmas tree with you that evening, drop it off at the beach after January 2nd
or leave it out for curbside pickup beginning December 31st

Please don't forget to remove all decorations and lights from your tree

(FYI - Citywide Christmas Tree Curbside Collection will also take place as scheduled January 7-11, 2019)

2019 Veterans and Friends Information Hour

Public is welcome!

*Info on benefits, VA healthcare/ID's, support for our
widows, upcoming events!*

Third Tuesday and *Thursdays!



15 January-Tuesday Morning-10-11 AM

19 February-Tuesday Morning-10-11 AM

***21 February-Thursday Evening-5-7 PM**

19 March-Tuesday Morning-10-11 AM

16 April-Tuesday Morning-10-11 AM

***18 April-Thursday Evening-5-7 PM**

21 May -Tuesday Morning-10-11 AM

18 June -Tuesday Morning-10-11 AM

***20 June -Thursday Evening-5-7 PM**

Community Life Center, 401 Bridge Street, Salem, MA

Any questions, please call
978-745-0883

Sponsored by the Salem Veterans Office
and Compassionate Care

Bike Share Expanding



The City of Salem's Zagster Bike Share program is about to get bigger, thanks to additional support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. The current system of fifty bikes at ten docks is funded through a partnership among Blue Cross, Salem State University, and the City of Salem. Increased funding from Blue Cross will add dozens of additional bikes to the system beginning spring 2019.

"Blue Cross's increased commitment builds on our bike share's success," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "With over 9,500 rides to date, the system helps make biking a safe, fun, and convenient way to get around Salem. Blue Cross's additional support will increase the bike share's reach and capacity, making it a viable transportation option for even more people in Salem and further helping to reduce the number of cars on our streets."

Bike share docks are located at key destinations throughout Salem, such as the MBTA commuter rail station, Salem State University, Salem Willows, and the ferry terminal at Blaney Street. Zagster regularly rebalances the bikes throughout the system to ensure bikes are available at these locations. In addition, riders may also start and end a ride at any public bike rack. To support this feature, the City is installing additional public racks at convenient locations throughout the City, including a number of blue racks sponsored by Blue Cross.

The expansion of the bike share system comes at a time of great momentum for cycling in Salem. The City recently cut the ribbon on the first phase of the Mayor Anthony Salvo Multiuse Path along Canal Street. When Phase II is completed, it will connect downtown to Salem State, downtown Marblehead, and beyond. In addition, the City has completed an updated Bike Master Plan that charts the development of a comprehensive network of bike infrastructure, programs, and policies to support cycling.

Riders can sign up for Zagster at zagster.com/salem or through the Zagster smartphone app. To begin a ride, follow Zagster's instructions to unlock a bike either through the app or with SMS text messaging.

Gallows Hill Closure

During testing being conducted in preparation for planned improvements at Salem's Gallows Hill park, soil samples taken on a portion the athletics field area showed elevated arsenic levels. The samples were collected at shallow depths beneath the grass cover. As a result the field and adjacent playground area and basketball court have been closed until further notice. The City is working to conduct further testing to ascertain the extent of the contamination and create a plan to mitigate the hazard. To date, the elevated arsenic levels were only detected in soils beneath a portion of the soccer field soil and not in the playground area; however, out of an abundance of caution the playground area has been temporarily closed, as well. Additional testing is planned for both areas. To date, no elevated levels of arsenic or other contaminants have been detected in the baseball field or skate park areas, which were also assessed during subsurface investigations completed.



The level of contamination is not anticipated to delay the planned improvements intended for the park, which are tentatively expected to advance in 2019-2020. Updated information will be provided by the City as it becomes available. An FAQ with additional specific information is at <https://www.salem.com/home/news/gallows-hill-park-playground-soccer-field-closed>.

Diabetes Presentation

**Salem
For All
Ages**

MYTH BUSTER:
Answer to the
most common
questions about
Diabetes



**Tuesdays,
January 15th
6:30pm-7:30pm**

Each year 1.5 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes. A diabetes diagnosis can be overwhelming, so make sure you are prepared with accurate information. Learn the facts from North Shore Physicians Group Endocrinologist Neelima Singh, M.D. and North Shore Physicians Group internal medicine physician Oliver Gregory, M.D., who will discuss the basics of and answer questions about living with the condition.

**TO REGISTER,
PLEASE CALL
ROSANNA
DONAHUE
@978-744-0924,
EXT. 43006**

Salem Council on Aging



PostcardMy781.com