



# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Thank you for reading the latest issue of the FYI Salem newsletter!

Find out more in this issue about our new free public wifi available now at many City buildings and offices. We also have an update about the City shuttle study. If you weren't able to make the public presentation about the study, you can still read the study and share your thoughts and feedback with us. Find the link and more information in this issue.

I am very excited to share the news that Salem has received a sizable grant from the Commonwealth's Municipal Vulnerability

Preparedness program.

These funds will help with sustainability and resiliency projects downtown, at Bertram Field, and at Gallows Hill park. We also secured a \$300,000 grant to construct the already-designed Harbor Connector Path, linking the Derby Street neighborhood and Bridge Street area off-street for bicyclists and pedestrians. My thanks to the Baker Administration and our state legislators for making these programs possible, and to the City staff who worked diligently to secure these grants!

On June 24th I delivered the annual State of the City address and you can find some selections from my speech in this newsletter. There's also a link to read the full text of my remarks. This year, my update focused on four critical issues: housing, Salem's schools, transportation, and preparations underway for Salem's 400th anniversary in 2026. I also shared important, positive news about the growth and strength of Salem's local economy.

Also in this issue, you'll find more information about our annual July 4th celebration on Derby Wharf. This event is always lots of fun, so I hope you can join us for it. Whether you do or not, however, please be safe this 4th and leave the fireworks to the professionals.

The last page of FYI Salem is dedicated to school updates and in this issue we have an important "end of school year" message from Acting Superintendent Kate Carbone.

Catch the latest FYI Salem Podcast at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or search for it on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, or TuneIn. On the latest episode, you can listen to the 2019 State of the City address.

Thanks again for taking the time to read the FYI Salem newsletter!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

## Public Wifi

The City of Salem now offers free wi-fi, accessible by members of the public, in most City buildings. The wi-fi, "City of Salem," can now be found in the following locations: City Hall, City Hall Annex, Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center, Department of Public Services building, Greenlawn Cemetery Division office, Electrical Department office, all Salem Fire Department stations, Salem Police Department headquarters, and the Museum Place Garage office.



No password is required to access the wi-fi, which is public and not secure. The service is provided without warranty and at the user's own risk. "I am very pleased that we are now able to offer this public benefit," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Having access to fast and free wi-fi internet service in our public buildings will improve the public ability to access information and communicate, enhancing transparency and service delivery across our City. My thanks to the team from our IT department who worked to implement this improvement."



## Shuttle Study

Over the last several months the City has conducted a market analysis and assessed alternative shuttle service recommendations in order to identify a preferred option and model for implementation of a new City shuttle service. The assessment included a detailed look at the benefits and challenges of each service type, total service costs, capital demands, and implementation feasibility. Find the study documents by clicking on the "Studies and Reports" button at [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com).

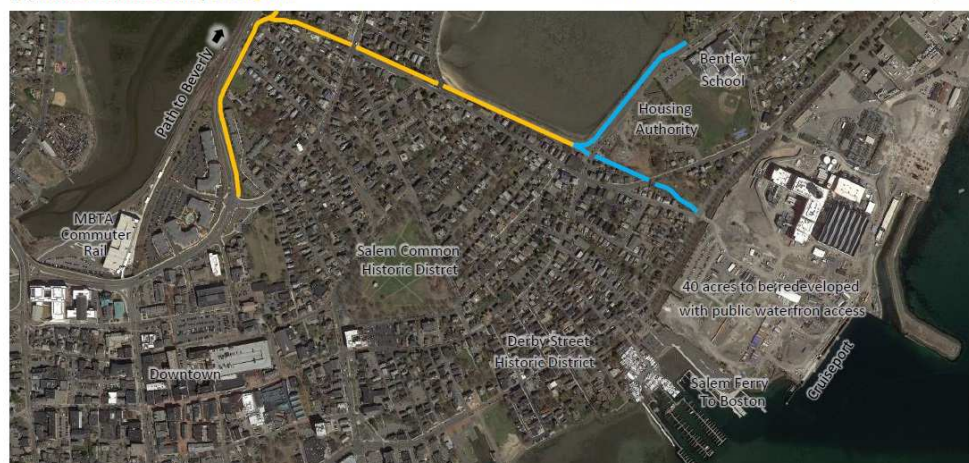
## Harbor Connector Path

The City of Salem has received a \$300,000 MassTrails grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The funds will be utilized to construct the Harbor Connector Path.

The Harbor Connector Path will incorporate the Derby Street Historic District into Salem's network of shared-use paths. This will better connect downtown Salem to key destinations, including the Bentley School, the Salem Housing Authority's apartments at Lee Fort Terrace, the House of the Seven Gables, Derby Wharf, and the Salem-Boston Ferry Terminal. In addition, it will add a multi-modal connection to the 40 acres of vacant waterfront land slated for revitalization and public access as a result of the recent redevelopment and consolidation of the Salem Harbor Power Station.

Key: Harbor Connector Path | Existing Path

Salem Harbor Connector Path | 2019 MassTrails Proposal



# Sustainability Grant

The City of Salem has been awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant in the amount of \$320,861 from the Commonwealth in order to complete resiliency projects at Gallows Hill Park, Bertram Field, and to plant additional new street trees downtown. Salem's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant will fund these three separate, but related, projects. All three promote installation of green infrastructure, installation of permeable pavements, and urban forestry, three priority actions identified in the City's Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

## Downtown Street Trees

MVP action grant funding will allow the City to plant trees in the existing empty pits and to install permeable pavement over the tree pits to allow for infiltration. This project will reduce flooding and the heat island effect in busy downtown areas, making this area more accessible year-round to residents and visitors, including many children and seniors. This project will be completed in spring 2020.

## Gallows Hill Park

MVP grant funding will allow the City to manage stormwater at Gallows Hill Park in a sustainable manner through pervious pavement, the addition of trees, and construction of a raingarden or bio-infiltration structure, as well as educational signage describing these features. Work at the park will take place in fall 2019 and spring 2020.

## Bertram Field

The City is working to complete upgrades to Bertram Field that will provide a new athletics and amenities building and a new entrance area for improved vehicular/pedestrian circulation. This is an ideal location for the use of green infrastructure as it would significantly reduce drainage from an existing impervious surface, which drains downhill to both the North and South Rivers, increasing flooding downstream. The project has already incorporated other sustainability features: it is being designed as zero net energy, will incorporate educational information about sustainable features, and will meet LEED criteria. Adding permeable pavement, incorporating a new stormwater drainage system, and adding additional tree pits, all funded by the MVP grant, will allow project meet the priority climate adaptation priorities. The full renovation is expected to be complete by Fall 2020.





# State of the City

*On June 24, 2019, Mayor Driscoll delivered her annual State of the City update. Selections from her remarks are below. You can find the complete speech online at [www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/mayors-speeches](http://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/mayors-speeches).*



When it comes to housing, let's be blunt: it's getting expensive to own or rent a home in Salem.

Almost half of our residents are paying a third or more of their income on housing – and for our most marginalized populations that rate is even higher, forcing them to choose between which bills they'll pay or groceries they'll buy each month. Over the last decade here in Salem, average wages have risen by 12%, but the median home price has increased by more than twice as much, by nearly 30%.

This means that Salem is at risk of losing what most defines us: our people. A diverse mix of incomes and backgrounds and life experiences. We've always been a city where sea captains' mansions were just around the corner from the tenements that housed the people who worked on the docks. Where both the factory owner and the laborer could call home.

Salem, the city that we all love, should be a city for everyone.

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I think the most important work we do as a city government is in our public schools.

I truly believe that education is a community mission and encourage all of you to join in our effort to improve our public schools. There is critical work underway in all of our schools and it is made better by the help and assistance of teachers, students, administrators, and you.

There is frustration, as well, that improvements are not happening as fast as we'd like or as completely as we'd like. I share that frustration, but also know the talent inside our buildings and the resources and foundation we have put in place will enable the success we are seeking. We are working with great partners in our city and I am hopeful and optimistic about the progress we can make in this area.

The Salem High School Class of 2019 includes Ivy League-bound graduates, accomplished scholars, remarkable student-athletes and artists. It also includes kids who have overcome homelessness, social and emotional challenges, or other barriers. We can, will, and do serve all students and ensure that we meet the needs of all students, every day.

I encourage you to work with us as we support our teachers, encourage our students, and improve our overall success of the day-to-day experiences inside our classrooms. And I hope you will take the time to go into our schools, into those classrooms, and see with your own eyes the good work that's being done every day there. I'm bullish on Salem's public schools and you should be too.

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I feel so fortunate to lead and live in this great city and I appreciate being able to share with you both the opportunities that lie ahead and the challenges we face in securing a future that we can all be proud of. Thanks for joining me here today and let's look forward to the next year of promise and progress.

*Salem*  
Still making history

# CELEBRATE JULY 4, 2019!

## JOIN US AT DERBY WHARF:

**7:15 PM** OPENING CEREMONIES  
The Hillyer Festival Orchestra Concert

**9:15 PM** FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA

### PRE-CONCERT ACTIVITIES

**5:00 PM** KIDS' SPACE OPENS  
Free Activities, Games, Prizes, Face Painting  
DITTO ON MAIN STAGE



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Sea Level Oyster Bar · Shetland Properties · Thai Place · Woodard & Curran

City of Salem, Kimberley Driscoll, Mayor  
For more information, check the events  
calendar on Salem.com.

# School Updates

## End of Year Message from the Acting Superintendent

It is hard to believe that the end of the 2018-19 school year is here! Without question, it has been a year full of student accomplishments and amazing work by our educators. Before we say an official “good bye” to this academic year, I wanted to take a moment to remind our families of some of the amazing highlights from this school year:

At the Early Childhood Center, students participated in the school's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Special Olympics Young Athletes Day on June 6, 2019. The day was a huge success for the children who demonstrated their athletic abilities for their parents and then received special Olympic ribbons presented to them by the Salem Police School Resource Officers.

At Salem High School, several juniors and seniors participated in early college classes through a partnership with Salem State University and could graduate with up to 12 college credits.

Teachers at Witchcraft Heights Elementary School conducted research into ways to make math more exciting for students and began implementing the math workshop model that gives students lots of time to work together on solving real world problems.

The school year at the Salem Prep was marked by the successful integration of a social-emotional learning curriculum called *School Connects*. The school also incorporated dog therapy to increase attendance and the social-emotional wellness of students.

New Liberty Innovation School increased their average daily attendance by 10% by engaging families in student-led conferences, conducting home visits, increasing family meetings, and by regularly engaging students in community-building activities.

Bates Elementary School was fortunate to work with many members of the Salem community to host their inaugural *Amazing Shake* competition for 5th graders. The *Amazing Shake* is a national competition which places an emphasis on teaching students manners, respect, and professional conduct. Bates students interacted with many business executives from the greater Boston area including School Committee members, Presidential Candidate Seth Moulton, Mayor Kimberly Driscoll, State Representative Paul Tucker, and members of the Salem Rotary.

Carlton students completed “Exploration” projects that included learning Latin dance and mindfulness practices through yoga. Students wrote poems and stories, read books, and created STEM projects reflecting their year-long explorations. The school year culminated in a celebration of learning, with musical performances and student presentations.

This year at Saltonstall the school welcomed new students, staff and families. The Salts community takes pride in its cohesiveness and attributes the school's successful year to a passion for supporting and relying on one another.

All 688 Collins Middle School scholars participated in STEM this year with over 100 scholars attending the MASS STEM event showcases at various locations including iRobot, Boston Children's Hospital and the Peabody Essex Museum.

Horace Mann enjoyed an end-of-year celebration in which community members (police, firefighters, museum curators, etc.) partnered with the school on a community reading project during which students were given books to take home for the summer.

It is clear to see that we have many wonderful things happening in our district, and still we know that there is always room for improvement. As we end one year, plans for the next one are well underway. Our amazing teachers, staff, and leaders will take some time off, but many will be back to support our incredible summer learning programs, others will engage in an array of adult professional development summer workshops, and still others will participate in district and/or school-based work teams throughout July and August—all with a goal of preparing for a better and brighter 2019-20 school year.

While we cherish time with our students, we know that the summer break brings a much-needed opportunity for students, families and friends to reconnect and enjoy time with each other. On behalf of all the educators in the Salem Public Schools, I send students and families well wishes for a safe and pleasurable summer break. Enjoy the warm summer breezes, take advantage of the lazy days of summer to read a good book, and we will see you all in September!

-M. Kate Carbone, Acting Superintendent