



# FYI SALEM

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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,

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

I want to say thank you to everyone who donated funds or gift cards to support the two Salem families displaced by the recent fire on Cromwell Street. While both families are getting back on their feet, their experience attempting to do so has really put a human face on the housing crisis in our community and illustrated the difficulty involved in finding an affordable place to rent in Salem today.

In this issue of the FYI Salem newsletter we have some information about the City's participation in the Commonwealth's Solarize Mass program. This marks the second

time Salem has been selected to participate in this program, which offers Salem homeowners the opportunity to get solar panels, solar hot water, and air source heat pumps at steeply discounted prices. These technologies not only reduce our community's carbon footprint, they can help homeowners save on utility bills. Find out more inside the newsletter.

Somewhat relatedly, we're also gearing up to draft an important update to the City's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. This critical document outlines the types of natural hazards and dangers to which different populations, areas, and infrastructure in our community are especially vulnerable, and then details actions we can take to mitigate those risks. Read more in this issue of the newsletter about how you can participate in the plan update and stay informed as it moves forward.

This issue also includes information about Heritage Days—Salem's annual celebration of all that makes our community special. From the Maritime Festival, to COA programs, to National Night Out, and so much more, the annual Heritage Days celebration is always great fun for

the entire family. While more details about this year's celebrations are included in the newsletter, the complete schedule of events is far too large to publish here. Be sure to head over to [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com) and click on the News tab to get the full schedule.

As always, the FYI Salem newsletter concludes with some brief updates from the Salem Public Schools. While we're in the middle of the summer vacation, there's still important updates about the 2019-2020 school calendar, summer reading recommendations for your student, and details about an upcoming event for incoming kindergarteners and their families.

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

Please feel free to share the newsletter with friends, family, and neighbors, and encourage them to subscribe to it by visiting [www.salem.com/subscribe](http://www.salem.com/subscribe).

Thanks!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

# Solarize Mass

Salem has been selected to participate in the 2019 Solarize Mass Plus program to promote the adoption of clean energy technologies. Solarize Mass reduces the overall cost of solar in municipalities across the state, helping residents save as much as 21 percent on average on solar pricing compared to the statewide average.



“We are excited to join Solarize Mass Plus to offer solar, solar hot water, and air source heat pumps to the residents of Salem at a reduced price,” said Mayor Driscoll. “Solarize Mass Plus provides affordable access to these clean energy technologies, saving residents money on their energy bills and reducing our emissions citywide. It continues our ongoing work to reduce our own local carbon footprint, including through the conversion of our streetlights to LED fixtures, our electricity supply aggregation, and rooftop solar on city buildings.”

The Solarize Mass Plus program aims to increase the adoption of small-scale solar electricity systems and additional clean energy technologies such as battery storage, air source heat pumps, solar hot water, or electric vehicles through a grassroots educational campaign, driven mainly by local volunteers, and reduced pricing that increases the savings for participants as more units are sold. The City of Salem has previously participated in the Solarize Mass program, in 2014. In that year, 35 solar systems were installed around the community, resulting in 215.43 kW of capacity. In all there are over 500 installations of solar panels in Salem. In 2016 the City adopted a 100% Renewable Energy Resolution and participation in this program will help move the community even closer to that goal.

This year, Salem will partner with Swampscott and Nahant to provide discounted access to solar, solar hot water, and air source heat pumps. Additional grant support was provided to help promote the technologies especially to low- and moderate-income homeowners. A series of public information events will be held, starting in the Fall, as well as informational opportunities at events such as the Salem Farmers' Market, neighborhood association meetings, and more. More information, including a form to sign up to stay informed as the program advances, can be found online at [www.solarizenorthshore.org](http://www.solarizenorthshore.org).

## Hazard Mitigation Plan

The City of Salem is in the process of updating its Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, a document that describes local natural hazards such as flooding, extreme temperatures, high winds, and storms; identifies City infrastructure, neighborhoods, and businesses that are particularly vulnerable to these hazards; and lists actions that can help Salem become more resilient in the future.

On August 8 at 6:30pm, there will be a presentation about this process and expected updates to the plan, presented by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The meeting will take place at City Hall Annex, 98 Washington St, 1<sup>st</sup> floor public meeting room. All are welcome to learn more and to share your concerns or questions about natural hazards in your neighborhood and the City as a whole.



If you are unable to attend but would like to be involved in the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update process, there will be an opportunity to review the draft document and suggest changes later this year. To receive an email when the draft is posted, or to learn more about this process, please contact [dmattes@salem.com](mailto:dmattes@salem.com).

# Heritage Days

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll is pleased to announce that Heritage Days, currently underway in Salem, will continue through August 11, 2019.

"I want to thank all of the organizations, volunteers, and City staff who are involved in putting together all of these events," said Mayor Driscoll. "Salem is extremely fortunate to have so many dedicated groups to ensure the continuance of Salem's annual Heritage Days celebration."



Once again, the Salem Police Department has organized a local celebration for *National Night Out*, a nationwide initiative designed to promote positive police-community relationships. This event continues to expand and includes police, fire, ambulance, North-eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC), and Essex County Sheriff's Department vehicles on the Common, along with K-9 demonstrations. There will be even more organizations, social service agencies, and local businesses offering information and lots of free give-a-ways and free raffle drawings, as well. Kids' activities include inflatables, games, and arts and crafts. There will also be free pizzas, drinks, and snacks donated by Salem businesses.

Several new events have been added to this year's schedule, including a performance by Anton the Magician at the Willows Shell on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm, and the U.S. Coast Guard Tall Ship *Eagle*, docking at the Salem Wharf on Blaney Street and open for tours Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Peabody Essex Museum is also offering two new, free programs: Pastels in the Garden and PEM Pals Summer Garden Party & StoryWalk. History Alive will present a new production, *Two Points Off the Weather Bow*, that will be free to Salem residents during Heritage Days.

In addition, Salem Access Television (SATV) will host a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the new park at 289 Derby Street, complete with music, food, and drinks to celebrate this milestone. Come by and thank all the dedicated staff members and volunteers for all their efforts to bring community and government programming to the residents of Salem.

Many annual favorites are returning for the Heritage Days celebration, including Tour-A-Truck, the Salem Community Concert Band, the Ice Scream Bowl, the Essex Street Fair, senior events, and the Annual Phillips House Antique Car Meet, among others.

The schedule also highlights all the free opportunities available to Salem residents to visit many of downtown museums and attractions, receive discounts on the Salem Ferry, and discounted tours to Bakers Island Light Station. A complete schedule for Heritage Days can be found at <https://www.salem.com/home/news/salem-heritage-days-11-days-fun>.



# School Updates

## Hooray for K!

Salem Public Schools and its community partners have planned a fun-filled morning for incoming kindergartners to get ready for the school year.

Incoming Kindergartners and their families are invited to attend Hooray for K at the Salem Public Library on Saturday, August 24, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Activities will include storytelling author Norah Dooley, school bus rides, a meet-and-greet with the superintendent of schools, book and t-shirt giveaways, activities and refreshments.



## Stop the Summer Slide

Summer is an important time for all students to keep reading and to continue to improve their language skills. In addition to any required summer reading, you should encourage your student to read for the fun of it!

Find links to suggested books for your student, based on grade level, at [https://salemk12.org/news/what\\_s\\_new/summer\\_reading\\_resources](https://salemk12.org/news/what_s_new/summer_reading_resources).

## 2019-2020 School Calendars

It's never too early to plan for next year. You can use the calendars at [https://salemk12.org/news/what\\_s\\_new/2019-2020\\_school\\_year\\_calendars](https://salemk12.org/news/what_s_new/2019-2020_school_year_calendars) to plan for your student's vacations, early release days and the first and last day of school, pending snow days.

The Salem Public Schools calendar applies to Bates, Horace Mann, Collins, Witchcraft Heights, and Salem Early Childhood Center. New for next year, Salem High has its own unique calendar to that includes Salem High only early release days.

