

# 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!

There are a lot of updates in this issue and you can always find the latest news from the City of Salem online at [www.salem.com/news](http://www.salem.com/news).

As a reminder, the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming municipal preliminary election, which takes place on Tuesday September 17th, is this week, by Wednesday August 28th. You can register here at City Hall, 93 Washington Street or online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

If you're on Twitter, you can

now follow our Department of Public Services by looking for @SalemMADPS. SeeClickFix continues to be the best way to report issues to the City, but follow DPS on Twitter to find out more about the work they do every day to make Salem a terrific place to live and to visit.

We have a number of big project updates in this issue, including some information about work EPA will be doing on Langdon Street near Gallows Hill Park and the planned renovations for Phase 2 of the Bertram Field upgrades.

Our scooter pilot is continuing and we've included a useful FAQ here, which is also online at [www.salem.com/scooters](http://www.salem.com/scooters). Be sure you ride safe if you take a scooter out: you must be 18+ and riding on sidewalks is not permitted.

The Salem for All Ages initiative, Salem Police, and COA have partnered to launch a new program—"Are You OK?" - in which Salem seniors or their families can sign them up to receive a daily well-being check-in phone call. Find out more details inside the news-

letter.

In July we held a survey to ask residents to vote to name the new park at 289 Derby Street. I'm happy to report that Charlotte Forten Park was the winner! Read more in the newsletter about Charlotte Forten and her important legacy as an abolitionist and fighter for women's rights in the 19th century.

As always, we conclude the newsletter with some updates and news from the Salem Public Schools. School starts next week, so if you're a Salem teacher, parent, or student, it's time to get ready for the start of class!

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

# Gallows Hill Update

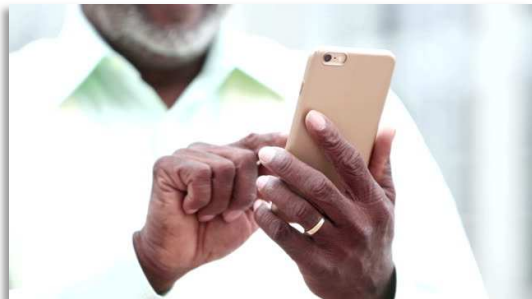
During testing conducted in preparation for planned improvements at Gallows Hill Park the City found that soil samples taken on a portion of the soccer field area and abutting residential properties showed elevated arsenic levels. The City notified residents abutting the soccer field and restricted access to the park while it develops a plan to address the contaminated soil. EPA conducted additional sampling of residential properties adjacent to the park.



Based on results from EPA's sampling this summer, EPA will be mobilizing to the Gallows Hill neighborhood towards the end of August to conduct a removal action on three residential properties. A trailer will be placed at a nearby location to provide access to the properties for EPA's equipment. Soil being removed from residential properties will be staged on site before it is shipped to an appropriate landfill. Dust suppression techniques will be used during the soil removal to keep any contaminated soil from migrating off-site via dust. Contaminated soil being staged will be covered, and access will be restricted to the area where it is being staged.

EPA expects the work to take a couple of months. Contractors will be onsite and working during normal working hours. EPA is coordinating with the City on traffic patterns and truck routes being used during soil disposal to reduce impact to the neighborhood. Once a trailer is on site EPA will be holding office hours to answer any questions neighbors might have. The City is in the process of developing a plan, schedule, and funding source for the remediation of the arsenic-contaminated soils within the fenced area at Mansell Field.

## Are You OK?



The City of Salem's Council on Aging, Salem for All Ages initiative, and Salem Police Department are now offering the "Are You OK?" program for Salem seniors. If you are a Salem senior who lives alone or you are the adult child of a Salem senior who lives alone, "Are You OK?" is a free program that places a daily automated phone call to check on your well-being or that of your parent. Contacting a senior or home-bound individual on a daily basis can help reassure their safety and provide a greater feeling of security and comfort for all.

After enrolling for the program, each day at 8:00 a.m., the system automatically places a computerized monitoring calls, monitored by the Salem Police Department. The phone number on the caller ID will show 978-745-9595. If the subscriber doesn't answer after a preset number of call attempts, an alert is transmitted to the Police Department. The emergency contact person on file for the subscriber is notified and the Salem Police Department will then go out to conduct a "well-being check," if the emergency contact person does not know where the subscriber is.

"I am grateful to our COA and Police staff and the members of the Salem for All Ages Task Force, who all helped to make this program possible," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "In addition to being a critical action item in our Salem for All Ages plan, this new program will help our seniors and their family members be assured that they are being checked on and supported by our community. I encourage any Salem senior who lives alone to register for 'Are You OK?'"

To sign up, please call the Social Service Department at 978-744-0924.

# Scooter FAQ

## Should scooters be driven on the road or on the sidewalk?

Scooters should not be driven on the sidewalk, and should only be driven on the road or in bike lanes wherever available, and always in the same direction as traffic. Fines for riding a scooter on a sidewalk start at \$30 per violation and increase for subsequent violations. All riders must adhere to the traffic regulations, signals and signs as would a bicyclist or motorist.

## Is there an age restriction for driving a scooter?

Yes, you need to be 18 years old to rent a scooter and scan your license when you sign up with the Spin app. You are NOT allowed to rent more than one scooter at a time via the app. You are NOT allowed to rent a scooter for someone else. You are NOT allowed to ride on a scooter with another person. Riders agree to these rules when they sign up and check out a scooter; violating them may result in revocation of the rider's Spin account.

## How do I report a scooter parked or left in a location that is not a designated scooter parking area?

To report a scooter parked in the wrong place, you should either call 1-888-249-9698 or email [support@spin.pm](mailto:support@spin.pm). When reporting an improperly parked scooter, please be sure to include the approximate location and the scooter number.

## Where can I get a helmet in Salem?

The City has free helmets available at City Hall Annex, the Parking Garage Office, and the Public Library on a first come, first served basis. Helmets can also be purchased in a number of locations in Salem. Here is a map showing where you can either get a free helmet from the City or purchase a helmet: <https://tinyurl.com/salemhelmets>.

## How do I report someone driving a scooter dangerously?

To report someone driving a scooter dangerously, you should call 1-888-249-9698, email [support@spin.pm](mailto:support@spin.pm), or call the Salem Police Department at 978-744-1212. When reporting hazardous driving, please be sure to report the date and time, approximate location, and the scooter number, if you are able to identify it. When they sign up and check out a scooter, riders agree to rules that include safe driving; violating them may result in revocation of the rider's Spin membership. Riders are reminded that Spin scooters are equipped with GPS and therefore reports of improper use can be verified by the company. Improper use of the scooter could result in liability to the rider if someone were to get hurt or if property were to be damaged.

## How do I report an error with the geo-fencing or scooter-restricted areas?

To report an error with geofencing or scooter restricted areas, call 1-888-249-9698 or email [support@spin.pm](mailto:support@spin.pm).

## How do I report a malfunctioning scooter?

To report a malfunctioning scooter, you should either call 1-888-249-9698 or email [support@spin.pm](mailto:support@spin.pm).



**Scooters in Salem**

**NOT on sidewalks**

**18+ to drive**

**Wear a helmet**

**Follow traffic**

*Violations may result in tickets and cancellation of Spin account.*

[www.salem.com/scooters](http://www.salem.com/scooters)



# Charlotte Forten Park



In July, Salem residents were invited to vote on their preference for naming the City's newest park, located at 289 Derby Street on the South River. The overwhelming choice was Charlotte Forten Park. Forten was a prominent abolitionist and women's rights activist and, in 1856, was the first African American to graduate from Salem State University, then called the Salem Normal School. A more comprehensive biography of Forten's life can be found at <https://www.salemstate.edu/charlotte-forten>.

The roughly 25,000 square foot Charlotte Forten Park, formerly a vacant lot, was constructed with state grant funds and includes a plaza for programs and performances, a harborwalk around the South River, swing seating facing the water, built-in percussion features, and green space. An adjacent private property is beginning development to include an extension of the harborwalk, as well as outdoor dining seating for a future restaurant.

"I am so proud that Salem will be naming this vibrant new space in honor of a woman who contributed so much to the progress of our community and to our country," said Mayor Driscoll. "I hope that this new public park will be a tribute to Charlotte Forten's legacy and a celebration of all that she achieved for generations to come." The naming of the park requires an official vote of approval, which will be submitted to the City Council for their next regular meeting on September 12, 2019. In the last five years, the City of Salem has opened two new public parks – Charlotte Forten Park and Remond Park – both named in honor of women of color who fought for the abolition of slavery and for equal rights for women.

## CAFR Award

The City of Salem has once again been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the city's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the year ending June 30, 2018. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This marks the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the City of Salem has earned this Certificate of Achievement.

"This award is a reflection of the value we have placed on transparency, professionalism, and financial responsibility in government operations," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "It is also a credit to the hard work of our Finance Department and the department's team."

In awarding this recognition, GFOA stated that Salem's CAFR "has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR." CAFR is available online at <http://www.salem.com/auditor-director-finance/pages/financial-statements>.



# Bertram Field Phase 2

## What does the project include?

The project includes five main elements: (1) A new amenity building that includes bathrooms and a family restroom. (2) A new athletic changing room, both home and visitor. (3) A new accessible press box. (4) A new concession stand with umpire facilities. (5) New improved entrance, parking, access, utilities, and circulation.

## Didn't Bertram get renovated recently?

The field, track, and lighting were renovated in 2013 and 2014. Those will not be touched during this phase; however, the field house is in very poor condition, and can no longer be maintained or upgraded. The new facilities meet all new codes, and will be fully accessible, gender neutral, sustainable, modern, and welcoming.

## What is the project's schedule?

The project will go out to bid in September, and contractors are expected to be on board by the prior to the end of the year. The field house will be shut down at that time. Mobilization and some work is expected during the Winter, but the bulk of the work is expected to be done in Spring and Summer. The target date for use and occupancy is September 2020, pending unforeseen conditions.

## What are the community benefits of the project?

This project will provide a modern sports and park facility that will provide important recreational opportunities for children and adults throughout the City. It is the only regulation sized football, soccer, or lacrosse field in Salem and the only track and field facility. There are over 250 games and practices there a year, making it the most highly used field in the City. The facility serves the entire City and can also host community games and tournaments for the region. The new facility will have expanded opportunities for fundraising, including a better facility for serving food and fundraising. This project also will include high levels of sustainability, including zero net energy ready, and efficient heating/cooling, reduced runoff and green infrastructure, native plantings, fully accessible entrance for all modes of travel, opportunities for public art and improved IT access, and new security cameras and better access for emergency vehicles.

## Will parking at Bertram Field be different than it is now when the improvements are completed?

The existing parking lot has 54 spaces and the new facility will have 51. The new parking lot will have accessible parking, a drop off area, electric charging stations, separated pedestrian/bike circulation, and will also be made of pervious pavement.

## How will this project work affect the schools and neighborhood?

This is not a significantly complicated construction project, however, the parking area near the field will be out of service during work. Additional permanent and temporary parking will be provided elsewhere around Collins. The Contractor will not be allowed to park at the School or on Bertuccio Rd. The field will be accessible, but there will be no bathrooms or lockers. The Athletic Department will schedule games that cannot be played at Bertram to surrounding communities. The City will work with the Schools, contractor, and project manager to ensure noise, dust, and other construction impacts are minimized.

## How will Bertram Field be operated and maintained once the work is completed?

The facility is under ownership of Park and Recreation but is used primarily by the schools. The School Department and Park & Rec are developing a shared and coordinated operation/maintenance plan. Maintenance of the buildings and turf field as well as operation and scheduling of the field will continue to be the responsibility of the Schools, however DPS and Park and Recreation will assist with other site maintenance (grass, trees, etc.). Park and Recreation will work with the School Department to schedule events and activities.





# School Updates

## New Teacher Institute

Dozens of new teachers were welcomed into the Salem Public Schools community on Monday, August 19, as part of the New Teacher Institute.

The annual event began with a light breakfast and introductions by Interim Superintendent Kathleen Smith and Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone. The new teachers then broke out into groups to discuss their backgrounds and get to know their peers.

"I really enjoyed taking time to look at our own identities and who we are both personally and professionally. The facilitators created a safe learning community for everyone to share," said Joe Hicks, a Salem High School History coach who is entering his first year with the district.

Facilitators worked over the summer to plan the New Teacher Institute, which runs from August 19 to August 21.

## Message from Interim Superintendent Regarding After-School Programming

Salem Public Schools is proud of the high-quality after-school and extended day programs we offer our students and families. We are committed to continuing those efforts at the Bates School this year and ensuring students who want or need programs after school have access to quality programming.

We have been working with For Kids Only Afterschool (FKO) in recent weeks on a final plan for after school programming. We made it clear to FKO that there were going to be some changes in the way we structured our after school programs. The after school program has two different components: 21st Century Learning Centers Grant and the FKO Wraparound Care. The change made for this school year was to the 21st Century Program where the Bates School and staff would be the providers for academic project based learning, enhanced fine arts, recreation and enrichment.

FKO notified the district by email on August 21st after 6 p.m. that they no longer wished to continue our partnership in the wraparound program given these changes and, unfortunately, communicated their decision to families the next day. We now must begin our efforts to find a provider for the wraparound component of the program and notify families of these decisions.

To be clear: Any student who was receiving both the 21st Century Afterschool and wraparound care programs will receive those same services.

We regret that FKO communicated their decision before we could communicate fully to the families impacted. We apologize for any concern this brings families and are committed to offering as much information as soon as these plans are finalized. In the meantime, please know that families impacted will be contacted directly by school personnel regarding next steps. Again, no child previously serviced by FKO will be left without care when school opens or throughout the school year.

I appreciate your cooperation, support and partnership as we work together to provide our students and families with the highest quality after school opportunities to allow them to achieve their fullest potential.

Sincerely,  
Superintendent Kathleen Smith