



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Thanks to the hardworking public works and public safety crews for their response to the October 17th storm. We're still recovering and, in the aftermath of the storm, it looks like we lost around 50 City trees—including some of the iconic willows at the Salem Willows. We're launching an effort to raise donations to cover the estimated \$30,000 we'll need to replant every one of these trees. For now you can drop off tax deductible donations to the Tree Fund, payable to the City of Salem, at City Hall; we're working on an online site where you will also be able to donate, so keep an eye on www.salem.com/news and our social media pages for that announcement.

We're also extending the hours for yard waste drop-off at the Transfer Station for this weekend; it will be open 7am to 5pm on October 19th and 20th.

For the last few months the City has been developing an alternative plan for snow emergency parking and we're now looking for public input on the plan. In brief, the proposal would largely eliminate snow emergency parking at school lots, but would make up for it by allowing on-street parking in select locations. Our goal is to maintain parking availability for neighborhoods that need it, but also not impact schools so frequently. You can read the complete plan at www.salem.com/snow and then send us your feedback at snow@salem.com before November 1st.

October is more than halfway over and by all accounts we've been seeing record numbers of visitors to our City. We're working to help get the word out that visitors should not drive: we've expanded resident parking zones to protect neighborhoods, brought back the October shuttle and satellite parking lots, and continue to promote the MBTA and Ferry. My thanks for your patience through this month—but I hope you will also consider coming downtown and taking part in the festivities!. Weekday evenings especially tend to be slower downtown and our small businesses and restaurants would love to have your mid-week support. There's often parking those evenings, as well!

For Halloween, October 31st, we're expecting a large volume of people

downtown. Salem Police will close downtown roads no later than 4pm, and possibly earlier. These roads may also be closed the weekend prior to Halloween, depending on the size of crowds. Please plan your commute accordingly! If you're driving through our neighborhoods on October 31st, go slow and watch out for trick-or-treaters.

This month is busy, but it doesn't mean we stop the regular business of the City. Read on in this issue of the FYI Salem newsletter about how you can share feedback to shape the improvements for the Willows, the start of work at the Gallows Hill Park project, our new fundraising campaign for the Bertram Field improvements, an upcoming Repair Café from SalemRecycles, and, lastly, a summary of how Salem Public Schools performed on the most recent round of MCAS exams.

Finally, on the most recent FYI Salem podcast, I chat with Interim Superintendent of Salem Public Schools Kathy Smith. Find it at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or subscribe on Apple podcasts, Stitcher, TuneIn, and Soundcloud.

Thanks!

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Be a Part of History

GIVE TO THE BERTRAM FIELD PROJECT

Bertram Field is getting a makeover and you can be part of it!



Help continue the legacy of Bertram Field for future generations.

The Bertram Field Renovation Project is a **\$6M** project that will provide modern, accessible, and sustainable athletic facilities for use by football, soccer, lacrosse, track and field, community/youth sports, and many other activities. Your support is vital to this project. Every donation is a donation to a brighter future for each of our athletes and a better community for us all to enjoy. You can express your generosity in several ways. Opportunities include simply submitting a donation, or, if you'd like you could be represented at the facility by purchasing naming rights for buildings or other site amenities, or by having a business flag.

Every donation over \$500 will be recognized at the facility.

salemathleticsfund.org

For larger donations, naming and business sponsorships, donations of stocks, and estate gifts, please contact:

**Office of the Mayor
93 Washington Street
Salem, MA 01970
(978) 619-5600
mayor@salem.com**

To donate by check, please include the memo "Bertram Field Fund" and send to:
**Treasurer's Office • City of Salem
98 Washington Street
Salem, MA 01970**

School Updates

The Salem Public Schools made substantial progress toward meeting its accountability targets on the recently released 2019 Statewide Accountability Report. SPS received an overall score of 61 percent, representing a cumulative amount of progress made over the last two years, which is an increase of two percent over the 2018 percentage of 59 percent. For 2019 alone, results were even higher – 63 percent of progress toward targets.

The new system, which was implemented last year, measures progress on annual targets that are set for each accountability indicator, including student achievement, student growth, high school completion, English language proficiency, and additional indicators such as chronic absenteeism. Districts that make progress on 50 percent or more of their annual targets are identified as having made “substantial progress” by the state.

Bates Elementary School, Bentley Academy Charter School, Carlton Innovation School, and Salem High School achieved the state's benchmark for making substantial progress in the new accountability system. Salem High School's significant improvements have moved the school out of the "in need of targeted support and intervention" classification.

“The marked improvements in the 2019 Statewide Accountability Report show our district is headed in the right direction as we work across departments and schools to ensure every child is prepared for success on the MCAS and beyond,” said Superintendent Kathleen Smith. “Our hard working teachers and staff redoubled their efforts to support student learning in classrooms across the city. We had a strong start to this school year and we will continue this upward trajectory.”

By the state's measure (of scoring 50 percent or higher), the district made substantial progress for both student categories in the non-high school grades as well as in the lowest performing student category in the high school grades.

“These positive results affirm the benefits of a strong curriculum and supporting resources along with the collaboration across many stakeholders including our talented educators, parents, and school leaders,” said Assistant Superintendent Kate Carbone. “We are looking forward to sharing more details on our results on October 7 at the next regular school committee meeting.”

More details can be found at <https://salemk12.org/news/what-s-new/2019-accountability-targets-and-mc-a-s-results> and the full results for Salem Public Schools are available on the state website at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/accountability/report/district.aspx?linkid=30&orgcode=02580000&orgtypecode=5&>.

