



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Thanks for reading the FYI Salem newsletter!

The holidays are just around the corner and that makes it a very special time in Salem.

We're happy to bring back our annual "Peas for Fees" can drive in the Collector's Office—a great way to have some late fees on your tickets forgiven and donate to a good cause.

In addition, we are once again offering FREE parking throughout downtown Salem from Thanksgiving through the weekend, to encourage folks to shop local this holiday season—that goes for both Black Friday and Small Business Saturday!

join us on Salem Common at 5:45 p.m. as we greet Santa for his annual arrival from the roof of the Hawthorne Hotel, then process down Essex Street to light the Salem tree in Lappin Park!

This issue of our newsletter has other important information, as well, however. Read more about an upcoming "Home Fit" seminar being jointly sponsored by Salem for All Ages and the Massachusetts AARP, where you can learn all about small and large steps you can take to make your own home more livable, accessible, and comfortable as you age. You can also find our more about Home Fit at <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/info-2014/aarp-home-fit-guide-aging-in-place.html>.

We also have very important information in this issue about changes to Salem's snow emergency parking policies. The big take-away: school parking lots are, for the most part, no longer allowable snow emergency lots. We've identified plenty of alternative sites, and are still able to provide around 3,300 parking spaces for Salem residents during snow emergencies. Find out more in this issue and at

www.salem.com/snow.

The last page of the newsletter is devoted to a couple of noteworthy updates from the Salem Public Schools, including about an upcoming Superintendent search focus group opportunity for Salem school parents and caregivers, as well as an update on the progress of the students who attended the former Nathaniel Bowditch School.

On the most recent FYI Salem podcast, I chatted with Salem Chief of Police Mary Butler and Director of Public Services David Knowlton. We talked about the recent changes to our snow parking plan, why these changes were made, and how folks can prepare for this winter. Find it at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or subscribe on Apple podcasts, Stitcher, TuneIn, and Soundcloud.

As always, thanks for reading the FYI Salem newsletter! Please encourage friends and neighbors to subscribe at www.salem.com/subscribe. Happy Thanksgiving!

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Peas for Fees

The City's annual "Peas for Fees" ticket amnesty program will run December 1 through December 23. The program allows for the waiver of late fees on parking violations in exchange for a donation of canned goods and non-perishable items. All food will go to local Salem food pantries. Up to \$30 in late fees will be waived in exchange for the donation of at least two canned goods or non-perishable items at the City Collector's Office at Salem City Hall. City Hall is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to noon.



Free Parking

Falling between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday is a day to celebrate and support the small, independently-owned businesses that help boost local economies across the country. In recognizing the importance of supporting independent businesses in Salem, Mayor Driscoll has issued a proclamation designating Saturday, November 30th, as Small Business Saturday in Salem. In addition, the City will offer free parking at all City garages, parking lots, and meters from November 28 through December 1, to help encourage downtown shopping



In addition, the City is offering free bike share rides and discounted membership to residents and visitors. Beginning on Thanksgiving and lasting through December 24th, the price of the first year of an annual Zagster membership will be 50% off for new subscribers. Riders that choose the pay as you go option can receive \$4.00 of ride credit, good for 2 hours of free riding, with the promo code RIDE4FREE.

Home Fit Seminar

Salem for All Ages and the Massachusetts AARP will hold a free Home Fit seminar on Tuesday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center at 401 Bridge Street in Salem. Based on the AARP's popular Home Fit Guide, the presentation will offer smart solutions for making your home comfortable, safe, and a great fit for you.

This free presentation, in conjunction with the Home Fit Guide, will offer room-by-room solutions that range from simple do-it-yourself fixes to larger improvements that are more involved and require skilled expertise, but are well worth the expense. The presentation will be led by Andrea Cordis of the occupational therapy program at Bay Path University and Cody Lukasik, Rehab Director for AdviniaCare in Salem.

The vast majority of people age 50 and older want to stay in their homes and in their community for as long as possible. When the Salem for All Ages action plan was developed in 2016, a survey of Salem seniors found that 91% said it was important to them to be able to remain in Salem and 98% said it was important to them to be able to live independently in their own home. The AARP Home Fit Guide and this seminar were developed to help people stay in the homes they love by turning where they live into a "lifelong home," suitable for themselves and anyone else in their household.

Snow Parking Changes

The City of Salem has announced changes to its snow emergency parking plan starting this winter season.

The [map](http://www.salem.com/snow) online at www.salem.com/snow identifies allowable snow parking locations. The most important change is the elimination of Salem Public School lots for off-street winter snow emergency parking and allowing on-street parking on several streets and other sites that have been identified as wide enough to enable parking during snow emergencies. Residents should also be aware that going forward the activation of the blue snow emergency lights at key intersections around the City is a signal that they should visit www.salem.com for additional information and not a representation that a snow emergency parking ban is necessarily in effect at that precise time.

There are two primary reasons for these changes. First, parking in school lots during snow emergencies limits the ability to open schools in a timely manner following the conclusion of a snow emergency, leading to unnecessary delayed openings or cancellation of school. A review of data from the past five school years indicates that Salem Public Schools experience, on average, more snow days each year than surrounding districts. In addition, Salem is one of the only area communities that makes all school lots available to the general public for free off-street snow emergency parking. Second, some City streets are wide enough to accommodate on-street parking on one side during snow emergencies, which may make it easier for residents of that neighborhood to access parking during a winter snow parking ban. Streets were identified by the City based on several factors, including their overall width, general proximity to previously utilized school parking lots, and relative absence of private driveways.

Starting this winter, **Salem Public School lots are no longer allowable as snow emergency parking locations**, except as specified at www.salem.com/snow. Parking a vehicle in a school lot during a snow emergency will result in a ticket and tow. Residents who normally park in a school lot during a snow emergency may instead park in one of the identified alternative locations listed at www.salem.com/snow

Where alternative parking locations are on-street, residents parking in those locations must park between the posted snow emergency parking area signs. Vehicles parked outside of the signed area are subject to ticketing and towing. Park lots and other past snow emergency parking locations continue to remain available, as well. In all, with the proposed changes the City will make available at least 3,290 snow emergency parking locations across the City for residents, of which at least 1,285 are available free of charge.

Not snow emergency parking: All school lots except those listed at www.salem.com/snow; Mayor Jean A. Levesque Community Life Center parking lot; Church Street parking lots; depot parking lot at the MBTA station; Riley Plaza parking lot for permit holders only. Contact the Parking Department to obtain a permit.

Vehicles parked in any non-garage snow emergency parking location, including alternative on-street parking sites (Sargent Street, Fort Avenue, Collins Street, Szetela Lane, Beacon Avenue, and Lathrop Street) **are required to be removed within six hours of the end of the snow emergency parking ban**, unless otherwise specified. The only exception to this is for vehicles parked at the Bates School basketball court, the lower portion of Burkinshaw Way at Witchcraft Heights Elementary School, the central lot at Salem High School, and Jackson Street and Broad Street Park spaces. Vehicles in these school locations are required to be removed no later than 6am, whether or not the parking ban has been lifted, unless otherwise notified. Vehicles that are not removed in a timely manner from any snow emergency parking location will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense. Vehicles parked in a garage after the snow emergency parking ban ends may continue to be charged at the regular non-snow emergency rate for that garage.

Snow removal at snow emergency parking locations will not take place until after snow clearing operations on City streets are completed. For complete details about snow emergencies in Salem, including these changes and rules regarding clearing snow and ice from sidewalks, and other snow-related information, please visit www.salem.com/snow.

Schools Update

Superintendent Search

As part of our search for a new Superintendent of Schools, our search consultants from the Collins Center at UMass Boston will host an additional focus group for parents, community groups and the Salem community at large to provide input about the type of leader and leadership that will best serve the Salem Public Schools. This focus group will be held on **Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** in the Saltonstall School auditorium. Your input is important to help us form a profile of the new superintendent selected to lead our district. Childcare (RSVP 978-740-1212) and Spanish interpretive services will be available. We hope to see you then.

If you cannot attend, but would like to provide input into the same questions posed at the focus group meetings, please feel free to complete an online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SalemSupt-English>.

Bowditch Report

Salem Public Schools is continuing its ongoing review of the outcomes of the closure of the Nathaniel Bowditch School last year, the Salem School Committee recently received an update on the academic performance and general disposition of the 293 students from the Bowditch school who were transferred to other schools in the district.

The report found that former Bowditch students in Grades 1 through 5 are making high levels of academic progress and also reported increased positive responses on school climate indicators. Grade 7 students showed higher achievement in math and Grade 8 students increased achievement in all content areas.

The School Committee determined that the district should look more closely at the Grades 6 and 7 cohorts, where there were identified areas for growth in academic outcomes and school climate. As next steps the district will review the data directly with school leaders and develop individual action plans for each school based on their findings.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Salem Public Schools will hold an early dismissal day on Wednesday, November 27th, and will be closed for Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 28th and on Friday, November 29th. Parents and families are encouraged to visit <https://salemk12.org/calendar> to determine the specific dismissal time for their school for Wednesday, November 27th.

