



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Thanks for reading the FYI Salem newsletter! The holiday season is a special time in Salem, with lots to do to celebrate—from concerts, to house tours, local shopping, and more.

A few “housekeeping” announcements: 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.

We’re also again offering discounted trash overflow bags for the holidays. Read more in this issue about both of these offerings.

Turn to page 3 for a listing of a few holiday celebrations and

special events coming up in the next few weeks and be sure to add them to your calendar!

The Community Preservation Committee has finished up their annual report and is now beginning to accept eligibility applications for their next funding round. Read more in the newsletter about Community Preservation Act grants and important deadlines if you’re interested in the next round of grants from the committee.

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>.

The last page of the newsletter is devoted to a couple of noteworthy updates from the Salem

Public Schools, so be sure to check it out and find the latest news and updates from our schools online at www.salemk12.org.

On the most recent FYI Salem podcast, I talked with City Councillor Tom Furey, the outgoing dean of the City Council, who is retiring after 35 years of public service in elected office. We reflected on his 35 years of public service, lessons learned, and what he hopes for the future of Salem. Find it at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or subscribe on Apple podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, TuneIn, and Soundcloud.

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

This will be the final FYI Salem newsletter of 2019. Please accept my best wishes for a very happy holiday season and a New Year full of peace and joy.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Peas for Fees

The City's annual "Peas for Fees" ticket amnesty program runs through December 23rd. 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 8-4, Thursdays 8-7, and Fridays 8-noon.



CPA Applications

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has released the 2020 Eligibility Application for projects seeking CPA grants. This application enables applicants to know if their project is eligible under CPA regulations prior to submitting the more comprehensive Funding Application. In order to be considered for the FY20 funding round, applicants are encouraged to submit their Eligibility Applications no later than January 6, 2020. For projects that are determined eligible, applicants will then be invited to submit a Funding Application.

"CPA funding has made it possible for the City to undertake several important projects each year – projects that the City would not otherwise be financially able to take on," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "In addition, to many historic preservation and open space projects, 124 units of affordable housing have been funded to date thanks to CPA."

The FY20 Community Preservation Plan and FY19 Annual Report, FY20 Determination of Eligibility Application and other information on the CPA can be found at <http://www.salem.com/community-preservation-committee>.

Home Fit Seminar

Salem for All Ages and the Massachusetts AARP will hold a free Home Fit seminar on Wednesday, January 8th, 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, offers room-by-room solutions that range from simple do-it-yourself fixes to larger improvements that may 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.

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.

Holiday Happenings



SALEM MENORAH LIGHTING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2019 - 6PM
Lappin Park (located at the corner of Essex & Washington Streets)

Mayor Kim Driscoll invites all to attend Salem's 8th Annual Chanukah Menorah Lighting. Please join Rabbi Yossi Lipsker from Chabad of the North Shore for the 5th night of Chanukah. Enjoy traditional holiday latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (doughnuts) after the candle lighting.

Open to the entire North Shore Community. Free Event.
 (In case of inclement weather, the Salem Menorah Lighting will be held on the first floor at the City Hall Annex Offices at 98 Washington Street.)

<https://www.salem.com/home/events/257103>



NEW YEARS EVE SALEM: LAUNCH!
DECEMBER 31, 2019 - 4PM – 6PM
Old Town Hall (32 Derby Square)

Family-friendly launch to kick off the New Years as a community. Activities include: Hat Making, Photo Booth, Face painting, and Games. **EARLY COUNTDOWN RIGHT BEFORE 6PM!!** Free Event (\$5 Suggested Donation)

<http://salemmainstreets.org/festivals/new-years-eve-salem/>



FIRST DAY HIKE
JANUARY 1, 2020 - NOON
National Park Service Regional Visitor Center (2 New Liberty Street)

This year's hike will focus on the importance of the Custom House to Salem's history. David Moffat from the [Salem Historical Society](#) will lead the hike through the downtown district stopping at a few of the locations of past Custom Houses along the way. The hike will finish at the 1819 Custom House at Salem Maritime National Historic Site, followed by an optional walk up and back on Derby Wharf. This event is free and open to all ages.

<https://www.salem.com/home/events/257003>



CHRISTMAS TREE BONFIRE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2020 – 6PM
Dead Horse Beach (Salem Willows)

Bring your tree to the beach and join us for this annual tradition. (Rain/Snow/Wind Reschedule Date: Saturday, January 4th) Check www.salem.com for rescheduling information.

Discounted Overflow Bags

Salem residents may purchase official Orange Overflow trash bags for \$1 per bag (maximum of 5 bags) for any holiday overflow from December 19, 2019 through January 6, 2020, during regular City office hours. These discounted bags may only be purchased at the Collector's Office, 93 Washington Street, and the Community Life Center, 401 Bridge Street. For more information about recycling and trash in Salem, please visit <http://www.salem.com/recycling-and-trash> or greensalem.com.

Schools Update

Adjustment to K-8 Report Card Schedule

Salem Public School uses technology provided by Follett/Aspen to input student grades and generate report cards. Follett/Aspen has announced a national upgrade their system for Dec. 6th requiring a system outage and affects every district in the country using Aspen, like Salem Public Schools. This outage impacts our current K-8 grading period.

With this impact in mind, we are adjusting the grading and report card schedule to allow our faculty proper time to access the system. We are going to adjust the K-8 grading period at these schools: ECC, Bates, CMS, HMLS, Salts, and WHES. We expect report cards to be printed and sent home with students on December 16th. This slight adjustment represents a 3-day delay.

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.

Winter Break

Salem Public Schools will be closed for the winter break from Monday, December 23rd through Wednesday, January 1st. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2nd. Parents and families are encouraged to visit <https://salemk12.org/calendar> to find additional details about their school's calendar.

