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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!

This issue is packed full of important information and updates about all that is happening here in Salem.

I want to open with a big "Thank you!" to our partners at the National Park Service's Salem Maritime National Historic Site and to the Friends of Friendship. On April 22nd, after over three years being away for repairs, Salem's tall ship *Friendship* finally returned to Derby Wharf. While

work still needs to be completed on masts and rigging, the vessel is finally home!

Read more in this issue about how to register if you own a short-term or vacation rental property in Salem. New rules went into effect April 15; be sure you're in compliance to avoid potential fines.

We also have updates about a new downtown valet parking option, an upcoming meeting on outdoor merchandise regulations being drafted by the City, and details about our Spring residential neighborhood street sweeping program.

This issue also has an announcement about the next stages in the reuse of the historic courthouses that are vacant on Federal Street, an upcoming rabies clinic for pets, and—for our local business owners—how

they can become a certified Age-Friendly Business.

Lastly, please take a minute to read over the final page of the newsletter. Going forward I'll be sharing two or three important updates from the Salem Public Schools there, so you can stay up to date with the important work underway to ensure all our students are prepared to succeed, both in the classroom and beyond.

Thank you again for taking the time to read the FYI Salem newsletter! If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in this newsletter, please feel free to forward it along or encourage them to subscribe themselves by visiting www.salem.com/subscribe.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Short Term Rentals Registration



In 2018 the Salem City Council adopted an Ordinance regulating short-term rentals in Salem. That Ordinance went into effect on April 15, 2019.

If you list your property on a short-term rental home-sharing platform like Airbnb, VRBO, or similar websites, you should be aware of these new regulations. In addition to registering your short-term rental annually with the City of Salem, you are required to receive a Certificate of Fitness and, if it is not your primary residence, you will also need a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and to register for the non-owner-occupied trash fee. Applications for the special permit from the ZBA must be received no later than June 15, 2019.

Zoning regulations also restrict this use to certain neighborhoods in the City. Pursuant to state law, all short-term rental providers will also be required to collect state/local room occupancy excise tax. The City has published <https://www.salem.com/str>, with all of the information you need to know about offering a short-term rental in Salem.

Salem has contracted with Harmari to manage the registration of short-term rentals in the City. There is a \$50 annual registration fee. Unregistered short-term rentals may be subject to fines and penalties, including prohibitions on registering the property in the future, so it is strongly advised that property owners take a few minutes each year to register their short-term rentals. [You may register your short-term rental by following this link to Harmari's online registration portal.](https://www.harmari.com/str_permitting/RegistrationForm.php?name=vr_salem&city=1) (https://www.harmari.com/str_permitting/RegistrationForm.php?name=vr_salem&city=1) Please be aware that you should have your Health Department Certificate of Fitness and, after July, Mass DOR tax registration complete before you register through Harmari. If you require assistance with the Harmari registration portal or have additional questions about the City's short-term rental registration, please contact Harmari Customer Service: 1-877-352-3277,

Downtown Valet

Salem residents and visitors can now have their vehicles valet parked when coming downtown on Fridays and Saturdays between 5pm and midnight.

During those times, drivers may drop their car off at four designated parking spaces along Washington Street northbound, just south of the intersection with Essex Street outside of Rockafellas and Ledger restaurants. The service is \$12 per vehicle and is open to all diners, shoppers, and visitors to downtown Salem.

"As downtown Salem becomes more attractive for residents and visitors, with new restaurants and old favorites alike, we're excited to be able to offer this new option to streamline parking downtown," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Having a valet parking option available to those driving downtown will not only provide added convenience to their visit, it will also help reduce traffic congestion that comes from vehicles circling as they look for open parking spaces."



Regulating Outdoor Merchandise

Join City staff and Salem Main Streets for a discussion of draft regulations for the outdoor display or sale of merchandise downtown. Copies of the draft regulations are on the Department of Planning and Community Development's "Studies and Reports" page at <https://www.salem.com/planning-and-community-development/pages/studies-and-reports>.

Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 8:30 a.m., first Floor meeting room, City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street

Those unable to attend the meeting may submit their comments in writing to Kathryn Newhall-Smith at knewhallsmith@Salem.com.

Courthouse RFQ

Mayor Kim Driscoll and the Salem Redevelopment Authority (SRA) are pleased to announce the issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the adaptive reuse of the historic County Commissioners (1841) and Superior Court (1861-1891) buildings at 32-34 Federal Street. The RFQ also includes a parking lot across the street from the court buildings at 252 Bridge Street. The buildings are architectural gems in a prominent location directly across the street from the MBTA's commuter rail station and at the entrance to Salem's vibrant downtown.

The buildings are available for reuse as a result of court operations having been consolidated in the J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center, which opened in 2011. Legislation adopted in 2018 allows for the transfer of the property to the SRA in order to select a firm to reuse them. The City of Salem transferred the parking lot to the SRA in February of this year to help facilitate the reuse of the court buildings.

"We are excited to begin the work of identifying a development partner for these important and beautiful buildings," said Mayor Driscoll. "I want to thank the many stakeholders who worked to ensure Salem remains the judicial center for the region and that these buildings will be able to take on a new life. I especially want to thank State Senator Joan Lovely and State Representative Paul Tucker for their advocacy, Governor Charlie Baker for his support throughout this process, the many City staff who have worked diligently on this effort, and the members of the Salem Redevelopment Authority for their expertise and dedication."

This is an opportunity for visionary development teams to creatively reimagine and transform the use of the buildings to serve the Salem community in new ways and complement economic development activities in Salem's vibrant downtown. The SRA will review all responses and select up to three development teams to submit full proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process.

The RFQ may be found on the City of Salem's website at www.salem.com/bids. Responses are due by 11 a.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019.



Spring Street Sweeping



Neighborhood street sweeping begins Monday, April 29 and runs to May 24. Residential neighborhood street sweeping takes place on both sides of the street on the same day. Sweeping will take place from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each route will be posted with temporary No Parking signs and parking will be prohibited between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Neighborhood streets are broken down into four zones. Sweep days are the day after the regularly scheduled trash day. To find a specific street sweeping date, locate what zone your street is in on the 2019 Spring Street Sweeping Schedule at www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/news/2019_spring_street_sweeping_schedule.pdf, and match it with the calendar. Monday sweep schedules are for the preceding Friday's trash day.

Residents may use entrance corridors (Boston St., Bridge St., Essex St. (from Boston St. to North/Summer St.), Lafayette St. from Derby St. to Marblehead line, Loring Ave., and North St.) as alternative parking areas on the day of their neighborhood sweep. Once a street is swept, residents may move vehicles back onto the street. If you move your vehicle to an entrance corridor street that you must adhere to all current parking restrictions and metered rates on that street, including resident only restrictions.

The City will blow and sweep streets and sidewalks downtown every third Wednesday from April through September. Blowing will begin at 9 p.m. followed by street sweeping at 11 p.m. to approximately 3 a.m. The area will be posted with No Parking signs, so please remove vehicles so they will not be towed. Residents on affected streets may park free of charge at the Museum Place Garage 8 p.m. Wednesday to 8 a.m. Thursday, with proof of residency.

There will be additional sweeping scheduled in the Point neighborhood on May 6, June 10, July 15, August 12, and September 16. Cars must be removed from both sides of the street on these days. No Parking signs will be posted and parking will be prohibited from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents on affected streets may park in the South Harbor Garage, free of charge 8 p.m. Sunday to 8 p.m. Monday, with proof of residency.



Salem Police Animal Control

Rabies Clinic for Dogs and Cats -----May 1, 2019
Wednesday 4-6pm
Only \$10 per animal
Open to non residents!



Rabies Clinic

sponsored by VANS

May 1, 2019 4-6 PM
Rear of Salem Police
Station, Margin
Street
Rain Or Shine
Any questions call or
email ACO Famico
978-744-0171 Ext
50121 or dfami-
co@salempd.net

Age-Friendly Businesses

The Salem for All Ages initiative invites Salem businesses to apply for certification as an Age-Friendly Business by visiting <https://salemforallages.org/age-friendly-business/>.

An age-friendly business is one in which people of all ages and abilities can comfortably shop, dine, or receive services. These businesses intentionally act to make their spaces and their operations more inclusive for customers and patrons of all ages and abilities. In an age-friendly business, staff are respectful, patient, and well trained to interact with all individuals. These businesses provide resting areas, non-slip flooring, and other physical attributes to ensure all individuals are comfortable in the business. They use universal symbols, clear and readable typefaces, and other features in printed or digital materials. Finally, some age-friendly businesses also offer discounts or special programs specifically for older adults. This is not a requirement of the certification, but it is encouraged when possible.



“I hope all Salem business owners will consider applying to become certified as an Age-Friendly Business,” said Mayor Kim Driscoll, who chairs the Salem for All Ages Leadership Council. “The process is simple and free. Not only does it ensure that your business is meeting important standards to guarantee accessibility and inclusiveness for patrons of all ages and abilities, it also helps further Salem’s reputation as a welcoming community for all.”

Becoming a certified Age-Friendly Business is a free way to connect with customers. As a certified business, your business is listed on the Salem for All Ages website and in the *Salem for All Ages Resource Guide*, which is mailed to every resident in Salem when they turn 65 years old. You will also have the opportunity to be featured on the Salem for All Ages social media channels and will receive a special decal you can place in your business window to show that your business is certified as age-friendly. All of these steps will increase your potential customer base and repeat customers, as well as boost customer numbers during the traditionally less busy times of day.

To become a certified Age-Friendly Business in Salem, businesses should follow these three steps:

1. Complete and submit the application form at <https://salemforallages.org/age-friendly-business/>. Only businesses located in Salem may apply.
2. Someone from the Salem for All Ages Task Force will schedule a time to meet with you at your business. There they will go through the Age-Friendly Business checklist available at <https://salemforallages.org/age-friendly-business/>. To help prepare for your meeting, be sure to gather and have with you any materials that may satisfy an item from the checklist (i.e. job descriptions, advertisements, etc.).
3. You or an employee you designate must participate in a 45-minute training on interacting with older adult customers. These trainings take place at least twice per year and are held in downtown Salem at City Hall Annex.

The first Age-Friendly Business training will take place in June 2019. In order to qualify for the June training session, applications should be submitted to the Task Force no later than Friday, May 17, 2019. To find out when future trainings will take place, call 978-619-5600 or email dpangallo@salem.com.

Once the three steps above are completed you will receive the Salem Age-Friendly Business window decal and your business will be listed on the initiative’s website and in the resource guide.

Schools Updates

Letter from the Mayor Kim Driscoll and the School Committee to Salem Public School families:

Dear Salem Public Schools families,

Over the last few weeks the Salem School Committee and Superintendent Margarita Ruiz have discussed the future of our district. As a result of those conversations, the Committee and Superintendent Ruiz have mutually agreed that a change in leadership would be the best course of action for the district to move forward. To that end, negotiations between Superintendent Ruiz and the Committee are currently underway to implement this decision and we will provide more information as soon as it is available. On behalf of the School Committee, I want to thank Superintendent Ruiz for her four years of dedication and service to the children of Salem, to our schools, and to our community.

We recognize that change is difficult, and we are committed to supporting our school and district leaders as they continue to strive to provide every student with the best educational experience possible. To that end, in the short term we have asked Assistant School Superintendent Kate Carbone to serve as Acting Salem Public Schools Superintendent for the duration of the school year as we map out a more formal leadership transition plan. Ms. Carbone has been with the Salem Public Schools District for close to eight years and is very capable of stepping in to lead the District for this interim period of time. We will be working closely with Ms. Carbone throughout the next several weeks and throughout the duration of the leadership transition.

We appreciate that so many parents, students, and others who are vested in the success of our public schools took the time to share their experiences, suggestions, and comments over the last few weeks. We understand that many families are frustrated by the lack of communications and are seeking more information about our schools. The Committee is committed to transparency and keeping the school community informed on school matters. To that end, we expect to put together a proposed timeline and community process for the hiring of the next Superintendent and will share that information as soon as we can.

We hope that students, families, and staff will remain engaged so we can work together to address the challenges facing our schools, as well as share and celebrate the many positive achievements happening in the schools across our district.

Update on the status of former Nathaniel Bowditch School students

When Nathaniel Bowditch School students were re-assigned to new schools throughout the district, a commitment was made to track and report on the progress of students in their new schools. A draft plan was developed to track the experiences of these students to, over time, gain a more comprehensive picture of how they are progressing, what is working, and what needs adjustment.



The report now available at https://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/agendas/former_nbs_ss_report_-_draft_for_4_22_19_sc_rev3_0.pdf outlines a draft plan for longer-term tracking of student progress and provides a summary of findings from interviews conducted with former NBS students and families during February and March 2019. The purpose of the interviews was to learn how students and families experienced the initial transition into their new schools, as well as an early indication of their how they are faring in their new schools.

Proposed FY2020 Salem Public School Budget

The draft FY2020 Salem Public School budget is now available at https://salemk12.org/news/what_s_new/spsdraft_fy2020_budget. Comments, suggestions and questions about the proposed FY2020 schools budget can be submitted by the public to budget@salemk12.org. A presentation and public hearing on the proposed FY2020 schools budget will be held on Monday, April 29th at 7 p.m. in the School Committee Chambers at the Collins Middle School. The tentative schedule calls for the School Committee to then vote on the proposed budget at their meeting on May 6th. After that it is presented to the Salem City Council as part of the City's FY2020 budget.