



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Happy New Year and thank you for reading the FYI Salem newsletter! I hope you and your family had a joyous holiday season and a wonderful new year.

The City of Salem started our new year of municipal government with the swearing in of new and returning School Committee members on January 6th and City Councillors on January 9th. The City Council also elected a new Council President from among their members for 2020—Ward 1 Councillor Bob McCarthy.

At the Council's organization meeting on January 9th I had the opportunity to deliver my annual State of the City update. While my remarks focused on housing, transporta-

tion, our schools, and preparing for Salem's 400th, much of our work in the year ahead—and beyond—will also focus heavily on sustainability, accessibility, and inclusivity. These were key values identified by Salem residents during the Imagine Salem visioning initiative and which characterize so much of what we do and what makes Salem special. Selections from the address are in this issue of the newsletter and you can find the complete text online at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/mayors-speeches>.

We're kicking this year off with a new call for creative entrepreneurs and artists who might be interested in working with the Public Art Commission at Artists' Row. The Row as two stall spaces currently available and the Commission is additionally seeking two Public Artists in Residence for the year. Read more about their call in this issue and consider sending in your application before the February 14th deadline.

Salem Recycles will again be hosting their popular Repair Café event at the Bridge at 211 (211 Bridge Street) on February 1st. These events are a great opportunity to get some help

mending or fixing your small household appliances, electronics, clothing, or other knick-knacks, so you can avoid having to throw them out and add to our waste stream. Read more about the event inside the newsletter.

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 first FYI Salem podcast of 2020 you can hear the State of the City update from the January 9, 2020 City Council organizational meeting. 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.

With best regards,

Kim Driscoll
Mayor, City of Salem



Repair Cafe

Don't throw away your broken item – bring it to the Repair Café! Salem's eighth Repair Café, hosted by [SalemRecycles](#) and [The Bridge at 211](#) will take place on Saturday, February 1st from 9am until noon (last appointment at 11:30) at 211 Bridge Street. Repair volunteers will be available to mend clothing, sew buttons, sharpen scissors and knives, tinker with or rewire electronics and lamps, and glue wooden furniture and ceramics. We hope to see you at this fun event where you can learn how to fix things and reduce your waste!

Please use the entrance on Bridge Street. There are a limited number of pre-registration slots available. Contact Mi-caela Guglielmi at mguglielmi@saalem.com or 978-619-5672 to schedule an appointment.

Call for Artists

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll and the Salem Public Art Commission seek Creatives to participate in the City of Salem's newly revitalized Artists' Row initiative.

The City is currently looking to fill two studio/retail space stalls, each with a two-year tenancy agreement, as well as two paid positions for Public Artists in Residence, each lasting for a term of eight months. The City is interested in uses that will contribute to the vibrancy of the Artists' Row community and this important gateway to Salem's bustling downtown. The variety of activities/uses considered for Artists' Row spaces include, but are not limited to, original uniquely produced or handcrafted artworks and products, performances, art "happenings," art "interventions," art making, and temporary public art installations.



Artists' Row consists of four artist stalls, a restaurant, and a public restroom and is centrally located in historic downtown Salem at 24 New Derby Street, across from Old Town Hall and Derby Square. This area, at the heart of the City, was originally built as a marketplace and continues to be a thriving public plaza and pedestrian way. The City of Salem respects, values, and celebrates the diverse life experiences and unique heritages, attributes, characteristics and perspectives that make each person who they are. We believe that bringing diverse individuals together through the Arts allows us to collectively and more effectively address the issues that face our communities.

Artists' Row is a seasonal program that provides space for artists and artisans looking to build their audience and/or business through daily engagement with residents and visitors to Salem. Participation in the Artists' Row program is envisioned as a springboard opportunity for creatives wherever they are in their career that can help take them to the next stage/level in their unique professional development journey. It is very much a shared space for artists and visitors alike, where creativity happens, and unique arts-related goods and activities can be experienced in an animated public place.

To view the full Call visit: https://www.salem.com/sites/saalem/files/uploads/artists_row_2020-2021_call_for_creatives.pdf

State of the City

Highlights from Mayor Driscoll's 2020 address:

Congratulations to our new and returning Councillors and to our new and returning School Committee members—who were sworn in on Monday night. It took a bit longer to get here this evening, but we're moving forward and we won't let the delay in getting sworn in diminish our enthusiasm or deter us from starting this new term out strong, united, and ready to lead.

The Salem voters chose each and every one of us to work on their behalf. Some of us represent specific neighborhoods, some are elected at large; we each bring different strengths, skill sets, and ideas to this Chamber. We are individual players, but we all play for the same home team - the City of Salem. Our opponents are the challenges that our city faces, not each other. Thank you for being willing to step up, get engaged, and help our City thrive.

Salem is vibrant, strong, and growing, thanks to the efforts of many of the people in this room and many others who are not with us today. In past years we made hard decisions that, while they generated heat at the time, are now bearing out: Successes in our classrooms with students who had been struggling, stabilization of property tax increases because we intentionally grew our tax base and allowed for responsible development to take place, and record bond ratings and reserve funds thanks to a conservative budgeting and forward-looking approach to managing City finances. The work of this coming year promises to be just as important, just as challenging, and, hopefully, just as successful.

Since the incorporation of our City, 49 other Mayors have stood before Common Councils, Aldermen, and City Councillors right here in this chamber, for almost 200 years. The issues, challenges, and opportunities that lay before them changed greatly from year to year, and from generation to generation. But there was one clear constant through them all: success only came out of collaboration, civility, and teamwork. Not everyone agreed on every issue – and no one would expect that. But each recognized and called for an approach to governance that respected each other as colleagues, co-equal parts of our city government, and, most importantly, as neighbors.

I'm going to work harder to keep those lines of communication open and transparent, and find ways for us to get together informally, as a means to improve the way we work together in formal fashion. Whether it's attending a workshop or putting together a learning journey to another community, we can find opportunities to connect in a way that will lead to more effective, responsive, and congenial governing.



Five decades ago, Mayor Sam Zoll closed his own annual address to the City Council with words that carry as much weight and value today as they did then:

"In a time," he said, "when crucial innovations must be undertaken in every segment of municipal operation, public officials must not be merely critics of the existing city, but be visionaries of a better one... The confidence, rather than the reluctance, with which we do so will be the measure

of our effectiveness... Let us all be strengthened in our conviction that we have the unity, integrity, and deep commitment to find the answers to the complicated problems that plague our times. In such a spirit – on my part and yours – in facing our common difficulties, we shall convert stagnancy into progress."

That same charge now comes to us in 2020, at the start of a new decade, just six short years from Salem's 400th birthday. It's a charge to which I know we can all rise, but only through that same unity, integrity, and deep commitment that Mayor Zoll called for. The work ahead of us is hard. We may not always agree. That's OK. As long as we're moving forward in the best interests of the people of Salem, with a commitment to respect each other and our constituents, then I'm ready to get to work. And I know you are, too.

Schools Update

Superintendent Search

The search for a new Superintendent for Salem Public Schools is well under way. The Collins Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts Boston has been contracted to assist the district with this search process.

Both public and student forums were held in November and December and an online survey was available in this same time period. The feedback from these public information gathering sessions as well as the survey results have been used to inform a candidate profile that will be used in the candidate evaluation phase.

The search committee is currently evaluating 31 applications for this position and are on track to complete the initial interviews by the end of January. Finalists will be chosen, and School Committee evaluations will begin in February. A final candidate will be chosen by March 1st.



Update on the Bentley Innovation Planning process

Salem Public Schools has been involved in a process to bring forth an innovation plan for the Bentley Academy School. Bentley Academy has been operating as a charter school since 2015. By Massachusetts law, charter schools are authorized for a 5-year period and last Spring, the Board of Trustees at Bentley Academy voted not to renew the charter and transition the school to an innovation model.

The innovation plan process began last Summer with the creation of a prospectus, a concept paper that was approved to move forward toward innovation planning. This approval allowed for the formation of an 11-member Innovation Plan Committee, consisting of a School Committee designee, a Superintendent designee, teachers, parents, and others.

The Innovation Plan Committee has been meeting weekly since October to work on the innovation plan and engaged other teachers and parents in the school in the process through meetings and surveys. This past week, the Innovation Plan Committee unanimously approved the innovation plan born from this process. It has now been given to the teachers for review and a vote (scheduled for Friday 1/17/20).



If the teachers vote to approve this plan, the School Committee will have an opportunity to review the plan, and they will vote on it once a public hearing takes place. The public hearing will be scheduled for February 3rd, 2020.

Salem Public Schools looks forward to supporting the students, families, teachers, and other staff at Bentley as they go through this transition.

Kindergarten Expo Night

Salem Public Schools hosted Kindergarten Expo Night on Tuesday, January 14th. This was an opportunity for incoming Kindergarten parents to hear from educators and learn about the elementary school choices in our district, as well as the new dual language option at Bentley Academy. Kindergarten applications are online for the upcoming school year at https://www.salemk12.org/families/student_enrollment