



# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

This week brought our nation's 244th Independence Day and, for the first time in many years, we weren't able to gather as a community at Derby Wharf for the celebrations.

While I know many were disappointed that we were unable to hold our customary July 4th events this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm grateful to the team at Salem Access TV for rebroadcast the concerts and fireworks from past July 4th celebrations.

This pandemic has changed so much about our daily lives—from where we work, to how we shop and dine, to how our children will return to school safely, and so much more. While the case numbers are improving dramatically here in Massachusetts and in Salem, it's im-

portant for us to recognize that those positive trends can only be sustained if we remain vigilant about our own behavior.

Masks are required in public. Physically distancing of at least six feet should still be adhered to when in public. Avoid shaking hands with others and wash or sanitize your hands frequently. Avoid gathering in large groups, especially indoors.

Thirty of our neighbors here in Salem have died from COVID-19. Now is not the time to stop our diligence in keeping there from being a 31st.

We've been working hard to help our local businesses reopen safely and in accordance with public health guidance and science. These employers are critical to our community. They provide the jobs that pay the salaries upon which thousands of Salem residents rely, and their activity creates revenue for essential City services and adds to the vibrancy of Salem.

I'm grateful to the many partners on our Economic Recovery Task Force for their efforts on everything from procuring personal protective equipment, to setting up and distributing our START grants, to marketing and promoting our local businesses.

Lastly, earlier this month we wrapped up the Salem Together volunteer program. Several hundred volunteers came together to place well-being calls to seniors every day, deliver groceries and prescriptions, and to make and distribute masks. While we have a system in place to re-activate this volunteer corps if the virus re-emerges, I know we all hope that we will not have to do so.

It's on all of us now to make sure that the next few months do not bring a return to what we endured this past spring.

As is often the case in times of adversity, I am grateful for how the people of Salem have united to care for and support each other. This may be a time without precedent, but it is not a time without hope. Thanks to so many—city staff, health care workers, public safety personnel, essential employees at front line businesses and so many more individuals who have undertaken tasks, small and large, to assist neighbors. We should be proud of how Salem came together and lifted up those in need during this crisis. I know I am.

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor

# Chief Mary Butler

On July 6th, Salem Police Chief Mary Butler announced that she will retire from the Salem Police Department on July 31 after 33 years of service to the community as a police officer, including the last five years as Chief.

"Throughout her career, Chief Butler has demonstrated the utmost professionalism in her approach to policing and true leadership in the department," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Salem and our police department have been well served by Chief Butler. As Chief, she helped usher in positive changes to the department's policies and practices, expanded the Citizen's Academy and public engagement with neighborhoods, oversaw the safe opening of the recreational marijuana industry in our city, led public safety efforts for five incident-free Haunted Happenings, and improved the diversity of the department's personnel. At a time when policing in this nation is under a high degree of scrutiny, Chief Butler has never deviated from her belief that the role of the police officer is to serve all, protect all, and lead with integrity."



"It has been an honor and privilege to work for the City of Salem and the Salem Police Department for thirty-three years, the last five as the Chief," said Chief Butler. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Kimberley Driscoll for her confidence in me, the City Council for their support and the residents of Salem for sharing their feedback, praise and yes, criticism – we honestly cannot work in partnership without it. Most importantly, I would like to thank the men and women of the police department for their loyalty, hard work, and dedication to serving the community and the law enforcement profession."

Chief Butler was promoted from Lieutenant to Acting Captain in the Salem Police Department in December 2014. In that capacity, she was commanding officer of the department's special operations division. She has served with the Salem Police Department since 1987, where she has overseen patrol division and the community impact unit as a Lieutenant, served as public information officer and detective, and worked as administrative aide to former Chief Robert St. Pierre. In 2015 Mayor Kim Driscoll appointed Butler to the position of Chief, making her the first woman Chief of Police in the community's nearly 400-year history.

Upon Chief Butler's retirement, Captain Dennis King will become the Acting Chief of the Salem Police Department during the search process and until the Mayor appoints a new permanent Chief. Chief Butler will become the Director of Security at the Peabody Essex Museum, a role that safeguards the museum's facilities and collections while enhancing the visitor experience and strengthening the museum's ties with the community.

## Salem Ferry Resumes



The Salem Ferry resumed operation on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Passengers are required to wear masks on board and the vessel is operating at no more than 50% capacity. Crew is being screened and temperature-checked daily and all high-contact surfaces on the vessel are routinely sanitized throughout the day. For more information, please visit [www.salemferry.com](http://www.salemferry.com).

# Reserved Parking Spaces



Application forms are now available at [www.salem.com/traffic-and-parking-department](http://www.salem.com/traffic-and-parking-department) for those interested in applying for a reserved parking space in either the Museum Place garage or South Harbor garage. There are 30 spaces available in the Museum Place garage and 20 available in the South Harbor garage. Spaces are \$1,500 per year in both garages. Applications are due back by mail or email no later than noon on August 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a limit of one application per person and only one space will be available per application. If there are more applicants than spaces, permits will be allocated by lottery. The reserved space permits are good through August 31, 2021.

## SiFi Update



In 2018 the City issued an approval to SiFi Networks (<https://sifinetworks.com/>), a private company, to install a micro-trenched fiber optic network along City streets in order to bring a high-speed internet service provider for residents and businesses. The company has completed a demand analysis and has signed an ISP for the network. In May, SiFi held an introductory meeting with Salem officials with the project's selected contractor and their engineers. SiFi continues to work with the City on site-selection for above-ground components of the system. The City and SiFi are working together to establish the best options available for construction ahead of the network being installed throughout all City streets.

As a first step, SiFi's engineers will conduct a field survey along the routes and properties to be served by the network. SiFi will notify the City prior to the start of this field survey, and the City will issue a public notification of the start of this work at [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com). The company anticipates that the field survey will take approximately 90 days. Once the design engineering is complete, SiFi will submit detailed construction documents and permit applications to relevant agencies and boards. The company estimates that those permit applications will be filed four to six months from the start of the field survey work. Based on this timeline, no micro-trenching construction for the network is anticipated this year. There is a possibility that some ancillary equipment necessary to the network could be installed this fall. Before any such work takes place, the City will provide a public update at [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com).

## 5 reasons to wear a mask

#salemtogether



### IT LITERALLY SAVES LIVES

Science says fewer people will die if we all wear our masks. That should be the only reason you need.



### SO BUSINESSES STAY OPEN

In order to progress through reopening phases, we need to make sure we keep the virus from spreading and avoid a second shutdown.



### SO KIDS CAN GO BACK TO SCHOOL

If the level of COVID-19 in our community stays low, schools have a better chance of reopening sooner. We can help kids safely return to in-person school this fall.



### TO SHOW ESSENTIAL WORKERS WE CARE

Essential workers wear their masks all day long to protect their customers and patients. They risk their own health to keep services we rely on up and running. Wearing a mask is the least you can do to thank them.



### IT'S AN EXECUTIVE ORDER

Governor Baker has issued an order requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces.

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the EDRR task force

Economic Development Recovery and Revitalization



# COVID-19 Updates

- Phase 3 of Massachusetts Reopening commenced on July 6<sup>th</sup>. This phase includes museums, gyms and fitness centers, and movie theaters, among other sectors, which all can reopen pursuant to sector-specific safety guidelines and requirements. For more details, please visit [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening).
- The Governor has issued a new order revising the limitations on gatherings. Under the updated gatherings order, indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible.
- The latest newsletter from the City of Salem's Economic Recovery Task Force can be found at [https://bit.ly/0702\\_EDRR](https://bit.ly/0702_EDRR).
- Walmart and eTrueNorth are no longer offering free drive-up COVID-19 testing at their location on Highland Avenue. Free COVID-19 testing continues to be available to eligible individuals at CVS at 272 Highland Avenue. Check your eligibility and register for a time for a test at <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>.
- The Collector's Office at Salem City Hall will resume accepting passport applications for processing on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Passport applications will only be accepted by appointment. Please call the office at (978) 619-5621 to schedule an appointment.

Find the most recent COVID-19 update from the City of Salem by visiting [www.salem.com/covid19](http://www.salem.com/covid19).

## School Updates

### Town Hall Meeting

We hope you will join us July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm for the Town Hall event with Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Zrike and Mayor Kim Driscoll. We are looking forward to answering questions that you might have and hearing an update from them about the conversations that are happening around school reopening. If you would like to submit a question, please fill out this form and we can put it on the agenda: <https://forms.gle/LXeKw1BcsxXKwgnb8>. You can save the information to access the Townhall meeting here: <https://bit.ly/ReopeningTownhall> with password: 320404.

### Parent Survey

A district survey for parents will be coming out Friday about plans to reopen school. Look for the survey in your email, text messages, and on social media. We want your input into our plans for reopening, including:

- Your current preferences for learning opportunities this fall for your family, whether that be in person, remote, or a hybrid of the two (these are just initial and non-binding);
- An opportunity for your family to share any concerns or hopes for the fall;
- And your families' support needs, including ensuring that we are doing our best to meet the basic needs of each of our families including any mental health or safety concerns you have in your family

### School Committee Meeting and Results from the Remote Learning Survey

Monday night's school committee meeting will include results from the district's remote learning survey. We are looking forward to sharing the results and data we collected from our SPS families.

