



FYI SALEM

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 13

AUGUST 7, 2020

CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE:

Phone:
(978) 619-5600

Fax:
(978) 744-9327

Email:
mayor@salem.com

Web:
salem.com/mayor

Facebook:
Kim Driscoll

Twitter:
@MayorDriscoll



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Haunted Happenings 2020	2
Online Records Access	3
Mobile Farmers Market	3
Bertram Field	3
Free COVID-19 Testing	4
COVID-19 Updates	4
School Updates	5

From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

This week has brought some major developments for our community in the ongoing effort to limit the spread of COVID-19.

As you may have heard by now, there are going to be some major changes to Haunted Happenings this year.

Salem Haunted Happenings is a unique festival that includes hundreds of individually produced events and programs, as well as Salem's rich collection of small businesses. The City has reached out to private event organizers and encouraged them to assess activities and begin the rescheduling, re-visioning, or cancelling process now, based on our belief that Massachusetts will not be

in Phase IV of the state's reopening by October.

All events and programs are subject to the Massachusetts Reopening Guidelines, which may be updated based on changing circumstances with the pandemic and the spread of the virus. If you're planning to attend a Haunted Happenings event should expect a different October in Salem from what has been hosted in the past. Find out more in this issue of the newsletter and by visiting www.hauntedhappenings.org.

Salem Public Schools are preparing to announce their plans for safely resuming instruction in September.

This has been a difficult decision for everyone in our district and I encourage you to learn more in the School Updates section that appears at the end of this newsletter and by visiting www.salemk12.org.

Lastly on the COVID-19 updates, we're excited to launch SCAN, our free community testing program. The first set of testing dates and times have been announced and can be found online at www.salem.com/SCAN. Anyone who lives or

works in Salem can get a free COVID-19 test, no proof of insurance or citizenship is necessary. You don't need to be symptomatic or quarantining; anyone can get tested.

This issue of FYI Salem also has some important other updates, including about the start of construction on new athletic facilities at Bertram Field and the launch of our online public records portal at www.salem.com/records, where you can look up over 1 million pages of public documents from many City departments. We're continuing to add to the online repository of documents and are grateful to the Commonwealth Compact program for the funding that made this effort possible.

Thanks for reading the latest FYI Salem newsletter. There's a lot of information coming out from the City these days. To stay up to date with the latest news from the City of Salem, please subscribe to City News & Announcements at www.salem.com/subscribe.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor

Haunted Happenings 2020

Each year in October the City of Salem welcomes close to 500,000 visitors who celebrate the Halloween season during the monthlong family-friendly Haunted Happenings festival. The month of October is very important to the local economy, producing thousands of jobs and millions in local sales revenues for Salem's restaurants, shops, and other businesses each year. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic still presenting a significant public health and safety threat this year, many of the official events and activities that constitute Haunted Happenings will be either cancelled or scaled back.

Most of the events and programs of Haunted Happenings are not City-sponsored activities, however, and are instead, privately organized by local businesses and nonprofits. In all cases – whether an event is an official City-sponsored event or a privately-sponsored one – **limitations imposed by the state's reopening requirements will be in effect**. For planning purposes, the City is assuming the state will still be in Phase 3 and not yet in Phase 4. In general, Phase 3 prohibits indoor gatherings of more than 25 people and outdoor gatherings of more than 100 people.

Based on that guidance, while some events and activities may still be able to take place with restrictions, including several attractions, museums, walking tours, retail shops, and restaurants, many large-scale functions will not be able to proceed. Visitors are strongly encouraged to call the event organizer or business in advance to confirm that it is still open and taking place. In some instances, reservations/advance tickets may be required due to limitations on the number of participants or attendees allowed into a site at a time.

At present, the **following Haunted Happenings events and programs will not take place** this year as they customarily do: Haunted Happenings Grand Parade, Mayor's Night Out, Kids' Costume Parade, Lanterns in the Village, Biz Baz Street Fair, Creative Collective Merchant Marketplace vendors, Salem Food Truck Festival, outdoor food vendors (including Fiesta Shows food trucks), Great Salem Pumpkin Walk, Haunted Harmonies, Howl-o-ween pet parade.

If you are interested in an event not listed above, contact the event organizer or business to determine whether it has been cancelled, modified, or remains on schedule as planned. Just because a program, event, or activity is not listed above it does *not* mean that it is necessarily unchanged or still taking place. If you have a ticket to a **private event**, such as a ball, theater performance, movie, or fair, contact the event organizer to determine what changes will be taking place and whether the event will be proceeding. The City is working to notify event organizers about the state's reopening requirements for Phase 3, to ensure they are in compliance with those state-mandated standards.

Additional restrictions, based on the state's requirements, will exist for **outdoor retail** in the month of October. In general, the only outdoor retail that will be permitted will be for existing Salem businesses and in compliance with the state's requirements for retail. Buskers or **street performers** will also have limitations and must comply with social distancing guidelines and cannot cause groups to congregate in violation of the state requirements.

The City is evaluating the best course of action for Halloween night. Public programming including the concerts, beer garden, and fireworks will not be planned. Public safety, public health, transportation, and parking are the City's priorities because we know people will still come to Salem on Halloween, just as they will come to Salem during the month of October. Further details on planning and expectations for Halloween night will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. Currently, there are no plans to cancel or alter neighborhood trick-or-treating for families.

Those planning to visit Salem in October are still encouraged to **utilize public transportation** and should be aware that parking in the downtown area has been significantly reduced to accommodate outdoor dining spaces. Travel to Salem via the commuter rail or the Salem Ferry remain the best ways to reach the City.

Additional updates will be posted at www.hauntedhappenings.org.



Online Records Access

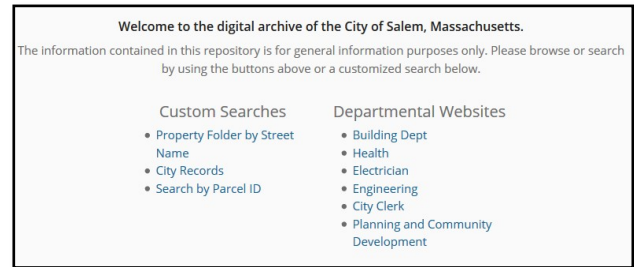
The City of Salem has launched an online portal at www.salem.com/records that can be used to search and access 1.1 million pages of public records spanning 385 years of history.

The records have been digitized over the last three years as part of a major project undertaken by the City's Information Technology Department and Laserfiche. The project has been funded by a combination of state grant and City capital funds.

The City of Salem has been digitizing documents in order to streamline governmental operations and improve access for residents. Digitized records include property cards, building permits, actions of the City Council, as well as records of the Health Department, Historic Commission, Conservation Commission, Electrical Department and much more.

The repository will continue to grow, with departments adding additional material on a daily basis. All files in the public repository can be accessed, downloaded printed and shared free of charge and at any time.

"The City of Salem is committed to transparency and openness, and the creation of this new online portal to access thousands of public records quickly and easily is another positive step in those efforts," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "I am very grateful to our IT team, as well as all of the departments who helped compile, catalog, and manage the documents that went through this digitization process. While we still have additional records to go, including some of great historical value and interest, the launch of this new online tool marks a significant milestone in our efforts to improve public access to City information."



Mobile Farmers Market

This summer, Salem is piloting a Mobile Farmer's Market and we would like to hear from you! Are you interested in getting more affordable, locally grown, fresh fruit and vegetables for your family? Would you like to see the Mobile Farmers Market come to your neighborhood? Please take the quick 5 minute survey below to help us gauge interest.

English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5FKTDQ>

Espanol: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3B8QMB2>

Bertram Field

Mobilization has begun for the Bertram Field Phase 2 project in Salem. For safety reasons, the field is currently closed to use, as is the parking area. The new building will include new athletic facilities, amenities, concessions, first aid, parking area and entrance, and press box. The facility will be fully accessible, sustainable, and include updated heating and cooling systems as well as IT upgrades. The new building and site will include educational signage around sustainability and history of the site and area. The facility is expected to be reopened by February 2021,



Free COVID-19 Testing

The City of Salem has launched the Salem Coronavirus Analysis Network – SCAN – a free community testing program open to all Salem residents or individuals who work in Salem.

Individuals can get tested without cost or need to show proof of insurance or citizenship. The method of testing is via the less intrusive anterior nares swab of the nasal passage. Testing will be available as a drive-up or walk-in on the following dates and times at the locations below. As any additional dates are confirmed they will be announced. No reservations are required, and testing will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals do not need to be symptomatic, quarantining, or have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in order to be tested. Test results will be sent to the individual within 36 hours of the test.

Date	Times	Location
Tuesday, August 18 th	10AM – 2PM	SSU O’Keefe Center lot, 225 Canal Street
Saturday, August 29 th	2PM – 6PM	Salem High School, 77 Willson Street
Saturday, September 5 th	11AM – 3PM	Salem High School, 77 Willson Street
Tuesday, September 15 th	3PM – 7PM	City Parking Lot, 297 Bridge Street
Tuesday, September 22 nd	10AM – 2PM	City Parking Lot, 297 Bridge Street
Saturday, October 3 rd	2PM – 6PM	Salem High School, 77 Willson Street
Saturday, October 17 th	11AM – 3PM	Salem High School, 77 Willson Street

SCAN testing dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Those planning to get tested should visit www.salem.com/SCAN to find the latest confirmed schedule.

“I strongly encourage all Salem residents and workers to get tested once or multiple times,” said Mayor Kim Driscoll. “This program will be especially helpful for workers in our front-line industries and tourism sectors, public employees, members of our school community, and high-risk residents like older adults. The results will not only be important for your own personal health and well-being, they will help us better monitor the aggregate level of positivity during a critical time as school re-opening approaches and our visitor numbers increase. I’m grateful to all the partners that have helped to make the SCAN program possible, including City staff, the facilities team at Salem Public Schools, Salem State University, Fallon Ambulance, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.”

SCAN testing will also be provided on-site at Lifebridge, Pioneer Terrace, 27 Charter Street, Dalton Residence, and Morency Manor for the residents of those buildings. Residents at these congregate facilities do not need to go to the SCAN testing sites to receive their tests.

COVID-19 Updates

- The Salem Board of Health has issued an emergency order requiring face masks be worn in all City parks and in the downtown area. Find more details, including a map of the Mask Required zones, at www.salem.com/masks.
- The latest newsletter from the City’s Economic Recovery Task Force can be found at https://bit.ly/0807_EDRR.
- The Commonwealth has issued an order requiring most travelers entering the state to fill out a form and either quarantine for 14 days or provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within the last 72 hours. For more information, please visit www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order.
- The City will hold a Small Business Town Hall online on August 13, 9am. Register for it at www.salem.com/registration.

Find the most recent COVID-19 update from the City of Salem by visiting www.salem.com/covid19.

School Updates

Dear Salem community,

I am pleased to share our [reopening plan for the 2020-21 school year](#). This plan represents our recommendation for returning Salem Public School children to school this fall. Over the last two months, the Salem Returns Reopening Task Force has engaged teachers, support staff, health professionals, building leaders and district administrators in ongoing discussions about a safe and educationally sound approach to welcoming our students and staff back to school after the life altering COVID-19 pandemic. As a group, we have weighed the academic, social and emotional needs of students with important health and wellness considerations for staff and children. In doing so, we examined scientific/medical research, analyzed parent and staff survey results, reviewed Department of Education (DESE) guidance, conducted assessments of our facilities (capacity, HVAC and outdoor spaces), explored learning managements systems and carefully studied our school-based routines and operations. The efforts of the task force were supplemented by information received from family, teacher and student town halls, staff focus groups, weekly Facebook Live sessions, meet and greets with parents and regular meetings with school leaders.

The input helped to inform our July 31 submission to the Department of Education detailing the feasibility of SPS providing remote, in-person and hybrid instruction to students. We put forth a plan for each option and shared this thinking with the School Committee during their July 29th meeting. In developing this multi-pronged plan, it allowed us to weigh the overall impact of in-person and remote learning for different grades levels. Ultimately, we decided to make a nuanced recommendation based on the unique needs of the Salem Public Schools community and the latest information from medical professionals. We believe that this proposal offers us the best opportunity to uphold our district vision and commitment that all students will be locally engaged, globally connected, and fully prepared to thrive in a diverse and changing world. We are recommending that the majority of our students return to school learning remotely. Specifically, we believe that our older students (grades 4-12):

- Potentially have greater risk to spread COVID-19;
- Are more negatively impacted by an in-person experience when implementing stronger safety precautions (e.g., stable cohorts, limited transitions);
- Have a greater ability to access remote instruction;
- Possess the necessary baseline knowledge to engage online and individualize their learning.

Given that social isolation remains a real concern with this model, we are planning to offer in-person, small group connecting activities (hopefully outside) for these students at least once a week. Additionally, we are committed to offering prioritized students the opportunity to receive on-site support (hubs) with remote learning and individual interventions/supports.

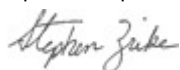
With our youngest students (PreK-grade 3), we are recommending an in-person learning experience for the following reasons:

- The foundational years (including learning to read and socialization) are critical for lifetime access to learning;
- The youngest students are believed to be at lower risk for spreading COVID-19;
- Accessing remote learning is difficult for most young learners;
- Not being in school can lead to increased risks and requirements for childcare & learning support for the youngest students.

A child or family that presents as high risk or is uncomfortable with in person learning will have the option of selecting a remote experience led by a Salem Public Schools educator. In an effort to assess our progress, we have established a new November break for students during the first week of the month to allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of and make adjustments to our reopening plan. It is important that we build in time to pivot based on educational impact and the trajectory of the virus.

I believe this plan puts into practice our core values of wellness, equity, community, and flexibility with a thoughtful approach to reopening. We look forward to working closely with families, students, staff and SPS union leadership to thoughtfully reopen school. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing even more detailed information about bussing, student schedules, instructional delivery models, technology and school-based safety routines and protocols. Please know that there will be multiple opportunities for the SPS community to provide additional feedback, ask questions about our plan and to learn more about what school will look like in the fall. We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we prepare to resume learning in Salem this September. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to the children of our city.

In partnership,



Dr. Stephen K. Zrike Jr.
Superintendent, Salem Public Schools



Wellness



Equity



Community



Flexibility