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FYI SALEM

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 16

OCTOBER 9, 2020

From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

With October here, I wanted to let you know what we've done to try to keep Salem residents safe and sound during the busy fall season. As you may know, over the course of the last few months we instituted mandatory mask zones downtown and in high visitor corridors. We suspended tourism marketing and added extensive signage about mask and public health requirements.

Over the summer we announced that this October there would be no outside vendors on the pedestrian mall and cancelled all parades, balls, festivals, and large events. More recently we acted to postpone the next phase of reopening rules until November at the earliest, even though the state has granted

us the ability to move forward with it now. We've also prohibited street performers from the downtown area, delayed the expansion of indoor dining, and instituted a local traveler reporting form to increase accountability of visitors traveling to Salem from out of state. Despite these pro-active steps, some people will still visit Salem in October.

We're seeing over 90% mask compliance and are working with our merchants and restaurants to ensure that all public health guidance is being followed. Lines queuing up were a problem last weekend and we hope to work in concert with businesses to improve upon that situation the remainder of this month.

We've also worked with the state to expand the free COVID testing for Salem residents and workers. You can still get a free COVID test at Salem High School six days a week throughout this month, and just today we've added a second free testing site at Old Town Hall on weekdays. You can find testing hours for both sites at salem.com/stopthespread.

Since the start of the pandemic we've monitored a variety of metrics daily. This fall we've

broadened that data to include a closer scrutiny of October impacts, downtown crowd sizes, and testing and case rates at Salem State University. You can find data posted daily at salem.com/covid, including a Local Data Dashboard updated weekly.

Lastly, we're in the process of setting up a wastewater surveillance program to more effectively monitor the prevalence or reduction of COVID in our community. This work is in the planning stages, and we expect to have it deployed by November.

While Salem's case rate is below the state-wide rate, we know that this virus has not gone away, and we all need to remain vigilant in our efforts to keep our case counts low. Thanks for your patience, cooperation, and vigilance as we work to keep each other safe – and remember that you can find our latest COVID information online at salem.com/covid.

Thanks for reading the latest FYI Salem newsletter. Subscribe to get the latest City news and announcements at www.salem.com/subscribe.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor

Free COVID Testing

Salem residents and workers can receive free COVID-19 testing as part of the state's "Stop the Spread" initiative.

Salem High School, 77 Willson Street, Walk-up or Drive-through

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays—10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Old Town Hall, 32 Derby Square, Walk-up only

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays—3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Testing will also be offered at **Palmer Cove Park in the Point** on Saturday, October 10th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

No proof of insurance or citizenship is necessary. Testing is via nasal swab, administered by EMTs from Fallon Ambulance, and processed via RT PCR at the Broad Institute Laboratory. Test results are returned, whether positive or negative, to the resident within 36 hours. You do not need to be symptomatic, quarantining, or have been in proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in order to receive this testing. In the event of sustained inclement weather testing at the Salem High School site may be temporarily suspended or even cancelled for the day, depending on the severity of the weather. If you have been tested and have not received your results within 36 hours, or have additional questions, please call 617-745-2100, extension 513.

SALEM: GET A TEST

PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES

PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORS

STOP THE SPREAD

FREE COVID-19 TESTS

MASS.GOV/STOPTHESPREAD



Calling All **Front Line Workers** and Salem Residents:

Stop the Spread — in Salem —

FREE COVID-19 TESTING



**OCTOBER
8th – 30th**

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Mondays, Wednesdays,
and Fridays

3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Tuesdays and Thursdays

OLD TOWN HALL
Derby Square,
enter from Essex Street

SALEM.COM/STOPTHESPREAD



The Salem Police Department is conducting a survey through November 15th to better understand how its residents feel about crime, safety and the performance of the Police Department. This is your chance to help us learn more about how you view your neighborhood. We will use your answers to improve the Department. Your responses are strictly anonymous. Find links to the survey in English and in Spanish at www.salem.com/home/news/salem-police-department-survey.

Police Survey

The City of Salem will commemorate Indigenous Peoples' Day with a series of community events and programs starting October 9th through October 12th. All events are free and open to everyone.

Friday, October 9

The Jonathan Corwin House ("Witch House") and Pioneer Village: Salem in 1630 jointly launch ***The Naumkeag***, an online exhibit exploring the history, culture, and legacy of the Indigenous peoples of Naumkeag. Find it online starting Friday at www.thewitchhouse.org and www.pioneervillagesalem.org.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY



Saturday, October 10

Keep Salem Beautiful invites volunteers to join them for the Great Downtown Salem Clean-Up at 8:30 a.m. at Riley Plaza to participate in a downtown community clean-up. Volunteers will deploy as small teams to help clean up the downtown. Coffee, juice, and some light morning snacks will be on hand. Trash grabbers, gloves, trash bags, water, and sanitizer will be provided, but feel free to bring your own materials. COVID-19 protocols to include masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing will be followed.

The **Salem Beautification Committee** invites residents to join them in a clean-up along Lafayette Street starting at 12 noon. Meet at the Lafayette Street/Dodge Street intersection. To ensure the health of all participating, volunteers should use their own bag, tools, and gloves for this event. Please remember to wear a mask!

Sunday, October 11

The **Salem Beautification Committee** invites residents to participate in a community-wide litter clean-up effort in their own neighborhood. To ensure safe distancing, residents are encouraged to use their own bag to clean up litter in their neighborhood, then either dispose of the bag into your own trash toter or contact the Department of Public Services at 978-744-3302 to arrange for it to be picked up. Please remember to wear a mask!

Monday, October 12

Elizabeth Solomon of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag shares greetings from the Tribe and a Land Acknowledgment reading. **Annawon Weeden** of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Nation speaks about the history of the Mashpee Wampanoag and the cultural influences, contributions, and legacy of the Northeast Woodlands tribes. The presentation will be available online at www.thewitchhouse.org and www.pioneervillagesalem.org and broadcast on Salem Access TV.

Pioneer Village invites all members of the community to participate in the **Naumkeag Circle** community art project throughout the month of October, celebrating the legacy and history of the Indigenous peoples of Salem. Bring a stone to the Village and add it to the circle at the Naumkeag exhibit site. Stones can be plain, decorated, or written upon with messages for members of the Indigenous community, and should fit in the palm of your hand. Once completed, the Naumkeag Circle will be used to share stories and performances from the local Indigenous community and from cultures from around the world. Pioneer Village is open to the public from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. seven days a week throughout October. Please remember to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from others.

Peabody Essex Museum Indigenous Peoples' Day: Virtual Celebration

For the first time, the Peabody Essex Museum is offering virtual programming in honor of our first Indigenous Peoples' Day. The rich histories and vibrant communities of this ancestral territory where the Peabody Essex Museum now sits include the Pawtucket, Pennacook, Massachuset, Nipmuc, and Wampanoag communities, and Indigenous people from many nations live and work in this region today. Please join us in honoring these communities, and their continued creativity and resiliency. Learn more and register at: pem.org/events/indigenous-peoples-day.

Resilient Together

The Cities of Salem and Beverly have officially kicked off **Resilient Together**, their collective plan to address climate change.

The Climate Action and Resilience plan focuses on reducing the cities' greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions- the primary pollution that is causing disruption to our climate. Through **Resilient Together**, the cities strive to exceed Massachusetts' commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 while also enhancing the economic, environmental, and social resilience of both communities.



"Salem and Beverly are connected by a shared vision for a resilient future in the face of challenges like rising sea levels, increased heat waves and drought, and more intense storms, all of which will exacerbate existing inequities," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Resilient Together will ensure that our communities are more safe, healthy, and thriving now and in the future by reducing our own negative impacts on the environment."

To ensure an inclusive process, Beverly and Salem are inviting residents and business owners to participate in an online survey (<https://resilienttogether.metroquest.com/>) where they can share their perceptions, concerns, and priorities as they relate to the environment and community resiliency. The online survey takes approximately five minutes to complete and will be active throughout the month of October. It is also offered in Spanish (<https://rtspanish1.metroquest.com/>) and Portuguese (<https://rtportuguese1.metroquest.com/>). A hard copy version of the survey is available on the project website in Albanian as well.

"Truly learning what matters to our residents and other stakeholders in terms of climate change will result in a more robust and effective final plan," said Beverly Mayor Michael P. Cahill. "We encourage everyone to share their input on how we can take action to become more resilient communities."

Beverly and Salem's newly-launched website <http://www.resilienttogether.org> also provides an overview of the plan timeline, focus areas, core principles, and ways to engage.

Crowd Meter

The City of Salem has published a downtown crowd reporting tool available at www.salem.com/crowds. The scale is based on six levels, from Level 1 (least crowded) to Level 6 (most crowded).

Downtown Crowds Gauge	
	Level 6
	Level 5
	Level 4
	Level 3
	Level 2
	Level 1

The reported crowd Level is derived from a combination of vehicle counts in the Museum Place and MBTA garages and the number of people exiting the commuter rail station at select times throughout weekends in October and is an approximation only. The graphic is updated Fridays-Sundays in October a few times a day. Overnight and on weekdays there will be no graphic because no crowd measurement takes place during these times.

If you are planning to visit downtown Salem this October on a weekend, it is strongly recommended that you plan ahead. Most restaurants, stores, and attractions require advance tickets or reservations, and long lines are not permitted outside businesses. Police may close streets to through-traffic and/or pedestrians if circumstances warrant it.



EARLY VOTING IN PERSON

October 17- October 30, 2020

- Location: City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street, 1st floor. Parking will be available in the Sewall Street Lot (Salem YMCA Lot)
- **Additional Weekend Site Location: Salem High School Auditorium, 77 Willson St.

Hours are as follows:

****Saturday, October 17 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM****

****Sunday, October 18 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM****

Monday, October 19 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, October 20 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday, October 21 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday, October 22 - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday, October 23 - 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

****Saturday, October 24 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM****

****Sunday, October 25 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM****

Monday, October 26 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, October 27 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday, October 28 - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thursday, October 29 - 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday, October 30 - 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

****Early Voting will be held these days at both locations. For your convenience, you may vote at whichever location is easiest for you.****



School Updates

Coming Soon: ParentSquare

We are very excited to be adopting a new form of communication at Salem Public Schools. ParentSquare is designed to keep parents informed and facilitate participation at school. It provides a safe way for the school principal, teachers, staff, and parents to communicate in a variety of ways.

Here's what you can do with ParentSquare:

- Receive messages from the school via email, text or app notification
- Choose to receive information as it comes or all at once at 6pm daily
- Communicate in your preferred language
- Comment on school postings to engage in your school community
- Direct message teachers, staff and other parents
- Participate in group messages
- Sign up for parent-teacher conferences with smart online technology
- Send payments, sign forms & permission slips, sign up to volunteer, and more all from your phone or web portal



The anticipated launch of ParentSquare is November 9th (subject to change). Training will be available for staff, teachers, and families and more information will be available as we get closer to the launch date. For a sneak peek, visit https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_z9-WNA0D4LxTz5IRMc8m436Jy71jWn-/view.

ParentChild Plus

The ParentChild Plus Program envisions a world where every child enters school ready to succeed because every parent/caregiver has the knowledge, skills, and resources to build school readiness that starts at home where the parent/caregiver is recognized as the child's first teacher.

The ParentChild Plus Program is a FREE in-home early literacy and school readiness program for families with children 18 months - 3 years old for families who reside in Salem.

During home visits, being in person or virtual, we focus on vocabulary, recognizing colors, letters, numbers and learning thru play. The ParentChild + Program consists of a two-school year cycles. The visits are a half-hour, twice-a-week. Families will receive 92 home visits and acquire a free library of:

- 46 high quality books and educational toys
- 46 curricular guide sheets with tips on vocabulary building, engaging conversation, skill development, social-emotional development, imaginative play, literacy, music, and art activities.

An Early Learning Specialist will either conduct the visit in home or via Facetime or Zoom. The Early Learning Specialist models reading, conversation, and play activities to stimulate parent/caregiver-child interaction and promote the development of language, thinking, and social skills critical for children's long-term success. Early Learning Specialist develop close bonds and become trusted advisors and can connect families to a wide range of community resources and programming including food, housing, health care, and educational services.

All our early learning specialists are former program parents. Over the course of the program, families share a love of learning and experience success that will last a lifetime and will change their lives.

For more information contact: Maureen Pasek-Tourville, ParentChild+ Program Manager
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