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# FYI SALEM

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 18

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Last week we held a COVID Town Hall Meeting with City and public health officials, along with Dr. David Roberts, President of North Shore Medical Center and Kylie Sullivan of Salem Main Streets.

During the meeting we reviewed the current status of the coronavirus in our community, discussed measures to keep yourself and your family safe and prevent the spread of the virus as cooler temperatures lead to more indoor activity, provided an overview of measures you can take to support Salem's small business community, and held an open Q & A session for community members.

You can find a recording of the meeting at [www.salem.com/](http://www.salem.com/)

### COVIDtownhall.

As you are likely aware, we are seeing an uptick in COVID cases in our community, just as we are seeing across Massachusetts and the rest of the nation now.

There is a lot we do not know about virus spread, but based on the data we have, the age ranges of newer cases are largely under 39 and the most common way of contracting the virus has been either through a household/family contact or as a result of a small gathering of some sort (e.g. a group watching a football game together, a house party, a post-funeral gathering, etc.).

We also know that a significant percentage of the population is asymptomatic, meaning you can feel fine and not know you have the virus, yet still be contagious to others. This is one of the reasons we are advocating that Salem residents get tested twice per month AND why it's so important to limit gatherings, wear a facial covering when in public, and wash your hands often.

We are working on providing additional testing options for community members to help thin

out lines and are urging all residents to heed the advice of public health experts: limit gatherings during the holiday season.

Lastly, we are coordinating a number of resources to assist residents and business owners impacted by COVID. From food and housing to small business funding and workforce training, there are a number of programs available to meet the needs of community members. You can find links to resources at [www.salem.com/together](http://www.salem.com/together).

As hard as it is to skip holiday gatherings, we're hopeful that by making sacrifices now, we can all stop the spread and be able to enjoy each other's company again in person this Spring!

Thanks, as always, for reading the FYI Salem newsletter. Please feel free to share this newsletter with your friends and neighbors here in Salem and encourage them to subscribe to it themselves at [www.salem.com/subscribe](http://www.salem.com/subscribe).

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

**It's "Knowvember" in Salem**  
**Stop the Spread**  
**FREE COVID-19 TESTING**

Help us **KNOW** the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community.

Help you **KNOW** if you are contagious or have the virus without symptoms.

Get tested twice a month — it's free and easy and will help us **KNOW** how best to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

**NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31**

WALK-IN TESTING: OLD TOWN HALL Derby Square, enter from Essex Street	DRIVE-THRU TESTING: SALEM HIGH SCHOOL 77 Willson Street
<b>Mondays – Wednesdays</b> <b>9AM – 2PM</b>	<b>Mondays – Fridays</b> <b>4PM – 8PM</b>
<b>Thursdays</b> <b>1PM – 6PM</b>	<b>Saturdays</b> <b>10AM – 3PM</b>
<b>Fridays</b> <b>9AM – 1PM</b>	

**SALEM.COM/STOPTHESPREAD**

## Signature Parks

"We do indeed live in a fair city — pleasantly situated — with beautiful environs...Nowhere is there a greater degree of comfort."

-Salem Mayor  
Leverett Saltonstall  
May 9, 1836



The Signature Parks Initiative is a key component of our community's quadricentennial planning, for when Salem turns 400 years old in 2026. This initiative is focused on planning and carrying out improvements and preservation work in six of Salem's busies and most beloved public parks and open spaces, ensuring they will remain available and enjoyable for future generations to come: Forest River Park, Palmer Cove Park, Pioneer Village, Salem Common, Salem Willows, and Winter Island.

The work to plan for these improvements has been carried out, in most cases, over the last several years through extensive engagement with neighbors, park users, and other stakeholders. These signature spaces serve the neighborhoods in which they are located, but also the entire Salem community and beyond, providing recreational, cultural, and aesthetic value to the City. In many respects, these spaces show their age and how well-loved they have been by generations of Salem residents. The Salem Signature Parks Initiative will implement the designed improvements, preserve historic features, upgrade spaces to address climate change, meet accessibility needs, and expand access and creative use of the parks. The planning for each space also provides for sustainable revenues, to provide for the on-going maintenance and care of the spaces after the projects are complete. Find more details, including an FAQ and presentation, at [www.salem.com/signatureparks](http://www.salem.com/signatureparks).

The latest COVID response information from the City of Salem can be found at [www.salem.com/covid](http://www.salem.com/covid).

Case data, public health guidance and advisories, links to resources, and much more.



**Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)  
Information**

**City of Salem**  
[salem.com/covid](http://salem.com/covid)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Finance Award



The City of Salem has once again been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the City's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the year ending June 30, 2019. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the City of Salem has earned this Certificate of Achievement. In awarding this recognition, GFOA stated that Salem's CAFR "has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure.'"

"This award is a reflection of the value we have placed on transparency, professionalism, and financial responsibility in government operations," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "It is also a credit to the hard work of our Finance Department and the department's team."

The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles in preparing comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. The goal is to ensure that users of their financial statements have the information they need in order to assess the financial health of participating governments. Reports submitted to the CAFR program are reviewed by the GFOA Special Review Committee, which comprises individuals with expertise in public sector financial reporting and includes financial statement preparers, independent auditors, academics, and other finance professionals.

## New Business Website

Mayor Kim Driscoll has announced the launch of [www.salemforbusiness.com](http://www.salemforbusiness.com), a new website that celebrates why Salem is great place to do business and connects prospective business owners with a variety of resources to help them get started and grow locally. The website describes all that Salem has to offer, including information on its bustling downtown, its vibrant waterfront, and its local community that supports businesses throughout the City. It also offers a direct connection to the City's economic development and business support team and additional technical resources and guidelines for starting a small business in Salem.



"We are excited to launch this new website to not only help attract businesses to Salem, but also provide a clearing-house of information to support Salem's existing business community," said Mayor Driscoll. "As the site continues to grow with more information added to it over the coming weeks and months, it will truly become an indispensable asset to our business community. While the work on this new resource started before the current pandemic, this has been an extremely challenging time for our businesses, making this new website even more timely and important. By streamlining the economic development resources and programs into one place, business owners can easily access this crucial information, weather the pandemic, and continue to thrive here in Salem."

Business owners and those considering starting a business in Salem are encouraged to bookmark the page and check back often.



# School Updates

## Wednesday of Thanksgiving Release Times 2020

Please find below the specific **half-day school day** schedule for Wednesday, 11/25, the day before Thanksgiving. All synchronous live instruction will be completed no later than noon for any remote classes.

School	Start Time (No Changes)	In-Person Dismissal Time
Bates	7:45am	10:40am
Bentley	8:00am	11:15am
Carlton	8:20am	11:15am
Horace Mann	7:50am	10:45am
Saltonstall	8:00am	11:30am
Witchcraft Heights	8:20am	11:15am
Early Childhood Center	9:30am	11:45am
Collins	Remote Half Day for All Students, including Tier 1	
Salem High	Remote Half Day for All Students, including Tier 1	
Salem Prep	9:00am	12:00noon
New Liberty	Remote Half Day for All Students	

## ParentSquare

Starting on November 16th we'll be using ParentSquare across all of our schools and classrooms to communicate with you from the district, at your school, and in your classrooms and groups. ParentSquare provides a simple way for everyone to connect on one platform. With ParentSquare you can:

- Receive all school and classroom communication via email, text, or app notifications
- Message directly with your classroom teachers in your preferred language
- Share and view files and photos
- Easily sign up to volunteer and/or donate needed items to a classroom
- Manage your communications settings to receive an email as messages are posted or as a once a day digest



You should have received an invitation email or text to join ParentSquare. Please click the link to activate your account. It takes less than a minute. You can use ParentSquare on any device. You can download the free mobile app for Android or iOS and you can also use it from a computer at: [www.parentsquare.com](http://www.parentsquare.com). ParentSquare has many great features! [Watch this quick video](#) to get an overview of what you can expect. We are all learning how to use this powerful new tool. View a [Parent 101 training](#), as well as [detailed answers to your questions](#). Still have questions? email us at [publicrelations@saalemk12.org](mailto:publicrelations@saalemk12.org)