



# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Thank you for reading the FYI Salem newsletter!

A few quick updates in this issue of the newsletter. First, we're very excited about the start of construction on the new Harbor Connector Path! This off-street multi-use path will help provide another option for people to walk or bike through our city and leave their car at home. I'm grateful to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for the \$300,000 grant that the City received in order to complete this project.

Speaking of projects, we're looking forward to the start of work on a major improvement project in the Museum Place Garage. In 2018 the City completed a total engineering re-

view of the structure and this year we're starting on some of the improvements recommended from that study. The first phase of work is especially focused on mitigating the water infiltration issues and follows on previous investments in the stairwells, elevators, gate systems, and lights.

A quick reminder that the presidential primary in Massachusetts takes place this coming March. In order to vote, you must be registered and the registration deadline is coming up on February 12th. Our Elections Office at City Hall will be open late that evening if you need to come in and register or change your party enrollment.

The Salem Scholarship and Education Committee has released their 2020 scholarship application form and announced the application deadline of May 15th. These scholarships are available to any Salem resident who is heading to college or university in the fall. Find out more in the newsletter and at [salem.com/scholarship](http://salem.com/scholarship).

Lastly, this issue of the newsletter closes with some important updates about the ongoing search for the next Salem Public

School superintendent. Read a profile about each of the four finalists and find out more about the next steps in this important process.

We've started a new segment on the FYI Salem podcast that we're calling Snapshots—brief news updates and announcements from the City of Salem. These will be in addition to our regular podcast episodes. Find it at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or subscribe on Apple podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, TuneIn, and Soundcloud. Links to the Snapshot are also available on announcements posted to [salem.com/news](http://salem.com/news), to provide an audio version of announcements.

As always, thanks for reading the FYI Salem newsletter! Please encourage friends and neighbors to subscribe at [www.salem.com/subscribe](http://www.salem.com/subscribe).

With best regards,

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

# Harbor Connector Path



Construction commences on the Salem Harbor Connector Path on February 10th. This shared-use off-street path will run from Derby Street through Beattie Park, crossing Fort Avenue and Szetela Lane to connect to the Collins Cove path and extending up Szetela Lane to the Bentley School.

Beginning on February 10th, the City's Contractor, Raffaele Construction, will mobilize to the site and start construction on the shared-use path. Substantial completion of the project is anticipated for August 1, 2020. A regular 2-week look ahead notification will be provided to you to keep you informed of the schedule and any weather delays. The work hours for this effort is 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

During this project, the area will be an active construction site and you should be careful and drive at a reduced speed accordingly. No parking signs will be posted in advance of construction and no parking will remain in effect until construction is complete for that day. When work is taking place on or near the roadway, police details will be present to assist everyone through the work zone and to facilitate traffic management.

## Scholarship Applications

The City of Salem's Scholarship and Education Committee has released the scholarship application form for students graduating from Salem High School, Salem Academy Charter School, or other high schools, and entering college or university in the fall. The one-page application form is available now at <http://www.salem.com/scholarship>. Application packets are due back to the committee by May 15.



In June of 1987, Salem Mayor Tony Salvo and Superintendent of Schools Hank O'Donnell advanced a proposal to adopt Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1986, a measure that enabled cities and towns to set up a scholarship account for graduating seniors, funded through voluntary donations made by local residents on their tax bills. The City of Salem's Scholarship and Education Committee oversees both the Scholarship Fund, to provide educational financial aid to deserving city residents and the Education Fund, to provide supplemental educational funding for local educational needs or to provide funding for existing adult literacy programs.

The committee is comprised of residents appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, as well as a designee of the Superintendent. Its members monitor the funds' balances, engage in efforts to increase donations to the funds, and evaluate applications for awards from the funds. Since 2003 the committee has awarded over \$80,000 in scholarships to Salem students graduating from Salem High School, Salem Academy Charter School, and other schools. Scholarship amounts vary from year to year, based on the number of applications.

## Voter Registration

The deadline to register to vote in the March 3rd Presidential Primaries is Wednesday, February 12th. The Elections Office at Salem City Hall, 93 Washington Street will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on February 12th for voter registration. You can also register to vote online at [www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR).

# Garage Project

The City of Salem is moving forward on a major improvement project aimed at upgrading conditions in the Museum Place parking garage, which provides over 900 spaces of parking in the center of downtown Salem.

The work builds on a comprehensive engineering assessment of the facility completed in 2018 and follows on previous substantial investments in new automated kiosks and gates, new stairwells, new lighting, and new elevators.

The upcoming phase of work is principally focused on addressing long-standing water infiltration problems and other necessary repairs.



A funding request for the \$1.1 million project will come before the City Council on February 13<sup>th</sup> and, pending its approval, the City anticipates work commencing by late March, with completion expected by around the end of June 2020.

This project focuses on the first level of the garage and consists of:

1. Removal and replacement of all sealant joints and expansion joints.
2. Installation of expansion joint bellows around the stair towers.
3. Installation of waterproofing sealant membrane.
4. Repair of concrete spalling.
5. Restriping of markings.
6. Removal of existing concrete parking stops and replacement with composite stops.
7. Flushing storm drainage pipes.

As part of the project the City will also carry out the design phase for the next round of improvements, which will take place on other levels of the garage. A separate project to install security cameras throughout the garage has already been funded and is currently going through design and procurement.

The work for this phase of the project will largely be funded by a capital bond that will be paid for by parking revenues. Should the funding be approved and work commence, during the approximately three months of the project the first floor of the garage will be temporarily closed for parking, either in full or in part at times. Parking will remain available on the upper floors.

"The Museum Place Garage provides essential long-term parking downtown for our employers, customers and visitors, and also residents during snow emergencies," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "In addition, water infiltration issues have been a source of frustration for the merchants who have spaces in the mall below the garage. I'm hopeful the City Council will approve this funding so this important work can advance on scheduled. It will help extend the useful life of the garage and protect the small business owners who are mall tenants."



# Schools Update

The 15 members of the superintendent search subcommittee reached unanimous agreement to forward the following four educators for consideration as the next superintendent of the Salem Public Schools. (In alphabetical order)

**Dr. Lourenco P. Garcia** currently serves as Executive Director of Data and Accountability for the Revere Public Schools. Prior to accepting this position in August 2018, he served as Principal of Revere High School for eight years. Dr. Garcia's professional experience also includes serving as Principal of Woonsocket (RI) High School, Assistant Principal of Tolman (RI) High School, and a high school teacher in Brockton, MA and Domingos Ramos High School in Cape Verde. He earned a Doctorate in Urban Education from UMass Boston, a M.A. in Applied Linguistics from UMass Boston, a B.S. degree in World Geography from the National Institute of Teacher Training in Praia, Cape Verde, and a B.S. degree from the School of Advanced Military Studies in the Ukraine.

**Ms. Erin McMahon** is currently National Chief Academic Officer for the KIPP Foundation in New York, NY. She has also worked for the Denver Public Schools as Associate Chief of Academics and Innovation, Regional Superintendent and Director of Teacher Talent Management. Ms. McMahon served the New York City Department of Education for seven years as Principal of Henry Street School for International Studies, Assistant Principal of the William W. Niles Middle School and Principal Resident for the Eleanor Roosevelt High School. She was also an elementary teacher of English as a Second Language in Washington, D.C. Ms. McMahon earned her M.S. degree in Education Leadership from Pace University, an MBA from Cornell University, and her B.A. degree in History from Yale University.

**Mr. Ben Lummis** is currently Interim Superintendent of the Brookline Public Schools, where he previously served for four years as Special Assistant for Strategy and Performance. Prior to coming to Brookline, he was Vice President of Professional Development for EF Education First, Founding Partner and Vice President of the National Center on Time and Learning, and served on the School Committee in Cambridge, MA. Mr. Lummis has also work as a middle school English teacher, and an instructor for North Carolina Outward Bound School. He earned his M.A. in Teaching degree from Tufts University and a B.A. degree in Philosophy from the University of Michigan.

**Dr. Stephen Zrike, Jr.** is currently the Superintendent/Receiver of the Holyoke (MA) Public Schools. Prior to accepting the position in Holyoke, he served as Superintendent of the Wakefield (MA) Public Schools. Dr. Zrike has also held the position of Chief of Elementary Schools for the Chicago Public Schools, as well as Turnaround Principal of the Blackstone Elementary School, Principal of the Ohrenberger Elementary School and the Philbrick School, each in the Boston Public Schools. He was also a Teacher Leader in the Andover Public Schools. Dr. Zrike earned an Ed.D. and an Ed.M. degree in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy from Harvard University, and his B.A. degree in History from Dartmouth College.

Full resumes of each of these finalists are available at <http://bit.ly/SalemSuperintendentFinalists>

These finalists have spent time visiting Salem schools, meeting with faculty, administrators, staff, and students, during the school day, and meeting with parents and members of the public at community forums. Each group has submitted feedback forms on the finalists that will be read and taken into account by each member of the School Committee as they consider the candidates. The Community forums are being recorded by SATV and will be available online on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. An online feedback form will be available at that time for those who wish to submit their thoughts to the School Committee but could not attend the evening forums. Each finalist will be interviewed by the School Committee at a public meeting on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The School Committee is expected to vote on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

The subcommittee met on seven different evenings to prepare, review, interview, debate, deliberate and decide on the finalists presented here. Each member played a key role in ensuring that all stakeholder groups were heard and their perspective considered. In the end, the committee reached a unanimous decision to recommend these finalists to the School Committee. Members of the appointed subcommittee were: Mustafa Abdulrahman, Ann Berman, Dr. Nicole Harris, Emily Ullman, Gail Titus, Grace Duran, Heidi Guarino, Jamie Navins, Jason Yarrington, Kathleen Coates, Kim Driscoll, Linda Saris, Manny Cruz, Mary Manning, and Perla Peguero.