



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Thank you for reading the FYI Salem newsletter! You can find this issue and past issues online at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-newsletter>.

As we continue our efforts to help Salem residents go "car-free," one of the major initiatives underway is the launch of a new on-demand City shuttle service. Thanks to a major Mass DOT grant that the City just received, that program is even closer to becoming reality. Read more about the grant award and the shuttle program in the newsletter.

The City of Salem also recently partnered with the City of Beverly to receive a regional climate change planning grant

from the Commonwealth. These funds will be used to develop an action plan articulating specific steps both of our coastal communities can take to prepare for the consequences of global climate change.

Salem is one of just thirteen communities across the nation that has been invited to participate in Smart Growth America's Opportunity Zones (OZ) Marketplace, an online tool for sharing information and opportunities in Salem's OZs. Read more about OZs and the Marketplace in this issue of the newsletter.

The 23rd SalemRecycles Book Swap is coming up next month. Find out more details about this event in the newsletter. SalemRecycles' book swaps have diverted around 200 tons of trash from our community's waste stream, saving Salem taxpayers around \$15,000 in disposal costs.

Our community services' team works hard to offer all kinds of great programs, activities, and events at the CLC and throughout Salem. You can find the Spring 2020 Park & Rec guide online now at <https://www.salem.com/recreation/pages/spring-program-guide->

[2020](#).

Lastly, the final page of the newsletter is once again dedicated to updates from the Salem Public Schools. In this issue, read more about the School Committee's unanimous selection of Dr. Stephen Zrike to serve as Salem's next Superintendent of Schools!

On the most recent FYI Salem podcast I sat down with Seth Latrell, Salem Harbor Port Authority deputy, to talk about the harbor planning process starting soon and all the potential along Salem's historic and vibrant waterfront. Find it at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or subscribe on Apple podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, TuneIn, and Soundcloud.

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

With best regards,

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem



Shuttle Grant

The City of Salem has received a \$250,000 Workforce Transportation Program grant from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. This funding will be used to help launch the City's forthcoming on-demand ride share shuttle service.

The concept for a shuttle service grew out of a feasibility study that began in 2017 through a partnership between Salem for All Ages, the City's Department of Traffic and Parking and other stakeholders including Salem State University, North Shore

Medical Center, and the North Shore Transportation Management Association. The goal of the study was to identify and implement an affordable and accessible public transit system that could encourage Salem residents to choose a "car-free" or "car-light" lifestyle to help reduce congestion and parking strains. After the in-depth feasibility study was completed, the City issued a Request for Proposals seeking bids from prospective shuttle vendors. The response period closed on January 17, 2020 and the City is now reviewing the proposals, with the goal of selecting a preferred vendor by the end of February, so service can begin in the Spring of 2020.

The funding from the Workforce Transportation Program grant will be combined with dollars donated to the City through its Host Community Agreements with cannabis retailers, as well as its development agreements with new housing developments that are under construction. The goal in combining these multiple funding sources is to keep the shuttle service as low-fare as possible for riders.

"I am grateful to the Baker Administration and our legislators for making this funding available, as well as to our City staff who worked so hard on this grant application," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "This funding will help make possible a shuttle service that, we hope, will help reduce traffic on our streets, saving residents money and aggravation, while also helping us meet our climate goals."

Book Swap

On Saturday, March 14th SalemRecycles will host their 23rd Book Swap from 10am to 1pm at the Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center at 401 Bridge Street. Come on by and pick up some books or drop off books that you don't need anymore.

Please bring books, CDs & DVDs, Video Games, Records, Re-usable Bags, and Greeting Cards. All items must be clean and mildew free.

Please do not bring encyclopedias, magazines, textbooks over 10 years old, VHS tapes, and audio cassette tapes. Please no book dealers or more than two bags per swapper before noon. If you have lots of books, you may drop them off at the CLC before the event during the times below. Volunteers will be available to help carry and unload items. Please, no drop offs outside of Friday, March 13th, 4pm–7pm or Saturday, March 14th, 9am–noon. Contact Micaela Guglielmi at mguglielmi@salem.com or 978-619-5672 with specific questions or to volunteer at the event.



SalemRecycles is the City's volunteer recycling committee, which works to increase recycling and encourage positive recycling practices through educational outreach and special events. Through the last 22 Book Swaps, SalemRecycles has hosted over 9,700 participants and recycled/reused over 200 tons of books. For more information about SalemRecycles or the Book Swap, call (978) 619-5672 or visit www.Salem.com/Recycling or www.GreenSalem.com.



The City of Salem is pleased to be part of Smart Growth America's new National Opportunity Zones Marketplace, an online tool designed to equip local governments, real estate developers and investors, and community leaders to work together to make smart, equitable growth possible in Opportunity Zones and beyond.

Designed to serve Salem and the 12 other communities across the country that are participating in Smart Growth America and LOCUS' National Opportunity Zones Academy, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Barr Foundation, this new Marketplace is designed to allow these local governments to post details about shovel-ready projects for those looking for equitable development opportunities and to communicate about Opportunity Zone questions, comments, prospects, and needs.

The City of Salem believes that the new Opportunity Zones tax incentive is best used carefully and deliberately in order to benefit, not displace, people and create walkable, mixed-use communities with a variety of employment and housing options for everyone.

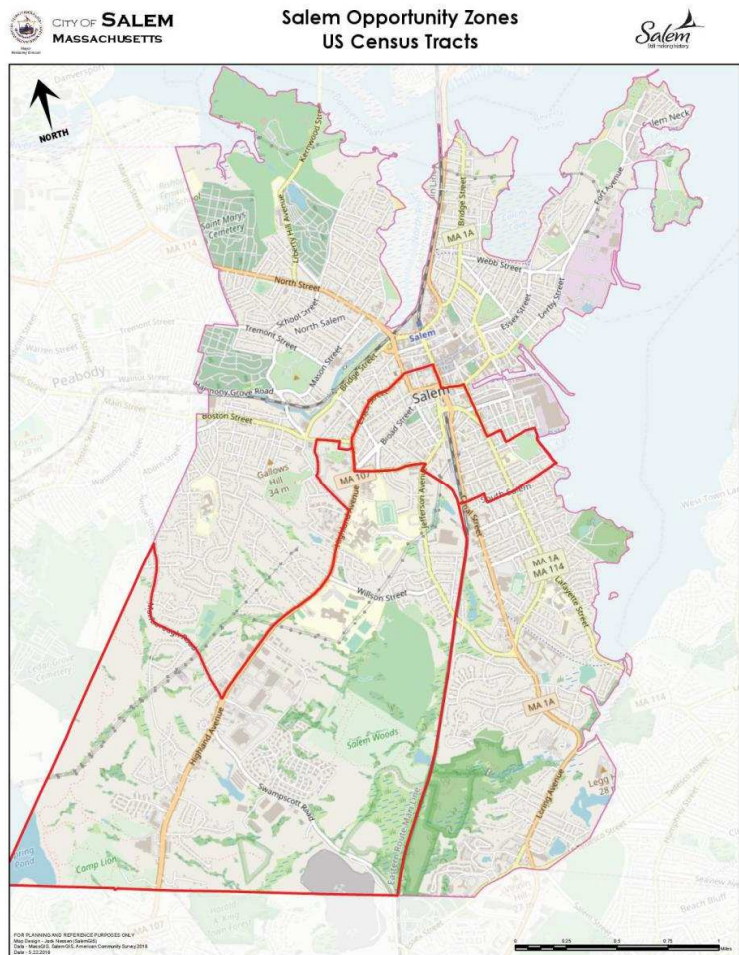
"We are so excited to be a part of this ongoing discussion about how to use our two designated Opportunity Zones to help guide growth that is desirable, equitable, and an economic driver," said Mayor Kim Driscoll.

"Our partnership with LOCUS and Smart Growth America has opened the door to new opportunities that otherwise would not have been available. By participating in the National Opportunity Zones Marketplace, we can work directly with businesses, property owners, investors, and developers, share Salem's aspirations, and collaborate on projects that seek to accomplish these goals."

The Marketplace is a transparent, national hub where social impact investors from across the country can look for potential projects. Through the Marketplace, they can partner with cities to invest in equitable development in ways that help communities meet their goals for affordable housing, economic development, and more.

This new Marketplace is one part of Smart Growth America's National Opportunity Zones Academy, an 18-month technical assistance and peer learning effort that helps cities and towns create place-based, community-led approaches to sustainable growth and develop strategies to transform selected Opportunity Zones into economically-thriving and socially-inclusive places.

View the Marketplace and create a profile to follow along at <https://oppsites.com/sgamarketplace>.



Schools Update

Superintendent Selection

Salem Public Schools is excited to announce the unanimous selection of Dr. Stephen Zrike to be offered the position of Superintendent for Salem Public Schools. The School Committee voted unanimously on February 13th to extend an offer to Dr. Zrike to enter into the next steps in the process to enter into contractual talks.

Dr. Zrike would come to Salem from Holyoke Public Schools where he currently serves as Receiver/Superintendent. He previously served as the Superintendent of Schools in Wakefield, Massachusetts and Chief of Elementary Schools for the Pilsen-Little Village Network in the Chicago Public Schools. He was responsible for leading the instructional improvement efforts for 26 schools and approximately 18,000 students.



In addition to his experience in Chicago, Dr. Zrike also served the Boston Public Schools as the turnaround principal of the William Blackstone Elementary School, an inquiry facilitator and leadership coach for four Boston schools, and as principal of both the William Ohrenberger Elementary School and John Philbrick Elementary School. Dr. Zrike's teaching career began in Massachusetts' Andover Public School District, as a fifth-grade teacher. He received his doctorate from the Urban Superintendents' Program and his Master's Degrees in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Zrike also holds a bachelor's degree in history from Dartmouth College.

Kindergarten Enrollment

This is a reminder to parents and guardians of the deadline for sibling preference applications for students enrolling in Kindergarten for the coming school year.

The deadline for these applications is February 20th. If you have not already submitted your Kindergarten application for sibling preference you must visit the Parent Information Center between 8:00-4:00 today or 8:00-5:30 tomorrow to submit a completed registration packet.

If you have questions, please contact the Parent Information Center at 978-740-1225. Remember that this deadline is only for families looking to take advantage of the sibling preference option.

