



# FYI SALEM

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Harbor Grant	2
Vape Buy-Back	2
Tiny Houses	3
Bridge Street Project	3
Repair Café	3
School Updates	4

## 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>.

I'm excited to announce that the City has received a \$1 million state grant from the Seaport Economic Council. Most of these funds will be directed toward improvements at Salem Wharf and the adjacent deepwater berth, while the rest will be used to fund our upcoming Harbor Plan, which will engage neighbors and the community in a long-term vision for the harbor area.

Read more in this issue about the recently launched e-cigarette and vape pen buy-

back program, which the City is undertaking through a partnership between our Health Department, the Salem Youth Commission, North Shore Community Health, the Salem Public Schools, and North Shore Medical Center.

There are two upcoming events that may be of interest to you. On March 23rd an expert in the "tiny house" movement will conduct a presentation at the Community Life Center. And, on March 28th, SalemRecycles will again host their recurring Repair Café event at 211 Bridge Street.

The Bridge Street complete streets project, which runs on Bridge Street from Flint Street to Boston and includes the Boston/Bridge Street intersection, is gearing up to begin this spring. Find a link in this issue to the project website, where you can find project plans and get the regular two-week look-ahead updates that will be issued once the project commences.

Finally, we wrap up the newspaper—as we always do—with some important updates from the Salem Public Schools, including information about the ongoing Salem High School principal search and a major

workforce grant just awarded to Salem High School for the culinary arts and medical assisting programs there.

On the most recent FYI Salem podcast I sat down with Valerie Fletcher from the Institute for Human Centered Design, the organization that completed the City's new ADA plan. We talk about how Salem can build on its record of success when it comes to accessibility and inclusivity for people of all abilities. 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](http://www.salem.com/subscribe).

With best regards,

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem



## Harbor Grant

On February 25th the Economic Council was announced that the City of Salem had received a grant totaling \$1 million to support the on-going work on Salem Harbor. The grant will support two specific initiatives.

### **Salem Wharf Deepwater Berth Repair - \$840,000**

This funding will help the City of Salem identify and implement near-term improvements necessary to maintain functionality of the Salem Wharf Deepwater Berth, and if near-

term improvements are not practicable, or do not require the full requested funding, then funding will be used to begin an assessment of long-term rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of the wharf.

### **Salem Municipal Harbor Planning - \$160,000**

This funding will allow the City of Salem to embark on a harbor planning and community visioning effort that will revise the Salem Harbor Plan to address significant changes that have occurred both along Salem's waterfront and in how the City approaches waterfront development in consideration of climate change and sea level rise. The Salem Harbor Plan will serve as a basis for the City and the Commonwealth to employ a shared approach to the development and regulation of waterfront areas subject to public rights and interests.

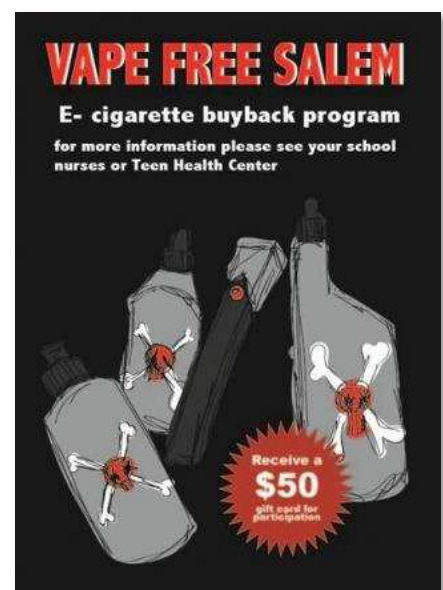
"This grant award will support critical efforts along Salem's historic and vibrant waterfront," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "For over a decade we have focused on establishing Salem's historic port as a central part of our economic strength and our community's vitality. Our connection to our waterfront is and always has been one of Salem's defining assets and greatest economic forces. We have enlivened our port with new industries, recreational amenities, tourism opportunities, and alternative transportation options. This latest Seaport Economic Council grant award will be especially beneficial as we work to expand Salem Harbor's facilities and increase visitation to our City by water."

## Vape Buy-Back

The City of Salem, in partnership with North Shore Community Health and North Shore Medical Center, has launched a new initiative to encourage high school age youth to give up vaping. Salem youth can bring their e-cigarette device or vape pen to the Teen Health Center at Salem High School (Suite 127) and receive a \$50 gift card to Target, Market Basket, Stop & Shop, or other area businesses.

To receive the gift card, students must also participate in and successfully complete four vaping cessation support sessions. The sessions are 45 minutes long and will take place in the Teen Health Center.

"The negative health effects from vaping are clearly established, so I hope all Salem kids who might use these potentially deadly devices will consider bringing it in for the buy-back," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll. "By coupling the gift card with cessation services, we're also hoping to help youth successfully break the vaping habit for good, too."



Those looking for more information can call the Teen Health Center at 978-740-1220.

# Tiny Houses

Tiny houses are sweeping the nation. Join the conversation to find out more on Monday March 23rd, with two presentations at 10:00 a.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. at the Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center, 401 Bridge Street, in Salem.

Miranda Aisling, tiny house owner and builder, Amanda Chiancola, senior planner for the City of Salem, and Patricia Kelleher, preservation planner for the City of Salem, will discuss why national interest in tiny houses is growing and whether they could be part of the answer for the housing crisis in Salem.

This event is presented through a partnership between Salem for All Ages and Miranda's Hearth, and is free and open to the public.



# Bridge Street Project

The Salem Engineering Department has published the project website for the forthcoming Bridge Street complete streets reconstruction project, which will begin construction this spring.

Find project plans, look-ahead updates, and more at <https://www.salem.com/city-engineer/pages/bridge-street-reconstruction>.

# Repair Cafe

Don't throw away your broken item – bring it to the Repair Café! Salem's ninth Repair Café, hosted by SalemRecycles and The Bridge at 211 will take place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until noon (last appointment at 11:30 a.m.) at 211 Bridge Street.

Repair volunteers will be available to mend clothing, sew buttons, sharpen scissors and knives, tinker with or rewire electronics and lamps, and glue wooden furniture and ceramics. We are excited to have new computer diagnostics volunteers at this event! They can help evaluate your tower, desktop, laptop, or antivirus software that isn't running like it used to and give you suggestions to help improve the performance, increase the storage of your computer, back up your data, and extend the life of your computer system.

We are no longer taking pre-registration appointments for this event; participants will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. We hope to see you at this fun, free event where you can learn how to fix things and reduce your waste!



For more information contact Micaela Guglielmi at [mguglielmi@salem.com](mailto:mguglielmi@salem.com) or 978-619-5672.



# Schools Updates

## The Amazing Shake

Bates Elementary will host the Amazing Shake Competition starting on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Amazing Shake is a contest that places an emphasis on teaching students manners, discipline, respect, and professional conduct.

Through the Amazing Shake, a competition originally created by the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, students are introduced to the nuances of professional human interaction as they are taught various skills such as how to give a proper handshake, how to provide high-quality answers in interviews, and how to remain composed under pressure. At the end of the contest, the school aims to prepare their students to present themselves exceptionally well for opportunities today as well as those that will come in the future.



## Salem High School Principal Search

The process for hiring a high school principal is on target and on time. Survey responses from students, faculty, and the community were used to develop a profile for what the screening committee should look for in the new hire. 18 applicants are currently being screened and a group of semifinalists will be chosen. Interviews for the semifinalists will take place the week of 3/9-3/11 and finalists will be announced once that process is complete.

## Skills Capital Grant

Congrats to Salem High School for being awarded the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant! The Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant award money will be used for the purchase and installation of equipment and the related improvements and renovations necessary to support vocational and technical training. This equipment will upgrade and expand career technical education and training programs that are aligned to regional economic and workforce development priorities for in-demand industries and to provide students training pathways to career opportunities in high-skill, high-demand industry sectors. At Salem High School the \$218,000 award will be used to obtain equipment for our Culinary Arts and Medical Assisting programs.

