



FYI SALEM

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6

MARCH 13, 2020

CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE:

Phone:

(978) 619-5600

Fax:

(978) 744-9327

Email:

mayor@salem.com

Web:

salem.com/mayor

Facebook:

Kim Driscoll

Twitter:

@MayorDriscoll



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVID-19 Update	2
Common Projects	3
Salem-Ota Exchange	3
Spring Street Sweeping	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 www.salem.com/FYISalemNewsletter.

The top concern on peoples' mind is doubtless the ongoing issue with novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

The City is posting regular updates on our planning and actions at www.salem.com/news and the Salem Public Schools are doing the same at www.salemk12.org. We are treating this situation very seriously and hope you will review and follow all of the guidance recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (www.coronavirus.gov) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (www.mass.gov/coronavirus).

Salem schools are closed through March 27th at least, in an effort to help slow the spread of the virus. You can help this effort by not gathering in large groups for the next few weeks. The Governor has extended a prohibition on assemblies of over 250 people, but from a public health perspective close contact with others may lead to the spread the virus and should be avoided, if possible. Please wash your hands, avoid touching your face, sneeze and cough into disposable tissues, avoid sick people and stay home if you're sick, and maintain a distance of several feet from others as much as possible.

There is no playbook for how best to undertake municipal operations at this unprecedented time and we greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation and collaboration as we strive to provide essential city services, while also preventing the spread of the virus. For that reason, we will be curtailing the deployment of city staff within municipal buildings and striving to maintain recommended social distancing within the work setting. Anyone who is sick, who has traveled to a "Level 3" country in the last 14 days, or who is self-quarantining or self-isolating are prohibited from entering any school or City building. We realize that some of these measures may pose disruptions for members of our community, but we feel strongly that taking these steps now will reduce the likelihood of the virus

spreading and increase the possibility that this outbreak will be contained more quickly than if we were not taking these measures. If you have coronavirus symptoms or you believe you were exposed to someone who does, call your healthcare provider.

On the most recent FYI Salem podcast you can listen to the COVID-19 update that our Health Agent, Public Health Nurse, and I provided to the City Council on March 12th. Find it at www.salem.com/FYISalemPodcast or subscribe on Apple podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, TuneIn, and Soundcloud.

This is a time of uncertainty for all of us, and there are many questions we cannot yet answer due to the swiftly changing nature of this situation. We would like to thank all of you for your partnership in this community effort. Finally, we would like to offer special thanks to the many members of our community who have been working to prepare and respond to this extraordinary circumstance.

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



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update City of Salem



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The City of Salem is moving forward with precautionary measures to help slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and lessen impacts on healthcare providers responding to this evolving situation. These actions and recommendations are effective March 13, 2020.

All City buildings will be undergoing a deep cleaning over the next several days, with a particular focus on high-touch areas and an electrostatic Protexus disinfectant spray application.

City offices at City Hall and City Hall Annex will be open with reduced staff for the next two weeks. To the extent possible, all inquiries to City staff should be by email or phone, and not in person. Departments will have reduced staffing through March 27th, so please anticipate a likely delay in response to inquiries. Most City services can be accessed directly online at www.salem.com and particularly under the "Online Services" menu at the top of the home page. At this time, no filing deadlines for applications, petitions, bids, appeals or other measures are being cancelled, extended, or otherwise changed.

The Community Life Center (CLC) will be open with reduced staff for the next two weeks, however all public programs, events, and classes at the building are cancelled through March 27th. Staff will be available to assist with social work needs, appointments, and so forth. To the extent possible, all inquiries to CLC staff should be by email or phone, and not in person. Transportation to medical appointments and grocery stores will still be provided with the usual two business days' notice. Meal deliveries from Meals on Wheels will continue to take place. Congregate meals at the CLC have been cancelled through March 27th, however arrangements will be made for those relying on these meals. Call 978-744-0924 for more information or with any questions.

The Salem Public Library will remain open to the public, however with reduced staffing and potentially hours. All scheduled programs and events at the library have been cancelled through March 27th. Visit www.salempl.org to see updates about changes to operating hours. Anyone who is sick or feeling unwell, who has returned from a country designated Level 3 by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) within the last fourteen days, or who is self-quarantining or self-isolating are directed not to enter the building.

For a complete list of board meetings that are cancelled, and those that are not, please visit www.salem.com/news. Some boards will be meeting remotely during the next two weeks.

Anyone who is sick or feeling unwell, who has returned from a country designated Level 3 by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>) within the last fourteen days, or who is self-quarantining or self-isolating are directed not to enter any City building. Any staff with cold-like symptoms, fever, or other illness have been directed to remain at home.

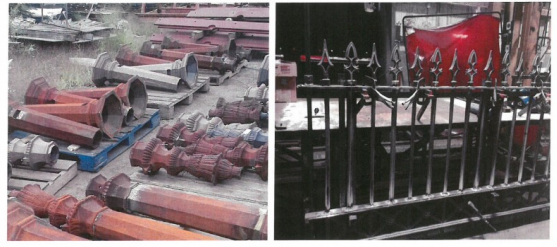
All staff travel to conferences or work-related events where there will be gatherings of more than 25 people has been suspended through March 27th.

Members of the public should ensure they are subscribed to Salem's three primary communication platforms, all available at www.salem.com/subscribe: (1) **CodeRED**, the emergency notification system, (2) **City Alerts**, found under the "Urgent Alert" menu, and (3) **City News & Announcement**, found under the "News or Announcement" category.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit www.coronavirus.gov and www.mass.gov/coronavirus.

Common Projects

Work on the current phase of the Common Fence Restoration project is advancing at DeAngelis Iron Work's fabrication shop. All the fence sections that are part of this phase of restoration work have been removed from the Common for repair. These pieces have now been sandblasted, the first step before repair and repainting. For fence posts or panels that were missing or too severely damaged to be repaired, new castings are being made. Most of the new fence piece castings have been completed. Work is on pace for the fence pieces to be reinstalled at the Common this summer.



Phase 1 of the Salem Common Bandstand Restoration project will start next week. The current schedule is as follows, but could change dependent on weather. Fencing will go up on Monday March 16th; demolition will start later that week and last through the end of the month. Excavation and concrete will occur the 1st week in April through the 3rd week in April. The new bulkhead is scheduled to go in the last week in April. Landscaping will be the first two weeks in May. The bandstand is currently expected to be reopened May 15th.



Salem-Ota Exchange

The Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange is seeking host families for 28 middle school students from Ota, Tokyo, Japan, who will be in Salem from July 26th to August 3rd this summer. Salem families with a middle school or high school age student are invited to contact the Exchange to sign up. The Exchange provides a full schedule of activities for each day of the exchange student's visit, as well as optional evening group activities.

Host families are asked to provide their student with a bed and meals.

No knowledge of Japanese is required as the Ota students are learning English. While preference is given to families who live in Salem, those from neighboring communities are also welcome to apply. To learn more about the Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange, visit www.SalemOtaCE.org. To apply, contact Constance Arlander at 978-979-0037 or patchwerk7@gmail.com, or Midori Oka at 978-809-0949 or midori.oka.home@gmail.com.

As the world grapples with the evolving situation with COVID-19, the Salem-Ota exchange program will carefully follow the guidelines of the State Department's travel restrictions and guidance, the recommendations of the CDC, and the advisories of the Governing Health body in Japan. As of this writing, the program is going ahead as planned, however the Salem-Ota Club will communicate any anticipated changes to the program with the families should they develop.

Spring Street Sweeping

Spring street sweeping will begin on Salem's entrance corridors on Tuesday, March 24 through April 2 and continue into residential neighborhoods beginning on Monday, April 6 and running through May 1. A complete schedule and map of which streets will be swept when, along with details about alternative parking locations and more, can all be found online at www.salem.com/streetsweeping.



Schools Updates

Salem Public Schools will be closed for a minimum of 2 weeks effective Monday 3/16.

This is the beginning of many communications we will be providing. We are working on the logistics of food services, device needs, and learning tools, as well as general information, and will continue to keep you informed.

As we await further guidance from State health officials, last night, Salem Public Schools and the School Committee agreed to a two-week school closure starting Monday, March 16th.

Our decision has been informed by our local board of health, as well by expert epidemiologists who recognize that the time to act is now. We know we can have a greater and more positive impact on public health and safety if we follow this guidance.

Again, we are presently working out details for foodservice and learning continuity during this time and will update you as plans are finalized.

The activities we have canceled through April vacation include but are not limited to:

- Spring Music Concerts scheduled prior to April break
- Student Opportunity Act Forum
- Salem High School Mattress Sale
- Collins Middle School play "Once on This Island"
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Uses of buildings by outside partners
- All school field trips
- All in school events such as visiting authors

Decisions are pending for:

- Saltonstall 5/6 NYC trip
- Collins Middle School 8th grade NYC trip
- Salem High School Carnegie Hall trip

Please be aware that the two-week school closure period may be extended should we receive a state-mandated directive or make a local decision.

We do this out of an abundance of caution, particularly out of sensitivity to families and staff who have underlying conditions that make them more vulnerable to complications of COVID-19. We also do not do this lightly, as we know that this will impose a hardship on families who do not have childcare options or families with other basic living needs in our school community.

