



FYI SALEM

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Salem Together	2
Inspired by History	2
Garage Project	3
Pump Station Meeting	3
Tax Due Date Extended	3
Transfer Station Open	3
School Updates	4

From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the Spring weather while being mindful of the need to practice safe physical distancing. We're doing all that we can as a community to help stop the spread of the virus.

Last week the Salem Board of Health issued an [emergency order](#) requiring customers and employees of essential businesses still open to wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth when entering or working in these establishments. The order requires the same of anyone entering a common area within residential and commercial building complexes. In addition, anyone picking up takeout food from a restaurant is also required to wear a face covering.

To the many families who are picking up school meals for your kids, please wear a face covering when picking up these meals to help protect your neighbors and our

hard-working school employees and volunteers at these sites.

The face coverings recommended by the Board of Health are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Please leave these items for medical professionals and first responders. Your facial covering does not need to be something you buy - a scarf, bandana, a t-shirt or fabric that is folded, and can be wrapped around your nose and mouth will suffice.

I know public health officials would appreciate your cooperation. In complying with this obligation, you're doing your part to help slow the spread of the virus in our community.

We have had 180 Salem residents test positive for COVID-19. Most are able to self-isolate at home as part of their recuperation and 33 of them have completed their isolation period. Please remember however, that many people may not be exhibiting symptoms, but may still have the virus and be contagious. That's why it's so important that we remain vigilant about staying in, wear a face covering in any essential business, and practice safe physical distancing while out.

As you may know, the City, in conjunction with neighboring communities, has set up a [temporary shelter site for homeless residents that need to quarantine at the Salem High School Field House](#). This will help ensure these most vulnerable members of our respective communities have a safe place to quarantine that

will also help cut down on the spread of this virus.

In addition, we have several public school families in need of housing. No child should be living in a shelter or motel - and especially at this time. If you know of or have a vacant unit available for rental, please reach out to me at mayor@salem.com

Thus far at least four Salem residents have lost their lives to COVID-19. Please hold them and their loved ones, along with many neighbors and friends currently fighting this virus, in your hearts, thoughts and prayers.

You can find the latest information on our efforts to fight the virus and a list of programs and resources to aid residents, business owners and others at salem.com/covid19. You can also join me and Health Agent David Greenbaum for an online Q&A tonight, April 15th, at 7pm at salem.com/covidQA.

I'm so proud of the compassion of Salem residents, the capacity and responsiveness of our local nonprofits, and the dedication and commitment of our first responders, healthcare workers, and City emergency response personnel. We're all in this together and we'll get through this by leaning on each other.

Be well and thank you for your cooperation and kindness during this unprecedented time.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor, City of Salem



Salem Together

Community resources for
facing COVID-19.

www.salem.com/together

Salem Together

The City of Salem, in partnership with multiple community partners and organizations, has launched www.salem.com/together, with a volunteer sign-up form, tools to request assistance, charitable funds accepting donations, and a wide variety of informational resources all in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. To date nearly 600 residents have signed up to volunteer and help their neighbors.

"I am amazed and humbled by how the people of Salem have united to support each other," said Mayor Driscoll. "This may be a time without precedent, but it is not a time without hope. While we must practice social distancing, we are still finding ways to come together as a community and support one another. So often it's the worst of times that bring out the best in people. My hope is that when we get to the other side of this, Salem will be able to look back with pride at how we lifted each other up and made it through."

Salem Together includes health information, including what to do if you are sick, resources for employers and workers suffering economic injury from the emergency, food resources both for those seeking assistance and those interesting in providing it, links to donate to funds helping those in need, outlets for those willing to volunteer time and energy to help others, and links to make specific requests for help. The page is updated routinely as new resources are identified, so residents are encouraged to check it on a regular basis.

Inspired by History

Salem has faced hard times in the past - fires, storms, epidemics, wars, economic crisis, and more - but throughout these dark periods, the City's residents displayed collective strength, resiliency, and perseverance. As the community once again faces a time of fear and uncertainty during the present COVID-19 outbreak, these stories from the City's past can help to inspire and unite, as we seek to overcome our current challenges.



Mayor Kim Driscoll has joined with the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem State University, *The Salem News*, the Salem Public Library, and local historians to share these stories through individual websites, blogs, and, collectively, through #SalemTogether and the Preserving Salem website at preservingsalem.com/salemttogether. Every Monday a new theme will be explored on the website, beginning on April 13th with stories from the Great Salem Fire of 1914.



**Coronavirus
(COVID-19)
Update**

City of Salem
salem.com/covid19



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

"Salem has been through tough times before," said Mayor Driscoll. "We came together to overcome these challenges and need to know that we can do it again. As a 400 year old city, we can lean on our past to help inspire, enrich, and teach us as we move forward. I'm grateful to all of the partners in this effort for their willingness to help tell these important stories at this difficult time."

Garage Project

Parking is currently not allowed on the first level of the Museum Place Garage in order for the City to begin planned drainage and waterproofing repairs to the building. Parking will still be permitted on all other levels of the garage and access in and out of the facility will be maintained. This work is expected to last through June.



Pump Station Meeting

Come Join Us!

April 21, 2020, 5:00pm
Virtual Public Meeting



To discuss the Evaluation and Preliminary Design for the Ocean Avenue West Stormwater Pump Station.

Go to: zoom.us/join
Enter meeting ID: 928 0457 3925
Enter password: 062123

Or call toll-free: 888-475-4499 or 877-853-5257

Questions – call City Engineer David Knowlton 978-619-5673

The City Engineering Department will hold an informational meeting at 5pm on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 to discuss the evaluation and preliminary design of the stormwater pump station located at the end of Ocean Avenue West.

The goal of the project is to provide storm drain upgrades and resiliency measures to mitigate flooding in the neighborhood. The project team will share background information and the design goals. The public will receive an update on activities taken thus far and be provided time for feedback and questions related to the stormwater pump station project.

Tax Due Date Extended

The City of Salem has extended the due dates for fourth quarter tax payments and applications for exemptions and a waiver of interest on certain municipal tax and other bills paid by June 30, 2020. Water and sewer bills due April 23rd, trash bills due April 28th, and real estate and personal property tax bills due May 1st have been extended to be due June 1st. Find complete details online at <https://www.salem.com/home/news/notice-regarding-city-bills>.

Transfer Station Open

Salem residents with proof of residency or property ownership can now drop off their yard waste at the Salem Transfer Station on Swampscott Road on Saturday April 4th. Drop off hours will be limited to from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Sundays from 9a.m. to 5 p.m. commencing Saturday, April 4th. Yard waste should be dropped off in a paper yard waste bag or dumped loose at the designated area on the site. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be accepted and stumps and branches greater than 2" in diameter will also not be accepted.



The next curbside yard waste collection is scheduled for the week of April 20th. Subsequent curbside yard waste collection will take place the weeks of June 22, September 21, October 19, and November 30, 2020. Curbside collection of yard waste takes place on the regularly scheduled trash day for the street. Curbside yard waste must be in paper bags or barrels. Do not place yard waste in Waste Management carts. Residential trash and construction and demolition debris is not be accepted at the Transfer Station.

Schools Updates

Food Delivery for Salem Students

Salem Public Schools continues to provide food service Monday-Friday at 14 locations throughout the city. We serve an average of 1000 meals per day and have served over 28,000 meals to date. In addition to breakfast and lunch, these locations are also handing out weekly pre-printed learning packets for students in grades Prek-5 and each location hosts Salem Pantry once per week for needed supplies for families. The Salem Pantry schedule can be found at <https://www.thesalempantry.org/programs>

Remote Learning

Looking for remote learning materials for students? Visit www.SalemLearns.org to access weekly downloadable packets.

New Principals

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Samantha Meier as principal of Salem High School. Dr. Meier has been serving as the school's interim principal since last July and has the necessary skills to lead Salem High School going forward. She is committed to leading the high school into a new era of teacher leadership, student voice and a positive learning environment for all who enter our Salem High School community.

In addition, we are also pleased to announce the promotion of Gavin Softic to principal of Bates Elementary School. Gavin has earned the respect and support of the students, teachers and families of the Bates School community to lead the school as the new principal beginning on July 1st. We know Gavin will continue the mission and vision of academic excellence and support for the social and emotional learning for all students.

Please join us in wishing both principals' success in the years ahead. More information on these appointments can be found on our website at https://www.salemk12.org/news/what_s_new/principal_announcements_for_s_h_s_and_bates

MCAS Testing Waived

The MCAS testing requirement has been waived for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. As a result of these federal and state actions and considering the on-going health crisis, this spring's regular administration of grade-level MCAS tests for students in grades 3-10 has been canceled.

