



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

A few weeks ago Salem dropped into the lowest risk-category for COVID-19 based on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's metrics for positive cases.

While we continue to see declining case rates and improving levels of vaccination in our community, we are still remaining vigilant—and we encourage you to do so. One out of every three Salem residents has still not received even one dose of the COVID vaccine and we're following updates about the emerging "delta" variant with concern.

Our wastewater surveillance testing has expanded city-wide now, helping us better monitor for potential increases in the virus, even as our individual

COVID testing numbers have declined.

You can do your part by getting vaccinated, if you aren't already. There are ten places in Salem where you can get a vaccine right now, six of them providing walk-in vaccinations without the need for an appointment.

We have mobile vaccination units rolling through both Curative and Mass General Brigham. Remember, starting July 1st, everyone who is vaccinated is entered into a state-run drawing where you could win \$1,000,000. Visit www.salem.com/vaccine to learn more.

Whether or not you are vaccinated, getting a free COVID test is still helpful, both for your own peace of mind and for our general monitoring of virus levels in the community.

Our free COVID testing sites at Salem High School and downtown are going to be open through the end of September. It's quick and easy. Visit www.salem.com/stopthespread to find out more.

Lastly, as we head into July 4th weekend, I would like to—as

always—remind residents that fireworks are illegal. Here in Salem we have increased the fines to the highest allowed under state law; \$300 from the police and, if you're a repeat offender, as much as \$1,000 for disobeying an order from the Fire Marshal. Not only are they dangerous and disruptive, they could cost you a lot in fines.

We'll have "red and blue" joint patrols of Salem firefighters and police in targeted neighborhoods and areas of the city, based on past fireworks complaints. You can help us refine our patrol work by reporting instances of illegal fireworks to www.salem.com/fireworks.

I know many are disappointed that we weren't able to have an official fireworks display for this July 4th. But, we will have one for Heritage Days in August. So, please, be patient for August and leave the fireworks to the professionals.

Thanks, as always, for reading FYI Salem and don't forget you can find the FYI Salem podcast at www.salem.com/fyisalempodcast!

Kim Driscoll
Mayor, City of Salem

My Salem MA App

The City of Salem has launched **My Salem MA**, the official City app for smart devices, including iPhone, Android, and more.

My Salem MA features a wealth of information for residents, and visitors, as well, including important news and updates from the City, contact information for departments and boards, and tools for reporting concerns or problems. Using the app individuals can register for programs and events, sign up for notifications, receive push notifications with important alerts, and find information, phone numbers, and maps and directions for City facilities and other points of interest.

"The My Salem MA app offers one more tool to help our residents stay engaged and connected with their City," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Over the last few years, we have upgraded our website to a mobile-friendly configuration, moved over a million public records online in a searchable database, launched an online service request tool that has successfully resolved over 22,000 problems since 2014, and published social media accounts for the City on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor, and LinkedIn. Salem is committed to providing as much access and transparency as we can for our residents, to ensure that everyone can be civically engaged and informed about what is happening in our community. The launch of the My Salem MA app is one more step forward in that ongoing work."

Developed as a tool for residents to engage with their city, the My Salem MA app is a compliment to the existing Destination Salem App, which was created to enhance the consumer experience in Salem for locals and visitors. Find the My Salem MA app in your app store by searching for "My Salem MA" or visit www.salem.com/app.



6/28, 4-6pm, Mary Jane Lee Park (41 Palmer St)
Mass General Brigham van

6/30, 10am-12pm, SSU/Salem Pantry (68 Loring Ave)
Mass General Brigham van

7/3, 10am-12pm, Espacio (105 Congress St)
Mass General Brigham van



SALEM MOBILE VACCINATION UNIT



Expanding Pre-K

Early childhood education has long been a commitment in the Salem Public School district. The Early Childhood Center serves Salem's youngest students to prepare them to thrive in elementary school. We are excited to announce that we will be expanding our early childhood offerings starting with this 2021-2022 school year with the introduction of the Salem Early Education Partnership Program.



The Salem Early Education Partnership Program is intended to expand access to and alignment of early childhood programs in Salem through partnerships between the Salem Public School district and participating early childhood centers in Salem licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC). The Salem Early Education Partnership will focus on strengthening access for universal Pre-K in the City of Salem for 4-year-olds.

The partnership allows the Salem Public Schools and participating early childhood centers in the city to formalize their relationships and work collaboratively to:

- Improve and align program quality across the city,
 - Increase access to high-quality programs particularly for low-income families, and
 - Ensure all families have the knowledge and access to early childhood resources.
- Research shows that access to high-quality early childhood programs not only prepares children for kindergarten but creates a strong foundation for long-term academic and personal success. Salem Public Schools is committed to creating greater access to full-day preschool seats for families seeking this type of programming for their child.

Salem Public Schools is excited to announce that in the fall of 2021 we will:

- Expand the hours of two of our existing pre-k classrooms at the Early Childhood Center (full day, five days per week schedule),
- Open four new pre-k classrooms within SPS, and
- Partner with four pre-k classrooms across the city to align program quality and curriculum.

Seats will be filled by lottery. Completion of the form at <https://forms.gle/QZYJe44H4gfhWgNu9> will enter your child into the lottery but does not ensure a preschool spot. If you speak a language other than English or Spanish, please leave a message at either of these phone numbers: (781) 424-2482 or (781) 771-8292 and an outreach specialist will return a call in your home language.

Lottery of July 19th - deadline to enter is July 15th. Lottery of August 6th - deadline to enter is August 5th.

As the SPS preschool lotteries take place over the summer you will be contacted by our outreach specialists to discuss your needs and other preschool options across Salem in order to find the best fit for your child. Families not receiving a seat through the lottery process will be placed on a waiting list. If you have questions please leave a voice message or send an email and an outreach specialist will get back to you.

Phone: (781) 424-2482 or (781) 771-8292. Email: earlyed@learn.salemk12.org

Salem Park, Recreation and Community Services

July 2021

Welcome Back!

The staff of the Jean A. Levesque Community Life Center is thrilled to have our seniors back for lunch, playing pool, reading in the library, working out in the fitness room and participating in classes. It is great seeing so many friends again!

Thanks to funding from the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we are happy to be offering several free programs this summer for Salem youth. These week long programs include: Girls Lacrosse Clinic, Boys Lacrosse Clinic, Children's Art Workshop, Hip Hop Dance, Yoga and Meditation and a Volleyball Clinic. Visit salemrec.com for complete information.



We are pleased to be partnering with Coast to Coast Paddle again this summer to offer Kids Paddle, Teen Paddle and Teen Kayak Adventure. These are incredible programs and enjoyed by all!

Drumming with Mamadou

Mamadou Diop will be returning to the Community Life Center each Thursday beginning July 8th. From 5:30-6:30pm. The cost is \$10.00 per class. Please contact Rosanna at 978-744-0924 to register.

Group games at the Salem Council on Aging will be starting back up in July at the Community Center. We are always looking for new players!

Mah Jong—Tuesdays at 10:30am & 12:30pm

Cribbage—Thursdays at 9:00am

Contact Rosanna at 978-744-0924 to register.

Adult Pickleball Lessons

We are pleased to be offering both Wednesday morning and Tuesday evening Pickleball lessons for adults. This is such a fun sport that everyone wants to learn! Visit salemrec.com for session dates and times.

Tennis Lessons

The next session of both youth and adult tennis lessons will begin on Wednesday, July 21st. Our thanks to Barbara Maitland for offering up this program each year.

The kids had a great time at last week's lessons!

Register at salemrec.com



Paint and Sip

Join us on the deck of beautiful Olde Salem Greens Golf Course for a Paint and Sip. Local artist, Linda Abbene will be guiding us in creating this painting. The Tee Time Grill will be open for your drinking and dinning pleasure.



Monday, July 19th 5:30-7:30pm

\$35.00. per person , includes all supplies. Register at salemrec.com

Summer Playground Program

We are excited to offer a free, 3 hour summer playground program for ages 6- 12 from 9:00am -12:00pm, Monday—Friday.

Each week, instructors will be at three different playgrounds within Salem to offer traditional crafts, games and activities. Having staff travel to different playgrounds each week allows us to provide this service throughout our community. This is not a drop in program. Pre-registration is required at salemrec.com

Line Dancing

Line Dancing will be returning to the Salem Council on Aging beginning Thursday, July 22nd at 10:00am. The cost is \$5.00 per class. Please contact Rosanna at 978 -744-0924 to register.

Save the Date!

The Derby Street Mile is back!

**Friday,
August 20th
7:00pm**



More details to follow

Salem Park, Recreation and Community Services
401 Bridge St. Salem, MA 01970 978- 744-0924