



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

I'm excited to share that Salem's Race Equity Task Force for the City of Salem has published their final report, available now at www.raceequitysalem.org.

I convened the task force in June 2020 and charged its members with studying key sectors of the community to identify systemic and institutional racial inequities and, to the best of their ability, recommend potential strategies to help overcome those disparities.

To guide their work, the Task Force set up five subcommittees, each focused on one of the community areas of concern: Community Culture, Economics, Education, Health, and Public Safety. The report

outlines the findings and action items in each of these five areas, based on a combination of detailed research, data analysis, and expansive community input.

As a core action, the Task Force also recommended the City form a permanent committee to address race equity issues and create a senior staff level position within the City to lead this work on an ongoing basis.

Based on those recommendations, Task Force chairman Shawn Newton and I filed an Ordinance with the City Council in June to establish a permanent Race Equity Commission and we created a new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion position within the FY2022 City budget.

The commission Ordinance is pending before a City Council committee and the new Director's position was approved by the City Council by a vote of 10-1.

The Race Equity Task Force was established to identify disparities throughout our community and to develop the core elements of a strategy to help guide work at the City level to tackle these inequities.

Our hope is that this initial report will galvanize even broader support for confronting inequities, and create a forum for residents to listen, reflect, and act together to build a more inclusive community for all.

I am incredibly grateful to the volunteer members of the Task Force, to chairman Shawn Newton, and to Salem resident Jakari Griffith, who served as the group's administrator, for all of their time and commitment to this work.

This is an important moment for our city. The time for action is now and a strategic, thoughtful approach to addressing inequities is key to our community's growth and prosperity. This is the promise reflected in the Task Force's work and in this report, and it's a pledge for intentional action that we must continue to advance.

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

Palmer Cove

Phase I restoration of Palmer Cove Park is nearing completion. All new trees and pathways have been installed and the new hardscape plaza at the basketball court is complete. The final basketball court sealcoating will be applied this week, weather permitting. Over the next two weeks, the new community garden area, sidewalk, and parking area along Salem Street will be constructed and grass seed will be planted throughout.

The project is supported by a Division of Conservation Services Parkland Acquisitions Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant and Community Preservation Act funding. Funding for a next phase of improvements is included in the City's Signature Parks program.



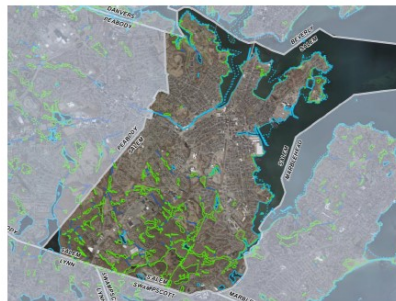
7/28, 10am-1pm, Salem Pantry/SSU (68 Loring Avenue)
Mass General Brigham van

7/30, 4pm-7pm, Peabody Essex Museum (161 Essex St)
Curative van



WETLANDS PROTECTION ONLINE SURVEY

The City of Salem invites you to participate in an online survey regarding an update to the City's wetlands protection policy.



Please visit the project website to take the survey and view additional project information including details for upcoming public forums:

PublicInput.com/SalemWetlands

The survey will close on August 1st and results will be presented at the August 19 public forum.

PUBLIC FORUM DATES

All meetings are online
at 6pm

JULY 13
Wetlands Primer
Working Group Summary
Survey Launch

AUGUST 19
Survey Results
Draft Policy

SEPT. 7
Synthesis of Input
Next steps

Summer Performance Series

The City of Salem will hold a series of free live performances at parks across the Salem, with four different companies performing in nearly twenty humorous, surprising, inspiring, and modern productions that are fun for all ages. Performances will be held in August and September and are free and open to the public. All performances will be held outdoors so be sure to bring your own shade and seats. Picnics encouraged!

OLDE SALEM STAGE COMPANY – “*Much Ado About Nothing*”

August 7, 8, 14, 15, 6:30pm, Charlotte Forten Park, 289 Derby St

The Olde Salem Stage Company is a new collaboration of passionate theatrical practitioners whose mission is to challenge and inspire audiences with their performances. This summer they will be blending modern and traditional approaches to Shakespeare in their production of “*Much Ado About Nothing*”. oldesalemstagecompany.com

DRUMATIX – “*Rhythm Delivered*”

August 21, 22, 28, 29, 2pm, Charlotte Forten Park, 289 Derby St

In case of rain, performances will be moved indoors at Old Town Hall, 32 Derby Square.

DrumatiX is dedicated to presenting humorous, interactive, family-oriented percussive content that is accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. Using tap dance, body percussion, and creative drumming, DrumatiX has created a new 45-minute interactive, humorous, family-friendly show, “*Rhythm Delivered*”.

www.subscribe.com/drumatixsalem



THIRD CITIZEN THEATRE COMPANY– “*As You Like It*”***

August 28, 29 & September 4, 5, 6, 6pm, the Salem Willows Band Shell, 165 Fort Ave

Third Citizen Theatre Company is committed to delivering high-quality productions that reimagine and recontextualize classical works to engage and entertain all ages. With live, original music, Third Citizen Theatre Company stages a performance of “*As You Like It*” that reflects contemporary issues while bringing a feel-good comedy to the Salem community. www.thirdcitizentheatre.org

THE RIDICULOUS PROJECT – “*Dream, Love, Escape*”

September 4, 5, 11, 12, 7pm, Derby Square, 32 Derby Square

In case of rain, performances will be moved indoors at Old Town Hall, 32 Derby Square.

The Ridiculous Project seeks to spread joy to the community by giving audiences a fun and immersive theatrical experience where they are both reacting to and interacting with the story. This summer The Ridiculous Project



invites you to join in an exploration of whimsy, magic, and language in a spirited retelling of one of Shakespeare’s most-loved plays, “*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*” transformed into a unique story of their own. “*Dream, Love, Escape*” brings us into a space together to acknowledge where we have been and to experience both the act and the celebration of a communal process of emerging. Learn more at www.ridiculousproject.com.

Naumkeag Portrait

The City of Salem's Arts & Culture Program is pleased to announce the awarding of the Naumkeag Portrait Project commission to artist Chris Pappan.

Pappan was selected from a pool of over 60 applicants and four finalists as the awardee of this commission by a Jury Panel consisting of arts professionals, City staff, and community members, as well as members of both the Salem Public Art Commission and the Massachusetts Tribal Council.

Chris Pappan is an artist of Kanza, Osage, and Lakota descent based in Chicago IL. He cites his influences as *Heavy Metal* and *Juxtapoz* magazines, and the Lowbrow art movement with its cultural roots in 1970s underground comics, punk, and hot rod cultures. His artistic style is based on the Plains Native art tradition known as Ledger Art and often literally reflects the dominant culture's distorted perceptions of Native peoples.



"This is an extraordinary opportunity to work with the Naumkeag community," said Chris. "I am incredibly honored and humbled by the fact that they have placed their trust in me, and I will give all I can to honor their living legacy and tenacity."

A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and a nationally recognized painter and ledger artist, Pappan's work is in the collections of the National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C.; The DePaul Art Museum in Chicago IL; The Newberry Library in Chicago IL, The North American Native Museum of Geneva Switzerland; and The Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, Kansas, among others. You can learn more about Pappan's work by visiting: www.chrispappan.com.

The Naumkeag Portrait Project was proposed by Mayor Kimberley Driscoll to the Public Art Commission in May 2019, and approved by City Council, with the purpose of recognizing and highlighting the contributions and sacrifices of the Indigenous Peoples of this land through the creation of an official portrait to hang in Salem City Hall, the second oldest City Hall in America.

"I am very pleased that the selection committee has chosen such an accomplished artist for this important and historic commission," said Mayor Driscoll. "Chris will help bring a diversity of representation and history to City Hall through this portrait project. His works have appeared in collections, museums, and galleries across the nation, celebrating, commemorating, and representing a cultural heritage too often unseen and unknown in America today. A portrait recognizing the presence and role of the Naumkeag in shaping our community is long overdue at Salem City Hall. Chris' vision, to approach this commission with 'a spirit of boldness, community, and resilience,' is consistent with our city's commitment to do better in honoring the contributions and history of the Indigenous peoples who have called this place home for countless generations."

Thomas Green, Vice President of the Massachusetts Tribal Council, added to the Mayor's enthusiasm for this award: "We are excited to work with such a talented artist. We are greatly appreciative to the residents of Salem for all the support we have received with this project."

The research phase for this portrait will commence imminently, whereby Pappan will work closely with the Tribal Council to identify the appropriate subject matter for the work. Painting will commence this fall, with the portrait being finalized and presented to the City and Tribal Council in early 2022.