



FYI SALEM

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 16

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bike Survey	2
Renewable Power	2
Police Body Cameras	3
Speaker Series	3
October Traffic & Parking	4
Vineyard Wind	5

From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

October is on our doorstep, and with it our community's busiest time of year. City officials, including public works, police, fire, licensing, and more, spend all year planning and preparing to help try to ensure a safe and manageable Halloween season for residents and visitors alike.

This year, because of COVID-19, there are definitely some new challenges. To help keep our community safe and healthy, our Board of Health has re-instituted the requirement that masks be worn indoors in public spaces. You can read more about that order at www.salem.com/masks.

In addition, they created a rule requiring anyone attending a large indoor event, when there will be more than 100 people present, to have a negative COVID-19 test administered within 72 hours of the event. To help support that requirement, we are

setting up a free rapid testing site next to PEM downtown and we've worked with the state to expand the free "Stop the Spread" testing site at St. Peter's Church to include Saturday hours throughout the month. You can find out more about all the testing sites available to you at www.salem.com/testing.

Even with these measures in place, Salem will welcome tens of thousands of visitors throughout this coming month, some from places that do not have the same science-based policies and approaches to addressing the pandemic. To help keep you, your family, and our community as safe as possible, if you're not vaccinated yet and you're eligible to get the vaccine, please do it.

All of the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. They have been tested on thousands and taken by millions. If you are eligible to get a Pfizer booster, please do so. And, as soon as the FDA authorizes vaccinations for those age 5 to 11, please have your child vaccinated against this deadly disease.

We know far more about COVID now than we did at this point last year. For that reason, we prioritizing our public health efforts on testing, masking, ventilation, and vaccines. Taken together, these four measures are a powerful combination of steps that can help keep our community safe.

Despite these challenges, October is still a time that we can celebrate the Halloween spirit. There is no shortage of events and activities happening throughout the month, including many family-friendly programs. If you live in Salem and you've never experienced the fun side of October, I hope you'll consider visiting www.hauntedhappenings.org and discovering what makes our special city so magical.

Lastly, please be patient. As a hip, historic city we are always happy to share this incredible place with guests. They help support the small businesses, shops, and restaurants we get to enjoy the rest of the year thanks to the business they get in October. They support the many hundreds of jobs and the additional city revenues that help keep Salem vibrant and mitigate the amount we need to raise in taxes from residents come budget time. We work hard, as a City, to try to minimize and manage the traffic, parking, and noise challenges that October brings to our community—while recognizing that the flip side of that coin are the jobs, economic activity, and vibrancy that make Salem the unique city that it has come to be.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Bike Survey

The City of Salem has applied to the League of American Bicyclists for designation as a Bicycle Friendly City. To help the League gain a better understanding of local riders' experiences and perceptions of biking in Salem, the City seeks your help in providing feedback via the survey available now through October 11th at tinyurl.com/SalemBike. Five survey respondents will be randomly selected to each receive a one-year BlueBikes membership including unlimited 45-minute rides. To be included in the drawing, respondents must provide their name and email address with their survey response.



Renewable Power



In support of the City of Salem's commitment to a sustainable future and meeting its climate change goals, the City has entered into a new three-year contract for its 200 accounts that includes expanded voluntary renewable energy sources. To cover its nearly 9.5 million kWh annual usage, the City purchased a combination of Class I MA Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and National Wind RECs. Altogether, the RECs equate to a greenhouse gas emissions reduction comparable to removing 1,459 passenger cars from the road for a year or the CO₂ emissions typically required to provide enough electricity annually to power 808 homes.

The City of Salem strives to exceed the Commonwealth's standards for carbon neutrality by 2050. The regional Salem and Beverly climate action plan, Resilient Together, highlights the City's commitment to 100% clean energy for all municipal operations by 2030 and 100% of community energy by 2040. Now, this transition to these RECs covers 100% of its municipal electricity usage in support of that emissions reduction goal.

Salem PowerChoice, the City's municipal electrical aggregation program, already provides 100% renewable electricity supply for participating homes and business. Since the program launched in January 2016, Salem PowerChoice participants have saved more than \$2 million on electricity costs and, because of the program's commitment to renewable electricity, reduced the city's carbon footprint by more than 175,000 tons of CO₂, which is the equivalent of removing 34,527 passenger vehicles from the road for one year. Because National Grid prices change and future prices are not known, future cost savings for PowerChoice participants compared with National Grid cannot be guaranteed.

"Changing our nearly 200 municipal electrical accounts to renewable sources for our electricity supply is a major step toward our climate goals and reducing our local contributions to climate change," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll. "It builds on our community's past work through our municipal electrical aggregation program, the conversion of our streetlights to LED fixtures, the installation of rooftop solar on city buildings, and the ongoing transition of our municipal vehicle fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles. Additionally, as we are poised to potentially become a leader in our Commonwealth and our country on offshore wind, it leverages our own capacity to increase demand for renewable energy. This step demonstrates that we are proactive when it comes to the climate crisis, not only with our words, but with actions, as well."

Police Body Cameras

The City of Salem, the Salem Police Department, and the Salem Police Patrolmen's Union have reached an agreement on the implementation of body-worn cameras by Salem officers to improve the transparency of police operations, promote police integrity, protect officers against spurious complaints, and add valuable evidence to investigations.

Prior to the start of the program, the policy governing the cameras use will be available on www.salem.com/salem-police-department. The department is in the process of procuring the cameras and the sorting/archiving hardware and software required for their proper and effective use. In addition, officers will be required to go through a training program on their proper use before the cameras are issued.



The use of body-worn cameras was recommended by the City's Race Equity Task Force and funding for the first phase of the program was included in the FY2022 City budget. A state grant application has been submitted to help fund future phases of the program's implementation. With the current timeline, the department anticipates the first grouping of cameras will be ready for use publicly in the first quarter of 2022.

"We are committed to serving the public transparently and professionally," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Body-worn cameras are a key tool to meet these important goals consistently and equitably. They protect officers from inaccurate accusations of misconduct, and they protect the public by ensuring accountability for police actions. I'm grateful for the hard work of the department, the union leadership, and our Race Equity Task Force community volunteers who have led us to this positive outcome, and to the members of the City Council who voted to fund this critical initiative."

"The implementation of body-worn cameras is very important to me as chief of the department, as a career police officer, as an advocate for fair, sensible policing, and as a resident of Salem," said Police Chief Lucas Miller. "Buying the cameras and training the officers in their use will be time and money well-spent. The cameras will aid police investigations, provide valuable evidence in criminal proceedings, promote transparency and police integrity, and provide a valuable resource in evaluating police policy and procedure. I hope to have the program operational as soon as possible."

**MAYOR JEAN A. LEVESQUE
COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER**

Speaker Series

9/21: Salem's Unsung Heroes with Jim McAllister

9/28: The Poetry of Richard Hoffman & Kathi Aguero

10/5: Salem's African-American History with Gwen Rosemond

10/12: We Need not be Afraid of Scrutiny with Chief Lucas J. Miller

11/9: An Evening of Storytelling with Dr. Liz Bradt, William Legault & Senator Joan Lovely

11/16: What's Going on at Salem Hospital? with Dr. David J. Roberts

These are live, in-person events. Admission is free but please register in advance by scanning the QR code or visiting facebook.com/salemforallages

Levesque Community Life Center
401 Bridge Street, Salem, MA 01970

October Traffic & Parking

The list below outlines the planned and anticipated road closures for October in Salem, including lot closures and traffic impacts from planned special events. The Salem Police will close roadways at any point if they determine they should be closed for public safety reasons. Note that while there are currently road closures planned downtown for Sunday, October 31, starting no later than 4:00 p.m., there is a high likelihood that some closures will be made on Friday, October 29 & Saturday October 30 and potentially on Friday, October 22 through Sunday, October 24, as well. Any closures or changes will be announced and posted at www.salem.com and www.salempd.org. For real-time traffic and road closure notices, visit <https://twitter.com/SalemMAPolice> and <https://twitter.com/CityofSalemMA>. You do not need a Twitter account to follow these pages; if you do have a Twitter account, you can subscribe to both feeds at @SalemMAPolice and @CityofSalemMA. The City will also send push notifications about road closures as they happen through the official app, My Salem MA; find the app by searching for "My Salem MA" in your device's app store.

October 7: Grand Opening Parade

The Haunted Happenings Parade starts at 6:30pm The following streets will be closed to vehicular traffic at 6:00pm:

- Essex Street from Hawthorne Boulevard to New Liberty Street
- Front Street
- Central Street at intersection of Front Street and Charter Street to the Pedestrian mall
- Lafayette Street between Derby Street and Klop Alley
- Charter Street (Salem Housing Authority residents will still have access to their parking lot)

No Parking – Tow Zone Areas

A parking ban will be in effect on October 7th on the following streets between 4pm and 9 pm. Any vehicle parked in these areas will be towed:

- Essex Street from Washington Street to Hawthorne Boulevard.
- Front Street both sides from Washington Street to Lafayette Street. (*No parking may start earlier on this street.)
- Parking meter spaces at the intersection of Charter Street, Front Street, and Central Street.

Garage Access

The Museum Place Garage entrance will only be accessible from Church Street or St. Peter Street.

October 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17, 23 & 24, and 30 & 31:

The following streets will be posted as No Parking zones:

- Washington Square North (Common Fence side only).
- A portion of the metered spaces along Hawthorne Boulevard.
- Metered spaces along Lafayette St. by Fire Headquarters (October 23, 24, 30 & 31).

Essex Street from Hawthorne Boulevard to New Liberty Street will be closed to through traffic and no on-street parking will be allowed from 9am to 10pm every Saturday and Sunday. Essex Street from Barton Square to Washington Street closures will be assessed by the Police Department each weekend. If this portion of the street is closed to vehicular traffic, vehicles will be rerouted to Barton Square to reach Washington Street.

October 31: Halloween will include multiple road closures and heavy traffic impacts for the entire day and night. Visitors are strongly encouraged to take the commuter rail or ferry to get to Salem. Do not plan to drive into downtown Salem. Expect major traffic impacts on Route 114 and Route 1A. Downtown streets will close to all traffic no later than 4pm.

All information above is subject to change. The Salem Police Department will close any street at any time if they determine that a public safety issue exists.

Please note: *the MBTA Garage will be closed from 6:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. on Halloween night, and possibly on October 30. Cars will not be permitted to enter or exit between these hours.*

Vineyard Wind

Vineyard Wind has announced that the company has entered into an agreement with the City of Salem and Crowley Maritime Corporation to create a public-private partnership aimed at establishing Salem Harbor as the state's second major offshore wind port. The agreement, part of the "Commonwealth Wind" proposal, is contingent upon the company winning an award by the state of Massachusetts, which is currently evaluating offshore wind procurement bids.

Vineyard Wind estimates that the project would create up to an estimated 400 full time equivalent (FTE) job years during the revitalization of the port and up to another 500 FTEs over the first five years of operation for construction and staging for wind projects and also day-to-day port operations, for a total of 900 FTE job years.



Under the proposed agreement, Crowley Maritime Corporation will purchase the 42 acres surrounding Salem Harbor Station, currently owned by a subsidiary of Footprint Power LLC, and will serve as the long-term offshore wind port operator for the site. Vineyard Wind's partners will serve as the port's anchor tenants, utilizing the property for the Commonwealth Wind project as well as other projects in the company's portfolio. The Commonwealth Wind project intends to use the site for turbine assembly and staging activities, utilizing the site to store and assemble components – including blades, nacelles, and tower sections – as they are prepared for offshore installation. Given Salem Harbor's deep-water port and unrestricted height access to accommodate large-scale wind turbine installation vessels, Vineyard Wind sees Salem Harbor as a necessary addition to support the offshore wind industry within the Commonwealth and across the region.

Both Vineyard Wind and Crowley will work alongside the City of Salem to engage in a robust community outreach and listening process to seek input and build support for this innovative partnership. The parties are committed to jointly developing a local community benefit agreement to safeguard the City's long-term interests, while working with residents and businesses to identify local supply chain and workforce development opportunities.

"I am pleased to welcome Vineyard Wind and Crowley Maritime here to Salem," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "For centuries, when Salem looked toward its future, it looked toward the sea. This site, in particular, has provided the electricity that has powered our community and our Commonwealth for generations. With this announcement, that legacy can continue with a new focus on a clean energy future, based on renewable power and with a shared commitment to positive action to mitigate climate change. In addition, this project would provide a significant expansion to our commercial tax base and create hundreds of clean energy jobs, right here in Salem. I'm looking forward to working with the Vineyard and Crowley teams, as well as our own local stakeholders here in the community, as this exciting new opportunity moves ahead."

About Commonwealth Wind

Commonwealth Wind is a newly proposed offshore wind project that submitted a response on September 16, 2021 to Massachusetts' third competitive offshore wind solicitation. If awarded, Commonwealth Wind will be developed in an area 22 miles south of Martha's Vineyard that was designated by the federal government in 2015 following a multi-year stakeholder process. Commonwealth Wind can deliver up to 1200 MW of clean and affordable energy to Massachusetts, power 750,000 homes in Massachusetts, create over 11,000 jobs (FTE), catalyze hundreds of millions of investments in offshore wind infrastructure, and deliver substantial commitments to environmental justice communities.