



# FYI SALEM

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 17

OCTOBER 13, 2021

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

We're just about half way through October and what a busy season it's already been! While the traffic and volume of visitors can be frustrating at times, it's helpful to remember that the economic activity of this month is what helps keep our favorite restaurants and shops open and thriving the rest of the year. It also creates and supports hundreds of jobs for our neighbors.

All that said, we take October planning seriously. This year our Board of Health re-instituted the indoor mask requirement and established a rule requiring negative COVID tests for anyone attending a large indoor event.

As of today, over 1,200 people have gone to the City's rapid testing site downtown and the

site has successfully flagged 25 COVID-positive individuals, helping to prevent them potentially transmitting the virus further in our community.

Salem Police, Traffic and Parking staff, Public Works, and our regional partners have been diligent in their efforts, for months, preparing for October. We are re-launching the free satellite shuttle and parking lot program this coming weekend, adding an extra weekend to the program. In addition our special events and police teams have used some of the lesson learned during the October 2020 season to reprogram several public spaces to try to help de-densify crowds.

I like to say that October is a season that we love to see come, and love to see go. Despite the hassles the month can bring, the joy on the faces of Salem kids who were again able to enjoy the Grand Parade and Mayor's Night Out—after a year of no celebrations—was a heart-warming reminder that October in Salem is about families, neighbors, and fun.

A few other quick items to bring to your attention, while you're reading FYI Salem...

First, the next ARPA public forum will take place on November 10th.

We received a lot of great feedback from the survey and the first forum, and City staff are hard at work synthesizing that input into a plan for leveraging these historic relief funds for further success and recovery.

Next, we received a lot of great questions about the off-shore wind marshalling project proposed for the land around the power plant. We've put together a helpful FAQ document that you can find at the bottom of the page at [www.salem.com/VineyardWind](http://www.salem.com/VineyardWind).

Lastly, we have some information in this issue about the upcoming election here in Salem. November 2nd is Election Day, but thanks to changes in state law you can vote early, just like last year. Read more in this issue or check out the Election Central tab at [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com) to find out how you can vote early by mail or in person.

Thanks again for reading FYI Salem and be sure to check out the companion FYI Salem podcast by visiting [www.salem.com/fyisalempodcast](http://www.salem.com/fyisalempodcast) or searching for "FYI Salem" on your preferred podcast service.

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

# October Shuttles

The City of Salem's free October weekend shuttle returns this October for its fourth year. New this year for 2021, the service will run for three weekends in October, instead of just the final two.

Shuttles run October 16-17, 23-24, and 30-31 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. between three free satellite parking lots and downtown Salem.

Free satellite parking lots are located at Salem State University's O'Keefe Center parking lot (225 Canal Street), Salem High School (77 Willson Street), and at 108 Jefferson Avenue behind Salem Hospital. Together the three satellite lots offer nearly 800 free parking spaces.

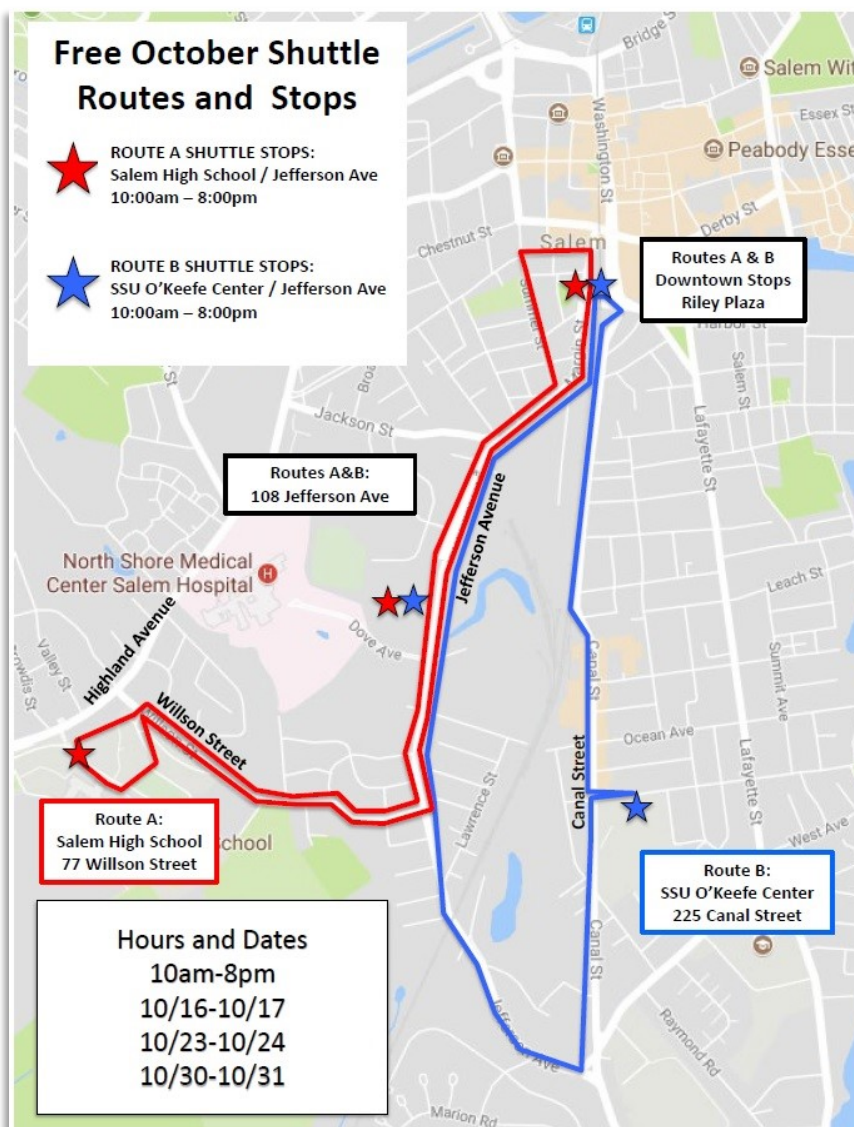
The downtown pick-up/drop-off location is in Riley Plaza. An accessible shuttle is available for those who require

one and stops at the High School and Jefferson Avenue lots, as well as Riley Plaza. Masks are required to be worn while riding on the shuttle.

"Since we began this free service in 2017 our October shuttles have provided more than 24,500 rides to over 12,000 people," said Mayor Kim Driscoll.

"Allowing people to park at these satellite lots has helped reduce demand for downtown parking and lessen the number of cars driving into and around downtown," continued Mayor Driscoll. "Since 2017 the service has kept around 4,100 cars out of downtown Salem. While a lot of visitors use the shuttle, we also see many Salem residents use it to easily get to and from downtown Salem on October weekends. I encourage everyone planning a visit to Salem this October to make use of the free satellite parking lots and this shuttle service."

Details about the shuttle are online at [www.salem.com/OctoberShuttle](http://www.salem.com/OctoberShuttle).



# 2021 Election

Election Day is Tuesday, November 2nd. Polling places will be open that day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



## VOTING INFORMATION

You can vote early by mail or in person. To vote early by mail, return the ballot application form available in the Election Central tab at [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com) to City Hall Room #5, 93 Washington Street, Salem MA 01970 or to [elections@salem.com](mailto:elections@salem.com) before October 27th. You will be mailed your ballot. Return your ballot before 8:00 p.m. on November 2nd for it to be counted. You can return your ballot in person, by mail, or by dropping it into any of the secure ballot drop boxes. Ballot drop boxes are located at City Hall (93 Washington Street) and each Fire Station (48 Lafayette Street, 64 Loring Avenue, 415 Essex, and 142 North Street). You cannot bring an early vote ballot to a polling place on Election Day, however you can turn it in at City Hall Room #5 on Election Day. Any voter who requested but did not return an early ballot to the City Clerk's office can still vote in person on Election Day.

You can vote early in person at the following times and locations:

- Saturday, October 23rd, 9AM-1PM: Salem High School, 77 Willson Street
- Monday, October 25th, 8AM-3PM: City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street
- Tuesday, October 26th, 8AM-3PM: City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street
- Wednesday, October 27th, 8AM-3PM: City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street
- Thursday, October 28th, 8AM-6PM: City Hall Annex, 98 Washington Street

Additional information about voting in Salem, including specimen ballots for each Ward, can be found by clicking on the Election Central tab at [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com).

**SALEM: GET A TEST**  
PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES  
PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORS  
STOP THE SPREAD

**FREE COVID-19 TESTS**  
[MASS.GOV/STOPTHESPREAD](http://MASS.GOV/STOPTHESPREAD)



## COVID Testing

The Commonwealth's two free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing sites in Salem will remain open through December 31, 2021. One site is a walk-up site located downtown, currently at St. Peter's Church (24 St. Peter Street), and the other is a drive-through site located at Salem High School (77 Willson Street).

Currently, the hours of operation at both sites are expected to remain unchanged: Salem High School is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 4pm-8pm; Saturdays

10am-3pm. The downtown site is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9am-3pm, and Friday's 9am-2pm. These dates and hours are subject to change, based on holidays, weather, and the testing lab's hours of operation. Testing site locations may also change, if necessary. Any updates will be posted on [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com).

Both sites provide free PCR tests with a turn-around time of approximately 1-2 days. Testing is free and no proof of insurance, residency, or citizenship is required. The City's free rapid testing site, currently located at 135 Essex Street for the month of October, will not be open after October 31<sup>st</sup>. Residents can also receive a free COVID-19 test at any of the state's "Stop the Spread" testing sites throughout Massachusetts; find more details at [www.mass.gov/stopthespread](http://www.mass.gov/stopthespread). For more information about COVID-19 testing in Salem, visit [www.salem.com/testing](http://www.salem.com/testing).



# School Updates

## Teacher of the Year - Salem's Marta García

Earlier this month, Governor Charlie Baker announced that Witchcraft Heights Elementary School teacher Marta García had been named the 2022 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year!

The ceremony at WHES included remarks and presentations from Governor Baker, Mayor Kim Driscoll, Education Commissioner Jeff Riley, State Senator Joan Lovely, State Representative Paul Tucker, and SPS Superintendent Stephen Zrike. The Teacher of the Year program is the state's top award for educators, recognizing excellence in teaching and school leaders who exemplify the dedication and positive contributions of educators statewide. Marta is the 60<sup>th</sup> recipient of the award and is now Massachusetts' candidate for National Teacher of the Year.



"Ms. García's dedication to her students and their families is a tremendous asset for our community," said Mayor Kim Driscoll, who chairs the Salem School Committee. "Salem is so proud of her and her many accomplishments and positive contributions to our schools, as we are of all our teachers, school staff, and students."

## Latinos for Education Award Winners

Five Salem Public School staff were honored this month by the statewide organization Latinos for Education as part of their 2021 State of Latino Education Summit. Anaima Piccirillo, Estephania Lugo, Arabelis Luciano, Rosaura Saldivar, and Manny Brito were recognized for their contributions as Latinx leaders in our schools and in the community.

## SPS Kindness Challenge

Salem Public Schools has launched a "Choose Kindness" video challenge for the month of October. SPS is challenging students, families, and staff throughout the district to submit kindness videos throughout the month of October, which is National Bully Prevention Month. At the end of each week, students from each school will be selected for outstanding entries and receive Amazon gift card prizes. At the end of the month, one video will be selected as a grand prize winner. Videos should be no more than one minute in length and can include a random act of kindness, paying forward a kind act, or showing an attitude of gratitude for someone else's recent act of kindness. Make sure your video has your name and school community, then submit it through Flipgrid using the link sent out to the school community by the district.

## MCAS Reports

The 2021 MCAS Parent/Guardian reports will be mailed home this week. These guides provide brief explanations about how students performed on the Spring 2021 MCAS assessment. The report also includes questions that families can use to engage their student in a discussion about the results. Please keep in mind that this MCAS assessment was administered under extremely unusual circumstances given the COVID-19 pandemic. Results should not be compared to performance from previous years. Families with questions about their child's MCAS report should contact their school principal.

## Meet Superintendent Zrike

Dr. Zrike continues to make himself available to meet with any SPS staff or family who would like to do so. If you would like to schedule a time to meet with Dr. Zrike, please email Mindy Marino at [mmarino@salemk12.org](mailto:mmarino@salemk12.org) to schedule a time and location convenient to you.