



# FYI SALEM

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## CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE:

**Phone:**  
(978) 619-5600

**Fax:**  
(978) 744-9327

**Email:**  
mayor@saalem.com

**Web:**  
saalem.com/mayor

**Facebook:**  
Kim Driscoll

**Twitter:**  
@MayorDriscoll



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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

If you know and lost someone to COVID-19, please join us on the evening of Sunday, April 4th in placing a candle or other light in the window of your home as a celebration of their life.

April 4th is the anniversary of the first death of a Salem resident from COVID-19. Vitalina Williams was just 59 years old when she was taken from her family and our community.

In writing about her, WBUR's Anthony Brooks said "Vitalina Williams was not a doctor, a nurse or an EMT, but she died on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. She was an immigrant from Guatemala who worked at Market Basket in Salem, and at Walmart in Lynn—until she got sick."

She left behind her husband, David, of 19 years, as well as an extended family Guatemala.

Since that date, 77 more of our neighbors have been stolen from us by this virus. While vaccination numbers are on the rise, we're also seeing a leveling-out of new positive cases over the last few weeks, a change from the rapid decline in cases we saw back in February.

We're taking steps to increase our vigilance as a community, setting out free mask and hand sanitizer dispensers, posting new high-visibility signage about mask requirements, and launching new vaccination efforts, including our homebound mobile vaccine program.

I'm also pleased that the number of available vaccination sites in our region has increased greatly. We're adding links to all vaccination clinic locations in and around Salem to [www.salem.com/vaccine](http://www.salem.com/vaccine) as they become available.

In addition, free COVID-19 testing has been extended through the end of June at both Salem High School and Old Town Hall. Visit [www.salem.com/](http://www.salem.com/)

stopthespread to find out more about those testing sites.

I know that many are tired with the challenges and hardships that this pandemic has brought to our door. We're done with Zoom, done with distancing, done with masks, and done with not seeing one another. But if we let up too much now, so much of our efforts over the past months will be undone.

As we reflect on the one-year anniversary of the first COVID-19 death here in Salem, it's an opportunity for us to rededicate ourselves to our shared well-being and safety.

Hope is on the horizon, but we're not quite there yet. Please stay vigilant. And, if you have lost someone to COVID-19, please join us in placing a light in your window on April 4th, in their memory.

Thank you, and be well.

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

# Charter Street Welcome Center

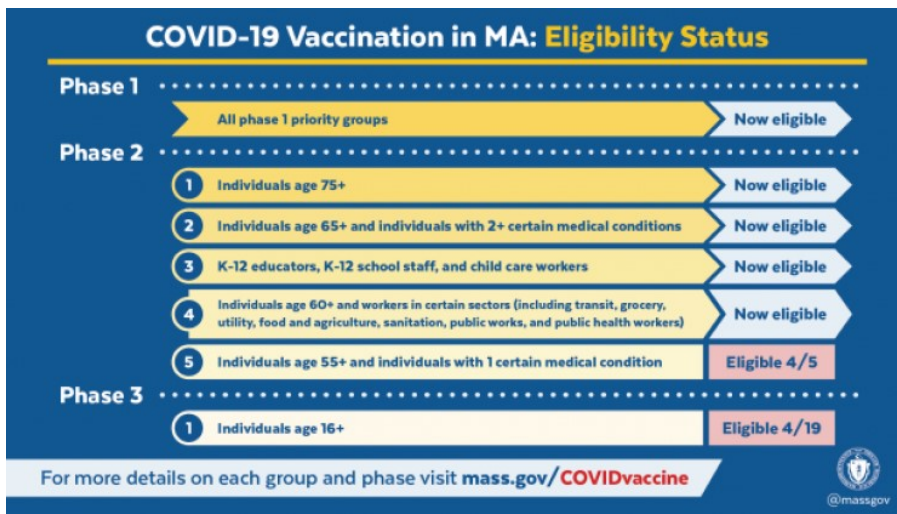
The Peabody Essex Museum's historic Samuel Pickman House will be utilized by the City as a new Charter Street Cemetery Welcome Center when the cemetery reopens to the public on May 1<sup>st</sup> following an extensive landscape renovation project.



The new Welcome Center will enable the City to monitor the occupancy of the historic burial ground, provide consistent surveillance of stones and walkways, and secure the grounds at closing. Having this Center and trained staff on site will also foster a deeper historical understanding of the space. It will provide an opportunity to share interpretation of the particulars of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century cemetery, the evolution of stone carving, the historic preservation process, as well as more meaningful insight regarding the individuals interred there. The Center will also provide an opportunity to interpret the historical significance of the Pickman House, the Witch Trials Memorial, as well as the surrounding area.

"This is a unique opportunity to better manage visitation in this sensitive space, interpret the history of the cemetery and surrounding area, and also generate funds to ensure the ongoing care of the cemetery," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "As a City committed to the preservation and interpretation of our unique history, the Charter Street Cemetery Welcome Center presents a singular opportunity to connect visitors, students, and residents to the important lessons and legacies of our past."

Welcome Center staff will provide tours of the cemetery on a set schedule for a fee. 100% of the funds raised through the Welcome Center will be put toward the Center's operation and the ongoing maintenance and care of the Charter Street Cemetery. The Center will be open year-round, with precise hours of operation dependent on the season. All visitors to the cemetery will be encouraged to begin their visit at the Welcome Center. To facilitate the interpretation of the cemetery and the surrounding area, the Center will collaborate with PEM and Salem's Preservation Partners to develop and install exhibits and programming on a routine basis to provide additional educational and interpretative opportunities about 17<sup>th</sup>-century Salem, historic burial grounds, and other similar topics.



Important vaccination information can be found at [www.salem.com/vaccine](https://www.salem.com/vaccine).

Links to make an appointment, transportation assistance, eligibility information, and much more.

The latest COVID response information from the City of Salem can be found at [www.salem.com/covid](https://www.salem.com/covid).

Note: Free COVID testing has been extended to June 30th. Read more at [www.salem.com/stopthespread](https://www.salem.com/stopthespread).



**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information**

**City of Salem**  
[salem.com/covid](https://salem.com/covid)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Greening Salem

Salem has been selected to join the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Greening the Gateway Cities Tree Planting Program. Through this program DCR will plant 2,000 new trees on private property and 400 trees on City property. The first 40 City trees will be planted this Spring along Lafayette Street and Bridge Street. Residents in the designated planting zone may be able to have trees planted in their yard at no cost to them, with a commitment to water their new trees. To find out if a location is in the planting zone, go to [www.maurbancanopy.org/town/salem/](http://www.maurbancanopy.org/town/salem/). Eligible property owners may request a tree by calling the number on the same page.

"Over the past several years Salem's commitment to our public trees has grown substantially," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll. "From major increases in our tree budget, to the comprehensive tree ordinance and new Tree Commission, to our city-wide tree inventory and maintenance plan, we are committed to keeping our community green to address air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, energy use, and protection against extreme heat and flooding. I am pleased that Salem is one of the 18 municipalities selected for the Greening the Gateway Cities program, and we remain dedicated to keeping our tree canopy flourishing throughout our community."



## Almy's Clock Project

The Almy's Clock restoration project is scheduled to begin on March 31st, weather permitting, and will require temporary removal of the clock. During the work the cast iron case will be sandblasted and restored and the clock mechanism will be inspected, cleaned, and repaired. On April 1st, Electric Time will arrive to transport the clock to its foundry. The removal work is expected to begin around 8am and take approximately 2 to 3 hours. During the removal, the Essex Street pedestrian mall will be closed to traffic and a police detail will be onsite. After removal, a steel plate will be installed over the sidewalk opening. It is expected that the restoration will take approximately 8 weeks, with reinstallation of the clock in early June. Find out more about the historic Almy's Clock and the restoration project at [www.preservingsalem.com/almysclockrestoration](http://www.preservingsalem.com/almysclockrestoration).

## Call for Performers

Salem's Summer Performance Series of 2021 will take place in both Charlotte Forten Park and Derby Square. The Series will activate Charlotte Forten Park and Derby Square with community accessible theatrical performances and creative engagements of the public space.

The City is seeking proposals for the series including: outdoor theatrical performances, immersive theatre performances/experiences, dance and movement performances, and performance art. Performers will be responsible for planning, implementing, and scheduling performances in close collaboration with City staff and the artisans on Artists' Row. We welcome original work as well as published work providing that the Performer is responsible for all rights and royalties. Performers are paid to publicly present their work without charging admission for audiences of all ages. Priority will be given to North Shore based performance groups.



The Performance Series will consist of four events over the course of two weekends, with two events each weekend, in late August or early September 2021 (as conditions and public health allow). Exact dates and times can be a bit flexible. The deadline to apply is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Find out how to apply at [www.salem.com/home/news/call-performers-city-salem-summer-performance-series](http://www.salem.com/home/news/call-performers-city-salem-summer-performance-series). The City of Salem reserves the right to postpone or cancel any event at any time due to public health or other safety concerns.



# FINAL K EXPO EVENT: **MEET THE PRINCIPAL**

JOIN THE KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL  
PRINCIPALS AND PROGRAM DIRECTORS  
**3:30PM-4:00PM**

**MON: APRIL 5TH**

**CARLTON  
INNOVATION  
SCHOOL**  
BETHANN  
JELLISON

**TUE: APRIL 6TH**

**HORACE MANN  
LABORATORY  
SCHOOL**  
RUBEN  
CARMONA

**WED: APRIL 7TH**

**SALTONSTALL  
SCHOOL**  
MICHAEL  
LISTER

**THU: APRIL 8TH**

**BATES  
ELEMENTARY**  
GAVIN SOFTIC

**SALEM PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

JOIN EACH  
SCHOOL FOR A  
FINAL IN-PERSON  
MEET AND GREET.  
ASK YOUR FINAL  
QUESTIONS BEFORE  
THE 4/30  
REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE!

**MON: APRIL 12TH**

**WITCHCRAFT  
HEIGHTS  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**  
LEANNE SMITH

**TUE: APRIL 13TH**

**BENTLEY ACADEMY  
INNOVATION SCHOOL**  
LIZ ROGERS  
EEC  
NANCY CHAREST  
**DUAL LANGUAGE**  
REBECCA WESTLAKE