



FYI SALEM

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 9

MAY 17, 2021

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Spring is in full swing and, with the return of warmer weather, we are also able to enjoy a slow return to normalcy from the pandemic.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we are proud to shine a light on the needs and challenges of those in our community who struggle with mental health conditions.

Salem has worked hard to provide supports and services for those dealing with mental health issues. For example, the Our Salem, Our Kids initiative was built around a focus on improving emotional health and well-being among our children. Salem Hospital, recognizing the same needs, has invested substantially in expanding their psychiatric and behavioral health options. And, starting in 2011,

we added a mental health clinician to the staff at the Salem Police Department, to help provide better and more effective response to calls for service more appropriate to a clinician than a police officer. I'm excited to share with you that we will be expanding that department's mental health staff by an additional one to two clinicians in the coming year, as well.

All of us have a role to play in reducing the stigma directed toward those suffering from mental health challenges. If you think you do not know anyone struggling with the burden of a mental health condition, it is most likely because they are trying not to disclose it. One in five Americans live with mental health issues and that number has likely increased because of the pandemic. By standing together to say we respect every resident facing these challenges, without judgment or bias, we can help bring their struggles out of the shadows and give them the care they deserve.

May is also American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The thousands of Salem residents of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent have made our city a stronger and more vibrant community. As a City that welcomes and includes all, we are proud to celebrate the contribu-

tions and impact of these residents and their predecessors.

In the past year, especially, Asian Americans have been increasingly targeted by discrimination and even outright violence, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020 there have been 110 documented incidents of anti-Asian American hate crime incidents across the nation, but according to a *New York Times* analysis earlier this spring that number is likely only a fraction of the real number, as many incidents are not reported or not formally classified as a hate crime. In that analysis, New York City alone saw an over 800% increase in anti-Asian American incidents between 2019 and 2020.

Discrimination against any group of people based on their race or ethnicity is not only wrong, it is detrimental to our forward progress as a community.

This month, let's join together in celebrating our Asian American neighbors and all that they have accomplished, and continue to contribute, to our community, our Commonwealth, and our country.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Diversity Catalog

The Cities of Salem, Beverly, Peabody, and Lynn and the Towns of Swampscott and Marblehead have published the first North Shore Diversity Catalog, a regional vendor registry for minority- and women-owned businesses (MWBE). The communities partnered in March to announce the creation of the Catalog, to improve equity and diversity in municipal contracts and bids and also provide residents and other businesses with a single, comprehensive catalog of such businesses that they can support. View the 2021 North Shore Diversity Catalog, with nearly 140 MWBE businesses, at www.salem.com/diversitycatalog.

"I am very excited that our first Diversity Catalog is now available," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll. "This directory will not only be an important tool as municipalities seek to diversify their procurement efforts, but it is also both a marketing tool for our local businesses and a resource for those who wish to support our diverse small business community. I look forward to working with our partner communities on growing this initiative in the years to come."



McGrath Park



Testing of soil samples from a wooded area with walking trails adjacent to McGrath Park has been found to have elevated lead levels. The samples were collected at shallow depths of 0' to 1' from the surface. The levels detected in the shallow soils and the use of the site as part of the park triggered immediate notification requirements to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The impacted area has been closed to access. The City is working with DEP and an environmental engineering firm to conduct further testing to create a plan to mitigate the hazard. No elevated lead levels were detected in shallow soils within the soccer fields or in the playground area. An FAQ with more information can be found at www.salem.com/home/news/lead-levels-detected-trails-near-mcgrath-park.

Vaccine Update

North Shore Regional COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Salem State University O'Keefe Center, 225 Canal Street, Salem, Tuesdays 10am-2pm, Thursdays 2pm- 6pm

Who is eligible: Open to all Massachusetts residents age 12 and older. Those under the age of 18 must have a signed consent form: www.mass.gov/lists/ma-consent-and-screening-forms-for-people-under-18-years-of-age.

How to get an appointment? Book appointments at www.salem.com/vaccine. Register in advance for an appointment; walk-in appointments will only be opened depending on the availability of vaccine that day.

What: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Important: Masks are required to be worn over your mouth and nose at the clinic site at all times. Please wear a shirt that allows upper arm access. Pre-screen yourself for COVID-19 symptoms and do not attend if you are not feeling well. You will be unable to receive the vaccine if you are currently not feeling well, have received any other vaccine in the last 14 days, or are allergic to a component of the vaccine. Anticipate staying for 15-30 minutes of monitoring after you receive your vaccination.

Food Farm Grant

Salem's Mack Park Farm & Food Forest has received a \$45,000 grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Accelerating Climate Resiliency program to construct a solar-powered storage building and water catchment system, which will be critical to accommodate planned food production increases and associated irrigation needs. In addition to water conservation, the storage building will reduce transportation costs and increase efficiency by allowing food and supplies to be stored on site. The Farm is in the process of rehabilitating an underused and overgrown area of a city park to create a vibrant recreational space where all residents will have the opportunity to enjoy the food forest, weekly farmers' markets, and volunteer.



"This green energy project will help us grow more green produce and save money while doing so," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Thanks to all the volunteers and the staff team who work in tandem to grow and distribute fresh produce directly to those in need in our community. The Mack Park Farm is truly a success story and one more example of how our city has come together to support one another and make sure Salem works for everyone."

The Farm will partner with the Salem Pantry to distribute fresh produce directly to low-income neighborhoods, public housing sites (including senior housing) and public schools. This project enhances resilience, particularly the physical stresses on the food system due to extreme temperatures, increasing intensity and frequency of flooding and drought, and subsequently the social stresses due to food shortage or insecurity facing vulnerable populations in the community. In addition, increasing food production at the farm will also help reduce dependence on long supply chains, therefore reducing the community's carbon footprint while also strengthening local and sustainable production of food.

Park Stickers

Park & Rec parking stickers are now available and allow parking access at Forest River, McCabe Park/Kernwood Marina, Winter Island and designated areas of the Salem Willows. The sticker does not guarantee you a parking spot. Stickers are \$25/year for Salem residents, \$150/year for non-residents. Stickers are not transferable, and no free replacements will be issued. You must present a valid driver's license, or utility or tax bill with your address, and vehicle registration to purchase. Stickers must be adhered to the front windshield, on the driver's side on the bottom left.

Stickers will be on sale by drive-thru at Winter Island from 3-6pm on Monday May 17 and Thursday May 20. Stay in your car and follow signs to the sales area. Face coverings are required when making your transaction with staff. You must present the documents above and payment by cash or check only payable to the City of Salem. Stickers will also be sold at the Winter Island office and the Community Life Center from 8am -4pm and at the Collector's Office in City Hall during business hours beginning May 24. You must present the documents above and payment by cash, check, or credit card.

For Salem residents only, stickers can be purchased online beginning May 24 at <https://salemrec.com/info/products/default.aspx>. Once you pay online for your sticker, you then must email a copy of the documents required above to kmccarthy@salem.com to verify your address. You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your documents. Three business days from your confirmation email your sticker will be available to pick up at the Winter Island Store daily between 8am-4pm.

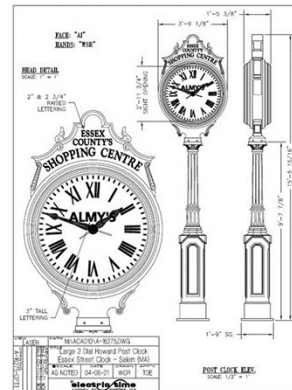
Preservation Month

Every year in May, communities throughout the nation celebrate Preservation Month to recognize the unique historic resources that make their communities special. First established as a weeklong event in 1973 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the event is now a month-long observance.

Over the past several years, Salem has celebrated Preservation Month with a breakfast for local preservation partners and elected officials and by hosting preservation lectures, workshops and tours. Unfortunately, these efforts were postponed in 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This year, as the community continues towards full reopening, Salem's Preservation Partners look to honor Salem's heritage through a combination of virtual and live events beginning in May and continuing throughout the year.

The City is excited to celebrate Preservation Month with the completion of restoration projects at some of Salem's most iconic historic landmarks - Charter Street Cemetery, Almy's Clock and the Dickson Chapel at Greenlawn Cemetery, as well as kick off new initiatives to update the Historical Commission Design Guidelines, revise the demolition delay ordinance and begin planning efforts to address climate change impacts to historic resources. For more information on these projects and a list of partner events, please visit www.preservingsalem.com.

Almy's Clock Restoration



Proposed design for clock face and head



ca. 1910 image of clock

School Updates



Mr. Glenn Burns will join the Salem Public Schools as the Executive Principal of Salem High Schools, effective July 1, 2021.

Mr. Burns returns to Salem after serving as the principal of Haverhill High School for the last three years. During this time, the school improved attendance rates, increased enrollment, expanded opportunities and access to vocational technical education pathways and became home to the largest early college program in the state. During his time in Haverhill, Mr. Burns also focused on elevating student voice through partnerships with Boston College's Lynch School of Education and Harvard University's Harvard Education Law Clinic.

Previously, Mr. Burns successfully led Collins Middle School where he expanded STEM offerings, sports programming and engineering courses. Mr. Burns has focused on increasing student agency through partnerships with Boston College's Lynch School of Education and Harvard University's Harvard Education Law Clinic. He also worked in the Fall River Public Schools as a teacher, school coach and assistant principal.

Mr. Burns earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bridgewater State College and a Master of Education in Leadership from Providence College. Additionally, Mr. Burns completed a year-long fellowship through Boston College's Lynch Leadership Academy.

In his role as Executive Principal, Mr. Burns will lead the implementation of our high school redesign efforts across our three campuses, which include Salem High School, Salem Prep, and New Liberty Innovation School, ensuring that every high school student in the Salem Public Schools receives an exceptional learning experience. Mr. Burns is fiercely committed to growing early college offerings, workforce development opportunities, career technical pathways and extracurricular options for students.