



# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Winter is most definitely here and with it comes the snow and ice. I want to thank the hard working members of the Department of Public Services and our DPS snow contractors, who have all put in extraordinary efforts over the past few weeks.

The most recent blizzard was especially challenging, bringing us close to a record amount of snow in a single storm.

We were able to re-use some of the strategies and approaches to snow removal that we, unfortunately, had already developed after the "snowmageddon" winter of 2015, but, despite that, being down 80% of our usual complement of team and equip-

ment, due to both COVID and the overall national labor shortage made it slow going.

Thanks for your patience and for your cooperation shoveling out your own sidewalks, crosswalk entries, and fire hydrants and catch basins near your home or business.

We have lots of information about snow storms in Salem—from rules regarding snow removal, to alternative parking locations when there is an on-street parking ban, and much more—all at [www.salem.com/snow](http://www.salem.com/snow). In addition, you should be sure to subscribe to CodeRED, News & Announcements, and Urgent Alerts, all at [www.salem.com/subscribe](http://www.salem.com/subscribe). Download the My Salem MA app for your mobile device and enable push notifications. And, lastly, look for and follow the City of Salem MA on social media. We use all of these outlets to help share critical information about snow storms in our community. Be sure you're in the loop with the latest information and alerts!

In this issue of FYI Salem you'll find two articles about exciting public art initiatives underway

now—some at Old Town Hall and others along Artists Row.

We also have provided information about an upcoming presentation from FEMA about the impacts of sea level rise on our region's coast. The presentation dovetails with the recent Wetlands Protection Ordinance we filed with the City Council, which will strengthen the buffers around critical areas in our community and authorize our Conservation Commission to expressly weigh the impacts of climate change in evaluating proposed projects. If adopted, Salem would be the fourth municipality to have such a rule in place in the entire Commonwealth.

Also inside this issue of the newsletter you'll find details about how to apply for the annual Salem Scholarship Fund scholarship, if you're a student entering college next year, and how to apply for the Employee Incentive Program to support frontline workers.

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read FYI Salem and be sure to visit [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com) for all the latest news from your City!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor

# Revitalizing Old Town Hall

The City of Salem has announced three new exciting partnership and opportunities for community members, artists, and visitors alike to engage with arts and cultural programming in Old Town Hall, a City-owned historic property in the heart of downtown, located at 32 Derby Square in Salem. There is even an opportunity to help shape the future of this remarkable public building.

In partnership with [CultureHouse](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving livability in local communities by transforming unused spaces into vibrant social infrastructure, the City announced today the development of **CultureHouse Salem**—a pop-up arts and culture space at Salem's Old Town Hall.



## “Spectral Evidence” by Nancy Bowen

Nancy Bowen will be showcasing her installation “Spectral Evidence” on the first floor of Old Town Hall from February 10, 2022, to March 19, 2022. This exhibition is inspired by the true story of Colonial American judgement and repentance. Bowen creates a visual interpretation of guilt and remorse through her installation and seeks inspiration through her ancestor, Samuel Sewall, a judge in the Salem Witch Trials. Described as “humorously odd and gravely unsettling,” experience “Spectral Evidence” FREE of charge between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Bowen will offer artist talks at 3:00 p.m. on February 12<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, and March 19<sup>th</sup>, where she will discuss her inspiration in more detail and answer questions.

## Infuse Dance

From February to June, Infuse Dance will take place on the fourth Saturday every month from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., offering anyone the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of FREE dance classes. With classes on the hour, every hour, there will be something for everyone, with offerings for dancers at every level of skill, including classes in contemporary, jazz, ballet, hip hop, afro-based styles, and more. A detailed schedule will be released once all instructors are confirmed, stay tuned for more [www.salem.com/old-town-hall/pages/calendar-events](http://www.salem.com/old-town-hall/pages/calendar-events). Infuse Dance is seeking dance instructors in all genres to teach, for pay, a one-hour class at Old Town Hall on the fourth Saturday of every month from February through June. See below for more details.

## Community Feedback for CultureHouse Salem

Visit [culturehouse.cc/salem](http://culturehouse.cc/salem) to provide your thoughts through our the community survey and register for the upcoming virtual community meeting on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm.

## Gallery Sitters for “Spectral Evidence” by Nancy Bowen

Volunteers sought to open and close the gallery at Old Town Hall and help provide general information about the exhibition to the public. Interested volunteers should email [ctitchenell@salem.com](mailto:ctitchenell@salem.com) for more information.

## Infuse Dance Teaching Opportunities

Infuse Dance, in partnership with the City of Salem, is seeking dance teachers of all genres, with at least two years' experience teaching adults, to serve as instructors for this exciting new series. Teachers will be compensated for their time. Instructor Applications and more details can be found at <https://infusesalem.com>. Applications are due by Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.

# FEMA Presentation

In 2016, FEMA received a recommendation from its Technical Mapping Advisory Council to display flood risks in coastal areas that include future effects of long-term erosion and sea level rise. Because coastal erosion is a hazard that threatens lives, property, and resources in Essex County, MA, FEMA Region I has elected to initiate a coastal erosion hazard area study for Essex County. To help identify the risk to communities, FEMA has created coastal erosion hazard maps displaying projected hazards for 2030, 2050, and 2100, incorporating projected sea level rise.



These maps are nonregulatory products to be used by the community for planning and hazard mitigation purposes. FEMA Region I has shared the results of this study with the community officials within the county and would now like to share those same results with members of the community at large. We will host an evening virtual meeting that will provide an overview of the study's methodology and present the [nonregulatory coastal erosion data viewer](#). There will be time at the end for community members to ask questions

Date: February 16, 2022. Time: 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Location: [Virtual](#), Registration is required, find the link at [www.salem.com/news](http://www.salem.com/news).

# Scholarship Applications



The City of Salem's Scholarship and Education Committee has released the scholarship application form for Salem residents who are students graduating from Salem High School, Salem Academy Charter School, or other high schools, and entering college or university in the fall. The one-page application form is available now at [www.salem.com/scholarship](http://www.salem.com/scholarship). The application can be submitted either in hard copy or electronically through the website. Either way, complete application packets are due by May 31, 2022.

"In Salem education is a community mission," said Mayor Kim Driscoll, who appoints the members of the Scholarship and Education Committee. "Scholarship Fund awards are entirely funded by generous donations from Salem residents, businesses, and other members of our community. I encourage all who can to donate to support these scholarships and, for our eligible students, to apply for this year's round of scholarship awards before the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline."

In June of 1987, Salem Mayor Tony Salvo and Superintendent of Schools Hank O'Donnell advanced a proposal to adopt Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1986, a measure that enabled cities and towns to set up a scholarship account for graduating seniors, funded through voluntary donations made by local residents on their tax bills. The City of Salem's Scholarship and Education Committee oversees both the Scholarship Fund, to provide educational financial aid to deserving city residents and the Education Fund, to provide supplemental educational funding for local educational needs or to provide funding for existing adult literacy programs. If you would like to donate to either the Scholarship Fund or the Education Fund, use the donate button at [www.salem.com/scholarship](http://www.salem.com/scholarship).



# Worker Incentive Program

The City of Salem has launched a new round of its Employee Incentive Program, this time focusing on supporting hiring and retaining front-line workers in those businesses covered by the Board of Health's December 22, 2021, order requiring proof of vaccination for public entry.

The program will provide \$500 per qualifying employee. Qualifying employees must be in an eligible type of work for a business subject to the proof of vaccination order. They must be on the payroll of the business any time between January 15, 2022, and February 4, 2022, and must remain employed at the business for at least six consecutive weeks working at least 30 total hours over the course of the six weeks.



For a list of eligible types of work and covered categories of business, additional program requirements, and the link to apply, please visit [www.salem.com/incentive](http://www.salem.com/incentive). **Applications must be submitted before noon on Monday, February 7, 2022.**

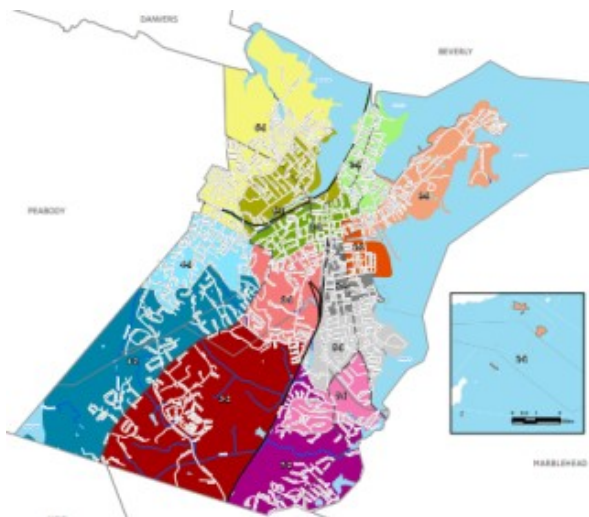
"I encourage every eligible business to apply for this financial support program for their qualifying employees," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "We are all working hard to keep our community safe and our small businesses open and strong. As a City, we have stepped up for our small businesses throughout this pandemic, provisioning large quantities of free protective equipment, free rapid tests for frontline workers, direct financial help, technical assistance with everything from air handling equipment to navigating federal relief programs. While we have had a net gain in businesses over the course of the pandemic, that doesn't mean it has been easy for those who have held on. We all want Salem's vibrant small businesses to stay safe, open, and strong, and the employee incentive program is one more tool at our disposal to help make that happen."

## New Precinct Lines

The Commonwealth has approved the City of Salem's recent re-precincting, which is the redrawing and adjustment of ward and precinct boundaries following the U.S. Census every ten years.

You can find a link to the approved new map at <https://www.salem.com/city-clerk-elections/files/2022-approved-salems-ward-precinct-map>.

If your address is one that changed from one ward or precinct to another you will receive a mailed notification in the coming weeks. If you do not receive any such notification then your ward and precinct remain unchanged. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk's office at (978) 619-5617.



# Call for Creatives

The City of Salem is pleased to announce a call for creatives for the Public Artist in Residence Program for 2022, 2023, and 2024 and openings for creatives to occupy the stalls on Artists' Row for the 2023-2024 tenancy.

Mayor Kim Driscoll and the Salem Public Art Commission seek creatives to take part in the City of Salem's revitalized Artists' Row Public Artist in Residence initiative and stalls. Artists' Row consists of four artists 'stalls', a restaurant, and a public restroom and is centrally located in historic downtown Salem at 24 New Derby St., across from Old Town Hall and Derby Square. This area, at the heart of the City, was originally built as a marketplace and continues to be a thriving public plaza and pedestrian way.



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The City of Salem respects, values, and celebrates the diverse life experiences and unique heritages, attributes, characteristics, and perspectives that make each person who they are. We believe that bringing diverse individuals together through the Arts allows us to collectively and more effectively address the issues that face our communities and aim to help fund and uplift the local arts community, especially with the direct impact that COVID-19 has placed upon the arts community.

"I strongly encourage and welcome applications to this new round of the Public Artist in Residence program and the upcoming season at Artists' Row," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Public art creates vibrant and thriving communities, enlivens our city, and brings people together. I'm grateful to the City staff and volunteers on the Public Art Commission who continue to support these initiatives and make them possible."

The Artists' Row initiative is a seasonal program that provides space for artists and artisans looking to build their audience and/or arts practice through daily engagement with residents and visitors to Salem. Participation in the Artists' Row program is envisioned as a springboard opportunity for creatives wherever they are in their career that can help take them to the next stage/level in their unique professional development journey. It is very much a shared space for artists and visitors alike, where creativity happens, and unique arts-related goods and activities can be experienced in an animated public place.

The City of Salem is currently looking to fill one (1) paid position per year for 2022, 2023, and 2024 for the Public Artists in Residence. There are three (3) positions available in total, one each year, and each residency lasts for a term of 8 months.

Additionally, the City is seeking applicants for each of the three (3) available market 'stalls', which can be used as makers space with a retail opportunity for artists and creatives. Stall will be contracted for a two-year tenancy, starting in January 2023.

The City is interested in uses that will contribute to the vibrancy of the Artists' Row community and this important gateway to Salem's bustling downtown. The variety of activities/uses considered for Artists' Row spaces include, but are not limited to, original uniquely produced or handcrafted artworks and products, performances, art 'happenings', art 'interventions', art making, and temporary public art installations.

To view the full Call for Artists text and to apply to the program please visit: <https://bit.ly/Apply2ArtistsRow>.

Photo: John Andrews/Creative Collective