



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

February 27th marks the 178th anniversary of Dominican Independence and I invite all Salem residents to join with their City in marking this special day. Please join us at Lafayette Park on Friday, February 25, 2022 at 4pm, for the annual raising of the flag of the Dominican Republic (weather permitting).

Close to one in ten Salem residents are of Dominican heritage and our Dominican community has contributed greatly to the economic and cultural foundation of our city.

Generations of Dominican immigrants and their families adding to the fabric of Salem in a myriad of ways – as teachers, small business owners and entrepreneurs, civic

and faith leaders, volunteers, neighborhood advocates, laborers, front line workers, nurses and doctors, police officers and firefighters, artists and creatives, and so much more.

Dominican Independence Day is an occasion to celebrate the history, legacy, and enduring positive impacts of our Dominican residents. We encourage all Salem residents to join us in commemorating this day and declaring Feliz Día de la Independencia Dominicana!

As we approach the end of February, I'm also pleased to share that the number of COVID cases continues to decline, as the number of vaccinations is increasing. Despite this trend, however, we are not ending our vigilance when it comes to this deadly virus. 117 Salem residents have died from COVID since this pandemic started. One in four residents have become sick from it.

While rates are improving, we know—and just witnessed—how quickly a variant surge can develop and overwhelm our local healthcare system.

We will continue our wastewater surveillance testing program and

our efforts to distribute free rapid at-home tests for residents and, through our schools, for students. Because our school vaccination rates are so low still, the School Committee has kept the mask requirement in place in our school buildings. And our Board of Health, who has worked diligently and professionally throughout the pandemic, will continue to monitor key daily and weekly metrics to judge what actions are necessary to protect the public health of Salem residents.

The single best way you can protect yourself, your loved ones, and your neighbors, is by getting vaccinated. And, if you are vaccinated, get booster. The COVID vaccines are safe, effective, and readily available for free. Visit www.salem.com/vaccine to find out more and find a site to get your protective vaccination today.

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read the FYI Salem newsletter. You can subscribe to get the updates in this newsletter directly by email by signing up for City News & Announcements at www.salem.com/subscribe.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
Salem

No Place for Hate

Over the past several weeks members of the Salem Board of Health and Health Department staff with names perceived to indicate that they are Jewish have been directly targeted by hateful, antisemitic messages and threats online, by email, and over voicemails.

These actions are unacceptable, repugnant, and worthy of condemnation by everyone, regardless of your perspective on the COVID mitigation measures enacted and modified by the Board of Health to help protect public health.

As community leaders in Salem, we stand united to express our unequivocal rejection of these antisemitic attacks, our condemnation of attempted intimidation – especially when it so clearly focuses on targeting an individual based on their race, ethnicity, or religion – and our solidarity with our neighbors who volunteer and serve our community thoughtfully, diligently, and objectively on our Board of Health and the staff in our Health Department who support them in that work. We reject and condemn vile, racist, antisemitic, and regressive attacks – whether online or in person. We support those who volunteer for public service, despite these atrocious and utterly unacceptable actions and messages. And we urge every member of our community to join us in asserting with absolute clarity that Salem is no place for hate.

Read the full list of signatories and, if you wish, add your name to the community statement, at www.salem.com/home/news/salem-no-place-hate.



Repair Café



Don't throw away your broken item – bring it to the Repair Café! SalemRecycles will be hosting a Repair Café on Saturday March 12th from 9am-12 noon at the Community Life Center at 401 Bridge Street. Appointments are required and walk ins will not be accepted. Schedule an appointment by contacting Micaela Guglielmi at mguglielmi@salem.com or 978-619-5672. Volunteers will be available to mend clothing, sew buttons, sharpen scissors and knives, tinker with or rewire electronics and lamps, computer diagnostics, glue wooden furniture and ceramics, and more. These services may change as we confirm volunteers.

School Facilities Survey

Should Salem shift from school choice to a neighborhood schools assignment policy? As we look to the future, should a combined Junior / Senior (Grade 7-12) High School campus be something we consider? With enrollment declining and excess capacity, should we consider consolidating our elementary schools? Should Saltonstall remain a K-8 school or become a more traditional elementary school? Should we shift to a K-8 model throughout the entire district? Should Salem have one consolidated Early Childhood Center for our Preschool and PK students or should we offer PK at each elementary school? These are just some of the scenarios and options currently under consideration. Now is the time to weigh in so that we can make the best decisions moving forward. This plan will impact our schools within the next several years and beyond. We need your input! Please take our school facility master planning community survey at <https://forms.gle/3XKD6Cqfck1B27to9>.

Online Bill Pay Warning

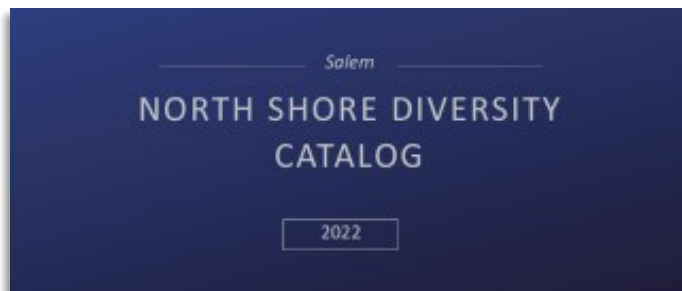
The City of Salem has been made aware of a website that appears to represent itself as the portal for paying City bills online.

The only officially authorized online bill payment portal for the City of Salem can be accessed at www.salem.com/paybills.

Third party websites not authorized by the City may charge you additional fees and/or collect personal data about you. Use of these third-party systems is done at your own risk.



The City strongly advises against using third-party or unofficial payment systems for paying City bills. If you have any questions about paying City bills online, please contact the Salem Collector's Office at 978-619-5621.



Diversity Catalog

The Cities of Salem, Beverly, Peabody, and Lynn, and the Towns of Swampscott and Marblehead have published the second annual North Shore Diversity Catalog, a regional vendor registry for minority- and women-owned businesses (MWBE).

Originally published in May 2021 with 138 participating businesses, participation nearly doubled this year, with 249 businesses participating in the 2022 Catalog.

The Diversity Catalog assists municipalities in improving equity and diversity in municipal contracts and bids and provides residents and other businesses with a single, comprehensive catalog of such businesses that they can support.

View the 2022 North Shore Diversity Catalog at www.salem.com/diversitycatalog.

"I am very excited to continue this effort and share the 2022 North Shore Diversity Catalog," said Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll. "This directory is not only a mechanism for regional municipalities as they strive to diversify their procurement efforts, it is also a marketing tool for our local businesses and a resource for those who wish to support our diverse small business community."



City of Salem Weekly COVID-19 Stats

Cases and testing data as of February 12, 2022, except Active Cases, which is as of February 17. Hospitalization as of February 15. Vaccine data as of February 15. SPS data as of February 10.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Salem Board of Health

Total Cases	Current Active Cases	New Cases in Last 14 Days	14 Day Average New Case Rate
10,566	85 ↓	170 ↓	27.0 ↓
Salem Hospital COVID+ 2 ICU ↑ 8 Med/Surg ↓	7 Day Average Regional ICU Occupancy 85.6% ↑	Regional Hospital Capacity 5.9% ↑	Regional Hospital Beds Open 16 ICU ↑ 45 Med/Surg ↑
Total PCR Tests 254,211	PCR Tests in Last 14 Days 5,407 ↓	PCR Percent Positivity in Last 14 Days 3.85% ↓	New SPS Cases in Last Week 27 Students ↓ 5 Staff ↑
Total Fully Vaccinated 32,179	New Fully Vaxed in Last 14 Days 381 ↑	% All Residents Fully Vaccinated 71.5%	% Eligible Residents Fully Vaccinated 75.7%
www.salem.com/covid			

Salem Park, Recreation and Community Services

March 2022

Welcome to Opening Day! - Thursday, March 31st 1:00-5:30pm



Salem Council on Aging Red Sox Fans are welcome to join us as we root on the Boston Red Sox during their home opener with the Tampa Bay Rays.

The cost is \$5.00 per person and will include grilled Fenway Franks, potato salad, popcorn, cracker jacks, and (2) drink tickets good for beer, wine or soda.

Opening pitch is at 2:10pm and we will be watching the game on the big screen in the Great Room.

During the game we will have table games, lawn games and cards set up for your enjoyment.

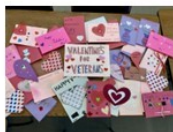
Registration is required for this event. Please contact Rosanna at 978-744-0924 to register.

Muscle & Strength-HITT

Join local fitness instructor, Beth Schultz for this weekly class which will help increase your muscle strength, coordination and endurance. This class will offer equal parts cardio and strength training.

Ages: 18+
Date: Mondays,
March 7th—April 4th
5:00-6:00pm
Cost: \$45.00 for the 5 week session or \$10.00 per night.
Register at salemrec.com.

A huge thank you to all who created these special valentines for Salem veterans.



We had a great time at our Valentine's Sweets and Fun at the House of the Seven Gables during Salem So Sweet. We collaborated on an outdoor scavenger hunt on the Gables grounds for families to participant in.



Peaceful Pretzels

We are thrilled to offer another session of Peaceful Pretzels. Kids, ages 5-11, can join Kristen Homan for this class that will blend yoga, movement, activities to help little ones learn skills to manage their big emotions.



Thursdays,
March 3rd—March 24th
4:15-5:15pm
\$55.00 for the 4 week program.
Register at salemrec.com.

Garden Craft Club

Get ready for spring with the Garden Crafts Club. Youth ages 10-15 can create their own herb planters, garden decorations and even an indoor terrarium!

Mondays, March 7th—21st
4:30-5:30pm
\$15.00 per person, includes all supplies
Register at salemrec.com.



Wellness Lecture Series by Donna Clifford

Join Donna Clifford as we discover the joy of being fulling alive. Donna brings over 40 years of clinical nursing and holistic practices to each presentation. All presentations begin at 4:00pm.
Cost is \$20.00 per class/\$10.00 for seniors

Monday, March 7th—*Gut Health, the Key to a Healthy Body and Mind*

Monday, March 14th—*May Your Dreams Come True, Realizing Our Purpose Through Food*

Monday, March 21st—*Happy Sleep, How to Get a Good Night's Sleep and Wake*

To register for a lecture, please contact Rosanna at 978 -744-0924.

Art Class is Back!

The Salem Council on Aging is thrilled to have our Thursday art class return. This class is funded by the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

March class dates are:
Thursday, March 10th 4:00-6:00pm and
Thursday, March 31st 4:00-6:00pm
Contact Rosanna at 978-744-0924 to register.

Salem Wellness Walks

Lace up your walking shoes and join us at the Salem Common for Salem Wellness Walks! Our special guest this month is Sen. Joan Lovely.

Wednesday, March 9th
9:00-10:00am
This event is co-sponsored by the Salem Council on Aging and the Salem Board of Health.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

The Salem Council on Aging will be hosting our annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon complete with live music and dancing.

Thursday, March 17th
10:30am
\$10.00 per person
Contact Rosanna at 978 744-0924 to register.

Salem Park, Recreation and Community Services
401 Bridge St. Salem, MA 01970 978-744-0924