



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Thanks for reading the newest issue of our FYI Salem newsletter!

We were so excited to be awarded a major grant from the Seaport Economic Council this week. Coupled with the local matching funds, this grant of nearly \$750,000 will be used to build out improved public access for recreational boating opportunities at three locations on our historic waterfront: Congress Street, Central Wharf, and the new park at 289 Derby Street. You can read more about the planned work in this issue.

We also have two major "grand opening" celebrations coming up in a few weeks. On September 10th, the new Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center will officially open its doors to the public. All of the departments that had been located at 5 Broad Street will be at the new CLC, at 401 Bridge Street, effective September 10th. Join us September 21-22 for the grand opening celebration events. Then, on September 13th, come by the Riley Plaza entry to the new Mayor Anthony Salvo Multi-Use Path along Canal Street at noon for the formal dedication ceremony. Work on Canal Street and the off-street path are wrapping up this month and we're excited for this great new amenity for residents, commuters, and visitors to open!

Finally, read more in this issue about the newly proposed ordinances that would regulate short-term rentals like Airbnb here in Salem. I believe

the proposals offer a balanced approach that preserves the quality of life in our neighborhoods without entirely preventing this new use from taking place in a reasonable manner.

Check out the latest FYI Salem podcast, where I talk with Judith Reilly and Jen Lynch, coordinators for the new Salem chapter of the League of Women Voters. We talk about the League's work, registering to vote, and more! You can find the podcast at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast> or search for it on iTunes or whatever podcast app or service you use.

As always, thanks for reading FYI Salem! Please share it with friends and neighbors, and encourage them to subscribe to receive it directly by signing up at www.salem.com/subscribe.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Salem Harbor Grant



The City of Salem has received a \$741,200 grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Economic Council to fund a number of public access improvements along the City's historic waterfront. The grant will fund the construction of a new dinghy dock at Central Wharf, renovation of the Congress Street pier, and construction of a new small boat dock facility at the park under construction at 289 Derby Street on the South River.

On Central Wharf, part of the National Park Service's Salem Maritime National Historic Site, the City will work in partnership with the Park Service to construct a small boat and dingy landing for public use. A float and access system will be attached to an existing ADA ferry dock and will enable short-term tie-ups for approximately 40 to 50 small recreational vessels.

The Congress Street pier is the only existing public landing in Salem Harbor, although it has only a limited number of slips and no handicapped access. A portion of the facility had to be closed to the public earlier this year due to its severe state of disrepair following a number of major storms. Renovation is necessary to improve safety, provide handicapped access, and expand dockage where possible. Once renovation is complete, the Congress Street pier will also be home to Salem Harbor's water shuttle service.

The City has begun construction on a new waterfront park at 289 Derby Street, with the vision of creating dynamic open space and a permanent view corridor showcasing the downtown's connection to the South River and its Harbor walk. Extension of the Harbor walk, portions of which were funded by previous Seaport Economic Council grants, creates an opportunity for the City to construct a new multi-use facility for short-term tie-ups and possibly a recreational boating concession and other waterside recreational programming.

"For over a decade we have focused on establishing Salem's port as a central part of our economic strength and our community's vitality," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "Our connection to our waterfront is and always has been one of Salem's defining assets and greatest economic forces. The facilities along our shore have enlivened our port with new industries, recreational amenities, tourism opportunities, and alternative transportation options. This latest Seaport Economic Council will be especially beneficial as we work to expand Salem Harbor's facilities for recreational boater access and to increase visitation to our City over water. My thanks go out to Governor Baker, the members of the Seaport Economic Council, and our City staff who worked to secure these much-needed funds."

Flood Damage Clean-Up

Following last week's major rainstorm, the City of Salem will provide a dumpster at the Transfer Station at 12 Swampscott Road for residents to dispose of damaged furniture and household items. Residents should bring proof of residency, such as an ID or a tax bill, to be able to dispose of their materials. The dumpster will be at the Transfer Station on the following days: Saturday, August 18, 7am to 3pm; Sunday, August 19, 9am to 5pm; Saturday, August 25, 7am to 3pm; Sunday, August 26, 9am to 5pm.



CLC Opening

The new Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center will open to the public on Monday, September 10, 2018. All of the City's Council on Aging, Recreation, and Veterans' Services offices, including all programming currently held at the old senior center at 5 Broad Street, will be relocated to the new facility at 401 Bridge Street effective September 10. The final day that 5 Broad Street will be open to the public will be Friday, August 31. The 5 Broad Street building will be sold by the City later this fall.



On Tuesday, September 4 and Wednesday, September 5, all Council on Aging and Recreation programs, including meals, will take place at the Winter Island function hall. No programs or services will be provided on Thursday, September 6 and Friday, September 7. All COA, Recreation, and Veterans' Services telephone numbers will continue to be operational during the relocation, and also at 401 Bridge Street after September 10. While the building at 401 Bridge Street will officially open to the public on September 10, the grand opening celebrations at the new Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center will take place on Friday September 21 and Saturday September 22. The complete list and schedule of programs, events, and activities for the grand opening will be released later this summer.

"I am so excited to announce the official grand opening of the Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center," said Mayor Driscoll. "This is the first-class 21st century facility that Salem seniors, families, and all residents have long awaited and greatly deserve. With ample program space, exercise room, a bright and welcoming great room, lounge, library, café space, and more, Salem's CLC will be a leading community center space in Massachusetts. For years – decades, even – Salem has long sought a new home for our COA, veterans, and park and recreation programs and staff. Thanks to the hard work of many people, both affiliated with the City and with the team who built the CLC, we are finally ready to open the doors on this long-awaited facility."

Short-Term Rentals



After months of research and public input, Mayor Kim Driscoll filed a set of ordinances with the City Council to regulate short-term rentals (residences rented for 30 or fewer days in a year), like Airbnb, in Salem. The measures reflect an appropriate path forward to regulate these growing use, allowing it to continue within reasonable limits and on an even playing field with established lodging operators. The proposed requirements are in addition to the requirement adopted last year that all short-term rentals undergo an annual certificate of fitness inspection, which is the same inspection required of all other residential rentals. In addition, all existing building and occupancy codes, sanitary codes, noise, nuisance, parking, and trash ordinances continue to apply to these uses, as they do to all properties.

The proposed ordinance will help to ensure that hosts provide guests with information about the neighborhood they are staying in, what local standards and requirements are, and that the City has a local point of contact in the event of problems or emergencies. Moreover, the proposed ordinance prohibits "problem properties," where there have been negative interactions with city public safety or inspectional services staff, including code violations and/or calls for police service, from being offered as a short-term rental.

The proposals put safeguards on guests, seek to preserve the character of Salem neighborhoods, levels the playing field with existing lodging establishments, provides a path for compliance for existing hosts, and allows owner occupied homeowners who engage in this use to supplement their income to continue to do so. The full set of proposed ordinances can be found online at https://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/pages/proposed_short_term_rentals_ordinances.pdf.



You are cordially invited to the

Dedication Ceremony

for the

Mayor Anthony V. Salvo Multi-Use Path

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Noon

**Intersection of Mill Street & Canal Street
Salem, Massachusetts**