



# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Happy Holidays to you and your family, and thank you for reading the latest issue of the FYI Salem newsletter.

In this issue you can find out the results of our "Mode Shift" participatory budgeting initiative. 350 Salem residents voted on 11 ideas, submitted by residents, that will help encourage alternative ways of getting to and through our community. Read more inside about the winning ideas!

Also in this issue you can read about our annual "Peas for Fees," how you can donate to sup-

port the twelve residents displaced from the fire at 10 Lynde Street over Thanksgiving weekend, and details about an upcoming meeting on the future upgrades planned for Palmer Cove park.

One of the issues my office has been getting calls about involves planning for the opening of recreational marijuana sales at ATG, Inc., on Grove Street. While the precise date they will start is not yet known, we expect it will be some time later this month. City officials, Salem Police, and representatives from the company—as well as personnel from the MBTA and Peabody—have been meeting to coordinate traffic, parking, and public safety planning for this eventuality.

We do know that, as in other states that have legalized adult-use marijuana sales, as more stores open the crowds will spread out. In addition, we are bringing all of our public safety plan-

ning best practices from our October planning to bear in regards to ATG.

Finally, tune into the latest FYI Salem podcast to hear more about the multiple efforts underway to try to tackle the housing situation in Salem and increase options for more affordable housing here. I talk with the City Planning Director about several proposals regarding zoning, a housing incentive program, and more. With almost half of Salem residents paying a third or more of their monthly income on housing, there is probably no more pressing issue facing our community than housing. You can find the podcast on iTunes or at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/pages/fyi-salem-podcast>.

Thank you again for taking the time to read the FYI Salem newsletter!

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

# Mode Shift SALEM»»»»

Imagine > Vote > Shift

[www.salem.com/shift](http://www.salem.com/shift)

## Mode Shift Results

Voting for Salem’s Mode Shift alternative transportation participatory budgeting initiative ended on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Salem residents were invited to vote on their favorites among the eleven ideas submitted by their neighbors - all ideas that could help reduce traffic congestion, improve bicycle and pedestrian access and safety, and encourage alternative modes of transit.

The top vote-getting idea was the installation of enhanced in-ground or similar type lighting at high-volume crosswalks in downtown Salem to make these busy crossings safer and more

visible. Second place went to expanded lighting along downtown walkways and sidewalks.

“I would like to thank all the Salem residents who both submitted ideas to be on the ballot and who took the time to vote on their choices,” said Mayor Kim Driscoll. “It was great to hear so many innovative suggestions to encourage alternative modes of getting to and around Salem. Our hope is that even those ideas that did not receive funding through the participatory budgeting vote will remain on our City’s radar as potential future projects and programs that we could explore regardless.”

The City will next evaluate locations in downtown Salem, including busy crosswalks, where this type of lighting can be installed within the \$30,000 program budget and make the greatest positive impact.

## Peas for Fees

The City’s annual “Peas for Fees” ticket amnesty program will run December 1 through December 20. The program allows for the waiver of late fees on parking violations in exchange for a donation of canned goods and non-perishable items. All food will go to local Salem food pantries.

Up to \$30 in late fees will be waived in exchange for the donation of at least two canned goods or non-perishable items at the City Collector’s Office at Salem City Hall. City Hall is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

The “Peas for Fees” program has become an annual tradition in Salem and has successfully brought in donations of food for those in need and also additional receipts for the City. In the spirit of the holidays, this amnesty program will once again give individuals who owe late fees an incentive to pay their tickets, providing additional food supplies to needy food pantries and hopefully resulting in an extra infusion of funds for the City.



# Lynde Street Fire Relief

The City of Salem has launched a relief effort for the twelve residents who were displaced by this weekend's devastating fire at 10-12 Lynde Street in Salem. Donations of items and funds are now being collected to support these individuals as they begin to recover from the fire.

"Salem residents are incredibly generous and thoughtful," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "As soon as word of the fire spread, we began receiving inquiries from people who wanted to help. I hope any resident who is able will consider making a financial donation or dropping off a requested item. One of the qualities that make Salem such a remarkable community is how we all look out for each other. Please give what you can to help our neighbors from Lynde Street get back on their feet."

The City is additionally contracting with North Shore Community Action Programs, or NSCAP, to provide emergency HOME funds to help victims toward the cost of first/last/security for new housing.

"The most urgent need right now is permanent housing," Mayor Driscoll said. "Funds to help secure new housing would be most welcome and, if you know of available one-bedroom or studio apartments for rent in Salem that might be available for these individuals, please contact us at [mayor@salem.com](mailto:mayor@salem.com) and we will share the information with the victims."

## Donating Funds

Donations may be made at any Salem Five bank branch or online at [www.salem.com](http://www.salem.com) by clicking on the "Salem Relief Fund: Lynde Street Fire" button. Donations may also be mailed to: Salem Relief Fund, c/o Salem Five, 71 Washington Street, Salem MA 01970. If donating at a branch or mailing a donation, please make your check payable to "Salem Relief Fund" and write "Lynde Street Fire" on the memo line. Donations are tax deductible and all donated funds will be divided among the victims to help them secure new housing, pay bills, or purchase food, home goods, and clothing.

## Donating Items

Those who would like to donate items for the victims are invited to bring their donated goods to the Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center, 401 Bridge Street, between now and Friday, December 7, 2018. The Community Life Center is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please review the list of requested items from the victims and donate what you are able. Gift Cards are the best way to help provide the victims with needed items and food. Otherwise, when possible, items should be new or, if used, clean and undamaged. Please do not bring items that have not been requested.

- Gift Cards in any amount for retailers where clothing might be purchased.
- Gift Cards in any amount for local restaurants (most of the displaced are in hotels at the moment).
- Gift Cards in any amount for grocery stores.
- Gift Cards in any amount for retailers where home goods or personal care products might be purchased.
- New or like new kitchen items.
- New bedding.
- New/unopened toiletries or personal care products.





# **Public Meeting**

**Tuesday December 11 at 6pm**

**at North Shore CDC  
96 Lafayette Street  
Salem, MA**

**Join us for a conversation about the continued development of plan options for Palmer Cove Park.**

**We will have a short presentation by the designers and will open the floor for round-robin discussions about the options.**

*For more information, please contact Ashley Green with the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development at (978) 619-5685 or [agreen@salem.com](mailto:agreen@salem.com)*