



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

There's a lot going on in Salem, so we have a slightly larger than normal FYI Salem newsletter for you this week.

In this issue you'll find lots of information about current issues and news from the City of Salem.

Find out about our plans for managing the opening of ATG for recreational marijuana sales on Saturday. We've been working closely with the company, neighboring jurisdictions, and the MBTA to try to minimize impacts on the surrounding neighborhood when

they open for business.

Read more about some major grants the City has received for two upcoming projects. There's an important notice about an overnight downtown street sweeping operation coming up next week, as well as details on our annual discounted overflow bags for the holidays.

We've included information about a major civil complaint the City brought earlier this month against opioid manufacturers and those companies' executives. There's also a blurb about a recognition the City received recently from the leading national government finance watch-dog group.

Check out the final pages for details about a meeting next week to begin discussing upgrades and improvements to the Salem Willows and for a list—compiled by North Shore Community Action Pro-

grams—of free Christmas dinners for our neighbors in need.

Finally, tune into the latest FYI Salem podcast for my conversation with Chris Edwards, president of ATG, the marijuana store that opens on Saturday for recreational marijuana sales. 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. If you know someone who might enjoy receiving the newsletter, please send them to www.salem.com/ subscribe where they can sign up to get it by email, as well as many other important notices, news bulletins, and emergency notifications from the City of Salem.

Kim Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Discounted Overflow Bags



Salem residents may purchase official overflow trash bags for \$1 per bag for any holiday overflow. Each household may purchase up to 5 bags, from December 17 through January 7 during regular City office hours. Discounted bags are only available at the Collector's Office, 93 Washington St, and Community Life Center, 401 Bridge St.

For excess paper or cardboard recycling, you may either wait until the next recycling collection day to put it out curbside or bring it to Caraustar at 53 Jefferson Avenue (for more information or for schedule call 978-744-4330).

For collection of bulky items, call Waste Management at 800-972-4545 to schedule pick-up at least 48 hours in advance of the intended collection. The Waste Management customer service line is open from 7am to 5pm. Up to two bulky items will be collected on your regular recycling collection day if you have made an appointment in advance.

The last e-waste collection for 2018 will be held on December 29 from 8am until noon at Salem High School. You can recycle anything with a plug. Most items are free; however, the contractor will collect a \$20 fee for TVs, monitors, and large appliances containing freon (refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and freezers).

For more information about recycling and trash in Salem, please visit <http://www.salem.com/recycling-and-trash>

ATG Opening



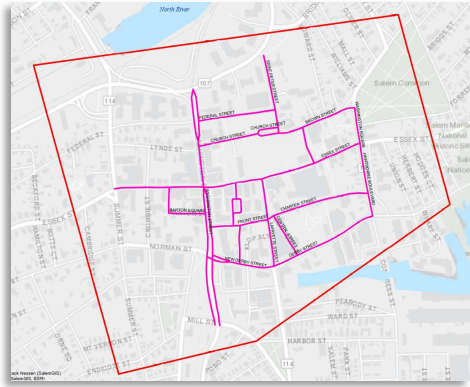
ALTERNATIVE
THERAPIES GROUP

ATG, which in 2015 was Massachusetts' first medical marijuana dispensary to open to the public, will open for adult-use cannabis retail sales on December 15, becoming the third such establishment to open for business in Massachusetts. The City has been actively coordinating for the last few weeks with ATG, Peabody Police, and the MBTA transit police in order to prepare for the upcoming opening of ATG for recreational marijuana sales. These efforts have included Salem Police, the Fire Department, the Mayor's office, Traffic and Parking, Public Works, the Health Department, and the Building Department. The City is approaching this event similar to how it approaches large scale event planning and logistics in general in Salem.

Anyone planning to visit ATG after it opens for recreational marijuana sales on Saturday should utilize the online reservation system that will be online at www.atgma.org. ATG's website will have detailed instructions for the purchasing procedures and other FAQ's. Customers without a reservation will not be allowed into the facility and will be turned away.

The City has imposed temporary resident-only parking zones in the neighborhoods closest to the store and enforcement for parking, traffic, and police patrol will be enhanced in the area for the foreseeable future. Customers are advised to take the MBTA commuter rail to Salem and then take the ATG shuttle bus from the station to the store. The ATG shuttle bus will only transport customers with confirmation of a valid reservation and a photo ID.

Residents should call the Salem Police at 978-744-1212 to report illegally parked vehicles, trespassing, or any other nuisance behavior. In an emergency, dial 911.



Downtown Sweeping

Department of Public Services crews will be blowing and sweeping leaves on Monday night, December 17th in the downtown area. Blowing will begin at 9pm followed by street sweeping at 11:00pm. The downtown area will be posted with No Parking Tow Zones signs. Residents on the affected streets may park free of charge at the Museum Place Mall Garage from 8pm Monday to 8am Tuesday, with proof of residency. Please remove vehicles from the affected downtown streets so they will not be towed.

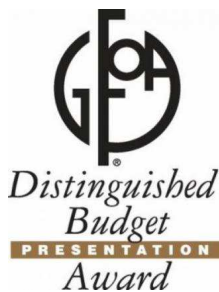
Compact Grants

The City of Salem has been awarded \$180,000 in two grants through the Community Compact program, which supports municipalities throughout the Commonwealth by funding innovations and best practices in cities and towns.

\$150,000 was awarded through the program's Information Technology grant to support the City's ongoing digitization of municipal records. The City's digitization project has encompassed working documents and more commonly utilized records, but this funding will enable the City to expand that multi-year effort to include more of the historical records currently housed at Salem City Hall. Eventually, the City hopes to launch an online portal where members of the public can view digitized records, both historical and more contemporary, improving access to information and documents.



A Best Practices grant of \$30,000 was awarded to fund a study on the future of the City's Department of Public Works facility on Jefferson Avenue, which was constructed in 1950. The building is currently facing significant financial needs for repairs and upgrades and the study will evaluate the benefits, challenges, potential costs and timetable, financing models, and path forward for different possible approaches to the facility. Those approaches include renovating the existing building, demolishing the existing building and building a new one on the same site, or building a new facility at the City-owned parcel at 12 Swampscott Road and selling the Jefferson Avenue property to support the new construction.



Budget Award

The City of Salem has received its tenth Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), a nation-wide nonprofit organization. The award is the only national awards program for governmental budgets and reflects the City's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. To receive the award, the City had to meet or exceed nationally recognized guidelines for an effective budget presentation.

"I'm very pleased that we have once again earned this recognition and distinction from the GFOA," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "We have consistently delivered transparent and informative budgets, based on real costs, carefully developed financial forecasts, and best practices in municipal governance. I'm proud that we've managed to turn multi-million-dollar deficits into record stabilization funds, achieve the highest bond rating in the City's history, and secure grant and other outside dollars to lessen the need to rely on taxpayers. This award is reflective of the diligent work that goes into Salem's budget and our financial practices, and it is a credit to the professional staff in our Finance Department."

GFOA guidelines are designed to assess how well a budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications device. Budgets must be rated proficient in all four categories and in fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories in order to receive the award.

Opioids Lawsuit

The City of Salem has sued the pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors, board members and executives who caused the nation's devastating opioid epidemic. Salem joins hundreds of governmental entities nationwide that have filed lawsuits in connection with the deceptive marketing and reckless distribution of prescription opioids. The law firm Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP represents Salem in the litigation.

"Like so many communities, Salem has been hard hit by the opioid epidemic," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "While the most devastating cost has been in human lives, this epidemic has also strained our budgets and diverted resources from the police, fire, and other departments whose first responders protect public safety. Through this suit we are seeking to recoup from the opioid manufacturers, distributors, and key individual executives and board members, the massive amount of money our community has already spent on combating the effects of opioid addiction, and to substantially fund the costs we expect to incur into the foreseeable future to address the crisis these drugs have wrought."



The City of Salem filed its civil complaint in Essex Superior Court on December 3. The complaint alleges that pharmaceutical manufacturers misled the medical community and the public about the risks and benefits of prescription opioids, that pharmaceutical distributors failed to monitor and control the drugs' supposedly closed distribution network, and that various board members and executives personally sanctioned the corporate defendants' actions.

"The dedicated employees of Salem are doing all they can to try to ameliorate the devastation left in the wake of the defendant manufacturers' and distributors' greed-driven scheme to increase the sale of opioid pills – which are basically heroin in their molecular structure and effect on human opioid receptors – with little or no regard to their safety or efficacy," said Judy Scolnick of Scott+Scott. "The false and deceptive marketing and reckless distribution of opioids has caused an increase in the disease of addiction with all the ensuing fallouts from this disease: death, overdoses, increased demand on police, fire, EMT, and courts, and a diversion of taxpayer revenue to address prevention, re-education, needs of children, the elderly and other family members who have been torn apart by their own or a loved one's addiction. While no amount of money can fairly compensate Salem for the nuisance that the defendants have created, we intend to pursue this case vigorously so Salem is not left to shoulder the burden of the defendants' greed without substantial contribution from the defendants for past damages and to abate the ongoing nuisance."

"While this action will not undo all the damage caused by the opioid crisis or bring back the dozens of lives lost here in Salem to these drugs, it will ensure that those who are responsible for this crisis are held accountable and the costs for addressing it are borne by them – not by Salem taxpayers," added Mayor Driscoll. "We will continue all the work underway through our addiction intervention program, educational efforts in our schools, and the increased availability of naloxone, in order to address this epidemic on the ground. In the meantime, I hope the court will recognize the culpability of those who knowingly made, promoted, and profited from these destructive substances."

The full complaint is available online at <https://www.salem.com/mayors-office/news/city-salem-sues-opioid-manufacturers-distributors-board-members-and-executives>.



SALEM WILLOWS

Public Meeting #1

Tuesday December 18 at 7pm
at Bentley Academy
Charter School
25 Memorial Drive Salem, MA

Join us for a conversation about Salem Willows Park, including the current use and existing conditions of the site, your concerns and your suggestions for improvements.

We will have a short presentation by the designers on existing park conditions and will then open the floor for your comments and discussion.

For more information, or if you are interested in being notified about this project in the future, please contact Jenna Ide, Salem's Director of Capital Projects and Municipal Operations at jide@salem.com or (978) 619-5699.



Christmas Dinners on December 25, 2018 (free of charge)



Beverly, Danvers, Gloucester, Lynn, Peabody, and Salem

- 1) **Haven from Hunger** (71 Wallis St, Peabody 978-531-1530) will be serving a Christmas dinner at 12:00 noon; doors open at 11:00 am.
- 2) **Lifebridge** (56 Margin St, Salem 978-744-0500) will be serving Christmas dinner at 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm.
- 3) **My Brother's Table** (98 Willow St, Lynn 781-595-3224) is serving Christmas dinner to individuals and families from 2:30 pm to 4:15 pm. **Everyone who comes and eats will receive a small gift.*
- 4) **Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church** (323 Locust St (Route 35), Danvers 978-774-7582) will be serving "Christmas Day Dinner with Friends" from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (doors open at 12 noon). **Transportation to this meal is available if needed. To request a ride, please call the church by 12 noon on Thursday, December 20.*
- 5) **Gloucester American Legion** (8 Washington St, Gloucester 978-283-9710 [after 3:00 pm] or 978-283-7117 or email: nestorlaw@aol.com) is serving a **Christmas Holiday Ham Dinner** from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Residents of the following towns (Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester, Ipswich & Essex area) who are homebound and would like to have a meal delivered to them, may call (and leave a message) by 6:00 pm on Saturday, December 22 to sign up. Please leave your name, address, phone number, and how many dinners you will need. *Volunteers are welcome!*
- 6) **First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church** (225 Cabot St, Beverly) will be hosting a regular Tuesday supper on December 25 at 6:00 pm.
- 7) **St Peter's Church** (4 Ocean St, Beverly) will be serving **A special "Sunday Night Supper Christmas Dinner" will be served on December 16 with doors opening at 5:30 pm, and dinner is served at 6:00 pm.*

All are welcome!