



FYI SALEM

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From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

Thank you for reading the most recent issue of the FYI Salem newsletter. As always, we strive to provide you with a useful summary of important City news and updates in our twice-monthly newsletter.

In this issue you can read more about resources available to Salem residents who may be struggling with food insecurity challenges, including any residents who are furloughed federal employees during the federal government shut down. We're also shar-

ing some information from Destination Salem about the impact of the federal shut down on our National Park Service Salem Maritime National Historic Site.

If you have a student that will be entering the Salem Public Schools this coming Fall, check in this issue of the newsletter for important information from the Parent Information Center about how to register for the upcoming school year.

We were thrilled to receive a \$400,000 state grant to carry out some exciting upgrades to Gallows Hill Park. Read more about that project inside this issue, as well as an update about the ongoing arsenic remediation work at the park.

The Salem High School Civics Club will be holding an information seminar with the Political Asylum/Immigration

Representation project. Look inside the newsletter for more details about that, as well.

Now that winter weather is upon us, don't forget to check out the important information at www.salem.com/snow. That's your one-stop source for all kinds of critical snowstorm related information, answers, and resources.

Finally, tune into the latest FYI Salem podcast for my conversation with the team from MainVest, a crowdfunding investment platform for small businesses and entrepreneurs. 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

Food Resource Guide



Due to the federal government shutdown, many families may be struggling to put food on the table due to missed paychecks and the impending cuts to SNAP benefits for the month of February. Salem Food for All, the City's Food Policy Council, has published a food resource guide for Salem residents, including local restaurants offering meals to federal workers for the duration of the shutdown. Find the complete guide online at <https://www.salem.com/home/news/salem-food-all-food-resource-guide> or search for Salem Food for All on Facebook.

Salem Maritime National Historic Site is affected by the government shutdown and is closed until further notice. Here are some things you can do to help:

- Take a walk around the park and pick up litter.
- If you see anything in need of emergency attention at the Salem Maritime Site (i.e. broken windows, extensive litter, damage) contact Ryan or Kathryn at Essex Heritage, 978-740-0444, or the staff at Waite and Peirce, 978-744-4319

Some concerned community members have expressed interest in starting up a drive for grocery gift cards and other needs. Federal employees are not allowed to accept cash or gifts, so while the thought is greatly appreciated, please do not organize this type of event.

Visitors in need of information should visit salem.org for an up-to-date list of what's happening in town. For seasonal hours and information, please visit salem.org/seasonal-hours.

In case information is needed in person, visitors can be directed to:

- Waite and Peirce, 193 Derby Street; Open 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
- Salem Main Streets/Salem Chamber of Commerce at 265 Essex Street; Generally open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., weekdays
- Please note there are no public bathrooms at either location.

Information and needs will be updated as needed. Please send good thoughts for a prompt end to the government shutdown so that our colleagues can get back to doing their jobs of caring for the country's first designated National Historic Site.

Kindergarten Registration



Registration is now open for Salem Public Schools' 2019-2020 school year. The families of new students, including those starting kindergarten, can find registration forms and other information online at <https://saalemk12.org/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=541592>.

Salem Public Schools relies on a [choice-based student assignment policy](#). Families select their top 3 choices of schools. These choices along with other criteria spelled out in the policy determine each student's assignment. Before completing the student registration process, families should learn about all of the school choices available in the district so that they can choose the right fit for their child.

A completed and signed copy of the student registration packet is required along with all documentation listed above. Special attention to important dates and deadlines, especially for Kindergarten registration and/or charter school lotteries is also important. Please contact the Parent Information Center (PIC) staff at 978-740-1225 or pic@saalemk12.org with any questions. Submit all required documentation from the [Student Registration Packet](#).

Kindergarten Registration - Important Dates and Deadlines

Families with children who will turn five (5) years old on or before August 31st are eligible to register for Kindergarten beginning in January of each . Some important dates and deadlines are:

[January 16, 2019](#) -- Kindergarten registration window opens

[February 20, 2019](#) -- Deadline for sibling priority

[March 1, 2019](#) -- Deadline for all Batch 1 Kindergarten applications

[March 3, 2019](#) -- Deadline for [Bentley Academy Charter School \(BACS\)](#) lottery

[June 30, 2019](#) -- Deadline for Batch 2 applications

Gallows Hill Update

The City of Salem has received a \$400,000 state grant to carry out upgrades and improvements to the baseball field, skate park, and other elements of the Gallows Hill Park. In the meantime, work related to testing and designing the remediation of the recently discovered arsenic in the athletic field at the park are ongoing.

A more secure chain-link fence is being set up around the property. Please do not enter the closed section of the property until the contamination on site has been adequately addressed. Additional testing is tentatively scheduled to take place on the field during the weeks of January 28th and February 11th. You will see workers on the field while this testing takes place.



The City is working with State environmental protection officials to develop the complete clean-up plan, with a goal of re-opening the field concurrent with the completion of the planned park upgrades. The upgrades are planned to commence later this year and be finished by July, 2020. The City has not definitively identified the source of the contamination, but it seems like that it is a remnant of a leather tannery factory and sluice pond that had been located in this area in first decade of the 1900s.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

empower yourself

Join the Salem High School Civics Club and the PAIR Project to discuss your rights, how to prepare yourself and your family and immigration in 2019!

Topics Include:

Executive Orders

DACA

Temporary Protected Status

What To Do If you meet An Immigration Officer

Immigration Process

Where You Can Go For Help

Including a Know Your Rights Q/A with a PAIR representative

**Know Your Rights Presentation, January 30th at 6:00pm in
the Salem High School Library
77 Willson St, Salem MA**