

SALEM COMPASS

Vol. 2, Issue 9

May 17, 2024



Mayor's Message



Dear resident,

Last week, the proposed FY2025 City budget was filed with the City Council, which will carry out its review of the plan between now and mid-June. The full budget, as well as a "Budget in Brief" summary, can be found at www.salemma.gov/fy25. I appreciate the hard work that City departments have put into the development of this year's budget, and especially Finance Director Anna Freedman and her team in the Finance Department.

This year's proposed budget reflects the values and priorities of our community by focusing on the livability of our community, improving municipal services, and elevating transparency in government. Centering affordability, sustainability and resilience, and equity will help us ensure a more livable and vibrant community for all. We want to provide municipal services, policies, and projects that are forward-looking, open to innovation and new approaches, and delivered efficiently and effectively. And City actions should be open, honest, evidence-based, and inclusive.

The FY2025 proposed budget is \$204.1 million, an increase of 4.1% over last year's budget. Most of that increase is due to increases in fixed costs. For every dollar the budget increases, around 81-cents of that are from costs that are fixed and must be paid – costs like health insurance, utilities and energy, charges by the state, and debt payments.

While there are lots of fiscal challenges facing cities and towns right now, Salem has a lot to be optimistic about. We are one of only a handful of Massachusetts communities who annually qualify for both a Certificate of Excellence for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA. The City had our record strong bond rating reaffirmed by S&P earlier this year, and we still enjoy record stabilization fund levels and healthy growth levels. Our vibrant local economy, including an incredibly high 98.5% downtown storefront occupancy and low unemployment levels, also contribute to our financial strength. Despite the challenges we face, I'm excited about all that Salem has going in our favor and we want to be sure to keep building on that strong foundation.

The proposed FY2025 budget continues a commitment to a balanced and responsible approach to City finances. It invests in the critical services that make Salem a vibrant city and one with schools in which we can all take pride – in short, a livable, equitable, and vibrant city, with excellent municipal services and a commitment to transparency. The FY2025 budget will help ensure that Salem remains a financially strong and professionally led city that strives to work for all.

Dominick Pangallo
Mayor
City of Salem

CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE:

PHONE:
(617) 619-5600

EMAIL:
mayor@salemma.com

WEB:
salemma.gov/mayor

FACEBOOK:
City of Salem MA

TWITTER:
@CityofSalem

INSTAGRAM:
cityofsalem

CHIEF OF STAFF:
Lisa Peterson
lpeterson@salemma.com

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Salem 2024 Memorial Day Ceremony

Memorial Day Ceremony

2024 Salem

On May 27 at 1100

*The Mayor and the Salem Veterans Council
invite you to attend the annual Memorial Day ceremony
to be held outside at the*

corner of Orne and Larchmont Streets

for the dedication of a veteran square in honor of

US Army PFC

William Arthur Walsh

After graduating from St. John's Prep and forgoing his acceptance to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, PFC Walsh volunteered for service to our country. He was trained as an Infantryman and assigned to the 95th Infantry division. PFC Walsh was wounded in action 19 months later during the battle of the Metz in France and died of his wounds 4 days later.

Along with many family members, PFC Walsh's niece will be in attendance to receive the Massachusetts Medal of Liberty

All veterans, friends and Salem residents are cordially invited.

*www.facebook.com/cityofsalemma
and SATV will prerecord the event
accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/salemtv1>*

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Mayor Pangallo Announces next edition of Mobile Mayor's Office Program & Multi-Generational Visit

The Office of Mayor Dominick Pangallo is excited to announce that it is hosting the next round of an on-going program: the Mobile Mayor's Office. Through this program, the Mayor's office periodically relocates for all or a portion of a day to serve the public from a location beyond of the walls of City Hall and bring City services directly to neighborhoods.

"We're always thinking about how we can help improve access for community members to their local government," said **Mayor Pangallo**. "We want everyone to be able to connect with our team easily and conveniently. We found the first rounds of this program in November of last year and in February of this year to be successful and well-received, and now we are working to expand it and offer this service more regularly and throughout more parts of our city."

The Mobile Mayor's Office, just like City Hall to Go, is one more way that the City is striving to remove barriers for residents to access City services. During a Mobile Mayor's Office, staff from the Mayor's office will be working entirely from locations directly within the community. The next Mobile Mayor's Office takes place at the **Mayor Jean Levesque Community Life Center on Tuesday, May 21st, from 8:00am to 4:00pm**. The Mobile Mayor's Office welcomes community members to visit the CLC with questions or concerns.


An extra special event will be occurring at this month's Mobile Mayor's Office. Bates Elementary School students recently participated in an enrichment activity with The Salem Children's Alliance ("SCA"), a newly launched program through the Mayor's office. The Salem Children's Alliance works closely with community partners to determine shared goals and bolster supports by creating equitable and accessible pathways for families to navigate resources that will set children up for success. Sarah Roy, SCA Director, visited with Bates K-5th grade students earlier this month to create a community art project that students will present as a gift to the Council on Aging during a field trip to the Community Life Center on May 21st at 11:00am. Bates students will highlight their work and spend time having lunch with older adults. Sarah Roy worked with Iva Gojanovic, Bates adjustment counselor, to create a Social Emotional Learning lesson focused on teaching students about the power of their words and actions, the importance of embracing individuality, and giving back to their community. This multi-generational event will allow students to view themselves as leaders as they connect with community in a meaningful way.

"Our youngest residents have the power to positively impact their community, starting with learning about empathy for others," said **Sarah Roy, the Director of the Salem Children's Alliance**, "Bates students read the book *How Full Is Your Bucket* by Tom Rath, and learned about the importance of embracing their unique identity, while building awareness of how their words and actions impact those around them. This project is an opportunity for these students to begin viewing themselves as powerful and important and will serve as a building block for future civic engagement opportunities in their schools and beyond."



Salem Poet Laureate Application Deadline Approaching!

Apply here: <https://www.salemma.gov/mayors-office/pages/apply-here>



CITY OF SALEM SEEKS FIRST POET LAUREATE

Deadline:

1. Apply Online by **May 31st**.

Duties Include:


1. Reading self-written poems at 3-5 ceremonial events each year as invited by the City.
2. Conducting 3-5 public readings and workshops each year that are free and open to the public, including visits to Salem Public Schools and the Salem Public Library, and events for all ages.

Length Of Term & Stipend

1. The Poet Laureate will serve for a two-year term 2025-2028
2. A stipend of **\$1,500** paid over a 2 year term

Requirements:

1. Must be 18 or older
2. Must be a resident of Salem, MA
3. Submit 10 copies of previous work



For more information visit [salemma.gov/poetlaureate](https://www.salemma.gov/poetlaureate) or scan the QR code above

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31ST 2024
<https://www.salemma.gov/mayors-office/pages/apply-here>

City of Salem Pride Month Flag Raising Ceremony



SALEM PRIDE MONTH FLAG RAISING



Celebrate the beginning of LGBTQIA+ Pride Month on June 2nd @ 12:00pm
Riley Plaza - 1 Margin St., Salem



Salem Beautification Committee Seeks Gardening Volunteers for the 2024 Season

The Salem Beautification Committee, dedicated to enhancing the aesthetic appeal of our beloved city, is excited to announce a call for volunteers to join its gardening initiative. As Salem enters the vibrant season of growth, the committee invites residents passionate about gardening and community beautification to lend their green thumbs and enthusiasm to this important cause.

Founded in 1997, the Salem Beautification Committee has been a cornerstone of community engagement, striving to cultivate a sense of pride and ownership in the city's public spaces. Comprising dedicated volunteers, the committee works tirelessly to enhance Salem's natural beauty through various projects, including traffic island maintenance, monthly cleanups, window box competitions, and the Lady of Salem public art installment.

This year, the committee is seeking volunteers of all gardening skill levels to join us in planting and maintaining gardens across the city. The committee will continue to grow and maintain these vibrant native and drought-resistant garden displays. Each garden will serve as a testament to the City of Salem's collective commitment to fostering a more beautiful and sustainable environment.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to contribute to every stage of the gardening process, from planning and planting to watering and weeding. Whether a prospective volunteer is a seasoned gardener or simply has a passion for green spaces, there's an opportunity in this community of dedicated volunteers.

"Our city's beauty is a reflection of the care and dedication of its residents," said Janelle Rolke, city liaison of the Salem Beautification Committee. "By joining forces with fellow community members, we can create vibrant, welcoming spaces that enrich the lives of all who call Salem home."

Individuals interested in sponsoring a space or volunteering with the Salem Beautification Committee's gardening initiative are encouraged to visit the Salem Beautification Committee's website <https://salembeautification.com/> to sign up to receive volunteering opportunities via email. Together, let's sow the seeds of beauty and community in Salem!

Below are the May gardening opportunities (meeting places and exact information will be emailed using the volunteer list, so volunteers should register to receive those updates):

- Mondays from 5–7 PM
- Tuesdays from 9–11 AM
- Wednesday from 9–11 AM

For more information, contact Janelle Rolke, City of Salem Waste Reduction Coordinator at 978-619-5672 x46204



Coming Up May 20 - June 2

For more details about items on this calendar and the most up to date calendar of City meetings and events, please visit www.salemma.gov/calendar.

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>20</p> <p>City Council Committee on Community and Economic Development co-posted with Committee of the Whole 6pm</p> <p>Scholarship and Education Committee Meeting 6:30-9:30pm</p> <p>Tree Commission Meeting 7pm</p> <p>Salem School Committee - Regular School Committee Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Mobile Mayor's Office 8am-4pm</p> <p>Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting 6:30pm</p> <p>Public Art Commission Monthly Meeting 6:30pm</p> <p>Park and Recreation Meeting 6:45pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Salem School Committee - Personnel Subcommittee Meeting 9am</p> <p>Housing Stability Housing Services - CLC Drop-in Hours; Información y recursos de vivienda gratuitos para propietarios e inquilinos de Salem - Centro de Vida Comunitaria 9am-12pm</p> <p>Design Review Board Meeting 6pm</p> <p>Sustainability, Energy, Resiliency Committee Regular Meeting 6:30-8pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Salem City Council Regular Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;"> <p>MEMORIAL DAY CITY OFFICES CLOSED</p> </div> <p>Salem Cultural Council Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Licensing Board Meeting 6pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Traffic & Parking Commission Meeting - RESCHEDULED 6pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>