

Salem News You Don't Get in *The Salem News*

68 incidents involving homeless individuals in 12 days,
November 1-12, 2025

November's installment of *Salem News You Don't Get in "The Salem News"* is a bit different. Instead of breaking down one week's worth of incidents, I am including a few extra days. Why is this important? It allows us to follow established patterns, as well as to see a greater range of situations which the police, businesses, and neighbors are dealing with. This report is not intended to demonize the unhoused residents of the city but to keep us aware of their activity at Lifebridge and the area around it.

Now that the City Council has voted for an expansion of the Lifebridge shelter over the strong objection of many residents of the city, it is important to monitor how often, and to what extent, the police are called to that facility. At present, Lifebridge has no security force of its own. Given the numbers you see in this report, Lifebridge must be required to hire its own security instead of expecting the taxpayer-supported Salem Police to do that job for them. I have highlighted **in red** the incidents taking place at Lifebridge, but the reality is that everything in this report is the result of Lifebridge's presence in the city, whether by its clients or by the larger unhoused population it attracts.

Are all unhoused people a disruption to Salem and its residents?

Of course not. But because Lifebridge assumes no responsibility for its clients when they are not in the facility, and because there are so many unhoused people in Salem who make their way to the facility for meals but who camp out rather than seek shelter, we see the number and kinds of incidents noted in this report. This leaves Lifebridge's neighbors as well as Downtown residents and businesses to deal with the problems generated by a segment of the homeless community. Particularly concerning is that many are suffering from untreated mental illness and substance-abuse issues. These kinds of offenses, and others more serious, will continue to take place as ever more unhoused people take up residence here. We want to see them helped, but it will soon be apparent that an oversize expansion on a small plot of land is not the answer. This problem must be shared by more than one neighborhood and by more than one city.

— Joanne Mattera

Statistics for November 1-12

18 Incidents of Loitering

In the language of police reports, loiterers are described as "Unwanted Guests." These are folks who hang out on the property of a homeowner, renter, or business. The police are called when a person is requested to move along but refuses, or when an owner/tenant feels unsafe asking loiterers to move, especially if drug use is involved, or if a large crowd has gathered. Loitering took place throughout Downtown.

The incidents:

- . Bit Bar, Derby Street
- . CVS, Essex Street
- . Hong Kong Restaurant, Norman Street
- . Morency Manor Apartments, St. Peter Street
- . Museum Place Garage, New Liberty Street
- . Notch Brewery, Derby Street
- . Stop & Shop, Howley Street
- . Witch City Mall, Essex Street
- . Police were also dispatched to (redacted) street addresses on Crombie, Essex, Margin, Peabody, and St. Peter Streets, Ocean Avenue, and three addresses on Washington Street

15 Requests for Medical Aid

A call for Medical Aid could be for anything from a scrape to administering Narcan for an overdose. With one exception, all these incidents took place in and around **LifEBridge** facility.

- . **Five** calls to **LifEBridge** (four on Margin Street, one to the Thrift Shop on Canal)
- . Four to the Margin Street area
- . Three to Riley Plaza
- . One to the Post Office
- . One at the Salem Police Department
- . One to Target, Highland Avenue

8 Well-being checks

Well-being checks are typically called in by neighbors or friends of the person, or by someone in an establishment where a person is found sleeping, high, or unresponsive.

- . **One** at **LifEBridge Shelter**
- . One at Salem Depot Station
- . One at Saltonstall School, Lafayette Street
- . One at Village Tavern, Essex Street
- . Police were also dispatched to (redacted) street addresses on Essex and Leavitt Streets, Heritage Drive, and Riverway Road

7 Suspicious Persons

Police responded to callers who reported activity that raised concerns for their own safety or for those in a venue for which they were responsible.

- . **Two** at the **LifEBridge Shelter**
- . One in Lappin Park, Derby Street
- . One in Steve's Market, Margin Street
- . One in Walmart, Highland Avenue
- . Also to (redacted) addresses on Essex Street and Lafayette Street

4 Disturbances

"Disturbance" is not explained specifically in the Incident Report, but it is an event involving sound or physical activity that rises above a range that would be characterized as "normal."

- . One at **LifEBridge Shelter**
- . One at Riley Plaza
- . One at Village Tavern, Essex Street
- . One at a (redacted) address on Canal Street

2 Keep the Peace Incidents

Typically, police are called to quell a situation before it escalates.

- . One call to a (redacted) apartment address on First Street
- . One to a (redacted) address on Boston Street

2 Incidents of Larceny

- . **One** at **LifEBridge Shelter**
- . One at a (redacted) address on Washington Street

2 Individuals taken into Protective Custody

Although the Police Incident Report does not elaborate, typically individuals are taken into protective custody when they appear to be a danger to themselves, possibly due to mental illness

- . One at the Derby Restaurant, Washington Street
- . One at the Emergency Department, Salem Hospital

2 Incidents of Trespassing

While loitering is defined as lingering without a clear purpose—hanging out—usually on or at the exterior of a building, trespassing is entering or remaining on private property without permission.

- . One at Dunkin Donuts on Washington Street
- . One at Walmart on Highland Avenue

Single incidents in the following categories

- . Assault at **LifEBridge Shelter**
- . Dispute at the Emergency Department, Salem Hospital
- . Domestic dispute at the **LifEBridge Thrift Shop**
- . Drunk individual on Margin Street
- . Fight at **LifEBridge Shelter**
- . Larceny at Engine House Pizza, Lafayette Street
- . Suicidal individual at **LifEBridge Shelter**
- . 911 call and hangup, with police follow-up, at Charlotte Forten Park, Derby Street

Express your concern!

If you are concerned about these numbers, let Mayor Pangallo know (mayor@Salem.com) and the City Council, whose members can be reached individually via this e-address: citycouncilors@salem.com.

Also contact our State Senator, Joan Lovely, and our State Representative, Manny Cruz.

- . joan.lovely@masenate.gov
- . mannycruz@mahouse.gov

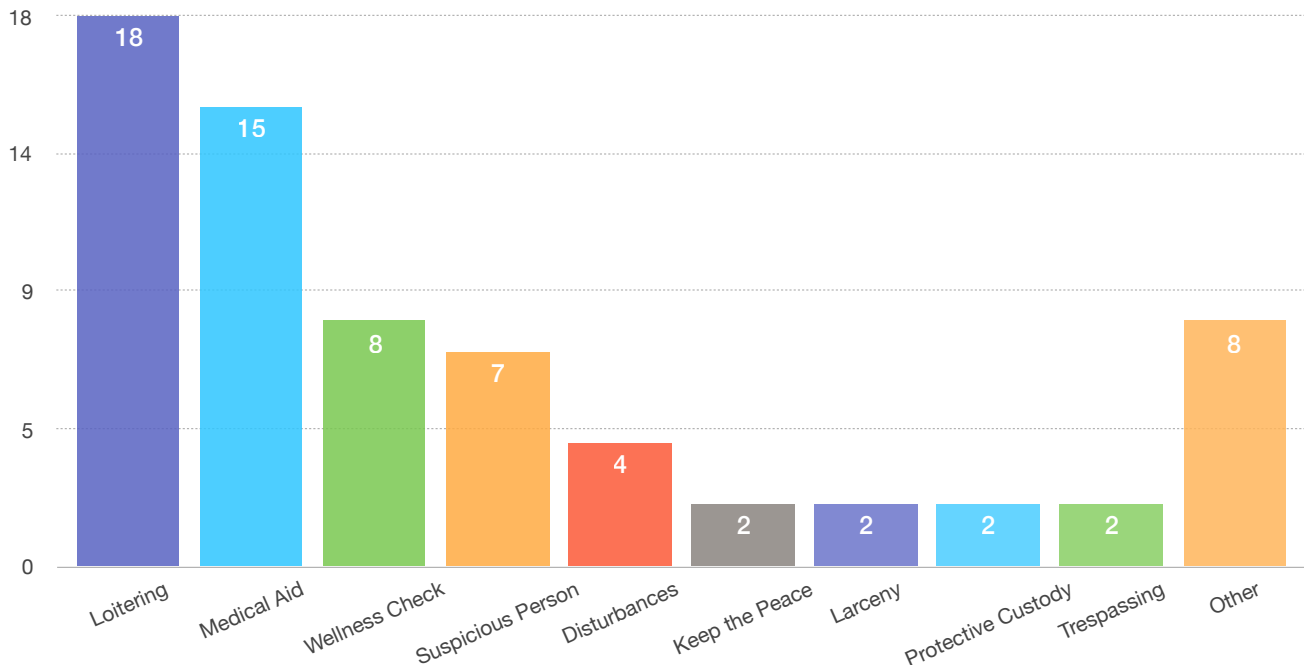
Sadly, we can't change the vote, but we can press City Hall to hold LifEBridge responsible to our neighborhood and our city. Speak up!

Incidents: November 1-12, 2025

TYPE	INCIDENT
Loitering	18
Medical Aid	15
Wellness Check	8
Suspicious Person	7
Disturbances	4
Keep the Peace	2
Larceny	2
Protective Custody	2
Trespassing	2
Other	8
TOTAL INCIDENTS	68
SOURCE: Salem Police Dept. Terms as used by SPD.	
Infograph courtesy GESNA/ONOH.	

OTHER INCIDENTS: Included Assault, Dispute, Domestic dispute, Drunk individual, Fight, Larceny, Suicidal individual, and 911 call.

INCIDENTS TOTAL 68: November 1-12, 2025



PERCENTAGE OF 68 INCIDENTS: NOV 1-12, 2025

