

February 10, 2025

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# Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



# Projects/Initiatives

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## Wickford Waterfront Project Update



- We had a productive meeting with the Contractor and Engineer overseeing the Wickford Waterfront Improvement Project last week.
  - My thanks to **Nicole LaFontaine** and **Becky Lamond** from our Planning Department for their outstanding work on this project.
- While there have been some unexpected challenges and delays, New England Building and Bridge has provided us with an accelerated schedule showing an on-time completion date of all activities by the contractual date of September 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - More importantly, they expect to be out of the cofferdam with the metal sheetpiling and extensive fencing removed within the next 4-6 weeks.
    - Then, they will proceed with parking lot drainage and enhancement work.
- I will continue to keep the Council up to date.

# Projects/Initiatives

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## RI250 & North Kingstown

America250



**NORTH KINGSTOWN**

- **Kate Glass** of my office, and I, met with representatives of the Secretary of State's Office recently to begin discussions on our community's involvement in the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026.
- The Secretary of State's office stated that they were very impressed with our 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities and will be using many of our experiences within their recommendations for 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations in other communities.
  - They foresee each city and town independently celebrate this historic national anniversary, as well as participate and partner in State celebrations as well as potentially collaborating in regional events/commemorations.
- We are organizing our next steps for North Kingstown's role in yet another exciting anniversary milestone. Details will become available on our website as planning advances: <https://bit.ly/ri250northkingstown>

# Projects/Initiatives

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## **State Education Funding Formula Summit & Workshop** Update



- I attended the State's Education Funding Formula Summit and Workshop this past Friday.
  - This was in follow-up to the initial Forum they held last month, which I also attended.
  - While the information was very helpful and the presenters were very knowledgeable, the workshop was further proof that the funding formula is extremely convoluted with a number of red flags.
    - One being an item I was very vocal on during the workshop – to the dismay of some – which is the taking of much needed dollars from high performing school systems to properly fund underperforming systems.
    - I explained that properly funding underperforming systems is indeed a priority, but to take from a higher performing one pits one communities against another and creates a system where everyone is at median – rather than keeping those high performing systems performing well and simultaneously improving underperforming systems.

# Projects/Initiatives

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## 2025 Electric Boat Legislative Briefing Update



- I attended the 2025 Electric Boat Legislative Briefing last week and was joined by **Council Person Matt McCoy, QDC Director Steve King, Chamber Director Maria Masse, our Governor, and our entire Federal Delegation.**
- The overall message was how critical the work being done at Electric Boat is to our nation's defense and how important our support, and the funding and staffing of Electric Boat is.
- With their home in North Kingstown, Electric Boat is Rhode Island's largest for-profit employer.
  - They hired over 1,500 employees in 2024, and are projected to hire over 1,300 in 2025.
  - Our relationship with Electric Boat, particularly our work on the long-term PILOTS, has been critical to their success and calling North Kingstown, and Rhode Island, home.

# Projects/Initiatives

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## North Kingstown Day at the State House

March 13, 2025



- The Rhode Island House of Representatives will be hosting a “North Kingstown Day” at the State House during the afternoon of March 13<sup>th</sup> to mark our recent 350th anniversary.
- It is scheduled to include organizations with informational tables within the Rotunda, followed by a showing of the short official North Kingstown 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary video in the House Lounge and recognition by **Representative Bob Craven** on the House Floor at 4:00 PM.
- My office will provide additional information as we receive it and will be sure to promote this further via a Press Release and on our social media platforms.
- If you’re interested in representing your North Kingstown non-profit or community organization at a table, please contact **Council Person Matt McCoy**: [mmccoy@northkingstownri.gov](mailto:mmccoy@northkingstownri.gov).

- In addition to 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-related news, inspired by the well-attended 350th Anniversary Speaker Series in 2024, a community-funded 2025 Speaker Series continues educational and enlightening lectures that are free and open to the public throughout the calendar year.
- For complete details, please see our website: <https://bit.ly/2025speakerseries>
- The first lecture, hosted by **HistWick**, will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> by **Tim Cranston**, called “The Stained Glass Windows of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.”

# Projects/Initiatives

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## Upcoming Federal Appropriations Discussion With Senator Whitehouse's Office

- I had brief conversations with members of our Federal Delegation when I saw them at Electric Boat Legislative Briefing last week
  - As a result, I have a call scheduled with Senator Whitehouse's staff this week to discuss the status of our Appropriation Requests from last year as well as what our priorities are for this year – and how they coincide with and relate to previous appropriation requests.
- I will keep the Council up to date.

## Revolution Wind Offshore Wind Farm Project

- We had our regularly scheduled bi-weekly meeting with Revolution Wind; construction activity is increasing with over 150 people working on the Onshore Substation and related buildings as well as work increasing at the landfall site within Quonset Business Park.
- They haven't received any local concerns recently and continue with aggressive community outreach.
- Anyone with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Revolution Wind directly: (401) 251-2207 or [info@revolution-wind.com](mailto:info@revolution-wind.com)

# Projects/Initiatives

## FY2026 Budget Reminder Upcoming Schedule

- As a reminder to the public, I will be presenting our Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 to the Town Council on March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- This will be followed by budget meetings between the Council, staff, and myself and a public hearing to be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Summer Beach Operations Lifeguard Update

- A further reminder that this is the first year in many that we are moving forward without the partnership of the Greater Providence YMCA for operations at our Town Beach this summer.
- This is challenging, and I want to reiterate our outreach to anyone who would like to be considered for a lifeguard position here in North Kingstown.
- Please see our website or reach out directly to our Recreation Director for details:  
<https://bit.ly/northkingstownnowhiring>



### P/T & F/T Lifeguard(s) RECREATION DEPARTMENT TOWN OF NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Full and part-time summer positions for lifeguards at Town Beach are required to have and maintain all current RI certifications as required by the State of RI, including Non-Surf Beach Credential, First Aid, CPR and AED certifications. Will be required to work weekends and holidays from Memorial Day through Labor Day and be aware of schedule conflicts in advance of commitment to summer season.

Complete details are online: <https://bit.ly/northkingstownnowhiring>

**NOTE:** Beach is open weekends-only in June, then 7 days/wk until Labor Day. Operating hours: 9 AM - 5 PM. Must be at least 17 years of age.



**SALARY:** \$18.00 - \$24/hr; retention bonus and certification reimbursements possible.

**TO APPLY:** Submit online application or email [cdumas@northkingstownri.gov](mailto:cdumas@northkingstownri.gov)

**APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL POSITIONS ARE FILLED.**

# Construction Updates

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## School Department Capital Projects

- Our next meeting of the School Building Committee is this Wednesday night regarding the proposed Middle School and North Kingstown School Department Capital Projects.
- It was asked that I include updates on this important initiative in my Manager's Reports and it is my pleasure to do so.
- I expect to have an update on the status of these projects following this Wednesday's meeting, which I will include in my next Report.
- Of course, anyone wanting an in-person or earlier update can attend the meeting at 4:30 p.m. at the School Department Administrative Building (100 Romano Vineyard Way, Ste 120).

## Public Safety Complex Project

- I was also asked, and am happy to oblige, to include an update on the Public Safety Complex Project in my Manager's Reports.
  - This evening, we introduced an Agreement with an Architectural Firm to join us in the final design and compilation of bid or qualification requests for this project.
  - This will now be followed by our first meeting of 2025, where we will assemble representatives from Fire, Police, Public Works, Legal my office, and others, and begin the preparation of the final design necessary to go out to bid.
  - I hope to include the results of this meeting and a further update within my next Manager's Report.

# Staff Updates

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## Department of Building and Code Enforcement

- Congratulations to **Matt Souza**, North Kingstown's Deputy Building Official, on being voted Vice President of the Building Officials Association week.
- Matt has been an incredible asset to our Building and Code Enforcement Department, and we are fortunate to have two certified building officials on staff here in North Kingstown.

## Presenters for Annual Convention

Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns

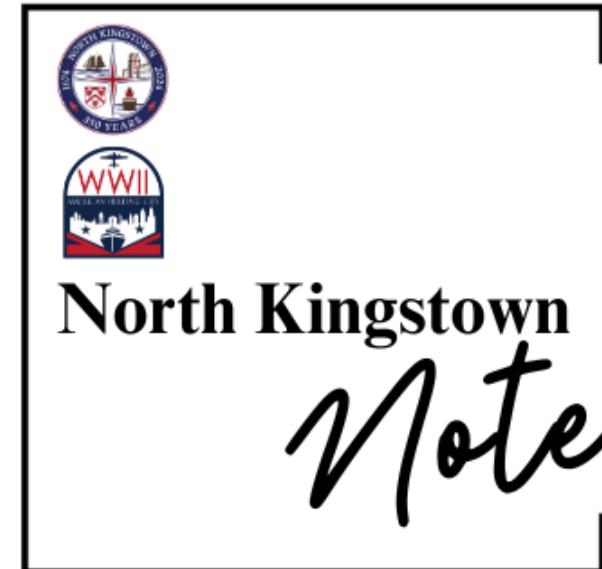
- Congratulations to Recreation Director, **Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs**, and Personnel Manager, **Haley Wicker**, on being chosen by the RI League of Cities and Towns to participate as presenters in a workshop at their annual convention on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza.
- I will be forwarding additional information to the Town Council for the convention once the RI League has completed their program.

# Staff Updates

## North Kingstown Notes

### New Newsletter Coming!

- **Kate Glass** of my office will be facilitating a List Serv where residents and others can sign up for periodic updates on municipal information and events taking place here in North Kingstown.
- This will be in addition to, and supplement for, our very active social media platforms.
- It will be an opt-in email communication via a newsletter that will be published once or twice per month. We're excited to announce and roll this out tomorrow – you can sign up here: <https://bit.ly/NKnotes>
- Many thanks to Council Person **Kim Page** for reaching out to me and suggesting this back in mid-December. We think this will be a valuable addition to our goal of providing accurate information to our residents on a regular basis.



Kate Glass, Director of Communications & Executive Assistant  
Office of the Town Manager

# Thank You



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February 10, 2025

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager

