



Manager's Report

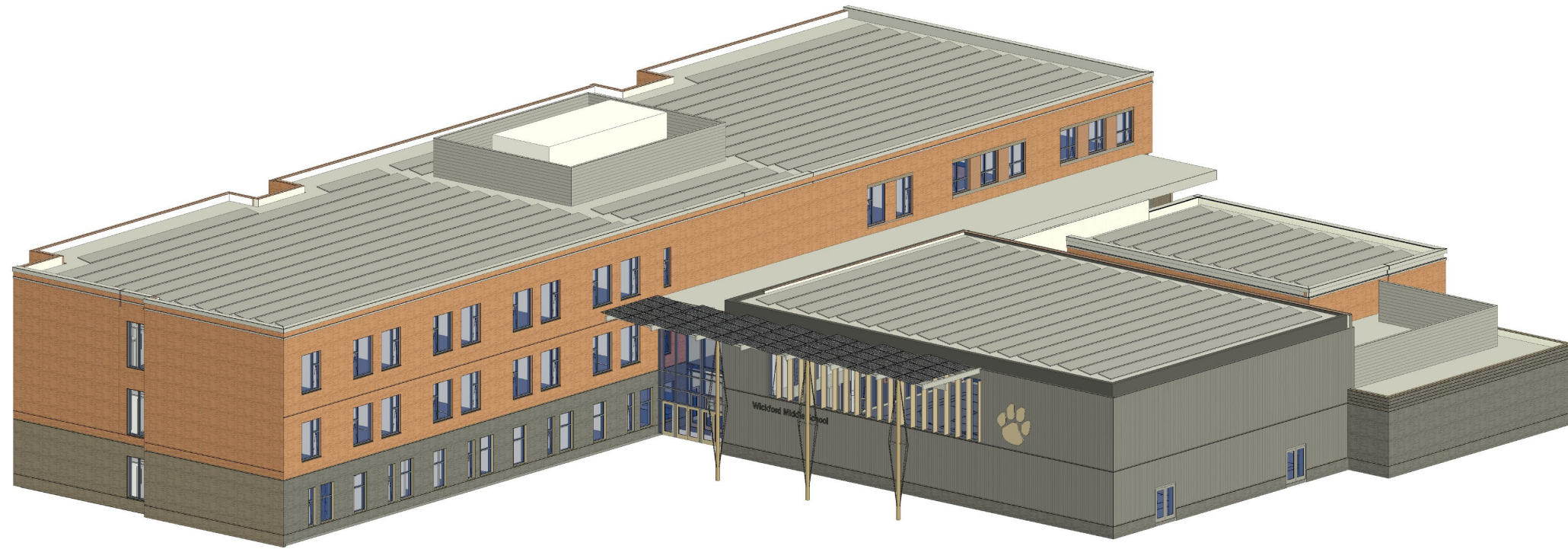
October 6, 2025

A. Ralph Mollis,
Town Manager



Town of
North Kingstown
RHODE ISLAND'S ONLY & OFFICIAL
AMERICAN WWII HERITAGE CITY

School Department Capital Bond Projects



- Last week, the Building Advisory Subcommittee met; Peregrine Group, Perkins Eastman, and DBVW all presented updates on the Middle School and Capital Improvement projects.
- Stage II application is with Rhode Island Department of Education, but they are working on the Stage III submission in the meantime.
- The Subcommittee unanimously supported moving forward with a Construction Manager At Risk approach for both projects. Approved invoices from Stage II work done this summer and from Peregrine Group will be on the Town Council's October 20th Agenda.
- We also had a productive meeting with Town Building, Planning, Public Works staff that included representatives from Peregrine Group, Perkins-Eastman, and DBVW regarding both projects.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 5th, although another meeting may be scheduled in the interim to address activities and work until then.

Public Safety Complex Bond Projects

- We had a productive internal workshop last week for the Public Safety Complex Bond Projects. We also unanimously supported the pursuit of potentially building both buildings via the Construction Manager At Risk model.
- We've received cost estimates. Although higher than the bond amount, they are in range of what our expectations were when the bond was proposed and publicized.
- We have scheduled a public presentation of our work to date that will include renderings and cost information, to be on Monday, October 20th, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, immediately preceding the Town Council meeting that evening.
- I will provide an update to the Town Council at a future meeting to discuss financing and obtain direction from the Council.



Wickford Waterfront Municipal Parking Lot Project



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Oct 2, 2025 2:08:38 PM
Brown Street

North Kingstown, Washington County 02852

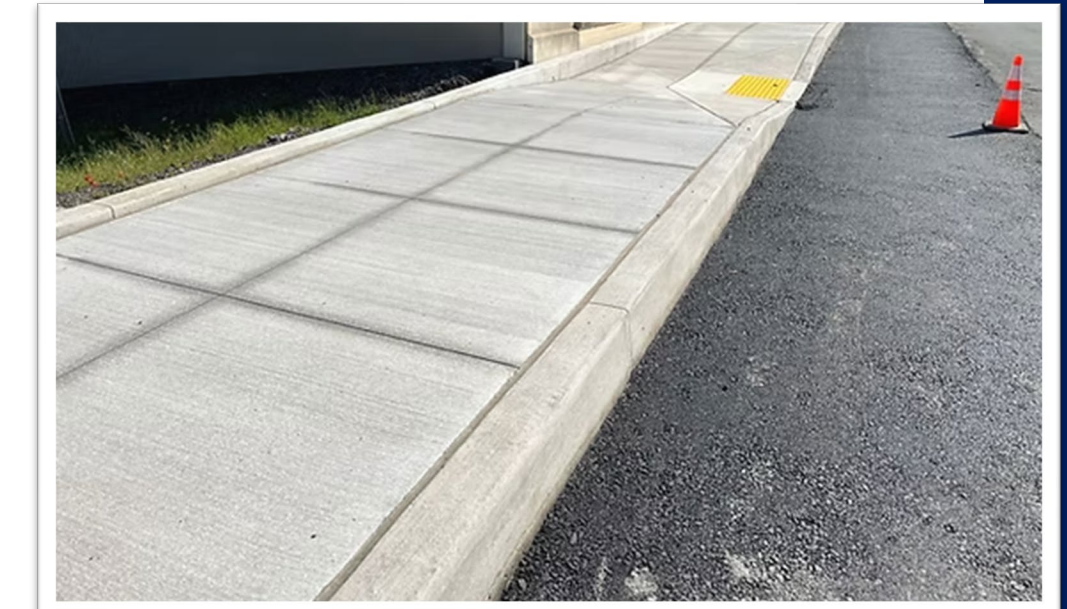
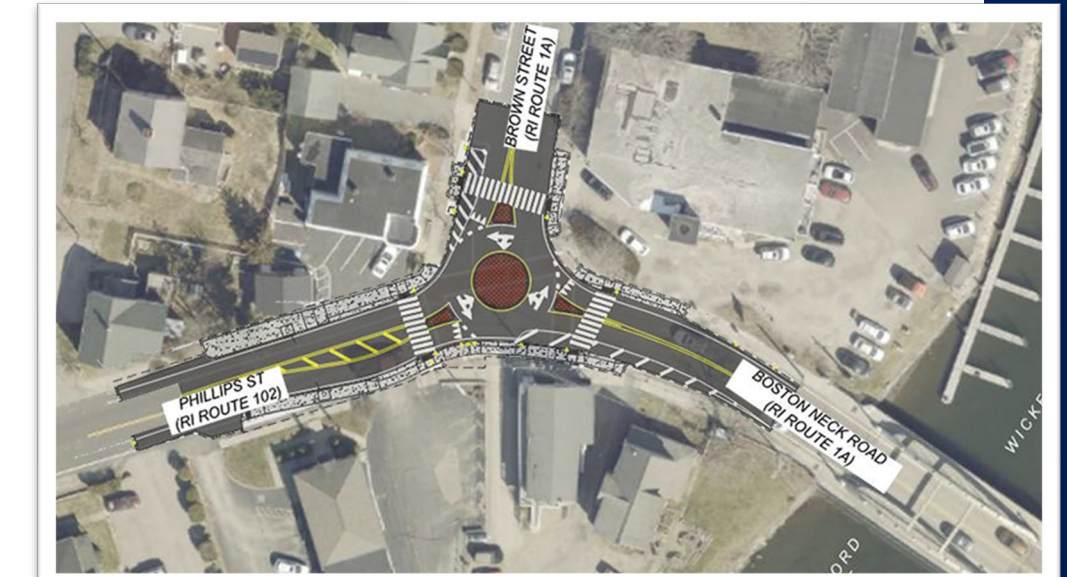
Updates

- We are keeping an eye on the **Federal Government Shutdown**. We've received information from the RI League of Cities and Towns, the National League of Cities and Towns, and the International Managers Association.
- While the impact will be felt federally, and most likely at the state level. We have not been impacted locally, with the exception of our interaction with federal agencies and our applications for Federal Earmarks.
- I will continue to follow and receive updates on this; I will keep the Council up to date should anything change regarding local impact.



Updates

- I have reached out to **Rhode Island Department of Transportation** for an update on their addressing our Route 4 Traffic Signal issues. They have advised me that adjustments have been made to the timing of the lights on both side streets and Route 4.
- They feel these changes will improve problems we've faced in North Kingstown, but they are monitoring the changes and report they will continue to look at ways they can optimize traffic flow on these roads. I will continue to update Council and the public.
- Work on the mini-Roundabout in Wickford continues. Daytime work this week was a result of our Water Department addressing a hydrant issue, not RIDOT crews.
- We expect some construction over the next two weeks which may temporarily be noisier than it has been to date. We are in regular contact with the contractor and with RIDOT to address all matters as best as possible.
- RIDOT had a successful meeting with the Post Road Business Alliance and members of my administration regarding the long-anticipated Sidewalk Project. This is a \$20 million project, with \$8 million in funding coming from a Federal Earmark thanks to Senator Reed, resulting in sidewalks on both sides of West Main Street and Post Road to Camp Ave. They are on schedule to advertise for bids this month, and for construction to begin April 2026. Work is to be completed by Winter of 2027.



Updates

- As mentioned in my last Manager's Report, our Planning Department is hosting an event to commemorate the planting of four new trees at the Margaret Cranston Playground at the former Wickford Elementary School. This will be on Thursday, October 9th at 3:00 p.m. Additionally, the new tree at the Town Beach will be dedicated in memory of Linda Sherman on October 14th at 5:00 p.m.
- As Council requested, Fire Chief Linacre and Deb Bridgham, Finance Director, will present a report on the history, purpose and 5-year plan of the Resue Billing Account that includes plans for financing equipment and infrastructure. This presentation will be a part of the October 20th Council meeting.
- We have also finished up the language and fiscal impact projections on the various changes to Tax Exemptions which the Council had introduced and was passed as enabling legislation. These Ordinances and a brief update on their purpose and financial impact will also be presented at your October 20th meeting.



**TAX
EXEMPTION**

Updates

- Recreation Director, Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, hosted and coordinated this year's statewide "Camp University" at our Town Beach; 8 cities & towns participated with over 100 attendees and were joined by our North Kingstown Police and Fire Departments. We received positive reviews and feedback on the program which will be used by Chelsey and her colleagues across the state for 2026 program planning.
- In 2023, we received \$450,000 in funding to advance our decentralized wastewater management infrastructure, to improve coastal water quality and mitigate pollution from traditional septic systems. 30 sites initially signed up with \$15,000 available per property to upgrade their onsite systems; Hamilton Plat, Mount View, Poplar Point and Shore Acres were the target neighborhoods.
- Because there are some property owners that have not followed through with draft designs or outreach, we are requesting a modification to the original scope of work to expand available areas for the grant but still focus on coastal resource protection in keeping with the original parameters. If our request is approved, we will solicit 10 additional property owners to reach our goal of 30 properties. I will provide additional updates at future meetings.



Updates

- We had a productive meeting with the Good Energy team regarding an update and rollout of the Energy Aggregation Program. It appears they have contracted with an energy provider for 2026, which should provide a reduced rate for those within the program. They are looking at a January launch date. We are in regular communication with them regarding discussions, press releases, and public meetings that will provide information to residents.
- Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs has prepared a summary of 2025 Beach Revenue and Expenditures; we will review this in greater detail during our budget sessions next year. Until then, our Beach Parking Pass sales were slightly increased from 2024, with the largest increase in sales associated with those receiving the senior discount. We were able to significantly reduce expenses this year, and my thanks go to Chelsey and her team for their efforts on what was another successful season. We know that the Town Beach operates a deficit, but with a reduction in expenses and a slight increase in sales, we reduced our shortfall to \$46,000 this year.
- Congratulations, to Haley Wicker and Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs, on their work to earn the Gold Level Award Grant of \$2,000 from the RI Interlocal Trust for 2026 wellness initiatives with the internal employee wellness committee. Their work helps to foster healthy and positive employee moral and workplaces. Thank you!



Coming This Week:

WEDNESDAY, 10/8:

- With the assistance of our North Kingstown Police and Fire Departments, the North Kingstown School Department will host a School Safety Informational Brief for the public on Wednesday, October 8th, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

TUESDAY, 10/7:

- We will also host a RI Blood Center Blood Drive tomorrow, October 7th from Noon until 7:00 p.m., at our Community Center on Beach Street. You can sign up for an appointment in advance online, at www.ribc.org/drives with code 0684.
- Wickford Advisory Committee is hosting a forum on short term rentals on October 27th, here in Council Chambers, starting at 6:30 p.m., to promote dialogue on the subject for a subsequent report to Council.



School Safety Presentation


October 8, 2025
6:30 – 7:30 pm
North Kingstown High School Auditorium

Joint presentation with NKSD, NKPD, and NKFD personnel

- Learn about...
 - Collaborative approaches between the school and emergency personnel
 - Prevention programs at the school department and Town
 - School safety procedures, and
 - Family reunification plan

Due to the confidentiality of School Safety Plans, questions will be answered through an FAQ. Please submit your questions using the QR link. Any questions that are not confidential in nature will be addressed






Blood Drive

North Kingstown Community






Tuesday, October 7
12:00PM - 7:00PM

Community Center
30 Beach Street,
North Kingstown





 **Sign up** at ribc.org/drives and use code 0684

800.283.8385 • ribc.org

Prepare to donate

-  Eat well and hydrate
-  Bring a photo ID
-  Feel good and symptom free
-  Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
-  Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit ribc.org/eligibility.

Short Term Rental FORUM

Wickford Advisory Committee



The Wickford Advisory Committee invites all Wickford STR owners, neighbors, businesses and residents to a Short Term Rental Forum.

The meeting is an opportunity to speak about your experience with Short Term Rentals in Wickford and to promote dialogue with the various stakeholders.

Monday, October 27th at 6:30 pm
2nd floor, Historic Town Hall,
80 Boston Neck Road

This is the third such forum WAC has held on Wickford concerns and we will present the Town Council with our findings.

Thank you.

A. Ralph Mollis,
Town Manager

October 6, 2025



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