



2025 Witches Paddle: Wicked Weeks in Wickford October 19<sup>th</sup> event, hosted by The Kayak Centre

[Photo credit: I Love Wickford Village social media](#)



# Town of North Kingstown

— RHODE ISLAND'S ONLY & OFFICIAL  
AMERICAN WWII HERITAGE CITY

# Manager's Report

November 3, 2025

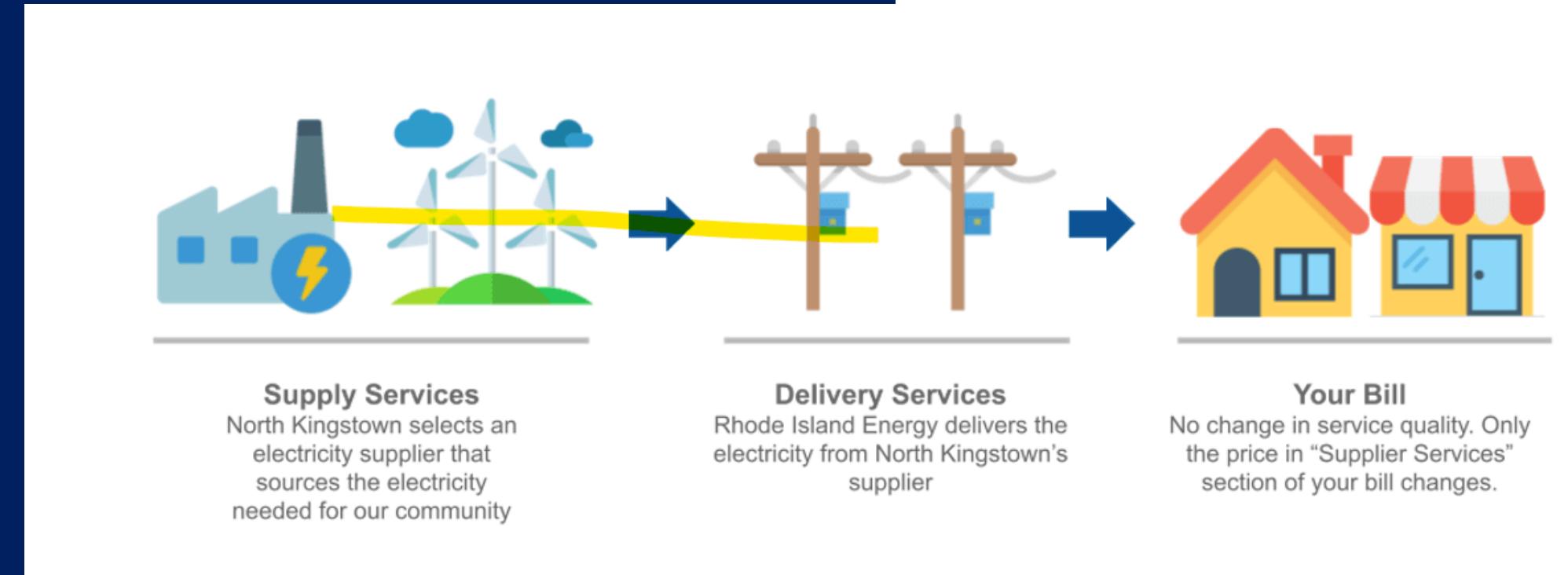
A. Ralph Mollis,  
Town Manager

## School Department Capital & Public Safety Complex Bond Projects

- Regular updates are in each Manager's Report in Council meetings.
- **School Department Capital Bond Projects:** Staff continues to communicate with Peregrine Group, working towards permitting and approvals for the middle school project. Stage II review is still with RIDE. Our next meeting of the Building Advisory Subcommittee will be Wednesday, 11/5.
- **Public Safety Complex Bond Projects:** Following a very productive public meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> detailing project plans and progress, we are now preparing a detailed RFQ for a Construction Manager and are beginning the Project Labor Agreement Analysis. I aim to provide a non-binding Agreement for consideration by the Town Council relative to the land swap necessary to construct the Public Safety Complex in Quonset Business Park.
- Future updates will continue in my Manager's Reports to keep the public and Council up to date.



## Updates



- As mentioned previously, Good Energy's [\*\*"Ocean State Community Electricity Program"\*\*](#) has a tentative launch date in North Kingstown of January 2026.
- Good Energy will be sending residents informational mailers, and will host informational meetings for residents on these dates that will primarily consist of a Q&A session:
  - Virtual:
    - November 13/[\*\*Virtual\*\*](#) or by phone (+1-570-701-4153 PIN:856-028-777#), 6:00 PM  
*\*date has been changed from 11/12*
  - In-person:
    - November 19 @ 6:00 PM – Town Hall (Council Chambers)
    - December 3 @ 6:00 PM – Town Hall (Council Chambers)
    - December 4 @ 10:00 AM – Senior Center/44 Beach St.
- We have experienced some challenges with this program and had a meeting recently with Good Energy, our Town Solicitor, myself and members of our Planning Department; we are planning an update for the November 17<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting where we will share updated information, some concerns and challenges with a review of potential action items for the Town Council.

## Updates

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- The Wickford Advisory Committee hosted an informational forum on Short Term Rentals last week. I estimated approximately 40 attendees with numerous questions and opinions on the subject as it applies to North Kingstown; a report will be provided to council in the next 2-3 months. My takeaway was that while the forum was informative and at times eye-opening, short term rentals may add to the economy and be a financial benefit to those that own them, there can be downsides for neighborhoods, neighbors, and housing stock availability. I look forward to the report Committee and thank the attendees and the volunteers that participated.
- Another forum will be held tomorrow, on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 5:00 p.m. in the Court Meeting Room of our Municipal Office Building at 100 Fairway Drive, to demonstrate how to use Stormtools in the assessment of future flooding and impacts to property and local roads. Speaker will include URI Professor Emeritus Malcolm Spaulding, who is also the retired former Executive Director of CRMC.
  - To attend, please register with Meg Kerr via email: [megkerr66@gmail.com](mailto:megkerr66@gmail.com)

### 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.

Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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



# Update



## Effect of Government Shutdown on SNAP Benefits

- We had a virtual meeting with the Governor and his staff last week. Statewide efforts are in place to assist those who will be going without their much needed food assistance benefits.
- North Kingstown has nearly 2,000 residents that will be detrimentally effected by this benefits reduction, but our community is fortunate to have the North Kingstown Food Pantry, which has increased its service hours to help address the increased need.
- We have been advised to have all monetary and food donations go directly to the Food Pantry, rather than set up additional secondary collection sites throughout Town to streamline collections and delivery of donations.
- It is my understanding that due to the Food Pantry's ability to purchase food at reduced rates, financial donations are more effective than food donations.
- My thanks to Kim Page and all staff at the Food Pantry as this is already a normally busy time of the year for food assistance.
- To see this concern addressed on our website, please visit our new page:  
<https://www.northkingstownri.gov/1228/Food-Basic-Needs-Assistance>

### Important: Getting Help While SNAP Benefits Are on Hold



Due to the federal government shutdown, SNAP benefits may not be issued on November 1. The McKee Administration is coordinating with partners in philanthropy to get additional resources to local food banks. For families with children who are eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits as well as SNAP benefits, the State of Rhode Island will be adding a partial payment to your EBT card to help you cover grocery costs in the short term.

#### What Should I know

- October benefits were already issued
- SNAP benefits for November will be issued once federal funding is restored
- DHS remains open and will continue to process cases as usual during the federal shutdown - including processing of applications and recertifications for all benefit programs.

#### What Can I Do Right Now

-  Check your EBT card balance before you shop  
Call 1-888-979-9939; visit [ebtedge.com](http://ebtedge.com)
-  Open all mail from DHS right away  
Respond to requests for documents as soon as possible to avoid delays when funding is restored.
-  Log into your Customer Portal account  
Respond to requests for documents as soon as possible via DHS drop boxes, the portal ([healthyriode.rhode.gov](http://healthyriode.rhode.gov)), or mobile app.



#### Community Food Resources Are Available

For help finding local food pantries, meal sites, and other support near you.

- Call United Way at 2-1-1
- Visit the RI Food Bank website at [rifoodbank.org](http://rifoodbank.org)



#### Stay Informed

DHS will post official updates on [dhs.ri.gov](http://dhs.ri.gov) and @RIDHS Facebook and X social media channels.

[SNAPSupport.RI.GOV](http://SNAPSupport.RI.GOV)

## Update

- Along with Town Councilors Matt McCoy, Linnea Drew, and Beth Hill Ross, I attended a recent event at Quonset Business Park to recognize the hiring of the 15,000<sup>th</sup> employee in Quonset Business Park. We were joined by members of our federal and state delegations, as well as Quonset leadership. I hope, and have to think, that the partnership with the Town and this Council has forged with Quonset Business Park is one of the many driving factors of its resounding success as an economic driver and local employer.
- In August 2023, the Council approved us to retain Asterra Technologies to perform a satellite leak detection program for our Water Department. After scanning our 182-miles of pipeline, 44 leaks were found with a potential value of \$204,807 in lost water; the program cost us \$85,000. A return on our investment was achieved in just over 10-months, and continues to result in significant savings to our Water Department as infrastructure continues to be repaired and upgraded.
  - To read more, see the report's [\*\*Executive Summary\*\*](#) and the [\*\*Asterra Summary Report\*\*](#) on our website.



 ASTERRA TECHNOLOGIES  
*Satellite Leak Detection Program*  
Aug. 2023 - Oct. 2025  
SUMMARY REPORT

Between August 2023 and October 2025, all 182-miles of water pipeline in the Town of North Kingstown were scanned by satellite, as a result of the Water Department's collaboration with Asterra Technologies.

This program has lead to the identification of 50 leaks, of which 88% were found to be within infrastructure under responsibility of the Water Department. The remaining leaks were identified as homeowner leaks.

Over 90% of the identified leaks have been repaired, and the Water Department is on track to have the remaining leaks within their purview repaired within the next two months. Only three homeowner leaks remain that were previously identified. This leak detection program has identified \$204,807 in lost water due to non-surfacing water leaks.

**read on**

<https://bit.ly/2025NKWaterLeakReport>

## Update

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- The Coastal Resource Management Council provided their assent on the Wickford Elementary Residential Project. The only remaining concern was the removal of the public path to the waterfront from a neighboring objector, as the path had been a part of the original RFP. If this becomes a significant issue within the Planning Commission or for the Town Council, the application would have to go back before CRMC with a neighboring objection pending and would require a full hearing with additional delays.
- My thanks go to the Public Works Department for their assistance in the removal of material necessary for the construction of a new playground at Davisville Academy. This saved the School Department an estimated \$50,000. I appreciate the interim Facilities Director and Superintendent for reaching out for our assistance; this is another example of our great working partnership.



## Update

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- As you know, as a member of the Board of Directors as well as a member of their Finance and Underwriting Committees, I attended the RI Interlocal Trust's Annual all day retreat last week. It was a busy agenda, but two items especially deserve a brief mention:
  - Increasing concern on the costs of Health Care Premiums:
    - This has a lot to do with rising costs of prescriptions as well as the vast number of new prescriptions we are seeing advertised regularly targeting concerns that have never before been addressed through prescriptions. The increase The Trust experiences will be lower than that of the private sector, but we don't yet know what to expect for FY27 premiums but do know that it will have a significant influence on our FY27 budgeting process.
  - RI Interlocal Trust provides Working Wellness awards to their 40+ members. Of the 14 Health Matters award recipients, only 3 received the Gold Level award of \$2,000 towards their wellness programs.
    - I am proud to announce that North Kingstown joined South Kingstown and Warwick as the recipient of Gold Level awards.
    - My thanks to all involved and for their outstanding work to provide wellness opportunities that are unique and engaging for Town employees.



## Updates

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- I'm pleased to announced that our Town's 250<sup>th</sup> Committee, charged with developing programming and partnerships to creatively commemorate the anniversary of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> throughout the 2026 calendar year, was awarded the maximum \$5,000 grant award by the RI250th Commission.
- My thanks to the members of our 250<sup>th</sup> Committee for their work to obtain the grant and for their work in planning our local events next year.



## Update

- Staff and I will be hosting a meeting with RIDOT leadership here this week regarding the state's RhodeWorks program. This program has been very helpful to the Town as we've used these matching funds for our paving budget and allowed us to address and improve more roadways by this point in time than we had originally anticipated.
- A reminder that our community will celebrate Veteran's Day next Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll start with an early morning gathering to honor our local living and deceased veterans at Veterans Memorial Park, followed by a ceremony for the public in Updike Park in Wickford Village at 9:45 a.m., then the start of the annual parade from Wilson Park at 10:00 a.m. The parade will conclude around 11:00 a.m. at the high school.



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8:45 - 9:30AM: FREE COFFEE & DONUTS FOR VETERANS  
@ VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

9:45 AM: OPENING CEREMONY & COMMEMORATION  
HONORING SERVICE MEMBERS & NK RESIDENTS WHO  
SERVED IN OUR ARMED FORCES  
@ UPDIKE PARK

10:00 AM: PARADE START @ WILSON PARK  
(PARTICIPANTS ASSEMBLE STARTING AT 9:00 AM)

11:00 AM: PARADE ENDS @ NKHS



## Updates

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- I'm happy to announce that North Kingstown has once again been awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting award, or PAFR, from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for Fiscal Year 2024.
  - This award is given based on the budget's reader appeal, understandability, creativity, and other elements.
- North Kingstown also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY24.
  - With this award, our financial report has met or exceeded the high standards of clear communication and full disclosure, and along with the PAFR Outstanding Achievement award, are the highest forms of recognition given by the GFOA in financial reporting.
  - With these awards, North Kingstown has achieved more financial reporting awards than any other municipality in the state, with 14 to date.
  - My thanks to Fung Chen, our Deputy Finance Director, and Deb Bridgham, our Finance Director, for their work to earn these awards.



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for  
Outstanding  
Achievement in  
Popular Annual  
Financial Reporting

Presented to

**Town of North Kingstown**  
**Rhode Island**

For its Annual Financial Report  
For the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2024

*Christopher P. Morrell*  
Executive Director/CEO



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of  
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*Christopher P. Morrell*  
Executive Director/CEO

## Updates

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- Finally, congratulations to Council Person Matt McCoy for his 2025 HOPE Award from the Alliance for Nonprofit Impact at United Way, recognizing volunteers across the state whose work and efforts help strengthen and bring hope to their communities.
- Matt will receive this well-deserved award at the State House on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations, Matt!



# Thank you.

A. Ralph Mollis,  
Town Manager

November 3, 2025

