



Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island

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PRESS RELEASE

POST ROAD WINTER WONDERLAND: HOLIDAY DECORATING GRANT & COMPETITION

The Town of North Kingstown is thrilled to announce the expansion of our annual Holiday Decorating Grant Program to include the new Winter Wonderland Decoration Competition. This festive contest is open to all Post Road business owners and tenants who deck their properties with holiday spirit prior to December 12, 2025, with four competitive categories: Best Modern Decorations, Best Traditional Decorations, Most Festive Plaza, and Best New Program Participant.

We invite you to showcase your creativity and compete! Voting is open to all members of the public. To vote utilize QR codes posted at participating locations to access this year's voting form. Online voting forms will be tallied for each individual voter with a unique email address provided on the voter form.

The form contains all four voting categories and asks voters to write in their selections for Best Traditional & Best Modern Decoration categories and select their favorites for Best New Participant and Most Festive Plaza from the drop-down options listed under each.

In addition to the public's vote, there are three judges who each have a weighted vote per category worth 20 individual votes and will submit their selections directly to the Planning Department for tally.

QR codes will be active for use in early voting which starts December 5, 2025. While the final date to decorate and be considered for this year's competition is December 12, participants wishing to capitalize on early voting are encouraged to have their decorations completed before December 5. This timeline was established to ensure that participants have ample time to both decorate and allow the community sufficient opportunity to cast their votes.

All businesses decorated prior to December 12, 2025 will automatically be entered as a participant in all applicable categories in this year's competition, and new decorators/those who have not utilized the Winter Wonderland Decoration Grant in the past can apply for reimbursement in this year's program.

If you plan on participating this year as a plaza or as a new participating business, whether you are utilizing grant reimbursement for the first time or decorating for the first

time, please reach out to Bmandel@northkingstownri.gov or call 401-268-1575 at your earliest convenience. convenience to indicate your participation. This greatly aids in ensuring that the drop-down menu categories for Best New Participant and Most Festive Plaza are populated accurately for voting purposes.

Winners will be honored at the Post Road Winter Wonderland Spectacular, presented by the Post Road Business Alliance and hosted at Heritage Plaza, 5-7 pm located at 7726 Post Road. There will be hot chocolate, caroling, and winter festivities for all. This year's event promises to be a dazzling display of community and holiday cheer.

Reimbursement funds for the Decorating Grant are available for up to \$1,000.00 for new program participants. To qualify for the grant and enter the competition, decorations must be visible from Post Road and adhere to the following guidelines:

- Decorations must not require a building permit or zoning approval.
- Flashing lights or decorations that could create traffic hazards are not eligible.
- A photograph of your decorations along with receipts must be submitted for reimbursement.
- All decorations erected prior to 12/12/2025 will automatically be considered for this year's Winter Wonderland Decoration Competition. Decorations erected after this point can still qualify for reimbursement but will not be considered for this year's Winter Wonderland Decoration Competition.

We encourage all businesses to participate and help transform Post Road into a winter wonderland. Let's make this holiday season the most memorable yet!

The application is available on the town's website at:

<https://www.northkingstown.org/806/Post-Road-Winter-Wonderland-Grant>

Please contact Ben Mandel in the Planning Department, should you have any questions or concerns at BMandel@northkingstown.org; 401-268-1575.