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# “THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

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September 2024

## **Climate Conversations at the North Kingstown Free Library!**

This fall, the North Kingstown Free Library will host a photo exhibit, book display and lecture series called Climate Conversations. The goal is to foster dialogue and community engagement in planning for a future disrupted by climate change.

The four lectures will be held at 6:30 PM at the library on September 19, October 3, 10 and 17 and will highlight how climate change is impacting southern Rhode Island and describe how residents can prepare for climate impacts.

For more information on Climate Conversations visit <https://www.climateconversationsri.com>.

### **Climate change in North Kingstown**

#### **September 19 at 6:30 PM at the North Kingstown Free Library**

Coastal flooding is more and more frequent in Wickford and other areas while intense storms are over-taxing our stormwater systems. This lecture will introduce how we can make sense of climate data in our daily lives, and how RI's state offices and municipalities are using this information to guide decision-making, allocation of funding, and leveraging partnerships to advance local projects.

**Teresa Crean. Director of Planning, Building and Resiliency, Town of Barrington and NK resident since 2015**

### **How the natural world is changing around us**

#### **October 3 at 6:30 PM at the North Kingstown Free Library**

Climate change is altering the natural world. Gardeners have noticed that rising temperatures have changed plant hardiness zones, birders have noticed changes in bird assemblages, and fishermen notice changes in the fish they can catch. This talk will review some of the changes we are seeing and describe how each of us can take actions to help plants and animals adapt to a changing climate.

**Jameson Chace, Salve Regina University, Professor Dept of Cultural, Environmental, and Global Studies (Chair), Dept of Biology and Biomedical Sciences, Director of Community Engaged Learning**

### **Keeping History Above Water**

#### **October 10 at 6:30 PM at the North Kingstown Free Library**

*Keeping History Above Water*™ (KHAW) was founded in 2016 by the Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF) to foster a national conversation focused on the increasing and varied risks posed by sea-level rise to historic coastal communities. KHAW programs, conferences, and workshops focus on protecting historic buildings, landscapes, and neighborhoods from the increasing threat of inundation. Since the inaugural conference in Newport, KHAW events have been hosted in Annapolis, Palo Alto, Des Moines, St. Augustine, Nantucket, Charleston, Salem, Norfolk, Trinidad and Tobago, Portsmouth, and Honolulu. The lecture will review current strategies the NRF is employing to protect its portfolio of vulnerable properties, as well as explore RI relevant case studies from past conferences.

**Margaret Back, Preservation Projects Manager, Newport Restoration Foundation**

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**What can you do on your own property to reduce your carbon emissions and enhance your climate resilience?**

**October 17 at 6:30 PM at the North Kingstown Free Library**

We all are now experiencing the impacts of climate change and we need to think about how we can reduce our own carbon emissions. While utilities switch to renewable energy sources, homes and businesses need to switch from fossil fuels to clean energy. At the same time, we need to figure out how to manage water at our homes and businesses using green stormwater practices like rain gardens and rain barrels.

**Dave Caldwell, Vice President, Caldwell and Johnson**

**Ryan Kopp and Rebecca Reeves, Stormwater Innovation Center**

Climate Conversations is supported in part by The Friends of the North Kingstown Free Library

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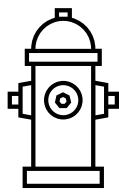
## **Why did you send me a letter saying I might have a leak?**

Our newly installed radio read meters have a feature that sends us a message if there is no time during any given 24-hour period where water is not flowing through your meter. The most common type of household leak we hear about at the water department is the silent toilet leak. This is where water is constantly but slowly flowing through your toilet. This can waste lots of water and affect your septic system. The EPA estimates that a leaky toilet can waste roughly 6,000 gallons per month. To test your toilets for this type of leak, we offer free leak detection dye tablets here in the office. Simply put the dye tablet in the back of the toilet and if any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. More information can be found at the WaterSense section of the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense>

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## **Hydrant Flushing**



Please be aware semi-annual hydrant flushing will be scheduled for mid to late September. Hydrant flushing is an important component of North Kingstown's distribution system maintenance and is extremely important to providing safe and clean drinking water. The flushing of mains removes sediment that normally accumulates in water pipes and flushing is also a good way to verify that the hydrant is operating properly.

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**Also! Due to popular demand, an additional 50 discounted rain barrels have been added to the 2024 Residential Rain Barrel Program on a first come first serve basis. Reach out to Wickford Lumber for complete details!**