

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



Projects

Revolution Wind Offshore Wind Farm



- Regular meetings continue
- Work continues on Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway and Interconnection Facility; these are not disruptive. Zero complaints/concerns have been received since completion of pile driving.
- Rev. Wind personnel are working with QDC on a determination regarding their desire to extend work afterhours from 11 PM – 2 AM.
- Questions/Concerns? Contact Revolution Wind at (401) 255-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com

Municipal Parking Lot **Streetscape Improvement** Planning Department



- Work continues after a slight delay at the end of summer.
- The parking lot remains accessible at this phase of the project and has been utilized for various events, including the most recent Harbor Fire.
- We will continue our outreach efforts with merchants and residents, posting project updates to social media and the Planning Department's website: <https://bit.ly/wickfordwaterfrontwork>

Projects

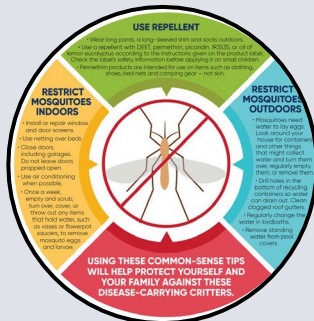
Community-Based EV Charger Initiative



- My office, under leadership of Kate Glass, has led our participation in RI DOT's application to the federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant opportunity.
- The State's "Charging Ahead: RI Working Together for Electrification" application was approved for \$15 Million in funding, featuring our ChargeNK plans for community-based EV chargers throughout North Kingstown.
- We are one of 10 communities included in the application and are among the two initial communities that are slated to be included in Phase I implementation.
- As proposed, we will receive 11% of the grant's funding to install 22 dual-port Level II chargers at 11 locations in town.

Public Safety Campaigns

Hurricane Preparedness WNV/EEE Education



- We have developed an informational campaign on Hurricane Preparedness for residents.
 - While this season is milder than first anticipated by forecasters, we aim to keep residents well informed
- We have been active in disseminating RIDOH precautions and information relative to the mosquito-borne illnesses recently discovered in nearby communities.
 - Residents are advised to avoid mosquito-prone areas, eliminate shallow standing water at their residences, wear approved bug repellent and are encouraged to cover their extremities to reduce their mosquito exposure.

Events

Sincere thanks and gratitude to all that were involved in an extremely successful and well-received **350th Anniversary Family Day Celebration** on Saturday, September 14th at Wilson Park:



- 350th Anniversary Steering Committee
- **Haley Wicker**
- Jeannette Alyward
- Kate Glass
- Beth Wilkins
- Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs
- The entire Public Works Department
- The entire Recreation Department, led by Dave Creta
- North Kingstown Fire Department
- North Kingstown Police Department
- ...and the many volunteers and community members that setup informational booths for our nearly 2,000 estimated guests!





Events

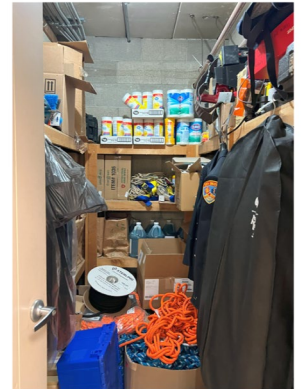
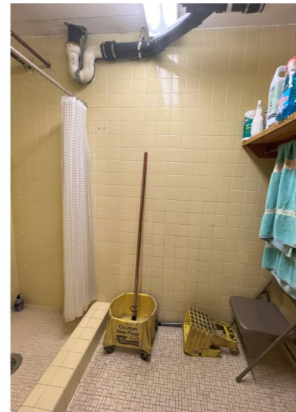
- The next large scale 350th Anniversary event will be the **350th Anniversary Parade** on Saturday, October 5, kicking off at 1:00 PM
 - Parade Route: North Kingstown High School to Wilson Park through Wickford Village
- North Kingstown Middle and High School students have a chance to earn monetary prizes for their writing. Essay submissions must be turned in at the Town Clerk's Office.
 - Deadline for entries: **Monday, September 30 at 4:30 p.m.**
 - Complete details on the essay contest can be found on our website: <https://bit.ly/nk350thessaycontest>
- Thank you to the North Kingstown Police and Fire Departments for marking and honoring the 23rd Anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in a ceremony at the Town Beach.





Events

- The Chiefs of North Kingstown Fire and Police Departments welcome residents who would like a better understanding of the current state of the Public Safety Complex on Post Road prior to voting in the November referendum, to tours on the following dates:
 - Wednesday, 10/9 at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, 10/23 at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, 10/26 at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.
- Questions? Contact Scott Kettelle: (401)268-7150 or skettelle@northkingstownri.gov





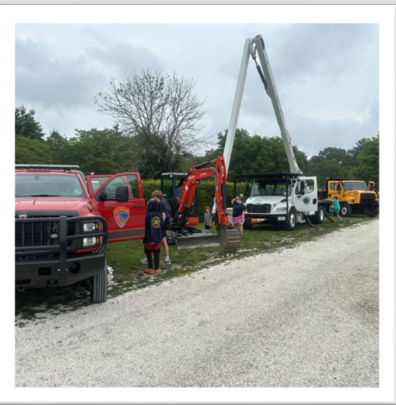
Initiatives

- North Kingstown has been designated Rhode Island's only **American WWII Heritage City** by the U.S. National Park Service in recognition of our community's significant contributions to our nation's WWII war efforts
 - Our application included a nod to current preservation work to retain the cultural heritage and significance of that period in history, notably as the birthplace of the U.S. Navy Seabees, and home to the U.S. Navy Seabees Museum and birthplace of the Quonset Hut



Initiatives

- Thank you to all who participated in making our **Summer Camps** a successful, cost-effective summertime recreational opportunity for North Kingstown youth!
 - 5 camps served 375 children, ages 6 through 13 over 10 weeks, with scholarships and educational programming and partnerships provided in part by our LEARN365RI grant.
 - The Departments of Public Works, Police and Fire, assisted with touch-a-truck events, the fire simulator, field day, and many others including our Town Council and more for Career Day



Initiatives



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- Our Planning Department's Economic Development Division, under the guidance of **Ben Mandel**, continues to move forward with program to benefit our business community.
- Post Road business gatherings are an effort to motivate a business association and continued involvement in the Post Road Façade Program:
<https://www.northkingstownri.gov/930/Post-Road-Facade-Improvement-Program>
 - And an ongoing digital spotlight on a Post Road Business of the Month:
<https://www.northkingstownri.gov/967/Post-Road-Spotlight-Archive>
- We have a renewed positive relationship with the new director of the North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce and look forward to another successful year with high participation in the Holiday Decoration Program along Post Road.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

- As requested, a thorough review and analysis on our current Tax Exemptions is currently underway.
- I expect to present a report to the Town Council on this matter during an October meeting in order to have ample time for review and action prior to the end of the calendar year.

Staff

- **Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs**, Recreation Director, was selected among statewide nominees to participate in the upcoming R.I. League of Cities and Towns Municipal Leadership Academy.
 - Haley Wicker, Personnel Manager, was in the previous class from North Kingstown
- Recognition at the Rotary Club's dinner tomorrow evening will include several North Kingstown employees and residents, including:
 - **Sean Grimes**, North Kingstown Police Department
 - **Scott Lessard**, North Kingstown Fire Department
 - **Leanne Gooding**, Bus Contractor
 - **Chief Scott Kettelle**, North Kingstown Fire Department
 - **Kim Page**, Town Councilor
 - **David Ruggieri**
- **Fire Chief Scott Kettelle** was recognized in August by the R.I. Association of Emergency Managers as the Emergency Manager of the Year.
Congratulations, Chief!



Community Issues

- The state-mandated **Statistical Revaluation** process continues. We are keeping a close eye on figures and look to utilize these calculations and tax classification system implemented during our last Reval to ensure equitization and fairness in next year's tax rates.
- I've been asked by a Council Member to share some information on **Short Term Rentals** and our Short Term Rental Registry:
 - We have approximately 75 properties registered to date.
 - We are comparing our database to the State's.
 - Our Police Department has received few, if any, short term rental-specific complaints or concerns.
 - We conclude that the Town of North Kingstown is not a hot bed for Short Term Rentals and have no public safety concerns about the practice at this point.
 - Our registry is working to identify short term rentals but we are confident there are short term rentals that are not registered; we are trying to address this issue.
 - NOTE: Anyone with a short term rental is not eligible for a Homestead Exemption.
- The 2023 **Low- to Moderate-Income Housing** Chart has been released by R.I. Housing. North Kingstown, at 8.57%, has the 8th highest percentage of Low- to Moderate-Income Housing among all 39 cities and towns.
 - Our percentage is much higher because we have qualifying mobile homes under the new statutory provision that was not accounted for in the 2023 rankings.
 - It is my position that we are one of only a few cities and towns in the state who are actively addressing this and have laws implemented to ensure low- and moderate-income housing is built with every new development.



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Thank You

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager

