

November 18, 2024

Manager's Report

A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager



Projects

Revolution Wind Offshore Wind Farm



- Bi-weekly meetings continue.
- Their work continues on the Offshore Wind Farm with significant site work at the Onshore Substation, Circuit Drive Roadway and Interconnection Facility.
- Community outreach also continues. I will be touring the facility in the future.
- Questions/Concerns? Contact Revolution Wind at (401) 255-2207 or info@revolution-wind.com – we receive weekly reports on these matters.

RI Department of Transportation

Post Road Sidewalks Wickford Roundabout



- We had a productive meeting with RI DOT on 11/7 with a walk-through of Wickford for a project review.
- The project is on track for a bid in Spring 2025, kicking off in Summer 2025.
 - It is expected to be an 18-month project, with 90% of the project placing sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.
 - The Wickford Mini Roundabout is scheduled for Fall 2025.
- We are attempting to coordinate both projects in a manner that results in the least amount of disruption for the busiest times of year in Wickford Village, and had a productive on-site meeting sharing concerns and solutions in real time as they apply to our community.

Projects

Municipal Office Building Renovations Update



- An unexpected challenge has arisen in that initial bid came in much higher than projected and budgeted; the concern is that we have until December 30th to enter into a contract if we are to use ARPA funds as planned.
 - We are meeting internally and with the architect to review bid contents, hoping to identify an alternative solution.
 - Council will receive an update at or before the 12/16 meeting.

State Traffic Commission Route 403 & Roger Williams Way



- A Speed Study was conducted to help motorists adjust to abrupt changes in roadway characteristics and posted speed limits along this highway. The Commission approved the following:
 - 45 MPH speed limit for both directions of Route 403, transitioning to 35 MPH on Roger Williams Way from Rt 403 to Burlingham Ave eastbound;
 - 35 MPH from Burlingham Ave to Commerce Park Rd;
 - 45 MPH from Commerce Park Rd to Rt 403 westbound;
 - 25 MPH for Roger Williams Way from Burlingham Ave to eastern limit of the roadway.
- RIDOT signage is expected within 6-weeks.

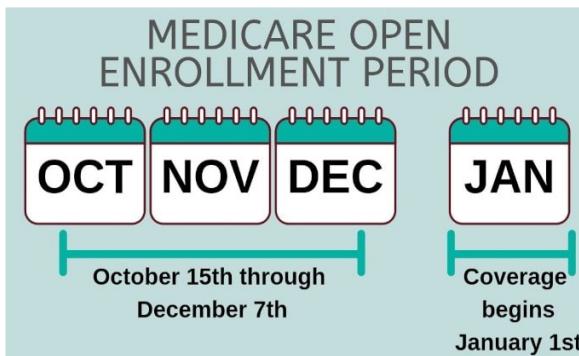
North Kingstown Senior Center



The **North Kingstown Senior Center's Holiday Giving Program** focuses on providing gifts for children in families experiencing hardship who are unable to provide gifts themselves. Families must provide proof they meet certain eligibility guidelines, and an in-person interview is required.

Online applications are now available:
<https://bit.ly/nk2024holidaygiving>

In addition to applications for assistance, donor assistance for program support and overall community participation is welcome and appreciated:
<https://bit.ly/nk2024holidaydonations>



Events/Initiatives

SENIOR CENTER

- The 2024 Holiday Giving Program is underway to provide gifts for children ages 13 and under in families that are experiencing hardship during the holiday season: <https://bit.ly/NKholidaygivingDonations>
 - Donations to the program are welcome and appreciated. To donate, the form is online: <https://bit.ly/nk2024holidaydonations>
 - Please contact the Senior Center if you are part of a family that may qualify, or you would like to donate: (401) 268-1596
- Medicare Open Enrollment is open and runs through December 7th
 - This is the time to review current plans and compare to new plans for 2025 as companies change formulas and costs each year.
 - Social Services at the Senior Center are taking appointment to assist seniors with plan reviews.

Events/Initiatives

RECREATION

- The Middle School Youth Commission is prepared to unveil their Buddy Bench project that was presented earlier this year and approved by Council within our LEARN365RI grant funding and overseen by the Recreation Department.
 - The bench unveiling will be on Tuesday, 12/10 at 3:30 p.m., at the Zeke Harris Memorial Playground at Wilson Park. All are welcome to attend.
- Applications for the 2024/25 Middle School Youth Commission cohort are now being accepted online. (7) total 6th-8th grade students from Davisville and Wickford Middle Schools will be chosen. More details are online:
<https://www.northkingstownri.gov/989/The-North-Kingstown-Middle-School-Youth->
- The annual New years Plunge at the Town Beach will be on Wednesday, January 1st.
 - Festivities start at 12:30 p.m. and the plunge is at 1:00 p.m. sharp.
 - No registration; warm refreshments will be served.



CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

North Kingstown Youth Commission is made possible by the Town of North Kingstown's successful application to Governor McKee's LEARN365 initiative round 2! In the first round, we were able to put together hygiene kits and buddy benches throughout Town.

What is an initiative that is important to you? This is your time to make a change.

At meetings we will work to develop a mission statement, a vision, and plans on how to improve overall youth programming in accordance with the student identified core needs of the community here in North Kingstown. Application period ends on 12/8 at 5pm and the first meeting will be scheduled (virtually) the following week.

This commitment only lasts for the 24-25 school year with some possible implementation and oversight over the summer of 25. Schedules will be somewhat flexible to the boards needs. For further questions please email kayla_vangorden@nksd.net

VOICE

DONT WAIT!
Only 7 spots are available for grades 6-8 from both North Kingstown Middle Schools! Apply here: <https://forms.gle/GtGIpCBGrb5pfZnC7>

North Kingstown Youth Commission & North Kingstown Recreation
Welcome you to our

BUDDY BENCH UNVEILING

3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Zeke Harris Memorial Playground at Wilson Park

The Buddy Bench in this location is 1 of 6 around North Kingstown at McGinn, Ryan and Wilson Parks, Town Beach, and Wickford Playground. They are an initiative of the 2023-24 North Kingstown Youth Commission. Buddy Benches further the North Kingstown Youth Commission's goal to encourage belonging and unity.

Buddy Benches: Why They Are Important?

- Studies of the U.S. show that around 80% of children experience loneliness at school and 68% of children admit to having been bullied.
- Buddy Benches were invented to combat loneliness and bullying in schools.
- The bench allows children to easily recognize when a peer needs support or a friend. Children can join someone on the bench or invite them to play.
- The Youth Commission believes introducing Buddy Benches at parks in North Kingstown might encourage more schools and towns to also install them, to help promote inclusion and reduce bullying in other places.

The North Kingstown Youth Commission was made possible through the Town of North Kingstown's successful application to Governor McKee's LEARN365 initiative.





Initiatives

350th ANNIVERSARY

- Led by 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Chairperson Matt McCoy, the Committee is planning a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony in conjunction with the American WWII Heritage City designation acceptance event with the U.S. National Park Service on Saturday, 12/7, at 1:00 p.m. at Chapel in the Pines (at Seabees Museum and Memorial Park).
- The 350th Committee, along with HistWick, is sponsoring Smith's Castle's annual event, Christmas at the Castle, from Noon – 4:00 p.m. on December 7th & 8th, and is supporting the Chamber of Commerce/Wickford Village Association's annual Festival of Lights multi-day event from December 5-8th that is highlighted by our Annual Tree Lighting on December 5th at 6:00 p.m.
 - For complete details, see either of our Facebook pages (below), or the Wickford Village website, www.wickfordvillage.org:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/northkingstown350th>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/ilovewickfordvillage>



Staff

- I want to recognize and thank our **Planning Department** on their efforts in meeting with a CRS Specialist to improve our Community Rating System as part of our 5-year Cycle Verification.
 - The CRS Specialist for Community Hazard Mitigation commended staff on their efforts and the quality of their application.
 - Should we be successful, an improved rating would benefit the town and our residents. I will be sure to keep the Council updated.
- Our **Finance Department** was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.
- Congratulations to our **Wellness Committee**, led by Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs and Haley Wicker, on receiving The Trust's Working Wellness Gold Level Award which grants \$2,500 to our Employee Wellness initiatives this fiscal year.



Finances



- The Rhode Island Department of Revenue issues their Fiscal Year 2025 Report on the Property Tax Cap.
- **North Kingstown's increase in our Tax Levy in the current Fiscal Year was the 5th lowest in all of Rhode Island, and the lowest in all designated Suburban Municipalities.**





Thank You

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