MESSAGE TO RESIDENTS OF NORTH KINGSTOWN

---MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOURS---

As we approach Labor Day Weekend, I hope you and your families have been able to enjoy a safe and healthy summer and have an enjoyable & safe weekend ahead.

Our thoughts continue to go out to members of our community who have lost someone they care about due to COVID or have experienced hardships as a result of this pandemic. While we have a lot to be proud of as a community and as a state in the manner in which we've faced this pandemic, we cannot forget those who have been adversely affected during these past months.

We continue to do all we can in North Kingstown to move forward and provide the valuable services our residents have come to expect. This could not take place without the hard work, dedication, vision and contributions from the employees of North Kingstown. On behalf of a grateful community I thank them!

Effective Tuesday, September 8th, there will be a slight change in the hours of our Municipal Office Building at 100 Fairway Drive. Our offices will continue to be open 8:30am – 4:30pm each day. However, in order to adjust to the temporary challenges of COVID and provide a safe and healthy atmosphere within the building for both visitors and employees, the Office Building will be closed each day from noon till 1pm. We continue to encourage you to utilize our virtual and online services. We also ask that visitors and employees refrain from visiting the Municipal Office Building if you are sick.

There is a Greeter stationed at the entrance of the Office Building. Every visitor will be asked to sign-in and provide information and will then be given a visitor’s badge and directions to the office they are looking to visit. Employees are also wearing identification badges. Visitors will be required to wear a mask as will all employees servicing the public. If a visitor is unable to wear a mask, special arrangements will be made to insure he/she is accommodated. Everyone is encouraged to maintain a safe distance of 6 feet or more from others.
We continue to function at near-normal operations during this pandemic. Our Parks, Town Beach, Golf Course and Playgrounds remain open. Our Senior Center is in weekly discussions with the Department of Elderly Affairs as we look to see what a phased-in reopening of this important service will safely look like under COVID. We are hoping to provide some very limited services such as limited group shopping and social services by appointment sometime in September with a Phase II opening sometime in October. Our Senior Center continues to function as a Food Distribution Center.

Our Town Library continues to gradually open under a restricted basis. Please visit their website for a current list of their services and hours under COVID. And our Transfer Station and governmental services are open and fully operational.

If you own a business in North Kingstown and need our assistance in reopening under the current State guidelines, please contact us via our viewpoint application process or by calling or emailing us.

The Emergency Voting Period for the September 8th Primary continues. Through 4pm on Tuesday, September 8th you are able to cast an emergency ballot at the Municipal Office Building (100 Fairway Drive). You will need to follow the protocol for all visitors to the Municipal Office Building.

You can also vote at one of the four (4) polls open for the September 8th Primary. Safety protocols will be in place at each poll. A cloth face covering is required, social distancing will be required and disposable pens will be provided. Polls open at 7am on September 8th. The four (4) polling places open on September 8th are:

Masonic Lodge, 1515 Ten Rod Road
Precinct 2301

Davisville Middle School, 200 School Street
Precincts 2302, 2303, 2304

N.K. High School, 150 Fairway Drive
Precincts 2305, 2306

Wickford Middle School, 25 Tower Hill Road
Precincts 2307, 2308, 2309

To view sample ballots, your voter information or your poll location please visit vote.ri.gov.
Mail ballot applications are now available at the Board of Canvassers, and online, for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

The North Kingstown School District has, and continues to, work diligently to prepare for its re-opening and the various options and alternatives beginning September 14th. Please visit their website for up to date details and information.

In addition, Governor Raimondo’s Executive Orders ask for assistance in reducing the number of COVID-19 cases in Rhode Island by:

- Limiting gatherings to 15 people or less
- Wear masks and face coverings when social distancing is not possible
- Clean common surfaces frequently
- Wash or sanitize hands frequently
- Visit https://reopeningri.com/ for more guidance

The State of Rhode Island and R.I. Department of Health also encourage local businesses to familiarize themselves with the reopening process by visiting their website(s) and reviewing the Phase III guidelines. We also encourage you to familiarize yourself with the grants available through R.I. Commerce at https://commerceri.com/about-us/restore-ri/. You can also feel free to call Commerce RI at 401-521-4357 or email them at info@commerceri.com. Residents should visit the R.I. Department of Health Website for up-to-date information or call 401-222-8022.

We hope this information is helpful. North Kingstown continues to be at the forefront with the reopening and moving forward that are necessary for the economic survival of our business owners and social & mental health benefits that all residents are deserving of. We hope these positive steps along with this information are helpful as we look forward to assisting you in any way possible during these challenging times.

Thank you

A Ralph Mollis
Town Manager