



KINSTON

NORTH CAROLINA

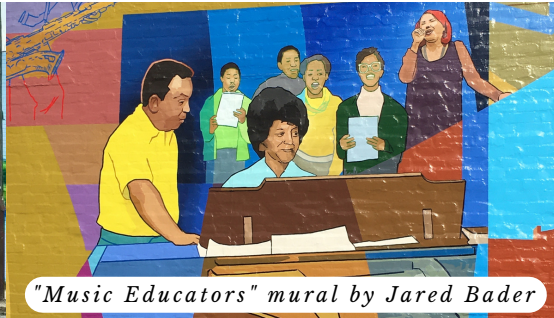
NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter

June 2021



"okra" mural by Seraphim Smith



"Music Educators" mural by Jared Bader



CITY UPDATES

Read updates about vaccination, utility assistance, pedestrian safety, community events, energy saving tips, and the annual City Budget inside!

MEET YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES

Learn about the Community Development Planner position on p.3

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Read words from the City Council and highlights from Council Meetings on p.4

VACCINATION EVENTS AND COVID-19 RECOVERY UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Starting **June 8th** the City of Kinston will be partnering with Resourceful Clinical Labs and the Lenoir County School System to increase vaccination in our community. The first event will be at Rochelle Middle School **June 8th from 11-2pm**. If you're unable to attend, we will have more events, but you can also call the Lenoir County Health Department at **252-526-4202** to schedule an appointment! For more information, contact Student Service Facilitator & Equity Officer Felicia Solomon at (252)-933-5690.

To further support residents who have been financially impacted by COVID-19, Public Services and United Way of Greene and Lenoir County are partnering to offer limited utility assistance to low-and-moderate income City of Kinston customers who have accrued debt because of COVID related hardship. To find out if you qualify, call **252-939-3282** for an application!

FREE COVID-19 TESTING & FREE VACCINATION!!

Tuesday June 8th, 2021

Rochelle Middle School

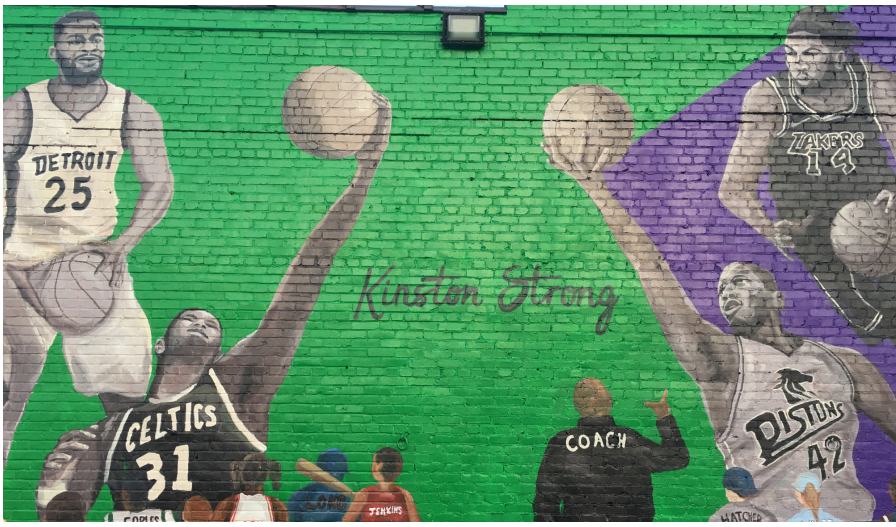
**301 North Rochelle Blvd.
Kinston, NC 28501**

11am-2pm

View the annual income chart below to see if your family may qualify. Call our Customer Service Center at (252)939-3282 for more information or visit us inside City Hall to apply at 207 E King St.

1 PERSON HOUSEHOLD \$32,550 OR LESS	4 PERSON HOUSEHOLD \$46,500 OR LESS	7 PERSON HOUSEHOLD \$57,700 OR LESS
2 PERSON HOUSEHOLD \$37,200 OR LESS	5 PERSON HOUSEHOLD \$50,250 OR LESS	8 PERSON HOUSEHOLD \$61,400 OR LESS
3 PERSON HOUSEHOLD \$41,850 OR LESS	6 PERSON HOUSEHOLD \$53,950 OR LESS	





"Kinston Strong" mural by Broderick Flanigan through the Downtown Kinston Mural Program

MEET YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES

Community Development Planner -
Sarah Arney 252-939-3271

As the Community Development Planner, my job is to support programs and plans that improve our community through physical infrastructure, city regulations, or community programs. Planning projects include everything from our Pedestrian Plan (which supports connectivity, safety, and walkability in Kinston) to the Downtown Kinston Mural Program (which brought seven original outdoor murals to Kinston, some of which you can see in this newsletter)! I also work to expand civic engagement opportunities including...



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I facilitate Kinston 101, a citizen academy which shares information about city operations and connects residents to city leaders. If that sounds like you, reach out and join our next cohort this fall!

...Kinston 101, a citizen academy which shares information about city operations and connects residents to city leaders. If that sounds like you, call 252-939-3271 and join our next cohort!

Want to join the City?
Contact our HR Department at 252-939-3118, or go online to
www.governmentjobs.com/careers/kinstonnc

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Environmental Services schedule changes are below
Juneteenth

Observed on Friday, June 18th, 2021 - No Collection - Items will be picked up on Thursday, June 17th.

Independence Day

Observed on Monday, July 5th, 2021 - No Collection - Items will be picked up on Tuesday, July 6th.

For more information, please call our 24hr Customer Service Center at (252)939-3282.

KINSTON PUBLIC SERVICES

SUMMER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- 1 Set your thermostat to 78°F, every degree below that could increase your energy costs 3-5%
- 2 Postpone laundry until night time to avoid generating additional heat in your home
- 3 Replace HVAC filters regularly
- 4 Switch ceiling fan blades to turn counter-clockwise



SUMMERFEST AND FIREWORKS JULY 3RD

Downtown Kinston Revitalization is hosting Summerfest on July 3rd at Pearson Park with 2 bands, Joe Brown & the Band from 2 – 4PM and Breadwine & Blooze from 7-9PM, followed by a Parks and Recreation fireworks show around 9:30PM. Bring your chairs and beverages to the park for this FREE event!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, June 8th from 12:30-5pm
Tuesday, August 10th from 12:30-5pm

Located at the Kinston Public Service Complex at 2360 HWY 258 South. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter KPSC to schedule an appointment.



Kinston 101: THE BUDGET

According to state law, every local government is required to pass a balanced budget (where expenses equals revenue) by July 1st. The City Manager's Recommended Budget has been released, and the City Council will discuss the budget by public hearing on June 15th. You can find the budget online at kinstonnc.gov/502/Budget or in print at City Hall or in the Neuse Regional Library. Please call the Budget Administrator at 252-939-3243 with any questions!

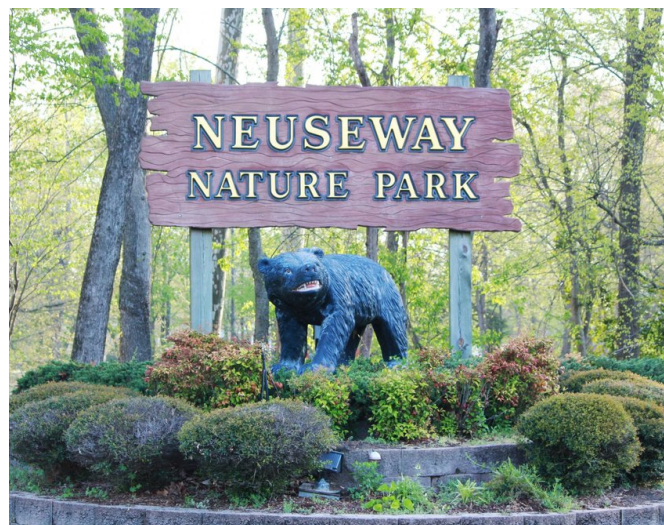
If you're interested in participating in the Fall cohort of Kinston 101, reach out to Community Development Planner Sarah Arney at 252-939-3271 or sarah.arney@ci.kinston.nc.us

Your Tax Dollar

The following graphic below illustrates how each property tax dollar funds various areas of City Government within the General Fund.



The City has been selected to participate in the WFM program, which seeks to reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and deaths through public education, community engagement, and specific law enforcement efforts. Look out on the KPD website and social media for future events!



Neuseway Nature Park Events

Kids' Fishing Day -
Saturday, June 5th from
9am - noon
Call (252) 939-3367 for
details.

Star Camp - Thursday, July
22nd @7pm *\$25 fee per
child - must sign up before
event
Call (252)939-3302 for
more details.



Ellis Planetarium at the Neuse Nature Center

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

by Sarah Arney

The following are some highlights of the City Council meetings from March-June 2021:

- Public Services received the 2020 Public Power Award from Electricities for their excellence and continued innovation
- The CDBG-CV grant to address COVID-19 vaccination and emergency utility support had a public hearing and funding approval confirmed.
- The FY2020 Annual Financial Report was released (available online at kinstonnc.gov)
- Parks & Rec released their Spring Recreation Program schedule (available online at kinstonnc.gov) to serve 1,000+ participants!
- Public Hearings for Conditional Use Permits were unanimously approved for the following:
 - A private club and bar at 128 W North St.
 - Multi-family Apartments N Queen St.
 - A private Club and hookah lounge at 800-B W. Vernon Ave.
- Parks and Recreation and Public Services started advertising to fill vacant positions.

WORDS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

by Mayor Don D. Hardy

As we head into June, the City is working hard to ensure that all our residents can have a safe and fun summer--that means encouraging all eligible residents to get vaccinated! The City is about to host its first free vaccination event, but there are many places to be vaccinated: with your primary care doctor, the Lenoir County Health Department, and many local pharmacies. Take a look at myspot.nc.gov or call 888-675-4567 to find a vaccination near you--we are all part of the solution!

This month is also Small Cities Month! As a member of the National League of Cities (NLC) Small Cities Council, I am working with a group of municipal leaders from cities and towns with less than 50,000 residents to find creative solutions to the issues that affect us the most. Help us celebrate by sharing your story with me or the NLC with the #SmallCitiesMonth!



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*Have a safe
and fun
summer...get
vaccinated!*”

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings can also be viewed on the City's Facebook page.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 1st, 5:30pm,
City Hall

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
(Work Session @ 5:30PM)

June 15th, 7pm,
City Hall

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
(Work Session @ 5:30PM)

July 20th, 7pm,
City Hall

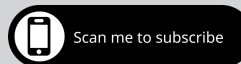
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 3rd, 7pm,
City Hall

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
(Work Session @ 5:30PM)

August 17th, 7pm,
City Hall

(June-August)



Stay up to date!

@City of Kinston
Facebook · YouTube

Website:
kinstonnc.gov