



KINSTON

NORTH CAROLINA

NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter
September 2021



"okra" mural by Seraphim Smith



"Music Educators" mural by Jared Bader



CITY UPDATES

Read about holiday schedule changes on pg 2

IN MEMORIAM

A tribute to Public Service employees p2

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

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

9/11 DAY 20 YEARS

Thank you to all who joined us at Historic Grainger Stadium, as we remembered the sacrifice of those who lost their lives on 9/11 and honored our first responders, military, and veterans who serve our community daily. It was a beautiful event.

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK 9/25 - 10/3

As of 9/1 8,692 kg of greenhouse gas emissions have been avoided by using our electric vehicle charging stations! That's like planting 223 trees & letting them grow for 10 years!

PUBLIC POWER WEEK 10/3 - 10/9

CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK 10/4 - 10/8



KINSTON
PUBLIC SERVICES

AMVETS Post 1111, Lenoir County Emergency Services & Greene Lamp Community Action Presents the



9/11 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 11, 9:00 AM,
HISTORIC GRAINGER STADIUM
400 E. GRAINGER AVE.,
KINSTON, NC

Join us as we remember the sacrifice of those who lost their lives on 9/11 & honor our first responders, military and veterans who serve our community daily.

Guest speakers,
Music, Static
Vehicles, etc.



9/11
DAY 20 YEARS





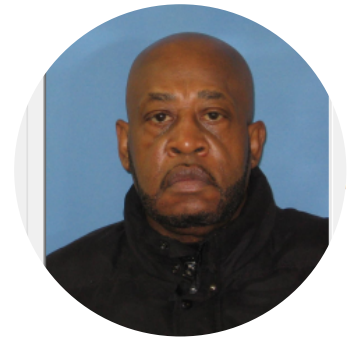
"Kinston Strong" mural by Broderick Flanigan through the Downtown Kinston Mural Program



Randy Moore
Electric Line Supervisor



Robert Coley
Environmental Services
Equipment Operator I



We are saddened to announce that we lost two Public Services family members in August.

Randy Moore - Electric Line Supervisor, and Robert Coley - Environmental Services Equipment Operator I, should be remembered for their great contributions to our community as employees with the City of Kinston and will both be deeply missed.

Please keep their families, friends & work families in your thoughts and prayers.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Environmental Services schedule changes are below

Labor Day

Observed on **Monday, September 6th, 2021** - No Collection - Items will be picked up on Tuesday, September 7th.

Election Day

Observed on **Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021** - No Collection - Items will be picked up on Monday, November 1st.

Veterans Day

Observed on **Thursday, November 11th, 2021** - No Collection - Items will be picked up on Friday, November 12th.

Thanksgiving

Observed **Thursday, November 25th, 2021 & Friday, November 26th, 2021** - No Collection - Items will be picked up on Wednesday, November 24th.

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

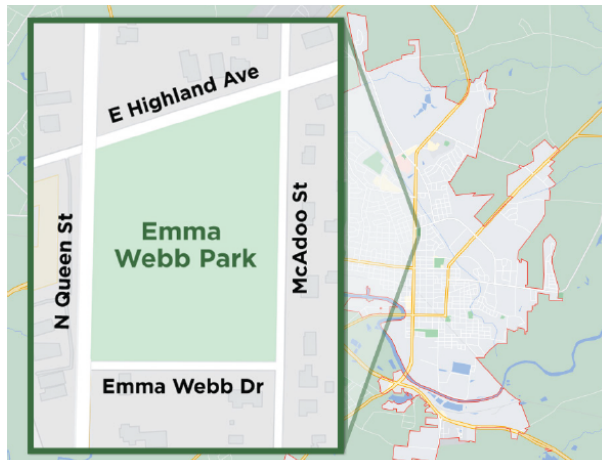
**HAVE A
LEAKY
FAUCET OR
SHOWER
HEAD?**



**ONE DRIP EVERY
SECOND ADDS UP TO 3
GALLONS PER DAY!**

**REPAIRING
THE LEAK
COULD BE
AS SIMPLE AS
REPLACING
THE SEAT
WASHER.**





EMMA WEBB PARK PLAN SURVEY

Emma Webb Park has been an important community gathering place for almost 90 years. The City of Kinston, Kinston Teens, and Kinston/Lenoir Parks & Recreation are looking for community feedback to develop a master plan for the future of the park. Please share how you currently use the park, how you envision the park improving, and what types of activities and elements you would like to see at the park. To share your input on how Emma Webb Park could be improved, visit EmmaWebbPark.com!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, October 5th from 12:30-5pm
Tuesday, December 7th 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: CITY COUNCIL REFERENCE MANUAL

Have you ever wondered what an elected official does, or how they interact with the other departments at the City?

The Kinston City Council Reference Manual is a collection of basic information about the role of the City Council and City operations including elections, meetings, finances, and more! The manual is not intended to be comprehensive; the book provides enough information to have useful conversations with the City Manager, City Clerk, and Department Heads about any issue the City may encounter.

The reference manual is for anyone interested in learning more about the City Council! Please reach out to Community Development Planner Sarah Arney at 252-939-3271 or sarah.arney@ci.kinston.nc.us with any questions.



Downtown Kinston Revitalization is hopeful COVID19 and the Delta and other variants do not cause the cancellation of Christmas Festivities downtown in 2021.

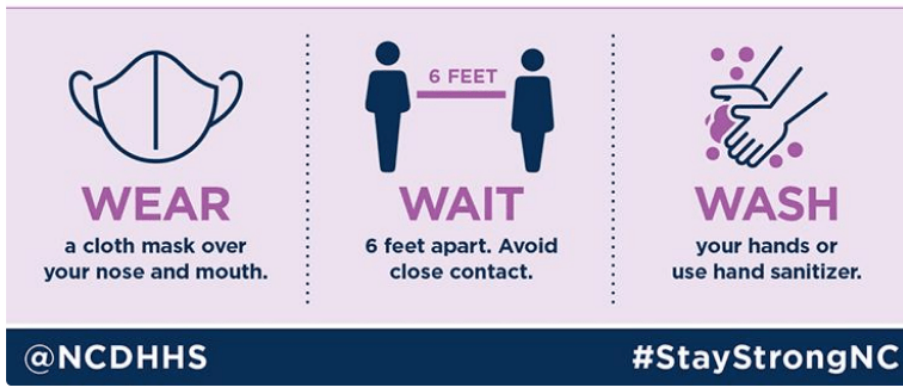
We are pushing on with our plans for Pearson Park Lighting Saturday, November 27, and the Christmas Parade Saturday, December 4.

Kinston is rapidly becoming a holidays destination location.



A conservative estimate of 4500 people were drawn to the Pearson Park lights and the Tinsel Trail during the month of December 2020. If 10% of those guests (450) stayed and played downtown, they would have averaged spending \$30/each which means about \$13,000 in revenues was generated resulting from lighting the Park for the holidays. This is community economic development and why we must grow this joyous experience each year as we continue to make Kinston a holidays destination location.

If you leave home, know your 3 Ws!



CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

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

- The Council proclaimed and shared the history of Juneteenth.
- The Council recognized the heroism of Zachary Grady, a young man who saved two people from drowning in the Neuse River
- The City recognized 11 retirees from the City including Ms. Janice Sparrow from the Finance Department, Sue Johnson from the KPD, Sgt. Scott Jackson from the KPD, and Chief Dilday also of the KPD. Thank you all for your years of service and dedication to the City!
- Adam Short, the City's Planning Director, transitioned to Lenoir County as the Assistant County Manager and Planning Director. The City entered into an interlocal agreement with Lenoir County to temporarily share Planning and Zoning services while the transition takes place.
- The City of Kinston continues to hold vaccination events, offer emergency utility payments, and expand WiFi in city facilities through the CDBG-CV grant to mitigate the effects of COVID-19

WORDS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

by Councilwoman Kristal Suggs



In 2017, I was elected to join the City Council and it has been an honor to serve from start to finish. The historic margin of my win was also a win for equity and accessibility for underrepresented members of our community. Again, I thank all of those who supported me in the last election.

It has been both challenging and rewarding to lead during one of the most difficult times in history as we faced the COVID-19 pandemic. As a councilmember, I partnered with community agencies to meet the needs of our citizens through food and utility assistance, testing programs, and vaccinations. Our City has worked diligently to meet the needs of our citizens and employees by increasing digital access to City services and making council meetings accessible through Facebook livestreams.

During my term we acquired the Kinston Community Center and Lions Water Park, launched a Disproportionate Minority Contact program and increased diversity of the Police department, made major improvements on Queen Street, implemented the Kinston 101 Academy, and made Election Day and Juneteenth city-wide holidays. I'm proud to have helped steer the Downtown Mural Project, and start a new Master Plan for Emma Webb Park.

It has been my great honor to serve you all. Please stay safe and continue to take precautions during this global pandemic.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (September-November)

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Sept 7th, 5:30pm,
City Hall

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

Sept 21, 7pm, City
Hall

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

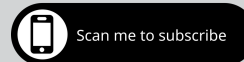
Oct 5th, 530pm,
City Hall

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Oct 19th, 7pm, City
Hall

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

Nov 2nd, 530pm,
City Hall



Stay up to date!

@City of Kinston
Facebook · YouTube

Website:
kinstonnc.gov