



# KINSTON

NORTH CAROLINA

## NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter  
December 2021



### CITY UPDATES

Read about holiday plans on p. 1



### CITY EMPLOYEES

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### CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

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

## A KINSTON CHRISTMAS

This season, the City of Kinston and Downtown Kinston Revitalization celebrated the holidays with a Holiday Tree Lighting November 27th, and a Christmas Parade December 4th!

You can still see the local businesses and community members that have decorated the Tinsel Trail at Pearson Park through the end of December. Please continue to support our City and downtown safely by social distancing, wearing masks indoors, and getting vaccinated!







Call 252-939-1330 to book an appointment with the Elf Shop Dec 7,8,9, or 11, or book online on the KCC Facebook page!

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Environmental Services schedule changes are below

### Christmas

Observed Thursday, December 23rd-Monday, December 27th.  
Thursday & Friday routes will be collected on Wednesday, December 22nd. Monday's route will be collected on Tuesday, December 28th.

### New Year's Day

Observed Friday, December 31st.  
Friday's route will be picked up on Thursday, December 30th.

### Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Observed Monday, January 17th.  
Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, January 18th.

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

## MEET YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES

*Meet the new employees hired since September!*

- Alicia Meready, Athletic Field Personnel
- Andrew Lawson, Center Assistant
- Andrew Sutton, Fire Fighter
- Ariana Conner, Gymnastics Assistant
- Ashley Gonzalez, Police Officer Trainee
- Austin Williams, Tennis Assistant
- Barry Combs Jr, Equipment Operator II
- Candyce Parham, KCC Clerk/Typist
- Carla Thompson, Center Assistant - Nature Center
- Carlo Parker, Center Assistant - MCF
- Dashon Ingram, Sanitation Worker
- DeMarqus Moore, Sanitation Equipment Operator
- Dillon Tyndall, Maintenance Worker III
- Dylan Harris, Lifeguard
- George Tyndall, Lifeguard
- Gavin Barwick, Lifeguard
- Jaimir Roberts, Maintenance Worker I
- Jenay Miller, Center Assistant - Planetarium
- Joseph Haag, Fire Figher
- Jonathan Deaver, Maintenance Worker II
- Kenneth Kennon, Maintenance Worker II
- Michael Hall, Fire Fighter
- Susannah Swindell, Tennis Assistant
- Tabitha Stroud, Lifeguard
- Tenisha Darden Center Assistant - KCC
- William James, Stadium Maintenance Supervisor

Want to join the City?  
Contact HR at 252-939-3118, or  
[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/kinstonnc](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/kinstonnc)



**'TIS THE  
SEASON FOR  
PEDESTRIAN  
SAFETY!**

### Be Predictable

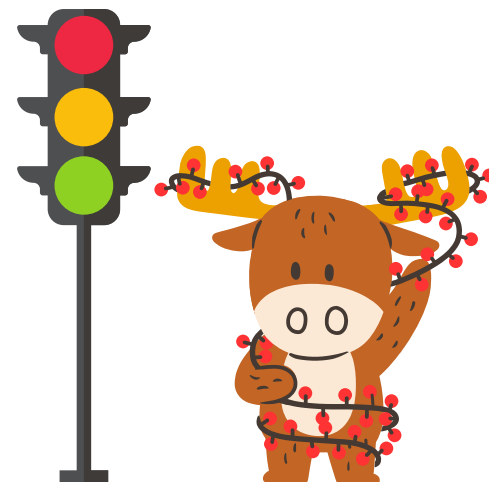
- Use sidewalks when available
- Cross streets at clearly marked crosswalks
- Drivers, yield to pedestrians

### Be Visible

- Wear bright/reflective clothing
- Carry a light
- Drivers, keep your headlights on

### Be Cautious

- Always assume there will be others sharing the road, keep an eye out!





## FIRE PREVENTION MONTH AT THE CITY OF KINSTON

October was #FireSafetyMonth at Fire Station 1! Captain Barss and the Fire Department team hosted over 860 Lenoir County Elementary Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Graders from almost every school in the county. Students went through 10 safety stations including touching fire trucks, seeing a fire hose in action, a puppet show, the Fire Safety bounce house, and, of course, Stop, Drop, and Roll!

Special thanks to all our teachers, volunteers and firefighters who made this possible.



### This holiday season, keep Fire Safety in mind with the following tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from your furnace, fireplace, or space heaters!
- Turn off all light strings and lit decorations before leaving home or going to bed!
- More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles--put them out before you leave the room!
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms once a year!



## : SPRING 2022 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Do you want to learn about the operations of the city and talk with our city leaders? Apply by January 21st to Kinston 101, the City's citizen academy either online at [tinyurl.com/Kinston101apply](https://tinyurl.com/Kinston101apply) or by contacting Community Development Planner Sarah Arney at 252-939-3271 or [sarah.arney@ci.kinston.nc.us](mailto:sarah.arney@ci.kinston.nc.us).

In Kinston 101, participants will learn about every City department from its Department Head, tour our wastewater treatment plant, see our parks, explore Fire Station 1, pass a mock city budget, and more!

Participants must attend at least 7/10 sessions (the first session is mandatory). There is no age limit or experience necessary. Preference is given to folks living in the City limits, but anyone who is interested and invested in Kinston may apply--all are welcome!

\*All Thursday evening sessions are from 530-8pm

\*All Saturday Sessions are from 9am-12pm

	Topic	Date		Topic	Date
1	Intro to Local Government	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> , Th.	6	Downtown Kinston Revitalization	March 24 <sup>th</sup> , Th.
2	Behind the Scenes in City Hall: Finance, HR, and MIS	Feb 17 <sup>th</sup> , Th.	7	Planning, Inspections, and Code Enforcement	March 31 <sup>st</sup> , Th.
3	Police	Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> , Th.	8	Parks and Recreation	April 9 <sup>th</sup> , Sat.
4	Public Services I	March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Th.		Two Weeks Off	
5	Public Services II	March 12 <sup>th</sup> , Sat.	9	Fire & Rescue	April 28 <sup>th</sup> , Th.
	Week Off		10	The Budget	May 5 <sup>th</sup> , Th.



Vaccinations will be available for EVERYONE 5 years and older at two locations this December!

### Grainger Stadium:

Fri-Sat 430pm-7pm until Dec 17th

### Holloway Recreation Center:

Mon-Fri 10am-5pm starting Dec 20

Anyone who has received their 2nd vaccination dose 6 months ago (or longer) is eligible for a booster shot!





### Red Cross Blood Drives

**Tuesday, December 14th from 12:30-5p**  
**Tuesday, February 8th from 12:30-5p**

**Located at the Kinston Public Services  
Complex at 2360 Hwy 258 S**  
**Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter  
KPSC to schedule an appointment.**

### Christmas Tree Removal Instructions for our residential customers:

All decorations must  
be removed from the  
tree & the tree  
removed from the  
stand.



Place the tree at the  
curb prior to your  
collection date and  
give us a call at  
252-939-3282.

## CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

The following are some highlights of  
the City Council meetings from -Sept-  
Nov 2021 (see the full minutes at  
[kinstonnc.gov/AgendaCenter](http://kinstonnc.gov/AgendaCenter)):

- Honored the 20th anniversary of 9/11
- Changed the development ordinance to allow buildings of any height in the B-1 zoning district to match other commercial zonings in the City
- Approved the Recreation Fee Assistance Program to help low income families afford to participate in Rec sports
- Heard Keegan Huynh, the newest Lead for North Carolina Fellow, present his plan for updating the American Disabilities Act Plan (ADA) for City facilities
- Celebrated Public Power Week and Customer Service Week in Public Services
- Celebrated Fire Prevention Month in October
- The City Council conveyed the property of the former shirt factory site on King Street to the Kinston Community Health Center (provided they meet certain goals for financing and construction) to invest \$10 million into a new healthcare center
- Re-expanded the Bird Scooter operation radius to include neighborhoods outside downtown

## MEET YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS - CHRIS SUGGS

*by Chris Suggs*

Greetings, Kinston! I am honored and grateful to the citizens of this great community for electing me as the newest member of our City Council.

The Council is Kinston's five-person governing body that makes important decisions on behalf of our community, and it meets on the first (at 5:30PM) and third (at 7:00PM) Tuesday of each month.

I invite you to join us at an upcoming meeting, or reach out to me to schedule a conversation. I would love to hear your ideas, thoughts and concerns about the direction of our city and how we can work together to make a difference. I can be reached at [chris.suggs@ci.kinston.nc.us](mailto:chris.suggs@ci.kinston.nc.us), or by leaving a message with the City Clerk's office at (252) 939-3115.

Kind regards and Happy Holidays,  
Councilman Chris J. Suggs



## UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS (December-February)

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

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

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No second meeting  
in December

Jan 4th, 5:30pm,  
City Hall

Jan 18th, 7pm,  
City Hall

Feb 1st, 5:30pm,  
City Hall

Feb 15th, 7pm,  
City Hall



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Website:  
[kinstonnc.gov](http://kinstonnc.gov)