



CITY UPDATES

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CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

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Meetings on Pg. 4

Loose leaf season is here! Loose leaves & pine needles can be placed behind the curb, away from water meters, fire hydrants & stormwater drains. After ensuring piles are free of limbs & debris, please call us at 252-939-3282 to request a service order for pick up.

USING A LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE?

When purchasing a live Christmas tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. Cut 1-2 inches from the base of the trunk immediately before placing the tree in the stand and filling with water to ensure water absorption. (Be sure to keep the tree stand filled with water so your tree doesn't dry out and become a fire hazard).

**When purchasing an artificial tree, look for a fire-resistant label. This indicates that the tree is more resistant to burning.*

For City of Kinston Residential customers, live Christmas tree removal is available. After removing all decorations, lights and tree stand, place the tree at the curb prior to your collection date, and call 252.939.3282 to request a pick up.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Kinston Police Department, Kinston Public Services, Kinston Fire and Rescue along with City Hall staff joined Althea Simmons, Administrative Manager I in the City Manager's office for her annual 1 mile walk for breast cancer awareness on October 26th! Her annual American Cancer Society campaign raised \$1,779 this year!



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Environmental Schedule changes are below

Christmas

Observed Monday, December 25th - Wednesday, December 27th.

Monday and Tuesday's garbage route will be collected Thursday, December 28th.

Thursday and Friday's Route will be collected Friday, December 29th.

New Years Day

Observed Monday, January 1st.

Monday's garbage route will be collected on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

Observed on Monday, January 15th.

Monday's garbage route will be collected on Tuesday, January 16th.

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

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Located at the Kinston Public Service Complex at 2360 HWY 258 South.

Tuesday, December 12th
12:30pm - 5:00pm

Tuesday, February 13th
12:30pm - 5:00pm



American Red Cross

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org & enter KPSC to schedule an appointment.



**CHRISTMAS PARADE
SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND
4:30PM**

**REGISTER/EL REGISTRO
WWW.DOWNTOWNKINSTON.COM**

252-525-6144



Neuseway Nature Park and R.A.D.D. present:
Elf on the Shelf Christmas Party
For our special needs population
Where: Meeting Room; Neuseway Nature Park, Kinston
When: Dec. 20th 10:00 - 1:00 floating (ages 16 and up)
Dec. 21st 10:00 - 1:00 floating (under 16)
***You must preregister for a time slot by calling 252-939-3302 (no charge event)**
***Sensory Craft *snacks *Photo area * gifts**
A live Elf on the shelf will be there!

Down East Christmas
at Historic Grainger Stadium
Christmas Lights
Pictures w/ Santa & DEWD
Toy & Coat Drive
Crafts
Raffles
Music
Hot Chocolate
FRIDAY 8 DEC AT 6-8 PM
Contact Maddy Meehan at mmeehan@woodducksbaseball.com or 252-686-5165

TEMPTRACKER365

Have you used ElectriCities of NC's TempTracker365?

This tool allows you to track temperatures by days, weeks or months! This can give insight on times that temperatures were immensely cold or hot. Extreme temperatures could cause your heating/cooling system to run longer, which would affect your monthly bill & usage.

Try TempTracker 365 today:
<http://www.temptracker365.com>

COLD WEATHER ENERGY SAVING TIPS



- Keep the fireplace damper closed unless there is a fire burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- Check and seal air leaks throughout your home. Weatherstrip your windows and doors.
- Close doors of unused rooms.
- Keep the temperature of the water heater to the warm setting (120°F). This will not only save energy, it will also help avoid scalding.
- Keep the air circulating. Set ceiling fans to spin clockwise. This helps push down warm air that has risen.
- Open curtains to allow sunlight to naturally heat the home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- Set your thermostat between 68° to 72°.

GIVING TUESDAY 2023

Kinston Public Services hosted a Toys for Tots drive in honor of Giving Tuesday, November 28th.



KINSTON 101

Interested in learning about the inner workings of local government? Or gaining a network of local officials, government staff, and talented Kinston residents? How about an opportunity to network with local government staff, elected officials and talented Kinston residents? **Apply to be a part of Kinston 101 today!**

Kinston 101 is a nine week citizen academy beginning in January of 2024. This program looks comprehensively at the role and structure of local government in the community. Participants get a hands-on and behind-the-scenes look at how services and programs are provided. Each week, different departments within the City will host presentations about their area of work. These presentations will include some type of interactive component with a couple of sessions including tours of City facilities/resources! Participants also learn how they can be more involved in local government as well as make great connections with other citizens.

As a participant, you will visit Kinston's Fire Department & Rescue (KDFR). They will host participants at the fire station to teach and learn about KDFR's job, their administration, and even give a tour of a fire truck! Public Services will talk all things utilities and let us tour the wastewater treatment facility. Human Resources, Management Information Systems, Planning, Parks & Rec, & others from our City will provide insight into local government services and operations that help make this city great!

Sessions will be held every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting January 17th, 2024 at Kinston's City Hall. Applications are available on our website at <https://www.ci.kinston.nc.us/576/Kinston-101>, or you can get one in person in the lobby area at City Hall, 207 E King Street. Sign up closes December 22nd, so apply today for a chance to secure your spot in the upcoming cohort! Whether you are new to the area or born and raised in Kinston, you are guaranteed to learn something new about local government as a part of Kinston 101.

If you have any questions contact Brittany Best at Brittany.Best@ci.kinston.nc.us or [252.939.4021](tel:252.939.4021).



MEET YOUR CITY EMPLOYEES

Meet the new employees hired since September!

Jordan Lucas, Firefighter
Christopher Henson - Equipment Operator 2
Alejandro Vega - Maintenance Worker I
Christopher Kelly - Field Supervisor
Christopher Wetherington - Center Assistant Nature Center
Jose Sanchez - Center Assistant Planetarium
Khadafiahn Turner - Maintenance Worker I
Mark McKenzie - Tennis Asst
Jordan Moore - SmartGrid Technician
Victoria Yanez - Lifeguard KCC
Cody Pike - Maintenance Worker I
Earl Dorsey - Equipment Operator 2
Danielle Pruitt - Lifeguard KCC
Christa Thompson - Lifeguard KCC
Olivia Begelman - Lifeguard KCC
Mason Sasser - Lifeguard KCC
Tyler Bradshaw - Lifeguard KCC

Want to join the City?

Contact our HR Department at 252-939-3118,
or go online to

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/kinstonnc



We are pleased to
welcome Sharon Mervin
as the new Public
Information Officer for
City of Kinston!

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

The following are some
highlights of the City Council
meetings from
September 2023 – November
2023 (see the full minutes at
kinstonnc.gov/AgendaCenter):

- Rhonda Barwick stated that in this year's budget, the council set aside \$50,000 for the Organizational Support Grant.
- The resolution to apply for Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) funding was approved.
- An ordinance to establish the Capital Project Fund for the Vernon Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation Project was approved. It is to cover the construction cost along with the construction observation and construction testing.
- Michael Thomas, MIS Director was presented with the GMIS (Government Management Information System) International Honorable Mention Award. One individual is chosen nationally to receive the final award and Mr. Thomas was 1 of only 6 professionals identified for honorable mention during this year's conference. Mr. Thomas was nominated by his staff for over 30 years of dedicated service to our community.
- The resolution to accept the \$400,000 grant Stormwater Planning Grant provided by the local assistance for stormwater and infrastructure investments was approved.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

(December - February)

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 5th
5:30pm, City Hall

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 2nd
5:30pm, City Hall

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

January 16th
7pm, City Hall

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 6th
5:30pm, City Hall

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

February 20th
7pm, City Hall



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kinstonnc.gov