

Kingston Timeline: Twentieth-Century Events

Created by the Kingston Public Library's Local History Room Volunteers
from the Annual Town Reports

1900

Population: 1,995; School population: 394; Value of town \$1,381,970; Tax rate \$15/\$1,000

- A new two-room schoolhouse built for \$4,400 on Howland's Lane.
- A formation of a union with Halifax, Pembroke, and Plympton to employ a District Superintendent begins (would last until 2004).

1901

- 160 tramps are provided for; low winter temperatures occasion the increase.
- Kingston & Plymouth Railway (trolley lines) expands to Whitman with a stop at Mayflower Grove (in Pembroke). Cost per ride is \$0.25; one-way the ride is two hours long. At Mayflower Grove there is an amusement park, a car barn, a booster station and a jail.

1902

- The Town spends \$50.00 on reconstruction of the town hearse.
- Use of outdoor hoses is restricted to one hour per day to conserve water supply.

1903

- The State Legislature establishes Old Home Week: Kingston activities include a clambake at Rocky Nook, a dance at Town Hall, a Children's Day and an Odd Fellows Day. The cost to the town is \$147.84

1904

- State Legislature mandates taxes for state highway maintenance based upon population of the towns through which highway crosses.
- Kingston High School graduates 14 students, with one to attend college.

1905

- Charles Foster, a former Kingston resident, presents to the Library a beautiful 8-day hall clock.
- The Report of the School Committee states that "hand and eye training afford invaluable mental and moral discipline, and members of the State Board of Education are now urging this strongly."

1906

- The Report of the School Committee includes a statement on the educational value of school-gardens.
- The School Committee suggests the Superintendent of Schools compile a list of books available at the library that would be suitable for students to read in connection with history, geography, literature, and manual exercises.

1907

- The year has been notable for the amount of sickness among the students in Kingston schools.
- At the beginning of the fall term of the High School, eighteen students wished to take the course in stenography and typewriting. Two new typewriting machines were added to the equipment, and, as no room was available in the High school building for the enlarged class, a room was hired in a house nearby which provided comfortable accommodations.

1908

- Land is purchased for a two-room schoolhouse on Maple Avenue (would open in 1910).
- Howland's Lane is improved with gravel.

1909

- Diphtheria epidemic necessitates the closing of schools and the omission of graduation exercises.

1910

Population: not listed; School population: 507; Value of Town \$1,615,840; Tax rate \$15/\$1,000

- The Committee of the Adams Course provides a lecture on practical poultry keeping, a concert by the Colonial Orchestra Club, and an illustrated lecture on China.
- Of the 689 students the school physician examined, the greatest number of "diseased conditions" that were found were 311 cases of decayed teeth.

1911

- A new wagon is purchased for transporting children from the Indian Pond District to school.
- The Gilchrist Company of Boston donates 200 catalpa trees, which are planted by Kingston children.

1912

- A lot is purchased from the Seth Cobb Estate for a four-room school at the March Annual Town Meeting for a cost of \$1,500. Two rooms of the "Cobb" School are occupied later in the year.

1913

- A new law regarding employment of minors (14-16 yrs) results in many young people returning to school.

1914

- A water department employee dies when a ditch on Landing Road caves in due to rainstorm and high tides.
- George Holmes completes work on the upper story of Cobb School. Water bubblers are also installed.
- Elspeth Hardy begins teaching at Center School, first and second grade.

1915

- Adding new cement to bottom of tank repairs a leak in the reservoir off of Indian Pond Road.

1918

- Kingston adopts the Prohibition Act to ban the sale of alcohol.
- Influenza epidemic causes 18 deaths in four months (ages 6 to 31 yrs.); school closes three weeks early and graduation is canceled.
- The federal government passes the “daylight saving time” program.

1919

- October 18, 1919, a welcome home parade, band concert, turkey supper and grand ball are held to show the town’s gratitude to those serving in World War I.

1920

Population: 2,540; School population: 486; Town valuation \$1,844,360; Tax rate \$30/\$1,000.

- Many from Kingston attend the Tercentenary celebration in Plymouth.

1921

- \$22,000 is spent to build an addition and furnish Kingston High School (on Main Street).
- Main Street and Summer Street are widened.
- The Jones River Village Club purchases the Major John Bradford House.

1922

- The Kingston Playground Commission purchases land for a playground for \$1,500.

1924

- A diphtheria epidemic is stopped by the inoculation of students and the fumigation of schools during the two-week winter vacation.
- Another male teacher is hired at the High School to help the principal with programs for boys.

1926

- Kingston is 200 years old.
- Edgar Reed gives the Reed Community Building to the town and the playground is named for Captain Fred Bailey, who was Chairman of the 200th anniversary celebration.
- Building permits from the selectmen are now necessary for the erection or remodeling of buildings.
- State legislation establishes finance committees: in Kingston, Alexander Holmes is the first chairman.
- The town moderator is now appointed for three-year term, with no compensation.

- A new accounting procedure mandated by the state is established in Kingston.
- Additions to Kingston High School include classrooms, an auditorium and a lunchroom in the basement.
- School transportation is required by the State for students living more than two miles from school. The first school bus replaces the horse and wagon. This necessitates changing school schedules (daily opening and closing times) in order to keep the cost of transportation down.
- The Pastor of the Mayflower Church resigns when he is found to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

1927

- A bus line is established to replace and improve the existing street railway (trolley car) system.
- The entire water commission resigns in a controversy over the condition and offered methods of repair for the reservoir.
- The treasurer / tax collector resigns after 26 ½ years. Frank Randall is appointed: he serves at the Town Hall Tuesday mornings, Friday afternoons and evenings.
- All dairy herds are subjected to either a tuberculin test or their milk must be pasteurized.
- Movies are shown to the public at the Reed Community Building.
- Summer Street is rebuilt and widened.

1928

- Due to an additional \$250.00 being provided at the June Special Town Meeting, thirteen new 4-Watt streetlights have been installed and are in operation.
- In regards to the Town House: “There have been so many ideas advanced during the past two or three years as to what should be done in the way of repairs and alterations, none of which have borne fruit, that the building has suffered materially from neglect. The Selectmen who are charged with the care of the building have, due to lack of funds, had to sit by and watch the building go from bad to worse.”
- Railroad warning signs are erected on Maple Street and a traffic warning sign on Main Street at Green Street.

1929

- Prohibition Act, of alcohol sales is enacted by federal government
- The Stock Market crashes in October.
- Town offices move to the Town Hall after \$4,000 in renovations.
- There are 55 forest fires in Kingston; the Fire Department receives 99 calls from March 12th to September 4th
- Permits from the Board of Health are now necessary for emptying of a cesspool.
- Proposed town bylaws are submitted for review.

1930

Population: 2,671; School population: 505; Town valuation: \$4,470,070; Tax rate \$20.40/\$1,000

- The railroad bridge at Howland’s Lane is widened, the road rebuilt, and the house at the corner of Main Street and Howland’s Lane is removed to improve approach.

- The walls of the Reed Community Building auditorium are padded with felt to improved the acoustic properties and has made a wonderful improvement.

1931

- Plymouth County Commissioners withdraw their assistance to resurface Main Street with macadam.
- The Selectmen suggest changing the street signs, so that they are made of metal instead of soft lumber, which needs to be replaced approximately every three years.
- Kingston is selected to host the Plymouth County Extension Service's annual meeting.

1932

- The Kingston High School football team wins the South Shore Championship.
- Center Primary (now known as the Faunce School) is abandoned by the School Department.

1933

- The Kingston Grange is conveyed the Faunce School property, with the stipulation that it will revert back to the Town of Kingston when no longer in use by the Grange.

1934

- 150 acres of clam-flats are predicted to yield \$300,000 of clams.
- The state says Cobb School needs a fire escape from second floor.

1935

- Kingston Town House is renovated to include five offices and a new vault for a cost of \$5,500.
- Works Progress Administration funds a Nursery School held at the Reed Community Building (48-60 pupils attend).
- Kingston High School yearbook "The Memory Chest" is published for first time.

1936

- December 1, 1936, Kingston Selectmen perambulate the boundary line and find boundary stones at Seaside, Nick's Rock, and Parting Ways.
- New Librarian Minnie Figmic replaces Jennie McLauthlin who has retired after 40 years of service.
- Sidewalks are installed from Prouty's Garage (Summer Street and Tremont Street) to the Plymouth Line (Main Street) as a WPA project.

1937

- Gray's Beach becomes the Town Landing.
- 200 feet on the Jones River is purchased for access to shellfish beds.
- A telephone is installed at the Library.
- Town Meeting considers bylaws for trailer parks and billboards.

- Schools are overcrowded with an average of 38 students per teacher.

1938

- Some street names are changed.
- Interest is expressed in a bathing beach at the Town Landing (Gray's Beach).
- September 22nd hurricane leaves severe damage in Kingston: WPA assists in removing the debris.
- National Youth Administration program for 18-25 year-olds provides staffing assistance in library, schools, and they also build tables and fireplaces at Town Landing.
- The Kingston Police Department promotes bicycle safety programs.

1939

- An automatic dial system replaces the telephone exchange.
- Chief of Police is now also serving as the Shellfish Warden.
- Kingston is relieved of annual support for Powder Point Bridge.
- Works Progress Administration activities continue.

1940

Population: 2,777; School population: 796; Town Valuation: \$4,486,930; Tax rate: \$22.40/\$1,000.

- Works Progress Administration develops recreational activities at Gray's Beach. Works Progress Administration employees also work in Kingston High School cafeteria and perform clerical work in town offices.
- Pembroke's Mayflower Grove, a summer recreational area, closes.
- New Hampshire earthquake on December 20th is the worst in New England since 1795.

1941

- Safety and air raid plans are prepared for each school. Due to World War II, drills are held.
- Walter H. Faunce's niece, Eliza H. Faunce presents a portrait of her uncle to the Selectmen.

1942

- Town purchases property on Maple Street for a Fire Station.
- Kingston Civil Defense is active in blackout regulations: the dim-out of lighting extends three miles inland along the coastline.
- Kingston High School courses adjust to help prepare young men for military service including fundamentals of electricity, machinery and shop work.
- Teachers are called into military service: only one man is left for the sports program.
- Kingston now has a Company of Massachusetts State Guard: Mr. Charles Lawrance (Superintendent of Schools) is Captain.

1943

- State-mandated "Traffic Rules and Orders" go into effect.

- Due to the increase of disease in neighboring towns, 181 dogs are inoculated for rabies.
- Teacher turnover due to wartime demands continues.

1944

- The Flag Fund is established in order to display the flag on the town flagpole during the proper hours of every state and national holiday and on every pleasant day during the period of April 19th through November 11th.
- Public buildings close on certain days to conserve fuel and electricity.
- A September hurricane causes less property damage, but is just as severe as the one in 1938.

1945

- A Police cruiser is destroyed in a fire at Prouty's Garage.
- The School Building Committee reports on a survey taken to determine future and present school needs.
- Kingston celebrates Victory in Europe Day in May and Victory over Japan Day in August.
- The Kingston High School lunchroom moves from basement to the first floor with 85% of pupils participating in the program.
- Miss Mange, RN, retires as school nurse after 25 years of service.
- The G.I. Bill of Rights impresses upon returning veterans the importance of education.

1946

- Kingston holds a "Welcome Home Day" in August for returning servicemen and women.
- Selectmen grant 161 building permits for new construction.
- Lorenzo Peterson is Kingston's oldest citizen at 91 years.

1947

- The Rocky Nook School is sold to the Harold F. Govoni Post (Veterans).
- Town purchases land off of Main Street for an elementary school.
- Main Street Surprise Hose House property is sold to Kingston Post 108 (Veterans) for \$1 with condition that the building be moved to the rear of the property and amended that when the land is no longer used for Legion Post it returns to the Town of Kingston.
- A committee is investigating a regional school system.
- Kingston High School (boy's) Basketball Team wins Class C Championship.

1948

- A Kingston Housing Authority is created as directed by State Legislature.
- Kingston's Route 3 bypass is laid out.
- A finback whale comes ashore near the foot of River Street. It is 42 feet long and weighs 30 tons. The whale is buried at the town dump off of Summer Street.
- Two-watt radios are installed in fire trucks to facilitate work and safety.

- Kingston now has four school buildings: Howland's Lane, Cobb, Maple Avenue and Kingston High School plus one class room at the Reed; all physical education activities are held at the Reed Community Building.

1949

- At Gray's Beach, suitable toilets and showers are installed as mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
- A new elementary school is under construction off Main Street
- An eight-week summer program for school-age children begins at the Reed Community Building and is very successful.

1950

Population: 3,449; School population: 575; Town Valuation \$6,925,200; Tax rate \$32/\$1,000

- The Town Moderator appoints a permanent Waterfront Committee, made up of three members; \$1,000 is voted to formulate plans and improvements on the waterfront.
- A World War II Memorial Committee is established.
- Wapping Road land, to be called the Walter H. Faunce Memorial Grant, is given to Kingston in memory of Walter H. Faunce by his niece Eliza Faunce.
- The new Kingston Elementary School opens; Cobb and Howland's Lane schools are closed and the latter is sold to the Hillside Club for \$500.
- The Town purchases land on South Street for a new well to increase water supply.
- A Civil Defense Department is established by State mandate.
- Kingston artist Helen Foster designs the official Town Seal.
- A bathhouse is built at Gray's Beach.
- The cooperative study of school needs, within the towns of Kingston, Pembroke, Plympton, and Halifax is officially known as the Regional School District Planning Board.
- Town purchases 200 feet of land north of the wharf at River Street (once again known as Town Landing).
- A new Town Dump is created on the southwest side of the new Kingston bypass (Route 3).
- Kingston accepts a driver's education car from Bridgewater Motor Sales.

1951

- Women are eligible to be chosen for jury duty.
- The vexing problem of the town being divided into two separate telephone zones necessitating the payment of toll charges is in the process of being eliminated.
- The State requests that Kingston spray for Green-Head Flies.

1952

- Kingston Little League Baseball is established and has a successful first year.
- Town adopts recommendations of the Regional School Planning Board and the Silver Lake Regional High School is planned for junior and senior high school pupils as part of the Silver Lake Regional School District.

1953

- Miss Lucy Treat retires after 39 years of teaching two generations of students in Kingston.
- Out-of-town cars are charged \$0.50 cents to use Gray's Beach: revenues will be used for Park improvements.
- The South Street Pumping Station is completed by the Water Department.
- The Town Barn, for use by the Highway Department, is completed on Evergreen Street.
- The Civil Defense Department concludes blood typing for over 900 citizens.
- Town's zoning bylaws becomes the Zoning Ordinance.
- A school guidance department is established; of 38 graduates 17 go on for further education and 6 enlist into the armed services.
- Building plans are completed for the Silver Lake Regional High School. Town meeting plans to finance the project.

1954

- Hurricanes "Carol" and "Edna" cause a great deal of damage to town trees; clean up is reimbursed by the State. The hurricanes necessitate emergency food depots.
- World War II Memorial, located at the intersection of Main Street and Route 3, is completed by Memorial Day.
- A medical plan is instituted for recipients of Public Welfare.
- Harbormaster requires boat owners to register their boats.
- Due to Dutch Elm disease the Tree Warden requests that no elm wood should be stored for use as firewood.
- Civil Defense Department erects a new observation tower off of Smith's Lane next to the one used during World War II: the new tower is to be manned by volunteers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Yachts moored at the Jones River Basin increase from 15 to 62 necessitating new floats.

1955

- The Town Planning Board is established with five members to be elected.
- The Town Park Commission is established with three members to be elected.
- Silver Lake Regional School District establishes and maintains a Vocational School.
- The Town accepts a gift of the Mill Pond on Maple Street from C. Drew Company.
- Twenty-two cedar trees are used by the Harbormaster to mark the Rocky Nook channel.
- The last Kingston High School class graduates: Silver Lake Regional High School opens in the fall.

1956

- Walter H. Faunce Memorial Grant is voted as a Town Forest.
- Both the March 17th and the March 24th Town Meetings are postponed due to snowstorms.
- Silver Lake Regional High School graduates 30 students from Kingston.

1957

- Kingston Industrial Development Commission prepares brochure outlining Kingston, its history, its services of all kinds, its labor pool, its buying power as a market and the availability of industrial sites, on both buildings and land.
- 89 boats and 60 tenders overburden the facilities at the mouth of the Jones River.
- Plymouth Forest Fire Department receives aid from Kingston as Governor declares a state of emergency due to forest fires: 54 out of 218 fire calls were to the Town Dump and Fire Department request a water line to area.
- Kingston is now a member of the newly formed Plymouth County Mosquito Control.
- Bleachers are installed at the new Little League baseball field located behind the Reed Community Building.
- Kingston Fish Committee recommends a fish count to determine the condition of town fishery and to cooperate with the new Division of Marine Fisheries.
- A Kingston Educational Fund is established to assist students in becoming useful members of society and better citizens of our country.
- The Elementary School Building Committee plans for an addition to the Kingston Elementary School; old Kingston High School and Maple Avenue schools are reopened for use due to overcrowding. There are 77 first graders this year and 31 seniors.
- Ed Corrow is the engineer on the last trip of the railroad to Plymouth; John Cushman is the last engineer on the Greenbush Line.

1958

- Finance Committee approves \$2,100 for purchase of a police cruiser/ambulance and the Town votes for it.
- Town votes to spend \$277,000 for an eight-room addition to Kingston Elementary School.
- The Railroad discontinues commuter service; the Planning Board recommends acquiring some of the property to increase parking in the town center.
- Further renovation of the Town Hall is considered in order to add more town offices within the building.
- A cement ramp and water service improves the Town Landing.
- “Constant watch” duty at the Kingston Watch Tower is down graded to “ready-standby” by Civil Defense: Kingston is a “reception” area in the Massachusetts Survival Plan.
- Sylvia Place Fish Ladder, constructed in 1938, needs repair at an estimated cost to the Town of \$1,000.
- Silver Lake Regional High School is now overcrowded; the District School Committee recommends future planning begin now with the possible use of the old Kingston High School.
- Gift of a television set to the Elementary School by PTA introduces a new medium to the school.
- Kingston philanthropist Elizabeth Bradford Sampson dies on December 28, 1958.
- Elspeth Hardy retires having served the Kingston Schools since 1908.
- The vocational school carpentry students build a house, barn, and two garages in the Silver Lake Regional School District: there is a student waiting list for entry into the Vocational School.

1959

- Fire Engine I replaces 1925 pump-truck.

- Kingston schoolboys assist the Shellfish Constable in removing mussels at Gray's Flat and 100 bushels of quahogs planted at Fishing Rocks Flat and Ichabod Flat.
- Town sells northwest school lot.
- Relocation of Pembroke Street Bridge eliminates traffic hazard.
- Passenger service on the railroad is terminated on June 30th.
- Kingston Elementary School's eight-room addition is completed.
- Life-saving and swim lessons are offered at Gray's Beach during the summer.
- First phase of Town Hall renovations is completed.
- Town receives bequest from Elizabeth B. Sampson in excess of \$150,000.
- The vocational school carpentry students begin to build their third house, this one in the Ahdenah.

1960

Population: 4,289; School population: 881; Town Valuation: \$10,088,600; Tax rate: \$61/\$1,000

- Shore protection along Rocky Nook Avenue is completed.
- A new Post Office is established in Kingston Center on Summer Street.
- Town purchases land and building at Kingston Railroad Station for \$2,500.00 for municipal use.
- Kingston's portion of the overall cost of the addition to Silver Lake Regional High School is \$425,000.
- During hurricane Diane in September, the Civil Defense responds with supplies and coordinates needed services.

1961

- Zoning bylaws are amended to divide Kingston into districts: residential, business and industrial.
- The Planning Board recommends accepting a building code to ensure proper construction of housing developments in town.
- Polio clinics are held in the schools and at the Town Hall.
- New herring ladders at Bryant's Mill Pond and Sylvia Place Pond are installed replacing the ones built in 1938 by the WPA.

1962

- Kingston High School is razed in October at a cost of \$1,075.00, though the alarm system is saved and installed at the Town House. The High School was 95 years old.
- The Kingston Veterans Burial Plot, located in the Old Burial Ground, is designated as the burial ground for all indigent veterans.
- Kingston renews its lease for land adjacent to the Town Wharf on River Street with the Kingston Yacht Club for 5 years.
- The Kingston Lions Club improves area at Bates Pond on Evergreen Street as a gift to Kingston.
- Building, plumbing, and wiring codes are approved for Kingston and fees applied for applications for new or altering construction. Inspectors for each department are appointed.
- Howard Johnson's Restaurant and Motel are built on Main Street after zoning of the area is changed from residential to business.
- The former Grange Hall is renovated for town offices but Kingston still needs an area for the Police Department.

- 125 head of cattle shipped into Kingston this year.
- Dorothy Oliver dies: she taught business subjects in Kingston schools for 36 years.

1963

- A new well on the Havey property off of Winthrop Street is built.
- The Patuxet School on Green Street is sold.
- Brockton desires legislation to increase its water supply by drawing from Kingston's Pine and Howard Brooks.
- 160 boats are moored from Jones River Basin to Plymouth during the summer.
- The Board of Health issues dump disposal sticker.
- A full time caretaker is employed at Gray's beach for the summer, though the beach closes due to shark sightings. Four band concerts are held: free resident admission and parking is possible if dump sticker is shown.
- The Planning Board sets higher standards for future subdivisions.
- Further re-organization of available space at the Town House is recommended in order to meet needs of increased complexity of Town Government.
- U.S. Supreme Court decides that reading the Bible and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in schools is unconstitutional.
- Route 3 in Duxbury is completed.

1964

- An administration building for the Silver Lake Regional School District is built near school on Pembroke Street.
- The Conservation Commission accepts from the sons (Frank & Joseph) of Dr. Arthur Holmes the area known as Fishing Rocks in his memory.
- The Kingston Police Department moves to the Maple Street fire station; occupies the former caretaker apartment.
- Smelt Pond Road is renamed Second Brook Street.
- A lifeguard rescues a visitor at Gray's Beach.
- Justice Aluminum Company is a total loss due to the largest fire in Kingston history. Quick response saves four other businesses along the railroad tracks in center of town.

1965

- Funds are voted to purchase land and construct a new middle school.
- Conservation Commission purchases acreage in order to establish the Elizabeth B. Sampson Memorial Park on Elm Street at Jones River.
- State assumes duties of Sealer of Weight & Measures.
- The two police cruisers are in use more hours increasing the number of arrests to 32 (motor vehicle violations were the highest number).
- On October 31st, the Fire Department responds to 12 alarms.
- The Conservation Commission endeavors to increase the size of the Town Forest and acquires a way of access.
- The Educational Fund is now at \$13,275.
- The Young Peoples Wing opens at the F.C. Adams Public Library.

- The elementary school is again overcrowded and the Maple Avenue School is to be used for the overflow.
- The new Silver Lake Junior High School is under construction and should be ready to open in 1967.

1966

- The Town Forest is voted to be under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.
- Medicare is effective July 1st, 1967, and reduces the Town's Old Age Assistance budget.
- Renovations to the Town House and the Annex are completed.
- The Planning Board establishes a Master Plan.
- Town Meeting establishes a Capital Outlay Committee to prepare a meaningful long-term town budget.
- The Wage and Personnel Board is formed.
- The Kingston Police Department handles 3 murders and 3 fatal accidents in Kingston.
- The Playground Committee sponsors the Kingston Youth Center: it is open Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons at the Reed Community Building.
- The Kingston Elementary School opens a school library.
- There is a successful summer program for pre-school students at the Reed Community Building.
- The new Silver Lake Junior High School is under construction; 1,753 students now attend Silver Lake Regional High School.

1967

- Kingston's largest forest fire occurs in May at Camp Mishannock on Route 80.
- Vandals sink the newly purchased Harbormaster boat.
- All floats are now under the Harbormaster's jurisdiction by state mandate.
- Civil Defense provides information on how to inexpensively construct a basement fallout shelter.
- The Elizabeth B. Sampson Memorial Park is opened to the public.
- Town population reaches 5,000; 3,000 are registered at the F.C. Adams Public Library.
- The Historical Room at the F. C. Adams Public Library serves as a safe haven for the town's historical records and donations of interest for now and the future.
- Double sessions are held at the Silver Lake Regional District Junior and Senior High School, as the new school is not yet ready.
- "Teachers aide" program and a new program for physically handicapped students increase the teachers' time with the individual pupil.

1968

- The State of Massachusetts assumes the responsibility for the Welfare Department.
- The Board of Health recommends that the Superintendent of Streets supervise the Town Dump, as the Dump has become more of an engineering problem than a health problem.
- New state law mandates that all boats must carry a life preserver for each occupant onboard.
- Two lifeguards are hired for Gray's Beach during the summer due to the overcrowding of the beach.

- 19-room new Kingston Elementary School voted; land purchased but later the project is defeated.
- Fire Department dispatcher answers the Police Department's calls during the night thereby ending the need to call upon Plymouth Police Department.

1969

- A Housing Authority is appointed in September.
- A new dump sticker is issued that allows only residents to use the facility.
- Snowstorms on December (1968) 18, 23, 26, 27, and 28 necessitate increase in snow removal funds.
- Town receives matching funds from the state to complete a survey to improve mooring areas and the channel in Jones River.
- The Conservation Commission places a marker on Bay Road at the 42nd parallel line of latitude. The 42nd parallel also marks the boundary between California, Utah, Nevada and Idaho as well as New York and Pennsylvania.
- The Highway Department saves the town money by using fill from the Chapter 90 construction on Grove Street for landfill program at the Town Dump.
- A Government Organization Study Committee is appointed.
- A committee is appointed to study the advisability of Kingston purchasing the Kingston Inn: they could not justify the purchase at the time.
- Increase demands for water leads the Water Department to recommend the construction of a water storage tank at Pine Hill with a pipeline to Elm Street.
- The School Committee again recommends a new elementary school and again it is defeated. There are now 785 pupils, up 70 from last year. The new Silver Lake Regional High School is at its capacity.

1970

Population: 5,989; School population: 881; Town Valuation: \$15,874,415; Tax rate: \$92/\$1,000.

- The Conservation Commission purchases 22 acres of land on Baslers Lane and renames it Patuxet Park for the Native American artifacts that were found there.
- Additional land is purchased to increase space at the landfill.
- 87 permits are issued for the construction of new dwellings.
- 40 trees are planted to replace those lost to Dutch elm disease.
- School space is an increased problem at all grade levels and affects accreditation.

1971

- The Kingston Baseball League erects a concession stand at the Bailey Field.
- Traffic lights are put in place at Route 106 and 27 (Evergreen, Main, Pembroke Streets and Wapping Road.).
- Pembroke begins a plan to withdraw from the Silver Lake Regional School District, as Pembroke students comprise more than 50% of the total school population.
- The Kingston Police Department is now using radar equipment on speed-zoned roads.
- A fire levels a baling plant for wood shavings on Brookdale Avenue.

- The town dump is now 100% a landfill.
- The Kingston Youth Commission concludes its first year with a Director.
- Pottle Street (field) completion is delayed due to wet weather.
- 250th Anniversary Committee (1926-1976) is making plans and submits a partial report.
- Outside water usage is banned in July and August due to very dry weather.
- School overcrowding persists at all levels.

1972

- Due to poor condition of the Howland's Lane Railroad Bridge, an alternate route to Rocky Nook is sought (to eventually be provided by agreement with Gustavo Guidoboni).
- A new Dog Pound is built at the rear of the Highway Department and a Dog Officer appointed.
- The construction of the new Elementary School is underway.
- Selectmen appoint three-member Kingston Council on Aging to organize and set goals including identification cards, area transportation, hot lunch programs, a gathering place and to address health concerns for seniors.
- The Waterfront Committee is increased to seven members by town vote.
- A Water Study Committee is appointed to study the need for water meters as a means of conserving water but it proves to be unjustified at this time.

1973

- The Finance Committee approves an 18-month transitional budget.
- Town votes to restore and repair the Faunce School as part of the 250th anniversary celebration; it is presently the Town Hall annex.
- Town votes to establish a Historical Commission of five members.
- The Conservation Commission establishes the Edna Maglathlin Bird Sanctuary in the Silver Lake Region on a 23-acre tract of land.
- The Howland's Lane Railroad Bridge is repaired and reopens to traffic.
- The Planning Board approves 125 lots in a subdivision, 48 lots in division, 3 plans for cluster development (174 lots) and 2 plans for multiple dwelling equaling more than 300 apartments.
- Selectmen appoint a Police Station Study Committee.
- Conservation Commission changes their focus from land acquisition to vigilant protection of Kingston Wetlands.
- More space for a municipal landfill is needed due to increased use of throwaway containers and the no-burning law.

1974

- The Board of Health requests a study of the town's municipal sewerage needs.
- The library eliminates overdue charges.
- The 250th Anniversary Committee reports that projects are underway including the renovation of the Faunce School, construction of the Jones River Park, and a written history of the town.
- The addition to the Elementary School is completed in time for fall school opening.
- Growth in the Silver Lake School District school population necessitates double sessions at the Junior and Senior High Schools.

1975

- Money is voted for an addition to the Maple Street fire station.
- Tennis courts are constructed at Gray's Beach.
- Town votes to cooperate with the National Flood Insurance Program in enforcing regulations related to the Kingston Flood Plain.
- Kingston votes that \$200,000 in free cash is to be used (by the Assessors) to reduce tax rate.
- At the Special Town Meeting in April Kingston votes to purchase land (Camp NeKon) at Smelt Pond.
- At the Special Town Meeting it is voted to elect a new Board of Health consisting of three members.
- The Board of Fire Engineers recommends that new permanent firefighters must attend the Massachusetts Fire Academy.
- Two Kingston schoolboys help the Shellfish Constable to rid the coastal area of horseshoe crabs.
- The Coast Guard marks the Kingston and Duxbury channels; 211 boats are moored in Kingston waters.
- Civil Defense prepares for a national disaster and storm emergencies by holding programs for several Town Departments (Fire, Police etc).
- The Conservation Commission fights for local vs. state control of wetlands.
- The Council on Aging now has a drop-in center and weekly lunch program at the Maple Avenue School.
- The Housing Commission purchases land on Hillcrest Road to build elderly housing.
- In the Silver Lake Regional District, all towns now have new elementary schools. A new middle school (in Pembroke) and a vocational school wing are under construction though double sessions still remain in place at Kingston High School.

1976

- Kingston celebrates its 250th birthday.
- The State mandates a new Open Meeting Law: all town government public meetings must be posted 48 hours prior to meeting.
- Horace Weston retires as Town Moderator having served since 1953.
- The position of Town Historian is voted: Selectmen will appoint the person for a term of five years and there shall be an annual report printed in the Town Report.
- A committee is appointed to study the new state dog leash law and a new Bylaw defining the duty of the Dog Officer is written.
- 48 units of elderly housing to be known as Meadow Crest are dedicated.
- A Zoning Bylaw is amended to define industrial area lot sizes.
- 234 boats are moored in Kingston waters during the summer. The non-resident boat-launching fee is now \$25.
- The newly formed (separate) Board of Health finds that the landfill does not meet DEQE requirements: Kingston does not fund needed changes.
- Glass recycling is instituted at the Town Dump.
- To celebrate the town's anniversary the town publishes *Major Bradford's Town*, a history written by Doris Johnson Melville, published with research and photographs provided by the Library's Historical Room. A grand parade is held, a bi-centennial flag is presented, the Jones River Park

is dedicated, and the Kingston Company of Continental Marines is re-activated, all in honor of the town's birthday.

- The Kingston Youth Commission organizes field trips for recreation and education for over 300 youth residents, as well as a drop-in center at the Reed Community Building and some community service projects.
- The Board of Assessors recommends that an outside appraisal company revalue town real estate.
- Town ambulance service begins as of January 1, 1976.
- Swim lessons are offered and new tennis courts are built at Gray's Beach. The lifeguard saves a teenager's life.
- The Wage and Personnel Board classifies town positions, authorizes compensation plans, and establishes working conditions for Kingston employees in a Bylaw.
- The Water Department is concerned over the bill filed with the state legislature by Brockton to divert water from Jones River into Silver Lake to increase Brockton's water supply.
- The Media Center at the Silver Lake Regional High School is named for Francis Moran who retires as superintendent after 40 years of service to the schools of Kingston.
- The town budget reaches \$1 million in March.
- The new \$8 million middle school in Pembroke is occupied, as is the \$3 million vocational school addition. A few hours before Silver Lake Pembroke Campus is to open a main water line breaks and 250,000 gallons of water floods the first floor necessitating the continuation of double sessions until October 18th.
- The "one-man, one-vote" issue relating to the formula for representation on the Silver Lake Regional District School Committee continues as Pembroke files a federal suit late in the year. There is continued interest by Pembroke in separation from the district.

1977

- The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission receives a citation from President Ford as a National Bicentennial Community (celebrating Kingston as being older than the Country) and a flag is presented. Richard Bonney designs a seal: plates, tankards, and mugs with the seal on them are sold.
- During Town Meeting Selectmen declare a Municipal Clerk's Week honoring George W. Cushman for his years of service.
- A Camp NeKon Study Committee is appointed to study and prepare for development of the area.
- At the October Special Town Meeting a motion to establish a new class of zoning district zoning to include retirement mobile homes is defeated.
- Due to economy and fuel crisis, many residents install wood stoves: the Fire Department notes need for a permit to do so and a fire safety booklet is made available.
- Increase in vandalism in the Town Forest necessitates discontinuing the Nursery Project: Tree Warden now will purchase all trees to be planted for enhancement of roadsides.
- Kingston Elementary School is designated as a shelter for evacuees in an area emergency.
- Kingsbury Mall begins development.
- Board of Health reports landfill now meets DEQE standards: it is to be open five days a week. Land is acquired by eminent domain to prevent need for costly transfer station.
- Successful rabies clinic for dogs and equine encephalitis clinic for horses is held. Increase of heartworm in dogs has been noted.

- Plymouth Community Nurse program includes “well child” conferences, special immunization clinics, chest x-ray clinics and blood pressure screening.
- Business growth in Kingston continues with establishment of R.S. Means, Burger King, Butterfield Office Block, and other businesses.
- Changes in the Elizabeth B. Sampson Legacy increase money available to the Town; a third trustee is needed before decisions are made.
- Esther DiMarzio retires as Principal of Kingston Elementary School; Dr Robert Hiltenbrand dies unexpectedly and Superintendent Michael Salerano as well as two School Committee members resign, resulting in an unsettled school year. Paul Squarcia assumes duty of Superintendent.
- There are 975 children in Kindergarten through grade 6 and 746 in the Junior and Senior High School, equaling 1,141 Kingston school students. Over \$1 million dollars are expended in 1977 for Kingston Elementary School; \$16,473,495 at the Junior and Senior High levels excluding school construction costs.

1978

- The Annual Town Meeting is moved from May 7 to July 15th with the exception of elections and a ballot question on May 13th.
- Town Meeting votes for zoning bylaw changes to include Mobile Home Parks, and breaks all records for adjourned meetings and number of hours to vote the warrant with basic result of “holding the line” to prior year’s budget.
- 100% re-evaluation of real estate is complete. The valuation now is real property \$104,929,050 and personal property \$5,080,934; tax rate is \$26.60 / \$1000; \$2,926,265 is necessary to operate the town.
- A new boat excise tax is in effect: assessment to come to the town where the boat is usually moored or docked.
- 57 residents are living at Meadow Crest but many more apply than can be accommodated.
- Silver Lake Regional High School vocational students repair the concession stand at Gray’s Beach burned by fire in July.
- The Council on Aging moves to the Reed Community Building; they serve 1,158 seniors.
- Smoke detectors now must be installed in all year round homes and those being remodeled or rebuilt.
- With the retirement of Wallace Holmes, it is the first time in the history of the Kingston Fire Department the name Holmes does not appear on the roster.
- Due to severe weather in the winter (Blizzard of 1978, in February), over \$60,000 is spent in snow removal by the Highway Department.
- The Police Department receives 9,273 complaints, of those 257 motor vehicle accidents with one fatality.
- Due to budgetary restraints the position of Assistant Superintendent for the Union and Silver Lake Regional School District is eliminated and in its place three directors of education, two at elementary and one at secondary level, result in less duplication of efforts and financial savings to the four towns.
- Forest Fire and Fire Departments are combined under one Fire Chief.
- The Kingston Public Library celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

1979

- More amendments are made to the Wage & Personnel bylaws adjusting salaries, wages, and expenses resulting in over \$4 million to be raised by taxation.
- Kingston Girl Scouts donate a compressor for Fire Department use.
- Funds are voted for a new water well site on Smith's Lane.
- Zoning bylaw changes from residential to R-M, residential mobile home park, which covers about 31 acres.
- Kingston Boy Scouts clear area for the Board of Health at the landfill, selling the wood to purchase equipment and fund summer camp activities.
- The Housing Authority, due to a long waiting list for elderly housing, seeks funding to meet present and future needs.
- The Conservation Commission is very busy with projects including the completion of the Kingsbury Mall, the construction of a mobile home park off Summer Street, and the groundbreaking for a mall of 80-plus stores off of Smith's Lane.
- Town Meeting accepts Legislation to require smoke detectors and fire alarms to be installed in certain buildings, including motels, lodging and apartment houses.
- The Shellfish Constable resigns; therefore there is no new seeding of areas.
- Kingston Youth Commission, with the assistance of parent volunteers, establishes a soccer program at Kingston Elementary School.
- The Camp NeKon Committee makes plans to secure area with a caretaker but funding is lacking. A summer swim program is being considered.
- The Railroad Study Committee recommends a small investment to secure the station building and possible application to the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Town Clerk notes 3,763 registered voters in Kingston, which is an increase of 1,000 voters in 10 years.
- Massachusetts Legislature imposes a 4% tax cap on all municipal spending; inflation is 14-15% and 85% of the school expenditures are State mandated; the 1979 school budget is approved at Town Meeting at \$1.2 million.
- The Junior High School Addition sub-committee is formed as staggered or overlapping sessions continue at this level. Budget for the Silver Lake School District is \$6,758,115.00.

1980

Population: 7,356; School population: 1,558; Town Valuation: \$129,271,000; Tax Rate: \$30.50/ \$1,000

- Kingsbury Square Mall, located on Summer Street opens with an estimate of \$80,000 income to the Town and 300 new jobs available.
- The AFSCME Union forms in Kingston for the clerical and labor force.
- Selectmen support the Pyramid Corporation's intended mall as it would increase revenue and job opportunities in Kingston.
- Police Chief Selection Committee of five and the Police Station Building Committee of five are appointed.
- A Special Town Meeting vote changes protective Zoning Bylaws regarding shopping centers, parking areas relative to new building as well as industrial development. State mandates that property values be maintained so that they reflect the increase in values as shown by sales during the year.

- The Police Department answers 10,800 complaints.
- Fire Department begins 1980 with four problems: increase in fires and emergencies, lack of manpower to meet needs, inadequate facilities for personnel and equipment, and all of the above affecting their ability to enforce building code violations.
- Selectmen assume the duties of the Water Commissioners until election, as entire board resigns. Conservation of the water supply and planning for future needs are prime concerns.
- The Planning and Conservation Committees and the Water Board render decisions regarding the following projects: the Independence Mall, the L. Knife warehouse, Tassinari Brothers gas station and the Poulos subdivision.
- Selectmen successfully deal with an illegal hazardous waste dumping site off of Smith's Lane.
- Prop 2 ½ mandates a cap of 2 ½ plus new growth on increases to tax levy.
- Due to the above mandate, the increased vandalism at Camp NeKon, and the lack of town meeting action on Camp NeKon's development, the property will remain as is.
- Kingston Elementary School administration staff is temporarily eliminated by the resignations of Principal Ford and Assistant Principal Creedon within weeks of each other.
- Loss of Junior High addition funding necessitates 7th year of double or staggered sessions.

1981

- L. Knife Inc. purchases from the town an area for a warehouse.
- The December Special Town Meeting is postponed due to snowstorms. The snowstorms resulted in loss of electricity and great damage in Kingston.
- At Special Town Meeting Prop 2 ½ is described as putting Kingston on a "fixed income." Hence all expenditures should be decided at regular town meeting where whole budget is considered.
- Action by Department of Environmental Quality Engineering results in Brockton being made more accountable for water use and conservation.
- State mandates real estate assessment be at full market value, and property values for 1982 are to be raised, though the tax rate will be reduced.
- Due to Prop 2 ½, the Board of Health's clerk time is reduced to part time, the landfill is closed for one additional day, and mosquito spraying is eliminated.
- Solidified "special waste" at landfill is removed in exchange for capping the landfill (savings is \$100,00.00) to resolve a six-year lawsuit with the Massachusetts State Attorney General.
- Increase in heartworm in pets necessitates animal testing.
- 39 dogs are quarantined for rabies. Tests prove to be negative.
- The Kingston Fire Department "Muster Team" wins six trophies during their first year of competition in Plymouth County.
- Study Committee recommends a combination of Fire and Police Stations and Federal funding be applied for.
- 254 building permits are issued.
- The new Board of Water Commissioners imposes a one-year 40% surcharge on water bills to increase revenue.
- In ten years the town meeting appropriations increased from \$2,300,000 to \$4,885,000.
- Due to Prop 2 ½, 22 teachers lose their jobs at the Junior and Senior High School and 14 at Kingston Elementary School, despite which Kingston's 1,468 pupils excelled in their education as demonstrated by the results of standardized achievement tests.

- Funds are granted by the Environmental Protection Agency for the Citizens Advisory Committee on the sewerage facility planning.
- Cub Scout pack 4480 and 49 spend day cleaning Gray's Beach prior to opening for the summer.

1982

- The Town dedicates the 1981 Town Annual Report to George William Cushman and his service of 52-years to the town.
- Health Insurance is made available to town employees.
- Town-owned land at 244 Main Street is transferred to the Selectmen to be used for site of new Police/Fire Station.
- Town Bylaws are amended to prohibit unnecessary, excessive, or unusual noises.
- Ethel Shiverick retires as Library Director.
- The Capital Outlay Committee coordinates spending for goods and services in excess of \$5,000 and plans for possible expenditures for next five years.
- The Conservation Commission deems Kingston cannot now afford to purchase more parkland.
- The Council of Aging offers legal aid and fuel assistance to senior citizens, in addition to weekly activities, wellness clinics and meals (2,094 plus 1,083 meals on wheels).
- Pyramid Corporation decides not to build store complex due to state of economy.
- Recent outbreaks of Eastern Equine Encephalitis necessitate attention of Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project.
- Ichabod Washburn Fund is now 107 years old. Of the interest on the original \$10,000 donation, \$600 is distributed to "worthy maiden ladies or widows" each year in Kingston.
- A grant enables the school department to purchase Apple computers and staff attends seminars to learn their use.
- High School Achievement Test yield seven Merit Scholarship winners and 26 Silver Lake students excelled in Advance Placement Exams.
- The High School Field Hockey Team is undefeated for its second year.

1983

- Fiscal restraint is evident as Kingston votes on its budget. Monies from taxes are levied and money from free cash meets the Town needs.
- Local Wetland Protection Bylaw passes, covering private and public water supply, ground water control, as well as fisheries, shellfish, and wildlife.
- Henrich Property, consisting of 60-acres, is accepted as a gift to Kingston for conservation.
- An amendment to raise funds for a public sewerage project is defeated.
- A motion to appropriate money for a new Police/Fire Station is defeated.
- Assessors report real estate valuations are increasing, as sales prices are greater than the valuation of property sold.
- Silt removed from dredging the Jones River is moved to the landfill, thereby saving the town money.
- Gates and boulders are placed along the roadway at Gray's Beach to deter vandalism.
- Phase II of Town and Country Estates and the planned Conifer Green mobile home parks as well as Nottingham Drive construction (a proposed cluster housing project) and a proposed subdivision off of Elm Street are scrutinized by the Planning Board

- If drainage on fields at the Reed Playground could be improved, more ball fields could be made.
- Conservation Commission protects Kingston's interest in projects such as the Summer Street McDonald's, Alley Kat Bowling Alley, Hurlburt Toyota, and the Kelliher Bogs (Brockton Water Supply).
- The Council on Aging new shuttle bus arrives in December and runs 28 hours per week meeting seniors' needs.
- The creation of the Kingston Quilt begins by a local quilting group.
- Kingston Historical Commission establishes monthly meetings and is making an inventory of historic dwellings and sites.
- Old Colony Planning Council creates "Park and Ride" lots to ease traffic congestion on the Southeast Expressway. They also are monitoring funding for senior programs such as health clinics, nursing home ombudsman programs, nutrition programs, hospice programs and many more.
- The Police Department successfully releases hostages in a liquor store robbery, investigates drug trafficking at a local motel, and arrests two persons after an armed bank robbery.
- With the help of a Boy Scouts of America Eagle project, 600 children were fingerprinted.
- 12,000 bushels of mussels are harvested during the year but clams cannot be seeded on flats close to Gray's Beach due to pollution.
- Wage and Personnel Board continues to update Bylaws to balance appropriate wages for town employees and equity for the taxpayer.
- The School Committee's goals for the year include restoration of key personnel to school faculty (Kingston and Silver Lake Regional School District) but class size for 7th and 8th grades remains too high.

1984

- After many attempts, it is voted at Special Town Meeting to plan and construct a new Police Station on Main Street and Maple Avenue lots (without demolishing the Maple Avenue School), which would include a joint fire/police-dispatching center. A seven-man committee is appointed to oversee the project.
- The Police Department votes to purchase a Breathalyzer.
- Leash law Bylaw is adopted, but proves difficult to enforce with only a part-time dog officer.
- Town votes funding to design and construct a sewerage system and a sewerage treatment disposal facility for certain areas of town.
- At the September Special Town Meeting land off of Cranberry Road is voted for use as a transfer station to be constructed by SEMASS.
- Council on Aging places planters at areas about town.
- Council on Aging serves a total of 2,603 hot lunches, and 2,438 meals-on-wheels for the year.
- Plymouth County Cooperative Extension continues to remain available to town residents (it has existed for 70 years with ongoing 4-H programs and home and gardening programs.)
- A new Building Inspector is appointed. \$6,590,696 is the estimated cost of new dwellings; 383 permits were filed after application forms are revised and expanded.

1985

- At the Annual Town Meeting additional zoning bylaw changes are made relative to mobile home parks and also to assist the planning board in making decisions relative to subdivisions.
- Funds are voted to purchase a computer and software for the Town Hall.
- Kingston votes to make available the Railroad Station for sale or to be auctioned.
- Two Kingston residents are to be appointed by the Selectmen to the Ocean Sanctuaries Act Study Committee, who with Duxbury representatives will study ways to jointly deal with discharges of Plymouth Municipal Sewerage Treatment plant.
- Town votes to change zoning on Lot 11 (opposite May Avenue: where Kentucky Fried Chicken is located) from residential to business.
- Town votes to begin refurbishing the Reed Community Building.
- A Bylaw is voted to regulate peddlers and transient vendors by requiring them to have a license to sell in Kingston.
- At the Special Town Meeting it is voted to fund a sewerage treatment facility and sewerage system for some parts of town.
- The Kingston Public Library Children's Room is 20 years old.
- Aluminum bleachers replace wooden benches at the Playground's ball fields.
- A new water well site is needed due to the increase in the growth of businesses and homes in Kingston.
- Voting records and the 1985 street list/census are computerized and the census is done by mail.
- A computer now creates jury lists, once compiled by Jury Commissioners; "One day or one trial" now in effect.
- Civil Defense continues to hold yearly Pilgrim I Nuclear Power Station Evacuation Drills.
- The Kingston Quilt is completed and hung in the Town Hall.
- The Fire Department seeks a second fire station due to the increase in building in areas where there is no water supply. They also note an increase in medical calls (up by 100 calls in 1 year).
- The snow removal budget is exceeded in three storms due to the increased area covered and the increase in the cost of salt and sand.
- The Building Inspector issues 149 residential and 32 commercial permits.
- A tractor-trailer unit pulls down five telephone poles near Howard Johnson's on Main Street and summer traffic is tied up for eight hours.
- The Silver Lake High School music department and students present "Godspell" in the spring.

1986

- The Fire Department accepts the gift of a boat, motor, and trailer from the Pacheco family.
- The Selectmen appoint a Fire Station Building Committee: they recommend a site off of Smith's Lane on Town-owned land.
- Conservation Commission offers an amendment to ban building in the Silver Lake Watershed area for two years.
- In January the new Police Station becomes operational and is dedicated on February 17, 1986. The Harold Govoni Legion Post donates a flagpole.
- Two modular classrooms are put into place at the Junior High School to relieve overcrowding.
- The Annual Town Meeting after a half-day of discussion, votes a budget of \$6,955,254.
- At a special election the Town votes to exempt from Proposition 2 ½ money to pay bonds issued to finance water storage facilities.

- At the October Special Town Meeting \$61,000 is voted to purchase and equip a rescue ambulance to be used by the Fire Department.
- Conservation Commission prepares an Open Space Plan.
- The Water Resource bylaw is amended to protect our water supply.
- A building boom in Kingston necessitates a full-time health agent to monitor percolation testing: the Planning Board has been monitoring these sites.
- The Building, Wiring, Gas & Plumbing Inspectors are busy checking 193 new dwelling units, a new community building, the Summer Street shopping mall and the Independence Mall off of Smith's Lane.

1987

- The Town hires its first Town Administrator.
- Town sells land to Pyramid Corporation and money from the sale is to be used for a new Fire Station.
- Boston Edison funds the renovations of the Maple Avenue School where the Emergency Operations Center is located.
- The Friends of the Kingston Public Library are organized this year.
- A Senior Citizen Drop-In Center is created at the Reed Community Building.
- \$486,655.67 in income is generated by the Water Department; an increase of \$77,000 from 1986.
- 170 dogs are picked up on the streets of Kingston despite the Leash Law.
- The Town grows rapidly and the Conservation Commission is asked to rule on the impact on wetlands in projects at Bonnie Lane, MacFarlane Farms, VonRhor estates, Stonehouse Estates, and a proposed expansion at the Baptist Home of New England.
- The Fire Department celebrates its 100th anniversary with a parade and a published report of the last 100 years.
- The Elm Street Bridge at the Pumping Station is deemed unsafe and is closed.
- Although the new Police Station is in use daily, there remains an issue regarding its leaking roof.
- The Shellfish Constable reports of DEQE survey on the danger of closing the Bay due to pollution.

1988

- The second million-gallon water tank comes on line.
- A Handicapped Commission is appointed by the Selectmen to provide the Town with recommendations regarding the health, welfare, and convenience of the Town's handicapped residents.
- "Temporary" modular bridging system is purchased for \$60,000 for Elm Street to replace unsafe bridge (still in use in 2006).
- A burglar alarm system bylaw is added to Kingston's bylaws as well as an amendment to control swimming pool construction and use.
- The Capital Planning Committee (created to continue the work of the Capital Improvement Committee) is established to prepare a proposed five-year capital-spending program and to report yearly to the Town Meeting.
- George W. Cushman retires on July 1st as Clerk and Chairman of the Educational Fund, having served the town for 55 years in various roles.

- At the September Special Town Meeting, with 200 present, it is voted that the legislature be petitioned for a special act for a “Recall and Removal of Elected Officials” election in the Town of Kingston.
- A third Special Town Meeting is called to pay unexpected bills, and to vote on bylaw amendments covering zoning, town licenses, and permits.
- The Industrial Commission is increased from 5 to 15 members.
- Call Firemen petition the legislature and the courts for coverage by Kingston’s group health insurance.
- The earth-removal permit procedure is revamped and the bylaw is amended.
- A sewerage project that would have Kingston tying into Plymouth’s is being studied.
- Assessors complete a recertification program and all properties are listed at fair market value.
- Passes to the Museum of Science, Children’s Museum, Massachusetts Fine Art Museum and the New England Aquarium are available at the Library.
- Kingston is the first municipality in Massachusetts to test solid waste disposal sites regulations, as listed under Chapter 584.
- Smith’s Lane Fire Station is completed and operational but the Fire Department recommends the town look into an additional facility in the western part of town.
- Restoration of Sampson Park and work at Camp NeKon is a cooperative project between the Conservation Commission, the Tree Department and the Highway Department.
- The Police Department for the first time uses a computer to record the year’s activities. Communication is improved with the donation of 10 portable radios for the patrol force. There are 328 arrests and 1,205 motor vehicle stops.

1989

- The Finance Committee recommends a \$12 million dollar budget at Annual Town Meeting, but only \$10 million is voted by the townspeople. At Special Town Meeting in September another \$24,550 is voted to pay bills. Also at this Town Meeting \$100,000 is voted to build a new library or renovate the AT&T building (this money is also voted to be exempt from Prop 2 ½).
- The earth-removal Bylaw is again updated.
- The Pilgrim Nuclear Station is back on line.
- The Library holds a sleepover for 40 children and Kingston resident Dan Sapir reads bedtime stories.
- The first fulltime Health Agent, voted for at Town Meeting, begins.
- The Board of Health votes a sewer works construction permit moratorium for the Rocky Nook section of town.
- Council on Aging purchases a Ford van for \$26,000.
- Computerized water bills and a telemetry system at the Elm Street Pumping Station are initiated. The Elm Street Dam is rehabilitated.
- The Planning Board and the Conservation Commission are busy with growth at the Baptist Home, Emerson Property B Corp shopping center on Summer Street and a 23-lot subdivision on Wapping Road.
- The Mayflower II shallop re-enacts its seventeenth-century sail up the Jones River in June.
- New buoys are placed in Kingston Bay and in the Jones River in time for the summer season.

- The Police Department reports that the opening of the Independence Mall in October increased calls for service by 12% but that in the same period of time serious motor vehicles accidents were down by 40%.
- The Building Inspector issues over 500 permits for an estimated value of \$53,600,767.
- The 1988 Jones River Study Committee reports on data relative to water flow of the River above the Elm Street Dam.
- A middle school concept is implemented at the Junior High School where the large population is divided into “houses” with four teams in each house.

1990

Population: 8,321 School Population: 1,414; Tax Rate: \$11.92/\$1,000

- The Selectmen and the MBTA meet regarding the anticipated location of the Old Colony Railroad Commuter Station in Kingston.
- Selectmen agree with the United States Department of Health and Human Services recommendations to provide elderly handicapped transportation: the Federal Transportation Authority will reimburse Kingston for GATRA services.
- Selectmen’s meetings are taped and broadcast over cable network.
- Melissa Benoit is murdered by her neighbor; the entire community is committed to supporting her family.
- The Highway Department assumes the responsibility for the Transfer Station. A composting area is built, affording recycling of natural material and resulting in compost for the citizens. Also recycled are paper, wood, metal and masonry. This department also continues to cap the landfill, saving the town money for the site work.
- Kingston Civil Defense provides communication service to public events such as the 4th of July Plymouth Parade, Halifax Road Race, and the Plymouth Bike Race.
- The Youth Commission continues to host its annual Halloween Party and after-school programs.
- The Fire Department now has the opportunity to review new construction in Kingston following the adoption of a Bylaw at Town Meeting, which governs building codes. Computer programs assist the department in emergency dispatching and department administration.
- The Council on Aging relocates to the Reed Community Building with an opening celebrated in May.
- All town businesses are metered for water use.
- The Conservation Commission is reduced from seven to five members and the enforcement officer’s role is redefined.
- School Nurse Dorothy Felt retires after 35 years of service.
- Volunteers assist Kingston Elementary School teachers in reading, tutoring, and clerical work.
- KUDOS a program aimed to catch kids being good begins in the Junior High.

1991

- The Camp NeKon Study Committee reviews recommendations from the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Committee, and the Water Resource Overlay in order to make their own recommendations.
- The Board of Fire Engineers is discontinued (1887-1991) and a Unified Fire Department begins: the first Fire Chief is appointed.

- Coastal pollution is addressed on a local level with the Mass Bay Committee of Duxbury, Plymouth and Kingston participating.
- An industrial park site is chosen for the MBTA Commuter Rail Station.
- The AT&T building is purchased for a new library and joins buildings accessible to the handicapped.
- Larry Slot is recalled as member of the Board of Health by election.
- The lack of a quorum and/or adequate number of voters necessitates two Special Town Meetings to accomplish the Town's business.
- A state-mandated firefighter certification program is implemented and all town firefighters are certified at their respective levels.
- Meadowcrest receives cable television service.
- The Police Department responds to 16,182 calls; there is an increase in violent crime.
- Hurricane Bob and the No Name storm do a lot of waterfront damage.
- The "old" Silver Lake Junior High School is closed and grades 7, 8, and 9 are moved to the new building on Learning Lane in Pembroke. Grades 10, 11, and 12 remain on the Kingston Campus. Due to budget cuts, 69 individuals lose their positions in the Silver Lake District.
- Kingston Kingdom is constructed at the Kingston Elementary School with funds raised by the Playground Committee and volunteer labor.
- Silver Lake Regional High School Alumni Association improves communication between students and graduates.

1992

- At Annual Town Meeting in March, the first Town of Kingston Citizenship Award is given to Clive Beasley.
- A "bare bones" budget is presented to the voters as the state continues to debate its budget. Voters borrow \$155,000 to fill requests by the water commissioners, \$840,000 for Kingston Elementary School heating repairs, and then vote an \$11 million budget to meet needs for the year.
- Voters change the zoning bylaws and increase the Zoning Board membership to five.
- The Recreation Commissioner is authorized to assume Youth Commission programs subject to Town Meeting appropriations.
- Conservation Commission members are increased to seven (from five) for three-year terms and a Conservation Fund is created.
- Board of Health is increased to five elected members, for a three-year term.
- At the June Special Town Meeting, after a lengthy discussion, it is voted to request the MBTA to reopen their decision to locate Plymouth line terminal/station and layover facility, presently projected for Kingston's south Industrial Park.
- At the September Special Town Meeting, due to insufficient number of voters present, only one article requesting an easement to the seawall in Rocky Nook is voted.
- Zoning bylaws are updated in November and are included in the town report in detail.
- A Kingston bylaw is amended so that the number of children riding on a school bus shall not exceed the number of seats by more than two children.
- At the November Special Town Meeting the Town accepts a ten-foot piece of land near the Surprise Hose House on Main Street.

- Selectmen are authorized to acquire lands to improve Wapping Road from Route 27 to the Plympton town line.
- The Library Building Committee of seven is established to assess feasibility of the AT&T building for a new library.
- Police and Fire dispatching systems are purchased after a vote to combine the two services.
- Recycling nets the Town an 11% saving in solid waste and \$1,800 for youth groups from the returnable bottles and cans.
- Quarterly tax bills are implemented. \$72,500 is realized in interest on late payments.
- 3,724 Council on Aging volunteer hours saves the Town \$31,500.
- An increase in raccoon rabies concerns pet owners.
- Shellfish beds remain closed per state regulation.
- State aid of \$100/pupil enabled many lost services to be restored to schools.
- Kingston Elementary Students read one million pages as part of school-wide reading incentive program. First Lady Barbara Bush sends one of “Millie’s” signed books in return for letters written to her.
- Kingston Elementary School Students celebrate the Olympics.
- A technology curriculum is introduced in the Junior and Senior High Schools.
- Sophomores are inducted into the National Honor Society for the first time; one tenth of the school populations at Silver Lake Regional High School are members of the National Honor Society.

1993

- This is the year of school reform as Massachusetts Legislature passes a bill to restore and provide additional services to educational programs.
- It is the 100th anniversary of the Civil War Monument on the Town Green.
- Kingston 20/20 program, a successful community-planning event, is held at the Reed Community Building; 600 posters drawn by school children are shown and many town boards participate.
- The Capital Planning Board is reduced to five members with overlapping terms of three years.
- Kingston hires an engineer consultant to evaluate plans for the MBTA rail station construction and the Route 44 project.
- Town Meeting votes to amend building code with a law requiring clear and legible street numbers to be placed on all buildings.
- The Silver Lake Regional School District is given permission by Town Meeting to incur a debt of \$2 million dollars to repair schools and parking lots.
- The Summer Hill Plaza is finished.
- The Tax Collector earns \$86,000 in interest on late payments.
- The Council on Aging provides a second van driver for seniors; an Emergency Food Pantry is established and made available to all residents in need.
- An assistant is hired to assist the Animal Control Officer; 1,100 dogs are on the annual census.
- Kingston is one of twelve national testing sites for the National Fire Department Accreditation Program.
- The Parking Clerk nets \$11,612 in parking violations.

- A bylaw is passed regarding student transportation, which necessitates adding three school busses and drivers.
- Increased enrollment requires Kingston and Plympton School Committees to explore additional space for future.
- A satellite dish affords Kingston Elementary School access to educational television. A CD ROM computer in the library aids research programs in all schools.
- 150 Silver Lake Regional High School students on “time-off” from school paint the dark halls with bright colors and murals.
- The Conservation Commission is very involved in the track-way permits for the commuter train and Route 44 expansion through the State Forest and Camp NeKon: the tracks disrupt 400 acres of open space.
- A “new” Board of Health redefines its goals and that of the agent. The moratorium on building at Rocky Nook lifted after a public meeting and upgrading of septic systems there.

1994

- Selectmen hire a full-time Town Planner.
- Two commuter rail service tunnels that go under Route 3 are completed.
- A deli and sandwich shop opens in the restored Railroad Station on Summer Street.
- The new Kingston Public Library opens on December 12, 1994.
- The Town Hall is repainted.
- Mrs. Phillip Cronin donates flags for the town in memory of her husband who was Town Counsel.
- Four firefighters are promoted to Captain; this is the first addition of a supervisory position in 20 years.
- The Independence Mall donates 16 acres of land for a municipal well site.
- A State Trooper is shot and killed near Route 3, Exit 9 in Kingston. The Town’s EMS personnel are given citations for their response.
- The Highway Department wins awards in a snowplow rodeo competition.
- The Town Good Citizenship Award is given to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mulliken.
- An audit committee of three is created to assist selectmen in financial operation of Kingston.
- Annual Town Meeting votes to establish a Conservation Fund with \$100,000 for the purpose of buying land, as available, for Open Space.
- Funds are voted to repair the Hearse House, under supervision of the Permanent Building Committee.
- Over \$1 million is voted for the Water Department to purchase and install water meters for all residences. State-of-the-art meters require no batteries.
- Assessors begin six-year cyclical re-inspection program in Rocky Nook.
- Council on Aging notes increase in senior needs and increase in senior population and the necessity of a new center for its activities.
- The Fire Department begins a Fire Cadet Program to give high school students training for possible future careers in firefighting.
- Town Meeting does not support the Industrial Commission article to rezone 450 acres adjacent to the South Industrial Park from residential to commercial.

- The MBTA Advisory Committee meets with railroad officials regarding mutual concerns and to prepare for the onset of commuter service.
- Although the water table is high in the spring, the threat of EEE is low. Insecticide is applied; the public is encouraged to report mosquito outbreaks.
- The Recreation Department develops programs serving residents of all ages and interests. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is launched.
- The first School Council at Kingston Elementary School comprises of parents and school officials, writes the School Improvement Plan.
- The Police Department implements a bike patrol in Kingston neighborhoods.
- The first Plymouth County High School D.A.R.E. Program begins at Silver Lake Regional High School.

1995

- Helen Foster Day is held in September on her 95th birthday commemorating her design of the Town Seal.
- To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Veterans enjoy a breakfast and ceremony at the Independence Mall.
- At Annual Town Meeting, a budget of \$13, 953,602.00 is voted. Of this the Police Department receives \$1.2 million and the Schools \$2.2 million.
- A revolving fund of \$10,000 for recreation programs is established as provided by Massachusetts General Laws.
- Revisions of the zoning bylaw and the Audit Committee are approved unanimously.
- Wage and personnel bylaws are updated with new definitions of the Town Administrator duties and compensation levels.
- The Water Commissioners take \$1.3 million from the new Enterprise Fund for a new well at Tackle Pond.
- A committee of five will evaluate the use of the Adams Building.
- The Permanent Building Committee is redefined by an amendment.
- General Bylaws are amended to include provisions for “scenic routes.”
- The Master Plan Committee is established to make recommendations to the Planning Board regarding updating the town’s master plan.
- At Special Town Meeting penalties for not adhering to the Board of Health’s regulations for sale, vending, and distribution of tobacco are redefined.
- Building lot size is redefined by an amendment to the zoning bylaw.
- The Fire Department will now inspect property code violations.
- A February snowstorm buries the Northeast in 14 inches of snow complicating the plowing of private roads.
- Selectmen consider selling the Rocky Nook Hose House with 50-feet of frontage on Main Street for \$200.
- The Civic Democracy Committee is created by the Selectmen to promote greater participation in and understanding of local government.
- The Conservation Committee while working on various projects identifies 40 vernal pools.
- An ad hoc committee of the Conservation Commission completes the Open Space Plan.

- The Harbormaster Department begins a safe-boating course, graduating 48 adults and youngsters.
- The Board of Health addresses new state Title V Septic Regulations in a public forum. The Board of Health also offers a flu clinic, adopts new smoking regulations, and a rabies protocol.
- The Historical Commission continues an inventory of town buildings and sites of historical merit to be preserved.
- The Local History Room at the Kingston Public Library reopens after the library's move from the Adams Building to the new library building.
- Major refurbishing at the Reed Community Building necessitates moving activities elsewhere.
- Telephone-operated water meters begin to be installed in residences. Town water extends to the Plympton line on Elm Street and the Indian Pond Road loop.

1996

- The Kingston Elementary School Building Committee is formed and designs for a new school are studied: the Town votes \$1.8 million towards construction.
- A Fire Station Building Committee is established to seek construction of new fire station.
- The Town Hall Building Committee addresses space needs and American Disabilities Act compliance.
- Sewerage Advisory Committee develops a plan for a wastewater treatment facility and to protect Kingston Bay shellfish beds.
- Zoning changes are voted, changing a lot size of 1 acre to 2 acres and limiting building to 70 dwellings per year in order to manage development.
- The Kingston Garden Club is established.
- Improvements to the Village Center include new sidewalks and lampposts on Green Street.
- The Hathaway Property is purchased for conservation and open space use.
- The Town votes to pay the final judgment in the case of Larry Slot versus the Town of Kingston for \$4.5 million.
- The Kingston Citizenship Award goes to Marjorie Cadenhead.
- The town budget for annual expenses is \$13,997,912, but voters turn down an article to purchase property on Cross Street for a Town Hall.
- Water Department expenses are now paid from the Enterprise Fund.
- The Open Space Commission duties are redefined by an amendment to the bylaw.
- Below normal winter temperatures freeze Kingston Bay.
- The Council on Aging logs 37,000 miles on two GATRA buses providing services to 7,650 seniors.
- The Kingston and Duxbury Fire Departments purchase a Public Safety Education Trailer for programs.
- Six new sailboats are purchased using funds from the Sampson Grant making a successful summer sailing program.
- The Historical Commission sponsors an Old House Fair, bringing together 85 owners of old houses in Kingston with artisans and architects experienced in working with old houses.
- Kingston Public Library is "online" as part of the Old Colony Library Network: new library cards are issued to patrons in order for them to access the Network.

- The Permanent Building Committee prepares a color-coded map of all town-owned property, which is helpful in locating new town construction.
- The Police Department organizes their first annual open house in conjunction with “National Night Out: Give Crime a Going Away Party” to foster community policing programs. A \$150,000 grant is awarded to the Police Department for a comprehensive computer program linking the department with other town, state and national programs.
- The Recreation Commission has many successes including refurbishing the Reed Community Building, Gray’s Beach playground, summer, winter, and after-school programs as well as special events.
- The school department looks forward to new facilities to avoid overcrowding at all levels.

1997

- The Hathaway land off of Wapping Road is being improved with trails and footbridges for open space and passive recreation.
- The Old Colony Railroad begins to operate between Kingston, Plymouth and Boston bringing new challenges of safety, congestion, and growth.
- Open Space purchases include the Emerson and Kelliher properties in the northwest section of Kingston. Cranberry bogs on the Kelliher property may be a possible revenue source for Kingston.
- The Senior Citizen Rebate Program begins to assist seniors with property tax relief in trade for volunteer hours in municipal government.
- Shellfish beds are opened on a limited basis.
- A Seaport Development Grant allows for repairs and replacement of docks at Town Landing.
- The Town Citizenship Award goes to David McKee and Richard S. Eldridge.
- Kingston’s operating budget is \$15,067,570; \$14 million to be raised by levy.
- Voted at Town Meeting is \$1.8 million for a new Fire Station on Pembroke Street.
- A series of articles at Town Meeting are voted to commence a sewerage treatment plant and system.
- The school committee’s article is voted for allowing \$26 million to be spent for a new elementary school and reconstructing and repairs to the existing Kingston Elementary School. The Committee receives a gift of land from a Kingston property owner.
- The Open Space Commission is voted to have twelve members, each with three-year terms.
- The Clean Vessel Act, which pumps out boats with sewerage on them, is enforced in Kingston Bay.
- The Adams Building Committee recommends using the Adams Building for a Heritage Center and urges the town to seek Probate Court relief from the provisions of the Adams’ will to reflect their suggestion.
- An index to the *Ships of Kingston*, created by library volunteer Julia Stair, is available for sale at the library.

1998

- A Community Construction Committee is formed to monitor design construction of the playing fields.

- Sewerage construction begins on Phase I; a Sewer Enterprise Fund is established to manage all funds for the project.
- Three sewer commissioners are elected at the next annual election.
- The Water Department begins to assess interest charges on delinquent bills and the Tax Collector cooperates with the Town Accountant and Auditors to comply with state regulations.
- The Conservation Commission hires a full time enforcement officer.
- The Fence Viewer and his assistant view a fence.
- The Council on Aging, the Police Department, and the Sheriff Department implement the “Are You OK?” telephone reassurance program in September.
- The Fire Department is now serving Kingston twenty-four hours, seven days a week, at two fire stations. A computer-aided dispatch system is “online” and is the final link enhancing the 911 system.
- The Highway Department closes the landfill for recapping.
- A homework center, serving the upper Elementary and Junior High Students, opens at the Library.
- Boy Scouts of America troops add a 116-foot bridge and a parking lot with a kiosk showing trails at the Hathaway property.
- The Planning Board, with arrival of a professional town planner, can now transition from a board of mostly approvals and denials to one of future planning.
- The EEE virus is first isolated in Lakeville in September and then in Kingston; 180 acres in Kingston are sprayed for mosquito larvae.
- The Community Policing Program reduces evidence of crime in Kingston.
- Kingston Elementary School enrollment is at 1,129 and growing; new school construction begins just in time. MCAS tests begin in 4th grade. Family literacy nights are held three times during the year. Total school enrollment population is 1,891.

1999

- After a recount of the ballots three sewer commissioners are elected and contracts are awarded for Phase I and II in southern Kingston as well as a treatment plant.
- New harbor and mooring regulations enable the Harbormaster to add new moorings and navigation aids in the Jones River.
- Plans for a new town house are shown in May and necessitate moving the Highway Department to the rear of the Evergreen Street property: site work is started.
- The town report needs 25 pages to list the town’s boards, committees, as well as state and federal officials (in 1900 there were 18 positions listed on one page; in 1800 there were 13 positions listed on one page).
- The Eighth Kingston Citizenship Award is given to David LaPlante, President of Kingston Youth Soccer.
- The Tree Warden Position will now be appointed following the retirement of Fred E. Nava, Sr.
- Kingston becomes a member of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative.
- Town Moderator Lawrence Winokur retires following 22 years of service. Frances Botelho-Hoeg is elected to the post.
- The planning board is successful in establishing, by Town Meeting vote, changes in zoning bylaws pertaining to lot size and street planning.

- Seven sets of twins and one set of triplets are born and become residents of Kingston.
- The Kingston Cultural Council develops a committee to promote the suggested Heritage Center.
- The Historical Commission establishes a Civic National Register Historic District and the Massachusetts Historical Commission declares the Town Hall and Adams Building among the most endangered buildings in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- The Mesurer of Wood and Bark is asked by “an obviously deranged and uncaring soul” to measure a pile of bark mulch, which was determined to be shrinking of its own accord and immeasurable.
- The Open Space Committee completes a brochure for the public, showing open space properties and areas of historic interest.
- Four permits for drive-in coffee shops are submitted to the planning board, but only one is approved; one permit has been applied for five times throughout the years.
- All three police cruisers and the patrol supervisor’s car are equipped with laptop computers and link to state and national databases.
- Grades 5 and 6 make a mid-year move to the new school called the Kingston Intermediate School, and renovations at Kingston Elementary School begin.
- The school budget is now \$ 5.5 million for 1,138 students, or \$4,800 per pupil. In 1900 the budget was \$10,567.57 or \$19.68 per pupil. In 1900, there were six high school graduates; in 1999 there were 84. In 1900 the total school population was 349; in 1999, there were 763 students in secondary school and 1,138 in the elementary school.
- The planned departure of Pembroke from the Silver Lake Regional School District influences decisions by the school committee regarding future facility needs for the increasing school population and realignment of the district.
- The Highway Department issues new transfer station rules and regulations, including new hours of operation and a fee schedule.
- The Waterfront Committee is hopeful that the shellfish beds may soon open; “a well-managed waterfront resource is key to Kingston’s past, present, and future.”