



North Smithfield, RI

Community Profile

Introduction

North Smithfield is a town in Providence County, Rhode Island. Like most New England communities, it was first settled in an agrarian manner circa 1666 and officially incorporated 1871. The Town's land use pattern underwent dramatic transformation during the Industrial Revolution and is home to the first planned mill village, known as Slatersville. The village of Slatersville was largely built by Samuel Slater and his brother John Slater beginning in 1803. Samuel and John's family owned Slater Mill and maintained a strong presence in the village until the turn of the 20th century. The Townspeople still value and identify with their neighborhoods historically, e.g. the historic villages of: Forestdale, Primrose, Waterford, Branch Village, Union Village, Park Square, and Slatersville

Today, the Town shares utility partnerships with the City of Woonsocket which provides water to eastern portions of the Town along with acceptance of 100 percent of the Town's wastewater effluent discharge. Public water is also provided by the Town of North Smithfield through the Slatersville Water Company with the Town Council serving as the Board of water commissioners as necessary.

The Town is managed by an elected Town Administrator in conjunction with a 5-member elected Town Council form of government. Town Council elections occur every two years with a recent 2016 Town Charter change requiring the Town Administrator to serve four-year terms vs what previously was every two years. The new four year term for Town Administrator is expected to provide more stability and consistency to the Administrative functions which will allow the community to achieve its goals and polices more effectively.

Demographics

The Town lies along the northern line of what is State's growing suburban transect between what is an urbanized eastern portion of Rhode Island juxtaposed by a western rural/suburban portion. Route 146, which travels through the Town's northeasterly area, carries roughly 45,000 vehicles per day in and out of Rhode Island. Route 102 runs through the northern part of Town in an east-west fashion and connects to Route 146. Both routes are home to a vast majority of the Town's commercial development in addition to the industrial and manufacturing presence at Industrial Drive. Otherwise, pockets of rural areas exist in the northern and eastern portions of Town with a majority of the rural suburban area being in the south and southwest to western portion of Town.

The Town is approximately 24.7 square miles in size with a population of 12,485 according to recent statistics by the American Community Survey. The Town is comprised of approximately 4,536 households with a median household income of \$79,167. The median age of the residents in North Smithfield is 47.6 years old with residents above age 65 being 21.5%. The Town offers an elementary school, middle school and high school with student populations of 589, 558, and 501 respectively.

Police Department

The police department operates with approximately 28 staff; the Chief, two captains, four lieutenants, one administrator, two sergeants, two detectives, and sixteen officers. The department's FYI 19/20 operations budget was approximately \$2,752,421. Beginning in 2017, an organized approach to capital budgeting was instituted with all departments resulting in prioritization of all equipment and or vehicles. The program enables the Town to properly budget for and maintain all equipment and vehicles resulting in the ability of all departments to perform their services adequately and with confidence.