

# Discover a Healthy Life KANNAPOLIS MATTERS



## DISCOVER DOWNTOWN KANNAPOLIS

We hope to see you in downtown Kannapolis soon. We welcome you to discover the many new businesses and entertainment options the City has to offer. There are many new shops, restaurants, slot car racing, duck pin bowling, movies at the GEM Theatre, Kannapolis Cannon Ballers games, Swannee Theatre concerts and more to keep you busy. You may want to just exercise by Looping the Loop or sit and read a book. There is something for everyone in Kannapolis.



There are many convenient parking lots available for the public to use when visiting downtown. The public is welcome to park in the **VIDA deck**; hourly fees apply. **Free public parking spaces** are available on West Avenue, Research Campus Drive, Veterans Park, Laureate Way, West A Street and Cannon Baller Way. Free public parking is also available in these lots: Oak Ave., Kannapolis Train Station, North Main Street, NCRC Deck, City Hall,

Chestnut Ave., University, Watson Crick Dr., Wellness Way, South Main Street and RCCC.

The **Oak Avenue** lot is located within a five-minute walk to downtown shops, restaurants and Atrium Health Ballpark. The Oak Avenue lot has 60 parking spaces, including

*Continued on page 2*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

- 5 Strides for Stroke 5k** | 9 a.m.  
Downtown Kannapolis
- 12 Cruise In** | 1 p.m. | NCRC
- 12 Stories Under the Stars**  
7 p.m. | Kannapolis Library
- 18 City Offices Closed**
- 19 Earth Day Shred Event**  
9 a.m. – noon | Village Park
- 22 Blood Mobile** | 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Big Red Bus | Kannapolis City Hall

### MAY

- 1 Kannapolis Farmers Market Opens** | 4 – 7 p.m. | Thursdays  
May – September | Corner of Vance and Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
- 1 Jiggy 5K** | 6:30 p.m. | NCRC  
Horseshoe
- 8 Thursdays on Main** | 6 p.m.  
Veterans Park
- 10 Cruise In** | 1 p.m. | NCRC
- 10 Stories Under the Stars** | 7 p.m.  
Kannapolis Library
- 17 Non-Certified CPR Class**  
1 – 3 p.m. | Kannapolis City Hall
- 31 Gaelic Alley Pub Run** | 8 a.m.  
Downtown Kannapolis

*Free Admission. No pets or smoking, please.  
More at [kannapolisnc.gov](http://kannapolisnc.gov).*



# RUN KANNAPOLIS

Runners/walkers are encouraged to participate in the Run Kannapolis Race Series. Register now at [www.runkannapolis.com](http://www.runkannapolis.com).



Run Kannapolis is part of the City of Kannapolis' Discover a Healthy Life brand.

Good luck with the 2025 Run Kannapolis series and we hope to see you at the finish line!



Continued from page 1

handicap-accessible options. Parking is free in this lot.

**Amtrak passengers** who need to park overnight in the Train Station/Main Street Parking Lot do not need a parking permit. **Handicap parking** is available along West Avenue, in each City parking lot and the VIDA deck.

The City has added two **passenger drop-off and pick-up locations** in downtown. These locations are to be used by rideshare passengers or anyone who simply needs to drop off or pick up passengers. The two locations are at the Gem Theatre on Laureate Way, and at the Swanee Theatre on Cannon Baller Way. The locations are signed "no parking" and "no loading" areas.

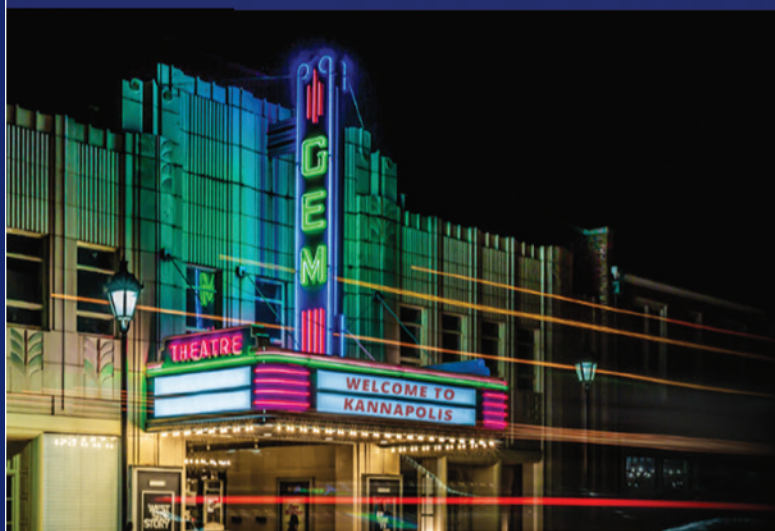
Visiting downtown on a Friday or Saturday from April to November? Hop on the **West Avenue Express**! Two electric shuttles – Thunder and Lightning – run from 5–10 p.m., Friday–Saturday, April through



December, on a continuous loop between four designated stops: the NCRC public parking deck, the top of the horseshoe sidewalk, First Baptist Church and the Swanee Theatre. A shuttle will arrive at each stop approximately every five minutes. Both shuttles are ADA-accessible and free to the public.

For parking maps and more information on downtown parking, visit <https://www.kannapolisnc.gov/parking>.

## Discover Entertainment!



[www.gem-theatre.com](http://www.gem-theatre.com)



[www.theswaneetheatre.com](http://www.theswaneetheatre.com)





# CITY EMPLOYEES RETIRE

Congratulations to Candy Waller and Barry Hower on their retirement from the City of Kannapolis.



*Candy Waller*

Candy has worked for the Kannapolis Police Department as its Human Resources Technician/Administrative Assistant for 27 years.

During her time with the Kannapolis Police Department, Candy has had the opportunity to work with three different police chiefs and watch the department evolve into a nationally-accredited agency.



*Barry Hower*

Barry joined the City 10 years ago as a Code Enforcement Officer. Previously, he was in the U.S. Marines and worked as N.C. State Highway

Trooper. He has a theology degree and is active in the Living Church in Charlotte where he is President of the Men's Ministries.

Both Candy and Barry will be missed, but we wish the best in their next chapters!

# KANNAPOLIS FIREFIGHTERS ACHIEVE PRESTIGIOUS DESIGNATION

Kannapolis firefighters Wesley Rigdon and Cody Clark have completed the rigorous Georgia Smoke Diver program, the first Kannapolis firefighters to do so. They are two of only four other firefighters in North Carolina who have ever completed the program. The class of 42 members was selected from 650 applicants and only 11 completed the course requirements.

The Georgia Smoke Diver Course is a six-day, 60-hour program designed for realistic training in self-survival, firefighter rescue, advanced search & rescue, thermal imaging, emergency procedures, teamwork, discipline, team leadership, situational awareness and decision-making, as well as how to function within the elements of the Incident Command System. It began in 1978 to decrease firefighter injuries and deaths in the field. Participants pay to take this optional course, which begins with a stringent physical and mental pretest.

The program condenses and replicates the extreme demands that may be placed on firefighters at any incident. Emphasis is placed on the day-to-day challenges firefighters face at structure fires, multiple-alarm fires and multiple fires within a single shift. These same principles can be applied to the performance of duties at natural disasters, catastrophic events and acts of terrorism.

The course is physically demanding and mentally challenging. Its design allows each candidate to understand and manage their physical and mental limitations under safe but stressful realistic conditions. Everything, from the amount and type of food and drink, is also monitored throughout the course as part of the lessons learned.

Wesley, a fire engineer, joined the Kannapolis Fire Department in 2017. Cody, a firefighter, joined in 2019. Both are at Station 3. Wesley is married to Ashley, who is a Captain at Fire Station 1 and they have two children. Cody comes from a firefighting family; his father and brother are both firefighters.



*Wesley Rigdon (left) and Cody Clark*



# THURSDAYS ON MAIN SCHEDULE RELEASED

Discover Fun in Kannapolis returns this summer with an incredible line-up of Thursday on Main concerts!

Thursdays on Main concerts begin at 6 p.m. and are held at Veterans Park (119 N Main St.). The concerts are free to the public. Children 18 and under must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. No pets or smoking, please.

Food/drinks will be available for purchase, or attendees can bring their own food and nonalcoholic drinks. Coolers are allowed with no outside alcohol. Coolers are subject to search. Lawn chairs are permitted.



## Concert Schedule:

**May 8 - Gary Lowder & Smokin Hot**

**June 12 - The Embers**

**July 10 - Band of Oz**

**August 14 - Too Much Sylvia**

**September 11 - The Tonz**

Watch your mailbox – a mailer with the complete Discover Fun schedule is coming soon!

## RENT A CITY FACILITY FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT



Need a space for your next event? The City of Kannapolis has a variety of great venue locations to choose from!

Check them out by looking through our Facilities Guide Brochure.

# KANNAPOLIS FARMERS MARKET OPENS MAY 1



The Kannapolis Farmers Market will open for the 2025 season on Thursday, May 1. The market will be held every Thursday, 4–7 p.m., at the corner of Vance St. and Dale Earnhardt Blvd. The market continues through September.

Returning and new vendors offer a wide variety of fresh, local produce as well as plants, eggs, baked goods, skincare products, crafts and prepared foods.

Sign up for text message reminders and updates about the farmers market and vendor specials. Text MARKET to 704-704-4335. You may unsubscribe at any time. For customers' convenience, most vendors accept credit/debit cards.

## LET'S KEEP KANNAPOLIS CLEAN!

Every small action counts when it comes to protecting our environment! Let's all make a commitment to say NO to littering.

One way to keep Kannapolis clean is by securing your load:

- Cover your entire load with a tarp or net to prevent smaller objects from blowing out of your vehicle.
- Don't overload your vehicle. Instead, double check that your load fits in your vehicle properly and that debris will not blow out during transport.
- Securely fasten larger items with straps and tie-downs to prevent items from falling out, shifting, sliding or becoming airborne.

Whether it's securing your load or properly disposing of a plastic bottle, every effort adds up to a cleaner, healthier North Carolina.

### THE CITY OF KANNAPOLIS

401 Laureate Way | Kannapolis, NC 28081

704.920.4444

[www.kannapolisnc.gov](http://www.kannapolisnc.gov)



Follow the City on Facebook ([facebook.com/cityofkannapolis](https://facebook.com/cityofkannapolis)), Instagram (@KannapolisNC), LinkedIn ([linkedin.com/company/cityofkannapolis](https://linkedin.com/company/cityofkannapolis)) and Nextdoor ([nextdoor.com/Kannapolisnc.gov](https://nextdoor.com/Kannapolisnc.gov)) for regular updates and more ideas for fun.

