

Discover a Healthy Life

KANNAPOLIS MATTERS

IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON

A Kannapolis Christmas returns this holiday season with events that have become treasured family traditions in North Carolina. Families return annually to celebrate with us and create their favorite family memories in the City.

The official kick-off to the holidays will be the **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony & Celebration of Lights at 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 15, at Village Park, located**

at 700 West C Street. Following the lighting of the tree there will be a fireworks display at approximately 6:15 p.m., live musical performances and much more. **The Celebration of Lights and Winterland Express will then run through December 30.**

The annual tradition of the Celebration of Lights includes hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights in dozens of displays throughout Village

Park. Adults and children are welcome to ride one of our two Winterland Express trains and count down the 12 Days of Christmas as you view unique holiday light displays from the popular song. This magical experience is one you do not want to miss – you will add it to your annual holiday traditions list.

Continued on page 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 8 Run Kannapolis: Old Armor 5K**
9 a.m. | Downtown Kannapolis
- 15 Free Non-Certified CPR Class**
1-3 p.m. | City Hall | Registration Required
- 15 Tree Lighting & Opening of Celebration of Lights**
6 p.m. | Village Park
- 15- 30 Kannapolis Celebration of Lights** | 6 p.m. | Village Park

DECEMBER

- 1- 30 Kannapolis Celebration of Lights** | 6 p.m. | Village Park
- 13 Kannapolis Christmas Parade**
6 p.m. | Downtown Kannapolis
- 19 Salisbury Symphony** | 7 p.m.
Swanee Theatre
- 20 The Embers Christmas Show**
7 p.m. | Swanee Theatre

More at kannapolisnc.gov.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

November 15

Kannapolis Tree Lighting Ceremony 6 p.m., Village Park, 700 West C St.

Start your holiday with this annual family event. Special entertainment by area musicians, followed by a special guest arriving from the North Pole, and fireworks.

November 15 - December 30

Kannapolis Celebration of Lights Village Park, 700 West C St.

Open 6-9 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays;
6-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
(Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day). Area choirs will perform on select evenings. Bring your wish list for your visit with Santa; you are welcome to take your photo with him at no charge. Make a holiday craft and enjoy s'mores around the fire pit. Local craftspeople and artisans as well as food trucks will be on hand on the weekends.

December 13

The Kannapolis Christmas Parade 6 p.m.

This special night parade travels through the streets of downtown Kannapolis and usually lasts until 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating in the parade as a sponsor or a float entry, visit www.kannapolisnc.gov/christmasparade.

December 20

The Embers Christmas Show, 7 p.m.

Enjoy your favorite Christmas songs with a performance by The Embers at the Swanee Theatre. Tickets may be purchased at www.swaneetheatre.com.



Attendees will also be able to ride the Village Park Double Decker Carousel. Manufactured in Italy, it features 1,800 lights, Brazilian oak decking and charming hand-painted Venetian murals that are sure to get you into the spirit of the holidays. The carousel and trains accommodate adults, children and are ADA-accessible.

Santa Claus arrives during the Tree Lighting Ceremony and will be at the park every evening for children of all ages to visit him and have their photo made for free. Bring your phones and cameras for plenty of selfies.

Maestro Leonard Bearstein and the famed Leonard Bearstein Symphony Orchestra are back this year, spreading their holiday magic in Kannapolis. The 18 animatronic bears will delight children and adults alike with their witty banter, inspiring instrumental pieces and traditional favorite holiday songs! Visit the Leonard Bearstein Symphony Orchestra inside the Village Park Multi-Purpose Room throughout the Celebration of Lights.

The Celebration of Lights also features performances from our very own **Kannapolis Singing Bears – the Chuckles Quartet** – who will entertain you with a Christmas Carol performance. The Chuckles Quartet are housed outside in Village Park. Both sets of Christmas Bears have an impressive lineup filled with holiday banter, music and fun.

Food and drink are available for purchase at the concession stand. Enjoy the fire pit, making s'mores and much more.

Admission to the park and viewing of the lights and bears are free; tickets are required to ride the carousel and train. Purchase carousel tickets onsite at Village Park. They will be available on a first come basis each evening.

Reserve your seat on the Winterland Express, Sunday through Thursday, by purchasing tickets online at www.kannapolisnc.gov/Christmas. Walkup onsite tickets will be available if space allows. During the Tree Lighting Ceremony and every Friday and Saturday, tickets may be purchased onsite at Village Park on a first come basis for the Winterland Express.

Tickets are \$2 per person for the train and \$2 per person for the carousel.

The Gem Theatre hosts first-run movies each evening, and **the Swanee Theatre** will celebrate with holiday concerts including **The Embers Christmas Show** at 7 p.m. on December 20. Tickets are on sale now.

For complete updated holiday information/schedules, visit www.kannapolisnc.gov/christmas or www.discoverkannapolis.com.



PARK NAMED IN MEMORY OF BARRY LENTZ



The Kannapolis City Council has named the former Dixie Youth Baseball Park, Lentz Park, in memory of Mr. Barry Lentz. A native of Kannapolis, Lentz

passed away this year. He was instrumental in the lives of thousands of Kannapolis children through the game of baseball and in the classroom as a science teacher.

He was an umpire in the Kannapolis Dixie Youth Baseball organization for more than 30 years. For the past 15 years, he served as an umpire in the Dixie Youth/Diamond Youth Baseball World Series. He also was active as a high school and college umpire and board member in the Carolina's Baseball Umpires Association. In 2023, he was awarded the Dick Knox Distinguished Service Award for officials by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

After a career in textiles, Lentz returned to school and obtained a B.S. degree in secondary education and a master's in school administration from UNCC. He began a second career as a science teacher at A.L. Brown High School.

Lentz was active in his church – Mount Olivet United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, Ute, and his children and grandchildren.

WELCOME TO K-9 ROMAN



Say hello to Roman, our new K-9 officer! Named after the WWE wrestler, Roman Reigns, he is excited to be with the Kannapolis Police Department and with his partner, Devin Steele.

A German Shepherd, Roman was born in Germany and, like all K-9 officers, has been training for police work basically since he was born. He celebrated his first birthday in July and his favorite treat is carrots.

Devin has been with the department for four years and is a graduate of Rowan Cabarrus Community College's Basic Law Enforcement Training Program. He is also a graduate of Olympic High School in Charlotte and Shaw University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Criminal Justice. His prior work experience includes serving as a Detention Officer with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office and a Youth Counselor with the Salvation Army.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE FUNDING FROM CITY

The Kannapolis City Council has approved \$116,000 for its 2025-2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund allocation. The funds are designated for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income residents within the City of Kannapolis.

GRANTS WERE AWARDED TO:

- AYA House, Inc.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Cabarrus County
- Partnership for Children
- Cabarrus Health Alliance
- Cabarrus Rowan Community Health
- Classroom Central
- Conflict Resolution
- Cooperative Christian Ministry
- Dream Create Grow Foundation
- Elder Orphan Care
- Faith Fellowship Church
- Families First
- Main Street Market
- Midway Opportunity House
- Peek into a New Horizon: Peek Next Gen
- Present Age Ministries
- Prosperity Unlimited, Inc.
- PURE Excellence
- Rowan Helping Ministries
- Vision for Life

The funds come from the federal Community Development Block Grant Program. Each year Kannapolis receives funds that can be awarded to non-profit organizations that deliver pertinent services to residents who are in need. Applications are reviewed by the Community Improvement Commission and City staff.



SALISBURY SYMPHONY WILL PERFORM FIRST HOLIDAY CONCERT AT THE SWANEE THEATRE

Celebrate the joy and warmth of the holiday season as the Salisbury Symphony brings its beloved *Home for the Holidays* concert series to the Swanee Theatre in Kannapolis!

For the first time, the 55-member professional symphony will bring its holiday sounds to the Swanee Theatre for an evening filled with festive favorites, timeless carols and the enchanting sound of live orchestral music. The concert is at 7 p.m. on December 19. Tickets begin at \$10 and may be purchased at www.swaneetheatre.com/specialevents.



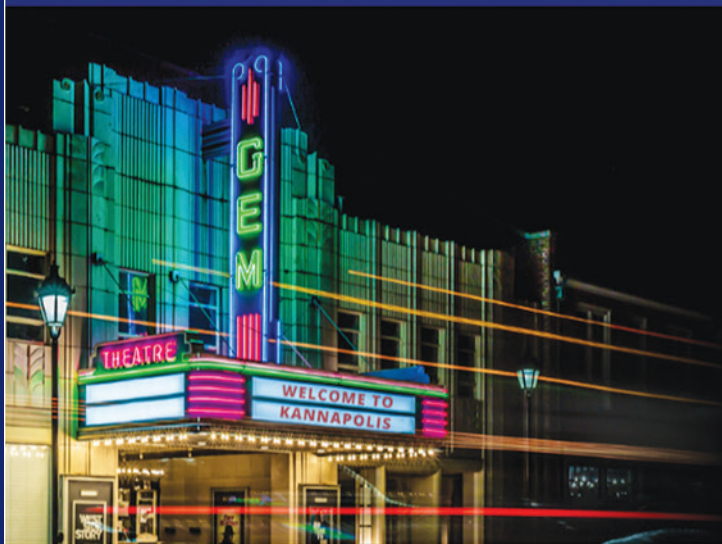
From the moment the first notes ring out, you'll be transported into the heart of the holiday spirit, surrounded by melodies that evoke the wonder and nostalgia of this special time of year. Perfect for audiences of all ages, this family-friendly event is a celebration of togetherness, joy and the

magic of music. Whether you're singing along to cherished carols or marveling at the rich sounds of the symphony, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Join us as we make new memories and honor timeless traditions in an unforgettable evening of holiday cheer!

The Swanee Theatre, 200 West Avenue, Kannapolis, is a historic movie venue that has been transformed into a premiere live music venue in the heart of downtown. For more information on upcoming events, visit www.swaneetheatre.com.

Discover Entertainment!



www.gem-theatre.com



www.theswaneetheatre.com

THE CITY OF KANNAPOLIS

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