

Discover a Healthy Life

KANNAPOLIS MATTERS



KANNAPOLIS FY 2026-2027 BUDGET APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

The Kannapolis City Council has unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2026-'27 budget. The total budget is \$134,747,543, which includes all seven operating funds of the City. The budget includes no increase in the property tax rate. The tax rate will remain at 55.95 cents.



"The Fiscal Year 2027 budget represents a new chapter for Kannapolis, marked by the transition to newly elected City Council members, a new Mayor and new administrative leadership. This period of transition has provided an important opportunity for City Council and staff to reassess the City's long-term priorities and strategic direction. City Council held budget retreats earlier this year

to engage in thoughtful discussions regarding emerging issues, community challenges, future trends and goals for this fiscal year and the years ahead," commented City Manager Wilmer Melton.

CITY COUNCIL'S NEW STRATEGIC PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

Public Transit, Enhanced Street Paving and Sidewalk Maintenance, Western Area Fire Protection and Life Safety Services, Historic Preservation Program, Kannapolis History Museum and Downtown Visitors Center, Downtown Business Support Plan, Capital Outlay Program, and Employee Pay and Benefits.

Continued on page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- Farmers Market** | Every Thursday through September | 4- 7 p.m. | The corner of Vance St. and Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
- 4 National Night Out** 6 p.m. | Swanee Theatre
- 6 Swanee Summer Theatre: Beauty and the Beast** | 11 a.m. Swanee Theatre | *Tickets Required*
- 8 Concert in the Park: Andy Grammer with Walk Off the Earth** | 7 p.m. | Village Park
- 13 Thursdays on Main: Too Much Sylvia** | 6 p.m. | Veterans Park
- 15 Run Kannapolis: Cannon Ballers Shooting Star 5K** 8 a.m. | Downtown Kannapolis
- 15 Stories Under the Stars: Gravity Check** | 7 p.m. Kannapolis Library

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Thursdays on Main: Jim Quick & the Coastline** | 6 p.m. | Veterans Park
- 26 Run Kannapolis: Flint's Fabulous 5K** | 8 a.m. | NCRC

OCTOBER

- 2 Fire Truck Parade/Food Drive Blood Drive** | 6 p.m. | Kannapolis City Hall
- 10 Shred Event** | 9 a.m. | Village Park
- 24 Run Kannapolis: 5K Race for Peace** | 8 a.m. | NCRC

*No pets or smoking, please.
More at kannapolisnc.gov.*



POLICE CHIEF TERRY SPRY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Kannapolis Police Chief Terry Spry has announced his retirement following a 30-year career with the City. His last day as Chief will be September 29.

Terry was appointed Chief in 2020 and has led a department that is one of only 6% percent of law enforcement agencies nationwide accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The department has 131 officers and staff.

"It has been an honor to serve this community for the last 32 years. I am proud of the fact that the department has held steadfast to its foundation of being a progressive and professional law enforcement organization during my time as Chief. I am confident my staff will continue our path of maintaining our organization's ideals and mission. I will miss the daily interaction with citizens and coworkers, but I plan to remain in the area," Terry said.



During his tenure, he has focused on building strong community relationships with children and adults to prevent crime. He is one of the founding members of BRIDGE (Building Relationships through Intentional Dialogue, Grace and Empathy). This group of area pastors meets monthly with Terry and other City leaders to sponsor community dialogues on topics such as community policing, education, housing and more. He has led

the department's efforts to host school supply drives, a children's coloring contest, fundraisers for those in need and other events that lead to strong relationships with the residents of Kannapolis.

Chief Spry joined the Kannapolis Police Department in 1994. He worked in all areas of the department, including patrol officer, traffic officer, criminal investigator and patrol supervisor. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2004, Lieutenant in 2010 and Captain in 2015.

Chief Spry has received several honors, including the South Rowan Optimist Club Officer of the Year, Co-Recipient of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Officer of the Year, the Roger Dale Carter Memorial Award, Royal Oaks Optimist Club Officer of the Year, and a Felony Investigations Unit Commendation.

He is married to Meredith, and they have one son, Kaleb, and a grandson.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS HONORED

Several Kannapolis residents recently graduated from the Kannapolis Police Department's Citizens Police Academy. The program provides resident participants with an in-depth look at the department's operations, services and the many responsibilities of a law enforcement officer.

Throughout the academy, participants gained firsthand knowledge of patrol operations, traffic enforcement, defensive driving, firearms training, K-9 operations, SWAT, criminal investigations, court procedures and community service programs. The experience offers residents a greater understanding of modern policing while strengthening connections between the Police Department and the community it serves.



Completing the program were, *front row*: Leikela R., Christopher R., Demetra Grigley, Ronald Flanders, Stephanie Forman, Jailene Lopez. *Back row*: Gloria Talbert, Susan Price, Jackson Haire, Molly Eberle, Nick Eberle, Adam Demon, Donell Aikens.

Not pictured: Justin Knoll, Pamela Phifer, Jamie Simons.





KANNAPOLIS ACM RETIRES

Kannapolis Assistant City Manager Tina Cline is retiring from the City after 31 years of service. Tina has been employed with the City of Kannapolis since 1995, primarily in Human Resources and Management, and has held the roles Director of

Human Resources and Risk Manager. Prior to joining Kannapolis, she worked for Cabarrus County's Human Resources Department.

In 2023 she was promoted to the position of Assistant City Manager, and she oversaw the operations for the Customer Service, Human Resources, Finance, General Services and Information Technology Departments and, most recently, Parks and Recreation and Communications Departments.

In 2022, Tina was named a Best in Human Resources Finalist by the *Charlotte Business Journal*. She and her department team members were recognized for their innovative internal and external personnel practices, policies and programs as the City's employees responded to the COVID pandemic.

"After 31 years with the City of Kannapolis, including serving as Human Resources Director and Assistant City Manager, I am

incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this community and its growth. It has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated employees and to support the people who make the City of Kannapolis a great place to live and work. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and thankful for the many friendships, experiences and memories that have shaped my career," Tina commented.

Tina is a native of Rowan County and is a graduate of Pfeiffer College with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She also graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Government City and County Municipal Administration program and Leadership Cabarrus.

During her time with Kannapolis, she was active in a number of non-profit and professional human resources organizations, including serving in many leadership positions. Most recently, she was the President of the North Carolina Chapter of Public Sector Human Resources Association; President, Secretary and a board member of International Public Management Association – N.C. Chapter, and Vice-President and President of the Cabarrus Personnel Association.

She is married to Tony and has three children and two grandchildren.

Continued from page 1

ADDITIONAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Park Bond: The bond would be for \$40 million to cover construction of the Eastside and Westside Parks, development of Glen Avenue property for park and recreation purposes, and construction of Irish Buffalo Creek Greenway Phases 2 and 3, the extension of the Rocky River Greenway, and Phase 3 of the Gem Theatre renovations. It will be on the November 2026 ballot.

Gem Theatre & Swannee Theatres: Expand development of financial sustainability

plans that will result in increased revenues with a minimum reliance on General Fund subsidies for both theatres. Increases in pricing structures, rentals, events and passive recreation programming, as well as reducing operational costs, will be explored to achieve this goal.

Summer Concert Event Series:

Reduced funding in a broader effort to align recreational programming and entertainment expenditures with long-term financial priorities.

Utilities: Utility rate increases include \$1.45 for the monthly water base rate and a .53 cent increase per 1,000 gallons of water

used; \$4.80 in the monthly base rate for sewer and \$1.08 increase per 1,000 gallons of sewer used; and a \$1 monthly increase for stormwater. The utility increases are to cover the rising costs of maintaining a clean water supply and sewer treatment system, expansion of wastewater treatment capacity, rehabilitation projects, such as new waterlines, and the Kannapolis Lake dam spillway project (built in 1940).

Police: Replacement of police body cameras, in-car cameras and tasers.

Fire: Six new firefighters for the Adaptive Response Vehicle Program.

More information is available at www.kannapolisnc.gov.



KANNAPOLIS YOUTH COUNCIL COMPLETES PROJECT

The Kannapolis Youth Council recently completed their legacy project for the 2025-2026 year. The project included painting birdhouses with designs related to the City. With help from the Kannapolis Parks and Recreation Department, the hand-painted birdhouses have been hung along the Bakers Creek and Irish Buffalo Creek Greenways for all to enjoy.

The birdhouses are painted with various themes related to the City of Kannapolis, such as the Gem Theatre and the Cannon Ballers. There are five bird houses placed along Bakers Creek Greenway, located at Bakers Creek Park (1275 West A St.), and five are placed along Irish Buffalo



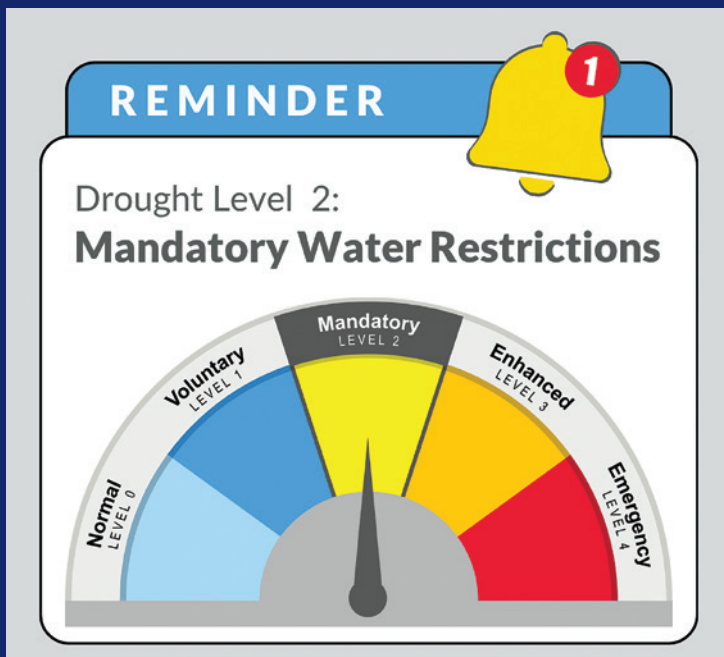
Kannapolis Youth Council members Angel Ortiz and Aidern Sniffan

Creek Greenway (760 Orphanage Rd.). We encourage you to try and find all ten birdhouses as you are out enjoying these beautiful outdoor spaces.

Each year, the Kannapolis Youth Council selects a legacy project to help give back to and beautify the Kannapolis community. Last year, the students painted rocking chairs that visitors can enjoy at The Swanee Theatre and the Kannapolis Train Station.

To learn more about the Kannapolis Youth Council, visit www.kannapolisnc.gov/youth-council.

WATER RESTRICTIONS REMINDER



Thank you, Kannapolis, for helping conserve water as we continue to navigate ongoing drought conditions. While we have received some rainfall, it has not been enough to lift the Level 2 mandatory water restrictions. We appreciate your continued efforts to help protect our community's water supply.

Please remember these ways to conserve water:

- Lawns may only be watered Tuesday after 8 p.m. through Wednesday before 8 a.m., and Saturday after 8 p.m. through Sunday before 8 a.m.
- Gardens may be watered any day using soaker hoses, drip irrigation, watering cans or a hand-held garden hose.
- Please do not wash vehicles at home, although commercial car washes are permitted, as they recycle water.
- Professional pressure washing services are allowed, but pressure washing homes and driveways should not be done by homeowners.

THE CITY OF KANNAPOLIS
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