

# CITY AWARDED COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FOR A NEW PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

The City of Kannapolis has received \$963,000 in funding through the FY24 appropriations legislation that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden. The Community Project Funding Award will support the addition of a new public safety communications tower in northwest Cabarrus County to improve police and fire responses to emergency calls, and increase the safety of law enforcement and first-responders.

Congresswoman Alma Adams, Ph.D. (NC-12) submitted Kannapolis' public safety communications tower project to the House Appropriations Committee and secured the funding for this project. The project will enhance radio communications in a remote area of Cabarrus County where law enforcement



and first-responder personnel currently have limited to no radio coverage with 911 communicators when responding to emergency calls.

"No one who calls for help should have to fear that their cries will go unheard. This community project funding grant of \$963,000, supporting a new Public Safety Tower in Kannapolis, will mean safer roads, parks and homes across Cabarrus County. It is my honor to represent the

people of Cabarrus County and bring their most remote areas in range of emergency communications," commented Representative Adams.

"We are thankful for Congresswoman Adams' support of this project. Communication between our police officers and firefighters and the surrounding public safety departments in both Cabarrus and Rowan counties is critical to the health and safety of our residents," said Kannapolis Mayor Darrell Hinnant.

The total cost of the tower is expected to be \$2.1 million and in the FY '24-25 proposed budget the City will allocate the remainder of the cost of the tower. Construction will begin later this year on the tower, which will be located on N.C. 3 near Odell School Road.

AUGUST 2024



## STRATEGIC FUNDING PRIORITIES APPROVED IN FY 2024-25 BUDGET

The Kannapolis City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget with a vote of 4-3. The total recommended budget is \$123,106,329, which includes all seven operating funds of the City.

The budget includes a 7.05 cent decrease in the property tax rate. The tax rate will drop from 63 cents to 55.95 cents.

The proposed budget concentrates on several strategies:

- The partial implementation of the Imagine Kannapolis Strategic Plan, which includes mapping out the next five years of projects and initiatives in the City and, concurrently, a five-year Financial Plan designed to achieve the Strategic Plan.
- Ensuring that a high quality of services to residents is maintained, such as a new garbage and recycling contractor, and ensuring that employees have the equipment and vehicles they need to do their jobs.
- Retaining existing employees and recruiting new people to work for the City.
- Continuing to leverage the City's robust financial forecast to improve the quality of life for residents and the delivery of services to residents.

In 2022 the City launched the Imagine Kannapolis Strategic Plan. The goal was to imagine the future of Kannapolis, especially what objectives the City would like to achieve in the next decade. Thirteen

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST

- 2** **Movies in the Park: Elemental**  
8:45 p.m. | Village Park
- 6** **National Night Out**  
5 p.m. | Veterans Park
- 8** **Thursdays on Main: Too Much Sylvia** | 6 p.m. | Veterans Park
- 10** **Concerts in the Park: KC and the Sunshine Band**  
7 p.m. | Village Park
- 17** **Run Kannapolis: Cannon Ballers 5K** | 9 a.m. | Atrium Health Ballpark
- 17** **Stories Under the Stars: Dana Hill** | 7 p.m. | Kannapolis Library

### SEPTEMBER

- 26** **Thursdays on Main: Band of Oz** | 6 p.m. | Veterans Park
- 27** **Run Kannapolis: Race for Peace 5K** | 8 a.m. | NCRC

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



**Front Row (Left to Right)** Sandra Odell, Stefanie Perez, Debbie Wilkinson, Joyce Schmit, Linda Brown  
**Back Row (Left to Right)** Captain Chris Hill, Pamela Smith, Alexander Cooke, Jayne Williams, Mark Swenson, Quintin Klutz, Shane Watkins, Patricia Ware, Ryan Brown, Donna Morris, Chief Terry Spry  
**Not Pictured** John Cooke, Yolanda Cooke, William Tadlock

## CITIZENS GRADUATE FROM PROGRAM

Several City of Kannapolis residents have graduated from the Citizens Police Academy. The academy concentrates on the services and functions of the Kannapolis Police Department and provides citizens with a better understanding of what it takes to be a police officer.

Attendees participated in classes on all aspects of the department such as patrol operations, traffic enforcement, defensive driving, firearms, K-9 operations, special operations (SWAT), felony investigations, interaction with the courts and community service programs.

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focus groups were formed, and dozens of residents participated in developing the plan. Priorities were balanced with the operational needs the City will have during the next ten years and investments needed to foster a healthy quality of life and economically strong City.

In this year's budget, several Imagine Kannapolis priorities are funded, and a plan is outlined to fund additional Imagine Kannapolis priorities over the next five years. These will be subject to City Council ultimately adopting the final version of the Strategic Plan later this year.

**Imagine Kannapolis FY '24-25 Projects and Initiatives include:**

- \$1,500,000 – Construction of a Fire Training Tower at Fire Station 1
- \$145,000 – Cultural Arts & Historic Preservation Work Program
- \$50,000 – Open space and tree preservation (Environmental Sustainability Plan)
- \$855,361 – Addition of 190 new Downtown parking spaces
- \$1,340,000 – Little Texas Road sidewalk (City's portion to the NCDOT funding)
- \$2,850,000 – City Hall Upfits, including new Customer Service accessibility parking
- \$600,000 – I-85 Monument Signage Phase I (joint project with the City of Concord – Exits 58, 60, 63)
- \$1,200,000 – Western Cabarrus Emergency Communications Tower
- \$600,000 – Chestnut Avenue Park construction (in partnership with downtown land developers)
- \$200,000 – Kannapolis Parkway/N.C. 3 street lighting Phase I
- \$160,000 – Economic Development Promotion Program
- \$60,000 – Reserve Police Officer Program expansion

- \$155,000 – Fire Department Logistics Building (local match to a Federal grant)

**Imagine Kannapolis Proposed Projects and Initiatives for the Next Five Years:**

- Eastside Park construction
- First phase of the revitalization of the Midway area
- Midlake Avenue sidewalk
- Public Works Operations Center improvements
- Westside Park construction
- Cabarrus Joint Public Safety Training Facility (joint project with Cabarrus County and the City of Concord)

**Other highlights of the budget include:**

- Recruitment and retention of employees continues to be a high priority for the City. The budget includes cost of living and merit increases for employees, enhancements to health insurance and retirement programs, and a pilot employee daycare subsidy.
- Nine total new staff positions in the Police, Fire, General Services, Water, Transportation and Information Technology Departments.
- Capital items such as vehicles and equipment for the General Services, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police, Planning and Transportation Departments.

The sewer base rate will increase \$1.44 per month and the sewer volume rate will increase 75 cents per 1,000 gallons. The water volume rate will increase 51 cents per 1,000 gallons. These are the first increases in five years and are to primarily cover costs associated with the expansion of the Rocky River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and improvements to the Kannapolis Water Treatment Plant.

## SIGN UP FOR A RESEARCH STUDY AT NCRC



Interested in participating in a study on the N.C. Research Campus? Studies are always underway by the researchers as they work to develop new ways to improve health or to prevent, diagnose or treat medical conditions.

Some studies may include reimbursement. For a complete list of studies, visit: <https://ncresearchcampus.net/clinical-research-studies#current>.

## TENURED EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Five long-time employees of the City of Kannapolis have recently retired. Each played an important role within the City's organization over the years. Join us in celebrating their careers and acknowledging their dedication to the City of Kannapolis.



**Jeannie Childers has worked for the City of Kannapolis for 39 years in the Customer Service Department.** She is the longest serving

employee in the City. Before she was hired by the City she worked in the Kannapolis Sanitary District Office for 17 years. The district would later become the City's water and sewer department when the City incorporated in 1984. Thus, Jeannie has been working for the residents of Kannapolis for 56 years.



**Shane Pethel – the City's first Fire Marshal – has 24 years of full-time service and 13 volunteer/part-time years of service with the City, totaling 37 years of continuous service.** Shane joined the City as a volunteer firefighter in 1987. He became a part-time fire inspector in 1996 and full-time as the fire inspector in 2000. Eventually, he was promoted to the City's first fire marshal position in 2020. By working in the inspections department and

as Fire Marshal, he has been in every square inch of new construction built in the City since 2000.



**John Hatley has been with the Kannapolis Fire Department for 24 years.** He has transitioned up the ranks to serve as Captain. He began his career as a firefighter in Salisbury. He joined the City of Kannapolis in 2000 and has been primarily based at Fire Station 2 and 4.

Police Department as a telecommunicator, eventually being promoted as the first telecommunicator shift supervisor. Sonya moved to the Records Division in 2014, where she later became a supervisor. She has completed more than 1,351 hours of professional training and has been the recipient of several commendations during her time with the Kannapolis Police Department, including the Norma C. Howard Memorial Service Award and the Leadership Award.



**Sonya Furr has worked for the Kannapolis Police Department for 29 years.** In 1995 Sonya began her career with the Kannapolis

**Dr. Brenda Lewis has worked in the Human Resources Department as a Human Resources Technician.** Many of you may know her because she is the person who greets you if you visit or call

City Hall. A native of Rowan County, Brenda joined the City 13 years ago after working for Livingstone College, the Rowan County



Clerk's Office and serving in ministries in New York. She has a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in theology from Life Christian University and most recently received her Doctor of Christian Education degree from Grace Biblical Institute and Seminary.

Help our fire department by signing up for Community Connect. It's a free program that allows residents and business owners to share valuable information that Kannapolis firefighters may need in the case of an emergency. The information you choose to share is safe and only visible to the Kannapolis Fire Department.

## COMMUNITY CONNECT

How many people live at your house? How many people are employed at your company? Do you have pets? When there is an emergency, we need to know these things and more.

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