

NEW FREE PUBLIC PARKING LOT COMPLETED



Construction on a new parking lot in downtown Kannapolis has been completed. The new public lot is located at 311 Oak Avenue, near First Presbyterian Church. It is located within a five-minute walk to downtown shops, restaurants and Atrium Health Ballpark.

The Oak Avenue lot has 60 new spaces, including handicap assessable options. Parking is free in this lot. The Kannapolis Youth Council spent time planting trees around the new public parking lot. The City invites all residents and visitors to take advantage of the new parking option

and to explore the variety of businesses located in downtown Kannapolis.

Additionally, the West Avenue Express, a free shuttle service, runs from 5 to 10 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. There are two West Avenue Express shuttles, which run on electricity. They accommodate 16 people and are ADA accessible.



The two shuttles, nicknamed Lightning and Thunder, make a continuous loop between four designated stops: the North Carolina Research Campus public parking deck, top of the horseshoe and the First Baptist Church rear access area, all on N. Research Campus Drive and the intersection of West Avenue and Cannon Baller Way near the Swanee Theatre. Look for signage designating the express stops.



"The shuttles offer a safe and convenient way for us to assist our downtown patrons who may be unable to find parking close to our major entertainment venues such as the Gem Theatre, Atrium Health Ballpark and Swanee Theatre. This is especially important for those that have mobility challenges or parents juggling small children. However, everyone is welcome to ride the West Avenue Express, and we are hoping these new shuttles will make visits to our downtown more enjoyable for all," commented Kannapolis City Manager Mike Legg.



ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

Buy a live Christmas tree this holiday season. After the holiday, plant it in your yard and keep it lightly watered until it has had enough time for its root system to be established. Continue to enjoy your tree every year!

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

DECEMBER 2024

Discover a Healthy Life KANNAPOLIS MATTERS

JOIN US FOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE SWANEE THEATRE

The historic Swanee Theatre in Kannapolis opened in November of 1940 as one of four movie theatres in the City. Over the years it has been the home to many great movies and live performances, such as Hank Snow and the Grand Ole Opry.

Seven Sinners, starring John Wayne and Marlene Dietrich, was the first feature movie shown at the Swanee. Every Saturday morning a Walt Disney cartoon or serial was played. When it opened, the marquee was described by local newspapers as "ultra-modern" and the architecture was colonial with a modernistic design with interior decorations featuring light brown and cream colors. It ceased operations as a movie theatre in 1971 and has been used for a variety of purposes. The City of Kannapolis purchased the theatre in 2015, along with the other properties, as part of the Downtown Revitalization Project.

Today, the theatre is once again thriving as a live music and event venue. You can purchase tickets to a great variety of live music, comedy and entertainment events in an intimate setting. Shag and line dancing happens weekly. The Kannapolis Parks and Recreation facility is also available for rent for receptions, meetings, church services, etc.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 1- Celebration of Lights &
- 30 Winterland Express | Village Park (closed 12/24 & 12/25)
- 14 Christmas Parade | 6 p.m. | Downtown Kannapolis
- 24- Christmas Holiday
- 26 (City offices closed)

Free Admission. No pets or smoking, please.
More at kannapolisnc.gov.



KANNAPOLIS POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVE HONORS

Kannapolis Police Chief Terry Spry has awarded five officers in the department for their tenacity, courage and police work in several recent incidents.

Sergeant Travis Furr was awarded the Police Star while Brandon Crowe, Julie Law, Norman Hill, Jr. and Glenn Tingen were presented with commendations.

Sergeant Travis Furr was awarded the Police Star. Sergeant Furr was off duty with his family when he witnessed a car crash.



Sergeant Travis Furr

As he ran to assist those injured in the car crash, he observed one of the drivers wearing all black with a black mask attempting to run away from the scene.

Travis was able to apprehend the person and detain him until on-duty officers arrived to arrest the person. It was later determined

that the person had just committed a hit-and-run and robbery. He was also in possession of an illegal handgun.

Brandon Crowe, Julie Law, and Norman Hill, Jr. were awarded commendations for their teamwork and actions in apprehending a suspect who was involved in attempting to rob an armor truck, carjacking and breaking into a home.



Officer Brandon Crowe

The incident began in the town of China Grove and continued into Kannapolis before the suspect was found on foot on Mt. Olivet Road. All three officers worked diligently to follow tips by homeowners and witnesses and apprehend the suspect within a short period of time.



Officer Julie Law



Officer Norman Hill, Jr.



Investigator Glenn Tingen

Investigator Glenn Tingen received a commendation for two investigations involving children. His tenacity in both of these month-long investigations led to arrests of people who had committed crimes involving juveniles.

CITY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF INCORPORATION



The City of Kannapolis celebrated 40 years of incorporation with a Pop-Up Birthday Event at the Swanee Theatre. On November 6, 1984, citizens of an unincorporated area traditionally known as Kannapolis voted to officially become an incorporated City. Over the last 40 years, the City has grown and flourished into a vibrant hub for healthy living, economic growth and industry-leading research.

The Kannapolis Youth Council presented Kannapolis City Council with a special birthday gift – 10 rocking chairs. The Youth Council hand-painted the chairs, each one featuring a theme honoring an aspect of the City.

Themes include Kannapolis City Hall and the City Departments, the North Carolina Research Campus, Racing, Cannon Mills, Kannapolis Cannon Ballers, the City's Brand – Discover a Healthy Life, the City's cherry trees, Gem Theatre, Kannapolis Train Station, and N.C. Music Hall of Fame and Swanee Theatre. The chairs will be placed in various locations around the City for residents to enjoy.

A KANNAPOLIS CHRISTMAS CONTINUES IN DECEMBER



We hope that you will join us for the Celebration of Lights and Winterland Express. Holiday fun will continue in Village Park 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.

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.

Santa Claus 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 is 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 is housed outside in Village Park. Both sets of Christmas Bears have an impressive line-up filled with holiday banter, music and fun.

Food and drink are available for purchase at the concession stand. Enjoy the fire pit and making s'mores and much more. Admission to the park and viewing of the lights and bears is free; tickets are required to ride the carousel and train.

Purchase carousel tickets on-site 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.

Walk-up on-site tickets will be available if space allows. Every Friday and Saturday tickets may be purchased on-site 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.

