



The Kannapolis Youth Council has opened applications for the 2024-2025 year. Students who will be in grades 9-12 in Fall 2024 are eligible. Students must reside within the Kannapolis City limits to apply. Applications are due at 5p.m. on March 11.

The Council's goal is to create opportunities for students to become engaged in leadership development, provide avenues for high school students to volunteer, develop leadership skills, develop high standards for behavior, to refine communication abilities, practice teamwork and to have a line of communication with City leaders.

Students in public high schools, home school students, charter schools and private high schools are eligible to apply. Applications can be found at www.kannapolisnc.gov/youth-council.

For more information, contact Annette Privette Keller, Director of Communications, at 704-920-4311 or aprivettekeller@kannapolisnc.gov.

SIGN UP FOR THE KANNAPOLIS POLICE CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Kannapolis Police Department is offering its annual citizens' academy beginning March 7. If you are interested in learning more about our police department and its functions, this free class is for you.



Citizens will participate 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, community service programs, etc.

Classes will be held from 6-9p.m. on Thursdays, from March 7 to May 16. Sessions are taught by Kannapolis police officers in a fun and relaxed environment that allows residents to foster relationships with City police officers and get a behind-the-scenes look at policing in Kannapolis. This academy is free with priority given to Kannapolis residents.

Applications are due at 5p.m. on February 16. If you are interested in participating in the program, use the link to apply: www.kannapolisnc.gov/Citizens-Police-Academy.

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FEBRUARY 2024

Discover a Healthy Life KANNAPOLIS MATTERS

GEM THEATRE RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

For more than 75 years, the Gem Theatre has been the star of downtown Kannapolis. From movie premieres to special dates, from engagement proposals to wedding ceremonies, the Gem Theatre has been an iconic structure and place of history for the City and its residents.

In 2015, the City of Kannapolis acquired the theatre building and began the process of refurbishing the marquee, and essential elements such as the roof, heating and air conditioning, and restrooms.

Now, it's time to give the interior of the theatre a facelift. The seats, projector, screen, curtains and historic plaster motifs need repair and/or replacement. The renovations are underway and are expected to be completed within five months.

"We are ready to begin this phase of the renovations. The replacement of the seats, the projectors and screen will make the greatest impact on our movie customers. We are working diligently to preserve the history of the structure while ensuring that today's customers enjoy the experience of watching a first-run movie in an inviting atmosphere," said Gary Mills, Director of Parks and Recreation.

In October, the City announced a fundraising campaign to help defray the costs of the renovations and to give Gem Theatre fans a chance to show their support of the theatre. This phase of renovations is expected to cost approximately \$1.2 million.

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The fundraising campaign includes sponsoring a new seat, purchasing one of the vintage seats or purchasing a marquee brick. "We are very pleased that the fundraising campaign is going very well. We have sold all the available vintage seats, and the sponsorships of marquee bricks and new seats are well underway," Mills also stated. "We know that the Gem Theatre is very special and we look forward to unveiling the renovated theatre this Spring."



Sponsoring a new seat is \$275 and sponsoring a brick is \$125. Corporate sponsorship packages of \$500-\$10,000 are also available.

The bricks will be installed in the sidewalk in front of the Gem Theatre marquee. As a sponsor of a seat, a plaque with your name will be installed on a seat that will be randomly installed in the Gem.

Hurry – only 100 bricks remain and there are only 700 new seats available for sponsorship.

For more information and to participate in the fundraising campaign visit www.kannapolisnc.gov/thegemtheatre.

OFFICERS JOIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Five new police officers – Anthony Irving Jr., Jamie Hyatt, Jody Kerr, Isaac Heggins II and MacKenzie Rogers – have joined the Kannapolis Police Department. Irving, Kerr, Heggins and Rogers have all been assigned to patrol squads and will receive additional training by two experienced police officer mentors. Due to her previous experience in law enforcement, Hyatt has been assigned to A.L. Brown High School as a School Resource Officer.



Anthony Jerome Irving Jr. is a graduate of A.L. Brown High School. He studied Cyber Security through DeVry University online, and then went on to join the United States Marine Corps. Irving has graduated from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's basic law enforcement training program.

Jamie Hyatt previously worked as a patrol officer for the Kannapolis Police Department.

She returned to her hometown of Sylva, where she joined the Sylva Police Department, became a K-9 Handler and was promoted to Sergeant before deciding to return to Kannapolis. Hyatt has also worked as a Deputy Sheriff with Jackson County Sheriff's Office. She completed her Associate Degree in Applied Science majoring in Criminal Justice from Southwestern Community College.

Jody Kerr has spent the past 27 years as a career firefighter, 20 of which were with the Kannapolis Fire Department. Kerr is a graduate of South Rowan High School and has graduated from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's basic law enforcement training program.

Isaac Heggins II also graduated from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's basic law enforcement training program. A graduate of Salisbury High School, he worked as a personal trainer before beginning his law enforcement career.

MacKenzie Rogers is a graduate of Jesse C. Carson High School and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Catawba College. Rogers has also graduated from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's basic law enforcement training program. He worked as a band director for Rowan-Salisbury School Systems prior to beginning his law enforcement career.



WATER TANK TAKING SHAPE

You may have noticed a new water tank taking shape at Exit 65 off I-85. The tank is more than 200 feet tall and can hold more than 300,000 gallons of water.

The water in the tank will supply the new Kannapolis Crossing and Overlook 85 Industrial Park projects as well other future development coming to this area of Kannapolis. It also allows us to have better water supplies in case of fires in the U.S. 29 and Old Beatty Ford Road areas.

CHARGING STATIONS INSTALLED

Get charged up! The City has installed electric vehicle charging stations in the Kannapolis Train Station parking lot. Located at 201 S. Main Street, the charging stations are within easy walking distance of Atrium Health Ballpark and downtown restaurants and shops.



To use – Park in one of the designated spaces, download the free ChargeUp app. A nominal fee may be assessed based on the amount of time your vehicle needs to be charged.

Once your vehicle is charging, you can walk to the ballpark, Gem and Swanee theatres, or visit any of the downtown restaurants and shops. You will receive a message from the ChargeUp app when your vehicle is finished charging.

There are also electric charging stations at Kannapolis City Hall located at 401 Laureate Way. They are part of the City's Discover a Healthy Life and sustainability initiatives to continue to work towards a healthy environment and preserve our natural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

Did you know there is a proper way to dispose of old medicine? Unused medicine is a threat to both public health and the environment. Medicines that are flushed down the drain or that leach from landfills eventually end up in our waterways. Don't keep unused medicines lying around, but also remember not to flush medicines or put them in the trash. To prevent prescription and over-the-counter medications from getting into our waterways or into the hands of children, please drop off medications in the drop box located in the lobby of the Kannapolis Police Department at 401 Laureate Way.

