



KINGSPORT
TENNESSEE

PROGRESS EDITION 2024



kingsporttn.gov



Kingsport Alerts

PROUD MOMENTS

A.S.P.I.R.E. OFFERS ADAPTIVE RECREATION AND FUN TO THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

For the past six years, the Kingsport Parks and Recreation Department has ensured that people with disabilities and physical limitations can enjoy recreational opportunities, an effort that’s been well-received by participants and much appreciated by parents.

Known as A.S.P.I.R.E. (Adaptive: Sports | Programs | Inclusive Recreation Experiences), it includes warm-up exercises, stretching, running games, team games and crafts that are designed to ensure fair and equal competition among participants.

“These classes are not just about physical activities,” Program Administrator Renee Ensor said. “Rather, it’s about creating a welcoming environment where everyone’s differences are embraced and celebrated.”

Department officials had attended conferences where the topic of adaptive programs was discussed. An interaction at an event in Kingsport also underscored the need.

“We were having a cooking class at Borden Park and a special needs group of folks from Abingdon, who were visiting the park, saw our class and came in,” Ensor said. “It just took off from there.”

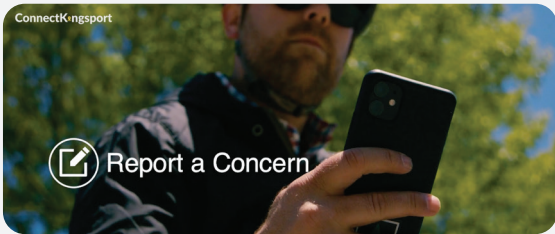
Programs and activities also include the Miracle League, summer kickball, basketball drills, an upcoming glow dance party and a recently held Christmas party. Anyone with mental or physical disabilities ages 22 and up can participate in the program opportunities. The special events are open for all ages.



“When kids graduate there’s not a lot of stuff for that age group to do, so we’re happy to offer these types of programs to the community,” Ensor said. “We work with parents who are always pitching me ideas of what kids want to do. It’s so good to have a group of people who are involved.”

For more information, contact Ensor at 423-229-9459.

CONNECTKINGSPORT APP DOWNLOADS EXCEED 10,000



One of the quickest and easiest ways to report a pothole or other issues to the city is through the ConnectKingsport app. Download the free app on the App Store or Google Play and click “Report a Concern” to submit issues or concerns to the City of Kingsport.

The ConnectKingsport app allows residents to report a variety of non-emergency concerns in more than three dozen categories, including drainage

issues, dead animal removal, graffiti, potholes, water leaks, renter complaints, high grass and sewer backups.

“ConnectKingsport is the best way to report issues you see in the city,” Administrative and Communications Coordinator Sara Nowell said. “Plus, it gives you a direct link to This Is Kingsport, the website that answers the question ‘What is there to do in Kingsport?’ by providing a comprehensive calendar full of events throughout the city.”

To date, more than 20,000 issues have been resolved and over 10,000 citizens have downloaded the app, an accomplishment that reflects the hard work of city staff.

LECTURE SERIES MOVES TO NEW VENUE IN 2024

Friends of the Archives holds two lecture series each year with the Gail Hale Memorial Lecture in the spring and the Betty Gibson Memorial Lecture in the fall.

The well-attended lectures will move in 2024 from the board room at City Hall to the Kingsport Center for Higher Education.

The Gail Hale Memorial Lecture, established in 2022, provides interesting topics related to Kingsport. Author Robert Gipe was the speaker in 2023.

The Betty Gibson Memorial Lecture, established in 2000 by Mack Gibson to honor his late wife, Betty, hosts a distinguished speaker who addresses political, economic, cultural or social developments of the South and Southern Appalachia and the relationship to national history. Former City Manager Jeff Fleming was the speaker in 2023.

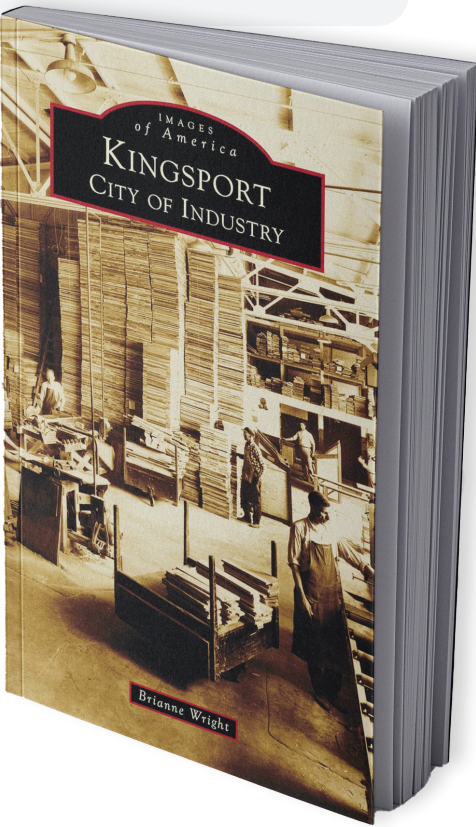
KPD IMPLEMENTS POLICE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



In January, 10 officers currently in training signed up for the Kingsport Police Department apprenticeship program, which uses a state grant to cover all costs, including academy attendance, equipment and uniforms up to \$18,500. KPD is the first in the region and second in the state to implement the program.

“The apprenticeship is competency based, meaning the trainees adhere to a ‘checklist training program’ within law enforcement,” KPD Corporal Brandon Johnson said. “An added level of accountability for trainees and KPD officers assures exposure to a variety of calls and situations that could occur in their duties as a police officer.”

Topics include responding to emergencies, investigating accidents, maintaining operational records, detaining suspects or witnesses, maintaining public order or security, testifying at legal or legislative proceedings, informing the public about policies, services or procedures, conducting defensive tactics and undergoing firearms training.



BOOK SPOTLIGHTS CITY’S EARLY INDUSTRIES

Kingsport Archivist Brianne Wright has written a new book on the City of Kingsport that explores many of the city’s diverse industries established during the first half of the 20th century.

“Kingsport: City of Industry” features hundreds of historic photographs from the Kingsport Archives with detailed information on such notable industries as Tennessee Eastman, Holston Ordnance Works, Kingsport Press, Borden Mills, Holliston Mills and Blue Ridge Glass.

The book also highlights a sampling of the smaller industries from Kingsport’s early days, including Southern Maid, PET Dairy, Dixie-Maid Bakery, Federal Dyestuff, General Shale, Union Supply Company and Slip-Not Belting.

CITY TO UNVEIL NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE SYSTEM

Kingsport will provide a new Customer Information System (CIS) with state-of-the-art software in 2025 to expand and improve usability for residents and bring transparency, efficiency and accessibility to city-provided utility services.

The city has gathered input and evaluated options to ensure the new CIS meets growing needs and expectations and next will evaluate vendor demonstrations. The goal is to begin implementation in the fall. Upon completion, users can expect a smoother way to pay bills, track usage and connect with city services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADDS STATE-OF-THE-ART ENGINES

The Kingsport Fire Department will continue to expand the technological capabilities of its lifesaving fleet in 2024 as the department upgrades trucks to state-of-the-art models.

The upgrades began last September as Fire Station 1 held a “push in” ceremony to welcome two new Pierce Velocity engines to the fleet.



IMPACTFUL PROJECTS

NEW DENTAL CLINIC SET TO OPEN THIS SUMMER

City, education and medical officials recently held a construction kickoff for the Kingsport Dental Clinic of the Appalachian Highlands.

Located near the campus of Holston Valley Medical Center, the new training clinic will serve as a rotation site for dental students and offer a full-time Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency. Additionally, the clinic will host dental hygiene student rotations from East Tennessee State University.

The 6,500-square-foot facility will include 12 treatment rooms, \$1.6 million in state-of-the-art equipment and undergo \$1.4 million in renovations with an expected opening in summer 2024.

“This is probably the most exciting thing – and the most important thing – happening in Kingsport right now,” Kingsport Mayor Pat Shull said.

Planning for the new clinic began in October 2022 when Kingsport, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Ballad Health

and East Tennessee State University signed a historic collaboration that included two public universities, private corporate sponsors and community leaders.

“This started because a group of people in this community came together with a good idea, and it is a historic investment in this community and the region,” UT President Randy Boyd told the audience gathered at the site for the celebration.

The project is part of the UT College of Dentistry’s Healthy Smiles Initiative, which seeks to increase dental class sizes and add new student clinical rotation sites across the state to increase access to dental care.

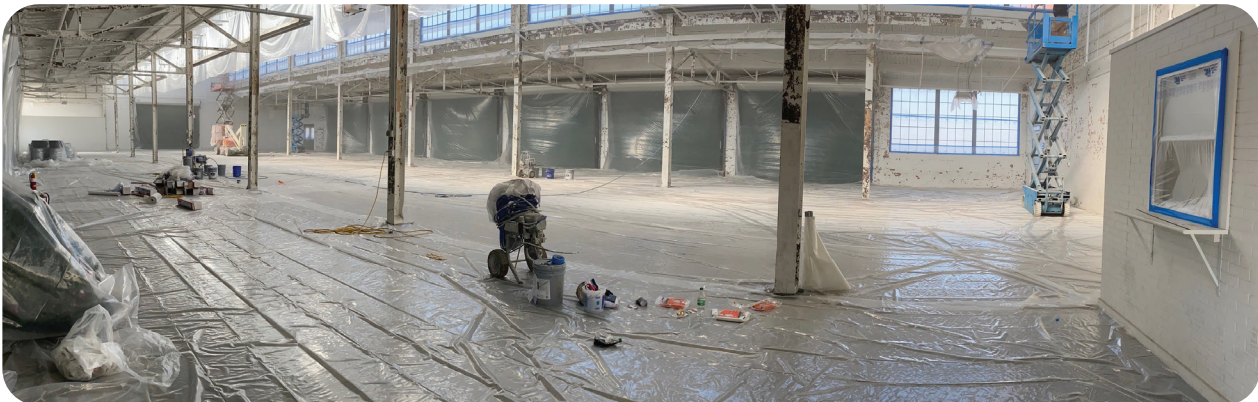
“Our ultimate goal is to have a site where third- and fourth-year students can finish their degree in Kingsport,” said James Ragain, dean of the UT College of Dentistry. “This clinic is important, but this clinic is just the beginning.”



KINGSPORT FARMERS MARKET UNDERGOES RENOVATION

The Kingsport Farmers Market, located at 308 Clinchfield St., closed to the public Jan. 1 for renovation. The \$313,000 project is expected to be completed in April in time to open for the 2024 season. Comsa Construction is painting walls and the ceiling, installing industrial-sized fans, refinishing the floor and fixing cracks and leaks in the ceiling.

kingsportfarmersmarket.org



BAYS MOUNTAIN PARK UPDATES CONTINUE



Renovations that started at Bays Mountain Park last September are showing considerable progress with a ribbon-cutting to reopen the Nature Center expected in late spring.

Construction on the upper level of the Nature Center also will update the lobby and entrance into the Planetarium, provide office space and create an open floor for the gift shop. By summer, the park is expected to have access to those areas.

Bays Mountain Park exhibit staff will install pictures and graphics in the lobby area. Staff and volunteers then will transition to the back side of the gallery space to install new exhibits focusing on reservoir life and astronomy, which will take several months to complete.

CainRashWest Architects and Goins Rash Cain Construction are making the project come to life. Funding included a donation from the Jim and Laura Rogers Foundation.

baysmountain.com



AXMEN STADIUM BOASTS ARTIFICIAL TURF UPGRADE

Hunter Wright Stadium has been home to baseball in the Model City for nearly 30 years, first with the Kingsport Mets of Minor League Baseball and now with the Kingsport Axmen of the summer collegiate Appalachian League.

To ensure the best possible baseball experience, a number of improvements have been made to the 2,500-seat stadium over the past decade, including clubhouse expansion, new batting cages, renovated dugouts and locker rooms, and concession upgrades.

Two recently completed improvements aim to make Hunter Wright Stadium one of the best stadiums in the Appalachian League.

Last year, Boyd Sports, owners of the Axmen, added a concrete patio to the left field side and started work to replace the playing surface with artificial turf. The \$1.4 million turf project has now been completed.

“It’s about being able to play all of the games in the season and have fewer rainout days,” Visit Kingsport President & Chief Tourism Officer Frank Lett said. “Having turf also extends the season for other sporting events.”

Hunter Wright Stadium was built in 1995. The collegiate wooden bat league launched four years ago, and the Kingsport Axmen took home the league championship in 2022.

appleleague.com/kingsport



PHASE ONE OPENS AT RIVERBEND PARK

The city held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last December marking the completion of the first phase of Riverbend Park, located along the banks of the South Fork of the Holston River off Fort Henry Drive, with a floating fishing pier and half-mile, chat walking trail beginning at Wesley Road.

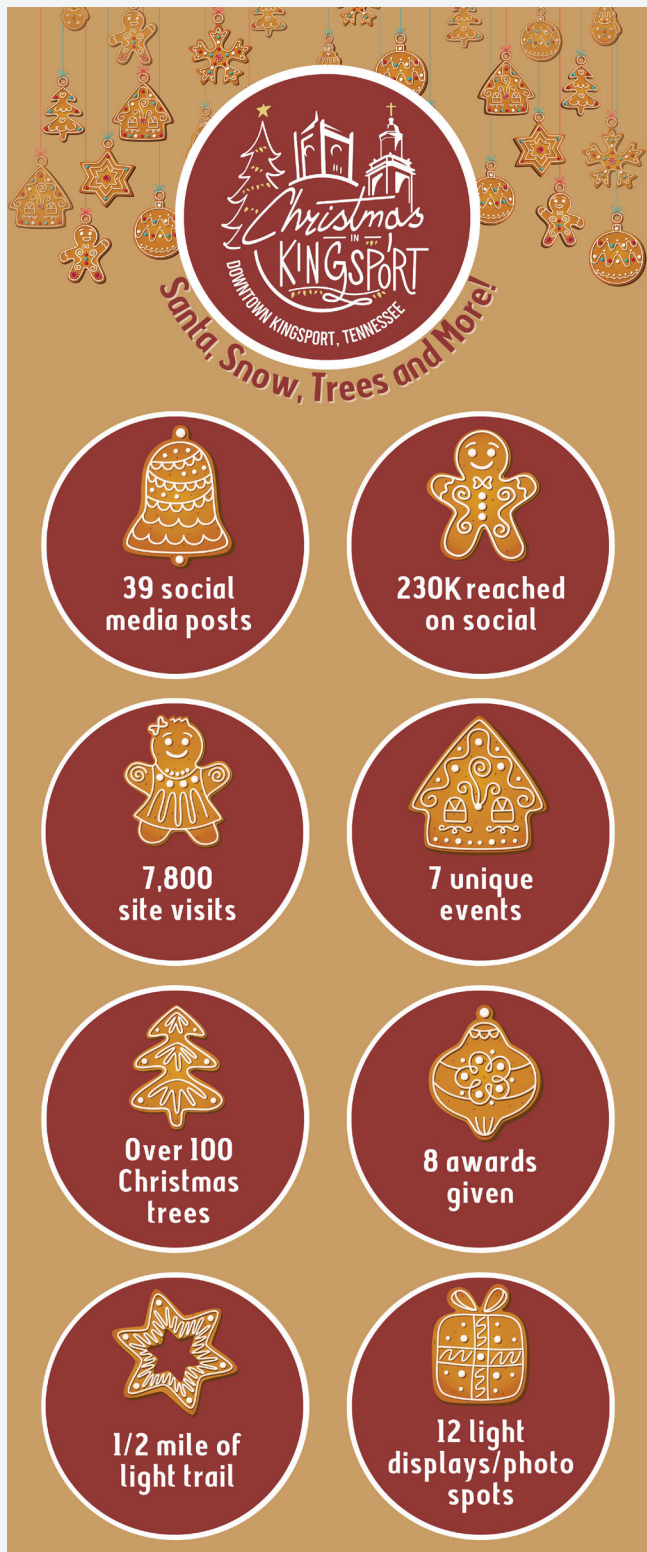
The new 22-acre park ultimately will stretch from Riverbend Drive to Wesley Road and will include gateway entrances at both ends of the trail, play areas, pavilions, restrooms, benches, scenic spots and interpretive signs. This park is a multi-phase project for development over the next 5-10 years.

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

CHRISTMAS IN KINGSFORT DAZZLES

In 2023, Christmas in Kingsport was back and bigger than ever with all the favorite holiday events returning, plus a few new ones to help make the month-long celebration a time to remember. Throughout December, more than 100 Christmas trees decorated by local businesses and individuals were on display at downtown's Glen Bruce Park and Centennial Park. Each park included thousands of lights to create a Winter Wonderland for visitors.

christmasinkingsport.com



CIVICREC SIMPLIFIES RECREATION PLANS

CivicRec, the city's recreation software for the leisure services department, allows residents to find out about activities, classes and sporting events. Residents can register, make payments, manage memberships and reserve facilities through a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Whether you need to purchase planetarium tickets, check on a swim lesson or reserve space at a city facility, visit secure.rec1.com/TN/kingsport-tn/catalog. The software also allows the signing of digital waivers for sporting events and will send notifications in case an event is canceled due to weather.

CivicRec is available through the city app, ConnectKingsport.

KEEP UP WITH KINGSFORT

Kingsport has an abundance of initiatives, programs, activities and services as well as excellent resources for residents and visitors. Here are five top resources, so keep this list handy for ways to stay updated and find information.

KINGSPORTTN.GOV

KingsportTN.gov is the main website for the city and should be the first stop when seeking information on topics spanning utility/water billing to economic development. Interested in working for the city? Check out the open jobs on the city website, too.

VIEWPOINT DOCUMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS CITY'S TRANSFORMATION



The city partnered with an acclaimed documentary series in 2023 to highlight the unique amenities and illustrate how Kingsport has reinvented itself over the past quarter century.

The series, called Viewpoint, is nationally recognized and explores a range of topics, from technology and innovation to culture and lifestyle. The segment featuring Kingsport, which is hosted by actor Dennis Quaid, was distributed to more than 170 public television stations throughout the United States to be aired over a 12-month period.

Kingsport also was featured in a commercial campaign airing in the top 100 U.S. markets in November, reaching an estimated 84 million homes. Additionally, the Viewpoint team assisted in the production of a six-minute corporate documentary the City of Kingsport will use for marketing and recruitment initiatives on its website and social media channels.

With interviews from City Manager Chris McCartt, Visit Kingsport Relocation Manager Jeff Fleming and Lynette Reese, the corporate documentary outlines how Kingsport reinvented itself starting with an economic development summit in 1999 and highlighting the five initiatives that grew out of that process.

The documentary showcases notable Kingsport amenities, such as Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium, Kingsport Farmers Market, Kingsport Aquatic Center and Kingsport Greenbelt. The documentary touches on regional partnerships, growth of downtown and the strong sense of community pride known as Kingsport Spirit.

Visit the city's YouTube channel to view the one-minute commercial and corporate documentary.

[@cityofkingsport37660](https://www.youtube.com/@cityofkingsport37660)

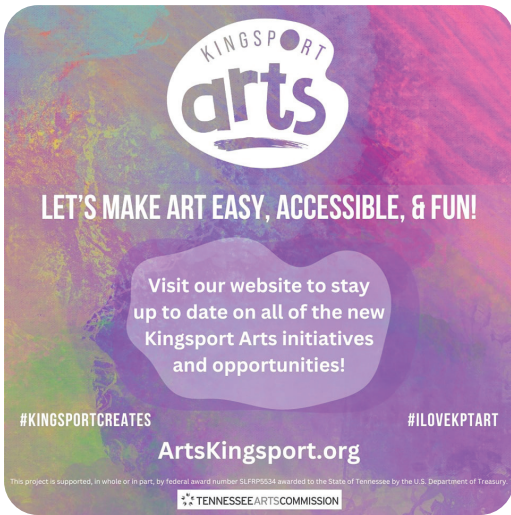
ENGAGE KINGSFORT TO ASSIST ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

Engage Kingsport earned a \$272,400 grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission to help address the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on the arts and the arts community.

The funds will assist several partner organizations for projects and programs interrupted by the pandemic. Kingsport also plans to use a portion of the funds for several of its initiatives, including the Sculpture Walk and a new arts festival in 2024.

Engage Kingsport is a nonprofit that works with Kingsport Cultural Arts to connect, coordinate and engage the public with a creative community. This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRP5534 awarded to the State of Tennessee by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

"Receipt of this grant is a huge boost to promote and support the arts in our region," said Jim Begley, president of Engage Kingsport. "We have plans to create a marketing focus on active participation in the arts, provide much needed maintenance to public art and continue to provide unique art experiences throughout the year."



KINGSFORT ALERTS FACEBOOK PAGE

The Kingsport Alerts Facebook page provides timely news and updates for all residents and visitors, including city office closures and project updates, as well as fun information about events and activities.

CONNECTKINGSFORT APP

With the ConnectKingsport app, residents can report any non-emergency issues, stay in the know about city events and connect with important city services and social media. Since the launch of the app in 2021, it has more than 10,000 downloads, over 22,000 issues resolved and has a 4.8 star rating.

BMA HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the BMA Highlights email newsletter on the KingsportTN.gov website to get updates from Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings and information about new and ongoing projects.

THISISKINGSFORT.COM

ThisIsKingsport.com features an extensive community calendar and information on experiences, shopping and dining. Sign up for free email and text alerts.

For links to these and other information sources, visit kingsporttn.gov/info.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

20+ BUSINESSES OPEN DOWNTOWN

Downtown Kingsport continues to thrive with 21 new businesses opening in 2023, including Hudson’s General Store, The Reserve, King City Distillery and 6ix Grist & Grind Brewhouse. Multiple redevelopment projects will create new office space and lofts, and residents also will notice work at the Kingsport Grocery Company Building, Citizens Supply Building and Kingsport Improvement Building.

The development trend is expected to continue as the population and housing units grow. The Kingsport Chamber held 25 ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new businesses last year.

 downtownkingsport.org

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HELPS GUIDE KINGSFORT

Each year before the city’s annual budget process, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) holds a one-day strategic planning session to review topics that are integral to the city’s overall success. Kingsport staff members outline city finances, economic development efforts, budget priorities for the coming year and capital projects either in the works or on the horizon.

The strategic planning session was held Feb. 23 with a review of the current year budget and the fiscal year 2025 budget. The board also heard updates on a variety of key capital projects, such as the Justice Center expansion, Kingsport Public Library renovation, public works compound, new fire station #2 and improvements to Kingsport City Schools facilities.

Other agenda items included updates on economic development, road projects, city communication efforts and public safety initiatives by the Kingsport Police Department and Kingsport Fire Department.

To view all the presentations from the session, visit kingsporttn.gov.

2024 STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION *with the BMA*



BUDGET OVERVIEW

- Revenue & Expenditures
- Revenue Impacts FY24
- Labor/Staffing Report
- Budget Strategy FY25
- FY25 Revenue Projections
- CIP Review (debt)

REGIONAL SALES TAX



Staff reviewed the history behind the Regional Sales Tax, the current year projects being funded and the challenges moving forward.



CUSTOMER INFORMATION SYSTEM

City departments are reviewing vendors for a new modern software with streamlined processes and more efficient service for customers.

KPD STAFFING



The update included working to maintain a sustainable ratio and planning for future city growth with enhancing staffing levels.



CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Continuing efforts include:
- Addressing personnel
 - Addressing cases that can be handled quickly
 - Focusing on dilapidated commercial properties downtown

GENERAL DISCUSSION



The update on high-profile capital projects included renovations to the Kingsport Public Library and Bays Mountain Park, along with the Justice Center.

25 RIBBON CUTTINGS



CITY’S POPULATION GROWTH REFLECTS BALANCE

U.S. Census Bureau data from 2018-2022 indicates that out of Kingsport’s 54,696 residents, 14% relocated in the past five years with 8.1% from the same county, 4% from elsewhere in Tennessee and a mere 2.1% from out-of-state. The demographic composition reflects a healthy balance and avoids an overwhelming influx.

Sustainable growth is imperative for a city’s economic vitality, ideally requiring a 5%-10% population increase every decade. Excessive growth can strain infrastructure, intensify traffic, burden utilities and overcrowd schools. According to projections, Kingsport is slated to grow by 6.5% by 2030.

KINGSFORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD FACILITATES GROWTH

In addition to its involvement with the Brickyard Park/Cement Hill project, the Kingsport Economic Development Board (KEDB) has facilitated the sale of numerous pieces of property, worked to support existing and new business and was instrumental in the Fort Henry Mall improvements and enhancements that will be coming soon to the Kingsport Pavilion.

The board finances, acquires, owns, leases and/or disposes of properties to maintain and increase employment opportunities and increase the quantity of available housing by promoting industry, trade, commerce, tourism and recreation and housing construction by inducing manufacturing, industrial, governmental, educational, financial, service, commercial and recreational enterprises to locate in or remain in Kingsport.



HOUSING DEMAND RISES

The city is continuing to see a vast influx of people who want to call Kingsport home, causing a spike in residential development to meet that demand. Kingsport has more than 2,000 housing units in the works. This flourishing market will have a considerable impact on the city’s economic growth going forward.

 movetokingsport.com

FORT HENRY MALL EXPANSION CONTINUES IN 2024

Kingsport’s Fort Henry Mall will expand beyond the existing structure by adding a new 7,000-square-foot building, including an IMAX theatre, the first of its kind in our region. The mall’s current NCG movie theater is being significantly updated with a full-service bar and upgrading to luxury seating.

The expansion goes beyond the movie theater project, as the mall will update its infrastructure to allow outparcel buildings to be constructed in a current parking area. The new buildings will include Eggs Up Grill, New York Butcher Shoppe and another tenant.

Expansion construction is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2024, with an opening expected in late spring 2025.

 forthenrymall.com



PARTNERS

UETHDA HELPS FAMILIES PAY OVERDUE WATER BILLS

In the wake of the pandemic, the federal government created the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to help households pay for water and wastewater services.

Kingsport partnered with Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency (UETHDA) in 2023 to help Model City residents pay their overdue bills. UETHDA officials made five visits to Kingsport City Hall, setting up computer stations in the first-floor lobby and parking lot to help customers sign up for assistance and disbursed \$667,000 in LIHWAP funds to 1,637 Kingsport households.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, during the first six months of the program, more than 150,000 households across the country received LIHWAP assistance with more than 91,000 households having water or wastewater services restored or disconnection prevented.



MODEL CITY 101 TO DEBUT IN KINGSFORT





The City of Kingsport will begin a new adult educational program called Model City 101, which is designed to enhance citizen awareness and knowledge of the government’s role in the community.

The eight-week program focuses on the basics of government and includes hands-on activities, presentations and Q&A periods.

Classes will meet at different locations throughout the city, and participants will hear from various departments, such as planning, water services, parks and recreation, and police and fire.

Class size will be limited, and registration is granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Stay tuned to any of the city’s communications channels for more details at a later date.

-  kingsporttn.gov
-  [Kingsport Alerts](#)

MEADOWVIEW MARRIOTT RESORT TO HOST COMMUNITY EVENTS



MeadowView Marriott Resort and Convention Center is widely known to be a premier destination for hotel accommodations and large-scale gathering spaces, and this year the picturesque property will build upon its reputation by hosting a variety of events for the community to enjoy.

MeadowView’s popular food and beverage events are returning in 2024, as the resort adds three fan favorites to the monthly event rotation. Wine Pairing, Whiskey Pairing and Beer Flight and Chicken Wing nights all are set to become regular featured events at the restaurant.

MeadowView also will host seasonal special events, including a celebration of spring at the Derby Day party in May, a special gathering for dads with the Father’s Day golf and whiskey

package in June and a holiday season to remember with special buffet events in November and December. For more information about special events, visit MeadowView’s website and social media.

MeadowView’s conference center is one of the best places to host any event, large or small. Contact the booking department to find availability for your next gathering.

-  meadowviewresort.com
-  [meadowviewtn](#)

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN RAISES MORE THAN \$31,000

The City of Kingsport had another successful United Way campaign in 2023, raising more than \$31,000. City employees also participated in a Week of Caring for two days by helping to clean pens at Bays Mountain Park. Additionally, the campaign committee volunteered at Small Miracles to kick off campaign efforts.

-  uwaykpt.org



United Way
of Greater Kingsport



SIGN UP FOR ‘THIS IS KINGSFORT’ UPDATES



ThisIsKingsport.com is a community resource that has everything residents and visitors need to have fun in the city. The site includes an extensive community events calendar, downtown updates, information on experiences, and shopping and dining, as well as the Stories to Tell blog.

Want the weekly events delivered straight to your phone? Sign up for free text or email alerts for information on what’s happening each weekend! Visit thisiskingsport.com to start planning your weekend today!

-  thisiskingsport.com
-  [thisiskingsporttn](#)
-  [thisiskingsport](#)
-  [thisiskingsport](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

MAIN STREET REBUILD COMPLETION SET FOR APRIL 2025

The Main Street Rebuild project, which has been underway for approximately 1.5 years, has focused on utility replacement and improvements from Cherokee Street to Sullivan Street, including stormwater, sanitary sewer, drinking water/fire protection and underground private utilities for fiber internet, power, communication and gas lines.

The unanticipated discovery of contaminated soils and their required special waste disposal delayed the project and required a contract extension with a new completion date of April 2025. Demolition of the existing roadway and sidewalks has begun.

[MainStreetRebuildKPT](#)



INDUSTRY DRIVE RECYCLING CENTER GETS CONTRACTOR

GRC Civil Services is now under contract to complete the new full service recycling center on Industry Drive with work set to begin this spring. The new drop-off site will accept recyclable materials along with household and yard waste and is expected to be fully operational in late 2024.



KATS OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW TRANSIT GARAGE

The Kingsport Area Transit Service (KATS) held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for its new transit garage in October 2023 with representatives from the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration.

For nearly a decade, KATS planned a comprehensive transit facility and garage at the corner of Main and Sullivan streets to serve the existing and future needs of Kingsport residents. The new 21,000-square-foot transit garage is adjacent to the transit facility and is able to house KATS’ entire 22-bus fleet, with extra space for future vehicles, heavy duty roadbed/parking and an interior area for light duty maintenance such as cleaning and inspection.

The garage marks the final piece of the 10-year plan to relocate and modernize the city’s transit system with \$2.3 million in federal funds, \$2.7 million in state funds and \$1.1 million in city funds.

[kingsporttransit.org](#)



CITY ALLOCATES \$3.4 MILLION FOR PAVING

Kingsport has allocated \$3.4 million in fiscal year 2024 toward sustainable paving. In fall 2023, contractors completed 1.37 miles of paving, while city crews paved 8.24 miles. Most of the paving occurred near Walmart on Fort Henry Drive, which finished Area 28. Also included were roadways that scored 0-30 on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and a section of Fairview Avenue between Center Street and Stone Drive.

In spring 2024, paving efforts will transition to Area 17, which includes the Fairacres neighborhood. Recent budgets have allowed the city to contribute more than \$3 million for resurfacing, resulting in roughly 17-21 miles of repaving for city roads each year.

[pavekingsport.com](#)



SURVEY TO IDENTIFY ALL LEAD LINES IN CITY

A new regulation approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all drinking water utilities in the United States to identify and establish a replacement plan for all lead service lines within their systems by Oct. 16, 2024.

Lead service lines were identified as a potential public health hazard in the early 1990s, and the law is intended to reduce the risk of contamination in drinking water.

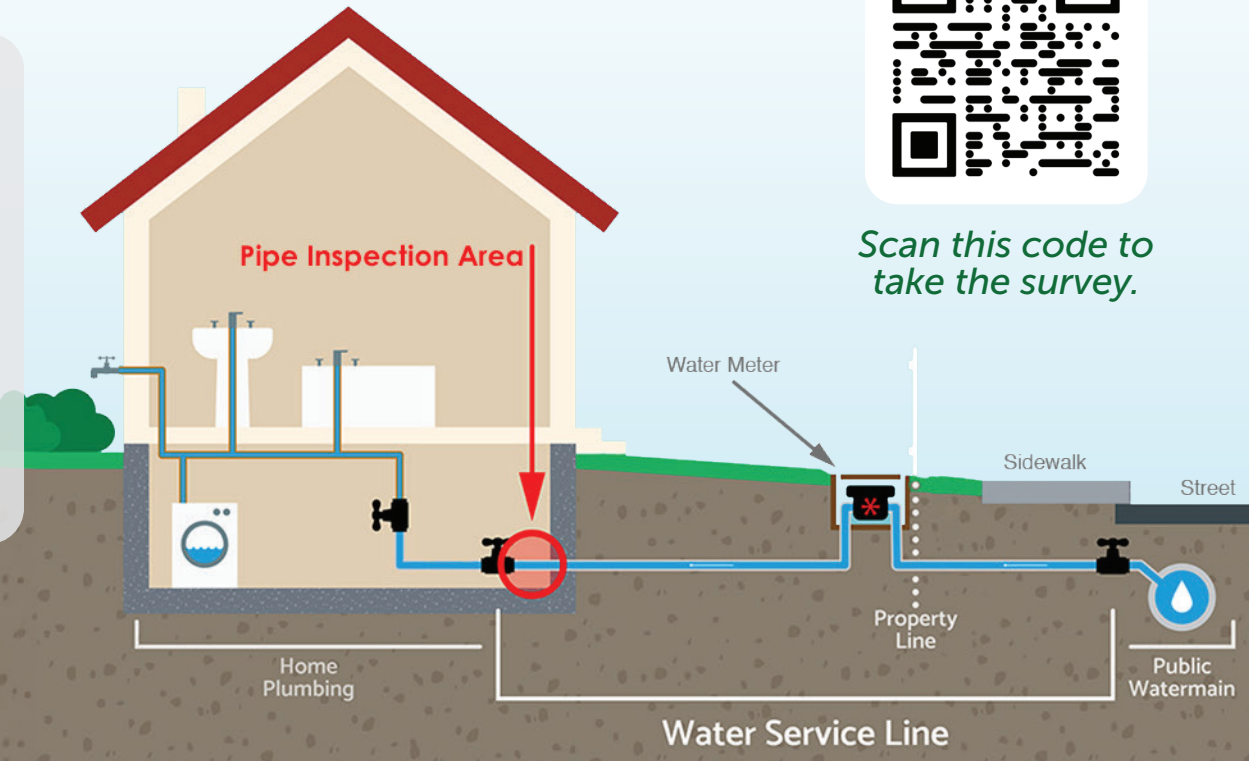
For more than a year, city utilities employees, with the help of several other departments, have crafted a plan to meet the deadline, including an online survey for the public to determine the type of service line from the meter to the home.

If Kingsport does not verify a service line’s material by the deadline, the city will be required to send an annual mailer that a lead line may or may not serve the house. There is no penalty or fine associated with this notice.

Homes built after 1986 should not have lead pipes as they had become banned from use. Kingsport has approximately 855 miles of water pipes and nearly 40,000 water meters. About one-third of those meters are for homes built after 1986.

A SERVICE LINE TYPICALLY ENTERS THE HOUSE EITHER IN A BASEMENT OR CRAWL SPACE. IF LINES ARE METAL, HOME DWELLERS CAN DETERMINE IF THEY ARE LEAD BY:

- Using a screwdriver or other small tool to scratch the pipe. A lead pipe will be silver and shiny.
- Placing a magnet on the line. A magnet will not stick to a lead line.
- Tapping the pipe with a coin. A lead line will make a dull sound.



KINGSPORT CITY SCHOOLS



Kingsport City Schools (KCS) serves more than 7,400 students in grades Pre-K-12. The district comprises 13 schools, including Pre-K, eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, a high school program of choice and an alternative learning program.

KCS employs approximately 1,350 adults, making it one of Kingsport's largest employers. More than 450 teachers and/or administrators hold advanced degrees and seven are nationally board certified.



kcsdistrict



kcs__district



k12k.com



kcs__district



@kcs__district



NATIONAL, STATE AND SCHOOL AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Named Best Place to Teach in Tennessee and No. 4 Best Overall District in Tennessee on 2023 Niche Best Schools List.
- Achieved for seventh consecutive year in 2023 the top composite score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) in the areas of system-wide literacy, system-wide numeracy, system-wide literacy and numeracy, and the overall system-wide composite score.
- Coordinator of Student Information Services Becky Clark named 2023-24 Tennessee Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award recipient.
- Adams Elementary School Principal Dr. Kelley Harrell named district-level 2024 Principal of the Year.
- KCS Chief Technology Officer Andy Arnold named district-level 2024 Supervisor of the Year.
- Washington Elementary School fourth-grade math and science teacher Catherine Hincke named district-level 2024 Teacher of the Year for grades Pre-K-4.
- Sevier Middle School eighth-grade history teacher Lynna Bingham named district-level 2024 Teacher of the Year for grades 5-8.
- Dobyns-Bennett High School fire management and math teacher Bryan Kerns named district-level 2024 Teacher of the Year for grades 9-12.

DOBYNS-BENNETT HIGH SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Top composite score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) for 2023.
- 126 graduating seniors with 4.0+ GPA.
- 104 graduating seniors with 30+ ACT.
- Two seniors with College Board 2023 National African American Recognition Program Award and National Hispanic Recognition Program Award.
- One perfect score on Advanced Placement (AP) Seminar Exam in 2023, one of only 27 students in world.
- 2023 Cyber Tribe top-ranked high school robotics team in Tennessee and world-level semifinalist.
- 2023 Kingsport Technologies Underwater Robotics team in world competition for first time in school history.
- Scholar's Bowl team in Final Four in 2023 East Tennessee PBS Scholars' Bowl competition.
- Two 2023 Future Business Leaders of America State Champions in Broadcast Journalism.

MUSICAL AND ARTS PROGRAMS

- D-B Varsity Winter Guard named 2023 Winter Guard International Scholastic A World Champions.
- D-B Overtone a cappella group selected to perform on stage with classic rock band Foreigner in November 2023.
- D-B Marching Band named 2024 "Large High School Division" and "Fan Favorite" winner in inaugural Metallica Marching Band Competition, "For Whom the Band Tolls." Total competition winnings: \$25,000.

ATHLETICS

- Country's No. 1 winningest high school baseball team.
- Country's No. 1 winningest high school basketball team.
- 2023 bowling state championship runner-up.
- Two 2023 individual state wrestling champions.
- 2023 track & field relay team 4x800 state champions.
- 2023 National High School Coaches Association National Wrestling Champion.
- 2023 girls golf Class AA state champions.



DOBYNS-BENNETT HIGH SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS



- As of January 2024, demolition continues in activities' office and lobby, cheerleader locker room, rear entrance lobby and lower level bathrooms. Lobby storefront doors and frames have been removed with temporary walls installed. Initial installation of steel columns in Dome area is underway, including installation of perimeter ring bearing plate. Anticipated completion date is March 2025.
- Roof replacement is nearing final stages with anticipated completion date of summer 2024. Replacement of Dome roof will take place separately.

D-B EXCEL

- R'Matey's Underwater Robotics team in World Competition for fifth consecutive year, placing 11th in the world in 2023.
- Tennessee STEM Innovation Network Statewide Design Challenge state champions in 2023.
- BioBuds in 2023 BioBuilder's final assembly competition at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

ADAMS ELEMENTARY

- Named 2024 U.S. News & World Report as one of Best Elementary Schools in Tennessee.
- Received top composite score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) for 2023.

JACKSON ELEMENTARY

- Recertified in 2023 as Lighthouse School of Distinction by Franklin Covey for developing students as leaders.

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY

- Received top composite score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) for 2023.

JOHNSON ELEMENTARY

- Received top composite score of 5 in Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) for 2023.
- Continued as Lighthouse School of Distinction by Franklin Covey for developing students as leaders.

KENNEDY ELEMENTARY

- Named 2023 Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School from Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

- Marked fourth consecutive year supporting Integrating Stem and Literacy with Computation in Elementary Education (iSLICEE) grant, a partnership with ETSU to prepare future teachers with STEM experiences in the classroom.

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY

- Became Trauma-Informed School by the Tennessee Department of Education.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

- Early Childhood Learning Center earned accreditation from National Association for the Education of Young Children for 2022-2027 period.

ROBINSON MIDDLE

- Named 2024 U.S. News & World Report as one of Best Middle Schools in Tennessee.

- MATHCOUNTS team placed fourth in 2023 state competition; individual member placed fifth in state.

- Science Olympiad team placed sixth in state competition in 2023.

- Softball team placed third in state tournament in 2023.

SEVIER MIDDLE

- Earned "Pacemaker" award in 2023 from National Scholastic Press Association's annual journalism competition for third overall time.
- 49 band students received "superior" ratings in 2023 at East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- Received "superior" orchestra rating in 2023 at Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Concert, becoming only middle school to earn this score.
- Placed sixth in 2023 state tournament in individual girls track-discus.