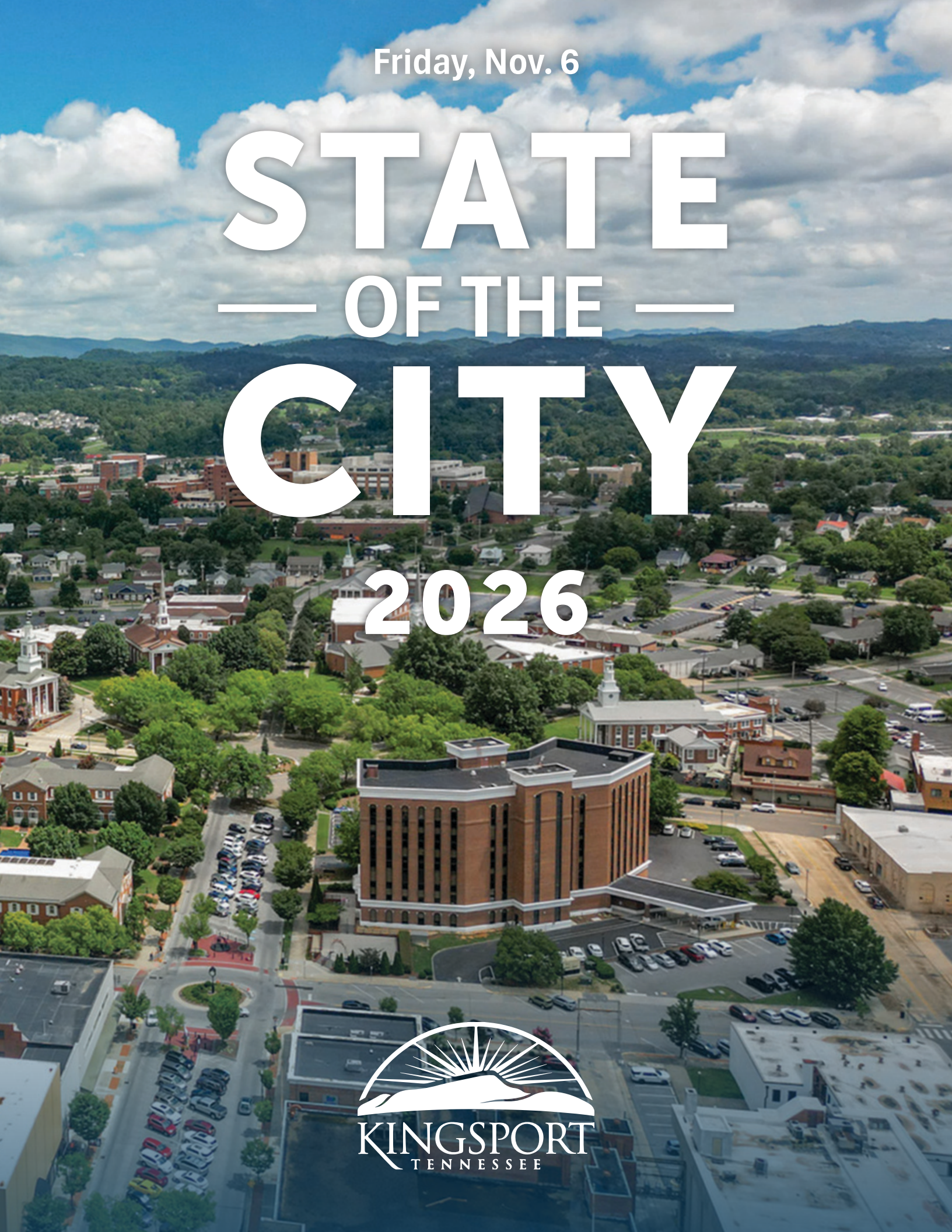

Friday, Nov. 6
STATE
OF THE
CITY
2026
KINGSPORT
TENNESSEE

CELEBRATE THE PRESENT; PLAN THE FUTURE



What an incredible year it has been for Kingsport. Thanks to a lot of hard work and community support, we've celebrated some fantastic milestones this year – the opening of the IMAX theater, the announcement of Tiebreakers and the creation of a boutique hotel in downtown Kingsport.

Bays Mountain Park is seeing major improvements, Riverwalk Park opened to much fanfare, steady progress is being made on the library, justice center and dental clinic, and we've welcomed several new housing developments to town.

Looking ahead, we are focusing on continued infrastructure investment, a new Fire Station 2 and a new elementary school in the Lynn Garden community.

Managing a city as vibrant as ours requires looking at the bigger picture. That is why we are crafting a new five-year Capital Improvement Plan with an eye on the next decade. This road map will guide us in upgrading schools, repairing infrastructure and protecting your quality of life. By aligning this plan with our Strategic Plan, we ensure your tax dollars go directly into the projects that matter most.

Over the next five months, city staff will map out these needs and build solid funding strategies. We aim to finalize everything by May 2027 to ensure a financially responsible path forward.

Thank you for being such an active part of making our city a wonderful place to live.

Best regards,

Chris McCartt
Kingsport City Manager

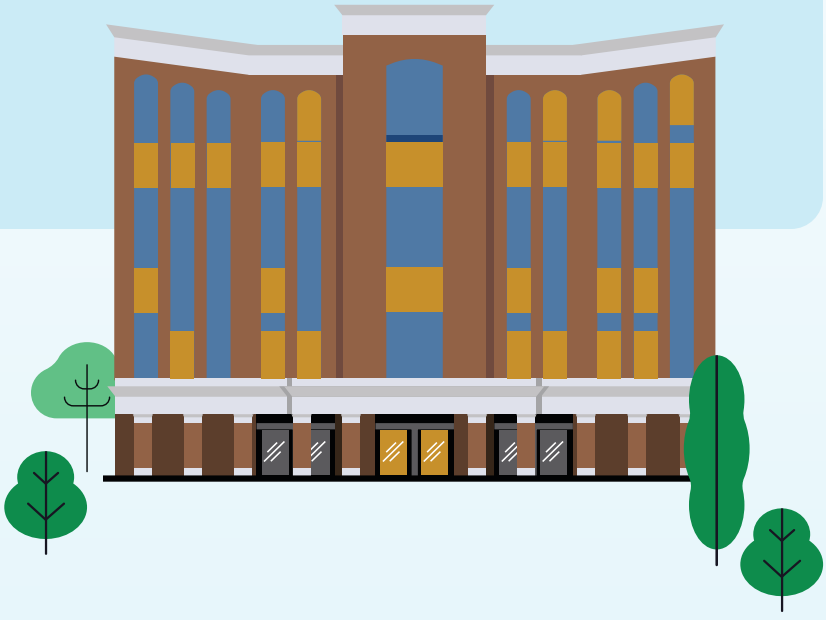


Table of Contents

Quality of Life 3
Proud Moments 4
Projects 6
Economic Development 10
Awards 12
Finances 13
Schools 14
Kingsport Spirit 15

QUALITY OF LIFE

Kingsport Senior Center reveals newly renovated spaces

The Kingsport Senior Center hosted an open house in the summer to showcase the newly renovated offices and programming space within the facility.

“We’re so excited about our newly renovated spaces, so we want to share them with the community,” Kingsport Senior Center Manager Shirley Buchanan said. “Our staff will be working in a better space, and our new front office aims to elevate the customer service experience to not only our senior center members, but to anyone who pays us a visit.”



Kingsport Senior Center visitors

The renovations included converting the old office space into a multi-purpose lounge and kitchen area with new appliances, tables and chairs. A new front office space near the main entrance features a prominent, sliding-glass window, three private offices, two front desk offices and a bullpen office.

Renovations to the Kingsport Renaissance Center, where the senior center is located, began in November 2025 and wrapped up in April 2026. Funding for the project came in part from a $100,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging.

seniors.kingsporttn.gov

Kingsport Utilities launches new mobile app

Kingsport has launched a new mobile app and web portal called Kingsport Utilities, which provides a gateway to all things related to utility services. Customers can view recent bill images, make payments, create and track service requests, update customer records and receive communication in a simple and modern way.

Scan here to download!

To download the Kingsport Utilities app and access account information, visit www.kingsporttn.gov/billpay or download the app in the app store on your smartphone.

kingsporttn.gov/billpay

KATS buys new buses for fixed routes and records success of new route

Kingsport Area Transit Service (KATS) has purchased three new Ford StarTrans Senator buses for its fixed-route service and added a successful new route.

Each bus has seating capacity for 12 with two additional spaces to accommodate wheelchair passengers. KATS received the new buses in late August, and they are now in service.

KATS also introduced a fifth route to its fixed-route service late in 2025. After nearly one year of service, Route 5 has seen steady usage, averaging more than 880 passenger trips a month or about 14% of all fixed-route passenger trips throughout Kingsport.

kingsporttransit.org

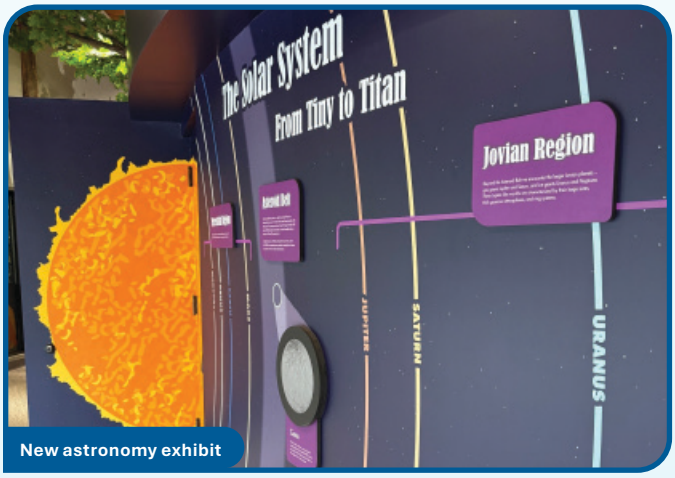
Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium unveils new astronomy exhibit

Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium has officially unveiled a new exhibit inside the Nature Center, inviting visitors to look up and discover how the world connects to the cosmos.

The exhibit begins with the cultural connections to the sky. Visitors can explore how cultures around the world interpret the stars of the Orion constellation, along with a wonderfully illustrated sacred Cherokee sky story about the origin of the Pleiades.

From ancient lore, the exhibition transitions into modern science, tracing how human curiosity transformed celestial mysteries into a deep understanding of the Solar System. Displays also reveal how a faint band of light in the night sky became known as the Milky Way galaxy – home to the Solar System and billions of stars.

The exhibit concludes with practical inspiration, showcasing the celestial wonders that can be discovered from backyards using simple binoculars or telescopes. Finally, it shines a light on environmental conservation, teaching visitors how light pollution impacts both wildlife ecosystems and the ability to witness the beauty of a star-filled sky.



New astronomy exhibit

baysmountain.com

PROUD MOMENTS

BlueCross Healthy Place at Riverwalk Park opens along Holston River

The City of Kingsport and BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Foundation celebrated the official opening of the BlueCross Healthy Place at Riverwalk Park perched along the Holston River.

The 5.6-acre park, located at 875 W. Industry Drive near the intersection with Netherland Inn Road, provides a blend of natural beauty and recreational opportunities, as well as cultural and ecological features.

Park features include:

- Accessible play areas for ages 2-5 and 5-12
- Adult fitness area
- Basketball hoop wall
- Community pavilions
- Kayak launch
- Pickleball courts
- Splash pad
- Storybook trail and little library
- Walking trails
- 2 parking lots



BlueCross Healthy Place Park

"The City of Kingsport is proud to partner with the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Foundation for yet another incredible BlueCross Healthy Place within our city," Kingsport Mayor Paul W. Montgomery said. "I look forward to our residents and visitors enjoying this space for years to come."

The BlueCross Foundation provided $6.7 million for the redevelopment of the park and an additional $1.3 million for a maintenance fund, bringing the total investment to $8 million. This is the second BlueCross Healthy Place established in the City of Kingsport, following the BlueCross Healthy Place at the Kingsport Miracle League Complex, which opened in 2020.

"These spaces are all about bringing neighbors together, and Riverwalk Park has provided us with a unique opportunity to enhance offerings for residents from all walks of life," said Dalya Qualls White, executive director of the BlueCross Foundation.



Pickleball participants

Kingsport celebrates renaming of park to honor Jack Pierce Sr.

Kingsport celebrated renaming a park in honor of community leader Jack Pierce Sr., who passed away in 2025 at the age of 93. The newly renamed park, now known as the Jack Pierce, Sr. Park at Riverview, is located at the V.O. Dobbins, Sr. Complex.

Speakers at the renaming ceremony, held Aug. 6, 2026, were Chassy Smiley, superintendent of Kingsport Parks & Recreation; Fred Smith II, grandson of Jack Pierce, Sr.; Linda Kincaid, president, Frederick Douglass Cultural Arts Museum; and Kingsport Mayor Paul W. Montgomery. The speakers shared the impact that Pierce, a Kingsport native and longtime Riverview resident, had on the community with his volunteer work and philanthropic efforts.

The new park sign and an informational plaque were revealed to a crowd of supporters, including friends and family. The city also announced planned updates for the Jalisa Ferguson Playground with a rendering unveiled at the event.



Jack Pierce, Sr. Park sign

kingsportparksandrecreation.org

Model City 101 completed its third year

In its third year, Model City 101 has served 20 participants. An adult education program, the free eight-week course held in the fall offers an overview of various city departments and services to educate residents on the government's role. The program included a tour of the city's water plant, behind-the-scenes look at Bays Mountain Park, tour of the Kingsport Transit bus garage and learning about the city's K-9 officers and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.



Model City 101 participants at water plant

Kingsport celebrates 40th Arbor Day

The City of Kingsport celebrated its 40th Arbor Day in 2026 and marked the historic occasion by planting three trees near the tennis courts in Borden Park, including a Prairifire Crabapple, Sweetbay Magnolia and Willow Oak.

First established in Nebraska in 1872 by journalist J. Sterling Morton, Arbor Day is an annual observance dedicated to celebrating the vital role of trees by bringing a community together to promote environmental stewardship and actively encourage people to plant and care for trees.



40th Arbor Day

"In Kingsport, we strive to be a leader in proper management of our trees, and I think it shows every year throughout the city," said Tamra Rossi, grounds and landscaping manager for the City of Kingsport.

In honor of the city's commitment to effective urban forestry management, the National Arbor Day Foundation also recognized Kingsport as a Tree City USA for the 40th year in a row.

Kingsport's Streets and Sanitation Department maintains more than 12,000 trees, 21 park facilities and 827 acres of green space across the city. The department has a Level II Arboretum Certification at Borden Park, which involves labeling more than 60 tree species and keeping a tree map available to the public while exemplifying proper tree management practices.

Kingsport hosts Party at the Park

In celebration of National Park and Recreation Month, the City of Kingsport hosted its first-ever Party at the Park event at the end of July. A collaboration of Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium, Kingsport Parks and Recreation and Kingsport Public Library, the community event took place at the newest city park – BlueCross Healthy Place at Riverwalk Park. People of all ages were encouraged to enjoy all the activities.

"Party at the Park was a morning full of fun!" Program Coordinator Renee Ensor said. "We wanted to bring the community an active and family-friendly event, aimed at bringing people together through recreation, wellness and interactive experiences."



Party at the Park

PROJECTS

Data-driven approach drives street resurfacing projects

The City of Kingsport recorded approximately $20 million in street resurfacing work in 2026, which amounts to more than 22 miles of city and state roads receiving a fresh coat of asphalt.



Resurfacing and paving work



Resurfacing and paving work

Annual street resurfacing work began earlier this year in the Gibson Mill and Midtown areas of town with city crews paving approximately 8 miles of roads. W&L Construction – under contract with the city – also repaved portions of Deneen Lane and Tidewater Court, making these small sections of the roadway much smoother for motorists.



Resurfacing and paving work

At the state level, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) undertook two significant resurfacing projects along Interstates 26 and 81. The first involved a $7.1 million project on I-26 from State Route 1 to the Welcome Center. The second, on I-81 from I-26 to State Route 357, came to just over $6 million.

Summers-Taylor paved Island Road, Eastman Road from Stone Drive to the bridge over Lincoln Street, and Clinchfield Street is up next for a new layer of asphalt.

And finally, 8 miles of streets in and around the Lynn View Community Center underwent asphalt preservation treatment over the summer by spraying the existing roadway with a special coating to strengthen the asphalt and extend its lifespan.

Since 2017, Kingsport has allocated over $32 million of local dollars on street resurfacing work. During those same years, TDOT will have spent over $27 million on street resurfacing work in Kingsport for over 37 miles of roads.

By following a data-driven approach to street resurfacing, Kingsport has repaved on average 17 miles of streets every year since 2017.

pavekingsport.com

Bid process begins for State Industrial Access Road

The Tennessee Department of Transportation issued bids in October for the Meadow Park Lane State Industrial Access Road project.

The project will allow Eastman access to additional commercial property and currently inaccessible property while providing residents in West Kingsport an improved roadway connection to the Meadowview area and Interstate 26.

The project also involved closing Jared Drive and creating a new 1.28-mile road near the Kingsport Aquatic Center, connecting to Riverport Road.

More than 35 acres of industrial property and more than 51 acres of business property will be opened as a result of this project. In addition, the new road will be farther away from the manufacturing sites of Eastman and allow for the expansion of the company's on-site rail infrastructure. The two-year project is expected to begin in spring 2027.



Route for State Industrial Access Road

First phase of Watauga Street improvements nearly complete

The first phase of the Watauga Street improvement project is on track to be completed by the end of November.

Over the summer, Thomas Construction made roadway and utility improvements along Watauga Street from the Gibson Mill roundabout to Linville Street. The $1.8 million project stretches approximately 2,300 feet and includes road subgrade repairs, new asphalt, new curbing and city utility repairs and replacements for water, sewer and stormwater. Sanitary sewer lines and laterals were replaced as were several sections of faulty sidewalk.

Phase 2 of the project, expected to start in spring 2027, will include the section of Watauga Street from Linville Street to Crescent Drive. This phase is mostly a milling and repaving project with completion expected by summer 2027.



Watauga Street roadwork



Watauga Street roadwork



Library renovations

Library renovations on track for 2027 reopening

The Kingsport Public Library renovation project, underway for more than a year, has made steady progress during 2026. BurWil Construction workers spent several weeks gutting the interior and establishing a nearby power box in preparation.

During the summer and early fall, crews worked on framing, wood blocking and drywall installation, along with brick work. Crews also have worked steadily on the interior stairs and exterior ramps.

Kingsport earmarked $7 million toward the project while also securing a $2 million state grant.

The project will include doubling the children's area; creating dedicated space for children's programming; creating a dedicated space for teens and a makerspace; installing a new elevator to ensure better accessibility; adding four study rooms to provide dedicated spaces for focused learning; establishing dedicated space for local history and genealogy.

City officials estimate the renovation project will wrap up in late summer 2027.

kingsportlibrary.org



Interior work at library

PROJECTS

Updates underway at Kingsport Aquatic Center

The Kingsport Aquatic Center is undergoing $1.5 million in infrastructure upgrades and guest improvements to secure the long-term success of the facility.

Southern Watershapes is handling the project, which will include:

- New plaster, updated tile, edge treatments, guttering improvements and new filtration components for five pools.
- Pump room upgrades, including replacement and updates to chlorine lines and related mechanical components.
- New compliant drain covers for all main drains throughout the facility.
- New gel coat finish and updated structural paint for indoor slide.
- Updates and improvements for indoor splash pad spray features.
- Updated paint and new plexiglass components for outdoor leisure pool and play structure.

“All of these improvements are designed to enhance the guest experience while also protecting and extending the life of the facility’s infrastructure,” Aquatic Center Manager Wendy Terrazas said. “Our goal with this project is to minimize disruption to our users while continuing to uphold the high standards of our facility for years to come.”

swimkingsport.com



Indoor pool renovation work



Outdoor pool renovation work

Justice Center on schedule for 2027 completion

The Justice Center expansion and renovation project remains on track for completion in summer 2027.

Exterior brick masonry has been completed, and site work for the parking area has started with concrete curb and gutter systems and sidewalks. New light poles and security bollards, and the foundation and base for the new Justice Center monumental sign have been installed.

Interior finishes, including new flooring, ceilings, lighting, paint and tile work, have been installed, along with exterior and interior doors and door hardware. Work on the existing locker rooms has started with selective demolition of old lockers in preparation for the new finishes and lockers.



Justice Center expansion

River otter habitat starts to take shape

Construction continues for a new river otter habitat at Bays Mountain Park after the groundbreaking in March with completion expected in fall 2027.

The roughly 2,300-square-foot habitat will be located east of the Nature Center, just below the bobcat habitat, and will accommodate three river otters. The habitat will be ADA-accessible for guests and will feature a closeup underwater viewing area and modern filtration system.

After six months of grading, the new otter habitat is taking shape. Footers are poured and electrical conduit and drain lines are installed for the Life Support Building (LSS), shown in the foreground of photo. The building is the “heart” of the water system and will house the pumps and filters needed to operate and clean the otter habitat ponds.

River otters were first introduced at Bays Mountain Park in 1987 and over the years the playful animals became a fan-favorite attraction. Unfortunately, the park has been without any otters since June 2019, when Otto, the last otter, passed away.

Bays Mountain Park officials will begin the process of acquiring river otters for the new habitat during construction.

The approximately $2.4 million project is funded in part by a grant from the State of Tennessee and a corporate sponsorship from Eastman Chemical Company. Architectural firm Coyle & Caron designed the habitat, Collective Architecture designed the life-saving system for the water conditions, and BurWil Construction is the main contractor.

baysmountain.com



Life Support Building

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



IMAX

IMAX opens at Fort Henry Mall

IMAX opened at the Fort Henry Mall in July 2026, marking the completion of a 7,000-square-foot expansion that broke ground in August 2025.

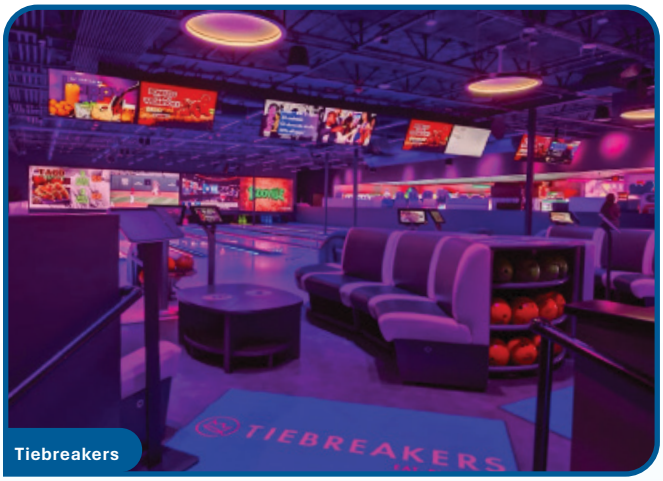
The new theater features IMAX with Laser for crisp images, 4K laser projection and next-generation precision sound. NCG Cinema celebrated the grand opening July 17, bringing the IMAX experience to the region for the first time. The IMAX Theater is part of a broader investment in NCG's Kingsport location, including luxury reclining seats, expanded food options and a full-service bar. The investment continues to position the property as a regional entertainment destination.


IMAX

Tiebreakers is coming to Fort Henry Mall

A new entertainment concept is coming to Fort Henry Mall after Tiebreakers announced a new location in Kingsport in September 2026.

The company's most expansive experience yet, the approximately 55,000-square-foot facility is expected to include a standalone restaurant, full arcade, bowling and laser tag and create approximately 100 new jobs. Tiebreakers is part of the growing momentum at the Fort Henry Mall, following the July 2026 opening of the IMAX theater.

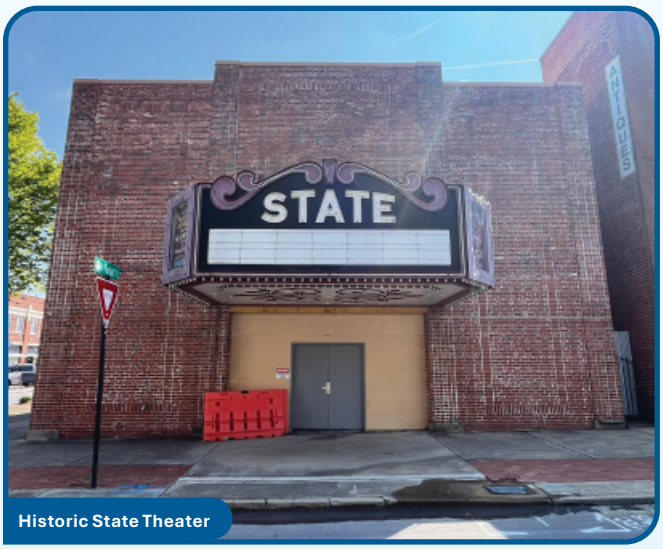


Tiebreakers

KEDB acquires historic State Theater

The Kingsport Economic Development Board acquired the historic State Theater on Broad Street in February 2026, creating a new opportunity to return one of downtown's most recognizable properties to productive use.

The State Theater originally opened in 1936 as a 700-seat movie house and has served a variety of entertainment uses during its history. The acquisition provides greater flexibility to pursue an adaptive reuse project that complements continued investment and revitalization throughout downtown.



Historic State Theater

Historic Kingsport Hosiery Mills moves into redevelopment

Redevelopment of the historic Kingsport Hosiery Mills property moved forward in 2026 following approval of a $10 million adaptive reuse project. The three-acre property will be transformed into a 60-room boutique hotel with a full-service restaurant, event space and parking. The property known today as the Dobyns-Taylor Warehouse, opened originally as the Kingsport Hosiery Mill, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Demolition work began in March 2026, with the hotel slated to open in 2027. The project is expected to create approximately 40 construction jobs and 50 permanent jobs. The redevelopment will preserve an important piece of Kingsport's industrial history while adding lodging, dining and event space to downtown.



Historic mill renovation



Interior of historic mill

Kingsport Dental Clinic moves into Phase 2

The Kingsport Dental Clinic of the Appalachian Highlands will shift into Phase 2 with plans for the addition of 17 operatories and the creation of a digital lab, X-ray equipment and administration space.

Conceptual design has been completed on the $6.5 million project. Construction is scheduled to begin in early spring 2027 and will take approximately 12 months.

Kingsport also recently applied for $10 million in Rural Health Access Modernization Program (RAMP) funding for Phase 3 of the Kingsport Dental Clinic. The Tennessee Department of Health initiative is administered by the State Office of Rural Health and funded through TennCare Shared Savings.

If approved, the funds would allow for a buildout of the front of the building with an expanded lobby/waiting room and additional classroom and administration spaces.

The Kingsport Dental Clinic opened to students in September 2024, and since that time has served as a satellite campus for The University of Tennessee Health Science Center where students from UT, ETSU and Northeast State Community College train in a dental clinic setting.

Since opening, the facility has recorded more than 2,000 appointments and performed more than 4,000 procedures.

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.



Dental training



Conceptual design of Kingsport Dental Clinic

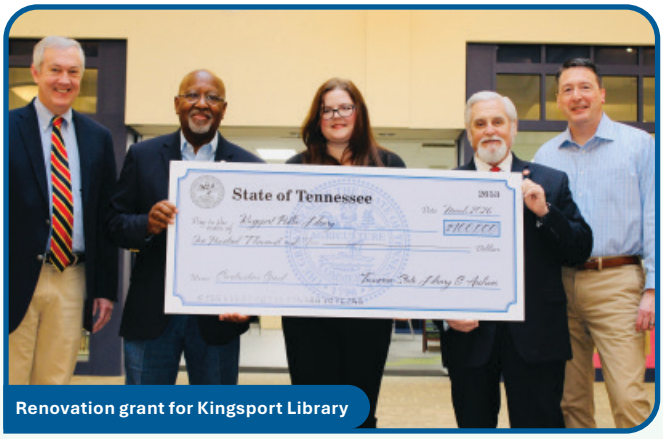
AWARDS

Kingsport Public Library earns $100,000 state grant for renovation project

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett and State Rep. John Crawford presented Kingsport officials with a $100,000 construction grant in March in connection with the $7 million renovation project taking place at the Kingsport Public Library.

“This grant will help renovate the children’s area and ensure the Kingsport Public Library remains a welcoming place where future generations can learn and grow,” Hargett said. “I want to thank the state and local leaders for their dedication to supporting the library. We all know that strong libraries are essential to strong communities.”

The grant received strong support from state legislators, Sen. Bobby Harshbarger, Rep. John Crawford and Rep. Bud Hulsey, who were instrumental in appropriating the funds.



Renovation grant for Kingsport Library

kingsportlibrary.org

Kingsport Public Information & Communications Department earns five awards

Kingsport Public Information & Communications Department earned five awards from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Tri-Cities Chapter and achieved two firsts as Awards of Excellence winners and as finalists in the Best in Show category, which recognizes the best among all contest submissions.

The department received three Awards of Excellence, the chapter’s top honors, for the Main Street Rebuild communications campaign, Model City 101 program and This is Kingsport blog post on Time Travel Toys.

The department also received two Awards of Quality at the silver level for the Twilight Alive Concert Series promotion campaign and for Projects in Pictures in the BMA Highlights newsletter.



Floating bridge grant award

Bays Mountain Park receives bridge funds

Bays Mountain Park has received a $100,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development to help fund the construction of a new floating bridge along the western end of Lakeside Trail.

For more than 20 years, the bridge has served as the main path to travel along the reservoir. However, the bridge sustained significant wear and tear over the years due to weather and fallen trees. The proposal calls for the construction of a new bridge adjacent to the existing one and once complete, the old bridge will be removed. Kingsport is currently completing design plans for the new bridge.

In November 2025, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development awarded 30 communities across the state more than $2 million in Tourism Enhancement Grants to strengthen local tourism assets and drive Tennessee’s continued growth as a world-class destination.

baysmountain.com


Kingsport communications staff awards

FINANCES

Capital Improvement Planning provides framework for Kingsport

For a city the size and complexity of Kingsport, responsible growth and long-term financial stewardship requires looking beyond the next annual budget. A comprehensive five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), supported by a 10-year planning horizon, will provide the framework to identify, prioritize and schedule the major investments needed to maintain infrastructure, schools, facilities and quality of life.

The CIP must also be closely aligned with the city's recently completed Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan establishes the city's priorities and direction; the Capital Improvement Plan helps translate those priorities into specific investments and projects. This alignment better connects long-term vision with available financial resources and ensures that capital investments are focused on the needs and priorities that matter most to Kingsport's future.

This November, and continuing over the next five months, city staff will work with departments throughout the organization to identify and evaluate capital needs, develop project recommendations, establish priorities and assess potential funding strategies. This process will provide the Board of Mayor and Aldermen with a comprehensive view of the city's capital needs and the resources required to address them.

The goal is to complete the new Capital Improvement Plan ahead of the upcoming FY2028 budget presentation in May, providing Kingsport with a clear, strategic and financially responsible road map for capital investment well into the future.

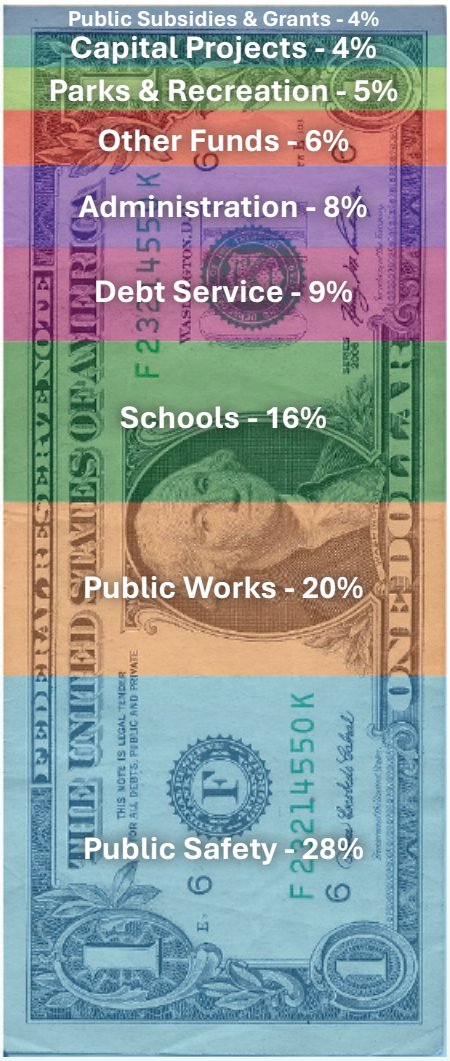
"Developing a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan moves the city away from simply looking at next year's budget when evaluating capital needs to a strategic long-term plan," City of Kingsport Chief Financial Officer Travis Bishop said. "By evaluating the city's needs over a 10-year horizon, we can better understand the financial resources required, prioritize projects and make more precise recommendations about timing and funding."

City sustains FY2026 fiscal success

- Bond Rating: Moody's Aa2, S&P AA = very low credit risk and one step below absolute best rating.
- Governmental funds debt decreased by $10.9 million.
- General fund revenues slightly exceeded expenditures, thus increasing fund balance.
- Sales tax revenue exceeded budgeted amounts by 2.52%.
- More than $270 million budget used to support schools, infrastructure, recreation and public safety.
- General Fund Budget: $114 million
- General Purpose School Fund Budget: $108 million
- Water & Sewer Fund Budget: $46 million

kingsporttn.gov

Where do my property taxes go?



Budget Bites

- Kingsport's budget is the guiding financial document for the city.
- It is approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) before becoming effective.
- 2027 budget runs from July 2026-June 2027.
- Balanced budget for 2027 was approved by BMA in June 2026.
- Budget includes:
  - General Fund (operating and capital items)
  - Water and Sewer Systems
  - School Funds (general purpose and nutrition)
  - Other Funds (such as Bays Mountain, Kingsport Aquatic Center, MeadowView and various other funds)

SCHOOLS

Kingsport City Schools

Kingsport City Schools (KCS) is a student-focused, world-class public school district proudly serving families across Sullivan and Hawkins counties.

Visit www.k12k.com to learn more and stay connected. Follow KCS on Facebook and Instagram, and subscribe to the YouTube channel for additional news, events and happenings.

Demolition and site development begins for new elementary school

The Lynn Garden Elementary School project has gained approval for asbestos abatement, demolition of the Lynn View Community Center and partial site development to prepare for new construction.

The work includes grading, utility installation, road widening and road extension. The Board of Education approved the bid in August 2026 for $3,215,500 to be funded through the Lynn Garden Elementary School project. Construction Partners is the contractor for the demolition/partial site development phase, which is anticipated to be completed by Sept. 1, 2027.

The 750-student pre-K to fifth-grade elementary school will be built at the site of the old community center located at 257 Walker St. The project is funded by the City of Kingsport with Thompson & Litton, Inc., serving as the architect.

Construction is expected to begin in September 2027 by a general contractor yet to be determined. The new elementary school is expected to open to students in fall 2029.



Lower level



Upper level

Six elementary and one high school earn reward status from state

Seven schools earned Tennessee's Best as 2025 Reward Schools in Adams, Johnson, Kennedy, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Washington elementary schools and Dobyns-Bennett High School. Reward status is part of Tennessee's accountability framework for schools that demonstrate high levels of performance and/or improvement in performance and foster high levels of student growth.

TVAAS accolades

- Kingsport City Schools achieved the top composite score of 5 in the Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) for the ninth consecutive year in 2025. The score indicates significant evidence of greater than expected academic growth using Tennessee Department of Education data.
- An all-time high of nine schools earned a TVAAS score of 5 – Adams, Jefferson, Johnson, Kennedy, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Washington elementary schools; Sevier Middle School; and Dobyns-Bennett High School.

Letter grades

- 2025 Tennessee Department of Education School Letter Grade A: Adams, Jefferson, Johnson, Lincoln Elementary and Washington elementary schools and Dobyns-Bennett High School.

Niche rankings

- Dobyns-Bennett High School ranked in the 2025 Top 20 Public High Schools in Tennessee, earning No. 19 out of 373 high schools.
- Adams Elementary School ranked as No. 1 Public School Teachers in Tennessee in 2026.

KINGSPORT SPIRIT

15th Sculpture Walk features five new installations along Kingsport Greenbelt

Five new sculptures have been installed for Kingsport Cultural Arts' 15th Sculpture Walk along the Kingsport Greenbelt by the Holston River. The city leases sculptures from artists across the country to put on display.

This year's sculptures include:

- "We Are the Current" by Jessica Bradsher
- "Arc of the Moral Universe" by Ray Moore
- "Bear Went Over the Mountain" by Jim Gallucci
- "Lastdance" by Hanna Jubran
- "Alabama Octet" by Daniel William Millspaugh

The online Sculpture Walk Trail is available at www.artskingsport.org/trails with the location of each sculpture, information about the artist and insights into each creation. The Sculpture Walk was made possible through a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission.



"We Are the Current"

artskingsport.com/trails

New signs installed along Heritage Trail

The City of Kingsport has installed new signs for the downtown Heritage Trail, which highlight some of the district's historical buildings and destinations. The 2-mile walking trail stretches from Church Circle to Broad and Main streets with stops along Shelby, Cherokee and Commerce streets.

The trail includes 24 signs – designed in-house by city staff – with information and an archival photo of the building or destination, such as Church Circle, First National Bank, State Theater, Train Station and Improvement Building.

artskingsport.org/look



Heritage Trail sign

Kingsport Archives restores historic J. Fred Johnson desk

The historic J. Fred Johnson desk, a significant artifact connected to the man often remembered as the "Father of Kingsport," has been restored by Don Sanderson, founder of Works of Wood, with support from the Friends of the Kingsport Archives.

The desk will serve as a research table for visitors to the Kingsport Archives, offering researchers, genealogists, students and history enthusiasts a unique opportunity to physically connect with a piece of Kingsport's past while exploring the materials and stories that document the community's history. Sanderson, a Kingsport resident and longtime woodworker, handled the restoration in his shop before the desk was placed in City Hall.

"J. Fred Johnson played a pivotal role in the planning and development of modern Kingsport during the city's formative years," said Stephanie Griffin, manager of the Kingsport Public Library. "His vision for a well-planned industrial city helped shape the community's growth and established a legacy that continues to influence Kingsport today. The restoration of his desk preserves a tangible connection to that history and honors the contributions of one of the city's most influential leaders."



Don Sanderson and the restored desk

kingsportlibrary.org/archives

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Now in its fifth year, Christmas in Kingsport has returned to the Model City. Enjoy your favorite family events, plus a few new surprises under the tree including a gingerbread house contest, fun Allandale event and Park after Dark: Christmas Edition at Bays Mountain Park.

christmasinkingsport.com


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