
STATE OF THE CITY

2018 ADDRESS



RISING ABOVE

Best Crowd on the "Big Shots" WLD Tour

Golf Channel's Nationally Televised World Long Drive Tour held Tennessee Big Shots, benefiting Niswonger Children's Hospital at MeadowView Conference Resort and Convention Center. Reps from Golf Channel noted that Kingsport had the largest and most electric crowd on tour this year! Visit Kingsport and Tennessee Big Shots title sponsor, Ballad Health, created a very successful first-year event that will return to Kingsport in 2019 and 2020.



Google Gathered at the Kingsport Library

In August, Google chose Kingsport, one of only 3 locations across Tennessee to set up shop with their "Grow with Google" event. Full attendance at all the workshops, plus many individuals taking advantage of the one-on-one coaching, led to a successful day where Kingsport did, in fact, "Grow with Google."

Bays Mountain Receives National Trail Designation by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.

Bays Mountain boasts nearly 40 miles of trails suitable for all levels of hiking and mountain biking expertise. From scenic, fun, single-track trails to old service roads leading to the ridgetop fire tower, 31 named trails provide a great escape to the natural world.



Kingsport shared the national stage in Baltimore, MD for the International City-County Management Association. The city was featured for its efficiency in operations.

STEVE
HAMMONDS
POLICE LIEUTENANT

1 of 200 in nation to
graduate from the
FBI National Academy

GRIT.



EMPLOYEES

RIISING ABOVE - SETTING A NEW STANDARD



GIVE.

KIRBY WALKER
WATER PLANT LAB
TECHNICIAN

Received American Public
Works Association Award
for Outstanding Leadership
for developing educational
programs to take to schools
to talk about the importance
of water.

DARRELL
HAYES
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

1 of 200 in nation
to graduate from
National Fire Academy

GAIN.



KINGSPORT IS GROWING

5th fastest-growing city in Tennessee

*5th fastest-growing city in Tennessee source: The Tennessean

A Note from Jeff Fleming, City Manager

Kingsport has a tradition of working together for a common cause. With the achievements listed throughout this document, Kingsport can be proud that it's a professional organization, diligent in planning and implementation.

The city has grown organically in the last few years, which speaks to our thriving housing market. Both Boomers and Millennials like downtown living as well as revitalizing older neighborhoods with character, and Kingsport has both.

Our sales tax stability is a significant advantage when planning the future. For FY19, the city came in nearly \$1M below budget and revenues remain strong.

We hope citizens have confidence in the decision-making ability of city staff through our protocols and consistent financial accolades.



Received budget and audit excellence awards. Only 8% of municipalities receive these prestigious awards.



Received Government Excellence Award for city's innovative approach to utilizing technology and leveraging partnerships.



One of only 19 cities in the nation to hold this honor, reaccredited in 2017.



Received three Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Four Star Awards, recognizing the best overall programs, facilities, and marketing strategies.



National high-performance award for efficiencies in government.



Received EPA's Safe Drinking Water Director's Award, Peak Performance Award and Operational Excellence Award.



Barry Brickey, Public Information Officer, won the Tennessee Public Educator of the Year Award.



The Senior Center won a Positive Images Award for a video promotion from Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging.



First city to receive bronze status with Healthier TN. Going for gold in 2019!



Won Tennessee Sustainable Transportation award. Kingsport now has one of the largest alternative fueled fleets in the state.



The Regional Science and Technology Center (RSTC) has a mission to create a culture that inspires innovation. Five academic goals for the space include: Support scientific inquiry and discovery, foster creativity/problem solving, offer meaningful career opportunities, provide application-based experiences through integrated curriculum, and utilize the power/flexibility of technology.

KINGSPORT ANIMAL SERVICES
PETWORKS



The City of Kingsport has entered into a public-private partnership with PETWorks to help fund the construction of a new adoption center that will better suit its needs. PETWorks will kick off a fundraising campaign to raise the rest of the money needed to construct the new animal shelter. PETWorks expects the new shelter to be open by 2021.

Kingsport is a Proven Partner


The Kingsport Spirit Extends Beyond Our Community



Aerospace Park is a regional effort with multiple cities and counties in the area coming together for this significant investment to fuel growth through good-paying jobs. Most recently, Aerospace Park received a \$4.1 million grant from TDOT and over \$10 million from the Airport Authority to begin development.



Phipps Bend is a joint venture between Kingsport and Hawkins County. Companies in the industrial plant are growing, which means more employment opportunities. Companies are also investing in new equipment and constructing new facilities.



Housing Growth

After annexation was not an option, the city looked inward for opportunities to support efforts to revitalize old buildings and incentivize new construction. These efforts are a main reason Kingsport is the 5th fastest-growing city in TN.



Bays Mountain

Our crown jewel will see nearly \$10 million invested over the next 10 years to create an inspiring environment for outdoor enthusiasts. Renovated animal habitats and additional exhibits are just a couple of examples of how the city plans to invigorate the landscape.



RENEWED

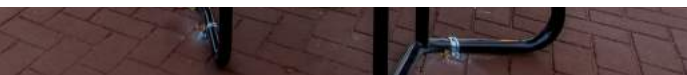
FOCUS

Kingsport has a renewed focus on improving its unique assets, the destination city investments that provide a wonderful quality of life. Borden Park is a great example. Over \$4 million has been invested through grants to upgrade the park.



Downtown

A Downtown Masterplan was completed and is now in its early phases of implementation. Upgrades to infrastructure, creating play spaces, increasing jobs and beautification are a few elements to come.



The Riverfront

Rarely does a downtown have a river running through it. Over the next few years, plans are in place to reinvent the riverfront for economic development opportunities, as well as for enthusiasts.



FUTURE

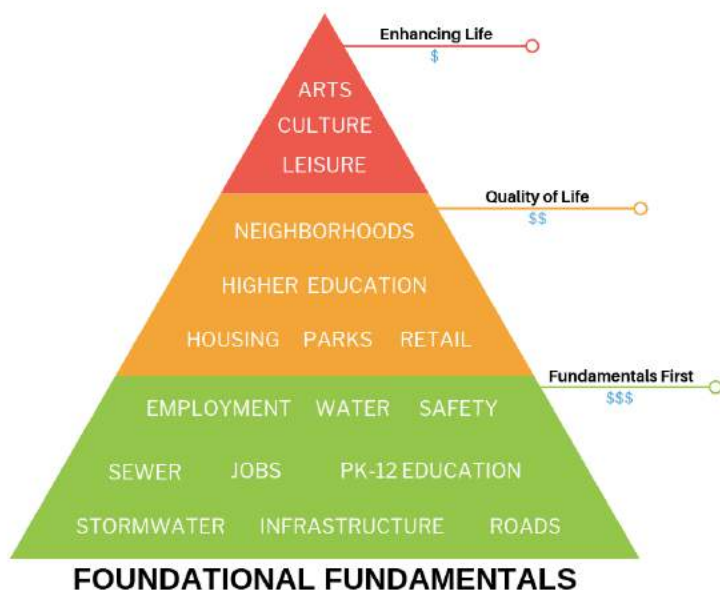
INVESTMENTS

We are dedicated to infrastructure investments and enhancements that create a safe and livable space for residents.

The city established a hierarchy of needs, which is a decision-making process handled with great care. Using a three-tiered pyramid model, city officials are able to effectively illustrate the hierarchy of needs as it pertains to Kingsport's capital budget and the priorities of maintaining and improving our city.

Kingsport is a financially-healthy organization:

- Tax rate of 1.975 - 4th lowest in city's history
- AA Rating from S&P Global
- AA2 Rating from Moody's Investor Service
- Debt limit is 6.5% - 3.5% below city's imposed max and 13.5% below the state's imposed max



The Neighborhood Commission is in its first year of existence. The Neighborhood Commission is composed of twelve Kingsport citizens who will advise on and promote initiatives to strengthen neighborhoods and, as needed, provide input to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on the impact of various programs to neighborhoods. Recently, they launched an online Neighborhood Toolbox as a community resource. It can be found on kptneighborhoods.com.



Smoother roads are coming soon to a neighborhood near you! Kingsport's efforts to repair its roadways with a sustainable paving plan have started. The plan significantly increases the amount of roads that will be paved each year. West Lynn Garden is currently being paved with main road paving in Ridgefields coming next.



The Inventor Center

LEARN | CREATE | INNOVATE

The Inventor Center was the top idea that came out of the OneKingsport effort, and specifically from the job creation and entrepreneurship focus area. Kingsport has been known as a city that builds since its inception. Now, we are leveraging our resources to connect partners to become a makerspace for all.



Inspire. Cultivate. Impact.

- Dobyns-Bennett named in the top 5% of all high schools in America by US News & World Report.
- Five students named National Merit Semi-finalists, five students named National Merit Commended Students, three students named Presidential Scholar Candidates, and 75 named AP Scholars, the most in school history.
- 90 high school students earned a GPA over 4.0, the most in school history.
- Three students appointed to the United States Service Academies.
- 120 graduates of distinction, the most in district history.
- Over a dozen Career and Technical state-level competition winners and national qualifiers.
- For the 12th consecutive year, the D-B Air Force Junior ROTC program was named a Unit of Distinction.
- The Dobyns-Bennett Competitive Marching Band finished 6th in the nation at Bands of America Grand Nationals.
- KCS named a 2017 Achievement level award winner by the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence.
- D-B EXCEL received the prestigious STEM School Designation, the only STEM designated school in the region and one of only four high schools in Tennessee to receive the honor.
- KCS MATE underwater robotics teams advanced to the international championships in only their first year of competition.
- The D-B band and orchestra performed in a joint concert in Carnegie Hall in New York City.
- The Dobyns-Bennett class of 2018 was offered in excess of \$15 million in scholarship funds, the largest total in school history.
- Multiple Destination Imagination teams qualified and advanced to state-level competitions.
- FIRST Lego League teams at KCS schools were award winners at regional and state-level competitions.
- Multiple athletic state tournament participants at the middle and high school level.
- The most decorated year in D-B choral program history, including an invitation to the inaugural National Choral Festival.