

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Killeen:

2016 has been a year marked by challenges in our city, but let's not forget our many successes. As we look forward to

2017, we will undoubtedly experience both again. Be assured that our City Council and staff have rededicated themselves to the mission of service.

Killeen's population and economy continue to grow. Sales tax receipts are up over last year's figures and property values have also increased. These positive economic trends show continued investment in our community, and that is a great sign.

Some of the best news in 2016 was the completion of a number of road projects. TxDOT has invested more than \$80 million to improve US 190 through Killeen, and construction is now substantially complete. The City invested \$30 million to construct and extend Rosewood Drive, reconstruct Stagecoach Road and connect Elms Road among other projects, all of which are now complete.

The Killeen Community Center reopened following more than a year of renovations bringing the 1973 landmark to modern repair. The City was also named a Playful City USA for the eighth year and a Tree City USA for the ninth year.

Through the generosity of our community, the November 5, 2009 Fort Hood Memorial was dedicated in March. Governor Greg Abbott attended the opening of this lasting tribute to the victims of a terrible tragedy.

Looking forward to the New Year, there will be more investment and progress including the completion of the Trimmier Road widening project and the opening of Fire Station #9. Both projects are on schedule and will improve safety and service for residents.

Though one of our most challenging, 2016 has been a year full of progress. Killeen has much to be thankful for this holiday season and to look forward to in 2017!

Jose L. Segarra, Mayor

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016!



The 2016 Killeen Citizens Academy spent eight weeks this Fall learning more about their city government. From airports to water, they visited facilities and met with the staff to see exactly how services are delivered. At their commencement ceremony November 2, graduates remarked on the professionalism and dedication of city staff and how proud they are to call Killeen home.

## DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

That's the sound of Good News Killeen! Your City is constantly sharing useful information about our many great programs and services, and we invite you to join the conversation.

In addition to this newsletter, we offer a variety of ways to stay informed and keep in touch. Roads, sports or meetings, we are working to make information on all things City convenient.

Our website is your 24-hour City Hall and is a hub for information including news releases, locations and hours, meeting agendas and recordings, rates and fees and much more. Visitors can also submit work orders and make payments.

More than 11,000 people have liked us on Facebook, and we hope you'll join the fan club. We post new content daily and typically respond to questions within an hour.

Our video program Good News Killeen hits Facebook and YouTube every other Wednesday to keep you up on all that's happening.

There's plenty of good news, Killeen!

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed the following dates:

**November 24 & 25**  
**December 23 & 26**  
**January 2 & 16**

Emergency services and garbage collection will operate without interruption.

***Happy Holidays!***

## VETERANS CEMETERY WREATH PROJECT MARKS 10 YEARS

The Friends of the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery invite you to participate in the annual Wreath Project.

The Friends lead a community effort to express our remembrance and appreciation for veterans and their families during the holidays by placing a wreath at each grave in the veterans cemetery.

Your support is needed now more than ever to prepare, lay

and retrieve more than 8,000 wreaths.



Make the Wreath Project one of your family's holiday traditions.

### WREATH PROJECT SCHEDULE

#### Wreath Preparation

Saturday, November 19 - 10 am  
Killeen Special Events Center  
3601 S. W.S. Young Dr.

#### Wreath Laying Ceremony

Saturday, November 26 - 10 am  
State Veterans Cemetery  
11463 S. SH 195

#### Wreath Retrieval

Saturday, January 14 - 10 am  
State Veterans Cemetery  
11463 S. SH 195

[www.wreathsforvets.org](http://www.wreathsforvets.org)

## CELEBRATE WITH US!

Are you planning a holiday party, wedding, family reunion or other event? We've got rooms and want you to be our guest!

Killeen Civic & Conference Center offers the largest venue with a variety of flexible spaces and modern amenities. Ballrooms in three different configurations, flexible meeting rooms, a formal board room and the beautiful Special Events Room make a perfect setting for any occasion. For availability and rates, contact the center at 501-3888.

The Killeen Arts & Activities Center offers a historic Downtown option. Spaces for rent include a chapel, an auditorium, various banquet and meeting rooms as well as outdoor spaces.

Booking is available in person or by calling 501-6519.

Killeen Community Center is recently renovated, centrally located and ready for guests. It has a large event space and a variety of smaller rooms. Space can be rented by visiting the center or by calling 501-8889.

Finally, Stonetree Golf Club is a grand home repurposed as a clubhouse and event space. Small private rooms, a large banquet room and an outdoor patio make a unique setting overlooking a lush golf course. Call 501-6571 for more information.

Details for all of these venues are available at [KilleenTexas.gov](http://KilleenTexas.gov). Spaces fill quickly, so reserve your celebration space today.

## KILLEEN UP! AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

The City is offering a special collection to dispose of excess holiday trash at no additional cost.

On your special collection day, you may place your roll-out container plus bags up to 33 gallons or boxes up to eight cubic feet at curbside for pick-up. Make sure to leave at least four feet between your can and additional bags and boxes. All waste should be placed curbside by 7 am on your scheduled day.

Take advantage of this great service and Killeen Up! after the holidays.

<u>Regular Day</u>	<u>Special Day</u>
Monday	December 26
Tuesday	December 27
Thursday	December 29
Friday	December 30

**Reminder: the city collects trash on holidays. Remember to put your can out on your regular collection day.**

A red vertical banner advertisement for the Killeen - Fort Hood Regional Airport. At the top left is the GRK logo. In the center is a white airplane icon flying along a dashed white line. Below the airplane is the text 'GET ON-BOARD!' in large white letters. Underneath that is a dashed white box containing the website 'flykilleen.net' with a mouse cursor arrow pointing to it. At the bottom is the Killeen - Fort Hood Regional Airport logo, which features a large white 'K' with a star and an airplane icon.

## FLYING MADE EASY

Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport is all about convenience: close to home, easy parking, quick check in and short security lines. Skip the hustle, bustle and hassle this holiday season and Fly Killeen!

## TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY SAFETY

While you're planning for a joyous holiday season, don't let safety get lost in the shuffle. Taking these simple precautions can help you and yours prevent and protect...

### Home Safety

- Secure your home by locking every door (including the garage door) while away, no matter how short a time you will be gone
- Place lights on timers; make it look like someone is home
- Leave window shades in normal positions if you are going away, even just overnight
- Set your security alarm every time you leave
- Festively wrapped packages are an invitation to burglars - place gifts where they can't be seen through doors or windows

## FUR-EVER LOVE

Reindeer aren't the only four-legged friends to invite into your home this season. Add a new dog or cat from Killeen Animal Shelter to your manger.



Dozens of animals of all ages, sizes and breeds are in need of forever homes. Now is the most wonderful time of the year to adopt because the shelter is offering adopters who live in Killeen a voucher to cover the cost of spaying or neutering a new pet as well as the first rabies vaccination.

Check out all the adoptable pets online at [KilleenTexas.gov/Animals](http://KilleenTexas.gov/Animals), or visit the shelter to give a loving animal a home for Christmas.

### Be a Good Neighbor

- Know your neighbors, their children and their cars
- Report suspicious activity no matter how small
- Offer to watch your neighbor's home while he is away, and ask him to do the same for you
- Start or join a Neighborhood Watch

### Holiday Shopping Safety

- Do your shopping as early as possible to avoid the crowds
- Keep your purse, wallet and packages close at all times - it only takes a second for someone to grab and go
- Lock all packages and valuables in the trunk of your car
- Always lock your car, and never leave valuables like cell phones, navigation devices or iPods in plain view

## STAYING GREEN

The City recently discontinued its curbside recycling service, which may have some residents seeing red, but there is still a way to go green in Killeen.

Killeen Recycle Center accepts drop off of #1 and #2 plastics, all types of cardboard and paper, steel, tin and aluminum cans and clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars. It also accepts rechargeable batteries, cell phones, used cooking oil and antifreeze.

Used automotive oil is accepted at the Recycle Center, the Transfer Station and Skylark Field airport. Individuals may dispose of up to five gallons.

Killeen Recycle Center is open weekdays in Downtown at 111 E. Avenue F. Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11 am to 6 pm and Wednesday and Thursday from 11 am to 5 pm. It is also open even-dated Saturdays from 8 am to noon.

### Fire Safety

- Only use artificial trees labeled "fire resistant"
- Be sure to buy a fresh live tree as dried out trees are a serious fire hazard
- Check all the bulbs and cords on light strands before using
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree
- Never use lighted candles on or near a tree
- Make sure outdoor lights are certified for outdoor use
- Always follow instructions



## KNOW B4U BORROW

Your wallet may soon start to feel the pinch of the holidays. If you turn to a credit access business for some short-term assistance, remember that the City of Killeen has an ordinance to protect you from predatory lending practices.

Lenders must be registered with the City and conspicuously display an approved certificate and a Military Lending Act sign.

Borrowers should know that a payday advance cannot exceed 20% of their monthly gross income. A title loan cannot exceed 3% of gross annual income or 70% of the vehicle's value.

The ordinance also sets out standards for number of installations, extensions and payments toward principal.

If you encounter a business not following these standards, contact Killeen Police Department to file a complaint.

[KilleenTexas.gov/Credit Access](http://KilleenTexas.gov/Credit Access)



Santa's Helpers are collecting letters from boys and girls in Killeen! Just drop your child's letter in the box at the Community Center or Family Recreation Center November 21 through December 16, and Killeen's elves will make sure it gets to the North Pole.

Letters should be addressed to: Santa Claus c/o The North Pole. Don't forget to include your return address so Santa can write back!

## SEASON'S EATINGS

Join the City of Killeen and HEB for the 9th annual Feast of Sharing community meal December 13 from 4 to 8 pm at Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

The Feast of Sharing is free and open to everyone. Live entertainment, fun activities and delicious holiday food will spread the holiday cheer!

Volunteers and participants are welcome. For more information, contact Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

## STICKY SITUATION

Santa or pancakes? Why choose? Have both at Breakfast in Toyland December 3 from 8 to 10 am at Killeen Community Center.



Kids and kids at heart can enjoy a full pancake breakfast for \$5 then share wish lists and take photos with Santa.

### MORE ON CITY HOLIDAY EVENTS

[KilleenTexas.gov](http://KilleenTexas.gov)  
[Facebook.com/KilleenTexas](https://www.facebook.com/KilleenTexas)

## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Santa Claus is headed south from the North Pole and will be in Killeen December 2! You and yours are invited to join him as he lights the holiday tree at Holiday Under the Stars.

The free, festive fun begins at 6 pm at the Killeen Community Center. Santa will stick around to take pictures with good boys and girls. Other activities will include live entertainment, a game truck, art bus and petting zoo. At 8 pm, the movie *Elf* will show on the big screen under the stars, so bring blankets to cuddle up for this classic holiday film.

Festivities continue December 3 from 1 to 8 pm.

## CHRISTMAS PARADE

The 54th annual Killeen Christmas Parade will be December 10 at 4:30 pm in historic Downtown Killeen. The theme "A Storybook Christmas" will come to life with floats, costumes and talents.



The parade route begins at Avenue D and College Street then turns on Gray Street, Sprott Avenue, 2nd Street and ends on Avenue B. A route map is available online.

Spectators should come early to secure the best spots for parking and viewing this Killeen tradition.

Parade entries will be accepted through November 18 at the Volunteer Center.

## LIGHT THE NIGHT

Can your holiday lights be seen from outer space? Show off your hard work by entering your festively decorated home in Killeen's annual Outdoor Decorating Contest!

Complete the online entry form at [KilleenTexas.gov/Volunteer](http://KilleenTexas.gov/Volunteer) then email a digital photo of your home by December 5 to compete for the title.

Online voting for fan favorites will be December 6 through 13. First, second and third place winners will be announced publicly December 16.

For more information, call Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

## GO GREEN KILLEEN!

The annual Keep Killeen Beautiful Christmas tree recycling event is your chance go green when your tree turns brown.

Residents are invited to drop off live Christmas trees January 7 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Special Events Center, 3301 S. W.S. Young Drive. Be sure all decorations including tinsel, ornaments and lights are removed.

Trees will be chipped and shredded then offered back as landscaping mulch.

Rather than leaving your tree at the curb to be placed in the landfill, go green and recycle it.

## JINGLE BELL DASH

Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell dash! The Jingle Bell Dash 5K is December 3 at 8 am at Killeen Community Center.

Go to [KilleenTexas.gov/Centex](http://KilleenTexas.gov/Centex) to register or for more information on this and upcoming Cen-Tex Series races.

The series offers more than a dozen races throughout the year. Resolve to compete in 2017.