City Insight
An Official Publication of the City of Killeen, Texas
November 2013

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Killeen:

It seems that everywhere I look these days something new and exciting is starting. I call this progress, and 2013 has been marked by it.

The most noticeable changes are happening with city highways. Work was completed on SH 195 and SH 201 creating safer travel in our southwestern corridor. Construction began on the long-anticipated expansion of US 190 from the Main Gate to Harker Heights. This project will pay great dividends as Killeen continues to grow.

Local road projects are also moving quickly. Rosewood Drive's extension north is well underway and will create a much needed north-south thoroughfare. Stagecoach Road Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 has begun. Improving this roadway will create a new east-west connection and relieve congestion on Stan Schlueter Loop.

The Downtown Streetscaping Project has made great progress. This project will breathe new life into our historic district when it is complete next year.

Water has been a major topic locally and regionally, and City Council is taking a proactive approach to planning for the future. They have approved a water reuse project that will use "gray" water to irrigate the city's golf course rather than potable water. This move will add millions of gallons of capacity back to the water supply and ultimately create great savings. Council is also taking steps towards the design of a new water treatment plant that will ensure Killeen has water for decades to come.

2014 looks to be another progressive year. In addition to the aforementioned projects, the City will be moving forward on designing improvements to the Trimmier Road intersection at US 190 to relieve traffic congestion. Design for Fire Station 9 will be underway to ensure excellent fire service for the growing southwestern part of town. Discussions will also continue on important projects such as citywide recycling and a homeless shelter.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our city staff. These employees work tirelessly under the leadership of City Council to fulfill the needs of the residents and the community. Thank you Team Killeen!

Dan Corbin, Mayor

## TAKE A TRIP DOWNTOWN

Downtown Killeen is looking a lot different these days, and we invite you to come see the changes.

The streetscaping project, which began in August 2012, is nearing completion. Through the dust and construction signs, you can now see new sidewalks, mid-block plazas and decorative crosswalks. Crews will soon begin repaving the roads and restoring on-street parking. They will also start finishing touches like landscaping, lighting and benches.

A hike and bike trail extension is also part of the project. The Andy K. Wells Trail, originally ending at 28th Street, now connects to 10th Street and Downtown and offers a whole new way to visit.

These public improvements, scheduled for completion early next year, are a key component in the overall Downtown revitalization effort. Making Downtown more attractive and accessible will help reinvigorate Killeen's most historic area.

### CITY COUNCIL

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# LAY A HOLIDAY WREATH AT THE VETERANS CEMETERY

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 more than ever to prepare, lay and retrieve more than 4,500 wreaths.

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

### WREATH PROJECT SCHEDULE

**Wreath Preparation**
Saturday, November 23 - 10 am
Killeen Special Events Center
3601 S. W.S. Young Dr.

**Wreath Laying Ceremony**
Saturday, November 30 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

**Wreath Retrieval**
Sunday, January 5 - 2 pm
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

**www.wreathsforvets.org**

## LIKE US TODAY!

There is always something happening in the city of Killeen, so "like" us on Facebook to stay in the know.

Our page allows you to interact with the city when it's convenient for you. You will find breaking news, event details, photos and useful links. You can share with friends, send us your feedback and post questions to get answers about city business "Like" us today, **www.facebook.com/KilleenTexas**.

## I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Reduce, reuse and recycle at the annual Christmas tree recycling event January 4th.

Residents are invited to drop off Christmas trees January 4th from 9 am to 2 pm at the Special Events Center, 3301 S. W.S. Young Drive.

Keep Killeen Beautiful and the Public Works Department will collect the trees, chip and shred them and offer them back to residents as landscaping mulch. Twenty-five lucky participants will even receive a free new tree to plant in their yards!

## FLY KILLEEN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport offers you the most convenient way to fly this holiday season at competitive prices.

Skip the hustle, bustle and hassle this holiday season and Fly Killeen!

## WE'VE GOT ROOMS!

The Killeen Civic & Conference Center and the Killeen Arts & Activities Center are ready to host your events. From holiday parties, to weddings, to conventions, we have rooms to fit your needs.

Go to www.visitkilleen.com for information on facilities, pricing and availability. Our staff is ready to help make your event one to remember!

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Do you have room in your heart to give a shelter animal a warm home for the holidays?

Puppies and kitties are always at the top of kids' holiday wish lists, and there is no better place to make those wishes come true than the Killeen Animal Shelter.

Check out all the pets that need safe, loving homes online at **www.killeentexas.gov**, or visit the shelter at 3118 Commerce Drive.

## PUT A LID ON IT

City ordinance requires that the lid on your trash can must close completely when it is placed curbside for pick up. If it doesn't close completely, an overloaded container fee of $6 will be added to your utility bill.

A fully closed lid keeps trash in the can, keeps water out and reduces odor. Bagging your trash helps too.

If you find that you consistently have too much trash for your can, consider recycling or upgrading the size of your can. You can also dispose of up to 300 pounds of excess trash per month by taking it to the Transfer Station on SH 195.

## EXTRA COLLECTION

The City is offering special collection of excess holiday trash. Place trash in plastic bags or boxes at curbside at least four feet from your roll-out container by 7 am on your special collection day:

| Regular Day | Special Day |
|---|---|
| Monday | December 30 |
| Tuesday | December 31 |
| Thursday | December 26 |
| Friday | December 27 |

*Reminder: the city collects trash on holidays, so remember to put your can out on your regular day.*

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

**November 28 & 29**
**December 24 & 25**
**January 1 & 20**

Emergency services and garbage collection will operate without interruption.

***Happy Holidays from the City of Killeen!***

## TIPS FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

As we all get into the holiday spirit, now is a good time to remember ways to keep your family and your property safe this season.

**Never drink and drive or ride with someone who does! Always designate a driver.**

**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

**Home Safety**

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

**Be a Good Neighbor**

- Know your neighbors, their children, and their cars
- Report suspicious activity
- 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

**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

## JOIN THE CLUB

Stonetree Golf Club is a great place to play, shop, celebrate and eat, so remember us when you're making your holiday list!

If there is a golfer on your list, check out our full service pro shop offering the latest in apparel and equipment. Gift certificates and golf passes and memberships are also available.

Consider Stonetree for a unique setting for your holiday party. Rooms are available for small groups to large. Book now because dates are going quickly.

If you're in the neighborhood or looking for a bite to eat, Billy Bob's Burgers has a golf club location and great food.

Visit Stonetree Golf Club online at www.golfkilleen.com.

## SEEING STARS

Holiday Under the Stars, a Killeen tradition, is Friday, December 6th, from 6 to 9 pm at the Killeen Community Center!

Santa will arrive from the North Pole to light the 50-foot holiday tree at 6:30 pm and stick around to visit with all the good boys and girls and pose for pictures.

Free family fun includes a children's fun zone with inflatables and rides. There will be face painting and arts and crafts, games, rides, and much more.

An outdoor showing of *Rise of the Guardians* begins at 7 pm in the amphitheater. Bring a blanket and settle in for free cookies and hot cocoa courtesy of Keep Killeen Beautiful.

Don't miss Holiday Under the Stars! For more information, call Parks & Recreation at 501-8889.

## FEAST OF SHARING

Join the City of Killeen and HEB for the 6th annual Feast of Sharing community meal December 17th 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 is sure to spread the holiday cheer!

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

## JINGLE BELL DASH

It's not the New Year, but why not start one of those resolutions early? The Jingle Bell Dash 5K is December 7 at the Killeen Community Center.

Go to www.killeentexas.gov/centex to register or for more information on this and upcoming Cen-Tex races.

## 51ST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

The City of Killeen will host the 51st annual Christmas Parade December 14th at 4:30 pm in historic downtown Killeen.

"The Sights and Sounds of Christmas" is this year's theme and is sure to spread lots of holiday cheer.

You won't want to miss more than 100 parade entries winding their way through Downtown. Get there early to find the best spot to watch.

Due to construction from the downtown streetscaping project, the parade route has temporarily changed. For a map of this year's route, visit the city's website at **www.killeentexas.gov**.

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

## SPEND THE DAY DOWNTOWN

Merry Market Day joins the annual Christmas Parade December 14th for a day of holiday family fun in historic Downtown Killeen.

Green Avenue Park and Farmers Market will be filled with the sights, sounds and smells of the holidays. Live music will fill the air as vendors sell handcrafted goods, art and farm fresh food.

Merry Market Day will be open from 2 pm until the Christmas Parade ends. Come early for easy parking and stay late for a great spot to watch the festive floats in the annual parade.

## LIGHTS FANTASTIC

Do you have a holly jolly home? Is your lawn merry and bright?

Enter your festively decorated home in Killeen's annual Outdoor Decorating Contest!

Complete the form on the city's website and email it with a digital photo of your home to **wbrewster@killeentexas.gov** by November 30th.

Voting will be online for favorite displays. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced at the Christmas Parade!

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

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, 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!