

CITY INSIGHT

www.KilleenTexas.gov

December 2024

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



As we round out this year, it's easy to look ahead at what's to come, but I'd like to make sure we also pause to reflect on some of successes and accomplishments of 2024.

We kicked off the year being named the most affordable, fastest-growing city in the country by GoBankingRates.com, along with the best housing market in the nation for first-time homebuyers, among other recognitions.

We had a largest class of graduates from the 10th annual Killeen Citizens Academy. That means there are 30 more residents who are now better informed and equipped to help make our city even greater, get involved and spread the word about what we're doing.

We're only two years into our 20-year Killeen 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and we've already completed or began more than half of the dozens of tasks listed.

Citizens can visit www.KilleenTexas.gov/Killeen2040 to continue to monitor the progress on the six "Big Ideas" over the next several months and years.

Included in that plan is downtown revitalization and we've made a \$15.6 million investment in the historic district in the last two years, with 214 new jobs added from 62 new businesses. We've held 47 family-friendly events downtown, renovated more than 27 historic buildings and installed 12 public art displays. We also published our first-ever Downtown Business Directory, featuring 82 businesses right in our downtown.

As we end this year, I want to thank the staff, Council and community for working together on these accomplishments. I hope everyone was able to enjoy our Holiday Under the Stars events, including the parade and tree lighting ceremony and we look forward to seeing you at more events in 2025. Happy Holidays!

Welcome to the team

Meet Thora! Thora is the newest addition to our Police Department's K9 team, and citizens picked her name!

Thora is a 2-year-old Dutch Shepherd and her name means "Goddess of thunder and protector of humanity" or "watcher."

Thora has gone through training and made her introduction in this month's Christmas Parade.

The Police Department thanks everyone who participated in picking her name.

To learn more about our Police Department, visit our website at www.Killeentexas.gov/police. Also be sure to check out information about our upcoming Citizens Academies inside this edition.





**Holiday
Under the
stars**

Join Us in Whobilation!



Christmas Tree Lighting

Jumpstart the holiday with lights and gleefulness!

- Free hot chocolate n S'mores from the Girl Scouts of Central Texas
- Selfie Station at the Carlson's Merry Meetup inside the Santa Fe Plaza Courtyard
- Mr. and Mrs. Claus light the tree at 7 p.m. and take photos
- Entertainment from local high schools and Lady Songbird Jinda
- Historic Downtown (200 East Avenue D)

**Friday,
Dec. 6
6 p.m.**

Jingle Bell Dash 5K

Attention all runners and walkers!

- Grab your dashing shoes, holiday gear and outrun the Grinch at the 5K!
- Andy K. Wells Hike and Bike Trails (2201 East Veterans Memorial Boulevard)

**Saturday
Dec. 7
8 a.m.**

Festival of Holidays & 61st Christmas Parade

A Whoville Celebration!

- Festival of Holidays at 4 p.m.
- Brightspeed Holiday Fun Zone - Mini Ferris Wheel, turbo tubs of fun, snow maze, and more!
- Live performances, local vendors and relax at the Americans United Ink Chill Zone
- 61st Annual Christmas Parade at 6 p.m.
- Floats, lights, holiday characters, youth, families & businesses

**Saturday
Dec. 14
4 p.m.**

FOUR EVENTS OVER TWO WEEKENDS!



**[www.KilleenTexas.gov/
DowntownEvents](http://www.KilleenTexas.gov/DowntownEvents)**



SPONSORED BY:



2024 Veterans Day Parade

Honoring all who served



The 2024 Veterans Day Parade was held Monday, Nov. 11 in Downtown Killeen. The annual parade is held to honor all the brave men and women who have ever served in our armed forces. Killeen is proud to serve as home to many veterans and is just as proud to be partnered with Fort Cavazos, serving the needs of our current military, as well. We thank you all for your service.



A November to remember



This year's Fall Night Market concluded its season on Nov. 8. Even with some iffy weather, our community came out to shop small and support local! We even had youth entrepreneurs selling their goods and sharing ideas.

Thank you to everyone who made the Fall Night Market successful! Stay tuned for details on the Spring Night Market, expected to begin in April of 2025. Sign up for city alerts at www.killeentexas.gov/notifyme for info about events.



Our Animal Services team has started bringing pets to the Senior Center to help the pets interact with people.

Our furry friends enjoyed the snuggles almost as much as our Senior Center members did.

There are always many great pets looking to be adopted. For information, visit www.killeentexas.gov/animals.



Our Senior Center members had another great time at the 4th Annual Giving Thanks Luncheon! Thank you to all the performers, volunteers and staff who brought this event to life. This season, we're reminded of how much we have to be grateful for, including our amazing senior community who make Killeen so special.

We have a lot of fun activities throughout the year at our Senior Center. To learn more about the Senior Center, visit www.killeentexas.gov/Seniors.



We broke ground on a new terminal building at Skylark Field Airport on Nov. 6. This 3,000 square foot terminal will include amenities like a break room, vending machines, complimentary coffee bar, conference room, pilots' lounge, charging stations, and solar panels. Thanks to everyone who came out to celebrate this milestone!

FAST TRACK ENLISTED PROMOTION & EARN RECRUITING RIBBON



SOLDIER REFERRAL PROGRAM

Refer a friend. If they enlist, you may qualify for advanced promotion.

To make a referral:

- Submit the referral's information through mobile submission: (1) Scan the QR code, or (2) text RFRL to GOARMY (462769).
- Qualified applicant provides necessary contact information. Soldier then adds his/her DoD ID number, first and last name.
- A referral must willingly provide his/her own information.
- By referring a potential applicant to the goarmy.com/refer website, your personal information (name, DODID#, phone number) may be collected as part of the referral and you may be contacted by the Army (via call and/or text) with updates regarding your referral's status.



- A valid referral enlists and ships to Basic Combat Training (BCT).
- Soldiers E-1 to 0-10 earn the Army Recruiting Ribbon upon their referral's shipment to Basic Training.
- Soldiers E-1 to E-3 can be promoted within 60 days of their referral's shipment.
- Soldiers E-4 and E-5 can earn 10 promotion points towards the next rank.

U.S. ARMY BE ALL YOU CAN BE. [GOARMY.COM](https://goarmy.com) →

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What is the CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizen's Police Academy is a 40-hour course conducted by the Killdeer Police Department. This course is designed to give the community a better understanding of police operations and procedures. Citizens attending the Academy will receive training in numerous topics within the department aiming to giving them the basic understanding and familiarity of police operations. The Citizens Police Academy is offered during the Spring and Fall seasons each year. The 12-week academy will meet one evening per week with a Saturday Session for Range Day. Range Day will be full day event scheduled at 8:30 AM.

WHO MAY ATTEND?

- Must be 18 or older
- Must pass a Background Check
- Must have a TX Drivers License
- If you live or work in the City of Killdeer and are a qualified applicant you will be given the next available seat based on capacity.



For more information about the next academy class contact

ERICA AURELIO

Crime Prevention Coordinator
254.501.8805

3304 Community Blvd
Killdeer, TX 76542
crimeprevention@killdeertexas.gov

Spring Enrollment Period will run from January 15th - February 15th

First Day of Class will be March 3, 2025

Scan this QR Code or visit our website for more information
<https://www.killdeertexas.gov/252/Crime-Prevention>



COURSE TOPICS

Organization
Organized Crime
Recruitment
Ride-A-Long
Crime Prevention
Hostage Negotiation
Victim's Assistance

Special Victims
Robbery-Homicide
Homeless Outreach
Patrol Division
Active Shooter
Internal Affairs
Police Dept Tour

Defensive Tactics
Police K-9
Traffic Unit
S.W.A.T.
Property Crimes
Bell County Communications
Community Engagement

STAY CONNECTED



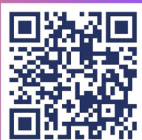
Website
www.killdeertexas.gov



Facebook
@KilldeerTexas



Instagram
@cityofkilldeer



Twitter
@cityofkilldeer



YouTube
@CityOfKilldeerTX



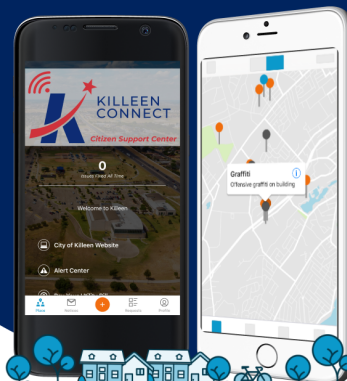
Sign up for
alerts!



Download the **Killeen Connect App** or go to
www.killeentexas.gov/killeenconnect to make non-emergency requests
(e.g. broken traffic light, a water leak, or a loose animal).

Get Connected. Get Involved. Get Results.

Killeen Connect is the fastest, easiest way for you to submit non-emergency requests to your community, stay updated, and initiate change in your community.



Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google play

SeeClickFix



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FOOD, BEVERAGE, & ENTERTAINMENT

- Alexander's Music Box**
313 North 8th Street
(254) 245-0101
- Clutch Bar & Grill**
224 East Avenue D
(254) 550-4787
- Gyro Stop**
413 North 10th Street
(254) 628-7734
- L'Etried Events**
307 East Avenue D
(737) 288-9945
- Los Vaqueros Restaurant**
615 2nd Street
(254) 226-3011
- Twice as Funny Comedy Lounge**
420 East Avenue C
(844) 441-1131
- Zodiac Bar & Grill**
516 North 8th Street
(254) 768-3663
- Brick & Barrel**
415 North Gray Street
(254) 526-6617
- Cuban Sandwich Shop**
102 East Avenue D
(254) 634-0022
- Henderson Family Restaurant**
415 East Avenue A
(254) 213-2610
- La Vaquita Snacks & Treats**
815 N 8th Street
Suite 200
(254) 213-2610
- The Mint of Killeen**
220 East Avenue D
(254) 226-3017
- Waffle Bear & Café Latino**
320 North 8th Street #307
(254) 786-0066
- 4T's Hookah Lounge**
129 North Gray Street
(254) 813-7458
- BBQ Hub**
815 North 8th Street
Suite 100
(254) 245-8579
- E-Center Killeen**
809 North Gray Street
(254) 702-8845
- Koba Woo**
332 East Avenue D
(254) 526-3065
- Let's Eat Texas**
207 East Avenue D
(254) 768-0106
- Sugars of Killeen**
306 North Gray Street
- Wycked Apple**
320 East Avenue D
(254) 345-6199

RETAIL

- Americans United Inc.**
414 North 8th Street
(512) 993-4466
- Christell's Flowers**
214 East Avenue B
(254) 526-6616
- Gifted Boutique Garden & Tea**
317 East Avenue D
- KNJ Chic Boutique**
114 North 4th Street
(254) 432-0814
- 405 Thrift**
405 East Avenue C
(254) 278-7578
- Antique Alley Estate Services & Appraisals**
315 North Gray Street
(254) 702-3487
- Frames and Things**
324 East Avenue D
(254) 226-3092
- God'Diva Fashionista**
207 North Gray Street
(254) 952-6689
- Pola Fashion**
330A East Avenue D
(254) 432-0814
- SGT Leavon Ritter Resale Center**
401 North 8th Street
(254) 203-5098
- Balfour's Mens Wear**
318 North Gray Street
(254) 634-1667
- Gift City**
202 North Gray Street
(254) 290-7974
- Killeen Nutritional Center (La Tienda)**
102 East Avenue D
(254) 634-0022

SELF CARE & BEAUTY

- 633 Chiropractic**
308 North Gray Street #B
(225) 522-1380
- Dolce Studios Salon Suites**
313 East Avenue C
(206) 939-9563
- Perfect Resultz Salon**
201 North 8th Street
(254) 238-6305
- Triune Gallery**
301 East Avenue D
(325) 518-5446
- Besos Aesthetics**
416 North Gray Street
(254) 630-4902
- J.R. Boxing Club**
203 East Avenue C
(254) 291-3347
- Premier Gentleman's Barbershop**
328 East Avenue C
(254) 251-3025
- Yokai Society**
311 North Gray Street
(254) 300-8267
- Buenas Vibras Yoga & Self Care Space**
334 East Avenue D
(718) 809-8579
- Kutz by Kolor Salon Barber Shop Suite B**
312 East Avenue B
(254) 317-5910
- Raquel's Beauty & Barber Salon**
409 North 8th Street
(254) 213-2118

EDUCATION & SERVICES

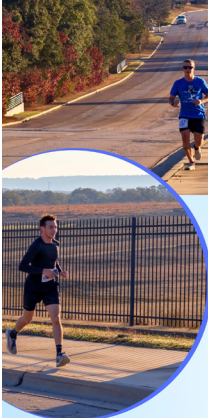
- Ariana's Learning Academy**
415 E Avenue D
(254) 913-0087
- The Ballroom**
417 North 8th Street
- Blades Barber Shop**
419 North 10th Street
(254) 699-3800
- Dorothy A. Ray Counseling Services**
308 North Gray Street
(254) 432-4338
- Gold Star Finance**
309 North 10th Street
Suite #103
(254) 231-3078
- Harris Law Office**
425 North 8th Street
(254) 526-0108
- Isbell Property Maintenance**
312 North Gray Street
(254) 432-7030
- Killeen Pharmacy & Compounding Lab**
218 East Avenue B
(254) 247-3979
- Lott, Vernon & Co., P.C.**
109 East Avenue B
(254) 526-0571
- Primerica**
217 East Avenue D
(254) 699-6110
- Solix Customer Care**
402 East Avenue D
(254) 523-3736
- Spartan Energy**
300 North 8th Street
(832) 240-8091
- World Finance**
319 North 8th Street
(254) 526-3121
- Armed Services YMCA**
415 North 8th Street
(254) 690-9622
- The Balladaires Group Realty Company/Property Management**
420 North Gray Street
Suites #101-103
(254) 630-8850
- Capital Uprise Corporation Accounting & Taxation**
420 North Gray Street
Suites 211-213
(254) 669-9174
- eXp Realty**
315 North 8th Street
(254) 535-9010
- Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce**
1 Santa Fe Plaza Drive
(254) 526-9551
- Hustle House Realty**
329 East 8th Street
(254) 290-1857
- Jo Luis Corporation**
215 East Avenue D
(254) 634-8203
- Killeen Creators**
701 North 10 Street
(254) 213-2210
- Mello Vapes**
309 North 10th Street
Suite #104
(254) 213-3624
- Proper Title**
420 North Gray Street
Suites #207-209
(254) 245-8337
- Solix Training Center**
200 East Avenue D
(254) 523-3736
- Strayer University**
111 Santa Fe Plaza Dr
(254) 415-4050
- Southwestern Coaches Inc.**
200 East Avenue C
(254) 634-3843
- WIC**
111 Santa Fe Plaza Dr
(254) 532-9800
- Young's Beauty Salon**
309 North 10th Street
Suite #101
(254) 526-8585
- Austin Finance Co.**
331 East Avenue D
(254) 526-0775
- Big Chief Distributing**
114 East Avenue D
(254) 634-5421
- Central Texas Behavioral Solutions**
315 East Avenue D
(254) 554-1466
- Farmers Insurance**
311 North 8th Street
(254) 526-4447
- Hacienda Texas Realty**
211 East Avenue D
(254) 466-0892
- Innovation Black Chamber of Commerce**
205 East Avenue D
(254) 415-9951
- Khanetic Images**
308 East Avenue D
(254) 282-5800
- Learn and Place Center**
711 North 8th Street
(254) 781-7529
- Pioneer Roofing**
300 North 8th Street
Suite #103
(254) 458-4225
- Ray Garner General Contractor**
420 N Gray St Suite 206
(254) 247-6555



National Family Volunteer Day



We had about 50 volunteers come out to help keep Killeen clean on Nov. 23 for Family Volunteer Day. Their efforts make a big difference in preserving our parks and keeping Killeen clean. Special shoutout to our Youth Advisory Commission for lending a hand and leading by example. We are happy to offer these opportunities for those interested in helping to beautify our city. Want to get involved? Visit www.killeentexas.gov/volunteer for more opportunities.






HALF MARA-FUN

SATURDAY, JAN. 4, 2025 @ 8 AM

Purser Heritage Hike & Bike Trail (8001 Pyrite Drive)

Conquer 13.1 MILES!

REGISTER NOW THROUGH DEC. 30, 2024!

WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/CENTEX

Race packets may be picked up at the Family Recreation Center on Jan. 2 & 3 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Race day registration and packet pickup will be from 7-7:45 a.m. at the race site.

Medals awarded to ALL participants who finish as well as the top three male and female in each age group and top male and female overall.

T-shirts guaranteed for first 100 registered runners.



centextrace@killeentexas.gov (254) 501-6390





Volunteer!

Get involved. Make a difference.

The City of Killeen offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for ages 16 and up.

Opportunities include:

- Parks & Recreation (Senior Center, Special Events, Athletic Coaching)
- Community Cleanup
- Downtown Events
- Animal Shelter
- Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

www.killeentexas.gov/volunteer



The 2025 Save the Date list of events is out! Take a pic and save this to your Favorites on your phone, or simply hang it on the refrigerator. Either way, you'll want to lock in these dates!



JAN 20	MLK DAY WALK (NAACP) Downtown Killeen CITY SUPPORTED	AUG 09	BACK 2 SCHOOL SPLASH BASH Family Aquatic Center
JAN 25	LIBRARY LEGO DAY Killeen Civic & Conference Center	SEP 06	BOW WOW LUAU Family Aquatic Center
FEB 21	DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE Killeen Civic & Conference Center	SEP 06	TOUCHDOWN IN DOWNTOWN Downtown Killeen
FEB 22	MOTOWN IN DOWNTOWN Downtown Killeen	OCT 03	FALL NIGHT MARKET (BEGINS) Downtown Killeen
MAR 08	LOVE YOUR PARK DAY TBD	OCT 04	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WALK Lions Club Park
APR 05	SPRING FEST Lions Club Park	OCT 04	FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE Central Fire Station
APR 11	SPRING NIGHT MARKET (BEGINS) Downtown Killeen	OCT 07	NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Citywide
APR 25	NATIONAL ARBOR DAY TBD	OCT 17	FALL FEST TBD
APR 26	CELEBRATE KILLEEN FESTIVAL Downtown Killeen	OCT 25	KPD DRIVE-THRU TRUNK-OR-TREAT Killeen Police Department Headquarters
MAY 03	FALLEN HEROES 5K Purser Heritage Hike & Bike Trail	NOV 01	TURKEY TROT 5K Stonetree Golf Club
MAY 15	RODEO KILLEEN (BEGINS) Killeen Special Events Center CITY SUPPORTED	NOV 07	TEXAS ARBOR DAY TBD
MAY 26	MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery	NOV 11	VETERANS DAY PARADE Downtown Killeen CITY SUPPORTED
JUN TBD	JUNETEENTH PARADE & FESTIVAL Downtown Killeen CITY SUPPORTED	DEC 05	CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING Downtown Killeen
JUN 27	MOVIES IN YOUR PARK (BEGINS) Killeen Athletic Complex	DEC 06	JINGLE BELL DASH 5K Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail
JUL 05	RED, WHITE, & BLUE MUSIC FESTIVAL Downtown Killeen	DEC 13	CHRISTMAS PARADE & FESTIVAL Downtown Killeen
JUL 26	CALIENTE 5K Long Branch Park	DEC 20	HALF MARA-FUN Purser Heritage Hike & Bike Trail