

JANUARY | 2025

# K-BEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF KILLEEN



NEW YEAR  
NEW BEAT

LIBRARY  
LEGO DAY

EMPLOYEE  
SPOTLIGHT

STATE OF  
THE CITY

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We have a fresh set of 365 days to continue growing our city and making Killeen one of the best spots for residents and families. The future is bright for our community. This year, we plan to reopen the Community Center as a combined Rosa Hereford center and Bob Gilmore Senior Center by this summer. The new Fire Station #4 and Emergency Operations Center is due to open in the fall. The Bell County Annex is moving downtown this year, bringing 400 new jobs and subcontracting opportunities, as well as a lot more foot traffic to the downtown district. The Southern Roots Brewing Company is a highly-anticipated business due to open its doors in Historic Downtown before this summer. Construction is continuing on the new, 200-acre Anthem Park area, that will be a mixed-use development of entertainment, business and housing. Other projects due to be completed by this summer are the MGC Pure Chemicals business, Bell County Glass and the USAMM company.

As we look ahead, we also want to celebrate the 2024 successes across our city. We began work on three major road projects (Bunny Trail, Watercrest, Gilmore), with solid plans for five more. We invested in dozens of park improvements, including new hydration stations, equipment, solar lights, renovated basketball courts, features like climbing walls and shade structures, and more. We celebrated 20 years of what's now known as the Killeen Regional Airport, supporting the opening of the Station 42 Apartments in North Killeen, installing Purple Heart signs across the city in honor of our special veterans, and entering into an Army partnership to guarantee eligible soldiers job interviews with the City.

Killeen was recently ranked in the top ten of the best places to live in Texas, according to U.S. News and World Report, which assessed quality of life, value, desirability and job market. There are more than 1,200 cities in our state, so that's no small feat. As we reflect on our successes and look ahead to the future, we will continue to strive to be a place everyone wants to call home.



*Delbi Noah King*



# NEW YEAR, NEW

# Beat

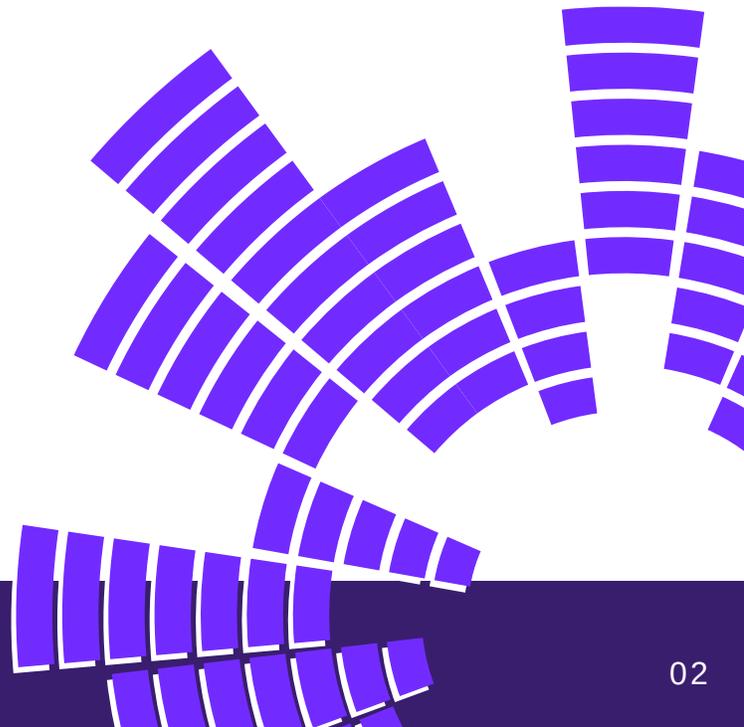
As we ring in 2025, the City of Killeen is excited to introduce K-Beat. This magazine-style publication is your essential guide to staying in sync with what's happening in your city government, from the latest city projects and events to important updates and stories that matter to you.

Why K-Beat? The name reflects the pulse of our city—its progress, people, and vibrant community spirit. Just as a heartbeat signifies life, K-Beat connects you to what's shaping Killeen today.

In every issue, you'll find a mix of city news, event information, ways to get involved, and more. Whether you're looking for updates on public safety, new developments, or exciting activities, K-Beat has you covered.

K-Beat serves as a supplemental resource for information. We provide daily updates on events, programs, and services on our website at [www.killeentexas.gov](http://www.killeentexas.gov), through our social media platforms, and by press release to media and partner organizations.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and happy reading!





# Library LEGO Day



Mark your calendars for the much-anticipated LEGO Day, hosted by the Killeen Public Library. This free event is set for January 25 at the Killeen Civic & Conference Center at 3601 South W.S. Young Drive.

LEGO Day is an annual celebration of creativity and imagination and has become a beloved event for the Killeen community. Last year, nearly 1,800 attendees enjoyed LEGO challenges, fun games, and impressive displays that inspired builders of all ages.

[libraryprograms@killeentexas.gov](mailto:libraryprograms@killeentexas.gov)

(254) 501-7872

## New Year, New You at the FRC

The Family Recreation Center at Lions Club Park recently got a major upgrade with brand new equipment, and now the facility is ready to help you start 2025 on the right track.

To celebrate the New Year, Killeen Parks & Recreation invites existing members to bring a friend for free now through January 17.

Memberships are flexible and affordable, with monthly and annual membership options tailored for families, adults, seniors, and youth, along with a day pass option for \$5 per day. Members can enjoy a weight room, cardio equipment, basketball courts, aerobics room, and an indoor track.

The FRC is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 12 to 6 p.m. For more info, visit [www.killeentexas.gov/rec](http://www.killeentexas.gov/rec) or call (254) 501-6390.



## State of the City - Jan. 21

Mayor Debbie Nash-King will deliver this year's State of the City address on Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (101 North College Street). The address also be viewed live on Spectrum Channel 10 and online at [www.killeentexas.gov/councilmeetings](http://www.killeentexas.gov/councilmeetings).

## RAISING FUNDS FOR UNITED WAY

The City of Killeen raised an impressive \$80,000 for United Way, thanks to the generosity of our employees. Our Communications & Marketing Department also cooked up \$1,000 more with a fun Ultimate Baked Potato Lunch Sale! Every dollar helps support local families, mentor youth, and provide vital food assistance through our local United Way chapter.



## HALF MARA-FUN

On January 4, runners participated in the Half Mara-Fun at the Purser Heritage Hike & Bike Trail. Every finisher received a medal, recognizing their achievement in completing the 13.1-mile challenge.



## CTC COMMENCEMENT

Mayor Debbie Nash-King was honored to deliver the commencement speech for recent graduates from Central Texas College.



## STAR AWARD



*Celebrating Bettie Ann McLaurin*

The late Bettie Ann McLaurin was posthumously awarded the Star Award, which was accepted by her husband, in recognition of her significant dedication, service, and leadership. Bettie received numerous military honors, including the Army Service Ribbon. She founded a childcare center, co-founded Solution One Industries, Inc., and supported organizations such as The Boys and Girls Club and The Erica White Foundation. Additionally, she established The Branch Foundation to empower teenage mothers.





## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - AVIS WHITE

Since joining the City Attorney’s Office in March 2022 as a paralegal, Avis White has been an integral part of ensuring Public Information Act (PIA) requests are processed with precision and care. Her ability to adapt to changing policies, navigate complex laws, and maintain exceptional service has made her an invaluable member of the team. Avis was recently recognized as Employee of the the Quarter.

Avis finds joy in the complexity of Texas law and cherishes the camaraderie of her close-knit team. She and her husband first moved to Killeen in 2008 to be near family, later living in Maryland and Ohio before returning in 2019. Her hobbies include creating vegetarian dishes, interior design, and thrift shopping. She’s a jazz enthusiast and a big fan of Nigerian R&B, especially Tems. With a love for travel and a knack for laughter, Avis keeps her husband’s memory close. “Though he is gone and my heart still aches terribly, I find a reason to laugh every day!”



“  
**LAUGHTER**  
**HEALS** THE SOUL  
”

# HOLIDAY UNDER THE STARS

Killeen's Holiday Under the Stars featured three festive events in December:

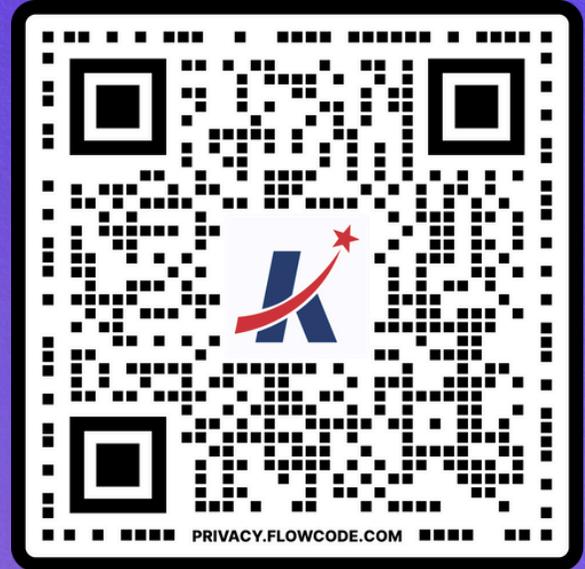
- Dec. 6: The Christmas Tree Lighting attracted hundreds with choir performances, hot chocolate, s'mores, and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.
- Dec. 7: The Jingle Bell Dash 5K at Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail encouraged runners to "Outrun the Grinch," with medals for top finishers.
- Dec. 14: The series concluded with the Festival of Holidays and the 61st Annual Christmas Parade in Historic Downtown, offering live performances, a snow maze, interactive rides, and a parade with festive floats and marching bands.



Holiday  
Under the   
 stars 



SCAN FOR OUR EVENT CALENDAR



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



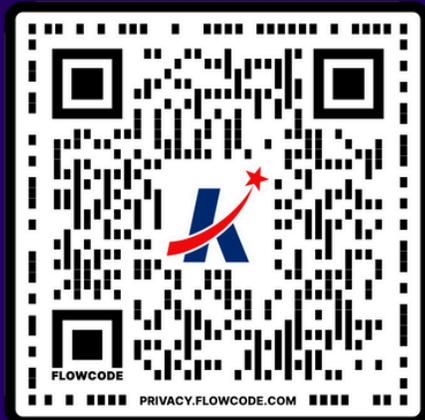
[WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/EVENTS](http://WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/EVENTS)

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 3 P.M.

- KILLEEN CITY HALL**  
101 NORTH COLLEGE STREET
- [www.killeentexas.gov/councilmeetings](http://www.killeentexas.gov/councilmeetings)
- On air with Spectrum Channel 10

## GET ALERTS!



## DOWNLOAD KILLEEN CONNECT

AVAILABLE ON APPLE & ANDROID

[WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV](http://WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV)

- @KilleenTexas
- @cityofkilleen
- @cityofkilleen
- @CityOfKilleenTX

[WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/NOTIFYME](http://WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/NOTIFYME)