

K-BEAT

FEBRUARY | 2025

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF KILLEEN

**WILDFIRE
RESPONSE**

**PARKS & REC
EMPLOYEE
SPOTLIGHT**

**CELEBRATING
MLK**

**MOTOWN
IN DOWNTOWN**



Cover photo from Motown in Downtown 2024

www.killeentexas.gov

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mahatma Ghandi is quoted encouraging everyone to, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." I come across citizens daily who are, or try to be, engaged with the City, from volunteering at events, to joining a board or committee. I also encounter those who complain without providing constructive ideas or possible solutions. We welcome your input and suggestions for improvement as the City Council is here to serve the community. Citizens can find our phone numbers and email addresses on the City's website at www.KilleenTexas.gov/Council.

Since both Council and staff are not able to be everywhere at all times, we need to hear from citizens who can make us aware of blind spots and opportunities. Our city also always needs citizens who can step up and, "Be the change they wish to see." If the City is not hosting a certain event you want, perhaps you can try to host it (and even partner with the City to do so). If a program you're seeking does not exist, perhaps you can create it and work with the City to help you develop it.

Not only do we encourage citizens to take the lead on projects, the City helps provide resources whenever possible. We want to empower citizens to be proactive and show compassion to their neighbors and communities.

In my Feb. 18 State of the City address, I'll highlight the many accomplishments and successes of our local government over the last year, and I'll also point out the challenges and opportunities. It will take everyone in our city uniting in order to rise to the next level in Killeen.

Staff has already made significant progress in our Killeen 2040 "Moving Forward" Comprehensive Plan, with over half of the 20-year projects already started or completed in just the first two years. My motto this year is, "Making progress, Forward Focused," and if we all come together and work toward the same goal, I have no doubt we will far exceed our plans.



Delhi Naah King



CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE RESPONSE

Three Killeen firefighters traveled to southern California to support firefighting efforts as wildfires raged across Los Angeles County. They were deployed as part of an Emergency Management Assistance Compact request through the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Killeen Fire Chief Jim Kubinski emphasized the department's commitment to aiding those in need, saying, "As firefighters, our commitment knows no borders. When communities are in crisis, we step up to support one another."

“ **OUR COMMITMENT KNOWS NO BORDERS** ”

The City of Killeen is grateful for the firefighters who represented the community with courage and dedicated service. Community members showed an outpouring of support and well-wishes for the team as they took on this critical mission.



Pictured above are Killeen firefighters Jason Wuest, Marcus Stillwell, and Chris Poston, along with Morgan's Point firefighter Kathrine Myers.

4TH ANNUAL Motown in Downtown FEBRUARY 22

Dust off your dancing shoes because Motown in Downtown is making a comeback! On Saturday, Feb. 22, from 4 to 8 p.m., Historic Downtown Killeen will come alive with the soulful sounds of the 60s and 70s. This annual favorite is all about celebrating community, music, and the rhythm of our city.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, A BEST DRESSED COMPETITION, THE CLASSIC CAR SHOWCASE, VENDORS AND DELICIOUS FOOD TRUCKS.



If you've been before, you know this event is all about bringing the magic of Motown to life. Our local artists sing and dance to Motown hits, while everyone channels their inner fashion icon with the grooviest retro outfits! Feast your eyes on an impressive lineup of vintage cars that are just as iconic as the music, then browse unique local goods and treat your taste buds to some delicious local cuisine. Don't miss your chance to be part of this unforgettable celebration of the music that defined an era.

www.killeentexas.gov/downtownevents





Daddy Daughter Dance

Step into an enchanted kingdom at the annual Daddy Daughter Dance! This beloved tradition is designed to celebrate the special bond between fathers and daughters. It's set for Friday, Feb. 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Killeen Civic & Conference Center.

The evening will feature dancing, a photo booth, face painting and more. Tickets are \$50 per daddy/daughter pair and \$25 for each additional daughter. Tickets went on sale Jan. 21 and are available at www.killeentexas.gov/REC while supplies last.

This event is a cherished favorite for families and is open to daughters ages 4-12.

www.killeentexas.gov/rec
(254) 501-6390

Discover Your Roots INTRO TO GENEALOGY

Ever wondered about your family's history? The Killeen Public Library is giving people a chance to dive into their ancestry with a free workshop designed to help explore their heritage. It's Saturday, February 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Killeen Main Library.

In partnership with the Bell County Genealogical Society, this event will guide participants through the basics of genealogy research, offering tips and resources to uncover family stories and build a family tree.

All levels of interest are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptops or tablets to make the most of the experience.

www.killeentexas.gov/libraries
(254) 501-8996

Employee Spotlight

Leonta Brown-Lewis

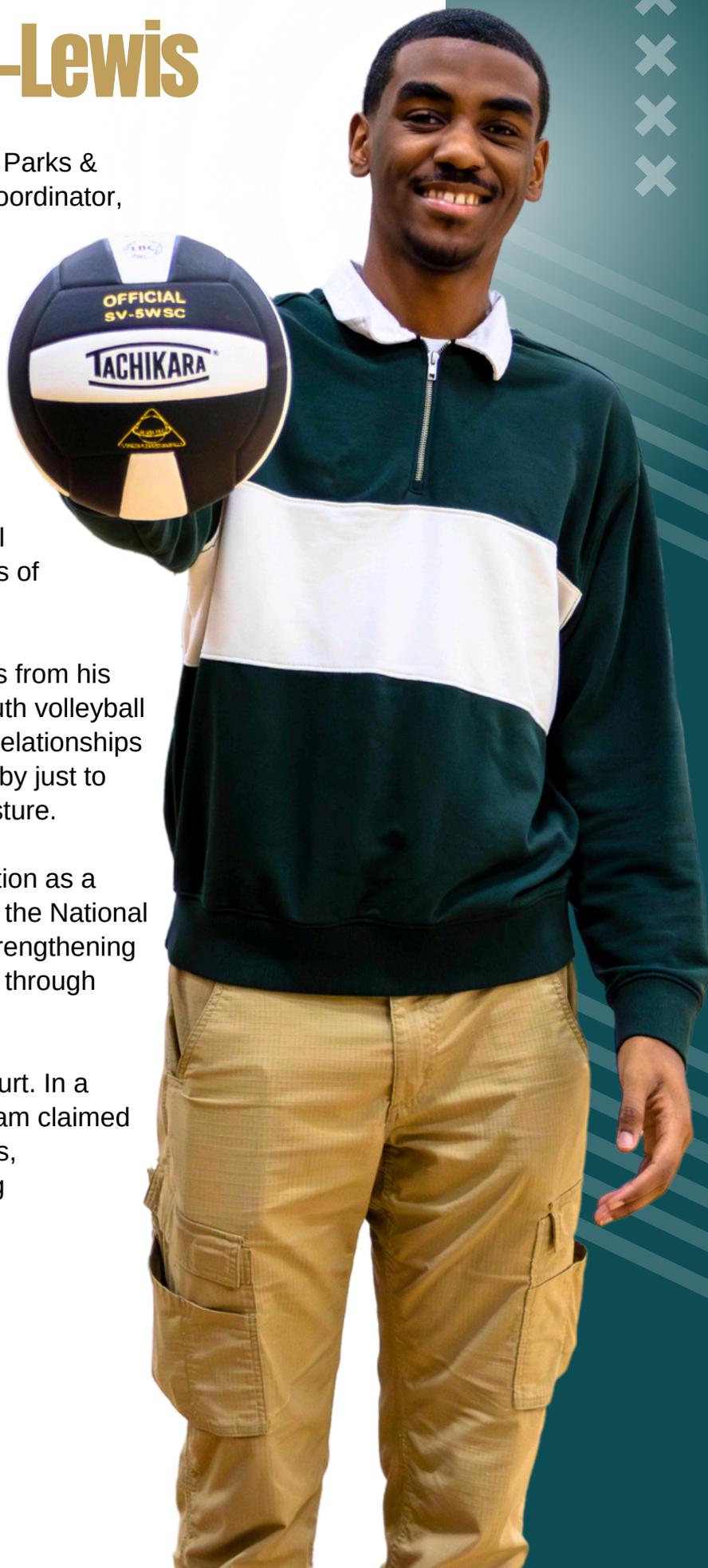
Meet Leonta Brown-Lewis from our Parks & Recreation team! As an Athletics Coordinator, Leonta plans, supervises and facilitates youth and adult sports leagues. He's been with the department since January 2022.

His passion for sports and creating positive environments shines through in his work. "My favorite part of the job is meeting new people and maintaining a joyful environment for players and families of our community," Brown-Lewis said.

One of his favorite memories comes from his time working with parents in the youth volleyball league. He recalls building deeper relationships with families, who would often stop by just to chat or bring him food as a kind gesture.

Leonta recently earned his certification as a Youth Sports Administrator through the National Alliance for Youth Sports, further strengthening his ability to support the community through athletics programs.

Leonta is talented on and off the court. In a recent volleyball tournament, his team claimed the first place victory. Beyond sports, Leonta enjoys video games, playing instruments, and jazz music.



YOUTH SPORTS

Spring youth sports registration is now open. Upcoming youth leagues include baseball (ages 7-14), softball (ages 7-15), co-ed kickball (ages 3-5), and co-ed t-ball (ages 5-6).

Register now through February 22 online or in-person at the Family Recreation Center.

www.killeentexas.gov/athletics
(254) 501-6390



NOW HIRING LIFEGUARDS

Applications are now open for our summer seasonal jobs. Positions include lifeguards, pool managers, water safety instructors and more. Must be 16 years or older to apply.

www.killeentexas.gov/jobs

CELEBRATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

The City of Killeen was honored to join the Killeen NAACP on Jan. 20 as they hosted the MLK March to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



LEGO DAY

This year's LEGO Day at the Killeen Civic & Conference Center was one to remember! Nearly 1,800 people came out to engage, explore and create with the world's most famous building block!

www.killeentexas.gov/libraries

SCAN FOR OUR EVENT CALENDAR



JAN 20	MLK DAY MARCH (NAACP) Downtown Killeen <small>CITY SUPPORTED</small>	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 <small>CITY SUPPORTED</small>	NOV 07	TEXAS ARBOR DAY TBD
MAY 26	MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery	NOV 11	VETERANS DAY PARADE Downtown Killeen <small>CITY SUPPORTED</small>
JUN 21	JUNETEENTH PARADE & FESTIVAL Downtown Killeen <small>CITY SUPPORTED</small>	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



WWW.KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/EVENTS



PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

KILLEEN CITY HALL
101 NORTH COLLEGE STREET

www.killeentexas.gov/councilmeetings

On air with Spectrum Channel 10

GET ALERTS!



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