

NOVEMBER | 2025

K-BEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF KILLEEN



KILLEEN RODEO OF THE YEAR
SKYLARK FIELD SET FOR TAKEOFF
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT W/ CHAD BLACK
HOLIDAY UNDER THE STARS



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I'm thrilled to announce the grand opening of the new Skylark terminal building at our airport. This milestone is not just about infrastructure; it signifies our commitment to growth and connectivity within our community.

The new terminal will enhance our airport's capacity and efficiency, making travel more convenient for everyone. It embodies our shared vision for a connected future, improving access for travelers and bolstering local businesses through increased tourism and economic activity. For more details about our airport, be sure to visit flygrk.com.

I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in our Fall Festival, Fall Night Market, the Fire Department's Grand Opening of Fire Station 4, the Veterans Day Parade, and the Turkey Trot 5K. Your involvement strengthens our community spirit and engagement.

As we look toward the holiday season, I'm excited to celebrate together at our winter events, including the Jingle Bell Dash, Half MaraFun, and the Holiday Under the Stars Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade. Thank you for all that you do to make our community vibrant and welcoming. Wishing you all holiday cheer and joy!

Delbi Noah King





PHOTO CREDIT: GARVER

SKYLARK FIELD ALL SET FOR TAKEOFF

The City of Killeen officially opened the doors to the brand-new Skylark Field Airport Terminal, marking a major milestone for the City's Aviation Department and the growing general aviation community in Central Texas.

The 3,000-square-foot facility was designed with both comfort and innovation in mind. It features a pilots' lounge, conference room, complimentary coffee bar, charging stations, solar panels, and other modern amenities to better serve visitors.

Adding a touch of excitement to the ribbon cutting ceremony, a skydiver delivered the keys to the new facility from above.

Skylark Field is home to 64 based aircraft, 48 hangars, several aviation-related businesses, and averages around 1,500 aircraft operations per month. The terminal also supports aviation education through Central Texas College, where future pilots and aviation professionals receive hands-on training. With the new terminal now open, Skylark Field is ready to welcome a new generation of aviators, travelers, and innovators to Killeen.



CHAD BLACK

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



For the past decade, Chad Black has been the kind of teammate every department wants in their corner. He's dependable, versatile, and always ready to jump into action.

As a Heavy Equipment Operator with Public Works, Chad does far more than his title suggests. In any given week, he could be hauling heavy machinery, clearing debris after a storm, or responding to emergencies with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

"Some days I'm turning wrenches in the shop, the next I'm in the field running dozers to help the Fire Department," Chad said.

Chad started with the City of Killeen just out of high school and has spent the last 10 years stepping up whenever help is needed. He's worked fires, sinkholes, tornado relief, the "Snovid" winter storm, and even assisted during the COVID-19 pandemic. He's volunteered for nearly every deployment, sometimes pulling 16-hour shifts without hesitation.

His hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. In 2023, Chad was named Public Works Employee of the Year, Mowing & Drainage Employee of the Year, and Employee of the Quarter in the same year.

Outside of work, Chad spends time with his wife, Chelsey, and their four-year-old son. They love going rock crawling on weekends. He's also a proud member of the Rodeo Killeen Committee. Through emergency response, daily field work, and a commitment to step in wherever needed, Chad proves that public service is more than a job—it's a mindset.

RODEO KILLEEN NAMED 2025 MEDIUM RODEO OF THE YEAR

Rodeo Killeen is riding high after being named the 2025 Medium Rodeo of the Year by the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA).

The award was voted on by the women who compete in rodeos across the country and recognizes events that go above and beyond to support athletes and grow the sport. Rodeo Killeen earned top honors for its commitment to excellence, its welcoming atmosphere, and its strong community partnership with the City of Killeen.



The award will be officially presented in Las Vegas on December 4 of this year, during the WPRA's annual ceremony celebrating women in professional rodeo.

Fans can already mark their calendars... The next rodeo is tentatively scheduled for May 14 through May 16 at the Killeen Rodeo Arena, located at 3301 South WS Young Drive.



"We are incredibly proud of Rodeo Killeen to receive this award from the WPRA," said Amanda Wilkinson, Director of the Killeen Convention and Visitors Bureau. "This recognition beautifully highlights the dedication and passion of the Rodeo Killeen team for the sport. The City of Killeen has partnered with Rodeo Killeen for more than a decade, and we look forward to continuing to grow and promote the sport while hosting exceptional events in the heart of Killeen."





HOLIDAY UNDER THE STARS FESTIVAL & TREE LIGHTING

 FRIDAY, DEC. 5 @ 6 P.M.

 DOWNTOWN KILLEEN

Downtown Killeen will once again shine bright as the Holiday Under the Stars Festival & Tree Lighting returns on Friday, December 5.

This cherished community tradition brings thousands together each year to celebrate the start of the holiday season. Families can enjoy festive music, local vendors, delicious food, and activities for all ages—all leading up to the moment when the City's Christmas tree lights up the heart of downtown.

killeentexas.gov/downtownevents

CHRISTMAS PARADE

 SATURDAY, DEC. 13 @ 6 P.M.

 DOWNTOWN KILLEEN

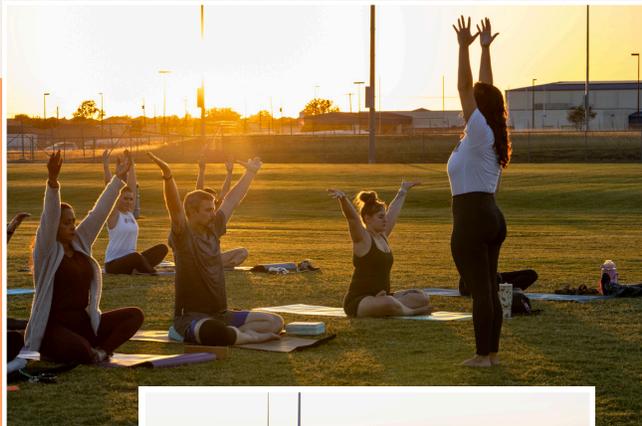
The 62nd annual Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 13, at 6 p.m. Hosted by the Killeen Parks & Recreation Department, this beloved community event brings families, schools, and organizations together to celebrate the spirit of the season.

This year's theme, Cinematic Christmas, invites participants to showcase floats inspired by favorite holiday movies. The parade is free to attend and open to the public.

killeentexas.gov/rec



Exciting Community News



Unplug Texas Day

The City of Killeen celebrated the first official Unplug Texas Day on October 21 with a free, sunset yoga session at Lions Club Park. The statewide initiative, created by the Texas Legislature, encourages residents to take a break from screens and enjoy the outdoors. Participation exceeded expectations, with dozens of residents enjoying an hour of mindful movement. The event was led by Ms. Shauntelle of Buenas Vibras, who guided attendees through a relaxing flow designed to help everyone unwind and recharge.

Fire Department Open House

The Killeen Fire Department hosted its annual Open House at the new Fire Station 4, giving families the chance to meet local firefighters, tour the facility, and enjoy live fire demonstrations, obstacle courses, and safety activities. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Charge Into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your House," emphasized the importance of understanding and safely using battery-powered devices in everyday life.



Fall Fest

Killeen turned out in record numbers for this year's Fall Fest, with more than 5,500 people filling the Killeen Special Events Center for an evening of games, food, and fall fun. The event marked the largest Fall Fest to date, thanks to the incredible support of the community, vendors, volunteers, and the Parks & Recreation team that brought it all together.

CITY OF KILLEEN PARKS & RECREATION

Christmas Parade

Saturday, Dec. 13 @ 6 p.m.

Enter your parade float at KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/REC
Now through Nov. 7



JOIN TEAM KILLEEN TODAY!



KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/JOBS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

 **KILLEEN CITY HALL**
101 NORTH COLLEGE STREET

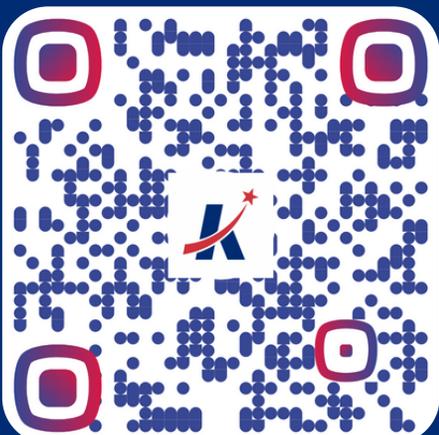
 killeentexas.gov/councilmeetings

 On air with Spectrum Channel 10

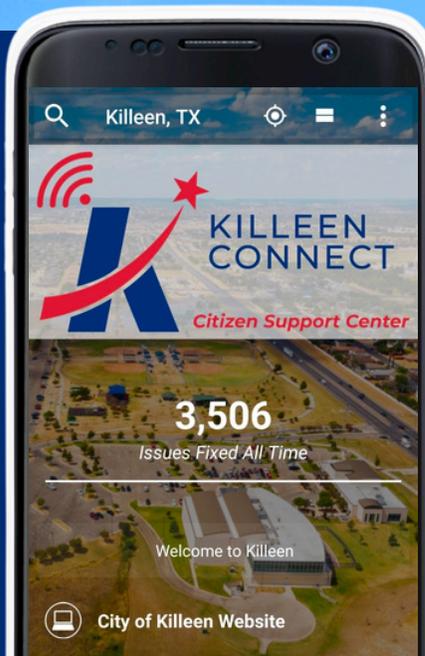
EVENT CALENDAR



GET ALERTS!



KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/NOTIFYME



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