

DECEMBER | 2025

# K-BEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF KILLEEN



**DOWNTOWN KILLEEN'S MOMENTUM  
HOLIDAY UNDER THE STARS  
INTERN SPOTLIGHT W/ HANNA KIM  
2025 CITIZEN SURVEY**



[www.killeentexas.gov](http://www.killeentexas.gov)

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As December arrives, our city shines bright with gratitude and celebration.

This season is always a special time to reflect on how far we've come and look ahead with hope and excitement for the new year. From honoring our heroes during the annual Veterans Day Parade to sharing community spirit at the Giving Thanks Luncheon and Turkey Trot, your participation and support have made these moments truly meaningful. Thank you to every resident, volunteer, and organization who continues to show what community pride looks like in Killeen.

Now, we turn our eyes toward the sparkle of the season with Holiday Under the Stars — our annual tree lighting, festival, and grand parade that brings families, friends, and neighbors together in celebration. These events capture the joy, generosity, and unity that define us as a city.

As we close out the year, let's carry that same energy, kindness, and community spirit into the new year ahead. From all of us at the City of Killeen — thank you for making this season bright, and here's to an inspiring start to 2026!

*Delbi Noah King*





## DOWNTOWN KILLEEN'S MOMENTUM HITS TWO MAJOR MILESTONES

Downtown Killeen closes out the year with two statewide recognitions that highlight both its historic roots and its future as a growing economic center.

The Texas Historical Commission has officially designated Killeen as a Texas Main Street city, a milestone that connects our community to a statewide network dedicated to downtown revitalization, preservation, and economic growth. Beginning January 1, Killeen will receive access to specialized support in urban design, historic preservation, planning, and organizational development, all aimed at strengthening the heart of the city.

The Main Street designation follows Killeen's successful completion of the First Street Initiative, an important planning phase that prepares communities for full program participation. Since 1981, the Texas Main Street Program has helped 177 Texas cities generate more than \$6.5 billion in reinvestment, supporting job creation, small-business growth, and long-term downtown sustainability.

"This recognition aligns with the work already underway to restore our historic character and strengthen downtown's role as a center for business and community," said Downtown Revitalization Director Kate Kizito. "It marks the next step in building a downtown that reflects Killeen's identity and potential."



Killeen also earned top honors from Texas Downtown this month. The City and Southern Roots Brewing Company received the 2025 President's Award for Best Economic Game Changer for the major redevelopment of the former Hack's Army Western Wear building. The once-vacant mid-century structure has been transformed into a lively brewery that now accounts for 10 percent of all downtown visits, according to Placer.ai data.

The project set the tone for a new era of investment. Since its completion, Downtown Killeen has seen more than \$15 million in private reinvestment, rising property values, new businesses, restored historic buildings, and expanding public art. Southern Roots' redevelopment became a catalyst, turning an abandoned building into a community anchor and demonstrating the power of public-private partnerships.

"This project restored belief in what Downtown Killeen can be," Kizito said. "Southern Roots set the tone for a new era of creativity, partnership, and economic vitality."

The Best Economic Game Changer category recognizes projects that have significantly strengthened a downtown district's economy through creative partnerships, redevelopment, and incentive programs. Awards are presented in population brackets, and Killeen received top honors in the *Over-50,000 Population* category for cities across Texas.





## CHRISTMAS EVENTS



### DEC. 5 - HOLIDAY UNDER THE STARS FESTIVAL & TREE LIGHTING

Downtown Killeen will shine bright as the Holiday Under the Stars Festival and Tree Lighting returns on Friday, December 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. This community tradition brings thousands together each year to celebrate the start of the holiday season. Enjoy festive music, local vendors, delicious food, and activities for all ages.

### DEC. 6 - JINGLE BELL DASH 5K

Kick off the holidays with a rock-and-roll twist by running, walking, or strutting your stuff in festive race gear! Race starts at 8 a.m. and will be held at the Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail located at 2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd. Medals will be awarded to top finishers in each age group as well as to the overall male and female winners.

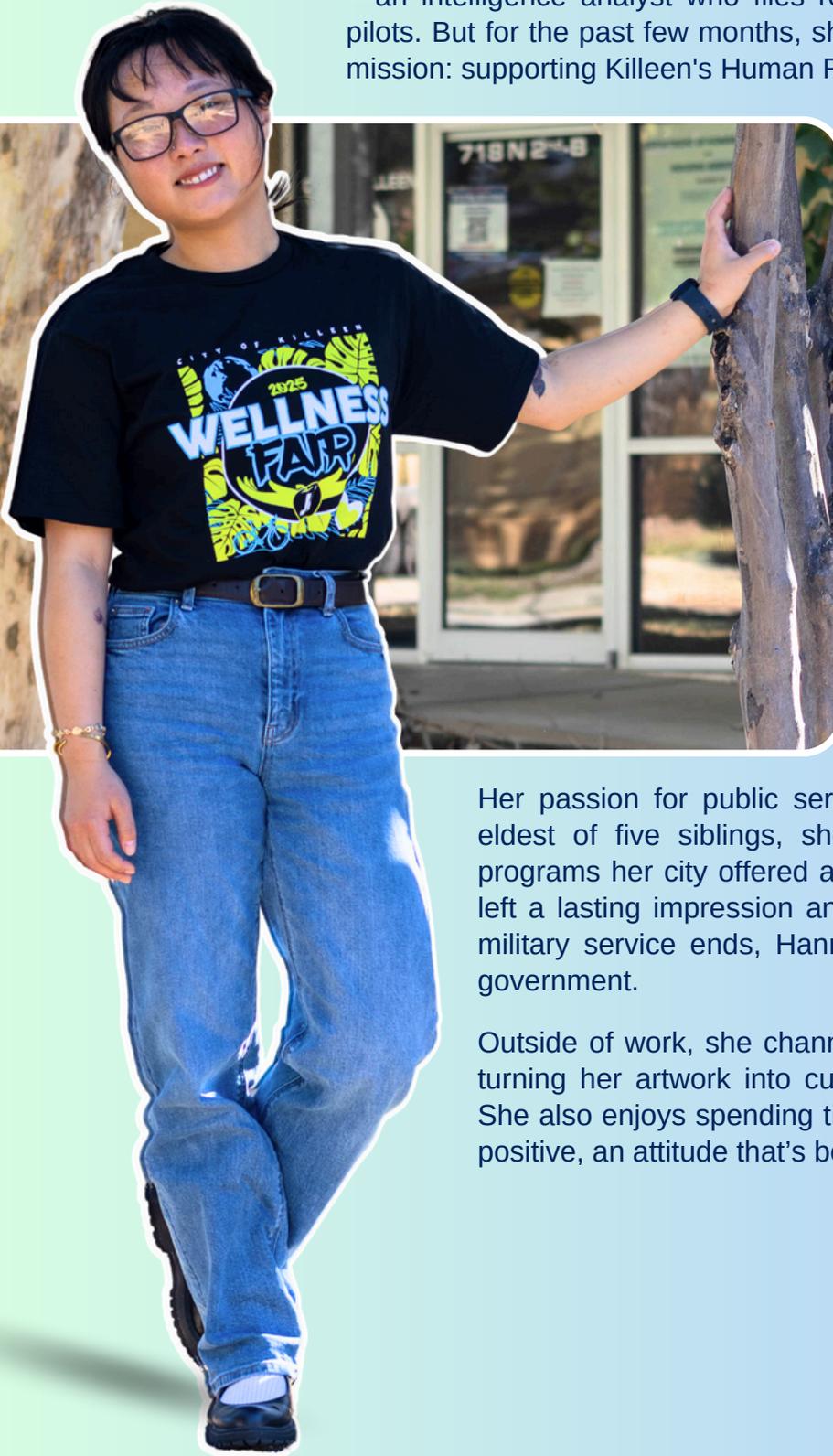
### DEC. 13 - 62<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas Parade rolls through Downtown Killeen on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. This beloved event brings families, schools, and organizations together to celebrate the spirit of the season. This year's theme is a Cinematic Christmas. The event is free and open to the public.

# HANNA KIM

## TEAM KILLEEN SPOTLIGHT

Human Resources Intern, Hanna, joined the City of Killeen through the Army's Career Skills Program, a transitional opportunity that allows active-duty soldiers to explore civilian careers. She serves as a 35G in the military—an intelligence analyst who flies reconnaissance missions in support of pilots. But for the past few months, she's been navigating a different kind of mission: supporting Killeen's Human Resources team.



Hanna's energy and discipline have made an immediate impact. She's helped rework job descriptions for better clarity, organized records and archives, and even pitched in on citywide events like Employee Field Day, where she helped coordinate logistics, design flyers, craft decorations, and take inventory. She's also been part of team planning for events like Spirit Week.

"I've always loved helping people," Hanna said. "I think that carries into real life. Whether it's friends, fellow soldiers, or coworkers, I just want to contribute however I can."

Her passion for public service started in her childhood. As the eldest of five siblings, she took advantage of the community programs her city offered and participated in summer events that left a lasting impression and inspired her to give back. After her military service ends, Hanna hopes to pursue a career in local government.

Outside of work, she channels her creativity into digital art, often turning her artwork into custom keychains and printable pieces. She also enjoys spending time with her family and keeping things positive, an attitude that's been a constant in her time at the City.

# 2025 CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

The City of Killeen has published the results of its 2025 Citizen Community Survey, offering a clear look at how residents feel about city services. The survey was conducted by the ETC Institute and includes feedback from 545 randomly selected households, ensuring a statistically valid representation of the community.

Residents rated Killeen above the national average in several key areas, including public safety, emergency response, water services, and trash collection. The Killeen Fire Department received especially strong marks, with 85% of residents praising its professionalism and 80% recognizing its customer service.

The survey also identified priorities for improvement, most notably street maintenance, code enforcement, police services, animal control, and parks and recreation facilities. Overall satisfaction is 61%, with small gains in golf course services and airport facilities.

This marks Killeen's second citywide survey in two years, reinforcing the city's commitment to transparency and long-range planning.

Full results are available on the City of Killeen website at [www.killeentexas.gov/CityManager](http://www.killeentexas.gov/CityManager).



## WARRANT FOREGIVENESS MONTH

From December 1–31, the Killeen Municipal Court will host Warrant Forgiveness Month, part of its ongoing Safe Harbor initiative. During this period, citizens with outstanding warrants can visit the court without fear of arrest, and all warrant fees will be waived. The program also offers options, such as community service or fine reductions, based on the ability to pay.

The impact of Safe Harbor is already proven. In 2022 and 2023, residents cleared 255 warrants, totaling \$138,471. By removing barriers and emphasizing accountability over punishment, the program helps individuals reconnect with the court system and move forward.

Killeen Municipal Court handles Class C misdemeanors, traffic violations, and city ordinance cases. For more information, contact the Municipal Court by calling (254) 501-7850 or emailing [municipalcourt@killeentexas.gov](mailto:municipalcourt@killeentexas.gov). Residents can also view the active warrant listing on our website at [www.killeentexas.gov/court](http://www.killeentexas.gov/court).



# Community Updates

## Dedicated Runners Finish the Turkey Trot 5K

This year's Turkey Trot 5K brought runners, families, and fitness fans out to Stonetree Golf Club for a fun morning on the course, all in support of the Killeen Food Care Center. Special thanks to Toyota of Killeen, the Killeen Food Care Center, and our Parks and Recreation team for making this community tradition a success.



## Fire Department Earns ISO Class 1 Distinction

The Killeen Fire Department has been redesignated as an ISO Class 1 Department, the highest fire protection rating possible. This achievement places the KFD among an elite group of departments nationwide recognized for superior emergency response, training, and community risk reduction.



## Hometown Hero Banners Displayed Downtown

Hometown Hero banners lined the streets of Historic Downtown Killeen throughout November. Each banner honored a local hero who served or continues to serve in the U.S. military. The project, created in partnership with the National Mounted Warfare Foundation, is a tribute to the sacrifice of our veterans and their families.



## Volunteers Plant 21 New Trees at Long Branch Park

Killeen residents rolled up their sleeves this Texas Arbor Day to plant 21 native trees at Long Branch Park. Volunteers worked alongside Parks and Recreation staff to support long-term environmental health. These new plantings will help enhance the park's beauty and provide benefits for generations to come.





# Rodeo Killeen Wins 2025 Medium Rodeo of the Year!

*Celebrating excellence in women's professional rodeo.*



WPRA



**JOIN TEAM KILLEEN TODAY!**



[KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/JOBS](https://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](https://killeentexas.gov/councilmeetings)

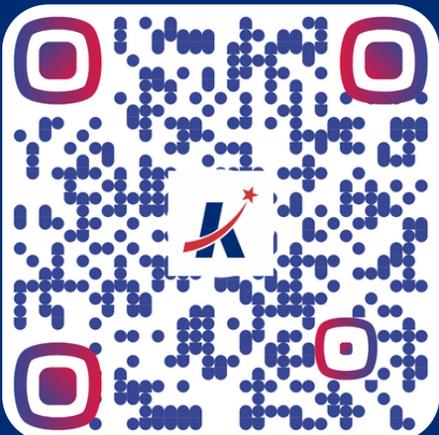


On air with Spectrum Channel 10

### EVENT CALENDAR



# GET ALERTS!



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AVAILABLE ON APPLE & ANDROID

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