



K-[★]BEAT

JANUARY | 2026

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF KILLEEN

NEW YEAR, NEW EVENTS
BUNNY TRAIL NOW OPEN
THE HOP EXPANSION
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As we step into the new year, January brings a fresh start filled with purpose, reflection, and community connection.

The holiday season reminded us how strong and spirited our city truly is — from the dazzling Holiday Under the Stars celebration to festive gatherings all across Killeen. Thank you to everyone who helped make December's events so special.

As we begin 2026, we look forward to honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during our annual MLK Day March, a meaningful time to unite in service, remembrance, and hope for a better tomorrow. Families can also look forward to one of our most cherished traditions — the Daddy Daughter Dance, where memories are made on the dance floor and hearts are full of joy.

We also encourage residents to take part in our Christmas tree recycling program, an easy and eco-friendly way to give back to the environment and start the year sustainably.

Here's to a year of growth, gratitude, and community spirit. Happy New Year, Killeen! Let's make 2026 our best year yet!

Delbi Noah King



Bunny Trail Reopens

The City of Killeen has opened Bunny Trail, a significant infrastructure improvement connecting Stan Schlueter Loop and Canadian River Loop. This project addresses safety concerns and heavy use, initiated by resident feedback from the Killeen 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Construction began in July 2024 and was completed under a \$5.8 million contract with RT Schneider Construction.

The project involved reconstructing the roadway, installing new curbs and gutters, sidewalks, and improving drainage at the West Stan Schlueter Loop intersection. Despite delays from weather, supply chain issues, and construction challenges, city leaders noted that the extended timeline allowed for enhanced long-term quality and durability.

Although Bunny Trail Road is now open to the public, punch-list items, final landscaping, and plant installation will continue through February 2026.

The City will continue to share updates on major roadway projects at www.killeentexas.gov/engineering.



Killeen Public Library Virtual Town Hall

The Killeen Public Library invites residents to take part in a virtual Town Hall focused on shaping future library services, programs, and improvements. This online meeting offers an opportunity to share ideas and provide input that will help guide the library's direction.

The Town Hall takes place on Thursday, Jan. 8, from 6 to 7 p.m. Participants can join the meeting at <https://bit.ly/KPLTownHall> on the event date. For more information, call (254) 501-8996.

2026 Event Lineup



2026 CITY EVENTS

- JAN. 19** **MLK Day March (NAACP)**
Downtown Killeen (City Supported)
- JAN. 23** **Winter Skate Bash**
Rotary Club Children's Park
- JAN. 24** **LEGO Day**
Killeen Civic & Conference Center
- FEB. 20** **Daddy Daughter Dance**
Killeen Civic & Conference Center
- FEB. 28** **Motown Downtown**
Downtown Killeen
- MAR. 28** **Craw Fest** (New City Event)
Downtown Killeen
- APR. 4** **Spring Fest**
Killeen Athletic Complex
- APR. 10** **Spring Night Market** (Starts)
Downtown Killeen
- APR. 25** **Celebrate Killeen Festival**
Downtown Killeen
- MAY 7** **National Day of Prayer**
City Hall
- MAY 16** **Fallen Heroes 5K**
Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail
- MAY 14-16** **Rodeo Killeen** (City Supported)
Killeen Special Events Center
- JUN. 19** **Juneteenth Parade (NAACP)**
Downtown Killeen (City Supported)
- JUN. 20** **Juneteenth Festival (IBCC)**
Downtown Killeen (City Supported)
- JUL. 4** **Red, White, and Blue Festival**
Downtown Killeen
- JUL. 25** **Caliente 5K**
Long Branch Park
- AUG. 8** **Back to School Splash Bash**
Zenner Family Aquatic Center
- SEP. 5** **Touchdown Downtown**
Downtown Killeen
- SEP. 5** **Bow Wow Luau**
Zenner Family Aquatic Center
- OCT. 2** **Fall Night Market**
Downtown Killeen
- OCT. 3** **KPD Domestic Violence Awareness Walk**
Lions Club Park
- OCT. 6** **National Night Out**
Citywide
- OCT. 10** **Fire Prevention Week Open House**
Fire Station #4
- OCT. 17** **Breast Cancer 5K (NAACP)**
Lions Club Park (City Supported)
- OCT. 23** **Fall Fest**
Killeen Special Events Center
- NOV. 5** **Fort Hood Memorial Ceremony** (City Supported)
Killeen Civic & Conference Center
- NOV. 7** **Turkey Trot 5K**
Stonetree Golf Club
- NOV. 11** **Veterans Day Parade (AVAC)**
Downtown Killeen (City Supported)
- NOV. 21** **Food For Families** (City Supported)
TBD
- NOV. 28** **Wreaths for Vets** (City Supported)
Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery
- DEC. 4** **Holiday Under the Stars Festival and Tree Lighting**
Downtown Killeen
- DEC. 5** **Jingle Bell Dash 5k**
Andy K. Wells Hike & Bike Trail
- DEC. 8** **Feast of Sharing (HEB)** (City Supported)
Killeen Civic & Conference Center
- DEC. 12** **63rd Annual Christmas Parade**
Downtown Killeen
- DEC. 19** **Half Mara-Fun**
Purser Heritage Hike & Bike Trail

KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/EVENTS

The HOP Expands Service in Killeen

Local transit riders will have more options beginning January 1 as The HOP expands service in Killeen.

Operated by the Hill Country Transit District, the expansion adds new microtransit zones designed to improve access for neighborhoods, schools, and everyday destinations.

The HOP will now serve areas near the Clear Creek mobile home community, Roy J. Smith Middle School, and Haynes Elementary School.

The HOP's microtransit service allows same-day trip requests or scheduling up to 14 days ahead via The HOP app or phone. To celebrate expanded service areas, riders can use promo code RIDEHOP26 for \$4 in ride credit from January 1–31. This expansion aims to enhance mobility in Killeen by connecting residents to essential locations and services. For more details on routes, scheduling, or fares, visit takethehop.com.



5TH ANNUAL **MOTOWN DOWNTOWN** MUSIC FESTIVAL *FEBRUARY 28, 2026*



Motown Downtown is back and bringing the soul to the heart of Downtown Killeen. The 5th annual Motown Downtown takes place on Saturday, February 28, and vendors are now encouraged to apply to be part of this community favorite.

This event celebrates the iconic Motown sound of the 1960s and 1970s, filling Downtown with classic music, retro style, and high-energy fun. Each year, Motown Downtown draws crowds ready to dance, shop, and show off their best Motown-inspired looks.

Vendors interested in participating can apply now through February 1 at www.killeentexas.gov/downtownevents. For additional information, email downtownevents@killeentexas.gov. Save the date, dress to impress, and get ready for a soulful celebration that continues to be one of Downtown Killeen's most loved events.



Employee Spotlight

Jaslie Castillo-Sepulveda

Jaslie Castillo-Sepulveda is a Service Worker at the Killeen Regional Airport who brings energy, leadership, and pride to every shift.

In her two years at the airport, following a year at the Family Recreation Center, Jaslie has become the kind of employee every team hopes for. She assists passengers, supports airline operations, cleans everything from the lights to the lobby, paints and waxes floors, landscapes the grounds, and helps set the tone during special events. She's contributed to Bob Gray Day, Snowball Express, the Mayor's Partner Appreciation Celebration, and more.

Jaslie doesn't wait for direction. When something needs doing, she's already on it. Her team and supervisors rely on her attention to detail, especially in times when staffing is limited. Knowing that others depend on her serves as a daily source of motivation.

“ People depend on me, they trust me, and that motivates me to give my best. ”
Jaslie Castillo-Sepulveda

Jaslie recently earned her certification in medical billing and coding and graduated with honors. Her daughter's health challenges inspired her to learn how to navigate the complex world of medical codes and insurance, and while she's loved her time serving the public through the City of Killeen, she hopes to one day transition into healthcare to support families like hers.

When she's not at work, Jaslie enjoys road trips, visiting historical landmarks, and reading. She finds peace in learning and purpose in service.

Jaslie's story is one of determination, quiet strength, and a deep commitment to the people around her. Whether it's helping travelers or helping her community, she's a standout face of Killeen.



Community Recap



Holiday Under the Stars Festival & Tree Lighting

More than 5,500 people gathered in Downtown Killeen on Dec. 5 for this year's Holiday Under the Stars Festival & Tree Lighting, making it another unforgettable evening. From festive activities to an incredible fireworks show, the night captured the spirit of the season and brought the community together.



Jingle Bell Dash 5K & Half Mara-Fun

Runners brought their holiday spirit during the Jingle Bell Dash 5K on Dec. 6, with 382 registered participants lacing up for a fun, festive race.

The excitement continued with the annual Half Mara-Fun on Dec. 20, a challenging 13.1-mile race that capped off the Cen-Tex Race Series.



62nd Annual Christmas Parade

The Christmas Parade on Dec. 13 brought more holiday cheer to Downtown Killeen, with an estimated 16,100 attendees lining the route, an impressive increase from 11,600 last year.

Local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and Killeen ISD all played a role in making the parade a success.



New Police and Fire Rescue Officers

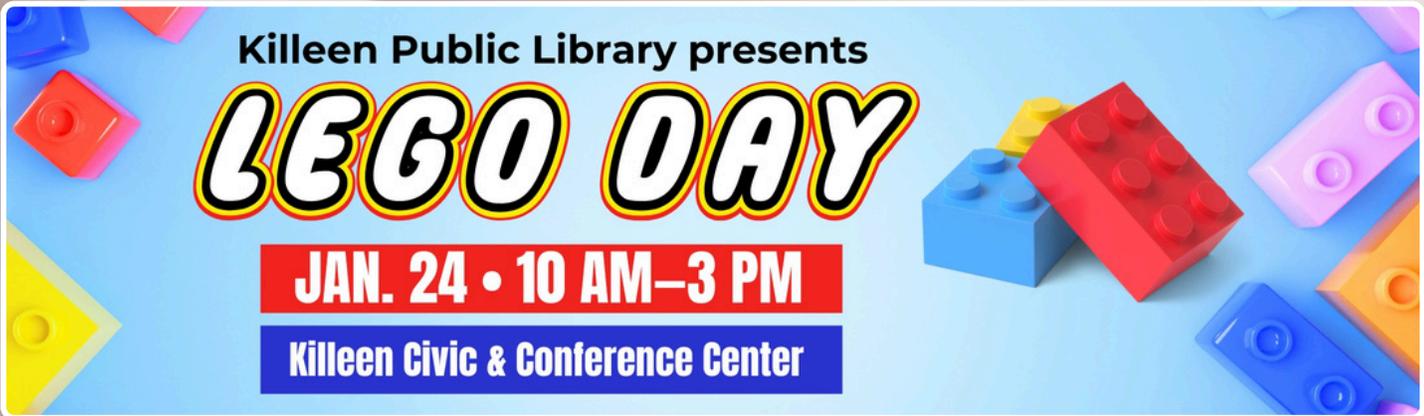
In December, the City of Killeen proudly welcomed new police officers and firefighters to Team Killeen. These individuals reached an important milestone in their careers and the City wishes them continued success as they serve and protect.

Killeen Public Library presents

LEGO DAY

JAN. 24 • 10 AM–3 PM

Killeen Civic & Conference Center



JOIN TEAM KILLEEN TODAY!



WE ARE HIRING

KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/JOBS

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

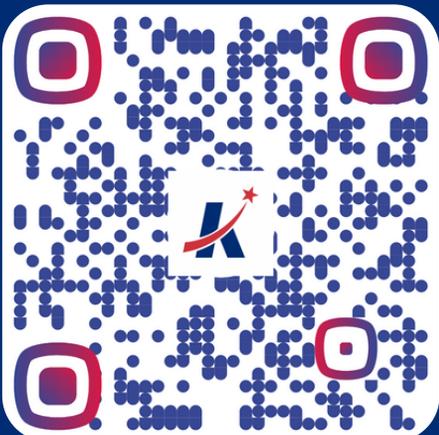
FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 3 P.M.

-  **KILLEEN CITY HALL**
101 NORTH COLLEGE STREET
-  killeentexas.gov/councilmeetings
-  On air with Spectrum Channel 10

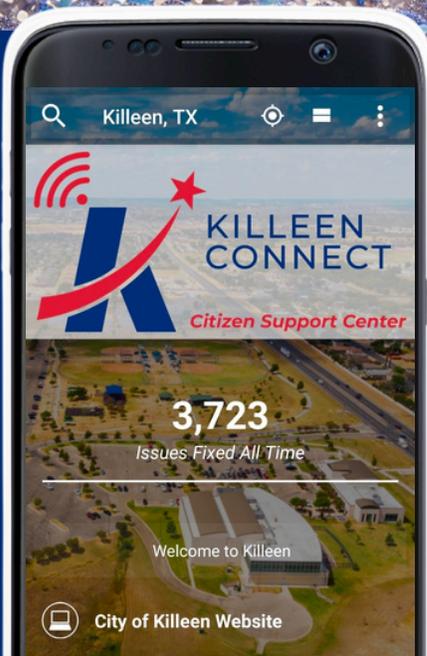
EVENT CALENDAR



GET ALERTS!



KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/NOTIFYME



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AVAILABLE ON APPLE & ANDROID

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