

FEBRUARY | 2026

# K-BEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF KILLEEN

**JANUARY WINTER STORM**  
**MOTOWN DOWNTOWN**  
**DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE**  
**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**



KILLEEN,  
TEXAS

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

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

February is here — a month full of heart, harmony, and hometown pride!

The start of this year reminded us just how strong and connected our community truly is. In late January, winter weather brought icy roads and challenging conditions across Killeen. Thanks to the preparedness of City staff, first responders, and emergency management teams, along with the cooperation and patience of our residents, our community weathered the storm safely.

That same spirit of teamwork and resilience is what makes Killeen such a special place.

As we move into February, we're keeping the momentum going with one of Killeen's favorite traditions, Motown in Downtown. Get ready to groove to timeless hits, enjoy local food and vendors, and dance the night away under the lights of historic downtown. It's a celebration of music, culture, and connection, and a perfect way to warm up the season together.

Looking ahead to March, there's even more to be excited about. We'll celebrate our city's green spaces during Love Your Park Day, roll into fun at the Spring Skate Bash, and introduce a brand-new event that's sure to become a Killeen tradition — Craw Fest. With great food, music, and family-friendly fun, it's a fantastic way to welcome spring and spend time together as a community.

Thank you, Killeen, for the energy, kindness, and pride you bring to every season, whether facing challenges or celebrating together. Let's make February one to remember and look forward to a bright, exciting spring ahead.



*Delbi Noah King*

# KILLEEN RESPONDS TO WINTER STORM

When winter weather moved into Central Texas in late January, the City of Killeen activated a coordinated response focused on one priority: keeping residents and staff safe.

Freezing temperatures, sleet, and widespread black ice created hazardous conditions across the region, impacting roads, travel, and City operations. While the storm presented challenges, it also highlighted the City's preparedness and the dedication of employees working behind the scenes.



## Preparedness & Coordination

Ahead of the storm, the City's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management monitored forecasts and coordinated with the National Weather Service, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and internal departments. Public Works crews prepared equipment, staged sand spreaders, and prioritized major roadways, bridges, and overpasses. Coordination with TxDOT and utility partners supported regional response efforts.

## Road Conditions & Travel Impacts

As icy conditions developed, City crews treated roadways as safely and efficiently as possible. Despite these efforts, black ice made travel dangerous. One of the most serious incidents occurred on Chaparral Road, where icy conditions contributed to a multi-vehicle pileup. The roadway remained closed until crews could safely clear the scene. Air travel was also impacted, with American Airlines canceling flights at Killeen Regional Airport. City staff worked closely with airport partners to keep travelers informed as conditions evolved.

## Warming Centers & Community Support

With prolonged freezing temperatures, the City opened warming centers to provide safe shelter for residents in need. As demand increased, a second warming center opened at the Killeen Arts & Activities Center, expanding capacity and ensuring continued support for the community.



## City Services & Operations

To protect residents and City staff, officials temporarily closed City facilities during the most hazardous conditions. Trash collection schedules were adjusted, library programming was postponed, and recreation services were paused. As conditions improved, City facilities reopened with a delayed start to allow for safer travel.

## A Team Effort

Killeen's response was made possible through teamwork across departments. Emergency management coordinated operations, Public Works crews worked long hours in difficult conditions, and Parks, Library, and facility staff adapted operations. Animal Services also assisted community partners by providing supplies to help protect pets during the extreme cold.

The City of Killeen extends sincere thanks to all City staff who worked before, during, and after the storm to keep operations running and residents informed. The City also thanks its community partners and local media for their collaboration and timely communication. Together, these efforts helped Killeen weather the storm safely and demonstrated the strength of a community working together in challenging conditions.



## Thank You, Grounds Maintenance Team!

The City of Killeen recognizes the Parks and Recreation Grounds Maintenance Division for their strong teamwork and dedication to keeping public spaces safe, clean, and welcoming. Their work supports everything from everyday park use to large community events enjoyed by residents year-round.

Over the past quarter, the team has gone above and beyond, responding quickly to storm damage, completing seasonal landscaping, and supporting events such as the Fall Fest and Fall Skate Bash. They also played a key role in projects like the cleaning and activation of Green Street Park and the installation of Hometown Hero banners downtown.

Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt across the city. This shoutout celebrates the Grounds Maintenance Division for the team spirit they bring to Killeen every day.

## Now Hiring Election Workers!



The City of Killeen City Secretary's Office is accepting applications for election workers to support the May 2026 General Election. Election workers play a vital role in ensuring elections are conducted safely, securely, and accessibly for all voters.

Interested applicants must complete an Applicant Information Form and Questionnaire no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 20, 2026. Completed applications may be submitted in person at Killeen City Hall (101 North College Street) or emailed to [citysec@killeentexas.gov](mailto:citysec@killeentexas.gov). Additional information, including the election worker job description and required forms, is available at [www.killeentexas.gov/citysecretary](http://www.killeentexas.gov/citysecretary).



# Daddy Daughter Dance 2026

MASQUERADE BALL



The City of Killeen Parks & Recreation Department invites families to take part in a cherished community tradition as the Daddy Daughter Dance returns on Friday, February 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Killeen Civic & Conference Center.

This year's Masquerade Ball theme sets the stage for an evening of dressing up, dancing, and making lasting memories together.

The event features a live DJ, photo booth, face painting, and more, giving dads and daughters plenty of ways to enjoy the night and celebrate their special bond. The Daddy Daughter Dance has become a favorite annual event, offering families a meaningful opportunity to connect and create memories in a fun and welcoming environment. Tickets went on sale January 23 and are \$50 per pair, with each additional daughter priced at \$25.

[www.killeentexas.gov/rec](http://www.killeentexas.gov/rec)  
(254) 501-6390

## 5TH ANNUAL MOTOWN DOWNTOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 28, 2026



Downtown Killeen is getting a throwback soundtrack as Motown Downtown returns Saturday, February 28, from 4 to 8 p.m., bringing classic soul and high-energy performances to the heart of the city.

Inspired by the iconic Motown era, the annual music festival celebrates timeless sounds, crowd-favorite dance styles, and the kind of feel-good atmosphere that turns downtown into a destination. This year's lineup features dynamic performances by Lynxx as Michael Jackson, LaMarr Lubin & Chantel Deniese with the Soulicious Band, Unity Line Dancers, and Soul Sessions.

Beyond the music, Motown Downtown delivers a full festival experience. Guests can explore local vendors, enjoy food trucks, and take in the Classic Car Show. The car exhibit adds another layer of nostalgia, pairing chrome and curves with classic rhythms and downtown energy.

Motown Downtown continues to play a key role in Downtown Killeen's ongoing transformation, drawing thousands of residents and visitors together for an evening that highlights local talent and small businesses. Whether you're there to dance, discover new vendors, admire vintage cars, or just soak in the atmosphere, the festival offers a reason to come downtown and stay awhile.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# DEANNA FRAZEE

Deanna Frazee's path to library leadership started in a small town, where she and her mother both volunteered at their local library. Years later, her mother predicted that one day Deanna would run a library herself. She didn't believe it at the time, but after more than three decades of service to the City of Killeen, Deanna is retiring as Director of Library Services with a legacy that proves her mom was right.

Since joining the City in the early 1990s, Deanna has helped transform the library system into a vital hub for lifelong learning. She oversaw the grand opening of the Copper Mountain Branch Library, expanded access to digital tools such as cloudLibrary and Mango Languages, and launched signature events, including LEGO Day, which now draws nearly 2,000 attendees each year.

But it's not the numbers she'll miss most.

"My favorite part has always been hearing the kids coming out of story time," she said. "That joy is what makes this work so meaningful."

Over the years, Deanna has taken on far more than books. She's guided her team through changing technologies, a global pandemic, and even the occasional oddball request. "We're like bartenders for the masses," she joked. "People tell us everything."

In her retirement, Deanna looks forward to playing dominoes with the senior crowd and staying involved in civic causes. Her career may be wrapping up, but her impact continues with every story read, every child inspired, and every community member welcomed into the world of learning.



# Community Recap

## Cen-Tex Race Series 2025 Banquet

On Jan. 8, runners who participated in the 2025 Cen-Tex Race Series were celebrated at a special banquet. The event recognized the runners who earned top male and female honors in each age category and celebrated those who completed 70 percent of the races in the series.



## Coffee with a Cop

On Jan. 9, the Killeen Police Department partnered with Black Rifle Coffee for Coffee with a Cop. This event brings local law enforcement and citizens together to share concerns and strengthen community partnerships.

## Fox Creek Neighborhood Park

On Jan. 16, Killeen Parks & Rec, along with city leaders and residents, officially reopened Fox Creek Neighborhood Park, celebrating new enhancements designed to make the neighborhood space safer and more inviting. Updates include a new playground, climbing features, improved play surfacing, and more.



## Star Award Presented to Babatunde

On Jan. 20, Councilwoman Jessica Gonzalez awarded the Star Award to Bernard "Babatunde" Jones, a U.S. Army veteran with 24 years of service. He founded the first Afrikan American bookstore in Killeen, which serves as a mentorship and cultural hub. Jones also established the Afrikan American Chamber of Commerce and the Afrikan Post newspaper.



**JOIN TEAM KILLEEN TODAY!**

**WE ARE HIRING**

**KILLEENTEXAS.GOV/JOBS**

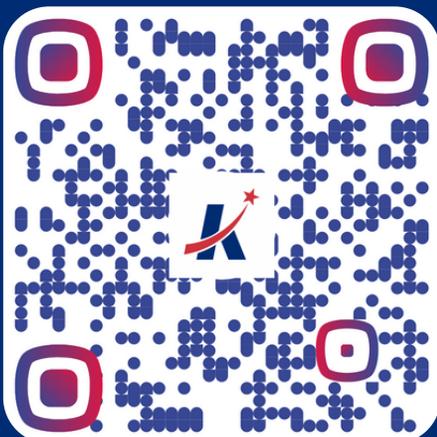
**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

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



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