

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Killeen:

It's a time to give thanks, and as Mayor, I am thankful to our public servants.

City Council members spend an exceptional amount of time representing the interests of the people they serve. From studying issues to meeting with residents to deliberating decisions, your Council is passionate and committed to you and Killeen's future.

Our City staff is unmatched. No matter the task, no matter the circumstance, City employees do more than is expected to ensure residents are taken care of. As their workloads increase and their resources do not, they carry on with pride and determination for the good of our community.

Killeen is a city built on service, dedicated service by dedicated people. We can all give thanks for that!

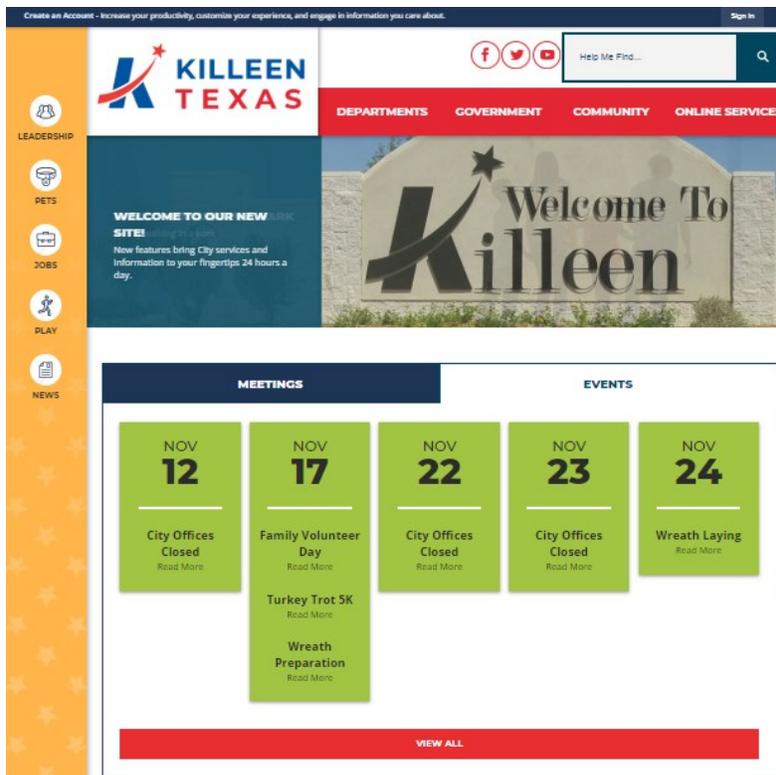
HERALDING A NEW HOMEPAGE

The City of Killeen unveiled its completely reconstructed website to the public November 1, and we think users will love the result.

City Council gave the project the green light with funding in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. Staff spent more than six months working with web developer, CivicPlus, creating a customized solution to offer an excellent user experience.

On the first visit to the new homepage, users will see the design transformation from its decade-old predecessor. Fresh colors highlight new features, most notably a prominent news banner, calendars for both meetings and events and a highlight reel. As users venture deeper, they will experience improved functional aspects like

robust site search capability, streamlined quick links and a vast document archive center.



One of the major changes in web usage over the past 10 years

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

November 12
Veterans Day Observed

November 22-23
Thanksgiving Break

December 24-25
Christmas Break

January 1
New Year's Day

Emergency services continue without interruption.

is the move to mobile. Sixty percent of our website use is now from handheld devices, but the City's previous site was not mobile-friendly. The new version scales to every screen size without losing any features or functionality.

Another exciting new enhancement is subscription capability. Each user can establish a profile through the site to set up text or email alerts for some or all of the site's information push features. A subscription lets the City contact users directly in areas of interest like news, road or water alerts, event announcements or agenda postings. Preferences can be customized to receive only what you want.

Killeen's online address is still **KilleenTexas.gov**, but it is a totally new connection.

WREATHS SHOW RESPECT AND REMEMBRANCE

The annual Wreath Project cannot be accomplished without community support. The Friends of Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery invite you to prepare and lay wreaths this November.

The Friends have led a community effort for over a decade with one simple goal: to lay a holiday wreath at every grave in



the veterans cemetery. There are now more than 8,000 graves in the cemetery, and it will take thousands of volunteers to ensure that every one has a wreath.

Make some time this busy season to pay this special tribute to veterans and family members laid to rest in Killeen's veterans cemetery.

HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS

Christmas Day and New Year's Day trash collections will be delayed one day this year to let City Solid Waste employees spend the holidays with their families. Tuesday collections will move to Wednesday both weeks, but all other regular collection days will remain on schedule.

Killeen Recycling Center will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1. During regular hours, the center accepts all papers, #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs, steel, tin and aluminum cans and clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars. It can also recycle used cooking and motor oil.

Killeen Transfer Station will be closed December 25 and January 1. When open, residents can dispose of up to 300 pounds of excess trash once per month.

While holiday service days have changed, the City is still offering its free collection of excess holiday trash. On your special collection day, you may place your roll-out container plus bags up to 33 gallons or boxes up to eight cubic feet at curbside for pick-up. Make sure to leave at least four feet between your can and additional bags and boxes. All waste should be placed curbside by 7 am on your scheduled day.

SPECIAL COLLECTION SCHEDULE

<u>Regular Day</u>	<u>Special Day</u>
Monday	December 31
Tuesday	December 26
Thursday	December 27
Friday	December 28

For more information on Solid Waste services, visit KilleenTexas.gov/SolidWaste.

GREEN LOOKS GOOD ON EVERYONE

When your Christmas tree loses its green, Keep Killeen Beautiful will be there to recycle it at its annual Christmas tree recycling event. Trees left at curbside go to the landfill, but you can make the **green** choice to recycle it.

Residents are invited to drop off live Christmas trees January 5 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Special Events Center, 3301 S. W.S. Young Drive. Be sure all decorations including tinsel, ornaments and lights are removed.

Trees will be chipped and shredded then offered back as landscaping mulch.

If you resolve to be greener in 2019, Killeen Recycle Center is ready to accept your materials.

WREATH PROJECT SCHEDULE

Wreath Preparation

Saturday, November 17 - 10 am
Killeen Special Events Center
3301 S. W.S. Young Dr.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Saturday, November 24 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

Wreath Retrieval

Saturday, January 12 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

www.wreathsforvets.org

REINDEER CAN FLY & SO CAN YOU

Santa's sleigh isn't the only thing taking flight this holiday season. Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport has lots of daily flights connecting you to anywhere you need to go.



GRK. The code to Killeen's airport and your code to convenience. You can go anywhere in the world from

our local airport. American connects to its Dallas hub, and United to its Houston hub.

Leaving from and returning to home can shave hours and days off your trip. Efficient parking, check-in and security save time and aggravation. Baggage claim is also a breeze when you return from your trip.

Recent rates on a number of routes show that flying from Killeen costs the same or less than from bigger city airports.

When booking your holiday travel or travel in the New Year, be sure to use airport code GRK to check local rates first. You'll find competitive fares with the bonus of local convenience.

Skip the hustle, bustle and hassle this holiday season and Fly Killeen!

WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM THE CHIEFS

Police Chief Chuck Kimble wants residents to have a safe holiday season. He says following these thoughtful tips could keep you from falling victim of crime.



Holiday Shopping Safety

- Park in well-lighted areas close to your destination.
- Do not leave packages or valuables visible in your car.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- If you feel uneasy, ask store security to escort you.
- If you must use an ATM, use an inside location.
- Pay with credit cards or checks; avoid carrying lots of cash.

Home Safety

- Have a neighbor or family member watch your house while away.
- Lock every door (including the garage door) while away, no matter how long you are gone and set your security alarm.
- Place lights on timers; make it look like someone is home.
- Place gifts where they can't be seen through doors or windows
- Beware of strangers at your door.

Party Safety

- Arrange an official designated driver who will not drink at all.
- Eat before consuming alcohol.
- Be aware of your surroundings, and trust your instincts.
- Know your safe limit.
- If hosting a party, have non-alcoholic options.

Fire Chief Brian Brank says fire hazards ramp up with the holidays and winter season. He offers the following advice to keep you and yours safe from harm.



Heat Safety

- Test smoke alarms monthly and change batteries when time changes.
- Have all heating appliances checked professionally.
- Have chimneys inspected and cleaned annually.
- Open fireplace dampers when in use.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating sources.

Cooking Safety

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- If frying turkey, make sure it is 100% thawed.
- Do not overfill fryers with oil.
- Turn the burner off before placing turkey in hot oil; relight after submerged.
- Never use turkey fryers indoors or in covered/enclosed areas.
- Let cooking oil cool completely before disposal.

Decoration Safety

- Keep live Christmas trees watered and away from fire sources.
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant.
- Use indoor or outdoor lights only as directed.
- Don't use lights with damaged cords.
- Never leave candles unattended.

KNOW B4U BORROW

The holidays can create the temptation to overindulge in more than just food. It's easy to overspend too.

If you turn to a credit access business for short-term financial assistance, remember that the City of Killeen has adopted an ordinance to protect you from predatory lending practices.

Pay day, car title and other short-term lenders must be registered with the City to do business. Registered businesses will conspicuously display a certificate and Military Lending Act sign.

Borrowers should know that a payday advance cannot exceed 20% of their monthly gross income. A title loan cannot exceed 3% of gross annual income or 70% of the vehicle's value.

City ordinance also sets out standards for number of installations, extensions and payments toward principal for loans.

Credit access businesses that are not following these standards are violating the law. If you encounter a business that is not displaying a certificate or is making loans that do not comply with City standards, contact Killeen Police Department.

SANTA PAWS

Give a deserving Killeen Animal Shelter pet a chance.



View adoptable pets online anytime at KilleenTexas.gov/Animals, or visit the shelter Monday through Saturday.

Never Drink & Drive

CHRISTMAS PARADE WITH A TEXAS TWANG

The stars at night are big and bright deep in the heart of Killeen when the 56th annual Killeen Christmas Parade rides December 8. The theme is "A Texas Christmas," and wagons and sleighs will make their merry through historic downtown.

The parade route moseys from Avenue D and College Street to Gray Street, Sprott Avenue, 2nd Street to its end at Avenue B. A route map is available online.

Spectators should come early to secure the best parking and viewing spots and to enjoy festive food provided by vendors along the route.



TWO DAYS OF CHEER

Holiday Under the Stars is packing in two days of fun in the sun this year! The annual festival is scheduled December 1 and 2 at Killeen Community Center.

Day one activities run from 3 to 8 pm and will include kids activities, holiday crafts, live entertainment and food and gift vendors. Santa will lead the annual silhouette tree lighting at dark.

The fun picks up again Sunday from 2 to 6 pm continuing the same attractions as Saturday and adding a giant snow hill for kids of all ages.

All the festive family fun is free, and details are being added daily, so be sure to like the City's Facebook page to get all the latest.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HAPPENING IN KILLEEN

Stay in the loop on all the festive fun!

KilleenTexas.gov

[Facebook.com/KilleenTexas](https://www.facebook.com/KilleenTexas)

[Twitter.com/CityofKilleen](https://twitter.com/CityofKilleen)

LIGHT THE WAY

Do you love to decorate your home for the holidays? Do you love to load up in your sleigh to see beautiful displays? Either way, you'll be interested in the annual outdoor decorating contest!

If your holiday lights shine bright, complete the online entry form at KilleenTexas.gov/Volunteer and email a digital photo of your home between November 26 and December 3 to compete for best in town.

Online voting for fan favorites will be December 4 through 11. Winners will be announced publicly December 14.

For more information, call Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

New Year's Resolutions!

It's not too soon to start setting New Year goals.

Let the FRC be part of your new you plan.

KilleenTexas.gov/FRC

ENOUGH TO SHARE

Celebrating 11 on the 11th! The City of Killeen and H-E-B are uniting for the 11th annual Feast of Sharing community meal December 11th from 4 to 8 pm at the Civic and Conference Center.

All are welcome at this community meal with festive food provided by H-E-B and served by the community to the community. Food and an evening of fun and entertainment are free, and there will be more than enough to share, so bring family and friends.

Volunteers are needed to make this program possible. Go to KilleenTexas.gov/Volunteer to learn how you can serve.

JINGLE BELL DASH

Ready, set, jingle! The Jingle Bell Dash 5K is December 1 at 8 am at Killeen Community Center.

Register at KilleenTexas.gov/Centex and check out the 2019 race schedule.



Santa's Helpers are delivering letters from Killeen boys and girls to the big man! Drop your child's letter in the box at the Community Center or Family Rec Center by December 15, and elves will make sure it gets to Jolly Old Saint Nick.

Address letters to:

**Santa Claus c/o
the North Pole.**

Don't forget to include your return address so Santa can write back!