

CITY INSIGHT

November 2022

www.killeentexas.gov

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



For many people, this is their favorite time of year. The fall and winter seasons are full of everything from pumpkin spice and pigskin games, to turkeys and holiday trees and trinkets. During the holiday season, many also try to give back to their community and spread joy to those in need. We

encourage our citizens to think about how they can make a positive impact in their neighborhoods. Residents may have a few extra dollars in their pockets this season. The Killeen City Council approved a budget with the largest tax rate reduction since 1990, so more money is staying in the pockets of our citizens. We appreciate everyone who was involved in the public hearings and encourage citizens to remain engaged and involved in the political process (KilleenTexas.gov/Budget).

The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport just welcomed its first hangar during a beautiful ribbon-cutting cere-

mony. That was made possible by critical, federal grants and Texas representatives and congressmembers supporting our efforts.

Within the last few months, both the Fiscal Year 2023 budget (which runs from October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023) and the Comprehensive Plan were adopted (KilleenTexas.gov/OurKilleen). Killeen citizens were a part of every step of the process before final implementation. We also want to make sure residents continue to follow our Parks Master Plan. That plan outlines how \$4.6 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds and \$425 thousand in Capital Improvement funds will be applied to our 23 parks, including renovations, beautification and improvements (www.KilleenTexas.gov/ParkImprovements).

We wrapped up the 2022 fiscal year with several, new road maps to help push this city forward in the right direction, especially in our Historic Downtown. I'm excited about what our citizens have outlined and envisioned for this city!

CALENDAR

November

24 Thanksgiving*

December

2 Christmas Tree lighting

3 Jingle Bell Dash 5K

3 Holiday Under The Stars

3 Christmas Parade

10 Killeen Half MaraFun

25 Christmas*

January

1 New Year's Day *

*-City offices will be closed Nov. 11, Nov. 24-25, Dec. 23-26 and Jan. 2. Emergency services will continue as normal.

Holiday season



This year, the City of Killeen is celebrating the holidays with one, big weekend: The Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 2, followed by the Jingle Bell Dash 5K, Christmas Parade and Holiday Under the Stars festival in Historic Downtown on Saturday, Dec. 3.

New Year, New Budget

More information: www.killeentexas.gov/budget

The Killeen City Council approved a budget of \$265 million for fiscal year 2023, which began on Oct. 1, 2022.

The new budget includes a tax rate of 62.33 cents, which is 7.71 cents below the 2022 rate and is the largest reduction in the tax rate since 1990. Over the past three years, the City's tax rate has been reduced 12.65 cents. Prior to these three instances, the last reduction in the tax rate occurred in 2005.

The average taxpayer's property tax will increase by \$5.22 per year, which is .43 cents per month. There is no change in water rates or solid waste rates for residential customers.

Looking Back



There has been a lot happening in our great city. The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport (GRK) opened its first hangar, which it leases from CSI Aviation (upper left photo); Our park improvements are underway, and new restrooms at Conder Park were installed in September (bottom left); Our Second Bricks Killeen (upper right) was another huge success, with more than 3,000 attendees; And our Touchdown in Downtown (lower right) featured drumlines from area schools as big crowd pleasers.



Be sure to follow us on all our social media to learn about our upcoming events:

Facebook: [@KilleenTexas](https://www.facebook.com/KilleenTexas) Twitter: [@CityofKilleen](https://twitter.com/CityofKilleen)

Instagram: [@CityofKilleen](https://www.instagram.com/CityofKilleen) YouTube: [@CityOfKilleenTX](https://www.youtube.com/CityOfKilleenTX)

Service With Honors

The Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce honored Officer Kyle Moore with its inaugural “Community Hero” award at its 89th annual Membership Banquet at the Killeen Civic and Conference



Center on Sept. 15.

The award is presented for outstanding community servanthood and is dedicated to an individual who displays exceptional heroism and selfless service in the Central Texas area.

Officer Moore coordinates and runs the police



department’s Homeless Outreach team. It’s an effort that helps fill the gap between the homeless community and police and builds relationships.



The Killeen Chamber also honored KPD’s Officer Angela Mathews with the 2022 Young Professional of the Year award.

The Chamber says the recipient of this award exhibits dedication and service toward the Greater Killeen Young Professionals and is an example of the qualities the organization represents.

Honoring the Fallen



Members of our Fire Department joined in displaying the flag at both the Texas Rangers and Dallas Cowboys home games on Sept. 11, to honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. (above) Firefighters, police, council and staff also participated in the Freedom Walk at Ellison High School and the Dallas Memorial Stair Climb, which honors the 343 firefighters who lost their lives trying to save others that day.



Bow Wow Luau (Barktoberfest)



Dozens of our furry friends came out for a dip in the pool and to strut their stuff at the Family Aquatic Center on Oct. 1. The annual event features a pooch pageant, photo booth and costume contest.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month



The Killeen Police Department hosted the second annual Community Walk Against Domestic Violence on Oct. 1 at Lions Club Park at which Mayor Nash-King presented a proclamation.

City Hall Events

City Hall has been a busy place the last few months. Mayor Debbie Nash-King presented proclamations to local organizations as part of a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration before a City Council meeting in September. (right). In addition, the City Council approved ARPA Downtown Startup grants and Youth Organization Assistance Program grants. The Downtown Start Up Grants are used to help fund new businesses and help revitalize other businesses that were impacted by COVID-19. The Youth Organization Assistance Program grants went to nonprofits that provide programs and services in the city. Recipients of both have been coming by to sign contracts and file paperwork for their grants. A couple of the recipient photos are below.



Did you know?

Our City Council meets Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at City Hall. Workshops are normally held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month and regular meetings the 2nd and 4th.

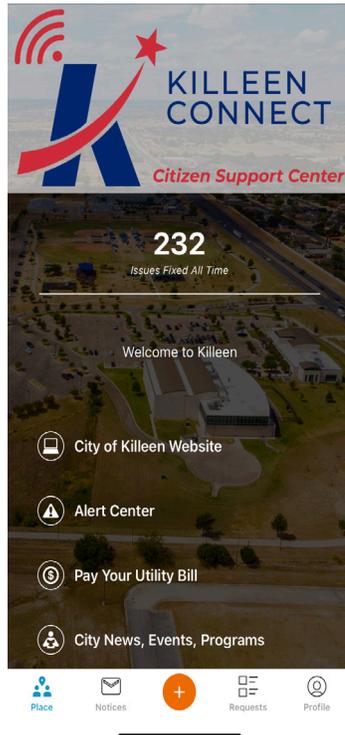
Agendas, minutes, and a link to view the meetings live can be found on our website at www.killeentexas.gov/Councilmeetings.

Your City, Your App

Did you know the City of Killeen has an app? Killeen Connect allows users to report issues they see around the city quickly and easily. Report potholes, graffiti, loose animals and more, with just the click of a button!

SEE a problem, snap a photo and CLICK your app to upload the issue and submit, then follow the progress as your concern is FIXED!

Plus, you can click to pay your bills, read news and connect to our social media.



STAY IN THE KNOW!

Here's how you can always know what's happening in Killeen

GET ALERTS!

- 1) Go to killeentexas.gov/alertcenter
- 2) Click "Notify Me" at the top to subscribe to notifications
- 3) Select which alerts you'd like to receive as an email or text message

Recommended: Select the final topic labeled "News Flash- City News" for ALL notifications, so you don't miss out on anything

Alerts are available for news, events, meetings, programs, funding, boil water notices, road closures and more!