

CITY INSIGHT

www.KilleenTexas.gov

January 2023

(254) 501-7600

A Message from Mayor Debbie Nash-King



Happy New Year!

We hope you were able to enjoy some extra special time with your loved ones over the last, few months...now we're ready to jump into 2023 with both feet! Our City of Killeen council and staff will be moving with full force ahead this year

and hope you'll join us as citizens on this journey.

This year, we'll continue our monthly events in Historic Downtown. If you haven't experienced our family-friendly, safe events, be on the lookout for announcements about live entertainment, kid zones, local vendors, food trucks and more. Your support is appreciated.

Our City staff has made a commitment to focus on cleaning up our downtown area. They're volunteering their time to beautify the area and show those businesses that we stand by them. This is a monthly project that's going very well.

But even though we like to have fun, your City Council

members will be getting down to business, addressing the issues and concerns residents bring to us. From crime and safety, to road construction and new development, we want you to know we hear you and we're here to help. Don't forget citizens can find our contact information on our website, www.KilleenTexas.gov/Council and feel free to reach out to us with your comments, questions, suggestions, and concerns.

We're so happy to announce that the Killeen Citizens Academy is back after the 2020 pandemic and 2021 ice storm delayed new classes. We encourage you to participate each year. This new course kicks off in January and lasts eight weeks. Students meet once a week to learn about how the City operates. They receive in-depth lessons from each department, which we hope will empower residents and improve engagement.

It's all about seeing an even better future for our city. Again, thank you for joining us on this ride and we know a new year will bring fresh, new perspectives and goals.

Holiday cheer



We closed out 2022 with a great "Holiday Under The Stars." Our Christmas Tree highlighted Downtown Killeen. More photos on Page 2.

Putting the I in Killeen



Did you know Elvis used to live in Killeen? He's one of the thousands of people over the years who put the I in Killeen. Now it's your turn. You can visit our sign in front of our courthouse and take photos of you and your friends as the "I" in Killeen. Discover more downtown happenings on Page 3.

Holiday Under The Stars, Dec. 2-3



Our Holiday Under The Stars this year was a weekend event that featured five unique events in two days, highlighted as always with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. We had a Holiday Market and Tree Lighting Ceremony to kick off the holidays on Dec. 2, in which Santa threw magic powder on the tree to light it up. He and Mrs. Clause stayed on hand to take free photos with children of all ages. On Dec. 3, we had our Jingle Dash, which drew a great festive variety of runners. Our Christmas Parade went through Downtown Killeen and we concluded with the Festival of the Holidays.



Highlighting Downtown



During November, the City of Killeen worked with the National Mounted Warfare Foundation to highlight Hometown Heroes on banners in Historic Downtown. The more than three dozen banners paid tribute to just a handful of the many veterans who call Killeen home.



Our Director of Public Works, Jeff Reynolds, took part in our first monthly downtown sweep on Nov. 7, where city volunteers went through downtown cleaning the area. Another sweep took place Dec. 1.



Sharon Gilbert stands in front of the downtown building she will be using for her comedy club. The business was helped by a American Rescue Plan Act grant.



Motown in Downtown had people dancing in the streets in downtown last year, so we're bringing Motown back for February of this year. Look for details soon.

Have you been to Historic Downtown Killeen lately? The City is working hard to transform our downtown area into the place to be in the city.

In late 2021, the City created the Downtown Events division, and tabbed Levallois Hamilton with heading up events and celebrations for downtown. Mr. Hamilton hasn't disappointed, putting on a variety of events and having something for everyone. Celebrate Killeen was moved to downtown, and events such as Motown in Downtown, Family Fun Day, Latin Night, Touchdown in Downtown and Holiday Under The Stars were a hit.

Plus, Celebrate Killeen was moved to Downtown to help showcase our cities culture and diversity, and the Independence Day Extravaganza was an all day party, capped with the first fireworks show for the city and one of the biggest in Central Texas.

More is planned for 2023, kicking off with a Motown event in February.

In 2022, the city also hired Kate Kizito as its Downtown Revitalization Director. Since Ms. Kizito has arrived, the city has presented several North Killeen Downtown Startup Grants to help entrepreneurs establish or expand businesses in Downtown.

And recently, the city introduced the The Eat Downtown Cash Card. The card has a five-dollar credit toward purchases at participating Downtown Killeen businesses to help highlight the growing restaurant scene in downtown.

The city has also repaved downtown parking lots, and recently started a downtown sweep in which city volunteers help clean and re-beautify the downtown area once a month. Additionally, our Police Department is adding a Downtown Community Engagement Unit to ensure safety downtown.

With so many events, new businesses opening, and better safer roads, downtown is really the place to be!

Youth Advisory Commission



Thirteen new Youth Advisory Commissioners were sworn in at a City Council meeting Nov. 8, 2022. To learn more about this important program, visit www.killeentexas.gov/YAC.

Road work



You may see a lot more road work early this year, as we have begun a milling and overlay project. The work will be performed on eight roads and cover more than 6.41 miles.

Eclipse 2024



The City of Killeen and Central Texas College held a joint press conference on Nov. 17, 2022, in preparation of the 2024 solar eclipse, including a live demonstration. To learn more about this event visit, www.visitkilleen.com/solareclipse.

All aboard



The Snowball Express departed from Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport (GRK) on Dec. 1, 2022. Snowball Express takes children of fallen soldiers to an all-expense paid fun-filled trip to Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

A warm winter

Our Animal Services Department put out a request for blanket donations for our shelter animals, and our residents came through in a big way. You donated enough to keep all the animals we get this winter warm! Thank you Killeen!



CITY OF KILLEEN SOLID WASTE SERVICES DIVISION 2023 HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS CUSTOMERS (254) 501-7785 • KILLEENTEXAS.GOV

Monday, January 2, 2023

Monday and Tuesday Routes will run one day LATE
(Thursday and Friday will remain unchanged)

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Tuesday Routes will run one day LATE
(Monday, Thursday, and Friday will remain unchanged)

Thursday, November 23, 2023

Thursday Routes will run one day EARLY
(Monday, Tuesday and Friday will remain unchanged)

Monday, December 25, 2023

Monday and Tuesday Routes will run one day LATE
(Thursday and Friday will remain unchanged)



Solid Waste collection services will run as normal on all other City holidays. The Transfer Station will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on all other City holidays. Solid Waste Administrative Offices and Killeen Recycling Center will be closed on ALL City holidays.